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## **Texas Book Festival Announces Full 2024 Program Schedule**

***Author Panels, Poetry Readings, Cooking Demonstrations, Bilingual Sessions, Children’s Activities and More November 16-17***

(Austin, Texas) - [Texas Book Festival](http://www.texasbookfestival.org) (TBF) announced the complete schedule for its 29th annual event, November 16–17, 2024. Anticipation is high for one of the nation’s largest and longest-running book festivals, presenting more than 275 acclaimed authors at events in and around the Texas Capitol and neighboring streets and venues including the State Theatre and The Contemporary Austin - Jones Center. The 2024 Festival Weekend will connect national and Texas-based authors with attendees through panel discussions, readings, cooking demos, book signings and children's activities including crafts and storytime sessions by some of today’s leading children’s authors. Always a free event, the complete schedule is available at [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org).

“A small but mighty team has carefully curated a Texas Book Festival to remember,” said TBF CEO Marianne DeLeón “We’re thrilled to bring together an exceptionally diverse and dynamic roster of authors and experiences that will inspire readers of all ages. We put this roster together with all of our attendees in mind, ensuring there is something for everyone. I hope you will meet us there.”

“This year’s Festival program will feature household names like Matthew McConaughey and Malcolm Gladwell, Pulitzer Prize winners like Jane Smiley and Cristina Rivera Garza, many acclaimed Texas authors like Attica Locke, Sarah Bird, Ernest Cline, and Naomi Shihab Nye, as well as exciting debut novelists like Kat Tang, Alejandro Puyana, Hannah Brown and many more” said TBF literary director, Hannah Gabel. “My goal with programming is to feature literary heavyweights and fan favorites alongside exciting debut voices and up-and-coming writers in the hopes that Festival attendees will come out to see their favorite authors and discover new writers to love along the way.”

**Schedule highlights on Saturday, November 16 include:**

### Central Presbyterian Church:

#### **11:30 AM Inheritance & Identity: Unraveling the Past to Shape the Future with Rachel Khong & Téa Obreht**

Téa Obreht, [The Morningside](#), and Rachel Khong, [Real Americans](#), discuss family, displacement and the quest for identity in their latest novels. Obreht weaves a tale of a young girl in a decaying city grappling with the magical folktales of her lost homeland, meanwhile, Khong explores three generations of Chinese Americans navigating class, race and inheritance in a fractured American landscape. Through lyrical storytelling and intimate character studies, these authors explore how our personal and ancestral pasts shape the futures we're trying to create.

#### **2:45 PM: Literary Legends on Writing Fiction Inspired by Personal Narratives with Claire Messud & Jane Smiley**

Literary legends Claire Messud and Jane Smiley discuss their latest novels, [This Strange and Eventful History](#) and [Lucky](#) respectively. Messud's new novel follows members of the French Algerian Cassare family over seven decades, from displacement during World War II to a granddaughter's desire to tell their stories in 2010, and the complexities of family dynamics along the way. Smiley's book is the first-person coming-of-age story of folksinger Jodie Rattler, who has experienced good fortune since age six but longs for something just out of reach. Learn how the authors drew from their real-life experiences and family histories to create sweeping stories and characters with rich interior lives.

### State Theatre:

#### **10:30 AM: Powerful and Personal Narrative Nonfiction about Life & Death in Mexico with Angela Garcia & Cristina Rivera Garza:**

Two genre-defying, eye-opening works of narrative nonfiction by two Latina professors and authors. Garcia's [The Way that Leads Among the Lost](#) combines research and anthropological fieldwork with the author's personal history in this examination of the little-known world of anexos, community drug rehab centers in Mexico that serve as a refuge from violent drug wars, but also employ violent tactics of their own. Twenty nine years after her sister's murder, Rivera Garza travels to Mexico City in search of unresolved answers, which she documents in her Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir, [Liliana's Invincible Summer](#). Through letters, police reports, notebooks and interviews, Rivera Garza reveals the extent of the normalized gender-based violence that took her sister's life while confronting her own trauma.

