



TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL



37TH ANNUAL
MARCH 22-26, 2023
tennesseewilliams.net

“The Lost Girl” is found!

NEW STORY BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS IN PRINT FOR THE FIRST TIME

The
Tennessee Williams



ANNUAL REVIEW
Number 22—2023

Tennessee Williams Annual Review

VOLUME 22 (2023)

edited by R. Barton Palmer

published by The Historic New Orleans Collection

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In 1936, a 26-year-old virgin named Tom Williams began a story that emerged in 1943 as a worldly tale by “Tennessee”—but that then vanished. Discovered 80 years later, “The Lost Girl” makes its print debut in the 2023 issue of the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*. Essays link the exciting find to milestones in Williams’s life, use film and silent action as interpretive lenses on his plays, and reevaluate the first onstage interpretation of Blanche DuBois in Japan. Reviews introduce new editions and productions and feature photographs from a groundbreaking reimagining of *A Streetcar Named Desire* at Paris’s famed Comédie-Française.

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 Many issues showcase a previously unpublished work by Williams.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.

COVER IMAGE: Françoise Gillard as Stella in *Un tramway nommé Désir* (Paris, 2011). Photo by Cosimo Mirco Magliocca.



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Available March 2023

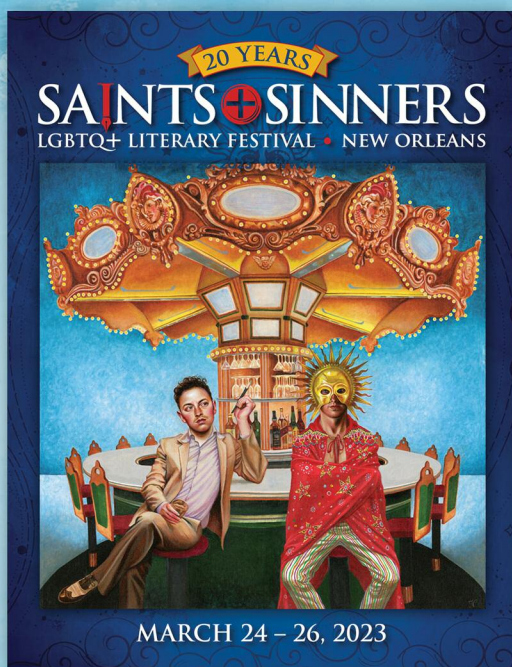
Purchase your copy at www.hnoc.org/books

The Shop at The Collection | 520 Royal Street

Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference

THNOC’s Williams Research Center

410 Chartres Street | Friday, March 24



SAINTS + SINNERS LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL MARCH 24-26 AT THE HOTEL MONTELEONE

Your TWfest VIP Pass, or Literary Discussion Pass admits you to SASFest panels and readings, and you can purchase tickets to individual Writer's Craft sessions and panels online at www.tennesseewilliams.net or in our box office.

A program of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival, Saints and Sinners Literary Festival was founded in 2003 as an innovative way to reach the community with information about HIV/AIDS, particularly disseminating prevention messages via the writers, thinkers and spokes-people of the LGBTQ+ community.

It was also formed to bring the LGBTQ+ literary community together to celebrate the literary arts. The Festival has grown into an internationally recognized event that brings together a who's who of LGBTQ+ publishers, writers, and readers from throughout the United States and beyond. The Festival, held the same weekend as TW&NOLF, features panel discussions and writer's craft sessions around literary topics that provide a forum for authors, editors, and publishers to talk about their work for the benefit of emerging writers and the enjoyment of fans of LGBTQ+ literature.

Saints and Sinners Literary Festival is grateful for the support of our premier sponsor, the John Burton Harter Foundation, and funding support from The Greater New Orleans Foundation LGBTQ Fund.

For our 20th anniversary program cover, artist Timothy Cummings created an original work titled: *Incident at the Carousel Bar*.

The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans presents

from STREET to STAGE

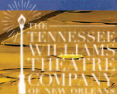
A Tennessee Williams Walking Tour
through the French Quarter
Conducted by Marcus Shacknow

This tour will concentrate on Williams' experiences in the French Quarter neighborhood, the LGBTQ+ scene he inhabited, and how he reflected these in his plays, short stories, poems, and other writings.

A blend of history and humor will carry you through the famous and infamous places of *A Streetcar Named Desire* and other classics while fearlessly delving into New Orleans's queer history and storied night life!



Tickets & Tour Times at www.TWTHEATRENOLA.com



Adult themes. Not recommended for individuals under 17.

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS & NEW ORLEANS LITERARY FESTIVAL



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Welcome to the FESTIVAL!

Welcome to the 2023 Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival in our 37th Year, and our beautiful 20th Anniversary of the Saints & Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival.

So many wonderful things have been thoughtfully curated and we are thrilled with the expansion of many of our programs including local writers, artists, and audience members. This rich culture we share with the world means so much to all of us that call this special place home, and I absolutely share in Tennessee Williams' claim that this is my spiritual home. New Orleans embraces each and every one of you with open arms.

This year is bittersweet as we honor the amazing life of my friend, founding member of the Festival and Tennessee Williams Scholar, Dr. Kenneth Holditch. Kenneth passed away in December 2022 and leaves behind quite a literary legacy for which we are forever grateful.

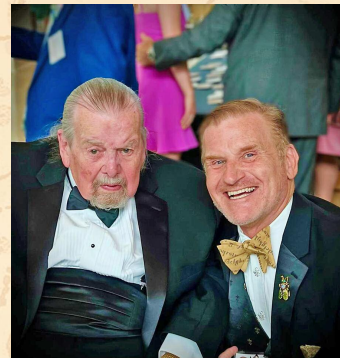
And finally, we are thrilled to celebrate the literature, theatre, music, food, and bohemia of our City and the World more than ever this year including our new Last Bohemia Fringe Festival, Poppy Tooker's Drag Brunch, and a new partnership with Baldwin Books and Co.

Step into the fray of all the magic that will be created in the next few days of unforeseen connection and revelry within all our programs—truly, something for everyone!

Lawrence Henry Gobble
President



We dedicate this year's Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival to the memory of our go-to expert on all things Tennessee!



Mississippi Arts & Letters
Lifetime Achievement
Award 2022

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.

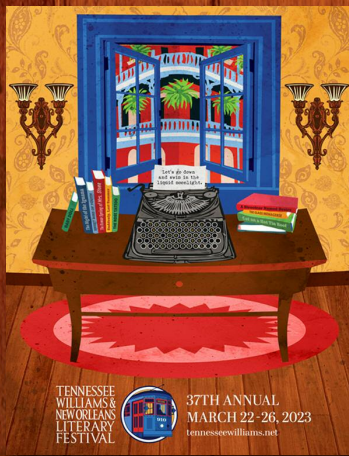
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Official Festival Bookstore:

Octavia Books

513 Octavia Street • New Orleans, LA 70115
504.899.7323 • www.octaviabooks.com



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Toan Nguyen

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Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival

938 Lafayette St., Suite 514 • New Orleans, LA 70113 • 504.581.1144
info@tennesseewilliams.net • www.tennesseewilliams.net



I wrote *Come Back to New Orleans* in 1995 after meeting this beautiful man on Bourbon Street and we had a connection that continued for months via letters and videos. I would write songs about how I felt, record them in my French Quarter Courtyard at 825 Dauphine Street and mail them to him. His name is Marc Hulett and we are still dear friends to this day. This was the first love song I wrote, and it has been performed by me hundreds of times at piano bars, parties, and private homes from New Orleans, New Mexico, Chicago and New York. In 2018 I was thrilled when my dear friend, Bryan Batt, agreed to record a jazz version, and it is amazing. This year another dear friend Arsène DeLay agreed to create & record a disco dance version which is epic! I am proud of what we created and both versions are available for download or streaming on all music platforms. Please listen and share in the magic.

—Lawrence Henry Gobble, TW&NOLF Board President





2023 FESTIVAL EVENTS

37th Annual Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival

Our Headquarters is on the Mezzanine of the Hotel Monteleone, where you can pick up passes, buy Festival merchandise and tickets, and become a Friend of Tennessee.

Hours are Thursday through Saturday, 9 AM – 4 PM and Sunday, 9 AM – 2 PM.

Our BOOK FAIR, hosted by Octavia Books, is also on the Mezzanine. Hours are Thursday through Saturday, 9 AM – 4 PM and Sunday, 9 AM – 2 PM.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

3 – 4 PM—Special Event



INTERVIEW AND BOOK SIGNING WITH NEAL BODENHEIMER, SPONSORED BY SAZERAC CO.

Peychaud's invites you to an interview and a cocktail with **Neal Bodenheimer**, managing partner of James Beard Award-winning bar

Cure, and author of *Cure: New Orleans Drinks and How to Mix 'Em*. Peychaud's is at the Hotel Maison de Ville, a favorite haunt of Tennessee Williams, where Neal will discuss his book and the history of New Orleans cocktail culture. The talk will be followed by a book signing. Tickets include a book and one complimentary cocktail.

Peychaud's, 727 Toulouse Street, \$30,

Tickets available at

www.eventbrite.com/e/interview-and-signing-with-neal-bodenheimer-sponsored-by-sazerac-co-tickets-577452184027

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR

9:00 AM
New Orleans
Writing Marathon

10 AM – 12 Noon
Historic Storyville
Walking Tour

10 AM – 12 Noon
Tennessee Williams
Literary
Walking Tour

11 AM – 12:30 PM
LGBTQ+ French Quarter
Walking Tour

HOTEL MONTELEONE ROYAL SALON

10 – 11:15 AM
Maurice Carlos Ruffin
How To Write A New
Orleans Book

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM
Jenny Keegan
A Writer's Guide
to Working
With Your Editor

1:30 – 2:45 PM
Tom Piazza - That Was
Now; This Is Then:
The Uneasy Marriage
of History & Fiction

3 – 4:15 PM
Chelsey K. Shannon
and Abram Shalom
Himelstein
Self-Publishing and Zines

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

1 – 3 PM
History of Queer Nightlife
In New Orleans Tour
Crossing

3 – 4 PM
Interview & Book Signing
With Neal Bodenheimer
Sponsored by Sazerac Co.
Peychaud's

4 – 5 PM
Happy Hour at
Peychaud's
Fundraiser for The Fest
Peychaud's

6 PM – Midnight
The Last Bohemia
Fringe Festival
Shows at 6, 7, 8, 9, & 11 PM
The Twilight Room

6:30 – 9:00 PM
Tennessee Williams
Tribute Reading
You Are Not the Playwright
I Was Expecting
New Orleans Jazz Museum

7:30 PM
Night of The Iguana
**Loyola University,
Lower Depths Theatre**

7:30 PM
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
**Le Petit Théâtre
du Vieux Carré**

THURSDAY, MARCH 23



4 – 5 PM—Special Event HAPPY HOUR AT PEYCHAUD'S

Join us for a special Tennessee Williams happy hour at Peychaud's bar! Following Neal Bodenheimer's interview and book signing, Peychaud's will host a happy hour to

benefit the Tennessee Williams Festival. Once you've arrived, you can donate \$10 to the Fest and receive one cocktail made by the talented bartenders at Peychaud's.

**Peychaud's, 727 Toulouse Street,
\$10 donation per cocktail.**

2023 FESTIVAL EVENTS



FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR	HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE BALLROOM	HOTEL MONTELEONE ROYAL SALON	WILLIAMS RESEARCH CENTER	VARIOUS LOCATIONS
10 AM – 12 Noon Tennessee Williams Literary Walking Tour	10 – 11:15 AM Tennessee 101	10 – 11:15 AM Charles Baxter Time—Short and Long— In the Short Story	9 – 10:30 AM Welcome En Avant! Emerging Williams Scholars	1 – 3 PM History of Queer Nightlife in New Orleans Tour <i>Crossing</i>
10 AM – 12 Noon Historic Storyville Walking Tour	11:30 AM – 12:45 PM Cityscapes: How To Read A City	11:30 AM – 12:45 PM Timothy Schaffert Creating Ambience	10:45 AM – NOON Interdisciplinary Lenses On Williams	3 – 4 PM Marc Stone & Bruce "Sunpie" Barnes Talk (And Sing) the Blues <i>New Orleans Jazz Museum</i>
2 – 4 PM Tennessee Williams Literary Walking Tour	1 – 2:15 PM Passion Projects: Writing About What You Love	1:30 – 2:45 PM Olivia Clare Friedman Prose Style	1:15 – 2:30 PM The Past, The Present, and The Perhaps of Williams Studies: A Roundtable in Honor of Robert Bray	4 – 5 PM Chris Thomas King: The Truth About the Blues <i>New Orleans Jazz Museum</i>
3:30 – 5 PM LGBTQ+ French Quarter Tour	2:30 – 3:45 PM Beads and Throws and Costumes—And Books?	3 – 4:15 PM Mark Bologna Should I Start A Podcast?	2:45 – 3:45 PM Queerness at Work and Play in and After Williams	6 PM – Midnight The Last Bohemia Fringe Festival Shows at 6, 7, 8, 9, & 11 PM <i>The Twilight Room</i>
	4 – 5:15 PM Don't Ban Our Books: Writing in The Age of Censorship	ROYAL D 3 – 4:15 PM Felice Picano Introduction to Screenwriting: Developing Your Story For Stage or Screen	4 – 5:15 PM A Staged Reading of Two Newly Discovered Stories by Williams: The Caterpillar Dogs And Till One or the Other Gits Back	7:30 PM <i>Night of The Iguana</i> <i>Loyola University, Lower Depths Theatre</i>
				7:30 PM <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> <i>Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré</i>





2023 FESTIVAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR	HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE BALLROOM	WILLIAMS RESEARCH CENTER	VARIOUS LOCATIONS
10 AM – 12 Noon Tennessee Williams Literary Walking Tour	10 – 11:15 AM The Lifetime Workshop: Building Mutually Beneficial Relationships with Other Writers	10 – 11:15 AM An Interview with Douglas Brinkley	8:30 – 9:45 AM Books & Beignets <i>3rd Block Kitchen & Depot</i>
3 – 5 PM Historic Storyville Walking Tour	11:30 AM – 12:45 PM Obsessions and Immersion: Writers and Historical Fiction	11:30 AM – 12:45 PM Influences on Tennessee Williams: The Sense of Place	11 AM – 12:15 PM A Drag Brunch Named Desire With Poppy Tooker <i>Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House</i>
	1 – 2:15 PM Where Do Ideas Come From? and Other Questions of Inspiration	1 – 2:15 PM Tom Piazza's the Auburn Conference	3:00 PM Cat on a Hot Tin Roof <i>Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré</i>
	2:30 – 3:45 PM The Crossroads of Poetry: Where Poet Meets Place	2:30 – 3:45 PM Environmental Writing: The Complex Louisiana Landscape	4:00 PM Celebrating the Life of Dr. Kenneth Holditch <i>Hotel Monteleone Vieux Carré Room</i>
	4 – 5:15 PM Can Journalists Be Activists? Should They Be? A Look at An Increasingly Blurry Line		6 PM – Midnight The Last Bohemia Fringe Festival Shows at 6, 7, 8, 9, & 11 PM <i>The Twilight Room</i>
			7:30 PM <i>Night of the Iguana</i> <i>Loyola University, Lower Depths Theatre</i>
			7:30 PM Cat on a Hot Tin Roof <i>Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré</i>



2023 FESTIVAL EVENTS



SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR	HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE BALLROOM	HOTEL MONTELEONE	PALM COURT JAZZ CAFÉ	VARIOUS LOCATIONS
9 AM – 12 noon New Orleans Writing Marathon	10 – 11:15 AM Memoir: Connecting To the Human Experience	VIEUX CARRÉ ROOM 11 AM - 12:15 PM The Nola Project Presents Tennessee X Three	11:30 AM – 12:45 PM Drummer & Smoke Shake 'Em Up Jazz Band	1 – 3 PM History of Queer Nightlife in New Orleans Tour <i>Crossing</i>
10 AM – 12 Noon Tennessee Williams Literary Walking Tour	11:30 AM – 12:45 PM Young Adult Fiction	ROYAL SALON 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM Questions and Answers With Rebecca Makkai	1 – 2:15 PM Drummer & Smoke Catie Rodgers and the Gentilly Stompers	2:00 PM <i>Night of the Iguana</i> Loyola University, Lower Depths Theatre
1 – 2:30 PM LGBTQ+ French Quarter Tour	1 – 2:15 PM Civil Rights in Fact and Fiction	ROYAL SALON 2:30 – 3:45 PM An Eye for An Eye: Justice V. Revenge	2:30 – 3:45 PM Drummer & Smoke Meschiya Lake	3:00 PM <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré
2 – 4 PM Tennessee Williams Literary Walking Tour	2:30 – 3:45 PM Festival Closing Event: A Celebration of Writers			



2023 FESTIVAL SITES



1. **Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House**
144 Bourbon Street
2. **Hotel Monteleone**
214 Royal Street
3. **3rd Block Depot Kitchen + Bar**
310 Chartres Street
4. **Williams Research Center at The Historic New Orleans Collection**
410 Chartres Street
5. **Peychaud's**
727 Toulouse Street
6. **Crossing**
439 Dauphine Street
7. **Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré**
616 St. Peters Street
8. **Jackson Square**
St. Peter Street
for Shouting Contest
9. **Palm Court Jazz Café**
1204 Decatur Street
10. **New Orleans Jazz Museum**
at the Old U.S. Mint
400 Esplanade Avenue

**save
the
date**

**38th Annual
Tennessee Williams
& New Orleans
Literary Festival
will be
March 20-24, 2024**

EVENTS/VENUES OUTSIDE THE FRENCH QUARTER & CBD

Night of the Iguana
The Lower Depths Theater
at Loyola University
6301 Saint Charles Avenue

The Last Bohemia Fringe Festival
The Twilight Room
at The AllWays Lounge
2240 St. Claude Avenue



SUNDAY, MARCH 19

1 – 2:30 PM—Literary Discussion

IT'S A NEW ORLEANS THING:

YOUNG AUTHORS AS CULTURE BEARERS

During the spring of 2022 while moving in and out of quarantine, 30 juniors at Living School worked with 826 New Orleans and local culture bearers Bruce "Sunpie" Barnes and Cherice "Queen Reesie" Harrison-Nelson to write a book exploring artifacts of New Orleans culture. Their book, *It's a New Orleans Thing*, was published in Fall 2022. On this panel, young New Orleans authors who served on the student editorial board will discuss the process of writing, editing,

and publishing their book and what *It's a New Orleans Thing* means to them.

