



Embassy of the United States of America

The U.S. Embassy Literature Series

in cooperation with the English Theatre Berlin and Thalia Buchhandlungen.

Venue: **English Theatre Berlin, Fidicinstr. 40, 10965 Berlin**

Admission: 3 Euro/ school groups free if they register with IRCBerlin@state.gov

Book tickets: +49 - (0)30 - 691 12 11; by e-mail at tickets@etberlin.de



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Tuesday, October 15, 2013, 20:00

at the **studio of the English Theatre Berlin**

in cooperation with **mare**

Dina Nayeri

will read from her novel ***A Teaspoon of Earth and Sea***

(Ein Teelöffel Land und Meer, mare)

German voice: Fritzi Haberlandt

Moderator: Margarete von Schwarzkopf. NDR

The story of Saba is made complex and fascinating by introducing numerous opposing multicultural and narrative elements. Saba's parents are from the Iranian upper class; they are cosmopolitan, wealthy, well-educated, and converts from Islam to Christianity. Life in Iran after the Revolution threatens almost everything that they value most in their lives. They realize that they must flee to the West, but that is extremely risky and difficult. If they stay, they risk being exposed as converts, a crime punishable by death. (Amazon)

Dina Nayeri was born in the middle of the revolution in Iran and moved to Oklahoma at ten-years-old. Her debut novel, *A Teaspoon of Earth and Sea*, was released in 2013 by Riverhead Books (Penguin), translated into 13 foreign languages, and selected as a Barnes and Noble *Discover Great New Writers* book. Her work is published or scheduled for publication in over 20 countries and has appeared in *Granta New Voices*, *The Southern Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Salon*, *Glamour*, and elsewhere. Dina Nayeri holds both an MBA and a Master of Education from Harvard, and a BA from Princeton. Now she is at work on her second novel, also about an Iranian family, at the Iowa Writers Workshop where she is a Truman Capote Fellow and Teaching Writing Fellow. (Adapted from www.dinanayeri.com)



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Saturday, November 2, 2013, 20:00 in the main hall of the English Theatre

In cooperation with Veranstaltungsforum der Verlagsgruppe Georg von Holtzbrinck

Jennine Capó Crucet

will read from her novel-in-progress ***Magic City Relic***.

Jennine Capó Crucet will be the Picador Guest Professor for Literature at Leipzig University in the fall of 2013, a program initiated by the University of Leipzig in cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service and the Veranstaltungsforum der Verlagsgruppe Georg von Holtzbrinck in 2007. Jennine is the author of *How to Leave Hialeah*, which won the Iowa Short Fiction Prize, the John Gardner Book Award, the Devil's Kitchen Reading Award, and was named a Best Book of the Year by the *Miami Herald*, the *Miami New Times*, and the *Latinidad List*. The title story from the collection won a PEN/O. Henry Prize and appears in the 2011 PEN/O. Henry Prize Anthology. Originally from Miami, she is currently an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Florida State University.

Jennine is the recipient of the John Winthrop Prize & Residency for Emerging Writers, the Emily Clark Balch Fiction Prize, and her work has been a finalist for both the Chicano/Latino Literary Prize and the *Missouri Review* Editor's Prize. Her stories have appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Epoch*, the *Southern Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Gulf Coast*, and other magazines. Her book reviews appear in the *L Magazine*, a New York City bi-weekly. (Adapted from www.jcapocrucet.com)

PICADOR

VERANSTALTUNGSFORUM
DER VERLAGSGRUPPE
GEORG VON HOLTZBRINCK
GMBH

UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG **DAAD**

Monday, November 18, 2013, 20:00 at the *studio* of the English Theatre Berlin



In cooperation with the American Academy Berlin and HOFFMANN UND CAMPE

Featuring the American Academy Berlin Fellows - Fall 2013

Kiran Desai, *Holtzbrinck Fellow*, and Ben Marcus, *Mary Ellen von der Heyden Fellow in Fiction*
with a joint reading from their works and discussion.

