

THE PARK CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA

PRESENTS

THE THIRD ANNUAL

IZZY AWARD

honoring

ROBERT SCHEER & CITY LIMITS

The Izzy Award recognizes special achievement in independent media — journalism created outside traditional corporate structures.

The award is named after I. F. “Izzy” Stone, the legendary muckraker who for decades exposed government deceit and assaults on civil rights and liberties, notably through *I. F. Stone’s Weekly* (1953-71).



I. F. “Izzy” Stone



Robert Scheer

ROBERT SCHEER is the author of six books, including the recently published *The Great American Stickup: How Reagan Republicans and Clinton Democrats Enriched Wall Street while Mugging Main Street*.

A longtime path-breaking journalist for both mainstream and independent outlets, Robert Scheer was a top editor of *Ramparts* magazine in the 1960s and a national correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times* from 1976 to 1993.

He cofounded the news site Truthdig.com for “drilling beneath the headlines,” and is its editor in chief and regular columnist. His deeply reported columns for Truthdig are widely distributed by independent outlets. Scheer is also a regular analyst on public radio’s *Left, Right, and Center*.

The Izzy Award judges describe him as “a beacon of journalistic independence who exposes both major parties on issues foreign and domestic, while giving voice to the disenfranchised.”

Praise for *The Great American Stickup*:

“Scheer is a journalist in the gadfly tradition of Lincoln Steffens, I. F. Stone, and Seymour Hersh.”

— Jonathan Kirsch, *Los Angeles Times*

“Scheer is among the vanishing breed of journalists who take it as a patriotic duty to criticize power no matter who wields it. [This book] makes nauseatingly clear that both major parties colluded with banks and left the rest of us holding the bag.”

— Matt Welch, *Reason* magazine

City Limits



CITY LIMITS is an independent outlet that covers stories that might otherwise not be told from the nation's largest city. It began in 1976 as a newsletter for tenants and housing-related nonprofits in New York City and has grown into an investigative journalism organization that publishes in-depth reporting about civic affairs and the politics and policies that affect urban life.

Each issue of its bimonthly magazine is dedicated to comprehensive coverage of a single issue, and its civic-focused sibling news site, CityLimits.org, offers in-depth reporting as well as resources for its audience.

City Limits has been a valuable training ground for generations of journalists, including interns from the Park Center for Independent Media.

City Limits editor in chief **JARRETT MURPHY** joins us tonight to accept the 2010 Izzy Award on behalf of his team of professionals, contributors, and volunteers who work under the umbrella of City Limits' nonprofit publisher, the Community Service Society of New York. Jarrett Murphy has himself won the 2007 James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism, the 2007 PASS Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, and the New York Community Media Alliance Best Investigative or In-Depth Story.

JUDGES of the Izzy Award are PCIM director JEFF COHEN; University of Illinois professor and author ROBERT W. McCHESNEY; and LINDA JUE, director and executive editor of the San Francisco-based G. W. Williams Center for Independent Journalism.

The inaugural Izzy Award was presented to blogger GLENN GREENWALD and *Democracy Now!* host/executive producer AMY GOODMAN; last year's honoree was investigative journalist and author JEREMY SCAHILL.

I. F. “Izzy” Stone

“All governments lie,” said Izzy Stone, the ultimate un-embedded reporter. He launched his first independent publication at age 14. He went on to become a daily reporter, editor, columnist, and powerful journalistic advocate for FDR’s New Deal at the then-liberal *New York Post*. As Washington D.C. editor of *The Nation*, he exposed U.S. corporations doing business with Hitler’s Germany. He was one of the first to sound the alarm about the Nazi holocaust. He battled the National Press Club over its exclusion of African Americans.

Founded in 1953, *I. F. Stone’s Weekly* stood bravely against Senator Joe McCarthy’s witch-hunting and against racial discrimination. He revealed the lies propelling the Vietnam War, including the Tonkin Gulf hoax.

Izzy Stone has inspired generations of journalists and social-justice activists. “In this age of corporation men, I am an independent capitalist, the owner of my own enterprise,” Stone wrote in 1963. “I am a wholly independent newspaperman, standing alone, without organizational or party backing, beholden to no one but my good readers.”

A true independent, he wrote books that passionately supported the birth of Israel, but strongly criticized its mistreatment of Palestinians. He advocated peace and negotiations with Soviet Russia, while denouncing its rulers. He despised racists, but defended their civil liberties — and everyone’s, even during “the haunted Fifties.” His books include *Underground to Palestine*, *The Hidden History of the Korean War*, and *Killings at Kent State*. Collected writings appear in *The Best of I. F. Stone*. Read more about this icon of independent journalism at the official website supervised by Izzy’s son, Jeremy Stone: www.IFStone.org.

The **Park Center for Independent Media**, launched in 2008, is a national center for the study of media outlets that create and distribute content outside traditional corporate systems and news organizations. Throughout history, technological and social upheaval have given rise to independent media voices. Today, independent media are growing amid crisis and conglomeration in mainstream journalism, and the rise of new forms of media production and distribution. The center’s mission is to engage media producers and students in conversation about career paths in independent media. Visit us online at www.ithaca.edu/indy, and “friend” us on Facebook.

PCIM deeply appreciates the support of the Park Foundation. Special thanks to Jeremy Stone for donating the I. F. Stone memorabilia we proudly display on the third floor of Park Hall.

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The logo for the Park Center for Independent Media (PCIM) features a grid of small squares in shades of gray above the text "Park Center PCIM for Independent Media".

Park Center **PCIM**
for Independent Media