

# Ridley Pearson

Best Selling Novelist

## BIO

Ridley Pearson's novels cover a lot of ground: from paranormals to Peter Pan. With an eye on entertaining the reader and delivering screw-tightening suspense, both his crime fiction and young-reader novels have earned him a reputation for detailed research and hair-raising lines.

Ridley began his professional career as a singer/songwriter in an acoustic rock band and decade on the road playing gigs between clubs and colleges. Today, he is a founding member of **The Rock Bottom Remainders**, an all-author '60s rock and roll band now featuring Ann and Dave Barry, Mitch Albom, Scott Turow, Greg Isles and Roy Blount, Jr. (with cameos by Sade and Sting) whose motto is: "We play music as well as Metallica writes novels." It was in the band that Ridley and **Dave Barry** became friends and went on to collaborate on a series of novels that explain the beginnings of Peter Pan. **PETER AND THE STARCATCHERS** spent 47 weeks on the NYTimes Children's Bestseller List. Disney Animated Features has optioned the novel for film and stage productions. **THE KINGDOM KEEPERS**, a Young Adult novel about five kids who get stuck inside Disney World after dark drew the most fan mail of any novel he's written. The second book in the series is scheduled for summer, 2008.

With 24 novels to his credit, New York Times best-selling author Pearson has earned a reputation for stories that grip the imagination, emphasize high-tech crime and dazzling detail, and, all too often, imitate life. His classic 1988 novel, **UNDERCURRENTS**, helped a prosecuting attorney from Washington state solve a real-life homicide by referring to the methods used in the book. The attorney --- who happened to be reading **UNDERCURRENTS** the time --- enlisted the aid of an oceanographer mentioned in the book's acknowledgments page. The oceanographer identified a tidal flow and "window of time" essential to the case, serving as an expert witness, helped convict the victim's husband of murder.

The topic of his 1995 novel, **CHAIN OF EVIDENCE**, which involved the possible existence of a crime gene, was the focus of a genetics conference later that year that erupted in controversy making national news. **BEYOND RECOGNITION** (1997), tackled the violent mystery of tech arson, and modeled a series of mysterious arsons, the solution to which, the government later backed away from.

Ridley has co-produced and written documentaries for television including one for A&E on Alcoholics Anonymous, and is currently working on a dramatic television series, THE CULPABLE for Equinox Films. He wrote the script for the two hour ABC movie, based on his #1 New York Times bestseller, **THE DIARY OF ELLEN RIMBAUER**. He is currently writing a crime series for Putnam/Penguin for editor Christine Pepe. The first in the series, **KILLER WEEKEND**, was released in 2007, and became an instant New York Times Bestseller. The second in the series, **KILLER VIEW**, will be published in summer 2008. Ridley's Lou Boldt novels are on hiatus but remain very much alive.

In 1991, Pearson became the first American to be awarded the Raymond Chandler Fulbright Fellowship at Oxford University, where he researched and outlined both **THE ANGEL MAKER** and **NO WITNESSES**. The fellowship recognizes published writers with "emerging reputations," and helped him hone his natural fascination with forensic detection and focus his active imagination.

Raised in Riverside, Connecticut, Ridley, his wife, Marcelle, and their two daughters, Paige and Storey, now reside in St. Louis, MO.

## **Presentations:**

**DO NOT PASS GO:** The Dirty Little Secret call Illiteracy, and what it means to the American economy, social services and crime.

### **FLAMING FINGERNAILS AND PETER PAN**

**A writer's journey to the bestseller list:** Ridley Pearson shares stories of his career, from his first unpublished novel, to his most recent success: a prequel to Peter Pan written with humor columnist Dave Barry.

**FACT OR FICTION?:** a crime novelist's research stories confirm that fact is stranger than fiction.

**WRITER'S WORKSHOP-ADULTS:** seminars from one hour to three days. Discussion, observation, and hands-on writing exercises to get your creative juices flowing and start you writing-by Ridley Pearson. (Bring a pencil and paper. This really is hands on!)

**WRITER'S WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG READERS:** ages 11 and up. Ridley has spoken at dozens of schools across the country to young readers of all ages, engaging and inspiring student to master the writing process.

## **Book Reviews:**

"Right now, he's the best thriller writer on the planet." *Booklist*

"One hell of a writer. He grabs, he twists, he tightens the screws until you're drained by a superb read."

*Clive Cussler*

"Ridley Pearson tells an irresistible tale." *Los Angeles Times Book Review*

"A thinking person's Robert Ludlum..." *Entertainment Weekly*

### **Writer as Speaker**

"Ridley Pearson has a penchant for telling a good story, whether in writing or on the tip of his tongue. He's enchanted readers with his story of how Peter Pan learned to fly and what Capt. Hook was named before he lost both hands. He's regaled audiences with truth-is-stranger-than-fiction tales, such as how a prosecuting attorney in Seattle used his detective novel "Undercurrents" to solve the murder of a barefoot bikini-clad woman who turned up offshore."

**(excerpted from the Wood River Journal-Ketchum)**

"TalentPlus and Ridley Pearson were perfect to work with. Both exceeded our expectations. Would definitely recommend them to others and seek them out again.

**David Hunenberg**

## **AzLA Conference**

"Ridley gave 2 great presentations and was very good in this 2 autographing sessions.  
"Peter and the Starcatchers is loved by the children of Colorado. The teachers at CCIRA became fans after Ridley's great sessions!"

**Frank Van Delky**  
**CCIRA**

"We received many comments about how entertaining and interesting his talk was. He did a great job of keeping the middle school students interested. Everything went so smoothly that I have no suggestions for improvement."

**Madeline Reed**  
**Bloomington Public Library**

"Kids enjoyed Ridley's presentation. Teachers loved his writing workshop. Ridley was great with the kids and had great presentations."

**Nicky Barnes**  
**Crestline Elementary School**

"Ridley Pearson is not only a gifted author but understands the imaginations and aspirations of young readers. His appearance was a total hit and reinforced many of our curricular objectives."

**Stacy McMackin**  
**Hazelwood West Middle School**

"Just wanted to thank you once again for the excellent keynote address you provided at today's NCADA Awards luncheon...you are one heck of a storyteller. After you left the luncheon we heard many, many comments from folks on their way out telling us what a great luncheon it was due to your wonderful talk."

**Dan Duncan**  
**Director of Community Services**  
**National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse**  
**St. Louis Area**

"