

SAINTS + SINNERS

LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL • NEW ORLEANS



21

MARCH 22 - 24, 2024



What are you doing on Wednesday evening, April 17, 2024?

Come to The Publishing Triangle Awards in the Auditorium at New York City's New School, 63 Fifth Avenue, Manhattan! It's free and open to the public, and will be livestreamed. A free reception to celebrate with winners, nominees and presenters will follow.

Who will receive:

- The Randy Shilts Award for Gay Nonfiction
- The Judy Grahn Award for Lesbian Nonfiction
- The Thom Gunn Award for Gay Poetry
- The Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry
- The Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction
- The Joseph Hansen Award for LGBTQ Crime Writing
- The Ferro-Grumley Award for LGBTQ Fiction
(in conjunction with our longtime partner The Ferro-Grumley Foundation)
- The Leslie Feinberg Award for Trans and Gender-Variant Literature
- The Betty Berzon Emerging Writer Award
- The Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement
- The Michele Karlsberg Leadership Award
- The Publishing Triangle Torchbearer Award
- ***NEW** The Jacqueline Woodson Award for Children/Young Adult Literature

Watch for the announcement of all finalists and the Whitehead, Leadership and Torchbearer winners the week of April 4.



The Publishing Triangle

the association of LGBTQ people in publishing

publishingtriangle.org

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Masterdon

The purpose of the Publishing Triangle is to further the publication of books and other materials written by LGBT authors or with LGBT themes. Founded in 1988, The Publishing Triangle works to create support and a sense of community for lesbian and gay people in the publishing industry. We offer forums, as well as networking and social opportunities, for our members. In addition we sponsor programs to increase awareness of and appreciation for LGBT literature.

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VENUES

Hotel Monteleone
214 Royal Street

AllWays Lounge and Cabaret/Twilight Room
2240 St. Claude Avenue

Historic BK House & Gardens
1113 Chartres Street

SAVE THE DATE

22nd annual Saints + Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival
March 28 - 30, 2025

SAINTS AND SINNERS LITERARY FESTIVAL COORDINATORS:

Paul J. Willis
Founder of SAS Fest & Executive Director
for the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival

Susan Larson
Literary Program Consultant

Tracy Cunningham
Managing Director

PUBLICIST:
Reine Dugas

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR:
Nancy Gorman

SUPPORT FOR THE SAS LITERARY PROGRAM PROVIDED BY:
Martin Hyatt, Delaney McLemore, and Gregg Shapiro

BOOKSELLER:
Candice Huber, Tubby & Co's Mid-City Book Shop

PROGRAM DESIGN:
Toan Nguyen

WEBSITE DESIGN:
Cherry Cappel

TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL



Saints and Sinners is a program of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival

2024 COVER ART

The artwork for our 2024 cover is called "Tones of New Orleans" and was created by local graphic designer T.J. Fury, who says this about the design:

"For me, this image encapsulates the spirit of the Saints and Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival and the Tennessee Williams Festival in New Orleans. A child with radiant headphones signifies the music in the air, while a reflective African woman celebrates the city's African influence. The array of colors represents various LGBTQ+ groups, and Tennessee Williams graces the scene in the bottom right corner, as well as the artist. A non-gender-conforming individual enjoys the sunlight on a balcony, while a street musician strums a guitar below. This artwork is a vibrant and inclusive representation of the festivals, showcasing music, culture, diversity, and literary heritage in the heart of New Orleans."

OUR COVER ARTIST

Thomas Jaymes Metzger, AKA (T.J. Fury) born on June 1st, 1985, navigated challenges in California, finding his way across the country, finally settling in the enchanting city of New Orleans. Embracing his individuality, he returned to school, studying computer science and graphic design. Passionate about storytelling, T.J. embarked on a documentary series highlighting the unique culture of Southern Decadence. In addition to his creative pursuits, he manages the local digital magazine *Yaaz Queen*—a magazine offering a vibrant space and platform for diverse voices. Fury also expresses his creativity through a graphic novel series showcasing his talent and celebrating the diversity that shapes his journey. In every endeavor, he remains committed to inclusivity and storytelling in the lively backdrop of New Orleans.



AI generated portrait of T.J. Fury



Welcome to the

21ST ANNUAL **SAINTS+SINNERS** LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL

Welcome back! Saints and Sinners turns twenty-one and we're excited to enter our third decade with you all in attendance.

Last year we focused on our amazing first twenty years but now it is time to look to our future and see how the next ten will unfold.

As we prepared for our twentieth anniversary last year, things did indeed seem bleak. Don't Say Gay legislation, book bans (and book burnings) for school and public libraries, newly elected school boards that saw our community—particularly transpeople and drag populations—come under a loathsome attack from hate groups like Moms for Liberty had us all wondering what the future might hold for us.

And while we must, as ever, remain vigilant in protecting our rights to exist, the year that has elapsed since the last festival has seen pushback against the hate groups. A lot of the ground made by the hate group takeover of local school boards was lost as voters stood up for dignity and humanity and love. Moms for Liberty took a particularly enjoyable beating at the polls this past year. We may never win the haters over, but we can outvote them.



CREATED BY T.J. FURY

Our books are more important than ever!

Books can change hearts and minds, creating empathy in teenagers by giving them characters they can relate to and identify with, giving adults a safe space to retreat to and feel less alone, and preserving our art and history in our nonfiction. Our memoirs speak to our experiences, how we view the world and culture and society with a different lens than that of non-queer writers. Our poetry celebrates our lives and loves with an uplifting, radiant joy.

As we continue to fight and resist our oppressors, our literature and arts serve as still another front—one where the battle is joined with thought, expression, and emotion. Reading is one of the most powerful weapons with which to fight ignorance.



PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON

**Board President Lawrence Henry Gobble and
Executive Director Paul J. Willis**

And so we gather again this weekend in New Orleans with our eyes to our future—one that looks more and more promising with each passing week.

So, enjoy and celebrate this weekend the great joy that comes from queer literature. Whether you are already a published author, are working your way there, or just are a fan of our wonderful authors and poets, let's all raise a glass to Queer Literature, its brilliant past, its promising present, and its incredible future.



Jewelle Gomez Book Signing, 2023

Enjoy!

Paul J. Willis
Executive Director



JACOB MITCHELL PHOTOGRAPHY

Street Light #13



Louisiana988.org



tubbyandcoos.com



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WALKING TOURS

LGBTQ+ FRENCH QUARTER TOUR

March 21, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

March 22, 3:30 – 5 PM

March 24, 1 – 2:30 PM

This leisurely stroll through the French Quarter focuses on New Orleans' enchanting past with an emphasis on the neighborhood's queer history and its rich literary heritage. See where writers lived and wrote, and learn about the incredible contributions lesbians and gay men have made to the city over its 300-year old history.

Other highlights include Jackson Square, Free People of Color, the French Market, the birth of jazz, Voodoo, and a wide diversity of architecture. The tour is guided by long-time French Quarter resident **Frank Perez**, a local historian and professional tour guide who has written four books about French Quarter history.

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

LGBT+
Archives Project
OF LOUISIANA



HISTORY OF QUEER NIGHTLIFE IN NEW ORLEANS TOUR

March 21, 22, 23, and 24

1 - 3 PM

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

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

FRENCH QUARTER GHOSTS AND LEGENDS TOUR

March 21, 5:45 - 7:15 PM

March 22, 5:45 - 7:15 PM

March 23, 8:30 - 10:00 PM

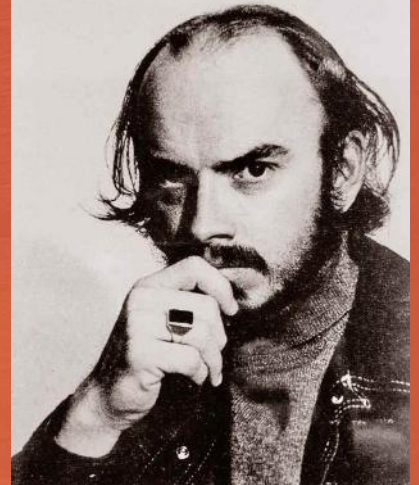
March 24, 5:30 - 7:00 PM

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

622 Pirates Alley, meet outside Pirates Alley Cafe & Old Absinthe House, next to the Cathedral.
\$30 or VIP Pass.



JOHN BURTON HARTER FOUNDATION



Empowering awareness of visual and queer arts through the work of John Burton Harter

The John Burton Harter Foundation is a nonprofit organization that promotes John Burton Harter's art and the interests he cared about. For more information on the Foundation and to view more of Harter's portfolio, visit: jbharter.org

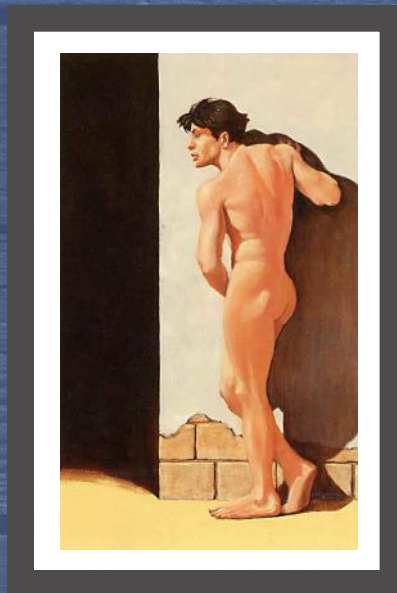
“The development of my art has paralleled my homoerotic exploration and as I discovered aspects of the gay world I incorporated them into my paintings and drawings. My translation of the gay world into imagery, to art, defined what I was learning to myself, and each—art and lifestyle—became a part of the other.”

—J.B. Harter

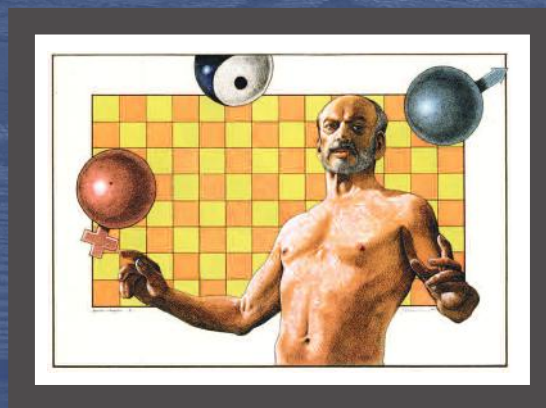
John Burton Harter (1940-2002) documented the richness of gay experience through his prolific artwork. Harter is most known for exquisite figure studies, especially fine compositions of the male body. These works range from classical studio drawings to completed paintings and self-portraits. He created over 3,000 works of art during his life largely based in New Orleans. His paintings have received acclaim at showings in New York, Baton Rouge, and San Francisco.



Raphael's Butt, 1993



Untitled, 2001



Gender Juggler, 1998

“I am an Artist first and a gay artist incidentally, but a large part of my work reflects a gay orientation. It isn't an agenda especially, but it is a representative of imagery I feel important both to me and to viewers of my work. Because of the Religious Right it is most at risk, as I have written before, and most in need of the safeguards of publication and dissemination.”

—J.B. Harter



FRINGE FESTIVAL

THE LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL MARCH 21–23, 2024

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

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

Tickets available: tennesseewilliams.net/tickets

PERFORMANCES

THURSDAY, MARCH 21 and FRIDAY, MARCH 22

7:30 - 8:30 PM—Theatre

LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS:

THE SINKING OPULENCE SHOW

Back by popular demand! A Cabaret celebrating the sinking of the ship that we are all aboard! Overheard as the audience was leaving, "Tennessee would have loved this—it's an explosion POW of camp." Like the legendary tale of The Titanic band playing as the ill-fated ocean liner sank into history's depths, Tsarina Hellfire, Stanley Roy, and their motley crew of maritime monsters will titillate your ears and tickle your imagination. It's the last big hurrah until the inevitable glug-glug! An over-the-top romp of Storyville style live music, theater, burlesque, and a delightful devastation of all of your senses! Brought to you by the producers of New Orleans best night out, the widely successful Les Vampyres Cabaret.



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

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 21 and FRIDAY, MARCH 22

9 - 10 PM—Theatre

LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS:

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

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



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

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

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

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

7 - 8:30 PM—Theatre

THE LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS:

TENNESSEE RISING: THE DAWN OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

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



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

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

8:30 PM Doors

10 PM Show

THE LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS:

THE LAST BOHEMIA SOIRÉE, INCLUDING A PERFORMANCE OF NIGHTINGALE

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

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



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

The Temple Ballroom, Preferred Seating \$70, general seating \$40.

ARTIST BIOS



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



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



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



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



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



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

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

TALKBACK MODERATORS



Augustin J Correro is a Founding Co-Artistic Director of the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans. The company has produced over 20 Williams plays, many of which Correro has directed.

He has also directed and assistant directed Williams plays in New York, Virginia, Mississippi, and Massachusetts. He holds an MFA in Theatre Pedagogy from Virginia Commonwealth University and a BA in Theatre from Mississippi University for Women. He is a resident of New Orleans and a native of the Mississippi Delta. His book *Tennessee Williams 101* was released in 2021, based on his TW Fest presentations.



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



David Kaplan is the author of *Tennessee Williams in Provincetown* (2006) and *Tenn Years* (2015), a collection of essays about Williams in production. He is the editor of

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

OUR HOST FOR THE LAST BOHEMIA SOIRÉE



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

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

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



Thank you to our venue sponsor,
The AllWays Lounge!

SAINTS+SINNERS XXI

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024



10–11:15 AM – SAS Writer's Craft

SHORT STORIES, NOVELLAS, NOVELS –TREBOR HEALEY

How do we, as writers, choose what story works best in what form? These are of course questions of character and conflict, and how much we need to develop them, or how large our array of characters and conflicts will be in a given story. Setting is a consideration as well, in terms of how much time will elapse and how many places will we be juggling in a given story. Additionally, we might ask how any story idea we have could be adjusted to fit in each of these distinct forms. Sometimes experimentation can reveal how best a story wants to be told. We often don't know until we start writing. We will discuss plotting, outlining and thematic issues - both by starting small and expanding the scope of a story, as well as by starting big and condensing or reducing a story to get to its essence. Trebor Healey teaches creative writing for UCLA and has authored several award-winning novels, a recent novella and numerous short story collections.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25

10–11:15 AM – SAS Writer's Craft

KNOW YOUR PLACE...IN FICTION—REINE DUGAS

Setting can be more than just the backdrop for your story—setting can shape and breathe life into your plot, conflict, and characters. Choosing and highlighting the right details about a place, really situating your reader in a certain time and geographical space, can determine whether the story comes alive for the reader or not. This workshop will focus on how to add unique setting details into your story that capture the mood and flavor of the setting of your story and how to create characters who couldn't have come from any other place than the one you've chosen for them—this is evident in the things they like, the way they talk, and the beliefs they hold. Workshop participants will learn how to incorporate details of place during



Constantly in Between.
Photo by Jacob Mitchell

the drafting and revision stages of their writing. Reine Dugas is an English professor at Southeastern Louisiana University. When not writing, she's assistant editor of *Louisiana Literature* and editor of the magazines, *Louisiana Life* and *Acadiana Profile*.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25

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

QUEERING THE LOVE POEM—CHEN CHEN

Though perhaps the love poem has long been queer (think of Shakespeare's sonnets and Sappho's fragments), in this generative session we'll discuss contemporary examples that further (or differently) queer and complicate the love poem—and indeed, love itself. How can a love poem also be a

political poem? A protest poem? Or a political poem for how it reimagines relationships of all kinds? A queer love poem may be about a speaker and a beloved (or beloveds), but it may also be about friendship, community, family both blood and chosen, self-love, caring for the planet, and speaking back to the social systems that limit agency, that attempt to erase queerness. We'll read work by Essex Hemphill, Natalie Diaz, Jericho Brown, Charif Shanahan, Muriel Leung, Justin Chin, F. Douglas Brown, Yanyi, and others as models for our own writing from and into queerer forms of love.

