



## COUNTY of CUMBERLAND

Public Library & Information Center

# NEWS RELEASE

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### **Pulitzer Prize Winner Doug Marlette Speaks at 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Guest Author Event**

Fayetteville—Doug Marlette is the featured speaker for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Guest Author & Library Endowment Trust Benefit Reception, Lecture and Book Signing at the Cape Fear Regional Theatre on Monday, October 13.

The Benefit Reception begins at 6:00 pm, and the Lecture begins at 7:30 pm followed by the Book Signing. Benefit Reception ticket prices are \$100 for singles (\$53 tax-deductible) and \$150 for couples (\$103 tax-deductible). The ticket price includes the reception with the author, wine and hors d'oeuvres, and a signed copy of *The Bridge*.

Tickets for the Lecture and Book Signing only are \$10. Tickets are \$10, and will be on sale at Headquarters Library, Conference Room #3 Monday, September 29 through Thursday, October 2 from 3:00 to 8:00 pm, and on Friday, October 3 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Any unsold tickets will be on sale the night of the performance at the box office. Copies of Mr. Marlette's book, *The Bridge*, and a select cartoon print will be available for purchase and autographing immediately following the presentation. For more information, call Susan Parrish at 483-7727 ext. 119.

A favorite of the national lecture circuit, he has dazzled audiences with his insight into current events and his eloquence about the timeless challenge of thinking and living creatively. He believes the seemingly esoteric

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discipline of cartooning is not about drawing but about thinking, illuminating values, and looking at life with a fresh eye. His talks offer a glimpse into not only the issues of the day, but into the mind of a creative force of nature.

With his unique ability to articulate the creative process in ways anyone can understand he inspires others to think in fresh, imaginative ways. Illustrating his comments with his prize-winning cartoons, he leaves audiences erupting in laughter, gasping with recognition, and nodding in appreciation. He ties the topical to the universal and takes audiences through the evolution of his career, from the quest for the wordless image as a cartoonist to the creation of a world – the complex, layered dreamscape of a best-selling novel.

His talks walk them through the creative process: what it's like to come up with original ideas on a daily basis; how he gets his ideas; how he deals with the ones they won't print; why, for him, there's no such thing as "writer's block;" and discusses how he made the transition from the single frame to multiple panels of the comic strip to the written word of the novel.

Born in Greensboro, and raised in Durham, Laurel, Mississippi, and Sanford, Florida Doug Marlette graduated from Florida State University and began drawing political cartoons for *The Charlotte Observer* in 1972. He joined the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in 1987, *New York Newsday* in 1989, and the *Tallahassee Democrat* in 2002.

His editorial cartoons and comic strip, "Kudzu," are syndicated in hundreds of newspapers worldwide. He has won every major award for editorial cartooning including the Pulitzer Prize. He has received the National Headliners Award for Consistently Outstanding Editorial Cartoons three times, the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award for editorial cartooning twice, First Prize in the John Fischetti Memorial Cartoon Competition twice, and was awarded a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University. He was inducted into the North Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame in 2002.

His work has appeared in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*. He has written an ethics column for *Esquire*, and contributed to *The New Republic*, *The Nation*, *Men's Journal*, and *The Paris Review*. His cartoon work is collected in seventeen volumes, and his novel, *The Bridge*, published in 2001, won the 2002 Best Book Award for Fiction from the Southeast Booksellers Association.

Paramount Pictures purchased the rights to his book for a film adaptation for Tom Cruise. Samuel French Co. published a musical adaptation of his comic strip, *Kudzu, A Southern Musical* that was produced at Duke University and at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.

Called "The Perfect Storm" by his editor, he has faced hate mail, harassment, and even death threats by censors of both the Right and the Left. He speaks passionately about the imminent dangers of Political Correctness, and explains the imperative of going against the grain, the ups and downs of a lifetime of troublemaking, the vocation of "designated feeler" in a time at war with passion, the perils of choosing.

In other words, he lets his audiences in on the secrets of nourishing a voracious personal creativity, which, Marlette believes, everyone has within themselves. Audiences invariably leave with the same five words on their lips that have driven Marlette since childhood: "I want to do that."

A special thanks goes to contributing sponsors of the evening: *The Fayetteville Observer*, Joan E. Allen, BB&T, Jesse H. Byrd, Jr., Lorette & Vivian Hollinshed, P. W. & Martha Jessup, Malzone Marketing, Carlos & Terri Union-Zulowski. The Friends of the Library co-sponsor the event.

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