

**David Yezzi**

333 East 68th Street, Apt. 3D

New York, NY 10065

Home: (212) 535-9251 / Mobile: (646) 673-0116

[Dyezzi@aol.com](mailto:Dyezzi@aol.com)

August 2013–present

Visiting Associate Professor, The Writing Seminars, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

- Responsible for designing and teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in literature and poetry. Classes taught in the fall of 2013: “The Dramatic Element” (an undergraduate course in the dramatic aspects of lyric poetry), and a graduate poetry workshop. Courses for the spring of 2014: “Performing Fiction and Poetry: An Acting Class for Writers” on the oral presentation of poetry, from Shakespeare to contemporary verse, and “Tall Tales and Short: On Narrative Poetry,” with readings from Homer to the present. Also: Guest editor for *The Hopkins Review* (Summer 2014); faculty coordinator of the undergraduate reading series at the John Astin Theater at the Merrick Barn; and, beginning in the summer of 2014, co-director (with Eric Puchner) of the Introduction to Fiction and Poetry (IFP) curriculum.

July 2011–present

Visiting Faculty: Western State Colorado University, Gunnison, CO

- Responsible for designing and teaching graduate courses in WSCU’s low-residency MFA program in poetry. Created the syllabi for and taught classes in narrative forms, verse drama and satire, translation, prosody, and book reviewing.
- Responsible for teaching a two-week intensive in performing poetry during the summer residency in Gunnison each July.

Fall 2005–present

Faculty: Writing Program of the Unterberg Poetry Center, 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, New York, NY

- Responsible for designing and teaching a class each fall titled “Prosody: A Workshop,” which instruction in traditional verse technique, and one in the spring on the lyric.

**PUBLISHED WORK**

Books

*Anthony Hecht: A Poet and His Age* (St. Martin’s Press), authorized biography, forthcoming

*Birds of the Air: Poems* (Carnegie Mellon Poets Series) 2013

*Azores: Poems* (Swallow Press/Ohio University Press) 2008

*The Hidden Model: Poems* (TriQuarterly Books/Northwestern University Press) 2003

## Chapbooks

*Tomorrow & Tomorrow*, with an introduction by Denis Donoghue (Exot Books) 2012

*Sad Is Eros: Poems*, with a frontispiece by Fulvio Testa, fine-press edition (Aralia Press)  
2003

## Editions

*The Swallow Anthology of New American Poets*, with a foreword by J. D. McClatchy  
(Swallow Press/Ohio University) 2009

## **RELATED EXPERIENCE**

November 2003–present

Executive Editor (2005–2013); Poetry Editor (2003–present): *The New Criterion*, New York, NY

- Responsible for editing a monthly magazine of culture and the arts. Writers include John Simon, Cynthia Ozick, Denis Donoghue, Jay Parini, William Logan, Eric Ormsby, Geoffrey Hill, Michael Anderson, Laura Jacobs, Christian Wiman, and others. Past writers have included Donald Justice, D. S. Carne-Ross, John Harrington, W. D. Snodgrass, Hugh Kenner, Guy Davenport, and Jed Perl.

August 2001–November 2005

Director: The Unterberg Poetry Center of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, New York, NY.

- Responsible for curating the Poetry Center's more than fifty annual literary events and readings, which compose the main reading series, as well as the Biographers & Brunch, Critics & Brunch, and Afternoon Night Table lecture series. Authors hosted at the Poetry Center include John Updike, August Wilson, Billy Collins, Susan Sontag, Nadine Gordimer, Umberto Eco, Norman Mailer, Arthur Miller, Alice Walker, Robert Pinsky, Jonathan Franzen, Toni Morrison, Paul Auster, Saul Bellow, Julia Alvarez, David Mamet, Anthony Hecht, and many others.
- Responsible for preparing an annual budget and overseeing a five-person staff.
- Responsible for oversight of community outreach programs.

