

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival

Wednesday, March 27

### 7 - 10 PM—Opening Night Event

#### ***A Confederacy of Dunces: Off the Page onto the Stage***

A Theatrical Adaptation from the Pulitzer Prize novel by John Kennedy Toole  
The characters from the novel spring to vibrant life in this production, complete with projections, music and costumes. Adapted by **Dr. Kenneth Holditch** with additional material written by **Francine Segal**.

Follow the misadventures of the eccentric Ignatius J. Reilly, played by **Charlie Talbert**.  
Theatrically Conceived and Directed by **Francine Segal**, the cast includes **Kate Adair, Tracey Collins, Edward R. Cox, Kyle Daigrepoint, Zeb Hollins III, Vatican Lokey, Marie Lovejoy, Jo-Ann Testa, Francine Segal**, and **Brenda Currin as Thelma Toole**.

This special opening night event includes a 1960's Party with food and cocktails at 7 PM. Guests are invited to dress in early 1960s fashion for Best Costume Award. The show starts at 8 PM, followed by a dynamic interview with **Dr. Kenneth Holditch**, who is being honored.

(Additional performances Saturday, March 30 at 3 PM and 6:30 PM, \$30 or VIP Pass)

**George and Joyce Wein Jazz and Heritage Center, \$50 or VIP Pass**

### 7:30 - 9:30 PM—Theater

#### **Southern Rep Theatre presents**

#### **World Premiere of *Azul* by New Orleans native Christina Quintana**

Presented in partnership with Saints + Sinners Literary Festival, a project of the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival

At age nine, Yadra left Castro's Cuba. Now, as Alzheimer's sets in, her mind returns to that time and place, bringing family secrets to light. Spanning two countries and three generations, playwright Christina Quintana's evocative new play fuses music and memory to ask: what is the true language of love? Tickets available at [www.southernrep.com](http://www.southernrep.com)

**Southern Rep Theatre**

Thursday, March 28

### 9 AM - 4 PM at the Hotel Monteleone

Box Office (Queen Anne B) at the Hotel Monteleone

### 10 AM Daily

OFF THE BEATEN WAY GALLERY, 1029 Royal Street, is hosting "Tennessee's New Orleans," an exhibit of Tennessee Williams portraits, paintings of his homes in the Quarter, and other strikingly evocative New Orleans images, created by TW/NOLF friend and performer Travis Michael Holder, who has appeared in various events with us over the years. A portion of all sales will go to benefit the Festival. Open daily at 10 AM and late during the Festival days.

### 9 - 10:15 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. For

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

### **Writing Marathons begin at 9 AM on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday**

#### **Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom**

**Writing Marathon Readings:** Participants in any of the three Writing Marathons are invited to read their writing at a celebration on Sunday, March 31, at 2:30 PM in the Hotel Monteleone, Orleans C.

### **9 - 10:15 AM—Writer’s Craft Session**

#### **HE SAID, SHE SAID: SCENE BUILDING THROUGH COMPELLING DIALOGUE**

As a great dramatist and short story writer, Tennessee Williams understood the power of the spoken word to reveal character, underscore theme, and heighten conflict. Join the New Orleans Writers Workshop for this Williams-inspired session designed to get your characters talking. Drawing from William’s example, we’ll first explore the finer points of creating effective dialogue and exploiting its dramatic potential, followed by a guided scene-building exercise centered on dialogue. Participants can expect to leave with a compelling, lifelike exchange between two or more characters and a better understanding of how to make dialogue meaningful to the work as a whole. Writers of all levels welcome! Led by authors **Allison Alsup**, **Tom Andes**, and **Jessica Kinnison** from the New Orleans Writer’s Workshop.

**Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25, VIP Pass, or Combo Pass**

### **10 AM - 12 PM—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.

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Parlor, \$25 or VIP Pass**

### **10:30 - 11:45 AM—Writer’s Craft Session**

#### **BETWEEN PIETY AND DESIRE: WRITING NEW ORLEANS**

In New Orleans, folks can say they live—literally—between Piety and Desire. As Tennessee Williams and scores of other authors have demonstrated, setting is one of the writer’s greatest tools, not merely for building flavor or as a backdrop but as a tool for developing character in an unfolding story. In this generative creative writing session, suitable for tourists and locals alike, we’ll talk about the lure of New Orleans and explore ways to find fresh takes on one of America’s most mythic cities. Participants can expect to leave with at least one scene built from the ground-up, looking closely at the sensory impressions, rhythms, and specific, accurate details of the worlds in which their characters live. Writers of all levels welcome. Led by authors **Allison Alsup**, **Tom Andes**, and **Jessica Kinnison** from the New Orleans Writer’s Workshop.

**Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25, VIP Pass, or Combo Pass**

### **1 - 2:15 PM—Writer’s Craft Session**

#### **DIRTY, SEXY: THE ART OF WRITING EROTICA**

For some of us, the sex we have in our heads is far better than the sex we have in our beds. This writer's craft session led by **Bernice McFadden** will help you transfer those sexy scenarios onto the page. All are welcome, including the strumpet who knows how to please her partner and the prude who wishes she could. Leave your inhibitions at the door, but please do bring pen, paper, an open mind, and a moist towelette.

**Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25, VIP Pass, or Combo Pass**

### **1 - 2:15 PM—Theater**

#### **EVERYONE EXPECTS ME TO WRITE ANOTHER *STREETCAR***

**Jeremy Lawrence** revives his much heralded piece drawn from the words and works of Tennessee Williams, including anecdotes and musings about his battle with critics when “the streetcar named success” stopped running, even as he explored new forms because conventional ones could no longer contain “the mad music of his characters.” This most personal of playwrights cannot help but move into a confessional mode as he talks about his coming out and the loss of his lover, Frank Merlo, which precipitated his breakdown. The piece climaxes with the poem “What’s Next on the Agenda, Mr. Williams?” In the spirit of his battle cry, “En avant!”, we are assured that the agenda is quite full and there is much more work to come.

**Beauregard-Keyes House, \$20 or VIP Pass**

### **2 - 4 PM—Walking Tour**

#### **SAINTS AND SINNERS LITERARY 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 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. Tours at 2 PM Thursday, 11:30 AM Friday, and 1 PM Saturday.

