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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Vegas Valley Book Festival *After Dark!*

An Evening Of Poetry Oct. 14, Pulitzer Prize Winners Oct. 15

LAS VEGAS – Sept. 29, 2016 – The 15th annual Vegas Valley Book Festival, set for Saturday, Oct. 15, will offer a new feature this year — *After Dark!* On Friday, Oct. 14, to kick off the festival, The Writer’s Block at 1020 Fremont St. will offer an evening of poetry featuring Joanne Kyger, Claudia Keelan, Erica Vital-Lazare and Hanna Andrews, starting at 7 p.m. Then Saturday, after a day of panels, books signings, readings, workshops, vendor exhibits, children’s activities and other special programs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Historic Fifth Street School, adults are invited to the Inspire Theater, located on the corner of historic Fremont Street at 107 Las Vegas Blvd. South, for an evening of libations and interaction with Pulitzer Prize winners.

Events at the Inspire Theatre begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reading and conversation with English novelist and essayist Geoff Dyer, interviewed by Geoff Schumacher. Dyer, author of four novels and seven non-fiction books, has won a host of literary awards. Now living in the Los Angeles area, the Cheltenham-raised author has had his works translated into 24 languages. His latest book, “White Sands: Experiences from the Outside World,” explores why we travel and was published in May 2016.

Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist and short story writer Adam Johnson will begin his talk at 6:30 p.m., interviewed by Maile Chapman. Johnson won the 2013 Pulitzer for fiction for his novel “The Orphan Master’s Son.” He is a professor of English at Stanford University with a focus on creative writing.

Katherine Boo will speak at 7:30 p.m., interviewed by Joshua Shenk. Boo is an investigative journalist and editor with more than 20 years of experience, as well as the author of the 2012 nonfiction bestseller, “Beyond the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity.” She won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for her series in the Washington Post newspaper about group homes for intellectually disabled people. Her work has changed lives and won numerous awards.

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Kyger has lived a fascinating life and accumulated more than 20 books of published poetry and prose. She has been a newspaper editor, teacher, international traveler, journal author and award-winning poet. Keelan is an award-winning poet who lives in Las Vegas as an English professor at UNLV. Vital-Lazare teaches creative writing at the College of Southern Nevada, where she is the editor-in-chief of the “Red Rock Review” literary journal. Brooklyn, New York, poet Andrews currently lives in Las Vegas, where she is a doctoral candidate at UNLV and a Black Mountain Institute Fellow in Poetry.

The *After Dark!* program is funded in part with a grant from the Pulitzer Prize Centennial Campfires Initiative, a grant from the Nevada Arts Council (a state agency), the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency), and the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more details, go to <http://www.vegasvalleybookfestival.org/vegas-valley-book-festival-after-dark/>.

About the Vegas Valley Book Festival

This uniquely Las Vegas event is produced through a collaboration of local public sector and nonprofit partners who work each year to enrich and expand the city’s cultural life by hosting great writers, thinkers and imagineers. Now in its 15th year, the Vegas Valley Book Festival is free and open to the public, thanks to support from its producing partners: city of Las Vegas; Las Vegas-Clark County Library District; Las Vegas-Clark County Library District Foundation, Inc.; the Las Vegas Chapter of AIGA, the professional organization for design; the Las Vegas Review-Journal; Nevada Humanities; the Beverly Rogers, Carol C. Harter Black Mountain Institute at UNLV; Vegas PBS and El Tiempo. For information on volunteering, author appearances, festival schedule, and much more, please go online to VegasValleyBookFestival.org/. Keep up with festival news on [Twitter](#) #VVBF, [Facebook](#), [Google+](#), and [Pinterest](#), or call 702-229-5902 with questions.

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Editor’s Note: Photos and short biographies of participating authors and entertainers are available for download at ftp://ftp.lasvegasnevada.gov/ls/files/2016_Vegas_Valley_Book_Festival/; no password is required. High-resolution photos of the Historic Fifth Street School are available for download at ftp://ftp.lasvegasnevada.gov/ls/files/Historic_Fifth_Street_School/; no password is required.



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