

**Friday, March 22, 2024**

10—11:15 AM—SAS Writer's Craft

**SHORT STORIES, NOVELLAS, NOVELS —TREBOR HEALEY**

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

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B**

**Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25**

10—11:15 AM—SAS Writer's Craft

**KNOW YOUR PLACE...IN FICTION—REINE DUGAS**

Setting can be more than just the backdrop for your story—setting can shape and breathe life into your plot, conflict, and characters. Choosing and highlighting the right details about a place, really situating your reader in a certain time and geographical space, can determine whether the story comes alive for the reader or not. This workshop will focus on how to add unique setting details into your story that capture the mood and flavor of the setting of your story and how to create characters who couldn't have come from any other place than the one you've chosen for them—this is evident in the things they like, the way they talk, and the beliefs they hold. Workshop participants will learn how to incorporate details of place during the drafting and revision stages of their writing. **Reine Dugas** is an English professor at Southeastern Louisiana University. When not writing, she's assistant editor of *Louisiana Literature* and editor of the magazines, *Louisiana Life* and *Acadiana Profile*.

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C**

**Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25**

11:30 AM—12:45 PM-SAS Writer's Craft

**QUEERING THE LOVE POEM—CHEN CHEN**

Though perhaps the love poem has long been queer (think of Shakespeare's sonnets and Sappho's fragments), in this generative session we'll discuss contemporary examples that further (or differently) queer and complicate the love poem—and indeed, love itself. How can a love poem also be a political poem? A protest poem? Or a political poem for how it reimagines relationships of all kinds? A queer love poem may be about a speaker and a beloved (or beloveds), but it may also be about friendship, community, family both blood and chosen, self-love, caring for the planet, and speaking back to the social systems that limit agency, that attempt to erase queerness. We'll read work by Essex Hemphill, Natalie Diaz, Jericho Brown, Charif Shanahan, Muriel Leung, Justin Chin, F. Douglas Brown, Yanyi, and others as models for our own writing from and into queerer forms of love. **Chen Chen** is the author of two books of

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

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B**

**Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25**

**Friday, March 22, 2024**

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

**CREATING THE MEMORABLE PROTAGONIST—MARGOT DOUAIHY**

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

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C**

**Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25**

**11:45 AM—1:45 PM—\*pre-registration is required**

**PITCH SESSIONS WITH RATTLING GOOD YARNS PRESS**

Rattling Good Yarns Press managing publisher, Ian Henzel, will be meeting with authors at SAS2024. RGYP is looking for fiction, novels, story collections, and nonfiction, including but not limited to history and memoirs. No poetry or plays. They are most interested in unusual perspectives on topics of interest to the LGBTQ+ community. Pitches will be for possible 2025 publication. For more information about Rattling Good Yarns and online submission guidelines, visit: [rattlinggoodyarns.com/submissions/](https://rattlinggoodyarns.com/submissions/)

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal A**

**1—2:15 PM—SAS Writer's Craft**

**FROM IDEA TO BESTSELLER—BETH MARSHEA**

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

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B**

**Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25**

**1—2:15 PM—SAS Writer's Craft**

**GET THOSE JUICES FLOWING—DANIEL M. JAFFE**

Many writers experience dry spells when the writing just doesn't seem to flow. Must we sit and

wait to be touched by a temperamental muse, or can we take control of sparking our creativity? In this workshop, we'll share our experiences and engage in writing exercises designed to provide strategies for breaking through writer's block.

**Jaffe** has led similar workshops in the UCLA Extension Writers' Program, as well as for the Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis, and the Cambridge Center for Adult Education. He's taught creative writing for 30 years.

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C**

**Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25**

#### **2:30—3:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft**

##### **WHAT MAKES A NOVEL A NOVEL?—TIMOTHY SCHAFFERT**

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

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B**

**Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25**

#### **2:30—3:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft**

##### **EROTICA LAID BARE II: THE HOMECOMING—JERRY L. WHEELER**

Join writer and editor Jerry L. Wheeler in this sequel to last year's guided erotica writing workshop. We'll be exploring erotica with all of our senses as we use prompts and situations to invent a paragraph or two of perfectly arousing prose. Shy and retiring? You won't be after we get through with you. From the icebreaker to the final read-through, it's nothing but smut. Pure, unadulterated trash. We guarantee you'll love it. Bring whatever you use to write with or on and your fevered imaginations, and we'll put both through their paces. **Wheeler** is the editor of seven anthologies of gay erotica for Bold Strokes Books, Wilde City Press, and other publishers. His own collection of short fiction and essays, *Strawberries and Other Erotic Fruits* was shortlisted for the Lambda Literary Award.

