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Book Festival Announces 5th Anniversary in August

JACKSON, Miss. — The Mississippi Book Festival will celebrate its 5th Anniversary on August 17 when more than 180 authors join thousands of readers on the grounds of the State Capitol complex in downtown Jackson to turn a hot August weekend into a cool celebration of reading and writing.

Jackson native and Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Ford will join National Book Award winner Joyce Carol Oates are on the guest list. Greg Iles, best-selling master of suspense, and Angie Thomas, young adult publishing sensation, are back with new novels. The stand-alone thriller “Cemetery Road” debuted at #2 on The New York Times best seller list and is Iles’ first since his “Natchez Burning” trilogy. Thomas’ “On the Come Up” joins her first novel “The Hate U Give” on The New York Times best-seller list. Karl Marlantes, a decorated Vietnam veteran, will make his first appearance at the festival to discuss his new book “Deep River,” also a New York Times best-seller, which has been hailed as a modern classic of war literature.

“This is just the beginning of an extraordinarily talented slate of authors we will have to help us celebrate our fifth anniversary,” said Lange.

Known as Mississippi’s Literary Lawn party, the festival will take place all day on Saturday, August 17 and will feature 40-plus panels, as well as conversations and interviews, at the State Capitol and neighboring Galloway United Methodist Church. The unveiling of the next two Mississippi Writers Trail historical markers, honoring novelist Ford and late journalist and civil rights leader Ida B. Wells, will be another highlight.

In urging people to attend the festival, Ford said, “As with all great and risky ideas, The Mississippi Book Festival seems like a no-brainer — *now*. It’s jam-packed, imaginative, never disappoints, and brings off exactly what Jackson and Mississippi ought to bring off at every turn. It’s great. I wish there’d been such an extravaganza going on when I was a kid down the street. I might’ve turned out better.”

Last year’s book festival drew 7,600 people to hear from favorite authors, mingle with fellow fans, buy books and more, in a free, daylong book lovers’ celebration in downtown Jackson. Organizers expect to pull even more into the festival’s orbit this August.

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