

Black Poets Speak Out and Daniel Borzutzky bring star power to reading series



Left: MFA Director Lori Soderlind poses with Jive Poetic of Black Poets Speak Out. **Right:** Daniel Borzutzky reads from his National Book Award-winning poetry collection, “The Performance of Becoming Human.” **Photos by Lori Fontannes**

By Emily Jack

This winter, the MFA program had the privilege of hosting two readings from extraordinary literary talents: three members of Black Poets Speak Out, and National Book Award winner Daniel Borzutzky.

Black Poets Speak Out poets visited Reid Castle, giving a lively performance to a completely full house. Mahogany Browne, Jive Poetic and Tongo Eisen-Martin took turns sharing their personal experiences and political views through provocative and touching works on topics spanning from middle-school bullying to genetic engineering. The floor was opened up to questions, allowing the audience to engage in the discussion of the multitude of political issues this country faces today.

BPSO is an artistic movement of political activism, which started on Tumblr with black poets sharing their work in response to police violence against the black community. The movement quickly spread to various forms of social media, generating the hashtag #BlackPoetsSpeakOut on Twitter with far-reaching impact not only online, but in literary communities throughout the country.

The following week, poet Daniel Borzutzky also visited the castle to read from his National Book Award-winning work “The Performance of Becoming Human,” and soon to be released “Lake Michigan.” In addition to his own poetry, Borzutzky read translated pieces of Raul Zurita’s works, including “The Country of Planks,” “Via Grimaldi,” and “Thou Shall Not Kill.” For more information on Daniel Borzutzky and his poems, please visit <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/daniel-borzutzky>

Special MFA Events Coming Up Soon!

Book Launch Celebration for MAW/MFA Alumna **Laurel Peterson**

Come celebrate the release of Norwalk Connecticut Poet Laureate Laurel Peterson’s new poetry collection “Do You Expect Your Art to Answer?”

Date: Tuesday, April 4

Time: 7 p.m.

Barat House

Saturday workshop! Flow into Writing with poet, essayist, and hypnotherapist **Kristin Prevallet**. Deepen your innate understanding of flow—the optimal state that can lead us to creativity.

Learn more at MvilleMFA.com

Open to the Public - \$20 suggested donation - MFA students attend free

Limited space, reserve a spot with an RSVP to MFA@Mville.edu

Date: Saturday, April 22

Time: 1-3 p.m.

Barat House

MFA Calendar of Events Spring 2017

Literary Lunch, Barat House, Thursday March 30, 1 p.m.

Tuesday April 4- 7 p.m.

Book Launch Celebration for Mville MFA alumna Laurel Peterson

Poetry reading “Do you Expect Your Art to Answer”

Barat House

Write! 4-Week Series at Barat House: Enjoy some afternoon writing time at Barat House, the home and heart of the Manhattanville College MFA Program, with Nyack's River River Writers Circle, co-founded by Mville MFA alum Donna Miele. We'll share a writing prompt and then serenade each other's literary souls with fresh-on-the-page readings. Join us anytime for this 4-week series of generative writing sessions.

Dates: Every Friday, from March 24 – April 14, 2017

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Place: Barat House

Suggested Donation: \$5

Literary Lunch, Barat House, Tuesday April 25, 1 p.m.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR GRAPHIC NOVEL WORKSHOP AND SUMMER WRITERS' WEEK

Saturday, May 13, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Roz Chast, graphic memoirist and New Yorker cartoonist, keynote presentation for Mville MFA's One Day Graphic Novel Writing Workshop

Paul Levitz, past president of DC Comics, will lead the adult workshop. Barbara Slate will lead a youth workshop.

Roz Chast's reading is open to public; workshop requires registration, \$75 admission fee.

Summer Writers' Week! Monday June 19-Friday June 23

Featuring keynote Reader Joseph O'Neill and Special Guest Rivka Galchen, plus a host of other talented writers and teachers. **Registration opens March 1 2017**. For more information see: Mvillemfa.com

Register for Summer Writers' Week and the Graphic Novel Workshop at Community.mville.edu/mfa

Contact mfa@mville.edu for additional information on program events or visit mvillemfa.com

News and Notes

By Tina Tocco

Check out what our fellow MFA students and alums are up to!

On March 4, MFA candidate **Lori Fontanes** gave a sold-out talk on edible gardening to an enthusiastic crowd of sustainability advocates in Bedford, NY. The program was a part of a daylong event called Food Forum, sponsored by Bedford 2020, a leading organization on environmental action in Westchester County. Lori also writes on related topics for *Acres*, *Countryside*, and *Backyard Poultry* magazines.