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby, \$25 or VIP Pass.**

### **2:30 - 3:30 PM—Theater**

#### **TWO FOR TENNESSEE PRESENTS “TRICKS IN MY POCKET”**

Conceived by director Harold Gervais, **Two For Tennessee** is continuing series of original one act plays inspired by the life and legacy of Tennessee Williams. This year we feature new plays by Becky Retz (Friday) and Leslie Nipkow.

“Tricks in My Pocket” by Emmy & Writers Guild of America-winning playwright **Leslie Nipkow** It is May 11, 1977 and Vieux Carré has just received its Broadway opening. So why is Tennessee Williams to be found in a bathroom at the after party and why is he stuck in there with the 37th President of the United States, Richard Milhous Nixon? **Bob Edes, Jr.** is Tennessee Williams and **Jeff Robins** is Richard Nixon under the direction of **Harold Gervais**.

**Beauregard-Keyes House, \$15 or VIP Pass**

### **2:30 - 3:45 PM—Writer's Craft Session**

#### **HOW TO START AND MAINTAIN A WRITER'S GROUP**

“Find your tribe.” That’s advice most writers can use. But how to go about it? How do you gather just the right group of people to support your writing? **Lisa Herrington** gives advice on just that, and she should know. She’s the founder of Bayou Writers Club with 349 members

who meet every two weeks in groups to cheer each other on and work on professional development. **Tad Bartlett**, a founding member of one of the New Orleans' best-known writers groups, The Peauxdunque Writers Alliance, talks about how that group sustains its strong ties through meetings, critiques, and writing retreats.

**Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25, VIP Pass, or Combo Pass**

### **3 - 5 PM—Walking Tour**

#### **HISTORIC STORYVILLE WALKING TOUR**

Join Dianne "Gumbo Marie" Honoré on this unique, intriguing walk through parts of what was once the most notorious red-light district in the country, Storyville. Hear stories of cribs, chippies, the Tango Belt, and the last madam, along with the mayhem each night brought forth. Louis Armstrong referred to his childhood neighborhood of Black Storyville as the "worst" area in the city during Jim Crow-era New Orleans. It was also home to the beginnings of Jazz, popular music joints, second lines, the birth of the baby dolls Mardi Gras tradition, and Jelly Roll Morton's other profession. We stop along the way for a refreshing cocktail! Approximately 2 hours. Thursday and Friday at 3 PM and 10 AM on Saturday, \$25 or VIP Pass. Cocktail cost not included. Extended tour with traditional New Orleans second line parade on Saturday at 5 PM, \$35 or VIP Pass.

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby, \$25 or VIP Pass**

### **6:30 - 9 PM—Special Event**

#### **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS TRIBUTE READING: BEFORE HE WAS TENNESSEE**

Our Tribute Reading offers the rare opportunity to hear literary gems by an unknown writer named Thomas Lanier Williams, called Tom by his family. Young Tom was terribly shy, but when his mother bought him a used typewriter for his 12<sup>th</sup> Christmas, he began to write every day. He wrote letters and entered contests, and published his first story, a fantastic fiction of revenge in *Weird Tales* at age 17. He composed poems in the style of Edna St. Vincent Millay and penned a series of articles about a life-changing trip to Europe with his grandfather for his school newspaper. As a college freshman, he placed 6<sup>th</sup> in a contest with his one-act play, "Beauty is the Word," which propelled him to write more plays until one of them, *Cairo, Shanghai, Bombay!* was performed in a neighbor's backyard when he was 24. Just four years later, as he submitted some plays to a contest in New York, he changed his name to Tennessee, and within 10 years he would go on to change the American theater. Featuring Festival headliners and a cadre of Williams aficionados; curated by TWNOLF executive director **Paul J. Willis** and Williams editor and scholar **Thomas Keith**. Pre-party at 6:30. Performance at 7:30.

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

**New Orleans Jazz Museum at the Old U.S. Mint, \$35 or VIP Pass**

### **7 - 9:30 PM—Special Event**

#### **POETRY SLAM +**

#### **SAINTS AND SINNERS LIVE AT THE ACE HOTEL**

The Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival presents a Poetry Slam competition with poets **Greg Brownderville** and **Judy Grahn** as judges and cash prizes. Poetry Slam sponsored by **Paige Royer**.

Then Saints and Sinners Live kicks off with storytelling by local troupe, **Greetings from Queer Mountain**. The evening ends with a Saints and Sinners-themed Drag Show hosted by New Orleans drag icon **Vinsantos**.

**Ace Hotel, \$10 or VIP Pass, \$5 for students**

**7:30 - 9:30 PM—Theater**

**Southern Rep Theatre presents**

**World Premiere of *Azul* by New Orleans native Christina Quintana**

**7:30 - 9 PM—Theater**

**Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré presents**

***Baby Doll***

The regional premiere *Baby Doll* is based on Tennessee Williams' one-act play "27 Wagons Full of Cotton" and the controversial 1956 film. Set in the sweltering summer heat of 1950s Mississippi, this dark comedy is a game of cat and mouse that explores the desires, desperation, and prejudices of two rival cotton gin owners and their attempts to seduce a young bride called Baby Doll after a suspected act of arson.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 7:30 PM; Sunday, 3 PM

**Tickets available at [www.lepetittheatre.com](http://www.lepetittheatre.com)**

**8 - 9:30 PM—Theater**

**The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans presents:**

***Suddenly Last Summer* by Tennessee Williams**

The Garden District proves to be a predatory ecosystem when Violet Venable (Big Easy Theatre Award Winner Gwendolyne Foxworth), a formidable matriarch sets out to exact revenge on Catharine Holly (Elizabeth McCoy). Truth, deceit and horror intermingle in an overgrown jungle of a garden where Catharine struggles for her life. What horrible secrets are locked in Catharine's head, and why is Violet so determined to silence them...and could it be that Violet is the victim, and that Catharine is the hunter? TWTC will immerse audiences in the hothouse in this psychological thriller!

Thursday - Sunday, 8 - 9:30 PM. Note: venue is downstairs and not wheelchair accessible.

**The Lower Depths Theater at Loyola University**

**Tickets available at [www.twtheatrenola.com](http://www.twtheatrenola.com)**

Friday, March 29

**9 AM - 4 PM**

Box Office (Queen Anne B) and Book Fair (Queen Anne A) at the Hotel Monteleone.

Buy books by Festival authors prior to attending their sessions and find books about New Orleans and Tennessee Williams. Thanks to Garden District Book Shop for hosting our Book Fair.

