



2013 Inductee
to the
South Carolina
Academy of Authors

Terrance Hayes was born November 18, 1971 in Columbia, SC. He received degrees from both Coker College in South Carolina and the University of Pittsburgh. After completing his MFA, he remained in Pennsylvania and worked as a professor of creative writing at Carnegie Mellon University and then became a faculty member of the English Department at his second alma mater. Yona Harvey, his wife and fellow poet, also teaches at the University of Pittsburgh.

Since he first expressed himself creatively as a visual artist, Hayes has stated that he does not limit his creativity to one genre. He has declared that he views both language and music as forms of art, which he uses to inspire his own writing. Hayes has also called poetry “the music of the mind and tongue.” The most prevalent topics to appear in his poetry are the following: race, gender, family, and pop culture. Many of his poems, such as “Root,” “Talk,” and “MJ Fan Letter,” discuss these subjects from his personal perspective.

Muscular Music (1999) was his first published book of poetry, and it won both the Whiting Writers Award and the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. His second book, *Hip Logic* (2002), won the National Poetry Series; it was also a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award and runner-up for the James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets. His third collection, *Wind in a Box*, was released in 2006. More recently, *Lighthouse*, published in 2010, won the National Book Award for Poetry. His fifth book of poetry, *How to Be Drawn*, came out in the spring of 2015.

Other awards which Hayes has received are as follows: a 2005 Pushcart Prize for Poetry, the 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and a 2011 United States Artists Zell Fellowship for Literature.

He most recently earned the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship Award for 2014. This fellowship includes a \$625,000 stipend over five years. Terrance Hayes continues to reach diverse audiences through his unapologetically honest writing.

-Sarah Marie Williamson



Image Courtesy: www.poets.org

Terrance Hayes