



For Immediate Release

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WRITERFEST NASHVILLE DEBUTS NOVEMBER 2018

Lipscomb University Hosts Inaugural Festival of Writing

Speakers Include Renowned Authors, Poets, Novelists, Songwriters and Screenwriters

Nashville, Tenn, July 16, 2018 - **WriterFest Nashville**, a new festival celebrating writers and words, debuts November 8 - 9, 2018, on the Lipscomb University campus. Registration is open at www.WriterFestNashville.com.

WriterFest Nashville is a creative gathering for aspiring writers, published authors, screenwriters, poets and songwriters. Attendees will enjoy lectures by and conversations with bestselling authors, world-class publishing professionals, filmmakers, poets and songwriters. Attendance is limited to 500 registrants to ensure an intimate experience.



The festival is held on the Lipscomb University campus and is hosted by Lipscomb University's College of Entertainment & the Arts and the Department of English & Modern Languages in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. **WriterFest Nashville** sponsor and retail partner, Parnassus Books, will host book sales at the festival and will feature speaker's books in store.

"Nashville is a magnet for creative people," says Ami McConnell, Founder and Festival Director. "So many award-winning authors, songwriters, filmmakers, and poets love this city. **WriterFest** aims to connect, inspire, and empower them."

WriterFest Nashville 2018 will feature sessions and panels spanning genres. This year's lineup of speakers continues to grow, with these renowned experts already confirmed:

- **Ruth Chou Simons**, author, *GraceLaced*
- **Seth Worley**, award-winning writer/director
- **Michael Bishop**, author, *Murder in the Music City*
- **Rebekah Lyons**, author, *You Are Free*, co-founder Q Ideas
- **Stephanie Appell**, manager of books for young readers, Parnassus Books
- **Colleen Coble**, bestselling romance author
- **Patti Callahan Henry**, *New York Times* bestselling novelist, *Becoming Mrs. Lewis*
- **Howie Klausner**, writer & producer of "Space Cowboys," "Soul Surfer," author of *Rocketman*
- **Ariel Lawhon**, critically acclaimed novelist, *I Was Anastasia*
- **Amy Parker**, bestselling children's author
- **Mary Laura Philpott**, author & illustrator *Penguins with People Problems*, Emmy-winning co-host of "A Word on Words" Nashville Public Television
- **Liz Cackowski**, writer and producer, "Saturday Night Live," "Community," "Last Man on Earth"
- **Courtney Stevens**, young adult novelist, *Dress Code for Small Towns*
- **Marjory Wentworth**, Poet Laureate of South Carolina, co-author, *Out of Wonder*
- **MaryBeth Whalen**, co-founder SheReads.com, novelist, *When We Were Worthy*

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Ami McConnell is founder and Festival Director of **WriterFest Nashville**. She is former Editor-in-Chief and Vice President, Howard Books/Simon & Schuster, and her editing credits include numerous *New York Times* bestsellers and award-winning titles. Ami has edited renowned authors Colleen Coble, Ted Dekker, Karen Kingsbury, Max Lucado, Frank Peretti, and Wm. Paul Young. She has served on the Advisory Board of The Buechner Institute at King College and is an active member of the Women's National Book Association.

Ami is co-author with Candace Cameron Bure of *Kind Is the New Classy* (2018, HarperCollins).

For full details, registration and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.WriterFestNashville.com.

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"For years, Ami McConnell and I envisioned a festival that creates a vibrant community of readers and writers who celebrate the book in all its guises—in print, in audio recordings, or adapted for stage and screen. I am delighted that Lipscomb University has embraced this vision by welcoming a new community of book lovers to its campus this fall, and I hope that authors, editors, publishers, and readers will make the WriterFest an annual tradition."

--Kim Reed, Chair and Professor, English & Modern Languages Department, Lipscomb University

"Parnassus is partnering with WriterFest Nashville because we love nurturing Nashville's creative folks. WriterFest already has an impressive line-up of writers and their venue is perfect—just a couple blocks away from our store!"

--Karen Hayes, co-owner Parnassus Books

"I'm flattered to be a guest speaker at WriterFest Nashville this fall. I'm looking forward to talking about screenwriting, sketch, and sitcom writing with y'all nice folks. (That's my Nashville accent.)"

--Liz Cackowski, writer and producer, SNL, Community, Last Man on Earth

"Nashville is one of my favorite towns—in large part because of the vibrant writing community. That's why I'm so excited to be a part of WriterFest Nashville 2018. It's going to be a blast!"

--Patti Callahan Henry, *New York Times* bestselling novelist

"WriterFest Nashville will feed our vibrant artistic community in new and exciting ways. All writers and would-be writers need to attend this wonderful opportunity for learning and networking."

--Barbie Chadwick, WNBA President, Nashville Chapter

"I am so excited to be a part of this year's WriterFest Nashville! Anytime those who love words gather, good times are bound to ensue. I can't wait to be a part of the fun, the creativity and the inspiration."

--MaryBeth Whalen, novelist and cofounder of *SheReads.com*

"I'm delighted to participate in WriterFest Nashville as an author and a representative of Parnassus Books. Indie bookstores have so much to offer writers and readers – this should be a really fun conversation."

--Mary Laura Philpott, author, illustrator, essayist, Emmy-winning co-host of "A Word on Words"

WriterFest Nashville

www.WriterFestNashville.com

November 8 - 9, 2018, at Lipscomb University

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