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October 21, 2013

Please note: Media credentials are required to cover the Texas Book Festival. Credentialed media receive priority access to author sessions. Please complete the form located here http://texasbookfestival.org/Press_Room.php and return to allison@brendathompson.com.

Texas Book Festival hosts children’s authors, books, entertainment for family audiences—Oct. 26-27

R.L. Stine, Lemony Snicket, Jon Scieszka, The Biscuit Brothers, and more

AUSTIN— The Texas Book Festival will feature some of the nation’s most entertaining children’s authors and books on Oct. 26 and 27 at the State Capitol and surrounding areas and activities, as well as an array of family-friendly activities, events, and entertainment. The Festival is free and open to the public.

“For families, everything we offer at the Festival looks, smells, and tastes like free fun—stories read by the actual authors of favorite picture books, DIY craft activities, and a kids’ fashion show emceed by Jon Scieszka and Mac Barnett,” says Festival executive director Lois Kim. “But our goal is serious: we want kids to read more and to get excited about reading. Authors are our secret weapon for improving literacy in Texas.”

Children’s book authors and programming highlights include R.L. Stine, author of the famed *Goosebumps* series, with his new book *A Midsummer’s Night Scream*; Lemony Snicket (*All the Wrong Questions*); Bob Shea (*Unicorn Thinks He’s Pretty Great*); Caldecott winner Chris Raschka (*Daisy Gets Lost*); a panel called “Dyslexia Awareness Month” with a screening of the documentary *Embracing Dyslexia* followed by a Q&A with director Luis Macias; and more.

From Newberry award-winning author Katherine Applegate comes *The One and Only Ivan*, about a gorilla living in captivity in a mall. “Kids, parents, and any aspiring MFA student should read Applegate. Her economy with language makes for a powerful, poignant read,” says Festival literary director Steph Opitz.

The youngest readers will enjoy the Children’s Chapter, by presenting sponsor H-E-B, which includes the Children’s Read Me a Story Tent, the Children’s Entertainment Tent, and the Children’s Activity Tent.

The Children's Activity Tent, located on Colorado Street between 12th and 13th streets, features:

- *Therapy Dogs*, Sat. 10 a.m. Austin Dog Alliance and author Marcia Goldman present Lola and the rest of the "Bow Wow Reading Dogs"
- *Storybook Character Fashion Show*, Sat. 11 a.m., kids are invited to come dressed as their favorite storybook character and walk the runway with emcees Jon Scieskza and Mac Barnett

All Over the Alphabet, Sat. noon, alphabet activities, crafts, and stories with teachers from Rawson Saunders School, the only full-curriculum school in central Texas for children with dyslexia

- *Tour the Town: A Patchwork Quilt of Austin*, Sat. 1 p.m., create your own scene with author Alison Amador and illustrator Tammy Stanley, the creators of *Goodnight Austin: A bedtime book for all who (heart) Austin*
- *TLA presents 2x the Fun*, Sat. 2 p.m., learn how to expand your child's reading experiences with fun activities you can both share after reading award-winning 2x2 books
- *Outside Voice and Slow Family Living*, Sat. 3- 5 p.m., providing fun exercises to teach kids and parents how to use storytelling to create connections in the day to day
- *Create a Calavera!*, Sun. 11 a.m., get ready for Dia de los Muertos by coloring or crafting your own paper calavera
- *KLRU/PBS Kids Transmedia Demonstration Station*, Sun. noon- 3 p.m., parents and kids can get to know the latest PBS Kids releases, including educational video, games, and digital storybooks through KLRU's mobile iPad station
- *Made By You!*, Sun. 3:15- 4 p.m., come by to create your own Texas Book Festival souvenir

The Children's Entertainment Tent, located on West Capitol Driveway near Colorado Street, has a fun-filled lineup of performances including:

- *Magician Kent Cummins*, Sat. 10 a.m., magician, juggler, puppeteer, teacher and writer Cummins puts on an unforgettable show that's sure to entertain audience members of any age
- *The Biscuit Brothers*, Sat. 11 a.m., the hosts of the EMMY Award-winning PBS kids' music and education program will capture all that's best about children's music
- *Fiction Writing Contest Awards*, Sat. noon, the young winners of the Texas Book Festival's Fiction Contest for grades 7-12, sponsored by Kirkus Reviews, are awarded their plaques and discuss their dreams and aspirations on a panel
- *Poetry Fun*, Sat. 1 p.m., enjoy poetry fun with Rawson Saunders Students
- *Boitumelo*, Sat. 2 p.m., songs and stories of South Africa
- *Mr. Johnny and Sharon*, Sat. 4 p.m.
- *Hand to Mouth Puppet Theatre*, Sun. 11 a.m., puppeteer, painter, graphic artist, costume designer, and book illustrator Ellen Turner Scott amazes with the art of puppetry

- *Walter Tragert*, Sun. noon, singer/songwriter Tragert performs hits from his children's music album, *Rough Day in the Sandbox*
- *Joe McDermott*, Sun. 1 p.m., "the maestro of imagination" performs his critically acclaimed children's music
- *Joaquin Hancock and the Hancock Family Band with Chataqua*, Sun. 2 p.m.
- *McCallum High School Knights of Steel*, Sun. 3 p.m., a returning Festival favorite, the steel band entertains with its musical stylings

The Children's Read Me a Story Tent, located at 13th and Colorado streets, features:

- Caldecott winner Chris Raschka, Sat. 10 a.m., *Daisy Gets Lost*, with the same emotional intensity in his New York Times bestselling and New York Times Best Illustrated picture book *A Ball for Daisy*, Raschka follows Daisy the dog on her next big adventure, which explores the unease of being lost and the joys of being found
- Tejas Star winner Monica Brown, Sat. 10:30 a.m., *Marisol McDonald and the Clash Bash*, a heartwarming bilingual story told in English and Spanish that once again brings fictional character Marisol McDonald, a free-spirited Peruvian-Scottish-American girl, to life as she plans her unconventional birthday party
- Elizabeth Suneby, Sat. 11 a.m., *Razia's Ray of Hope*, an inspiring tale of one girl's dream of getting an education
- Yuyi Morales, Sat. 11:30 a.m., *Nino Wrestles the World*, chronicles the adventures of Niño—popsicle eater, toy lover, somersault expert, and world champion lucha libre competitor
- Adam Rubin, Sat. noon, *Secret Pizza Party*, an oddball, hilarious how-to guide for would-be dragon taco party hosts
- Caldecott winner Liz Scanlon, Sat. 12:30, *Happy Birthday Bunny*, a fun and cozy celebration of birthdays that is sure to put a smile on even the crankiest child's face
- Caldecott winner and grandson of Ludwig Bemelmans, author of the original Madeline books, John Bemelmans Marciano, Sat. 1 p.m., *Madeline and the Old House in Paris*, replicating the spirit and book of the much-admired original series, mischievous Madeleine embarks on her wildest adventure yet when ghostly moans lead her to the attic of the old house in Paris
- Jon Scieszka and Mac Barnett, Sat. 1:30 p.m. *Battle Bunny*, a wildly entertaining and creative picture book that transforms before your eyes from a story about innocent rabbit's journey through the forest into a super-secret mission to unleash an evil plan
- Pura Belpre award winner Duncan Tonatiuh, Sat. 2 p.m., *Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote*, an allegorical picture book that brings to light the hardship and struggles faced by thousands of families who seek to make better lives for themselves and their children by illegally crossing the border
- Kate Hosford, Sat. 2:30 p.m., *Infinity and Me*, an unusual, philosophical picture book makes the seemingly difficult concept of infinity approachable and interesting for children and adults alike
- Bluebonnet Master List Announcement, Sat. 3 p.m.

- Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin, Sat. 3:30 p.m. *Click, Clack, Boo!*, a spooky spin on a classic tale from the #1 New York Times best-selling creators of *Click, Click, Moo!*
- Bob Shea, Sun. 11 a.m., *Unicorn Thinks He's Pretty Great*, a fun and colorful story with a great message that promotes friendship and not judging others
- Don Tate, Sun. 11:30 a.m., *Hope's Gift*, a poignant story celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation
- Jon Agee, Sun. noon, *Little Santa*, an inspired account of how Santa became Santa, offering clues from the jolly man's boyhood and upbringing
- Central Texas Writing Project, Sun. 12:30 p.m.
- Adam Rex, Sun. 1 p.m., *Moonday*, a stunningly evocative story of what happens when the moon lands in a girl's backyard
- Robert F. Sibert Honor and New York Times Best Illustrated award winner Brian Floca, Sun. 1:30- 2 p.m., *Locomotive*, a rich and detailed sensory exploration of America's early railroads
- Bob Staake, Sun. 2- 2:30 p.m., *Bluebird*, readers will be captivated as they follow the journey of a bluebird as he develops a friendship with a young boy and ultimately risks his life to save the boy from harm
- Herman Parish, Sun. 2:30- 3 p.m. *Amelia Bedelia Chapter Book #1*, features loveable protagonist Amelia Bedelia on a quest to get the bicycle of her dreams
- Edward Hemingway, Sun. 3- 3:30 p.m., *Bad Apple*, warm art and simple, crisp text are the perfect pairing, and themes of bullying and friendship are sure to hit readers' sweet spots all year round

Other notable children's sessions, events, and more include:

***The One and Only Ivan* with Katherine Applegate**

Saturday, 2:15- 3 p.m.

The Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St.

From award-winning author Katherine Applegate comes *The One and Only Ivan*. This book, which won the Newberry this year, is about a gorilla living in captivity in a mall. Applegate blends humor and poignancy to create Ivan's unforgettable first-person narration in a story of friendship, art, and hope.

***All the Answers* with Ken Jennings**

Saturday, 4:15- 5 p.m.

The Sanctuary at First United Methodist Church, 1201 Lavaca St.

Jeopardy champion Ken Jennings separates myth from fact to debunk a wide variety of parental edicts— no swimming after meals, sit up straight, don't talk to strangers, and so on— as he discusses his new book *Because I Said So!: The Truth Behind the Myths, Tales, and Warnings Every Generation Passes Down to Its Kids*. Armed with medical case histories, scientific findings, and even the occasional experiment on himself (or his kids), Jennings exposes countless examples of parental wisdom run amok. Whether you are a parent who wants to know what you can stop worrying about or a kid of any age looking to say, "I told you

so,” this is the book you have been waiting for.

For the entire children’s authors, events, and activities lineup, please view the Texas Book Festival schedule at www.texasbookfestival.org.

H-E-B is the presenting sponsor of the 2013 Festival. Additional major sponsors include: Kirkus Reviews, Barnes & Noble, Brigid Cockrum and Family, Texas Monthly, Central Market, Tocker Foundation, Buena Vista Foundation, C-SPAN2/Book TV, Austin American-Statesman, Pentgram, and media partners KUT and KLRU.

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About the Texas Book Festival

The Texas Book Festival is a nonprofit organization that celebrates authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by Laura Bush, Mary Margaret Farabee, and a group of dedicated volunteers, the Festival is held on the grounds of the Texas Capitol every fall. The Festival features author readings from more than 225 renowned Texas and national authors, panel discussions, book signings, musical entertainment, live cooking demonstrations, and children’s activities. Thanks to donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. The TBF supports Texas public libraries and literacy through its Library Grants and Reading Rock Stars programs, and also hosts events year-round. Visit www.texasbookfestival.org for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook and Twitter @texasbookfest.

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