



TENNESSEE  
WILLIAMS &  
NEW ORLEANS  
LITERARY  
FESTIVAL

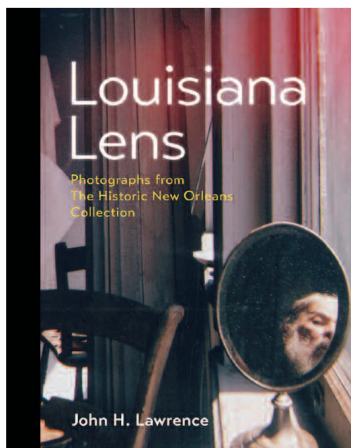


38TH ANNUAL  
MARCH 20-24, 2024  
[tennesseewilliams.net](http://tennesseewilliams.net)





**View of Canal Street at night**; circa 1952; by Homer Emory Turner; color transparency; gift of Beverly Turner Lynds, THNOC, 2002.84.105, © Homer Emory Turner



The Historic New Orleans Collection, 2023  
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44 color images; 131 black and white images  
\$49.95 • ISBN 978-0-917860-91-1

ON THE COVER: **Self-portrait** (detail), 2011;  
by George Dureau; chromogenic print; gift of  
Donald Dureau, THNOC, 2015.0293.1.30

## Louisiana Lens

Photographs from The Historic New Orleans Collection

by John H. Lawrence, with a foreword by Jeff L. Rosenheim

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—Jeff L. Rosenheim, Metropolitan Museum of Art

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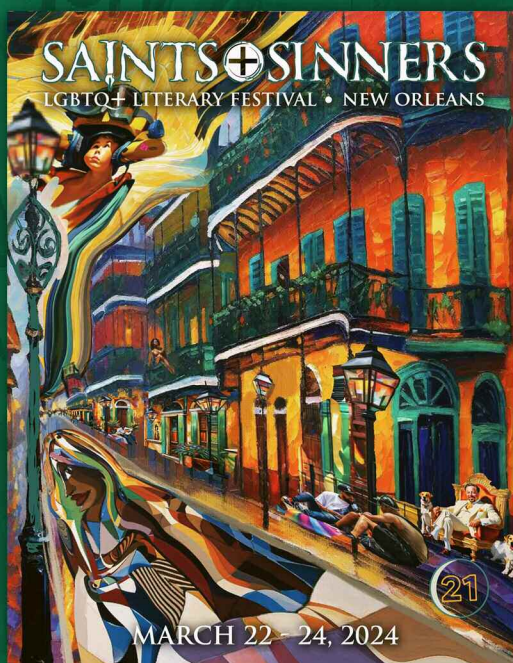
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## SAINTS + SINNERS LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL MARCH 22-24 AT THE HOTEL MONTELEONE

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](http://www.tennesseewilliams.net) or in our box office.

A program of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival, the 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. SASFest, held the same weekend as TW&NOLF, features panel discussions, readings, and writer's craft sessions on literary topics and current issues that provide a forum for authors, editors, and publishers to talk about their work for the benefit of students, emerging writers, and the enjoyment of fans of LGBTQ+ literature.

The 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.

Artwork for our 2024 Saints + Sinners cover is called "Tones of New Orleans" and was created by local graphic designer T.J. Fury.

## The Pinckley Prizes for Crime Fiction celebrate our 2022 and 2023 winners:

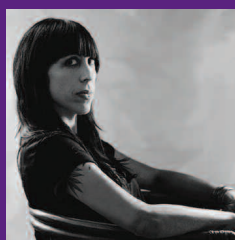
Friday, March 22  
5:30 p.m.

Hotel Monteleone  
Royal Salon  
214 Royal Street  
New Orleans, LA



Photo: © Séa Shilomi

Sascha Rothchild  
2022 winner for  
Debut Novel,  
*Blood Sugar*



Margot Douaihy  
2023 winner for  
Debut Novel,  
*Scorched Grace*



Alafair Burke  
2023 winner for  
Distinguished  
Body of Work



The Pinckley Prizes are presented in memory of Diana Pinckley, longtime mystery columnist for The New Orleans Times-Picayune.

For more information about the Prizes and the debut novel competition, check out: [pinckleyprizes.org](http://pinckleyprizes.org)





TENNESSEE WILLIAMS &  
NEW ORLEANS LITERARY FESTIVAL

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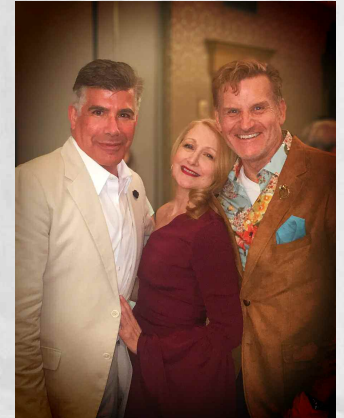
Arthur Nead

# Welcome to the FESTIVAL!

Welcome to the 2024 Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival in our 38th year, our 21st year of the Saints & Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival, and our 2nd year to offer the amazing Last Bohemia Fringe Festival...all in the same week!

I must also express extreme gratitude for our continued local connections throughout the year and to everyone who has attended and helped create the monthly Coffee & Craft Writing Workshops in partnership with Baldwin & Co. Coffee and Bookstore and the annual Writer's Resolution Retreat each January!

One of the most amazing things I discovered when I started volunteering over a decade ago is that our Festival has many possibilities for a "once in a lifetime moment" every single year—you might just happen to be in one of the sessions or events that lines up with the universal magic of creativity, insight and presence. I am blessed to have many and I have included this sweet photograph of my dear friend Bryan Batt and his lifelong friend, Patricia Clarkson who joined us for an amazing evening in 2019.



Bryan Batt, Patricia Clarkson,  
and Lawrence.

I am personally committed to honoring Tennessee Williams genius in writing about life in such rich dimensions of hope, love, tragedy, and trauma. The Stella Shouting Contest is now an awareness-raising and fundraising campaign for the New Orleans Family Justice Center, a partnership of agencies dedicated to ending domestic violence. This year we are also bringing a visible awareness of the suicide prevention and crisis line "988" to share the quick access available for those in need.

AND...I'm super excited for Saturday night's Last Bohemia Soiree hosted by Tony Award winner **John Cameron Mitchell** in the ballroom of his splendid Bywater home, known as The Temple. Come join us for an after-hours extravaganza!

We are once again thrilled to offer a celebration of Life, Connection, Friendship, Literature, Theatre, Music, Food, Celebrity, and Bohemia of New Orleans and the World.

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*



PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON

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

**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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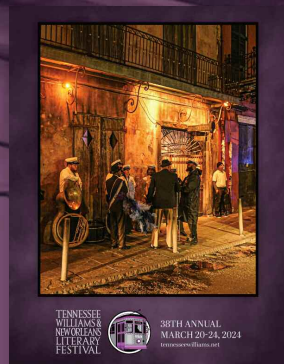
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## Official Festival Bookstore:

Octavia Books

513 Octavia Street • New Orleans, LA 70115

504.899.7323 • [www.octaviabooks.com](http://www.octaviabooks.com)



## Cover:

Photo by Marco Rasi

Follow Marco on Twitter @marcorasi1960.

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Toan Nguyen

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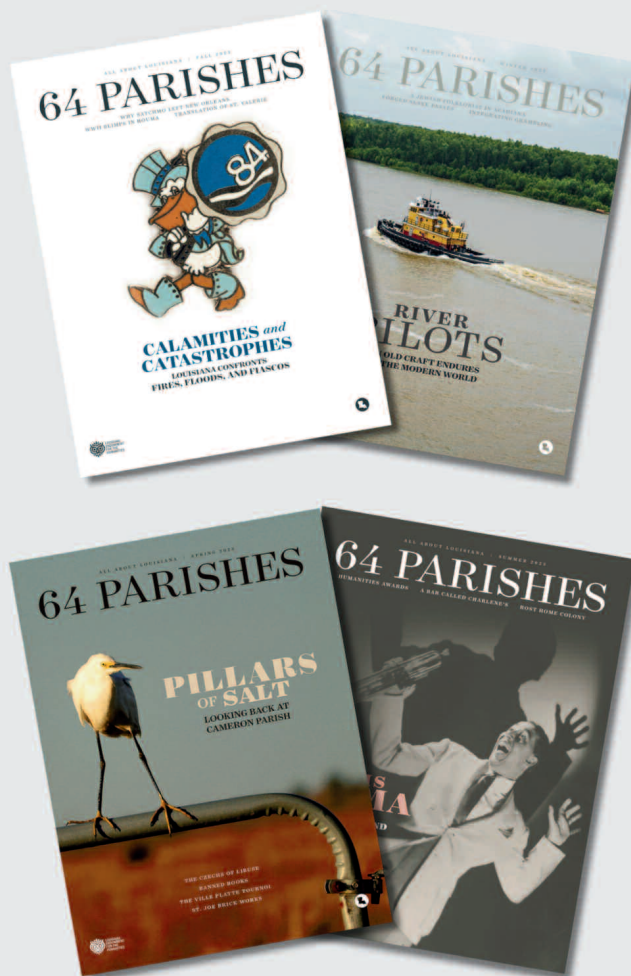
## Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival

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# 2024 FESTIVAL EVENTS

## THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR
<b>9:00 AM</b> New Orleans Writing Marathon
<b>10 AM - 12 Noon</b> Historic Storyville Walking Tour
<b>11 AM - 12:30 PM</b> LGBTQ+ French Quarter Walking Tour
<b>Various Times</b> Author Book Signings

HOTEL MONTELEONE ROYAL SALON
<b>10 - 11:15 AM</b> M.O. Walsh 3 Levels, 2 Questions, & the Weirdest Thing: Some Totally Non-Guaranteed Tips on How To Write A Great Novel
<b>11:30 AM - 12:45 PM</b> Stacey Balkun Reflections & Omissions: Writing with the Unsaid
<b>1:30 - 2:45 PM</b> Adrian Van Young "Thy Creature": Literary Monsters in Theory & Practice
<b>3 - 4:15 PM</b> Alex Jennings Setting & Worldbuilding

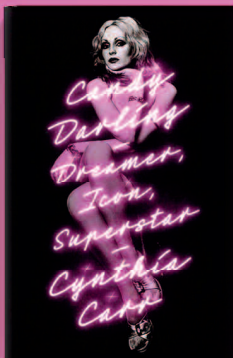
VARIOUS LOCATIONS
<b>1 - 3 PM</b> History of Queer Nightlife in New Orleans Tour <b>Crossing Bar</b>
<b>5:45 - 7:15 PM</b> French Quarter Ghosts & Legends Tour <b>Pirates Alley Café</b>
<b>6:30 - 9 PM</b> Tribute Reading: Tennessee After Dark—The Erotic World of Tennessee Williams <b>New Orleans Jazz Museum</b>
<b>7:30 - 8:30 PM</b> Last Bohemia Fringe Festival Presents: <i>The Sinking Opulence Show</i> <b>The Twilight Room</b>
<b>7:30 PM</b> The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans Presents: <i>Kingdom of Earth</i> by Tennessee Williams <b>Loyola University, The Marquette Theatre</b>
<b>7:30 PM</b> Delgado Community College Theatre Department Presents: <i>Five by Tenn</i> <b>Delgado Community College, Timothy K. Baker Theatre</b>
<b>7:30 PM</b> The Fire Weeds Presents: <i>Outraged Hearts: The Pretty Trap &amp; Interior: Panic</i> <b>Big Couch New Orleans</b>
<b>9 - 10 PM</b> Last Bohemia Fringe Festival Presents: <i>This Is the Peaceable Kingdom, or Good Luck God</i> <b>The Twilight Room</b>

### 38th 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.



### NEW FROM THE ACCLAIMED BIOGRAPHER CYNTHIA CARR, A LONG-OVERDUE LOOK AT CANDY DARLING

"Deftly reported, Cynthia Carr's *Candy Darling* allows us to see—truly, for the first time—this celluloid wisp of a Warhol superstar in all her humanity."

—Brad Gooch, author of *Radiant: The Life and Line of Keith Haring*

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# 2024 FESTIVAL EVENTS

## FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

### HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR

**10 AM - 12 Noon**  
Historic Storyville Walking  
Tour

**2 - 4 PM**  
Tennessee Williams  
Literary Walking Tour

**3:30 - 5 PM**  
LGBTQ+ French Quarter  
Tour

**Various Times**  
Author Book Signings

### HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE BALLROOM

**10 - 11:15 AM**  
A Truman Capote  
Reading & Discussion

**11:30 AM - 12:45 PM**  
Voices from the Past:  
Hearing Our Ancestors  
in the Present

**1 - 2:15 PM**  
Exploring  
Blanche Dubois  
& the Women of  
Tennessee Williams

**2:30 - 3:45 PM**  
Writers of a Certain Age

**4 - 5:15 PM**  
Featured Conversation:  
Maureen Corrigan,  
Michael Cunningham,  
& Justin Torres

### HOTEL MONTELEONE ROYAL SALON

**10 - 11:15 AM**  
Wendy Chin-Tanner  
The Dual Gaze:  
Writing Fiction  
Inspired by  
True Events

**11:30 AM - 12:45 PM**  
Colm Tóibín  
Fact And Fiction

**1:30 - 2:45 PM**  
Michael Cunningham  
Character:  
Finding The  
Missing Persons

**3 - 4:15 PM**  
Stephanie Burt  
Poetry & Talking Things

**5:30 - 6:30 PM**  
Presentation of the  
Diana Pinckley Prizes  
for Crime Fiction

### WILLIAMS RESEARCH CENTER

**9 - 10:30 AM**  
The Archive,  
the Motel,  
and the Con Man:  
Queering in and  
with Williams

**10:45 AM - 12 NOON**  
Getting the Male:  
Learning to Read  
the Semiotics of  
Men in Williams

**1:15 - 2:45 PM**  
Williams and the  
Postwar Broadway  
and Beyond

**3 - 4:15 PM**  
An Outrage  
for the Stage:  
Williams Productions  
in the 21st Century

**4:30 - 5:15 PM**  
A Staged Reading of  
*Entrances to Heaven*

### VARIOUS LOCATIONS

**10 - 11:15 AM**  
Tennessee 101 with Augustin J. Correrio  
**Hotel Monteleone, Royal D**

**1 - 3 PM**  
History of Queer Nightlife  
in New Orleans Tour  
**Crossing Bar**

**5:45 - 7:15 PM**  
French Quarter Ghosts  
& Legends Tour  
**Pirates Alley Café**

**7:30 - 8:30 PM**  
Last Bohemia Fringe Festival Presents:  
*The Sinking Opulence Show*  
**The Twilight Room**

**7:30 PM**  
The Tennessee Williams  
Theatre Company of New Orleans  
Presents: *Kingdom of Earth*  
by Tennessee Williams  
**Loyola University,  
The Marquette Theatre**

**7:30 PM**  
Delgado Community College Theatre  
Department Presents: *Five by Tenn*  
**Delgado Community College,  
Timothy K. Baker Theatre**

**7:30 PM**  
The Fire Weeds Presents:  
*Outraged Hearts:*  
*The Pretty Trap & Interior: Panic*  
**Big Couch New Orleans**

**9 - 10 PM**  
Last Bohemia Fringe Festival Presents:  
*This Is the Peaceable Kingdom,*  
*or Good Luck God*  
**The Twilight Room**





# 2024 FESTIVAL EVENTS

## SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

### HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR

**10 AM - 12 Noon**  
Historic Storyville  
Walking Tour

**Various Times**  
Author Book Signings

### HOTEL MONTELEONE ROYAL SALON

**10 – 11:15 AM**  
Great Stories from  
New Orleans  
Institutions

**4–5:15 PM**  
Featured Conversation:  
Maureen Corrigan  
& Colm Tóibín

### HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE BALLROOM

**10 – 11:15 AM**  
From the Writing  
Room to the Theater:  
Adapting Book  
to Screen

**11:30 AM – 12:45 PM**  
Making an Entrance:  
New Fiction Voices  
with Style

**1 – 2:15 PM**  
Writing Southern  
Gothic in Modern  
New Orleans

**2:30 – 3:45 PM**  
History Is my Muse:  
Finding Present  
Inspiration in  
the Past

**4 – 5:15 PM**  
Legends of Burlesque

**7 – 8:30 PM**  
Mendacity:  
Act 2 of  
*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

### WILLIAMS RESEARCH CENTER

**10 – 11:15 AM**  
Parables of a World  
Corrupted—Politics  
in the Plays of  
Tennessee Williams

**11:30 AM – 12:45 PM**  
The Other Side of Desire:  
Tennessee Williams on  
Life, Love, & Death

**1 – 2:15 PM**  
Featured Conversation:  
Seeing Our History  
on the Page

**2:30 – 3:45 PM**  
*Literary New Orleans*

### VARIOUS LOCATIONS

**8:30 – 9:45 AM**  
Books & Beignets with Gary Richards  
**3rd Block Depot Kitchen + Bar**

**10 AM - 12 Noon**  
Tennessee Williams Literary Walking Tour  
**Hotel Monteleone, Royal A**

**1 - 3 PM**  
History of Queer Nightlife in New Orleans Tour  
**Crossing Bar**

**2 – 4 PM**  
Tennessee Williams Literary Walking Tour  
**Hotel Monteleone, Royal A**

**2:30 PM and 7:30 PM**  
The Fire Weeds Presents:  
*Outraged Hearts: The Pretty Trap & Interior: Panic*  
**Big Couch New Orleans**

**7 - 8:30 PM**  
Last Bohemia Fringe Festival Presents:  
*Tennessee Rising;*  
*The Dawn of Tennessee Williams*  
**The Twilight Room**

**7:30 PM**  
The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company  
of New Orleans Presents:  
*Kingdom of Earth* by Tennessee Williams  
**Loyola University,  
The Marquette Theatre**

**7:30 PM**  
Delgado Community College Theatre  
Department Presents:  
*Five by Tenn*  
**Delgado Community College,  
Timothy K. Baker Theatre**

**8:30 - 10 PM**  
French Quarter Ghosts & Legends Tour  
**Pirates Alley Café**

**8:30 PM Doors; 10 PM Show**  
The Last Bohemia Soirée,  
Including a performance of *Nightingale*  
**The Temple Ballroom**