Baldwin & Co. Coffee & Bookstore, 1030 Elysian Fields Avenue, free and open to the public.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

4:15 – 5:30 PM—Special Event

STELLA SHOUTING CONTEST

Join us for something **NEW** this year: Our beloved Stella Shouting Contest **KICKS OFF** our Festival! Join us in Jackson Square for the annual competition to see who can best impress our judges with their rendition of Stanley Kowalski's iconic lines. Contestant signup begins at 3:45 and we take the first 25. **PLUS**, this year we're making the Shouting Contest an awareness-



raising and fundraising campaign for the New Orleans Family Justice Center, a partnership of agencies dedicated to ending domestic violence. The NOFJC provides access to free crisis services and

shelter, legal aid, advocacy and case management, trauma counseling, and prevention education. Donation information and link at tennesseewilliams.net

Sponsored by the Goldring Family Foundation.

Jackson Square, free and open to the public.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

6:30 – 7:30 PM

MESSIN' AROUND THE

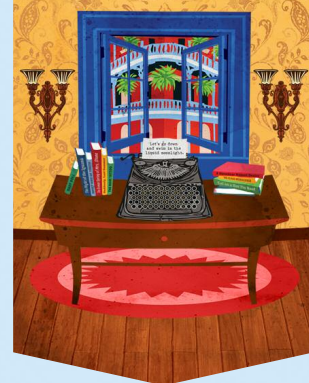
N.O. JAZZ MUSEUM

with Little Freddie King

In a town filled with funk, R&B and jazz, Little Freddie King is a living link to the rough Delta style that is rare in the Crescent City. He has performed with legendary musicians like Polka Dot Slim, Boogie Bill Webb, Jimmy Reed, Slim Harpo, Harmonica Williams. He was invited to perform at the first New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in 1970 and has been back every year since. TWfest is proud to present Little Freddie King in concert at the New Orleans Jazz Museum.

This project was made possible with funding provided by the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative, a program administered by the National Park Service and Jefferson National Parks Association.

New Orleans Jazz Museum, 400 Esplanade Avenue, free and open to the public.



OPENING NIGHT WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023



Bryan Batt

7:30 PM – 9 PM—Theatre

Opening Night Event: *Pity for the Wild*

Pity for the Wild will be an evening celebrating Tennessee by performing works that will celebrate a significant anniversary this year. Scenes from notable works such as *Summer and Smoke*, celebrating its 75th Anniversary, and *The Two-Character Play*, celebrating 50 years, will be performed by some of New Orleans' most exciting actors. Additionally, the evening will feature **Bryan Batt** performing portions of his play, *Dear Mr. Williams*. The talent of Tennessee and some of the best performers the city has to offer will be quite a treat to kick off our 37th Annual Festival.

This evening made possible by the generous support of Peggy and Timber Floyd.

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St. Peter Street, \$20 – \$40 or VIP Pass.



Peggy and Timber Floyd



FRINGE FESTIVAL

THE LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL MARCH 23–25, 2023

A new program of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival in conjunction with the Saints and Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival.

All performances at The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue.

Tickets: cocktail table seating for \$35 and general admission seating for \$22.

Tickets available onsite or online at sasfest.org.

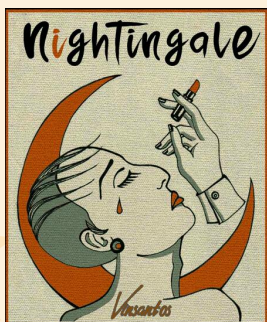
NIGHTLY HEADLINERS

Thursday, March 23

9:00 PM - *Nightingale*

Vinsantos

Post Punk/Post Queer cabaret legend, Vinsantos DeFonte presents the latest incarnation of his one-person original musical theater production of *Nightingale*. This work is inspired by DeFonte's affection and obsession with Tennessee Williams' famed character from Vieux Carré. Part play, part musical, *Nightingale* tells the tale of a struggling artist with delusions of grandeur, a character study of who they might have been before moving into a French Quarter flophouse. This viewing will be followed by post-show moderated discussion with the audience.



Friday, March 24

9:00 PM - *Notes on Faux*
Fauxnique

Fauxnique returns to New Orleans to unbox her brand-new show. For *Notes on Faux* the herstory-making first cis-lady crowned as a pageant-winning drag queen and alter ego of writer/artist Monique Jenkinson gathers reflective, shiny objects from her memoir *Faux Queen: A Life in Drag*—the treasured gems as well as the baubles she forgot in the back of the closet and left in the cab—and lays them out on the cabaret stage. The result, as with all of her work, is a surprisingly philosophical spectacle, a glam critique that takes on the slippery subjects of artifice and authenticity, examining the many facets of their rhinestone façades under a queer light. See why Fauxnique broke through the glass ceiling of the male-dominated world of drag to become a queen among queens, and why Cabaret legend Justin Vivian Bond calls Jenkinson "the Jane Goodall of drag, and as Fauxnique ... one of its most admired primates."

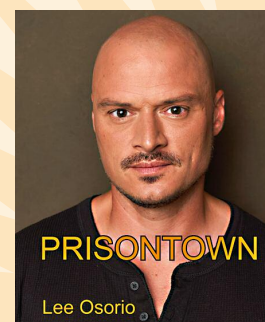


Saturday, March 25

9:00 PM - *Prisontown*

Lee Osorio

When the Writer is compelled by an unshakeable force to return to his hometown of Lumpkin, Georgia—a once-thriving community that is today kept alive by one of the nation's largest and most notorious federal immigration detention centers—he is forced to reckon with his own past as a queer, Latinx son of an immigrant and the costs of the extraction that is the foundation of our country. In this 90-minute, one-man performance, the Writer tells his origin story with powerful simplicity, using wit, nuance, humor, and compassion to reflect on the people trapped in this prison town, the past lives he could have lived, and the heartbreaking reality of the America we all live in today.



NIGHTLY PERFORMANCES

Thursday, March 23; Friday, March 24; and Saturday, March 25

6:00 PM - *It Was Never Just Sex*
Jovelyn Richards

You can't bury your secrets in sex without unearthing the secrets of your lover.

In the Jazz Age, Ro is driven by her past with roots going back to 1856 and a six-by-six slave cabin. Is there a different kind of intimacy that flourishes in the dark of oppression? Her married lovers are haunted by a secret; In the very end they don't know if Ro is a woman or a man. Or does it matter? Syndicated radio host and performance artist Jovelyn Richards uses live Jazz and storytelling to present what she calls "nappy-headed love stories that explore Black intimacy."



7:00 PM - *Water Always Wanders*

A cast of in person and virtual performers in the Romani tradition led by Ylva Mara Radziszewski.

"Water Always Wanders" is an embodiment of remembered futures; a ritual in the tradition of Romani storytelling from queer Romani artists **Tsarina Hellfire**, **Ylvadroma Marzanna Radziszewski**, and **Konstantin Polyakov**. Join us for an evening of music, song, dance, and poetry as we join our voices in prayer with our queer and gender-expansive Romani ancestors. With multimedia installations from **Kiki Robinson** and **Baby Reckless**, as well as poetry & short stories from **Jezmina Von Thiele**. As the vernal equinox awakens us to new beginnings, we offer this performance as a blessing of Latcho Drom; a prayer for safe travels on the path unfurling before us all.



8:00 PM - *Bananas Burlesque (or, Are Straight People Okay?)*

Lefty Lucy

This show is a Tennessee Williams-inspired vaudeville that takes an unconventional peek at some of the accomplished author's favorite archetypes. Join host and playwright Lefty Lucy as she introduces our lovers—named simply HE and SHE—as they sing, dance, and joke their way through the traps of social expectation in an effort to defy fate and find freedom. Chock full of everything you'd expect from a Tennessee Williams drama, but with a bit more battiness, a side of striptease, a dash of drag, and absolutely too many banana jokes. Read more about it in Bess Rowen's article in 2023's *The Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, and don't miss this genre-busting late night delight—join us, and go Bananas!



11:00 PM - *The Sinking Opulence Show!*

Tsarina Hellfire and Stanley Roy

A Cabaret celebrating the sinking of the ship that we are all aboard! Like the legendary tale of The Titanic band playing as the ill-fated ocean liner sank into history's depths, Tsarina Hellfire, Stanley Roy, and their motley crew of maritime monsters will titillate your ears and tickle your imagination. It's the last big hurrah until the inevitable glug-glug! Live music, theater, burlesque, and a delightful devastation of all of your senses!



The Last Bohemia Fringe Festival is made possible through a grant from **The Selley Foundation**. Thank you to our venue sponsor, **The AllWays Lounge!**

Additional support provided by
The Commonality Institute.



PERFORMER BIOS



Fauxnique is the alter-ego of artist/choreographer/writer Monique Jenkinson, whose work dwells at the intersection of contemporary dance and cabaret and considers the performance of femininity as a powerful, vulnerable, and subversive act. Since making herstory as the first cis-woman crowned as a pageant-winning drag queen, she has performed her works in varied contexts, nationally and internationally. Her memoir *Faux Queen: A Life in Drag* (Amble Press) is out now.



Tsarina Hellfire is a chanteuse, comedian and cabaret force on New Orleans' performance art scene. A regular at the Double Dealer in the Orpheum Theater, Frenchmen Street live music clubs, and Shrimp Boil Cabaret, Tsarina is one of the most visible local cabaret performers. Her long-running Les Vampyres Cabaret is arguably the best night out in New Orleans.



Lefty Lucy is best known locally as the creator and host of her saucy and original game show, *Burlesque Bingo*—voted among the top five burlesque shows in NOLA by *Flame Magazine*. She holds the title of Miss Coney Island in perpetuity, and more recently, her critically acclaimed play, "A Peep Show Named Desire" premiered to full houses in Provincetown and New Orleans.



Lee Osorio (he/they) is a queer, Latinx, Atlanta-based actor, narrator, and playwright. His plays have been developed through the Alliance Theatre's Reiser Artist Lab (Rounds 4 and 6), The Graham Martin Unexpected Play Festival through Theatrical Outfit and Working Title Playwrights (WTP), WTP's Ethel Woolson Lab, Found Stages, Art on the Beltline, and with funding from Idea Capital Atlanta and the University of British Columbia. He has been a finalist for the Latinx Theater Commons Carnaval (2018) and a semi-finalist for the O'Neill National Play Conference (2022).



Ylva Mara Radziszewski is Bimbo Yaga, the Trans MILF of your wet dreams. She is a traditional witch and artist of Romani and Eastern European heritage, residing in Bulbancha on Chitimacha land. Their ritual and art practice are interwoven; for them, magic is art and art is healing. Founder of the School of Traditional Magic, author of *A Practical Guide for Witches*, co-creator of The Living Altar, with writing featured in *Witchcraft*, an anthology of modern magical tradition published by Taschen in collaboration with the Library of Esoterica.



Jovelyn Richards is a writer, activist, solo performance artist, and radio host. Mz. Jovelyn's solo performances are created from what she calls "Nappy Headed Love Stories, Black Love and Intimacy." Her work has appeared at Afro Solo S.F. CA. LA Women's Theater Festival, The National Black Theater Festival, NC. San Francisco Theater Festival, and La Pena Cultural Center, Berkeley, CA where Jovelyn is currently La Pena's artist in residence.



Stanley Roy is a singer-songwriter and comedic storyteller on the New Orleans' cabaret scene. Both a performer and producer, Roy is responsible for many of the most popular regular performance clubs in New Orleans for tourists and locals.



Vinsantos coins himself as a Drag Cabaret act. He takes a modern approach on the traditional style of the Weimar Cabaret scene from the 1920s. Blending original and classic songs, storytelling, comedy, costumes and visuals, a highly intimate relationship is built with his audiences worldwide. Recently, Vinsantos found himself on tour with Peter Murphy and David J of Bauhaus fame and continues to work with his legendary forefathers to push his story forward and present a unique and theatrical approach to your normal everyday rock and roll show.



WALKING TOURS



LGBTQ+ FRENCH QUARTER TOUR

March 23, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

March 24, 3:30 – 5 PM

March 26, 1 – 2:30 PM

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

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Parlor, \$30

HISTORY OF QUEER NIGHTLIFE IN NEW ORLEANS TOUR

March 23, 24, and 26

1 – 3 PM

From drag queens to Storyville madams to the burlesque dancer, **Quinn LaRoux** teaches the fascinating history of the rebellious and dangerous women and queer people who built New Orleans! The tours are hilarious, entertaining, and deeply committed to historical accuracy and social responsibility. Tours emphasize the contributions and stories of the women and queer people most on the margins of society, and attendees can expect to learn much about the history of trans people, the sex industry, and famous LGBTQ+ figures. Total tour walking distance is just under 2 miles.

Crossing, 439 Dauphine Street, \$30

HISTORIC STORYVILLE WALKING TOUR

Thursday, March 23 and Friday, March 24, 10 AM – 12 noon

Saturday, March 25, 3 – 5 PM

Join **Dianne "Gumbo Marie" Honoré** on this unique, intriguing walk through parts of what was once the most notorious red-light district in the country, Storyville. Hear stories of cribs, chippies, the Tango Belt, and the last madam, along with the mayhem each night brought forth. Louis Armstrong referred to his childhood neighborhood of Black Storyville as the "worst" area in the city during Jim Crow-era New Orleans. It was also home to the beginnings of jazz, popular music joints, second lines, the birth of the Baby Dolls Mardi Gras tradition, and Jelly Roll Morton's other profession. We stop along the way for a refreshing cocktail! Cocktail cost not included.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Parlor, \$30 or VIP Pass.

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS LITERARY WALKING TOUR

Friday, March 24: 10 AM – 12 noon and 2 – 4 PM

Saturday, March 25: 10 AM – 12 noon

Sunday, March 26: 10 AM – 12 noon and 2 – 4 PM

New Orleans, and especially the French Quarter, played a vital role in shaping Tennessee Williams. When he came here for the first time, he was Tom Williams. When he left here a couple of months later, he was known as Tennessee, having undergone a tremendous change in his personal life and his creativity. A man perpetually on the move, Tennessee considered this city his "spiritual home" and had at least eight residences in its famous neighborhoods. Visit the homes and hangouts where he lived, worked, and returned to throughout his adult life, beloved spots that helped to make Tennessee America's greatest playwright. Led by Heritage Tour Guides **Philip Centanni, Jr.** and **Karen Fernandez**, who have led the Festival tours for nearly a decade as guides selected by the late Dr. Kenneth Holditch, founder of the French Quarter's first literary walking tour, a co-founder of this and other Tennessee Williams festivals, as well as Tennessee's friend. Mr. Centanni, who was a student and friend of Dr. Holditch for nearly 50 years, and a one-time waiter and casual friend of Tennessee in New Orleans and New York, has a few personal stories to tell. Ms. Fernandez was also a longtime friend of Dr. Holditch and is a tour guide and longtime resident in the French Quarter with many fascinating tales to tell about its history and present-day residents.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Parlor, \$30 or VIP Pass.

THURSDAY SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

9 AM – 4 PM

Headquarters open to pick up VIP Passes, Literary Discussion Passes, purchase Festival merchandise, and to buy tickets.

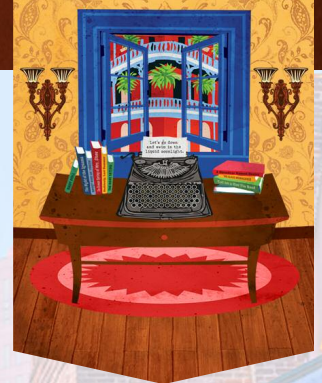
Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne B.

9 AM – 4 PM

Book Fair hosted by Octavia Books with books from our Festival speakers, titles by Tennessee Williams, and much more.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne A.

37TH ANNUAL
TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL



9 AM—Special Event

THE NEW ORLEANS WRITING MARATHON

Jumpstart your writing with the New Orleans Writing Marathon! Hosted by founder Richard Louth, participants write their way across the French Quarter in cafes, pubs, bookstores anywhere a small group of writers can sit, write, and share their work. It's all about writing in the moment, writing for the joy of it, and finding inspiration in one's place. We start at the Hotel Monteleone before going out to explore the French Quarter as writers. For more information, visit www.writingmarathon.com and for questions, contact Richard Louth at rlouth@selu.edu.

Writing Marathons begin at 9 AM on Thursday and Sunday. You can end your writing marathon at whatever time best fits your schedule.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Parlor, free and open to the public but please register at www.tennesseewilliams.net.



11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

—Writer's Craft Session

JENNY KEEGAN - A WRITER'S GUIDE TO WORKING WITH YOUR EDITOR

How does an idea become a book? LSU Press acquisitions editor Jenny Keegan will shed light on the book publishing process from concept to proposal to publication, sharing tips and examples on how to craft proposals and manuscripts, how to find the right publisher for your work, and what to expect when working with your editor and other publishing staff. This talk will primarily focus on the types of book LSU Press publishes—nonfiction for general audiences—and will include ample time for a Q & A.

This event is underwritten by the Women's National Book Association, New Orleans Chapter.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon, \$25 or VIP Pass.

