

## Maya Angelou to be at Pershing tonight

By Joel Strauch  
Senior Reporter

Author Maya Angelou, who was the poet at President Clinton's inauguration, is bringing her insights on life to Lincoln tonight at the Pershing Auditorium.

The University Program Council is bringing Angelou to Lincoln.

James Buckley, the coordinator for campus programs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said that Angelou happened to be available and had never been to Lincoln before.

These factors, combined with the fact that Angelou is a prominent writer in our culture, led to UPC's selection of her for an appearance, Buckley said.

"She was scheduled to appear here last fall and was unable to come, so we're very excited to have rescheduled her for this year," he said.

There was a scare earlier this week that Angelou might cancel her appearance in Lincoln again this year.

A Ticketmaster phone saleswoman said that an Angelou cancellation was just a rumor.

"I know that she canceled in several other cities — all outside of Nebraska — but that doesn't mean that she canceled her entire tour," the phone representative said.

"There was probably just a misunderstanding about that," she said.

While Angelou rose to prominence with her autobiographical prose, her unique style of poetry has earned her a great deal of renown recently, especially with the popular response that her inaugural poem received.

Alpana Knippling, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln English professor, said, "I think she is one of the most significant African-American woman poets today."

"Her inaugural poem is terrific. It extends her concerns to all of America."

"The fact that she was asked to do the inaugural poem shows how the African-American experience has really arrived in the public domain."

"She shows us that you cannot read

*"She deals with celebrating womanhood in a time when violence against women is on the rise."*

### ALPANA KNIPPLING

UNL English professor

American history without or outside of African culture, history and literature."

In addition to presenting African-American culture, Angelou's literature also advocates taking pride in being a woman.

"She deals with celebrating womanhood in a time when violence against women is on the rise," Knippling said.

Angelou differs from other contemporary poets because of her personal interjection into society.

"She has moved into public culture as opposed to the traditional 'ivory tower' of poets," Knippling said. "She deals directly with social issues."

Angelou's diverse array of professions and abilities put her in high demand for venues around the nation.

Buckley said, "One of the main reasons that UPC was interested in her is because she is a poet, writer, philosopher and educator."

"She blends a lot of talents together."

Cheryl Canty, the office manager for Angelou's agency, Lordly & Dame, said Angelou put a little bit of everything into her performances.

"She does whatever the spirit moves in her," she said.

Angelou gives about 75 to 100 speeches a year. Canty said crowd response always was positive and the appearances always were sold out.

Angelou is best known for her autobiographical works, including "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," an account of her child-



Courtesy of Lordly & Dame

Maya Angelou, who read her poetry at President Clinton's Inaugural address, will be at the Pershing Auditorium tonight at 7:30.

hood growing up in Stamps, Ark., and the various events that affected her life.

"The title should tell readers a lot," Knippling said. "It shows that even though we live in the midst of hatred and violence, we need to celebrate cultural difference."

"It's interesting that we live in this contradictory moment where one thing like the beating of (Francisco) Renteria comes right before a significant event such as Maya Angelou coming to speak."

### Quik Facts

Event: Maya Angelou

At: Pershing Auditorium

Time: 7:30 tonight

Tickets: \$10, \$5 for UNL students; available through Ticketmaster

## Neubert curates national exhibit

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

President Bill Clinton and his family met with two University of Nebraska-Lincoln officials last weekend, but they didn't discuss education or health care.

They discussed art.

First lady Hillary Clinton honored George Neubert, the director of the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden, during a Tuesday reception at the White House.

Neubert curated a sculpture exhibit for the Jacqueline Kennedy-Onassis First Lady's Garden, located on the White House Lawn. More than 6 million people will visit the exhibit in the next six months.

"Statues into Sculpture" features 12 sculptures, two of which are from the Sheldon Sculpture Garden.

Neubert said the Clintons expressed their gratitude for his work.

"Hillary said that sculpture was among one of her favorite art forms of expression," Neubert said. "She said the first date she and Bill had at Yale was at an art gallery."

Neubert said he admired the presidential family and was honored by the opportunity to present an exhibit at the White House.

*"It was quite gratifying to see just how well known and how well regarded we were."*

### GRAHAM SPANIER

UNL chancellor

UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier also attended the reception.

"George Neubert was certainly a hero at the White House," the chancellor said.

The reception included representatives from museums, educational institutions, the National Endowment for the Arts and the White House Historical Commission.

"I was very proud of George Neubert and the university during (Clinton's) presentation," Spanier said.

Spanier said it was wonderful to see how national art leaders respected Neubert and the Sheldon collection.

"It was quite gratifying to see just how well known and how well regarded we were," he said.

Neubert said the exhibit broadened the Sheldon Gallery's credibility within the museum profession and the general public.

He said an article in The Washington Post mentioned the exhibit and tied it to UNL. If someone on the east coast sees that article, Neubert said they might be surprised that Nebraska had such a great art collection.

The director said that notoriety also helped when trying to raise funds outside of Nebraska.

Neubert was chosen by a White House committee directed by J. Carter Brown, a former member of the Association of Art Museum Directors in America.

After visiting the physical grounds, Neubert said he chose the works based on the first lady's objectives and goals, his own specifications and space limitations.

The works represented the progression of American sculptures in the 20th century. Half of the works were created by living and working artists.

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## American theater split by art, money, visiting artist says

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

As American theater broke from its British roots in the late 19th century, its history expanded and confronted two opposing ideals — art and money.

Visiting artist Todd London has tried to capture this history in a five-episode documentary for a Public Broadcasting Service station in New York City.

London will be at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln until Friday, when he will give a free public lecture at 1:30 p.m. in the Temple Building.

His appearance is part of the Artist-in-Residence program sponsored by the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Until this summer, London was an assistant professor of drama at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He was also the former managing editor of American Theatre magazine and is the author of a book, "The Artistic Home."

He will serve as literary direc-

tor of the American Repertory Theatre and visiting lecturer of dramatic arts at Harvard University next spring.

Although his documentary won't be finished for another two years, London said he was trying to address social issues instead of just portraying live performances.

"The history of American theater is the history embedded in America itself," London said.

As soon as theater in America shed its British roots and took on an identity of its own, playwrights started to struggle with capturing the American dream, London said.

"We created a country from people who all came from somewhere else," he said. "Plays explored in characters what are the pluses and minuses, the problems and achievements, of the American dream — the dream of independence and liberty and money."

The American dream presented a conflict between

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