

Distinguished Speaker Series

George Elliott Clarke

and

Pamela Mordecai

Audible Motion: New School Black Verse from George Elliott Clarke and Pamela Mordecai

Thursday, April 11, 2013

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Sankey Chambers

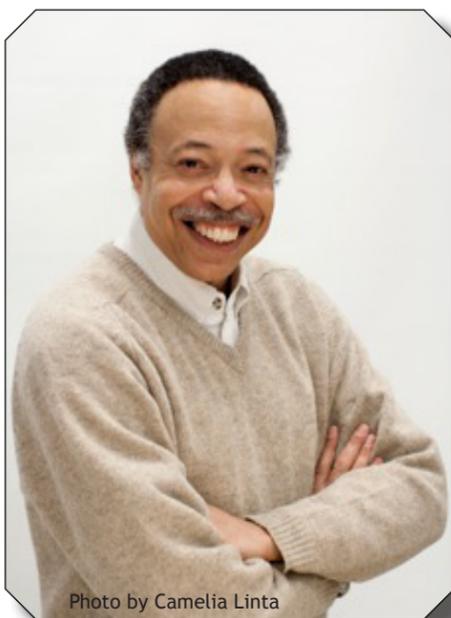


Photo by Camelia Linta

DR. GEORGE ELLIOTT CLARKE, E.J. Pratt Professor of Canadian Literature at the University of Toronto, and current poet laureate of Toronto, was born in Windsor, Nova Scotia, near the Black Loyalist community of Three Mile Plains, in 1960. One of Canada's most recognized poets, his collections include Execution Poems (for which he won

the Governor General's Poetry award), and Red (2011). Dr. Clarke is also a noted playwright, librettist, anthologist and scholar. His forthcoming poetry collection, Illicit Sonnets, will be published in 2013.

ABSTRACT: *In contrast to the dead language of texts used in the name of literacy education, please come to an inspiring conversation between two of our most eminent African-Canadian poets, George Elliott Clarke and Pamela Mordecai. Their presentation, covering class-time, playtime and contemplation, will engage the "illicit" and "subversive" aspects of their respective new verse collections.*

A former language arts teacher, **DR. PAMELA MORDECAI** has written textbooks, articles on Caribbean literature, language education, and publishing, poems and stories for children, including the wonderful Pink Icing (2006), and poems and short stories for adults. A play, El Numero Uno, commissioned by Toronto's Young People's Theatre, had its premiere in their 2009-



2010 season. Her Good Friday poem, de man, written in Jamaican Creole, has been performed widely in Canada and Jamaica. She has also written a reference work, Culture and Customs of Jamaica, with her husband, Martin, and edited ground-breaking anthologies such as Jamaica Woman (with Mervyn Morris), Her True-True Name (with Betty Wilson), and From Our Yard: Jamaican Poetry since Independence. Her fifth collection of poetry, Subversive Sonnets, was published in 2012.