September 2000–February 2005

Associate Editor: *Parnassus: Poetry in Review*, New York, NY

- Responsible for assigning essays and editing for a semiannual literary magazine.

August 2000–August 2001

Chief Administrator: The New York Institute for the Humanities at New York University.

- Responsible for organizing and presenting a weekly lecture series on various aspects of the humanities for a fellowship of artists and intellectuals, including David Remnick, Andrew Delbanco, Aileen Ward, Morris Dickstein, Robert Silvers, Elizabeth Frank, Lawrence Weschler, Yusef Komunyakaa, and over a hundred others. Also: oversight and management of the Institute's budget.

## RELATED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2005–present

Instructor: “Performing Poetry”

A workshop in the public presentation of poetry, offered at Columbia University, Fairfield University, Fashion Institute of Technology, West Chester University, The Poetry Center of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, and elsewhere.

1999

Teaching Assistant: Stanford University, Stanford, CA.

Supervisor: Kenneth Fields, Professor of Creative Writing, 650-723-2300.

Taught one section of Poetry and Poetics to undergraduates. Responsible for leading classroom discussions and for criticizing and grading all written work.

## EDUCATION

- 1998-2000     Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305  
Six trimesters, non-degree fellowship.
- 1992-1995     School of the Arts, Writing Division, Poetry, Columbia University, New York,  
NY 10027 Four semesters, M.F.A., October 1995
- 1984-1988     Theater, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213; Eight  
semesters, B.F.A., May 1988
- 1980-1984     The Doane Stuart School, Albany, NY 12202, June 1984

## HONORS & PRIZES

- 2010             Pushcart Prize
- 2009             Poet-in-Residence, West Chester University
- 2008             *Slate* magazine “Best Books of the Year” for *Azores* (selected by Adam  
Kirsch)
- 1998             Stegner Fellowship
- 1995             David Craig Austin Memorial Thesis Prize, Columbia University
- 1986             The Academy of American Poets College Prize, Carnegie Mellon  
University
- 1986             The Thomas Auclair Memorial Prize for Theater, Carnegie Mellon  
University

## ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

### Libretti

*The Last Tycoon*, an opera in two acts, by Cyril Deaconoff. (Workshop production at West Bay Opera in Palo Alto, CA, in fall 2011)

*Firebird Motel: An Opera in One Act*, David Conte, composer (Compact disc by Arsis, released in 2007; premiere at Thick Description Theatre, Tony Kelly, director, San Francisco, Nov. 2003. (Numerous productions.)

### Plays

*Dirty Dan & Other Travesties*, an evening of verse monologues, with music by Chris Lee, directed by Richard Ryan, performed by Verse Theater Manhattan at the Bowery Poetry Club in New York, 2010

*On the Rocks*, directed by James Milton, performed by Verse Theater Manhattan at the Bowery Poetry Club in New York, 2007

### Anthologies (poems included in)

*The Best American Poetry 2012*, edited by Mark Doty and David Lehman

*The Best American Poetry 2006*, edited by Billy Collins and David Lehman

*Poetry Daily: Poems from the World's Most Popular Poetry Website* edited by Diane Boller, Don Selby, and Chryss Yost

*Poetry Speaks: Who I Am*, edited by Elise Paschen

*The Paris Review Book . . .*, edited by George Plimpton

*The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, edited by Bill Henderson

*Rabbit Ears: TV Poems*, edited by Joel Aligretti

### Criticism

*The Wall Street Journal*

2005-2011

Reviews of *Andrew Marvell: The Chameleon*, by Nigel Smith; Milton's *Paradise Lost*, edited with a forward by Philip Pullman; *Hart Crane: Poems & Letters*, edited by Langdon Hammer, *Edwin Arlington Robinson*, by Scott Donaldson, *The Making of a Sonnet: A Norton Anthology*, edited by Eavan Boland and Edward Hirsch, *Irving Thalberg: Boy Wonder to Producer Prince*, by Mark A. Viera; *On Poets & Poetry*, by William H. Pritchard; *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, edited by Martin Gardner.

