

## Join Us for a Lively *Adventure* of the *Mind*!

Dear Friends:

In 1997, we founded The Shakespeare Society, which celebrated its 20th Anniversary last year and now operates under the auspices of The Public Theater.

In 2009, we created **ROUNDTABLE CULTURAL SEMINARS**, a *non-profit* organization whose mission is to engage your intellectual curiosity and enrich your life. Our participants have found the Seminars to be a rewarding experience and continue to join us.

**ROUNDTABLE CULTURAL SEMINARS** is unique in that we limit the number of individuals to an intimate group. Each Seminar is moderated by a Professional of the highest credentials.

The **six 1 hour-15 minute** sessions meet in our Townhouse 5th floor space, 45 East 78th Street.

### FALL 2018 **ROUNDTABLE CULTURAL SEMINARS**

**THEATRE TALK**

**PHILIP ROTH'S LEGACY**

**TODAY'S ART WORLD**

**WATCHING DANCE**

**RUSSIA THROUGH THE REVOLUTION**

**GREAT BOOKS ON SCREEN**

**THE COTTON CLUB**

**TECHNOLOGY: TODAY & TOMORROW**

**DIRTY POLITICS**

*\* \* Join Us for Several of these Seminars \* \**

*Nancy Becker    Adriana Mnuchin*

For detailed Seminar descriptions with dates and times,

**PLEASE REVIEW THIS 12-PAGE PDF.**

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**REQUEST YOUR SELECTED SEMINARS BY EMAIL:**

**AMnuchin-NBecker@RoundTableCulturalSeminars.org**

**YOUR SEMINAR CONFIRMATION**

**MAY TAKE UP TO 7 BUSINESS DAYS.**

**UPON RECEIPT, SEND YOUR CHECK**

**(\$475 PER SEMINAR) TO:**

**ROUNDTABLE CULTURAL SEMINARS**

**45 East 78<sup>th</sup> Street**

**New York, NY 10075**

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**Please note our Cancellation Policy:**

**No refund for cancellations after June 26, 2018.**

**★ Important:** Your membership is “non-transferable.” If you are unable to attend a session, please do not send anyone by “proxy.”

# THEATRE TALK

Brian Kulick, Moderator



## Three Talks on What Makes Theatre Unique Among Its Sister Arts

### Session 1 On Plays

What makes a play a play rather than a novel or movie and why has this form of expression lasted for more than 2500 years?

### Session 2 On Actors

What do we mean when we say, "That actor was great?" What exactly makes for a great theatre actor as opposed to an actor of film or television.

### Session 3 On Audiences

What happens to an audience when they watch a play? How is this experience different than watching theatre's rival siblings?

**\* Please note: This Seminar contains only THREE sessions.**

**MONDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

SEPT 24  
OCT 8  
NOV 5

**Cost \$250 (3 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$125

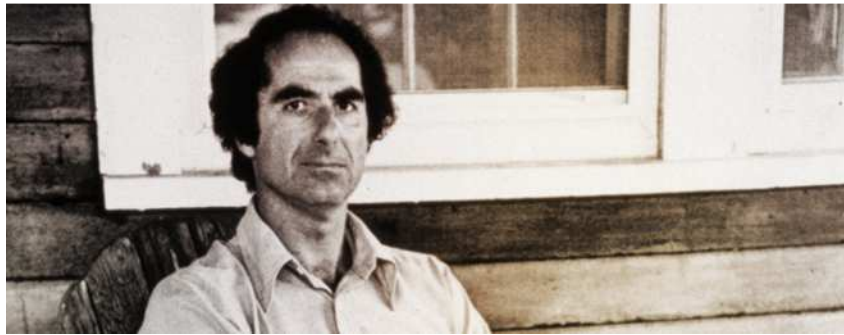


**BRIAN KULICK** – is author of the upcoming book *The Secret Life of Theatre*. From 2003-2017 he was the Artistic Director of Classic Stage Company (CSC) where he directed Mandy Patinkin in “The Tempest,” F. Murray Abraham in “Nathan The Wise,” and Dianne Wiest in “The Forest.” He conceived and produced CSC’s critically-acclaimed Chekhov Cycle with a constellation of artists that included Alan Cumming, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Ethan Hawke, Joely Richardson, Peter Sarsgaard, John Turturro, and Dianne Wiest.

