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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE  
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
TO READ AND CELEBRATE  
THE MALTESE FALCON  
BY DASHIELL HAMMETT  
DURING  
THE BIG READ PROGRAM IN LOS ANGELES**

Los Angeles - The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to host The Big Read Program in Los Angeles. DCA is one of 208 libraries, municipalities, and arts, culture, higher education, and science organizations nationwide to receive a Big Read grant. The Big Read initiative gives communities the opportunity to come together to read, discuss, and celebrate one of 23 selections from American and world literature. The Big Read Program in Los Angeles will celebrate *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett and feature a series of activities throughout the City designed for all ages. (Please refer to the following detailed schedule of activities).

The latest batch of Big Read grantees represents 46 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To date, the NEA has given more than 500 grants to support local Big Read projects.

"The Big Read Program in Los Angeles will demonstrate the power of reading to bring people of all ages and backgrounds together. During the month of November, high school students, and teachers will join residents throughout the City and participate in reading groups, youth activities, tours, lectures, and film screenings designed to motivate us all to read, learn, and communicate," said Antonio R. Villaraigosa, Mayor's of Los Angeles.

"Everything the NEA does we do in partnership. I am delighted to announce our 208 new partners in The Big Read. Some are new to the program, some are returning, but all of them have answered the call to action to get our country reading again," said NEA Chairman Dana Gioia.

The selected organizations will receive Big Read grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000 to promote and carry out community-based reading programs featuring activities such as read-a-thons, book discussions, lectures, movie screenings, and performing arts events. Participating communities also receive high-quality, free-of-charge educational materials to supplement each title, including Reader's, Teacher's, and Audio Guides.



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"With this latest round of grants, I am proud to say that The Big Read has supported more than 500 public library partnerships," said Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the NEA's lead federal partner for The Big Read. "Through this program, public libraries continue to demonstrate their value in communities as centers of engagement, literacy, and lifelong learning. I am particularly delighted by the innovative public programming born out of library and museum collaborations."

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Support for The Big Read is provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Transportation for The Big Read is provided by Ford.

For more information about The Big Read initiative, please visit:

[www.neabigread.org](http://www.neabigread.org)

For information about DCA's The Big Read Program in Los Angeles, please visit:

<http://www.culturela.org/bigread/index.html>

## LOS ANGELES BIG READ ACTIVITIES

### The Big Read Kick Off Celebration

Students from participating schools who have been reading *The Maltese Falcon* will be taking a journey back to the 1930s. First stop: they'll view a classic car exhibition including a 1931 LAFD fire truck, a 1929 Model A Ford police car, and several other vehicles of the period. Next, the time travelers will hear Max Zooi's Student Quartet performing live jazz tunes from the era.

After seeing, hearing, and sensing the 1930's, guests will venture inside the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre to be greeted by Dashiell Hammett's own granddaughter, Julie Rivett.

The 1930's are brought to life upon the stage by the Long Beach Shakespeare Company, presenting scenes from the play version of *The Maltese Falcon*. Celebrity Sam Spade aficionados will interact with the actors and students. The Los Angeles Zoo will close the show with a demonstration of a live falcon, which will bring us all back to the present - "The stuff that dreams are made of!"

**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Barnsdall Park, 4800 Hollywood Boulevard. Los Angeles, CA 90027

**Ages:** 15 to 18

**Information:** Anisa Dillihay at 323.644.6272



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### Maltese Falcon Exhibition

A visual exhibition, provided courtesy of the Hammett Literary Estate, will be presented throughout The Big Read Program in Los Angeles. The display will feature the American and British first edition prints of the novel, photographs of the author, relevant correspondence, as well as original movie posters and memorabilia from the 1941 film. Learn more about the author and take a visual tour through the early days of pulp fiction.

**Dates:** November 3 to 30, Monday through Friday, 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Barnsdall Park Junior Arts Center Gallery, 4800 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90027

**Ages:** All

**Information:** Jeffrey Herr at 323.913.4031

### The Sony Pictures Media Arts Program

Sixty young people enrolled in classes offered throughout Los Angeles will learn film animation and computer editing techniques. Students enrolled in the fall program will read the novel and each site will create its own short film version. A selection of the final short films will be shown to the public at the culminating Big Read event film screening at the Warner Grand Theatre on November 22.

