



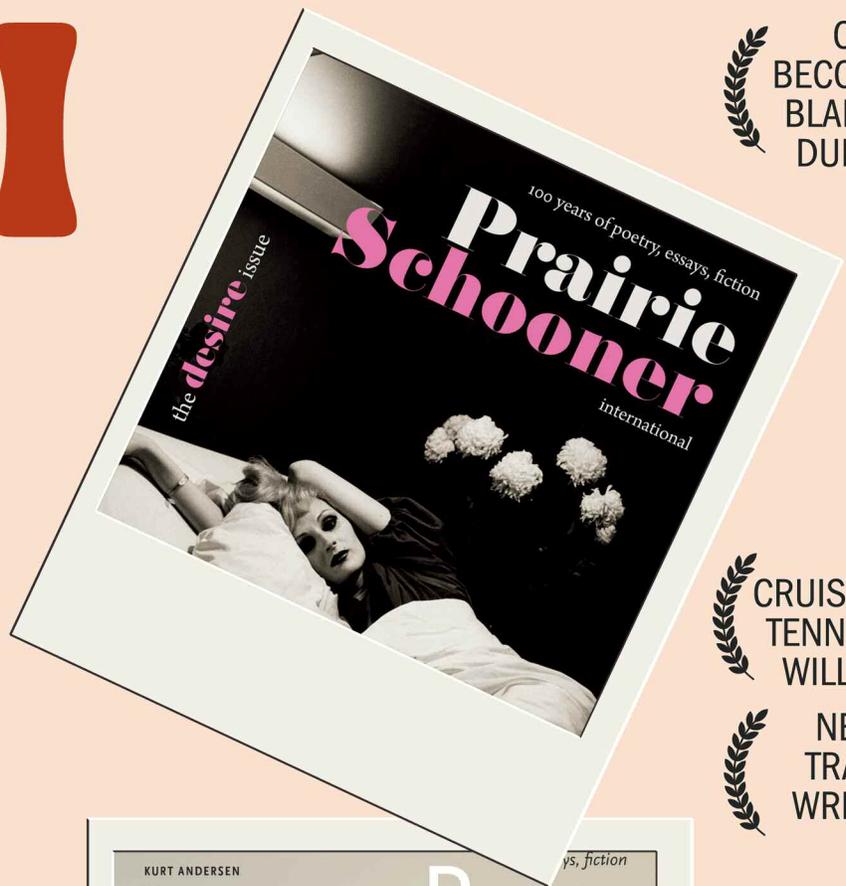
TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL

MARCH 25-29, 2026
TENNESSEEWILLIAMS.NET

PRAIRIE SCHOOONER

COMING SOON:
THE NEXT 100 YEARS

ON THE BODY
LATINX FLASH MEMOIR
BLACK NATURE WRITING
**AWAKENING / 100TH
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE**
CAFES AND COCKTAILS
QUEER INDIGENOUS
WRITING
THE PERFUME ISSUE
THE PLAGAIRISM ISSUE



ON
BECOMING
BLANCHE
DUBOIS

CRUISING W/
TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS

NEW
TRANS
WRITING



THE
LONELINESS
ISSUE

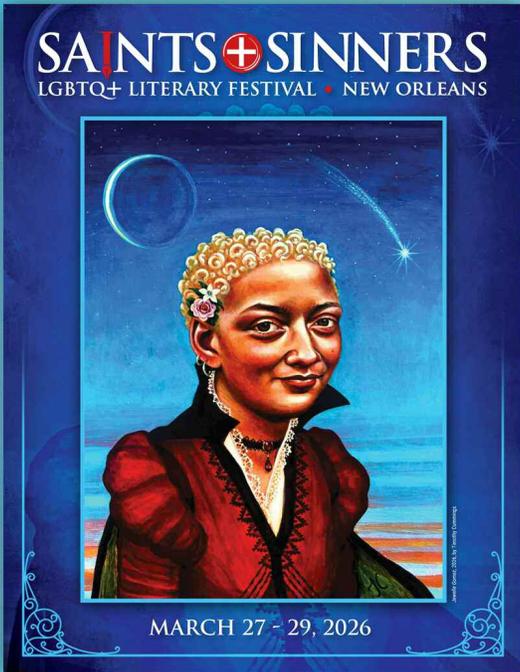
THE
CENSORED
STORY

HOPPER'S
ROOM IN
NEW YORK

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PRAIRIESCHOONER.
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THE
LONG
SHORT
STORY
A PORTFOLIO
PRAIRIE
SCHOONER
WINTER
2025



**SAINTS + SINNERS LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL
MARCH 27-29 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 and Sinners Literary Festival is grateful for the support of our premier sponsor, the John Burton Harter Foundation, and funding support from The Greater New Orleans Foundation LGBTQ Fund.

Painting of Jewelle Gomez for our cover by Timothy Cummings.



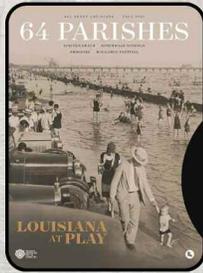
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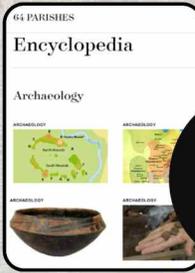


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WELCOME TO THE FESTIVAL

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Welcome attendees! Last Spring, as we packed away the box office in the mezzanine of the historic Hotel Monteleone, the staff and volunteers present were already dreaming about the 2026 season. We cleared the books and went immediately to work developing a plan for a series of 40th anniversary Marquee events. You can see our Ruby Anniversary reflected in the special 40th anniversary logo and the bright red palette of the program cover. TWFest, vibrant and enduring, like the work of Tennessee Williams, welcomes you to the French Quarter for a week of magical moments both literary and theatrical.



From left to right: Kevin Babb, General Manager of Dickie Brennan's Tableau, Mister Gregory, Poppy Tooker recipient of the Tennessee Williams award for Excellence in Arts Advocacy at our 2nd annual gala last November.

I asked Peggy Scott Laborde, who served as Festival President for a total of 11 years, to reflect on the Festival's origin.

“My husband Errol, along with Maureen Detweiler, Beverly Gianna, John Jardel, and Don Marshall. met at Mandina's Restaurant on Halloween in 1986 to discuss plans for a literary festival. They also wanted to also include a theatre component, incorporating Tennessee Williams in the Festival name. Williams considered New Orleans his 'spiritual home.'

The New Orleans economy had been in a slump then; the idea was to attract visitors and to remind locals of the great literary heritage that New Orleans has. The first Festival, in 1987, was held at Le Petit Theatre, where Don Marshall was Executive Director and had planned a production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. From the outset, the goal was to also include panels and performances about New Orleans culture and music. A decision was made to present the Festival around Tennessee's birthday, March 26.”

Laborde recalled that among her favorite Festival “stars” was Dakin Williams, the “charming and colorful younger brother of Tennessee. Our budget was especially tight in the beginning. He would come to the Fest on his own nickel and share some amazing memories as well as recite his brother's poetry.”

Like Peggy, we all have our cherished moments from the festival. Sharing an elevator ride at the Monteleone chatting with my favorite author, having a cocktail with a Tony and Oscar award-winning playwright, and watching a marionette of Tennessee Williams' ghost sing a song on stage are some of mine. But more than these moments, it is the prevailing feeling of good will, curiosity, and culture-making imbued in the Festival atmosphere that keeps me and so many others returning year after year.

I couldn't be more proud of the extraordinary arts community we have all built in America's most extraordinary neighborhood. Thanks for joining us for the 40th Ruby Anniversary!

— Mister Gregory

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

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Official Festival Bookstore:

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



Cover illustration, program layout and graphics:

Toan Nguyen

Printer:

Pel Hughes Printing
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info@pelhughes.com • pelhughes.com

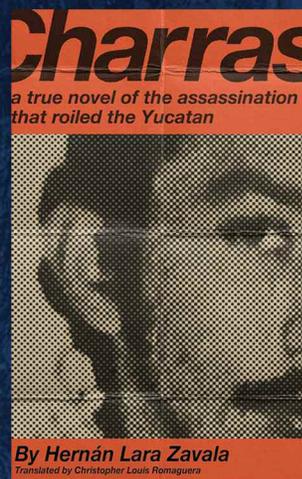
Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival

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"A vivid, suspenseful, and (literally) layered imagining of what's to become of New Orleans and humanity (a new kind of love?) in the Twenty-Second Century." —Roy Blount



Originally published in 1990 and translated into English now for the first time, *Charras* is a gripping portrait of the labor movement in 1970s Mexico. In rare detail, Zavala documents what the governing forces are willing to do to hang onto their power—and what happens when the people rise up and take what is theirs.

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

2026 FESTIVAL EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2025

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR

9:00 AM
New Orleans
Writing Marathon

10 AM
Tour: Tennessee Williams
in His Own Words

10:30 AM
Tour: Biggest Beat—
The Exceptional Musical History
of The French Quarter

11 AM
Tour: LGBTQ+ French Quarter

12:30 PM
Tour: Writers in New Orleans—
Finding Their Place,
Defining The City

HOTEL MONTELEONE ROYAL SALON

10 – 11:15 AM
Maurice Carlos Ruffin
Starting & Finishing Stories
& Novels

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM
Marguerite Sheffer
Writing Hopes & Fears
into Speculative Fiction

1 – 2:15 PM
Skye Jackson
What a Lovely Way To Burn:
Negotiating Distance
& Desire in Poetry

2:30 – 3:45 PM
Robert Olen Butler
Writing Literary Fiction

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

1 – 3 PM
Tour: Queer Underground
Crossing Bar, 439 Dauphine Street

5:30 - 7:15 PM
Tour: French Quarter Ghosts & Legends
**Rodrigue Studios, 730 Royal Street,
meet outside**

6:30 – 9 PM
Tribute Reading:
Fugitive Beauty, Tender Feelings,
& Spartan Endurance:
The Women of Tennessee Williams
**New Orleans Jazz Museum,
400 Esplanade Avenue**

7:30 – 9:15 PM
The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company
of New Orleans Presents
Small Craft Warnings by Tennessee Williams
**The Lower Depths Theatre at Loyola University,
6363 St. Charles Avenue**

7:30 - 10:30 PM
Irene Collective Presents
A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
Big Couch, 1045 Desire Street



TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL

40th 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.

2026 FESTIVAL EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR

10 AM

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

1:30 PM

Tour: Tennessee Williams
in His Own Words

3 PM

Tour: Biggest Beat—
The Exceptional Musical
History of the French Quarter

3:30 PM

Tour: LGBTQ+ French Quarter

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE BALLROOM

10 – 11:15 AM

New Orleans as a Home for Writers

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

Hard Drinks, Harder Ink:
Writing New Orleans Noir

1 – 2:15 PM

Cultural Treasures:
New Orleans' Historic Sophistication
in Music, Dance, & Visual Art

2:30 – 3:45 PM

Living through It: Exploring Presumptions
of Environmental and Dystopian Narratives
in our Modern-Day World

4 – 5:00 PM

Thrumming to the Work of Art: A Reading

HOTEL MONTELEONE ROYAL SALON

10 – 11:15 AM

Michael Cunningham
Writing A Memoir:
Telling the Story of Your Life

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

Christopher Castellani
The Art of Perspective

1 – 2:15 PM

Laura Venita Green
Devils, Doppelgängers, Ghosts,
& Creepy Dolls: Incorporating
Entity into your Fiction To Tell
Very Human Stories

2:30 – 3:45 PM

Christine Ma-Kellams
Great Beginnings

WILLIAMS RESEARCH CENTER 410 CHARTRES STREET Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference

9 - 9:15 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:15–10:30 AM

New Currents in Williams Studies

10:45 AM–12:15 PM

The Catastrophe of Success

2:00–3:30 PM

Roundtable: Writers and Directors
Influenced by Tennessee Williams

3:45–4:45 PM

Staged Reading: "Fin du Monde
(A Postscript to the Casualty List)"

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

6:30 PM Arrival; 7 PM Performances Begin

We Have Not Long To Love:
A Celebration of Tennessee Williams
Historic BK House and Gardens,
1113 Chartres Street

7:30 – 9:15 PM

The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company
of New Orleans Presents
Small Craft Warnings by Tennessee Williams
The Lower Depths Theatre at Loyola
University, 6363 St. Charles Avenue

7:30 - 10:30 PM

Irene Collective Presents *A Streetcar*
Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
Big Couch, 1045 Desire Street

9 - 10 PM

The Mudlark Puppeteers Present
The Gnädiges Fräulein by Tennessee Williams
The Mudlark Public Theatre,
1200 Port Street

Doors 10 PM, Show 10:30 PM – 12:20 AM

Le Vampyre Cabaret &
The Spirit of Tennessee Williams!
The Twilight Room at The AllWays Lounge,
2240 Saint Claude Avenue



TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL

2026 FESTIVAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR

10 AM

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

11 AM

Tour: Biggest Beat—The Exceptional Musical History of the French Quarter

1:30 PM

Tour: Tennessee Williams in His Own Words

HOTEL MONTELEONE RIVERVIEW ROOM

1 - 2:15 PM

The Importance of Female Voices in Crime Fiction

2:30 - 3:45

Margot Douaihy, *Writer's Craft*—Passionate Plotting: Crucial Plot Moves That Keep Readers Hooked

4 - 5:15 PM

Presentation of the Diana Pinckley Prizes for Crime Fiction

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE BALLROOM

10 - 11:15 AM

Writing As Practice: The Uses Of Spirituality In The Creative Life

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM

Controlled Chaos: Finding Form Through Revision

1 - 2:15 PM

Writing Life into Language: The Crucible of Craft

2:30 - 3:45 PM

Dead Reckoning: Debut Novelists

4 - 5:15 PM

Conversation with Thomas Mallon & Martin Sherman
Led by Maureen Corrigan

6 PM Doors and cash bar; Show at 6:30 PM

The Last Bohemian Soirée: An Evening with Billy Eichner

WILLIAMS RESEARCH CENTER 410 CHARTRES STREET

10 - 11:15 AM

The Talent That Survives—Editing Tennessee Williams

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM

My North Star: Tennessee Williams' Influence on Other Writers

1 - 2:15 PM

Remembering Artist George Dureau

2:30 - 3:45

Home and Away: Creating the Spaces of Historical Fiction

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

8:30 - 9:45 AM

Books & Beignets with Gary Richards
Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House, 144 Bourbon Street

1 - 3 PM

Tour: Queer Underground
Crossing Bar, 439 Dauphine Street

4 - 5:15 PM

Charles Baxter, *Writer's Craft*: Writing During a Time of Political Turmoil
Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon

4 PM

The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans Presents
Debbie with a D's *Tennessee With The Tea*
The Twilight Room at The AllWays Lounge, 2240 St. Claude Avenue

4:30 - 6 PM

Historic Happy Hour
The Celestine Hotel, 727 Toulouse

7:30 - 9:15 PM

The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans Presents
Small Craft Warnings by Tennessee Williams
The Lower Depths Theatre at Loyola University, 6363 St. Charles Avenue

7:30 - 10:30 PM

Irene Collective Presents
A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
Big Couch, 1045 Desire Street

7:30 - 9:15 PM

Tour: French Quarter Ghosts & Legends
Rodrigue Studios, 730 Royal Street, meet outside

Doors at 8 PM; Show at 9 PM

LadyBEAST Productions Presents
Vaudeville Revival
The Joy Theater, 1200 Canal Street

9 - 10 PM

The Mudlark Puppeteers Present
The Gnädiges Fräulein by Tennessee Williams
The Mudlark Public Theatre, 1200 Port Street



2026 FESTIVAL EVENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE PARLOR

9 AM
New Orleans Writing Marathon

10 AM
Tour: Tennessee Williams
His Own Words

10:30 AM
Tour: Writers in New Orleans—
Finding Their Place, Defining The City

11 AM
Tour: LGBTQ+ French Quarter Tour

11:30 AM
Tour: Biggest Beat—The Exceptional
Musical History of The French Quarter

HOTEL MONTELEONE QUEEN ANNE BALLROOM

10 – 11:15 AM
Take Me to the Source! A Research
Bootcamp for all Writers

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM
The Shape of our Lives:
Memoir's Many Forms

1 – 2:15 PM—Theatre
Staged Reading of the
Winning One-Act Play

2:30 – 3:45 PM
Festival Closing Event—A Toast to
Tennessee & From the Page to the
Stage: *Call Me Izzy* Roundtable

HOTEL MONTELEONE ROYAL SALON

10 - 11:15 AM
Lives Illustrated:
The Art of Biography
in Graphic Novels

1 – 2:15 PM
Getting to Yes:
Pitching & Submitting
to Magazines & Journals

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

1 - 4 PM
Irene Collective Presents
A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
Big Couch, 1045 Desire Street

3 – 4:45 PM
The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company
of New Orleans Presents
Small Craft Warnings by Tennessee Williams
**The Lower Depths Theatre at Loyola University,
6363 St. Charles Avenue**

4 PM
The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company
of New Orleans Presents
Debbie with a D's *Tennessee With The Tea*
**The Twilight Room at The AllWays Lounge,
2240 St. Claude Avenue**

5:30 - 7:15 PM
Tour: French Quarter Ghosts & Legends
Rodrigue Studios, 730 Royal Street, meet outside

7 – 9 PM
Bibi's Kitchen: A Romani Culinary Ritual
**Mister Gregory's Shrimp Boil Cabaret,
830 North Rampart Street**

7:30 – 9:30 PM
Third Lantern Lit Presents the Fiction Sessions: A
Reading of New Works
New Marigny Theatre, 2301 Marais Street

7:30 - 10:30 PM
Irene Collective Presents
A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
Big Couch, 1045 Desire Street

9 - 10 PM
The Mudlark Puppeteers Present
The Gnädiges Fräulein by Tennessee Williams
The Mudlark Public Theatre, 1200 Port Street



2026 FESTIVAL SITES



1. **Hotel Monteleone**
214 Royal Street
2. **Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House**
144 Bourbon Street
3. **Williams Research Center**
410 Chartres Street
4. **The Celestine Hotel**
727 Toulouse Street
5. **Dickie Brennan's Tableau & Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré**
616 Saint Peter Street
6. **Rodrigue Studios**
730 Royal Street
7. **Historic BK House and Gardens**
1113 Chartres 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 AT VENUES OUTSIDE THE FRENCH QUARTER

Small Craft Warnings by Tennessee Williams presented by The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans
The Lower Depths Theatre at Loyola University, 6363 St. Charles Avenue

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams presented by Irene Collective
Big Couch, 1045 Desire Street

The Gnädiges Fräulein By Tennessee Williams presented by The Mudlark Puppeteers
The Mudlark Public Theatre, 1200 Port Street

Vaudeville Revival Presented by LadyBEAST Productions
The Joy Theater, 1200 Canal Street

Le Vampyre Cabaret & The Spirit of Tennessee Williams!
Debbie with a D's Tennessee With The Tea
The Twilight Room at The AllWays Lounge, 2240 St. Claude Avenue

The Fiction Sessions: A Reading of New Works by Third Lantern Lit
New Marigny Theatre, 2301 Marais Street

SAVE THE DATE

41st Annual Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival will be March 24 - March 28, 2027

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

WILLIAMS UNDER THE OAKS

In partnership with: 

SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2PM

On the front lawn of the New Orleans Jazz Museum
400 Esplanade Avenue

40 YEARS MAR 25 - 29, 2026
tennesseewilliams.net

Saturday, March 21 2 - 3:30 PM—Theatre **WILLIAMS UNDER THE OAKS**

As a free gift to the community for our 40th anniversary, the Festival has partnered with the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans to present an afternoon of free Williams-inspired theatre. Bring your blanket or festival chair and join us under the oaks on the front lawn of the New Orleans Jazz Museum for scenes from *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Gnädiges Fräulein*, *Small Craft Warnings*, and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, along with Williams-inspired scenes featuring Debbie with a D, Qween Quan, and Tennessee's ghost with Harry Mayronne. A cash bar will be available, and the Stella Shouting Contest will follow Williams Under the Oaks.



The OG STELLA, Kim Hunter
at the TW Fest, 1999.

New Orleans Jazz Museum, 400 Esplanade Avenue, free and open to the public.
Made possible by the Helis Foundation.

Saturday, March 21 3:30 - 5 PM **STELLA SHOUTING CONTEST**



Poppy Tooker

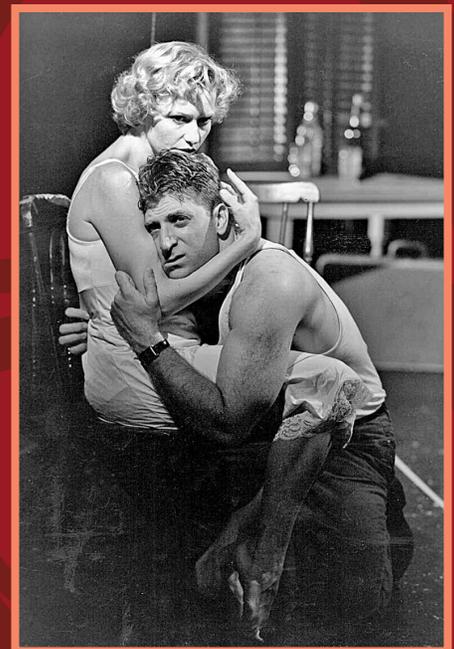
Join us on the front lawn of the New Orleans Jazz Museum for our beloved annual shouting competition to see who can best impress our judges with their rendition of Stanley Kowalski's iconic lines. We're excited to have **Poppy Tooker** as our emcee, along with **Beth Bartley d'Amour** and **Todd d'Amour** 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. Be sure to donate to this worthy cause!

Sponsored by the Goldring Family Foundation.
New Orleans Jazz Museum, 400 Esplanade Avenue,
free and open to the public.

Saturday, March 21 7 - 8:30 PM—Culinary **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, alligator sausage, 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, the perfect way to celebrate after Williams Under the Oaks and the Stella Shout!

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



Eva Earls & Michael Arata "Stella and Stanley"
in 50th anniversary production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, 1997 TWNOLF.



TENNESSEE WILLIAMS & NEW ORLEANS LITERARY FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL WALKING TOURS

BIGGEST BEAT: THE EXCEPTIONAL MUSICAL HISTORY OF THE FRENCH QUARTER

Thursday, March 26, 10:30 AM - Noon

Friday, March 27, 3 - 4:30 PM

Saturday, March 28, 11 AM - 12:30 PM

Sunday, March 29, 11:30 AM - 1 PM

This lively tour takes guests on a stroll through the Vieux Carré's rich and varied musical past. The stroll includes historic sites spanning from the birth of Jazz to the African dances at Congo Square, and from the glamorous opera houses of the 1800s to the legends of rock 'n' roll. Highlights include the engaging experiences of great local artists such as Louis Armstrong, Fats Domino, Jelly Roll Morton, and Louis Moreau Gottschalk, as well as legendary visitors such as the Beatles, the Grateful Dead and Led Zeppelin. The tour is led by historian and musician Charles Chamberlain, author of *New Orleans: A Concise History of an Exceptional City* (LSU Press, 2025), and the forthcoming book *The Beat: A History of New Orleans Music and Dance* (LSU Press, 2026).

