

For Immediate Release

The Newburyport Literary Festival

For more information contact:

Skye Wentworth

(978) 462-4453

press@newburyportliteraryfestival.org

Author Jon Clinch and Editor Will Murphy to Talk on Publishing First Novel

"In this darkly luminous debut...Clinch lyrically renders the Mississippi River's ceaseless flow, while revealing Finn's brutal contradictions, his violence, arrogance and self-reproach."

This April, the Newburyport Literary Festival welcomes Jon Clinch, whose first novel, *Finn*, springs from Mark Twain's classic *Huckleberry Finn*, and then takes it in its own, original direction. Clinch, who is being hailed as a major new voice in fiction, will join in conversation with his editor, Will Murphy, senior editor at Random House, to talk about the book and the challenges and pleasures of writing and publishing a first novel.

The praise for *Finn* has been as enthusiastic as any for a first novel in recent memory. Reviewers have praised the new life and meaning that he brings to Mark Twain's famous and controversial masterpiece through his vivid imagination of the life of Huck's alcoholic and bigoted father.

Literary masterpieces don't just happen, however. *Finn* is the product of a highly effective collaboration between a talented writer and editor working to make a book stand out in the crowded world of book publishing. Join the author and his editor in a conversation about the journey of a book from unpublished manuscript to literary

sensation along with a reading from the work.

About the book

Finn is a journey into the history and heart of one of American literature's most brutal and mysterious figures—Huckleberry Finn's father. Moving him from the sidelines to the spotlight in American literature, *Finn* is a novel about race; about paternity in its many guises; about the shame of a nation recapitulated by the shame of one absolutely unforgettable family. Above all, *Finn* reaches back into the darkest waters of America's past to fashion something compelling, fearless, and new. Glowing prepublication reviews call the book "an honest-to-god novel that more than earns its place on the shelf" (*GQ*), "a memorable debut, likely to make waves" (*Kirkus*), and "[an] inspired spin-off" (*Library Journal*)

About Jon Clinch and Will Murphy

A native of upstate New York and a graduate of Syracuse University, Jon Clinch has taught American literature, has been creative director for a Philadelphia ad agency, and has run his own agency in the Philadelphia suburbs. His stories have appeared in John Gardner's *MSS.* magazine. He and his wife have one daughter. Will Murphy is a senior editor at Random House and the editor of *Finn*.

About the festival

The 2007 Newburyport Literary Festival (NLF) runs from Friday, April 27, through Sunday, April 29. A three-day celebration of reading, writing, and the love of books, this year's festival features more than 70 writers of distinguished fiction and non-fiction—including short story writers, children's authors, biographers, nature writers, critics, screenwriters, poets, novelists, and journalists—who will read and discuss their work in venues throughout Newburyport's historic downtown.

The vision of the Newburyport Literary Festival is shared by many individuals and organizations. The NLF is especially grateful for the generous support of our founding sponsors, the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank Charitable Foundation and the Institution for Savings, who have made it possible for the festival to take root and flourish. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Amesbury Cultural

Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

All festival events are wheelchair accessible and open to the public. All events are free, except for the opening night gala. For complete information about the festival, including event times and venues, please visit: www.newburyportliteraryfestival.org.