**9 AM - 4 PM**

**24th Annual Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference, Robert Bray, Director**

9:00-9:15 Opening remarks and announcements, Robert Bray

9:15-10:30 "Hot Off the Press: New Work on Tennessee Williams"

Henry Schvey, Washington University

Dirk Gindt, Stockholm University

John Bak, Université de Lorraine

Stuart Noel, Georgia State University (moderator)

10:45-12:00 "Holding Tennessee: Exploring the Williams Collections"

Dale Douglas Stinchcomb, The Harvard Theatre Collection

Eric Colleary, The Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

Mark Cave, The Historic New Orleans Collection

Jessica Dorman, The Historic New Orleans Collection (moderator)

- 1:30-2:45 "Film and Southern Identity"  
Elizabeth Steeby, University of New Orleans  
Trimiko Melancon, Loyola University of New Orleans  
Allison Graham, University of Memphis  
Will Brantley, Middle Tennessee State University (moderator)
- 3:00-4:00 "Arias, Art Songs, and Piano: Music Inspired by the Works of Tennessee Williams" with Armour Ratcliffe, Soloist; Peter Collins, Pianist; Alfred Lemmon, Consultant

**Historic New Orleans Collection, \$20 or VIP, Combo, or Literary Discussion Pass**

### **9 - 10:15 AM—Writer's Craft Session**

#### **CONSTANCE ADLER: WRITING FROM THE DARKNESS BEHIND YOUR EYES**

Ray Bradbury said that he kept a note posted above his typewriter to remind him: "Don't think!" Of course, telling writers not to think is like telling fish not to swim. Still, it's worth considering Bradbury's assertion that thinking is the enemy of creativity. In this master class, participants will practice spontaneous writing exercises to discover what they *don't* think. Through guided meditation and directed periods of breathing and stillness, writers locate narratives that dwell below the water line of consciousness. Bring a notebook and pen.

**Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25, VIP Pass, or Combo Pass**

### **10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion**

#### **CREATING FIRE IN THE HOLE: THE SPIRIT WORK OF FI YI YI AND THE MANDINGO WARRIORS**

This panel introduces the process of collaborative ethnography, a method of co-creation the Neighborhood Story Project (NSP) uses to produce books. The panel will discuss working together to create the first full-length book co-written by a Mardi Gras Indian tribe and the politics of collective bodies of work from Indian suits to exhibits and books. The panel includes: **Big Chief Victor Harris**, Master Designer **Jack Robertson**, drummer **Wesley Phillips**, and their official photographer, visual anthropologist **Jeffrey Ehrenreich**. Director of the NSP, **Rachel Breunlin**, will lead the conversation.

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

### **10 - 11:45 AM—Special Event**

#### ***Jackie's Girl: A Conversation with Kathy McKeon***

In 1964, **Kathy McKeon**, newly arrived from Ireland, was just 19 years old when she was hired as the personal assistant to former first lady Jackie Kennedy. For the next 13 years, she not only played a crucial role in raising young Caroline and John Jr., but also had a front-row seat to some of history's most significant events. Her memoir, *Jackie's Girl*, is a rare and engrossing look at the private life of one of the most famous women of the 20th century, but it is also a moving personal story of a young woman finding her identity in a new country, with the help of the most elegant woman in America. Interviewed by historian and editor **David Johnson**, the event includes a Q & A and book signing.

**Beauregard-Keyes House, \$15 or VIP Pass**

### **10:30 - 11:45 AM—Writer's Craft Session**

#### **MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: WHERE DO STORIES COME FROM?**

A question that arises frequently for writers: Where do you get your inspiration? Every writer will probably answer that question differently. For some, it is a fully planned story with beginning, middle, and end all spelled out in the writer's mind (this is relatively rare). For others, it is wisps or fragments of a character the writer finds interesting, a particular scene, or

an idea that wants fleshing out. There's no right or wrong way; there's only finding the way that works best for you. We'll talk about the various ways a story arrives in the writer's mind, and we'll build a story together, starting from a single point and going on until some semblance of the entire story begins to present itself. It's all about finding the aperture through which the writer can enter the story still to be fully written.

**Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25, VIP Pass, or Combo Pass**

**11:30 AM - 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

**FINDING THE SWEET SPOTS: IN-BETWEEN SPACES IN NEW ORLEANS**

This panel (and the book by the same title) turns an architectural lens on a range of narratives and practices in the Crescent City. Our panelists from literature, sociology, and cultural studies examine how in-between spaces (buildings, neighborhoods, squares, and streets) shape and are themselves shaped by the histories and practices of race and gender. **Teresa Toulouse** analyzes John Galsworthy's sketch about the St. Louis Exchange Hotel, while **Beth Willinger** interprets the complicated rise of group "homes" for single women between 1880 and 1950. **Angel Parham** explores the contested evolutions of Congo Square, and **Joel Dinerstein** considers how second-line parades create a democracy of the streets. **Barbara Ewell** moderates.

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

**1 - 2:15 PM—Theater**

**EVERYONE EXPECTS ME TO WRITE ANOTHER STREETCAR**

**1 - 2:15 PM—Writer's Craft Session**

**ROBERT OLEN BUTLER: CREATING FICTIONAL ART**

The session will focus on the fundamentals of the creative process for fiction writers who aspire to create enduring literature and for readers who are interested in better understanding literary fiction. We will address such issues as: What is art? What is distinctive about the way the artist addresses the world, the inner self, and the objects to be created? And what are the essential characteristics of fiction as an art form?

**Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25, VIP Pass, or Combo Pass**

**1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion**

**IS SEX NECESSARY? AND IF IT IS, HOW TO WRITE A GREAT SEX SCENE**

Fictional characters do all sorts of things that real people do, but must writers describe all of it? This panel will explore the following questions about sex in fiction: When does an otherwise serious novel require a sex scene? How does one write a sex scene without being unintentionally funny? Where exactly is that sweet spot between showing too much and too little? Panelists include novelists **Dorothy Allison**, **Bernice McFadden**, **Jami Attenberg**, and **Nathaniel Rich**. Moderated by author, **Constance Adler**.

