

Caryl Phillips

born 1958, St. Kitts, West Indies

website: www.carylphillips.com

Education

B.A. (Honours) The Queens College, Oxford University (1979)

Honorary Degrees

- Hon. A.M: Amherst College
- Hon. D. Univ: Leeds Metropolitan University (1997)
- Hon.D.Univ: University of York (2003)
- Hon.D.Lett. University of Leeds (2003)
- Hon. A.M: Yale University (2006)

Publications

Fiction

- *DANCING IN THE DARK* (2005)
 - Secker and Warburg. UK
 - Knopf. USA
- *A DISTANT SHORE* (2003)
 - Secker and Warburg. UK
 - Knopf. USA
- *THE NATURE OF BLOOD* (1997)
 - Faber and Faber. UK
 - Knopf. USA
- *CROSSING THE RIVER* (1993)
 - Bloomsbury. UK
 - Knopf. USA (1994)
- *CAMBRIDGE* (1991)
 - Bloomsbury. UK
 - Knopf. USA (1992)

- *HIGHER GROUND* (1989)
- Viking. UK
- Viking. USA

- *A STATE OF INDEPENDENCE* (1986)
- Faber and Faber. UK
- Farrar, Straus and Giroux. USA

- *THE FINAL PASSAGE* (1985)
- Faber and Faber. UK
- Penguin. USA

Non fiction

- *A NEW WORLD ORDER* (2001)
- Secker and Warburg. UK
- Vintage. USA

- *THE ATLANTIC SOUND* (2000)
- Faber and Faber. UK
- Knopf. USA

- *THE EUROPEAN TRIBE* (1987)
- Faber and Faber. UK
- Farrar, Straus and Giroux. USA

Anthologies

- *THE RIGHT SET: A TENNIS ANTHOLOGY* (1999) [Editor]
- Faber and Faber. UK
- Vintage. USA

- *EXTRAVAGANT STRANGERS: A LITERATURE OF BELONGING* (1997)
[Editor]
- Faber and Faber. UK
- Vintage. USA

Plays

- *THE SHELTER* (1984)

- Amber Lane Press. UK
- *WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS* (1982)
- Amber Lane Press. UK
- *STRANGE FRUIT* (1981)
- Amber Lane Press. UK

Radio Plays

- *THE WASTED YEARS* (1985) [In *Best Radio Plays of 1984*]
- Methuen. UK

Film

- *THE MYSTIC MASSEUR*
- Essays and Excerpts from the Screenplay (2001)
- Trinidad: Paria Publishing Company for Merchant Ivory Productions, 2001
- *PLAYING AWAY* (1987)
- Faber and Faber. UK
- Faber Inc. USA

Translation

Fiction and non-fiction translated into FRENCH, SWEDISH, DUTCH, GERMAN, PORTUGUESE, SPANISH, POLISH, GREEK, FINNISH, JAPANESE and TURKISH.

Works Performed

Stage Premieres

- *THE SHELTER*
- Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, London. 1983. (Subsequent productions in Birmingham, England; New York; Montreal; Paris and Accra, Ghana)
- *WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS*

- Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, London. 1982.
- *STRANGE FRUIT*
- The Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. 1980 (Subsequent productions in London and Liverpool)

Film

- *THE MYSTIC MASSEUR*
- Merchant Ivory Productions, 2001
- *PLAYING AWAY*
- Film on 4, 1986

Television

Drama

- *THE FINAL PASSAGE* (2 x 90" films) Channel 4, 1996
- *THE RECORD* Channel 4, 1985
- *LOST IN MUSIC* BBC, 1984
- *THE HOPE AND THE GLORY* BBC, 1984

Documentaries – written and presented

- *PROFILE: CHINUA ACHEBE* – BBC4, 2003
- *SOUTH BANK SHOW: CARYL PHILLIPS* – ITV, April 2003
- *DARKER THAN BLUE: CURTIS MAYFIELD* BBC, 1995
- *BOOKMARK* (An interview with James Baldwin at 60) BBC, 1984
- *BLACK ON BLACK* (Ira Aldridge, the nineteenth century actor) LWT, 1983
- *WELCOME TO BIRMINGHAM* (USA), Central TV, 1983

