



# VERA DIKA on RECONSIDERING THE NOSTALGIA FILM

FAR FROM HEAVEN, ALL THAT HEAVEN ALLOWS, and ALI: FEAR EATS THE SOUL

THURSDAY 29 MAY 2008, 4PM

A4 LECTURE THEATRE, SOUTH ARTS LECTURE BLOCK

(car parking off University Drive, see map on [www.canterbury.ac.nz/theuni/maps](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/theuni/maps))

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

FREE

The impulse to return to past images and styles has become a staple feature of filmmaking, but is practiced in different ways by various filmmakers. In this talk Vera Dika discusses Todd Haynes' *Far From Heaven* (2002), Douglas Sirk's *All That Heaven Allows* (1954), and Rainer Werner Fassbinder's *Ali: Fear Eats The Soul* (1974), comparing their methods in re-working the source material, and the effects created. These films are especially interesting for their treatment of pertinent social, historical, and aesthetic issues, and while often quite removed from our era, are still pressing today.

Vera Dika holds a Ph.D. in Cinema Studies from New York University and has taught at UCLA and USC. She is currently Assistant Professor of Film Studies at New Jersey City University. Specializing in American film, Dika is the author of two books, *Recycled Culture in Contemporary Art and Film: the Uses of Nostalgia* (Cambridge University Press, 2003) and *Games of Terror: Halloween and the Films of the Stalker Cycle 1978-1983*, (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1991). She has written film criticism for *Art in America*, *Artforum*, and *The Los Angeles Times*, and her essay "The Representation of Ethnicity in *The Godfather*" is included in *The Godfather Trilogy*, (Cambridge University Press, 2001).