*The New Criterion*

2005-2011

Essays: "The Dramatic Element," on the dramatic aspect of lyric poetry; "The Unrealist's Return," on neo-surrealism in poetry; "English Spoken Here,"

on the New Generation of British poets; *James Agee: Poems*, edited by Andrew Hudgins.

Reviews: Neo Rauch, Brice Marden, J. M. W. Turner, John Constable, Edward Hopper, Francis Bacon (feature).

Interviews: Rackstraw Downes, Philippe de Montebello, and Graham Nickson.

Also:

“The Fortunes of Formalism” (feature essay) April 2005

“A Conversation with Philip Pearlstein” Dec. 2004

“The Memory of Donald Justice” (feature essay) Nov. 2004

“The Morality of Anthony Hecht” (feature essay) April 2004

“The Place of Poetry” (feature essay) April 2003

“The Violence of Allen Tate” (feature essay) Sept. 2001

“Shorter Notice” (*The Selected Letters of Yvor Winters*, R. L. Barth, ed.) March

2001

“Shorter Notice” (*Other Traditions* by John Ashbery) Feb. 2001

“‘The Order Passion Yields’: i.m. Edgar Bowers, 1924-2000” (notebook) Nov.

2000

“Shorter Notice” (*Demons Don't* by Robert Conquest) June 2000

“Thomas Hardy and American Poetry” (feature essay) Dec. 1999

“A Profligate’s Reserve” (*My Dog Tulip & My Father and Myself* by J. R. Ackerley) Nov. 1999

“Confessional Poetry and the Artifice of Honesty” (feature essay) June 1998

“Our Saint--If We Had One” (*The Selected Letters of Marianne Moore*, Bonnie Costello et al., eds.) Feb. 1998

“The Seriousness of Yvor Winters” (feature essay) June 1997

“Shorter Notice” (*Brand* by Henrik Ibsen, Geoffrey Hill, trans.) March 1997

“An Introduction to Two Early Poems by T. S. Eliot” Dec. 1996

“Shorter Notice” (*Aleksandr Blok: A Life* by Nina Berberova) Oct. 1996

“Miss Rat and the Artists” (*Marianne Moore and the Visual Arts: Prismatic Color* by Linda Leavell) June 1996

“Whither Bynner?” (*Who Is Witter Bynner? A Biography* by James Kraft & *The Selected Witter Bynner: Poems, Plays, Translations, Prose, and Letters*, James Kraft, ed.) Jan. 1996

*The New York Times Book Review*

“An Expert on Human Failings” (Anthony Hecht memorial) Nov. 21, 2004

“Whistle While You Read” (*Reading Lyrics : More Than a Thousand of the Century’s Finest Lyrics*, edited by Robert Kimball and Robert Gottlieb) Dec. 3, 2000

“Last One Off the Barricade Turn Out the Lights” (*The Last Avant-Garde: The Making of the New York School of Poets* by David Lehman) Jan. 3, 1999

“Books in Brief”:

*Skeptical Music* by David Bromwich, March 3, 2000

*Lionel Trilling and the Critics: Opposing Selves*, John Rodden, ed., Oct. 24, 1999

*Inventing Paradise: The Greek Journey, 1937-47* by Edmund Keeley, Aug. 29,

1999

*Stealing Glimpses: Of Poetry, Poets, and Things In Between* by Molly McQuade, July 4, 1999

*Objects on a Table: Harmonious Disarray in Art and Literature* by Guy  
Davenport, Feb. 7, 1999  
*All of Us: Collected Poems* by Raymond Carver, Nov. 8, 1998

*The Yale Review*  
2005-2011

Reviews of books by Rachel Wetzsteon, Greg Williamson, Henri Cole, Turner  
Cassity, Thom Gunn, Tom Disch, and Robert Conquest.