**Dates:** October through November, After School

**Location:** The Sony Pictures Media Arts Program is offered at the following locations:  
The Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center and the Watts Towers Arts Center in Watts  
Banning's Landing Community Center in San Pedro  
William Reagh Los Angeles Photography Center near Downtown Los Angeles  
Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock in North-East Los Angeles  
San Fernando Gardens Housing Project in Pacoima

**Ages:** 13 to 15

**Information:** Leslie Thomas at 310.522.2015

*The Sony Pictures Media Arts Program is a partnership of the Department of Cultural Affairs, Sony Pictures, and the California Institute of the Arts (Cal Arts).*



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### **In-School Programs**

In alliance with Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa's Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, the Los Angeles Unified School District, and the Hollywood Entertainment Museum, the following high schools are participating in The Big Read Program in Los Angeles:

Hollywood Entertainment Museum's  
"The Film Academy" at Morningside High School  
Lincoln High School  
Marshall High School  
Roosevelt High School  
Santee Education Complex

At Roosevelt High School, parents will also read the novel in Spanish along with the students. The Hollywood Entertainment Museum's "The Film Academy" is a school serving youth on probation. Participating students will read the novel as part of the required curriculum, discuss the novel's themes of honor and loyalty, and learn about the 1930s time period. Over 1,000 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will read the novel and engage in The Big Read activities.

**Dates:** October through November  
**Ages:** 15 to 18  
**Information:** Elizabeth Morin at 213.202.5567

### **DCA Programs at Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers**

DCA's Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers are offering the following special youth activities and art projects based on the novel:

#### **Canoga Park Youth Arts Center**

**Digital Darkroom** - Students will produce still photos honoring the Film Noir tradition and learn about film techniques associated with this genre including black and white and atmospheric photo qualities. Students will create photographs based on the content of the novel. During the class, students will read selections of the story and view scenes from the film.

**Dates:** Saturdays, October 4 to November 22, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Canoga Park Youth Arts Center, 7222 Remmet Avenue, Canoga Park, CA 91303  
**Ages:** 12 to 17  
**Information:** Stuart Vaughan at 818.346.7099  
**Cost:** \$48 / 8 Weeks



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**Open Studio for Teens** - Students will learn the art of shadow puppetry and create puppets based on characters in *The Maltese Falcon*, culminating in a shadow puppet version of the story. During the class session, students will read selections from the novel and view scenes from the film. Students will learn about the literature that influenced the films in the 1930s and 40s.

**Dates:** Tuesdays, September 29 to November 18, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Canoga Park Youth Arts Center, 7222 Remmet Avenue, Canoga Park, CA 91303

**Ages:** 12 to 17

**Information:** Stuart Vaughan at 818.346.7099

**Cost:** \$48 / 8 Weeks

The work of students from both classes will be shown at the culminating event at the Warner Grand Theatre on November 22.

### **Sun Valley Youth Arts Center**

Activities are designed for students in LAUSD schools enrolled in the Sun Valley Youth Arts Center programs. Students will read and create art projects inspired by *The Maltese Falcon*, and their art work will be on display at the Barnsdall Junior Arts Center Gallery throughout November. All programs are free and open to the public.

West Mark Senior High School students will create a Photo Novela (graphic novel) version of the story.

Sun Valley Middle School students will create a comic book version of the story.

Sun Valley Youth Arts Center students will create Maltese Falcon clay sculptures.

**Dates:** October 1 to 30

**Location:** Sun Valley Youth Arts Center, 8642 Sunland Boulevard, Sun Valley, CA 91352

**Ages:** 12 to 17

**Information:** Jesus Rangel at 818.202.4619



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**William Grant Still Youth Arts Center**

A series of one-day workshops will encourage young adults to read the novel through book giveaways, staged readings, and art projects. All programs are free and open to the public.

**Big Read Book Club for Youth** - Free books and readers' guides will be given, and tutors will be available at the center.

**Date:** Saturday, November 1, 12:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** 15 to 18

**Staged Reading of *The Maltese Falcon* Film Script** - Come and enjoy a great story presented by professional actors!

**Date:** Saturday, November 8, 12:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** All

**Poster Workshop** - Youths will create their own movie posters to take home. Poster boards, markers, and paint will be provided.

**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** 6 to 12

**Poster Workshop** - Older students will create their own movie posters to take home. Poster boards, markers, and paint will be provided.

**Date:** Saturday, November 15, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** 12 and Older

**Location:** William Grant Still Youth Arts Center, 2520 South West View Street, Los Angeles, CA 90002

**Information:** Joyce Maddox at 323.734.1164

**DCA's Community Film Screenings of *The Maltese Falcon* in Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley**

Free screenings of the film will be shown in Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley.

