

# BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THE BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL, PRESENTED BY STATE STREET CORPORATION ANNOUNCES ALL-STAR AUTHOR LINEUP FOR INAUGURAL FESTIVAL OCT. 24, 2009

***Nobel Prize winner Orhan Pamuk, Richard Russo, Anita Diamant, John Hodgman, Dennis Lehane, "Heroes" creator Tim Kring, Cornel West, actor Alicia Silverstone, Michael Patrick MacDonald, Skip Gates, Jill Lepore, children's illustrator Chris van Allsburg and many more scheduled to appear***

(BOSTON – Sept. 14, 2009) The Boston Book Festival, presented by State Street Corporation, announces the all-star author lineup for the widely anticipated one day inaugural event. The Boston Book Festival will take place Oct. 24, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Boston Public Library, Old South Church, Trinity Church and outdoors in Copley Square. Festival events will include presentations and panels featuring the internationally-known writers, scholars, critics and commentators listed below; a focus on technology as it relates to reading; programming for children, teens and families; writing workshops and competitions; outdoor booths; and spoken word and music performances. Unless otherwise noted, all events will be held between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Oct. 24 in a Copley Square location, and are FREE and open to the public with no reservations required.

In addition to the events listed here, a special kick-off event with music and readings will take place in the evening on Friday, Oct. 23. Details about that event to be announced later this week.

Exact times and locations for panels and speakers listed below will be announced soon, at [www.bostonbookfest.org](http://www.bostonbookfest.org). Complete author biographies are available there now. An alphabetical list of authors appearing is available here: [http://www.ashmontmedia.com/releases/BBF\\_author\\_list.pdf](http://www.ashmontmedia.com/releases/BBF_author_list.pdf)

### KEYNOTE

#### **Orhan Pamuk: The Museum of Innocence**

PARTICIPANT: Orhan Pamuk; EVENT HOST: Christopher Lydon

Recipient of the 2006 Nobel Prize for Literature, Orhan Pamuk has written, "I regret that I have not been able to shake off the enlightenment utilitarian idea that books exist to prepare us for life." Pamuk's new novel, *The Museum of Innocence*, his first since winning the Nobel Prize, is described as "a stirring exploration of the nature of romantic attachment and the mysterious allure of collecting." Pamuk talks about literature, love, and life. Hosted by commentator Christopher Lydon. Co-sponsored by PEN New England and the *New York Review of Books*.

### **Ties That Bind**

PARTICIPANTS: Richard Russo, Michael Thomas, Elinor Lipman; EVENT HOST: Bret Anthony Johnston

Three authors with three takes on family, from challenges and triumphs to hilarity and heartbreak.

Bestselling author and Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Russo discusses his new novel, *That Old Cape Magic*, described as "utterly charming" by the *Washington Post*. Boston native Michael Thomas presents his first novel, *Man Gone Down*, which recently won the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, second only to the Nobel in prize and prestige. "An Austen-like stylist" (*Washington Post Book World*), critically acclaimed author Elinor Lipman delivers her newest novel, *The Family Man*, which received a

starred review in *Publishers Weekly*. An exploration of family and identity, hosted by author Bret Anthony Johnston, Director of Creative Writing at Harvard University and author of *Corpus Christi: Stories*.

### **Struggles in a Strange Land: The Power of Place**

PARTICIPANTS: Anita Diamant, Elizabeth Nunez, Carolina de Robertis, Anita Shreve; EVENT HOST: Kim McLarin

Political and personal upheaval in settings as diverse as a post-WWII British internment camp in Palestine, the hills of Kenya, the mountains of Uruguay and the blue waters of the Caribbean reveal the redemptive bonds of friendship and family. Anita Diamant (*Day After Night*), Anita Shreve (*A Change in Altitude*), Elizabeth Nunez (*Anna In-Between*) and Carolina De Robertis (*The Invisible Mountain*) discuss their work and the role of place in each. A literary tour, hosted by Kim McLarin, author of *Jump at the Sun* and host of *Basic Black* on WGBH. *Sponsored by the New Center for Art and Culture.*

### **Spinning a Tale**

PARTICIPANTS: Jay O'Callahan, Irene Smalls

Two renowned and beloved storytellers will have you (and the kids) on the edge of your seats. Internationally known storyteller Jay O'Callahan, author of the new picture book *Raspberries*, has performed at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin and Lincoln Center, but he is most proud of his invitation by NASA to speak about the value of sharing knowledge through storytelling. He will be joined by historian and storyteller Irene Smalls, author of *Jonathan and His Mommy* and the force behind the Literacise exhibit now open at the Boston Public Library. These two masters will delight audiences of all ages with their yarns. *Sponsored by State Street Corporation.*

