

National Book Critics Circle Award Finalists Announced!
among them:

Read the press
release [here](#)

Fiction: Edith Pearlman, for [*Binocular Vision*](#)
Nonfiction: John Jeremiah Sullivan, for [*Pulphead: Essays*](#)
Poetry: Yusef Komunyakaa, for [*The Chameleon Couch*](#)



The UNCW Department of Creative Writing extends hearty congratulations to Edith Pearlman and her acclaimed debut novel from our Lookout Books literary imprint; to John Jeremiah Sullivan, celebrated local author and frequent visiting writer; and to Yusef Komunyakaa, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and keynote speaker for our 2008 Writers Week.

Founded in 1974, the NBCC Award is given by the National Book Critics Circle, the professional organization of book reviewers and critics.

To add to last month's [accolades](#), it's an extraordinary honor especially for Edith and for Lookout, in light of *Binocular Vision's* other finalist nominations for the National Book Award and the Story Prize. Since the founding of the Story Prize in 2004, Edith's is now the first book to be nominated for the **National Book Award**, the **Story Prize**, and the **National Book Critics Circle Award** in the same year. Also, of the fiction finalists for the National Book Award, Edith's book is the only one of the five to also be nominated for the NBCC Award. For further perspective, the four other NBCC Award finalists were published by Random House; Farrar, Straus and Giroux; Knopf; and Scribner, all of them major New York houses.

MFA alum [Hannah Dela Cruz Abrams](#) ('07) will read at **Pomegranate Books** on **Saturday, 18 February**, at 7:00 pm, to celebrate the release of her debut novella, [*The Man Who Danced with Dolls*](#), published by Madras Press. Abrams will be joined at the book launch by novelist and UNCW professor Rebecca Lee and Madras Press editor and UNCW MFA alum Sumanth Prabhaker ('07).



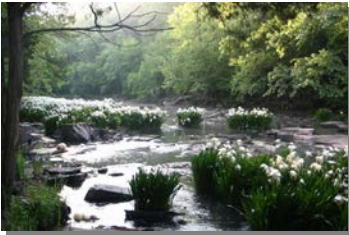
The Man Who Danced with Dolls is one of four new titles to be published by Madras Press this spring, along with work by Gregory Maguire, Kevin Brockmeier, and Kelly Link. All net proceeds generated from the sales of *The Man Who Danced with Dolls* will benefit the New Hanover County Humane Society.

Books will be available for purchase at the reading, which will be followed by a Q&A and signing. For more information on this event, please contact Sumanth Prabhaker: sumanth@madraspress.com.



MFA student Arianne Beros' Two prose poems, "On the day my brother got shocked by the old barn refrigerator" and "I ate a diamond," were chosen as finalists in the [Mid-American Review's Fineline Competition](#) and will be published as Editors' Choice in the Spring 2012 issue.

Congratulations, Arianne!



MFA alum Will Flowers ('10) will have two poems, "Showing You the Old House" and "In the Second Summer of the New Millennium," in [The Southern Poetry Anthology](#), Volume VI: Tennessee.

Congratulations, Will!



MFA student Jessica Thummel has published another short story, "The Moon and Back," in *Granta Online*. Read it at <http://www.granta.com/New-Writing/The-Moon-and-Back>.

Congratulations, Jessica!



Jill Gerard has a piece, "Natural Host," about Airlie Gardens in the February 2012 issue of [Our State Magazine](#).

Congratulations, Jill!



MFA student Peter Baker had a short essay about 'Occupy Wilmington' published by *n+1*. Read it here: <http://nplusonemag.com/occupy-wilmington>.

Congratulations, Peter!



MFA student Jade Benoit was published in the Fall 2011 issue of Nashville Review. Read her poem, "Becoming Human II," here: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/english/nashvillereview/archives/4860>

Congratulations, Jade!



MFA student Jason Newport's short story, "Some Stuff," has been accepted by [Word Riot](#) and will appear in the upcoming issue.

Congratulations, Jason!



MFA alum Kate Sweeney ('09) has an essay, "Country Cousins," in the current issue of *SNReview*. Read it at: <http://www.snreview.org/03111Sweeney.html>.

Congratulations, Katie!



[Phil Furia](#) hosts the daily segment ‘The Great American Songbook’ on WHQR during the *Midday Café*, 1:00-2:00pm, and during the *Morning Edition* on Fridays at 6:00am.



[Philip Gerard](#) is a regular commentator on WHQR—listen to his broadcast segments every other Thursday at 7:35a, 8:50a, or 5:45p, or online in the WHQR Thursday Commentaries at <http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/whqr/arts.artsmain?action=sectionIndex&sid=15>.



Philip Gerard is featured this month in [Our State](#) magazine with his next installment of the series “The Civil War: Life in North Carolina.” This rich and complex story will continue monthly through May 2015 and can be read at ourstate.com/civil-war.

“The war magnified the best and the worst of the human spirit and bequeathed us a legacy that, a century and a half later, we still ponder.”
