



MEDIA ALERT:

Chicago Humanities Festival Artistic Director Jonathan Elmer returning to
Indiana University fulltime

National search, led by CHF's Board of Directors, underway

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says CHF Executive Director Phillip Bahar

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The Chicago Humanities Festival's **Marilynn Thoma Artistic Director**

Jonathan Elmer announced that he will be stepping down from his position as Artistic Director of the Chicago Humanities Festival effective Friday, June 30 and returning to Indiana University full time. Elmer was appointed to the Artistic Director position in February 2015.

During this period, Elmer has overseen the inauguration and formalization of year-round programming including Springfests *Style* and *Stuff*, serving as creative force behind the flagship Fallfests, themed *Citizens*, *Speed*, and the forthcoming *Belief*, as well as several one day mini-festivals including a collaboration with the MacArthur Foundation, "Our Cities," and this summer's **Chicago Humanities Summit** "[Speech and Privilege](#)."

"I'm really proud to have been part of this great organization in an important moment of change," says Elmer. "I think we have strengthened our ties to the city, and we have shown how timely and engaged--and also just fun--humanities programming can be. I look forward to returning this fall for the *Belief* festival where I'll get to enjoy the programming as an audience member."

In late April, Elmer was invited to return to IU full time and serve for a second term as the Director of the College Arts and Humanities Institute. A wish to work on some book projects and a desire to return to the classroom contributed to his decision. This fall, he'll be teaching a doctoral seminar on the theories of adaptation and remediation, using the work of Edgar Allan Poe as a focus.

"We will miss Jonathan's jovial spirit, incredible mind, and reservoir of *Big Lebowski* quotes," **CHF Executive Director Phillip Bahar** says. "He leaves the Festival

stronger than when he arrived, having overseen our transition to a year-round programming calendar."

A national search for a new Artistic Director, led by Clark Hulse and the Chicago Humanities Festival's Board of Directors, is already underway.