### **Thrillers and Killers**

PARTICIPANTS: Stephen Carter, Andre Dubus III, Joseph Finder; EVENT HOST: Jessica Stern  
Spies, operatives and terrorists: what makes them tick and why do they fascinate us? *Jericho's Fall*, the fourth of Yale Law Professor Stephen Carter's highly regarded novels, unravels the secrets of a former CIA chief. Joe Finder's latest thriller, *Vanished*, delves into the murky world of corporate espionage, while Andre Dubus III probes the mind of a terrorist in *The Garden of Last Days*. Session host Jessica Stern is a top terrorism expert, Academic Director of the Program on Terrorism and the Law at Harvard Law School and a former member of the National Security Council.

### **Boston Roots**

PARTICIPANTS: Jane Kamensky & Jill Lepore, Kathleen Kent, John Pipkin; EVENT HOST: Megan Marshall

Discover the stories behind three riveting historical novels set in and around Boston. Kathleen Kent's debut novel, *The Heretic's Daughter*, is based on the life of her ancestor who was hanged as a witch in Salem in 1692. *Blindspot*, by historians Jane Kamensky and Jill Lepore, is a bawdy historical romance set in pre-revolutionary Boston featuring a well-born Bostonian who disguises herself as a painter's boy apprentice. John Pipkin's *Woodburner* tells of a little-known incendiary event in the life of Henry David Thoreau. Hosted by Megan Marshall, author of *The Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism*. *Sponsored by Hachette Book Group.*

### **Stories Beyond the Margins and Between the Lines**

PARTICIPANTS: Tim Kring, Reif Larsen; EVENT HOST: Scott Kirsner

Two innovators talk about employing a variety of narrative strategies to tell a story. Tim Kring, developer and executive producer of blockbuster TV show *Heroes* will give a highly visual presentation about his use of transmedia storytelling. Reif Larson, whose *The Collected Works of T. S. Spivet* follows a long tradition of child narrators (think Holden Caulfield) and an even longer tradition of the *bildungsroman* (think Huck Finn), talks about how his quirky marginalia and drawings add to his stories. Hosted by Scott Kirsner, author of the *Innovation Economy* column in the *Boston Globe*, whose new book is *Fans, Friends, and Followers*. *Sponsored by Liberty Mutual.*

### **Boston Noir Launch**

***Tickets, \$15 each, are required for this 21 + event. To purchase tickets, go to [www.bostonbookfest.org](http://www.bostonbookfest.org) starting 9/15***

**PARTICIPANTS:** Dennis Lehane, Russ Aborn, Brendan DuBois, Dana Cameron, Itabari Njeri, Jim Fusilli, Lynne Heitman

Celebrate the launch of the new fiction collection *Boston Noir* (Akashic Books) with contributing author and master of the art of noir, editor Dennis Lehane. From Dorchester to Southie and from Beacon Hill to Brookline, *Boston Noir* features 11 Boston neighborhoods and nearby communities in stories by contributors including Brendan DuBois, Dana Cameron, Itabari Njeri, Jim Fusilli, Lynne Heitman and Russ Aborn, who will attend the launch event. Expect a dynamic, drama-filled presentation fit for the heart, soul and throat-grIPPING *Boston Noir* collection. Afterward, guests can enjoy a literatini, the official champagne cocktail of the Boston Book Festival, listen to music, have their handwriting analyzed and fortunes told. Noirish dress optional, but there will be prizes for the best femme fatale and hard-boiled private eye. This event takes place at the Boston Public Library from 6—8 p.m. *Sponsored by The Boston Phoenix.*

### **From Book Worms to Net Crawlers**

**PARTICIPANTS:** Ben Mezrich, Ethan Gilsdorf; **EVENT HOST:** Jeffrey Howe

An examination of the ubiquitous internet and the explosion of social media. Ben Mezrich, author of *Bringing Down the House*, talks about his new book *The Accidental Billionaire*, a look at the origins of Facebook. Ethan Gilsdorf tells about *Fantasy Freaks and Gaming Geeks*, a chronicle of his own travels through the worlds of online gaming and live-action role-playing. Hosted by *Wired Magazine* contributing editor Jeffrey Howe, author of *Crowdsourcing: Why the Power of the Crowd is Driving the Future of Business.*

