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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL AND UC BERKELEY PARTNER FOR LITERARY PROGRAMS THAT FEATURE AND ENGAGE COMMUNITY AND UC BERKELEY STUDENTS, FACULTY AND SCHOLARS**

**UC BERKELEY ARTS + DESIGN, ASUC STUDENT UNION, AND BAMPFA CO-CREATE AND PROMOTE FESTIVAL EVENTS TO THE UC BERKELEY COMMUNITY**

**APRIL 28 & 29 FESTIVAL BRINGS 500 AUTHORS, PRESENTERS AND EXHIBITORS TO DOWNTOWN BERKELEY FOR ONE OF THE NATION'S PREMIER ANNUAL LIT CELEBRATIONS**

Berkeley, CA, April 9, 2018 [updated April 11, 2018] – As part of its broadening programming for 2018, the **Bay Area Book Festival** (BABF) has partnered with the **University of California at Berkeley** for a variety of events designed to engage with the local community, highlight faculty talent and expand access to enrich students' experience in fresh, interesting and positive ways. Below is a schedule of Festival events sponsored by UC Berkeley or otherwise prominently featuring faculty or alumni.

This year, Bay Area Book Festival brings nearly 500 authors and exhibitors—from the Bay Area, nation and world and from across the spectrum of genres, traditions and inspirations—together with tens of thousands of book enthusiasts for two days of presentations, panels, keynotes, films, performances, participatory activities, exhibits and a lively outdoor fair. Information, tickets and a full Festival schedule

including UC Berkeley events and nearly 100 more may be found at [www.baybookfest.org](http://www.baybookfest.org) .

“One of the reasons the Bay Area Book Festival decided to locate itself in Berkeley, instead of other potential sites in the Bay Area, is the presence of UC Berkeley, the world’s top-ranked public university and an organization that shares many mission commonalities with us,” says BABF founder and Director **Cherilyn Parsons**. “While the university has played a key role in the festival since our inception, starting with this year we have moved up the Festival’s standing annual date from early June to take place at the end of Cal’s spring semester, this year April 28-29, to welcome greater partnership and interaction with Cal faculty, students and staff. We are extremely pleased to collaborate with **Berkeley Arts + Design, ASUC Student Union** and **BAMPFA** to broaden our literary program and deepen our commitment to Berkeley. We also appreciate engagement from UC Berkeley’s Government and Community Relations office in facilitating collaboration throughout the university. We expect our partnership to continue to grow in years to come.”

### **About the BABF UC Berkeley Partnership**

The Festival and the University share many missions. Both advance the life of the mind, value written expression, encompass a wide variety of disciplines, emphasize social justice and activism, serve California within an international context and make intellectual and creative excellence accessible to all. UC Berkeley Chancellor **Carol Christ** notes, "The Bay Area Book Festival has become one of California’s leading literary events, bringing tens of thousands of readers and a diverse set of writers to Berkeley for an annual celebration of the power of the written word. While our campus has supported the festival since it began, we’re excited to strengthen ties to this event, whose mission of promoting literary expression and creating forums for discussing topical issues is very much in line with our own."

The BABF and UC Berkeley partnership includes multiple university student and community programs and academic units including Berkeley Arts + Design, ASUC Student Union, BAMPFA and UC Berkeley’s office of Government and Community Relations. These key partners have committed considerable time and resources to their collaborations with BABF. In addition, thanks to a course based in the Department of Rhetoric, UC Berkeley students are participating in the creation of the Festival through a variety of internships for academic credit.

In keeping with its mission to coordinate and curate arts programs throughout campus, **Berkeley Arts + Design (A+D)** has been the key BABF partner in coordinating the university’s academic engagement in the festival. A+D is sponsoring and will introduce three author programs focusing on literature, activism and psychology (details below). A+D has been running a popular “Arts + Design Mondays” series with leading writers and thinkers on the theme of public assembly, and the semester’s closing session on April 30, directly after the festival, will reflect

on the festival experience and include some of the speakers from the sponsored sessions, which will be available via livestream on their website, [artsdesign.berkeley.edu/Mondays](http://artsdesign.berkeley.edu/Mondays) .

A+D also has helped engage other academic units and faculty in the Festival and is helping support other campus sessions. Further, it has curated a list of Festival programs of special interest to the UC Berkeley community and integrated these into A+D's new interactive app.

