

CAMPUS CULTURE

Joanna Howard to speak at Behrend

SHANNON EHRIN
culture editor

Bending the "expectations and clichés of mainstream mystery and paranormal writing," creative fiction writer Joanna Howard gives readers a refreshing taste of two otherwise seemingly popular genres.

On Thursday, April 29, Howard will speak at the Smith Chapel in the last reading of the Creative Writer's Speakers Series of this school year.

Having a Ph.D. in creative writing and an MFA, Howard teaches fiction writing at Brown University.

Her pieces in *The Colorless Round*, with contributed artwork from Rikki Ducornet, and the recent *On the Winding Stair* (published in 2009), have appeared in several literary outlets including *The Chicago Review*, *Tarpaulin Sky*, *Quarterly West*, *Conjunctions*, and *American Letters & Commentary*.

Howard's stories have also been anthologized in *Writing Online*, *PP/FF: An Anthology*, and *New Standards: The First Decade of Fiction at Fourteen Hills*.

"Howard's sensuous prose is to be savored for its own sake," *Publishers Weekly* said of *On the Winding Stair*.

"Howard upends some traditional literary conventions in these 14 tales of startling description and beauty."

Verse added that "Joanna Howard's short stories flit about like phantoms... Her careful and practiced dismissal of the concrete allows the reader release from conventional concerns of plot and conflict, and ultimately celebrates the unknowable."

The free reading will begin at 6 p.m. with a reception open to all at 5:30 p.m.



on the winding stair
joanna howard

<http://boaeditions.org/>

The Adventures of Bobby Ray

DAN KINEM
senior reporter

Every year or so, there are at least a couple underground hip-hop artists that start garnering a lot of buzz from their mixtapes. Blogs try and talk about them as much as possible so they can take the credit when the artist blows up. They often don't live up to their hype, however, and fade away into obscurity. Recently, though, there have been quite a few great (or at least potential-filled) underground artists breaking into the mainstream: Kid Cudi, Drake, Wale, etc.

Well you can now add B.o.B to that list. He was pretty slept on for two years until finally he started to get some buzz from early singles, then he announced a full-length. The album *Adventures of Bobby Ray*, was in the works. His song "Nothin' on You," featuring Bruno Mars, has become a smash hit and is getting continuous radio-play. And his new single, "Airplanes" with Hayley Williams of Paramore, is likely to get the same.

If those two singles aren't a sign that he is a very versatile musical artist, the actual album is. No one song sounds

alike. From one track to the next he could be rapping with T.I. with a very Atlanta-vibe, to singing, to playing guitar, to playing piano, to sounding like Andre 3000, to whatever. He has made an album that will get plenty of comparison to Kid Cudi's masterpiece *Man on the Moon* and with much warrant. The songs feel very connected. It's one of those albums you can pick a track or two off to play, but it's also one of those albums that you will want to listen to all the way through each time you go to play it. Each track feels complimentary to the next.

He also has a two part track with "Airplanes" and "Airplanes Part II," where it closes with the much talked about Eminem collaboration. And boy is it a closer. He also brings in Lupe Fiasco, the above mentioned T.I., Hayley Williams, and Bruno Mars, and also my boy, Rivers Cuomo.

Get used to hearing the name "B.o.B or Bobby Ray or I don't know" for awhile. He is here to stay for sure. I look forward to anything this man does and hope he tours in the summer. He definitely would put on an amazing show. Everyone needs to get this album as soon as they read this. He is changing the game, and if you try and ignore that you are truly missing out.



The Adventures of Bobby Ray, B.o.B's latest album, will be released April 27.

<http://youngblackhippie.wordpress.com>

MUSIC

now, now all you children

SHANNON EHRIN
culture editor

One day, I happened upon what I believe is a gem of a band: Now, Now Every Children. It was like magic. All of a sudden I was listening to some of the best music that I've come across in awhile, and I was flummoxed that I hadn't known about them before.

My MP3 player is filled with the sounds of Tegan and Sara and Imogen Heap and the like, same with my Pandora, as well as a variety of classical composers: -Dustin O'Halloran, Prokofiev, Jerome van Veen and Yann Tiersen. I can always count on Tegan and Sara and Imogen Heap for variety to help me get through the ridiculousness that I frequently encounter at this campus. When you first hear Tegan and Sara, you kind of get

caught off guard with their crystalline and awkward voices, and that's not far off from what Now, Now Every Children does. They surprised my senses in the best way when I first heard them, because I didn't think that they would have anything new or different to offer.

Aside from the band's unusual name, which just adds to their appeal, this group is incredibly talented. I've only had the privilege of listening to them live from videos posted on YouTube, but from what I have heard on these videos and read from people who have seen them live, this isn't your run-of-the-mill "indie" band. It's nice to know that musicians still have that raw musical talent. I don't know about you, but I was starting to miss musicians who could entertain live and have the same results as they do

after playing in the studio.

