Double Lives/
Double Trouble

41st Annual ODU Literary Festival
Oct. 21–Oct. 25, 2018
odu.edu/litfest
The ‘double-life’—writer and citizen. How does someone reconcile the daily harangues of the workaday world with the inward search from which all art derives? The late Mark Strand has written, “I stand on one leg while the other one dreams.” Perhaps that is one way, but there must be many ways to live as writer-teachers, arts activists, multi-genre creators and other light carriers filling the vast possibilities. This year’s festival explores the double-trouble that accompanies the ‘double-life’ most artists live in an effort to sustain themselves and their practice.

Remica Bingham-Risher and Tim Seibles
2018 Festival Directors
Kaveh Akbar's poems appear recently in The New Yorker, Poetry, The New York Times, The Nation, and elsewhere. His first book, *Calling a Wolf a Wolf*, is just out with Alice James in the U.S. and Penguin in the UK. He is also the author of the chapbook *Portrait of the Alcoholic*. The recipient of a Pushcart Prize, a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation, and the Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, Akbar was born in Tehran, Iran, and teaches in the MFA program at Purdue University and in the low-residency MFA programs at Randolph College.

Emily Rapp Black is the author of *Poster Child: A Memoir*, and *The Still Point of the Turning World*, which was a New York Times bestseller. Her next book, *Sanctuary*, is forthcoming from Random House in 2019. She was recently awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and is associate professor of creative writing at the University of California-Riverside.

Christian Campbell is the author of *Running the Dusk* (2010), which won the Aldeburgh First Collection Prize and was a finalist for the Forward Prize for the Best First Collection and the Cave Canem Poetry Prize, among other awards. *Running the Dusk* was translated into Spanish and published in Cuba as *Correr el Crepúsculo* (2015). Campbell studied at the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar and has received awards and fellowships from Cave Canem, the Arvon Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, the Vermont Studio Center, Bread Loaf, and elsewhere. Campbell delivered the 15th annual Derek Walcott Lecture for Nobel Laureate Week in St. Lucia and won the Art Writing Award from the Ontario Association of Art Galleries for his work on Jean-Michel Basquiat. He was recently the inaugural writer-in-residence at the Center for African American Poetry and Poetics at the University of Pittsburgh.

Laurie Cannady has published personal essays on poverty, domestic violence, and military sexual trauma in a number of publications, including The Rumpus, Good Housekeeping, and Ink and Letters. She has presented talks, lectures and workshops at numerous organizations, including the KGB Literary Bar, Girls Write Now, The Women's Initiative, and West Point Military Academy. The Root online magazine listed her memoir, *Crave: Sojourn of a Hungry Soul*, as one of the best nonfiction books by black authors in 2015. Kirkus Reviews described *Crave* as a “bold, honest, and courageous memoir.” Foreword Reviews listed *Crave* as an Indiefab Book of the Year 2015 finalist in the autobiography/memoir category. Additionally, *Crave* was named a finalist for the Library of Virginia People’s Choice Award for Nonfiction. Cannady is the Mellon Foundation Endowed Chair of Hampton University’s English Department.

Franny Choi is a queer, Korean-American poet, playwright, teacher, organizer, pottymouth, GryffinClaw, and general overachiever. She is the author of *Floating, Brilliant, Gone* (2014), and a chapbook, *Death by Sex Machine* (2017). She has received awards from the Poetry Foundation and the Helen Zell Writers Program, as well as fellowships from the Vermont Studio Center and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. Her poems have appeared in journals including Poetry magazine, American Poetry Review, New England Review, and her work has been featured by the Huffington Post, PBS NewsHour, and Angry Asian Man.
Aracelis Girmay was born and raised in Southern California, never far from the mighty Pacific. She is the author of *The Black Maria* (2016); *Kingdom Animalia* (2011), winner of the Isabella Gardner Poetry Award, and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *Teeth* (2007). She is also the author of the collage-based picture book *changing, changing*. She has received fellowships from Cave Canem, Civitella Ranieri, the Whiting Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2017, she was a finalist for the Neustadt International Prize for Literature and received the 2017-18 June Jordan Fellowship. Girmay lives with her family in New York and is on the editorial board of the African Poetry Book Fund.

Cecelia Hagen grew up in Norfolk, Virginia, and now lives in Eugene, Oregon. She is the author of *Entering* from Airlie Press and the chapbooks *Fringe Living* and *Among Others*. Her poems have appeared in many journals, including Christian Science Monitor, Poet & Critic, Rolling Stone, Seattle Review, Passager, Zócalo Public Square, and Natural Bridge. She has received awards and fellowships from Passager magazine, the MacDowell Colony, Soapstone, Literary Arts, and Playa. Most recently, 26 of her short poems were engraved in steel and affixed to the electrical cabinets at each stop of her hometown’s newest rapid-transit line.

