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Sundance Resort's 2013 Author Series Includes a Wide Range of Authors Including Biographer, Douglas Brinkley, Authors, Cheryl Strayed, Maria Semple and Political Author, Norman Ornstein

(Sundance, UT) January 2013 -- The Sundance Resort begins the 11th year of its Sundance Author Series with a new roster of innovative and thought provoking authors. Sundance strives to find authors whose books reflect the spirit of independent thought and vision that Sundance embodies. Through the years the Resort has featured such notable authors such as Jimmy Carter, Madeleine Albright, Ann Patchett, Kathryn Stockett, and many more. Sundance invites writers from all walks of life to discuss a variety of issues and create a forum for ideas, inspiration and creativity that run the gamut in subject matter. Last year's events included Terry Tempest Williams who inspired by reflecting on her graceful meditative essays, while Gretchen Morgenson spoke out about the greed and corruption that lead to the economic downturn.

This year promises to bring innovative ideas and invigorating conversation with writers from the worlds of fiction, biography and social and political consciousness, including Cheryl Strayed, author of *Wild*, Maria Semple, author of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*, Norman Ornstein, author of *It's Even Worse Than It Looks*, and Douglas Brinkley, author of *Cronkite*.

"This year's authors all come to Sundance as a request of owner, Robert Redford. Each one exemplifies a different take on the human experience from a unique point of view offering a glimpse into diverse worlds. One is a memoir, another fiction, another a biography of one of the greatest journalists of the 20th century and another is a portrait that details how partisan politics can undermine a democracy. Each work is thought provoking, insightful and entertaining, as are the authors," commented Chad Linebaugh, Sundance General Manager.

Tickets are \$75 per person and include brunch in the award winning Tree Room, author presentation, Q & A, and book signing. Price includes tax and gratuity. Alcohol not included. Tickets are non-refundable. To purchase tickets, click on the links below, or call 866.734.4428. Doors open at 11:30am.

February 23, Cheryl Strayed, author of *Wild* **SOLD OUT**

Cheryl Strayed is the author of #1 New York Times bestseller *Wild*, the New York Times bestseller *Tiny Beautiful Things*, and the novel, *Torch*.

Wild was chosen by Oprah Winfrey as her first selection for Oprah's Book Club 2.0. It has been optioned for film by Reese Witherspoon's production company, Pacific Standard. *Wild* will also be published in more than thirty countries across the world.

Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Coast Trail, is a memoir that details Cheryl's 1100 mile solo hike that took the author on a journey of emotional and physical transformation and ultimately healing. Four years after her mother died of cancer, and dealing with the end of her marriage and a life that was spinning out of control, Cheryl made the decision to hike the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Dessert to Washington State – solo. With no experience as a long distance hiker, Cheryl confronted the elements

of intense heat, record snowfalls, encounters with rattle snakes, black bears and intense loneliness that almost broke her, but instead healed her.

IndieBound selected Wild as their #1 Indie Next pick for April, Barnes and Noble named it a "Discover Great New Writers" pick on their Summer 2012 list, and Amazon named it a "Best of March" pick. Strayed's debut novel, *Torch* was a finalist for the Great Lakes Book Award and was selected by *The Oregonian* as one of the top ten books of the year by writers from the Pacific Northwest. Strayed has written the "Dear Sugar" column on *TheRumpus.net* since March 2010. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *The Washington Post Magazine*, *Vogue*, *Allure*, *Self*, *The Missouri Review*, *Brain*, *Child*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *The Sun* and elsewhere.

The winner of a Pushcart Prize as well as fellowships to the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and the Sewanee Writers' Conference, her essays and stories have been published in *The Best American Essays*, *The Best New American Voices*, and other anthologies. She holds an MFA in fiction writing from Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota. She's a founding member of VIDA: Women In Literary Arts, and serves on their board of directors. Raised in Minnesota, Strayed now lives in Portland, Oregon with her husband, the filmmaker Brian Lindstrom, and their two children.

March 9, Maria Semple, *Where'd You Go Bernadette*

Maria Semple began her career as a screenwriter and writer for such television shows as *Ellen*, *Mad About You* and *Arrested Development*.

After moving to Seattle, Maria decided to give novel writing a try. Her first novel, *This One is Mine*, was published in 2008.

Her second novel, *Where'd you Go Bernadette*, is set in her new city of Seattle and tells the story of notorious, Bernadette Fox, married to a Microsoft guru. When Bernadette goes missing, her daughter, Bee sets out to find her mother through email messages, official documents, and secret correspondence. Maria Semple manages to create a novel that is at once touching and humorous about a mother coming to terms with a city she hates and a life that is stifled.

The book has garnered numerous awards and accolades including Janet Maslin's 10 Best Books of 2012 in the *New York Times*, *Entertainment Weekly's* Best Books of 2012: Fiction; Barnes and Noble's Best Books of 2012: Fiction; *The Washington Post's* 50 Notable Works of Fiction, among many others.

The book was inspired by the transition of moving from LA to Seattle.

"A few years ago I was in a bad way. I had quit my TV writing career and moved to Seattle, where everyone I met seemed to take an instant dislike to me...I was droning on about this to a friend in L.A. He finally couldn't take it anymore and said, 'You can't believe any of this nonsense. Maria, you must write. If you don't write, you'll become a menace to society.' I suddenly realized: this toxic brew of self-pity, defensiveness, love and artistic paralysis. I had become, while humiliating to admit to, was actually kind of funny. The character of Bernadette popped into my head, fully formed," she commented.