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

LGBTQ+ FRENCH QUARTER TOUR

Thursday, March 26, 11 AM - 12:30 PM

Friday, March 27, 3:30 - 5 PM

Sunday, March 29, 11 AM - 12:30 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, \$35 or VIP Pass.

QUEER UNDERGROUND

Thursday, March 26, 1 - 3 PM

Saturday, March 28, 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.



J&M studios on N. Rampart – recording studio in the heyday of rock 'n roll.

FRENCH QUARTER GHOSTS AND LEGENDS

Thursday, March 26, 5:30 - 7:15 PM

Saturday, March 28, 7:30 - 9:15 PM

Sunday, March 29, 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.



TENNESSEE WILLIAMS IN HIS OWN WORDS

Thursday, March 26, 10 AM - Noon

Friday, March 27, 1:30 - 3:30 PM

Saturday, March 28, 1:30 - 3:30 PM

Sunday, March 29, 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.

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

Thursday, March 26, 12:30 - 2:15 PM

Friday, March 27, 10 - 11:45 AM

Saturday, March 28, 10 - 11:45 AM

Sunday, March 29, 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Walt Whitman and William Faulkner; Kate Chopin and Mark Twain; Charles Bukowski and Eudora Welty—these are just a few of the writers who resist comparison except in their response to the lure of New Orleans. Native writers who wrote about the city are equally disparate: George Washington Carver, Anne Rice, John Kennedy Toole, Sarah M. Broom, to mention just a few. Join tour guide **Dana Criswell** on a stroll through the French Quarter to explore the lives of these writers and others, including some lesser-known figures such as Lafcadio Hearn and Lyle Saxon, who helped create a mythic version of New Orleans that continues to inspire literary talent. Criswell began giving tours (French Quarter, cemetery, and literary) after she retired from the University of New Orleans, where she taught in the English department for almost a decade before shifting into an administrative position in International Education.

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

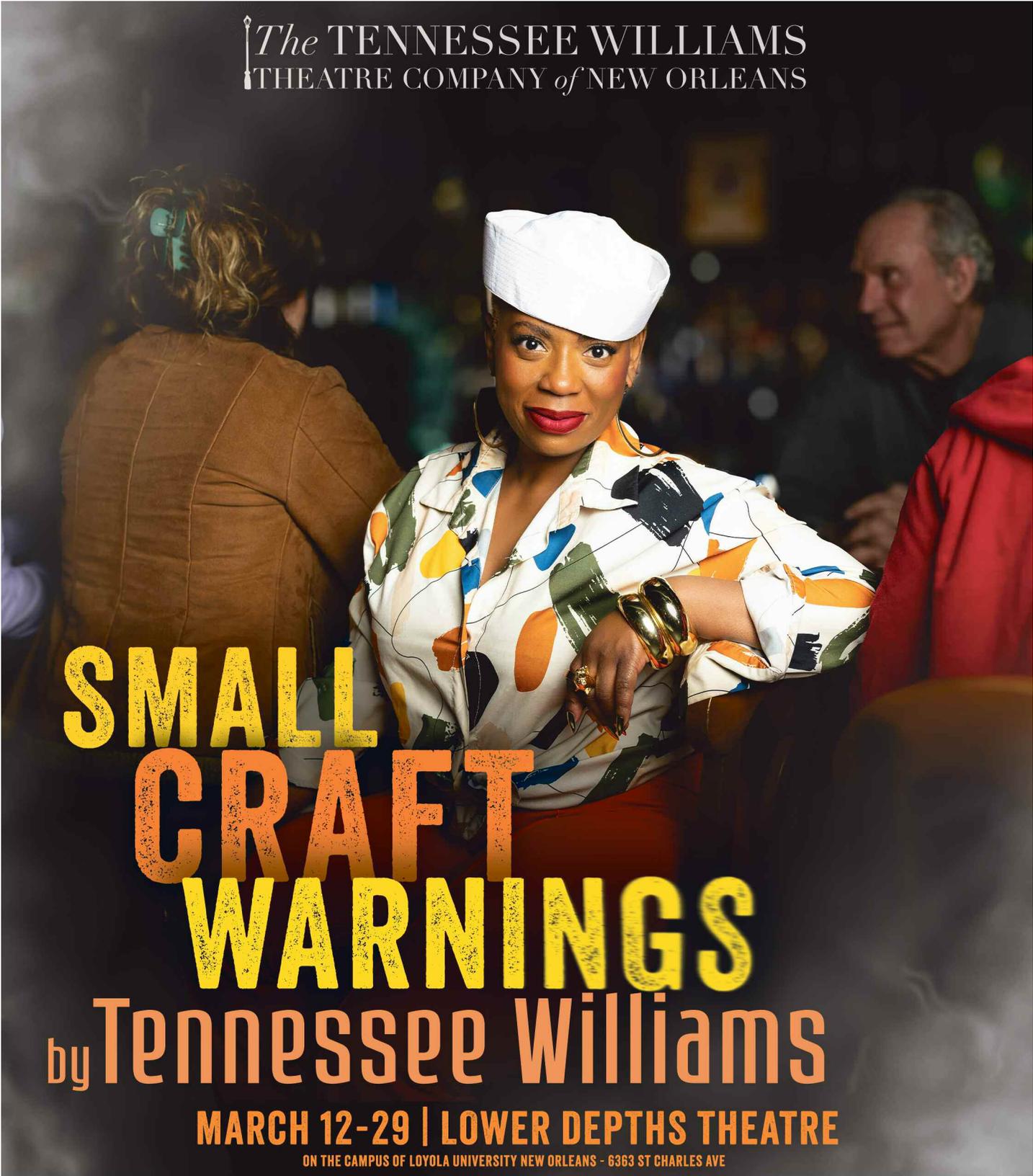
understanding of New Orleans history. The house, parterre garden and lovely courtyard have been featured in several films and television shows and are favorites for guided tours, weddings, and special events. Open for guided tours on the hour, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 AM - 3 PM.



www.bkhouse.org



The TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
THEATRE COMPANY *of* NEW ORLEANS



**SMALL
CRAFT
WARNINGS**

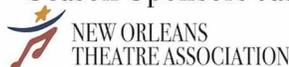
by **Tennessee Williams**

MARCH 12-29 | LOWER DEPTHS THEATRE

ON THE CAMPUS OF LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS - 6363 ST CHARLES AVE

www.TWTHEATRENOLA.com

Season Sponsors Jason & Anjali Gillette



This season of TWTC is supported by a generous grant from the New Orleans Theatre Association (NOTA).

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

OPENING NIGHT

7:30 PM - 8:45 PM—Theatre

KIND STRANGER...A MEMORY PLAY—OPENING NIGHT

This critically-acclaimed one-man show explores the life of legendary playwright Tennessee Williams and is adapted directly from his autobiography. *Kind Stranger* explores Tennessee Williams' life, his loves, and his art, portraying the troubled but deeply human soul behind some of America's greatest plays. **Rick Simone-Friedland** stars as Tennessee Williams with wit and unflinching honesty as he writes his last chapter, revealing how his plays were his life and his life was his plays. Using only his words, *Kind Stranger* could be called the last Tennessee Williams play.

Conceived and Performed by Rick Simone-Friedland. Adapted and Directed by Steven Simone-Friedland.

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St Peter Street, General Admission - \$35;

VIP Seating - \$50 or VIP Pass. Add-ons: Pre-show dinner at Tableau - \$95; After-party at Tableau - \$30.



THURSDAY SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

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 Montelone, 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 Montelone, Queen Anne A.

Festival Walking Tours are listed on pages 10 & 11.



John Waters & Thomas Keith book signing at TWFest, 2007.

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 Montelone 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 Montelone, 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

MAURICE CARLOS RUFFIN—STARTING AND FINISHING STORIES AND NOVELS

Starting a story is often the hardest part. In this generative workshop, we'll explore tried and true techniques that will help you find a good place to begin. We'll also discuss how beginnings are related to endings. In combination, these are valuable techniques to overcome writer's block and complete your work. In addition, Ruffin will focus on the elements of craft to give you a rock-solid understanding of how stories are constructed, whether novels or short stories. We'll discuss examples of craft from the writings of legendary authors, and we'll make use of music, film clips, poetry, and philosophy to learn about storytelling.

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

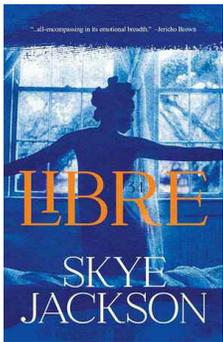
11:30 AM - 12:45 PM—Writer's Craft Session
MARGUERITE SHEFFER—WRITING HOPES AND FEARS INTO SPECULATIVE FICTION

What will the future bring? What can our dreams and wildest imaginations teach us about the worlds we want to build—or avoid? Speculative Fiction (science fiction, fantasy, horror, slipstream, etc) is a rich playground for imagining our world *otherwise*. Speculative fiction authors bend reality to interrogate our morals and explore alternatives. In this session, we will learn from classic speculative short stories, and practice generative exercises to turn our hopes and fears about the future (and present) into engaging speculative fiction. We'll also go over practices for revising, polishing, and publishing short speculative fiction.

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

1 - 2:15 PM —Writer's Craft Session
SKYE JACKSON—WHAT A LOVELY WAY TO BURN: NEGOTIATING DISTANCE & DESIRE IN POETRY

How close is *too* close? When we write poetry about desire, we must begin with a deep understanding of ourselves but also of the power of restraint—the way in which we use desire as a tool or as conduit for connection. What should be revealed? And what should stay hidden, and then, suddenly be deliciously discovered? We will probe these questions and more in our examination of desire in poetry—how we write into it and how we live it out as well.



In this craft talk and workshop,

we'll read work by poets who unveil the underpinnings of desire and then attempt, in earnest, to write into that space as well. There will be time towards the end of the session to share your poems and receive feedback from the craft session leader and the rest of the group.

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

2:30 - 3:45 PM—Writer's Craft Session
WRITING LITERARY FICTION WITH ROBERT OLEN BUTLER

In the first half of his workshop, Robert Olen Butler will speak on the fundamentals of the creative process for fiction writers who aspire to create enduring literature. He will address such issues as what is art; what is distinctive about the way the artist addresses the world, the inner self, and the objects to be created; and what are the essential characteristics of fiction as an art form. In the second half he will begin administering an in-class coached writing exercise. The exercise is in multiple parts and you will make an intensive line-to-line beginning in class under his prompting and will be given the remaining exercise increments to carry home to finish at your leisure. It is quite possible for a complete, fully-formed literary short story to eventually emerge. Needless to say, you must bring with you your primary mode of writing a story, be that anything from a drafting pencil and legal pad to a laptop computer.

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

The Gnädiges Fräulein

Friday March 27th,
Saturday March 28th,
and Sunday March 29th
at 9p

tickets available today.

BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Adapted for the stage by The Mudlark Puppeteers
at The Mudlark Public Theatre 1200 Port

The Mudlark Public Theatre
New Orleans.

THE NEW ORLEANS
GIANT PUPPET FESTIVAL

www.neworleansgiantpuppetfest.com



Rick Barton & Robert Olen Butler, 1994.

6:30 - 9 PM—Special Event

TRIBUTE READING: FUGITIVE BEAUTY, TENDER FEELINGS, & SPARTAN ENDURANCE: THE WOMEN OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Over the last 80 years actresses around the world have regularly expressed how deeply they relate to and appreciate the female characters created by Tennessee Williams, and at this year's Tribute Reading you will hear their voices. While there are a few "Southern Belles" (who bear no resemblance to stereotypes of what a Southern woman might once have been), Williams created dozens of glorious female characters, some who you know well such as Blanche, Stella, Amanda, Alma, and Maggie. As well as many whose names may not be as familiar such as Leona, Bodey, Myrtle, Carol, Flora, Zelda, Clare, and Jessie. Yet in one way or another all of them are powerful, intuitive, witty, loving, ferocious survivors. This year's readers include Festival authors **Jewelle**



PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON

Maureen Corrigan & Jewelle Gomez

Gomez, Robert Olen Butler, and Skye Jackson; playwrights Martin Sherman and Jamie Wax; Maureen Corrigan, NPR's Fresh Air Book Reviewer; and actors Gideon Glick and CCH Pounder. The evening is curated by Festival Director **Paul J. Willis** and Williams editor **Thomas Keith**, and hosted by Keith.

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.

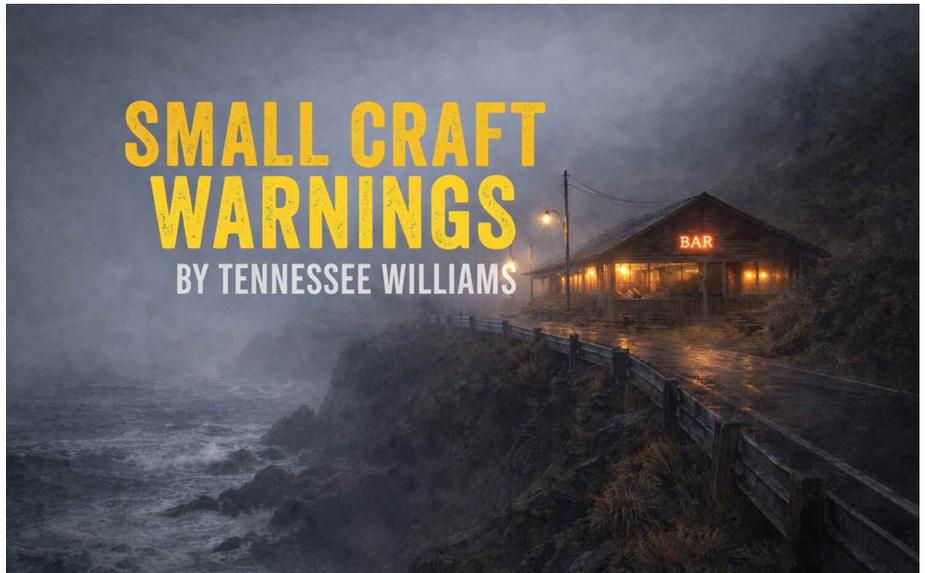
7:30 - 9:15 PM—Theatre

THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS PRESENTS *SMALL CRAFT WARNINGS* BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

In a forgotten seaside bar on the edge of nowhere, a ragtag band of drifters, dreamers, and outcasts cling to each other against the tide—searching for warmth, connection, and meaning before it's too late. *Small Craft Warnings* is Tennessee Williams at his rawest, funniest, and most compassionate: an intimate, storm-tossed portrait of human desire, loneliness, and the fragile hope that keeps us afloat together. Filled with biting humor, aching vulnerability, and Williams' unmistakable poetry, this rarely produced gem feels as urgent and alive today as when it first shocked audiences. Includes one 15-minute intermission.

Performance Schedule: Thursday - Saturday, March 26 - 28 at 7:30 PM; Sunday, March 29 at 3 PM.

The Lower Depths Theatre at Loyola University, 6363 St. Charles Avenue. Tickets at <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35398/production/1255721>. Available with VIP Pass but must book in advance at info@tennesseewilliams.net.



7:30 - 10:30 PM—Theatre

IRENE COLLECTIVE PRESENTS *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE* BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Set in post-World War II New Orleans, *Streetcar* tells the story of two sisters, Blanche DuBois and Stella Kowalski. Blanche, a former schoolteacher from Mississippi, arrives on her sister Stella's New Orleans doorstep after suffering a series of personal losses. Her stay is met with resistance from Stella's husband, Stanley, whose domineering and volatile ways threaten and ultimately crush Blanche.

Performance schedule: Wednesday - Sunday, March 25 - 29 at 7:30 PM; additional matinee on Sunday, 3/29 at 1 PM.

Big Couch, 1045 Desire Street, tickets at streetcarnola.net. Available with VIP Pass but must book in advance at info@tennesseewilliams.net.

Irene Collective Presents

A Streetcar Named Desire

by Tennessee Williams



March 19 - April 3, 2026

Big Couch New Orleans
1045 Desire Street

Directed by Hanna Hall and Jaclyn Bethany

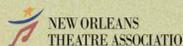
www.streetcarnola.net

Tickets from \$25-\$40



Scan to
Buy
Tickets!

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE is presented by special arrangement with the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee
Sponsored by Randy Fertel and the Fertel Foundation, a grant from the New Orleans Theatre Association (NOTA),
BKE Productions, Producer Hunter McHugh, The Jazz and Heritage Foundation, Threadhead Cultural Foundation,
Co-Producer Robert Hughes, Associate Producers Anne Ravert and Ruth Koffman



The Historic New Orleans Collection presents the 29th 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 27, 2026

9:00–9:15 AM

Welcome and opening remarks from the conference codirectors: **Margit Longbrake**, Historic New Orleans Collection; **Bess Rowen**, Villanova University

9:15–10:30 AM

New Currents in Williams Studies

Emerging scholars use the lenses of performance art, Southern studies, queer time, and a fashion studies approach to the dressed body to shed new light on *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Rose Tattoo*, *The Night of the Iguana*, lesser-known late works, and more.

Moderator: **Matthew P. Smith**, Tulane University

Panelists:

Lital Dotan, Graduate Center, City University of New York

Pune Dracker, Graduate Center, City University of New York

Cody Norris, Miami University of Ohio

Sloan Garner, University of Georgia

10:45 AM–12:15 PM

The Catastrophe of Success

From the moment *The Glass Menagerie* became a sensation in 1945, fame took a starring role in shaping Williams's life and career, a part it continues to play in the performance and reception of his work in the 21st century. Scholars with expertise in literary analysis, history, performance, and directing discuss the various blessings and burdens that did and still do go along with Williams's personal fame, the fame of his works, and the fame of the actors and directors involved.

Moderator: **Bess Rowen**, Villanova University

Panelists:

Kelly I. Aliano, New-York Historical Society

Jaclyn Bethany, Independent Scholar

Michael S. D. Hooper, Independent Scholar

David Kaplan, Independent Scholar

12:15–2:00 PM

Lunch (on your own)

2:00–3:30 PM

Roundtable: Writers and Directors Influenced by Tennessee Williams

What do revered 20th-century playwright Lorraine Hansberry (author of *A Raisin in the Sun*), boundary-pushing auteur John Waters (director of *Pink Flamingoes* and *Hairspray*), celebrated Irish dramatist Brian Friel (author of *Dancing at Lughnasa*), and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwrights Eboni Booth (2024) and Branden Jacobs Jenkins (2025) have in common? Esteemed academics trace Williams's surprising hidden and not-so-hidden influences on groundbreaking authors and works in two centuries.

Moderator: **Bess Rowen**, Villanova University

Panelists:

Stephen Cedars, Graduate Center, City University of New York

Benjamin Gillespie, Santa Clara University

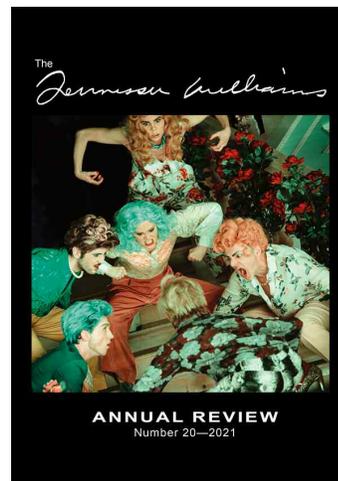
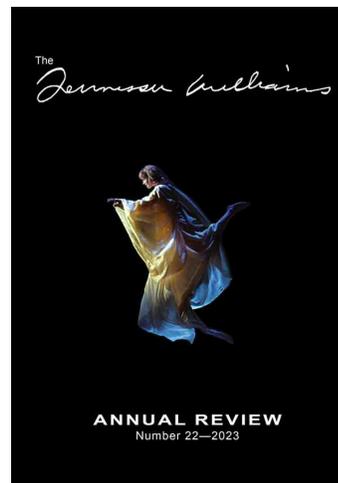
John "Ray" Proctor, Tulane University

Sara Warner, Cornell University

3:45–4:45 PM

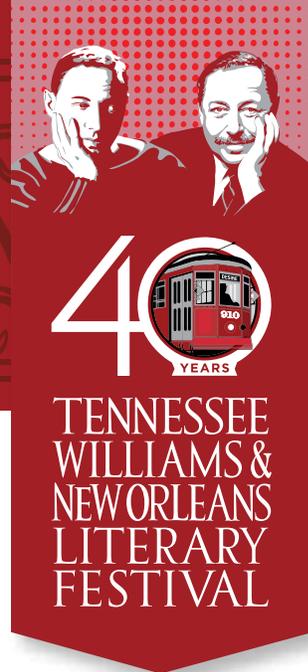
Staged Reading: "Fin du Monde (A Postscript to the Casualty List)"

Theater director and emeritus professor **Tom Mitchell** and members of the University of Illinois theater company present a staged reading of a previously unpublished short story by Tennessee Williams, in which a gay couple in the French Quarter muses on how the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor stands to change the lives of artists and outsiders forever. An experienced editor and researcher, Mitchell provides additional historical context for the story and insight into Williams's circle and way of life in the years before and during World War II.



FRIDAY SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026



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.

10 - 11:15 AM—Writer's Craft Session

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM—WRITING A MEMOIR: TELLING THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE

Join Pulitzer Prize winning author Michael Cunningham for an audience-involved workshop on telling the story of your life through memoir writing. Telling your version of your own life may seem easy, but a memoir is more than straight narrative. Good memoirs compel readers to keep reading. There's a thread or a theme that resonates with readers. What makes you want to share your life's story? Is there something universal about it or relevant to a particular audience? Is there a thread or theme running through your life's key moments? For this session, Cunningham will discuss his own work in this genre, his memoir coming out in July from Random House, *Unsayable*, and will lead the group in some writing of their own.

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



Michael Cunningham at his first Fest appearance, 2001.

10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

NEW ORLEANS AS A HOME FOR WRITERS

This was the first panel discussion presented at the Festival in 1987 with tickets costing \$2. It was repeated in 2007, and both times New Orleans poet Ralph Adamo was the moderator.

