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THE WAY ♦ MOVIES ♦ *Tell Stories*

PUTTING CHARLES FRAZIER'S FURNITURE INTO ANTHONY MINGHELLA'S ROOMS

NCLR EDITOR MARGARET D. BAUER
INTERVIEWS CHARLES FRAZIER

with photography by

PHIL BRAY AND ANNIE FRAZIER

MARGARET D. BAUER has been editor of *NCLR* since 1997 and on the program planning committee of ECU's Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming since its beginning in 2004. See her interview with Eastern North Carolina writer Kat Meads in *NCLR* 2009 and her interview with Louisiana author Tim Gautreaux in *Southern Spaces*.

Charles Frazier came to East Carolina University for the 2012 Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming. Opening the event's exploration of "Litflix: Adapting North Carolina Literature into Film" (the theme of *NCLR* 2012 and the literary homecoming), the author of *Cold Mountain* participated with two of the other visiting writers, James Dodson and Timothy Tyson, on a panel called "The Blockbuster, the Independent Film, and the Made-for-TV Movie: Different Venues, Different Audiences," and then he brought the event to a close as the keynote speaker. The keynote session was an open interview with Frazier conducted by *NCLR* Editor Margaret Bauer.¹

The following interview has been transcribed and edited from Frazier's responses to questions about the movie *Cold Mountain* and other film-related topics during these two sessions at the Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming, as well as a follow-up interview Bauer conducted with the author in Asheville, North Carolina, on 16 November 2012 (for more about this occasion, see the interview in the special feature section of this issue).² To introduce the interview, we include here excerpts from Frazier's opening remarks during the morning panel, in which he describes his experience working with director and screenwriter Anthony Minghella.³

To begin, read how Charles Frazier reminded the literary homecoming audience during the morning panel discussion of a time when *Cold Mountain* was new, before he became aware of what an impression his first novel was making, before he could know what a literary sensation it would be. He recalled during his response, for example, the "huge" crowds he was drawing at the time, including one that he remembers as being about a dozen people, if you counted the bookstore employees:

¹ Video recordings of both of these sessions are available via the Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming website at www.nclr.ecu.edu/lithomecoming. See also Frazier's essay on the film adaptation of *Cold Mountain*, "A Degree of Commitment," in the "North Carolina Literature into Film" special feature section of the 2012 issue of *NCLR*.

² These interviews were transcribed by *NCLR* editorial assistants Elizabeth Aeby and Joshua Pittman, then edited for style, clarity, and organization.

³ Anthony Minghella is perhaps best known for directing and writing the screenplay for the 1996 film *The English Patient*, which won nine Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director.