

35th Annual
TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL



MARCH 24-28, 2021
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"Time doesn't take
away from true
friendship, nor
does separation."

-Tennessee Williams

Although we'll miss hosting you for this
year's Tennessee Williams & New Orleans
Literary Festival, next year promises to be a
reunion like none other. We'll gather at the
Carousel Bar & Lounge (Tennessee's favorite
bar), order a Brandy Alexander (his favorite
cocktail), and toast to brighter days ahead.

In the meantime, enjoy the Festival and
friendship. See you again in 2022!



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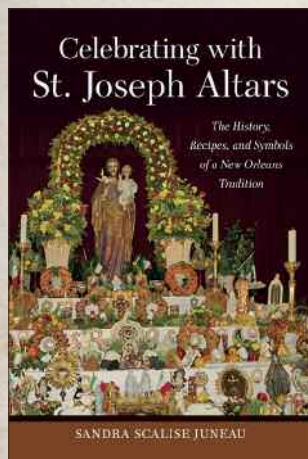
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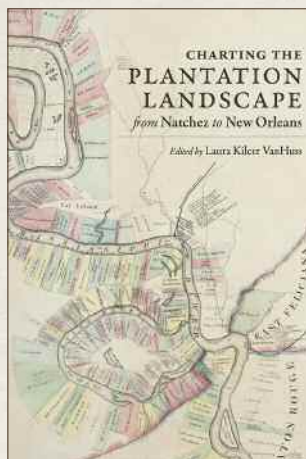
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Photograph: The Historic New Orleans Collection, The Fred W. Todd Tennessee Williams Collection

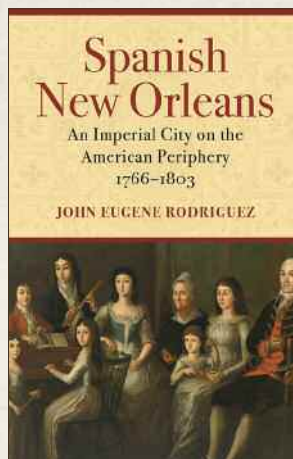
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TENNESSEE WILLIAMS & NEW ORLEANS LITERARY FESTIVAL



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ORIGINAL FESTIVAL LOGO

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Welcome to the FESTIVAL!

Welcome, friends!

We're happy you're celebrating our 35th anniversary with us! While we'd love to gather in New Orleans in person this year, we're excited to bring the spirit of New Orleans to you virtually. All of our events are online and we haven't left out any of your favorites. You'll get the full festival experience you've come to love, including interviews, performances, literary discussions, theater, and even cocktail events.

Our opening night sets the New Orleans vibe for the weekend with drag icon Vinsantos hosting an unforgettable Vieux Carré Cabaret filmed in the historic cathedral at the Hotel Peter & Paul.

Throughout the weekend, you'll see New Orleans featured in events we filmed on location, including Bryan Batt at the home of Williams scholar Kenneth Holditch, plus conversations filmed at Beauregard-Keyes House with John Cameron Mitchell and Brian Sands, and Ladee Hubbard with C. Morgan Babst.

We'll go to Sazerac House for a live cocktail hour and inside Poppy Tooker's own kitchen for a virtual Jazz Brunch. The New Orleans Jazz Museum hosts two of our Drummer & Smoke music events featuring Arsène DeLay and a set by Sierra Green and the Soul Machine. Our longtime host hotel, The Monteleone, features a music set by Bon Bon Vivant on the rooftop. Don't miss it!

Our Tennessee Williams Tribute Reading is centered around the playwright's love for New Orleans with renowned actors Alan Cumming, Rodney Hicks, Ann Magnuson, Amy Ryan, Mink Stole, and Blair Underwood among the cast of readers, hosted by Brenda Currin from Beauregard-Keyes House.

We're bringing theater to your home with Williams one-acts from The NOLA Project and Le Petit Theatre, an original Williams-inspired show from The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans, plus free theater events and discussions highlighting the vast theatrical talent of our city.

Our literary events are stellar as well, featuring Pulitzer Prize winner John Patrick Shanley and award-winning writers like Laura Lippman, Mo Rocca, and John Cameron Mitchell.

The best part of creating this virtual Festival has been the encouragement of friends around the globe, the generosity of supporters who can't wait to rejoin us in 2022, and the writers, scholars, actors, musicians, and others who eagerly accepted our invitation to participate. While the year behind us has been challenging, we were buoyed by your enthusiastic response to our online endeavors, and for that, we are most grateful. We've recently added a full retrospective written by Peggy Scott Laborde to our website, and the 2021 Virtual Festival will be an especially memorable addition to our 35-year history.

So pull up a comfortable chair, pour a beverage of your choice, and, as TW himself would always say,

En avant,

Paul and Tracy



Tracy Cunningham, Managing Director
and Paul J. Willis, Executive Director

PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON

Important Reminders

The Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Contributions are deductible according to the provision of current tax laws. Please note that during the Festival, many activities may be recorded for archival and/or commercial purposes. By attending Festival events, you hereby grant to The Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival and others permission to photograph and record you visually and orally for various TV and/or film productions. You grant universal rights for any reproduction of your image, likeness, or voice, throughout the Festival weekend.

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Official Festival Bookstore:
Garden District Book Shop
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A man and a woman are standing on a balcony with ornate black wrought-iron railings. They are looking up at a large, multi-story display of various bottles, likely spirits, which are arranged in rows on shelves. The balcony has wooden steps and railings. The background shows more of the building's interior, including more shelves and a large window.

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35th Annual Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival



OPENING NIGHT WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021

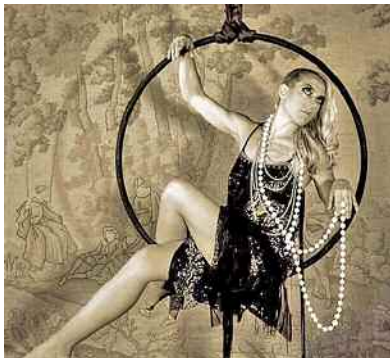
7 - 7:45 PM—Opening Night, \$20

A Vieux Carré Cabaret

Our opening night spectacular is a dazzling theatrical revue that transports us into Tennessee Williams' world. The performance staged in the sanctuary of the Peter and Paul Church—now a chic hotel—features an eclectic entourage of the finest performing artists in the Crescent City. Our emcee, the legendary drag icon **Vinsantos**, will guide us through a journey of circus arts, stunts, and vaudeville. The cast is led by **LadyBEAST**, star of the contemporary circus world, and New Orleans' own **Franky**, the gender-bending dandy dancer. Expect contortions, death defying feats, haunting melodies, a little bit of naughty and the spirit of Tennessee's New Orleans. *Sponsored by Joy and Boysie Bollinger and Hotel Peter and Paul.*



PHOTO BY AUSTIN YOUNG



LadyBEAST



Vinsantos

LadyBEAST walking on Franky



The Church at Hôtel Peter & Paul





THEATER PARTNERS

March 25 - 28—Theater, Free

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré presents:

Two Tennessee Williams One Acts:

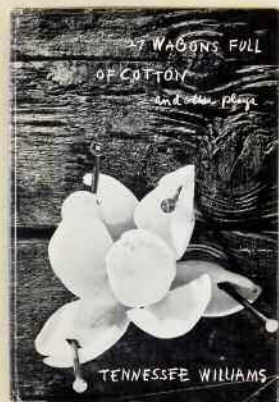
“Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen”
and “This Property Is Condemned”

These two one-acts are part of the collection *27 Wagons Full of Cotton and other plays*. *Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen* is directed by **Joanna Russo** and features **Grace Kennedy** and **Howe Pearson**. Leslie

Castay directs *This Property is Condemned* which features **Cat Wilkinson** and **Nick Giardina**. The show premieres on Thursday, March 25 at 8:00 PM for the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival. The link will be available through March 28. To watch the show, access the link below, and select “48 hour rental.” You will be asked to enter your e-mail address. You will

be e-mailed a code to watch the show on your device.

Link: <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/49372>



Friday, March 26

5 - 5:45 PM—Theatre, \$5

The NOLA Project Presents
Tennessee X Three

The NOLA Project returns to TWfest to present its popular Tennessee X Three, a staged reading of three of the playwright's one-acts. This year they present *Lord Byron's Love Letter*, *Green Eyes*, and *The Lady of Larkspur Lotion*.



March 26 - April 5—Theater, \$10

The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans presents:

The Felt Menagerie - A Williams-Inspired Puppet Comedy

What happens when a bewildered Blanche Dubious stumbles in late to her weekly appointment to be surrounded by strangers? Who is Violent Vengeable, and why is she so salty? It may take Big PawPaw's last ounce of patience to straighten out this dramatic southern-fried tangle of mendacity! Is any of this even real? Of course not! It's puppet camp in the Tennessee Williams style! Starring Tenaj Jackson, Julie Dietz, Carol Eshleman, Michael Indest, Jr., and Robert Alan Mitchell, with puppets crafted by Kenneth Thompson. Written by Augustin J Correro.

Tickets available at
www.twtheatrenola.com



35th Annual Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival



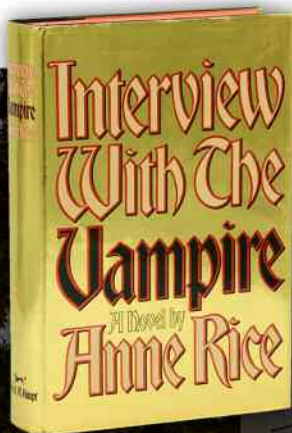
SCHEDULE THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré presents:
Two Tennessee Williams One Acts:
“Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen” and
“This Property Is Condemned”
See page 6 for full description and details.

11 - 11:30 AM—Literary Discussion, Free
Together in a Sudden Strangeness
Partner content from Garden District Book Shop
Alice Quinn, editor of *“Together in a Sudden Strangeness: America’s Poets Respond to the Pandemic,”* moderates a discussion and readings from this wonderful new book reflecting on this unprecedented year.
Joining Alice will be noted poets **Billy Collins, Nicole Cooley, Peter Cooley, Cornelius Eady, Ada Limon, and Laura Mullen**



Summer in Brazil, 2013 by Timothy Cummings



12 - 1 PM—From the Archives, Free
An Interview with Anne Rice
In 1989, New Orleans-born author **Anne Rice** appeared at the Festival in an interview by **Dr. Kenneth Holditch**. She shares the influence of New Orleans on her writing, writing as different personas, writing about sex, and how she began *Interview with the Vampire* as a short story that continued to grow into the novel that became so beloved.

1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion, Free
Readings from the Judges and Winners of our Annual Writing Contests

The Festival presents readings hosted by Festival contest coordinator **Teresa Jacobson** featuring author **Minrose Gwin** (fiction judge), Utah’s Poet Laureate **Paisley Rekdal** (poetry judge), and author **Leigh Camacho Rourks** (Very Short Fiction Judge). We are joined by the winners of each category, **Michael Pearce** (Fiction winner), **Amy Fitzgerald** (Very Short Fiction winner), and **Maria Isabelle Carlos** (Poetry winner.)
Contests sponsored by Scovern Law and Kindle Direct Publishing.



Michael Pearce
Fiction winner



Amy Fitzgerald
Very Short Fiction winner



Maria Isabelle Carlos
Poetry winner

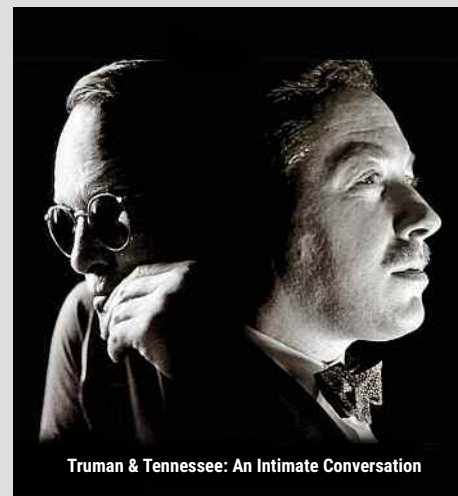
3 - 4 PM—Conversation Series, Free

Lisa Immordino Vreeland In Conversation with Thomas Keith *Truman & Tennessee: An Intimate Conversation*

Most of documentary filmmaker Lisa Immordino Vreeland's work has focused on the lives of artists, with a particular emphasis on visual artists. In her most recent film, *Truman & Tennessee: An Intimate Conversation*, she uses a vast array of still photos, film clips and audio recordings, as well as a myriad of quotations from the work, letters, and interviews of Capote and Williams to create a cinematic dialogue between two of the twentieth-century's greatest writers who were also friends, rivals, gay men, and fellow Southerners. Immordino Vreeland will talk with Williams editor, scholar, consultant, and Festival regular **Thomas Keith** about what inspired her to make this film, how she chose and implemented her unique narrative technique, and what she learned about these two powerful artists in the process.

Sponsored by Kino Lorber, home of KinoMarquee.

KINO LORBER



4 - 5 PM—From the Archives, Free

New Orleans as a Home for Writers...Still

From the 2007 TWfest, **Ralph Adamo, Jason Berry, John Biguenet, and Christine Wiltz** discuss the allure of New Orleans for writers and other artists, the joys and the pitfalls of living and writing here, and how the city infiltrated their writing. Filmed just 19 months after Hurricane Katrina, the discussion also includes how the disastrous flood changed the city and its artists.



Skye Jackson

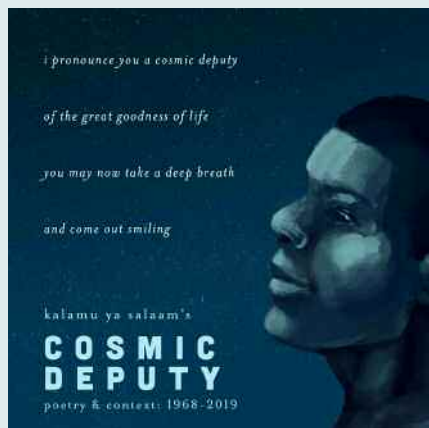
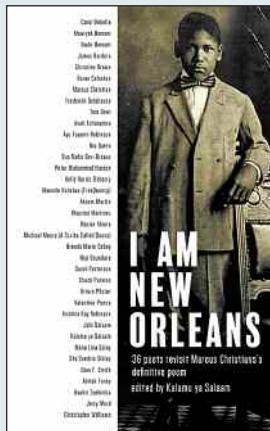
5 - 7 PM—Special Event, Free

UNO Press Presents: Poetry Reading and Discussion

Poet **Skye Jackson** interviews **Kalamu ya Salaam** about his two most recent publications with the University of New Orleans Press: *I Am New Orleans*, in which 36 poets revisit Marcus Christian's definitive poem, and *Cosmic Deputy*, Salaam's new anthology and literary memoir covering his fifty years of poetry. In addition to exploring the latest work of the esteemed activist, educator, editor,

and writer, the program will include a screening of *I Am New Orleans* poem trailers produced by Weenta Girmay, featuring poetry by **Sunni Patterson, Marian Moore, Kristina Kay Robinson,** and the late Marcus Christian.

