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ERIC DEAN SEATON JOINS BLACK CAUCUS OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AS SPEAKER AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ST. LOUIS

St. Louis, MO... Eric Seaton, television director and creator of the hit graphic novel series *Legend of the Mantamaji* has joined a distinguished list of speakers at the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) National Conference being held in St. Louis August 4th - 8th. Seaton, currently on a 15 city (and growing) international book tour, has signed on to share more about his efforts to fill the void of people of color in sci-fi and superhero genres. Seaton will discuss his motivation behind creating graphic novels that aim to change the perception of African Americans in sci-fi and superhero genres through his graphic novel trilogy, *Legend of the Mantamaji*.

"I am truly honored to be a part of the conference," Seaton said. "Graphic novels continue to gain acceptance by schools and libraries and that has allowed comics creators take important stories and make them more accessible. I set out to write a great story and to make characters that reflect the world around me - multicultural, with strong male and female characters who have depth to their personal stories. I want to change people's minds to who can be heroes. Science fiction, the superhero genre etc. represent wish fulfillment. What does it say when the majority of heroes are only white men? Black people survive in the future, people of color can save the world, diverse heroes matter."

Seaton will join authors Max Brooks and Joel Christian Gill for a presentation at the Author Luncheon 1 on Thursday, August 6th. The topic will be *Reimagining History through Graphic Novels*. Attendees will receive a complimentary book by one of the three authors.

About the Authors:

Eric Dean Seaton is a television director, producer, author and owner of "And... Action!" Entertainment. As a two-time NAACP Image Award nominee and episodic director, Eric has directed 18 videos, two pilots and more than 200 television episodes of 38 hit TV series, including NBC/Warner Bros. comedy "*Undateable*," TBS's "*Ground Floor*," BET's "*Let's Stay Together*," Disney's "*Austin & Ally*" and Nickelodeon's "*Bella and the Bulldogs*." *Legend of the Mantamaji* is his first graphic novel series and earned him a 2015 Glyph Comics Rising Star Award nomination. The series has been named a "Top Graphic Novel series by Examiner.com and Atlanta Black Star and was added to the MTV's Summer Reading List for Social Justice Warriors.

Max Brooks is the son of comedy filmmaker Mel Brooks and actress Anne Bancroft. He is the author of *The Harlem Hellfighters*, a graphic novel which portrays a fictionalized account of the entirely African American 369th Infantry Regiment's experiences in World War I. Sony Pictures has purchased the rights to create a film version of the novel on behalf of Overbrook Entertainment.

Joel Christian GillTM is the chairman/CEO, of Strange Fruit Comics. He is the author/illustrator of 2 books from Fulcrum Publishing *Strange Fruit vol. I Uncelebrated Narratives from Black History* and *Tales of the Talented Tenth*. He is the Associate Dean of Student Affairs at the New Hampshire Institute of Art and a member of The Boston Comics Roundtable. He received his MFA from Boston University and a BA from Roanoke College.

About Black Caucus of the American Library Association:

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association serves as an advocate for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services and resources to the nation's African American community; and provides leadership for the recruitment and professional development of African American librarians.

To register for the conference please visit our website at www.bcala.org or Facebook us at <https://www.facebook.com/bcalancaal>

You can also visit <http://bcalancaal.eventbrite.com/>

For more information contact Conference Team Leaders:
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We look forward to seeing you there.

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