

**UPDATED February 8, 2018: The Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival presents our 32nd Annual Program March 21—25, 2018. [CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS.](#)**

**Content subject to change. Check back for updates!**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018**

**2 PM—5 PM**

Box Office, Orleans Room at the Hotel Monteleone

**2 PM—Walking Tour**

**COCKTAIL TOUR WITH ELIZABETH PEARCE**

Experience the French Quarter's most famous landmarks while you hear about the people who gave the city its rich character and sip on the drinks that carry their stories. Notable stops along the way include the Pharmacy Museum, Jackson Square, St. Louis Cathedral, and the Port of New Orleans. This tour does not stop at any bars; however, the price includes several cocktails and punches, so you will never have to pull out your wallet to buy a drink! Drinks include St. Charles Hotel Punch, Sazerac, Hurricane, and Praline Liqueur. Two hours long. Tour also available at 2 PM Thursday.

**Tour begins in the lobby of the Hotel Monteleone. \$50 or VIP Pass.**

**7:30 PM—Special Event**

**THE WOMEN OF WILLIAMS: WOW!**

**AN EVENING OF THEATER AND DISCUSSION**

Hosted by Pulitzer finalist **Lisa D'Amour**, this inspiring evening of performances will celebrate Tennessee Williams' unforgettable female characters: Blanche Dubois, Stella Kowalski, Amanda, Serafina Delle Rose, and many more. While these women are often described as larger than life, it may be more accurate to say these women cry for life itself to be larger. They are resilient survivors, who insist on being the protagonist in their own story. We will welcome a group of local and nationally known actresses including **Amy Ryan** (*The Wire*, *The Office*, *Gone Baby Gone*, *Birdman*), **Beth Bartley**, **Brenda Currin**, **Gwendolyn Foxworth**, **Aimee Hayes**, **Francine Segal**, **Janet Shea**, and **Carol Sutton** to read scenes and share personal stories about the demands and rewards of embodying Williams' epic women. We'll also have insights from Williams scholars **Bess Rowen** and **Annette Saddik**. Join us for electric performances, passionate discussion, and live music inspired by these characters, performed by **Beth Bartley** and local musicians **Alexis and the Samurai**.

*Sponsored by Joy and Boysie Bollinger.*

**Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St. Peter Street, \$35.**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 22**

**9 AM—4 PM at the Hotel Monteleone**

Box Office, Orleans Room at the Hotel Monteleone

**9 AM—Special Event**

**THE NEW ORLEANS WRITING MARATHON**

Jumpstart your writing with the New Orleans Writing Marathon! Hosted by Marathon founder **Richard Louth**, participants write their way across the French Quarter in cafes, pubs, bookstores, and anywhere a small group of writers can sit, write, and share their work. It's all about writing in the moment, writing for the joy of it, and finding inspiration in one's place. Writers gather for a brief overview of the Writing Marathon process before setting out in small groups to write and enjoy the city's food, spirits, and atmosphere until noon or beyond. Participants write on anything they want in any form they wish—memoir, fiction, reflection, essay, poetry, or quick descriptive impressions—and share their writing with each other without criticism. For more information, please visit:

[www.writingmarathon.com](http://www.writingmarathon.com) and for questions, contact Richard Louth at [rlouth@selu.edu](mailto:rlouth@selu.edu).

**Writing Marathons will begin at 9 am Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday in the Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom. Free and open to the public.**

**Writing Marathon Readings:** Participants in any of the three Writing Marathons are invited to read their writing at a celebration on Sunday, March 25, at 2:30 PM in the Hotel Monteleone, Gallier Room. **Free and open to the public.**

### **9 AM—Writer’s Craft Session**

#### **MRS. COLLINS REGRETS—WRITING THAT LETTER YOU REALLY, REALLY DON’T WANT TO WRITE**

This informative session about personal correspondence by **Nancy Sharon Collins**, Stationer LLC, is a “how-to” presentation for drafting hard-to-write letters, using visually compelling, real-life examples—historic and contemporary—illustrating the nuts-and-bolts of how to compose thoughtful, thorough letters and notes addressing sensitive emotional situations. Includes how to write letters of regret, such as job application rejection letters; rejections for proposals (romantic and professional); notices of unwanted or unpleasant actions (personal and professional); letters of termination; condolence letters including the oft-forgotten but very important bereavement acknowledgment letter, and Dear John letters.

**The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, \$25, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

### **10 AM—Walking Tour**

#### **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS LITERARY WALKING TOUR CREATED BY DR. KENNETH HOLDITCH**

New Orleans—and especially the French Quarter—played a vital role in shaping Tennessee Williams. When he came here for the first time, he was Tom Williams. When he left here a couple of months later, he was known as Tennessee, having undergone a tremendous change in his personal life and his creativity. A man perpetually on the move, Tennessee considered this city his “spiritual home” and had at least eight residences in its famous neighborhoods. Visit the homes and hangouts where he lived and worked and returned to throughout his adult life, beloved spots that helped to make Tennessee America’s greatest playwright. Led by Heritage Tours and created by Dr. Kenneth Holditch, this was the first literary tour of the French Quarter.

**Tours at 10 AM and 2 PM, THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY**

**Tour meets in the Hotel Monteleone Queen Anne Parlor, \$25 or VIP Pass.**

### **10:30 AM—Writer’s Craft Session**

#### **COMPASSION AND PERSONAL NARRATIVE WITH LARA NAUGHTON**

Personal narrative can be challenging; it’s painful to dredge up a pivotal experience and can be threatening to examine it from multiple perspectives. Yet if our goal is to write about ourselves and our antagonists as full-bodied characters rather than archetypes, we may need to confront our habitual judgments. As Anaïs Nin said, “We don’t see things as they are, we see them as we are.” Applying compassion in the writing process can help us explore personal subject matter with courage and honesty. This workshop will focus on writing prompts in order to generate new material, or a new perspective on old material.

**The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, \$25, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

### **11 AM—Special Event**

#### **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS 101**

Tennessee Williams 101 is a fast-paced, fun, and informative introduction to Tennessee Williams! It’s a great primer for the weekend ahead, and focuses on Tennessee Williams’ unique relationship to New Orleans, as well as various bits of trivia and lore relating to the theatre offerings at the Festival this year. Come prepared to learn something new, whether you’re new to the world of Williams, or if you’re a long-time fan. Bring your questions; there’s a Q&A session at the end! Presented by **Augustin J Correro**, Co-Artistic Director of the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans. *Sponsored by Helen and George Ingram.* **Beaugard-Keyes House, 1113 Chartres Street, \$15 or VIP Pass.**

### **12:30 PM—Theater**

#### **“THE UNSATISFACTORY SUPPER” BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

Produced in London in 1971 and described by Williams as his favorite one-act play, “The Unsatisfactory Supper” served as the basis for Williams’ most controversial work, *Baby Doll*. The play was published in *Best One-Act Plays* of 1945. Set in the rural South, Archie Lee and his blowsy wife, Baby Doll, are the unwilling hosts to Aunt Rose, an ancient poor relation who has been passed around among all her relatives without finding a home anywhere. Like Blanche DuBois, she takes refuge with a female relation and her crude husband. A staged reading featuring actors **Brenda Currin, Beth Bartley, and David Hoover**; directed by **Paul J. Willis**. *Sponsored by Helen and George Ingram*.

**Beauregard-Keyes House, 1113 Chartres Street, \$15 or VIP Pass.**

### **1 PM—Writer’s Craft Session**

#### **THE ART OF LOVE AND DEATH WITH ERICA SPINDLER**

*New York Times*-bestselling author Erica Spindler, dubbed the Queen of the Romantic Thriller, will discuss the elements needed to create a novel that satisfies both as a romance and thriller. Those elements will include but not be limited to the balance between the romance and suspense and how to weave the two together; finding the right time for sex; and creating the perfect dynamic duo. Please bring paper and pen for a writing exercise during this session.

**The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, \$25, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

### **2 PM—Walking Tour**

#### **COCKTAIL TOUR WITH ELIZABETH PEARCE**

See page 1 for full description and details.

### **2 PM—Walking Tour**

#### **SAINTS AND SINNERS FRENCH QUARTER WALKING TOUR**

This leisurely stroll through the French Quarter focuses on New Orleans' enchanting past with an emphasis on the neighborhood's queer history and its rich literary heritage. See where writers lived and wrote, and learn about the incredible contributions lesbians and gay men have made to the city over its nearly 300-year-old history. Other highlights include Jackson Square, Free People of Color, the French Market, the birth of jazz, Voodoo, and a wide diversity of architecture. The tour is guided by long-time French Quarter resident **Frank Perez**, a local historian and professional tour guide who has written two books about French Quarter history. Approximately 2 hours.

