

A misty forest path with ferns and tall trees. The path is a narrow, dark trail winding through a lush green forest. The trees are tall and thin, and the air is thick with mist, creating a serene and atmospheric scene. The lighting is soft and diffused, highlighting the textures of the ferns and the bark of the trees.

SELECTED SHORTS GETTY 2009

UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEYS

Saturday, May 2 at 3:00 P.M.

Unexpected Adventures

“Cary Grant’s Suit”

by Todd McEwen
performed by James Cromwell

“The Man Who Blew Away”

by Beryl Bainbridge
performed by Joe Mantegna

INTERMISSION

“Which Is More Than I Can Say About Some People”

by Lorrie Moore
performed by Kate Burton

TODAY’S ARTISTS

Beryl Bainbridge is a British author living in North London. She has written eighteen novels, including *The Dressmaker* and *The Bottle Factory Outing*, four books of nonfiction, and two collections of short stories. Her awards include the Guardian Fiction Prize, the WH Smith Literary Award, the Whitbread Novel Award, and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. She is a five-time nominee for the Booker Prize.

Kate Burton was nominated for Tony Awards for her work in *Hedda Gabler*, *The Elephant Man*, and *The Constant Wife*. Her other Broadway work includes *Present Laughter* (Theatre World Award); *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*; *Jake’s Women*; *Company*; and *Some Americans Abroad* (Drama Desk nomination). She appeared in *Three Sisters* at London’s West End, and her off-Broadway work includes David Mamet’s *Boston Marriage*. Her screen credits include *Max Payne*, *Spooner*, *Stay*, *Quid Pro Quo*, *Sherry Baby*, *The Night Listener*, *Swimfan*, *Unfaithful*, *Celebrity*, *The Ice Storm*, *August*, and *Big Trouble in Little China*. She appeared in the HBO film *Empire Falls*, and her other television work includes *Notes for My Daughter* (Emmy Award); *The Practice*; *The West Wing*; *Law & Order*; *Grey’s Anatomy* (Emmy nomination); and *Rescue Me*.

James Cromwell received a Best Supporting Actor Oscar nomination for his performance as Farmer Hoggett in the movie *Babe*. His motion picture work includes *Black Ball*, *Angels in America*, *Space Cowboys*, *The Green Mile*, *The General’s Daughter*, and *Snow Falling on Cedars*. Additionally, he starred as Grandpa in *The Education of Little Tree*, and police captain Dudley Smith in *L.A. Confidential*. His television work includes the starring role in *Citizen Baines*. He also received Emmy nominations for his work in *Six Feet Under* and *RKO 281*. Cromwell has performed on stage around the country at such theaters as the Goodman, the Mark Taper Forum, Long Wharf, and the Old Globe. He played A. E. Houseman in the American premiere of Tom Stoppard’s *The Invention of Love* at A.C.T. in San Francisco.

Joe Mantegna was awarded the Tony and Joseph Jefferson Awards for his performance as Richard Roma in David Mamet’s Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Glengarry Glen Ross*. His film and television credits include *Joan of Arcadia*, *House of Games*, *Searching for Bobby Fischer*, *Godfather III*, and the role of Dean Martin in *The Ratpack*. He is the voice of Fat Tony on *The Simpsons*. In 2008 Joe reprised his Emmy-nominated role of Lou Manahan opposite Debra Messing in the USA Network series *The Starter Wife*. He currently stars as FBI Special Agent David Rossi in the CBS drama *Criminal Minds*.

Todd McEwen is the author of four novels: *Fisher’s Hornpipe*, *McX: A Romance of the Dour*, *Arithmetic*, and *Who Sleeps with Katz*. He has also written for *Granta* magazine and contributed book reviews to the *Guardian*. He is a graduate of Columbia University and since 1981 has been a resident of Scotland, where he lives with his wife, novelist Lucy Ellmann, and teaches creative writing at the University of Kent.

Lorrie Moore is the author of two novels, *Who Will Run the Frog Hospital?* and *Anagrams*, as well as the forthcoming *A Gate at the Stairs*; a children’s book; and three collections of stories, *Self-Help*, *Like Life*, and *Birds of America*, which became a *New York Times* bestseller. She is also editor of the anthology *I Know Some Things: Stories about Childhood by Contemporary Writers*. In 2004, Moore received the Rea Award for the Short Story. She teaches at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Saturday, May 2 at 7:00 P.M.

