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IN ADDITION TO ITS ALL-STAR LINE-UP OF VISITING AUTHORS THE JUST-ANNOUNCED NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES SEASON TO FEATURE LITERARY LUMINARIES MAKING RARE U.S. ONSTAGE APPEARANCES AS GUESTS HOSTS.

*Guest hosts include luminary editors, book reviewers, and publishing professionals from across the United States: NWS Newsweek/The Daily Beast books editor **Lucas Wittmann**; award-winning Detroit News columnist **Neal Rubin**; O, The Oprah Magazine books editor **Leigh Haber**; groundbreaking Byliner.com editor **Laura Hohnhold**; Bibliostar.tv creator **Rich Fahle**; and NWS co-founder and New York Times bestselling author **Doug Stanton**.*

Traverse City, Mich. – February 20, 2013

The National Writers Series unveiled their 2013 Winter Spring line-up during their first event of year with writer and executive producer Chip Johannessen, of Showtime's *Homeland* television show, on February 7. The slate of eight eclectic shows is selling extremely quickly to ticket holders from around the Midwest, and response to the amazing roster of guests-- Buzz Bissinger, Blaine Harden, Gillian Flynn, Nathaniel Philbrick, Jason Matthews, Colum McCann, and Temple Grandin-- has been loud and clear: we love meeting authors at NWS. Equally interesting and exciting has been audience response to the events' guests hosts, a stellar line-up of fascinating reviewers, publishers, and publishing professionals.

“We spend a lot of time thinking about guests and hosts and creating what we hope will be a moving and entertaining conversation onstage, and these events, with these guest hosts, are basically an evening up close with two literary stars at once. We're lucky to have them, and very grateful they're donating their time to be with us, as they all do solo events of their own. They come to us from some of the most important and exciting places in publishing right now, and their presence makes an NWS event literally unique—you won't find this evening anywhere else in the U.S.,” said Doug Stanton, NWS co-founder, New York Times bestselling author, and one of NWS's frequent and favored guest hosts.

Detroit News columnist **Neal Rubin** will appear on stage with **Buzz Bissinger** on March 5. Rubin began writing his *Detroit News* column in **June of 2000**. His typically light-hearted look at life appears **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday on page 2A and at www.detroitnews.com**.



Rubin came to the *News* after 16 years as a feature writer and columnist with the *Detroit Free Press*, where his greatest achievement was getting banned by the World Wrestling Federation. In addition to his column, he writes the nationally syndicated comic strip “Gil Thorp,” about a high school coach and the ever-changing cast of kids at Milford High School.

His last stop before Detroit was Las Vegas, where he was a three-time state sportswriter of the year in an admittedly limited field. A Michigander since 1984, Rubin grew up in Southern California and Colorado and attended the University of Northern Colorado on a 7-card stud scholarship. He prefers dogs to cats, game shows to reality shows, and writing to actual work.



Lucas Wittmann will serve as the guest host for **Blaine Harden** on April 9. Wittmann is the Literary Editor and Senior Articles Editor at *Newsweek* and *The Daily Beast*. He oversees the National Magazine Award-winning Book Beast, a leading online book section. Prior to the *Beast*, he worked in publishing at W.W. Norton & Company.

From thedailybeast.com: The *Newsweek*/*Daily Beast* Company LLC formed in February 2011 when the revered print brand and the thriving young news site completed their merger, bringing together the warp speed 24/7 website with the depth, analysis, and investigative power of a great print magazine. The combined operation now attracts over 19 million unique online visitors a month and the magazine reaches 14 million readers across America, and millions more through its international editions.

The Daily Beast was founded in 2008 as the vision of Tina Brown and IAC Chairman Barry Diller. Curated to avoid information overload, the site is dedicated to breaking news and sharp commentary. After the merger, *The Daily Beast* became the online home of *Newsweek* Magazine, which has served as the world’s preeminent conversation starter since its founding in 1933. Tina Brown, former editor of *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker* and *Talk*, serves as Editor-in-Chief of both publications.



NWS co-founder and *New York Times* bestselling author of *In Harm's Way* and *Horse Soldiers* **Doug Stanton** will appear on stage with **Gillian Flynn** on April 25 and **Jason Matthews** on May 22. Stanton's writing has appeared in *Esquire*, *The New York Times*, *TIME*, the *Washington Post*, and other national publications where he has been a contributing editor. *In Harm's Way* spent more than six months on the *New York Times* bestseller list. *Horse Soldiers* was featured on the front page of the *Sunday New York Times Book Review* and spent over three months on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

Horse Soldiers was also a bestseller on bestseller lists in *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Publisher's Weekly*, and *IndieBound*. *Horse Soldiers* is in development as a movie by Jerry Bruckheimer Films. Stanton has

appeared multiple times on the *Today Show*, *Morning Joe*, and other major TV and radio outlets to talk about his work.

