

## News Release: Johnson Wins Spur Award

The Western Writers of America was founded in 1953 to promote the literature of the American West and to bestow Spur Awards for distinguished writing in the western field. The association has honored the best and brightest in Western fiction, non-fiction, and film scripting including not only traditional westerns, but has expanded in recent years to encompass the works of historians, young adult, romance writers, and authors in the field of regional history.

The organization's highest award – the Spur Award – is given annually for distinguished writing about the American West, and is among the oldest and most prestigious in American literature. Winners of Spur Awards in previous years include Larry McMurtry for *Lonesome Dove*, Michael Blake for *Dances With Wolves*, Glendon Swarthout for the *Shootist*, and Tony Hillerman for *Skinwalker*. And this year's winner is Michael Johnson, formerly of New Boston, Texas, now residing in Idabel, Oklahoma.

Johnson's *Healing Shine* was named the recipient of the Western Writers of America Spur Award for Best Audio Book of 2006 from a total of some 436 submissions. *Healing Shine – A Spiritual Assignment* is the story of the author's seven-year spiritual journey with a roping horse – the great, but severely troubled gray called Shine. From the first moment he sees Shine,

Johnson knows the horse possesses the thing called greatness, but the ranch owner warns, “Don’t buy him. You won’t like him.” Undaunted, Michael purchases the gray expecting his training methods to produce results in a short time. Some two years and three months later, Shine is the same frightened creature he was on the first day. Johnson then begins a quest to find men and women farther down the path to help him find the pieces to the puzzle of *Healing Shine*...and find them he does.

Because of these people - true horsemen as Michael calls them - at last, he finds a path into the heart and mind of the great Shine. Once there both man and horse find more magic than anyone dreamed.

*Healing Shine* and all of the author’s books and CDs can be seen at [michaeljohnsonbooks.com](http://michaeljohnsonbooks.com)