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**Biographical entries in *Who's Who in America* and  
*Contemporary Authors***

“I think *The Death of the Forest*, Norman MacAfee’s visionary opera to the music of Charles Ives, can become an American cultural treasure produced by opera companies the world over.”—**Donald T. Sanders**, executive artistic director, Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts/MIFA

“Norman MacAfee is a new presence, a new energy in American writing”—**James Purdy** on *A New Requiem*

“A badly needed corrective offering compassion, understanding, and optimism and providing an alternative way of dealing with the pessimism and despair fed to us daily by the present administration.”—**Vine Deloria, Jr.**, about *The Gospel According to RFK: Why It Matters Now*

“A challenging work of great originality. Not since John Dos Passos’ *USA* trilogy has a writer made such effective use of fugal techniques, interweaving what appear to be historically disparate themes into new coherence.”—**Robert Giroux** (on the novel “Tolerance”)

“Wonderful. Echt Zen.”—**Guy Davenport** on “The Song of the Earth”

“One could listen forever, *A New Requiem* is so lovely.”—**The Washington Review**

“*A New Requiem* is real poetry, much of it quite singable.”—**Ned Rorem**

“Beautiful rhythms, important words and things to be said... to be read and read.”—**William Allen** on *A New Requiem*

“It’s all quite wonderful. I like the expressiveness of the language and the encouraging freedom from poetic phrasing and tired grammar.”—**Guy Davenport** on *A New Requiem*

“These are real love letters.... They live on in one’s mind.”—**Stephen Spender** in *The Mail on Sunday* (on *Witness to My Life*)

“The publication of a volume of translations by Norman MacAfee of Pasolini’s best poems reminds us what an extraordinary man he was... Of his copious writings, his poems seem most likely to endure... translated now with clarity, ingenuity, and fidelity by Norman MacAfee.”—**Edmund White**, *New York Times Book Review*

“...indisputably the most remarkable figure to have emerged in Italian arts and letters since the Second World War.”—**Susan Sontag** (on *Pasolini Poems*)

“MacAfee has done his work with both responsibility and brilliance.”—**William Arrowsmith** (on *Pasolini Poems*)

“Some of the most exhilarating days in American life occurred between March 16, 1968, when Robert Kennedy announced his presidential campaign and June 4, 1968, when he was assassinated. Both the hopes and fears of those 81 days are captured in this exhilarating book. Kennedy’s anger over hunger, his passion against the war in Vietnam and his faith in black Americans are recorded in 23 unforgettable chapters. Those who read this inspiring volume will acquire a deeper admiration and gratitude for Bobby Kennedy than they ever had before.”—**Robert F. Drinan, S.J.**, Professor, Georgetown University Law Center, about *The Gospel According to RFK: Why It Matters Now*

- [\*One Class: Selected Poems, 1965-2005\*](#), Harbor Mountain Press, September 2008.
- [\*The Gospel According to RFK: Why It Matters Now\*](#), revised, expanded edition, Basic Books, 2008, 2004. A BuzzFlash premium.
- [“I Am Astro Place,”](#) *Jacket magazine*, Fall 2007.
- *The Coming of Fascism to America*, Bowery Poetry Club, 2006.
- Norman MacAfee spoke and read a new poem at the **80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for Robert Kennedy, at the U.S. Capitol**, November 16, 2005. Other speakers included Senators Ted Kennedy, John Kerry, Hillary Clinton. The event was videotaped and is available from C-Span. The poem “For Robert Kennedy’s 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration” appears in [BuzzFlash](#).
- **“The Coming of Fascism to America” and “Life During the Coup,”** two long poems, in [Jacket 2006](#) and [Omega 2006](#). The entire issue of *Omega* is titled “Life During the Coup,” inspired by the poem. The poem was published in *Cost of Freedom* anthology, Howling Dog Press, 2007.
- **First publication in English of “Victory,” the last great poem by Pier Paolo Pasolini**, translated by MacAfee, in [Direland](#) on the 30th anniversary, 2005, of Pasolini’s assassination on November 2, 1975.
- *The Death of the Forest*, opera by Norman MacAfee to Music of Charles Ives, Amsterdam, Blankert, 2004. *The Death of the Forest* is in development with the Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts/MIFA, and sponsored by The New York Foundation for the Arts. First readings of *The Death of the Forest* in Massachusetts and Manhattan. Being offered to opera companies in 2008.
- *Life Begins Tomorrow*, play/screenplay about Jean-Paul Sartre during World War II, to be given readings by the Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts/MIFA.
- *Conversation with Norman MacAfee*: Hour-long television interview by Harold Channer about MacAfee’s books and performance works, NYC, July 2004.
- **“The Greatest Movie Ever Made,”** poem in *PEN America*, 2005.
- **“This Is War,”** long poem, originally published in *The World* magazine and *Am Here Press* anthology 1992, republished in Eidia’s *Blurb* on-line magazine, 2003.
- More than 800,000 copies sold so far of MacAfee/Lee Fahnestock translation of Victor Hugo’s [Les Misérables](#) (Signet, 1987)—the first complete modern version, generally considered the best translation, of the classic 19th-century novel, and the official tie-in edition of what has been called “the world’s most popular musical.”
- **“Trash”** (poem) and **“Bowery Rembrandt”** (memoir), *Hanging Loose* magazine, 1999.

