

USC Libraries Scriptor Award Bios

21st-Anniversary Celebration

Edward L. Doheny Jr. Memorial Library

Friday, January 30, 2009

Scripter Finalists

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON
PARAMOUNT PICTURES and WARNER BROS. PICTURES

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD, author

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD was known for his literary depictions of the Jazz Age in short fiction and classic novels such as *The Beautiful and Damned* and *The Great Gatsby*. In 1919, he began writing for the *Saturday Evening Post* and other popular magazines. The publication of his first novel, *This Side of Paradise*, in 1920 made the twenty-four-year-old Fitzgerald a literary sensation. "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" was first published in *Colliers Magazine* in 1921 and subsequently anthologized in his collection, *Tales of the Jazz Age*.

For a few months in 1927, and then again in 1931 and 1932, Fitzgerald came to Hollywood. He worked on several screenplays, completing only *Three Comrades*, based on the novel by Erich Maria Remarque. In 1939, he began *The Last Tycoon*, a novel inspired by the life of legendary producer Irving Thalberg. Fitzgerald died in 1940, leaving the manuscript unfinished.

ERIC ROTH and ROBIN SWICORD, screenwriters

ERIC ROTH has received numerous accolades—including an Academy Award and a Writers Guild Award—for his work on such films as *The Horse Whisperer*, *Suspect*, *Forrest Gump*, and *The Insider*. In addition, he co-wrote the Academy Award-nominated screenplay for *Munich*. His current projects include *The Devil in the White City*. Roth lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Debra Greenfield, an attorney and UCLA instructor. He has five children and five grandchildren.

ROBIN SWICORD is well-known for her work as a screenwriter on such films as *Memoirs of a Geisha* and *Practical Magic* and her comedic plays *Last Days at the Dixie Girl Café* and *Criminal Minds*. Swicord recently wrote and directed *The Jane Austen Book Club*, and she is currently working on a romantic comedy titled *Didn't Like Him Anyway*. Swicord is married to fellow playwright and screenwriter Nicholas Kazan. They have two daughters.

IRON MAN

PARAMOUNT PICTURES and MARVEL STUDIOS

STAN LEE and DON HECK, authors

STAN LEE is the chairman and chief creative officer of POW! Entertainment and the chairman emeritus of Marvel Comics. Lee is known to millions of comic-book readers through his characters, including Spider-Man, the Incredible Hulk, Iron Man, the Silver Surfer, Thor, and Dr. Strange. During his first 25 years at Marvel, Lee scripted between two and five complete comic books per week. Lee also served as executive producer for *Ghost Rider*, *The Fantastic Four*, *Hulk*, *Elektra*, *Daredevil*, and the *Spider-man*, *Blade*, and *X-Men* trilogies.

DON HECK's first professional art assignment came in 1949 at Harvey Comics. The next year he began creating freelance work for Hillman Comics, Quality Comics, and Toby Press. It was at Marvel Comics where Heck made a name for himself when he started drawing heroes such as Thor and Giant-Man. Along with Stan Lee, writer Larry Lieber, and cover artist Jack Kirby, he created Iron Man in *Tales of Suspense* #39 and drew his adventures for almost three years. Heck died in 1995.

MARK FERGUS & HAWK OSTBY and ART MARCUM & MATT HOLLOWAY,
screenwriters

MARK FERGUS & HAWK OSTBY have collaborated on more than a dozen scripts over the past decade, including their Oscar-nominated adaptation of P.D. James' novel *The Children of Men* and the thriller *Consequence*. Fergus made his directing debut with the psychological thriller *First Snow*, based on a screenplay co-written with Ostby. Fergus and Ostby shared honors with Alfonso Cuarón, David Arata, and Timothy J. Sexton at the 2007 Scriptor Award for their work on *Children of Men*.

ART MARCUM & MATT HOLLOWAY are a Los Angeles-based writing team. They followed *Iron Man*—their first screenplay to become a major motion picture—with *Punisher: War Zone*. Both are graduates of Stanford University. Marcum worked briefly in television news in Washington, D.C., before moving to Los Angeles. Originally from the Philadelphia area, Holloway did production work on James Cameron's *Titanic*, Doug Liman's *Go*, and numerous other films.