Sponsored by UNO Press of the University of New Orleans.



6 - 7:30 PM—Theater, \$1

Live via Zoom

Teatro Sin Fronteras / Theater without Borders

Forged by **José Torres-Tama & ArteFuturo Productions**, this show is a creative means to empower the lesser-known voices of Latinx creatives in New Orleans, a port city with an extensive historical Latin legacy that is often neglected or forgotten, including the thousands of Latin American immigrants who were part of the epic post-Katrina reconstruction. Cultural arts warrior, poet, and performance artist Torres-Tama hosts some of the city's Latin poets, performers, and musicians that have been part of the cultural renaissance post-storm. *Teatro Sin Fronteras* follows in the footsteps of Tennessee Williams, who came to New Orleans to live a freer life as a gay man and reinvent himself as poet and playwright in a city where social and cultural borders are more expansive. Artists include **Linett Luna Tovar, Melinda Palacio, Jennifer Pagan, Maritza Mercado-Narcisse, Michael Quess? Moore, José Fermin Ceballos, and Margie Perez**. Registration for this event is available for a donation of \$1 or more to the Festival.

8 - 9 PM—Music Event, Free

Drummer & Smoke: Arsène Delay

See page 13 for full descriptions of our music events.



Division of Global Engagement Xavier University of Louisiana

The **Division of Global Engagement**, Xavier University of Louisiana, aims to provide quality international education to Xavier students, facilities and promotes global faculty and student exchanges, serves the international student and scholar community on campus, enhances the campus internalization through curricular expansion and cross-cultural activities, and elevates the overall international profile of the University. The Division helps fulfill the University mission: "to contribute to the promotion of a more just and humane society by preparing its students to assume roles of leadership and service in a global society."

The Division of Global Engagement includes two offices: Center for Intercultural and International Programs, the nerve center of international education and domestic exchanges at the University; and the Confucius Institute, a rigorous academic learning center of Chinese language instruction.

Among some of recent highlights are Ayodele Theard-Lewis, a sociology major and winner of the 2021 Frederick Douglass Global Fellow, where she will join 13 other fellows (out of over 500 applicants across the nation) to study leadership, effective communication, and strategies to affect positive social change in Ireland; and Jazline Concepcion and Jalen Jackson, awardees of the U.S. Department of State's prestigious Gilman Scholarship for studying abroad.



Ayodele Theard-Lewis
on an all-expenses paid
fellowship to Ireland



35th Annual Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival

SCHEDULE FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2021

Today's events made possible by Division of Global Engagement
Xavier University of Louisiana

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré presents:
Two Tennessee Williams One Acts:
"Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen"
and "This Property Is Condemned"
See page 6 for full description and details.

**The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company
of New Orleans presents:**
***The Felt Menagerie - A Williams-Inspired
Puppet Comedy***
See page 6 for full description and details.

10 - 11 AM—From the Archives, Free
Tennessee Williams: *Memoirs*
At the 2007 Festival, we celebrated the re-
release of Williams' *Memoirs*, published by New
Directions in 2006 with a new introduction by
John Waters. The panel includes Williams
scholar, **Dr. Kenneth Holditch**; author and
theatre director **David Kaplan**; New Directions
editor, **Thomas Keith**; and filmmaker, artist,
and writer, **John Waters**.



President-elect, Lawrence Henry Gobble with John Waters

11 - 11:30 AM—Theatre, Free

From the Archives: *At Liberty* by Tennessee Williams
Beth Bartley and Brenda Currin perform a staged reading of
Tennessee Williams' one-act play, *At Liberty*, directed by
Paul J. Willis. You'll find yourself on the front porch in Blue
Mountain, Mississippi, late one night to witness a showdown
between a concerned matriarch and her firebrand daughter.
Gloria, an actress, must
reckon with her mother
as "the past keeps
getting bigger at the
future's expense."
Filmed as part of the
2017 Festival, the
setting is the beautiful
Beauregard-Keyes
House in the French
Quarter.



Brenda Currin and Beth Bartley, 2017

12 - 1 PM—Interview, Free

Eric Paulsen Discusses Interview with Tennessee Williams
Longtime New Orleans TV newsman **Eric Paulsen**, host of the
WWL-TV Eyewitness Morning News Show, interviewed
Tennessee Williams in what was to be his last broadcast interview.
Paulsen interviewed Williams in 1981 in an apartment over Marti's
Restaurant at the corner of Rampart and Dumaine streets in New
Orleans. Williams had an apartment across Dumaine Street from
Marti's. Paulsen shares his memories of that interview with
Peggy Scott Laborde, who produced a 1988 WYES-TV
documentary, which is included in this interview.

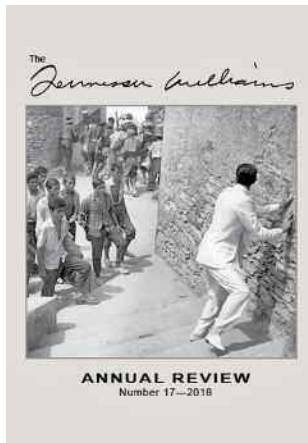
1 - 1:45 PM—Author Interview, Free

Bryan Batt Talks Tennessee with Kenneth Holditch
New Orleans' own **Bryan Batt**, award-winning actor,
takes us inside the home of Tennessee Williams' scholar,
Dr. Kenneth Holditch for a lively discussion of meeting Tennessee
Williams, what New Orleans was like in the 1970s, Tennessee's
influence on Bryan and the writing of his show, *Dear Mr. Williams*,
plus the magical hold New Orleans has on writers and other artists.
Sponsored by Helen and George Ingram.

2 - 3:15 PM—Tennessee Williams Scholars Session, Free
Live via Zoom

The World Lit by Lightning: Scholars Unveil Their Favorite Tennessee Williams Images

In this lively, visually oriented lightning-round session, noted Tennessee Williams scholars show off their favorite



Williams-related images and talk conversationally about why they love them. Designed for general audiences and specialists alike, topics include the immortal Anna Magnani, Iranian film adaptations of Williams, a Japanese Noh-inspired production of *Night of the Iguana*, and the (in)famous image of the reconciliation between Stanley and Stella in the film version of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. The panel of

distinguished speakers assembled by Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference founder **Robert Bray** includes **Tiffany Gilbert**, **Naghmeh Rezaie**, **R. Barton Palmer**, and **Bess Rowen**. Registration required at <https://form.jotform.com/210535135220036>
Sponsored by The Historic New Orleans Collection

3 - 4 PM—Partner Content, Free
New Orleans Restaurants with a Past

In this 2010 documentary, PBS New Orleans affiliate WYES-TV host **Peggy Scott Laborde** goes behind the scenes at some of New Orleans' most iconic restaurants, recounting the history and the stories behind some of the most famous dishes in our city. Footage includes visits to beloved dining rooms such as Antoine's, Arnaud's, Brennan's, Galatoire's and Commander's Palace. Thanks to WYES for sharing this content with the Festival. Winner of Suncoast Emmy Award.

4 - 4:45 PM—Theater Discussion and Screening, Free
New Orleans, My Muse: A Screening and Conversation with Kathy Randels and Stephanie McKee

Kathy Randels and **Stephanie McKee** are two of New Orleans' most treasured and talented theater makers. Kathy has led ArtSpot Productions for more than 25 years, and Stephanie has collaborated with Junebug Productions for decades, and currently serves as the company's Artistic Director. This event features a screening of Junebug's short film, *Come Home*, a poignant and poetic meditation on returning and claiming New Orleans as home. We will also screen an excerpt from ArtSpot's *Spaces in Between*, a performance Kathy created in her family home that was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. Kathy and Stephanie will converse about how New Orleans has shaped their lives and art, and the ways artists form the bedrock of New Orleans' vibrant, resilient culture. Interdisciplinary storyteller **Monique Verdin** moderates the conversation.

5 - 5:45 PM—Theatre, \$5

The NOLA Project Presents: Tennessee X Three,

The NOLA Project returns to TWfest to present its popular Tennessee X Three, a staged reading of three of the playwright's one-acts. This year they present *Lord Byron's Love Letter*, *Green Eyes*, and *The Lady of Larkspur Lotion*.

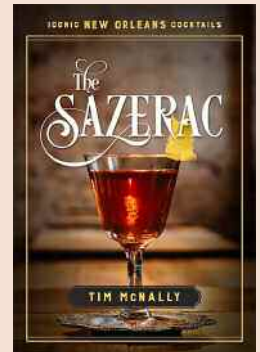
6 - 6:45 PM—Cocktail Event, \$5

Live via Zoom

Iconic New Orleans Cocktails:

The Sazerac by Tim McNally

Tim McNally takes us inside The Sazerac House for a deep dive into one of our city's most iconic cocktails. A wine and spirits editor, columnist, feature writer and a WGSO radio host, McNally shares from his book about the subject, giving the history of the drink, a demonstration of how to create it, and leads a Q&A session on this historical concoction.
Sponsored by The Sazerac House.



7 - 8:30 PM—Special Event, \$20

Tennessee Williams Tribute Reading: The Place That I Was Made For

See page 12 for full description and details.

9 - 10 PM—Theatre, Free

Staged reading of the 2020-2021 One-Act Play Contest Winner

UNO Film and Theatre Professor, David Hoover, directs a staged reading of this year's One-Act Play contest winning entry, *Fourteen* by Amy Crider. Festival Judge, **Peter Hagan** (former President of the Dramatist Play Service) had this to say about *Fourteen*, "Three teenage girls at a Catholic school negotiate their relationships with each other, and with Laura, the robot who has been 'enrolled' at the school to see if she can learn the way the girls do. This play is clever, challenging and often very funny, and spot-on with its very well-observed dialogue for the girls. It does what a good play should do: it surprises, and also satisfies its audience, written by a playwright with a unique style. And it will make that audience laugh!"



Amy Crider
One Act Play Contest winner

Sponsored by the Favrot-Van Horn Fund



NEW ORLEANS
THEATRE ASSOCIATION

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2021

7 - 8:30 PM—Special Event, \$20

**Tennessee Williams Tribute Reading:
The Place That I Was *Made* For**

Upon his first visit at age 27 to New Orleans in 1938, Tennessee Williams wrote in his journal, "I've been here about 3 hours but have already wandered about the Vieux Carré and noted many exciting possibilities. Here surely is the place that I was *made* for if any place on this funny old world. He returned many times, lived in several spots in the French Quarter, and called New Orleans his spiritual home. Our Tribute Reading brings you some of the sights, sounds, and poetry of New Orleans through Tennessee's plays, letters, stories, journals, and poems. Our stellar cast this year includes **Alan Cumming, Adam Dugas, Lawrence Henry Gobble, Rodney Hicks, Thomas Keith, Ann Magnuson, Amy Ryan, Mink Stole, Jacob Storms, and Blair Underwood.**

Hosted by **Brenda Currin**. Curated by Board member **Gregory Gajus** and Festival Director **Paul J. Willis.**

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



Brenda Currin



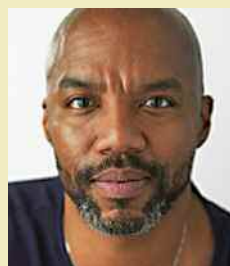
Alan Cumming



Adam Dugas



Lawrence Henry Gobble



Rodney Hicks



Thomas Keith



Ann Magnuson



Amy Ryan



Mink Stole



Jacob Storms



Blair Underwood



A special "Thank you" goes to **Thomas Keith** for his assistance this year (and every year!) in collecting materials for us to consider for our tribute selections. We'd also like to acknowledge our appreciation to **Annie Irvin**, the Executive Director of the **Beauregard-Keyes Historic House & Garden**, for allowing us to film our tribute introductions with actress Brenda Currin inside the beautiful home.

35th Annual Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival



DRUMMER & SMOKE MUSIC SERIES



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



THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021

**8 - 9 PM—Music Event, Free
Drummer & Smoke:
Arsène DeLay**

In Arsène DeLay's voice, you will find the crystal clarity of Ella Fitzgerald crossed with the power of Etta James. The youngest of the Boutté Family, one of the musical dynasties of New Orleans, Arsène takes her roots in jazz and soul and combines it with rock and roll, captivating her audience.

Joined by a trio of New Orleans musicians, this set was filmed at the New Orleans Jazz Museum.



SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2021

**8 - 9 PM—Music, Free
Drummer and Smoke:
Bon Bon Vivant from the rooftop of the
literary landmark,
Hotel Monteleone.**

Bon Bon Vivant is an indie band from New Orleans that electrifies audiences across the country with their signature blend of jazz/Americana/dark ballads and up-tempo indie dance rock.

Bon Vivant: a person who enjoys a sociable and luxurious lifestyle appreciating food, drink, and music. A performance of Bon Bon Vivant embodies this spirit of revelry and celebration.
*Additional support Robert E. Zetzmänn
Family Foundation.*



SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

**8 - 9 PM—Music, Free
Drummer and Smoke:
Sierra Green and
the Soul Machine**

Sierra Green and The Soul Machine is defined by the front-woman's powerhouse vocals. Effortlessly belting blues, soul, and R&B with unparalleled grit and passion, she often garners comparisons to Aretha Franklin and Irma Thomas. Recorded for the Festival at the New Orleans Jazz Museum.





35th Annual Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival

SCHEDULE SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2021

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré presents:
Two Tennessee Williams One Acts: "Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen" and "This Property Is Condemned"

See page 6 for full description and details.

The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans presents: *The Felt Menagerie - A Williams-Inspired Puppet Comedy*
See page 6 for full description and details.

