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**“ONE CITY, ONE STORY”: BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES 30,000 COPIES OF RICHARD RUSSO STORY TO BE DISTRIBUTED
FREE, CITYWIDE, IN SECOND YEAR OF PROGRAM**

(BOSTON—June 20, 2011) The organizers of the Boston Book Festival have announced that Richard Russo’s *The Whore’s Child* will be the 2011 selection in the organization’s *One City, One Story* program, now in its second year. Copies of this story, chosen for its literary merit, ability to stimulate discussion, and accessibility, will be distributed as a bound booklet throughout the City beginning in September. 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 events to take place in Boston neighborhoods in the weeks leading up to the Boston Book Festival.

According to Boston Book Festival Founding President Deborah Z 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.

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 beginning Oct. 1.

"We love the idea of many thousands of people in Boston reading the same story and talking about it against the backdrop of the Boston Book Festival," said Porter. "The growing success of our Festival, now in its third year, proves that Boston has a passion for reading. We want to explore this further by uniting the City around a single story and examining it from the many different perspectives that exist here."

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 complete line-up, which will include over 100 authors, scholars and presenters, will be announced over the summer. 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.

The Boston Book Festival is produced by the non-profit organization of the same name, and is made possible with the generous support of sponsors and individual donors. For more information about the Boston Book Festival, visit www.bostonbookfest.org.

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; Massachusetts Center for the Book; Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston; MassPoetry; and Independent Film Festival Boston.

Boston Book Festival Board of Directors: President 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.

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