He made CSC a home for the plays of David Ives whose “Venus in Fur” went onto Broadway and was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Play. For the past 16 years, he has been teaching at Columbia University’s School of the Arts.

# PHILIP ROTH'S LEGACY

Susan Barile, Moderator



This Seminar will explore the works of the late Philip Roth, the “prolific, protean, and often blackly comic novelist who was a pre-eminent figure in 20th-century literature.” Roth’s work turns out numerous versions of himself and unapologetically explores his identity as an American, a writer, and a man. A casual response to Roth is impossible: his writings battle his own prejudices, biases, and belief systems and renders an arena for his readers to work out their own conclusions. Join us with Professor Susan Barile as we delve into three of Roth’s award-winning works – *Goodbye, Columbus*, *The Human Stain*, and *Everyman*. **With images.**

Sessions 1 & 2 *Goodbye, Columbus*

Sessions 3 & 4 *The Human Stain*

Sessions 5 & 6 *Everyman*

**MONDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

SEPT 17  
OCT 1, 15, 29  
NOV 12, 26

**Cost \$475 (6 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$237.50



**SUSAN BARILE** – Assistant Professor, English Department, Hunter College. A graduate of Georgetown University, Dr. Barile holds a Master’s Degree from Hunter and a Ph.D. in Literature from The Graduate Center, NYC. She completed her dissertation on the letters of Edith Wharton written to Italian Renaissance art historian Bernard Berenson. She is the author of *The Bookworm’s Big Apple: A Guide to Manhattan’s Booksellers*, published by Columbia University Press.

Photo Credit: Everett Collection

# TODAY'S ART WORLD

Rory O'Dea, Moderator

\*\*\* SEMINAR FILLED \*\*\*



A series of thought-provoking presentations will explore the most pivotal artists and ideas that shape the contemporary art world. This Seminar will give particular attention to the extraordinary rise of women artists and artists of color. Connections will be drawn between individual artists and the broader contemporary and historical context their work lives within.

Two sessions of the Seminar will take place in Chelsea Galleries or the Auction Houses. With images.

**Session 1 The Notable Women Artists of the Contemporary Art World**

**Session 2 Gallery and/or Auction House Visit 1**

**Session 3 Artists on the Rise**

**Session 4 Gallery and/or Auction House Visit 2**

**Session 5 Painting & Sculpture Reinvented**

**Session 6 Art's Place: Site-Specific Art**

**\* Please note: The order of the sessions is subject to change.**

**TUESDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**SEPT 11, 25**

**OCT 9, 23**

**NOV 6, 27**

**Cost \$475 (6 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$237.50



**RORY O'DEA** – Professor of contemporary art and design, Parsons School of Design. He received his Ph.D. in modern and contemporary art history from the Institute of Fine Arts, and his scholarship explores the connections between visual art, film, literature and popular culture.

His current book project focuses on the American artist Robert Rauschenberg and his enduring legacy among contemporary artists. Rory has previously taught at the Yale University School of Art's MFA program and New York University, and has served as a researcher and curatorial assistant at the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Morgan Library and Museum, and the Grey Art Gallery at New York University.

