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For Immediate Release
March 15, 2016
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INSIDE THE AUDIOBOOK STUDIO

Join Audiobook Readers in an Engaging Panel Discussion and Tales from the Studio

Beverly Hills, Calif. – Beverly Hills Public Library and Penguin Random House Audio have partnered to bring you *Inside the Audiobook Studio – An Audiobook Readers Panel Discussion*. This free event is Wednesday, March 23 at 7 p.m. at the Beverly Hills Public Library, 444 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills. Join four, highly-acclaimed audiobook readers in an hour-long, engaging discussion as they talk about what goes into making an audiobook and tales from the studio. A brief question and answer session will follow. Free, two-hour parking is available in the parking lot adjacent to the Beverly Hills Public Library on Rexford Drive.

The four panelists include moderator, Kelly Gildea and narrators Cassandra Campbell, Kirby Heyborne and Steve West.

Kelly Gildea, Executive Producer at Penguin Random House Audio, has produced and directed many hundreds of titles, working with authors as varied as John Updike, Elie Wiesel, Bill Clinton, Stephen King, Anne Rice and Jennifer Lopez. Kelly is a two-time Odyssey Award winner, an honor given by the American Library's Association for outstanding audio productions.

Kirby Heyborne has voiced over 300 audiobooks and has won numerous awards and is also a two-time Odyssey Award winner. In 2015, Heyborne was named the "Voice of Choice" by *Booklist*. Heyborne is an actor and on screen, he received critical acclaim for his starring role in the World War II drama *Saints and Soldiers*.

Cassandra Campbell, actress, director and teacher, has performed in New York at the Public Theater, Mint Theater and the Clurman. She is an award-winning voice-over artist whose credits include 450 audiobooks, documentaries and commercials in both Italian and English.

Hailing from London, Steve West is a highly-respected and award-winning actor and voice over artist with over eighteen years of experience in the business. He has performed for Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace and hosted his own television show for the United Kingdom live from Los Angeles.

“Audiobooks have seen explosive, double-digit growth over the past several years, with last year alone up nearly 40%,” says Katie Punia, Director of Publicity at Penguin Random House. This growth is driven by increased awareness of the format and that more books are being produced on audio with a greater production value than ever before. The availability of digital audiobooks and proliferation of devices has contributed to the rise, but CDs are still going strong in many areas, including libraries. Punia says, “The benefit of audiobooks is that it helps people fit more reading into their busy lives. Most avid audio listeners are also active readers, and listening enables them to read more books while they’re in the car commuting to work, at the gym or maybe even while cooking in the kitchen.”

For more information on this event and other programs available at the Beverly Hills Public Library, visit www.bhpl.org.

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