Radio

Drama

- *HOTEL CRISTOBEL* BBC Radio 3, 2005
- *WRITING FICTION* BBC Radio 4, 1991
- *THE PRINCE OF AFRICA* BBC Radio 3, 1987
- *CROSSING THE RIVER* BBC Radio 3, 1985

- *THE WASTED YEARS* BBC Radio 4, 1984

Documentaries – written and presented

- *I TOO AM AMERICA: SLAVERY IN NEW YORK CITY* BBC Radio 4, April 24, 2004
- *MARTIN LUTHER KING: 'I HAVE A DREAM' SPEECH* (15–min talk) BBC Radio 4, August 2003
- *FIFTY YEARS OF WEST INDIAN MIGRATION* (5–min talk) BBC Radio 4, Today Programme, June 13, 1998.
- *EXTRAVAGANT STRANGERS* (5 x 25–min programmes: Interviews with William Boyd, Romesh Gunesequera, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Doris Lessing, Penelope Lively) BBC Radio 3, May 1997
- *THESE ISLANDS NOW: TRANSFORMATIONS IN BRITISH CULTURE* ('Extravagant Strangers: The "Other" Voice in English Literature') BBC Radio 3, 1995
- *THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA* (6 x 30–min programmes: Interviews with Ron Brown, Jonnie Cochran, John Hope Franklin, David Levering Lewis, Rosa Parks, Paul Robeson Jr.) BBC Radio 4, 1995
- *NO COMPLAINTS – JAMES BALDWIN AT 60* BBC Radio 4, 1985
- *SPORT AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY* BBC Radio 4, 1984
- *ST. KITTS INDEPENDENCE (PRIDE OF PLACE)* BBC Radio 4, 1983

Awards

- 2006: Honorary Fellow, The Queen's College, Oxford University
- 2004: Caribbean American Heritage Award for Outstanding Contribution to Literature
- 2004: Hurston/Wright Legacy Award Finalist in Fiction for *A DISTANT SHORE*
- 2004: Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best Book for *A DISTANT SHORE*
- 2004: Pen/Faulkner Award for Fiction Finalist for *A DISTANT SHORE*
- 2004: National Book Circle Critics Finalist in Fiction for *A DISTANT SHORE*
- 2002: Mar Del Plata Film Festival, Argentina Silver Ombu for Best Screenplay *The Mystic Masseur*
- 2002: Fellow at the Centre for Scholars and Writers, New York Public Library, New York
- 2000: Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature
- 1999: The University of the West Indies Humanities Scholar of the Year
- 1994: Lannan Literary Award
- 1994: James Tait Black Memorial Prize for *CROSSING THE RIVER*
- 1994: Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Residency
- 1993: The Booker Prize shortlist for *CROSSING THE RIVER*
- 1992: The (London) Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year for *CAMBRIDGE*
- 1992: Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship

- 1987: The Martin Luther King Memorial Prize for *THE EUROPEAN TRIBE*
- 1985: Malcolm X Prize for Literature for *THE FINAL PASSAGE*
- 1984: BBC Giles Cooper Award "Best Radio Play of the Year" for *THE WASTED YEARS*
- 1984: The British Council Fiftieth Anniversary Fellowship
- 1984: Arts Council of Great Britain Bursary in Drama

Positions Held

- 2005-present: Executive Secretary, North American Network of Cities of Asylum
 - 2003-present: Advisory Board of *BELGIAN JOURNAL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURES*
 - 2002-03: Mel and Lois Tukman Fellow of the New York Public Library's Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers
 - 2002-present: Senior Adviser – Literature, The British Council, London
 - 1996: Series Editor, FABER AND FABER, London
 - 1996: Co-Producer, *THE FINAL PASSAGE*, Channel 4
 - 1995–present: Advisory Editor, *JOURNAL OF POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE*
 - 1995–present: Advisory Editor, *WASIFIRI MAGAZINE*, London
 - 1994: Director, HEARTLAND PRODUCTIONS LTD. [until 2000]
 - 1994–present: Consultant Editor, GRAYWOLF PRESS, Minneapolis
 - 1993–present: Contributing Editor, *BOMB MAGAZINE*, New York
 - 1992: Consultant Editor, FABER INC. Boston [until 1994]
 - 1989–present: Board Member, *THE CARIBBEAN WRITER*, St. Croix, USVI
 - 1988–present: Honorary Senior Member, THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT, England
 - 1985: Board Member, THE BUSH THEATRE, London [until 1989]
 - 1985: Member of THE BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE Production Board [until 1988]
 - 1982: Member of THE ARTS COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN DRAMA PANEL [until 1985]
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Major Conferences and Festivals

