Wole Soyinka, a Nigerian writer, political activist, and recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986, has one of the world's most eloquent interpreters of the staggering quality of human endurance. His plays, novels, poems, essays, and memoirs draw on the astonishing beauty and tragic politics of his native country and on his own experiences of protest, imprisonment, and exile. By turns elegiac, exuberant, satirical, compassionate, witty, and outraged, Soyinka's political intensity and prodigious literary talent have earned him a reputation as the voice and face of African democracy.

Shozo Sato, a Kabuki scholar and a professor of cultural studies, will discuss connections between Shakespeare's western text and Kabuki's eastern and Zen themes. Sato's talk will be accompanied by performed scenes from his mesmerizing play, "Kabuki Othello," which will have its world premiere this fall. With training in fine arts, the Japanese tea ceremony, flower arrangement, and classical dance, and recipient of numerous international awards including the First Cultural Achievement Award from the Japan Society of America in 2003, Sato is Professor emeritus of the Art and Design Faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He directed Kabuki Lady Mashush for the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre in Spring 2005.

An Evening of Shakespeare with Wole Soyinka: Nigerian writer, political activist, and recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986, Wole Soyinka will present a talk entitled "Othello in Different Contexts". A Roundtable with NU Faculty - Wendy Griswold, Ed Muir, and Wendy Wall: "How Does a Sociologist, an Historian, and a Literary Scholar Read Othello?"

The Othello Project

For the first time ever, the entire Northwestern community will be encouraged to join in the reading, exploration, and enjoyment of a single, great book. This fall 2006, the "One Book, One Northwestern" program will bring to life the William Shakespeare classic, Othello through an array of coordinated seminars, lectures, performances, readings, dance workshops, and film screenings. These events will display the fascinating ways that Othello has been staged, adapted, filmed, and read all over the world in the last four hundred years. Events on the Evanston campus will include:

Thursday, September 21 8:00 P.M. Norris Center East Lawn
Outdoor Screening of "O" an update of Othello, set in a high school, starring Mekhi Phifer, Julia Stiles and Josh Hartnett. Free popcorn.

Tuesday, September 26 4:30 P.M., Hagstrom Room, University Hall 201, 1897 Sheridan Road
"Othello in Different Contexts": A Roundtable with NU Faculty - Wendy Griswold, William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of English and American Literature, and Language and of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University, will present a lecture entitled "Black and White and Read All Over: Othello and Modern Culture." Professor Garber is an eminent scholar of literature and the humanities as well as a distinguished public intellectual and shrewd cultural commentator. She is a prizewinning teacher and author of twelve books including Texts and Contexts, Excursions, Symptoms of Culture, Question Marks, Sex and Real Estate, and Dog Love. Her four books on Shakespeare include, most recently, Shakespeare After All, awarded the 2005 Christian Gauss Book Award by Phi Beta Kappa and chosen by Newsweek as one of 2005's five best nonfiction books.

Wednesday, October 5 7:00-9:00 P.M., Harris Hall 107, 1881 Sheridan Road, reception to follow
Opening Keynote Address

Thursday, October 5 5:00 P.M., University Hall 102, 1897 Sheridan Road
"Othello in Film Around the World": A Roundtable with NU Faculty Scott Curtis, Kevin Bell, and Olatuja Adekola, who will discuss a German silent version of Othello, a British update of the play set in the age of jazz entitled All Night Long, and a Nigerian film version called Thunderbolt.

Wednesday, October 11 8:00 P.M. Block Cinema, 40 Arts Circle Drive
Screening of Orson Welles's Othello, with Theatre and English Department Professor Tracy Davis introducing the film. There is also a screening separate from this list of events on Wednesday, July 19, 9:00 P.M.

Thursday, October 19 5:00 P.M., University Hall 102, 1897 Sheridan Road
"Othello as Literary Progenitor": A Roundtable with NU Faculty Naoin Qader, Christine Froula, and Evan Mwania, who will discuss Tayeb Salih's Othello-like novel, A Season of Migration to the North. In adapting the Othello story, Salih's bestselling 1967 Arabic novel explores cultural dissonance between Africa and Europe.

Saturday, October 28 7 P.M., McCormick Tribune Center Forum, 1870 Campus Drive
In "Othello: Kabuki Style," Shozo Sato will discuss connections between Shakespeare's western text and Kabuki's eastern and Zen themes. Sato's talk will be accompanied by performed scenes from his mesmerizing play, "Kabuki Othello," which will have its world premiere this fall. With training in fine arts, the Japanese tea ceremony, flower arrangement, and classical dance, and recipient of numerous international awards including the First Cultural Achievement Award from the Japan Society of America in 2003, Sato is Professor emeritus of the Art and Design Faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He directed Kabuki Lady Mashush for the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre in Spring 2005.

Monday, October 30 5:00-7:00 P.M., Hagstrom Room, University Hall 201, 1897 Sheridan Road
"Othello as Literary Progenitor": A Roundtable with NU Faculty Naoin Qader, Christine Froula, and Evan Mwania, who will discuss Tayeb Salih's gripping novel, A Season of Migration to the North. In adapting the Othello story, Salih's bestselling 1967 Arabic novel explores cultural dissonance between Africa and Europe.

Wednesday, November 1 5:00 P.M., Harris Hall 107, 1881 Sheridan Road, reception to follow
Nigerian writer, political activist, and recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986, Wole Soyinka will present a talk entitled "Othello's Dominion, Immigrant Domain." Soyinka one of the world's most eloquent interpreters of the staggering quality of human endurance. His plays, novels, poems, essays, and memoirs draw on the astonishing beauty and tragic politics of his native country and in his own experiences of protest, imprisonment, and exile. By turns elegiac, exuberant, satirical, compassionate, witty, and outraged, Soyinka's political intensity and prodigious literary talent have earned him a reputation as the voice and face of African democracy.

Monday, November 6 7:00-9:00 P.M., University Hall 102, 1897 Sheridan Road
"Othello in Three Moments, Three Modes": This event will explore three very different adaptations and interpretations of Othello: Verdi's opera Othello, presented by NU musicologist Jesse Rosenberg; Joe Linimon's dance theatre work, "The Moor's Pavane", presented by Susan Manning; and Fred Wilson's 2003 installation at the Venice Biennale, presented by DePaul faculty member Francesca Royster.

Tuesday, November 7 2:00 to 3:20 P.M. In the Ballroom, Theatre and Interpretation Center, 10 Arts Circle Drive
"Limoo Movement Workshop": Learn or watch the Jose Limon dance technique, with Instructor James Moreno. Movers and observers are both welcome on a first-come, first-served basis.

FINALE: November 9 7:00 P.M., TBA
"Othello in Performance": Distinguished director, choreographer, and playwright David Bell will show how a single scene from Othello can be performed in strikingly different ways. Bell's work includes productions with the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre and with the Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., premieres on- and off Broadway, and "Irving Berlin's American Inidukan at Northwestern. He has earned numerous awards for his work, including a nomination for the Laurence Olivier Award. This presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with Barbara Gaines, founder and director of the Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Gaines serves on the artistic directorate of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London and has received Jeff awards for many of her impressive Chicago performances. Hollywood and stage actor Harry Lennix, who has starred in "Juliet's Romeo," and recently in the television show Commander in Chief, has been invited to participate in this event. Rehearsals for the performance will be open to the public on this day.

Funded by the Northwestern English Department, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, The Kaplan Humanities Institute and the Alumnae of Northwestern

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, call 847/491-7294.