

Authors & fans of books gather

MS Book Festival this weekend

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On Saturday, August 22, the halls of our state Capitol will be filled with activity, but not the legislative kind. The inaugural Mississippi Book Festival will draw literary fans from across the state as well as the southeast. More than 90 authors including John Grisham, Ellen Gilchrist, Greg Isles, and Bill Ferris are scheduled to participate in this free event, the first of its kind in the state.

According to Holly Lange, executive director of the Mississippi Book Festival, "the authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination." She notes that, while there are book festivals all over the country, Mississippi



MISSISSIPPI WRITER JOHN GRISHAM, WHOSE BOOKS HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED IN 45 LANGUAGES, WILL BE A PARTICIPANT AT THE BOOK FESTIVAL.

their readers. On August 10:30, panel discus- the Mississippi Chil- gress for the Veteran's
22. their vision will sions, readings, and dren's Museum "the History Project Missis-

issippi Congressman Gregg Harper, Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress, will conduct a live interview of World War II Veteran and decorated ex-POW Earl Derrington for the project at 11:30. The public is invited to watch this interview as it is being recorded.

These are just a few of the many exciting events that will be taking place on Saturday, August 22 at the inaugural Mississippi Book Festival. This free, family event should not be missed. For more information, including a schedule of events and a full listing of panels and authors, visit the Mississippi Book Festival website at www.msbookfestival.com.

as yet to host such an event.

This is why a small group consisting initially of Jere Nash, Sheila Salisbury, Malcolm White, John Evans, and Jean Medley, to name a few, began discussions in 2013 to plant the seeds for a book festival in Mississippi. They believed that a state with a literary heritage as deep as Mississippi's should join the ranks of other states around the country that host events to celebrate their writers and connect them with

become a reality.

While several rooms inside the Capitol will be used for author panels, the celebration will continue outside on the lawn and even into the streets. The "literary lawn party," as it has been referred to by organizers, will kick off with a bang. At 10:00 am, Jackson State's Sonic Boom will escort John Grisham and other festival VIPs down the steps of the Capitol to formally welcome visitors and open the festival.

Beginning at

question and answer sessions with authors inside the Capitol will offer choices for the entire family. These options include panels about history and biography, short stories, southern fiction, books for young adults, children's literature, civil rights, poetry, literary fiction, African American history, cooking and food, and sports and outdoors to name a few. Before and after their panel discussions, many of the authors will be available to sign their books.

Outside the Capitol guests can enjoy live music by Jason Taylor, J. J. Thames, and the No Strings Group. Food and beverages will also be available from vendors on the Capitol grounds. Independent book sellers as well as self-published authors will line Mississippi Street selling their books. Additional book organizations and other vendors will also be selling goods.

The Mississippi Children's Museum and other nonprofits and foundations will have tents promoting their organizations and providing activities. According to Susan Garrard, President/CEO of

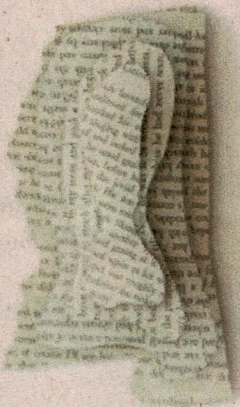
book festival is the perfect venue for the museum to showcase and share experiences with the children of Mississippi because of our focus on the joy of reading, creativity and storytelling."

Another exciting component of the book festival will be the Library of Congress' booth located in the Capitol Rotunda. Among the booth's offerings will be important Mississippi recordings, photographs and manuscripts from the Library's collections in Washington, D.C.

Guests can enjoy rare audio recordings of Mississippi musicians dating back almost 100 years. Highlights include materials from performers such as Son House, Mississippi John Hurt and McKinley "Muddy Waters" Morganfield.

A team from the Library of Congress will also be on hand at their booth to show guests how to be a part of the most extensive oral-history project in the country by interviewing veterans of the U.S. military. Visitors will even receive field kits containing everything necessary to submit these to the Library

MISSISSIPPI BOOK FESTIVAL



A LITERARY LAWN PARTY

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