

OPENING NIGHT

7:30 PM WHERE SEX AND SIN WERE THE SPECIALITIES: AN EVENING OF STORYVILLE MEMORIES

Join us for a look inside the scandalous history and culture of the Red Light District that flourished in New Orleans from 1897-1917, that famed neighborhood that fixed the city firmly in the national consciousness as a place of licentious pleasure. One hundred years after its closure, it still illuminates New Orleans's complex personality. **Pamela Arceneaux**, senior librarian and rare books curator of The Historic New Orleans Collection introduces us to the rare guides to the district chronicled in her new book, *Guidebooks to Sin: The Blue Books of Storyville, New Orleans*. She'll explain how the books served up the flavor of the place – guides to brothels, liquor stores, cures for venereal disease—and what rare and fascinating information she found between the lines. Writer and photographer **Sally Asher** of Tulane University, accompanied by actors **Kerry Cahill** and **Andrew Ward**, brings to life the important year of 1917, the year Storyville closed, after reform movements prevailed against last-ditch efforts to save it. “The purity wave” as it was called—with tougher enforcement of the laws and an attempt to segregate the district—grew out of protests by women's organizations and Mayor Behrman's desire to control the district so it could continue to exist. **Nina Bozak** of The Historic New Orleans Collection dazzles with period dances—from the Two-Step that was the rage in the 1890s to the Foxtrot, for which the Original Dixieland Jazz Band recorded the Livery Stable Blues in 1917 (the first jazz recording ever issued), as well as dances to Spanish-tinged rhythms of the period. Ham Kick and Naked Dance, anyone? Ward emcees, with live period music with band leader **Seva Venet**. And who knows? We might even see a Baby Doll or two. New Orleans has always had a reputation as a wicked city; Storyville is at the heart of that sense of excess and openness. See why it continues to captivate and intrigue us a century later, even as we learn more about its many facets as these scholars of Storyville celebrate its lively legacy in history, theater, dance and music. Directed by **Brook Hanemann**.

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St. Peter. *Funding provided by the History/A+E Networks. Music and dance sponsored by Paige Royer and Kerry Clayton.*

\$65 admission: Pre-show party and event

- VIP Cocktail Party at Tennessee Williams' former apartment on St. Peter Street. 6 PM
- Priority seating in reserved VIP section. Doors open at 7 PM.
- Complimentary pre-show cocktail provided by Dickie Brennan's Tableau.
- Cash Bar also available at Le Petit Theatre.

\$45 admission: Event and post-show party

- Balcony or general seating. Doors open at 7 PM.
- Complimentary cocktail provided by Dickie Brennan's Tableau.
- Cash Bar also available at Le Petit Theatre.
- Champagne and Dessert After-Party with a live jazz band at Dickie Brennan's Tableau

\$30 admission: Event only

- Balcony or general seating. Doors open at 7 PM.
- Complimentary cocktail provided by Dickie Brennan's Tableau.
- Cash Bar also available at Le Petit Theatre.

THURSDAY MARCH 23, 2017

9 AM THE NEW ORLEANS WRITING MARATHON

Jumpstart your writing endeavors with the New Orleans Writing Marathon! Marathon founder and author of *The Writing Marathon: In Good Company Revealed* Richard Louth will facilitate the event, with participants writing their way across the French Quarter. Writers will visit cafes, pubs, bookstores, and anywhere else a small group of writers can sit, write, and share their work. It's all about writing in the moment, writing for the joy of it, and finding inspiration in one's place.

On Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings, writers are invited to gather at 9 AM for a 30-minute overview of the Writing Marathon process, a map of great French Quarter writing spots, and guidelines. They will write together as a community before setting out in smaller groups to write and enjoy the city's food, spirits, and atmosphere. Participants write on anything that they want and in any form they wish—memoir, fiction, reflection, essay, poetry, or just quick descriptive impressions—and share their writing with each other without criticism. For more information, please see: www.writingmarathon.com.

Full Writing Marathon Schedule: Writers may participate any day—Thursday, Saturday, and/or Sunday—by meeting in the Hotel Monteleone's Queen Anne Ballroom at 9 a.m. for a brief introduction. Participants then write at various locations until noon (or past noon if they wish).

Writing Marathon Readings: Participants in any of the three Writing Marathons are invited to read their writing at a celebration on Sunday, March 26, at 2:30 p.m. in the Hotel Monteleone, Room TBA

For questions or to sign up ahead of time, contact **Richard Louth** at: rlouth@selu.edu.

The Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival opens with a series of **Master Classes** by leading authors and publishing industry professionals. All master classes take place at The Historic New Orleans Collection located at 533 Royal Street. Each session is 1 hour and 15 minutes with a lively give-and-take between audience and facilitators. Authors will sign books. Classes may be taken individually for \$25 or as a complete series for \$200. The full series fee also includes a Festival Panel Pass. **Presented in partnership with The Historic New Orleans Collection and funded by The Patrick Taylor Foundation.**

MASTER CLASSES

9 AM MAKING HISTORY: A MASTER CLASS WITH PATRICK MANEY ON PRESIDENTIAL BIOGRAPHY

Coming out of a turbulent election year, historians are giving us perspective. Boston College historian (formerly of Tulane) describes the process of writing *Bill Clinton: New Gilded Age President*. What are the responsibilities and challenges of writing about America's most powerful leaders especially when they are still scrutinized in the media?

The Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25 or included in Combo Pass registration.

10:30 AM USE YOUR WORDS: A MASTER CLASS IN WRITING WITH ROY BLOUNT, JR.

Roy Blount, Jr. is a true master at making us laugh and making us think about the vagaries and possibilities of language—both serious and comic. In books such as *Alphabet Juice: The Energies, Gists, and Spirits of Letters, Words, and Combinations Thereof; Their Roots, Bones, Innards, Piths, Pips, and Secret Parts, Tinctures, Tonics, and Essences; With Examples of Their Usage Foul and Savory*, and its sequel *Alpha-Better Juice*, he's explored the twists and turns of our language. Come prepared to be edified and amused; no one uses words like Roy!

The Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25 or included in Combo Pass registration.

1 PM INSPIRATION AND PROCESS: A MASTER CLASS WITH PLAYWRIGHT LISA D'AMOUR

Experience a brief, up close tour of the playwright's brain and heart. In this Master Class, local playwright Lisa D'Amour invites a team of actors to read scenes from Tennessee Williams' *Glass Menagerie* and two of her own plays. After each reading, she will examine and unpack the real-life details that were adapted and transformed to "become" these scenes. With the scenes from her own plays, she will also discuss the process behind these scenes—how they changed and grew during workshops and the rehearsal process.

The Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25 or included in Combo Pass registration.

2:30 PM ASK AMY: A MASTER CLASS WITH COLUMNIST AMY DICKINSON

Amy Dickinson counsels millions of readers in her syndicated column, "Ask Amy," and won even more with her memoir *The Mighty Queens of Freeville*. How did she develop that voice of hers, that relentless common sense, compassion and good humor? Get up close and personal with one of America's beloved journalists, and bring a dilemma of your own for her to address. She just might have the answer.

The Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25 or included in Combo Pass registration.

THEATER & SPECIAL EVENTS—THURSDAY, MARCH 23

10 AM AND 2 PM, THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS LITERARY WALKING TOUR CREATED BY DR. KENNETH HOLDITCH

New Orleans—and especially the French Quarter—played a vital role in shaping Tennessee Williams. When he came here for the first time, he was Tom Williams. When he left here a couple of months later, he was known as Tennessee, having undergone a tremendous change in his personal life and his creativity. A man perpetually on the move, Tennessee considered this city his "spiritual home" and had at least eight residences in its famous neighborhoods. Visit the homes and hangouts where he lived and worked and returned to throughout his adult life, beloved spots that helped to make Tennessee America's greatest playwright. Each tour will start with an introduction by Dr. Kenneth Holditch, creator of this tour and the first literary tour of the Quarter.

