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### **Second Annual Kate Besser Memorial Lecture Pays Tribute to Tony Hillerman**

**Santa Fe, NM, Sept. 17, 2009** —Santa Fe Community College, KSFR and the New York-based Symphony Space present a tribute to the life and work of the famed detective novelist and non-fiction author Tony Hillerman, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 22, at the Lensic Performing Arts Center, 211 W. San Francisco Street, Santa Fe. This presentation is the second annual SFCC Kate Besser Memorial Lecture. Tickets are \$10.

The evening features renowned actors Wesley “Wes” Studi (“Dances With Wolves,” “Last of the Mohicans” and a series of PBS movies based on Hillerman novels) and Kate Burton (“Grey’s Anatomy,” “Alice in Wonderland,” and numerous Broadway stage productions) reading from Hillerman classics such as “A Thief of Time,” “Skinwalkers,” and “The Great Taos Robbery.”

The evening is hosted by Isaiah Sheffer, artistic director of the Symphony Space series known as “Selected Shorts.” This acclaimed and nationally broadcast performance series features some of the finest artists of the American theater reading contemporary and classic short fiction.

Now in its second year, the Annual Kate Besser Memorial Lecture pays tribute to the late Kate Besser a life-long learner who frequently engaged in classes, workshops and lectures at the community college. Her husband Bruce Besser is Chair of the SFCC Governing Board.

For tickets, call (505) 988-1234 or visit [www.lensic.com](http://www.lensic.com).

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***More on the talent:***

Kate Burton was nominated for Tony Awards for her work in *Hedda Gabler*, *The Elephant Man*, and *The Constant Wife*. Her other Broadway work includes *Present Laughter* (Theatre World Award), *Spring Awakening*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Jake's Women*, *Company*, and *Some Americans Abroad* (Drama Desk nomination). She appeared in *Three Sisters* in London's West End, and her off-Broadway work includes David Mamet's *Boston Marriage*. Her screen credits include *Max Payne*, *Stay, Quid Pro Quo*, *Sherry Baby*, *The Night Listener*, *Swimfan*, *Unfaithful*, *Celebrity*, *The Ice Storm*, *August*, and *Big Trouble in Little China*. She appeared in the HBO film *Empire Falls*, and her other television work includes *Notes for My Daughter* (Emmy Award), *The Practice*, *The West Wing*, *Law & Order*, *Grey's Anatomy* (Emmy nomination), and *Rescue Me*. Her upcoming projects include the films *Spooner* and *Remember Me*.

Isaiah Sheffer is a founder and the artistic director of Symphony Space, as well as host and director of Selected Shorts live at Symphony Space, on tour and on public radio nationwide. He is also a co-creator of The Thalia Follies political cabaret. His radio, television, theatre, and film credits are extensive and include work as a commentator on the arts for WNYC's weekly radio column *Around New York*; producer/writer for *The Road to the White House*, a 20-minute public affairs series for NBC-TV (Emmy Nomination); and writer/director, *The Last Chapter*, award-winning historical documentary film on 1,000 years of Polish-Jewish history. Mr. Sheffer wrote the book and lyrics for the musicals *Yiddle with a Fiddle* and *The Rise of David Levinsky*. His latest play is *Dreamers and Demons: The Three Worlds of Isaac Bashevis Singer*. He is currently creating the libretto for a modern-baroque opera-ballet about the making of the American Constitution, *A More Perfect Union*.

Wes Studi brought to life the legendary character Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn, for a series of PBS movies produced by Robert Redford, based on Tony Hillerman's books *Skinwalkers*, *A Thief of Time*, and *Coyote Waits*. He is a Cherokee actor best known for his roles in *Dances with Wolves*, *The Last of the Mohicans*, and *Heat*. He played the title character in the Walter Hill-directed film *Geronimo: An American Legend* alongside veteran actors Gene Hackman and Robert Duvall, for which he won a Western Heritage Award. His other film and television credits include *Crazy Horse*, *Deep Rising*, *Streets of Laredo*, *The New World*, and *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. His upcoming projects include James Cameron's *Avatar*, *Timberwolf*, and *The Undying*. Wes Studi and his wife Maura Dhu, a singer and writer, live in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and perform in a local six piece band called *Firecat of Discord*.

**About Santa Fe Community College**

For more than 25 years, Santa Fe Community College has been the gateway to success for individuals and the community by providing affordable, high quality educational programs that serve the social, cultural, technological and economic needs of a diverse community. The college serves more than 14,500 students per year in its credit, noncredit and adult basic education programs. For further information, visit [www.sfccnm.edu](http://www.sfccnm.edu) or call (505) 428-1000.

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