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C**

**Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25**

#### **2:45—4:45 PM—\*pre-registration is required**

##### **PITCH SESSIONS WITH REBEL SATORI PRESS**

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

<https://www.rebelsatoripress.com>

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal A**

**TWFest/SASFest Crossover Event**

#### **4 - 5:15 PM—Literary Discussion/Conversation**

##### **IN CONVERSATION: MAUREEN CORRIGAN, MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM AND JUSTIN TORRES**

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

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

#### **6:30—8:30 PM**

##### **GLITTER WITH THE LITERATI WELCOME PARTY**

Come experience true Southern hospitality in the beautiful courtyard of the Historic BK House. Mingle with fellow writers and avid readers as you begin your evening in the French Quarter at this historical landmark. We’ll have hors d’oeuvres, spirits, and a specialty cocktail to get you started. Melodic stylings of singer & guitarist Salvatore Geloso will add to the ambience.

**Historic BK House & Gardens, 1113 Chartres Street**

**Included with Weekend Pass/Partner Party Pass or \$25**

#### **Saturday, March 23, 2024**

#### **10—11:15 AM—Literary Discussion**

##### **THAT DAMN SURE DIDN’T TAKE LONG: QUEER WRITERS & AGING**

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

**Panelists: Ken Harvey, Gar McVey-Russell, James Pauley Jr., and Carol Rosenfeld**

**Moderator: David Pratt**

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B**

#### **10—11:15 AM—Literary Discussion**

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

What are the challenges in writing short fiction, and why do writers choose the form—over a novel for instance? How do we address the issues of succinctness and/or conciseness in crafting characters and conflicts which can express themselves fully in the short story form? There is the question as well of intensity, and perhaps this best describes the queer short story with its essential or urgent message, concerning characters who are often outsiders and facing obstacles or dilemmas that don’t exist in the heteronormative genre of short fiction. And in

terms of a collection, does the short story offer both an opportunity to deal with a wide range of themes in separate pieces, or is it as well a way of getting at similar themes from very different angles? In other words, how we structure or choose what makes up a collection? In this panel, four writers with recently published collections will discuss and offer insight on their experience and thoughts on the short form.

**Panelists:** Jarrod Campbell, Jay Michaelson, SJ Sindu, and Jerry L. Wheeler

**Moderator:** Trebor Healey

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C**

#### **10—11:15 AM—Reading Series**

##### **SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ**

***Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation***

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voices. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Sven Davisson, Jubi Arriola-Headley, David Bergman, Andrew Holleran, Steven Reigns, Phil Tarley, and Gary Zebrun** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D**

#### **11:30 AM—12:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

##### **THE ROLE OF THE PUBLISHER: ADVOCACY AND RESPONSIBILITY**

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

**Panelists:** Sven Davisson, Ian Henzel, Miah Jeffra, Timothy Schaffert, SJ Sindu, and Caleb Tankersley

**Moderator:** Dan White

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B**

#### **11:30 AM—12:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

##### **THE PROFANE AND SACRED/POETRY**

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

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

**Moderator:** Brad Richard

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C**

**11:30 AM—12:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

**INSIDE THE WRITER'S STUDIO: LGBTQ+ Literature—The Past in the Present**

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

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon**

**11:30 AM—12:45 PM—Reading Series**

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**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D**

**1—2:15 PM—Literary Discussion**

**CRAFTING KINSHIP: BIO/LOGICAL FAMILY IN LGBTQ+ LITERATURE**

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

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

**Moderator: K.M. Soehnlein**

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B**

**1—2:15 PM—Literary Discussion**

**THE OUT-OF-TOWNERS: ADVENTURES IN BOOK TOURING**

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

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

**Moderator: Gregg Shapiro**

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C**

**1—2:15 PM—Reading Series**

**SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ**

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

**Gooch, Wes Jamison, David Pratt, SJ Sindu, and Penelope Starr** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D**

**2:30—3:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

**WRITING BEYOND REALISM**

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

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

**Moderator: Daniel M. Jaffe**

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B**

**2:30—3:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

**BREAKING GENRE, BREAKING GENDER: NON-BINARY WRITERS ON DEFINING THE SELF AND OUR WORK**

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

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

**Moderator: Delaney McLemore**

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C**

**2:30—3:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft**

**MERGING WORLD—TAROT AS EKPHRASIS FOR CREATIVE AND REFLECTIVE WRITING—JACOB BUDENZ**

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

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon**

**Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25**

**2:30—3:45 PM—Reading Series**

**SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ**

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mix of established and exciting new writers.