Tour meets in the Hotel Monteleone Queen Anne Parlor, Heritage Tours, \$25.

11 AM TENNESSEE WILLIAMS ABRIDGED WITH A READING OF "AT LIBERTY" (SPECIAL EVENT/THEATER)

[Also showing at 11 AM on Friday.]

Part lecture, part performance, and all promised to entertain! Join Tennessee Williams scholar **Augustin J Correro** for a fast, snappy, and at times comical talk about the life and work of Tennessee Williams. Learn about his Mississippi upbringing, his St. Louis years, his Broadway successes and flops, and of course the time he spent in his spiritual home, New Orleans. This talk takes Williams off the shelves and puts his personal and professional life in context for you. It's everything you wanted to know about our titular playwright! There will be a question and answer session and the talk is topped off by TW Fest favorites **Beth Bartley** and **Brenda Currin** performing a reading of the one-act play "At Liberty" (directed by **Paul J. Willis**), in which you'll find yourself on the front porch in Blue Mountain, Mississippi late one night to witness a showdown between a concerned matriarch and her firebrand daughter. Gloria, the actress, must reckon with her mother as "the past keeps getting bigger at the future's expense"! **Beauregard-Keyes House, 1113 Chartres Street, \$20. Sponsored by Albert Carey, Jr.**

1 PM CHARLENE A. DONAGHY: DEVISED THEATRE—aka SUDDEN SURPRISES, BLIND ALLEYS, IMPROVISATION—OH MY! (THEATER WORKSHOP)

As writers, we embrace our personal experiences, visions, voices, explorations, and experimentation to create works that live on the stage and/or the page. In Devised Theatre, also known as "collaborative creation" by some artists, we add the element of improvisation to begin that collaboration. Alison Oddey in *Devising Theatre: A Practical and Theoretical Handbook* describes it as a method of creating original performances by gathering a group of artists who bring their unique experiences to collaborate on the creation of a new product. This highly interactive seminar will take writers on a journey of discovery, as we look at the collaborative creation for modern Devised Theatre bringing in elements of commedia dell'arte, street theatre, and improvisation. *You should wear comfortable clothing and be prepared to participate with ideas, art, movement, laughter, voices, and more.*

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$20.

1:30 PM LONG LIVE THIS CONFEDERACY (OF DUNCES)! CELEBRATING JOHN KENNEDY TOOLE

[Also at 3:00 PM]

The long and complicated history of John Kennedy Toole and his celebrated, Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *A Confederacy of Dunces*, is one of the city's great literary sagas in itself. Festival board member David Johnson interviews **Professor Kenneth Holditch**, who had a front row seat to it all. An expert in the New Orleans and Southern literary traditions, Dr. Holditch was one of Thelma Toole's close friends and heirs and was involved in the controversy over whether to publish Toole's first novel, *The Neon Bible*. This discussion leads into the performance of scenes from New Orleans native **Vivian Neuwirth's** play, *Mr. Toole*, which had its New York City premiere as one of the winning submissions for the Midtown International Theatre Festival. Neuwirth tells the story from the viewpoint of Lisette, one of Toole's students at St. Mary's Dominican College who learns of his suicide and becomes obsessed with his life story. **Todd d'Amour** plays Ken; **Brenda Currin**, Thelma, and **Beth Bartley**, Lisette. Vivian Neuwirth, also a student of Toole's, will be present for this event where there will be a talk back with the playwright and actors.

Beauregard-Keyes House, 1113 Chartres Street, \$20. Sponsored by Albert Carey, Jr.

2 PM SAINTS AND SINNERS FRENCH QUARTER WALKING TOUR

[Also at 10:30 on Friday.]

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 nearly 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 two books about French Quarter history.

Tour meets in the Hotel Monteleone Lobby, approximately 2 hours, \$25.

3:30 PM SOUL SEARCHING: A VICTORIAN-STYLE SÉANCE (SPECIAL EVENT)

Historian **Melissa Daggett** will team with spiritual medium **Juliet Pazera** to interpret the supernatural rituals popular among 19th-century Creoles of color who adhered to the beliefs of Spiritualism. Daggett's recent book, *Spiritualism in New Orleans: The Life and Times of Henry Louis Rey*, examines Le Circle Harmonique, a gathering of francophone free people of color who sought guidance from the dead at public séances in the tumultuous years spanning the antebellum era through Reconstruction. The period-furnished Hermann-Grima Historic House Museum will be the setting for a reenacted Victorian-style séance that is sure to offer untold surprises.

Hermann-Grima House, 820 St. Louis Street, Limited Seating, \$20.

7:30 PM TRIBUTE READING: TENNESSEE WILLIAMS AND THE ETERNAL CITY (SPECIAL EVENT)

(6:30 PM Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar on the veranda overlooking the Mississippi River)

Our Tribute Reading features the creative connection between Williams and his time spent in Italy and includes selections from his memoirs, the many letters he wrote while in Rome, and the imaginative writings inspired by and created during his stays. Williams visited Italy for the first time in 1948. In his *Memoirs*, Tennessee wrote, "As soon as I crossed the Italian border my health and life seemed to be magically restored. There was the sun and there were the smiling Italians." Tennessee spent a great deal of the next decade in Rome, where he worked on many of his greatest works including *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Rose Tattoo*, and *Baby Doll*.

Our readers include interviewer and raconteur extraordinaire, **Dick Cavett**; Tony Award winner **Michael Cerveris** (*Assassins* and *Fun Home*); acclaimed biographer and memoirist **Patricia Bosworth** (*Montgomery Clift: A Biography*, *Marlon Brando*, *Jane Fonda: The Private Life of a Public Woman*); actor **Bryan Batt**, who has appeared on stage, screen, and television (*Mad Men*, *Starlight Express*, *12 Years a Slave*); **Amy Dickinson**, best-selling author, advice columnist "Ask Amy" and NPR contributor; author and journalist **Julia Reed** (*Julia Reed's South: Spirited Entertaining and High-Style Fun All Year Long*), and Pulitzer Prize-winners

Rick Bragg (*Ava's Man, My Southern Journey: True Stories from the Heart of the South*) and **Robert Olen Butler** (*A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain, Perfume River*). Special guests include **Robert Wagner** and **Jill St. John**. Curated by TW/NOLF executive director **Paul J. Willis** and Williams editor and scholar, **Thomas Keith**, who serves as our Master of Ceremony providing context and introductions for the selected readings. *Sponsored by a generous grant from the New Orleans Theatre Association.*
The Jaxson on the River, 620 Decatur Street, \$35

8 PM THE MILK TRAIN DOESN'T STOP HERE ANYMORE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER)
[Also at 8 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 6 PM on Sunday.]

Whatever the game, Flora Goforth always claims victory. But how can she hope to triumph over the Angel of Death? As she finds herself in a house on fire, will she break out, or burn the world down with her? And who is the mysterious youth who's appeared at her door in her darkest hour? In *Milk Train*, Williams explores glory, death, letting go, Eastern serenity, Western decadence, and as always, the complexities of the human spirit. *Milk Train* is produced by the **Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans** in conjunction with the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival, starring New Orleans' favorite **Janet Shea** and directed by **Augustin J Corroero**.

Sanctuary Cultural Arts Center, 2525 Burgundy Street, in the Marigny. General Admission: \$25, Students/Seniors/Theater Professionals: \$20.

8 PM SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER)
[Also at 8 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 3 PM on Sunday.]

Melting in the heat of the Deep South, a dwindling star is swept up in a race against time. Fueled by booze, pills, and entitlement, Alexandra del Lago (**Leslie Castay**) places herself in the care of Chance Wayne, an ambitious gigolo with less than a heart of gold and a drama of his own unfolding. **Directed by Mel. Cook.** Produced by **Southern Rep Theatre** in partnership with the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival.