Portrait Photo: Andrea Wenglowczyk

# WATCHING DANCE

Heather Watts, Moderator

\*\*\* SEMINAR FILLED \*\*\*



In conjunction with the vibrant 2018 New York City fall dance season, Balanchine ballerina Heather Watts leads an exploration of ballets being featured this autumn at New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and New York City Center's new "Balanchine Festival." This Seminar will look at an exciting range of repertory through the lens of music, dance structure, and the context of the time each work was created -- as well as how we observe each ballet today. Special focus will be given to examining the iconic roles in each ballet, as danced by their original performers, and by famous latter-day interpreters. **Video will be used.**

- Session 1** *Serenade* (1935), and Balanchine's "Tchaikovsky ballets"
- Session 2** *Jewels* (1965): How Balanchine's *Emeralds*, *Rubies* and *Diamonds* became the first full length abstract ballet
- Session 3** **The Revolutionary:** Balanchine's "Black and White Ballets"
- Session 4** **Jerome Robbins at American Ballet Theatre and New York City Ballet**
- Session 5** **Contemporary Voices:** Michelle Dorrance, Justin Peck, and Alexei Ratmansky
- Session 6** **Finale:** Class Selections

**TUESDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

SEPT 18  
OCT 2, 16, 30  
NOV 13  
DEC 4

**Cost \$475 (6 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$237.50



**HEATHER WATTS** joined New York City Ballet in 1970 and was one of the last of the famed Balanchine Ballerinas. Watts worked closely with George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins at NYCB and was an acclaimed international ballet star retiring from the stage in 1995. Watts is a contributing editor at Vanity Fair magazine. She has created academic courses on Balanchine's life and work at Harvard University and Visiting Lecturer in Dance at Princeton University in 2012. She was an inaugural fellow at the Institute of Ballet, NYU in 2014. Watts received a Doctorate in Fine Arts *honoris causa* from Hunter College.

Portrait Photo: Inez and Vinoodh

Photo Credit: Everett Collection

# RUSSIA THROUGH THE REVOLUTION

Anne O'Donnell, Moderator



This Seminar will consider the politics, culture, and everyday life of Russia from the reign of Russian Empire's last tsar, Nicholas II, to the rise of the Soviet Union's most powerful dictator, Josef Stalin.

**Video will be used.**

- Session 1    The Russian Empire on the Eve of the Great War**
- Session 2    Russia in War and Revolution**
- Session 3    Revolution in Power**
- Session 4    Industrialization and Collectivization**
- Session 5    Into the Whirlwind: Terror and Belief in the 1930s**
- Session 6    The Defeated Victor: The Soviet Union and the Great Patriotic War**

**THURSDAYS, 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

**SEPT    6, 20**  
**OCT     4, 18**  
**NOV    1, 15**

**Cost \$475 (6 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$237.50



**ANNE O'DONNELL** – Assistant Professor of History and Russian and Slavic Studies at New York University. She comes to NYU from Harvard University, where she was a Prize Fellow at the University's Center for History and Economics. Professor O'Donnell received her A.B. and Ph.D. from Princeton University. Her writing has been published in academic journals as well as *The New York Times* and *The New Republic*. She is currently preparing a book manuscript dealing with the history of the Russian Revolution for publication.

# GREAT BOOKS ON SCREEN

Joseph Luzzi, Moderator

\*\*\* SEMINAR FILLED \*\*\*



How does a literary classic also become a masterpiece on screen? And what are some of the all-time greatest cinematic adaptations of classic literature? In this Seminar, we will explore the fascinating dimension where film and literature intersect and how literary texts by authors such as Virginia Woolf and E.M. Forster are transformed into some of the most unforgettable works in the history of cinema. **Video will be used.** **Please Note:** Viewing the films is recommended, but not required. While the sessions will include clips of the selected films, they will not be screened in their entirety.