- 2005: The African Presence in Europe, Antwerp, Belgium [Keynote speaker]
- 2005: Necessary Journeys: An International Symposium about Artistic Journeys, Departures and Returns, London [Keynote speaker]
- 2005: Vancouver International Writers Festival, Vancouver, Canada
- 2005: WordFest Banff-Calgary International Writers Festival, Calgary, Canada
- 2005: Edinburgh International Book Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland

- 2005: Sydney Writers Festival, Sydney, Australia (*Times Literary Supplement* Lecture)
- 2005: Auckland Readers and Writers Festival, Auckland, New Zealand
- 2005: Diasporic Dialogues: Race and Politics Across the Black Atlantic – University of Texas at Austin, TX
- 2005: Why Literature Matters – Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2005: EACLALS Conference – Malta
- 2003: Revisiting Slave Narratives – Montpellier, France
- 2003: Frontières – Paris, France [co-organizer]
- 2003: The Caribbean in New York and Paris – Bellagio, Italy [Conference organizer]
- 2002: Cairo International Film Festival, Egypt
- 2001: Voces del Caribe, Encuentro Internacional de Literatura, Madrid, Spain
- 2000: The Day of the Reader, Rotterdam, Holland
- 2000: Axial Writing Conference, Swansea, Wales [keynote speaker]
- 2000: Edinburgh International Book Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 2000: L'Écriture Multicolore Conference – Paris, France [Co-chairman]
- 2000: Literature and Society in a Postcolonial World – Liege, Belgium [Keynote Speaker]
- 2000: "Textports" Conference – Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool [Keynote Speaker]
- 1999: Conference of New Literatures in English, Tübingen, Germany
- 1999: Conference in Honor of Maryse Condé, New York, NY [Keynote speaker]
- 1998: PEN 65th International Congress, Helsinki, Finland [Keynote speaker]
- 1998: Contemporary British Writing Seminar, Brussels, Belgium [Chairman]
- 1998: Arthur Ravenscroft Memorial Lecture, University of Leeds, England
- 1998: British Council Cambridge Seminar, Cambridge, England
- 1997: 20th Galway Arts Festival, Galway, Ireland
- 1997: British Council Cambridge Seminar, Cambridge, England
- 1997: Contemporary British Writing Seminar, Brussels, Belgium [Chairman]
- 1997: Brighton Festival, Brighton, England
- 1996: Second Singapore Contemporary Literature Seminar, Singapore [Chairman]
- 1996: "The Caribbean Writer" Tenth Anniversary Conference, St Croix, USVI
- 1996: Contemporary British Writing Seminar, Brussels, Belgium [Chairman]
- 1995: First Singapore Contemporary Literature Seminar, Singapore [Chairman]
- 1995: In "Other" Words: Literature in a Changing Europe, Amsterdam, Holland
- 1995: Harbourfront Reading Series' Festival of Fiction, Toronto, Canada
- 1995: Perth Writer's Festival, Perth, Australia
- 1995: Contemporary British Writing Conference, Delhi, India
- 1995: Contemporary British Writing Seminar, Jaipur, India
- 1995: Walberberg British Writers Seminar, Cologne, Germany [Chairman]
- 1994: 19th Annual Chancellor's Conference on Composition and Literature, UCLA, Los Angeles, California [Keynote Speaker]
- 1994: Vancouver International Writers Festival, Vancouver, Canada
- 1994: British Council Cambridge Seminar, Cambridge, England
- 1994: Paul Edwards Memorial Conference, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

