UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND
PRESENTS

Edwidge Danticat

Create Dangerously

UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND SCHNEEBECK CONCERT HALL
MARCH 31, 2015 | 8 P.M.
Edwidge Danticat

Edwidge Danticat has been writing since she was 9 years old. When she was very young, her parents immigrated to New York from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, leaving her behind to be raised by family, until she joined them in Brooklyn at the age of 12. Memories from those formative years in Haiti remain vivid to this day, and the love of Haiti and all things Haitian that Danticat developed as a child has deeply influenced her writing.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in French literature from Barnard College, Danticat pursued a Master of Fine Arts degree at Brown University, where, as her thesis, she wrote her first novel, **Breath, Eyes, Memory**, telling the story of four generations of Haitian women who overcome poverty and powerlessness.

Danticat published her second book, **Krik? Krak!** at the age of 26, and became the youngest finalist ever for the National Book Award. The collection of short stories paints portraits of Haiti and Haitian Americans before democracy came to that nation. In an interview with NPR, she explained that the book was an effort “to raise the voice of a lot of the people that I knew growing up … poor people, who had extraordinary dreams, but also very amazing obstacles.” The title for the collection comes from the Haitian tradition of a storyteller calling out for an audience (“Krik?”), and willing listeners gathering around and answering (“Krak!”).

A natural storyteller, Danticat has written numerous books and essays, and edited multiple anthologies. Her epic and semi-autobiographical novel **Brother, I’m Dying** won the National Book Critics Circle Award and Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and her third novel, **The Dew Breaker**, was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award. She has received numerous honors for her work, including a MacArthur Fellowship and The Story Prize.

Danticat’s life experiences have served as inspiration for much of her writing. Her characters often encounter the themes of migration, separation, and adaptation, and her voice continues to shine a light on the immigrant experience of one of the most underrepresented cultures in American literature.

Edwidge Danticat currently lives in New York, and teaches creative writing at New York University.
Program

Tuesday, March 31, 8 p.m.
University of Puget Sound
Schneebeck Concert Hall

Introduction
Ronald R. Thomas
President

Edwidge Danticat

Questions and Answers

Reception following the lecture in Pierce Atrium, Wyatt Hall.

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.
No photo or recording devices allowed.
The Susan Resneck Pierce Lectures in Public Affairs and the Arts series was named in honor of Susan Resneck Pierce, University of Puget Sound president from 1992 to 2003, in recognition of her years of outstanding service to the university. The lecture series annually brings to the University of Puget Sound campus and the wider community public intellectuals, writers, and artists of significant prominence.

   Genealogy and Genetics

2014–E.J. Dionne
   Our Divided Political Heart: The Battle for the American Idea in an Age of Discontent

2013–Junot Díaz
   An Evening with Pulitzer Prize and New York Times Bestselling Author

2013–Wole Soyinka
   Writing for Freedom

2012–Robert Reich
   The Global Economy and the Future of Everything National

2012–Carlos Fuentes
   From Law to Literature: A Personal Journey

2011–Kay Redfield Jamison
   Minds on Fire: Mood Disorders and Creativity

2011–Spike Lee
   America Through My Lens

2009–Sherman Alexie
   Without Reservations: An Urban Indian’s Comic, Poetic, and Highly Irreverent Look at the World

2009–Suzan-Lori Parks
   An Evening with Suzan-Lori Parks

2008–Twyla Tharp
   The Creative Habit

2008–Cory Booker
   An Evening with Cory Booker

2007–David Brooks
   How Does Being American Shape Us?

2007–Philip Glass
   An Evening with Philip Glass

2006–Cornel West
   Democracy Matters

2006–Edward Albee
   Improvisation and the Creative Mind

2005–Fareed Zakaria
   The Future of Freedom

2005–Nina Totenberg
   The Supreme Court and Its Impact on You

2004–Robert Pinsky
   Poetry in the World

2004–Terry Tempest Williams
   The Open Space of Democracy

2003–David Halberstam
   The Children: The Unique Courage and Faith of Ordinary Citizens to Change America

2003–Anna Deavere Smith
   Snapshots: Glimpses of America in Change

2002–Thomas Friedman
   Global Economy and American Foreign Policy