



COLORADO COLLEGE

Office of Communications

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For Immediate Release

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ROBERT SAPOLSKY, LYNDA BARRY KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AT CC'S 2018 CORNERSTONE ARTS WEEK

Weeklong events open with celebrated Inuit performer

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – Dec. 5, 2017 – Colorado College's Cornerstone Arts Week 2018 kicks off on Monday, Jan. 29 with a concert by a celebrated Inuit performer and wraps up on Saturday, Feb. 3 with the theatre production "The Man Who...", adapted from the book "The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat."

In between are two keynote lectures and a series of talks, screenings, performances and exhibits that examine this year's theme: "What is the Creative Brain?"

Robert Sapolsky, science and nature writer, biologist, neuroscientist and stress expert, will discuss "The Biology of Human Creativity: Are Our Tools That Much Better Than Chimps?" on Tuesday, Jan. 30.

Lynda Barry, who has worked as a painter, cartoonist, writer, illustrator, playwright, editor, commentator and teacher (and finds that they are very much alike), will discuss "What It Is" on Thursday, Feb. 1.

Cornerstone Arts Week opens with a performance titled "In Concert with Nanook of the North" by the Polaris Music Prize- and Juno Award-winning vocalist Tanya Tagaq and her ensemble.

"Nanook of the North" is considered the world's first major work of non-fiction filmmaking, yet it is rife with contradictions in its portrayal of the lives of an Inuk family in Arctic Canada. Its director, Robert Flaherty, lived and worked with Inuit for years, but still included staged scenes of buffoonery and feigned Inuit ignorance of modern accoutrements.



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Tagaq and a small ensemble perform a live accompaniment to the film's silent images of life in an early 20th-century Inuit community in Northern Quebec. Drawing on her childhood on Nunavut's Victoria Island, and on her mother's memories of forced relocation from the film's Northern Quebec location, Tagaq's sense of the sound of the Arctic spaces shown in the film transforms the images, adding feeling and depth to what is a complex mix of beautiful representations and racially charged clichés.

Tagaq in concert with "Nanook of the North" was commissioned by the Toronto International Film Festival, where it premiered to critical acclaim in 2012 as part of TIFF First Nations. "In Concert with Nanook of the North" will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 29 in the Celeste Theatre in the Cornerstone Arts Center and is free and open to the public.

Sapolsky, who will give a keynote address the following evening, is a MacArthur "Genius" fellow, professor of biology and neurology at Stanford University and a research associate with the Institute of Primate Research at the national Museum of Kenya. In 2008 *National Geographic* and PBS aired an hour-long special on stress featuring Sapolsky and his research.

He brings humanity to sometimes-sobering subject matters, which makes Sapolsky a sought-after speaker. He lectures widely on topics as diverse as stress and stress-related diseases, baboons, the biology of our individuality, the biology of religious belief, the biology of memory, schizophrenia, depression, aggression and Alzheimer's disease.

His books include "A Primate's Memoir," which won the 2001 Bay Area Book Reviewers Award in nonfiction, "The Biology of Humans at Our Best and Worst," "The Trouble with Testosterone," "Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers" and "Monkeyluv and Other Essays on our Lives as Animals. Sapolsky will speak at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 30 in the Celeste Theatre in the Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center.

Barry, the second keynote speaker, has been described by *The New York Times* as "among this country's greatest conjoiners of words and images, known for plumbing all kinds of touchy subjects in cartoons, comic strips and novels, both graphic and illustrated."

In 1979 while pursuing a career as a painter, Barry began drawing a weekly comic strip incorporating stories considered to be incompatible with comics at the time. Stories that "had a lot of trouble in them," as Barry puts it. Widely credited with expanding the literary, thematic and emotional range of American comics, Barry's seminal comic strip, "Ernie Pook's Comeek," ran in alternative newspapers across North America for 30 years.



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Her “Writing the Unthinkable” workshop, designed especially for non-writers, was the subject of a *New York Times Magazine* article and is the basis for her award-winning book, “What It Is.” She has authored 21 books, worked as a commentator for NPR, had a regular monthly feature in a variety of magazines, created an album-length spoke work collection of stories called “The Lynda Barry Experience” and was a frequent guest on the “Late Night Show with David Letterman.” Her first novel, “The Good Times are Killing Me,” was adapted into a long-running off-Broadway play, since published by Samuel French and performed throughout North America. She will present at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 1, in the Celeste Theatre in the Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center.

The Cornerstone Arts Initiative is a 17-year-old program in the creative arts departments of Colorado College that stresses collaborative interdisciplinary arts teaching linked by current and developing technologies.

This year’s keynote speakers, Sapolsky and Barry, join a long line of renowned Cornerstone Arts Initiative speakers, including Camille Paglia, Sandra Bernhard, David Henry Hwang, Tony Kushner, Jane Krakowski, Toni Morrison, Amy Tan, Maz Jobrani and Art Spiegelman.

The 2018 Cornerstone Arts Week also includes a Music at Midday performance; “The Creative Brain,” a student-designed and curated installation; and a film, “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind,” a romantic science fiction comedy-drama by Charlie Kaufman.

The final two nights of the week feature performances of “The Man Who...,” a play inspired by the 1985 book “The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat,” by eminent neurologist Oliver Sacks. The play was co-authored by Marie-Hélène Estienne and Peter Brook, who directed it and adapted into English. This version comes to Colorado Springs via CC Associate Professor of Theatre Andrew Manley.

Note that all events listed are free and open to the public.

Schedule of events:

Monday, Jan. 29, 2018

- **Performance:** Tanya Tagaq, “In Concert with Nanook of the North,” 7 p.m., Celeste Theatre, Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave.



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Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2018

- **Keynote Lecture #1:** Robert Sapolsky, "The Biology of Human Creativity: Are Our Tools That Much Better Than Chimps?," 7 p.m., Celeste Theatre, Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave.

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018

- **Music-at-Midday:** Music by CC creators, 12:15 p.m., Packard Hall, 5 W. Cache La Poudre St.
- **Student Installations:** "The Creative Brain," curated by CC students, 5-7 p.m., Main Space, Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave.
- **Film:** "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," written by Charlie Kaufman, introduced by CC students, 7 p.m., Screening Room, Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave.

Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018

- **Keynote Lecture #2:** Lynda Barry, "What It Is," 7 p.m., Celeste Theatre, Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave.

Friday, Feb. 2, 2018

- **Theatre:** "The Man Who...," 7 p.m., Studio C, Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave.

Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018

- **Theatre:** "The Man Who...," 7 p.m., Studio C, Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave.

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About Colorado College

Colorado College is a nationally prominent, four-year liberal arts college that was founded in Colorado Springs in 1874. The college operates on the innovative Block Plan, in which its approximately 2,000 undergraduate students study one course at a time in intensive 3½-week segments. The college also offers a master of arts in teaching degree. For more information, visit www.coloradocollege.edu