

Matthew Abraham.

Matthew Abraham is an assistant professor of English at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (USA). He has recently published "The Rhetoric of Academic Controversy after 9/11: Edward Said in the American Imagination" in *Journal of Advanced Composition* (Fall 2004). Matthew is currently completing a manuscript entitled *The Rhetoric of Resistance and the Resistance to Theory: Controversial Academic Scholarship in the American Public Sphere*. His critical interests focus on public intellectualism, the rhetoric of dissent, and the politics and crises of the Middle East. In 1999 he participated in the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University (USA). In his article *Tracing the Discourse of Defiance...* Matthew recalls some of Said's most passionate commentary concerning the vilification and suppression of the problematic Palestinian identity, both among Western and Israeli ideologues of recent years, as well as celebrating Said's responses to this crisis of identity in both discourse and praxis.

Dilek Inan.

Dilek Inan received his PhD from Warwick University (UK) and he is currently acting as Lecturer of English Literature at Balikesir University in Turkey. Dilek has participated in a number of international conferences, presenting numerable papers on the work of the English playwright Harold Pinter, including his presentations at Ege University's 9th International Cultural Studies Symposium and at the "Literary London Conference" (Goldsmith's College, July 2002). His articles have appeared in *Confrontations: Essays in the Polemics of Narration* (North Cyprus: Eastern Mediterranean University Press, 2004); *Seljuk* (January 2002) and in the *Proceedings of the 23rd All-Turkey English Literature Conference* (İstanbul: Koç Kültür Sanat Tanıtım and The British Council, 2002). In his contribution to *Nebula* Dilek interrogates the popular critical assumption that Pinter's latter plays were ill-conceived, reading them within their political and sociocultural context. *Public Consciousness Beyond Theatrical Space: Harold Pinter Interrogates Borders and Boundaries* provides a thorough investigation of Pinter's shift into the public domain as a promoter of political conscience.

Kane X. Faucher.

Kane X. Faucher is a doctoral student at the University of Western Ontario's Centre for the Study of Theory & Criticism, and an experimental novelist living in Canada. His works of literary and academic endeavour have appeared recently in *Exquisite Corpse*, *Recherche Litteraire*, *Janus Head*, *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities*, *3711Atlantic*, *Zygote in My Coffee* 9, *Quill and Ink*, *Jack Magazine* and *Defenestration* (only to name a few). He has provided an editor's introduction to Che Elias' novel, *The Pagan Ellipsis*. His novel, *Urdox!* was released in 2004, and *Codex Obscura* (with an introduction by Raymond Federman) will be appearing this summer. His chapbook, *System SansCrit*, has been released by Dusty Owl Press. He is an editorial member of the journal, *Skandalon*, as well as the general editor of the soon-to-be inaugurated journal, *Critical Mass: Theory & Fiction*. In his contribution to *Nebula*, Kane explores the inconsistencies in Mao Tse Tung's rule as well as elevating his speculation over these irregularities to a form of intellectual intrigue which almost borders on the esoteric, at least, the transcendental. Carefully written and highly reflective *Mao's Dialectical Materialism as an Individualism: Theory and Practice* will be of great interest to readers of Marxist and Deleuseian critical theory as well as those interested in subversive readings of any kind.

Irene Marques.

Irene Marques is a doctoral candidate in the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto. Her thesis *Four Writers Being Political on Their Own Terms: Feminist, Class and Cultural Identity Discourses Across Continents* provides a study of works by the Mozambican Mia Couto, the Brazilian Clarice Lispector, the Portuguese José Saramago and the South African J.M. Coetzee. Irene deploys a blend of Marxist, postcolonial and feminist theories as well as Lévinasian and Buddhist philosophies in her academic work. She has recently completed a novel in Portuguese, for which she is presently seeking a suitable publisher in Portugal. Irene has contributed a delightful poem to *Nebula*, entitled “Changing the universe” (is it significant that the “universe” is not capitalized?) which takes us through the vicissitudes of space, time, light, being and non-being.

John McGowan-Hartmann.

John McGowan-Hartmann has recently completed his PhD in the Cinema Studies program at the University of Melbourne, Australia, and is currently in the midst of relocating to the United States. His dissertation, *Lighting the Beast: Dinosaurs and Dragons as Archetypal Imagery in Stop-Motion Animation*, explores some of the ways in which images sourced to the limbic cortex of the human brain find an outlet in new visual technologies. His article, "Animation in Depth: Building a Cinematic Entity" is currently under review, and is slated for publication in *Animation Journal*. His other interests include the ongoing influence of Surrealism on the cinematic form, the changing face of cinematic adaptations, and fishing. A student of stop-motion and its cultural history, he is interested in all things King Kongian. *In his King Kong versus Rambo...John (re)visits the Remake: that rather odd genre of film reproduction, within the context of the upcoming Peter Jackson remake of King Kong.* A witty and lighthearted look into the cultural history of the remake, this article does not shun the subjective appraisal of film, where cinema and film belong to the viewer.

