

Only mystery makes us live. Only mystery.

—Federico García Lorca 1898 - 1936

Half a century ago the greatest Spanish poet of the modern age was assassinated and his body dumped into a common grave outside his native city of Granada. Since that time, Federico García Lorca has become the most widely known Spanish writer of all time, passing even Cervantes in number of translations. Now, with the fiftieth anniversary of his death and of the Spanish Civil War, there is even more interest in Lorca. New biographies are under way in Spain and in the United States; new translations of his works are being prepared in France, England and the United States; new productions of his theatre are being staged world-wide.

The World Premiere of *Only Mystery* continues this revival by presenting Lorca's poetry in Chamber Theatre form. The purpose of Chamber Theatre is to illuminate literature through creative oral readings enhanced by minimum theatrical effects. Lorca's poetry is singularly suited to this medium. His poems are filled with actual characters from Spanish life ranging from antiquity to the present — Romans, Carthaginians, Jews, saints, virgins, gypsies, smugglers, bullfighters. "I do not conceive of poetry as an abstraction, but as a real existing thing which has passed next to me," he once wrote. "All the characters in my poems have existed."



Lorca's poetry is intentionally dramatic, portraying loves, feuds, seductions, rapes, murders, martyrdoms, in effect an entire series of highly dramatic scenes which present a dynamic vision of the world of Southern Spain. But there is another side to Lorca's poetry. In 1929 and 1930, Lorca made an extended visit to New York. In these poems he produced a chilling vision of the modern metropolis rising in opposition to the natural beauty of his homeland. Watching bankrupts jumping out of windows on Wall Street, urging Harlem blacks to revolt against their oppressors, denouncing materialism from the top of the Chrysler Building, Lorca became the voice of the natural poet crying in an urban wilderness. These unnervingly prophetic poems reveal a different dimension of Lorca's poetic genius.

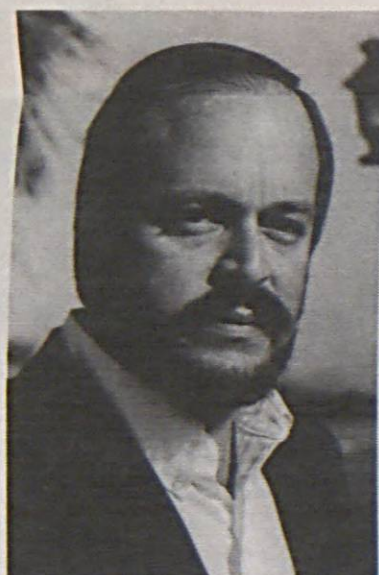
Lorca was always reluctant to publish his poetry in book form, insisting that it was meant to be recited rather than read. With this production of *Only Mystery*, the Readers Theatre Ensemble of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro returns Federico García Lorca's poetry to the living sources from which it evolved.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Only Mystery was the natural outgrowth of a previous collaboration between Sandra Forman and Allen Josephs. In January, 1986, they worked together on an interdisciplinary commemorative symposium to honor the fiftieth anniversary of Lorca's death, "Lorca: His Poetry and Theatre in Theory and Practice." One of the most successful parts of that evening was a brief staged reading of Lorca's poetry directed by Ms. Forman. Dr. Josephs reworked the translations of many of those poems, in

some cases making entirely new translations. Encouraged by that early collaborative effort, they worked together to conceive and compile a full-length biographical script based on Lorca's poetry. *Only Mystery* was written jointly by Forman and Josephs. The direction is by Sandra Forman. The new translations are by Allen Josephs. Yet at every level *Only Mystery* is a true collaborative effort.

Sandra Forman is Assistant Professor of Communication and Theatre at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Ms. Forman is an accomplished actress and director as well as a playwright, author and teacher. She has performed in and directed over 100 productions ranging from Brecht and Shakespeare to Rodgers and Hammerstein. She is the coauthor of *Your Voice and Articulation* and is currently working on a book about public speaking. In 1986, Ms. Forman founded the UNCG Readers Theatre Ensemble. Since then she has written and directed six original productions for the Ensemble based on the life and works of such poets as Fred Chappell and Robert Watson and civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, Jr.



