

# PHOENIX RISING

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA • MAY 17-21, 2007 • WWW.THEPHOENIXRISES.ORG

## CONFERENCE STATEMENT

Phoenix Rising, a conference devoted to all things *Harry Potter*, will fuse the intensity of academic debate with the improvisation of exploratory dialogue, the rhythms of New Orleans with the colors and pageantry of art. The conference will examine the novels, the movies, and the extraordinary fan phenomenon during the day; then, attendees will revel with the beat of the Crescent City — herself rising from ash and flame — when evening advances.

The conference encompasses the *Harry Potter* phenomenon in all its diverse incarnations, and illustrates the dynamic invention that Narrate Conferences, Inc. brings to academic and educational events. The major component of Phoenix Rising is its academic programming: more than three days of intellectual discussion and debate on the most famous boy wizard of his time. To that foundation, the conference adds interactive, exploratory education in a variety of forms, as well as the embellishments of convivial events, games and other activities. The result is five incomparable days of collaboration and revelry in New Orleans, the city that thrives not only on the spectacle that is Mardi Gras, but also the everyday movement of historic jazz clubs, second lines and Café du Monde's famous beignets.

Phoenix Rising is unusual in its approach. Rather than focusing solely on academics or fans, Phoenix Rising invites both to attend, present, and participate – as well as educators, librarians, professionals, writers and artists from around the world. By including a wide variety of attendees, and encouraging all of them to lend their expertise and enthusiasm, Phoenix Rising will create a collaborative, participatory conference unlike any other. Phoenix Rising's location in the French Quarter also allows attendees to access, through conference events and on their own time, one of the world's most unique cities.

We expect over 1,000 attendees and presenters at Phoenix Rising, and hundreds of community members at our Riverside Quidditch Classic, which will be played in Woldenberg Park on the Mississippi River. Most of our attendees are between the ages of 18 and 40, though we will also host many younger and older participants. They are ardent fans of the arts, as well as avid readers, particularly of fantasy and science fiction.

Additionally, we will host an impressive slate of Guests of Honor, each of whom will focus on creative transformation in literature and the arts. From Danny Bilson (Hollywood director and vice president of Electronic Arts) to Jon Burlingame (film journalist and scoring professor), from Vicky Dann (writing professor at Tisch Film School) to Dr. Anne Hiebert Alton (English and literature professor), and from Henry Jenkins (MIT media scholar) to Susan Aikens (buyer of the *Harry Potter* books for Borders), our guests demonstrate the best of their fields and an immersion in the world of Harry Potter that few can match. They will present their knowledge throughout the weekend in famed venues throughout the French Quarter, including the Musée Conti Wax Museum and the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas.

Phoenix Rising represents a rare opportunity to celebrate the well-loved *Harry Potter* novels as best-selling fiction for all ages. Attendees will also have the equally rare opportunity to delve into the resulting creative achievements in film, music, and art, not to mention the scholarship surrounding the series that ranges from scientific explanations of magic to studies of its impact on literacy, from cultural and social studies to traditional literary analyses.



For more information: Kayla Castille – 225/938.6996  
or [press@thephoenixrises.org](mailto:press@thephoenixrises.org)