*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

“Chapter and Verse: 90 Years of Poetry Magazine’s Good Works” Feb. 9, 2003

*The New York Sun*  
2002-2004

Pieces on the poet Daniel Hoffman and the filmmaker John Cassavetes  
“A Name for Everything” (Richard Wilbur) Nov. 30, 2004  
“The Man with the Bitter Sweet Way with the Lyric” (Cole Porter) June 8, 2004  
“In Memoriam: Thom Gunn 1929-2004” May 4, 2004  
“In Memoriam: Michael Donaghy 1954-2004” Sept. 27, 2004  
“The Baroque Mastery of Anthony Hecht” Sept. 24, 2003  
“A Poet Finding America” (*The Nerve*, by Glynn Maxwell) Nov. 27, 2002  
“Is Geoffrey Hill Our Greatest Living Poet?” Nov. 6, 2002  
“Earl Scruggs Gets His Due” (*Earl Scruggs: Classic Bluegrass Live*) Aug. 27,  
2002  
“More Treasures for the Berg” (“Victorians, Moderns and Beats: New in the  
Berg Collection, 1994-2001”) July 2, 2002

*The Times Literary Supplement*

“Courting Sleep” (*Jersey Rain* by Robert Pinsky) Aug. 25, 2000  
“The Implacable Tug” (*The Selected Poems of Yvor Winters*, R. L. Barth, ed.)  
Nov. 5, 1999

*The New Yorker*

“Briefly Noted”:  
*The Throne of Labdacus* by Gjertrud Schnackenberg, Nov. 20, 2000  
*Stake: Selected Poems 1972-1992* by Alfred Corn, Mar. 13, 2000  
*Squares and Courtyards* by Marilyn Hacker, Feb. 14, 2000  
*The Anchorage* by Mark Wunderlich, Jan. 17, 2000  
*Flashboat: Poems Collected and Reclaimed* by Jane Cooper, Jan. 10, 2000  
*Trappings* by Richard Howard, Nov. 1, 1999  
*The Engrafted Word* by Karl Kirchwey, Sept. 28, 1998  
*The Bird Catcher* by Marie Ponsot, Aug. 3, 1998

*Poetry* (Chicago)

“Short Reviews” (Kay Ryan, Charles Bukowski, Janet Lewis, Michael  
Blumenthal, and A. E. Stallings) May 2001

- “ ‘A Passion Joined to Courtesy and Art’ ” (*Mayflies: New Poems and Translations & Responses: Prose Pieces, 1953-1976. Expanded Edition* by Richard Wilbur) Feb. 2001
- “Short Reviews” (Albert Goldbarth, Mary Jo Salter, Pimone Triplett, Craig Arnold, Margaret Holly) April 2000
- “Short Reviews” (Turner Cassity, Andrew Hudgins, Stephen Sandy, Barbara Jordan, Elizabeth Seydel Morgan) June 1999
- “Short Reviews” (Frank Bidart, Enid Shomer, Ann Lauterbach, Marvin Bell, Pamela Alexander, Michael Waters) Aug. 1998

*Parnassus: Poetry in Review*

- “Leveling the Spirit” (*The Spirit Level* by David Barber) Vol. 24:2
- “Helicon’s Filmmaker” (Andrei Tarkovsky) Vol. 22:1, 22:2
- “To Turn Again” (Stanley Kunitz) Vol. 21:1, 21:2
- “Thomas M., Meet Tom” (Tom Disch) Vol. 20:1, 20:2
- “A Morality of Seeing” (Lawrence Joseph) Vol. 19:2
- “Short Takes” (Carl Dennis, David Trinidad) Vol. 18:2, 19:1
- “Short Takes” (Robert Peters, Richard Emil Braun) Vol. 17:2, 18:1

*Commonweal*

- “Straying Close to Home” (*Emily Dickinson and the Art of Belief* by Roger Lundin) Oct. 9, 1998
- “The Poet’s Duty of Opacity” (*Canaan* by Geoffrey Hill) Nov. 7, 1997

