

# SALEM PRESS

Published & Distributed by Grey House Publishing

## For Immediate Release

March 5, 2019

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## **Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the *Critical Insights* Series: *Critical Insights: Richard Wright***

Richard Wright produced an incredible variety of work in various genres and media: journalism and cultural criticism, poetry, short and long fiction, essays and articles, and pieces for the theater, radio, and film. This volume covers the highlights of that output from the fiction and autobiography of *Uncle Tom's Children*, his earliest success, to his unpublished novel *A Father's Law*, found by his daughter Julia, his literary executor, shortly after his death.

The chapters here discuss critical views presented by a variety of Wright scholars as well as original archival research by the volume's authors. They also give a sense of continuity to a man who was characterized during his career both by the abject poverty and the traumatic violence he and his characters endured and by the sophisticated philosophical and rhetorical genius of that same work.

The volume starts out with an introductory essay by Editor Kimberly Drake, and introduces readers to Wright's early life and work. This is followed by four **Critical Context** essays:

- "The Biographical and Historical Contexts of Richard Wright's 'I Tried To Be a Communist,'" Robert C. Evans
- "The Meaning of Rape in Richard Wright's *Native Son*," Kimberly Drake
- "Richard Wright's Readers," Konstantina Karageorgos
- "Heisegger and *The Outsider*, *Savage Holiday*, and *The Long Dream*," Hue Woodson

Next comes the **Critical Readings** section of this book, which contains the following essays:

- "A Child's Eye View: Humanizing Naturalism's Horrors in Richard Wright's *Uncle Tom's Children*," Jericho Williams
- "Revisiting Richard Wright's *Native Son* as a Protest Novel," Lisa Tomlinson
- "Richard Wright's *Black Boy*: Black Consciousness, Artistic Expression, and Social Justice," Julie Prebel
- "Richard Wright's 'I Tried To Be a Communist': Its Literary Effectiveness," Robert C. Evans
- "Of Maids and Men: Racial Mythologies and Gender Revelations in Richard Wright's 'Man of All Work,'" Shana A. Russell
- "A First Look at *Native Son*: Richard Wright's Uncensored Film," Beth Bennett
- "Richard Wright's Rage: Figures of Disability in *A Father's Law*," Kimberly Drake

In the final section, **Resources**, easy-to-follow lists are provided to help guide the reader through important dates and moments in the author's life. A selection of further reading is then provided. Each essay in *Critical Insights: Richard Wright* includes a list of **Works Cited** and detailed endnotes. Also included in this volume is a **Bibliography**, biographies of the **Editor** and **Contributors**, and alphabetical **Index** as well as **Chronology of Richard Wright's Life and Work by Richard Wright**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world's most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia's most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Richard Wright* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

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*Critical Insights: Richard Wright*

Pub. Date: February 2019

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-68217-917-8

260 pages

\$105.00

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-68217-960-4