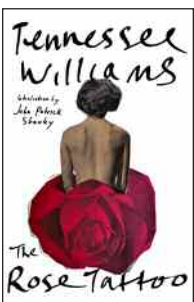


PHOTO BY JEREMY TRAGER

10 - 11 AM—Literary Discussion, \$5
Live via Zoom

Books & Beignets: Tennessee Williams' *The Rose Tattoo*

At a moment when the world looks for inspiration amidst adversity and loss, the reading group will take up the play that has often been deemed Tennessee Williams's most life-affirming: *The Rose Tattoo*. Opening on Broadway 70 years ago, this play, set in a Sicilian-American community on the Gulf Coast, charts the transformation of the widowed



Serafina delle Rose as she discovers love in unexpected persons and places after the heartbreak of her husband's infidelity and death. Attendees are invited to read—or reread—this play, unique in Williams' canon, with the suggested edition being the New Directions 2010 paperback (ISBN 978-0811218825). Southern literary scholar **Gary Richards** facilitates.

11 - 11:45 AM—Author Interview, Free
Pulitzer Prize winner John Patrick Shanley
Interviewed by Peggy Scott Laborde

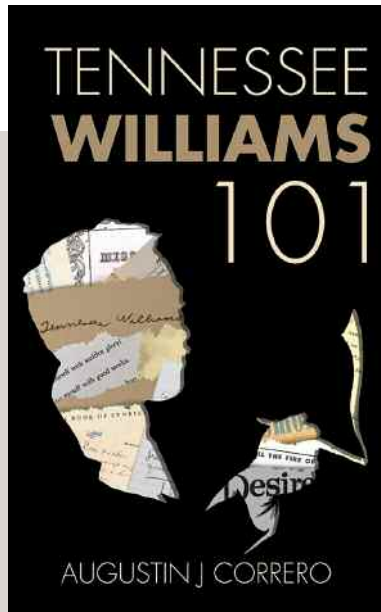
Academy, Pulitzer, and Tony Award-winner John Patrick Shanley is interviewed by Peggy Scott Laborde, host/producer of WYES-TV's *Steppin' Out*, a weekly New Orleans arts and entertainment discussion program. Along with a general overview of his career, the conversation focuses on the film *Moonstruck*, for which he won the Academy Award for Best Screenplay.

12 - 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion, Free
The Art of Having a Good Crime

Three modern masters—or rather, mistresses—of crime fiction as social commentary, discuss the art of creating work in this demanding genre, from crime scene to victims and perpetrators to the quest for justice. Featuring **Laura Lippman**, **Megan Abbott**, (both winners of the Pinckley Prize for a Distinguished Body of Work, as well as many other honors), and bestselling author **Alison Gaylin**. Sponsored by the Diana Pinckley Prizes for Crime Fiction.

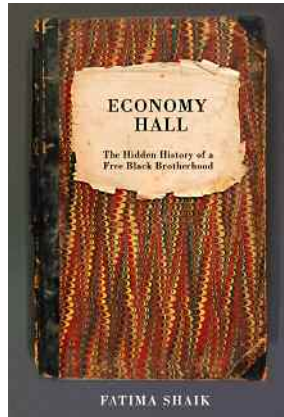


1 - 1:45 PM—Literary Discussion, Free
Writing Truth to Power in the Age of Trump
 Winners of the book prize from the Ridenhour Prize for Courageous Truth-telling discuss the problem of truth in the age of *alt-facts*. Now in their 18th year, the annual Ridenhour Prizes recognize those who persevere in acts of truth-telling that protect the public interest, promote social justice, or illuminate a more just vision of society. Awarded at a luncheon at the National Press Club, these prizes memorialize the spirit of fearless truth-telling that New Orleanian Ron Ridenhour reflected throughout his extraordinary life and career as the whistleblower who uncovered the My Lai massacre and a George Polk Award-winning investigative reporter. Panelists include **Eliza Griswold**, **Lauren Markham**, and **Heather Ann Thompson**. Moderated by founder of the Prizes, **Randy Fertel**.



2 - 3 pm—Workshop, \$10
Live via Zoom
Tennessee 101 with Augustin J. Correro
 Tennessee Williams 101 for 2021 will be a fast-paced, fact-packed discussion all about our favorite playwright and the theatre he shared with the world. Unlike in years past, TW101 will be question-driven. With all of the biographical and critical tidbits still in place to craft a complete narrative, this is your chance to ask your burning questions about America's greatest playwright.

3 - 4 PM—Partner Content, Free
The Historic New Orleans Collection presents
Black Civil Rights Activism during Reconstruction:
A National View
 Following the Civil War, Black activists around the country fought for a more perfect union. Historian **Kate Masur** (Northwestern University) discusses Black civil rights activism on a national scale and the role that New Orleanians had in this movement.



4 - 5 PM—Partner Content, Free
The Historic New Orleans Collection presents
Much More Than Music: Economy Hall and the Struggle for Civil Rights
 The Historic New Orleans Collection presents "Much More Than Music: Economy Hall and the Struggle for Civil Rights" with **Fatima Shaik**, Saint Peter's University (retired); **Caryn Cossé Bell**, Midlo Center, University of New Orleans; and **Libby Neidenbach**, The Historic New Orleans Collection.

5 - 5:45 PM—Music Event, \$5

Live via Zoom

Jazz Cocktail Hour with Joel Dinerstein

Bourbon and jazz are one of life's true pleasures, but red wine or scotch will do just fine. Join Joel Dinerstein for a guided happy-hour tour into jazz beauty as he talks about his new rough guide, *Jazz: A Quick Immersion*. He will play short masterpieces by the likes of Billie Holiday, John Coltrane, Charles Mingus, Esperanza Spalding, and NOLA's patron saint, Louis Armstrong, as well as some global jazz. We will have a Q&A on the music's rich history and the struggles of its artists—or anything else the audience has on its mind—running alongside the songs by these profound American artists. Join us for an hour of boozing and grooving!

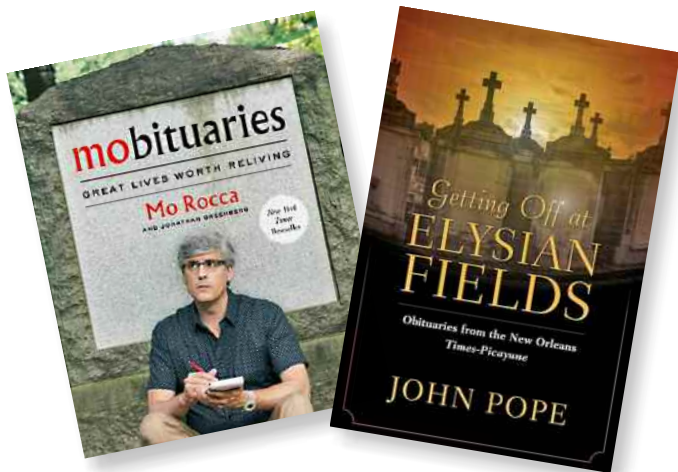
6 - 7 PM—Author Interview, Free

John Cameron Mitchell Interviewed by Brian Sands

Tony Award-winning actor **John Cameron Mitchell**, best known for the long-running off-Broadway rock musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* that became a Golden Globe nominated film in 2001, also directed a revival/revision of Tennessee Williams' *The Seven Descents of Myrtle*, titled *Kingdom of Earth*. He sits down with writer and editor **Brian Sands** at the historic Beauregard-Keyes House in the New Orleans French Quarter. *Sponsored by Peggy and Timber Floyd.*



John Cameron Mitchell



7 - 8 PM—Interview, Free

A Few Words About Parting Words: The Art of the Obit

You might not like to talk about death or even think about it, but everyone wants a good sendoff, and that includes a written farewell. But what to say in an obituary, how to sum up a person's life? Two masters of the craft—**Mo Rocca**, author of *Mobituaries: Great Lives Worth Reliving*, and **John Pope**, author of *Getting Off at Elysian Fields*, a collection of his obituaries for *The Times-Picayune*—will tell you what to say and how to say it with style and wit. They'll also share some of their more memorable obits.



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8 - 9 PM—Music, Free

Drummer and Smoke: Bon Bon Vivant from the rooftop of the literary landmark, Hotel Monteleone.

A very special thank you goes to Eydie Barber, Shari Fisher, and Kent Wascom from the Hotel Monteleone for their help in making this event possible. We look forward to our in-person return in 2022 to the literary landmark hotel and host of our Festival Headquarters.

See page 13 for more details.



35th Annual Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival



SCHEDULE SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré presents:
Two Tennessee Williams One Acts: “Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen” and “This Property Is Condemned”

See page 6 for full description and details.

The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans presents:
The Felt Menagerie - A Williams-Inspired Puppet Comedy
See page 6 for full description and details.



**10 - 11 AM—Culinary Event,
Live via Zoom, \$10
New Orleans Jazz Brunch
with Poppy Tooker**
Poppy Tooker takes us inside her own kitchen for a lesson and cooking demo focused on the New Orleans Jazz Brunch. Includes recipes and a visit from **Ti Martin** of Commander's Palace, creator of the Jazz Brunch. Sponsored by Peggy and Timber Floyd.

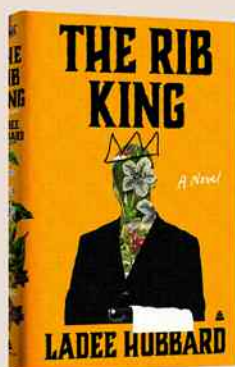
11 AM - 12 PM—Author Interview, Free
Partner content by Garden District Books, recorded
Southern Storytellers: Rick Bragg interviewed by Terri Troncale
Garden District Books partnered with TWFest to celebrate the Pulitzer Prize winner Rick Bragg's new book, *Where I Come From*, culled from his best-loved pieces in *Southern Living* and *Garden & Gun*. This collection of wide-ranging and endearingly personal columns touches on everything from his love of Tupperware to the decline of country music, from the legacy of Harper Lee to the metamorphosis of the pick-up truck, the best way to kill fire ants, the unbridled excess of Fat Tuesday, and why any self-respecting Southern man worth his salt should carry a good knife. Freelance writer and Rick's close friend Terri Troncale interviews the author.



Stelllaaaaa and Stanley Shouting Contest!

We just couldn't mark 35 years of the Tennessee Williams and New Orleans Literary Festival without our signature event to close out the weekend. So while we may not be gathering in Jackson Square this Sunday, imagine a virtual Stella in her best lingerie, leaning over the balcony, listening to loud and heartfelt online entreaties from all over the world. We're featuring video submissions from our audience, along with a few surprises, and maybe a few clowns will show up for the fun! Put on your slips and T-shirts and warm up your vocal chords—it's time to shout for Stella and Stanley!

12 - 1 PM—Author Interview, Free
Southern Storytellers: Ladee Hubbard
Interviewed by C. Morgan Babst
 Scholar and critically acclaimed author **Ladee Hubbard** created one of the most extraordinary families of American literature in her debut novel, *The Talented Ribkins*, which won the 2019 Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for debut fiction. In *The Rib King*, Hubbard's new novel, we learn the truth behind the legend of the Ribkins' paterfamilias, a man obscured by the same fantasies that shroud much of American history. **C. Morgan Babst**, New Orleans essayist and author of *The Floating World*, will interview Hubbard about the creation of characters and character and the role of storytelling in the rectification of American myths. Filmed at the historical Beauregard-Keyes House in the French Quarter. *Partially Sponsored by Women's National Book Association—New Orleans.*



1 - 2 PM—Author Interview, Free
Southern Storytellers:
M.O. Walsh interviewed by James A. Jordan
 New York Times Best-selling and award-winning author **M.O. Walsh's** newest novel, *The Big Door Prize*, pays homage to the complicated lives of small southern towns and the enduring power of John Prine. In this novel, Walsh wrestles with questions about your life's potential and the consequences of learning whether or not you are living up to them all while showcasing the complications of everyday life. Writer **James A. Jordan**, a former student of Walsh's, speaks with him about the process of writing the novel, how it differed from his first novel, and John Prine's influence. *Sponsored by the Selley Foundation.*

3 - 4:30—Theatre Discussion, Free
Sowing the Seed, Reaping the Harvest:
The Evolution and Necessity of Black Theater in America
 Join a multi-generational group of New Orleans theater makers



Tommye Myrick



Kalamu Ya Salaam

and writers as they discuss Black Theater as an essential service. The seed of Black Theater in America has grown since the birth of this nation—often in defiance of white power structures. Early Minstrel shows - performing Black caricatures for white audiences—laid the groundwork for the political work of the Free Southern Theater, the radical joy of Nzotake Shange's *For Colored Girls* and the work of today's Black theater artists. This conversation will touch on the roots of Black Theater and dive deep into the need for Black Theater NOW, in a polarized country reverberating with renewed calls for justice and equality. How does Black Theater continue to thrive into the future? Moderated by **Tommye Myrick**, with **Kalamu Ya Salaam**, **Lauren E. Turner**, **Karen Kaia Livers** and **Nick Slie**.

This event includes screenings of two monologues from No Dream Deferred theater company's *One Womxn*, *One Show: An Ode to Breonna Taylor*, performed by Carol Sutton and Sherri Marina. A study guide on the roots of New Orleans Black Theater will also be available on our website.

4:30 - 6:00 PM, Awards Event, Free
Partner Content: Presentation of the Diana Pinckley Prizes for Crime Writing

These awards for crime writing made their debut at the 2014 Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival. The 2020 winners are **C.S. Harris**, author of the Sebastian St. Cyr series; for Distinguished Body of Work; **Angie Kim** for Debut Novel for her book *Miracle Creek*; and **Emma Copley Eisenberg** for True Crime Writing for *The Third Rainbow Girl: The Long Life of a Double Murder in Appalachia*. Emceed by **Susan Larson**, presentations by judges **Constance Adler**, **Alison Fensterstock**, and **J.M. Redmann**.