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D**

#### **4—5:15 PM—Literary Discussion**

##### **A PLACE OF OUR OWN**

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

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

**Moderator: Gregg Shapiro**

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B**

#### **4—5:15 PM—Poetry Reading and Discussion**

##### **POETRY FROM OUR COASTS: A TRI-COASTAL AFFAIR**

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

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C**

#### **4—5:15 PM—Reading Series**

##### **SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ**

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**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D**

#### **4—5:15 PM—Featured Conversation/Interview**

##### **IN CONVERSATION: MAUREEN CORRIGAN AND COLM TOIBIN**

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

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon**



**6:30—7:45 PM**

**SAS FICTION CONTEST READING**

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

***Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation***

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon, Included in weekend pass, partner party pass, or \$25 individual ticket.**

**Sunday, March 24, 2024**

**10—11:15 AM—Literary Discussion**

**WRITING ABOUT, WITH, AND THROUGH HIV & AIDS**

This panel will focus on the continuing literary legacies of the AIDS crisis. Through readings of their own and others' works across genres, our panelists will engage in a conversation about these legacies. How is rage, loss, grief, humor, love, and survival expressed? How does race, class, language, religion, and national origin play out in these works? Given the current book-banning and anti-LGBTQ+ climate, how do we preserve the collective knowledge and experiences of our diverse communities? How do we define our "survival" today?

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

**Moderator: Gerard Cabrera**

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B**

**10—11:15 AM—Literary Discussion**

**WRITING HEROES & HEROINES: INSPIRATION & INFLUENCE**

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

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

**Moderator: Jonathan Alexander**

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C**

**10—11:15 AM—Reading Series**

**SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ**

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## **Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D**

### **11:30 AM—12:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

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

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

**Panelists:** Margot Douaihy, Rafael Frumkin, Kent Quaney, and Caleb Tankersley

**Moderator:** Trebor Healey

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B**

### **11:30 AM—12:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

#### **WE ARE EVERYWHERE: BIPOC WRITING AND PUBLISHING IN TODAY'S WORLD**

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

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

**Moderator:** Gerard Cabrera

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C**

### **11:30 AM—12:45 PM—Reading Series**

#### **SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ**

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Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voices. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Stephanie Burt, Chen Chen, Lucian Childs, AE Hines, Ed Madden, Rose Norman, and TQ Sims** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D**

### **1—2:15 PM—Literary Discussion**

#### **PROCESSING TO THE PAGE: TRAUMA RECOVERY ACROSS GENRE**

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

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

**Moderator: Delaney McLemore**  
**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B**

**1—2:15 PM—Literary Discussion**

**NOSTALGIA AS A CREATIVE ACT/MOVING FROM MEMORY TO FICTION**

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

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

**Moderator: Alan Williams**

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C**

**1—2:15 PM—Reading Series**

**SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ**

***Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation***

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

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D**

**2:30—3:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

**DOWN THESE MEAN STREETS**

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

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

**Moderator: Greg Herren**

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B**

**2:30—3:45 PM—Literary Discussion**

**WRITING QUEERLY ACROSS THE GENERATIONS**

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

**Panelists: David Bergman, Laurinda D. Brown, Rafael Frumkin, Brad Gooch,**

**Elizabeth Nonas, and Steven Reigns**  
**Moderator: Jonathan Alexander**  
**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C**

**2:30—3:45 PM—Reading Series**

**SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ**

***Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation***

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voices. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Virginia Black, Dale Corvino, David Santos Donaldson, Daniel M. Jaffe, Charles Rice-Gonzalez, and Jerry L. Wheeler** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D**

**4—6 PM—Special Event**

**CLOSING RECEPTION**

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

**Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon**