



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WBUR 90.9, ANNOUNCES
OPENING EVENT:
THE ART OF *THE WIRE*: A DISCUSSION WITH CAST AND CREATORS**

**Panel Discussion Moderated By Rev. Eugene Rivers Features Cast Members Plus
Screenwriter/Producer George Pelecanos**

(BOSTON – August 25, 2011) The Boston Book Festival, in partnership with WBUR 90.9, will open its 3rd annual event with a special festival-eve ticketed event: a panel discussion on *The Wire*, one of the most critically acclaimed television series in history. Join several cast members and writer/producer George Pelecanos on Friday, Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in a conversation about *The Wire* and issues of race, class, institutional failure, and the visual novel. Featuring Donnie Andrews (the basis for the character “Omar”), Fran Boyd (the inspiration for David Simon’s earlier HBO series *The Corner*), Tray Chaney (“Poot”), Robert Chew (“Prop Joe”), and Jamie Hector (“Marlo Stanfield”), the panel will be moderated by Reverend Eugene Rivers, co-founder of the Ten Point Coalition. The event will be held at the Back Bay Events Center (180 Berkeley St., Boston). Reserved tickets, starting at \$20, will be available starting Sept. 14 at www.bostonbookfest.org.

The Wire’s creator, David Simon, referred to this powerful, gritty, and all-too-realistic exploration of urban poverty, loosely based on the novels of Ed Burns, as a “visual novel.” It has been compared to Dickens, Greek tragedy, and even Shakespearean drama. It is both high art and social commentary. This meticulously crafted show, which ran for five seasons on HBO (2002-2008) spent one season each on the illegal drug trade, the docks through which drugs were smuggled, government bureaucracy, the school system and the media, tying them all together and showing the ways in which each institution impacts the lives of people, especially the urban poor, in an American city. Set in Baltimore, the show is widely recognized for its realistic portrayal of urban life and deep exploration of sociopolitical themes.

The panel will discuss their experiences making *The Wire*, as well as the impact the series has had since, as curriculum material for courses in law, sociology and film studies, at institutions like Harvard Law School, Johns Hopkins, Brown and Phillips Academy.

The Boston Book Festival 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 September. 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.

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 beginning Oct. 1.

Boston Book Festival's Presenting Partner is WBUR 90.9. The exclusive print and online media sponsor of *The Wire* event is *The Boston Phoenix*. 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.

###