Moderator: Gregor Dotzauer, *Der Tagesspiegel*



© Jerry Bauer

Kiran Desai was born in Chandigarh, India, and educated in India, England, and the United States where she completed an MFA at Columbia University in 1999. Her first novel, *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*, received the 1998 Betty Trask Award for best new novel by a citizen of the Commonwealth of Nations under the age of 35. Her 2006 novel, *The Inheritance of Loss*, recreated busy, intersecting tales of immigrants meeting for the first time in the basement kitchens of New York, contrasting their stories with the landscapes left behind. It won the Man Booker Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and was translated into over forty languages. Two years later, the Gates Foundation project invited Desai to report on a community of sex workers in the coastal state of Andhra Pradesh. Her account, "Night Claims the Godavari," was included in *AIDS Sutra: Untold Stories from India* (Anchor, 2008). In 2009, she was presented with the Columbia University Medal for Excellence. The recipient of a 2013-14 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, Desai's work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Guardian*, *Gourmet Magazine*, *Best American Travel Writing*, and *The Vintage Book of Indian Writing 1947-1997*.

At the Academy, Desai will be working on her new novel, *The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny*, under contract with Knopf in the United States, S. Fischer in Germany, and additional international publishers. The book is "an endlessly unresolved romance between two modern Indians," Desai writes. "It examines Western and Eastern manifestations of solitude as they play out across the geographical and emotional terrain of our globalized world. Sonia first glimpses Sunny on the train to her grandfather's funeral. Beguiled by each other, but ashamed to be matched in an old-fashioned manner, they embark upon a series of experiments, across Europe, India, and America, to see if they might succeed in contemporary ways of loving. The story addresses the promise and failure of feminism, the growing gap between rich

and poor, rural and urban, the many ways in which modernity affects our spiritual beings in the elemental matters of loneliness and love. As Sonia and Sunny pursue their romance, they find themselves mapping a primal lexicon of the myriad forms of global loneliness." (Adapted from www.americanacademy.de)



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Ben Marcus is a Professor at Columbia University's School of the Arts and the author of five books of fiction: *Notable American Women* (Vintage, 2002), *The Father Costume* (Artspace Books, 2002), *The Age of Wire and String* (Knopf, 1995), *The Flame Alphabet* (Knopf, 2012), and the forthcoming collection of short stories, "An Land gehen", which will be published by HOFFMANN UND CAMPE in September 2013, even before the English edition *Leaving the Sea* (Knopf, 2014). His stories, essays, and reviews have appeared in *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *The Believer*, *The New York Times*, *McSweeney's*, and other publications. Marcus is the editor of *The Anchor Book of New American Short Stories* and serves as the fiction editor for *The American Reader*. Marcus studied philosophy at New York University (BA, 1989) and fiction writing at Brown University (MFA, 1991). A John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow in 2013-14, he has also received grants from the Creative Capital Foundation (2009), a 2008 Morton Dauwen Zabel Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Whiting Writers Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in fiction, and three Pushcart Prizes.

During his fellowship at the American Academy, Marcus will work on a new novel "about surveillance and the family," he writes. "It concerns the pain of being known, the sorrow of being misunderstood. It is about subterfuge and false identities, emotional fraudulence, and the kinds of guilt peculiar to families. It is also about authority, the persuasion we create with language, the control we can exert through words. I'm drawn to the intense dynamics within families and, by extension, the whole rather ferocious notion of a bloodline ... primal and animalistic ... it is hard to overlook the potential for savagery that arises. Family is frequently invoked in public discourse. It saves and protects us, nurtures and comforts us. It is unquestionably virtuous, something we are all meant to want to keep intact, and as much as I am deeply rooted to my own family, this unassailable social structure is something I'd like to press on in fiction, to test, through narrative, in the most complex way that I can." (Adapted from www.americanacademy.de)

<http://webdelsol.com/marcus/>



Meet US - Americans in Dialogue with Young Germans about Life in the U.S.A.

<http://germany.usembassy.gov/germany/meetus.html>

What is the American Dream?