Loyola University Marquette Theatre, 6363 St. Charles Avenue. Tickets at: www.SouthernRep.com or 504-522-6545.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS SCHOLARS CONFERENCE, 9 AM – 4:45 PM

Literary experts share their insights on the creative works of America's greatest playwright. **Conference Director: Dr. Robert Bray, Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres Street, \$20 for Scholars Conference Pass, or included with Festival Panel Pass. Sponsored by The Historic New Orleans Collection.**

9:15-9:30 **Opening remarks, Robert Bray**

9:30-10:45 **A Two-Way Street: Cross Currents and Influences**—A discussion of playwrights and other artists who influenced Tennessee Williams, as well as those whose work has been influenced by Williams. **Panelists: Henry Schvey, Washington University; Raymond Jean Frontain, University of Central Arkansas; Will Brantley, Middle Tennessee State University (moderator)**

11:00-12:15 **Williams and the Female Persona**—"There is no actress on earth who will not testify that Williams created the best women characters in the modern theatre," wrote Gore Vidal shortly after Williams's death. How did Williams create such psychologically complex and demanding roles? Join our discussion to find out. **Panelists: Annette Saddik, City University of New York; Lisa D'Amour, playwright; Bess Rowen, City University of New York; Katherine Weiss, East Tennessee State University (moderator)**

1:30-2:45 **The Mutilated: Williams's Disabled Characters**—Williams's plays are replete with characters who exhibit mental and physical disorders ranging from pathological shyness to alcoholism to dissociative breaks with reality. Think Laura, Brick, and Blanche, among others. Williams scholars discuss these issues and speculate why Williams featured these problems in many of his works. **Panelists: John Bak, Université de Lorraine, France; Clay Morton, Middle Georgia State University; Michael Hooper, St. Albans School, England; Robert Bray, Middle Tennessee State University (moderator)**

3:15-4:45 **St. Louis Stories at Le Petit Théâtre, 616 St. Peter Street**—A performance of seven Tennessee Williams unpublished short stories and narrative poems, adapted for the stage and directed by Tom Mitchell, University of Illinois. These pieces, written early in Williams's career, reveal his nascent ability to create complex and compelling characters from his own experience.

MASTER CLASSES

9 AM DICK CAVETT: THE ART OF THE INTERVIEW--A TRUE MASTER OF THE REVEAL

Dick Cavett has interviewed almost everyone you can imagine—John Lennon, Judy Garland, Gore Vidal, Norman Mailer, Festival namesake Tennessee Williams—and brought out their best (and even, sometimes, their worst). With his easy style and his wide-ranging intellect, he always coaxes something new and interesting from his guests. How does he prepare? What are his secrets? And what are some of his favorite moments? America's great conversationalist shares the stories of his interviews and his long show-biz career.

The Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25 or included in Combo Pass registration.

10:30 AM WALLY LAMB: MAKING AN INTRODUCTION—TO CHARACTERS YOU'LL NEVER FORGET

From the very first time readers met Dolores Price in Wally Lamb's debut novel, *She's Come Undone*, she's lived on in our hearts. In his two most recent novels, *Wishin' and Hopin'* and *I'll Take You there*, Lamb treated us to the life of Felix Funicello, relative of the more famous Annette. In all of his work, Lamb has created strong and spirited characters, challenged by circumstance but unbowed. See how he makes these enduring characters come to life in this master class.

The Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25 or included in Combo Pass registration.

1 PM ROBERT OLEN BUTLER: CREATING FICTIONAL ART

This workshop will focus on the fundamentals of the creative process for any fiction writer, beginning or advanced, who aspires to create enduring literature. We will address such issues as what is art; what is distinctive about the way the artist addresses the world, the inner self, and the objects to be created; and what are the essential characteristics of fiction as an art form.

The Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25 or included in Combo Pass registration.

2:30 PM RICK BRAGG: TELLING THE STORY ONLY YOU CAN TELL—A MASTER CLASS WITH THE MASTER OF THE MEMOIR.

Bestselling author Rick Bragg has made us love his family through many memoirs, beginning with *All Over But the Shoutin'* and continuing all the way to the travels he chronicles in *My Southern Journey*. Hear about his adventures (and memorable meals) and get his good advice on planning your own journey as you set out on your own writing project.

The Historic New Orleans Collection, \$25 or included in Combo Pass registration.

UNO CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP PANEL SERIES

FRIDAY, MARCH 24: The Creative Writing Workshop of the University of New Orleans celebrates its 25th anniversary with a special series of panel discussions featuring alumni from the MFA program.

10 AM THE POWER OF PROSE: READING AND DISCUSSION

For 25 years, fiction and non-fiction writers have come to the University of New Orleans' MFA program to hone their skills. This panel features five of the many prose writers who have gone on to great success after leaving the classroom. Award-winning novelists **Skip Horack** (*The Other Joseph*), **Nicholas Mainieri** (*The Infinite*), and **Amanda Boyden** (*Babylon Rolling*) will read from recent work, as will creative non-fiction writers **Juyanne James** (*The Persimmon Trail and Other Stories*) and **Brenda Quant**. The writers will then be open to discussion/questions on any topics relating to the craft or impact of prose.

Moderator: M.O. Walsh

Hotel Monteleone, Cabildo Room. Panel Pass

11:30 AM THE POWER OF POETRY: 25 YEARS OF CREATIVE WRITING AT UNO

Poets who have studied at UNO's rich and diverse MFA program in Creative Writing from across the last quarter century gather to read from and discuss their work, as they consider the odd persistence of contemporary poetry both inside and outside academia in today's political environment. Nationally and internationally celebrated poets to appear include **Jericho Brown** (*Please, American Book Award; The New*

Testament), **Gina Ferrara** (*Amber Porch Light, Fitting the Sixth Finger*), **Clare Harmon** (*If Wishes Were Horses the Poor Would Ride*), **Bill Lavender** (*While Sleeping, I of the Storm, Memory Wing*), and **John Warner Smith** (*Soul Be a Witness*).

Moderator: John Gery

Hotel Monteleone, Cabildo Room. Panel Pass

1 PM THE WORK IN WRITING, THE WRITING IN WORK: MFA ALUMS AND THEIR SURPRISING JOBS

As everyone (we hope) knows, not all MFA students go on to become best-selling novelists, poet laureates, or Academy Award-winning screenwriters. However, most do find surprising ways to use their study of language and narrative in their daily lives. Join us to hear professional songwriter **Jim McCormick**, professor and app developer **Jason Buch**, yoga instructor **AC Lambeth**, editor **Marcus Gilmer**, and book publisher **Abram Himmelstein** discuss the ways that their study of the creative process continues to help them out there in “the real world.”

Moderator: Richard Goodman

Hotel Monteleone, Cabildo Room. Panel Pass

2:30 PM CAN YOU IMAGINE A BETTER PLACE TO WRITE? THE ARTISTIC ALLURE OF NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans has long been a magnet for artists, and for the last 25 years, the Creative Writing Workshop at UNO has provided a landing spot for writers from all over the world. Join writers from Australia (**Kia Groom**), Trinidad (**Trisha Rezende**), New York (**Bill Loehfelm**) and Alabama (**Tad Bartlett**) as they discuss what originally drew them to the Big Easy and the lasting effect that New Orleans has had on their lives. Hear also from New Orleans native **Maurice Ruffin** about how the city continues to inspire and challenge his fiction in multiple ways. This panel is sure to be a most complicated love song to a most complicated muse.

