

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE BALTIMORE BOOK FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 23, 24 & 25, 2011**

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual **Baltimore Book Festival**, the place where readers and authors connect, features nationally renowned, celebrity and local authors, book signings, readings, panel discussions, workshops, cooking demonstrations, children's activities, exhibitors, live music, food, beer and wine. The mid-Atlantic's premier celebration of the literary arts starts **Friday, September 23** and **Saturday, September 24** from **noon to 8pm** and **Sunday, September 25** from **noon to 7pm** in **Mount Vernon Place**, centered on the 600 block of North Charles Street. Highlights include **Terry McMillan**, *Getting to Happy*; **Laura Lippman**, *The Most Dangerous Thing*; **Tavis Smiley**, *Fail Up: 20 Lessons on Building Success from Failure*; **Roland S. Martin**, *The First: President Barack Obama's Road to the White House*; **Sherman Alexie**, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*; **Aaron "Big Daddy" McCargo, Jr.**, *Simply Done, Well Done*; **Fr. Leo Patalinghug**, *Grace Before Meals*; **Daisy Martinez**, *Daisy: Morning, Noon and Night*; **Myla Goldberg**, *The False Friend*; **Kimberla Lawson Roby**, *Secret Obsession*; **Common**, *One Day It'll All Make Sense*; **Erin Morgenstern**, *The Night Circus*; **Sam McBratney**, *Guess How Much I Love You*; **Shirley Strawberry**, *The Strawberry Letter: Real Talk, Real Advice, Because Bitterness Isn't Sexy*; **Marcela Valladolid**, *Mexican Made Easy*; and **Lisa Unger**, *Darkness, My Old Friend*.

The **Literary Salon, presented by Bank of America** hosts renowned authors, book signings, readings and panel discussions. On Friday at noon, festival-goers can sample great performing arts during the **Free Fall Baltimore Preview**. The **Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center**, **Daydreams and Nightmares Aerial Theatre** and **Nana Projects** give a preview of their programming for the sixth annual Free Fall Baltimore, presented Susquehanna Bank, a citywide arts extravaganza on October 1-31, 2011. The excitement continues in the evening with **Ladies' Night Out** from 5-8pm, including panels on love and relationships and FREE wine from Barefoot Wine & Bubbly.

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Starting at 7pm, **Shirley Strawberry**, co-host of "The Steve Harvey Morning Show," and co-author **Lyah Beth LeFlore** discuss *The Strawberry Letter: Real Talk, Real Advice, Because Bitterness Isn't Sexy*.

Saturday's schedule is packed with *New York Times* bestselling authors, including **Terry McMillan**, *Getting to Happy*; **Roland S. Martin**, *The First: President Barack Obama's Road to the White House*; **Sherman Alexie**, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, the 2011 One Maryland One Book, presented by **Maryland Humanities Council**; **Kimberla Lawson Roby**, *Secret Obsession*; **Common**, *One Day It'll All Make Sense*, accompanied by **Dr. Michael Eric Dyson** and **Dr. Mahalia Ann Hines**; and **Tavis Smiley**, *Fail Up: 20 Lessons on Building Success from Failure*. On Sunday, the festival welcomes **Eddie Brown**, *Beating the Odds: Eddie Brown's Investing and Life Strategies*; **Dorothy Bailey** and contributors of *In A Different Light: Reflections and Beauty of Wise Women of Color*; **Novelists of Note** panel discussion with **Myla Goldberg**, *The False Friend*, **Jacquelyn Mitchard**, *Second Nature: A Love Story*, **Erin Morgenstern**, *The Night Circus* and **Lisa Unger**, *Darkness, My Old Friend*; and **Writing About Crime and Justice** panel discussion, presented by **CityLit Project** and **Urbanite**, with **Michael Corbin**, educator and freelancer, **Peter Hermann**, crime reporter with *The Baltimore Sun* and **Lester Spence**, political scientist for Johns Hopkins University and author of *Stare in the Darkness: The Limits of Hip-Hop and Black Politics*. Crime fiction writer **Laura Lippman** closes the night with a discussion on her newest book, *The Most Dangerous Thing*.

