

# ARTS

## Prolific author in-residence

by Christopher A. Coy

West Indian author Samuel Selvon is the U of A's writer in residence this year, and the first representative of the third world to occupy this position.

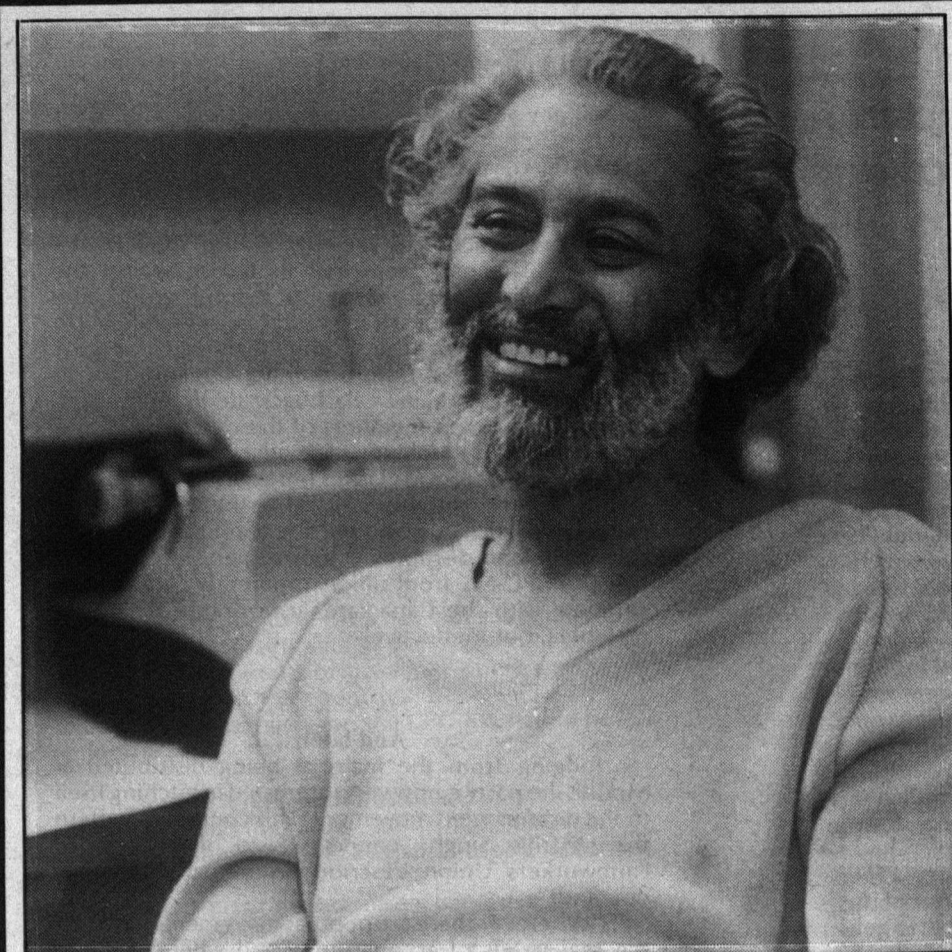
Selvon has travelled and lectured extensively throughout North America, the West Indies and Europe. He brings with him an impressive international reputation. U of A professor of creative writing, Douglas Barbour, told the Gateway, "We're very proud to have such a truly cosmopolitan writer as our writer in residence. It's a privilege to have him here."

Writers in residence, while given time to continue writing, are asked to contribute a certain amount of time to the members of the community. In addition to giving public readings and lectures they will read manuscripts, give advice and assistance to young writers or simply talk about literature and writing. This service is available to the community at large as well as the University community.

Selvon's first public reading will be held in connection with the celebration of higher education during National University Week. The reading will be given on October 6 at 8:00 p.m. in the Humanities Centre, lecture theatre #1. Admission is free. Further information about this and other readings can be obtained from the English department.

Mr. Selvon was born in San Fernando, Trinidad in 1923. His formal education was completed there.

During the second world war he worked as a wireless operator for the Royal Naval Reserve in Trinidad. At the end of the war he worked for five years as a journalist and sub-editor for *The Trinidad Guardian*. During this time he began writing short stories and poems which were broadcast on the famous BBC radio program, *Caribbean*



Samuel Selvon: The West Indian perspective

photo Martin Beales

Voices, and published in literary magazines.

In an interview with the Gateway, Selvon spoke of the lack of encouragement for writers in the West Indies during the

post-war era. "People thought you were mad if you wanted to write," he said, "but that is what I wanted to do. It is a means of self-expression."

He went to London in 1950. There he

worked at odd jobs while writing his first novel, *A Brighter Sun*, which was published in 1952. He lived and wrote in England for 28 years.

The Trinidadian native is the author of some 14 books and the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships. His stories and poems have been widely anthologized. Some of his work has been translated into other languages.

His novels include *The Lonely Londoners*, *Turn Again Tiger*, *The Housing Lark*, *Moses Ascending* and his latest, *Moses Migrating* (written, although not in Canada), which was published this year and will soon be available at Aspen Books and the University bookstore.

