

Readings, Interviews, and More Online *By Loreen Niewenhuis*

Do you love attending readings? Crave an opportunity to ask an author a question about their book? Long to *listen to poetry*? Well, next time you're at your computer, click on one of the links below. There are many sites that have interaction with poets, playwrights, and authors for you to listen to at your convenience. Some even allow you to download the MP3 file for that 'on-the-go' literary experience!

ONE STORY READINGS www.one-story.com/index.php?page=readings

The literary magazine, *One Story*, has monthly fiction readings archived here.

NPR's BOOK TOUR www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=10448909

This site has a variety of readings by fiction and non-fiction authors. The readings are followed by a Q&A. At any time, there are around twenty of these sessions archived. Recent authors featured include John Updike, Mary Gordon, Richard Russo, Bill Buford, and Hanna Rosin.

THE SPOKEN WORD www.PRX.org

The Public Radio Exchange is a nonprofit service for distributing radio pieces. This site has archived copies of the NPR show 'The Spoken Word.' Sadly, this show is no longer being produced.

BBC's OPEN BOOK www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/openbook/

Mariella Frostrup interviews both fiction and non-fiction writers in this excellent weekly program. She also occasionally talks to people in the publishing world about trends or current issues. The site archives over a year's worth of shows. Recent guests include Richard Russo, Alice Sebold, Michael Ondaatje, and Peter Ackroyd. There is a bit of a British bent, but the British take their literature a bit more seriously than those of us living in the 'former colonies,' so it is refreshing to listen to an interview that isn't *all* about selling books.

BBC's BOOK AT BEDTIME www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/book_bedtime.shtml

This site is a little different. Each night, a fifteen minute slice of an abridged novel is available online. It's like a book on tape, but in little bits. It's like someone reads to you each night. At any time, an entire week is archived.

BBC's ARTS & BOOKS www.bbc.co.uk/arts/books/

The site's subtitle is: WRITING, POETRY & BOOKS: *All about authors, learning to write and literary fun and games.* You can bounce off this page to many interesting features including links to such diverse things as accessing radio scripts and joining an online community of writers. There is also a link to a feature about the playwright Joe Orton, and a link to the following site:

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english_literature/poetry_slideshow/index.shtml This site features poems read to images that help to convey the poem. And the slideshows are cool. Check out "Before You Were Mine" by Carol Ann Duffy.

BBC's BOOKCLUB www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/bookclub/

This is a monthly feature (with almost two years archived) where Jim Naughtie interviews an author about their book and the audience asks questions. Recent interviews include Barbara Kingsolver and Germaine Greer.

CALVIN COLLEGE JANUARY SERIES www.calvin.edu/january/

Calvin College brings in speakers throughout the month of January and have **ten years** of these talks archived online. Not all of them are authors, but most are interesting. There is a conspicuous Christian bias (as one might expect at a Christian college), but not exclusively. Check out January 9, 2007: Gerard Thomas Straub's talk "Poverty and Prayer and the Power of Film." Straub is an "author, filmmaker and former Hollywood producer turned advocate for the poor, social justice, peace, non-violence, prayer and the integrity of creation." Or January 23, 2006: "The Minstrel & the Storyteller."