

David Yezzi

38 Warrenton Road
Baltimore, MD 21210
(646) 673-0116
Dyezzi@jhu.edu

July 2013–present

Professor, The Writing Seminars, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
[Visiting Professor, 2013-14; Associate Professor, 2014-2022; Department Chair, 2016-2020; Interim Chair, Fall 2021; Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies, Spring 2023]

- Responsible for designing and teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in literature and poetry. Classes taught include: “The Dramatic Element,” an undergraduate course in the dramatic aspects of lyric poetry; “Performing Fiction and Poetry,” on the oral presentation of literature, from Shakespeare to contemporary texts; “Tall Tales and Short: On Narrative Poetry,” with readings from Homer to the present; “Lives of the Poets,” on the uses of biography in literary interpretation and criticism; “Line and Lineage,” a survey of poetry in English from Chaucer to the present; and “Sound and Sense: A Graduate Poetry Workshop,” on the expressive capacities of musical language. Also: founder and faculty coordinator of the undergraduate reading series LitBarn at the John Astin Theatre at the Merrick Barn; co-director (with Eric Puchner) of the Introduction to Fiction and Poetry (IFP) curriculum, 2016-2018; and co-founder of the HOT L Poets Series at Bird in Hand Bookstore in Charles Village.
- As Chair: Responsible for directing Hopkins’s graduate and undergraduate creative writing program, overseeing tenure and promotion applications, course scheduling, and new hires.

August 2014–2021

Editor: *The Hopkins Review*, Baltimore, MD [Editor Emeritus, 2021–present]

- Editor of a national quarterly journal of the arts and culture. Contributors include Mark Strand, Harold Bloom, Denis Donoghue, Shane McCrae, Colm Toibin, A. E. Stallings, William Bailey, Erica Dawson, William H. Pritchard, Rachel Hadas, Terrance Hayes, Ilya Kaminsky, and Aafa Michael Weaver. Created a web presence for the magazine, which greatly expanded its reach. As of 2020, the journal began turning a modest profit for the department. Work from the *Review* appears regularly in *The Best American Poetry* anthologies and *The Pushcart Prize* anthologies.

July 2011–July 2014

Visiting Professor: Western State Colorado University, Gunnison, CO

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

RELATED EXPERIENCE

November 2003–June 2019

Poetry Editor (2003–2019); Executive Editor (2005–2013): *The New Criterion*, New York, NY

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

Fall 2005–Fall 2019

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

- Responsible for designing and teaching a twice-yearly course entitled “Prosody: A Workshop,” with instruction in the use of traditional verse techniques, including rhyme, meter, and inherited forms.

August 2001–November 2005

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

- Responsible for curating and introducing 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 supervising a five-person staff.
- Responsible for oversight of community outreach programs in New York public schools and at the Union Settlement House in El Barrio.

September 2000–February 2005

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

- Responsible for commissioning essays and reviews and editing for a semiannual literary magazine. Contributors include Helen Vendler, Seamus Heaney, Guy Davenport, Yusef Komunyakaa, and others.

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.
- Oversight and management of the Institute’s budget.

EDUCATION

- 1998-2000 Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry, Stanford University, Stanford, CA,
non-degree fellowship.
- 1992-1995 School of the Arts, Writing Division, Poetry, Columbia University, New York,
M.F.A.
- 1984-1988 Theater, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, B.F.A.
- 1980-1984 The Doane Stuart School, Albany, NY

PUBLISHED WORK

Books

Late Romance: Anthony Hecht—A Poet's Life (St. Martin's Press), November 2023
(*New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice; *Times Literary Supplement*
"Book of the Year")

More Things in Heaven: New and Selected Poems (Measure Press), February 2022

Black Sea: Poems (Carnegie Mellon Poets Series), March 2018

Schnauzer: A Play in One Act (Exot Books), December 2017

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

HONORS & PRIZES

- 2022 Short-Term Visiting Fellowship, Jesus College, Oxford (Trinity Term)
2017 Bogliasco Foundation Study Center Fellowship, Bogliasco, Italy
2017 Engaged Faculty Fellowship, Center for Social Concern, Johns Hopkins University
2016 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Arts Innovation Grant, Johns Hopkins University
2012 Chaffee Visiting Writer, Johns Hopkins University
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 Wallace Stegner Fellowship in Poetry, Stanford University
1995 David Craig Austin Memorial Thesis Prize, Columbia University (selected by Jorie Graham)
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

East of Eden, an opera in two acts, by David Conte, current project

“America Song,” a cantata, music by Ryan Williams, 2017

The Last Tycoon, an opera in two acts, by Cyril Deaconoff. (Workshop production of Act I 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). Multiple productions.

