

**PLAYWRIGHT JOHN GUARE ANNOUNCES  
2011 YALE DRAMA SERIES AWARD  
AS WINNER OF 2009 AWARD RECEIVES WEST END PREMIERE**

**SUBMISSIONS INVITED FOR 2012**

**Shannon Murdoch**, an Australian playwright, has won the **2011 Yale Drama Series** competition for her play **New Light Shine**, a work about four small-town lives linked through a violent crime and their hopeless attempts to erase the past and build new lives.

Award-winning playwright **John Guare** chose **New Light Shine** from submissions received from twenty countries on six continents. When announcing this year's winner Guare said, "The raw, haunting, richly poetic, deeply emotional, **New Light Shine** affected me as no other entry did."

The **Yale Drama Series** is an annual international competition for emerging playwrights. The winner receives the **David C. Horn** prize of \$10,000, publication of the winning play by Yale University Press and a staged reading at the Yale Repertory Theater in New Haven, Connecticut. The Yale Repertory reading of **New Light Shine** will take place on September 12, 2011.

The 2011 runners-up are *Bethany* by Laura Marks and *We Three* by Mary Elizabeth Hamilton.

**Shannon Murdoch** is a legal assistant and writer living in Footscray, Victoria, Australia. Of winning the prize she said, "This award gives me time to focus on my writing and I can't think of anything more precious. I feel incredibly fortunate to be awarded this honour."

**Yale Drama Series** judge **John Guare** received the Obie, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award and Tony nominations for both *House of Blue Leaves* and *Six Degrees of Separation*, which also won the Olivier Award for Best Play. In addition, he is a Tony Award winner for his libretto for *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. The Broadway revival of *House of Blue Leaves* begins performances on April 4, 2011 at the Walter Kerr Theater and features actors Ben Stiller, Edie Falco and Jennifer Jason Leigh.

This is **John Guare's** first year as judge for the **Yale Drama Series**. He will also serve as judge in 2012 and 2013. **David Hare** was judge for the 2009 and 2010 competitions, selecting *Lidless* by Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig and *blu* by Virginia Grise respectively. **Edward Albee** was the inaugural judge and selected *The Boys from Siam* by John Connolly in 2007 and *Grenadine* by Neil Wechsler in 2008.

**The 2009 Yale Drama Series** winner, *Lidless* by Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig debuted at High Tide Festival in the UK last year and also won the 2010 Edinburgh Festival Fringe First Award. *Lidless* opened on March 15, 2011 at the Trafalgar Studios in London's West End.

### **Submissions for the 2012 Yale Drama Series**

Submissions for the 2012 Yale Drama Series competition must be postmarked no earlier than June 1, 2011 and no later than August 15, 2011. The competition is open to any original, unpublished and unproduced full-length play in English. For complete contest rules please visit <http://yalepress.yale.edu/yupbooks/drama.asp>

### **Yale University Press**

Founded in 1908, Yale University Press is one of the largest and most distinguished American university presses. It publishes over 320 books a year in a wide range of disciplines, including history, literature, drama, art and architecture, American studies, philosophy, politics, religion, reference, music, and the sciences. [www.yalebooks.com](http://www.yalebooks.com)

### **Yale Repertory Theatre**

A champion of new work, Yale Repertory Theatre has produced well over 100 world, American, and regional premieres including two Pulitzer Prize winners and four other nominated finalists by emerging and established playwrights. Eleven Yale Rep productions have advanced to Broadway, garnering more than 40 Tony Award nominations and eight Tony Awards, and Yale Rep itself is the recipient of the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. [www.yalerep.org](http://www.yalerep.org)

### **The David Charles Horn Foundation**

The David Charles Horn Foundation was established in 2003 by Francine Horn to honour the memory of her late husband. David Horn was the publisher and CEO of Here & There, the leading international forecasting and reporting publication for the fashion industry. Francine Horn created the Foundation to support new initiatives in the literary and dramatic arts to commemorate her husband's lifetime commitment to the written word. [www.dchornfoundation.org](http://www.dchornfoundation.org)