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

**2 - 3:15 PM—Special Event**

**A CONVERSATION WITH NATE CHINEN AND DAVID KUNIAN**

In jazz parlance, "playing changes" refers to an improviser's resourceful path through a chord progression. In *Playing Changes: Jazz For the New Century* (Pantheon), critic **Nate Chinen** builds on that idea, taking us through the key artists, concepts and developments that have shaped the music in our time. This special conversation between Chinen and **David Kunian**, music curator at the New Orleans Jazz Museum, will illuminate those ideas via a tale of two trumpeters: Wynton Marsalis, who looms large in the book's early chapters, and Christian Scott

aTunde Adjuah, who makes a substantial impression later on. Choice musical selections will serve to highlight the topic at hand.

### **New Orleans Jazz Museum at the Old U.S. Mint**

#### **2 - 3 PM—Special Event**

##### **LAST STOP: DESIRE**

Nicole Colbert's evocative dance/theatre adaptation of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* returns to the Festival. *Last Stop: Desire*, choreographed and directed by Colbert, brings together dance, theatre, music, and Williams' text to extend the play's consideration of class, gender, family, and the individual's relationship with the past and the present. Set in the 1960s, the play re-imagines the ending for Blanche, who, rather than being driven to madness, is swept up in the new era and ascends instead to freedom. Second show at 8 PM.

**George and Joyce Wein Jazz and Heritage Center, \$20 or VIP Pass; \$15 for students and teachers**

#### **2:30 - 3:30 PM—Theater**

##### **TWO FOR TENNESSEE PRESENTS "SUCCESS"**

Conceived by director Harold Gervais, **Two For Tennessee** is continuing series of original one act plays inspired by the life and legacy of Tennessee Williams. This year we feature new plays by Becky Retz and Leslie Nipkow (Thursday).

"Success" by Becky Retz

Taking the 1947 essay by Tennessee Williams, "The Catastrophe of Success," as its inspiration, "Success" brings The King of Rock & Roll, Elvis Presley; The Maid of Orleans, Joan of Arc; and Fred, a New Orleans *Periplaneta Americana*, together in a waiting room that is strange, yet all too familiar to anyone who has lived in the Crescent City. Questions will be asked, weapons will be drawn, and might love be in the air?

**Matthew Mickal** plays Elvis, **Julia DeLois** is Joan and **Angelo Cross** is Fred as they work under the direction of **Cammie West**.

**Beauregard-Keyes House, \$15 or VIP Pass**

#### **2:30 - 3:45 PM—Writer's Craft Session**

##### **MARION WINIK: MEMOIR BOOT CAMP**

How does a memory become a crafted essay? A series of prompts breaks this transformation into bite-sized tasks, from choosing what to write about to developing characters, setting, and dialogue, to theme, structure and organization. Along the way, we'll discuss the ethics of writing about family and friends, the uses of both research and imagination in memoir, and the importance of self-implication. Bring laptop or pen and paper—you'll walk out with the first draft of a short essay.

**Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25, VIP Pass, or Combo Pass**

#### **2:30 - 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

##### **READER'S DELIGHT: TALKING ABOUT BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS**

For booklovers, there's no such thing as too many books, and we delight in the stories behind our favorites. This panel of bibliophiles has great stories to tell: *Fresh Air's* **Maureen Corrigan**, author of *Leave Me Alone, I'm Reading: Finding and Losing Myself in Books*, tells the story behind one of American's favorite books in *So We Beat On: How The Great Gatsby Came to Be and Why It Endures*; **Anne Gisleson**, author of *The Futilitarians: Our Year of Thinking, Drinking, Grieving, and Reading*, relates her experience in an existential crisis reading group; **Anne Boyd Rioux** chronicles 150 years of a beloved classic in *Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy: The Story of Little*



*Women and Why It Still Matters*; and **Sarah Weinman** gives us the origin story of Nabokov's classic in *The Real Lolita: the Kidnapping of Sally Horner and the Novel That Scandalized the World*. Moderated by *The Reading Life's* **Susan Larson**.

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

#### **4 - 5:15 PM—Literary Discussion**

##### **POLITICS AND THE MEDIA: HOW DID WE GET HERE?**

At a time when the stakes are high, Americans see a new hostility between a presidential administration and the fourth estate. These journalists lend perspective. **Tom Sancton** talks about his experience working as a journalist in France which culminated in the books *Death of a Princess* and *The Bettencourt Affair: The World's Richest Woman and the Scandal that Rocked Paris*; **Douglas Brinkley** talks about the challenges of being a presidential historian; **Robert Fieseler**, author of *Tinderbox: The Untold Story of the Up Stairs Lounge Fire and the Rise of Gay Liberation*, talks about coverage of gay issues; and **Lane Kaplan-Levinson** talks about her new series for WWNO, "Sticky Wicket: On Politics and the Media." Moderated by *New Orleans Advocate* political columnist, **Stephanie Grace**.

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

#### **7:30 - 9:30 PM—Theater**

**Southern Rep Theatre presents**

**World Premiere of *Azul* by New Orleans native Christina Quintana**

#### **7:30 - 9 PM—Theater**

**Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré presents**

***Baby Doll***

#### **8 - 9 PM—Special Event**

**LAST STOP: DESIRE**

#### **8 - 9:30 PM—Theater**

**The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans presents**

***Suddenly Last Summer* by Tennessee Williams**

#### **8 - 10:15 PM—Special Event**

##### **CINEMA TWAIN WITH VAL KILMER**

Jonathan Mares Productions, in association with TWNOLF, presents a personal appearance by actor Val Kilmer, who will introduce the film of his one-man play about Mark Twain, *Citizen Twain*, followed by a question and answer session after the screening. A master of reinvention, Kilmer transforms himself into the "First American," Mark Twain, in a comedic and moving performance that is both contemporary and reflective. From his thoughts on politics (including his famous disdain for the U.S. Congress), to his family, and his faith, Twain spins a series of yarns with his timeless satire and incomparable wit. Kilmer wrote, produced, directed, and stars in the piece. The youngest actor ever accepted to Juilliard's Drama Division, Kilmer skyrocketed to international stardom playing Iceman in *Top Gun*, Jim Morrison in *The Doors*, Doc Holliday in *Tombstone*, and the Caped Crusader in *Batman Forever*. Tickets range from \$25 - \$40, with Super VIP ticket buyers (\$125) attending an exclusive meet-and-greet happy hour with Val before the film.

