Season Tickets $180

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

Season ticket benefits include:

- Seating in the reserved section for each of the seven readings. Seats held until 7:25 pm.
- Signed copy of Jonathan Safran Foer’s new novel *Here I Am*, available for pick up at the reading. Those who purchase two season tickets per household will receive a signed copy of George Saunders’ new novel *Lincoln in the Bardo* as the second book.
- Free parking passes for each of the seven readings in the Alley Theatre garage.
- Recognition as a “Season Subscriber” in each reading program.
- An acknowledgement letter for tax purposes.

To purchase season tickets online or for more details on season subscriber benefits, visit inprinthouston.org

To pay by check, fill out the form on the back of this flap.

Rabih Alameddine  
Lauren Groff  
Ada Limón  
Gregory Pardlo  
Ann Patchett  
Annie Proulx  
Jonathan Safran Foer  
George Saunders  
Colm Tóibín  
Juan Gabriel Vásquez
Dear Friends,

One thing I am grateful for, particularly in a political season, is a compelling story or poem that, by its very nature, will not be reduced to platitude or hyperbole. All the more reason to keep reading.

There are other reasons. I love Kafka’s admonition (in a letter to a friend) that “a book must be the axe for the frozen sea within us.” The best literary works tend to reach into us and rearrange our inner lives. We experience the world from another point of view and work to accommodate meanings that enlarge us, if we’re lucky.

Thus we are proud that for 35 years, together, we have built a reading series here in Houston which is the equal of any in the nation and keeps us on our toes. Season 36 is no exception, with a diverse roster of ten extraordinary writers, most of whom will present new works that we hope will delight you. We are also thrilled to be back at the beautifully renovated Alley Theatre for most of the readings.

Thank you as always for joining us in the journey. We anticipate our further adventures, plumbing the joys and mysteries of the written word. See you at the readings.

Cheers,

Rich Levy
Executive Director
Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series 2016/2017

September 19, 2016
Jonathan Safran Foer
Cullen Theater, Wortham Center
501 Texas Avenue

October 17, 2016
Lauren Groff + Ann Patchett
Alley Theatre
615 Texas Avenue

November 21, 2016
Rabih Alameddine + Juan Gabriel Vásquez
Alley Theatre
615 Texas Avenue

January 23, 2017
Annie Proulx
Cullen Theater, Wortham Center
501 Texas Avenue

March 6, 2017
George Saunders
Alley Theatre
615 Texas Avenue

April 3, 2017
Ada Limón + Gregory Pardlo
Alley Theatre
615 Texas Avenue

May 8, 2017
Colm Tóibín
Alley Theatre
615 Texas Avenue

All readings take place on Monday nights at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 6:45 pm. Readings are followed by an on-stage interview, a book sale, and book signing.
All readings begin at 7:30 pm and are followed by an on-stage interview 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  

**Tickets**

**Season Tickets On Sale!**
Season tickets cost $180 and provide reserved section seating for each of the readings, plus parking passes, a signed book, and other benefits. Check the 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 already sold out. Check interior pages to see when online ticket sales begin for each reading.

**Students and Senior Citizens**
Free “rush” tickets for students and senior citizens (65+) will be available at the door starting at 6:45 pm, if the reading is not already sold out. Check the Inprint website or call 713.521.2026 for updates on availability of free tickets closer to each reading. Requests for student group tickets should be made by phone to Inprint at 713.521.2026 at least ten days before the on-sale date.

**Book Sales + Signings**

Brazos Bookstore serves as the official bookseller for the Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series and offers discounts on featured books by the authors appearing in the series. Receive a 10% discount on the featured title by purchasing books online or buying a book at the event. Use the coupon code INPRINT to receive the discount online.

To learn more, visit the Inprint virtual store on Brazos Bookstore’s website: 

brazosbookstore.com/events/inprint

Please support Houston independent bookstores. We recommend that all new series titles be purchased through Brazos Bookstore.
Jonathan Safran Foer burst onto the literary scene in 2002 with his debut novel *Everything Is Illuminated*. “Not since Anthony Burgess’s *A Clockwork Orange* has the English language been simultaneously mauled and energized with such brilliance and brio,” wrote Francine Prose in *The New York Times*. The novel, which was made into a feature film, won *The Guardian* First Book Prize and the National Jewish Book Award. His second novel *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*—also made into an Oscar-nominated film—became an international bestseller. Foer comes to Houston on a limited tour to share his highly anticipated new novel *Here I Am*. Showcasing the high-energy inventiveness, irreverence, and emotional urgency of his previous work (with a harder edge), *The New York Times* says the novel “unfolds over a single month in present-day Washington, as a Jewish family with three sons falls apart after the parents’ marriage falters.” Foer is “one of the few contemporary writers willing to risk sentimentalism to address great questions of truth, love, and beauty” (*Publishers Weekly*). Joyce Carol Oates says, “He will win your admiration, and he will break your heart.” His books have been translated into more than 35 languages, and he is also author of *Eating Animals* (nonfiction) and *The New American Haggadah* (with Nathan Englander), and editor of an anthology of fiction and poetry inspired by the works of Joseph Cornell, *A Convergence of Birds*.
ANN PATCHETT, on Time's 2012 “100 Most Influential People in the World” list, is author of Bel Canto, which won the PEN/Faulkner Award and Orange Prize, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, and sold more than a million copies. Her other works include the novels The Patron Saint of Liars, The Magician's Assistant, Run, and State of Wonder; the essay collection This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage; and Truth and Beauty: A Friendship, named one of the Best Books of the Year by the Chicago Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, and Entertainment Weekly. Patchett will read from her new novel Commonwealth, which Publishers Weekly calls “a funny, sad, and ultimately heart-wrenching family portrait.... Patchett elegantly manages a varied cast of characters as alliances and animosities ebb and flow, cross-country and over time.” She is co-owner of Parnassus Books in Nashville and a staunch advocate for independent bookstores.

