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Brooklyn Public Library Announces 2017 Fall Season

Convening Nobel and Pulitzer Prize-winning authors for talks, conversations, and readings, and launching newly commissioned programs, including an international lecture series and a literary film festival.

Highlights include:

- A conversation with internationally renowned author **Salman Rushdie** on his new novel *The Golden House*, a modern American epic of family, loss, and reinvention set against the backdrop of our current political climate
- The launch of a newly commissioned lecture series, *Message from the Library*, inaugurated by **David Grossman**, winner of the 2017 Man Booker International Prize
- The premiere of an international film festival to celebrate the literary world as seen in documentaries and experimental feature films
- Nobel Prize-winner **Orhan Pamuk** discusses his latest novel *The Red-Haired Woman*, a mysterious tale of family and romance that explores the tensions between traditional and secular values
- Award-winning author **Isabel Allende**, who received global acclaim for her instant bestselling debut novel *The House of Spirits*, discusses her newest work, *In the Midst of Winter*, a love story reflecting on timely issues of the plight of immigrants and refugees
- Notable writers **Heather Cass White**, **Margo Jefferson**, **Timothy Donnelly**, **Maureen N. McLane**, and **Eleanor Chai** gather to celebrate **Marianne Moore's** *New Collected Poems*, a landmark anthology of one of the major innovators of poetic modernism
- **Kurt Andersen** discusses his new book, *Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire*, which analyzes the development of a post-truth society in America over the course of five centuries
- Nobel Peace Prize recipient **Muhammad Yunus** offers his vision of a new economic system that eliminates inequality, unemployment, and environmental destruction in his latest book, *A World of Three Zeros*
- Renowned poet and activist **Sonia Sanchez** leads a discussion on age and wisdom around a campfire in Prospect Park

Brooklyn, NY – September 6, 2017 – Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) today announced its 2017 fall season, expanding its role as a civic leader in convening world-renowned writers, scholars, critics, and artists with the broader public to discuss issues that are vital to communities in New York and the nation. The fall season features a dynamic lineup of free, thought-provoking events, including: a newly BPL-commissioned lecture series that asks cultural leaders from around the world to share their thoughts on the important role of libraries in society, talks and readings with internationally acclaimed authors timed to the release of their new books, the debut of a four-day literary film festival, and panel discussions with scholars and critics on such topics as the future of democracy and the maternal mortality crisis in the U.S., among many others. Offering a wide range of free events, Brooklyn Public Library’s fall season is indicative of its commitment to producing innovative programs that engage diverse audiences and bring people together to explore new and socially relevant ideas.

“By providing free and open access to some of the most influential minds of our time, Brooklyn Public Library is staying at the forefront of our civic debate,” said Linda E. Johnson, President and CEO of Brooklyn Public Library. “In hosting readings, community conversations, lectures, performance art, films and more, the Library remains committed to encouraging new ways of thinking and understanding between one another.”

László Jakab Orsós, Vice President of Arts and Culture of Brooklyn Public Library added, “This fall, we are featuring leading literary voices and launching a series of new cultural programs conceived by the Library, such as a *Message from the Library* with David Grossman and an international literary film festival. Our intention with the fall program is to show that the Library is not a simple cultural destination. It is a place that constantly urges us to ask questions and seek answers within and outside of our collection.”

Kicking off the fall season in September, **Salman Rushdie** will discuss his much-anticipated new novel, *The Golden House* (Random House, Sept. 2017), in a moderated conversation led by award-winning writer Colum McCann, marking the acclaimed author’s return to realism for the first time since his 1981 novel, *Midnight’s Children*. Also in September, as part of the Brooklyn Book Festival, BPL will host a tribute to pioneering poet **Marianne Moore** in celebration of her newly released anthology, *New Collected Poems: Marianne Moore* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, June 2017). Beginning in September and continuing throughout the fall season, Brooklyn Public Library will present a number of conversations and talks with award-winning authors about their latest and forthcoming publications, exploring the political, economic, and social themes that run through their new works, such as immigration, inequality, and corruption. Authors featured in the series include: **Kurt Andersen** on *Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire* (Random House, Sept. 2017), **Muhammed Yunus** on *A World of Three Zeros* (PublicAffairs, Sept. 2017), **Isabel Allende** on *In the Midst of Winter* (Atria Books, Oct. 2017), **Orhan Pamuk** on *The Red-Haired Woman* (Knopf, Aug. 2017), **Matthew Desmond** on *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* (Crown, March 2016), and **Alice McDermott** on *The Ninth Hour* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Sept. 2017).