Horse Soldiers was named a 2009 “Notable Book” by the *New York Times*, and it was chosen as a “Best Book Of 2009” by *Publishers Weekly*, *Christian Science Monitor*, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon.com. Stanton attended Interlochen Arts Academy, Hampshire College, and received an MFA from the Writers’ Workshop at the University of Iowa. He lives in Traverse City, Michigan with his wife, Anne Stanton, and their children.



Rich Fahle will serve as the guest host for **Nathaniel Philbrick** on May 14. Fahle is the Founder and CEO of [Astral Road Author Media](#) and [Bibliostar.TV](#)-- entertainment for readers, including interviews, discussions, live events, and other special features about books, authors, and the reading life. Fahle draws on his extensive background as a marketing agent for authors, publishers, and book retailers in the emerging digital marketplace.

Before launching Astral Road in 2010, Fahle served as Vice President, Digital Content, E-Commerce and Entertainment at Borders. In that role, he was a key driver of dynamic brand extensions into new media fields, broadening the scope and reach of customer relationships within the book, music & movie retail space. Examples include the development and launch of Borders’ social media platform on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other sites, as well as creating the Borders Media online video entertainment network, one of the first major branded content initiatives on the Web. Other roles included leadership of the creative and production teams, the in-store national events program, national advertising & brand development, and e-commerce operations.

Prior to Borders, Fahle was Chief Spokesperson and Communications Director for C-SPAN, the national public affairs cable television network based in Washington, D.C. He is a graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He currently blogs for [www.video-commerce.org](#) and [www.digitalbookworld.com](#).



Leigh Haber, publishing entrepreneur, writer, reader, and books editor at *O, The Oprah Magazine* will be on stage with **Colum McCann** on June 6. Prior her position at *O* she was editor-at-large at Chronicle Books and consultant to the publishing-on-demand platform Blurb. Haber has held editorial roles at several major publishing houses including Scribner, Hyperion, and Rodale where she edited several major books including Steve Martin's *Shopgirl*; *An Inconvenient Truth*, by Al Gore; *New Rules*, by Bill Maher; and *Fresh Air*, by Terry Gross.



Laura Hohnhold, executive editor at [Byliner](#), will be on stage on June 24 with **Temple Grandin**. Byliner is the leading publisher of short digital books, Byliner specializes in fiction and nonfiction stories that can be read in a single sitting. Bestselling Byliner authors include Margaret Atwood, Amy Tan, Jon Krakauer, Ann Patchett, Buzz Bissinger, Jess Walter, and Richard Russo. Prior to Byliner, Laura worked at *Outside* magazine, Time Inc., and *The New York Times*.

Ticket prices for all National Writers Series events during the 2013 Winter Spring season are just \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. All events offer the choice of a seating-only ticket or a “Whatta Book Deal!” package. “Whatta Book Deal!” pricing varies by event and includes a ticket, a pre-signed copy of the author’s book (discounted 35% or more off the retail price), and pre-event reception with the author (pending author availability).

All NWS events this season will feature live musical performances before the author appearances, during which time attendees can enjoy complimentary dessert from Morsels and a cash bar reception, as well as purchase books and NWS merchandise. The evenings will also include an audience Q&A and most events will include a post-event book signing.

The National Writers Series, founded in 2009, is a year-round book festival bringing award-winning authors, journalists and storytellers together with thousands of fans in downtown Traverse City. The National Writers Series was founded by *New York Times* bestselling author Doug Stanton, Traverse City attorney Grant Parsons and *Traverse City Record Eagle* reporter Anne Stanton.

Net proceeds from NWS events support the National Writers Series and its scholarship fund, which benefits college-bound writing and arts students attending Grand Traverse regional high schools. NWS, in partnership with Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS), also directs the Front Street Writers Program, a one-of-a-kind creative writing workshop for high school students. Proceeds from NWS events also support the Front Street Writers program.

The National Writers Series is a nonprofit organization that relies on community support for sustainability. All contributions are 100% tax deductible. Donations can be made online at www.nationalwritersseries.org, by mail: NWS, 123 W. Front Street, Traverse City, MI 49684, or in person at any NWS event.

The National Writers Series is, in part, made possible by our sponsors, including our sustaining sponsors FIM Group and Cherry Capital Airport. To become a sponsor or to gain additional information contact: Chuck O'Connor via at chuck@emgconsult.com or 231-590-2521.

For more information on the National Writers Series, visit www.nationalwritersseries.org, contact NWS executive director Jill Tewsley at jtewsley@nwstc.org, or call the National Writers Series at (231) 577-6971.

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