

Saturday, April 12

9:00am-
11:00pm
(FREE)

Reading:

The Odyssey (South St. Seaport)

Join Robert Fagles, one of *The Odyssey's* best known translators, at a day-long public reading of the classic epic aboard the *Peking*, a tall ship at the South Street Seaport. (FREE)

10:30-
12:00

Panel:

Epics and Ballads in Cyberspace (Poets House)

What happens when our oldest poetic forms meet the latest in communication technology? With Charles Bernstein, John Foley, Kenneth Goldsmith and Stephanie Strickland.

11:00-
11:45

Family Program:

Dr. Seuss by Bob Holman (Bowery Poetry Club)

Bob Holman, the Gathering's own "Cat in the Hat," will read Dr. Seuss. (Free for children; Adults, \$10)

Paired Reading:

Donna Masini and Maureen Owen (Cooper Union, Wollman)

Folk Music in the American Century: An Alan Lomax Tribute

Presenting and Disseminating Lomax Recordings (American Indian Community House)

With Peggy Bulger, Barbara L. Hampton, and Bill Nowlin. Moderated by Steve Rosenthal.

12:00-
12:45

Performance:

The Songs, Rhymes, and Poems of Handclapping Games (Bowery Poetry Club)

Lee Ann Brown offers a poetic tribute to children's hand-clapping rhymes. (Free for children; Adults, \$10)

Paired Reading:

Patricia Spears Jones and Anne Waldman(Cooper Union, Wollman)

Lecture:

Jorge Luis Borges and the *milonga* by Ana Cara (CB'S 313 Gallery, Upstairs)

A look at the *milonga* poems written by Borges which were influenced by the traditional, often improvised, verbal art of the Argentinean *gauchos*, and singers from the outskirts of Buenos Aires.

Open Mic:

with Jackie Sheeler (Cooper Union, Engineering Building, Room 509)

Sign-up sheets will be located on a table outside the classroom.

12:00-1:30 Folk Music in the American Century: An Alan Lomax Tribute
"I Was Recorded by Alan Lomax" (American Indian Community House)
With Guy Carawan, Solomon Carey, David "Honey Boy" Edwards, Spencer Moore, and Jean Ritchie.

12:15-1:45 Panel:
The Politics of Translation: A Roundtable Discussion (Poets House)
Translators discuss cultural issues inherent to translation. With Ammiel Alcalay, John Balaban, Carolyn Forché, Nathalie Handal, Abdellatif Laâbi, Khaled Mattawa, Jerome Rothenberg, and Dennis Tedlock.

1:00-1:45 Paired Reading:
David Ferry and CK Williams (Cooper Union, Wollman)

Competition:

Head-to Head Haiku (CB's 313 Gallery, Upstairs)

Fast-moving competition that focuses the readers and listeners through its rhythm of short spoken poems. Winner receives \$17—one for each syllable of the poem. Led by Daniel Ferri.

***To sign-up**, please send your name, email and telephone number to Elena Martínez (emartinez@citylore.org or 212/529-1955). **(FREE)**

Open Mic:

with Greek-American Writer's Association (Cooper Union, Engineering Building, Room 509)

Hosted by Sharon Olinka. Sign-up sheets will be located on a table outside the classroom.

1:30-2:15 Performance:
Ukrainian Epic Ballads (Bowery Poetry Club)
Julian Kytasty will perform songs from the *Kobzari* epic tradition of the late 19th century in which singers, frequently blind, accompanied themselves on the *bandura* and sang of the bloody struggles among the Cossacks, Tartars, and Turks in the 16th and 17th centuries.

2:00-3:30 Panel:
Beyond Identity Poetics: The Journey of the Poem (Poets House)
Poets with an international perspective contextualize their work within their particular cultural and poetic antecedents. With Etel Adnan, Kamau Brathwaite, Ferida Durakovic, Vénus Khoury-Ghata, Semezdin Mehmedinovic, and Kishwar Naheed.

2:00-2:45 Performance:
Arlo Guthrie: Storytelling and Poetry (Cooper Union, Great Hall)

Paired Reading:

Toni Blackman and Lee Ann Brown(Cooper Union, Wollman)

Reading:

Sweet Jesus: An Anthology of Poems about the Ultimate Icon (CB's 313 Gallery, Upstairs)

Hosted by Molly Peacock, contributors to *Sweet Jesus* (Denise Duhamel's anthology of poems about Catholic iconography) read their poems. With Nick Carbo, Thad Rutkowski, Hal Sirowitz, Diane Spodarek, and more.

