



# THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

*Creating Global Understanding Through English*

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

APRIL 2007

## *News & Announcements*

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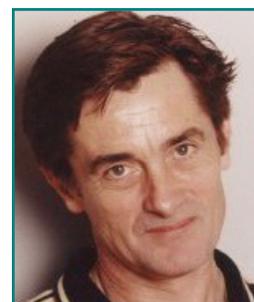
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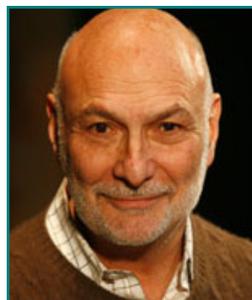
## ***SPEAKING OF SHAKESPEARE WITH RSC VETERAN ROGER REES*** ***A Luncheon Dialogue with an Award-Winning Actor, Director, and Writer***

ROGER REES rose to stardom in the ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY's epic rendering of Dickens' *Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, for which he collected both an Olivier Award and a Tony. He went on to create the leading roles in the London premieres of two Tom Stoppard hits, *The Real Thing* and *Hapgood*. On BROADWAY he has won accolades in *Indiscretions*, *A Man of No Importance*, *The Rehearsal*, and *Uncle Vanya*. Mr. Rees spent two decades as a member of the ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, performing



such roles as the title character in *Hamlet*. He now presides over the WILLIAMSTOWN THEATRE FESTIVAL. A popular figure in television series like *Cheers* and *The West Wing*, as well as in films such as *Crazy Like a Fox*, *The Emperor's Club*, and *Frida*, he'll present a one-man anthology, *What You Will*, at the FOLGER THEATRE during the weekend that precedes this engagement.

## ***MICHAEL KAHN TALKS ABOUT SHAKESPEARE IN WASHINGTON*** ***A Chat with the Artistic Director of the SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY***



We're joining the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB in a luncheon with one of today's most esteemed producers and directors. MICHAEL KAHN has earned plaudits on BROADWAY and has overseen the AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE THEATRE in Stratford, Connecticut, and the MCCARTER THEATRE in Princeton, New Jersey. During four decades in LINCOLN CENTER at the JULLIARD SCHOOL's Drama Division, which he helped establish and which he headed until recently, Mr. Kahn has helped train

such actors as William Hurt, Harvey Keitel, Kevin Kline, Patti LuPone, and Kelly McGillis. Meanwhile, since his arrival in the Nation's Capital in 1986, Mr. Kahn has transformed what had been an embattled troupe at the FOLGER into a company *The Economist* has described as one of the finest classical ensembles in the world. As the STC prepares to occupy its new HARMAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS, Mr. Kahn is teaming up with Michael Kaiser, President of the KENNEDY CENTER, to oversee a spectacular and unprecedented celebration of *SHAKESPEARE IN WASHINGTON*.

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 5**

*Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30 Lunch 12:30  
Program, 1:00 p.m.*

**1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE**

*ESU Members, \$25 Others, \$30  
Program Only, \$10*

## *The ESU's 18th Annual Shakespeare Competition*

See the pages that follow for details on that and other attractions, among them programs with writer WALTER ISAACSON of the ASPEN INSTITUTE and humanitarian ERIC REEVES of SMITH COLLEGE in New England.

## ESU HOSTS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL AND INSPIRING *SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION*

Among the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION's most popular and edifying endeavors is its annual *SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION*. We're pleased to report that 33 public, private, and parochial schools, including three that were new to the festivities, took part in our 18th presentation of this lively contest, which occurred **Monday, March 5**, on the LANSBURGH stage of what is now known as the *SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY*. As in the past, major funding came from **THE MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN CAFRITZ FOUNDATION**, with substantial assistance from **DR. MARJORIE J. WILLIAMS**.

Once again we were blessed with a distinguished panel of judges: playwright **Stephen Black** (trustee of the *SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY*), director **Jeanne E. Harrison** (Founder of *TRAVELING PLAYERS ENSEMBLE*), teacher and administrator **Celia Josephs** (former Executive Director of the *AMERICAN FRIENDS OF SADLER'S WELLS*), drama educator **Dawn McAndrews** (head of the *SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY's* outreach to instructors and students in the region), retired *AMERICAN UNIVERSITY* literature professor **Jeanne A. Roberts** (former President of the *SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA*), educator **Heather Sanderson** (host of *MARYLAND PUBLIC TELEVISION's AFTERNOON TEA* series), long-time Montgomery County instructor **Lee Viccellio** (first winner of *ESU's SHAKESPEARE TEACHER AWARD* for study in Great Britain), and Program Director **Catherine Weidner** (head of the *ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL ACTING*, a joint venture of the *SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY* and *GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY*). They narrowed the field to ten finalists from the 2:00 opening round in the afternoon, then selected three prizewinners during the 7:30 evening session that followed.