# 2024 FESTIVAL EVENTS

## SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

### HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR

**9:00 AM**  
New Orleans  
Writing Marathon

**1 – 2:30 PM**  
LGBTQ+ French Quarter  
Tour

**Various Times**  
Author Book Signings

### HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE BALLROOM

**10 – 11:15 AM**  
Creating the Writer's City

**11:30 AM – 12:45 PM**  
Otherworldly Fiction

**1 – 2:15 PM**  
Defining Character:  
Three Unorthodox  
Biographies

**2:30 – 3:45 PM**  
Festival Closing Event:  
A Celebration of Writers

### HOTEL MONTELEONE

**ROYAL A**  
**10 AM - 12 Noon**  
Tennessee Williams  
Literary Walking Tour

**VIEUX CARRÉ ROOM**  
**11 AM – 12:15 PM**  
The Nola Project Presents  
Tennessee X Three

**ROYAL SALON**  
**11:30 AM - 12:45 PM**  
Why the Art of  
Improv Endures

**ROYAL SALON**  
**1 – 2:15 PM**  
New Vistas,  
Grand Outlooks: Rendering  
the Landscape in Poetry

**ROYAL A**  
**2 - 4 PM**  
Tennessee Williams  
Literary Walking Tour

### PALM COURT JAZZ CAFÉ

**11:30 AM - 12:45 PM**  
Drummer & Smoke  
John Boutté

**1 - 2:15 PM**  
Drummer & Smoke  
Amanda Shaw

**2:30 - 3:45 PM**  
Doyle Cooper Jazz Band

### VARIOUS LOCATIONS

**1 - 3 PM**  
History of Queer Nightlife  
in New Orleans Tour  
**Crossing Bar**

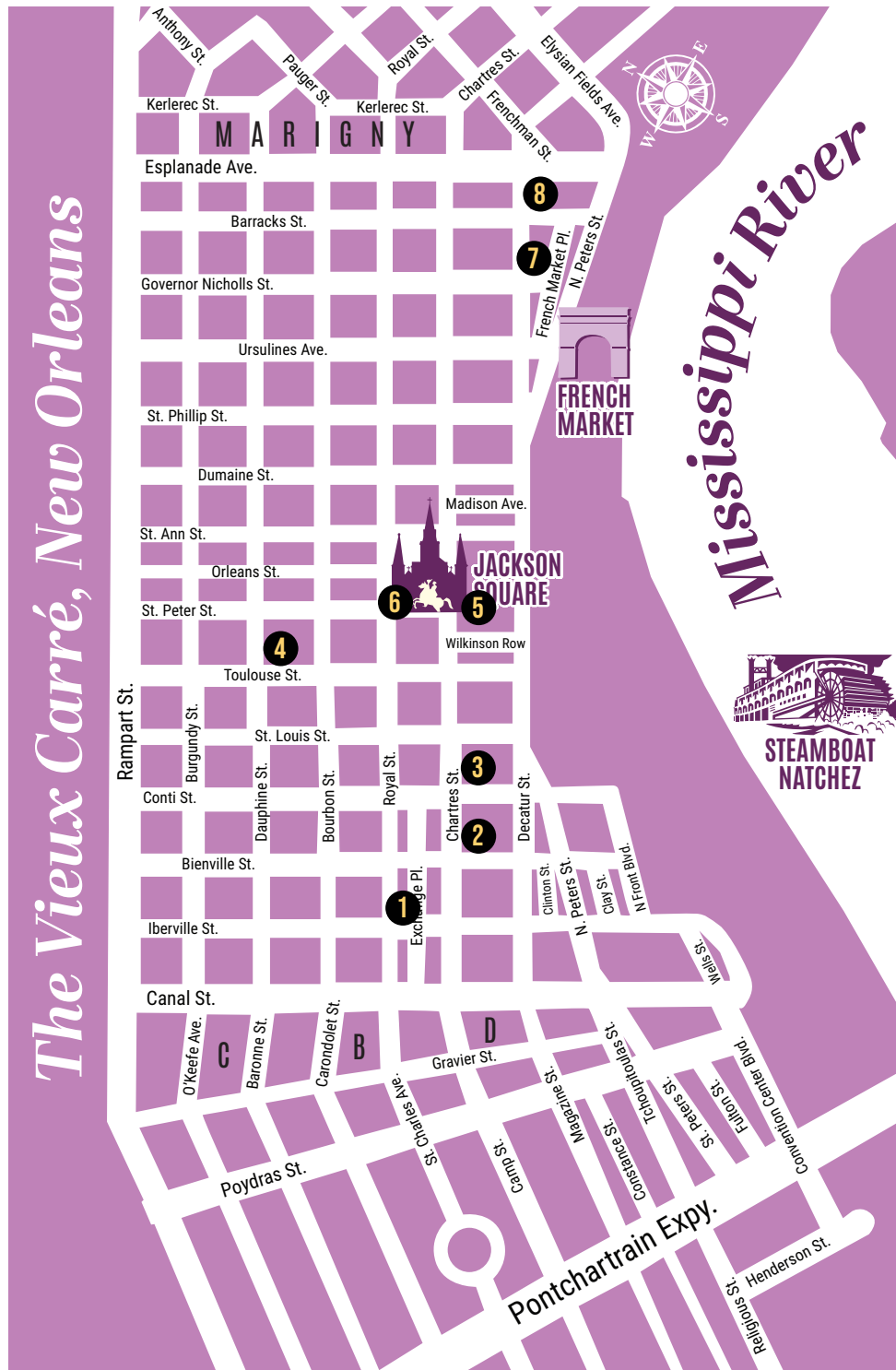
**2:30 PM and 7:30 PM**  
The Fire Weeds Presents:  
*Outraged Hearts:*  
*The Pretty Trap*  
*& Interior: Panic*  
**Big Couch New Orleans**

**3 PM**  
The Tennessee Williams  
Theatre Company of  
New Orleans Presents:  
*Kingdom of Earth* by  
Tennessee Williams  
**Loyola University,  
The Marquette Theatre**

**5:30 - 7 PM**  
French Quarter Ghosts  
& Legends Tour  
**Pirates Alley Café**



# 2024 FESTIVAL SITES



1. **Hotel Monteleone**  
214 Royal Street
2. **3rd Block Depot Kitchen + Bar**  
310 Chartres Street
3. **Williams Research Center at  
The Historic New Orleans Collection**  
410 Chartres Street
4. **Crossing Bar**  
439 Dauphine Street
5. **Jackson Square**  
St. Peter Street for Shouting Contest
6. **Pirates Alley Café**  
622 Pirates Alley
7. **Palm Court Jazz Café**  
1204 Decatur Street
8. **New Orleans Jazz Museum  
at the Old U.S. Mint**  
400 Esplanade Avenue

## EVENTS/VENUES OUTSIDE THE FRENCH QUARTER

**Kingdom of Earth** by The Tennessee  
Williams Theatre Company of  
New Orleans  
Marquette Theatre at Loyola University  
6363 St. Charles Avenue

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

**The Last Bohemia Soiree**  
The Temple Ballroom  
3151 Dauphine Street

**Outraged Hearts** by The Fire Weeds  
Big Couch New Orleans  
1045 Desire Street

**Five by Tenn** by Delgado Community  
College Theatre Department  
Timothy K. Baker Theatre, Delgado  
Community College  
615 City Park Avenue

# Save the DATE

## 39th Annual Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival will be March 26 – March 30, 2025



**SUNDAY, MARCH 17**

**2 - 3:15 PM**

## **STELLA SHOUTING CONTEST**

Our beloved Stella Shouting Contest **KICKS OFF** our Festival on Sunday! 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 line. Contestant signup begins at 1:30 and we take the first 25. We're excited to have **Beth Bartley d'Amour** and **Todd d'Amour** as our Stella and Stanley. Plus, we're once again 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.

*Sponsored by the Goldring Family Foundation.*  
**Jackson Square, free and open to the public.**

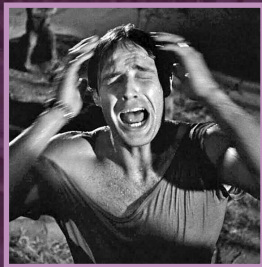


PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20**

**7:30 PM - 9 PM—Special Event**

## **OPENING NIGHT: TENNESSEE RISING**

*Tennessee Rising: The Dawn of Tennessee Williams*, a solo play written and performed by **Jacob Storms** and originally directed for the stage by **Alan Cumming**, explores the formative period from 1939 - 1945 in which an unknown writer named Tom becomes the acclaimed playwright known as Tennessee, wherein his most iconic character emerges: himself. Our Festival

Opening Night kicks off with cocktails and a visit from **Tallulah Bankhead**, portrayed by **Leslie Castay**. Doors open at 7 PM with a cash bar and music by Delta Revue.

*This event is sponsored by Joy and Boysie Bollinger.*  
**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$40 or VIP Pass.**








PHOTO BY ELLEN McDERMOTT



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Louisiana988.org







## FRINGE FESTIVAL

# THE LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL MARCH 21–23, 2024

The Last Bohemia Fringe Festival is a program of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival in conjunction with the Saints and Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival.

Please buy tickets in advance and you'll be on our door list.  
No cash sales at the door.

Tickets available: [tennesseewilliams.net/tickets](https://tennesseewilliams.net/tickets)

## PERFORMANCES

**Thursday, March 21 and Friday, March 22**

**7:30 - 8:30 PM—Theatre**

**LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS:**

**THE SINKING OPULENCE SHOW**

Back by popular demand! A Cabaret celebrating the sinking of the ship that we are all aboard! Overheard as the audience was leaving, "Tennessee would have loved this—it's an explosion POW of camp." 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! An over-the-top romp of Storyville style live music, theater, burlesque, and a delightful devastation of all of your senses! Brought to you by the producers of New Orleans best night out, the widely successful Les Vampyres Cabaret.



The Friday night performance includes a talkback moderated by **Fauxnique**.

**The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue, \$35 cocktail table, \$20 general admission, or VIP Pass.**

**Thursday, March 21 and Friday, March 22**

**9 - 10 PM—Theatre**

**LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS:**

***This Is The Peaceable Kingdom, Or Good Luck God***  
**by Tennessee Williams**

This funny and shocking one-act play, published in 1981, was inspired by a real-life news item from New York City's borough of Queens, reporting on a four-day nursing strike in the spring of 1978. In Williams's hysterical—in every sense of the word—farce, the children of some very cranky seniors are forced to take care of their parents.



*The Peaceable Kingdom* of the title is a famous idyllic painting in which born enemies find peace and the lion lies down with the lamb. That doesn't happen in the Queens nursing home, where the dying are not

going gently or even politely. Even so, God appears. Or does God appear? This almost never seen production will be staged with puppets and live actors by the New Orleans **Mudlark Public Theatre**, directed by **Pandora Andrea Gastelum**.

The Friday night performance includes a talkback moderated by **David Kaplan**.

**The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue, \$35 cocktail table, \$20 general admission, or VIP Pass.**

**Saturday, March 23**

**7 - 8:30 PM—Theatre**

**THE LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS:**

**THE TENNESSEE RISING: THE DAWN OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

*Tennessee Rising: The Dawn of Tennessee Williams*, a solo play written and performed by **Jacob Storms** and originally directed for the stage by **Alan Cumming**, explores the formative period from 1939 - 1945 in which an unknown writer named Tom becomes the acclaimed playwright known as Tennessee, wherein his most iconic character emerges: himself. Includes a talkback with Jacob Storms moderated by **Augustin J Correro**.

**The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue, \$35 cocktail table, \$20 general admission, or VIP Pass.**



Jacob Storms

PHOTO BY ELLEN McDERMOTT

**Saturday, March 23**

**8:30 PM Doors**

**10 PM Show**

**THE LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS:**

**THE LAST BOHEMIA SOIRÉE, INCLUDING A PERFORMANCE OF NIGHTINGALE**

A magical evening of music and performance hosted by Tony award winner **John Cameron Mitchell** in the ballroom of his splendid Bywater home, known as The Temple. Rub elbows with fellow festival goers and a who's who of NOLA creatives set to a concert by San Francisco sarod master **Kenny Annis**. Then enjoy a seated performance of **Vinsantos' Nightingale** followed by a talkback moderated by **John Cameron Mitchell**. *Nightingale* is a hauntingly nostalgic semi-biographical concept musical that revolves around the blurred life of **Vinsantos**, a multi-talented and enigmatic real life performer and Tennessee Williams' Nightingale the callow youth turned callous tubercular painter.



Set in an eclectic Bohemian and Art Nouveau backdrop, the audience follows Vinsantos on a journey of self-discovery, exploring the challenges and triumphs of a unique and unconventional career in the arts. As the titular character, Vinsantos brings a distinctive flair to the show, blending elements of drama, comedy, and the surreal. The narrative delves into the complexities of identity, artistic expression, and the pursuit of failed dreams, offering viewers a front-row seat to the captivating world of *Nightingale*.



The *humour noir* is complemented by a rich and diverse score that propels the satirical and grotesque themes throughout the show. The compelling storytelling not only morphs Vinsantos and *Nightingale* into a twin flame but also bedims the fourth wall of the theater. *Nightingale* is an imperative theatrical spectacle for those seeking a fresh and original take on the mutilated characters of Tennessee Williams, anchored by the charismatic presence of Vinsantos. Get ready to be transported into a realm where creativity knows no bounds, and the night comes alive (or faces death) with the mesmerizing performance of *Nightingale*. **The Temple Ballroom, 3151 Dauphine Street, Preferred Seating \$70, general seating \$40.**

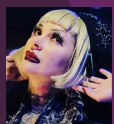
## ARTIST BIOS



**Kenny Annis** is a San Francisco based bon vivant. Kenny is a member of the notorious punk band The Heathens, a music scholar, and the Executive Chef of the wildly successful Vegan Sky Cafe. He is a master of the sarod, the protégé of the great Ali Akbar Khan.



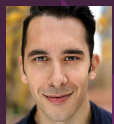
**Pandora Andrea Gastelum** is a puppeteer, dollmaker, designer, and performer. She owns and operates the Mudlark Public Theatre in New Orleans' 9th Ward and is the Artistic Director of that space's resident theatre company, the Mudlark Puppeteers.



**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.



**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.



**Jacob Storms** is best known for his recurring role (Serge) on Steven Soderbergh and Gregory Jacobs' Amazon Original Series, *Red Oaks*. Storms is also writer/actor of the solo play *Tennessee Rising: The Dawn of Tennessee Williams*, originally directed for the stage by Alan Cumming, for which Jacob won the United Solo Award for Best One-Man Show. Most recently he performed a critically-acclaimed, twenty-three back-to-back performance run of *Tennessee Rising* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with Assembly, for which Jacob was nominated for the Off-West End (Offie) Award and shortlisted for the Brighton Fringe Award for Excellence. Storms has also performed at Carnegie Hall, The Guggenheim Museum, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Bill T. Jones' New York Live Arts, BAM, Symphony Space, The St. Louis, New Orleans, and Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festivals, The Hollywood Bowl, L.A.'s Disney Concert Hall, PICA's Time-Based Art Festival, Rochester Fringe Festival, and more. Jacob is also the youngest actor in the world to have ever performed Doug Wright's Pulitzer Prize winning, forty-character solo play, *I Am My Own Wife*.



**Vinsantos** is a conceptual performance artist living and working in New Orleans and San Francisco. His original music, storytelling, and cabaret work are informed by his visual art and dollmaking practice.

Vinsantos formed his first band, the New Romantic 'Mourning Becomes Electra' in 1986 and has been producing work and evolving musical styles ever since. He is known for a modern approach to the Weimar Cabaret of the 1920s. Blending original and classic songs, storytelling, comedy, costumes, and visuals, a highly intimate relationship is built with the audience. Vinsantos has performed at art museums, dive bars, cabarets, drag shows, festivals and recently across the US on tour with goth legends Bauhaus and alternative post-punk icons Love and Rockets. A key figure in the legendary San Francisco Drag club Trannyshack and the creator of the New Orleans Drag Workshop, he is known as an innovator propelling forward new forms in these vibrant performance art enclaves. Vinsantos' community engagement work was the subject of the full-length documentary *Last Dance* created by French filmmaker Coline Abert that premiered at the 2022 Frameline Film Festival in San Francisco. Currently Vinsantos is working on his first musical inspired by Tennessee Williams' sinister character, *Nightingale*, from the play *Vieux Carré*.

## TALKBACK MODERATORS



**Augustin J Correro** is a Founding Co-Artistic Director of the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans. The company has produced over 20 Williams plays, many of which Correro has directed. He has also directed and assistant directed Williams plays in New York, Virginia, Mississippi, and Massachusetts. He holds an MFA in Theatre Pedagogy from Virginia Commonwealth University and a BA in Theatre from Mississippi University for Women. He is a resident of New Orleans and a native of the Mississippi Delta. His book *Tennessee Williams 101* was released in 2021, based on his TW Fest presentations.



**Monique Jenkinson** is an artist, choreographer, performer and writer. Her work dwells at the intersection of contemporary dance, cabaret and essay, and considers the performance of femininity as a powerful, vulnerable and subversive act. Her alter-ego Fauxnique made her story as the first cis-woman ever, anywhere, crowned as a pageant-winning drag queen, and her original works have toured nationally and internationally in wide-ranging contexts from nightclubs to theaters to museums. Her memoir, *Faux Queen* is out now on Amble Press.



**David Kaplan** is the author of *Tennessee Williams in Provincetown* (2006) and *Tenn Years* (2015), a collection of essays about Williams in production. He is the editor of *Tenn at One Hundred* (2011) the centennial collection of essays about Williams' reputation. He has staged *Suddenly Last Summer* in Russia (1993), *The Eccentricities of a Nightingale* in Hong Kong (2003), *Ten Blocks on the Camino Real* in Uruguay (2012) and Ghana (2016), and *The Rose Tattoo* in St. Louis (2021). He is curator/cofounder of the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, whose 19th season will be September 26-29, 2024. See TWPTown.org

## OUR HOST FOR THE LAST BOHEMIA SOIRÉE



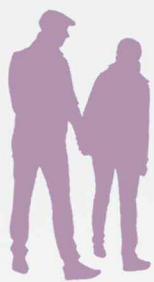
**John Cameron Mitchell** directed, starred in and wrote, with Stephen Trask, the film *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (2001), for which he won Best Director at the Sundance Festival

and was nominated for a Golden Globe as Best Actor. His recent Broadway production of *Hedwig* garnered him Tony Awards for his performance and for Best Revival. He won an Obie Award for *Hedwig* Off-Broadway as well as for starring in Larry Kramer's *The Destiny of Me*. He directed Tennessee Williams' *Kingdom of Earth* Off-Broadway with Cynthia Nixon and Peter Sarsgaard. He directed the films *Shortbus* (2006), *Rabbit Hole* (2010) and *How to Talk to Girls at Parties* (2018) both starring Nicole Kidman, who was nominated for Best Actress Oscar for the former. Recent TV roles include Hulu's *Shrill*, HBO's *Girls and Vinyl*, CBS's *The Good Fight*, and Amazon's *Mozart in the Jungle*. He stars in, wrote (with Bryan Weller), and directed the musical podcast series *Anthem: Homunculus* featuring Cynthia Erivo, Glenn Close, Patti Lupone, Denis O'Hare, Laurie Anderson and Marion Cotillard, which is playing on Luminary podcast platform.

**John will also moderate the talkback after the performance of *Nightingale*.**



Thank you to our venue sponsor,  
**The All Ways Lounge!**



# WALKING TOURS



PHOTO BY JOÃO FRANCISCO

## LGBTQ+ FRENCH QUARTER LITERARY TOUR

**Thursday, March 21, 11 AM – 12:30 PM**

**Friday, March 22, 3:30 – 5 PM**

**Sunday, March 24, 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 or VIP Pass.**

## HISTORIC STORYVILLE WALKING TOUR

**Thursday, March 21 – Saturday, March 23, 10 AM – 12 NOON**

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.

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

## HISTORY OF QUEER NIGHTLIFE IN NEW ORLEANS TOUR

**Thursday, March 21 – Sunday, March 24, 1 – 3 PM**

A 2-hour deep dive into the joy, heartbreak, and history of the New Orleans Queer Underground from the 1850s to the present. Follow the stories of sex worker street gangs, drag queens working for the mafia, jazz artists, and the queer community of today to discover the ways the queer underbelly of New Orleans has shaped the history of the entire world. With over 900 five star reviews, calling the tour "hilarious," "deeply researched," and "a life changing experience," the tour restores New Orleans to its rightful place in Queer History as one of the most dynamic cultures shaping what it even means to be queer. All tours are led by artist, community organizer, and alleged spirit medium **Quinn L Bishop**. Total tour walking distance is just under 2 miles.

**Crossing Bar, 439 Dauphine Street, \$35 or VIP Pass.**

## FRENCH QUARTER GHOSTS AND LEGENDS TOUR

**Thursday, March 21 and Friday, March 22, 5:45 – 7:15 PM**

**Saturday, March 23, 8:30 – 10:00 PM**

**Sunday, March 24, 5:30 – 7:00 PM**

Join acclaimed local author and storyteller **Ariadne Blayde** for an immersive twilight walk exploring the dark local history and lore of the historic French Quarter, considered one of the most haunted districts in America. Learn about true crime, yellow fever, pirates, ghosts, and the city's fascinating colonial history through visits to the Quarter's most haunted places, including the infamous LaLaurie Mansion, the historic Mississippi riverfront, New Orleans' oldest and most haunted bar, and more. Feel free to bring a drink!