**Food for Thought Stage, presented by IKEA Baltimore Store** features celebrity chefs and authors, delicious food demonstrations, recipes and cooking tips. On Friday from 12-2pm, Downtown Partnership presents **Dine Downtown Baltimore at BBF**. Chefs from Sascha's 527 Café, McCormick & Schmick's and Cazbar demonstrate and provide samples of some of their signature dishes.

The official **Happy Hour at the Baltimore Book Festival** starts at 5pm with **Brian Murphy**, *See Mix Drink*, **James Waller**, *Drinkology Beer*, music by **Johnny Mo "The Musical Chef"** and tips for throwing a great party, making perfect cocktails and picking a great beer. Weekend highlights include **Fr. Leo Patalinghug**, *Grace Before Meals: Recipes and Inspiration for Family Meals and Family Life*; **Daisy Martinez**, *Daisy: Morning Noon and Night*; **Aaron "Big Daddy" McCargo, Jr.**, *Simply Done, Well Done*; **Marcela Valladolid**, *Mexican Made Easy: Everyday Ingredients, Extraordinary Flavor*; and **Sandy Pollock and Crystal Cook**, *The Casserole Queens Cookbook: Put Some Lovin' in Your Oven with 100 Easy One-Dish Recipes*.

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The **Children's Bookstore Stage** hosts the nation's top children's authors and illustrators with appearances by **Libba Bray**, *Beauty Queens*; **Sam McBratney**, *Guess How Much I Love You*; **Pseudonymous Bosch**, *You Have to Stop This*; **Kadir Nelson**, *Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans*; and **Todd Parr**, *The I'm Not Scared Book*. During the **Teen Lit Panel Discussion**, **Sarah Mlynowski**, **Maryrose Wood**, **Susane Colasanti**, **Joanna Pearson** and **E. Lockhart** discuss topics on writing, high school, romance, friendship and growing up.

The **Radical Bookfair Pavilion, sponsored by Red Emma's Bookstore Coffeehouse**, showcases the best of radical, independent and DIY publishing with **Cindy Crabb**, *Encyclopedia of Doris: stories, essays, interviews*; **Jared Ball**, *I Mix What I Like: A Mixtape Manifesto*; **White Riot: Punk Rock and the Politics of Race** panel with **Stephen Duncombe** and **Max Tremblay**; and a discussion on **transgender politics** with **Dean Spade**, founder of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project and author of *Normal Life: Administrative Violence, Critical Trans Politics and the Limits of Law*, and **Eric Stanley**, editor of *Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex*.

**New this year**, the **Baltimore Free School Lit + Language Tent** offers a weekend full of performing art, literature and workshops with local authors, publishers, poets, musicians and activists. Friday evening starts with **Storytellers: Third Anniversary Celebration** featuring performances by **The Terrorpens**, **t3N**, **Janice B.**, **Droopy The Broke Baller** and **HanaLyn**.

Saturday and Sunday's panel discussions include **"I Want to Get Published. Where Do I Begin?"** with **Maria Murnane** and **Kyra E. Hicks** who give insightful advice on traditional and self-publishing; **Post Typography** with **Bruce Willen**; **Opinions . . . everybody's got one: Writing about what you love, what you hate, and the everything else that makes up the majority of life** with editor and writer **Bret McCabe** along with local critics and journalists; and **Pitchapalooza**, a contest where writers get one minute to pitch their book ideas to an all-star panel of publishing experts, hosted **Arielle Eckstut** and **David Henry Sterry**, authors of *The Essential Guide to Getting Your Book Published*. The winner of the competition receives an introduction to an appropriate agent or publisher for his/her book.