**Tickets available at [www.thejoytheater.com](http://www.thejoytheater.com)**

## **10 - 11 PM—Theater**

### **The NOLA Project presents Literary Late Night**

#### **BY ANY SCENES NECESSARY: LONG LOST WILLIAMS**

Join us for a late night at Mags as the slightly intoxicated spirit of Tennessee Williams joins us from the great beyond to reveal his single long-lost play, yet to be unearthed by the historians. It is a story of lust, desire, rickety streetcars, noisy leg braces, low-down drunks, sexy sailors, old drag queens, and entirely set in the filthiest back alley of the Quarter. Join us as our team of improvisers and Williams himself reconstruct what might be his greatest work you never knew existed.

**MAGS 940, \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door, or VIP Pass**

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

## **9 AM - 4 PM**

Box Office (Queen Anne B) and Book Fair (Queen Anne A) at the Hotel Monteleone.

## **8 - 9:15 AM—Special Event**

### **BOOKS AND BEIGNETS**

Few novels have captured the exuberance, excesses, and idiosyncrasies of New Orleans as John Kennedy Toole's rollicking Pulitzer Prize-winning *A Confederacy of Dunces*. As we look forward to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its publication in 2020, the reading group will take up this modern classic, eyeing it anew from 21<sup>st</sup> Century perspectives. Attendees are invited to read (or reread) this sprawling picaresque novel and assess how Toole deftly parodies religion, race, gender, sexuality, and politics in his native city in the 1950s and 60s. The suggested edition is the standard paperback (ISBN 978-0802130204). The tradition continues of coffee and beignets at Muriel's Restaurant with lively discussion to follow. Southern literary scholar **Gary Richards** again facilitates. Seating is limited to 50 persons; pre-registration is required.

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

## **10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion**

### **TAKE ME AWAY: CELEBRATING A SENSE OF PLACE**

Readers rely on books to transport them to places they fantasize about, places they hope to see, and sometimes to celebrate the places they know well. These panelists shine with their knowledge of setting: in *Acid West*, **Josh Wheeler** takes us to southern New Mexico and the post nuclear-test landscape; **Silas House** (*Southernmost*) and **Hannah Pittard** (*Visible Empire*) explore the complexities of the modern South; and **Robert Olen Butler's** most recent work explores the City of Light in 1915 in *Paris in the Dark*. Moderated by **David Benedetto** of WRBH.

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

## **10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion**

### **JASON BERRY: ON PAGE AND SCREEN**

In his book, *City of a Million Dreams: A History of New Orleans at Year 300*, **Jason Berry** explores the beguiling personality of New Orleans as the product of long tension between a culture of spectacle, rooted in Congo Square dances of enslaved Africans, and a city of laws, fraught with loopholes and lawlessness. Jason's talk includes the screening of a sequence from the companion film documentary in post-production.

**Williams Research Center, \$10 or Literary Discussion, Combo, or VIP Pass**

## **10-11:15 AM—Literary Discussion**

## **TOOT IT OR BOOT IT: MAKING YOUR PITCH TO PUBLISHERS**

This Pitchapalooza event is a Festival favorite! **Abram Himelstein**, of the Neighborhood Story Project and the University of New Orleans Press, moderates a panel of publishers and editors including; **Kathleen Calhoun Nettleton** of Pelican Publishing, **Margaret Lovecraft** of Louisiana State University Press, **Sharyn Rosenblum** of William Morrow/HarperCollins, and editor, publisher, and author, **Felice Picano**. Participants will sign up (first come, first served) for a chance to make a two-minute pitch and get reactions from our distinguished panel.

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

## **10 - 11:15 AM—Master Class**

### **ERROL LABORDE INTERVIEWS HISTORIAN DOUGLAS BRINKLEY**

Rice University historian and bestselling author **Douglas Brinkley** previews his brand new book, *American Moonshot*, and talks about his long and diverse writing career. He is a presidential historian and the history commentator for CNN. He has written books about the Mississippi River, Hurricane Katrina, Walter Cronkite, John Kerry, Dean Acheson, Hunter S. Thompson and Jack Kerouac, and has traveled the country teaching history, chronicled in the book *The Majic Bus*. **Errol Laborde** is the editor of *New Orleans Magazine* and *Louisiana Life* and the producer of the PBS show *Informed Sources*.

**Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carre Room, \$15 or VIP Pass**

## **11:30 - 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

### **WRITING YOUNG ADULT FICTION: IT'S NOT JUST FOR TEENAGERS**

Rising stars in young adult fiction—**Sarah Tolcer**, **Daniel Jose Older**, **Malka Older**, **Amy Rose Capetta** and **Cori McCarthy**—talk about building their fictional worlds and writing series fiction that is aimed at the YA market but reaches far beyond. They create thrilling tales for all ages, set in fantastical worlds of the future, alternate realities of the present, or fractured fairy tales. New York Times bestselling author **Claudia Gray** moderates. *Sponsored by Kathy and Edmund Schrenk*.

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

## **11:30 - 12:45 PM—Master Class**

### **CUTTING OUT THE MIDDLE MEN: A GUIDE TO SELF-PUBLISHING**

The morphing of the publishing industry has trended steadily in recent years in favor of individual control over creative and intellectual property. When done correctly, self-publication, print on demand, and audio books are within our control with minimal dependence on others. Delve into what is smart and what is not in book production, art and design, marketing, management, and sales with authors **Joe Formichella** and **Suzanne Hudson**.

**Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carre Room, \$15 or VIP Pass**

## **11:30 AM - 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

### **AMERICAN OPTIMISM: FINDING OUR WAY IN TROUBLED TIMES**

One of the fundamental qualities of our democracy has been its forward-looking sense of optimism, hope, and evolving toward the better. In these politically fractious times, finding civil discourse presents its challenges. These journalists and writers discuss how their work chronicles America at its best. **Jason Berry's** *City of a Million Dreams* celebrates New Orleans' history; **Douglas Brinkley's** *American Moonshot: John F. Kennedy and the Great Space Race* is the story of that most optimistic act, the space program; **Donna Brazile** offers a path toward realistic optimism and political involvement in her work, while **Elizabeth Schwartz** works

tirelessly in the struggle for LGBTQ rights. Moderated by *Fresh Air's* **Maureen Corrigan**, author of *So We Read On: How The Great Gatsby Came to Be and Why It Endures*.

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

**1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion**

**WON'T YOU BE MY (NEW ORLEANS) NEIGHBORHOOD?**

In the Crescent City, we are passionate about our neighborhoods and loyal to local institutions and landmarks. These chroniclers have taken various parts of the city and brought them to life in all their own particularity. **Bryan Batt** and **Katy Danos** have created a visually delightful and charming history of Pontchartrain Beach; **Cassie Pruyn** takes us to the heart of the city, the Bayou St. John area; and **Scott Ellis** explores his home turf of Faubourg Marigny. Moderated by *New Orleans Advocate* columnist **Stephanie Bruno**, who writes about neighborhood streets and architecture.

