DIRTY WARS
A night of readings to end torture, arbitrary detention, and extraordinary rendition

Thursday, April 26, 2007, 7:00 p.m.
JOE’S PUB at the Public Theater
425 Lafayette Street
New York, New York

READINGS

Gloria Reuben
“I Am Not a State Secret,” by Khaled El-Masri

Dorothea Dieckmann
From Guantánamo, by Dorothea Dieckmann

Antoine Audouard
From Journey to Hell, by Mourad Benchallali and Antoine Audouard

Arnon Grunberg
“At Guantánamo There Is No Why,” by Arnon Grunberg

Alex Gibney
From Department of Defense Interrogation Log of Detainee Mohammed Al-Khatani

Francine Prose
From Federal Bureau of Investigation email messages from Guantánamo

Mark Danner
Declaration of Detainee #______, Abu Ghraib Prison

Daoud Heidami and Daniel Oreskes
From Transcript of Combatant Status Review Tribunal Hearing of Mustafa Ait Idr

Rose Styron
From “The General,” by Isabel Hilton

Breyten Breytenbach
“letter to butcher from abroad,” by Breyten Breytenbach

Lisa Appignanesi
From the final, unfinished column of Anna Politkovskaya

Nadine Gordimer
From Scatter the Ashes and Go, by Mongane Wally Serote
Lisa Appignanesi is a novelist, writer, and broadcaster. Her latest novel is The Memory Man. Her new book, Mad, Bad, and Sad: A History of Women and the Mind Doctors comes out next January. She is Deputy-President of English PEN, Chair of the Free Expression Is No Offence campaign, and a member of the PEN Writers in Prison Committee.

Antoine Audouard was born in Paris in 1956. His novel Farewell, My Only One was published in English in 2004, short-listed for the Goncourt Prize, and translated into 14 languages. Another novel, A Bridge of Birds, set in Vietnam, was published in 2005. He also co-wrote A Journey to Hell with Mourad Benchellali, a French citizen detained in Guantanamo; the memoir was published in France in 2006.

Breyten Breytenbach is a painter, activist, and writer of poetry. His most renowned work is the four-volume memoir of his time as a political prisoner in South Africa: A Season in Paradise, The True Confessions of an Albino Terrorist, Return to Paradise, and Dog Heart: A Memoir. Breytenbach's poetry collections include The Iron Cow Must Sweat, Footscript, and most recently, Lady One.

Mark Danner is Professor of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley, and Henry R. Luce Professor of Human Rights, Democracy, and Journalism at Bard College. His books include The Road to Illegitimacy and Torture and Truth: America, Abu Ghraib, and the War on Terror. Danner has been a staff writer at The New Yorker and is a frequent contributor to New York Review of Books.

Dorothea Dieckmann is a novelist, essayist, and literary critic. She was awarded the Hamburg Prize for Literature in 1990, and in 1996 she received the Marburg Prize for Literature for her novella Die Schwere und die leichte Liebe (Heavy Love, Light Love). Dieckmann's other publications include How Angels Appear and Ladies & Gentlemen. Her latest novel, Quantánamo, will be published in the U.S. in 2007.

Alex Gibney is the writer, producer and director of the 2006 Oscar-nominated film Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room. He is currently in post-production on the documentary, Gonzo, about Hunter Thompson and will premiere Taxi to the Dark Side at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival, a documentary that traces the homicide of an Afghan taxi driver at the Bagram Air Force Base from Afghanistan to Washington.

Nadine Gordimer has published 15 novels, including the recent Get a Life, 12 story collections, and five works of nonfiction. She received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1991. Gordimer is vice-president of International PEN, Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in France, Order of the Southern Cross in South Africa, and Order of the Presidential Medal of Honor in Chile.

Arnon Grunberg was born in Amsterdam in 1971. He dropped out of school at 17 and started the publishing company Kasimir. He wrote a few plays, did some acting, and when he was 23, debuted as a novelist with Blue Mondays. His second novel, Silent Extras, was published in 2001, followed by Phantom Pain and The Asylum Seeker, both of which won the AKO Literature Prize, the Dutch equivalent of the Booker.

Daoud Heidami has appeared in Greater Messapia at the Queens Theatre in the Park, the world premiere of Wintertime and Tartuffe, both at the La Jolla Playhouse, and The Chairs at The Sledgehammer Theatre in San Diego. His television and film credits include Tough Crowd with Colin Quinn on Comedy Central, Guiding Light, and Syriana.

Daniel Oreskes has performed in Electra, Aida, The Song of Jacob, Quills, Mr. Peter's Connections, Cellinii, Missing Marissa and numerous productions at the New York Shakespeare Festival including Henry V, Troilus and Cressida, 'Tis Pity She's a Whore, Richard II, and Othello. His films include The Thomas Crown Affair, Devil's Advocate, Day Zero, Nowhere to Go But Up, and Warrior Class.

Francine Prose is the author of 14 books of fiction, including A Changed Man, winner of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and Blue Angel, a finalist for the National Book Award. A critic and essayist, she has taught literature and writing for more than 20 years and is a contributing editor at Harper’s and writes regularly on art for the Wall Street Journal. She is currently President of PEN American Center.

Gloria Reuben has worked in television, film, theater, and music. She has earned two Emmy nominations, a Golden Globe nomination, and multiple NAACP Image Award nominations for her role on the NBC series ER. Other credits include: The Agency, Feast of All Saints, The Vagina Monologues, Stuff Happens, Shaft, The Sentinel. She can currently be seen in the HBO film Life Support.