"Orchid Thief" author set to inspire other literary adventures

DETON (UNT), Texas - Susan Orlean, author of "My Kind of Place: Travel Stories from a Woman Who's Been Everywhere" and "The Orchid Thief," will speak about the art of travel writing and the journey of a writer at The Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference of the Southwest, sponsored by the University of North Texas Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism.

Orlean will deliver the keynote speech at the inaugural conference at 7:30 p.m. July 22 (Friday) at the Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center, 1800 Highway 26 East in Grapevine, followed by a question-and-answer session and book signing. Admission to the speech is $25. For more information, call (940) 565-4564 or visit mayborninstitute.unt.edu.

Orlean's speech, titled "A Guided Tour of Literary Adventures," will focus on the subgenre of travel writing as well as "the intellectual journey, professional journey and the emotional journey that we all take as writers," she said.

"I hope people will come away from the talk with some tools for their own work. And for me, what's even more important is inspiring them," she said. "I love the feeling that people will walk out and say, 'I can't wait to get back to work.'"


Orlean has been writing articles for The New Yorker since 1982 and became a staff writer for the publication in 1997. Her other books include "The Bullfighter Checks Her Makeup: My Encounters with Ordinary People," "Red Sox and Blue Fish," and "Saturday Night." Previously, Orlean was a contributing editor at Rolling Stone and Vogue and a columnist at The Boston Phoenix and The Boston Globe Sunday Magazine. Orlean, a New York City resident, has also written for The New York Times Magazine, Spy, Esquire and Outside.

"Susan Orlean is a consummate storyteller, and her New Yorker articles and her fascinating books have consumed me for many years," said George Getschow, conference writer-in-residence. "But the reason I invited her as a keynote speaker at our inaugural conference is her missionary zeal, her humble nature and her way of inspiring her readers and listeners to become as absorbed as she is in the ordinary characters and seemingly mundane events of our everyday lives. Susan's passion for storytelling makes her the ideal teacher for aspiring writers."

The Mayborn literary conference July 22-24 is open to aspiring writers, professional writers, book lovers and the general public interested in exploring the art and craft of nonfiction storytelling.

and Alex Kotlowitz, author of "Never a City So Real" and "There Are No Children Here," a book the New York Public Library selected as one of the 150 most important of the century.

**Note to news media:** To arrange an interview with Susan Orlean, contact Ellen Schroeder at (940) 369-7912.
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