



## **ETHAN HAWKE, DIANE GUERRERO, CARL HIAASEN, AND MARCUS SAMUELSSON TO BE FEATURED PRESENTERS AT FIRST EDITION LITERARY GALA ON NOVEMBER 4**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS** (August 31, 2016) – The **Texas Book Festival** is excited to host a star-studded lineup of presenters, including actor-authors **Ethan Hawke** and **Diane Guerrero**; acclaimed journalist and novelist **Carl Hiaasen**; and chef and restaurateur **Marcus Samuelsson** at the 2016 First Edition Literary Gala. Children’s book writer Jon Scieszka will emcee this year’s gala, to be held on Friday, November 4 at the Four Seasons Hotel Austin.

“Because we are fortunate to host renowned authors and notable personalities, the gala continues to be a highly anticipated annual experience for our supporters,” says Karen Brimble, Texas Book Festival board chair.

A popular and elegant prelude to the TBF Weekend, the First Edition Literary Gala draws literary luminaries, dignitaries, and cultural arts supporters to help keep the TBF Weekend free and support all of its programs offered throughout the year, including Reading Rock Stars, Texas Public Library Grants, and Youth Fiction Writing Contest for students. Sarah Queen, Ana Ruelas, and Heidi Marquez Smith are this year’s gala co-chairs.

The year’s featured presenters include:

**Ethan Hawke:** Accomplished actor, screenwriter, film and theatre director, and novelist. He has been nominated for Academy Awards for both acting and writing, a Tony award, and a Drama Desk Award for both acting and directing.

**Diane Guerrero:** Actress on the hit shows *Orange is the New Black* and *Jane the Virgin*. She volunteers with the nonprofit Immigrant Legal Resource Center, as well as with Mi Familia Vota, an organization that promotes civic involvement, and has written a novel titled *In The Country We Love: My Family Divided*, which details the day her parents were detained and deported while she was at school.

The White House has named her an Ambassador for Citizenship and Naturalization.

**Carl Hiaasen:** Award-winning author of thirteen novels, including the best-sellers *Bad Monkey*, *Star Island*, *Nature Girl*, *Skinny Dip*, *Sick Puppy*, and *Lucky You*, and five best-selling children's books, *Hoot*, *Flush*, *Scat*, *Chomp*, and *Skink*. His most recent work of nonfiction is *Dance of the Reptiles*, a collection of his columns from the *Miami Herald*.

**Marcus Samuelsson:** An Ethiopian-born and Swedish-raised chef and restaurateur, he has been named Best Chef: New York City by the James Beard Foundation and was also the youngest ever to receive a three-star restaurant review from the *New York Times*. Samuelsson has released multiple cookbooks, including *New American Table*, *The Soul of a New Cuisine*, *Marcus Off Duty*, *Yes, Chef*, and, most recently, *Make it Messy: My Perfectly Imperfect Life*, which is aimed at young adults.

**Jon Scieszka:** Emcee for the evening, he is the author of the *New York Times*-best-selling *Frank Einstein* series. His books have sold more than 11 million copies. He is also the author of *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*, *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs*, the *Time Warp Trio* series, the *Spaceheadz* series, and *Battle Bunny*, coauthored by Mac Barnett. In 2008, the Library of Congress named Scieszka the inaugural National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. He is also the founder of Guys Read, a web-based literacy program for boys.

Limited First Edition Literary Gala tables and seats are available via the TBF website or by calling 512-477-4055. Individual tickets cost \$500, with various sponsorship levels to purchase tables for 10 or 12 guests available as well.

The 2016 Texas Book Festival is co-presented by H-E-B and AT&T. Other major sponsors include Brigid Cockrum and family, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Texas Monthly*, the Tocker Foundation, C-SPAN2 Book TV, St. David's HealthCare, Buena Vista Foundation, Pentagram, Central Market, and the *Austin American-Statesman*.

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**

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, youth fiction writing 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 2016 Texas Book Festival Weekend will take place on November 5 and 6, and the 2016 Texas Teen Book Festival will be held on October 1. 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.