Director’s Note

After a busy fall, compounded by the elections and the tensions that built steadily until all was decided on November 3, we all needed the winter break to gather our energies for the new year. I hope that your time away from the pressures of our overloaded schedules has given you new strength and motivation as we begin the new quarter and the new year.

In view of the importance of keeping political dialogue going, many faculty at CGS, the Race Center, and elsewhere expressed a wish that we collaborate on an event that would bring us together. On Thursday, January 20, the day of the presidential inaugural, there will be a day of workshops, round table discussions and performance culminating with our own inaugural "ball". Many of us are concerned deeply with the directions being taken by this administration, and we hope to find ways of engaging in meaningful dialogue and action, both with those who share our concerns, and those who have differing perspectives.

On Friday, January 28 we will present a behind the scenes documentary DVD on Britney Spears, "Stages: Three Days in Mexico" made by Judy Hoffman, visiting lecturer, Committees on Cinema & Media Studies and the Visual Arts, who will also be on hand to comment on the film and answer questions. The construction of a young female star is a topic of interest to those of us concerned with mass culture, female identity, and the "machine" of fame. It should be a rousing evening.

On Friday, February 25 there will be a mini-symposium in lieu of the usual Brownbag. Armando Maggi, Michael Syrimis of Washington University, and I will present short talks on Pier Paolo Pasolini’s last works, including an unfinished screenplay and huge novel, in which issues pertaining to gender and queer identity are very much at the fore.

Please see the calendar in this Newsletter for dates and details on this quarter’s brown bag and workshops schedule.

We were all very honored last quarter by Amy Hollywood’s acceptance of our invitation to do this year’s Distinguished Faculty Lecture. Amy gave an extremely rich and thought-provoking talk on feminism and religious fundamentalism, which stimulated many responses and much discussion. Our collective thanks to Amy!

Our Dissertation Fellow and Office Fellows are settled into the Center and working away at their projects, and our majors are also working hard on their B.A. papers with the expert guidance of the preceptor Sarah Potter (History).

Many good wishes for a full and fulfilling winter quarter to all of you. Please do check out the events at the Center, or simply stop by to say hello and pick up flyers, or just put your feet up in the lounge for a quiet respite from the cold.

Rebecca West
William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and the College Professor, The Committee on Cinema and Media Studies
Director, The Center for Gender Studies

French Queer Film

From January 18-22, the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project welcomes two of the most innovative and provocative filmmakers working in France today, Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau, for special screenings and discussions. The films of Ducastel and Martineau playfully draw on established genres, such as the musical and road trip, and develop new experimental narrative forms to explore questions of race, immigration, AIDS, national identity, and queer subjectivity in contemporary France. We will screen all three of their films: Jeanne and the Perfect Guy (1998) on Friday Jan. 14, The Adventures of Felix (2000) on Friday, Jan. 21 and My Life on Ice (2002), on Saturday, Jan. 22 to be followed by a discussion and reception with the filmmakers. On Tuesday, Jan. 18 there will be a special meeting of the Gender & Sexuality Workshop with Ducastel and Martineau. During their visit, they will also meet with student filmmakers to discuss their craft and the state of contemporary filmmaking in France, particularly in competition with Hollywood. All screenings and Saturday’s discussion with the filmmakers will take place at the Film Studies Center on the third floor of Cobb Hall, 5811 S. Ellis Avenue. The workshop will take place at the CGS. http://humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/cgs/lgsp.html for more details. Ducastel and Martineau’s visit is made possible by a generous UChicagoArts grant from the Arts Planning Council and the cooperation of the Committee on Cinema and Media Studies and the Film Studies Center.

