



The Power of Storytelling and the Importance of Identity

SHERMAN ALEXIE

National Book Award-winning author, poet, and filmmaker
Author of the brand-new picture book *Thunder Boy, Jr.*

Friday, May 13, 2016, 7:00 PM
North Shore Country Day School Auditorium
310 Green Bay Rd., Winnetka

Free and open to the public.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SHERMAN ALEXIE

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Friday, May 13, 2016, The Power of Storytelling and the Importance of Identity, 7:00 PM, North Shore Country Day School Auditorium, 310 Green Bay Rd., Winnetka, 60093. Winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, the PEN/Malamud Award for Short Fiction, a PEN/Hemingway Citation for Best First Fiction, and the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature, **Sherman Alexie** is a preeminent Native American poet, short story writer, novelist, and performer. He has published 25 books, including his brand-new first picture book, *Thunder Boy, Jr.*, and a young adult novel, *The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian*; a book of poetry, *What I’ve Earned*, and his classic stories, *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* and *Reservation Blues*. “Smoke Signals,” the movie he wrote and co-produced, won the Audience Award and Filmmakers Trophy at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival. An acclaimed performer of his own work, Mr. Alexie held the World Heavyweight Poetry title for four years. He continues to perform many of his poems at poetry slams, festivals, and other venues, and has received praise for the energy and emotion he brings to his work.

A Spokane/Couer d’Alene tribal member, Mr. Alexie grew up on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Willpinit, Washington. He is best known for his exploration of Native American culture throughout the body of his work. A recurring theme in his work is the search for identity. In *Thunder Boy, Jr.*, he celebrates the special relationship between father and son in this story of a young boy trying to discover what his Indian name should be. Like his protagonist, Mr. Alexie was named for his father. He states, “When you talk about the Native American search for identity, it’s almost always a story about loss and pain. I wanted to write a picture book in which a kid goes on a search for identity in the context of a lovely family.”

Mr. Alexie attended **Gonzaga University** and graduated from **Washington State University**. He is one of the most frequently banned authors in America, but he is also one of the most celebrated. *The New Yorker* named Mr. Alexie as one of the top 20 writers for the 21st century. *Time* magazine named *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* the best young adult book of all time.

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