



A Place to Stand

38TH ANNUAL LITERARY FESTIVAL

OCT. 4 – OCT. 8, 2015

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OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY

IDEA FUSION

A Place to Stand

Give me a place to stand,"
Archimedes famously said, "and
I will move the earth." Join us as we celebrate
diversity, determination, finding a place to
stand from which to speak and be heard,
and the many ways writers and artists change
the ways we see the world.

Janet Peery and Katherine Jackson
2015 Festival Directors

Featured Readers



Jenny Bouly is the author of *The Book of Beginnings and Endings* (Sarabande), *not merely because of the unknown that was stalking towards them* (Tarpaulin Sky Press), *The Body: An Essay* (Essay Press). Born in Thailand and raised in Texas, she holds a Ph.D. in English from the CUNY-Graduate Center. She lives in Chicago with her family and teaches creative writing at Columbia College Chicago.



A powerful and widely celebrated voice in contemporary fiction, Haitian American bestselling author and social activist **Edwidge Danticat** has written 10 books and has received numerous awards and honors. Her first novel, *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, was selected for Oprah's Book Club and led to Danticat's recognition, at 25, as a shining new literary talent. Her newest book, *Claire of the Sea Light*, was published in 2013 to critical acclaim. Previous works include *Brother, I'm Dying*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and was a National Book Award finalist; *Krik? Krak!*, a National Book Award finalist; and *The Dew Breaker*, a PEN/Faulkner Award finalist and winner of the inaugural Story Prize. Danticat received a MacArthur "Genius Grant" and has been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times* and elsewhere.



Theodore Deppe is the author of *Beautiful Wheel*, *Orpheus on the Red Line*, *Cape Clear: New and Selected Poems*, *The Wanderer King*, and *Children of the Air*. He has received a Pushcart Prize, two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Commission and the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. His work has appeared in *Poetry*, *Harper's*, *Kenyon Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry Ireland Review* and elsewhere. He served as writer-in-residence at Phillips Academy in Massachusetts, the Poet's House in Ireland, Westminster College in Utah, and the James Merrill House in Connecticut. He directs Stonecoast in Ireland and lives on the west coast of Ireland.



Cornelius Eady has published eight books of poetry, most recently *Hardheaded Weather*. His *Victims of the Latest Dance Craze* won the 1985 Lamont Poetry Prize and *The Gathering of My Name* was nominated for the 1992 Pulitzer Prize. Eady has collaborated with jazz composer Diedre Murray to produce several works of musical theater, including *Brutal Imagination*, recipient of *Newsday's*

Oppenheimer Award. Additional honors include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the John Simon Guggenheim and Rockefeller foundations; and the Prairie Schooner Strousse Award. A professor of English and the Miller Family Endowed Chair in Literature and Writing at the University of Missouri, he co-founded Cave Canem Foundation with Toi Derricotte in 1996.



Cornelius Eady and Rough Magic: Rough Magic is a New York-based band sprung from Cornelius Eady's desire to extend the boundaries of language expression to include original songs and those produced over many years. With the 2013 release of Eady's *Book of Hooks*, a two-CD and chapbook set, a group of like-minded poets-musicians-composers converged and became Rough Magic. The band calls upon troubadour traditions and evokes the sounds and storytelling of such greats as Muddy Waters and Woody Guthrie, as well as the unexpected grooves and subject matter of the Talking Heads.



Percival Everett is the author of 25 critically-acclaimed books, among them *Erasure*, *God's Country*, *I Am Not Sidney Poitier* and *Percival Everett* by Virgil Russell. Among his many honors are the PEN/USA Award for Fiction, an Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Literary Award. He is Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Southern California.



Mitchell S. Jackson's debut novel *The Residue Years* was praised by The New York Times, The Paris Review, The Times of London, and The Sydney Morning Herald. The novel was honored with the Ernest Gaines Award for Literary Excellence and was a finalist for the Center For Fiction's Flaherty-Dunn First Novel Prize, the PEN/Hemingway Award For First Fiction, and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. Jackson has received fellowships from the Lannan Foundation, the Center for Fiction, and the Urban Artist Initiative.



A. Van Jordan is the author of four collections: *Rise, M-A-C-N-O-L-I-A*, *Quantum Lyrics*, *The Cineaste*, and a chapbook, *The Homesteader* (2013). Jordan has won a Whiting Writers' Award, an Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, a Pushcart Prize, and he has been included in 2013 *Best American Poetry*



anthology. A recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a United States Artists Williams Fellowship, he was an English professor at the University of Michigan, taught in the Warren Wilson College MFA Program, and has served as the Henry Rutgers Presidential Professor at Rutgers University-Newark since fall 2014.

Garrison Keillor is an acclaimed humorist, novelist, poet, and America's most beloved radio host. He went to work for Minnesota Public Radio in 1969, and in July 1974, he hosted the first broadcast of "A Prairie Home Companion." Keillor has received Grammy, ACE and George Foster Peabody awards, the National Humanities Medal, and election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Author of many best-selling books, he is the host of the "Writer's Almanac" and the author of several poetry anthologies. His reading is donated as a gift to the ODU writing community.