Where'd You Go Bernadette is set to be made into a feature film.

Annapurna Pictures and Color Force have secured the feature film rights to the book. Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber (*500 Days of Summer*), will write the screenplay. Semple will serve as the executive producer along with Color Force's Bryan Ukeless and Annapurna Pictures' Ted Schipper. Nina Jacobson and partner Brad Simpson will produce alongside Annapurna Pictures' Megan Ellison.

March 23, Norman Ornstein, author of *It's Even Worse Than It Looks*

Norman Ornstein is a longtime observer of Congress and politics and is known for a bi partisan approach to public policy. He has written many books, including *The Permanent Campaign and Its Future*, *The Broken*

Branch: How Congress is Failing America and How to get Back on Track, with Thomas E. Mann, which was named by the Washington Post as one of the best books of 2006, and most recently, the New York Times bestseller, *It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided with the New Politics of Extremism*, also with Tom Mann.

In *It's Even Worse Than It Looks*, congressional scholars Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein identify two overriding problems that have led Congress—and the United States—to the brink of institutional collapse. The first is the serious mismatch between our political parties, which have become as vehemently adversarial as parliamentary parties, and a governing system that, unlike a parliamentary democracy, makes it extremely difficult for majorities to act. Second, while both parties participate in tribal warfare, both sides are not equally culpable. The political system faces what the authors call “asymmetric polarization,” with the Republican Party implacably refusing to allow anything that might help the Democrats politically, no matter the cost.

Ornstein cites that the Republicans “have become more loyal to party than to country.” The authors write that “the political system has become grievously hobbled at a time when the country faces unusually serious problems and grave threats...The country is squandering its economic future and putting itself at risk because of an inability to govern effectively.

With a deadlocked Congress and a fiscal cliff looming, *It's Even Worse than It Looks*, takes a hard look at a political system that was once committed to compromise for the sake of democracy, now becoming increasingly polarized. Acrimony and hyper partisanship have seeped into every part of the political process. Congress is deadlocked and its approval ratings are at record lows. America's two main political parties have given up their traditions of compromise, endangering our very system of constitutional democracy. Ornstein cites the Republican Party as taking on the role of the insurgent outlier, becoming ideologically extreme, scornful of compromise, and ardently opposed to the established social and economic policy regime.

May 23rd, Douglas Brinkley, author of *Cronkite* Douglas Brinkley has become one of the most esteemed historians of his generation. This is Brinkley's third visit to Sundance. He was here in 2005 to discuss his book *Boys of Point Du Hoc: Ronald Reagan, D-Day, and the Heroic Feats of the US Rangers*. He later returned to discuss his book, *The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast*. His new book, *Cronkite*, is a biography of one of the most revered newsmen of the 20th Century. Brinkley's writing is as eloquent as always, but he never whitewashes his subject. He paints an accurate and honest portrait. Brinkley, one of the foremost historians of his generation has won numerous awards for his work. *Cronkite* became an instant bestseller.

In a day and age where we grab our news from the internet or social media and often don't even know who the source is, the golden age of journalism that produced Edward R. Murrow and Cronkite is the stuff of legend now. Cronkite embodied the best of that age, a true newsman, yet one with humanity, which gave him enormous appeal and an unparalleled connection to his audience.

In the 1960's Walter Cronkite was known as the most trusted man in America. He earned that title through heartfelt, authentic, responsible, and at times unscripted reporting. It was Cronkite that a stunned nation turned to on November 22, 1963. The country watched as Cronkite was handed copy straight from the wire, somberly took off his glasses, looked into the camera and delivered the words that the President, who offered so much promise and a renewed American spirit, had been assassinated. Somehow Cronkite made the unbearable news bearable. Somehow Cronkite conveyed to the American public that even in the worst of times, we would prevail.

As Brinkley writes, "He was reassuringly permanent when so much was in flux. Even when he was announcing tragic news, he was himself a reminder that America would persevere." CBS's coverage of the Kennedy assassination drew 70 million Americans and viewers in 23 countries.

Throughout the sixties, Cronkite told the hard, cold truth of war. A veteran war correspondent, he told it the way he saw it. The American people took him at his word. They knew it wasn't just the opinion of a partisan newscaster, but the opinion of a newscaster who had covered war for the United Press in World War II. Bob Schieffer commented on "Face the Nation," on why Americans trusted Cronkite. "Everybody knew that Walter didn't get his suntan in the studio lights," he said.

About Sundance

Nestled at the base of 12,000-foot Mt. Timpanogos, Sundance is a destination resort located on the 5,000 acres of preserved wilderness.

Sundance is dedicated to maintaining the balance of art, nature and community, and offers diverse mountain recreation experiences and encourages the cultivation of art and self-expression. Created by Robert Redford, Sundance is a haven for discovery and inspiration. The Sundance family of companies includes the Sundance Resort, Sundance Institute, Sundance Channel and Sundance Catalog. For more information on Sundance, call 801-225-4107 or visit our website, www.sundanceresort.com.

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Sundance Resort was ranked #18 in Travel & Leisure's list of top 50 U.S. Resorts on the 2011 World's Best list.

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