

# THE POETICS OF AGING

*Towards a New Understanding of the Many Verses in Life*

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(PoeticsofAging.org. August 31, 2011) San Francisco, CA - Musicians, directors, and actors are joining the inaugural Poetics of Aging Conference, November 16 - 19, 2011. The mission of the conference is to counter the belief that aging is decline and/or disease, but rather to “create a climate where people share their awareness and creative expressions, while providing room for self-study and discovery.”

To inspire attendees, a growing array of speakers will highlight each day's events, including John Gray (Men are from Mars), Dick Bolles (What Color Is Your Parachute), John Krumboltz (Happenstance), Nader Shabahangi (AgeSong), Patrick Fox (UCSF), Norm Amundson (Hope-Filled Engagement), and others interested in exploring the beauty and depth of life at any stage and age. Lead speakers will be joined by workshop, roundtable, and poster session presenters. Attendees also have an opportunity to participate in more informal events, such as an ongoing Creativity Lab and Bibliocafe. Throughout the conference, a bevy of well-known professional talent, from stage directors and professors to actors and musicians, will entertain attendees. Following is a short list of entertainers:

- Stanford professor Rush Rehm will direct dramatic interpretations of classics, from Joan Didion's “The Year of Magical Thinking,” “King Lear,” Beckett's “Happy Days,” “As You Like It,” along with poetry from Yeats, Sarton, Wilbur—and others.
- Artistic Director and Actor Josiah Polhemus will present Stagebridge, an arts organization that uses theatre and storytelling to bridge the generation gap by breaking down stereotypes and stimulating more positive attitudes toward aging.
- Attendees will be invited to participate in two improvisational groups; personal stories shared by audience members will be instantly transformed into improvised theater pieces by The Playback Theater Troupe, while The Anti-Witties, featuring Barbara Scott and Daniel Savio on piano, will create scenes on the spot and even improvise musical numbers based on suggestions from the audience.
- Discussions will follow actress/director Joy Carlin's scene from “Harold and Maude,” a play and famous movie about an unconventional intergenerational love story, and playwright Joan Holden's work dealing with breaking the stereotypes of aging working professionals. Holden and actress Joan Mankin, along with director Sharon Lockwood, will discuss their nearly 40-year collaboration starting with SF Mime Troupe.
- “Song of the Magpie” follows the journey of an older woman, though comfortably housed, who lives for a week as a homeless person, and then morphs into a street person speaking about

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what it's like to actually be old and homeless. Playwright/actress Martha Boesing portrays the dangers, hardships and the unexpected humanity that is found living in the Tenderloin of San Francisco.

- Bay Area treasure Faith Winthrop, an integral part of the San Francisco cultural fabric, will not only be performing during the conference, but will also be celebrating 80 years of life in song as both an international singer/songwriter and a leading specialist in vocal technique and performance skills. Faith was the founding director of Glide Memorial's now-famed ensemble and a faculty member at the SF Conservatory of Music.

Take advantage of online early registration at <http://poeticsofaging.org/registration>.

Media Questions? Contact Poetics of Aging, 415-431-8143, [info@poeticsofaging.org](mailto:info@poeticsofaging.org).