

2014 Vernon L. Pack Distinguished Lecture Series Committee

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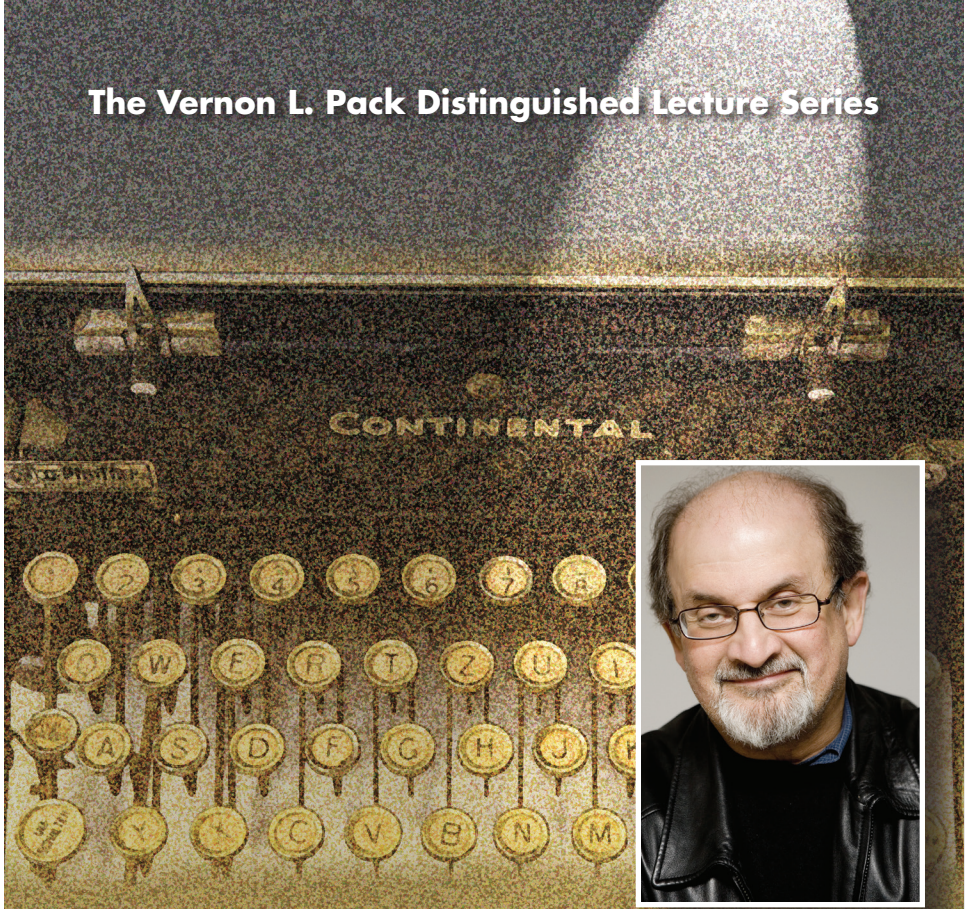
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The Vernon L. Pack Distinguished Lecture Series



presents

Sir Salman Rushdie

April 10, 2014, 7:30 p.m.
The Fritsche Theatre at Cowan Hall



The Vernon L. Pack Distinguished Lecture Series
presents

Sir Salman Rushdie

*Public Events, Private Lives:
Literature and Politics in the Modern World*

April 10, 2014
7:30 pm
The Fritsche Theatre at Cowan Hall

Welcome Dr. Kathy A. Krendl
President

Introduction Dr. Beth Rigel Daugherty
Interim Chair, Department of English

Lecture Sir Salman Rushdie
Novelist and Essayist

Question and Answer Session Dr. Andrew Mills
Chair, Department of Religion and Philosophy

Presentation..... Rachel Scherzer
Junior, Honors English major

Immediately following tonight's presentation, please join us across the street in Roush Hall for a book signing (first floor) and reception (second floor). There is a limit of one book per person at the signing. Books are available for purchase in the lobby of Cowan Hall.