Moderator: Carolyn Hembree

Hotel Monteleone, Cabildo Room. Panel Pass

4 PM MR. MIYAGI AND DANIEL-SAHN: THE MUTUAL BENEFITS OF THE MENTOR/STUDENT RELATIONSHIP

There is perhaps no more subjective discipline than the study of Art. So when a teacher takes on a mentorship role with a massively talented student, things can get interesting. This panel connects former students and mentors spanning the 25 year history of the Creative Writing Workshop at UNO. Teachers like **Rick Barton** and **John Gery** have had the pleasure of watching their students, **Joseph Boyden** and **Jericho Brown**, respectively, rise to meteoric literary success. **Joanna Leake** has seen former student **Barb Johnson** not only publish to wide acclaim, but also become a fellow faculty member in the program she helped to begin. Professor **Randy Bates** is now applauding from the sidelines as recent graduate **Coleen Muir** begins to publish and teach on her own. Join these eight wonderful writers as they discuss the ups and downs of the mentor/student process and how it continues to inform their own writing and teaching lives.

Moderator: Henry Griffin

Hotel Monteleone, Cabildo Room. Panel Pass

LITERARY PANELS, THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES, AND SPECIAL EVENTS—FRIDAY, MARCH 24

Entrance to all literary panels, readings, and featured conversations with literary luminaries is included in the Festival Panel Pass, \$100.

10 AM LARGER THAN LIFE STORIES IN NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans is a city renowned for producing real-life characters who outmatch any fictional creation. Three biographers have recently traced the life stories of native sons who defy simple categorization. **Michael Tisserand's** interest in comic strips led him to profile George Herriman, a Creole of color who created the nationally syndicated Krazy Kat cartoon and addressed racial issues in the funny pages throughout the early 20th century. **Kathy Finn** brings the saga of flamboyant Saints owner Tom Benson to the printed page, and **Melissa Daggett** investigates the mysteries surrounding Henry Louis Rey, a 19th-century spiritualist who led a séance circle among free people of color who sought guidance from the dead. **Moderator: David Johnson.**
Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, Panel Pass. Sponsored by Pelican Publishing.

10 AM AND 2 PM, THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS LITERARY WALKING TOUR CREATED BY DR. KENNETH HOLDITCH

Tour meets in the Hotel Monteleone Queen Anne Parlor, Heritage Tours, \$25.

[See page 3 for full description.]

10:30 AM SAINTS AND SINNERS FRENCH QUARTER WALKING TOUR

[See page 4 for full description.]

11 AM TENNESSEE WILLIAMS ABRIDGED WITH A READING OF “AT LIBERTY” (SPECIAL EVENT/THEATER)

[See page 3 for full description.]

Beauregard-Keyes House, 1113 Chartres Street, \$20. Sponsored by Albert Carey, Jr.

11 AM THE MAN IN THE OVERSTUFFED CHAIR: TENNESSEE AND HIS FATHER (THEATER)

The words of Tennessee Williams arranged and performed by Jeremy Lawrence

[Also showing Sunday at 1 PM at the Hotel Monteleone’s La Nouvelle Ballroom.]

Cornelius Coffin Williams (C.C. as his cronies called him) famously referred to his son as “Miss Nancy.” Theirs was an uneasy relationship at best and yet in *The Glass Menagerie*, Williams idealized the absent father as “the man who fell in love with long distance.” And late in his life, Williams wrote, “The play that I want to write as a final play, some day is the story of my father . . . the angry hedge-hog under a floor lamp whose fading silk-fringe appeared to be weeping for him with more forgiveness and compassion than we were old enough or wise enough to give him.” This new piece captures a son’s struggle to love the un-loveable man who was his father.

Le Petit Theatre, 616 Saint Peter Street, \$20. Sponsored by Helen and George Ingram.

11:30 AM FIXIN’ TO SET A SPELL: SOUTHERN STORYTELLERS ON SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

“You grow up in the Mississippi Delta, you learn early on how to entertain yourself,” wrote **Julia Reed**. She is the queen of entertaining herself – and her readers – in her new book *Julia Reed’s South: Spirited Entertaining and High-Style Fun All Year Long*. **Rick Bragg** has taken us down highways and yummy byways all over the region in *My Southern Journey*. **Roy Blount, Jr.** adds his delicious sensibility with *Save Room for Pie: Food Songs and Chewy Ruminations*, and Georgia chef **Jennifer Hill Booker** adds a French flair to southern classics in *From Field Peas to Foie Gras*. Bon vivant **John Pope** (*Getting Off at Elysian Fields*) moderates.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, Panel Pass.

1 PM AND JUSTICE FOR ALL: SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Three veteran journalists talk about their search for truthful accounts of controversial, shameful past events: **Ethan Brown**, author of *Murder in the Bayou: Who Killed the Jefferson Davis Eight?*, searches for the real killer of eight women; **Justin Nobel** chronicles the wrongful conviction and eventual release of Dan Bright in *The Story of Dan Bright: Crime, Corruption and Injustice in the Crescent City*, and **John DeSantis** establishes the historical record of a racial battle in *The Thibodaux Massacre*. Using interviews, archives, and good old-fashioned detective work in historical records, they’ve come up with three important stories, sometimes at considerable personal risk. **Michael Allen Zell**, who often rights wrongs in his noir novels, moderates.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, Panel Pass.

1 PM “BRICK”—A ONE-ACT PLAY INSPIRED BY THE LIFE & LEGACY OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER)

[Also showing at 11 AM on Saturday.]

Join us as New Orleans playwright Jon Broder imagines what would have happened in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* if Brick had “the talk” with his best friend Skipper. It’s lunch time on a Friday afternoon. Drinks are being served and everyone in the restaurant is watching. Presented by Second Star Performance Collective featuring Big Easy Award winner **Bob Edes**.

Le Petit Theatre, 616 Saint Peter Street, \$20.

2 PM LAST STOP: DESIRE—A DANCE/THEATRE ADAPTATION OF A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER/DANCE/SPECIAL EVENT)

[Also showing at 7 pm Friday.]

Nicole Colbert's *Last Stop: Desire* highlights the love and tension in the relationship between three central characters: Blanche, Stella and Stanley, through dance, music, and theatre. Distilled to the essential, Tennessee Williams' text acts as a foundation to unearth the complex relationship between the three characters as well as explore, more deeply, Blanche's wounded, yet regal psyche. Original choreography by **Nicole Colbert** draws on an array of dance forms including jazz, ballet and modern set to a score created by New Orleans-based musician **Richard Bates**. **Mary Carol Chenet** (Blanche), **Josef Pons** (Stanley) and **Reese Johanson** (Stella) join the production of this dramatic and touching rendition of an American classic. **The Old U.S. Mint, 400 Esplanade Avenue. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students & teachers. Group rates are available for 10 or more.**

2:30 PM WISH YOU WERE HERE: EMERGING WRITERS TAKING US TO OTHER WORLDS

One of the great challenges facing new writers is taking readers someplace new, with authority and conviction. These writers discuss how they did it: **Nicholas Mainieri** takes us to post-Katrina New Orleans and the world of the Mexican drug cartels in *The Infinite*; **Gabrielle Lucille Fuentes** creates a chaotic 70s-era Spain in *The Sleeping World*; and **Matthew Griffin** chronicles the long relationship of a closeted gay couple in the post-war American heartland in *Hide*. **Katy Simpson Smith**, known for *The Story of Land and Sea* and *Free Men*, novels set in colonial America, moderates this panel. **Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, Panel Pass.**

3:00 PM AUTHORS: MAKE YOUR PITCH!

One of New Orleans' beloved indie bookstores, Crescent City Books, has launched its publishing imprint for New Orleans fiction, CCB. If you have a New Orleans novel you would like to pitch to Michael Allen Zell, this is your opportunity. To register for a spot and for specific details, email Michael Allen Zell at ccsubmissions@gmail.com.

Deadline: March 15, 2017. Available Slots: Friday, March 24 3:00 PM • 3:20 PM • 3:40 PM • 4:00 PM • 4:20 PM • 4:40 PM.

Hotel Monteleone, French Market Room. By reservation only. No audience.