Getting Away

An excerpt from *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*

by Hunter S. Thompson
performed by Alec Baldwin

“How Wang-Fo Was Saved”

by Marguerite Yourcenar, translated by Alberto Manguel
performed by Fionnula Flanagan

INTERMISSION

“The Kugelmass Episode”

by Woody Allen
performed by Isaiah Sheffer

TONIGHT’S ARTISTS

Woody Allen is a writer, director, actor, playwright, and musician. He has written and directed forty feature films in fewer than forty-five years, among them *Bananas*, *Annie Hall*, *Manhattan*, *Stardust Memories*, *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, *Hannah and Her Sisters*, *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, *Husbands and Wives*, *Bullets Over Broadway*, *Everyone Says I Love You*, *Sweet and Lowdown*, *Match Point*, and *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*. He is the author of many plays and collections of short stories.

Alec Baldwin can currently be seen on NBC’s *30 Rock*, for which he received several awards including an Emmy in 2008. He has appeared in Robert DeNiro’s *The Good Shepherd* and Martin Scorsese’s *The Departed* and *The Aviator*. His other films include *Beetlejuice*, *Miami Blues*, *The Hunt for Red October*, *Ghosts of Mississippi*, *The Edge*, *The Cooler*, *Nuremburg: Infamy on Trial* for Turner Network Television, and *Brooklyn Rules*. His theater credits include *The Twentieth Century*; *Gross Points*; *Macbeth*; and *A Street Car Named Desire* on Broadway, for which he received a Tony Award nomination.

Fionnula Flanagan appeared in the films *Transamerica* (Irish Academy Award); *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*; *The Others* (Golden Saturn Award); *Some Mother’s Son*; *Waking Ned Devine*; and in the television series *Brotherhood*. She wrote, adapted, produced, and starred in the one-woman show *James Joyce’s Women*, for which she won the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award. She then produced the play as a feature film. Flanagan was nominated for a Tony Award for her performance in *Ulysses in Nighttown* and won an Emmy Award for *Rich Man, Poor Man*. Flanagan most recently played the role of Eloise Hawking in five episodes of the television series *Lost*.

Alberto Manguel is a translator, editor, novelist, and journalist. Raised in Tel Aviv and Buenos Aires, at sixteen he was asked to read aloud to the blind Jorge Luis Borges after meeting him at the Pygmalion bookshop near the Colegio Nacional de Buenos Aires where Manguel attended school. Inspired by his experiences with Borges, Manguel went on to become an anthologist and author, whose books include the novel *News From a Foreign Country Came*, which won the McKitterick Prize; the compilation *The Dictionary of Imaginary Places*; and the anthology *Black Water: The Book of Fantastic Literature*. He is an avid reader and the renovated medieval presbytery where Manguel and his partner live in France is also home to his personal library, which consists of more than 30,000 books.

Isaiah Sheffer is a founder and the artistic director of Symphony Space, as well as host and director of Selected Shorts live at Symphony Space, on tour, and on public radio nationwide. This year, among other projects, he has been busy staging and writing songs and satire for Symphony Space’s cabaret, the Thalia Follies.

Hunter S. Thompson (1937–2005) was a cultural writer most recognized for spearheading a unique reporting style known as “gonzo journalism,” in which the writer becomes so entwined with the lives of his subjects that he himself becomes a key character in the story line. A contributor to *Rolling Stone*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Vanity Fair*, *Esquire*, and *Pageant*, he was also the author of *Hell’s Angels* and the *The Rum Diary*.

Marguerite Yourcenar (1903–1987) was elected to the Académie Française in 1981—the first woman in France to receive that honor. Born in Brussels, she was naturalized as a U.S. citizen in 1947. She was a novelist, poet, essayist, and biographer, but is best remembered for her historical novels *Mémoires d’Hadrien* (*Memoirs of Hadrian*) and *L’Oeuvre au noir* (*The Abyss*).

Sunday, May 3 at 3:00 P.M.

Uncharted Territories

“Disco Papa”

by Karen Russell

performed by Susanna Thompson

“The First Time I Saw Paris”

by Joseph Wechsberg

performed by Rob Morrow

INTERMISSION

“The Mappist”

by Barry Lopez

performed by Joe Spano

TODAY’S ARTISTS

Barry Lopez is known for his environmental and socially conscious writing. He is the author of four works of nonfiction, including *Arctic Dreams* and *Of Wolves and Men*; nine works of fiction, including *Field Notes*, *Winter Count*, and his most recent, *Resistance*, which won the Oregon Book Award. He also wrote a novella-length fable, “Crow and Weasel.” He is a contributing editor to *Harper’s*, where his work regularly appears, as well as in the *Paris Review*, *Orion*, the *Georgia Review*, and other publications. The recipient of numerous literary awards, including the National Book Award for nonfiction and a Guggenheim Fellowship, he lives in western Oregon.