Chen Chen is the author of two books of poetry, *Your Emergency Contact Has Experienced an Emergency* and *When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities*, which was longlisted for the National Book Award and won the Thom Gunn Award, among other honors.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

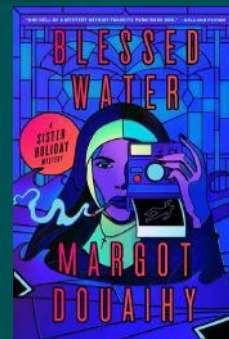
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25

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

CREATING THE MEMORABLE PROTAGONIST

—MARGOT DOUAIHY

What makes for a break-out protagonist? Why do we want to follow a new one through a series? In this talk, Author Margot Douaihy answers those questions and explores the development of her protagonist, Sister Holiday in *Scorched Grace*. Douaihy discusses how she created a character who captures hearts with a punk rock sensibility, tattoos and gold teeth, and who is clearly way outside of any closet. She reveals how she set this character up to make a difference in her religious order, her city, and in the lives of New Orleans women. Join Margot Douaihy for helpful insights and effective approaches to creating engaging, exciting, and unforgettable protagonists. Margot teaches creative writing at Emerson College and is the author of the crime novel *Scorched Grace*, which was named a best book of 2023 by Apple Books, Barnes & Noble, BookPage, and Marie Claire, among others.



Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25

11:45 AM–1:45 PM – *pre-registration was required

PITCH SESSIONS WITH RATTLING GOOD YARNS PRESS

Rattling Good Yarns Press managing publisher, Ian Henzel, will be meeting with authors at SAS2024. RGYP is looking for fiction, novels, story collections, and nonfiction, including but not limited to history and memoirs.

No poetry or plays. They are most interested in unusual perspectives on topics of interest to the LGBTQ+ community. Pitches will be for possible 2025 publication. For more information about Rattling Good Yarns and online submission guidelines, visit: rattlinggoodyarns.com/submissions/
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal A

1–2:15 PM – SAS Writer’s Craft
FROM IDEA TO BESTSELLER—BETH MARSHEA

Explore the life cycle of a book from creation, to query, to publication, to publicity, to sales. We will have an interesting discussion about the various ways that agents and authors come together and how they work as a team to shape a career, especially when they team up after a first book is already with a publisher. Beth will discuss a range of topics, such as contrasting “the dream of a book deal” with the reality, how the “niche” markets of queer or POC have evolved (or not), writing/selling in multiple genres, and how to parlay small press success into a Big Five deal for the follow-up book. Beth Marshea is the owner of Ladderbird Literary Agency (www.ladderbird.com). She has a BA in Literature and a Masters in Business Administration and is always looking for new and exciting ways to bring more diversity into publishing and beyond.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25

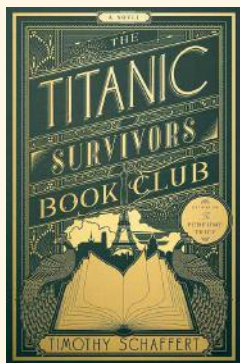
1–2:15 PM – SAS Writer’s Craft
GET THOSE JUICES FLOWING—DANIEL M. JAFFE

Many writers experience dry spells when the writing just doesn’t seem to flow. Must we sit and wait to be touched by a temperamental muse, or can we take control of sparking our creativity? In this workshop, we’ll share our experiences and engage in writing exercises designed to provide strategies for breaking through writer’s block. Jaffe has led similar workshops in the UCLA Extension Writers’ Program, as well as for the Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis, and the Cambridge Center for Adult Education. He’s taught creative writing for 30 years.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25

2:30–3:45 PM – SAS Writer’s Craft
WHAT MAKES A NOVEL A NOVEL?—TIMOTHY SCHAFFERT

You have the characters, the narrator, the setting, the conflict – but what defines that indefinable quality that turns incident and anecdote into a novel? What role does plot, voice, and drama play? What’s the difference between a novel rich in sentiment and one that’s sentimental? On the occasion of *The Titanic Survivors Book Club* (April, 2024) his new novel about novels, Timothy Schaffert contemplates the form, the industry, and the imagination that determine a novel’s novelness. Schaffert is Director of Creative Writing and Co-editor, ZERO STREET, the LGBTQ+ fiction series at U of Nebraska Press. He is the author of *The Perfume Thief* (Knopf Doubleday), a Penguin Random House International “One World, One Book” selection.



Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25

2:30–3:45 PM – SAS Writer’s Craft
EROTICA LAID BARE II: THE HOMECOMING—JERRY L. WHEELER

Join writer and editor Jerry L. Wheeler in this sequel to last year’s guided erotica writing workshop. We’ll be exploring erotica with all of our senses as we use prompts and situations to invent a paragraph or

two of perfectly arousing prose. Shy and retiring? You won’t be after we get through with you. From the icebreaker to the final read-through, it’s nothing but smut. Pure, unadulterated trash. We guarantee you’ll love it. Bring whatever you use to write with or on and your fevered imaginations, and we’ll put both through their paces. Wheeler is the editor of seven anthologies of gay erotica for Bold Strokes Books, Wilde City Press, and other publishers. His own collection of short fiction and essays, *Strawberries and Other Erotic Fruits* was shortlisted for the Lambda Literary Award.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25

2:45–4:45 PM – *pre-registration was required
PITCH SESSIONS WITH REBEL SATORI PRESS

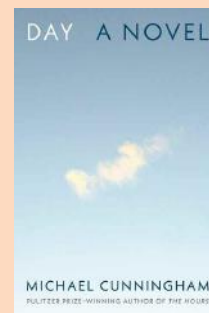
Rebel Satori Press’s publisher, **Sven Davisson**, and **Tom Cardamone**, TLOHC imprint curator, will be meeting with authors at SAS2024. The press has been publishing for more than two decades and has more than 200 titles with many more in development. The editors are looking for book-length literary fiction, single-author collections of poetry, speculative fiction, or occult/spiritual nonfiction from talented LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC authors. Pitches will be for possible 2025 or 2026 publication. For more information about Rebel Satori Press visit: <https://www.rebelsatoriypress.com>

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal A

4 - 5:15 PM – Literary Discussion/Conversation
IN CONVERSATION: MAUREEN CORRIGAN, MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM AND JUSTIN TORRES

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

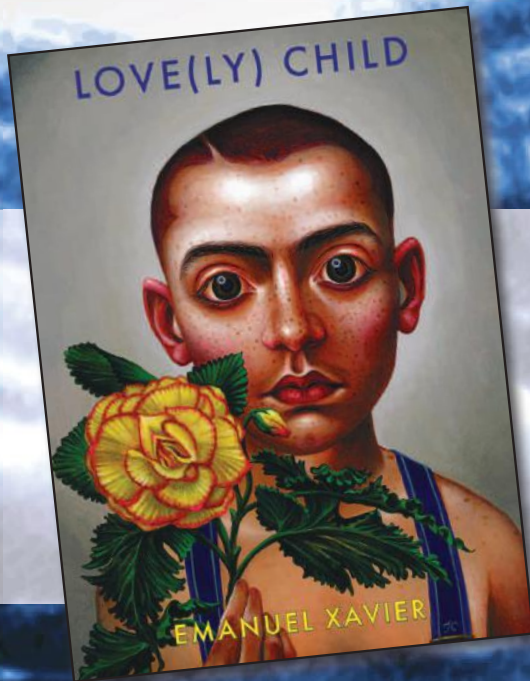
Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom,
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$10



LOUISIANA
OFFICE of CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT

ARTS • ARCHAEOLOGY • HISTORIC PRESERVATION • CODOFIL

Saints + Sinners Writer’s Craft series supported by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council.



Love(ly) Child

Emanuel Xavier

"Xavier's fierce verses blaze across the page like a Willi Ninja duckwalk! These words Dip, Pop, Loft and Spin in the Nuyorican poetry tradition, letting the reader know that this griot speaks truth, always representing for la gente! Pa'lante!"

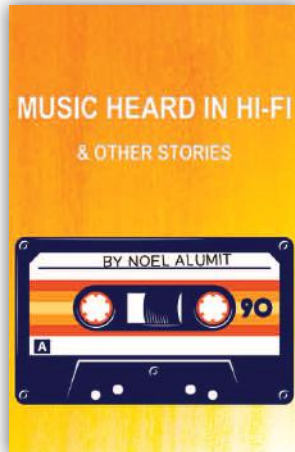
—Shaggy Flores

Rebel Satori Press

Twenty+ Years of Independent Publishing



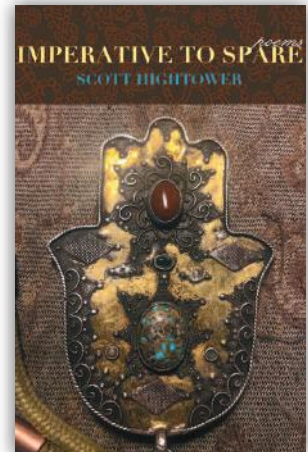
Blue Like Apples
Rasma Haidri



Music Heard in Hi-Fi
Noel Alumit



Bonds & Boundaries
Dale Corvino



Imperative to Spare
Scott Hightower

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

www.rebelsatori.com

WELCOME PARTY

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024 • 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

GLITTER WITH THE LITERATI WELCOME PARTY



Salvatore Geloso

Historic BK House & Gardens
1113 Chartres Street
Price: Included with Weekend Pass/Partner Party Pass or \$25

Come experience true Southern hospitality in the beautiful courtyard of the Historic BK House. Mingle with fellow writers and avid readers as you begin your evening in the French Quarter at this historical landmark. We'll have hors d'oeuvres, spirits, and a specialty cocktail to get you started.

Melodic stylings of singer & guitarist **Salvatore Geloso** will add to the ambience.



Opposite the old Ursuline Convent on Chartres Street stands the **Historic BK House & Gardens**—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



Beauregard House in 1866
by Alvyk Boyd Cruise, 1961
Watercolor on paper



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. To learn more of the history of BK House or to schedule a guided tour, visit: www.bkhouse.org

SAINTS+SINNERS XXI

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024



Registration/Information: 9 AM Hotel Monteleone Mezzanine

10–11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

THAT DAMN SURE DIDN'T TAKE LONG: QUEER WRITERS & AGING

In James Baldwin's *Another Country*, Eric, a queer man who is in love with the jazz drummer Rufus, thinks, "We're getting old and it damn sure didn't take long." If we're lucky, we'll live long enough to look back on our writing careers and wonder how it all went so quickly. But what are the roles of an older queer writer right now? Who reads us and why? Do we experience great change as we age as writers or are we, in Gertrude Stein's words, "always the same age inside"? And what about those of us who, after a lifetime of reading, are called to writing in our later years? In this panel discussion, we'll talk about how some iconic queer writers have responded to aging as well as share our personal experiences about writing during our third act. We will end by opening up the discussion to all those in attendance.

Panelists: Ken Harvey, Gar McVey-Russell, James Pauley, Jr., and Carol Rosenfeld
Moderator: David Pratt
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

10–11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

THE LASER FOCUS OF THE SHORT STORY AND PUTTING TOGETHER A COLLECTION

What are the challenges in writing short fiction, and why do writers choose the form—over a novel for instance? How do we address the issues of succinctness and/or conciseness in crafting characters and conflicts which can express themselves fully in the short story form? There is the question as well of intensity, and perhaps this best describes the queer short story with its essential or urgent message, concerning characters who are often outsiders and facing obstacles or dilemmas that don't exist in the heteronormative genre of short fiction. And in terms of a collection, does the short story offer both an opportunity to deal with a wide range of themes in separate pieces, or is it as well a way of getting at similar themes from very different angles? In other words, how do we structure or choose what makes up a collection? In this panel, four writers with recently published collections will discuss and offer insight on their experience and thoughts on the short form.

Panelists: Jarrod Campbell, Jay Michaelson, SJ Sindu, and Jerry L. Wheeler
Moderator: Trebor Healey
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

10–11:15 AM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation



Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voices. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in

welcoming: Sven Davisson, Jubi Arriola-Headley, David Bergman, Andrew Holleran, Steven Reigns, Phil Tarley, and Gary Zebrun for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



11:30 AM–12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

THE ROLE OF THE PUBLISHER: ADVOCACY AND RESPONSIBILITY

While each publishing company has its own goals and objectives, queer-focused publishers and editors are often expected to look beyond storytelling and entertainment when acquiring titles. In fact, great social change is often evident in the works they choose to publish. However, should the responsibilities and expectations of queer publishers be any different from those of more mainstream or traditional houses? Are advocacy and societal impact inherent in all queer literature? An esteemed group of publishers explores their objectives, hopes, fears, and responsibilities in today's ever-changing publishing and cultural landscape.

Panelists: Sven Davisson, Ian Henzel, Miah Jeffra, Timothy Schaffert, SJ Sindu, and Caleb Tankersley
Moderator: Dan White
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

11:30 AM–12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

THE PROFANE AND SACRED/POETRY

This discussion explores ruptures and raptures that occur when poets run headlong into gods and religions in their writing. In no small part a rejection of what “the canon” has historically held sacred, these writers talk about what it means to create space for foreign bodies, subversive thoughts, and transgressive actions on the literary (mine)field. How do we say the unsayable? When our cultures, histories, lived experiences, and in fact the bodies we inhabit are rendered other or less than or profane, how do we elevate them, how do we make space for them in the world? How do we hold holy (however we define that word) what we’ve been told to forget, to bury? These authors reflect on what it means to manifest our deepest selves in our writing, even when—especially when—our most sacred selves are selves that the world wants to look away from.

Panelists: **Jubi Ariolla-Headley, Stephanie Burt, Chen Chen, Erin Hoover, and Ed Madden**

Moderator: **Brad Richard**

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

11:30 AM–12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

INSIDE THE WRITER’S STUDIO:

LGBTQ+ Literature—The Past in the Present

Upon whose shoulders do you stand? In what ways are the pioneering LGBTQ+ authors still relevant today? What is the legacy of authors from 50 years ago, and how is it used in today’s literature? Join **Eric Andrews-Katz** as he leads a discussion between **Alexander Inglis** (ReQueered Tales Publishing) and award-winning authors **Felice Picano** and **Trebtor Healey** about remembering our authors, and the importance of LGBTQ+ literature of the past in the present.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon

1–2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

CRAFTING KINSHIP:

BIO/LOGICAL FAMILY IN LGBTQ+ LITERATURE

Join us for an inspiring LGBTQIA literary panel as we delve into the complex and beautiful concepts of family, both chosen and assigned. Celebrating diverse voices and experiences, our esteemed panelists will explore how LGBTQIA individuals redefine traditional notions of family, forging deep connections with chosen communities. Through thought-provoking discussions and poignant readings, we’ll explore the power of love, resilience and bonds created by Queer community in literature.

Panelists: **Matthew Clark Davison, Monique Jenkinson, Gar McVey-Russell, and Rose Norman**

Moderator: **K.M. Soehnlein**

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

1–2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

THE OUT-OF-TOWNERS: ADVENTURES IN BOOK TOURING

Now that your book is out, or you have a publication date for it, what’s the best way to promote the book and get it into readers’ hands? How about going on a book tour? For this panel, we will hear writers discuss the process of planning and embarking on a book tour. They will share their experiences, both good and bad, providing insight into that world.

