INPRINT
MARGARETT ROOT BROWN
READING SERIES
2013/2014
BRINGING THE PAGE TO THE STAGE

CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE
DANIEL ALARCÓN
ROBERT BOSWELL
ANNE CARSON
MOHSIN HAMID
KHALED HOSSEINI
JHUMPA LAHIRI

JHUMPA LAHIRI
JAMES McBRIEDE
COLUM MCCANN
GEORGE SAUNDERS
ELIZABETH STROUT

PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH
Brazos Bookstore and University of Houston Creative Writing Program
Why do we love certain books? We are transported by a story, seduced by language, entertained, enlightened, horrified, forced to think. A great book jolts us out of everyday experience. It gets under our skin—we don’t want to put it down, we miss dinner, we drive friends and family crazy. And if you love the book, you become a citizen of that writer’s imagination. The book and you become enmeshed; you own it, and it owns you.

This year, we present a season of the Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series destined to get under your skin. These are writers of the moment—from almost every continent (and from Houston), diverse, prize-winning writers, whose work people are talking about and many of us can’t stop thinking about. Thanks to our supporters—particularly The Brown Foundation, Inc. (for which this series is named), Weatherford International, National Endowment for the Arts: Art Works, and our season subscribers—and a group of visionary publishers, we have in Houston one of the nation’s great reading series. Thank you for making it all happen. It’s for you. We can’t wait to see you at the readings.

CHEERS.

Rich Levy, executive director
ROBERT BOSWELL
JAMES McBRIE
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2013
ZILKHA HALL, HOBBY CENTER

KHALED HOSSEINI
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013
BROWN THEATER, WORTHAM CENTER

JHUMPA LAHIRI
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2013
CULLEN THEATER, WORTHAM CENTER

CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE
COLUM McCANN
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2013
HUBBARD STAGE, ALLEY THEATRE

GEORGE SAUNDERS
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014
HUBBARD STAGE, ALLEY THEATRE

ELIZABETH STROUT
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014
CULLEN THEATER, WORTHAM CENTER

DANIEL ALARCÓN
MOHSIN HAMID
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014
STUDE CONCERT HALL, RICE UNIVERSITY

ANNE CARSON
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014
ZILKHA HALL, HOBBY CENTER
ROBERT
BOSWELL

JAMES
McBRIDE

MONDAY
AUGUST 26, 2013
7:30 PM

ZILKHA HALL
HOBBY CENTER FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS
800 BAGBY STREET

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS: $5
on sale August 1, 2013, at inprinthouston.org

ROBERT BOSWELL is, according to The New York Times Book Review, “an exuberant and enormously talented writer. ... With dazzling technical skill, intelligence, and moral seriousness, he mesmerizes us.” The holder of the Cullen Chair in Creative Writing at the University of Houston with his wife Antonya Nelson, Boswell is the author of six novels, including Century’s Son, Mystery Ride (named one of the best books of the year by the Chicago Tribune and Publishers Weekly), and Crooked Hearts; three story collections; a play; a cyberpunk novel; and two nonfiction books, including The Half-Known World, a book on the craft of writing. His story collection The Heyday of the Insensitive Bastards was a finalist for the 2010 PEN USA Literary Award. Boswell will read from his new novel Tumbledown, which Publishers Weekly says “is a crowded, tender, and captivating novel, the experience of which brings to the fore how reading itself can replenish our love of the imperfect beauty of humanity.”