*Art News*

- Michael Mulhern at Rosenberg + Kaufman, Oct. 1998

*Boston Review*

- For a Modest God: New and Selected Poems* by Eric Ormsby, Oct./Nov. 1998

*Verse*

- Ten Commandments* by J. D. McClatchy, Vol. 16:2
- Album of Domestic Exiles* by Andrew Sant, Vol. 15:3, 16:1
- Collected Poems* by Edgar Bowers, Vol. 14:2
- New and Selected Poems* by Donald Justice, Vol. 13:2, 13:3

*Sewanee Review*

- (*Night Music* by L. E. Sissman) Winter 2001
- “The Sorrow of Thought, the Play of Poetry” (*After All: Last Poems* by William Matthews) Summer 1999

*PN Review* (England)

- “Thomas Hardy and American Poetry” (reprint) Jan./Feb. 2000
- “Too Soon Spent” (*After All: Last Poems* by William Matthews) July/Aug. 1999
- “Our Saint--If We Had One” (*The Selected Letters of Marianne Moore*, Bonnie Costello et al., eds.) (reprint) May/June 1998

*The Dictionary of Literary Biography*

- An entry on Charles Martin, 2003

## Catalogue Essays

*Michael Mulhern: New Paintings* (Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York) Jan.-Feb. 2001

*Obiettivo Twin Towers: Photographs* (Verona, Italy) May-July 2002

## Academic Papers & Panels

“Poets of Key West,” on the work of Richard Wilbur, Poetry Society of America at the New York Botanical Garden, April 2014

““Power of Some Sort or Other”” On Poetry and Prayer,” keynote address, Writing the Rockies Conference, Western State Colorado University, July 2012.

“Transposingly in Love: On Anthony Hecht & Shakespeare,” Poetry Symposium, Writing the Rockies Conference, Western State Colorado University, July 2012.

“These Are the Poems, Folks: On Jokes and Poetry,” Poetry Symposium, Writing the Rockies Conference, Western State Colorado University, July 2011.

“Cassandra at the Evening Window: The Visions of Louise Gluck,” University of the South, November 3, 2010.

“Romare Bearden: Piano Lessons & Others,” Studio School of Drawing, Painting, and Sculpture, New York, November 10, 2010.

“The Rest Is Criticism,” Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado, July 31, 2010.

“The Dramatic Element,” Poet-in-Residence address, West Chester University Poetry Conference, June 10, 2009.

“Anthony Hecht and Landscape,” West Chester University Poetry Conference, June 10, 2005.

“The Fortunes of Formalism,” Baltimore Writers Conference, Towson University, November 13, 2004

“Poetry in the World,” The Huntington Library’s conference on contemporary poetry, Los Angeles, CA, April 12, 2003.

“Edgar Bowers & Allen Tate,” UCLA, April 11, 2002. Presented at the Edgar Bowers Conference and Exhibition.

“Poetry As a Job of Work,” West Chester University, June 5-8, 2002. Participated in a panel discussion on “Writing Outside the Academy” at the West Chester University Poetry Conference.



“ ‘An Insular Tahiti’: Yvor Winters’s ‘Slow Pacific Swell,’ ” Stanford University, Nov. 16-18, 2000. Presented a paper at the Yvor Winters Centenary Symposium.

“The Solemn Games of Geoffrey Hill,” Belmont Abbey College, NC, Sept. 23, 2000. Presented, along with Christopher Ricks, a paper on Hill’s work on the occasion of Hill’s receipt of the T. S. Eliot Award for Creative Writing.

“The Poet As Critic,” West Chester University, June 7-11, 2000. Participated in a panel discussion with Michael Lind on poets and contemporary poetry criticism at the West Chester University Poetry Conference.

### Prizes Judged

*The New Criterion Poetry Prize*, 2002 and 2004-present  
with Roger Kimball and others

NEA poetry fellowship panel, September 2004

*The Ross Feld Prize*, 2002  
with Brenda Wineapple and Molly McQuade

*The Poetry Society of New Hampshire, 2003 National Contest*