**Pirates Alley Café, 622 Pirates Alley, meet outside next to the Cathedral, \$30 or VIP Pass.**

## TENNESSEE WILLIAMS LITERARY WALKING TOUR

**Friday, March 22, 2 – 4 PM**

**Saturday, March 23 and Sunday, March 24, 10 AM – 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.

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Parlor (FRI); Lobby Level, Royal A (SAT/SUN), \$30 or VIP Pass.**



# THURSDAY SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

### 9 AM – 4 PM

Festival Headquarters open to pick up VIP and LitPasses, purchase Fest merchandise, and to buy tickets. Save time by buying tickets in advance online at [www.tennesseewilliams.net/tickets](http://www.tennesseewilliams.net/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.**

### 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 cafés, pubs, bookstores, and anywhere a small group of writers can sit, write, and share their work. It's all about writing in the moment, writing for the joy of it, and finding inspiration in one's place. We start at the Hotel Monteleone before going out to explore the French Quarter as writers. For more information, visit [www.writingmarathon.com](http://www.writingmarathon.com) and for questions, contact the NOWM at [info@writingmarathon.com](mailto:info@writingmarathon.com).

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.writingmarathon.com](http://www.writingmarathon.com).**

### 10 – 11:15 AM—Writer's Craft Session

#### THREE LEVELS, TWO QUESTIONS, AND THE WEIRDEST THING: SOME TOTALLY NON-GUARANTEED TIPS ON HOW TO WRITE A GREAT NOVEL—M.O. WALSH

Ever wanted to write a real page-turner? What about a literary masterpiece? Why not write a book that is both lauded by critics *and* adored by fans? All these dreams are attainable! After all, if you're going to spend this much time on something, you might as well do it right. In this session, *New York Times* bestselling novelist M.O. Walsh highlights a few ideas aspiring writers might want to keep in mind as they tackle their first novel (or second or third). Is this advice guaranteed to make your novel an international bestseller? Well, no. Might it help turn your current draft into a better version of itself, though? Heck yeah! What more can we ask for than that?

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

### 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—Writer's Craft Session

#### REFLECTIONS AND OMISSIONS: WRITING WITH THE UNSAID—STACEY BALKUN

"In a field, I am the absence of field," writes Mark Strand, reminding us that not all absence is nothingness. As an instrument must have a resonating chamber in order to sing, texts too depend on empty space. This craft session will focus on what can be found in the white space of a text: how can omissions render a new narrative? How can reflection and recursion pronounce and echo? What can best be represented through absence? Turning to poets who have mastered the unsaid, this craft session will explore strategies to suspend logic, narrative, and even syntax in favor of lyric and gesture.

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

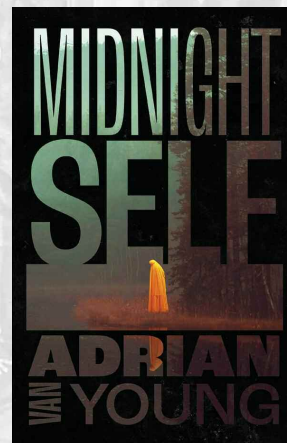
### 1:30 – 2:45 PM—Writer's Craft Session

#### "THY CREATURE": LITERARY MONSTERS IN THEORY AND PRACTICE—ADRIAN VAN YOUNG

Was *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* your favorite book as a child? Did Bram Stoker's *Dracula* make you weep? Was *It* your most recent and memorable beach-read? If you answered "Yes!" to any of these questions, then this craft session is for you. Taking our bearings from the father of all literary monsters, the creature from Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, this craft session led by creature-enthusiast and short story writer Adrian Van Young will explore literary monsters in both a literal and figurative sense of the word. Together, we'll become taxonomists of the monstrous in fiction, investigating, discussing, and trying out monster-oriented literary principles and techniques such as: how to effectively describe your monster; how to characterize one; how and when to reveal one; and what various functions a monster can serve in the hideous cosmos that summon them forth. But never fear: our monster-investigations won't stop there! Midway through, the craft session will shift gears into identifying and dissecting metaphorical monsters as well as literal ones. In the process, we'll address concepts such as: the monster with a human face; the monster as a human foil; how monsters reflect their cultures of origin; the monster as a marker of otherness/difference; and—everyone's favorite—monster lovers! Utilizing excerpts from acclaimed literary monster-engineers like Victor LaValle, Brian Evenson, Kelly Link, Carmen Maria Machado, Nathan Ballingrud, Kelly Link, Mariana Enriquez and Guillermo Del Toro, we'll get our monster faces right! Prepare to gnash your fangs and growl.

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

38TH ANNUAL  
TENNESSEE  
WILLIAMS &  
NEW ORLEANS  
LITERARY  
FESTIVAL





### 3 – 4:15 PM—Writer's Craft Session

#### SETTING AND WORLDBUILDING—ALEX JENNINGS

We think of worldbuilding as a consideration limited to imaginary-world fantasy or science fiction stories. But worldbuilding is something we do for ourselves every day the moment we wake up, remember our present circumstances, and start our day. Alex Jennings has lived in many different places over the years, from suburban Maryland to North Africa to New Orleans, and is intimately acquainted with the feeling of culture shock. We'll look at what culture shock is, how it can be a valuable tool for building perspective, and rooting our stories in specific times and places.

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

### 6:30 – 9 PM—Special Event

#### TRIBUTE READING:

#### TENNESSEE AFTER DARK—

#### THE EROTIC WORLD OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

This year's tribute reading looks at the erotic side of Tennessee Williams in all the poetic, dramatic, comical, and surprising incarnations it has appeared. It was through the screen adaptations of his plays and the pulp movie tie-in editions they occasioned that Williams' reputation as a writer of the salacious and steamy was



cemented. However, a closer and less reductive look at his work tells a different story: depictions of sexual intensity are there to be sure, but so is tenderness, humor, beauty, exuberance, and a compassionate view of the physical connections human beings make with one another in their

erotic complexity. Williams' feelings on the subject were articulated by the character of Hannah in *The Night of the Iguana* when she said, "Nothing human disgusts me, unless it's unkind, violent." Readers this year will include Festival luminaries **Jubi Ariolla-Headley, Maureen Corrigan, Michael Cunningham, Margot Douaihy, Monique Jenkinson, Jacob Storms, and Colm Toibin**, who will share selections from the playwright's plays, poems, essays, letters, and screenplays. The annual tribute reading is curated by Festival Director **Paul J. Willis** and Williams editor **Thomas Keith** (who also hosts).

*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, \$45 or VIP Pass.**

### 7:30 – 8:30 PM—Theatre

#### LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS:

#### THE SINKING OPULENCE SHOW

See page 10 for full description

**The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue, \$35 cocktail table, \$20 general admission, or VIP Pass.**

### 7:30 PM—Theatre

#### THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS

#### PRESENTS:

#### KINGDOM OF EARTH BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

TWTC opens its eighth season with the Tennessee Williams thriller, *Kingdom Of Earth*. A dark, stormy night with the levee soon to burst amplifies the tension of the Ravenstock estate where Lot has returned home for a showdown with his half-brother Chicken. Between these two forces of nature, Myrtle finds herself suspended on a tightrope of desire, desperation, and danger. Will she, or any of the trio, survive the night? And what is there to fight over when the water threatens to wash the world away?

**Performance Schedule: Thursday – Saturday, March 21 – 23 at 7:30 PM; Sunday, March 24 at 3 PM.**

**The Marquette Theatre, Loyola University New Orleans, 6363 St. Charles Avenue. Prices vary. Tickets at [www.twtheatrenola.com](http://www.twtheatrenola.com).**

### 7:30 PM—Theatre

#### DELGADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE THEATRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

#### FIVE BY TENN

We travel through five short plays by one of America's greatest playwrights meeting characters such as Mrs. Hardwicke-Moore, a tenant in a New Orleans cockroach-infested boarding house and a young couple desperately in love trying to put things together, as they fall apart. We are introduced to New Orleans visitors during Mardi Gras in the 1890's who hear about an encounter with Lord Byron. There is Bertha, a "scarlet lady" who has fallen on hard times, and, finally, Miss Dorothy Simple, proprietor of the Simple Notions Shop in Primandproper, Mass., who has barricaded her house and heart behind a double row of petunias. The five Tennessee Williams one-acts are *The Lady of Larkspur Lotion*, *Talk to Me Like the Rain* and *Let Me Listen*, *Lord Byron's Love Letter*, *Hello from Bertha*, and *The Case of the Crushed Petunias*.

**Performance Schedule: Thursday – Saturday, March 21 – 23 at 7:30 PM**

**Timothy K. Baker Theatre, Delgado Community College, Bldg. 1 Room 106W, 615 City Park Avenue. \$12 or VIP Pass. Tickets at**

**<https://www.dcc.edu/academics/liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/programs/theatre/plays/default.aspx>**



### 7:30 PM—Theatre

#### THE FIRE WEEDS PRESENTS:

#### OUTRAGED HEARTS: THE PRETTY TRAP AND INTERIOR: PANIC

Female-driven theatre company, The Fire Weeds, presents their debut production in association with the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival. Come discover the rarely produced prototypes for American classics *The Glass Menagerie* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Co-Directed by **Jaclyn Bethany** and **Lindsey Neville**, *Outraged Hearts* is a powerful, immersive evening featuring two early Tennessee Williams' one-act plays. Get ready to be captivated by Williams' unique storytelling and unforgettable characters with an unflinching feminist gaze that promises to be a night of raw emotions and powerful performances. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the magic of Tennessee Williams.

**Performance Schedule: Thursday - Friday, March 21 - 22, 7:30 PM;**

**Saturday - Sunday, March 23 - 24, 2:30 PM and 7:30 PM.**

**Additional performance Tuesday - Saturday, March 26 - 30.**

**Big Couch New Orleans, 1045 Desire Street, \$35 adults and \$12 for students, or VIP Pass. Tickets at <https://outragedhearts.bpt.me/>**

### 9 – 10 PM—Theatre

#### LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS:

#### THIS IS THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM, OR GOOD LUCK GOD

See page 10 for full description

**The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue, \$35 cocktail table, \$20 general admission, or VIP Pass.**





The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans

# KINGDOM OF EARTH

BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS



March 8-24 | Marquette Theatre  
on the campus of Loyola University New Orleans

Tickets & Information at

[www.TWTHEATRENOLA.com](http://www.TWTHEATRENOLA.com)

or call 504.264.2580



NEW ORLEANS  
THEATRE ASSOCIATION



theatre arts  
and dance



This season of TWTC is supported by a grant from the New Orleans Theatre Association (NOTA). This season is also supported by a grant from The New Orleans Tourism & Cultural Fund. This season is sponsored by Jason & Anjali Gillette.

# 2024 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,  
LITPass, or VIP Pass**

## FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

### About the TWSC

Founded in 1995, the Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference is a full day of sessions led by highly acclaimed Williams scholars from across the US and abroad. As part of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival, the TWSC coincides with the publication of the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, founded in 1998. The journal's managing editor, **Margit Longbrake**, serves as the TWSC coordinator and is a member of the TW Festival Board of Directors.

The TWSC is open to the public and is for anyone who wants to know more about the life and works of Tennessee Williams.

### 9:00 – 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

#### The Archive, the Motel, and the Con Man: Queering in and with Williams

Scholars track queerness in Williams's work as it destabilizes ideas, traditions, and places many in the US take for granted: the literary canon, the archive, and even public spaces look different when viewed through the lens of Williams plays.

Moderator: **Bess Rowen**, Villanova University; **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

### 10:45 AM – 12:00 NOON

#### Getting the Male: Learning to Read the Semiotics of Men in Williams

Silent, scene-stealing studs? Violent villains in—and victims of—an oppressive society? Radical rewriters of the male-female binary? All of the above? Scholars and directors from the US and Germany look at the challenges Williams's men characters pose to actors, directors, audiences, and rigid societal structures in the 21st century and ask why it matters.

Moderator: **John "Ray" Proctor**, Tulane University; **Caroline Bühler**, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich; **David Kaplan**, Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival; **Bess Rowen**, Villanova University

### 12:00 – 1:15 PM

Lunch Break

### 1:15 – 2:45 PM

#### Williams and the Postwar Broadway and Beyond

**R. Barton Palmer**, editor-in-chief of the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, engages a quartet of the field's most distinguished scholars in a lively, thought-provoking discussion of Williams and the postwar Broadway renaissance—and of the surprising legacies of his boldly transgressive work and public persona. Moderator: **R. Barton Palmer**, Clemson University (emeritus); **Mark Charney**, Texas Tech University; **Brenda Murphy**, University of Connecticut (emerita); **Annette J. Saddik**, Graduate Center and City Tech, City University of New York; **Henry I. Schvey**, Washington University, St. Louis

### 3:00 – 4:15 PM

#### An Outrage for the Stage: Williams Productions in the 21st Century

Perspectives of the scholar, the playwright, the director, and the performer meet in a kaleidoscopic panel that looks at contemporary stagings of works by and about Williams on two continents. Productions discussed incorporate autoethnography, aesthetics of speed and trash, McCarthyism, 20th-century blues artists . . . and even have the audacity to present Williams's work as social realism.

Moderator: **Annette J. Saddik**, Graduate Center and City Tech, City University of New York; **John Michael DiResta**, Skidmore College; **Levi Frazier, Jr.**, Southwest Tennessee Community College; **Joshua Polster**, Emerson College; **Kerstin Schmidt**, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich

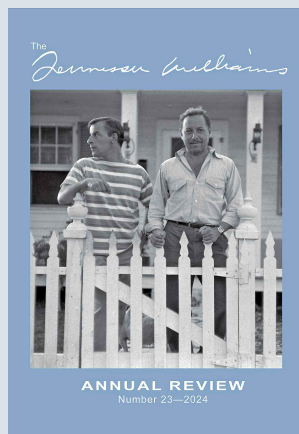
### 4:30 – 5:15 PM

#### A Staged Reading of *Entrances to Heaven*

Theater director, actor, and educator **Nisi Sturgis** and her University of Illinois theater company present a six-person staged reading of *Entrances to Heaven*, a version of an early, never-produced Williams play born of the playwright's fascination with the 20th-century troubadour poet Vachel Lindsay. Written less than a decade after Lindsay's tragic suicide, the play features a young couple whose knife-throwing act is suffering. On a train they meet the ghost of Lindsay, traveling back to his childhood home in Illinois. Lindsay declaims his verse and recounts the difficulties of his later years, inviting audiences to connect him with the wandering poet Val Xavier from *Orpheus Descending* and other Williams characters forever struggling in a world without a place for them.

Tennessee Williams scholar and professor emeritus **Tom Mitchell** introduces the piece and offers insights about its history and evolution.

**PRESENTED BY** The Historic New Orleans Collection





# FRIDAY SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

38TH ANNUAL  
TENNESSEE  
WILLIAMS &  
NEW ORLEANS  
LITERARY  
FESTIVAL



### 9 AM – 4 PM

Festival Headquarters open to pick up VIP and LitPasses, purchase Fest merchandise, and to buy tickets. Save time by buying tickets in advance online at [www.tennesseewilliams.net/tickets](http://www.tennesseewilliams.net/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.**

### 10 – 11:15 AM—Writer's Craft Session

#### THE DUAL GAZE: WRITING FICTION INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS— WENDY CHIN-TANNER

Do you have a piece of family lore that haunts you? Are you obsessed with a particular place and time? Did something happen in real life that you just can't get out of your head? Led by Wendy Chin-Tanner, author of the novel *King of the Armadillos*, this craft session will examine some of the elements of writing fiction inspired by true events. Focusing on research and its methods, purpose, implementation, and challenges, we'll explore how to balance fact and fiction to create a compelling, page-turning narrative. "Research is formalized curiosity," writes Zora Neale Hurston. "It is poking and prying with a purpose." This sentiment will be our touchstone for discussing: How to find the story inside the history; how to become a story detective, zeroing in on what your reader needs to know; how to let gossip (or the concept of it) be your guide; how to avoid info dumping; how to conduct detailed research; how to keep your research lean and mean so you don't waste time, get overwhelmed, or otherwise drive yourself nuts. Topics will also include creative license, ethics, authenticity, conflict, urgency, narrative arcs, stakes, and more. We'll do some writing exercises, workshop some ideas, and troubleshoot any issues you might have. No matter where you are with your work-in-progress, our goal is for you to gain a clearer sense of what's at the heart of your story and how to research it with purpose.

**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 Corroero, 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, Lobby Level,  
Royal D, \$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.**

### 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

#### —Writer's Craft Session

#### FACT AND FICTION WITH COLM TÓIBÍN

How history, biography and journalism, or an overheard remark, or a story half told, or an experience, can make their way into fiction, and how life can be completed using fictional methods, with special attention to Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw* and Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice*. With these two stories, we have evidence (from James's *Notebooks* and from Katia Mann's memoirs) about the origin of the stories. We can then study the story, learning how the authors made use of facts to create their fiction and how the imagination was nourished by fact, by anecdote, and by experience that were then transformed as the work progressed.

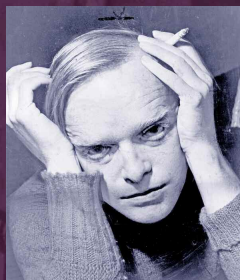
**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level,  
Royal Salon, \$25 or VIP Pass.**

### 10 – 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

#### A TRUMAN CAPOTE READING AND DISCUSSION

Celebrating the 100th year of Southern writer Truman Capote's birth with readings, discussion, and stories are moderator and Capote scholar, **Stuart Noel**, Ph.D., who founded and chairs the Truman Capote Literary Society; **Brenda Currin**, who portrayed Nancy Clutter in Capote's *In Cold Blood*; **Anna Christina (Tina) Radziwill**, daughter of the late Prince Stanislas Radziwill of Poland and Lee Bouvier Radziwill, sister of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis. Tina's mother and Truman Capote were close friends for many years; Novelist **Colm Tóibín** appeared in the 2019 documentary, *The Capote Tapes*; and **Gary Richards**, Southern literature scholar.

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





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

#### VOICES FROM THE PAST:

##### HEARING OUR ANCESTORS IN THE PRESENT

Whether as editors, translators, or anthologists, writers are often called to steward the works of their predecessors alongside creating their own work. Poet **Benjamin Morris** will moderate a panel exploring the challenges of shepherding books from the past into the present: fiction writer **Kayla Min Andrews** edited her late mother Katherine Min's novel *The Fetishist*, now published posthumously. Poet and professor **Ariel Francisco** has a forthcoming translation of Haitian poet Jacques Viau Renaud, killed at age 23 in the Dominican Revolution. And **Gina Ferrara** has recently revived the New Orleans Poetry Journal Press, first founded by Maxine Cassin decades ago, with a new anthology of 100 contemporary New Orleans poets. Each of these writers will discuss how they brought these voices to modern ears, and what literary citizenship means for writer and reader today.

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

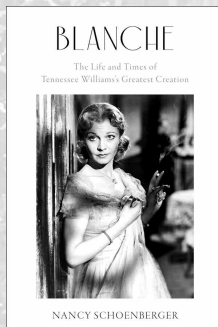
### 1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

#### EXPLORING BLANCHE DUBOIS AND THE WOMEN OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

This panel will explore contemporary Williams and discuss interpretations of his most inspired creation, Blanche DuBois and his adjacent women. A panel of writers and performers will discuss the significance and complexities of his female characters and the female gaze on Williams' work. The panel will be moderated by **Jaclyn Bethany**, writer, director, actor and rising Williams scholar, and will include panelists **Beth Bartley d'Amour**, who has played Blanche as well as numerous Williams women; **Lin Gathright**, actress and co-artistic director (with Bethany) of New Orleans' new female focused theater company, The Fire Weeds; **LaKeshia Glover**, actor, producer, and creator of the production company, Tootsie's Production; **Nancy Shoenberger**, author of *Blanche: The Life and Times of Tennessee Williams's Greatest Creation*; and **Judy Lea Steele**, interdisciplinary actress, playwright, poet and performance artist.

