

# BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL

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## JOHN HODGMAN, TOM PERROTTA TO INTERVIEW EACH OTHER AT THE BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL, IN JUST ONE OF DOZENS OF PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

### **Boston Book Festival, presented by State Street Corporation, to be Held Oct. 24, 2009 in Copley Square**

(BOSTON – August, 4, 2009) John Hodgman and Tom Perrotta, two acclaimed writers with strong ties to Boston, will be at the inaugural Boston Book Festival to be held on Oct. 24, 2009. The festival, which will feature dozens of panels and presentations, will offer unique perspectives on the work of many authors with pairings like this one, as well as intriguing thematic groupings, workshops and presentations, all to be announced in the coming weeks.

Hodgman and Perrotta met at Yale when the former was a college student and the latter had not yet sold his first novel, so they have known each other since the beginning of their respective careers. The fact that their careers have followed very different trajectories, with Perrotta's being more traditional, and Hodgman's being more eclectic and multimedia will form the basis of their talk. According to Perrotta, "I anticipate a mutual conversation about how to make a literary career. Since you never know which John will show up – serious or absurd – it's hard to guess about direction, but I'm sure it will be provocative."

**John Hodgman** is Resident Expert on *The Daily Show*, commenting on subjects as diverse as the economy, net neutrality, reptiloids, time travel, elitism, and head lice. Apart from the many fake books he has advertised on the show, scholars agree he has actually written two real books -- *The Areas of My Expertise* and *More Information Than You Require* (out in paperback this fall) although these books are primarily made up of fake facts. Hodgman, a Brookline native, has worked as a cheesemonger, traffic counter, advice columnist, journalist and personal computer.

**Tom Perrotta** is the author of six works of fiction: *Bad Haircut*, *The Wishbones*, *Election*, and the *New York Times* bestselling *Joe College*, *Little Children* and *The Abstinence Teacher*. *Election* was made into the acclaimed 1999 movie directed by Alexander Payne and starring Matthew Broderick and Reese Witherspoon. *Little Children* was released as a movie directed by Todd Field and starring Kate Winslet and Jennifer Connelly in 2006. Perrotta lives outside of Boston.

The Hodgman/Perrotta conversation will take place in the sanctuary of Old South Church (645 Boylston St.). The start time for the event will be announced soon.

In addition to this event, The Boston Book Festival is also pleased to announce that Ben Mezrich (*Bringing Down The House, Accidental Billionaires*) and Kathleen Kent (*The Heretic's Daughter*) join the previously announced authors including Dennis Lehane (*Mystic River, The Given Day*), Barbara Lynch (No. 9 Park, *Stir*), Ken Burns (*The Civil War, The National Parks*), Joseph Finder (*Vanished, High Crimes*); Elinor Lipman (*Then She Found Me, The Family Man*), Anita Diamant (*The Red Tent*), David Pogue (*New York Times*), Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (*Lincoln on Race and Slavery*), Elizabeth Nunez (*Prospero's Daughter, Anna In-Between*) and Stephen L. Carter (*Emperor of Ocean Park*), with many more to be announced. Other panels and events in the planning stages include Books Without Pages: Discussing the Future of Books; Eat Your Words: Food Writers and Chefs; Boston Noir; American Writer Idol: Literary Agents Critique Unpublished Work; We Are the Champions: Sports Writers and Their Love of the Game. More will be announced in the coming months.

The Boston Book Festival will take place Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Boston Public Library, Old South Church, Trinity Church and outdoors in Copley Square. Events will include presentations, and panels featuring internationally-known fiction and non-fiction writers, scholars, critics and commentators; a focus on technology as it relates to reading; programming for children, teens and families; writing workshops and word-based competitions; and theatre, spoken word and music performances.

The inaugural Boston Book Festival is presented by State Street Corporation. Additional sponsors include Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, The Boston Foundation, Verizon, Rodale, Hachette Book Group, and E-ink. Media sponsors include WBUR, New England Cable News, and *The Boston Globe*. Partners include Mayor Thomas M. Menino; The Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism and Special Events; The City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department; ReadBoston; Boston Public Library; Boston Athenæum; PEN New England; Grub Street; Trinity Church; Old South Church; Boston Children's Museum; New Center for Arts and Culture; 826 Boston; Cloud Place; Berklee College of Music; Emerson College; Harvard Bookstore; Brookline Booksmith, Porter Square Books; and Newtonville Books.

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