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

**1 - 2:15 PM—Master Class**

**CONTEMPORARY PUBLISHING AND PROMOTION: AN INSIDER'S VIEW**

Here's your chance to hear from two women who have unique perspectives on the business of publishing and promotion. **Sarah Weinman** is the author of *The Real Lolita: The Kidnapping of Sally Horner and the Novel that Scandalized the World*, but before that she wrote about publishing for Publisher's Marketplace and she is a columnist for *CrimeReads*. **Sharyn Rosenblum** is V.P. and Senior Director of Media Relations for William Morrow and Day Street, imprints for HarperCollins Publishers. Bring your questions for these experts.

**Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carré Room, \$15 or VIP Pass**

**1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion**

**FACT CHECKING AND MYTH BUSTING IN THE WORLD OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

How did Tennessee Williams die? Was he wildly promiscuous? When did he begin writing experimental plays? Was Tennessee depressed? **John Bak** (Université de Lorraine), **David Kaplan** (Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival), and **Karen Kohlhaas** (Atlantic Theater Company) answer these and other burning questions about our namesake playwright. Led by **Thomas Keith**, of New Directions, this panel will discuss the ways misinformation and myths are created, why they are perpetuated, and how they can be corrected.

**Williams Research Center, \$10 or Literary Discussion, Combo, or VIP Pass**

**1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion**

**THE ETERNALLY FASCINATING QUESTION OF WHODUNIT?**

Readers love a good mystery—intricate plotting, surprising twists and turns, unlikely villains, a sense of justice served. **Samantha Downing** creates a memorable couple with violent pleasures in *My Lovely Wife*; **Alafair Burke** gives sibling standoffs new meaning in *The Better Sister*; and **Kristian Hemmereichs** takes us inside the mind of a serial killer's wife in *The Woman Who Fed the Dogs*. Moderated by author and editor **Greg Herren**. *Sponsored by the Pinckley Prizes*.

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

**1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion**

**THE FICTIONAL TENNESSEE: WILLIAMS PORTRAYED IN CREATIVE FICTION AND DRAMA**

Once a writer becomes a cultural fixture, he or she is portrayed in popular culture, including creative fiction. Perhaps the first instance for Williams was Donald Windham's *roman à clef*, *The Hero Continues* (1960) and most famously as the thinly veiled playwright in Truman

Capote's scandalous unfinished novel, *Answered Prayers* (1986). This year, **Christopher Castellani's** novel *Leading Men*, offers a fictionalized account of the relationship between Williams and Frank Merlo in the 1950s. Last year, *Gentlemen Callers*, Philip Dawkins' play about young playwrights William Inge and Tennessee Williams, premiered in Chicago and New York. In August DC Comics published *The Snagglepuss Chronicles*, Mark Russell's reimagining of the pink cartoon mountain lion as a heroic gay 1950s playwright based primarily on Tennessee Williams. Moderated by **Thomas Keith**, this panel including **Castellani, Augustin J Correro, and Stuart Noel** will discuss these various interpretations, how much they resemble their prototype, and the rewards and pitfalls of taking on such a well-known personage.

**Williams Research Center, \$10 or Literary Discussion, Combo, or VIP Pass**

## **2 - 3:30 PM—Theater**

### **THE HOLY WARRIORS PLAY *HOLY WARS***

The Holy Warriors band will play during scenes performed from Rob Florence's play-with-music, *Holy Wars*, which tells the story of the nation's first black Civil War hero, Captain Andre Cailloux, and the only abolitionist priest in the New Orleans archdiocese, Father Claude Pascal Maistre, who founded St. Rose of Lima Parish. **Kathy Randels** directs an ensemble featuring actors **Martin Bats Bradford, Todd D'Amour, Harold Evans, Idella Johnson, and Ray Vrazel** with musicians **Sunpie Barnes, Helen Gillet, Matt Hampsey, James Singleton, Bill Summers, and Cole Williams**. Hosted by the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park.

**New Orleans Jazz Museum at the Old U.S. Mint, \$10 or VIP Pass**

## **2:30 – 3:45 PM—Master Class**

### **PETER HAGAN, PRESIDENT OF THE DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE**

Dramatists Play Service was founded in 1936 by the Dramatists Guild of America and a group of concerned play agents to promote the licensing of amateur productions of plays, and publication of acting editions. It has subsequently expanded to include the license of professional productions, and has become the foremost licensor of plays in the English language, with over 4,000 titles in its catalogue—including all of the plays of Tennessee Williams. DPS is devoted to protecting the rights of its playwrights, and also to making the work of those playwrights available to theatre producers, both professional and nonprofessional. This workshop will focus on both producers and writers. How do I get the rights to produce one of the plays? How do I get my play published by DPS? What are the dos and don'ts of play publishing and licensing? The answers may surprise you.

**Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carré Room, \$15 or VIP Pass**

## **2:30 - 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

### **"IN MEMORY, EVERYTHING SEEMS TO HAPPEN TO MUSIC" — THE CRAFT OF MEMOIR**

That Tennessee Williams quote conjures the rich atmosphere of submerging ourselves in our memories, but the work of writing a memoir requires craft and conviction. **Bev Marshall** recalls her life as a young military wife; **Kathy McKeon** shares her memories of working for Jacqueline Kennedy; **Ken Wells** looks back on the joys of growing up Cajun; and **Tena Clark** chronicles her life as a small-town Southern girl in changing times who grew up to become an acclaimed performer and music producer; moderated by author, **Anne Gisleson**.

