



The Susan Resneck Pierce Lectures in Public Affairs and the Arts series was named in honor of Susan Resneck Pierce, University of Puget Sound president from 1992 to 2003, in recognition of her years of outstanding service to the university. The lecture series brings to campus highly regarded writers, artists, and other public figures.

SUSAN RESNECK PIERCE LECTURES IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS & THE ARTS

2012 – Robert Reich

The Global Economy and the Future of Everything National

2012 – Carlos Fuentes

From Law to Literature: A Personal Journey

2011 – Kay Redfield Jamison

Minds on Fire: Mood Disorders and Creativity

2011 – Spike Lee

America Through My Lens

2009 – Sherman Alexie

Without Reservations: An Urban Indian's Comic, Poetic, and Highly Irreverent Look at the World

2009 – Suzan-Lori Parks

An Evening with Suzan-Lori Parks

2008 – Twyla Tharp

The Creative Habit

2008 – Cory Booker

An Evening with Cory Booker

2007 – David Brooks

How Does Being American Shape Us?

2007 – Philip Glass

An Evening with Philip Glass

2006 – Cornel West

Democracy Matters

2006 – Edward Albee

Improvisation and the Creative Mind

2005 – Fareed Zakaria

The Future of Freedom

2005 – Nina Totenberg

The Supreme Court and Its Impact on You

2004 – Robert Pinsky

Poetry in the World

2004 – Terry Tempest Williams

The Open Space of Democracy

2003 – Anna Deavere Smith

Snapshots: Glimpses of America in Change

2003 – David Halberstam

The Children: The Unique Courage and Faith of Ordinary Citizens to Change America

2002 – Thomas Friedman

Global Economy and American Foreign Policy

University of Puget Sound Presents

Wole Soyinka *Writing for Freedom*

SCHNEEBECK CONCERT HALL

FEBRUARY 7, 2013 • 8 P.M.

UNIVERSITY of
PUGET SOUND



Wole Soyinka

In awarding Soyinka the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986, the Swedish Academy cited the “sparkling vitality” and “moral stature” of his work and praised him as one “who in a wide cultural perspective and with poetic overtones fashions the drama of existence.” His is a formidable voice for his country and for the continent of Africa.

Born in 1934 in western Nigeria, Soyinka attended school in Ibadan before receiving an honors degree in English literature from Britain’s University of Leeds. He returned to Nigeria where his play, *A Dance in the Forest* (1960), thrust him to the forefront of Nigerian politics as a critic of opportunistic politicians who adopted the power abuses of their earlier colonial masters. His public appeal for a cease-fire in the Nigerian Civil War (1967–70) led to his imprisonment by the Nigerian government, spending two years alone in a 4-by-8-foot cell.

Soyinka’s plays cross genres, including satirical comedies and the philosophic plays *The Strong Breed* (1966) and *Death and the King’s Horseman* (1976). His other works include novels *The Interpreters* (1965) and *Season of Anomy* (1973); memoirs *The Man Died: Prison Notes* (1971), *Aké: The Years of Childhood* (1981), and *You Must Set Forth at Dawn* (2006); essay collection *Myth, Literature and the African World* (1976); poetry collection *Samarkand and Other Markets I Have Known* (2003); and many more. In November 2012, the 78-year-old writer published his most recent work, *Of Africa*, a volume of sweeping reflections on African culture, religion, and politics.

In addition to his prolific publishing of literary works, Professor Soyinka has taught at the University of Ibadan, at Harvard, Emory, Cambridge, Oxford, Yale, and at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is currently a professor in residence at Loyola Marymount, and remains deeply engaged in Nigerian politics and that country’s emergence as an independent democratic nation. Professor Soyinka speaks for a continent and a generation.



PROGRAM

Thursday, Feb. 7, 2013, 8 p.m.

Schneebeck Concert Hall

Introduction

Ronald R. Thomas
President

Wole Soyinka
Writing for Freedom

Questions and Answers

(Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.
No photo or recording devices allowed.)

Reception following the lecture
at Pierce Atrium in Wyatt Hall.