Panelists: **Andrew Holleran, Candice Huber, Daniel M. Jaffe, and Felice Picano**

Moderator: **Gregg Shapiro**

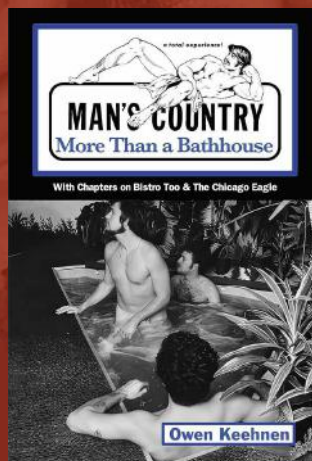
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

11:30 AM–12:45 PM—Reading Series
SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voices. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that

holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Jacob Budenz, Edward Cahill, Cynthia Carr, Willie Edward Taylor Carver, Jr., St Sukie de la Croix, Owen Keehnen, and Mala Kumar** for this year’s mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

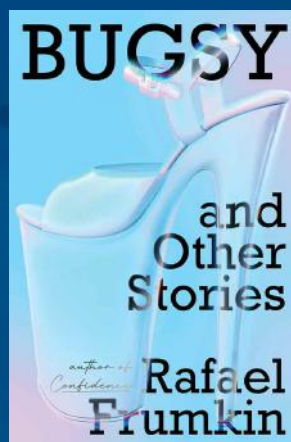


1–2:15 PM—Reading Series
SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voices. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds

special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Elliott Foster, Rafael Frumkin, Brad Goch, Wes Jamison, David Pratt, SJ Sindu, and Penelope Starr** for this year’s mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



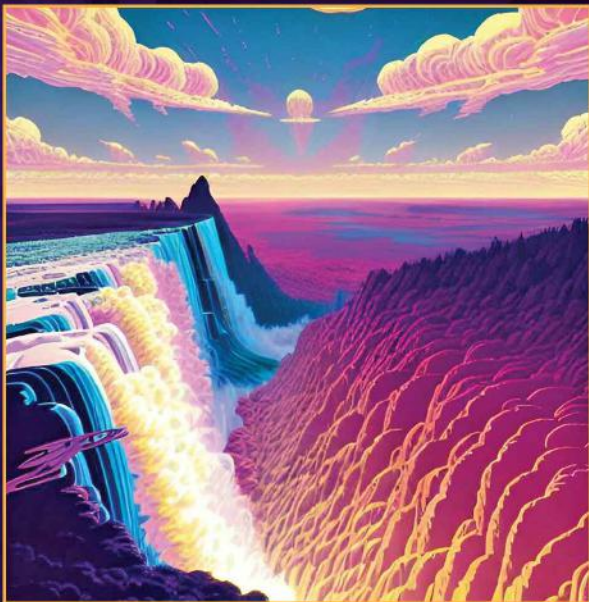
2:30–3:45 PM—Literary Discussion
WRITING BEYOND REALISM

Non-realistic fiction has long been popular with LGBTQ+ writers—science fiction, horror, surrealism, and other speculative styles. Does speculative fiction hold more of an appeal for LGBTQ+ writers than for others? If so, why? What does speculative fiction allow us to do in our writing that realism doesn't? Does speculative fiction present us with any limitations? This panel will discuss these and other questions.

Panelists: Virginia Black, Jewelle Gomez, Felice Picano, and David R. Slayton

Moderator: Daniel M. Jaffe

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B



Waterfall by T.J. Fury

2:30–3:45 PM—Literary Discussion
BREAKING GENRE, BREAKING GENDER: NON-BINARY WRITERS ON DEFINING THE SELF AND OUR WORK

Decades into the movement for equality in queer rights, recognition of non-binary expressions of gender has grown exponentially in recent years. As a collection of writers who identify somewhere under the enby umbrella, the writers in this group write across and against generic definitions. How do we as non-binary writers find our work reflecting our gender? How do our writerly practices affirm and deny our work? How do we navigate our and other folks' pronouns in our work? In our professional lives?

Panelists: Ching-In Chen, Wes Jamison, Miah Jeffra, C.A. Munn, and Charlie J. Stephens

Moderator: Delaney McLemore

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C



2:30–3:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft
MERGING WORLD—TAROT AS EKPHRASIS FOR CREATIVE AND REFLECTIVE WRITING—JACOB BUDENZ

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

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon

Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25

2:30–3:45 PM—Reading Series
SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

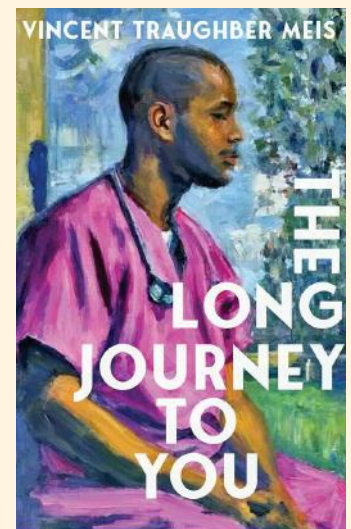


Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voices. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work

that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming:

Jonathan Alexander,
Ken Harvey, Ian Henzel,
Erin Hoover,
Vincent Traugher Meis,
Kent Quaney, and
K.M. Soehnlein for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone,
Lobby Level, Royal D



4–5:15 PM—Literary Discussion

A PLACE OF OUR OWN

Since the early days of LGBTQ+ culture, our bars have played a significant role in our history. Not only were they a place to socialize, but they also functioned as community centers, spaces in which activists, organizers, and others could gather and plan. In recent years, the bars have become popular subjects for books. This panel, moderated by **Gregg Shapiro**, will include **Rick Karlin**, co-author of *Last Call Chicago: A History of 1001 LGBTQ-Friendly Taverns, Haunts & Hangouts* (Rattling Good Yarns Press); **Greggor Mattson**, author of *Who Needs Gay Bars?* (Redwood Press); **Owen Keehnen**, author of *Man's Country: More Than a Bathhouse* (Rattling Good Yarns Press); **David Kennerly**, author of *Getting In: NYC Club Flyers from the Gay 1990s* (Daken Press); and **Liza Danger** from Golden Lantern in New Orleans.

Panelists: **Liza Danger, Rick Karlin, Owen Keehnen, David Kennerley**, and **Greggor Mattson**

Moderator: **Gregg Shapiro**

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

4–5:15 PM—Poetry Reading and Discussion

POETRY FROM OUR COASTS: A TRI-COASTAL AFFAIR

The diversity of poetic voices in this lineup cannot be missed! West Coasters **Kazim Ali** and **Ching-In Chen** and East Coasters **Scott Hightower** and **AE Hines** join local poets **Nikki Ummel** and **Daniel W.K. Lee**, the latter serving as host/emcee for this tri-coastal affair! Additionally, Ali, Hightower, and Hines celebrate recent releases—*Sukun: New and Selected Poems* (Wesleyan University Press, Sept 2023) *Imperative to Spare* (Rebel Satori Press, 2023), and *Adam in the Garden* (Charlotte Lit Press, March 2024)! We are excited to have this panel of first-time, Saints + Sinners readers share their remarkable work with you!

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

4–5:15 PM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

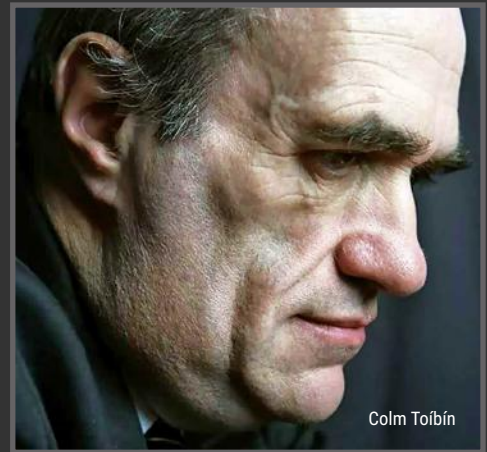
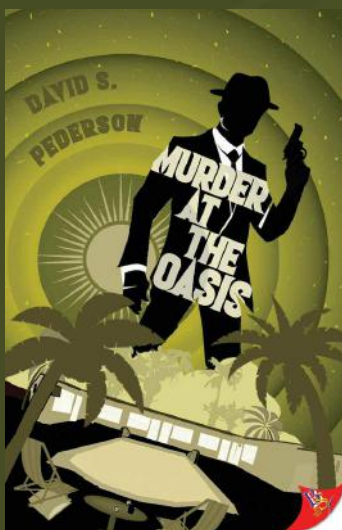
Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voices. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their



new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Rob Byrnes, Jarrod Campbell, Marco Carocari, Greg Herren, David S. Pederson, J.M. Redmann, David R. Slayton** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



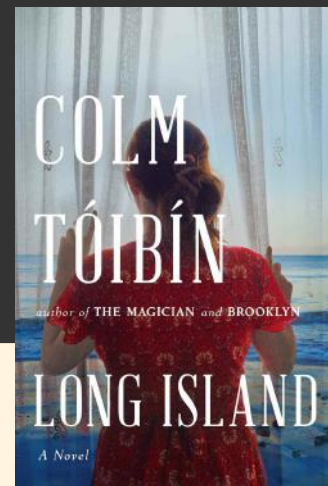
Colm Toibin

**4–5:15 PM—Featured Conversation/Interview
IN CONVERSATION:**

MAUREEN CORRIGAN AND COLM TOIBÍN

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

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon



Hardcover—May 7, 2024

6:30–7:45 PM

SAS FICTION CONTEST READING

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon

See page 16 for more details

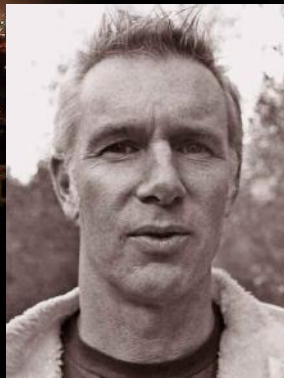
15th Annual Saints + Sinners SHORT FICTION CONTEST READING AND RECEPTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024 • 6:30 PM

Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon

(lobby level; included in weekend pass, partner party pass, or \$25 individual ticket)

Join this year's contest winner **Charlie J. Stephens** "For the Birds," our runners-up **Ariadne Blayde** "The End of the World" and **Alfred P. Doblin** "Holy Communion," along with finalists **Edward Cahill**, **Marco Carocari**, **Chyx**, **Jay Michaelson**, and **Patrick Earl Ryan** for an evening of cocktails and readings from the *Saints and Sinners 2024: New Fiction from the Festival* hosted by Co-editor **Amie M. Evans** with comments from our finalist judge **Trebor Healey**.



Trebor Healey
Our Finalist Judge



Paul J. Willis and Amie M. Evans
Co-editors



Special thanks to The John Burton Harter Foundation and Rebel Satori Press for their support of the Short Fiction Contest. Audience members receive a copy of the new anthology created from our 2024 Short Fiction Contest.

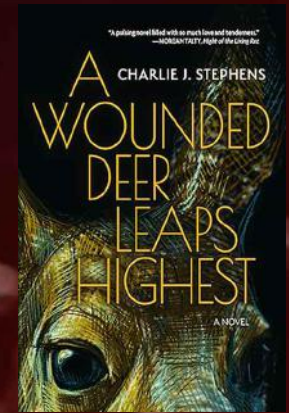


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REBEL
SATORI
PRESS

INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS ON THE FRONTIERS OF UMINAL SPACE





Charlie J. Stephens
 Winner, owner of Sea Wolf Books
 & Community Writing Center

Their debut novel will be
 published by Torrey House
 Press in April 2024

2024 CONTEST FINALISTS



Ezra Adamo



Ariadne Blayde



Clayton Bradshaw-Mittal



Edward Cahill



Marco Carocari



Chyx



Anil Classen



J. Duncan Davidson



Alfred P. Doblin



Daniel Galef



Page Getz



Merle Kinney



Adam Judah Krasnoff



Jay Michaelson



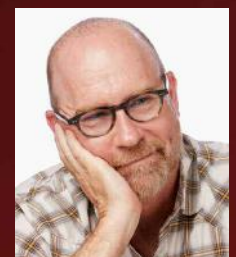
Ames O'Neill



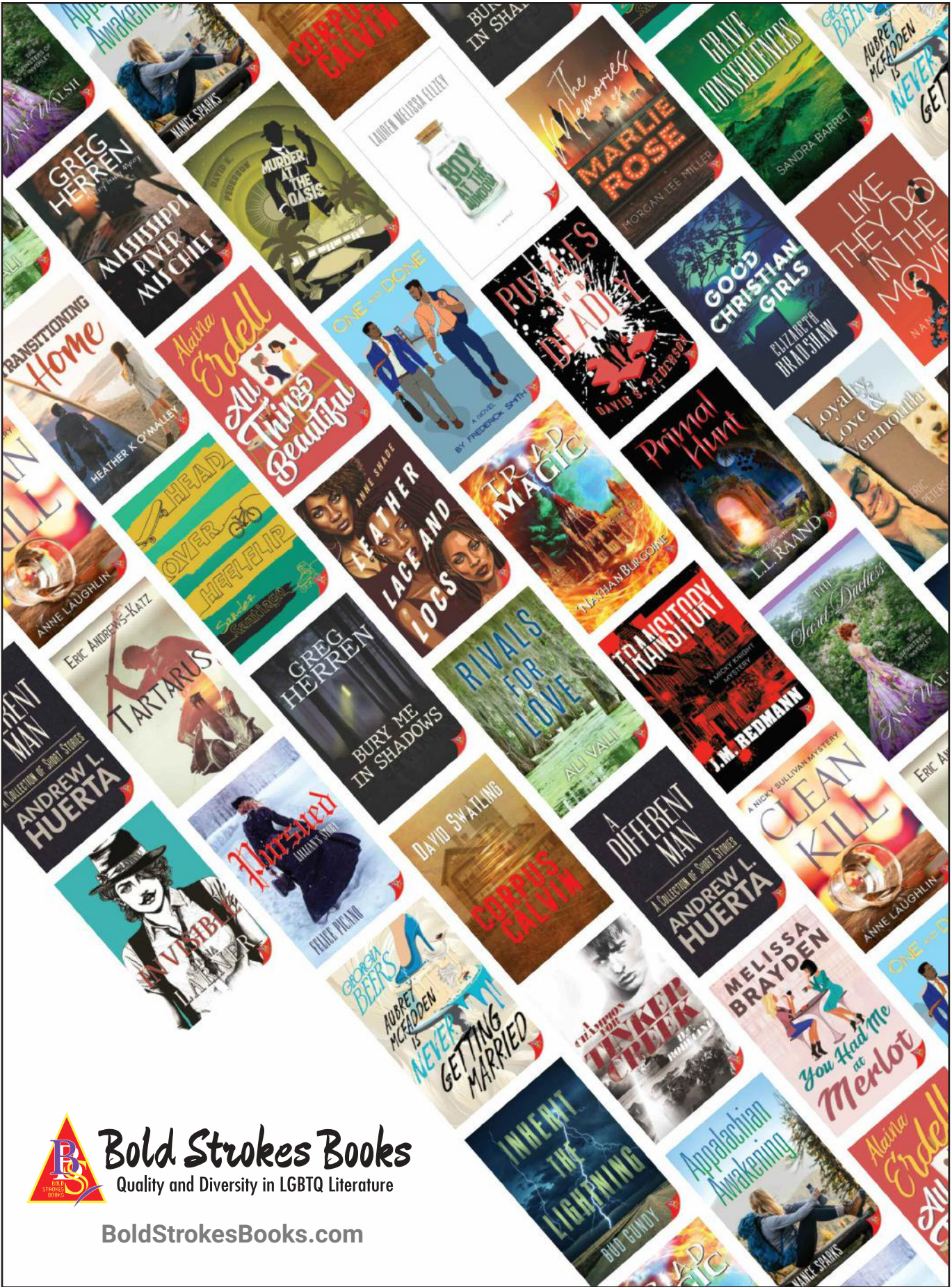
Jen O'Connor



Patrick Earl Ryan



Doug Tompos



Bold Strokes Books

Quality and Diversity in LGBTQ Literature

BoldStrokesBooks.com

Beautiful Dreamer Press

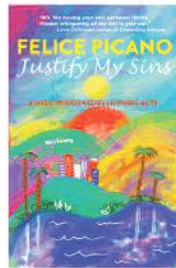


Ambidextrous
The Secret Lives of Children

Felice Picano

“Rich, charming, naughty, and funny
 ... Wonderful!”

