

July 18, 2007

***Humanities West and Alliance Francaise  
Join Forces to Promote French Culture***

Humanities West and Alliance Francaise de San Francisco are pleased to announce an agreement to form a cooperative relationship to jointly promote French and Francophone culture. As a non-profit organization serving the Bay Area since 1983, Humanities West has continued to present a diverse series of lectures and performances encompassing fine arts, social history, music, politics, and philosophy of the arts. These interdisciplinary programs are designed to entertain and educate audiences and to illuminate and elevate the human spirit through exploration of the many sources of modern culture. This October, Humanities West will present a two-day program exploring **VOLTAIRE AND THE FRENCH ENLIGHTENMENT**.

A brief program description follows. For information call Humanities West at 415 391-9700 or check the website at: [www.humanitieswest.org](http://www.humanitieswest.org). Tickets can be purchased directly from City Box Office at [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com) or by phone at 415 392 4400.

**VOLTAIRE AND THE FRENCH ENLIGHTENMENT      **October 5 - 6, 2007****

Prolific author, philosopher, social reformer, and successful businessman, Voltaire was a leading figure of the French Enlightenment as well as a friend and advisor to some of the most important monarchs of Europe, including Frederick the Great of Prussia and Catherine the Great of Russia. A fierce critic of the Church, religion, and aristocratic privilege, he offended many powerful interests, but also helped lay the foundations of a modern society based on the rule of law and reason.

**Friday, October 5, 8:00 pm - 10:15 pm**

**Keith Baker**, the J.E. Wallace Sterling Professor in Humanities and the Jean-Paul Gimon Director of the France-Stanford Center of Stanford University, will discuss the ideas of several prominent contributors to the French Enlightenment. **Maria Cheremeteff**, Head of the Art History Department at City College of San Francisco and Lecturer at both the De Young and Legion of Honor Museums in San Francisco, will follow with an illustrated lecture on the art of the Enlightenment.

**Saturday, October 6, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**David Bodanis**, award-winning author and lecturer at Oxford University, will discuss his book *Passionate Minds*. This is the fascinating account of Voltaire, his mistress Emile du Chatelet, who was a brilliant scientist in her own right, and their joint intellectual projects. **David Morris**, acclaimed cellist and violist will perform the works of Rameau on viola de gamba, along with **David Wilson** on violin and **Katherine Heater** on the harpsichord. **Kip Cranna**, Musical Administrator of the San Francisco Opera, will give a presentation on the composers of the Enlightenment.

###