OUT at CHS

The Lesbian and Gay Studies Project is proud to continue co-sponsoring OUT at CHS, a five-year-long series of LGBT history programs held at the Chicago Historical Society (Clark Street and North Avenue). This year’s programming begins on Thursday, February 17, at 6 PM, with Friends or
Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop
Tuesday, January 11, 4:30 - 6 p.m.
Darren Liett, University of Chicago, Germanic Studies
Knowledge, Secrets, and Homoeroticism in Two Turn-of-the-Century Boarding School Narratives: Rilke’s “The Gym Class” and Walser’s Jakob von Gunten

Lesbian and Gay Studies Project (LGSP) and Cinema and Media Studies (CMS) Series
Friday, January 14, 7:00 p.m.
French Filmmakers Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau: Current Independent Cinema and Queer Issues in France, Screening of Jeanne & the Perfect Guy
Location: Film Studies Center, Cobb Hall 307

LGSP and CMS Series
Tuesday, January 18, 4:30 - 6 p.m.
French Filmmakers Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau: Current Independent Cinema and Queer Issues in France, Special Meeting of Gender & Sexuality Workshop with Jacques Martineau and Olivier Ducastel
Location: The Center for Gender Studies

COUNTER-INaugural EVENT
Thursday, Jan 20 — Time TBA, Location TBA
The Center for Gender Studies, the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture and the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project are planning a counter-inaugural, that is, a day of reflection, analysis, and recommitment to shared political goals. The day will begin with a spoken word performance during the inauguration ceremony, move on to workshops and round table discussions of various issues raised by the election, and conclude with a plenary session, also a roundtable. There will also be a party to follow the day’s events. Details of the specific sessions are forthcoming, but the general theme of the day is “What happened?” “What can we learn from it?” and “Where do we go next?”

LGSP and CMS Series
Friday, January 21, 7:00 p.m.
French Filmmakers Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau: Current Independent Cinema and Queer Issues in France, Screening of The Adventures of Felix
Location: Film Studies Center, Cobb Hall 307

LGSP and CMS Series
Saturday, January 22, 5:00 p.m.
French Filmmakers Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau: Current Independent Cinema and Queer Issues in France, Screening & Q&A with filmmakers Jacques & Olivier, My Life on Ice
Location: the Film Studies Center, Cobb Hall 307, with reception to follow at 7:30 PM.

Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop
Tuesday, January 25, 4:30 - 6 p.m.
Lynette Jackson, University of Illinois at Chicago, Assistant Professor, Depts. of Gender and Women’s Studies and African American Studies
From Two Colonialisms to Two Pandemics Historical Trajectories of Gender Violence and AIDS in Zimbabwe

Film Event: Screening of Judy Hoffman’s ‘Stages’: Three Days in Mexico
Friday, January 28, Time 7 p.m.
Filmmaker Judy Hoffman follows pop star Britney Spears as she prepares and gives the last two concerts from her "Dream Within A Dream" tour. 'Stages' marks the cusp of Spears' decision to leave show business for a year to think about her life and perhaps reinvent herself after her 21st birthday. With behind-the-scenes access, Hoffman investigates how a pop icon is constructed, packaged and controlled. Shot by documentary cameraman Albert Maysles (Gimme Shelter, When We Were Kings). The filmmaker will be present (with props!) to discuss the film. Tickets are $10, $5 for high school and university students. Location: International House, Assembly Hall
Gender Studies Brown Bag Lunch Talk
Friday, February 4, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
Orit Bashkin, University of Chicago, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
*Friends, Lovers, Soldiers - Images of Masculinity in Interwar Iraq*

Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop
Tuesday, February 8, 4:30 - 6 p.m.
Fanny Dolansky, University of Chicago, Department of Classics
*Religion in the Roman Family: Roles, Responsibilities, and Regulations*

Gender Studies Brown Bag Lunch Talk
Friday, February 11, 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.
Summerson Carr, University of Chicago, Assistant Professor, School of Social Services Administration
*The Lexicon of Lila’s Love Life: Sex, Drugs, and Language Ideology*

Gender Studies Third Thursday Social Hour
Thursday, February 17, 4:30 - 6 p.m.
Join us at the Center for warm drinks and snacks and good company.

Gender Studies Brown Bag Panel Discussion
Friday, February 25, 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.
Body, Gaze, and Transgender in Pasolini’s Last Works
Armando Maggi, Associate Professor, Romance Lang. & Lit, History of Culture, University of Chicago “The Resurrection of the Body in Pasolini’s Porn-Theo-Colossal”
Michael Syrimis, Lecturer in Italian, Film and Media Studies, Washington University “Pasolini’s Erotic Gaze, From Medea to Salo”
Rebecca West, Dir, Center for Gender Studies, Professor, Romance Lang. & Lit, Cinema and Media Studies, University of Chicago “From ‘Trans’ to ‘Transcendental’ Shifting Gender Identity in Pasolini’s Last Novel, Petaio”

Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop
Tuesday, February 22, 4:30 - 6 p.m.
Rebecca Zorach, University of Chicago, Assistant Professor of Art History
*Erotic Triangles, Print Culture, and Artistic Identity in the Renaissance: The Case of Vulcan, Venus and Mars*

Gender Studies Brown Bag Multimedia Presentation
Friday, March 4, 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.
My heart, the number one: Voices and portraits of South Korean survivors of Japanese military sexual slavery
Joshua D. Pilzer, University of Chicago, Dept. of Music, CGS Dissertation Fellow, 2004-05; with photographs by Yajima Tsukasa

Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop
Tuesday, March 8, 4:30 - 6 p.m.
Carrie Dohr, University of Chicago, Divinity School
The Hermaphroditic Sun-Child as Nietzschean Superman: Cultural Critique and "the Coming Religion" in Alfred Schuler’s Esoteric Speculations in Early Twentieth-Century Germany

All Events will be held at 5733 South University Avenue unless noted otherwise.
Admission is free to most events. Lectures, conferences, film events and brown bags are open to the public.
People with disabilities who believe they may need assistance, please contact the Center at 702-9936.

Full Program Info @ http://humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/cgs
The Center for Gender Studies Student Caucus is comprised of undergraduate and graduate students interested in influencing the Center’s teaching, research, and program activities. The Caucus aims, more broadly, to encourage student-led, campus-wide discussion and debate around issues of gender and sexuality. Caucus activities for the 2004-2005 academic year include developing an undergraduate Brown Bag series and establishing a dissertation support group for students pursuing gender related dissertations. Interested in participating in the Caucus? Please contact Kate Sanserino (kathryne@uchicago.edu) or Keisha Lindsay (keisha@uchicago.edu) for more information.

The Gender and Sexualities Studies Workshop will meet bi-monthly on Tuesdays from 4:30 until 6:00 in the seminar room at the Center for Gender Studies. Iris Young, from Political Science, and Valerie Ritter, of South Asian Studies are faculty co-directors this year, and Debra Michaud of History serves as coordinator. On January 25 Lynette Jackson, of history and women’s studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago will discuss issues of sexuality and AIDS in Zimbabwe. Steven Epstein, of the sociology department of the University of California at San Diego, will visit us on April 26 to discuss his research on sexual identity and health care. Graduate student fellows at CGS will also present, as well as several faculty from the University of Chicago. Graduate students with work to present should contact Debra Michaud (dmichaud@uchicago.edu). See Calendar on pages 2-3 for this quarter’s schedule.

Teaching, Fellowship and Prize Deadlines for 05-06
Stuart Tave, Free-Standing Course Teaching Fellowships - January 17 at 5 p.m.
Teaching in Gender Studies (Co-teachers, Preceptor) - March 7 at 5 p.m.
Guidelines: http://humanities.uchicago.edu/ogs/cgs/teaching.html
Fellowships and Office Space
Dissertation Writing Fellowship Competition- March 14 at 5 p.m. (Finals Week)
The Center for Gender Studies Office Space Competition - March 14 at 5 p.m. (Finals Week)
Ruth Murray Essay Prize - April 4 at 5 p.m.
http://humanities.uchicago.edu/ogs/cgs/funding.html

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Lovers? Same Sex Relationships in the 19th Century
A panel discussion with: Victoria Brown (University of Iowa) on Jane Addams; Martha Vicinus (University of Michigan) on Charlotte Cushman; Jay Grossman (Northwestern University) on Walt Whitman; with Chris Castiglia (Loyola University) moderating.

The series continues in the spring with Chad Heap of George Washington University (and a Chicago History Ph.D.) speaking on Thursday, April 21, on When the Magnificent Mile was Fairytown and Bronzeville was Lavender, and in June 2005 with a panel on The Celluloid Closet including the LGSP’s Ron Gregg.

Put it in your calendar now!
Queer Islands? Caribbean LGBTQ Writers & Community
On Saturday, April 16, 2005, the LGSP will host a day-long conference exploring the art and activism of queer Caribbean writers and artists, the first academic gathering devoted entirely to same sex-loving writing from the region.

The Center for Gender Studies Board of Directors:
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