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NEWS

For immediate release

Author Kevin Brockmeier to give a reading at Ouachita March 9

By Taylor Black

February 27, 2015

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.—Ouachita Baptist University will host award-winning author Kevin Brockmeier at a reading on Tuesday, March 9, at 7:30 p.m. The event will be held in Hickingbotham Hall's Young Auditorium on Ouachita's campus and is free and open to the public.

"Come hear a great storyteller who uses science fiction but realistic daily life to basically make you feel sad and glad to be alive," said Dr. Doug Sonheim, chair of OBU's Department of Language and Literature. "You're going to feel sad if you enter into these stories, but you're also going to feel glad, and that doesn't strike you as interesting, then don't come. However, if you think you're going to be interested in that, then come, because he's going to work his magic."

"One night I heard him read, and I just fell in love with his work right then and there," said event coordinator Dr. Johnny Wink, OBU's Betty Burton Peck Professor of English. "It was sort of love at first sound for me; he's got a hauntingly beautiful voice that he reads in."

Brockmeier, whose work ranges from adult fiction (both novels and short stories) to children's novels, has been called one of "America's best practitioners of fabulist fiction." His most recent release, *A Few Seconds of Radiant Filmstrip: A Memoir of Seventh Grade* (2014, Random House), is his first work of nonfiction. It reflects on his experiences growing up in Little Rock.

Brockmeier has received the Porter Fund Award for Literacy and the Worthen Prize, Arkansas' top literary recognitions, as well as numerous national honors, including three O. Henry Awards, the Borders Original Voices Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. His work has been published in *The New Yorker*, *McSweeney's*, *The Oxford American*, *The Best American Short Stories* and more.

A 1991 graduate of Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High School in Little Rock, Brockmeier earned a bachelor's degree in creative writing, philosophy and theater from Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State University). He earned his Master of Fine Arts degree from the prestigious Iowa Writers Workshop at the University of Iowa, where he also returned to teach as a visiting instructor. He also has served as an instructor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Pulaski Technical College.

During the day, Brockmeier also will speak in Dr. Jay Curlin's English Studies class and Dr. Johnny Wink's Creative Writing class.

For more information, contact Dr. Johnny Wink at winkj@obu.edu or (870) 245-5556.

PHOTO OF BROCKMEIER AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

AT <http://www.obu.edu/news/2015/02/27/author-kevin-brockmeier-to-give-a-reading-at-ouachita-march-9>.