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Poet, Essayist Edward Hirsch to Speak at Illinois Wesleyan

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Illinois Wesleyan University

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"Hirsch is an intelligent reader of poems, his range is wide and his choice of poems engaging..." - - The New York Times Book Review, Jonathan Wilson

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Edward Hirsch, the author of five books of poems, will be a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow at Illinois Wesleyan University the week of May 15.

Hirsch, an English professor at the University of Houston, will speak on the title of his most recent book, "How to Read a Poem and Fall in Love with Poetry", at 4 p.m. on Tues., May 16, in the Henning Room of the Memorial Student Center. He will also be reading from his poetry at 7 p.m. on Wed., May 17, in the Merwin Gallery of the Ames School of Art.

The book, which was released in April 1999, was praised by Alexander Theroux in the Wall Street Journal as "a solid handbook complete with a reading list and a large glossary. (Hirsch) takes us through samples of lyric writing, ballads, Greek odes and free verse, among other things." The magazine Publishers Weekly said, "Drawing on long and considered draughts of learning, Hirsch takes us forcefully through his love of verse, with welcome technical asides and biographical detours along the way."

Among his books of poetry are "Wild Gratitude" (1986), which received the National Book Critics Circle Award, and "For the Sleepwalkers" (1981), which received the Lavan Younger Poets Award from the Academy and the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Award from New York University.

His others poetry books are "On Love" (1998), "Earthly Measures" (1994), and "The Night Parade" (1989). He is also the author of numerous essays and articles in such publications as The New Yorker, New Republic, The Nation, and American Poetry Review.

He has received fellowships from the Guggenheim and MacArthur foundations, an Ingram Merrill Foundation Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, the Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome, and a Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writers' Award.

Hirsch, who was born in Chicago, earned his bachelor's degree from Grinnell College, where he was an Academic All-American in football in 1971. He received his doctorate in folklore at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows program brings professionals from a wide variety of fields to the campuses of private liberal arts and comprehensive universities for a week of residency. Writers are included in the program to give students and community members the opportunity to share the work of the best contemporary authors.
Other Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows are government officials, journalists, environmentalists, lawyers, doctors and business executives. Together with faculty and administrators, they help equip students for political, social and economic environment they will enter post-college.

More than 200 colleges have participated in the Visiting Fellows program since 1973.

About Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A $15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994 and a $25 million science center opened in fall 1995. The $5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts, a facility housing 60 faculty offices, six classrooms, and other facilities for social science, humanities, business and economics, and interdisciplinary studies' faculty, opened in August 1997, as did a new $6.8 million residence hall. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 159 highly-selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual U.S. News & World Report rankings. Barron's Profiles of American Colleges, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive +" in its latest edition.
Edward Hirsch is an American poet and critic who wrote a national bestseller about reading poetry. He has published eight books of poems, including The Living Fire: New and Selected Poems (2010), which brings together thirty-five years of work. He is president of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation in New York City (not to be mistaken with E. D. Hirsch, Jr.). Hirsch was born in Chicago. He had a childhood involvement with poetry, which he later explored at Grinnell College and the University of Pennsylvania, where he received a Ph.D. in folklore. Hirsch was a professor of English at Edward Hirsch is a celebrated poet and peerless advocate for poetry. He was born in Chicago in 1950; his accent makes it impossible for him to hide his origins; and educated at Grinnell College and the University of Pennsylvania, where he received a Ph.D. in Folklore. Learn more. Invite list. Edward Hirsch reads another excerpt from Gabriel: A Poem. Edward Hirsch reads a second excerpt from his new book, “Gabriel: A Poem,” an elegy for his son, who died in 2011. About. Invite list. Edward Hirsch was born to Kurt Hirsch and Irma Hirsch in a suburb of Chicago, Illinois, in 1950. He attended Grinnell College in the late 1960s and won the Selden L. Whitcomb Poetry Prize for three consecutive years (1970–1972). He also won the Academy of American Poets First Place Award three consecutive years (1975–1977). Hirsch received his Ph.D. in folklore in 1978. In 1979, Hirsch was hired by the department of English at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. There he became friends with a young film studies assistant professor, Dennis Turner, whose death in 1984, the year Hirsch
Biography and booking information for Edward Hirsch, Poet and President of the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Contact All American Speakers Bureau to inquire about speaking fees and availability, and book the best keynote speaker for your next live or virtual event. Edward Hirsch's first collection of poems, "For the Sleepwalkers," was published in 1981 and went on to receive the Lavan Younger Poets Award from the Academy of American Poets and the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Award from New York University. His second collection, Wild Gratitude (1986), received the National Book Critics Circle Award. Since then, he has published several books of poems, including "Special Orders" (2008) and "Lay Back the Darkness" (2003). Stew Salowitz, Illinois Wesleyan University. Recommended Citation. Salowitz, Stew, "Poet, Essayist Edward Hirsch to Speak at Illinois Wesleyan" (2000). News and Events. 896. https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/896. Poet and author Edward Hirsch has built a reputation as an attentive and elegant writer and reader of poetry. Over the course of many collections of poetry and criticism, and the long-running Poet's Choice column in the Washington Post, Hirsch has transformed the quotidian into poetry in his own work, as well as demonstrated his adeptness at explicating the nuances and shades of feeling, tradition, and craft at work in the poetry of others. So essential to our souls. Hirsch told Contemporary Authors. He would like to speak in my poems with what the Romantic poets called the true voice of feeling. Hirsch told Contemporary Authors. He believes, as Ezra Pound once said, that when it comes to poetry, only emotion endures.