**Hollywood Screenings:**

Two screenings will be shown indoors at DCA's Barnsdall Gallery Theatre at Barnsdall Park.

**Date:** Saturday, November 8 at 12 p.m. (with subtitles in Spanish) and at 2 p.m.  
**Location:** Barnsdall Gallery Theatre, 4800 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90027  
**Ages:** All  
**Information:** Anisa Dillihay at 323.644.6272



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### San Fernando Valley Screening:

An evening outdoor screening of the film will be presented at the Sun Valley Youth Arts Center.

Bring a blanket, some refreshments, and enjoy the film under the night sky.

**Date:** Saturday, November 15 at 7 p.m.

**Location:** Sun Valley Youth Arts Center, 8642 Sunland Boulevard, Sun Valley, CA 91352

**Ages:** All

**Information:** Jesus Rangel at 818.252.4619

### L.A. NOIR-itecture Tour

Join us as we explore the literary and cinematic landscape of the historic city, where the buildings are as dramatic as the stories themselves. This tour, presented in partnership with the Los Angeles Conservancy, will feature docent-led tours of seven historic locations from the works of Los Angeles-based noir authors Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler, James M. Cain, and James Ellroy, among others. The historic buildings provide the authenticity craved by authors and filmmakers alike, alive with the city's past, often glorious and sometimes shady.

**Date:** Sunday, November 9, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Various sites. Directions provided with ticket purchase.

Tour stops include:

The Warner Bros. Studios lot where Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon* was filmed.

The Formosa Café, the iconic West Hollywood watering hole featured in the 1997 film adaptation of James Ellroy's *L.A. Confidential*.

The Glendale Railroad Depot, featured in James M. Cain's *Double Indemnity*.

Parva-Sed-Apta Apartments in Hollywood, where Nathanael West lived while he penned *The Day of the Locust*.

**Ages:** All

**Information:** For tickets and up-to-date tour information, visit [www.laconservancy.org](http://www.laconservancy.org) or call 213.623.2489.

**Cost:** The tour costs \$30 for the general public, \$25 for Los Angeles Conservancy members, and \$10 for children 12 and under.

*The Los Angeles Conservancy is a nonprofit membership organization that works through education and advocacy to recognize, preserve, and revitalize the historic architectural and cultural resources of Los Angeles County.*



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## Zócalo Noir Lecture and Reception

In coordination with the Zócalo Public Square Lecture Series, join us for a free brunch and panel discussion.

Topic: **Dashiell Hammett...in L.A.?**

We can be forgiven for thinking of Dashiell Hammett as a San Francisco writer. *The Maltese Falcon* takes place in Northern California, where Hammett somehow transformed himself from a tubercular detective for the Pinkerton Agency into a novelist for the ages.

But Hammett's roots in Los Angeles run deep. Here, in the 30s, he worked on several pictures while under contract to the studios. Here he began his lifelong affair with Lillian Hellman. And here he returned frequently over the years to visit his beloved daughters.

Zócalo and DCA bring together a panel of writers, family members, and scholars to culminate L.A.'s month-long celebration of this great California novelist. Among the mysteries and questions sure to crop up are: Why did Hammett fall creatively silent for the last three decades of his life? How did he influence the LA Noir scene? And the ultimate, unanswerable question: Hammett or Chandler?

### Panelists:

#### **David Kipen, Director of Literature, National Reading Initiatives, NEA - Moderator**

David Kipen joined the National Endowment for the Arts in September 2005 as the Director of Literature. More recently, Kipen was appointed Director of Literature, National Reading Initiatives. Beginning in 2000, David Kipen was the book critic for the San Francisco Chronicle, where he reviewed six to eight books each month. He was also a book critic and essayist for National Public Radio's "Day to Day" program and presented Santa Monica station KCRW-FM's weekly commentary and podcast "Overbooked."

**Richard Laymon** is the editor of *Discovering The Maltese Falcon and Sam Spade*, and has written six books on Dashiell Hammett, including *Literary Masterpieces: The Maltese Falcon*, *Dashiell Hammett: A Descriptive Bibliography*, and *Shadow Man: The Life of Dashiell Hammett*. He was nominated for an Edgar Award by the Mystery Writers of America for editing *Selected Letters of Dashiell Hammett, 1921-1960*, and has been nominated for another Edgar Award for *Discovering The Maltese Falcon and Sam Spade*.

