

Edward W. Said to speak as part of the annual Robert C. Elliott Memorial Lecture

April 30, 1987

Media Contact: Marilyn Bernstein, Department of Literature, 534-3214 or Alixandra Williams, Public Information Office, 534-3120

UCSD'S ANNUAL ROBERT C. ELLIOTT MEMORIAL LECTURE TO BE HELD MAY 19

Edward W. Said, the Parr Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, will speak on "Culture and Imperialism," at 8 p.m., Tuesday, May 19, in Peterson Hall Room 108, Third College, at the University of California, San Diego. Admission is free and open to the public.

Said, who has a reputation for being a brilliant scholar of English and Third World literature, is also deemed controversial for his position on Palestinian politics. Although Said is a resident of the United States, he writes and articulates on an international level about the insider's view of the plight of the Palestinian refugee.

Born in Jerusalem, Said was raised in Cairo by Protestant, Palestinian parents. His father, after migrating to the United States and fighting in World War I, returned to Palestine as an American citizen to run a family business. Said's father removed the family to Cairo where they lived until 1963. Said went to the United States to receive his university education, receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton University and his master's and doctorate from Harvard where he won the Bowdoin Prize.

At Columbia, Said is the chairman of the Doctoral Program in Comparative Literature, and a member of the executive board of the Society of Fellows in the Humanities. His other associations include membership in the Modern Language Association, the American Historical Association, the Council on Foreign Relations, the editorial boards of the journals "Diacritics," "Critical Inquiry," and "Theory and Society," as well as memberships on the editorial boards of foreign literary and philosophic journals.

He is the recipient of countless academic awards and fellowships, including fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University; a Guggenheim fellow; a Social Science Research Council Fellow; holder of a Senior Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the recipient of the Rene Wellek Award given by the American Comparative Literature Association.

Said is the author of several books, including the most recent, "Culture and Imperialism," published by Pantheon, and Faber and Faber, forthcoming later this year; "Joseph Conrad and the Fiction of Autobiography," (Harvard 1966); "Beginnings: Intention and Method," (Basic Books 1975; rpt. Johns Hopkins 1978) which won the Columbia University Lionel Trilling Memorial Award; "Orientalism," (Pantheon 1978; Vintage 1979; Routledge 1979; Penguin 1985; translations Seuil, France, 1980; Ullstein, Germany, 1981; Dar al-Abhath al-'Arabiyyah, Beirut, 1980; Dutch, Polish, Turkish, Japanese, Serbo-Croatian translations; this book was runner-up in the "Criticism" category for the National Book Critics Circle Award); "The Question of Palestine," (New York Times Books 1979; Vintage 1980; Klett-Cotta, German translation 1981; Hebrew translation 1981); "Literature and Society," (Johns Hopkins 1980); "Covering Islam," (Pantheon 1981; Arabic translation 1982); "The World, The Text, and The Critic," (Harvard 1983; Faber and Faber 1984); "After the Last Sky," with photography by Jean

Mohr (Pantheon and Faber and Faber, September 1986); and a film, "In the Shadow of the West," documentary, Channel 4, London; also shown in Europe and the Middle East.

Said is an active lecturer, having delivered lectures at more than 100 universities in the United States, Canada, Europe and the Middle East. He has delivered the Christian Gauss Lectures in Criticism at Princeton; the William Andrews Clark Memorial Lecture at UCLA; the Marius Bewley Lecture at Rutgers University, and a series of lectures and seminars at Duke University.

In 1983 Said delivered the Frederick Ives Carpenter Lectures at the University of Chicago, in 1985 he gave the T.S. Eliot Lectures at the University of Kent, England; the Messenger Lectures at Cornell University in 1986, and the Northrop Frye Lectures at the University of Toronto the same year. He has been a visiting professor at Yale, Harvard and Johns Hopkins universities. He has also been a guest of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Sorbonne, and the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Said's writings have appeared in 12 languages in several countries. He is the author of numerous articles that have appeared in The New York Times, Harpers', Le Monde Diplomatique, The New Statesman, The Times Literary Supplement, The London Review of Books, the Manchester Guardian, and many others. He is the author of a regular music column for The Nation, and writes a monthly essay for the Arabic weekly, al Majalla.

For more information contact Marilyn Bernstein, Department of Literature, UCSD, 534-3214.

(April 30, 1987)