

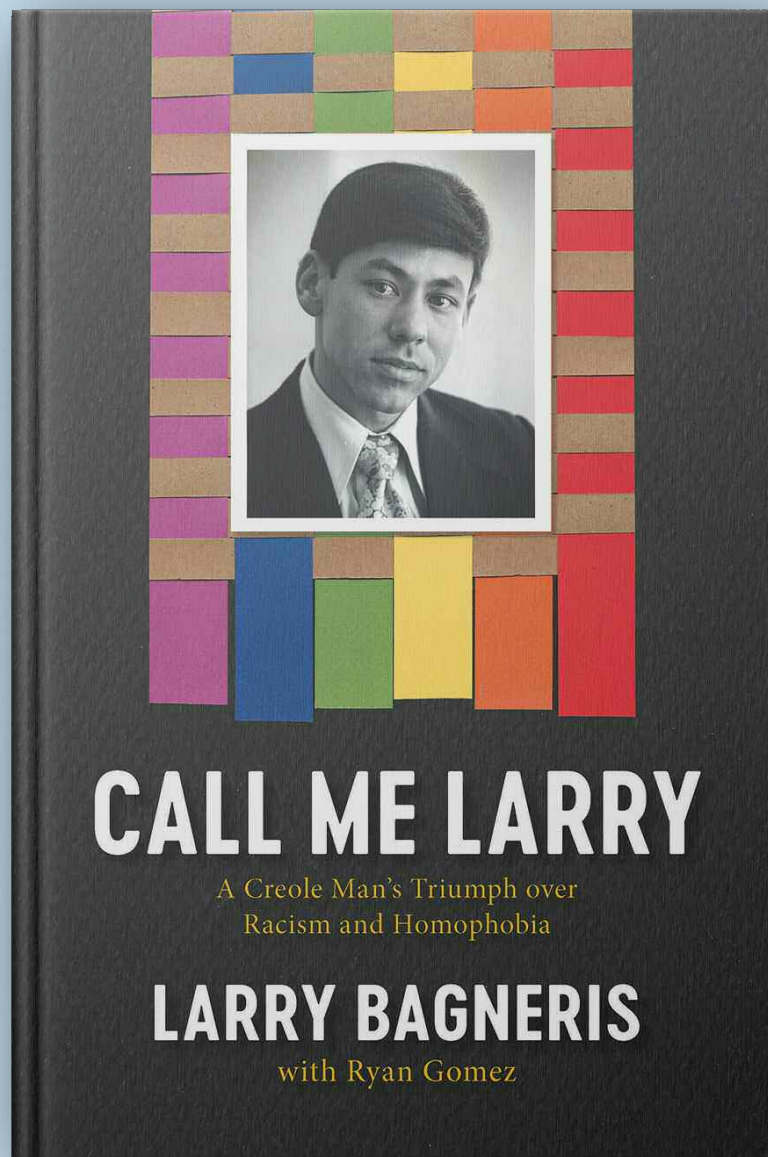
39th Annual
TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL



MARCH 26-30, 2025
TENNESSEEWILLIAMS.NET

PHOTO BY FRANK RELLE

New in Print from HNOC



In this bracing, uplifting, and sometimes laugh-out-loud **memoir**, Bagneris recalls his **activist career**: as founder of Houston's Pride Parade and as a **political organizer** and mainstay of New Orleans's **gay community**.



The Historic
New Orleans Collection
MUSEUM • RESEARCH CENTER • PUBLISHER



hnoc.org

SAINTS + SINNERS

LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL • NEW ORLEANS



MARCH 28 - 30, 2025



SAINTS + SINNERS LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL MARCH 28-30 at the Hotel Monteleone

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

A program of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival, 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 spokespeople 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 + 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.

Paintings of Dorothy Allison, James Baldwin, Audre Lorde and Tennessee Williams by Timothy Cummings.

THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS BALL

The Tennessee Williams Ball is set for **Sunday, June 1**, from 7 to 10 pm at the **Hotel Peter and Paul**, 2317 Burgundy Street, New Orleans 70117.

Prepare for a night of dancing and revelry under the stained glass prisms of this 19th Century former church, now a sumptuous event space and part of the Hotel Peter and Paul.

- Music by **DJ Sailor Hank**, **Alexis & the Sanity**, and **The Slick Skillet Serenaders**
- A Royal Tableau featuring **Vinsantos**, **Tsarina Hellfire**, and the **Mudlark Puppeteers**
- Presentation of our inaugural Tennessee Williams Ball Angel, **LadyBEAST**
- Open Bar by **SAZERAC / Goldring Family Foundation**
- Tarot Readings by **Seeress MuggaRose**
- Tiny rose tattoos by **Hell or High Water Tattoo**
- All hosted by **Michelle Antoinette Nelson**, aka **LOVE the poet**

Join Us for a Magical Evening!
www.tennesseewilliams.net



TENNESSEE WILLIAMS & NEW ORLEANS LITERARY FESTIVAL



EXECUTIVE BOARD

Gregory Gajus, *President*
Lawrence Henry Gobble, *Immediate Past President*
Sara W. Woodard, *Vice President*
Terry Verigan, *Treasurer*
Michelle Nelson, *Secretary*
C. Morgan Babst, *Member-at-Large*
Peggy Scott Laborde, *Member-at-Large*
Amelia W. Koch, *Member-at-Large*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sara Barnard
Beau Bratcher
David Hoover
David Johnson
D.J. Johnson
Errol Laborde, Ph.D
Margit Longbrake
Mary Niall Mitchell, Ph.D
Angel Parham, Ph.D
Edward Spots
Ariel Wilson-Harris

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Paul Willis

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Tracy Cunningham

FESTIVAL PUBLICIST

Reine Dugas

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Nancy Gorman

CONTEST COORDINATOR & FESTIVAL ASSISTANT

Morgan Hufstader

BOX OFFICE MANAGER & FESTIVAL ASSISTANT

Norah Clifford

FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Ride Hamilton

FESTIVAL VIDEOGRAPHER

The Bend Media

WEB DESIGNER

Cherry Cappel

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Toan Nguyen

ORIGINAL FESTIVAL LOGO

Arthur Nead

WRITERS' CIRCLE

Addie Citchens, Anne Gisleson,
Skye Jackson, Alex Jennings,
Adam Karlin, Annell López,
E.M. Tran, Nikki Ummel,
Adrian Van Young

Welcome to the FESTIVAL!

Hello, honored guests, esteemed colleagues, patrons, students and supporters of literature, drama and the allied arts! I want to extend a special thank you to Paul and Tracy, our dedicated board members, our faithful interns, and partners that make this incredible gathering possible.

Thirty-nine years, y'all! What started as the topic of a casual lunch conversation and \$500 in seed money has grown to become an acclaimed arts festival with an international reach. Over the years, a who's who of cultural workers, actors, writers, and visual artists have continued the good work of the Festival.



Gregory Gajus and Lawrence Henry Gobble

"A persistent dream has meaning, and is sometimes fulfilled," wrote Tennessee Williams in his transfixing *Memoirs*. Thirty-nine years ago on Halloween, a group of "persistent dreamers" met at Mandina's Restaurant. Errol Laborde (in those days the editor of *Gambit*) was a dreamer that night, and so was Don Marshall, the director of *Le Petit Theatre* and later the executive director of the Jazz and Heritage Festival.

This year, we invite you to enjoy our very robust program of literary offerings. Learn from the experts at our Writer's Craft workshops, attend panel discussions with influential writers and publishers, or explore the world of Tennessee Williams's scholarship. Immerse yourself in Tennessee's New Orleans with historical-literary tours of the French Quarter, culinary events like Poppy Tooker's Drag Brunch, and our now-famous daytime music series, *Drummer and Smoke*, featuring contemporary jazz, roots, and blues masters.

By night, enjoy parties, music, and live theater events. We are particularly excited this year to be in partnership with The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans and The Mudlark Public Theater. We also have exciting new works at The Twilight Room, including a speculative eco-feminist play, a piece about the journey of the mid-career artist, and a performance by an international cabaret legend, *Kitten on the Keys*.

I must invite you to three very special events: our opening night with the truly iconic *Midnight Movie* idol Mink Stole, our annual Tennessee Williams Tribute Reading, and the new festival favorite the *Last Bohemia Soiree* at the Toulouse Theater. This year's *Soiree* features a showtune-themed cocktail party followed by a seated performance of the hysterical and touching *Tim Murray is Witches* direct from its sold-out run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and US tour.

Please become a member. Your membership contribution funds the festival and ensures that its promise will continue to be fulfilled for the next generation of people who dare to dream!"

Welcome,

"Mister" Gregory Gajus

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.



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

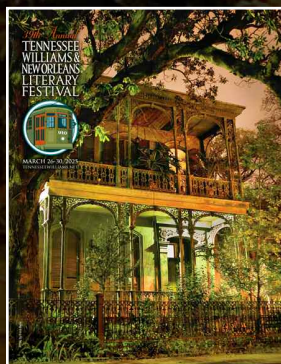
PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON

Table of CONTENTS

Saints + Sinners 2025	1
Board of Directors/Welcome	2
Festival Event Grids	4
Map of Festival Sites	8
Opening Night	9
The Last Bohemia	13
Walking Tours	10
Thursday Schedule	14
TW Scholars Conference	17
Friday Schedule	18
Saturday Schedule	22
Drummer & Smoke	26
Sunday Schedule	27
Funding Support for the Festival	30
Festival Participants	35

Official Festival Bookstore:

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



Cover:
Photo by Frank Relle

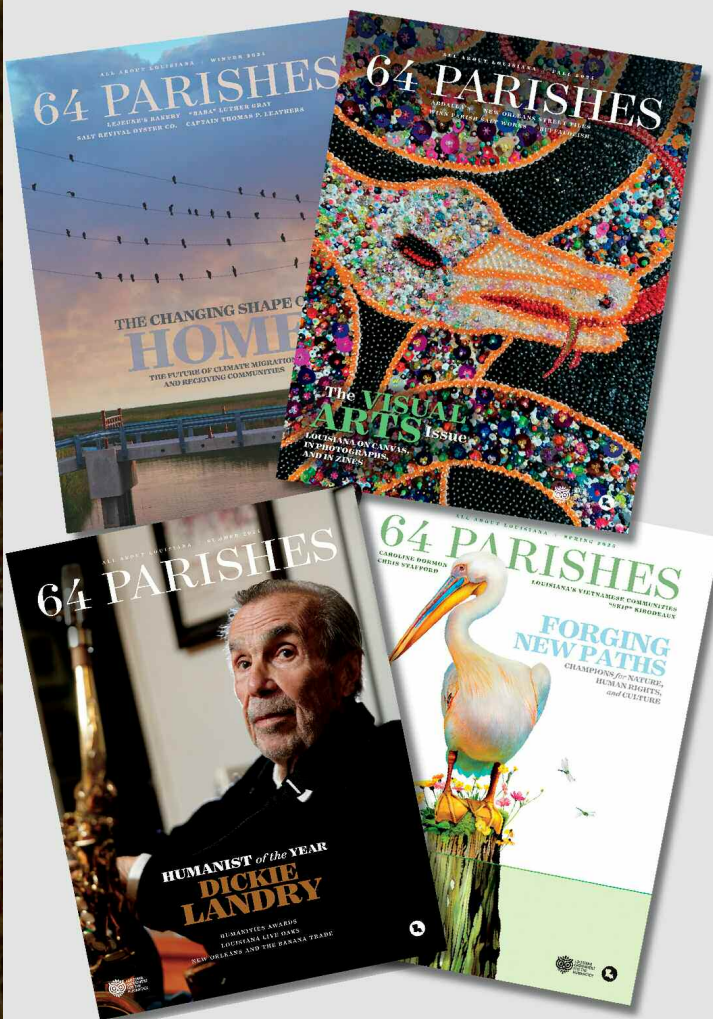
Program layout and graphics:
Toan Nguyen

Printer:
Pel Hughes Printing
3801 Toulouse St. • New Orleans, LA 70119 • 504.486.8646
info@pelhughes.com • pelhughes.com

Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival
938 Lafayette St., Suite 514 • New Orleans, LA 70113 • 504.581.1144
info@tennesseewilliams.net • www.tennesseewilliams.net

64 PARISHES

ALL ABOUT LOUISIANA



1 YEAR FOR \$25

2 YEARS FOR \$40

Subscribe now at
64parishes.org.

or by scanning the QR code below

published by



2025 FESTIVAL EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR
9:00 AM New Orleans Writing Marathon
10 AM - 12 Noon Tour: Hands That Rocked the Creole Cradle: Women of the French Quarter
10:30 AM - 12 Noon Tour: Writers in New Orleans: Finding Their Place, Defining the City
11 AM - 12:30 PM Tour: LGBTQ+ French Quarter
Various Times Author Book Signings

HOTEL MONTELEONE ROYAL SALON
10 - 11:15 AM Justin Maxwell Adaptation and the Love of Craft
11:30 AM - 12:45 PM E.M. Tran Make It Weird: Crafting the Uncanny or Absurd into Scene
1:30 - 2:45 PM Jacob Budenz Merging Worlds: Tarot As Ekphrasis for Creative and Reflective Writing
3 - 4:15 PM Chin-Sun Lee Prose From Imagery

VARIOUS LOCATIONS
10 AM – Noon Tour: Tennessee Williams in His Own Words Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal A
11:30 AM – 12:45 PM Adrian Van Young Straw into Gold: How To Weave Fairy Tales into Your Fiction Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C
1 - 3 PM Tour: Queer Underground Crossing Bar, 439 Dauphine Street
3:30 – 4:45 PM Karisma Price Aftermath and Conversation Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C
4 – 5:30 PM Chef Eric Cook—Interview and Book Signing Saint John, 715 St. Charles Ave.
5:30 - 7:15 PM French Quarter Ghosts & Legends Tour Rodrigue Studios, 730 Royal Street (Outside)
6:30 – 9 PM Tribute Reading: Tennessee Williams in One Act —The Best 50 Years of His Short Plays New Orleans Jazz Museum, 400 Esplanade Avenue
7 - 8:15 PM The Last Bohemia Presents: <i>Harold and St. Claude</i> The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue
7:30 – 10 PM The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans Presents: <i>Orpheus Descending</i> by Tennessee Williams The Marquette Theatre, Loyola University, 6363 St. Charles Avenue
8 – 9:30 PM The Mudlark Puppeteers in Collaboration with Nightshade Present: <i>A Recluse and His Guest</i> by Tennessee Williams The Mudlark Public Theatre, 1200 Port Street
9:30 – 10:45 PM The Last Bohemia Presents: <i>Fauxnique. So Relevant</i> The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue

39th Annual Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival

Our Headquarters is on the Mezzanine Level of the Hotel Monteleone in Room Queen Anne B, where you can pick up passes, buy Festival merchandise and tickets, and become a Friend of Tennessee. Hours are Thursday – Saturday, 9 AM – 4 PM and Sunday, 9 AM – 2 PM.

Our Book Fair, hosted by Octavia Books, is also on the Mezzanine in Room Queen Anne A, where you can buy books by our Festival speakers, titles by Tennessee Williams, and much more. Hours are Thursday – Saturday, 9 AM – 4 PM and Sunday, 9 AM – 2 PM.

2025 FESTIVAL EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR

10 AM - 12 Noon

Tour: Hands That Rocked
the Creole Cradle:
Women of the French Quarter

10:30 AM - 12 Noon

Tour: Writers in
New Orleans: Finding Their Place,
Defining the City

1:30 - 3:30 PM

Tour: Tennessee Williams in His
Own Words

3:30 - 5 PM

Tour:
LGBTQ+ French Quarter

Various Times

Author Book Signings

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE BALLROOM

10 - 11:15 AM

New Orleans Novels

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM

Welcome to Romanistan:
Conversations on Romani
Contributions to Pop Culture

1 - 2:15 PM

Art of the Personal Essay

2:30 - 3:45 PM

All About Color in New Orleans'
Historic Architecture

4 - 5:15 PM

Featured Conversation:
Maureen Corrigan,
Michael Cunningham,
Margot Douaihy, & Jewelle Gomez

HOTEL MONTELEONE LOBBY LEVEL, ROYAL SALON

10 - 11:15 AM

Miles Harvey
Writing the Void: The Role
of Absence in Storytelling

1:30 - 2:45 PM

Michael Cunningham
All the Little Secrets

3 - 4:15 PM

Katherine Fausset
Ask an Agent!

WILLIAMS RESEARCH CENTER 410 CHARTRES STREET Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference

9 - 9:15 AM

Welcome and
Opening Remarks

9:15 - 10:30 AM

Experimental Williams:
Expect the Unexpected

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

Queer Continuities

2 - 3:30 PM

Room To Work: Directors
Take on Gaps in the Plays
and Prose

3:45 - 5:15 PM

Staged Reading:
Williams Family
Correspondence and
"God in the Free Ward"

THE TWILIGHT ROOM 2240 ST. CLAUDE AVENUE

7 - 8:15 PM

The Last Bohemia
Presents:
Seeking Asylum

9 - 10:15 PM

The Last Bohemia
Presents:
*The Night Fiona
Flawless Went Mad*

10:30 - 11:45 PM

The Last Bohemia
Presents:
Kitten on the Keys
in *Langue De Chat*

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

1 - 3 PM

Tour: Queer Underground
Crossing Bar,
439 Dauphine Street

3 - 4:15 PM

Megan Abbott
Inspiration, the Muse and
Getting Words on a Page
Hotel Monteleone,
Lobby Level, Royal D

5:30 - 7:15 PM

French Quarter
Ghosts & Legends Tour
Rodrigue Studios,
730 Royal Street (Outside)

7:30 - 10 PM

The Tennessee Williams
Theatre Company of
New Orleans Presents:
Orpheus Descending
by Tennessee Williams
The Marquette Theatre,
Loyola University,
6363 St. Charles Avenue

8 - 9:30 PM

The Mudlark Puppeteers in
Collaboration with Nightshade
Present:
A Recluse and His Guest by
Tennessee Williams
The Mudlark Public Theatre,
1200 Port Street



2025 FESTIVAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR

10:30 AM - 12 Noon

Tour: Writers in New Orleans:
Finding Their Place, Defining the City

1 - 3 PM

Tour: Hands That Rocked the Creole
Cradle: Women of the French Quarter

1:30 - 3:30 PM

Tour: Tennessee Williams
in His Own Words

Various Times

Author Book Signings

HOTEL MONTELEONE VIEUX CARRÉ ROOM

1 - 2:15 PM

Where the Wild Things Are:
The Importance of Setting
in Crime Fiction
*Presented by the
Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction*

2:30 - 3:45 PM

Crime Writing as Social Commentary
*Presented by the
Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction*

4 - 5:15 PM

I'd Follow Her Anywhere:
Creating the Female Protagonist
*Presented by the
Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction*

5:30 - 6:30 PM

Presentation of the
Diana Pinckley Prizes for Crime Fiction

8 - 10 PM

Killer Theater New Orleans Presents:
Crescent City Caper—
A 1920s Murder Mystery

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE BALLROOM

10 - 11:15 AM

Early New Orleans Jazz
and its Neighborhoods

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM

Here Come the Girls:
What Crime Fiction Tells
Us about the Lives of
Girls and Women
*Presented by the
Diana Pinckley Prize
for Crime Fiction*

1 - 2:15 PM

Writing the Weather

2:30 - 3:45 PM

The Shape of a Story:
Crafting Short Fiction

4 - 5:15 PM

Featured Conversation:
Kalamu ya Salaam

WILLIAMS RESEARCH CENTER 410 CHARTRES STREET

10 - 11:15 AM

Influences on Tennessee
Williams: Style, Fantasy,
and Language

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM

A Writer Finding His
Voice in St. Louis: The
Early Short Stories of
Tennessee Williams

1 - 2:15 PM

Tennessee 101 with
Augustin J Corroero

2:30 - 4:30 PM

*Moise and the World of
Reason* Developmental
"Fishbowl" Reading

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

8:30 - 9:45 AM

Books & Beignets
with Gary Richards
**3rd Block Depot Kitchen + Bar,
316 Chartres Street**

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM

The Past Is Foreign Country:
Historical Fiction
**Hotel Monteleone,
Lobby Level, Royal Salon**

1 - 3 PM

Tour: Queer Underground
**Crossing Bar,
439 Dauphine Street**

7 - 9 PM

THE LAST BOHEMIA SOIREE:
Tim Murray Is Witches!
**The Toulouse Theatre,
615 Toulouse Street**

7:30 - 9:15 PM

French Quarter
Ghosts & Legends Tour
**Rodrigue Studios,
730 Royal Street (Outside)**

7:30 - 10 PM

The Tennessee Williams Theatre
Company of New Orleans
Presents:
Orpheus Descending by
Tennessee Williams
**The Marquette Theatre,
Loyola University,
6363 St. Charles Avenue**

8 - 9:30 PM

The Mudlark Puppeteers
in Collaboration with
Nightshade Present:
A Recluse and His Guest
by Tennessee Williams
**The Mudlark Public Theatre,
1200 Port Street**



2025 FESTIVAL EVENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR

9 AM

New Orleans
Writing Marathon

10 AM - 12 Noon

Tour: Tennessee Williams
in His Own Words

10:30 AM - 12 Noon

Tour: Writers
in New Orleans:
Finding Their Place,
Defining the City

1 - 2:30 PM

Tour:
LGBTQ+ French Quarter

Various Times

Author Book Signings

HOTEL MONTELEONE VIEUX CARRÉ ROOM

11 AM - 12: 15 PM

Staged Reading of the
Winning One-Act Play and
Other Contest Winners

HOTEL MONTELEONE LOBBY LEVEL, ROYAL SALON

1 - 2:15 PM

Place, Memory,
and Belonging:
New Poetry
from New Orleans

THE TOULOUSE THEATRE 615 TOULOUSE STREET

12:30 - 1:30 PM

The Last Bohemia Presents
Drummer & Smoke:
The Slick Skillet Serenaders

1:45 - 2:45 PM

The Last Bohemia Presents
Drummer & Smoke:
Layla Musselwhite

3 - 4 PM

The Last Bohemia Presents
Drummer & Smoke:
Alexis and the Sanity

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

11:30 AM - 2 PM

The Last Bohemia Presents:
A Drag Brunch Named Desire
Dickie Brennan's Tableau,
616 Saint Peter Street

