Office of the Mayor
City & County of San Francisco

Gavin Newsom

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*** PRESS RELEASE ***

Mayor Newsom Announces 2009 One City One Book: San Francisco Reads Selection: *Alive in Necropolis* by Doug Dorst

New campaign for this year's citywide reading program encourages readers to donate copies of the book to public high school libraries

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Mayor Gavin Newsom and the San Francisco Public Library today invited San Franciscans to participate in the 5th annual One City One Book: San Francisco Reads program by announcing the selection of Alive in Necropolis by Doug Dorst.

Thanks to the great success of the past four years of One City One Book: San Francisco Reads, this year selected bookstores will offer a special opportunity to donate a copy of *Alive in Necropolis* to a public high school. Through the program "**Treat Yourself/Stock Their Shelves**," participants can help support literacy and reading by buying an extra copy of the book as a tax deductible gift to a local public high school library.

"The One City One Book program has always brought together our diverse community around a literary connection, allowing us to unite through the sharing of ideas, thoughts and opinions in this citywide book club," said Mayor Newsom. "This year, we hope our community of readers will treat themselves to reading this entertaining novel while sharing their love of the written word with the next generation of readers in our schools."

Doug Dorst's thriller, set in the city of San Francisco and the cemeteries of Colma, is a fresh, imaginative debut novel about a young police officer struggling to keep the peace and maintain a grip on reality in a town where the dead outnumber the living. One part crime novel, one part ghost story, *Alive in Necropolis* is tinged with humor, history and heart. Among many colorful characters, the book features a rookie Colma cop navigating a world of both the dead and alive and a San Francisco teen struggling with his own version of reality.

A longtime resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, Dorst holds a B.A. from Stanford and a J.D. from UC-Berkeley's Boalt Hall, and he has taught writing at Stanford and in the MFA program at the California College of the Arts. He currently lives in Austin, Texas, where he is an assistant professor of creative writing at St. Edward's University and serves on the Board of Directors of Austin Bat Cave, a non-profit writing center for kids.

"This entertaining book takes readers on a vivid exploration of the cemeteries of Colma, providing glimpses of such colorful members of San Francisco history as Joe DiMaggio, Ishi, Wyatt Earp and Lillie Coit. This is a novel for all to enjoy this summer and then join us for book discussions and fun and imaginative programming this Fall," said City Librarian Luis Herrera.

The One City One Book 2009 activities will include author visits to libraries and local schools, programs about the San Francisco historical figures and locations in the book, cemetery walks and an exhibition of archival material from SFPL including historic photographs and gravestones.

One City One Book: San Francisco Reads events and discussions will take place in libraries, bookstores, and schools during September and October. Program guides, bookmarks, and other promotional materials will be available. For complete program information, visit the San Francisco Public Library website at www.sfpl.org.

In searching for a compelling title, the eight-person selection committee for One City One Book considered books that met as many as possible of the following criteria: high literary quality; reflective of universal issues facing San Franciscans; mirror the diversity of San Francisco; have connections to San Francisco (either through the content or the author's relationship with the city); available in key languages; available in large quantities; appealing to adults and teens; available in paperback; capable of sparking provocative discussions; and lend themselves to engaging public programs around the book.

Alive in Necropolis is available as a hardcover book and trade paperback. A recorded book for the blind will be made available this Fall through the Main Library's Library for the Blind and Print Handicapped.

One City One Book: San Francisco Reads is supported by Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. Books Inc. and other selected bookstores are participating in the "Treat Yourself/Stock Their Shelves" program.

For more information, please call (415) 557-4277.

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