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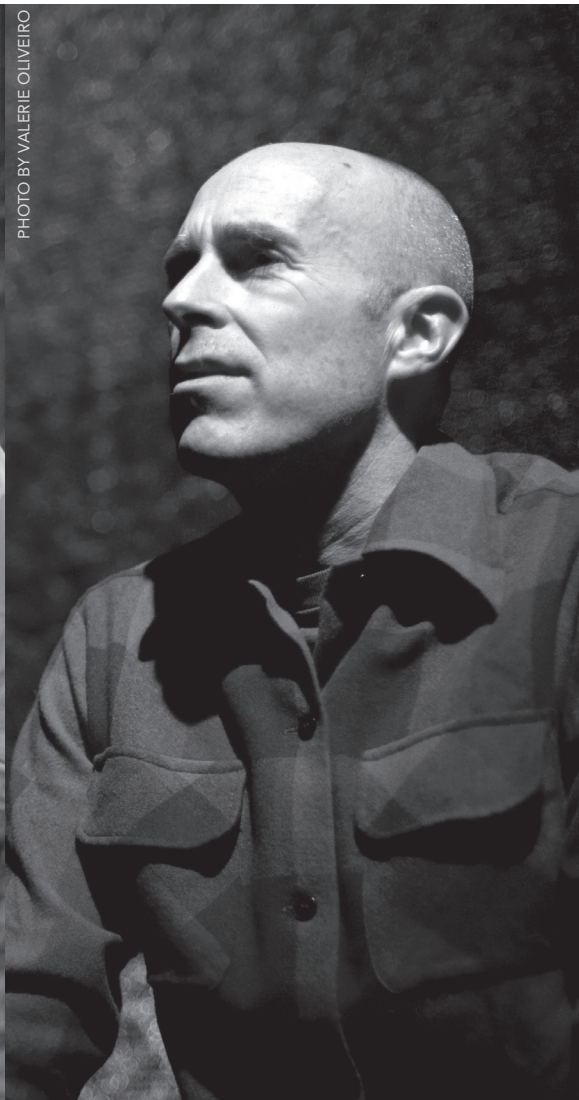


PHOTO BY VALERIE OLIVEIRO

**CULTURETALK:
BARRY LOPEZ AND DEKE WEAVER**

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at 7:30pm
Tryon Festival Theatre

PROGRAM

CULTURETALK: BARRY LOPEZ AND DEKE WEAVER

National Book Award winner Barry Lopez is acclaimed for his passionate essays on ethics and ecology, but what defines his voice is a poetic narrative on humanity itself. Lopez paints a broad picture of our acknowledgment of, reciprocity with, and frequent dissociation from the land, water, and animals that sustain us. By blending notions of spirituality, intimacy, imagination, and art, Lopez has created a unique voice for exploring our next steps in environmental interdependence. In particular, his insights into the human/animal connection have informed the work of University of Illinois Art + Design professor Deke Weaver. Noted for *The Unreliable Bestiary*, his catalogue of captivating site-specific works which includes *Elephant*, *Wolf*,

Monkey, and *Bear*, Weaver has been inspired by Lopez's ability to balance myth and assumptions with biological facts to "bring these beautiful, disparate details into focus, at the precise point where they come into contact with each other."

This talk will be moderated by Jane Desmond, co-founder and director of the International Forum for US Studies and professor of Anthropology and Gender and Women's Studies at Illinois.

CULTURETALK is a collaborative initiative of the Office of the Dean of the College of Fine + Applied Arts, the Center for Advanced Study, the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, and Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

Barry Lopez appears with arrangements by:
Stephen Barclay Agency
12 Western Avenue
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PROFILES

BARRY LOPEZ is best known as the author of *Arctic Dreams*, for which he received the National Book Award. Among his other nonfiction books are *About This Life* and *Of Wolves and Men*, which was a National Book Award finalist. He is also the author of several award-winning works of fiction, including *Field Notes*, *Winter Count*, and a novella-length fable, *Crow and Weasel*. His recent work includes *Light Action in the Caribbean*, a collection of stories; and *Resistance*, a book of interrelated stories—Lopez’s eloquent response to the recent ideological changes in American society. He is also the co-editor with Debra Gwartney of *Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape*, a landmark work of language, geography, and folklore. His books, along with his magazine work, reflect a life of travel and cultural inquiry that has taken him to more than 90 countries. His most recent book is a short story collaboration with artist Barry Moser titled *Outside*.

Once a landscape photographer, Lopez continues to maintain close contact with a diverse community of artists. He is on the advisory board of Theater Grottesco in Santa Fe. He has collaborated with composer John Luther Adams on several concert and theater productions and spoken at openings for sculptor Michael Singer and photographer Robert Adams. In another arena of work, Lopez collaborated with E.O.

Wilson in the design of a university curriculum that combines the sciences and humanities in a new undergraduate major. Lopez has also been the subject of a book by William E. Tydeman titled *Conversations with Barry Lopez: Walking the Path of Imagination*. A critical analysis of his fiction, *Other Country: Barry Lopez and the Community of Artists*, was published in 2015 from the University of Arizona Press. Lopez has received numerous awards and prizes, including the Honorary Geographer 2011 Award from the Association of American Geographers (past recipients have been Barbara Kingsolver, Paul Krugman, and John McPhee), as well as the Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the John Burroughs and John Hay Medals, a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, five National Science Foundation Fellowships, and a Lannan Foundation Fellowship, as well as Pushcart Prizes in fiction and nonfiction. His essay “Sliver of Sky” was selected for *Best American Essays 2014* and was a finalist for the National Magazine Award in Essays and Criticism. He has written for high-profile publications such as *The New York Times Magazine*, *Harper’s*, *The American Scholar*, *The Paris Review*, *Orion*, *Outside*, and *National Geographic* among others. He lives in rural Western Oregon.

DEKE WEAVER is a writer-performer, director, and media artist. His performances and videos have been presented throughout the United States and abroad in experimental theater, film and video, dance, solo performance, and broadcast venues such as the Sundance Film Festival, PBS, Channel 4 (United Kingdom), the New York Video Festival at Lincoln Center, the Chicago Humanities Festival, the Berlin Video Festival, the Museum of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles), the Moth, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and many others including livestock pavilions, national parks, night clubs, backyard sheds, and living rooms. A resident artist at Yaddo, Isle Royale National Park, the Taft-Nicholson Environmental Humanities Center, HERE, a three-time resident at Ucross, and a five-time fellow at the MacDowell Colony, his work has been supported by a Guggenheim Fellowship, Creative Capital, commissions, fellowships, and grants from the city of San Francisco, the states of Illinois and New York, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and other public and private foundations. He is currently an associate professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with appointments in the School of Art & Design and the Department of Theater. www.unreliablebestiary.org

JANE DESMOND is professor of Anthropology and Gender/Women's Studies at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she also serves as director of the International Forum for U.S. Studies: A Center for the Transnational Study of the United States. A specialist on embodied practices, she writes about live performance, tourism, and human-animal relations, and is the author or editor of several books. Her most recent book, released in fall 2016, is *Displaying Death and Animating Life: Human-Animal Relations in Art, Science, and Everyday Life*, published by the University of Chicago Press. With a background that crosses the arts, humanities, and social sciences, her work has appeared in print, on film, on television, on stage, and even on a billboard. This year she holds an appointment at the UIUC Center for Advanced Study as a faculty associate, conducting research on the cultural aspects of veterinary medicine. This summer, she will inaugurate a new national institute on animal studies, a collaboration between the national Animals and Society Institute and UIUC, for which she is founding resident director.