1 - 3 PM

Tour: Queer Underground
Crossing Bar,
439 Dauphine Street

3 - 5:30 PM

The Tennessee Williams
Theatre Company of New
Orleans Presents:
Orpheus Descending by
Tennessee Williams
The Marquette Theatre,
Loyola University,
6363 St. Charles Avenue

5:30 - 7:15 PM

French Quarter
Ghosts & Legends Tour
Rodrigue Studios,
730 Royal Street (Outside)

7 - 9 PM

The Last Bohemia Presents
Bibi's Kitchen: A Romani
Culinary Ritual
Mister Gregory's
Shrimp Boil Cabaret,
830 North Rampart Street

7 - 8 PM

Third Lantern Lit Presents
The Fiction Sessions:
A Reading of New Works
Beanlandia,
3300 Royal Street

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE BALLROOM

10 - 11:15 AM

A Thousand Words Worth-
The Relationship Between
Photography and Writing

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM

The Art of Memoir

1 - 2:15 PM

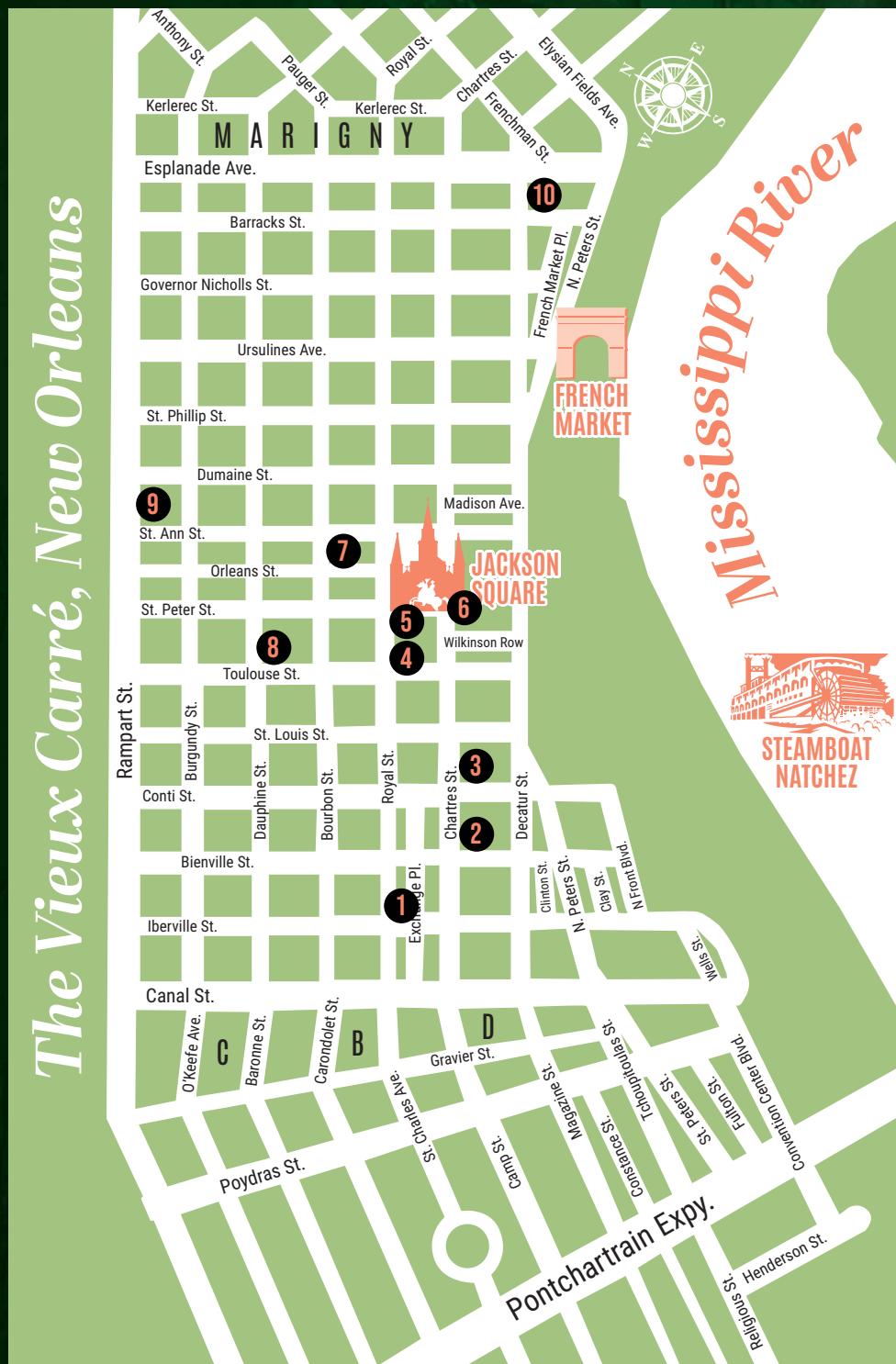
If These Walls Could Talk:
Setting as Character

2:30 - 3:45 PM

"Two or Three Things
I Know for Sure"
A Tribute Reading
for Dorothy Allison



2025 FESTIVAL SITES



1. **Hotel Monteleone**
214 Royal Street
2. **3rd Block Depot Kitchen + Bar**
316 Chartres Street
3. **Williams Research Center**
410 Chartres Street
4. **The Toulouse Theatre**
615 Toulouse Street
5. **Dickie Brennan's Tableau**
616 Saint Peter Street
6. **Jackson Square**
St. Peter Street for Shouting Contest
7. **Rodrigue Studios**
730 Royal Street
8. **Crossing Bar**
439 Dauphine Street
9. **Mister Gregory's Shrimp Boil Cabaret**
830 N. Rampart Street
10. **New Orleans Jazz Museum**
400 Esplanade Avenue

EVENTS/VENUES OUTSIDE THE FRENCH QUARTER

Chef Eric Cook
—Interview and Book Signing
Saint John
715 St. Charles Avenue

Orpheus Descending
by The Tennessee Williams Theatre
Company of New Orleans
Marquette Theatre at Loyola University
6363 St. Charles Avenue

The Last Bohemia – Theatre Events
The Twilight Room
at The AllWays Lounge
2240 St. Claude Avenue

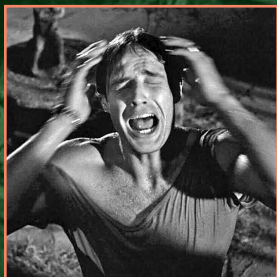
A Recluse and His Guest
by The Mudlark Puppeteers
in Collaboration with Nightshade
The Mudlark Public Theatre
1200 Port Street

**The Fiction Sessions: A Reading of
New Works by Third Lantern Lit**
Beanlandia
3300 Royal Street

Save the
DATE

**40th Annual Tennessee Williams
& New Orleans Literary Festival
will be March 25 – March 29, 2026**

SUNDAY, MARCH 23



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 **Bryan Batt** as our emcee with **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.



Bryan Batt and Beth Bartley d'Amour

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26



Matthew Dethrow



Bryan Beardsley

5 – 6:15 PM—Culinary

THE LAST BOHEMIA PRESENTS: MISTER GREGORY'S SHRIMP BOIL CABARET

Festival President **Mister Gregory** invites you to join him and long-time TWfest favorites, **Delta Revues**, for an old-fashioned Shrimp Boil and roots music experience. An intimate dinner party awaits at our French Quarter shrimp shack (actually the faded front parlor of an 1820s Creole Cottage). Tastings of local blue crab, fresh black drum from Lake Pontchartrain, and crawfish will tempt your tastebuds before a big pile of wild-caught Louisiana gulf shrimp hit the table. A little storytelling, a lot of music, and a light dessert, all wrapping up just in time to enjoy a stroll back to the Hotel Monteleone for the opening night show.

Mister Gregory's Shrimp Boil Cabaret,
830 North Rampart Street, \$100.
Not available with VIP Pass.

7:30 PM – 9 PM—Theatre THE LAST BOHEMIA PRESENTS: MINK STOLE AT THE MONTELEONE —OPENING NIGHT

Midnight movie idol, John Waters' muse, Tennessee Williams' leading lady from the rarely staged *The Mutilated*, and underground legend, **Mink Stole** returns to TWfest! She has had one of the most interesting careers you can imagine in show business, and she intends to dish it with song and anecdotes. Mink will be accompanied by New Orleans legend, pianist and marionettist **Harry Mayronne** with a special



appearance by **Dr. Sick** of the Squirrel Nut Zippers. There is no greater starlet in the alternative arts and film underground than Mink Stole. Her unique brand of star quality led to her characters often being imitated, along with their memorable catchphrases. An entire universe of Internet memes is devoted to her most notable roles, including Connie Marble from *Pink Flamingos* and Peggy Gravel from *Desperate Living*. TWfest is proud to feature, not Connie nor Peggy, but the real Mink Stole for this one-night-only celebration. "If Susan Sontag had written notes on camp in 1974 instead of 1964, Mink Stole surely would have been the first entry on the list." — Gregory Gajus, President of the Tennessee Williams Fest.

Doors open at 7 PM. Raise a glass to celebrate Tennessee Williams' birthday at our cash bar.

This event is sponsored by Joy and Boysie Bollinger and a Community Partnership Grant from the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom,
\$35 or VIP Pass.



Dr. Sick



Harry Mayronne

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS & NEW ORLEANS LITERARY FESTIVAL



FESTIVAL WALKING TOURS

FRENCH QUARTER GHOSTS AND LEGENDS

Thursday, March 27, 5:30 – 7:15 PM

Friday, March 28, 5:30 – 7:15 PM

Saturday, March 29, 7:30 – 9:15 PM

Sunday, March 30, 5:30 – 7:15 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!

Rodrigue Studios, 730 Royal Street, meet outside, \$30 or VIP Pass.



HANDS THAT ROCKED THE CREOLE CRADLE: WOMEN OF THE FRENCH QUARTER

Thursday, March 27, 10 AM – 12 noon

Friday, March 28, 10 AM – 12 noon

Saturday, March 29, 1 – 3 PM

Join **Dianne "Gumbo Marie" Honoré** on this intriguing tour about the fierce women who nurtured the building of New Orleans and the creation of an indelible culture along the Mississippi River. You'll meet the Baroness Pontalba, nuns including Henriette Delille and Mother Cabrini, medicine women, Voodoo practitioners, business woman Eulalie de Mandéville, Black Storyville Baby Dolls, female musicians, the first women to purchase property in today's Tremé neighborhood, as well as Catiche Destrehan and Elizabeth Werlein. Women stirred the early pots that would become today's gumbo and jambalaya, grew herbs for healing, faithfully prayed for and tended the sick, fought to create spaces for orphans, ran highly successful businesses, made music that inspired some of New Orleans' most famous musicians, owned property, influenced the development of Jazz, tended births and funerals at home, and more.

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

LGBTQ+ FRENCH QUARTER TOUR

Thursday, March 27, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Friday, March 28, 3:30 – 5 PM

Sunday, March 30, 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. The tour is guided by long-time French Quarter resident **Frank Perez**, a local historian and professional tour guide who has written six books about French Quarter history. Perez also serves as the executive director of the LGBTQ+ Archives Project of Louisiana.

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

QUEER UNDERGROUND

Thursday, March 27 – Sunday, March 30, 1 – 3 PM

A critically acclaimed deep dive into the queer underbelly of New Orleans from lesbian street gangs in the sex industry to drag queens under the direct employment of the mafia to the rise of modern gay nightclubs in open rejection of the laws. With no censorship and no shame, follow the stories of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people who were instrumental in the creation of modern New Orleans, building whisper networks from the first days of the colony and eventually, taking over the streets. A radical challenge to mainstream queer history and New Orleans history, the tour is a love letter to the New Orleans queer community with equal parts joy and heartbreak. Tours will be led by **Quinn L Bishop**.

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

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS IN HIS OWN WORDS

Thursday, March 27, 10 AM – Noon

Friday, March 28, 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Saturday, March 29, 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Sunday, March 30, 10 AM – Noon

Tom Williams was very open and candid about his life through his letters, journals and memoirs. While some of what he had to say should be taken with a grain of salt, much can be traced and verified. In the 1930s, the French Quarter was a decadent mud puddle in the gutter of Southern gentility, perfectly suited for a decadent young man. Award-winning tour guide, **Randy Bibb**, will take you through the French Quarter visiting the sites and hangouts of Tennessee Williams. See the buildings in which he lived, where boiling water was poured through the cracks of the floor, where a plethora of vagrants, miscreants, artists, and society girls came and went through the architecture and art of his muse, the Vieux Carré. And hear his story as he told it. Randy's knack for double entendre presents a narrative which puts a Chinese lantern over a naked light bulb with subtle humor. Randy is a native of St. Louis, Missouri, where he lived only blocks away from the Glass Menagerie apartment. He gave his first tour in New Orleans in 1988 and his commitment to historic accuracy has earned him three Global Guide Awards from TourHQ and the Cultural Preservation Award for tour guiding from the Black Storyville Babydolls. He has served as president of the Tour Guide Association of Greater New Orleans, Inc. and teaches Professional Tour Guiding and the History of The French Quarter at Delgado Community College. Randy is also a playwright and composer; his musical play *Onepiece* has enjoyed six productions in St. Louis and New Orleans.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Parlor, \$40 or VIP Pass.



722 Toulouse Street, Tennessee Williams's first residence in New Orleans when he arrived in 1938.

HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION, GIFT OF MRS. SOLIS SEIFERTH, 1985. 120.141

WRITERS IN NEW ORLEANS: FINDING THEIR PLACE, DEFINING THE CITY

Thursday, March 27 – Sunday, March 30, 10:30 AM – 12 Noon

For some authors, New Orleans has been a place that freed them to become the writers we know. Tennessee Williams said, "In New Orleans...I found the kind of freedom I had always needed, and the shock of it—against the Puritanism of my nature—has given me a subject, a theme, which I have never ceased exploiting." Jimmy Buffet put it more simply: "You find as a writer that there are certain spots on the planet where you write better than others, and I believe in that. And New Orleans is one of them." For others, the city itself became the subject—Lafcadio Hearn, for example, who Frederick Starr proposes "invented" the image of New Orleans that has long lured nascent writers and continues to influence the way visitors see the city. Award-winning geographer Richard Campanella has written 11 books and a multitude of articles examining the city under his microscope, always interested in how the city's reality diverges from the popular conceptions held by citizens and visitors. There are simply too many writers associated with New Orleans to reference them all in a two-hour tour, but we will cover quite a number as we stroll through the French Quarter, starting at the Hotel Monteleone, walking downriver for a number of blocks and then circling back to end up in Jackson Square. We'll be looking at places where writers lived or visited, where they wrote, and the locations mentioned in their work. Your guide, **Dana Criswell**, will include writers who are from here (John Kennedy Toole, Anne Rice, George Washington Cable, Maurice Carlos Ruffin), moved here (Tom Piazza, Richard Ford), lived here for a long or short while (William Faulkner, Walt Whitman, O. Henry, Katherine Anne Porter, Tennessee Williams) or lived elsewhere but visited frequently and used the city, to some extent, as a setting (Walker Percy, Eudora Welty, John Steinbeck).

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

The **Historic BK House & Gardens** is a National Historic Landmark built in 1826. This architectural treasure is an outstanding example of a raised center hall villa and includes both Creole and American features in an elaborately detailed residence. BK House's diverse history includes the stories of those who both lived and labored here

for nearly 200 years, offering a unique educational experience to visitors, which furthers the understanding of New Orleans history. The house, parterre garden and lovely courtyard have been featured in several films and television shows and are favorites for guided tours, weddings, and special events. Open for guided tours on the hour, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 AM – 3 PM.



www.bkhouse.org



"A RECLUSE AND HIS GUEST"



TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL

The Mudlark Puppeteers in collaboration with Nightshade
present for the stage **A Recluse and His Guest**
by Tennessee Williams

In a cruel village at the top of the world, where women are sometimes strung like sails from the trees in the midnight forest, a mysterious stranger comes wandering under the cold northern lights, seeking refuge in the home of a bitter recluse. This is a meditation on madness; a fable of patterns and disruptions where there may yet be hope for tenderness among outcasts. Told through rod puppetry, marionettes and dimensional shadows

THURS MAR 27TH - SAT MAR 30TH
At The Mudlark Public Theatre 1200 Port

New Orleans is “one of the last frontiers of Bohemia” and “my favorite place to write.”

—Tennessee Williams, interview with Pen Wilson, 1955

The Last Bohemia is a series of theatre, music, and social events embodying New Orleans culture, the spirit of Tennessee Williams, and the profound effect New Orleans had on the playwright, personally and professionally. For a complete schedule of our Last Bohemia events visit: tennesseewilliams.net



TIM MURRAY



FAUXNIQUE



KITTEN ON THE KEYS



MICHELLE NELSON AKA LOVE THE POET



ONLINE AUCTION

STARTS FRIDAY, MARCH 21 AT MIDNIGHT

ENDS AT 2 PM ON SUNDAY, MARCH 30.

You can own one of our original Literary Icon paintings created by Timothy Cummings for our 2025 SAS Cover Art.



Dorothy Allison
by Timothy Cummings



James Baldwin
by Timothy Cummings



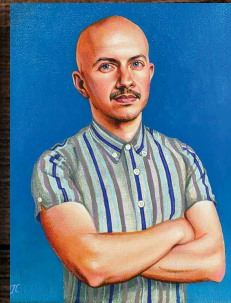
Audre Lorde
by Timothy Cummings



Tennessee Williams
by Timothy Cummings



Vinsantos



Steven Reigns

You can also bid on getting your own original painting created of you or a loved one!

THURSDAY SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

39th 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.

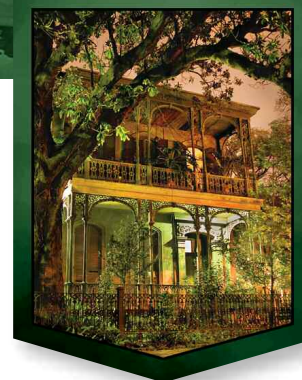
Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne B.

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.

Festival Walking Tours are listed on pages 10 & 11.



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 and for questions, contact the NOWM at 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

<https://tennesseewilliams.net/new-orleans-writing-marathon/>.

10 – 11:15 AM—Writer's Craft Session

JUSTIN MAXWELL—ADAPTATION AND THE LOVE OF CRAFT

Adaptation is about love: Love of content. Love of craft. Love of genre. Come by and we'll take some time to be wildly in love with language. Adaptation can help us take the things we love and explore them with a newfound intimacy. It can help beginners hone their craft and help unestablished writers sell their work. It can help experienced writers connect with new methodologies and help anyone explore a new genre. It's a great way to start writing and a great way to grow as a writer. Adaptations can let us come back to ourselves and our craft from a new perspective. We'll ask a lot of bonding questions: Why adapt something from one genre to another? How do we pick what to adapt? What is source material to us, and why do we want to work with it? How do we pick what genre to adapt source material into? We'll spend time with the slippery-yet-empowering transition when the adaptation becomes our own artwork!

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

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

E.M. TRAN—MAKE IT WEIRD:

CRAFTING THE UNCANNY OR ABSURD INTO SCENE

Have you ever had a character live their lives in everyday spaces—the office, the grocery store, their house, the car—and feel that what you are writing is simply pushing your character through the tedious motions of life? In some ways, fiction is poignant because it can reflect reality and open vistas of understanding through realistic perspectives. But isn't reality also weird? Sometimes the best way to invigorate a scene is to do just that: make it weird. In this session, we will discuss ways to inject the uncanny and absurd into our writing, how to notice and compile the strangeness we see in our daily lives, and exercises we can do if we feel our stories are stuck in the mundane world.

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

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

ADRIAN VAN YOUNG—STRAW INTO GOLD:

HOW TO WEAVE FAIRY TALES INTO YOUR FICTION

Once upon a time—but when?! *And they all lived happily ever*—never! The fairy tale, that most venerated form among all fantastical narratives, has been with us from the start, though in truth fairy tales are far more than just bedtime stories for children, fodder for Disney adaptations, or bleak German cautionary tales with unaccountably violent endings. Fairy tales transport us to wondrous realms with a twisted logic all their own. They're scary, and oddball, and achingly human. They also provide us with a unique and valuable framework through which to observe the complexities of our own modern world in all its absurdity, heartbreak, and horror. Through group discussion, targeted writing prompts, and examining excerpts from some of the original *Grimms' Fairy Tales* (and sure, maybe one by Franz Xaver von Schönwerth), as well as the fiction of Angela Carter, Kelly Link, Carmen Maria Machado, Victor LaValle, Brian Evenson, and Ludmilla Petrushevskaya, among others, this craft session with story writer and novelist Adrian Van Young will focus on revisiting, adapting and incorporating fairy tales and their archetypes to suit a modern adult readership. Spread your dragon's wings and soar!

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

1:30 – 2:45 PM—Writer's Craft Session

JACOB BUDENZ—MERGING WORLDS:

TAROT AS EKPHRASIS FOR CREATIVE AND REFLECTIVE WRITING

Although ekphrasis is most commonly posited as a poetic tool—poetry responding to visual art—the practice of ekphrasis at its heart is a merging of worlds in which an artist of any medium interprets a work in a different medium. Likewise, a Tarot reader interprets imagery and symbolism through the medium of speech, applying old archetypes and images to unique new problems or questions. In this generative workshop, author and multi-disciplinary performer Jacob Budenz will give a primer on Tarot and discuss its uses as an ekphrastic writing tool. Participants will pull a Tarot card and do their own freewrites, followed by discussion and reflection.

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

3 – 4:15 PM—Writer's Craft Session

CHIN-SUN LEE—PROSE FROM IMAGERY

Stories come to us from many sources, the most common being from memory, a conversation, or an image. The opening pages of Chin-Sun Lee's debut novel *Upcountry* were initially inspired by a singular image: a drained and decayed swimming pool enclosed by a chain-link fence. In this workshop, we'll focus on the ways that images can provoke associations that in turn, become compelling narrative. We'll spend the first half of the workshop reading and discussing some examples of potent imagery and description. Then we'll have a writing session based on an image—provided by Chin-Sun or participants can use any of their own—with sharing (for those inclined) and brief critiques to follow afterward.

