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LITERARY  
FESTIVAL



2017  
MARCH 22-26

*la primavera*



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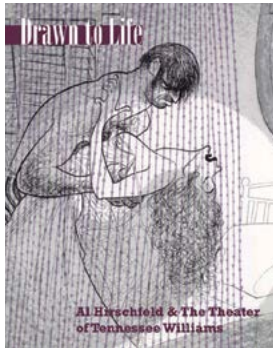
*Publishing award-winning books on the history, art, and culture of Louisiana and the Gulf South for more than 30 years*

## Tennessee Williams Annual Review

*edited by R. Barton Palmer*

THNOC is proud to publish the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*—the only regularly published journal devoted solely to the works, influence, and cultural context of the great American playwright. Visit [www.tennesseewilliamsstudies.org](http://www.tennesseewilliamsstudies.org) for more information.

Paperback; \$15 each. Available online and at festival book tables.



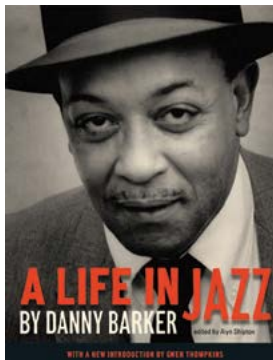
## Drawn to Life

**Al Hirschfeld and the Theater of Tennessee Williams**

*by Mark Cave and David Leopold, with a foreword by Rex Reed*

Published in commemoration of Williams's 2011 centennial, this catalog features works by renowned "characterist" Al Hirschfeld and correspondence, programs, and family photographs documenting Williams's habit of drawing from his own life to create some of the most compelling characters in American theater.

Paperback; \$17.95

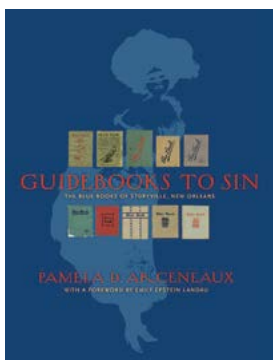


## A Life in Jazz

*by Danny Barker, an illustrated edition edited by Alyn Shipton, with a new introduction by Gwen Thompkins*

An elder statesman of jazz and an international representative of New Orleans and African American culture, Danny Barker (1909–1994) is credited on more than a thousand recordings and penned dozens of original songs. This new illustrated edition of his autobiography brings Barker's story back into print and adds fresh insight into his legacy.

Hardcover; \$39.95



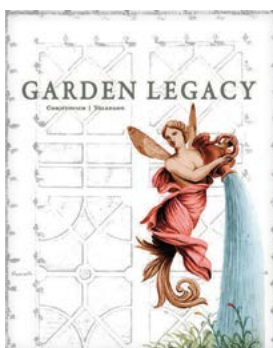
## Guidebooks to Sin

**The Blue Books of Storyville, New Orleans**

*by Pamela D. Arceneaux, with a foreword by Emily Epstein Landau*

Between 1897 and 1917, a legal red-light district known as Storyville thrived at the edge of the French Quarter. Though many scholars have written about Storyville, *Guidebooks to Sin* offers the first thorough study of the blue books—directories of the neighborhood's prostitutes, featuring advertisements for liquor, brothels, and other goods and services.

Hardcover; \$50



## Garden Legacy

*by Mary Louise Mossy Christovich and Roulhac Bunkley Toledano, with a foreword by S. Frederick Starr*

This sumptuously illustrated survey of the French-American tradition of landscape design in New Orleans showcases period maps and prints from a wide range of historical sources, including THNOC's holdings, the remarkable plan-book collection of the New Orleans Notarial Archives, and memoirs of early Louisiana settlers and naturalists.

Hardcover; \$49.95



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## Available at the Hotel Monteleone

### Books

Titles by Festival  
participants waiting  
to be signed by the author.

### Festival Souvenirs

Posters, T-shirts, book bags,  
and other items created espe-  
cially for the Festival available

for purchase.

### Garden District Book Shop

Britton Trice  
2727 Prytania Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
504-895-2266  
gardendistrictbookshop.com

## Important Reminders

The Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Contributions are deductible according to the provision of current tax laws. Because of variations in attendance, the purchase of a Festival panel pass cannot guarantee seating for every panel discussion. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, but is generally available.

Please note that during the Festival, many activities may be recorded for archival and/or commercial purposes. By attending Festival events, you hereby grant to The Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival and others permission to photograph and record you visually and orally for various TV and/or film productions. You grant universal rights for any reproduction of your image, likeness, or voice, throughout the Festival weekend.

Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival

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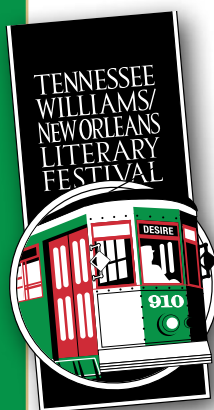
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## Authors: Make Your Pitch!

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](mailto: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

### ABOUT MICHAEL:

Michael Allen Zell's first play, *What Do You Say To a Shadow*, was named one of the Top 10 Plays of the Year in 2013 by *The Times-Picayune*. His first novel, *Errata*, was named one of *The Times-Picayune's* Top 10 Books of 2012. He is two books into the Bobby Delery series of New Orleans crime fiction/social novels. Zell has worked as a bookseller in New Orleans since 2003.



## Educational Outreach Programs

### WRITE NOW

**Friday, March 24, 2017**

The Festival offers a day of workshops for New Orleans' young writers through our high school education outreach program, WriteNOW. Approximately 150 students from Lusher, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, and the Neighborhood Story Project will participate this weekend. Justin Nobel (*The Story of Dan Bright*), Kristen-Paige Madonia (*Fingerprints of You* and *Invisible Fault Lines*), and Kiese Laymon (*Long Division*) will share their techniques, expertise, and advice with students. The Festival also provides students with free passes to attend Festival events.

**Supported by the Joe and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation, the Keller Family Foundation, and Postlethwaite and Netterville, APAC.**

### STAGING FOR SUCCESS

The Festival's newest educational outreach program, Staging for Success, launched this year with workshops for high school students by theater professionals, such as actors, directors, and managers. The program culminates this weekend with a production of scenes from one-act plays by Tennessee Williams at Le Petit Théâtre by students from the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts.

**Staging for Success made possible by the New Orleans Theatre Association. NOTA supports performing arts throughout the Greater New Orleans area.**



## CURL UP INSIDE A GREAT STORY

*The hotel that inspired the likes of Capote, Hemingway, and Tennessee Williams welcomes you to come find your own inspiration. Meet up at the Criollo Restaurant for an exquisite meal based on a true farm-to-table approach. After dinner, step over to the Carousel Bar & Lounge for live music and see where these authors spun their evening—and their stories. Then retreat for an historic night's sleep surrounded by contemporary style and amenities, right in the heart of the French Quarter. For upcoming events, visit <http://hotelmonteleone.com/entertainment/carousel-bar/>.*



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**Vip Pass \$600**  
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Includes all Weekend Panels Friday — Sunday

**Day Panel Passes \$40 Friday,  
Saturday or Sunday**

**Single Panels \$10**

**Special Events, Walking Tours and Theater**  
— Prices Vary

#### COLOR KEYS

Lavender - WALKING  
TOURS

Pink - SPECIAL EVENTS  
Blue - MASTER CLASSES

Red - THEATER EVENTS  
Yellow - PANELS

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

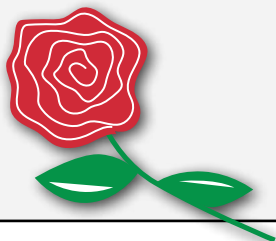
**7:30 P.M.  
Opening night**

Where Sex and Sin Were the Specialties:  
An Evening of Storyville Memories  
(Special Event)

See Page 10 for full description and pricing  
Le Petit Theatre

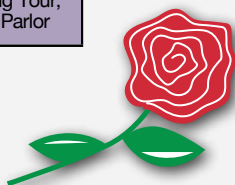
### THURSDAY, MARCH 23

Historic New Orleans Collection	Hotel Monteleone	Beauregard-Keyes House Special Events	Various Locations (Special Events)	Various Locations (Theater)
9:00 A.M. Making History: A Master Class with Patrick Maney on Presidential Biography	9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Ticket Sales Hotel Monteleone, Orleans Room	11:00 A.M. Tennessee Williams Abridged with a Reading of "At Liberty" (Special Event/Theater) \$20	3:30 P.M. Soul Searching: A Victorian-Style Séance (Special event) \$20 Hermann-Grima House	8:00 PM The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore; \$20/\$25 Tennessee Williams Theatre Co. of New Orleans Production Sanctuary Cultural Arts Center
10:30 A.M. Use Your Words: A Master Class in Writing with Roy Blount, JR.	9:00 A.M. Writing Marathon Queen Anne Ballroom FREE		6:30 PM Cocktail Hour, 7:30 Performance Tribute Reading: Tennessee Williams and the Eternal City (Special Event) \$35 The Jaxson on the River	8:00 PM Sweet Bird of Youth \$25 Preview Southern Rep Production Loyola University Marquette Theatre
1:00 P.M. Inspiration and Process: A Master Class with Playwright Lisa D'Amour	1:00 P.M. Charlene A. Donaghy: Devised Theater Workshop \$20; Queen Anne Ballroom			1:30 P.M. Long Live THIS Confederacy (Of Dunces)! Celebrating John Kennedy Toole (Special Event/Theater) \$20 Gallier House
2:30 P.M. Ask Amy: A Master Class with Columnist Amy Dickinson	2:00 P.M. Frank Perez's Saints and Sinners LGBT Literary Walking Tour \$25 Hotel Monteleone Lobby			



### FRIDAY, MARCH 24

Hotel Monteleone	The Historic New Orleans Collection (Master Classes)	Hotel Monteleone Queen Anne Ballroom (Panels)	Hotel Monteleone Cabildo Room Panels: UNO's Creative Writing Workshop	Various Locations (Theater)	Various Locations (Special Events)
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Ticket Sales and Souvenirs Orleans Room	9:00 A.M. Dick Cavett: The Art of the Interview -- A True Master of the Reveal	10:00 A.M. Larger Than Life Stories in New Orleans	10:00 A.M. The Power of Prose: Reading and Discussion	11:00 A.M. The Man in the Overstuffed Chair: Tennessee and His Father (Theater) \$20 Jeremy Lawrence	9:00 A.M. - 4:15 P.M. Scholars Conference Williams Research Center \$20 or Panel Pass
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Book Fair Bonnet Carré Room	10:30 A.M. Wally Lamb: Making an Introduction—To Characters You'll Never Forget	11:30 A.M. Fixin' to Set a Spell: Southern Storytellers on Southern Hospitality	11:30 A.M. The Power of Poetry: 25 Years of Creative Writing at UNO	1:00 P.M. "Brick", \$20, Second Star Performance Collective Le Petit Theatre	9:15 A.M. —Welcome 9:30 A.M. - 10:45 A.M. A Two-Way Street: Cross Currents and Influences
10:00 A.M. Kenneth Holditch's Literary Walking Tour Queen Anne Parlor	1:00 P.M. Robert Olen Butler: Creating Fictional Art	1:00 P.M. And Justice for All: Setting the Record Straight	1:00 P.M. The Work in Writing, The Writing in Work: MFA Alums and their Surprising Jobs	3:15 P.M. "St. Louis Stories" \$20 Le Petit Theatre	11:00 A.M. - 12:15 P.M. Williams and the Female Persona
10:30 A.M. Frank Perez's LGBT Literary Walking Tour Hotel Monteleone Lobby	2:30 P.M. Rick Bragg: Telling the Story Only You Can Tell — A Master Class with the Master of Memoir	2:30 P.M. Wish You Were Here: Emerging Writers Taking Us to Other Worlds	2:30 P.M. Can You Imagine a Better Place To Write? The Artistic Allure of New Orleans	7:30 P.M. Dividing the Estate \$35/\$40/\$50 Le Petit Theatre Production	1:30 - 2:45 P.M. The Mutilated: Williams' Disabled Characters
2:00 P.M. Kenneth Holditch's Literary Walking Tour, Queen Anne Parlor		4:00 P.M. Taking No Prisoners: The Challenges of Writing About War in Ficiton	4:00 P.M. Mr. Miyagi and Daniel- Sahn: The Mutual Benefits of the Mentor/ Student Relationship	8:00 PM The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore \$20/\$25 Tennessee Williams Theatre Co. of New Orleans Sanctuary Cultural Arts Center	3:15 - 4:45 P.M. "St. Louis Stories" (Theater) at Le Petit Theatre
				8:00 PM Sweet Bird of Youth \$40 Southern Rep Production Loyola University Marquette Theatre	11:00 A.M. Tennessee Williams Abridged with a Reading of "At Liberty" \$20 Beauregard-Keyes House
				9:00 P.M. Literary Late Night By Any Scenes Necessary: The Real Housewives of Tennessee Williams \$15/\$20 The NOLA Project The Theatre at St. Claude	2:00 and 7:00 P.M. Last Stop: Desire \$15/\$20 (Ballet Production) The Old U.S. Mint