Selvon, now a Canadian citizen, has been living in Calgary since 1978 and says he plans to continue living there. When asked if he liked Canada he said, "Let me put it this way, I spent more than 28 years in Britain and never took out citizenship papers. I took out Canadian citizenship as soon as I qualified. That should speak for itself."

But despite his cosmopolitan lifestyle and his Canadian citizenship he still considers himself a West Indian. "I cannot change my identity," he said. "I cannot change what I am. I will always be writing from the point of view of a West Indian."

Selvon spoke also of the need for support of new West Indian writing. He said, "I feel that there is a great potential for that kind of thing in the Caribbean and that it ought to be encouraged and supported."

Mr. Selvon is available to the public on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., and Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. He is also available by appointment. While at U of A he plans to complete the first draft of a novel which he began writing last year.

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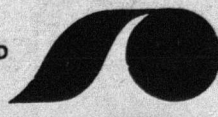
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3. At Shopper's we have our own lab, so it's easy to control prices.
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566-Hermitage Road  
(approx. 128 Ave.)  
on 40th Street  
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## Up and Coming

### GALLERIES

**Ken Straiton** — Black and White photographs, Latitude 53 until October 9.  
**Gregory Pyra** — Paintings on paper and canvas, Latitude 53 until October 9.  
**Campbell Soup Tureens** — Exhibit at the Provincial Museum until October 23.  
**Len Gibbs** — Exhibit at the Provincial Museum until October 13, Paintings.  
**Joseph Beuys** — Graphic Work at Ring House Gallery until October 23.  
**Swiss Posters** — Exhibition at Ring House Gallery from October 6 until October 30.  
**Catherine Burgess** — Sculptor in Steel at Ring House Gallery until October 2.

### LECTURES/READINGS

**Ben Wicks** — U of A Alumni Association. SUB Theatre, October 1, 11 a.m. Tickets free, bag lunch \$6.00. Information 432-3224.  
**Roald Hoffmann** — 1982 Nobel Laureate, October 3, 8 p.m. presented by the Faculty of Science. Admission free.  
**Joan Clark and Helen Rosta** — U of A English Departments SALTER RADING series, October 13, 12:30 p.m., room 2-42, Humanities Centre.

### FILMS

**The Charterhouse of Parma** — National Film Theatre, September 29, 30, Oct. 1 and 2. Citadel Theatre's Zeidel Theatre. Information 426-4811.  
**Brimstone and Treacle** — National Film Theatre, September 29, 30, Oct 1 and 3.  
**The Battle of Chile** — National Film Theatre, Oct. 2 and 9.  
**Chile on the Heart** — National Film Theatre, Oct. 2 and 9.  
**All Screwed Up** — National Film Theatre, Oct. 3 and 5.  
**Modern Times** — National Film Theatre, Oct. 5 and 6.

**Little Women** — Edmonton Film Society's Classic Series, Oct. 3, Tory Lecture Theatre, 8:00 p.m.  
**Clockwork Orange** — September 30, 8 p.m. SUB Theatre.  
**Flashdance** — October 6, 8 p.m. at SUB Theatre.

### MUSIC

**The Lew Tabackin Trio** — Edmonton Jazz Society, October 2, 8 p.m. at Centennial Library Theatre. Tickets at the door only.  
**Mary O'Hara** — Singer and Harpist, October 2, 8 p.m. Jubilee Auditorium.  
**The Lindsay String Quartet** — October 5, SUB Theatre, presented by The Edmonton Chamber Music Society.  
**George Lewison and Bob Wishinski** — Songs of Peace and Solidarity, September 30, 8 p.m., Provincial Museum Auditorium.  
**Truth** — appearing in RATT Oct. 6 - 8, presented by CJSR.  
**Darkroom, NEO A4** — Dinwoodie, Friday, Sept. 30, 8 p.m.  
**Villains, The Citizens** — Dinwoodie, Saturday, Oct. 1, 8 p.m.  
**Carmen Tellier Borret and Alexandra Munn** — soprano and piano, September 30, 8 p.m., Con-Hall, Old Arts Building.  
**Alvin and Judy Lowrey** — Trumpet and piano, Oct. 2, 3 p.m., Con-Hall, Old Arts Building.  
**Jeremy Brown and Jack Wilson** — Saxophone, Oct. 6, 8 p.m., Con-Hall, Old Arts Building.

### THEATRE

**The Lark** — Citadel Theatre until October 22.  
**Judy...Weep no more my Lady** — Northern Light Theatre until October 2 at Walter H. Kaasa Theatre in the Jubilee Auditorium.  
**The Winter's Tale** — Walderdale Theatre from October 6 to 15.  
**Tighten the Traces/Haul in the Reins, and The Boat** — Workshop West until October 2.

### OPERA

**Lucia Di Lammermoor** — Edmonton Opera, October 1, 6 and 8, Jubilee Auditorium, 8 p.m.