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**The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust
presents**

**Award Winning Author
WALTER MOSLEY**

Thursday, October 16, 2008, 7:30 p.m., Byham Theater

PITTSBURGH, PA— The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust in association with Cave Canem Foundation and City of Asylum/Pittsburgh present **Walter Mosley**, a prolific award winning author of thirty critically acclaimed books, at the Byham Theater on Thursday, October 16, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Cohen & Grigsby is the season sponsor of the Trust Presents series.

Described as “one of crime fiction’s brightest stars” by *People Magazine*, Mosley is notorious for books such as *Fortunate Son*, *The Wave*, and the third book in the Fearless Jones series, *Fear of the Dark*. Mosley’s work has been translated into twenty-three languages and he has published in multiple genres, including non-fiction, literary fiction, science fiction, erotica, and young adult fiction. “Mosley is one of the most humane, insightful, powerful prose stylists working today in any genre. He is also one of the most radical.” (*The Austin Chronicle*)

Mosley’s career took off in the 1990s with the popular Easy Rawlins mystery series—*Devil in a Blue Dress*. Then, Mosley continued his success with a new mystery series featuring second-hand bookseller Paris Minton and his friend, *Fearless Jones*. Mosley has also published short fiction in a wide array of publications, including *The New Yorker*, *GQ*, *Esquire*, *USA*

Weekend and *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, among others. In 2005, Mosley published his first book for young adult readers, *47*, an ingenious mix of history, science fiction, and adventure.

In addition to his fictional series, Mosley wrote *What Next* (Black Classic Press, 2003), part political essay and part handbook for community action, that examines the singular kinds of contributions and patterns of belief and action African Americans can add to any approach towards world peace. His political book *Life Out of Context* (Nation Books, 2006) urges African-Americans to break their historic ties with the Democratic Party and form a party of their own. Two movies have been made from his work including the 1995 TriStar release of "*Devil in A Blue Dress*," produced by Jonathan Demme, directed by Carl Franklin, and starring Denzel Washington and Jennifer Beals. "*Always Outnumbered*," was produced by HBO/NYC and Palomar Pictures film, directed by Michael Apted and starred Laurence Fishburne, Natalie Cole, Cicely Tyson and Bill Cobbs.

In his latest fictional work, *The Tempest Tales*, Mosley's hero, Tempest Landry, takes the reader on a philosophic and humorous journey where free will is pitted against class and race. *Chicago Tribune* comments, "Walter Mosley delivers the goods...explosively distilled prose as powerful as homemade booze."

Mosley has acquired several prestigious awards throughout his writing career. These consist of the Anisfield Wolf Award, an honor given to works that increase the appreciation and understanding of race in America, and a Grammy (2001) for his liner notes accompanying *Richard Pryor: And It's Deep Too!*. In 1996, Mosley received the Black Caucus of the American

Library Association's Literary Award for *RL's Dream* and an O'Henry award for a Socrates Fortlow story from *Prize Stories*. In 2005, he received the Risktaker Award by Robert Redford's Sundance Institute for his creative and activist efforts. Additionally, Mosley was honored as a finalist for the NAACP Award in Fiction. Mosley was instrumental in creating a one of a kind publishing degree program aimed at young urban residents with The City College, located in New York City, and received an honorary doctorate from the college in 2005.

Mosley served on the board of directors of the National Book Awards, and presently serves on the boards of the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, The Poetry Society of America and TransAfrica, and is past-president of the Mystery Writers of America. Born and raised in Los Angeles he now lives in New York City.

Tickets (\$10, \$20, \$25) may be purchased at the Box Office at Theater Square (655 Penn Avenue), online at www.pgharts.org, or by calling (412) 456-6666. To purchase 10 or more tickets at special discounted rates, please call (412) 471-6930.

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