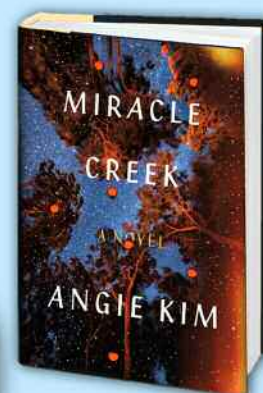




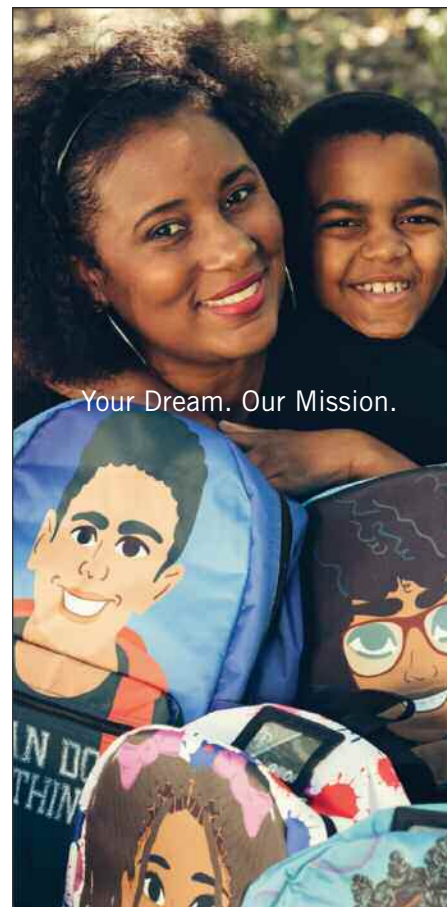
PHOTO BY JEREMY TRAGER

6 - 7:30 PM—Film, \$5

Truman & Tennessee: An Intimate Conversation

This film by Lisa Immordino Vreeland is the story of two of the greatest writers of the past century examined in a dialogue that stretches from their early days of friendship to their final, unsparing critiques of each other. This intimate, candid portrait of two luminaries of American literature, Truman Capote voiced by Jim Parsons and Tennessee Williams voiced by Zachary Quinto, lovingly recreates this complicated relationship through the pair's personal writings, archival footage, and photographs.

Sponsored by Kino Lorber. Visit kinomarquee.com for more information.



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8 - 9 PM—Music, Free

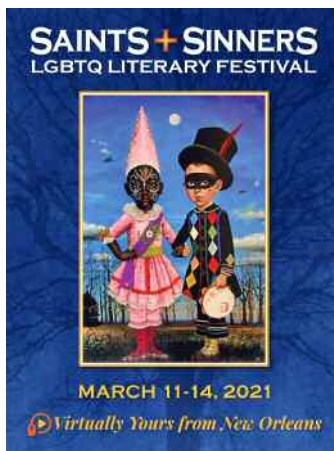
Drummer and Smoke: Sierra Green and the Soul Machine

Sierra Green and The Soul Machine is defined by the front-woman's powerhouse vocals. Effortlessly belting blues, soul, and R&B with unparalleled grit and passion, she often garners comparisons to Aretha Franklin and Irma Thomas. Recorded for the Festival at the New Orleans Jazz Museum.



SAINTS + SINNERS

LGBTQ LITERARY FESTIVAL



*a program of the Tennessee Williams
& New Orleans Literary Festival*

If you missed the premier of the 18th annual Saints and Sinners LGBTQ Literary Festival, you can still catch the action on Youtube. All the literary discussions, author conversations, readings, and special events are FREE. You can access the schedule with links on our website at: www.sasfest.org. Or you can go straight to the TW&NOLF Youtube channel. Remember to Like & Subscribe!

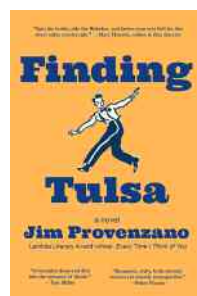


2021 SAS Participants include:

Georgia Beers, Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Regie Cabico, Sossity Chiricuzio, Elana Dykewomon, Greg Herren, Robert Jones, Jr., Michael Lowenthal, J.M. Redmann, Brad Richard, among over 100 participating writers and performers.



Hear more than 50 writers reading from their newest works as part of our annual series sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation.



Traveling Companions
by Timothy Cummings, 1998

***"Make voyages.
Attempt Them.
There's nothing else."***

—Tennessee Williams

Literary Discussions and Conversations include:

- Author Experiences with Small Presses
- Jewish Lesbian Literature and Activism
- Remembering Who We Are: Writers in Uncertain Times
- Literary Luminaries of the Violet Quill with Andrew Holleran, Felice Picano, and Edmund White
- Loving a Lonely Hunter: Jenn Shapland & Carlos Dews on Carson McCullers
- Memoir vs Fiction
- Crimes of the Heart: Writing Compelling Narratives Around Crime

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in-person return:
March 25 – 27, 2022**

Sign up for our e-news at:
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Author Central authorcentral.amazon.com

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- Access a dashboard with sales rank and customer reviews

KDP Select kdp.amazon.com/select

- Make more money, reach more readers, and promote your books by enrolling in KDP Select and participating in programs like Kindle Unlimited

Amazon Associates amazon.com/associates

- Connect your website to Amazon and earn up to 10% from referrals
- Add a widget to your website and earn money on each book sold

Audiobook Creation Exchange (ACX) acx.com

- Easy to create and sell your book in audio
- Set your own budget and earn royalties of up to 40%

Goodreads goodreads.com/author/program

- Create an author page, post videos, share book lists, write a blog
- Manage book giveaways, publicize upcoming events, share excerpts

Kindle Create amazon.com/kindle-create

- Turn your completed manuscript into a professionally designed book

Kindle Instant Previewer amazon.com/Kindle-Instant-Preview

- Allow your readers to easily preview books on your website



35th Annual Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival

 2021 Virtual Programming

WRITERS RETREAT WEEKEND A Weekend of Inspiration for Your Writing Life

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

2 - 3:30 PM—Discussion and One-on-One Feedback, \$40

Live via Zoom

Out on Submission:

A Publishing Panel and Query Bootcamp

Get an insider's look at the publishing process—your manuscript's journey from the slush pile to the book shop. Four rising-star agents will share their expertise and enthusiasm during a 45-minute panel discussion about building lists, creating audiences, and making deals. After a short break, the panel will be followed by a query bootcamp, during which each participant will have ten minutes of one-on-one coaching with an agent who will provide professional feedback on query letters submitted in advance. Submission instructions will be sent upon registration. Agents include **Reiko Davis and Jacey Mitziga with DeFiore and Company**; **Sarah Gerton with Curtis Brown**, and **Jade Wong-Baxter from Frances Goldin Literary Agency, Inc.**

7 - 7:30 PM—Author Event, Free

Retreat Keynote: **Robert Jones, Jr.**

Interviewed by **Susan Larson**

Susan Larson of NPR's "The Reading Life" interviews Robert Jones, Jr., whose debut novel, *The Prophets* was an instant *New York Times* bestseller. He is also the creator of the social justice social media community Son of Baldwin. Jones was recently featured in a *New York Times Magazine* cover story, "Black Male Writers of Our Time." Robert shares what inspires him as a writer, how *The Prophets* originated, his connectedness to James Baldwin, and his decision to commit himself to a life of being an artist.



Robert Jones, Jr.

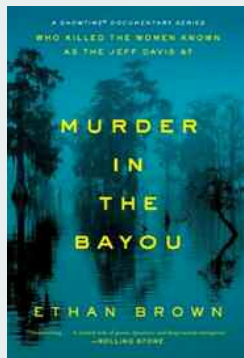
SATURDAY, MARCH 20

10 - 11 AM—Writer's Craft Session, \$15

Live via Zoom

Covering (and Uncovering) Crime

Ethan Brown discusses the nearly decade-long process of reporting on the Jeff Davis 8 case that culminated in the 2019 Showtime documentary series *Murder in The Bayou*. Nearly 15 years after eight women were murdered between 2005 and 2009 in Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana, all of the homicides remain unsolved. Ethan's work on the case comprises a long-form investigative piece for *Medium/ Matter* in 2014, a book for Scribner/Simon and Schuster in 2016, and the Showtime series. He is joined by award-winning journalist **Pamela Colloff**, senior reporter at *ProPublica* and staff writer at the *New York Times Magazine*. She is currently expanding her award-winning 2019 *New York Times Magazine* cover story "False Witness"—on a notorious con man whose testimony helped send four men to death row—into a book for Random House.



12 - 1 PM—Writer's Craft Session, \$15

Live via Zoom

The "ING" of a Thing: Practicing Presence Beyond the Page

In English grammar, the ending "ing" tends to change both the meaning and the tense of a word. It also reflects things that are occurring now, or continuing in the present. This workshop by **Sunni Patterson** will focus on the art and act of being present...not just within a poem, but within ourselves. How, as poets, we bear witness with the utmost attention to what's happening now. We also recognize that "now" not only contains this moment, but every other moment as well—past, present, and future. It is all encompassing. Constantly creating and ever in the act of existing. We will practice exercises to explore the inner self and landscape, thus becoming more aware and mindful of the Divine Presence that exists within, while also observing how the same internal continuity and creative force connects us to one another.



Sunni Patterson

2 - 3 PM—Writer's Craft Session, \$15

Live via Zoom

Maurice Carlos Ruffin on "Starting and Finishing Stories."

Often, starting a story is the hardest thing to do. In this session, Ruffin, author of the acclaimed novel *We Cast a Shadow* and the upcoming short story collection, *The Ones Who Say They Love You*, leads an exploration of tried and true techniques that will help you find a good place to begin. We'll also discuss how beginnings are related to endings. In combination, these are valuable techniques to overcome writer's block and complete your work.



Maurice Carlos Ruffin

4 - 5 PM—Writer's Craft Session, \$15

Live via Zoom

Demystifying the Agent Search

After years of hard work, you've finished a book – now all you have to do is find an agent for it. In this workshop, Poets & Writers contributing editor **Michael Bourne** will drill deep on how literary agencies work, how to craft a query, who to send it to, and what writers can do to get on agents' radar. We will also look at some successful query letters from published authors. Q&A to follow.



Poets & Writers
50 & FORWARD

6 - 8 PM—Writing Marathon, \$1

Live via Zoom

The New Orleans Writing Marathon

Richard Louth, Tracy Cunningham, and Susan Martens, along with teacher-consultants from the New Orleans Writing Marathon, will lead participants on a virtual writing tour of the New Orleans French Quarter with a Tennessee Williams theme. The Writing Marathon focuses on extemporaneous writing done in small groups followed by writers sharing their pieces. The group simply says, "Thank you," with no other comment or feedback. This creates a comfortable writing community where you can write, share, and appreciate the experience without fear of criticism or judgement. Writing Marathon participants will join via Zoom for inspiration and directions before entering Zoom breakout rooms with several other writers to explore a French Quarter story map with writing prompts to get your creativity flowing. Any style of writing and every experience level are welcome.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

10 - 11 AM—Writer's Craft Session, \$15

Live via Zoom

Leigh Camacho Rourks: Writing the Body

Author of *Moontrees and Other Orphans*, Rourks will explore with participants how writers can create truly three dimensional characters, not just in mind, but in form. We will explore concepts of space, anatomy, and physicality by looking at passages from a variety of authors, by considering anatomy, and by exploring what it is to embody our own forms. This talk will offer both a framework for understanding the body on the page and some practical advice for crafting characters that breathe, leap, dance, love, and fight their ways right off the page.



12 - 1 PM—Writer's Craft Session, Free

Live via Go To Webinar

Reaching Readers On Goodreads:

How To Engage The 110 Million Readers In The World's Largest Book Community

Do you wish you knew more about how to market your book? Find out the best and easiest ways to build your readership and to help readers to discover your book on Goodreads. This session will end with a Q&A so bring your burning questions. Led by **Mimi Chan**.

Sponsored by Kindle Direct Publishing.



Lily King

2 - 3 PM—Writer's Craft Session, \$15

Live via Zoom

Lily King interviewed by Morgan Babst

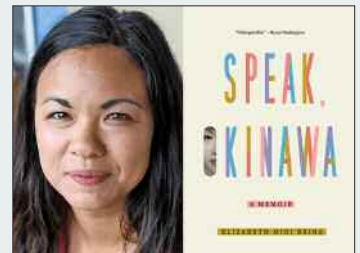
Award-winning author **Lily King** spent eight years writing her debut novel, *The Pleasing Hour*—and has written four more since. Her most recent work, *Writers and Lovers* is, fittingly, a novel about commitment to writing and to oneself. With **C. Morgan Babst**, New Orleans essayist and author of *The Floating World*, King will discuss the pleasures and pitfalls of the writing life—and how to make one of your own.

4 - 5 PM—Writer's Craft Session, \$15

Live via Zoom

Writing from Memory with Elizabeth Miki Brina

Join writer Elizabeth Miki Brina for a workshop on writing from memory. Her upcoming book, *Speak, Okinawa* is a searing, deeply candid memoir about a young woman's journey to understanding her complicated parents—her mother an Okinawan war bride, her father a Vietnam veteran—and her own fraught cultural heritage. This workshop will focus on accessing memories, the ones that never left you, the ones that keep coming back, and using them as a platform to ask questions, and to interrogate ourselves and our lives.



6 - 7 PM—Author Event, \$15

Live via Zoom

Making the Move Online

We've always been moving toward the virtual, but online literary life has taken on an increased urgency in 2020. Publishers have had to be nimble and pivot to new realities, and it seems that authors need guidelines on what they can reasonably expect from publicists and what they should be working on themselves. Harper Collins Vice President Senior Director of Media Relations, **Sharyn Rosenblum**, joins author **Katy Simpson Smith**, whose novel *The Everlasting*, was released in March of 2020, just as the pandemic began to shut down events across the country.



35th Annual Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival

2021 FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS



Megan Abbott is the award-winning author of nine crime novels, including the bestselling *You Will Know Me* and *Give Me Your Hand*. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, *Paris Review* and the *Wall Street Journal*. Formerly a writer on HBO's *The Deuce*, she is co-showrunner and co-creator of *Dare Me*, which recently completed its first season on Netflix. Her latest novel, *The Turnout*, will be out in July 2021.



C. Morgan Babst is a native of New Orleans. She studied writing at Yale and NYU, and her essays and short fiction have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Saveur*, *The Oxford American*, *Guernica*, *Garden and Gun*, the *Harvard Review*, *Lenny Letter*, and the *New Orleans Review*, among others. Her debut novel, *The Floating World*, was named one of the Best Books of 2017 by

Kirkus, Amazon, *Southern Living*, and the *Dallas Morning News* and was a *New York Times* Editors' Pick.



Bryan Batt is a Broadway, film, and television actor best known for the role that won him two Screen Actors Guild awards: Salvatore Romano in the critically acclaimed series, *Mad Men*. A veteran of nine Broadway shows and nine Off-Broadway shows, he began writing about his family in his first book, a *New York Times* Best Summer Reading list title, the "memoir," *She Ain't Heavy*,

She's My Mother and later *Pontchartrain Beach: A Family Affair*, written with Katy Danos.



Bon Bon Vivant is an indie band from New Orleans that electrifies audiences across the country with their signature blend of jazz/Americana/dark ballads and up-tempo indie dance rock. BBVs original music pays homage to the bawdy New Orleans sound, while infusing an indie flavor that leaves a lasting mark on listeners. Helmed by songwriter Abigail

Cosio and her husband, saxophonist Jeremy Kelley, with her sister Glori Cosio on harmony, BBV is well-known on the New Orleans music scene and was awarded Best Emerging Artist of 2018 by *OffBeat Magazine*. BBV tours regularly spreading the gospel of decadence and revelry with their infectious live shows.