- 1994: Oxford Conference for the Book, Oxford, MS
- 1994: Walberberg British Writers Seminar, Cologne, Germany [Chairman]
- 1993: Finland International Writers Conference, Lhati, Finland
- 1993: Hay-on-Wye Literature Festival, Hay-on-Wye, England
- 1993: British Council Cambridge Seminar, Cambridge, England
- 1992: Hull International Literature Festival, Hull, England [Resident Writer]
- 1991: New Nation International Writers Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1991: The International Festival of Authors at Harbourfront, Toronto, Canada
- 1991: Cheltenham Literature Festival, Cheltenham, England
- 1991: British Council Cambridge Seminar, Cambridge, England
- 1991: Edinburgh International Book Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 1990: New Zealand International Writers Festival, Wellington, New Zealand
- 1990: Adelaide Writers Festival, Adelaide, Australia
- 1990: Walberberg British Writers Seminar, Cologne, Germany
- 1989: British Council Cambridge Seminar, Cambridge, England
- 1989: Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies – Silver Jubilee Conference – University of Kent, Canterbury, England
- 1989: XIIth Annual Conference of German-Speaking Countries of the New Literatures in English, Giessen, Germany [Keynote Speaker]
- 1988: British Council Cambridge Seminar, Cambridge, England
- 1987: International Conference of Contemporary Writing in English, Freiburg, Germany
- 1987: British Writers Festival, Hamburg, Germany
- 1986: The International Festival of Authors at Harbourfront, Toronto, Canada

Major Reading Tours

- 2005: United States of America
- 2003: Italy
- 2002: Japan
- 2001: United Kingdom
- 2000: United States of America
- 1999: Germany – Belgium – Netherlands
- 1998: Germany
- 1997: United States of America
- 1997: Canada
- 1997: Germany
- 1997: Barbados
- 1996: Germany
- 1995: Australia
- 1994: United States of America
- 1994: Singapore
- 1994: Malaysia
- 1994: Indonesia

- 1994: Sri Lanka
 - 1993: United States of America
 - 1991: South Africa
 - 1991: Germany
 - 1991: Finland
 - 1991: Jamaica – Barbados – Trinidad
 - 1990: Sweden
 - 1990: Ghana
 - 1990: New Zealand
 - 1990: Australia
 - 1987: India
 - 1986: Germany
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Teaching

- 2005 – present: Professor of English, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2002 – 2005: Director of Initiatives in the Humanities, Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, NY
- 1998 – 2005: Professor of English and Henry R. Luce Professor of Migration and Social Order, Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, NY
- 1997 – 98: Professor of English and Writer in Residence, Amherst College, Amherst, MA
- 1994 – 97: Professor of English, Writer in Residence, and Co-Director of Creative Writing Center, Amherst College, Amherst, MA
- 1992 – 94: Writer-in-Residence and Co-Director of Creative Writing Center, Amherst College, Amherst, MA
- 1990 – 92: Visiting Writer, Amherst College, Amherst, MA
- 1989: Writer-in-Residence, University of Stockholm, Sweden
- 1987: Writer-in-Residence, Literary Criterion Centre, University of Mysore, India
- 1980 – 82: Writer-in-Residence, Arts Council of Great Britain, The Factory Arts Centre, London

Visiting Positions

- 2005 – 2006: Visiting Professor of English and Weiss International Fellow in Literature and the Arts, Barnard College, Columbia University
- 1999 and 2000: Visiting Professor in the Humanities, University of the West Indies, Barbados
- 1994: Writer-in-Residence, National Institute of Education, Singapore
- 1993 Fall: Visiting Professor of English, New York University, New York, NY
- 1992 and 1993: Visiting Writer, Humber College, Toronto, Canada
- 1991: Visiting Lecturer, University of Poznan, Poland
- 1990: Visiting Lecturer, University of Ghana, Ghana

- 1983 to present: Writing Instructor, Arvon Foundation, England
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Agents

Literary

- **Georgia Garrett**
- A.P. Watt Ltd
- 20 John Street
- London WC1N 2D
- Tel: 020 7282 3106
- Fax: 020 7282 3142
- E-mail: ggarrett@apwatt.co.uk

- **Sarah Burnes**
- The Gernert Company
- 136 East 57th Street
- New York, NY 10022
- Tel: 212 838 7777
- E-mail: sburnes@thegernertco.com

Dramatic

- **Judy Daish**
- Judy Daish Associates
- 2 St. Charles Place
- London W10 6EQ
- Tel: 020 8964 8811
- Fax: 020 8964 8966
- E-mail: judy@judydaish.com

Film Rights

- **Matthew Snyder**
- Creative Artists Agency
- 9830 Wilshire Boulevard
- Beverley Hills, CA 90212
- Tel: 310 288 4545
- Fax: 310 288 9520
- E-mail: msnyder@caa.com