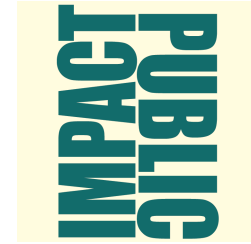




MEDIA RELEASE



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***THE RISE AND FALL OF THE YELLOW HOUSE* REVISITS THE EARLIEST DAYS OF THE AIDS EPIDEMIC IN 1980s SEATTLE**

**POWERFUL DEBUT NOVEL
BY YALE PROFESSOR JOHN WHITTIER TREAT
ARRIVES IN OCTOBER FROM BIG TABLE PUBLISHERS**

“Jeff was not sure what to do. A chasm was opening between them, or maybe it had been there all the time. He had thought it was due to drugs and liquor. Or [AIDS]. Or the difference in their ages, about which Jeff could do nothing. But now he wondered if the worlds they inhabited were impossibly distant from each other.”

–The Rise and Fall of the Yellow House, Chapter Eight

SEATTLE, WA — *The Rise and Fall of the Yellow House*, a lyrical, evocative but unsparing novel about the early days of the AIDS epidemic in 1980s Seattle, written by Yale University professor John Whittier Treat, will be published by Big Table Publishers in October, 2015.

As the gay community comes to term with its losses and legacy, a number of poignant works have emerged. Among them, the films “The Normal Heart,” “Dallas Buyers Club” and “How to Survive a Plague” and the memoirs *Body Counts* by Sean Strub and *Smash Cut* by Brad Gooch. Treat’s debut novel, *The Rise and Fall of the Yellow House*, is a notable addition to the genre of AIDS Generation art, a gothic rendering of Seattle life gripped by the twin demons of substance abuse and HIV.

“Sometimes it’s hard to relive the past, and the best fiction helps guide us through both personal and collective memories. *The Rise and Fall of the Yellow House* does just this, and leaves us both moved by the struggles of the characters and hopeful about a possible future.”

–Dennis Altman, author of *The End of the Homosexual?*

The Rise and Fall of the Yellow House examines the famed city of Seattle in the early 1980s, before Microsoft, hipsters, grunge musicians and Amazon transformed it. The novel is a time capsule, chronicling everyday life among now-vanished places of a once-vibrant era: Numbers, Different Drummer Books, Kingdome, Axel Rock and Dog House. Novelist Treat explores an era when a lethal virus begins to infiltrate a community already bruised by drugs, alcohol, and prejudice. Drawn from the author’s personal experiences as a Seattle resident during that era, *The Rise and Fall of the Yellow House* tells the darker side of a city better known for its natural bounty of mountains, water and forests.

The novel is available as both a book and a downloadable eBook.

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MEDIA RELEASE: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE YELLOW HOUSE

by John Whittier Treat

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In *The Rise and Fall of the Yellow House*, it is 1983. Frightened by the growing epidemic that has stricken his friends, Yale professor Jeff flees New York for the Pacific Northwest, only to realize AIDS has a foothold in his new home. As he distracts himself with alcohol and one-night stands, Jeff meets Henry, an alluring younger man with a weakness for heroin. Despite the jarring contrasts in their personalities and backgrounds, the two are drawn inexorably together. But as their love develops, so do numerous complications. In an effort to halt their freefall into addiction, Jeff and Henry move in with Nan, a middle-aged divorcee who has turned her home into a sanctuary for gay men in crisis. *The Rise and Fall of the Yellow House* revisits the early years of AIDS in the Northwest with vivid detail, unrelenting honesty, and a profound compassion for a generation lost to the plague.

Writing his first novel took author John Whittier Treat a decade.

"*Yellow House* helped me to properly, albeit belatedly, mourn the scores of people I lost during the epidemic," Treat said. "It was a crucial and cathartic part of my own recovery, as equally important and healing as my time in rehab."

About the author:



Writer and critic John Whittier Treat has taught at Yale, Berkeley and Stanford, and is the author of *Writing Ground Zero: Japanese Literature and Atomic Bomb* (Chicago) and *Great Mirrors Shatter: Japan, Orientalism and Homosexuality* (Oxford). Relocating from New York City to Seattle in 1983, he was witness to the earliest days of the AIDS epidemic in the Pacific Northwest. Soon, he became involved with the local recovery community as AIDS affected gay men already struggling with addiction. Treat's fiction has appeared in literary journals, and his opinion pieces have been published in the *New York Times* and the *Huffington Post*. *The Rise and Fall of the Yellow House* is his debut novel. Treat is now at work on a second novel, *First Consonants*, about a stutterer who saves the world.

To schedule an interview with author John Whittier Treat, contact Jay Blotcher of Public Impact Media Consultants at (845) 612-9837 or media@publicimpactpr.com.

For more information visit: www.johntreat.com. For author photos, book cover graphics and a digital media release, visit: www.johntreat.com/disc.htm.