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News From The **ROBERT J. SAWYER** Web Site

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Rob Nominated for Two Hugo Awards

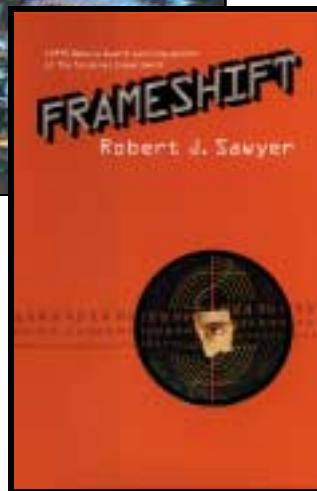
For the third year in a row, **Robert J. Sawyer** is one of five finalists for science-fiction's top international honor, the Hugo Award, in the category of Best Novel of the Year. And this time out, Rob is also one of six finalists in the category of Best Short Story of the Year.

Rob's nominated novel, *Frameshift* (Tor hardcover, July 1997), tells the story of Pierre Tardivel, a French-Canadian geneticist racing against time to make a scientific breakthrough before he succumbs to Huntington's Disease.

Genetics is also the theme of Rob's nominated short story, "The Hand You're Dealt," which first appeared in the Tor anthology *Free Space*, edited by **Brad Linaweaver** and **Edward E. Kramer**. The story follows Detective Toby Korsakov as he investigates the murder of a genetic counselor on a space station.

The Hugos, which have been presented annually since 1953, are the SF field's international "People's Choice" awards. They're named after Hugo Gernsback, founder of the world's first SF magazine, *Amazing Stories*.

The winners will be announced at this year's World Science Fiction Convention, to be held August 6 through 10 in Baltimore.



Rob's previous Hugo nominations were for his novels *The Terminal Experiment* (which won the Nebula Award) and *Starplex* (which won the Aurora). ◆

Film Deal

Robert J. Sawyer's novel *Illegal Alien* (Ace Books, December 1997) has been optioned in a five-figure deal, with option fees *not* applicable to the six-figure purchase price, by Toronto's Carbon-Based Productions, a partnership between producer **David Coatsworth** and visual-effects supervisor **Michael Lennick**.

The deal was conducted by Rob's Hollywood agent **Brian Lipson**, in conjunction with Rob's New York agent **Ralph Vicinanza**. Rob will serve as consultant on the film.

David Coatsworth previously produced *Gotti*, co-produced *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers: The Movie*, and was production manager on *Cocktail*, *The Fly*, and *The Killing Fields*.

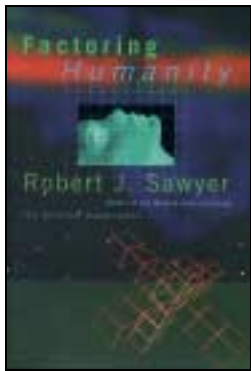
Michael Lennick, who is scripting *Illegal Alien*, was visual-effects supervisor for *The Dead Zone* and *Videodrome*, as well as the *War of the Worlds*, *Friday the Thirteenth*, and *Sinbad* TV series.

Lennick and Coatsworth are currently working together on *Dick*, a movie about Richard Nixon now shooting in Toronto.

(*Illegal Alien* by **Robert J. Sawyer**, Ace, December 1997, ISBN 0-441-00476-8, US \$21.95 / Cdn\$30.95.) ◆

SFWRITER.COM is published occasionally to spotlight news about Nebula Award-winning Canadian science-fiction writer **Robert J. Sawyer**. You can send e-mail to Rob at sawyer@sfwriter.com, or write to him at: Robert J. Sawyer • P.O. Box 911 • Promenade P.O. • 1 Promenade Circle • Thornhill, ON, Canada • L4J 8G7

Factoring Humanity Summer Book Tour



Tor Books in the U.S. and H. B. Fenn in Canada are touring Rob to promote the release of his tenth novel, **Factoring Humanity**. Rob will be joined for most of the tour by **Robert Charles Wilson**, who will be promoting his new Tor title **Darwinia**.

The tour, which will take place in June and July, includes stops in Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington; Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia; Calgary, Alberta; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Detroit, Michigan; Windsor and Toronto, Ontario;

Buffalo, New York; and Boston, Massachusetts. Check Rob's web site at www.sfwriter.com/tour.htm for specific dates and venues.

Factoring Humanity tells of a technology gleaned from alien radio messages that allows direct access to the human collective unconscious.

(**Factoring Humanity** by **Robert J. Sawyer**, Tor hardcover, June 1998, ISBN 0-312-86458-2, US\$23.95; Cdn\$32.95.) ◆

Mystery Awards

Rob isn't just a double nominee for the Hugo Award this year — he's also a double nominee for the Crime Writers of Canada's **Arthur Ellis Award**.

Rob's **Illegal Alien** is one of six finalists for the Arthur for Best Novel of the Year, and his "**The Hand You're Dealt**" — the same story that's up for the Hugo — is one of five finalists for the Arthur for Best Short Story of the Year.

The Arthurs are juried awards given annually since 1983 by Canada's national association of mystery-fiction writers. The winners will be announced May 21 at a banquet in Toronto. Rob previously won the Arthur for Best Short Story of 1993 for his SF mystery "Just Like Old Times." ◆

Praise for *Illegal Alien*

"Puts Perry Mason and John Grisham to shame. **Illegal Alien** is the best Canadian mystery of 1997." — **The Toronto Globe and Mail**

"An intriguing mix of science fiction, mystery, and courtroom drama." — **The Hartford Courant**

"SF and suspense mingle as expert worldbuilder Sawyer takes the action to our own planet. Recommended." — **Locus**

"Absorbing and fascinating." — **Publishers Weekly**

"Add another hit to Sawyer's string." — **Science Fiction Chronicle**

"A *tour de force* of intricate, puzzle-like complexity." — **SF Age**

"Sawyer deals with racism in the courts, but entertains the reader with sharp wit along with the heavier themes." — **The Nashville Tennessean**

"Excellent, innovative, and imaginative." — **The Washington Post** ◆