**Tour also available at 10:30 on Friday.**

**Tour meets in the Hotel Monteleone Lobby, \$25 or VIP Pass.**

### **2 PM—Walking Tour**

#### **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS LITERARY WALKING TOUR CREATED BY DR. KENNETH HOLDITCH**

See page 2 for full description and details.

### **2:30 PM—Writer’s Craft Session**

#### **REALITY IN FICTION WITH ZACHARY LAZAR**

It has been said that literature is not an escape from the world but a way of engaging with it more deeply. Fiction writers have long known this, and have sought ways to incorporate the flavors and textures of the real world into their stories in order to invigorate them. Zachary Lazar will discuss various ways writers move from reality to fiction, or intermix the two, beginning with a discussion of the autobiographical fiction of Lucia Berlin (*A Manual for Cleaning Women: Selected Stories*), whose posthumous short story collection, steeped in the specifics of her real life, made her reputation after her death. Lazar will also discuss his own work and the way his journalism and real life found their way into his fiction. He hopes to inspire participants to see the value in their own lives as "material" and

encourage them to leave their comfort zones and seek out the stories of other people as a way of expanding the range of their fiction.

**The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, \$25, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

**7:30 PM—Special Event**

**“DEAR FOLKS”—TENNESSEE WILLIAMS WRITES ABOUT HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

**6:30 PM appetizers and cash bar on the veranda overlooking the Mississippi River**

Our annual Tribute Reading, featuring Festival headliners and a cadre of Williams aficionados sharing the words, both personal and public, of our namesake playwright, will focus on pieces Williams wrote related to his intimate relationships with family and friends. For decades, when Tennessee wrote letters home to his family, he began them as “Dear Folks.” His immediate family, his lovers, comrades, and close friends formed an extensive network of fascinating people, and at one time or another, the playwright wrote about all of them. From poems dedicated to his longtime companion, Frank Merlo, and his fellow Southern writer, Carson McCullers, to his essay “Grand,” about the deep influence his beloved maternal grandmother had on his life, Williams’ feelings for those who were closest to him are the threads that make up the fabric of his writing with many of his family members transformed into characters in his plays. Curated by TW/NOLF executive director **Paul J. Willis** and Williams editor and scholar, **Thomas Keith**, who serves as our host, providing context and introductions for the selected readings.

*Sponsored by a generous grant from the New Orleans Theatre Association.*

**The Jaxson on the River, 620 Decatur Street, \$35 or VIP Pass.**

**7:30 PM—Theater**

**A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

Directed by **Maxwell Williams**

The story of Blanche DuBois and her collision with her sensuous and brutal brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski, is as dynamic and searing today as it was when it premiered in 1947. In conjunction with the 32nd annual TW/NOLF, Le Petit Theatre presents New Orleans’ signature play—the Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork by America’s great poet-playwright, Tennessee Williams.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 PM; and Sunday at 3 PM. Visit [www.lepetittheatre.com](http://www.lepetittheatre.com) or call 504.522.2081 for tickets.

**Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St. Peter Street.**

**7:30 PM—Theater**

**TENNESSEE WILLIAMS DOUBLE BILL**

*Two rarely-seen works paired in a limited engagement, presented by **Southern Rep Theatre** in partnership with the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival.*

**AND TELL SAD STORIES OF THE DEATH OF QUEENS**

Directed by **Ricky Graham**

This production showcases barely contained desires and passions that erupt during a fateful Mardi Gras holiday. Candy, a successful drag queen, picks up a rough sailor and spoils him with money and attention. When he leaves her suddenly, it’s up to the two queens who live upstairs to offer consolation.

**THE TWO CHARACTER PLAY**

Directed by **Austin Pendleton** in association with Playhouse Creatures Theatre Company

A brother-and-sister team of touring actors is abandoned in an isolated theatre by their troupe to face an unknown audience. Williams’ fugue of a play brilliantly intertwines fantasy and reality as the two enact an illusion within an illusion and come to face the darkest truths about themselves. Tennessee Williams called this his “most beautiful” play since *A Streetcar Named Desire*. **Irene Glezos** (Big Easy nomination for her turn as “Lady” in *Orpheus Descending*) returns to Southern Rep opposite **Joseph W. Rodriguez**.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 PM; Sunday at 3 PM. For tickets, call 504-522-6545 or visit <https://sa1.seatadvisor.com/sabo/servlets/EventSearch?presenter=SOUTHERNREP&event=queens>

**Loyola University, Marquette Theatre, 6363 St. Charles Avenue.**

**8 PM—Theater**

**ONE ARM**

Directed by **Augustin J Correro**

*One Arm* is Moises Kaufman's adaptation of a screenplay by Tennessee Williams, based on his short story of the same title. A navy veteran and boxer who lost his arm in a car accident must resort to hustling on Canal Street to make his living. When a john pushes him too far, though, he finds himself on death row. He escapes into the correspondence of his past clients for spiritual salvation until his number is up. Produced by the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans in conjunction with the TW/NOLF.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 PM; Sunday at 6 PM.

General Admission \$25. Students/Seniors/Theater Professionals: \$20.

Saturday, March 24: \$40 includes a discussion with Moises Kaufman following the performance.

Visit [www.tennesseewilliams.net](http://www.tennesseewilliams.net) or call 504-581-1144 for tickets.

**Zeitgeist Multi-Disciplinary Arts Center, 1618 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard.**

**8 PM—Theater**

**VIEUX CARRE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

Directed by **Dennis Monn**

An aspiring writer (**Christopher Weaver**); a homosexual painter (**Vinsantos Defonte**); a doomed young woman (**Emilie Whelan**) and her Bourbon Street barker lover; two aging "ladies" living in poverty; and the eccentric irrepressible landlady are the lonely inhabitants of the boarding house at 722 Toulouse Street, where the real life Tennessee Williams stayed upon his arrival to New Orleans in 1938. *Vieux Carre*, considered one of Williams' most autobiographical, is a play of echoes and remembrances, a series of engrossing scenes, sometimes brutally candid, sometimes delicately poetic, woven together into a rich and revealing tapestry, glinting with theatricality and throbbing with the feel of life. This production features the live music of Sidney Bechet by Krewe of Bechet. Produced by the AllWays Lounge in partnership with the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 PM; Sunday at 6 PM.

**AllWays Lounge, 2240 St. Claude Avenue, \$25 table seating or \$20 general admission.**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 23**

**9 AM—4 PM**

Box Office, Orleans Room at the Hotel Monteleone

Book Fair, Bonne Carre Room at the Hotel Monteleone. The Book Fair is where you can buy books by Festival authors prior to attending their sessions. You can also find books about New Orleans and Tennessee Williams. Thanks to Garden District Book Shop for hosting our Book Fair!

## TENNESSEE WILLIAMS SCHOLARS CONFERENCE

9 AM—4:45 PM

Literary experts share their insights on the creative works of America's greatest playwright. Sponsored by The Historic New Orleans Collection.

**Scholars Conference Pass available for \$20 or included in Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, and VIP Pass.**

**Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres Street**

9:00-9:15      OPENING REMARKS, Director Robert Bray, Middle Tennessee State University, Emeritus

9:15-10:30      WILLIAMS IN THE ACADEMY: A survey of current research by burgeoning Williams scholars demonstrates that the great playwright's work still resonates with a new generation of his followers. Daniel Ciba, Alison Walls, Kyungjin Jo, Bess Rowen.

10:45-12:00      WILLIAMS, RACE, AND ETHNICITY: Join us as scholars explore the ways in which Williams portrays African-Americans and various ethnic groups in his drama and fiction. Trimiko Melancon, Jack Barbera, Tom Mitchell, Colby Kullman.

1:30-2:45      A STREETCAR RUNNING 70 YEARS: PRODUCTION AND PERFORMANCE--Panelists discuss memorable productions of Williams's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, from the 1947 Broadway premiere to the current staging at Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré. Maxwell Williams, John Bak, Henry Schvey, Stuart Noel.

3:15-4:30      INTERIOR: PANIC. We move to Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré for a reading of Williams's early one-act blueprint for *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Performed by the University of Illinois Theatre Department under the direction of Tom Mitchell. Introduction to the play by Robert Bray.

