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PEOPLE

## Local author wins international award

*'Marlowe's Ghost' a successful self-effort*

By ASHLEY FITZPATRICK

THE TELEGRAM

**S**t. John's-based author Daryl Pinksen has been named the grand prize winner of the 2009 Writer's Digest International Self-Published Book Awards for his non-fiction book "Marlowe's Ghost: The Blacklisting of the Man Who Was Shakespeare."

In "Marlowe's Ghost," Pinksen explores the possibility that works credited to playwright William Shakespeare were actually the creations of another playwright of the Elizabethan era, Christopher Marlowe.

The topic of the authorship of the Shakespeare-credited plays is a long-debated one in scholarly circles, but "Marlowe's Ghost" attempts to pull together the information around the debate.

The book includes popular biographies, historical records and scholarly sources, developing the idea that Marlowe may have faked his own death in order to continue writing under a borrowed name.

### Similar plays

"The circumstantial proof is the fact there were similar plays to Marlowe's plays that kept appearing on stage. Of course, they're registered in Shakespeare's name, but they are, stylistically, very similar to Marlowe's work," Pinksen told The Telegram. "Similar enough that I think it's reasonable to speculate, 'Is this the same person?'"

Answering the question for himself and completing the manuscript took years of research, said the high school teacher at Prince of Wales Collegiate and now award-winning author.

After completing the book and shopping "Marlowe's Ghost" around unsuccessfully to several potential publishers, Pinksen made the decision to go it alone. He used the publishing services of iUniverse ([www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com)) to get his niche-market title out in 2008.

Pinksen said, through the site, he paid for and received all of the services provided to other authors, from copyediting to jacket design. The process took about half a year, Pinksen said.

For his main cover image, "Hamlet and Horatio in the Churchyard," a painting by Eugene Delacroix, Pinksen contacted the Louvre in Paris. The art museum held the original painting and assisted Pinksen in securing rights for the picture's use on his cover.

### Effort recognized

It is for this work and the work on all aspects of the book — now available through Chapters, Amazon and other booksellers — that Pinksen was recognized by Writer's Digest magazine above more than 2,000 other titles.

The managing editor of Writer's Digest, Zachary Petit, confirmed Pinksen's grand prize win for The



## Marlowe's Ghost

THE BLACKLISTING OF THE MAN WHO WAS SHAKESPEARE

Daryl Pinksen

Foreword by Michael Rubbo

"Marlowe's Ghost: The Blacklisting of the Man Who Was Shakespeare"

By Daryl Pinksen  
Self-published



Daryl Pinksen

Telegram.

"Because there are many self-published books on the market, making one stand out can be a tremendous undertaking — and 'Marlowe's Ghost' does just that," Petit stated in an e-mail. "No matter how you feel about the subject matter, the book is a fascinating blend of solid writing and meticulously constructed arguments."

Asked about the win, Pinksen said he had to thank filmmaker Michael Rubbo for his assistance.

Rubbo created the documentary "Much Ado About Something" that aired on PBS (as well as the Newfoundland-connected tale of Joey Smallwood's visit to Cuba, "Waiting for Fidel") and, after conversing with Pinksen about the book, also wrote the foreword to "Marlowe's Ghost."

### EXCERPT

"When Christopher Marlowe awoke on the morning of May 30, 1593, he was the greatest playwright England had ever known. That evening he was reported dead, killed in a tavern brawl over the bill. No one knows where he is buried. Within two weeks, William Shakespeare's name appeared as a writer for the very first time. Christopher Marlowe was soon forgotten. Shakespeare went on to become a literary God."

(Source: "Marlowe's Ghost," 2008, Daryl Pinksen)

### Promotion provided

According to Writer's Digest, as the winner of the competition, Pinksen will be provided with a \$3,000 cash prize and receive promotions in Writer's Digest and Publisher's Weekly magazines. Writer's Digest will also endorse 10 copies to be submitted for potential review to publications such as The New York Times and The Washington Post.

"Marlowe's Ghost" will be offered space in industry catalogues, a place with distributor Atlas Books, time with book "shepherd" Ellen Reid and a review of "Marlowe's Ghost" in the Midwest Book Review.

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### Weblinks

[www.marlowesghost.com](http://www.marlowesghost.com)  
[www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com)  
[www.writersdigest.com](http://www.writersdigest.com)