

Rafael Alvarez

P.O. Box 432

Linthicum, MD. 21090

310.413.4616

orlo.leini@gmail.com

Resume

Books

The Fountain of Highlandtown (fiction, 1997); *Orlo and Leini* (fiction, 2000); *Tales from the Holy Land* (fiction, 2014); *Hometown Boy* (non-fiction, 1999); *Storyteller* (non-fiction, 2001); *A People's History of the Archdiocese of Baltimore* (non-fiction, 2006); *The Wire: Truth Be Told* (non-fiction, 2009); *The Tuerk House* (non-fiction, 2012); *Crabtown, USA* (non-fiction, 2015); *The Baltimore Love Project* (non-fiction, 2016); *Basilio Boullosa Stars in the Fountain of Highlandtown* (fiction, June 2017 release date.)

Of Alvarez's fiction, National Book Award winner James McBride said:

“These are Americans we rarely hear about, told by a gifted native son. Alvarez's talents - - poetic deftness, tight dialogue, burning descriptive passages laid out with seeming ease -- shows why he was one of the gifted writers that turned *The Wire* into the greatest show in television history.

“These are stories from the treasure chest of one of America's most talented scribes.”

Azar Nafisi - author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran* – also commented.

“More than anything else [it] is the story of a love affair--in this case the beloved is a city. Alvarez has no illusions about his city, he loves it despite Baltimore's flaws, the violence, corruption and the pain, because he so deeply appreciates & articulates its unique if heartbreaking beauty amidst the ruins of a prosperous and glamorous past, as well as its vitality, resilience, poignant sense of dignity and community.”

Work Experience

Reporter

Baltimore Sun, 1978-through-2001.

Baltimore Sun op-ed columnist, 2016.

Screenwriter

The Wire (HBO), seasons one, two and three (2002, 2003, 2004).

NBC Television, various one-hour dramas, including *The Black Donnellys* (2006)

The Passion of Kalavryta, independent film in development (2016).

Lecturer

Keynote speaker at several Maryland Writers' Association conferences

PEN/Faulkner Writers in Schools program, 2014-through-2016

Johns Hopkins University and Skidmore College (annual visits to undergraduate classes studying urban conditions and *The Wire*.)

Teacher

Instructor, Baltimore Youth Film Arts, Johns Hopkins University.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-alvarez-0828-20160827-story.html>

Merchant Seaman

Seafarers International Union, 1976 through 1978; 2001 through 2003.

Service

President, Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore (2009-through-2012)

Awards

Writer of the Year, *Baltimore Magazine*, Baltimore's Best issue, 2014.

Maryland State Arts Council / Individual artist, early 2000s.

Maryland State Arts Council / Maryland Traditions / Individual artist, 2015.

Rising Star, Howard County Center for the Book, 2000.

Artscape Fiction Award, 1994.

Links to Alvarez interviews and reviews

<https://wins.penfaulkner.org/book/tales-from-the-holy-land>

<http://www.baltimoremagazine.net/2014/1/interview-with-author-rafael-alvarez>

<http://deborahkalbbooks.blogspot.com/2014/02/q-with-author-rafael-alvarez.html>

<https://littlepatuxentreview.org/2016/03/26/ten-questions-for-rafael-alvarez>

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/entertainment/arts/bs-ae-book-tour-20140510-story.html>

<http://wypr.org/post/baltimore-writer-rafael-alvarez-reads-aunt-lola#stream/o>