New Orleans is known as a city that inspires and nurtures writers, as it did Tennessee Williams. For the third time in forty years, we've gathered a group of writers to discuss those distinctive elements which made the city so congenial to their creative spirits: **C. Morgan Babst**, whose fiction and non-fiction paint a vivid picture of the city at its best and its worst; **Louisiana Poet Laureate Gina Ferrara**, known for her own work and for hosting a monthly Poetry Buffet reading series for nearly twenty years; bestselling and multi-award winning fiction writer **Maurice Carlos Ruffin**, whose work captures so many distinct views of New Orleans;

Mona Lisa Saloy, Louisiana Poet Laureate 2021-2023, whose poetry brings Black Creole culture to life on the page; and **Ralph Adamo**, who returns to moderate this panel for a third time, and brings nearly fifty years of published poetry to the New Orleans literary legacy.

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



11:30 - 12:45 PM

—Writer's Craft Session

CHRISTOPHER CASTELLANI—THE ART OF PERSPECTIVE

The success of any work of fiction or narrative nonfiction depends almost entirely on its narrative strategy: not only which character(s) tell(s) the story, from what vantage point, in the past or present, but why those choices are optimal and how they contribute to the overall effect. In this session, we will begin by defining narrative strategy, then discuss its relationship to an author's choice of perspective and his/her manipulation of narrative distance. Participants should expect to discuss a few short examples from literature, do a writing exercise or two, and brainstorm solutions for their own projects.

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

11:30 - 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

**HARD DRINKS, HARDER INK:
WRITING NEW ORLEANS NOIR**

New Orleans can be a difficult place to write. Poet and essayist **Benjamin Morris** will moderate a panel exploring the challenges of bringing this unique American city to life. **Tom Andes'** *Wait There Till You Hear from Me* features a reluctant detective searching for his wealthy fiancée's missing brother. **Ariadne Blayde's** *Ash Tuesday* uses a modern twist on the Southern Gothic to explore the French Quarter's culture through its notorious ghost tours. **Bill Loehfelm's** Maureen Coughlin novels take the perspective of a white, working-class woman from Staten Island who becomes a New Orleans cop. And **P.M. Raymond's** short story collection, *Things Are As They Should Be*, explores the city through the lens of psychological horror. These writers will discuss how they use noir fiction to bring fresh perspectives to writing about a city that can't help but be a character itself.

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



Susan Larson & Elizabeth Berg in *The Counting House*, 2006.

1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

**CULTURAL TREASURES: NEW ORLEANS'
HISTORIC SOPHISTICATION IN MUSIC, DANCE,
AND VISUAL ART**

This panel explores New Orleans' remarkable history as a sophisticated center of the arts in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. During this period, New Orleans was home to highly respected and internationally acclaimed musical composers, ballet dancers, and theatrical productions, as well as a superior level of painters and furniture artisans. Many of the varied and talented artists reflect New Orleans' sizable community of Free Persons of Color, as well as the city's ties to Latin America, the Caribbean, and France, thereby distinguishing the community's cultural exceptionalism within the United States. The panel is led by historian **Dr. Molly Mitchell** of the University of New Orleans, and will feature **Givonna Joseph** of OperaCréole, **Nina Bozak** of the Historic New Orleans Collection, **Katie Burlison** of the Historic Hermann-Grima Gallier House, and **Charles D. Chamberlain**, author of *New Orleans, A Concise History of an Exceptional City* (LSU 2025).

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

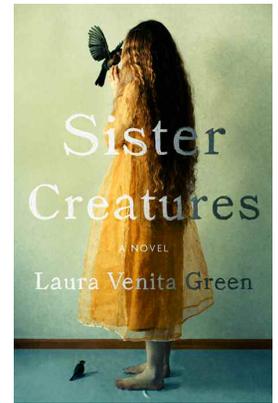
**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom,
\$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.**

1 - 2:15 PM—Writer's Craft Session

**LAURA VENITA GREEN—DEVILS, DOPPELGÄNGERS, GHOSTS,
AND CREEPY DOLLS: INCORPORATING ENTITY INTO YOUR
FICTION TO TELL VERY HUMAN STORIES**

Serious literature doesn't necessarily mean realist literature. Often, adding speculative elements into our fiction can help us reach a deeper level of truth and meaning, amplifying any subject we're attempting to tackle, such as family, relationships, mental health, motherhood, growing up, and belonging. Introducing devils, demons, dogs, doppelgängers, or any number of non-human or superhuman entities is a great technique for underpinning characters' psychological states, flaws, and behaviors. It's also a strategy that can be used to reach toward the inarticulable messiness of the human condition. Each of us contains entire worlds—how do we contend with a truth that large? Through group discussion, targeted writing prompts, and examining contemporary genre-bending writers like Samanta Schweblin, Pemi Aguda, Helen Phillips, and Ananda Lima, this craft session with novelist and translator Laura Venita Green will leave you with concrete ideas on how to incorporate some sort of entity or *presence* into your fiction to tell very human stories.

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



2:30 - 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

**LIVING THROUGH IT: EXPLORING PRESUMPTIONS OF
ENVIRONMENTAL AND DYSTOPIAN NARRATIVES IN OUR
MODERN-DAY WORLD**

In this panel, novelists **Moira Crone**, **Delaney Nolan**, **Olivia Clare Friedman**, and **Vanessa Saunders** will discuss writing dystopian fiction in the face of climate catastrophes in the Gulf South. Moderated by NOCCA students **Quinn Schwab**, **Alejandra Guzman**, and **Carly Mathas**, panelists will delve into the possibilities, challenges, and rewards of writing in this genre.

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



Quinn Schwab

2:30 - 3:45 PM—Writer's Craft Session

**CHRISTINE MA-KELLAMS—
GREAT BEGINNINGS**

How does a story start? How well you answer this question dictates whether the reader turns the page and finds out what happens next. Novelist, psychologist, and culture/lifestyle writer Christine Ma-Kellams discusses the secret(s) to get a total stranger to stay a little while longer in the world you've introduced them to for no other reason than an irresistible urge to find out what happens next. This writing workshop will examine classic and recent opening lines—from the loaded observations in Virginia Woolf and Deesha Philyaw to the real life music video that inspired the first lines of Ma-Kellams' *The Band*—and how they set up the narrative arc for the remainder of the story. We will discuss how to apply them across narrative formats, from novels to short stories and everything in between. We'll spend the second half of the session workshoping your own opening lines, which will include writing exercises, sharing, and feedback.

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



Alejandra Guzman



Carly Mathas

4 - 5:00 PM—READING

THRUMMING TO THE WORK OF ART: A READING

We're thrilled to present a reading of established and award-winning authors. Immerse yourself in imaginative worlds, engrossing characters, and powerful and unique voices. **Robert Olen Butler** is a Pulitzer Prize winning author known for his powerful American fiction and short story collections. He was also awarded the F. Scott Fitzgerald Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature. **Michael Cunningham** received the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his novel *The Hours*, as well as the PEN/Faulkner Award. His new memoir, *Unsayable*, is forthcoming in the summer of 2026. **Jewelle Gomez** is an activist and the author of eight books, including the recently published collection of poetry, *Still Water*, which explores her multiple identities: Black, Native American, Lesbian, and Feminist. Playwright **Martin Sherman** has been nominated for two Tonys, two BAFTAs and two Oliviers. His memoir, *On the Boardwalk*, was published in September 2025. **Justin Torres** is the author of *Blackouts*, a novel centered around the erasure of queer history, which won the 2023 National Book Award for Fiction. The reading will be hosted by **Maureen Corrigan**, author and book critic for NPR's Fresh Air.

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

Friday, March 27—Theatre

6:30 PM Arrival

7 PM Performances Begin

We Have Not Long To Love: A Celebration of Tennessee Williams

This marquee benefit performance showcases multiple works by Tennessee Williams in an immersive theatrical experience at the Historic BK House and Gardens. **Rob Ashford**, acclaimed director and choreographer, and winner of Tony, Olivier, Emmy, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards, conceived the event and will direct. The evening begins with cocktails in the sumptuous garden and a brief introduction to the house. In intimate rooms of the historic home, small groups will experience scenes from *Sweet Bird of Youth*, *Orpheus Descending*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Rather than sitting and watching distantly from seats, this immersive theater experience places the audience inside the world of the play. **See Page 21 for full details.**

Historic BK House and Gardens, 1113 Chartres Street, \$200. Not available with VIP Pass.



7:30 - 9:15 PM—Theatre

THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS PRESENTS *SMALL CRAFT WARNINGS* BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Performance Schedule: Thursday - Saturday, March 26 - 28 at 7:30 PM; Sunday, March 29 at 3 PM.

The Lower Depths Theatre at Loyola University, 6363 St. Charles Avenue. Tickets at www.twtheatrenola.com. Available with VIP Pass but must book in advance at info@tennesseewilliams.net.

7:30 - 10:30 PM—Theatre

IRENE COLLECTIVE PRESENTS *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE* BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Performance schedule: Wednesday - Sunday, March 25 - 29 at 7:30 PM; additional matinee on Sunday, 3/29 at 1 PM.

Big Couch, 1045 Desire Street, tickets at streetcarnola.net.

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



Tennessee's brother Dakin was an eccentric fixture at the Festival.

9 PM—Theatre

THE MUDLARK PUPPETEERS PRESENT *THE GNÄDIGES FRÄULEIN* BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

In a ramshackle cottage on a windswept coast, three failed Southern Belles compete for sustenance against their fellow misfits and a population of monstrous seabirds. This is a surrealist nightmare exposing the animal nature of social climbing, the elusiveness of belonging, and the ineluctability of collapse. And it is a comedy. Adapted for the stage by The Mudlark Puppeteers, told in rod puppetry, shadows, and marionettes.

Performance Schedule: Friday - Sunday, March 27 - 29 at 9 PM.

The Mudlark Public Theatre, 1200 Port Street. Tickets at www.themudlarkneworleans.com. Not available with VIP Pass.

Doors 10 PM, Show 10:30 PM - 12:20 AM—Special Event

LE VAMPYRE CABARET & THE SPIRIT OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS!

A deviously campy and deliciously macabre theater show with New Orleans' most infamous Vampires, Madame Tsarina Magdalena Hellfire & Stanley Roy! Featuring acclaimed marionette artist Harry Mayronne as the spirit of Tennessee Williams. Also featuring Simone Del Mar as a bloodthirsty burlesque beauty and sideshow darling JuJu as our overly dramatic Human.

Le Vampyre Cabaret is a carnivorous coven of undead thespians who have traveled through centuries of debauchery, finally settling down in New Orleans. In The Big Easy, where the tourists roam free and the nightlife never sleeps, these Vaudevillian Vampires will glamor you with their live songs, lively storytelling, and good ole fashioned stripping!

The Twilight Room at The AllWays Lounge, 2240 Saint Claude Avenue. Tickets from \$25.50 at

<https://LeVampyreCabaretTWfest.eventbrite.com>. Not available with VIP Pass.



Madam Tsarina Magdalena Hellfire & Stanley Roy



FRIDAY, MARCH 27
WE HAVE NOT LONG TO LOVE:
A CELEBRATION OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

An Immersive Theatrical Performance
 6:30 PM Cocktails | 7:00 PM Performances Begin
 Historic BK House & Gardens, 1113 Chartres Street



Come see the stars in this dazzling yet intimate one-night-only event in one of the French Quarter's most beautiful historic homes.

Directed by **Rob Ashford**, acclaimed director and choreographer and winner of Tony, Olivier, Emmy, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards.

Experience iconic scenes performed in intimate rooms throughout the historic BK House & Gardens, where the boundaries between actors and audience disappear.

Featured vignettes include:

- *Sweet Bird of Youth*
- *Orpheus Descending*
- *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and a signature cocktail in the garden courtyard before the finale performance of ***Suddenly Last Summer***, which brings the evening to a powerful close.

The performances feature:

- Michael Cerveris**, two-time Tony Award winner (FUN HOME, ASSASSINS)
Christine Ebersole, two-time Tony Award winner (GREY GARDENS, 42ND STREET)
Marin Ireland (SNEAKY PETE, THE IRISHMAN)
Jennifer Laura Thompson (DEAR EVAN HANSEN, WICKED, NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT)
Ansel Elgort (THE FAULT IN OUR STARS, BABY DRIVER, WEST SIDE STORY)
Froy Gutierrez (CRUEL SUMMER, HERE'S TO US)
Jennifer Nettles, Grammy Award-winning singer and actress
Harriet Harris, Tony Award winner (THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE, FRASIER, DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES)
Micaela Diamond (THE CHER SHOW, PARADE)
Leslie Castay (THE BIG SHORT)



“Tennessee Williams is the patron saint of New Orleans, a city that inspires and intrigues me. *We Have Not Long to Love: A Celebration of Tennessee Williams* staged at the historic BK House in the French Quarter will showcase the themes that Williams explored often: fear of aging and loss of desire, illusion versus reality, and the shifting power dynamics in relationships. It's an honor to work with this extraordinary cast on the 40th anniversary of the beloved festival in the city where Williams thrived creatively.”

—Rob Ashford



Leslie Castay



Michael Cerveris



Micaela Diamond



Christine Ebersole



Ansel Elgort



Froy Gutierrez



Harriet Harris



Marin Ireland



Jennifer Nettles



Jennifer Laura Thompson

Travel arrangements made by *Special Luxury Travel*



Special Luxury Travel
 PERSONALIZED JOURNEYS. PRICELESS MEMORIES.

HISTORIC BK HOUSE & GARDENS
 1826

LIMITED TICKETS: \$200

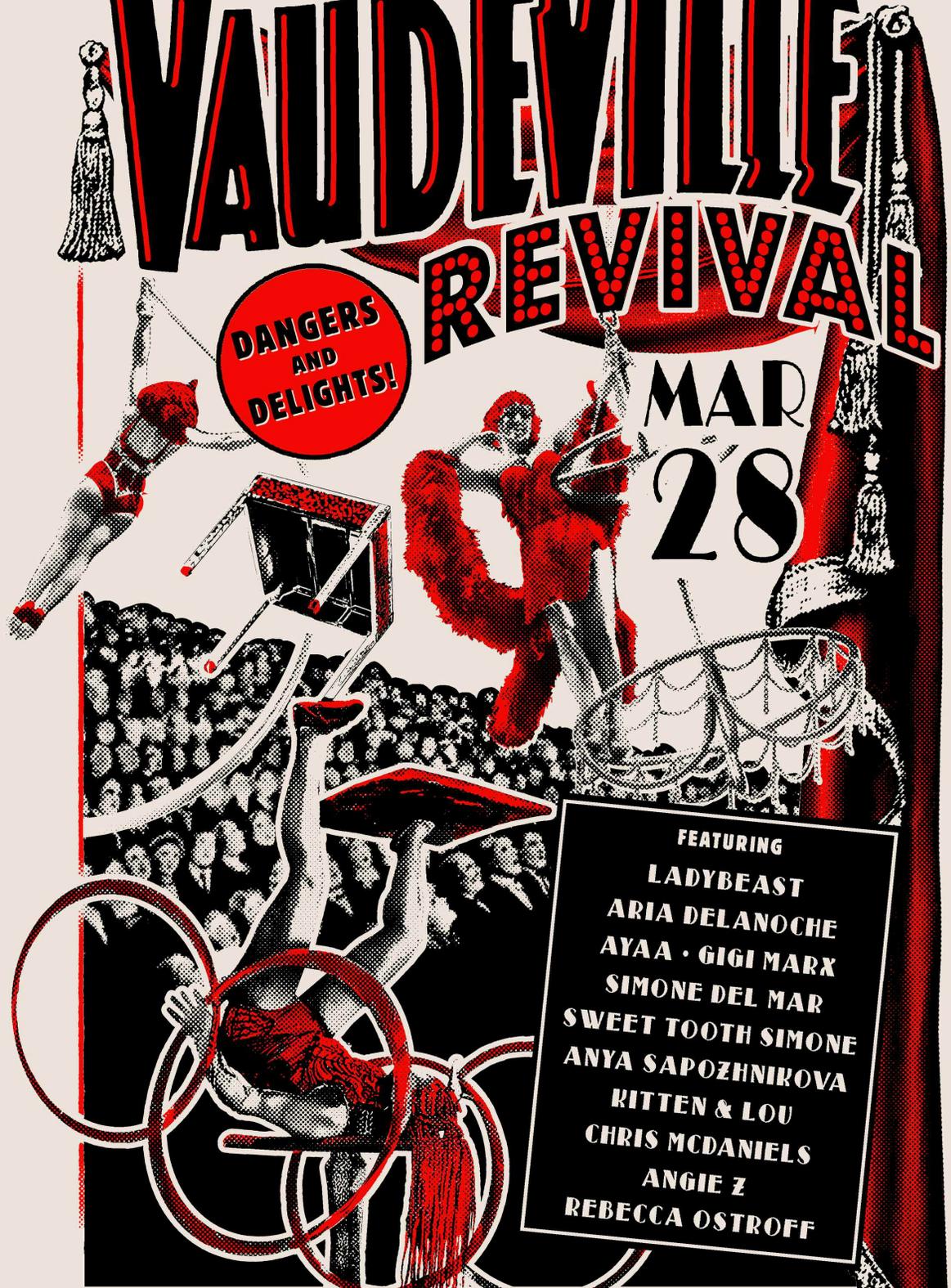
Produced by Keith Fox | Lighting Design by Joan Long | Costume Design by Lauré Sica

LADYBEAST PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

VAUDEVILLE REVIVAL

DANGERS
AND
DELIGHTS!

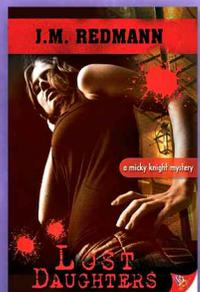
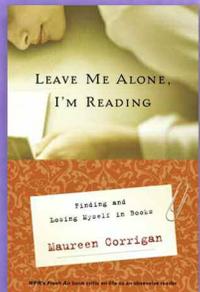
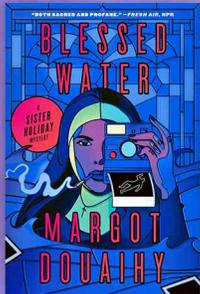
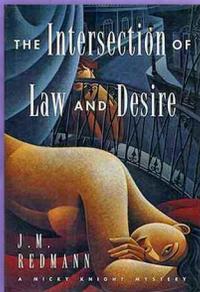
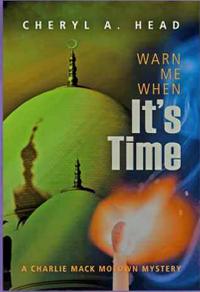
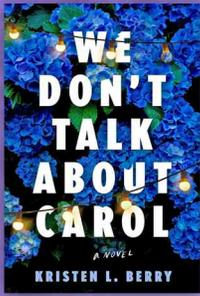
MAR
28



FEATURING
LADYBEAST
ARIA DELANOCHÉ
AYAA • GIGI MARK
SIMONE DEL MAR
SWEET TOOTH SIMONE
ANYA SAPOZHNIKOVA
RITTEN & LOU
CHRIS MCDANIELS
ANGIE Z
REBECCA OSTROFF

THE JOY THEATER

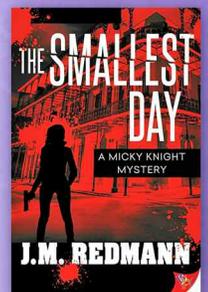
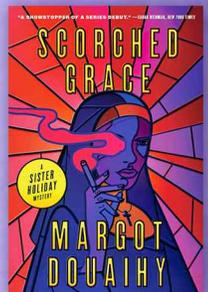
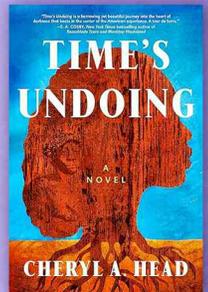
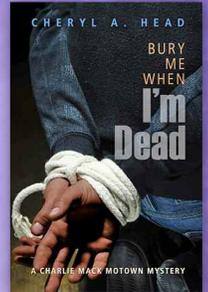
TICKETS AT WWW.THEJOYTHEATER.COM | DOORS 8PM | SHOWTIME 9PM



Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival celebrates the 11th annual Diana Pinckley Prizes for Crime Fiction with an afternoon of programming on Saturday, March 28, 2026



PINCKLEY PRIZES
FOR CRIME FICTION



1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion **THE IMPORTANCE OF FEMALE VOICES IN CRIME FICTION**

Presented by the Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction

From intrepid sleuths to villainesses embracing their “feminine rage,” the feminine shows up in crime fiction in ways that are powerful, shocking, and cathartic. These panelists have reclaimed the mystery genre from hardboiled noir to nail-biting thrillers and infused them with their own unique voices. **Maureen Corrigan**, the distinguished book critic for Fresh Air and the Washington Post, moderates a discussion with bestselling authors **Kristen L. Berry**, **Margot Douaihy**, **Cheryl A. Head**, and **J.M. Redmann**, as they talk about feminist aspects of crime writing.

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

2:30 - 3:45—Writer’s Craft Session **PASSIONATE PLOTTING: CRUCIAL PLOT MOVES THAT KEEP READERS HOOKED—MARGOT DOUAIHY**

Presented by the Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction

What is a plot, really? What’s the difference between a crucial plot point and a placeholder? In this craft session, we’ll sail past simple scaffolds and focus on precision plotting to augment any narrative style and structure. We’ll play with targeted exercises to sharpen your story’s momentum and honor your unique goals. We’ll examine exemplary plot strategies and put theory into action as we write 2-Minute Mysteries. This craft session is for any writer in any genre who wants to level up plot skills and become a passionate plotter!

Hotel Monteleone, Riverview Room, \$25, LitPass or VIP Pass

4 - 5:15 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 BK Historic House during the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival, and the winners were Laura Lippman and Gwen Florio. This event honors the 2026 winners, **J.M. Redmann**, author of the Micky Knight mystery series, and **Kristen L. Berry**, author of the bestselling 2025 debut, *We Don't Talk About Carol*.

Hotel Monteleone, Riverview Room, free and open to the public.



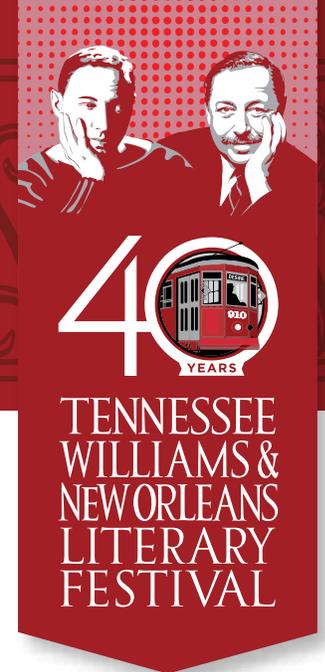
Kristen L. Berry



J.M. Redmann

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026



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.