## 9 AM—Writer's Craft Session

### HOW TO START A NOVEL YOU CAN ACTUALLY FINISH WITH JENNIFER HAIGH

**Jennifer Haigh** is the author of five novels, each of which nearly killed her. She is also the author of three unfinished and unfinishable manuscripts, woefully ill-conceived novels that will never see the light of day. In this session she will discuss which strategies worked and which ones didn't with topics that include how to tell the difference between a novel and a short story; the most important choice a novelist makes; plot vs. causality; and what to do on days when nothing comes, among others. Whether you have a brand new idea for a novel or have been working on one for years, you can expect to leave with concrete strategies to move your project forward. Bring a laptop or pen and notebook, and your own questions about novel-craft.

**The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, \$25, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

## 10 AM—Literary Discussion

### RETAIL GIANTS: SCHWEGMANN'S, KRAUSS, AND MAGAZINE STREET

New Orleans is a nostalgic town that cherishes its diehard institutions, particularly the retailers who became household names over multiple generations. **David Johnson** of the New Orleans Museum of Art moderates a panel of authors whose work chronicles where New Orleanians made groceries, furnished homes, and browsed for bric-a-brac. **David Capello** is the biographer of John G. Schwegmann; **Ed Branley** writes about Krauss Department Store, and **John Magill** is the author of a recent book about that popular commercial and social thoroughfare, *The Incomparable Magazine Street*.

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

### **10 AM—Walking Tour**

#### **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS LITERARY WALKING TOUR CREATED BY DR. KENNETH HOLDITCH**

See page 2 for full description and details.

### **10:30 AM—Writer’s Craft Session**

#### **JAFFE COHEN: WRITING FOR TV AND FILM—HOW OUR TWO-HOUR SCREENPLAY WAS TURNED INTO EIGHT HOURS OF GREAT TELEVISION**

When it comes to a career in show business, if you persist, every ten years something wonderful will happen! In this informative and fun workshop, Jaffe Cohen, pioneering stand-up comedian, (Funny Gay Males) will speak about how he and his writing partner, Michael Zam, wrote the screenplay *Best Actress* just for fun, how it miraculously became one of the hottest un-produced scripts of the year, how they sold it to Ryan Murphy to make as a feature, and how, together, they turned it into *Feud: Bette and Joan*, an award winning TV show on FX network, that’s changing the way Hollywood thinks of casting mature actresses. Along with some great insights about Hollywood, Jaffe—currently teaching screenwriting at Purchase College in upstate NY—will discuss screenwriting technique (the Hero’s Journey) and how he’s now modifying this approach to write for television.

**The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, \$25, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

### **10:30 AM—Walking Tour**

#### **SAINTS AND SINNERS FRENCH QUARTER WALKING TOUR**

See page 3 for full description and details.

### **11 AM—TENNESSEE WILLIAMS 101**

Tennessee Williams 101 is a fast-paced, fun, and informative introduction to Tennessee Williams! It’s a great primer for the weekend ahead, and focuses on Tennessee Williams’ unique relationship to New Orleans, as well as various bits of trivia and lore relating to the theatre offerings at the Festival this year. Come prepared to learn something new, whether you’re new to the world of Williams, or if you’re a long-time fan. Bring your questions; there’s a Q&A session at the end! Presented by **Augustin J Correro**, Co-Artistic Director of the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans.

**Beauregard-Keyes House, 1113 Chartres Street, \$15 or VIP Pass.**

### **11 AM—Theater**

#### **HOW TO BUILD A CITY**

Second Star New Orleans presents Big Easy winner **Mary Pauley** in *How To Build a City* by Jessie Strauss. Part of the fourth annual Two For Tennessee, the only recurring original play festival in the New Orleans area, inspired by the Tennessee Williams poem “The Soft City,” *How To Build A City* is a darkly humorous one-woman show about Sasha, the person charged with watching over New Orleans for the past 300 years. The Tricentennial of New Orleans has arrived and Sasha is tasked with defending her work of shaping New Orleans through the centuries as an unexpected guest arrives.

**Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St. Peter Street, \$20 or VIP Pass.**

### **11:30 AM—Literary Discussion**

#### **CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF TOM DENT**

Native New Orleanian Tom Dent (1932-1998) was a founder of the Free Southern Theatre, and a member of Umbra Writers Workshop, which he helped found in New York and which was greatly influential in the Black Arts Movement. He wrote poetry collected in *Blue Lights and River Songs* and *Magnolia Street*, the play *Ritual Murder*, and others. His last work, *Southern Journey: A Return to the Civil Rights Movement*, chronicled his travels to sites in civil rights history. After his death in 1998, he left behind a vast amount of unpublished work. **Kalamu ya Salaam**, editor of the newly published *New Orleans Griot: The Tom Dent Reader*, discusses his friend's legacy with poet/professor **Jerry Ward**, who

contributed an afterword to the volume, along with **Abram Himelstein**, who published the work with University of New Orleans Press.

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

### **12:30 PM—Theater**

#### **“THE UNSATISFACTORY SUPPER” BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

Produced in London in 1971 and described by Williams as his favorite one-act play, “The Unsatisfactory Supper” served as the basis for Williams’ most controversial work, *Baby Doll*. The play was published in *Best One-Act Plays* of 1945. Set in the rural South, Archie Lee and his blowsy wife, Baby Doll, are the unwilling hosts to Aunt Rose, an ancient poor relation who has been passed around among all her relatives without finding a home anywhere. Like Blanche DuBois, she takes refuge with a female relation and her crude husband. A staged reading featuring actors **Brenda Currin, Beth Bartley, and David Hoover**; directed by **Paul J. Willis**. **Beauregard-Keyes House, 1113 Chartres Street, \$15 or VIP Pass.**

### **1 PM—Writer’s Craft Session**

#### **MARTIN SHERMAN: THE LIVING ART OF THEATRE**

Why is a play a work of living art in a way that a piece of literature is not necessarily, or sometimes necessarily not? How does a story reveal to its author that it must be told on the stage—not in a film or a novel? How do playwrights make the internal lives of their characters available to a live audience? These and many other aspects of being a playwright will be discussed when *American Theatre Magazine* founder **Jim O’Quinn** engages in conversation with master American Playwright **Martin Sherman**, award-winning author of *Bent, Rose, The Boy from Oz, Gently Down the Stream*, and the screenplays *Mrs. Henderson Presents, Alive and Kicking, and Tennessee Williams’ The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*.

**The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, \$25, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

### **1 PM—Literary Discussion**

#### **SMALL SCREEN SOUTHS: A WAY OF SEEING OURSELVES**

Who doesn’t have a mental image of the South from a popular TV series, whether it’s *The Andy Griffith Show, Designing Women*, or, more recently, *American Horror Story*? In *Small Screen Souths* (LSU Press) writers explore our notions of region and identity in the cultural politics of television. Panelists include actress and author **Laura Cayouette** and actor **Henry Griffin**, and contributors **Jennie Lightweis-Goff** and **Joanna Davis-McElligatt**, along with moderator **David Johnson** discuss how the South, populated by such rich characters, has always been a great backdrop for drama and tension, sparking conversations in our living rooms and across the nation.

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

### **1 PM—Theater**

#### **LETTERS READ: THE LUCK OF FRIENDSHIP**

Enjoy an intimate look at a Tennessee Williams that only his greatest publisher and dearest friend, James Laughlin, would have known—all through the vehicle of their personal letters to one another. Presented by stationer **Nancy Sharon Collins** and local actors, this staged reading includes selections from the *The Luck of Friendship: The Letters of Tennessee Williams and James Laughlin*, edited by Peggy L. Fox and Thomas Keith. Late in 1942, two strangers formed a friendship over the mutual love for the poetry of Hart Crane, lasting more than 40 years and spanning the robust working relationship between Williams the author and Laughlin his editor and “literary conscience.” James Laughlin founded New Directions publishing house, which remains Williams’ publisher representing some of his greatest works, including *The Glass Menagerie*, his novels, short stories, and other plays. Revealed in these private letters is Laughlin’s patient and trusting guidance managing the creation of some of the finest theatrical works of the 20th century. With emcee **Chris Kaminstein**, New Orleans-based writer, director, performer, and Co-Artistic Director of Goat in the Road Productions.

*LETTERS READ* is a series of live events in which local performing artists interpret personal letters written by culturally vital individuals from various times and New Orleans communities and is an ongoing series presented by stationer Nancy Sharon Collins and Antenna.

**Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St. Peter Street, \$15 or VIP Pass.**

## **2 PM—Walking Tour**

### **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS LITERARY WALKING TOUR CREATED BY DR. KENNETH HOLDITCH**

See page 2 for full description and details.

## **2:30 PM—Writer’s Craft Session**

### **TELLING YOUR TRUTHS: A CONVERSATION WITH DONNA BRAZILE**

New Orleans native, political consultant, and writer Donna Brazile has long been a star on the national political scene; she was the first African-American to run a presidential campaign. In *Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in America*, she talks about her New Orleans roots and the evolution of her political style. Now, in her bestseller, *Hacks: The Inside Story of the Break-ins and Breakdowns that Put Donald Trump in the White House*, she revisits the 2016 election. Join her for an illuminating and wide-ranging interview with celebrated author and New Orleans historian **Patricia Brady**.

**The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, \$25, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

## **2:30 PM—Literary Discussion**

### **BEYOND INSPIRATION: SUSTAINING THE SPIRIT OF YOUR CRAFT**

Four novelists discuss getting their work into the world and sustaining their creative energy through the long commitment of novel writing. **C. Morgan Babst** made a critical mark with her post-Katrina novel, *The Floating World*. **Jennifer Haigh’s** fifth novel, *Heat and Light*, was named a Best Book of 2016 by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and NPR. Gaines Prize-winner **Ladee Hubbard** is the author of *The Talented Ribkins*, inspired by W.E.B. Du Bois’s “The Talented Tenth.” Facilitated by **Maurice Carlos Ruffin**, whose novel, *We Cast a Shadow*, will be published in 2019.

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

## **3:15 PM—Theater**

### **“INTERIOR: PANIC” BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

“Interior: Panic” is an early one-act version of what became *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Blanche, Stanley, and Stella have different names but similar relationships. In this short version, Williams focuses on Blanche Shannon’s disordered mental state: hearing voices, imagining dangers, fabricating reality. Set in a rundown shotgun cottage in New Orleans, the play features weird voices and disturbing images. “Interior: Panic” seems to be the playwright’s expression of his sister Rose’s psychic deterioration. **Robert Bray** will introduce the little-known Williams gem performed by a cast of accomplished young professionals with scripts-in-hand on the set of *Streetcar* in Le Petit Theatre.

**Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St. Peter Street, \$20 or VIP Pass or Scholars’ Conference Pass.**

## **4 PM—TBA LITERARY DISCUSSION**

## **7:30 PM—Theater**

### **A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

Directed by **Maxwell Williams**

The story of Blanche DuBois and her collision with her sensuous and brutal brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski, is as dynamic and searing today as it was when it premiered in 1947. In conjunction with the 32nd annual TW/NOLF, Le Petit Theatre presents New Orleans’ signature play—the Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork by America’s great poet-playwright, Tennessee Williams.

Showing Friday and Saturday at 7:30 PM; and Sunday at 3 PM. Visit [www.lepetittheatre.com](http://www.lepetittheatre.com) or call 504.522.2081 for tickets.

**Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St. Peter Street.**

**7:30 PM—Theater**

**TENNESSEE WILLIAMS DOUBLE BILL**

*Two rarely-seen works paired in a limited engagement, presented by **Southern Rep Theatre** in partnership with the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival.*

**AND TELL SAD STORIES OF THE DEATH OF QUEENS**

Directed by **Ricky Graham**

This production showcases barely contained desires and passions that erupt during a fateful Mardi Gras holiday. Candy, a successful drag queen, picks up a rough sailor and spoils him with money and attention. When he leaves her suddenly, it's up to the two queens who live upstairs to offer consolation.

**THE TWO CHARACTER PLAY**

Directed by **Austin Pendleton** in association with Playhouse Creatures Theatre Company

A brother-and-sister team of touring actors is abandoned in an isolated theatre by their troupe to face an unknown audience. Williams' fugue of a play brilliantly intertwines fantasy and reality as the two enact an illusion within an illusion and come to face the darkest truths about themselves. Tennessee Williams called this his "most beautiful" play since *A Streetcar Named Desire*. **Irene Glezos** (Big Easy nomination for her turn as "Lady" in *Orpheus Descending*) returns to Southern Rep opposite **Joseph W. Rodriguez**.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 PM; Sunday at 3 PM. For tickets, call 504-522-6545 or visit <https://sa1.seatadvisor.com/sabo/servlets/EventSearch?presenter=SOUTHERNREP&event=queens>

**Loyola University, Marquette Theatre, 6363 St. Charles Avenue.**

**8 PM—Theater**

**ONE ARM**

Directed by **Augustin J Correro**

*One Arm* is Moises Kaufman's adaptation of a screenplay by Tennessee Williams, based on his short story of the same title. A navy veteran and boxer who lost his arm in a car accident must resort to hustling on Canal Street to make his living. When a john pushes him too far, though, he finds himself on death row. He escapes into the correspondence of his past clients for spiritual salvation until his number is up. Produced by the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans in conjunction with the TW/NOLF.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 PM; Sunday at 6 PM.

General Admission \$25. Students/Seniors/Theater Professionals: \$20.

Saturday, March 24: \$40 includes a discussion with Moises Kaufman following the performance.

Visit [www.tennesseewilliams.net](http://www.tennesseewilliams.net) or call 504-581-1144 for tickets.

**Zeitgeist Multi-Disciplinary Arts Center, 1618 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard.**

**8 PM—Theater**

**VIEUX CARRE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

Directed by **Dennis Monn**

An aspiring writer (**Christopher Weaver**); a homosexual painter (**Vinsantos Defonte**); a doomed young woman (**Emilie Whelan**) and her Bourbon Street barker lover; two aging "ladies" living in poverty; and the eccentric irrepressible landlady are the lonely inhabitants of the boarding house at 722 Toulouse Street, where the real life Tennessee Williams stayed upon his arrival to New Orleans in 1938. *Vieux Carre*, considered one of Williams' most autobiographical, is a play of echoes and remembrances, a series of engrossing scenes, sometimes brutally candid, sometimes delicately poetic, woven together into a rich and revealing tapestry, glinting with theatricality and throbbing with the feel of life. This production features the live music of Sidney Bechet by Krewe of Bechet. Produced by the AllWays Lounge in partnership with the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 PM; and Sunday at 6 PM.

**AllWays Lounge, 2240 St. Claude Avenue, \$25 table seating or \$20 general admission.**

### **SATURDAY, MARCH 24**

**9 AM— 4 PM**

Box Office, Orleans Room at the Hotel Monteleone

Book Fair, Bonne Carre Room at the Hotel Monteleone

**8 AM—Special Event**

#### **BOOKS & BEIGNETS TW/NOLF BOOK CLUB**

Particularly in light of the 2016 documentary *I Am Not Your Negro*, author and civil rights activist James Baldwin is garnering new attention and appreciation for his astute analyses of race, class, and sexuality in U.S. culture. Our reading group will take up his groundbreaking semi-autobiographical first novel, *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (1953). Attendees are invited to read this seminal text that brought mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century African-American literature out of the shadow of Richard Wright while deftly exploring the post-Civil War Great Migration, its southern roots, its religious inflections, and its generational tensions. The suggested edition is the most recent paperback (ISBN 978-0345806543). Traditional New Orleans fare of coffee and beignets at Muriel's Jackson Square with lively discussion to follow led by Festival favorite and Southern literary scholar **Gary Richards**. Seating is limited to 50 persons; pre-registration is required.

