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## MUMBAI MONDAYS

### A Discussion on African-American Literature led by Amanda Zafian

**Monday, February 25**  
**American Center Auditorium**

**6:00 p.m.**

African-American literature offers a unique perspective on American culture and history. To correspond with Black History Month, February's Mumbai Mondays will provide an overview of African-American literature from spirituals of the slavery era, through the modernist experiments of the Harlem Renaissance, to the literature of social protest and beyond.

This talk will provide not only a brief overview of the history of African-American literature but will also explore why it is valuable to examine African-American letters as a body of work in itself. As literature from a minority group, African-American writing stands both "inside" and "outside" mainstream American society. Many critics argue that, as such, it offers a prescient vantage point to view the United States – or in the words of Toni Morrison, it serves as a "rip in the tent" through which we can better see what is actually going on inside the entire American experience.

**Amanda Zafian** joined the State Department in January 2006 and is currently serving on her first tour in Mumbai. Prior to this position, Amanda spent five years working in a legal office of the New York City government. She additionally worked as a freelance journalist and communications consultant for nonprofits in New York. Amanda studied International Relations at Brown University and later did graduate work in public policy, English, and journalism at Columbia University and Queens College. She is originally from New York City.

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## FILMS THIS MONTH

Friday, February 15

**Once Upon a Time ... When We Were Colored**  
(1996, color, 113 mins)

Wednesday, February 27

**The Preacher's Wife** (1996, color, 123 mins)

**American Center Auditorium**

**3:30 and 6:30 p.m.**



Marvelous drama chronicling the African-American experience in the deep South throughout the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. The film focuses on a young man who is born in a Mississippi cotton field, is shown the horror of prejudice from his grandfather and taught about literature from an understanding, liberal woman. With Al Freeman, Jr., and Phylicia Rashad. Tim Reid directs.

Vibrant fantasy/comedy, based on 1947's "The Bishop's Wife," features Denzel Washington as an angel sent to Earth to help Whitney Houston and her minister husband save their failing New York neighborhood church. But will the romantic feelings that Houston and Washington begin to have for each other endanger his mission? Director Penny Marshall's warm and winning film also stars Courtney Vance and Gregory Hines.