Flash photography and video recording are strictly prohibited at tonight's event.

10 Things You Should Know About Sir Salman Rushdie

1. Sir Salman Rushdie was born under British rule in India in 1947. Less than two months later, India became an independent country. He holds British citizenship.
2. Sir Salman Rushdie began his career as a copywriter for an advertising agency. Now an acclaimed writer, his work has been translated into more than 40 languages.
3. On Valentine's Day in 1989, Ayatollah Khomeini, the religious and political leader of Iran, ordered the assassination of Sir Salman Rushdie on the grounds of "blasphemy."
4. Sir Salman Rushdie was knighted in 2007 by Queen Elizabeth II for his contributions to literature.
5. Sir Salman Rushdie lived in hiding for a decade under the name Joseph Anton after the Ayatollah Khomeini, the religious and political leader of Iran, called for his assassination.
6. *The Times* ranked Sir Salman Rushdie at number 13 on its list of *50 Greatest British Writers Since 1945*. He was recognized alongside such legendary authors as George Orwell, J.R.R. Tolkien, and C.S. Lewis.
7. Sir Salman Rushdie won a Genie Award—the Canadian equivalent of an Academy Award—for Best Adapted Screenplay in 2013 for the movie adaptation of his novel, *Midnight's Children*. He also has had cameos in several movies.
8. Sir Salman Rushdie appeared onstage with U2 in 1993 so the band could show its support for the writer and for free speech. Bono later penned a song, *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*, inspired by Rushdie's novel of the same name.
9. Sir Salman Rushdie serves on the advisory board of The Lunchbox Fund, "a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a daily meal for orphaned and vulnerable school children in township and rural areas of South Africa, a country where 65% of all children live in poverty."
10. Sir Salman Rushdie's book, *The Satanic Verses*, caused such controversy that it became the object of organized book burnings. The import of the book into India is still illegal.

Shalimar the Clown (2005)

Shalimar the Clown is the story of Maximilian Ophuls, America's counterterrorism chief, one of the makers of the modern world; his Kashmiri Muslim driver and subsequent killer, a mysterious figure who calls himself Shalimar the Clown; Max's illegitimate daughter India; and a woman who links them, whose revelation finally explains them all. It is an epic narrative that moves from California to Kashmir, France, and England, and back to California again. Along the way, there are tales of princesses lured from their homes by demons, legends of kings forced to defend their kingdoms against evil, and always love, gained and lost, uncommonly beautiful and mortally dangerous.

The Enchantress of Florence (2008)

The Enchantress of Florence is the story of a mysterious woman, a great beauty believed to possess the powers of enchantment and sorcery, attempting to command her own destiny in a man's world. It is the story of two cities at the height of their powers—the hedonistic Mughal capital, in which the brilliant emperor Akbar the Great wrestles daily with questions of belief, desire, and the treachery of his sons, and the equally sensual city of Florence during the High Renaissance, where Niccolò Machiavelli takes a starring role as he learns, the hard way, about the true brutality of power. Profoundly moving and completely absorbing, *The Enchantress of Florence* is a dazzling book full of wonders.

Luka and the Fire of Life (2010)

The adventure begins one beautiful starry night in the land of Alifbay, where a terrible thing happens: Luka's father, Rashid, the legendary storyteller of Kahani, falls suddenly and inexplicably into a sleep so deep that nothing and no one can rouse him. To save him from slipping away entirely, Luka must embark on a journey through the world of magic with his loyal companions, Bear the dog and Dog the bear, as they encounter a slew of fantastical creatures, strange allies, and challenging obstacles along the way—all in the hopes of stealing the Fire of Life, a seemingly impossible and exceedingly treacherous task.