### **Digital Inclusion**

**PARTICIPANTS:** Nicholas Negroponte, Iqbal Quadir; **EVENT HOST:** Rory Stewart

How can the digital divide between rich and poor be bridged? Can the spread of technology have a positive impact on educating the world's poor? Are cell phones the key to economic growth in the developing world? Nicholas Negroponte, founder of One Laptop per Child, gives us an up-date on the progress of the little green machine and Iqbal Quadir tells us how he hit on the idea of using cell phones to connect millions of the rural poor in Bangladesh as founder of Grameen Phone. Two inspiring approaches to ending poverty. Hosted by Rory Stewart, Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard and author of the critically acclaimed bestseller, *The Places In Between.* *Sponsored by Verizon.*

### **Poetry as Music**

**PARTICIPANTS:** Robert Pinsky with Rakalam Bob Moses and Andrew Urbina

Experience the intersection of jazz and poetry with former Poet Laureate and jazz aficionado Robert Pinsky. The founder of the Favorite Poem Project and professor of creative writing at Boston University, Robert is beloved for his ability to bring poetry to life as spoken language, as showcased in his collection *Essential Pleasures: A New Anthology of Poems to Read Aloud.* Robert will give a music-inflected reading with back-up from jazz musicians Rakalam Bob Moses and Andrew Urbina.

### **John Hodgman Interviewed by Tom Perrotta**

**PARTICIPANTS:** John Hodgman, Tom Perrotta

Novelist Tom Perrotta made his reputation through attention to craft, with novels including *Election*, *Little Children*, and *The Abstinence Teacher*. His one-time student John Hodgman took a more improbable route to notoriety: by depicting a PC in the "Get a Mac" ads, providing commentary and analysis as a so-called "resident expert" on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, and writing the books *The Areas of My Expertise* and *More Information Than You Require*. Tom will grill (or perhaps roast, as on a slow-burning fire) the man whose irresistible humor begat Hodgmania on topics ranging from the sublime to the downright silly. Prepare to be amused.

### **The Future of Reading: Books Without Pages?**

**PARTICIPANTS:** To be announced; **EVENT HOST:** David Pogue

The host for this look at the future of reading is the hugely entertaining *New York Times* personal technology columnist David Pogue. In a variety show format, David will emcee as every new e-reader on the market shows its stuff, including some that are so new that we cannot yet reveal their identities. A

look at how digitization may change everything, and a musical interlude by David will make this session rock.

### **Obama: One Year Later**

PARTICIPANTS: Michael E. Porter, David Gergen, Jack Beatty; EVENT HOST: Tom Ashbrook  
Barack Obama was elected President almost a year ago. This session looks at how it's going. Harvard economist and business guru Michael E. Porter, pundit and advisor to presidents past David Gergen, and *Atlantic Monthly* senior editor Jack Beatty mix it up with a frank assessment of the President's progress on his new agenda. WBUR's Tom Ashbrook of *On Point* moderates.

### **Documenting History**

PARTICIPANTS: Ken Burns, Scout Tufankjian; EVENT HOST: Jared Bowen  
Join Ken Burns and Scout Tufankjian for a fascinating look into the documentary process. Ken Burns, lauded as "the country's most famous documentarian" by the *Los Angeles Times* shows clips and talks about his latest film, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. Then, journalist Scout Tufankjian tells how she reluctantly drove to New Hampshire in 2006 to cover a long-shot candidate named Obama. She decided then and there to stick like glue to him for two years—the only independent photojournalist to cover the entire Obama campaign from start to finish. Her book *Yes We Can* is a stunning visual record of the campaign. Jared Bowen, Emmy award-winning reporter from WGBH's *Greater Boston* hosts.

### **Worth 1,000 Words: A Tribute to Chris Van Allsburg**

PARTICIPANTS: Chris Van Allsburg; EVENT HOST: Brian Lies  
Twenty-five years ago a mysterious train steamed up to a young boy's front door, taking him and many children in America on a trip they would never forget. This session celebrates the achievements of Chris Van Allsburg, a leading light in the children's book world. He has twice received the Caldecott Medal, once for *The Polar Express* and another for *Jumanji*. He also received a Caldecott Honor for his very first book, *The Garden of Abdul Gasazi* and has been awarded the Regina Medal for lifetime achievement in children's literature. Be enchanted by a witch's broom, a mysterious boardgame, and a midnight train in this tribute to one of children's literature's most beloved storytellers. Hosted by *New York Times* bestselling children's author and illustrator Brian Lies, whose latest picture book is *Bats at the Library*.