Allen Josephs is the University Research Professor at the University of West Florida. Professor Josephs is an internationally recognized scholar of Spanish culture. He has written more than fifty articles on Spain in scholarly journals as well as in such prestigious literary publications as *The New Republic*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Boston Review*, and *the New York Times Book Review*. He is the author of a highly original cultural study, *White Wall of Spain: The Mysteries of Andalusian Culture* (with a foreword by James A. Michener) and is currently writing a book on Hemingway and Spain. He has translated Lorca, done his own anthology of Lorca's poetry (published in Barcelona), and written three critical editions of Lorca's finest works (published in Madrid).

UNCG SYMPOSIUM ON LORCA

"Lorca: His Poetry as Literature and Performance"

March 31, 1988

3 p.m.

UNCG Alumni House

FEATURING

Dr. Christopher Maurer
Harvard University

Dr. Douglas Day
University of Virginia

Dr. Allen Josephs
University of West Florida

Joseph Conger
Northern Kentucky University

AND SPECIAL GUEST

Isabel Garcia-Lorca

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

This symposium is made possible through grants from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a state-based arm of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the College of Arts and Sciences of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

This production is made possible in part by a grant from PACE Communication Inc. - Publishers, Greensboro, North Carolina.



The University of North Carolina
GREENSBORO

Department of Communication and Theatre
Greensboro, NC 27412

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This project has been made possible by the North Carolina Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. Assistance and support has also been provided by Preservation North Carolina, Friends of the Gaston County Public Library, Gaston County Museum of Art & History, Gaston County Historic Preservation Commission, Gaston County Public Library, Gaston Arts Council, and community volunteers.



"A few of the girls going home from Loray mill, Gastonia, North Carolina. Many others younger."
November 1908

Tell us about your GASTON READS! / COUNTING ON GRACE

discussions and activities at library@co.gaston.nc.us.

To share your family's mill village memories with The Gaston Gazette, please

contact Interactive Editor Kevin Ellis at 704-869-1823 or kellis@gastongazette.com.

For more information about Standing on a Box... and GASTON READS!,

please call 704-868-2164 / Dial 4.

Lewis Wickes Hine (1874 -1940), photographer, sociologist and humanist, is best known for his insightful portraits of immigrants at Ellis Island and his unflinching views of housing and labor conditions in the United States. Studying and eventually teaching at the Ethical Culture School in New York City, Hine infused his humanist concerns into a style of documentary photography that set the standard for delivering a social message through his medium. Hine began documenting immigrants arriving and awaiting processing at Ellis Island around 1904, then explored the immigrant experience with his probing lens and exposed the terrible housing and working conditions they were subject to in their attempts to integrate into their new homeland. Believing in the power of photography to persuade authorities to enact better housing codes for tenements and labor laws protecting children, Hine approached social welfare agencies about using his images for reform campaigns. In 1907 he was invited to participate in the Pittsburgh Survey, which was designed to investigate the living and working conditions of that heavily industrialized city. Lewis Hine then became a staff photographer for the National Child Labor Committee, traveling across much of the southern and eastern states to document the working conditions of factories, fields, mines, mills and canneries which made use of child labor. The