—Andrew Holleran

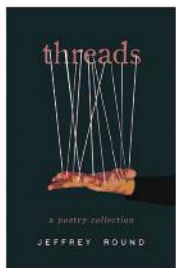


Justify My Sins
A Hollywood Novel in Three Acts

Felice Picano

“The cultural observations are
 interesting, the sex scenes exciting,
 and the gossip specific.”

—Jeff Solomon, *Gay & Lesbian Review*



Threads
A Poetry Collection

Jeffrey Round

“Reminiscent of Cavafy, a journey
 through loves and losses, deaths and
 memories.”

—Trebor Healey,
 author of *A Horse Named Sorrow*



Leave Me Not Alone
Book 4 of the Croy Cycle

Louis Flint Ceci

“A defiant cry that small-town
 America has always included people
 of color and queer people.”

—J. Marshall Freeman, author of
The Dubious Gift of Dragon's Blood

www.BeautifulDreamerPress.com



MEET OUR AUTHORS • SAINTS + SINNERS 2024

- Virginia Black
- Jacob Budenz
- Matthew Clark Davison
- Casey Hamilton
- Monique Jenkinson
- Mala Kumar
- Eric Peterson
- Carol Rosenfeld
- Kate Rounds
- K.M. Soehnlein



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WE ARE ALL STORIES



SAINTS+SINNERS XXI

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024



Registration/Information: 9 AM Hotel Monteleone Mezzanine

10–11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

WRITING ABOUT, WITH, AND THROUGH HIV & AIDS

This panel will focus on the continuing literary legacies of the AIDS crisis. Through readings of their own and others' works across genres, our panelists will engage in a conversation about these legacies.

How is rage, loss, grief, humor, love, and survival expressed? How does race, class, language, religion, and national origin play out in these works? Given the current book-banning and anti-LGBTQ+ climate, how do we preserve the



Untitled, 1988 by Keith Haring

collective knowledge and experiences of our diverse communities? How do we define our "survival" today?

Panelists: Tom Cardamone, Casey Hamilton, Andrew Holleran, Steven Reigns, and Charles Rice-Gonzalez

Moderator: Gerard Cabrera

Sponsored by the Bruce J. Heim Foundation.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

10–11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

WRITING HEROES & HEROINES: INSPIRATION & INFLUENCE

Who is your writing hero or heroine? While we might frequently admire the works and lives of our fellow writers, sometimes the impact of another author is formative, foundational, and even profound. Their style, attitude, tenacity, creativity, successes and challenges remind us of our own artistic goals and keep us connected to our literary roots. Panelists will reveal some of their literary heroes and heroines and discuss how their creative lives have been enhanced, informed, and impacted by them.

Panelists: Cynthia Carr, Michael Cunningham, Matthew Clark Davison, J.M. Redmann, and Patrick Earl Ryan

Moderator: Jonathan Alexander

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

10–11:15 AM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voices. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Eric Andrews-Katz, Amie M. Evans, C.A. Munn, Kay Murphy, James Pauley, Jr., Felice Picano, and Carol Rosenfeld**, for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



11:30 AM–12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

LO(O)SING OUR RELIGION: LGBTQ+ WRITERS GRAPPLE WITH SPIRITUALITY

Religion is a particularly tricky subject for the LGBTQ+ community. For those raised in a potentially unaccepting faith tradition, in what ways do religious patterns of thought/speech linger like bits of shrapnel under the skin? How do LGBTQ+ individuals decide what parts of religion and spirituality they'd like to excise and what parts to maintain? And how do these issues get worked out in the writing process? In this panel, five writers discuss how different religious upbringings and experiences influence their writing, lives, and worldviews.

Panelists: Margot Douaihy,

Rafael Frumkin,

Kent Quaney, and

Caleb Tankersley.

Moderator: Trebor Healey

Hotel Monteleone,

Lobby Level, Royal B



Pink Lemonade
Photo by Jacob Mitchell

11:30 AM–12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

WE ARE EVERYWHERE:

BIPOC WRITING AND PUBLISHING IN TODAY’S WORLD

BIPOC writers represent some of the most exciting queer literary voices in today’s world. However, their road to the marketplace and overall representation is often filled with unique challenges. How do these writers fit into their communities? What are some of the main themes and subjects of their work? How do they present their work to the publishing world? What have been the responses? Join this diverse panel of celebrated authors for a discussion that writers of all ethnicities and cultural backgrounds can learn from.

Panelists: Jewelle Gomez, Daniel W.K. Lee, Charles Rice-Gonzalez, David Santos Donaldson, and Justin Torres

Moderator: Gerard Cabrera

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

1–2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

PROCESSING TO THE PAGE:

TRAUMA RECOVERY ACROSS GENRE

In this panel, writers across genre come together to discuss the roles of trauma and recovery as a part of their forthcoming work. As trauma is so essential to the experience of being human, how does queerness play a part in how we process trauma? How do our bodies and brains respond to such events and how does this translate into our work? Working with essayists, novelists, and poets, we’ll examine how different approaches to trauma offer our writers space for examination. Perhaps most importantly, we offer the space to reflect on the joy of recovery as it is reflected by our work. Through the process or reckoning with disaster, each of these writers has found ways of survival that have led them to these rooms. How might their survival lead to yours?

Panelists: Willie Edward Taylor Carver, Jr., Wes Jamison, Mala Kumar, and Kirsten Reneau

Moderator: Delaney McLemore

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

11:30 AM–12:45 PM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voices. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning.

Please join us in welcoming: **Stephanie Burt, Chen Chen, Lucian Childs, AE Hines, Ed Madden, Rose Norman, and TQ Sims** for this year’s mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



Adam in the Garden

AE Hines

1–2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

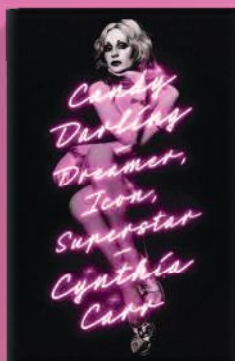
NOSTALGIA AS A CREATIVE ACT/MOVING FROM MEMORY TO FICTION

Nostalgia for both time and place is a strong trigger for memory, a longing and sadness urging us to return. Join our panelists as they discuss how preserving our pasts through the filter of fiction can be an act of survival for the writer. How queer writers can avoid oversimplifying our collective experience—Stonewall, the slutty '70s, the AIDS battles of the '80s—to transform personal material into detailed and intimate portraits that speak to larger truths. Added to this queer context, nostalgia can be a cultural marker—one that resonates in a love of old brands, family recipes, stories, and local legends handed down through the generations. How do writers bring the past to the page, while avoiding the pitfalls of sentimentality and wish-fulfilling fantastization?

Panelists: Lucian Childs, Dale Corvino, Andrew Holleran, and Patrick Earl Ryan

Moderator: Alan Williams

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C



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

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

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

AVAILABLE WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD



1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

DEFINING CHARACTER: THREE UNORTHODOX BIOGRAPHIES

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

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom

2:30–3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

WRITING QUEERLY ACROSS THE GENERATIONS


Queer and trans writing is now several generations old, even if we are just counting generations in terms of authors being able to publicly write and publish about queer and trans issues and lives. This panel brings together writers from different generations to talk about what has changed over the decades, both in terms of writing about queer and trans topics, as well as publishing queer and trans work. Join us for a lively roundtable chat with intergenerational writers!

Panelists: David Bergman, Laurinda D. Brown, Rafael Frumkin, Brad Gooch, Elisabeth Nonas, and Steven Reigns

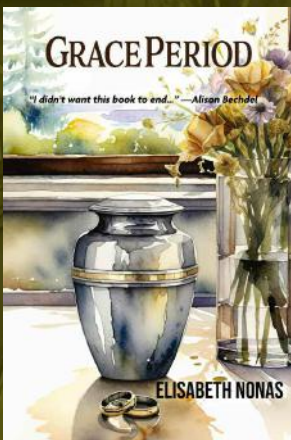
Moderator: Jonathan Alexander

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

1–2:15 PM—Reading Series
SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ
 Sponsored by the *John Burton Harter Foundation*



Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voices. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Laurinda D. Brown, Casey Hamilton, Jewelle Gomez, Elisabeth Nonas, Timothy Schaffert, Caleb Tankersley and Phil Tarley** and for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.



Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

2:30–3:45 PM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

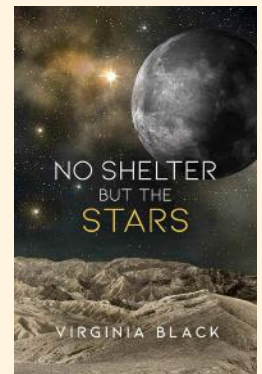
Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation



Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voices. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that

holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Virginia Black, Dale Corvino, David Santos Donaldson, Daniel M. Jaffe, Charles Rice-Gonzalez, and Jerry L. Wheeler** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



2:30–3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

DOWN THESE MEAN STREETS

Crime fiction is often called “outsider fiction”—stories about people who fall through the cracks and live on the margins. As queer fiction is also fiction from the margins, it makes perfect sense that queer crime writers tackle difficult subjects, traumas, and turn a jaundiced eye toward the dominant American culture. These five talented authors will discuss why they write crime fiction, the differences between the crime fiction of the dominant culture and those on the margins, and how to make art out of crime.

Panelists: Marco Carocari, Margot Douaihy, Elliott Foster, J.M. Redmann, and Gary Zebrun

Moderator: Greg Herren

Sponsored by Sisters in Crime.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

4–6 PM—Special Event

CLOSING RECEPTION

We'll induct our 2024 SAS Hall of Fame members and present our 10th annual Saints and Sinners Emerging Writer Award—sponsored by Rob Byrnes.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon

See page 24 for more details.



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to book sales,
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CLOSING RECEPTION

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024 • 4-6 PM

Hosted by **Monique Jenkinson**
Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon

(Admission included in Weekend Pass/Partner Pass)



Monique Jenkinson
 Artist, performer and writer



Finish out the Festival by joining us as we honor outstanding members of our literary community. Wrap up the weekend with old and new friends, and pass one more good time at the Saints and Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival.

We'll introduce the honoree of our tenth annual Saints and Sinners Emerging Writer Award generously sponsored by **Rob Byrnes**. This award acknowledges an exceptional debut work or an author establishing a body of work propelling them to the next stage of their literary career. We'd like to congratulate and recognize **Margot Douaihy** for the Sister Holiday novels *Scorched Grace* and *Blessed Water*.



Rob Byrnes

We'll hear from three of our finalists from the 2024 Poetry Contest read from their winning entries, and we'll have copies of our 2024 Saints and Sinners Poetry Contest Anthology available as a gift to everyone at the closing reception.



Ezra Adamo



Nat Gove



Daniel Meltz

We'll induct this year's members into the Saints and Sinners Hall of Fame. We'd like to congratulate them and acknowledge their dedication to LGBTQ+ literature. They have all shown their passion for our literary community through various avenues including writing, performing, promotion, publishing, editing, teaching, bookselling, and volunteerism. Through their work, they have all helped to ensure that the written work from the LGBTQ+ community will continue to have an outlet, and that people will have access to books and plays that will help dispel stereotypes, alleviate isolation, and provide resources for personal wellness.

PAST EMERGING WRITER HONOREES

2013: **William Sterling Walker**

2014: **Juliann Rich**

2015: **Saeed Jones**

2016: **Alexander Chee**

2017: **Libby Ware & Matthew Griffin**

2018: **Cassie Pruyne**

2019: **Bryan Washington**

2022: **Eric Nguyen**

2023: **De'Shawn Charles Winslow**

2024: **Margot Douaihy**

2024 SAINTS AND SINNERS HALL OF FAME CLASS:



Nancy K. Bereano



David Bergman



Lawrence Henry Gobble



Kay Murphy



Justin Torres

MEMBERS OF THE SAINTS + SINNERS HALL OF FAME

Dorothy Allison, Carol Anshaw, Ann Bannon, Samiya Bashir, Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Maureen Brady, Jericho Brown, Rob Byrnes, Patrick Califia, Louis Flint Ceci, Bernard Cooper, Timothy Cummings, Michael Cunningham, Jameson Currier, Brenda Currin, Mark Doty, Mark Drake, Jim Duggins, Elana Dykewomon, Amie M. Evans, Otis Fennell, Michael Thomas Ford, Katherine V. Forrest, Nancy Garden, Mary Gauthier, Jewelle Gomez, Judy Grahn, Jim Grimsley, David Groff, Tara Hardy, Ellen Hart, Cheryl Head, Greg Herren, Kenneth Holditch, Andrew Holleran, Candice Huber, Fay Jacobs, Saeed Jones, Irena Klepfisz, G. Winston James, Raphael Kadushin, Michele Karlsberg, Judith Katz, Moises Kaufman, Joan Larkin, Susan Larson, Lee Lynch, Jeff Mann, William J. Mann, Marianne K. Martin, Paula Martinac, Stephen McCauley, Val McDermid, Mark Merlis, Tim Miller, Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain, Michael Nava, Achy Obejas, Frank Perez, Felice Picano, Radclyffe, J.M. Redmann, Lance Ringel, David Rosen, Carol Rosenfeld, Steven Saylor, Carol Seajay, Martin Sherman, Kelly Smith, William Christy Smith, Pamela Sneed, Jack Sullivan, Carsen Taite, Cecilia Tan, Noel Twilbeck, Jr., Patricia Nell Warren, Don Weise, Jess Wells, Edmund White, Paul J. Willis, and Emanuel Xavier.

SAINTS AND SINNERS FEST
QUEER AF OFFSITE



CHEN CHEN



KAZIM ALI



CHING-IN CHEN



MEGHAN SULLIVAN



DANIEL MELTZ



TQ SIMS



KAY MURPHY



NAYELLY BARRIOS



AE HINES



CHARLIE J. STEPHENS

THE DOMINO
SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 7PM
HOSTED BY LMNL ARTS





SAINTS+SINNERS XXI

2024 POETRY CONTEST WINNERS & FINALISTS

We'd like to congratulate our 2024 Poetry Contest Winners & Finalists!

Our 2024 Winner:



Holly Zhou

Two Runners-Up:



Wayne Johns



Ben Kline

2024 Poetry Contest Finalists:



Ezra Adamo



Nayelly Barrios



Diana Burgos



Acie Clark



C.W. Emerson



Nat Gove



Chen Chen



Jan Edwards Hemming



Jeremy Graves



Raven Hinojosa



Luis Lopez-Maldonado

And a very special "Thank You" to **Chen Chen** our 2024 Finalist Judge, all our preliminary judges, and to **Jan Edwards Hemming** for her editing expertise and help with organizing our 2024 poetry anthology.



