



THE TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES MORE THAN 280 AUTHORS AS PART OF THE 2016 LINEUP

Exciting Lineup to Feature Don DeLillo, Emma Cline, Thomas Dolby, Francine Prose, Benjamin Alire Sáenz, Diana Kennedy, Padma Lakshmi, Amor Towles, and More

AUSTIN, TEXAS (September 15, 2016) – The **Texas Book Festival** is excited to host a lineup filled with nationally renowned presenters, including **Don DeLillo, Benjamin Alire Sáenz, Diana Kennedy, Thomas Dolby, Emma Cline, Padma Lakshmi, Amor Towles, Francine Prose, Lawrence Wright, Phoebe Robinson, Jane Alexander, Robert Olen Butler, Jon Klassen, R.L. Stine**, and more. The 2016 TBF weekend takes place on November 5 and 6, spread throughout the grounds of the Texas State Capitol and along Austin’s iconic Congress Avenue.

Award-winning authors are found throughout the TBF lineup, including literary legend **Don DeLillo**, an American novelist, playwright, and essayist well known for such acclaimed works as *White Noise* and *Underworld*, whose subjects range from television and sports to nuclear war and performance art. Co-presented by the TBF and the Harry Ransom Center, DeLillo will appear in conversation with author and screenwriter Noah Hawley about DeLillo’s latest novel, *Zero K*, at the Festival.

Benjamin Alire Sáenz, the recipient of this year’s Texas Writer Award, is an author of poetry and prose for both adults and teens. He has been awarded numerous accolades, including the PEN/Faulkner Award, the American Book Award, the Printz Honor Book, the Stonewall Book Award, the Pura Belpré Award, and more.

In addition to producing hit singles “She Blinded Me with Science” and “Hyperactive,” English musician and producer **Thomas Dolby** is also known for being the music director at the TED Conference and a technology entrepreneur in Silicon Valley. Dolby will discuss his newest work slated for an October 2016 release, *The Speed of Sound: Breaking the Barriers Between Music and Technology*.

Tackling history head-on with one of the hottest books of 2016, **Emma Cline’s** *The Girls* reimagines the American novel for a new generation. The author, who is just 27 years old, is at work on a new novel and will discuss her accomplishments and future plans at the TBF.

Widely known as the author of *Goosebumps*, the children’s horror-book series that since morphed into video games, toys, television shows, and more, **R.L. Stine** has sold more than 400 million copies in his career. Stine will take to the TBF stage to share his latest book for middle grade

readers, *Young Scrooge: A Very Scary Christmas Story*, a new, nightmarish take on the Dickens classic, *A Christmas Carol*.

Padma Lakshmi, the host of the Emmy Award-winning, top-rated Bravo series *Top Chef*, will present *The Encyclopedia of Spices and Herbs*. Lakshmi is the author of two previous cookbooks: the award-winning *Easy Exotic* and *Tangy, Tart, Hot & Sweet*, and the memoir *Love, Loss, and What We Ate*. The first internationally successful Indian supermodel, she has appeared in numerous fashion spreads and has walked the runway for designers Ralph Lauren, Emmanuel Ungaro, and Alberta Ferretti, and starred in campaigns for Versus and Roberto Cavalli.

Diana Kennedy, James Beard Award-winning author of classic cookbooks that have changed the way many Americans cook and consider Mexican cuisine, has updated and expanded her highly acclaimed cookbook, *Nothing Fancy*. The culminating work of an illustrious career, *Nothing Fancy* is an irreplaceable opportunity to spend time in the kitchen with Diana Kennedy, whose many honors include induction into the James Beard Foundation Cookbook Hall of Fame, a Life Achievement Award from the International Association of Cooking Professionals, the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle, and the Member of the Order of the British Empire.

Additional renowned writers who are part of the 2016 TBF lineup include **Nick Offerman, Hannah Hart, T. C. Boyle, Jacqueline Woodson, Maria Semple, David Cay Johnston, Jeff Chang, Kwame Alexander, Jessica Luther, Alberto Gonzales, Jane Alexander, and Okey Ndibe**. The Festival also features authors discussing their exciting debut and breakout novels, such as **Nicole Dennis-Benn, Jade Chang, Rufi Thorpe, Stephanie Danler, Yaa Gyasi, Eimear McBride, and Natashia Deón**.

“We are hosting some big marquee names this year, and it’s exciting to see the trend of prominent artists—actors, comedians, performance artists—writing books,” says Lois Kim, the Festival’s executive director. “But one of the best things about our deep and diverse lineup is the opportunity for discovery. There is so much talent in this list, and we can’t wait for people to dive in and find their next favorite author at the Festival, which is free to attend, thanks to the Festival’s generous supporters and dedicated volunteer army.”

A total of more than 280 writers, including chefs, actors, YouTube-stars, and more, are part of the 2016 Texas Book Festival lineup. One of the nation’s premier literary events and longest-running book festivals in the country, the Festival continues to be free and open to the public thanks to sponsors and volunteers. Additionally, the Festival brings more than 40,000 attendees, live music, kids’ activities, food trucks, book signings and sales, and 100 exhibitors all in and around the State Capitol over two full days.

The weekend also kicks off with the First Edition Literary Gala, featuring actor-authors **Ethan Hawke** and **Diane Guerrero**; acclaimed journalist and novelist **Carl Hiaasen**; and chef and restaurateur **Marcus Samuelsson** as presenters. 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.

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, Pentagonam, Central Market, and the *Austin American-Statesman*.

For more information on the Texas Book Festival, please visit 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 280 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.