

Lust for life

ODU LITFEST: STILL SEXY AT 40

Oct. 1-Oct. 5, 2017

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**OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY**

lust for life

ODU LITFEST: STILL SEXY AT 40

"I want to live forever in wonder. The difference between me as a child and me as an adult is this and only this: when I was a child I longed to travel into, to live in wonder. Now I know, as much as I can know anything, that to travel into wonder is to be wonder. So it matters little whether I travel by plane, by rowboat, or by book. Or by dream."

—Kathy Acker

In books we travel by dream into the bodies and souls of characters who live forever in the eternal present. Words bring forth beings whose love, pain, lust, and awe can sate our yearning. Join us this week as we dream, by means of the poems, essays, stories, plays, and photographs of seventeen world-renowned writers and artists.

John McManus and Kathy Fowler
2017 Festival Directors

FEATURED READERS



Remica Bingham-Risher, a native of Phoenix, Arizona, is an alumna of Old Dominion University and Bennington College. She is a Cave Canem fellow and Affrilachian Poet. Among other journals, her work has been published in *The Writer's Chronicle*, *New Letters*, *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 Editions Book Award. She is the Director of Quality Enhancement Plan Initiatives at Old Dominion University and resides in Norfolk with her husband and children.



Mahogany L. Browne was born in Oakland, California. She is the author of several poetry collections and chapbooks, including *Smudge* (Button Poetry, 2016), *Redbone* (Aquarius Press, 2015) and *#Dear Twitter: Love Letters Hashed Out Online* (Penmanship Books, 2010). Browne is the founder and publisher of Penmanship Books, which she created "as the answer to the performance poet's publishing problem." She is also the author of *Unlikely & Other Sorts* (Penmanship Books, 2006), a collection of poetry and essays, and the editor of *His Rib: Stories, Poems & Essays by HER* (Penmanship Books, 2007). Also an award-winning performance poet, Browne is active in the spoken word community. She has released five LPs of her work and serves as the poetry program director and Friday Night Slam curator for the Nuyorican Poets Café. She is currently pursuing an MFA in writing and activism at Pratt Institute in New York City.



President's Lecture Series speaker **Roz Chast** is the author of *Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?* (2014), the first graphic novel in National Book Critics Circle Award history to receive the prize for autobiography. *Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?* was also a *New York Times* 2014 Best Book of the Year and National Book Award Finalist. Roz Chast is the author of more than a dozen other books for adults as well as numerous books for children. She collaborated with humorist Steve Martin on *The Alphabet from A to Y with Bonus Letter Z!*. Her latest book, *Going Into Town: A Love Letter to New York*, comes out in October 2017. When she was 24, *The New Yorker* added her to their roster of forty artists under contract, and the publication has published her work continuously ever since. She lives in Connecticut with her family and several parrots.



Carrie Fountain's poems have appeared in *Tin House*, *Poetry*, and *The New Yorker*, among others. She is the author of the collections *Burn Lake* (Penguin, 2010) and *Instant Winner* (Penguin, 2014), and a recipient of the National Poetry Series Award. Her first novel, *I'm Not Missing*, is forthcoming from Flatiron Books (Macmillan) in 2018.



Lamar Giles writes novels and short stories for teens and adults. He is the author of the 2015 Edgar® Award Nominee *Fake ID*, the 2016 Edgar® Award Nominee *Endangered*, and *Overturned* from Scholastic Press. He is a founding member of We Need Diverse Books and resides in Virginia with his wife. Check him out online at www.lamargiles.com or follow @LRGiles on Twitter.



Kaitlyn Greenidge was born in Boston. She received her MFA from Hunter College. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Elle.com*, *Lenny Letter*, *The Believer*, *American Short Fiction*, the *Virginia Quarterly*, *Guernica* and other places. She is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Lower Manhattan Community Council's Work-Space Program, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and other prizes. She currently lives in Brooklyn.



Garth Greenwell is the author of *What Belongs to You*, which won the British Book Award for Debut of the Year, was longlisted for the National Book Award, and was a finalist for six other awards, including the PEN/Faulkner Award, the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, and *The Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. A *New York Times* Book Review Editors' Choice, it was named a Best Book of 2016 by over fifty publications in nine countries, and is being translated into eleven languages. His short fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, the *Paris Review*, and *A Public Space*, and he has written criticism for *The New Yorker*, *The London Review of Books*, and *The New York Times Book Review*, among others. He lives in Iowa City.



Poet Laureate of Texas, **Laurie Ann Guerrero**, was born and raised in the Southside of San Antonio and received the Academy of American Poets Prize from Smith College, among others. Winner of the 2012 Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize, her first full-length collection, *A Tongue in the Mouth of the Dying*, was released by University of Notre Dame Press in 2013. Her latest collection, *A Crown for Gumecindo*, was released by Aztlan Libre Press in the spring of 2015 and received the 2016 Helen C. Smith Award for poetry from the Texas Institute of Letters. Guerrero holds degrees from Smith College and Drew University.



Amaud Jamaul Johnson is a native son of Compton, California. Educated at Howard University and Cornell University, he is the author of two poetry collections, *Darktown Follies* (Tupelo 2013) and *Red Summer* (2006). A former Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University, Robert Frost Fellow at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, and Cave Canem Fellow, his honors include a Pushcart Prize, the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, the Edna Meudt Book Award, and the Dorset Prize. His work has appeared in *Best American Poetry 2014*, *The Southern Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Narrative Magazine*, and elsewhere. He teaches in the MFA Program in Creative Writing at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and directs the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing.