JAMES McBRIDE’s memoir The Color of Water—about growing up in Brooklyn’s Red Hook housing project in an African-American and Jewish family with 11 siblings, all of whom go on to successful careers—spent two years on the New York Times bestseller list, sold more than 2.5 million copies, and is now considered an American classic. His first novel, Miracle at St. Anna, about African-American soldiers fighting in Italy during WWII, was made into a feature film directed by Spike Lee. About Song Yet Sung, his second novel, The Dallas Morning News writes, “It’s hard to imagine anyone being able to write to the caliber of Toni Morrison ... but James McBride does just that.” He co-wrote and co-produced the film Red Hook Summer with Spike Lee. McBride is also a jazz saxophonist and composer and has written songs for Anita Baker, Grover Washington, Jr., and others. McBride will read from his new novel The Good Lord Bird, based on the abolitionist John Brown.
Khaled Hosseini’s books have sold more than 10 million copies in the United States and more than 38 million copies worldwide. His debut novel The Kite Runner became an international bestseller, spending more than 100 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. Publishers Weekly described it as “stunning .... It is rare that a book is at once so timely and of such high literary quality.” His second novel A Thousand Splendid Suns debuted at #1 on the New York Times bestseller list, remaining in that spot for 15 weeks and nearly an entire year on the bestseller list. Hosseini comes to Houston to read from his third novel And the Mountains Echoed, which Michiko Kakutani in The New York Times calls “his most assured and emotionally gripping story yet.” Booklist describes it as “captivating and affecting .... A masterful and compassionate storyteller, Hosseini traces the traumas and scarring of tyranny, war, crime, lies, and illness in the intricately interconnected, heartbreaking, and transcendent lives of his vibrantly realized characters.” Born in Kabul, Afghanistan, Hosseini moved to the United States in 1980 and became a physician. In 2006, Hosseini was named a Goodwill Envoy to the United Nations Refugee Agency, and he founded the Khaled Hosseini Foundation to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.
JHUMPA LAHIRI burst on to the literary scene in 2000 when her debut story collection *Interpreter of Maladies* was awarded the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, the PEN/Hemingway Award, and *The New Yorker* Debut of the Year. According to *USA Today*, “What sets Lahiri apart is simple yet richly detailed writing that makes the heart ache as she meticulously unfolds the lives of her characters.” *The Guardian* says, “She has talent—magical, sly, cumulative—that most writers would kill for.” Her first novel *The Namesake*, described by *The New York Times* as “dazzling ... an intimate, closely observed family portrait,” was a *New York Times* Notable Book and was later made into a feature film directed by Mira Nair and starring Kal Penn. Lahiri’s second book of stories *Unaccustomed Earth* received the 2008 Frank O’Connor International Short Story Award and was a finalist for the Story Prize. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* called it “exquisite, transcendent .... Lahiri is a writer of luminous prose and indelible stories.” She will be reading from her new novel *The Lowland*, coming out in September, which is set in India and the U.S. and focuses on the lives of two brothers.
CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE, born in Nigeria, “is very much the 21st-century daughter of that other great Igbo novelist, Chinua Achebe,” says The Washington Post Book World. She is the author of Purple Hibiscus, winner of the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize for Best First Book and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award; Half of a Yellow Sun, which won the 2007 Orange Prize and was a New York Times Notable Book; and the short story collection The Thing Around Your Neck. She will read from her new novel Americanah, which Vogue describes as “a lush, bighearted love story that also happens to be a piercingly funny social critique.” The New York Times Book Review calls it “trenchant and hugely empathetic, both worldly and geographically precise, [a novel that] holds the realities of our times fearlessly before us [and] never feels false.” Adichie received a MacArthur Foundation “genius” fellowship in 2008, and her work has been translated into 30 languages.

COLUM McCANN, born in Dublin, Ireland, is the bestselling author of the 2009 National Book Award winner Let the Great World Spin, which The New York Times called “one of the most electric, profound novels ... in years ... an emotional tour de force.” His other works include the novels Songdogs, This Side of Brightness, Dancer, and Zoli, a novella, and two story collections. His short film Everything in This Country Must was nominated for an Oscar. McCann will be reading from his new novel TransAtlantic. Beginning in the year of the Irish famine and ending in 2011 when President Obama lands on Irish shores, Kirkus Reviews describes TransAtlantic as “a masterful and profoundly moving novel that employs exquisite language to explore the limits of language and the tricks of memory ... epic in ambition ... audacious in format.” McCann has been awarded the Rooney Prize and the Irish Novel of the Year Award, and his work has been translated into 35 languages.

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 2013
7:30 PM
HUBBARD STAGE
ALLEY THEATRE
615 TEXAS AVENUE

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS: $5
on sale October 14, 2013, at inprinthouston.org
George Saunders was named one of *Time* magazine’s “100 Most Influential People in the World” for 2013. Mary Karr writes in *Time*, “For more than a decade, George Saunders has been the best short-story writer in English—not ‘one of,’ not ‘arguably,’ but the best.” Zadie Smith says, “Not since Twain has America produced a satirist this funny.” Saunders latest story collection *Tenth of December* debuted at #3 on the *New York Times* bestseller list and later reached the #2 spot. The *New York Times Magazine*, which featured it as a cover story, called *Tenth of December* “the best book you’ll read this year.” The *Boston Globe* writes, “George Saunders captures the fragmented rhythms, disjointed sensory input, and wildly absurd realities of the 21st century experience like no other writer.”