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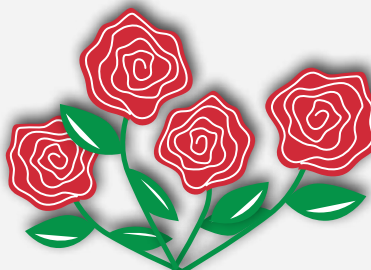
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## SATURDAY, MARCH 25

Hotel Monteleone	Hotel Monteleone Queen Anne Ballroom Panels	Williams Research Center Panels	Muriel's Jackson Square Restaurant	Le Petit Theatre	Various Locations
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Ticket Sales and Souvenirs Orleans Room	9:00 A.M. Writing Marathon, Free  10:00 A.M. Women on Women, In Literature, In Life	10:00 A.M. The Wizard of the One-Act Play: Tennessee Williams	8:00 A.M. Books and Beignets \$25 A Discussion of Robert Olen Butler's Good Scent from a Strange Mountain	11:00 A.M. "Brick" \$20 (Theater) Second Star Performance Collective	11:00 A.M. Restaurant Royalty Revealed: Ti Martin in Conversation with John Pope \$20 (Special Food Event) Café Adelaide
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Book Fair Bonnet Carre Room	11:30 A.M. Wild and Precious Lives: A Panel on Memoir	11:30 A.M. The Women of Milk Train and Sweet Bird	10:00 A.M. Getting at the Real Story: Creating Compelling Nonfiction	1:00 P.M. Loneliness and Desire: Three Scenes by Tennessee (Theater) NOCCA Student Production \$15 donation	6:00 P.M. In Celebration of Writers Free Beauregard-Keyes House
10:00 A.M. Kenneth Holditch's Literary Walking Tour \$25, Queen Anne Parlor	1:00 P.M. Who Are These People? Writing About Family in Fiction	1:00 P.M. Tennessee Williams: The Autobiographical Self	11:30 A.M. Not Just for Young Adults: A Fast-Growing Field in Fiction	4:30 P.M. Robert Wagner and Jill St. John Interview with Foster Hirsch \$20	8:00 P.M. The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore (Theater); \$20/\$25 Tennessee Williams Theatre Co. of New Orleans Sanctuary Cultural Arts Center
2:00 P.M. Kenneth Holditch's Literary Walking Tour \$25, Queen Anne Parlor	2:30 P.M. Oh, What a Time It Was! New York City in the 1970s	2:30 P.M. A Conversation About Race: Finding Strength for the Struggle in Great Writing	1:00 P.M. Mayhem Is My Business: Crime Novelists Talk About the Burning Questions	7:30 P.M. Dividing the Estate (Theater); \$35/\$40/\$50 Le Petit Theatre Production	8:00 P.M. Sweet Bird of Youth (Theater); \$40 Southern Rep Theatre Loyola University, Marquette Theatre
	4:00 P.M. Taking the Truth Off the Page: Literary Activists Speak Out	4:00 P.M. The Baby Dolls: Preserving Culture (Discussion and Film Screening)			

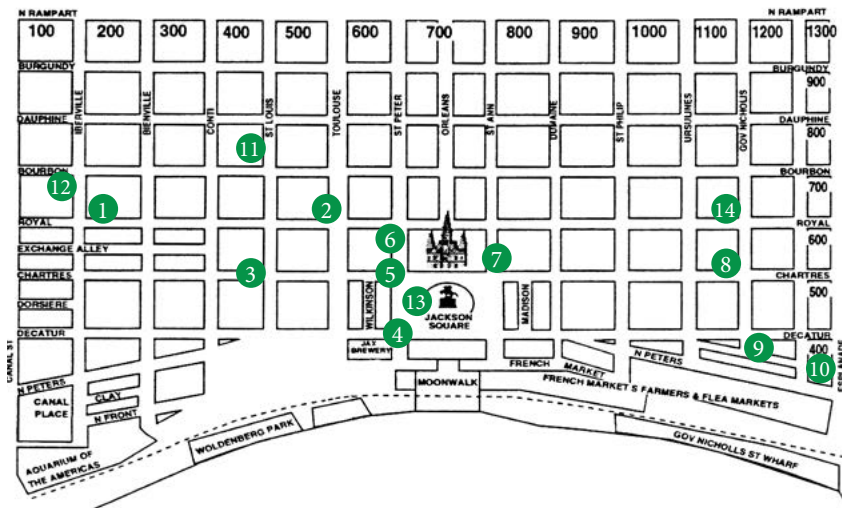
## SUNDAY, MARCH 26

Hotel Monteleone	Hotel Monteleone Queen Anne Ballroom Panels	Hotel Monteleone Royal Ballroom Panels	Palm Court Jazz Café Drummer and Smoke	Hotel Monteleone La Nouvelle	Various Locations
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Ticket Sales and Souvenirs Orleans Room	9:00 A.M. Writing Marathon, Free  10:00 A.M. Places in the Heart: The History of New Orleans' Beloved Landmarks	10:00 A.M. New Orleans Gay History: An LGBTQ Mecca	11:00 A.M. LA Coeur Creole: The Creole Musical Heart of Louisiana with Sunpie Barnes \$10 or Panel Pass	11:00 A.M. Staged Reading of the 2017 Festival One-Act Play Contest Winner	11:00 A.M. Field Peas to Foie Gras: French Flavors in the Heart of the South (Special food event) \$15 Bourbon House
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Book Fair Bonnet Carre Room	11:30 A.M. Prohibition and Murder with Sally Asher	11:30 A.M. Professors Who Publish — From Poetry to the Paranormal	1:00 P.M. The Musical Journey of New Orleans Composer Roger Dickerson \$15 or panel pass	1:00 P.M. The Man in the Overstuffed Chair: Tennessee and His Father (Theater) \$20 Jeremy Lawrence	2:30 P.M. Writing Marathon Wrap-Up and Reading FREE Hotel Monteleone Gallier Room
10:00 A.M. Kenneth Holditch's Literary Walking Tour Queen Anne Parlor	1:00 P.M. That's What I Like About the South: A Panel of Great Storytellers	1:00 P.M. The Chinese in the Gulf South		2:30 P.M. "Now the Cats with Jewelled Claws" by Tennessee Williams (Theater) \$20 The NOLA Project	3:00 P.M. Sweet Bird of Youth \$40 (Theater) Southern Rep Theatre Loyola University, Marquette Theatre
2:00 P.M. Kenneth Holditch's Literary Walking Tour Queen Anne Parlor	2:30 P.M. An Interview with Dick Cavett and screening of His Interview with Tennessee Williams \$15 or Panel Pass	2:30 P.M. The Way of the Poet			3:00 P.M. Dividing the Estate \$35/\$40/\$50 Le Petit Theatre
					4:15 P.M. Shouting Contest Free, Jackson Square
					6:00 P.M. The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore \$20/\$25 (Theatre) Tennessee Williams Theatre Co. of New Orleans Sanctuary Cultural Arts Center





# 2017 Festival Sites



## EVENTS/VENUES OUTSIDE THE FRENCH QUARTER

The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore  
Sanctuary Cultural Arts Center  
2525 Burgundy Street, in the Faubourg Marigny

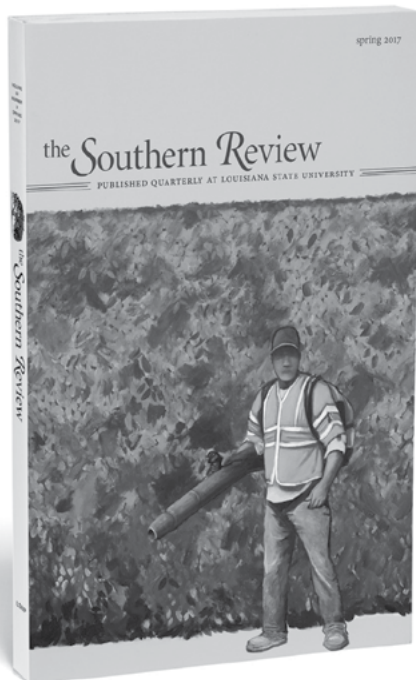
Sweet Bird of Youth  
Loyola University's Marquette Theatre  
6363 St. Charles Avenue

The Real Housewives of Tennessee  
The Theatre at St. Claude  
2240 St. Claude Avenue

Restaurant Royalty with Ti Adelaide Martin  
Café Adelaide  
300 Poydras Street in the Loew's Hotel

- 1 Hotel Monteleone  
214 Royal Street
- 2 The Historic New Orleans Collection  
533 Royal Street
- 3 Williams Research Center  
410 Chartres Street
- 4 The Jaxson on the River  
620 Decatur Street
- 5 Dickie Brennan's Tableau  
616 Saint Peter Street
- 6 Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré  
616 Saint Peter Street
- 7 Muriel's Jackson Square Restaurant  
801 Chartres Street
- 8 Beauregard-Keyes house  
1113 Chartres Street
- 9 Palm Court Jazz Café  
1204 Decatur Street
- 10 The Old U.S. Mint  
400 Esplanade Avenue
- 11 Hermann-Grima Historic House  
820 St. Louis
- 12 Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House  
144 Bourbon Street
- 13 Jackson Square  
St. Peter Street, Shouting Contest
- 14 Gallier House  
1132 Royal Street

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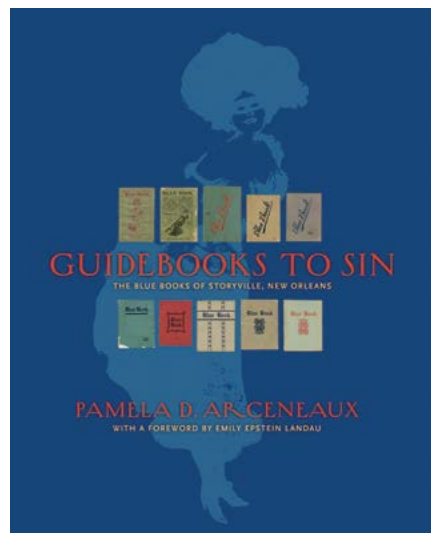
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7:30 PM

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



The Historic New Orleans Collection, 1969.19.4

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 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 aspects 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.** Sponsored by the History/A+E Networks. Music & dance sponsored by Paige Royer and Kerry Clayton.

**\$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.

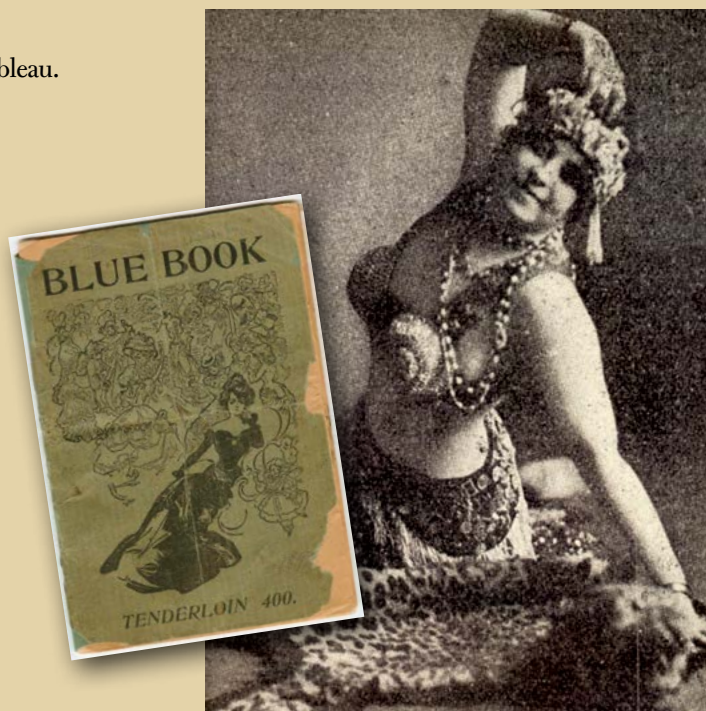
**\$45 ADMISSION: EVENT AND POST-SHOW PARTY**

- 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

**\$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.

Photograph of Rita Walker from Blue Book, [1913-15], The Historic New Orleans Collection, 85-517-RL







## 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](http://www.writingmarathon.com).

**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's Gallier Room.

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

**Includes a Festival Panel Pass. Thank you to the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, Master Class Series Sponsor.**



The Historic  
New Orleans  
Collection

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**9 AM – 4 PM**

**FESTIVAL TICKET SALES, ORLEANS ROOM AT THE HOTEL MONTELEONE**

## 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 Master Class series 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 Master Class series 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 Master Class series 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 memoirs *The Mighty Queens of Freeville* and *Strangers Tend to Tell Me Things*. 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 Master Class series registration.**

## THEATER & SPECIAL EVENTS



**11 AM**

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

Part lecture, part performance, and all promised to entertain! Join Tennessee Williams scholar **Augustin J. Correr** 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**

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.