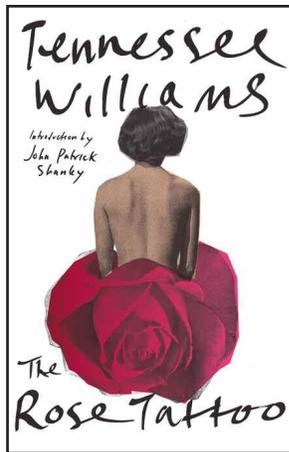
Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne A.

Festival Walking Tours are listed on page 10 & 11.

8:30 - 9:45 AM—Special Event

BOOKS AND BEIGNETS WITH GARY RICHARDS THE ROSE TATTOO BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

After recently focusing on other writers, our breakfast book group returns to Tennessee Williams himself, exploring his 1951 play *The Rose Tattoo* to commemorate its 75th anniversary. Consistently hailed as one of Williams' warmest and most life-affirming plays from his major years, it charts the trauma and slow recovery of Serafina Delle Rose as she copes with her husband's infidelity and death, her daughter's burgeoning sexuality, and her own need for love, even if it takes her outside social conventions. Moreover, Williams complicates understandings of the US South, setting the play in a Sicilian-American community along the Gulf Coast and thus paying tribute to his longtime partner Frank Merlo, to whom he dedicates the play. Readers are invited to purchase and/or read the play included in the paperback *Three by Tennessee* (ISBN 978-0451529084).



Enjoy your book chat with southern literary scholar **Gary Richards**, along with pillowy golden beignets, an array of fresh fruit, coffee, and juices, all prepared by Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House!

Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House, 144 Bourbon Street, \$40 or VIP Pass.

10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

WRITING AS PRACTICE: THE USES OF SPIRITUALITY IN THE CREATIVE LIFE

"Writing is a form of prayer," Franz Kafka once wrote. Both rituals require contemplation, discipline and solitude; both are aimed at transcendence. This panel will look at how a sense of spirituality informs the creative process—and how the creative process comprises a kind of spirituality in and of itself. **Charles Baxter**, whose most recent essay collection, *Wonderlands*, discusses craft and fantasy, will be in conversation with **Olivia Clare Friedman**, whose new poetry collection, *An Arm Fixed to a Wing*, explores the desire to recover awe in the everyday. Joining them will be **Rodger Kamenetz**, whose *Seeing into the Life of Things* offers us rituals to help return the sacred to our lives. **Miles Harvey**, author of *The Registry of Forgotten Objects*, will moderate.

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

10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion THE TALENT THAT SURVIVES— EDITING TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Because he was so prolific and left behind such a massive amount of writing, quite a bit of previously unpublished material by Tennessee Williams—plays, poems, essays, stories, and letters—has been published after his death, over the last forty years ago, for the first time. How is the material chosen? Who makes the final decisions? How is it edited? Are there standards or guidelines for publication? Where does the material come from? These are some of the issues that will be discussed by **Margit Longbrake**, Senior Editor at the Historic New Orleans Collection; **Tom Mitchell**, theater director and Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois; and **Thomas Keith**, Consulting Editor for New Directions Publishing and Professor of Theater at Pace University, who have all edited Williams' previously unpublished work. **Jef Hall-Flavin** will moderate.

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



11:30 - 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

CONTROLLED CHAOS: FINDING FORM THROUGH REVISION

How does one bring an initial idea/impulse/sketch to final draft? This panel, made up of writers of fiction and nonfiction, short and long form works, includes **Robert Olen Butler**, **Michael Cunningham**, **Cammie McGovern**, and **Timothy Schaffert**. They will discuss their views of revision: is it a balance between control and creativity? When do you honor the “nonconforming oddities” and put them to the test? When do you expand—following what’s interesting, surprising, and worthy of exploration? When do you contract—cutting what isn’t earning its keep, tightening focus, and improving pacing? How do these writers re-see a draft again and again, how do they decide what belongs, and how do they know when it’s time to let the work go. Moderated by novelist and co-author of the craft book *The Lab: Experiments in Writing Across Genre*, **Matthew Clark Davison**. **Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.**

11:30 - 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

MY NORTH STAR:

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS’ INFLUENCE ON OTHER WRITERS

This panel will be a conversation among three of the many writers who have been influenced by Williams’ life and work. When someone is influenced by a great writer, it doesn’t mean they write exactly like that person or imitate their style. What they most often get is inspiration, beauty, and insight, and great writers are sometimes a beacon of hope for other writers. Novelist **Christopher Castellani** will share how Williams’ life story inspired him to write the novel *Leading Men*; **Jonathan Alexander** will talk about the ways in which Williams’ writing has inspired his essays and memoirs, such as *Dear Queer Self*; and playwright **Martin Sherman**, author of the memoir *On the Boardwalk*, as well as *Bent* and dozens of other plays and screenplays, will speak about how Williams’ plays and life were guideposts along the way to finding his voice as a fellow playwright. Moderated by **Thomas Keith**, consulting editor for *New Directions*. *Sponsored by Helen Ingram.*

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

1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

WRITING LIFE INTO LANGUAGE: THE CRUCIBLE OF CRAFT

A writer’s material—for fact and for fiction—is mined from lived experience. But what we have lived and learned transforms as it passes into language, a transformation that raises questions about truth and form, privacy and compassion. **Justin Torres**, who burst onto the scene in 2011 with his intimate novel of boyhood, *We the Animals*, joins **Michael Cunningham**, whose forthcoming memoir, *Unsayable*, delves into these questions of language and life. Joining them in conversation are **Christine Ma-Kellams**, who brings her work as a psychologist to bear on her novel, *The Band*, and in personal essays about everything from her Costco addiction to her commute, and **Cammie McGovern**, who has made a career of writing books about and for children with disabilities, such as her 2021 memoir *Hard Landing* about her autistic son’s transition to adulthood. **Miles Harvey**, author of *The Registry of Forgotten Objects*, will moderate.

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

1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

REMEMBERING ARTIST GEORGE DUREAU

New Orleans Painter/photographer George Dureau’s career spanned more than half a century. Reflecting on Dureau’s life and legacy will be gallery owner **Arthur Roger**; **Jarret Lofstead**, who produced a documentary on the artist; University of California (Irvine) English Professor **Jonathan Alexander**; **Brian Sands**, performing arts editor for *Ambush Magazine*, and **Doug MacCash**, arts and culture reporter for *The Times-Picayune/New Orleans Advocate*. Moderated by WYES-TV host/documentary producer **Peggy Scott Laborde**. **Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres Street, \$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.**

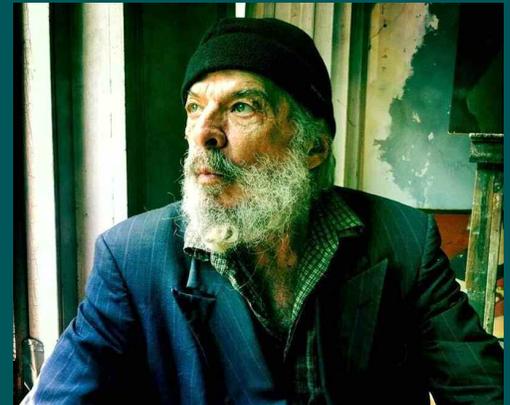


PHOTO BY MICHAEL ALAGO

1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

THE IMPORTANCE OF FEMALE VOICES IN CRIME FICTION

Presented by the Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction

From intrepid sleuths to villainesses embracing their “feminine rage,” the feminine shows up in crime fiction in ways that are powerful, shocking, and cathartic. These panelists have reclaimed the mystery genre from hardboiled noir to nail-biting thrillers and infused them with their own unique voices. **Maureen Corrigan**, the distinguished book critic for *Fresh Air* and the *Washington Post*, moderates a discussion with bestselling authors **Kristen L. Berry**, **Margot Douaihy**, **Cheryl A. Head**, and **J.M. Redmann**, as they talk about feminist aspects of crime writing.

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

The 2006 Festival in March was the first major event in New Orleans, aside from Mardi Gras, in the post-Hurricane Katrina city. We had a star-studded line-up that included **Patricia Clarkson, Tab Hunter, and Richard Thomas.**



2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

DEAD RECKONING: DEBUT NOVELISTS

Writers' first books are often our most personal, the result of years of grappling with the big questions asked by our own (extremely examined) lives: What kind of a future can we have on this hobbled planet? How can we love the flawed humans around us? What should we do with our trauma—or our grief? Five debut novelists will discuss where such reckoning has led them, in literature and in life. The newest literary star from Mississippi (and now New Orleans) **Addie Citchens** tells the story of one upstanding Delta family's struggle with the monster in their mind in her audacious debut, *Dominion*, while in her Southern Gothic novel, *Sister Creatures*, **Laura Venita Green** reinvents the rural Louisiana of her childhood to spin a tale of haunting—and the impossibility of returning home. *Happy Bad*, by **Delaney Nolan**, takes us into the desert of the near future, when a group of troubled girls must evacuate their treatment facility in search of safety, while **Denne Michele Norris** and **Issa Quincy**'s characters are burdened by the past. In Norris' debut *When the Harvest Comes*, a new marriage is challenged by the death of one groom's estranged father, while Quincy's *Absence* is motivated by memory: a poem read to the narrator in childhood recurs, connecting the lives of a beloved schoolteacher, a grieving sister, and a prodigal son through the theme of loss. Moderated by novelist **C. Morgan Babst**, author of *The Floating World*.



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

2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

HOME AND AWAY:

CREATING THE SPACES OF HISTORICAL FICTION

A place is more than its geography or architecture or streets: it is the histories woven into its molecules, a truth acknowledged and explored by these four New Orleans-based authors. **Jess Armstrong** is the author of the Ruby Vaughn murder mysteries, which follow an American heiress in postwar Britain and her occult-tinged investigations. Tulane professor **Ladee Hubbard**'s fiction explores civil rights, superpowers, and the suburbs in timelines ranging from early 20th century America to the Obama years in novels such *The Rib King* and collections like *The Last Suspicious Holdout*. **Christopher Louis Romaguera**'s poetry, stories, and translations—most recently *Charras*—connect the



Long-time Festival Supporter, Francine Segal, Peggy Scott Laborde, and Alec Baldwin at THNOC welcome party, 2000.

greater Caribbean to his adopted hometown of New Orleans and beyond. And LSU professor **Joshua Wheeler** takes readers into the surrealities and strangeness of the American Southwest in essay collections like *Acid West* and novels like *High Heaven*. Moderated by **Adam Karlin**, author of *Luna & the Heart of the Forest* and four editions of the Lonely Planet guide to New Orleans.

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

2:30 – 3:45—Writer's Craft Session

PASSIONATE PLOTTING: CRUCIAL PLOT MOVES THAT KEEP READERS HOOKED—MARGOT DOUAIHY

Presented by the Diana Pinckley Prize for Crime Fiction

What is a plot, really? What's the difference between a crucial plot point and a placeholder? In this craft session by novelist **Margot Douaihy**, we'll sail past simple scaffolds and focus on precision plotting to augment any narrative style and structure. We'll play with targeted exercises to sharpen your story's momentum and honor your unique goals. We'll examine exemplary plot strategies and put theory into action as we write 2-Minute Mysteries. This craft session is for any writer in any genre who wants to level up plot skills and become a passionate plotter!

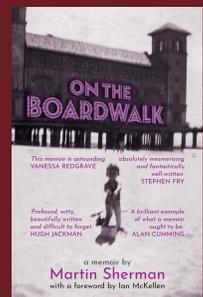
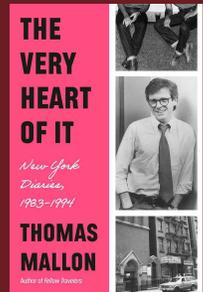
Hotel Monteone, Riverview Room, \$25 or VIP Pass

4 – 5:15 PM—CONVERSATION

CONVERSATION WITH THOMAS MALLON & MARTIN SHERMAN LED BY MAUREEN CORRIGAN

When fact is stranger than fiction, how do you tell a story that's compelling, empathetic, and true? NPR's **Maureen Corrigan** leads a discussion about interweaving humanity with history. **Thomas Mallon** is the author of *The Very Heart of It*, a *New Yorker* Best Book of the Year that chronicles his journal entries around New York City in the 1980s and 1990s, a gay coming of age story that takes readers through the AIDS crisis and beyond. He is also the author of nonfiction works about diaries, plagiarism, and letters, as well as a substantial body of work in historical fiction, from the Reagan years to Hurricane Katrina. **Martin Sherman** is the author of *On the Boardwalk*, a memoir that takes the reader on a darkly humorous journey of the author's life growing up in a Jewish immigrant family and ending with his success on Broadway as the writer of the play *Bent*. Sherman is also known for his stage adaptations of Tennessee Williams' *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* and E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India*.

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



4 – 5:15 PM—Writer's Craft Session

CHARLES BAXTER: WRITING DURING A TIME OF POLITICAL TURMOIL

How do we write about social matters when the issues seem toxic and increasingly polarized? What does the writer have to do when every reader knows who the villain is? Using his recent experience as a citizen of Minneapolis, Charles Baxter will lead a discussion about using oblique means and unusual angles to address thorny political questions. Robert Penn Warren's novel *All the King's Men* and Allen Ginsberg's poem "America" will serve as exemplary texts.

Hotel Monteone, Royal Salon, \$25 or VIP Pass.

4 - 5:15 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 BK Historic House during the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival, and the winners were Laura Lippman and Gwen Florio. This event honors the 2026 winners, **J.M. Redmann**, author of the Micky Knight mystery series, and **Kristen L. Berry**, author of the bestselling 2025 debut, *We Don't Talk About Carol*.

Hotel Monteleone, Riverview Room, free and open to the public.

4 PM—Theatre

THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS PRESENTS DEBBIE WITH A D'S TENNESSEE WITH THE TEA REDRESSED & REBORN—A LAGNIAPPE PRODUCTION

TWTC is once again joining forces with Best of New Orleans #1 Drag Performer Debbie with a D to bring back the girls of Tennessee with the Tea! This adults-only drag story time will feature incredible queens recounting the stories of Williams' most famous plays followed by lip sync performances inspired by them. You don't want to miss out on all the shade, shenanigans, and she-said/she-said of this two-performances-only revival of last year's hit!

The Twilight Room at The AllWays Lounge, 2240 St. Claude Avenue. Tickets at <http://www.twtheatrenola.com/>. Not available with VIP Pass.

4:30 - 6 PM—Cocktail Event

HISTORIC HAPPY HOUR

TWFest is celebrating our 40th anniversary this year! How did the Festival get started? Why focus on Tennessee Williams? How has the Festival changed over the decades? We have two board members who have been with us throughout the years and know the answers to those questions and much more. Join **Peggy Scott Laborde** as she interviews **Errol Laborde**, who was there when the idea for the Festival was conceived and served as our founding board president. They will chat in the courtyard of the Celestine Hotel among the very spaces where Williams worked on *A Streetcar Named Desire*. It's also the spot where Dick Cavett interviewed Williams in 1974. The Celestine's Tennessee Williams Parlor was once Room 10 of the historic Maison de Ville, Williams' favorite room when he stayed there. The event is free and you can purchase a cocktail to enjoy during the interview, including a Festival favorite in the early years—the mint julep!

The Celestine Hotel, 727 Toulouse, free and open to the public.



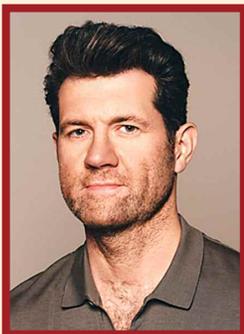
Peg and Errol at Tea With Tennessee (TW Birthday), 1993.

6:30 PM—Special Event

Doors and cash bar at 6 PM THE LAST BOHEMIAN SOIRÉE: AN EVENING WITH BILLY EICHNER

Our Last Bohemia Soirée is in the opulent Queen Anne Ballroom at our host hotel, the Monteleone, and promises to be an unforgettable evening of conversation, music, and storytelling. *See below for full description.*

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$50 or VIP Pass for reserved seats; \$40 general admission; \$20 student or industry professional.



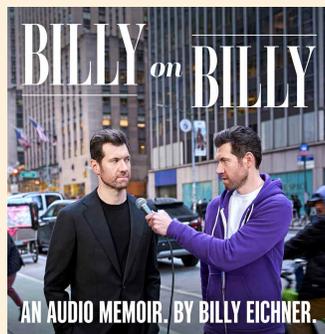
THE LAST BOHEMIAN SOIRÉE: AN EVENING WITH BILLY EICHNER

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28
6:30 PM—Special Event
Doors and cash bar at 6 PM**



Our Last Bohemia Soirée is in the opulent Queen Anne Ballroom at our host hotel, the Monteleone, and promises to be an unforgettable evening of conversation, music, and storytelling. Arrive at 6 PM for drinks and mingling, and at 6:30 enjoy some of New Orleans' live local music with singer-songwriter **Chloe Marie**. Then prepare for a lively conversation with actor, comedian, writer, and producer **Billy Eichner**. Billy will share excerpts from his upcoming audio memoir, *Billy on Billy*, due out in May by Macmillan Audio. He'll be joined by CBS news correspondent and Broadway playwright **Jamie Wax** to discuss the voice behind the viral sensation, *Billy on the Street*, Billy's unlikely path to stardom, the artists that inspired him, and the forces that shaped him along the way. This year's Soirée is a partner event with the **Blue Roses Project**, a New Orleans nonprofit dedicated to providing queer artists a platform to develop new plays.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$50 or VIP Pass for reserved seats; \$40 general admission; \$20 student or industry professional.



Jamie Wax



Chloe Marie

7:30 - 10 PM—Theatre

THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS PRESENTS:

***SMALL CRAFT WARNINGS* BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

Performance Schedule: Thursday - Saturday, March 26 - 28 at 7:30 PM; Sunday, March 29 at 3 PM.

The Lower Depths Theatre at Loyola University, 6363 St. Charles Avenue. Tickets at www.twtheatrenola.com. Available with VIP Pass but must book in advance at info@tennesseewilliams.net.

7:30 - 10:30 PM—Theatre

IRENE COLLECTIVE PRESENTS

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Performance schedule: Wednesday - Sunday, March 25 - 29 at 7:30 PM; additional matinee on Sunday, 3/29 at 1 PM.

Big Couch, 1045 Desire Street. Tickets at streetcarnola.net. Available with VIP Pass but must book in advance at info@tennesseewilliams.net.



LadyBEAST

Doors at 8 PM; Show at 9 PM—Theatre
LADYBEAST PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS
VAUDEVILLE REVIVAL

Vaudeville Revival is an annual LadyBEAST Productions spectacle—one night only, entirely new acts, and never to be repeated. This year's show celebrates the electric lineage of circus and vaudeville, from historic legends to local heroes and international stars. Audiences can expect high-flying trapeze, iron jaw, cowboy antics, true clowning, comedy, and jaw-dropping variety, alongside tributes to the trailblazers who built these art forms and the artists boldly reinventing them today.

Vaudeville Revival is part of the Tennessee Williams Festival's 40th Anniversary marquee events. Presented as part of this landmark celebration, the show honors New Orleans' theatrical legacy through daring, dangerous, and gloriously alive circus and variety performance. The lineup includes LadyBEAST, *Aria de la Noche*, Aysa, Gigi Marx, Simone Del Mar, Sweet Tooth Simone, Anya Sapozhnikova, Kitten & Lou, Chris McDaniels, Angie Z, and Rebecca Ostroff, with each artist bringing their own distinct style, history, and edge to the stage. *Vaudeville Revival* is not a nostalgia act, it is a living, breathing spectacle. A reminder that circus is not frozen in time, but evolving, dangerous, funny, and fiercely alive. One night. New acts. A living spectacle. 21 and older, please.

The Joy Theater, 1200 Canal Street, \$100 for VIP Cocktail Seating; \$35 for General Admission. Not available with VIP Pass.

9 - 10 PM—Theatre

THE MUDLARK PUPPETEERS PRESENT

***THE GNÄDIGES FRÄULEIN* BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

Performance Schedule: Friday - Sunday, March 27 - 29 at 9 PM.

The Mudlark Public Theatre, 1200 Port Street. Tickets at www.themudlarkneworleans.com. Not available with VIP Pass.



DEBBIE WITH A D'S

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TWO SHOWS ONLY!

MARCH 28 & 29 - 4pm

An Adults-Only Drag Queen Story Time featuring Lip Syncs inspired by Williams' most famous plays, starring New Orleans' best entertainers!

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Festival Focus: *This Property Is Condemned*



CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

HONORING THE PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT INSPIRED HIM

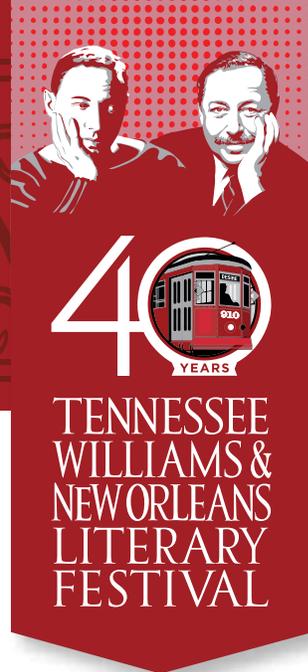
OCTOBER 15 - 17, 2026

www.deltawilliamsfestival.com



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026



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/>



Kenneth Holdich and John "Spud" McConnell in the Le Petit courtyard, 2003.

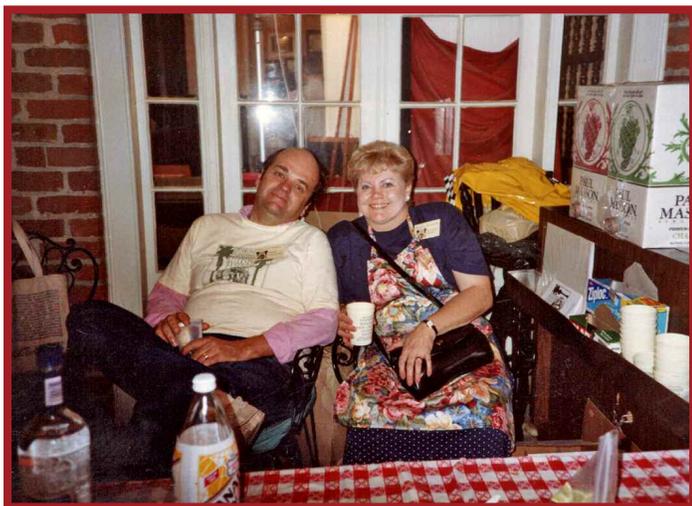
10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

TAKE ME TO THE SOURCE!

