

FOR RELEASE
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5 UNDER 35

**THE NATIONAL BOOK FOUNDATION'S
EIGHTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF EMERGING FICTION WRITERS
SELECTED BY NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNERS AND FINALISTS**

CARRIE BROWNSTEIN, MUSICIAN AND PORTLANDIA CO-CREATOR, TO HOST

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New York, New York (September 12, 2013) - National Book Awards Week will begin with its annual party to honor this year's 5 Under 35 authors at powerHouse Arena in DUMBO, Brooklyn on November 18. Carrie Brownstein, acclaimed musician and a creator, writer, and star of *Portlandia*, will host the event. Author Fiona Maazel, a 2008 5 Under 35 author, will moderate a conversation among the young writers.

The 5 Under 35 program, now in its eighth year, honors five young fiction writers selected by past National Book Award Winners and Finalists. Since 2006, the program has introduced the next generation of writers, including Téa Obreht, Karen Russell, and Justin Torres. Supported by a generous donation from Amazon.com, the Foundation offers the 5 Under 35 authors a cash award of \$1,000 each. The 2013 5 Under 35 honorees' books include a mix of short story collections and novels and, for the first time, the group of authors are all women.

The 2013 5 Under 35 Authors Are:

Molly Antopol, *The UnAmericans*, (W.W. Norton & Company, February 2014)
Selected by Jesmyn Ward, National Book Award Winner in 2011 for *Salvage the Bones*

NoViolet Bulawayo, *We Need New Names*, (Reagan Arthur Books/Little, Brown, 2013)
Selected by Junot Díaz, National Book Award Finalist in 2012 for *This is How You Lose Her*

Amanda Coplin, *The Orchardist*, (Harper, 2012)
Selected by Louise Erdrich, National Book Award Winner in 2012 for *The Round House*

Daisy Hildyard, *Hunters in the Snow*, (Jonathan Cape, Random House UK, 2013)
Selected by Kevin Powers, National Book Award Finalist in 2012 for *The Yellow Birds*

Merritt Tierce, *Love Me Back*, (Doubleday, fall 2014)
Selected by Ben Fountain, National Book Award Finalist in 2012 for *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*

(Biographies for 5 Under 35 authors and National Book Award authors at end of release.)

This year's list of honorees are from both the United States and abroad, have received the highest level of honors for their work, and are engaged with the world at large. A few highlights about the 2013 5 Under 35 authors:

- ☒ The group includes two Stegner fellows— Molly Antopol is a former fellow who now teaches at Stanford and NoViolet Bulawayo is a current fellow.
- ☒ Molly Antopol's story collection, *The UnAmericans*, is largely based on her family's involvement in the Communist Party.
- ☒ NoViolet Bulawayo was born and raised in Zimbabwe. She won the 2011 Caine Prize for African Writing and her novel, *We Need New Names*, is shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.
- ☒ Daisy Hildyard is pursuing a doctorate on scientific language at the University of London.
- ☒ Amanda Coplin won the 2012 Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award for *The Orchardist*, for which she drew from her experience growing up in Eastern Washington.
- ☒ Merritt Tierce received a 2011 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award. Her first published story was selected for inclusion in the 2008 edition of *New Stories from the South* by ZZ Packer, an inaugural 5 Under 35 author in 2006. She is also executive director of the Texas Equal Access Fund, a reproductive rights nonprofit for low-income women.

Past 5 Under 35 writers include Danielle Evans, Keith Gessen, Amity Gaige, Nam Le, Dinaw Mengestu, Téa Obreht, Karen Russell, Justin Torres, Claire Vaye Watkins, John Corey Whaley, Tiphonie Yanique, Paul Yoon, and Charles Yu.

Event host Carrie Brownstein—musician, writer, actor—is best known for her work as a guitarist, singer, and dynamic performer in Sleater-Kinney, and has received two Emmy nominations in the "Outstanding Writing for a Variety Series" category for her work on *Portlandia*. She is currently at work on a memoir about her life in music, to be published by Riverhead Books. Past 5 Under 35 party hosts include Neko Case, John Waters, Rosanne Cash, Richard Hell, and Dean Wareham.

For more information on this year's 5 Under 35 honorees, and photos and videos of previous 5 Under 35 authors and events, please visit: www.nationalbook.org/5under35.html.

This event is by invitation only. Press interested in attending should contact Sherrie Young at syoung@nationalbook.org.

5 Under 35 Honorees

Molly Antopol lives in San Francisco. She is a recent Stegner Fellow and current Jones Lecturer at Stanford University. She is also writer-in-residence at the Summer Literary Seminars in Lithuania. She received her MFA from Columbia University, and her writing has appeared or is forthcoming on NPR's *This American Life* and in *One Story*, *Ecotone*, *Glimmer Train*, *American Short Fiction*, *Mississippi Review Prize Stories*, and elsewhere. She also reviews books for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. *The UnAmericans* is her first story collection and will be published by W.W. Norton & Company in February, 2014.

NoViolet Bulawayo was born and raised in Zimbabwe and now lives in the United States, where she is a Stegner Fellow at Stanford University. She earned her MFA at Cornell University, where she was recognized with a Truman Capote Fellowship. She won the 2011 Caine Prize for African Writing and her work has been published in numerous anthologies, *Boston Review*, *Callaloo*, and *Newsweek*. Bulawayo's first novel, *We Need New Names*, is shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

Amanda Coplin was born in Wenatchee, Washington. She received her BA from the University of Oregon and MFA from the University of Minnesota. A recipient of residencies from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts and Writers Omi at Ledig House in Ghent, New York, she currently resides in Portland, Oregon. *The Orchardist* is her first novel.

