



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Erin Sullivan, Public Relations Administrator
407-835-7480, sullivan.erin@ocls.info



Best-selling authors Daniel José Older and Delilah S. Dawson will be featured keynote speakers at the Orlando Book Festival

ORLANDO, Fla. (April 15, 2019) – *New York Times* best-selling authors Daniel José Older and Delilah S. Dawson will be featured keynote speakers at this year's Orlando Book Festival, taking place at the Orlando Public library on May 18.

“I’ve always loved writing.” says Older, best known for his young adult urban fantasy series *The Shadowshaper Cypher*, which follows an Afro-Latina teen girl who learns to use art and ancestral magic to stop a killer. “I went in and out of it for a lot of my life, not sure which way to go with it. I’ve always been a storyteller, so it was just a question of which medium was going to work the best.”

Older is also the author of the *Bone Street Rumba* urban fantasy series, and *Star Wars: Last Shot*. His *Shadowshaper* series won the International Latino Book Award and was named one of *Esquire’s* 80 Books Every Person Should Read. *Esquire* called the book, “a masterpiece that defies the status quo in surprising and pioneering ways.”

Delilah S. Dawson is the award-winning, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Star Wars: Phasma* as well as multiple novels, comics, and short stories. She is the winner of the 2015 Fantasy Book of the Year for *Wake of Vultures* and the 2013 Steampunk Book of the Year for *Wicked As She Wants*.

“It’s never too late to start,” Dawson says when asked the one piece of advice she would give to aspiring authors. “And it’s not over until you are. If you want to be traditionally published, you can write and query books. You are full of infinite stories. There’s someone out there who needs the story only you can tell. Every word you write helps you grow.”

The Orlando Book Festival is a day-long celebration, taking place on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Orlando Public Library, 101 East Central Blvd. During the festival, book lovers and aspiring authors can take part in several panel discussions and workshops led by featured authors from across the country. The day will conclude with a book signing by each author.

This event is free and open to the public. For a complete list of authors who will be at the event, visit ocls.info/obf.

The Orlando Book Festival is sponsored by Writer’s Block Bookstore, Your Community Bookstore. For more information, visit www.writersblockbookstore.com.

####