3:15 PM "ST. LOUIS STORIES" BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER)

This theatrical production is a compilation of unpublished stories by Thomas Lanier Williams (before he became "Tennessee,") set in the hometown of his youth. The characters reflect the people he knew and the places he frequented. Often funny and sometimes harrowing, these stories testify to the talent of Williams at the beginning of his career. These short stories and narrative poems are presented in a dramatic performance with an ensemble of actors from the Theatre Program of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. *Adapted for the stage by Tom Mitchell from materials in the Tennessee Williams Collection of the Ransom Research Center, University of Texas at Austin.*

Le Petit Theatre, 616 Saint Peter Street, \$20.

4 PM TAKING NO PRISONERS: THE CHALLENGES OF WRITING ABOUT WAR IN FICTION

In a time when war can break out anywhere at any moment, two distinguished novelists give us insight into their work. Pulitzer Prize winner **Robert Olen Butler** has constructed a distinguished body of work from his Vietnam experience, most recently in *Perfume River*. **Winston Groom**, known for the character immortalized in *Forrest Gump*, enters a different place in history in *El Paso*, his new novel of the Mexican Revolution. Longstanding scholar of Vietnam War fiction **Randy Fertel** moderates.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, Panel Pass. Sponsored by the Ruth U. Fertel Foundation.

7 PM LAST STOP: DESIRE—A DANCE/THEATRE ADAPTATION OF A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER/DANCE/SPECIAL EVENT)

[Also showing at 2 PM on Friday. See page 9 for full description.]

The Old U.S. Mint, 400 Esplanade Avenue. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students & teachers. Group rates are available for 10 or more.

7:30 PM DIVIDING THE ESTATE

[Also at 7:30 on Saturday and at 3 PM on Sunday.]

Le Petit Theatre presents the regional premiere of Horton Foote's *Dividing the Estate*, 2009 Tony nominee for Best Play. Stella Gordon is against parceling out her family's land, despite financial woes brought on by the 1980s' oil bust. Old resentments and sibling rivalries surface as this hilariously dysfunctional family fights to claim the biggest piece of the pie.

Le Petit Theatre, 616 St. Peter Street. Call 504-522-2081 or visit www.lepetittheatre.com to purchase tickets.

8 PM THE MILK TRAIN DOESN'T STOP HERE ANYMORE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER)

[Also at 8:00 on Thursday and Saturday, and at 6 PM on Sunday. See page 5 for full description.]

Sanctuary Cultural Arts Center, 2525 Burgundy Street, in the Marigny.

General Admission: \$25, Students/Seniors/Theater Professionals: \$20.

8 PM SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER)

[Also at 8 PM on Thursday and Saturday and at 3 PM on Sunday. See page 5 for full description.]

Loyola University Marquette Theatre, 6363 St. Charles Avenue. Get tickets at: www.SouthernRep.com or 504-522-6545.

9 PM LITERARY LATE NIGHT—BY ANY SCENES NECESSARY: THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

The **NOLA Project** returns to the Festival this year with their unique theater/improv hybrid, "Any Scenes Necessary." In this special Festival edition, Tennessee Williams takes the place of Andy Cohen to bring you Watch What Happens Live—The Real Housewives of Tennessee Williams. With the help of some audience suggestions, Tennessee will orchestrate a reunion where the women of his plays relive, reimagine and restage all the dramatic moments of their lives. You'll finally get to see what these lovely ladies have been up to since their tragic stories graced America's stages. It's the Wingfield Home meets Big Daddy's Plantation meets Belle Reve. Hold on to your memories! This unique event was created by and features the Festival's very own "Stella," **Cecile Monteyne** along with New Orleans' actors and long-form improvisers.

The Theatre at St. Claude, 2240 St. Claude Avenue, \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

8 AM BOOKS AND BEIGNETS (SPECIAL EVENT)

Energized anew by Robert Olen Butler's most recent novel, *Perfume River* (2016), the group returns to his Pulitzer Prize-winning collection of short stories, *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain* (1992). Attendees are invited to read all of these now-classic stories that deftly explore the legacy of the Vietnam War and the people affected by the conflict, including those who relocated to South Louisiana. The discussion will focus on "Open Arms," "Mr. Green," "The Trip Back," "Love," "Snow," and "A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain." The suggested edition is the most recent paperback (ISBN 978-0802137982). Traditional New Orleans fare of coffee and beignets at Muriel's Restaurant with lively discussion to follow led by Southern literary scholar Gary Richards and a guest appearance by the author. Seating is limited to 50 persons; pre-registration is required. **Muriel's Jackson Square Restaurant, \$25.**

LITERARY PANELS, THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Entrance to all literary panels, readings, and featured conversations with literary luminaries is included in the Festival Panel Pass, \$100.

10 AM AND 2 PM, THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS LITERARY WALKING TOUR CREATED BY DR. KENNETH HOLDITCH

Tour meets in the Hotel Monteleone Queen Anne Parlor, Heritage Tours, \$25.

[See page 3 for full description.]

10 AM WOMEN ON WOMEN, IN LITERATURE, IN LIFE

Women are truly at the fore and being “grabbed” in so many places these days, it’s time we look at how these four writers captivate their readers with their stunning storylines and characterization. Just how do they create their complicated female characters, and how much do they draw on their own lives to do so? Do these characters’ lives matter more in this political climate? These writers all craft very strong female characters; however, that is not the way women are often portrayed in the media these days. Let these writers seize your hearts and minds. **Panelists: Dorothy Allison, Moira Crone, Gabrielle Lucille Fuentes, and Bernice McFadden. Moderator: Nancy Dixon.**

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, Panel Pass.

10 AM WIZARD OF THE ONE-ACT PLAY: TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

“I think the peak of my virtuosity was in the one-act plays. Some of which are like fire crackers in a rope,” Williams told director Elia Kazan in 1950 and, true to his word, he proved to be master of the form. The first and last plays written by Williams were one-acts: *Beauty is the Word* (1930) and *The One Exception* (1983). During that 53-year span, Tennessee Williams penned over 75 that are now published, more one-act plays than any major American playwright, with the most recent collection, *Now the Cats with Jeweled Claws and Other One-Act Plays*, released in 2016. The variety of form and content Williams could explore and experiment with in these short works — from eye-popping dramas, black comedies, satire, myth, and sci-fi, to issues of race, sexuality, and gender, in locations from New Orleans to London and the bottom of the ocean to a dystopian future — are staggering and go well beyond what he could accomplish in his primarily commercial full-length plays. **Panelists: Beau Bratcher, Augustin J Correro, Bess Rowen, and Henry Schvey. Moderator: Thomas Keith. Williams Research Center, Panel Pass.**

10 AM GETTING AT THE REAL STORY: CREATING COMPELLING NONFICTION

Lorraine Boissoneault found her inspiration in a group of teens for *The Last Voyageurs: Retracing La Salle’s Journey across America, Sixteen Teenagers on the Adventure of a Lifetime*; **Jack Davis** found his great story of politics and geography in *Gulf: The Making of an American Sea*; **Miriam Davis** was drawn into an age-old murder case in *The Axeman of New Orleans*; and **Jeremy Alford** and **Tyler Bridges** went behind the political scenes in *Long Shot: A Soldier, A Senator, A Serious Sin and an Epic Louisiana Election*. **Susan Larson** moderates.

Muriel’s Jackson Square Restaurant, Panel Pass.

11 AM “BRICK”—A ONE-ACT PLAY BY JON BRODER INSPIRED BY THE LIFE & LEGACY OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER)

[Also showing at 1 PM on Friday. See page 9 for full description.]

Le Petit Theatre, 616 Saint Peter Street, \$20.