Finally, A+D has teamed up with **ASUC Student Union** to sponsor 1,000 general-admission Festival wristbands that they will promote to students using the new app. A+D and ASUC Student Union also both will promote the festival through the university's extensive social media and internal networks.

**ASUC Student Union** will host a Cal Pavilion at the Festival where the public can browse and enjoy books in a lounge-like setting. The Pavilion will serve as a welcome center and reading lounge for festival attendees, and will showcase books written by Cal faculty past and present and books written about the University. A mini student store will sell Cal-branded merchandise—pens/folders, apparel, etc.—to promote the new on-campus student store and will offer some surprise giveaways, as well as a program of spoken word, poetry and presentations by student authors.

**BAMPFA (Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive)** has been a Festival partner for three years, and its Festival screenings have been one of BAMPFA's most successful series. Running just before and during the festival, the film series (detailed below) is curated by the three people who conceived it: Tom Luddy, a founder of the Pacific Film Archive as well as the Telluride Film Festival, which he still co-directs, along with BAMPFA Film Curator Kathy Geritz and Festival Director Cherilyn Parsons.

**The Chancellor's Office of Government and Community Relations** has facilitated BABF's relations throughout the university and provided a variety of means of support for all years of the event. The Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund's provided a seed grant in 2015 (the very first Festival) which helped spark other donors to contribute to the BABF.

BABF also has collaborated with two organizations associated with UC Berkeley but not directly part of the university: **California Magazine**, the alumni publication, which is providing advertising to the festival and sponsoring a session on food to coincide with the focus of the magazine's current issue, and the **Daily Cal**, which is covering the festival extensively and publishing a special section on the event.

## **Bay Area Book Festival UC Berkeley Events**

**ASUC Student Union Hosts the UC Berkeley Pavilion at the FREE BABF Outdoor Fair Featuring books by faculty and staff authors**

**Saturday and Sunday, April 28 & 29, 10 AM—6 PM**

**Berkeley Arts + Design Sponsored Sessions at BABF**

**Resisting Hate with Free Speech**

**Nadine Strossen interviewed by Erwin Chemerinsky**

**Saturday, April 28, 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM**

The question of limits on free speech has recently occupied our nation's consciousness—as well as the physical streets of Berkeley. The American Civil Liberties Union has worked for nearly 100 years to arbitrate this question in times of intense political division, and now Nadine Strossen, former president of the ACLU, joins us to present "HATE: Why We Should Resist it With Free Speech, Not Censorship"—appropriately released here in Berkeley, home of the Free Speech Movement. Strossen will be interviewed by UC Berkeley School of Law Dean Erwin Chemerinsky.

Freight & Salvage

**Wrestling with the Devil: Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o in Conversation**

**Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o interviewed by Namwali Serpell**

**Saturday, April 28, 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM**

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o is one of the world's most prominent African writers working today, often on the radar for the Nobel Prize. He joins us to discuss the American release of "Wrestling with the Devil: A Prison Memoir." In 1977, he was imprisoned by the Kenyan government in a maximum security facility because of his artistic defiance of a regime. In prison, he penned a novel—on toilet paper, the only paper to which he had access—that would become his classic, "Devil on the Cross." He will discuss the prison experience, challenges of writing fiction under twenty-four-hour surveillance, and the spirit of defiance that defines hope. He testifies to the power of imagination to help humans break free of confinement, the story of all art. It is an honor to welcome him to Berkeley.

Freight & Salvage

**Viet Thanh Nguyen on Art and Politics**

**Viet Thanh Nguyen interviewed by Karen Tei Yamashita**

**Saturday, April 28, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM**

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 2016 for his novel "The Sympathizer," Viet Thanh Nguyen—fiction writer, essayist, activist, and UC Berkeley doctoral alum—has become an outspoken voice for refugee rights and justice for immigrants. In 2017

he received a MacArthur Genius Grant, and while he was commended for “challenging popular depictions of the Vietnam War and exploring the myriad ways that war lives on for those it has displaced,” his latest efforts move outward to the plight of refugees across the world. His lauded story collection “The Refugees” explores immigration, identity, love, and family. His latest project, “The Displaced: Refugee Writers on Refugee Lives,” brings together a host of prominent writers. He joins us to today to talk with Karen Tei Yamashita, novelist and essayist on the immigrant experience, about the role of the writer in society, the importance of art to politics, and the power of the written word.

