



**TEXAS**  
**BOOK**  
**FESTIVAL**

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**Please note: Media credentials are required to cover the Texas Book Festival.** Credentialed media receive priority access to author sessions. Please complete and submit the online form located here <http://www.texasbookfestival.org/2015-media-credentials>. High-res Festival photos, the 2015 poster image, facts, and news releases are also available at the pressroom link.

Changes to the Festival schedule will be continually updated and posted here:  
<http://www.texasbookfestival.org/schedule-updates-2015/>

September 24, 2015

**20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Texas Book Fest schedule!**  
**Author panels, Lit Crawl, music, kids' activities, food**

***Oct. 17 and 18 at the State Capitol; free and open to the public***

AUSTIN—The 20th anniversary Texas Book Festival schedule released today includes the largest number of authors in its history (more than 300), dozens of author panels and readings, two days of live music, children's activities, cooking demonstrations, Lit Crawl Austin, and more. The complete schedule is available at [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org).

A few standout themes this year: nonfiction and fiction books about music, a panel on crime survivors' perspectives, top authors who are fans of each other (Jonathan Lethem and Adrian Tomine), former presidential candidates, experts on past presidencies, football, fantasy and paranormal activity, and renowned journalists on topical matters including ISIS, border issues, and race.

"This year is especially exciting as we celebrate the Texas Book Festival's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary," says Marc Winkelman, the chair of the Festival's board of directors. "We

asked volunteers, authors, and attendees to share their stories, and collected 20 of the best to share. These stories are a powerful testament to the many ways in which the Festival touches people's lives, and to its cultural legacy, now spanning two decades," Winkelman says.

**Schedule highlights on Saturday, Oct. 17, include:**

**10-10:45 Margaret Atwood Goes First on *The Heart Goes Last***

Acclaimed author **Margaret Atwood** discusses her dark new novel, *The Heart Goes Last*.

**10:30- 11:15 Dave Goulson, *The Bee's Knees***

From the biologist and conservationist who wrote *A Sting in The Tale* comes the story of how Goulson revitalized a farm in rural France and found a place for bumblebees to thrive, along with many other creatures.

**1:00-3:00 The Chuck Palahniuk Show**

Palahniuk presents a two-hour variety show (a short film, a contest, something about a certain club whose first rule is to not talk about it) with special guest Lidia Yuknavitch.

**2:00-2:45 Stephan Pastis, *The Success of Timmy Failure* (middle grade)**

Detective Timmy Failure and his polar bear assistant are the dynamic duo Total Failure, and they are here to save the day! Join **Stephan Pastis** as he discusses the highs and lows of Timmy's detective career.

**2:30-3:15 *Mixed Me!* With Taye Diggs and Shane Evans (children's)**

Stage and screen star **Taye Diggs** and illustrator **Shane Evans** talk about the power of diversity, love, and self-confidence in the upbeat children's book *Mixed Me!*

**2:45-3:30 *Eli Reed: A Long Walk Home***

*Eli Reed: A Long Walk Home* presents the first career retrospective of Reed's work. Consisting of more than 250 images, the photographs are a visual summation of the human condition.

**3:15-4:00 *Wimmin's Comix***

**Cartoonists Marisa Acocella Marchetto, Anne Opatowsky**, and illustrator **Aya Morton** discuss the role of women in comics, and the influences on their current works. From the subversive *Wimmin's Comix* to *Anna Tenna* and the *Walled City* trilogy, the graphic novel genre proves to be inclusive and provocative.

**4:00-4:45 Wendell Pierce, *The Wind in the Reeds***

With moving recollections of his family, childhood, and artistic journey, Wendell Pierce (*The Wire*, *Treme*) relates the story of his mission to rebuild his beloved New Orleans neighborhood after Hurricane Katrina in *The Wind in the Reeds: A Storm, A Play, and the City That Would Not Be Broken*.

**4:15-5:00 *Don't Suck, Don't Die***

In 2006, NPR named Vic Chesnutt in the top five of the 10 best living songwriters. Singer/songwriter **Kristin Hersh**, author of *Rat Girl*, illuminates her friendship with the wickedly funny yet often difficult to be with Chesnutt in her memoir, exploring everything from their casual conversations to his tragic death.

**Schedule highlights Sunday, Oct. 18, include:**

**11:00-11:45 Getting Real**

**Saeed Jones** and **James Hannaham** bring the crucial Black Lives Matter conversation to the forefront. Join Texas native Jones and Bronx-born Hannaham in a cross-genre panel as they discuss how race and racism has influenced their respective texts and their poignantly unique perspectives.

**11:30-12:15 *Old Wolf* (middle grade)**

From Newbery Medalist author **Avi** with illustrations by Caldecott Medalist **Brian Floca**, comes a story about hunting and survival. In Colorado, raven Merla and wolf Nashoba's ordinary routines are rocked when 13-year-old bow hunter Casey enters the scene.

**12:30-1:15 The Beauty of Books**

**Azar Nafisi** and **Ilan Stavans** consider the pivotal importance of fiction in today's fast-paced culture. **Nafisi's** *The Republic of Imagination* is an energetic call to rediscover America through literature and **Stavans' Quixote: The Novel and the World** explores the enduring impact of *Don Quixote*.

**2:00- 2:45 Leonard Pitts, *Grant Park***

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Leonard Pitts'** latest novel alternates between 1968, the year of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, and Chicago during the election of 2008. *Grant Park* showcases his talent for addressing racial tensions that are just as relevant today as they were during the Civil Rights era.

**4:15-5:00 *Watch Out For Flying Kids!* (children's)**

In her latest nonfiction book, **Cynthia Levinson** shows how children change their world through circus arts—one acrobat, tumbler and flyer at a time. Watch as black kids and white, Israeli Arabs and Jews, overcome political, personal and physical obstacles.

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

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### **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](http://www.texasbookfestival.org) for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on [Facebook](#); and @txbookfest on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).