A RESEARCH BOOTCAMP FOR ALL WRITERS

A writer's work has many wellsprings; archives and news sites, museums and YouTube, used bookstores and gossip mills can all be fonts of fact and inspiration. But how do you know where to start digging? And, once you've found yourself in a research rabbit hole, how do you get out? A multi-genre panel of writers will discuss where to find the facts you're looking for and how to weave them into your work. Journalist and historian **Daniel Brook** researched his new book, *The Einstein of Sex*, while in Berlin on an Ina Caro Research/Travel Fellowship. He will be joined by **Ethan Brown**, who uses his investigative skills both as a journalist and a death row mitigation specialist; his most recent book is *Murder on the Bayou: Who Killed the Women Known as the Jeff Davis 8?* **Miles Harvey**, prize-winning author of both fiction and non-fiction, has turned to the short form in *The Registry of Forgotten Objects*, and **Delaney Nolan**, a journalist, essayist, and poet, has just published her speculative debut novel *Happy Bad*. **Robert W. Fieseler**, journalist and author of *American Scare* and *Tinderbox*, will moderate.

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



Founding Board Members Errol Laborde and Maureen Detweiler at the Mint Julep station in 1992.

10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

LIVES ILLUSTRATED:

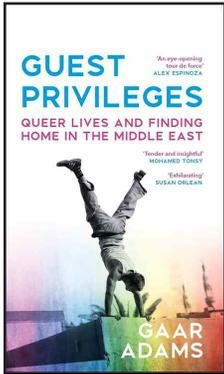
THE ART OF BIOGRAPHY IN GRAPHIC NOVELS

Graphic novels have transformed how we tell true stories—merging vivid artwork with narrative depth to bring real lives to the page. This panel explores the art of creating biographies that meld historical accuracy and visual imagination. **A. Angélique Roché**, author of *First Freedom: The Story of Opal Lee and Juneteenth* and **Nick Weldon**, editor of *Monumental: Oscar Dunn and His Radical Fight in Reconstruction Louisiana* join moderator **Megan Holt** to discuss how the medium challenges and expands our understanding of nonfiction storytelling.

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

11:30 - 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

THE SHAPE OF OUR LIVES: MEMOIR'S MANY FORMS



“Was this what I wanted, to fission myself into bits?” **Michael Lowenthal** writes in his memoir in essays, *Place Envy*. To understand our lives, we must sometimes explode them, putting each fragment under the microscope, or explore them through investigation or reportage. Joining Lowenthal in conversation are **Joshua Wheeler**, author of the radioactive essay collection *Acid West*, about his New Mexican homeland; **Gaar Adams**, whose *Guest Privileges*—half-memoir, half-reportage—tells the story of queer

community, migration, and desire around the Persian Gulf; and **Jordan LaHaye Fontenot**, who investigates the 1983 murder of her great-grandfather in *Home of the Happy*. **Gil Z. Hochberg**, author of the memoir *My Father, the Messiah*, will moderate.

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

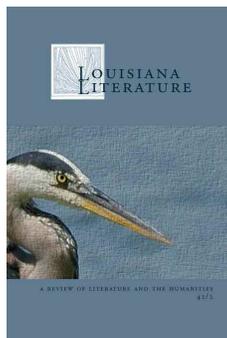
1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

GETTING TO YES: PITCHING AND SUBMITTING TO MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS

How do you know when a piece—or an idea—is ready to go out into the world? And how do you decide where to send it? Editors from journals publishing everything from poetry and fiction to graphic narrative and long-form essays will share the ins and outs of getting your work accepted, edited, and into readers’ hands. Authors themselves, they know the struggle.

Miah Jeffra, co-founder of *Foglifter Press*, professor, and author of *The Violence Almanac*, will share advice on pitching essays and CNF with **Boyce Upholt**, founding editor of *Southlands* and author of *The Great River*. In addition, **Denne Michelle Norris**, editor-in-chief of *Electric Literature* and author of *When The Harvest Comes*, and **Timothy Schaffert**, editor-in-chief of *Prairie Schooner* and author of *The Titanic Survivors’ Book Club*, will share what makes a submission stand out from the slush. **Jack B. Bedell**, editor of *Louisiana Literature* and former Louisiana poet laureate, will moderate.

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



1 - 2:15 PM—Theatre

STAGED READING OF THE WINNING ONE-ACT PLAY

Join us for a staged reading of *Ellipse: A Comet Play* by **Whitney Rowland**, winner of our annual one-act play contest. Under the coordination of **Diane Baas**, Theatre Department Coordinator, Theatre UNO from the School of the Arts at the University of New Orleans, this reading is directed by **Jyna Roots**. Following the one-act reading, the winners of our other writing contests will read from their winning pieces: **Tena Laing**, Fiction; **Tianyu Yi**, Poetry; and **Té V. Smith**, 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.

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



Té V. Smith

Very Short Fiction Winner 2026



Tena Laing

Fiction Winner 2026



Tianyu Yi

Poetry Winner 2026



Whitney Rowland

One Act Winner 2026

1 - 4 PM—Theatre

IRENE COLLECTIVE PRESENTS

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Performance schedule: **Wednesday - Sunday, March 25 - 29 at 7:30 PM**; additional matinee on **Sunday, 3/29 at 1 PM.**

Big Couch, 1045 Desire Street, Tickets at streetcarnola.net. Available with VIP Pass but must book in advance at info@tennesseewilliams.net.

2:30 - 3:45 PM—Festival Closing Event

FROM THE PAGE TO THE STAGE:

CALL ME IZZY ROUNDTABLE

Cash bar available, so grab a cocktail so we can toast to Tennessee and close out our 40th anniversary!

Go behind the scenes for a glimpse of what it’s like for a playwright to see the words on the page become lines spoken by actors on the stage. Our focus is *Call Me Izzy*, the Broadway tour de force that brought Jean Smart back to the stage. We begin with music: **Adam Lozoya**, ragtime virtuoso and composer, will play from the score of *Call Me Izzy*, composed by Grammy and Oscar-winning musician T-Bone Burnett and David Mansfield, a long-time collaborator of Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash. The show’s playwright, **Jamie Wax**, and two-time Tony award nominee **Johanna Day** will present some selections from the poetry and monologues of the play. They will be joined by producer **Charles D. Urstadt** for a lively conversation hosted by Festival fave and Obie winner, actress **Brenda Currin**.

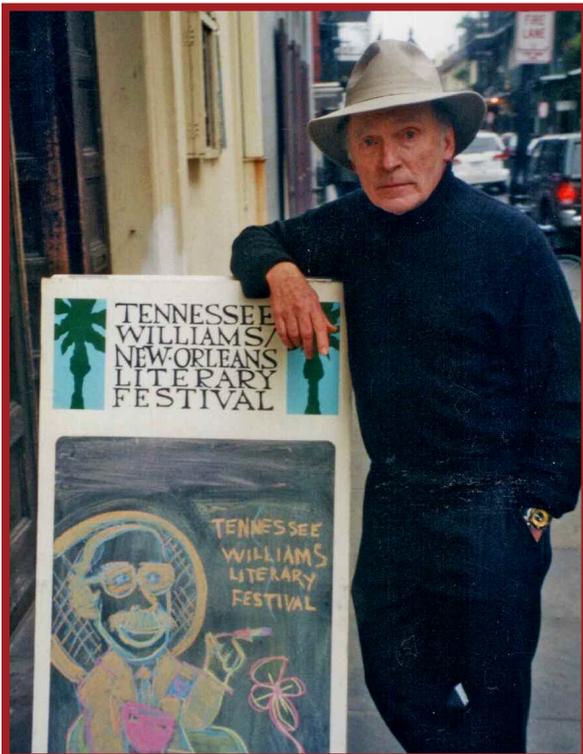
Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, free and open to the public.



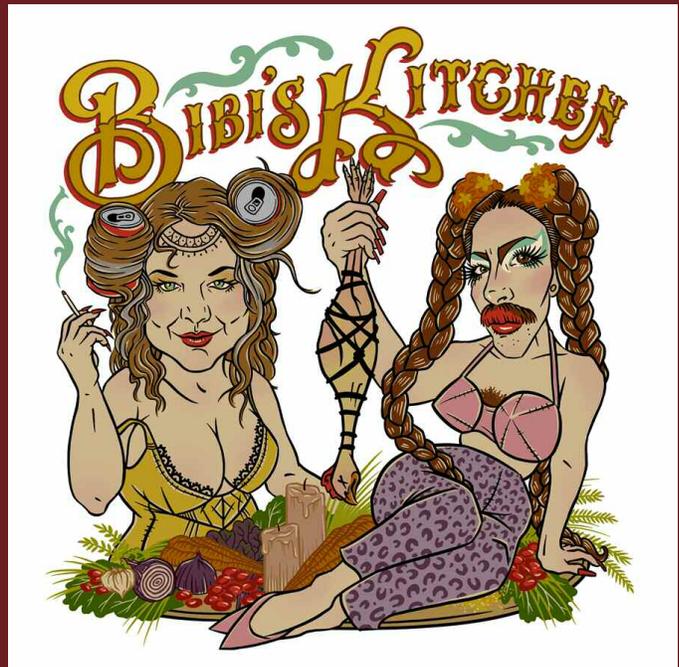
3 - 4:45: PM—Theatre
THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS PRESENTS
SMALL CRAFT WARNINGS
BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
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 The Lower Depths Theatre at Loyola University, 6363 St. Charles Avenue. Tickets at www.twtheatrenola.com. Available with VIP Pass but must book in advance at info@tennesseewilliams.net.

4 PM—Theatre
THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS PRESENTS
DEBBIE WITH A D'S TENNESSEE WITH THE TEA REDRESSED & REBORN—A LAGNIAPPE PRODUCTION
 The Twilight Room at The AllWays Lounge, 2240 St. Claude Avenue. Tickets at www.twtheatrenola.com.

7 - 9 PM—Culinary
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, your favorite aunties will guide you through a brief tea-leaf reading session. With live music and storytelling, this ritual of food is curated to nourish your spirits and fill your hearts with comfort. Our menu for this event is subject to change. 1st Course: Gluten-free kimmel soup with rye toast and horseradish cream cheese. 2nd Course: Delicious beef and veal or vegetarian buckwheat sarmas with cucumber and labneh salad. 3rd Course: A choice of vegetarian goulash with roasted eggplant and chickpeas or braised lamb goulash, served over baked herbed rice, garnished with whipped feta and lemon crème. 4th Course: Homemade rose and cardamom ice cream over a gluten free apple and oat crumble served with tea. Beverages: Iced Herbal Tea, Herb Infused Rose. When purchasing your ticket, please indicate vegetarian or meat. Note: dishes prepared with butter, onions, garlic, tomatoes, peppers. Because this is a family style dinner, we are not able to accommodate serious food allergies or make substitutions for dietary sensitivities.
Mister Gregory's Shrimp Boil Cabaret, 830 North Rampart Street, \$100. Not available with VIP pass



Festival Favorite raconteur, Dick Cavett, 2003.



7:30 - 9:30 PM—Reading

THIRD LANTERN LIT PRESENTS

THE FICTION SESSIONS: A READING OF NEW WORKS

The Fiction Sessions is New Orleans' only all-fiction reading series featuring new and unpublished works and is hosted by local writing collective, **Third Lantern Lit**. This quarter's theme is Romance and is the culmination of a workshop series this quarter to generate, revise, and practice performing new works of fiction. TWfest is proud to partner with Third Lantern Lit for this series of workshops and events supporting new works by local writers. **New Marigny Theatre, 2301 Marais Street, free and open to the public.**



7:30 - 10:30 PM—Theatre

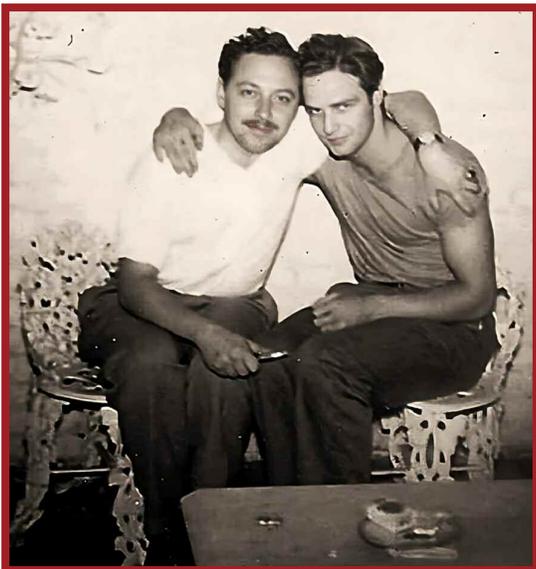
**IRENE COLLECTIVE PRESENTS
A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE
BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

Performance schedule: Wednesday - Sunday, March 25 - 29 at 7:30 PM; additional matinee on Sunday, 3/29 at 1 PM. Big Couch, 1045 Desire Street. Tickets at streetcarnola.net. Available with VIP Pass but must book in advance at info@tennesseewilliams.net.

9 - 10 PM—Theatre

**THE MUDLARK PUPPETEERS PRESENT
THE GNÄDIGES FRÄULEIN BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

Performance Schedule: Friday - Sunday, March 27 - 29 at 9 PM. The Mudlark Public Theatre, 1200 Port Street. Tickets at www.themudlarkneworleans.com. Not available with VIP Pass.



Tennessee and Marlon Brando during rehearsals of *Streetcar*, 1947.

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CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP



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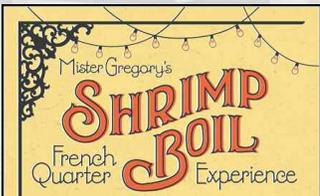
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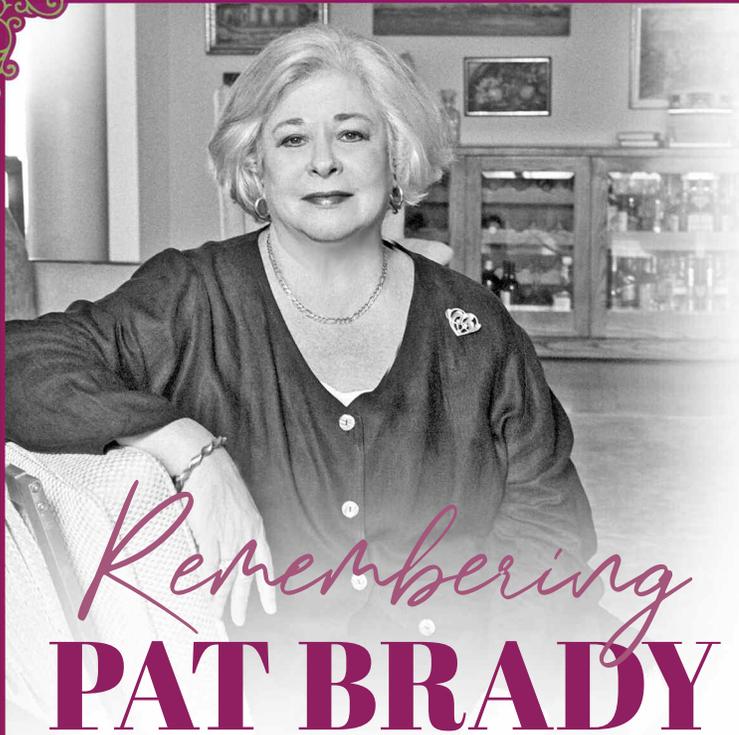


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Remembering PAT BRADY

By Peggy Scott Laborde

A long time ago, my friend David Cuthbert, who covered the New Orleans theatre scene and so much more for the *Times-Picayune*, shared with me the term “generosity of spirit.” That was certainly personified in Pat Brady. Pat had numerous challenges during her life but her perseverance and kindness were ever present.

I had the great joy of working with her on the Tennessee Williams and New Orleans Literary Festival for many years. She served on the board as Programming Vice-President and ultimately President. As with any relatively new non-profit organization, there were some lean times. What was needed were great literary and fundraising ideas along with lots of energy. She provided us with all of those and gave us the confidence to keep going. After Hurricane Katrina, she declared that the Festival would return, even if we had to use flashlights. A perfect Pat moment.

Anyone who has attended the Festival knows that while Mr. Williams is at the heart of it, the range of topics covers great writing and theatre in general. Pat always urged that Williams remain at the core, and thanks to her efforts, part of the Festival includes the Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference. Retired Middle Tennessee State University English Professor Dr. Robert Bray recalls:

“About thirty years ago, Pat Brady had a vision for the Festival

that would focus on academic scholarship devoted to Tennessee Williams. Out of the blue, she came up to me while I was visiting The Historic New Orleans Collection and asked if I would be interested in organizing and directing such a conference. I was honored to accept the responsibility, and the Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference thus began in 1995. I may have been the architect of the project, but Pat was the inspiration. Her vision lives on, thirty years later.”

Now under the direction of The Historic New Orleans Collection, it continues to thrive, and of course the long-standing partnership with The Collection began with Pat’s efforts.

Back to that generosity of spirit, she often hosted literary-related gatherings in her home to support not only the Festival but other organizations. Fond memories abound with the many festival meetings she hosted.

While the written word was so much a part of her life, her love for art, especially by New Orleans artists in the earlier part of the 20th century, foreshadowed a public renewed appreciation of that period.

In her early career Pat had been a professor at Dillard University. I do believe that in a way those teaching skills permeated her future endeavors. Many of us learned a lot from her wisdom and elegant style.

Smart, witty, classy, funny and thoughtful only begins to describe Pat. With her academic background and then her years as Director of Publications for The Historic New Orleans Collection, she combined her love for matters literary and historical.

While she was responsible for the publication of many important books concerning New Orleans history, she later moved on to write major nationally acclaimed biographies on two First Ladies, Martha Washington and Rachel Jackson.

A prime example of her devotion to her topic is the time and expense to research what Martha Washington would have looked like as a younger woman, working with experts and modern technology, Pat achieved this, and commissioned nationally renowned portrait artist Michael Deas to create a painting of Martha Washington which graces the cover of Pat’s book. That painting is on view at Mount Vernon.

It seems appropriate to conclude with a grammatical device, and that is the underscore. The **most important** thing in Pat’s life was love. Love for her dear family and the love story of Pat and her longtime companion Michael Ledet.

We are all so fortunate to have felt that love and abiding generosity of spirit from Pat.



Pat Brady with Richard Ford
in Le Petite Courtyard, 1995

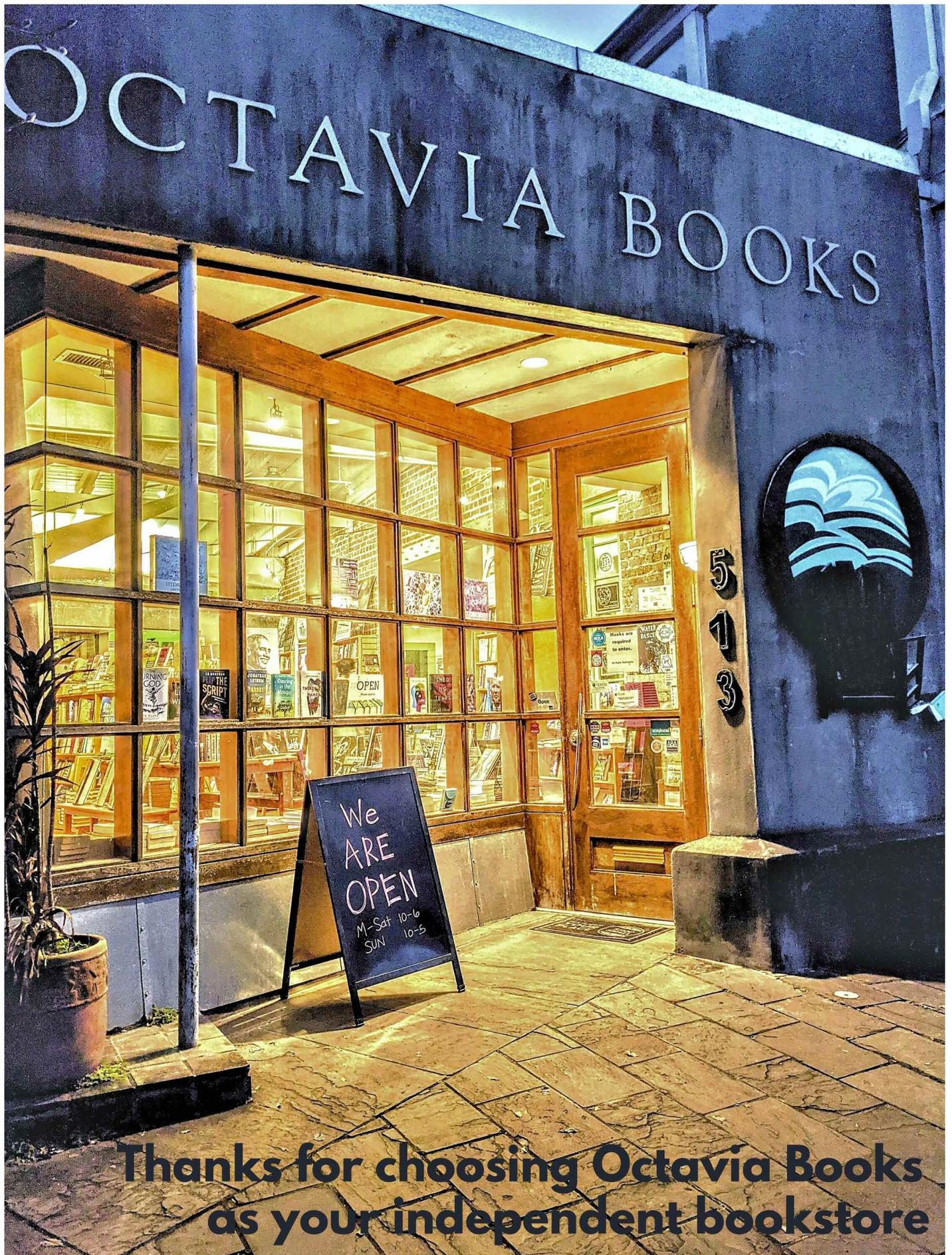


Pat with past board member Henry Lacey



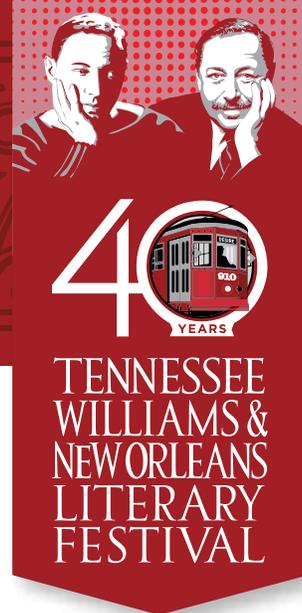
Patricia Brady, Errol Laborde,
and Peggy Scott Laborde

PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON



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2026 FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS



Ralph Adamo, a lifelong New Orleanian, has published nine books of poetry. Among the earliest were *Sadness at the Private University* (1977) and *The End of the World* (1979), both from Frank Stanford and C.D. Wright's Lost Roads Publishers.

