



## TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE FOR TWO-WEEK VIRTUAL EVENT

**AUSTIN, TEXAS (October 8, 2020)** -- The Texas Book Festival unveiled its full 2020 schedule today, detailing author panels, cooking demonstrations, solo author sessions, kids' activities, and more during the two-week virtual event.

The Festival begins on October 31 with young adult and Texas Teen Book Festival programming, followed by kids' programming from November 2 to 6, and adult programming from November 6 to 15, including Lit Crawl Austin and the annual First Edition Literary Gala.

"We're excited to bring the Texas Book Festival into the homes of readers across Texas and beyond," says Lois Kim, TBF Executive Director. "Because of our virtual format, it's never been easier to attend. I encourage everyone to visit our website and the Texas Book Festival Crowdcast page to register for sessions to make sure you don't miss a single minute of this huge free event."

**Schedule highlights include:**  
*(All times CST)*

### TEEN & YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMMING

#### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31 | Keynote: Elizabeth Acevedo in Conversation | 10 a.m.**

When a plane crashes with their father on board, two sisters who have never met discover all the secrets that connect their lives, their grief, and their future paths as they figure out where to go from here. Taking readers deep into a tangled knot of sorrow, jealousy, and love, National Book Award winner Elizabeth Acevedo's newest novel in verse offers a moving testament to the power of sisterhood.

#### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 | Keynote: Nic Stone in Conversation | 1 p.m.**

With unflinching candor and heartbreaking vulnerability, sixteen-year-old Quan writes desperate missives to his friend Justyce about the abusive home life, stacked odds, and impossible choices that led him to be wrongfully imprisoned and charged with murder. In this highly anticipated sequel to her New York Times best-seller *Dear Martin*, Nic Stone highlights the intersecting forces that disproportionately land young Black men in jail and challenges the so-called justice system that puts them there.

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

#### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

Raúl the Third: *¡Vamos! Let's Go Eat*

Jon Scieszka and Steven Weinberg: *AstroNuts Mission Two: The Water Planet*

#### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

Christina Soontorvat: *A Wish in the Dark*

Jerome Pumphrey and Jarrett Pumphrey: *The Old Truck*

#### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

Don Tate: *Swish!: The Slam-Dunking, Alley-Ooping, High-Flying Harlem Globetrotters*  
David Bowles: *Rise of the Halfing King (Tales of the Feathered Serpent #1)*

#### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

Mikaila Ulmer: *Bee Fearless: Dream Like a Kid*  
Isabel Quintero and Zeke Peña: *My Papi Has a Motorcycle*

#### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6**

Derrick Barnes: *I Am Every Good Thing*

### **ADULT PROGRAMMING**

#### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6**

##### **10 a.m.: "Let 'Er Rip": The Legacy of 2020 Texas Book Festival Poster Artist Bob "Daddy-O" Wade**

Bob "Daddy-O" Wade (1943–2019)—the creator of *Let 'Er Rip*, this year's poster art— spent the last five decades making outsized, and often outlandish, art inspired by the grandiosity and unconventionality of his home state. Watch and listen as friends of Bob's and contributors to his featured book, *Daddy-O's Book of Big-Ass Art*, discuss Bob, his monumental contributions to art in Texas and beyond, and his legacy.

##### **5 p.m.: National Medal of Arts Winner Julia Alvarez in Conversation About *Afterlife***

In *Afterlife*, National Medal of Arts winner Julia Alvarez's first adult novel in nearly fifteen years, character Antonia Vega's life just got a lot more complicated. She expected her retirement from teaching college-level English to bring peace, quiet, and plenty of time to read. Instead, her husband has unexpectedly passed away, her sister has vanished, and a pregnant teenager has appeared at her door. *Afterlife* is in part about how to manage when just about everything goes wrong.

#### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

##### **4 p.m.: Matthew McConaughey in Conversation with Ethan Hawke**

Austin icon and Academy Award winner Matthew McConaughey shares wisdom and inspiration in his new book *Greenlights*, based on thirty-five years' worth of journal entries and observations.

##### **7 p.m.: Literary Death Match**

Four authors. Three judges. Two finalists. One really epic finale. Part literary event, part comedy show, part game show, Literary Death Match brings together today's finest writers to compete in an edge-of-your-seat read-off critiqued by three judges and concluded by a slapstick showdown to decide the ultimate champion.

#### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

##### **11:30 a.m. *A Better Man*: Michael Ian Black in Conversation**

Comedian and actor Michael Ian Black writes a letter to his college-bound son in this heartfelt meditation on masculinity. As he looks back on his relationship with his father, Black reexamines the lessons he learned about being a man and makes the case for radical vulnerability.

##### **1:30 p.m.: *Chosen Ones*: Veronica Roth in Conversation**

In the first adult novel from the bestselling author of *Divergent*, Sloane Andrews and her friends—a.k.a. the Chosen Ones—are still recovering from defeating the evil Dark One nearly ten years before. When one of the Chosen Ones dies unexpectedly and the others get together for the funeral, they discover that dark forces are gathering again—and this time, the Chosen Ones may not have the power to stop them.

## **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

### **12 p.m.: V-E Day at 75: The Women of World War II**

Historians Catherine Grace Katz (*The Daughters of Yalta*) and Katherine Sharp Landdeck (*The Women with Silver Wings*) spotlight a group of women who helped change the course of World War II—from the daughters of three famous politicians who held powerful secrets of their own to the brave individuals of the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

### **2 p.m.: Food, Farming, and the Future: Agriculture's Unseen Present and Uncertain Path Forward**

In their new books, journalists Marie Mutsuki Mockett (*American Harvest*) and Tom Philpott (*Perilous Bounty*) peel back the curtain on the American agricultural industry. Mockett's journey across America with a group of wheat harvesters shows where our food really comes from, and Philpott explores how the climate crisis threatens food's future. Join them as they discuss the food that sustains us, the people who produce it, and how the industry can adapt to a changing planet.

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

### **2:30 p.m.: Open Ears: A Conversation About Friendship and Listening with Sigrid Nunez and Kate Murphy**

National Book Award winner Sigrid Nunez's latest novel (*What Are You Going Through*) and reporter Kate Murphy's nonfiction book (*You're Not Listening*) have a similar question at their center: How can we be better friends and listeners? Nunez and Murphy discuss empathy, connection, and how we can strengthen our relationships with one another.

### **6 p.m.: Time Passages: Past, Present, and Memory in Fiction**

Time, magic, and memory fill the pages of the latest novels from Aimee Bender (*The Butterfly Lampshade*) and Katy Simpson Smith (*The Everlasting*). In *The Butterfly Lampshade*, a twenty-eight-year-old woman struggles to make sense of three strange episodes from her childhood, fearing she's inherited her mother's mental illness. In *The Everlasting*, characters from four different time periods—the first century CE, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the present—inhabit the same area of Rome, sharing struggles and successes across the centuries.

## **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

### **10 a.m.: Thai Fresh: A Cooking Demonstration**

Jam Sanitchat has been cooking since age five, so it's no surprise that her restaurant and learning center, Thai Fresh, is a South Austin staple. But flavor is only part of the equation. From her days cooking for friends at UT to the relationships she's built with local growers and producers, Sanitchat knows cooking is all about connection. Experience the magic for yourself with a cooking demonstration from her new cookbook, *Thai Fresh: Beloved Recipes from a South Austin Icon*.

### **6 p.m.: The Book of Two Ways: Jodi Picoult in Conversation with Amanda Eyre Ward**

In bestselling author Jodi Picoult's latest book, character Dawn Edelstein just narrowly avoided dying in a plane crash, so she should feel nothing but relief. Instead, she's confused. Her last thought before the plane went down wasn't about her husband or daughter but instead Wyatt Armstrong, a former colleague

working as an archaeologist in Egypt. So when Dawn's airline offers survivors a chance to travel wherever they want, Dawn faces a difficult choice. Will she return to her comfortable family life or head to the desert on a quest for answers?

## **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

### **10 a.m.: *The Vanishing Half*: Brit Bennett in Conversation**

In Brit Bennett's National Book Award–longlisted novel *The Vanishing Half*, Desiree Vignes has always dreamed of leaving Mallard, a town so small it doesn't even appear on the map. She convinces her twin sister Stella to come with her, and the two skip town. Afterward, however, their personal journeys diverge in profound ways. Join Bennett as she discusses two sisters' lives sent spinning in wildly different directions.