THE READER

MIRAGE ENTERPRISES and THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

BERNHARD SCHLINK, author

BERNHARD SCHLINK was born in Germany in 1944. *Der Vorleser (The Reader)* was the first German book to reach the #1 position on the *New York Times* bestseller list. The partly autobiographical 1995 novel won the Hans Fallada Prize, the Prix Laure Bataillon, and the WELT-Literaturpreis.

Schlink is also the author of a collection of short fiction, *Flights of Love*, the 2008 novel, *Homecoming*, and a series of detective novels featuring a main character named Selb, a play on the German word for "self." The series includes *Selbs Justiz (Self's Punishment)*, co-written with Walter Popp, *Selbs Betrug (Self's Deception)*, and *Selbs Mord (Self's Murder)*. Schlink currently lives in Bonn and Berlin.

DAVID HARE, screenwriter

DAVID HARE is a celebrated writer and director for the stage, television, and film. He was nominated for an Academy Award and won a Scriptor Award for his adaptation of Michael Cunningham's novel *The Hours*. A world-renowned playwright, his works—including *Plenty*, *The Secret Rapture*, *Skylight*, *My Zinc Bed*, and *Via Dolorosa*—have have been staged on Broadway and London's West End for more than a quarter century.

His first feature film, *Wetherby*, won the Golden Bear for Best Film at the Berlin Festival in 1985. In addition, he wrote and directed *Strapless* and *Paris by Night* and wrote the screenplay for Louis Malle's *Damage*. Hare received the Ordre des Arts et Lettres from the French government and was knighted in 1998 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for his contributions to the arts.

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD

PARAMOUNT VANTAGE and DREAMWORKS

RICHARD YATES, author

RICHARD YATES was born in Yonkers, New York, in 1926. Graduating from the Avon School in 1944, he served in the last years of World War II. He later taught at the New School for Social Research, Columbia University, and the University of Iowa and was a Distinguished Writer in Residence at Wichita State University.

His first novel, *Revolutionary Road*, was nominated for the National Book Award in 1961. He published a collection of stories, *Eleven Kinds of Loneliness*, in 1962. His other work includes the novels *A Good School* and *Disturbing the Peace* and two collections of short stories. He died in 1992.

JUSTIN HAYTHE, screenwriter

JUSTIN HAYTHE wrote *The Clearing*, starring Helen Mirren, Robert Redford, and Willem Dafoe. His short fiction has appeared in *Harper's Magazine*, and his novel, *The Honeymoon*, was longlisted for the 2004 Man Booker Prize. He is currently working on a contemporary adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's 1886 novella, *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*.

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE

FOX SEARCHLIGHT and CELADOR FILMS

VIKAS SWARUP, author

VIKAS SWARUP studied history, psychology, and philosophy at Allahabad University and joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1986. He is currently India's deputy high commissioner to South Africa. His debut novel, *Q & A*, was shortlisted for the Best First Book by the Commonwealth Writer's Prize and won South Africa's Exclusive Books Boeke Prize 2006.

Swarup's second novel, *Six Suspects*, was released last July. He has participated in the Oxford Literary Festival, the Turin International Book Fair, the Auckland Writers' Conference, the Sydney Writers' Festival, and the Words on Water Literary Festival in Johannesburg. His wife Aparna is a well-known painter, and they have two sons, Aditya and Varun.

SIMON BEAUFOY, screenwriter

SIMON BEAUFOY trained at Bournemouth College of Art and Design as a documentary director. His first screenplay, *Cello*, earned him the 1991 Euston Films Best Script Award in a contest sponsored by Fuji Film. In addition, his play *Saddam's Arms* was a 1993 finalist for several radio play awards.

Before *Slumdog Millionaire*, Beaufoy was perhaps best known for his Academy Award-nominated screenplay for *The Full Monty*. Other screenwriting credits include *Yellow*, *Among Giants*, *The Darkest Light*, and *This Is Not a Love Song*. Last month, Beaufoy won the Golden Globe for his work on *Slumdog Millionaire*. He is currently adapting Steven Hall's novel, *The Raw Shark Texts*.

Scripter Literary Achievement Award Winner

MICHAEL CHABON

MICHAEL CHABON is the author of seven novels, two collections of short stories, and an essay collection titled *Maps and Legends: Reading and Writing Along the Borderlands*. His first book, *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*, was originally written for his M.F.A. thesis and became a *New York Times* bestseller. He followed *Pittsburgh* with the 2001 Scripter Award winner, *Wonder Boys*.