The Vernon L. Pack Distinguished Lecture and Scholar in Residence program was established through a generous gift from alumnus **Vernon L. Pack**, a 1950 graduate of the University and resident of Westerville. In accordance with the terms of the endowment, a Distinguished Lecturer visits the campus every other year to address important current topics that allow the Otterbein community to reflect on ethical, spiritual and social issues. On alternating years, distinguished scholars are invited to campus to reside for up to one academic year as part of the Vernon L. Pack Scholar in Residence Series to enrich educational experiences for Otterbein students. This program rotates through five academic areas of the University, including arts, professional studies, science and mathematics, humanities and social sciences.

Distinguished Lecturers:

2012 – Dr. Steven Pinker, Johnstone Family Professor of Psychology at Harvard University, best-selling author, and Pulitzer Prize finalist.

2010 – Dee Dee Myers, White House press secretary under President Clinton from 1993-1994, political analyst and commentator, and author of *Why Women Should Rule the World*.

2008 - Ed Begley Jr., actor and environmentalist.

2005 - Alan Lightman, noted physicist and critically acclaimed author of *Einstein's Dreams*.

2004 - Fareed Zakaria, editor of *Newsweek International* and host of CNN's international affairs program, *Fareed Zakaria GPS*.

2002 - Doris Kearns Goodwin, acclaimed historian and Pulitzer Prize in history winner for *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II*.

Distinguished Scholars in Residence:

2013 – Dr. Robert Fefferman, an expert in harmonic analysis, its applications to elliptic partial differential equations and its relationship to probability theory.

2011 – Harrell Fletcher, renowned visual and conceptual artist and recipient of the 2005 Alpert Award in Visual Arts.

2009 - Dr. Richard Alley, an acclaimed geologist who conducts research on environmental issues including abrupt climate changes, glaciers, ice sheet collapse, and sea level change.

2007 - Wande Abimbola, President of the International Congress of Orisa Tradition and Culture, and world-renowned expert on Ifa, a West African sacred divinatory and literary system.

2005- Lois Raimondo, an internationally-known photojournalist and Pulitzer Prize finalist nominee for her work on the New York City Mitchell Lama housing project for *New York Newsday*.

2003 - Dr. Valentine Moghadam, a professor born in Iran who conducts research regarding development, social change, and gender in the Middle East, North Africa, and Afghanistan.

Sir Salman Rushdie

Sir Salman Rushdie is one of the most celebrated authors of our time—of any time. A brilliant provocateur, he’s penned a handful of classic novels, influenced a generation of writers, and received a Queen’s Knighthood for “services to literature.” He stands as both a pop culture icon and one of the most thought-provoking proponents for free speech today.

Sir Salman Rushdie’s novels, greeted always with anticipation and acclaim, include *The Satanic Verses*, *The Moor’s Last Sigh*, *The Ground Beneath Her Feet* and 2008’s *The Enchantress of Florence*. For his masterwork of magic realism, *Midnight’s Children*, he won the prestigious Booker Prize, and later, the Best of the Booker. The novel has since been adapted to film by the Academy Award-nominated director, Deepa Mehta, and premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. His memoir, *Joseph Anton*, was published in September 2012.

An eclectic writer and noted public intellectual, Rushdie has won many of the world’s top literary prizes, published a heralded collection of essays, *Step Across the Line*, written a book on *The Wizard of Oz*, and served for two years as president of The PEN American Center, the world’s oldest human rights organization. Sir Salman Rushdie’s *Luka and the Fire of Life* is a children’s novel and a companion to *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*.

Novels by Sir Salman Rushdie

Grimus (1975)

After drinking an elixir that bestows immortality upon him, a young Indian named Flapping Eagle spends the next seven hundred years sailing the seas with the blessing—and ultimately the burden—of living forever. Eventually, weary of the sameness of life, he journeys to the mountainous Calf Island to regain his mortality. There he meets other immortals obsessed with their own stasis and sets out to scale the island’s peak, from which the mysterious and corrosive Grimus Effect emits. Through a series of thrilling quests and encounters, Flapping Eagle comes face-to-face with the island’s creator and unwinds the mysteries of his own humanity. Salman Rushdie’s celebrated debut novel remains as powerful and as haunting as when it was first published nearly 40 years ago.

