

For Immediate Release

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Contact

Marti Fritz
269 553-7879
marti@kpl.gov

READING TOGETHER HOSTS THE 'VOICE' OF THE AUDIOBOOK

Tom Stechschulte, Broadway actor and narrator of the Recorded Books version of Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*, will read selections from the book and talk about the craft of being a professional reader on Wednesday, February 15, 7:00 pm, at Kalamazoo Public Library's downtown location, 315 S Rose St.

While in Kalamazoo, Stechschulte will also meet with residents of Friendship Village for their regular Third Thursday Gathering, February 16, 2:00 pm, in the Friendship Village Kiva, 1400 N. Drake Rd. All fellow senior residences are especially invited to attend this event.

Tom Stechschulte has appeared in numerous plays, including Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and as Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He is frequently on Broadway and has credits in many television shows and movies. Tom has narrated over 90 adult and children's audiobooks from authors such as James Lee Burke, Dennis Lehane, Larry Brown, and Kent Haruf. His natural, expressive style lends itself to multiple genres and he has recorded biographies, mysteries, suspense, drama, and children's stories.

According to *AudioFile*, "Stechschulte's voice is natural and convincing." His "solid and vigorous voice adds a dimension of tension and depth," says *Bookwatch*. Tom has won numerous Golden Earphone Awards and an Audie award, the audiobook recording industry's equivalent of an Oscar, for Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper*.

As a narrator, Stechschulte says, "Each book is a learning process." He reads the book, and then rereads sections just before the recording sessions. He savors dialogue and feels that bringing long descriptive passages to life is both challenging and rewarding. Developing the southern voices for the characters in T.R. Pearson's *Cry Me A River*, for example, became one of his most memorable narrating experiences.

Free tickets for author Tim O'Brien's March 21 appearance at Miller Auditorium will be distributed beginning the evening of February 15 at the Stechschulte presentation, then available on February 16 at libraries throughout Kalamazoo County, including all Kalamazoo Public Library locations. Discount coupons for Air Zoo admission to view the Smithsonian Institution exhibit, Vietnam: Journey of the Heart, will also be available at that time. For further information or to see complete list of locations, visit www.readingtogether.us.

Kalamazoo Public Library leads Reading Together, the fourth annual community-wide reading program, with support from two-dozen organizations, including the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, Western Michigan University, and the Air Zoo. More than 50 other groups are helping offer numerous book discussions, 20 special events, an eight-week film series, plus a breath-taking traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution at the Air Zoo from February 14 to April 8. Details may be found at www.readingtogether.us or call program coordinator Joan Hawxhurst at 553-7913. The following message includes information about all currently scheduled Reading Together events.