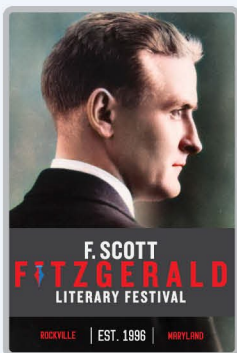


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Jesmyn Ward Announced as the Recipient of the 2024 Fitzgerald Award

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival Annual Award Honors Distinguished American Writers

Rockville, MD - The **F. Scott Fitzgerald Festival** is thrilled to announce **Jesmyn Ward** as the recipient of the 2024 **Fitzgerald Award** for Achievement in American Literature. The Festival, renowned for celebrating distinguished American writers, will pay tribute to Ward's outstanding contributions to contemporary literature during a captivating event featuring a reading and a master class.

A two-time winner of the National Book Award for Fiction and a MacArthur Fellow, Jesmyn Ward is a luminary in the literary world. Ward's poignant explorations of the complexities of race, class, and family in the American South have garnered widespread acclaim and solidified her place among the most influential literary voices of our time.

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival has a rich tradition of **honoring prominent figures** in American literature, including Pulitzer Prize winners John Updike, Jane Smiley, Norman Mailer, Annie Proulx, Edward Albee, and Barbara Kingsolver. We are pleased to add Jesmyn Ward to this list of honorees.

"Jesmyn Ward's work embodies the essence of F. Scott Fitzgerald's exploration of the American experience," said Gary Berg-Cross, President of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc. "Through her powerful storytelling, Ward illuminates the complexities of our society with a depth and nuance that resonates with readers around the world."

The premier festival dedicated to F. Scott Fitzgerald and contemporary literary luminaries, the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival was inaugurated in 1996 in the city where he and his family are buried to commemorate the centenary of the iconic author's birth. Co-sponsored by the City of Rockville in Montgomery County, Maryland, and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc., this event is a testament to Fitzgerald's enduring impact and to the ongoing vitality of contemporary American literature.

Reflecting on the significance of recognizing accomplished American contemporary writers, one of the founders and former president of the Festival, Jackson R. Bryer, stated, "In honoring writers like Jesmyn Ward, we pay homage to the legacy of F. Scott Fitzgerald while also celebrating the evolution and

Festival Award Recipients

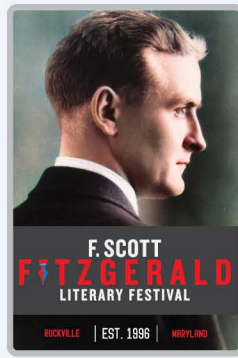
1996 William Styron
1997 John Barth
1998 Joyce Carol Oates
1999 E.L. Doctorow
2000 Norman Mailer
2001 Ernest J. Gaines
2002 John Updike
2003 Edward Albee
2004 Grace Paley

2005 Pat Conroy
2006 Jane Smiley
2007 William Kennedy
2008 Elmore Leonard
2009 Julia Alvarez
2010 Alice McDermott
2011 Maxine Hong Kingston
2013 Robert Olen Butler
2014 James Salter
2015 Richard Ford

2016 Garrison Keillor
2017 Annie Proulx
2018 Richard Russo
2019 Amy Tan
2020 Barbara Kingsolver
2021 John Edgar Wideman
2022 Richard Powers
2023 Jonathan Franzen
2024 Jesmyn Ward



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diversity of American literature. Ward's contributions exemplify the spirit of innovation and artistic excellence that defines our Festival."

The 2024 Fitzgerald Award ceremony promises to be an unforgettable occasion, showcasing Jesmyn Ward's talent and impact on the literary landscape. Members of the media are invited to attend and cover this prestigious event.

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ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

At the heart of the Literary Festival is the prestigious F. Scott Fitzgerald Award for Achievement in American Literature, an honor bestowed upon an eminent American writer. Since its inception in 1996, the festival has included twelve Pulitzer Prize winners among its recipients, honoring many of the most illustrious figures in American literature of the last eight decades.

For more info: fitzgeraldfestival.com

ABOUT JESMYN WARD

Jesmyn Ward is a critically acclaimed author and winner of the two-time National Book Award for Fiction. Her novels include *Salvage the Bones*, *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, and *Let Us Descend*. Ward's work explores racial, class, and family themes in the American South, earning her widespread recognition and accolades, including a MacArthur Fellowship. Jesmyn Ward will engage in a conversation about "The Art of Fiction and Writing the Hard Stories" with Kiese Laymon and will give a reading.

For more info: fitzgeraldfestival.com/meetjesmynward

Festival Award Recipients

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