Thanks to **Gilbert M. Grosvenor** (Chairman) and **Steve Hubbard** at *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY*, every entrant received a beautiful keepsake from one of America's most prominent publishers. And owing to the kindness of our underwriters, the top three entrants received prizes of \$500, \$300, and \$200. Placing highest was **Gracie Terzian** (pictured here in one of four **Bill Sanda** photographs that accompany this account), a student of **Vanessa Gelinis** at *OAKTON HIGH SCHOOL* in Fairfax County, Virginia. She will now advance to the *NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION* on **Monday, April 23**, at *LINCOLN CENTER* in Manhattan. First Alternate was **Cassie Murray**, a student of **Alexandra London-Thompson** at *HOLTON-ARMS SCHOOL* in Bethesda. Second Alternate was **Noah Schechter**, a student of **Tyler Reedy** at *PIKESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL* in Baltimore County, Maryland.



The other seven finalists were **Miguel Amaguana**, a student of **Ginny MacNemar** at *NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL* in Montgomery County, Maryland, **Daniella Furman**, a student of **Debra Brennan** at *WASHINGTON MATH SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY PUBLIC CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL* in Washington, D.C., **Kajsa Linn Guernsey**, a student of **Paul Rubenstein** at *FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL* in Fairfax County, Virginia, **Maureen Raj**, a student of

**Kelly N. O'Connor** at *MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL* in Montgomery County, **Stephanie Ramsey**, a student of **R. L. Mirabal** at *LAKE BRADDOCK HIGH SCHOOL* in Fairfax County, **Chassie Slappy**, a student of **Patricia Veneziani** at *NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL* in Calvert County, Maryland, and **Rosalind Wills**, a student of **Michael D'Anna** at *JAMES H. BLAKE HIGH SCHOOL* in Montgomery County.

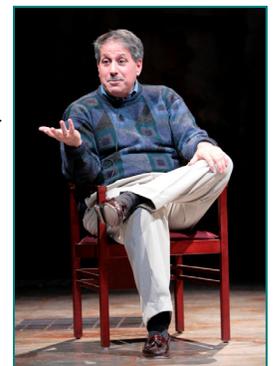
Another winner during this year's ceremonies was **Valerie Karasek** of *ROCKY RUN MIDDLE SCHOOL* in Fairfax County (pictured here with the *ESU's John Andrews*), who received a \$4,000 stipend as recipient of the *SHAKESPEARE TEACHER AWARD FOR 2007*. Ms. Karasek will spend several weeks this summer in intensive study at an institution in the British Isles. An additional prize went to **Josh Thelin** of the *ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL ACTING*, who accepted the \$2,500



**WALTER L. WRIGHT III AWARD** to further his preparation for work in the drama profession's most demanding repertory. His certificate was bestowed by the late Tony Wright's philanthropic widow, **Dr. Marjorie J. Williams**, who spoke poignantly about the fact that her beloved husband passed away the previous April — on the same date, fittingly, as Shakespeare's own death.

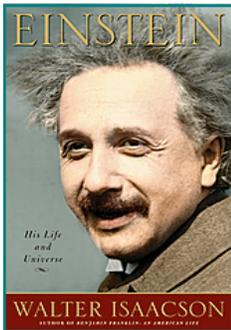


The Chairman of *ESU WASHINGTON's* Education Committee, **A. Graham Down**, served as master of ceremonies for the opening session. His esteemed colleague, **Dr. James C. Ledyard**, First Vice President, welcomed everyone to the concluding session. Among the other contributors to an uplifting and memorable day was *WASHINGTON POST* theatre critic **Peter Marks**, who looked in on the afternoon session and spoke with eloquence, wit, and sensitivity about his responsibilities as a reviewer of drama in Washington, New York, and elsewhere. Mr. Marks confided that he had done a bit of acting in his younger days, and he congratulated all the participants on the courage, insight, and imagination they'd brought to the sonnets and dramatic monologues they delivered. At a comparable point during the evening session, while everyone in the audience awaited the judges' assessments of the performances they had just observed, **Catherine Weidner** and *WRIGHT* laureate **Josh Thelin** joined Mr. Andrews for a discussion about the kind of training a year's study at the *ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL ACTING* affords for theatre professionals who aspire to master the techniques that permit an artist to succeed in roles that notables such as Peggy Ashcroft, John Barrymore, Edwin Booth, Judi Dench, John Gielgud, Ian McKellen, Helen Mirren, Laurence Olivier, Christopher Plummer, Ralph Richardson, Paul Robeson, Maggie Smith, and Meryl Streep have done their parts to make legendary.



