

Yellow Moving Van Pitt Poetry Series: A Literary Tapestry Unfolding in Pittsburgh

A Literary Haven in the Heart of Steel City

Amidst the bustling streets of Pittsburgh, where the echoes of industry once reverberated, there exists a literary refuge—the Yellow Moving Van Pitt Poetry Series. Since its humble beginnings in 1973, this iconic series has played a pivotal role in shaping the literary landscape of the city and beyond.

The series owes its genesis to two literary visionaries: Samuel Hazo and Robert L. Welker. Hazo, a renowned poet, professor, and founder of the International Poetry Forum, recognized the need for a platform that would nurture emerging and established poets. Together with Welker, a writer and editor, they conceived the Yellow Moving Van.



Yellow Moving Van (Pitt Poetry Series) by Nicole Gulotta

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 80 pages



The Van That Moved Mountains

The series' moniker derives from the iconic yellow moving van that Welker used to transport poets to and from readings. This unassuming vehicle became a symbol of the series' itinerant nature, reflecting its commitment to reaching audiences beyond the confines of traditional literary settings.

In the early years, the series took up residence in various locations, including the Carnegie Library and the University of Pittsburgh. However, it found its permanent home in 1995 at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, a vibrant cultural hub in the East Liberty neighborhood.

An Influential Stage for Poetic Voices

Over the decades, the Yellow Moving Van has hosted an impressive array of poets, ranging from Pulitzer Prize winners to emerging voices on the brink of literary stardom. Among its illustrious alumni are:

- Adrienne Rich
- Carolyn Kizer
- Mark Strand
- Billy Collins
- Louise Glück
- Tracy K. Smith
- Ocean Vuong

The series has also fostered the growth of local poets, providing them with a platform to share their work and connect with a wider literary community

More Than Just Readings

Beyond its core mission of hosting poetry readings, the Yellow Moving Van has expanded its scope to include workshops, conferences, and publications. The series' annual "Discovery Series" provides a showcase for emerging poets, while the "Pittsburgh Poetry Exchange" fosters collaboration between local and national writers.

The series' publications, including the "Yellow Moving Van Anthology" and the "Kelly Writers Series," offer a permanent record of the literary legacy it has nurtured.

A Literary Legacy That Endures

Nearly half a century since its inception, the Yellow Moving Van Pitt Poetry Series remains a vital force in the literary landscape of Pittsburgh. It has played a pivotal role in shaping the city's reputation as a hub for arts and culture and has inspired generations of poets and poetry enthusiasts alike.

As the series looks to the future, it continues to embrace its mission of promoting excellence in poetry and fostering a vibrant literary community. The Yellow Moving Van will undoubtedly continue to ignite imaginations and leave an indelible mark on the literary landscape of Pittsburgh and beyond.

Additional Information

- **Visiting the Yellow Moving Van:** Readings are held monthly at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater. Visit the series website for dates and details.
- **Supporting the Series:** Donations to the series help ensure its continued success. Visit the website for information on how to contribute.

- **Getting Involved:** Volunteer opportunities are available for those interested in supporting the series' mission.



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