



MEDIA CONTACT

Jessica Kelly, jjkelly@mc.ucdavis.edu, 530-754-5428

FULL SCHEDULE AND IMAGES

<http://mondaviarts.org/press>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Nov. 3, 2008

The Problem with Goodness: Author Tracy Kidder Speaks at Mondavi Center

Davis, Calif.—One of the sharpest, most insightful nonfiction writers in the United States, **Tracy Kidder** speaks at **8 p.m., Monday, Dec. 1**, in **Jackson Hall** of the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis**. This special event, **“The Problem with Goodness,”** corresponds with the **2008–09 UC Davis Campus Community Book Project**, for which Kidder’s book **“Mountains Beyond Mountains”** was selected. Hailed by “The New York Times” as “touching, funny and inspiring,” the book tells the story of **Dr. Paul Farmer** and his dogged, uphill fight to beat AIDS and tuberculosis in Haiti, one of the world’s poorest countries.

Pricing is \$35/25/20 for regular tickets and \$17.50/12.50/10 for students and children. Purchase tickets online at MondaviArts.org, through the Mondavi Center box office at 530-754-2787 or 866-754-2787 (toll-free), or at the door. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request.

Tracy Kidder’s enormously influential book “Mountains Beyond Mountains” (2003) captures two global health crises, tuberculosis and AIDS, through the eyes of a single-minded physician bent on improving the health of some of the poorest people on the planet. This story of Dr. Paul Farmer, a major force in revolutionizing international health, is a gripping and inspiring account of one man’s efforts to establish clinics and hospitals—his compassion for the poor, his inner circle of true believers, and, ultimately, his success in helping stem the tide of new HIV and TB infections in Haiti. Farmer is the founder of Zanmi Lasante (Creole for Partners in Health), a nongovernmental organization that is the only health-care provider in the Plateau Central in Haiti.

Said “Newsweek,” “[“Mountains Beyond Mountains’] reminds us that we’re implicated in all the problems [Farmer] is working to solve ... His complicated humanity only makes him more like the rest of us in our shortcomings—and leaves us asking why we all aren’t a little more like him in our virtues.”

Born in New York City in 1945, Kidder spent his childhood in Oyster Bay, Long Island, where his father was a lawyer and his mother a teacher. He attended Harvard where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1967. From June 1968 until June 1969, he served as a lieutenant in Vietnam, for which he was awarded the Bronze Star.

Following the war, Kidder obtained his Master of Arts from the University of Iowa, where he participated in the Writers' Workshop, a program known for the literary accomplishments of its faculty and alumni. It was there that Kidder met "Atlantic Monthly" contributing editor Dan Wakefield, who helped him get his first assignment for the magazine as a freelance writer. Kidder's articles in the "The Atlantic" have covered a broad array of topics, ranging from railroads to energy, architecture, and the environment, among others.

Kidder's first book, "The Road to Yuba City" (about murderer Juan Corona) was published in 1974. Over his long career, Kidder's writing has been prolific and outstanding. "The Soul of a New Machine," a book celebrated for its insight into the world of high-tech corporate America, earned him a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Award in 1982. Other bestselling works include "House" (1985), "Among Schoolchildren" (1989), "Old Friends" (1993) and "Home Town" (1999).

"The Campus Book Project has chosen an excellent book for the community to consider: Tracy Kidder is one of the most respected journalists in the country, and Dr. Paul Farmer one of the most inspiring medical doctors in the world," said Don Roth, Mondavi Center executive director. "We look forward to a fascinating lecture by Mr. Kidder."

- **Tracy Kidder: The Problem with Goodness**
- **Mon., Dec. 1, 8 p.m.**
- **Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$35/25/20 regular; \$17.50/12.50/10 students, children**
- **530-754-2787**
866-754-2787 (toll-free)
530-754-5402 (TDD)
MondaviArts.org