

Award Winning Author and Professor Shares Love of Creative Writing with Audiences Around the Globe

By Naomi McMillen



For over twenty years, award winning author and English Professor Laird Hunt has shared his short stories, mock parables and historical narratives with delighted audiences in Europe, Asia and the United States. He has explored varied themes and important issues through his many contributions to the post-modern literary movement.

Hunt first discovered his talent for creative writing after he graduated from Indiana University, and hasn't put down the pen since.

"I really started writing seriously when I graduated from college and went to teach in Japan. I think I decided I had some ability at that point because I never stopped and that was more than 20 years ago," he said.

His most recent novel, *Neverhome* (2014), follows the story of a woman who disguises herself as a man to fight for the Union Army during the American Civil War. The English edition has enjoyed positive reviews in such outlets as *The New York Times* and foreign language editions are forthcoming in Spain, France, Italy and Germany.

Neverhome is not the only novel for which Hunt has earned international praise. *Kind One* (2012), was the winner of the 2013 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Fiction and was a finalist for the prestigious Pen/Faulkener Award in Fiction.

Hunt has shared his knowledge and passion for creative writing as a faculty member of the Creative Writing Program at DU since 2004. The program, which was founded after World War II, is one of the oldest PhD granting creative writing programs in the country, and was rated number one in 2012 by *Poets & Writers Magazine*.

Hunt also serves as the editor of the *Denver Quarterly*, an internationally-recognized literary quarterly that publishes poetry, fiction, criticism, reviews, interviews and translations since 1965.

Many of Hunt's students have gone on to do great things upon graduating from DU, including founding publishing houses, writing books and getting MFAs at top schools.

Even with his experience as a renowned author, Hunt still finds himself learning from his students.

"I love the conversation with smart young people about books I love. Even when they don't love them as much as I do, I find the back and forth rewarding. I am always learning from my students," he said. "I hope it goes the other way, too!"