

# ISU's Feinsod to trace Dreiser's influence in talk on Tuesday

Art Spaces Inc. and Vigo County Public Library will present "Looking at Theodore Dreiser in the Spirit of His Time," a free talk by professor Arthur Feinsod, from 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesday in the lower level of the library at Seventh and Poplar streets.

Refreshments will be available at 5 p.m., the talk at 5:15, and questions and a discussion time at 6.

Feinsod is a playwright, director and professor of theater at Indiana State University, where he also teaches honors courses in the humanities. He also is co-founder and associate director of Theater 7, a newly formed professional theater working in downtown Terre Haute.

Dreiser, born in Terre Haute, was known as the Father of American Naturalism. Feinsod will discuss Dreiser in the context of naturalism in the arts in Europe and the United States. Feinsod will explain how Dreiser's writing relates to naturalist theory as well as

the art, philosophy and theater of his time.

Art Spaces is raising funds for a sculpture to honor Dreiser, to be adjacent to the north entrance of the library on Walnut Street. This talk offers an opportunity to understand how Dreiser's work helped define a movement that energized many other writers of his time.

In fact, many writers of Dreiser's era and later believed that his writing paved the way, allowing writers to depict life as they saw it.

Naturalism, however, was not unique to Dreiser, as the movement was already active in Europe. Feinsod will offer insights into the connecting links between the continents, and the various art forms that fit under the banner of naturalism.

For more information, call the VCPL at 812-645-3631 or Art Spaces at 812-235-2801 or *email info@wabashvalleyartspaces.com.*



FEINSOD