A new and selected volume, *Waterblind*, came out in 2002, followed by three new books: *Ever, Poems 2000-2014*; *All the Good Hiding Places* (2020); and *All Fall Down* (2024). Among recognitions for his work is an NEA awarded in 2003. He edited *Barataria* in the 1970s and *New Orleans Review* in the 1990s. He teaches at Xavier University and edits *Xavier Review* and *Xavier Review Press*.



Gaar Adams is the author of *Guest Privileges: Queer Lives and Finding Home in the Middle East*, longlisted for the Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize. His reportage from the Middle East and South Asia has been featured in publications including *The Atlantic*, *Foreign Policy*, *Al Jazeera*,

Slate and *Rolling Stone*. He received his doctorate from the University of Glasgow and teaches creative writing at Falmouth University. He lives in London, UK.



Jonathan Alexander is a writer and podcaster living in Southern California. His previous creative nonfiction includes *Creep: A Life, a Theory, an Apology*, a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award in 2018; *Bullied: The Story of an Abuse*; and *Stroke Book: The Diary of a Blindspot*. His forthcoming

book, out summer 2026, is *Damage: Notes on a Queer Aesthetic* (Fordham University Press). He is Chancellor's Professor of English at the University of California, Irvine. For more information, see his website: www.the-blank-page.com.



Kelly I. Aliano is the Manager of Education Special Projects at The New York Historical and teaches in the English Department at LaGuardia Community College, CUNY. She is the author of *Theatre of the Ridiculous: A Critical History*, *The Performance of Video Games*, and *Immersive Storytelling and Spectorship in Theatre, Museums, and Video Games*.



Tom Andes is the author of the detective novel *Wait There Till You Hear from Me* (Crescent City Books 2025). His stories have appeared in *Best American Mystery and Suspense Stories 2025*, *The Best Private Eye Stories of the Year 2025*, and *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*. In 2025, his short story

"Deadhead" received the Shamus Award for Best Short Story from the Private Eye Writers of America. He lives in Albuquerque, where he is a working musician. His latest musical release is *The Ones That Brought You Home* (Southern Crescent Recording Co. 2025). He can be found at tomandes.com.



Jess Armstrong is the *USA Today* bestselling author of the Ruby Vaughn Mysteries. The third in series, *The Devil in Oxford*, is out now. She has a masters degree in American History but prefers writing about imaginary people to the real thing. Jess lives in New Orleans with her historian husband,

two sons, and growing number of pets and plants. And when she's not working on her next project, she's probably thinking about cheese, baking, on social media or some combination of the above.



Diane K Baas is a Professor of Design and Theatre Program Coordinator in the School of the Arts at the University of New Orleans, and a frequent collaborator with companies regionally and nationally. She studied at the School of Drama, University of Washington in Seattle, and at Tulane University.



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



Charles Baxter is the author of six novels, six books of short fiction, and three nonfiction books on the craft of fiction. His work has also been widely anthologized, including *The Best American Short Stories*, *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, and *The O. Henry Prize Story Anthology*. His novel *The Feast of Love* was made into a movie starring Morgan Freeman. Baxter is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and lives in downtown Minneapolis. His latest book is the novel *Blood Test; A Comedy*.



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*, *Pidgeonholes*, *The Shore*, *Moist*, *Psalterly & Lyre*, *EcoThea*, *Grist*, and other journals. His work has been selected for inclusion in *Best Microfiction* and *Best Spiritual Literature*. His latest collection is *Fight Nights* (Blue Horse Press, 2025). He served as Louisiana Poet Laureate 2017-2019.



Kristen L. Berry is the author of *We Don't Talk about Carol*, a *USA Today* bestselling novel. Born and raised in Metro Detroit, Kristen earned her BA in English Language & Literature from the University of Michigan. She has provided PR and communications expertise to leading consumer brands for more than 20 years, all while writing fiction in her spare time. When she isn't reading or writing, Kristen can be found lifting heavy at the gym, hiking in Malibu, eating her way through Los Angeles with her husband, or shouting at the latest Formula 1 race. *We Don't Talk about Carol* is her debut novel.



Jacyln Bethany is Artistic Director of the Irene Collective Theatre Company. A native of Mississippi, she is an Emmy winning filmmaker, theatremaker, writer, actor, and producer. She graduated from the American Film Institute with an M.F.A. in Directing. Her film work has been screened at the prestigious film festivals worldwide and received distribution worldwide. As an actor, writer, and director she has numerous, film, television, regional and Off-Broadway credits. In addition, she is an emerging Tennessee Williams scholar, which has led her to theatres and conferences in the US and UK. Jacyln's work focuses on the complexity of femininity and her Southern upbringing.



Ariadne Blayde is a New Orleans-based author and playwright. Her debut novel, *Ash Tuesday*, is out from indie press April Gloaming. Her short fiction has won the Saints & Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival Fiction Contest and the Quantum Shorts People's Choice Prize, she

has twice been a finalist for the Patty Friedmann Fiction Competition, and her work has been published in various anthologies. Her play *The Other Room* is performed internationally. She writes speculative fiction, historical fiction, and work focusing on social and environmental justice. Ariadne moonlights as a ghost tour guide in the French Quarter. www.ariadneblayde.com



Nina Bozak is the curator of rare books at the Historic New Orleans Collection, having previously worked in the special collections of both Tulane and Dillard Universities before joining the staff of the HNOC in 2010. In addition to her work with HNOC's rare books, Nina is also a curator for its performing arts collections. As a student of dance history in New Orleans and a life-long dancer, she works closely with its growing dance-related collections.



Daniel Brook (he/him) is a journalist and author whose writing has appeared in *Harper's*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *The Nation*. His second book, *A History of Future Cities*, was longlisted for the Lionel Gelber Prize and selected as one of the ten favorite books of

the year by the *Washington Post*. His newest book, *The Einstein of Sex: Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, Visionary of Weimar Berlin*, was shortlisted for the Wingate Prize and named one of the best books of the year by *The New Yorker*. Brook has received numerous research and writing grants including a Kluge Fellowship at the Library of Congress and a Robert and Ina Caro Research/Travel Fellowship from the Biographers International Organization. Born in Brooklyn, raised on Long Island, and educated at Yale, Brook lives in New Orleans.

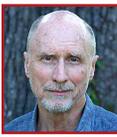


Ethan Brown is an editor, investigative reporter, and author of four investigative reporting-driven books about crime and criminal justice policy: *Queens Reigns Supreme: Fat Cat, 50 Cent, and the Rise of the Hip Hop Hustler*, *Snitch*, *Shake the Devil Off*, and *Murder in the Bayou*, a *New York Times* bestseller. He also served as Executive Producer on a five-part documentary series based on *Murder in the Bayou* that airs on Paramount+.

His work has been praised by John Berendt, Chuck Klosterman, John McWhorter, David Simon, and many others. He is currently Senior Editor for Collaborations at Deep South Today, a Pulitzer Prize-winning nonprofit network of local newsrooms that includes *Mississippi Today* and *Verité News*, in New Orleans.



Katie Burlison's work with historic collections and buildings in the French Quarter has spanned almost twenty years—in her current role as curator at Hermann-Grima + Gallier Historic Houses and previously at the Louisiana State Museum. In 2022, her exhibition “Artistry in Iron: Blacksmiths of New Orleans” was awarded the American Association for State and Local History’s Leadership in History award. Burlison is passionate about drawing on material culture and primary documents to interpret the lives of 19th-century New Orleanians, especially those who have been left out of the traditional historical narrative.



Robert Olen Butler has published nineteen novels and six volumes of short stories, one of which, *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*, won the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction. Among his many other awards, in 2013 he won the career-spanning F. Scott Fitzgerald Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature. His latest work is the 2025 novel *Twice Around a Marriage*. He teaches at Florida State University, and his book on the process of creating literary fiction, *From Where You Dream*, has been widely influential.



Christopher Castellani is the author of four novels, most recently *Leading Men*, which is currently being adapted for film. His book of essays on narration, *The Art of Perspective: Who Tells the Story*, is taught in many writing workshops. Christopher is the current Writer-in-Residence at Brandeis University and a longtime member of the faculty of the Warren Wilson MFA program and the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. For his new novel, *Last Seen* (Feb 2025), he was awarded a Literature Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. He lives in Boston and Provincetown.



Stephen Cedars is a writer, director, teacher, and scholar originally from south Louisiana. Though rooted in performance studies, his academic research has been published in journals and book collections in the fields of philosophy, musicology, pedagogy, history, and literary studies. His plays have been published and produced throughout the US and Canada, and he works regularly as a stage director and producer both in New York City and in Colorado, where he runs a program dedicated to new play development. He also serves as Managing Artistic Director of JNS Theatre for Social Change. Cedars earned his MFA at New York University’s Department of Dramatic Writing, and he is currently pursuing a PhD in theater and performance at the Graduate Center, City University of New York.



Charles Chamberlain is a historian, tour guide, museum professional, and musician. He specializes in the history, music, and cultures of Louisiana, the United States, Latin America, and the Mediterranean Basin. Chamberlain is the author of *New Orleans: A Concise History of an Exceptional City* (LSU Press, 2025), as well as *Victory at Home: Manpower and Race in the American South During World War II* (2003), and numerous articles on the history of New Orleans music. He currently teaches the history of New Orleans and its music at the University of New Orleans.



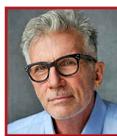
Addie Citchens was born in the Mississippi Delta, graduated from Jackson State University, and attended the Callaloo Writer Workshop. She has been published in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Midnight & Indigo*, *The Columbia Journal*, and *The Oxford American*. She is a 2025 O. Henry Award winner for her short story, “That Girl.” In 2023 her short story “The Good Samaritan” was featured in *The Paris Review* issue that won the Award for Fiction from the American Society of Magazine Editors. Her Blues history work is featured heavily in *Mississippi Folklife Magazine*. FSG’s inaugural Writer’s Fellow, Addie’s highly-anticipated debut novel, *Dominion*, was published in August, 2025.



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. Corrigan is the author of the literary memoir, *Leave Me Alone, I’m Reading!* (2005) and *So We Read On: How The Great Gatsby Came to Be and Why It Endures*, a 2014 *New York Times* Editors’ Choice. In 2023, Corrigan wrote and filmed a 24-lecture series on banned books, “Forbidden Literary Works,” for Wondrium/ Great Courses. She is currently under contract to Knopf for a book exploring 400 years of American book-banning.



Moira Crone is the author of three novels and three books of stories, including *The Not Yet*, a dystopian tale set in the flooded ruins of New Orleans in the year 2121. A finalist for the Philip K Dick Award, an international prize for science fiction paperback of the year, the novel is widely taught in architectural theory, and Eco Futurism classes in the US and abroad. In 2009, she was awarded the Robert Penn Warren Award for the body of her work by the Fellowship of Southern Writers. Since 2019, she has been active as a visual artist. Her work has been in over thirty exhibitions in the Gulf South and the East and West Coasts.



Michael Cunningham is the author of seven novels: *A Home at the End of the World* (1990), *Flesh and Blood* (1995), *The Hours* (1998), *Specimen Days* (2005), *By Nightfall* (2010), *The Snow Queen* (2014), and *Day* (2024). A collection of short stories, *A Wild Swan and Other Tales*, was published in 2016. A work of non-fiction, *Land’s End*, appeared in 2003, and a new non-fiction book, *Unsayable*, is forthcoming in the summer of 2026. *The Hours* received the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, as well as the PEN/Faulkner Award. It was adapted into a film in 2002, featuring Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore, and Nicole Kidman, who won an Academy Award for Best Actress. Cunningham has received grants from the Whiting and Guggenheim Foundations. He is a Professor in the Practice at Yale University.



Brenda Currin, an Obie Award winner (*My Sister in This House* by Wendy Kesselman) has worked extensively in the NY theater, last seen in the World Premiere of Tina Howe’s final play, *Where Women Go*. Films include the soon-to-be released *Last Hand*, *Grounded in Love*, *Daughter of the Bride*, *Gossamer Folds*, and *Out of Blue*. Earlier films include *In Cold Blood*, *The World According to Garp*, *Reds*, *Taps*, and *C.H.U.D.* Television work includes *Gossip Girl*, *Claws*, and *Wu-Tang, An American Saga*. New Orleans theater performances have included roles in *Confederacy of Dunces*, *Dividing the Estate*, *Orpheus Descending*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. At the St. Louis TW Festival, Currin has been in *The Glass Menagerie* and *Something Unspoken*. With David Kaplan, she adapted and performed Eudora Welty’s work for the stage. In NYC, Brenda has been in many plays and most recently is in rehearsals for *Listen to Me* by Gertrude Stein playing Alice B. Toklas, with Kathleen Turner as Gertrude. It also features four dressage horses and riders. Director David Kaplan is behind this epic. Brenda is thrilled to be back for the TWNO Literary Festival!



Matthew Clark Davison is the author of the novel *Doubting Thomas* (Amble Press), which was hailed as a “Must-Read Books by Queer Authors” in *Esquire Magazine*. He is co-author, with Alice LaPlante, of *The Lab*, *Experiments in Writing Across Genre* (W.W. Norton), and is Emeritus Faculty in Creative Writing at San Francisco State University.



Johanna Day's Broadway credits include *Call Me Izzy*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *The Nap*, *Sweat* (Tony Nomination), *You Can't Take It With You*, *August: Osage County*, *Lombardi*, *Proof* (Tony Nomination). Other theatre credits *Scene Partners* (Vineyard), *Des Moines* (TFANA), *Middletown* (Vineyard), *Floyd's* (Guthrie), *Peace for Mary Francis* (New Group), *Peter and Jerry* (Second Stage – Drama Desk Nomination), *Appropriate* (Signature – Obie Award, The Lilly Award), *Poor Behavior* (Mark Taper), *Realistic Joneses* (Yale Rep), *Choice* (Huntington), *The Rainmaker* (Arena Stage – Helen Hayes Award). Her television credits include *Bull*, *The Good Fight*, *Madam Secretary*, *For Life*, *New Amsterdam*, *The Blacklist*, *Escape at Dannemora*, *The Knick*, *The Americans*, *Masters of Sex*. Film: *Worth*, *The Post*, *Great Gilley Hopkins*, *How Far She Went*, *The Breatharian*.



Lital Dotan is a visual artist, curator and scholar. She is currently a doctoral fellow in Theatre and Performance at CUNY Graduate Center. Dotan’s academic work centres on performance art, hermeneutics of the temporal, and the dramaturgy of time in performance. She is the co-founder and executive artistic director of Glasshouse Project, a performance art space that has been operating continuously since 2007 and is currently based in upstate New York. Lital Dotan’s artworks are exhibited on rural farms, in deserted barns and ruins, as well as in museums and galleries. She teaches theatre at City College of New York and elsewhere.



Margot Douaihy's debut mystery, *Scorched Grace*, won the Pinkley Prize for First Crime Novel and was named one of the Best Crime Novels of the Year by *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *CrimeReads*, and others. Her second mystery, *Blessed Water*, was also named a *New York Times* Best Crime Novel of the Year (2024) and won the Publishing Triangle Award for LGBTQ Fiction. The third mystery in her series, *Divine Ruin*—“fearlessly inspired” (Gillian Flynn)—published in January 2026. Margot is an assistant professor with the Popular Fiction MFA at Emerson College.



Pune Dracker is a researcher, mover, and maker in New York City. She teaches dance and yoga, has conducted Movement Choirs around the city, and regularly performs as a zombie in reenactments of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller.” Her current work at CUNY Graduate Center, where she is a PhD student in Theatre and Performance, focuses on the dressed performing body. She holds an MFA in Nonfiction/Poetry and an MA in Design Research, Writing, and Criticism, and her essays and artwork have appeared in *Hyperallergic*, *Full Bleed Journal*, and *ZoneModa Journal* of fashion studies. She is grateful for having studied Williams in classes with Annette Saddik and Hilton Als and, as a film studies scholar, adores *Boom!* for the fashion and the soundtrack.



Billy Eichner—actor, comedian, writer, and producer—burst onto the scene in 2011 with *Billy on the Street*, a satirical TV game show he created and starred in, where Billy walked the streets of New York City asking people to compete in pop culture trivia challenges. The show gained a massive fanbase, four Emmy nominations, and much critical acclaim, even experiencing a rebirth on TikTok more than a decade after it first debuted. The show has not only become a dominant force on social media with hundreds of millions of views but remains one of the most beloved and respected comedy acts in the industry. In 2022, Billy co-wrote, starred in, and produced the movie *Bros*, making him the first openly gay man to star in, write, and produce his own major studio film. It was also the first major studio film where all major roles were played by openly LGBTQ+ actors. Today, Billy continues to delight audiences online and on screen, in shows, and movies ranging from *The Lion King* (2019), *Parks and Recreation*, *American*



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Horror Story, *American Crime Story*, *Bob's Burgers*, *Difficult People*, and many more. Most recently, Billy appeared in *Honey, Don't!* directed by Ethan Coen, and wrapped production on the upcoming comedy film *Judgment Day* opposite Will Ferrell, Zac Efron, and Regina Hall. His audio memoir, *Billy on Billy*, comes out in May 2026 from Macmillan Audio.



Robert W. Fieseler is a journalist investigating marginalized groups and a scholar excavating forgotten histories. A NLGJA Journalist of the Year and recipient of the Pulitzer Traveling Fellowship, his debut book *Tinderbox* won seven awards, including the Edgar Award, and his reporting has appeared in *Slate*, *Salon*, and *River Teeth*, among others. Fieseler's second queer history book, *American Scare*, was named a *Kirkus* Best Book of 2025. He is pursuing a PhD at Tulane University as a Mellon Fellow and lives with his husband on the gayest street in New Orleans.



Gina Ferrara is the current Poet Laureate of Louisiana. Her poetry has recently appeared or is forthcoming in *The Southern Review*, *Sheila-Na-Gig*, *The Gyroscope Review*, and *Italian Americana*. Since 2007, she has curated The Poetry Buffet, a monthly reading series in New Orleans. Her sixth collection, *The Rooted and Recurrent*, is forthcoming from ULL Press. She teaches at Delgado Community College.



Jordan LaHaye Fontenot's work has appeared in *Oxford American*, *Atlas Obscura*, and others. She has presented her work at the Society of Professional Journalists Conference, the Louisiana Book Festival, the Delta Mouth Literary Festival, the Eudora Welty Writers Symposium, and others. The managing editor of *Country Roads* magazine, she lives in Lafayette, Louisiana. Her first book is *Home of the Happy: A Murder on the Cajun Prairie*—an investigative memoir that follows her journey as she unravels the mysteries surrounding the 1983 kidnapping and murder of her great grandfather, Aubrey LaHaye in Mamou, Louisiana.



Olivia Clare Friedman's most recent book is the poetry collection *An Arm Fixed to a Wing* (LSU Press, 2025). She is also the author of the novel *Here Lies* (Grove, 2022), the story collection *Disasters in the First World* (Grove, 2017) and the poetry collection *The 26-Hour Day* (New Issues, 2015). She is an Associate Professor of English and Director of Creative Writing at the University of Southern Mississippi.



Sloan Elle Garner is a dramaturg, director, intimacy choreographer, and theatre educator from North Mississippi. A graduate of Mississippi School of the Arts, she holds degrees in theatre from the University of Southern Mississippi and Villanova University and is currently pursuing a PhD in theatre and performance studies at the University of Georgia. Garner uses archives to narrate theatre history in Atlanta during the New South Era. Her work has been presented at meetings of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education and the American Society for Theatre Research and has earned her a Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region IV nomination. She is the Southeast Regional VP of Literary managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas.



Benjamin Gillespie is Assistant Professor of Theatre History & Performance Studies at Santa Clara University. His essays have appeared in *Theatre Journal*, *Modern Drama*, *Theatre Survey*, *Theatre Topics*, *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, *Performance Research*, *Theatre Research in Canada*, and on *HowlRound*. He is co-editor of the *Journal of American Drama and Theatre* (JADT) and Performance Review Editor of *Theatre Journal*. He has contributed numerous chapters to scholarly volumes on queer and feminist theatre. His books include *Late Stage: Theatrical Perspectives on Age and Aging* (University of Michigan Press, 2026); *Split Britches: Fifty Years On* (University of Michigan Press, 2027); and *The Routledge Companion to LGBTQ+ Theatre and Performance in North America* (Routledge, 2027).



Gideon Glick is the co-artistic director of Blue Roses Project in New Orleans. Broadway: *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Tony nomination), *Significant Other* (Drama League Nomination), *Spider-Man*, and *Spring Awakening*. TV: *Etoile*, for which he also served as a writer, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *The Other Two*, *American Horror Story: NYC*, *9-1-1: Nashville*, *The Detour*, *Devious Maids*, *Elementary*, and *The Good Wife*. Film: *Maestro*, *The Pale Blue Eye*, *White Noise*, *Marriage Story*, *Ocean's 8*, *Speech & Debate*, *A Case of You*, *Gods Behaving Badly*, and *One Last Thing*. He co-wrote *Give My Swiss Chards to Broadway* published by Countryman Press.



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 last spring in San Francisco. *Photo by Irene Young.*



Laura Venita Green is the author of the debut novel, *Sister Creatures*, an Indies Introduce and Indie Next pick. She is a writer and translator with an MFA from Columbia University, where she taught undergraduate creative writing. Her fiction won the Story Foundation Prize, was a finalist for the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival Fiction Contest, and appeared in *The Missouri Review*, *Story*, *Joyland*, *Fatal Flow*, and translated to Italian in *Spaziusclusi*. Originally from Louisiana, she lives with her husband in New York City.



Alejandra Guzman is a cross-genre writer. Notably, her poem "Animals Named After Other Animals" is featured in the 2025 *Kenyon Young Writers Summer Anthology*. Some of her recent works explore themes of identity to reconnect with her Mexican American heritage.



Jef Hall-Flavin is the former director of the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, where he staged three world-premiere Williams plays and produced dozens of productions since 2006. He has held positions at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, and The Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, DC. Now living and directing plays in London, Jef is a visiting lecturer at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, and Norwich University of the Arts. His research interrogates relationships between text and meaning in performance, and he has written a chapter for an upcoming Routledge volume: *New Intermedialities in Theatre and Performance* (July 2026).



Miles Harvey's collection of short stories, *The Registry of Forgotten Objects* (Mad Creek Books, 2024) won the Journal Non/Fiction Prize and the Society of Midland Authors award for best work of adult fiction. His nonfiction includes *The King of Confidence* (Little, Brown & Co., 2020) and *The Island of Lost Maps* (Random House, 2000), a national bestseller. He teaches creative writing at DePaul University in Chicago, where he chairs the Department of English and is a founding editor of Big Shoulders Books, a nonprofit, social-justice publisher.