**Gallier House, 1132 Royal Street, \$20.**  
Sponsored by Albert Carey, Jr.

## 2 PM SAINTS AND SINNERS FRENCH QUARTER WALKING TOUR

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 Cercle Harmonique, a gathering of francophone free people of color who sought guidance from the dead at public seances 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 (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)

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. Correro**.

**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)

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.**

Get tickets at: [www.SouthernRep.com](http://www.SouthernRep.com) or 504-522-6545.





# CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS CELEBRATES ITS



THE UNIVERSITY of  
**NEW ORLEANS**  
CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

# 25th ANNIVERSARY

**FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017**

**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*), **Nick 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 ALUMNI 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 Himelstein** 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**



# 2017 Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference

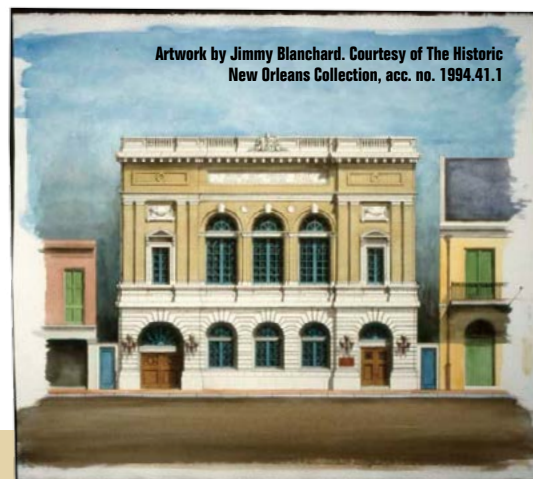
**Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres Street**

*Robert Bray, Director*



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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.*

- 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.*

- 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.*

- John Bak, Université de Lorraine, France
- Clay Morton, Middle Georgia State University
- Michael Hooper, St. Margaret’s School, England
- Robert Bray, Middle Tennessee State University (moderator)

3:15-4:45



**ST. LOUIS STORIES**

*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.*



**9 AM – 4 PM**

**FESTIVAL TICKET SALES AND  
SOUVENIRS, ORLEANS ROOM AT THE  
HOTEL MONTELEONE**

## BOOK FAIR, BONNET CARRE ROOM AT THE HOTEL MONTELEONE

Local independent bookseller Garden District Book Shop will offer books for sale by Festival authors, along with books about Louisiana and all things Tennessee.

### TENNESSEE WILLIAMS SCHOLARS CONFERENCE

**9 AM – 4:45 PM**

Literary experts share their insights on the creative works of America's greatest playwright. Complete schedule is on page 15.

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.*

### UNO CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP PANEL SERIES

The Creative Writing Workshop of the University of New Orleans celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special series of panel discussions featuring alumni from the MFA program. Complete schedule is on page 14.

**Hotel Monteleone, Cabildo Room,  
Panel Pass.**

## 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



PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON

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 Master Class series  
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 Master Class series  
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 Master Class series  
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 Master Class series  
registration.**

## 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**

**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  
FRIDAY 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.

**10:30 AM**

**SAINTS AND SINNERS FRENCH  
QUARTER WALKING TOUR**

Approximately 2 hours, \$25. See Page 11 for full description.

**11 AM**

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



See page 12 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**

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.**

**Presented by special arrangement with  
the University of the South.**

**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 BY JON BRODER INSPIRED BY THE LIFE & LEGACY OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER)**

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 St. Peter Street, \$20**

**2 PM**

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



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.**

**3:15 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)**

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.**

**7:30 PM**

**DIVIDING THE ESTATE**

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](http://www.lepetittheatre.com) to purchase tickets.**

**8 PM**

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



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. Correro**.

**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)**

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.**

Get tickets at: [www.SouthernRep.com](http://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 improvisors. Doors open at 8:30 PM.

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





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.**

9 AM – 4 PM

**FESTIVAL TICKET SALES AND SOUVENIRS, ORLEANS ROOM AT THE HOTEL MONTELEONE**

## BOOK FAIR, BONNET CARRE ROOM AT THE HOTEL MONTELEONE

Local independent bookseller Garden District Book Shop will offer books for sale by Festival authors, along with books about Louisiana and all things Tennessee.

## 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

## 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. Corroero, Henry Schvey, and Bess Rowen. 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)

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.**

11 AM

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

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**

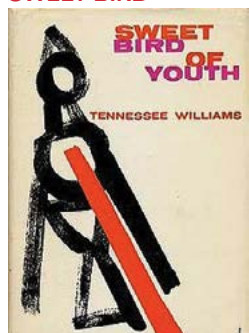
## WILD AND PRECIOUS LIVES: A PANEL ON MEMOIR

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 Mimi 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 **Alys Arden** who serialized her novel *The Casquette Girls* 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 programming throughout the year.**

**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 21<sup>st</sup> century view of New York City in the 1970s: Susan Sontag, Twyla Tharp, Fran Lebowitz, 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* with 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 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*. Also to be discussed are *Harper*, *The Longest Day*, *The Condemned of Altona*, *The Pink Panther*, *Austin Powers*, and the beloved and internationally popular TV series *Hart to Hart*. **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*. Both actors have written books.

**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**, 2017 Fiction Contest judge, will present our fiction winner. Allison and the winner will both read from their fiction. Then Louisiana Poet Laureate **Peter Cooley**,



**SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2017**



*la primavera*

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 of the University of New Orleans' Creative Writing Workshop (celebrating its 25th anniversary) sharing their writing. **Beauregard-Keyes House. Free and open to the public.**

**7:30 PM**

**DIVIDING THE ESTATE**

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](http://www.lepetittheatre.com) to purchase tickets.

**8 PM**

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

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

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**8 PM**

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**Loyola University Marquette Theatre, 6363 St. Charles Avenue.**

Get tickets at: [www.SouthernRep.com](http://www.SouthernRep.com) or 504-522-6545.

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# DRUMMER & SMOKE

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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.*



**9 AM – 3 PM**

**FESTIVAL TICKET SALES AND  
SOUVENIRS, ORLEANS ROOM AT THE  
HOTEL MONTELEONE**

## BOOK FAIR, BONNET CARRE ROOM AT THE HOTEL MONTELEONE

Local independent bookseller Garden District Book Shop will offer books for sale by Festival authors, along with books about Louisiana and all things Tennessee.

**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**

**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.

**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 & Herman L. Midlo Center 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 FOOD EVENT)**



**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 her new book, *Dinner Déjà Vu*. 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.

**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. Obradovic**, 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 scholar of Chinese history **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**

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 hedgehog 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.

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

*Presented by special arrangement with the University of the South.*

**2:30 PM**

## AN INTERVIEW WITH DICK CAVETT

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. Panel Pass or \$15.**







## 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

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](http://www.lepetittheatre.com) to purchase tickets.**

## 3 PM

### SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (THEATER)

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.**

Get tickets at: [www.SouthernRep.com](http://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*.



PHOTO BY GREG MILES

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**

## 8 PM

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

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. Correro.**

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

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

# Theater Offerings

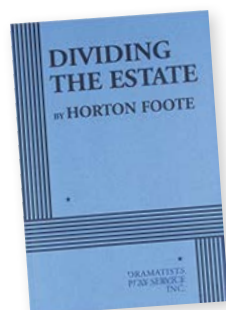
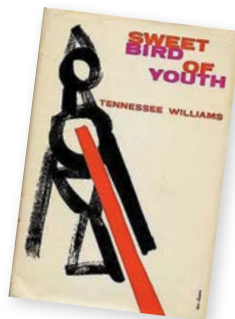
## **SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH**

by Tennessee Williams

SOUTHERN REP THEATRE



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 (Martin Bradford), an ambitious gigolo with less than a heart of gold and a drama of his own unfolding. Directed by Mel. Cook. Loyola University Marquette Theatre, 6363 St. Charles Avenue. Preview Performances: \$25. Wednesday, March 22-Thursdays, March 23 at 8 PM. Regular Performances: \$40. Friday, March 24-Sunday, April 16. Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 PM; Sundays at 3 PM. Tickets at: [www.SouthernRep.com](http://www.SouthernRep.com) or 504-522-6545.



## **DIVIDING THE ESTATE**

by Horton Foote

Le PETIT THÉÂTRE DU VIEUX CARRÉ



In this regional premiere of Horton Foote's 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. March 24-April 2 and April 13-15. Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 PM; Sundays at 3 PM. Note there are no performances April 6 - 9 or April 16. Call 504-522-2081 or visit [www.lepetittheatre.com](http://www.lepetittheatre.com) to purchase tickets.



## **THE MILK TRAIN DOESN'T STOP HERE ANYMORE**

by Tennessee Williams

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS

Whatever the game, Flora Goforth always claims victory. But how can she hope to triumph over the

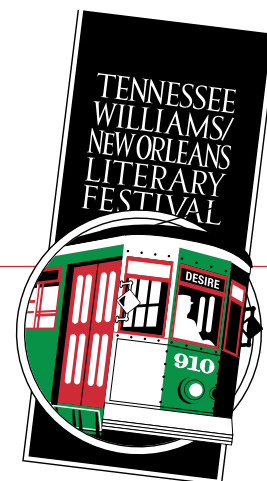
Angel of Death? As she finds herself in a house on fire, will she break out, or burn the world down with her? And who is the mysterious youth who's appeared at her door in her darkest hour. Starring New Orleans' favorite Janet Shea and directed by Augustin J Corroero. Sanctuary Cultural Arts Center, 2525 Burgundy Street, in the Marigny. March 23-25 at 8 pm; March 26 at 6 pm; and March 30-April 2 at 8 pm. General Admission: \$25, Students/Seniors/Theater Professionals: \$20.



SAVE THE DATE  
MARCH 21-25, 2018

# FRIENDS OF TENNESSEE

Tennessee Williams' tragic heroine, Blanche Dubois, was fond of saying she always depended on the kindness of strangers. Here at the Festival, we depend on the kindness of FRIENDS. You can become a Friend of Tennessee and help us provide quality programming, support writers and theater, and provide educational outreach to local students. Plus, members receive discounts on Festival tickets and special perks! You can join year-round by visiting our website at [www.tennesseewilliams.net](http://www.tennesseewilliams.net) or call 504-581-1144.



## 2016-17 MEMBERS AS OF MARCH 1, 2017

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Elizabeth Dubus  
Barbara Ewell  
Deborah Fagan  
Jane Ferguson  
Joel Fredell  
Lawrence Henry Gobble  
Eric Johnson  
John Kelly  
Jackie and Bill Koenig  
Frederick Lee Lawson  
Sarah and Zachary Lazar  
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Mary Mitchell  
Linda Nix  
Nell Nolan  
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Mary Ramsey Evans  
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Steve Hirst  
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Ti Martin  
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Sandra Nickel  
Cynthia Nobles  
Stuart Noel and Joseph Bishop  
Lurana O'Malley  
Nancy and Stanley Pond  
Hal Reed  
Hélène and Al Rufty  
Richard Stewart  
Ruby and Jerry Tremont  
Ashbrooke Tullis  
Theresa Westerfield  
Sara Woodard

### GENTLEMAN CALLER

Elgart Aster and Paul Swerdlove  
Mamie Gasperecz  
Wendy Griswold  
Page Harris  
Lura Harrison  
Mary and Charles Harvell  
Karissa Kary  
Mary Myrick Langlois  
James Rowland, Ed.D.  
Terry Verigan  
John Wade  
Barbara Wingo

### MAGGIE THE CAT

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Judy and Allain Andry  
Rick Barton  
Marshall Bennett  
Erin Alexander Bolles  
Patricia Brady  
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Mr. Ed's Restaurant Group  
Muriel's Jackson Square  
New Orleans Pharmacy Museum  
Nola Healer  
Ogden Museum of Southern Art  
Plum  
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Sage Body Work  
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The Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival is a non-profit arts organization made possible by many kindred spirits who take an active role in keeping the literary arts vibrant and accessible. We gratefully acknowledge their funding in the form of grants, donations, and in-kind support.



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

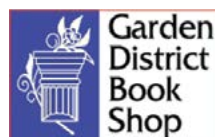
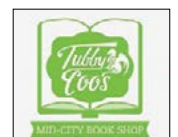
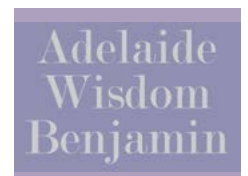


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# Participants



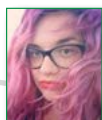
**Ralph Adamo**, former editor of both *Barataria* and *New Orleans Review*, edits *Xavier Review* at Xavier University in New Orleans, where he is an Associate Professor of English. His most recent collections of poetry are *Waterblind: New & Selected Poems* (Portals Press 2002) and *Ever: Poems 2000-2014* (Lavender Ink, 2014).



