Celebrating the Arts at Gallatin
An Alumni Symposium

Friday, December 7, 2012
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Jerry H. Labowitz Theatre for the Performing Arts

Moderated by André DeShields (MA ’91)
Response by Manuela Cerri Goren (BA ’00)
Program

Opening Remarks
Dean Susanne Wofford

Discussion on the Arts
Moderated by André DeShields (MA ’91)
Response by Manuela Cerri Goren (BA ’00)

Q&A

Reception in the Lobby and Gallatin Galleries
Enjoy wine and hors d’oeuvres for the opening
of Andrew Levitas’s exhibit:

ANDREW LEVITAS: A BRIEF SURVEY 2002 - 2012

Very special thanks to the following faculty members
for their role in making this event possible:

Michael Dinwiddie
Sharon Friedman
Kristin Horton
Steve Hutkins
Bella Mirabella
Stacy Pies
Laurin Raiken
Ellen Cornfield graduated from Gallatin in 2000 with an M.A. in Performance Studies. She performed with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company from 1974 to 1982 and formed her own company, Cornfield Dance, in 1989. She toured with the company to countries including Japan, England, Holland, Germany, France, Poland, Russia and the United States. Cornfield has received numerous commissions and grants for her work and has taught at institutions worldwide. Over the past two years, she has presented four guest lectures at Hunter College on the work of Merce Cunningham and the development of aesthetics. In April 2010, she completed a project with the Scranton Civic Ballet, a new work performed by her dancers along with the ballet company. Since 2010, Cornfield has been working on a full-scale, evening-length work titled Furniture Suite, with sections performed in NYC at Dixon Place, at the Construction Company and, in May 2012, at the Gershwin Hotel. She recently completed a video piece of this material featuring two women performing on two red stools. Photo credit: Steven Schreiber

Thulani Davis is a writer and now a third-year Ph.D. candidate in American Studies at NYU. She received an M.A. from Gallatin in 2008 and has taught dramatic writing at the Tisch School of the Arts. Her most recent book, My Confederate Kinfolk, explores her black and white ancestors’ lives around the time of the Civil War. Her other works include two novels, 1959 and Maker of Saints, several plays and the scripts for the films Paid in Full and Maker of Saints. She has also written several award-winning PBS documentaries and the libretti for several operas. Davis is a past recipient of a Lila Wallace-Readers Digest Writers Award and a Charles H. Revson Fellowship on the Future of New York City, and she was awarded a PEW Foundation National Theatre Artist Residency for her work in theater and opera. She was recently named a Distinguished Alumna of Barnard College and honored by the Veterans Committee of the Congressional Black Caucus.

André De Shields earned his M.A. from Gallatin in 1991. In a career of more than 40 years, he has worked as an actor, director and educator. A multiple Tony Award nominee, De Shields is the recipient of the 2012 Fox Foundation Resident Actor Fellowship/Distinguished Achievement, the 2009 National Black Theatre Festival’s Living Legend Award and the 2007 Village Voice OBIE Award for Sustained Excellence of Performance. His body of work includes, on Broadway: Impressionism (with Jeremy Irons and Joan Allen), Mark Medoff’s Prymate, The Full Monty, Play On!, Ain’t Misbehavin’ (Emmy Award) and The Wiz (title role). The Classical Theatre of Harlem: Derek Walcott’s Dream on Monkey Mountain, Langston Hughes’s Black Nativity and the title roles in King Lear, Caligula and Archbishop Supreme Tartuffe. Regional Theater: Tennessee Williams’s Camino Real (Baron de Charlus), Waiting for Godot (Vladimir), Death of a Salesman (Willy Loman), Inherit the Wind (Henry Drummond), The Man Who Came to Dinner (Sheridan Whiteside) and the title role in the world premiere of Charles Smith’s The Gospel According to James. Film: Inheritance (with Keith David), Extreme Measures (with Hugh Grant) and Prison (with Viggo Mortensen). Television: Rescue Me, Law & Order, Sex and the City, Cosby, Life on Mars and Lipstick Jungle. Photo credit: Lia Chang
Manuela Cerri Goren is a film critic, international journalist, mother, wife, philanthropist and activist who graduated from the Gallatin School in 2000. She has worked for Italian Condé Nast (Vogue, L’Uomo etc.) for over 25 years and now contributes to the magazines of the Italian newspaper la Repubblica. She has also worked as a producer and on-air host for Radio 105 Italia and on an American online radio program called ‘Flickchicks.’ She is on the Board of Directors of The New Group theater company, American Friends of Jamaica and Face To Face/Faith To Faith.