Cheryl A. Head's writing explores themes of social justice and diversity. Her award-winning *Charlie Mack Motown Mysteries*, whose female PI protagonist is queer and Black, was featured on the game show *Jeopardy!* Her 2023 historical fiction novel, *Time's Undoing*, was shortlisted for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize, as well as the Anthony, Macavity, Agatha, and *Strand* Critics Awards. Head was named to the Saints & Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival Hall of Fame in 2019, is a 2022 recipient of the Alice B. Award, and is the 2026 winner of the Saints & Sinners Fiction Contest. She is co-chair of the 2027 Bouchercon World Mystery Convention, which will be held in Washington, DC.



Gil Z. Hochberg is a writer and scholar whose work bridges the political and art. Trained in Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley, she is now a Professor of Comparative Literature and Middle East studies at Columbia University in New York. Her research and writing engage literature, cinema, visual art, and photography, exploring how images, stories, and archives both shape and challenge the forces of colonialism, nationalism, and patriarchy. She is the author of three acclaimed books on Palestinian and Israeli literature, cinema, and art, and the editor of several art catalogues, photography collections, and queer and feminist publications—including a special issue of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, titled “Queer Politics and the Question of Palestine/Israel.” Her new book is a memoir entitled *My Father, the Messiah*. It is her first work of creative nonfiction.



Megan Holt is Executive Director for One Book One New Orleans and the Words & Music Festival. Raised in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, Megan received a Ph.D in English/Comparative Literature from Tulane University in 2013. The same year, she began her work with community literacy. Her efforts to remove barriers to books and support citywide literacy in New Orleans were recognized by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities in 2023, when she was the recipient of 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. In her spare time, Megan can most often be found reading a good book or listening to live music.



Dr. Michael S.D. Hooper, the current president of the International Tennessee Williams Society (ITWS), is an independent scholar and private tutor based in the UK who has appeared on several Scholars Conference and Festival panels. He is the author of *Sexual Politics in the Work of Tennessee Williams: Desire over Protest* (CUP, 2012) and of various pieces for the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, including a review of *Early Stories* by Tennessee Williams that will appear in this year’s edition. Hooper is currently co-authoring *The Plastic Theatre of Tennessee Williams: Expressionist Drama and the Visual Arts* with Henry Schvey, which is to be published by Edinburgh University Press.



Ladee Hubbard is the author of the novel *The Talented Ribbins*, which received a 2017 Hurston-Wright Legacy Award for Debut Fiction and the 2018 Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence. Her second novel, *The Rib King*, was named one of *Time* magazine’s 100 Must-Read Books of 2021 and was a finalist for a Hurston-Wright Legacy Award. In 2022, she published *The Last Suspicious Holdout*, a collection of short stories which was longlisted for the Aspen Words Literary Prize. In addition, she has also published short fiction and nonfiction in numerous venues including *The New York Times*, *Callaloo*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Oxford American*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, and *Guernica*. Born in Massachusetts and raised in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Florida, she currently lives in New Orleans.



Skye Jackson’s work has appeared in *RHINO*, *Palette Poetry*, *The Southern Review*, and elsewhere. She has been a finalist for the *Iowa Review* Poetry Award, the *RATTLE* Poetry Prize and was the recipient of the AWP Intro Journals Award. She currently serves as a Visiting Writer at Xavier University and was appointed the Writer-in-Residence of the Jack Kerouac House. She is the current Chairwoman of the New Orleans Poetry Festival. Her debut poetry collection, *Libre*, was published by Regalo Press and nationally distributed by Simon & Schuster. *Libre* was also selected as One Book One New Orleans’ chosen book for 2026.



Miah Jeffra is author of four books—most recently *The Violence Almanac* (finalist for several awards, including the Grace Paley and Robert C Jones Book Prizes) and the novel *American Gospel*, finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Prize—and is co-editor, with Arisa White and Monique Mero, of the anthology *Home is Where You Queer Your Heart*. Miah is co-founder of Whiting Award-winning queer and trans literary collaborative, Foglifter Press, and teaches writing, decolonial studies and cultural theory at Santa Clara University.



Giovanna Joseph is Founder and Artistic Director of the award-winning OperaCréole. Her research on 19th-century New Orleans free classical and operatic composers of color and Creole history and heritage has been featured on *CBS Saturday Morning*, *NBC Nightly News*, NPR, and in *Black Enterprise*, *64 Parishes*, and *Atlas Obscura*. As an international soloist, arts integration specialist, and university lecturer at Loyola, Joseph has received awards such as Who’s Who in America 2024, Leadership in The Arts from Washington, D.C.-based Opera Lafayette, and was an Honorary Culture Bearer in the Krewe of Muses parade. In 2022, she received The Torchbearers Award from The New Orleans Regional Chapter of The National Coalition of 100 Black Women. The former Education Director for the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra was most recently featured in *Songs of Slavery and Emancipation*, Dillard University’s Ray Charles Center for Material Culture’s *Legacy of American Slavery*, and The Nous Foundation’s *Voices of Renewal*, celebrating the Creole language.

ONLINE AUCTION

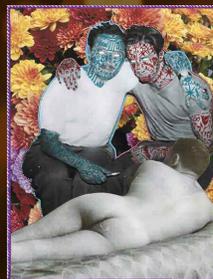
Starts Friday, March 20 at midnight
Ends at 2 PM on Sunday, March 29.

Artwork from our 2026 poetry cover artist, Zach Gear featuring Tennessee Williams, Truman Capote, and Alice Dunbar Nelson along with gift certificates and book packages are also up for bid to support our 2027 Festival.



Jewelle Gomez
by Timothy Cummings

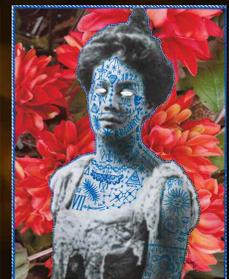
You can own our one of a kind painting of Jewelle Gomez by artist Timothy Cummings created for our 23rd annual SAS program cover.



Tennessee and Marlon
by Zach Gear, 2025



Truman Capote
by Zach Gear, 2025



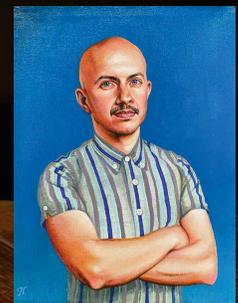
Alice Dunbar Nelson
by Zach Gear, 2025

You can also bid on having Timothy create a unique painting of you or a loved one!



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Rodger Kamenetz's *The Jew in the Lotus*, an account of an historic interfaith dialogue, became an international bestseller and a PBS documentary. A sequel, *Stalking Elijah*, was awarded the National Jewish Book Award. Kamenetz has been called “the most formidable of the Jewish-American poets.” *The History of Last Night’s Dream* was featured on Oprah Winfrey’s “Soul Series” program. LSU Professor Emeritus, he leads an international group of Natural Dreamwork practitioners. His new book *Seeing into the Life of Things* teaches an everyday spirituality rooted in imagination. He lives in New Orleans.



David Kaplan is co-founder and curator of the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, now in its 21st year. The author of *Tennessee Williams in Provincetown* (2006) and *Tenn Years* (2015), he has written about Williams for Brazil’s *Revista Dramaturgia em Foco*, *The Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, and *Methuen’s Modern American Drama*. Kaplan has staged plays by Williams worldwide since 1973, most recently, *This Property is Condemned* at Provincetown Town Hall (2025). He is currently completing *Weirder than Weird*, a book about Williams sci-fi fantasy writing—plays, poems, and fiction—tracked back to the influence and inspiration of *Weird Tales* magazine.



Adam Karlin has written for the BBC, NPR, and *The Christian Science Monitor*, and is a regular author for *Lonely Planet*, where he has contributed to over 100 guidebooks. His creative nonfiction has appeared in multiple anthologies, as well as *Catapult*, *The Bitter Southerner*, and *Stranger’s Guide*; he also has a notable essay listed in *The Best American Travel Writing 2020*. His debut novel, *Luna & the Heart of the Forest*, a middle grade dark fantasy, was published by Breakwater Books and named a top Canadian children’s book by *Teach Magazine*. He teaches Humanities at the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts, Louisiana’s state arts conservatory.



Thomas Keith, consulting editor for *New Directions* and Associate Adjunct Professor of Theater at Pace University, has edited over 20 Tennessee Williams titles since 2002, and wrote the introductions for *A House Not Meant to Stand* (2008) and *Now the Cats with Jeweled Claws* (2016). Co-editor of *Letters of Tennessee Williams and James Laughlin* (2018), he has recently written about Williams for *TWAR*, *Dramaturgia em Foco*, and *Early Stories*. The author of *Robert Burns’s Life on the Stage* (2022), he has written about Burns for *Scottish Literature*, *Burns Chronicle*, and *Oxford Handbook of Robert Burns*. Keith has also written for *American Theatre*, *Gay & Lesbian Review*, and *Provincetown Arts*.



Errol Laborde writes his “Streetcar” column for *The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate* and a blog for myneworleans.com. He served as executive vice-president and editor-in-chief of Renaissance Publishing Company. He has won over twenty New Orleans Press Club awards, including three Alex Waller Awards and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. He was also the recipient of the 2013 City & Regional Magazine Association award for column writing. His books include *New Orleans: The First 300 Years*, *Mardi Gras: Chronicles of the New Orleans Carnival*, and *Krewes: The Early Carnival from Comus to Zulu*. His most recent book is *When Rex Met Zulu and Other Chronicles of the New Orleans Experience*. Laborde holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of New Orleans. He is a founder of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival and served as its first president.



Peggy Scott Laborde has been the senior producer for the New Orleans PBS station, WYES-TV, since 1987. She has produced over 35 documentaries, including *A Conversation with Tennessee Williams* and, most recently, *Literary New Orleans*. She is the recipient of a Suncoast Emmy Award. Laborde also produces and hosts *Steppin’ Out*, New Orleans’ only weekly arts and entertainment review program, now in its 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.



Bill Loehfelm is author of seven novels, including the critically acclaimed crime fiction series about New Orleans police officer Maureen Coughlin. Bill has lived in New Orleans for almost 30 years. He tends bar with some regularity, occasionally plays the drums, and very occasionally teaches writing. He lives in the Irish Channel with his wife, Anne Compton Lambeth, a writer and owner of Wild Lotus Yoga Studio, and their dog, Roux. His most recent Maureen Coughlin book, *The Devil’s Muse* features Maureen’s first Mardi Gras.



Jarret Lofstead is an independent filmmaker based in New Orleans, Louisiana. As director/producer of The Bend Media, he has led two feature documentaries: *George Dureau, New Orleans Artist* (78 min, 2023) and the forthcoming *Last Night at the Palm Court* (90 min, 2026). He is the editor of *Big Chiefs in Conversation: Traditions of Black Masking Indians* (HNOC, 2022) and works primarily to develop digital humanities projects for cultural and educational institutions and NGOs. He holds an MFA in Writing and has taught rhetoric, literature, and film at both Tulane and Loyola University of New Orleans.



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*. His latest publication is *Now May Be All We Have*, a collection from 30 writers attending the 2024 New Orleans Writing Marathon edited for Louisiana Literature Press.



Michael Lowenthal is the author of a story collection, *Sex with Strangers*, and four novels: *The Same Embrace*, *Avoidance*, *Charity Girl* (a *New York Times Book Review* “Editors’ Choice” and a *Washington Post* “Top Fiction of 2007” pick), and *The Paternity Test* (an Indie Next selection and a Lambda Literary Award finalist). The recipient of fellowships from the MacDowell Colony and the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, he was also awarded the James Duggins Outstanding Mid-Career Novelists’ Prize at Saints and Sinners 2009. Lowenthal’s most recent book is a memoir-in-essays, *Place Envy*, published in 2026. He lives in Boston and Pittsburgh.



Adam Lozoya is a New Orleans–based pianist who travels with a miniature acoustic piano across the US, transforming sidewalks, salons, and unexpected corners into impromptu stages. Drawn to unconventional spaces, he brings theater, ragtime, and a sense of whimsy wherever he lands—treating rhythm as dialogue and melody as monologue. Rooted in New Orleans’ musical lineage, his performances carry the raw elegance and kinetic storytelling of a bygone era, unfolding as if scored for the stage. His career has carried him across the U.S., Europe, and the Caribbean as the “Ragtime Stowaway” pianist, and as a featured member of the Slick Skillet Serenaders who will be featured at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. Behind the curtain, he is a dedicated piano technician annually providing instruments for French Quarter Festival and collaborating with Sing for Hope on public piano initiatives surrounding the Paris Summer Olympics and LIX Super Bowl alongside Jon Batiste and B Mike. His guiding belief is simple: “Music belongs everywhere!”



Doug MacCash has been an arts and culture writer with *The Times-Picayune* newspaper and NOLA.com for more than 25 years. He shares in two Pulitzer Prizes for reporting immediately after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In 2022, MacCash’s cultural history book titled *Louisiana True: Mardi Gras Beads*, was published by LSU Press. His upcoming book on the history of graffiti in New Orleans may be published as early as 2026. In the late 1990s, MacCash began researching a biography of George Dureau that was never completed. In the process he spent many hours interviewing the artist.



Christine Ma-Kellams is a Harvard-trained cultural psychologist, Pushcart-nominated fiction writer, and first-generation American. When not writing, she is an associate professor of psychology at San Jose State University, program coordinator for its Masters in Experimental Psychology program, and a regular contributor to *Psychology Today*. Her essays and short stories have appeared in *HuffPost*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Business Insider*, *Salon*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *the Rumpus*, *Catapult*, *Electric Literature*, *ZYZZYVA*, *Kenyon Review*, *Matador* and many more publications. Her empirical work in psychology has been featured in the *BBC*, *Boston Globe*, *Elle*, *GQ*, *Esquire*, and elsewhere. *The Band* (Atria) is her first novel and *Cultural Psychology* (Bloomsbury) is her textbook. You can find her in person at one of California’s coastal cities or online at ChristineMa-Kellams.com.



Thomas Mallon is the author of eleven novels, including *Henry and Clara*, *Fellow Travelers* and *Up with the Sun*. His nonfiction books include *Mrs. Paine’s Garage* and, most recently, *The Very Heart of It: New York Diaries, 1983-1994*, which *Kirkus Reviews* called “Funny, sad, witty, horrible, and beautiful . . . An exquisitely evocative glimpse into an unparalleled era in queer history steeped in joy, sex, and death.” He is a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and other publications. In 2011 he received the American Academy of Arts and Letters’ Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award for prose style. He has been the literary editor of *GQ* and the deputy chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He lives in Washington, D.C.



Carly Mathas, born and raised in New Orleans, is mostly found spending her time writing essays and poems about her childhood, her mother, and her daunting fear of what life has to offer. If she is not writing, then you can find her reading everything but the assignments she is given. She has won a gold key for the Scholastic Writing Awards for her essay about the relationship between family and her childhood cars, and two silver keys for her poems. Her work can be found in *Umbra*.



Cammie McGovern is the author of *The Last Letters of Sally and Walter* (2026), a Target Book of the Month pick, and *Hard Landings* (2021), a memoir about her autistic son's transition into adult services at the age of 22. She has also written six books for young adults and middle grade readers, most of which feature main characters with disabilities. She is one of the founders of Whole Children in Hadley, Massachusetts, a resource center for children and young adults with disabilities and their families. Her writing and work around disability issues has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Parenting*, and *Redbook*.



Molly Mitchell is Ethel & Herman L. Midlo Endowed Chair and Gordon Mueller Professor of Public History at UNO, where she directs the Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies. She is author of *Raising Freedom's Child: Black Children and Visions of the Future After Slavery* and has published online for *Slate*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, and the *New York Times*. With True Fiktion, she produced the comic book *Jane's Freedom: Self Liberation in Antebellum New Orleans*. She also co-produced *Don't Stand Alone: Black Labor Organizing in New Orleans* and curated the illustrated exhibit *Amongst Ourselves: Enslaved Resistance at Whitney Plantation*.



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*.



A native of Mississippi, **Benjamin Morris** is the author of one book of nonfiction and three books of poetry, most recently *The Singing River* (Belle Point Press, 2025). He holds an MSc in Creative Writing from the University of Edinburgh and PhD in Archaeology from the University of Cambridge. His work has appeared in *The Oxford American*, *Lithub*, and *The Southern Review*, and received fellowships from the Mississippi Arts Commission and Tulane University. His next book, a memoir about surviving COVID in New Orleans, is forthcoming in 2026 from University Press of Mississippi. He lives in New Orleans.



Michelle Antoinette Nelson, also known as **LOVE the poet**, is a versatile creative with a passion for storytelling and performance as a poet, host, photographer, and author. Michelle has appeared on CNN, authored the books *Black Marks on White Paper* and *Own Your Capacity: H.E.A.L.T.H. is Power* and received the GBCA Baker Artist b-grant award. She has also released multiple spoken word CDs and performed at prestigious venues nationwide and starred in her one-woman play *God's Country*. She served as a producer, host, and performer for the Punary Poets featured on HBO. She has also served as an MC for Summit, The Outside Festival, Gold Dust, The Medicine Show, and The Tennessee Williams and New Orleans Literary Festival.



Delaney Nolan is the author of *Happy Bad* (2025, Astra House), her debut novel, which received a starred review from Kirkus. Her fiction has appeared in *Electric Literature*, *Guernica*, *Indiana Review*, *Oxford American*, *Tin House*, *TriQuarterly*, and has been chosen as a notable for *Best American Essays*. She received her MFA in fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she was a Rona Jaffe fellow. Her work has been awarded a Pushcart Prize, two Academy of American Poets Prizes, and a Fulbright Fellowship in fiction. An investigative journalist for *The Lens* in New Orleans, her reporting has appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Nation*, *Sierra Magazine*, *The Intercept*, *Al Jazeera*, *Mother Jones*, and elsewhere.



Cody Norris is a PhD candidate in English at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. His research interests include dramatic literature, performance studies, and literature of the American South. His dissertation interrogates the tourist gaze and colonial and antebellum nostalgia often found in Southern narratives. He draws on literature, film, and the visual and performing arts, to examine distinctions between eras of cultural production, with a focus on embodied performance of citizens and visitors to Southern destinations.



Denne Michele Norris is the editor-in-chief of *Electric Literature*, winner of the 2022 *Whiting Literary Magazine Prize*. She is the first Black, openly trans woman to helm a major literary publication. A 2021 Out100 Honoree, her writing has been supported by MacDowell, Tin House, and the Kimbilio Center for African American Fiction, and appears in *McSweeney's*, *American Short Fiction*, and *ZORA*. She is co-host of the critically-acclaimed podcast *Food 4 That*, and her debut novel, *When The Harvest Comes*, was released by Random House in April 2025.

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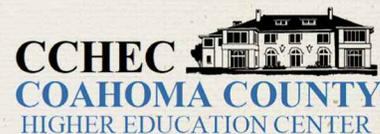
Blanche Cutrer Smith with sister-in-law Stella Cook Cutrer holding Stella's twins on the grounds of the Cutrer Mansion. Circa 1921, Private Collection

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Award winning actress **CCH Pounder** will soon be seen in *Cape Fear* for Apple TV+ and *The Terror: Devil in Silver* for AMC. Her current credits are James Cameron's *Avatar: Fire and Ash* and Paramount Pictures' *The Naked Gun*, and recent projects include the Netflix film, *Rustin*, the Max series *Full Circle*, the Netflix series *3 Body Problem*, Hulu's *Black Cake* and *Avatar: The Way Of Water*. Pounder portrayed Dr. Loretta Wade on the CBS series *NCIS: New Orleans* for seven seasons, and other notable projects include Smithsonian Channel's *100 Years Of Slavery*, as well as the television shows *The Good Fight*, *Warehouse 13*, *Sons of Anarchy*, *Revenge*, *Brothers*, *Law & Order: SVU*, and HBO's *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*, which garnered Pounder her fourth Emmy nomination. For seven years, Pounder portrayed Claudette Wymans on the critically acclaimed FX series *The Shield*, which earned her an Emmy nomination, the MIB Prism Award, two Golden Satellite Awards, and the Genii Excellence in TV Award. Other honors for Pounder include Emmy nominations for her role as Dr. Angela Hicks on the NBC series *ER* and for her role in FOX's *The X-Files*. In addition, she received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Spoken Word Album for *Grow Old Along With Me*, *The Best Is Yet To Be* and won an AUDIE, the Audio Publishers Association's top honor, for *Women in the Material World*. Film credits include *Prizzi's Honor*, *Postcards From The Edge*, *Face/Off*, *Orphan*, *Avatar*, and her breakout role in *Bagdad Café*. Originally from Georgetown, Guyana, in 2016 Pounder received The Cacique's Crown of Honour, the second highest award in the Order of Service of Guyana and in 2023, received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Guyana. A graduate of Ithaca College, she received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the school and in 2021, she received Ithaca College Alumni Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. Pounder serves on the Board of the African Millennium Foundation and was a founding member of Artists for a New South Africa. An advocate of the arts, she is active in the Creative Coalition.



Dr. Thomas "Ray" Proctor is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Tulane University with a Ph.D. in Theatre Research (University of Wisconsin Madison). Performances include *Mercutio in Romeo and Juliet* (The Organic Theatre), *Shylock in The Merchant of Venice* (Arizona Repertory Theatre), *Othello* (The Greenbriar), *Airline Highway* and *Father Come Home from the Wars* (Southern Rep). He directed *Into the Woods* (Summer Lyric Theatre), *Derek Walcott's Pantomime* (Crescent City Stage), and *Alice Childress' Trouble in Mind* (Tulane University). In September 2022 his essay "Romeo and Juliet at an HBCU" was published in the essay collection *Romeo and Juliet, Adaptation, and the Arts: "Cut Him Out in Little Stars"* (The Arden Shakespeare). In January of 2023 his essay "Reconsidering and Recasting" was published in *Contemporary Black Theatre and Performance: Acts of Rebellion, Activism, and Solidarity* (Bloomsbury Press). His primary research examines the intersection of race, casting, and the peculiarities and specifics of identity-conscious casting practices, particularly in Shakespeare. This past year he was the dramaturg for the Signature Theatre's production of *Play On!* (August 2025) and The Folger Shakespeare Library's *Julius X*. This spring (2026), with a Lavin-Bernick Faculty Research Grant, he directed Amiri Baraka's *Dutchman* in partnership with the Tulane University Department of Theatre and Dance.



Issa Quincy is a British writer and the author of *Absence*. His fiction has appeared in *The Kenyon Review*, *Guernica*, *The Sewanee Review*, *The Common*, and *Transition Magazine*. His poetry has appeared in *The London Magazine* and *The Atlantic*. He is currently based in New Orleans.