What do Americans think about Germany?

How does the U.S. election system work?

What does a typical school day in the U.S. look like?

Americans only eat fast food.

Americans are very superficial.

Americans don't care about the environment.

These are some typical questions and preconceptions that young Germans have about the United States. The **Meet US** program is designed to help clarify the picture by bringing Americans – U.S. citizens from all backgrounds of life residing in Germany, as well as U.S. Embassy/Consulate staff – together with secondary school students in Germany to engage them in a dialogue about everyday life in the United States. The goal is to answer questions and clear up misconceptions German youth have about the U.S.

How to Request Guest Speaker for a School Visit

The Public Affairs Sections of the U.S. Embassy Berlin and the U.S. Consulates in Germany coordinate the program. Interested schools should contact the below listed program coordinator at the Embassy or Consulate responsible for their region using the [request form](#) (in German) to request a visit by an American guest speaker on our website.

Meet US Program Coordinator

Berlin, Brandenburg, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia

U.S. Embassy Berlin - Public Affairs Section

Ms. Heike Mead

Pariser Platz 2

14191 Berlin

Email: MeetUS-berlin@usembassy.de



Sustainable Education – *Going Green* **A new U.S. Embassy project for *the EFL and CLIL Classroom***

Based on the 2012 Election School project which engaged 1,700 students and teachers in a mock-election and intensive class work, the U.S. Embassy in Berlin will cooperate, once again, with Leuphana University Lüneburg and *eXplorarium* Life e.V. on a new project:

Sustainable Education – *Going Green*

Going Green: While Germany is considered the birthplace of the green party and receives world-wide attention for its efforts to implement the "Energiewende", the U.S. is often perceived as a nation more interested in profit-making than the environmental agenda. Both countries pursue sustainable development, but their approaches differ.

Going Green will look at the different measures both countries are implementing concerning environmental issues. It will explore the role of the federal government versus local and state initiatives and contest commonly held stereotypes. In order to facilitate a dialogue between German and American students, existing school partnerships will be supported. Discussions with counterparts in both countries regarding local and personal measures to protect the environment while allowing for economic development and growth will be explored via Skype or Google Hangouts, chats, e-mail exchange, and social media. Gaming will become an interactive element in the lesson plan.

Students will reach out to local policy makers and organizations, compare measures that could be implemented in their families, their schools and their respective communities and develop ideas to further the environmental agenda. Students in Germany and the U.S. will learn from each other and possibly turn the virtual exchange into target-oriented school exchange.

Students from both sides of the Atlantic are encouraged to develop ideas for "real life actions", execute them and present them on a shared e-learning platform. At the end of the project period, these actions enter into a competition with awards for excellent sustainable activities.

A final conference in which students present and discuss their award winning ideas will be held in November 2014 in Berlin. This conference correlates with the concluding UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

Meet US school visits will address **Going Green** issues throughout the project:
<http://germany.usembassy.gov/germany/meetus.html>

Timeline

During the **winter term 2013/2014**, future teachers at Leuphana University Lüneburg under guidance of Prof. Dr. Torben Schmidt will develop course materials. These will be posted on an online platform designed by *eXplorarium* Life e.V.

Throughout the year, the U.S. Embassy will invite expert speakers to talk about green projects in the U.S. in teacher seminars. Please look out for announcements on our website www.usembassy.de (upcoming programs) for detailed information.

Earth Day 2014

Earth Day 2014 programs will be used to launch the **Going Green** project nation-wide. Selected schools will be invited to test this model via official teacher training institutes in the various German states.

August 2014

With the beginning of the new school year, a competition for the best "green" project coming out of classroom work will be started. Classes participate in the course and enter a final presentation of their results and real life actions into a competition.

November 2014

Prizes will be awarded to the best **Going Green** project at a final student conference in Berlin. This event coincides with the end of the **UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development** (2005-2014).

Going Green is a work in progress. The **Going Green** team is looking forward to developing an exciting curriculum together with all interested teachers and students.