**Jeremy Alford** is the publisher and editor of *LaPolitics Weekly*, *Tuesday Tracker* and *LaPolitics.com*. His syndicated news columns are carried by more than 25 newspapers and magazines across Louisiana. His bylined work appears regularly in *The New York Times*, and he has written for *The Dallas Morning News*, Associated Press and *Campaigns & Elections* magazine. He has also served as an analyst for CNN, FOX News, MSNBC, C-SPAN and NPR.



**Dorothy Allison** is the author of *Bastard Out of Carolina*, a finalist for the 1992 National Book Award, and *Cavedweller*, a national bestseller and a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, as well as a collection of short fiction, *Trash*. Her short stories have appeared in *The Best American Short Stories* and *The Best of the South*. A novel, *She Who*, is forthcoming from Viking Penguin.



**Alys Arden** was raised by street performers, tea leaf-readers, and glittering drag queens of the Vieux Carré. One cliché-gray-day in London, she started writing her debut novel, *The Casquette Girls*, in serialized form on the Internet. It garnered over 1.2 million reads online, a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly*, and became a number one best seller on Amazon. It was recently acquired by Skyscape in a two-book deal.



**Sally Asher** is the author of *Hope & New Orleans: A History of Crescent City Street Names* and *Stories from the St. Louis Cemeteries of New Orleans*. She holds two master's degrees from Tulane University and has been the public relations photographer since 2008. Asher frequently lectures on New Orleans history through the Louisiana State Museum and is currently working on a book about Prohibition in New Orleans to be published by LSU Press in 2017.



**Jami Attenberg** is the *New York Times* best-selling author of five novels, including *The Middlesteins* and *Saint Mazie*. She has contributed essays about sex, urban life, and food to the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Guardian*, and *Lenny Letter*, among other publications.



**John S. Bak** is *Professeur* at the Université de Lorraine in France. He holds degrees from the University of Illinois, Ball State University, and the Sorbonne in Paris. He was a Fulbright Scholar in 1995 and Visiting Fellow at Harvard (2011), Columbia (2013) and Texas (2014). He is currently a Visiting Senior Fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford. His edited books include *Tennessee Williams and Europe* (2014) and *New Selected Essays: Where I Live* (2009). He is the author of the monographs *Ernest Hemingway*, *Tennessee Williams*, and *Queer Masculinities* (2009) and *Tennessee Williams: A Literary Life* (2013).



**Stacey Balkun** is the author of *Jachalope-Girl Learns to Speak* and *Lost City Museum*. A Finalist for the 2016 Event Horizon Science Poetry Competition as well as the Center for Women Writer's 2016 Rita Dove Award, her work has appeared in *Crab Orchard Review*, *Gargoyle*, *Muzzle*, *Bayou*, and others. A 2015 Hambidge Fellow, Stacey served as Artist-in-Residence at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 2013. She holds an MFA from Fresno State and teaches poetry online at The Poetry Barn.



**Vashni Balleste** is from upstate New York and studied broadcast journalism at Xavier University. She has been a freelance photographer for *Ebony Magazine* and written for *tennis.com*. Balleste is a UNCF grant recipient and documented political issues at the borders of Haiti for American Friends. She has directed music videos, contributed to publications such as *Sofar Sounds*, *BalconyTV* and *Data News Weekly*. A black culture enthusiast and documentarian, Vashni's goal is always to build platform for often silenced voices.



**Bruce Sunpie Barnes** is a veteran New Orleans musician who has traveled to over 50 countries playing his own style of what he calls Afro-Louisiana music, incorporating blues, zydeco, gospel, Caribbean, and African influenced rhythms and melodies. He is a multi-instrumentalist, master accordion and harmonica player. Sunpie leads his own internationally popular group, the Louisiana Sunspots, and is also a member of the world renowned Paul Simon Band.



**Tad Bartlett** was born in Ankara, Turkey; grew up in Selma, Alabama; and married into New Orleans. His fiction has appeared in *Baltimore Review*, *Carolina Quarterly*, and *Bird's Thumb*, among others. His non-fiction has appeared in *Chautauqua Literary Journal*, *Writing Disorder*, and the online *Oxford American*. He's twice been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Tad received his MFA from the Creative Writing Workshop at UNO. He is a founding member of the Peauxdunque Writers Alliance.



**Beth Bartley** performed on Broadway in *Fortune's Fool* (dir. Arthur Penn). She played Catherine Holly in *Suddenly Last Summer* (dir. Aimée Hayes) and in *Suddenly Last Summer* (dir. Augustin Corroero) in Columbus, MS and in Provincetown. She played Carol Cuttore in *Orpheus Descending* (dir. Jef Hall-Flavin) and in *Orpheus Descending* (dir. Austin Pendleton) in NYC in 2016. Bartley graduated from the Interlochen Arts Academy and The Juilliard School.



**Frederick Barton**, UNO writer-in-residence, is the author or editor of ten books including the book of essays *Rowing to Sweden*, the jazz opera libretto, *Ash Wednesday*, the anthology of short fiction, *Monday Nights*, and the novels *The El Cholo Feeling Passes*, *Courting Pandemonium*, *With Extreme Prejudice*, and *A House Divided*, which won the William Faulkner Prize. His short stories have been included in the anthologies *Something in Common*, *Above Ground*, and *Louisiana in Words*. His latest novel, *In the Wake of the Flagship*, is a story of culture clash, political bias, and human heartbreak. Rick also thinks it's pretty funny.



**Randy Bates**'s writing credits include *Rings: On the Life and Family of Collis Phillips* (nonfiction), *Dolphin Island* (poems), fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the

Louisiana Arts Council, and work in *Ploughshares*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Southern Review*, *Grand Street*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and many others. In 2015, he received the UNO Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Teaching.



**Bryan Batt** is a native New Orleanian, award-winning actor, designer, fundraiser, and civic activist. His film and television credits include *12 Years a Slave*, *Mad Men*, *Scream: The TV Series*, and *Jeffrey* among others. He has written two books, the "memoir" *She Ain't Heavy, She's My Mother* and the décor book *Big Easy Style*. With his partner Tom Cianfichi, Batt co-owns Hazelnut, a fine gift and home accessories shop, in New Orleans. He received the 2013 New Orleans Arts Council Community Award.



**Roy Blount, Jr.** is the author of twenty-four books including *Save Room for Pie* and *Alphabetter Juice: The Joy of Text*. *Long Time Leaving: Dispatches From Up South* won the 2007 nonfiction award from the New England Independent Booksellers Association, and AudioFile chose it as the audio version as one of the year's top five books read by their authors. He is a panelist on NPR's *Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me*, a member of PEN and the Fellowship of Southern Authors, and a usage consultant to the American Heritage Dictionary.



**Lorraine Boissonneault** is a graduate of Columbia University's School of Journalism and writes about science, history, foreign policy and adventure for publications including *The Atlantic*, *Salon*, *LitHub*, *Forbes*, *Chicago Magazine*, *The Weather Channel* and others. *The Last Voyageurs* is her first book and tells the true story of 23 Chicago-area teens and teachers who canoed 3,300 miles across North America while dressed like 17th-century French explorers.



**Jennifer Hill Booker** is an award-winning chef who trained at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Paris and makes her home in her native Georgia. In her first cookbook, *From Field Peas to Foie Gras*, she blends her love of Southern cuisine, French technique, and healthy ingredients to a new interpretation uniquely her own.



**Patricia Bosworth** is a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair* and author of bestselling biographies of Montgomery Clift, Marlon Brando, Jane Fonda, and the photographer Diane Arbus. Her Arbus biography inspired the 2006 film *Fur*, starring Nicole Kidman and Robert Downey Jr. Bosworth is a winner of the Front Page Award and also wrote two memoirs, *Anything Your Little Heart Desires* and *The Men in My Life*; the latter was published by HarperCollins in January 2017.



**Amanda Boyden** is the author of two novels, *Pretty Little Dirty* and *Babylon Rolling*, an international bestseller and one of the French weekly *Le Point*'s top twenty books of 2010. Amanda has contributed nonfiction to *Maclean's* magazine, the *Globe and Mail*, the anthology *New Orleans: What Can't Be Lost* and others. Her short fiction has appeared in the collection 2033: *Future of Misbehavior*, *The Mid-American Review*, *Sonora Review*, the men's magazine *Gallery* and elsewhere. She is at work on her third novel.





**Joseph Boyden**, writer-in-residence and a graduate (MFA, fiction) of the University of New Orleans, is the author of *Born with a Tooth*, *Through Black Spruce*, and *Three Day Road*. An international bestseller, *Three Day*

*Road* was chosen by Isabelle Allende for The Today Show's book club, Barnes & Noble's Discover Great New Writers Program, won The Rogers Writers' Trust Prize, Canadian Authors Association Book of the Year, Libris Book of the Year, Amazon First Novel, and the Ontario Library Association Book of the Year.



**Rick Bragg** won a Pulitzer Prize in 1996 for his reporting for the *New York Times* and now teaches writing at the University of Alabama. He is the author of *All Over But the Shoutin'*, *Ava's Man*, and most recently *My*

*Southern Journey: True Stories from the Heart of the South*. Watch for his new book, with the working title *The Best Cook in the World*, later this year.



**Will Brantley** is a professor of English at Middle Tennessee State University. Brantley's publications include *Feminine Sense in Southern Memoir* (1993), which was awarded the Eudora Welty Prize for an interpretive work of

scholarship in modern letters. He is the editor of *Conversations with Pauline Kael* (1996) and co-editor of the forthcoming *Conversations with Edmund White* (2017). In 1997, Brantley co-founded the Carson McCullers Society to promote critical appreciation of the iconoclastic Georgia author.



**Beau Bratcher** returns to the Festival after directing last year's *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls*. He previously directed *Weird* for the 2008 Festival, *The Night of the Iguana* in 2010 and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Beau is a proud

member of the NOLA Project and a teacher at Lusher Charter. Other past directing credits include *4000 Miles*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Robin Hood: Thief/Brigand*, and *A Truckload of Ink*.



**Robert Bray** is the founding editor of the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review* and the founding director of the Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference. Bray is the author/co-author or editor of four books,

including *Hollywood's Tennessee: The Williams Films and Postwar America* and *Tennessee Williams and His Contemporaries*. Bray is a professor of English at Middle Tennessee State University.



**Tyler Bridges** is a freelance journalist who splits his time among New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lima, Peru. He reports for the Baton Rouge/New Orleans *Advocate* and occasionally for the *Washington Post* and *Politico*

*Magazine*. While covering politics for the *Times-Picayune*, he wrote two books: *Bad Bet on the Bayou: The Rise of Gambling in Louisiana and the Fall of Governor Edwin Edwards* and *The Rise of David Duke*. He was twice a member of Pulitzer Prize-winning teams at the *Herald* and received Columbia University's Maria Moors Cabot Award in 2010 for his South American coverage.



**Ethan Brown** is an investigative reporter and licensed private investigator based in New Orleans. He is the author of four investigative reporting driven books about crime and criminal justice policy: *Murder in the Bayou: Who*

*Killed the Women Known as the Jeff Davis 8? Shake the Devil Off: The True Story of the Murder That Rocked New*

*Orleans; Snitch: Informers, Cooperators and the Corruption of Justice*; and *Queens Reigns Supreme: Fat Cat, 50 Cent and the Rise of the Hip-Hop Hustler*.



**Jericho Brown** has received the Whiting Writers Award and fellowships from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and the National Endowment for the Arts. His poems have

appeared in *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Best American Poetry*. His first book, *Please*, won the American Book Award, and his second book, *The New Testament*, won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was named one of the best books of the year by *Library Journal*, *Coldfront*, and the Academy of American Poets. He teaches at Emory University in Atlanta.



**Jason D. Buch** is an Assistant Professor in Screenwriting and New Media at LSU. He received his B.S. in Computer Science from USF and his M.F.A. in Screenwriting from UNO.

Jason has been a working writer/producer/director for the last ten years. His work focuses on storytelling in interactive environments. In 2011, he wrote, directed, and developed the branching narrative iPhone/iPad app *So You're Dating a Vampire*. His latest project is the web series *Arceaneux*.



**Robert Olen Butler** has published sixteen novels including his most recent, *Perfume River*; six volumes of short fiction, including the 1993 Pulitzer Prize-winner, *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*; as well as a guide to

the creative process, *From Where You Dream*. In 2013 he received the F. Scott Fitzgerald Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature. He is a Francis Eppes Distinguished Professor holding the Michael Shaara Chair in Creative Writing at Florida State University.



**Leslie Castay** is starring as Alexandra Del Lago in *Sweet Bird of Youth* with Southern Rep, where she also starred in *Next To Normal*, *Grey Gardens*, and *The Clean House*. She is a seasoned

veteran of Broadway, Off-Broadway, and several National Tours. She has been featured locally with the Nola Project, Tulane Summer Lyric, Le Petit Theatre, and most recently as Eleanor of Aquitaine in *Lion in Winter*. Film and TV credits include *The Big Short*, *Beautiful Creatures*, *Common Law*, *American Horror Story*, and *NCIS: New Orleans*.