In October, civil rights activist and poet **Sonia Sanchez** will lead Brooklyn Public Library’s **Campfire Conversations**—a series of themed community conversations on contemporary issues around an outdoor campfire at the Lefferts Historic House in Prospect Park. In early December, Brooklyn Public Library will launch a four-day international **literary film festival**—celebrating feature films and documentaries that tell the stories of writers, editors, and the literary world. Featuring eight film

screenings, including New York premieres, the festival will showcase documentaries and experimental works from around the world that explore literary themes. Screenings will be complemented by a panel discussion or talkback with directors and writers. Additionally, the Library will host a series of **Yoga & Poetry** events, an initiative that features yoga classes paired with readings by major living poets, such as former Brooklyn poet laureate **D. Nurkse**.

The fall season will conclude with a **Message from the Library**—a new, international lecture series produced by Brooklyn Public Library that asks leading thinkers to speak to the important role of libraries in society. **David Grossman**, winner of the 2017 Man Booker International Prize, will deliver the inaugural *Message from the Library*, sharing some of his views on critical world issues and how libraries provide a safe space for the community to explore these current social topics and ask important questions.

Looking ahead to January 2018, Brooklyn Public Library will host **A Night of Philosophy & Ideas**—an all-night marathon of debate and performances with philosophers and Brooklynites produced in collaboration with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy. Details about this series will be released later in the fall.

For more information on events and ticketing please visit: <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/bpl-presents>

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY 2017 FALL SEASON

* Please note these events and programs are part of BPL Presents, Brooklyn Public Library's series of arts and culture events for adults all taking place at its central branch, unless indicated. *

Brooklyn by the Book: Salman Rushdie and Colum McCann

Thursday, September 7

8:00 – 9:00pm

Presented by Brooklyn by the Book, international bestselling author Salman Rushdie discusses his newest novel *The Golden House* (Random House, 2017) with writer Colum McCann. Salman Rushdie is a British Indian novelist and essayist, who has written 12 novels that have been translated into over 40 languages, including *Midnight's Children*—awarded the Man Booker Prize and later adapted for stage and film. Tickets are \$34 for general admission and \$31 for CBE/BPL-member admission. All ticket buyers will receive a hardcover copy of *The Golden House* for pickup at the program. Brooklyn By the Book is a collaboration between the Brooklyn Public Library, Community Bookstore, and Congregation Beth Elohim.

Marianne Moore's New Collected Poems

Friday, September 15

6:30pm, Camperdown Elm in Prospect Park

7:30 – 9:00pm, Central Branch

Notable authors gather to celebrate Marianne Moore, one of America's trailblazing poets, in conjunction to the publication of her new anthology edited by Heather Cass White.

Brooklyn Public Library welcomes you to first join us for a powerful reading of the “The Camperdown Elm” in Prospect Park by the elm tree of the same name that Moore helped save. Afterwards, the program will continue at Central Library’s Dweck Auditorium for a discussion with writers Margo Jefferson, Timothy Donnelly, Maureen N. McLane, and Eleanor Chai on their favorite Moore poems. Moore’s *Collected Poems* (Macmillan Company, 1951) won both the Pulitzer Prize in poetry and the National Book Award. This is a Brooklyn Book Festival Bookend Event. Co-presented with Poetry Society of America; Farrar, Straus & Giroux; and Prospect Park Alliance.

Yoga and Poetry with D. Nurkse

Sunday, September 17

10:00 – 11:00am, Brooklyn Book Festival Main Stage at Borough Hall, Brooklyn

Yoga & Poetry is an initiative of Brooklyn Public Library that features yoga instruction paired with the added joy of live poetry. The series will curate major living poets, who will appear onsite to read their work. For the month of September, Brooklyn-based poet D. Nurkse, the author of numerous collections of poetry, including *The Rules of Paradise* (2001), *The Fall* (2003), and *The Border Kingdom* (2008), will read a selection of his poems. This event will take place at the Brooklyn Book Festival main stage at Borough Hall, Brooklyn. Please bring your own yoga mat. Doors open at 9:30am. Class starts at 10:00am sharp.

