

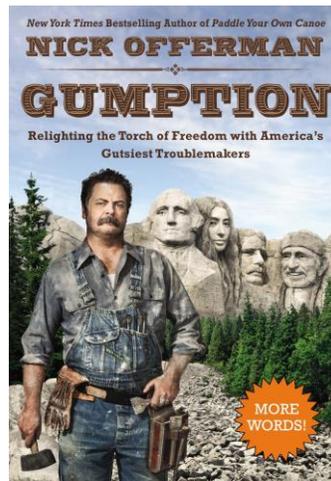


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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Chicago Humanities Festival Presents  
Nick Offerman**  
*Parks and Recreation* Star and Author of  
***Gumpton: Relighting the Torch of Freedom***  
**Thursday, May 28 at Merle Reskin Theater**



**CHICAGO, IL—April 30, 2015—**The Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) presents funnyman **Nick Offerman** on **Thursday, May 28 at 7 p.m.** at the **Merle Reskin Theatre (60 E Balbo Ave)**. The *Parks and Recreation* actor, humorist, and *New York Times* bestselling author will delight audiences with a reading and performance of his new book *Gumpton: Relighting the Torch of Freedom with America's Gutsiest Troublemakers* (May 26, 2015). Tickets are **\$32–38** and include a copy of *Gumpton*. Tickets are on sale now at [chicagohumanities.org](http://chicagohumanities.org) or by calling **312-494-9509**.

After the success of his autobiography, *Paddle Your Own Canoe*, Offerman now focuses on the lives of those who inspired him. From George Washington to Willie Nelson, he describes twenty-one heroic figures and why they inspire in him such great meaning. He'll combine both serious history with light-hearted humor—comparing, say, George Washington's wooden teeth to his own experience as a woodworker. The subject matter will also allow him to expound upon his favorite topics, which readers love to hear—areas such as religion, politics, woodworking and handcrafting, agriculture, creativity, philosophy, fashion, and, of course, meat.

*Publishers Weekly* raves *Gumpton* is “thought-provoking, profane, and frequently hilarious” and *Entertainment Weekly* says “[Offerman] explores his Paul Bunyan-like image with tongue-in-cheek lessons on manliness, complete with illustrations and advice . . . [and] hilarious anecdotes from his career.”

[Continued]

Born in Joliet and raised in Minooka, IL, Offerman is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He lived in Chicago in the mid-1990s, where he participated with theater companies such as Steppenwolf, Goodman, and Wisdom Bridge, as well as the Chicago improv comedy scene.

Offerman is actor, humorist, and woodworker. Formerly a star of the hit TV show *Parks and Recreation*, where he played Ron Swanson, he has also appeared in the films *21 Jump Street*, *The Lego Movie*, *The Kings of Summer*, *A Walk in the Woods*, and the upcoming *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*. He spends his spare time touring as a humorist and running the Offerman Woodshop, where he has built canoes, tables, and one ukulele (to date). Nick is married to the most beautiful and talented actress working today, Megan Mullally. They live in Los Angeles, CA, with their poodles and an impressive collection of assorted wood clamps.

**EVENT INFORMATION: G=General Public, M=CHF Member, ST=Students & Teachers**



**[Nick Offerman: Relighting the Torch of Freedom](#)**

**Thursday, May 28 | 7 p.m.**

**Merle Reskin Theatre (60 E Balbo Ave)**

**M=\$32 G=\$38 | All tickets include a copy of *Gumption***

Our favorite mustachioed funnyman returns to Chicago to celebrate the heroes who inspire him, from George Washington to Willie Nelson. Join **Nick Offerman** for a reading and performance of his new book, *Gumption: Relighting the Torch of Freedom with America's Gutsiest Troublemakers*.