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

3:30 – 4:45 PM—Writer's Craft Session

KARISMA PRICE—AFTERMATH AND CONVERSATION

Usually, as writers, we really want to build up to that big important part of a poem, but what's really interesting is what happens AFTER that. Usually when people think of endings, they think of silence, a completely closed, shut-off ending. But there's so much power in what happens after we've said what we think we need to say. In this poetry craft session, we'll talk about art, writing, memory, music, and how all of that can conjure memories, and how we can start writing about an event—but also what happens after that and the feelings that occur that can make our writing more powerful.

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

4 – 5:30 PM—Culinary Event

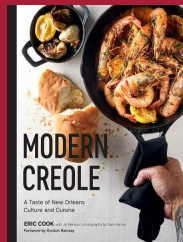
THE LAST BOHEMIA PRESENTS:

CHEF ERIC COOK—INTERVIEW AND BOOK SIGNING

Join Chef Eric Cook for an interview and signing of his first cookbook *Modern Creole: A Taste of New Orleans Culture and Cuisine*. Held at his award-winning restaurant, Saint John, the event includes tastings and cocktails from the book, plus a conversation with Chef Eric Cook led by Darren Chabert, Chef de Cuisine at Saint John. *Modern Creole* features over 200 pages of food and cocktail recipes focused on Southern, Cajun and Creole cuisine. The book fulfills home cooks' desire for dishes that are accessible and straightforward enough for an everyday meal, yet impressive enough for company or the holiday table.

Saint John, 715 St. Charles Avenue,

\$50 includes a copy of the book or \$40 for the event only. Not available with VIP Pass.



6:30 – 9 PM—Special Event

TRIBUTE READING: TENNESSEE WILLIAMS IN ONE ACT—THE BEST 50 YEARS OF HIS SHORT PLAYS

"The peak of my virtuosity was in the one-act plays. Some of which are like firecrackers in a rope," Williams wrote to director Elia Kazan in 1950. One-act plays were ever present in Tennessee Williams's creative life. His first one-act won a prize at the University of Missouri when he was a freshman in 1930. His final one-act (considered to be his last play) is dated January 1983, a month before his death. He never stopped writing one-acts, and there are currently over 75 by Williams in print today. This year our tribute will take a look at short Williams plays from every decade—1930s through 1980s. To his college friends, he referred to his short plays as "fantasies." Many of them are funny and take place in fairy, sci-fi, or otherwise mythic locations, including *The Gnädiges Fräulein*, *The Case of the Crushed Petunias*, *The Chalky White Substance*, *Ten Blocks on the Camino Real* and *A Recluse and His Guest*. Others share the poetry and grit of his most famous dramas, such as *27 Wagons Full of Cotton*, *Mister Paradise*, *I Can't Imagine Tomorrow*, and *Green Eyes*. You'll hear excerpts from the familiar, as well as some hidden gems. The event is curated by Festival Director **Paul J. Willis** and Williams editor **Thomas Keith** (who also hosts). Readers this year will include Festival luminaries **Maureen Corrigan**, **Michael Cunningham**, **Beth Bartley d'Amour**, **Jewelle Gomez**, **Joan Larkin**, **Tim Murray**, **John "Ray" Proctor**, and **Mink Stole**.

The annual Tribute Reading is presented by a grant from the New Orleans Theatre Association (NOTA).

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 – 8:15 PM—Theatre

THE LAST BOHEMIA PRESENTS:

HAROLD AND ST. CLAUDE

A reimagining of the Classic film *Harold and Maude*. In 1982 at the beginning of the AIDS pandemic, young Harold is coming OUT and meets Claude, an older drag queen. Together they explore life, death, and love. We have a band, but it's not a musical. And we encourage the audience to come dressed like it's the 1980s.

The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue,

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

7:30 – 10 PM—Theatre

THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS

PRESENTS: ORPHEUS DESCENDING BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Orpheus Descending is a Southern gothic allegory about death, new life, testing wills, and tempting the fates. It takes place in a general store in a Mississippi Delta town during a dreary spring when a strange musician drifts onto the scene and excites the interest of the local women...and the ire of their husbands and brothers. This production will take place in the Marquette Theatre at Loyola University New Orleans and will coincide with the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival.

Performance Schedule: Thursday – Saturday, March 27 – 29 at 7:30 PM;

Sunday, March 30 at 3 PM.

The Marquette Theatre is on the campus of Loyola University New Orleans, 6363 St. Charles Avenue. Tickets at

<https://ci.ovationtix.com/35398/production/1216005>.

Available with VIP Pass but must book in advance at info@tennesseewilliams.net.

7:30 PM DOORS, 8 PM PERFORMANCE—Theatre

THE MUDLARK PUPPETEERS IN COLLABORATION WITH NIGHTSHADE PRESENT: A RECLUSE AND HIS GUEST BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

In a cruel village at the top of the world, where women are sometimes strung like sails from the trees in a midnight forest, a mysterious stranger comes wandering under the cold northern lights, seeking refuge in the home of a bitter recluse. This is a meditation on madness, a fable of patterns and disruptions where there may yet be hope for tenderness among outcasts. Told through rod puppetry, marionettes, and dimensional shadows.

Performance Schedule: Thursday – Saturday, March 27 – 29 at 8 PM.

The Mudlark Public Theatre, 1200 Port Street, \$20. Not available with VIP

Pass. Tickets available at <https://www.themudlarkneworleans.com/merchandise/p/a-recluse-and-his-guest>.

9:30 – 10:45 PM—Theatre

THE LAST BOHEMIA PRESENTS:

FAUXNIQUE. SO RELEVANT

You've always relied on being a cool kid. What happens when you wake up one day and realize you're neither cool, nor a kid? You think, *You're not a kid anymore, I don't think you'll ever be a kid again, kiddo*. (55-year-old Sondheim reference.) What if you were never cool? What happens when time marches on, and you have been left chasing the parade? Can you redefine what it means to be cool? *Fauxnique. So Relevant* is a hard-hitting and hilarious romp of songs, storytelling, and real-time on-stage crisis management. It's art therapy served up with Fauxnique's signature blend of sardonic wit and vulnerability. From the legendary lady drag queen and published author who brought you the solo shows, *Faux Real with Fauxnique* and *The F Word*, and the memoir *Faux Queen: A Life in Drag*, whose work has been called "engaging, critically serious, counter-culturally crucial," (Author Michelle Tea) and "hilarious," with an "intellectual spark" and "enough to make a girl want to revisit her Susan Sontag." (*SF Chronicle*)

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



 *The* TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
THEATRE COMPANY *of* NEW ORLEANS
TENTH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

X

ORPHEUS DESCENDING

BY
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

MARCH 27-APRIL 13

MARQUETTE THEATRE on the campus of LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS - 6363 SAINT CHARLES AVENUE

www.TWTHEATRENOLA.com

Season Sponsors Jason & Anjali Gillette



NEW ORLEANS
THEATRE ASSOCIATION



Season 10 is supported by a generous grant from the New Orleans Theatre Association (NOTA).

The Historic New Orleans Collection presents the 28th annual 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 28, 2025

9 – 9:15 AM

Welcome and opening remarks from conference codirectors **Margit Longbrake**, The Historic New Orleans Collection, and **Bess Rowen**, Villanova University.

9:15 – 10:30 AM

Experimental Williams: Expect the Unexpected

Emerging scholars from the US and France bring fresh perspectives to Williams's experimental works in discussions of "plastic" acting, the uncanny, and castration as a surprising step toward wholeness in the late plays.

Moderators: Bess Rowen, Villanova University; **Matthew P. Smith**, Tulane University. **Panelists:** Matthew Minor, City University of New York, Graduate Center; **Jennifer Tsuei**, City University of New York, Graduate Center; **Anaïs Umano**, Université de Lorraine.

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Queer Continuities

What does queerness in Williams's texts have to do with 20th-century Tangier, the religion of early America, and a remarkable 21st-century Australian horror film? Join a panel of scholars from the US and Germany as they put a wide range of times, places, and forms in conversation.

Moderator: Annette J. Saddik, Graduate Center and City Tech, City University of New York. **Panelists:** Stephen Cedars, City University of New York; **Benjamin Gillespie**, City University of New York; **Bess Rowen**, Villanova University; **Basil Wiese**, Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt.

12:15 – 2 PM

Lunch (on your own)

2 – 3:30 PM

Room to Work: Directors Take on Gaps in the Plays and Prose

Seasoned director-scholars describe fragmented source texts and perspectives missing from the plays and their productions—and reframe those gaps as directorial opportunities.

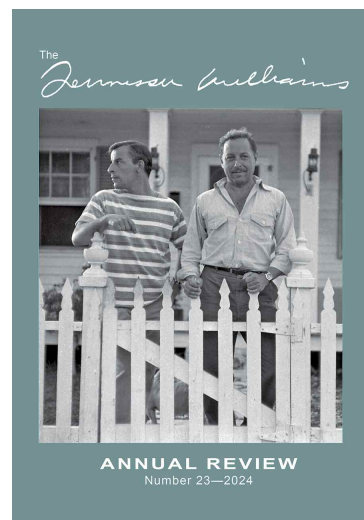
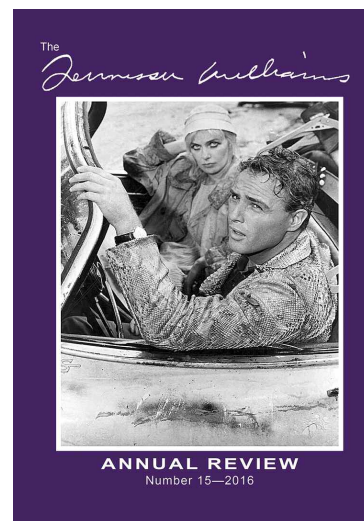
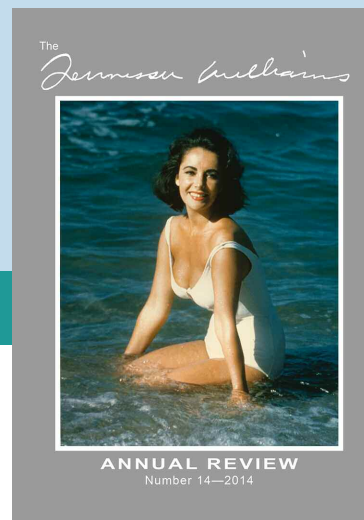
Moderator: Mark Charney, Texas Tech University. **Panelists:** Lurana Donnels O'Malley, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; **Tom Mitchell**, University of Illinois, Urbana, emeritus; **John "Ray" Proctor**, Tulane University.

3:45 – 5:15 PM

Staged Reading: Williams Family Correspondence and "God in the Free Ward"

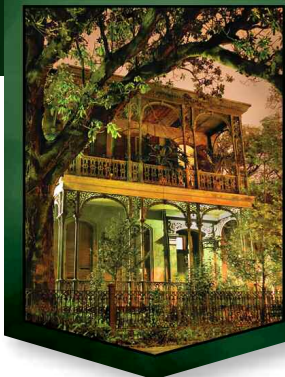
Theater director and educator **Tom Mitchell** and members of the University of Illinois theater company present a staged reading that interweaves HNOC's newly acquired letters by Tennessee Williams's beloved and tragic sister, Rose, with diary entries by his mother and excerpts from his letters and his previously unpublished short story "God in the Free Ward."

The reading is introduced by HNOC curator and historian **Mark Cave** and HNOC editor and conference codirector **Margit Longbrake**, who discuss HNOC's acquisition of Rose's letters, and by director Mitchell, who offers insight into his process of combining the texts from various sources.



FRIDAY SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025



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.

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.

Festival Walking Tours are listed on page 10 & 11.

10 – 11:15 AM—Writer's Craft Session

MILES HARVEY-WRITING THE VOID:

THE ROLE OF ABSENCE IN STORYTELLING

This craft session examines the ways in which writers build stories out of things not there—missing people, lost dreams, misplaced memories, and narrative gaps, as well as various other specters, shadows, hallucinations and dark holes. Miles Harvey's debut short story collection, *The Registry of Forgotten Objects*, probes the mysterious relationship between human longings and the secret lives of inanimate objects. This session will be helpful for fiction and nonfiction writers, and will include some writing time.

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

10 – 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

NEW ORLEANS NOVELS

During this discussion, New Orleans fiction writers **C. Morgan Babst**, **Alex Jennings**, and **E.M. Tran** join moderator **Megan Holt** to explore the concept of the New Orleans novel. The panel will delve into how the culture of New Orleans—its musical traditions, diverse communities, and complex history—shapes the narratives of novels set here. It will also highlight the ever-changing idea of what a “New Orleans novel” is and how this idea has evolved in the first 25 years of the 21st century.

Supported by the Herman and Ethel Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies.

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

11:30 – 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

WELCOME TO ROMANISTAN: CONVERSATIONS ON ROMANI CONTRIBUTIONS TO POP CULTURE

Join **Paulina Stevens** and **Jezmina Von Thiele**, authors of *Secrets of Romani Fortune Telling*, alongside **Ylva Mara Radziszewski**, author of *A Practical Guide for Witches* and co-author of *The Living Altar Oracle Deck* with Kiki Robinson, for an enlightening exploration of Romani art and culture's influence on contemporary literature, art, and new age spirituality. This panel will recontextualize harmful tropes that overshadow Romani contributions to modern culture, with a focus on postmodern spiritual practices, while highlighting invisibilized obstacles faced by minorities within creative industries. We will examine the connections between popular fortune-telling methods—tarot, palmistry, and tea leaf reading—and their origins within the Romani diaspora. Additionally, we will highlight the often-overlooked contributions of the Romani people—commonly misidentified by the derogatory term “Gypsies”—to popular culture. Having faced centuries of persecution within their diaspora from India, the Romani developed various survival trades, including fortune telling, performance art, handicraft, and storytelling which helped preserve their cultural identity. This panel discussion will address how Romani traditions have shaped widely recognized divination practices, whose origins are frequently obscured in mainstream narratives. We will also explore

Paulina Stevens



the representation and misrepresentation of Romani culture in popular media, challenging stereotypes that contribute to misunderstandings about the Romani people.

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

1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

ART OF THE PERSONAL ESSAY

How do you turn authentic experiences into universally relatable stories? This panel takes the voices of journalists, memoirists, and novelists and explores how they use personal stories as a vessel to carry larger, societal themes. They'll discuss the craft of the personal essay, how essay writing differs from other forms of nonfiction, and how they've used the form to turn true stories into works that engage and inspire readers. **Maegan Poland** will moderate the discussion. **Laura Lippman** was a reporter for twenty years and is the author of *My Life as a Villainess*, a collection of essays exploring motherhood, family, and friendship. **Kirsten Reneau** is the author of *Sensitive Creatures*, a memoir in essays that explores trauma through the lens of the natural world. **Desiree Richter** is the author of *The Presence of Absence*, a collection about parenting, leaving fundamentalism, and living with loss. **Julia Ridley Smith** is the author of *The Sum of Trifles*, a memoir about grief and losing one's parents.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom,

\$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.



1:30 – 2:45 PM—Writer's Craft Session

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM—ALL THE LITTLE SECRETS

Join Pulitzer Prize winning author Michael Cunningham for an immersive, audience-involved workshop on the ways writers create dramatic scenes, often using outwardly undramatic exchanges and situations. Fiction comes most fully to life when its characters tell readers a little more than they'd consciously intended to. For this session, Cunningham will stage a spontaneous public conversation with a volunteer from the audience, and then discuss as a group the ways a fiction writer might have used the conversation's content as the basis for a scene in a novel or short story—everything from offhand remarks to unconscious physical gestures. The choices a writer makes—even at the fundamental level of deciding on which details to include versus which to omit—can make a crucial difference in the tone and mood of a scene. A fiction writer can, essentially, use the same fundamental material to write a scene that will play as comic, or ominous, or whatever other mood contributes to the writer's more general intentions.

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

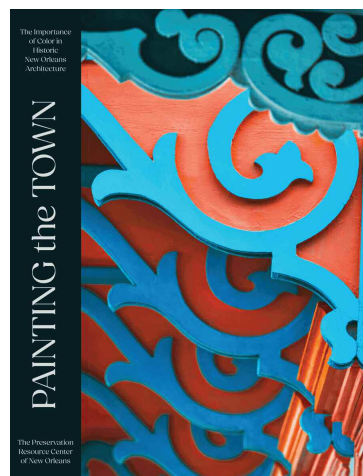
2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

ALL ABOUT COLOR IN NEW ORLEANS' HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

New Orleans is a place drenched in color, from its subtropical landscapes to its historic buildings. But why has the city always embraced such a vibrant style? The authors of *Painting the Town: The Importance of Color in Historic New Orleans Architecture* explored that question as they sought to capture the city's exuberant spirit. In this session, award-winning photographer **Chris Granger** will present a slide show and discuss some of his images that illustrate this book published by the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans. Three of his collaborators—**Danielle Del Sol**, **Susan Langenhennig**, and **John Pope**—will cover such topics as why some of the city's Creole cemeteries had colorfully painted tombs, the sources and symbolism of historic architectural colors, distinctive local buildings, the stunning watercolor architectural paintings stored in the New Orleans Notarial Archives, the stories behind the distinctive façades of Commander's Palace and Brennan's restaurants, and the only-in-New Orleans color that has come to be known as K&B Purple.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom,

\$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.



3 – 4:15 PM—Writer's Craft Session

MEGAN ABBOTT—INSPIRATION, THE MUSE AND GETTING WORDS ON A PAGE

Writers are always asked, *where do you get your ideas from?* But maybe the better question is how we move from ideas to consistent writing, and to an active manuscript (whether building toward a story, novella, novel or script). This workshop will focus on specific techniques and strategies for getting past self-doubt and procrastination in the writing process. Bring a pen and notepad for brief in-workshop writing exercises.

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

3 – 4:15—Writer's Craft Session

KATHERINE FAUSSET—ASK AN AGENT!

No matter what stage you may be in with your writing, it's important to learn about the publishing process. And typically, the first person you'll encounter on the road to getting published is a literary agent. Katherine Fausset, a Senior Agent and Vice President at Curtis Brown, Ltd., will share her tips and advice on what you can do to improve your chances of signing with an agent before you even start the querying process; how to find an agent who's right for you; what to include in the all-important query letter; and what the writer-agent relationship looks like and how to make the most of it. This is a chance to ask an agent anything—whether it's about a specific question about the querying process or a general one about the publishing industry—so please feel free to come with questions.

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

4 - 5:15 PM—Featured Conversation

EMPTY SHELVES: A HISTORY, DISCUSSION, AND READING OF BANNED BOOKS

Books have the power to inspire, entertain, and inform. They are also targets of parent groups, school officials, and sometimes entire governments who see them as dangerous or offensive. These book challenges and outright bans often claim to protect younger readers; however, objecting to a book's subject matter frequently crosses over into issues of freedom of speech, leading to legal battles and, in recent years, social media attacks on writers, teachers, and librarians. **Maureen Corrigan**, NPR's Fresh Air book critic and Distinguished Professor of the Practice in Literary Criticism at Georgetown, wrote and filmed a Wondrium/Great Courses lecture series on banned books, and will lead this conversation with a group of award-winning writers, including **Michael Cunningham**, **Margot Douaihy**, and **Jewelle Gomez**. Included in the conversation will be readings from the panelists' favorite banned books.

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

7 - 8:15 PM—Theatre

**THE LAST BOHEMIA PRESENTS:
SEEKING ASYLUM**

Written by **Mari Kornhauser** and directed by **Reese Johanson**, *Seeking Asylum* is an immersive one-act, two-character play (starring **Sallay Shameka Gray** and **Kathy Randels**). A climate change exploration, it takes place in a speculative world of 2040 in what once was the United States. Based on the original 29 questions immigrants filled out on the ships' manifests in the early 20th Century and then used in interviews at Points of Entry, the play explores how citizenship is not guaranteed. No one is immune. It can happen to anyone, even people in power. One minute they're in, the next, they're out, and so are you as the political borders of nations change.

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



A one act play
In the year 2040—
at a point of entry for the country of Texas, on the Louisiana nation's border
—this could be you

7:30 - 10 PM—Theatre

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

ORPHEUS DESCENDING BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
See page 15 for full details.

7:30 PM DOORS, 8 PM PERFORMANCE—Theatre

**THE MUHLARK PUPPETEERS IN COLLABORATION
WITH NIGHTSHADE PRESENT:**

A RECLUSE AND HIS GUEST BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
See page 15 for full details.



9 - 10:15 PM—Theatre

**THE LAST BOHEMIA PRESENTS:
THE NIGHT FIONA FLAWLESS WENT MAD
A Dark Comedy Drag Musical by Trey Ming**

Meet Fiona Flawless. Breathtaking drag queen. Talented chanteuse. Admitted murderess. After turning herself in for a double homicide, Fiona and her psychiatrist dive through convoluted memories in search of that pivotal moment when her otherwise flawless mind disconnected from reality...the night she went mad. A dark musical comedy for certain, *The Night Fiona Flawless Went Mad* is an exploration into the issues of Queer identity, loneliness, and the reclamation of self-love.

Written and directed by **Trey Ming**. Cast: **Laveau Contraire**, **Prince Octavian**, **Sebastien E'toile**, **Bette Tittler**
The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue,
\$35 cocktail table, \$20 general admission, or VIP Pass.

10:30 - 11:45 PM—Theatre

**THE LAST BOHEMIA PRESENTS:
KITTEN ON THE KEYS IN *LANGUE DE CHAT***

International cabaret pianist and singer **Kitten on the Keys** introduces her latest cabaret show, *Langue De Chat*. Named after her favorite French patisserie, *Langue De Chat* translated from French is "the cat's tongue." Like many of Tennessee Williams' characters, a cat's tongue presents as soft but is coarse and rough. Kitten embraces numerous genres and eras and will accompany herself on piano and accordion. Expect stories and songs from her extensive songbook.

