



**45TH ANNUAL
ODU LITERARY FESTIVAL**

OCTOBER 2-6, 2022

Event information and access links
are available at odu.edu/litfest.

All events are free and open to the public.

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**OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY**

*"You say you love the world,
so love the world."*

— Ada Limón,
24th Poet Laureate of the United States

In times of difficulty—of suffering and trauma, violence and grief—our connections to one another become an engine of survival, and the work of cultivating and sustaining those bonds becomes both vital and deeply complex. In times of comfort, peace, and celebration, our communities extend and magnify our joy. No matter the state of the world, we are responsible to one another: interconnected and interdependent. Join us for the 45th Annual ODU Literary Festival, as we celebrate literature's capacity to forge and preserve community, work that examines the ways we live in relationship to one another, and remarkable writers who sustain—and are sustained by—the communities in which they live, work, and make.

Kent Wascom & Molly McCully Brown
ODU Literary Festival Co-directors

Logo by SuperCompStudios



Featured Author Bios



Photo by Jennifer Natalie Fish

Remica Bingham-Risher is a native of Phoenix, Arizona, a Cave Canem fellow and Affrilachian Poet. Her work has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Writer's Chronicle*, *Callaloo* and *Essence*. She is the author of *Conversion* (Lotus, 2006), winner of the Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award; *What We Ask of Flesh* (Etruscan, 2013), shortlisted for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award and *Starlight & Error* (Diode, 2017), winner of the Diode book contest.



S. A. Cosby is an Anthony Award-winning writer from Southeastern Virginia. He is the author of *The New York Times* bestseller *Razorblade Tears* and *Blacktop Wasteland*, which won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, was a *New York Times* Notable Book, and was named a best book of the year by NPR, *The Guardian*, and *Library Journal*, among others. When not writing, he is an avid hiker and chess player.



Alicia DeFonzo is the author of *The Time Left Between Us* (Potomac Books, September 2022). She is a senior lecturer and Fulbright specialist at Old Dominion University, having earned an MFA in nonfiction, MA in literature, and undergraduate degree in broadcast journalism. She received the Gettysburg Review Conference Award in Nonfiction and has been published in *War*, *Literature*, and *the Arts*, *The Montreal Review*, *Cobalt Review*, and *Voices in Italian Americana*; her most popular academic essay, "Banning Sherlock," has been published and translated by the University of Urbino (Italy). She has been a presenter for reading series such as *Miss Manhattan Nonfiction* and *Inner Loop* in D.C. and is a frequent literary guest on local and national NPR programs.



J. R. Léveillé is a renowned figure in Franco-Manitoban and francophone literature. He is the author of over 30 interdisciplinary works of poetry, fiction, television documentaries and theater. He is included in many anthologies and his work is studied in many Canadian schools. His 2001 novel, *The Setting Lake Sun* (*Le soleil du lac qui se couche*) won the Prix Rue-Deschambault prize in 2002 and was selected for the 2020 edition of *Le Combat des Livres*. Some of his recent works include *New York Trip* (2003); *Pierre Lardon* (2011); *Poème, Pierre, Prière* (*Poeme, Rock, Prayer*, 2011); *L'Invocation de Rutebeuf et the Villion* (2012); *Ganiishomong, ou l'extase du temps* (2020) and *Ex-Nihilo* in 2021 with E.D. Blodgett. He received the Manitoba Arts Council's Award of Distinction in 2012.



Sarah Matthes is a poet from central New Jersey. Her debut collection of poetry, *Town Crier*, (*Persea*, 2021) won the Lexi Rudnitsky First Book Prize and was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. She has received support for her work from the Yiddish Book Center and the Civitella Ranieri Foundation, and won the 2019 Tor House Prize from the Robinson Jeffers Foundation. A graduate of the Michener Center for Writers, she still lives in Austin, Texas, where she serves as the managing editor of *Bat City Review* and teaches poetry at UT Austin.



Tim Seibles is the author of seven collections of poetry, including *Body Moves* (1988), *Hurdy-Gurdy* (1992), *Hammerlock* (1999), *Buffalo Head Solos* (2004), and *One Turn Around The Sun* (2017). *Fast Animal* (2012) won the Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize, received the PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award, and was nominated for a 2012 National Book Award. His latest work of poetry, *Voodoo Libretto*, was published by Etruscan Press this year. His poems have been published in the *Indiana Review*, *Black Renaissance Noire*, *Cortland Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, and numerous other literary journals and anthologies, including *Best American Poetry*. Seibles lives in Norfolk, Virginia.



