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Communiqué de Presse
Press Release

Ballade Nocturne: a conversation with Gao Xingjian
Recipient of the 2000 Nobel Prize in Literature

Tuesday 16 March 2010 at 6:30 pm

The American University of Paris

«Le Grand Salon» 31 avenue Bosquet 75007 Paris



Come and meet Nobel Prizewinner Gao Xingjian, author most recently of *Ballade Nocturne*, a 'woman's manifesto' that pursues his experimentation with artistic forms through a combination of poetry, dance, music, and drama.

GAO Xingjian was born in China in 1940, graduated from the French department of the Beijing Foreign Languages Institute in 1962, and was employed as a translator from 1962 to 1970, after which he spent five years doing labor in the countryside. After his first play was produced at the Beijing People's Art Theatre, performances of his second play, *Bus Stop*, were halted by the authorities in 1983. Gao was granted political refugee status in France in 1989 after writing the play *Escape*, following the events of Tiananmen Square, and his works have been banned in China ever since. He was named Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 1992 and became a French citizen in 1997. His novels include *Soul Mountain* and *One Man's Bible* and his paintings have been exhibited in Europe, Asia, and North America. In 2000 Gao Xingjian was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature and named Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur. He made his first film in 2006 shortly before completing his latest play, *Ballade nocturne*.

Ballade Nocturne is Gao Xingjian's latest theatrical text and is published for the first time in The Cahiers Series. Copies of the cahier will be available during the evening.

Discussion in French

Free to the public upon reservation: dgunn@aup.fr

Refreshments will be served.

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*The Cahiers
Series*

The Cahiers Series are published in association with [The Center for Writers & Translators](#) at The American University of Paris. The goal of this series is to make available new explorations in writing, in translating, and in the areas linking these two activities .