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FOR RELEASE 9:30 A.M. EDT, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

NATIONAL BOOK FOUNDATION TO PRESENT LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO ACCLAIMED AUTHOR ANNIE PROULX

Anne Hathaway, Academy Award-winning actress and star of “Brokeback Mountain,” to present Medal to Proulx

New York, NY (September 21, 2017) – The National Book Foundation, presenter of the National Book Awards, today announced that it will award **Annie Proulx** with its **2017 Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters**. Proulx, the acclaimed author of award-winning and best-selling novels and short story collections, including *The Shipping News*, *Postcards*, and “Brokeback Mountain,” is being honored for her exceptional work and significant impact on American literature. The award will be presented to Proulx by Academy Award-winning actress Anne Hathaway, an avid reader and longtime advocate for women in the arts, who starred in the film adaptation of “Brokeback Mountain.”

Proulx is the 30th recipient of the Foundation’s Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters (DCAL), which was created in 1988 to recognize a lifetime of literary achievement. Previous recipients include John Ashbery, Judy Blume, Don DeLillo, Joan Didion, E.L. Doctorow, Maxine Hong Kingston, Stephen King, Ursula K. Le Guin, Elmore Leonard, Norman Mailer, Toni Morrison, Adrienne Rich, John Updike, Eudora Welty, and Tom Wolfe.

“Annie Proulx’s work is widely loved and uniquely significant,” said David Steinberger, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Book Foundation. “Proulx’s deep reverence for the beauty and complexities of rural America has introduced millions of readers to the wide breadth of American life. Her commitment to crafting compassionate, honest stories has left an indelible mark on literature and created a powerful and enduring legacy.”

“Annie Proulx’s ability to explore the nuances of the human spirit and render deeply moving reflections on rural life have solidified her place in American Letters,” said Lisa Lucas, Executive Director of the National Book Foundation. “In addition to her astounding literary accomplishments, film adaptations of Proulx’s work have reached scores of viewers who may not have encountered her work on the page. We are honored to pay tribute

to the extraordinary source material for these celebrated visual works, and, hopefully, to further grow the audience for Proulx's exemplary literary work."

Proulx is the author of the novels *Postcards*, *The Shipping News*, *Accordion Crimes*, *That Old Ace in the Hole*, and *Barkskins*, in addition to her short story collections, *Heart Songs and Other Stories*, *Close Range: Wyoming Stories*, *Bad Dirt: Wyoming Stories 2*, and *Fine Just the Way It Is: Wyoming Stories 3*. In 2005, her short story, "Brokeback Mountain" was adapted into the Academy-Award-winning film of the same name. Proulx has won the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction, the National Book Award, and a multitude of other accolades including the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, O. Henry Awards Prizes, and a Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts.

Nominations for the DCAL medal are made by former National Book Award Winners, Finalists, judges, and other writers and literary professionals from around the country. The final selection is made by the National Book Foundation's Board of Directors. Recipients of the Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters receive \$10,000 and a solid brass medal.

For more information about the National Book Awards and Awards-related events visit nationalbook.org.

About Annie Proulx:

Annie Proulx was born in Connecticut in 1935 and attended Colby College and the University of Vermont. She graduated cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Vermont in 1969, earning a bachelor's degree in History. After graduation, Proulx continued her studies, completing a master's degree and beginning a doctorate at Concordia University. As a graduate student, she published a number of fiction stories in *Seventeen*. Proulx left academia before completing her doctorate, turning instead to nonfiction writing. Proulx's first published books were practical manuals on how to grow fruits and vegetables, make cider, and build fences. During this time, Proulx also founded, wrote, and edited *The Vershire Behind The Times*, a local newspaper for her small town in Vermont.

In 1988, Proulx made her literary debut with her first short story collection, *Heart Songs and Other Stories*, which explores the lives of rural, small town America, a topic she frequently returns to. Proulx quickly followed up her short story collection with her debut novel, *Postcards*. In 1992, *Postcards* won the 13th Annual PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, making Proulx the first woman to receive the prestigious award. One year later, Proulx's second novel, *The Shipping News*, earned the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and The Irish Times International Fiction Prize. With her short story collections, *Close Range: Wyoming Stories*; *Bad Dirt: Wyoming Stories 2*; and *Fine Just the Way It Is: Wyoming Stories 3*, Proulx has dedicated herself to presenting readers with a powerful, introspective glimpse at life in the rural west. In 1997, Proulx's short story, "Brokeback Mountain," centered around two cowboys who develop a secret, powerful, life-long bond, was published in *The New Yorker*, earning her a National Magazine Award and the first of two O. Henry Awards. In 2005, "Brokeback Mountain" was adapted into an Academy Award-winning film that *Rolling Stone* named one of the top 10 films of the decade.

In 2011, Proulx published her memoir, *Birdcloud: A Memoir of Place*, which provided readers with an astonishing window to Proulx's remarkable connection with the American west. Best known for her evocative fiction about rural America, Proulx's writing has an impressive lyricism and wit that captivates readers of all ages. Proulx has received honorary doctorate degrees from Concordia University and the Universities of Maine,

Toronto, Vermont, and Montreal.

24 years ago, in her acceptance speech for the 1993 National Book Award, Proulx said, "There's a point in your life when you quit expecting wonderful and delightful things to happen to you, and I passed that point a long time ago." Fortunately for millions readers around the world, Proulx has yet to hit that point.

Proulx lives in Seattle, Washington.

