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PEN USA ANNOUNCES 2010 LITERARY AWARD WINNERS

(September 8, 2010) — **PEN USA**, the West Coast center for the renowned writers' organization International PEN, has unveiled the winners of its prestigious 2010 Literary Awards competition. The prizes, announced by PEN USA Executive Director Adam Somers, honor outstanding work by writers in 10 separate genres. They will be presented at the **20th Annual Literary Awards Festival**, known as LitFest, which will be held at the Beverly Hills Hotel on the evening of **Wednesday, November 17, 2010**.

In addition to the literary prizes, PEN USA's LitFest gala will feature several other honors, including the Freedom to Write Award, the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Award of Honor, and the University of California Exceptional First Book Award. Recipients of the literary awards were chosen by a distinguished panel of writers, editors, critics, and journalists. Winners were selected from among more than 500 entries. Each winner will receive a \$1,000 check at LitFest.

Past winners of awards from PEN USA include: Woody Allen, Rudolfo Anaya, Paul Thomas Anderson, Ray Bradbury, T.C. Boyle, Sandra Cisneros, George Clooney, Cameron Crowe, Ariel & Will Durant, Carrie Fisher, Betty Friedan, Matt Groening, Vaclav Havel, Charlie Kaufman, Barbara Kingsolver, Maxine Hong Kingston, Ursula K. Le Guin, Dan Savage, Neil Simon, Oliver Stone, Michael Tolkin, Gus Van Sant, Gore Vidal, Alice Walker, Billy Wilder, and Steven Zaillian.

FULL LIST OF 2010 WINNERS & FINALISTS:

Fiction

Winner:

Victor Lodato: *Mathilda Savitch* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux)

Finalists:

Scott Blackwood: *We Agreed to Meet Just Here* (New Issues Poetry & Prose)

Robert Boswell: *The Heyday of Insensitive Bastards* (Graywolf Press)

Ryan Boudinot: *Misconception* (Grove/Atlantic)

Laird Hunt: *Ray of the Star* (Coffee House Press)

Judges: Susan Taylor Chehak, Alistair McCartney, Amy Wallen

Poetry

Winner:

Amy Catanzano: *Multiversal* (Fordham University Press)

Finalists:

Dan Beachy-Quick: *The Nest, Swift Passerine* (Tupelo Press)

Douglas Kearney: *The Black Automaton* (Fence Books)

Rachel Loden: *Dick of the Dead* (Ahsahta Press)
Joseph Stroud: *Of This World: New and Selected Poems* (Copper Canyon Press)
Judges: Seido Ray Ronci, Robyn Schiff, Richard Siken

Creative Nonfiction

Winner:

Vicki Forman: *This Lovely Life* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Finalists:

Charles Bowden: *Some of the Dead are Still Breathing: Living in the Future* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Stephen Elliott, *The Adderall Diaries: A Memoir of Moods, Masochism, and Murder* (Graywolf Press)

Jarvis Jay Masters: *That Bird Has My Wings: The Autobiography of an Innocent Man on Death Row* (HarperOne)

Gregory Orfalea: *Angeleno Days: An Arab American Writer on Family, Place, and Politics* (University of Arizona Press)

Judges: Sharon Doubiago, Samantha Dunn, Amy Ferris

Research Nonfiction

Winner:

Minal Hajratwala: *Leaving India: My Family's Journey from Five Villages to Five Continents* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company)

Finalists:

Dan Baum: *Nine Lives: Death and Live in New Orleans* (Random House Publishing Group)

Lesley Hazleton: *After the Prophet: The Epic Story of the Shia-Sunni Split in Islam* (Doubleday Publishing)

Robin Kelley: *Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original* (Free Press/Simon & Schuster)

Carol Sklenicka: *Raymond Carver: A Writer's Life* (Scribner/Simon & Schuster)

Judges: Bruce Barcott, Leslie Chang, Andrew Ward

Children's/Young Adult Literature

Winner:

Paul Fleischman: *The Dunderheads* (Candlewick Press)

Finalists:

Kate DiCamillo: *The Magician's Elephant* (Candlewick Press)

Benjamin Alire Saenz: *Last Night I Sang to the Monster* (Cinco Puntos Press)

Liz Garton Scanlon: *All the World* (Beach Lane Books)

Judges: Jonathan Hunt, Julie Larios, Lola Schaefer

Journalism

Winner:

Mary Melton: *Julius Shulman in 36 Exposures* (Los Angeles Magazine)

Finalists:

Megan Feldman: *Gimme Shelter* (Dallas Observer)

Kristen Hinman: *Vanishing Act* (River Front Times)
Matthew Segal: *Spokes People* (Los Angeles Magazine)
Joe Wilkins: *Out West: Growing Up Hard* (Orion Magazine)
Judges: Ken Armstrong, Ben Ehrenreich, Nick Perry

Translation

Winner:

Fady Joudah: *Mahmoud Darwish's If I Were Another* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Finalists:

Sean Cotter: *Liliana Ursu's Lightwall* (Zephyr Press)

Stephen Kessler: *Luis Cernuda's Desolation of the Chimera* (White Pine Press)

Donald Revell: *Arthur Rimbaud's The Illuminations* (Omnidawn Publishing)

Edward Snow: *The Poetry of Rilke* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Judges: Maxine Chernoff, Charles Hatfield, Angela McEwan

Drama

Winner:

Julie Hebert: *Tree*

Finalists:

Boni B. Alvarez: *Ruby, Tragically Rotund*

Michael Golamco: *Year Zero*

Victor Lodato: *Dear Sara Jane*

Caridad Svich: *Instructions for Breathing*

Judges: Jennifer Maisel, Marisela Treviño Orta, Lauren Yee

Screenplay

Winner:

Jason Reitman & Sheldon Turner: *Up in the Air* (Paramount Pictures)

Finalists:

Mark Boal: *The Hurt Locker* (Summit Entertainment)

Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber: *500 Days of Summer* (Fox Searchlight)

Michael Sucsy and Patricia Rozema: *Grey Gardens* (HBO)

Judges: Neil Cuthbert, Wallace King, Neil Landau

Teleplay

Winner:

Peter Blake: *House: "The Tyrant"* (NBC Universal)

Finalists:

Marti Noxon & Cathryn Humphris & Matthew Weiner: *Mad Men: "The Gypsy and the Hobo"* (AMC)

Mark V. Olsen & Will Scheffer: *Big Love: "On Trial"* (HBO)

John Shiban: *Breaking Bad: "Phoenix"* (AMC)

Moira Walley-Beckett: *Breaking Bad: "Over"* (AMC)

Judges: Erik Jendresen, Brian Nelson, Ray Ricord

The University of California Press Exceptional First Book Award

Winner:

Angela Garcia: *The Pastoral Clinic: Addiction and Dispossession along the Rio Grande*
(University of California Press)

ABOUT PEN Center USA

PEN Center USA, one of International PEN's two centers in the United States and its third largest in the world, was founded in 1943 and incorporated as a nonprofit association in 1981. PEN USA's membership of more than 800 writers includes poets, playwrights, essayists, novelists (the original source of the acronym, "PEN"), as well as writers for television and film, critics, historians, editors, journalists, and translators. PEN Center USA strives to protect the rights of writers around the world, to stimulate interest in the written word, and to foster a vital literary community among the diverse writers living in the western United States.

The organization has two distinct yet complementary aims: one fundamentally literary and the other mandating freedom of expression. Among its many contributions to the literary world, PEN USA's **Emerging Voices** program awards fellowships to promising writers from underserved communities and provides them with an intensive eight-month program of workshops, classes, seminars and individual mentorships. In the classrooms of many schools across Southern California, its members, through its **PEN in the Classroom** program, work with children and teachers alike in the process of creative reading and writing.

As a member of International PEN's Writers in Prison network, PEN USA has instigated an innovative system that enables its members to participate directly in this vital work, while at the same time it continues to assiduously monitor First Amendment issues domestically.

For further information, visit www.penusa.org, or contact awards@penusa.org