



Leaping Dog Press

PO Box 222605
Chantilly, VA 20153-2605
703-864-6148
www.leapingdogpress.com

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PRESS RELEASE — Literature of the Leaping Dog

For Immediate Release

Leaping Dog Press is opening its doors with the publication in Fall 2000 of two books, *Portable Planet*, poems by Eric Paul Shaffer of Pukalani, Maui, Hawaii, and *All Weekend with the Lights On*, short stories by Mark Wisniewski of Lake Peekskill, New York. A third book is slated for Spring 2001 release: Eric Paul Shaffer's *Living in the Monastery, Working in the Kitchen*, poems imagined in the voice of Pick-Up (Shih-te), a poet from the T'ang Dynasty of China.

Leaping Dog Press of Chantilly, Virginia describes itself on its web site (www.leapingdogpress.com) as: "Publishers of contemporary literature with bark and bite, as ecstatic as the leaping dog." The press is dedicated to the publication in print and in electronic form (for the web and palm devices) of contemporary literature that is provocative, engaging, and funny. The press will also publish works in translation and lost classics, books that should not be out of print but are.

Jordan Jones serves as the editor and publisher of Leaping Dog Press. He comes to the job with a background in literary magazine publishing. He edited and published *Bakunin* magazine, which had a run of some six years. Lynell George in the *Los Angeles Times* called *Bakunin* "Razor-edged. A wild mix of cogent writings." Robert Peters, the prominent small press critic, said, "Few contemporary journals have the intelligence and flow of *Bakunin*. A fresh, readable, and lively journal of contemporary writing." Prior to starting *Bakunin*, Jones was the Poetry Editor of UC Davis's *California Quarterly* and the Co-Editor of California State University's *Northridge Review*.

On the transition from literary magazine to literary book publishing, Jones says, "Magazines have a definite shelf life, like milk. For whatever reason, people think that the literary writing in magazines goes stale. I am looking forward to the opportunity to keep books in print longer and give the entertaining and accessible writers I am publishing an opportunity to build audiences over time."

Bakunin was known for publishing edgy writing of social consciousness, and Jones says Leaping Dog Press will continue in this tradition. "It's all too easy to find writing that confirms the thoughts you already have. This is what much of the mainstream press is engaged in, as they attempt to commodify art. My goal is to find contemporary, ecstatic writing, and bring it to the people who are looking for lively and emotionally challenging work."

As a small press, Leaping Dog intends to publish four titles a year at first. "I've always been in it for the long haul," says Jones, pointing to his six years at the helm of *Bakunin*. "Realistically, this means recognizing the limited resources that Leaping Dog Press has to apply to this venture. We intend to start out with a respectable number of volumes per year, then see where we can take it."

Both of the initial authors have seen their work in the pages of *Bakunin*. Jones says that readers can expect this trend to continue. "I made a lot of significant relationships with writers — some of them well known, some of them unknown — who are writing some of the most alive works out there. I want to do what I can to enlarge their audience."

Leaping Dog Press books will be distributed to the book trade by Valentine Publishing Group of Palmdale, California. They will be available in the major bookstore chains, in independent bookstores, and on the Internet at Amazon.com, BN.com, and Borders.com. In addition, electronic versions of the books will be on sale in formats readable on desktop personal computers and on palm devices. The electronic versions will be made available at significant discounts from the bound editions. "As far as we know," Jones says, "We are the first press that has made a commitment to simultaneously publish every book on paper and electronically." In addition, collectors will be able to purchase a limited number of copies of each title signed and numbered by the author.

Contacts:

Jordan Jones

Editor and Publisher
Leaping Dog Press
PO Box 222605
Chantilly, VA 20153-2605
Phone: 703-864-6148
Fax: 703-484-3297
E-mail: editor@leapingdogpress.com
Web: www.leapingdogpress.com

Eric Paul Shaffer

684 Piliwale Road
Kula, HI 96790
Phone: 808-876-0149
E-mail: eshaffer@hotmail.com

Mark Wisniewski

PO Box 202
Lake Peekskill, NY 10537

Valentine Publishing Group

PO Box 902582
Palmdale, CA 93590-2582
Phone: 818-831-0649
Fax: 818-831-6659
E-mail: sales@vpg.net
Web: www.vpg.net