

POLYMATHS IN THE NEWS: TERRY TEACHOUT

Every week, we post a story about a public figure who's been described as a polymath. This week's star demonstrates that polymathic propensities pay.

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"Teachout, an astonishingly productive polymath, is well deserving of the honor—and the \$250,000 purse it includes." - [The Weekly Standard](#), May 12, 2014



The \$250,000 award was bestowed last year on critic and author Terry Teachout by the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, which annually presents up to four awards to "individuals of extraordinary talent and dedication."

Teachout, a former jazz bassist, has written well-received biographies of musicians Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong, choreographer George Balanchine, and journalist H. L. Mencken. Currently the drama critic for the *Wall Street Journal*, he's also written three opera libretti and a play, "[Satchmo at the Waldorf](#)," which just finished a successful off-Broadway run. While the rest of us are sleeping, he maintains a popular blog, [About Last Night](#), and a lively Twitter account.