

The Georgetown University Department of French and the  
E. Joseph McCarthy French Endowment *present a*  
**SYMPOSIUM and RECEPTION**

ANTINOS



*celebrating the*  
Davis Performing Arts Center's  
Staged Reading of  
**YOURCENAR SANS MASQUE**

*by Élyane Dezon-Jones  
and Michèle Sarde*

*(in harmony with Roger Bensky)*

Thursday, March 20 • 1:00-5:30 p.m.  
McCarthy Conference Room, ICC 425

Limited Seating for this free event, but RSVP advised:  
**Deborah Lesko Baker : [leskobad@georgetown.edu](mailto:leskobad@georgetown.edu)**

Marcus Aurelius, fragment of a bronze  
portrait. Roman artwork, after 170  
CE. Source: Marie-Lan Nguyen, 2007  
(Wikimedia Commons)

Photo of Yourcenar, Courtesy of biografiasyvidas.com

Image of Antinos, courtesy of Florida Center for Instructional Technology and ClipArt Etc.

## A SYMPOSIUM CELEBRATION

### Yourcenar Sans Masque

by Élyane Dezon-Jones and Michèle Sarde (in harmony with Roger Bensky)

Thursday, March 20, 2014 • McCarthy Conference Room, ICC 425

- 1:00 p.m.** Welcome, Andrew Sobanet, French Department Chair, & Deborah Lesko Baker
- 1:15 p.m.** Introductory Remarks, Michèle Sarde  
*Apostrophes*, Bernard Pivot: Entretien avec Marguerite Yourcenar (1979)
- 2:30 p.m.** “Marguerite Yourcenar, from Mont-Noir to Mount Desert Island,” Joan E. Howard, Director, Petite Plaisance, the Marguerite Yourcenar House Museum, Northeast Harbor, Maine
- 3:30 p.m.** Table Ronde: Élyane Dezon-Jones, Michèle Sarde, Roger Bensky  
Moderated by Deborah Lesko Baker
- 4:15 p.m.** A Reading by Roger Bensky  
Marguerite Yourcenar, *L'homme couvert de dieux*
- 4:30 p.m.** Closing Reception

## THE AUTHORS

**Élyane Dezon-Jones**, Professor of French Emerita at Washington University, is a renowned specialist of modern manuscripts and member of the équipe Proust of the Institut des Textes et Manuscrits Modernes (ITEM/CNRS). She served as editor-in-chief of the *Bulletin de la Société des Amis de Marcel Proust* for seven years, and has published critical editions of Proust's *Le Côté de Guermantes* (Flammarion, 1987) and *Du côté de chez Swann* (Livre de poche classique, 1992). She is also the author of *Marie de Gournay: Fragments d'un discours féminin* (Corti, 1988). In addition to the play *Yourcenar sans masque* and a study of Yourcenar's *Mémoires d'Hadrien* (with R. Poignault, Nathan, 1999), she published an annotated edition of Yourcenar's notebooks, *Sources II* (1999), and collaborated with Michèle Sarde et al. on the 1995 and 2004 editions of Yourcenar's *Correspondance* (Gallimard). Élyane Dezon-Jones is also the author of the widely-read and translated mystery novels *Meurtre chez Tante Léonie* and *Meurtre à Petite Plaisance*, inspired by the creative universes of Proust and Yourcenar.

### Our Colleague “En Harmonie”

**Roger Bensky** has just become Professor Emeritus of French and Theater Studies at Georgetown University. The author *Le Masque foudroyé* (Nizet, 1997) a seminal study of contemporary French theater, he has been at the forefront of Theater and Performance initiatives for nearly five decades. Among his accolades are his coordination of the renowned visit of Eugène Ionesco to our campus, the theatrical direction of Georgetown's Bicentennial Intercultural Festival, and the French Embassy production of Julius-Amédée Laou's *Madame Hugette* for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Faculty of Languages & Linguistics. He has also conceived and directed visionary events including *The Glorious Fioretti: Saint Francis of Assisi, Body & Soul*; *Spirit Fires of Vodou: Haiti on Stage*; the moving commemoration of the great French philosopher, *Derrida Cosa Mentale*; and finally, the World Premiere of Georgetown playwright Amadou Koné's play *Sigui, Siguila, Siguiya* as part of the inaugural year celebration of the Davis Performing Arts Center.

**Michèle Sarde**, Professor of French Emerita at Georgetown University, is an acclaimed critical essayist, biographer, and novelist. Her groundbreaking historical work, *Regards sur les Françaises* (Stock 1984, Seuil 1985) won the Prix Marcelle Blum of the Académie française, and the eagerly anticipated sequel, *Nouveau Regard sur les Françaises* (Robert Laffont, 2007) traces the condition of French women over the last thirty years. Her celebrated novel, *Histoire d'Eurydice pendant la remontée* (Seuil 1991) was a finalist for the Prix Goncourt and is currently in press in a Spanish edition. As biographer, Michèle Sarde's breadth of insight has led to life studies as varied as *Colette, libre et entravée* (Stock 1978, Seuil 1984), winner of the Prix Jouvenel de l'Académie française and the Prix de l'Académie des sciences morales et politiques; *Jacques le Français* (Cherche midi, 2002), written in collaboration with Gulag survivor Jacques Rossi; and her biographical essay, *Vous, Marguerite Yourcenar: La Passion et ses masques* (Robert Laffont, 1995), finalist for the Prix des lectrices de *Elle*. In addition to the play *Yourcenar sans masque*, Michèle Sarde has collaborated on all four volumes of the edited correspondence of Yourcenar at Gallimard.

The Davis Center's Production of *Losing Grace, or Unmasking Yourcenar* and its accompanying symposium are made possible thanks to the generous co-sponsorship of the Dean of Georgetown College, Department of French, Department of Performing Arts, E. Joseph McCarthy Endowment, BMW Center for German and European Studies, Faculty of Languages & Linguistics, Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, & Affirmative Action, and Department of English.