

Amy Goodman Receives the 2006 Puffin/Nation Prize for Creative Citizenship



(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE) Amy Goodman, award-winning journalist and nationally syndicated newspaper columnist, has been named the recipient of the prestigious 2006 Puffin/Nation Prize for Creative Citizenship for her ground-breaking reporting and tireless commitment to questioning those in power on behalf of those who rarely have a voice in the mainstream media.

Described as “a one woman antidote to corporate news,” Goodman is best known as the host and executive producer of the daily TV and radio news program, *Democracy Now!* Launched in 1996, *Democracy Now!* began on a few dozen community radio stations. Today, it is the largest independent media collaboration in the country, broadcasting on more than 500 radio and television stations and shared widely on the Internet.

In October 2006, King Features launched *Amy Goodman: Breaking the Sound Barrier*, a nationally syndicated weekly column for newspapers. Writing in her introductory column about the distinction her commentary might bring to an already crowded field of opinion writers, Goodman said, “My goal as a journalist is to break the sound barrier. To cut through the static and bring forth voices that are not usually heard. I am not talking about a fringe minority, or the ‘Silent Majority,’ but a silenced majority, increasingly restless, of people who are looking for alternative sources of information in a complex world. My column will include voices so often excluded, people whose views the media mostly ignore, issues they distort and even ridicule.”

Each year, The Puffin Foundation Ltd. and The Nation Institute recognize an individual who has challenged the status quo through distinctive, courageous, imaginative and socially responsible work of significance with the mutually sponsored the “Puffin/Nation Prize for Creative Citizenship.” Candidates are found in a broad range of occupations and pursuits, including academia, journalism, public health, literature, art, the environmental sciences, labor and the humanities. The award is intended to encourage the recipients to continue their work, and to inspire others to challenge the prevailing orthodoxies they face in their careers.

About Amy Goodman

Goodman began her career in journalism at Pacifica Radio’s New York station, WBAI, where she produced WBAI’s Evening News for

10 years. In 1991, Goodman traveled to East Timor to report on the Indonesian occupation of East Timor. There, she and colleague Allan Nairn witnessed Indonesian soldier gun down 270 East Timorese men, women and children during a memorial procession. Indonesian soldiers savagely beat Goodman and Nairn, fracturing Nairn's skull. Their documentary, "Massacre: The Story of East Timor," won numerous awards, including the Robert F. Kennedy Prize for International Reporting, the Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia Award, the Armstrong Award, the Radio/Television News Directors Award, as well as awards from the Associated Press, United Press International and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

In addition to writing her syndicated editorial column, Goodman is co-author, with her brother and investigative journalist David Goodman, of the book *Static: Government Liars, Media Cheerleaders and the People Who Fight Back* (Hyperion, 2006). The pair also co-wrote the national best-seller *The Exception to the Rulers: Exposing Oily Politicians, War Profiteers, and the Media That Love Them*. The book was chosen by independent bookstores as the No. 1 political title of the 2004 election season and ranked as one of the top 50 nonfiction books of 2004 by the editors of *Static: Government Liars, Media Cheerleaders and the People Who Fight Back* and *The Exception to the Rulers: Exposing Oily Politicians, War Profiteers, and the Media That Love Them* reached *The New York Times Bestsellers List*.

For more information about *The Puffin Foundation Ltd.* and *The Nation Institute*, please visit: <http://www.nationinstitute.org/awards/>.

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