

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23 2013 2-9 PM

# TROBADORS:

## A SYMPOSIUM ON OCCITAN POETRY

BRINGING THE RICHES OF SOUTHERN FRANCE'S TROUBADOUR TRADITION TO AN AMERICAN PUBLIC



**VENUE:**  
**POETS HOUSE**  
10 RIVER TERRACE  
(AT MURRAY STREET)  
NEW YORK, NY 10282  
212-431-7920  
WWW.POETSHOUSE.ORG

WITH  
JAKES AYMONINO  
PIERRE JORIS  
DEBORAH KAPCHAN  
SARAH KAY  
DOMENJA LEKUONA  
NICOLE PEYRAFITTE  
RICHARD SIEBURTH  
ALEM SURRE-GARCIA  
JOAN FRANCÉS TISNÈR

### PROGRAM:

2:00-3:30 PM: TOPOLOGIES OF OCCITAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE

4:00-5:30 PM: OCCITAN LITERATURE THROUGH THE AGES

5:30-7:00 PM: GASCON DINNER (RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)

*BUFFET GASCON BY GOURMET PURVEYOR D'ARTAGNAN, SHORT HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF OCCITAN FOOD AND COOKING DEMONSTRATION.*

*FOR DINNER PRICING & RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT JOE FRITSCH AT (212) 431-7920 x 2832 OR JOE@POETSHOUSE.ORG.*

7:00-9:00 PM: NY'OC TROBADORS PERFORMANCE



EVENT SPONSORED BY POETS HOUSE - CO-SPONSORED BY CITY LORE  
PARTNERS: D'ARTAGNAN, RÉGION AQUITAINE, CIRDOC, IN'OC, DRAC, CG64, VILLE DE PAU  
PRODUCERS: LO NAU (OCCITANIA), TAWIL PRODUCTIONS (USA)





**NY'OC Trobadors** symposium is a collaborative project bringing to an American public the riches of Occitan poetry & culture, from the 11th century *trobadors* to the present. This day-long gathering of bi-continental poets, scholars, musicians, singers & translators will feature panels, a Gascon dinner, & a multimedia performance to bear witness to a millennium of Occitan poetry & culture.

(to support the event click [here](#))

Opening Remarks: Richard Sieburth

**2:00 - 3:30 PM: Topologies of Occitan Language & Culture**

- 1) Languages & their Territories (Nicole Peyrafitte, Domenja Lekuona, Alem Surre-Garcia)
  - 2) Occitan & the Orient (Deborah Kapchan)
  - 3) Participatory Introduction to Occitan Language & Songs (JF Tisnèr)
- followed by Q&A

**4:00 - 5:30 PM: Occitan Literature Through the Ages**

- 1) The Early Centuries (Sarah Kay)
  - 2) The Modern Moment (Richard Sieburth)
  - 3) Contemporary Poetry — The 20C & Beyond (Pierre Joris & Alem Surre-Garcia)
- followed by Q&A

**5:30 - 7:00 PM: Dinner**

Buffet Gascon —offerings by d'Artagnan— preceded by a short historic overview of Occitan food & cooking demonstration by Ariane Daguin & Nicole Peyrafitte.

**7:00 - 9:00 PM: NY'OC Trobadors Performance**

The NY'OC Trobadors present a multimedia journey through a millennium of Occitan culture, in music, images & bi-lingual poetry. With Joan Francés Tisnèr, Jakes Aymonino, Domenja Lekuona, Pierre Joris & Nicole Peyrafitte.



