



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Joyce Linehan (617) 282-2510 x 1, [joyce@ashmontmedia.com](mailto:joyce@ashmontmedia.com)

**BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER:  
A Conversation With Tom Perrotta  
Complete Boston Book Festival 2011 Line-Up To Be Announced at Event**

(BOSTON —July 6, 2011) The Boston Book Festival holds a fundraising event on Thursday, July 28, 6—8 p.m. at Middlesex Lounge (315 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge). Proceeds from the evening will benefit The Boston Book Festival, which holds its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual event this year. Tickets, which include beer, wine and hors d'oeuvres, are \$35, and available at [www.bostonbookfest.org](http://www.bostonbookfest.org).

The evening's featured guest will be Tom Perrotta, in what promises to be a funny conversation with comic Steven Brykman. Perrotta will also read from his upcoming novel, *The Leftovers*, due out Aug. 30, called by *Kirkus Reviews* his "most ambitious book to date." Attendees will be the first to hear the complete author line-up for the 2011 edition of the Boston Book Festival.

**Tom Perrotta** is the author of six works of fiction: *Bad Haircut*, *The Wishbones*, *Election*, and the *New York Times* bestselling *Joe College*, *Little Children* and *The Abstinence Teacher*. *Election* was made into the acclaimed 1999 movie directed by Alexander Payne and starring Matthew Broderick and Reese Witherspoon. *Little Children* was released as a movie directed by Todd Field and starring Kate Winslet and Jennifer Connelly in 2006. Perrotta lives in Belmont, Mass.

**Steven Brykman** left medical school to write fart jokes as Managing Editor of *National Lampoon*. His work has appeared in *Playboy*, *Cracked*, *Nerve*, and *The New Yorker* where he was featured in Talk of the Town. He has written for and/or appeared on *Prairie Home Companion*, Comedy Central, G4TV, and the Food Network. As a writing fellow at the University of Massachusetts, his fiction was awarded the Harvey Swados prize. He has been thrown out of both the 2000 Democratic National Convention and the Smithsonian Museum, and has on more than one occasion performed standup comedy naked.

The Boston Book Festival will be held on Oct. 15, 2011, in various locations in Copley Square. Previously announced authors appearing at the festival this year include **Jennifer Egan**, author of *A Visit From the Goon Squad*, and winner of the 2011 Pulitzer Prize, and the 2011 National Book Critics Circle Award, for Fiction; **Siddhartha Mukherjee**, author of *The Emperor of all Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*, winner of the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction; **Sarah Bakewell**, author of *How to Live: Or, a Life of Montaigne in One Question and Twenty Attempts at an Answer*, winner of the National Book Critics Circle

Award for Biography; **Isabel Wilkerson**, author of *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for General Nonfiction.

**Michael Ondaatje** will give the keynote address. The 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. 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. All daytime events are FREE and open to the public.

In 2010, the Boston Book Festival initiated the One City One Story program, which saw the distribution of a Tom Perrotta short story throughout the Boston area, and culminated in a town hall meeting with the author and more than 200 readers eager to discuss the story. This year, *The Whore's Child*, by Richard Russo is the One City, One Story selection. Distribution will take place at Boston Public Library branches, subway stations, community centers, farmers markets, open studios and other places where people gather, in September and October, in advance of the Boston Book Festival. A complete list of distribution locations will be available in late summer. In addition to physical distribution, the story will be available online in several different languages at [www.bostonbookfest.org](http://www.bostonbookfest.org) beginning Oct. 1.

Boston Book Festival 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; Boston Children's Museum; Cambridge Public Library, New Center for Arts and Culture; 826 Boston; Brattle Theatre, 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:** President Deborah Z. Porter; Treasurer Steve Oristaglio; Secretary Susana B. Lopez; Hannah Gilligan Comross, Paul La Camera, Callie Crossley, Robert Duboff, Joseph Finder, 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.

###

