

Clemson Literary Festival

& 40th Anniversary of *The South Carolina Review*

Dave Eggers



Dave Eggers is the author of *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* (2000). This first book earned him tremendous critical acclaim and commercial success. The memoir reached the top spot on the *New York Times* bestseller list and made Eggers a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2001. Eggers has been praised for the book's poignancy and humor: "Eggers crafts something universal here, something raw and real and wonderful that transcends any zeitgeist and manages to deal trenchantly with 'big issues' that often prove too daunting for younger writers: mortality, youth, the artifice of writing, the Zen of Frisbee. This is laugh-out-loud funny and utterly unforgettable" (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

In addition to having authored numerous works of fiction and non-fiction, Eggers is the founder of McSweeney's, an independent publishing house that shares its name with the literary journal it puts out. McSweeney's also publishes *The Believer*, a monthly magazine; *Wholphin*, a quarterly DVD magazine devoted to short films; and mcsweeneys.net, a humor website.

Eggers opened a writing lab in 2002 called 826 Valencia, where he teaches writing to high school students and runs a publishing program in the summer. Since then, branches of 826 Valencia have opened in Brooklyn, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, and Ann Arbor.

Eggers' most recent work is a 2006 novel entitled *What is the What: The Autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng*. Based on a true story, the novel weaves together fact and fiction to tell the story of Deng, a Sudanese refugee and member of the Lost Boys of Sudan.