## Bios:



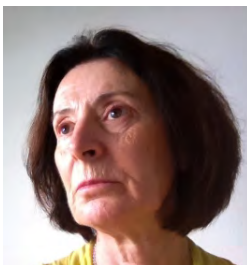
**Jakes Aymonino** is a Basco-Bearnais composer, singer & musician. His repertoire ranges from Baroque works, Monteverdi's *Il Ritorno of Ulyse in Patria* at the Teatro Olimpico de Vicenza; *Kouroupos Pyladis* created in Athens with actress Mélina Mercouri; to improvisation guitar & voice with such French legends Bernard Lubat, Benat Achiary. Among several works commissioned: *Mapamondi* (2003 by French Ministry of Culture); *Babel Europe* (2007 by the European Commission of Cultural Affairs) a project that included 70 musiciens, 6 soloists from 15 countries. Since 1994 he has led *Manufacture Verbale*, an artist collective creating projects in minority communities in remote places place as North Africa & Eastern Europe. More info at: <http://chantiervocal.fr/les-artistes/jakes-aymonino/>



**Pierre Joris** has moved between the US, Great Britain, North Africa, France & Luxembourg for 50 years, publishing over 50 books of poetry, translations, anthologies, & essays. Forthcoming in 2013 is a translation & essay on the late poetry of Paul Celan (Farrar, Straus & Giroux). Recent publications include: *Diwan Iffrikya: An Anthology of North African Writings from Prehistory to Today*, co-edited with Habib Tengour (University of California Press); & *Meditations on the Stations of Mansur al-Hallaj* (Chax Press). With Jerome Rothenberg he edited *Poems for the Millennium*, vol. 1 & 2: The University of California Book of Modern & Postmodern Poetry. He lives in Brooklyn, NY & teaches poetry & poetics at the State University of New York, Albany. More info at: [www.pierrejoris.com](http://www.pierrejoris.com).



**Deborah Kapchan** Deborah Kapchan writes on aesthetics, poetics, and sound/listening practices, specializing in Moroccan art and performance. She is the author of *Gender on the Market: Moroccan Women and the Revoicing of Tradition* (1996, University of Pennsylvania Press), as well as *Traveling Spirit Masters: Moroccan Trance and Music in the Global Marketplace* (2007, Wesleyan University Press, Music/Culture Series). Her third book, a translation of Moroccan contemporary poetry entitled *Poetic Justice* (contracted with University of Texas Press) is in progress. In addition, two edited volumes are currently in process: *Theorizing Sound Writing* (under review) and *Intangible Rights: Cultural Heritage and Human Rights in Transit* (University of Pennsylvania Press, spring 2014). She has been a Guggenheim Fellow, a Fulbright-Hays recipient, as well as a grantee of the American Institute of Maghreb Studies, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research and the Social Science Research Council. She is currently Associate Professor of Performance Studies at New York University.



**Sarah Kay** is a professor of French at New York University. Her publications include: *Žižek: A Critical Introduction* (Cambridge: Polity, 2003), (with Malcolm Bowie & Terence Cave), *A Short History of French Literature* (Oxford University Press, 2003), *Courtly Contradictions* (Stanford University Press, 2001), (with Simon Gaunt), *The Troubadours. An Introduction* (Cambridge University Press, 1999), *The Chansons de geste in the Age of Romance* (Oxford University Press, 1995) & *Subjectivity in Troubadour Poetry* (Cambridge University Press, 1990)





**Domenja Lekuona** is a syndicated radio producer for several Occitan radio stations. Since 1990 she has produced & presented *En Ondas*, a weekly radio show dedicated to Occitan literature. She studied history at the University of Bordeaux with a focus on Occitan history, culture & literature. For 5 years, she was the director of publication at the Occitan literary magazine *Reclams*. From 2005 until 2009 she was a teacher & a leading force at Centre Formation Professional Occitan in Pau. All of Domenja professional endeavors are dedicated to transmit her culture & language. She has been the administrative producer of Joan Francés Tisnèr productions since 2000. More info at: <http://domenja.blogspot.fr/>



**Nicole Peyrafitte** is a Gasco-Rican pluridisciplinary artist born & raised in the Gascon-French Pyrenees. Her texts, voice-work, paintings, videos, & cooking were featured in *Ninon*; *The Bi-Continental Chowder/La Garbure Transcontinentale*; *Whisk don't Churn*. Her latest projects are: "*Basil King: MIRAGE*," a film she co-directed with Miles Joris-Peyrafitte & "*Bi-Valve: Vulvic Space / Vulvic Knowledge*" a series paintings, bi-lingual texts & performance (Stockport Flats). She has performed in such venues as The Metropolitan Museum, the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, The University of Bordeaux, Birbeck College London, CCA Glasgow, University of Edinburgh, Poets House NYC, The Poetry Project NYC, Festival Occitania in Toulouse, Estivada de Rodez. More info at: [www.nicolepeyrafitte.com](http://www.nicolepeyrafitte.com)



