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Isaac Goldemberg, Founder of the Latin American Writers Institute, to be Honored at BCA's June 7th "Word Up!" Literary Festival at Hostos Community College

(May 25, 2006 -- Bronx, NY) Founder of the Latin American Writers Institute Isaac Goldemberg will be honored at June 7th's "Word Up!" Literary Festival at Hostos Community College in the Bronx. "WORD UP!" is a celebration of Bronx Writers and Books, co-sponsored by the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA), the Bronx Writers' Center, Hostos Community College and the Latin American Writers Institute, and coincides with BCA's Bronx Cultural Trolley (please see attached for activities on that day). On this occasion we will recognize Mr. Goldemberg for his many contributions as an author, a poet, and a playwright, and for his dedication to the Latin American Writers Institute.



Isaac Goldemberg is a renowned poet, playwright, and fiction writer. He has lived in New York since 1964 and is a Distinguished Professor of Humanities at Hostos Community College of the City University of New York, Director of the Latin American Writers Institute, and Editor of *Hostos Review*, an international journal of culture. He is the author of three novels: *La vida a plazos de don Jacobo Lerner* (1978, 1980, 1983, 2005), *Tiempo al tiempo* (1984, 1986), and *El nombre del padre* (2002). He has published the following collections of poetry: *Tiempo de silencio* (1970), *De Chepén a La Habana* (1973), *Hombre de paso* (1981, 2004), *La vida al contado* (1991, 1992, 2004), *Cuerpo del amor* (2000), *Las cuentas y los inventarios* (2000), *Peruvian blues* (2001, 2004), *Los autorretratos y las máscaras* (2002, 2004), *El amor y los sueños* (2003, 2004), *Crónicas del exilio* (2003, 2004) y *Los Cementerios Reales* (2004). He has published two plays: *Hotel AmériKka* (2000, 2004) y *Golpe de gracia: farsa en un acto* (2003). He is also the author of *El gran libro de América judía* (1998), a 1250-page anthology of Jewish Latin American writings.

His novel *The Fragmented Life of Don Jacobo Lerner* was described in the *New York Times* Book Review as "a moving exploration of the human condition" and in 2001 was selected by the National Yiddish Book Center of the United States as one of the 100 greatest Jewish works of the last 150 years. His work has been translated into several languages, reviewed in dozens of journals and published in numerous magazines and anthologies in Latin America, Europe and the United States. He is the recipient of the Nuestro Award in Fiction (1977), the Nathaniel Judah Jacobson Award (1995), the Lluvia Editores Short Story Award (2000), the Luis Alberto Sánchez Award for Literary Essays (2002), the Estival Theater Award (2003), and the Orden de Don Quijote (2005).

Publications about his works include *Identidad cultural y memoria colectiva en la obra de Isaac Goldemberg* (Lima: Mosca Azul Editores, 2001), edited by Eduardo González Viaña; *Isaac Goldemberg ou l'homme du Livre* (Paris: L'Harmattan, 2002), by Dorita Nouhaud; *Luces de la memoria: Conversaciones con Isaac Goldemberg* (Maracay: Editorial Arkadia, 2003), edited by Miguel Angel Zapata; *Crossing Cultures in Isaac Goldemberg's Works* (Hanover, NH: Ediciones del Norte, 2003), edited by Maureen Dolan; *Isaac Goldemberg: The Aesthetics of Fragmentation* (Culver City, CA: Antylo Press, 2003), edited by Saúl Sosnowski; *Isaac Goldemberg ante la crítica: una visión múltiple* (Lima: Ediciones del Instituto Luis Alberto Sánchez, 2003), edited by Juan Paredes Carbonelli; *Isaac Goldemberg: A Bibliography and Six Critical Studies* (Hanover, NH: Ediciones del Norte, 2003), edited by Maureen Dolan, and *Isaac Goldemberg: el hombre del Libro* (Lima: El Santo Oficio, 2003), by Dorita Nouhaud.

The Latin American Writers Institute (LAWI) was founded in 1987 as an outgrowth of the New York Latin American Book Fair held in 1985 at New York University. Housed at Hostos Community College since 1992 its mission is to create and promote Latino literature in the United States. Its vision is to serve as a locus of Latino literature, culture and intellectualism—a place dedicated to building the image of Latino literature among multicultural audiences, providing support to established and emerging writers, and empowering Latino youth and audiences to strengthen their intellectual capital through increased access to Latino literature.

Since its inception LAWI has organized 4 international book fairs, published 36 issues of its bilingual literary magazine, published 20 titles through its very own Latino Press, sponsored and co-sponsored bilingual readings and conferences, offered writing workshops and provided technical assistance to hundreds of Latino writers in their professional careers.

Hostos Community College is located at 450 Grand Concourse and 149th Street and is easily accessible by the #2, #4, and #5 trains. For additional information on June 7th's "Word Up!" event, contact Ron Kavanaugh at ron@bronxarts.org / 718-409-1265 or Phil Cardone at 718-931-9500 x33 / phil@bronxarts.org.

"Word Up", is made possible with funding from Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, Citibank, St. Barnabas Hospital, Hostos Community College, Lehman College, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, and the Bronx Delegation of the City Council.

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The Bronx Writer's Center • Bronx Cultural Card • Longwood Art Gallery • BCA Development Corporation

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