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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SIMON & SCHUSTER AUDIO AND PLAY.IT<sup>®</sup> MAKE  
STEPHEN KING'S *DRUNKEN FIREWORKS*  
A ONE-OF-A-KIND AUDIO PUBLISHING EVENT**

**CBS RADIO Stations to Promote Exclusive Online Broadcast**

[New York, NY – May 7, 2015] In an innovative and exciting collaboration, Simon & Schuster Audio and Play.it<sup>®</sup> will share in its entirety a stream of Stephen King's forthcoming audiobook short story **DRUNKEN FIREWORKS** for listeners nationwide. CBS RADIO stations in more than 20 major markets across the country will drive tune-in to the special event on which takes place July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Play.it<sup>®</sup> is an on-demand audio platform recently launched by CBS RADIO and CBS Local Digital Media.

"Great stories are often better when told out loud," said King. "This event is a cool way for more people to discover just how fun listening to my stories can be."

Simon & Schuster Audio's standalone publication of Stephen King's never-before-released short story will be read by beloved Maine humorist Tim Sample. **DRUNKEN FIREWORKS** will be released exclusively as an audiobook on CD and for download on June 30, 2015.

"Stephen King has always been a huge supporter of audiobooks and has embraced innovative marketing ideas for his books," said Chris Lynch, President & Publisher, Simon & Schuster Audio. "We are delighted to collaborate with our colleagues at Play.it<sup>®</sup> and CBS Radio to again break new ground with this audio publishing event."

In addition, Simon & Schuster Audio will launch a pre-publication sweepstakes featuring **DRUNKEN FIREWORKS** in June, which will include a travel voucher for a trip to see

the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks show in New York, a complete collection of Stephen King's Simon & Schuster Audio recordings, plus additional prizes. The sweepstakes will reach millions of fans through the Simon & Schuster, CBS, and Stephen King sites and social media accounts.

King hand-picked Tim Sample to voice this compelling short tale about a salt-of-the-earth Maine native and a friendly annual summer fireworks rivalry that gradually spirals out of control. Sample, known for his Maine accent and pride, is a former *CBS News Sunday Morning* correspondent who produced the popular "Postcards from Maine" segments for over a decade. With his unique brand of storytelling, he is perfectly cast in **DRUNKEN FIREWORKS**.

"I'm excited and thrilled to be working with Tim Sample again," said King. "This is going to be one wild ride."

"Getting a call from Stephen King, especially when he's totally pumped about some new project, is a bit like hopping a crosstown bus only to find yourself suddenly speeding along on a high-speed bullet train. The man is simply a force of nature," said Sample. "This time around Steve's 'bullet train' turns out to be a story called **DRUNKEN FIREWORKS** and while it's not the first Stephen King story I've had the privilege of narrating, it's certainly the funniest. Stephen King? Funny? You heard right chummy!"

**DRUNKEN FIREWORKS** will be published as one of the short stories in Stephen King's collection **THE BAZAAR OF BAD DREAMS**, coming from Simon & Schuster Audio and Scribner in November 2015.

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**ABOUT THE PUBLISHER: Simon & Schuster Audio** is a leading publisher of general interest audiobooks including bestselling fiction, nonfiction, business/finance, self-improvement, inspiration, language learning programs, original audiobook productions, and children's titles. In addition to a list that includes such unparalleled authors as Mary Higgins Clark, Vince Flynn, Ernest Hemingway, Stephen

King, Michael Lewis, and David McCullough. Simon & Schuster Audio has produced audiobooks that have won seven Grammy Awards and earned thirty-seven Grammy nominations since 1989. For more information about Simon & Schuster Audio, visit our website at [www.audio.simonandschuster.com](http://www.audio.simonandschuster.com).

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**ABOUT PLAY.IT®:** Play.it is a new podcast network that brings together digital-exclusive programming from major brands and publishers as well as content from CBS RADIO shows on demand. Play.it offers more than 400 premium content podcasts, including podcasts from well-known CBS RADIO personalities like Boomer Esiason & Craig Carton, Carson Daly, and Kevin & Bean, as well as content from leading news, lifestyle, sports and media brands including 48 HOURS, 60 MINUTES, CBS Sports Radio, Deadspin, Simon & Schuster and Foursquare, among others.

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