Freight & Salvage

### **How Stories Make the World**

**Joyce Carol Oates, Scott Saul, Ismail Muhammad, moderated by Joe Di Prisco**

**Sunday, April 29, 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM**

Everything we understand about the world comes from stories: those we hear in school, those we read in books, and those we believe about each other. These panelists—all titans of storytelling—will discuss the power stories have to galvanize the world, create cultures, and bind us all together. Don’t miss your chance to hear Joyce Carol Oates, who boasts a lifetime of achievements as a great American author and Pulitzer Prize nominee (her new story collection, “Beautiful Days” came out in February); Scott Saul, biographer of late comedian Richard Pryor and also a UC Berkeley English professor with Oates; writer and critic Ismail Muhammad; and Chair of the Simpson Family Literary Project Joe Di Prisco. These brilliant writers will interrogate how we shape stories—and how stories shape us.

Veteran's Memorial Building – Auditorium

Sponsored by Berkeley Arts + Design and the Simpson Family Literary Project

### **Standing at the Edge: Finding Freedom Where Fear and Courage Meet**

**Joan Halifax interviewed by Dacher Keltner**

**Sunday, April 29, 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM**

Zen roshi (teacher) and anthropologist Joan Halifax has spent much of her life exploring questions of life and death. Teaching at hospices and on death row, and traveling throughout radically different cultures, she has devoted herself to the study of what makes a meaningful life. Her new book, “Standing at the Edge: Finding Freedom Where Fear and Courage Meet,” which Arianna Huffington called “essential reading for our time,” is the culmination of her lifelong study of mindfulness, compassion, and generosity. She ventures to answer the enduring question: How do we live well for ourselves and others at the same time? Emotion expert and director of UC Berkeley’s Greater Good Science Center Dacher Keltner

will interview.

Freight & Salvage

Sponsored by Berkeley Arts + Design

**Smart Activism: History and Hope, with L.A. Kauffman and Rebecca Solnit**  
**L.A. Kauffman, Rebecca Solnit**  
**Sunday, April 29, 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM**

How can activism be most effective today? Let's look to history. Come hear one of the Bay Area's most famous activists and writers—Rebecca Solnit—in conversation with longtime friend and movement insider L.A. Kauffman on the history and future of activism. Solnit, whose writing spans numerous books, articles, and social media, is perhaps most well-known for "Hope in the Dark," a veritable holy book for activists, as well as her more recent books on feminism and three highly creative atlases, plus many works on community, the environment, and the arts. In "Direct Action: Protest and the Reinvention of American Radicalism"—a masterwork 25 years in the making—L.A. Kauffman expertly deconstructs the origins of today's protest movements as a means of making activism more powerful today. How have past movements used disruptive tactics to catalyze change? Is there, indeed, still hope in the dark, and how do we act on it?

San Francisco Chronicle Stage in the Park

Sponsored by Berkeley Arts + Design

**Other Festival Sessions Involving UC Berkeley Faculty and Alums**  
**(Highlighted in Arts + Design App)**

**Income Inequality: A World Gone Mad, Mean and Immoral**  
**Steven Clifford, Jeff Clements, Robert Reich**  
**Saturday, April 28, 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM**

If you feel that income inequality today is insane, well, you're right. Disparity in wages and opportunity between the rich and the rest of us has been growing more rapidly in the U.S. than in decades. This trend is fueling much of the unrest tearing apart civil life today. Three compelling writers unpack income inequality today. Steven Clifford takes us inside the machinations of corporate boardrooms and CEO suites and details the harm to the economy. Jeff Clements outlines why corporations are not people but nevertheless have more rights than you do, and what you can do about it. One of the most eloquent voices today combatting systemic inequality, Robert Reich has penned many books including the mega-bestseller "Saving Capitalism: For the Many, Not the Few," recent "Economics in Wonderland: Robert Reich's Cartoon Guide to a Political World Gone Mad and Mean," and the new "The Common Good."