Taking Care: A Story of Common History

Thursday, September 21, 10:00am – 3:00pm

Saturday, September 23, 9:00am – 2:00pm

(Rain dates: Friday, September 22 from 10am to 3pm & Sunday, September 24 from 12 to 4pm.)

French-born, Brooklyn-based artist Anne Mourier’s *Taking Care* is a performance piece about bonds created between people and their pasts through simple domestic objects. Anne Mourier invites the employees of the Brooklyn Public Library to bring white clothing for her to hand-wash with natural Marseille olive soap and lavender extracts, line-dry in the sun, iron, and fold for them to pick up at the Library.

The different stations (washing, rinsing, ironing, and drying) will be set up on the Library’s Plaza. The public is welcome to participate as well as to share stories about what the performance reminds them of. Some of the collected stories will be embroidered on white towels.

Kurt Andersen on *Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire*

Tuesday, September 26

7:30 – 9:00pm

American novelist Kurt Andersen discusses his new book *Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire* (Random House, Sept. 2017), which offers a new understanding of our post-truth world. Andersen is also the author of the critically acclaimed, bestselling novels *True Believers* (2013), *Heyday* (2007) and *Turn of the Century* (1999), all published by Random House. In addition to writing, he is the host and co-creator of *Studio 360*, the cultural magazine show produced by Public Radio International. He was named by *New York* magazine as one of the “100 People Who Changed New York,” and by *Forbes* as one of the “25 Most Influential Liberals in the U.S. Media.”

Muhammad Yunus on *A World of Three Zeros*

Wednesday, September 27

7:30 – 9:00pm

Muhammed Yunus, a Bangladeshi social entrepreneur, economist, and civil society leader, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for founding the Grameen Bank and pioneering the concepts of microcredit and microfinance, discusses his new book *A World of Three Zeros* (PublicAffairs, Sept. 2017), which argues the capitalist engine is broken and offers a new economic vision for our future. Yunus will take questions, followed by a book signing. The event is co-presented with Greenlight Bookstore and BPL's Business & Career Center.

William Taubman on Mikhail Gorbachev, with Kai Bird

Thursday, September 28

7:30 – 9:00pm

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Khrushchev: The Man and his Era* (W.W. Norton and Company, 2004) comes the definitive volume on one of the most important and controversial figures of the 20th century, Mikhail Gorbachev. In conversation with Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Kai Bird, Taubman discusses Gorbachev's contested place in history: a hero, or an inept politician who let the Soviet Empire collapse. The event is co-presented with Leon Levy Center at CUNY.

Orhan Pamuk on *The Red-Haired Woman*

Monday, October 2

7:30 – 9:00pm

Nobel Prize-winner Orhan Pamuk discusses his latest novel *The Red-Haired Woman* (Knopf, Aug. 2017), a story of a well-digger and his apprentice looking for water on barren land. Regarded as one of the most original voices in contemporary fiction, Pamuk is the author of many books, including *The White Castle* (Carcenet Press Limited, 1990), *The Black Book* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1994), *The New Life* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1997), *My Name is Red* (Knopf, 2001), and *Snow* (Knopf, 2004). Pamuk is the first Turkish Nobel laureate and is also the recipient of numerous literary awards. Pamuk lives and works in Istanbul.

Yoga & Poetry

Sunday, October 8

9:30 – 10:30am

Alice McDermott on *The Ninth Hour*, with Rebecca Mead

Thursday, October 12

7:30 – 9:00pm

National Book Award-winning author Alice McDermott discusses her new Brooklyn-based novel *The Ninth Hour*, which chronicles the experiences of Irish immigrants in the early 20th century. McDermott is the author of several novels, including *After This* (2006); *Child of My Heart* (2002); *Charming Billy*, winner of the 1998 National Book Award; and *At Weddings and Wakes* (1992), a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, all published by FSG. McDermott lives with her family outside Washington, D.C. and is Johns

Hopkins University's Richard A. Macksey Professor of the Humanities. Rebecca Mead is a staff writer for *The New Yorker*.

Campfire Conversations: Age & Wisdom with Sonia Sanchez

Saturday, October 14

6:30 – 7:30pm, Lefferts Historic House in Prospect Park

Prospect Park Alliance and Brooklyn Public Library present *Campfire Conversations*, a series of themed community conversations around an outdoor campfire at the Lefferts Historic House. This month's conversation will be moderated by renowned writer, poet, playwright, and activist Sonia Sanchez. Sanchez was the Laura Carnell Professor of English and Women's Studies at Temple University. She is the recipient of both the Robert Frost Medal for distinguished lifetime service to American poetry and the Langston Hughes Poetry Award. One of the most important writers of the Black Arts Movement, Sanchez is the author of 16 books.

