AGNI Magazine—which The Globe calls “among the nation’s best” (and The Guardian (UK) says “keeps alive the ideal of the independent intellectual”)—celebrates its 71st issue with readings by

- Michelle Hoover: Included in Best New American Voices; author of the forthcoming novel The Quickening (Other Press).
- Wyn Cooper: Widely anthologized author of Chaos Is the New Calm; his poem “Fun” became Sheryl Crow’s hit “All I Wanna Do.”
- Valerie Duff: Author of the just-released poetry collection To the New World; poetry editor of Salamander.
- Mark Slouka: Novelist and nonfiction author whose work has appeared in Best American Essays and Best American Short Stories; a contributing editor of Harper’s.

AGNI hosts a reading and release party to launch AGNI 71, which includes work by Charles Simic, Lia Purpura, Paul West, Melissa Green, Alex Lemon, Major Jackson, Marjorie Sandor, and many others, plus a major interview with poet Donald Hall.

Michelle Hoover’s fiction has appeared in Best New American Voices, Prairie Schooner, The Massachusetts Review, StoryQuarterly, and elsewhere. She has been the Philip Roth Writer-in-Residence at Bucknell University, a MacDowell Fellow, and in 2005 the winner of the PEN New England Discovery Award for Fiction. Her first novel, The Quickening, will be published by Other Press in June. She teaches writing at Boston University and Grub Street.

Wyn Cooper’s fourth book of poems, Chaos is the New Calm, will be published by BOA Editions in May. His poems appear in twenty-five anthologies of contemporary poetry. He has written songs with Sheryl Crow, David Broza, Jody Redhage, and David Baerwald. His second CD with Madison Smartt Bell, Postcards Out of the Blue, was released in 2008. Their songs can be heard on six television shows. He lives in Vermont and works for the Harriet Monroe Poetry Institute, a think tank run by the Poetry Foundation in Chicago.

Valerie Duff is author of the just-released To the New World (Salmon Poetry). Her poems and reviews have appeared in Ploughshares, Harvard Review, PN Review, AGNI, Zoland Poetry, and elsewhere. She is poetry editor of Salamander and has received poetry grants from the St. Botolph Club and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. She has taught at Harvard Extension School and Boston College, and is currently a freelance writer and editor for Bedford/St. Martin’s Press.

Mark Slouka is author of five books, including two novels, a book of short stories, and the forthcoming collection Essays from the Nick of Time (Graywolf Press, 2010). He has taught at Columbia, Harvard, and the University of Chicago, and his work has won a National Magazine Award and appeared in The Best American Short Stories and The Best American Essays (three times). He is a contributing editor of Harper’s and has been awarded fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Free and open to the public. For further information contact AGNI Senior Editor William Pierce at agni@bu.edu or (617) 353-7135 or visit AGNI Online at www.agnimagazine.org.