Daniel Meltz



Scott-Patrick Mitchell



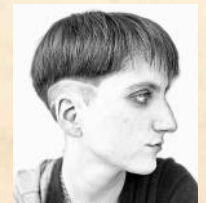
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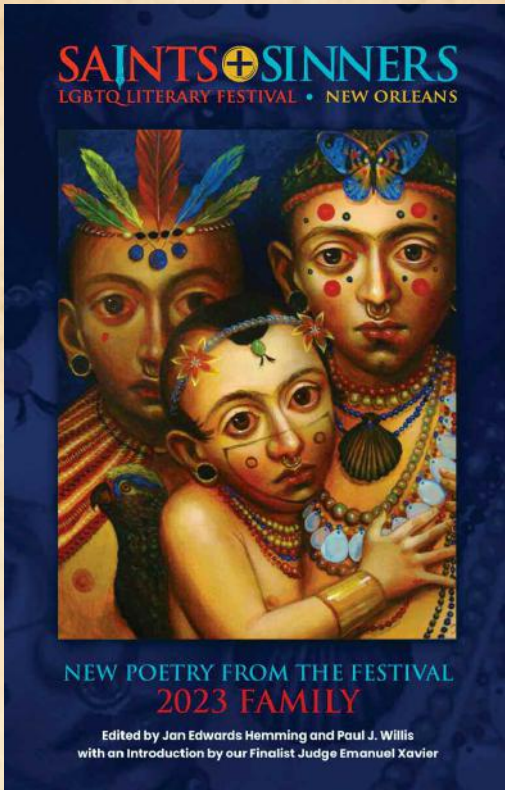
James Penha



Max Stone



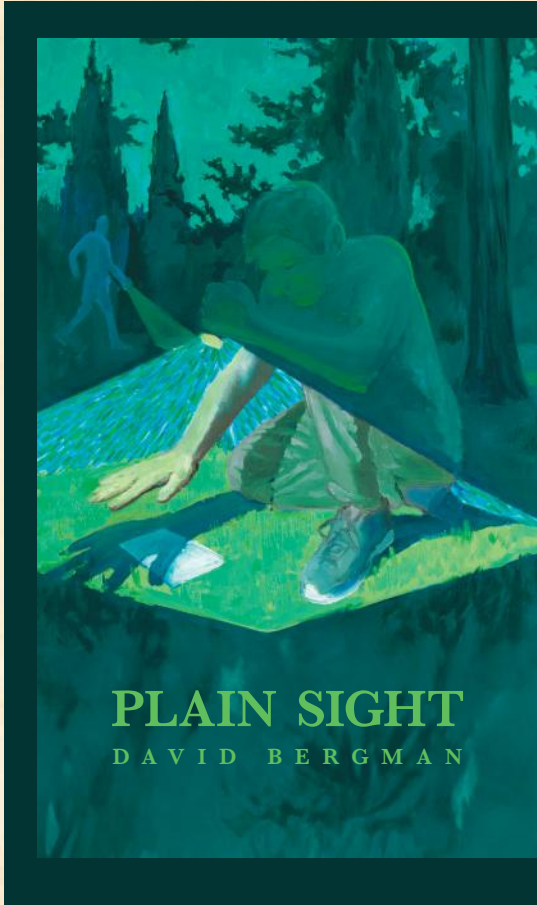
Hope Whynot



Thanks to the generosity of **Susanne Scovern** and **Scovern Law**, we have been able to publish anthologies from the first four years of our poetry contest.



SCOVERN LAW



“*Plain Sight* is a priceless, heart-catching Trojan Hoard of poetic invention . . . these poems are acts of grace able to lift and move the world.”

JAMES MAGRUDER, *VAMP UNTIL READY*

NEW

from 2024 Saints & Sinners Hall of Fame inductee *and* Lambda Book Award winner

DAVID BERGMAN



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SAINTS⊕SINNERS XXI

FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS



Jonathan Alexander is a writer, scholar, and educator. Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, he now lives with his husband and their cat in Southern California. As a writer, Jonathan works as a reviewer and cultural critic, focusing on young adult fiction, science fiction media, queer writers and culture, the politics of literacy, and memoir. He is also a special projects editor for the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, to which he is a frequent contributor. Most recently, he has turned his attention to memoir and life writing as ways of connecting personal and political ways of thinking, including his critical memoir, *Creep: A Life, a Theory, an Apology*. Jonathan's Creep trilogy ends with *Dear Queer Self: An Experiment in Memoir*. He is Chancellor's Professor of English and Informatics at the University of California, Irvine.



Kazim Ali's books include poetry, fiction, essay, and cross-genre texts. His most recent book is *Sukun: New and Selected Poems*. Forthcoming in May 2024 is a novel, *Indian Winter*. He teaches in the Department of Literature at the University of California, San Diego.



Eric Andrews-Katz calls Seattle home. His work has been included in over 16 anthologies, *The Advocate*, *Chelsea Station*, and at Equality365.com. He is the author of "the Buck 98" spy-parody series (*The Jesus Injection* and *Balls and Chain*) as well as the fantasy adventure, *Tartarus* (Honorable Mention, Rainbow Book Awards, 2018).



Jubi Arriola-Headley (he/him) is a Black queer poet and storyteller and author of *Original Kink: Poems* (Sibling Rivalry Press), recipient of the 2021 Housatonic Book Award. His second collection, *Bound*, will be published by Persea Books in February 2024. Jubi's work has received support from Yaddo, Millay Arts, Lambda Literary, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and his poems have been featured in *Literary Hub*, *Kweli Journal*, and *Southern Humanities Review*, on PBS NewsHour's Brief But Spectacular, and elsewhere. He's currently at work on a memoir in essays, an excerpt of which received the 2023 First Pages Prize. Jubi lives with his husband in South Florida on ancestral Tequesta, Miccosukee, and Seminole lands.



David Bergman is the author or editor of 20 books, but *Plain Sight* is his first book of poetry in 25 years. During this time he has written books on The Violet Quill writers, *The Violet Hour* and *The Poetry of Disturbance: The Discomforts of Post-war American Poetry*, as well as edited Edmund White's *The Burning Library* and John Ashbery's *Reported Sightings*. His poetry has appeared in *Poetry*, *The Yale Review*, *The New Republic*, *The Kenyon Review* and the *Paris Review*.



Virginia Black (she/her) is the author of *No Shelter but the Stars* (sci-fi romance, 2024) and *Consecrated Ground* (paranormal romance, 2023) from Bywater Books, as well as several short stories in anthologies from Bold Strokes Books, Brisk Press, and Sapphire Books. She enjoys strong whiskey, loud music, and angsty protagonists, though not necessarily in that order. Black lives in the Pacific Northwest with her wife of 21 years (and counting) and their savagely witty teenage daughter.



Laurinda D. Brown is a native Memphian and graduate of Howard University who has been called a "literary juggernaut" by journalists and a "uniquely gifted storyteller" by critics. Laurinda successfully self-published her first novel, *Fire and Brimstone*, in 2001, which was optioned the next year with its sequel, *UnderCover*, by Strebor Books. *Fire & Brimstone* was selected as a national finalist for the coveted Lambda Literary Award for Best Debut Fiction in 2004. In 2006, Laurinda won the Lambda Literary Award for Best Lesbian Fiction for her collection of short stories, *Walk Like A Man*, which is also the title of her Off-Broadway production that has been optioned by theatre companies across the nation. Laurinda is also an English professor at Dillard University and Nunez Community College.



Jacob Budenz is a queer author, multidisciplinary performer, and witch with an MFA from University of New Orleans and a BA from Johns Hopkins. The author of *Tea Leaves*, Budenz has fiction and poetry in print journals including *Slipstream* and *Assaracus*, zeitgeisty online journals including *Taco Bell Quarterly* and *Wussy Mag*, and anthologies by Mason Jar Press and Unbound Edition, among others.



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



Rob Byrnes is the Lambda Literary Award-winning author of six novels and several short stories and essays. He was inducted into the Saints & Sinners Hall of Fame in 2016 and is also active with The Publishing Triangle, serving as host of that organization's monthly OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Reading Series. He also serves on the Boards of Directors of the NYC Gay Men's Chorus and The Other Side of Silence (TOSOS), which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024 as New York City's oldest LGBTQ+ theater company. He lives in Jersey City, NJ with his partner, Brady Allen.



Gerard Cabrera is from Springfield, Massachusetts, the birthplace of the first American dictionary, Dr. Seuss, and basketball. His debut novel, *Homo Novus*, was published in October 2022 by Rattling Good Yarns Press and was supported by the Bread Loaf Writers Conference and a Bread Loaf Bakeless Foundation fellowship at The Camargo Foundation in Cassis, France. Other writing has appeared in *Gay Community News*, *Acentos Review*, *Angel Rust*, *Apricity*, *JONATHAN*, *Kweli*, and *Digging Press*. An attorney, he is on the board of The Publishing Triangle, and he lives and works in New York City.



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



Jarrod Campbell is a writer living in the northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, DC. His fictions, essays, reviews, and poetry have appeared online and in print with *Northwest Review*, *Boner World* (Berlin), *Heavy Feather Review*, *Roi Fainéant Press*, and others. His collection, *The Reason I'm Here* (Stalking Horse Press, June 2023), was selected as a June anticipated LGBTQIA+ read by Lambda Review.



Tom Cardamone is the editor of *Crashing Cathedrals: Edmund White by the Book*, and the author of the Lambda Literary Award-winning speculative novella *Green Thumb*. He is also author of the erotic fantasy *The Lurid Sea* and other works of fiction, including two short story collections. Additionally, he has edited *The Lost Library: Gay Fiction Rediscovered* and co-edited *Fever Spores: The Queer Reclamation of William S. Burroughs*. Currently he is co-curating the Rebel Satori Press imprint The Library of Homosexual Congress, dedicated to returning works of gay literature back into print -with a focus on the AIDS crisis.



Marco Carocari originally hails from Switzerland and now lives in the Californian desert with his exceptionally sweet and supportive—aka patient—husband. His debut novel, *Blackout*, was nominated for a Lefty and won The NYC Big Book Award and Independent Press Award for Best LGBTQ Novel. His short stories appeared in *Malice Domestic 16: Mystery Most Diabolical* ("All In The Planning") and the Saints & Sinners 2023 Short Fiction Anthology ("Grace").



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



Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr. is an advocate, Kentucky Teacher of the Year, and the author of *Gay Poems for Red States*, a BookRiot Best Book of 2023 and named an IndieBound & American Booksellers Association's must-have book for poetry lovers. He writes about queer and Appalachian identity, focusing on innocence. Carver's story has been featured on ABC, CBS, PBS, NPR, Washington Post, Le Monde, and Good Morning America. He testified before the US Congressional Committee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties about the schools' failure to protect students. His work is published in *100 Days in Appalachia*, *2RulesofWriting*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, *Largehearted Boy Blog*, *Miracle Monocle*, *Smoky Blue Literary Magazine*, and *Good River Review*.



Chen Chen is the author of two books of poetry, *Your Emergency Contact Has Experienced an Emergency* (BOA Editions, 2022) and *When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities* (BOA Editions, 2017), which was longlisted for the National Book Award and won the Thom Gunn Award, among other honors. His work appears in many publications, including *Poetry* and three editions of *The Best American Poetry*. He has received two Pushcart Prizes and fellowships from Kundiman, the National Endowment for the Arts, and United States Artists. He was the 2018-2022 Jacob Ziskind Poet-in-Residence at Brandeis University and currently teaches for the low-residency MFA programs at New England College and Stonecoast. He lives with his partner, Jeff Gilbert, and their pug, Mr. Rupert Giles.



Ching-In Chen is author of *The Heart's Traffic: A Novel in Poems; recombinant* (Lambda Literary Award); *to make black paper sing*, and *Kundiman for Kin :: Information Retrieval for Monsters*. Chen co-edited *The Revolution Starts at Home: Confronting Intimate Violence Within Activist Communities* and is a Kelsey Street Press and Airlie Press editor. They received fellowships from Kundiman, Lambda, Can Serrat, Jack Straw and Intercultural Leadership Institute, as well as the Judith A. Markowitz Award for Exceptional New LGBTQ Writers. They collaborate on *Breathing in a Time of Disaster*, exploring breath through meditation, health, and environmental justice.



Lucian Childs is a fiction writer whose debut novel, *Dreaming Home*, was published in 2023 by Biblioasis. He was a Rasmuson Foundation Individual Artist Project Grant awardee, a Peter Taylor Fellow at the Kenyon Review Writers Workshop, and an artist-in-residence at Byrdcliffe Art Colony and Artscape Gibraltar Point. He was a contributing editor of Lambda Literary finalist, *Building Fires in the Snow: A Collection of Alaska LGBTQ Short Fiction and Poetry*. His stories and reviews have appeared in the literary journals *Grain*, *The Puritan*, *Plenitude*, and *Prairie Fire*, among others. He lives in Toronto, Ontario.



A 2021 Lambda Literary Emerging Fellow, **Dale Corvino** found his voice at the underground literary salon "Dean Johnson's Reading for Filth," recounting his interactions with sex work. In 2018, he won the Gertrude Press Fiction contest, judged by Whiting Award recipient Brontez Purnell. Recent nonfiction includes a profile of Chilean writer Pedro Lemebel for the *Gay & Lesbian Review*, an essay on queer longing in the digital era for Matt Keegan's *1996*, and a chapter in the *Routledge Handbook of Male Sex Work, Culture, and Society*. *Bonds and Boundaries*, his debut short story collection, is out now from Rebel Satori Press.



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



Liza Danger represents the Golden Lantern, a bar opened in 1964 and the original home of Southern Decadence. The Golden Lantern Bar is an inclusive community gathering place just off the beaten path in the historic French Quarter.



Matthew Clark Davison is the author of the novel *Doubling Thomas* (Amble Press, 2021), which was hailed as one of "46 Must-Read Books by Queer Authors" in *Esquire Magazine*. He is the creator and teacher of The Lab :: Writing Classes with MCD, a non-academic school started in 2007 in a friend's living room on Douglass Street. The textbook version of The Lab, co-authored by bestselling writer Alice LaPlante, will be published by W.W. Norton. His prose has been published in or on *BOMB*, *LitHub*, *Lambda Literary*, *The Advocate*, *Exquisite Pandemic*, *Guernica*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Lumina Magazine*, and others; and has been recognized with a Creative Work Grant, Cultural Equities Grant, Clark Gross Award for a Novel-in-Progress, and a Stonewall Alumni Award. Matthew is a member of The Writers Grotto and serves on the board of Foglifter Journal and Press.



Sven Davison is the Owner/Publisher of Rebel Satori Press and its associated imprints. In collaboration with Tom Cardamone, he curates The Library of Homosexual Congress, whose mission is to bring important LGBTQIA+ works back into print. His own recent writing includes *The Desire Line: Memory & Impermanence*, *Rajneeshpuram: An Historical Commentary*, and *Breeding Devils in Chaos: Re-Queering the Male Mysteries*. His work has also been included in the anthologies *Suffered From the Night: Queering Bram Stoker's Dracula*, *Madder Love: Gay Men in the Precincts of Surrealism*, and *Wilde Tales 2009: Best Gay Speculative Fiction*.



St Sukie de la Croix is an award-winning humorist, reporter, columnist, photographer, playwright, novelist, and historian—forty years of working in the gay and mainstream press in the US and the UK. Among his awards was Reporter of the Year 2013, from the African-American Esteem Awards for his writings on Black LGBTQ history. He has also written for *Blacklines* and *En La Vida* in Chicago. In 2012 he was inducted into the Chicago Lesbian and Gay Hall of Fame.



David Santos Donaldson is the author of the novel *Greenland*, a finalist for the 2023 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, the 2023 Publishing Triangle Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction, and Germany's Hot List 2023 Literary Prize. Donaldson was raised in Nassau, Bahamas, and has lived in India, Spain, and the United States. His plays have been commissioned by the Public Theater and he was a finalist for the Urban Stages Emerging Playwright Award. Donaldson's writing has appeared in various magazines including *Poets & Writers*, *Literary Hub*, *Electric Literature*, *The Rumpus*, and the German literary magazine *Geistesblüten*.



Margot Douaihy is the author of *Scorched Grace* (Gillian Flynn Books, 2023). The second book in the Sister Holiday Mystery series, *Blessed Water*, will be released March 12, 2024 from Gillian Flynn Books. She received her Ph.D. in Creative Writing from the University of Lancaster and her BA in English from the University of Pittsburgh. She is the author of the poetry collections *Bandit/Queen: The Runaway Story of Belle Starr*, *Scranton Lace*, and *Girls Like You* (Clemson University Press). She is a founding member of the Creative Writing Studies Organization and an active member of Sisters in Crime and the Radius of Arab American Writers. Her writing has been featured in *Colorado Review*, *The Florida Review*, *North American Review*, *PBS NewsHour*, *Portland Review*, *Queer Life*, *Queer Love*, *Wisconsin Review*, and elsewhere.