Sharon Patricia Holland is a scholar and associate professor of English, African and African American studies, and women's studies at Duke University. She is the author of *The Erotic Life of Racism*, *Raising the Dead: Readings of Death and (Black) Subjectivity*, and a co-editor of *Crossing Waters, Crossing Worlds: The African Diaspora in Indian Country*.

Luisa Igloria is the winner of the 2015 Resurgence Prize (U.K.), the world's first major award for eco-poetry, selected by former U.K. poet laureate Sir Andrew Motion, Alice Oswald, and Jo Shapcott. She is the author of three chapbooks plus the full-length works *The Buddha Wonders if She is Having a Mid-Life Crisis* (March 2018), *Ode to the Heart Smaller than a Pencil Eraser* (selected by Mark Doty for the 2014 May Swenson Prize, Utah State University Press), *Night Willow* (2014), *The Saints of Streets* (2013), *Juan Luna's Revolver* (2009 Ernest Sandeen Prize, University of Notre Dame Press), and nine other books. She teaches on the faculty of the MFA Creative Writing Program at ODU, which she directed from 2009 to 2015.

Imbolo Mbue is the author of the New York Times bestseller, *Behold the Dreamers*, which won the Pen/Faulkner Award for Fiction, the Blue Metropolis Words to Change Award, and was an Oprah’s Book Club selection. Named a Notable Book of the Year by The New York Times and The Washington Post and a Best Book of the Year by close to a dozen publications, the novel has been translated into 10 languages, adapted into an opera, and optioned for a movie. A native of the seaside town of Limbe, Cameroon, and a graduate of Rutgers and Columbia universities, Mbue currently lives in New York City.
John Murillo is the author of the poetry collection, *Up Jump the Boogie*, finalist for both the Kate Tufts Discovery Award and the Pen Open Book Award. His honors include the J. Howard and Barbara M.J. Wood Prize from the Poetry Foundation, a Pushcart Prize, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Times, Bread Loaf Writers Conference, Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Cave Canem Foundation, and the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing. Recent poems have been published in Jubilat, Poetry, Prairie Schooner, Ploughshares, and in the anthology *Angles of Ascent: A Norton Anthology of African-American Poetry*. He has taught in the creative writing programs at Cornell University, the University of Miami, Columbia College Chicago, and currently teaches at Hampshire College and New York University. His second full-length collection, *The Matador’s Ghost*, is forthcoming from Four Way Books.

Jon Sands is the author of *The New Clean* (2011), as well as the co-host of The Poetry Gods podcast. His work has been published widely, and anthologized in *The Best American Poetry*. He's a youth mentor with Urban Word-NYC, and teaches creative writing for adults at Bailey House in East Harlem (an HIV/AIDS service center). He's a recent MFA graduate in fiction from Brooklyn College, where his work won the Himan Brown Award for short stories, and he has represented New York City multiple times at the National Poetry Slam. He lives in Brooklyn.

Nicole Sealey, born in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and raised in Apopka, Florida, is the author of *Ordinary Beast and The Animal After Whom Other Animals Are Named*, winner of the 2015 Drinking Gourd Chapbook Poetry Prize. Her other honors include an Elizabeth George Foundation Grant, the Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize from *The American Poetry Review*, a Daniel Varoujan Award and the Poetry International Prize, as well as fellowships from CantoMundo, Cave Canem Foundation, MacDowell Colony and the Poetry Project. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times* and elsewhere. Sealey holds an MLA in Africana studies from the University of South Florida and an MFA in creative writing from New York University. She is the executive director at Cave Canem Foundation.

Brian Turner’s latest book, *My Life as a Foreign Country: A Memoir* (2014) has been called “Achingly, disturbingly, shockingly beautiful” by Nick Flynn and “a humane, heartbreaking, and expertly crafted work of literature” by Tim O’Brien. His two collections of poetry: *Here, Bullet* (Alice James Books, 2005; Bloodaxe Books, 2007) and *Phantom Noise* (2010) have also been published in Sweden and Poland. Turner served in the U.S. Army for seven years and was featured in the documentary “Operation Homecoming: Writing the War Experience,” which was nominated for an Academy Award.
Quintan Ana Wikswo, hailed as “heady, euphoric, singular, surprising” by Publisher's Weekly, and “universal and personal, comforting and jarring, ethereal and earthy” by Electric Literature, has long been active in the collusion and collision of art and social justice. Her conceptually based interdisciplinary projects integrate her fiction, poetry, memoir and essay with her original photographs, performance and video. Her more than 35 projects are published, performed and exhibited internationally. Her several books include the acclaimed collection of photographs and stories *The Hope Of Floating Has Carried Us This Far* (Coffee House Press) and *A Long Curving Scar Where The Heart Should Be* (2017). Other work appears in magazines such as Tin House, Guernica, Conjunctions, the Kenyon Review, and Gulf Coast, as well as in anthologies, artist books and exhibition catalogs.

