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Please note: Media credentials are required to cover the Texas Book Festival. Credentialled media receive priority access to author sessions. Please complete the form located here: <http://www.texasbookfestival.org/pressroom/> and return to allison@brendathompson.com by Oct. 15. Festival photos, facts, and news releases are also available at the pressroom link. A high-res image of the 2014 Festival poster can be downloaded here: <http://tinyurl.com/nlI9o7y>

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Texas Book Festival 2014 author lineup announced

Martin Amis, Joyce Carol Oates, Walter Mosley, Norman Lear, Lidia Bastianich, Ziggy Marley among headlining authors

AUSTIN—More than 275 authors are coming to the 2014 Texas Book Festival, the largest lineup in the Festival's 19-year history, it was announced tonight.

Nationally renowned authors coming to this year's Festival include Martin Amis, Joyce Carol Oates, Walter Mosley, Norman Lear, Lidia Bastianich, Ziggy Marley, James Ellroy, Katherine Applegate, Nicholas D. Kristof, John Dean, Valerie Plame Wilson, and Héctor Tobar.

Headlining authors also include Charles Blow, Emily St. John Mandel, Michael Ruhlman, Douglas Brinkley, Richard Linklater, Francisco Goldman, Meg Wolitzer, Jacqueline Woodson, and Sarah Bird. The entire list of authors is available online at www.texasbookfestival.org.

"This year is bigger than ever, with more authors, more titles, and more sessions," says Steph Opitz, Festival literary director. "It wasn't that we intentionally set out to make it bigger, it's that there were so many fantastic submissions we fell in love with this year that we had to make more room."

Several themes have emerged in the lineup, Opitz says, and they are as exciting and diverse as Festival fans have come to anticipate. It's "the year of the chef," Opitz says, with 12 cookbooks. There are two powerhouse books on Nixon and Watergate, immigration in fiction and nonfiction, a strong poetry showing, poker, small presses, and graphic novels.

More than 40,000 people are expected to attend the Texas Book Festival Oct. 25 and 26. One of the nation's premier literary events, the Festival continues to be free and open to the public. The Texas Teen Book Festival, newly under the auspices of the Texas Book Festival, will be held Oct. 18 at St. Edward's University, "bookending" the Festival Weekend.

The Texas Book Festival Weekend kicks off with the First Edition Literary Gala, Friday, Oct. 24 at the Four Seasons Hotel. Headlining authors who will speak at the Gala are Martin Amis, Walter Mosley, Lidia Bastianich, and Katherine Applegate. Proceeds from the Gala help keep the Festival free of charge, and support the TBF's Reading Rock Stars Literacy Program, which provides author visits and book donations to children in low-income schools, and Texas Library Grants, awarded annually to selected libraries across the state.

For the first time, there will be an after party following the Gala, at 9:30 p.m. at the Four Seasons for Gala guests and also as a separate event with tickets for \$75. Cocktails with the Authors will give guests an opportunity to mingle with authors, and will also allow more people to be part of the Gala festivities.

"What amazes me daily is the depth and breadth of support for the Book Festival," says Lois Kim, executive director. "That support is why we're expanding our Reading Rock Stars program to Houston, why we gave more than \$60,000 in grants to public libraries this year, and why we've been able to add the Texas Teen Book Festival to our programming."

The 2014 Festival poster, by renowned photographer Dan Winters, is an image of a vintage movie palace in Seguin. Winters is internationally known for his celebrity portraits, photojournalism, and illustrations. He will present his book, *Road to Seeing*, at the Festival.

Major sponsors of the Texas Book Festival include presenting sponsor H-E-B plus Brigid Cockrum and Family, Texas Monthly, the Tocker Foundation, AT&T, Buena Vista Foundation, Pentagram, the Austin American-Statesman, Central Market, Kirkus Reviews, C-SPAN and new this year, Lincoln Motor Company.

A favorite perk for donors who give \$100 or more is the Fast Pass, which allows Festival-goers plus a guest priority line access to designated author sessions. To make a donation and receive a Fast Pass go to www.texasbookfestival.org.

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About 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, 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 275 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 Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.