Reine Dugas is an English professor at Southeastern Louisiana University. When not writing, she's assistant editor of *Louisiana Literature*, publicist for the Tennessee Williams and New Orleans Literary Festival and editor of the magazines, *Louisiana Life* and *Acadiana Profile*. On the weekends, she interviews authors for a boozy literary podcast called *Booktails*. Her short stories have appeared in publications including *South 85 Journal*, *Deep South Magazine*, *The Arkansas Review*, and *Acentos Review* to name a few. Of those, "Ellie, an Epilogue," was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She's edited two anthologies—an academic collection focusing on Eudora Welty's *Delta Wedding* and a creative collection of feminist writing called *Audacious Women*.



Amie M. Evans is just returning to the world of writing after a six-year hiatus due to a family emergency. She is the author of 55 short stories and a novella as well as the co-editor of numerous anthologies including *Queer & Catholic* (with Trevor Healey) as well as past editions of *Saints+Sinners: New Fiction from the Festival* (with Paul J. Willis). She was inducted into the Saints and Sinners Literary Festival Hall of Fame in 2013. Her resume includes facilitating too many workshops to list; founding a Dyke Burlesque troupe as well as PussyWhipped Productions; participating in a bevy of readings; and an expired safer-sex instructor certification. She is currently rebuilding the last third of her life in an authentic and cheeky way and plans to never stop dying her hair or stop wearing fabulous dresses.



Elliott Foster is the author of *Whispering Pines* (Wise Ink), a 2016 Indie Next Finalist for Best Fiction. His latest novels comprise a trilogy: *Panic River* (2019), *Reckoning Waves* (2022), and *Destiny Springs* (2024). *Reckoning Waves* debuted at the 2022 Saints & Sinners Literary Festival and won the award for Best Gay Fiction at the 2022 San Francisco Book Festival. Elliott also co-authored the memoir, *Retrieving Isaac & Jason*, with his father. His poems, essays and short stories have been published in journals worldwide.



Rafael Frumkin is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and the Medill School of Journalism. His first novel, *The Comedown*, was published by Henry Holt in 2018, and his second novel, *Confidence*, was published by Simon & Schuster in 2023. His short story collection, *Bugsy and Other Stories*, was published in February 2024. He lives with his partner, two cats, and one dog in Carbondale, Illinois, where he is an assistant professor of creative writing at Southern Illinois University.



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



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



Casey Hamilton is a writer with his roots in raw, fictional storytelling. A native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and a graduate of Southern University and A&M College, he now writes from Atlanta, Georgia. After briefly working as a freelance copywriter, Hamilton followed his passion for creative writing with his 2013 amateur debut as a YouTube content creator and star of the gay web series, *JUDYS*. Hamilton's first novel, *MENAFTER10*, was published in 2021.



Ken Harvey's most recent book is the novel *The Book of Casey Adair*. He's been published in over 20 literary magazines, including *The Massachusetts Review*, *Consequence*, *The Buenos Aires Review* and *Queen's Quarterly*. He's read his work on NPR and has been granted writing residencies at the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Wurlitzer Foundation, and the Millay Colony. His short story collection won the Violet Quill Award. Ken holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Bennington College. A native of Boston, he is now a Canadian citizen living in Toronto with his husband and basset hound, Lily Tomlin.

Trebor Healey

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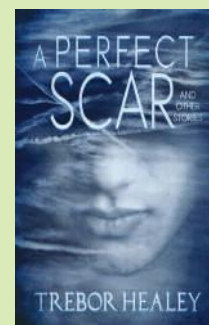


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Trebor Healey, recipient of a Lambda Literary award, two Publishing Triangle awards, and a Violet Quill award, is the author of the novels *A Horse Named Sorrow*, *Faun*, and *Through It Came Bright Colors*; a poetry collection, *Sweet Son of Pan*; and three collections of stories—*A Perfect Scar*, *Eros & Dust*, and *Falling*. He co-edited (with Marci Blackman) *Beyond Definition: New Writing from Gay and Lesbian San Francisco* and co-edited (with Amie Evans) *Queer & Catholic*.



Ian Henzel reinvented himself after retiring from a 42-year career in corporate technology marketing in Asia, Europe, and North America to start a new life as a publisher. In 2019 Ian founded Rattling Good Yarns Press, now entering its fifth year, focused on bringing overlooked LGBTQ+ voices to light. Rattling Good Yarns Press has released over 31 fiction and nonfiction titles.

Ian has been a speaker at the Saints & Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival in New Orleans, and at the Independent Publishers Association Conference where he spoke about promoting books to niche audiences. Ian is thrilled that his college years focused on classic and modern comparative literature are finally being put to good use.



Greg Herren is the author of over 30 novels, 50 short stories, and has edited over 20 anthologies. He has won several awards for his writing and editing, and has been nominated for a multitude of others, including the Shirley Jackson, the Lefty, the Agatha, and the Anthony. His most recent novels are *Mississippi River Mischief* (October 2023) and *Death Drop* (November 2023).



Scott Hightower is the author of five books of poetry in the U.S.: *Imperative to Spare*, Rebel Satori Press, 2023; *Self-Evident*, Barrow Street Press, 2012; *Part of the Bargain*, Copper Canyon Press, 2005; *Natural Trouble*, Fordham University Press, 2003; *Tin Can Tourist*, Fordham University Press, 2001; and two bilingual (Spanish-English) collections: *Tartessos*, Devenir (Madrid), 2019; *Hontanares*, Devenir (Madrid), 2012. *Part of the Bargain* won the 2004 Hayden Carruth Award. *Contracted/Contraído* is also forthcoming from Elenvés Editoras (Granada). Hightower's translations from Spanish have garnered him a prestigious Barnstone Translation Prize.



AE Hines is a poet living in Charlotte, North Carolina and Medellín, Colombia. He is the author of *Adam in the Garden* (Charlotte Lit Press, 2024) and *Any Dumb Animal* (Main Street Rag, 2021). He has won the Red Wheelbarrow Prize and Palette Poetry's Love and Eros Prize, and has been a finalist for the Montreal International Poetry Prize. His poems have been published in such

journals as *The Southern Review*, *Rattle*, *The Sun*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Alaska Quarterly*. His literary criticism can be found in *American Poetry Review*, *Rain Taxi*, and *Northwest Review*. AE teaches poetry at Charlotte's Center for Literary Arts.



Andrew Holleran is the author of the novels *Dancer From The Dance*, *The Beauty of Men*, and *Grief*; a book of stories, *In September*, *The Light Changes*; a collection of essays, *Chronicle of a Plague Revisited*, and other books. His most recent publication is a novel, *The Kingdom of Sand*. He lives in Florida.



Erin Hoover is the author of two poetry collections: *Barnburner* (Elixir, 2018), which won the Antivenom Poetry Award and a Florida Book Award, and *No Spare People* (Black Lawrence, 2023). Her poems have appeared in *The Best American Poetry* and in journals such as *Cincinnati Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Shenandoah*, and *The Sun*. Hoover lives in Tennessee and teaches creative writing at Tennessee Tech University. She curates and hosts a poetry reading series, Sawmill Poetry, and produces the "Not Abandon, but Abide" monthly interview series for the *Southern Review of Books*.



Candice Huber (they/them) is the owner of Tubby & Co's Traveling Book Shop, a queer, feminist, decentralized indie bookstore focused on underrepresented voices and engaging queer community. They've been bookselling for 10 years, and they are also a small publisher and author. Candice is the Membership & Social Media Coordinator for the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance and an instructor and dean for the Professional Bookseller School. They also serve on the national Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee for the American Booksellers Association. Their favorite genre is fantasy, especially queer fantasy, and they're an expert in queer sci-fi and fantasy. They love cozy things, video games, board games, hanging out with their partner and cats, and creating spreadsheets and databases.



Alexander Inglis is a Founding Partner of ReQueered Tales and former telecommunications executive.



Daniel M. Jaffe is an internationally published, award-winning writer. His brand-spanning new short story collection, *Domestic Affairs: Tales of American Males*, is a companion volume to his previous collection, *Foreign Affairs: Male Tales of Lust and Love*, that Kirkus Reviews selected as one of the Best Indie Short Story Collections and Best Indie Books of 2020. Daniel pioneered a les-bi-gay writing workshop at The Cambridge Center for Adult Education for eight years in the 1990's, and then taught creative writing in the UCLA Extension Writers' Program for over 20 years.



Wes Jamison is the author of *Carrion*, selected by Kazim Ali as winner of Red Hen Press's 2021 Quill Prose Award, and the chapbook, *and Melancholia* (Essay Press). They have received two Best American Essays Notable Mentions, and their work has appeared in *DIAGRAM*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *The Rumpus*, and elsewhere. Their current work examines millennial abjection, embodiment, and the queer identities that exist between the internet and our bodies.



Miah Jeffra is author of four books, most recently *The Violence Almanac* (finalist for several awards, including the Grace Paley and St. Lawrence Book Prizes) and the novel *American Gospel*. Work can be seen in *StoryQuarterly*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The North American Review*, *Barrelhouse*, *DIAGRAM*, *storySouth* and many others. Miah is co-founder of Whiting Award-winning queer and trans literary collaborative, Foglifter Press, and teaches writing and decolonial studies at Sonoma State University.



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



Rick Karlin has been a freelance journalist and editor for the past 40+ years. He is currently the Arts and Culture editor for *Out South Florida*. His last book, with Sukie de la Croix, *Last Call Chicago: 1001 LGBT-Friendly Taverns, Hangouts, and Haunts*, was published in 2022 and was ranked number one in Amazon's LGBT Studies category. His memoir *Paper Cuts: My Life in Chicago's Volatile LGBT Press* was published in 2019. He is currently working on *Last Call South Florida*, an encyclopedia of LGBT bars from Palm Beach to Key West. After too many Chicago winters, he retired to Fort Lauderdale, FL where he lives with his husband, poet and journalist Gregg Shapiro, and their fur baby Miss Coco.



Owen Keehnen, queer writer and historian, is the author of several fiction and nonfiction titles. Several of his books have been about Chicago LGBTQ history including his latest, *Man's Country: More Than a Bathhouse*. In 2017, Keehnen began to actively preserve the LGBTQ history of the Belmont Rocks, a popular Chicago queerspace from 1960-2003. In 2022, the history of the Belmont Rocks was formally recognized when the area reopened as AIDS Garden Chicago. Keehnen is cofounder of the LGBTQ education/history organization, the Legacy Project, and was inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in 2011.



David Kennerley is a journalist and author specializing in LGBTQ culture. For nearly two decades, he has been an Arts and Entertainment reporter for *Gay City News*, the NYC-based newspaper and website. Originally from rural Pennsylvania, David moved to New York in 1987 and became addicted to nightlife. Soon he became a club flyer hoarder and an unexpected expert on queer culture. He recently published *Getting In: NYC Club Flyers from the Gay 1990s*, praised by *The New York Times* as "an electric visual stroll through New York's 1990s gay club scene."



Mala Kumar is the author of the 2014 novel, *The Paths of Marriage*. Her second novel, titled *What it Meant to Survive*, will be published in October 2024. Her writings have appeared in *The Advocate*, *TechCrunch*, *USA Today*, *The Guardian*, and several South Asian publications, including *CNN India*, *The Aerogram*, and *Brown Girl Magazine*. Mala is a global leader in tech for social good, and has worked for the Microsoft-owned company, GitHub, and for the United Nations in 20+ countries. She lives in New York City with her wife.



Daniel W.K. Lee (李華強) is a third-generation refugee, queer, Cantonese American born in Kuching, Malaysia. He earned his Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at The New School, and his debut collection of poetry, *Anatomy of Want*, was published by QueerMojo/Rebel Satori Press in 2019. When not ticking items off his bucket list, Daniel might be found working on his next two poetry manuscripts in his home in New Orleans with his head-turning whippet Camden.



Ed Madden is a professor of English at the University of South Carolina. He served as poet laureate for the City of Columbia, SC, 2015-2022. He is the author of six books of poetry, most recently *A pooka in Arkansas*, selected by Timothy Liu for the Hilary Tham book prize, and *A story of the city*, a collection of poems written during his two terms as Columbia's poet laureate, both books published in 2023. He is recipient of a Poet Laureate Fellowship from the Academy of American Poets and an artist residency at the Instituto Sacatar in Itaparica, Brazil.



Beth Marshea is the owner of Ladderbird Literary Agency. She has a BA in Literature and a Masters in Business Administration and is always looking for new and exciting ways to bring more diversity into publishing and beyond. Outside of agenting, Beth teaches writing in her local community with a focus on bringing reluctant writers and readers into the magical world of books. She relentlessly searches for more ways to encourage writers to create stories that matter! Outside of books, she loves the outdoors, all things water related, and has a strong attraction to abstract art.



Greggor Mattson, Ph.D., is an author and Professor of Sociology at Oberlin College and Conservatory where he teaches courses on sexuality, nightlife, and cities. He is the author of *Who Needs Gay Bars? Bar-Hopping through America's Endangered LGBTQ+ Places* (Redwood 2023). His work on the topic has also appeared in *Slate*, *Literary Hub*, *Business Insider*, and *The Daily Beast*. Previously, he wrote *The Cultural Politics of European Prostitution Reform: Governing Loose Women* (2016). He lives in small-town Ohio with a demon-sized chihuahua.



Delaney McLemore recently received their doctorate in nonfiction writing. They live and work in New Orleans.



Gar McVey-Russell's first novel, *Sin Against the Race* (Gamr Books, 2017), was listed on The Advocate's Best Books We Read in 2018: LGBTQ Novels. His short stories "Tom of Boalt Hall" and "The Necklace" were finalists in the Saints and Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival Fiction Contest and appear in their 2020 and 2022 anthologies, respectively. His fiction has also appeared in *Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS* (1993) and other publications. Gar is married and lives in Oakland, California, where he listens to a lot of jazz.



Vincent Traugbner Meis has published eight novels and a book of short stories focusing on countries around the world. Several of his novels have won Rainbow Awards and two of his novels, including *First Born Sons*, were awarded Reader Views Silver Awards. He has published short stories in a number of collections and has achieved Finalist status in a few short fiction contests. *The Long Journey to You* will be published in February, 2024. He lives in San Leandro, California and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.



Jay Michaelson is the author of ten books, most recently *The Secret That is Not a Secret*, a collection of ten interlocking tales of mysticism, queerness, and magic. Jay works as a political commentator for CNN and *Rolling Stone*, a meditation teacher, and a rabbi. Jay was a professional LGBTQ+ activist for ten years, and is the author of *God vs. Gay? The Religious Case for Equality*, a Lambda Literary Award finalist. He holds a JD from Yale, a PhD from Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and an MFA from Sarah Lawrence. He lives outside of New York City.



C.A. Munn received their M.F.A. in playwriting from the University of New Orleans' Creative Writing Workshop in 2022. Their plays have been produced by the UNO School of the Arts, Theatre Oxford in Mississippi, and Intramural Theater in New Orleans. Munn has been a finalist for the International Literary Awards' Rita Dove Prize in poetry, a semi-finalist for the American Short Fiction Halifax Ranch Prize, a Pushcart nominee in fiction, and a runner-up for the Saints and Sinners Short Fiction Contest. Their work can be found on the Ploughshares Blog and in *Screen Door Review* and *Peauxdunque Review*, among others.



Kay Murphy is Professor Emeritus at the University of New Orleans where she taught in the English Department, the Creative Writing Workshop, and the Honors Program, and served as Poetry Editor for *Bayou Magazine*. She continues to work with graduate students and to teach in the Low Residency MFA Program. She was awarded the Louisiana Division of the Arts Individual Artist Grant in 2002 for her poetry and a University-wide Excellence in Teaching Award in 2001. Since coming to UNO in the fall of 1984, she has published over fifty essays/reviews of contemporary poetry in national journals such as *The American Book Review*, *Chelsea*, and *The Spoon River Poetry Review*. Besides reviews, she has published fiction in such journals as *Ascent* and *Fiction International*. Her heart-genre, poetry, has appeared in over 100 journals such as *North American Review*, *Mississippi Review*, *Poetry*, and *College English*. She is the author of two poetry collections: *The Autopsy* and *Belief Blues*. She has taught in Innsbruck, Austria, Montpellier, France, San Miguel, Mexico, Edinburgh, Scotland, and Cork, Ireland.