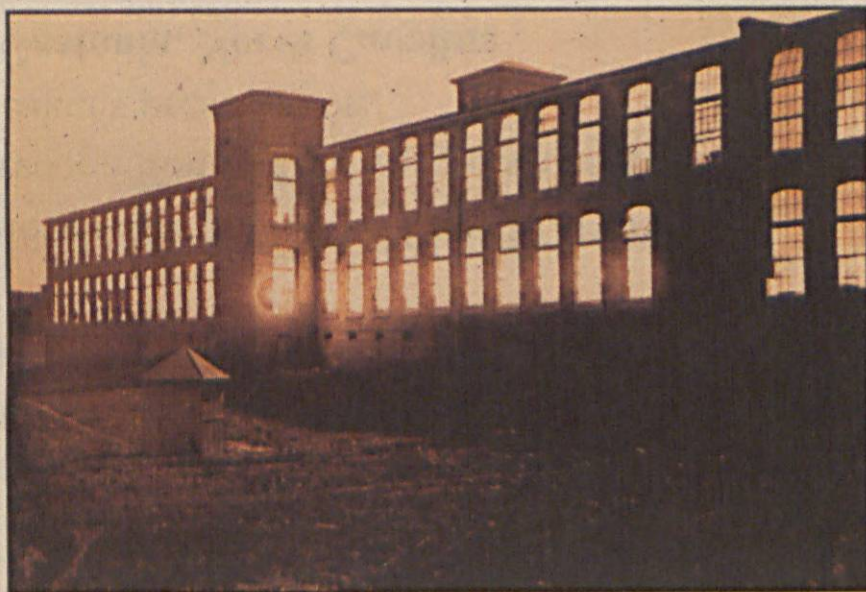
results of Hine's photography led to the establishment of laws for all workers. The favorite theme of Hine,



"Doffers in Trenton Mills, Gastonia, N.C. Others as small and some smaller. Little girls too." November 1908.

Special thanks to **Standing on** members: Dr. Robert C. Allen at Chapel Hill; Lucy Penegatton, Preservation Commission; J. Myrick Howard, Museum of Art & History; Dr. Harlan Gradin, Community College; Dr. Harlan Gradin, Museum of the New South; B. of the Gaston County Public Community volunteer; Carol Reinhardt, Library; and to Peter Plaksin, Public Library; Juliette Sheaffer, author Ron Rash; Yvonne G. Analyst; Elizabeth Dampier - & History; J. Myrick Howard, Dr. Harlan Gradin and Dr. Carolina Humanities Council.

aphic pursuits eventually
of child labor and safety
the worker was always a
and he believed that the
emerging modern tech-
nologies of the 1920's
and 1930's would lift
the burden of hard labor
from them In the 1920's
Hine beg an a senes of
photographs he called
"Work Portraits" which
showed man and
machine at work
together. Perhaps his
best known series from
this group is his com-
mission to document
the construction of the
Empire State Building.



"Ozark Mill, Gastonia, North Carolina: Work 12 hours at a stretch. No special time off to eat. 'Eat a-workin'." 9:00 P.M. Friday, November. 6, 1908. Mill was running."



a a Box...Planning Committee
- University of North Carolina
ar - Gaston County Historic
eff Pruett - Gaston County
r. Roxanne Newton - Mitchell
Thomas Hanchett - Levine
Bernadette Carpenter - Friends
Library; Nancy Moore - com-
hardt - Gaston County Public
Friends of the Gaston County
lley - Gaston Arts Council;
ibbs - Gaston County Grants
Gaston County Museum of Art
- Preservation North Carolina;
Jennifer McCollum - North



"Trenton Mill, Gastonia, North Carolina. Tom Jenkins (left hand end) 13 years old, has been in mill 3 years. Walter Jenkins, 15 years old. 4 years in mill. John Glover, (right hand) 16 years old, at mill 5 years. Closing hour, 3 P.M. Saturday, November 1908.

Standing on a Box

Lewis Hine's National Child Labor Committee Photography Gaston County, 1908

A multi-part community project exploring Greater Gaston's early twentieth-century textile heritage and its influence on our present and our future.

September - November 2008



"One of the smallest doffers. Cherryville Manufacturing Company, Cherryville, North Carolina." November 1908.

Presented by
Gaston County Public Library
Gaston County Museum of Art & History
Preservation North Carolina
Gaston Arts Council
Friends of the Gaston County Public Library
Gaston County Historic Preservation Commission
Levine Museum of the New South
The Gaston Gazette

All events are free and open to the public.

