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**HUMANITIES WEST PRESENTS**  
**LECTURE PRESENTATION**  
**"*Aristophanes and the Eleusinian Mysteries:*  
*Religion, Drama, and Politics*"**  
**with**  
**Lois Spatz, PhD**  
**Professor of Classics, Latin, Greek, and Classical Literature**

**5:30 pm, Reception; 6:00 pm Lecture**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2008**  
**MECHANICS' INSTITUTE**  
**57 POST STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

Join Classics scholar Lois Spatz for an evening lecture exploring *Aristophanes and the Eleusinian Mysteries: Religion, Drama, and Politics*. The Athenian democracy produced two unique annual festivals: The Eleusinian Mysteries with its public processions, rituals, and secret rites in honor of the grain goddess Demeter, and the dramatic festivals of tragedies, satyr plays, and comedies in honor of Dionysus. Both spectacles became synonymous with the power, culture, and ingenuity of Athens. In his comedic play, *The Frogs*, Aristophanes combines the myths of the two patron deities with the facts about drama in Athens to create a lively fantasy. As Dionysus goes down to Hades to bring back Euripides and returns instead with Aeschylus, Aristophanes examines both the state of the drama and the state of the democracy.

This program precedes and complements *Athens in its Golden Age: The Time of Pericles*, Humanities West's two-day program of lectures, discussions, and theatrical presentations on the significant contributions of 5<sup>th</sup>-century Athens to art, architecture, philosophy, and theatre, on Friday and Saturday, May 2 & 3, 2008 at Herbst Theater. (see additional news release)

**What:** *Aristophanes and the Eleusinian Mysteries: Religion, Drama, and Politics*  
Lecture Presentation with guest speaker Lois Spatz, PhD

**When:** 5:30pm Reception; 6:00 pm Lecture, Thursday, April 24, 2008

**Where:** Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA

**Cost:** \$10 general public; FREE to members of Mechanics' Institute,  
and Humanities West contributors

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