



JONATHAN FRANZEN

Fulbright Student Program
(1981-1982)

RESIDENCE: New York, NY

HOST COUNTRY: Germany
Freie Universität, Berlin

PROJECT: Study of German literature

BACKGROUND: Born in Illinois in 1959, Jonathan Franzen grew up in suburban St. Louis. After graduating from Swarthmore College in 1981 with a degree in German, Jonathan Franzen was awarded a Fulbright grant to study literature at the Freie Universität in Berlin.

OCCUPATION: Now an established novelist, Franzen honed his writing skills in Somerville, MA while working weekends at Harvard as a researcher in the seismology lab. He moved to New York in 1987 and published his first novel, *The Twenty-Seventh City*, a political satire about St. Louis, a year later. In 1991 Franzen released his second work, *Strong Motion*.

Franzen's critically acclaimed third novel, *The Corrections*, was awarded the 2001 National Book Award and the *New York Times* Editor's Choice Award. His latest release, a collection of essays entitled *How to Be Alone*, debuted in October 2002.

AWARDS/HONORS: Franzen has been named one of "Twenty Writers for the 21st Century" by *The New Yorker* and one of the "Best Young American Novelists" by *Granta*. Additional awards include the Whiting Writer's Award in 1988 and the American Academy's Berlin Prize in 2000.