

NEWS RELEASE

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WHAT: MASSACHUSETTS POETRY FESTIVAL: WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS LAUNCH FEATURING JAMES TATE, ELLEN DORÉ WATSON AND JAMES HAUG

WHEN: Thursday, October 15 at 7 PM

**WHERE: Amherst Cinema Arts Center, Amherst, MA
Tickets: Special Admission: \$10, Students and Seniors: \$5
Online at www.amherstcinema.org and at the Amherst Cinema Box Office**

(ACCLAIMED LOCAL POETS LAUNCH STATEWIDE POETRY FESTIVAL IN WESTERN MASS)

The 2nd Annual Massachusetts Poetry Festival, a three-day celebration of the poets, poetry, and literary heritage of a state whose contribution to American poetry is unsurpassed in the nation, will have its premiere western Massachusetts launch in Amherst on October 15th at the Amherst Cinema at 7 PM.

Presented as part of the Going Public Contemporary Lit Series, the Amherst event features readings by award-winning poets James Tate, Ellen Doré Watson & James Haug. Simultaneous readings around the Commonwealth on October 15 will ring in two days of literary festivities in Lowell on October 16 & 17.

Amherst's own James Tate, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award and William Carlos Williams Award, and author of over twenty books of poetry and prose; Ellen Doré Watson, author of three collections of poetry; and James Haug whose third book, LEGEND OF THE RECENT PAST, is recently out, will read from new and selected work.

The state-wide festival will include readings by renowned and emerging poets, teacher workshops, performance poetry, films & music, programs for children and young writers, literary heritage tours, a small press fair, poetry in the streets, and much more. For more details about the 2nd Annual Massachusetts Poetry Festival visit www.masspoetry.org.

The Going Public Contemporary Lit Series is presented by the UMass Juniper Initiative for Literary Arts & Action, UMass Fine Arts Center, and Amherst Cinema Arts Center. For details about the Going Public Contemporary Lit Series, visit www.fineartscenter.com/lit.

ABOUT THE POETS:

James Tate

One of the most acclaimed poets of our time, James Tate's poems have been described as tragic, comic, absurdist, nihilistic, hopeful, haunting, lonely, and surreal. His many collections include *The Ghost Soldiers* (2008), winner of the Massachusetts Book Award; *Worshipful Company of Fletchers* (1994), winner of the National Book Award; *Selected Poems* (1991), winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the William Carlos Williams Award; *Distance from Loved Ones* (1990); *Constant Defender* (1983); *Viper Jazz* (1976); and *The Oblivion Ha-Ha* (1970). Tate's honors include an Academy of American Poets chancellorship, a National Institute of Arts and Letters Award for Poetry, the Wallace Stevens Award, and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. He is a professor in the MFA Program for Poets and Writers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Ellen Doré Watson

Ellen Doré Watson was hailed by *Library Journal* as one of "24 Poets for the 21st Century." Director of the Poetry Center at Smith since 1999, Watson is author of three collections of poems, including *Ladder Music*, winner of the New York/New England award from Alice James Books. Other honors include a Massachusetts Cultural Council Artists Grant and a Rona Jaffe Writers Award. In addition to directing the Poetry Center at Smith College, Watson teaches private writing workshops and serves as an editor of *The Massachusetts Review*. She lives with her daughter in Conway.

James Haug

James Haug is the author of three collections of poems including *Legends of the Recent Past*, and *Walking Liberty*, winner of the Samuel French Morse Poetry Prize; and the chapbooks "Fox Luck" and "A Plan To Catch Amanda." He has been published by *The Gettysburg Review*, *Ploughshares*, *American Poetry Review*, *Field*, and *American Letters & Commentary*. He lives in Northampton.

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