AFRICA WEEK 2011 AT BARD COLLEGE

SUNDAY, APRIL 17th

West African Dance and Drumming Workshop
3:00-6:00pm in the MPR, Campus Center

Open level class, first half drumming, second half dance. Bring comfortable clothes, no drums needed.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21th

Reading and Book Signing with Nnedi Okorafor
7:30pm at Oblong Books and Music
6422 Montgomery Street (Rt. 9) Rhinebeck, New York 12572
FREE SHUTTLE DEPARTS KLINE @ 6:30pm

Nnedi Okorafor is the author of the critically acclaimed novel Who Fears Death (a Nebula Award Nominee and Tiptree Honor Book). Her other novels include Zahrah the Windseeker (winner of the Wole Soyinka Prize), The Shadow Speaker (winner of the CBS Parallax Award) and Long Juju Man (winner of the Macmillan Prize for Africa). Her novel Akata Witch will be released in North America in April and her Disney chapter book, Iridessa and the Fire-Bellied Dragon Frog, will be released in 2012. Okorafor holds a PhD in literature and is a professor of creative writing at Chicago State University.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22nd

Informal Meet & Greet with Guest Writers, Artists and Scholars
An opportunity for students and faculty to mingle with Africa Week guests.
4:00-5:00pm in Hegeman 308

Reading and Dance Performance with Teju Cole and Nora Chipaumire
7:00pm at the Fisher Center, T2

Dancer Nora Chipaumire presents "Dark Swan" and an excerpt from her Bessie Award-winning "Chimurenga" preceded by a reading from Achebe Center Fellow Teju Cole from his new novel, Open City.

Nora Chipaumire is a choreographer, director and dancer. Since 2005, Chipaumire has toured extensively throughout North America, Europe, and Africa. She is a 2008 New York Dance and Performance (aka “Bessie”) Award for her choreographic work Chimurenga; and a 2007 New York Dance and Performance Award in the performance category for her work with Urban Bush Women where she also served as Associate
Artistic Director. She has been honored with the Mariam McGlone Emerging choreographer. She is featured in the documentary "Movement (R)evolution Africa (a story of an art form in four acts)" and the focus of two dance films. Chipaumire studied dance formally and informally in her native Zimbabwe, Senegal, USA, Cuba, and Jamaica. She is a graduate of the University of Zimbabwe’s School of Law and holds graduate degrees from Mills College of Oakland, CA in dance (MA) and choreography & performance (MFA).

Teju Cole was raised in Lagos, Nigeria, and came to the US at the age of seventeen. He is a professional historian of sixteenth-century Netherlandish art, and is the author of the novella “Every Day is for the Thief” and the novel “Open City.” He is also a street photographer. Teju is a Chinua Achebe Center Fellow at Bard College, and is at work on a non-fiction narrative of contemporary Lagos.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd

Queer Subjects and Human Rights in East Africa
A lecture by Keguro Macharia
11:00am-12:00pm, Weis Cinema, Campus Center

Keguro Macharia is a Kenyan literary critic and theorist, and an Assistant Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Maryland, College Park. He blogs at Gukira and is a member of the Concerned Kenyan Writers Collective.

The Matatu in the 1960s: Nairobi Entrepreneurs
A lecture by Kenda Mutongi
12:30-1:30pm Weis Cinema, Campus Center

Kenda Mutongi is a Professor of History at Williams College. She was born and raised in Maragoli, western Kenya, and attended Butere Girls High school before moving to the USA where she earned her PhD in History from University of Virginia in 1996. She has written and published extensively on Kenyan history. Her recent book Worries of the Heart: Widows and Community in Kenya (University of Chicago Press, 2007) was a Finalist for the Herskovits Prize. She has also been a fellow at Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard and a member at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. She lives in Williamstown, MA with her husband and their two children.

Is It Sweet: Tales of an African Superstar in New York
Film and Q&A with Jesse Shipley
2:00-3:15pm, Weis Cinema, Campus Center

Jesse Weaver Shipley is an anthropologist, filmmaker, and artist who is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and coordinator of Africana Studies at Haverford College. He has written on performance, music, popular culture, theatre, and politics in Ghana, South Africa, and the United States. Shipley’s feature documentary film "Living the Hiplife"
(Third World Newsreel 2007) has featured at numerous film festivals around the world. His new film is a ficto-documentary entitled "Is it Sweet?" that explores an African musician’s journey to the Bronx (2011 release). He is currently working on a documentary called "Black Star: the People’s Game" following the 2010 World Cup in South Africa through the eyes of Ghanaian and West African artists, media personnel, fans, hairdressers, and players.

**Fiction and Poetry Reading with Emmanuel Dongala, Billy Kahora, and Nnedi Okorafor**

3:30-5:00pm, Weis Cinema, Campus Center

**Emmanuel Boundzéki Dongala** is a Congolese chemist and novelist. He is currently Richard B. Fisher Chair in Natural Sciences at Bard College at Simon's Rock. As a chemist, his specialty is stereochemistry and asymmetric synthesis, as well as environmental toxicology. He is the author of a number of award-winning novels including Johnny Mad Dog (French: Johnny Chien Méchant), Little Boys Come from the Stars, and most recently, Group Photo by the Riverside (French: Photo de groupe ai bord du fleuve) which was named "Best French Novel of 2010" by the French literary magazine LIRE. His work is featured in the Penguin Book of Modern African Poetry, and he has been the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship.

**Billy Kahora** studied Creative Writing as a Chevening Scholar at the University of Edinburgh in 2007. Before that, he spent eight years studying and working in South Africa, and was Editorial Assistant for All Africa.com in Washington D.C. He also has degrees in journalism and media studies. Kahora now lives and works in Kenya, where he is Managing Editor of the literary journal Kwani, established in Nairobi in 2003.

**Nnedi Okorafor** is the author of the critically acclaimed novel Who Fears Death (a Nebula Award Nominee and Tiptree Honor Book). Her other novels include Zahrah the Windseeker (winner of the Wole Soyinka Prize), The Shadow Speaker (winner of the CBS Parallax Award) and Long Juju Man (winner of the Macmillan Prize for Africa). Her novel Akata Witch will be released in North America in April and her Disney chapter book, Iridessa and the Fire-Bellied Dragon Frog, will be released in 2012. Okorafor holds a PhD in literature and is a professor of creative writing at Chicago State University.

All events are free and open to the public.

Africa Week is co-presented by the Chinua Achebe Center, Africana Studies, the Human Rights Project, the International Human Rights Exchange, Bard Dance Program, Bard Dance Club, the Difference and Media Project, the Rift Valley Institute, and Oblong Books and Music.