

Hillary Jordan BV Intern Journal

By Williams Peters

Author Hillary Jordan will be joining Rollins College for its opening week of the 2018 Winter With The Writers season. On Wednesday, January 31, the Netflix movie adaption of Jordan's *Mudbound* will be screening at the Enzian Theater at 6:00 pm with a Q&A after the showing. The movie showing requires advanced reserved tickets, but you can still wait in the standby line at the Enzian if tickets are sold out. The following day, February 1, Jordan will lead a master class workshop at 4:00 pm. and do a reading, Q&A, and book signing at 7:30 pm. The workshop and reading is free for all to attend. Parking is available at the Suntrust Parking Garage.

In her bestselling novel *Mudbound*, Hillary Jordan takes us on a journey to rural Mississippi post-WWII. Her unique storytelling narrative allows us to get into the minds of all the main characters, creating distinct voices that capture our interest and stay true to the time and place. The novel has us question and recognize our collective history, bringing to light a life that we rarely discuss so intimately. The book is saturated with evocative imagery, beautiful details, and well-crafted diction so much so that we wonder whether we are living the book ourselves. The tension grabs us by the horns and draws us in as we become enthralled. The quick back-and-forth pace of perspectives is like digging into a bag of candy; you do not know what you will find, but you will be elated with whatever it is. You will be angered by the complacency of characters, saddened by the hardships of desiring freedom and choice, and bound by a spell of words that will make you want more.

Jordan pulled from her own family history and experiences when writing this novel, discovering a life she had only heard of through stories. She also wanted to bring black characters into the forefront of literature as they had historically played minor roles and never really been explored in literature. She has also been noted saying, "I just decided that it was so important to let my black characters address the ugliness of the Jim Crow themselves, in their own voice." This decision has made her novel distinctive in the fiction literary world as it gives her black characters a say in their injustices, hopes, and lives.

The novel has won the 2006 Bellwether Prize for being a socially conscious fiction piece and won a 2009 Alex Award from the American Library Association. It has also won the 2008 NAIBA Fiction Book of the Year and was long-listed for the 2010 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Society. The Netflix movie adaptation has received 18 total nominations from the Academy Awards, Screen Actors Guild Awards, NAACP Image Awards, Critics' Choice Awards, Golden Globe Awards, and others in categories like: Best Actress in a Supporting Role, Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay, and Best Original Song – Motion Picture. It has so far won Best Cinematographer in the New York Film Critics Circle.

Jordan's other work includes *When She Woke* (2011), which was long-listed for the 2013 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Society and was a 2012 Lambda Literary Award finalist, and the digital short "Aftermirth" (2012). She is also working on a sequel to *Mudbound*. She currently lives in Brooklyn. You can access her website at www.hillaryjordan.com. Have you read the book yet? Are you ready to be "mud bound"?

For more information regarding the Winter With The Writers 2018 season and the other authors and poets coming, visit the event website at <http://www.rollins.edu/winter-with-the-writers/index.html>.