



CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 28TH FALLFEST/17: **BELIEF**

LINE-UP INCLUDES AL GORE, REZA ASLAN, RON CHERNOW
SAMANTHA POWER TO HEADLINE CHF'S ANNUAL BENEFIT
EVENING OCTOBER 9

FESTIVAL RUNS OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 12

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This fall, the Chicago Humanities Festival is asking Chicagoans, what do you believe? *Belief* will be the theme of CHF's 2017 Fallfest. CHF's flagship festival will feature nearly 100 events between October 28 and November 12.

Headliners of Fallfest/17: *Belief* include former **Vice President Al Gore**, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations **Samantha Power**, historian and *Alexander Hamilton* author **Ron Chernow**, and the host of *Believer* on CNN, **Reza Aslan**. Power will headline CHF's annual benefit evening on Monday, October 9.

"The meaning of belief has become both urgent and complex. Sometimes it looks like there are too many beliefs, people doubling down on belief in defiance of facts. Other times, we need MORE belief — more trust in our institutions, more conviction about what counts as true, and as valuable," says **Marilynn Thoma Artistic Director Jonathan Elmer**. "We think our theme leads us directly into the ambiguity of our modern world."

Former Vice President Gore will come to CHF to discuss his upcoming documentary and book, *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*, which looks at all that has transpired in the decade since the release of *An Inconvenient Truth*. The sequel will

explore the steps taken, both forward and backward, in response to the existential threat of our time — global climate change.

Power, the former United States Ambassador to the United Nations and the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning “*A Problem From Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*,” will present a public program followed by CHF’s annual benefit.

Chernow, the author of the Alexander Hamilton biography that inspired Lin-Manuel Miranda’s musical, will discuss his upcoming biography of Ulysses S. Grant. Aslan, author of the forthcoming book *god* and works including *No god but God* and *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*, will speak to the wide variety of religious experience and how human conceptions of god have evolved over time.

“Considering the political and social realities of our country and the world, issues of belief seem ever more vital,” said **Executive Director Phillip Bahar**. “Who we are as individuals and societies is being fundamentally questioned—our *Fallfest* will explore a full breadth of beliefs and what they reveal about us.”

Presenters who have already been announced include *Chicago Tribune* Heartland Prize winners **Colson Whitehead** and **Matthew Desmond**. Whitehead, author of the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Underground Railroad*, will speak to his novel’s success as well as the compelling story of a literal Underground Railroad running beneath the South. Desmond, the author of *Evicted*, will speak about his research and his incisive finding that eviction is a root cause, rather than a symptom, of poverty.

A complete line-up will be announced in early September. Additional names, including information about CHF *Fallfest* kick-off events, will be announced later this summer.

Tickets to the 2017 Chicago Humanities Festival’s *Fallfest/17: Belief* will go on sale September 19 to CHF members and to the general public on September 26. To become a member, visit supportCHF.org.

For additional information, visit chicagohumanities.org/belief.