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FREE DISTRIBUTION OF BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL “ONE CITY, ONE STORY” SELECTION, RICHARD RUSSO’S *THE WHORE’S CHILD*, TO BEGIN THIS WEEK

(BOSTON – Sept. 7, 2011) City-wide distribution of this year’s Boston Book Festival “One City One Story” Selection, Richard Russo’s *The Whore’s Child*, will begin at various locations around Greater Boston this week. Boston Book Festival organizers expect to distribute 30,000 beautiful bound booklets at libraries, book stores, farmers markets, art shows, coffee shops, MBTA stations and other places where people gather. In addition to physical distribution, the story will be available for download from www.bostonbookfest.org later this fall. The digital version will be available in English as well as Chinese, Portuguese, and other languages.

Booklets can be picked up in the following places: all branches of the Boston Public Library, Boston Center for Adult Education, Grub Street, Harvard Book Store, Brookline Booksmith, Porter Square Books, Trident Booksellers, Newtonville Books, Ashmont Grill in Dorchester, Sugar Bakery and Real Deal Deli in West Roxbury, and Fornax Bread in Roslindale. New locations are being added daily, and a list is available at www.bostonbookfest.org. Booklets will also be handed out at many local events and locations beginning Sept. 9. That complete schedule can also be found on the website.

In June, festival Founder and Executive Director Deborah Z Porter announced that Russo’s *The Whore’s Child* would be the 2011 selection in the *One City, One Story* program, now in its second year. The story was chosen for its literary merit, ability to stimulate discussion, and accessibility. Festival organizers hope thousands of Bostonians will read and discuss the story in the weeks leading up to the third annual Boston Book Festival, which takes place on Oct. 15, 2011. Russo will participate in a town-hall style discussion of the story at the Festival. In addition, plans are underway for several related discussions to take place in Boston Public Library branch libraries in the weeks leading up to the Boston Book Festival.

According to Porter, “As a literary organization, we relate to this story because it is about making sense of one’s past through the act of writing. Remembering and recording the past can be painful, as it is here, but cathartic as well. We think the story will prompt some interesting conversation and even controversy-- both hallmarks of a good story.”

Russo, who lives in Maine and Massachusetts, won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his novel *Empire Falls*, which was also adapted into the acclaimed HBO mini-series, starring Paul Newman, Ed Harris, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, and Helen Hunt. He is also the author of seven novels including *Mohawk*, *Nobody's Fool*, *Straight Man*, *Bridge Of Sighs* and his newest *That Old Cape Magic* and one collection of short stories. Russo was born in Johnstown, New York and raised in nearby Gloversville. He earned a bachelor's degree, a master's in fine arts, and a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. He has also written numerous screenplays including *Twilight* (with Robert Benton), *Keeping Mum* (with Niall Johnson), and *The Ice Harvest* (with Robert Benton) as well as the teleplay for *Empire Falls*. His most recent novel, *That Old Cape Magic*, set on Cape Cod, came out in 2009.

The Whore's Child was published in 2002 to critical acclaim in Russo's short story collection of the same name. It contains some mature subject matter, and parents should read it first to decide if it's suitable for their children. It was chosen for *One City, One Story* by a panel of advisors to The Boston Book Festival, including librarians, educators, and writers.

The Boston Book Festival, in partnership with WBUR 90.9, will be held on Oct. 15, 2011, in various locations in Copley Square. Over 100 featured authors will represent a wide array of programming, and include award winners, best-selling authors, renowned scholars, children's writers, and writers of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. A complete line-up with author bios is available at www.bostonbookfest.org. The program of events, including times, thematic groupings and exact locations, will be announced in the coming weeks. In addition, the Boston Book Festival will announce details of a street fair on Copley Plaza, including music, vendors and children's activities. Free admission is available for all daytime events, although a limited number of reserved seats for some sessions will be available for purchase. Details to be announced soon.

In just three years, the Boston Book Festival has become one of the most anticipated events in the cultural life of the City. Boston Book Festival organizers estimate that about 25,000 people took part in indoor and outdoor 2010 festival activities through the 12-hour day. More than 130 authors and scholars participated in forty presentations, panels and participatory sessions in various Back Bay venues. The Festival takes advantage of the great architectural treasures in Copley Square, utilizing such venues as Trinity Church, Old South Church and the Boston Public Library, among others. A street fair in the square features exhibitors and live music throughout the day.

Boston Book Festival's Presenting Partner is WBUR 90.9. Other sponsors of the 2011 Boston Book Festival include Verizon, Google Books, Other Press, Random House Audio, The Pearson Foundation, Hachette Book Group, The Plymouth Rock Foundation, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Copley Square Hotel, Bank of America, Target, and Vermont College of Fine Arts. BBF's 2011 partners include Mayor Thomas M. Menino; The Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism and Special Events; The City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department; ReadBoston; Boston Public Library; the Boston Athenæum; PEN New England;

Grub Street; Trinity Church; Old South Church; Cambridge Public Library, New Center for Arts and Culture; 826 Boston; Berklee College of Music; Emerson College; Harvard Book Store; Brookline Booksmith, Porter Square Books; Independent Film Festival Boston and RiverRun Books.

Boston Book Festival Board of Directors: Founder and Executive Director Deborah Z Porter; Treasurer Steve Oristaglio; Secretary Susana B. Lopez; Hannah Gilligan Com Moss, Paul La Camera, Callie Crossley, Robert Duboff, Rona Kiley, Glenda Manzi, Jeff Mayersohn, John Taylor "Ike" Williams.

Honorary Advisory Board: Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Ann Gund, Steve Grossman, Arthur Golden, Phil Balboni, Amy Ryan, Diane Patrick, Tom Perrotta, Lou Casagrande.

For more information about the Boston Book Festival, visit www.bostonbookfest.org.

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