

the HUMANITAS Prize

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**31<sup>st</sup> HUMANITAS Prize™**

**Finalists Announced**

Los Angeles, CA - June 8, 2005. Frank Desiderio, President of the HUMANITAS Prize, announced today that 23 writers were named finalists in six categories for the 2005 HUMANITAS Prize. The writers will be competing for \$115,000 in prize money to be handed out at the annual luncheon, which will be held on Wednesday, June 29, 2005 at the Hilton Universal Hotel. Frank Pierson, 2005 Kieser Award Recipient, will deliver the keynote speech. The HUMANITAS Prize was created 31 years ago to reward writers who make television and film more rewarding.

This year, the Humanitas Prize Trustees voted not to hand out a Prize in the "30 Minute Category." "We look for stories that find humor without sacrificing the humanity of the characters," commented Frank Desiderio. "This year we couldn't find three shows that demonstrated great writing and keen insights into the human condition. Past winners like *M\*A\*S\*H*, *The Cosby Show*, *The Wonder Years* and *Frazier* lightened the spirits of viewers and shed light on what it means to be human."

The HUMANITAS Prize finalists are:

Feature Film Category (\$ 25,000)

**FINDING NEVERLAND** Screenplay by: David Magee (Miramax)

**HOTEL RWANDA** Written by: Kier Pearson & Terry George (United Artists)

**MILLIONS** Written by: Frank Cottrell Boyce (Fox Searchlight Pictures)

Humanitas Prize Finalists  
Page 2

90 Minute Category (\$ 25,000)

**IKE: COUNTDOWN TO D-DAY** Written by: Lionel Chetwynd (A&E)

**LACKAWANNA BLUES** Written by: Ruben Santiago Hudson (HBO)

**SAVING MILLY** Teleplay by: Jeff Arch (CBS)

60 Minute Category (\$15,000)

**ER: "Alone in a Crowd"** Written by: Dee Johnson (NBC)

**HOUSE: Pilot episode "Everybody Lies"** Written by: David Shore (FOX)

**HOUSE: "Damned If You Do"** Written by: Sara B. Cooper (FOX)

**THE WEST WING: "NSF Thurmont"** Written by: John Wells (NBC)

Children's Animation Category (\$ 10,000)

**JAKERS! THE ADVENTURES OF PIGGLE WINKS: "Waking Thor"** Written by: Kelly Ward and Cliff MacGillivray (PBS)

**PAZ: "Things Change"** Written by: James Still (Discovery Kids – TLC)

**TODDWORLD: "Who's Your Best Friend?"** Written by: Pamela Hickey & Denny McCoy (Discovery Kids – TLC)

Children's Live Action Category (\$ 10,000)

**BUFFALO DREAMS** Written by: Marjorie Schwartz Nielsen (Disney Channel)

**CARRY ME HOME** Written by: Christopher Fay (Showtime)

**SEARCHING FOR DAVID'S HEART** Teleplay by: Karen Leigh Hopkins and Alan Marc Levy (ABC Family)

Sundance Feature Film Category (\$ 10,000)

**LOVE, LUDLOW** Screenplay by: David L. Paterson

**THE MOTEL** Screenplay by: Michael Kang

**SWIMMERS** Screenplay by: Doug Sadler

Since its inception in 1974, the HUMANITAS Prize has presented over 230 prizes and dispersed over 2.3 million dollars in prize money to television and motion picture writers, whose work honestly explores the complexities of the human experience and sheds light on the positive values of life. Each year, the HUMANITAS Prize holds Master Writers Workshops presented by today's leading writers. Winners of the HUMANITAS Prize

## Humanitas Prize Finalists Page 3

have included: Steven Bochco (*Hill Street Blues*); Alan Alda (*M\*A\*S\*H*); David E. Kelley (*The Practice*); Barbara Hall (*Joan of Arcadia*); Steven Zaillian (*Schindler's List*); Tim Robbins (*Dead Man Walking*); Matt Damon and Ben Affleck (*Good Will Hunting*); Aaron Sorkin (*Sports Night, The West Wing*) and Kenneth Lonergan (*You Can Count On Me*). For more information, please visit the HUMANITAS Prize website at [www.humanitasprize.org](http://www.humanitasprize.org).

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