
925 U Street NW · Washington, D.C. 20001 · (202) 387-8391 · Fax (202) 387-8149
www.wdchumanities.org

October 24, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Michael L. Chambers, II	Susan Martin
Programs and Marketing Manager	MartinMPR
(202) 387-8391 ext. 4 Phone	505-685-4664
(202) 498-0457 Mobile	susan@martinmpr.com
(202) 387-8149 Fax	
Email: mchambers@wdchumanities.org	

**The Humanities Council of Washington, D.C., presents
MARGARET WRINKLE, AUTHOR OF *WASH*, IN CONVERSATION WITH
D.C. WRITER AND SCHOLAR NATALIE HOPKINSON**

Tuesday, November 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Busboys and Poets (14th & V), 2021 14th Street NW
Admission is free.

The **Humanities Council of Washington, D.C.** (HCWDC), is pleased to present Margaret Wrinkle, author of *Wash*, in conversation with writer, scholar and preservationist Natalie Hopkinson, author of *Go-Go Live: The Musical Life and Death of a Chocolate City* and *Deconstructing Tyrone*.

Published by Grove/Atlantic, *Wash* re-examines slavery in ways that challenge our many assumptions about race, history, power and healing as it moves from the American South to West Africa and deep into the ancestral stories that reside in the soul. Using *Wash*, along with *12 Years a Slave*, as a springboard, Wrinkle and Hopkinson will explore the relevance of these historical stories to current issues of race and reconciliation in contemporary society.

Join this ongoing and essential conversation by registering at <http://washdc.eventbrite.com>. To register by phone, please call 202-387-8391. RSVPs are encouraged but not required. For further information, visit <http://wdchumanities.org>. This event is co-sponsored by the African American Resource Center at Howard University.

Haunting, tender and superbly measured, *Wash* is both redemptive and affirming.
—*The New York Times Book Review*

A seventh-generation Southerner, Wrinkle was born in Birmingham during the summer of 1963, right after Dr. King's campaign and just before the bombing that killed four girls at the 16th Street Baptist church. "When people ask me how I came to write the book," she says, "I feel that this story has been coming for me all along, thanks to the charged racial landscape into which I was born."

Wash has been named a finalist for the Center for Fiction's Flaherty-Dunnan First Novel Prize and nominated for the Crook's Corner Prize for debut Southern novel. It is a *New York Times* Editors' Choice, an *O Magazine* Top Ten Pick and a *People* 4-star pick. *Wash* has also been selected as a Great Group Read by Indie Bound and by National Reading Group Month.

Along the Tennessee frontier, in the early 1800s, two men and one woman find themselves locked in an intimate power struggle. Richardson, a troubled Revolutionary War veteran, has spent his life fighting to build an empire. When the pressures of debt threaten this dream, he sets Washington, a young man he owns, to work as his breeding sire. Wash, the first member of his family born into slavery, struggles to find solace through the spiritual teachings from his shamanic West African mother. As he navigates the treacherous currents of his position, despair leads him to a potent healer named Pallas. Their tender love unfolds against this turbulent backdrop as she inspires him to forge a new understanding of his heritage. When Wash and Richardson find themselves at a crossroads, all three lives are pushed to the brink. Written as an accusation, a revelation, and a prayer, this boundary-crossing novel questions all differences of blood and belief, erasing even the line between the living and the dead, as it illuminates this buried shard of our national story.

###

About Margaret Wrinkle

Margaret Wrinkle has a BA and an MA in English from Yale University and has studied creative writing with Pinckney Benedict, Dennis Covington, and AJ Verdelle. She has also studied traditional West African spiritual practices with Malidoma Somé. Her award-winning documentary called *broken\ground*, made with Chris Lawson about the racial divide in her historically conflicted hometown, was featured on NPR's *Morning Edition* and was a winner of the Council on Foundations Film Festival. Wrinkle taught in elementary and middle schools in Birmingham and worked in the West Bank as an academic specialist for the U.S. Information Agency. She also attended the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Amnesty Hearings in South Africa. These experiences led her to see how the patterns laid down during slavery still affect us today. Wrinkle is also the recipient of the inaugural *Dora Franklin Finley African-American Heritage Trail of Mobile 2013 Griot Award*. Visit www.margaretwrinkle.com.

About Natalie Hopkinson

Natalie Hopkinson is author of *Go-Go Live* (Duke University Press, 2012) and co-author of *Deconstructing Tyrone* (2006, Cleis Press). A graduate of Howard University, she earned her PhD from the University of Maryland–College Park. A former writer and editor with the *Washington Post* and *The Root*, she is a widely published essayist and serves on the adjunct faculty at Georgetown University's School of Continuing Studies. She is currently a fellow of the Interactivity Foundation and a co-founder of the Freshwater Project, a black historic preservation project in West Palm Beach, FL. Visit www.nataliehopkinson.com.

About Humanities Council of Washington, D.C.

The Humanities Council of Washington, D.C. (HCWDC), transforms lives through the power of the Humanities. As a far-reaching community catalyst, we build bridges between multiple and diverse neighborhoods to affirm and enliven the human spirit, promote cross-cultural understanding, enrich the quality of life, and foster intellectual stimulation. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and public and private partners, we support local humanities projects and Council-initiated programs. www.wdchumanities.org

About the African American Resource Center, Howard University

African American Studies Resource Center is as an academic repository and a key place for aspiring writers to obtain material related to the writing experience. The Center houses one of the premier collections of literary and social science publications on the black experience in America. www.coas.howard.edu/afroamerican/index.html