

VOICINGS

A Festival of Language

Faculty members plan intriguing exploration of language

A first-ever multi-disciplinary exploration of the multiple forms of language will be held at the university April 5-8.

“Voicings,” a combination fine arts festival and scholarly symposium, will explore the social ramifications of language, which faculty members planning the event say has the power to embolden or unnerve, to liberate or suppress.

The program is nothing if not intriguing, as the following sample of events indicates:

- **“dunno how to get there but wouldn't start from here”** – Australian-born, New York-based poet, writer, performer and improviser Chris Mann explores the textures and gestures of Australian speech with its rhythms and qualities of color, pitch, intonation and emphasis.
- **“A Possible Detour Around the Sonata Blockade”** – A multimedia presentation on iconoclastic composer and linguist Harry Partch, whose compositions drew on the vernacular of Depression-era hobos and were performed on home-made instruments tuned to ancient Greek scales.
- **“Suicide and the Meaning of Terrorism”** – A panel discussion of whether the phrase “suicide bombings” undermines the progress made in increasing sensitivity in reporting about suicide as an outcome of depression.
- **“Voicings: Signing and Deaf Culture”** – Explores the life of a local three-year-old with multiple disabilities to address how the circumstances of life can suddenly change perceptions of what it means to have language, voice and communication skills.
- **“Let's Talk Again”** – A panel discussion of aphasia, a deterioration of the power to understand language as a result of brain injury, disease or stroke.

Complete details on the festival/symposium, which is free and open to the public, can be found at www.stcloudstate.edu/voicings.