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The
National
Poetry
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“The National Poetry Series Teams Up with
mtvU for 2008 Competition”

*Pulitzer-Prize Winner Yusef Komunyakaa to Judge,
Harper Collins to Publish First-Ever National Poetry
Series mtvU Prize*



The National Poetry Series (NPS) and **mtvU**, MTV’s 24-hour college network, are pleased to announce a first-of-its kind opportunity. In 2008, NPS will team up with mtvU—the definitive college network for students at universities across the country—as they begin an earnest promotion of poetry to the campus audience. For the first time, one of NPS’ five annual titles will be designated as a book-length manuscript written by a college student. The 2008 winning book chosen to be published by HarperCollins also will be the recipient of ***The National Poetry Series mtvU Prize***. The winning student will have the opportunity to interview the poet / judge representing HarperCollins and mtvU in 2008, Pulitzer Prize-winner Yusef Komunyakaa, for an episode of the mtvU series “My Shot With....”

“All of us involved in the publication of poetry like to talk about ‘expanding the audience for poetry,’ and ‘reaching the next generation,’” said Daniel Halpern, Founder and Director of The National Poetry Series. “Mostly it’s been just that: talking about it. This union between The National Poetry Series and mtvU provides the chance to do both – by giving college students the opportunity to publish a book with a large trade publisher, and offering their peers a volume of poetry written by one of their own.”

“We know the Pulitzer Prize-winning poets of tomorrow are in our audience today,” said Ross Martin, Head of Programming, mtvU, “and we’re extremely proud to partner with Yusef Komunyakaa and the prestigious National Poetry Series to help catapult one outstanding young poet from the classroom to national acclaim.”

Established in 1978, The National Poetry Series is a literary awards program dedicated to bringing meaningful poetry to publication. To date, 140 books have been sponsored by NPS, in collaboration with the accomplished poets who have served as judges and a distinguished roster of trade, university, and small press publishers.

mtvU is MTV’s on-air, online and on campus college network – for and by college students. The network is broadcast to nearly 7.5 million students on more than 750 campuses. As a national platform for the best student-created work, mtvU offers students numerous opportunities to jump-start their careers and places a focus on issues they care about most – including stopping the genocide in

Darfur, great emerging music, political and social activism, landing their dream job and more. mtvU is dedicated to promoting the arts on campus and amplifying college students' cultural impact, maintaining partnerships with the Fulbright program, New York *Times*, National Academy of Arts and Sciences, Tribeca Film Festival and many others as part of this effort.

Submissions for ***The National Poetry Series mtvU Prize*** will be accepted beginning later this winter as outlined in the NPS guidelines posted on www.nationalpoetryseries.org. The winning manuscript will be published in 2008 as part of the NPS' 30th anniversary series.

For more information and guidelines, please contact
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