



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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What: LitFest Pasadena 2019

Dates: Saturday, May 18 & Sunday, May 19, 2019

Times: 1:00pm to 10:00pm daily

Location: Pasadena Playhouse District

Website: www.litfestpasadena.org

LitFest Pasadena Brings Over 150 Authors to Pasadena's Historic Playhouse District for Weekend Event!

*More is in store for the unique two-day literary festival
in the District's businesses and outdoor spaces.*

Pasadena, CA (May 13, 2019) – The 8th annual LitFest Pasadena presents a weekend packed with stimulating panels, interactive performances, inspiring readings, and engaging workshops on Saturday and Sunday, May 18th and 19th. As the shadows of the afternoon move into the cool of the evening, LitFest Pasadena welcomes writers and poets from all walks of life and cultural and ethnic backgrounds to discuss topics from “The Bookstores We Love” and “What You Need to Know About Publishing” to “Diving into the Wreck: The Inheritance of Trauma” and “Motels, Money, Murder & Madness: True Crime as Entertainment.” LitFest Pasadena seeks to offer viewpoints, experiences, and observations that will provide context and insight, expand understanding, embrace our diversity, and celebrate all things literary. Additionally, Vroman’s Boostore will be selling LitFest Pasadena authors’ books not only in their store, but in its “satellite” shop in the Wells Fargo Lobby of the Pasadena Playhouse. As always, the Festival is offered free of charge.

LitFest Pasadena invites the public to stroll amid the historic architecture of the Playhouse District, visit the plentiful courtyards, enjoy the varied restaurants, and even stop at the **Haiku Guys + Gals** on El Molino Avenue for some free poetry!

LitFest Pasadena is thrilled to welcome international bestselling author **Lisa See**, author of the instant *New York Times* bestseller *The Island of Sea Women*, **Janet Fitch**, author of the classic *White Oleander* and the upcoming *Chimes of a Lost Cathedral*, and **Nina Revoyr**, author of the *LA Times* bestseller *Southland* - three

highly acclaimed Los Angeles novelists gathering on stage for a conversation about fiction, writing, characters, and creativity.

The editors of *Dear Los Angeles: The City in Diaries and Letters, 1542 to 2018* and the *Paperback LA: A Casual Anthology* series, **David Kippen** and **Susan LaTempa**, talk shop with the audience about conjuring up Los Angeles purely from essays, stories, poetry, diaries, letters, beach glass, and old Dodgers ticket stubs.

A writer-driven literary festival, each day begins with workshops from 1:00pm to 3:00pm on subjects from learning to observe and write nature poetry with **Anne Yale** to the return of **Camari Carter-Hawkins'** popular "Combchella: Normalizing Natural Hair through Literature." Other interactive events include **Cindy Rinne** and **Bory Thach's** "Letters Under Rock" with costumes, reading, dancing, and audience participation and **Amber West** leading her readers and engaging the audience and passerby as she honors Walt Whitman and the "radical optimism of America's first bard of democracy."

From 3:00pm to 10:00p.m., panels, readings, open mic opportunities, and performances fill the district with all things literary. Get your mystery fix with **Sisters in Crime LA's** every popular panel discussion, **Xach Fromson** presents his ever-popular "Shades & Shadows" - readings that make you jump from the bump in the night! **Ashley Santana** explores the female archetype in "No Longer the Scream Queen: Women's Roles in Horror Lit" and best selling author **Naomi Hirahara** poses rapid-fire questions to **Gary Phillips, Joe Ide, Tod Goldberg, Steph Cha,** and **Paddy Hirsch** in "Interrogating the Crime Writer."

KPCC reporter Adolfo Guzman Lopez brings Project 1521 artists and writers together as the 500th anniversary of Mexico's conquest approaches and they try to make sense of current acts of detention and killings - their response being making art as acts of resistance in this "Writing Our Own Codices" reading and performance.

As podcasting is an increasingly fashionable medium, writer and teacher **Keenan Norris** asks Badass Bookworm podcast host **Cassandra Dallet**, KPFK's *Bibliocracy Radio* host **Andrew Tonkovich**, *Los Angeles Review of Books* editor **Medaya Ocher**, and co-host of the LARB's "Radio Hour" podcaster **Eric Newman**, "can literary podcasts do more than simply kill a few minutes while stuck in traffic on the 405?" Also, public radio legend **Kitty Felde** has turned to podcasting too - audiences of all ages will be engrossed by her live taping of her Kitty Felde Book Club for Kids.

Keeping it local, LitFest Pasadena presents Community Lit LA's "Community Storytellers," Locavore Lit's "What Are Teenagers Reading Today?," "The Future of LA Media: Hyped Up on Hyper Local Stories" with **Sophia Kercher**, and *Pasadena Weekly* contributor **Justin Chapman** moderating "Alternative News Sources: How Alternative Newsweeklies Are Going Strong in Changing Times" with *Pasadena Weekly* editor **Kevin Urich**, deputy editor **Andr  Coleman**, Arts Director **Carl Kozlowski**, and columnist **Ellen Snortland**.

Lifelong activist **Stephanie Ballard** discusses with her panelists “Fighting Justice, One Word at a Time” while **Sehba Sarwar** brings “Lenguas Revoltosas: Writers of Color Disrupting Traditional Literary Zones,” a “multi-genre reading (that) features Latinx and writers of color with unruly tongues disrupting English-only literary zones.” **Carla Sameth** delves into “writing one’s truth” in “Queer, Adoptive, and Nontraditional Families” and **Corey Roskin** explores “You Might As Well Live: Traversing Pain, Pleasure and Everything in Between in the Queer Memoir.”

Local author, teacher, and LitFest Pasadena co-founder **Jervey Tervalon** discusses *Memoirs of Black LA*, takes on the provocative subject of Toxic Masculinity and will lead the celebration of his dear friend Pulitzer Prize-winning food critic **Jonathan Gold** who died last year. **Laurie Ochoa-Gold** gathers Jonathan’s friends and colleagues - including *City of Gold* Director Laura Gabbert - to honor and remember his unique life, wit, and wisdom - and discuss “How Jonathan Gold Reinvented Los Angeles.”

LitFest Pasadena is presented by **Light Bringer Project**, the Pasadena-based arts and education nonprofit, and *Literature for Life*, the literary journal and resource for educators. In partnership with Sci-Fest L.A. two annual short science fiction writing competitions are awarded at LitFest Pasadena. The competition’s mission is to identify and nurture up-and-coming science fiction writing talent of Los Angeles and worldwide. **The Tomorrow Prize** is awarded to the best original science fiction by Los Angeles County high school students. The “**Green Feather Award**” presented by L.A. Audubon recognizes an outstanding science fiction short story by a teen author that celebrates overcoming today’s environmental challenges. **The Roswell Award** is presented to outstanding short science fiction by adults. Over the years, submissions have come from dozens of countries. The “**Women Hold Up Half the Sky**” recognizes a science fiction story that embraces feminist themes and has a strong female protagonist. The winning story will be published both by *Artemis Journal* and *Hollywood NOW*. All prize winners’ works are read aloud on stage by guest celebrities.

LitFest Pasadena is made possible by the support of the City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Playhouse District.

Photographs available upon request

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