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Florida poet's fourth collection a 'love letter to language'

PITTSBURGH—When asked to briefly describe her fourth full-length poetry collection, Florida author Barbara Hamby said, "It's like an opera by Donizetti with lyrics by Groucho Marx—lush, musical, brainy, and full of fun!" The University of Pittsburgh Press will publish the new book, *All-Night Lingo Tango*, early in 2009.

"This collection is a love letter to language, with poems that are word drunk and filled with references to the hyperkinetic world of the twenty-first century," Hamby explained. "English is the primary god here, with its huge vocabulary and omnivorous gluttony for new words; yet the mystery of the alphabet is behind everything, a funky puppet master who can make a new world out of nothing."

. . . I'm building
my own book as a mason makes a wall or a gelding
runs round the track—brick by brick, step by step, word by word,
jonquil by gerrymander, syllabub by greensward,
swordplay by snapdragon, a never-ending parade

reads an excerpt from "Ode on Dictionaries."

Hamby is writer-in-residence at Florida State University. She is the author of two chapbooks and three previous poetry collections.

Her first collection, *Delirium*, won the Vassar Miller Prize, the Poetry Society of America's Norma Farber First Book Prize, and the Kate Tufts Prize. *The Alphabet of Desire*, her second book, won the New York University Press Prize for Poetry and was designated one of the 25 best books of the year by the New York Public Library. *Babel*, her third volume, was awarded the 2003 Donald Hall Prize in Poetry. Her poems have appeared in numerous publications, including the *Paris Review*, the *Iowa Review*, the *Kenyon Review*, and *Best American Poetry 2000*.

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All-Night Lingo Tango is published by the University of Pittsburgh Press.
72 pp • 6 x 8-1/2 • ISBN 978-0-8229-6017-1 • Paper \$14.95