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

## **3 - 4:30 PM—Theater**

### ***A Confederacy of Dunces: Off the Page onto the Stage***

A Theatrical Adaptation from the Pulitzer Prize novel by John Kennedy Toole

The characters from the novel spring to vibrant life in this production, complete with projections, music and costumes. Adapted by **Dr. Kenneth Holditch** with additional material written by **Francine Segal**. Follow the misadventures of the eccentric Ignatius J. Reilly, played by **Charlie Talbert**. Theatrically Conceived and Directed by **Francine Segal**, the cast includes **Kate Adair, Tracey Collins, Edward R. Cox, Kyle Daigrepoint, Zeb Hollins III, Vatican Lokey, Marie Lovejoy, Jo-Ann Testa, Francine Segal, and Brenda Currin as Thelma Toole.** **George and Joyce Wein Jazz and Heritage Center, \$30 or VIP Pass. \$25 for students and theater professionals.**

#### **4 - 5:15 PM—Literary Discussion**

**The National Book Foundation presents:**

#### **THE POWER OF SEXUALITY IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE WITH GARTH GREENWELL AND JUSTIN PHILLIP REED**

In the Western world, sexuality is regularly demonized and shamed, making the subject difficult to navigate. But more and more, contemporary writing challenges this taboo, recognizing that desire in literature can function as a lens to examine issues of identity, race, gender, politics, and more. Join 2016 NBA Longlister Garth Greenwell (*What Belongs to You*) and 2018 NBA Winner Justin Phillip Reed (*Indecency*) as they parse the history and contemporary portrayal of sexuality in literature. Facilitated by NBF Public Programs Director Whitney Hu.

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

#### **6:30 - 8 PM—Theater**

***A Confederacy of Dunces: Off the Page onto the Stage***

#### **7:30 - 9:30 PM—Theater**

**Southern Rep Theatre presents**

**World Premiere of *Azul* by New Orleans native Christina Quintana**

#### **7:30 - 9 PM—Theater**

**Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré presents**

***Baby Doll***

#### **8 - 9:30 PM—Theater**

**The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans presents**

***Suddenly Last Summer* by Tennessee Williams**

#### **9 - 10:15 PM—Music Event**

**Lulu White: The Queen of Storyville**

New Orleans singer and entertainer **Anais St. John** brings her latest cabaret show to the Festival: the story of Lulu White, brothel madam and shrewd entrepreneur, who reigned over New Orleans' red light district, Storyville, in the early 1900s. Anais brings to life the sultry story of this infamous madam through popular song and spoken word. This Jonathan Mares Productions event was created by and stars **Anais St. John**, with musical direction by **Harry Mayronne**; written by **Denise Altobello**.

**George and Joyce Wein Jazz and Heritage Center, \$30 or VIP Pass**

Sunday, March 31

#### **9 AM - 3 PM**

Box Office (Queen Anne B) and Book Fair (Queen Anne A) at the Hotel Monteleone.

**10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion**

**THE SOUTH AS WE SEE IT WITH JULIA REED AND ROY BLOUNT, JR.**

We never run out of Southern storytellers, thank goodness! **John Pope**, author of *Getting Off at Elysian Fields: Obituaries from the New Orleans Times-Picayune*, moderates a discussion with two of the greats: **Julia Reed**, whose most recent book is *South Toward Home: Adventures and Misadventures in My Native Land*, and **Roy Blount, Jr.**, whose most recent book is *Save Room for Pie: Food Songs and Chewy Ruminations*, both columnists for *Garden & Gun* magazine.

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

**10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion**

**WHEN HISTORY LENDS ITSELF TO FICTION**

Why do we love historical fiction? Is it the rich atmosphere of bygone days, the thrill of discovering unknown stories, the way we are transported to other places, other times? These four novelists tell us how they work: **Hannah Pittard**, who explores the impact of a horrific plane crash on the city of Atlanta; **Jon Michael Varese**, who takes us back to the days of the American spiritualist movement and the challenges of post-Civil War America; **Blanche McCrary Boyd**, who describes the late-20<sup>th</sup> century American race war; and **Kristien Hemmereichs**, who writes of a serial killer's crimes in 1990s Belgium. Moderated by **Kent Wascom**.

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

**10 - 11:15 AM—Special Event**

**POPPY TOOKER AT DICKIE BRENNAN'S BOURBON HOUSE**

Join Poppy Tooker for a spirited discussion of Sicilian Creole life in New Orleans, uncovered during the writing of her recent book, the *Pascal's Manale Cookbook*. Manale's, the second oldest continuously operated family-owned restaurant in New Orleans, is also the place BBQ Shrimp were invented. Since the 1950s, this iconic New Orleans dish has been served in various forms all over the city. The Bourbon House will offer a tasting of their version as the dish's evolution is explored.

**Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House, \$15 or VIP Pass**

**11 AM - 12:15 PM—Theater**

**STAGED READING OF THE WINNING ONE-ACT PLAY**

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.

*Our one-act contest was sponsored by The Favrot-Van Horn Fund.*

**Hotel Monteleone, Iberville A/B, \$10 or Literary Discussion, Combo, or VIP Pass**

**11:30 AM - 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

**LITERARY REPUTATIONS IN MOTION**

This is the happy Age of Literary Recovery. In recent years, the works of lesser known or all-but-forgotten writers like Lucia Berlin, Solomon Northup, Clarice Lispector, George Schuyler, Tess Schlessinger, and Sui Sin Far have been given new life in reprint editions, films, and museum exhibitions. But should we be cheered or troubled by these resuscitations? Does the fact that good, even great, writers can randomly slip into obscurity throw into question the idea of a literary meritocracy? And how do such recovery operations occur? Join **Maureen Corrigan**,

**Michael Cunningham**, and **Susan Larson** as they consider how literary reputations are made or recovered. They will also share some of their own enthusiastic nominations of wonderful-but-forgotten writers who deserve a larger audience.

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

**11:30 AM - 3:15 PM—Special Event**

**DRUMMER AND SMOKE: MUSIC EVENTS AT THE PALM COURT JAZZ CAFÉ**

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

**Palm Court Jazz Café, \$10 per session or VIP Pass**

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM

**THE TIN MEN: EARLY AMERICAN POP AND FATS WALLER**

Described by Rolling Stone as “a uniquely funky power trio,” The Tin Men combine the unlikely instrumentation of sousaphone, washboard, and guitar to form one of New Orleans’ most originally entertaining groups. Performing together since 2002, Washboard Chaz, Matt Perrine, and Alex McMurray explore a truly eclectic array of 20th Century American music, from jug band to heavy metal and beyond. For this year’s Festival, they focus on pop music of the 1920s and 30s, with a special emphasis on the music of Fats Waller.

1 - 2:15 PM

**BANU GIBSON: THE POETS OF TIN PAN ALLEY**

Rather than a full length Tennessee William’s play, those crafting The Great American Songbook shared their stories in 32-bar refrains. They used words floating on melodies to charm and engage the mind of the listeners. Join jazz singer **Banu Gibson**, honored by the New Orleans Preservation Resource Center for her contributions to music, as she explores the poets of Tin Pan Alley through songs, both famous and obscure, with an emphasis on their incredible lyrics.

