

CELEBRATING



TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL

LEAVE THE BOURBON ST. CROWDS
AND GO BEHIND THE SCENES OF
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS' FRENCH QUARTER.

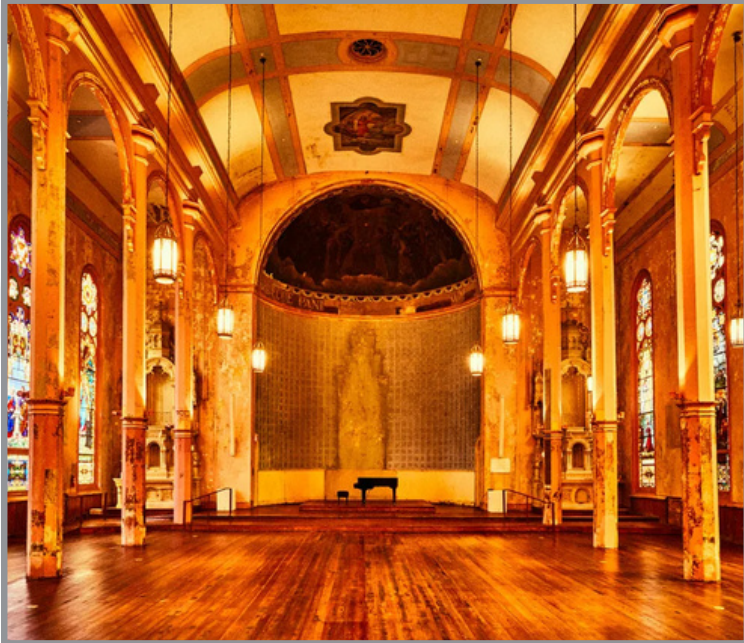


“We are the champions of Tennessee Williams’ New Orleans legacy. His work resonates with audiences now more than ever, as it explores real lives and challenging subjects with empathy.”

—Gregory Gajus, Board President

40TH ANNIVERSARY LAUNCH: THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS GALA

2025 AWARDS FOR ARTS EXCELLENCE



Hotel Peter & Paul

Live music
Chef treats & craft cocktails
An intriguing silent auction
***A Rose Tattoo* Tableau**
Awards for Arts Excellence
November 20, 2025



John Patrick Shanley
Pulitzer Prize-Winning
Playwright
Excellence in Theater



Mona Lisa Saloy
LA Poet Laureate
2021 - 2023
Excellence in Literature



Poppy Tooker
Culinary Teacher
and Author
Excellence in Arts Advocacy



Jack Sullivan, Brian Sands,
& Alan Williams of the Harter Foundation
Empowering awareness of visual and queer arts
through the work of John Burton Harter
Excellence in Arts Advocacy

GALA SPONSOR LEVELS

\$5,000 Sponsor

10 VIP Tickets

Patron Champagne Pre-Party

Acknowledgement from stage

Name/Logo:

- on event signage
- on photo backdrop
- in event program - full page
- on event page of website
- on event newsletters
- on social media posts

\$2,500 Sponsor

6 VIP Tickets

Patron Champagne Pre-Party

Name/Logo:

- on event signage
- in event program - half-page
- on event page of website
- on event newsletters
- on social media posts

\$1,000 Sponsor

2 VIP Tickets

Patron Champagne Pre-Party

Name/Logo:

- in event program - listing
- on event page of website
- on event newsletters
- on social media posts

All gala sponsor logos will be included in 2000 copies of our full color program book distributed in March, as well as the digitized version on our website reaching over 100,000 views leading up to the festival.

OUR HISTORY

OVER THE PAST 4 DECADES:

1000s of events with stars of stage and screen
1000s of literary luminaries
200,000+ attendees have enjoyed our events

HOME OF SAINTS & SINNERS:

The longest running LGBTQ+ literary festival in the country.



*It all began with
small gathering at
Le Petit Theatre.*



- Hollywood and Broadway celebrities
- Tony, Golden Globe, Academy Award, and NAACP Image Award winners
- Pulitzer and National Book Award-winning authors
- Epic parties in historic places

AS SEEN IN...

AMERICAN
THEATRE

CBS
NEWS

The
Guardian

JEOPARDY!

AFAR

Fodor's

DEADLINE

HUFFPOST

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

USA TODAY

The Telegraph

VARIETY

PLAYBILL®

The Washington Post

QUEERTY*

Free of an agenda (except that gay one)

AXIOS

Southern Living

yahoo!



TRAVEL

7 of the best book festivals around the world

From Jamaica to Jaipur, these literary festivals celebrate the power of the written word and offer you a chance to hear from celebrated and up-and-coming authors—as well as fellow bibliophiles.