- Session 1 *To Kill a Mockingbird*, ROBERT MULLIGAN (1962)
- Session 2 *The Leopard*, LUCHINO VISCONTI (1963)
- Session 3 *Howards End*, JAMES IVORY (1992)
- Session 4 *Age of Innocence*, MARTIN SCORSESE (1993)
- Session 5 *The English Patient*, ANTHONY MINGHELLA (1996)
- Session 6 *Mrs. Dalloway*, MARLEEN GORRIS (1997)

**THURSDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

SEPT	6
OCT	4
OCT	22 (MONDAY, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.)
NOV	1, 15
DEC	6

**Cost \$475 (6 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$237.50



**JOSEPH LUZZI** – An active critic, his writings on FILM have appeared in the New York Times, Times of London, Bookforum, and many others. Professor of Comparative Literature at Bard College. He holds a PhD in Italian Literature, Yale University.

His books include the memoirs *In a Dark Wood* (HarperCollins, 2015) and *My Two Italies* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014), a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice; and the scholarly works *A Cinema of Poetry: Aesthetics of the Italian Art Film* (Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2014), a Finalist for The Bridge Book Award, and *Romantic Europe and the Ghost of Italy* (Yale Univ. Press, 2008), which received the Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies from the Modern Language Association.

Photo Credit: Everett Collection



# THE COTTON CLUB

Edward Barnes, Moderator

**\*\*\* SEMINAR FILLED \*\*\***



This Seminar will explore Harlem's infamous Cotton Club, a speak-easy run by gangster Owney Madden that featured the top African American talent of its day in landmark revues such as "Shuffle Along," "Blackbirds of 1928," and "The Cotton Club Parade." We will explore the lives and artistic contributions of band leaders Duke Ellington and Cab Calloway, along with lead singers Billie Holiday, Lena Horne, and Dorothy Dandridge, plus "Celebrity Night" stars George Gershwin, Mae West, Richard Rodgers, and Irving Berlin. A journey through the show-biz side of jazz, blues, jungle music, and bootleg whiskey. [Video will be used.](#)

- Session 1 Club Origins and Duke Ellington**
- Session 2 Billie Holiday**
- Session 3 The Revue Writers: Harold Arlen, Dorothy Fields and Jimmy McHugh**
- Session 4 Cab Calloway**
- Session 5 Celebrity Night: Gershwin, Rodgers, Berlin and guest Mae West**
- Session 6 Lena Horne and Dorothy Dandridge**

**\* Please note: There are TWO (2) Sections of this Seminar.**  
**Specify your first choice of TIME.**

**THURSDAYS, 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.      **OR**      THURSDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**SEPT    13, 27**  
**OCT     11, 25**  
**NOV    8, 29**

**Cost \$475 (6 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$237.50



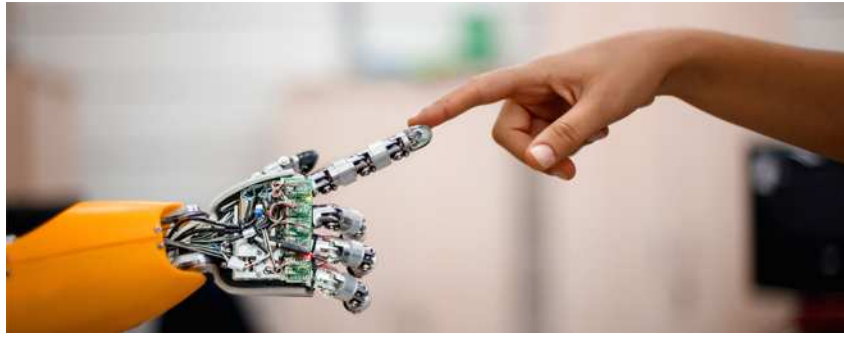
**EDWARD BARNES** - Composer/Lyricist. He has worked with theaters around the country including Lincoln Center Theater Company, Mark Taper Forum, San Francisco Mime Troupe, Houston Grand Opera, San Diego Opera, American Repertory Theater, Minnesota Opera, Williamstown Theater Festival and others.

Barnes is the winner of a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Stephen Sondheim Award for "Outstanding Talent in Creating Innovative Musical Theater." He is a producer of theater and concerts in New York and Buenos Aires.

