

The Wolfe Institute

*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,
in cooperation with the English Department and the MFA Intergenre Reading Series,
presents*

Dana Ward, Donna Di Novelli, & Adam Ross



Dana Ward is the author of *Some Other Deaths of Bas Jan Ader* (Flowers & Cream), *The Crisis of Infinite Worlds* (Future-poem), and *This Can't Be Life* (Edge Books). He lives in Cincinnati, OH.

Donna Di Novelli is a collaborator in both opera and music-theater, working in traditional and experimental fields as a librettist and lyricist. In 2013, she premiered a work with composer Paola Prestini at BAM's Next Wave Festival (*21c Liederabend*) and workshopped a new musical, *The Good Swimmer*, with composer Heidi Rodewald at The Center for Performance Art, UCLA. She was commissioned by the San Francisco Opera to write the libretto for Christopher Theofanidis' *Heart of a Soldier*, directed by Francesca Zambello and starring Thomas Hampson in the title role. She wrote the lyrics for Rachel Portman's *Little House on the Prairie*, with book by Rachel Sheinkin. Di Novelli's libretto for *Oceanic Verses* (composer Paola Prestini) was presented at NYC's River to River Festival, the Kennedy Center, and the Barbican Centre in London, following a residency at Sound Res in Puglia, Italy. She wrote text and translated Latin hymns for *Hildegard: A Measure of Joy*, commissioned by the Grammy-winning vocal ensemble Chanticleer. She collaborated with Randall Eng on the genre-bending, jazz-infused opera *Florida*. Di Novelli has written text for the Los Angeles Modern Dance and Ballet's *Twelve Dancing Princesses*, and her radio plays have been broadcast on the BBC, CBC, and NPR. Her stage play *The First Eff* (Mark Taper Forum) was excerpted in *New Monologues For Women; By Women* (Heinemann Press). Her work was published in the Debate Society's *15-Second Plays* collection. She has won commissions and fellowships from the Manhattan Theater Club, ASCAP, Mabou Mines, Houston Grand Opera, the Rockefeller Foundation (Bellagio, Italy), the National Musical Theater Conference, the MacDowell Colony, and the Atlantic Center for the Arts. She teaches libretto writing in the Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and playwriting at the National Theater Institute. She was a visiting professor at Brown University, where she earned a master's degree in literary arts. She continues to work on *The Good Swimmer* and to revise *Florida* for an upcoming production.

Adam Ross's debut novel, *Mr. Peanut*, a 2010 *New York Times* Notable Book, was named one of the best books of the year by *The New Yorker*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The New Republic*, and *The Economist*. It has been published in sixteen countries. *Ladies and Gentlemen*, his short story collection, was one of Kirkus Reviews' Best Books of 2011, and his story "In the Basement" was a finalist for the BBC's International Story Award. His nonfiction has appeared in *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Daily Beast*, *The Huffington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Nashville Scene*. He is currently a Hodder Fellow at Princeton University.

**Wednesday, March 19, 2014
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Barker Room, 2315 Boylan
Brooklyn College**

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