PULITZER PRIZES AWARDED TO YALE ALUMNI AND FACULTY, 1922-2007

13 in Drama, Fiction and Poetry
7 in Music
35 in Non-Fiction
1 in Public Service
56 total

DRAMA, FICTION AND POETRY

Benet, Stephen Vincent, BA 1919. Pulitzer Prize 1929 POETRY: John Brown’s Body; 1944 POETRY: Western Star. In fiction and poetry he explored the American national character. In addition to his Pulitzer works, he is remembered for his short story, “The Devil and Daniel Webster” that has been made into an opera and a film. Famous quote: From American Names, 1927. You may bury my body in Sussex grass, You my bury m tongue at Champmedy. I shall not be there. I shall rise and pass. Bury my heart at Wounded Knee.


Gilroy, Frank D., xDrama 1953. 1965 Pulitzer Prize in Drama for The Subject was Roses; also awarded Tony and Obie. –

Hersey, John (1914-1993), BA 1937. Drawing on his experiences as a war correspondent for Time, Hersey’s third novel, A Bell for Adano (1945) won the Pulitzer Prize. His best-known works, The Wall, and Hiroshima, address the destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto and the first use of the atomic bomb. Believing that people learn more from historical novels than textbooks, Hersey stated: “Journalism allows its readers to witness history; fiction gives its readers an opportunity to live it.”

Lewis Sinclair, BA 1907. Author of 'Main Street' (1920), 'Babbitt' (1922), 'Elmer Gantry' (1927), and 'Dodsworth' (1929). Awarded Pulitzer Prize 1926 NOVEL: Arrowsmith, but he refused to accept the prize. In 1930 he won the Nobel Prize in literature for the body of his writings. Lewis was the first American to receive the award. His writings revealed the hypocrisy of contemporary American life that stifles the spirit, adding to the dictionary the term “Babbitry,” a business or professional man who conforms unthinkingly to prevailing middle-class standards, and the phrase “Main Street mentality.” Lewis continued to write prolifically, with five novels on the bestseller lists from 1933-45.

Macleish, Archibald, BA 1920. Won his first Pulitzer Prize in 1933 for his epic poem, Conquistador. From 1939-44 he served as Librarian of Congress and after WWII as American organizer of UNESCO. His poetry reflects his social concerns, and his Collected Poems 1917-1952; brought him a second Pulitzer in 1953. Turning to drama he won the 1959 Pulitzer Prize
for his play, *J. B.* In 1965 he received an Academy Award for his work on the screenplay of *The Eleanor Roosevelt Story*.

Margulies, Donald, Drama faculty. Won 2000 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play Dinner With Friends

Strand, Mark, BFA 1959. Strand has served as poet laureate of the U.S. and received numerous honors including the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for his, *Blizzard of One*.


Wasserstein, Wendy, 1976MFA, dramatist best known for her Tony and 1989 Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *The Heidi Chronicles*

Wilder, Thornton, BA 1920. Pulitzer Prizes for 1928 NOVEL: The Bridge of San Luis; 1938 DRAMA: Our Town; 1943 DRAMA: The Skin of Our Teeth. His other best-selling novels include Woman of Andros, Heaven’s My Destination, and The Eighth Day. Also known for *The Matchmaker*, the play that became the book for *Hello Dolly*. He published his first full-length play, *The Trumpet Shall Sound* in the *Yale Literary Magazine* in 1920, which was later produced in 1926

Wright, Doug, 1985 BA. Screenwriter, winner of 2004 Pulitzer in Drama.

**MUSIC**

30% of all Pulitzer Prizes awarded for music composition have been bestowed on alumni and faculty of the Yale School of Music making it one of the strongest programs in the world.

Ives, Charles (1874-1954), BA 1898. Modern classical composer known for his combination of free techniques and American themes. Pulitzer Prize 1947 MUSIC: Symphony No. 3 by Charles Ives. First performed by Lou Harrison and Chamber Orchestra in New York, April 1946. His compositions, characterized for their complexity and dissonance, were frequently inspired by American culture and popular music. One was also based on an old Yale tradition, “Calcium Light Night.” A successful businessman as well, Ives devised the concept of estate planning in his field of insurance.


Porter, Quincy, BA 1919 and music faculty. Pulitzer Prize 1954 MUSIC: *Concerto For Two Pianos and Orchestra*, first performed by the Louisville Symphony Orchestra, March 17, 1954.


Wyner, Yehudi, 1950 BA, B. Mus. 1951, M. Mus. 1953. Pulitzer Prize in 2006 in Music for his piano concerto 'Chiavi in Mano'.

**NON-FICTION, HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY, AND JOURNALISM.**

Acheson, Dean, Present at the Creation, won the Pulitzer Prize in history in 1970.


Davis, David B., Yale professor of history. Awarded 1967 Pulitzer Prize for The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture.

Ellis, Joseph J., 1969 PhD. 2001 Pulitzer Prize in HISTORY, for *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*. 

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Lyman, Lauren D., x-BA 1918. Aviation editor of the New York Times. Awarded 1936 Pulitzer Prize in Journalism for REPORTING, for his exclusive story revealing that the Charles A. Lindbergh family was leaving the United States to live in England.


Moehringer, J. R., 1986 BA. Pulitzer Prize Journalism: FEATURE WRITING. of Los Angeles Times for his portrait of Gee’s Bend, an isolated river community in Alabama where many descendants of slaves live, and how a proposed ferry to the mainland might change it.

Potter, David, PhD 1940, Yale history professor. Awarded Pulitzer Prize 1977 HISTORY: The Impending Crisis, 1841-1867, a posthumous publication. Manuscript finished by Don E. Fehrenbacher.


Sharpe, Rochelle, 1971. Shared 1991 Pulitzer Prize in Journalism: NATIONAL REPORTING, for reporting that disclosed hundreds of child abuse-related deaths undetected each year as a result of errors by medical examiners.


Trudeau, Garry, 1970, 1973 ART. While an undergraduate he created for The Yale Daily News, the satirical comic strip “Bull Tales” that evolved into the nationally syndicated Doonesbury. In 1975, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning.


Woodward, Robert, BA 1965. Washington Post reporter whose investigative reporting with Carl Bernstein earned them a Pulitzer Prize in uncovering the Watergate scandal. His book, All the Presidents Men was a bestseller in 1974 and the film based on it, directed by Alan Pakula, 1948, was nominated for best picture of 1976. Won 2nd Pulitzer in 2002 for National Reporting.


PUBLIC SERVICE
Forelle, Charles, 2002 BA, 2007 Pulitzer Prize in Public Service for articles in the *Wall Street Journal*. 