Elisabeth Nonas is the author of three previously published novels and the forthcoming *Grace Period*. She has written several screenplays as well as short stories, magazine articles, essays, and coauthored with Simon LeVay the nonfiction *City of Friends: A Portrait of the Gay and Lesbian Community in America*. She taught screenwriting and writing for emerging media at Ithaca College for 25 years. Originally from New York City, she lives in Ithaca, New York, with her spouse, Nancy K. Bereano, founding publisher and editor of Firebrand Books.



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



James Pauley, Jr. was born and raised in a small town in southwestern Michigan. He received his bachelor's degree from Albion College, with a double major in German and Spanish. Spending a semester each in Guadalajara, Mexico, and Heidelberg, Germany piqued his interest and lifelong love of international travel. After graduation, he began his career as a flight attendant/observer of the world, which spanned some four and a half decades. He is the author of *Bumpy Rides and Soft Landings* and coauthor of soon-to-be-released *An Unconditional Friendship* with best-selling author Charlene Potterbaum. He lives with his spouse, Rich, in Indiana.



David S. Pederson has written seven Heath Barrington and three Mason Adler mysteries highlighting the difficulty of being gay in the 1940s and has been nominated twice for Lambda Literary Awards. His second book, *Death Goes Overboard*, was selected by the GLBT Round Table of the American Library Association for the 2018 Over the Rainbow book list. He's passionate about mysteries, old movies, ocean liners, and reading. He, his husband, and their sweet rescue cats reside in the sunny Southwest.



Frank Perez is a writer, teacher, tour guide, and public speaker who also serves as the Executive Director of the LGBTQ+ Archives Project of Louisiana. He has authored several books on LGBTQ+ history in New Orleans and is also a columnist for three New Orleans magazines—*Ambush*, *French Quarter Journal*, and *YazzQueen*. His publications also include a number of scholarly articles in academic journals as well as a number of poems and short stories in various literary journals. His latest book, *Rainbow Fleur de Lis: Essays on Queer New Orleans History*, is forthcoming from the University Press of Mississippi.

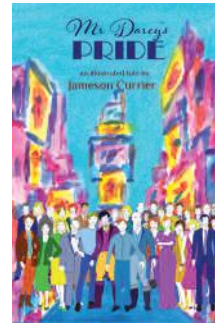
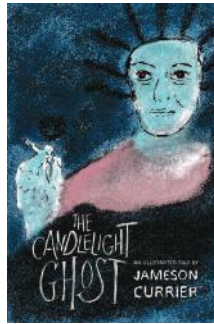
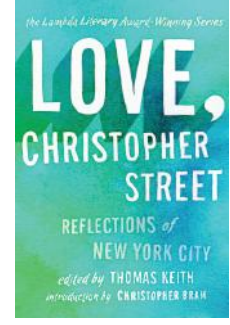
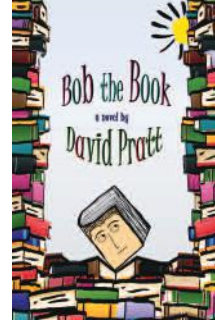
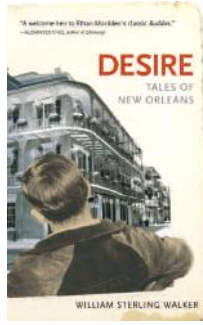
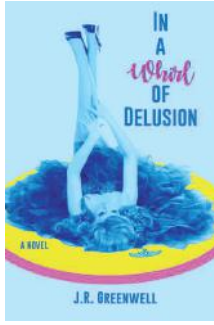


Felice Picano has published more than thirty books of poetry, stories, novels, novellas, memoirs and non-fiction, translated into seventeen languages, including national and international bestsellers. Four plays were produced. Picano was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award, and has received awards for poetry, drama, short stories, and novels in the US, UK, France, and Germany. Picano taught at Antioch University and founded the West Hollywood Public Library's writing workshop. His recent book is *Six Strange Stories and An Essay on H.P. Lovecraft*. Two major reprints are *Ambidextrous: The Secret Lives of Children* and *Like People in History*.



David Pratt is author of the Lambda-winning *Bob the Book* (Chelsea Station), *Wallaçonia* (Beautiful Dreamer Press), *Todd Sweeney, the Fiend of Fleet High* (Hosta Press), *Looking After Joey* (Lethe Press), and a story collection, *My Movie* (Chelsea Station). His stories have appeared in several periodicals and anthologies. He has performed work for the theater at venues in New York City and Michigan and has published *Two Plays: The Snow Queen and November Door*. In 2020-2021 he published *The Book of Humiliation*, an "anti-novel" in 16 zines, designed by Michigan artist Nicholas Williams.

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Kent Quaney holds a PhD in creative writing from the University of Southern Mississippi Center for Writers, and a Master of Letters from the University of Sydney, Australia. His first novel, *One Breath from Drowning*, the story of a closeted Mormon man coming out while studying overseas in Sydney, recently won the Brodie Award for fiction, and his short stories have appeared in *Literally Stories*, *Polari*, *RiversEdge*, and other journals. He is currently an Assistant Professor and the Coordinator of Creative Writing at Auburn University at Montgomery.



J.M. Redmann has published eleven novels featuring New Orleans PI Micky Knight. Her first book was published in 1990, one of the early hard-boiled woman and lesbian detectives. Her books have won three Lambda Literary awards and *The Intersection of Law and Desire* was an Editor's Choice of the San Francisco Chronicle and a recommended book of NPR's Fresh Air. She is the co-editor with Greg Herren, of three anthologies, one of which, *Night Shadows: Queen Horror*, was shortlisted for the Shirley Jackson award.



Steven Reigns is a Los Angeles poet and the first Poet Laureate of West Hollywood. Alongside over a dozen chapbooks, he has published the collections *Inheritance* and *Your Dead Body is My Welcome Mat*. He edited *My Life is Poetry*, showcasing his students' work from the first-ever autobiographical poetry workshop for LGBT seniors. Reigns has lectured and taught writing workshops around the country to LGBT youth and people living with HIV. Currently he is touring *The Gay Rub*, an exhibition of rubbings from LGBT landmarks. His newest collection *A Quilt for David* was published by City Lights and is the product of ten years of research regarding dentist David Acer's life.



Kirsten Reneau is a writer living in New Orleans. She is the author of two chapbooks, and her work has been published in *The Threepenny Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Reed Magazine*, and others. She has been nominated for several awards, and won a few. *Sensitive Creatures*, out with Belle Point Press this March, is her first full-length essay collection.



Charles Rice-Gonzalez is the author of *Chulito* which received ALA and the National Book Critics Circle recognitions. He co-edited *From Macho to Mariposa: New Gay Latino Fiction*, his play *I Just Love Andy Gibb* was published in *Blacktino Queer Performance: A Critical Anthology*, and his writing has been published in over two dozen anthologies and journals, most recently in *Obsidian*, *Aster(ix)* and *Huizache*. He's a fellow of MacDowell, the Lannan Foundation and PEN America Writing as Activism. He's the co-founder of BAAD! The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance and an Assistant Professor at Hostos Community College.



Brad Richard's most recent collection is *Parasite Kingdom*, winner of the 2018 Tenth Gate Prize from The Word Works. His chapbook *In Place* was selected for the 2021 Robin Becker Series from Seven Kitchens Press. An instructor for the Kenyon Review's Writers Workshop for Teachers and for New Orleans Writers Workshop, he also serves on the editorial board of The Word Works (where he is series editor for the Hilary Tham Capitol Collection).



Carol Rosenfeld is an author and poet. Her debut novel, *The One That Got Away*, was published by Bywater Books in June 2015, and her short stories have appeared in several anthologies. She is currently working on a second novel, as well as a memoir and a collection of her poems. Carol has been the chair of The Publishing Triangle for many years, and in 2023 she was recognized with a Gay City News Impact Award for her service. She is also a proud member of the SAS Hall of Fame.



Patrick Earl Ryan was born and raised in New Orleans in a family spanning five continents and seven generations in the city. His debut short story collection, *If We Were Electric*, was chosen by Roxane Gay as the winner of the Flannery O'Connor Award and published in 2020 at the height of the Covid pandemic. His stories about New Orleans have appeared in such journals and anthologies as *Best New American Voices*, *Men on Men*, and *Gertrude*; and he was the founder and editor-in-chief of the LGBTQ+ literary journal *Lodestar Quarterly*, which is still available online as a queer archive.



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



Gregg Shapiro is the author of nine books including *Refrain in Light* (Souvenir Spoon Books, 2023). Recent/forthcoming lit-mag publications include *RFD*, *Orange Blossom Review*, *San Pedro River Review*, *BarBar*, *Otherwise Engaged*, *The Penn Review*, *Gargoyle*, *confetti*, and *BP Review*, as well as the anthology *Let Me Say This: A Dolly Parton Poetry Anthology* (Madville, 2023). An entertainment journalist, whose interviews and reviews run in a variety of regional LGBTQ+ and mainstream publications and websites, Shapiro lives in South Florida with his husband Rick, and their dog Coco.



TQ Sims writes stories that center Queer characters in supernormal situations. In their first novel, *Godspeed, Lovers*, two men fall in love while using their psychic powers to battle sentient storms and an evil corporation that wishes to control them. It's a story about mental health, post-traumatic growth, and found family. TQ's story, "The Ritual," was a finalist in competition at the Tennessee Williams and New Orleans Literary Festival in 2022. Their work has appeared in *Louisiana Words*, *Beyond Queer Words*, and *The Queer and Trans Guide to Storms*. They live in New Orleans.



SJ Sindu is a Tamil diaspora author of two literary novels (*Marriage of a Thousand Lies*, which won the Publishing Triangle Edmund White Award; and *Blue-Skinned Gods*, which was an Indie Next Pick and a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award), two graphic novels (*Shakti* and the forthcoming *Tall Water*), and one collection of short stories (*The Goth House Experiment*). Sindu holds a PhD in English and Creative Writing from Florida State University and is a co-editor for Zero Street, a literary fiction series featuring LGBTQ+ authors through the University of Nebraska Press. Sindu is an assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University.



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



K.M. Soehnlein is the author of the novels: *Army of Lovers* (Foreward Indies Award in LGBTQ+ Fiction); *The World of Normal Boys* (Lambda Award for Gay Fiction); *You Can Say You Knew Me When*; and *Robin and Ruby*. He received the Henfield Prize for short fiction and the SFFILM-Rainin Grant in Screenwriting. He's the cowriter, with Aron Kantor, of *Bathhouse*, a limited series optioned by Sony TV, telling the story of New York City's legendary Continental Baths in the 1970s. He teaches at the University of San Francisco MFA in Writing Program.



Penelope Starr is the author of *Desert Haven* (Rattling Good Yarns Press, 2024), a novel in linked short stories, and *The Radical Act of Community Storytelling: Empowering Voices in Uncensored Events* (Parkhurst Brothers Publishers, 2017.) She founded Odyssey Storytelling in Tucson, Arizona in 2004 because she loves to hear people tell personal stories. Penelope enjoys creative endeavors, facilitating workshops, and giving advice. Born in New York City, she migrated to the West more than fifty years ago and lives in the foothills of the Tucson Mountains with her partner, Silvia, and their very smart dog, Kosmos.



Charlie J. Stephens is a queer, non-binary, mixed-race writer from the Pacific Northwest. Born and raised in Salem, Oregon, and currently living in Port Orford on the southern Oregon coast, they are the owner of Sea Wolf Books & Community Writing Center. Charlie's short fiction has appeared in *Electric Literature*, *Best Small Fictions 2020*, *New World Writing*, *Original Plumbing* (Feminist Press), and elsewhere. Their debut novel *A Wounded Deer Leaps Highest* (Torrey House Press) comes out April 2, 2024.



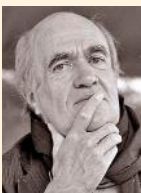
Caleb Tankersley is the author of the story collection *Sin Eaters*—winner of the Permafrost Book Prize—and *Jesus Works the Night Shift*. His writing can be found in *Carve*, *The Cimarron Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Puerto del Sol*, *Sycamore Review*, and other magazines. A 2023 Fiction Fellow at Breadloaf, Caleb is currently Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of St. Thomas and serves as Managing Director for Split/Lip Press. He and his partner

Richie live in St. Paul, Minnesota.



Phil Tarley, writer, filmmaker, curator, and photographer, is the only fellow of the American Film Institute ever inducted into the Gay Porn Hall of Fame as producer-director Phil St. John, his nom de porn. Tarley's essays and photography have appeared in *American Photo*, *LA Weekly*, *Wow Report*, *Fabrik*, *Advocate*, and other print and online publications. Excerpts of his work-in-progress autobiography have been published in *The Gay and Lesbian Literary Review*, where he also writes film reviews. Tarley's on-camera cultural commentary is featured in four documentaries, which include *Circus of Books* on Netflix and *Seed Money: The Chuck Holmes Story* on Amazon Prime, and he is soon to be appearing in the VICE TV series *Sex Before the Internet*. His book, *Diary of A Puerto Rican Porno*, written as Phil St. John, recounts his true life sex adventure making

Foreskin Island and *Return to Foreskin Island*.



Colm Tóibín was born in Ireland in 1955. He is the author of eleven novels, including *The Master*, winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize; *Brooklyn*, winner of the Costa Book Award; and *The Magician*, winner of the Rathbones Folio Prize; two collections of stories, and several books of criticism. His latest novel is *Long Island*, the sequel to his prize-winning, bestselling novel *Brooklyn*. He has been three times shortlisted for the Booker Prize. In 2021,

he was awarded the David Cohen Prize for Literature. He is the Irene and Sidney B. Silverman Professor of the Humanities at Columbia University and was appointed the Laureate for Irish Fiction 2022-2024. Tóibín lives in Dublin and New York.



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



Nikki Ummel is a queer artist and has been published by *Gulf Coast*, *The Georgia Review*, Black Lawrence Press, and others. She is the 2022 recipient of the Leslie McGrath Poetry Prize and 2023 recipient of the Juxtapose Poetry Award for her manuscript, *Bloom*. Nikki is the co-founder of LMNL, an arts organization focused on readings, workshops, and residencies. She has two poetry chapbooks, *Hush* (Belle Point Press, 2022) and *Bayou*

Sonata (NOLA DNA, 2023), funded by the New Orleans' Jazz and Heritage Foundation.



Jerry L. Wheeler is the editor of seven anthologies of gay erotica for Bold Strokes Books, Wilde City Press, and other publishers. His own collection of short fiction and essays, *Strawberries and Other Erotic Fruits* was shortlisted for the Lambda Literary Award in 2012. His first novel, *Pangs*, was released by Queer Space/Rebel Satori Press in 2022, and he is the author of the forthcoming *The Dead Book* (March, 2024). He lives and writes in Denver CO,

maintaining his review blog, *Out In Print: Queer Book Reviews* and his own editing business, Write And Shine.



Dan White is the creator and host of the weekly podcast *OutWithDan*. This podcast features and highlights LGBTQ+ authors, characters, and our allies. Dan is so proud to have included every letter in the rainbow alphabet as a guest on his show. And also authors from four continents and counting.

Dan is also one of the creators and voices on the podcast *Queer Magnolias Podcast*. Both podcasts can be found on all platforms.