*Sponsored by Helen and George Ingram.*

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

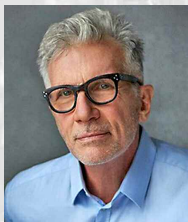


### 1:30 – 2:45 PM—Writer's Craft Session

#### CHARACTER: FINDING THE MISSING PERSONS—MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM

What I hear most often from students is that they have trouble with plot. My response always is, I suspect what you're telling me is, you're having trouble with character. Because fully-imagined characters always produce a story. Usually more than one story. Usually more than two. In this session, we'll build a character together. Then we'll build a second character. Then we'll look at their various qualities—ranging from their ages and occupations to their desires and fears—and find the stories. The stories are always there.

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



### 2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

#### WRITERS OF A CERTAIN AGE

Being published is hardly a young person's game, but that's the perception the world has of writers. How many "under 30/40" lists are there? The implicit assumption is that those who haven't already made it by the time they've hit 50 are never going to get published. This is, of course, absurd, as many brilliant, successful writers have proven! Working in the youth-obsessed world of publishing as writers born in or before the Ford administration, these panelists have experience proving the world wrong. Learn about the challenges, successes and strategies as writers of a certain age. **Miles Harvey** moderates this discussion with **Jubi Arriola-Headley**, **Teresa Tumminello Brader**, **Chin-Sun Lee**, and **Rose Norman**.

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

### 3:00 – 4:15 PM—Writer's Craft Session

#### POETRY AND TALKING THINGS WITH STEPHANIE BURT

Who speaks a poem? Is it the poet? Is it the reader? What if it's a window, or a Muppet, or a giant toad? We'll look at the history of poems in the voices of characters who do not exist in our world, of animals that can't talk, and of inanimate objects, going back to ancient Greece and forward to today's farrago of robots, mutants, and self-portraits as many things. We'll ask why poets draw on this resource, long ago and today. And we'll find out—if we can—what's queer about this kind of poetry, what's contemporary about it, and how it speaks to the kinds of persons that you—yes, you—might be, or hope to become.

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

### 4 – 5:15 PM—Featured Conversation

#### IN CONVERSATION: MAUREEN CORRIGAN, MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM, AND JUSTIN TORRES

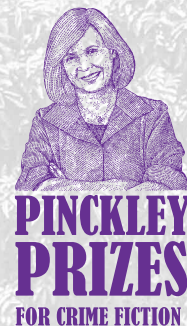
The distinguished critic **Maureen Corrigan** of *Fresh Air* and the "Book World" section of *The Washington Post* talks with two award-winning American novelists: **Michael Cunningham**, Pulitzer Prize winner for *The Hours*, and **Justin Torres**, National Book Award winner for *Blackouts*. Both have new books out—Cunningham's *Day* is a heartbreaking look at the pandemic years, and Torres' *Blackouts* is about the search for a mysterious book. Both of these writers achieved early acclaim, both have had works adapted for film, and all are teachers—Corrigan at Georgetown, Cunningham at Yale, and Torres at UCLA. Join us for what is sure to be a scintillating literary conversation.

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

### 5:30 – 6:30 PM—Special Event

#### PRESENTATION OF THE DIANA PINCKLEY PRIZES FOR CRIME FICTION

The Pinckley Prizes for Crime Fiction were established in 2012 for women writers to honor the memory of Diana Pinckley (1952-2012), a longtime crime fiction columnist for *The New Orleans Times-Picayune*, and her passion for mysteries. After a brief hiatus (COVID, Hurricane Ida), the Prizes return this year with a presentation ceremony and reception. This event honors the 2022 winner, **Sascha Rothchild**, author of the debut novel, *Blood Sugar*; the 2023 winner **Margot**





**Douaihy**, author of *Scorched Grace*. Alafair Burke, the winner for the Distinguished Body of Work Prize, is unable to attend. **Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon, free and open to the public.**

**7:30 – 8:30 PM**—Theatre

**LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS:**  
***THE SINKING OPULENCE SHOW***

See page 10 for full description

**The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue,  
\$35 cocktail table, \$20 general admission, or VIP Pass.**

**7:30 PM**—Theatre

**THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE COMPANY  
OF NEW ORLEANS PRESENTS:**

***KINGDOM OF EARTH* BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

See page 14 for full description

**The Marquette Theatre, Loyola University New Orleans,  
6363 St. Charles Avenue.**

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



Rebecca Elizabeth  
Hollingsworth as  
Myrtle in *The  
Tennessee Williams  
Theatre Company  
production of  
*Kingdom of Earth*.*

**7:30 PM**—Theatre

**DELGADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE THEATRE  
DEPARTMENT PRESENTS: *FIVE BY TENN***

See page 14 for full description

**Tickets at**

**[https://www.dcc.edu/academics/liberal-arts-social-](https://www.dcc.edu/academics/liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/programs/theatre/plays/default.aspx)**

**[sciences-education/programs/theatre/plays/default.aspx](https://www.dcc.edu/academics/liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/programs/theatre/plays/default.aspx)**

**Timothy K. Baker Theatre, Delgado Community College,  
Bldg. 1 Room 106W, 615 City Park Avenue.**

**\$12 or VIP Pass.**

**7:30 PM**—Theatre

**THE FIRE WEEDS PRESENTS:**

***OUTRAGED HEARTS:***

***THE PRETTY TRAP AND INTERIOR: PANIC***

See page 14 for full description

**Big Couch New Orleans, 1045 Desire Street,**

**\$35 adults and \$12 for students, or VIP Pass.**

**Tickets at <https://outragedhearts.bpt.me/>**

**9 PM**—Theatre

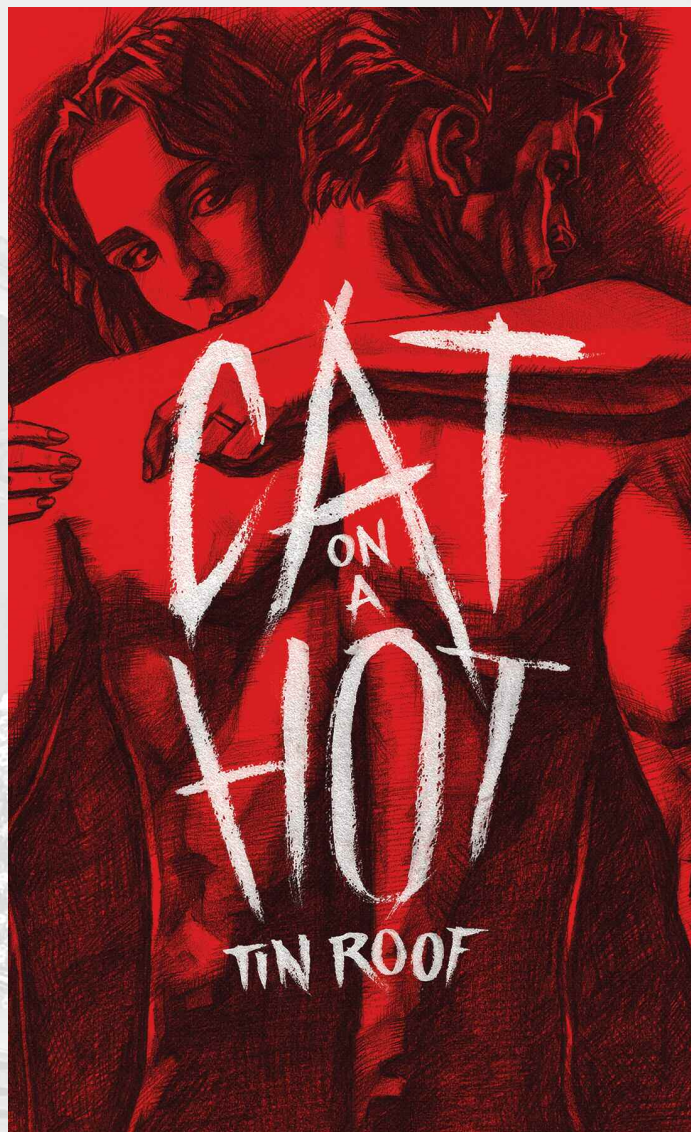
**LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS:**

***THIS IS THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM,  
OR GOOD LUCK GOD***

See page 10 for full description

**The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue,**

**\$35 cocktail table, \$20 general admission, or VIP Pass.**



9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**TENNESSEE  
WILLIAMS**  
FESTIVAL  
ST. LOUIS

AUG. 08–18, 2024  
GRAND CENTER, ST. LOUIS



[TWSTL.ORG](http://TWSTL.ORG)



# SATURDAY SCHEDULE

## SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024



### 9 AM – 4 PM

Festival Headquarters open to pick up VIP and LitPasses, purchase Fest merchandise, and to buy tickets. Save time by buying tickets in advance online at [www.tennesseewilliams.net/tickets](http://www.tennesseewilliams.net/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 beloved fiction writer Eudora Welty (1909-2001). A native of Jackson, Mississippi, she explored the US South in novels such as *Delta Wedding*, *Losing Battles*, and *The Optimist's Daughter*, but scholars and readers alike often feel that her most brilliant work was with her short stories. The group will sample a half-dozen of these to get a taste for Welty's sly humor, exquisite style, and impressive range: "Lily Daw and the Three Ladies," "Why I Live at the P.O.," "A Curtain of Green," "Powerhouse," "Moon Lake," and "No Place for You, My Love," the last of which is set in New Orleans and the coastal areas of southeastern Louisiana. They are available in *The Collected Stories of Eudora Welty* (ISBN: 978-1328625649).

**3rd Block Depot Kitchen + Bar, 316 Chartres Street, \$35 or VIP Pass.**

### 10 – 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

#### FROM THE WRITING ROOM TO THE THEATER: ADAPTING BOOK TO SCREEN

What's it like to see your book make it to the screen as a film or television series? How do writers navigate the world of film? Our panelists include **Sascha Rothchild**, author of *Blood Sugar* and an Emmy-nominated screenwriter who has worked on *GLOW*, *The Bold Type*, *The BabySitters Club*, and *The Carrie Diaries*. She also adapted her article "How to Get Divorced by 30," into a screenplay for Universal Studios. You can see **Sidney Thompson's** *Bass Reeves Trilogy* of western novels as a series now airing on Paramount. **Justin Torres'** award-winning debut novel, *We the Animals*, became a feature-length film. **M.O. Walsh's** charming *The Big Door Prize*, became a mini-series for Apple TV, heading into its second season this April. **Clint Bowie** of the New Orleans Film Society moderates the discussion.

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

### 10 – 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

#### GREAT STORIES FROM NEW ORLEANS INSTITUTIONS

Every city with a long history has stewards who care for its treasures, whether they be institutions or ideas. In *The Building of the National World War II Museum*, founder and president **Gordon "Nick" Mueller** describes the inception and growth of what has become the city's leading museum. **Robert Becker**, in *New Orleans City Park: From Tragedy to Triumph*, chronicles his 20-year tenure as CEO of City Park and the hard work of staff and volunteers to bring the park through Katrina and COVID and ensure its financial security. Journalist

and historian **Errol Laborde** celebrates unique New Orleans moments in New Orleans' cultural history in *When Rex Met Zulu*. Documentarian **Peggy Scott Laborde**, whose most recent work is *Literary New Orleans*, moderates.  
**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon, \$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.**

### 10 – 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

#### PARABLES OF A WORLD CORRUPTED— POLITICS IN THE PLAYS OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

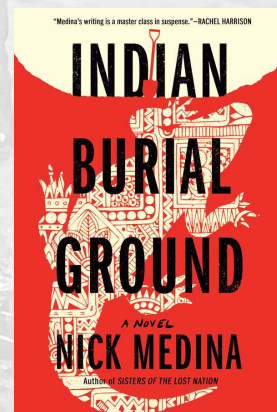
In a 1967 interview, when Tennessee Williams was asked if he ever wrote directly about the struggle for civil rights or about the American war in Viet Nam, he replied, "I am not a direct writer, I am always an oblique writer, if I can be; I want to be allusive, I don't want to be one of those people who hits the nail on the head all the time." The playwright's answer reinforced a longstanding idea that Williams was not a political writer when, in fact, politics are woven into the fabric of everything he wrote—often quite directly! This panel will examine some of Williams' politics both onstage and off, looking at the most overt examples of politics in plays such as *Camino Real*, *Sweet Bird of Youth*, *Orpheus Descending*, and *The Red Devil Battery Sign*, as well as the powerful ways in which politics surround and support narratives in his other plays. At times the indirect approach can be an even more potent way to reach an audience and is found in plays as divergent as *The Glass Menagerie*, *Stairs to the Roof*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and *Green Eyes*. The panelists will include **Thomas Keith**, **Tom Mitchell**, and **Bess Rowen**. **Benjamin Gillespie** will moderate.

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

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

#### MAKING AN ENTRANCE: NEW FICTION VOICES WITH STYLE

Readers love finding a new writer who has a fresh and exciting style or captivating point of view, and we're excited to welcome these new voices in fiction. Novelist and poet **Chin-Sun Lee's** first book, *Upcountry*, about a couple who moves from New York City to a small country town, with all the social change that that implies, was listed among *Publishers Weekly's* Big Indie Books of Fall 2023. **Annell López's** debut short story collection, *I'll Give You a*





*Reason*, about the lives of immigrants in New Jersey, is the winner of the Louise Meriwether First Book Prize from the Feminist Press Award, and will appear in April. **Jess Armstrong** is the author of *The Curse of Penryth Hall*, the winner of the Mystery Writers of America/ Minotaur First Crime Novel Competition. **Julia Malye**'s English debut takes readers back to the French colonial Gulf Coast in *The Pelican Girls*, a novel about strong women based in historical reality. **Nick Medina**, a member of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, weaves tribal myths into the contemporary world of crime and casinos in *Sisters of the Lost Nation* and *Indian Burial Ground*. Moderated by New Orleans writer, **C. Morgan Babst**, author of *The Floating World*.

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

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

#### THE OTHER SIDE OF DESIRE: TENNESSEE WILLIAMS ON LIFE, LOVE, AND DEATH

When Blanche DuBois arrives in the French Quarter of New Orleans in the first scene of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, she tells Eunice, "They told me to take a streetcar named Desire, and then transfer to one called Cemeteries and ride six blocks and get off at—Elysian Fields!" So, from the very beginning of the play, we are reminded that death and desire have a symbiotic relationship. Whether dramas, comedies, full-length, or one-acts, death is present in all of Williams' plays, both onstage and off, and so is life. For Williams, sexual desire is part of the life force, the urge to live, and so a counterbalance to the inevitability of death. This panel will explore the many ways Williams deals with death and life in his work. Scenes and characters that will be examined come from plays including *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Rose Tattoo*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore*, *Vieux Carré*, *A House Not Meant to Stand*, *Kingdom of Earth*, *I Can't Imagine Tomorrow*, *The Mutilated*, *The Day on Which a Man Dies*, and *Something Cloudy, Something Clear*, to name just a few. Panelists include Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **John Pope**, **Augustin J. Correro**, **Margit Longbrake**, and **Annette J. Saddik**, moderated by **Thomas Keith**.

Sponsored by Helen and George Ingram.

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

### 1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

#### WRITING SOUTHERN GOTHIC IN MODERN NEW ORLEANS

Exploring themes such as religious intensity, moral disorder, ancestral homes in resplendent decay, systemic racism, endemic poverty, and the encroachment of the supernatural on everyday life, William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, Zora Neale Hurston, Tennessee Williams, and Carson McCullers pioneered this often romanticized and occasionally parodied genre into the American consciousness in the early 20th-century. Now, in the 21st, writers like Jesmyn Ward, Karen Russell, Silvia Moreno-Garcia and Toni Morrison have dynamically furthered those first explorations, in many instances reinventing them entirely. This mixed-genre panel of fiction writers, essayists, and poets will seek to unearth Southern Gothic then and now, posing such questions as: Where do we find ourselves on the so-called pantheon of early-to-mid 20th-century Southern Gothic writers? What does it mean to write Southern Gothic in the most Gothic city in America? At what point does Southern Gothic go from being an exploration of a society in decay to a fetishization of that same decay? How do we expand our definitions of Southern Gothic to take in the "Global South," to include Latin American and Caribbean works of Southern Gothic, as well? How have the objects of social critique in Southern Gothic literature (racism, classism, evangelicalism, feudalism, criminality) shifted over time, illuminating new corners of a region in freefall? Come get a little creepy—but a little thoughtful, too—with panelists **Anya Groner**, **Carolyn Hembree**, **Alex Jennings**, and **Adrian Van Young**, moderated by **Brad Richard**.

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

### 1 – 2:15 PM—Featured Conversation

#### SEEING OUR HISTORY ON THE PAGE

Historian, author and journalist **Errol Laborde**, whose most recent book is *When Rex Met Zulu and Other New Orleans Experiences*, and **John Lawrence**, former director of Museum Programs and Curator of Photographs at the Historic New Orleans Collection, engage in a wide-ranging discussion based on John's book, *Louisiana Lens: Photographs from the Historic New Orleans Collection* (2023), touching on historical topics, the nature of photography, building a photographic collection for research use, photographers working in Louisiana, and "reading" photographs in ways that transcend their content.

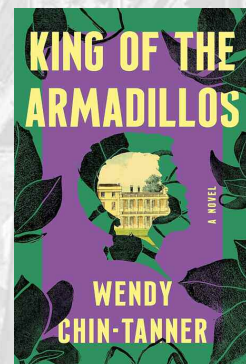
**Williams Research Center,**  
**410 Chartres Street,**  
\$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.

### 2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

#### HISTORY IS MY MUSE:

#### FINDING PRESENT INSPIRATION IN THE PAST

History is a gold mine for the discerning writer, prospecting for nuggets from the distant—or recent—past in archives and the historical record. Fordham University professor **Edward Cahill** takes us back to the pre-Stonewall era in *Disorderly Men*, a story of a police raid on a gay bar and its complicated consequences. **Julia Malye** tells a tale of resourceful women, "volunteers" shipped from France to the Louisiana Territory, in *Pelican Girls*. Louisiana State University professor and author **Maurice Carlos Ruffin** imagines what his female ancestors would have done to resist the Confederacy in the antebellum era in *The American Daughters*. **Wendy Chin-Tanner** draws on her father's experience as a patient in what was then known as the leprosarium in Carville, Louisiana, for her first novel, *King of the Armadillos*. And **Colm Toibín** has crafted many novels—*Brooklyn* and the forthcoming *Long Island* among them—from the rich history of Ireland and New York. **Miles Harvey**, author of *The King of Confidence* moderates. **Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom,**  
\$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.



### 2:30 – 3:45 PM—Film and Discussion

#### LITERARY NEW ORLEANS

The city of New Orleans has served as a setting for many of the world's most famous literary works, including *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Interview with the Vampire* and *A Confederacy of Dunces*. This documentary takes an up-close look at the locally written word over a more than three-century history. Included are interviews with Anne Rice, Tennessee Williams and Thelma Toole, the mother of John Kennedy Toole. Among the authors and literary experts interviewed are Edwin Blair, Douglas Brinkley, Nancy Dixon, Rien Fertel, Dr. Kenneth Holditch, Walter Isaacson, Susan Larson, T. R. Johnson, Maurice Carlos Ruffin, Dr. Mona Lisa Saloy and Kalamu Ya Salaam. Produced and narrated by **Peggy Scott Laborde**, who will be on hand for a brief discussion following the showing of the program.