Family Program:

Kazakhstan Epic Singer ([Asia Society](#))

In Kazak culture, epic singers are keepers of a collective memory that connects oral traditions with shamanic spirituality and nomadic philosophy. Almasbek Almatov, the renowned singer and charismatic storyteller of Kazak epics, presents a rare performance of traditional epics from his homeland. He will be accompanied by folklorist Dr. Alma Kunanbaeva, who will provide context and translation during the performance. Call the Asia Society at 212/517-ASIA for more information.

Open Mic:

"Greek Poets and the Diaspora" with Greek-American Writer's Association (Cooper Union, Engineering Building, Room 509)

Hosted by Dean Kostos. Sign-up sheets will be located on a table outside the classroom.

**2:00-3:30
(FREE)**

Performance:

Race for the Sky: A 9/11 Poem (New York Public Library-Tompkins Square Branch) **FREE**

A slide show on the poetry found in shrines and memorials that cropped up in the wake of September 11th. This is followed by "Race for the Sky," a musical rendition of a number of poems set for voice, violin and piano, featuring composer and pianist Richard Pearson Thomas and soprano Lisa Radakovich Holsberg. **FREE**

**2:00-4:00
(FREE)**

Panel:

In Tribute to June Jordan: A Panel Discussion on Poetry, Politics, and Performance (CUNY Graduate Center)

With Thulani Davis, Grace Paley, and Sonia Sanchez.

2:30-3:45

Performance:

Sundiata Epic of West Africa (Bowery Poetry Club)

In words, songs, and music, we tell the epic of Son Jara who, 750 years ago, laid the constitution of the Mandeng—the ancient empire of Mali at Kouroukan Fuga. In the story, as told by the Jalilu (orators, bards, historians, musicians, poets, and singers) is found both genealogy and cosmology. Hear the story from:

Kewulay Finah Kamara of Dankawili, Sierra Leone; New York—story
Abdoulaye Diabate, from Kita, Mali; Abidjan, Ivory Coast; New York—song
Mohamamad Salieu Suso, from Banjul, Gambia; New York—kora
Bala Kouyate from Mali; New York—bala
Yacouba Cissoko from Mali; New York—kora

3:00-3:45

Folk Music in the American Century: An Alan Lomax Tribute

The Lomax Legacy On the Air (Cooper Union, Great Hall)

Nick Spitzer of Pubic Radio International delivers a keynote address.

Paired Reading:

Charles Bernstein and Jerome Rothenberg (Cooper Union, Wollman)

Reading:

Americicula—Sicilian Poetry in New York (CB's 313 Gallery, Upstairs)

Open Mic:

Spanish Language Open Mic with Rosa Elena Egipciaco (Cooper Union, Engineering Building, Room 509)

Sign-up sheets will be located on a table outside the classroom.

3:45-4:45 Iraqi Poetry Reading (Poet's House)

Elias Khoury, Ammiel Alcalay and others introduce and read modern Iraqi poetry. Author of *against the warring factions*, Ammiel Alcalay is a poet and activist who has written on Bosnia and Israel. Elias Khoury, born Beirut, Lebanon, is the author of numerous novels.

4:00-5:45 (FREE) Urban Word 5-Borough Youth Slam (Cooper Union, Great Hall)

Organized by Urban Word.

4:00-4:45 Performance:

New York Ramayana Epic (Bowery Poetry Club)

The ancient Hindu epic of good versus evil, treachery, and the complications of love. Told through sumptuous Indian and Burmese music and dance by U Win Maung, and Bani Ray, with narration by poet Daniel Abd al-Hayy Moore and modern dance by Jaan R.

Freeman. Co-sponsored by [Lotus Music and Dance](#). For over a decade, Lotus has been a gathering place for master performers and teachers of traditional world music and dance. Lotus works with artists from India, China Burma, Korea, Tahiti, Africa, Spain, and the Mohawk nation.