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

Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Diana Pinckley Prizes for Crime Fiction with a full day of programming featuring Pinckley Prize winners Saturday, March 29, 2025

11:30 – 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

HERE COME THE GIRLS: WHAT CRIME FICTION TELLS US ABOUT THE LIVES OF GIRLS AND WOMEN

Presented by the Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction

We read crime fiction for many reasons—to find a sense of order in a chaotic world, to maintain a relationship with a beloved protagonist or revisit a fascinating setting—but we also turn to it for deep human truths, and some of the most interesting crime novels are written by and for women. We see the savagery of teenage girls, the anger of frustrated housewives or abused women, and plain old bad girls—as well as the inventiveness of victims, perpetrators, and truth tellers in these novels. Stilettos, anyone? **Maureen Corrigan**, the distinguished book critic for *Fresh Air* and the *Washington Post*, moderates a discussion with bestselling authors **Megan Abbott**, **Alafair Burke**, **Gillian Flynn**, and **Laura Lippman**, all previous winners of the Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction, about the feminine and feminist aspects of crime writing.

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

1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE: THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING IN CRIME FICTION

Presented by the Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction

Readers are often loyal to settings in their favorite series. Think of Nevada Barr's state parks, Louise Penny's village of Three Pines, or Laura Lippman's Baltimore. This panel includes four novelists who will take us to turf they have made their own—**Christine Carbo** draws us to the chilly world of Glacier National Park; **Gwen Florio** writes about the wilds of Montana; **Adrianne Harun** is inspired by a very specific stretch of the Pacific Coast Highway; and **Sascha Rothchild** takes us to the sunny beaches of Miami. They will discuss how to select a meaningful setting and bring it to life. Moderated by New Orleans writer **Michael Allen Zell**

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

2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

CRIME WRITING AS SOCIAL COMMENTARY

Presented by the Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction

All crime writing—true crime or fiction—explores right and wrong and the many layers of ambiguity in between. Social issues are often paramount in crime writing. **Emma Copley Eisenberg** shows how a single crime ripples throughout a community in her true crime bestseller, *The Third Rainbow Girl*. **C.S. Harris** explores the social issues of Regency England in her long running Sebastian St. Cyr series. **Angie Kim** explores medical ethics in her debut novel. And **Marcie Rendon**, in her Cash Blackbear series, illuminates the issues facing contemporary Native Americans. Moderated by **J.M. Redmann**, creator of the Micky Knight series.

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

4 – 5:15 PM—Literary Discussion

I'D FOLLOW HER ANYWHERE: CREATING THE FEMALE PROTAGONIST

Presented by the Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction

What does it take to invent a female protagonist who will compel readers' attention? For some, it's a quirky personality, a fierce sense of independence, or an ongoing personal struggle of her own. For others, it's finding a place in the world or developing a sense of community or family. And in crime fiction, characters need to have a bit of a dark side. Whether you're beginning a series or writing a standalone novel, your female protagonist must be unique, memorable, and tough. Panelists discussing female protagonists include authors **Trudy Nan Boyce**, **Margot Douaihy**, and **Ashley Elston**, with New Orleans writer **Greg Herren** moderating.

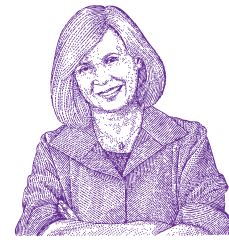
Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carré Room, \$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM—Special Event

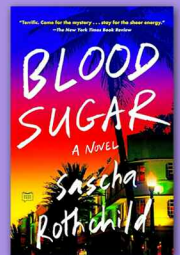
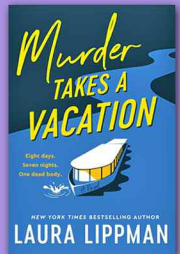
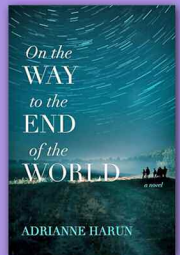
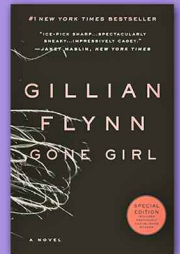
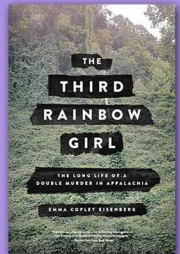
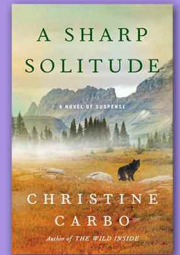
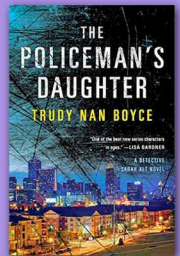
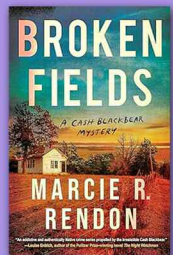
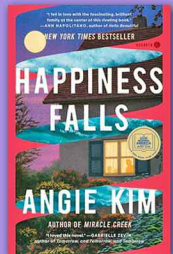
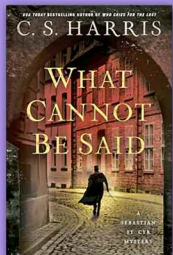
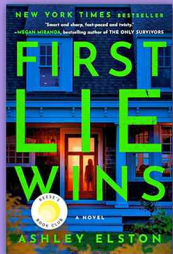
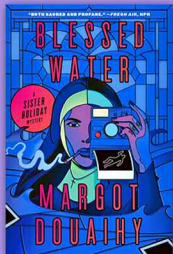
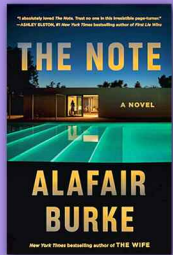
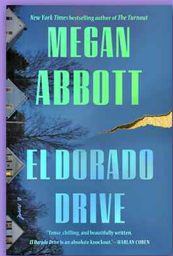
PRESENTATION OF THE DIANA PINCKLEY PRIZES FOR CRIME FICTION

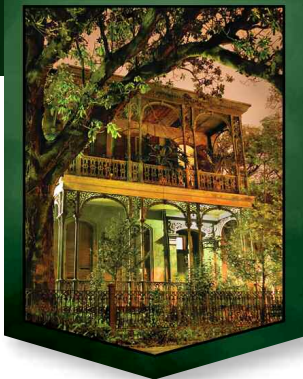
The Pinckley Prizes for Crime Fiction were established in 2012 for women writers to honor the memory of Diana Pinckley (1952-2012), a longtime crime fiction columnist for *The New Orleans Times-Picayune*, and her passion for mysteries. The initial Prizes were presented in 2014 at the historic BK House during the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival, and the winners were Laura Lippman and Gwen Florio. After a brief hiatus (COVID, Hurricane Ida), the Prizes return this year with a tenth anniversary presentation ceremony and reception. This event honors the 2024 winners, **Gillian Flynn**, author of *Gone Girl*, *Sharp Objects*, and *Dark Places*, who is receiving the award for a Distinguished Body of Work, and **Ashley Elston**, who is receiving the First Novel Prize for her book, *First Lie Wins*.

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



**PINCKLEY
PRIZES**
FOR CRIME FICTION





SATURDAY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

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.

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.

Festival Walking Tours are listed on page 10 & 11.

8:30 - 9:45 AM—Special Event

BOOKS AND BEIGNETS WITH GARY RICHARDS

The success of the ongoing horror television series based on **Anne Rice's** *Interview with the Vampire* has created renewed interest in Rice's bestselling 1976 debut novel. Rice was born in New Orleans in 1941, spent most of her childhood and teenage years here, and returned to the city in her late 40s, leaving again in 2005. Upon her death in 2021 at the age of 80, Rice was returned to her beloved New Orleans and interred in Metairie Cemetery. Led by southern literary scholar **Gary Richards**, the 2025 breakfast book club will return to this iconographic work within the canon of vampire literature to explore its New Orleans setting and to meditate on its savvy, provocative use of vampirism as an extended metaphor for sexual otherness. Readers are invited to purchase and/or read the standard paperback version (ISBN 978-0345337665).

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



10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

EARLY NEW ORLEANS JAZZ AND ITS NEIGHBORHOODS

While no one would argue that the entire city of New Orleans was a hotbed of the music that would come to be known as Jazz, there are specific streets and areas where the music flourished. West End, South Rampart Street, and the Treme neighborhood are just a few areas of the city associated with the early years of Jazz. Panelists include **Randy Fertel**, **John McCusker**, and **Fatima Shaik**, who have each written about this topic in their various books. Moderated by **Peggy Scott Laborde**.

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

10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

INFLUENCES ON TENNESSEE WILLIAMS: STYLE, FANTASY, AND LANGUAGE

The writing and people who influenced Tennessee Williams are not always obvious. This year four Williams scholars will take a look at three distinct, often discreet, kinds of influence. Prof. **Benjamin Gillespie**, Baruch College - City University of New York, will examine the impact of playwright Eugene O'Neill; **Margit Longbrake**, Managing Editor of *The Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, will investigate where Shakespeare's influence appears in Williams's work; and **David Kaplan**, Curator, The Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, takes a look at the surprising amount of influence the early sci-fi/fantasy magazine *Weird Tales* had on Williams. **Thomas Keith** will moderate the discussion.

Sponsored by Helen and George Ingram.

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



David Kaplan

PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON

11:30 - 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

HERE COME THE GIRLS: WHAT CRIME FICTION TELLS US ABOUT THE LIVES OF GIRLS AND WOMEN

Presented by the Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction

We read crime fiction for many reasons—to find a sense of order in a chaotic world, to maintain a relationship with a beloved protagonist or revisit a fascinating setting—but we also turn to it for deep human truths, and some of the most interesting crime novels are written by and for women. We see the savagery of teenage girls, the anger of frustrated housewives or abused women, and plain old bad girls—as well as the inventiveness of victims, perpetrators, and truth tellers in these novels. Stilettos, anyone? **Maureen Corrigan**, the distinguished book critic for *Fresh Air* and the *Washington Post*, moderates a discussion with bestselling authors **Megan Abbott**, **Alafair Burke**, **Gillian Flynn**, and **Laura Lippman**, all previous winners of the Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction, about the feminine and feminist aspects of crime writing.

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

11:30 - 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

THE PAST IS FOREIGN COUNTRY: HISTORICAL FICTION

To journey back in time is to encounter new sights, new smells, a new language—even if your time machine takes you no farther, geographically, than your own front door. Three historical novelists will discuss the preparations necessary to take such a voyage: each has written a novel about exile, from home and from fate. In **Allison Alsup's** *Foreign Seed*, an American diplomat investigates the disappearance of explorer Frank Meyer on the Yangtze River in 1918. **Yuri Herrera** writes the first full account of Benito Juárez's 1853 exile in New Orleans in *Season of the Swamp*. And in *The Titanic Survivors Book Club*, **Timothy Schaffert** takes readers to a bookstore in 1912 Paris, where an apprentice librarian of the White Star Line joins up with others who missed the ill-fated boat—and saved their lives. Moderated by New Orleans novelist **C. Morgan Babst**, author of *The Floating World*.

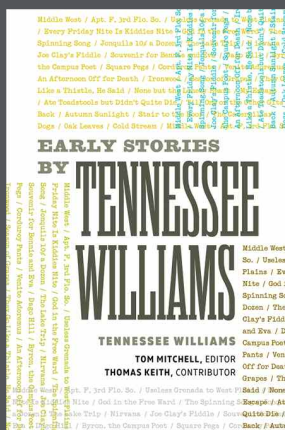
Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon, \$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.

11:30 - 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

A WRITER FINDING HIS VOICE IN ST. LOUIS: THE EARLY SHORT STORIES OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

For the first time in forty years there are new volumes of short stories by Tennessee Williams, both edited by theater director and scholar **Tom Mitchell**. *Early Stories by Tennessee Williams* from the University of Iowa Press contains twenty-nine previously unpublished tales of the Midwest where Williams lived for twenty-two years. Written between 1932 and 1940, they created a collective portrait of a young artist finding his voice in the midst of the Great Depression. Not only did Williams infuse these stories with the people, places, and events of that turbulent time in America, they reveal so much about his unquenchable drive to experiment with style, subject, dialect, voice, and point of view. As playwright and director **Moisés Kaufman** has said about these stories, Williams was “searching for his own form of eloquence.” In addition to Mitchell, panelists include theater scholar **Bess Rowen** and editor and scholar **Thomas Keith**. **Annette J. Saddik** will moderate.

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 THE WEATHER

“Six days and seven nights came the wind and flood, the storm flattening the land.” So goes the 4,000-year-old *Epic of Gilgamesh*, often described as the most ancient surviving work of narrative literature. Weather, in short, has always been central to the stories we tell ourselves. But what new challenges—and opportunities—do writers face in the age of global warming? This panel looks at how writers of various genres are responding to climate change, including poet **Jack B. Bedell**, whose poetry frequently pays tribute to the people, landscapes, and traditions of South Louisiana; **Miles Harvey**, whose debut short fiction collection includes dystopian and drought-stricken settings; writer/director/playwright **Mari Kornhauser**, whose current projects are cli-fi speculative fiction; and journalist and nature critic **Boyce Upholt**, whose writing probes the relationship between humans and the natural world. The panel will be moderated by **David Johnson**.

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

1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE: THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING IN CRIME FICTION

Presented by the Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction

Readers are often loyal to settings in their favorite series. Think of Nevada Barr's state parks, Louise Penny's village of Three Pines, or Laura Lippman's Baltimore. This panel includes four novelists who will take us to turf they have made their own—**Christine Carbo** draws us to the chilly world of Glacier National Park; **Gwen Florio** writes about the wilds of Montana; **Adrianne Harun** has taken us to Highway 16—the Highway of Tears—in British Columbia; and **Sascha Rothchild** takes us to the sunny beaches of Miami. They will discuss how to select a meaningful setting and bring it to life. Moderated by New Orleans writer **Michael Allen Zell**.

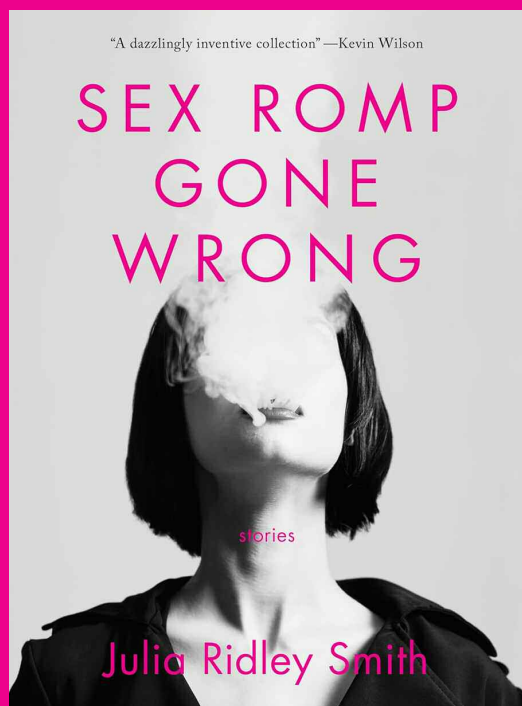
Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carré Room,
\$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.

1 - 2:15 PM—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.

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



2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion
THE SHAPE OF A STORY:
CRAFTING SHORT FICTION

Short stories pack a punch, distilling emotion, conflict, and revelation into just a few pages. What draws writers to this compact yet powerful form? These three authors discuss their approaches to crafting compelling short fiction, from honing voice and structure to balancing restraint and discovery. Whether exploring fleeting moments or life-altering events, their stories prove that brevity can be just as immersive as longer works. Panelists include **Miles Harvey**, **Kate Segriff**, and **Julia Ridley Smith**, with **Rayna Nielsen** moderating.

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

2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion
CRIME WRITING AS SOCIAL COMMENTARY

Presented by the Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction

All crime writing—true crime or fiction—explores right and wrong and the many layers of ambiguity in between. Social issues are often paramount in crime writing. **Emma Copley Eisenberg** shows how a single crime ripples throughout a community in her true crime bestseller, *The Third Rainbow Girl*. **C.S. Harris** explores the social issues of Regency England in her long running Sebastian St. Cyr series. **Angie Kim** explores medical ethics in her debut novel. And **Marcie R. Rendon**, in her Cash Blackbear series, illuminates the issues facing contemporary Native Americans. Moderated by **J.M. Redmann**, creator of the Micky Knight series.

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

2:30 – 4:30 PM—Theatre

MOISE AND THE WORLD OF REASON DEVELOPMENTAL
“FISHBOWL” READING

Join the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans for an in-depth and intimate look at the development of **Justin Maxwell**'s new play adapted from the Williams novel about loneliness, longing, and the reasons we carry on. The playwright will work with director **Augustin J. Corro** and a cast of local performers to explore and fine tune moments in the play as you, the audience, get a fly-on-the-wall view of the new work process. Questions will be asked, moments probed, and pieces may be rearranged in the room during this workshop to determine what might make the script best resonate for artists and audiences, all while respecting the author's vision and the source material.

Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres Street,
\$15 available at www.twtheatrenola.com or VIP pass.

4 – 5:15 PM—Featured Conversation

MUSIC LOVER, WRITER, TEACHER, NEW ORLEANS ICON:
KALAMU YA SALAAM

Kalamu ya Salaam is one of New Orleans' most prolific writers and activists, as well as a venerated retired teacher. He is the author of five books of poetry, over a dozen plays, numerous essays, as well as documentaries. He is known for his work with the independent writing program, Students at the Center, as well as founding BLACKARTSOUTH in 1968, a community writing and acting workshop for Black poets and playwrights. He also founded the NOMMO Literary Society, a New Orleans-based Black writers' workshop whose work led to the creation of Runagate Press, which is still published in partnership with the University of New Orleans Press. A great lover of music, ya Salaam's latest work is a debut novel, *Walkin' Blues*, a speculation and meditation on the life and legend of bluesman Robert Johnson.

He is joined in conversation by writer and publisher, **Michael Allen Zell**.

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

4 – 5:15 PM—Literary Discussion

I'D FOLLOW HER ANYWHERE:
CREATING THE FEMALE PROTAGONIST

Presented by the Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction

What does it take to invent a female protagonist who will compel readers' attention? For some, it's a quirky personality, a fierce sense of independence, or an ongoing personal struggle of her own. For others, it's finding a place in the world or developing a sense of community or family. And in crime fiction, characters need to have a bit of a dark side. Whether you're beginning a series or writing a standalone novel, your female protagonist must be unique, memorable, and tough. Panelists discussing female protagonists include authors **Trudy Nan Boyce**, **Margot Douaihy**, and **Ashley Elston**, with New Orleans writer **Greg Herren** moderating.

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

5:30 PM – 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. The initial Prizes were presented in 2014 at the historic BK House during the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival, and the winners were Laura Lippman and Gwen Florio. After a brief hiatus (COVID, Hurricane Ida), the Prizes return this year with a tenth anniversary presentation ceremony and reception. This event honors the 2024 winners, **Gillian Flynn**, author of *Gone Girl*, *Sharp Objects*, and *Dark Places*, who is receiving the award for a Distinguished Body of Work, and **Ashley Elston**, who is receiving the First Novel Prize for her book, *First Lie Wins*.

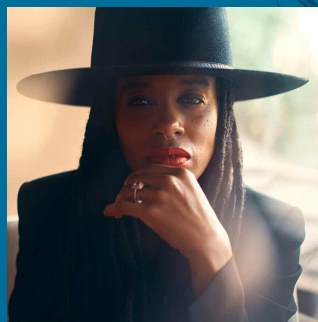
Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carré Room, free and open to the public.

7 - 9 PM—Theatre

**THE LAST BOHEMIA SOIREE:
TIM MURRAY IS WITCHES!**

Join us for a magical evening of music and performance in the storied Toulouse Theatre in the heart of the French Quarter. The evening begins at 7 PM with **Kitten on the Keys** playing show tunes in the lobby bar made famous from countless performances of the late great James Booker. Try the signature Soirée cocktail and have your photo taken by our paparazzi. At 8 PM the lights dim as our emcee **Michelle Nelson aka LOVE the Poet** invites us into the main theater. San Francisco-based performance art witch and drag queen **Fauxnique** will call the winds and the directions.

She'll set the stage for the night, quite literally, with a feminist incantation for healing and magic. Our featured artist, **Tim Murray**, is hot off his sold-out and award-winning run at the



Michelle Nelson aka Love the Poet

Edinburgh Fringe Festival. *Tim Murray is WITCHES!* is a mix of stand-up and original comedy songs about Tim's favorite pop culture witches. Murray is like a gay Bo Burnham, but painted green and doing drag! The show is a tribute to how we discover our magic once we find our coven. Murray speaks to the many people who feel like we have



**TIM MURRAY IS
WITCHES**

to hide ourselves to fit in, and we find our powers grow stronger once we find our chosen family. From *The Craft* to *Wicked* to the Sanderson Sisters to *Sabrina, the Teenage Witch* and Angelica Houston's Grand High Witch, Murray celebrates famous sorceresses throughout herstory and uses their stories as a parallel to our own journey towards community.

Tim Murray has performed stand-up all over the U.S. including SF Sketchfest, The Brooklyn Comedy Festival and DragCon. His new sketch comedy TV show *Wish You Were Queer* produced by Trixie Mattel will debut this year. *Tim Murray Is WITCHES!* received several 5 star reviews at Edinburgh Fringe, was nominated for an Off-West End award, and WON Best Musical show from *Entertainment Now*.

The Toulouse Theatre, 615 Toulouse Street, Preferred Seating \$75, General Admission \$45. Not available with VIP Pass.

7:30 - 10 PM—Theatre

**THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE COMPANY
OF NEW ORLEANS PRESENTS:
ORPHEUS DESCENDING BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

See page 15 for full description.

7:30 PM DOORS, 8 PM PERFORMANCE—Theatre

**THE MUDLARK PUPPETEERS IN COLLABORATION
WITH NIGHTSHADE PRESENT:
A RECLUSE AND HIS GUEST BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

See page 15 for full description.



**KILLER
THEATER**

8 - 10 PM—Special Event

**KILLER THEATER NEW ORLEANS PRESENTS:
CRESCENT CITY CAPER—A 1920s MURDER MYSTERY**

Don your 1920s best for this interactive murder mystery event. Come with a group or solo, and we'll make sure you're on a team to help solve the murder. See Lolly le Fleur, "The Flower of the South," fresh from airing her immortal voice to the stunned theatres of Europe. Her performance is certain to bring out all the leading lights of the city. We ask that guests refrain from committing murders during Ms. le Fleur's performance, as the unique and pleasing tone of her voice, paired with the exotic jazz rhythms, has been known to arouse the ardent passions of the crowd. Witness this marvel as she graces her hometown with another earth-shattering night of excitement and thrills! It promises to be a night to remember. Cash bar available, plus prizes and giveaways!

Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carré Room, \$40 or VIP Pass

The Last Bohemia presents

DRUMMER & SMOKE MUSIC EVENTS

at the
**TOULOUSE
THEATRE**
SUNDAY, MARCH 30



Sponsored by a
Community Partnership
Grant from the New
Orleans Jazz & Heritage
Foundation



12:30 AM – 1:30 PM—Music THE SLICK SKILLET SERENADERS

The Slick Skillet Serenaders are a New Orleans-based band who bring a pre-WWII sensibility to their effervescent and enthusiastic shows, with vaudeville jokes and slapstick stage antics adding dimension to their repertoire of ragtime, traditional jazz, and blues. The band has a handful of albums out, including the 2019 *Stagger Straight*, with the rollicking “Fourth Street Mess Around” and an energetic take on the early blues classic “What’s the Matter With Your Mill?” They have a great love and appreciation for the music of the 20’s and 30’s and the showmanship with which they were performed.

The Toulouse Theatre,
615 Toulouse Street, \$10 or VIP Pass.

1:45 – 2:45 PM—Music LAYLA MUSSELWHITE

Layla Musselwhite is a New Orleans-based singer songwriter and slide guitarist who draws on a rich musical legacy via her father, blues legend Charlie Musselwhite. Layla grew up on the road steeped in the music of the greatest artists of our time including Muddy Waters, Howlin’ Wolf, Big Mama Thornton, and John Lee Hooker. While her music spans rhythm & blues, blues rock, folk, and soul, the touchstone is always the same—a deep understanding and respect for the early rhythms and melodies at the heart of the blues. Layla performs and records solo, duo, and with her full band of New Orleans heavyweights, The Cosmic Gentlemen. She’s recently graced stages at Jazz Fest, Big Sky Blues Fest, Crescent City Blues Festival, and the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise. Her 2023 album *American Primitive* is a collaboration with the New Orleans acoustic virtuoso Jimmy Robinson (*Rolling Stone*’s “Best of Fest” 2018.)

The Toulouse Theatre, 615 Toulouse Street,
\$10 or VIP Pass.



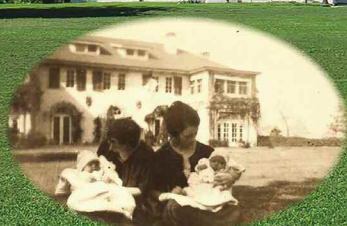
3 – 4 PM—Music ALEXIS AND THE SANITY

Alexis and the Sanity, a pop duo hailing from New Orleans, were formally christened in Spring 2023 when their debut single *Hind Legs* was released online. The band’s sound marries electronic samples, acoustic instruments, and the powerful soprano of frontwoman Alexis Marceaux. Members Marceaux and multi-instrumentalist Sam Craft began their previous incarnation Alexis & the Samurai in 2012 and their bilingual roots-meets-modern sextet Sweet Crude in 2013. Alexis & the Sanity live audiences can expect a mix of industrial grooves, haunting soundscapes, pop bangers, and moments of show-stopping acapella. The strength of Alexis and Sam’s successes (including appearances on NCIS, Tremé, and inclusion in numerous other TV shows and movies) have won the pair weekly residencies and invitations to large festival stages. Alexis & the Sanity’s debut LP *Tongue Tied* was released in February 2025.

The Toulouse Theatre,
615 Toulouse 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

*Where the Past
and the Present
Touch the Future*

www.cuttermansion.com
DeltaWilliamsFest.com

In 1999, the Cutrer Mansion was #1 on the 10 Most Endangered Places List for the Mississippi Heritage Trust. Today, 26 years later, the J.W. Cutrer House serves as a cultural centerpiece in the Mississippi Delta, an anchor for the Coahoma County Higher Education Center, the headquarters for the Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival and as the location for a new federally funded student support program called *Writers for Life*.

We are making a difference and moving forward.

For more information, contact Jen Waller at
jwaller@coahomacc.edu or 662-645-3555.

CCHEC
COAHOMA COUNTY
HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER



COAHOMA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
On a mission...

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

39th 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.

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.

Festival Walking Tours are listed on pages 10 & 11.

9 AM—Special Event

THE NEW ORLEANS WRITING MARATHON

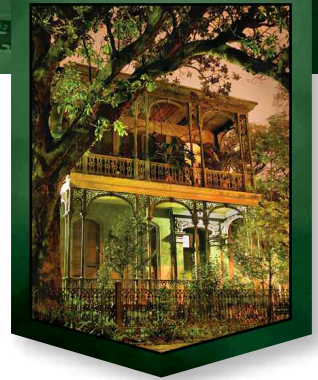
Jumpstart your writing with the New Orleans Writing Marathon! Hosted by founder **Richard Louth**, participants write their way across the French Quarter in cafés, pubs, bookstores, and anywhere a small group of writers can sit, write, and share their work. It's all about writing in the moment, writing 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 and for questions, contact the NOWM at 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

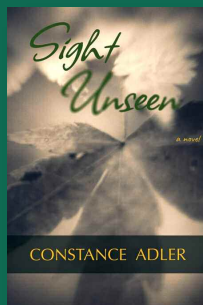
<https://tennesseewilliams.net/new-orleans-writing-marathon/>



10 – 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

A THOUSAND WORDS WORTH—THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PHOTOGRAPHY AND WRITING

Andy Young's new poetry collection *Museum of the Soon To Depart* has a cover photograph by Josephine Sacabo. Both Carolyn Hembree's new poetry collection *For Today* and Constance Adler's new novel *Sight Unseen* have cover photographs by Jennifer Shaw, and the protagonist of Adler's novel is a photographer. Jennifer Shaw has been working with Josephine Sacabo in her studio for several years, and both of these fine art photographers have distinct literary impulses. Shaw has used fairy tales and other works of literature for inspiration, and Sacabo cites poets as her most important influences. These five New Orleans artists will discuss the relationship between the literary and photographic arts. Moderated by New Orleans writer **George Bishop, Jr.**
Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom.
\$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.



11 AM – 12:15 PM—Theatre

STAGED READING OF THE WINNING ONE-ACT PLAY

Join us for a staged reading of *Spit*, by **Nicolette Visciano**, winner of our annual one-act play contest. Under the coordination of **David Hoover**, this reading is directed by **Richon May** and performed by professional UNO alumni. Following the one-act reading, the winners of our other contests will read from their winning pieces: **Katie Henken Robinson**, Fiction; **Monic Ductan**, Poetry; and **Kate Tooley**, Very Short Fiction. Join us in celebrating these contest winners as they share their work with us!

One-Act Contest sponsored by Janet and Stanwood Duval. Fiction Contest sponsored by Jerry Heymann.

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

11:30 AM – 2 PM—Culinary

THE LAST BOHEMIA PRESENTS:

A DRAG BRUNCH NAMED DESIRE

STELLAAA! IT'S TIME FOR DRAG BRUNCH!

Step into the drama and decadence of the Tennessee Williams Festival Drag Brunch, where the mimosas are bottomless, the performances are *electrifying*, and the food is as rich as Blanche DuBois' taste in men! Join New Orleans drag royalty, **Debbie with a D**, **Kozmik**, and **Vantasia Divine**, for a high-energy show paired with a three-course brunch inspired by **Poppy Tooker's Drag Brunch Cookbook**.

FIRST COURSE - Crabmeat Cheesecake:

pecan crust, mushroom sauté, Creole Meunière sauce, Gulf crab claws

SECOND COURSE - choice of Grits &

Grillades: slow simmered pork cutlets, Creole tomato gravy, creamy stone ground grits OR Pain Perdu: Creole style French toast, fresh berries, Louisiana cane syrup drizzle

THIRD COURSE - Tarte à la Bouillie: rustic Cajun sweet dough, vanilla custard, Old New Orleans rum caramel sauce

Plus, Bottomless Mimosas!

Dickie Brennan's Tableau, 616 Saint Peter Street, Brunch & Show \$120 inclusive of tax & gratuity. Tickets available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-drag-brunch-named-desire-tickets-1252283195749>. Not available with VIP Pass.



Debbie with a D

11:30 – 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

THE ART OF MEMOIR

What is memoir but a report from the center of the self? Free of restraints and determined to exist. A letter to a past self and a consideration of a future self. The memoir writers on this panel represent a variety of selves, born from distinct experiences. **Larry Bagneris** is the author of *Call Me Larry, A Creole Man's Triumph over Racism and Homophobia*, his story of growing up gay in New Orleans in the 1950s and political activism in Texas, where he founded Houston Pride Parade, then returning to his hometown. **Pretty** is the memoir of **KB Brookins**, a Black Trans writer, who offers a vibrant portrait of queerness, masculinity, and race. Combat veteran **J.T. Blatty** writes about her photography and oral history project, documenting the lives of Ukrainians in the Donbas region in *Snapshots Sent Home*. The author of numerous novels, **Bernice L. McFadden** delves into memoir with *First Born Girls*, her family history that traces the entwined generations of mothers and daughters. The panel is moderated by **Constance Adler**, author of the memoir *My Bayou, New Orleans Through the Eyes of a Lover* and a debut novel *Sight Unseen*.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom.

\$10 or Lit Pass or VIP Pass.

12:30 – 1:30 PM—Music

THE LAST BOHEMIA PRESENTS:

DRUMMER & SMOKE:

THE SLICK SKILLET SERENADERS

The Slick Skillet Serenaders are a New Orleans-based band who bring a pre-WWII sensibility to their effervescent and enthusiastic shows, with vaudeville jokes and slapstick stage antics adding dimension to their repertoire of ragtime, traditional jazz, and blues. The band has a handful of albums out, including the 2019 *Stagger Straight*, with the rollicking “Fourth Street Mess Around” and an energetic take on the early blues classic “What’s the Matter With Your Mill?” They have a great love and appreciation for the music of the 20’s and 30’s and the showmanship with which they were performed. *Drummer & Smoke is made possible by a Community Partnership Grant from the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation.*

**The Toulouse Theatre, 615 Toulouse Street,
\$10 or VIP Pass.**

1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK:

SETTING AS CHARACTER

From Anne Rice’s haunted, gothic mansions to Fitzgerald’s desolate valley of ashes, the setting of a story can be just as iconic and vibrant as the characters in it. In the hands of a savvy writer, the setting of a story should take on a life of its own, one that not only immerses readers in the world but that also adds to the ambience and increases the conflict. Join **Constance Adler**, whose novel *Sight Unseen* begins in a lush New Orleans garden on the eve of the infamous May 8, 1995 flood; **Ery Shin**, author of *Spring on the Peninsula*, a poignant meditation on modern life in Seoul; and **Adrian Van Young**, author of the *Midnight Self*, which transports the reader from harrowing outer space to twisting labyrinths as they reveal the key to building grounded worlds and lively locations. In this discussion, suitable for aspiring and experienced writers alike, we’ll dig deep into the craft of setting, finding fresh insights as well as strategies for getting the most out of this essential narrative tool. Moderated by **Allison Alsup**, author of *Foreign Seed*.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom.

\$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.

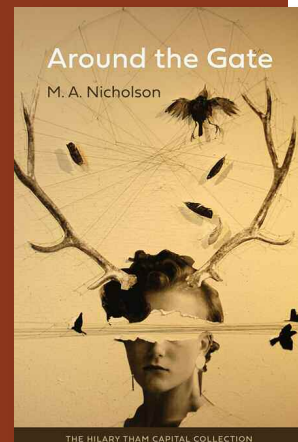
1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

PLACE, MEMORY, AND BELONGING: NEW POETRY FROM NEW ORLEANS

From Homer’s *Odyssey* to Walcott’s *Omeros*, poets have always been captivated by questions of place, memory, and belonging: how rootedness creates commitments and allegiances, and how both our sense of place and our sense of ourselves shift over time. Exploring this theme in powerful new collections are four New Orleans-based poets: **Benjamin Morris** (*The Singing River*, Belle Point Press), **M.A. Nicholson** (*Around the Gate*, The Word Works), **Peter Cooley** (*Accounting for the Dark*, Carnegie Mellon), and **Andy Young** (*Museum of the Soon to Depart*, Carnegie Mellon). Join us for a stirring conversation moderated by **Dr. Stacey Balkun** (*Sweetbitter*, Sundress Publications) about who, what, and why we call things home.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon.

\$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.



1:45 – 2:45 PM—Music

THE LAST BOHEMIA PRESENTS:

DRUMMER & SMOKE: LAYLA MUSSELWHITE

Layla Musselwhite is a New Orleans-based singer songwriter and slide guitarist who draws on a rich musical legacy via her father, blues legend Charlie Musselwhite. Layla grew up on the road steeped in the music of the greatest artists of our time including Muddy Waters, Howlin’ Wolf, Big Mama Thornton, and John Lee Hooker. While her music spans rhythm & blues, blues rock, folk, and soul, the touchstone is always the same—a deep understanding and respect for the early rhythms and melodies at the heart of the blues. Layla performs and records solo, duo, and with her full band of New Orleans heavyweights, The Cosmic Gentlemen. She’s recently graced stages at Jazz Fest, Big Sky Blues Fest, Crescent City Blues Festival, and the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise. Her 2023 album *American Primitive* is a collaboration with the New Orleans acoustic virtuoso Jimmy Robinson (*Rolling Stone*’s “Best of Fest” 2018.)

Drummer & Smoke is made possible by a Community Partnership Grant from the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation.

The Toulouse Theatre, 615 Toulouse Street, \$10 or VIP Pass.

2:30 – 3:45 PM—Special Event

“TWO OR THREE THINGS I KNOW FOR SURE”

—A TRIBUTE READING FOR DOROTHY ALLISON

“The horror of class stratification, racism, and prejudice is that some people begin to believe that the security of their families and communities depends on the oppression of others, that for some to have good lives there must be others whose lives are truncated and brutal.”

**—Dorothy Allison, *Skin*,
Firebrand Books, 1994.**

Dorothy Allison was a queer icon for decades and also one of our community’s



brightest lights and strongest voices. Dorothy stood as a beacon of hope and wisdom, which she shared with the world in her writing. Raised as a “Bastard out of Carolina,” Dorothy fiercely fought against stigma and shame, and fought for the underprivileged. Her work brilliantly explored the connections and intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality. She was also a longtime supporter and friend of Saints & Sinners, was in our first Hall of Fame class of Literary Saints, and participated whenever she was able. It’s almost impossible to imagine Saints and Sinners without Dorothy. She was also a favorite TWfest speaker, loved for her honesty, quick humor, and solid advice for aspiring writers. We hope you will join us for this tribute reading for a lesbian literary legend. Hosted by **Jewelle Gomez**, with additional readings by **Patricia Brady, Greg Herren, Thomas Keith, Susan Larson, and Elisabeth Nonas. Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.**



Jewelle and Dorothy, 1986.

3 - 4 PM—Music

THE LAST BOHEMIA PRESENTS: DRUMMER & SMOKE: ALEXIS AND THE SANITY

Alexis and the Sanity, a pop duo hailing from New Orleans, were formally christened in Spring 2023 when their debut single *Hind Legs* was released online. The band’s sound marries electronic samples, acoustic instruments, and the powerful soprano of frontwoman Alexis Marceaux. Members Marceaux and multi-instrumentalist Sam Craft began their previous incarnation Alexis & the Samurai in 2012 and their bilingual roots-meets-modern sextet Sweet Crude in 2013. Alexis & the Sanity live audiences can expect a mix of industrial grooves, haunting soundscapes, pop bangers, and moments of show-stopping acapella. The strength of Alexis and Sam’s successes (including appearances on NCIS, Tremé, and inclusion in numerous other TV shows and movies) have won the pair weekly residencies and invitations to large festival stages. Alexis & the Sanity’s debut LP *Tongue Tied* was released in February 2025.

Drummer & Smoke is made possible by a Community Partnership Grant from the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation.

The Toulouse Theatre, 615 Toulouse Street, \$10 or VIP Pass.

3 - 5:30 PM—Theatre

THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS PRESENTS: ORPHEUS DESCENDING BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

See page 15 for full details.

7 - 9 PM—Culinary

THE LAST BOHEMIA PRESENTS: BIBI’S KITCHEN: A ROMANI CULINARY RITUAL

Join your slutty, stoner Aunties Bimbo Yaga and Moonbear as they lovingly share their kitchen witchery with you. This four-course family style meal will feature inspired dishes of Eastern European and Balkan Romani family food traditions with slight variations to accommodate gluten free and vegetarian guests. Following dinner, Jezmina and Paulina will guide guests through a brief tealeaf reading session. Includes live music from the renowned troubadour Milly Raccoon and special musical guest Viktor, this ritual of food is curated to nourish your spirits. Our menu for this event is subject to change. **1st Course:** Pickled onion and cucumber salad with herbed smetana, in-house smoked cheese, buttermilk biscuits, gluten free corn bread, and garlic honey butter. **2nd Course:** Delicious gluten free & vegetarian Sarma, a stuffed cabbage similar to Golumpki (made with baked rice, impossible burger, and mushrooms), and a gluten free kimmel soup. **3rd Course:** A choice of braised greens with roasted eggplant and chickpeas topped with feta OR braised lamb and curried vegetable stew all served over baked herbed rice. **4th Course:** Baked apples with spiced honey and sweet cheese with tea, followed by tea leaf readings. **Beverages:** Iced Herbal Tea, Herb Infused Wine. **Mister Gregory’s Shrimp Boil Cabaret, 830 North Rampart Street, \$100. Not available with VIP pass.**



7 - 8 PM—Special Event

THIRD LANTERN LIT PRESENTS: THE FICTION SESSIONS: A READING OF NEW WORKS

The Fiction Sessions is New Orleans' only all-fiction reading series, hosted by local writing collective, Third Lantern Lit. This month's theme is "Period Piece," so we will be taking a journey through time from the swingin' 60s to regency drama to ancient Roman sabotage. So head out to the Bywater to enjoy an evening of new work by local writers. TWfest is proud to partner with Third Lantern Lit for this series of workshops and events.

Beanlandia, 3300 Royal Street, Free and open to the public.

Friends of **TENNESSEE**

2024 – 2025 Friends and Donors as of March 8, 2025

Blanche DuBois depended on the kindness of strangers, and the Festival depends on the kindness of Friends! You can become a Friend of Tennessee and enjoy membership level perks, become part of a strong literary arts community, and help us continue our mission of supporting artists. We are also grateful to our donors who support our giving campaigns throughout the year. You can join Friends of Tennessee or donate in our Headquarters during the Festival or online at www.tennesseewilliams.net.

BABY DOLL

Barbara Beckman
Edwin Beckman
Addie Citchens
Roger Collins
Clayton Delery
Nancy Dixon
Gregory Gajus
Anne Gisleson
Lawrence Henry Gobble
Skye Jackson
Alex Jennings
Adam Karlin
Annell López
Kathi McCord
Pennie Nichols
Michael Normandy
Elisa Speranza
Peter Tobias
E.M. Tran
Nikki Ummel
Adrian Van Young

SERAFINA DELLE ROSE

Joseph Biniek
Maggie Bobbitt
Tracy & Sonny Cunningham
Linda Dawson
David Hoover
Marilyn Huddell
Hélène Inayetian
Margit Longbrake
Russell Lopez
Jim MacDonald
Molly Mitchell
Kathryn Nathan
Sandra Nickel
Stuart Noel & Joseph Bishop

Ruby & Jerry Tremont
Sara Woodard

GENTLEMAN CALLER

Kathy Higgins & Terry Verigan

MAGGIE THE CAT

Peggy & Errol Laborde
Ruth Koffman
Margaret Dziedzic
Michele Kaminski
Ardee Eichelmann

BIG DADDY

George & Helen Ingram

FESTIVAL DONORS

Judy & Allain Andry
Rex Arrasmith
C. Morgan Babst
Bah Humbug Productions, Inc.
Sara Barnard
Fredrick Barton
Joy & Boysie Bollinger
Ruth Boulet
Beau Bratcher
Jenna Burke
Leslie Castay
Tracy & Sonny Cunningham
Lisa D'Amour
Nancy Dixon
Janet & Stanwood Duval
Ericksen Law Firm PLLC
Gregory Gajus
Heymann-Wolf Foundation
Kathy Higgins & Terry Verigan
Michele Kaminski
In Memory of Thomas Kiczula Jr.,
aka Tommy Kicz

Andy Kopplin
Peggy and Errol Laborde
Margit Longbrake
Jim MacDonald
Gary Matus & Dan Sheehan
Laura Lane McNeal
Benjamin Morris
Kathryn Nathan
Nell Nolan
John Norris
Brittany Older
Brad Richard
Ava Rosenberg
Mona Lisa Saloy
Carla Seyler
Nick Shackelford
Peter Tobias
Nikki Ummel
Charlie Van Horn
Chris Washington
Fritz Westenberg
Paul J. Willis
Sara Woodard, in honor of
Susan Larson

IN MEMORY OF STEPHEN MARTIN ECTON:

Roxanna Baer
Gloria Feinberg
Kristin & Richard King
Priscilla & John Lawrence
Marie McCormack

AUCTION DONORS

Austin's
Bonefish Grill
Cadeau Girl TX
The Celestine Hotel
Cheyanne Dise, Psychic Medium

Criollo
Timothy Cummings
Elysian Fields Inn
Macon Fry
Galatoire's
Gallery Rinard
Grant Sutton Acupuncture
Gris-Gris
Paul Gruer Designs
Historic New Orleans Collection
Home Malone
Hotel Monteleone
Scott Hutcheson
Jezebel's
Joan of Arc Project
Errol & Peggy Scott Laborde
L'Auberge Casino Resort
Link Restaurant Group
Michalopolous Gallery
Mosquito Supper Club
Paul Murray LMT
National WWII Museum
Nola Healer
Papier Plume
Scarlet Pearl Casino Resort
Kathleen Schrenk
Shrimp Boil Cabaret
Tennessee Williams Festival
Writers' Circle
The Tennessee Williams Theatre Co.
of New Orleans
Dr. Nick Thompson
E. M. Tran
Ruby Tremont
Adrian Van Young
Wellington & Company Fine Jewelry
And thank you to our
anonymous donors!



wyes  PBS

WYES IS

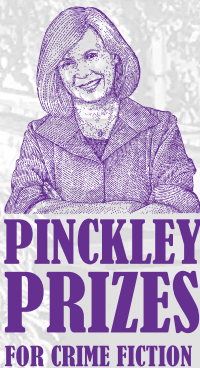
**New Orleans'
STORYTELLER**

WYES.ORG

FUNDING SUPPORT FOR THE 39TH ANNUAL TENNESSEE WILLIAMS & NEW ORLEANS LITERARY FESTIVAL



The Times-Picayune



Goldring Family Foundation

Ruth U. Fertel
FOUNDATION



ARTS • ARCHAEOLOGY • HISTORIC PRESERVATION • CODOFIL



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES



Mayor LaToya Cantrell



Arts New Orleans

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 2024 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.



THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW ORLEANS

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP



Mayor's Office of Cultural Economy
City of New Orleans
Mayor LaToya Cantrell



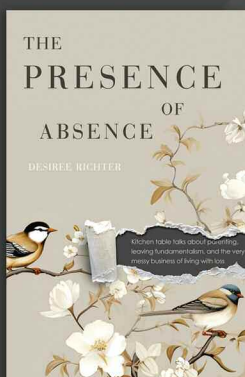
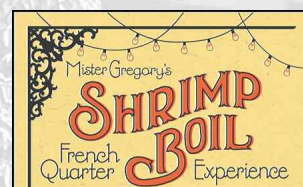
Midlo Center
for New Orleans Studies

THE UNIVERSITY of NEW ORLEANS



Hotel Monteleone
NEW ORLEANS

The French Quarter's Most Celebrated Hotel



The University of New Orleans Press celebrates

THE PRESENCE OF ABSENCE:

*Kitchen table talks about parenting, leaving fundamentalism,
and the very messy business of living with loss*

by **Desiree Richter**

Available at the TWF Bookfair, online, and wherever fine books are sold

你好

Study Mandarin Chinese Xavier University of Louisiana

Learn Mandarin + enroll in
Chinese Minor

Study abroad in Taiwan

Huayu BEST Scholarships of TWD
25,000 (≈USD\$750) per month
studying in Taiwan

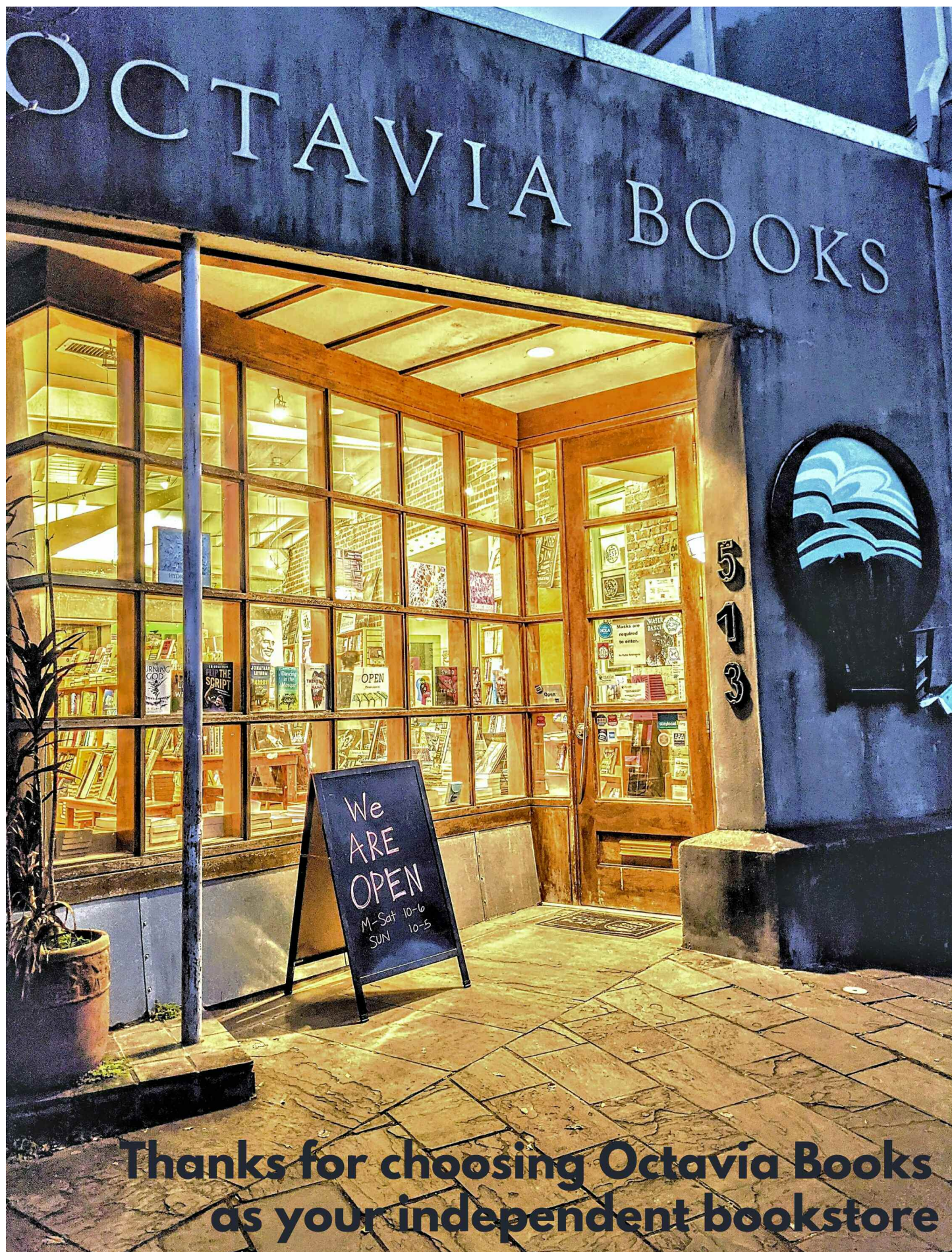
Substantial scholarships from Xavier
to cover international travel

Email

Chineselanguage@xula.edu
for more information



Press Forward. Fear Nothing.
1925 – 2025



**Thanks for choosing Octavia Books
as your independent bookstore**

2025 FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS

39th Annual
TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL



Megan Abbott is the award-winning author of eleven crime novels, including *You Will Know Me*, *Beware the Woman* and the *New York Times* bestseller *The Turnout*, winner of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, the *Paris Review* and the *Wall Street Journal*. *Dare Me*, the series she adapted from her own novel, is now streaming on Netflix. Her next novel, *El Dorado Drive*, comes out in June 2025.



Constance Adler's first novel is *Sight Unseen* from ELJ Editions. Her memoir is *My Bayou, New Orleans Through the Eyes of a Lover* (Michigan State University Press); her stories have appeared in *Oxford American*, *Utne Reader*, *Garden & Gun Magazine*, *River Teeth Journal*, *Blackbird*, and *Peauxdunque Review*, among others. Her work has received a First Place Award in Creative Nonfiction from Words & Music Literary Conference. A graduate of Smith College, she holds an MA in Creative Writing from Hollins University. Adler lives near Bayou Saint John in New Orleans.



Allison Alsup is an award-winning writer whose work has appeared in the *O. Henry Prize Stories* and *Best Food Writing*. *Foreign Seed* is her first novel and was named a Historical Novel Society editor's pick and finalist for debut fiction by the National Jewish Book Awards. As co-founder and Creative Director of the local nonprofit, New Orleans Writers Workshop, Allison regularly teaches fiction workshops and works one-on-one with writers to develop their manuscripts.



C. Morgan Babst is a native of New Orleans. Her essays and short fiction have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Saveur*, *The Oxford American*, *Guernica*, *the Harvard Review*, *Lenny Letter*, and the *New Orleans Review*, among others, and she is a regular contributor to *Garden and Gun*. Her essays "Death Is a Way to Be" and "The House of Myth" were listed as Notable in *Best American Essays 2016* and *2020*, respectively. Her debut novel, *The Floating World*, was named one of the best books of 2017 by *Kirkus*, *Amazon*, *Southern Living*, and the *Dallas Morning News* and was a *New York Times* Editors' Pick. www.cmorganbabst.com



Larry Bagneris, a native New Orleanian, began his civil rights activism as a student at St. Augustine High School. He graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana and moved to Houston, Texas, where he was a two-term president of the city's Gay Political Caucus, chairperson of Gay Pride week, and, in 1979, founder of Houston's Gay Pride parade. Bagneris returned to New Orleans in the 1990s and became a lobbyist for the NO/AIDS Task Force. He served four mayoral administrations as executive director of New Orleans's Human Relations Commission before retiring in 2018. He is the author of the memoir *Call Me Larry: A Creole Man's Triumph over Racism and Homophobia*, forthcoming March 2025 from The Historic New Orleans Collection.



Stacey Balkun is the author of *Sweetbitter* and co-editor of *Fiolet & Wing*. Winner of a 2022 PEN America grant, her creative work has appeared in *Best New Poets*, *Mississippi Review*, *Pleiades*, and several other anthologies and journals. Her critical work has been anthologized and awarded support from the Modern Language Association and the South Atlantic MLA. Stacey holds a PhD from the University of Mississippi, Oxford and an MFA from Fresno State. She teaches online at The Poetry Barn. She lives and writes in New Orleans.



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



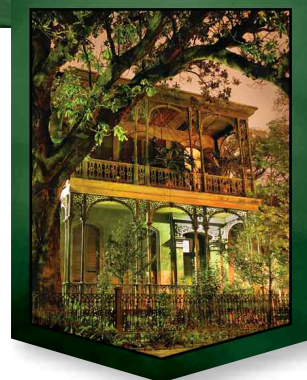
Jack B. Bedell is Professor of English and Coordinator of Creative Writing at Southeastern Louisiana University where he also edits *Louisiana Literature* and directs the Louisiana Literature Press. Jack's work has appeared in *HAD*, *Heavy Feather*, *Brawl Lit*, *Moist*, and other journals. He's also had pieces included in *Best Microfiction* and *Best Spiritual Literature*. His latest collection is *Ghost Forest* (Mercer University Press, 2024). He served as Louisiana Poet Laureate 2017-2019.



George Bishop, Jr., grew up in Louisiana, studied at Loyola, and then lived and taught for many years abroad, most recently in Japan and India. He now makes his home in the Bywater. 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*.



JT (Jenn Tuero) Blatty is an award-winning documentary photojournalist, writer, and storyteller. She is the author of *Snapshots Sent Home* (2024), a military memoir chronicling her journey in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Ukraine, and *Fish Town*:



Down the Road to Louisiana's Fishing Communities, a work preserving the cultural and environmental remains of southeastern Louisiana's multigenerational fishing communities. A graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, Blatty served six years as an active-duty US Army officer before pursuing a career in photojournalism. Since 2018, she has been documenting the war in Ukraine.



Trudy Nan Boyce received her PhD in community counseling before becoming a police officer for the City of Atlanta. During her more-than-30-year career she served as a beat cop, homicide detective, senior hostage negotiator, and lieutenant. Boyce retired from the police department in 2008 and still lives in Atlanta. Her latest novel is *The Policeman's Daughter*.



Patricia Brady is a social and cultural historian who has published extensively on first ladies, women, free people of color, cemeteries, literature, and the arts in the South. A Texan, she came to New Orleans in 1961 to attend Newcomb College and has lived in the city ever since. She received the PhD from Tulane University and taught history at Dillard University. She founded and was director of the publications department at the Historic New Orleans Collection for twenty years. Brady is a past president of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival and invited Dorothy Allison to come to the Festival for the first time over thirty years ago.



KB Brookins is a Black queer and trans writer, educator, and cultural worker from Texas. KB's chapbook *How To Identify Yourself with a Wound* won the Saguaro Poetry Prize, a Writer's League of Texas Discovery Prize, and a Stonewall Honor Book Award. Their debut poetry collection *Freedom House* won the American Library Association Barbara Gittings Literature Award and the Texas Institute of Letters Award for the Best First Book of Poetry. KB's debut memoir *Pretty* was released in May 2024 with Alfred A. Knopf. It won the Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writer's Award in Creative Non-Fiction. Follow them online @earthtokb.



Jacob Budenz is an author, multidisciplinary performer, musician and witch with an MFA from University of New Orleans and a BA from Johns Hopkins whose work focuses on the intersection of queer otherness and the otherworldly. The author of speculative short story collection *Tea Leaves* (Bywater Books 2023) and poetry chapbook *Pastel Witcheries* (Seven Kitchens Press 2018), Budenz has had work in print journals including *Slipstream* and *Assaracus*, zeitgeisty online journals including *Taco Bell Quarterly* and *Wussy Mag*, anthologies by Mason Jar Press and Unbound Edition, and, most recently, a performance art piece in the Walters Art Museum for their Queering the Collection series. Follow Jake's work on Instagram (@dreambabyjake) or at www.jakebecarts.com.



Alafair Burke is the Edgar-nominated, *New York Times* best-selling author of fifteen novels of suspense, including her latest novel, *The Note*, as well as *The Ex*, *The Wife*, *The Better Sister*, and *Find Me*, and coauthor of the best-selling *Under Suspicion* series.

A former prosecutor, she is now a professor of criminal law. She recently served as president of the Mystery Writers of America and was the first woman of color to be elected to that position. She lives in New York.

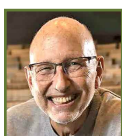


Christine Carbo is the author of the Glacier Mystery novels, an ensemble series set in and around Glacier National Park. Her books include *The Wild Inside*, *Mortal Fall*, *The Weight of Night*, and *A Sharp Solitude*. She is a recipient of the Women's National

Book Association Pinckley Prize, the Silver Falchion Award, the High Plains Book Award, and is a finalist for the Barry Award. She has an MA in English and linguistics and taught college-level courses for over a decade. She still teaches, in a vastly different realm, as a Pilates instructor. A Florida native, she lives with her family in Whitefish, Montana.



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 PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies with the CUNY Graduate Center.



Mark Charney earned his MA at the University of New Orleans and his PhD 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*, Dying in a Van Ain't so Bad, the West End; *Revenge of the Oompa Loopas*, DC; and induction into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre, 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 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.



Eric Cook is the Executive Chef and Owner of award-winning New Orleans restaurants Gris-Gris and Saint John. A six-year U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran, Cook entered the culinary world and worked in many of the city's

most well-renowned kitchens before building a culinary empire of his own. Cook has appeared on *Top Chef New Orleans*, *Gordon Ramsay: Uncharted*, *Off the Menu*, and *After Hours with Daniel Boulud*, and has been showcased in *Food & Wine*, *Forbes*, *Garden & Gun*, *Bon Appetit* and more. His first cookbook, *Modern Creole: A Taste of New Orleans Culture and Cuisine*, winds through Southern, Cajun, and Creole genres with dishes that are accessible enough for an everyday meal, yet impressive enough for company or the holiday table. He is the founder and President of the First to Fight Foundation, founded by combat veterans to support military veterans and their families, and has been an active volunteer for Wounded Warriors, The Legacy Foundation, Disposable Heroes Project, We Heart Veterans, The American Red Cross and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



Peter Cooley has published twelve books, the most recent *Accounting for the Dark* (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2024). For 43 years he served as Director of Creative Writing at Tulane University and is now Professor Emeritus. He was Poet Laureate of Louisiana from 2015-17.



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.



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.



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.



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 *Hit Man* in the role of Jill. *Hit Man* premiered in Venice, Toronto, and Sundance film festivals and will be on Netflix in June 2024. *The Climbing Rose of the Garden District*, in which Beth plays Feydau Klaus, previewed at the Prytania Theatre. Williams roles include Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Catherine Holly in *Suddenly Last Summer*, and Carol Cutrere in *Orpheus Descending* (directed by 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 Fur*, *Charlie Chaplin - Silent Lives*, *George Bailey - It's A Wonderful Life*. Film/TV: *Wendell - Wendell & The Lemon* (SLAMDANCE, Best Actor NYCV-Fest), *Heart Wants* (N.O.F.F. '14), *Get Out Fast* (Prod, SLAMDANCE), *Preacher*, *Claws*, *Bigger*, *C'mon C'mon* (Joaquin Phoenix), *The Purge*, *Ncis*, *Stranger Things*, *Florida Man* (Netflix), and *Bandit* (E.Cuthbert, Josh Duhamel, Mel Gibson). Thanks, Beth & Daddy-O.



Danielle Del Sol has been executive director of the Preservation Resource Center since 2018. Before that, she served as the assistant editor, and then editor, of *Preservation In Print* magazine for seven years, and as PRC's communications director. Danielle holds a Master in Preservation Studies degree from the Tulane University School of Architecture. She sits on the boards of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Preservation Partners Network, and Preservation Action, as well as local boards. She and her husband Ramsey Green are raising their three children in a c. 1905 shotgun house they restored in Uptown New Orleans.



Margot Douaihy lives in Northampton, MA, and is an assistant professor of creative writing with Emerson College. She is the author of the award-winning, nationally bestselling *Sister Holiday* series, in addition to the poetry collections *Bandit/Queen: The Runaway Story of Belle Starr*, *Scranton Lace*, and *Girls Like You*. Her debut mystery, *Scorched Grace*, won The Pinckley Prize in Crime Fiction and was named a Best Crime Novel of the Year by *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *CrimeReads*, *Marie Claire*, and others.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL BOOK ASSOCIATION

NEW ORLEANS



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



Emma Copley Eisenberg is the author of the novel *Housemates*, which was a national bestseller and named a best book of the year by *The Boston Globe*, *People*, *NBC*, *Them*, *Us*, *Autostraddle*, and *Kirkus Reviews* as well as one of *Electric Literature's* "Top 5 Novels of 2024" and *Time Magazine's* "16 Best Books to Read for Pride." Her narrative nonfiction book, *The Third Rainbow Girl*, was a *New York Times* Notable Book and Editor's Choice, as well as a finalist for an Edgar Award, a Lambda Literary Award, and an Anthony Award, among other honors. Her fiction, essays, and criticism have appeared in *Granta*, *Esquire*, *The New Republic*, *Lux*, *The Washington Post Magazine*, *VQR*, and many other publications. She lives in Philadelphia, where she co-founded Blue Stoop, a community hub for the literary arts. Her short story collection, *Fat Swim*, is forthcoming from Hogarth in 2026.



Ashley Elston is the author of #1 *New York Times* bestseller and Reese's Book Club pick, *First Lie Wins*. *First Lie Wins* has been optioned for television by ABC Signature with Octavia Spencer and Krista Vernoff attached to the project. She is also the author of six YA books. Ashley lives in Louisiana with her husband and three sons.



Katherine Fausset has worked in book publishing since 1998, starting at the Watkins/Loomis Agency. She joined Curtis Brown, Ltd. as an agent in 2006, where she is now a Senior Agent and a Vice President. She represents mainly literary and upmarket fiction, as well as select non-fiction. Her clients include multiple award-winning, national and international bestselling authors. Some of her clients include Emily St. John Mandel, Cara Black, Benjamin Percy, Laura van den Berg, Crystal Hana Kim, Eugenie Montague, Ioan Grillo, Chip Cheek, Cynthia Hand, Amy Lin and Elise Juska.



Randy Fertel is the author of *Winging It: Improv's Power and Peril in the Time of Trump* (Spring Publications, 2024), *A Taste for Chaos: The Art of Literary Improvisation* (Spring Publications, 2015) and *The Gorilla Man and the Empress of Steak: A New Orleans Family Memoir* (University Press of Mississippi, 2011). He is the co-founder of the Ridenhour Prizes for Courageous Truth-telling. Fertel holds a PhD in English and American literature from Harvard University. He has taught English at Harvard University, Tulane University, LeMoyne College, and the New School for Social Research. He specializes in the literature of the Vietnam War and the literature of exile. In addition to his writing, Fertel is president of the Fertel Foundation and the Ruth U. Fertel Foundation, named for his mother Ruth Fertel, founder of Ruth's Chris Steak House. He lives in New Orleans and New York.



Gwen Florio "is one of those writers who regularly publish series and stand-alones that leave a lasting impression," says the *New York Times*. Her fiction draws on a lengthy journalism career that took her across the country and overseas to several conflict zones, including Afghanistan, Iraq, and Somalia. Her debut novel, *Montana*, won the national Pinckley Prize for debut crime fiction by women and a High Plains Book Award. She's published eleven since, with *Best Be Prepared* the most recent. Her next, *A Senior Citizen's Guide to Life on the Run*, is set for publication in May.



Gillian Flynn is the author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Gone Girl*, for which she wrote the Golden Globe-nominated screenplay. A special edition of the book, including previously unpublished scenes, is now available commemorating the anniversary of its release. She is also the author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *Dark Places* and *Sharp Objects*; and a novella, *The Grownup*. *Sharp Objects* was adapted into an award-winning HBO series. Flynn has an imprint with Zando Projects, Gillian Flynn Books. A former critic for *Entertainment Weekly*, she lives in Chicago with her husband and children.



Benjamin Gillespie, PhD (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.



Jewelle Gomez is the author of eight books, including the recently published collection of poetry, *Still Water*, which explores her multiple identities: Black, Native American, Lesbian, Feminist, as well as her activism (she served on the original board of the Astraea Lesbian Foundation and GLAAD). Her Black, Lesbian Vampire novel, *The Gilda Stories*, has been in print more than 30 years and was optioned by Cheryl Dunye for a TV miniseries. Her third play commissioned by New Conservatory Theatre Center, *Unpacking in P'town*, premiered this spring in San Francisco.



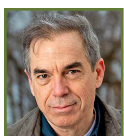
Chris Granger is an award-winning photojournalist in New Orleans, where he has been a staff photographer for *The Times-Picayune* for more than 25 years. He was part of the team of *Times-Picayune* journalists whose work won two Pulitzer Prizes for coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. Chris has spent most of his career documenting the highs and lows of life in Louisiana, from joyous Mardi Gras celebrations to tragic crime scenes to the BP Oil Spill. His photography has won top honors from the National Press Photographers Association, Pictures of the Year Photography Awards, and many others. He has been the photographer for 10 books, including Chef Donald Link's *Real Cajun*, which won the James Beard Foundation's award for Best American Cookbook. Most recently, his photos appear in *Painting the Town: The Importance of Color in Historic New Orleans Architecture*.



