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AMY TAN is the author of six novels, including The Joy Luck Club and The Valley of Amazement, two children’s books, and two memoirs: The Opposite of Fate and Where the Past Begins: A Writer’s Memoir. She has been nominated for the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the International Orange Prize, and won many awards, including the Commonwealth Gold Award.

COLUM MCCANN is the author of six novels and three collections of stories. Born and raised in Dublin, Ireland, he has received many international honors, including the National Book Award, the International Dublin Impac Prize, a Chevalier des Arts et Lettres from the French government, election to the Irish arts academy, and the 2010 Best Foreign Novel Award in China. He teaches in the MFA program at Hunter College.

OTHER FEATURED SPEAKERS

ELOISA JAMES is the New York Times bestselling author of 23 historical romances, as well as Paris in Love, a memoir about the year her family moved to France. She is also a Shakespeare scholar and professor at Fordham University in New York City, whose academic work has been published by the Oxford University Press.

SAYANTANI DASGUPTA turned the Bengali folktales about brave princesses, bloodthirsty rakkosh, and flying pakkhiraj horses that she heard as a child into The Serpent’s Secret and Game of Stars, the first two installments of her middle-grade fantasy series. She is also a pediatrician who teaches narrative medicine at Columbia University, “training people to be better doctors by teaching them how to be writers.”

JONATHAN LEIGH SOLOMON appeared as a comedian on over two dozen talk and variety programs, and served as staff writer for the Emmy-winning sitcom “Mad About You,” and Michael Moore’s Emmy-winning “TV Nation.” Jonathan teaches comedy writing and stand-up comedy through the Writers Store, SAG/AFTRA Conservatory and Santa Monica College. He is also a comedy consultant/coach, assisting comedians, actors, and script writers with comedy content.

CHISA HUTCHINSON’s award-winning plays include “She Like Girls,” “Sex on Sunday,” “The Subject,” “Dead & Breathing,” and “Somebody’s Daughter.” She’s been a Lark Fellow, a Dramatists Guild Fellow, a New York NeoFuturist, Resident Playwright at Second Stage, and a staff writer for the Blue Man Group. Currently, she’s working on several film and stage projects, and teaching creative writing at the University of Delaware.

FRAN WILDE’s novels and short stories have been nominated for three Nebula awards, two Hugos, and a World Fantasy Award, and include her Andre Norton- and Compton-Crook-winning debut novel, Updraft and its sequels, Cloudbound and Horizon, the novelette “The Jewel and Her Lapidary,” and her middle-grade novel, Riverland. She holds an MFA in poetry and an MS in information architecture.

For a complete lineup of presenters, the full program schedule, and event registration information, visit ruwriterscon.rutgers.edu/nb. Registration opens for both conference and kick-off event on January 2.