

On the occasion of the conferring of  
the degree of  
Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*  
upon

Atom Egoyan

Through the mists of time, the fogs of misperception, and the swirling eddies of history, we attempt – sometime with knotted brows or bloodied knuckles – to scrape beneath the layers of the past and uncover the kernel of memory that we yearn to call the truth.

Whether we are called archaeologist, psychoanalyst or detective, the human spirit seeks to piece together the myriad fragments of the past which have been seminal to the emergent complexity of the present and which will spawn the fractal beauty of the future.

Over many years, Atom Egoyan has devoted his artistic energies and labours to pursuing the mysteries of belief, disbelief and misbelief in the banal, byzantine concoction of our memory.

As an internationally renowned filmmaker, Egoyan has unfearingly probed the hornets' nest of personal devastation. He is impervious to the sting of outrageous fortune as he seeks to capture the subtleties of complex events that only one shall know, but all shall feel.

Gaining understanding of the actuality of an event or individual requires the full arsenal of the arts. Atom Egoyan has deployed his benign quiver of opera, theatre, visual art, and cinema to both unravel the complex threads of experience and capture their silent stains on the microscopy of personal slides.

Eminent Chancellor, I present to you Atom Egoyan, blue rider of dreams and interloper to unexamined beliefs. As invited voyeurs, we are privileged on a tour of what Samuel Beckett has called “that penny farthing hell you call your mind.” No one remains unchanged.

On behalf of the Senate and the University, I invite you to invest Atom Egoyan with the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.