1:30 – 2:45 PM—Writer's Craft Session

TOM PIAZZA - THAT WAS NOW; THIS IS THEN: THE UNEASY MARRIAGE OF HISTORY AND FICTION

"History" and "fiction" appear on different shelves in libraries and bookstores, but they meet in the swampy ground of "Historical Fiction." The term itself seems to contradict itself—we think, "Either it happened or it didn't happen." Yet, both history and fiction require the writer to take raw facts and impose an interpretation on them. In this craft talk, Tom Piazza will explore the tricky territory between factual accuracy and imaginative license. Is there even such a thing as "historical fiction?" Where does research stop and creative imagination take over? And how long ago do events need to have happened for us to call them "historical?"

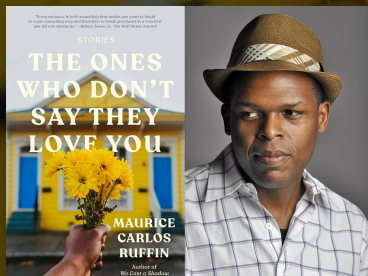
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon, \$25 or VIP Pass.

10 – 11:15 AM—Writer's Craft Session

MAURICE CARLOS RUFFIN - HOW TO WRITE A NEW ORLEANS BOOK

In this session, we will discuss techniques useful for writing novels, short story collections, memoirs, and poetry books. Specifically, we will consider New Orleans' unique historical and cultural aspects, as well as how those aspects influence our writing. Some time will be devoted to writing exercises and open conversation.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon, \$25 or VIP Pass.



3 - 4:15 PM—Writer's Craft Session

CHELSEY K. SHANNON AND ABRAM SHALOM HIMELSTEIN - SELF-PUBLISHING AND ZINES

This workshop will cover the joys, pitfalls, and potentials of self-publishing. Both Himmelstein and Shannon got their starts in the world of self-publishing and have remained practitioners even as they guide University of New Orleans Press in their day jobs. Shannon recently published *Trace-Chasing: Race, Place, Time & Emmett Till*, her most comprehensive zine to date, while Himmelstein has just published *Let Us Die in New Ways: The Gospel according to Moses*.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon, \$25 or VIP Pass.

3 - 4 PM—Special Event

INTERVIEW AND BOOK SIGNING WITH NEAL BODENHEIMER, SPONSORED BY SAZERAC CO.

4 - 5 PM—Special Event

HAPPY HOUR AT PEYCHAUD'S

Both events at Peychaud's, 727 Toulouse Street
See page 4 for details and full description.

6:30 - 9 PM—Special Event

YOU ARE NOT THE PLAYWRIGHT I WAS EXPECTING: TENNESSEE WILLIAMS' TREASURES AND SURPRISES

Outside of his most famous plays, some of Tennessee's most beautiful writing is found in his lesser-known works. Now, in an evening that's not-to-be-missed, luminaries of the page and stage gather to share some of the playwright's unsung treasures. Reading gems culled from full-length plays, one-acts, letters, and essays, our performers will take a closer look at the Williams canon and bring his words to life with an evening of readings from lesser-known plays. Works to be included are *A Lovely Sunday for Creve*



PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON

Coeur and *Camino Real*, as well as remarkable monologues and scenes from plays you might not be as familiar with such as *Kirche, Küche, Kinder*; *The Notebook of Trigorin*; *A Recluse and His Guest*; *The Gnädiges Fräulein*; and *Now the Cats with Jeweled Claws*. This theatrical treasure hunt offers an entertaining and surprising look at Williams' legacy. This event is curated by Festival Director **Paul J. Willis** and Williams editor **Thomas Keith**, who will also host. Our readers include a mix of actors and authors including: **Bryan Batt**, **Brenda Currin**, **John Goodman**, **Jewelle Gomez**, **Andrew Holleran**, **David Kaplan**, **Lee Osorio**, and **Mona Lisa Saloy**.

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

Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar at 6:30 PM; Performance at 7:30 PM.
New Orleans Jazz Museum, 400 Esplanade Avenue,
\$40 or VIP Pass.

6 PM - 12 midnight—Theatre
LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL
See pages 10-11 for full description.

7:30 PM—Theatre

The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans presents *Night of the Iguana* by Tennessee Williams

Directed by **Augustin J. Correrro**. This season of The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company is supported by a grant from the New Orleans Theatre Association.

TWTC kicks off its 2023 season with a fresh, present day take on this Tennessee Williams classic! Welcome to the edge of the continent, where Shannon has placed his back against the ocean in a last ditch effort to overcome his own nature. Will his blue devil or his better angels prevail? And will the creature survive? Vices: Pride, Sloth, Gluttony, Lechery.

This production is also made possible with the generous support from The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation and The Threadhead Cultural Foundation!

**Performance Schedule: Thursday - Sunday,
March 23 - 26, 2023. All shows at 7:30 PM, except
a 2 PM matinee on Sunday, March 26.**

**The Lower Depths Theatre on the campus of
Loyola University New Orleans, 6363 St. Charles
Avenue. Tickets at www.twtheatrenola.com**

7:30 PM—Theatre

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré presents *CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF* BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré brings the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* to the stage March 9 - 26, 2023, with Williams' original third act. Set on the Pollitts' plantation home in the Mississippi Delta, this iconic story is told in three acts with no lapse in time between them. Maggie (Mona Nasrawi), a young ambitious in-law, is determined to solidify her role in the family, but her husband Brick (Jonathan Mares) is preoccupied with past longing. Director Salvatore Mannino says, "This production reanalyzes the impact of Williams' text that helped shape the appearance of the American South ... and reveals the truth behind the characters' desires. Using the youngest generation of the Pollitt family as our conduit for the story, we witness the effect these characters have on their family for generations to come. Our team is excited to share this new perspective on the play with our community, and engage in the discourse it prompts."

**Performance Schedule: Thursday and Friday,
March 23 - 24 at 7:30 PM; Saturday, March 25 at
3 PM and 7:30 PM; Sunday, March 26 at 3:00 PM.
Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St. Peter
Street, tickets: www.lepetittheatre.com**

LE PETIT THEATRE



NIGHT OF THE IGUANA

by Tennessee Williams

MARCH 10-26

LOWER DEPTHS THEATRE AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS
6363 ST CHARLES AVENUE



Tickets & Information at

WWW.TWTHEATRENOLA.COM

This season of the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company
of New Orleans is supported by a grant from the



This program is supported in part by a
Community Arts Grant made possible
by the City of New Orleans.



2023 TENNESSEE WILLIAMS SCHOLARS CONFERENCE



The Historic
New Orleans
Collection

MUSEUM • RESEARCH CENTER • PUBLISHER

**Williams Research Center at The Historic
New Orleans Collection, 410 Chartres Street**

**\$10 per session or Scholars Conference Pass,
VIP Pass, or Literary Discussion Pass**

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023

9 – 9:05 AM

Welcome: **Margit Longbrake**,
The Historic New Orleans Collection

9:05 – 9:15 AM

Opening remarks: **Bess Rowen**,
Villanova University

9:15 – 10:30 AM

EN AVANT! EMERGING WILLIAMS SCHOLARS

The future is now: join members of the newest wave of Williams scholars as they discuss eugenics in an unpublished Blanche DuBois monologue, the experimental work of notorious radical 1960s theater troupe the Living Theater, and connections between writing and addiction. **Moderator: Bess Rowen, Villanova University; Kaitlyn Farrell Rodriguez, University of Texas, Austin; Nigel O'Hearn, University of Texas, Austin; Melissa Lin Sturges, University of Maryland, College Park.**

10:45 AM – 12 Noon

INTERDISCIPLINARY LENSES ON WILLIAMS

Sometimes it seems that the Williams oeuvre never met a discipline it didn't like. This year classic works including *Suddenly Last Summer* and *The Glass Menagerie* are new again and lesser-known works gain interest under the lenses of visual arts, Jewish influence, biography, and food studies. **John S. Bak, Université de Lorraine (moderator); Jaclyn Bethany, Independent scholar; Debra Caplan, Baruch College, City University of New York; Thierry Dubost, Université de Caen Normandie; Henry I. Schvey, Washington University, St. Louis.**

12 Noon – 1:15 PM

Lunch Break

1:15 – 2:45 PM

The Past, the Present, and the Perhaps of Williams Studies: A Roundtable in Honor of Robert Bray

Robert Bray, founder of the Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference and the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*,

joins an array of distinguished theater scholars from the US and abroad in a lively, thought-provoking discussion of the state of Williams studies, hosted by R. Barton Palmer, the journal's editor-in-chief since 2017. **Introduction: Jessica Dorman, The Historic New Orleans Collection; Moderator: R. Barton Palmer, Clemson University (emeritus); Robert Bray, Middle Tennessee State University (emeritus); Dirk Gindt, Stockholm University; John "Ray" Proctor, Tulane University; Annette J. Saddik, Graduate Center, City University of New York; Respondent: John S. Bak, Université de Lorraine.**

3 – 4:15 PM

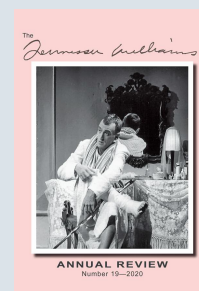
Queerness at Work and Play in and after Williams
Scholars reveal surprising uses and legacies of queerness in Williams's work: come learn about the French Quarter as a dramatic character, Williams as a foundation for US avant-garde theater, and perversity as a challenge not only to heteronormative sexuality but to the concept of linear time itself. **Moderator: David Kaplan, Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival; Kelly I. Aliano, New-York Historical Society; Stephen Cedars, Graduate Center, City University of New York; Benjamin Gillespie, Baruch College, City University of New York.**

4:30 – 5:15 PM

A Staged Reading of Two Newly Discovered Stories by Williams:

"The Caterpillar Dogs" and "Till One or the Other Gits Back"

Theater director and scholar **Tom Mitchell**, who has uncovered a treasure trove of previously unknown short stories from the Williams archives, presents a staged reading of two unusual showdowns from among his finds: a ferocious elderly descendent of pirates and conquistadors faces off with a pair of Pekinese dogs in twentieth-century St. Louis, and a characteristically Williamsian troubled relationship undergoes its struggles in a very uncharacteristic spaghetti-western setting.



FRIDAY SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023

9 AM – 4 PM

Headquarters open to pick up VIP Passes, Literary Discussion Passes, purchase Festival merchandise, and to buy tickets.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne B.

9 AM – 4 PM

Book Fair hosted by Octavia Books with books from our Festival speakers, titles by Tennessee Williams, and much more.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne A.



37TH ANNUAL
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WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL

10 – 11:15 AM—Writer's Craft Session CHARLES BAXTER - TIME (SHORT AND LONG) IN THE SHORT STORY

Often a great puzzle in writing a short story has to do with determining how much of the characters' histories—their pasts—has to be included. The traditional method for doing so employs flashbacks, often at the start of the story. We'll talk about long time and short time in short stories, using examples from writers like Alice Munro and Evan Connell, and we'll have a Q&A at the end to talk about other specific examples, including your own.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon, \$25 or VIP Pass.



10 – 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion TENNESSEE 101 with AUGUSTIN J CORRERO

Tennessee 101 is a fast-paced, fun, and informative introduction to Tennessee Williams! It's focused on Williams' unique relationship to New Orleans, as well as the various bits of trivia and lore relating to the theatre offerings at the Festival this year. Whether you're new to the world of Williams or a long-time fan, come prepared to learn something. Presented by **Augustin J Correro**, Co-Artistic Director of The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans. There's a Q&A session at the end, and be sure to get your copy of *Tennessee Williams 101* for a brief signing to follow.

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

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—Writer's Craft Session TIMOTHY SCHAFFERT - CREATING AMBIENCE

In this session, we'll explore telling stories through the senses, through atmosphere, through objects: with the New Orleans-set novel *The Awakening* as our centerpiece, we'll consider Kate Chopin's approach to mood, tone, and setting. Shadow play and ambience can do more than just set the scene, but also contribute to the narrative, to character development, and poetically communicate what's at the heart of your work.

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

11:30 – 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion CITYSCAPES: HOW TO READ A CITY

"You can read a city the way you read a book," geographer **Richard Campanella** once said, and he has shown us the layers of meaning in the New Orleans landscape. In this panel, Campanella joins **C.W. Cannon**, who writes about the social and political landscape; **T.R. Johnson**, who maps the literary landscape in *New Orleans: A Writer's City*; and **Peter M. Wolf**, whose *Sugar King* gives us a history of New Orleans' Jewish community through the life of a single individual, his great-great grandfather Leon Godchaux. These talented and very different writers explore the various lenses through which they view our complicated and beautiful urban territory. Moderated by **David Johnson**.

Underwritten by The Ethel and Herman L. Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies.

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

1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

PASSION PROJECTS: WRITING ABOUT WHAT YOU LOVE

In this discussion, writers in fields from sports to collecting explore the joys and pitfalls of choosing to write about what they do for pleasure. Does it turn something you do for relaxation into work? Does it add a performative aspect to what was pure experience? How do you add to a field that may already have been explored? In short, does it make it more—or less—fun? And in all these fields, there are certain questions to be explored: the choice of amateur or professional status, the frustration of learning, the demands of practice, the thrill of the hunt, the sense of satisfaction or mastery. Whether you're a fly-fisher or a book collector, these writers will talk about the emotional intensity that illuminates this sort of writing. Panelists include **Tyler Bridges, Jacinta R. Saffold, and Christopher Schaberg**, with **Miles Harvey** as moderator.

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

1:30 – 2:45 PM—Writer's Craft Session

OLIVIA CLARE FRIEDMAN - PROSE STYLE

In this session, we'll take a closer look at the elements of prose style. We'll examine a few prose examples, paying special attention to the sentence and the paragraph. We'll also discuss word choice, sentence length, paragraph length, syntax, compression, and expansion. Last, we'll delve into the ways poetry might help us gain a deeper understanding of stylistic choices in prose.

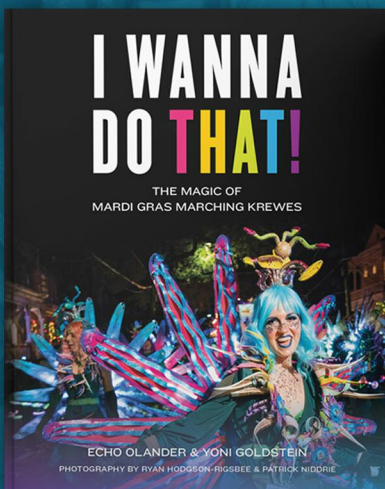
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon, \$25 or VIP Pass.

2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

BEADS AND THROWS AND COSTUMES—AND BOOKS?

Yes, indeed. Every Mardi Gras brings a new crop of volumes exploring various aspects of the holiday. Whether it's **Matt Haines** taking on the heroic task of sampling king cakes, **Echo Olander** meeting walking krewes, **Arthur Hardy** chronicling Mardi Gras history and changes, or **Dixie Poché** guiding us to Cajun Country's unique Mardi Gras customs, there's always something to

learn. Moderated by Carnival maven **Peggy Scott Laborde**.
Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass or VIP Pass.



3:00 – 4:15 PM—Writer's Craft Session

MARK BOLOGNA - SHOULD I START A PODCAST?

Mark Bologna, host of the *Beyond Bourbon Street* podcast, presents a beginner's guide to this popular medium, discussing reasons to consider podcasting (pros and cons) and managing your expectations. He'll discuss how to start, the equipment you'll need, and how to publish and market, as well as podcasting pitfalls. Bring your questions!

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon, \$25 or VIP Pass.

3:00 – 4:15 PM—Writer's Craft Session

FELICE PICANO - INTRODUCTION TO SCREENWRITING: DEVELOPING YOUR STORY FOR STAGE OR SCREEN

Writing for feature films and television shows takes a great story and proper presentation to get the right attention. Author **Felice Picano** will go over all the elements to make your script the best it can be, with many visual examples and anecdotes from his experiences.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D, \$25 or VIP Pass.

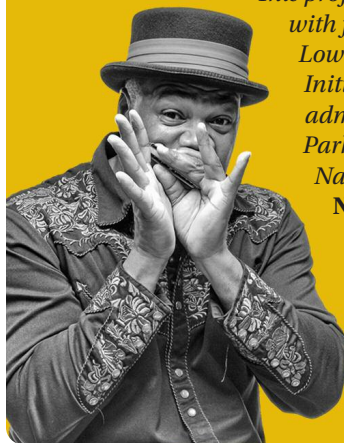
3 – 4 PM—Music

MARC STONE AND BRUCE "SUNPIE" BARNES TALK (AND SING) THE BLUES

The blues is a much more complex term than most music lovers could imagine. Join these two acclaimed New Orleans musicians for a musical tour through the origins and history of the blues through performance and conversation.

This project was made possible with funding provided by the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative, a program administered by the National Park Service and Jefferson National Parks Association.

New Orleans Jazz Museum, 400 Esplanade Avenue, free and open to the public.



Bruce "Sunpie" Barnes

4 – 5 PM—Music

CHRIS THOMAS KING: THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BLUES

The blues is such a popular mode of music that everyone thinks they invented it. Contrary to popular myth, the blues did not begin on Mississippi Delta plantations. The original American art form began in Louisiana in the 1890s. Join **Chris Thomas King**, acclaimed musician and author of *The Blues: The Authentic Narrative of My Music and Culture* as he shares what his research has proven about the origins of the blues and New Orleans' place in that story.

This project was made possible with funding provided by the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative, a program administered by the National Park Service and Jefferson National Parks Association.

New Orleans Jazz Museum, 400 Esplanade Avenue, free and open to the public.