**The George Peabody Library, Johns Hopkins University Press** and **JHU Sheridan Libraries** provide new, enriching and enjoyable programming for this year's festival. Scheduled activities take place in the exhibit hall and stack room and include discussions spotlighting the Peabody Library collections, children's activities and the JHU Press Book Sale with author presentations and book signings by dozens of

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authors, including **Gilbert Sandler**, *Home Front Baltimore*, **Cindy Kelly**, *Outdoor Sculpture in Baltimore* and **Michael Olesker**, *The Colts' Baltimore*.

The **CityLit Stage, presented by CityLit Project and Urbanite** has a variety of literary arts with special attention given to the region's diverse mix of writers. **Free Friday Feedback: Got Lit? Get Feedback!** gives aspiring authors and poets an opportunity to sit down with writers or publishing professionals and receive one-on-one advice on their work. For the *100,000 Poets for Change* worldwide event on Saturday at noon, poets **Virginia Crawford** and **Laura Shovan** host **Living Poetry "Flash" Mob**, a spontaneous poetry composition where festival-goers wearing the Living Poetry Flash t-shirts are arranged into written on-the-spot, living poems. Later on Saturday at 3:30pm, former communications director for George W. Bush's White House, political commentator and bestselling author **Nicolle Wallace** discusses her novel, *It's Classified*.

The **Maryland Romance Writers**, a chapter of Romance Writers of America, showcases the romance genre with novels by first time authors, tips for beginner and established writers and panels on engaging topics, including dystopian, erotica and Steampunk fiction. Throughout the weekend, festival-goers can enjoy **Readings & Raffles**, which feature bestselling romance writers and giveaways such as book series, an Underworld Survival Kit and baskets covering everything from love spells and chocolate to vampire and pirate themes. Authors **Karen S. Garvin**, **Bill Gawne**, **Elektra Hammond**, **Paul Ellis**, **Lea Nolan** and **Laurel Wanrow** discuss Steampunk, a fantastical fiction based in the Victorian era, on Saturday at 4pm during the **Steampunk: Gear Up for Adventure!** panel. On Sunday at 1pm, **The Healthy Writer** features authors **Rebecca York**, **Eliza Knight** and **Sharon Buchbinder**, RN, Ph.D as they give tips on balancing health with a successful writing career.

Regional singers and bands grace the **Baltimore Book Festival Music Stage** throughout the weekend. Festival-goers can take in the melodic sounds of **Navasha Daya**, neo-soul; **8 Ohms**, funk; **The Crowdaddies**, roots/zydeco; **White Loafer Blues Band**, blues; and **Yellow Dubmarine**, reggae.

Food is located throughout the festival. Vendors, including food trucks, prepare a bit of everything from appetizing crab cakes and gyros to sweet treats such as cupcakes, cinnamon roasted nuts and ice cream. Beverages are also served including beer, wine and mixed drinks.

The Baltimore Book Festival is produced by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts. Corporate sponsorship is provided by the City of Baltimore, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Corrigan Sports Enterprises/ Baltimore Running Festival, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, Visit Baltimore (in partnership with

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Baltimore National Heritage Area and Black Smoke Ensemble), Baltimore Ravens, Fiat (Mile One Automotive), The Baltimore Sun Media Group, IKEA Baltimore Store, Amtrak, Charm City Circulator, Renewal by Andersen and Moveable Mixtures. Additional support is provided by The Abell Foundation, Baltimore County Commission on Arts & Sciences, Caplan Family Foundation and Maryland State Arts Council. Media sponsors include *The Afro-American Newspapers, The Baltimore Times, City Paper, Gay Life Newspapers, Fox 45 / The CW Baltimore, Urbanite, WEEA 88.9 FM and WYPR 88.1 FM*. In-kind supporters are Agora, Inc., Barefoot Wine & Bubbly, Baltimore Blues Society, Deer Park, Institute of Notre Dame, Milk & Honey Market, Whiting-Turner Contracting Company and Wyndham Baltimore Peabody Court Hotel.

For more information on the **Baltimore Book Festival**, visit [www.baltimorebookfestival.com](http://www.baltimorebookfestival.com) or call 1-877-BALTIMORE.

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