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MS Book Fest has a hot lineup of cool authors and more

JACKSON, Miss. — The Mississippi Book Festival’s fifth anniversary edition Saturday, August 17 boasts another sterling lineup of 150-plus authors — including such luminaries as U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Richard Ford, Joyce Carol Oates, Ann Patchett and Angie Thomas — to entice thousands of book lovers to gather for the South’s literary lawn party.

The free, family-friendly festival is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the State Capitol, neighboring Galloway United Methodist Church and surrounding streets. A showcase for authors and a celebration of Mississippi’s literary heritage, last year’s festival drew a record crowd of 7,600 to downtown Jackson.

“The Mississippi Book Festival connects readers far and wide, who come for the conversations, stay for the insights and entertainment, and leave with plenty more books to read and stories to share,” said Holly Lange, festival director. “It’s a chance for fans to meet their literary heroes and discover new favorites, and it’s an annual opportunity for our state to shine.”

The festival’s many highlights include these gems: children’s book author Dav Pilkey with his Captain Underpants and Dog Man costumed characters and his inspiring story; acclaimed novelists and personal friends Ford and Oates in conversation; Sotomayor’s journey of achievement; award-winning novelists and war veterans Karl Marlantes and Kevin Powers; *Sex and the City’s* Candace Bushnell on life and love now in New York; a focus on the Well-Read Black Girl movement; costumed character Daniel Tiger and related kids’ activities; poet laureates Natasha Trethewey and Beth Ann Fennelly.

From light-hearted and humorous to probing and provocative, more than 40 panels tackle a broad range of topics. Hospitality, civil rights, art, diversity, fantasy, true crime, war, sports, music and more are among the many subjects up for discussion, promising lively exchanges and keen observations.

Food trucks, Authors Alley, Booksellers Row, guided Capitol tours and book signings add to the festival’s flavor and draw.

Find a complete schedule and more details at msbookfestival.com.

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