



**Gala Committee**

**Co-Chairs**

Amanda Foreman  
Ariadne Calvo-Platero  
Cathy Graham

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Campbell Brown and Dan Senor  
Jonathan Burnham  
John Burnham Schwartz  
Mario Calvo-Platero  
Robin Canter and Sally Susman  
Lea Carpenter  
Daisy Prince and Hugh Chisholm  
Elizabeth Wagley and  
Joe Conason  
Christine and Cromwell Coulson  
Griff and Rob Fairbairn  
Susan Fales-Hill  
Brooke Geahan  
Susan Gilchrist and  
Andrew Roberts  
Barbara Goldsmith  
Victoria and Ben Gore  
Stephen Graham  
Dorothy and Stanton Green  
Bernard Kruger  
Paul LeClerc  
Sir Mark and  
Lady Sheila Lyall Grant  
Katie Lydon  
Christopher Mason  
Camille Massey  
Blythe Masters  
Ian Mohr  
Susan Morgenthau  
David Mortimer and  
Shelley Wanger  
Alexandra Munroe and  
Robert Rosenkranz  
Caroline and Patrick O'Hara  
Lucy Sykes and Euan Rellie  
Gretchen Rubin  
Marina Rust  
Dan Stevens  
Sir Tom Stoppard  
Jessica Strand  
Gabrielle Tana  
Diana Taylor  
Uma Thurman  
Karen and Clay Tompkins  
Vicky Ward  
Caroline Weber  
Lucas Wittmann

**About our current structure:**

House of SpeakEasy Foundation's 501(c)(3) is pending. In the meantime, we have partnered with The Field ([www.thefield.org](http://www.thefield.org)), a 501(c)(3) that acts as our 'fiscal sponsor.' The Field is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization serving the performing arts community. Contributions made to The Field and earmarked for "House of SpeakEasy Foundation" are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information about The Field contact: The Field, 75 Maiden Lane, Suite 906, New York, NY 10038, (212) 691-6969, [www.thefield.org](http://www.thefield.org). A copy of The Field's latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from The Field or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

Please join us for the House of SpeakEasy Inaugural Gala Event

**Plays with Matches**

A Seriously Entertaining evening of literature, verse, music and song.

Hosted by Andy Borowitz featuring Adam Gopnik, Susan Orlean, Uma Thurman, Dar Williams and Simon Winchester.

Monday 27 January 2014  
**7.00pm**  
Dinner and Cabaret will start promptly at 7.30pm

RSVP using form below Gala Tickets \$250

*All but \$120 per ticket is tax-deductible*

**YES! I would like to apply for:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Gala ticket(s)

*\*If you would like to be seated near another party, please indicate that in your response and we will do our best to seat you accordingly.*

\_\_\_\_\_ I am unable to attend the event. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT METHOD**

Charge this credit card: Type: Visa / MasterCard Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(sadly we cannot accept Amex)*

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV2: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a check made payable to **The Field †**

\_\_\_\_\_ Please accept my pledge to make payment by January 13, 2014  
*(please write "House of SpeakEasy" in the Memo Line)*

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR REPLY AND CHECKS TO:**

**House of SpeakEasy, 117 East 19<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10003**

**If you wish to send form by email, please send to** \_\_\_\_\_



# House of SpeakEasy

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dorothy Mitchell

## **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

Caroline O'Hara

## **PRODUCTION DIRECTOR**

Elizabeth Uzelac

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Susan Fales-Hill

Amanda Foreman

Paul LeClerc

Camille Massey

Uma Thurman

Elizabeth Wagley

Lucas Wittmann

## **About House of SpeakEasy**

SpeakEasy was established in 2013 by a group of prominent writers and literary professionals to support the art of writing in all its diverse forms. Its mission is to promote innovative ways of bringing writers and their audiences together. SpeakEasy seeks to raise awareness of great writing and to provide the public with entertaining and exciting ways to connect with the literary arts.

SpeakEasy's flagship program is "**Seriously Entertaining**", a monthly showcase of outstanding literary talent. Presented in dinner-theater style, each SpeakEasy cabaret features a variety of writers from across the genres, from fiction to non-fiction, from the dramatic arts to stand-up comedy - with poetry and song forming a key part of the evening. Every event has a title - a central theme - that is reflected, embodied by, or otherwise meditated upon by the writers on the stage. The SpeakEasy style of performance is based on a simple format; short monologue-style deliveries that are rehearsed but feel casual and spontaneous. It is the old lecture-hall mode of literary readings reborn and refreshed for the modern age.

SpeakEasy has chosen City Winery as the venue for its New York series. Located at 155 Varick Street, City Winery is a convivial downtown space that provides intimacy and immediacy, along with room for an audience of 300, and a state-of-the-art stage. The program is beginning in early 2014, with monthly events, except for a break during the summer, until the end of the year. Our current roster of participating artists includes Jonathan Alter, Andy Borowitz, Susan Cheever, Simon Doonan, Ralph Fiennes, Stephen Fry, Michael Friedman, David Gilbert, Adam Gopnik, Mark Kingwell, Stephen Lang, Jay McInerney, Susan Orlean, Jay Parini, Katie Roiphe, Gretchen Rubin, Dan Stevens, Amor Towles, Dana Vachon, Amanda Vaill, Harriet Walter, Caroline Weber, and Simon Winchester.

Central to SpeakEasy's mission is the insight that for writers to continue to earn a living from their craft, a new economic model is required. As a first step, in addition to selling books and dvds at every event, SpeakEasy compensates its performers by sharing the box office with them. Second, SpeakEasy is creating a digital platform to distribute recordings of the evenings, promote our participants' books and music, and create a community of passionate readers online.

To extend SpeakEasy's reach to a broader literary community, however, it is our hope that the success of the gala and the 2014 program will enable us to take the SpeakEasy mission to schools and other educational settings in ways that will inspire future generations of writers. Whether that is connecting established writers with high schools and educational institutions (**'A writer in every classroom'**) or providing supplementary teaching materials and tickets to teachers for SpeakEasy events (**'SpeakFreely'**), SpeakEasy aims to introduce young people to the best writing of today.

## **About the founders**

SpeakEasy is the brainchild of Dr. Amanda Foreman. An internationally best-selling and prize-winning author, Amanda has long been involved in the broader literary community as a scholar, writer, and judge for prizes such as the Man Booker and the National Book Award. Last year, together with Lucas Wittmann, she established and hosted a series of speaking events in New York for a UK-based organization called 5x15. These events featured five speakers, each discussing their work for 15 minutes. There were some outstanding evenings in the company of such luminaries as Paul Muldoon, Edward Hirsch, Hari Kunzru, Nathaniel Rich, Dambisa Moyo, Philip Gourevitch, Niall Ferguson, Peter Godwin, Jim Holt, Gretchen Rubin, Amber Tamblyn, Grace Coddington, and Andrew Solomon.

Following the success of those NY events, Amanda and Lucas wanted to do more for the literary community at large, and so decided to establish SpeakEasy. They assembled an exceptional board comprising Paul LeClerc, former head of the New York Public Library; Camille Massey, VP at the Council on Foreign Relations; Uma Thurman, actress, Elizabeth Wagley, founder of the National Memo; Susan Fales-Hill, author; and Jonathan Barton, a partner of a New York-based hedge fund.

[www.houseofspeakeasy.org](http://www.houseofspeakeasy.org)