44TH ANNUAL ODU LITERARY FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 3-7, 2021

Event information and access links are available at odu.edu/litfest.
All events are free and open to the public.

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In the aftermath of trauma – if it ever really ends – we are called to reckon with the past that led us to this present moment, and with the question of what futures we might make from it. Survival is triumph, but it is also a process of change, leaving us reborn to question, to exult, to recognize. Join us at the 44th Annual ODU Literary Festival as we celebrate writers who address the storms of past and present, and the changes wrought upon us, as we turn to face the future.

Kent Wascom & Katherine Jackson
ODU Literary Festival Co-directors

“When you come out of the storm, you won’t be the same person who walked in.”

~Haruki Murakami
**Schedule of Events**

All events are free and open to the public.

For instructions on joining virtual events, visit odu.edu/litfest.

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**Sunday, October 3**

4 p.m. Opening Reception  
Elaine Fletcher Chapman  
Greg Larson  

The Green Onion restaurant

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**Monday, October 4**

2 p.m. Tom Lin  
4 p.m. Sheri Reynolds and Benjamín Naka-Hasebe Kingsley  
7 p.m. Gabrielle Calvocoressi  

Access at odu.edu/litfest  
University Theatre and access at odu.edu/litfest

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**Tuesday, October 5**

12:30 p.m. Matt Bell  
4 p.m. Molly McCully Brown  
7 p.m. Dantiel W. Moniz  

Access at odu.edu/litfest  
University Theatre and access at odu.edu/litfest  
Access at odu.edu/litfest

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**Wednesday, October 6**

10 a.m. Mansoor Adayfi  
2 p.m. Lynn Waltz  
Amanda Galvan Huynh  
4 p.m. Kareem Fahmy and students from the Department of Communication and Theatre Arts  
7 p.m. Meredith Talusan  

Access at odu.edu/litfest  
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Access at odu.edu/litfest  
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**Thursday, October 7**

12:30 p.m. Lisa Beech Hartz  
4 p.m. Kelli Jo Ford  

Access at odu.edu/litfest  
ODU Virginia Beach and access at odu.edu/litfest

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**Venues**

**ODU Virginia Beach** — 1881 University Drive, Virginia Beach  
**The Green Onion restaurant** — 1603 Colley Avenue, Norfolk  
**University Theatre** — 4600 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk

All events will be available at odu.edu/litfest  
(with the exception of the Opening Reception)
At age 18, Mansoor Adayfi left his home in Yemen for a cultural mission to Afghanistan. He never returned. Kidnapped by warlords and sold to the U.S. after 9/11, he was rendered to Guantánamo Bay where he spent the next 15 years without being charged with a crime. He now lives in Belgrade, Serbia, where he writes and advocates for prisoner and detainee rights. His memoir of time at Guantánamo, *Don’t Forget Us Here*, tells two coming-of-age stories in parallel: a makeshift island outpost becoming the world’s most notorious prison, and a young man emerging from its darkness. Art by Mansoor and other former and current detainees will be featured in the spring 2022 exhibition *Art from Guantánamo Bay* at ODU’s Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries.

Matt Bell’s latest novel, *Appleseed*, was released in July 2021 from Custom House. His craft book *Refuse to Be Done*, a guide to novel writing, rewriting, and revision, will follow in early 2022 (Soho Press). He also wrote the novels *Scrapper* and *In the House upon the Dirt between the Lake and the Woods*, as well as the short story collection *A Tree or a Person or a Wall*, a nonfiction book about the classic video game Baldur’s Gate II, and several other titles. A native of Michigan, he teaches creative writing at Arizona State University.

Molly McCully Brown is the author of the essay collection, *Places I’ve Taken My Body*, which was named one of Kirkus Reviews’ best nonfiction titles of 2020, and the poetry collection, *The Virginia State Colony for Epileptics and Feebleminded*, which won the 2016 Lexi Rudnitsky First Book Prize. With Susannah Nevison, she wrote the poetry collection *In the Field Between Us*. The recipient of a United States Artists Fellowship, the Amy Lowell Poetry Traveling Scholarship, and the Civitella Ranieri Foundation and Jeff Baskin Writers fellowships, Brown is an assistant professor of English and creative nonfiction at Old Dominion University.

Gabrielle Calvocoressi is the author of *The Last Time I Saw Amelia Earhart; Apocalyptic Swing*, which was a finalist for the LA Times Book Prize; and *Rocket Fantastic*, winner of the Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry. Calvocoressi has received numerous awards and fellowships including a Stegner Fellowship and Jones Lectureship from Stanford University, a Rona Jaffe Woman Writer’s Award, a Lannan Foundation residency, the Bernard F. Conners Prize from *The Paris Review*, and a residency from the Civitella Ranieri Foundation. Calvocoressi teaches at UNC Chapel Hill and lives in Durham, North Carolina.

Elaine Fletcher Chapman has written two volumes of poems, *Reservoir* and *Hunger for Salt*, and a letterpress chapbook, *Double Solitude*. She is an adjunct assistant professor at Old Dominion University. Chapman worked on staff at The Bennington Writing Seminars for 18 years and she founded The Writer’s Studio, where she teaches poetry and nonfiction. For the last 40 years, she has worked as a psychotherapist in private practice. She is also a certified iRest Yoga Nidra
teacher. Her poems have been published in *Cloudbank*, *Poetry Pacific*, *8 Poems*, *The EcoTheo Review*, *The Cortland Review*, *Connotation*, *The Sun*, *Calyx*, *Poet Lore*, and others.

