

## THE REA AWARD FOR THE SHORT STORY

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### T. C. BOYLE IS WINNER OF 2014 REA AWARD FOR THE SHORT STORY

New York, N. Y. – The \$30,000 Rea Award for the Short Story winner is **T. C. BOYLE**.

Michael M. Rea founded The Rea Award for the Short Story in 1986 to encourage the writing of short fiction. The **annual \$30,000 Rea Award** recognizes a living U. S. or Canadian writer. Rea established the award to honor a writer who **has made a significant contribution to the discipline of the short story as an art form.**

The Rea Award is sponsored by the Dungannon Foundation. Three jurors are appointed each year to nominate and elect the winner. This year's jurors, noted writers **Richard Bausch, Robert Olen Butler and Elizabeth Strout**, offered the following citation:

*T.C. Boyle is a genuine American original. In more than one hundred short stories and ten story collections (plus fifteen novels), Tom Boyle has furnished his own highly public and deluxe corner of contemporary American letters. His stories fairly glitter with imagination, an immense variety, hilarity, ambition and achieved talent. To his enduring credit and his readers' delight and amaze, less is not in the Boyle fictive vocabulary, though in his stories' dedication to matters of the heart and the human spirit, his finely tuned wit and his vision of our sometimes sad American fate have nothing of the cynical or the hopeless. His incomparable stories, even in their occasional dark interludes, always comes to us as a celebration. They redeem us and delight us and awaken our awareness as the finest writing should.*

**T. Coraghessan Boyle** has authored more than one hundred short stories and fifteen novels. His story collections include *Stories II, The Collected Stories of T. C. Boyle; Wild Child; The Human Fly; Tooth and Claw; After the Plague; T. C. Boyle Stories* which won the PEN/Malamud Award; *Without a Hero; If the River Was Whiskey*, winner of a PEN Center West Literary Prize; *Greasy Lake*; and *Descent of Man*, his first book.

Five times honored in *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, **Boyle** has received numerous awards and honors. *Water Music*, **Boyle's** first novel won France's Prix Passion prize. He won the PEN/Faulkner award for his novel *World's End* and the Prix Médicis Étranger for

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the Tortilla Curtain. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. **Boyle** was the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships; a Guggenheim Fellowship; the Howard D. Vursell Memorial Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the PEN/New England Henry David Thoreau Prize. In March of this year he was awarded the Robert Kirsch Award for Lifetime Achievement. His fifteenth novel, *New York Times* bestseller *The Harder They Come*, was just released in March 2015.

In addition to his published story collections, **T. C. Boyle's** work has appeared five times in *The Best American Short Stories* and in numerous periodicals and anthologies including *The Pushcart Prize*, *Granta*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's* and *The Paris Review*. **T. C. Boyle's** books have been translated into twenty-five languages.

“Art bailed me out...It sounds corny but there's a power in it that I would never give up. There's a light that fills you when you're writing; there's a magic. I don't know what it is. It's a miracle and it's a rush and immediately on finishing, you want to do it again. It's so utterly thrilling to me; it's all I want to do.” T. C. Boyle

### Winners of The Rea Award for the Short Story 1986 – 2014

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

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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### T. CORAGHESSAN BOYLE

**T. Coraghessan Boyle** has authored more than one hundred short stories in ten collections, and fifteen novels. His story collections include the recently published *Stories II, The Collected Stories of T. C. Boyle, Volume II* (2013); *Wild Child and Other Stories* (2010); *The Human Fly and Other Stories* (2005); *Tooth and Claw* (2005); *After the Plague* (2001); *T. C. Boyle Stories* (1998); *Without a Hero* (1994); *If the River Was Whiskey* (1989); *Greasy Lake & Other Stories* (1985); and *Descent of Man* (1979) his first book.

Five times honored in *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, **T. C. Boyle** has received numerous awards including the 1999 PEN/Malamud Award for *T. C. Boyle Stories*. His story collection *If the River Was Whiskey* won the 1990 PEN Center West Literary Prize and was Editor's Choice in *The New York Times Book Review*. Among his other awards and honors are the National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in 1978 and 1983; a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in 1988; a Doctorate of Humane Letters honorary degree from State University, New York in 1991; the 1993 Howard D. Vursell Memorial Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; the Ross Macdonald Award in 2007; and the 2013 PEN/New England Henry David Thoreau Prize. In March of this year he was awarded the Robert Kirsch Award for Lifetime Achievement. **T. C. Boyle** was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2009.

