



The
**Anisfield-Wolf
Book Awards®**

Opening Minds. Challenging Minds.®

71st

ANNUAL ANISFIELD-WOLF BOOK AWARDS

September 7, 2006

Bolton Theatre

The Cleveland Play House

71st

ANNUAL ANISFIELD-WOLF BOOK AWARDS

Welcome to the 2006 Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards ceremony. For more than 70 years, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards has recognized writers whose works contribute to our understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity of human cultures.

Jill Lepore

New York Burning: Liberty, Slavery, and Conspiracy in Eighteenth-Century Manhattan

Jill Lepore is Professor of History at Harvard University and chair of the History and Literature Program. A contributor to *The New Yorker*, Lepore has also written for *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times* and *American Scholar*, as well as for many scholarly publications, including the *Journal of American History* and the *American Historical Review*. In 1999, she co-founded the online magazine *Common-place*.

In addition to the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards, *New York Burning* was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Her other books include *A is for American* (2002) and *The Name of War* (1998), winner of the Bancroft Prize, the Ralph Waldo Emerson Award, the Berkshire Prize and a finalist for the J. Anthony Lukas Award.

Lepore has also received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Philosophical Society, and has served as a consultant on many television and film projects, including PBS's *The American Experience*. She received her B.A. in English from Tufts University, an M.A. in American Culture from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University.



Photo by Dari Michele



Photo by Roderick Field

Zadie Smith *On Beauty*

Zadie Smith was born in northwest London and continues to live in the area. Her first novel, *White Teeth*, was published in 2000 and won the *Guardian* First Book Award, the Whitbread First Novel Award, the James Tait Black

Memorial Prize for Fiction and the Commonwealth Writer's Prize. Her second novel, *The Autograph Man*, was published in 2002 and received the *Jewish Quarterly* Wingate Literary Prize and was short listed for the Orange Prize for Fiction.

On Beauty was recognized with the Orange Prize for Fiction and The Commonwealth Writers' Best Book Award (Eurasia Section). In addition, the novel was short listed for the Man Booker Prize and was selected by *The New York Times* as one of the 10 Best Books of 2005. Smith is currently working on a book of essays on ethical thought in 20th century fiction. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards 71st Annual Celebration



Photo by Christine Newman

William Demby

Novelist William Demby, born on Christmas Day 1922 in Pittsburgh, PA, grew up in Clarksburg, WV. He attended West Virginia State College for a time, with World War II interrupting his education. Demby entered the horse cavalry of the U.S. Army, served in both Italy and North Africa and wrote for *Stars and Stripes*.

After the war, Demby enrolled in Fisk University and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1947. He returned to Rome where he wrote filmstrips for the Italian film and television industries and translated Italian screenplays into English. Demby served as the English translator for virtually all of the important Cinecitta films by Antonioni, Fellini, Visconti and Rossellini, and was the assistant director for dialogue on Rossellini's "Europe 51," starring Ingrid Bergman. While in Italy, Demby wrote *Beetlecreek*, his first novel, published in 1950. *Beetlecreek*, a story of race relations in a remote West Virginia town, was praised by one reviewer as a new voice in African American literature, "one that is neither the ghetto realism of Richard Wright nor the ironic modernism of Ralph Ellison."

Demby followed with *The Catacombs* (1965), *Love Story Black* (1978) and *Blueboy* (1979). His work has been recognized for its distinct use of language and form, described as a unique pairing of traditional themes and modernist style.

About *On Beauty*

What are the truly beautiful things in life, and how far will you go to get them? Set on both sides of the Atlantic, *On Beauty* looks at family life, marriage, academic affairs and the collision of the personal and the political.

About *New York Burning*

In the winter of 1741, ten fires blazed across Manhattan, where one in five inhabitants were enslaved. With each new fire, panicked whites grew more suspicious of a slave uprising. That spring and summer, the New York Supreme Court condemned thirteen black men to be burned at the stake and seventeen hanged, while more than one hundred black men and women were thrown into a dungeon beneath City Hall. *New York Burning* tells their story.

William Demby on writing

"Writing these novels was as often as not a sobering learning experience. *Beetlecreek* taught me that Truth is seldom a blazing billboard of light, but as often as not the revelation of a gently unfolding flower.

"Writing *The Catacombs* was a monk's daily intimidating lesson revealing yet another quirky turn in the mysteriously meandering path of history.

"*Love Story Black*, which I meant to be a light-hearted gothic medieval tale, still frightens me because of the terrifying power of what it leaves unsaid."

Welcome

Ronald B. Richard

President and Chief Executive Officer
The Cleveland Foundation

Introduction of 2006 Winners

Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Chairperson, Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards Jury
W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities
Harvard University

Acceptance

Jill Lepore

*New York Burning: Liberty, Slavery, and
Conspiracy in Eighteenth-Century Manhattan*

Zadie Smith

On Beauty

William Demby

Lifetime Achievement Award

2006 Anisfield-Wolf Awards Jury

Henry Louis Gates Jr., *chairperson*

W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities, Harvard University

Rita Dove, Commonwealth Professor of English, University of Virginia

Joyce Carol Oates, Roger S. Berlind '52 Professor in the Humanities,
Princeton University

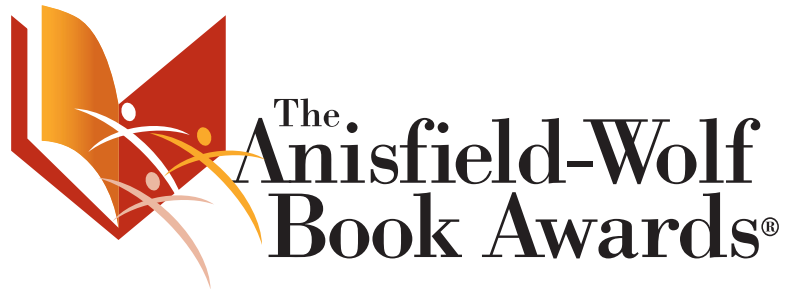
Steven Pinker, Johnstone Family Professor of Psychology,
Harvard University

Simon Schama, Old Dominion Foundation Professor of Humanities,
Columbia University

Thank You

The Cleveland Foundation wishes to thank the Cleveland Public Library and A Cultural Exchange for their continued support.

The Cleveland Foundation administers
the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards.



Opening Minds. Challenging Minds.®

The Cleveland Foundation
1422 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1300
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2001
216.861.3810 • fax 216.861.2229
www.clevelandfoundation.org

www.anisfield-wolf.org