NYRB & BPL Presents: the collected essays of Elizabeth Hardwick

Wednesday, October 18

7:30 – 9:00pm

Writers and scholars discuss the first-ever collection of essays from across Elizabeth Hardwick's illustrious writing career, including works not seen in print for decades; moderated by collection editor Darryl Pinckney and co-presented with *New York Review of Books*.

Elizabeth Hardwick wrote during the golden age of the American literary essay. She covered civil rights demonstrations in the 1960s, places where she lived, locations she traveled to, theater she had seen, and murder trials that gripped her. She wrote sketches for various occasions and countless essays about literature, her greatest passion. For Hardwick, the essay was an imaginative endeavor. The continuous attention to language, the structure of observations, the line of interpretation—Hardwick deserves to be read and reread for the clarity of her perceptions and her enduring assessments of literature and society, and simply for the beauty of her writing alone.

Edited and with an introduction by Darryl Pinckney, *The Collected Essays of Elizabeth Hardwick* gathers more than 50 essays for a retrospective of this writer of moral courage, as Joan Didion called her. Hardwick's readings define literature itself.

***Alone*, a film by Garrett Bradley, with a panel discussion**

Thursday, October 19

7:30 – 9:00pm

With her fiancé in jail, single mother Alone Watts must decide whether to go through with their wedding. This documentary short film investigating the layers of mass incarceration and its shaping of the modern black American family is seen through the eyes of a single mother in New Orleans, Louisiana. Followed by a discussion with director Garrett Bradley and other panelists. Co-presented with the Brooklyn Community Foundation.

ProPublica, NPR & BPL Presents on the U.S. Maternal Mortality Crisis

Tuesday, October 24

7:30 – 9:00pm

In recent reporting, ProPublica and NPR revealed that the U.S. has become the most dangerous place to be pregnant in the developed world due to a health care system that focuses on newborns but often ignores their mothers' health. ProPublica's Nina Martin and guests discuss this public health crisis.

Isabel Allende on *In the Midst of Winter*, moderator TBA

Tuesday, November 7

7:30 – 9:00pm

Worldwide-bestselling author Isabel Allende returns with *In the Midst of Winter* (Simon & Schuster, Oct. 2017), a sweeping novel about three very different people who are brought together in a mesmerizing story that journeys from present-day Brooklyn to Guatemala in the recent past to 1970s Chile and Brazil. Allende won international acclaim when her bestselling first novel, *The House of the Spirits*, was published in 1982. She has written over 22 works in her native Spanish, which have been translated into 35 languages and have sold nearly 70 million copies. In addition to her work as a writer, Allende also devotes much of her time to human rights. Allende spends her time between Chile and California.

Yoga & Poetry

Sunday, November 12

9:30 – 10:30am

Message from the Library with David Grossman

Sunday, December 10

7:00 – 8:00pm

David Grossman, winner of the 2017 Man Booker International Prize for his novel *A Horse Walks Into a Bar* (Knopf), delivers the inaugural *Message from the Library*, a new international lecture series that will take place twice a year and feature renowned writers, public intellectuals, artists, scientists, thinkers, and leading cultural figures from around the world. For the event, Grossman will share highly personal views on current and socially relevant issues and address the Library's importance as a space for the community to explore some of life's most pressing topics and important questions. Born in Jerusalem, Grossman is the author of numerous works of fiction, nonfiction, and children's literature, including *To the End of the Land* (Knopf, 2008), which explores the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and *Falling Out of Time* (Knopf, 2014). The event will be live-streamed.

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About Brooklyn Public Library

Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) is an independent library system for the 2.5 million residents of Brooklyn. It is the fifth-largest library system in the United States with 60 neighborhood libraries located throughout the borough. BPL offers free programs and services for all ages and stages of life, including a large selection of books in more than 30 languages, author talks, literacy programs and public computers. BPL's eResources, such as eBooks and eVideos, catalog information and free homework help, are available to customers of all ages 24 hours a day at our website: <http://www.bklynlibrary.org/>.