### **12 p.m.: *Transcendent Kingdom*: Yaa Gyasi in Conversation**

*Homegoing* author Yaa Gyasi discusses *Transcendent Kingdom*, her latest novel about family, addiction, and the search for answers—both scientific and spiritual.

### **5:30 p.m.: *Sex and Vanity*: New Work from Kevin Kwan**

The latest from the acclaimed author of *Crazy Rich Asians*, *Sex and Vanity* is E. M. Forster's *Room with a View* updated for the modern era. Set on the luxurious island of Capri, the novel stars Lucie Churchill, who's always ignored her Chinese-American mother's culture in favor of her white New Yorker father's. That doesn't change when she meets hunky, infuriating George Zao—at least, not at first. Kevin Kwan sits down to discuss romance, race, and riches in his newest novel.

## **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

### **10 a.m.: *Life in Food*: New Memoirs from James Beard Award Winners David Chang and Lisa Donovan**

In poignant new memoirs from Momofuku founder and *Ugly Delicious* host David Chang (*Eat a Peach*) and prize-winning Pastry Chef Lisa Donovan (*Our Lady of Perpetual Hunger*), the James Beard winners share their struggles and successes on their paths to becoming acclaimed chefs, and each explores how their craft helped them face and battle personal and systemic challenges, from sexism and mental illness to impostor syndrome.

### **4 p.m.: *Elsewhere*: Dean Koontz in Conversation with Jeffery Deaver**

Dean Koontz, the author of many number-one *New York Times* best-sellers, presents his new novel, *Elsewhere*, a technothriller about a father and daughter who discover a strange and highly coveted device that could reunite them with dearly departed Mom. Fellow best-selling author Jeffery Deaver leads the discussion.

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

### **12 p.m.: *Caste*: Isabel Wilkerson in Conversation with Saeed Jones**

In her new book, Pulitzer Prize winner and Texas Book Festival alum Isabel Wilkerson describes the United States' own invisible caste system: A hierarchy informed by race, class, and gender that affects everything in which we participate, from baseball games to presidential elections. *Caste* is a portrait of American inequality that shows how privilege and power shape our lives every day.

### **4 p.m.: *Environmental Activists Erin Brockovich and Catherine Coleman Flowers in Conversation***

Erin Brockovich (*Superman's Not Coming: Our National Water Crisis and What We the People Can Do About It*) and MacArthur genius grant recipient Catherine Coleman Flowers (*Waste: One Woman's Fight Against America's Dirty Secret*) illuminate—in a conversation about sustainability and environmental justice—the failures and dangers of our water and water-management systems and policies, from California to Appalachia.

## **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

### **10 a.m.: Writers' League of Texas Presents: Texas Debut Novelists**

Three talented Texas novelists (Richard Z. Santos, James Wade, and Bryan Washington) share stories set in Texas and the Southwest in their first novels. Featuring everything from a mysterious skeleton to an unexpected houseguest to a horse thief on the run, these new books make their marks on Texas literature.

### **12 p.m.: *Just Like You*: New Work from Nick Hornby**

Nick Hornby—award-winning and bestselling author of *High Fidelity*, *About a Boy*, and many other works—talks about his latest novel, *Just Like You*, a heartwarming tale about unexpected love and the discovery that the differences among us can be both refreshing and attractive.

Visit <https://www.texasbookfestival.org/2020-festival-schedule> for the full schedule.

The Festival continues to be free and open to the public thanks to generous sponsors and dedicated volunteers. The 2020 Virtual Texas Book Festival is co-presented by H-E-B and AT&T. Other major sponsors include Brigid Cockrum and Family, *Kirkus Reviews*, Tocker Foundation, Tapestry Foundation, *Texas Monthly*, Buena Vista Foundation, Still Water Foundation, C-SPAN 2/Book TV, Central Market, *Austin American-Statesman*, Pentagonam, Jordan Foster Construction, and Loewy Law Firm.

For more information on the Texas Book Festival, please visit [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org) and follow along on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.

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## **ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL:**

With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, 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, the Texas Teen Book Festival, the Reading Rock Stars Title I elementary school program, the Real Reads Title I middle and high school program, grants to Texas libraries, and year-round literary programming. The 2020 Virtual Texas Book Festival will take place from October 31 through November 15. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 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, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.