

University of Rhode Island English Department

READ/WRITE ANNUAL READING SERIES

Fall 2007

**Special Event URI Faculty Colloquium
Wednesday, Sept 19, 2007, 7-9pm**

**Professors Alain-Philippe Durand
and Naomi Mandel**

Alain-Philippe Durand is Honors Associate Professor of French, Film Media, and Comparative Literature, and Interim Chair of English at the University of Rhode Island. His work has been presented and published in the US, France, the UK, Germany, Holland, Mexico, Brazil, and South Africa. In addition to articles in various journals, he is the author of three books: *Black, Blanc, Beur. Rap Music and Hip-Hop Culture in the Francophone World* (Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2002), *Un Monde Techno. Nouveaux espaces électroniques dans le roman français des années 1980 et 1990* [A Techno World. New Electronic Spaces in the French Novels of the 1990s and 1990s] (Berlin: Weidler, 2004) and *Novels of the Contemporary Extreme*, co-edited with Naomi Mandel (London: Continuum, 2006). He is hard at work on two new books: a collection of essays entitled *Frédéric Beigbeder et ses doubles* [Frédéric Beigbeder and His Doubles], forthcoming in 2008 (Amsterdam, Rodopi); and a solo project on Brazilian novelist Jorge Amado.

Naomi Mandel is Honors Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Rhode Island. She is the author of *Against the Unspeakable: Complicity, the Holocaust, and Slavery in America* (Charlottesville: Virginia UP, 2006) and *Novels of the Contemporary Extreme*, co-edited with Alain-Philippe Durand (London: Continuum, 2006). She is currently working on a book-length project about violence and representation in contemporary literature and film.

Wednesday, October 10, 2007, 4-6pm

Poets, Michael Cirelli & Ada Limón

Michael Cirelli is a poet and educator originally from Providence, Rhode Island. He has been an Individual Finalist at The National Poetry Slam and was the only person to make all three Bay Area slam teams in the same year, winning the finals in both San Francisco and Berkeley. He has performed his work all over the United States and Canada and has taught writing workshops up and down the West Coast and in NYC. While in Los Angeles, he was the director of PEN Center West's Poet In The Classroom program. He is currently the Associate Programs Coordinator for Urban Word NYC through the Teachers and Writers Collaborative and has an MFA from The New School University. He has been published in numerous journals and anthologies and has self-published seven chapbooks; a full-length collection appearing from Hanging Loose Press in 2008. He currently lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Ada Limón is originally from Sonoma, California. A graduate of the Creative Writing Program at New York University, she won the Chicago Literary Award for Poetry and has received fellowships from the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center and the New York Foundation for the Arts. She works as the Copy Director for GQ Magazine and is teaching a Master Class for Columbia University's MFA program in Spring 2008. Her first book, *lucky wreck*, was the winner of the 2005 Autumn House Poetry Prize. Her second book, *This Big Fake World*, was the winner of the 2005 Pearl Poetry Prize.

Wednesday, November 14, 2007, 4-6pm Editor & Nonfiction Writer, Amy Beth Hoffman

Amy Hoffman is editor in chief of the *Women's Review of Books*. A writer and community activist, she has been an editor at *Gay Community News (GCN)*, South End Press, and the *Unitarian Universalist World* magazine. Hoffman's memoir, *Hospital Time*, about taking care of friends with AIDS, was published by Duke University Press in 1997. It was short-listed for the American Library Association Gay Book Award and the New York Publishing Triangle Judy Grahn Award, and was a New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age selection. Her memoir *An Army of Ex-Lovers*, about Boston's *Gay Community News* and the lesbian and gay movement of the late 1970s, is forthcoming from the University of Massachusetts Press in fall 2007.

All events are free, open to the public, and followed by a reception.

Independence Hall, Hoffmann Room 154, 60 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI 02881

Phone: (401) 874-5931