

Best-selling Novelist Judith Guest to visit classes, conduct workshops March 28-31

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Guest's visit is part of Minnesota State Mankato's Good Thunder Reading Series and the Eddice B. Barber Visiting Writer Program. Guest's first novel, *Ordinary People*, was published in 1976, was listed on the New York Times best seller list for five months, and was scripted for a movie which won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1980.

Guest will lead free, public workshops for community writers Tuesday through Friday at 9 a.m. each day in Centennial Student Union Room 202. She also will discuss the craft of writing on Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the student union's Ostrander Auditorium. She will read from her published works Thursday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. in Ostrander. All of these events are free and open to students, faculty, staff and the public.

Throughout the week Guest also will meet with individual writers and visit classes. An "Authors in Transit" series interview with Guest will be broadcast Friday, March 31, at 11 a.m. on KMSU 89.7 FM.

Her novel *Ordinary People* has been published in 17 countries. Her second novel, *Second Heaven*, was published in 1982, and her third book, *Killing Time* in St. Cloud, a mystery co-written with Rebecca Hill, was published in 1988.

Her most recent book, a mystery titled *The Tarnished Eye*, was described by Dean Koontz as depicting characters "so real that their insistence on hope, in the face of inexplicable evil, suggests how all of us might best cope in these perilous times." Meg Wolitzer of the New York Times praised Guest's work in another novel, *Errands*, as "beautifully told" and daring "to illuminate the small moment."

Guest also has written several screenplays, including "Rachel River," an adaptation of three stories by Carol Bly that was filmed in Minnesota.

This year's Good Thunder Reading Series is funded by the Minnesota State Mankato Department of English, the College of Arts and Humanities, the Office of Institutional Diversity, Library Services, the Eddice B. Barber Visiting Writer Endowment, the Robert C. Wright Endowment, the Mankato Area Foundation, and individual donors.

It is made possible in part by a grant from by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, with funds appropriated by the Minnesota Legislature. It also is made possible by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Legislature, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Barnes & Noble Bookstore at Minnesota State offers additional assistance.

Those who want more information about the series may call Good Thunder Reading Series Director Richard Robbins at the Department of English, (507) 389-1354.