**Richard Campanella**, a geographer with the Tulane School of Architecture, is the author of *Bienville's Dilemma*, *Geographies of New Orleans*, *Bourbon Street: A History*, and other books. The only two-time winner of the LEH Book

of the Year Award, Campanella has also received the Louisiana Literary Award, Williams Prize, Hannah Arendt Prize for Public Scholarship, and Tulane Professor of the Year Award. In 2016, the Government of France named Campanella a Knight of the Order of the Academic Palms.



**Dick Cavett** has been nominated for eleven Emmy awards (the most recent in 2012 for the HBO special, *Mel Brooks and Dick Cavett Together Again*), and won three. Spanning five decades, Dick Cavett's television career

has defined excellence in the interview format. He started at ABC in 1968, and also enjoyed success on PBS, USA, and CNBC. His most recent television successes were the September 2014 PBS special, *Dick Cavett's Watergate*, followed April 2015 by *Dick Cavett's Vietnam*. He has appeared in movies, TV specials, TV commercials, and several Broadway plays. He starred in an off-Broadway production of *Hellman v. McCarthy* in

2014 and reprised the role at Theatre 40 in LA February 2015. Cavett has published four books beginning with *Cavett* (1974) and *Eye on Cavett* (1983), co-authored with Christopher Porterfield. His two recent books—*Talk Show: Confrontations, Pointed Commentary, and Off-Screen Secrets* (2010) and *Brief Encounters: Conversations, Magic Moments, and Assorted Hijinks* (October 2014) are both collections of his online opinion column, written for *The New York Times* since 2007. Additionally, he has written for *The New Yorker*, *TV Guide*, *Vanity Fair*, and elsewhere.



**Michael Cerveris** is a two-time Tony award-winning actor and has appeared in theater, film, and television, performing in productions on both Broadway and the West End. His television credits include roles

on *Fringe*, *Treme*, and *The Good Wife*, among others. His performances as Bruce Bechdel in *Fun Home* won him both a Tony and an Outer Critics Circle Award. Other recent performances include *Faust: The Concert*, *Evita*, and *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*.



**Peter Cooley** has published nine books of poetry, eight through Carnegie Mellon. His poetry has appeared in *Poetry*, *The Atlantic*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, and *The New Yorker*. A graduate of the Iowa

Writers' Workshop, he has lived over half his life in New Orleans. He is Senior Mellon Professor of the Humanities and Director of Creative Writing at Tulane University, and is the Poet Laureate of Louisiana.



**Augustin J. Corroero** serves as Founding Co-Artistic Director of the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans, where he has directed *Kingdom of Earth*, *Small Craft Warnings*, *Weird Tales* (world premieres of *The Strange*

*Play* and *Ivan's Widow*), *The Rose Tattoo*, and *Dangerous Birds (If Agitated)*. He also directed *Suddenly Last Summer* at the Columbus TW Tribute and Provincetown Festival. He earned an MFA in Theatre Pedagogy from Virginia Commonwealth University and a BA from the Mississippi University for Women.



**Moira Crone** has written six books of fiction. *The Ice Garden* won the 2015 Independent Publishers Regional Awards Gold Medal (Southeast). *The Not Yet* was short-listed for the Philip K. Dick Award, and her collections

include *Dream State* and *What Gets Into Us*. Her work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Fantasy and Science Fiction*, among others, and has been published in *New Stories from the South*. She received the Robert Penn Warren Award from the Southern Fellowship of Writers. Crone has taught and lectured all over the world.



**Brenda Currin** is an Obie award winner for *My Sister in This House* by Wendy Kesselman, and just played Thelma Toole in *Mr. Toole* by Vivian Neuirth in New York. She was

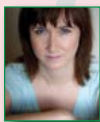
Beulah Binning in *Orpheus Descending*, directed by Austin Pendleton (New York) and Jef Hall-Flavin (Southern Rep). She also played Violet Venable in Southern Rep's *Suddenly Last Summer*, directed by Aimée Hayes. Currin's film credits include: *In Cold Blood*, *The World According to Garp*, *Reds*, *Taps*, *Life with Mikey*, and the cult classic *C.H.U.D.*



**Melissa Daggett** teaches United States history at San Jacinto College in Pasadena, Texas. Her debut book, *Spiritualism in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans: The Life and Times of Henry Louis Rey* (University Press of



Mississippi, 2017) chronicles the history of Modern American Spiritualism in the Crescent City with an emphasis on the francophone séance circle of Henry Louis Rey, a Creole of color who was a key civil rights activist, author, and Civil War and Reconstruction leader.



**Lisa D'Amour** is a playwright and co-artistic director of PearlDamour, an OBIE-award winning interdisciplinary performance company. Lisa's plays have been produced by Manhattan Theater Club (on Broadway), Steppenwolf Theater, Playwrights Horizons and Southern Repertory Theater, among others. Her play *Detroit* was a finalist for both the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. She is a past recipient of the Alpert Award for the Arts, the Steinberg Playwright Award, and is a 2013 Doris Duke Artist.



**Todd d'Amour** grew up in New Orleans and graduated from DeLaSalle High School. After earning a degree in biopsychology from Syracuse University, Todd received a degree from The American Academy of

Dramatic Arts in New York City. Stage credits include Southern Rep's *Venus in Fur*, *Orpheus Descending*, and *Airline Highway*. Other recent credits include *Detroit* at TheatreWorks, the Broadway production of *Airline Highway*, and Ken in *Mr. Toole* by Vivian Neuwirth.



**Jack E. Davis** is the author of *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea* and the award-winning *An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century*. A professor of environmental

history at the University of Florida, he grew up on the Gulf coast, and now lives in Florida and New Hampshire.



**Miriam C. Davis**, a native of Mobile, graduated magna cum laude from Emory University with a degree in history and went on to earn an M.A. in medieval archaeology from the University of York (England) on a

Fulbright Fellowship. She received her Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Santa Barbara. After teaching at Delta State University for sixteen years, Miriam is now a freelance writer and lives in Montgomery.



**Clayton Delery-Edwards** is the author of two books about LGBT history in New Orleans: *The Up Stairs Lounge Arson* and the forthcoming *The Murder of Fernando Rios*. He has essays included in *My Gay New Orleans*

and *Fashionably Late: Gay, Bi, and Trans Men Who Came Out Later in Life*. His article, "New Orleans and the Drive Against The Deviates," will soon appear in an anthology titled *Queering the South*.



**John DeSantis** is a veteran journalist with a criminal justice background who grew up in New York and is now Senior Staff Writer at *The Times of Houma, LA*. His first book, *For the Color of His Skin: The Murder of Yusef*

*Hawkins and the Trial of Bensonhurst*, tells the story of a racially motivated murder in 1989 New York. His second, *The New Untouchables: How America Sanctions Police Violence* examines deaths in police custody.



**Amy Dickinson** is author of the New York Times bestselling memoir, *The Mighty Queens of Freveille: A Story of Surprising Second Chances*, a chronicle of her experiences and misadventures as a single mother to her daughter,

Emily. She writes the syndicated advice column, "Ask

Amy," which is carried in over 150 newspapers and read by an estimated 22 million readers daily and is known for her wisdom and wit as a featured panelist on National Public Radio's comedy quiz show, "Wait, Wait . . . Don't Tell Me."



**Nancy Dixon** is an English professor at Dillard University in New Orleans and has been studying, teaching, and writing about Louisiana literature for over 20 years. Her work appears in *Louisiana Literature*, *Florida English*,

*Working in the Big Easy: The History and Politics of Labor in New Orleans*, *Turning Points and Transformations*. Her first book, *Fortune and Misery: Sallie Rhett Roman of New Orleans*, won the LEH Humanities Book of the Year, 2000. More recently, she is editor of the 2013 Lavender Ink book, *N.O. Lit: 200 Years of New Orleans Literature* and was recently named Executive Editor of the New Orleans Tricentennial Book.



**Charlene A. Donaghy's** plays have been produced in New York, Los Angeles, Great Britain, and Canada. Madison Square Productions holds the Broadway option for *The Quadron and the Dove*.

Her play collection is *Bones of Home and Other Plays*. Other publications include *Best American Short Plays*, *25\*10-Minute Plays for Teens*, and *Estrogynus*. She is the Festival Director of the Warner International Playwrights Festival, Producing Director of the Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, teaches playwriting/theatre at the University of Nebraska, and is a member of Proscenium Playwrights, among others.



**Laura Elvebak** has been a waitress, a go-go dancer, legal assistant and executive secretary, and has lusted after and loved six husbands, then ran from all of them. Now she devotes her time to writing about murder. She is the

author of six books; the most recent is *Less Dead*. She lives in Houston.



**Gina Ferrara** lives in New Orleans. Her poetry collections include: *The Size of Sparrows*, *Ethereal Avalanche*, *Amber Porch Light*, *Carville: Amid Moss and Resurrection Fern*, and *Fitting the Sixth Finger: Poems Inspired*

by the Paintings of Marc Chagall (forthcoming from Aldrich Press). She teaches English and Creative Writing at Delgado Community College. Recent work appears in *Callaloo*, *anderbo*, *Valley Voices*, and others. Twice nominated for a Pushcart, Ferrara curates The Poetry Buffet, a monthly reading series presented by the New Orleans Public Library.



**Randy Fertel**, a professor of English who has taught the literature of war for over 30 years, is the author of the award-winning 2011 memoir, *The Gorilla Man and the Empress of Steak*,

set in colorful, food-obsessed New Orleans. Novelist Tim O'Brien calls his new book, *A Taste for Chaos: The Art of Literary Improvisation*, "a stunner of a book—smart, jarring, innovative, witty, provocative, wise, and beautifully written." He founded the Ridenhour Prizes for Courageous Truth-telling in memory of his friend, whistleblower and investigative reporter Ron Ridenhour. He is Trustee Emeritus at *The Kenyon Review*.



**Kathy Finn** has spent some thirty years in New Orleans, working as a journalist covering local business and personalities extensively. The former editor of *CityBusiness* and *Biz New Orleans* magazine, as well as author of a

business column for *New Orleans Magazine*, Finn has also been a contributor to the *New Orleans Advocate* and

is a freelance correspondent for *Reuters America*. She is the author of the new biography *Tom Benson: A Billionaire's Journey*.



**Gabrielle Lucille Fuentes's** work has appeared or is forthcoming in *One Story*, *Slice*, *Pank*, *The Georgia Review*, *Western Humanities Review*, and elsewhere. She has received fellowships from Yaddo, Bread Loaf,

among others. She holds a BA from Brown University, an MFA from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Georgia. She has lived in Spain and France and currently lives in Athens. *The Sleeping World* is her first novel.



**John Gery's** poetry collections include *The Enemies of Leisure*, *Davenport's Version*, *A Gallery of Ghosts*, and most recently, *Have at You Now!* He has also written on a wide

range of poets, including a monograph on nuclear annihilation and American poetry, a co-authored guide to Ezra Pound's Venice, and a collaborative biography of Armenian poet Hmayeak Shems. A recipient of NEA, Fulbright, and University of Minnesota fellowships, among other awards, he teaches at the University of New Orleans and directs the Ezra Pound Center for Literature, Brunnenburg, Italy.



**Marcus Gilmer** is currently an Associate Real-Time News editor at Mashable.com. A 2005 graduate of the CWW (nonfiction), Marcus has also written or worked for NOLAFugees, The Gothamist network (Chicagogoist),

The Onion's AV Club, WBEZ, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Uproxx, and *The San Francisco Chronicle*. An Alabama native, Marcus now resides in Cleveland, Ohio with his wife, a dog, and a pocketful of dreams.



**Anne Gisleson's** work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Oxford American*, *The L.A. Times*, *The Believer*, *Eco-tone* and many other places. She teaches in the Creative Writing

Program at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and is co-founder of the literary and visual arts non-profit, Antenna. Her book *The Futilitarians* is forthcoming from Little, Brown this August.



**Richard Goodman** is the author of *French Dirt: The Story of a Garden in the South of France*, *The Soul of Creative Writing*, and *A New York Memoir*. His latest book is *The Bicycle Diaries: One New Yorker's Journey*

*Through 9/11*. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *Harvard Review*, *River Teeth*, *Chautauqua*, *Vanity Fair*, *Ascent*, and the *Michigan Quarterly Review*. He is an assistant professor of creative nonfiction writing at the University of New Orleans.



**Nicole Pepinster Greene** is a Kellogg Professor of English at Xavier University of Louisiana where she teaches British and Irish literature, as well as composition. She is currently the Executive

Editor of *Xavier Review Press* and the *Journal of College Writing*. Her scholarship on collaborative Irish women writers Edith Somerville and Martin Ross has been published internationally. Born in London, Greene has lived in Louisiana for almost thirty years.



