

UC SANTA BARBARA

# THE *Current*

November 17, 2005

Tracey Morris

## **UC Santa Barbara Celebrates Centennial of Jean-Paul Sartre with Six-Day Program of Free, Public Events**

The life, work, and legacy of Jean-Paul Sartre, the great French existentialist philosopher, will be examined and celebrated by UC Santa Barbara at a six-day festival marking the centennial of his birth.

The celebration, from November 29 through December 4, will feature a variety of events and activities, all of them free and open to the public. They include an exhibit at the Karpeles Manuscript Museum, an international scholarly colloquium, staged readings of Sartre's famous play *No Exit*, and a jazz concert. All activities except the exhibit will be held on the UCSB campus. No registration or tickets are required, although seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

A novelist, playwright, philosopher, and literary critic, Jean-Paul Sartre was one of the intellectual leaders of France's political left. *Being and Nothingness* is among his best-known philosophical works, and *No Exit* one of his most-produced works for the stage.

Considered the father of existentialist philosophy, Sartre is, according to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, "arguably the best known philosopher of the

twentieth century. His indefatigable pursuit of philosophical reflection, literary creativity and, in the second half of his life, active political commitment gained him worldwide renown."

Awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1964, Sartre declined the honor in protest of the values of bourgeois society. The prize committee had cited him for a body of work "which, rich in ideas and filled with the spirit of freedom and the quest for truth, has exerted a far-reaching influence on our age." Sartre died in 1980 in Paris, where he was born in 1905.

Scholars from several countries will be taking part in the colloquium, which will examine many aspects of Sartre's life and work, including his relevance today. The Web site for the centennial celebration has complete information on topics, speakers, and times of presentations.

Organized by Professors Catherine Nesci and Ernest Sturm of the Department of French and Italian at UCSB, the Sartre centennial celebration is sponsored by that department and the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, with the support and co-sponsorship of many other UCSB units and off-campus partners.

Below are details on specific activities. Complete program information is on the Web at:

### **Theater** *No Exit*

("Hell Is Other People") -- A Staged Reading, Directed by Prof. Irwin Appel Tuesday, Nov. 29 & Wednesday, Nov. 30,

8 p.m.

Studio Theater, Snidecor Hall 1101, UCSB

**Exhibit** Sartre Manuscripts and Books, 10 a.m. -- 4 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 1 -- Saturday, Dec. 3. Reception, discussion with Professors Michael Sicard and Ernest Sturm, and film, Dec. 3, 4 - 7 p.m. The Karpeles Manuscript Museum, 21 West Anapamu St., Santa Barbara

(805) 962-5322

### **International Colloquium**

Starts 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1 and concludes Saturday, Dec. 3 at 3 p.m.

McCune Conference Room, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, 6th floor,  
Humanities and Social Science Building, UCSB

### **Reception**

Thursday, Dec. 1,

6 -- 8 p.m. Art Gallery, College of Creative Studies, UCSB Music by the Rob Wallace  
Jazz Ensemble

### **Jazz Concert**

Sunday, Dec. 4,

7

p.m. Old Little Theater, College of Creative Studies, UCSB, with internationally  
renowned French trumpeter Alain Brunet, The Gendarmes du Swing, and the Rob  
Wallace Jazz Ensemble

---

### **About UC Santa Barbara**

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.