- **“Heroines”** by **Claude Cahun**, translation of legendary surrealist manuscript for *Inverted Odysseys*, Shelley Rice, ed. (MIT Press, Fall 1999). Staged reading of “Heroines,” Maison Française, NYU.
- **Penguin** publishes U.K. paperbacks of award-winning MacAfee/Fahnestock translation of [Witness to My Life](#) and [Quiet Moments in a War](#)—two volumes of letters of **Jean-Paul Sartre to Simone de Beauvoir** (NY: Scribner; London: Hamish Hamilton, 1993, 1994). *Witness to My Life* named a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. Distinguished Translation Award of American Literary Translators Association for *Quiet Moments in a War*.
- **The New York Foundation for the Arts** sponsors the completion and production of *The Death of the Forest* and *Life Begins Tomorrow*.
- Farrar, Straus & Giroux (New York: Noonday 1996) reissues MacAfee’s award-winning translation of Italian master filmmaker **Pier Paolo Pasolini’s** [Poems](#) (originally published in 1982 by Random House and in London by John Calder, 1984), selected and translated with Luciano Martinengo—the only English-language translation of the major poems of “one of the three great poets of the [20th] century” (*American Book Review*, April 1985).
- **“Hero Futura,”** section of novel **“Tolerance”** in *Mandorla* (Mexico City/NYC 1995) magazine.
- MacAfee’s drawings for a production of **Helen Adam’s ballad opera San Francisco’s Burning** published in *Hanging Loose* magazine (six drawings inside; one each on front and back covers, 1994).
- **“Wrestling–Lucha Libre,”** section of novel **“Tolerance”** in *Rouge* magazine (UK-US-Canada-Australia,1994).
- Organizer/reader: **“Pier Paolo Pasolini: The Eyes of a Poet, a Reading of His Poetry,”** with **Isabella Rossellini, Judith Malina, Hanon Reznikov, Jennifer Beals, Laura Betti, Tomas Milian, William Allen.** Museum of Modern Art, NY. **“The Gun in the Poem,”** MacAfee essay in *Museum of Modern Art Quarterly*, 1990.
- Text editor (uncredited) for newly discovered manuscripts of **Ezra Pound’s** translation of Sophocles’ *Elektra*. Published by New Directions, NY, 1990.
- Screenplay **“Pasolini: A Documentary,”** written for New York Center for Visual History, 1991.
- **National Endowment for the Arts** Fellowship (under Lee Leggett Fahnestock, shared equally with NM) for Sartre’s *Quiet Moments in a War*. Wheatland Foundation grant awarded to *Quiet Moments*. Two Florence Gould Foundation/New York Foundation for the Arts grants for the Sartre volumes,1992.
- “Pasolini: Sex, Death, Political Passion,”course at the **New School**, 1993.
- “Telling Lives: Sartre and Beauvoir,” speech at New School, 1993.
- Publication of chapbook of long poem *A New Requiem*, Cheap Review Press, 1988.
- Featured long poems, **“Italy ‘76”** and **“Pictures from Bosch,”** *The Little Magazine*, 1988, 1987.
- Editor, *Sartre: A Life*, by Annie Cohen-Solal (New York: Pantheon 1987).