**Henry Griffin** is a screenwriter and filmmaker from New Orleans. His first screenplay, *Rock Scissors Paper*, was optioned by Fox 2000 in 1996, which began an illustrious career as a



professional screenwriter and script doctor. He has worked for Fox, DreamWorks, and New Line Cinema. As an actor, he was a recurring cast member on HBO's *Treme*. He has directed documentaries and music videos, and Griffin appears monthly on the WWNO radio show "All Things New Orleans," discussing the local movie scene.



**Matthew Griffin** is a graduate of Wake Forest University and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He has taught composition, literature, and creative writing at the University of Iowa and Walters State Community College, and worked as

Assistant to the Director of Highlander Research and Education Center, a hub of grassroots organizing for social justice throughout the South and Appalachia. Born and raised in North Carolina, he now lives with his husband and too many pets in New Orleans. *Hide* is his first novel.



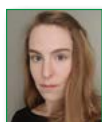
**Kia Groom** is an Australian writer and poet residing in New Orleans. She is the founding editor of *Quaint Magazine* and the recipient of an Academy of American Poets award, runner-up for the 2014 Judith Wright

Poetry Prize, the 2015 W.B. Yeats Poetry Prize, and a Pushcart nominee. Recent work has been published or is forthcoming in *The Mary Sue*, *Delirious Hem*, *Cordile*, *Westerly*, *Permafrost*, the *Hunter Anthology of Contemporary Australian Feminist Poetry*, *Poetry*, and *HYSTERIA: Writing the Female Body*.



**Winston Groom** has created a body of work in both fiction and history. He has written several novels of the Vietnam experience, as well as nonfiction about the expansion of the American West and America at war. He

is perhaps best known for *Forrest Gump*, which was made into a 1994 Academy award-winning film starring Tom Hanks and directed by Robert Zemeckis. His most recent book, *El Paso*, his first novel in nearly twenty years, is set during the Mexican Revolution. He lives in Point Clear, Alabama.



**Clare Louise Harmon** is the author of *The Thingbody* (Instar Books, 2015) and *If Wishes Were Horses the Poor Would Ride* (Finishing Line Press, 2015). Her work has appeared in numerous journals including *PANK*,

*Sixth Finch*, *Bone Bouquet*, and *The Feminist Wire*. Prior to completing her MFA at the University of New Orleans in 2015, Clare taught violin and viola at Drake University in Des Moines, IA. She currently lives in Tremé with her dog, Tinkerbell the Rescue Chihuahua.



**Carolyn Hembree's** poetry collection, *Skinny*, came out from Kore Press in 2012. Earlier this year, Trio House Books published her second collection, *Rigging a Chevy into a Time Machine and Other Ways to Escape a Plague*,

winner of the 2015 Trio Award and the 2015 Rochelle Ratner Memorial Award. Her work has appeared in *Colorado Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *The Journal*, *Poetry Daily*, and other publications. She comes from Tennessee and lives in New Orleans.



**Greg Herren** is the award-winning author of over thirty novels and fifty short stories. His most recent novel, *Garden District Gothic*, was released in September. He has also edited twenty anthologies, including

the 2016 Bouchercon anthology *Blood on the Bayou*. He has won the Lambda Literary Award twice, was short-listed twelve more times, and was also a finalist for the Shirley Jackson Award. He won two Independent Press medals for outstanding young adult mystery/horror.



**Abram Shalom Himelstein** is the co-founder of the Neighborhood Story Project and the editor in chief at the University of New Orleans Press. He has written for the *Daily Racing Form*, *The Houston Chronicle*, and *Next City*. He is the author of *What the Hell Am I Doing Here?* and co-author of *Tales of a Punk Rock Nothing*.



**Foster Hirsch**, professor of film at Brooklyn College, is the author of 16 books on film and theater. His subjects include Woody Allen, film noir, the Actors Studio, Kurt Weill, Otto Preminger, and Tennessee Williams.

He is now working on a history of Hollywood in the 1950s to be published by Alfred Knopf.



**Winston Ho** is the son of Taiwanese parents and a native of New Orleans, and a graduate of history and Chinese language from Rutgers University specializing in early 20th century China and Chinese American history

in New Orleans. He studied at the Mandarin Training Center at National Taiwan Normal University, Beijing Language and Culture University, the University of Mississippi, and the University of New Orleans. He taught Chinese at the Academy of Chinese Studies and St. Mary's Dominican High School in New Orleans. He is currently collaborating with the Historic New Orleans Collection on documenting the presence of Chinese-owned businesses in the French Quarter from the 1920s to the 1970s.



**Kenneth Holditch's** work revolves around Tennessee Williams scholarship, including being editor of the *Tennessee Williams Journal* and co-editor, along with Mel Gussow, of the *Library of America* edition of

Williams' writings. He is also a professor emeritus at the University of New Orleans. Holditch has collaborated with Richard Freeman Leavitt on *Tennessee Williams and the South* and *The World of Tennessee Williams*. He created the Tennessee Williams literary walking tours and knew the playwright.



**Megan Holt** holds a B.A. in English and Spanish from the University of Alabama and a Ph.D in English/Comparative Literature from Tulane University. She teaches in the English Department at Tulane and is active in

several community literacy projects. She is a project leader for YLC's One Book One New Orleans, a member of the Board of Directors for the Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans, and a member of the Advisory Board for the Lower Ninth Ward Street Library.



**Skip Horack** is the author of the novels *The Other Joseph* and *The Eden Hunter*, as well as the story collection *The Southern Cross*. He is a former Jones Lecturer at Stanford University, where he was also a Wallace Stegner

Fellow, and his fiction and nonfiction has appeared in *Oxford American*, *The Southern Review*, *Narrative Magazine*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, and elsewhere. A native of Louisiana, Horack is currently an assistant professor at Florida State University.



**Candice Huber** owns New Orleans' premier geeky bookstore, board gaming store, and nerd mecca: Tubby & Co's Mid-City Book Shop, named after her grandparents. She is an active online writer and regular contributor to the feminist websites Nerdy But Flirty and The Mary

Sue. She has also recently launched a progressive website/blog to promote marginalized voices and intersectionality. Huber established a Tubby & Co's publishing company last year, which will publish its first books in 2017.



**Juyanne James** is the author of *The Persimmon Trail and Other Stories* (Chin Music Press, 2015), her debut collection of 17 stories interpreting the African American experience in

Louisiana. Her stories and essays have appeared in *The Louisville Review*, *Mythium*, *Bayou Magazine*, and *Eleven Eleven*, and in the anthologies *New Stories from the South: 2009* (Algonquin) and *Something in the Water: 20 Louisiana Stories* (Portals Press, 2011). Her essay, "Table Scraps," was a notable essay in *The Best American Essays 2014*.



**Barb Johnson** worked as a carpenter in New Orleans for more than twenty years before receiving her MFA from the University of New Orleans. Her work has appeared in such magazines as *Guernica*, *The Southern Review*,

*The Greensboro Review*, *52 Stories*, *Yemassee*, and *Oxford American*, as well as in a number of anthologies. Her short story collection, *More of This World or Maybe Another*, won a number of prizes, including an American Library Association Award.



**David Johnson** serves as Editor of Museum Publications at the New Orleans Museum of Art. Previously he edited Louisiana Cultural Vistas magazine and KnowLA.org, The Digital Encyclopedia of Louisiana for

24 years. He also organizes a year-round lecture series for the Hermann-Grima + Gallier Historic House Museums.



**Rodney Jones** is the author of eleven books of poems. His numerous honors include the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Harper Lee Award, and the Kingsley Tufts Award, and he has been a finalist for the *Los Angeles*

*Times Book Award*, the Griffin International Poetry Prize, and the Pulitzer Prize. He teaches in the low-residency MFA creative writing program at Warren Wilson College and lives in New Orleans and Southern Illinois.



**Thomas Keith** has edited the Tennessee Williams titles for New Directions since 2002, including four volumes of previously unpublished or uncollected one-acts, and is co-editor of *Selected Letters of Tennessee Williams*

and *James Laughlin*. Keith is editor of *Love, Christopher Street*, an anthology of LGBT essays about New York City. He served as dramaturg for Sundance Theater Lab, reader for Yale Drama Prize, teaches theater at Pace University, has participated in this Festival every year since 2002, and in the Saints and Sinners Literary Festival since 2005.



**Kay Kendall**, an international award-winning PR executive, is the author of two mysteries set during the Vietnam War—*Desolation Row* and *Rainy Day Women*. They feature the Nancy Drew-inspired sleuth Austin

Starr. Kendall lives in Texas with her husband, three house rabbits, and a spaniel.



**Errol Laborde** is the editor-in-chief of Renaissance Publishing Company. Laborde's most recent books are *Mardi Gras: Chronicles of the New Orleans Carnival* and *Krewe: The*

*Early Carnival from Comus to Zulu*. Laborde holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of New Orleans. He is a founder of the The Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival and served as its first president. Laborde was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the New Orleans Press Club in 2016.



**Peggy Scott Laborde** has been the senior producer for the New Orleans PBS station, WYES-TV since 1987. Laborde has produced, narrated, or consulted for over thirty documentaries, and produces and hosts *Steppin' Out*,

New Orleans' only weekly arts and entertainment review program. She is the winner of a regional Emmy Award. Laborde is a founding member of the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival and served as president for over a decade. She is the co-author of five books concerning New Orleans history, including *The Fair Grounds Through the Lens: Photographs and Memories of Horse Racing in New Orleans*.



**Wally Lamb** is the author of several *New York Times*-bestselling novels: *Wishin' and Hopin'*, *The Hour I First Believed*, *I Know This Much Is True*, and *She's Come Undone*. He was twice selected for Oprah's Book Club. His most

recent novel is *I'll Take You There*. He also edited *Couldn't Keep It to Myself and I'll Fly Away*, two volumes of essays from students in his writing workshop at York Correctional Institution, a women's prison in Connecticut, where he has been a volunteer facilitator for many years. He lives in Connecticut.



**AC Lambeth** is a graduate of UNO's Creative Writing Workshop. Since then she has completed one novel and is currently working on another. She is a senior teacher and mentor at Wild Lotus Yoga, where she leads weekly classes as

well as workshops on mindfulness, creativity, and philosophy. Her fiction has appeared in *Short Story*, *Sojourn*, *North American Review*, *Passage North*, *Cimarron Review*, and *Elephant Journal*. She lives with her husband, the author Bill Loehfelm, in New Orleans.



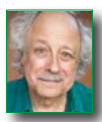
**Susan Larson** has hosted "The Reading Life" on WWNO-FM, New Orleans's NPR affiliate, for the past six years. Before that, she was the longtime book editor for *The New Orleans Times-Picayune*. She is the author of *The*

*Booklover's Guide to New Orleans*, which has appeared in two editions, and the founding president of the Women's National Book Association of New Orleans.



**Bill Lavender** is a poet, novelist, musician, carpenter and publisher in New Orleans. He founded Lavender Ink, a small press devoted mainly to poetry, in 1995, and Diálogos, an imprint devoted to cross-cultural literatures in 2011. His work

has appeared in print and web journals and anthologies. He has written the verse memoir, *Memory Wing*, the novel, *Q*, and a chapbook, *surrealism*. With Megan Burns, he co-founded the New Orleans Poetry Festival.



**Jeremy Lawrence** is appearing for the 11<sup>th</sup> time at the Festival. Recent TV appearances include *The Blacklist* and *Shades of Blue*. He just appeared Off-Broadway in his one-man Queer

Weimar Berlin Cabaret: *Lavender Songs* featuring songs of the era (1918-1933) in his English adaptations. Regional credits include five years of playing Scrooge for the 2300 seat Hanover Theatre in Worcester, MA, *Fiddler* at Goodspeed in Connecticut and the MUNY in St. Louis, *Noises Off* at Actors Theatre of Louisville, *Into the Woods* at Baltimore's Center Stage and the Westport Country Playhouse where he also performed in *Taruffe*. Film credits include the original *Critters* and work with

directors Brian De Palma, Ron Howard, and Stephen Daldry.



**Kiese Laymon** is a Professor of English and creative writing at the University of Mississippi. Laymon's stories and essays have appeared in *The Best American Essays Series*, *Esquire*, *NPR*, and *The Los Angeles Times* among others. His essay

collection, *How to Slowly Kill Yourself* came out in 2013, and his debut novel, *Long Division*, won the 2014 Saroyan International Writing Award. His memoir *Heavy* and the novel *And So On* are forthcoming.



**Joanna Leake** is one of the founders of The Creative Writing Workshop and for sixteen years served as its Director. She is the author of *A Few Days in Weasel Creek*, which was a CBS Movie of the Week, and with James Knudsen co-authored two

composition textbooks. Her stories have appeared in *Louisville Review*, *Apalachee Review*, *The Panhandler*, and elsewhere. With Rick Barton she edited the CWW fiction anthology, *Monday Nights*.



**Bill Loehfelm** is the author of the critically-acclaimed *Devil* series about New Orleans Police Department rookie Maureen Coughlin, featuring the novels *Let the Devil Out*, *Doing the Devil's Work*, *The Devil in Her Way*, and *The Devil She Knows*. He lives in New Orleans with his wife, AC

Lambeth, a writer and yoga instructor, and plays drums in a rock-'n'-roll band. The fifth Maureen Coughlin novel, *The Devil's Muse*, will be published in July 2017.