Paired Reading: Khaled Mattawa and D.H. Melhem (Cooper Union, Wollman)

Performance:

Stephanie Strickland and Cynthia Lawson give an electronic reading (Tisch School of the Arts-ITP, 721 Broadway @ Waverly Place, 4th Floor)

Web works include Strickland's *The Ballad of Sand and Harry Soot, V: Vniverse* and scenes from the Smylie/Katz/Douglas version of Homer's *Iliad*. This electronic reading is co-presented by the Interactive Telecommunications Program (ITP) at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. (Please note that a photo ID is required to enter the building for this event. **(FREE)**)

Open Mic:

with Shawn Randall of West Side Rhymes (Cooper Union, Engineering Building, Room 509)

Sign-up sheets will be located on a table outside the classroom.

4:00-5:45 Folk Music in the American Century: An Alan Lomax Tribute
Folk Music as Poetry: The Lomax Perspective (American Indian Community House)

With Raoul Abdul, Hal Cannon, Worth Long, Jean Ritchie, Mike Seeger, and Les Slater. Moderated by Andy Kaye.

- 4:00-5:45 Reading:**
The Russian Wave—Russians Writing and Rewriting American Poetry (CB's 313 Gallery, Upstairs)
 Original English-language work plus new translations of contemporary and classic Russian poetry. With Ilya Bernstein, Sergei Lerchin, Eugene Ostashevsky, Igor Satanovsky, Genya Turovsky, Matvei Yankelevich, and others.
- 5:00-5:45 Paired Reading:**
Martín Espada and Jackie Sheeler (Cooper Union, Wollman)
- Performance:**
Kalevala Epic of Finland (Bowery Poetry Club)
 By Aili Flint and Tuomas Hiltunen accompanied by Ulla Suokko.
- 6:00-6:45 Paired Readings:**
Ammiel Alcalay and Abdellatif Laâbi (Cooper Union, Wollman)
- Performance:**
Warrior Women and Popular Balladry (American Indian Community House)
 With Dianne Dugaw.
- Reading:**
"Rime of the Ancient Mariner" (Bowery Poetry Club)
 A public (participatory) reading of the "Rime of the Ancient Mariner," hosted by Jens Lund.
- 6:00-7:45 Poetry Dialogues** (Cooper Union, Hewitt Building)
(FREE) Young rappers and elder poets team up to present poetry and stimulate conversation using hip hop and debate formats. Bring your head and your heart. With Nimo. **(FREE)**
- 6:00-7:30 Film Screening:**
Sayat Nova (Color of Pomegranates) (Two Boots Pioneer Theater)
 Dir. Sergie Paradjanov (Armenia/USSR, 1968, 80 min.) A stunningly conceived epic biography of the 15th century troubadour Sayat Nova that concentrates more on the poet's life as revealed through his poetry than through conventional narration.
- 7:00-7:45 Reading:**
Native American Writers' Circle (American Indian Community House)
 Featuring Pena Bonita, Elvira Colorado, Hortensia Colorado, and Louis Mofsie.
- Paired Reading: Daniel Ferri and Nathalie Handal** (Cooper Union, Wollman)
- 7:30-8:45 Performance:**
Conversations from a Cockroach (Bowery Poetry Club)
 The Mettawee River Theatre Company presents a hand-held puppet production of the tales of Don Marquis.
- 8:00-8:45 Paired Reading:**
Meena Alexander and Karen Swenson (Cooper Union, Wollman)

