

# Eudora Welty and Jesmyn Ward among those honored at Mississippi Book Fest

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Source: WLBT

JACKSON, MS (WLBT) - The 4th annual Mississippi Book Fest kicked off Saturday at the State Capitol, but books were not the only thing that brought people out. Some high profile writers were honored.

The Mississippi Writer's Trail honored two deserving writers. One of them was Eudora Welty, and the other Jesmyn Ward.

Both writers will be getting historic markers in the Magnolia State.



Source: WLBT

Ward attended Saturday's ceremony. The DeLisle native said she will now be a part of a little magic that she saw when she was a child.

"I fell in love with language first. You know, I fell in love with the beauty of language, with the beauty of words, with the way words can create pictures," said Ward. "And words can immerse you in a different experience. Like everything about books when I was younger seemed like magic, you know?"



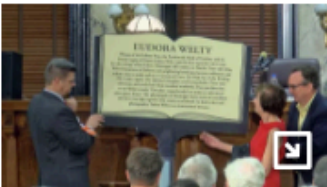
And so that's what I guess drew me to reading. I was a reader before I was a writer. Yeah, and I just wanted to work that same magic I think."

The unveiling of the two markers helped kick off the annual festival, where folks got a chance to meet other high profile writers such as Joedda Gore and J. Moffett Walker.



Source: WLBT

"So the Mississippi Book Fest celebrates what is best, one of the things we do best, and that is write," said Mississippi Book Fest Director Holly Lange. "From Faulkner to Welty to Jesmyn Ward in the current day, and Greg Iles, we have so many amazing writers that we want to celebrate, and we want to meet their fans and to get an opportunity to share a more personal side of their books and who they are and what inspires them."



Source: WLBT

But with the internet and kindles tapping into the book market, some people may think that paper backs and hardcovers were dying. According to Lange, it's quite the opposite.

"Well, we thought really the kindle was going to kill the book. The kindle has not killed the book. The book is still alive," said Lange. "Independent book store sales are sky high. So we have sort of kept the dream alive. We sell more books here in one day, than some book stores sell in the month of Christmas, and when you get to hand an author their book and they sign it for you and make it personal to you, that is a valuable document to have in your possession."