

Contributors

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Carol-Ann Farkas is an associate professor of English and the Director of Writing Programs at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston. She teaches first-year expository writing, as well as elective courses in 19th century British fiction and Literature and Medicine. Her research focuses on representations of women and wellness in popular culture; her next published article will be appearing in *English Literature in Transition, 1880-1920* in early 2011, entitled “Fictional Medical Women and Moral Therapy in the Late-Nineteenth Century: Daughters of Aesculapius, Mothers to All.”

Anthony J. Ferri, Ph.D. is a professor in the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he teaches and conducts research methods, media and society, and entertainment. He has published *Willing Suspension of Disbelief: Poetic Faith in Film* (Lexington Books, 2007) and most recently “Enter the Entertainment Age?,” *Society* 24, July 2010. He is the former head of the Entertainment Studies Group of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication and is working on a book about Harry Rapf, one of the founders of MGM Pictures. He is originally from Canada.

Gulnara Karimova is a Ph.D. candidate in Communication and Media Studies at Eastern Mediterranean University, Turkish Republic of North Cyprus. Her journal publications include “Reading the Turkish Coffee Cup and Beyond: The Case of North Cyprus” in the *Journal for Academic Study of Magic* (2007) and “Carnival for Change,” forthcoming in the *Journal of Social Change*.

Bennett Kravitz teaches American Studies at the University of Haifa, Israel, in the Department of English Language and Literature. He has a special interest in Popular culture, African American Literature, Jewish American Literature, and the works of Mark Twain. He is president of the Popular Culture Association in the South. His most recent publication is the book *Representations of Illness in Literature and Film*.

Dr. Lynnette Porter teaches humanities and communication courses at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. She has written sev-

eral books about television or film, most recently *Tarnished Heroes, Charming Villains, and Modern Monsters: Shades of Gray in 21st Century Science Fiction Television* (McFarland, 2010) and *Lost's Buried Treasures* (Sourcebooks, 2010). She frequently contributes features and blogs to the online popular culture magazine *PopMatters*. Her articles about independent film recently were published in the *Moving Arts Film Journal* and *Movement* and *SFX* magazines. She has been a speaker at academic conferences, including those held by the Popular Culture Association and Popular Culture Association in the South, but also has been invited to present seminars at fan conventions such as DragonCon, London's Fellowship Festival, Tolkien 2005, and the Cornerstone Festival.

Carlos Ramet earned a B.A. in film production and English literature from the University of Southern California, holds a Master's degree from San Francisco State University, and completed his Ph.D. in English at the University of Illinois-Chicago. He currently serves as Executive Assistant to the President/Executive Director of Public Affairs at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan. He has published fourteen short stories and more than twenty-three journal articles, book reviews, or encyclopedia articles. His book *Ken Follett: The Transformation of a Writer* (The Popular Press, Bowling Green, Ohio, 1999) was the first full-length critical analysis of Follett published by a major university press.

Matthew Schneider-Mayerson is a graduate student in the Department of American Studies at the University of Minnesota, and completed his B.A. at Yale University. His research interests are in post-war American popular culture; he has published and forthcoming articles on the connection between 9/11 and *The Da Vinci Code*, the libertarian politics of alternate history novels, and the racial formation of the National Basketball Association in the 1970s and 1980s. His dissertation explores the "peak oil" movement—its culture and politics, its relation to American exceptionalism, and the effect of the Internet on twenty-first century social movements.