John McManus is the author of four books of fiction: *Stop Breakin' Down*, *Born on a Train*, *Bitter Milk*, and his latest story collection, *Fox Tooth Heart*. His work has appeared in Ploughshares, Tin House, McSweeney's, American Short Fiction, The Oxford American, The Literary Review, and Harvard Review, among other journals and anthologies. He is the recipient of the Whiting Writers' Award, the Fellowship of Southern Writers' New Writing Award, a Creative Capital Literature grant, and a Fulbright Scholar grant.



Manuel Muñoz is the author of a novel, *What You See in the Dark*, as well as two short-story collections, *Zigzag* and *The Faith Healer of Olive Avenue*, which was shortlisted for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award. His work has appeared in The New York Times, Glimmer Train and Boston Review and has aired on NPR's "Selected Shorts." The recipient of an O. Henry Prize and a Whiting Writers' Award, Muñoz lives in Tucson, Ariz., where he is an associate professor at the University of Arizona.



January Gill O'Neil is the author of *Misery Islands* and *Underlife*, both published by CavanKerry Press. She is the executive director of the Massachusetts Poetry Festival and an assistant professor of English at Salem State University. She is a graduate of Old Dominion University.



Michael Pearson teaches creative writing and American literature at Old Dominion University. He has published essays and stories in *The Boston Globe*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Southern Literary Journal*, *Shenandoah Review*, *Chautauqua*, *The Morning News*, *Creative Nonfiction*, and many others. He has written seven books, most recently, *Reading Life— On Books, Memory, and Travel* (2015).



Susan Power is an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and a native Chicagoan. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School and the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, and the author of three books, *The Grass Dancer*, *Roofwalker*, and her new novel, *Sacred Wilderness*. *The Grass Dancer* was awarded a PEN/Hemingway prize, and *Roofwalker* won a Milkweed National Fiction Prize. Her short stories and essays have been widely published. She has received the Iowa Arts, James Michener, Radcliffe Bunting Institute, Princeton Hodder, and United States Artists fellowships. She lives in Saint Paul, Minn.



Josh Weil is the author of the novel *The Great Glass Sea*, a New York Times Editor's Choice and finalist for the Center for Fiction's Flaherty-Dunn First Novel Award, and the novella collection *The New Valley*, awarded the Sue Kaufman Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the New Writers Award from the GLCA. A Fulbright Fellow and National Book Award 5-under-35 honoree, he has written for *The New York Times*, *Granta*, *Tin House*, *One Story* and *Esquire*, among others. He lives with his family in the foothills of the Sierra Nevadas.

Canvas of My Soul: Paño Drawings by Chicano Prisoners
Paños are simple cotton handkerchiefs that are prison-issued and hand-decorated by Chicano inmates. Largely hidden from public view, this intensely personal and expressive art form draws on visual references ranging from religion to pop culture, and conveys the hopes, desires, emotions and life lessons of the inmates to their family members. Most of the paños in this exhibition date from the 1990s and come from prisons around San Antonio, Texas.

Venues

Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries
4509 Monarch Way

Chandler Recital Hall
in the F. Ludwig Diehn Center for the Performing Arts
corner of 49th St. and Elkhorn Ave.

ODU Virginia Beach
1881 University Drive, Virginia Beach

Webb University Center
49th St. and Bluestone Ave.

Big Blue Room, Ted Constant Convocation Center
4320 Hampton Blvd.

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

For more information, contact the Creative Writing Office
at 757-683-3929 or Amanda at MFAGPDAssistant@odu.edu.
lib.odu.edu/litfest/38th/

SPECIAL THANKS

John R. Broderick and the Office of the President
Office of the Dean, Arts and Letters
Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
Department of Women's Studies
Edith White and the Forrest P. White Endowment
Jerri Fuller Dickeski
Friends of the MFA Creative Writing Program
Gay Cultural Studies
Institute for Jewish and Interfaith Understanding
Karen Vaughan and the Perry Library
The Norfolk Commission on the Arts and Humanities
Marc Katz and the ODU Bookstore
Borjo Coffeehouse
John Miller and Clay McNutt
ODU Virginia Beach

Support the ODU Bookstore
Titles available in the store and at all readings

Schedule of Events

Events will be held in Chandler Recital Hall unless noted.

Sunday, October 4

2 – 4 p.m. **Reception**

Canvas of My Soul: Paño Drawings by Chicano Prisoners

Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries

Monday, October 5

12:30 p.m. **January Gill O'Neil**

4 p.m. **Cornelius Eady and Rough Magic**

7:30 p.m. **Garrison Keillor**

Big Blue Room, Ted Constant Convocation Center

Tuesday, October 6

12:30 p.m. **Jenny Bouilly**

2 p.m. **John McManus and Michael Pearson**

4 p.m. **Mitchell S. Jackson**

7:30 p.m. **A. Van Jordan**

Wednesday, October 7

12:30 p.m. **Susan Power**

4 p.m. **Manuel Muñoz**

8 p.m. **Percival Everett**

Thursday, October 8

12:30 p.m. **Theodore Deppe**

ODU Virginia Beach

4 p.m. **Josh Weil**

7:30 p.m. **President's Lecture Series: Edwidge Danticat**

North Cafeteria, Webb University Center