



***The Visiting Writers Series is
pleased to announce Fall 2015 Events***

Lydia Davis

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Campus visit and Reading at 5:30pm in the Library Auditorium

Davis' most recent book *Can't and Won't: Stories* was published in March 2015 and was called the "most revolutionary collection of stories by an American in twenty-five years" (John Freeman, *The Boston Globe*).

"Davis is a magician of self-consciousness. Few writers now working make the words on the page matter more." —Jonathan Franzen

"The best prose stylist in America." —Rick Moody

"A body of work probably unique in American writing, in its combination of lucidity, aphoristic brevity, formal originality, sly comedy, metaphysical bleakness, philosophical pressure, and human wisdom. I suspect that 'The Collected Stories of Lydia Davis' will in time be seen as one of the great, strange American literary contributions." — James Wood, *The New Yorker*

LYDIA DAVIS is one of our most original and influential writers. She has been called "an American virtuoso of the short story form" (*Salon*) and "one of the quiet giants . . . of American fiction" (*Los Angeles Times Book Review*). Davis is also an essayist and translator from French and other languages, and has produced several new translations of French literary classics, including Proust's *Swann's Way* and Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*.

Davis is a professor of creative writing at the University of Albany SUNY and her stories are acclaimed for their brevity and humor. Many are only one or two sentences. Davis has compared these shorter stories to skyscrapers in the sense that they are surrounded by an imposing blank expanse (Retrieved). Some of her stories are considered poetry or somewhere between philosophy, poetry and short story. Davis has been described as "the master of a literary form largely of her own invention" (*The Plain Dealer*). The author Carmela Ciuraru has written of Davis' stories: "Anyone hung up on the conventional (and often predictable) beginning-middle-end narrative format may be disappointed by the wild peregrinations found here. Yet these stories are endearing and rich in their own way, and can be counted on without exception to offer the element of surprise" (*San Francisco Chronicle*). Davis is the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship and is the winner of the 2013 Man Booker International Prize on 22 May 2013. She is widely considered "one of the most original minds in American fiction today" (*The New Yorker*).

A recent *New Yorker* profile of Davis: <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/03/17/long-story-short>

