



words in journey: pompeii and the grand tour

international
literary meeting

archaeological city
of pompeii
theatres area
july 23 and 29, 2010
h. 9.00 p.m.

**campania.
teatro
festival
italia**


*Presidenza
del Consiglio dei Ministri*
IL COMMISSARIO DELEGATO


Soprintendenza
Archeologica
Napoli e Pompei

POMPEIVIVA

Words in journey: Pompeii and the Grand Tour

international literary meeting
created by Angelo Cannavacciuolo

It was during the 17th century that Italy became a popular destination of the descendants of noblemen's houses throughout Europe that aimed at the education of the young gentlemen through the tradition of comparative exercise. Southern Italy in particular became favoured by great artists, writers, and thinkers of the time. Goethe, Lamartine, Stendhal, Dumas, Chateaubriand and many others, through their own written testimony, courage, love of travel and culture, formed an eternal tale upon our past history that was popularized into the known world of the specific time: Europe.

With Words in Journey, an initiative strongly supported by Marcello Fiori, Commissario delegato per l'area archeologica di Napoli e Pompei, and promoted in collaboration with Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni Archeologici di Napoli e Pompei, it is our intention to expand the borders of our culture on the entire contemporary world starting with the ancient site.

The guests of this premiere event will be four important American writers, much different from one another. Gore Vidal, Jay Parini, Ethan Canin and Jim Nisbet will share their thoughts on Pompeii's history and the Grand Tour.

The photography book: Pompeii. Echoes from the Grand Tour, published by Contrasto, will present the guest writers' submissions embellished by the work of photography's artistic maestro, Mimmo Jodice. Hence a modern literary Grand Tour will pass on its story with further testimony of the territory and archeological treasures.

Through Words in Journey: Pompeii and Grand Tour we present PompeiViva, a literary Award for young Italian writers. The winners will be published in a collection set to be released during the next edition.

friday july 23 – h. 9.00 p.m.

Theatres Area entrance from Piazza Esedra
interview with Gore Vidal and Jay Parini
with Giuseppe Merlino
reading by Annie Pempinello



Gore Vidal

A prolific and charismatic writer, an essayist and polemicist who in 1948 wins and shocks audiences and critics with his novel *The City and the Pillar*, a groundbreaking representation of homosexuality as natural behaviour in American society. The charming "trans-comedy" *Myra Breckinridge* (1968), the novels *Two Sisters* (1970) and *Duluth* (1983), and the essays *Reflection upon Imperial Mendacity* and *Other Sad Truths* reveal his role as a keen observer of morals in America and Europe, but more importantly cast him as an inconvenient witness of American life and a staunch opponent of conservatism. In his seven-volume collection chronicling the history of the American Empire, he significantly contributes a new concept of the historical novel. He also worked in Hollywood writing many scripts such as *Ben Hur* and *Suddenly, Last Summer*. Lover of Italy, he resided in his second home living for many years in Ravello on the Amalfi Coast.



Jay Parini

Jay Parini is an American poet, novelist, and critic. His seven novels include *The Apprentice Lover*, *Benjamin's Crossing*, and *The Last Station*, which was recently made into an Academy Award-nominated film starring Helen Mirren and Christopher Plummer. He has written biographies of John Steinbeck, Robert Frost, and William Faulkner, and has published numerous books of criticism and reflection. He writes often for various newspapers, such as *The Guardian* in Britain and *The New York Times* in the U.S.

thursday july 29 – h. 9.00 p.m.
Theatres Area entrance from Piazza Esedra
interview with Ethan Canin and Jim Nisbet
with Andrea Purgatori
reading by Annie Pempinello and Enzo Salomone



ETHAN CANIN

Highly regarded as both a novelist and a short story writer, Ethan Canin has ranged in his career from the "breathtaking" short stories of *Emperor of the Air* to the "stunning" novellas of *The Palace Thief*, from the "wise and beautiful" short novel *Carry me Across the Water* to the "epic" *America America*. His short stories have been the basis of four Hollywood movies such as *The Emperor's Club* based on *The Palace Thief*.

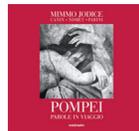


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JIM NISBET

Jim Nisbet is the author of ten novels, including *Lethal Injection*, *Dark Companion*, *The Price of the Ticket*, *Prelude to a Scream*, *The Octopus on My Head*, and *Windward Passage*. His work has been published in nine languages. Nisbet has won twice the Pangolin Papers Annual Fiction Award, and has been nominated three times for a Pushcart Prize in short fiction. His novel, *Dark Companion*, was short-listed (with four other nominees) for the 2006 Hammett Prize. He has also published five volumes of poetry.

Pompeii. Echoes from the Grand Tour **The book**



What better location for the Grand Tour project than Pompeii?

And what better way to evoke it than the union between great contemporary writers such as Ethan Canin, Jim Nisbet and Jay Parini, with internationally renowned artist-photographer, Mimmo Jodice? Together they revisit Pompeii through a blend of classic and contemporary literature and photography. It is clear that by combining these two different art forms (in an editorial sense as well) we have aimed at enriching the very depths of our "historic" memory. *Pompeii. Echoes from the Grand Tour* includes fifty-three previously unseen photographs taken by Mimmo Jodice, master of photography. The unique images, visions from ancient life, are accompanied by texts written by authors of international repute.



MIMMO JODICE

Mimmo Jodice was born in Naples. He began exploring photography in the late 50's and the focus of his research ranged from experimental photography to concerned photography. In the 60's, his encounter with Lucio Amelio and other artists such as Warhol, Rauschenberg, Beuys, Kounellis, Burri, Twombly and many others, was decisive for his orientation. At the end of the 80's he started working on urban landscapes, first in Naples and then in other cities all around the world. In 2003 the Accademia dei Lincei in Rome, awarded him with the prestigious Antonio Feltrinelli Prize – this was the first time such a prize was given to a photographer. In 2007 the Università Federico II in Naples, honoured him with a degree *honoris causa* in architecture. In 2010, two great retrospectives were dedicated to his work, one at the Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome, and the other at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris.

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**FONDAZIONE
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**Shuttle Service for Pompeii
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Cover image: Portrait of a young woman (so-called "Sappho") – (Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli)

