



THE TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL REVEALS THE FIRST 16 AUTHORS AND OFFICIAL POSTER FOR THE 2016 FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Festival to Showcase Acclaimed Authors
Lois Lowry, Jacqueline Woodson, Justin Cronin, Diane Guerrero,
and Former First Lady and TBF Founder, Laura Bush

AUSTIN, TX (June 15, 2016) – The Texas Book Festival announced today the first 16 authors for the 2016 Texas Book Festival Weekend, including Newbery Medalists **Lois Lowry** and **Jacqueline Woodson**, bestselling novelist **Justin Cronin**, actress **Diane Guerrero**, and TBF Founder **Laura Bush**, along with her daughter, *Today Show* Correspondent **Jenna Bush Hager**. Additionally, the TBF revealed the Festival poster featuring **On The Devil's Backbone**, an illustration by the late, Dallas-based award-winning artist **Jack Unruh**.

"The Texas Book Festival holds a very special place in my heart. I am honored to participate in the festival that I founded, especially to present a book that I authored with my daughter, Jenna," says Laura Bush. "We love spending time outdoors and hope that our new children's book, *Our Great Big Backyard*, will encourage families to explore our country's best idea: our national parks."

In addition to TBF Founder **Laura Bush** and **Jenna Bush Hager**, the first round of 2016 Festival authors includes the following: **Maria Semple**, whose hilarious novel, *Where'd You Go Bernadette*, was a runaway bestseller and whose screen credits include *Beverly Hills, 90210*; *Mad About You*; *Saturday Night Live*; *Arrested Development*; *Suddenly Susan*, and *Ellen*, will speak about her new novel, *Today Will Be Different*.

Diane Guerrero, an actress known for her roles in *Orange is the New Black* and *Jane the Virgin*, will discuss her new memoir, *In the Country We Love: My Family Divided*, the

story of her family's struggle as undocumented immigrants. Debut author **Yaa Gyasi** will present her highly acclaimed, new novel, *Homegoing*, a story that traces three hundred years and several generations of a family in Ghana.

Eileen Myles, an American poet and writer who has produced more than twenty volumes of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, libretti, plays, and performance pieces over the last three decades, will discuss her latest poetry collection, *I Must Be Living Twice: New and Selected Poems 1975 - 2014*. Houston-based novelist **Justin Cronin** will present *The City of Mirrors*, the finale to his bestselling, epic trilogy that began with *The Passage*. And young readers will have the opportunity to meet former NFL football player **Trevor Pryce**, who will present his book for middle grade readers, *Amphibians' End: A Kulipari Novel*.

The full list of sixteen authors along with their notable works includes the following:

- Eileen Myles – *I Must Be Living Twice: New and Selected Poems 1975 - 2014*
- Justin Cronin – *The City of Mirrors*
- Jacqueline Woodson – *Another Brooklyn*
- Maria Semple – *Today Will Be Different*
- Laura Bush and Jenna Bush Hager – *Our Great Big Backyard*
- Kwame Alexander – *Booked*
- Lois Lowry – *Looking Back: A Book of Memories*
- Trevor Pryce – *Amphibians' End: A Kulipari Novel*
- Ha Jin – *The Boat Rocker*
- Julissa Arce – *My (Underground) American Dream: My True Story as an Undocumented Immigrant Who Became a Wall Street Executive*
- Skip Hollandsworth – *The Midnight Assassin: Panic, Scandal, and the Hunt for America's First Serial Killer*
- Bill Wittliff – *The Devil's Sinkhole*
- Diane Guerrero – *In the Country We Love: My Family Divided*
- Yaa Gyasi – *Homegoing*
- Andrés Neuman – *How to Travel without Seeing: Dispatches from the New Latin America*

The 2016 Texas Book Festival poster, which was also revealed today, features art work by the late Texas artist **Jack Unruh** that is generously provided courtesy of The Wittliff Collections at Texas State University and University of Texas Press. The image is an illustration from Festival author **Bill Wittliff's** previous book, *The Devil's Backbone*.

"Jack illustrated my book—and became my friend while he was at it. It pleases me hugely that his wonderful work will forever be a part of my book," Wittliff says.

Unruh's works have been published in *Entertainment Weekly*, *Rolling Stone*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Readers Digest*, *New York Magazine*, *National*

Geographic, Sports Afield, Field and Stream, GQ, Road and Track, and Texas Monthly. Unruh is a recipient of both gold and silver medals from the New York Society of Illustrators and was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2006.

The 2016 TBF lineup will feature the above 16 authors, accompanied by more than 250 additional writers, including chefs, screenwriters, comedians, and more. The Festival Weekend includes 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 2016 Texas Book Festival Weekend takes place November 5 and 6, 2016.

For more information on the Texas Book Festival, please visit 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, 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 for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.