



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Press 49 Authors are Honored by The BookFest® Awards Fall 2023**

***The BookFest recognizes and promotes excellence in literature and elevates authors and creatives who contribute outstanding work to the literary world.***

Chandler, Arizona, November 6, 2023—Twenty-six [Press 49](#) authors are winners at The BookFest Awards Fall 2023.

*“Upward: Leadership Lessons for Women on the Rise”* compiled by Bridgett McGowen-Hawkins and Simone E. Morris with a foreword penned by Chandler Chamber of Commerce CEO Terri Kimble and chapters written by Lisa DeFalco; Heidi Solomon-Orlick; Hope Phillips Umansky, PhD; Sarah Jean Sagredo-Hammond; Lucy Sorrentini; Danielle Hansen; Jackie Stallings Evans; Paris T. Forest; Tina Frey; Desirée Hardge; Vicki Wright Hamilton; Kiala Givehand; Kate Fitzgerald; Charanya Kannan; Shanté R. Roddy; Sarah Yevevovich; Esther Renee; Michelle Brown; Juliet Kasaya; Danielle Nava-Mijares; Jamie Weaver; Deneen L. Garrett; Noely Sanchez Velez is honored with a third place award in the Women in Business category.

*“Real Talk: What Other Experts Won’t Tell You About How to Make Presentations That Sizzle, 2e,”* also by McGowen-Hawkins, received a second-place award in the Business Communication category.

And rounding out the list is *“Get Your Greater”* by Washington, DC native Mark Shepard, earning an honorable mention in the Personal Memoirs category.

The BookFest honors authors who create outstanding works of fiction and nonfiction. The BookFest's mission is rooted in the belief that literature has transformative power and, in a desire to support and celebrate those who create it.

Desireé Duffy, Founder of The BookFest, says, “Today, more than ever, it is important to recognize authors and creatives for the vital part they play in crafting the stories that shape our world and define our humanity. Books bring us to new worlds, take us on adventures, give us a means to evaluate our lives and instill a sense of empathy within us. I believe that by acknowledging authors and their literary achievements, we lift literature in our world, and lift each other in the process.”

McGowen-Hawkins, the founder and owner of Press 49, says, "Having a number of our titles selected as winners of The BookFest Awards is an incredible honor. Our authors are grateful to be recognized for the hard work and dedication that went into creating their books. I hope this recognition will inspire others to pursue their own literary passions."

Desireé Duffy, Founder of The BookFest, says, "I am delighted to announce Press 49 authors as winners of Women in Business, Personal Memoirs, and Business Communication honors at The BookFest Awards. This year's competition was exceptional, and the authors should be very proud of this outstanding accomplishment."

For more information about The BookFest Awards and to see the list of winners, please visit the Awards Page on The BookFest website.

To watch the Salute to The BookFest Award Winners video montage, or to see recordings of The BookFest videos, please visit the Programming Page of The BookFest Website.

## **ABOUT PRESS 49**

Press 49 is a hybrid [publishing company](#) founded in 2019 that provides a full suite of publishing services to new non-fiction authors. Headquartered in Chandler, Arizona, Press 49 is a part of BMH Companies and designs, creates, and delivers high-quality trade books and eBooks to expand brands and solidify professional speakers, business coaches, real estate experts, consultants, and business owners as contenders in their industries.

Boasting a roster of more than 160 authors and co-authors with several having earned the titles of award-winner, Amazon bestseller, and Amazon #1 new release, Press 49 is the proud recipient of an Award of Distinction from The Communicator Awards as well as a Stevie® Award in the Startup of the Year - Business Services Industries category.

Press 49 is always looking for exciting new books and go-getters to join the company's family of authors.

For more information, please visit: [www.press49.com](http://www.press49.com)

## **ABOUT THE BOOKFEST®**

The BookFest is the leader in virtual literary events and produces vital conversations on the world's stage for those who love to read, and those who love to write. It launched May 2020 at a time when lockdown forced many live events to be cancelled. Free to attend, the biannual event happens in the spring and fall, and streams panel discussions, conversations, and live interactive sessions. As an award winner, The BookFest has recognitions from the Webby Awards with a nomination in 2021, a gold award from the Muse Creative Awards in 2020, and a silver award from the w3 Awards in 2020.

The BookFest features an array of literary speakers, experts, and authors, which has included: Mitch Albom; Kevin J. Anderson; Angela Bole; Mark Coker; Robert G. Diforio; Cheryl Willis Hudson; Wade Hudson; Sarah Kendzior; Jonathan Maberry; Lisa Morton; Karla Olson; James Rollins; Connie Schultz; Michael Shermer; Mark K. Shriver; Danny Trejo; Helene Wecker; Dr. Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, and many others. The BookFest is presented by Books That Make You and produced by Black Château Enterprises. The BookFest is a registered trademark of Desireé Duffy, who is the founder of all three.

For more information, visit [www.TheBookFest.com](http://www.TheBookFest.com)

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