Oscar Winner Leads Tribute to Texas Writing in Journal

Famed playwright and screenwriter Horton Foote leads a group of writers with Texas connections in the latest issue of the literary journal Callaloo. The issue (Volume 32, Issue 1) marks the first half of a two-issue tribute to the state’s writing tradition.

“Creative writing is thriving in Texas and has been doing so for a number of years,” writes Callaloo’s editor Charles Henry Rowell in the “Eyes Upon Texas,” his introduction to the new issue. “One of the purposes of these two special issues of Callaloo is to represent Texas for what it is: a vast and complex rural, urban, suburban land that is not only multicultural but sophisticated and progressive with a contemporary literature that mirrors all of this.”

The issue contains poetry, drama, book reviews, interviews, prose and images of art. Callaloo is published by the Johns Hopkins University Press. The second half of the tribute, due out in May, will focus on fiction.

Contributors for “Celebrating Texas Writers: Part 1” include Foote, winner of both an Academy Award and Pulitzer Prize, award-winning poet A. Van Jordan, and National Book Award finalist Harryette Mullen.

Foote, who won an Oscar for the screenplay for “To Kill a Mockingbird,” offers an excerpt from “Dividing the Estate,” one of three plays he is publishing this year. Mullen provides two poems while one Jordan work appears in this issue.

These luminaries are published alongside a diverse group, including faculty from Texas colleges and universities and their students. More than 80 authors and artists are featured or profiled in the issue.

“Texas literature today may still be written ‘about Texas’ but it is not limited to it,” Rowell writes. “The Texas writer today inhabits the globe, and his/her imaginary is informed by it.”

More information about the journal is available at http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/callaloo/.

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