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WE'VE HAD SOME WORK DONE.**

Humanities Book Fest set

Celebrating its thirteenth year this October, the Utah Humanities Book Festival is Utah's most exciting literary event. The festival is a chance for book lovers of all types to kick back and enjoy some great events without having to spend any money. In Salt Lake City, the Book Festival will be held at the downtown City Library at 210 East 400 South, October 19-23—as well as at other Salt Lake locations during the month. The Festival extends throughout National Book Month (October) to fourteen other communities across the state.

In Utah's capital city, the festival consists of on-stage interviews, readings, talks, a poetry slam, films, a mash-up competition, book signings, a working replica of the famed 19th century Ramage Press, bookmaking for children, and much more, including book store and other vendors.

Festival Director David Pace notes that author participation at this year's Festival

is especially strong. "The Festival's theme—'What Kind of Idea Are You?'—is from a Salman Rushdie quote," he says. "We have a reputation for bringing in national and local authors in conversation with each other 'on stage' and representing almost every genre including fiction, biography, juvenile lit., poetry, history, memoir and environmental writing. Join the conversation to find out and express what kind of idea YOU are," he concludes.

This year's leading presenters include internationally best-selling author Tess Gerritsen (Rizzoli and Isles series, debuting soon on TNT); celebrated novelist of the American West Thomas McGuane ("Driving on the Rim"); children's book authors Mark and Carolyn Buehner (Snowmen series); New Yorker regular Ian Frazier ("Travels in Siberia"); bi-lingual children's author Rene Colon Lainez ("From North To South: Del Norte al

Sur"); Iraqi-vet/poet Brian Turner ("Phantom Noise"); Lakota-wisdom author Joseph Marshall ("To You We Shall Return"); former House and Garden editor Dominique Browning ("Slow Love") with Mormon memoirist Phyllis Barber ("Raw Edges"); and award-winning Washington Post reporter Ted Gup ("Secret Gift") among many others, some still to be confirmed.

Each year, the Book Festival has expanded to other locations around Utah. Currently, 2010 events are scheduled in Logan, Brigham City, Tremonton, Ogden, Salt Lake City, Orem, Provo, Park City, Vernal, Ephraim, Delta, Cedar City, Moab, and St. George. For a complete schedule of activities or additional information, visit the Book Festival website at www.utahhumanities.org/BookFestival.htm, check out our page on Facebook, or call the Utah Humanities Council at 801.359.9670.

• Continued from C-7

Daniels sings

their Michigan productions. At times, their success can be a mixed blessing for audiences at his theater.

"I am happy for the state because the film incentives have generated hundreds of million in revenue," says his colleague, Purple Rose artistic director Guy Sanville. "But it's a pain for me because our best actors are going to make twice their Purple Rose rates in a movie. Sometimes I have to let them go and use an understudy."

Helping local actors gain a foothold in Hollywood productions parallels Daniels' passion for developing new talent. He believes "graduate school is a waste of time for

playwrights. The best training is to become a journalist."

Much of Daniels' concert shtick is built around first person accounts of key moments in his career. From the joy of becoming Clint Eastwood's latest murder victim to watching George Harrison autograph his guitar, he celebrates epiphanies from a career that took off when he was discovered by Lanford Wilson at an Eastern Michigan University workshop in 1976.

Unlike most actors who built their careers over many years, Daniels has worked continuously in his chosen profession since college. His decision to return to Michigan from New York in 1988 to open a theater was dubbed a fool's errand by some.

He was also criticized for shooting "Escanaba in Da Moonlight" in Escanaba, Mich., a decade ago rather than making the short trip across the border to Canada, which then offered much bet-

ter tax breaks. When Hollywood refused to finance or distribute the movie, Daniels released it himself to commercial success in the Midwest and via the DVD market. He also helped lead the campaign to persuade the Michigan legislature to initiate the best film tax incentives in the country.

"We shot in Escanaba because it was the right thing to do," says Daniels, who proudly wraps up his shows with "The Michigan in Me."

At a meet-and-greet with VIP ticket holders on the Frauenthal stage following the show, Daniels happily swaps stories about his RV that he will pilot to other concert venues across the country through December.

Roger Rapoport is the author of "Citizen Moore: The Making of An American Iconoclast."

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