P.M. Raymond is an award-winning author from New Orleans, Louisiana. She is a 2025 Killer Shorts Screenplay and Horror2Comic Semifinalist, the Sisters in Crime 2024 Eleanor Taylor Bland Award Winner, 2024 Claymore Award Finalist, and 2024 Killer Shorts Screenplay Finalist. She was named to the 160 Black Women in Horror in 2023. Her debut interconnected short story collection—*Things Are As They Should Be and Other Words To Die For*—releases April 2026 from Uncomfortably Dark Horror. Her work has appeared in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, *Writer's Digest*, *Punk Noir*, *Flash Fiction Magazine*, and *Dark Yonder*, among others.



J.M. Redmann has published twelve novels featuring New Orleans PI Micky Knight. Her most recent is *The Smallest Day*. Her first was published in 1990, one of the early hard-boiled lesbian detectives. Her books have won multiple awards, including three Lambda Literary awards and the Publishing Triangle's Joseph Hansen Award. Her third book, *The Intersection of Law and Desire*, originally published by W. W. Norton, was an Editor's Choice of the *San Francisco Chronicle* and a recommended book of NPR's *Fresh Air*.



Gary Richards is Professor of English at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where he teaches courses in southern literature, modern and contemporary US fiction and drama, 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 writers such as Tennessee Williams, William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Beth Henley, and Alfred Uhry.



A. Angélique Roché, Esq. LL.M. is a journalist, producer, author, and educator from New Orleans, Louisiana. A multi-hyphenate storyteller, her work sits at the crossroads of history, current events, and their impact on pop culture. She has been seen/heard on various outlets and platforms, including *Harper's Bazaar*, NBC News, NBCBLK, MSNBC, AMC/BBC, SyfyWire, Disney, Marvel Studios, ESPN, and Paramount+. Angélique has hosted and produced multiple non-scripted series, including *Brave New Pod*, *Marvel's Voices*, and New York Public Radio's (WNYC) *Very Biggest Questions*. Her first graphic novel, *Trinity City #1*, debuted in 2023, and she was the lead writer and plotted the 2025 one-shot comic, *Storm: Lifedream #1*. She is the co-author of Marvel Entertainment and Simon & Schuster Gallery Books' *My Super Hero is Black* (2026).



Arthur Roger has been an advocate and voice for local artists in New Orleans since 1978. Recognized as the city's preeminent art dealer, he led the formation of the Arts District of New Orleans and helped create successful citywide exhibition openings which transformed the art scene in New Orleans. He is the recipient of multiple civic awards including the ADL's A.I. Botnick Torch of Liberty, Junior Achievement Role Model, and the Human Rights Campaign's Equality Award. Roger has served on numerous boards and is well-known for his philanthropic efforts. He currently chairs The Greater New Orleans Foundation LGBTQ Fund. You can often find him at his gallery on Julia Street.



Christopher Louis Romaguera is a Cuban-American writer who lives in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was born in Hialeah, Florida, and graduated from Florida International University in Miami, Florida. He has an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of New Orleans. Romaguera has been published in *Pleiades*, *Passages North*, *Catapult*, *Latino Book Review*, and other publications and was a monthly columnist at *The Ploughshares Blog*. Romaguera is a VONA alumnus and is a 2023 Periplus Fellow. His translation of the novel *Charras: A True Novel of the Assassination That Roiled the Yucatan* was published by UNO Press in 2025.



Jyna N. Roots is a Washington, D.C. native, mother, playwright, educator, and proud alumna of Dillard University, the first HBCU in the nation to grant a degree in theatre. A self-described preservation performance artist and curator, her work is grounded in honoring the legacy of those who came before, often produced in non-traditional performance spaces. After a 17-year teaching career, Jyna is currently a second-year MFA student in Directing and thrilled to embark upon her first project with the Tennessee Williams Festival.



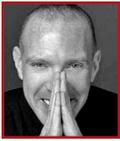
Dr. Bess Rowen is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Villanova University, and affiliated faculty in Gender & Women's Studies and Irish Studies. She is the author of *The Lines Between the Lines: How Stage Directions Affect Embodiment* (University of Michigan Press, 2021) and the editor of the Methuen 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.



Maurice Carlos Ruffin is the author of the 2024 national bestselling novel, *The American Daughters*, and the 2022 short story collection, *The Ones Who Don't Say They Love You*, both published by One World Random House. Both books were *New York Times* Editor's Choices and were selected to represent Louisiana at the National Book Festival (2023 and 2024). The short story collection was the 2023 One Book One New Orleans selection, a finalist for the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence, and longlisted for the Story Prize. His debut novel, *We Cast a Shadow*, was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award among other numerous awards and was a *New York Times* Editor's Choice. Ruffin is the winner of several literary prizes, including the *Iowa Review* Award in fiction and the William Faulkner—William Wisdom Creative Writing Competition Award for Novel-in-Progress. His work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *LA Times*, the *Oxford American*, *Garden & Gun*, *Kenyon Review*, and *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America*.



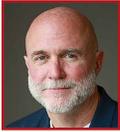
Mona Lisa Saloy, PhD, Louisiana Poet Laureate 2021-2023, is an author, folklorist, Louisiana Folklife Commissioner, educator, and scholar of Creole culture in articles, documentaries, and poems about Black New Orleans before and after Katrina. She is currently Conrad N. Hilton Endowed Professor of English at Dillard University. Her books include *Red Beans & Ricely Yours* (including the banned poem "The N Word"), which won the T.S. Eliot Prize and the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Award. Her second collection, *Second Line Home*, focuses on New Orleans Black Creole culture. Recent publications include *The Chicago Quarterly Review*, Vol 33; Introduction to *Black Fire—This Time*; *Southern Voices: Fifty Contemporary Poets*; and *LMNL Poetry Anthology*, Fall 2024. Her third book, *Black Creole Chronicles: Poems* (UNO Press 2023), was chosen for One Book One New Orleans in 2024 and Book of the Month at The Whitney Plantation Museum. Saloy was named Louisianian of the Year in Literature: 2024 in *Louisiana Life Magazine* and received the Tennessee Williams Excellence in Literary Arts Award in 2025. She was mentioned in "Read Your Way through New Orleans," by Maurice Carlos Ruffin in the *New York Times Book Review*, 2024, and was recently featured on *CBS Sunday Morning*. With former Louisiana Poet Laureate John Warner Smith, Saloy edited *Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20, An Anthology of Poetry with Art*, Black Bayou Press, 2025.



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



Vanessa Saunders is a Professor of Practice at Loyola University New Orleans. Her feminist, experimental novel, *The Flat Woman*, won the Ronald Sukenick Innovative Fiction Prize with Fiction Collective 2 and was published by University of Alabama Press. This book was ranked as a recommended title with *Kirkus Reviews* and received praise from *Electric Literature*, *Debutiful*, *The New Orleans Advocate*, and other journals. Over sixty of her creative pieces and craft essays have been published in *Writer's Digest*, *Seneca Review*, *Los Angeles Review*, *Sycamore Review*, *Passages North*, *The Writer's Chronicle*, and *[PANK]* among others, and she has been offered residencies at Vermont Studio Center and Château d'Orquevaux. Recently her novel, *Invisible Illnesses*, was the runner-up for the Faulkner-Wisdom Contest for the Book-In-Progress category. Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, she received her MFA from Louisiana State University. She is at work on a novel.



Timothy Schaffert is the author of seven novels, most recently *The Titanic Survivors Bookclub* and *The Perfume Thief*. His graphic novel set in the 1950s romance comics industry, *Easy To Love*, will be released next year. He is the Glenna Luschei Editor in Chief of the *Prairie Schooner* literary journal, the Adele Hall Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the co-editor of *Zero Street Fiction*, an LGBTQ+ book series.



Quinn Schwab writes all genres, but is mainly a poet. She won a gold key and a silver key for the Scholastic Writing Awards. Quinn is an editor for *Umbra*. She's a full-time listener of music and dreams of having a house full of instruments and cats.



Marguerite Sheffer's debut, *The Man in the Banana Trees*, won the Iowa Short Fiction Award and was a Finalist for the PEN America Robert W. Bingham Prize. The collection was named a "Best Debut Book" by *Debutiful* and a "Most Exciting Debut Story Collection" by *Electric Literature*. Her stories appear in *Asimov's Science Fiction*, *Epiphany*, *BOMB*, *The Cosmic Background*, and *LitHub*. She is a founding member of Third Lantern Lit, and a member of the Water Collaborative's Brackish Artist Collective. She teaches design thinking and speculative fiction as tools for social change at Tulane and is working on a novel.



Martin Sherman was born in Philadelphia, raised in New Jersey, and educated at Boston University. He has lived in London for over forty years. His plays have been produced in over sixty countries and include *Passing By*, *Cracks*, *Rio Grande*, *Bent*, *Messiah*, *When She Danced*, *A Mad House in Goa*, *Some Sunny Day*, *Rose*, *Onassis*, and *Gently Down the Stream*. His stage adaptations include E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India*, and he wrote the Broadway musical *The Boy From Oz*. Martin's screenplays include *The Clothes in the Wardrobe*, *Alive and Kicking*, *Bent*, *Callas Forever*, *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* and *Mrs Henderson Presents*. He has been nominated for two Tonys, two BAFTAs and two Oliviers. His memoir, *On the Boardwalk*, was published in September, 2025.



Rick Simone-Friedland, an Emmy Award winner, is known to television audiences for his work on *Married People*, *Just the Ten of Us*, *A Year in the Life*, *Life Goes On*, *KC Undercover*, and as Joe Pistone in the Discovery Series *Mob Scene*. Theatre audiences may know Rick from roles in George C. Wolfe's production of *The Me Nobody Knows*, Ken Page's production of *Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens*, or as Bruno in The Theatre West production of *Moose On The Loose*. Rick recently completed filming roles in the films *How Do You Fall Out of Love With Country Music*, *Boystown*, and *Some Sorta' Queer*.



Steven Simone-Friedland has Los Angeles theatre directing credits including *Ourselves Alone*, *Oleanna*, *Betrayal*, *Scenes From American Life*, and *Imagining Rachel*, which received its World Premiere at the 2022 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. As an editor, Steven edited the feature documentary *The Yes Men Are Revolting* and *Donner Pass*, and the television pilots *Group* and *Techno 3*. When not pursuing film and television projects, Steven serves as series editor on such Bravo shows as *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, *Salt Lake City*, *Orange County*, and *Dubai*, *Vanderpump Rules*, *Below Deck*, *Family Karma*, MTV's *Siesta Key* and HBO's *Queen of Versailles Reigns Again*. Steven is a graduate from Northwestern University's theatre department and received his MFA in filmmaking at UCLA.



Matthew Paul Smith is an instructor in the English Department at Tulane University. His publications include a chapter on George Washington Cable in *New Orleans: A Literary History* (Cambridge UP, 2019) and an article on the intersection between narrative, aesthetics, and plantation tourism in *Southern Quarterly*, where he now serves on the editorial board. He is editor of two forthcoming volumes, both appearing this fall: *The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of New Orleans* (Cambridge UP) and *Cross-Cultural Encounters in Early Modern Japan: Foreigners Within the Samurai Class, c. 1550-1900* (Routledge).



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.



Justin Torres is the author of *Blackouts*, which won the 2023 National Book Award for Fiction, was a finalist for the *LA Times* Book Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Lambda Literary Award, and the Southern California Book Award. A 2024 Guggenheim Fellow, he's also received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, and the New York Public Library's Cullman Center. His first novel, *We the Animals*, was a national bestseller and adapted into a feature film. He lives in Los Angeles and is an associate professor of English at UCLA.



Boyce Upholt is a writer, editor, and "nature critic" based in New Orleans. He is the author of *The Great River: The Making and Unmaking of the Mississippi* (W.W. Norton, 2024), a national bestseller and the winner of the 2024 Willie Morris Prize for Southern Writing in nonfiction, and his magazine writing has appeared in many national publications. He is the founding editor of *Southlands*, a biannual print journal exploring nature and outdoors culture in the South.



Charles D. Urstadt is an independent theater producer dedicated to bringing new voices and innovative works to the stage. Charlie is currently co-producer of the Broadway productions of *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* at the Ethel Barrymore Theater and *Schmigadoon!* at the Nederlander Theater. Recent Broadway projects include *Call Me Izzy*, the Tony Award-nominated *Floyd Collins*, and the Tony Award-winning *Appropriate*. His commitment to the arts is demonstrated by his service as a board member of Le Petit Theatre, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, Preservation Resource Center, Ensemble Studio Theater, Friends of WNET/Thirteen, and many others. Charlie lives in New Orleans with his husband, David Bernard.



Sara Warner is an Associate Professor in the Department of Performing and Media Arts at Cornell University. She is the author of the award-winning book, *Acts of Gaiety: LGBT Performance and the Politics of Pleasure*, and is completing the first full-length biography of Lorraine Hansberry's lesbian life and art. She grew up in Lacombe and attended LSU.



Jamie Wax recently made his Broadway debut as a playwright with the extended run of *Call Me Izzy* starring Jean Smart. He began his diverse career by touring as a stand-up comic in his teens. He went on to perform his acclaimed solo shows throughout the country. With composer Paul Taranto he created the musical *Evangeline*, seen nationally on PBS. They went on to receive a National Endowment for the Arts grant to create *Passages*, which also became an award-winning television special. Acting roles include Puck for director Barry Kyle of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Charles Thompson in *Wine Lovers* in New York and tour, *Toy in Guns* for the Mark Taper Forum, and creative consulting and acting in *Soul Doctor* at New York Theater Workshop. He was the inaugural playwright-in-residence for the Hanover Theatre Repertory in Massachusetts, where he developed his newest play, *High Risk Ward*. An Emmy-winning journalist, he has been a contributing correspondent for CBS News for over a decade. He and his family split their time between New York and New Orleans.

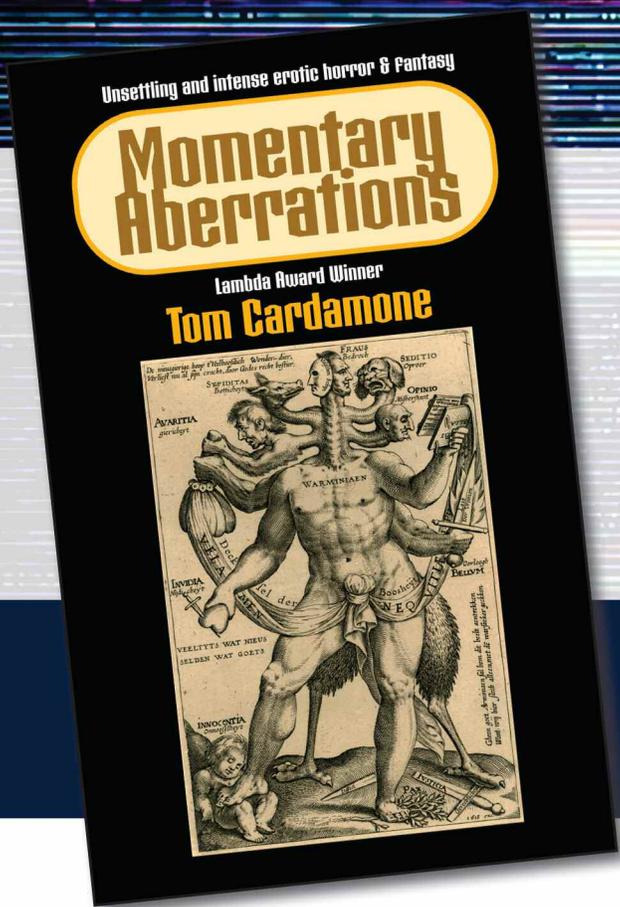


Nick Weldon is senior editor at the Historic New Orleans Collection, where he is editor and co-author of *Captive State: Louisiana and the Making of Mass Incarceration* (2025) and the award-winning graphic history *Monumental: Oscar Dunn and His Radical Fight in Reconstruction Louisiana* (2021). He has also been editor for several major museum exhibitions and has written about a wide range of topics for other publications.



Joshua Wheeler is the author of the essay collection *Acid West*, and a novel, *The High Heaven*. *Acid West* was a best book of 2018 for *Newsweek*, *The Paris Review*, and others. *The High Heaven* was included in *Electric Lit's* best novels of 2025. Wheeler teaches at Louisiana State University. Originally from Alamogordo, New Mexico, he now lives in New Orleans.

Books don't buffer.



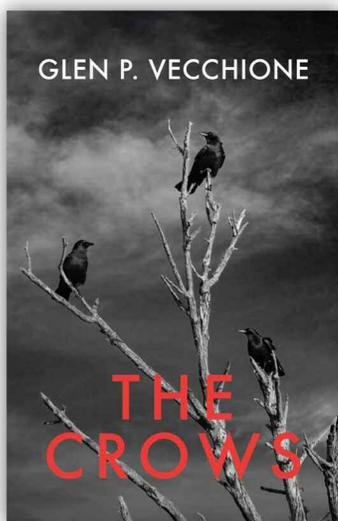
A New Collection from Tom Cardamone

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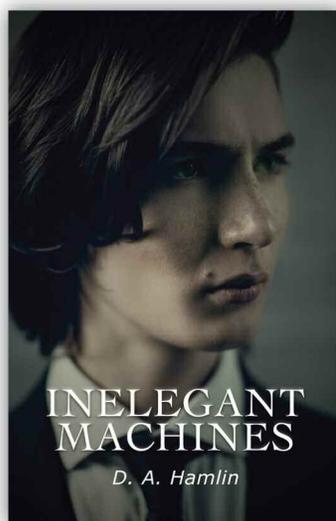
This is Lambda Award Winner Cardamone's third collection of short fiction, and this time the visions are darker, the escalating narratives more provocative.

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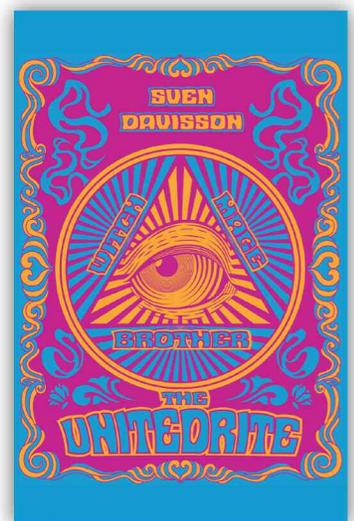
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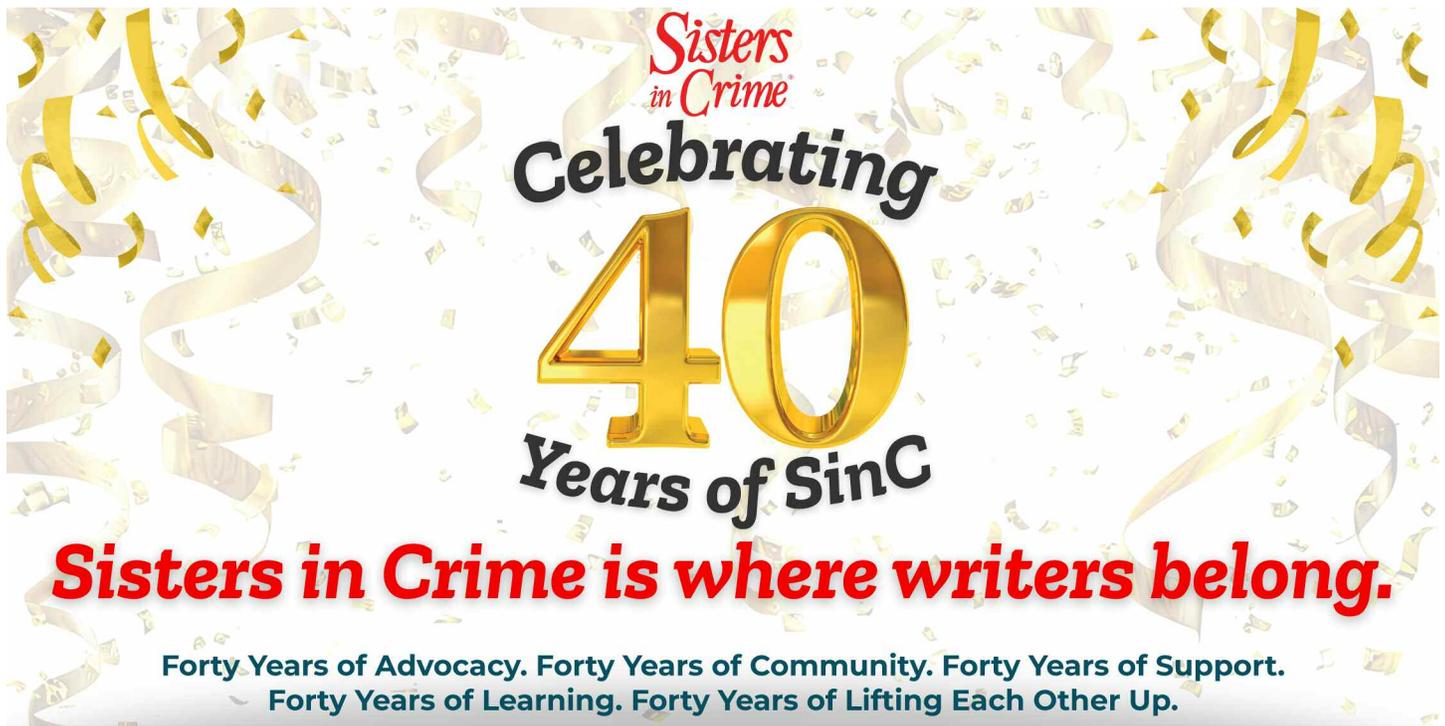
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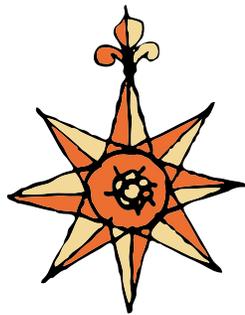


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The courtyard of Tennessee Williams' former apartment at 722 Toulouse Street in 1953.
Source: The Collins C. Diboll Vieux Carré Digital Survey at The Historic New Orleans Collection.



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DISCOVERING “The Lingerin Hour”

A Last Tennessee Williams Play Comes to Light



Tennessee Williams Annual Review

Volume 24 (2026)

edited by Annette J. Saddik

In 1981, the playwright typed a note in which he referred to “what may well be my last play”—“The Lingerin Hour,” unfinished, existing today in rough pages scattered across multiple archives. The 2026 issue treats readers to a journey of scholarly discovery and an in-depth introduction to the poignant drama about an aging playwright witnessing the end of the world. A little-known column and a story by Williams appear in print for the first time, and essays explore piracy, Soviet criticism, recent stage productions, and new books.

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

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