E.M. Tran is a Vietnamese American writer. Her debut novel, *Daughters of the New Year*, is forthcoming from Hanover Square/HarperCollins. Her stories, essays, and reviews can be found in such places as *Joyland Magazine*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *Harvard Review Online*. Her essay for *Prairie Schooner* won its Summer Nonfiction Prize, a Glenna Luschei Award, and was listed as a Notable Essay in *Best American Essays 2018*. She completed an MFA at University of Mississippi and a Ph.D. in creative writing at Ohio University. She was born, raised, and currently lives in New Orleans with her husband and two dogs.



David Wright Faladé has written three books: the narrative history *Fire on the Beach: Recovering the Lost Story of Richard Etheridge and the Pea Island Lifesavers*, and the novels *Away Running* and most recently, *Black Cloud Rising*. *The New Yorker* chose *Fire on the Beach* as one of its notable selections, and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* named it one of its Best Books of 2001. *Away Running* was named an Outstanding International Book by the US Board on Books for Young People and was selected by the Junior Library Guild and the Texas Library Association for its high school reading lists. A former Fulbright Fellow to Brazil, Faladé is the 2021-22 Mary Ellen von der Heyden Fellow of the NY Public Library's Cullman Center for Writers. His work has been recognized by the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Texas Institute of Letters. He teaches in the MFA program at the University of Illinois.



Diane Zinna is the author of *The All-Night Sun* (Random House, 2020), which was longlisted for the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize and the Cabell First Novelist Award. She received her MFA from the University of Florida and was the longtime membership director for the Association of Writers & Writing Programs. There, she created the Writer-to-Writer Mentorship Program, helping to match more than 600 writers over 12 seasons. She is also the creator of *Grief Writing Sundays*, a popular writing class on telling difficult stories that has met every week since the start of the pandemic. Zinna is the recipient of an ArtsFairfax Artist Grant, and beginning this fall, she will be the Darden Professor of Creative Writing at Old Dominion University. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming at *Electric Literature*, *LiteraryHub*, *Brevity*, *Monkeybicycle*, and *Eat, Darling, Eat*. Diane lives in Fairfax, Virginia, with her husband, daughter, and doodle.

Venues

The Green Onion Restaurant

1603 Colley Avenue, Norfolk

University Theatre

4600 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk

Barry Art Museum

1075 W. 43rd Street, Norfolk

Elation Brewing

5104 Colley Avenue, Norfolk

All events will be available at odu.edu/litfest and livestreamed on Facebook @ODULit Fest
(with the exception of the Opening and Closing receptions)



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.

ODU Master of Fine Arts *Creative Writing Program*

*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



Schedule of Events

All events are free and open to the public.

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

Sunday, October 2

4 p.m. **Opening Reception**

The Green Onion Restaurant

Monday, October 3

4 p.m. **Faculty Reading**

Alicia DeFonzo

Remica Bingham-Risher

University Theatre and access at odu.edu/litfest

7 p.m. **Diane Zinna Reading**

& Jerri Dickeski

Prize Winners Presentation

University Theatre and access at odu.edu/litfest

Tuesday, October 4

4 p.m. **MFA Showcase**

University Theatre and access at odu.edu/litfest

7 p.m. **David Wright Faladé Reading**

University Theatre and access at odu.edu/litfest

Wednesday, October 5

4 p.m. **Sarah Matthes Reading**

University Theatre and access at odu.edu/litfest

7 p.m. **E.M. Tran Reading**

University Theatre and access at odu.edu/litfest

Thursday, October 6

12:30 p.m. **Tim Seibles Reading**

University Theatre and access at odu.edu/litfest

3 p.m. **J.R. Levéillé Reading**

Barry Art Museum

5:30 p.m. **S.A. Cosby Reading**

University Theatre and access at odu.edu/litfest

7 p.m. **Closing Reception**

Elation Brewing

Special Thanks

President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.

Office of the President

Cullen Strawn and Arts@ODU

Michael Khandelwal and The Muse Writers Center

Marc Katz and the University Village Bookstore

Edith White and the Forrest P. White Endowment

Dean Laura Delbrugge and the Office of the Dean,
College of Arts and Letters

Renée Olander and ODU Virginia Beach

Peter Schulman

Jerri F. Dickeski

Otha Nowlin and the Office of
University Design and Publications

Barry Art Museum

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