

NOTES CONTRIBUTED BY THE NCLR STAFF



COURTESY OF STAR NEWS ONLINE

RENAISSANCE MAN: AN INTERVIEW WITH CLYDE EDGERTON

BY
GEORGE
HOVIS

Clyde Edgerton has been a beloved American writer for three decades, ever since the publication of his debut novel *Raney* in 1985

by a then upstart press, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. The flurry of critically acclaimed and best-selling novels Algonquin would publish by Edgerton and other Tar Heel writers would help lead to such an outpouring of literature during the 1980s and the years following that the era earned the label the “North Carolina Renaissance.” Edgerton has gone on to prove himself a true Renaissance man; in addition to publishing ten novels and two books of nonfiction his musical performances are widely renowned, and during the past decade he has taken up painting in earnest, for which he has received increased attention, being named, for example, the featured artist of the 2015 Wilmington Azalea Festival. His paintings are represented by City Art Gallery in Greenville, North Carolina. His writing has earned many awards, including the Guggenheim Fellowship; Lyndhurst Prize; Honorary Doctorates from the University of North Carolina in Asheville and St. Andrews Presbyterian College; membership in the Fellowship of Southern Writers; the North Carolina Award for Literature; the Thomas Wolfe Prize; five notable book awards from the *New York Times*; and, in 2016, induction into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame. *The Night Train*, his tenth novel, was published by Little, Brown in 2011 and received multiple starred reviews. In 2013, Little, Brown brought out his nonfiction work, *Papadaddy’s Book for New Fathers: Advice to Dads of All Ages*.

Edgerton has worked as a playwright, participating in the dramatic adaptation of his books. Three of his novels have been made into movies: *Raney*, *Walking Across Egypt*, and *Killer Diller*.¹ The latter two are now

ABOVE Clyde Edgerton

¹ *Raney*, adapt. of novel by Clyde Edgerton, dir. Alan James Gay, prod. Castleway Entertainment, perf. James Best, John Bigham, Sharon Blackwood, 1997; *Walking Across Egypt*, adapt. of novel by Edgerton, dir. Arthur Allan Seidelman, prod. Mitchum Entertainment, perf. Jonathan Taylor Thomas, Mark Hamill, 1999; *Killer Diller*, adapt. of novel by Edgerton, dir. Tricia Brock, prod. Bulwark Entertainment, Sprocketyne Entertainment, perf. Lucas Black, William Lee Scott, Fred Willard, 2004.