

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
NIGHT TRAIN'S
2004
RICHARD YATES SHORT STORY
AWARD COMPETITION

FOR EXCELLENCE IN SHORT FICTION

Reading Period September 1, 2004—November 20, 2004

Yates Competition FAQ's:

What is the award?

1st place winner receives \$500 and publication in *Night Train* Issue V, due out in spring 2005. 2nd and 3rd place winners will be noted in the journal. All entrants will receive a copy of *Night Train* Issue V.

When is the reading period?

We will accept submissions from September 1 through November 20, 2004 only. Entries received before or after this date will not be considered for this competition.

Is there a story length limitation?

We have no limitation but we *strongly* prefer stories between 2000 and 5000 words.

What is the reading fee?

\$10 (that's ten US dollars) for each story submitted.

What will *Night Train* do with that fee?

100% of the reading fee will go into the administration of this competition and the publication of *Night Train*.

How do I make payment?

We will accept payment with credit card or direct-debit via PayPal or by paper check written to 'Night Train' and sent by postal mail to P.O Box 6250 Boston MA 02114. Please don't send us paper submissions, however.

.Are simultaneous submissions okay?

Yes. Please let us know as soon as and if your story is accepted elsewhere.

Where should we send our stories?

Send attachments in MS-Word, WordPerfect or rich text format by email to submission@nightrainmagazine.com. Put your name, the title of your story, the word count and the words 'Yates Contest' in the subject line of your email. Please send all inquiries to this mailbox as well.

Can I snail-mail you my story?

No. We no longer accept snail-mail submissions in any way, shape, or form, and have not done so for over a calendar year, despite what websites and guides may say. Check **our** website for current guidelines. Please respect our wishes and help save a tree.

Can I submit more than one story?

Yes. Multiple submissions are fine. Each story requires a separate entry fee.

When will Night Train Issue V come out?

We expect to publish this issue in March, 2005.

Who will be the independent judge?



We are proud to have Steve Almond as this year's independent judge. He is the author of *Candyfreak* (a May 2004 Booksense pick) and *My Life in Heavy Metal*, as well as a forthcoming collection. Here's what the critics say:

Candyfreak:

"It's about candy, yes, but also it's about America, which seems to be Bigging itself towards mediocrity as it flees from the quirky virtuosic individuality on which it was founded, and of which this book is such a wonderful example."

— George Saunders, author of *Pastoralia* and *Civilwarland In Bad Decline*

My Life in Heavy Metal:

"If *My Life in Heavy Metal* is any indicator of the quality of young writers in America today, then we have great things to look forward to. Almond is a brilliant craftsman. But more, he is a writer who knows us as well as we know ourselves."

— Eric Miles Williamson, Houston Chronicle reviewer

So, tell me about Richard Yates.

In *Broken Vessels*, Andre Dubus says, "Richard Yates is one of our great writers with too few readers, and no matter how many readers he finally ends up with, they will still be too few." His works include *Eleven Kinds Of Loneliness* and *Revolutionary Road*, considered one of the best American novels of the 20th century. Although underappreciated during his lifetime, his reputation remained stellar among writers. With nearly all his work back in print and with the recent publication of his collected stories, as well as Night Train contributor Blake Bailey's 2003 biography *A Tragic Honesty: the Life and Work of Richard Yates*, a critical reevaluation is in progress. Naming this competition after him honors his memory, and hopefully will increase his readership. By the way, we do not presume to ask you nor suggest you write a story "like Richard Yates," only that you continue in your writing to strive for Night Train's most basic tenet as stated in our [Writer's Guidelines](#): **excellence**.