**Muriel's Jackson Square Restaurant, \$25 or VIP Pass.**

**9 AM—Special Event**

#### **THE NEW ORLEANS WRITING MARATHON**

*See page 1 for full description and details.*

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, FREE**

**10 AM—Literary Discussion**

#### **NEW ORLEANS: THE FIRST THREE HUNDRED YEARS—A Tricentennial Discussion**

In this year of reflection and celebration, contributors to this commemorative volume talk about three centuries of fascinating history with volume editor **Errol Laborde**. Panelists and their topics include **Patricia Brady**, Women; **Raphael Cassimere**, Race; **John Kemp**, Art; and **Ian McNulty**, Dining. *Sponsored by Pelican Publishing Company.*

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass or VIP Pass.**

**10 AM—Literary Discussion**

#### **THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF CHILDHOOD**

The accelerating pace of change—just consider the transition from page to screen—affects not only *how* our children read but *what* they read. Children's book authors **Ashley Mace Havird**, **Madaline Herlong**, and **Farrah Penn**, along with children's book editor **Catherine Frank**, all talk about new directions in young adult books, finding ways to empower children within their worlds. **Cheryl McGoey Mathis**, Regional Advisor for the Louisiana/Mississippi Chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators, moderates. *Sponsored by Kathy and Edmund Schrenk.*

**Muriel's Jackson Square Restaurant, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

**10 AM—Literary Discussion**

#### **A LIFE IN PUBLISHING: TALKING WITH PEGGY L. FOX**

New Orleans intellectual property attorney **Marie Breaux** interviews **Peggy L. Fox**, Tennessee Williams' last editor, with a play at the printer when Williams died in 1983. Fox's many roles in publishing include working at New Directions from 1975 and retiring as President and Publisher in 2011. She edited Williams' poetry collection, *Androgyne, Mon Amour*, and the last plays published during his lifetime. After his death she initiated a program of publishing his unpublished works including *Collected*

*Stories, Stopped Rocking and Other Screenplays, Spring Storm, Not about Nightingales* and two volumes of his *Selected Letters*. She also superintended new scholarly editions of William Carlos Williams' poetry as well as various titles by Ezra Pound, H. D. (Hilda Doolittle), Federico García Lorca, and Thomas Merton. Fox worked with Chinese dissident poet Bei Dao, the award-winning translator of ancient Chinese poetry; David Hinton; Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Rosmarie Waldrop, Robert Creeley, Gary Snyder, and Michael McClure; and novelists, both in English (William Herrick and John Hawkes) and in translation (Uwe Timm and Antonio Tabucchi). She is also a Trustee of the Thomas Merton Legacy Trust and the E. E. Cummings Trust, both of which oversee new and reissued publications of these authors. **Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres Street, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass or VIP Pass.**

#### **10 AM—Walking Tour**

##### **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS LITERARY WALKING TOUR CREATED BY DR. KENNETH HOLDITCH**

See page 2 for full description and details.

#### **11 AM—Theater**

##### **HOW TO BUILD A CITY**

Second Star New Orleans presents Big Easy winner **Mary Pauley** in *How To Build a City* by Jessie Strauss. Part of the fourth annual Two For Tennessee, the only recurring original play festival in the New Orleans area, inspired by the Tennessee Williams poem "The Soft City," *How To Build A City* is a darkly humorous one-woman show about Sasha, the person charged with watching over New Orleans for the past 300 years. The Tricentennial of New Orleans has arrived and Sasha is tasked with defending her work shaping New Orleans through the centuries as an unexpected guest arrives.

**Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St. Peter Street, \$20 or VIP Pass.**

#### **11 AM—Master Class**

##### **RICHARD FORD: WHAT MAKES A GOOD WRITER**

Join Pulitzer Prize-winner Richard Ford for this Master Class where he presents thirteen items that make up good writing, all of which he deems important and valuable. He will go through each one, explicating what he means and why they are so vital, citing books and references and sources, all both serious and yet with much amusement. Not only will you get great advice, but you'll be able to ask your questions too!

**Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carré Room, \$25 or VIP Pass.**

#### **11:30 AM—Literary Discussion**

##### **OH, HOW WE DANCE! NEW ORLEANS MOVES!**

From the elaborate choreography of debutante balls to police officers on the street doing an impromptu Wobble to Sean Payton's boogie in the Saints' locker room, dance is an important part of our culture. The authors of three new books examine the history and lively culture of dance in our city. **Kim Vaz-Deville** celebrates the history of the Baby Dolls, **Jennifer Atkins** recounts the complicated history of Carnival balls, and **Karen Celestan** and **Eric Waters** transport us to the world of the second line.

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass or VIP Pass.**

#### **11:30 AM—Literary Discussion**

##### **MENDING FOR MEMORY: NEEDLE, THREAD, WORDS**

Every city has its distinctive subcultures, and in New Orleans, seamstresses and sewers constitute a unique one, cutting across lines of race, class, and gender. In their landmark anthology *Mending for Memory*, **Susan Tucker** and **Lee Meitzen Grue** examine the way this art is woven into the city's culture, from early childhood to Mardi Gras Krewes and royalty and Indian costumes. Contributors **Gina Ferrara** and **Malaika Favorite** discuss their work.

**Muriel's Jackson Square Restaurant, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass or VIP Pass.**

**11:30 AM—Literary Discussion**

**“YOURS EVER, 10”: THE CORRESPONDENCE OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

With the March 2018 publication of *The Luck of Friendship: The Letters of Tennessee Williams and James Laughlin*, there are five volumes of correspondence by the playwright in print. The editors of the new volume, **Peggy L. Fox** and **Thomas Keith**, will be joined by theater director and scholar **Thomas Mitchell** to discuss the complex portrait of the playwright which emerges from the passion, substance, candor, insight, eloquence, and puckish wit in his letters. There is also much in this volume to be learned about both the private and professional life of the man who, as moderator **Andrew Holleran** has written, “could not write a graceless or unmemorable sentence.”

**Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres St., \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass or VIP Pass.**

**1 PM—Literary Discussion**

**NEVER BEHIND US: GOING TO THE PAST FOR GREAT FICTION**

Four novelists with dazzling new books take us back in history for the roots of contemporary dilemmas. **Nathaniel Rich** draws on New Orleans in 1918 and the construction of the Industrial Canal for *King Zeno*, **Tiffany Quay Tyson** plumbs a complicated family legacy in *The Past Is Never*, **Minrose Gwin** goes back to Mississippi for *Promise*, and **Margaret Wilkerson Sexton** explores four decades of family life in New Orleans for *A Kind of Freedom*, nominated for a National Book Award. Moderated by novelist **Bev Marshall**.

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

**1 PM—Literary Discussion**

**PITCH PERFECT: GET YOUR STORY IDEA OUT THERE**

So you’re writing a book and you’re ready to take your idea out for a spin? Make your two-minute pitch to an audience of fellow writers and a panel composed of experts, including **Kathleen Calhoun Nettleton** of Pelican Publishing, **Radclyffe** of Bold Strokes Books, **Abram Himelstein** of UNO Press, and **Susan Larson** of “The Reading Life” for their reactions. Come early to sign up for a spot and stick around to learn how to refine a pitch. *Sponsored by Pelican Publishing Company.*

**Muriel’s Jackson Square Restaurant, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass or VIP Pass.**

**1 PM—Literary Discussion**

**TENNESSEE WILLIAMS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY—RESPONSES, INTERPRETATIONS, PERSPECTIVES**

What does the future hold for the plays of Tennessee Williams? While his plays continue to be performed and still resonate in the popular imagination, the longer his work remains part of our culture, the more it is and will be reconsidered, reimagined, and put under a theatrical microscope. This panel of distinguished theater makers, directors, and playwrights including **Robert Bray**, **Augustin J. Corroero**, **Lisa D’Amour**, and **Maxwell Williams** will contemplate how Williams’s plays are now being, and will be, staged with respect to experimentation, adaptation, expectations, and diversity in casting, as well as the how the lesser-known and later work may affect the public’s appreciation of his greatest plays.

Moderated by **Aimee Hayes**.

**Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres St., \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass or VIP Pass.**

**1:00 PM—Special Event**

**NASTY WOMEN POETS: UNAPOLOGETIC PERFORMANCES**

This reading by contributors to *Nasty Women Poets: An Unapologetic Anthology of Subversive Verse* is by and about women defying limitations and lady-like expectations; women refusing to be “nice girls;” women being formidable and funny; women speaking to power and singing for the good of their souls; women being strong, sexy, strident, super-smart, and stupendous; and women encouraging little girls to

keep dreaming. These poets speak not just to the current political climate and the man who is responsible for its title, but to the stereotypes and trials women have faced dating back to Eve, and to the long history of women resisting those limitations. Co-editor **Julie Kane**, former Louisiana state poet laureate, moderates the reading of **15 incredibly talented women writers and performers**. *Sponsored by Paige Royer and Kerry Clayton.*

**Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carré Room, \$10 or VIP Pass.**

## **2 PM—Walking Tour**

### **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS LITERARY WALKING TOUR CREATED BY DR. KENNETH HOLDITCH**

See page 2 for full description and details.

## **2:30—Theater**

### **“DEAR MR. WILLIAMS” FEATURING BRYAN BATT**

This one-man performance features Bryan Batt in a reading of a show-in-progress. It’s a love letter to New Orleans mingled with passages from Tennessee’s letters, essays, and stories about Nola. Batt (*12 Years A Slave*, *Mad Men*, *Scream: The TV Series*, and *Jeffrey*, among others) shares his love of the city and experienced a coming of age in New Orleans somehow influenced by Williams.

**Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St. Peter Street. \$20 or VIP Pass.**

## **2:30 PM—Literary Discussion**

### **ALL KINDS OF MEMOIR**

The rage for memoir is still going strong, and of course! Memoirs provide a sense of human connection, let us feel we're not alone. And writers approach the form in a variety of ways. In her new book, **Beth Ann Fennelly** talks about micro-memoir, **Anne Gisleon** tells her story through the framework of the Existential Crisis Reading Group, and **Rick Bragg** and **Minrose Gwin** make art out of family stories. See how these writers master the art of self-revelation to take audiences along on a personal journey.

Moderated by the author of the memoir *My Bayou, New Orleans Through the Eyes of a Lover*, **Constance Adler**.

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass or VIP Pass.**

## **2:30 PM—Literary Discussion**

### **A TALK WITH TENNESSEE**

The documentary *A Conversation with Tennessee Williams in New Orleans* includes excerpts from longtime WWL-TV anchor Eric Paulsen’s 1981 interview with the playwright. This documentary, produced by WYES-TV producer **Peggy Scott Laborde**, focuses on Williams’ love of and experiences in the city, where he lived off and on from 1939 until his death in 1983. Laborde will interview **Eric Paulsen** concerning his memories of Williams following a presentation of the documentary.

**Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres Street, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass or VIP Pass.**

## **4 PM—Literary Discussion**

### **CHINESE PLACE AND IDENTITY IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH**

From the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 through the Civil Rights Era, Chinese immigrants have been at the center of the national debate over what makes an American. For generations, national immigration policy has shaped the lives of Chinese Americans. In this panel, the speakers will discuss how communities were shaped by restrictive immigration policies, examining migration patterns of Chinese in the American South from both a geographical and social perspective. Panelists include **Adrienne Berard** and **Shaolu Yu**. Moderated by TBD. *Sponsored by the Confucius Institute at Xavier University of Louisiana.*

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

#### **4 PM—Special Event**

##### **A CONVERSATION WITH BLITHE SPIRIT, BLYTHE DANNER!**

Festival favorite **Foster Hirsch** interviews the versatile and beloved actress and activist **Blythe Danner**, focusing on two acclaimed performances in major roles by Tennessee Williams: Alma Winemiller in *Eccentricities of a Nightingale* (television, 1976) and as Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Tony-nominated performance on Broadway, 1998). But expect to hear anecdotes about her wide-ranging career in comedy and drama on stage and screen as well. Danner won the Tony Award for *Butterflies Are Free* and received Tony nominations for the first Broadway revival of *Follies* and for Pinter's *Betrayal*. She has also appeared on Broadway in *Blithe Spirit*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Miser*, and *The Country House*. She won two Emmy awards for appearances on *Huff* and was nominated for her role on *Will and Grace*. Among her many film and television credits are three films for Woody Allen, *1776*, *Meet the Parents*, and *Sylvia*, in which she appeared with her daughter, Gwyneth Paltrow. Offstage she has spoken out on environmental concerns for more than 40 years as a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists and other groups, and she serves on the national board of Planned Parenthood. Since the death of her husband, director and producer Bruce Paltrow, from oral cancer, she has also been helping the Oral Cancer Foundation raise disease awareness.

**Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St. Peter Street, \$20 or VIP Pass**

#### **6 PM—Special Event**

##### **LEAH CHASE: INTERVIEW WITH A NATIONAL TREASURE AND LIVING LEGEND**

From Civil Rights activists, entertainers, presidents and dignitaries, to Tennessee Williams himself, Leah Chase has fed their bellies and nourished their souls. Come listen to this beloved icon in conversation with journalist and television personality **Sheba Turk**, reflect on her life, business, and the people in her world, through the food that brought them all together in a tapestry of memories that covers almost a third of New Orleans history. In her own words, “Well, it's been up and down, as I tell people. Like Langston Hughes said, it sure ain't been no crystal staircase, but it's always fun. People come and they say, well, Leah, you fed this president . . . but presidents come and go. It's that everyday customer that comes and tell you--like . . . one lady said, 'I remember coming here when I was in high school.' So that is a good feeling for me, you know, that people remember me . . . I couldn't live, honey, without people.”—Chef Leah Chase with Michel Martin on NPR's *Tell Me More*.

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 or VIP Pass.**

#### **7:30 PM—Theater**

##### **A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

Directed by **Maxwell Williams**

The story of Blanche DuBois and her collision with her sensuous and brutal brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski, is as dynamic and searing today as it was when it premiered in 1947. In conjunction with the 32nd annual TW/NOLF, Le Petit Theatre presents New Orleans' signature play—the Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork by America's great poet-playwright, Tennessee Williams.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 PM; and Sunday at 3 PM. Visit [www.lepetittheatre.com](http://www.lepetittheatre.com) or call 504.522.2081 for tickets.

**Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St. Peter Street.**

#### **7:30 PM—Theater**

##### **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS DOUBLE BILL**

Two rarely-seen works paired in a limited engagement, presented by **Southern Rep Theatre** in partnership with the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival.

## **AND TELL SAD STORIES OF THE DEATH OF QUEENS**

Directed by **Ricky Graham**

This production showcases barely contained desires and passions that erupt during a fateful Mardi Gras holiday. Candy, a successful drag queen, picks up a rough sailor and spoils him with money and attention. When he leaves her suddenly, it's up to the two queens who live upstairs to offer consolation.

### **THE TWO CHARACTER PLAY**

Directed by **Austin Pendleton** in association with Playhouse Creatures Theatre Company

A brother-and-sister team of touring actors is abandoned in an isolated theatre by their troupe to face an unknown audience. Williams' fugue of a play brilliantly intertwines fantasy and reality as the two enact an illusion within an illusion and come to face the darkest truths about themselves. Tennessee Williams called this his "most beautiful" play since *A Streetcar Named Desire*. **Irene Glezos** (Big Easy nomination for her turn as "Lady" in *Orpheus Descending*) returns to Southern Rep opposite **Joseph W. Rodriguez**.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 PM; Sunday at 3 PM. For tickets, call 504-522-6545 or visit <https://sa1.seatadvisor.com/sabo/servlets/EventSearch?presenter=SOUTHERNREP&event=queens>

**Loyola University, Marquette Theatre, 6363 St. Charles Avenue.**

## **8 PM—Theater**

### **ONE ARM**

Directed by **Augustin J Correro**

*One Arm* is Moises Kaufman's adaptation of a screenplay by Tennessee Williams, based on his short story of the same title. A navy veteran and boxer who lost his arm in a car accident must resort to hustling on Canal Street to make his living. When a john pushes him too far, though, he finds himself on death row. He escapes into the correspondence of his past clients for spiritual salvation until his number is up. Produced by the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans in conjunction with the TW/NOLF.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 PM; Sunday at 6 PM.

General Admission \$25. Students/Seniors/Theater Professionals: \$20.

Saturday, March 24: \$40 includes a discussion with Moises Kaufman following the performance.

Visit [www.tennesseewilliams.net](http://www.tennesseewilliams.net) or call 504-581-1144 for tickets.

**Zeitgeist Multi-Disciplinary Arts Center, 1618 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard.**

## **8 PM—Theater**

### **VIEUX CARRE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

Directed by **Dennis Monn**

An aspiring writer (**Christopher Weaver**); a homosexual painter (**Vinsantos Defonte**); a doomed young woman (**Emilie Whelan**) and her Bourbon Street barker lover; two aging "ladies" living in poverty; and the eccentric irrepressible landlady are the lonely inhabitants of the boarding house at 722 Toulouse Street, where the real life Tennessee Williams stayed upon his arrival to New Orleans in 1938. *Vieux Carre*, considered one of Williams' most autobiographical, is a play of echoes and remembrances, a series of engrossing scenes, sometimes brutally candid, sometimes delicately poetic, woven together into a rich and revealing tapestry, glinting with theatricality and throbbing with the feel of life. This production features the live music of Sidney Bechet by Krewe of Bechet. Produced by the AllWays Lounge in partnership with the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 PM; and Sunday at 6 PM.

