

JOURNEYS

PRESS CONTACT:

Anna Marie Wilharm, annamarie@chicagohumanities.org, (312) 661-0317

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago Humanities Festival Announces Additional Presenters For the 25th Anniversary Fall Festival: Journeys, Oct. 25–Nov. 9

David Brooks, Roxane Gay, Guy Maddin, René Marie, Paula Poundstone, and Ruth Simmons

CHICAGO, IL—June 19, 2014—Today the **Chicago Humanities Festival** (CHF) announced confirmed presenters added to the 25th Anniversary Fall Festival, which will explore the theme of **Journeys, Oct. 25–Nov. 9, 2014**. They include *New York Times* op-ed columnist **David Brooks**, author and editor **Roxane Gay**, filmmaker **Guy Maddin**, jazz vocalist **René Marie**, comedian and *Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!* panelist **Paula Poundstone**, and former Brown University president **Ruth Simmons**. A complete schedule will be released in August at chicagohumanities.org/journeys.

Tickets to the 25th Anniversary Chicago Humanities Festival go on sale to **CHF members** on **Tuesday, Sept. 2** and to the general public on **Monday, Sept. 8**. To learn more about membership, visit supportchf.org.

The Chicago Humanities Festival has grown from **eight programs in one day** at a **single venue in 1990**, to **140 programs year-round** at more than **20 venues** in and around Chicago. Over the past 25 years, CHF has put on more than **2,500 programs** and performances, and presented more than **3,300 speakers** and artists, including: **68 Pulitzer Prize winners**, **48 MacArthur Award** recipients, **10 Nobel Prize winners**, **15 Tony Award winners**, **nine Grammy Award winners**, and **seven Academy Award winners**.

Confirmed Presenters for the 25th Anniversary Fall Festival Include:



David Brooks | Karla Scherer Endowed Lecture Series for the University of Chicago as part of the 25th Anniversary Gala Benefit

One of America's most prominent political commentators, **David Brooks** writes a bi-weekly op-ed column for *The New York Times*. He is a regular analyst on *PBS NewsHour* and on NPR's *All Things Considered*. Brooks has written several books, including: *Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There*, *On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (And Always Have) in the Future Tense*, and his latest book, *The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character, and Achievement*.



Roxane Gay

Blogger and commentator **Roxane Gay's** writing has appeared in *Best American Short Stories*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Bookforum*, *Time*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Salon*, and *The Wall Street Journal's* Speakeasy culture blog. She is the co-editor of the nonprofit literary arts collective *PANK*, as well as the essays editor for *The Rumpus*. She teaches writing at Eastern Illinois University. Her debut novel, *An Untamed State*, was released this May to rave reviews and her essay collection, *Bad Feminist*, will be published later this summer.



Guy Maddin

Canadian filmmaker and writer **Guy Maddin** has directed ten feature-length movies, including *My Winnipeg*, *The Saddest Music in the World*, *Brand upon the Brain!*, and *Careful*, as well as innumerable shorts. Maddin is well-known for recreating the look and style of silent cinema and early-sound-era films. He has mounted more than 70 performances of his films worldwide, featuring live elements that include orchestration, sound effects, singing, and narration.



René Marie | Helen B. and Ira E. Graham Family Concert

René Marie is a jazz vocalist, singer, actress, and songwriter. She has released ten albums, including *Vertigo*, which was awarded a coronet ranking by *The Penguin Guide to Jazz*—a distinction given to less than 85 other recordings in jazz history. Her newly released album, *I Wanna Be Evil (With Love to Eartha Kitt)*, pays tribute to Kitt and includes renditions of the classics “C’est Si Bon,” “Let’s Do It,” “My Heart Belongs to Daddy,” and Kitt’s enduring Christmas hit, “Santa Baby.”



Paula Poundstone | Elaine and Roger Haydock Humor Program

A regular panelist on NPR’s *Wait Wait... Don’t Tell Me!*, **Paula Poundstone’s** distinctive brand of wry, intelligent, and witty comedy is heard by five million homes across the country, internationally on NPR Worldwide, and on the Internet via podcast. She is recognized as one of Comedy Central’s 100 Greatest Stand-Ups Of All Time, and is a published author and lecturer. Her writing credits include articles and columns for *Mother Jones*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and *Glamour*.



Ruth Simmons | Doris Conant Lecture on Women and Culture

Ruth Simmons is the former president of Brown University and was the first African-American president of an Ivy League institution. She is a graduate of Dillard University and completed her Ph.D. at Harvard University. She was also previously the president of Smith College, the largest women’s college in the United States. Simmons is the recipient of many honors, including a Fulbright Fellowship, the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and the Foreign Policy Association award.

SAVE THE DATES:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2014** – The 25th Anniversary Gala Benefit honoring John and Jeanne Rowe, featuring a public program with David Brooks. For more information, visit chicagohumanities.org/gala
- **Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014** – The fourth annual Morry and Dolores Kohl Kaplan Northwestern Day on the Northwestern University campus
- **Sunday, Oct. 26, 2014** – The eighth annual Hyde Park Day on the University of Chicago campus
- **Monday, Oct. 27–Sunday, Nov. 9, 2014** – The 25th Anniversary Chicago Humanities Festival in and around downtown Chicago

TICKETS:

Tickets to the 25th Anniversary Chicago Humanities Festival go on sale to CHF members on **Tuesday, Sept. 2** and to the general public on **Monday, Sept. 8**. To become a member, visit supportCHF.org. The full schedule of all programs will be available at chicagohumanities.org/journeys in August.

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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 intellectually curious, 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** international children’s theater festival. Under the leadership of **Executive Director Phillip Bahar** and **Artistic Director Matti Bunzl**, CHF has become an institution central to the fabric of the city. Visit chicagohumanities.org for more information.