Michael Bourne has covered publishing and the literary world for the past decade for *Poets & Writers Magazine*, where he is a contributing editor. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Globe & Mail*, *The Economist*, and *The Millions*, where he is a staff writer, and his short fiction has appeared in *deceMBER*, *The Common*, *The Southampton Review*, and *Tin House* online. His

debut novel *Blithedale Canyon* is due out from Regal House in 2022. His website is www.michaelbournewriter.com.



Robert Bray, Ph.D., is the founding director of the Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference, now in its 25th year as part of the New Orleans & Tennessee Williams Literary Festival. Bray is also the founding editor of the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*. The author, coauthor, editor, or coeditor of four books, he has written dozens of articles, interviews, entries, and reviews related to Williams and his work. With R. Barton Palmer, Bray cowrote *Hollywood's Tennessee: The Williams Films and Postwar America* (U of Texas P, 2009), the only full-length book that examines the Williams films in their cultural context. Bray retired from teaching in 2017 and is professor emeritus of English at Middle Tennessee State University.



Elizabeth Miki Brina writes memoir and personal essays. Her first book, *Speak, Okinawa*, was published in February by Knopf Press. Her work has appeared in *The Sun*, *River Teeth*, *Gulf Coast Magazine*, and *New Delta Review*, among others. She received her MFA in Creative Writing from University of New Orleans and currently teaches at the Delgado Community College Writing Center.



Ethan Brown is author of four books about crime and criminal justice policy: *Murder in the Bayou*, *Queens Reigns Supreme*, *Snitch*, and *Shake the Devil Off*. Showtime premiered a TV adaption of *Murder in the Bayou* in 2019. Ethan also worked for nearly a decade as a mitigation specialist for attorneys representing indigent defendants facing the death penalty in the Deep South and elsewhere. Currently, he is Enterprise Editor of *The Appeal*, which produces original journalism about the most significant drivers of mass incarceration, state and local criminal justice systems.



Originally from Miami, **Franky Canga** is a multidisciplinary performance artist in New Orleans. Franky is a classically trained dancer that uses his technique to inform his drag, burlesque and circus art. Known as the gender-bending gentleman, his art often focuses on deconstructing and subverting gender. Franky has been a part of several cabaret and performance troupes including Fleur De Tease and has performed in large scale circus shows all over the Crescent City.



Fermín Ceballos is a tri-lingual Afro-Dominican songwriter, musician, bandleader, composer, actor, and poet living and creating art in New Orleans. He studied art and music at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD) and was a music professor for the National System of Free Schools of the Ministry of Culture of the Dominican Republic. His primary instruments are accordion, guitar, piano, and voice. He is the author of *Pisando Mi Sombra*, poems in Spanish and English. In 2020, he formed Amor y Musica, LLC and remained busy spreading love and music, despite Covid-19 restrictions. In 2021, Fermín participated in the Tone of Truth Racial Healing and Equity Virtual Concert Series hosted by the Ashé Cultural Arts Center.



Mimi Chan leads author marketing at Goodreads, the world's largest community of readers. She studied economics at Stanford University and found her passion creating award-winning marketing programs at Fortune 500 companies for the last 20 years. Mimi is active in the community, volunteering with organizations like TEDx Oakland and Because Justice Matters. You can talk books with her at goodreads.com/mimichan.



Pamela Colloff is a senior reporter at *ProPublica* and a staff writer at *The New York Times Magazine*. She covers criminal justice, focusing on the causes of wrongful convictions. Colloff's work has been nominated for seven National Magazine Awards; she won for Feature Writing in 2013 and Reporting in 2020. She is currently expanding her award-winning 2019 *New York Times Magazine* cover story "False Witness"—on a notorious con man whose testimony helped send four men to death row—into a book for Random House.



Augustin J. Correro, M.F.A. is a theatrical director, producer, and educator based in New Orleans. He is a Founding Co-Artistic Director of the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans and served as a director for many of its productions including *The Glass Menagerie*, *Kingdom of Earth*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *Camino Real*, and *The Rose Tattoo*. He earned his M.F.A. in Theatre Pedagogy from Virginia Commonwealth University and his B.A. in Theatre from Mississippi University for Women.



Alan Cumming has performed with Jay Z and Liza with a Z; he has won a Tony, hosted the Tonys and been nominated for an Emmy for doing so. He made back-to-back films with Stanley Kubrick and the Spice Girls. He has played God, the Devil, Hitler, the Pope, a teleporting superhero, Hamlet, all the parts in *Macbeth*, General Batista of Cuba, a goat opposite Sean Connery, Dionysus, a Smurf (twice) the EmCee in Cabaret (thrice), a James Bond baddie, and Eli Gold on seven seasons of *The Good Wife* for which he received multiple Golden Globe, Emmy and SAG award nominations. He is the author of five books, including a #1 *New York Times* best-selling memoir. He played the first ever gay leading role on an US network drama, CBS's *Instinct*.



Brenda Currin, an Obie Award winner, has worked extensively in the New York theater. Film credits include: *In Cold Blood*, *The World According to Garp*, *Reds*, *Taps*, cult classic *C.H.U.D.*, *Out of Blue* and *Gossamer Folds*. Brenda played Thelma Toole in the TWNOL Festival's presentation of *A Confederacy of Dunces*. Also in New Orleans, Brenda was in *Dividing the Estate*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Orpheus Descending*, and *Suddenly Last Summer*. With David Kaplan, Brenda adapted Eudora Welty's work for "Sister and Miss Lexie" and "A Fire Was in My Head." She adapted and staged Welty's story, "Moon Lake," which will be performed for the Faulkner, Welty, Wright Conference in Jackson, MS. She's also slated to play Amanda in the upcoming production of *The Glass Menagerie* in St. Louis.



Reiko Davis has been an agent at DeFiore and Company since 2016, prior to which she was a literary associate at Miriam Altshuler Literary Agency. She focuses on literary fiction and narrative nonfiction, as well as middle grade and YA literature. A graduate of Brown University and the Columbia Publishing Course, she grew up in Kansas City and now lives in Queens, NY. Her award-winning clients include Devi S. Laskar, Genevieve Plunkett, Shannon Sanders, Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Lindsey Klingele, Andrea Debbink, Brittany Geragotelis, Alan Gelb, Mallory Weggemann, Brittany Wagner, and Micah Perks.



Arsène DeLay is an American singer, songwriter, and musician based in New Orleans known for her ability to navigate a diverse musical genres, from jazz, R&B, blues, rock and roll, to funk and folk. Daughter of an active-duty military father, Arsène spent much of her life on the road, starting on Milwaukee's rich underground hip-hop and poetry scene and finishing her BFA at Marquette University. She put the Ascona Jazz and Heritage Festival, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and the REDCAT Theatre at the Walt Disney Concert Hall under her belt before finishing her master's degree from California Institute of the Arts. "Comin' Home," her critically acclaimed and award-nominated debut album (2014) was featured on *NCIS: New Orleans*. Her latest collaboration released in August 2019 is "Blue Basso," with Charlie Wootton (of Royal Southern Brotherhood acclaim) providing lyrics and vocals with musical heavyweights Doug Wimbish (Living Colour), Eric McFadden (Parliament), Anders Osborne, and Sonny Landreth.



Joel Dinerstein is a Professor of English at Tulane University and the author of five books on jazz, urban cool, and race, including the recent *Jazz: A Quick Immersion* (2020). He wrote the first history of urban cool, *The Origins of Cool in Postwar America* (2017), and an award-winning history of big-band swing, *Swinging the Machine: Modernity, Technology, and African-American Culture* (2003). He curated *American Cool* (2014), a major exhibit at the National Portrait Gallery. He was a jazz DJ on WWOZ-FM in New Orleans for a decade and is a consultant on jazz for Putumayo Records. He gave a Ted Talk entitled "Why Cool Matters" in 2015.



Adam Dugas is an artist, showman and filmmaker based in Los Angeles. Directing work for film/video includes the narrative feature *DUST*, fashion films, music videos, short form comedy, documentaries, and branded content. Original stage works include the musical entertainments *Unholy Night*, *Chicken in the Snow*, and *Dueling Harps* (with Ann Magnuson). *Everything* is an album that collects the recorded work of Adam & Mia, his collaboration with the harpist Mia Theodoratus.



Emma Copley Eisenberg's fiction and nonfiction has appeared in *McSweeney's*, *Granta*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Tin House*, *Guernica*, *The Washington Post Magazine*, and others. Her first book of nonfiction is *The Third Rainbow Girl: The Long Life of a Double Murder in Appalachia*, which was a *New York Times* notable book of 2020 and nominated for an Edgar and Lambda Literary Award. Raised in New York City, she lives in Philadelphia, where she co-directs Blue Stoop, a hub for the literary arts. Her next two books, a novel and a collection of short stories, are forthcoming from Hogarth (Penguin Random House).



Alison Fensterstock has been a staff critic and reporter for the alt-weekly *Gambit* and the daily *Times-Picayune* in New Orleans. She's written and edited things about music, culture, books and eccentric history and people for *Rolling Stone*, *NPR*, the *New York Times* and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities' quarterly magazine *64 Parishes*, where she's been a columnist since 2016.



Randy Fertel is the author of two award-winning books: *A Taste for Chaos: The Art of Literary Improvisation* which novelist Tim O'Brien called, "a stunner of a book—smart, jarring, innovative, witty, provocative, wise, and beautifully written;" and *The Gorilla Man and the Empress of Steak: A New Orleans Family Memoir*, now in its 4th printing. In 2018 Fertel founded the annual *Improv Conference New Orleans: A Festival of Ideas* and serves as Creative Director.

(<https://www.improvconferencenola.com>) He is president of the Fertel Foundation and the Ruth U. Fertel Foundation, named for his mother, founder of Ruth's Chris Steak House. In 2003 he founded the *Ridenhour Prizes for Courageous Truth-telling* in honor of the My Lai whistleblower Ron Ridenhour (ridenhour.org).



USA Today and international bestselling author **Alison Gaylin** has won the Edgar and Shamus awards. Her work has been published in the US, UK, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Japan, Germany, Romania and Denmark, and she has been nominated for numerous awards, including the Macavity, Anthony, ITW Thriller and Strand Book Award. In addition to her novels, she has published many short stories and collaborated with Megan Abbott on the graphic novel *Normandy Gold* (Titan/Hard Case Crime, 2018). Her 12th book, *The Collective*, will be out from William Morrow in November.



Sarah Gerton is an agent at Curtis Brown, Ltd., building a list of fiction and narrative nonfiction for middle grade and young adult readers. While fantasy is her first love, she's eager to read YA and MG fiction of all genres, gravitating toward character-driven stories with unforgettable settings. On the nonfiction side, her interests include beautifully written history, reportage, and/or memoir for a young audience. She graduated from Wesleyan University and the Columbia Publishing Course.



Tiffany Gilbert is department chair and associate professor in the department of English at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. Her research areas encompass post-1945 American literature, film, and popular culture. She has published articles on Otto Preminger's *Carmen Jones*, Douglas Sirk's *Imitation of Life*, Giuseppe Verdi's *Otello*, Fred Schepisi's film *Plenty*, and Jim Sheridan's *My Left Foot*. Her essay "Mississippi Magnani: Transatlantic Collaborations and Civil Rights in *The Rose Tattoo* and *The Fugitive Kind*" appeared in the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review* in 2017. She is currently working on her book *Anna Magnani: Performing in Place* (Edinburgh UP).



Lawrence Henry Gobble holds a BA in theatre from New Mexico State University. He has a long history as a special events director, event host, and VIP coordinator, working with such celebrities as Richard Chamberlain, Eli Wallach and Anne Jackson, Dame Julie Andrew, President George Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush, President and First Lady Mikhail Gorbachev, Archbishop Tutu, among others. He has been events director at Tulane University, Benedictine University, and LSU. He has volunteered with the Festival for several years as event consultant and VIP coordinator. He also has a vast history in development and volunteers with several organizations in fundraising and special events, including Love is Louder, True Colors Residence for homeless LGBT youth, and Project Lazarus. Lawrence is also a Licensed Massage Therapist and owner of Nola Healer.



Sierra Green and The Soul Machine is defined by the front-woman's powerhouse vocals. Effortlessly belting blues, soul, and R&B with unparalleled grit and passion, she often garners comparisons to Aretha Franklin and Irma Thomas. Winner of the Best Emerging Artist award in *Offbeat Magazine's* 2019 Best of the Beat Awards, Sierra has quickly become one of the New Orleans iconic female singers.



Eliza Griswold is the author, most recently, of *If Men, Then*, her second book of poems, and *Amity and Prosperity: One Family and the Fracturing of America*, for which she won the Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction in 2019. Griswold has held fellowships at Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the New America Foundation, among others, and has been awarded various prizes, including the Ridenhour Prize and the J. Anthony Lukas Prize for her nonfiction, a PEN/Translation Prize, and the Rome Prize for her poetry. She is currently a Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University and a contributing writer at *The New Yorker*.



Minrose Gwin is the author of three novels: *The Queen of Palmyra*, a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers pick and finalist for the John Gardner Fiction Book Award; *Promise*, which was shortlisted for the Willie Morris Award in Southern Literature; and *The Accidentals*. She is also the author of a memoir, *Wishing for Snow*, and *Remembering Medgar Evers: Writing the Long Civil Rights Movement*, and coedited *The Literature of the American South*, a Norton anthology. Minrose has taught at universities across the country, most recently the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Like the characters in *Promise*, she grew up in Tupelo, Mississippi.



Peter Hagan retired in October 2020 after seven years as President of Dramatists Play Service, the licensor of nonprofessional productions and publisher of the acting editions of Tennessee Williams' plays. He was a playwrights' agent for many years before that, representing Alan Ball, Don DeLillo, David Ives, Katori Hall, Beth Henley, Lynn Nottage and Romulus Linney, among many others. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia. He lives in New Orleans.



C.S. Harris (Candice Proctor) is the *USA Today* bestselling, award-winning author of more than two dozen novels including the Sebastian St. Cyr Regency mystery series written under the name C.S. Harris, the C.S. Graham thriller series co-written with Steven Harris, and seven historical romances. She is also the author of a nonfiction historical study on women in the French Revolution. A former academic with a PhD in European history, Candice also worked as an archaeologist. After living and traveling abroad, she now lives in New Orleans with her husband, retired Army intelligence officer Steve Harris, and an ever-expanding number of cats.



