

FOR RELEASE
OCTOBER 5, 2009

CONTACT: Sherrie Young
National Book Foundation
1(212) 695-0261
syoung@nationalbook.org

**"5 Under 35"
THE NEXT GENERATION OF FICTION WRITERS CELEBRATION
KICKS OFF NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS WEEK
IN DUMBO, BROOKLYN**

***Hosted by Punk Rock Icon and Novelist Richard Hell,
Novelist and MacArthur Fellow Jonathan Lethem to DJ***

New York, New York – Five young fiction writers will be recognized by the National Book Foundation at the “5 Under 35” celebration at PowerHouse Arena in the DUMBO section of Brooklyn on Monday, November 16, announced Harold Augenbraum, the executive director of the National Book Foundation.

“5 Under 35 is a true celebration of emerging talent and the perfect way to kick off National Book Awards Week,” says Augenbraum.

The 2009 5 Under 35 Honorees Are:

Ceridwen Dovey, *Blood Kin*, (Viking, 2008)

Selected by Rachel Kushner, 2008 Fiction Finalist for *Telex from Cuba*

C. E. Morgan, *All the Living* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2009)

Selected by Christine Schutt, 2004 Fiction Finalist for *Florida*

Lydia Peelle, *Reasons for and Advantages of Breathing* (HarperCollins, 2009)

Selected by Salvatore Scibona, 2008 Fiction Finalist for *The End*

Karen Russell, *St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves* (Vintage, 2006)

Selected by Don Chaon, 2001 Fiction Finalist for *Among the Missing*

Josh Weil, *The New Valley* (Grove Press, 2009)

Selected by Lily Tuck, 2004 Fiction Winner for *The News from Paraguay*

(Biographies for 5 Under 35 writers and National Book Award authors at end of release)

Now in its fourth year, "5 Under 35" has become the highly-anticipated kick-off event for National Book Awards week. In a nod to Brooklyn's status as the literary epicenter of New York City, the Foundation has moved the event to the Powerhouse Arena in DUMBO. That evening, each author will be introduced by the writer who selected them and will read a brief excerpt from their work to an audience of their peers: young writers, editors, publishers, agents, journalists and bloggers. This year's emcee is musician, novelist and publisher **Richard Hell**, founder of the seminal punk band Richard Hell & the Voidoids. The evening's DJ will be novelist, essayist, and MacArthur fellow **Jonathan Lethem**.

Pupusas will be provided to guests by Soler-Bermudez of the **Red Hook Food Vendors**, 2008 Vendy Award Finalist, and regular at the Red Hook Ball Fields every summer.

Wines generously donated by Joseph and Diane Steinberg; and beer generously donated by Union Beer.

To view 2008 honorees and images of the 5 Under 35 celebrations, visit <http://www.nationalbook.org/5under35.html>.

~ *This event is by invitation only. Press interested in attending should contact Sherrie Young syoung@nationalbook.org ~*

5 Under 35 Honorees

Ceridwen Dovey grew up in South Africa and Australia. She is an anthropologist and author of the novel *Blood Kin*, which won South Africa's most prestigious literary award, the Sunday Times Fiction Prize. Her novel was also short-listed for the Dylan Thomas Prize, the Australia-Asia Literary Award, and long-listed for the Prix Femina Etranger.

C. E. Morgan was born in Cincinnati and now lives in Berea, Kentucky. She studied English and voice at Berea College and received a Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) from Harvard Divinity School. Her short story "Over by Christmas" was published on the op-ed page of *The New York Times* this past Christmas. *All the Living* is her first novel. She's currently working on a novel about horse racing and race relations.

Lydia Peelle was born in Boston. She is the author of the novel *Reasons for and Advantages of Breathing*. In addition to having two of her stories featured in the *Best New American Voices* series, she has also won two Pushcart Prizes and an O. Henry Prize. She currently lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

Karen Russell's collection of stories, *St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves*, was named a Best Book of 2006 by the *Chicago Tribune*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. In 2007, Russell was included in *Granta's* series: the Best of Young American Novelists. Her stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, *Conjunctions*, *Zoetrope*, and *The Best American Short Stories* (2007 and 2008). Russell, a native of Miami, now lives in New York City and is working on a novel, *Swamplandia!*, about a family of alligator wrestlers in the Florida swamp.