**Richard Sieburth**, scholar, translator, essayist & editor, is Professor of French & Comparative Literature at New York University. He has translated, among others, Friedrich Hölderlin, Georg Büchner, Walter Benjamin, Henri Michaux, Gerard de Nerval & Nostrodamus. He is also the editor of Pound's *A Walking Tour of Southern France* & of Pound, *Poems & Translations* for the Library of America.



**Alem Surre-Garcia**, born in 1944 near Toulouse, is of Occitan and Galician origins. From 1989 to 2006 director of Occitan culture at the Conseil Régional Midi-Pyrénées. He is presently head of research at the Fondation Occitània. Novelist, short story writer and playwright — *Antonio Vidal* (1983), *Lo libre del doble despartible / The Book of the Double Divisible* (1998), *Astrada* (1994), *Nadalets* (2005-2009) among others, he has also translated Occitan writers such as Max Rouquette and Barnard Manciet into French, and composed librettos such as *The Legend of Jaufrè Rudel*, *The Passion of Rumi*, etc. He may be best known as an essayist for three groundbreaking works: *Au-delà des rives, les orientes d'Occitanie / Beyond the Shores, the Orientes of Occitania* (2005), *La théocratie républicaine / The Republican Theocracy* (2 volumes, 2010) and *Clochers et minarets / Church Towers and Minarets* (2011).



**Joan Francés Tisnèr, Project director** of the NY'OC Trobadors, is a Gascon composer, musician, singer who has dedicated his artistic career to the Occitan culture & language. Since the 80s he has composed, directed & performed projects all featuring Occitan culture. His productions include works on acclaimed Occitan contemporary poets such as Max Rouquette, Bernard Manciet, & more recently Sèrgi Javaloyès. Joan Francés Tisnèr teaches master classes of Occitan music, voice, tonton (the occitan string drum) & interpretation at the National Music Conservatory of Toulouse & at the Poitiers University. He is also co-founder of the Calendretas (Occitan language schools). More info at: <http://joanfrancesstisner.com/>



## ***Supporting the NY'OC Trobadors Project:***

This 3-fold project still needs support in order to reach its final destination.  
After successfully completing Fold 1, we are now looking for financial support to bring the project to completion via Folds 2 & 3.

### **√ Fold #1:**

#### **April 14-23 2013 : Residency in NYC:**

- Finalizing editorial choices & structure of anthology
- Outline of performance
- Meeting with potential publishers
- Performance/presentation April 21 3PM at Bowery Poetry Club**

#### **July 29-August 5 : Residency in Gascony:**

- Continuation of editorial & translation work
- Preface & commentaries writing
- Final draft of performance script & beginning of rehearsal

### **Fold #2:**

#### **November 2013 : Residency in NYC:**

- Two-weeks residency to finalize anthology translations
- Performance rehearsals
- Performance première & Workshop sponsored by Poets House & City Lore

### **Fold #3:**

#### **Fall 2014 : USA/Canada**

Publication of American Anthology  
Two weeks performance/book tour USA/Canada with emphasis on universities & cultural centers.

Your (tax deductible) generous donations  
to the *NY'OC Trobadors* project  
is accepted by City Lore  
To sustain this rich tradition,  
please click [here](#)  
THANK YOU!  
for more info: [email](#)

Event sponsored by [Poets House](#) - co-sponsored by [City Lore](#)  
**Partners:** [D'Artagnan](#), Région Aquitaine, Cirdoc, InÔc, DRAC, CG64, Ville de Pau, Bowery Arts & Science  
**Producers:** Lo Nau (Occitania-France), Ta'wil Productions (USA)