

The Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies
University of Illinois at Chicago

presents

THE 28TH ANNUAL TRACY LECTURE

by

Sander M. Goldberg

University of California, Los Angeles

“Comedy in Context: Seeing Plays the Roman Way”

Friday 1 April 2011

3 PM

UIC Institute for the Humanities

Lower Level of Stevenson Hall

701 South Morgan Street

Reception to Follow. Public Cordially invited.

ABSTRACT: It is among the more awkward facts of Roman studies that the plays we know best, the comedies of Plautus and Terence, were written at a time when we know least about the Roman theater. Where plays were staged and how the playing area affected the actors' performance and the audiences' response have long seemed beyond our knowledge. In recent years, greater attention to performance values has combined with advances in Roman archaeology and the computer modeling of lost structures and spaces to renew interest in such practical questions. This illustrated lecture will present some of the surprising results when we apply these new modes of analysis to longstanding problems of the Roman stage.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Sander M. Goldberg is Professor of Classics at UCLA. He is the author of *Constructing Literature in the Roman Republic* (Cambridge 2005), *Epic in Republican Rome* (Oxford 1995), *Understanding Terence* (Princeton 1986), and *The Making of Menander's Comedy* (California 1980). A collection of essays, *Haydn and the Performance of Rhetoric* (Chicago 2007) co-edited with the musicologist Tom Beghin, received the 2009 Ruth A. Solie Prize from the American Musicological Society. A past editor of the *Transactions of the American Philological Association*, he is the current editor for APA textbooks and monographs. His awards include a

2010 Guggenheim Fellowship supporting his present work in Roman theater.



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