Rodney Hicks is a meditator, playwright, and actor who made his Broadway debut as part of the Original cast of *Rent*. He originated the role of Clarence Norris in *The Scottsboro Boys* and was last seen on Broadway originating the role(s) of Bob & others in *Come From Away*.

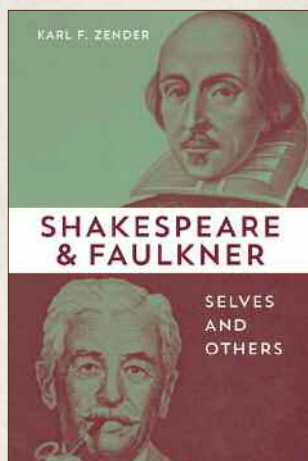


Kenneth Holditch's work revolves around Tennessee Williams scholarship, including being editor of the *Tennessee Williams Journal* and co-editor, along with Mel Gussow, of the Library of America edition of Williams' writings. He is also a professor emeritus at the University of New Orleans. Holditch has collaborated with Richard Freeman Leavitt on *Tennessee Williams and the South* and *The World of Tennessee Williams*. He created the Tennessee Williams literary walking tours and knew the playwright.

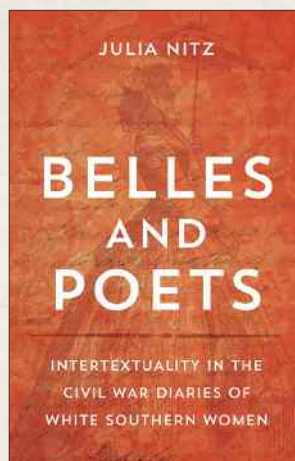
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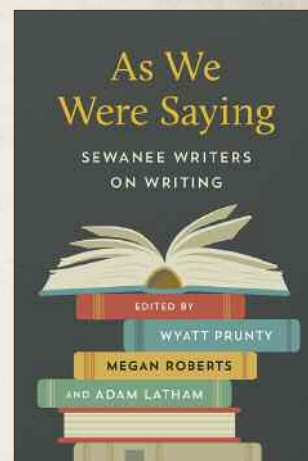
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Ladee Hubbard is the author of *The Talented Ribkins*, winner of the 2018 Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence. Her most recent novel is *The Rib King*, released in January 2021. Her writing has appeared in *Guernica*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Arkansas International*, *Copper Nickel* and *Callaloo* among other venues. She is a recipient of a 2016 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award and has also received fellowships from Art Omi, the Sacatar Foundation, the Sustainable Arts Foundation, Hedgebrook, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts among other places. Born in Massachusetts and raised in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Florida, She currently lives in New Orleans with her husband and three children.



Lisa Immordino Vreeland's books and films have won numerous awards, including the Silver Hugo at the Chicago Film Festival and the fashion category for the Design of the Year Awards—otherwise known as “The Oscars” of design—at the Design Museum in London. In addition to the film *Peggy Guggenheim: Art Addict*, her books and accompanying documentaries include *Diana Vreeland: The Eye Has to Travel* and *Love, Cecil*. Her fourth film, *Truman & Tennessee: An Intimate Conversation* was accepted at the 2020 Telluride Film Festival and will be playing festivals worldwide throughout 2021. The film is currently the winner of Best Documentary Feature at the Santa Fe Independent Film Festival and winner of Best LGBTQ Film at the Key West Film Festival.



Skye Jackson was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. She has served as a poetry editor for *Bayou Magazine*, *French Quarter Journal*, and *Tilted House*. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Green Mountains Review*, *RATTLE*, *Rigorous*, *Xavier Review* and the *I Am New Orleans* anthology. Her debut chapbook, *A Faster Grave*, won the 2019 Antenna Prize. She was a finalist for the 2020 *RATTLE* Poetry Prize. *Poets & Writers* has recognized her as a New Orleans “Poet to Watch.” Find her at www.skyejackson.com or on Instagram at [@skyeinthecity](https://www.instagram.com/skyeinthecity).



Robert Jones, Jr., was born and raised in New York City. He received his BFA in creative writing with honors and MFA in fiction from Brooklyn College. He has written for numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, *Essence*, *OkayAfrica*, *The Feminist Wire*, and *The Grio*. He is the creator of the social justice social media community Son of Baldwin. Jones was recently featured in *T Magazine's* cover story, “Black Male Writers of Our Time.” *The Prophets* is his debut novel.



James A. Jordan is pursuing his PhD at Georgia State where he serves as an Assistant Editor for *Five Points*. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Bitter Southerner*, *Carve*, *The Greensboro Review*, *New South*, *Quarterly West*, *The Saturday Evening Post Online*, and *The Trinity Review* among others. A recipient of the Paul Bowles Fellowship and member of the Peauxdunque Writers Alliance, he received his MFA from the University of New Orleans.



Thomas Keith has edited the Tennessee Williams titles for New Directions since 2002, including four volumes of unpublished or uncollected one-acts. Co-editor of *The Luck of Friendship: Selected Letters of Tennessee Williams and James Laughlin*, Keith also edited *Love, Christopher Street*, an anthology of LGBT essays about New York City by Jewelle Gomez, Ocean Vuong, Michele Karlsberg, Val McDermid, Felice Picano, Bob Smith, Martin Hyatt, and others. He has served as dramaturg for Sundance Theater Lab, reader for Yale Drama Prize, and teaches theater at Pace University.



Angie Kim is the debut author of the international bestseller and Edgar winner *Miracle Creek*, named a “Best Book of the Year” by *Time*, *The Washington Post*, *Kirkus*, and *The Today Show*, among others. A Korean immigrant, former editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, and one of *Variety Magazine's* inaugural “10 Storytellers to Watch,” Kim has written for *Vogue*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Washington Post*, *Glamour*, and numerous literary journals. She lives in Northern Virginia with her husband and three sons.



Lily King is the award-winning author of five novels. Her most recent novel, *Writers & Lovers*, was published on March 3rd, 2020. Her 2014 novel *Euphoria* won the Kirkus Award, The New England Book Award and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Award. *Euphoria* was named one of the 10 Best Books of 2014 by *The New York Times Book Review*. It was included in *TIME's* Top 10 Fiction Books of 2014, as well as on Amazon, NPR, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *Salon's* Best Books of 2014.



Peggy Scott Laborde is an Emmy award-winning producer and the host/producer of “Steppin’ Out,” New Orleans’ only weekly arts and entertainment discussion program, now in its 35th season on WYES-TV (PBS affiliate) in New Orleans. Laborde is a charter board member of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival. She served as its president for a total of 14 years and is currently president. She is also the co-author of five books and has produced over 30 documentaries focusing on the food, culture and more recent history of New Orleans.



Balanced atop thin necked champagne bottles, **LadyBEAST** leaves her audiences breathless with her seemingly effortless tiptoe. But the feats of illusion and magic don't stop there! LadyBEAST is a circus artist based in New Orleans, specializing in Houdini-esque illusions, aerial, fire performance, and stilt walking. She might have escaped from a straight jacket suspended from a hot air balloon over the playa at Burning Man and then did a TED Talk about it all filmed by Ripley's Believe It Or Not, but you can google search her to know for sure.



Susan Larson is the host of *The Reading Life* on WWNO, New Orleans’ NPR affiliate, and the author of *The Booklover's Guide to New Orleans*, recently published in a second edition. She is the past president of the Women's National Book Association of New Orleans, which presents the Pinckley Prizes for Crime Fiction, and she is a former member of the boards of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival and The New Orleans Public Library.



Since **Laura Lippman's** debut in 1997, she has been recognized as a distinctive voice in mystery fiction and named one of the “essential” crime writers of the last 100 years. Her recent novel, *Lady in the Lake*, published in the summer of 2019, received stellar reviews and became an international bestseller. Her books have won most of the major awards in her field and been translated into more than twenty languages. In addition to brilliant novels, Laura also writes amazing essays. The collection, *My Life as a Villainess*, was published in August 2020. Lippman's new novel, *Dream Girl*, a stunning and twisty psychological mystery about a novelist who is plagued by phone calls from a female prankster claiming you be the main character from his bestselling novel, will be published June 22, 2021.



Karen Kaia Livers is a native of New Orleans and has appeared on stage and in films for 45 years. Recently nominated for Best Actress at the Tribeca Film Festival US Narrative Competition for the lead role in *Burning Cane*, her latest credits include *Queen & Slim*, *Claude*, *Triple Nine*, and *Don't Kill It*. Her last theatrical tour included a finale at the Apollo Theater in “Swimming Up Stream,” collaborative writing by New Orleans women about surviving Hurricane Katrina directed by Tony Award winners Eve Ensler and Kenny Leon. She spent 23 years with the Alliance for Community Theaters, Inc. and was Executive Director of ACT I for 13 years, assisting theater practitioners with arts administration and creative management, as well as producing ACT I: New Orleans Black Theater Festival for 20 years.



Margit Longbrake, senior editor at The Historic New Orleans Collection, has served since 2015 as managing editor of the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*. In her years at the journal she has overseen the editing and first-time publication of a number of primary Williams texts unearthed from the archives. She worked for over a decade at the Modern Language Association, where she acquired and developed pedagogical anthologies and literary translations and served on the committee that generated the eighth edition of the *MLA Handbook*.



Dr. Richard Louth, a Professor of English at Southeastern Louisiana University for 42 years, is Director of the Southeastern Louisiana Writing Project, and founder of the New Orleans Writing Marathon. He has edited *The Writing Marathon: In Good Company Revealed* (Lulu.com, 2011) and six collections of Writing Marathon writing published in *Louisiana Literature*. He has led over 100 Writing Marathons in cities ranging from New Orleans to Baltimore and San Francisco and has been a regular leader of New Orleans Writing Marathons at the Tennessee Williams Literary Festival. His stories, poetry, and nonfiction have appeared in *Louisiana Literature*, *Country Roads Magazine*, and *Speak*.



Ann Magnuson is a writer, actress, singer, musician, and performer whose eclectic resume traverses the entertainment landscape like few others. She has acted in Hollywood blockbusters, Off-Broadway plays, TV sitcoms and indie films, fronted various bands, written for numerous publications and has presented her original performance art pieces at the Whitney Museum (performing a 5-hour "Tribute to Muzak" in the museum elevator), The Museum of Modern Art, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, BAM, LACMA, MOCA, The Hammer Museum, REDCAT, The Walker Art Center, The Andy Warhol Museum and in places as far flung as Tokyo's Sogetsu Hall and Sweden's Ice Hotel in the Arctic Circle. Recent projects include acting roles in such series as *Man in the High Castle*, *Picard*, and *The Flight Attendant*; as well as guest curating the Club 57 retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art; performing *The Bongwater Songbook* with her former band mates; and numerous art installations and other artistic endeavors including her original YouTube series "WTF 2020" about life during the pandemic.



Lauren Markham is a writer based in California focusing on youth, migration and the environment, whose work has appeared in outlets such as *Guernica*, *Harper's*, *Orion*, *Freeman's*, *Lithub*, *Best American Travel Writing*, *The New Republic*, *Narrative*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times* and *VQR*, where she is a contributing editor. Lauren is the author of *The Far Away Brothers: Two Young Migrants and the Making of an American Life*, which was awarded the Northern California Book Award, The California Book Award Silver Medal, and the Ridenhour Prize. She teaches in the MFA programs at Ashland University and the University of San Francisco.



Susan Martens served as a retreat leader for the Southeastern Louisiana Writing Project's New Orleans Writing Marathon Retreat from 2015-2019. She has been studying and facilitating writing marathons for the last fifteen years, and her writing about them has appeared in publications such as *College Composition and Communication*, *Assay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies*, and *Louisiana Literature*. She is currently Associate Professor of English and Director of the Prairie Lands Writing Project at Missouri Western State University.



Restaurateur, entrepreneur, and author **Ti Adelaide Martin** is an outspoken champion for true hospitality in business, for her city, and for the many causes she devotes herself to. Most recently, Martin helped co-found and is chair of the board of NOCHI, a 93,000 square-foot culinary and hospitality institute. From co-founder in the 90s of the "New Orleans - Proud to Call It Home" campaign, to the driving force behind the new billion-dollar airport terminal as finance chair and 12-year member of the Aviation board, Martin's energy appears boundless. Martin credits her mother Ella Brennan with igniting that passion. A lifelong dream came true when Ti returned the favor by releasing a book with her mother, *Miss Ella of Commander's Palace: I Don't Want a Restaurant Where a Jazz Band Can't Come Marching Through*.



Stephanie V. McKee-Anderson is Executive Artistic Director of Junebug Productions, Inc., birthed out of the Free Southern Theater (FST), which formed in 1963 as a cultural arm of the Civil Rights Movement. FST became a tremendous influence on the BlackArts Movement. McKee is a 2018 Urban Bush Women Choreographic Fellowship recipient and under her leadership, Junebug Productions was a recipient of a Sordana Foundation's Artist engaged in social change award for Homecoming Project, and the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) Theater Project grant for Gomela to Return/Movement of Our Mother Tongue, which was her directorial debut. She serves on the board and executive committee of National Performance Network, is a member of Alternate ROOTS, a 2007 New Voices emerging Leader alumnus, a 2015 Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) Leadership Fellow and a Group Leader for the 2017 APAP Leadership Fellow Co-hort.



Tim McNally is the Wine and Spirits Editor, columnist and feature writer for *New Orleans Magazine*; the Wine and Spirits Editor and weekly columnist of "Happy Hour" for www.MyNewOrleans.com; creator and editor of www.winetalknola.com; all in addition to his daily hosting duties on the radio program, *The Dine, Wine and Spirits Show*, on the air at WGSO - 990AM, every weekday, 3- 5 p.m, and streamed live on www.wgso.com.



Maritza Mercado-Narcisse has had the privilege of performing her work on the Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out stage, the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, and at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival. New Orleans has served as home base since 1988, where Maritza has worked with ArtSpot Productions, Moving Humans, and Mondo Bizarro. She is a Louisiana Division of the Arts Fellow and resident artist at Dancing Grounds. Maritza has studied with Susan Marshall, Doug Varone, Bepie Blankert, and Milton Myers, among others and been a participant and faculty member with the Urban Bush Women's Summer Leadership Institute held in New Orleans, a relationship that has fostered her ongoing exploration of the intersection between art and activism. Maritza has maintained a teaching practice in New Orleans since 2000, offering instruction through NOBA, Lusher Charter School, KID smART, among others. In 2014 Maritza premiered her company, the Narcisse|Movement Project, as an artist in residence at the Contemporary Arts Center's The Distillery.



