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FIRST ANNUAL DAYTON LITERARY PEACE PRIZE; INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS TO JOIN

STUDS TERKEL AT SCHUSTER CENTER AWARD CEREMONY NOV. 5

Dayton, OH – (October 16, 2006) - Internationally known authors Francine Prose and Stephen Walker will join Studs Terkel, recipient of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Lifetime Achievement, at the Schuster Center Nov. 5, when they are awarded the first Dayton Literary Peace Prizes in fiction and non-fiction.

“We hope the books celebrated by the Dayton Literary Peace Prize will be a reminder to the world that the resolution of conflict in all its various forms comes most often and most successfully, not from the point of a gun, but from the point of pen,” said Sharon Rab, chair of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize committee. “We are indebted to artists whose creativity and insight remind us that lasting peace comes from our recognizing a shared humanity.”

The Dayton Literary Peace Prize was established this year as a legacy of Dayton’s stature as a city of peace. The Dayton Literary Peace Prize, the only literary peace prize awarded in the United States, honors writers whose works focus on the broad theme of peace and whose writing style and subject matter have an enduring literary value.

The author of 13 novels and a National Book Award finalist, Francine Prose will receive first prize for adult fiction and a \$10,000 honorarium for her novel *A Changed Man*.

“In this engaging, sometimes tart, and always brilliantly conducted novel about the wars that rage within everyday human experience, we come to understand that all peace-making and conflict resolution is local,” said judge and NPR book reviewer Alan Cheuse, in his comments about *A Changed Man*.

Prose’s stories, reviews, cultural criticism and essays have appeared in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Art News*, *Elle*, *The Paris Review*, and *Tin House*. Prose has written frequently on art for *The Wall Street Journal*. She is a contributing editor at *Harpers Magazine*, for which she has written such controversial essay as “Scent of a Woman’s Ink” and “I Know Why the Caged Bird Can’t Read.” Prose is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, two NEA grants, two New York State Council on Arts grants, a PEN Translation Prize, and two Jewish Book Council Prizes.

“Nothing could thrill and delight me more than to have been chosen as this year’s winner of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize,” said Prose. “To be a writer in these increasingly violent and war-torn times is to wonder constantly how we can possibly help, to ask ourselves if anything we do, as artists, can possibly make a difference. To learn that someone—a group of readers, a prize committee, even a single reader—has recognized that this is not only my subject and my intention but also my greatest desire is more satisfying and gratifying than anything that I, a writer, can hope to put into words.”

BBC filmmaker Stephen Walker, who won an Emmy for his documentary on the bombing of Hiroshima, will receive first prize and a \$10,000 honorarium in the adult non-fiction category for *Shockwave: Countdown to Hiroshima*, which reached the *New York Times* Bestseller List in August 2005.

“This entire huge, involved story is told with a high sense of drama as the days and the hours and finally the minutes sift away before the bomb changes the course of history,” said judge Kevin Ryan, director emeritus, Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character at Boston University, about *Shockwave*. “This is one of the human race’s most important moments and it is laid out for us with intelligence and art.”

A resident of London, England, Walker studied history at Oxford and went on to receive a master’s degree in the history of science at Harvard. In 2003, his film *Faking It: Punk to Conductor* was the winner of the Montreux

Golden Rose, Europe's most prestigious television award. Walker also received the Writer's Guild Award for Best Television Drama for *Prisoners in Time*, starring John Hurt. He is currently completing a feature-film documentary about an American chorus called Young@Heart composed entirely of seniors in their 70s and 80s who sing rock music.

"I am truly honored and flattered to be receiving this award for *Shockwave*, not simply for any literary merits the book might have, but also, more fundamentally, because of its perceived relevance to the cause of peace in a world which grows more unstable and dangerous every day," said Walker. "If my book means anything, it is that all humanity lost by the decision to build and deploy atomic weapons. If being the recipient of this award helps make a wider public aware of this reality, then it is truly a more worthy honor than any I can imagine."

Fifty-three authors from around the world competed for the first annual Dayton Literary Peace Prize. Kevin Haworth, who teaches writing and literature at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, is the runner-up in the fiction category for his novel *The Discontinuity of Small Things*.