4 – 5:15 PM—Literary Discussion
DON'T BAN OUR BOOKS:
WRITING IN THE AGE OF CENSORSHIP

As book banning efforts grow and spread, with moves to suppress AP courses in African American history and decrease access to LGBTQ+ materials, writers must champion their own work more than ever. How do we



support libraries and bookstores that are right on the front lines of these efforts? This panel surveys the scene from a variety of perspectives. **Kerri Westenberg** has covered book banning for *64 Parishes* magazine. **Gregg Shapiro** is an entertainment journalist and author, and **Sonnet Ireland** has served as president of the Louisiana Library Association. **William Christy Smith**, director of adult programming at the Jefferson Parish Library, will moderate. **Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass or VIP Pass.**

6 PM – 12 midnight—Theatre
LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL
 The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue.
 See pages 10-11 for full description.

7:30 PM—Theatre
 The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans
 presents *Night of the Iguana* by Tennessee Williams
 See page 14 for full description.

7:30 PM—Theatre
 Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré presents
CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
 See page 14 for full description.



PHOTO BY RIDE-HAMILTON

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37TH ANNUAL TENNESSEE WILLIAMS & NEW ORLEANS LITERARY FESTIVAL



SATURDAY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023

9 AM – 4 PM

Headquarters open to pick up VIP Passes, Literary Discussion Passes, purchase Festival merchandise, and to buy tickets.
Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne B.

9 AM – 4 PM

Book Fair hosted by Octavia Books with books from our Festival speakers, titles by Tennessee Williams, and much more.
Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne A.

8:30 – 9:45 AM—Special Event

BOOKS AND BEIGNETS WITH GARY RICHARDS

This year's focus shifts to one of the most important 19th-century U.S. writers, Kate Chopin. Born in St. Louis in 1850, her marriage took her to the New Orleans streets, and the bayous and prairies of Louisiana, locales that immeasurably enriched her subsequent literary career. Best known for her novel *The Awakening* (1899), she was nevertheless a talented short story writer among the most preeminent of her era. The book club discussion will focus on six of these stories: "Beyond the Bayou," "At the 'Cadian Ball,'" "La Belle Zoraïde," "Athénaïse," "A Matter of Prejudice," and "Nég Créol." They are available in Penguin's *Bayou Folk and A Night in Acadie* (ISBN: 978-0140436815) but can also be easily found on the Internet.

**3rd Block Depot Kitchen + Bar, 316 Chartres Street,
\$25 or VIP Pass.**

10 – 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

THE LIFETIME WORKSHOP: BUILDING MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER WRITERS

In 1989, the members of this panel met each other at the University of Michigan, where four of them were pursuing their MFAs and one of them was teaching. During the subsequent three decades, they've kept in close touch: reading each other's work, supporting each other's careers, celebrating each other's successes, and offering consolation and guidance in the face of each other's inevitable setbacks. This panel sets out to answer the question of how writers can build and maintain a permanent cohort of like-minded colleagues. This group of longtime writing friends includes **Charles Baxter, Williams Lychack, Michael Paterniti, and Cammie McGovern, with Miles Harvey, moderator.**
**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom,
\$10 or Literary Discussion Pass or VIP Pass.**

10 – 11:15 AM—Featured Interview

AN INTERVIEW WITH DOUGLAS BRINKLEY

Historian **Douglas Brinkley**, the Katherine Tsanoff Brown Chair in Humanities and professor of history at Rice University, discusses the lifetime of research and scholarship that has led to his most recent book, *Silent Spring Revolution: John F. Kennedy, Rachel Carson, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and the Great Environmental Awakening*. Brinkley's book continues his exploration of the legacies of Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon. It is a stirring portrait of *The Long Sixties* (1960-1973) and the writers, such as Rachel Carson, and activists who opened doors of environmental awareness—how their work informs and illuminates the great climate change questions of our time. Veteran journalist **Errol Laborde** conducts the interview.

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



11 AM – 12:15 PM—Special Event

A DRAG BRUNCH NAMED DESIRE

Poppy Tooker returns with Drag Queen Brunch! We are thrilled to welcome New Orleans' most desirable drag queens to entertain you while you nosh on a three-course brunch from Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House! And bottomless mimosas of course! Every delectable dish comes from the Poppy Tooker's Drag Queen Brunch cookbook, which can be signed onsite by this beloved New Orleanian cheerleader. **Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House, 144 Bourbon Street,
\$100, tickets available at BourbonHouseNola.com**

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

OBSESSIONS AND IMMERSION: WRITERS AND HISTORICAL FICTION

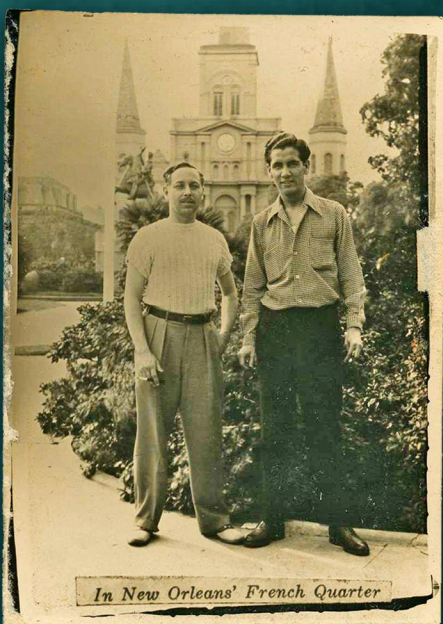
The lure of writing historical fiction is great—the pleasures of diligent research and discovery, the joy of escape to another time, perhaps another place. These four writers describe what drew them to the varied historical periods into which they immersed themselves and what it was like to live in them for a while. Whether it's Vietnam or ancient Rome, you'll find yourself transported. Panelists include **Katy Simpson Smith, Elisa M. Speranza, E.M. Tran, and Kitty Zeldis, with C. Morgan Babst, moderating.** Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass or VIP Pass.

11:30 – 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion
INFLUENCES ON TENNESSEE WILLIAMS:
THE SENSE OF PLACE

One of Tennessee Williams' characters in *Vieux Carré* tells the audience, "Writers are shameless spies." Not only was Williams a sponge when it came to people, but he also soaked up the atmosphere, history, speech, weather, politics, and cultural memory of the places he lived and wrote. The choice of where he set his plays and stories was never random, and it always served as a foundation for his characters and stories. On this panel, **Margit Longbrake** will talk about the distinct and unmistakable influence of New Orleans on Williams; **Tom Mitchell** will discuss the 20 years he lived in St. Louis and the often overlooked impact that Missouri and the Midwest had on Williams' writing; **Karen Kohlhaas** will share her unique perspective about the power of Williams' early upbringing in the Mississippi Delta; and **David Kaplan** will examine Williams' deep artistic and personal connection to Provincetown, Massachusetts. **Thomas Keith** will moderate.

Sponsored by George and Helen Ingram.

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



Tennessee with his partner Pancho
in Jackson Square, ca. 1945

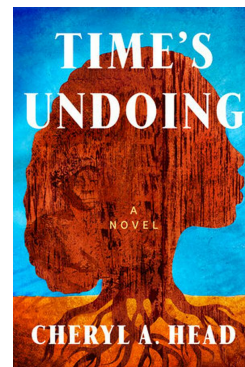
COURTESY OF THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION
FROM THE FRED W. TODD WILLIAMS COLLECTION

1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

WHERE DO IDEAS COME FROM?
AND OTHER QUESTIONS OF INSPIRATION

Go to any writers' conference and during the usual Q&A session, someone will ask the inevitable question: "Where do you get your ideas?" Writers have so many variations on the answer to this question. Some writers can't imagine running out of ideas, worried they don't have time to write the books they already have in mind. Others describe the need to be in a state akin to grace, where ideas flow through you to fruition. It's a different process for everyone. These writers—all working in various forms—describe how they cultivate inner readiness for the creative moment and the rich inner lives necessary for the imaginative resources of their work. Panelists include **S.A. Cosby, Caroline Frost, Cheryl A. Head, and Timothy Schaffert, with Olivia Clare Friedman moderating.**

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



1 – 2:15 PM—Featured Interview

TOM PIAZZA'S THE AUBURN CONFERENCE

Join us as **Tom Piazza** sits down with **Nathaniel Rich** for a freewheeling conversation about Piazza's newest novel, *The Auburn Conference*, which historian Douglas Brinkley has called "an epic novel by one of America's greatest writers." Set in 1883 at a fictional writers' conference in upstate New York, the novel gathers together Mark Twain, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Walt Whitman, Herman Melville, and a cast of dozens for an onstage discussion about the future of America. Mary Gaitskill calls it "an unexpected combination of wit, passion, and intellect that lands with tremendous relevance," and Roy Blount, Jr. calls it "the mother of all writers' conferences." It is sure to be one of the year's most talked about books!

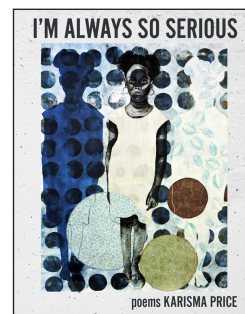
**Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres Street,
\$10 or Literary Discussion Pass or VIP Pass.**

2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

THE CROSSROADS OF POETRY:
WHERE POET MEETS PLACE

In her poem "Crossroads," **Sunni Patterson** writes, "there is a place / where head meets heart / meets world." This place is New Orleans; this place is poetry. How do unlikely pairings find each other in poetry? Where does the self meet its surroundings? When does folklore cross self-mythology cross meaning-making? Three Louisiana poets—**Sunni Patterson, Karisma Price, and Mona Lisa Saloy**—will read from their expansive bodies of work and discuss the intersections of self, place, and history in their verse, with poet **Stacey Balkun** moderating.

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

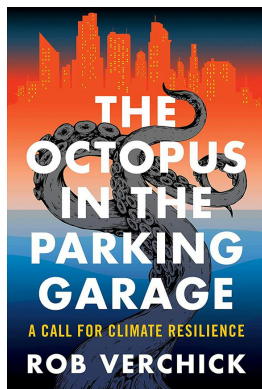


2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion
ENVIRONMENTAL WRITING:

THE COMPLEX LOUISIANA LANDSCAPE

Louisiana's environmental problems are so numerous that they've inspired writers to address such issues as climate change, the management of rivers and water resources, and the hope for survival in the frequent storms. All of these complicated interactions between humans and landscape make for writing that is as compelling as a novel—and as terrifying as a horror novel. This panel includes some of the best practitioners of the craft to discuss topics as varied as the fate of a single bird, the shrimping industry, climate-resilient policies, or a much loved and well-observed bayou landscape: **Rien Fertel**, **emma x lirette**, and **Rob Verchick**, with moderator **Oliver Houck**.

Underwritten by The Ruth U. Fertel Foundation
Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres Street,
\$10 or Literary Discussion Pass or VIP Pass.



4 PM—CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. HOLDITCH

William Kenneth Holditch (September 18, 1933 – December 7, 2022) was a Professor Emeritus of English at the University of New Orleans. He was one of the preeminent scholars of the American playwright Tennessee Williams. Notably, he was instrumental in founding the Tennessee Williams Literary Festivals in New Orleans; Columbus, Mississippi; and Clarksdale, Mississippi, and he served on the advisory board of the festival in Provincetown, Massachusetts. His published works include *Tennessee Williams and the South* and *The World of Tennessee Williams* with Richard Freeman Leavitt, as well as co-editor with Mel Gussow for the Library of America's *Tennessee Williams Plays 1937-1955*.

Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carré Room,
free and open to the public.

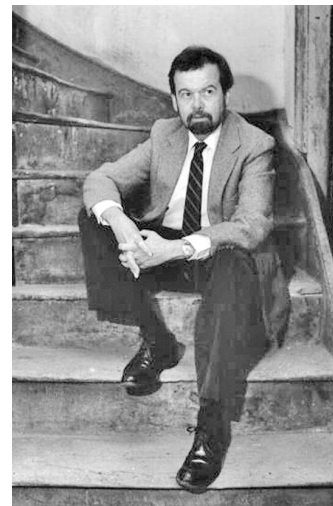


PHOTO BY BRYAN S. BERTEAUX

6 PM – 12 midnight—Theatre
LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL
See pages 10-11 for full description.



3 PM—Theatre

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré presents
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
by Tennessee Williams
See page 14 for full description.

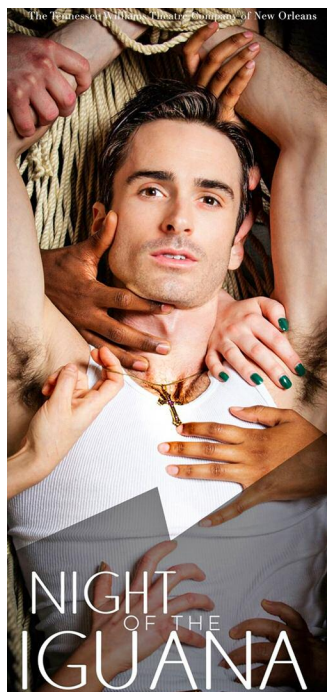
LE PETIT THEATRE

4 – 5:15 PM—Literary Discussion

CAN JOURNALISTS BE ACTIVISTS? SHOULD THEY BE? A LOOK AT AN INCREASINGLY BLURRY LINE

As politics become more polarized, will journalism follow suit? With the rise of cable news and online sources that didn't exist a few years ago, where people get their news matters more than ever. And traditional news organizations often find themselves in the trenches with advocacy journalism, whether in coverage of politics, civil rights, or the environment. Veteran political columnist **Stephanie Grace** moderates a panel of journalists who have written for a number of platforms, including **Jarvis DeBerry**, **Quin Hillyer**, **Pam Radtke**, and **Katy Reckdahl**.

Underwritten by The Division of Global Engagement at Xavier University of Louisiana.
Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom,
\$10 or Literary Discussion Pass or VIP Pass.



7:30 PM—Theatre
The Tennessee Williams
Theatre Company of
New Orleans presents
Night of the Iguana
by Tennessee Williams

See page 15
for full description.

Jake Wynne-Wilson as
Reverend T. Lawrence Shannon

7:30 PM—Theatre

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré presents
***Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams**
See page 14 for full description.

LE PETIT THEATRE



CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF

Directed by
SALVATORE MANNINO

Written by
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Written by **Tennessee Williams**
Directed by **Salvatore Mannino**
March 9 – March 26, 2023

SHOWTIMES
Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays
at 7:30 PM
Sundays & Final Saturday
at 3:00 PM

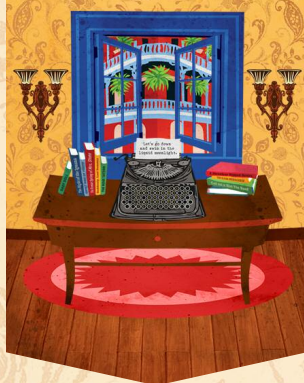
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37TH ANNUAL
TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL



DRUMMER & SMOKE MUSIC EVENTS

at the
PALM COURT JAZZ CAFÉ
SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

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



NEW ORLEANS
JAZZ & HERITAGE
FESTIVAL AND
FOUNDATION, INC.



11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—Music

SHAKE 'EM UP JAZZ BAND

Formed in the summer of 2016, Shake 'Em Up is a New Orleans-based band playing early American music, including New Orleans-style traditional tunes and swing. Originally a pickup band composed of working musicians brought together for a Girls Rock New Orleans performance, the band immediately garnered positive attention (and gigs), influencing its members to keep the personal and musical chemistry rolling. Six years, three albums, and four international tours later, the band continues to expand their repertoire and musicality, their popularity at home in New Orleans, and their national and international notoriety.

Palm Court Jazz Cafe, 1204 Decatur Street, \$10 or VIP Pass.

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM—Music

CATIE RODGERS AND THE GENTILLY STOMPERS

My name is Catie Rodgers, and I am a musician. I moved to New Orleans almost 15 years ago on a Greyhound bus. I didn't set out to be a traditional jazz trumpet player, but it is where I belong. When I think about all the amazing people that this music has connected me to, it brings tears to my eyes. New Orleans Jazz is love. I started the Gentilly Stompers 7 years ago after a booker said "Do you have a band? Get a band. You have Wednesday nights." This will be the first time I've seen these guys together since March 15, 2020. I've been fortunate to have a varied trumpet career that has included the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, and playing with the daughters of Louis Prima and Judy Garland (Lena Prima and Lorna Luft, respectively). But mostly you can find me Monday nights at Fritzels with the wonderful Richard 'Piano' Scott, and on the weekends at Arnaud's Jazz Bistro with the charismatic Sugarbear Francis. Important mentors have been Banu Gibson, Matt Perrine, Steve Yocum, Connie Jones, Jerry Jumonville, Doug Reneau, Leslie Cooper, and the music faculty at the University of New Orleans. Forever in their debt.

Palm Court Jazz Cafe, 1204 Decatur Street, \$10 or VIP Pass.



2:30 PM – 3:45 PM—Music

MESCHIYA LAKE

A singing contest win at 9, a stint in a literal circus, and being transfixed by the music of the French Quarter: all of this led to the Meschiya Lake whom New Orleanians know and love. Some remember her as part of the Loose Marbles on Royal Street, which led to excursions to New York and Europe where just the right amount of hard times convinced her to start her own band, the Little Big Horns. A few albums later and numerous awards later, Meschiya is an icon of New Orleans music—a passionate performer who brings audiences into her realm to have an experience they won't forget.

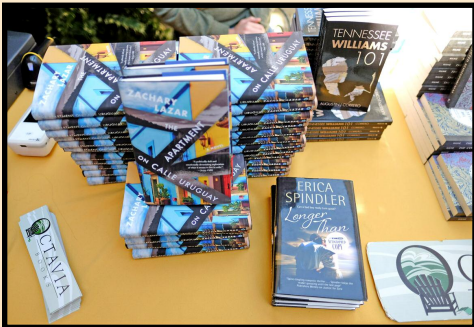
Palm Court Jazz Cafe, 1204 Decatur Street, \$10 or VIP Pass.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

37TH ANNUAL
TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL

PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON



9 AM – 2 PM

Headquarters open to pick up VIP Passes, Literary Discussion Passes, purchase Festival merchandise, and to buy tickets.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne B.