**AllWays Lounge, 2240 St. Claude Avenue, \$25 table seating or \$20 general admission.**

## **Sunday, March 25**

**9 AM – 3 PM**

Box Office, Orleans Room at the Hotel Monteleone  
Book Fair, Bonne Carre Room

### **DRUMMER AND SMOKE: MUSIC EVENTS AT THE PALM COURT JAZZ CAFÉ, 1204 Decatur Street**

*Sponsored by the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation Community Partnership Grants.*

**11:30 AM—Music Event**

#### **THE POETRY OF HANK WILLIAMS WITH MUSICIAN SPENCER BOHREN**

**Spencer Bohren's** lifelong fascination with America's musical roots led him to New Orleans in the 1970s and the city's legendary spirit has been seeping into his repertoire of original and traditional blues, country, gospel and folk songs ever since. A world renowned lapsteel player, Spencer is also a virtuoso guitarist, songwriter, visual artist, educator and storyteller. For this year's festival, Spencer celebrates the simple beauty of Hank Williams' timeless songs and tells stories that place the beloved country singer firmly within the pantheon of mythic southern poets and writers. **\$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

**1:00 PM—Music Event**

#### **WHAT WAS PLAYING ON TENNESSEE'S VICTROLA?**

**The Pfister Sisters (Holley Bendtsen, Karen Stoehr and Yvette Voelker, with pianist Amasa Miller)** bring their unique experimental rhythms and intricate harmonies that harken to the hot jazz scene of the 1920's and 30's. Steeped in jazz history, they carry on the sweet-hot vocal harmony indigenous to New Orleans created by our own jazz visionaries, the Boswell Sisters, Connee, Martha, and Vet, in the 1920's. When The Pfister Sisters learned that Tennessee Williams danced from childhood with his sister Rose to music playing on their Victrola, wrote with music playing, and was one of the first playwrights to specify music in his plays, they developed this program of the kind of music he might have been listening to and influenced by. **\$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

**2:30 PM—Music Event**

#### **NEW ORLEANS JAZZ: CREOLE, CARIBBEAN, AND THE CRESCENT CITY**

Cultural traditions exemplify the rich varied roots in the City of New Orleans. But culture resides in the people who have lived their lives within it. Sharing a Creole family heritage, banjo/guitarist **Don Vappie** and bassist **Richard Moten** will perform and speak about New Orleans music encompassing jazz, Creole, and Caribbean songs that define the important social relationship existing within the Crescent City culture. **\$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

### **THE NEW ORLEANS WRITING MARATHON**

*See page 1 for full description and details.*

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, FREE**

**10 AM—Literary Discussion**

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS: THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES**

This panel brings together writers and activists who have been on the frontlines of the human rights struggle for years to talk about gains and losses. **Calvin Trillin's** civil rights journalism has been collected in *Jackson, 1964: And Other Dispatches from Fifty Years of Reporting on Race in America*. **Elizabeth F. Schwartz** served as co-counsel on the case challenging Florida's same-sex marriage ban brought by the National Center for Lesbian Rights on behalf of six same-sex couples seeking the right to marry (*Pareto v. Ruvin*). Loyola University professor **Uriel Quesada** is the author of eight books of fiction, including *Mar Canibal* (2016) and editor of *Queer Brown Voices: 14 Personal Narratives of Latina/o Activism*.

Moderated by **Tania Tetlow**, Chief of Staff and Senior VP of Tulane University and Felder-Fayard Professor of Law, whose research focuses on unconstitutional race and gender discrimination against the victims of crimes. *Sponsored in part by the Ethel & Herman L. Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies at the University of New Orleans.*

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass or VIP Pass.**

#### **10 AM—Literary Discussion**

##### **NEW ORLEANS AND THE WORLD, 1718-2018, THE TRICENTENNIAL ANTHOLOGY—A Tricentennial Discussion**

Contributors to the new landmark anthology from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities discuss the ways New Orleans cemented its reputation as a world capital. Panelists including journalist and publisher **Jack Davis**, **Dr. Robert Dupont** of the University of New Orleans, independent scholar **Freddi Williams Evans**, **Dr. Kara Tucina Olidge** of the Amistad Research Center, **Zella Palmer** of Dillard University, and **Dr. Lawrence Powell**, professor emeritus at Tulane University discuss their contributions with **Dr. Nancy Dixon** of Dillard University, Executive Editor.

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass or VIP Pass.**

#### **10 AM—Walking Tour**

##### **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS LITERARY WALKING TOUR CREATED BY DR. KENNETH HOLDITCH**

See page 2 for full description and details.

#### **11 AM—Culinary Event**

##### **HIS MOMMA 'N'EM: TALKING WITH RICK BRAGG ABOUT FOOD**

*New Orleans Advocate* food writer **Ian McNulty** talks with **Rick Bragg** about his forthcoming food memoir/cookbook, *The Best Cook in the World: Tales from My Momma's Table*. Who doesn't love Margaret Bragg already, thanks to her son's loving tributes? This new book focuses on food and family, and includes 75 recipes that will make you want to head home for your own kitchen and get to it. Includes samples, and as always with Rick Bragg, we get a celebration of the South and its great stories. "Good food always has a good story, and a recipe is a story like anything else," Bragg writes. Bring on the red-eye gravy!

**Venue TBA, \$20 or VIP Pass.**

#### **11 AM—Theater**

##### **STAGED READING OF THE 2018 FESTIVAL ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST WINNER**

The Festival is proud to showcase the winning play of this year's One-Act Play Contest through a dynamic staged reading of the script. The winner receives a \$1500 cash prize. This event is presented by the University of New Orleans Department of Film and Theatre under the direction of **David W. Hoover**. The Creative Writing Workshop (MFA Program) at the University of New Orleans administers and coordinates the competition and judging. Pulitzer-prize finalist playwright, **Lisa D'Amour**, was this year's judge. *Our one-act contest was sponsored by The Favrot-Van Horn Fund.*

**Hotel Monteleone, La Nouvelle Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

#### **11:30 AM—Literary Discussion**

##### **"IF THE WRITING IS HONEST"—PLAYWRIGHTS DISCUSS THEIR PASSIONS, THEIR POLITICS, AND THEIR PEOPLE**

Tennessee Williams wrote: "If the writing is honest it cannot be separated from the [person] who wrote it." The three playwrights on this panel are well known for exploring and representing gay and lesbian characters, their stories, and their history. **Jewelle Gomez** (*Bones and Ash, Waiting for Giovanni*), **Moisés Kaufman** (*Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde, 33 Variations*), and **Martin Sherman** (*The Boy from Oz, Bent*) will discuss the impulses and influences behind their plays, the writers and

performers who inspire them, and the prevalence and diversity of plays by and about gay men and lesbians in contemporary theater.

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass or VIP Pass.**

### **11:30 AM—Literary Discussion**

#### **THE NEXT 300: TELLING NEW STORIES ABOUT NEW ORLEANS & ITS PAST**

In the year of the city's Tricentennial—after two years of conflict over Confederate monuments and decades of individual efforts to tell silenced and forgotten histories about the city's past—there is a vibrant movement afoot to produce new, more inclusive histories of New Orleans. Join historian **Mary Niall Mitchell** from the Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies at UNO as she moderates a discussion with **Laine Kaplan-Levenson**, producer and voice of WWNO's popular podcast *Tripod: New Orleans at 300* (in collaboration with The Historic New Orleans Collection and the Midlo Center); **Sue Mobley** from Tulane's Small Center for Collaborative Design and co-leader of the Paper Monuments project; and **Dr. Elizabeth Steeby** from UNO's English Department, co-editor of the *People's Guide to New Orleans*, part of a series of city guides to be published by University of California Press. *Sponsored in part by the Ethel & Herman L. Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies at the University of New Orleans.*

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass or VIP Pass.**

### **1 PM—Literary Discussion**

#### **MY FAVORITE MISTAKE**

These writers, who all write intricately plotted, bestselling novels, know what it's like to plunge down the wrong path from time to time. They talk about what can be learned from mistakes, the pain of recognizing that a work-in-progress has serious flaws, and how big blunders can lead to big breakthroughs. Hear **Jami Attenberg**, **Alison Gaylin**, and **Laura Lippman** talk about their wrong turns with moderator **Alison Fensterstock**. *Sponsored in part by the Pinckley Prizes.*

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

### **1 PM—Literary Discussion**

#### **A PANEL OF POETS LAUREATE**

In this panel, moderated by poet **Jericho Brown**, we'll hear from **Jennifer Horne**, poet laureate of Alabama; **Jack Bedell**, poet laureate of Louisiana; and **Beth Ann Fennelly**, poet laureate of Mississippi. The poets will read from their work, talk about the special inspiration of place, and illuminate the responsibilities and rewards of being a state poet laureate.