## JOURNALIST WALTER ISAACSON TALKS ABOUT EINSTEIN'S LIFE AND UNIVERSE

We're honored to co-host a WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB luncheon with one of the most prominent thinkers of our day. WALTER ISAACSON is President and Chief Executive Officer of the ASPEN INSTITUTE, an organization that is justly renowned for its prestigious seminars on the principles of leadership. A native of the Crescent City, for which he currently serves as vice-chairman of a post-Katrina recovery task-force, Mr. Isaacson holds degrees from Harvard (1974) and Oxford (1976), which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar. His reporting credits included brief stints at the *Sunday Times* of London and his hometown *New Orleans Times-Picayune* before he was hired by *Time* in 1978. By 1996 he had risen to the post of Managing Editor, and in 2001 he became Chairman and CEO of *CNN*, the TIME WARNER cable network that pioneered around-the-clock news and analysis. Mr. Isaacson is the author of scores of penetrating articles and editorials, and the recipient of numerous prizes and awards (including membership in the influential COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS), but he is now becoming even more widely recognized for his bestselling books. In 2003 he published *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*, a colorful and intimate narrative about the amazing figure who excelled as an inventor, a sage, a statesman, a diplomat, a *bon vivant*, and a founding father of the nation he came to epitomize in the view of many Europeans. Mr. Isaacson has now completed another



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*Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30 Lunch 12:30*  
*Program, 1:00 p.m.*  
**1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE**  
*ESU Members, \$25 Others, \$30*  
*Program Only, \$10*

biography that seems earmarked for distinction, a volume about the genius who, more perhaps than anyone else, defined the modern world. Drawing upon an incomparable scientist's newly released personal letters, Mr. Isaacson shows how Einstein became the most astonishing intellect of the 20th century. Among other things, he traces subtle links between the physicist's research and the ethical and political convictions for which he became equally admired. Copies of *Einstein: His Life and Universe* will be available for purchase and for inscription by their prolific author.

## ESU RICHMOND HOSTS A WEEKEND ON 'THREE NORTH AMERICAN BEGINNINGS'

Our ESU colleagues in RICHMOND have organized an impressive weekend of activities to mark the 400th anniversary of the first permanent English settlement on our continent. In what will serve as prelude both to the official *JAMESTOWN 2007* celebration a month later (a May gathering with commemorative events to be attended by HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN) and to the October 31-November 4 ESU NATIONAL CONFERENCE in the autumn, the Richmond branch of the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

is convening an April 13-15 ESU REGION IV meeting that will go well beyond what is normally to be expected at such get-togethers. Attendees will be housed at the RADISSON HOTEL HISTORIC RICHMOND, and they'll be treated to such attractions as a Friday evening tour, reception, and dinner at MAYMONT HOUSE (a magnificent Gilded Age estate with a gorgeous garden), a Saturday luncheon at which DR. JAMES KELLY (Director of Museums at the VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY) will discuss his institution's exhibition about *JAMESTOWN 1607, QUEBEC 1608, AND SANTA FE 1609: THREE NORTH AMERICAN BEGINNINGS*, a Saturday evening excursion to two historic dwellings (AGECROFT HALL and VIRGINIA HOUSE) that were brought to these shores from England and reconstructed in Richmond, and a Sunday morning worship service at venerable ST. PAUL'S CHURCH. For details (including registration fees and booking arrangements for lodging), you should get in touch as quickly as possible with ELLEN Lecompte, President of ESU RICHMOND, by sending an e-mail to [ellen@sterlingtv.com](mailto:ellen@sterlingtv.com).



## HUMANITARIAN ERIC REEVES PLEADS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION IN DARFUR

"These people are at the bottom of the geopolitical pecking order. They're black. They're poor. They're Muslim. They sit over no natural resources. They have nothing going for them in the geopolitical scheme of things. But they are human beings, and they're suffering terribly, and they're being destroyed at an unconscionable rate." So maintains ERIC REEVES, a deeply concerned professor of English language and literature at SMITH COLLEGE. Dr. Reeves has spent the last seven years on a thus-far-unsuccessful effort to persuade the United States and other

