



## TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2018 LINEUP FEATURING MORE THAN 280 AUTHORS

*Lineup Presents Phoebe Robinson, Julián Castro, Dessa, Carol Anderson, Mimi Swartz, and More*

**AUSTIN, Texas (August 29, 2018)** – The **Texas Book Festival (TBF)** is excited to host a lineup filled with nationally renowned authors, including **Susan Orlean, John Scalzi, Phoebe Robinson, Scott Kelly, Julián Castro, Jose Antonio Vargas, Dessa, Ben Fountain, Carol Anderson, Mimi Swartz,** and more. The 2018 TBF weekend takes place on October 27 and 28, and is spread throughout the grounds of the Texas State Capitol and along Austin’s iconic Congress Avenue.

TBF showcases first-time novelists and established writers, introducing attendees to new literary talents and connecting them with their favorite authors. Award-winning authors are found throughout the TBF lineup, including **Jose Antonio Vargas**, journalist, filmmaker, and founder and CEO of the nonprofit Define American, who will be presenting his memoir, *Dear America, Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*. Vargas has won the Pulitzer Prize and Freedom to Write Award from PEN Center USA, and his work has appeared internationally in *TIME*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *New Yorker*, and the *Washington Post*.

Stand-up comedian and actress **Phoebe Robinson** will present her new essay collection, *Everything’s Trash, But It’s Okay*. Robinson currently hosts *Sooo Many White Guys* podcast and *2 Dope Queens* podcast with Jessica Williams, which was turned into four one-hour HBO specials. Her first book, *You Can’t Touch My Hair*, was a *New York Times* bestseller.

Former U.S. Navy fighter pilot, test pilot, and NASA astronaut **Scott Kelly** will present his national bestseller *Endurance: My Year in Space, A Lifetime of Discovery*. A veteran of four space flights and the American record holder for consecutive days spent in space, Kelly takes us inside the extreme challenges of long-term spaceflight in a story that shows the triumph of the human imagination, the strength of human will, and the infinite wonder of the galaxy.

*New York Times* bestselling author **Ben Fountain** will present *Beautiful Country Burn Again*, a sweeping work of reportage on politics set over the course of 2016. Fountain is the author of *Brief Encounters with Che Guevara*, which won the PEN/Hemingway Award and the Barnes & Noble Award for Fiction, and the novel *Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk*, winner of the National Book Critics’ Circle Award and a finalist for the National Book Award. His series of essays published in *The Guardian* on the 2016 U.S. presidential election was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Commentary.

**Susan Orlean** has been a staff writer at *The New Yorker* since 1992, and is the author of seven books, including *Rin Tin Tin*, *Saturday Night*, and *The Orchid Thief*, which was made into the Academy Award-winning film *Adaptation*. Orlean will present her most recent work, *The Library Book*, where she reopens the unsolved mystery of the most catastrophic library fire in American history and delivers a dazzling love letter to a beloved institution—our libraries.

Award-winning author **John Scalzi** will present two titles—*Head On*, the standalone follow-up to the *New York Times* bestselling and critically acclaimed *Lock In*, and *The Consuming Fire*, the dazzling follow-up to the science fiction space opera novel, *The Collapsing Empire*. Scalzi has won the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer and Romantic Times Reviews Choice Award for science fiction, and is the author of several books, including *Redshirts*, the 2013 Hugo Award for Best Novel, and *Old Man's War*, a finalist for the Hugo Award.

Numerous Young Adult and children's book authors are a part of this year's TBF lineup, including **Ransom Riggs, Dhonielle Clayton, Sharon Draper, Yuyi Morales, Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson, Soman Chainani, and Megan McDonald**. In addition to great authors, TBF offers special programming throughout the weekend for kids, spanning from educational programs to family fun activities, games, and more.

The 2018 TBF author lineup features a diverse array of topics, genres, and writers, including acclaimed poets, illustrators, and bestselling authors of both fiction and nonfiction. The Festival Weekend will also showcase acclaimed authors who were previously announced, including **Cecile Richards, Pete Souza, Tayari Jones, Erin Entrada Kelly, Sandra Cisneros, David Grann, Leslie Jamison, Mary Pope Osborne, Chloe Benjamin, Alexander Chee, Alfredo Corchado, Joe Holley, Sandhya Menon, Fatima Farheen Mizra, Walter Mosley, Tommy Orange, and V.E. Schwab**.

"It's an honor to welcome so many wonderful authors to Texas," says Literary Director Julie Wernersbach. "The breadth and quality of work published this year has made for an embarrassment of riches at this year's Festival. We're thrilled to bring these authors together for conversations we know will resonate with Texas readers. We cannot wait for October!"

More than 280 writers, including chefs, photographers, activists, and more, make up the exciting 2018 TBF lineup. One of the nation's premier literary events and longest-running book festivals, The Festival continues to be free and open to the public thanks to its generous and dedicated sponsors and volunteers. The Festival brings together more than 50,000 attendees, kids' activities, food trucks, book signings, sales, and 100 exhibitors in and around the State Capitol over two full days.

The weekend kicks off with the First Edition Literary Gala, featuring presidential historian and author of *Presidents of War*, **Michael Beschloss**; award-winning essayist, poet, and highly acclaimed author of *The House of Broken Angels*, **Luis Alberto Urrea**; **Celeste Ng**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Little Fires Everywhere*; and **Jacqueline Woodson**, the 2018-2019 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and award-winning author of *Harbor Me* and *The Day You Begin*. **Jake Silverstein**, writer and *New York Times Magazine* editor-in-chief, will emcee this year's gala on Friday, October 26 at the Four Seasons Hotel Austin.

The 2018 Texas Book Festival is co-presented by H-E-B and AT&T. Other major sponsors include *Kirkus Reviews*, Brigid Cockrum and Family, Tocker Foundation, Buena Vista Foundation,

C-SPAN 2/Book TV, St. David's HealthCare, Central Market, *Texas Monthly*, *Austin American-Statesman*, and Pentagram.

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.

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### **ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL**

With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, 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, the 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, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. The 2018 Texas Book Festival Weekend will take place October 27 – 28. 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.