Brooklyn Book Festival
Children's Day!
September 30, 2023 — Brooklyn Commons
brooklynbookfestival.org
10AM - 4PM

All Children’s Day Events Are Free
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

PICTURE BOOK STAGE

Brooklyn Commons

Join award-winning and beloved children’s book authors at the Picture Book Stage as they read, perform, draw and bring their books to life. Authors will sign books following their program. All books are for sale at the Center for Fiction sales booth!

10am We Share This School by Dan Sak

This rhyming board book celebrates school communities and showcases how to exercise compassion and empathy both in and out of the classroom. Join musician, author, podcast host, and music educator Dan Sak for some singalong fun as he kicks off Children’s Day!

10:30am Very Good Hats by Emma Straub

What makes a very good hat? Can a raspberry be a good hat? What about pajama pants? In Emma Straub’s debut picture book, anything can be a hat, as long as you believe in it. Very Good Hats is an innovative and joyful read that will inspire you to look at everyday objects through a whole new perspective.

11am Always Anjali by Sheetal Sheth

Anjali isn’t too happy with her name. She doesn’t like how it’s “different” from other names, especially when she is being teased by other kids. When Anjali demands that her parents let her change her name and they refuse, she must look closely at her identity, what it really means to be “different,” and how being different can actually be wonderful. This picture book by activist and actress Sheetal Sheth is a touching story of embracing what makes you you.

11:30am Dim Sum Palace by X. Fang

Liddy can’t sleep—all she can think about is going to Dim Sum Palace with her family. While lying in bed, Liddy begins to smell something delicious and opens her door to find an actual palace of dim sum—dumplings, bao, and buns everywhere! In this whimsical debut picture book, X. Fang turns memories of childhood feasts into a fantastical world full of food, family, and culture.

12pm Pineapple Princess by Sabina Hahn

What makes a princess? A crown, of course! The princess of Sabina Hahn’s debut picture commands her not-so-obedient subjects with a... rotting pineapple crown? Join this Pineapple Princess as her reign falls into hilarious and sticky chaos.

12:30pm Hot Dog by Doug Salati

This dog is hot and needs an escape from the sizzling city summer! Join this pup and his owner on a trip to the beach, where they find their calm restored by the waves, sand, and fresh air. This Caldecott Medal picture book by Doug Salati is a playful read that breathes calm into a hectic world.

1pm Breaking to the Beat by Linda J. Acevedo

It’s the Bronx in the 1970s, and new dance rhythms are on the rise. For Manolo, a shy boy, this new dance style called breaking is motivation to overcome his insecurities. Linda J. Acevedo’s energetic debut picture book is an ode to the Hip Hop movement that permanently shifted the world of music and dance.

1:30pm Bruce and the Legend of Soggy Hollow by Ryan Higgins

The return of Bruce! Bruce is a grumpy bear, and he does not like Halloween. His family of mice and geese try to get Bruce in the Halloween spirit, but the day takes a scary turn when they are visited by a ghostly figure! Will Bruce ever learn to like Halloween? Join best-selling author Ryan Higgins in reading this spooky addition to the Mother Bruce series.

2pm Sleepy Sheepy by Lucy Ruth Cummins

Sleepy Sheepy is anything BUT sleepy. While Ma and Pa Sheepy try to coax their sheep to bed, Sleepy Sheepy is daydreaming about building blocks and knitting. Will this sleepy one ever go sleepy? Acclaimed author Lucy Ruth Cummins’ rhyming bedtime story is a playful tale that certainly beats counting sheep.

2:30pm Pepita Meets Bebita by Ruth Behar & Gabriel Frye-Behar

When a new baby is introduced to the family, Pepita, the puppy of the house, has a lot to get used to. Not only are Mami and Papi busier than ever, but how will Pepita and the new Bebita get along? Join award-winning author Ruth Behar and her son, Gabriel Frye-Behar, for a story about the power of growth and love through change.

MAKERS AND CREATORS AREA

5 MetroTech Center Portico

Join illustrators and authors in a series of creative activities and unleash your inner author and illustrator. Book signings to follow at PowerHouse Bookstores sales booth.

11am Artist in Action: Award-winning illustrator Elisha Cooper

Watch a children’s book artist at work! Or, attempting to work. Elisha Cooper will try to create an ink & watercolor illustration before your eyes (a painting of a large dog, sitting under a tree, from his new book Emma Full of Wonders). Will he mess up? Possibly, yes! He will discuss how he makes art, and help children create art of their own. Things could get interesting…

12 pm Fold, Cut & Pop! Make a Book!

