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**THE NATIONAL BOOK FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES ITS**

**2015 5 UNDER 35 HONOREES**

**New York, NY (September 30, 2015) –** The National Book Foundation released the names of its 2015 5 Under 35 Honorees this morning. In recognition of the program’s tenth anniversary, five acclaimed writers who were themselves previously recognized as 5 Under 35 Honorees made this year’s selections. The 2015 5 Under 35 Honorees are:

* **Colin Barrett**, author of *Young Skins* (Black Cat / Grove Atlantic), selected by Paul Yoon
* **Angela Flournoy**, author of *The Turner House* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), selected by ZZ Packer
* **Megan Kruse**, author of *Call Me Home* (Hawthorne Books), selected by Phil Klay
* **Tracy O’Neill**, author of *The Hopeful* (Ig Publishing), selected by Fiona Maazel
* **Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi**, author of *Fra Keeler* (Dorothy, a publishing project), selected by Dinaw Mengestu

These five extraordinary writers will be honored at a ceremony hosted by LeVar Burton, Curator-in-Chief/Host of Reading Rainbow, on November 16, 2015 at powerHouse Arena in Brooklyn, NY. For the second year in a row, author Ben Greenman will emcee and columnist Rosie Schaap will guest bartend. 5 Under 35 is sponsored by Amazon Literary Partnerships, with additional event sponsorship from the New York Distilling Company. Each Honoree will receive a prize of $1,000 and will be invited to appear at a special event in Miami, FL in the Spring of 2016, in partnership with Miami Book Fair International.

“Over the past ten years, the National Book Foundation’s 5 Under 35 program has established itself as a hallmark of emerging literary talent,” said Harold Augenbraum, Executive Director of the National Book Foundation. “The writers we’ve recognized have established themselves among the most acclaimed and admired working today.”

5 Under 35 Honorees are writers under the age of 35 who have published one book of fiction—either a short story collection or novel—within the last five years. This year’s Honorees include a 2014 Whiting Award winner and have received fellowships from The MacDowell Colony, The Center for Fiction, and The Fulbright Program. Angela Flournoy’s *The Turner House*, is also currently longlisted for the National Book Award for Fiction.

Previous Honorees include Danielle Evans, Nam Le, Valeria Luiselli, Karen Russell, Kirstin Valdez Quade, Justin Torres, Claire Vaye Watkins, and Tiphanie Yanique, as well as past National Book Award Finalist Téa Obreht and 2014 National Book Award Fiction Winner Phil Klay.

Bios of this year’s 5 Under 35 Honorees, Selectors, and Host are below. Please email Benjamin Samuel at bsamuel@nationalbook.org for more details.

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**5 Under 35 Honorees**

Colin Barrett was born in 1982 and grew up in County Mayo, Ireland. In 2009 he was awarded the Penguin Ireland Prize. His stories have appeared in *Stinging Fly* magazine, *A Public Space*, *Five Dials*, and *The New Yorker*. *Young Skins* is his first book.

Angela Flournoy is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she received a Dean’s Fellowship, and the University of Southern California. She has taught writing at the University of Iowa and Trinity Washington University and has worked for the Washington, DC Public Library. She was raised in Southern California by a mother from Los Angeles and a father from Detroit. *The Turner House* is her first novel.

Megan Kruse grew up in the rural Pacific Northwest. She studied creative writing at Oberlin College and earned her MFA at the University of Montana. Her work has appeared widely in journals and anthologies, and she recently completed residencies at the Kimmel-Harding-Nelson Center for the Arts in Nebraska and the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center in Minnesota. She is the 2015-2016 Visiting Writer-in-Residence at Eastern Oregon University’s Low-Residency MFA program. She currently lives in Seattle. *Call Me Home* is her first novel.

Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi is the author of *Fra Keeler*. She is the recipient of a 2015 Whiting Award, a MacDowell Fellowship, and a Fulbright Fellowship to Catalonia, Spain. She has lived in Italy, Spain, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and now resides in the USA. She teaches in the MFA Program in Creative Writing at the University of Notre Dame and splits her time between South Bend, Indiana and Florence, Italy.

Tracy O'Neill lives in Brooklyn. In 2012, she was awarded a NYC Emerging Writers Fellowship by the Center for Fiction. Her novel *The Hopeful* was published in June 2015, and her short fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *Guernica, Granta, The Literarian, Vol. 1 Brooklyn*, and *Promethean*. You can read her nonfiction in *The Atlantic*, *Grantland*, *Bookforum*, *Rolling Stone,* and [newyorker.com](http://newyorker.com/). She currently teaches at the Fashion Institute of Technology and the City College of New York.

