



City of Words: Reading Scarborough Writing presents:

# LAWRENCE HILL

**Lawrence Hill** is one of the most gifted African-Canadian writers working in Canada today, and one of our foremost theorists of mixed-race experience. He is the son of American immigrants—a black father and a white mother—who came to Canada the day after they married in 1953 in Washington, D.C. On his father's side, Hill's grandfather and great-grandfather were university-educated, ordained ministers of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. His mother came from a Republican family in Oak Park, Illinois, graduated from Oberlin College and went on to become a civil rights activist in D.C. The story of how they met, married, left the United States and raised a family in Toronto is described in Hill's bestselling memoir *Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada* (HarperCollins Canada, 2001). Growing up in the predominantly white suburb of Don Mills, Ontario in the sixties, Hill was greatly influenced by his parents' work in the human rights movement. Much of Hill's writing touches on issues of identity and belonging.

Lawrence Hill's third novel was published as *The Book of Negroes* in Canada and the UK, and as *Someone Knows My Name* in the USA, Australia and New Zealand. It won the overall Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book, the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Ontario Library Association's Evergreen Award and CBC Radio's Canada Reads. The book was a finalist for the Hurston/Wright LEGACY Award and longlisted for both the Giller Prize and the IMPAC Award.

Hill is also the author of the novels *Any Known Blood* (William Morrow, New York, 1999 and HarperCollins Canada, 1997) and *Some Great Thing* (HarperCollins 2009, originally published by Turnstone Press, Winnipeg, 1992). Hill's most recently published fiction is the short story 'Meet You at the Door', which appeared in the January-February, 2011 issue of *The Walrus* magazine.

Hill's most recent non-fiction book *The Deserter's Tale: the Story of an Ordinary Soldier Who Walked Away from the War in Iraq* (written with Joshua Key) was released in the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan and several European countries.

**Wednesday 1 February 2012, 11:00 a.m.**  
**Leigha Lee Browne Theatre,**  
**University of Toronto Scarborough**



“**City of Words**” is a literary reading series at UTSC that seeks to investigate how the unique cultural terrains of Scarborough—both suburban and territorialized yet also diasporic and highly global—shape literary production, and how writers are, in turn, re-shaping the Scarborough of the imagination.

**Free and Open to the Public**

**For more information:**

<http://www.humanities.utoronto.ca>