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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago Humanities Festival's Spring Season Culminates with Two June Events

Literary Icon and *New York Times* Bestselling Author

Judy Blume on June 17

Writer and Director of *Knocked Up* and *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*

Judd Apatow on June 18

CHICAGO, IL—May 27, 2015—The Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) will close out its Spring 2015 season with two literary events in June, featuring writers **Judy Blume** and **Judd Apatow**. On **Wednesday, June 17 at 7 p.m.** at **Francis W. Parker School**, CHF and the *Chicago Tribune* will welcome literary icon and number one *New York Times* bestselling author **Judy Blume** to talk about her new novel, *In the Unlikely Event* (June 2, 2015), with *Chicago Tribune* columnist **Heidi Stevens**. The next day, **Thursday, June 18 at 12:30 p.m.** at the **Art Institute of Chicago Rubloff Auditorium (230 S Columbus Dr)**, Hollywood film writer (*Knocked Up*, *This is 40*), producer (*Bridesmaids*), and director (*The 40-Year-Old Virgin*) **Judd Apatow** will speak about his new book, *Sick in the Head: Conversations About Life and Comedy* (June 16, 2015). Tickets are on sale now at chicagohumanities.org or by calling **312-494-9509**.

Judy Blume

In the Unlikely Event creates a richly textured and moving story of three generations of families, friends and strangers, whose lives are profoundly changed by unexpected events. In 1987, Miri Ammerman returns to her hometown of Elizabeth, New Jersey, to attend a commemoration of the worst year of her life. Thirty-five years earlier, when Miri was fifteen, and in love for the first time, a succession of airplanes fell from the sky, leaving a community reeling. Against this backdrop of actual events that Blume experienced in the early 1950s, when airline travel was new and exciting and everyone dreamed of going somewhere, she paints a vivid portrait of a particular time and place—Nat King Cole singing “Unforgettable,” Elizabeth Taylor haircuts, young (and not-so-young) love, explosive friendships, A-bomb hysteria, rumors of Communist threat. And a young journalist who makes his name reporting tragedy. Through it all, one generation reminds another that life goes on.

“In Blume's latest adult novel....young and old alike must learn to come to terms with technological disaster and social change. Her novel is characteristically accessible, frequently charming, and always deeply human.” —*Publishers Weekly*

Judy Blume is one of America's most well-known authors. Her 28 titles include *Blubber*, *Just as Long as We're Together*, and the five book series about the irrepressible Fudge. Together, her books have sold more than 85 million copies in 32 languages. She is a champion of intellectual freedom, working with the National Coalition Against Censorship to support teachers, librarians, and students who fight to keep challenged books on their shelves. In 2004, Blume was awarded the National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. She lives in Key West, Florida, with her husband.

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Blume will be in conversation on June 17 with journalist **Heidi Stevens**. Stevens is a lifestyles reporter at the *Chicago Tribune*, where she reports on books, relationships, parenting and health. She grew up in the northwest suburbs and studied journalism and political science at Eastern Illinois University. Her daily column runs Monday through Friday on chicagotribune.com and Sundays in the *Tribune's* Life & Style section.

Judd Apatow: Sick in the Head

Sick in the Head gathers his most memorable and revealing conversations into one hilarious, wide-ranging, and incredibly candid collection that spans not only his career, but his entire adult life. Here are the comedy legends who inspired and shaped him, from Mel Brooks to Steve Martin. Here are the contemporaries he grew up with in Hollywood, from Spike Jonze to Sarah Silverman. And here, finally, are the brightest stars in comedy today, many of whom Apatow has been fortunate to work with, from Seth Rogen to Amy Schumer. And along the way, something kind of magical happens: What started as a lifetime's worth of conversations about comedy becomes something else entirely. It becomes an exploration of creativity, ambition, neediness, generosity, spirituality, and the joy that comes from making people laugh.

"Anyone even remotely interested in comedy or humanity should own this book. It is hilarious and informative and it contains insightful interviews with the greatest comics, comedians, and comediennes of our time. My representatives assure me I will appear in a future edition."—**Will Ferrell**

Judd Apatow is one of the most important comic minds of his generation. He wrote and directed the films *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* (co-written with Steve Carell), *Knocked Up*, *Funny People*, and *This Is 40*, and his producing credits include *Superbad*, *Bridesmaids*, and *Anchorman*. Apatow is the executive producer of HBO's *Girls*. He was also the executive producer of *Freaks and Geeks*, created *Undeclared*, and co-created the Emmy Award-winning television program *The Ben Stiller Show*. His latest film is *Trainwreck*. Apatow was also the editor of the collection *I Found This Funny*.

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



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

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*

TICKETS:

Tickets to see **Judy Blume** are **\$10** for **CHF Members**, **\$15** for the **general public**, and **\$5** for **students/teachers**.

Tickets to see **Judd Apatow** are **\$32** for **CHF Members** and **\$38** for the **general public**, and each ticket includes a copy of *Sick in the Head*. Tickets are available by calling the **CHF Box Office** at **312-494-9509** or at chicagohumanities.org.

To become a member, visit 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.

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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. Visit chicagohumanities.org for more information.