Tony Award-winning actor **John Cameron Mitchell** is best known for the long-running off-Broadway rock musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* that became a Golden Globe nominated film in 2001. He has also earned three Obies and three Drama Desk Award nominations. His Greenwich House off-Broadway send up of *The Seven Descents of Myrtle*, titled *Kingdom of Earth*, stands as the highest profile attempt of a radical revision of a William's play. His film *Shortbus* premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2006 and won awards at International Film Festivals in Athens, Gijón, and Zurich. Mitchell has directed music videos for MTV, appeared in interviews on *Politically Incorrect*, and hosted Independent Film Channel programs. He is currently starring in Lorne Michaels' *Shrill* with Aidy Bryant and on a covid hiatus from his touring show, *Origin of Love, The Songs and Stories of Hedwig*.



Originally from Minnesota, **Jacey Mitziga** double-majored in English writing and Psychology at Concordia College before receiving an M.S. in Publishing from NYU. Prior to joining DeFiore and Company, she held internships at the National Book Foundation, W.W. Norton & Company, The Zoë Pagnamenta Agency, and Flatiron Books. She is a volunteer for the National Book Foundation. Jacey is primarily drawn to literary fiction and upmarket commercial fiction, with a particular interest in underrepresented voices, writing with a strong sense of place and heart. She is also interested in memoir, narrative non-fiction in the categories of politics and current affairs, history, sociology, and deep-dive journalism. She is ever longing to learn more, broaden her perspective, and to be driven to think more deeply.



Marian D. Moore lives in Harvey, LA, and works in the city of New Orleans. Marian converted a childhood love of science into a career in computing analysis. Her love of literature led to her writing both poetry and fiction. In 1998, she became a member of the NOMMO Literary Society, a writing workshop led by New Orleans writer and activist Kalamu ya Salaam. Her book of poetry, *Louisiana Midrash*, was published by UNO Press/Runagate in January 2019. Her fiction has been published in the anthology *Crossroads: Tales of the Southern Literary Fantastic*, the online journal *RIGOROUS*, and the anthology *Dominion: An Anthology of Speculative Fiction from Africa and the African Diaspora*.



Michael Quess Moore is a poet, educator, multi-disciplinary artist and activist. He answers to all mediums that call his name, from pen to bullhorn, page to stage to street corner, to mouth his message of liberation for all oppressed and colonized peoples. He uses his mediums to pick the locks of psychological oppression, while diagnosing the socio-economic and cultural oppressions that create said locks, with the overall aim of achieving liberation from the inside out.



Tommye Myrick is a native of New Orleans committed to education and theater and is a 2020 Big Easy Lifetime Achievement Theatre Award Recipient for her longtime efforts. She attended Xavier University, performing with the famed "Free Southern Theater." She earned a master's at the University of Michigan and made her film debut in *Cane River*. She studied with Gene Frankel, starred and directed Lawrence Holder's one-woman show, *Zora*, and directed Norbert Davidson's *El Hajj Malik*, the Life of Malcolm X. She returned to New Orleans, taught at the University of New and also taught at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. She was the first African American director at Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré for *Fences*, winning the 1992 Big Easy Award for Best Drama and Best Director. In 1992, she formed Voices in the Dark Repertory Theatre Company dedicated to presenting, producing, and promoting plays, films, art, dance, literature and musical interpretations that are artistic expressions of the 'disenfranchised. Currently, Ms. Myrick has been working on mounting a full length historical outdoor drama entitled *Le Code Noir*.



Writer/Performer **Jen Pagan** is a Honduran-American born in New Orleans. Her award-winning solo show "Shoebbox Lounge" garnered Big Easy Theatre Award nominations for Best Original Work and Best Actress. In Los Angeles she was an ensemble member of the Ford Amphitheater's Latino Series and alumna of Second City's Conservatory. Currently she's developing her solo piece "Donde Esta" into a short film and anticipating the return of her acclaimed Infringe Festival solo performance piece "Eat Me."



Melinda Palacio is the author of the novel, *Ocotillo Dreams*, winner of a 2012 PEN Oakland-Josephine Miles Award. Her first full-length poetry collection, *How Fire Is a Story*, *Waiting*, (Tia Chucha Press 2012) was a finalist for the Milt Kessler Award, the Paterson Prize, and received First Prize in Poetry at the 2013 International Latino Book Awards. In 2015, her work was featured on the Academy of American Poets. *Bird Forgiveness* is her latest poetry collection.



R. Barton Palmer is Calhoun Lemon Professor Emeritus at Clemson University, where he was founding director of the World Cinema program. He is author or editor of more than 60 books, and more than 100 articles and book chapters on literary and film studies. A special interest has been the film adaptation of the works of Tennessee Williams and other playwrights of the postwar era. With Robert Bray, he wrote *Hollywood's Tennessee: The Williams Films and Postwar America* (U of Texas P). Also with Bray, he edited *Modern American Drama on Screen* and its companion volume *Modern British Drama on Screen* (Cambridge UP). He is editor of the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review* and the *South Atlantic Review*, as well as a book series editor for six academic presses. His most recent book is *The Other Hollywood Renaissance* (Edinburgh UP).



Sunni Patterson is a New Orleans native and visionary, an internationally acclaimed poet, performer, lecturer, workshop facilitator, and certified life coach. As a diligent student in the healing and spiritual arts, she uses art and culture to recognize, address, and eliminate all forms of oppression. Her artistry has allowed her to grace a plethora of stages and platforms. Sunni is a 2020 John O'Neal Cultural Arts Fellow, and she currently serves as a Resident Artist for both the City of New Orleans' Claiborne Corridor Cultural Initiative and Junebug Productions. She is also co-founder of environmental arts and public health organization, Breath is Life.



Eric Paulsen is an Emmy winning journalist at WWL-TV. He has covered stories all over the world interviewing Presidents, politicians, musicians and authors including the last television interview with Tennessee Williams. Eric is co-anchor of the Eyewitness Morning News.



Margie Perez is a vivacious singer and songwriter specializing in a versatile blend of blues, pop, and Latin with a New Orleans funky touch. Dubbed by *Offbeat Magazine* as "one of the hardest working musicians in New Orleans," she leads her own band, which performs her original music and co-leads Muevelo, a hot 10 piece Latin ensemble. She is excited to perform with Teatros Sin Fronteras in their Tennessee Williams Festival debut.



John Pope, a New Orleans reporter since 1973, was a member of *The Times-Picayune's* team that won two Pulitzer Prizes for coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. He graduated from the University of Texas. A contributing writer to *The Times-Picayune* | *The New Orleans Advocate*, Pope is the author of an anthology of obituaries and funeral stories called *Getting Off at Elysian Fields*, and is a co-author of *Building on the Past: Saving Historic New Orleans*.



Kathy Randels was born and raised in New Orleans and founded ArtSpot Productions in 1995. She has written, performed in, and directed numerous original solo and collaboratively created group works for professional, student, and incarcerated ensembles in Louisiana and beyond. She co-founded and co-directs the LCIW (Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women) Drama Club in 1996; and The Graduates (an ensemble of formerly incarcerated women currently in residence at the CAC) in 2012. Past "New Orleans as muse" performances include *New Orleans Suite*; *Lower 9 Stories*; *Beneath the Strata/Disappearing*; and *Nita & Zita* (2003 Obie Award). Upcoming projects include *Requiem for My Parents' House* and *Holy Wars*. *Spaces in Between* was originally created as a live performance in the gutted house she grew up in for *Lakeviews: A Sunset Bus Tour* (2007); and the film premiered in *Tank Drama*, a group exhibit at the CAC in 2013.



J.M. Redmann has published ten novels featuring New Orleans PI Micky Knight. Her latest is *Not Dead Enough*. Her first book was published in 1990, one of the early hard-boiled lesbian detective novels. Her books have won three Lambda Literary awards. *The Intersection of Law & Desire* was an Editor's Choice of the San Francisco Chronicle and a recommended book by Maureen Corrigan of NPR's Fresh Air. She is the co-editor with Greg Herren of three anthologies, *Night Shadows: Queer Horror*, *Women of the Mean Streets: Lesbian Noir*, and *Men of the Mean Streets: Gay Noir*. Her books have been translated into German, Spanish, Dutch, Hebrew and Norwegian. She lives in New Orleans.



Paisley Rekdal's newest book is *Appropriate: A Provocation*, which examines cultural appropriation, and is author of *The Night My Mother Met Bruce Lee* (essays); a photo-text memoir, *Intimate*; a book-length essay, *The Broken Country: On Trauma, a Crime, and the Continuing Legacy of Vietnam*; six books of poetry, including *Nightingale*, which rewrites many myths in Ovid's *The Metamorphoses*. She is guest editor for *Best American Poetry 2020*. Her work has received numerous awards and fellowships. In May 2017, she was named Utah's Poet Laureate and received a 2019 Academy of American Poets' Poets Laureate Fellowship.



A poet, translator, and PhD candidate in English at the University of Delaware, **Naghmeh Rezaie** works with adaptation theory, cross-cultural adaptations, and national and international cinema studies. Her master's thesis at the University of Tehran examined Tennessee Williams's cinematic adaptations, and her dissertation project focuses on cross-cultural adaptations in Iranian cinema. Her essay "Here Without Me: The Cross-Cultural Adaptation of *The Glass Menagerie* in Iranian Cinema" appears in the 2018 issue of the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*.



Gary Richards is Professor of English and Chair of the Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication at the University of Mary Washington. He is the author of *Lovers and Beloveds: Sexual Otherness in Southern Fiction, 1936-1961* as well as numerous essays on southern literature and culture including, most recently, "Tennessee Williams and the Burden of Southern Sexuality Studies" and "Queering Welty's Male Bodies in the Undergraduate Classroom."



Kristina Kay Robinson is a writer, curator, and visual artist born and raised in New Orleans. Her writing has appeared in *Guernica*, *The Baffler*, *The Nation*, *The Massachusetts Review* and *Elle*, among others. Robinson is co-editor of *Mixed Company*, a collection of short fiction and visual narratives by women of color. She is a 2019 recipient of the Rabkin Prize for Visual Arts Journalism. She serves as the New Orleans editor at large for the Atlanta-based *Burnaway* magazine.



Emmy winner **Mo Rocca** is a correspondent for *CBS Sunday Morning* and a frequent panelist on NPR's hit weekly quiz show *Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!* His most recent book is *Mobituaries*. He spent four seasons as a correspondent on *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart. On stage Mo starred on Broadway in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and as Doody in the Southeast Asian tour of the musical *Grease*. Mo is the author of *All the Presidents' Pets*, a historical novel about White House pets and their role in presidential decision-making.



Sharyn Rosenblum is Vice President Senior Director of Media Relations with HarperCollins Publishers, including the HarperCollins imprints William Morrow, Dey Street Books, and Custom House.



Leigh Camacho Rourks, a Cuban-American author who lives and works in Central Florida, is an Assistant Professor of English and Humanities at Beacon College. Her short story collection, *Moon Trees and Other Orphans*, is forthcoming in October 2019. She is the recipient of the St. Lawrence Book Award, the Glenna Luschei Prairie Schooner Award, and the Robert Watson Literary Review Prize. Her

work has appeared in a number of journals, including *Kenyon Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *RHINO*, *TriQuarterly*, *December Magazine*, and *Greensboro Review*.



Bess Rowen, Ph.D. is Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre at Villanova University. Her book *The Lines between the Lines: How Stage Directions Affect Embodiment* is forthcoming from Michigan University Press in October 2021. She is co-editor of the anthology *Theatre Scandals: Social Dynamics of Turbulent Events* (Brill/Rodopi, 2020), to which she also contributed a chapter. Recent articles can be found in

Modern Drama, *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, *Eugene O'Neill Review*, and *Theatre Journal*. She also serves as the performance review editor for the *Eugene O'Neill Review* and the conference planner for the American Theatre and Drama Society.



Maurice Carlos Ruffin is the author of *We Cast a Shadow*, which was published by One World Random House. The novel was a finalist for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, the PEN/Faulkner Award, and the PEN America Open Book Prize. His next book *The Ones Who Don't Say They Love You* will be published in 2021. Ruffin is the winner of several literary prizes, including the Iowa Review Award in fiction.

A New Orleans native, Ruffin is a professor of Creative Writing at Louisiana State University, and the 2020-2021 John and Renee Grisham Writer-in-Residence at the University of Mississippi.



Amy Ryan was born, raised and currently lives in N.Y. and started her career in theatre, appearing on Broadway in *The Sisters Rosensweig* and *The Women*, as well as *Uncle Vanya* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* which earned her Tony Award nominations. She also performed alongside her dear friend, Patricia Clarkson, in *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Kennedy Center. She was last seen onstage in

Mike Bartlett's play *Love Love Love*, which earned her an OBIE award. Film credits include *Lost Girls*, *What Is Life Worth*, *Strange But True*, *Gone Baby Gone* (academy award nomination), *Beautiful Boy*, *Birdman*, *Central Intelligence*, *Bridge of Spies*, *Goosebumps*, *Abundant Acreage Available*, *Win Win*, *Green Zone*, *Jack Goes Boating*, *Changeling*; *Before The Devil Knows You're Dead*, *Capote*. Amy's TV work includes "The Office," "In Treatment" and "The Wire." She can next be seen in the HULU comedy *Only Murders In The Building* opposite Steve Martin and Martin Short.



Kalamu ya Salaam is an American poet, author, filmmaker, and teacher from the 9th Ward of New Orleans whose latest book is *Cosmic Deputy*. A well-known activist and social critic, Salaam has spoken out on a number of racial and human rights issues. He is co-founder of the NOMMO Literary Society, a weekly workshop for Black writers. He was editor of *The Black Collegian* magazine for 13 years (1970-83), and has written for many publications including *Negro Digest/Black World*, *First World*, *The Black Scholar*, *Black Books Bulletin*, *Callaloo*, *Catalyst*, *The Journal of Black Poetry*, *Nimrod*, *Coda*, *Encore*, *The New Orleans Tribune*, *Wavelength*, *The New Orleans Music Magazine*, *The Louisiana Weekly* newspaper. He is co-founder/editor of Runagate Press.