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

### **1PM—Special Event**

Broadway veteran **Joel Vig** returns to the Festival with "Truman Talks Tennessee." In this one-man show of his own creation, Vig plays Truman Capote near the end of his life as he recalls his friendship with America's greatest playwright. Both Capote and Williams were as eccentric as they were unforgettable, and the story of their friendship (with a wild supporting cast of famous friends and enemies) is as outrageous and bizarre as anything that either of them ever wrote. It is particularly appropriate that this piece will happen in New Orleans, Capote's hometown, and at the Hotel Monteleone, which Capote loved to claim as the site where he was conceived. With an introduction by **Peggy Scott Laborde**.

**Hotel Montelone, La Nouvelle Ballroom, \$20 or VIP Pass.**

### **2 PM—Walking Tour**

#### **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS LITERARY WALKING TOUR CREATED BY DR. KENNETH HOLDITCH**

See page 2 for full description and details.

### **2:30 PM—Literary Discussion/Interview**

### **CALVIN TRILLIN IN CONVERSATION WITH ERROL LABORDE**

Two old friends discuss their shared and yet wide-ranging experiences—the challenges of journalism today, including covering serious issues from Civil Rights to contemporary politics, to writing with a light touch (Trillin is the deadline poet for *The Nation*). The two have shared many meals together, so there will be talk of great New Orleans food, of course. No one loves New York like **Calvin Trillin** and no one loves New Orleans like **Errol Laborde**, so expect to hear some local pride as well. Trillin, known for his witty and insightful writing for *The New Yorker*, has written fiction, memoir, and great works of social commentary; his most recent book is *Jackson, 1964: And Other Dispatches from Fifty Years of Reporting on Race in America*.

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

### **2:30 PM—Theater**

#### **"BEAUTY IS THE WORD" AND "HOT MILK AT THREE IN THE MORNING" BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

##### **A Staged Reading by The NOLA Project**

Before *A Streetcar Named Desire* or *The Glass Menagerie*, there were "Beauty is the Word" and "Hot Milk at Three in the Morning." And before he went by Tennessee, playwright Thomas Lanier Williams was a student at the University of Missouri. "Beauty is the Word" was Williams' first play, winning an honorable mention and stage production for Williams in the MU Dramatic Arts Club's Dramatic Prize Plays contest in 1930. Over the course of one act, two young and worldly lovers of art and beauty visit their strict missionary relatives somewhere in the South Pacific. When the natives revolt and threaten to burn down the mission, the young couple saves the day through dance and music. "Hot Milk at Three in the Morning" was Williams' second submission to the Dramatic Prize Plays contest, which also received an honorable mention and was staged in 1932. The play focuses on an argument between a young married couple who are trapped by poverty and illness. Williams revised the play in 1940, titling it "Moony's Kid Don't Cry."

**Hotel Monteleone, La Nouvelle Ballroom, \$20 or VIP Pass.**

### **2:30 PM—Literary Discussion**

#### **SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES: TELLING THEIR STORIES**

Sometimes it takes a village. And that village needs a storyteller. Some of the best Southern writing illuminates place and people; three veteran writers talk about their experiences in writing about communities. **Karen Cox**, in *Goat Castle*, investigates a murder and its effect on an entire town; **Sara Ann Harris** shows us a different side of Louisiana culture in *Dance Halls of Spanish Louisiana*, and **Adrienne Berard**, in *Water Tossing Boulders*, chronicles the struggle of Chinese immigrants to desegregate schools in the Mississippi Delta. Moderator documentary film maker **Kevin McCaffery**.

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass, Combo Pass, or VIP Pass.**

### **2:30 PM—Special Event**

#### **WRITING MARATHON READINGS**

Participants in any of the three Writing Marathons are invited to read their marathon writing.

**Hotel Monteleone, Gallier Room. Free and open to the public.**

### **3 PM—Theater**

#### **A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE by Tennessee Williams**

Directed by **Maxwell Williams**

The story of Blanche DuBois and her collision with her sensuous and brutal brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski, is as dynamic and searing today as it was when it premiered in 1947. In conjunction with the 32nd annual TW/NOLF, Le Petit Theatre presents New Orleans' signature play—the Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece by America's great poet-playwright, Tennessee Williams.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 PM, and Sunday at 3 PM.

Visit [www.lepetittheatre.com](http://www.lepetittheatre.com) or call 504.522.2081 for tickets.

**Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St. Peter Street.**

**3 PM—Theater**

**TENNESSEE WILLIAMS DOUBLE BILL**

*Two rarely-seen works paired in a limited engagement, presented by Southern Rep Theatre in partnership with the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival.*

**AND TELL SAD STORIES OF THE DEATH OF QUEENS**

Directed by **Ricky Graham**

This production showcases barely contained desires and passions that erupt during a fateful Mardi Gras holiday. Candy, a successful drag queen, picks up a rough sailor and spoils him with money and attention. When he leaves her suddenly, it's up to the two queens who live upstairs to offer consolation.

**THE TWO CHARACTER PLAY**

Directed by **Austin Pendleton** in association with Playhouse Creatures Theatre Company

A brother-and-sister team of touring actors is abandoned in an isolated theatre by their troupe to face an unknown audience. Williams' fugue of a play brilliantly intertwines fantasy and reality as the two enact an illusion within an illusion and come to face the darkest truths about themselves. Tennessee Williams called this his "most beautiful" play since *A Streetcar Named Desire*. **Irene Glezos** (Big Easy nomination for her turn as "Lady" in *Orpheus Descending*) returns to Southern Rep opposite **Joseph W. Rodriguez**.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 PM; Sunday at 3 PM. For tickets, call 504-522-6545 or visit <https://sa1.seatadvisor.com/sabo/servlets/EventSearch?presenter=SOUTHERNREP&event=queens>

**Loyola University, Marquette Theatre, 6363 St. Charles Avenue.**

**4:15 PM—Special Event**

**STELLA AND STANLEY SHOUTING CONTEST**

Contestants vie to rival Stanley Kowalski's shout for "STELLAAAAA!!!" in the unforgettable scene from *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Women are welcome to join in and yell for Stanley (or Stella) as the NOLA Project's Cecile Monteyne provides inspiration on the Jackson Square balcony as our Stella. Celebrity judges will choose five finalists and declare a new winner. Prizes awarded.

*Sponsored by Gulf Coast Bank and Trust Co. and The New Orleans Advocate.*

**Jackson Square, Free and open to the public.**

**6 PM—Theater**

**ONE ARM**

Directed by **Augustin J Correro**

*One Arm* is Moises Kaufman's adaptation of a screenplay by Tennessee Williams, based on his short story of the same title. A navy veteran and boxer who lost his arm in a car accident must resort to hustling on Canal Street to make his living. When a john pushes him too far, though, he finds himself on death row. He escapes into the correspondence of his past clients for spiritual salvation until his number is up. Produced by the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans in conjunction with the TW/NOLF.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 PM; Sunday at 6 PM.

General Admission \$25. Students/Seniors/Theater Professionals: \$20.

Saturday, March 24: \$40 includes a discussion with Moises Kaufman following the performance.

Visit [www.tennesseewilliams.net](http://www.tennesseewilliams.net) or call 504-581-1144 for tickets.

**Zeitgeist Multi-Disciplinary Arts Center, 1618 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard.**

**6 PM—Theater**

**VIEUX CARRE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

Directed by **Dennis Monn**

An aspiring writer (**Christopher Weaver**); a homosexual painter (**Vinsantos Defonte**); a doomed young woman (**Emilie Whelan**) and her Bourbon Street barker lover; two aging "ladies" living in poverty; and the eccentric irrepressible landlady are the lonely inhabitants of the boarding house at 722 Toulouse Street, where the real life Tennessee Williams stayed upon his arrival to New Orleans in 1938. *Vieux Carre*, considered one of Williams' most autobiographical, is a play of echoes and remembrances, a series of engrossing scenes, sometimes brutally candid, sometimes delicately poetic, woven together into a rich and revealing tapestry, glinting with theatricality and throbbing with the feel of life. This production features the live music of Sidney Bechet by Krewe of Bechet. Produced by the AllWays Lounge in partnership with the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 PM and Sunday at 6 PM.  
**AllWays Lounge, 2240 St. Claude Avenue, \$25 table seating or \$20 general admission.**