Tom Williams is author of three books of fiction: *The Mimic’s Own Voice, Don’t Start Me Talkin’,* and *Among the Wild Mulattos and Other Tales,* which was named a Great Read in 2015 by National Public Radio. He lives in Kentucky with his wife and their children.

L. Lamar Wilson is the author of *Sacrilegion* (2013) and co-author of *Prime: Poetry and Conversation* (2014), with Darrel Alejandro Holnes, Saeed Jones, Rickey Laurentiis and Phillip B. Williams. Wilson, a Callaloo and Cave Canem graduate fellow and Affrilachian poet, teaches creative writing at the University of Alabama.

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](odu.edu/englishdept/mfa-creative-writing)
Events will be held in the University Theatre unless otherwise noted.

Support the University Village Bookstore.
Titles available in the store as well as at readings and signings.

University Theatre
47th Street & Hampton Boulevard

ODU Virginia Beach Higher Ed Center
1881 University Drive, Virginia Beach

Big Blue Room, Ted Constant Convocation Center
4320 Hampton Boulevard

Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries
4509 Monarch Way

EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY
Free garage parking for all events.
Do not park in spaces marked reserved.

For more information, please contact the Old Dominion University
English Department at (757) 683-3991 or emailmfagpdassistant@odu.edu.

Special Thanks

John R. Broderick and the
Office of the President
Cullen Strawn and Libby Hinkley
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Elizabeth Dickie and
Office of Educational Accessibility
Jennifer Fish and Women’s Studies
Marc Katz and the
University Village Bookstore
Borjo Coffeehouse
Edith White and the
Forrest P. White Endowment

The Muse Writers Center
Lesa Clark and the
Office of Intercultural Relations
The ODU Women’s Center
Ramona Austin and the
Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries
Renee Olander and ODU Virginia Beach
Office of the Dean, Arts and Letters
Perry Library
League of Women Voters-
South Hampton Roads

Venues
Schedule of Events

Sunday, Oct. 21
3 p.m. **ODU Literary Festival Opening Reception**
Join The Muse Writers Center and Old Dominion University as we gather for an opening reception for the 41st Annual ODU Literary Festival. Presenters, participants and attendees of the festival along with students, teachers and friends of The Muse and the ODU MFA Creative Writing Program are welcome to enjoy hors d’oeuvres, conversation and a cash bar.
The Green Onion, 1603 Colley Ave., Norfolk.

Monday, Oct. 22
2:30 p.m. **Kaveh Akbar** (*Portrait of the Alcoholic; Calling a Wolf a Wolf*)
4 p.m. **Aracelis Girmay** (*The Black Maria; Kingdom Animalia*)
7 p.m. **Laurie Cannady** (*Crave: Sojourn of a Hungry Soul*)

Tuesday, Oct. 23
1 p.m. **Quintan Ana Wikswo** (*A Long Curving Scar Where The Heart Should Be; The Hope Of Floating Has Carried Us This Far*) and **Luisa Igloria** (*The Buddha Wonders if She is Having a Mid-Life Crisis; Haori*)
2:30 p.m. **Christian Campbell** (*Running the Dusk*)
4 p.m. **Emily Rapp Black** (*Poster Child; The Still Point of the Turning World*)
7 p.m. **Nicole Sealey** (*Ordinary Beast*) and **John Murillo** (*Up Jump The Boogie*)

Wednesday, Oct. 24
1 p.m. **Jon Sands** (*The New Clean*)
2:30 p.m. **Tom Williams** (*Among the Wild Mulattos and Other Tales; Don’t Start Me Talkin’*)
4 p.m. **Brian Turner** (*My Life as a Foreign Country; Phantom Noise*)
7 p.m. **President’s Lecture Series: Imbolo Mbue** (*Behold the Dreamers*)
Big Blue Room, Ted Constant Convocation Center

Thursday, Oct. 25
12:30 p.m. **Cecelia Hagen** (*Entering*); ODU Virginia Beach
2:30 p.m. **L. Lamar Wilson** (*Sacrilegion*)
4 p.m. **Franny Choi** (*Floating, Brilliant, Gone*)
6 p.m. **Panel (L. Lamar Wilson, Franny Choi, Sharon Patricia Holland)**