San Francisco Chronicle Stage in the Park  
With support from the Stephen M. Silberstein Foundation

**The Common Good with Robert Reich (Saturday Night Keynote)**

**Robert Reich**

**Saturday, April 28, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM**

Don't miss the Festival keynote! No one could serve better to inspire us than Berkeley's own Robert Reich—a stellar writer of conscience and conviction, a firebrand, and one of America's most influential and popular political commentators. A former U.S. Secretary of Labor, Reich comments regularly on CNN, NBC, and The Daily Show, and his syndicated articles have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*. His new book, "The Common Good," charges us all to address the urgent question: What has happened to civility and civic responsibility? What makes a good citizen in today's America? Don't miss Reich's heartfelt call to a nation on the brink as he shows us how to do our part in saving America's soul. Note: Priority tickets are \$15. We expect this session to sell out so get your tickets now.

Freight & Salvage

**BAMPFA Auteur, Author: Film and Literature Screenings as Part of  
BABF April 25–29**

**All screenings at BAMPFA's Barbro Osher Theater**

***The Manchurian Candidate***

**John Frankenheimer (United States, 1962)**

**Introduced by Greil Marcus**

**Wednesday, April 25, 7 PM**

File this sobering satire, starring Frank Sinatra and Laurence Harvey, under "Brainwashing, fear of." The film "takes enormous chances with the audience, and plays not like a 'classic' but as a work as alive and smart as when it was first released" (Roger Ebert).

The screening is introduced by Greil Marcus, author of a monograph on *The Manchurian Candidate* published in the British Film Institute's Film Classics series.

***The Fabulous Baron Münchhausen***

**Karel Zeman (Czechoslovakia, 1961)**

**In person: James Mockoski**

**Thursday, April 26, 7 PM**

Czech animator Karel Zeman captures the wonder in Gustave Doré's illustrations for a classic novel by using live action against a series of fairy-tale backgrounds and enchanting visual pyrotechnics. With Méliès/Jules Verne short *Impossible Voyage*.

The screening includes an in-person appearance by James Mockoski, a film archivist at American Zoetrope who has supervised the restorations of classic films including *Apocalypse Now* and *The Conversation*. As an independent consultant, Mockoski oversaw the restoration of *The Fabulous Baron Münchhausen*.

***A Brief History of Time***

**Errol Morris (United States, 1991)**

**In conversation: Errol Morris, Edward Frenkel**

**Friday, April 27, 5:30 PM**

Errol Morris's acclaimed film, based on Stephen Hawking's book, is a humanly scaled, biographical study of a singular mind navigating a very big universe.

Morris is joined in conversation at the screening by Edward Frenkel, a professor of mathematics at UC Berkeley whose latest book is *Love and Math*.

***Time Regained***

**Raúl Ruiz (France, Italy, Portugal, 1999)**

**Introduced by Steve Wasserman**

**Friday, April 27, 8:00 PM**

"For those who know the final volume of Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*, Ruiz's film sets off its own chain of memories and associations; for those who do not, it serves as a superb introduction to the shape and texture of the Proustian universe" (Dave Kehr).

The screening is introduced by Steve Wasserman, the publisher and executive director of Heyday Books and former editor of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Review.

***Maliglutit (Searchers)***

**Zacharias Kunuk, Natar Ungalaaq (Canada, 2016)**

**Introduced by Shari Huhndorf**

**Saturday, April 28, 3:00 PM**

*Maliglutit (Searchers)* continues in the breathtaking vein of Canadian-Inuk filmmaker Zacharias Kunuk's unforgettable *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner* with a story of cruelty and cold revenge inspired by John Ford's *The Searchers* and spoken entirely in Inuktitut.

The screening is introduced by Shari Huhndorf, a professor of Native American studies and chair of the Department of Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley. She is the author and coeditor of a number of books including *Mapping the Americas: The Transnational Politics of Contemporary Native Culture*.

***Neruda***

**Pablo Larraín (Chile, 2016)**

**Introduced by Mark Eisner**

**Saturday, April 28, 5:30 PM**

Pablo Larraín's film "playfully and provocatively distorts the facts of an extraordinary year in the life of the Chilean Nobel prize-winning poet: *Neruda* is an anti-biopic" (*The Guardian*).

The screening is introduced by Mark Eisner, author of the biography *Neruda: The Poet's Calling* and editor and translator of *The Essential Neruda: Selected Poems*.