Linda Simone (MAW '04) recently published poems in *These Fragile Lilacs* and *The Phoenix Soul*. She's on San Antonio's Poetry Month calendar with an April 4 guest reading at Senor Veggies Restaurant. Linda's also doing an April 11 reading in conjunction with the San Antonio Museum

of Art's exhibit "Of Country and Culture" and an April 17 poetry writing workshop at the Encino Library. Visit Linda's Web site at www.lindasimone.com.

Tina Tocco's short story "Trumpets, Trombones, and Tyrell," which deals with the subject of children and loss, appears in the April 2017 issue of *Pockets*, a Christian children's magazine. In addition, Tina writes *Pockets'* geography column "Where In God's World?" in which she writes about cultural diversity and the beauty of other nations around the globe.

Alumni Hosted Events

Upcoming Events in Rockland County

Write! Special Edition with Lori Soderlind: Fiction — it's not just an alternative label for a true story that might embarrass your mother. MFA Director Lori Soderlind will discuss her experience as a writer choosing between memoir and autobiographical fiction, including the tale of her publisher's attempt to market her memoir as a novel. This generative workshop will include a writing prompt that will establish once and for all the major distinction between fiction and nonfiction in your own writing. (This workshop will be productive for writers of both fiction and nonfiction.) River River Write! Workshops are organized by MFA alumna Donna Miele.

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Place: Patisserie Didier Dumas
Nyack, NY

Suggested Donation: \$5

Upcoming Events in Westchester County

To Celebrate National Poetry Month...

Come Read Your Poetry!

Poetry isn't just for the classroom! Help the **Poetry Caravan**, a volunteer organization of Westchester poets, bring it to the community as part of this National Poetry Month event. Come read your original poems surrounded by a roomful of poetry lovers. No registration necessary. Get your work in front of a poetry-minded audience right here in Westchester.

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Mount Pleasant Public Library
350 Bedford Road (corner of Bedford Road and Romer Avenue)
Pleasantville, NY

Free admission.

POETRY WORKSHOP

With MFA alum Maureen Mancini Amaturo

Date: Thursday, April 6, 2017

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Place: The Rye Arts Center
51 Milton Road
Rye, NY

Fee: \$45 (\$40 for members)

Call [914-967-0700](tel:914-967-0700) to register.

Sound Shore Writers Group

Join the Sound Shore Writers Group for readings and a celebration of writers supporting other writers. All genres welcome. All are welcome to read.

Date: Monday, June 5, 2017

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Place: The Rye Arts Center
51 Milton Avenue
Rye, NY

Free admission. Light refreshments.

For more information, contact Sound Shore Writers Group founder **Maureen Mancini Amaturo** at m3g90@optonline.net.

Compiled by Tina Tocco (MAW '04, MFA '13).

What are you up to? Send your news about publications, teaching gigs, readings, and upcoming events to mvillealumcolumn@gmail.com.

Submissions, Deadlines and More

**Mortar Magazine Open for Submissions-Prose, Poetry and/or Experimental Writing
Deadline is rolling**

<http://www.mortarmagazine.org/#submit>

Route 7 Review-Accepting Submissions for poetry, fiction, nonfiction, flash fiction and nonfiction and visual art

Deadline 4/15/2017

<https://route7review.submittable.com/submit>

Colorado Review Short Fiction and Poetry Contest

Deadline 4/30/2017, entry fee \$3

<http://coloradoreview.colostate.edu/colorado-review/submit/>

Storm Cellar “Force Majeure” Flash Fiction and Nonfiction Contest-up to three flash entries in one file is acceptable

Deadline 4/30/2017, entry fee for one flash: \$5; entry fee for two or three flashes: \$12

<https://stormcellar.submittable.com/submit/72759/500-force-majeure-flash-contest>

Tammy Journal-Chapbook and Journal Submissions

Deadline 6/1/2017, entry fee \$10-\$23

<https://tammy.submittable.com/submit>

Poetry Society of America’s Spring Benefit Dinner, honoring Jacqueline Woodson-Young People’s Poet Laureate

6/6/2017 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at New York Botanical Garden

http://www.poetrysociety.org/psa/about/spring_benefit/?utm_content=&utm_source=VerticalResponse&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=&utm_campaign=Save%20the%20Date%20for%20Our%20Spring%20Benefit%21

The Moth International Short Story Prize 2017

Deadline 6/30/2017, entry fee \$15.09

<http://www.themothmagazine.com/a1-page.asp?ID=8227&page=18>

Second Annual Ex Ophidia Press Poetry Book Prize

Deadline 8/15/2017, entry fee \$25.00

<https://exophidiapress.submittable.com/submit/52356/second-annual-ex-ophidia-press-poetry-book-contest>

Has your work been published? Got something for the calendar? Send it to us at MFA@Mville.edu

For additional information on events, news and other updates,
be sure to check our website!

<http://mvillemfa.com/>

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter too!

@MvilleMFA

MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE

2900 Purchase St

Purchase, NY 10577