Photo Credit: Everett Collection

# TECHNOLOGY: TODAY & TOMORROW

Noam Bonkowski, Moderator



This Seminar will explore emerging technologies of the world and how to navigate them. The sessions will offer an understanding of the concepts, devices, and interfaces that improve our lives. We will review key innovations and learn how to employ skills to understand a seemingly-complex new technology. **Video will be used.**

- Session 1**    **Connecting and Using Smart Devices:** Hardware vs Software, Wireless Connection & Communication, The Cloud - backup, syncing and restoring, Smart Devices
- Session 2**    **Navigating with Smart Technology:** Smart Homes and Control, Self -Driving Vehicles, Drones
- Session 3**    **Tech Race around the World:** Comparing levels of Technology around the world vs USA, Going Cashless, Crypto Currency & Block Chain
- Session 4**    **Altering Reality and Ourselves:** Wearable Technology (Fitbit, Apple Watch, Google Glass & Pixel Buds), Medical Breakthroughs, Augmented/Virtual Reality, Virtual Therapy
- Session 5**    **Lifestyle, Media & Entertainment:** Streaming our Music, TV & Movies, Social Media, Fake News.
- Session 6**    **Risks and Security:** Wireless “radiation,” Artificial Intelligence, Email Scams, Identity Theft and Cyber Security Tips

**TUESDAYS, 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

**SEPT    18**  
**OCT    2, 16, 30**  
**NOV    13**  
**DEC    4**

**Cost \$475 (6 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$237.50



**NOAM BONKOWSKI** - Project Manager, Programmer, and Smart Home guide for Insight Onsite, a prominent home automation company, which specializes in custom technologies and design. With a background in engineering, Noam oversees high-end residential projects in the greater New York City area.

As a TV, film, and video production contractor, Noam has worked for networks such as ABC, NFL, Fox, MTV, VH1, and others.

# **DIRTY POLITICS**

## **SCANDALS IN AMERICAN POLITICAL HISTORY**

**Robert David “KC” Johnson, Moderator**

**\*\*\* ONLY THE 2PM SECTIONS OF THIS SEMINAR ARE AVAILABLE \*\*\***



This Seminar will examine political scandals in American history up to the current day. It will begin by examining the issue of corruption in late 19th and early 20th century American politics, before moving on to discuss the re-emergence of scandal in the post-World War II period. Ethical transgressions in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1990s will be explored, with the Seminar concluding by analyzing the myriad scandals that dominate U.S. politics today.

**Each session will open with a brief survey of contemporary matters, including the looming midterm elections.**

- Session 1    The Politics of Corruption**
- Session 2    Postwar Political Scandals**
- Session 3    Ethics and 1960s Politics**
- Session 4    Watergate**
- Session 5    The Clinton Scandals**
- Session 6    Contemporary Scandals**

**\* Please note: There are FOUR (4) Sections of this Seminar.  
Specify your first choice of TIME and DATE.**

**WEDNESDAYS, 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.    OR    WEDNESDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**SEPT    5, 26  
OCT    10, 24  
NOV    7, 28**

**OR**

**WEDNESDAYS, 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.    OR    WEDNESDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**SEPT    12  
OCT    3, 17, 31  
NOV    14  
DEC    5**

**Cost \$475 (6 sessions)**

**\* tax deductible portion is \$237.50**



**ROBERT DAVID “KC” JOHNSON** - Professor of History at Brooklyn College and the City University of New York Graduate Center. In 2007-2008, he taught at Tel Aviv University as Fulbright Distinguished Chair in the Humanities.

Professor Johnson received his B.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard and his M.A. from the University of Chicago. He has written and edited numerous books about American history, and appears frequently as a pundit on the History Channel. His most recent publication is the edited *Asia Pacific in the Age of Globalization*, published by Palgrave/MacMillan; and he has been selected by Oxford University Press to edit its forthcoming *Oxford History Handbook of American Foreign Relations*.