Josh Weil is the author of the novella collection *The New Valley* (Grove Press, 2009), a *New York Times* Editors' Choice selection. His fiction has been published in *Granta*, *New England Review*, *American Short Fiction*, and *Narrative*. He has written nonfiction for *The New York Times*, *Granta Online*, and *Poets & Writers*. Since earning his MFA from Columbia University, he has received a Fulbright grant, a Writer's Center Emerging Writer Fellowship, and the Dana Award in Portfolio. He has been a fellow at both the Bread Loaf and Sewanee Writers' Conferences. As the 2009 Tickner Fellow, he is the writer-in-residence at Gilman School in Baltimore, where he is at work on a novel.

National Book Award Authors

Dan Chaon's most recent novel, *Await Your Reply*, is out this fall from Ballantine Books. Chaon is also the author of *Among the Missing*, which was a finalist for the 2001 National Book Award and *You Remind Me of Me*, which was named one of the best books of the year by *The Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, among other publications. His fiction has appeared in many journals and anthologies, including *The Best American Short Stories*. He has been a finalist for the National Magazine Award in Fiction and was the recipient of the 2006 Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Chaon lives in Cleveland, Ohio, and teaches at Oberlin College, where he is the Pauline M. Delaney Professor of Creative Writing.

Rachel Kushner's first novel, *Telex from Cuba*, was a finalist for the 2008 National Book Award, received the gold medal from the Commonwealth Club of California, and was a finalist for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. Her fiction and essays have been published in the *New York Times*, *The Believer*, *Fence*, *Bomb*, *Grand Street*, *Cabinet*, and elsewhere. She contributes regularly to *Artforum* and is a co-editor of the art, literature, and philosophy journal, *Soft Targets*.

Salvatore Scibona's first novel, *The End*, was a finalist for the 2008 National Book Award, a winner of the Young Lions Fiction Award from the New York Public Library, and winner of the Norman Mailer Cape Cod Award for Exceptional Writing. Riverhead will publish a paperback edition of *The End* in fall 2009, and it will be published in German and French in 2010. Scibona administers the writing fellowship at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

Christine Schutt is the author of two short story collections and the novel *Florida*, a 2004 National Book Award finalist. Her second novel, *All Souls*, was a finalist for the 2009 Pulitzer Prize in fiction. Among other honors, Schutt has twice won the O. Henry Short Story Prize, a Pushcart Prize, and an NYFA fellowship. Schutt is a senior editor of the literary annual *NOON*. She lives and teaches in New York.

Lily Tuck is the author of *The News from Paraguay*, winner of the 2004 National Book Award. Her most recent work is a biography, *Woman of Rome: A Life of Elsa Morante*.

The “5 Under 35” Celebration’s Featured Emcee

Richard Hell is the author of the novels *Go Now* and *Godlike*. His book of collaborations with the artist Christopher Wool, *Psychopts*, was published in 2008, and his CD, *Destiny Street Repaired*, by Richard Hell and the Voidoids, was released in 2009. He is at work on an autobiography.

The “5 Under 35” Celebration’s Featured DJ

Jonathan Lethem is the author of seven novels. A recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship, Lethem has also published his stories and essays in *The New Yorker*, *Harper’s*, *Rolling Stone*, *Esquire*, and the *New York Times*, among others. His most recent novel is *Chronic City*.

###

The Mission of the National Book Foundation is to celebrate the best of American literature, to expand its audience, and to enhance the cultural value of good writing in America.

About the National Book Awards

The nation’s most prestigious literary prize, the National Book Award has a stellar record of identifying and rewarding quality writing. In 1950, William Carlos Williams was the first winner in Poetry, the following year William Faulkner was honored, and so on through the years. Many previous Winners of a National Book Award are now firmly established in the canon of American literature. On November 18th, the National Book Awards will be presented in the categories of Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, and Young People’s Literature.