Founders' Day Convocation (1998 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Illinois Wesleyan University

FOUNDERS’ DAY CONVOCATION

Westbrook Auditorium
Presser Hall
February 11, 1998
11:00 A.M.
PROGRAM
President Minor Myers, jr., Presiding
Professor Robert Mowery, Mace Bearer

Organ Prelude
Concerto No. 1 in G major BWV592

J. Scott Ferguson, Organist
Associate Professor of Music
J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

*Processional
Prelude
from Te Deum

Marc-Antoine Charpentier
(circa 1645-1704)

*Invocation
Welcome

University Chaplain Dennis E. Groh
President Minor Myers, jr.

Performance
String Quintet in C major
Allegretto

Ethos String Quartet
Franz Peter Schubert
(1797-1828)

Sharon Chung ’00, violin
Luke Herman ’00, violin
Erica Schambach ’01, viola
Karl Knapp ’00, cello
Stefan Kartman, cello
Assistant Professor of Cello and Chamber Music

Awarding of Honorary Degree

President Minor Myers, jr.
Provost Janet M. McNew

Remarks
“A Man With A View”

Ismail Merchant

*Alma Wesleyana

From hearts aflame, our love we pledge to thee,
Where’er we wander, over land or sea;
Through time unending, loyal we will be—
True to our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.

When college days are fully past and gone,
While life endures, from twilight gleam til dawn,
Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on—
Star-crowned, our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.

—Professor W. E. Schultz (1935)

*Benediction
Recessional

University Chaplain Dennis E. Groh
J. Scott Ferguson, Organist
Associate Professor of Music
Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Allegro assai vivace from Sonata I

*Audience will please stand
Ismail Merchant
Producer/Director/Author
Merchant Ivory Productions

Merchant Ivory is not a person, but a creative team that has produced many tasteful, memorable movies over the past 30 years, including “Shakespeare Wallah,” “Heat and Dust,” “The Bostonians,” “A Room with a View,” “Mr. and Mrs. Bridge,” “The Remains Of The Day,” and “Howards End,” literally to name just a few. Director James Ivory, writer Ruth Prawer Jhabvala, and, of course, Ismail Merchant have been a creative force that confers a literary elegance on each of their films.

Ismail Merchant’s creativity is revealed, however, not only under the aegis of his production company, but also on his own. He has written for film and television, directed a feature length film “In Custody (1991),” and full-length television features for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Merchant also has published two cookbooks—“Ismail Merchant’s Indian Cuisine (1986),” and “Ismail Merchant’s Passionate Meals: The New Indian Cuisine For Fearless Cooks and Adventurous Eaters (1994),”—as well as three other books about movies, and food. Merchant is also a gourmet cook and restauranteur.

But it is as a film producer that Ismail Merchant is most widely known, having worked with actors of renown like Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson, Jeanne Moreau, Vanessa Redgrave, Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, Ben Kingsley, Denholm Elliott, Helena Bonham Carter, Daniel Day Lewis, Maggie Smith, Jessica Tandy, Christopher Reeve, Julie Christie and many, many others. He has just finished producing Merchant Ivory’s 40th film, “A Soldier’s Daughter Never Cries,” starring Kris Kristofferson and Barbara Hershey, based on the novel by Kaylie Jones.

Ismail Merchant was born on December 25, 1936 in Bombay, India. He was educated at St. Xavier’s University, Bombay, and received a Master’s Degree in business administration at New York University. He met James Ivory in 1960 when Merchant was 24 and Ivory 32. At that time, Merchant had co-produced one film, an Oscar-nominated 1960 short, “The Creation of Woman.” They formed Merchant Ivory Productions soon after they met and their first film, “The Householder” (1963), was the first film made in India to be distributed worldwide by a major American company, Columbia Pictures.
West Gates
(Founders Gates)

From a 1931 booklet of pen sketches of Illinois Wesleyan University

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