



TEXAS
BOOK
FESTIVAL

For more information, please contact:
Brenda Thompson, 512-461-5644
brenda@brendathompson.com

For downloadable high-res photos, logos, Festival poster, credential request forms, fact sheets, news releases and more, go to <http://www.texasbookfestival.org/pressroom/>

August 28, 2015

**Margaret Atwood, Taye Diggs, Scott Simon
to be featured presenters at Texas Book Fest Gala Oct. 16**

AUSTIN—Acclaimed novelist Margaret Atwood; actor, Broadway star, and children’s book author Taye Diggs; and National Public Radio host and author Scott Simon will be featured presenters at the Texas Book Festival’s First Edition Literary Gala at the Four Seasons Hotel on Friday, Oct. 16.

The popular, elegant prelude to the Texas Book Festival Weekend, the Gala is expected to draw a record number of literary luminaries, dignitaries, and cultural arts supporters as the Festival celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

The Gala supports the Festival and all of its charitable programs, including Reading Rock Stars, Texas Public Library Grants, and the Fiction Writing Contest for students. This year’s Gala is co-chaired by three sisters: Sarah Queen, Mary Clare Matthews, and Denise Laurienti, daughters of former Festival board chair Jan Hughes and husband David Hughes.

For the second year, this year’s Gala will include an Afterparty, also at the Four Seasons, with tickets for \$75. Attendees will have the opportunity to mingle with Festival authors in a late-night, cocktail party setting and be entertained by local funk-rock band Austin Heat, whose lead singer recently appeared on NBC’s The Voice.

Limited Gala tables and individual seats are available; the event sells out every year. To purchase tickets, call 512-477-4055 or email claire@texasbookfestival.org. Individual

tickets are \$500. Preferred Leather Bound tables are \$10,000, and Hard Cover tables are \$5,000. Gold Leaf and Authors' Circle sponsorships, which include extensive Festival VIP benefits, are \$25,000 and \$15,000, respectively. For more information, go to <https://www.texasbookfestival.org/2015-first-edition-literary-gala/>.

The 2015 Texas Book Festival is co-presented by AT&T and H-E-B. Other major sponsors include Brigid Cockrum and family, Kirkus Reviews, the Texas College Savings Plan, Texas Monthly, the Tocker Foundation, C-SPAN2 Book TV, St. David's HealthCare, Buena Vista Foundation, Pentagram, Central Market, and the Austin American-Statesman.

###

About the Texas Book Festival

The Texas Book Festival celebrates authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by 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 happening September 26, the Reading Rock Stars program, grants to Texas libraries, a 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-plus renowned authors, panels, book signings, live music, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit www.texasbookfestival.org for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on [Facebook](#); and @txbookfest on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).