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



## 2:30 PM—Theatre

THE FIRE WEEDS PRESENTS:

**OUTRAGED HEARTS:**

**THE PRETTY TRAP AND INTERIOR: PANIC**

See page 14 for full description

**Big Couch New Orleans, 1045 Desire Street, \$35 adults and \$12 for students, or VIP Pass.**

**Tickets at <https://outragedhearts.bpt.me/>**

## 4 – 5:15 PM—Literary Discussion

**LEGENDS OF BURLESQUE**

Over the last century, vaudeville's naughtier cousin, burlesque, has become a truly American art form, full of irreverence and dynamism. Though considered a sultry and bawdy form of entertainment, by the 1950s it was practically mainstream, especially in New Orleans with its main entertainment strip lined with nightclubs featuring both national and local dancers. Through memoirs and interviews, Historic New Orleans Collection curator **Nina Bozak** remembers some of these dancers in their own words from memoirs and interviews and through images of their signature acts. Hear about Blaze Starr's first time on stage as a stripper, the lesson Kalantan learned from Lili St. Cyr, and the connection between Rita Alexander and New Orleans legendary drummer Smokey Johnson. See a photographic series of Stormy Lawrence's signature number and watch Sally Rand's famous Bubble Dance. And be titillated by a special performance by one of New Orleans's current burlesque legends, **Bella Blue!**

**This event is sponsored by The Ethel and Herman L. Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies.**

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



## 4 – 5:15 PM—Featured Conversation

**MAUREEN CORRIGAN AND COLM TOIBÍN**

**Maureen Corrigan**, the beloved and influential book critic for NPR's Fresh Air and author of *Leave Me Alone, I'm Reading* and *And So We Read On: How the Great Gatsby Came to Be and Why It Endures*, appears in conversation with the prolific and award-winning author, **Colm Toibín**, known for *The Master*, *The Magician*, *The Blackwater Lightship*, *Brooklyn*, *Nora Webster*, and many other novels and works of nonfiction. Imagine two Irish storytellers, sharing a Catholic background and a love of New York and fine literature, settling in for a long chat.

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon, \$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.**

## 7 – 8:30 PM—Theatre

**MENDACITY: ACT 2 OF CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF**

Three-time Emmy winner **Christian Jules le Blanc** (*The Young and the Restless*) and actor/producer **Matt de Rogatis**, of Ruth Stage, reprise their critically acclaimed Off-Broadway roles of "Big Daddy" and "Brick" in this one of a kind experience! Le Blanc and de Rogatis will perform an edited version of Act 2 of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* from their 2022 New York City production. Afterwards, the two actors will participate in a talkback about bringing this Pulitzer Prize-winning play to the Off-Broadway stage. Afterward, David Kaplan, curator/cofounder of the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, will moderate a talkback with the actors.

*"There is only one aristocracy. The aristocracy of passion."* —Tennessee Williams

**This event is underwritten by St. Ignatius Catholic School, George Town, Cayman Islands.**

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$20 or VIP Pass.**



Matt De Rogatis and Christian Jules Le Blanc in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

## 7 – 8:30 PM—Theatre

THE LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS:

**TENNESSEE RISING: THE DAWN OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

See page 10 for full description

**The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue, \$35 cocktail table, \$20 general admission, or VIP Pass.**

## 7:30 PM—Theatre

THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS PRESENTS: **KINGDOM OF EARTH** BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

See page 14 for full description

**The Marquette Theatre, Loyola University New Orleans, 6363 St. Charles Avenue. Tickets at [www.twtheatrenola.com](http://www.twtheatrenola.com).**

## 7:30 PM—Theatre

DELGADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE THEATRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS: **FIVE BY TENN**

See page 14 for full description

**Tickets at <https://www.dcc.edu/academics/liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/programs/theatre/plays/default.aspx>**

**Timothy K. Baker Theatre, Delgado Community College, Bldg. 1 Room 106W, 615 City Park Avenue. \$12 or VIP Pass.**

## 7:30 PM—Theatre

THE FIRE WEEDS PRESENTS:

**OUTRAGED HEARTS: THE PRETTY TRAP AND INTERIOR: PANIC**

See page 14 for full description

**Big Couch New Orleans, 1045 Desire Street, \$35 adults and \$12 for students, or VIP Pass. Tickets at <https://outragedhearts.bpt.me/>**

## 8:30 PM Doors

### 10 PM Show

THE LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS:

**THE LAST BOHEMIA SOIREE, INCLUDING A PERFORMANCE OF NIGHTINGALE**

See page 11 for full description

**The Temple Ballroom,**

**Preferred Seating \$70, general seating \$40.**



Vinsantos in *Nightingale*.

PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON



THE FIRE WEEDS IN ASSOCIATION WITH TENNESSEE WILLIAMS & NEW ORLEANS LITERARY FESTIVAL PRESENTS "OUTRAGED HEARTS"

# The Pretty & Terrible Interior: Panico

ONE ACTS BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS  
THAT INSPIRED CLASSICS THE GLASS MENAGERIE AND A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

*Co-directed by Jaclyn Bethany and Lindsey Neville*

**BIG COUCH NEW ORLEANS**  
**1045 DESIRE STREET**  
**\$35, \$12 STUDENTS**

**EVENING SHOWS**  
**7:30 PM**  
**MAR. 21-24, 27-30**

**MATINEES**  
**2:30 PM**  
**MAR. 23, 24, 30**



To buy tickets please visit  
[tennesseewilliams.net](http://tennesseewilliams.net)  
[outragedhearts.bpt.me](http://outragedhearts.bpt.me)  
Box Office will be open pre-performance



**THE FIRE WEEDS**



**BIG COUCH**



Scan to Buy Tickets



# DRUMMER & SMOKE MUSIC EVENTS

at the **PALM COURT JAZZ CAFÉ** SUNDAY, MARCH 24



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



## 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—Music **JOHN BOUTTÉ**

On Sundays as the red beans were soaking for Monday's dinner, John Boutté was awakened by the sounds of his New Orleans neighborhood. Voices carried over the fence from the church behind his home in the Seventh Ward, the home where he grew up, where most of his Creole family still lives and sings. Past the front yard, second-line parades rolled by, matching the madness of Carnival season and the transcendent joy of the jazz funeral. This roux of influences created John Boutté, and serves him to this day. John played coronet and trumpet in marching bands and also sang in high school, then continued to hone his talent while an officer in the U.S. Army. After that he devoted himself to what has become a long and acclaimed musical career. John will be joined by Oscar Rossignoli and Nobumasa Ozaki on bass.

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



## 1 – 2:15 PM—Music **AMANDA SHAW**

Energetic Louisiana fiddler Amanda Shaw blazes trails with her clever songwriting and exciting performances. With over 20 years of experience, Shaw captivates audiences of all sizes – from intimate listening rooms to national television audiences. Shaw blends authentic Cajun culture with endearing local charm, delivering shows that burst with Louisiana flavor.

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



## 2:30 – 3:45 PM—Music **DOYLE COOPER JAZZ BAND**

Raised in a musical family, it was always a matter of what Doyle Cooper would play, not if he would play, and he began playing trumpet at the age of 10. He was immersed in Traditional Jazz since his grandfather and mother both performed for years. From New Orleans, Doyle is dedicated to traditional jazz that has shaped the culture of his hometown. Doyle, or "Red" as he is known by most, has studied and performed with many world-renowned Jazz musicians. Doyle graduated from the Jazz Studies program at NOCCA and Loyola University. He was awarded the Grand Prize in the "Seeking Satch" competition.

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

# Come Visit the Historic Cutrer Mansion...



Blanche Cutrer Smith with sister-in-law Stella Cook Cutrer holding Stella's twins on the grounds of the Cutrer Mansion. Circa 1921, Private Collection

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[www.cuttermansion.com](http://www.cuttermansion.com)

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We are making a difference and moving forward.

For more information, contact Jen Waller at [jwaller@coahomacc.edu](mailto:jwaller@coahomacc.edu) or 662-645-3555.

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Thursday through Saturday • October 17-19, 2024 • <https://deltawilliamsfestival.com/>



# SUNDAY SCHEDULE

## SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

### 9 AM – 2 PM

Festival Headquarters open to pick up VIP and LitPasses, purchase Fest merchandise, and to buy tickets. Save time by buying tickets in advance online at [www.tennesseewilliams.net/tickets](http://www.tennesseewilliams.net/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 cafés, pubs, bookstores, and anywhere a small group of writers can sit, write, and share their work. It's all about writing in the moment, writing for the joy of it, and finding inspiration in one's place. We start at the Hotel Monteleone before going out to explore the French Quarter as writers. You can end your writing marathon at whatever time best fits your schedule. For more information, visit [www.writingmarathon.com](http://www.writingmarathon.com) and for questions, contact the NOWM at [info@writingmarathon.com](mailto:info@writingmarathon.com).

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Parlor, free and open to the public but please register at [www.writingmarathon.com](http://www.writingmarathon.com).**

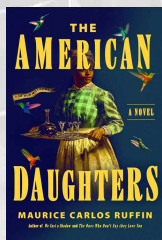
### 10 – 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

#### CREATING THE WRITER'S CITY

In a discussion sparked by his book, *New Orleans: The Writer's City*, scholar **T.R. Johnson** shares his particular vision of a complicated literary landscape. Novelist **Maurice Carlos Ruffin** has envisioned a New Orleans of the future in his first book, a contemporary city in his second, and in his third, *The American Daughters*, he paints an unforgettable portrait of the antebellum world here. **Maira Crone**'s vision of the drowned city in *The Not-Yet* is so persuasive that architecture students have been inspired to create models of it. And poet **Skye Jackson**, who studied at UNO, is a leading light of the new generation of writers. Novelist **George Bishop** moderates.

**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

##### A Staged Reading of Three Tennessee Williams One-Acts

###### *Auto Da Fé*

This 1941 short play tells the story of a sexually repressed Eloi, a young postal worker in early 20th-century New Orleans. Eloi lives with his overbearing mother in her boarding house. He is confronted with the depravity and sin of New Orleans. This frustration ends in an attack on a female boarder in the cottage and the eventual burning of the cottage, his mother, and the female boarder.

###### *In Our Profession*

Annabel, an actress, wants to be looked at as more than just her looks and her profession, but the gentlemen pursuing her, Richard and Paul, don't seem to want to let her.

###### *Every Twenty Minutes*

After a late party, an unnamed couple is relaxing in their upscale city apartment by sniping at each other, still dressed in black ties. He's arguably more committed to the decanter and glass at his side than he is to anything his wife says. This is especially true when she shares a shocking statistic she just read in the paper. Though he is unimpressed by the news, her outlook on life is completely altered.

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

### 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—Music

#### Drummer & Smoke Music Series: JOHN BOUTTÉ

On Sundays as the red beans were soaking for Monday's dinner, John Boutté was awakened by the sounds of his New Orleans neighborhood. Voices carried over the fence from the church behind his home in the Seventh Ward, the home where he grew up, where most of his Creole family still lives and sings. Past the front yard, second-line parades rolled by, matching the madness of Carnival season and the transcendent joy of the jazz funeral. This roux of influences created John Boutté, and serves him to this day. John played coronet and trumpet in marching bands and also sang in high school, then continued to hone his talent while an officer in the U.S. Army. After that he devoted himself to what has become a long and acclaimed musical career. John will be joined by Oscar Rossignoli and Nobumasa Ozaki on bass.

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

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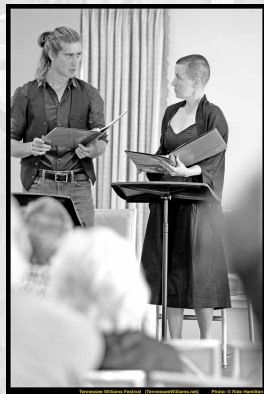


PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON



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

#### OTHERWORLDLY FICTION

The skill of worldbuilding is essential to fine fiction, inviting the reader to enter the author's fully created world. **Ariadne Blayde** enters into the world of French Quarter ghost tours to give us a New Orleans we've only glimpsed before. **Tara Lynn Masih** takes us to the boundaries of nature and place, known for her skill in flash fiction, and **Nick Medina** explores the intersection of indigenous crime fiction/horror and the tensions between the life of reservation community and the burgeoning casino culture. **David R. Slayton** writes the sorts of books he always hoped to read, fantasies of warlocks and druids. All of these writers are skilled in the uses of imagination and atmosphere. Moderated by author **Adrian Van Young**. **Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom.**

**\$10 or Literary Discussion Pass or VIP Pass.**

### 11:30 – 12:45—Conversation

#### WHY THE ART OF IMPROV ENDURES

Improv scholar **Randy Fertel**, author of *A Taste for Chaos: The Art of Literary Improvisation* and *Winging It: Improv's Power and Peril in the Time of Trump*, talks with literary scholar **T.R. Johnson**, author of *New Orleans: A Writer's City*, about the ongoing relevance of improvisation in the larger culture. Seen through Fertel's discerning eye, improv is everywhere—from the music of Louis Armstrong to the smash musical *Hamilton*, the rise of AI, and the off-the-cuff, unmediated remarks of Donald Trump, whom Fertel calls the Improviser-in-Chief. He uses neuroscience, bioevolution, and cultural texts to illuminate his subject. Johnson, who writes about the complex interactions between writers and place, adds his thoughts about improvisation in New Orleans literature.

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon.**

**\$10 or Lit Pass or VIP Pass.**

### 1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

#### DEFINING CHARACTER:

#### THREE UNORTHODOX BIOGRAPHIES

How does a biographer present the facts of a life and also capture the atmosphere, the impact on culture, and perhaps even some of the magic left behind by their subject? Three writers present a trio of expertly researched life stories that transcend typical biography. In *Radiant: The Life and Line of Keith Haring*, author **Brad Gooch** chronicles the emblematic artist of 80s-era New York whose renegade art inspired radical social change. **Cynthia Carr** profiles Warhol superstar and transgender icon Candy Darling in a new groundbreaking biography. **Nancy Schoenberger** gives one of Tennessee Williams' most complex creations, Blanche DuBois from *A Streetcar Named Desire*, a thorough psychological examination in a multifaceted study of the fictional figure. Moderated by **David Johnson**.

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom.**

**\$10 or Literary Discussion Pass or VIP Pass.**

### 1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

#### NEW VISTAS, GRAND OUTLOOKS:

#### RENDERING THE LANDSCAPE IN POETRY

This panel will feature poets **Rodney Jones**, **Christine Kwon**, **Louisiana Poet Laureate Alison Pelegrin**, and **Gina Ferrara** (moderator) discussing ways that landscapes inform their work and sharing poems from their latest collections.

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon.**

**\$10 or Literary Discussion Pass or VIP Pass.**

### Radiant

The Life and Line of Keith Haring



Brad Gooch

### 1:00 – 2:15 PM—Music

#### Drummer & Smoke Music Series: AMANDA SHAW

Energetic Louisiana fiddler Amanda Shaw blazes trails with her clever songwriting and exciting performances. With over 20 years of experience, Shaw captivates audiences of all sizes – from intimate listening rooms to national television audiences. Shaw blends authentic Cajun culture with endearing local charm, delivering shows that burst with Louisiana flavor.

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



### 2:30 – 3:45 PM—Special Event

#### FESTIVAL CLOSING EVENT: A CELEBRATION OF WRITERS

Our 2024 closing event celebrates writers who are award-winning and accomplished, alongside some up-and-coming writers to watch. We'll begin with a poetry reading by our new Louisiana Poet Laureate, **Alison Pelegrin**. Also included are readings by our writing contest winners and judges, including our Very Short Fiction Judge, **Tara Lynn Masih**, and a staged reading of the winning one-act play, directed by **David Hoover**. We'll also feature readings from local community writing groups who support and promote emerging writers by hosting writing marathons, readings, submission happy hours, and free writing workshops, including **M.A. Nicholson** of LMNL Arts.

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, Free and open to the public.**

### 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM—Music

#### Drummer & Smoke Music Series: DOYLE COOPER JAZZ BAND

Raised in a musical family, it was always a matter of what Doyle Cooper would play, not if he would play, and he began playing trumpet at the age of 10. He was immersed in Traditional Jazz since his grandfather and mother both performed for years. From New Orleans, Doyle is dedicated to traditional jazz that has shaped the culture of his hometown. Doyle, or "Red" as he is known by most, has studied and performed with many world-renowned jazz musicians. Doyle graduated from the Jazz Studies program at NOCCA and Loyola University. He was awarded the Grand Prize in the "Seeking Satch" competition.

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

### 2:30 PM—Theatre

#### THE FIRE WEEDS PRESENTS:

#### OUTRAGED HEARTS:

#### THE PRETTY TRAP AND INTERIOR: PANIC

See page 14 for full description

**Big Couch New Orleans, 1045 Desire Street,**

**\$35 adults and \$12 for students, or VIP Pass.**

**Tickets at <https://outragedhearts.bpt.me/>**

### 3 PM—Theatre

#### THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS PRESENTS: KINGDOM OF EARTH BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

See page 14 for full description

**The Marquette Theatre,**

**Loyola University New Orleans,**

**6363 St. Charles Avenue.**

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



IMAGE CREDIT EDWARD SIMON

### 7:30 PM—Theatre

#### THE FIRE WEEDS PRESENTS:

#### OUTRAGED HEARTS:

#### THE PRETTY TRAP AND INTERIOR: PANIC

See page 14 for full description

**Big Couch New Orleans, 1045 Desire Street,**

**\$35 adults and \$12 for students, or VIP Pass.**

**Tickets at <https://outragedhearts.bpt.me/>**

Jaclyn Bethany  
and Lin Gathright  
*The Pretty Trap.*



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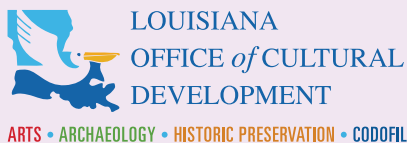
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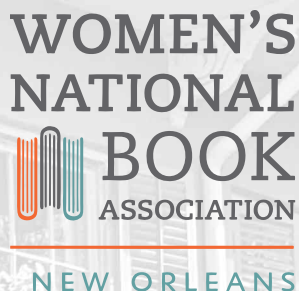


Goldring Family Foundation



This program is supported in part by a Community Arts Grant made possible by the City of New Orleans as administered by Arts New Orleans. Programming also supported in partnership with City of New Orleans Mayor's Office of Cultural Economy and by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council. Additional funding through a 2023 Rebirth Grant, provided by the State of Louisiana and administered by Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).