How to Make Books and Making Books with Kids author Esther K Smith and Jane Sanders who illustrated Making Books with Kids will show you how to fold, cut and pop your own book. Then YOU can draw + write your story!

1pm What’s in Your Head? Join Brazilian author Ana Matsusaki for a captivating reading of The Collector of Heads. After the storytelling, kids are invited to an introspective exploration of their own heads through an imaginative art activity inspired by the artwork of the book, combining drawing and collage.

2pm Create Animals with Christopher Silas Neal

Join award-winning illustrator Christopher Silas Neal, co-creator of the Over and Under picture book series, this time exploring the rich, interconnected ecosystem of the ocean in Over and Under the Waves! Create pictures of your favorite animals using cut paper, glue, and markers and colored pencils. Learn how simple shapes, a few wiggly lines and a little imagination can transform into a beautiful piece of art.

3pm Crayons! Oil Pastels! Drawing with Illustrator Marika Majalja

Finnish children’s book illustrator Marika Majalja will share Rosie Runs, her “triumphant escape story” of a racing dog who dreams of forests, meadows, hares, and freedom. She will guide an interactive drawing workshop in which kids can use crayons and oil pastels to create their own beautiful works of art.

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YOUNG READERS STAGE

Brooklyn Commons

Kids ages 6 to 11—come hear your favorite authors talk about books and about being an author, watch illustrators in action and everything in between. All authors will sign their books near WORD Bookstores on the plaza.

12pm Keeping it Real
First crushes, friendship breakups, big moves, complicated family dynamics and following your dreams: life is full of highs, lows and everything in-between! Come join New York Times bestselling author Janae Marks (On Air With Zoe Washington) critically-acclaimed author and illustrator Stephanie Rodriguez (Doodles from the Boogie Down) and critically-acclaimed and award-winning author Andrew Eliopoulos (Will on the Inside) where they discuss the inspirations for their relatable stories, how they tackle the tough stuff and the importance of community. Moderated by APALA-award-winning author Susan Tan (Ghosts, Toasts and Other Hazards).

1pm An Adventure to Remember
Can Navajo stepsiblings take down a dangerous Water Monster? What is causing a mysterious memory swap between two strangers? Will a mythical kingdom accept a nonbinary knight? And can a young boy survive medieval conflicts? The Inflatables in Splash of the Titans tells the story of Abeni’s Song as they discuss how their characters embark on some of the most exciting adventures a kid could ever face. Moderated by award-winning author Brian Young (Healer of the Water Monster).

2pm Draw Me a Story
Be part of the audience that helps #1 Bestselling author Jon Scieszka & Steven Weinberg, and a mostly scientifically-accurate-and-true expose of the secret NASA (NOT-NASA) program to find a Goldilocks Planet for every human on Earth!

2pm Keep It Real
First crushes, friendship breakups, big moves, complicated family dynamics and following your dreams: life is full of highs, lows and everything in-between! Come join New York Times bestselling author Janae Marks (On Air With Zoe Washington) critically-acclaimed author and illustrator Stephanie Rodriguez (Doodles from the Boogie Down) and critically-acclaimed and award-winning author Andrew Eliopoulos (Will on the Inside) where they discuss the inspirations for their relatable stories, how they tackle the tough stuff and the importance of community. Moderated by APALA-award-winning author Susan Tan (Ghosts, Toasts and Other Hazards).

3pm Fantastical Wonders & Magical Stories
Alyssa Bermudez and illustrator Isi Hendrix weave a story that beloved author Adia Kelbara and the Circle of Shamans, (The Widely Unknown Myth of Apple & Dorothy) & acclaimed illustrator Abeni’s Song (Corey Ann Haydu (The Widerly Unknown Myth of Apple & Dorothy) create their intricate designs with different flaws, participants will be able to understand how design principles that are used to design secure systems by examining structures built with Legos that were designed to protect chocolate pieces. By seeing physical and chocolate consumption). Participants will create their own ice skating rink diorama and figure skating Wei.

WORKSHOPS

5 MetroTech Center - Room 400

Join your favorite illustrators and authors for a series of creative projects from visual storytelling PowerHouse Bookstores sales booth.