Rob Morrow can currently be seen starring in the CBS hit drama *NUMB3RS* as Special Agent Don Eppes. His other credits include *Northern Exposure*; *Street Time*; *Quiz Show*; *Mother*; *Last Dance*; *The Day Lincoln Was Shot*; *The Emperor’s Club*; *The Guru*; and *Maze*, an independent feature that he also wrote, directed, and produced. He made his directorial debut with the award-winning short *The Silent Alarm* and has directed episodes of HBO’s *Oz*, Showtime’s *Street Time*, CBS’s *Joan of Arcadia*, and *NUMB3RS*. Most recently, Morrow was seen in the Rob Reiner film *The Bucket List*. A native New Yorker, Morrow began his theater career working for Tom O’Horgan and Norman Mailer. Since then, he has been committed to the theater as a founding member of the nonprofit ensemble Naked Angels. Morrow has also appeared in *Third Street* at the Circle Repertory Theatre and in *Birdy* at London’s West End.

Karen Russell has been featured in the *New Yorker’s* debut fiction issue and was chosen as one of *Granta’s* Best Young American Novelists in 2007. A graduate of the Columbia M.F.A. program, she received the Transatlantic/Henfield Award in 2005. She is the author of the short story collection *St. Lucy’s Home for Girls Raised by Wolves*. A native of Miami, she now lives in New York City, where she is working on a novel called *Swamplandia!* about a family of alligator wrestlers.

Joe Spano, an Emmy Award-winning actor (for *Midnight Caller*), starred for seven years as Lt. Henry Goldblume on the television series *Hill Street Blues*. He also starred in the series *NYPD Blue*. For the past six years he has played FBI Agent Tobias Fornell on *NCIS*. His film work includes *Primal Fear*, *Apollo 13*, *Hollywoodland*, *Fracture*; and, most recently, *Frost/Nixon*. He appeared on Broadway in the revival of Arthur Miller’s *The Price* with Eli Wallach, a production that received a Tony nomination for Best Revival. Spano’s West coast stage credits include David Mamet’s *Speed the Plow* and *American Buffalo*, for which he was awarded an LA Drama Critics Circle Award. At the Rubicon Theater in Ventura he appeared in *Waiting for Godot*; the title (and only) character in *Buckminster Fuller: The History and Mystery of the Universe*, which garnered him an Ovation Award; and, most recently, George in *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Susanna Thompson is one of the founders of the San Diego Actors’ Alliance, where she performed in *Hay Fever*; *A Shayna Maidel*, for which she received a Drama Logue Award; and *Agnes of God*, which earned her a San Diego Critics’ Circle Award. Her onscreen credits include *Dragonfly*, *Ghosts of Mississippi*, *Little Giants*, *When a Man Loves a Woman*, and *Random Hearts*. She has appeared in many television series, including *The X-Files*, *NYPD Blue*, and *Star Trek*, as well as the role of Grace Kelly in TBS’s *High Noon*. Currently she stars opposite Ian McShane in the NBC series *Kings*.

Joseph Wechsberg (1907–1983) was born in Czechoslovakia. After working as a translator, he published his first essay for the *New Yorker* in 1948 and became the magazine’s European correspondent in 1949. He wrote on many subjects, including travel and food. Ruth Reichl, the editor in chief of *Gourmet*, says he “belongs in the pantheon of great food writers.” He was the author of twenty-seven books, including *Looking for a Bluebird*, *The Best Things in Life*, and *Blue Trout and Black Truffles: The Peregrinations of an Epicure*, which includes today’s story.

CREDITS

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Symphony Space is a not-for-profit center for the performing arts in New York City. For more information about Symphony Space or Selected Shorts, visit selectedshorts.org, e-mail shorts@symphonyspace.org, or call 212-864-1414 x296.

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Members of the audience are requested to turn off all cell phones, watch beepers and pagers for the duration of the program.

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The J. Paul Getty Museum

selected shorts
A CELEBRATION OF THE SHORT STORY
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