Wilde on the Borders
Symposium, Theatre Production
and Art Exhibit Celebrating Oscar Wilde

April 2, 2016
Niagara University
9:00am – 9:50am REGISTRATION: Academic Complex/Bisgrove Hall 1st floor

* SYMPOSIUM
    Academic Complex/Bisgrove Hall, Rm. 350/351

10:00am
WELCOME and OPENING REMARKS: WHY WILDE? WHY NOW?
Dr. Jamie Carr, Niagara University

* READING THE LIFE
    Academic Complex/Bisgrove Hall, Rm. 350/351

10:15am - 11:30am
Oscar Wilde Across Time
John Cooper, Oscar Wilde in America

JOHN COOPER is a historian, scholar and the creator of the documentary noncommercial archive Oscar Wilde in America (www.oscarwildeinamerica.org). Former executive director of the Victorian Society In America, Mr. Cooper is a long-standing member of the Oscar Wilde Society and has spent 30 years in the study of Oscar Wilde, lecturing on Wilde and contributing to scholarly journals such as The Wildean and Oscholars. In 2012 John rediscovered Wilde’s essay “The Philosophy Of Dress,” which forms the centerpiece to his book Oscar Wilde On Dress (Cooper Supply & Management, LLC Press, 2013). John currently blogs on Wilde and occasionally conducts guided walking tours on Wilde’s visit to New York.

Comedy and Social Reform in the Plays of Oscar Wilde: The Importance of Being Witty
Dr. Howard Wolf, SUNY-Buffalo

HOWARD R. WOLF is Emeritus Professor and Senior Fellow in the Department of English at SUNY-Buffalo. He is a graduate of Horace Mann School, Amherst College (BA), Columbia University (MA), and The University of Michigan (PHD), is a Life Member of Wolfson College, Cambridge University, and was a Fulbright scholar in Turkey, 1983-84, and South Africa, 1998. Dr. Wolf has published in the areas of memoir and personal essays,

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**Born to be Wilde**  
Dr. Mary-Lynn Chambers, Elizabeth City State University

_MARY-LYNN CHAMBERS_, assistant professor of English at Elizabeth City State University, earned her Ph.D. in Technical and Professional Communication from East Carolina University. She has taught English in Virginia and North Carolina at community colleges and universities. Her instructional focus is composition, with a research focus in online education. Dr. Chambers enjoys interacting with her students and inspiring them to write better, think more critically, and love literature.

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**Break**  
11:30-11:45  
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11:45am-12:40pm

**Declared Genius: Oscar Wilde’s Self-Started Celebrity Status**  
Lily Rothenberg, Skidmore College

_LILY ROTHENBERG_ is a student of Skidmore College’s Class of 2016. She has independently researched Oscar Wilde’s works and personal life continuously during the past five years. Last year, Ms. Rothenberg studied English literature at St. Catherine’s College of Oxford University, where she wrote and recited papers on Wilde in one-on-one tutorials with a Wildean scholar. While at Oxford, she examined Wilde’s handwritten letters and undergraduate records held in the University’s archives. Using these sources, she is currently writing her Senior Independent Thesis entitled “Declared Genius: Oscar Wilde’s Self-Started Celebrity Status.”
You the Man: Playwrights Represent the Playwright on Stage
Dr. Roger Porter, Reed College

ROGER PORTER is Professor of English at Reed College (Ph.D. Yale), where he has taught courses in Shakespeare, Shakespeare Filmic Adaptation, Modern Drama, Autobiography and Memoir, Modern Fiction, and an interdisciplinary course (literature, history, political theory, philosophy, and art history) from the Enlightenment to the 20th Century, among others. He is the author of Self-Same Songs: Autobiographical Performances and Reflections (Nebraska UP, 2002) and Bureau of Missing Persons: Writing the Secret Lives of Fathers (Cornell UP, 2011), and recently co-edited (with Sandra Gilbert) Eating Words: A Norton Anthology of Food Writing (W.W. Norton, 2015). Dr. Porter has also published numerous essays in The Massachusetts Review, The Sewanee Review, The Hudson Review, Eighteenth Century Studies, The Journal of Narrative Theory, The South Atlantic Quarterly, A/B: Auto/Biography, Life Writing, Michigan Quarterly Review, and many others. He has directed plays, some for Portland Conservatory Theater, which he helped to start, and is also a James Beard awarded restaurant critic and food writer in Portland (his "night job").

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Break for Lunch  
12:45pm – 1:45pm  
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READING THE WORKS  
Academic Complex/Bisgrove Hall, Rm. 350/351

1:50-2:40pm  
The Gothic Employment of Servants in The Picture of Dorian Gray  
Josephine Whelan, Creighton University

JOSEPHINE WHELAN received her bachelor’s degree in English from the University of South Dakota and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Literature from Creighton University. She is primarily interested in Irish gothic literature of the nineteenth century.
“Rose White Purity”: Flowers in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
Brandy Clark, Missouri State University

BRANDY CLARK is a graduate student in English—Creative Writing at Missouri State University, as well as a graduate student in English–Rhetoric and Composition. She is an assistant poetry editor of the *Moon City Review* and has had poetry published in various print and online magazines.