11 AM RESTAURANT ROYALTY REVEALED: TI MARTIN IN CONVERSATION WITH JOHN POPE (SPECIAL EVENT/FOOD)

Co-proprietor of one of the most beloved restaurants in New Orleans, the legendary Commander’s Palace, **Ti Adelaide Martin** dishes on her family dynasty and shares stories from growing up as part of restaurant royalty. Ti faithfully carries on the family legacy, embodying the spirit of the New Orleans’ cuisine and cocktail culture. The daughter of Ella Brennan, “mother, mentor, blunt-talking fireball, and matriarch of a New Orleans restaurant empire,” Ti has expanded the family business to include Café Adelaide, the Swizzle Stick Bar, and SoBou, and co-authored several books that offer a glimpse into her family’s kitchens where iconic chefs like Paul Prudhomme, Emeril Lagasse, and James Beard Award winner, Tory McPhail got their start. Her most recent is a candid autobiography co-written with her mother, *Miss Ella Brennan of Commander’s Palace: I Don’t Want a Restaurant*

Where a Jazz Band Can't Come Marching Through! The book is far more than the story of a woman and her life in the restaurant business; it is the history of how American restaurants and cuisine came to be where they are today. **Moderated by John Pope with brunch samples and cocktails provided by Café Adelaide.**
Café Adelaide, 300 Poydras Street in the Loew's Hotel, \$20.

11:30 AM WILD AND PRECIOUS LIVES: A PANEL ON MEMOIR

Long before poet Mary Oliver posed the essential question, "What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?," memoirists were rising to the challenge, describing battles fought, changes made, new visions of their own lives, clearing the past to make way for the future. Join **Patricia Bosworth, Amy Dickinson, Kiese Laymon** and **Lara Naughton** as **Anne Gisleon** asks them about the struggles of examining their personal experiences for public consumption.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, Panel Pass. Sponsored by Janet Daley Duval and Amelia Koch.

11:30 AM THE WOMEN OF MILK TRAIN AND SWEET BIRD

The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore and *Sweet Bird of Youth*, Williams's two meditations on braving mortality, loneliness, and fear, feature heroines that have been played by larger-than-life stars such as Tallulah Bankhead (in *Milk Train*) and Elizabeth Taylor (in film adaptations of both plays). Bankhead's and Taylor's outlandish performances have propelled these works to an almost cult status, and a closer appraisal suggests that Williams created Flora Goforth and Alexandra Del Lago with himself in mind. Join our conversation to explore both stage and screen versions of these two plays. Panelists: **Will Brantley, Leslie Castay, Mel. Cook, Augustin J Correro.** Moderator: **Katherine Weiss.**

Williams Research Center, Panel Pass.

11:30 AM NOT JUST FOR YOUNG ADULTS: A FAST-GROWING FIELD IN FICTION

Bookseller **Candice Huber**, who runs the Not So YA Book Club, moderates a panel of authors who write for young adults (and by extension, everyone). **Greg Herren** writes for young gay readers, author **Kristen-Paige Madonia** is a former winner of the Festival's fiction contest, and **Alyse Arden** is author of *The Casquette Girls*, which she serialized online before publishing.

Muriel's Jackson Square Restaurant, Panel Pass.

1 PM WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? WRITING ABOUT FAMILY IN FICTION

You can't choose your family, as the saying goes, but writers do choose the families they write about. In *Perfume River*, **Robert Olen Butler** writes about the way war has shaped one American family. In **Wally Lamb's** *I'll Take You There*, he reprises protagonist Felix Funicello, who realizes valuable lessons about the women in his family; and in *All Grown Up*, **Jami Attenberg** shows how the life of a single woman is anchored by her few remaining family members. **Susan Larson** moderates a discussion of the way families provide a great—if not the greatest—subject for fiction.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, Panel Pass. Sponsored by Backspace Bar and Kitchen.

1 PM TENNESSEE WILLIAMS: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SELF

For Tennessee Williams, the relationship between his life and his art was inseparable. With details from his own experiences so clearly evident in his plays, stories, poems, and novels, Williams could arguably be called America's most autobiographical author. Join Williams scholars who discuss the obvious—and not so obvious—parallels between the real and created worlds of Tennessee Williams.

Panelists: **Robert Bray, Melanie McCabe, and Tom Mitchell.**

Moderator: **John Bak**

Williams Research Center, Panel Pass.

1 PM LONELINESS AND DESIRE: THREE SCENES BY TENNESSEE (THEATER)

Two young strangers meet on a deserted train track. Lovers say goodbye, maybe for the last time. Down on their luck strangers dream of a better life. In three scenes from plays by Tennessee Williams—*This Property is Condemned*, *The Rose Tattoo*, and *The Lady of Larkspur Lotion*—high school students from the **New**

Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) explore the loneliness, frailty, desire and illusions embodied by Tennessee Williams' rich characters.

Le Petit Theatre, 616 Saint Peter Street, \$15 suggested donation to support youth theater outreach throughout the year. *This production supported by The New Orleans Theatre Association.*

1 PM MAYHEM IS MY BUSINESS—CRIME NOVELISTS TALK ABOUT THE BURNING QUESTIONS

Kay Kendall turned to historical fiction for her most recent novel, while **Laura Elvebak** and **Bill Loehfelm** worked with police procedurals, and **Michael Allen Zell** has chosen the noir tradition. **J. M. Redmann**, the author of two ongoing series, moderates this discussion about important writing choices.

Muriel's Jackson Square Restaurant, Panel Pass. Sponsored by Mystery Writers of America, Southwest Chapter.

2:30 PM OH, WHAT A TIME IT WAS! NEW YORK CITY IN THE 1970s

In retrospect, it is the dynamic and gritty worlds of culture and the arts that still captivate and excite us from our 21st century view of New York City in the 1970s: Susan Sontag, Twyla Tharp, Fran Liebowitz, Joseph Papp, Blondie, Robert Mapplethorpe, Patti Smith, Sam Shepard, Bob Fosse, Jean-Michel Basquiat, John Lennon, Allen Ginsburg, Candy Darling, Andy Warhol, Liza Minnelli, Philippe Petit, and Sid Vicious are just a few of the notable figures who come to mind, along with iconic sites such as Studio 54, CBGB's, Max's Kansas City, The Ridiculous Theatrical Co., La MaMa, The Chelsea Hotel, Christopher Street, the NYC Subway System, The World Trade Center, Filmore East, and The Bottom Line. As it happens, Tennessee Williams's experimental novel of New York City in the 1970s, *Moise and the World of Reason* (1975), has just been reissued—no less than John Waters has called it a “radical little novel”—and depicts many of the sights and sounds that will be discussed on this panel. Panelists will include **Patricia Bosworth**, **Dick Cavett**, and **Winston Groom**. Moderator is **Thomas Keith**, editor of Williams titles for New Directions.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, Panel Pass. Sponsored by the Friedman Family.

2:30 PM A CONVERSATION ABOUT RACE: FINDING STRENGTH FOR THE STRUGGLE IN GREAT WRITING

A panel of impressive writers who work in various forms discuss their inspirations and struggles and readership. **Jericho Brown** is a rising star in poetry; **Kiese Laymon** has given us memorable fiction and memoir; **Bernice McFadden** writes novels of strong black characters; poet and nonfiction writer **Kalamu ya Salaam** turns to the Black Arts Movement in his most recent book, *The Magic of Juju*. Short story writer and essayist **Maurice Carlos Ruffin** moderates a conversation about where we are now and how black literature matters more than ever in these divided states of America.

Williams Research Center, Panel Pass.

4 PM TAKING THE TRUTH OFF THE PAGE: LITERARY ACTIVISTS SPEAK OUT

In a time of political change and threats to arts support, writers/activists are seeking and finding new ways to come together. Moderator **Megan Holt** of One Book/One New Orleans moderates a panel with novelists **Jami Attenberg** and **Adrian Van Young** of Writers Resist, **A Scribe Called Quess?**, and a representative of Louisiana Books 2 Prisoners talk about their ongoing efforts and the new paradigm for literary activism.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, Panel Pass.

