

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!

The unique two-day literary festival includes dozens of readings, panels, literary performances in the District's businesses and outdoor spaces

Pasadena, CA (April 26, 2019) – The 8th annual LitFest Pasadena features a host of special guest authors in panels, readings and other activities on May 18th and 19th. From late afternoon into evening, LitFest Pasadena welcomes writers and poets from all walks of life and all cultural and ethnic backgrounds, discussing widely diverse topics, presenting their works, and offering interactive events, aimed to attract people of every interest. Amid the historic architecture of the Playhouse District, the plentiful courtyards, the varied restaurants, and the sidewalks leading from one venue to another, 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. As always, the Festival is offered free of charge.

This year's 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. Award-winning and critically acclaimed author **Attica Locke** (*Bluebird*, *Bluebird*, *Pleasantville*, and *Black Water Rising*) is also a writer for TV and she joins writers and show runners **Gina Fattore** and **Jim Gavin** to dissect the challenges of telling stories and developing characters for the page and for the screen in **Book to TV: Is the Story Still a Story?**

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.

Speaking of kids, middle grade author **Dana Middleton** (*The Infinity Year of Avalon James*, *Open if You Dare*) shepherds a panel on the **Modern Wave of Middle Grade** books and authors, Christina Hoag addresses with her fellow panelists the challenge of writing **Strong Female Teen**

Characters in Our Current #MeToo Era, and Be True to You: Owned Voices and Empathy in YA discusses the “owned voices” movement as a transformative voice in YA literature.

Keeping it local, LitFest Pasadena presents the “spitfire poetry and short story showcase” of Community Lit LA with **Hiram Sims, Literature for Life** online publication and educational resource with **Kevin Stricke, Hyped Up on Local: Why Local Journalism Matters** with **Sophia Kercher**, and *Pasadena Weekly* contributor **Justin Chapman** moderating **Alternative Newsweeklies Find a Niche** with *Pasadena Weekly* editor **Kevin Uhrich**, publisher **Dina Stegon**, deputy editor **Andr e Coleman**, Arts Director **Carl Kozlowski**, and columnist **Ellen Snortland**.

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. Thanks to the distributors and film director **Laura Gabbert**, LitFest Pasadena presents a screening of **City of Gold**, which has been described as “a love letter to Los Angeles,” followed by a panel discussion featuring the director, **Laurie Ochoa-Gold** and **Tervalon**.

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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