- Assistant director, **Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice***, Opera Ensemble of New York, 1986.
- Studies in directing at **HB Studios**, NY, 1986.
- Featured poet, "**Words-Music-Words**," concert of new songs set to new poetry, Poetry Project, Saint Mark's in the Bowery, NY; and BargeMusic, Brooklyn, NY, 1985.
- **Director, Political Poetry Workshop, Saint Mark's in the Bowery Poetry Project**, 1984.
- Arthur Maisel composes chamber opera on MacAfee poem "**John Paul II's Mayday 1984 Address to New York Gay and Lesbian Socialists League at Cooper Union's Great Hall**" for Pierrot Lunaire ensemble, 1984.
- Performance of sections of NM screenplay *Astro Place*, ABC No Rio, NY, 1984.
- Assistant director/dramaturg: **Creation Company** (SoHo, NY), 1984.
- Ballet libretto, "**The Re-Creation of the New World**," published in *Salome* magazine, 1984
- Reading of first notes for *The Death of the Forest* and *Tolerance*, Yorkville Library, NY (1983).
- Performance of MacAfee series "**Love Song to the Soviet Union**," No Sé No Café, Saint Mark's in the Bowery Church Poetry Project, NY, 1983.
- PEN American Center's 1<sup>st</sup> annual **Renato Poggioli Award** to MacAfee for Pasolini poems, 1980.
- Speaker, "**Pasolini: 5 Years After**," Yale University symposium with **Umberto Eco, Alberto Moravia, William Weaver, 1980.**
- Columbia University Translation Center Grant 1978.
- Poetry and fiction readings at **New York's Shakespeare Festival Public Theater, Museum of Modern Art, St. Marks Poetry Project, No Sé No Café, Cooper Union, ABC No Rio, New York Public Libraries, Columbia, Yale, and Temple Universities**, and through the **British Film Institute at London's National Film Theatre, Norwich (UK) Cinema City...**
- Freelance editorial work for **Praeger, Knopf, Grove, Harcourt, Pantheon, New Directions, Counterpoint, Westview, Basic Books, Da Capo, PublicAffairs, Shoemaker & Hoard.**

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Publication of writings and drawings in over 30 journals.

## TRAVEL

Travel in **England, Italy, Mexico, France, Scotland, Canada, USA.**

## DEGREES

Creative writing degrees from the University of Pennsylvania (BA, honors in the major) and the University of Iowa (Master of Fine Arts in English).

## OTHER WORKS COMPLETED

- **Gloucester's Eyes**, text with drawings: performance piece for actors, dancers, singers, and instrumental ensemble, using a scene from *King Lear* and an aria from Claudio Monteverdi's opera *L'Orfeo*.
- **Tolerance**, novel intercutting six stories.
- **The Song of the Earth**, nine poem-drawings about life in China from 500 BCE to 2000 AD, and twenty pages of poetry and commentary; small book.
- **The Re-Creation Of The New World**, script with drawings; to piano work, *Vingt Regards Sur L'enfant Jésus*, by Olivier Messiaen.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

- **The Ballad of Malcolm Macfie**, book about the last medieval chieftain of the MacAfee clan, assassinated in 1623 on Colonsay island in the Inner Hebrides, and the clan's resulting diaspora.
- **Whistling Corner**, nonfiction novel of my first eleven years in Brookline, Pa, 1943-1954.
- **The Best Memory**, nonfiction: sex and death, culture and politics in New York, London, Italy in the 1970s.
- **Pier Paolo Pasolini's *The Gospel According to Saint Matthew: A Reading***. A shot-by-shot explication of what has been called "the greatest movie ever made."
- **Bowery Rembrandt**, nonfiction novel about photographer Nancy Miller Elliott.
- **When I Was Rich: Stories**.
- **Afghanistan and the Effects of War on Men, By Alice MacAfee**; nonfiction novel; a reconstruction of my late sister's life, 1939-1987, in her voice.
- **Operas about Joan of Arc, Charlemagne, Tamburlaine, and Ashurbanipal**.
- **Man at The Crossroads**, opera about the murals of Mexican painter Diego Rivera.

## PLANS FOR DIRECTING THEATER, OPERA, AND FILM

- **San Francisco's Burning**, ballad opera by Scots poet Helen Adam (1909-1993). I have made drawings for a production published in *Hanging Loose* magazine. Libretto published by Hanging Loose Press.
- Two operas written by the poet **Ezra Pound: *Le Testament (Villon)* and *Cavalcanti***.
- A music-theatre-poetry piece about Pound.
- Filmscript (by Samuel Hughes) about three poets in Philadelphia 1905, **Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams and HD**.
- Gloucester's Eyes, The Song of the Earth, The Re-Creation Of The New World, The Death of the Forest, Life Begins Tomorrow, The Gospel According to RFK.