2:30 - 3:15 PM

**NEW ORLEANS RAGTIME ORCHESTRA: RAGS, MARCHES, AND THE BLUES**

Organized in 1967 by **Lars Edegran** and performing at the first Jazz Fest 50 years ago, **New Orleans Ragtime Orchestra** continues the tradition of creating unique magic by playing classic ragtime with the swinging beat of New Orleans jazz. The cakewalks, marches, and blues all combine to bring back the music that lifts your spirit, puts a smile on your face, and sets your toes to tapping.

**Palm Court Jazz Café, \$10 per session or VIP Pass**

**11:30 AM - 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

**WELCOME HOME: IMMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRANT CULTURE IN NEW ORLEANS**

As a port city, New Orleans has long welcomed members of various cultures to our population. Loyola professor **Justin Nystrom** has followed the culinary and cultural fortunes of Italians, Tulane professor **Mark VanLandingham** has studied the resilience of the Vietnamese, Tulane’s **Laura D. Kelley** has celebrated the vibrant Irish traditions, and Tulane’s **Jana Lipman** has studied the rich contributions of Latinx migrants. It all adds up to a diverse community with many voices. Moderated by **David Johnson**.

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

*Sponsored by the Confucius Institute at Xavier University of Louisiana. Special thanks to Dr. Yu Jiang, Director.*



**12:30 - 2:00—Special Event**

**NEW ORLEANS RUM: A DECADENT HISTORY WITH MIKKO MACCHIONE**

Like a drunken Mardi Gras parade, the history of New Orleans lurches from electrifying highs to heart-rending lows. Through it all, good drink has been a constant—especially rum. Join us in one of New Orleans' loveliest and most historic spots, Napoleon House, as **Mikko Macchione** shares his witty and insightful history of this city, and reads from his latest book. Fellow prize-winning expert inebriate writer **Chris Rose** will moderate and probably try to outdo Mikko's stories. To guarantee a total train wreck, Old New Orleans Rum will provide complimentary specialty rum cocktails. Though he got D's in penmanship in grammar school, Mikko will be available to sign his latest classic.

**Napoleon House, \$10 or VIP Pass**

**1 - 2:15 PM—Special Event**

**TENNESSEE 101**

Tennessee 101 is a fast-paced, fun, and informative introduction to Tennessee Williams! It's focused on 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 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.

**Hotel Monteleone, Iberville A/B, \$15 or VIP Pass**

**1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion**

**WORLD EDITIONS PRESENTS SASKIA DeCOSTER, ANNELIES VERBEKE, AND KRISTIEN HEMMERECHTS**

The Festival is pleased to partner with World Editions in presenting three distinguished Belgian authors. **Saskia de Coster** is the author of seven novels, and her most recent work, the Cutting Edge award-winning, *We and Me*, is newly translated and published in the United States.

**Annelies Verbeke**, who writes in Dutch, is an award-winning author whose most recent novel, her fourth, is *Thirty Days*. **Kristien Hemmerechts'** 11th novel, *The Woman Who Fed the Dogs*, is based on the real-life case of the ex-wife of a Belgian serial killer.

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

**1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion**

**POETRY PANEL TBD**

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

**2:30 - 3:45 PM—Theater**

**TENNESSEE X THREE**

**A STAGED READING PRESENTED BY THE NOLA PROJECT**

“A Perfect Analysis Given By a Parrot”

Flora and Bessie are members of the Women's Auxiliary of the Jackson Haggerty Post of the Sons of Mars in Memphis and are in town for the National Convention. Having gotten separated from "the boys," they await them in the tavern, where they chat and gossip. Things get tearful but luckily "the boys" arrive and all ends in jubilation.

“The Long Stay Cut Short, or, The Unsatisfactory Supper”

This play would be the beginnings of *Baby Doll*. It is set in the rural South and centers on Archie Lee and his blowsy wife, Baby Doll, who play unwilling hosts to Aunt Rose, an ancient poor relation who has been passed around among all her relatives without finding a home anywhere.

“The One Exception”

An artist named Kyra has had a complete emotional breakdown and shows barely any signs of recovery. Now, under the care of a friendly nurse, Kyra's greatest terror is to be sent to a mental institution. Just days before she is to be committed, Kyra is visited by Viola, an old friend from the art world who has come looking for a loan. Viola offers only "hilarious" updates and gossip about the successes of all the people who abandoned Kyra to her madness, those who left her alone and now judge her as the only one from their group to be a failure—the one exception.

**Hotel Monteleone, Iberville A/B, \$20 or VIP Pass**

**2:30 - 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

**MAKING AN ENTRANCE: MEET OUR DEBUT NOVELISTS**

One of the thrills of reading is discovering a new voice, a new sensibility. These four novelists have made great entrances onto the literary scene during the past year. **Bryan Camp** has added a new layer of supernatural fantasy to the New Orleans canon; **Iris Cohen** examines New York literary life; **Jon Michael Varese** probes Spiritualist photography and Reconstruction for a new understanding of America's troubled racial history; and **Bryan Washington** travels the streets of Houston for dazzling short stories.

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

**2:30 - 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

**DILLARD HUMANITIES STUDENTS PRESENT: FOLKLORE IN SOUTHERN DRAMA**

This discussion and presentation showcases dramatic literature that emphasizes the use of folklore as a major component of performative text. In *The Purification* by Tennessee Williams, folklore becomes a driving force that unravels a tale of haunting revenge. *Dirt Bleeds*, a contemporary fable set in the Louisiana swamps by **Carolyn Nur Wistrand**, compliments the premise of supernatural forces seeking retaliation. Students from Dillard University's Theatre Program will perform readings from the two texts in concert. **Carolyn Nur Wistrand** and **Dr. Nancy Dixon**, English Professor at Dillard University, will lead this exciting panel.

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

**3 - 5 PM—Theater**

**Southern Rep Theatre presents**

**World Premiere of *Azul* by New Orleans native Christina Quintana**

**3 - 5:30 PM—Theater**

**Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré presents**

***Baby Doll***

**4:15 - 5:30 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.

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

**8 - 9:30 PM—Theater**

**The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans presents  
*Suddenly Last Summer* by Tennessee Williams**