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'Hotel Rwanda' named among 2005 Humanitas finalists

By Paula Doyle

 text only version

Feature film screenwriters of "Finding Neverland," "Hotel Rwanda" and "Millions" are among 23 movie and television writers recently named as finalists for the 2005 Humanitas Prize.

Top winners in six categories will share \$115,000 awarded June 29 during the 31st annual Humanitas Prize ceremony at the Hilton Universal Hotel. The awards were founded by the late Paulist filmmaker, Father Ellwood "Bud" Kieser.



Frank Pierson, the 2005 Kieser Award Recipient, will deliver the keynote speech for the awards luncheon honoring scripts that illuminate the human condition. In a departure from tradition, no prize will be awarded in the 30-minute television category based on a decision by the Humanitas Prize trustees.

"We look for stories that find humor without sacrificing the humanity of the characters," said Humanitas President, Paulist Father Frank Desiderio. "This year we couldn't find three shows that demonstrated great writing and keen insights into the human condition. Past winners like 'M*A*S*H,' 'The Cosby Show,' 'The Wonder Years' and 'Frasier' lightened the spirits of viewers and shed light on what it means to be human," he noted.

This year's finalists, listed by category include:

Feature Film: "Finding Neverland," screenplay by David Magee (Miramax); "Hotel Rwanda," written by Kier Pearson and Terry George (United Artists); "Millions," written by Frank Cottrell Boyce (Fox Searchlight Pictures).


90 Minute Television: "Ike: Countdown to D-Day," written by Lionel Chetwynd (A&E); "Lackawanna Blues," written by Ruben Santiago Hudson (HBO); "Saving Milly," teleplay by Jeff Arch (CBS).

60 Minute Television: "ER" ("Alone in a Crowd") written by Dee Johnson (NBC); "House" (Pilot episode: "Everybody Lies") written by David Shore (FOX); "House" ("Damned If You Do") written by Sara B. Cooper (FOX); "The West Wing" ("NSF Thurmont") written by John Wells (NBC).

Children's Animation: "Jakers! The Adventures of Piggley Winks" ("Waking Thor") written by Kelly Ward and Cliff MacGillivray (PBS); "PAZ" ("Things Change") written by James Still (Discovery Kids/TLC); "Toddworld" ("Who's Your Best Friend?") written by Pamela Hickey & Dennys McCoy (Discovery Kids/TLC).

Children's Live Action: "Buffalo Dreams" written by Marjorie Schwartz Nielsen (Disney Channel); "Carry Me Home" written by Christopher Fay (Showtime); "Searching for David's Heart" teleplay by Karen Leigh



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