Now, Now Every Children's music is so refreshing, especially in an age when Justin Bieber is taking over, and actresses (Lindsay Lohan or Leighton Meester, the girl who played Cindy Lou Hoo in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*) keep making attempts at "singing." This group gives listeners a whole new array of musical splendor without any signs of tween pop or that "boom, boom, pow."

Lead singer Cacie Dalager's voice is by no means perfect, but that's what makes it perfect. It is raspy and at times quivering and monotonic. It's not pristine and fake. You believe that her voice hasn't been altered to some idealized state of falsity. I would also say it is hypnotic and odd in that it would only appeal to a certain group of people who can handle a certain

level of strange. Her singing and the haunting mimic of her voice, in conjunction with the lyrics, come off just right.

Dalager's voice is a little reminiscent of Linda Perhacs's, especially in Perhacs's "Chimacum Rain," when she sings, "he belongs here (can't have him) he belongs here (can't know him) he belongs here." Brad Hale's instrumental accompaniment compliments Dalager's offbeat vocal power, and while being similar to the music of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and The Hard Lessons, it sometimes overshadows Dalager's voice, which can make the song too strong and overwhelming.

Even if Hale's playing can be a little overboard, he and Dalager make an extraordinary pair of performers. Their first album, *Cars*, only came out last July, but hopefully they will con-

tinue to produce more.

Now, Now Every Children is a hidden rarity amongst so many other bands (each with that same style of acoustic or hardcore music that has become so popular). I suggest exercising your ears by listening to "Not One, But Two" and "In My Chest" (the acoustic version). Don't listen to the lyrics at first. They are simple and mostly repetitive and carried out anyway. Like in "In My Chest," Dalager repeatedly says "In my chest, in my chest, in my chest, in my, in my chest, in my, in my chest, in my." Pay attention to how Dalager's voice rises and falls with the music, as if you're following each rise and fall of her lungs. If you're like me, listening to Now, Now Every Children will be like some cosmic event you want to experience over and over again.

SUMMER TO DO

A novel summer

NATHAN CARTER
staff writer

As summer comes closer and closer, some of us begin to dread the thought of work throughout it. Personally, I'll be making food for endless Sandcastle customers while under a hot sun and over a hot grill.

I know you're all saying, "That sounds awesome!" It's actually not that bad, and I'm looking forward to it. But what I'm looking forward to more is tackling my ever-growing stack of books to read.

Last summer I read ten books, everything from *Go Ask Alice* (Anonymously) and *The Road* (Cormac McCarthy) to *In Cold Blood* (Truman Capote) and *To Kill a Mocking Bird* (HarperLee). Since then, I've received enough suggestions for forty summers. The challenge will be deciding which ones transform from a suggestion to a physical book. Here are some of my choices:

Last Exit to Brooklyn (Hubert Selby

Jr.): This novel was published in 1964 and gained nearly immediate fame after publication for its gritty, unrelenting description of lower-class Brooklyn, which was all in all not too distant from the actual city of Brooklyn in the 50s. There are several characters that the novel follows:

Georgette (a transvestite hooker addicted to amphetamine), Tralala (a young prostitute and thief that lives by her own rules), and Harry (a machinist in a factory who becomes a union official and strikes). I began this book over winter break and wasn't able to finish it upon arrival back at school. I can't wait to get back into its brutal story.

White Noise (Don DeLillo): This breakout work for DeLillo tells the story of a college professor named Jack Gladney who specializes in Hitler studies. In the area of his college, an "airborne toxic event" clouds the sky and anxiety about death and toxins build throughout. As an early example of postmodernism, the novel is essen-

tially about the overarching theme of the American media and the "toxins" it spills into our lives.

Raise High the Roofbeams, Carpenters... (J.D. Salinger): Being an avid Salinger fan, and upon the author's recent death, I thought it was appropriate to read the only book by him that I haven't read. *Catcher in the Rye*, an earlier work of his, has stood as an American classic since its '50s publication and tells the tale of controversial protagonist Holden Caulfield.

With it easily being the best coming-of-age tale that I know of, I ran to Salinger's other work and consumed *Nine Stories* and *Franny and Zooey* last summer. Both of those books being damn near as equally amazing as *Catcher in the Rye*, I'll now read *Raise High the Roofbeams, Carpenters*, a look at the Glass family through Army-returnee and brother, Buddy Glass. Through weddings, deaths, and military conflict, there's no way Salinger will let me down with his last work before he quit publishing.

