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An Evening with John Edgar Wideman

John Edgar Wideman

*Two-time Pen/Faulkner Award
winner, MacArthur Fellow and
Distinguished Professor of
English, University of
Massachusetts at Amherst*

**March 17, 2003
Monday 7:30 pm**

Third Floor, Levis Faculty Center
919 West Illinois Street, Urbana

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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John Edgar Wideman is one of our country's leading, acclaimed literary voices. He is the author of eleven novels, three memoirs (most recently, *Hoop Roots: Basketball, Race and Love*) and scores of essays on American culture featured in such publications as the *New Yorker*, *Vogue*, *Esquire* and the *New York Times* magazine.

“Writing of any sort consists of setting down one word after another, making something that doesn't exist until it's expressed with the medium of written language. The effort of making is at some level play, like patting clay, beating a drum, or tapping your toes, singing, or spreading paint with your fingertips—play that's a gift to the artist the artist passes on, from the one to the many to the one. Serious play that reminds us we're all in this together, this life, and what we make goes into the collective project to brighten and lighten, to glorify and transform the unavoidable pain and burden of being alive.”

—From the introduction to the Drue Heinz Prize Anthology (2001)

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