***Jesus' Son***

**Alison Maclean (United States, 1999)**

**Introduced by Jane Ciabattari, Christian Kiefer, and Tom Barbash**

**Saturday, April 28, 8:15 PM**

We pay tribute to the late author Denis Johnson with the film adaptation of his classic short story collection *Jesus' Son*. Three esteemed authors and friends of Johnson introduce the film and share stories.

The screening includes appearances by Jane Ciabattari, a columnist for *BBC Culture* and *Literary Hub* who has contributed cultural criticism to *The New York Times Book Review*, *NPR*, *The Paris Review*, and many other publications; Christian Kiefer, author of *The Animals*, *The Infinite Tides*, and *One Day Soon Time Will Have No Place Left to Hide* and director of the low-residency MFA program at Ashland University in Ohio; and Tom Barbash, author of *The Last Good Chance*, *Stay Up With Me*, *On Top of the World*, and the forthcoming novel *The Dakota Winter*, and a writing instructor at California College of the Arts.

***The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin***

**Jennifer M. Kroot (United States, 2017)**

**In person: Jennifer M. Kroot**

**Sunday, April 29, 6:30 PM**

From dutiful conservative Southern son to gay activist and San Francisco chronicler, *Tales of the City* author Armistead Maupin looks at his life with wry humor and some choice true tales.

The screening includes an in-person appearance by director Jennifer M. Kroot,

whose films also include *To Be Takei* and *It Came from Kuchar*.

## **Background on the Participants**

### **About Berkeley Arts + Design**

Berkeley Arts + Design features, fortifies, and mobilizes existing excellence in the arts and design at the UC Berkeley, while fostering dynamic collaboration, innovation, and public access across all arts and design fields, on campus and in public life.

At a time when many tout the importance of creativity, UC Berkeley's Arts + Design offers a distinctive and robust context for creative experiment, one enriched by the scientific and cultural wealth of a world-class public research university, one propelled by an historic public mission and a commitment to access and social impact.

Established in 2015, Berkeley Arts + Design is a campus-wide initiative within the office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for the Arts and Design, one that serves arts and design departments, schools, colleges, presenters, and student clubs. From Art Practice to Landscape Architecture, Cal Performances to Botanical Gardens, Holloway Reading Series to Art, Technology and Culture Colloquium, Student Musical Activities to Innovative Design Club, Arts + Design cultivates cross-campus conversations, strengthens student experiences, propels new courses and academic offerings, supports public events, and fuels collaborative faculty research in the creative sphere.

### **About ASUC Student Union**

The Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC), is the officially recognized student association at the University of California, Berkeley. Known as one of the largest and most autonomous student organizations in the nation, the ASUC is an independent 501(c)(3) non profit organization separate from University governance. In addition to controlling funding for student clubs and organizations, providing resources and student programming, overseeing commercial activities and student services including the Cal Student Store and Lower Sproul Plaza in partnership with the ASUC Student Union, the ASUC advocates for students on a University, local, state, and national level and represents the student body on administrative campus committees.

### **About BAMPFA**

An internationally recognized arts institution with deep roots in the Bay Area, the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) is a forum for cultural experiences that transform individuals and advance the local,

national, and global discourse on art and film. BAMPFA is UC Berkeley's premier visual arts venue, presenting more than 450 film screenings, scores of public programs, and up to twenty exhibitions annually. With its vibrant and eclectic programming, BAMPFA inspires the imagination and ignites critical dialogue through art, film, and other forms of creative expression.

The institution's collection of more than 19,000 works of art dates from 3000 BCE to the present day and includes important holdings of Neolithic Chinese ceramics, Ming and Qing Dynasty Chinese painting, Old Master works on paper, Italian Baroque painting, early American painting, Abstract Expressionist painting, contemporary photography, and Conceptual art. BAMPFA's collection also includes more than 17,500 films and videos, including the largest collection of Japanese cinema outside of Japan, impressive holdings of Soviet cinema, West Coast avant-garde film, and seminal video art, as well as hundreds of thousands of articles, reviews, posters, and other ephemera related to the history of film.

### **About the Government and Community Relations Office**

The Government and Community Relations (GCR) office builds relationships with community leaders, elected officials, government agencies and third party advocates to further the mission of UC Berkeley in the public sector. It also administers the Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund grants. The office is led by Vice-Chancellor Christine Treadway. A key BABF partner within GCR has been Ruben Lizardo, Director, Local Government and Community Relations.

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