Midnight’s Children (1980)

Winner, Booker Prize for Fiction

Saleem Sinai is born at the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1947, the very moment of India’s independence. Greeted by fireworks displays, cheering crowds, and Prime Minister Nehru himself, Saleem grows up to learn the ominous consequences of this coincidence. His every act is mirrored and magnified in events that sway the course of national affairs; his health and well-being are inextricably bound to those of his nation; his life is inseparable, at times indistinguishable, from the history of his country. Perhaps most remarkable are the telepathic powers linking him with India’s 1,000 other “midnight’s children,” all born in that initial hour and endowed with magical gifts.

Shame (1983)

The novel that set the stage for his modern classic, *The Satanic Verses*, *Shame* is Salman Rushdie’s phantasmagoric epic of an unnamed country that is “not quite Pakistan.” In this dazzling tale of an ongoing duel between the families of two men—one a celebrated wager of war, the other a debauched lover of pleasure—Rushdie brilliantly portrays a world caught between honor and humiliation —“shamelessness, shame: the roots of violence.”

The Satanic Verses (1988)

One of the most controversial and acclaimed novels ever written, *The Satanic Verses* is Salman Rushdie’s best-known and most galvanizing book. Set in a modern world filled with both mayhem and miracles, the story begins with a bang: the terrorist bombing of a London-bound jet in midflight. Two Indian actors of opposing sensibilities fall to earth, transformed into living symbols of what is angelic and evil. This is just the initial act in a magnificent odyssey that seamlessly merges the actual with the imagined. A book whose importance is eclipsed only by its quality, *The Satanic Verses* is a key work of our times.

Haroun and the Sea of Stories (1990)

Set in an exotic Eastern landscape peopled by magicians and fantastic talking animals, Salman Rushdie’s classic children’s novel *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* inhabits the same imaginative space as *Gulliver’s Travels*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. In this captivating novel, Haroun, a 12-year-old boy, sets out on an adventure to restore the poisoned source of the sea of stories. On the way, he encounters many foes, all intent on draining the sea of all its storytelling powers.

The Moor’s Last Sigh (1995)

A ferociously witty family saga with a surreally imagined and sometimes blasphemous chronicle of modern India mixed with peppery soliloquies on art, ethnicity, religious fanaticism, and the terrifying power of love. Moraes “Moor” Zogoiby, the last surviving scion of a dynasty of Cochinese spice merchants and crime lords, is also a compulsive storyteller and an exile. As he travels a route that takes him from India to Spain, he leaves behind a tale of mad passions and volcanic family hatreds, of titanic matriarchs and their mesmerized offspring, of premature deaths and curses that strike beyond the grave.

The Ground Beneath Her Feet (1999)

In this remaking of the myth of Orpheus, Rushdie tells the story of Vina Apsara, a pop star, and Ormus Cama, an extraordinary songwriter and musician, who captivate and change the world through their music and their romance. Beginning in Bombay in the fifties, moving to London in the sixties, and inhabiting New York for the last quarter century, the novel pulsates with a half-century of music and celebrates the power rock ‘n’ roll.

Fury (2001)

Malik Solanka, historian of ideas and world-famous dollmaker, steps out of his life one day, abandons his family in London without a word of explanation, and flees to New York. There’s a fury within him, and he fears he has become dangerous to those he loves. He arrives in New York at a time of unprecedented plenty, in the highest hour of America’s wealth and power, seeking to “erase” himself. But fury is all around him. An astonishing work of explosive energy, *Fury* is by turns a pitiless and pitch-black comedy, a love story of mesmerizing force, and a disturbing inquiry into the darkest side of human nature.