Acclaimed author of *Everything Is Illuminated* and 2009 selection *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*

**Jonathan Safran Foer**

February 13 – March 27, 2009

unlock the secrets at [www.mcpld.org](http://www.mcpld.org)
Jonathan Safran Foer is the bestselling author of *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* and *Everything Is Illuminated*, named book of the year by *The Los Angeles Times* and winner of *The Guardian* First Book Prize, the National Jewish Book Award and the New York Public Library Young Lions Prize. *Rolling Stone* named Foer one of its People of the Year and *Esquire* tapped him as one of its Best and Brightest.

Foer grew up in Washington, DC, and attended Princeton University, where he studied philosophy and literature and won the Senior Creative Writing Thesis Prize. Joyce Carol Oates was one of his instructors and she helped launch his writing career.

Foer lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his son and wife Nicole Krauss, author of *The History of Love*. He is currently at work on a new novel.

The hero of Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* is Oskar Schell, a precocious nine-year-old whose insatiable curiosity and vivid imagination are tethered by a lingering sadness, or as Oskar calls it, “heavy boots,” which he has struggled with ever since tragically losing his father in the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center.

As a way of maintaining a feeling of connection to his father, and in the hopes of making some sense out of his loss, Oskar embarks on a journey across New York City to try and unlock the mystery of the strange key he finds in his father’s closet shortly after his death.

Running parallel to Oskar’s story is the story of his grandfather, Thomas Schell who, after experiencing the trauma and terror of the Dresden bombings in World War II, has over the years systematically forsaken society, his family, and maybe most tragically himself. Eventually Oskar’s journey and his grandfather’s intersect, and the two find a connection through each other that allows both of them to move forward, at least a little bit.

Foer supplements his engaging, often heart-breaking, narrative style with unusual graphic devices such as photographs, drawings and passages where the words literally run all over the page.

“Foer demonstrates once again that he is one of the few contemporary writers willing to risk sentimentalism in order to address great questions of truth, love, and beauty.”

*– Publisher’s Weekly, starred review*

“Foer’s second novel is everything one hoped it would be — ambitious, pyrotechnic, riddling, and above all, in its portrait of orphaned Oskar, extremely moving.”

*– Salman Rushdie*

“[Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close] contains moments of shattering emotion and stunning virtuosity that attest to Mr. Foer’s myriad gifts as a writer.”

*– Michiko Kakutani, New York Times*
the full event list is also available at www.mcpld.org

FEBRUARY 18
Inventions: Explorations of Imagination
6 – 8 p.m., Central Library
Math and Science Center Founder John McConnell presents on the topic of invention.

MARCH 11
New York Poetry Night
6 – 8 p.m., Central Library
In honor of Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close, Poetry Night focuses on poetry about New York City.

MARCH 18
Take Apart Day
TBD, Central Library
Kids, join us to explore the parts and pieces of gadgets, small appliances, and computers. Experts will be on hand to answer questions and describe how the items work.

book discussions
If you attend an Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close book discussion you will receive tickets for VIP seating at Jonathan Safran Foer’s author presentation. You will also be invited to a special VIP reception with the author.
Central Library 6:30 p.m., Feb. 19
Collbran Branch 7 p.m., Mar. 5
Fruita Branch 11 a.m., Mar. 7
Orchard Mesa Branch 10:30 a.m., Mar. 7
Clifton Branch 1 p.m., Mar. 10
Palisade Branch 10:30 a.m., Mar. 21
Teen Book Discussion, Central Library 6 p.m., Mar. 23

MARCH 5
The Political is Personal: Events and Their Impact on Individuals
6 – 8 p.m., Central Library Program Area
Mesa State College Professor Tim Casey leads a discussion on major events and their impact on the greater society. Casey will touch on September 11 and the Dresden Bombings during World War II, events specific to Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close.

MARCH 25
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close Panel Discussion
6 – 8 p.m., Central Library Program Area
Mesa State College Professors Tim Casey and TJ Gerlach, Lyn Fraser author of two books on grieving, and a local educator discuss the many aspects of Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close. Questions from the audience are encouraged.

MARCH 26
Everything Is Illuminated
6 – 9 p.m., Avalon Theatre
Watch the movie based on Jonathan Safran Foer’s first novel Everything Is Illuminated at the Avalon Theatre.

MARCH 27
Jonathan Safran Foer Event Schedule
1 – 2 p.m. Author Q & A With Writing Students, Mesa State College (Closed to the public).
3 – 5 p.m. VIP Reception. Attend a book discussion to get on the invitation list.
7 – 9:30 p.m. Author presentation and book signing, Avalon Theatre.
*Seating for the author event will be open and on a first come, first serve basis. VIP tickets are available to those who attend a book discussion. We recommend you get there early to ensure a good seat for the event.

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close is a celebration of the people and boroughs that make up New York City. In order to better appreciate the journey that young Oskar undertakes, the One Book committee has selected four classic New York films that perfectly capture the charm and mystique of the Big Apple.

Saturday, February 21
Saturday, February 28
Saturday, March 7
Saturday, March 14
*All movies start at 2 p.m. in the Central Library Program Area. Check www.mcpld.org for movie titles.
about one book

One Book, One Mesa County is an annual event for which a book is chosen for the community to read and discuss together. One Book is in its fifth year. It has been more successful each year, involving more readers, more discussion, and more participants in the program’s events.

The most important goal is to find a book which sparks discussion: a book that deals with universal truths, conflicts, and ideas that we can relate to as we read. A good book takes us somewhere we haven’t been before, and when we return, our understanding of humanity in general and ourselves in particular is enlarged.

Previous selections include Rudolfo Anaya’s Bless Me, Ultima, Kira, Kira by Cynthia Kadohata, New York Times best seller Marley and Me by John Grogan, and Mesa County’s own Aryn Kyle and her debut novel The God of Animals.

The choice for 2009, Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close, continues the tradition of being unique yet universal. Join young Oskar as he searches for information about his father in the aftermath of 9/11, and you’ll be hooked from page one.

One Book / One Community events began in Seattle in 1998. The concept of a community read has swept across the nation, making Mesa County part of a larger movement to share books and thoughts with a wide variety of people who just happen to live in the same area.

the evolution of one book

CHECK IT OUT: BOOK CLUB IN A BAG

Mesa County Libraries are offering you the chance to start your own book club. Stop by your branch library location and check out Book Club in a Bag.

Book Club in a Bag includes several copies of this year’s One Book, One Mesa County selection, Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer plus discussion questions.

All One Book, One Mesa County information is available online at www.mcpld.org.

BOOK CROSSING

This year One Book, One Mesa County is trying something new, and a little experimental. It is called Book Crossing.

Release and find Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close in “the wild.” From www.bookcrossing.com you can find where copies of the book were left or leave a copy for someone else and track its travels. Check it out.

find more One Book info at www.mcpld.org