

Yale Book News

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2008 WINNER OF YALE DRAMA SERIES PLAYWRIGHT COMPETITION ANNOUNCED BY EDWARD ALBEE

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David Hare to serve as judge for 2009-2010 competitions

New Haven—Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Edward Albee** announced at a ceremony at The Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park on Sunday, September 14, his selection for the 2008 winner of the Yale Drama Series competition—the major annual award for emerging playwrights, inaugurated last year.

The winning play is *Grenadine* by **Neil Wechsler**. Wechsler, in attendance at the ceremony, describes the play as one that “follows a man’s quest for love in the company of his three devoted friends.”

As the winner of the 2008 competition, Wechsler was awarded the David Charles Horn Prize of \$10,000, publication of *Grenadine* by Yale University Press, and a reading of the play at Yale Repertory Theatre in New Haven; the reading will take place on Monday, September 15.

In commenting on his selection of *Grenadine*, Edward Albee described the play as “one that really took my attention and held it . . . I found it highly original; it kept me fully awake; I learned quite a bit; both the questions the play asks and the answers it proposes are provocative; the play stretched my mind.”

Albee was introduced by **Bill Irwin**, whose many theatrical accomplishments (as actor, playwright, director, choreographer, and clown) include a 2005 Tony Award for his performance as George in the revival of Albee’s *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Neil Wechsler graduated from Yale University in 1996 with distinction in Philosophy and Psychology and has been writing novels, novellas, and plays ever since. He lives in Buffalo, New York, with his wife, Anne, and their two-year-old son, Max.

YALE DRAMA SERIES

The **Yale Drama Series**, jointly sponsored by **Yale University Press** and **Yale Repertory Theatre**, is generously funded by the David Charles Horn Foundation. Edward Albee served as the first judge of the series and selected the 2007 and 2008 recipients. Last year's winner, *The Boys from Siam* by John Austin Connolly, will be published this October.

The judge for 2009 and 2010 will be **David Hare**. The winner of many awards on both sides of the Atlantic, David Hare is one of Britain's best-known playwrights. Ten of his plays have been presented on Broadway, including *Plenty*, *Skylight*, *Amy's View*, *The Blue Room*, *The Judas Kiss*, *Via Dolorosa*, and *The Vertical Hour*.

Submissions for the 2010 Yale Drama Series competition must be postmarked no earlier than June 1, 2009, and no later than August 15, 2009. The competition is open to any original, unpublished and unproduced full-length play in English. For complete contest rules, please visit www.yalebooks.com.

THE DAVID CHARLES HORN FOUNDATION

The **David Charles Horn Foundation** was established in 2003 by Francine Horn to honor the memory of her late husband. David Horn was the publisher and CEO of *Here & There*, the leading international forecasting and reporting publication for the fashion industry. Ms. Horn created the Foundation to support new initiatives in the literary and dramatic arts to commemorate her husband's lifetime commitment to the written word.

YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Founded in 1908, **Yale University Press** is one of the largest and most distinguished American university presses. It publishes over 320 books a year in a wide range of disciplines, including history, literature, drama, art and architecture, American studies, philosophy, politics, religion, reference, music and the sciences. www.yalebooks.com

YALE REPERTORY THEATRE

A champion of new work, **Yale Repertory Theatre** has produced well over 100 world, American, and regional premieres—including two Pulitzer Prize winners and four other nominated finalists—by emerging and established playwrights. Eleven Yale Rep productions have advanced to Broadway, garnering more than 40 Tony Award® nominations and eight Tony Awards, and Yale Rep itself is the recipient of the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. In its 42-year history, Yale Repertory Theatre has produced the world premieres of plays by David Adjmi, Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, Lee Blessing, Christopher Durang, Jules Feiffer, Athol Fugard, Marcus Gardley, Kama Ginkas, John Guare, Albert Innuarato, Walton Jones, Adrienne Kennedy, Arthur Kopit, Sunil Thomas Kuruvilla, Wendy MacLeod, Julie McKee, Terrence McNally, Richard

Nelson, Suzan-Lori Parks, David Rabe, Keith Reddin, José Rivera, Sarah Ruhl, Sam Shepard, William Styron, Derek Walcott, August Wilson, and Doug Wright, among many others. www.yalerep.org

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