

Joan Didion, Legendary Writer and Commentator, to Read at Tulane

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National Book Award winner Joan Didion, whose collections of essays *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* (1968) and *The White Album* (1979) have been essential reading in university courses for two generations, will read at Tulane University's McAlister Auditorium April 6 at 7 p.m.

In a storied career that has spanned nearly half a century, Didion has mastered multiple genres and forms "from political and cultural commentary to essays, novels and screenplays.

Her bestselling memoir, *The Year of Magical Thinking* (2005), won the National Book Award and was adapted, by the author, into a Broadway play starring Vanessa Redgrave.

In 2007, Didion was honored with the National Book Foundation's prestigious Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, joining the ranks of literary legends like Norman Mailer, Arthur Miller, Eudora Welty, Philip Roth and John Updike.

Didion's visit is the third in Tulane's annual Great Writer Series, sponsored by the Creative Writing Fund of the Department of English. Since its establishment in 2006, the Creative Writing Fund has enhanced literary programming both at Tulane and in New Orleans, hosting visits by Toni Morrison in 2007 and Salman Rushdie in 2008.

The reading, which is free and open to the public, begins at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m.