



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 annually brings to the University of Puget Sound campus and the wider community public intellectuals, writers, and artists of significant prominence.

## Susan Resneck Pierce Lectures in Public Affairs & the Arts

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**2013–Wole Soyinka**

Writing for Freedom

**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

*An Evening with  
Junot Díaz*

SCHNEEBECK CONCERT HALL

SEPTEMBER 17, 2013 | 8 P.M.



# Junot Díaz

Born in the Dominican Republic, Junot Díaz was raised in New Jersey and received a B.A. (1992) from Rutgers University and an M.F.A. (1995) from Cornell University. Díaz is a writer and a teacher of writing who expresses with wit and with piercing truth the complexities of living in two cultures at once, with an intensity that has been called “profane, lyrical, learned, and tireless.”

He is best known for his three major works: the short story collections *Drown* and *This is How You Lose Her* (a New York Times best-seller and National Book Award finalist), and the novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, which won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and National Book Critics Circle Award.

Díaz is the recipient of a MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship, PEN/Malamud Award, Dayton Literary Peace Prize, Guggenheim Fellowship, and PEN/O. Henry Award. His fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, which listed him as one of the 20 top writers for the 21st century, as well as in *Story*, *Paris Review*, and in the anthologies *Best American Short Stories* and *African Voices*.

Díaz is a trustee of Freedom University, a volunteer-driven organization that provides college-level instruction to all academically qualified students in the state of Georgia, regardless of immigration status. He is currently the fiction editor at *Boston Review* and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

# Program

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Tuesday, September 17, 2013, 8 p.m.

Schneebeck Concert Hall

Introduction

Ronald R. Thomas  
President

**Junot Díaz**

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.