Chabon won the Pulitzer Prize for *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, and his most recent novel, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, won the Nebula and Hugo Awards. His other works include *The Final Solution*, *Summerland*, and the swashbuckling adventure *Gentlemen of the Road*. Chabon studied at Carnegie-Mellon, the University of Pittsburgh, and UC Irvine. He lives with his wife, novelist Ayelet Waldman, and their children, in Berkeley.

Emcee

JAMIE LEE CURTIS

JAMIE LEE CURTIS has distinguished herself as an award-winning actress and children's author. After making her film debut in John Carpenter's *Halloween*, Curtis won critical acclaim for her performances in *A Fish Called Wanda*, *Freaky Friday*, *True Lies*, and *Trading Places*. Her acting honors include a BAFTA Award, two Golden Globes, a People's Choice Award, an American Comedy Award, and an Emmy nomination. Most recently, she appeared in the family comedy, *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*.

Curtis has also written eight bestselling children's books, including *Today I Feel Silly: & Other Moods That Make My Day* and *When I Was Little: A Four-Year-Old's Memoir of Her Youth*. Her most recent work, *Big Words for Little People*, appeared in September 2008.

Selection Committee Chair

NAOMI FONER

NAOMI FONER is a celebrated producer and screenwriter. Her screenplay for Sidney Lumet's *Running on Empty* was nominated for an Academy Award and received the PEN West and Golden Globe Awards. She wrote and produced *Violets are Blue* with Sissy Spacek; *A Dangerous Woman*, starring Debra Winger and Gabriel Byrne; and *Losing Isaiah* with Jessica Lange and Halle Berry. Her adaptation of Myla Goldberg's *Bee Season* was released in 2005.

Foner is currently working on the original screenplay *Anne's List* and will direct her screenplay, *Very Good Girls*, this summer. She began her career as a producer at the Children's Television Workshop, where she helped develop *Sesame Street* and *The Electric Company*. Foner is also the proud owner of a Blue Ribbon for her carrots at the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Fair.

Award Presenters

JAMIE LEE CURTIS

NAOMI FONER

STEVEN ZAILLIAN

STEVEN ZAILLIAN is an accomplished screenwriter and filmmaker with an Oscar, three Academy Award nominations, and three USC Libraries Scriptor Awards to his credit. His 1990 adaptation of neurologist Oliver Sacks' *Awakenings* earned his first Academy Award nomination and his first USC Libraries Scriptor Award. In 1994, his adaptation of Thomas Keneally's *Schindler's List* won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay and his second Scriptor Award. Zaillian won his third Scriptor for his 1998 adaptation of Jonathan Harr's *A Civil Action*. In addition to his adapted screenplays, Zaillian wrote *American Gangster*, co-wrote *The Interpreter* and *Gangs of New York* (for which he received his third Oscar nomination), and wrote and directed *Searching for Bobby Fischer*.

Dean of the USC Libraries

CATHERINE QUINLAN

CATHERINE QUINLAN is dean of the USC Libraries. Quinlan previously spent a decade leading the University of British Columbia's library system, where she overhauled library operations and oversaw the construction of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre—the university's prototype for academic information management. She established the first automated storage and retrieval system at any Canadian library, as well as a program to support the digitization of historical materials.

Prior to that, Quinlan served as director of libraries at the University of Western Ontario and led the health sciences library at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Quinlan has published extensively on libraries and librarianship, as well as information literacy and related topics. She earned an MBA from Memorial University of Newfoundland, a Master of Library Studies degree from Dalhousie University, and a Bachelor of Music from Queen's University.

President of the Friends of the USC Libraries

GLENN SONNENBERG

GLENN SONNENBERG is president of the Friends of the USC Libraries and formerly served on the USC Board of Trustees. With Majorie Lord Volk, he co-founded the USC Libraries Scriptor Award in 1988. In addition, Sonnenberg is the former president of the USC Alumni Association board of governors and the founding president of the USC Junior Associates. He was recently awarded the Alumni Service Award by the USC Alumni Association.

Sonnenberg is president of Legg Mason Real Estate Investors, Inc. and serves on the boards of directors for Para los Ninos, Steven S. Wise Temple, and Bet Tzedek, or the House of Justice. He is a 1977 USC graduate with a B.A. magna cum laude in history and Phi Beta Kappa honors. He also received his J.D. in 1980 from USC. He and his wife Andrea—a 1983 USC graduate with a B.S. in finance—have three children, Jake, Lauren, and Bradley.