4 PM THE BABY DOLLS: PRESERVING CULTURE (DISCUSSION AND FILM SCREENING)

One of the most exciting and inspiring revitalizations in New Orleans culture has been the revival of the Baby Doll Carnival tradition and its exploration in a new book and film. The Festival is pleased to present this early screening. Meet **Dr. Kim Vaz-Deville**, whose study, *“The Baby Dolls”: Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition*, has sparked this renewed interest; she is the producer with **Vashni Balleste**, of the documentary *The Baby Dolls: Preserving Culture in New Orleans*, directed by **Dr. Tia Smith** in collaboration with the Xavier University Department of Mass Communication. And you'll get to hear from some of the Baby Dolls who are keeping this empowering, beautiful tradition alive on the city's streets.

Williams Research Center, Panel Pass.

4:30 PM A CONVERSATION WITH ROBERT WAGNER AND JILL ST. JOHN

Robert Wagner and his wife **Jill St. John** both have strong connections to Tennessee Williams: Mr. Wagner co-starred as Brick in an acclaimed 1976 television production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. His illustrious co-stars were Natalie Wood, Laurence Olivier, and Maureen Stapleton. Mrs. Wagner co-starred with Vivien Leigh, Warren Beatty, and Lotte Lenya in the memorable 1961 film of Williams' novel *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*. Interviewer and film historian **Foster Hirsch** will focus on the Wagners' Williams credits before opening up the discussion to a consideration of the long and distinguished careers of both guests. Robert Wagner, with one of the longest sustained careers in Hollywood history, was a major star at Twentieth Century Fox in the 1950s, starring in early CinemaScope spectacles such as *Prince Valiant* and *Beneath the 12-Mile Reef*. Other early credits include *Titanic*, *The Mountain*, *Broken Lance*, *The True Story of Jesse James*, and (unforgettably) as the cold-eyed killer in *A Kiss Before Dying*. *Harper*, *The Longest Day*, *The Condemned of Altona*, *The Pink Panther*, *Austin Powers*, and the beloved and internationally popular TV series *Hart to Hart* will also be discussed. Jill St. John may be most noted for her appearance as a Bond girl opposite Sean Connery in *Diamonds Are Forever*, but she has many other major credits including *The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker*, *Holiday for Lovers*, *The Lost World*, *Tender Is the Night*, *Come Blow Your Horn*, *The Oscar*, *Banning*, and *Tony Rome*. Also to be discussed are the books that both actors have written. This Hollywood power couple has been married over 26 years.

Le Petit Theatre, \$20

6 PM IN CELEBRATION OF WRITERS

The Festival is excited to celebrate and recognize emerging talent alongside established voices of the literary scene. First, acclaimed author Dorothy Allison, our 2017 Fiction Contest judge, will present our 2017 contest winner. Allison and the winner will both read from their fiction. Then Louisiana Poet Laureate Peter Cooley, who judged our Poetry Contest, will present our 2017 Poetry winner. Cooley and the winning poet will read from their work. The evening will conclude with authors from the University of New Orleans' Creative Writing Workshop, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary, sharing their writing. Free and open to the public.

Beauregard-Keyes House, 1113 Chartres Street. Free.

7:30 PM DIVIDING THE ESTATE

[Also at 7:30 PM on Friday and at 3 PM on Sunday. See page 10 for full description.]

Le Petit Theatre, 616 St. Peter Street. Call 504-522-2081 or visit www.lepetittheatre.com to purchase tickets.

8 PM THE MILK TRAIN DOESN'T STOP HERE ANYMORE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER)

[Also at 8 PM on Thursday and Friday, and at 6 PM on Sunday. See page 5 for full description.]

Sanctuary Cultural Arts Center, 2525 Burgundy Street, in the Marigny.

General Admission: \$25, Students/Seniors/Theater Professionals: \$20.

8 PM SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER)

[Also at 8 PM on Thursday and Saturday and at 3 PM on Sunday. See page 5 for full description.]

Loyola University Marquette Theatre, 6363 St. Charles Avenue.

Get tickets at: www.SouthernRep.com or 504-522-6545.

DRUMMER AND SMOKE: A DAY OF MUSIC AT THE PALM COURT JAZZ CAFÉ, 1204 Decatur Street

11 AM: LA COEUR CREOLE: THE CREOLE MUSICAL HEART OF LOUISIANA

Bruce Sunpie Barnes will showcase a collection of original compositions all written in Creole, along with some historic Creole tunes, offering a unique and rare glimpse into Louisiana Creole life, past and present. **Panel Pass or \$10.** Sponsored by the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park and a special thanks to Matt Hampsey.

1 PM: THE MUSICAL JOURNEY OF NEW ORLEANS COMPOSER ROGER DICKERSON

This special two-hour program will feature a scintillating interview with composer Roger Dickerson by renowned radio announcer **Fred Kasten**. Dickerson will also perform piano music reflective of his varied cultural journey, traveling through early blues to “pop” and modern jazz. Spinto-Soprano **Dr. Valerie Anne Jones-Francis** accompanied by pianist **Dr. Wilfred Delphin** will perform several original works by the composer—art-songs which reflect stages of Dickerson’s creative journey.

The session includes segments from Dickerson’s *New Orleans Concerto* documentary film (1977) and excerpts from a 2014 concert honoring Roger Dickerson and his music at the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music. Performances of music from the composer’s recently completed musical comedy, *Preacher Man! Preacher Man!* and a short question and answer session between Dickerson and the audience will close out the afternoon.

Panel Pass or \$15.

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

LITERARY PANELS, THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Entrance to all literary panels, readings, and featured conversations with literary luminaries is included in the Festival Panel Pass, \$100.

10 AM AND 2 PM, THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS LITERARY WALKING TOUR CREATED BY DR. KENNETH HOLDITCH

Tour meets in the Hotel Monteleone Queen Anne Parlor, Heritage Tours, \$25.

[See page 3 for full description.]

10 AM PLACES IN THE HEART: THE HISTORY OF NEW ORLEANS’ BELOVED LANDMARKS

From “under the clock at D.H. Holmes” to the rusty bridge in Bywater, New Orleanians cherish their landmarks and special meeting places. This panel of experts gives you a tour of the New Orleans landscape, past and present. **Peggy Scott Laborde** traces the history of the Fairgrounds in her new book; historian **Pamela Tyler** explores the past and vibrant present of the Poydras Home; and **Sally Asher** tours St. Louis Cemeteries Nos. 1 and 2. Your tour guide to these wonders? **Errol Laborde**, who has his own favorites. **Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, Panel Pass.**

10 AM NEW ORLEANS GAY HISTORY: AN LGBTQ MECCA

The city has long been known as a welcoming haven for the LGBTQ community, but it has its dark side as well. **Clayton Delery-Edwards** talks in his award-winning book, *The Upstairs Lounge Arson: Thirty-Two Deaths in a New Orleans Gay Bar, June 24, 1973*, about one of the great tragedies in that history. **Alecia Long**, author of the forthcoming book, *The Trouble with Tight Pants*, chronicles the city’s homophobia, particularly during Jim Garrison’s prosecution of Clay Shaw. And **Frank Perez**, author of *In Exile: The History and Lore Surrounding New Orleans Gay Culture and Its Oldest Gay Bar* and founder of the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana, describes the Archives’ efforts to collect gay history. **Moderator: Brad Richard.** **Hotel Monteleone, Royal Ballroom, Panel Pass.** Sponsored by the Ethel and Herman L. Midlo for New Orleans Studies at UNO.

11 AM STAGED READING OF THE 2017 FESTIVAL ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST WINNER (THEATER)

The Festival is proud to showcase the winning play of this year's One-Act Play Contest through a dynamic staged reading of the script. The winner receives a \$1500 cash prize. This event is presented by the University of New Orleans Department of Film, Theatre, and Communication Arts. The Creative Writing MFA Program at the University of New Orleans administers and coordinates the competition and judging.