Bonnie Englebardt Lautenberg graduated from Gallatin in 1987 with a B.A. and began working professionally as a photographer shortly after photographing the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Accord on the White House lawn in 1993. Seeing history through her lens gave her a rush of creative adrenaline. Since then she has had several exhibitions including Earthworks, Lady Gaga in Concert and currently How They Changed Our Lives: Senators as Working People at Mana Contemporary in Jersey City. This exhibition consists of 113 United States Senators from the 109th and the 110th Congress. Photo Credit: Fred Marcus Photography

Simon Fortin received his M.A. in Shakespeare Studies from Gallatin in 2005. The son and grandson of actors, he trained at the Conservatoire d’Art Dramatique du Quebec, then in England, at Drama Studio London. He has appeared in nearly 80 theater productions in Canada, England and the United States. Recent film and television work include: A Very Serious Person, Sex & the City, and René Lévesque II: Le Destin d’un Chef (CBC). He is the author of several plays, television shows and translations. A doctoral candidate at the CUNY Graduate Center, he is presently writing his dissertation on the poetics of agony in early modern drama. He will lead the cast of Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde on December 12th at Symphony Space.

Cody Horn has had recurring roles on television shows such as The Office and Rescue Me. She has also co-starred in such films as Magic Mike and End of Watch, both released in 2012. At Gallatin, her concentration, titled ‘Humans and Earth,’ focused on the ethics behind the environmental movement. She graduated in January 2011 with a B.A., but she has continued exploring the themes rooted in her studies at NYU.

Jamie Johnson graduated from Gallatin in 2003 with a B.A. He is an Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker. His HBO productions - Born Rich and The One Percent - study wealth and social inequality in America. Additionally, his writings on those topics have appeared in various publications, including Vanity Fair, The Wall Street Journal and Details.
Rosalie Kaplan is a singer living in Brooklyn. She studied at the New England Conservatory and graduated from NYU’s Gallatin School in 2008 with a B.A. Shortly after graduating, she formed Dollshot, a quartet that reinvents art song and plays avant-pop originals. Dollshot’s critically praised debut album was released in 2011, and the group has performed in New York City’s leading venues for innovative music, including Le Poisson Rouge, Galapagos Art Space and The Stone. Rosalie is the co-founder of the slipstream label Underwolf Records. She teaches voice and piano at the Brooklyn Conservatory.

Andrew Levitas graduated from Gallatin with a B.A. in 2003. He is a painter, sculptor, filmmaker, writer, producer, photographer and actor. His “Metalwork Experiment” was widely regarded as a breakthrough in connecting photography and contemporary art. In December 2008, Levitas was accepted to the prestigious Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts and has had exhibitions at the Louvre, the top auction house Phillips de Pury in Manhattan, among many other locations.

In addition to fine art projects, film is also an important medium for Levitas. In 2012, he directed the feature film LULLABY, based on his own screenplay and featuring notable actors Garrett Hedlund, Amy Adams, Jennifer Hudson, Richard Jenkins, Terrence Howard, Jessica Brown-Findlay and Anne Archer. The film will be released globally in 2013.

Andrew is also looking forward to the release of his first children’s book, Anchovy The Flying Dog, later this year.

Francesca Mirabella graduated from Gallatin with a B.A. in 2006 and is a native New Yorker, currently living and working in Los Angeles. Both a writer and a director, Francesca learned much about the craft of film making through her experience working with such directors as Sophia Coppola, Noah Baumbach and Wes Anderson. Her studies of visual arts and the philosophy of aesthetics as an undergraduate at Gallatin contributed to her understanding and appreciation of artistic taste, mood and environment and continues to influence all that she makes. Francesca recently completed her short film, Mistakes Were Made, which won best short film at the Art and Soul of The Catskills Film Festival. She has also been working with her creative partner on documentary portraits for The Avant Garde Diaries, an online arts magazine created by Mercedes Benz. Francesca is currently in pre-production on another short film, as well as a documentary about the artist Meredith Monk.

Nicole A. Watson graduated from Gallatin with an M.A. in 2008 and is a freelance theater director and educator. Directing credits include We Play for the Gods (Women’s Project), Veil’d (Rising Circle), Foreign Bodies (Women CenterStage Festival), The Two Gentlemen of Verona (The 52nd Street Project) and Ti-Jean and His Brothers (NYU-Tisch School of the Arts). Nicole was the 2011 recipient of the League of Professional Theatre Women’s Josephine Abady Award. She is also a co-founder and producer of the Working Theater Directors Lab. A former history teacher, she taught at the McCarter Theater, the Museum of the City of New York and the Tribeca Film Institute. She also has a B.A. from Yale.