*Events are appropriate for adults
and students in grades 4 through 12.*

Information: 704-868-2164 / Dial 4



"Spinners in Melville Manufacturing Company, Cherryville, North Carolina." November 1908.

Saturday, November 8, 2008 at 2:00 pm

Lewis Hine in Gaston County - 1908

A 100th anniversary observance of Lewis Hine's National Child Labor Committee photography in Gaston County, 1908

Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Robert C. Allen - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and recognition of Hine subjects' descendants

Audience reception and preview of **Standing on a Box**...exhibit to follow speaker's presentation.

Auditorium - Gaston County Public Library / 1555 East Garrison Boulevard, Gastonia, North Carolina

Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 7:00 pm
COUNTING ON GRACE with Elizabeth Winthrop

Author reading & discussion

Author and audience reception following presentation

Unity Place

201 West Franklin Boulevard - Gastonia, North Carolina



Saturday, November 15, 2008 at 2:00 pm
Gaston County 1908: Before / During / After

A panel discussion of textile history and culture

Featuring historians Dr. Roxanne Newton - Mitchell Community College,
Dr. James Leloudis - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,
Dr. David Goldfield - University of North Carolina at Charlotte,
and Dr. Thomas Hanchett - Levine Museum of the New South

Auditorium - Gaston County Public Library

1555 East Garrison Boulevard - Gastonia, North Carolina



Friday, November 21, 2008 at 7:00 pm

Gastonia 1908: Mill Music & Drama

A concert of string band music and dramatic excerpts

Featuring Royce Robinson & Friends and
Possum Hollar Old Time String Band

Fellowship Hall - West Avenue Presbyterian Church

1015 West Franklin Boulevard - Gastonia, North Carolina

Standing on a Box: Lewis Hine...Gaston County 1908

A photography exhibition

November 8, 2008 through February 21, 2009

Gaston County Museum of Art & History

131 West Main Street - Dallas, North Carolina

March 1 through June 14, 2009

Levine Museum of the New South

200 East Seventh Street - Charlotte, North Carolina

June 17 through August 31, 2009

Gaston County Public Library

1555 East Garrison Boulevard - Gastonia, North Carolina

GASTON READS!

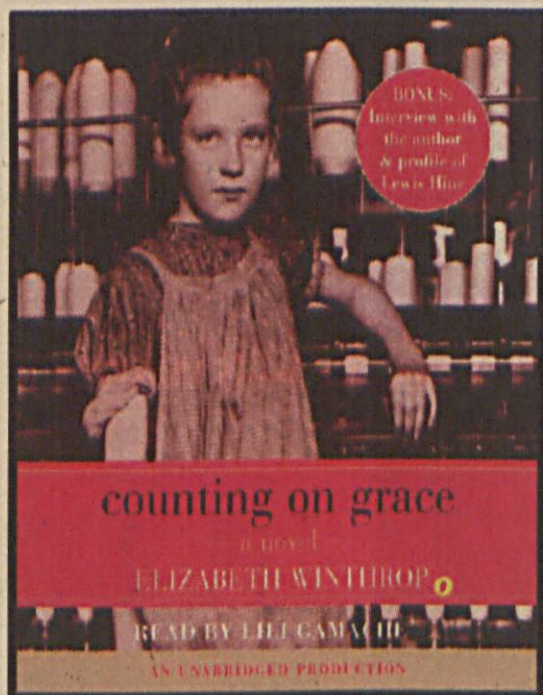
COUNTING ON GRACE by Elizabeth Winthrop

Award-winning novel about life in

a turn-of-the-century textile community

and the plucky youth determined to build a better future.

September 2 - November 30, 2008



*Community-wide
reading opportunity
for adults and students
in grades 4 through 12.*

**Read the book, then discuss it
with family, friends, book club
classmates, and other readers.**

**Get your free copy of COUNTING ON GRACE at all Gaston
County Public Library locations beginning September 2.
(Limit one copy per household)**

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**Standing on a Box
and GASTON READS!**
Lewis Hine's Photography - Gaston County 1908