C.S. Harris is the *USA Today* bestselling author of more than 30 novels, including the Sebastian St. Cyr historical mystery series. As C.S. Graham, she co-authored a contemporary thriller series with former intelligence officer Steven Harris; she has also published historicals under her own name, Candice Proctor. A respected scholar with a PhD in 18th and 19th century history, she is the author of a groundbreaking nonfiction historical study of women in the French Revolution. Her 20th Sebastian St. Cyr novel, *Who Will Remember*, will be available April 15.



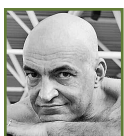
Adrienne Harun is the author of two short story collections, *The King of Limbo*, a Washington State Book Award finalist, and *Catch, Release*, winner of the Eric Hoffer Award. Stories from her collections have been listed as Notable in both *Best American Short Stories* and *Best American Mystery Stories*. Her first novel, *A Man Came Out of a Door in the Mountain*, was long-listed for the International Dublin Literary Award, a finalist for both the Pacific Northwest Booksellers' Award and the Washington State Book Award and winner of a Pinckley Prize for Debut Crime Fiction. A new novel, *On the Way to the End of the World*, was recently published. A longtime resident of Port Townsend, Washington, Adrienne ran a garage, Motorsport, with the legendary Alistair Scovil and has also worked as a teacher and an editor for many years.



Miles Harvey is the author of an award-winning debut collection of short fiction, *The Registry of Forgotten Objects: Stories* (Mad Creek Books, 2024). His nonfiction includes *The King of Confidence* (Little, Brown & Co., 2020), *Painter in a Savage Land* (Random House, 2008) and *The Island of Lost Maps* (a national and international bestseller for Random House, 2000). Harvey teaches creative writing at DePaul University in Chicago, where he chairs the Department of English, serves as director of the DePaul Publishing Institute and is a founding editor of Big Shoulders Books, a nonprofit, social-justice publisher.



Carolyn Hembree's third poetry collection, *For Today*, was published by LSU Press. She has been awarded the Trio Award, the Rochelle Ratner Memorial Award, an ATLAS grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents, and grants and fellowships from PEN, the Louisiana Division of the Arts, and the Southern Arts Federation. She is a professor in the MFA program at the University of New Orleans and serves as the poetry editor of *Bayou Magazine*.



Greg Herren is the author of over 40 novels, 50 short stories, and has edited over 20 anthologies. He has won several awards for his writing and editing, and has been nominated for a multitude of others, including the Shirley Jackson, the Lefty, the Agatha, and the Anthony. His next novel, *Hurricane Season Hustle*, will be released in fall 2025.



Yuri Herrera (Actopan, México, 1970). His first three novels have been translated into several languages: *Kingdom Cons*, *Signs Preceding the End of the World*, and *Transmigration of Bodies*. In 2016 he shared with translator Lisa Dillman the Best translated Book Award for the translation of *Signs Preceding the End of the World*. That same year he received the Anna Seghers Prize at the Academy of Arts of Berlin, for the body of his work. His latest books are *A Silent Fury: The El Bordo Mine Fire, Ten Planets*, and *Season of the Swamp*. He is a professor of creative writing and literature at Tulane University, in New Orleans.



Dr. Megan Holt is Executive Director for One Book One New Orleans and the Words & Music Festival. Her 2021 TEDx Talk, "Becoming Part of the Story," focuses on her work as an adult education advocate. The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities recognized her efforts in 2023 with the Light Up for Literacy Award. Her most recent professional accomplishment is founding a book club inside Orleans Parish Jail, connecting local authors with incarcerated readers.



David Hoover has directed over 50 productions for the University of New Orleans and acted in and/or directed more than 50 professional productions in the New Orleans area. He has taught at the college level for over 37 years, 31 of those at UNO, where he served as Department of Film and Theatre chair for 10 years. He has been the major professor for over 50 MFA Graduates and has directed luminaries such as Alec Baldwin, Eli Wallach, Anne Jackson, John Goodman, Elizabeth Ashley, Stephanie Zimbalist, and Kent McKord. From the Kennedy Center, he received two bronze and one gold medallion for recognition of service to the academy, as well as Distinguished Recognition for his production of

Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo and *For the Love of Helium*. His directing work has been invited eight times to the regional festival of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. He is the recipient of the ATHE prize for Innovative Teaching, the Legacy Award from Omicron Delta Kappa, Playwriting award for the Le Chat Noir One-Act Playwriting Competition, an Artist Fellowship from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, and the coveted Career Achievement Award in Research from the Alumni Association of UNO. Hoover has also won multiple Big Easy, Storer Boone, Marquee, and Ambie awards for acting and directing.



Monique Jenkinson is an artist, choreographer, performer and writer whose work dwells at the intersection of contemporary dance and cabaret and considers the performance of femininity as a powerful, vulnerable and subversive act. Her alter-ego Fauxnique made herstory as the first cis-woman anywhere ever to be crowned as a pageant-winning drag queen and her solo performance 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 is a teacher, author, and performer living in New Orleans. His writing has appeared in *strangehorizons.com*, PodCastle, *The Peauxdunque Review*, *Obsidian Lit*, the Locus Award-winning *Luminescent Threads: Connections to Octavia Butler*, and in numerous anthologies. His debut collection, *Here I Come and Other Stories* was released in 2012. He also serves as MC and co-producer of Dogfish, a monthly literary readings series. He is a graduate of Clarion West (2003) and the University of New Orleans. He was born in Wiesbaden (Germany) and raised in Gaborone (Botswana), Paramaribo (Surinam), and Tunis (Tunisia) as well as the United States. He is an afternoon person. His most recent book is his debut novel, *The Ballad of Perilous Graves*.



David Johnson serves as Director of Marketing and Engagement at the Jefferson Parish Library. He previously served as an editor for *OffBeat Magazine*, *NOMA Magazine* (New Orleans Museum of Art), and *Louisiana Cultural Vistas*, the quarterly publication of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. He is currently working on a book in collaboration with photographer Philip Gould titled *Louisiana: An Aerial Perspective* (University of Louisiana Lafayette 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 20th (and final) season will be September 25-28, 2025. See 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 original LGBTQ essays about New York City. His writing has appeared in *American Theatre*, *Gay & Lesbian Review*, *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, *The Oxford Handbook of Robert Burns*, *The Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, *Provincetown Arts*, and *Studies in Scottish Literature*. He has served as dramaturge for Sundance Theatre Lab and teaches theater at Pace University in New York.



Angie Kim is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Happiness Falls*, a GMA and Barnes & Noble book club pick, winner of the Virginia Literary Award, and Oprah Daily's #1 novel of 2023. Her debut novel, *Miracle Creek*, won the Edgar Award and was named one of the 100 best mysteries and thrillers of all time by *Time* magazine. A Korean immigrant who moved to Baltimore in middle school, Kim studied philosophy at Stanford University and attended Harvard Law School, where she was an editor of the Harvard Law Review.



Mari Kornhauser is an award-winning writer/director/playwright who splits their time between Southern Louisiana and Southern California. Mari has had three feature films produced, and their produced television credits include episodes of HBO's Peabody Award-winning *Treme*. They have written on assignment for studios, actors, producers, and directors. A tenured Full Professor in the Creative Writing Program at Louisiana State University, they teach film and television writing at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Currently, Mari completed a one-act play, *Seeking Asylum*, and a graphic novel, *Stateless*, illustrated by collaborator Simon Blake. Both projects are cli-fi speculative fiction and are touring the marketplace.



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 39th 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.



Susan Langenhennig manages communications for the Southern Deltas region for The Nature Conservancy, a global environmental nonprofit. Previously, she was the director of communications for the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans and editor of its award-winning magazine, *Preservation in Print*. Prior to joining the PRC, Susan was a writer and editor for *The Times-Picayune* and was a member of its Hurricane Katrina coverage team that received two Pulitzer Prizes for its work. Susan also serves on the Board of Directors for Community Sailing New Orleans and the Cancer Association of Louisiana, and has previously served on the LSU Manship School of Mass Communication Alumni Board.



Joan Larkin's sixth book of poems, *Old Stranger*, was published in August by Alice James Books. Her previous books include *Blue Hanuman*; Lambda winner *Cold River*; and *My Body: New and Selected Poems*, recipient of the Audre Lorde Award. Joan co-founded Out & Out Books during the 1970s feminist literary explosion and co-edited *Gay and Lesbian Poetry in Our Time*, among other anthologies. Her work includes *Sor Juana's Love Poems*, co-translated with Jaime Manrique; *Glad Day: Meditations for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender People*; and *The AIDS Passion*, a verse play. She received the Poetry Society of America's Shelley Memorial Award.



Susan Larson is the host of *The Reading Life* on WNO, New Orleans' NPR affiliate, the former book editor of *The New Orleans Times-Picayune* and the author of *The Booklover's Guide to New Orleans*. She is the past president of the Women's National Book Association of New Orleans, which presents the Pinckley Prizes for Crime Fiction, and she is a former member of the boards of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival and The New Orleans Public Library. In 2007, she received the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities lifetime achievement award for her contributions to the literary community.



Chin-Sun Lee is the author of the debut novel *Upcountry* (Unnamed Press 2023), and a contributor to the New York Times bestselling anthology *Women in Clothes* (Blue Rider Press/Penguin 2014). Her work has also appeared in *Electric Literature*, *Literary Hub*, *The Georgia Review*, and *Joyland*, among other publications. She writes, edits, and teaches in New Orleans.



Since **Laura Lippman's** debut, she has been recognized as a distinctive voice in mystery fiction and named one of the "essential" crime writers of the last 100 years. Stephen King called her "special, even extraordinary," and Gillian Flynn wrote, "She is simply a brilliant novelist." Her books have won most of the major awards in her field and been translated into more than twenty-five languages. She lives in Baltimore and New Orleans with her teenager. In 2025, she was named a Grand Master by the Mystery Writers of America, a lifetime achievement award whose recipients have included Agatha Christie, Michael Connelly, Graham Greene, P.D. James, Elmore Leonard and Walter Mosley.



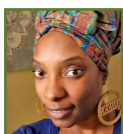
Margit Longbrake, managing editor of the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, has overseen the first-time publication of a number of primary Williams texts unearthed from the archives. As senior editor at the Historic New Orleans Collection, she acquires and edits books and museum publications, including *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 HNOC, 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.



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 work published in *Speak, Louisiana Literature*, and *Country Roads*.



Justin Maxwell teaches playwriting in the Creative Writing Workshop at the University of New Orleans. His playwriting book *The Playwright's Toolbox* was published by Applause Books in May 2024. Currently, he's adapting Tennessee Williams' novel *Moise and the World of Reason* into a full-length play. His "100 MDQs for Plays of Praise" was presented as part of Erik Ehn's 100K project. His play *An Outopia for Pigeons* is out from Original Works Publishing, and *Your Lithopedion* is out from Next Stage Press. His play *Palimpsests of Agrippina Minor* was awarded at ATLAS-BoR Grant in 2020-21. His prose has appeared in multiple journals including *Theatre/Practice*, *Eleven Eleven*, *The Fourth River*, *Minnesota Playlist*, *Contemporary Theatre Review*, *American Theatre Magazine*, and others. He is a former Co-Chair of the Playwriting Symposium at the Mid-America Theatre Conference.



Richon May is a New Orleans-based director, producer, actor, teacher, and Goat in the Road ensemble member. Directing credits with the company include the upcoming *Gallatin Street, Carlota: the Musical* (2024 workshop production), and *The Family Line* (winner: Big Easy Theater Award for Best Directors). She was one of the lead creative artists and performers in *Top 5 Survival Moves*, March 2024. She is a lead teaching artist with the company and directs and coordinates the touring Goat in the Schools program. Richon started her career at the St. Louis Black Rep, receiving multiple main stage credits, while also teaching and managing teen programs for the company. New Orleans credits include *Flowers for Halie* (Director), *Mother Courage* (Co-director), *All The Way* (Assistant Director), and *August Osage County* (Assistant Director) with Southern Rep; and *Eurydice* (Co-Director), *Single Black Female* (Kennedy Center Citizen's Artist Award), and *Hoodoo Love* with University of New Orleans (UNO). Richon has a BA in Speech communication and theater arts from Dillard University, and an MEA from UNO with a concentration in theater direction. She is passionate about working with the youth, and impacting students' lives.



John McCusker has been a photojournalist in New Orleans since 1983, working at the *Times-Picayune* and the *New Orleans Advocate*. He is the author of *Creole Trombone: Kid Ory and the Early Years of Jazz* (2012) and co-author of *Jockomo: The Native Roots of Mardi Gras Indians*, (2019) both published by the University Press of Mississippi. McCusker founded the Cradle of Jazz Tour in 1994 with a goal of protecting and marking structures associated with the birth of jazz in New Orleans. He writes the weekly Backstory column for the *Times-Picayune*.



Bernice L. McFadden is an Assistant Professor of English at Tulane University and the author of several critically acclaimed novels, including *Sugar*, *The Warmest December*, *Loving Donovan*, *Nowhere Is a Place*, *Glorious*, *Gathering of Waters* (a *New York Times* Editors' Choice and one of the 100 Notable Books of 2012), *The Book of Harlan* (winner of a 2017 American Book Award and the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work, Fiction), and *Praise Song for the Butterflies* (long-listed for the 2019 Women's Prize for Fiction). She is a four-time Hurston/Wright Legacy Award finalist, as well as the recipient of three awards from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. Her latest book is *First Born Girls*, a memoir.



Matthew Minor is a master's student in liberal studies at the Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY). He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alabama, where he studied visual art and creative writing before completing a residency in art at the School of Visual Arts in New York. His interests are broad, including literature, art, psychology, and the ancient world. In his academic research, he likes to explore works of art as means of understanding issues of culture, gender, and the relationships of individuals to broader social identities.



Tom Mitchell is emeritus professor of Theatre at the University of Illinois and Festival Scholar for the Tennessee Williams Festival St. Louis. He has edited *Early Stories by Tennessee Williams*, available from the University of Iowa Press, and *The Caterpillar Dogs: Early Stories by Tennessee Williams*, from New Directions. Mitchell edited the stories, "Fin du Monde," "Why Did Desdemona Love the Moor?" and "The Lost Girl" for the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*. He has also adapted and staged many works for the New Orleans and other Tennessee Williams festivals including *Men from the Polar Star*, *Amor Perdido/Lost Love*, and *St. Louis Stories*.



Benjamin Morris, a native of Mississippi, is the author of *Coronary* (Fitzgerald Letterpress, 2011), *Hattiesburg, Mississippi: A History of the Hub City* (Arcadia/History Press, 2014), and *Ecotone* (Antenna, 2017). He holds an MSc in English Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Edinburgh, and among other honors has received a Pushcart nomination, the Academy of American Poets Prize from Duke University, and the Chancellor's Medal for Poetry from the University of Cambridge, where he earned his PhD. The recipient of academic and creative fellowships from the Mississippi Arts Commission and Tulane University, his writing appears regularly in the United States and Europe. *The Singing River* is his first full collection. He lives in New Orleans.



Tim Murray can be seen on *The Other Two* on HBO Max, in the film *Swan Song* starring Jennifer Coolidge, and all over TikTok (4.4 million likes) with his viral sketch comedy videos, including his popular series, "Every Conversation in LA." Murray has performed stand-up all over the U.S. and the U.K., including San Francisco Sketchfest, The Brooklyn Comedy Festival, and DragCon. Murray has been a regular on the *Las Culturistas LIVE* podcast, and his podcast *Slumber Party* is on iHeart radio. He was part of the original cast of *50 Shades the Musical* Off-Broadway (*New York Times*' Critics Pick), and *Voldemort and the Teenage Hogwarts Musical Parody* Off-West End. His new sketch comedy TV show, *Wish You Were Queer*, is produced by Trixie Mattel and will debut in 2025.



M.A. Nicholson is a New Orleans poet, editor, and educator. An MFA graduate from the University of New Orleans—where she served as Associate Poetry Editor for *Bayou Magazine*—M.A. was the recipient of the 2021 Andrea-Saunders Gereighty

Academy of American Poets Award and was *Kenyon Review's* 2024 Peter Taylor Fellow. M.A. has work featured in *Best New Poets 2022* and *Winter in America* (Again anthologies, as well as *Peauxdunque Review*, *Diode Poetry Journal*, *New Orleans Review*, *Trampoline Poetry*, and elsewhere. Her debut poetry collection, *Around the Gate*, was selected for the Hilary Tham Capital Collection prize.



Rayna Nielsen is an indie bookseller and writer. She is the creator and host of *Book Banter*, a virtual event series and podcast. She is the Event Specialist at Blue Cypress Books in New Orleans, Louisiana, and she currently serves on the boards of the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance and the Independent Bookseller Association of Greater New Orleans.



Elisabeth Nonas, the author of four published novels, has written several screenplays as well as short stories, magazine articles, and essays. She coauthored with Simon LeVay the nonfiction *City of Friends: A Portrait of the Gay and Lesbian Community in America*. She taught screenwriting and writing for emerging media at Ithaca College for 25 years. She shared her pedagogy in *Story Workout: Exercises to Help You Connect with the Stories You Want to Tell*. Her most recent novel, *Grace Period*, was published in 2024. She is currently working on a sequel.



Lurana Donnels O'Malley serves as Director of Graduate Studies in Theatre at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and has taught Euro-American theatre history, research, and directing there since 1991. O'Malley is the author of *The Dramatic Works of Catherine the Great: Theatre and Politics in Eighteenth-Century Russia* (2006). O'Malley has also published on topics related to American pageant drama. Her forthcoming book *Black Activists Write Wheatley and Washington: Terrell, Du Bois, and the Drama of the 1932 Bicentennial* (Routledge, July 2025) treats the plays and pageants of the 1932 George Washington Bicentennial, with a focus on Mary Church Terrell.



Maegan Poland's debut short story collection, *What Makes You Think You're Awake?*, was selected by Carmen Maria Machado to win the Bakwin Award and was published in 2021 by Blair Press. Her writing has been published in *Mississippi Review*, *Pleiades*, *Beloit Fiction Journal*, *Juked*, *Notre Dame Review*, and elsewhere. She has received a Special Mention in the Pushcart Prize anthology, a Tin House scholarship, and a grant from the Elizabeth George Foundation. She is an assistant professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. You can find more information at www.maeganpoland.com.



John Pope has been a reporter in New Orleans since 1973. He was a member of *The Times-Picayune* team that won two Pulitzer Prizes and a George Polk Award for coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. His books are *Getting Off at Elysian Fields: Obituaries from The Times-Picayune*, *Building on the Past: Saving Historic New Orleans*, and *Painting the Town: The Importance of Color in Historic New Orleans Architecture*. He has also written for *The Washington Post*, *Variety* and *Reuters*.



Karisma Price is an assistant professor of English at Tulane University. A poet, screenwriter, and media artist, she is the author of *I'm Always So Serious* (Sarabande Books, 2023). Her work has

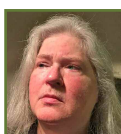
appeared in publications including *Poetry*, *Indiana Review*, *Oxford American*, *Four Way Review*, *Academy of American Poets Poem-A-Day Series*, and elsewhere. She is a Cave Canem Fellow, was a finalist for the 2019 Manchester Poetry Prize, was awarded the 2020 J. Howard and Barbara M. J. Wood Prize from the Poetry Foundation, and is the 2023 winner of the Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize from the *American Poetry Review*. A native New Orleansian, she holds an MFA in poetry from New York University, where she was a Writers in the Public Schools Fellow. Karisma is currently writing a television pilot.



John "Ray" Proctor, PhD, 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 PhD 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). His essay "Romeo and Juliet at an HBCU" was published in *Romeo and Juliet, Adaptation, and the Arts: 'Cut Him Out in Little Stars'* (The Arden Shakespeare 2022), and his essay "Reconsidering and Recasting" was published in *Contemporary Black Theatre and Performance: Acts of Rebellion, Activism, and Solidarity* (Bloomsbury Press 2023). His primary research examines the intersection of race, casting, and the peculiarities and specifics of Identity-Conscious casting practices, particularly in Shakespeare.



Ylva Mara Radziszewski (she/they) is a traditional witch and artist of Romani and Eastern European heritage; residing in Bulbancha (New Orleans) the traditional land of the Chitimacha Nation. Their ritual and art practice are interwoven; for them magic is art and art is healing. Founder of the School of Traditional Magic, author of *A Practical Guide for Witches*, co-creator of The Living Altar, with writing featured in *Witchcraft*, an anthology of modern magical tradition by TASCHEN, and *Secrets of Romani Fortune Telling* by Jezmina Von Thiele & Paulina Stevens. Instagram: @bimboyaga



J.M. Redmann has published twelve novels featuring New Orleans PI Micky Knight. Her first book, published in 1990, is one of the early hard-boiled lesbian detectives. Her books have won three Lambda Literary awards, a Publishing Triangle Joseph Hansen award, and two Goldie awards. *The Intersection of Law and Desire* was an Editor's Choice of the San Francisco Chronicle and a recommended book of NPR's *Fresh Air*. Two books were selected for the American Library Association GLBT Roundtable's Over the Rainbow list, and *Water Mark* won a ForeWord Gold First Place mystery award.



Marcie R. Rendon is an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation. Rendon is the best-selling author of *Where They Last Saw Her* (Penguin/Random House), and the Pinckley Prize author of *Murder on the Red River* in the Cash Blackbear series, the most recent of which is *Broken Fields* (Soho Press). Rendon's poetry, *Anishinaabe Songs for the New Millennium* (University of Minnesota Press), was released in 2024; and *Stitches of Tradition*, a children's picture book (Heartdrum), also in 2024. Rendon was the 2020 McKnight Artist of the Year, was recognized as a 50 over 50 Change-maker by Minnesota AARP and POLLEN in 2018, and was listed in Oprah's 2020 list of 31 Native American Authors to read.



Kirsten Reneau is, before most things, a writer. Her work has been featured in *The Threepenny Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Reed Magazine*, along with others. She has been nominated several times for the Pushcart and is the recipient of awards such as the *Reed Magazine* Nonfiction Challenge, Best of the Net, and others. She is the author of the chapbooks *Meeting Gods in Bar Basements* and *Other Ways to Find Forgiveness* (Ethel Press) as well as *Sensitive Creatures* (Belle Point Press), her debut essay collection.



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.