**5 Under 35 Selectors**

Phil Klay is a Marine Corps veteran of the Iraq War and the author of the short story collection *Redeployment*, which received the 2014 National Book Award for Fiction. He was also named a 2014 National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Honoree, and in 2015 received the National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Prize for best debut work in any genre.

Fiona Maazel is the author of the novels *Last Last Chance*, *Woke Up Lonely*, and, forthcoming, *What Kind of Man*.

Dinaw Mengestu is the author of three novels, *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears* (2007), *How to Read the Air* (2010), and *All Our Names* (2015). He is a graduate of Georgetown University and of Columbia University’s MFA program in fiction, a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Honoree, and a *New Yorker* 20 Under 40 selection. His journalism and fiction have appeared in such publications as *Harper’s* , *Granta*, *Rolling Stone*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. In 2012, he received a 2012 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. He lives in New York City.

ZZ Packer is the author of the short story collection *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere*. She is a graduate of Yale University, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop. She is an assistant professor at San Francisco State University whose interests include creative writing, post-classical narrative theory, and political philosophy. She is at work on a novel, tentatively titled *The Thousands*, which chronicles America’s violent history following the Civil War through the eyes of the Buffalo Soldiers—African American infantry and cavalry units who fought during the “Indian campaigns.” She is the recipient of a Dobie Paisano Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts grant, a Wallace Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University, and a Whiting Award. She has published fiction in *The Best American Short Stories*, *Harper’s*, *Ploughshares*, *Zoetrope*, and *The* *New Yorker*, which included her in its 20 Under 40 Fiction Issue. Her nonfiction has appeared in the *American Prospect*, the *Guardian*, the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Oxford American*, and the *Washington Post Magazine*.

Paul Yoon was born in New York City. He is the author of *Once the Shore*, which was a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 selection, and the novel *Snow Hunters*, which won the 2014 Young Lions Fiction Award. He is currently a Fellow at the New York Public Library’s Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers.

**Hosts**

LeVar Burton, multi-award winning actor, director and education advocate, is best known to television audiences around the world for his portrayals of two iconic characters—Kunte Kinte in “Roots” and Geordi LaForge in “Star Trek: The Next Generation”—and for his 23 years as producer and host of the beloved PBS series “Reading Rainbow.” Burton is co-founder of the award-winning Reading Rainbow digital library, which has produced the #1 educational app and has just introduced SKYBRARY, the next generation of innovative children's educational media on the web. He is co-Executive Producer of the upcoming multi-part remake of “Roots” and has received the Eliot-Pearson Award for Excellence in Children's Media from Tufts University, the 2014 *Los Angeles Times* Book Prizes Innovator’s Award, and the 2015 *Chicago Tribune* Young Adult Literary Award. Burton is also the author of the new children’s book, *The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm*.

Ben Greenman is a writer for *The New Yorker* and the author of several acclaimed works of fiction, including the short story collections *What He’s Poised to Do*, *Superbad*, *A Circle Is a Balloon and Compass Both*, and the novels *Superworse*, *Please Step Back*, and *The Slippage*. His fiction, essays, and journalism have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Paris Review*, *Zoetrope: All Story*, *McSweeney’s*, and elsewhere, and have been widely anthologized. With Questlove, he is the co-author of the bestselling *Mo' Meta Blues*, and the memoir *Brothas Be, Yo Like George, Ain't That Funkin' Kinda Hard on You?*, by George Clinton. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and two children.

Rosie Schaap is the author of the memoir *Drinking With Men,* named one of the best books of 2013 by National Public Radio, *Library Journal,* and *Bookpage*. The drink columnist for *The New York Times Magazine* and a contributor to *This American Life,* she has also written for *Bon Appétit, Gather, Lucky Peach, Marie Claire*, [npr.org](http://npr.org/), *Saveur, Slate, Travel + Leisure*, and many essay anthologies. A working bartender, Schaap is currently writing a book about whiskey.

**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. In addition to the National Book Awards, for which it is best known, the Foundation’s programs include the National Book Awards Teen Press Conference, an opportunity for New York City students to interview the current National Book Award Finalists in Young People’s Literature; NBA on Campus, a partnership that brings current National Book Award authors to colleges and universities around the country; the Innovations in Reading Prize, awarded to individuals and institutions that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading; and BookUp, an after-school reading program led by writers, for middle-school students in New York and Texas.

**About the 5 Under 35**

The 5 Under 35 program, now in its tenth year, honors five young fiction writers selected by past National Book Award Winners and Finalists and previous 5 Under 35 Honorees. Since 2006, the program has introduced the next generation of writers, including Phil Klay, Valeria Luiselli, Téa Obreht, Karen Russell, Justin Torres, and Kirstin Valdez Quade. Supported by a generous donation from Amazon.com, the Foundation offers the 5 Under 35 authors a cash award of $1,000 each.