A 2005 National Book Awards finalist for nonfiction, Adam Hochschild is the runner up in the nonfiction category for *Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire's Slaves*.

After evaluation by 28 first readers, the nominations were judged by four final judges: Bosnian specialist on conflict literature, Gordana Filipovic; NPR book reviewer Alan Cheuse; and director emeritus, Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character at Boston University, Kevin Ryan. Prose, Walker and Haworth are planning to attend the awards ceremony on Nov. 5, at the Benjamin Schuster Center for the Performing Arts at which the committee will present the Lifetime Achievement Award to revered oral historian Studs Terkel.

Major contributors to the event, the first of its kind in the United States, include area universities and colleges, local government, businesses, corporations and generous individual donors.

For information about tickets for the event, which start at \$125 and include a cocktail hour, formal dinner and presentation ceremonies, contact Sharon Rab at (937) 298-5072 or by e-mail to sharonrab@woh.rr.com.

In celebration of the first annual Dayton Literary Peace Prize, the committee has scheduled the following free community events:

1. A reading of excerpts from The Good War, by Studs Terkel

- Monday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m.
- Kettering-Fairmont High School Auditorium
- Wright State University faculty readers will bring to life excerpts from The Good War, the classic oral history of World War II, by Studs Terkel, America's pre-eminent oral historian and the first winner of the 2006 Dayton Literary Peace Prize Lifetime Achievement Award.
- The event is free and open to all
- More information: contact Henry Limouze at (937) 775-3136 or Stuart McDowell at (937) 775-3072
- henry.limouze@wright.edu

2. The Things They Carried

- Monday, Oct. 30, 8 p.m.
- University of Dayton Kennedy Union; Boll Theatre
- A performance of excerpts from "The Things They Carried," based on Tim O'Brien's story collection about the Vietnam War, by the American Place Theatre on the evening of October 30.
- The event is free, but tickets must be reserved
- Contact Anne Pici at (937) 229-3449 or Brian Conniff at (937) 229-3434
- anne.pici@notes.udayton.edu

3. Poets Reading for Peace

- Wednesday, Nov. 1, 7 p.m.
- Dayton International Peace Museum
- Ten local poets will read poems from their work relating to war, conflict and peace. Readers will include Herbert Martin, Gary Mitchner, David Garrison, Gary Pacernick, and Ben Grossberg.
- The event is free and open to all
- More information: contact Gary Pacernick at (937) 775-3136
- gary.pacernick@wright.edu

4. A Literary Peace Prize Reading

- Thursday, Nov. 2 . 12:30 p.m.
- Sinclair College Library, Upper Level
- Volunteer readers, some of them local judges for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, will read their favorite excerpts from works nominated for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize.
- The event is free and open to all
- More information: contact Vicki Stalbird at 512-2289
- vicki.stalbird@sinclair.edu

5. Women Working for Peace

- Thursday, Nov. 2, 2:15 p.m.
- Wright State University Student Union, room E 163
- A panel discussion featuring women from the United States and around the world who have personally experienced war and worked for peace. The panel will highlight women's experiences with and responses to war and conflict, as well as their actions for peace.
- The event is free and open to all
- More information: contact Amber Vlasnik at (937) 775-4524
- amber.vlasnik@wright.edu

6. Reading of DLPP Winners and Runners-Up

- Sunday, Nov. 5, 1 p.m.
- books&co., at The Greene in Beavercreek
- The winners of the first Dayton Literary Peace Prize in fiction and nonfiction and the runner-up in fiction will read excerpts from their work.
- The event is free and open to all
- More information: contact books&co., (937) 429-2169

About the Dayton Literary Peace Prize

The Dayton Literary Peace Prize honors writers whose work uses the power of literature to foster peace, social justice, and global understanding. Launched in 2006, it has already established itself as one of the world's most prestigious literary honors, and is the only literary peace prize awarded in the United States. As an offshoot of the Dayton Peace Prize, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize awards a \$10,000 cash prize each year to one fiction and one nonfiction author whose work addresses themes of peace as a solution to conflict, and leads readers to a better understanding of other cultures, peoples, religions, and political points of view. An annual lifetime achievement award is also bestowed upon a writer whose body of work reflects the Prize's mission; previous honorees included Studs Terkel and Elie Wiesel.

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