#### **4:15 PM: Rumaan Alam in Conversation about *Entitlement***

Rumaan Alam discusses his new book [Entitlement](#) with award-winning author Elizabeth McCracken. A national bestseller, *Entitlement* is a propulsive novel about money, morality, race, and privilege that follows an idealistic young woman who goes to work for an aged billionaire.

**Schedule highlights on Sunday, November 17 include:**

### State Theatre:

#### **11:00 AM: Attica Locke In Conversation about *Guide Me Home***

Join Attica Locke in conversation with acclaimed author Elizabeth Crook to discuss [Guide Me Home](#), the stunning culmination of her award-winning Highway 59 trilogy. Detective Darren Mathews is pulled out of early retirement to investigate the case of a missing Black college student from an all-white sorority and soon finds a town that will stop at nothing to keep its secrets hidden.

**12:15 PM What Makes a Monster? Stephen Graham Jones on *I Was A Teenage Slasher***

*New York Times* bestselling horror writer, Stephen Graham Jones will discuss his latest novel, [I Was a Teenage Slasher](#) in this session moderated by acclaimed writer, director and showrunner Noah Hawley. Set in Lamesa, Texas, Jones' haunting story is told from the perspective of a young murderer, cursed to kill for revenge. Learn how Jones creates an empathetic monster and sends chills up readers' spines.

**1:30 PM: Michele Norris in Discussion about *Our Hidden Conversations***

"Race. Your Thoughts. Six Words. Please Send." Over half a million Americans answered this six-word prompt on award-winning journalist Michele Norris' The Race Card Project website. These responses inspired Norris' newest book [Our Hidden Conversations](#), a collection of thoughtful, sometimes humorous and unflinchingly honest stories. Join her in conversation with Dr. Peniel Joseph, a UT Austin professor and founding director of the LBJ School's Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, for a discussion about how Americans truly view race and identity.

**2:45 PM: Hanif Abdurraqib in Conversation about *There's Always This Year***

Award-winning poet, essayist and cultural critic Hanif Abdurraqib and Miwa Messer, executive producer and host of Barnes & Noble's *Poured Over* podcast discuss [There's Always This Year: On Basketball and Ascension](#). Abdurraqib's uniquely crafted memoir contemplates community, place, belonging, kinship, hope, love, and existence — all poetically intertwined through the unifying thread of basketball.

**[Texas State Capitol Auditorium:](#)**

**11:15 AM: The Art of Mystery with Jean Hanff Korelitz & Liz Moore**

Acclaimed authors Jean Hanff Korelitz and Liz Moore discuss the art of mystery and suspense fiction writing. In [The Sequel](#), Korelitz explores the cost of success in the cutthroat world of publishing through the eyes of a literary widow whose life is upended when an inconvenient story resurfaces, threatening to reveal dark secrets about her late husband and family. In [The God of the Woods](#), Moore takes readers to a summer camp in the Adirondack mountains, where the disappearance of a teenage girl sets off a chilling investigation, unearthing long-buried secrets that could ruin a family dynasty. Discover how these talented authors weave suspense, family secrets and complex characters into their compelling narratives.

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**About Texas Book Festival**

With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, [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 Weekend, 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.

This year's Texas Book Festival will take place November 16 and 17, with events happening in downtown Austin and at the Texas Capitol, featuring renowned authors, panels, book signings, and activities. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public.

TBF can host this large-scale event thanks to its presenting sponsor H-E-B. Other major sponsors include Brigid Cockrum and Family, Tejemos Foundation, Tres Grace Family Foundation, *Kirkus Reviews*, the City of Austin Economic Development Department, Tocker Foundation, Still Water Foundation, The Rea Charitable Trust, Buena Vista Foundation, Tapestry Foundation, Downtown Austin Alliance, Central Market, RNDC, Jordan Foster Construction, *Texas Monthly*, and *The Austin Chronicle*. BookPeople is the official Festival bookseller.