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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RONALDO V. WILSON DEBUTS AWARD WINNING POETRY IN PITTSBURGH
Winner of the 2007 Cave Canem Poetry Prize to Read at the Mattress Factory

PITTSBURGH, PA (October 20, 2008) — In association with the Mattress Factory and City of Asylum/Pittsburgh, Cave Canem Foundation, North America's premier home for black poetry, will showcase Ronaldo V. Wilson in a reading at the Mattress Factory, 500 Sampsonia Way, Pittsburgh, on November 21, 2008, 6:30 pm. Mr. Wilson's *Narrative of the Life of the Brown Boy and the White Man* was selected by Claudia Rankine for the 2007 Cave Canem Poetry Prize, a first book award given annually for an exceptional manuscript by an African American poet. The University of Pittsburgh Press published the collection in October 2008 as part of its Pitt Poetry Series, edited by Ed Ochester. In addition to Mr. Wilson, Ms. Rankine and competition finalists R. Erica Doyle and Nicole Terez Dutton will read selections of their poetry. A book signing and reception will follow the reading. The program is free to the public.

Ronald V. Wilson's poetry has appeared in *Beyond the Frontier: African American Poetry for the 21st Century*, *Black Renaissance Noire*, *Blithe House Quarterly*, *Callaloo*, *FENCE*, *Gulf Coast*, *Harvard Review*, *Interim*, *nocturnes (re)view of literary arts* and *The Encyclopedia Project*. His second collection, *Poems of the Black Object*, will be released from Futurepoem Books in January 2009. He is a graduate Cave Canem fellow and the recipient of fellowships from Djerassi, Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center and Yaddo. He teaches creative writing and African American poetics at Mount Holyoke College.

Claudia Rankine is the author of four collections of poetry, including *Nothing in Nature Is Private*, *The End of the Alphabet*, *Plot* and, most recently, *Don't Let Me Be Lonely*. She is co-editor, with

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Juliana Spahr, of *American Women Poets in the 21st Century: Where Lyric Meets Language*. Recipient of the 2005 Academy of American Poets Fellowship, she is the Henry G. Professor of English at Pomona College.

R. Erica Doyle's work has appeared in *Callaloo*, *Ploughshares*, *Ms. Magazine*, *Black Issues Book Review*, *Blithe House Quarterly*, *Utne Reader*, *Black Renaissance/Renaissance Noire* and *Sinister Wisdom*. The recipient of a Fellowship in Poetry from the New York Foundation for the Arts, she has performed her work at the Kennedy Center, the Stadler Poetry Center, the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, The Bowery Poetry Club and Georgetown University, among other venues. She received an MFA in Poetry from The New School and works as a teacher and literacy coach at Vanguard High School in New York City.

Nicole Terez Dutton has published her work in *Can We Have Our Ball Back?*, *580 Split*, *Gathering Ground*, *Folio: A Literary Journal* and *Indiana Review*. She has received fellowships from Cave Canem Foundation and the Writer's Room, and is a winner of the 2006 Hurston/Wright Foundation Fiction Award. She earned an MFA from Brown University and lives in Boston.

Founded in 1996 by poets Toi Derricotte and Cornelius Eady to remedy the under-representation of African American poets in MFA programs and writing workshops, Cave Canem Foundation is a home for the many voices of African American poetry and is committed to cultivating the artistic and professional development of African American poets. Called "the major watering hole and air pocket for black poetry" by poet Nikki Finney, Cave Canem has grown from an initial gathering of 27 poets to become an influential movement with a renowned faculty and a high-achieving fellowship of 272 poets residing in 34 states. Its programs include an annual writing retreat, a first book prize, a Legacy Conversation series, writing workshops, publications and national readings. To date, the organization has published *Gathering Ground: A Reader Celebrating Cave Canem's First Decade* (University of Michigan Press, 2006) and *The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South* (The University of Georgia Press, 2007). For more information, go to cavecanempoets.org.

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Located in the historic Mexican War Streets of Pittsburgh's North Side since 1977, the Mattress Factory is an innovative museum of contemporary installation art. With room-sized environments created by in-residence artists, the Mattress Factory is known internationally for pushing artistic boundaries. For more about the museum's exhibitions and programs, go to www.mattress.org.

City of Asylum/Pittsburgh provides sanctuary to writers exiled under threat of death, imprisonment, or persecution in their native countries. For a period of two years, the Residencies for Writers-in-Exile program provides a furnished house, a living stipend, medical coverage, and help in transitioning to potentially permanent exile. For more information, visit www.cityofasylumpittsburgh.org.

Founded in 1936, the University of Pittsburgh Press is a scholarly publisher with distinguished books in several academic areas and in poetry and short fiction, as well as books about Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania for general readers, scholars, and students. Since its inception in 1967, the Pitt Poetry Series (Ed Ochester, Editor) has been a vehicle for America's finest contemporary poets. The series' list includes Poet Laureate Billy Collins, Toi Derricotte, Denise Duhamel, Lynn Emanuel, Bob Hicok, Ted Kooser, Larry Levis, Sharon Olds, Alicia Suskin Ostriker, Virgil Suárez, Afaa Michael Weaver, David Wojahn, Dean Young and many others. Throughout its history, the Pitt Poetry Series has provided a voice for the diversity that is American poetry, representing poets from many backgrounds without allegiance to any one school or style. For more information about the press, go to www.upress.pitt.edu/upressIndex.aspx.

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