**PRESS RELEASE**

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**YALLFest hits five-year milestone with a stellar lineup of 60 authors, featuring 12 #1 *New York Times* Bestsellers & 29 *New York Times* Bestsellers**

*Thousands of fans will descend on Charleston, S.C., Nov. 13-14 to see keynotes*

*Brandon Sanderson with Brandon Mull, and Richelle Mead with R.L. Stine*

CHARLESTON, S.C., June 17, 2015 — YALLFest, the nation’s premier festival for children’s and young adult literature, will celebrate its fifth anniversary with its most star-studded author list yet.

Presented by Epic Reads, Harper Collins’ YA community, YALLFest’s Hollywood crossover titles will include #1 *New York Times* bestselling blockbusters Veronica Roth (Divergent Trilogy), Gayle Forman (*If I Stay*), Daniel Handler aka Lemony Snicket (A Series of Unfortunate Events), Kody Keplinger (The Duff), Rick Yancey (The Fifth Wave Series), Kami Garcia & Margaret Stohl (Beautiful Creatures Series), Melissa de la Cruz (Disney’s *Isle of the Lost, A Descendants Novel*), Ann Brashares (Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants Series) and Meg Cabot (The Princess Diaries Series). Author/actress Bella Thorne (*Shake It Up*) will appear to promote her new book, *Autumn Falls*.

Opening keynote will be given by #1 *New York Times* bestseller Richelle Mead (Vampire Academy Series), along with the legendary children’s book author R.L. Stine (Goosebumps Series), who has sold over 40 million books. Closing keynote will be given by dual #1 *New York Times* bestsellers Brandon Mull (Fablehaven Series) and Brandon Sanderson (Mistborn Series); Sanderson is also known for completing Robert Jordan’s Wheel of Time series.

YALLFest was co-founded by Jonathan Sanchez (owner of Charleston’s Blue Bicycle Books), Margaret Stohl and Kami Garcia. Melissa de la Cruz is the festival’s director of development. Other YA writers on the YALLFest board include Pseudonymous Bosch (The Secret Series), Brendan Reichs (Virals Series) and Alexander London (*Wild Ones*). De la Cruz and Stohl are also the co-founders of YALLFest’s popular sister festival, held in Santa Monica, Calif., YALLWEST.

Additionally, YALLFest’s impressive 2015 roster features *New York Times* bestselling authors Leigh Bardugo (*Grisha* trilogy), Alexandra Bracken (The Darkest Minds Series), Libba Bray (The Diviners), Heather Brewer (Vladimir Tod Series), Gail Carriger (Finishing School Series), Rae Carson (Girl of Fire and Thorns Series), Kiera Cass (The Selection Series), Rachel Caine (*Ink and Bone*), Soman Chainani (School for Good and Evil Series), Susan Ee (Angelfall Series), Adam Gidwitz (A Tale Dark and Grimm Series), Ellen Hopkins (*Crank, Rumble*), Julie Kagawa (*Blood of Eden*), Mercedes Lackey (Valgarth books), (David Levithan (*Will Grayson, Will Grayson),* E. Lockhart (*We Were Liars*), Marie Lu (Legend series), Megan Spooner (*These Broken Stars*), Danielle Paige (Dorothy Must Die Series), Carrie Ryan (Forest of Hands and Teeth Novels), Sabaa Tahir (*An Ember in the Ashes*), Jane Yolen (*Briar Rose*), Maya Van Wagenen (*Popular*) and Elizabeth Wein (*Code Name Verity*).

YALLFest appearances will also be made by Gwenda Bond (*Lois Lane*), Susane Colasanti (*City Love*), Daniel Ehrenhaft (Wessex Papers series), Michelle Falkoff (*Playlist for the Dead*), Seth Fishman (*The Well's End*), Ryan Graudin (*The Walled City*)*,* Aaron Hartzler (*Rapture*), E.K. Johnston (*A Thousand Nights*), Curtis Jobling (*Wereworld*) Mari Mancusi (*Night School),* Mindy McGinnis (*Not A Drop to Drink*), Meg Medina (*Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass*), Barnabas Miller (*7 Souls),* G. Neri (*Ghetto Cowboy*), J.E. Thompson (*The Girl from Felony Bay),* Natalie Standiford (*The Secret Tree*), Carole Boston Weatherford (*The Sound that Jazz Makes*), and Nicola Yoon (*Everything, Everything*).

Epic Reads, Harper Collins’ YA community, is the presenting sponsor of the 2015 festival. Premier sponsors include publishing houses Disney-Hyperion, Macmillan Fierce Reads, Penguin Books For Young Readers and Random House Children’s Books. Additional sponsors include the Charleston Area Convention and Visitors Bureau; Justine Magazine and Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. YALLFest also enjoys the generous support of several generous anonymous donors and foundations. Charleston’s best independent bookstore Blue Bicycle Books is the official bookseller.

YALLFest’s mission is to improve literacy through great YA literature, and includes an outreach program that puts visiting authors in local schools to connect directly with young readers and spread their love of word and books.

*For more information or to arrange interviews with attending authors, call 843-209-3736 or visit* [www.yallfest.org](http://www.yallfest.org)*.*

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