Desiree Richter is a writer, musician, and educator. She writes about bereavement, post-fundamentalism, and parenting (often the intersection of these three things). It is her belief that loss is the tie that binds us all and that, especially in these times, writing about loss in honest ways can help us to heal. She is also a research instructor and dissertation consultant who has helped many doctoral students shape, conduct, and defend their research. Desi lives in New Orleans with several of her amazing offspring and way too many cats. Desi's first book, *The Presence of Absence*, was released October 2024.



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.



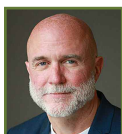
Dr. Bess Rowen is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Villanova University, and affiliated faculty in Gender & Women's Studies and Irish Studies. She is the author of *The Lines Between the Lines: How Stage Directions Affect Embodiment* (University of Michigan Press, 2021) and the editor of the Methuen Critical Edition of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Her next book project is about how we represent mean teenage girls on stage, and it is under advance contract with University of Iowa Press.



Josephine Sacabo was born in Laredo, TX, attended Bard College, and later lived and worked extensively in France and England. A self-taught photographer, Sacabo's earlier work is in the photojournalistic tradition. Sacabo now employs a subjective, introspective style, using poetry as the genesis of her work. She divides her time between New Orleans and Mexico. Both places inform her work, resulting in imagery that is as dreamlike, surreal, and romantic as the places that she calls home. Sacabo's photography was recently published in *New Orleans (1970 - 2020): A Portrait of the City*, and has been published in ten monographs and featured in gallery and museum exhibitions in the United States, Europe, and Mexico.



Annette J. Saddik, PhD is Distinguished Professor of Literature and Theatre at the City University of New York, and has published over 50 essays and four books on Williams and other playwrights, including *Tennessee Williams and the Theatre of Excess*. Saddik regularly advises on productions, participates in Broadway "talk-backs," and has served as a Lortel Awards voter. Most recently, she has published and presented on playwrights Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Reza de Wet, Griselda Gambaro, Matei Vișniec, and Consuelo de Castro as part of her current book project on clowns and the grotesque on the international stage.



Timothy Schaffert is the author of seven novels, most recently *The Titanic Survivors Bookclub* and *The Perfume Thief*, which was named a Top Ten Best Book of the Summer by the *LA Times* and a Top 10 Historical Fiction Novel by CrimeReads. His work has been a *New York Times Review Editors' Choice*, an Oprah.com Book of the Week, an Indie Next pick, and a Barnes and Noble Discover Great Writers selection. He is co-editor and founder of the LGBTQ+ literary novel series Zero Street Fiction, and he is the Adele Hall Professor of English at University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Kate Segriff (she/her) is stunningly awkward but has an excellent game face. She is a Toronto-based writer and filmmaker, and her work has appeared in *Atlanta Review*, *Greensboro Review*, *Prism International*, and *Best Canadian Poetry*, among others. She won the Edinburgh Story Prize, the London Independent Story Prize, and the Connor Prize for Poetry, among other awards. Her feminist short films have been selected for over 50 film festivals worldwide. Her first collection of short stories was published by Riddle Fence Debuts in 2024. She is working on a novel about a Cadillac-obsessed octogenarian with a suspect moral compass.



Fatima Shaik wrote *Economy Hall: The Hidden History of a Free Black Brotherhood*, an American Book Award winner and Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities 2022 Book of the Year. She received the Louisiana Writer Award in 2021. Shaik is a columnist for VeriteNews.com and has published in *Callaloo*, *Tribes*, *The Root*, *In These Times*, and *The New York Times*. The New Orleans Jazz Museum and Xavier University of Louisiana currently have exhibits based on Shaik's *Economy Hall* book.



Jennifer Shaw is an artist working at the intersection of photography and printmaking. In her work she addresses themes of climate, family, and home. From plastic cameras to photogravures, play and experimentation are integral to her practice. Jennifer earned a BFA in photography at the Rhode Island School of Design. She has published two monographs: *Hurricane Story*, and *Nature/Nurture*. Her prints are in collections including NOMA, the Ogden Museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. In 2020, Shaw was one of three finalists for the 1858 Prize. In 2021 she was one of Photolucida's Critical Mass Top 50 artists. She lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.



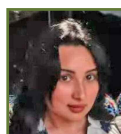
Ery Shin was born in Ames, Iowa, and raised in Manhattan for the first decade of her life, then Seoul for the second. The author of *Gertrude Stein's Surrealist Years*, a study of Stein's later experimental gestures and their philosophical implications within Hitler's Europe, she is currently an assistant professor of English at the University of Southern Mississippi. *Spring on the Peninsula* is her debut novel.



Julia Ridley Smith is the author of *Sex Romp Gone Wrong* (Blair), a short story collection, and *The Sum of Trifles* (University of Georgia Press), a memoir about cleaning out her antique-dealer parents' house, grief, and what the objects we live with mean to us. Her work has appeared in *The Cincinnati Review*, *Ecotone*, *Electric Literature*, *the Missouri Review*, *New England Review*, *The Southern Review*, and elsewhere. Smith teaches creative writing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

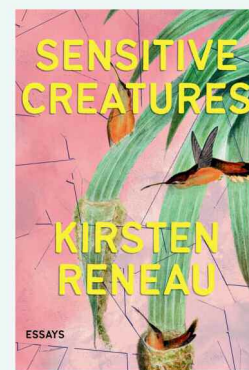
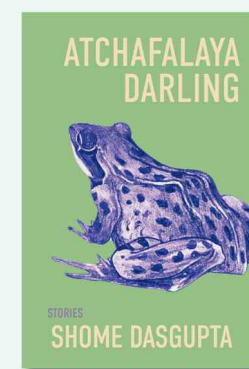
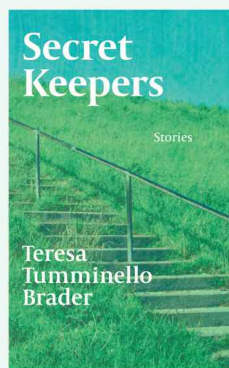


Matthew Paul Smith is an instructor in the English Department at Tulane and specializes in 19th century American literature, particularly the literature of Louisiana. He has two forthcoming edited collections: *The Cambridge Companion to New Orleans Literature* (Cambridge UP) and *Cross Cultural Encounters in Early Modern Japan: Foreigners Within the Samurai Class* (Routledge). His recent publications include a chapter on George Washington Cable in *New Orleans: A Literary History* (Cambridge UP) and a journal article on aesthetics, narrative, and plantation tourism in *Southern Quarterly*. He is a native of New Iberia, Louisiana.



Paulina Stevens (she/her) was raised within her Muchwaya Romani family's fortune telling and wellness traditions. Inspired by the holistic health movement, she earned a wellness coaching certificate in 2018 and later began collaborating with nutritionists and herbalists to serve clients. She opened Romani Holistic Healing in Newport Beach, CA, a spiritual shop that also offers readings, house cleansings, and coaching with clients. She is the co-host of the Romanistan Podcast and featured on the *LA Times* podcast, *Foretold*, which tells the story of Paulina's decision to leave her arranged marriage and community, fight for custody of her children, and start a new life, walking between the Roma and non-Roma worlds. She's currently studying biotechnology at Miracosta College and is co-author with Jezmina Von Thiele of *Secrets of Romani Fortune Telling*.

BELLE
POINT
PRESS



STICK AROUND & READ
bellepoinpress.com



Mink Stole was part of the original motley cast in underground shock master John Waters' bare-bones 8, 16, and 35mm cult camp romps in the late 60s and early 70s, and she would remain a thoroughly offbeat, outrageous presence in counterculture films for six decades. She was born with the All-American name of Nancy Stoll in 1947 in Baltimore, where in 1966, Waters took her under his wing to act out a number of his deviant creations for gross-out effect, alongside break-out drag star and actor Divine and the must-be-seen-to-be-believed Edith Massey. Calling themselves the Dreamland Players, Stole would become known as both the hysterical foil and vengeful nemesis of "leading lady" Divine, playing her annoying repulsive characters as pure evil incarnate. Her role in the infamous *Pink Flamingos* (1972) as Connie Marble, the carrot-domed villain complete with outlandish cats-eye glasses and seedy fur coat, set the tone for her subsequent gallery of grotesques, including the tantrum-throwing girl-child Taffy Davenport in *Female Trouble* (1974), murderous housewife-on-the-lam Peggy Gravel in *Desperate Living* (1977), and corn-rowed hussy Sandra Sullivan in *Polyester* (1981), which was the first Waters film to star a legit actor—Tab Hunter. Mink has appeared in nearly every one of his films. From 1994 on, she did bits in his wide releases of *Hairspray* (1988), *Cry-Baby* (1990), *Serial Mom* (1994), *Pecker* (1998), *Cecil B. Demented* (2000), *A Dirty Shame* (2004), *Stuck!* (2009), and *Hush Up Sweet Charlotte* (2015). Over the years, Mink has made the rounds on the experimental stage, playing Van Helsing in a production of *Dracula* and the title papal role in *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You*, not to mention bizarre, contemporary treatments of the Bard's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *A Winter's Tale*. She also attracted attention in the New York and Los Angeles productions of *Sleeping with Straight Men*. In recent years, Mink has portrayed Trinket Dugan in Tennessee Williams' *The Mutilated* to rave reviews at the Contemporary Art Center New Orleans, the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival, and off-Broadway in New York. Currently, Mink's cabaret/ storytelling/ interview show *Idol Worship* with San Francisco filmmaker and midnight movie emcee Peaches Christ is touring the US and Internationally.



Poppy Tooker, food personality, culinary activist, and author, has spent her life immersed in New Orleans' delicious food scene. For over a decade, Poppy has produced and hosted her award-winning, NPR-affiliated radio show, *Louisiana Eats!* She also provides restaurant commentary on the weekly PBS show, *Steppin' Out* seen on WYES-TV. Author of many popular books, including *Tujague's* and *Pascal's Manale Restaurant Cookbooks*; her most recent, *Drag Queen Brunch*, delves into the lives of New Orleans' beloved brunch queens and includes over 100 recipes from New Orleans' most famous brunch restaurants.



E. M. Tran writes fiction and creative nonfiction. Her novel, *Daughters of the New Year*, debuted in October 2022 from Hanover Square Press/HarperCollins. Her stories, essays, and reviews can be found in such places as the *Georgia Review*, *Literary Hub*, *Joyland Magazine*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Harvard Review Online*, and more. She has an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Mississippi and a PhD in English & Creative Writing from Ohio University. Born and raised in New Orleans, she returned and currently lives there with her family. She was born in the year of the Earth Snake. Currently, she is at work on her sophomore novel and also publishes a weekly newsletter about the show *Gilmore Girls*.



Jennifer Tsuei has studied Writing for Performance at the California Institute of the Arts and is currently a tutor at the CUNY LaGuardia Community College Writing Center. She is grateful to Professor Annette Saddik for the opportunity to read and discuss Tennessee Williams's late plays in her seminar class on the grotesque at the CUNY Graduate Center last spring.



Anaïs Umamo is a fourth-year PhD student at the University of Lorraine in Nancy. Her dissertation, titled "Tennessee Williams' Late Characters in Search of Actors," focuses on Williams' late plays and explores how actors can contribute to rehabilitating these works through performance. She proposes the concept of "plastic acting," directly inspired by Williams' notion of "plastic theatre." She is supervised by John Bak and Sophie Maruéjols-Koch. In early 2024, she published an article in *Revista Dramaturgia em Foco* about postmodern pre-performances. She is also an actress and currently resides in Mexico City.



Boyce Upholt is a journalist and essayist whose writing has appeared in the *Atlantic*, *National Geographic*, *the Oxford American*, and *Virginia Quarterly Review*, among other publications. He is the winner of a James Beard Award for investigative journalism, lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, and is the author of *The Great River: The Making and Unmaking of the Mississippi*.



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.



Jezmina Von Thiele (they/she) is a writer, editor, educator, podcaster, and fortune teller. They write poetry, fiction, and nonfiction published in *Prairie Schooner*, *The Kenyon Review Online*, *Narrative Magazine*, & elsewhere. Jezmina is of mixed heritage and reads tarot, palms, and tea leaves in her Romani family's tradition, both online and in-person. Jezmina specializes in teaching creativity, art, writing, and literature workshops, along with divination and other spiritual topics. Jezmina also tells fortunes and performs with The Poetry Brothel—Boston. They are co-host of *Romanistan*, a podcast celebrating Romani culture, alongside co-host Paulina Stevens. Jezmina and Paulina authored their debut book, *Secrets of Romani Fortune Telling*.



Basil Wiese is a postdoctoral researcher at the Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt and associate of the Interdisciplinary Research Training Group "Practicing Place." He has studied sociology, philosophy, and art history at the university of Erlangen Nuremberg and received his PhD in sociology in Eichstätt in 2020 with a dissertation on affect theory. His research interests lie in practice theory, qualitative research methods, and ethnomethodology, with a particular interest in cultural epistemologies, technology and the virtual. Selected publications include: "Affective Practice," 2019; "Online Participant Videos," 2019 (with Robert Schmidt); "Konzeptgeschichte und Epistemologien der Emotionssoziologie," 2024 (with Max Weigel).



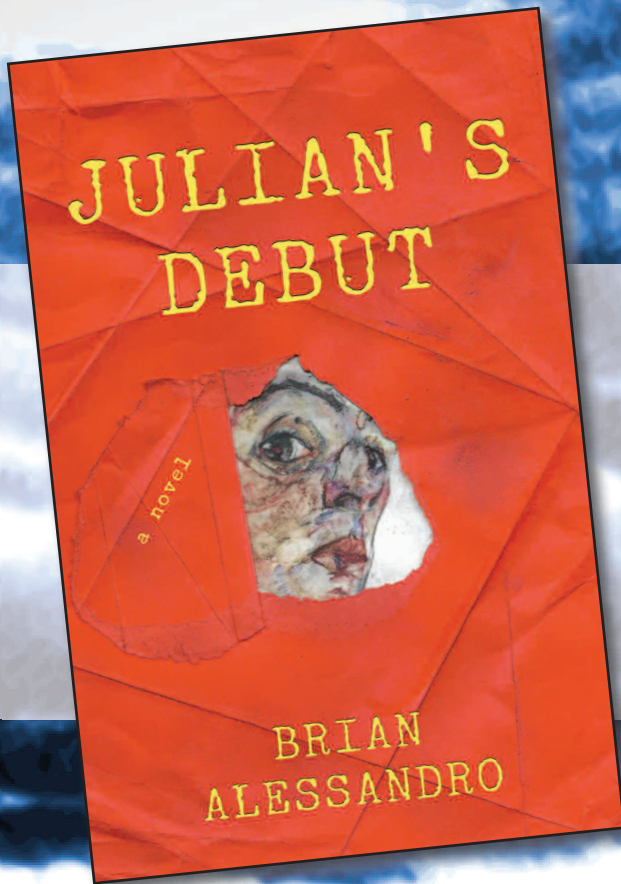
Kalamu ya Salaam is a writer, editor, photographer, and retired educator. He was born Vallery Ferdinand III in the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans. Inspired by the poetry of Langston Hughes and the civil rights movement, Salaam became interested in writing and organizing for social change. He was a founder of BLACKARTSOUTH and changed his name to Kalamu ya Salaam, which is Kishwahili for "pen of peace." Salaam was also a founder of NOMMO Literary Society and Runagate press. Among many things, he has been Executive Director of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, a DJ on WWOZ, administrator of the Lower 9th Ward Neighborhood Health Center, and the editor of *The Black Collegian* magazine. He is the author or editor of numerous books, most recently *Seeing Black: Black Photography in New Orleans, 1840 and Beyond* and his first novel, *Walkin' Blues*.



Andy Young's second full-length collection, *Museum of the Soon to Depart*, was released in October with Carnegie Mellon University Press. She is also the author of *All Night It Is Morning* (Diálogos Press, 2014) and four chapbooks. She grew up in southern West Virginia and has lived most of her adult life in New Orleans, where she teaches at New Orleans Center for Creative Arts. Her work has recently appeared in *Identity Theory*, *Drunken Boat*, and *Michigan Quarterly Review*. A graduate of Warren Wilson's Program for Writers, her work has been translated into several languages, featured in classical and electronic music, in flamenco and modern dance performances, and in jewelry, tattoos, and public buses.



Michael Allen Zell is a New Orleans-based novelist, screenwriter, journalist, and playwright. His most recent crime fiction novel was *The Last Shadow*. Its follow-up, *Black Ice*, launches in April. His previous Bobby Delery series received the following accolades: The *L.A. Review of Books* praised with, "Zell demonstrates a gallows humor and a fine ear for entertainment...like the best crime fiction, the story invests deeply in setting, and it succeeds by virtue of its author's palpable love for New Orleans and the people who live there." Susan Larson in *The Times-Picayune* said, "What really keeps us turning pages is Zell's authorial voice, his insights into human nature, and the dark sense of humor that comes out of observing city life."



Julian's Debut

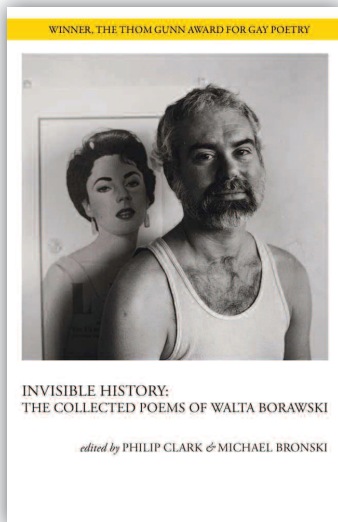
Brian Alessandro

"By turns comic, wrenching, appalling, bewildered, shrewd, never nice, and always alive, Julian's Debut is a powder keg of a book that explodes and explodes."

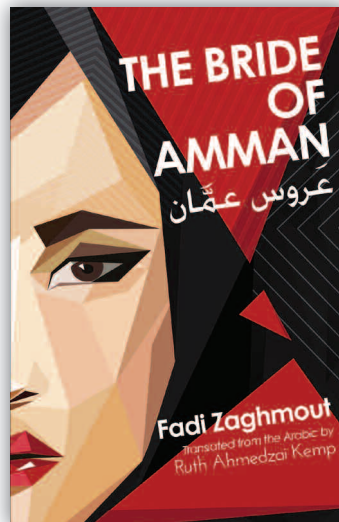
—PAUL LISICKY, author of *Song So Wild and Blue: A Life with the Music of Joni Mitchell*

Rebel Satori Press

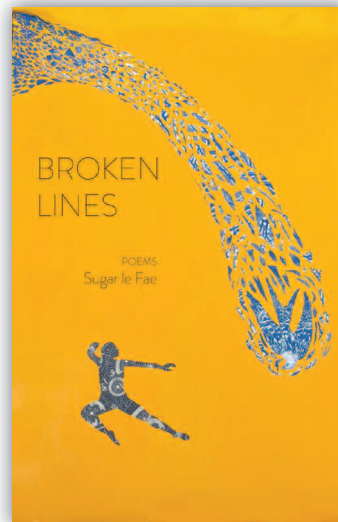
PUBLISHING AT THE EDGE



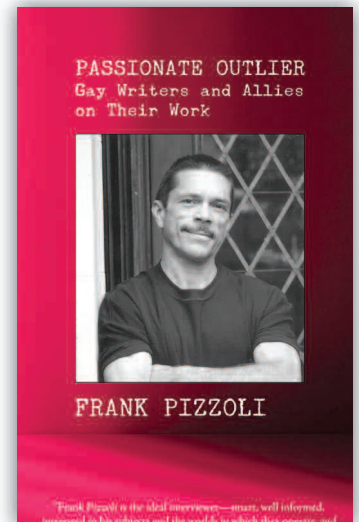
Invisible History
Walta Borawski



The Bride of Amman
Fadi Zaghmout



Broken Lines
Sugar le Fae



Passionate Outlier
Frank Pizzoli

Defiantly Preserving Community, One Story at a Time

QUEER MOJO • QUEER SPACE • ARABI MANOR • THE LIBRARY OF HOMOSEXUAL CONGRESS

www.rebelsatori.com

THERE'S NO MORE VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE THAN KNOWING THE RIGHT TIME TO GO

LAST CALL

20TH SEASON
SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2025

PROVINCETOWN
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
THEATER FESTIVAL

THE FINAL FALL FESTIVAL

FOR MORE INFORMATION TWPTOWN.ORG



CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

HONORING THE PEOPLE
AND PLACES THAT INSPIRED HIM

www.deltawilliamsfestival.com



COAHOMA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
On a mission...



MISSISSIPPI ARTS
COMMISSION



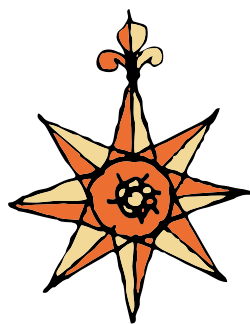
MISSISSIPPI
HUMANITIES



VISIT
MISSISSIPPI



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.



Midlo Center *for New Orleans Studies*

THE UNIVERSITY of NEW ORLEANS

Celebrates the
 Tennessee Williams Festival
 and the literary history of
 New Orleans.



Do you know the location of Tennessee Williams' French Quarter courtyard?

Explore our digital tour 'Writers' Blocks: Literary History in the French Quarter' to find out and learn more about the writers who lived and wrote in—and about—New Orleans!



Download the app or visit
www.neworleanshistorical.org
 for more.



Rare letters from Rose acquired by HNOC

"All the girls here brag about their marvelous brothers and I lie cheerfully. Tall, handsome, remarkably brilliant. Runs in the family n'est pas?" —Rose Williams, October 13, 1925

HNOC's collection of Tennessee Williams materials, one of the largest in the world, has a new crown jewel: letters written by the playwright's sister, Rose—the inspiration for *The Glass Menagerie*'s Laura Wingfield—before her tragic lobotomy.



Learn more about this major acquisition at **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS STUDIES**, our new online hub, with resources for scholars and fans alike. While you're there, browse back issues of the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, an HNOC publication.

And join us at the Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference for a staged reading of Rose's letters and excerpts of a newly discovered story by Tennessee.

Friday, March 28 • HNOC's Williams Research Center
410 Chartres Street

ABOVE: Portrait photograph of Rose Williams, ca. 1920. HNOC, MSS 604.2
RIGHT: Letter to Mother and Daddy from Rose Williams, April 1926. HNOC, MSS 604.28



The Historic
New Orleans
Collection

MUSEUM • RESEARCH CENTER • PUBLISHER

HNOC.ORG • @visit_HNOC

