The John Fowles Center for Creative Writing promotes and advances the discipline of creative writing in all its aspects: fiction, poetry, drama, creative nonfiction and screen/playwriting. The Center offers students and non-students alike an opportunity to gain a greater appreciation for the written word and those who write it. Each year a distinguished group of national and international writers is invited to Chapman University, making access to those writers available not only to the Chapman community, but to the Orange County and, by extension, the Southern California community as well. Well into its second decade, the John Fowles Center for Creative Writing has hosted such international writers to Chapman as: Nobel Laureate, Wole Soyinka, Salman Rushdie, Maxine Hong Kingston, Luisa Valenzuela, Edward Albee, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Alain Robbe-Grillet, Gioconda Belli, Steve Katz, Raúl Zurita, Elias Khoury, Charles Bernstein, Fanny Howe, David Antin, Willis Barnstone, Claudio Magris, Giorgio Pressburger, Giuseppe Conte and Isabel Allende among others.

You are cordially invited to attend this year’s John Fowles Literary Forum. The events begin at 7 p.m. and are generally held in the Henley Reading Room on the second floor of the Leatherby Libraries except for the Ziok screening which will be held in the Fish Chapel. All events are free and open to the public.

The 2014 Literary Series is devoted to German writers and filmmakers and begins March 3 with the poet, Michael Lentz. He is followed on March 17 by the documentary filmmaker, Ilona Ziok, on April 7 by the novelist, Werner Fritsch and, finally, on April 28 by the novelist, Thomas Meinecke. The 2015 Literary Series will be devoted to Eastern European writers.

For additional information about our 2014 Literary Series or our graduate programs, please visit us online at www.chapman.edu/english or contact the English Department at (714) 997-6750 or by email at axelrod@chapman.edu.
Isabel Allende—October 25, 2013

A highly successful journalist, Ms. Allende turned from journalism to fiction and wrote her first novel, House of the Spirits, in 1982 which became an international success. Of it, Christopher Lehmann-Haupt of the New York Times wrote, “The House of the Spirits” seems guilty of that extravagant and whimsical fabulousness so dear to the imagination of many South and Central American fictionalists.” Since that novel, she has published no fewer than 18 books the latest being Mayas Notebook (2011) El Cuaderno de Maya. Allende’s novels have been translated from Spanish into over 30 languages and sold more than 56 million copies. There are three movies based on her novels currently in production — Aphrodite, Eva Luna and Gift for a Sweetheart. Her 2008 book, The Sum of Our Days is a memoir that focuses on her recent life with her immediate family, which includes her grown son, Nicolás; second husband, William Gordon; and several grandchildren.

The House of the Spirits was made into a film in 1993 directed by Bille August and starring Meryl Streep and Jeremy Irons. Her awards include, but are not limited to: Feminist of the Year Award, The Feminist; Chevalier des Artes et des Lettres distinction (France, 1994); Hispanic Heritage Award in Literature (United States, 1996); Donna Citta Di Roma (Italy, 1998); Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize (United States, 1998); Premio Iberoamericano de Letras José Donoso, University of Talca (Chile, 2003); Premio Honoris Causa, Università di Trento en “lingue e letteratura moderne euroamericane” (Trento, Italy, May 2007); Chilean National Prize for Literature (Chile, 2010); and most recently, the Hans Christian Andersen Literature Award (Denmark, 2012).

In addition to her writing, she began the Isabel Allende Foundation as an homage to the death of her daughter, Paula, who died at the age of 28. As Allende states herself: “My foundation, based on my ideals of service and compassion, was created to continue her work.” The book, Paula, is a 1995 memoir written by Allende who addressees her daughter.

Darkest experience of her own life, but which turned into a tribute work. “The book, Paula, is a 1995 memoir written by Allende who addressees her daughter, Paula, who died at the age of 28. As Allende states herself: “My foundation, based on my ideals of service and compassion, was created to continue her work.” The book, Paula, is a 1995 memoir written by Allende who addressees her daughter, Paula, who died at the age of 28. As Allende states herself: “My foundation, based on my ideals of service and compassion, was created to continue her work.”

Michael Lentz—March 3, 2014


Ilona Ziok—March 17, 2014

Ilona Ziok’s family emigrated from Poland in 1968 to Britain, where she continued her education. Between 1975-1977, she studied theater and film studies at the City University of New York and worked at the Bread and Puppet Theater. From 1977 to 1982 she studied political science, Slavic Studies and Theatre and Film Studies at the Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main from which she graduated in 1982 with an MA degree. From 1985-1989 she held a DAAD scholarship at the Moscow Film Academy (VGIK) and received her PhD in 1989 in Frankfurt studying dramaturgy with Viktor Rosows. Her documentary films include: Corridor (1995) (producer); Kurt Gerron Caroussel (director/producer) (1999); The Republic Stage (2003) (TV) (producer); Salvador Allende (co-producer) (2004); Tiger (2006) (producer); The Sounds of Silents - The Silent Film Pianist (director/producer) (2006); The square and the Communist (director/producer) (2009) and Fritz Bauer (director/producer) (2010).

Werner Fritsch—April 7, 2014


Thomas Meinecke—April 28, 2014

Raised in Hamburg, Meinecke began to study Theatre Studies, Modern German Literature and Communication Studies at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich. In 1978, he founded the literary magazine Mode & Verzweiflung (Fashion and Despair) and in 1980, the band Freiwillige Selbstkontrolle (Voluntary Self-Control), which is active with nearly the same line-up today. In the 1980s, Meinecke wrote temporarily for Die Zeit and other papers/magazines. Since the mid-1990s, his postmodern literary interests have emerged by combining “sampling” with creative writing. Since 2008, Meinecke hosts under the title Plattenspieler (record player) at the Berlin theater Hebbel am Ufer (HAU). Meinecke sits with a different guests for a night on stage and both parties play each others’ music. His novels include: The Church of John F. Kennedy; Tomboy; Hellblau (Pale Blue); Musik; Jungfrau; and Lookalikes. His awards include: 1997: Award for Heimito von Doderer Literature Prize; 1997: Rheingau Literature Prize; 1998 Kranichsteiner Literature Prize; 2003: Düsseldorf Literature Prize; 2004: Tukan Prize of Munich; and 2008: Karl Sczuka Prize for radio play as radio art together with David Moufang for translations / translation.period of eight years, a commentator on NPRs All Things Considered. His next book, Birds of Paradise - a collection of short stories - will be published in 2013. He lives in San Francisco, California.

“There are many reasons why novelists write, but they all have one thing in common - a need to create an alternative world.”

- John Fowles