

CARL DJERASSI

Born in Vienna but educated in the US, Carl Djerassi is a writer and professor of chemistry at Stanford University. Author of over 1200 scientific publications and seven monographs, he is one of the few American scientists to have been awarded both the National Medal of Science (in 1973, for the first synthesis of a steroid oral contraceptive—"the Pill") and the National Medal of Technology (in 1991, for promoting new approaches to insect control). A member of the US National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences as well as many foreign academies, Djerassi has received 18 honorary doctorates together with numerous other honors, such as the first Wolf Prize in Chemistry, the first Award for the Industrial Application of Science from the National Academy of Sciences, and the American Chemical Society's highest award, the Priestley Medal. He is also an honorary member of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

For the past decade, he has turned to fiction writing, mostly in the genre of "science-in-fiction," whereby he illustrates, in the guise of realistic fiction, the human side of scientists and the personal conflicts faced by scientists in their quest for scientific knowledge, personal recognition, and financial rewards. In addition to novels (*Cantor's Dilemma; The Bourbaki Gambit; Marx, deceased; Menachem's Seed; NO*), short stories (*The Futurist and Other Stories*), and autobiography (*The Pill, Pygmy Chimps, and Degas' Horse*)—most of them written in London—he has recently embarked on a trilogy of plays with an emphasis on contemporary cutting-edge research in the biomedical sciences, which he describes in his web site as "science-in-theatre." "*AN IMMACULATE MISCONCEPTION*," first performed in abbreviated form at the 1998 Edinburgh Fringe Festival and subsequently (1999) in London (New End Theatre), San Francisco (Eureka Theatre) and Vienna (under the title *UNBEFLECKT* at the Jugendstiltheater), was broadcast by BBC Radio on its World Service in May 2000 as "Play of the Week." His second play, "*OXYGEN*" (co-authored with Roald Hoffmann) will open in 2001.

He is also the founder of the Djerassi Resident Artists Program near Woodside, California, which provides residencies and studio space for artists in the visual arts, literature, choreography and performing arts, and music. Over 1000 artists have passed through that program since its inception in 1982.

(There is a Web site about Carl Djerassi's writing at <http://www.djerassi.com>)

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Fiction

The Futurist and Other Stories

Cantor's Dilemma

The Bourbaki Gambit

Marx, Deceased

Menachem's Seed

NO

Poetry

The Clock Runs Backward

Drama

An Immaculate Misconception

Oxygen (with Roald Hoffmann)

Nonfiction

The Politics of Contraception

Steroids Made It Possible

The Pill, Pygmy Chimps, and Degas' Horse

From the Lab into the World: A Pill for People, Pets, and Bugs

Scientific Monographs

Optical Rotatory Dispersion: Applications to Organic Chemistry

Steroid Reactions: An Outline for Organic Chemists (editor)

Interpretation of Mass Spectra of Organic Compounds
(with H. Budzikiewicz and D. H. Williams)

Structure Elucidation of Natural Products by Mass Spectrometry
(2 volumes with H. Budzikiewicz and D. H. Williams)

Mass Spectrometry of Organic Compounds
(with H. Budzikiewicz and D. H. Williams)