100 Years of Solitude (Gabriel Garcia Marquez): Apparently the author's masterpiece and most talked about work, this book centers around the town of Macondo and the history of the Buendia family. Steeped in magical realism, *Solitude's* themes are mainly love, death, and war, as there are numerous members of the Buendia family who engage in relationships of love and blood amidst the civil wars. The idea of a novel covering 100 years in itself is amazing, and I'm excited to read it.

The Things They Carried (Tim O'Brien): Technically a collection of short stories that center around the Vietnam War, this book supplies the elements of memoir, novel, and history. Most of the stories revolve around a character named Tim, who defies the assumptions of his comrades and battles with the war in reality and in his mind. Truly a collection more about personal growth than the war itself, *The Things They Carried* sounds like a quick and unforgettable read.

Hell House (Richard Matheson): From one of the few masters of horror writing, *Hell House* is widely regarded as containing the scariest haunted house depicted in American literature. Since I've always been a horror fan and am on the bridge about writing horror stories of my own, I figure I should take a look at the best. It centers around the Belasco house, where unimaginable atrocities have been committed.

In the wake of two failed expeditions into the house, four strangers approach the mansion, each with different personal reasons for their curiosity, ready to mount a new expedition. Matheson, the author of *Stir of Echoes* and *Omega Man*, is sure to never disappoint.

As I'm sure there will be many more books that I'll be tackling, I picked the few that I'm especially excited for. If you're an avid reader like me, then I hope you enjoy these suggestions.

MUSIC

Bonnaroo takes the south

JEFF KRAMER
copy editor

Tickets have already gone on sale this year for Bonnaroo, the annual Tennessee music festival. I'll give an outline of some of the bands playing.

First of all: Conan O'Brien isn't dead and jobless on the street. He's headlining for standup comedy at this year's festival. A website run by Lamar Billboards, aplaceforcoco.com, has set up a handful of billboards around the country displaying Conan's latest tweets, all of which is paid for by the parent company.

Weezer is headlining, and I guess they have a lot of fans. Weezer is important to me when I was 16 years old until their most recent three albums got released. But I guess it's cool that they have a whole different generation

of kids that listen to them. (Given, the said generation happens to be made of 14 year old Twilight girls.)

Damian Marley and Nas released a pretty great single in 2009, and they have an album that will come out this year. Marley originally started thinking about doing a song with a rapper in 2008, so he went to Nas (whom I've always preferred over Jay-Z in regards to their dispute and the music to come out of it). Originally the song wasn't going to be so hip-hop oriented, but they ended up finding a great sound and decided to make an album.

Theivery Corporation is something between acid jazz and classic trip-hop from the '90s. You've probably heard their song "Lebanese Blonde."

Regina Spektor has a big following. She's real quirky and kitsch and shit. 87 degrees? Let me grab my scarf! I'm being bitter, I've listened to all of her

albums more than once, and I think she's way talented.

Les Claypool, the legendary bassist and singer for Primus, plays something called a bassjo. That's exactly what you think it is: a banjo-bass guitar.

She & Him, simply put, is the shit right now. Zooey Deschanel and M. Ward are playing as many concerts and festivals as they can this summer to promote their sophomore album, *Volume 2*.

Deadmau5 is straight-up electronic music from a legit-ass dude. I've seen him post as just another screen name on Internet forums.

I found difficulties when trying to describe this next group, Clutch. The Bonnaroo website's description of Clutch is perfect: "They're a little punk? Well, yes, but there again... they've a hint of metal? True. How-

ever, don't they also have a touch of the stoner about them? Sure. And while we're at it, let's not forget the southern rock influence. Come on, you know what that means. Clutch are genuine individuals, icons for musical excellence who confound the modern desire for putting everything into neat boxes. They're a classic rock band with an ultra modern sweep."

Clutch is all around ridiculous: distinct, blues-influenced guitar patterns coupled with abrasive bass guitar and gruff, "backwoods" vocals. Neil Fallon sounds like a preacher who shouts intricate metaphors at you from his horrible pulpit. Needless to say, Clutch is definitely not for everyone.

In addition to music, Bonnaroo features standup comedy acts (like Conan). According to his page on the Bonnaroo site, actor/comedian JB Smoove from the HBO series *Curb*

Your Enthusiasm has achieved "cult-like status." Except that his website's forums have four threads, they've only had 23 posters online at one time since their conception, and I'm not allowed to post funny messages on any of the three boards.

Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros truly have just one good song.

Lastly, The Bakerton Group is fucking awesome and also at the bottom of the website's list. Essentially, they're an instrumental, intoxicated sort of groove-blues group with heavy funk and jazz influence. Each song is a (usually) medium-rare, deliberate jam that lays the groundwork for a mental image, eventually demolishing it bit by bit, and then rebuilding everything. If you can find it, I definitely recommend the album *El Rojo*.