**Alecia P. Long** is a professor history at LSU and author of *The Great Southern Babylon: Sex, Race, and Respectability in New Orleans, 1865-1920* (2004). Her current project, *Crimes Against Nature: New Orleans, Sexuality, and the Search for*

*Conspirators in the Assassination of JFK*, connects Clay Shaw's 1969 trial for conspiracy to its overlooked role in the national movement for gay civil rights.



**Richard Louth** is a professor of English at Southeastern Louisiana University, where he teaches courses in Living Writers, Louisiana Literature, and Creative Writing and received the university's award for Teaching Excellence. Founding director

of the Southeastern Louisiana Writing Project, he created the New Orleans Writing Marathon and edited *The Writing Marathon: In Good Company Revealed*. He has published in *Louisiana in Words*, *Country Roads*, and *Louisiana Literature*.



**Kristen-Paige Madonia** is the author of *Fingerprints of You*, and her work has appeared in the *Greensboro Review*, the *New Orleans Review*, and *American Fiction*. The winner of the Tennessee

Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival's Short Fiction Contest in 2010, Madonia returns to the Festival in 2017 with her new book *Invisible Fault Lines*. She holds an MFA from California State University, and has received awards and fellowships from the Sewanee's Writer's Conference and the Vermont Studio center, among others.



**Nicholas Maineri** is the author of *The Infinite*, a novel. His short fiction has appeared in the *Southern Review*, the *Southern Humanities Review*, and *Salamander*, among other literary magazines. He lives in New Orleans with

his wife and son.



**Patrick Maney** is author of *Bill Clinton: New Gilded Age President*. He has written biographies of Franklin D. Roosevelt and of "Young Bob" La Follette, a prominent New Deal senator

and a model for the tragic main character in Allen Drury's classic Washington novel, *Advise and Consent*. A longtime member of Tulane's History Department, Maney now teaches at Boston College. He has appeared on public television, C-SPAN and NPR.



**Bev Marshall** is the critically-acclaimed author of *Walking Through Shadows*, *Right as Rain*, *Hot Fudge Sundae Blues*, and *Shared Words: A Guide to Writers' Groups and Book Clubs*. Her stories and essays have

been widely anthologized, and she serves on the Advisory Board for the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival. She lives with her husband in Ponchatoula, LA.



**Ti Adelaide Martin** is co-proprietor of Commander's Palace and co-author of *Miss Ella Brennan of Commander's Palace: I Don't Want a Restaurant Where a Jazz Band Can't Come Marching Through!* written

with her mother, the "grande dame" of the family's restaurant business. She also co-wrote *Commander's Kitchen* with Chef Jamie Shannon; *In the Land of Cocktails: Recipes and Adventures from the Cocktail Chicks* with Lally Brennan; and *Commander's Wild Side* with Executive Chef Tory McPhail.



**Melanie McCabe** is the author of *His Other Life: Searching for My Father, His First Wife, and Tennessee Williams*, to be published this spring by the University of New Orleans Press. She is also the author of two

poetry collections: *History of the Body*, (David Robert Books, 2012) and *What the Neighbors Know*, (Future-Cycle Press, 2014.) Her work has appeared in *Shenandoah*, *The Georgia Review*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Best New Poets*, and numerous other journals.



**Jim McCormick's** songs have been recorded by Luke Bryan, Jason Aldean, Tim McGraw, Harry Connick Jr., Keith Urban, Trisha Yearwood, Randy Travis, Ronnie Milsap, and others. He recently

celebrated two #1 songs on the Billboard Country charts. He's a faculty member in the Music Industry program at Loyola University, VP of the Memphis Chapter of the Recording Academy, and holds a BA from Georgetown University and a MFA in Poetry from the University of New Orleans.



**Bernice L. McFadden** is the author of nine critically acclaimed novels including *Sugar*, *Loving Donovan*, *Nowhere Is a Place*, *The Warmest December*, *Gathering of Waters* (a *New York Times* Editors' Choice and one of the 100 Notable Books of 2012),

and *Glorious*, which was featured in *O, The Oprah Magazine* and was a finalist for the NAACP Image Award. She is a three-time Hurston/Wright Legacy Award finalist, as well as the recipient of three awards from the BCALA. McFadden lives in Brooklyn, New York. *The Book of Harlan* is her latest novel, which was a *Washington Post* Notable Book of 2016.



**Mary Miller** is the author of a novel, *The Last Days of California*, and two short story collections: *Always Happy Hour* and *Big World*. She is a former James A. Michener Fellow at the University of Texas and John and

Renee Grisham Writer-in-Residence at Ole Miss. She currently lives in Gulfport and is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the low-residency MFA program at Mississippi University for Women.





**Tom Mitchell** is Associate Head of Theatre at the University of Illinois where he has directed all of Tennessee Williams's early plays. He has essayed articles on Williams and presented at Festivals in New

Orleans, Provincetown, and St. Louis. He is former chair of the Mid-America Theatre Conference Directing Symposium, former chair of the Interlochen Summer Theatre Program, and an honorary faculty member at Inner Mongolia University Arts College.



**Cecile Monteyne** is a New Orleans native and member of The NOLA Project. Her theatre credits include *A Few Good Men*, *Marie Antoinette*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and *La Concierge Solitaire*.

She is the creator and producer of *You Don't Know the Half of It*, currently in its fifth season. In 2015, she was named New Orleans' Big Easy Awards *Entertainer of the Year*, and in 2016 she was listed as one of Gambit Magazine's *40 Under 40*. She and her brother, Jules, co-wrote and co-produced the film, *One Night Stand Off*, in which she also stars.



**Coleen Muir's** writing has appeared in publications such as *Fourth Genre*, *Silk Road Review*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, *The Rumpus*, and *Cream City Review*, among others. Her writing has been

Pushcart nominated and has won various awards such as Svenson Award for Fiction, Samuel Mockbee award in Creative Nonfiction, and the Gulf Coast Creative Writer's Award in Fiction. She lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she teaches college level writing and is completing a novel.



**Lara Naughton's** works include *The Jaguar Man* and *Never Fight a Shark in Water: The Wrongful Conviction of Gregory Bright*. She is a certified Compassion Cultivation Trainer through The Center for

Compassion and Altruism Research and Education (CCARE); Director of CompassionNOLA; and Chair of Creative Writing at New Orleans Center for Creative Arts. For over twenty years she has worked with students K-12 as well as adults, and works with individuals facing challenging circumstances, including homelessness, HIV/AIDS, wrongful conviction, incarceration, and torture.



**Justin Nobel's** stories about science, the environment and culture have been published in *Newsweek*, *Orion*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Tin House*, *Nautilus*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Oxford American* and also

in *Best American Science and Nature Writing 2014* and *Best American Travel Writing 2011* and *2016*. *The Story of Dan Bright*, a book he co-wrote with an Angola prison death row exoneree, was published in November 2016 by the University of New Orleans Press. Justin lives in New Orleans.



**Biljana D. Obradović**, is a Serbian-American poet and translator. She is Professor of English and Head of the English Department at Xavier University of Louisiana. Her collections of poems include *Le Riche*

*Monde* (1999), *Frozen Embraces* (2001), *Little Disruptions* (2012), and *Incognito* (WordTech Press, January 2017). She is the main translator and co-editor with Dubravka Djurić, of *Cat Painter: An Anthology of Contemporary Serbian Poetry*, with a preface by Charles Bernstein, Dialogos Press, 2016.



**Frank Perez** serves as President of the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana. He is the author of two books: *In Exile: The History and Lore Surrounding New Orleans Gay Culture and Its Oldest Gay Bar* (with Jeffrey Palmquist) and

*Treasures of the Vieux Carré: Ten Self-Guided Walking Tours of the French Quarter*; and the co-editor of the anthology *My Gay New Orleans: 28 Personal Reminiscences on LGBT+ Life in New Orleans*. He also writes a column on gay New Orleans history for *Ambush Magazine*.



**Juliet Seer Pazera** began her spiritual journey in the desert oasis of Tucson, Arizona, where she studied Reiki, astrology and other healing modalities. In 2002, she moved to New Orleans to

begin a new chapter and focus on sharing her psychic abilities. She also became interested in local history and lore, leading to an Archival Assistant Position at Notarial Archives Research Center where she worked for 7 years. She recently became a licensed tour guide to keep her knowledge of history alive and teaches classes on psychic development.



**John Pope**, author of *Getting Off at Elysian Fields*, an anthology of his obituaries and funeral stories, is a member of *The Times-Picayune's* team that won two Pulitzer Prizes, a George Polk Award and a National Headliner

Award for coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. A New Orleans-based reporter since 1972, he earned degrees at the University of Texas, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.



**Martin Pousson** was born and raised in Acadiana, in the bayou land of Louisiana. His short stories won a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. He also was a finalist for the John Gardner Fiction

Book Award, the Glimmer Train Very Short Fiction Award, and the Lambda Literary Award. His stories have appeared in *The Antioch Review*, *Epoch*, *Five Points*, *StoryQuarterly*, and elsewhere. *Black Sheep Boy* is his latest novel from Rare Bird Books. He now lives in Los Angeles.



**Brenda Quant** was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. She earned an MFA from UNO's Creative Writing Workshop in 2015. In 2013, Quant was awarded the Malcolm Magaw Prize for Best Graduate Student Essay,

the Samuel Mockbee Nonfiction Award, and the Gulf Coast Association of Creative Writing Teachers Graduate Award for Nonfiction. Her work has appeared in *Fjords Review*, *The New Orleans Tribune*, *The Other Side*, *African American Review*, *Thema Literary Quarterly*, and other publications.



**A Scribe Called Quess?** is a poet, educator, actor, playwright, and activist in that order. He is a founding member of Slam New Orleans, having won National Poetry Slam championships with them in 2010 and 2013. He's also

a founder of Take 'Em Down NOLA, a coalition dedicated to removing White Supremacist symbols in New Orleans. His second book of poetry, *Sleeper Cell*, was published through Next Left Press in May of 2016.



**J.M. Redmann's** mystery series features New Orleans PI Micky Knight. Her books have won First Place in the ForeWord mystery category, and three Lambda Literary awards. *The Intersection of Law & Desire* was an

Editor's Choice of the San Francisco Chronicle and a recommended book by Maureen Corrigan of NPR's

"Fresh Air". The next Micky Knight book is *The Girl on the Edge of Summer*. Writing as R. Jean Reid, her book *Roots of Murder* was published by Midnight Ink in the summer of 2016. *Perdition* is the follow-up. Redmann lives in New Orleans.



**Julia Reed** writes "The High and the Low" column for *Garden & Gun Magazine* and is a contributing editor at *Vogue* and *Newsweek*. Known for such witty books as *The Queen of the Turtle Derby* and *But Mama Always Put Vodka*

in her *Sangria*, as well as the post-Katrina memoir, *The House on First Street*, she is also the author of *Julia Reed's South: Spirited Entertaining and High Style Fun All Year Long*.



**Trisha Rezende** is a poet who hails from the island nation of Trinidad and Tobago. She has loved New Orleans, "the northern-most city of the Caribbean," since she moved here in

2003 to earn her MFA at the University of New Orleans. She has taught composition, creative writing, and poetry at Dillard University and at UNO. She now teaches at Xavier University, an HBCU. Her poetry has been published in *Poet Lore* and *Burlesque Press*.



**Brad Richard** chairs the creative writing program at Lusher Charter School. 2015 Louisiana Artist of the Year, he is the author of three collections of poems, *Habitations*, *Motion Studies*, and *Butcher's Sugar*, and two chapbooks,

*The Men in the Dark* and *Curtain Optional*. With Elizabeth Gross, he co-curates The Waves, a quarterly LGBTQ+ reading series at Antenna Gallery.



**Gary Richards** is associate professor and chair of the Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication at the University of Mary Washington. He is the author of *Lovers and Beloveds: Sexual Otherness in Southern Fiction*,

1936-1961 and a contributor to *Faulkner's Sexualities*, *Comics and the U.S. South*, and *The Cambridge Companion to Literature of the U.S. South*, among other collections. His most recent essay is "Tennessee Williams and the Burden of Southern Sexuality Studies" in *The Oxford Handbook of the Literature of the U.S. South*.



**Bess Rowen** is a Ph.D. Candidate in Theatre and Dissertation Fellow at The Graduate Center, CUNY, where she is writing a dissertation on stage directions as fluid, physical

collaborations between playwrights and actors. She also has an M.Phil in Theatre from The Graduate Center, an MA in Performance Studies from NYU, and a BA from Lehigh University. Bess is currently a lecturer at Purchase College and an Arts & Culture blogger for *The Huffington Post*.



