

# NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Martín Meccouri at 413-577-1106 or [mmeccour@student.umass.edu](mailto:mmeccour@student.umass.edu)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 13, 2009

**WHAT:** Amherst Lit Series  
In Celebration of Amherst's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**Luminary Author Martín Espada**  
**Wednesday, April 15 at 7 PM**  
**At Amherst Cinema, free and open to the public**  
**\*Reception to follow reading at Tabella Restaurant**

**IMAGES:** To download images relating to this press release please go online to <http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerseries/pressreleases/photo.html>

### **Luminary Writer- Martín Espada Reads from Recent Work at Amherst Cinema**

On Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM at Amherst Cinema, Amherst's own luminary writer Martín Espada will read from recent work. The reading is presented in commemoration of Amherst's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by the UMass Fine Arts Center, the UMass MFA Program for Poets and Writers, and the Juniper Literary Festival and is part of the Amherst Lit Series, a month-long series of events celebrating Amherst's rich literary history. Praised as "*the* Latino poet of his generation" and "the Pablo Neruda of North American authors," Espada has published sixteen books in all as a poet, editor, essayist and translator, including two collections of poems last year: *Crucifixion in the Plaza de Armas* (Smokestack, 2008), released in England, and *La Tumba de Buenaventura Roig* (Terranova, 2008), a bilingual edition published in Puerto Rico. Food for Thought Books will be on site that evening with books for purchase and signed by the poet. A reception for Espada will follow at Tabella Restaurant with a cash bar and complimentary appetizers. The event is free and there are no advance tickets. Seating is limited and available to first come, first served the evening of the event. Theater capacity is 186 seats.

Martín Espada, a former tenant lawyer, is now a professor in the English Department at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, where he teaches courses in

creative writing and on the work of Pablo Neruda. *The Republic of Poetry*, a collection of poems published by Norton in 2006, received the Paterson Award for Sustained Literary Achievement and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Another collection, *Imagine the Angels of Bread* (Norton, 1996), won an American Book Award and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Other books of poetry include *Alabanza: New and Selected Poems* (Norton, 2003), *A Mayan Astronomer in Hell's Kitchen* (Norton, 2000), *City of Coughing and Dead Radiators* (Norton, 1993), and *Rebellion is the Circle of a Lover's Hands* (Curbstone, 1990). He has received numerous awards and fellowships, including the Robert Creeley Award, the Antonia Pantoja Award, the Charity Randall Citation, the Paterson Poetry Prize, the Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award, the National Hispanic Cultural Center Literary Award, the Premio Fronterizo, two NEA Fellowships, the PEN/Revson Fellowship and a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship.

Espada's poems have appeared in the *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Harper's*, *The Nation* and *The Best American Poetry*. He has also published a collection of essays, *Zapata's Disciple* (South End, 1998); edited two anthologies, *Poetry Like Bread: Poets of the Political Imagination from Curbstone Press* (Curbstone, 1994) and *El Coro: A Chorus of Latino and Latina Poetry* (University of Massachusetts, 1997); and released an audio book of poetry called *Now the Dead will Dance the Mambo* (Leapfrog, 2004). His work has been translated into ten languages. For more information about Martin Espada, visit [www.martinespada.net](http://www.martinespada.net).

For a complete schedule and more information about the Amherst Lit Series, visit [fineartscenter.com/amherstlit](http://fineartscenter.com/amherstlit). Presented in collaboration with the UMass MFA Program for Poets and Writers, the Juniper Literary Festival, the UMass Fine Arts Center, Amherst Cinema and Tabella Retsaurant. For more information about Amherst's 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration visit [www.amherst250.org](http://www.amherst250.org).

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