9 AM – 2 PM

Book Fair hosted by Octavia Books with books from our Festival speakers, titles by Tennessee Williams, and much more.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne A.



9 AM—Special Event

THE NEW ORLEANS WRITING MARATHON

Jumpstart your writing with the New Orleans Writing Marathon! Hosted by founder **Richard Louth**, participants write their way across the French Quarter in cafes, pubs, and bookstores—anywhere a small group of writers can sit, write, and share their work. It's all about writing in the moment, writing for the joy of it, and finding inspiration in one's place. We start at the Hotel Monteleone before going out to explore the French Quarter as writers. For more information, visit www.writingmarathon.com and for questions, contact Richard Louth at rlouth@selu.edu.

Writing marathons begin at 9 AM. You can end your writing marathon at whatever time best fits your schedule.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Parlor, Free and open to the public but please register at www.tennesseewilliams.net.

10 – 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

MEMOIR: CONNECTING TO THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE

The powerful experience of reading a memoir is often finding meaning in lives not our own, and making powerful connections with people so different from ourselves. This panel includes four memoirists: **David Armand** recalls his tumultuous and violent family life; **Chris Belcher** chronicles her life as a sex worker in Los Angeles; Grammy-nominated **Scott Billington** revisits a long and distinguished career in music; and **Mark Chesnut** pursues his career as a travel writer as he struggles to care for his ailing, aging mother. **Moderator David Swatling** draws these writers out on the human conditions that inspired their work.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom.

\$10 or Literary Discussion Pass or VIP Pass.

11 AM – 12:15 PM—Theatre

THE NOLA PROJECT PRESENTS TENNESSEE X THREE

Tennessee Williams fell in love with Hart Crane's poetry at an early age. Crane's life, death by jumping off a ship into the Gulf of Mexico, and poetry inspired and fascinated Williams. In the last years of his life, Williams wrote a play that featured Crane and his fraught relationship with his mother. Williams' short play, *Steps Must Be Gentle*, one of his last, takes its title from one of Crane's poems. In *Steps Must Be Gentle*, Williams imagines Crane at peace on the bottom of the sea ... until his mother dies and tracks him down to straighten him out.

The Case of the Crushed Petunias, written in 1941, tells the story of Dorothy Simple, a woman trapped in her job at a prim and proper shop in Massachusetts. She has barricaded her house and heart behind a double row of petunias—until the day she wakes up to find every single petunia crushed by the footprints of a size-eleven-D shoe. Afterward, a young man arrives to confess his crime but is also on a mission to alert Dorothy to the “miraculous accident of being alive.” Armed with poetry, seeds for wild roses, and a business card from “LIFE, INCORPORATED,” the young man endeavors to convince Dorothy that tremendous inspiration lies beyond what can be bought or sold in a shop.

Tennessee Williams' *The Reading* is a short sketch of what would eventually become *Vieux Carré*. *The Reading*, like *I Never Get Dressed Till After Dark on Sundays*, is structured as a play-within-a-play, with two actors auditioning for their respective parts. Their script centers on Jane and Tye, two more elements this play shares with *I Never Get Dressed Till After Dark on Sundays*. Making its Festival debut, *The Reading* looks at Jane's depiction of a mysterious merchant whom she believes (or wants to believe) will rescue her from poverty and dependence on Tye. The thin plot also involves Jane's advancing leukemia (named here but only poetically described in *Vieux Carré*) and her futile attempt to abandon Tye to run off with her wealthy suitor. The play's only other characters are Two Voices presiding over the audition.

Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carré Room, \$20 or VIP Pass



Tennessee x 3 with NOLA Project

PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON

11:30 – 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

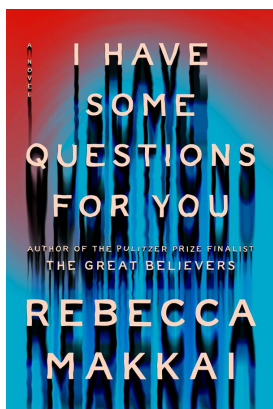
YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Young adult readers are discerning in their reading habits—they know what they like—and they are a growing force in the book market. How to please readers who are past the point of picture books and middle-grade tales, but not quite ready for adult fiction? Some writers do it by addressing social problems head on; others turn to fantasy and elaborate worldbuilding. But all successful YA authors develop characters with power and agency. What particular set of skills do these writers bring to their work? This panel of YA authors includes **moderator Cammie McGovern** with **Marti Dumas, Daniel José Older, Farrah Rochon, and Brittany N. Williams.** **Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom. \$25 or Literary Discussion Pass or VIP Pass.**

11:30 – 12:45 PM—Featured Interview

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS with REBECCA MAKKAI

Award-winning author **Rebecca Makkai** plumbs the depths of memory and trauma in *I Have Some Questions for You*, her highly anticipated new novel, which Jennifer Egan calls “a true literary mystery—haunting and hard to put down.” **C. Morgan Babst**, author of *The Floating World*, will join Makkai in a conversation about the ability of fiction to explore complex cultural issues, while keeping us on the edges of our seats. **Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon, \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass or VIP Pass.**



11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—Music

Drummer & Smoke Session 1:
SHAKE ‘EM UP JAZZ BAND
See page 24 for full description.

1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

CIVIL RIGHTS IN FACT AND FICTION

Stellar writers talk about the struggle for equality in their work, including **Judge Freddie Pitcher, Jr.**, the first African American judge in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; journalist **Brian Fairbanks**, who chronicles the rise of David Duke and right wing politics, and novelist **De’Shawn Charles Winslow**, who writes about the divided city of West Mills, North Carolina. Playwright **Harold Ellis Clark** moderates. **Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom. \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass or VIP Pass.**



1 – 2:15 PM—Music
Drummer & Smoke Session 2:
Catie Rogers
See page 24 for full description.

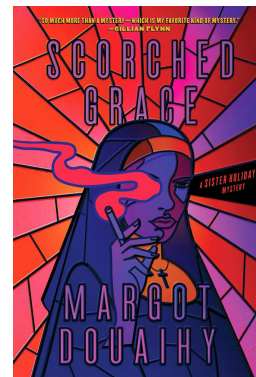
2 PM—Theatre

The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans presents *Night of the Iguana* by Tennessee Williams
See page 14 for full description.

2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

AN EYE FOR AN EYE: JUSTICE V. REVENGE

The crime novel has always scrutinized how the justice system works, either by shining an unflinching light on its pitfalls, biases, and injustices or by showing it running as smoothly as a Swiss watch. With more and more public scrutiny on crime and policing, does the crime writer have a responsibility to show the system working or to expose its inconsistencies and flaws? When does justice cross the line into vengeance? Is taking the law into one’s own hands ever justified, or is it merely vigilantism? Join us as five amazing authors discuss writing about crime, the justice system, and how their work explores and reflects those fine lines between personal morality and human justice. **J.M. Redmann** moderates this discussion with **S.A. Cosby, Margot Douaihy, Genevieve Essig, and Michael Nava.** **Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon. \$10 or Literary Discussion Pass or VIP Pass.**



2:30 – 3:45 PM—Music
Drummer & Smoke Session 3:
Meschiya Lake
See page 24 for full description.

2:30 – 3:45 PM—Special Event

A CELEBRATION OF WRITERS

Our 2023 closing event celebrates Tennessee’s birthday and up-and-coming writers. We’ll hear from our contest winners and premiere the winning one-act play staged reading directed by David Hoover. We’ll also celebrate some of our local community writing groups who support and promote emerging writers by hosting writing marathons, readings, submission happy hours, and free writing workshops. They’ll share some of their work and offer their best words of encouragement to writers.

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



Steffi Sin
Fiction



George Fei
Very Short Fiction



Nia Murat
Poetry



Agyeiwaa Asante
One-Act Play

3 PM—Theatre

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré presents
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams
See page 14 for full description.

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Blanche DuBois depended on the kindness of strangers, and the Festival depends on the kindness of Friends! You can become a Friend of Tennessee and enjoy membership level perks, become part of a strong literary arts community, and help us continue on our mission of supporting artists. You can join in our Box Office or online at www.tennesseewilliams.net.

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Terry Verigan & Kathy Higgins
Barbara Wingo

MAGGIE THE CAT

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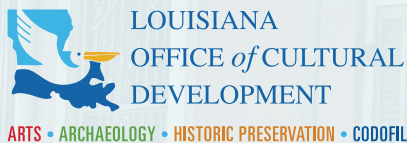


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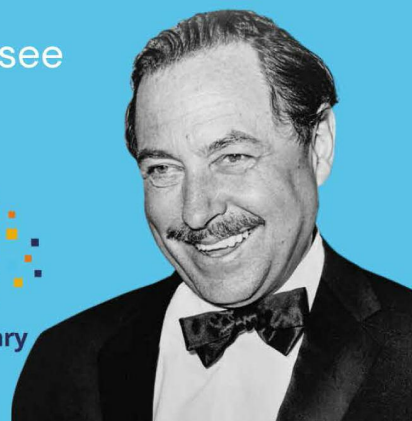


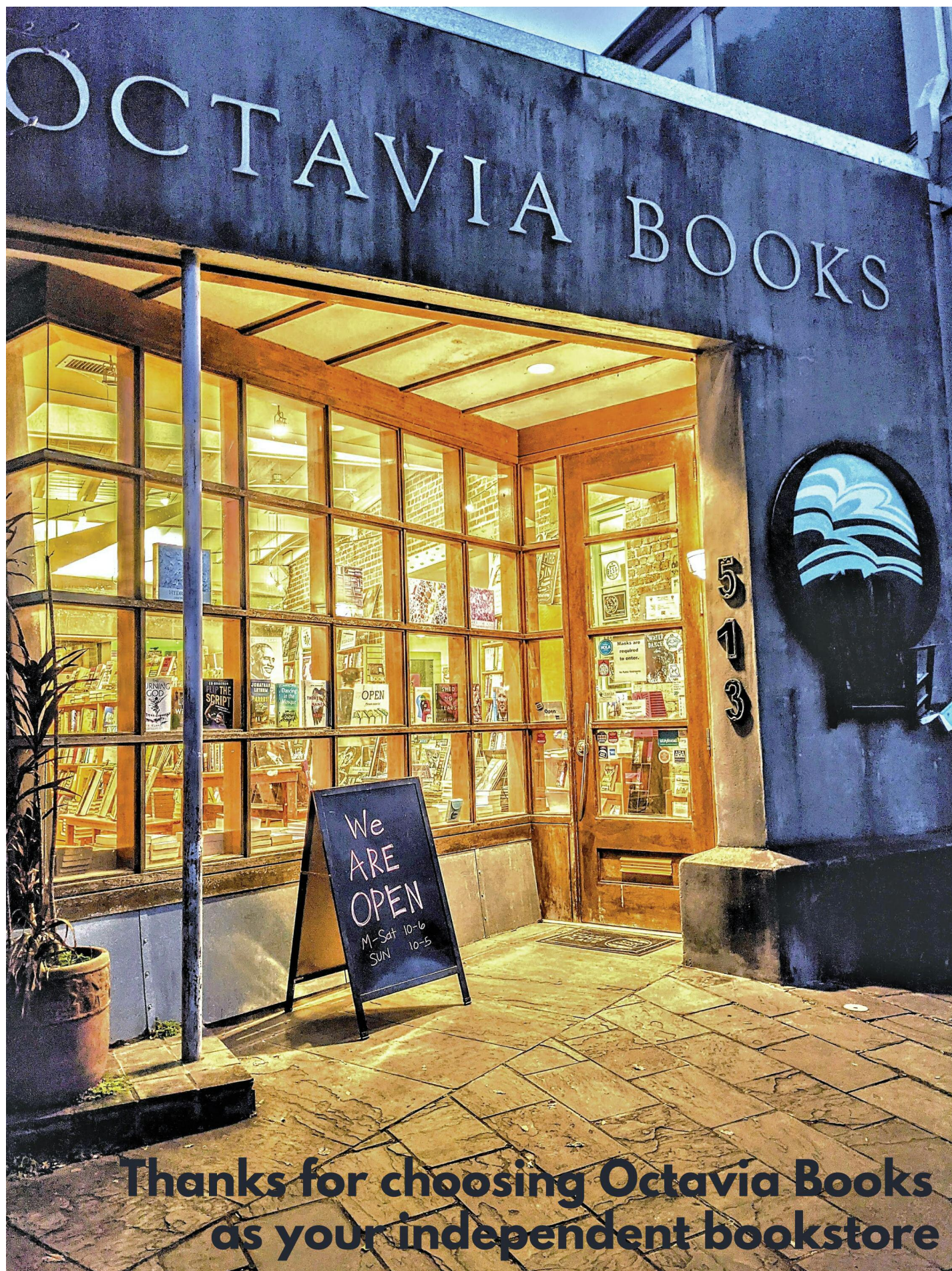
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2023 FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS



Kelly I. Aliano is the Manager of Education Special Projects at New-York Historical Society. She holds a Ph.D. in Theatre and teaches courses in the English department at LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York. She is the author of *Theatre of the Ridiculous—A Critical History* and *The Performance of Video Games*, both published by McFarland, Inc. Kelly is the current Focus Group Representative for LGBTQ+ for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education.



David Armand was born and raised in Louisiana. From 2017-2019, he served as writer-in-residence at Southeastern Louisiana University, where he is currently an assistant professor of creative writing. An award-winning author, Armand has published four novels and three collections of poetry. His memoir, released in February, 2023, is *Mirrors, and Other Reflections*.



C. Morgan Babst is a native of New Orleans. Her essays and short fiction have appeared in such publications as *The Washington Post*, *Saveur*, *The Oxford American*, *Guernica*, *Garden and Gun*, the *Harvard Review*, and the anthology *Horse Girls*. Two of her essays are listed as Notable in *Best American Essays*. Her debut novel, *The Floating World*, was named one of the best books of 2017 by *Kirkus Reviews*, *Amazon*, *Southern Living*, and the *Dallas Morning News* and was a *New York Times Editors' Pick*.



John S. Bak, Professeur at the Université de Lorraine in France, holds degrees from the University of Illinois, Ball State University, and the Sorbonne in Paris. His edited books include *Tennessee Williams and Europe* (Rodopi, 2014) and *New Selected Essays: Where I Live* (New Directions, 2009). He is the author of the monographs *Ernest Hemingway*, *Tennessee Williams*, and *Queer Masculinities* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2009) and *Tennessee Williams: A Literary Life* (Palgrave, 2013).



Stacey Balkun is the author of *Sweetbitter* and co-editor of *Fiolet & Wing*. Winner of the 2019 New South Writing Contest, her creative work has appeared in *Best New Poets*, *Mississippi Review*, *Pleiades*, and several other anthologies and journals. Stacey holds an MFA from Fresno State and teaches creative writing online at The Poetry Barn and The Loft. She lives in New Orleans, where she coordinates the Graduate and Undergraduate English programs at the University of New Orleans.



Bruce "Sunpie" Barnes is a New Orleans musician, book author, and ethnographic photographer. He is also the Big Chief of the Northside Skull and Bone Gang, one the oldest Afro-Creole carnival groups in the United States, which began its traditions in 1819. He is an 18-year member of the Black Men of Labor Social Aid and Pleasure Club and the band leader of the popular New Orleans musical group, Sunpie and the Louisiana Sunspots. His latest book and DC project is entitled *Le Kèr Creole* (The Creole Heart), co-authored with Rachel Breunlin and Leroy Etienne. Sunpie has currently recorded 7 critically acclaimed CDs with his compositions featured in 19 Hollywood film productions. He is deeply involved in New Orleans parade culture and co-authored the 2015 critically acclaimed book *Talk That Music Talk—Passing On Brass Band Music In New Orleans "The Traditional Way,"* featuring over 300 of his photographs.

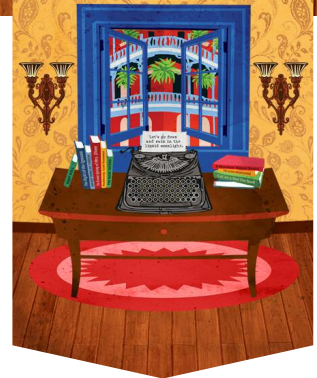


Beth Bartley made her Broadway debut in the Tony-nominated play, *Fortune's Fool*, directed by Arthur Penn. Film credits include Richard Linklater's new film *Hitman* in the role of Jill and upcoming *The Climbing Rose of the Garden District* in the role of Feydau Klaus. Williams roles include Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Catherine Holly in *Suddenly Last Summer*, and Carol Cutrere in *Orpheus Descending* (dir. Austin Pendleton). Beth is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and The Juilliard School.



Bryan Batt is most known as "Salvatore Romano" on the iconic TV series *Mad Men* (2 SAG awards), and has appeared in nine Broadway shows including *Sunset Blvd.*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Cats*, *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Starlight Express*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Seussical*, and *Beauty and the Beast*; many Off-Broadway shows including *Jeffrey* (stage & film) *Forbidden Broadway Cleans Up Its act*, *Forbidden Broadway Strikes Back* (Drama Desk nomination) and most recently, *To My Girls at Second Stage*; over 25 films including *Pinball* (opens March 17th) *12 Years a Slave*, *Spike Lee's Tales from the Hood II*, and *Garden District* (Best Actor in a short: London International Film Festival); numerous TV appearances including *The Black List*, *NCIS*, *Scream*, and *The Simpsons*. Bryan wrote and performed his one man show *Dear Mr. Williams*, which started at the TW Festival. He's penned three books: *She Ain't Heavy, She's My Mother*, *Big Easy Style*, and *Pontchartrain Beach: A Family Affair*. Bryan resides in New Orleans with his husband Tom Cianfichi and together, they own HAZELNUT: Fine Gifts & Home Accessories.