### **The Examined Life: Memoir**

PARTICIPANTS: Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, Michael Greenberg, Michael Patrick MacDonald; EVENT HOST: Callie Crossley  
The best memoirs weave an individual's story in the context of family and society. In *Bending Toward The Sun*, Leslie Gilbert-Lurie writes movingly about the trauma that her mother suffered as a child survivor of the Holocaust and how that experience influenced Leslie and her own daughter. Michael Greenberg reflects on his teenage daughter's descent into bipolar mania in *Hurry Down Sunshine*, named one of the "Best Books of 2008" by *Time*. His new book, *Beg, Borrow and Steal* examines his life as a writer. Michael Patrick MacDonald's searing memoir, *All Souls: A Family Story from Southie*, is as compelling today on its 10th anniversary as the day it was published. Hosted by television and radio commentator Callie Crossley, from WGBH's "Beat the Press."

### **The Times They Are a Changin'**

PARTICIPANTS: Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Kurt Anderson; EVENT HOST: Walter Isaacson  
Keen observers of the historical moment discuss the tenor of our times, and how this might be a pivotal moment in American culture. Walter Isaacson, author of *Einstein: His Life and Universe* and head of the Aspen Institute, leads the discussion. Joining him are Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Harvard University professor and author of *In Search of Our Roots: How 19 Extraordinary African Americans Reclaimed Their Past*, and Kurt Anderson, host of the radio show Studio 360 and author of *Reset: How This Crisis Can Restore Our Values and Renew America*.

### **Cornel West: Living and Loving Out Loud**

PARTICIPANT: Cornel West; EVENT HOST: Christopher Lydon  
An educator, philosopher and author of the bestsellers *Race Matters* and *Democracy Matters*, Cornel West is one of America's most gifted, provocative, and important public intellectuals. In his poignant new

memoir, *Brother West*, he examines his transformation from a schoolyard Robin Hood to a progressive cultural icon. Christopher Lydon will lead a conversation with Dr. West about life and faith.

### **Sexiest Vegetarian Alive: Alicia Silverstone and *The Kind Diet***

PARTICIPANT: Alicia Silverstone

Actress Alicia Silverstone, perhaps best known for her generation-defining role in *Clueless*, is a dedicated advocate for the planet and its animals, and was voted "Sexiest Vegetarian Alive" in 2004. In her new book, *The Kind Diet*, she shares the insights and recipes that encouraged her to swear off meat and dairy forever, and outlines the benefits of adopting a plant-based diet.

### **We Are The Champions**

PARTICIPANTS: Jackie MacMullan, Glenn Stout, Larry Tye; EVENT HOST: Bill Littlefield  
Veteran sports commentator and host of WBUR's "Only A Game," Bill Littlefield chats with fellow sportswriters on their love of the game. Jackie MacMullan is a frequent ESPN correspondent, a regular (and the only woman) on ESPN's *Around the Horn*, and co-author with Larry Bird and Magic Johnson of *When The Game Was Ours*. The series editor of *The Best American Sports Writing* since its inception, Glenn Stout is the author of numerous bestselling books including *Red Sox Century*. Larry Tye, formerly of *The Boston Globe*, is the author of *Satchel*, an acclaimed new biography of baseball icon, Leroy "Satchel" Paige.

### **Tea With Catie Copley (Limited space, free pre-registration required.)**

PARTICIPANTS: Deborah Kovacs

Catie Copley has a very special job as canine ambassador at the Fairmont Copley Plaza. She lives with Jim, who also works at the hotel, and spends her days in the lobby, sleeping, greeting people, chasing balls, and sleeping some more. Join Catie for juice and cookies at the Fairmont Copley Plaza and meet Deborah Kovacs, the author of Catie's newest picture book adventure, *Catie Copley's Great Escape*. Registration will open on October 1 at [www.bostonbookfest.org](http://www.bostonbookfest.org)

### **And Now For Something Completely Different**

PARTICIPANTS: Paul Tremblay, R. Sikoryak, Jessica Anthony

What do a small, bearded man selling meat out of a bus in suburban Virginia, a narcoleptic South Boston private investigator, and Kafka's Gregor Samsa (channeling Charlie Brown), have in common? Join us to find out. The winner of McSweeney's Amanda Davis Highwire Fiction Award, Jessica Anthony is the author of the acclaimed new novel, *The Convalescent*. R. Sikoryak is a comic book artist whose new series, *Masterpiece Comics*, delivers comic adaptations of literary classics such as *Crime and Punishment* rendered in Bob Kane-era Batman style. A two-time nominee for the Bram Stoker Award, Paul Tremblay has been published in numerous journals and magazines. His debut novel, *The Big Sleep*, has been described as a "Jonathan Lethem meets Raymond Chandler" neo-noir mystery.

