

2007 Panel Speaker



Stephen Harrigan

Stephen Harrigan, a former senior editor at *Texas Monthly*, is the author of seven books of fiction and nonfiction, among them the bestselling novel *The Gates of the Alamo* and the recent *Challenger Park*, both published by Knopf. Whether he's writing fiction or nonfiction, Harrigan's prose is anchored in reality. In his bestselling novel, *The Gates of the Alamo*, Harrigan recreated the Texas of the early nineteenth century. One reviewer said Harrigan "put the conflict in human terms by vividly characterizing real and fictional characters who were involved on both sides of the Texas struggle to separate itself from its mother country." *The Christian Science Monitor* called *The Gates of the Alamo* "a new masterpiece in the literature of fact." In his nonfiction, Harrigan's storytelling skills stand out. He spent many weeks diving on the coral reefs near Grand Turk Island in the Caribbean and wrote about his experiences in *Water and Light: A Diver's Journey to a Coral Reef*. A critic for *The New York Times* said Harrigan "made this book sparkle with his remarkable ability to discuss the metaphysical and spiritual aspects of underwater exploration without ever sounding saccharine or murky." A writer for *The New Yorker* said Harrigan's "real virtue as a writer is his ability to convey, in precise, lucid prose, the marvels of the sea bottom." Harrigan's work has appeared in *Texas Monthly* and in many other magazines. He is also a screenwriter who has written many movies for television.

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