Brian Sands is an award-winning playwright who has had works produced by Southern Rep Theater, the Contemporary Arts Center, See 'Em On Stage: A Production Company, and Dillard University, among others. Since 2002, he has been the Theater/Performing Arts critic for *Ambush Magazine*, the largest and oldest LGBTQ publication in the Gulf South, covering local theater, opera and dance performances as well as Broadway, off-Broadway, West End and other international productions.



John Patrick Shanley is from The Bronx. His plays include *The Portuguese Kid*, *Prodigal Son*, *Outside Mullingar* (Tony nomination), *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, *Savage in Limbo*, *Italian-American Reconciliation*, *Welcome to the Moon*, *Four Dogs and a Bone*, *Dirty Story*, *Defiance*, and *Beggars in the House of Plenty*. His theatrical work is performed extensively across the United States and around the world. For his play, *Doubt*, he received both the Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize.

As a screenwriter, he has nine films to his credit, most recently *Doubt*, with Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams, and Viola Davis, which he directed and was nominated for five Academy Awards, including Best Adapted Screenplay. Other films include *Five Corners* (Special Jury Prize, Barcelona Film Festival), *Alive*, *Joe Versus the Volcano* (also directed), and *Live From Baghdad* for HBO (Emmy nomination). For his script of *Moonstruck*, he received both the Writers Guild of America Award and an Academy Award for best original screenplay. In 2009, The Writers Guild of America awarded Mr. Shanley the Lifetime Achievement In Writing. *Wild Rosemary Thyme*, the film based on *Outside Mullingar*, was released in 2020.



Nick Slie is a New Orleans-born performer, producer, and cultural organizer. He is Co-Artistic Director of Mondo Bizarro and has toured imaginative projects to art centers, universities, and outdoor locations across the country and abroad since 2002. Nick's work includes interdisciplinary solo performances, festivals, digital storytelling, and site-responsive productions. From 2004- 2008, he served on the Executive Committee of Alternate ROOTS, is the former board chair for the Network of Ensemble Theaters, and currently serves on the board for Goat in the Road and the North American Cultural Laboratory. He recently directed *Ezell: Ballad of a Land Man* and is currently developing his latest project, *Invisible Rivers*.



Katy Simpson Smith was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. She is the author of *We Have Raised All of You: Motherhood in the South, 1750-1835*, and the novels *The Story of Land and Sea*, *Free Men*, and *The Everlasting*, which the *New York Times* named among the Top 10 Historical Fiction of 2020. Her writing has also appeared in the *New York Times Book Review*, *Paris Review*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Oxford American*, *Granta*, and *Literary Hub*. She lives in New Orleans.



Part of the original motley crew, the Dreamland Players, cast in underground shock master John Waters' cult fame films, **Mink Stole** would remain a thoroughly offbeat, outrageous presence in counterculture films and alternative theater for five decades. Mink tours with her band telling stories from her career and singing songs from doo wop to Christmas carols. Recently, she received critical acclaim for her portrayal of Trinket Dugan, a Texas oil heiress and cancer survivor living in exile

in the French Quarter, in William's classic of dark camp *The Mutilated*.



Jacob Storms received the United Solo Award for his original solo play, *Tennessee Rising: The Dawn of Tennessee Williams*. He is best known for his recurring role (Serge) on Steven Soderbergh's Amazon Original Series, *Red Oaks*. Since debuting *Tennessee Rising* at The United Solo Festival in New York, Storms has gone on to perform at The St. Louis Williams Festival, NY Live Arts, and Club Cumming.



Heather Ann Thompson, Ph.D. is a historian at the University of Michigan and is the Pulitzer Prize and Bancroft Prize-winning author of *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy* (Pantheon Books, 2016). *Blood in the Water* also won the Ridenhour Prize and four more book prizes and was a finalist for the National Book Award and the *LA Times* book Award. Thompson writes regularly on the history of policing, mass incarceration, and the Covid crisis for numerous publications, including *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. She has served on myriad policy and advisory boards, including the National Academy of Sciences blue-ribbon panel on the causes and consequences of mass incarceration in the U.S. as well as its standing Committee on Law and Justice.



Poppy Tooker, food personality, teacher, and author, champions the food ways of New Orleans and the world in her award winning, NPR-affiliated radio show, *Louisiana Eats!* Poppy provides restaurant and food news weekly on the PBS show, *Steppin' Out* on WYES TV. Recognized internationally and across the U.S. as one of New Orleans' food ambassadors, her writing reflects a deep knowledge of Louisiana's food and its people. Tooker's sixth book is *Drag Queen Brunch*.



José Torres-Tama is a performance and visual artist, published poet, and playwright. His "Taco Truck Theater" ensemble received a prestigious MAPFUND grant. "Aliens, Immigrants & Other Evildoers" is his acclaimed solo that has sold out theaters in Houston, Minneapolis, and Los Angeles. From 2006 to 2011, he contributed post-Katrina commentaries that aired on NPR's "Latino USA." Northwestern University Press published the script of "Aliens" in *Encuentro: New Latinx Performances for the American Theater* anthology (2019).



Linett Luna Tovar is an illegalized writer, actress, educator, and activist. Linett's work, always political, explores themes of culture, feminism, and [im]migration, often with a healthy dose of humor. Her writing has been featured in various publications, and she has performed at The dA Center for the Arts, UCLA, Ashé Cultural Arts Center, and the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Museum. She's a co-founder of Undeportable Productions and the Immigrant Youth Empowerment Forum and Scholarship Fund.



Lauren E. Turner is a director/performer/producer and community facilitator. Listed by American Theatre Magazine as one of "6 Theatre Workers You Should Know," Lauren is founding Producing Artistic Director of No Dream Deferred NOLA, a community- anchored theatre production company. Lauren is an artEquity trained Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion facilitator and founder of Equity and Justice for Institutional Change (EJIC), an organizational development consulting firm. Lauren has also served as a Mellon Fellow through Tulane University's Community Engaged Graduate Program, mentoring Tulane University graduate students who wish to implement community-engaged practices into their work.



Blair Underwood made his acclaimed Broadway debut in 2012 in the iconic role of Stanley in Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, for which he earned a Drama League Distinguished Performance Award nomination. Most recently, Underwood has starred on Broadway opposite David Allen Grier in *A Soldier's Play*, for which he was nominated for a Tony Award and a Drama League Distinguished Performance Award. Film credits include *Rules of Engagement*, *Madea's Family Reunion* and *Full Frontal*, for director Steven Soderbergh. Underwood co-starred opposite the late Cicely Tyson in the Lifetime telefilm, *A Trip To Bountiful*, based on the Tony Award-winning play. He has appeared in the Netflix series *Self-Made*, opposite Octavia Spencer; *Dear White People*; and in Clark Johnson's *Juanita*, opposite Alfred Woodard. Television credits include *Quantico*, *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*, *The After Party*, *Bad Hair*, *Dirty Sexy Money*, *The New Adventures of Old Christine*, *In Treatment*, *L.A. Law* and *The Event*.



Monique Verdin is an interdisciplinary storyteller who documents the complex relationship between environment, culture, and climate in southeast Louisiana. She is a citizen of the Houma Nation, director of The Land Memory Bank & Seed Exchange and a member of the Another Gulf Is Possible Collaborative, working to envision just economies, vibrant communities, and sustainable ecologies. She is co-producer of the documentary *My Louisiana Love*, and her work has been included in a variety of environmentally inspired projects, including the multiplatform performance *Cry You One*, *Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas*, and the collaborative book *Return to Yakni Chitto: Houma Migrations*.



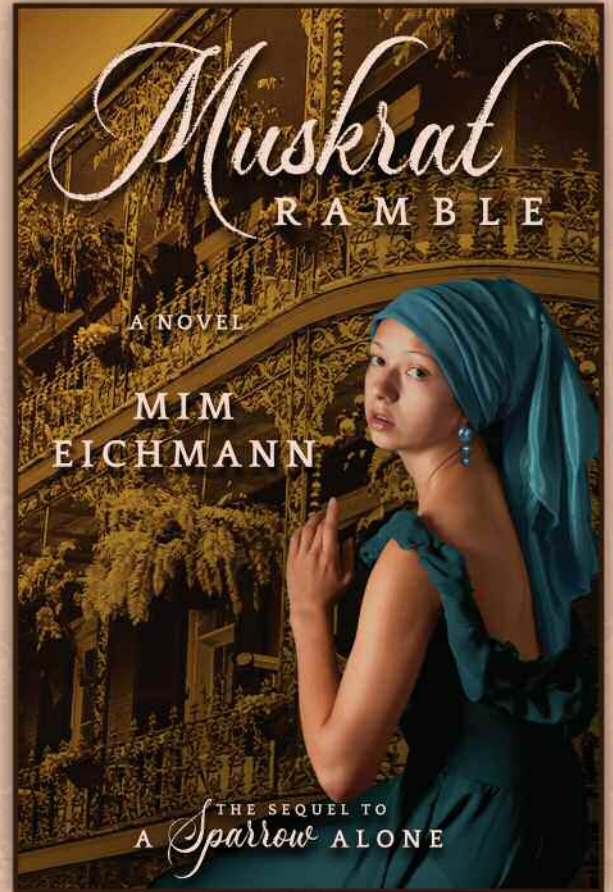
Avante Queer Cabaret artist, **Vinsantos** works with live music, storytelling, comedy, and visual arts to create a unique and intimate atmosphere with his audience. He is also the Head Mister-ess of the New Orleans Drag Workshop, a ten-week boot camp for aspiring Drag artists and an OOAK art doll maker. Find out what makes him tick at galerievinsantos.com



M.O. Walsh was born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His fiction and essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Paris Review*, *The Southern Review*, *Oxford American*, *Best New American Voices*, and many others. He is the author of *My Sunshine Away* and, most recently, *The Big Door Prize*. He is a graduate of the MFA program at Ole Miss and also has degrees from the University of Tennessee and LSU. He currently directs The Creative Writing Workshop



Jade Wong-Baxter joined Frances Goldin Literary Agency, Inc. in 2021. She previously worked for three years at Massie & McQuilkin Literary Agents as a junior agent and foreign rights associate. A graduate of Vassar College, Jade got her start in publishing at Writers House, W. W. Norton, and Folio Literary Management. She is looking for adult literary/upmarket fiction and narrative nonfiction, with an emphasis on narratives by and about people of color, as well as the perspectives of marginalized identities. Her other areas of interest include magical realism, memoir, cultural criticism and Asian-American history.



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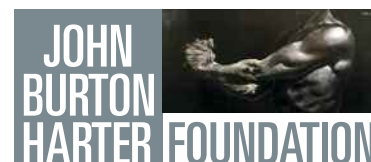
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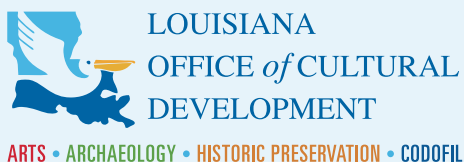
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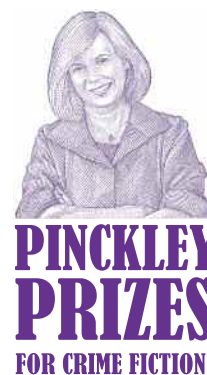
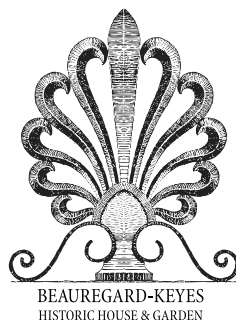
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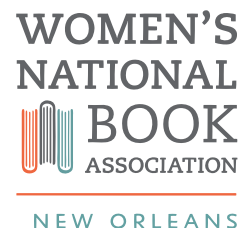


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French Truck Coffee
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Garden District Book Shop
Hazelnut
Heartbone Tarot & Rune
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Hotel Peter & Paul
Jade Path
James Dusty Porter and Timothy Ring
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Lolo's Yoga
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Love Swimming Swim School
L'Union Francaise
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Monomin
Nest Nola
New Orleans Ice Cream Co.
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New Orleans Pharmacy Museum
New Orleans Writers Workshop
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NOLA Gifts & Decor
Nola Healer
NOLA Project
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The Firehouse Loft
The Historic New Orleans Collection
The Old No. 77 Hotel & Chandlery
The Sazerac House
Tim Watson
Timothy Cummings
Vincent DeFonte
Windowsill Pies
Words & Music
Zack Smith Photography

OUR 2021-22 WRITING CONTESTS

Open May 1

For more info, visit:
www.tennesseewilliams.net

ONE-ACT PLAY

Play should run no more than one hour and must not have been professionally produced, published, or performed

Deadline: October 1, 2021

Grand Prize

\$1,500

Professional Staged Reading at the Festival

VIP All-Access Festival Pass (\$600 value)

Publication in *Bayou Magazine*

FICTION

One original, unpublished short story, written in English, up to 7,000 words

Deadline: October 1, 2021

Grand Prize

\$1,500

Airfare (up to \$500) and 3 nights hotel to attend the Festival in New Orleans

VIP All-Access Festival Pass (\$600 value)

Public reading at the next Festival

Publication in *Louisiana Literature*

VERY SHORT FICTION

One original short story, written in English, up to 1,000 words

Deadline: October 15, 2021

Grand Prize

\$500

VIP All-Access Festival Pass (\$600 value)

Public reading at the Festival

Publication in *New Orleans Review* Web Features

POETRY

2-4 original, unpublished poems of any style or theme, written in English, with a combined length of up to 400 lines

Deadline: October 15, 2021

Grand Prize

\$1,000

VIP All-Access Pass (\$600 value) for the Festival

Publication in *Antenna::Signals* magazine

Public reading at the Festival



avenue cafe

1907 st charles ave

open
7 am - 4 pm
every day

juices
smoothies
coffee
tea
beer
wine
pastries
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salads

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Readers love to find new books
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“For instance, suppose a plaintiff known as DuBois
somehow engages the services of an attorney
to prosecute a defendant known as Kowalski . . .”

—from “Kicks,” by Tennessee Williams

Tennessee Williams Annual Review

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Blanche DuBois and Stanley Kowalski face off in court in Tennessee Williams’s poem “Kicks,” an archival gem whose print debut opens the 2021 *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*. Inside, essays question Tom Wingfield’s memory, listen for Williams’s echoes of John Donne, explore archives in six states in order to track the playwright’s power struggle with Elia Kazan over *Sweet Bird of Youth*, and invite readers to experience a colorful and terrifying Viennese production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Founded in 1998, the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review* remains the only regularly published journal devoted to Williams’s works, influence, and cultural context. Many issues showcase a previously unpublished work by Williams. Submission guidelines and back issues are available at tennesseewilliamsstudies.org.

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