



FOR EMBARGOED RELEASE ON TUESDAY, JUNE 6 AT 7PM CST

## THE TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL REVEALS THE FIRST 12 AUTHORS FOR THE 2017 FESTIVAL WEEKEND

*Festival to Showcase Acclaimed Authors Claire Messud, Mark Bittman, and Angie Thomas*

**AUSTIN, TX (June 6, 2017)** – The Texas Book Festival announced today 12 authors who will appear at the highly anticipated 2017 Texas Book Festival Weekend November 4 - 5, including artist, illustrator, and Caldecott Medal honoree **Javaka Steptoe**, bestselling young adult novelist **Angie Thomas**, and *Top Chef* judge **Gail Simmons**.

“Each year, we try to surpass what we’ve done before to engage and delight book lovers from all corners of the state who come to the annual Texas Book Festival to see their favorite authors and to discover new ones,” says Lois Kim, Executive Director.

Following the success of the record-breaking Festival last year, the first round of 2017 Festival authors includes acclaimed young adult novelists, food and cookbook writers, illustrators, and bestselling authors. The lineup includes the following:

**Claire Messud** will present her latest novel, *The Burning Girl*, which is already one of the most anticipated books of 2017. A bracing, hypnotic coming-of-age story about the bond of best friends, *The Burning Girl* is sure to follow the success of *The Emperor’s Children* and *The Woman Upstairs*.

**Angie Thomas** will present her debut novel, *The Hate U Give*, which launched at the top of the *New York Times* Young Adult bestseller list. The searing novel has received starred reviews from eight literary journals - one of the highest amounts ever garnered by a young adult novel - and is about an ordinary girl in extraordinary circumstances who addresses issues of racism and police violence with intelligence, heart, and unflinching honesty.

**Margarita Engle**, the national 2017-2019 Young People’s Poet Laureate, Newbery Honor winner, and PEN USA Award winner, will present two new books at the Festival: *Forest World* and *All the Way to Havana*. *Forest World* is a lively middle grade novel in verse, and *All the Way to Havana* offers, “. . . a child’s view of Cuba that is extremely accessible and as striking as it is unforgettable. A vibrant snapshot of modern Cuba, full of rich, sensory detail.” (*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review.)

**Lisa Ko** will present her highly acclaimed novel *The Leavers*, a vivid and moving examination of borders and belonging, which won the 2016 PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction.

**Mark Bittman**, the celebrated author of 20 acclaimed and bestselling cookbooks and former *New York Times* food-focused Op-Ed columnist, will discuss the forthcoming tenth anniversary edition of his bestselling cookbook, *How to Cook Everything Vegetarian*. *Top Chef* judge and beloved figure in the food world **Gail Simmons** will present her new cookbook, *Bringing It Home: Favorite Recipes from a Life of Adventurous Eating*, in which she shares her best recipes and food experiences.

Young readers will be able to meet **Javaka Steptoe**, a Caldecott and Coretta Scott King Illustrator award-winning artist, designer, and illustrator, present his stunning new picture book which won the 2017 Caldecott Medal, *Radiant Child*.

The sneak peek of 12 authors along with the works they will be presenting at the TBF includes the following:

- Claire Messud – *The Burning Girl*
- Angie Thomas – *The Hate U Give*
- Margarita Engle – *All the Way to Havana* and *Forest World*
- Mark Bittman – *How to Cook Everything Vegetarian*
- Lisa Ko – *The Leavers*
- Jami Attenberg – *All Grown Up*
- Javaka Steptoe – *Radiant Child*
- Colin Meloy and Carson Ellis – *The Whiz Mob and the Grenadine Kid*
- Gail Simmons – *Bringing It Home: Favorite Recipes from a Life of Adventurous Eating*
- Matthew Dowd – *A New Way*
- Roger D. Hodge – *Texas Blood*
- Tomás Q. Morín – *Patient Zero*

In addition to the above authors, the 2017 TBF lineup will feature 250 celebrated and emerging writers, including journalists, artists, scientists, and more.

The 2017 Texas Book Festival poster was created by artist **Joel Salcido**, an Austin-based photographer and author of the new book *The Spirit of Tequila*. His stunning image of a pitayo cactus at sunset evokes the sense of possibility and awe that draws us west and south to the limitless vistas of Texas and beyond. *The Spirit of Tequila* includes nearly ninety photographs that reveal not only the tequila-making process but also the culture and traditions of the region where it's made.

The Festival Weekend includes acclaimed authors at readings, panel discussions, and signings; exhibitor booths and food vendors; tents and venues, including cooking, C-SPAN, children's entertainment, and live music performances. Spread throughout the grounds of the State Capitol and along Austin's iconic Congress Avenue, the 2017 Texas Book Festival Weekend will take place on November 4 and 5.

For more information on the Texas Book Festival, please visit [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org) and follow along on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.

###

### **ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL**

The Texas Book Festival connects authors and readers through experiences that celebrate the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by former First Lady Laura Bush, Mary Margaret Farabee, and a group of volunteers, the nonprofit Texas Book Festival promotes the joys of reading and writing through its annual Festival Weekend, the one-day Texas Teen Book Festival, the Reading Rock Stars program, grants to Texas libraries, Fresh Ink Fiction Contest, and year-round literary programming. The Festival is held on the grounds of the Texas Capitol each fall and features more than 250 renowned authors, panels, book signings, live music, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. The 2017 Texas Book Festival Weekend will take place on November 4 and 5. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org) for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.