



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 330

Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: (402) 474-2131 Fax: (402) 474-4852

E-mail: nhc@nebraskahumanities.org

Website: www.nebraskahumanities.org

N E W S R E L E A S E

For release: September 11, 2006

Contact: Jane Renner Hood, (402) 474-2131, ext. 107

Benefit dinner for Humanities Council is sold out

A Sept. 20 benefit dinner for the Nebraska Humanities Council before the 11th Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities has been sold out.

The 7:30 p.m. lecture at the Lied Center for Performing Arts features Azar Nafisi, author of the national bestseller "Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books."

"The Governor's Lecture Committee thought that Nafisi would be a popular speaker because almost every book club in the country has read and discussed her "Reading Lolita in Tehran," said Trixie Schmidt, co-chair of the lecture committee. "But we had no idea that we would have a waiting list of people wanting to attend the dinner."

Free tickets for the lecture are available from the Lied Center for Performing Arts by calling (402) 472-4747. Tickets are required to attend the program. The lecture will also be simulcast in Scottsbluff at the Harms Technology Center on the campus of Western Community College (at 6:30 p.m. MST), North Platte at Platte Valley Community College, and in Omaha at UNO's Milo Bail Student Center.

"Reading Lolita in Tehran" electrified its readers with a compassionate and often harrowing portrait of the Islamic revolution in Iran and how it affected one university professor and her students. Translated into 32 languages and winner of many literary awards, the book was on The New York Times bestseller list for more than 90 weeks.

Nafisi is director of the Dialogue Project at the Foreign Policy Institute of Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C., where she is a professor of aesthetics, culture, and literature, and teaches courses on the relation between culture and politics.

"We are thrilled with the response to the benefit dinner," said Jane Renner Hood, executive director of the Nebraska Humanities Council. "The Governor's Lecture in the Humanities dinner is our largest fund-raising event of the year. This response will help the Nebraska Humanities Council sustain programs like Chautauqua and our speakers bureau—programs that Nebraskans want for their communities."

The lecture is presented by the Nebraska Humanities Council, the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues and the University of Nebraska. The E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues is a cooperative project of the Cooper Foundation, the Lied Center for Performing Arts and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and has a mission of promoting better understanding of world events and issues to all Nebraskans.

###