Plays

“More Things in Heaven,” a verse monologue performed as part of Syracuse Stage’s virtual Poetry and Play project, 2021.

Schnauzer, The Baltimore Poets Theater at Single Carrot Theater, Baltimore, February 2016. Staged reading at Red Harlem Readers, New York City, April 2019.

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, staged reading performed by Verse Theater Manhattan at the Bowery Poetry Club in New York, 2007; full production by Kaasterskill Actors Theater, 2016.

Anthologies (poems included in)

On the Verge: Poets of the Palisades III, 2020, edited by Paul Nash, et al.
Resistance, Rebellion. Life: 50 Poems Now, 2017, edited by Amit Majmudar
Jiggery-Pokery Semicentennial, 2016, edited by Daniel Groves & Greg Williamson
Still Life with Poem, 2016, edited by Jehanne Dubrow and Lindsey Lusby
Rabbit Ears: TV Poems, 2015, edited by Joel Aligretti
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 Chrissy 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

Criticism

The New York Times Book Review

“Hallowed Man” (Robert Crawford’s *Young Eliot*) August 21, 2015
“An Expert on Human Failings” (Memorial Tribute for the Poet Anthony Hecht)
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 Wall Street Journal, regular contributor, 2005-present

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. Also, biographies of the poets Ivor Gurney (forthcoming), E. E. Cummings, James Wright, and Robert Graves.

The New Criterion, 2005-2019

Essays: Retrospectives on Derek Walcott (forthcoming), Mark Strand, and John Hollander, "Anthony Hecht and the Trauma of War," "Transposingly in Love: Hecht and Shakespeare," "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, and John Dubrow.

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 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

Feature essays on the poets Louise Gluck (2012), William Logan (2014), and Marie Ponsot (2016).
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

Entry on Charles Martin, 2003

Catalogue Essays

John Dubrow: Catalogue Raisonné, current project

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

- “What Is a Poem?: ” Poetry by the Sea Conference, Madison, CT, May 23, 2024
- “Hecht and Auden in Ischia,” ALSCW Conference, University of Houston, TX, October 13, 2023
- “Shakespeare’s *Midsummer*: Dream or Nightmare?”, West Chester Poetry Conference, West Chester University, June 11, 2023
- “A Biographer Prepares,” ALSCW Conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT, October 21, 2022
- “On Anthony Hecht’s ‘Swan Dive,’” ALSCW Conference, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, October 2020
- “Anthony Hecht’s Barren Places: ‘The Feast of Stephen’ & the American Sonnet,”
Sonnets from the American: Virtual Symposium & Critical Anthology, Fall 2020
- Keynote Poetry Reading, West Chester University Poetry Conference, WCU, June 2019
- “From Day to Day: Shakespeare, Frost, and Hecht,” MLA Conference, 2018
- “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. 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

Able Muse Book Prize, 2023

Poetry Out Loud, The Doane Stuart School, Albany, NY, 2023

Richard Wilbur Award, University of Evansville, 2020

Andrew W. Mellon Arts Grants, Johns Hopkins, 2014–2019

Hollis Summers Prize, Swallow Press/University of Ohio Press, 2006

The New Criterion Poetry Book Prize, 2002, 2004–2019

National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Fellowships, September 2004

The Poetry Society of New Hampshire Poetry Prize, 2003

The Ross Feld Prize, Parnassus: Poetry in Review, 2002–3

Advisory Boards

The Robert Frost Society, 2021-present

Literary Matters, 2022-present

Association of Literary Scholar, Critics, and Writers, 2022-present

The Baltimore Shakespeare Factory, 2024-present