Hotel Monteleone, La Nouvelle Ballroom, Panel Pass or \$10 at the door.

11 AM FIELD PEAS TO FOIE GRAS: FRENCH FLAVORS IN THE HEART OF THE SOUTH (SPECIAL EVENT/FOOD)

Chef Jennifer Hill Booker talks about growing up with Southern flavors, connecting with French traditions, and becoming a Food Ambassador. Conversation will focus on the farm-to-table movement, farmer's markets, the melding of food cultures in the South, and preserving food culture. She will be introducing her new book *Dinner Déjà Vu* along with discussing her previous book *Field Peas to Foie Gras*. This hearty discussion will be moderated by New Orleans' culinary activist **Poppy Tooker** with samples from Booker's creations provided by our host **Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House**. Books will be available for sale and signing by Chef Jennifer.

Bourbon House, 144 Bourbon Street, \$15.

11:30 AM PROHIBITION AND MURDER WITH SALLY ASHER

The play *Chicago* was written by female reporter Maurine Watkins and premiered in 1926 billed as a "satirical comedy." Based on Chicago's Beulah Annan, the "prettiest murderess," and Belva Gaertner, the "most stylish" murderess, it portrayed the tabloid culture of the era. In 1933, months before Prohibition ended, New Orleans had a similar high-profile murder and trial involving backwoods Kentucky girl Mrs. Albert Busha, aka Lou O'Neil, and her gangster boyfriend Gus Tomes, aka Dutch Gardner of the Terminal Gang. Whiskey, bootlegging, murder, a lost dog, even a Pulitzer Prize honorable mention for reporting — this story has it all. Sally Asher lectures from a chapter of her upcoming book on Prohibition from LSU Press featuring local actors doing dramatic reenactments.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, Panel Pass. Sponsored by Baker Donelson.

11:30 AM PROFESSORS WHO PUBLISH -- FROM POETRY TO THE PARANORMAL

Nicole Greene, Executive Director of Xavier Review Press, leads a discussion of Xavier University authors with works ranging from fiction with a paranormal edge, landmark poetry anthologies and collections, to writing about art and performance. **Sim Shattuck**, author of *Dark Angel, Pass Me, Biljana D. Obradović*, co-editor of *Cat Painters: Contemporary Serbian Anthology*, and **Ralph Adamo**, author of *Ever*, talk about preparing their work for publication. They are joined by **Lisa Flanagan**, a specialist in performance writing, and **Mapo Kinnord**, an expert in ekphrastic writing, will address being part of a larger literary community, and balancing their teaching and writing lives.

Hotel Monteleone, Royal Ballroom, Panel Pass. Sponsored by Xavier University of Louisiana.

1 PM THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT THE SOUTH: A PANEL OF GREAT STORYTELLERS

Meet writers who both honor and push against traditional Southern norms of stories of place, race, faith and family. Novelist **Michael Farris Smith** writes about age-old family rivalries in a small town; **M.O. Walsh** crafts an unforgettable coming-of-age story with a twist; **Martin Pousson** chronicles the hard life of a young gay man; and **Mary Miller** offers stories of young women you probably recognize. Novelist **Bev Marshall**, a fine Southern storyteller herself, moderates this discussion of what makes Southern fiction so wonderfully Southern, and why it breaks your heart.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, Panel Pass.

1 PM THE CHINESE IN THE GULF SOUTH

Many ethnicities combined to form the unique amalgam of cultures that define the Gulf South. Among the least studied are the Chinese, the first wave of whom arrived in New Orleans as agricultural laborers following the Civil War. Geographer **Richard Campanella** has studied the two Chinatowns that existed in the Crescent City through the mid-20th century. Rhodes College professor **Shaolu Yu** of Memphis, Tennessee, is

engaged in a humanities mapping project aimed at documenting Chinese immigration in the Mississippi Delta, and historian **Winston Ho** continues to document Chinese history in the metro area, including cemetery tombs, laundries, churches, and the political ascension of the late Jefferson Parish Sheriff Harry Lee. **Moderator: David Johnson.**

Hotel Monteleone, Royal Ballroom, Panel Pass. *Sponsored by the Confucius Institute at Xavier University of Louisiana.*

1 PM THE MAN IN THE OVERSTUFFED CHAIR: TENNESSEE AND HIS FATHER (THEATER)

The words of Tennessee Williams arranged and performed by Jeremy Lawrence

[Also at 11AM on Friday at Le Petit Theatre. See page 8 for full description.]

Hotel Monteleone, La Nouvelle Ballroom, \$20. *Sponsored by Helen and George Ingram*

2:30 PM IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PLAYWRIGHT: DICK CAVETT AND TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

In 1974, Dick Cavett sat down with our namesake playwright for a full-length interview on his late night ABC show. We'll talk to Cavett about his interviews with Tennessee Williams, along with his long career as one of our country's most well-known, entertaining, and insightful interviewers. The interview includes clips from the show featuring Cavett and Williams.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom, \$15 or Panel Pass

2:30 PM THE WAY OF THE POET

Bill Lavender, co-founder of the New Orleans Poetry Festival, previews that festival and moderates a panel of fine New Orleans poets who are also teachers, reading their new work and discussing their poetic concerns: **Stacey Balkun**, who has just published *Lost City Museum*; **Peter Cooley**, whose ninth book is *Night Bus to the Afterlife*; **Jerry Ward**, author of *Fractal Song*; and **Rodney Jones**, whose 11th book is *Village Prodigies*.

Hotel Monteleone, Royal Ballroom, Panel Pass.

2:30 PM "NOW THE CATS WITH JEWELLED CLAWS" BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER)

Tennessee Williams wrote his absurdly acidic one-act "Now the Cats with Jewelled Claws" in the late 1960s, then revised it in 1981, not long before his death. Through the play, Williams reflects on loneliness, mortality, and how trivial the human existence can be. This one-act is set during the New York City after-Christmas sales in a ladies-who-lunch Manhattan restaurant with two society women and two gay bikers. Fragmented, funny, and sinister, it combines bitter comedy and decadent sexuality with an eccentric song-and-dance sequence, as well as stage directions for dialogue to be sung, though no music was written for it during Williams' lifetime. Though it may seem jaded, the play contains the compassion Williams always had for the outcasts. Award-winning director **Beau Bratcher** (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Night of the Iguana*, *A Truckload of Ink*) directs this staged reading starring members of the **NOLA Project** ensemble.

Hotel Monteleone, La Nouvelle Ballroom, \$20.

3 PM DIVIDING THE ESTATE (THEATER)

[Also at 7:30 PM on Friday and Saturday. See page 10 for full description.]

Le Petit Theatre, 616 St. Peter Street. Call 504-522-2081 or visit www.lepetittheatre.com to purchase tickets.

3 PM SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER)

[Also at 8 PM on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. See page 5 for full description.]

Loyola University Marquette Theatre, 6363 St. Charles Avenue.

Get tickets at: www.SouthernRep.com or 504-522-6545.

4:15 PM SHOUTING CONTEST

Contestants vie to rival Stanley Kowalski's shout for "STELLAAAAA!!!" in the unforgettable scene from *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Women are welcome to join in and yell for Stanley (or Stella) as the NOLA Project's

Cecile Monteyne provides inspiration on the Jackson Square balcony as our Stella. Celebrity judges will choose five finalists and declare a new winner. Prizes awarded. Free and open to the public. *Sponsored by Gulf Coast Bank and Trust Co. and The New Orleans Advocate*

Jackson Square

6 PM THE MILK TRAIN DOESN'T STOP HERE ANYMORE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER)

[Also at 8 PM on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. See page 4 for full description.]

Sanctuary Cultural Arts Center, 2525 Burgundy Street, in the Marigny.

General Admission: \$25, Students/Seniors/Theater Professionals: \$20.