



Advance Program Notes

An Onstage Conversation with Zadie Smith, author
Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 7:30 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

An Onstage Conversation with Zadie Smith, author

Moderated by Lucinda Roy, Alumni Distinguished Professor, Department of English at Virginia Tech

Presented in partnership with the Department of English Visiting Writers Series and the Women's Center at Virginia Tech in celebration of its 25th anniversary

Biography



ZADIE SMITH

Novelist Zadie Smith was born in North London in 1975 to an English father and a Jamaican mother. She read English at Cambridge before graduating in 1997.

Her acclaimed first novel, *White Teeth* (2000), is a vibrant portrait of contemporary multicultural London, told through the stories of three ethnically diverse families. The book won a number of awards and prizes, including the *Guardian* First Book Award, the Whitbread First Novel Award, the Commonwealth Writers Prize (Overall Winner, Best First Book), and two BT Ethnic and Multicultural Media Awards (Best Book/Novel and Best Female Media Newcomer). It was also shortlisted for the

Mail on Sunday/John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, the Orange Prize for Fiction and the Author's Club First Novel Award. *White Teeth* has been translated into over 20 languages and was adapted for Channel 4 television for broadcast in autumn 2002 and for the stage in November 2018.

Smith's *The Autograph Man* (2002), a story of loss, obsession, and the nature of celebrity, won the 2003 Jewish Quarterly Wingate Literary Prize for Fiction. In 2003 and 2013 she was named by *Granta* magazine as one of 20 Best of Young British Novelists. *On Beauty* won the 2006 Orange Prize for Fiction, and her novel *NW* was shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize and the Women's Prize for Fiction and was named as one of the *New York Times* 10 Best Books of 2012. Her most recent novel is *Swing Time* (November 2016). She has published two collections of essays, *Changing My Mind: Occasional Essays* (2009) and *Feel Free* (2018). She is currently working on a book of short stories titled *Grand Union* (Penguin, October 2019) and a new novel. Smith writes regularly for the *New Yorker* and the *New York Review of Books*. In 2017 she was elected a foreign honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She was also the recipient of the 2017 City College of New York's Langston Hughes Medal.

Smith is currently a tenured professor of creative writing at New York University.

Photo by Dominique Nabokov

Engagement Events

Tuesday, March 19, 2019, following the performance

MEET THE AUTHOR: ZADIE SMITH

After hearing her public talk, engage with author Zadie Smith at this informal book-signing. Smith's books will be available for purchase.

Grand Lobby

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

QUESTION AND ANSWER DISCUSSION

While in Blacksburg, Smith participated in an informal discussion with faculty and master of fine arts students in creative writing.

Special thanks to Erika Meitner and Lucinda Roy

Go Beyond

Identify a salient theme that emerges from Smith's conversation with Virginia Tech Alumni Distinguished Professor Lucinda Roy. What is Smith's perspective on that theme and how does it relate to yours?

In the Galleries

ARBOREAL

Thursday, January 24-Saturday, March 23, 2019

All galleries

Majestic, sustaining, enduring, but increasingly vulnerable—these words only begin to describe one of Earth's most critical life forms: trees. This stunning selection of works by artists from Australia, Spain, Israel, Japan, and the United States explores the imagery of trees and their symbolic resonance. *Arboreal* features photography, video, painting, works on paper, and ceramic, wood, and stainless steel sculpture.

GALLERY HOURS

Monday-Friday, 10 AM-5:30 PM

Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM

To arrange a group tour or class visit, please contact Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at megh79@vt.edu.