- 8:00-9:30 Performance:**
Illyria: Albanian Ballad of Winter and Spring (Old Office, Knitting Factory)
 Illyria, an ancestor of modern Albania, was an ancient nation that worshipped gods and goddesses associated with nature. This performance brings an ancient Illyrian tale to life with music, dance, and recitation. Performed by the *Mesopotamian Arts Council* with Ismail Butera on the lute, Michael Hess on flute, and Raguy Danziger on the spike fiddle and percussion. (\$8, no passes accepted)
- 8:00-10:00 Folk Music in the American Century: An Alan Lomax Tribute Lomax Tribute Concert** (Cooper Union, Great Hall)
 With Arlo Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Odetta, The New Lost City Ramblers, "Honey Boy" Edwards, Spencer Moore, and Jean Ritchie.
- Performance:**
Epics of Kazakhstan: Almasbek Almatov ([Asia Society](#))
 In Kazak culture, epic singers are keepers of a collective memory that connects oral traditions with shamanic spirituality and nomadic philosophy. Almasbek Almatov, the renowned singer and charismatic storyteller of Kazak epics, presents a rare performance of traditional epics from his homeland. Accompanied on the *dombra* (a plucked-string lute), he brings war, adventure, and love all come alive through his voice. Almatov is a fourth generation singer carrying on his family's traditions. (**\$7, members, students, and seniors; \$10 non-members. No Gathering passes accepted. Call 212/517-ASIA for more information.**)
- 8:00-9:15 Film Screening :**
Something Wonderful May Happen: The New York School Poets And Beyond (Two Boots Pioneer Theater)
 Dir. by Lard Movin and Niels Plenge 57 min, 2001 An engaging look at the "New York School of Poets," a name that was meant to be satirical, but which stuck. Wonderful readings and off the cuff commentary by John Ashbery and Kenneth Koch, remarkable footage of Frank O'Hara, poems and analysis by David Lehman, Charles Bernstein and Jordan Davis, interviews with Larry Rivers, Jane Freilicher and others. Wonderful, witty, subtle techniques tease out a poetry image track and a lucky collision of people, poetry, buildings, pigeons, and New York itself. A treat for audiences who've never heard of the poets, a party for those who have. With winning films from the Zebra International Poetry Film Festival, Berlin, July, 2002.
- 15th of February** (Two Boots Pioneer Theater)
 6.30 min., 1995 Tim Webb, filmmaker. Peter Reading, poet (Great Britain), animation & live action. Love didn't turn out too well. A symbolic rejection and its aggressive outcome. Winner of the 2002 Zebra International Poetry Film Festival (literaturWERKstaat, Berlin):
- Poem by Ernst Jandl** (Two Boots Pioneer Theater)
 2.31 min., 1989 Eku Wand, filmmaker. Ernst Jandel, poet (German, Austrian). A version of the Viennese group (dada) poet's "Beastuary" using an Atari and a 5x5 mouth matrix. Winner of the 2002 Zebra International Poetry Film Festival (literaturWERKstaat, Berlin):
- 9:00-9:45 Competition:**
New York City Borough Slam (Bowery Poetry Club)
 With Robert Hershon, Donna Masini, Hal Siowitz, Hector Rivera, Tariq Zaid and winners of the Urban Word Teen Slam.

Performance:

Joy Harjo in Concert (American Indian Community House)
Accompanied by musician Michael Sena. (\$10, no festival passes accepted)

10:00-
10:45

Reading:
Poets 4 Life featuring Willie Perdomo (Bowery Poetry Club)

10:00-
11:30

Film Screening:
The Land Where the Blues Began (Two Boots Pioneer Theater)
Produced and Directed by Alan Lomax, John Bishop and Worth Long, (USA, 1978, 60 min.)
A penetrating and moving look at the land, culture and above all the people who gave the blues to the world. Filmed in churches, fields, porches and bars, with R.L. Burnside, Jack Owens, Sam Chatamon, Eugene Powell, Napoleon Strickland and Lonnie Pitchford.

Oss Oss, Wee Oss (Two Boots Pioneer Theater)
Produced and Directed by Alan Lomax with Peter Kenney and George Pickow, (1951, 30 min.) "Oss Oss, Wee Oss" is the cheer that rises from the crowd as the hobby horse dances through the streets of Padstow, Cornwall, every May Day in an ancient celebration of spring.

11:00-
11:45

Performance:
"13th Sunday in Ordinary Time" (Bowery Poetry Club)
Lee Ann Brown's play based on contemporary versions of ballads and campfire songs.

Midnight-
12:45

Synonymous (Bowery Poetry Club)
Open collaborative poetry workshop

Poe in the Graveyard (Marble Cemetery)
A Gathering ritual! Hear the wind howl through the words as we chant and channel Poe with Daniel Ferri.

1:00am-
Sunrise
(FREE)

Tribute Reading:
The Battlefield Where the Moon Says I Love You (Bowery Poetry Club)
An homage to the late poet Frank Stanford—whose poem "The Battlefield Where the Moon Says I Love You" is regarded as one of the major epic works of poetry in the later half of the twentieth century—a diverse group of some 20 poets, actors, and performers will hold an all-night reading and performance of the entire 400 page, 15,000 line text, beginning at 1:00am. (FREE)