Babak Rahimi.

Babak Rahimi received his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Political Science at the University of California, San Diego and his Masters in Philosophy at the University of Nottingham. He received his PhD from the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the European University Institute in Florence for his dissertation on the Iranian public sphere in the Safavid period (1564-1590). Recent academic articles were published in *Middle Eastern Review of International Affairs* (Nov. 2004) and *Iranian Studies* (Sept. 2004). He is presently Assistant Professor in the Department of Literature at the University of California, San Diego. In the (northern hemisphere) summer of 2005, Babak will act as senior fellow at the United States Institute of Peace, contributing to work on post-Saddam Iraq. Babak has been a regular contributor to *Nebula* since its inception in June 2004. His articles always provide a fresh perspective coupled with erudition and original research, presented in a lucid style which lends itself to the highest ideals of intellectual objectivity. In *Ishraqat* Part IV (Arabic word for “illuminations”) Babak conducts on-the-ground original research in Tehran. His article is centred around his visit to the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran, which was stormed by students of the Islamist movement of Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979. Babak furnishes the article with photographs he took of the former embassy and its current exhibits in his recent visit to Tehran, whilst paying close attention to the historical context which led to the storming of the embassy.

Michael Angelo Tata.

Michael Angelo Tata received his M.A. in Creative Writing/Poetry from Temple University, his M.A. in Liberal Studies from the New School for Social Research, and his Ph.D. in English Literature through the CUNY Graduate Center. His poetry and criticism have appeared in the journals *M/C*, *Ugly Couch*, *Lit*, *Lungfull*, *eye: rhyme, kenning*, *Bad Subjects*, *Found Object*, *Rhizomes* and *to the quick*, as well as the Critical Studies compilation *From Virgin Land to Disney World: Nature and Its Discontents in the USA of Yesterday and Today* (New York: Rodopi, 2001) and the Madonna Studies anthology *Madonna's Drowned Worlds: New Approaches to Her Cultural Transformations* (Newcastle [UK]: Ashgate, 2004). His first chapbook of poems, *The Multiplication of Joy into Integers*, won Blue Light Press's 2003 poetry prize. His poetry has also appeared in the collections *This New Breed: Bad Boys, Gents and Barbarians 2* (Port Orchard [US]: Windstorm, 2004) and *Bordered Sexualities* (San Diego: Hyperbole Books & San Diego UP, 2005). In his scholarly and rigorous contribution to *Nebula* Michael gives us a glimpse into the world of his doctoral dissertation: Andy Warhol's implication into a world full of chemicals, narcotics, amphetamines, (mass) consumption and of course, art, film and existential wandering. *Andy Warhol: When Junkies Ruled the World* is evidence of rigorous scholarship and years of persistent research, coupled with the skills required to weave fragments into a cogent whole.

Helga Tawil.

Helga Tawil recently completed her Ph.D. in media studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder and will be an Assistant Professor at New York University's Department of Culture and Communication as of September 2005. Helga's research is on Palestinian media and Internet growth and their problematic relationship to Western notions of development and modernization. In her academic research, she is also interested in the connection between space, politics and identity. Helga is also a photographer and documentary filmmaker, and in such work focuses on Palestinian social and political issues. More information can be found at www.helga.com. Helga takes us into the world of Palestinian filmmaking, casting an eye over its historical genealogy as well as the inevitable politics that the polymorphous Palestinian identity necessarily implies in the present (and past) historical context.

Stephanie Watson.

Stephanie Watson received her Masters of Arts – English from West Texas A&M University in May this year. She is expecting to receive her Masters of Library Science from the University of North Texas in August 2006. She has recently contributed poetry to *The Legacy* and is presently acting as Teaching Assistant in the Department of English and Modern Languages at West Texas A&M University. She has participated in numerous conferences and presentations including the Film & History Conference, held in Dallas Texas, November 2004, where she presented on “Freedom or Prison: Behind the Veil of the Middle East.” In her contribution to *Nebula* Stephanie highlights the increasingly growing distance between the standards and methods involved in High School education and those expected at University-level scholarship. She delineates a clear and practical method for dealing with the very problem of cogent and coherent writing facing students who are making the transition from High School to University. Those of us who have witnessed the various weaknesses in writing skills among junior-year students, may find this article beneficial to recommend.