

September 13, 2011

Timberland Reads Together 2011: Garth Stein's "The Art of Racing in the Rain"



The Timberland Regional Library District announces its seventh annual one book-one community program featuring the title, *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by award-winning Seattle author Garth Stein. Everyone in the five-county library district—Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston counties—is invited to read or listen to the book and to join others in their communities throughout October for book discussions, author presentations, live theater performances and other programs relating to the book. Over 50 free events are scheduled at Timberland libraries and other local venues.

Regular and large-print editions of the book, as well as Spanish and audiobook versions are available at Timberland libraries. Many local bookstores also carry the title. More information about [Timberland Reads Together 2011](#) and complete program listings are online at www.TRL.org. Reader's guides are expected in all Timberland libraries by early in the week of September 18.

Story and themes

Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he has educated himself by watching television extensively, and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver. Through Denny, Enzo has gained tremendous insight into the human condition, and he sees that life, like racing, isn't simply about going fast. Using the techniques needed on the race track, one can successfully navigate all of life's ordeals. *The Art of Racing in the Rain* is a heart-wrenching but deeply funny and uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, hope—and the life lessons of car racing—as only a dog could tell it.

Author! Author!

Garth Stein is the author of three novels: the New York Times bestselling *The Art of Racing in the Rain*; the award-winning *How Evan Broke His Head and Other Secrets*; and *Raven Stole the Moon*. Stein also wrote a full-length play, *Brother Jones*, and worked as a documentary filmmaker.

Born in Los Angeles and raised in Seattle, Stein's ancestry is diverse: his mother, a native of Alaska, is of Tlingit Indian and Irish descent; his father, a Brooklyn native, is the child of Jewish emigrants from Austria. After spending his childhood in Seattle and then living in New York City for 18 years, Stein returned to Seattle where he lives with his wife, three sons, and their dog, Comet. (Website: www.garthstein.com)

Event highlights

Author **Garth Stein** will speak, take questions, and sign books. Books will be available for purchase:

Tuesday, October 4

- [3 p.m. at the Shelton Timberland Library](#)
- [7 p.m. at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts in Olympia](#)

Wednesday, October 5

- [2 p.m. at the Centralia Timberland Library](#)
- [7 p.m. at the 7th Street Theater in Hoquiam](#)

Book-It Repertory Theatre, Seattle's books-to-stage professional theater company, presents its original adaptation of *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. Taking text from the novel, the actors bring dramatic scenes to life, illuminating themes from the book. Performances will take place in libraries in each county of the Timberland Regional Library District:

- [Friday, October 7, 3 to 4 p.m. at the Lacey Timberland Library](#)
- [Tuesday, October 11, 6 to 7 p.m. at the Shelton Timberland Library](#)
- [Friday, October 14, 6 to 7 p.m. at the Aberdeen Timberland Library](#)
- [Tuesday, October 18, 6 to 7 p.m. at the Yelm Timberland Library](#)
- [Wednesday, October 19, 6 to 7 p.m. at the Ilwaco Timberland Library](#)
- [Friday, October 21, 3 to 4 p.m. at the Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library](#)

In addition, each Timberland library will host one or more *Timberland Reads Together* [book discussions](#) or [other events](#) related to *The Art of Racing in the Rain* including programs with working and companion dogs, racecar drivers and movies.

Timberland Regional Library provides for the information, reading and lifelong learning needs of the Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston county public at 27 community public libraries and 7 library service partner locations. The library system is funded mainly by local property taxes. Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a library's program may contact the library one week in advance.