LAUREN GROFF is, according to James Wood in The New Yorker, “an original writer whose books are daringly nonconformist.” Her latest novel, the New York Times bestseller Fates and Furies, was a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award, and was named a Best Book of 2015 by The Washington Post, Time, NPR, and others. The San Francisco Chronicle calls Fates and Furies “a delirious, exhilarating, and heartbreaking ride through the decades of one fable-like marriage.” Groff’s other two critically acclaimed novels are the New York Times Notable Book Arcadia and the Orange Prize for New Writers finalist The Monsters of Templeton, called “fabulously inventive... extracting characters from classic novels, adding two cups of history, a quart of imagination, and stirring vigorously” (The Christian Science Monitor). She is also the author of the story collection Delicate Edible Birds.
RABIH ALAMEDDINE, “master of the non-linear narrative” (The Guardian), is according to Michael Chabon, “one of our most daring writers.” His novel An Unnecessary Woman, which The New York Times called “beautiful and absorbing … a meditation on, among other things, aging, politics, literature, loneliness, grief and resilience,” was a finalist for both the National Book Award and National Book Critics Circle Award, and on “best book” lists for The Washington Post, NPR, and The Christian Science Monitor. He is also author of The Hakawati, Koolaid, and I, the Divine, and the story collection The Perv. He will read from his new novel The Angel of History, which tells the story of a Yemeni poet who, with the help of Satan, Death, and 14 angels, looks back on his past in Cairo, Beirut, and San Francisco during the AIDS epidemic.

JUAN GABRIEL VÁSQUEZ is one of Latin America's leading writers. His international bestseller The Sound of Things Falling, which Booklist called “a masterpiece,” won the 2014 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the Alfaguara Novel Prize, and the English PEN Award. In the novel, which looks back on Columbia’s drug war, “Vásquez creates characters whose memories resonate powerfully across an ingeniously interlocking structure” (The New Republic). His other works in English include The Informers, The Secret History of Costaguana, and the story collection Lovers on All Saints’ Day. He has translated the works of John Hersey, Victor Hugo, and E. M. Forster into Spanish, and his own work has been published in 28 languages. He will read from his novel Reputations, coming out in the U.S. in September. Told from the point of view of an aging, legendary political cartoonist, Library Journal calls it “a reverberant new work about a life suddenly challenged… [The] response has been ecstatic.”
ANNIE PROULX is one of the most respected authors of our time. The Boston Globe writes, “Few writers feel equally at home in the novel and the short story,” and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution says, “Proulx goes where few others would.” Her novel The Shipping News made her an international celebrity in the 1990s, winning the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and the Irish Times International Fiction Prize. USA Today described it as “alive, funny, a little threatening; packed with brilliantly original images… and, now and then, a sentence that simply takes your breath away.” Her story “Brokeback Mountain,” which originally appeared in The New Yorker and won O. Henry and National Magazine Awards, was made into an Oscar– and Golden Globe-winning film. Her other works include the PEN/Faulkner Award-winning Postcards, The New Yorker Book Award-winning Close Range: Wyoming Stories, and Bird Cloud: A Memoir. Proulx comes to Houston to share her latest novel Barkskins, a saga which, with its vivid cast of characters spanning 300 years, serves as “a memorable plea against deforestation,” according to the Houston Chronicle. Booklist writes, in a starred review, “Proulx’s signature passion and concern for nature…charge[s] this rigorously researched, intrepidly imagined, complexly plotted, and vigorously written multigenerational epic…. nothing less than a sylvan Moby-Dick.” Publishers Weekly calls it “a monumental achievement, one that will perhaps be remembered as her finest work.”
GEORGE SAUNDERS is “an essential literary figure for our time,” according to The Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal writes, “It’s no exaggeration to say that short story master George Saunders helped change the trajectory of American fiction.” His collection Tenth of December, winner of The Story Prize and the Folio Prize, was a finalist for the National Book Award and named one of The New York Times “10 Best Books of 2013.” “No one writes more powerfully than George Saunders about the lost, the unlucky, the disenfranchised.... It’s a measure of Mr. Saunders’s talents as a writer — his brassy language, narrative instincts, bone-deep understanding of his characters — that he takes what might have been a contrived and sentimental parable and turns it into a visceral and moving act of storytelling” (The New York Times). His other works include the New York Times Notable Books Pastoralia and CivilWarLand in Bad Decline, In Persuasion Nation, and Congratulations, by the way: Some Thoughts on Kindness. He will read from his new work Lincoln in the Bardo, his first novel, which comes out in February. Unfolding in a graveyard over the course of a single night and narrated by a dazzling chorus of voices, the story is about the death of Abraham Lincoln’s eleven-year-old son, Willie, at the dawn of the Civil War. Saunders, a MacArthur “genius” fellow, was named one of Time’s 2013 “100 Most Influential People in the World.”
Ada Limón + Gregory Pardlo