**T. C. Boyle's** first novel *Water Music* (1981) won France's Prix Passion publishers prize; His third novel *World's End* (1987) was honored with the 1988 PEN/Faulkner Award and was Editors Choice, *The New York Times Book Review*. *The Road to Wellville* (1993), focusing on Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, was made into a major motion picture starring Anthony Hopkins. *The Tortilla Curtain* (1995) was awarded France's Prix Médicis Étranger for best foreign novel in 1997. He was also a National Book Award Finalist for *Drop City* (2003). Ecco/Harper Collins, **Boyle's** publisher, just released his fifteenth novel, *New York Times* bestseller *The Harder They Come* in March 2015.

In addition to his published story collections, **Boyle's** work has appeared five times in *The Best American Short Stories* and in numerous periodicals and anthologies including *The Pushcart Prize*, *Granta*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *The Paris Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *McSweeney's*, *Playboy* and *Esquire*.

**T. C. Boyle** is a graduate of the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop and has taught at University of Southern California since 1978 when he founded the undergraduate program in creative writing. His books have been translated into twenty-five languages. He lives with his wife in Santa Barbara, California.



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### JURORS FOR THE 2014 REA AWARD FOR THE SHORT STORY

**Richard Bausch** is the author of eight collections of stories and fifteen novels. His most recent publication is the novel *Before, During, After* (2014). *Something is Out There* (2010), *The Stories of Richard Bausch* (2004), *The Fireman's Wife and Other Stories* (1990), and *Spirits and Other Stories* (1987) are among his short story collections. *The Last Good Time: a Novel* (1984) was made into a feature-length film starring Armin Meuhler-Stahl and Maureen Stapleton, released in 1995. His novel *Peace* (2008) was awarded the 2010 Dayton International Literary Peace Prize. Richard Bausch won the Rea Award for the Short Story in 2012. Other awards and honors include two National Magazine Awards, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, a Lila-Wallace Reader's Digest Award, the Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the 2004 PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story. His short stories have appeared often in numerous periodicals and anthologies including *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *The Best American Short Stories*, *The O. Henry Prize Stories* and *The Pushcart Prize*, and *Granta*. The Modern Library published *The Selected Stories of Richard Bausch* in March, 1996, a distinction rarely accorded a contemporary writer. Bausch is professor in the Writing Program at Chapman University in Orange, California.

**Robert Olen Butler** is the author of six short story collections and fifteen novels. His story collection *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain* won the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. It was reviewed as changing forever the composition of Vietnam-related fiction. A recipient of both a Guggenheim Fellowship in fiction and a National Endowment for the Arts grant, Butler also won the 1993 Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and was a finalist for the 1993 PEN/Faulkner Award. He has twice won a National Magazine Award in Fiction and honored multiple times in *The Pushcart Prize*. His stories have appeared widely in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Harper's*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *GQ*, *Zoetrope*, *The Paris Review*, *The Hudson Review*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Ploughshares*, *The Sewanee Review* and most recently in *The New Granta Book of the American Short Story*, edited by Richard Ford. Butler's work is four times recognized in the annual *Best American Short Stories* and in eight editions of *New Stories from the South*. *Severance* (2006), a collection of stories, was the basis of a one-act play by David Jette produced in 2007 at the Los Angeles McCadden Place Theatre. His works have been translated into nineteen languages, including Vietnamese, Thai, Korean, Polish, Japanese, Serbian, Farsi, Czech, Estonian, and Greek. He is a Francis Eppes Distinguished Professor holding the Michael Shaara Chair in Creative Writing at Florida State University and lives in Capps, Florida

**Elizabeth Strout** won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2009 for her collection of short stories *Olive Kitteridge* (2008). *Olive Kitteridge* was also a 2008 National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist and in 2010 won the Premio Bancarella an Italian literary award. In 2014 *Olive Kitteridge* aired on HBO as a two-part mini-series starring Frances McDormand. Strout authored three novels *Amy and Isabelle* (1998), *Abide With Me* (2006), and *The Burgess Boys* (2013). *Amy and Isabelle* won the 1999 Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction and was also a 2000 PEN/Faulkner Award Finalist. *Amy and Isabelle* was adapted as a television movie starring Elizabeth Shue. Strout's stories appeared in many periodicals and anthologies. Her story *Toads and Snakes* was included in *The Friend Who Got Away* (2005), an anthology by Jenny Offill and Elissa Schappell. Strout was editor of *Best American Short Stories* in 2013. Elizabeth Strout teaches English at Manhattan Community College in New York City. She lives with her husband Jim Tierney in New York City and 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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