3<sup>RD</sup>

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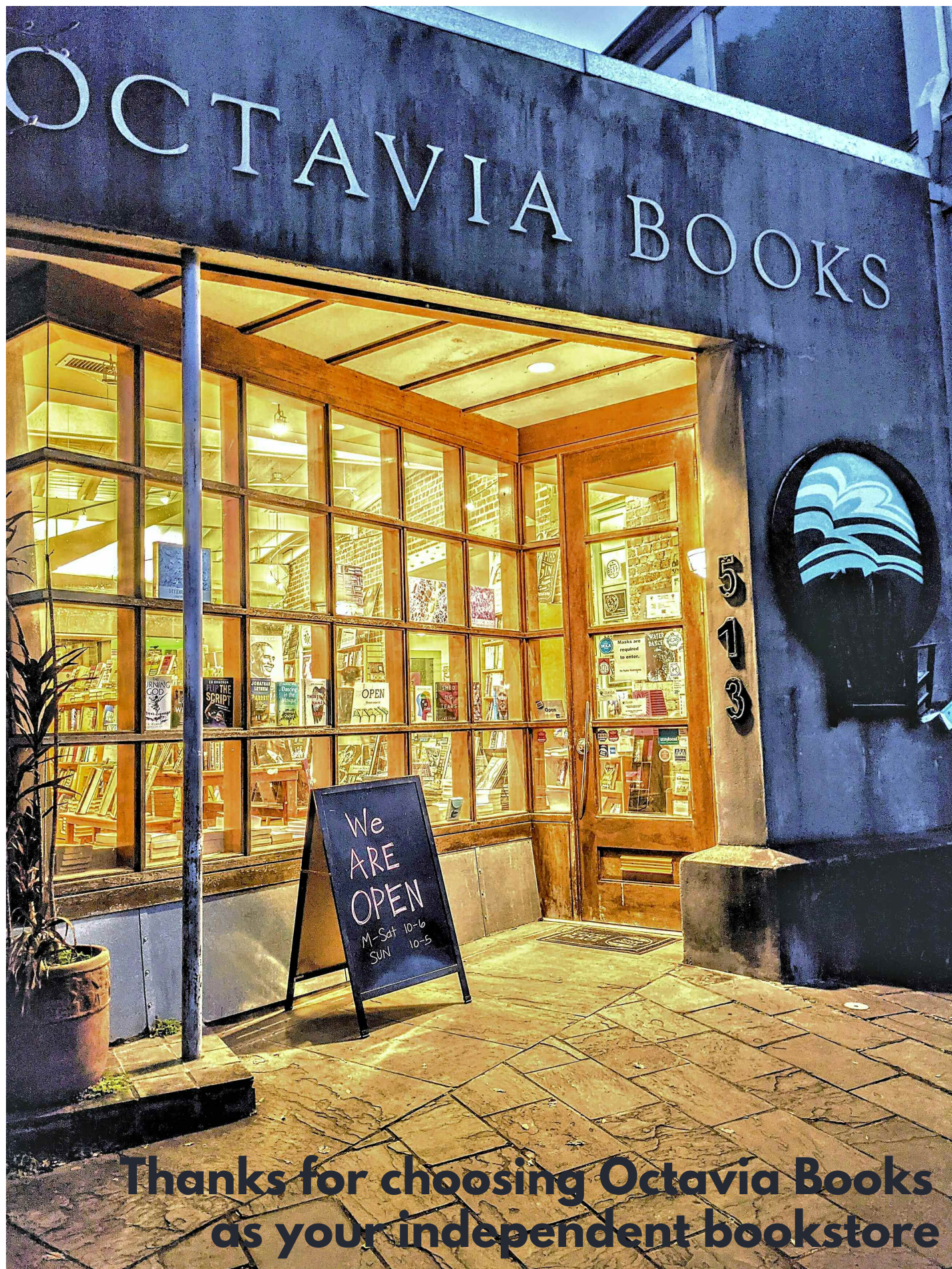
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# 2024 FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS

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FESTIVAL



**Kelly I. Aliano** is the Manager of Education Special Projects at New-York Historical Society and teaches in the English Department at LaGuardia Community College. She is the author of *Theatre of the*

*Ridiculous: A Critical History* (McFarland, 2019) and *The Performance of Video Games* (McFarland, 2022), as well as the forthcoming *Immersive Storytelling and Spectatorship in Theatre, Museums, and Video Games* (Routledge, 2025). She currently serves as the Member-at-Large for Focus Group Representatives for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education.



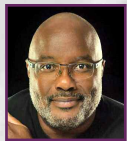
**Kayla Min Andrews** is a biracial, Korean American writer living in New Orleans. She has a piece forthcoming from *The Massachusetts Review* and has been published in *Cagibi* for fiction, *Halfway Down*

the Stairs for nonfiction, and *Asymptote* for literary translation. Her work was nominated for a Best of the Net 2020. She was a finalist in the Tennessee Williams and New Orleans Literary Festival's Very Short Fiction Contest in 2023. Kayla assisted Putnam on the posthumous publication of her mother's novel *The Fetishist*, including editing the manuscript. She is an MFA candidate in fiction at Randolph and is working on a novel.



**Jess Armstrong's** debut novel *The Curse of Penryth Hall* won the Mystery Writers of America/Minotaur First Crime Novel Competition. She has a masters degree in American History but

prefers writing about imaginary people to the real thing. Jess lives in New Orleans with her historian husband, two sons, yellow cat, speckled dog, and the world's most pampered school-fair goldfish. And when she's not working on her next project, she's probably thinking about cheese, baking, tweeting or some combination of the above.



**Jubi Arriola-Headley** (he/him) is a Black queer poet and storyteller and author of *Original Kink: Poems* (Sibling Rivalry Press), recipient of the 2021 Housatonic Book Award. His second collection, *Bound*, will

be published by Persea Books in February 2024. Jubi's work has received support from Yaddo, Millay Arts, Lambda Literary, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and his poems have been featured in *Literary Hub*, *Kweli Journal*, and *Southern Humanities Review*, on PBS NewsHour's Brief But Spectacular, and elsewhere. He's currently at work on a memoir in essays, an excerpt of which received the 2023 First Pages Prize. Jubi lives with his husband in South Florida on ancestral Tequesta, Miccosukee, and Seminole lands.

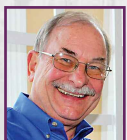


**C. Morgan Babst** is a native of New Orleans. Her essays and short fiction have appeared in such publications as *The Washington Post*, *Saveur*, *The Oxford American*, *Guernica*, *Garden and Gun*, *the Harvard Review*, and the

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.



**Stacey Balkun** is the author of *Sweetbitter* and co-editor of *Fiolet & Wing*. Winner of the 2019 New South Writing Contest, her 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 online at The Poetry Barn and The Loft. She lives and writes in New Orleans.



**Robert Becker**, Ph.D., was chief executive officer of New Orleans City Park from 2001 to 2021, during which he created a nationally recognized master plan that led to its first public funding—over \$200 million in capital

investment. Prior to managing City Park, Dr. Becker held senior management positions at the Audubon Nature Institute and was director of the New Orleans City Planning Commission. He received a National Planning Award from the American Planning Association, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bureau of Governmental Research, a Special Recognition Award from the National Park Service, and was named a Hero of the Katrina Recovery by *New Orleans Magazine*. His book, *New Orleans City Park: From Tragedy to Triumph*, came out in 2023.



**Jaclyn Bethany** is an actor, writer, and Emmy winning filmmaker, as well as a rising Williams scholar. She is co-artistic director of the new female driven company, The Fire Weeds. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Jaclyn

is a graduate of Fordham University, the London Film School (MA) and the American Film Institute (MFA, Directing). She recently played the role of Laura in *The Glass Menagerie* at New Stage Theatre and performed with the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans in *The Six Blanches*. She has directed six feature films which have played prestigious festivals and received distribution worldwide. She recently wrapped indie feature *In Transit* starring Jennifer Ehle and is slated to shoot *All Five Eyes* starring Greta Bellamacina and Honor Swinton-Byrne in the UK later this year. She is on faculty at Loyola University, New Orleans and presented at the Williams scholars conference in 2023.



**George Bishop, Jr.**, grew up in Louisiana but has lived and taught in Slovakia, Turkey, Indonesia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, India, and Japan. His novel, *Letter to My Daughter*, was published by

Random House in 2010. His second, *The Night of the Comet*, also with Random House, was chosen by *Kirkus Reviews* as one of the "Best Books of 2013." In a former life, he starred as Murphy Gilcrease the teenage vampire in the 1988 New World Pictures release *Teen Vamp*.



**Ariadne Blayde** is a playwright and fiction writer based in America's last true bohemia, New Orleans. Her first novel, *Ash Tuesday*, is out from indie press April Gloaming, and her play *The*

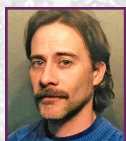
*Other Room* is produced around the world. Her short stories have won contests including the Saints and Sinners Fiction Prize and the Quantum Shorts People's Choice Prize, and her writing has appeared in various anthologies. She writes speculative fiction, historical fiction, and work focusing on social and environmental justice. Ariadne moonlights as a ghost tour guide in the French Quarter.



**Bella Blue** is a New Orleans born and raised mover, shaker, stripper, artist, and pleasure seeker. Since 2007, she began to explore beyond the bounds her formal dance training to expand into

forms of movement that were more sensual. While the majority of her career has been as a burlesque performer, she is also an accomplished pole dancer and movement coach. She's had the honor of representing New Orleans by headlining festivals and events all over the US and Europe. She has solidified her standing as one of the leading producers and educators within the burlesque industry. Everyone's most loved (and sometimes hated) Unicorn Stripper Momme.





**Clint Bowie** is the Artistic Director of the New Orleans Film Society, where he manages the curation of the organization's year-round programming, including the Academy Award-qualifying New Orleans Film Festival. He has served on review committees for ITVS, Creative Capital, National Endowment for the Arts, and Latino Public Broadcasting, and has spoken on panels organized by Sundance Institute, Firelight Media, Center for Asian American Media, and others. He previously worked as a print journalist at publications across the country.



**Nina Bozak** is the curator of rare books at The Historic New Orleans Collection who previously worked in the special collections of both Tulane and Dillard Universities before joining the staff of THNOC in 2010. In addition to her work with its rare books, Nina is also a curator for THNOC's performing arts collections. As a founding member and choreographer of New Orleans's first neo-burlesque group, The Shim Shamettes, and a longtime dancer and choreographer in New Orleans, she works closely with its growing dance-related collections.



**Teresa Tumminello Brader** is a New Orleanian, spurred on to writing by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Her first book, *Letting in Air and Light*, is a work of hybrid memoir/ fiction from Belle Point Press. A collection of short stories is forthcoming in Spring-Summer 2025 from the same press. Her stories, essays, poetry, and reviews can be found at various online literary sites, as well as in print anthologies. She has a bachelor of arts in English from Marquette University, her four years in Milwaukee the only time she lived away from the city of her birth.



**Caroline Bühler** is a graduate student in the American History, Culture, and Society Program at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, Germany. Born in Munich and growing up in Marseille, France, she completed her bachelor's in English Literature and Creative Writing at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. She focuses on intersectional studies, namely the representation of minority groups and systemic injustices in literature and media. Passionate about writing, she has delved into non-fiction by exploring themes related to gender, sexuality, and culture.



**Stephanie Burt** is a poet, literary critic, and professor with nine published books, including two critical books on poetry and three poetry collections. Her essay collection *Close Calls with Nonsense* was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Her other works include *We Are Mermaids*; *Advice from the Lights*; *The Poem is You: 60 Contemporary American Poems and How to Read Them*; *The Art of the Sonnet*; *Something Understood: Essays and Poetry for Helen Vendler*; *The Forms of Youth: Adolescence and 20th Century Poetry*; *Parallel Play: Poems*; *Randall Jarrell on W. H. Auden*; and *Randall Jarrell and His Age*. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times Book Review*, the *London Review of Books*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Believer*, and the *Boston Review*.



**Edward Cahill** is the author of the novel *Disorderly Men* (2023) and the scholarly monograph, *Liberty of the Imagination: Aesthetic Theory, Literary Form, and Politics in the Early United States* (2012). He is Professor of English at Fordham University, where he has taught since 2005. He lives on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.



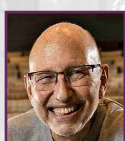
**Cynthia Carr** is the author of *Fire in the Belly: The Life and Times of David Wojnarowicz*, winner of a Lambda Literary Award and finalist for the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize. Her previous books are *Our Town: A Heartland Lynching*, *a Haunted Town*, and *the Hidden History of White America* and *On Edge: Performance at the End of the Twentieth Century*.



**Leslie Castay**, Broadway, film and TV veteran, recently portrayed legendary bad girl Tallulah Bankhead to critical acclaim in Matthew Lombardi's play *Looped* at Jefferson Performing Arts Society, directed by Janet Shea. She won Big Easy awards for her portrayals of Little Edie Beale in *Grey Gardens*, Diana in *Next to Normal*, and for her direction of JPAS' production of *Holiday Inn* last season. She can be seen on TV as the recurring character Alicia Mayfair in Anne Rice's *Mayfair Witches* on AMC TV currently filming its second season. Other TV and Film credits include *The Big Short*, *Green Book*, *NCIS: New Orleans*, *Good Girls*, and many others.



**Stephen Cedars** is a writer, director, teacher and scholar originally from south Louisiana. His plays have been produced or developed both in New York City and throughout the U.S. and Canada, and published by Original Works and Words of Choice. As a producer and director in NYC, he has created work for stages in three boroughs, including several years of community programming. As a scholar, he has presented his work at major conferences and published his work in journals in the U.S. and U.K. Amongst his awards are the Theater Masters Visionary Playwright Award, the Gloria Ann Barnell Peter Award, and the John Golden Playwriting Prize. He earned his MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU, which he attended as a Rita and Burton Goldberg Fellow, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Theatre and Performance Studies with the CUNY Graduate Center.



**Mark Charney** earned his M.A. at the University of New Orleans and his Ph.D. from Tulane and is Chair of Theatre and Dance at Texas Tech University. He was Associate Director of the National Critics Institute for the O'Neill Theatre Center for 19 years and is Professor Emeritus at Clemson University. His play *The Power Behind the Palette* won the David Mark Cohen Award and a stage reading at ATHE in Los Angeles. His *The Balloon Handler Makes Good* was performed at the New Plays Festival in California, the ATHE in DC, Ten for Tenn Festival, and Warner International Festival. International premieres include *Empty Roads with Cars*, Turkey; *Shooting Blanks*, Prague; *Public Domain: A Play with Footnotes*, Dubai; and *The*

*Decameron Project*, Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Upcoming credits and events include *If Christ Were Born in a Barn*, *Dyin' in a Van Ain't so Bad*, the West End; *Revenge of the Oompa Loopas*, Rose Theatre in DC; induction into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre in April, Kennedy Center. He is an honorary member of the Actors Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in L.A. based on his work in criticism and dramaturgy nationwide, and is also Artistic Director of the International Association of Schools of Southeast Asia. Charney created several experiential learning programs at Texas Tech, including the Tennessee Williams Festival Institute in Provincetown, and he helped to raise 50 million dollars for a new theatre and dance complex.



**Wendy Chin-Tanner** is the author of the poetry collections *Turn and Anyone Will Tell You*, editor of *Embodied: An Intersectional Feminist Comics Poetry Anthology*, and copublisher at A Wave Blue World, an independent publishing company for graphic novels. Born and raised in New York City, she lives in the Hudson Valley with her family. *King of the Armadillos* is her first novel.



**Augustin J. Corroero** is a Founding Co-Artistic Director of the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans. The company has produced over 20 Williams plays, many of which Corroero has directed. He has also directed and assistant directed Williams plays in New York, Virginia, Mississippi, and Massachusetts. He holds an MFA in Theatre Pedagogy from Virginia Commonwealth University and a BA in Theatre from Mississippi University for Women. He is a resident of New Orleans and a native of the Mississippi Delta. His book *Tennessee Williams 101* was released in 2021, based on his TW Fest presentations.



**Maureen Corrigan**, book critic for NPR's *Fresh Air*, is The Nicky and Jamie Grant Distinguished Professor of the Practice in Literary Criticism at Georgetown University. She is the winner of the 1999 Edgar Award for Criticism, presented by the Mystery Writers of America. In 2019, Corrigan was awarded the Nona Balakian Citation for Excellence in Reviewing by the National Book Critics Circle. In 2023, Corrigan received the *Washington Monthly* "Kukula" Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Book Reviewing, as well as the John Seigenthaler "Legends" Award. In 2023, Corrigan wrote and filmed a 24-lecture series on banned books, "Forbidden Literary Works," for Wondrium/ Great Courses. Corrigan's book *So We Read On: How The Great Gatsby Came To Be and Why It Endures*, was a *New York Times* Editors' Choice in 2014. Corrigan's literary memoir, *Leave Me Alone, I'm Reading!* was published in 2005.



# WOMEN'S NATIONAL BOOK ASSOCIATION

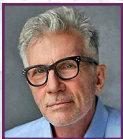
NEW ORLEANS



Encouraging the  
reading of banned  
books since  
Eleanor Roosevelt  
co-founded us.



**Moira Crone**, a New Orleanian, has published six books of fiction and her stories have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Oxford American*, and *Fantasy and Science Fiction*. Her novels are *Period of Confinement*, *The Ice Garden* (2016), winner of the Independent Booksellers Gold Medal, and *The Not Yet* (2012, 2024), finalist for the Philip K Dick Prize for paperback sci fi novel of the year. *The Not Yet* is a text in courses on Eco-Futurism, architecture, and Southern decadence, reprinted in 2024 with new design by UNO Press. She is also a visual artist represented by Sullivan and New Orleans Art Center Galleries.



**Michael Cunningham** is the author of six novels: *A Home at the End of the World*, *Flesh and Blood*, *The Hours*, *Specimen Days*, *By Nightfall*, and *The Snow Queen*, as well as a story collection, *A Wild Swan and Other Tales*, and a book of nonfiction, *Land's End: A Walk in Provincetown*. *The Hours* won the PEN Faulkner Award and the Pulitzer Prize in 1999. It was made into a film starring Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore, and Nicole Kidman. His new novel, *Day*, was published in November 2023.



**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. In February 2024, Brenda opened in the World Premiere of Tina Howe's last play, *Where Women Go*, for a limited run at the HERE Theater in New York.



**Beth Bartley d'Amour** 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.



**Todd d'Amour** is from New Orleans, Syracuse U. (BA Psy); AADA (NYC). NYC credits include Broadway - *Airline Highway*; Off-Bway - *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 Hwy* (Steppenwolf/J Mantello), *Stanley - A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Venus in the Fur*, *Charlie Chaplin - Silent Lives*, *George Bailey - It's a Wonderful Life*. Film/TV: *Wendell - Wendel & 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.



**Matt de Rogatis** is the Chairman and Creative Director of Ruth Stage, a non profit multimedia organization based out of the New York City area. Previous NYC Off Broadway acting credits for de Rogatis include "Frederick Clegg" in the United States premiere of *The Collector* (59E59), "Roy" in *Lone Star* (Theatre Row), "Richard III" in Austin Pendleton's *Wars of the Roses* (124 Bank Street Theatre), "Tom Wingfield" in *The Glass Menagerie* (Wild Project), and "Brick" in the first ever Off Broadway production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* in 2022 opposite Christian Jules Le Blanc as well as the subsequent re-engagement in 2023. Matt is the first man in history to both produce and star in Off Broadway productions of *The Glass Menagerie* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. For more information on Matt and *Ruth Stage* please visit [www.ruthstage.org](http://www.ruthstage.org).



**John Michael DiResta** is a theater director, dramaturg, adapter, playwright, and Assistant Professor at Skidmore College. His work focuses on new play dramaturgy, site-responsive theater, community engagement, and queer liberation. He is particularly interested in the intersections between new work development and theater for social change and highlights in his work the importance of repositioning audience experience in new plays. John's current projects focus on the development of consent-based, trauma-informed, anti-racist pedagogical and rehearsal practices. John Michael has directed at Steppenwolf, LaMama, New Dramatists, Atlantic Theater, MCC Theater, The Hangar Theater, The Dramatists Guild, and The Drama League.



**Margot Douailhy** is the author of *Scorched Grace* (Gillian Flynn Books, 2023). The second book in the Sister Holiday Mystery series, *Blessed Water*, will be released March 12, 2024 from Gillian Flynn Books. She received her Ph.D. in Creative Writing from the University of Lancaster and her BA in English from the University of Pittsburgh. She is 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.



