



For Immediate Release

Contact: Pamela McClure, MMPR
pamela@mmpublicrelations.com
615-294-5073

WRITERFEST NASHVILLE 2019 ANNOUNCES KEYNOTES

2019 Keynote Speakers Include Novelist Kel Kade, Songwriter Ruby Amanfu, Songwriter Sam Ashworth, and Screenwriter Alice Randall

Nashville, Tenn, October 14, 2019 - **WriterFest Nashville 2019**, a festival for writers of books, songs, and screenplays, announces its keynote speakers for this year's event: Kel Kade, Ruby Amanfu, Sam Ashworth, and Alice Randall. **WriterFest Nashville** returns to the Lipscomb University campus November 22-23, 2019, where creatives will gather to network, share ideas and learn from a lineup of more than 40 world-class writing professionals.

"We are honored to welcome four internationally-recognized writers to address our keynote sessions," says Ami McConnell, Founder and Festival Director for **WriterFest Nashville**. "Kel Kade, Ruby Amanfu, Sam Ashworth, and Alice Randall represent the best of the best. Their keynote addresses will encourage writers across genres as we join to celebrate the power of story."

WriterFest Nashville 2019 keynote speakers include:



Kel Kade is the author of the King's Dark Tidings (KDT) series. She lives in Texas and occasionally serves as an adjunct college faculty member, inspiring young minds and introducing them to the fascinating and very real world of geosciences. Thanks to Kade's enthusiastic readers and the success of the King's Dark Tidings series, Kade is now able to create universes spanning space and time, develop criminal empires, plot the downfall of tyrannous rules and dive into fantastical mysteries full time.



Ruby Amanfu is a Ghana-born and Nashville-raised vocalist, songwriter and cook. Her accolades include co-writing the Top 40 radio single, "Hard Place," by multi-Grammy-winning artist H.E.R., appearing on Beyonce's hit song, "Don't Hurt Yourself," and being Jack White's bandmate for two years. Ruby has released 9 critically-acclaimed solo albums and a 3-album release, *The Collections*. An ambassador and model for Reese Witherspoon's Draper James line of clothing and accessories, Ruby has co-starring roles on CMT's "Nashville" and is an elected Grammy Board Governor. She is founder of the multi-sensory experience, *Supper & Serenade*.



Sam Ashworth, a singer/songwriter and producer, has spent the last 20 years building a genre-defying career. At age 16, he wrote a song recorded by Sixpence None The Richer on their self-titled platinum album. At 23, Sam produced songs for CCM legend Michael W. Smith which earned him a Grammy nomination. As a singer-songwriter, Ashworth has released four projects of his own. He co-wrote and sang the Dutch Top 40 dance smash "Million Times." Sam co-wrote 9 songs on Grammy-winning artist H.E.R.'s latest album, including the Top 40 single "Hard Place."



Alice Randall is a screenwriter, lyricist, and *New York Times* bestselling author. Her first screenplay was a long-form video for Reba McEntire which became ACM video of the year. She has sold screenplays to Paramount, Warner Bros, HBO, Harpo, Quincy Jones Entertainment, BET, and more. Movies on which she has worked include *Boomerang*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and *XXX's and OOO's* for which she co-wrote the screenplay and the theme song - which became a #1 country hit for Trisha Yearwood. Randall began screenwriting/producing after a successful run as a country songwriter and song publisher. She has over 30 cuts, including songs recorded by Trisha Yearwood, Glen Campbell and Steve Earle. Her fifth novel is forthcoming from HarperCollins. Her first novel, *The Wind Done Gone*, is a *New York Times* bestseller

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WriterFest Nashville is a creative gathering for aspiring writers, published authors, screenwriters, poets and songwriters. Attendees enjoy lectures by and conversations with bestselling authors, world-class publishing professionals, filmmakers, poets and songwriters. More at www.WriterFestNashville.com.

WriterFest Nashville 2019 will feature sessions and panels which span genres. Confirmed speakers include:

- **Matt Baugher**, SVP and Publisher, HarperCollins Christian Publishing
- **Jennifer Baumgartner**, HarperCollins Christian Publishing
- **Stephanie Beard**, Executive Editor, Turner Publishing
- **Michael Bishop**, Author, *Murder in Music City*
- **Carey Nelson Burch**, Film/TV Producer, *My Own Shingle*
- **Dana Chamblee Carpenter**, Novelist, *Book of the Just* (Pegasus)
- **Sandy Coomer**, poet
- **Honorée Corder**, Author, Book Strategist
- **Robin Cutler**, Director of IngramSpark
- **K.K. Fox**, Author, Screenwriter
- **Rea Frey**, Author, *Not Her Daughter* (St. Martin's)
- **Rachelle Gardner**, Literary Agent
- **Claire Gibson**, Author, *Beyond the Point* (William Morrow)
- **Jenn Hanson-dePaula**, Marketing Consultant, Co-Founder of Mixtus Media
- **River Jordan**, Novelist, Memoirist, *Prayers for a Stranger*
- **Margaret Riley King**, Literary Agent, William Morris Endeavor
- **Jeff Kleinman**, Folio Literary Agent
- **Jilian Linklater**, Singer-songwriter
- **Katie McDougall**, The Porch Collective
- **Bradly Metrock**, CEO, Score Publishing
- **Becky Nesbitt**, Executive Editor, Waterbrook, Penguin Random House
- **Jason Padgitt**, Executive Director, Nashville Film Festival
- **Vincent Peppe**, Entertainment Attorney
- **Kat Petillo**, Kat Petillo Design
- **Ciona Rouse**, Poet and Author
- **Jeremy Spillman**, Songwriter and Author, *The DeVine Devils*
- **Clay Stafford**, Author, Screenwriter
- **Kelly Sutton**, Music Journalist, Host, *Today in Nashville*
- **Steve Troha**, Literary Agent at Folio
- **Ted Welch**, Actor, Screenwriter
- **Sara Wigal**, Publishing Professional
- **Sharon Wilharm**, Indie Filmmaker
- **Andrea Williams**, Author and StyleBlueprint Editor
- **Catherine Zappa**, Executive Director of Content & Strategy, Dreamscape



[Ami McConnell](#) is founder and Festival Director of [WriterFest Nashville](#). She is former Editor-in-Chief and Vice President, Howard Books/Simon & Schuster. Her editing credits include numerous *New York Times* bestsellers and award-winning titles. Ami has edited renowned authors Colleen Coble, Ted Dekker, Karen Kingsbury, Max Lucado, Frank Peretti, and Wm. Paul Young. She served on the Advisory Board of The Buechner Institute (King College) and is an active member of the Women's National Book Association. Ami is co-author with Candace Cameron Bure of the *USA Today* bestseller *Kind Is the New Classy* (Zondervan/HarperCollins).

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www.WriterFestNashville.com

Press Inquiries: McClure Muntsinger Public Relations, pamela@mmpublicrelations.com