

The Social Theory Workshop presents:

— **THE CHILD WITH A LION** —  
**The Utopia of Interracial Intimacy**



Paul Robeson with Eldon Gorst in *Big Fella* (1937)

**Chris Cutrone**

Committee on the History of Culture, University of Chicago

In “The Child with a Lion,” Chris Cutrone discusses black-white interracial homosexuality from his perspective as a white male, recognizing the dubiousness of his attempt. He proceeds as if interracial intimacy were a problem of the text, the inexorable force of racial difference and its traces in writing implicating not only the writer/reader but language itself. Employing the techniques of montage and bricolage, he invokes a potentially infinite series of iterations of one specific stereotype of interracial male homosexuality that forces otherwise heterogeneous textual sources into writing about the situation of a “little white boy” with a “big black man.” He reveals that he is endeavoring not to authorize the stereotypical scenario with his incidental personal experiences but to redeem the utopia promised by the stereotype, the happiness the interracial symbolizes that causes it to be stigmatized by both white and black people.

The workshop will consider social-theoretical problems of the cultural politics of racial identity and the critical aesthetics of the anecdotal, aphoristic essay form in “The Child with a Lion.”

**Monday, May 27, 2002**  
**8:00PM, Wilder House, 5811 S. Kenwood**

Copies of “The Child with a Lion” and its discussion materials are available by the East stairs on the 2nd Floor of the Social Science Research building, outside of Pick Hall 412, and on the web at: <http://cas.uchicago.edu/workshops/soctheor/>

For more information, or any special arrangements required to enable your attendance, please contact Ian Grimmer at [iggrimme@uchicago.edu](mailto:iggrimme@uchicago.edu) or (773) 684-0165