**Gina Ferrara's** poetry collections include *Ethereal Avalanche* (Trembling Pillow Press, 2009), *Amber Porch Light* (Word Tech 2013), *Fitting the Sixth Finger: Poems Inspired by the Paintings of Marc Chagall* (Kelsay Books 2017) and *Weight of the Ripened* (Dos Madres Press, 2020), a finalist for the Eyelands' Poetry Prize. *Amiss*, also published by Dos Madres Press, is her fifth collection. Her work has appeared in numerous journals including *Callaloo*, *The Poetry Ireland Review* and *Tar River Poetry* and was selected for publication in the *Sixty-Four Best Poets of 2019* by Black Mountain Press. Since 2007, she has curated The Poetry Buffet, a monthly reading series in New Orleans and most recently edited *The Poetry Buffet: An Anthology of New Orleans Poetry*.

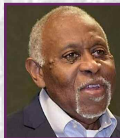




**Randy Fertel**, a former professor of English, is passionate about great stories and fresh ideas. *Kirkus Reviews* called his award-winning book, *A Taste for Chaos: The Art of Literary Improvisation*, “A smart blend of psychology, philosophy and literary history.... A tour de force of reading in the fields of literary theory and history befitting a George Steiner or Erich Auerbach.” His *The Gorilla Man and the Empress of Steak: A New Orleans Family Memoir* unspools untold tales as he tries to make sense of his parents—and himself—in a colorful, food-obsessed New Orleans. His latest, *Winging It: Improv’s Power and Peril in the Time of Trump*, explores improv’s brilliance and its darkness.



**Ariel Francisco** is the author of the forthcoming *All the Places We Love Have Been Left in Ruins* (Burrow Press, 2024), *Under Capitalism If Your Head Aches They Just Yank Off Your Head* (Flowersong Press, 2022), and *A Sinking Ship is Still a Ship* (Burrow Press, 2020), and the translator of Haitian-Dominican poet Jacques Viau Renaud’s *Poet of One Island* (Get Fresh Books, 2024) and Guatemalan poet Hael Lopez’s *Routines/Goodbyes* (Sputen Duvyl, 2022). A poet and translator born in the Bronx to Dominican and Guatemalan parents and raised in Miami, his work has been published in *The New Yorker*, *American Poetry Review*, *Academy of American Poets*, *POETRY Magazine*, *The New York City Ballet*, *Latino Book Review*, and elsewhere. He is Assistant Professor of Poetry and Hispanic Studies at Louisiana State University.



**Levi Frazier, Jr.** is a short story author, award-winning playwright of over 50 plays, a director, producer, screenwriter, actor, and educator. He is Professor Emeritus in theatre at Southwest Tennessee Community College and also taught at the University of Memphis and State Technical Institute at Memphis. His work has been produced nationally in major theatrical markets such as New York, Chicago, Miami, Austin, Hollywood and Memphis. *A Tribute to Richard Wright* was produced by invitation at the Sorbonne for the African-American and Europe International Festival in Paris, France. In 2022 and 2023, Frazier’s *W.C., Tennessee, The Blues, and Me* was produced at the Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Literary Festival. Frazier is co-founder with his wife, Deborah, of Beale Street Repertory Company and Blues City Cultural Center, where he now serves as Artistic Director.



**Lin Gathright** is co artistic director of New Orleans’ new female focused theater company, The Fire Weeds. She is an actress in theater, film, and television. She is currently starring in *Outrage Hearts: The Pretty Trap and Interior Panic*, written by Tennessee Williams and presented by The Fire Weeds at Big Couch.



**Benjamin Gillespie, Ph.D.** (he/him) is Doctoral Lecturer in Communication, Gender Studies, and Theatre at Baruch College, City University of New York. His research centers on the intersection of gender, sexuality, and aging in contemporary theatre and drama. Benjamin is Co-Editor of the *Journal of American Drama and Theatre* and Contributing Editor of *PAJ: A Journal of Performance and Art*. He is currently editing a critical anthology on the New York-based, lesbian-feminist theatre company Split Britches titled *Split Britches: Fifty Years On* (University of Michigan Press, 2024). He is also editing a scholarly anthology titled *Late Stage: Theatrical Perspectives on Age and Aging* with Dr. Cindy Rosenthal (University of Michigan Press, 2025). His articles and reviews have appeared in *Theatre Journal*, *Theatre Topics*, *Performance Research*, *Modern Drama*, *Theatre Survey*, *PAJ*, *Theatre Research in Canada*, and *Canadian Theatre Review*, along with numerous scholarly anthologies.



**LaKesha Glover** is a stage, film, and television actor. She was last seen in The St. Louis Black Repertory Theater’s production of *Dontrell Who Kissed the Sea*, which she also performed with The Nebraska Repertory. Other theatre credits include *Seven Guitars* with the Saint Louis Black Repertory Theater, *String from Mojo and String with No Dream Deferred*, *Small Craft Warning* with the Tennessee Williams Theater Company, and *House of Bernarda Alba* with In Good Company, just to name a few. Film and television credits include *The Adulterer*, *Regret*, *Saturdays* on Disney, *Leverage: Redemption*, *Secrets of Sulphur Springs*, and *Killing It*. She’s currently raising funds to finish filming her own television series, *Rosebud*. Learn more or donate at [www.Lakeshaglover.com](http://www.Lakeshaglover.com)



**Brad Gooch** is a poet, novelist, and biographer whose previous ten books include *Flannery: A Life of Flannery O’Connor*, which was a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist, a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, and a *New York Times* bestseller; *City Poet: The Life and Times of Frank O’Hara*; *Godtalk: Travels in Spiritual America*; and the memoir *Smash Cut*. He is the recipient of National Endowment for the Humanities and Guggenheim fellowships, and lives in New York City.



**Anya Groner** is a journalist, fiction writer, and essayist, with work in *Guernica*, *The New York Times*, *The Oxford American*, *Orion Magazine*, and *The Atlantic*. Her audio reporting and production is featured in Monument Lab’s podcast *Plot of Land* as well as in WWNO/ WRKF’s podcast *Sea Change*. Groner is a recipient of numerous awards, including those from the *Cincinnati Review*, *Studio in the Woods*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Meridian Magazine*, and the Louisiana Board of Regents. She teaches creative writing at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and the New Orleans Writers Workshop.



**Miles Harvey** is the author of *The King of Confidence* (Little, Brown & Co., 2020), a *New York Times Book Review* Editors’ Choice selection. Harvey also wrote *Painter in a Savage Land* (Random House, 2008) and *The Island of Lost Maps* (Random House, 2000), a national bestseller. His collection of short stories, *The Registry of Forgotten Objects*, will be published later this year by Mad Creek Books. Harvey teaches creative writing at DePaul University in Chicago, where he chairs the Department of English and is a founding editor of Big Shoulders Books, a nonprofit, social-justice publisher.



**Carolyn Hembree**’s third poetry collection, *For Today*, is forthcoming from LSU Press as part of their Barataria Series, edited by Ava Leavell Haymon. Carolyn is also the author of *Skinny* and *Rigging a Chevy into a Time Machine and Other Ways to Escape a Plague*, winner of the Trio Award and the Rochelle Ratner Memorial Award. Her poems appear in *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Copper Nickel*, *Poetry Daily*, *The Southern Review*, and other publications. She teaches at the University of New Orleans and serves as the poetry editor of *Bayou Magazine*.



**Skye Jackson** was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her work has appeared in *The Southern Review*, *Electric Literature*, *Green Mountains Review*, *RATTLE* and elsewhere. Her work has been a finalist for the 2023 Iowa Review Poetry Award, the *RATTLE* Poetry Prize, the RHINO Founders’ Prize, and in 2021 she received the AWP Intro Journals Award. Skye’s work was also selected by Billy Collins for inclusion in the Library of Congress Poetry 180 Project. Her debut full-length poetry collection, *Libre*, will be published by Regalo Press and distributed by Simon & Schuster in Spring 2025. She currently teaches at Xavier University.



**Monique Jenkinson** is an artist, choreographer, performer and writer. Her work dwells at the intersection of contemporary dance, cabaret and essay, and considers the performance of femininity as a powerful, vulnerable and subversive act. Her alter-ego Fauxnique made herstory as the first cis-woman ever, anywhere, crowned as a pageant-winning drag queen, and her original works have toured nationally and internationally in wide-ranging contexts from nightclubs to theaters to museums. Her memoir, *Faux Queen* is out now on Amble Press.



**Alex Jennings’** writing has appeared in *Current Affairs Magazine*, [podcastle.org](http://podcastle.org), [pseudopod.org](http://pseudopod.org), *Strange Horizons*, *New Suns*, Volumes 1 and 2, and is forthcoming in *From a Certain Point of View*, the Return of the Jedi 40th-Anniversary anthology. He is the Director of DreamFoundry’s Con or Bust Program and an instructor of Popular Fiction at the Stonecoast MFA program. He writes a speculative poetry review column, “Chapter and Verse,” for the *Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*. His debut novel, *The Ballad of Perilous Graves* (2022) was short-listed for numerous awards and prizes including The Ernest J. Gaines Award, The Ray Bradbury Prize for Speculative Fiction, the Locus Award for Best Debut Novel, and the World Fantasy Award. Born in Germany, he trotted the globe until settling in New Orleans. He is the winner of the inaugural Imagination Unbound Fellowship at Under the Volcano in Tepoztlan, Mexico and the 2023 Compton Crook Prize from the Baltimore Science Fiction Society. Jennings is a graduate of the University of New Orleans.



**David Johnson** is the Director of Marketing and Engagement for the Jefferson Parish Library. He previously served as the digital media editor for *OffBeat* magazine, communications director for the New Orleans Museum of Art, and editor of *Louisiana Cultural Vistas* magazine and KnowLA, the Digital Encyclopedia of Louisiana, at the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.





**T. R. Johnson** has taught at universities in Boston and Louisville, and works now in the Department of English at Tulane. He has lived in the 9th Ward of New Orleans since 1999, and has been hosting a contemporary jazz radio program at WWOZ 90.7 FM since 2001. He is the editor of *New Orleans: A Literary History* and the author of *New Orleans: A Writer's City*.



**Rodney Jones** is the author of eleven poetry books, including *Transparent Gestures*, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, *Elegy for the Southern Drawl*, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and *Salvation Blues*, winner of the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. His other awards include fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2016, he became the second poet to be inducted into the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame.



**David Kaplan** is the author of *Tennessee Williams in Provincetown* (2006) and *Tenn Years* (2015), a collection of essays about Williams in production. He is the editor of *Tenn at One Hundred* (2011) the centennial collection of essays about Williams' reputation. He has staged *Suddenly Last Summer* in Russia (1993), *The Eccentricities of a Nightingale* in Hong Kong (2003), *Ten Blocks on the Camino Real* in Uruguay (2012) and Ghana (2016), and *The Rose Tattoo* in St. Louis (2021). He is curator/cofounder of the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, whose 19th season will be September 26-29, 2024. See [TWPTown.org](http://TWPTown.org)



**Thomas Keith** has edited the Tennessee Williams titles for New Directions since 2002, over twenty 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*—a collection of LGBTQ essays about New York City. His writing has appeared in *American Theatre* magazine, the *Gay & Lesbian Review*, and *Studies in Scottish Literature*. His chapter on Frederick Douglas and Burns was just published in *The Oxford Handbook of Robert Burns*. He has served as dramaturge for Sundance Institute Theater Lab and teaches theater at Pace University in New York.



**Christine Kwon** writes and teaches in New Orleans. Her debut book of poems, *A Ribbon the Most Perfect Blue*, is winner of the Cowles Poetry Book Prize and published by Southeast Missouri State University Press (2023). She lives in a yellow shotgun house with her husband and newborn son, Louis.



**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*. His most recent book is *When Rex Met Zulu and Other Chronicles of the New Orleans Experience* (February 2024). 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 35 documentaries, including *A Conversation with Tennessee Williams* and, most recently, *Literary New Orleans*. 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.



**John H. Lawrence**, a New Orleans native, was responsible for building the extensive photographic holdings at The Historic New Orleans Collection, where he worked for 46 years before retiring as director of museum programs at the end of 2020. As THNOC's head of curatorial collections, Lawrence oversaw holdings numbering more than half a million items. He has written and lectured widely about contemporary and historic photography and about the administration and preservation of pictorial collections, and he has curated dozens of exhibitions on a wide range of photographic, artistic, and general historical topics. He holds degrees in literature and art history from Vassar College and a certificate in museum management from the Getty Leadership Institute, formerly the Museum Management Institute. His book, *Louisiana Lens: Photographs from The Historic New Orleans Collection*, was published in November 2023.

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**Christian Jules le Blanc's** theater credits include the role of Big Daddy in Ruth Stage's Off-Broadway production of *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, *Ladies In Retirement*, with the legendary actresses Julie Harris and Eileen Brennan, in Los Angeles; Mimi in Richard Kondolian's *Fairy Garden*; Neil and Paul in the original plays *Arc Light* and *The Fresca Wars*, respectively, and *No Orchids for Miss Blandish*, *The Catonsville Nine*, and *Appearances to the Contrary*, a series of Joe Pintauro's one acts directed by Charles Nelson Reilly. Television credits include series regular roles on *In the Heat of the Night* and *As the World Turns*. Le Blanc has just celebrated his 30th anniversary on *The Young and the Restless* in the role of Michael Baldwin, for which he has been awarded three Emmys for Outstanding Lead Actor.



**Chin-Sun Lee** is the author of the debut novel *Upcountry* (Unnamed Press 2023), listed among *Publishers Weekly's* Big Indie Books of Fall 2023 and *Debutiful's* Most Anticipated Debut Books of 2023. She's one of *Poets & Writers's* 5 Over 50 Debut Authors of 2023 and is also a contributor to the *New York Times*-bestselling anthology *Women in Clothes* (Blue Rider Press/Penguin 2014). Her stories, essays, and reviews have appeared in *The Georgia Review*, *The Rumpus*, *Joyland*, and *The Believer* *Logger*, among other publications.



**Margit Longbrake**, managing editor of the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, has overseen the first-time publication of a number of primary Williams texts unearthed from the archives. As senior editor at The Historic New Orleans Collection, she acquires and edits books and museum publications, including *Afro-Creole Poetry in French from Louisiana's Radical Civil War-Era Newspapers*, translated and introduced 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 worked at the Modern Language Association, where she acquired and developed pedagogical anthologies and literary translations and contributed to the eighth edition of the *MLA Handbook*.



**Annell López** is a Dominican immigrant. She is the winner of the Louise Meriwether First Book Prize and the author of the short story collection *I'll Give You A Reason*, forthcoming in 2024 from the Feminist Press. A Peter Taylor Fellow at the *Kenyon Review* Writers Workshops, her work has also received support from *Tin House* and has appeared in *Guernica*, *American Short Fiction*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Brooklyn Rail*, and elsewhere. López received her MFA from the University of New Orleans. She is an assistant fiction editor for the *New Orleans Review* and is working on a novel.



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



**Julia Malye** is the author of four novels published in France and works as a translator for Les Belles Lettres publishing house. At the age of 21, she moved to the United States to study the craft of fiction and graduated from Oregon State University's MFA program in 2017. Since 2015, she's taught creative writing to hundreds of students, both in the United States and in France. She wrote her fourth novel, *La Louisiane*, and English debut, *Pelican Girls*, both in French and in English. *Pelican Girls* is being translated in 25 languages.



**Tara Lynn Masih** is a National Jewish Book Award Finalist and winner of the Julia Ward Howe Award for Young Readers for her debut novel *My Real Name Is Hanna*. Her anthologies include *The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction* and *The Chalk Circle: Intercultural Prizewinning Essays*. Her latest collection, *How We Disappear: Novella & Stories*, won a 2022 Florida Book Award, and she has published multiple chapbooks with the Feral Press that are archived in universities such as Yale and NYU. She founded the Intercultural Essay Prize in 2006 and *The Best Small Fictions* series in 2015. Masih received a finalist citation grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, an Inspirational Woman in Literature Award from AITL Media, and several national book awards including an IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award for her role as an editor.



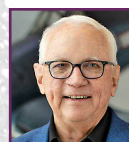
**Nick Medina**, born in Chicago, Illinois, and a member of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, appreciates local and Native folklore, which, along with research into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) epidemic, inspired his debut novel, *Sisters of the Lost Nation*. When he's not writing, he enjoys playing guitar, exploring curiosities and oddities, and spending time with family. His latest novel, *Indian Burial Ground*, will be available April 16, 2024.



**Tom Mitchell** is emeritus professor of Theatre at the University of Illinois and Festival Scholar for the Tennessee Williams Festival St. Louis. His edition *The Caterpillar Dogs: Early Stories by Tennessee Williams* was published by New Directions in 2023, and another critical edition *Tennessee Williams: Early Stories from St. Louis* will be available from the University of Iowa Press in 2025. Mitchell edited "Why Did Desdemona Love the Moor?" and "The Lost Girl" for the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*. Most recently, Tom staged "Men from the Polar Star," a science-fiction story, for the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival.



**Benjamin Morris**, a native of Mississippi, is the author of one book of nonfiction and two prior books of poetry, most recently *Ecotone* (Antenna/Press Street Press, 2017). His work has appeared in *The Oxford American*, *Lithub*, and *The Southern Review*, and received fellowships from the Mississippi Arts Commission and Tulane University. Winner of the 2021 Words & Music Writing Competition for Poetry, judged by Aimee Nezhukumatathil, his next collection of poetry is forthcoming from Belle Point Press in 2025. He lives in New Orleans, where he serves as one of the coordinators for the New Orleans Poetry Festival.



**Gordon "Nick" Mueller, Ph.D.**, is President and CEO Emeritus of The National WWII Museum. He assisted historian Stephen Ambrose in founding the institution, initially known as The National D-Day Museum, and led the organization as Chairman of the Board from 1998 through its construction and fundraising to its opening on June 6, 2000. Since stepping into semi-retirement in 2017, Dr. Mueller is now engaged in research and writing, drawing from his 33-year career as a professor at the University of New Orleans.



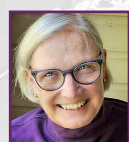
**Brenda Murphy** is Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus at the University of Connecticut and past president of the American Theatre and Drama Society. Her scholarly work reflects her interest in placing American drama, theater, and performance in the broader context of American literature and culture. Among her books are *The Theatre of Tennessee Williams* (2014) and *Tennessee Williams and Elia Kazan: A Collaboration in the Theatre* (1992). Recently, she has focused on writing fiction, including *When Light Breaks Through: A Salem Witch Trials Story* (2023), *Becoming Carlotta: A Biographical Novel* (2018), and *After the Voyage: An Irish American Story* (2016).



**M.A. Nicholson** is a New Orleans poet, editor, educator, journalist, and a co-founder of LMNL Arts. An alumna of Loyola University and a M.F.A. graduate from the University of New Orleans—where she served as an Associate Poetry Editor for *Bayou Magazine*—M.A. was the recipient of the 2021 Andrea-Saunders Gereighty Academy of American Poets Award and was selected for publication in *Best New Poets 2022*. Her debut poetry collection, *Around the Gate* (Word Works Books, 2024), was selected by judge Carolyne Wright as a winner for the Hilary Tham Capital Collection prize.



**Stuart Noel, Ph.D.**, is Professor of English and Film at Georgia State University in Atlanta. He has lectured widely both here and abroad as a scholar of Tennessee Williams and Truman Capote. Dr. Noel founded and chairs the Truman Capote Literary Society. He is the recipient of the 2018 Scholar's Award at the Tennessee Williams Tribute in Columbus, Mississippi, the birthplace of Tennessee Williams. He is currently editing the book *Studies in the Works and Life of Truman Capote* for Cambridge Scholars Publishing to be released in late 2024.



**Rose Norman** is a retired college professor who taught English at the University of Alabama in Huntsville for 27 years. She directed the Business and Technical Writing Program, co-founded and was first Director of Women's Studies, and for her last four years chaired the English Department. Her work as general editor of the Southern Lesbian Feminist Activist Herstory Project led her to co-edit six special issues of *Sinister Wisdom* and over ten years' research on the Pagoda residential community and cultural center. *The Pagoda: A Lesbian Community by the Sea* (2024) is her first book.