About Anne Hathaway:

Academy Award winner Anne Hathaway was recently seen in *Colossal*, opposite Dan Stevens and Jason Sudekis. Directed and written by Nacho Vigalondo, Hathaway plays Gloria, a woman that moves back to her hometown after losing her job and boyfriend in New York, only to discover how strangely connected she is to a certain creature. *Colossal* premiered on January 20, 2017 at Sundance Film Festival, and released wide on April 28, 2017.

Anne recently completed filming *Ocean's Eight*, opposite Cate Blanchett, Sarah Paulson, Dakota Fanning, Helena Bonham Carter, Sandra Bullock and Rihanna, set to release in 2018. Other upcoming projects include, *Live Fast Die Hot*, written by Jenny Mollen, *Nasty Women* starring opposite Rebel Wilson, and *The Modern Ocean*, opposite Tom Holland, Keanu Reeves and Daniel Radcliffe.

In 2014, Hathaway produced and starred in writer/director Kate Barker-Froyland's feature debut *Song One*, alongside Mary Steenburgen. The film chronicles a young woman who strikes up a relationship with her ailing brother's favorite musician. She also starred in Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar* alongside Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain, and Matthew McConaughey.

In 2012, she starred as Fantine in Tom Hoopers screen adaptation of the musical phenomenon, *Les Misérables* opposite Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Eddie Redmayne and Amanda Seyfried. Hathaway's performance garnered Oscar, Golden Globe, SAG and BAFTA awards for "Best Actress".

In 2008, Hathaway starred in Jonathan Demme's critically acclaimed *Rachel Getting Married* for which she was nominated for an Academy Award, a Golden Globe, an Independent Spirit Award, and a SAG Award in the "Best Actress" category. The National Board of Review, the Chicago Film Critics Association and the Broadcast Film Critics Association all named Hathaway "Best Actress" for her performance in the film.

Other recent film credits are Nancy Meyers *The Intern*; Lone Scherfig's *one Day* (based on the novel written by David Nicholls); Ed Zwick's *Love and Other Drugs* (for which Anne received her second Golden Globe nomination); Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*; James Bobin's *Alice Through The Looking Glass*; Garry Marshall's *Valentine's Day*; *Bride Wars*; *Get Smart*; *Becoming Jane*; Rodrigo Garcia's *Passengers*; *The Devil Wears Prada* opposite Meryl Streep; and Ang Lee's *Brokeback Mountain*. Early career credits include Garry Marshall's *The Princess Diaries* and *The Princess Diaries 2: The Royal Engagement*; *Havoc*; *Ella Enchanted*; *Nicholas Nickleby*; and *The Other Side of Heaven*.

Hathaway first gained Hollywood's attention for her turn in the television series, *Get Real*. She has also lent her vocal cameos on television series including *The Simpsons*, for which she received an Emmy Award.

Theater credits include the Public Theater's *Grounded*; Shakespeare in the Park's *Twelfth Night* (2009); Andrew Lloyd Webber's workshop of *Woman In White*; and *Forever Your Child*. In 2004-2005, she also participated in the Encores Concert Gala as well as the Stephen Sondheim Birthday Gala. She also appeared in the Lincoln Center Encore series presentation of *Carnival*, for which she won the prestigious 57th Annual Clarence Derwent Award.

As an actress, Hathaway studied at the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey, the Barrow Group in New York City, and at NYU's Collaborative Arts Projects "Cap 21" (where she focused on her musical theater training). In April 2005, the award-winning Barrow Group honored Anne for her achievements on behalf of the organization as the first and only teen ever admitted to their intensive acting program.

Anne was appointed as UN Women's Global Ambassador in 2016, where she works with the UN Women to foster more positive mindsets and practical arrangements around workplaces that build and support equality for women. She also serves on the advisory board for Lollipop Theater Network, which is an organization that screens movies in hospitals for pediatric patients suffering from chronic or life-threatening illness. She also recently began working with The Nike Foundation's "Girl Effect".

Hathaway currently resides in both Los Angeles and New York.

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The National Book Foundation's mission is to celebrate the best of American literature, to expand its audience, and to enhance the cultural value of good writing in America. In addition to the National Book Awards, for which it is best known, the Foundation's programs include **5 Under 35**, a celebration of emerging fiction writers selected by former National Book Award Finalists and Winners; the **National Book Awards Teen Press Conference**, an opportunity for New York City students to interview the current National Book Award Finalists in Young People's Literature; **Why Reading Matters**, a conference focused on how educators, literary activities, librarians, and publishers can foster and increase inclusivity among new readers; **Book Rich Environments**, a collaboration between the U.S. Departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development, the Urban Libraries Council and the Campaign for Grade Level Reading to combat book deserts; **NBA on Campus**, a partnership that brings National Book Award authors to colleges across the country; the **Innovations in Reading Prize**, awarded to individuals and institutions that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading; and **BookUp**, a writer-led, after-school reading club for middle-school students.

The National Book Award is one of the nation's most prestigious literary prizes and has a stellar record of identifying and rewarding quality writing. In 1950, William Carlos Williams was the first Winner in Poetry; the following year William Faulkner was honored in Fiction, and so on through the years. Many previous Winners of the National Book Award are now firmly established in the canon of American literature, including Sherman Alexie, Saul Bellow, Elizabeth Bishop, Ralph Ellison, Louise Erdrich, Jonathan Franzen, Denis Johnson, Joyce Carol Oates, Adrienne Rich, and Jesmyn Ward.

For more information about the National Book Awards and Awards-related events visit

nationalbook.org.