



99% PERSPIRATION

A NEW
WORKING
HISTORY



OF THE
AMERICAN
WAY OF LIFE

ADAM **CHANDLER**



99% Perspiration: A New Working History of the American Way of Life

Adam Chandler

Journalist and author of *Drive-Thru Dreams* and *99% Perspiration*.

Kathy Gilsinan

Author of *The Helpers* and a senior editor at Puck News.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 7:00 PM
Register: www.bit.ly/ChandlerFANWebinar

PLUS: After-Hours Event!

Purchase a copy of *99% Perspiration* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall to receive a link to an interactive "After-Hours" event hosted by Chandler and Gilsinan. Details on the Zoom registration form.

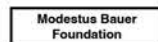
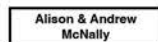
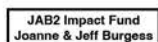
This event is #freeandopentothepublic and will be recorded.
Suitable for youth 12+

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: ADAM CHANDLER - ON ZOOM

CONTACT: Lonnie Stonitsch, Executive Director of FAN, lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net

Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 7:00 PM, 99% Perspiration: A New Working History of the American Way of Life, a FAN webinar featuring Adam Chandler in conversation with Kathy Gilsinan.

REGISTER: www.bit.ly/ChandlerFANWebinar

BONUS AFTER-HOURS EVENT: Attendees who purchase a copy of *99% Perspiration* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall are invited to attend an AFTER-HOURS event hosted by Chandler and Gilsinan that will start immediately after the webinar. Details on the webinar registration page.

"Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." This phrase, arguably Thomas Edison's most famous quote, has been drilled into the minds of generations of Americans. A straightforward iteration of the idea that innovation, discovery, and ingenuity are the result of drive and grit above all, it has also come to represent much darker myths: that hard work always leads to success and that achievement is the product of individuals and not communities. In this model, those who come out on top are there because they earned it, and everyone else needs to buckle down, glove up, and, maybe one day, they'll get there too.

As the wealth gap widens, communities crumble, and Americans work more for less, journalist **Adam Chandler** raises the question: What happens when perspiration isn't enough? To answer it in his new book *99% Perspiration: A New Working History of the American Way of Life*, Chandler crisscrosses the country interviewing mayors, teachers, generals, pastors, construction workers, and entrepreneurs, to reveal just how untenable relying on "perspiration" as a strategy has truly become. He also delves into America's past to reveal how our government, education system, and culture at large have woven the idea of meritocracy deep into the fabric of American society and how some of history's most famous so-called bootstrappers really built their wealth. From George Washington to Seattle, Washington, Jay Gatsby to Bill Gates, *99% Perspiration* unpacks the misguided obsession with hard work that has come to define both the American dream and nightmare, offering insight into how we got here and hope for where we may go.

Chandler is the author of *Drive-Thru Dreams: A Journey Through the Heart of America's Fast-Food Kingdom* and a recurring guest on The History Channel's *The Food That Built America*. A former staff writer at *The Atlantic*, Chandler's work has also appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *WIRED*, and elsewhere.

Chandler will be in conversation with **Kathy Gilsinan**, author of *The Helpers: Profiles from the Front Lines of the Pandemic*, and a senior editor at Puck News. Previously she covered the Midwest for *Politico Magazine* and was a senior editor and staff writer at *The Atlantic*, where she ran the international coverage before covering foreign policy and national security herself.

This event suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded and available on FAN's website and YouTube channel.

Sponsored by **FAN**, in partnership with The Avery Coonley School, Baker Demonstration School, Barrington D220, Beacon Academy, Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, Brickton Montessori School, British International School of Chicago/Lincoln Park, British International School of Chicago/South Loop, Catherine Cook School, Chicago Jewish Day School, Compass Health Center, Connections for the Homeless, Countryside Day School, Evanston Township HS D202, Family Service Center, The Frances Xavier Warde School, Francis W. Parker School, Glencoe D35, Glenview Public Library, Gorton Center, Haven Youth and Family Services, Hyde Park Day School, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Kenilworth D38, Lake Bluff D65, Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest Community High School D115, Lake Forest Country Day School, Latin School of Chicago, Leo Catholic High School, Libertyville D70, Lycée Français de Chicago, New Trier High School D203, North Shore Country Day, Northwestern University Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Pope John XXIII School, Regina Dominican High School, Resurrection College Prep High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, Santa Clara University School of Law, Science & Arts Academy, The Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School, Stevenson High School D125, Township High School D113, University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, Wilmette Public Library, Wolcott College Prep, Woodlands Academy, Youth & Opportunity United.