His other works include *In Persuasion Nation*, *The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil*, *The Braindead Megaphone*, *New York Times* Notable Books *Pastoralia* and *CivilWarLand in Bad Decline*, and the *New York Times* children’s bestseller, *The Very Persistent Gappers of Frip*. In 2006 he was awarded a MacArthur Foundation “genius” fellowship.

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**GEORGE SAUNDERS**

**MONDAY**

**JANUARY 27, 2014**

**7:30 PM**

**HUBBARD STAGE**

**ALLEY THEATRE**

**615 TEXAS AVENUE**

**GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS: $5**

on sale November 19, 2013, at inprinthouston.org
ELIZABETH STROUT “animates the ordinary with astonishing force,” writes The New Yorker. She is best known for her New York Times bestselling book Olive Kitteridge, which contains 13 connected stories that earned her the 2009 Pulitzer Prize and a place as a finalist for the 2008 National Book Critics Circle Award. “Funny, wicked, and remorseful, Mrs. Kitteridge is a compelling life force, a red-blooded original,” says the San Francisco Chronicle. Entertainment Weekly writes, “Rarely does a story collection pack such a gutsy emotional punch.” Her latest novel The Burgess Boys, also a New York Times bestseller, has received rave reviews. Praising its “poignancy and emotional vigor,” The Washington Post writes, “The broad social and political range of The Burgess Boys shows just how impressively this extraordinary writer continues to develop.” The New York Times Book Review says, “Strout handles her storytelling with … intelligence and low-key humor, demonstrating a great ear for the many registers in which people speak to their loved ones.” She is also the author of the critically acclaimed novels Amy and Isabelle, which won the Los Angeles Times Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction and the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize, and Abide with Me, a national bestseller and Book Sense pick.
DANIEL ALARCÓN

MOHSIN HAMID

DANIEL ALARCÓN’s “stories are one of the reasons why we go to storytellers—they present worlds we have only imagined or heard about in less truthful and poetic ways,” says novelist Edward P. Jones. Peruvian-born Alarcón’s first story collection War by Candlelight was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award. His novel Lost City Radio won the 2009 International Literature Prize, the 2008 PEN USA Novel Award, and was named a Best Book of the Year by the San Francisco Chronicle, Financial Times, The Washington Post, and Chicago Tribune. The Guardian writes, “Lost City Radio is a book of extraordinary power … [Alarcón’s] endless invention and sense of color are already second to none.” The Minneapolis Star Tribune hails, “reading Alarcón feels like witnessing the arrival of a John Steinbeck or a Gabriel García Márquez.” Granta magazine named Alarcón one of the best American novelists under 35, and in 2010 The New Yorker named him one of “20 Under 40.” Co-founder of Radio Ambulante, Alarcón will read from his new novel At Night We Walk in Circles, coming out in October 2013.

MOHSIN HAMID, born in Pakistan, “is one of the most talented and formally audacious writers of his generation,” according to The Daily Telegraph. His debut novel Moth Smoke was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award and named a New York Times Notable Book. His second novel The Reluctant Fundamentalist, with more than a million copies in print, was a New York Times Notable Book, was named a Book of the Decade by The Guardian, was shortlisted for the Man-Booker Prize, and was made into a film directed by Mira Nair. His latest novel How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia “reaffirms his place as one of his generation’s most inventive and gifted writers,” says Michiko Kakutani in The New York Times. The International Herald Tribune advises, “If you read just one book this spring to understand how the world is changing, it should be Mohsin Hamid’s new novel,” and Vogue describes it as “wonderfully astringent …. supermodels stalk city billboards; a drone hovers ominously in the sky—but his satiric impulse gives way to compassion for the intimacies that keep us tethered in a rapidly changing world.”