37TH ANNUAL TENNESSEE WILLIAMS & NEW ORLEANS LITERARY FESTIVAL



Charles Baxter is the author of fourteen books, including the novels *The Feast of Love*, nominated for the National Book Award; *First Light*, *Saul and Patsy*, *Shadow Play*, *The Soul Thief*, and *The Sun Collective*; the story collections *Believers*, *Gryphon*, *Harmony of the World*, *A Relative Stranger*, *There's Something I Want You to Do*, and *Through the Safety Net*; plus three nonfiction books, including his latest, *Wonderlands: Essays on the Life of Literature*. His stories have appeared in several anthologies, including *The Best American Short Stories*, *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, and *The O. Henry Prize Story Anthology*. Charles has won the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story. He taught at Wayne State University, the University of Michigan, and the University of Minnesota. He lives in Minneapolis.



Chris Belcher is a writer, professor, and former sex worker. She completed a Ph.D. in English at the University of Southern California, where she is now an assistant professor of writing and gender studies. Under her working name, Natalie West, she edited the acclaimed anthology *We Too: Essays on Sex Work and Survival*. Born and raised in West Virginia, she now lives in Los Angeles. Her latest book is a memoir, *Pretty Baby*.



Jaclyn Bethany is an Emmy award-winning writer/director and scholar. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, she graduated from Fordham University (B.A., Acting), the London Film School (M.A., Screenwriting), and holds an M.F.A. in Directing from the American Film Institute. In addition to directing seven feature films, she has extensive acting credits. At sixteen years old, Jaclyn discovered Tennessee Williams, which led to

a passion for his work. Recent acting work includes Laura in *The Glass Menagerie* at New Stage Theater and *The Six Blanches* with the Tennessee Williams Theatre Co. of NOLA. She is represented by Buchwald in New York and L.A.



Scott Billington, producer and three-time Grammy winner, recorded many of the period's most iconic artists from the 1980s through the early 2000s, a golden era for southern roots music. Working primarily in Louisiana, Billington produced such giants as Irma Thomas, Charlie Rich, Buckwheat Zydeco, Johnny Adams, Bobby Rush, Ruth Brown, Beau Jocque, and Solomon Burke. The loving and sometimes irreverent profiles in *Making Tracks: A Record Producer's Southern Roots Music Journey* reveal the triumphs and frustrations of the recording process and that obsessive quest to capture a transcendent performance.



Neal Bodenheimer is the Managing Partner of CureCo, the acclaimed group behind Cure, Cane & Table, and VALS in New Orleans; Partner of Dauphine's in Washington, DC; and Operator of newly opened Peychaud's at the hotel Maison de Ville, a favorite haunt of Tennessee Williams. When he opened Cure 2009, he quickly gained national recognition as a pioneer of the New Orleans craft cocktail movement. Cure was named one of "America's Best Bars" by Esquire in 2011 and received the award for "Outstanding Bar Program" from the James Beard Foundation in 2018. More bars and accolades soon followed, as Bodenheimer received awards and acclaim for his unique cocktail bar concepts. His first cocktail book, *Cure: New Orleans Drinks and How to Mix 'Em*, co-authored by Emily Timberlake, was published in 2022 by Abrams Books.



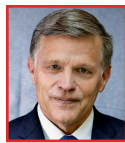
Mark Bologna is a husband, father of twin girls, the Beyond Bourbon Street podcast host, an author, and a New Orleanian. The Beyond Bourbon Street podcast was launched in December 2015 and is published biweekly. Mark takes you along as he explores the people, places, music, history, and culture that make New Orleans unique. His book, an *Insider's Guide to New Orleans*, was published by Globe Pequot Press on May 1, 2022.



Dr. Robert Bray is the founding director of the Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference and the founding editor of *The Tennessee Williams Annual Review*. He is professor emeritus of English at Middle Tennessee State University. Bray's scholarship includes *Tennessee Williams and His Contemporaries*, plus three books written or edited with Barton Palmer. Bray is also the author of dozens of articles and reviews on Williams and is presently retired and living in Charleston, SC.



Tyler Bridges, twice a member of Pulitzer Prize-winning teams, is the chief political reporter for *The Times-Picayune/Advocate*. He has written for the *Washington Post*, *Politico Magazine*, among others, and is the author of five books. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard; a recipient of Columbia University's Maria Moors Cabot Award for his 10 years of foreign reporting in South America; a Shorenstein Center Fellow at Harvard; and a fellow at Penn's Annenberg Public Policy Center. He is a graduate of Stanford University.



Douglas Brinkley is the Katherine Tsanoff Brown Chair in Humanities and Professor of History at Rice University, presidential historian for the New-York Historical Society, trustee of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, and a contributing editor at Vanity Fair. The *Chicago Tribune* dubbed him "America's New Past Master." He is the recipient of such distinguished environmental leadership prizes as the Frances K. Hutchison Medal (Garden Club of America), Robin W. Winks Award for Enhancing Public Understanding of National Parks (National Parks Conservation Association), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Lifetime Heritage Award. His book *The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast* received the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award. He was awarded a Grammy for *Presidential Suite* and is the recipient of seven honorary doctorates in American studies. His two-volume, annotated *Nixon Tapes* recently won the Arthur S. Link-Warren F. Kuehl Prize. His most recent book is *Silent Spring Revolution: John F. Kennedy, Rachel Carson, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and the Great Environmental Awakening*. He lives in Austin, Texas, with his wife and three children.



Richard Campanella, geographer and associate dean for research at the Tulane School of Architecture, is the author of fourteen books and 250 articles on Louisiana geography, history, architecture, and culture. A two-time winner of the LEH Book of the Year Award, Campanella has also received the Louisiana Literary Award, Williams Prize, the Malcolm Heard Award for Excellence in Teaching, and Hannah Arendt Prize for Scholarship in the Public Interest. In 2016, the Government of France named Campanella Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques, and in 2019, the State of Louisiana awarded him the 20th annual Louisiana Writer Award.



C.W. Cannon is the author of four novels, *Soul Resin*, *French Quarter Beautification Project*, *Sleepytime Down South*, and *Katrina Means Cleansing*, all set in his hometown of New Orleans. He attended and graduated from New Orleans Public Schools: McDonogh 15, Gregory, Franklin, and NOCCA. After many years away (mainly in Chicago and Germany), he returned to New Orleans in 1999. He was the 2009-2010 Fulbright Professor of American Civilization at Université Cheikh-Anta-Diop in Dakar, Sénégal. He resides in Faubourg Marigny and teaches at Loyola University New Orleans.



Debra Caplan is an associate professor of theater at Baruch College, City University of New York, where she teaches courses on theater history and Jewish culture. Her first book, *Yiddish Empire: The Vilna Troupe, Jewish Theater, and the Art of Itinerancy* (U of Michigan P, 2018), received awards from the Modern Language Association and the Theatre Library Association. She is coediting with Rachel Merrill Moss a forthcoming collection of essays entitled *The Dybbuk Century: The Jewish Play that Possessed the World* and is working on a biography on the Yiddish actress Molly Picon.



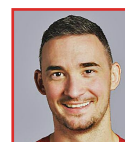
Stephen Cedars is a writer, director, teacher, and scholar originally from south Louisiana. His award-winning plays have been produced or developed throughout the U.S. and Canada, and published by multiple presses. As a scholar, he has presented his work at major conferences and published his work in journals in the U.S. and U.K. He earned his MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU, which he attended as a Rita and Burton Goldberg Fellow. Stephen is a Ph.D. candidate in Theatre and Performance with the CUNY Graduate Center.



Mark Chesnut is a New York City-based writer, editor, and public speaker. The winner of the 2019 NLGJA Excellence in Travel Writing Award, he's the author of the new memoir *Prepare for Departure: Notes on a Single Mother, a Misfit Son, Inevitable Mortality and the Enduring Allure of Frequent Flyer Miles* (Vine Leaves Press, 2022). His travel writing has appeared in media, including *Fodor's*, *Forbes Travel Guide*, *HuffPost*, the *Miami Herald*, and the *New York Times* bestseller *1,000 Places to See Before You Die*, and in his travel lifestyle blog, *LatinFlyer*.



Harold Ellis Clark, author of 11 full-length plays, is a co-awardee of the 2023 Sherri Marina Memorial Grant for his play, *Back in the Day*, for which he was named a 2020 Trustus Playwrights' Festival (Columbia, SC) finalist. The \$6,000 award will support a world premiere production of the play this fall in New Orleans. Harold was named one of two finalists for the Stanley Drama Award an unprecedented three times for his plays, *Tour Detour* (2013), *Uncle Bobby '63* (2015), and *Madame Thames' Spirit Bar* (2016).



Augustin J. Corroero is a Founding Co-Artistic Director of the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans, the first theatre company to focus exclusively on the works of America's greatest playwright. He has directed over a dozen Tennessee Williams plays for TWTC and has presented his Tennessee Williams 101 lecture at various Williams festivals across the United States. He holds an M.F.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University and a B.A. from Mississippi University for Women.



S.A. Cosby is a bestselling award-winning author from Southeastern Virginia. His work has been called gritty, dark, and heartbreakingly authentic.



Brenda Currin, an Obie Award winner, has worked extensively in the NY theater. More recent films include *Daughter of the Bride* and *Gossamer Folds*. Earlier films include *In Cold Blood*, *The World According to Garp*, *Reds*, *Taps*, *C.H.U.D.*, and *Out of Blue*. TV work includes *Gossip Girl*, *Claws*, and *Wu-Tang: An American Saga*. New Orleans theater performances have included roles in *Confederacy of Dunces*, *Dividing the Estate*, *Orpheus Descending*, and *Suddenly Last Summer*, and at the St. Louis TW Festival, *The Glass Menagerie*. With David Kaplan, she adapted and performed Eudora Welty's work for the stage. Brenda co-founded What Girls Know, a theater program for the healthy development of adolescent girls.



Todd d'Amour is from New Orleans, Syracuse U. (BA Psy); AADA (NYC). NYC credits include Broadway - *Airline Highway*; Off-Broadway - *Lie of the Mind*, *Stanley*, *Red Tide* (Taylor Mac), *Nita & Zita* (Obie). NOLA credits include *Airline Highway*, *Father Comes Home From The Wars* (S-Lori Parks), *Orpheus Descending*, *Numb* (Goat in the Road), *Baby Doll* Regional: *Detroit*, *Airline Highway* (Steppenwolf/J Mantello), *Stanley - A Streetcard Named Desire*, *Venus in Fur*, *Charlie Chaplin - Silent T Lives*, *George Bailey - It's a Wonderful Life*. Film/TV: *Wendell - Wendell & The Lemon* (Slamdance, Best Actor NYCV-Fest), *Heart Wants* (N.O.F.F. '14), *Get Out Fast* (Prod, Slamdance), *Preacher*, *Claws*, *Bigger*, *C'Mon C'Mon* (Joaquin Phoenix), *The Purge*, *NCIS*, *Stranger Things*, *Florida Man* (Netflix), *Bandit* (E.Cuthbert, Josh Duhamel, Mel Gibson). Thanks, Beth & Daddy-O.



Jarvis DeBerry worked for *The Times-Picayune* newspaper in New Orleans from 1997 to 2019, first as a reporter, then as an editorial writer and columnist for NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune. Jarvis was part of the team of journalists that was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for its coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. In 2016 and 2019 he won the National Association of Black Journalists' Salute to Excellence Award in commentary. In 2019, he was awarded the prize for best column by the New Orleans Press Club. He now writes for Cleveland.com.



Margot Douaihy is the author of *Scorched Grace* (Gillian Flynn Books, 2023), which has already been named a Barnes & Noble Bookseller Favorite, an Amazon Editors' Pick, and a Most Anticipated debut of 2023 by *Autostraddle*, *Goodreads*, *Crime Reads*, *LGBTQ Reads*, *BookPage*, *Book Riot*, *Electric Lit*, *Novel Suspects*, *Verve Books*, *them*, and *The Lineup*. The

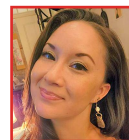
audiobook has been narrated by Mara Wilson, writer/actor of *MATILDA* fame. Douaihy received her Ph.D. in Creative Writing (University of Lancaster) and a BA in English (University of Pittsburgh). She is also the author of the poetry collections *Bandit/Queen: The Runaway Story of Belle Starr*, *Scranton Lace*, and *Girls Like You* (Clemson University Press). She is a founding member of the Creative Writing Studies Organization and an active member of Sisters in Crime and the Radius of Arab American Writers. Her writing has been featured in *Colorado Review*, *The Florida Review*, *North American Review*, *PBS NewsHour*, *Portland Review*, *Queer Life*, *Queer Love*, *Wisconsin Review*, and elsewhere.



Thierry Dubost is professor emeritus of English at the University of Caen Normandie, France. He is the author of *Struggle, Defeat or Rebirth: Eugene O'Neill's Vision of Humanity* (2005), and *The Plays of Thomas Kilroy* (2007), as well as *Eugene O'Neill and the Reinvention of Theatre Aesthetics* (2019). He has co-edited eight books which mainly focus on modern or contemporary Irish and American drama. He has translated various works into French: Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*, and Thomas Kilroy's *The Secret Fall of Constance Wilde*. He is currently working on food in contemporary American plays.



Marti Dumas is a mom, teacher, writer, expert in childhood literacy, and creative entrepreneur from New Orleans. Marti has worked with children and teachers across the country for the last 15 years to promote an early love of reading both in and out of the classroom. Her best-selling series, *Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest*, combines literacy with STEM skills and humor and adds much-needed diversity to the children's chapter book landscape. Her latest book, *Wildseed Witch*, is a middle-grade fantasy being heralded for its skillful combination of family, social media, and magic.



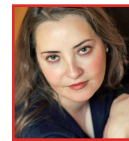
Genevieve Essig is the author of the *Cassie Gwynne Mysteries*, set on Gilded Age Amelia Island, Florida. Genevieve grew up in Florida but now calls New Orleans home. When she's not writing or getting lost down research rabbit holes, she spends her time practicing law, shooting pool, acting/singing, ogling old buildings, futzing with inventions that address highly specific and possibly only-annoying-to-her problems, traveling, ranting at bartenders about the evils of straws, riding horses, and petting strange cats. If you have suggestions for additional hobbies or are interested in her books, please connect with her on social media.



Brian Fairbanks is a longtime journalist, having written for the *Guardian*, *Gawker*, *Nerve*, the *New York Observer*, *Mic*, and *Business Insider*, as well as dozens of other publications. As an editorial assistant, he worked on books by or about Hunter S. Thompson, Jack Kerouac, the NAACP, and World War II, most of which became *New York Times* bestsellers. A resident New Orleanian, *Wizards*, about the 1991 Louisiana gubernatorial election, is his first book entirely under his name.



Rien Fertel is the author of *Brown Pelican* and three previous books: *Drive-By Truckers' Southern Rock Opera*, *The One True Barbecue*, and *Imagining the Creole City*. He is currently a Visiting Professor of History at Tulane University.



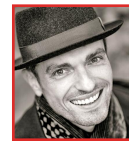
Olivia Clare Friedman is the author of the novel *Here Lies* and the book of short stories, *Disasters in the First World*. She is also the author of a book of poems, *The 26-Hour Day*. Her fiction has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, *Granta*, and *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*, among other publications. She is the recipient of an O. Henry Prize, a Pushcart Prize, and a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer's Award. Raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, she teaches Creative Writing at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she holds the title of Nina Bell Suggs Endowed Professor.



Caroline Frost is a native Texan and former attendee of the Tennessee Williams Festival. Her first novel, *Shadows of Pecan Hollow*, won the Crook's Corner Book Prize for best first novel set in the American South and was longlisted for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize. She has a Master of Professional Writing from the University of Southern California and is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She lives in California with her husband and three young children.



Benjamin Gillespie is a full-time professor in the Department of Communication Studies at Baruch College, City University of New York, where he specializes in gender and media studies, performance and theatre studies, and professional communication. He completed his PhD in Theatre & Performance Studies at The Graduate Center, CUNY. His dissertation was awarded the 2022 Monette-Horwitz Dissertation Prize from CLAGS: Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies. His research explores the intersection of aging, gender, and sexual identity in modern and contemporary theatre and drama. He is currently editing a critical anthology of the New York-based, lesbian-feminist theatre company, Split Britches, based on his dissertation research, and an edited collection titled *Late Stage: Theatrical Perspectives on Age and Aging*.



Dirk Gindt is Professor of Theatre Studies at Stockholm University. He is the co-editor of the volume *Viral Dramaturgies: HIV and AIDS in Performance in the Twenty-First Century* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018). Dirk is also the author of the monograph *Tennessee Williams in Sweden and France, 1945-1965: Cultural Translations, Sexual Anxieties and Racial Fantasies* (Bloomsbury, 2019). His current research, financed by a four-year grant from the Swedish Research Council, analyzes Indigenous performance cultures in the Arctic and is conducted in consultation and close dialogue with Giron Sámi Teáhter in Kiruna/Giron.



Jewelle Gomez (Cabo Verdean/ Wampanoag/Ioway; she/her), is a novelist, poet, and playwright. Her eight books include the first Black lesbian vampire novel, *THE GILDA STORIES*. It was recently optioned by Cheryl Dunye (*Lovecraft Country*) for a TV mini-series. Her new collection of poetry is *STILL WATER*. Her plays, *Waiting for Giovanni* (about James Baldwin), and *Leaving the Blues* (about Alberta Hunter), were produced in San Francisco and in New York City. *Unpacking in Ptown*, will premiere at New Conservatory Theatre in 2024.