**Tom Nolan** reviews mystery fiction for the Wall Street Journal and has been a contributing editor for California and Los Angeles magazines. He has also written for Rolling Stone, Playboy, TV Guide, and the Los Angeles Times. He is the author of several books, including *Ross Macdonald: a Biography*.

**Julie Rivett** is one of four grandchildren of Dashiell Hammett. Working with Hammett scholar Richard Laymon, she helped to edit both *Selected Letters of Dashiell Hammett 1921-1960* and her mother's memoir, *Dashiell Hammett: A Daughter Remembers*. To celebrate the publication of *Selected Letters* in 2001, she also curated "Dashiell Hammett: A Life in Letters," one of the most successful exhibits ever held at the San Francisco Public Library.





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**Vince Emory** is the publisher of the Ace Performer Collection-Books by and about Dashiell Hammett. Mr. Emory is the editor of *Lost Stories*, a book of rare "lost" Hammett Stories.

**Date:** Saturday, November 22, 11:00 a.m.

**Location:** Barnsdall Gallery Theatre, 4800 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90027

**Ages:** All

**Information:** For more information, please visit [www.zocaloLA.org](http://www.zocaloLA.org) or call 213.403.0416

*Bringing together an extraordinarily diverse group of Angelenos, Zócalo - "Public Square" in Spanish - seeks to create a non partisan and multiethnic forum where participants can enjoy a rare opportunity for intellectual fellowship.*

***The Maltese Falcon Culminating Film Screening at the Warner Grand Theatre***

Rarely displayed in a theatrical setting, a 35mm print of the 1941 Warner Bros. film, *The Maltese Falcon* starring Humphrey Bogart, will be shown on the historic Warner Grand Theatre's 30 by 50 foot screen courtesy of Warner Bros. Classics. Preceding the film will be a presentation by family members and a noted Hammett scholar who will provide a behind-the-scenes introduction of the making of the film, and discuss relationships between Dashiell Hammett, John Huston, and Humphrey Bogart. In addition, film shorts from students in the Sony Pictures Media Arts Program and DCA's Canoga Park Youth Arts Center will be shown.

**Date:** Saturday, November 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Warner Grand Theatre, 478 West 6th Street, San Pedro, CA 90731

**Ages:** All

**Information:** Please visit the theater website at [www.warnergrand.org](http://www.warnergrand.org), or call the Box Office at 310.548.7672.

**Cost:** Tickets are \$10 for general admission, and \$5 for seniors over 60 and for students with valid identification. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.warnergrand.org](http://www.warnergrand.org), or in person at the theater Box Office.

**Los Angeles Big Read Partners**

The Big Read Program in Los Angeles is produced by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and is made possible through partnerships with the following organizations:

- The National Endowment for the Arts
- Partnership for Los Angeles Schools
- Sony Pictures
- Los Angeles Unified School District
- Hollywood Entertainment Museum
- California Institute for the Arts
- The Los Angeles Conservancy
- Zócalo Public Square Lecture Series
- Random House Books
- Friends of the Warner Grand Theatre
- KCET-TV
- Warner Bros. Classics



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### **About DCA**

The **Department of Cultural Affairs** (DCA) generates and supports high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles residents and visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and assures access to arts and cultural experiences through grant making, marketing, public and community arts programming, arts education, and creating partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in every community in the City of Los Angeles.

DCA grants \$3.4 million annually to over 300 artists and nonprofit arts organizations and awards the Artist-in-Residence (A.I.R.) and City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships. The Department provides arts and cultural programming in its numerous Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers, theaters, and historic sites, and manages several arts and education programs for young people. It directs public art projects and manages the City's Arts Development Fee and Percent for Arts Programs, and the Art Collection and Murals Programs. DCA markets the City's cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative promotional materials, and management of the [culturela.org](http://culturela.org) website.

### **About the NEA**

**National Endowment for the Arts** is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts—both new and established—bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Arts Endowment is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases. For more information, please visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).

### **About The Institute of Museum and Library Services**

**The Institute of Museum and Library Services** is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. For more information, please visit [www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov).

### **About Arts Midwest**

**Arts Midwest** connects people throughout the Midwest and the world to meaningful arts opportunities, sharing creativity, knowledge, and understanding across boundaries. Arts Midwest connects the arts to audiences throughout the nine-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. One of six non-profit regional arts organizations in the United States, Arts Midwest's history spans more than 25 years. For more information, please visit [www.artsmidwest.org](http://www.artsmidwest.org).