**THURSDAY, APRIL 19**  
*Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30 Lunch 12:30*  
*Program, 1:00 p.m.*  
**1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE**  
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*Program Only, \$10*



nations to prevent an entire population from being exterminated. In articles that have been published in such major periodicals as the *New Republic* and the *Washington Post*, as well as in radio and television appearances that have taken him before the viewers of such programs as *RELIGION AND ETHICS*, a PBS feature hosted by Bob Abernethy, Dr. Reeves has observed that "there are many people who believe that somehow African lives are less valuable. Human suffering is human suffering. Human destruction is human destruction and loss. I refuse to accept that these lives are any less valuable than our lives." Dr. Reeves was among the first to label as genocide what he saw happening in Darfur. He calculates that more than half a million men, women, and children have already fallen victim to political and military thugs who are determined to root them out. Sadly, he himself has now been diagnosed with a serious illness, but he continues to fight for the survival of others. To learn more about Dr. Reeves and about what you can do to help further his cause, you'll want to be on hand for this luncheon at the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB.



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION  
OF THE UNITED STATES

*Creating Global Understanding Through English*  
NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

1604 New Hampshire Avenue NW Washington, DC 20009-2512

*Since 1920, when it originated in response to a parallel organization that had been established two years earlier in Great Britain, the English-Speaking Union of the United States has sought to foster social and cultural cohesion through the resources and traditions of a language that has become increasingly indispensable as a means of international communication. Through a diverse array of offerings, some of which are shared with audiences around the world through radio and TV, the national capital's ESU endeavors to advance a noble mission.*

## ESU Nominating Committee

In anticipation of ESU WASHINGTON's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, to take place on a date in May to be announced in the near future, a NOMINATING COMMITTEE is now receiving recommendations for directorial positions to be filled. Those who wish to communicate with this important panel — comprised of **Stephen F. Black, D. Elizabeth Crompton, A. Graham Down, Ian S. McDonald** (Chair), and **Sarah Williams** — may do so between now and **Friday, April 27**, by post to **4621 Hunt Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815**, by e-mail to [crisianmcd@aol.com](mailto:crisianmcd@aol.com), or by phone to **(301) 654-2069**. Messages may also be conveyed through the ESU office, by post to the address at left, by fax to **(202) 234-4639**, or by e-mail to [esuwdc@msn.com](mailto:esuwdc@msn.com).

## Thanks for Your Generosity

Everyone associated with the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION is enormously grateful for your willingness to facilitate its offerings with your support. The ESU now girdles the planet, with a stately London address at DARTMOUTH HOUSE near Berkeley Square, and those who take part in any of its local, regional, and national communities are nourished by a vibrant global network.

In an effort to keep our members alert to the broader dimensions of the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION, we now offer everyone who affiliates with the ESU at the **Contributor** level or above a colorful periodical, **ESU NEWS**, which comes out six times a year from our international headquarters in Mayfair. If you're not yet receiving it, you may upgrade with a quick call to **(202) 234-4602**.

Through an enticing assortment of edifying events, and through such enterprises as an annual **SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION** for secondary-school students, a variety of **FELLOWSHIP AWARDS** to encourage substantive exploration in academic and artistic settings, and a volunteer-based tutoring service, **ENGLISH IN ACTION**, for those who aspire to better command of a tongue that is not native to them, **ESU WASHINGTON** is dedicated to extending a precious legacy. To help sustain this legacy, all you need to do is supply the information requested in the form to the right and submit it by post, phone, fax, or e-mail. Below are the ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION's present membership categories.

### ASSOCIATE (Individual \$45, Dual \$65)

*Event notices, local and national  
ESU member publications*

### SUBSCRIBER (Individual \$75, Dual \$100)

*All ASSOCIATE-level benefits plus 1 coupon  
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event priced at \$40 or less)*

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### PATRON (\$1,000)

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4 coupons for use at special occasions, and  
recognition in selected printings*

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*All PATRON-level benefits plus free admission for up  
to 4 additional guests at all ESU gatherings*

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For **Apr. 2 (Rees)**, please reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$45.

For **Apr. 5 (Kahn)**, please reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$25, \_\_\_ at \$30, \_\_\_ at \$10.

For **Apr. 12 (Isaacson)**, reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$25, \_\_\_ at \$30, \_\_\_ at \$10.

For **Apr. 19 (Reeves)**, please reserve \_\_\_ space(s) at \$25, \_\_\_ at \$30, \_\_\_ at \$10.

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ to THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION is enclosed.

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*Member rates for ESU events are available to anyone affiliated with BABA, CantabDC, LSE alumni, the Royal Society of Arts, the Shakespeare Guild, the Washington Society for Churchill, the Woman's National Democratic Club, and various other organizations that cooperate with the ESU.*

*Please visit us online, and check for calendar updates, at [www.esuwdc.org](http://www.esuwdc.org).*