John Goodman is an American actor. He rose to prominence in television, most notably for his role as Dan Conner in ABC's *Roseanne*, before transitioning his career into film becoming an acclaimed character actor. His other television roles include starring and appearing in *The Conners*, *Treme*, *Alpha House*, and *Saturday Night Live*. He is known for his roles in critically acclaimed films such as *Raising Arizona*, *Barton Fink*, *The Big Lebowski*, *10 Cloverfield Lane*, *Monuments Men*, *O Brother Where Art Thou*, and many more. John Goodman also had numerous voice roles in animated films such as *The Emperor's New Groove*, *Monster's Inc.*, *The Jungle Book 2*, *Bee Movie*, and *The Princess and the Frog*. He's received numerous accolades including a Primetime Emmy Award, Golden Globe Award, and a Screen Actors Guild Award. *Vanity Fair* has called him "among our very finest actors" and *IndieWire* named him one of the best actors never to have received an Academy Award.



Stephanie Grace is a columnist and editorial writer for *The Times-Picayune* and *The Advocate*. She's been writing about Louisiana since 1994 and has covered more elections, scandals, and hurricanes than she can count. She is also a contributing editor to the *Brown Alumni Magazine* and co-host of the Friday politics show on *Louisiana Considered*, which airs on public radio stations in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Grace is a native of Needham, Massachusetts and a graduate of Brown University and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. She lives in New Orleans.



Matt Haines is the author of Amazon Bestseller and PenCraft Book Award winner, *The Big Book of King Cake*, as well as his new children's book, *The Little Book of King Cake*. His interest in this sweetest of topics was sparked in 2017 while eating more than eighty varieties during a single Carnival season. That same year, he hiked the Appalachian Trail using the trail name "King Cake." Matt writes professionally about food, travel, and current events. He's written for *The New York Times*, *Lonely Planet*, *Voice of America*, *CNN Underscored*, *Zagat*, *Fodor's Travel*, *The Times-Picayune* | *The New Orleans Advocate*, *Gambit Weekly*, and others.



Arthur Hardy is a nationally recognized authority on Mardi Gras and has appeared on the Today Show six times. His annual *Mardi Gras Guide* magazine has sold more than three million copies. Arthur Hardy Publishing has produced more than two dozen books dealing with regional subjects such as the New Orleans Saints, lost neighborhood movie theaters, prep football, the Fair Grounds Race Track, and histories of Carnival organizations such as Rex, Endymion, Hermes, d'Etat, Iris, and Bacchus. The company also published the works of New Orleans writers Angus Lind, Ronnie Virgets, Ron Brocato, Wayne Mack, Henri Schindler, Bob Roesler, and Bob Carr.



Miles Harvey is the author of *The King of Confidence*, selected as a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice pick in 2020 and longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. His previous books include the national bestseller *The Island of Lost Maps: A True Story of Cartographic Crime*. Harvey teaches at DePaul University, where he is director of the DePaul Publishing Institute and co-founder of Big Shoulders Books, a non-profit publishing entity devoted to social justice. He is a proud graduate of the MFA creative-writing program at the University of Michigan.

8th ANNUAL TENNESSEE WILLIAMS FESTIVAL ST. LOUIS



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Cheryl A. Head writes the Anthony Award-nominated book series *Charlie Mack Motown Mysteries*. Head is a two-time Lambda Literary Award finalist and the GCLS

Ann Bannon Popular Choice Award winner. In 2022, Cheryl was awarded the Alice B. Reader's Appreciation Medal and a Silver medal from the Independent Publisher Book Awards. Her books are included in the Special Collections of the Library of Michigan. *Time's Undoing*, a crime novel based on her family's personal tragedy, will be published by Dutton Books in February 2023. Cheryl lives in Washington, DC, with her partner, Teresa, and canine supervisors, Abby and Frisby.



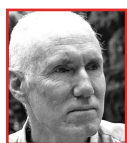
Quin Hillyer is a senior commentary writer and editor for the *Washington Examiner* and a columnist for the *Advocate/Times-Picayune*. He is also a contributing editor

for *National Review Online* and is a former executive editor for the *American Spectator*. He has served in senior roles for the *Washington Times*, the *Mobile Register*, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, and *Gambit New Orleans Weekly*. Hillyer has also been published in almost every major newspaper in the nation. A New Orleans native and cum laude graduate of Georgetown University, he is the author of the *Mad Jones* trilogy of satirical novels. He currently lives in Mobile, Alabama.



Abram Shalom Himmelstein is the co-founder of the Neighborhood Story Project and the editor in chief at the *University of New Orleans Press*. He has written for the *Daily*

Racing Form, *The Houston Chronicle*, and *Next City*. He is the author of *What the Hell am I Doing Here?* and co-author of *Tales of a Punk Rock Nothing*.



Andrew Holleran is an American novelist, essayist, and short story writer, born and partly raised in Aruba, in the Dutch Caribbean. He is a prominent novelist of post-

Stonewall gay literature. His latest novel, *The Kingdom of Sand*, was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux on June 7, 2022.



Oliver A. Houck is Tulane Emeritus Professor of Law and David Boies Chair in Public Interest Law at Tulane University in New Orleans. He has also written several books,

including *Taking Back Eden* (environmental cases abroad), *Downstream Toward Home* (canoe paddles in Louisiana and as far north as the Arctic Circle), *Uijongbu* (his military service in Korea), and *The Court of General Sessions* (his service as a federal prosecutor in the District of Columbia). His newest book, now pending, is a critique of the United States Supreme Court entitled *The Most Dangerous Branch*. He is married with two children, now grown and gone, who shared several adventures described in this and other books.



Sonnet Ireland is the Library Director of the Washington Parish Library. A Louisiana librarian for fifteen years, she has written articles and given presentations on censorship and fake news while focusing her research on

ways to counteract both. She is also a Past President of the Louisiana Library Association and an ALA Councilor At-Large. Having worked in both academic and public libraries, Sonnet is a passionate advocate for all libraries and library workers.



David Johnson is a board member of the Tennessee Williams and New Orleans Literary Festival. His career in journalism and marketing has included work as editor of *Louisiana Cultural Vistas* magazine and *KnowLA*,

the Digital Encyclopedia of Louisiana at the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Johnson is also the editor of publications at the New Orleans Museum of Art and the Director of Marketing and Engagement at the Jefferson Parish Library.

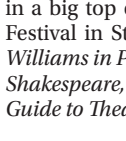


T.R. Johnson is a Professor of English and Weiss Presidential Fellow at Tulane University. He has also taught at universities in Boston and Louisville. He has lived in the 9th Ward of New Orleans for nearly twenty-five years

and hosted a contemporary jazz radio program at WWOZ 90.7 FM. His book, *New Orleans: A Writer's City*, is forthcoming in February 2023 from Cambridge University Press.



David Kaplan is curator and co-founder of the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, now in its 18th season. Since 1993, he has staged plays by Williams around the world, including Russia, Hong Kong, Ghana, and Uruguay. In 2022, David staged *The Rose Tattoo* in a big top circus tent for the Tennessee Williams Festival in St. Louis. He is the author of *Tennessee Williams in Provincetown* (2006) and, most recently, *Shakespeare, Shamans, and Show Biz: An Impolite Guide to Theater History* (2021).



Jenny Keegan is the trade editor at LSU Press, where she acquires books for general interest readers on topics ranging from food to sports to the environmental crisis, with a regional focus on Louisiana and the South.

Before coming to LSU, she worked at Oxford University Press, Yale University Press, and two now-defunct and greatly mourned bookstores.



Thomas Keith has edited the Tennessee Williams titles for New Directions since 2002, over 20 volumes, and wrote the introductions for *A House Not Meant to Stand* and *Now the Cats with Jeweled Claws*. Co-editor of *Letters of Tennessee Williams* and *James Laughlin*,

Keith edited *Love, Christopher Street—LGBTQ Essays about NYC* by Jewelle Gomez, Michele Karlsberg, Ocean Vuong, Felice Picano, Martin Hyatt, and others. His writing has appeared in *American Theater Magazine*, *Gay & Lesbian Review*, and *Studies in Scottish Literature*. He has served as dramaturge for Sundance Institute Theater Lab and teaches theater at Pace University.



Chris Thomas King is a Grammy and Country Music Award-winning blues guitarist, actor, and author based in New Orleans. Initially known for his audacious fusion of blues and

hip-hop, Chris Thomas King reached a whole new audience with the Coen Brothers film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, not only appearing on the award-winning soundtrack but playing a prominent supporting character as well. He spent a decade researching the blues for his book *The Blues: The Authentic Narrative of My Music and Culture*.



Little Freddie King is a living link to the rough Delta style that is rare in the Crescent City, a town filled with funk, R&B, and jazz. He has performed with legendary musicians like Polka

Dot Slim, Boogie Bill Webb, Jimmy Reed, Slim Harpo, Harmonica Williams. He was invited to perform at the first New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in 1970 and has been back ever since. His knowledge of diverse blues styles is without limit, allowing him to develop his own conception of how to approach playing the blues



Karen Kohlhaas is a theater director, acting and directing teacher, Tennessee Williams scholar, and documentary filmmaker. She is [still!] at work on a feature documentary,

Tennessee Williams and the Mississippi Delta: The Love of Things Irreconcilable. She's a founding member of New York's Atlantic Theater Company; author of three books on monologues and auditioning, and the curator of the Tennessee Williams Rectory Museum in Clarksdale, Mississippi, where she is now based. Her website for actors, directors, and teachers is www.art-and-audition.com. She teaches directing, audition technique, and acting online, including an all-Tennessee Williams scene study.



Errol Laborde is executive vice president and editor-in-chief of Renaissance Publishing Company. He has won over twenty New Orleans Press Club awards, including three Alex

Waller Awards and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. He was also the recipient of the 2013 City & Regional Magazine Association award for column writing. His books include *New Orleans: The First 300 Years*, *Mardi Gras: Chronicles of the New Orleans Carnival*, and *Krewe: The Early Carnival from Comus to Zulu*. Laborde holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of New Orleans. He is a founder of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival and served as its first president.



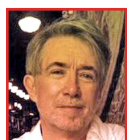
Peggy Scott Laborde has been the senior producer for the New Orleans PBS station, WYES-TV since 1987. She has produced over thirty-five documentaries, including *A Conversation With Tennessee Williams*. She is the recipient of a Suncoast Emmy Award. Laborde also produces and hosts *Steppin' Out*, New Orleans' only weekly arts and entertainment review program, now in its 37th season. Laborde is a founding member and former President of the Tennessee William & New Orleans Literary Festival. She is the co-author of five books.



emma x lirette is a writer and researcher in Atlanta. She is the author of *Last Stand of Louisiana Shrimpers* (UPress Mississippi 2022). You can find her poetry in *Prismatica*, *Drunken Boat*, *jubilat*, *PANK*, *The Southern Review*, and other journals—mostly under her deadname. Emma X holds an MFA and a Ph.D. She taught at Cornell and Emory before transitioning to work in social media in the creator space. She lives with her partners and children in Atlanta.



Margit Longbrake, senior editor at The Historic New Orleans Collection, acquires and edits books and museum publications, and as managing editor of the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, she has overseen the first-time publication of a number of primary Williams texts. She is the editor of *Afro-Creole Poetry in French from Louisiana's Radical Civil War-Era Newspapers: A Bilingual Edition*, translated by Clint Bruce (THNOC, 2020), winner of the Lois Roth Award for Literary Translation and longlisted for the ALTA National Translation Award in Poetry. Before joining THNOC she acquired pedagogical anthologies and literary translations at the Modern Language Association and served on the committee that reworked MLA style in 2016.



Richard Louth is a Professor of English at Southeastern Louisiana University, where he has taught English literature and writing courses for 45 years. He is the Director of the Southeastern Louisiana Writing Project and the founder of the New Orleans Writing Marathon. He has led writing marathons in New Orleans and other cities across the country for over 20 years and edited *The Writing Marathon: In Good Company Revealed*. He has been published in *Speak*, *Louisiana Literature*, and *Country Roads*.



William Lychack's books include *The Wasp Eater*, *The Architect of Flowers*, *Cargill Falls*, a cultural history of cement, two titles for children, and most recently, a collection of stories, *Sounds of the Night*. His work has appeared in *The Best American Short Stories*, *The Pushcart Prize*, and on public radio's *This American Life*. He is currently an Associate Professor in English at the University of Pittsburgh.



Rebecca Makkai's last novel, *The Great Believers*, was a finalist for both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award; the winner of the ALA Carnegie Medal, the Stonewall Book Award, the Clark Prize, and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize; and was chosen as one of the "Ten Best Books of 2018" by *The New York Times*. Her other books are the novels, *The Borrower* and *The Hundred-Year House*, and the collection, *Music for Wartime*: four stories from which appeared in *The Best American Short Stories*. A 2022 Guggenheim Fellow, Rebecca is on the MFA faculties of the University of Nevada, Reno at Lake Tahoe, and Northwestern University; and is Artistic Director of StoryStudio Chicago.



Cammie McGovern is the author of *Hard Landings*, a memoir of her experience investigating adult services for people with autism and other developmental disabilities around the country, just as her son, Ethan, was turning 22 and entering the system himself. She is also the author of four middle-grade and three young-adult novels, all of which feature characters with disabilities. She lives in Amherst, MA, with her husband and three (mostly grown) kids.



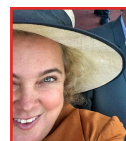
Tom Mitchell is an emeritus professor of Theatre at the University of Illinois and a Scholar in Residence for the Tennessee Williams Festival in St. Louis. Tom edited the previously unpublished stories "The Lost Girl" and "Why Did Desdemona Love the Moor?" for the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*. His edition, *The Caterpillar Dogs: Early Stories by Tennessee Williams*, is expected from New Directions in April 2023. Mitchell has adapted "The Men from the Polar Star" and will stage the sci-fi/fantasy tale for the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival in September 2023.



Michael Nava is the author of the acclaimed Henry Rios mystery series. He is the recipient of seven Lambda Literary Awards, the Bill Whitehead award for lifetime achievement in LGBTQ literature and was inducted into Saints and Sinners Hall of Fame.



Nigel O'Hearn (he/him) is a doctoral candidate working across dramatic literature and rhetoric. He is currently working on a dissertation titled *Writing Between the Scenes: Tracing the Activity, Textual Ecology, and Rhetorical Genres of American Drama, 1939–1964*. Nigel's work leverages rhetorical theory to read the production of postwar and contemporary American drama through its institutional and sociohistorical practices. He is also a playwright and theater producer whose work has been staged in Austin, New York, Edinburgh, and Chicago.



Echo Olander is a Yankee child who has found home and heart in the wide bayous, smoky bars, and parade routes of New Orleans. Since the 1970s, she has been exploring the intricate layers of New Orleans culture and striving to build creative capacity in the city. After almost twenty years as the leader of a nationally recognized arts education organization, she is reinvigorating her creative processes. Her interest is the fertile place where self and community find vibrant connection.



Daniel José Older, a lead story architect for *Star Wars: The High Republic*, is the *New York Times* best-selling author of the Young Adult fantasy novel *Ballad & Dagger* (book one of the *Outlaw Saints* series), the sci-fi adventure *Flood City*, and the monthly comic series *The High Republic Adventures*.



Lee Osorio (he/they) is a queer, Latinx, Atlanta-based actor, narrator, and playwright. His plays have been developed through the Alliance Theatre's Reiser Artist Lab (Rounds 4 and 6), The Graham Martin Unexpected Play Festival through Theatrical Outfit and Working Title Playwrights (WTP), WTP's Ethel Woolson Lab, Found Stages, Art on the Beltline, and with funding from Idea Capital Atlanta and the University of British Columbia. He was a finalist for the Latinx Theater Commons Carnival (2018) and a semi-finalist for the O'Neill National Play Conference (2022).



Barton Palmer is Calhoun Professor Emeritus of Literature at Clemson University. He has published widely in film and adaptation studies, including a number of works devoted to Tennessee Williams. His volume, with Robert Bray, *Hollywood's Tennessee: The Williams Films and Postwar America*, offers a broad cultural perspective on the importance of these films. Palmer is also an award-winning translator and editor of medieval poetry.



Michael Paterniti is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling books, *The Telling Room* and *Driving Mr. Albert* and an essay collection, *Love and Other Ways of Dying*, which was longlisted for the National Book Award. He is a Contributing Writer at the *New York Times Magazine* and a Correspondent at *GQ*. Paterniti's honors include an NEA grant and a National Magazine Award, for which he's been a nine-time finalist. He's co-founder of a children's storytelling center honored by the Obama White House as one of the best after-school art programs in the country.



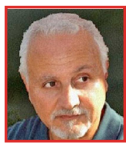
Sunni Patterson is a New Orleans native and visionary, an internationally acclaimed poet, performer, lecturer, workshop facilitator, and certified life coach. As a diligent student in the healing and spiritual arts, she uses art and culture to recognize, address, and eliminate all forms of oppression. 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.



Frank Perez serves as Executive Director of the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana. He has authored several books on New Orleans history and is also a columnist for *Ambush Magazine* and *French Quarter Journal*. His most recent book is *Political Animal: The Life and Times of Stewart Butler*. In 2012, Frank created the "Rainbow Fleur de Lis Walking Tour," a leisurely sashay through the French Quarter's rich queer history. He also teaches part-time at Loyola University. Frank is a sought-after public speaker specializing in New Orleans LGBT+ history.



Tom Piazza is celebrated both as a novelist and as a writer on American music. His twelve books include the novel *A Free State* and *City of Refuge*, *Blues and Trouble*, *Why New Orleans Matters*, and *Devil Sent The Rain: Music and Writing in Desperate America*. He was a principal writer for the innovative HBO drama series *Treme*, and the winner of a Grammy Award for his album notes to *Martin Scorsese Presents The Blues: A Musical Journey*. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Bookforum*, *The Oxford American*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, and many other periodicals. He lives in New Orleans.