Daisy Hildyard was born in Yorkshire, England and currently lives in London, where she is studying for a PhD on scientific language. *Hunters in the Snow* is her first novel.

Merritt Tierce was born and raised in Texas. She received her MFA in fiction writing from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she was named a Meta Rosenberg Fellow. In 2011, she was a recipient of a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award. Her first published story, "Suck It," was anthologized in the 2008 *New Stories from the South*, edited by ZZ Packer. Her work will also be featured in the forthcoming collection *Dallas Noir*, edited by David Hale Smith. Tierce lives near Dallas with her husband and children. *Love Me Back* is her first novel, and will be published by Doubleday in 2014.

National Book Award Authors

Junot Díaz was a National Book Award Finalist in 2012 for *This Is How You Lose Her*. Born in the Dominican Republic and raised in New Jersey, he is also the author of the critically acclaimed *Drown* and *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, which won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. He is the recipient of a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, PEN/Malamud Award, Dayton Literary Peace Prize, Guggenheim Fellowship, and PEN/O. Henry Award. A graduate of Rutgers College, Díaz is currently the fiction editor at *Boston Review* and the Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Louise Erdrich was the National Book Award Winner in 2012 for *The Round House*. She is the author of fourteen novels, as well as volumes of poetry, short stories, children's books, and a memoir of early motherhood. Her novel *Love Medicine* won the National Book Critics Circle Award. *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse* was a Finalist for the National Book Award. *The Plague of Doves* won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was a finalist for the

Pulitzer Prize. Erdrich lives in Minnesota and is the owner of Birchbark Books, an independent bookstore.

Ben Fountain was a National Book Award Finalist and National Book Critics Circle Award winner in 2012 for *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*. He has also received the PEN/Hemingway Award, the Barnes & Noble Discover Award for Fiction, a Whiting Writers' Award, an O. Henry Prize, two Pushcart Prizes, and two Texas Institute of Letters short story awards, among other honors and awards. His fiction has been published in *Harper's*, *The Paris Review*, *Zoetrope: All-Story*, and *New Stories from the South: The Year's Best*. His nonfiction has appeared in *The New York Times* and *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*, among other publications. His reportage on post-earthquake Haiti was nationally broadcast on the radio show *This American Life*. He and his family live in Dallas, Texas.

Kevin Powers was a National Book Award Finalist in 2012 for *The Yellow Birds*, which won the PEN/Hemingway Award and the Guardian First Book Award. He was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia, graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University, and holds an MFA from the University of Texas at Austin, where he was a Michener Fellow in Poetry. He served in the US Army in 2004 and 2005 in Iraq, where he was deployed as a machine gunner in Mosul and Tal Afar. *Letter Composed During a Lull in the Fighting*, his first collection of poetry, will be published by Little, Brown and Company in spring 2014.

Jesmyn Ward was a National Book Award Winner in 2011 for *Salvage the Bones*, which won the American Library Association's Alex Award, was a finalist for the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and a nominee for the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. She received her MFA from the University of Michigan and has been a Stegner Fellow at Stanford University and a Grisham Visiting Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi. She is currently an assistant professor of creative writing at the University of South Alabama. She is the author of the novel *Where the Line Bleeds* and her memoir, *Men We Reaped*, will be published this month. Ward grew up in DeLisle, Mississippi, and lives there now.

The 5 Under 35 Celebration's Host

Carrie Brownstein is the co-creator, co-writer and co-star of the Peabody Award winning television show, *Portlandia*, as well as an author and musician. She made her television career debut in 2011 with *Portlandia*, and has received two Emmy nominations in the "Outstanding Writing for a Variety Series" category for her work on the series.

She is a member of the critically acclaimed rock band Sleater-Kinney. Brownstein was named one of the top female electric guitarists by *Elle*, and *Rolling Stone* magazine lists Sleater-Kinney's song, "Dig Me Out"—featuring Brownstein's overdriven riffs—as one of the 50 greatest guitar songs of all time.

Brownstein's writing has appeared on *NPR* and in *The New York Times*, *The Believer*, *Slate*, and in numerous book anthologies on music and culture. She is currently working on a memoir for Riverhead Books.

Moderator

Fiona Maazel is the author of the novels *Last Last Chance* and *Woke Up Lonely*. She is a winner of the Bard Fiction Prize and a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 honoree. She teaches at Brooklyn College, New York University, Princeton University, and Columbia University, and was appointed the Picador Guest Professor for Literature at the University of Leipzig, Germany in 2012. She lives in Brooklyn.

The Mission of the National Book Foundation is to celebrate the best of American literature, to expand its audience, and to enhance the cultural value of good writing in America. In addition to the National Book Awards, for which it is best known, the Foundation's programs include the National Book Awards Teen Press Conference, an opportunity for New York City students to interview the current National Book Award Finalists in Young People's Literature; NBA on Campus, a partnership that brings current National Book Award authors to Concordia College in Moorhead, MN; the Innovations in Reading Prize, awarded to individuals and institutions that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading; and BookUp, an after-school reading program led by writers, for middle-school students in New York and Texas.

About the National Book Awards

The nation's most prestigious literary prize, the National Book Award has a stellar record of identifying and rewarding quality writing. In 1950, William Carlos Williams was the first Winner in Poetry, the following year William Faulkner was honored in Fiction, and so on through the years. Many previous Winners of National Book Awards are now firmly established in the canon of American literature. On November 20, the National Book Awards will be presented in the categories of Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, and Young People's Literature.