By Kristin Braswell
July 25, 2025

7. Tennessee Williams and New Orleans Literary Festival, New Orleans, U.S.

New Orleans is renowned for its lively community events, from the revelry of Mardi Gras to the palpable joy of a second-line celebration. Every spring, the Tennessee Williams and New Orleans Literary Festival lands in the city's historic French Quarter. The five-day event pays homage to American writer Tennessee Williams, who was a longtime resident of the Crescent City, where two of his major plays—A Streetcar Named Desire and Vieux Carré—were set.

The Saints + Sinners Literary Festival is one of the festival's programs, created to bring the LGBTQ+ literary community together to celebrate the literary arts. Outside of the festival, spring is an ideal time to explore and appreciate the city's beauty. The low-hanging oak trees of St. Charles Avenue that shade busy cafes and bars or a drum circle in Congo Square.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/best-book-festivals>

NAMED ONE OF THE 7 BEST BOOK FESTIVALS IN THE WORLD

National Geographic, July 2025

OUR LONGTIME PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



THE
HELIS
FOUNDATION



The Times-Picayune



GREATER
NEW ORLEANS
FOUNDATION



NEW ORLEANS
THEATRE ASSOCIATION

MEET THE TWIFEST TEAM



PAUL J. WILLIS
Executive Director

- Over 27 years experience in non-profit management
- Master's degree in Communications
- Founder of Saints & Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival
- Recipient of the Triangle Publishing Leadership Award



TRACY CUNNINGHAM
Managing Director

- Over 20 years experience in event planning, operations, and grant writing
- Master's degrees in English and Educational Leadership
- Winner of Light Up for Literacy Award from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities



GREGORY GAJUS
President, Board of Directors

- French Quarter resident and business owner
- Well-reviewed chef known for his advocacy of Louisiana fisheries and foodways
- Longtime literary executor in partnership with New York Public Library of legendary poet Judy Grahn

MEET THE TWFEST TEAM



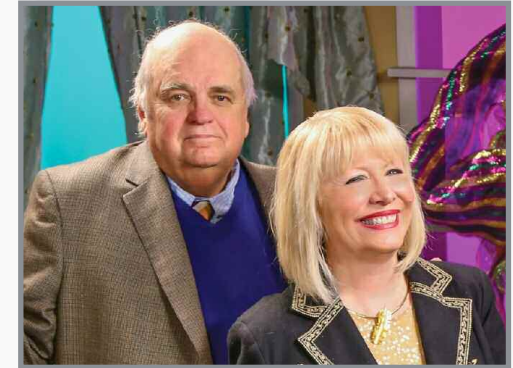
LAWRENCE HENRY GOBBLE
Immediate Past President, Board of Directors

- New Orleans business owner
- Bachelor of Arts in Theatre
- Actor, singer, songwriter
- Recipient of 2024 Saints & Sinners LGBTQ+ Hall of Fame
- Board member Project Lazarus and 2025 Guardian Angel Award recipient



REINE DUGAS
Festival Publicist

- Involved with TWfest for over 15 years
- Ph.D. in American/Southern literature
- Editor of *Louisiana Life* and *Acadiana Profile* magazines
- Longtime associate professor of English at Southeastern Louisiana University



**PEGGY SCOTT LABORDE
& ERROL LABORDE**
Festival Founders

- Actively involved with TWfest for 40 years
- Award-winning New Orleans journalists and WYES program producers
- Authors of multiple books about New Orleans history and culture

2025 SHOWREEL



Revisit the 2025 Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival. With literary gatherings by day and theater, music, and culinary events by night, TWF25 was a magical five days!

[CLICK TO VIEW SHOWREEL](#)

40 YEARS OF STARS



John Waters



"Stella and Stanley" with Kim Hunter, the original Stella from Broadway and film



Blair Underwood



Alec Baldwin
with Peggy
Scott Laborde



John Goodman

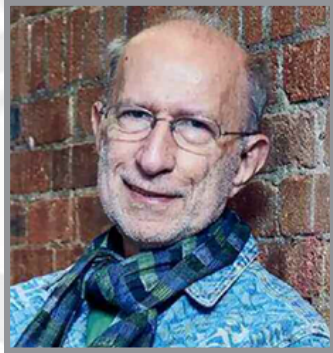


Frances Sternhagen, Zoe Caldwell, Thomas Keith,
Marian Seldes, and John Guare

40 YEARS OF LITERARY LUMINARIES



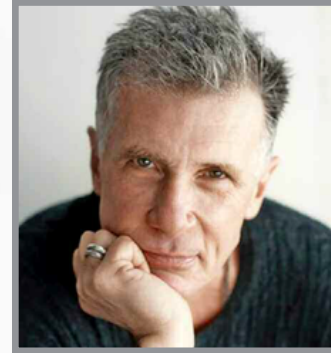
Anne Rice



Martin Sherman



Jesmyn Ward



Michael Cunningham



Jericho Brown



Justin Torres



John Patrick Shanley, Thomas Keith, and Edward Albee



Julia Cameron

40 YEARS OF ENTHRALLED AUDIENCES

