



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

For release: April 6, 2006

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Nafisi to deliver 11th governor's lecture Sept. 20

Azar Nafisi, author of the national bestseller, "Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books," will deliver the 11th Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities on Sept. 20 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln.

Presented by the Nebraska Humanities Council, the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues and the University of Nebraska, the 7:30 p.m. lecture is free and open to the public. 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.

"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 70 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. She held a fellowship at Oxford University, teaching and conducting a series of lectures on the important role of Western literature and culture in Iran after the revolution in 1979.

Nafisi conducted workshops in Iran for women students on the relationship between culture and human rights. The material culled from these workshops formed the basis of a new human rights education curriculum. She has lectured and written extensively in English and Persian on the political implications of literature and culture, as well as the human rights of Iranian women and girls and the important role they play in the process of change for pluralism and an open society in Iran. She has been consulted on issues related to Iran and human rights both by policy makers and various human rights organizations in the United States and elsewhere.

Nafisi has written for The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal and The New Republic.

A fundraising reception and dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. For details, contact Aimee at the Nebraska Humanities Council at (402) 474-2131 ext. 102 or at nhc@nebraskahumanities.org.

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Editor's Note: For a complete biography or a photo of Azar Nafisi, contact Aimee Poor at the Nebraska Humanities Council at (402) 474-2131 ext. 102 or at nhc@nebraskahumanities.org.