Alan Williams is a communications consultant, writer, editor, and speaker. He works with numerous federal agencies, state governments, non-profits, and universities to ensure health education programs, campaigns, and resources are affirming, equitable, and innovative for LGBTQ+ groups. He serves as

advisor to the John Burton Harter Foundation that makes possible queer art exhibitions, initiatives, and publications, including *A Tale of Two Cities: Patrick Angus in New York and J. B. Harter in New Orleans*. His writing has appeared in the *New Orleans Review*, *The Simon*, and a variety of national media outlets.



Gary Zebrun lives in Providence, Rhode Island. His new novel, *Hart Island*, is set on New York City's potter's field off the coast of the Bronx. Its main character, a gay ferry boat captain, hauls coffins from the city to the burial ground. It is part love story, part crime novel, and part mystery. Gary's first novel,

Someone You Know, was a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award. He is a recipient of Yaddo and MacDowell fellowships; his work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *New Republic*, *Iowa Review*, *The Believer*, *Sewanee*, *The Common*, *American Scholar*, and elsewhere.








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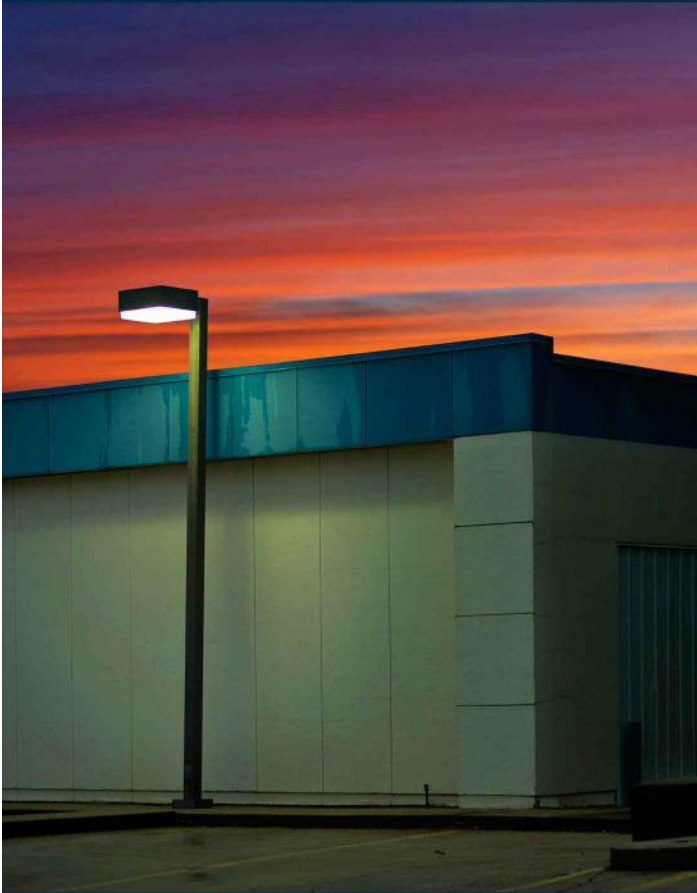
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Lineage of Satan

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2025 SHORT FICTION CONTEST

Opens May 1, 2024

Be sure to enter the 16th annual Saints and Sinners Short Fiction Contest and be part of our 2025 anthology produced by Rebel Satori Press. We're pleased to announce that **Greg Herren** will be our finalist judge. Guidelines and deadlines at: sasfest.org

Greg Herren is the author of over 30 novels, 50 short stories, and has edited over 20 anthologies. He has won several awards for his writing and editing, and has been nominated for a multitude of others, including the Shirley Jackson, the Lefty, the Agatha, and the Anthony. His most recent novels are *Mississippi River Mischief* (October 2023) and *Death Drop* (November 2023).



2025 POETRY CONTEST

Opens May 1, 2024

The winner of our 5th annual poetry contest will be selected from submissions of original unpublished poems by LGBTQ+ writers.

Our contest will open on May 1, 2024 and our Finalist Judge will be **Nikki Ummel**. For more information and submission guidelines visit our website: sasfest.org.

Nikki Ummel is a queer artist and has been published by *Gulf Coast*, *The Georgia Review*, *Black Lawrence Press*, and others. She is the 2022 recipient of the Leslie McGrath Poetry Prize and 2023 recipient of the Juxtapose Poetry Award for her manuscript, *Bloom*. Nikki is the co-founder of LMNL, an arts organization focused on readings, workshops, and residencies. She has two poetry chapbooks, *Hush* (Belle Point Press, 2022) and *Bayou Sonata* (NOLA DNA, 2023), funded by the New Orleans' Jazz and Heritage Foundation.



PAST SHORT FICTION WINNERS

- 2024
Charlie J. Stephens "For the Birds"

- 2023
Ariadne Blayde "Minor Difficulties in BigEasyWorld"

- 2022
J. Duncan Davidson "My Elijah"

- 2021
Colby Byrne "The Fog House"

- 2020
Matthew Cherry "Big House"

- 2019
J. Marshall Freeman "The Grove of Mohini"

- 2018
Jeremy Schnotala "Sand Angels"

- 2017
J. Marshall Freeman "Curo the Filthmonger"

- 2016
Jerry Rabushka "Trumpet in D"

- 2015
Maureen Brady "Basketball Fever"

- 2014
Sally Bellerose "Corset"

- 2013
Sandra Gail Lambert "In a Chamber of My Heart"

- 2012
Jerry Rabushka "Wasted Courage"

- 2011
Sally Bellerose "Fishwives"

- 2010
Wayne Lee Gay "Ondine"

PAST POETRY WINNERS

- 2024
Holly Zhou

- 2023
Isobel A. Burke

- 2022
Michael Montlack

- 2021
Danielle Bero

SAINTS+SINNERS XXI

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(As of March 7, 2024)

Thank you to the individuals and organizations that supported our 21st anniversary event through our SAS Festival membership program.

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"Bird on a Wire," photograph by Jacob Mitchell

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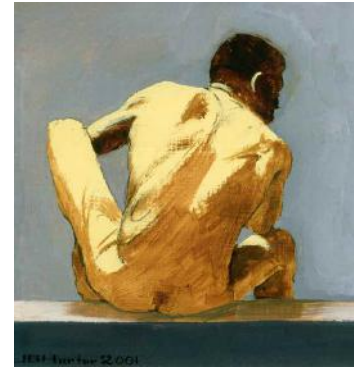
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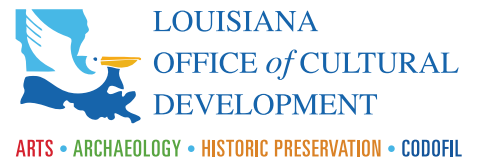


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by John Burton Harter, 1977



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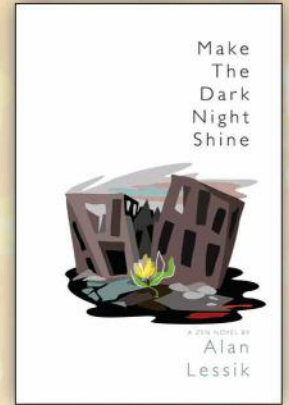
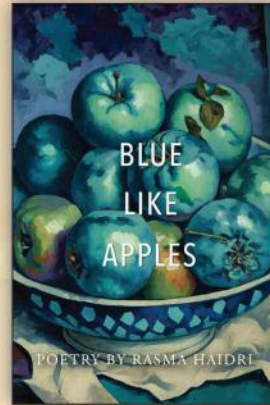
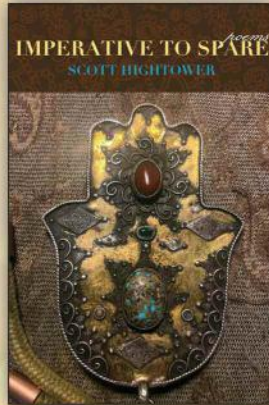
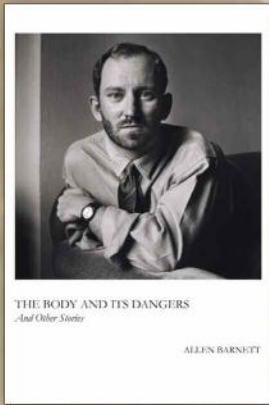
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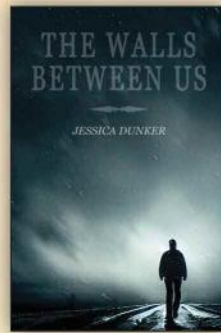
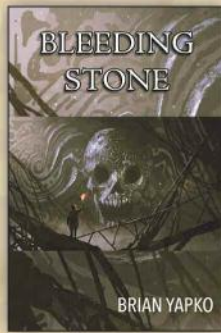
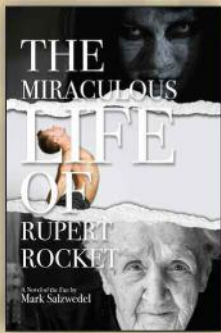
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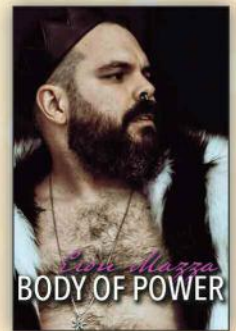
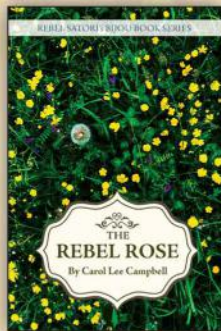
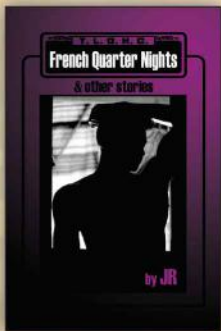
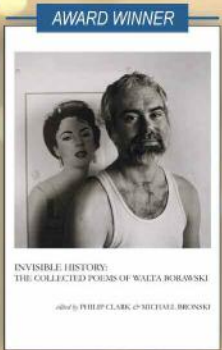
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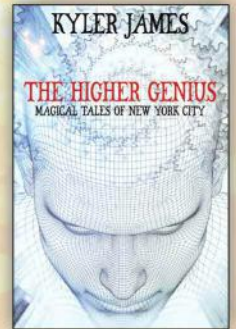
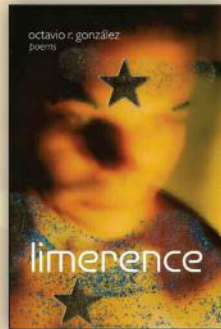
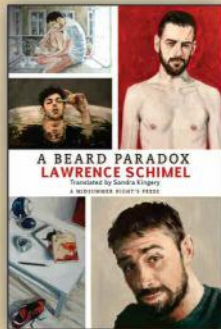
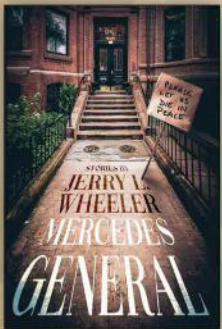
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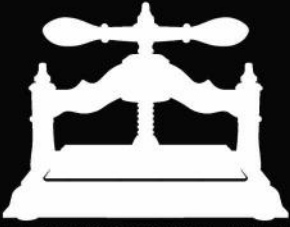
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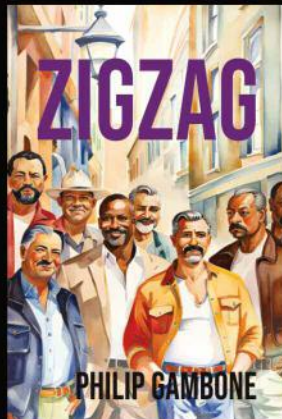
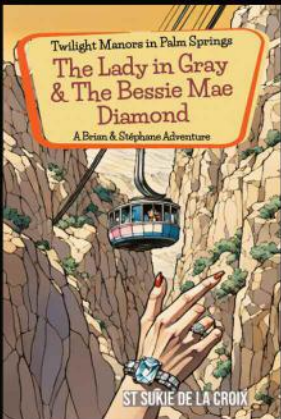
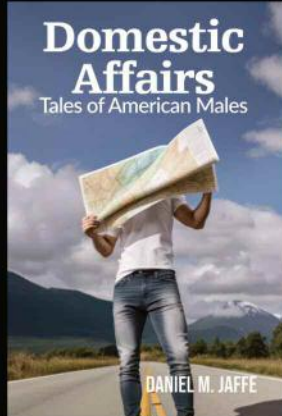
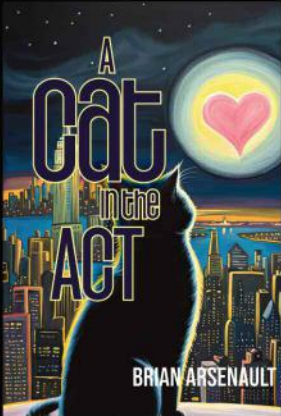
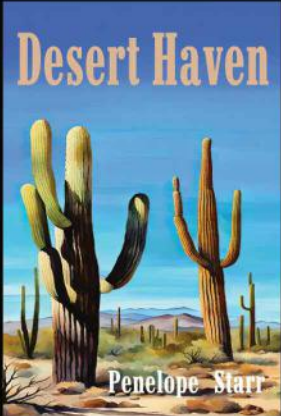


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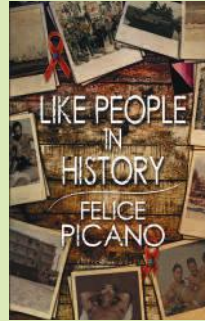
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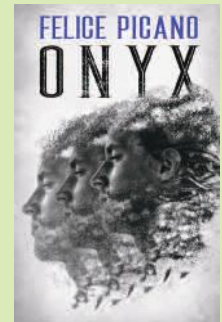


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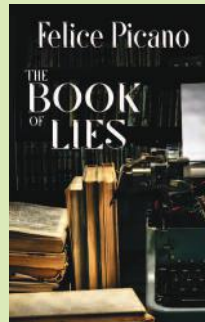
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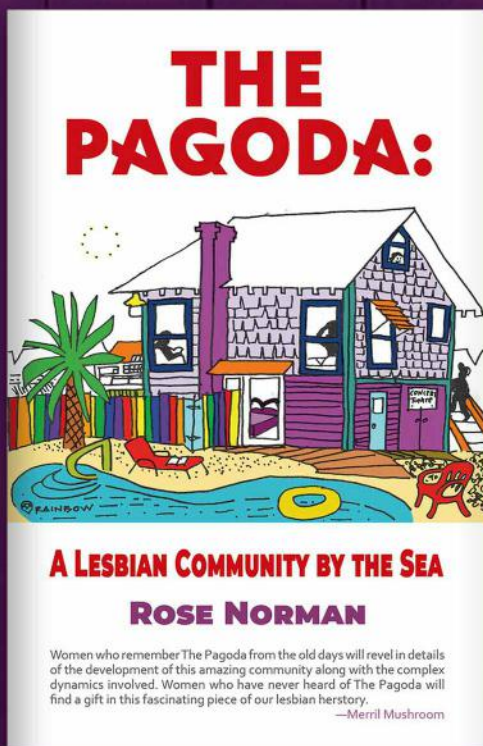
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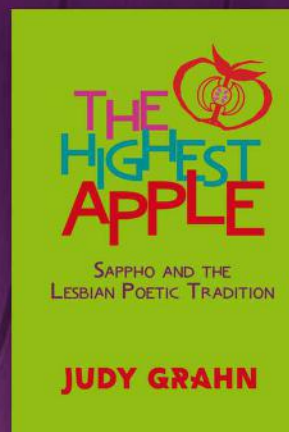
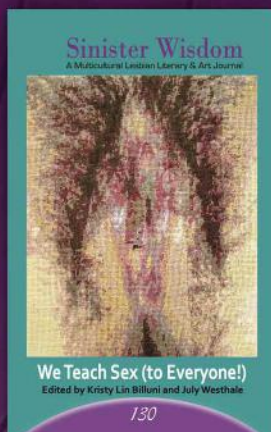
**Sinister Wisdom congratulates
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