**Maurice Carlos Ruffin's** work has appeared in *Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas* edited by Rebecca Solnit and Rebecca Snedecker, *AGNI*, *Kenyon Review*, *Callaloo*, *Massachusetts Review*, *LitHub*, and *Virginia*

*Quarterly Review*. He is the winner of the Iowa Review Fiction Award, the *So to Speak Journal* Short Story Award and the William Faulkner Competition for Novel in Progress. He is a member of the Peauxdunque Writers Alliance and the Melanated Writers Collective.



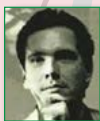
**Kalamu ya Salaam** (born 24 March 1947, New Orleans) is a writer, editor, educator and filmmaker. His current book is *The Magic of Juju: An Appreciation of the Black Arts Movement* (Third World Press, 2016).





**Henry I. Schvey** is professor of drama and comparative literature at Washington University in St. Louis, and is a director and playwright as well as a scholar. He has lectured on Tennessee Williams both in the U.S.

and abroad, has published numerous essays on the playwright, and is currently writing a book on Williams's paintings and their relation to his plays, *The Might of Design, the Mystery of Color: the Plastic Theatre of Tennessee Williams*, to be published by Edinburgh University Press. His coming-of-age memoir, *The Poison Tree*, was published in fall of 2016.



**Sim Shattuck** was born in Decatur, Georgia and now resides in Louisiana. His novels include *Pleasant Hurricanes*, *Basilisk*, *Krewe of Hecate*, *Yarilo's Dance*, *The Abyssal Plain*, and *Dark Angel*, *Pass*

*Me*. All of them are available on Kindle. His next novel is *The Shadow of the Omuroi*, a sci-fi and historical novel based in Stalin's Russia and in Namibia.



**John Warner Smith** has published two collections of poetry: *Soul Be a Witness* (MadHat Press, 2016) and *A Mandala of Hands* (Aldrich Press, 2015). *Spirits of the Gods*, is forthcoming from UL Press. Smith's

poems have appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Callaloo*, *Antioch Review*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Transition*, *Quiddity*, and numerous other literary journals. His poetry has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and for the *Sundress Best of the Net Anthology*. A Cave Canem Fellow, Smith earned his MFA in Creative Writing at the University of New Orleans.



**Katy Simpson Smith** was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. She is the author of *We Have Raised All of You: Motherhood in the South, 1750-1835*, and the novels *The Story of Land and Sea* and *Free Men*. Her

writing has also appeared in *The Oxford American*, *Granta*, *Literary Hub*, *Garden & Gun*, and *Lenox*. She lives in New Orleans.



**Michael Farris Smith** is the award-winning author of *Desperation Road*, (a Barnes & Noble Discover pick and an Indie Next selection), *Rivers* (2014 Mississippi Author Award for Fiction), and *The*

*Hands of Strangers*. He has been awarded the Mississippi Arts Commission Literary Arts Fellowship, the Transatlantic Review Award for Fiction, and the Alabama Arts Council Fellowship Award for Literature. His short fiction has twice been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and his essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Catfish Alley*, *Deep South* magazine, and more.



**Tia L. Smith** joined the Mass Communication Department at Xavier University in 2015 as Department Head. Smith has trained journalists and media professionals throughout the Caribbean and Latin

America on covering taboo topics such as child sexual abuse, domestic violence, and human trafficking. Her research interests focus on intersections of gender, media, and sexual culture. Dr. Smith has lived and worked in diverse cultural and learning environments in the United States, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Brazil, and Trinidad and Tobago, giving her first-hand knowledge of the sensitive nature and challenges associated with issues of media, diversity and inclusiveness.



**Jill St. John** has charmed fans in a myriad of film and television roles. She made her screen debut at the age of nine in the first television production of *A Christmas Carol*, and all James Bond fans remember her performance

as Tiffany Case in *Diamonds Are Forever* (1971), playing opposite Sean Connery. (She was the first American actress to play a Bond girl.) She appeared in such films with literary antecedents as *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*, and *Tender is the Night*. St. John has worked on five movies with her husband Robert Wagner: *Banning*; *How I Spent My Summer Vacation*; *Around the World in 80 Days*; *Something to Believe In*; and *The Calling*. She is the author of *The Jill St. John Cookbook*.



**Michael Tisserand** is a New Orleans-based author whose new book, *Krazy: George Herriman, a Life in Black and White* (HarperCollins), was called by *Kirkus Reviews* "a

roaring success, providing an indispensable new perspective on turn-of-the-century America." His previous books include *The Kingdom of Zydeco*, which was awarded the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for Music Writing, as well as the Hurricane Katrina memoir *Sugarcane Academy*.



**Poppy Tooker** is the author of the *Crescent City Farmers Market Cookbook*, awarded the Eula Mae Dore Tabasco Cookbook Award for historic content and named *New Orleans Magazine's* 2009 Cookbook of the

Year. In 2012, she wrote the foreword and updated the historic recipes of *Madame Begue's Recipes of Old New Orleans Creole Cookery*, first published in 1900. Poppy hosts an award-winning weekly NPR-affiliated radio show, "Louisiana Eats!" and published a book by the same name in 2013, which won the Literary Award of the Year by the LA Library Association. Her most recent book is *Tujague's Restaurant Cookbook, Recipes and Lore in the Grand Creole Tradition*.



**Pamela Tyler**, a native of Georgia, holds a Ph.D. in history from Tulane University. She is a member of the history department faculty at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she teaches courses in U.S.

women's history and the history of the South since the Civil War. Her book, *Silk Stockings and Ballot Boxes: New Orleans Women and Politics 1920-1963*, won the L. Kemper Williams Prize, given annually for best book in Louisiana history.



**Adrian Van Young** is the author of *The Man Who Noticed Everything*, a collection of stories, and *Shadows in Summerland*, a novel. His fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *The Collagist*, *Black Warrior Review*,

*Conjunctions*, *Electric Literature's Recommended Reading*, *Slate*, *VICE*, *The Believer*, and *The New Yorker*, among others. He received a Henfield Foundation Prize and has twice been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. He lives in New Orleans with his wife Darcy and son Sebastian.



**Kim Vaz-Deville** is associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Xavier University of Louisiana. Her book, *The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition* (LSU

Press, 2013) was the basis for The Louisiana State Museum Presbytere's 2013 exhibition "They Call Me Baby Doll: A Mardi Gras Tradition". *The 'Baby Dolls'* was the 2016 selection of the Young Leadership Council's program, One Book One New Orleans.



**Robert Wagner** has captivated audiences of stage and screen and television in his long and distinguished career. He has appeared in such television classics as *Hart to*

*Hart*, *Switch*, and *It Takes a Thief*, and recently he has had a recurring guest role on *NCIS*, all this in addition to a busy movie career. Wagner was chosen by Sir Laurence Olivier to star with him in the television adaptation of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, in which he costarred with his wife, the late Natalie Wood. Wagner has toured the world performing A.R. Gurney's "Love Letters" with Stefanie Powers; and currently, Wagner performs "Love Letters" at charity events with his wife, actress Jill St. John. He has charmed readers with his memoirs, *Pieces of My Heart: A Life, You Must Remember This: Life and Style in Hollywood's Golden Age*, and *I Loved Her in the Movies: Memories of Legendary Hollywood Actresses*.



**M.O. Walsh** is the author of the story collection *The Prospect of Magic* and the novel *My Sunshine Away*, which was a *New York Times* bestseller, won the Pat Conroy Book Award for Fiction, the Housatonic Book Prize, and is longlisted for the International

DUBLIN Literary Award. His work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Southern Review*, *Oxford American*, and others. He directs the Creative Writing Workshop at the University of New Orleans.



**Jerry W. Ward, Jr.**, who has lived in New Orleans since 2002, is currently a Distinguished Overseas Professor in the School of Foreign Languages, Central China Normal University (Wuhan). He is the author of *The Katrina Papers: A Journal of Trauma*

and *Recovery* (2008), *The China Lectures: African American Literary and Critical Issues* (2014), and *Fractal Song: Poems* (2016). His essays and poems have been published in many magazines and anthologies. His work-in-progress is *Reading Race Reading America*, a collection of essays.



**Katherine Weiss** is a Professor of English and Chair of the Department of Literature and Language at East Tennessee State University. Her accomplishments include an edited student edition of Tennessee

Williams's *Sweet Bird of Youth* (Methuen Press, 2010) and *A Student Handbook to the Plays of Tennessee Williams* (Bloomsbury, 2014).



**Shaolu Yu** is a Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in Urban Studies at Rhodes College. Dr. Yu is an urban geographer whose current research interests include Space and Place, Race and Ethnicity, Immigration, Urban

Segregation, and Asian Urbanism. She is also interested in applying Geographical Information Science in visualizing and analyzing spatial data. Her current projects "The Mississippi Chinese Heritage Trail" and "Chinese Churches in Memphis" attempt to complicate the dichotomous narrative between black and white in the American South.



**Michael Allen Zell**'s first play, *What Do You Say To A Shadow?*, was named one of the Top 10 Plays of the Year in 2013 by *The Times-Picayune*. His first novel, *Errata*, was named one of *The Times-Picayune's* Top 10

Books of 2012. He is two books into the Bobby Delery series of New Orleans crime fiction/social novels. Zell has worked as a bookseller in New Orleans since 2003.





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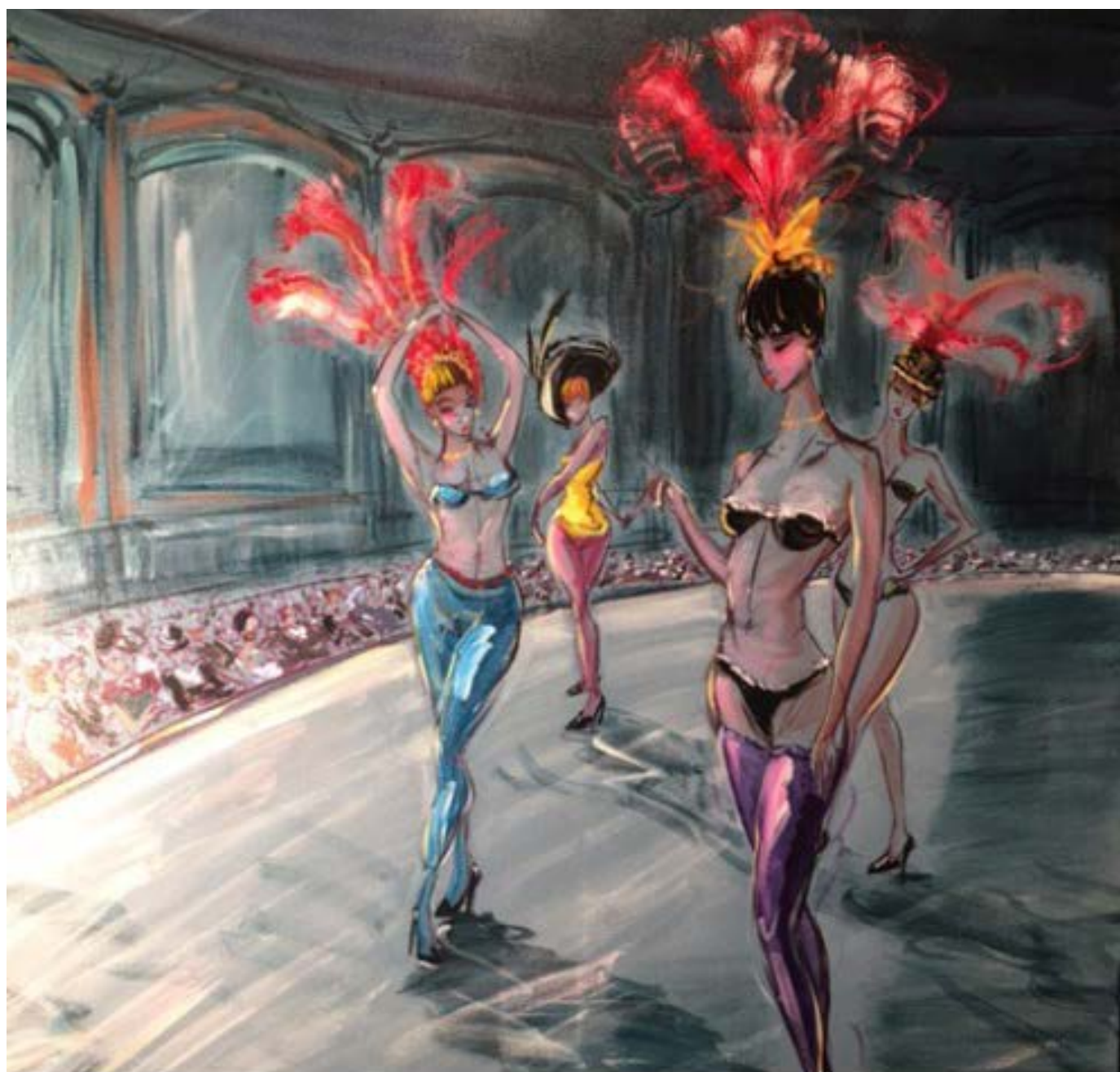
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