**Kareem Fahmy** is a Canadian-born playwright and director of Egyptian descent. His plays, which include *A Distinct Society*, *The Triumphant*, *Pareidolia*, *The In-Between*, and an adaptation of the acclaimed Egyptian novel *The Yacoubian Building*, have been developed at theaters across the country. Directing fellowships and residencies include Sundance Theatre Lab, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the O'Neill, Second Stage, Soho, and Lincoln Center. Fahmy is co-founder of the Middle Eastern American Writers Lab at The Lark and of the consulting group Maia Directors.

**Kelli Jo Ford**'s debut novel-in-stories, *Crooked Hallelujah*, was longlisted for the PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel, the Story Prize, the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, and the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize. She received *The Paris Review*'s Plimpton Prize, the Everett Southwest Literary Award, a Native Arts and Cultures Foundation National Artist Fellowship, an Elizabeth George Foundation Grant, and a Dobie Paisano Fellowship. She teaches writing at the Institute of American Indian Arts. She is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation.

**Lisa Beech Hartz** directs Seven Cities Writers Project, which brings creative writing workshops to underserved communities. She guides workshops in city jails and at an LGBT community center. Her ekphrastic collection, *The Goldfish Window*, was published by Grayson Books in 2018. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in the *Massachusetts Review*, *Shenandoah*, *the Gettysburg Review*, *the Adroit Journal*, *Redivider*, and *Beloit Poetry Journal*.

**Amanda Galvan Huynh** is a Mexican American writer and educator from Texas. She is the author of *Lotería* (Sundress Publications, 2022), *Songs of Brujería* (Big Lucks, 2019) and co-editor for *Of Color: Poets’ Ways of Making: An Anthology of Essays on Transformative Poetics* (Operating System, 2019). Her writing has been supported by fellowships and scholarships from MacDowell, Vermont Studio Center, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and others. She received a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Old Dominion University, and she is a doctoral student in English at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

**Benjamín Naka-Hasebe Kingsley** was born to two True Temper wheel-barrow factory workers and belongs to the Onondaga Nation of Indigenous Americans in New York. He is the Affrilachian author of the collections *Dēmos: An American Multitude* (Milkweed, 2021), *Colonize Me* (Saturnalia, 2019), and *Not Your Mama’s Melting Pot* (University of Nebraska Press, 2018). He received fellowships from the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, Tickner Center, and Kundiman, among others. His recent work has been published in *The BreakBeat Poets: LatiNEXT*, *Native Voices: Honoring Indigenous Poetry*, *The Georgia Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Oxford American*, *Poetry*, and *Tin House*. 
Greg Larson is an author, editor, and stand-up comedian in Austin, Texas. His memoir, *Clubbie* (University of Nebraska Press, 2021), was his graduate thesis for Old Dominion University’s Master of Fine Arts in creative writing. *Library Journal* called it “[A] necessary addition to current baseball literature.” He has since been featured by NPR, CBS Sports Radio, ESPN, and the MLB Network. He has edited clients’ work that has been featured in *Forbes, Entrepreneur Magazine*, the *Wall Street Journal* Bestseller List, the *USA Today* Bestseller List, and more.

Tom Lin was born in China and immigrated to the United States when he was 4. A graduate of Pomona College, he is currently in the PhD program at the University of California, Davis. *The Thousand Crimes of Ming Tsu* is his first novel.

Dantiel W. Moniz has received the Alice Hoffman Prize for Fiction, the Cecelia Joyce Johnson Emerging Writer Award by the Key West Literary Seminars, and a *Tin House* Scholarship. Her fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Paris Review, Tin House, Ploughshares*, the *Yale Review, Joyland*, and *McSweeney’s Quarterly Concern*. *Milk Blood Heat* is her first book. She lives in Northeast Florida.


Lynn Waltz is a writer, journalist, and professor of journalism at Hampton University. She is the author of *Hog Wild: The Battle for Workers’ Rights at the World’s Largest Slaughterhouse*, which exposes 16 years of labor law violations by Smithfield Foods. Twice nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, her work freed a wrongly imprisoned man and exposed abuses by a Virginia legislator. Her feature about a death row chaplain was judged among the top three newspaper stories in the country. Her story about a wrongly convicted student won first place in news writing from the National Association of Black Journalists. She is a graduate of Old Dominion’s MFA Creative Writing Program.
Talk Back to Art: A Creative Writing Workshop

Thursday, Oct. 7, 12:30 p.m.
at ODU Virginia Beach and at odu.edu/litfest
Inspired by and responding to a visual image, participants will be guided by Lisa Beech Hartz through the process of looking, writing, sharing, and revising a piece of writing.

ODU Master of Fine Arts
Program in
Creative Writing

Where great writers of the future connect with the great writers of our time

The Old Dominion University Annual Literary Festival, now entering its fifth decade, is the premier event of our MFA Program in Creative Writing and one of the many reasons to study the writer’s craft with us at ODU.

odu.edu/englishdept/mfa-creative-writing

Old Dominion University
College of Arts and Letters
Visit odu.edu/litfest for updates and virtual event links and follow the Literary Festival on Facebook: @ODULitFest and on Twitter.

Books can be purchased via the Literary Festival online bookshelf at odu.edu/litfest as well as in the University Village Bookstore, 4417 Monarch Way, Norfolk.

For more information, contact the Old Dominion University English Department at 757-683-3991 or email mfagpdassistant@odu.edu

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