



Administration

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Yakima Valley Libraries to Host Young Adult Author, Chris Crutcher at The Seasons Performance Hall

Yakima, WA – Yakima Valley Libraries is pleased to announce that Chris Crutcher, author of more than a dozen books for young adults, will speak at The Seasons Performance Hall on Thursday, May 11th, during the final event in the Library’s author series, *Authors Out Loud*.

Crutcher, a Pacific Northwest native, is best known for writing true-to-life young adult fiction, and has five books listed among the American Library Association’s *100 Best Books for Teens of the Twentieth Century*. Crutcher’s writing is marked by his trademark humor, while also frequently drawing on his experiences as a former teacher and therapist who specialized in child abuse and neglect. His books are notable for their unflinching portrayal of young adults, and the real issues that many of them face.

One of his most popular books, *Whale Talk*, follows wisecracking high schooler, T.J., who reluctantly agrees to form a swim team from fellow underdogs and misfits in order to take on his school’s narrow-minded athletics program. Another of Crutcher’s novels, *Deadline*, tells the story of an 18-year-old high school student diagnosed with incurable cancer, who, with just one year left to live, decides to go after the girl of his dreams, help the town drunk get sober, all while leaving his mark on his tiny Idaho hometown.

“Although he writes for teens, his work is relevant for adult readers, too,” said Krystal Corbray, programming and marketing librarian. “I think the best thing about his books is the honest way they speak directly to teens, without speaking down to them or watering down tough topics. And I think that honesty is something that appeals to a lot of adult readers, too.”

Crutcher’s career has not been one without challenges. He holds the dubious honor of being one of the most frequently challenged authors of the last three decades, and in response to criticism and would-be censors, Crutcher is a staunch champion and spokesperson for freedom of speech. He’s also the recipient of two Intellectual Freedom awards—one from the National Council for Teachers of English, and another from the National Coalition Against Censorship.

Crutcher will speak at The Seasons Performance Hall at 7:00pm, on Thursday, May 11th. His talk will touch on the real life people and stories that helped inspire his books, in addition to his experiences of having his books challenged. A book signing will follow his talk, with books available for purchase courtesy of Inklings Bookshop. Admission is free.

Event Details

What: An Evening with Chris Crutcher

When: Thursday, May 7th, 7:00pm

Where: The Seasons Performance Hall, 101 N. Naches Ave, Yakima, WA 98901

For more information, or questions, call Yakima Central Library: (509) 452-8541

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