

Brian Patten to be visiting professor and lecturer in Department of Literature; will give poetry readings

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A highly popular British poet who wrote the television play "The Man Who Hated Children" will be a visiting professor and lecturer in the Department of Literature, University of California, San Diego during the month of May.

Brian Patten will be giving two public poetry readings, the first, from a selection of his works, at 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 10, in UCSD's Revelle Formal Lounge; and the second, called "The True Confessions of a Manuscript Sniffer," at 8 p.m., Tuesday, May 14, in the Center for Music Experiment, 408 Warren campus. There will be no admission charge.

Patten was sprung from the Liverpool Movement, which gave birth to poets and musicians such as the Beatles, Scaffold, and other groups with the "Mersey sound."

He has had a varied background, beginning at 17 when he edited "Underdog," a magazine which introduced the work of new British writers, such as Robert Creeley, to a wide non-academic audience.

The works of poetry, "Little Johnny's Confession" (1967), and "Notes to the Hurrying Man" (1969), were widely acclaimed in Europe and Britain. They were also published in the United States.

In 1976, a children's novel, "Mr. Moon's Last Case," won the Edgar Allan Poe Special Award from the Mystery Writers of America, and the Best Children's Book of the Year in England. The book has been published in German, Japanese, Dutch and Spanish.

A play called "The Mouth-trap," co-written with Roger McGough, premiered in 1983 at the Edinburgh Festival and transferred the same year to the Lyric Theatre in London.

Last year Patten was invited by the Indian Government on a British Council Tour of that country to read and lecture. Since 1977, he has broadcast regularly on BBC Radio and has presented programs for BBC Television and independent stations.

Patten's work also appears in "The Oxford Book of 20th Century English Verse," edited by Philip Larkin. This major anthology of verse opens with the likes of Thomas Hardy and Rudyard Kipling, and ends with Patten.

(April 18, 1985) For more information contact: Alixandra Williams, 452-3120