Felice Picano's stories, novellas, and novels are translated into seventeen languages and include national and international bestsellers. He's published four plays as well. He's received awards for poetry, drama, short stories, novels, and memoirs. His newest books are *Songs & Poems, Pursuit: A Victorian Entertainment*, and the second book in his *City on a Star Trilogy*, *The Betrothal at Usk*. Several new stories and novelettes appeared in 2021 anthologies and magazines in the U.S., U.K., and India. He has two forthcoming books in 2022, *Pursued: Lillian's Story*, and the third volume of the *City on a Star Trilogy*, *A Bard on Hercular*. Picano lectures on Vintage Hollywood and screenwriting.



Freddie Pitcher, Jr., retired judge and former Chancellor of the Southern University Law Center, has a career of many firsts. He became the first African-American elected to a judgeship in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with his election to the Baton Rouge City Court in April 1983. Freddie was the first African-American elected to the 19th Judicial District Court in a parish-wide election in 1987. He achieved another first with his election to the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal in 1992, without opposition. While serving on the First Circuit, he helped render more than 1,000 judicial opinions. He is the author of *Breaking Barriers: A View from the Bench*.



Dixie Poché is a storyteller sharing the richness of Cajun culture through her four local history books published by History Press. She lives in Lafayette and is a graduate of journalism from ULL. She has been a travel writer and corporate communications manager for many years. She is adventurous enough to sample dishes of raccoon and rooster stew and blood boudin, dance to zydeco, and wear a raggedy costume for the Courir de Mardi Gras runs.



Karisma Price is the author of *I'm Always so Serious* (Sarabande Books, Feb. 2023). Her work has appeared in *Poetry*, *Four Way Review*, *Wildness*, *The Adroit Journal*, and elsewhere. She has received fellowships from Cave Canem and New York University. Karisma was a finalist for the 2019 Manchester Poetry Prize and was awarded The 2020 J. Howard and Barbara M.J. Wood Prize from The Poetry Foundation. She is from New Orleans, LA, and holds an MFA in poetry from New York University. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Poetry at Tulane University.



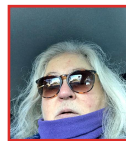
Dr. John "Ray" Proctor is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Tulane University, Department of Theatre. He holds a BA in English from Webster University, an MFA in Acting from West Virginia University, and a Ph. D. in Theatre Research from the University of Wisconsin Madison. Proctor has played Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* (The Organic Theatre), Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* (Arizona Repertory Theatre), *Othello* (The Greenbriar), and *Airline Highway* and *Father Comes Home from the Wars* (Southern Rep). He directed *Into the Woods* (Summer Lyric Theatre), Derek Walcott's *Pantomime* (Crescent City Stage), and Alice Childress' *Trouble in Mind* (Tulane University). Proctor's published work includes "Romeo and Juliet at an HBCU" in *Romeo and Juliet, Adaptation, and the Arts: "Cut Him Out in Little Stars"* (The Arden Shakespeare, 2022) and "Reconsidering and Recasting" in *Contemporary Black Theatre and Performance: Acts of Rebellion, Activism, and Solidarity* (Bloomsbury Press, 2023).



Pam Radtke is Gulf Coast editor of *Floodlight*, a nonprofit news collaborative which seeks to hold accountable the interests holding back action on climate change. Based in New Orleans, Pam is a veteran editor and reporter focused on energy, environment, and climate change, with bylines and award-winning stories in publications ranging from *The New Orleans Times-Picayune* and *Engineering News-Record* to the *Guardian* and *HuffPost*. She also writes about finding meaning in midlife on her website BrashMidlife.



Katy Reckdahl is a senior reporter at Verite News, the Black-run newsroom that started operations in mid-2022. Before joining Verite, she was a free-lance reporter, hired by local and national media outlets including the *New Orleans Advocate/Times Pic*, the *New York Times*, and *Washington Post*. She has received more than two-dozen first-place New Orleans Press Club awards, the James Aronson Award for social-justice reporting, a Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism, and three TV-documentary Emmy Awards. In 2020, she was a producer for *The Atlantic's* acclaimed podcast, *Floodlines*.



J.M. Redmann has published ten novels featuring New Orleans PI Micky Knight. Her first book was published in 1990, one of the early hard-boiled lesbian detectives. Her books have won three Lambda Literary awards. *The Intersection of Law and 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, one *Night Shadows*, was shortlisted for a Shirley Jackson award. Her books have been translated into German, Spanish, Dutch, Hebrew and Norwegian.



Nathaniel Rich is the author of the novels *King Zeno* and *Odds Against Tomorrow* (winner of the New Orleans Library Society Award for Best Fiction), a two-time finalist for the *National Magazine Award* in Fiction, and a contributing writer for the *New York Times Magazine*. He is also the author of *Losing Earth*, a finalist for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Award and the winner of awards from the Society of Environmental Journalists and the American Institute of Physics; and *Second Nature*, which features the story "Dark Waters," adapted into a film starring Mark Ruffalo. Rich lives in New Orleans.



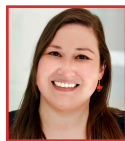
Gary Richards is Professor of English at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where he teaches courses in southern literature and culture, US literature, and gender and sexuality studies. He is the author of *Lovers and Beloveds: Sexual Otherness in Southern Fiction, 1936-1961*, as well as numerous essays on southern literature, including works by Tennessee Williams, William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Alfred Uhry, and Beth Henley.



Farrah Rochon, *New York Times* and *USA Today* Bestselling author, hails from a small town just west of New Orleans. She has garnered much acclaim for her novel series, *The Boyfriend Project* and young adult novel, *Almost There: A Twisted Tale from Disney Hyperion*. When she is not writing in her favorite coffee shop, Farrah spends most of her time reading, cooking, traveling the world, visiting Walt Disney World, and catching her favorite Broadway shows.



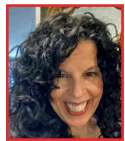
Kaitlyn Farrell Rodriguez is an PhD Candidate in English at the University of Texas at Austin who studies portrayals of pregnancy, motherhood, birth control, and reproductive justice in twentieth-century American drama. In 2021, she was the only graduate instructor of record to earn the prestigious Livingston Award for teaching excellence. She was an inaugural 2021-2022 Harry Ransom Center UT-Fellow, and her research has been funded through the generosity of the Mellon Foundation. Her scholarship has been published in *The Eugene O'Neill Review* and is forthcoming in *Modern Drama*.



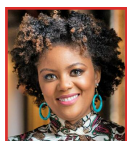
Bess Rowen is a theater theorist, historian, and practitioner. Her work focuses on "affective stage directions," which are stage directions written in ways that engage the physical and emotional responses of future theater makers. Her first book, *The Lines Between the Lines: How Stage Directions Affect Embodiment*, was published by the University of Michigan Press in October 2021. She is an Actors' Equity Association member and currently works as an Intimacy Choreographer.



Maurice Carlos Ruffin is the author of *The Ones Who Don't Say They Love You*, a *New York Times* Editor's Choice that was also longlisted for the Story Prize. His first book, *We Cast a Shadow*, was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and the PEN America Open Book Prize. 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.



Annette J. Saddik is a Distinguished Professor of Theatre and Literature at the City University of New York. She specializes in 20th- and 21st-century drama and performance, particularly the work of Tennessee Williams, and has published four books, as well as numerous essays. Her books include a collection of Williams' previously unpublished late plays, *The Traveling Companion and Other Plays*, as well as the monographs, *The Politics of Reputation: The Critical Reception of Tennessee Williams' Later Plays* and *Tennessee Williams and the Theatre of Excess: The Strange, The Crazy, The Queer*.



Jacinta R. Saffold is the endowed chair in Africana Studies at the University of New Orleans and a digital archivist. She researches 20th and 21st-century African American literature, Hip Hop Studies, and the Digital Humanities. Currently, she is working on her first monograph, *Books & Beats: The Cultural Kinship of Street Lit and Hip Hop* and the Essence Book Project, a computational collection of popular African American Literature. Her work has been published in the *Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the U.S. Journal*, *Black Perspectives*, *Cultural Front*, and Bloomsbury's *#MeToo and Literary Studies Reading, Writing, and Teaching about Sexual Violence and Rape Culture*.



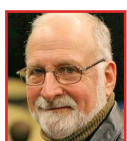
Mona Lisa Saloy, Louisiana Poet Laureate (2021-23), is an author, folklorist, educator, and scholar whose work appears in many anthologies and journals. An active educator and scholar, Dr. Saloy is a noted speaker and storyteller, who consults to the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the Louisiana Division of the Arts, and is an active member of the Louisiana Folklore Society. Her first book, *Red Beans & Ricely Yours*, won the T.S. Eliot Prize and the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Award and tied for a third. Her newest poetry collection, *Second Line Home*, captures the day-to-day New Orleans speech, contemplates family dynamics, celebrates New Orleans, and all in a way everyday people can enjoy.



Christopher Schaberg is the Dorothy Harrell Brown Distinguished Professor of English at Loyola University New Orleans. He is the author of eight books, including his latest, *Fly-Fishing* (Duke University Press, 2023). Originally from Northern Michigan, Chris has lived in New Orleans since 2009 and has written and taught seminars at Loyola about air travel, environmental awareness, and contemporary literature. He is also the founding series editor of Bloomsbury's *Object Lessons* book series, which explores the hidden lives of ordinary things.



Timothy Schaffert is the author of six novels, most recently *The Perfume Thief*, an *LA Times* Top 10 Best Book of Summer, and a CrimeReads Best Historical Fiction Novel of the Year. His work has been a Barnes and Noble Discover New Writers selection, a *New York Times* Book Review Editors' Choice, and an IndieNext pick. He is the co-editor of *Zero Street Fiction* and teaches at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He writes the column "The Eccentricities of Gentlemen" for *Enchanted Living* magazine.



Henry I. Schvey is a scholar, playwright, memoirist, and theater director. He has taught in the Performing Arts Department at Washington University in St. Louis since 1987. Recent publications include the memoir *The Poison Tree* (2017); After the Fox: The Influence of D.H. Lawrence on Tennessee Williams" (*TWAR*, 2018); "The Place I Was Made For: Tennessee Williams in New Orleans," (*New Orleans: A Literary History*, Cambridge U. P., 2019), and *Blue Song: St. Louis in the Life and Work of Tennessee Williams* (U. of Missouri Press, 2021).



Chelsey K. Shannon is a writer and an editor at the University of New Orleans Press. In 2019, she earned an MFA from the UNO Creative Writing Workshop. As a teenager, she published the memoir *Chelsey: My True Story of Murder, Loss, and Starting Over*. Chelsey is committed to interrogating and creating from her position as a biracial Black queer femme in the form of memoir, zines, and visual art. Originally from Cincinnati, she lives in New Orleans with her family.



Gregg Shapiro is the author of eight books, including the poetry chapbook *Fear of Muses* (Souvenir Spoon Books, 2022). Recent and forthcoming lit-mag publications include *The Penn Review*, *RFD*, *Gargoyle*, *Limp Wrist*, *Mollyhouse*, *Impossible Archetype*, and *Panoplyzine*, as well as the anthology *Let Me Say This: A Dolly Parton Poetry Anthology* (Madville, 2023). An entertainment journalist whose interviews and reviews run in various regional LGBTQ+ and mainstream publications and websites, Shapiro lives in South Florida with his husband Rick and their dog Coco.



Katy Simpson Smith was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. She is the author of the novels *The Story of Land and Sea*, *Free Men*, and *The Everlasting*, a *New York Times* Best Historical Fiction Book of 2020. Her writing has also appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Paris Review*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Oxford American*, and *Granta*. She received a Ph.D. in history from UNC Chapel Hill and an MFA from the Bennington Writing Seminars and is also the author of *We Have Raised All of You: Motherhood in the South, 1750-1835*. She lives in New Orleans.



William Christy Smith is a museum and library professional who has lived in New Orleans for more than 20 years, having previously lived in Chicago. He is working on his second book and has been published in *Saints and Sinners: New Fiction from the Festival* six times, as well as *Louisiana Literature*, *Arkansas Review* and *Deep South*.



Elisa M. Speranza is the granddaughter of Irish and Italian immigrants, raised Catholic, and educated by nuns. Her first paid job was in the children's room of her town's public library. Elisa was a journalist early in her career before spending thirty-plus years in the water and critical infrastructure business. A Boston native, she's lived in New Orleans since 2002. Her first novel, *The Italian Prisoner*, was a finalist in the William Faulkner-William Wisdom Creative Writing competition. She serves on the board of the New Orleans Writers Workshop.



Marc Stone has been a standout presence on the New Orleans Roots music scene since the 1990s. A stylistic chameleon, he has released four albums of original music and toured extensively in the US and Europe. His guitar work has earned him stage time with legends of Funk, Zydeco, New Orleans R & B, and Delta Blues, as well as jam band heroes, singer songwriters, and African drum masters. When he's not on stage or in the studio, Marc can be found behind the mic at New Orleans' iconic radio sender, WWOZ 90.7-fm, celebrating 20 years hosting his weekly "Soul Serenade" or spinning fine and funky vinyl at clubs and events.



Melissa Lin Sturges is a doctoral student in Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies at The University of Maryland. Her most recent scholarly work appears in *Theatre Journal*, *Ecumenica*, *Shakespeare Bulletin* (forthcoming), and *PARTake*. Melissa is also a teaching artist and arts administrator and is on the steering committee for the American Theater Archives Project. In addition to writing freelance theater reviews for *Washington City Paper*, *Broad Street Review*, and *Howlround*, she is also a Helen Hayes Awards adjudicator.



David Swatling was a 2015 Lambda Literary Award finalist for his debut thriller *Calvin's Head*. The sequel, *Corpus Calvin*, was released in November 2022. He grew up in New York, studied theater, and moved to Amsterdam in 1985. He produced arts and culture programs for Radio Netherlands and won the NLGJA Excellence in Journalism Award three times. His work has appeared in *Chelsea Station*, *The Big Thrill*, and other online publications.



E.M. Tran is a Vietnamese American writer. Her novel, *Daughters of the New Year*, debuted this year from Hanover Square/HarperCollins. Her stories, essays, and reviews can be found in *The Georgia Review*, *Literary Hub*, *Joyland Magazine*, *the Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *Harvard Review Online*. Her essay for *Prairie Schooner* won their Summer Nonfiction Prize, a Glenna Luschei Award, and was listed as a Notable Essay in Best American Essays 2018. She completed an MFA at the University of Mississippi and a Ph.D. in Creative Writing at Ohio University. She was born, raised, and currently lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.



Rob Verchick is a leading climate law scholar who designed and implemented climate-resilience policies in the Obama administration. He holds the Gauthier-St. Martin Chair in Environmental Law at Loyola University New Orleans, and serves as president of the Center for Progressive Reform. He was recently named a 2023-24 Fellow of the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University. Verchick is the author of four books, including *The Octopus in the Parking Garage: A Call for Climate Resilience* (Feb 17, 2023) and host of the podcast *Connect the Dots*.



Kerri Westenberg is a New Orleans writer. She recently reported on censorship and book bans for *64 Parishes*, a publication of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Kerri was the travel editor at the *Star Tribune in Minneapolis* for many years and has worked at *Bon Appetit*, *Cooking Light*, and *National Geographic* magazines. Her writing has appeared in *National Geographic*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Real Simple*, and other magazines.



Brittany N. Williams is an actress, writer, and nerd of many fandoms. She's performed across three continents, including a year spent as a principal vocalist at Hong Kong Disneyland. Her writing has been featured on *BlackNerdProblems.com* and *Tor.com*. William's writing has also been featured in *The Independent*, *The Gambit*, *Fireside Magazine*, and the *Star Wars* anthology *From a Certain Point of View: The Empire Strikes Back*. Her book *That Self-Same Metal* (The Forge & Fracture Saga, Book 1) debuts in April 2023. Williams lives in New Orleans.



De'Shawn Charles Winslow is the author of *In West Mills*, a Center for Fiction First Novel Prize winner, an American Book Award recipient, and a Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction winner. He is also a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book, Lambda Literary, and Publishing Triangle awards. De'Shawn was born and raised in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and graduated from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia.



Peter M. Wolf is the author of *The Sugar King: Leon Godchaux, A New Orleans Legend, His Creole Slave, and His Jewish Roots*. His memoir, *My New Orleans Gone Away*, reached the *New York Times* e-book Best Seller list. Previous books such as *Land in America*, *Hot Towns*, and *The Future of the City* have been honored by The National Endowment for the Arts, The Ford Foundation, and The Graham Foundation. Wolf was educated at Yale, Tulane, and New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. His research has taken him to Paris as a Fulbright scholar and Rome as a visiting artist/scholar at the American Academy in Rome. In New Orleans, Wolf serves on the advisory board of the Tulane University School of Architecture and as a trustee of the Louisiana Landmarks Society. In East Hampton, he is a trustee of Guild Hall and the Village Preservation Society.

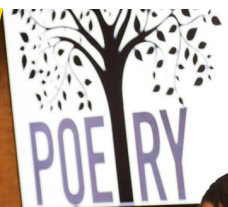


Kitty Zeldis is the pen name of an award-winning author of nine novels and over 35 books for children. Her essays, articles, and fiction have been published in many national and literary publications. She lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn.

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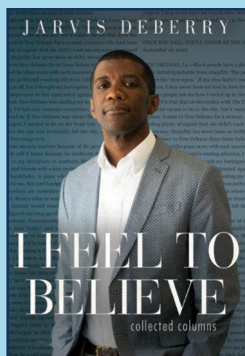


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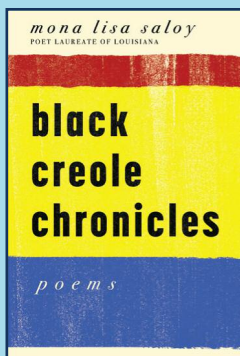
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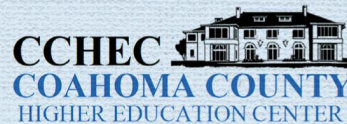
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