Monday, April 3, 2017

Alley Theatre
615 Texas Avenue

Ada Limón's power is in speaking plainly, giving her ideas enough space to breathe, and ending poems with potent last lines,” says Front Porch. Her most recent poetry collection Bright Dead Things was a finalist for the 2015 National Book Award and National Book Critics Circle Award, and one of The New York Times “Top Ten Poetry Books of the Year.” Library Journal calls it “generous of heart, intricate and accessible... wondrous and deeply moving,” and the Washington Independent Review of Books writes, “This is poetry alive with exuberance and exciting moments.... Good spirited and dynamic... poems with buoyancy and integrity.” Her other poetry collections include Lucky Wreck, winner of the Autumn House Poetry Prize; This Big Fake World, winner of the Pearl Poetry Prize; and Sharks in the River. Limón's work has appeared in The New Yorker, American Poetry Review, and elsewhere.

GREGORY PARDLO's poems, according to The Washington Spectator, “deftly evoke sociology, jazz, philosophy, African-American lit, Russian cinema, Greek mythology, European travel, film noir, hip hop, and a host of other topics.” His second collection, Digest, won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize, was shortlisted for the NAACP Image Award, and was a finalist for the Hurston-Wright Legacy Award. The New York Times describes Digest as “a brainy, compassionate book that uses a pleasingly large stylistic palette to paint a portrait of fatherhood, racial politics, and Brooklyn before it became a place to buy $30 glasses of bourbon.” Pardlo's first poetry collection Totem was selected by Brenda Hillman for the American Poetry Review/Honickman Prize. He is translator of Niels Lyngsø's Pencil of Rays and Spiked Mace: Selected Poems, and his work has appeared in the Boston Review, The Nation, Ploughshares, and elsewhere. Pardlo's memoir-in-essays Air Traffic is forthcoming from Knopf.

General admission tickets $5 on sale Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at inprinthouston.org
COLM TÓIBÍN “is an immensely gifted and accomplished writer who has covered a remarkable range of subjects,” writes Jonathan Yardley in The Washington Post, and the Independent says, “It is impossible to read Tóibín without being moved, touched and finally changed.” Three times shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, the internationally celebrated Irish writer has received critical acclaim for his novels, short stories, nonfiction works, plays, and poetry. His eight novels include The Blackwater Lightship, made into a feature film; The Master, about Henry James, winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and Dublin IMPAC Prize; Brooklyn, winner of the Costa Book Award and made into an Oscar-nominated film; The Testament of Mary, which Tóibín adapted for the Broadway stage; and Nora Webster, winner of the Hawthornden Prize and described as “heart-rendingly transcendent” by The New York Times. About Brooklyn, The New Yorker says, “Tóibín creates a narrative of remarkable power….[and] leaves us with a renewed understanding that to emigrate is to become a foreigner in two places at once.” He is also author of the story collections Mothers and Sons and The Empty Family and several nonfiction books, including recently New Ways to Kill Your Mother and On Elizabeth Bishop. His work has been translated into more than 30 languages. His forthcoming novel House of Names, a retelling of the legend of Clytemnestra and Agamemnon, comes out in May 2017.
The mission of Inprint is to inspire readers and writers in Houston. A nonprofit organization founded in 1983 to foster the art of creative writing, Inprint fulfills its mission through literary performance programs such as the Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series, Cool Brains! Inprint Readings for Young People, and the Inprint Poetry Buskers; writing workshops for aspiring writers, senior citizens, K–12 school teachers, and healthcare workers; support for emerging writers at the University of Houston Creative Writing Program, surpassing $3 million in fellowships and prizes; and other activities that make reading and creative writing vibrant aspects of community life in Houston.

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
www.inprinthouston.org
info@inprinthouston.org
713.521.2026

Inprint
Margarett Root Brown Reading Series

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 good books, 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 36th season, has presented 340 of the world’s great creative writers, including winners of 8 Nobel Prizes, 60 Pulitzer Prizes, 55 National Book Awards, 48 National Book Critics Circle Awards, 14 Man Booker Prizes, as well as 17 U. S. Poets Laureate. 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.

About
Inprint
The Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series, now in its 36th 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. Our deepest thanks to them and to our in-kind supporters—United Airlines, M-M Properties, WinPark, and the Alley Theatre. 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.

The Brown Foundation, Inc.
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