

# The Lammys

Just being nominated for one makes an impact  
on an author's career

by Katherine Gleason

The Fourth Annual Lambda Literary Awards Banquet was held May 22 at the Anaheim Hilton in Anaheim, Calif. The annual literary event featured comedian Kate Clinton as emcee. Adrienne Rich, this year's recipient of the Bill Whitehead Award, delivered the Fourth Annual Bill Whitehead Lecture.

The Lambda Literature Awards, sponsored by *Lambda Book Report*, are presented in 15 categories including both gay and lesbian mystery, anthologies, fiction, nonfiction, science fiction/fantasy, and poetry. The Ferro-Grumley Foundation Awards (which carry a \$1,000 prize), the Bill Whitehead Award, and the Gregory Kolovakos Award for AIDS Writing are also presented at this banquet on the eve of the American Booksellers Association convention.

## And the Winners are....

### FERRO-GRUMLEY FOUNDATION AWARDS

*Vanishing Rooms* by Melvin Dixon (Dutton)  
*The Revolution of Little Girls* by Blanche  
Boyd (Alfred A. Knopf)

### GREGORY KOLOVAKOS AWARD FOR AIDS WRITING

*To the Friend Who Did Not Save My Life*,  
Hervé Guibert (Katherine didn't know  
Publisher)

### PUBLISHER'S SERVICE AWARD

Barbara Grier and Donna McBride of Naiad  
Press

### EDITOR'S CHOICE

*Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History  
of Lesbian Life in Twentieth-Century  
America* by Lillian Faderman (Columbia  
University Press)

### CHILDREN'S & YOUNG ADULT BOOKS

*The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans* by  
Johnny Valentine, ill. by Lynette Schmidt  
(Alyson Wonderland)

### GAY MEN'S FICTION

*What the Dead Remember* by Harlan Greene  
(Dutton)

### GAY MEN'S ANTHOLOGIES

*Brother to Brother: New Writings by Black  
Gay Men* edited by Essex Hemphill  
(Alyson)

### GAY MEN'S MYSTERY

*A Country of Old Men* by Joseph Hansen  
(Viking)

### GAY MEN'S NONFICTION

*The Zuni Man-Woman* by Will Roscoe  
(Univ. of New Mexico Press)

### GAY MEN'S POETRY

*The Road Before Us: 100 Gay Black Poets*  
ed. by Assoto Saint (Galiens)

### GAY MEN'S SCIENCE FICTION/ FANTASY

*The Dark Beyond the Stars* by Frank M.  
Robinson (TOR)

### GAY AND LESBIAN HUMOR

*Putting on the Ritz* by Joe Keenan (Viking)  
and  
*Murder by Tradition* by Katherine V.  
Forrest (Naiad Press)

### LESBIAN ANTHOLOGIES

*Chicana Lesbians: The Girls Our Mothers  
Warned Us About* edited by Clara Trujillo  
(Third Woman Press)

### LESBIAN FICTION

*The Gilda Stories* by Jewelle Gomez  
(Firebrand)

and

*The Revolution of Little Girls* by Blanche  
Boyd (Alfred A. Knopf)

### LESBIAN NONFICTION

*Cancer in Two Voices* by Sandra Butler and  
Barbara Rosenblum (Spinsters)

### LESBIAN POETRY

*An Atlas of the Difficult World* by Adrienne  
Rich (W.W. Norton)

### LESBIAN SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY

*The Gilda Stories* by Jewelle Gomez  
(Firebrand)

### GAY AND LESBIAN SMALL PRESS BOOK AWARD

*Gay Roots: Twenty Years of Gay Sunshine*  
edited by Winston Leyland (Gay Sunshine  
Press)

The Lambda Literary Award recipients are determined by a three-fold process. *Lambda Book Report* solicits nominations. Over 300 nominated titles are reviewed by a panel of five unnamed "experts" who narrow the list down to five books in each category. Five judges are assigned to each category. They rank the five books based on their literary merit. According to Jane Troxell, senior editor of *LBR*, the definition of "literary merit" is left to the individual judges. The Ferro-Grumely Award recipients are chosen by four to six readers who in turn have been appointed by Steve Greco of the Ferro-Grumely Foundation.

Before the announcement of this year's recipients, Jewelle Gomez, author of *The Gilda Stories* (Firebrand), said, "To me being nominated is valuable...It really is a nice feeling, a culmination of years of struggle." Dorothy Allison, author of *Bastard Out of Carolina* (Dutton) and winner of two 1989 Lammys for her book of short stories *Trash* (Firebrand), said, "Winning had a large impact on my career. The awards made a difference in getting my first contract." Ruthann Robson, winner of a 1989 award, said that her winning a Ferro-Grumely caused a mainstream agent to call her.

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