



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Media Contact: Leila Gordon  
703 476 4500, x6167

### Poet Sharon Olds Shares Her Passion and Wit at CenterStage



Sharon Olds' poetry, says Michael Ondaatje, is "pure fire in the hands," and David Leavitt in the *Voice Literary Supplement* describes her work as "remarkable for its candor, its eroticism, and its power to move." On Saturday, March 24 at 3:00 p.m., Olds will share her works at Reston's CenterStage. Prepare for an afternoon exploring the sensuality, humor, sprung rhythm, and remarkable imagery that defines her work.

Olds is known for expressing truths about domestic and political violence, sexuality, family relationships, love, and the body. Often compared to "confessional" poets, she has been much praised for the courage, emotional power, and extraordinary physicality of her work. A reviewer for *The New York Times*

hailed her poetry for its vision: "Like Whitman, Olds sings the body in celebration of a power stronger than political oppression."

Born in San Francisco, Olds studied at Stanford University and Columbia University. Her numerous honors include a National Endowment for the Arts grant; a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship; the San Francisco Poetry Center Award for her first collection, *Satan Says* (1980); and the Lamont Poetry Selection and the National Book Critics Circle Award for *The Dead & the Living* (1983). Her other books of poetry are *Strike Sparks: Selected Poems 1980-2002* (2004), *Blood, Tin, Straw* (1999), *The Gold Cell* (1997), *The Wellspring* (1995), and *The Father* (1992). She has written eight volumes of poetry, and it has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and *The New York Times*. Named New York State Poet Laureate (1998 – 2000), Olds teaches graduate poetry workshops at New York University and the writing workshop she helped found at a 900-bed state hospital for the severely disabled. She is a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets and a member of the American Academy of Arts & Science. Olds' next collection, *O Western Wind*, is nearing completion.

This show is suitable for ages 18 and older. Tickets are \$10. To make reservations by phone, call our 24-hour Box Office at 703-476-4500 (press 3). Tickets for all CenterStage events may be reserved by telephone, purchased from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. every day at the Reston Community Center Information and Service Desk, or purchased in person during Box Office hours. Box Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and two hours prior to curtain times. Payment with Visa or Mastercard is required at time of reservation. For season telephone orders, brochures, directions or more information call 703-476-4500, and press option 3.

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Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. For further information, contact the Reston Community Center at (703) 476-4500, Virginia Relay (800) 828-1120 (TTY) or visit the website at <http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com>. The Reston Community Center is located at 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191. The Reston Community Center is completely accessible to persons with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

To request this information in an alternate format, call Esther Garcia, 703-476-4500.

**Reston Community Center**  
2310 Colts Neck Road  
Reston, Virginia 20191  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)