11am Wordless storytelling with Balint Zsako
How do you tell a story without using a single word? This was artist Balint Zsako’s challenge when creating Bunny & Tree, a 184-page wonder of purely visual storytelling. Act and draw to communicate wordlessly in this fun workshop with Balint!

12pm Poetry and Banner-Making with Josh and Matt
Some letters can’t be delivered in the usual way... What extraordinary journey will you imagine the letter taking? Join poet Matthew Burgess and artist Josh Cochran for a collaborative poetry & banner-making workshop, inspired by their picture book Sylvester’s Letter.

1pm Storytime and Drawing with Nikki Grimes and Brian Pinkney
Join Nikki Grimes and Brian Pinkney for A Walk in the Woods. Author Nikki Grimes will lead a storytime and share how the picture book came to be. Co-illustrator Brian Pinkney will then lead attendees in a map-drawing activity, encouraging them to find treasure in their own backyard.

2pm Create a Magnetic Ice Skating Diorama with Lorraine Nam.
Join Lorraine Nam, illustrator of Wei Skates On, for a magical and wintry project. Participants will create their own ice skating rink diorama and figure skating Wei. This inspirational picture book about facing your fears and finding the joy in sports, no matter the outcome. Space limited.

3pm Understanding Computer Security Principles With Legos and Chocolate
Computer security is one of the most misunderstood technologies. Learn the principles that are used to design secure systems by examining structures built with Legos that were designed to protect chocolate pieces. By seeing physical designs with different flaws, participants will be able to understand how design problems lead to weaknesses that attackers can exploit. The presentation will include opportunities for audience participation (and chocolate consumption).

SPECIAL EVENTS

Brooklyn Commons

10am - 4pm Ready, Spin & Win Wheel. Come over and take a spin on the Festival’s kid lit wheel. Every reader is a winner. Everyone wins a prize.

11am - 2pm Print with Wood Type. The beloved Kelsey letterpress returns. Come print real antique wood type on a vintage Kelsey letterpress with Dikko Faust of Purgatory Pie Press. Travel back in time and make your own BKBF Children’s Day keepsake.

2:30pm Illustrator Draw-Off Join the fun! Cheer, watch, and laugh as four illustrators compete in the year’s most dynamic, dramatic and thoroughly diverting live action drawing competition featuring Abbi Alvar, illustrator of the action-packed graphic novel, Super Pancake, illustrator and muralist Josh Cochran (Sylvester’s Letter) , debut author illustrator Liu Cho (Oh Olive) and Juana Martinez-Neal. Bringing out their silliest and most humor filled illustrations are Jon Scieszka & Steven Weinberg! emcees extraordinaire of this popular annual event.

AUDITORIUM

5 Metrotech Center

12pm Scenes from Flight School the Musical. Vital Theatre Company Inc. presents selections from ‘Flight School the Musical’. It’s the first day of Flight School, where they teach birds to fly. Penguin has the soul of an eagle and is ready to live on the wind. But he wasn’t built to soar, as the other birds constantly remind him. Penguin’s spirit won’t be grounded. With some friends of a feather, and a little help on the technical parts, Penguin follows his dreams to flip, flap, fly!

1pm Astro-Nuts Mission 3: The Perfect Planet with Jon Scieszka & Steven Weinberg
They’re back! The four wacky super-powered Animal Astronauts–AlphaWolf, SmartHawk, LaserShark, and StinkBug–return for their final daring adventure. Join Jon Scieszka & Steven Weinberg for a truly out-of-this-world, and a mostly scientifically-accurate-and-true expose of the secret NASA (NOT-NASA) program to find a Goldilocks Planet for every human on Earth!
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Where every great story begins.

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JuniorRead.
Books for children ages 2 to 8.

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MAJO IDEAS.
Art packs for kids inspired by contemporary artists.

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Books for children ages 2 to 8.

S.T.E.A.M., Entrepreneurship & Literacy focused program with books.

MyBiblioteca.com.
Subscription library and bookstore of children's books in Russian.

National Grid.
Journal of ideas / Publisher of classic and contemporary writers.

NYRB Kids.
Books for children ages 2 to 8.

PangoBooks.
PangoBooks is an app where readers buy and sell books.

Papercutz Graphic Novels.
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PM Press is an independent, radical publisher of books.

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Award-winning author and poet, Raven Howell, shares her picture books.

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