

THE REA AWARD FOR THE SHORT STORY

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RICHARD BAUSCH IS WINNER OF 2012 REA AWARD FOR THE SHORT STORY

New York, N.Y. – The annual \$30,000 Rea Award for the Short Story is awarded to **RICHARD BAUSCH**.

Michael M. Rea, a passionate reader and collector of short stories, founded The Rea Award for the Short Story in 1986 to be given annually to a living United States or Canadian writer whose work has made a “**significant contribution to the discipline of the short story form**”. The Rea Award is unique in that it is not given for lifetime achievement, a collection of stories or for a writer’s body of work but rather for originality and influence on the genre. Cynthia Ozick, the first winner of The Rea Award, said, “By now the Rea Award is an indispensable American institution and a coveted American prize. It is our little Nobel – little only in the sense that it addresses the short form.” Michael M. Rea died in the summer of 1996. Sponsored by the Dungannon Foundation, named after Rea’s Irish ancestors, The Rea Award continues under the direction of his widow, Elizabeth Richebourg Rea.

Previous winners of the Rea Award include Ann Beattie, Lorrie Moore, Grace Paley, James Salter and Tobias Wolff.

In selecting this year’s winner, jurors: **Stuart Dybek**, and **Richard Ford** gave the following citation:

Richard Bausch is a shining light in the small group of great American story-writers. His stories, published in many languages and widely anthologized in our own country, bear out the directive that literature should renew our sensuous and emotional lives and foster a new awareness in its readers. Bausch’s stories, solidly, eloquently in the realistic tradition shared by O’Connor (Frank and Flannery), Welty, Cheever and Yates, are ever in search of the heretofore unsayable in human affairs. In doing so, they are incisive, surprising, felicitous, various, often mirthful, and unstintingly about those subjects we can not afford to ignore: matters of life and death, yes; but chiefly matters of life sustained.

Richard Bausch is the author of eight collections of stories and eleven novels. His story collections include the recently published *Something is Out There*, *The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*, *The Stories of Richard Bausch*, *Someone to Watch Over Me: Stories*, *Selected Stories of Richard Bausch*, *The Fireman’s Wife*, and *Other Stories and Spirits*, and *Other Stories*. His novel, *The Last Good Time*

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was made into a feature-length motion picture, directed by Bob Balaban, starring Armin Meuhler-Stahl, Maureen Stapleton, and Lionel Stander, released in April 1995, and *Peace*, published in 2008, was awarded the 2010 Dayton International Literary Peace Prize.

Richard Bausch has won two National Magazine Awards, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Lila-Wallace Reader's Digest Fund Writer's Award, the Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and The 2004 PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story. In 1995 he was elected to the Fellowship of Southern Writers. In 1999 he signed on as co-editor, with R.V. Cassill, of *The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*. Today Bausch remains the sole editor of this prestigious anthology after the passing of Cassill in 2002. In February 2012 Bausch received from Centenary College, The John William Corrington Award for Literary Excellence. Bausch is currently with The Writing Program at Chapman University in Orange, California.

While Bausch's novels have been met with critical acclaim, his mastery of the short story form is arguably his greatest literary achievement. In addition to his published story collections, his work has appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Esquire*, *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *Narrative*, *Gentleman's Quarterly*, *Playboy*, *The Southern Review*, *New Stories From the South*, *The Best American Short Stories*, *O. Henry Prize Stories* and *The Pushcart Prize Stories*; and they have been widely anthologized, including *The Granta Book of the American Short Story*, and *The Vintage Book of the Contemporary American Short Story*. The Modern Library published *The Selected Stories of Richard Bausch* in March, 1996, a distinction rarely accorded to a contemporary writer.

Winners of The Rea Award for the Short Story 1986 – 2012

Cynthia Ozick	Richard Ford	Lorrie Moore
Robert Coover	Andre Dubus	Ann Beattie
Donald Barthelme	Gina Berriault	John Updike
Tobias Wolff	John Edgar Wideman	Stuart Dybek
Joyce Carol Oates	Joy Williams	Amy Hempel
Paul Bowles	Deborah Eisenberg	Mary Robison
Eudora Welty	Alice Munro	James Salter
Grace Paley	Mavis Gallant	Charles Baxter
Tillie Olsen	Antonya Nelson	Richard Bausch

In addition to The Rea Award for the Short Story, the Dungannon Foundation also sponsors Rea Visiting Writers and Rea Visiting Lecturers at the University of Virginia, and Selected Shorts: A Celebration of the Short Story at Symphony Space in New York City.



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RICHARD BAUSCH

Richard Bausch is the author of eight collections of stories and eleven novels. His story collections include the recently published *Something is Out There* (2010), *The Stories of Richard Bausch* (2004), *Someone to Watch Over Me: Stories* (1999), *Selected Stories of Richard Bausch* (1996), *The Fireman's Wife and Other Stories* (1990) and *Spirits and Other Stories* (1987). His novel, *The Last Good Time* was made into a feature-length motion picture, directed by Bob Balaban, starring Armin Meuhler-Stahl, Maureen Stapleton, and Lionel Stander, released in April 1995, and *Peace*, published in 2008, was awarded the 2010 Dayton International Literary Peace Prize.