**TICKETS:**

Tickets to see **Nick Offerman** are **\$32** for **CHF Members** and **\$38** for the **general public**, and each ticket includes a copy of *Gumption*. Tickets are available by calling the **CHF Box Office** at **312-494-9509** or online at [chicagohumanities.org](http://chicagohumanities.org). To become a member, visit [supportchf.org](http://supportchf.org). A \$6 per order processing fee is applied to all pre-event sales. CHF Box Office Hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDITIONAL CHF SPRING EVENTS:**



**[Amy Klobuchar: Joanne Alter Women in Government Lecture](#) | Friday, May 1 | 6 p.m.**

**The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, Buchanan Chapel at the Gratz Center (126 E Chestnut St) | M=\$10 G=\$15 ST=\$5**

The first woman elected from Minnesota to serve in the United States Senate, **Amy Klobuchar** is known for her commitment to bringing together politicians from both sides of the aisle. The Democrat will discuss the state of women in government today. *This annual lecture honors the late Joanne H. Alter's pioneering work on behalf of women interested in social action and public service.*



**[Stages, Sights & Sounds](#) | International Performance Festival for Young Audiences**

**May 7-20, 2015 | Various Times**

**Victory Gardens Biograph Theater (2433 N Lincoln Ave) | Adults = \$14, Children (under 17) = \$7**

**Stages, Sights & Sounds** is Chicago's only international performance festival for young audiences. Fresh, original performances from Canada, Europe and Chicago, will delight children and adults alike. Join us for dozens of performances, hands-on workshops, readings, and screenings this May!



**[Liminal Camera: Chicago](#) | Thursday, May 14 | 5:30 p.m.**

**DePaul Art Museum (935 W Fullerton Ave) | Opening is free to all attendees**

**Liminal Camera**, the world's largest fully functional camera, returns with some of the extraordinary pictures they produced during their autumn journey around Chicago. The stunning twelve-foot-by-eight-foot prints will be the focus of an exhibition at the DePaul Art Museum. Join the artists from **Metabolic Studio** for an opening evening as they recount their exploration of the city and how the Midwest inspired them. *This opening is presented in partnership with the DePaul Art Museum.*



**[Judy Blume](#) | Wednesday, June 17 | 7 p.m.**

**Francis W Parker School, Diane and David B Heller Auditorium (2233 N Clark St)**

**M=\$10 G=\$15 ST=\$5**

Literary icon and beloved author of *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*; *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*; and *Summer Sisters*, **Judy Blume** returns with a new novel for adults, *In The Unlikely Event*. When Blume was a teenager in the early 1950s, a series of passenger airplanes crashed in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Against this background, Blume details the lives of three generations of families,

friends, and strangers, who will be profoundly affected by these events. *This program is presented in partnership with the Chicago Tribune's Printers Row series.*



**[Judd Apatow: Sick in the Head](#)**

**Thursday, June 18 | 12:30 p.m.**

**Art Institute of Chicago, Rubloff Auditorium (230 S Columbus Dr)**

**M=\$32 G=\$38 | All tickets include a copy of *Sick in the Head***

A rare Chicago appearance by the writer and director of *Knocked Up* and *This is Forty*. **Judd Apatow** comes to CHF to talk about his new book, *Sick in the Head: Conversations About Life and Comedy*.

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**About the Chicago Humanities Festival**

For 25 years, the Chicago Humanities Festival has celebrated the questions that shape and define us as individuals, communities, and cultures. For the curious at heart, CHF's vibrant **year-round programming** and robust **Fall Festival** offer the opportunity to engage with some of the world's most brilliant minds. Collaborating with leading arts, cultural, and educational organizations, it presents scholars, artists and architects, thinkers, theologians, and policy makers that change how we see the world, where we're from, and where we're going. CHF also presents the spring **Stages, Sights & Sounds**, Chicago's only international performance festival for young audiences. Under the leadership of **Executive Director Phillip Bahar**, the newly appointed **Marilynn Thoma Artistic Director Jonathan Elmer**, and **Associate Artistic Director Alison Cuddy**, CHF is one of Chicago's most vital presenting organizations.

The Chicago Humanities Festival has grown from **eight programs in one day at a single venue in 1990**, to **160 programs year-round at more than 25 venues** in and around Chicago. Over the past 25 years, CHF has put on more than 2,600 programs and performances, and presented more than 3,300 speakers and artists, including: 10 Nobel Prize winners, 70 Pulitzer Prize winners, 52 MacArthur Award recipients, 16 Tony Award winners, 10 Grammy Award winners, and seven Academy Award winners. Visit [chicagohumanities.org](http://chicagohumanities.org) for more information.