* Break
2:40-2:50pm

2:50-4:00pm

“An Improper Feeling”: Public Perception of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and “The Happy Prince”
Christine Zabala, Rochester Institute of Technology

CHRISTINE ZABALA earned her BA in English and History from Lamar University and her MA in Literature from Texas State University. Her Master’s thesis focused on Judith Butler’s performative gender theory in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. She currently teaches freshman writing at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Divine Seduction: “The Happy Prince,” “The Young King” and the Queer Border between Aestheticism and Social Justice
Dr. James Campbell, University of Central Florida

JAMES CAMPBELL is associate professor and director of graduate studies in the English Department of the University of Central Florida. His most recent publication is *Oscar Wilde, Wilfred Owen, and Male Desire: Begotten, Not Made* (Palgrave, 2015). Earlier publications include articles in *ELH, NLH, The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of the First World War, Science Fiction Studies,* and *Extrapolation*. He participated in a 2007 NEH Seminar on Wilde sponsored by UCLA and held in the William Andrews Clark Library, home of the largest Wilde archive in the world. At UCF he regularly teaches courses in modern British literature, science fiction, critical theory, and biblical hermeneutics.
"The Happy Prince": A Study into the Mind and Heart
Dr. Rashmi Dubey, Government DB Postgraduate Girls College

RASHMI DUBEY is an assistant professor in the department of English at the Government DB Postgraduate Girls College in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, where she specializes in modern poetry.

CLOSING REMARKS: WHAT NEXT? Dr. Jamie Carr

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ART EXHIBIT
CASTELLANI ART MUSEUM

4:15pm GUIDED TOUR, Michael Beam, Curator, Castellani Art Museum

Wilde at the Falls: Touring the Falls with Oscar Wilde
Notable quotations from Wilde paired with selections from CAM’s own Charles Rand Penney Historical Niagara Falls Print, on view March 27 – July 10, 2016

Also on view through May 29, 2016 will be selections from the CAM’s permanent collection of late 19th - and early 20th -Century American and European landscapes.

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DINNER
5:30pm ST. VINCENT’S HALL, RM. 405

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THEATRE
LEARY THEATRE

7:30pm LADY WINDERMERE’S FAN, Directed by Steven Braddock, Director, Niagara University Theatre

Determined not to trust her husband when circumstances suggest he has been unfaithful, the winsome yet independent Lady
Windermere resolves to leave him for another. But the true nature of her husband's relationship with the "other woman" is very different from what the young bride assumes it to be.

Oscar Wilde's clever gem was immediately welcomed as a delightful comedy in 1892 London's West End. Juxtaposing the comic and the serious, it is actually a thinly-veiled attack on the hypocrisy of manners and morals in late Victorian London.

Onstage March 31-April 4, 2016

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WILDE ON THE BORDERS COMMITTEE: Dr. Jamie Carr, Associate Professor of English; Dr. Amelia Gallagher, Associate Professor of Religious Studies; Michael Beam, Curator of Collection and Exhibitions, Castellani Art Museum; Steven Braddock, Director, Niagara University Theatre; Kate Koperski, Director, Castellani Art Museum

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Wilde, about Niagara . . .

“Every American bride is taken there, and the sight of the stupendous waterfall must be one of the earliest, if not the keenest, disappointments in American married life.”

(Wilde, “Impressions of America”)

“When I first saw Niagara Falls I was disappointed in the outline. The design, it seemed to me, was wanting in grandeur and variety of line, but the colors were beautiful. The dull gray waters flecked with green are lit with silver, being full of changing loveliness, for of all the most lovely colors are colors in motion. It was not till I stood underneath the Falls at Table Rock that I realized the majestic splendor and strength of the physical forces of nature here. The sight was far beyond what I had ever seen in Europe. It seems to me a sort of embodiment of pantheism.”

(Buffalo Express, Feb. 9, 1882; Wilde in America: The Interviews)

“They told me that so many millions of gallons of water tumbled over the Falls in a minute. I could see no beauty in that. There was bulk there, but no beauty. . . . Niagara Falls seems to me to simply be a vast, unnecessary amount of water going the wrong way.”

(New York Tribune qtd. in Wilde in America: Oscar Wilde and the Invention of Modern Celebrity, David M. Friedman, p.157)

“The roar of these waters is like the roar when the mighty wave of democracy breaks against the shores where kings lie couched at ease.”

(Prospect House Register)

Cover Art: Fredricc Madan, Niagara Falls—Where the Great Lakes Leap To The Sea. Travel by Train, n.d., color printed screen print. Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University Collection. Generous Donation from Dr. Charles Rand Penney, partially funded by the Castellani Purchase Fund, with additional funding from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Lytle, 2006.