**R. Barton Palmer** is Calhoun Professor of Literature emeritus at Clemson University. An award-winning translator and critic, he is the author or editor of more than sixty books in the fields of cinema studies and medieval literature.



**Alison Pelegrin** is the Louisiana Poet Laureate. Her most recent collection is *Our Lady of Bewilderment* (LSU Press 2022). Other Books include *Waterlines* (2016), *Hurricane Party* (2011) and *Big Muddy River of Stars* (2007). The recipient of a Creative Writing Fellowship from the NEA and an ATLAS Grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents, she is Writer-in-Residence at Southeastern Louisiana University. Her work has appeared in *Bennington Review*, *The Missouri Review*, *the Southern Review*, and as printable broadsides at BroadSided Press.



**Joshua E. Polster, Ph.D.**, is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Emerson College. He previously served as President of the Arthur Miller Society and is currently a member of their Board of Directors, as well as the Editorial Board of the *Arthur Miller Journal*. He is the author of several articles on U.S. theatre and performance. His books include *Stages of Engagement: U.S. Theatre and Performance 1898-1949*, *The Routledge Anthology of U.S. Drama*, *Reinterpreting the Plays of Arthur Miller*, and Methuen Drama's critical editions of Arthur Miller's *A Memory of Two Mondays* and *Incident at Vichy*.



**John Pope**, a New Orleans-based reporter since 1973, was a member of The Times-Picayune team that won two Pulitzer Prizes, a George Polk Award and a National Headliner Award for coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Texas, where he worked on the student newspaper and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Pope is a co-author of *Building on the Past: Saving Historic New Orleans* (2019) and author of *Getting Off at Elysian Fields: Obituaries from the New Orleans Times-Picayune* (2015). He is a member of the Society of Professional Obituary Writers, whose members call themselves Grimmies.



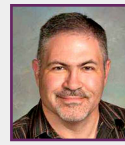
**John "Ray" Proctor, Ph.D.**, is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Tulane University, Department of Theatre. He holds a BA in English (Webster University), an MFA in Acting (West Virginia University), and a Ph. D. in Theatre Research (University of Wisconsin Madison). He has played Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* (The Organic Theatre), Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* (Arizona Repertory Theatre), *Othello* (The Greenbriar), and *Airline Highway* and *Father Come 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). In September 2022 his essay "Romeo and Juliet at an HBCU" was published in the essay collection *Romeo and Juliet, Adaptation, and the Arts: 'Cut Him Out in Little Stars'* (The Arden Shakespeare). In January of 2023 his essay "Reconsidering and Recasting" was published in *Contemporary Black Theatre and Performance: Acts of Rebellion, Activism, and Solidarity* (Bloomsbury Press). His primary research examines the intersection of race, casting, and the peculiarities and specifics of Identity-Conscious casting practices, particularly in Shakespeare.



**Anna Christina (Tina) Radziwill** is the daughter of the late Prince Stanislas Radziwill of Poland and Lee Bouvier Radziwill, sister of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis. President John F. Kennedy was her uncle and godfather. Tina's mother and Truman Capote were close friends for many years, and Tina fondly recalls Capote through warm memories and family anecdotes.



**Brad Richard's** fifth poetry collection, *Turned Earth*, is forthcoming from LSU Press in Spring 2025. Other publications include *Parasite Kingdom* (The Word Works, 2019—winner of the 2018 Tenth Gate Prize) and the chapbook *In Place* (Seven Kitchens Press, 2022—winner of the 2021 Robin Becker Series Prize). He has taught at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, The Willow School, Louisiana State University, and Tulane University, and currently teaches for New Orleans Writers Workshop and the Kenyon Review Writers Workshop for Teachers. Series editor of The Word Works's Hilary Tham Capital Collection, he 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.



**Sascha Rothchild** is an Emmy award-winning writer, executive producer and showrunner who has written and produced the critically acclaimed global hits *XO, Kitty*, *The Baby-Sitters Club*, *The Bold Type* and *GLOW* to name a few. Sascha also adapted her *LA Weekly* cover article, "How To Get Divorced By 30," about her failed first marriage, into both a memoir for Penguin and a screenplay for Universal Studios. Amidst her screen work and personal articles seen in *Elle*, *Women's Health* and *Psychology Today*, Sascha has published her first novel, *Blood Sugar*, with Putnam. It was listed as a *New York Times* 'Best of' in 2022 and 2023. Sascha hails from Miami Beach, lives in Los Angeles, and always wears sunscreen.



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



**Maurice Carlos Ruffin** is the author of the forthcoming historical novel, *The American Daughters*, as well as *The Ones Who Don't Say They Love You*, which was a One Book One New Orleans selection, a *New York Times* Editor's Choice, and was longlisted for the Story Prize. His debut, *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 the *Iowa Review* Award in fiction and the Louisiana Writer Award. Ruffin is a professor of Creative Writing at Louisiana State University.



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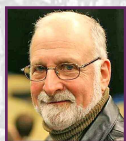
**Annette J. Saddik**, Ph.D. is Distinguished Professor of Literature and Theatre at the City University of New York, specializing in 20th and 21st century drama, most notably the work of Tennessee Williams. She has published four books, including *Tennessee Williams and the Theatre of Excess*, and a collection of Williams' late plays, *The Traveling Companion*. Saddik has served as a Lortel voter, advises on productions internationally, and participates regularly in audience "talk-backs" on and off Broadway. She sits on the board of the *Journal of Contemporary Drama in English*, and is Performance Review Editor of *The Tennessee Williams Annual Review*.



**Kerstin Schmidt** is Professor of English and Chair of American Studies at the University of Munich's "Amerika-Institut." In over 10 monographs/edited volumes and over 30 essays, she has written on 19th and 20th-century American literature and culture, focusing on American drama and theater, race and diaspora studies, theories of space/place as well as on media theory and documentary photography. She is deputy director of the Bavarian American Academy (BAA) and president of the German Society for the Study of Theater and Drama in English (CDE).



**Nancy Schoenberger** is a poet and biographer, author of three prize-winning books of poetry and several biographies. Her co-authored books, *Furious Love: Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, and the Marriage of the Century*, and *The Fabulous Bouvier Sisters*, were *New York Times* bestsellers. Her family hails from Louisiana, but she currently lives in Virginia with her partner and sometimes co-writer, Sam Kashner.



**Henry Schvey** is professor of Drama and Comparative Literature at Washington University in St. Louis, the university where Tennessee Williams studied during 1936-37. Prior to arriving at Washington University, he was Associate Professor of English at Leiden University in the Netherlands. There, he founded the Leiden English Speaking Theatre. He has published extensively on modern and contemporary American drama, including essays on Albee, O'Neill, Ibsen, Mamet, Shepard, and Miller. He has published widely on Tennessee Williams, including a forthcoming essay on *Summer and Smoke* in the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*. His most recent book is *Blue Song: St. Louis in the Life and Work of Tennessee Williams*, published in 2021.



**David R. Slayton** (He/Him) grew up in Guthrie, Oklahoma, where finding fantasy novels was pretty challenging and finding fantasy novels with diverse characters was downright impossible. Now he lives in Denver and writes the books he always wanted to read. His debut, *White Trash Warlock*, was a finalist for the Colorado Book Award. In 2015, David founded Trick or Read, an initiative to give out books along with candy to children on Halloween, as well as uplift lesser-known authors or those from marginalized backgrounds. His latest release is *Dark Moon, Shallow Sea*, an epic fantasy.



**Judy Lea Steele** is an interdisciplinary actress, playwright, poet and performance artist, receiving her MFAW from the School of the Art Institute in Chicago in 2023. As a writer, her focus is women and the dualities they must employ in order to thrive, sometimes survive. Her work across disciplines has been shared and recognized in New Orleans, Chicago, New York and Los Angeles, most recently at Imnl arts Winterfest in New Orleans. An avid Tennessee Williams fan, she has a large, well-worn library and the good fortune to have brought many of his female characters to life, often here at home.



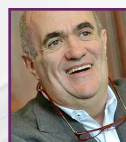
**Jacob Storms** is best known for his recurring role (Serge) on Steven Soderbergh and Gregory Jacobs' Amazon Original Series, *Red Oaks*. Storms is also writer/actor of the solo play *Tennessee Rising: The Dawn of Tennessee Williams*, originally directed for the stage by Alan Cumming, for which Jacob won the United Solo Award for Best One-Man Show. Most recently he performed a critically-acclaimed, twenty-three back-to-back performance run of *Tennessee Rising* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with Assembly, for which Jacob was nominated for the Off-West End (Offie) Award and shortlisted for the Brighton Fringe Award for Excellence. Storms has also performed at Carnegie Hall, The Guggenheim Museum, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Bill T. Jones' New York Live Arts, BAM, Symphony Space, The St. Louis, New Orleans, and Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festivals, The Hollywood Bowl, L.A.'s Disney Concert Hall, PICA's Time-Based Art Festival, Rochester Fringe Festival, and more. Jacob is also the youngest actor in the world to have ever performed Doug Wright's Pulitzer Prize winning, forty-character solo play, *I Am My Own Wife*.



**Nisi Sturgis** is an actress, educator, director, adapter, collaborator, a grateful partner, and delighted and exhausted parent. As an AEA and SAG member, she's appeared On and Off Broadway, and spent five years as June Thompson on HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*. Regionally she has worked at theatres including the Chautauqua Theatre Company, Denver Center, Old Globe, Shakespeare Theatre of NJ, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and toured in *Disgraced* at the Goodman, Seattle Rep, and Berkeley Rep. She has performed at St. Louis, Provincetown, and is very happy to be returning to the New Orleans Tennessee Williams Festival. Nisi is a Ragdale Foundation Fellow. At University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, she is grateful to serve as an Assistant Professor of Acting. LOVE & ART!



**Sidney Thompson** is the author of *The Bass Reeves Trilogy*, award-winning historical fiction that is the inspiration for *Lawmen: Bass Reeves*, the upcoming Paramount+ miniseries directed by Taylor Sheridan (*Yellowstone*, 1883, and 1923) and starring David Oyelowo, Dennis Quaid, and Donald Sutherland. *Bass Reeves* became the most successful lawman of the American Old West after escaping slavery and inspired the fictitious character the Lone Ranger. Thompson holds a Ph.D. in American literature/African-American narratives and an M.F.A. in creative writing. Thompson currently lives in Fort Worth, where he teaches creative writing and African-American literature at Texas Christian University.



**Colm Tóibín** was born in Ireland in 1955. He is the author of eleven novels, including *The Master*, winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize; *Brooklyn*, winner of the Costa Book Award; and *The Magician*, winner of the Rathbones Folio Prize; two collections of stories, and several books of criticism. He has been three times shortlisted for the Booker Prize. In 2021, he was awarded the David Cohen Prize for Literature. He is the Irene and Sidney B. Silverman Professor of the Humanities at Columbia University and was appointed the Laureate for Irish Fiction 2022-2024. Tóibín lives in Dublin and New York. His latest novel, *Long Island*, the sequel to his prize-winning, bestselling novel *Brooklyn*, comes out May 17, 2024 from Scribner.



**Justin Torres** is the author of *Blackouts* (October 2023), which won the 2023 National Book Award for Fiction. His debut novel, *We the Animals*, won the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award, was translated into fifteen languages, and was adapted into a feature film. He was named a National Book Foundation "5 Under 35," a Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University, a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, and a Cullman Center Fellow at the New York Public Library.



**Adrian Van Young** is the author of the short story collection, *The Man Who Noticed Everything* (Black Lawrence Press), the novel, *Shadows in Summerland* (Open Road Media), and the short story collection, *Midnight Self* (Black Lawrence Press in October 2023). His fiction, non-fiction, and criticism have been published or are forthcoming in *Electric Literature's* Recommended Reading, *Black Warrior Review*, *Conjunctions*, *Guernica*, *BOMB*, *Granta*, *McSweeney's*, and *The New Yorker* online, among others. He teaches high school Creative Writing and English, and lives in New Orleans with his family.



**M.O. Walsh** is from Baton Rouge, LA. He is the author of three books, the novels *The Big Door Prize* and *My Sunshine Away*, and the story collection *The Prospect of Magic*. *My Sunshine Away* was a *New York Times* Bestseller and winner of the Pat Conroy Book Prize. *The Big Door Prize* was a semifinalist for the Thurber Award for American Humor and is now streaming as a TV series on Apple TV+, adapted by David West Read (Emmy winning Writer/Producer of *Schitt's Creek*). Walsh is the director of the Creative Writing Workshop at UNO.



# Delgado Theatre Production—*Five by Tenn*

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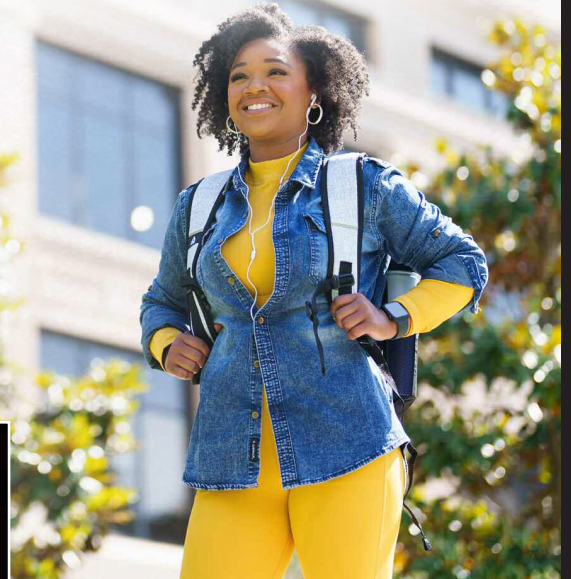
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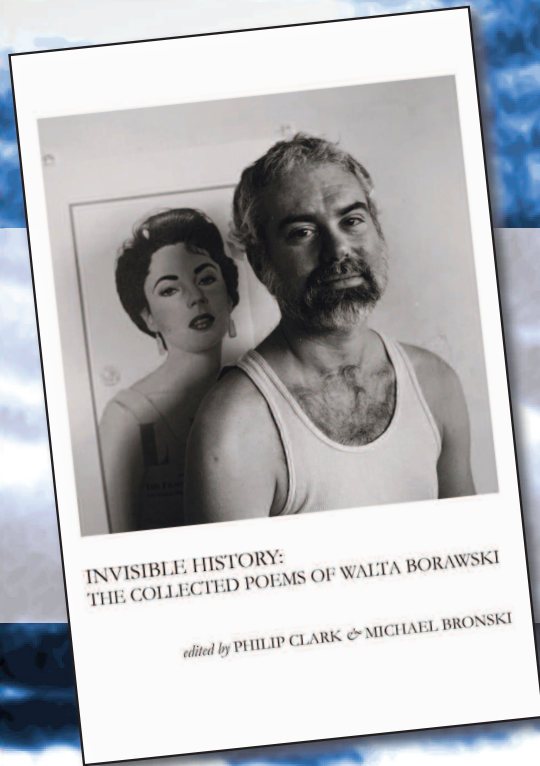
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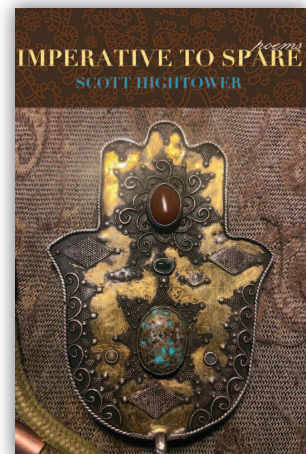
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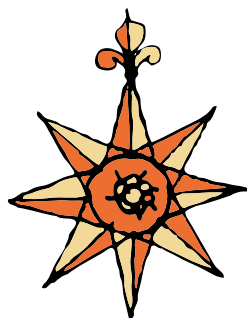
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**The courtyard of Tennessee Williams' former apartment at 722 Toulouse Street in 1953.**  
 Source: The Collins C. Diboll Vieux Carré Digital Survey at The Historic New Orleans Collection.



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I went out drinking that night in the company of friends that were mine,  
not yours,  
and when I returned after midnight, a telephone call let me know  
that you had died at eleven.

—from “The Final Day of Your Life,” by Tennessee Williams

## Tennessee Williams Annual Review

Volume 23 (2024)

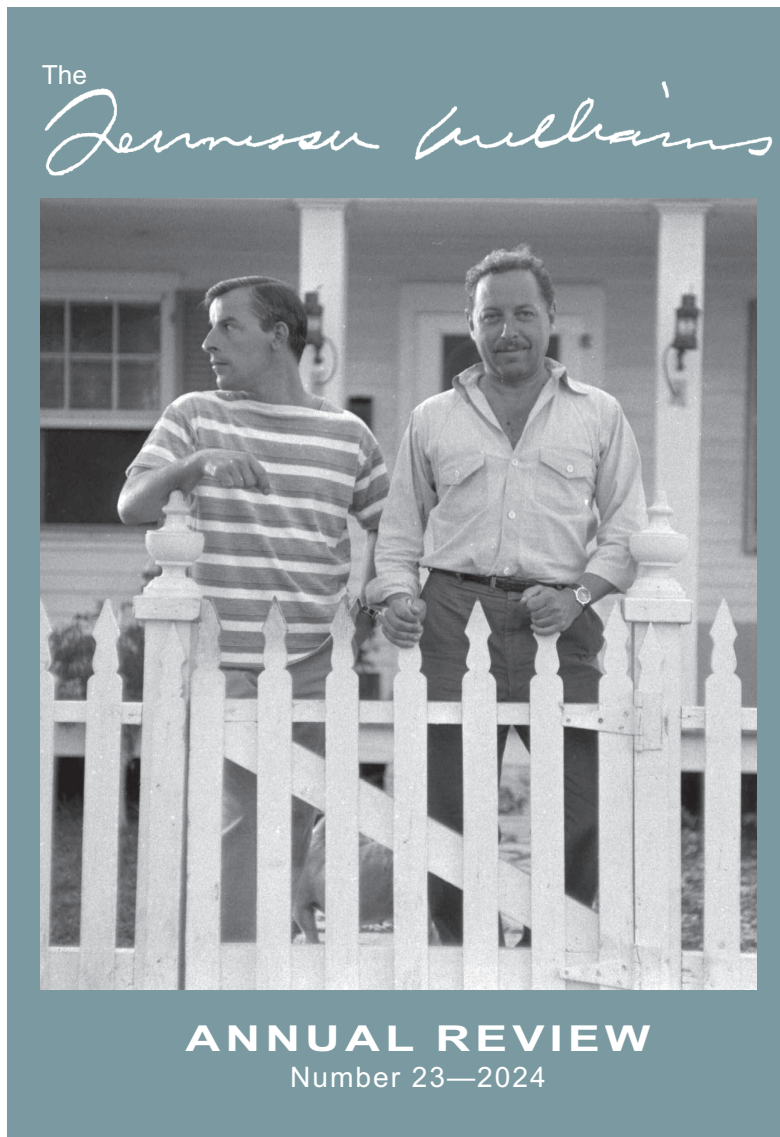
edited by R. Barton Palmer

Appearing for the first time in print, Tennessee Williams’s moving poem “The Final Day of Your Life” describes the playwright’s last visit with Frank Merlo, his life companion of nearly 15 years. Midcentury discrimination kept their loving, turbulent same-sex relationship out of the public eye, but in private Williams could pen his conflicted grief in straightforward language. Inside the issue, scholars explore a little-known painting by Williams and highlight new biographical material—while a treasure trove of essays on inventive stage productions shows the playwright’s work reflecting and shaping cultures on two continents.

Founded in 1998, the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review* remains the only 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](http://tennesseewilliamsstudies.org).

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