

Michener Center Presents Reading by America's "Pugilistic Poet" August Kleinzahler

Posted on **October 22, 2014** by **Jessica Sinn**



Acclaimed poet August Kleinzahler will present a reading at a campus event hosted by the Michener Center for Writers on Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m. in the Avaya Auditorium, [POB 2.302](#).

Kleinzahler's impressive body of work is a hybrid of high and low influences, mixing street-smart language and articulate cultural references with his unique brand of hard-boiled whimsy. His outsider stance has also gained him a reputation as a literary bad-boy, the "pugilistic poet," duking it out with both pop culturists—somewhat famously, Garrison Keillor, over his folksy "Good Poems" anthology—and academics alike. Kleinzahler's literary fame has built steadily over four decades.

He published a handful of poetry books with independent presses before New York publisher Farrar Straus & Giroux picked up his 1995 "Red Sauce, Whiskey and Snow." They have published his last six books, as well as revived earlier work in new editions.

Kleinzahler won the distinguished Griffin International Poetry Prize in 2004 for "The Strange Hours Travelers Keep," and his new and selected poems, "Sleeping it Off in Rapid City" (2008), was awarded the National Book Critics Circle Award. His prose also

regularly appears in the London Review of Books and Slate, among others, and he has published a volume of meditative essays, "Cutty One Rock: Low Characters and Strange Places, Gently Explained." His newest book of poems is "The Hotel Oneira," which the Guardian describes as "dreamlike yet savvy, among the most delightful flowerings of American poetry in our times."

The event is free and open to the public. Parking is available in the nearby UT San Jacinto Garage.

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