### **Eat Your Words**

PARTICIPANTS: Barbara Lynch; EVENT HOST: Corby Kummer

What's it like to write about food? Superstar chef Barbara Lynch of No. 9 Park and B&G Oysters, whose new cookbook, *Stir: Mixing It Up in the Italian Tradition* is just out, discusses food writing with Corby Kummer food writer and blogger for the *Atlantic Monthly* and author most recently of *The Pleasures of Slow Food: Celebrating Authentic Traditions, Flavors and Recipes*. Sure to be a deliciously satisfying session, almost as delicious as Lynch's recipe for "My Favorite Chocolate Cookies."

### **StoryPlace**

PARTICIPANTS: Alicia Potter, Grace Lin

Open, shut them, open, shut them, give a little clap clap clap.... There will be story time and fun for children all day long during the Boston Book Festival in "StoryPlace" at the Boston Public Library. Hear the latest from children's authors including Alicia Potter (*Fritz Danced the Fandango*) and Grace Lin (*Where The Mountain Meets The Moon*). Meet Curious George and other costume characters.  
*Sponsored by State Street Corporation.*

### **Jumpstart Your Writing (limited space, free pre-registration required)**

After spending the day hearing great authors talk about their work, writers are encouraged to work on their own craft. Join one of Grub Street Writers' award-winning instructors for an hour of innovative and inspiring prompts that will have aspiring writers brainstorming ideas for new stories and writing new scenes. The focus will be on creating memorable characters and settings, inventing plots and improving dialogue. This session is designed for people interested in writing fiction and non-fiction, but poets will also benefit from the challenge. Registration will open on October 1 at [www.bostonbookfest.org](http://www.bostonbookfest.org).

*Sponsored by Grub Street.*

### **Writer Idol (limited space, free pre-registration required)**

In this freewheeling session, a professional actor will perform the first page of an unpublished manuscript for the audience and a panel of three "judges." Judges are agents and editors with years of experience reading unsolicited submissions. When one judge hears a line that would make her stop reading, she will raise her hand. The actor will keep reading until a second judge raises his hand. The judges will then discuss WHY they would stop reading, and offer concrete if subjective suggestions to the anonymous author. If no agent raises a hand, the judges will discuss what made the excerpt work. Though all excerpts will be evaluated anonymously, this session is not for the faint-hearted or thin-skinned! While judges will be respectful of the work, laughter and even scorn from the audience is to be expected. To participate in this session, bring THE FIRST 250 WORDS of a manuscript (fiction or non-fiction only, please) to the session. It must be double-spaced, titled, and clearly marked at the top with its genre. Participants will leave the manuscripts in a box at the front of the room, and manuscripts will be chosen randomly by the actor. (Unfortunately, we can't guarantee that all submissions will be read aloud.) Participation is by advance registration, but limited seating will be available for those not submitting manuscripts. Registration will open on October 1 at [www.bostonbookfest.org](http://www.bostonbookfest.org). *Sponsored by Grub Street.*

### **Guided Open Mic with Hank Phillippi Ryan**

Here's a chance to show off writing skills by reading work to an eager audience and any guest authors, editors or literary agents who drop by. What makes this open mic special is that it will be hosted by one of Boston's hottest writers: Hank Phillippi Ryan, author of *Prime Time*, *Face Time* and *Air Time*, winner of 24 Emmys and currently on air on Channel 7. Hank will be on hand to talk about what makes a good reading—from how to pick the right excerpt to how to perform that excerpt like a professional. She will also be reading from her own work. Those who would like to read should bring a FIVE-MINUTE excerpt of fiction, poetry or non-fiction (no more than 600 words), and sign up for a reading slot on arrival. *Sponsored by Grub Street.*

Please note that line-up is subject to change without notice. Please check [www.bostonbookfest.org](http://www.bostonbookfest.org) for updates. For more information, please call 617-252-3240.

### **Sponsors**

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