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Donna Seaman writes in Booklist: "An intrinsically American writer, **Richard Bausch** captures the sense of alienation that haunts so many of us, the feeling that life is arbitrary, bereft, and absurd, and that even those closest to you are, in fact, total strangers, and none too benign. Again and again in Bausch's riveting short stories, siblings, spouses, and parents and children suddenly find themselves in conflict or utterly estranged. And yet in spite of their isolation, Bausch's down-on-their-luck characters also feel trapped. Helpless in the grip of anger, fear, or longing, they lash out, lie, badger, argue, and disappear. Confusion reigns; life is 'so frail and precarious'; violence is always a possibility; and sources of joy--a pregnancy, winning the lottery--turn out to be liabilities. But these are truly redemptive tales given that Bausch illuminates both benevolent and malevolent aspects of human nature with dark humor, a spiky imagination, consummate artistry, and unfailing compassion."

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JURORS FOR THE 2011 REA AWARD FOR THE SHORT STORY

Stuart Dybek is the author of three short story collections, *Childhood and Other Neighborhoods*, *The Coast of Chicago*, and *I Sailed with Magellan*. He has also published two volumes of poetry, *Brass Knuckles* and *Streets In Their Own Ink*. His work is widely anthologized and regularly appears in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *Harpers*, *The Atlantic*, *Ploughshares*, and *The Paris Review*. He is the recipient of many literary awards and honors which include the PEN/Bernard Malamud Prize for “distinguished achievement in the short story”, a Lannan Award, a Whiting Writers’ Award, the Academy Institute Award in Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim Fellowship, two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and four O’Henry Prizes. In 2007, he was awarded both a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation “genius” grant and The Rea Award for the Short Story. He currently teaches at Northwestern University as Distinguished Writer in Residence. Dybek is a permanent faculty member of The Prague Summer Writing Program.

Richard Ford is a novelist and story-writer. He is author of three volumes of short fiction, among them *A Multitude of Sins* and *Rock Springs*. He has won both the Rea Award for the Short Story, and The PEN/Bernard Malamud Award for excellence in short fiction, and has edited *The Best America Short Stories*, as well as both volumes of *The Granta Book of The American Short Story*. His novels, which include *Canada*, *Independence Day* and *The Lay of the Land*, have won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, The PEN/Faulkner Award, and the Award for Merit in the Novel from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, where he is a Fellow. He is Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University, and lives with his wife Kristina, in New York and in Boothbay, Maine.



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MICHAEL MOORHEAD REA

Michael M. Rea, devotee of the short story and founder in 1986 of the Rea Award for the Short Story, was born on January 19, 1927 in New York City and grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. At seventeen, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served in North China at the end of World War II. In 1952 he graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.A. in English. From 1952 to 1969, he was Vice President of the Oliver Tyrone Corporation, a family real estate firm in Pittsburgh. From 1970 to 1979 he was active in real estate in the Washington DC area. There he founded Harrea Broadcasting, Inc., which owned and operated radio stations in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

A passionate reader, Michael Rea wrote short fiction and collected first editions of American short stories. He also collected fine art and served as a Trustee of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the Norton Museum of Art. Through his company, Sweetwater Editions, he published Livre Deluxe limited editions of Isaac Bashevis Singer's *Satan in Goray* and *Early American Stone Sculpture: Found in the Burying Grounds of New England*. Mr. Rea also edited an anthology, *The American Story: Short Stories from the Rea Award* (Ecco Press, 1994). This book consists of 21 stories by Rea Award winners and nominees selected by seven Rea Award jurors: Ann Beattie, Stanley Elkin, Joyce Carol Oates, Cynthia Ozick, Shannon Ravenel, Joy Williams, and Tobias Wolff.

To administer the annual \$30,000 Rea Award for the Short Story, Mr. Rea established the Dungannon Foundation, which is named for his paternal hometown in Northern Ireland. He traced his love of the short story back to his Irish forebears. "The Irish were great storytellers," he said. "The basic thrust of the award," Mr. Rea noted, "is to foster a literary cause, to ennoble the form, to give it prestige." He gave complete independence to an annual jury of three notable literary figures and chose not to participate in the judging process. When the winner was selected he joined the jurors for a private luncheon celebration. During that luncheon he would telephone the winner to break the news personally. This tradition is continued by his widow, Elizabeth Richebourg Rea.

In addition to The Rea Award for the Short Story the Dungannon Foundation, directed by Ms. Rea, a photographer and curator, sponsors Rea Visiting Writers and Rea Visiting Lecturers at the University of Virginia. The Foundation also provides financial support for Selected Shorts at Symphony Space in New York City.

Michael Rea died in the summer of 1996.



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