MONDAY
MARCH 24, 2014
7:30 PM

STUDE CONCERT HALL
RICE UNIVERSITY

PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH RICE UNIVERSITY MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS: $5
on sale February 25, 2014, at inprinthouston.org
Anne Carson, Canadian born, is hailed by Michael Ondaatje as “the most exciting poet writing today.” Often considered “unclassifiable” because of the way her work blends genres, Carson is known for using her background as a classicist to explore themes that fuse the Greek classics with issues of contemporary life. The New Yorker writes that “the pleasure of her writing is that it is both entirely new and strangely familiar, like remembering a private language we thought we’d forgotten.” A MacArthur Foundation “genius” fellow, Carson is author of many highly praised works, including Men in the Off Hours; Autobiography of Red: A Novel in Verse, which was named a New York Times Notable Book in 1998 and was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award; and The Beauty of the Husband. Her most recent collection red.doc is a sequel to Autobiography of Red. The New York Times Book Review calls red.doc “breathtaking … stunning …. Anne Carson has a history of doing unpredictable and genre-crossing things …. [Her] palatable, popular, sophisticated and who-cares approach may have done the most and best work in the last two decades to stop people worrying so much about what’s poetry and what’s not.”
INPRINT
MARGARET ROOT BROWN
READING SERIES

1980–2013
READERS

The mission of Inprint is to inspire readers and writers in Houston by fostering the art of creative writing. A nonprofit organization founded in 1983, Inprint fulfills this mission through high-quality literary performance programs such as the Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series and Cool Brains! Inprint Readings for Young People; writing workshops for aspiring writers, senior citizens, K–12 school teachers, at-risk youth, and Methodist Hospital employees; support of some of the nation’s top emerging writers at the UH Creative Writing Program, surpassing $2.5 million in fellowships and prizes last year; and other activities that make reading and creative writing vibrant aspects of community life in Houston.

The Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series is generously underwritten in large part by The Brown Foundation, Inc. Margarett Root Brown, an educator and lover of books and literature, was one of the Foundation’s directors when it was formed in 1917. Inprint is proud to honor Mrs. Brown’s service to Houston and her philanthropic support of the arts. To date, the Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series, now in its 33rd season, has presented more than 300 of the world’s great creative writers, including winners of six Nobel Prizes, 55 Pulitzer Prizes, 51 National Book Awards, 42 National Book Critics Circle Awards, and 12 Man Booker Prizes, as well as 16 U. S. Poet Laureates. The Series ranks among the nation’s leading literary showcases, with a modest general admission price unchanged since 1980, ensuring the readings are accessible to all.

For more information about the Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series, to purchase season tickets, or to be added to the email list, contact:

INPRINT
inprinthouston.org
info@inprinthouston.org
713.521.2026
All readings begin at 7:30 pm and are followed by an on-stage interview (with the exception of the April reading) and a book sale and signing. For reminders and event updates, join our email list through the Inprint website inprinthouston.org and follow us on season tickets on sale!

Season tickets cost $175 and provide reserved section seating for each of the readings and other benefits. Check back flap for details.

General Admission tickets
Tickets for individual readings are sold in advance through the Inprint website for $5, and at the door on the night of a reading starting at 6:45 pm if the reading is not sold out. Please note the special ticket pricing option for the October Jhumpa Lahiri reading. Check interior pages to see when tickets go on sale online.

Students and Senior Citizens (65+)
Free “rush” tickets for students and seniors will be available at the door on the night of each reading starting at 6:45 pm if a reading is not sold out. Check the Inprint website or call 713.521.2026 for the availability of free tickets closer to each reading.

Book Sale and Signings
Books by the authors will be on sale at the event before and after the readings through Brazos Bookstore and through the Brazos website. Please note that new titles must be purchased through Brazos Bookstore in order to have books signed by the author.

The Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series, now in its 33rd season, is made possible by the support of The Brown Foundation, Inc., Weatherford International, the National Endowment for the Arts: Art Works, and our season subscribers. The Series also receives support from the Houston Downtown Alliance. Our deepest thanks also to our in-kind supporters—United Airlines, Houston Public Radio (KUHF 88.7 FM and Classical 91.7 FM), Alley Theatre, Rice University Multicultural Community Relations in the Office of Public Affairs, M-M Properties, and WinPark. Inprint receives support from the Texas Commission on the Arts and The City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance. The Series is presented in association with Brazos Bookstore and the University of Houston Creative Writing Program.
2013–2014 season tickets on sale!

The purchase of season tickets, a portion of which is tax-deductible, helps make this series possible.

- Seating in the reserved section for each of the eight readings
- Seats held until 7:25 PM
- Signed copy of Jhumpa Lahiri's new novel The Lowland available for pick up on the evening of her reading
- Access to the first-served "Season Subscriber" book-signing line
- Two reserved-section guest passes to be used during the 2013/2014 season
- Free parking at the Alley Theatre for two of the eight readings
- Recognition as a "Season Subscriber" in each reading program