Olivia Laing is the author of *To the River* and *The Trip to Echo Spring*. Her latest book, *The Lonely City: Adventures in the Art of Being Alone*, has been translated into thirteen languages and was shortlisted for the 2017 National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism. She's a columnist for *Frieze* and writes on art and culture for *The Guardian*, *New Statesman* and *The New York Times*. She's currently working on a book about bodies and freedom.



Don Lee is the author of the novels *Lonesome Lies Before Us*, *The Collective*, *Wrack and Ruin*, and *Country of Origin*, and the story collection *Yellow*. He has received an American Book Award, the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature, the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction, the Edgar Award for Best First Novel, an O. Henry Award, and a Pushcart Prize. He teaches in the M.F.A. program in creative writing at Temple University and splits his time between Philadelphia and Baltimore.



Drew Lopenzina hails from the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts and teaches Early American and Native American literatures at Old Dominion University in Norfolk. His second book, *Through an Indian's Looking Glass* (University of Massachusetts Press), is a cultural biography of the Pequot writer, activist and minister William Apess, the first Native American to write and publish his own book length treatises and memoirs in the 1820's and 30's. Praise by Barry O'Connell states that Lopenzina "brings Apess nearly fully to life, which no one else, among many scholars, has. I know of no better reader of Apess's own writing." Lopenzina is also the author of *Red Ink: Native Americans Picking up the Pen in the Colonial Period*. His essays appear in the journals *American Literature*, *American Quarterly*, *Studies in American Indian Literature*, *Native American and Indigenous Studies* and others.



Ellen McLaughlin has worked extensively in regional and New York theater, both as an actor and as a playwright. Acting work includes originating the part of the Angel in *Angels in America*, playing the role in workshops and regional productions through its Broadway run in 1993-1994. Other favorite work includes the Homebody in Bart Sher's production of *Homebody/Kabul* (Intiman, Seattle, WA), *Pirate Jenny* in *A Threepenny Opera* (Trinity Rep. Elliot Norton Award), Claire in *Albee's A Delicate Balance* (Arena Stage, Yale Rep. Theater), Margie in *Good People* (George St. Playhouse, Seattle Rep.), Rosemary in *Outside Mullingar* (George St. Playhouse) and *Roz and Ray* (Alley Theater and Seattle Rep.). Her plays have been produced Off-Broadway, regionally and internationally. She is the recipient of the Writer's Award from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund as well as other honors, including the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and grants from the NEA. Plays include *Tongue of a Bird*, *Iphigenia and other Daughters*, *Trojan Women*, *Infinity's House*, *Helen*, *Oedipus*, *The Persians*, *Penelope*, *Ajax in Iraq*, *Pericles*, and *Septimus and Clarissa*. She has taught playwriting at Barnard College since 1995.



Janet Peery is the author of *Alligator Dance*, *The River Beyond the World*, *What the Thunder Said*, and *The Exact Nature of Our Wrongs*. Her work appears in *Southern Review*, *StoryQuarterly*, *Shenandoah*, *Southwest Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *American Short Fiction*, and many other literary magazines and anthologies, including *Best American Short Stories* and *Best of the Pushcart Prize*. A finalist for the National Book Award in Fiction, she is the recipient of the Whiting Writers Award, the Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Award from the American (cont.)

FEATURED READERS (CONT.)



(Peery, cont.) Academy of Arts and Letters, the Library of Virginia Literary Award, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Alexandra Petri is a *Washington Post* columnist and blogger, a stand-up comic, an International Pun Champion, a playwright, a *Jeopardy!* loser, and she's been on your TV a couple of times. Her book of essays, *A Field Guide to Awkward Silences*, was published in 2016.



Tim Seibles is the author of several poetry collections including *Hurdy-Gurdy*, *Hammerlock*, *Buffalo Head Solos*, and *Fast Animal*, which was a finalist for the 2012 National Book Award. In 2013 he received both the Pen Oakland Josephine Miles Award for poetry and an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Misericordia University for his literary accomplishments. His latest collection, *One Turn Around The Sun*, has just been released. Tim is the current Poet Laureate of Virginia and is a Professor of English at Old Dominion University where he teaches literature as well as classes in the MFA in writing program.



Sarah Stacke's personal work develops daily life stories about people living in under-resourced and narrowly represented communities created by intersections of history, culture, and forced geographies. She often spends time with a person or community over the course of months or years. In 2012 Sarah received a master's degree from Duke University tailored to analyze photographic representations of sub-Saharan Africa. She teaches at Duke's Center for Documentary Studies and the International Center of Photography and writes about photography for publications including *National Geographic* and *Photo District News*. Sarah's work has taken her around the world with an emphasis on South Africa and Democratic Republic of Congo; and within the U.S.A. North Carolina, New York, and Minnesota. She has worked with institutions like *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Al Jazeera*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Oxford American*, and *Open Society Foundations*.



OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Letters

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

VENUES

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

Chandler Recital Hall

F. Ludwig Diehn Center for the Performing Arts
corner of 49th Street and Elkhorn Avenue

Goode Theatre

4601 Monarch Way

ODU Virginia Beach

1881 University Drive, Virginia Beach

Slover Library

235 E. Plume Street

Ted Constant Convocation Center

4320 Hampton Boulevard

University Theatre

47th Street & Hampton Boulevard

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 Old Dominion University
English Department at 757-683-3991 or email mfagpdassistant@odu.edu.
lib.odu.edu/litfest/40th/

SPECIAL THANKS

John R. Broderick and the
Office of the President

Office of the Provost

Office of the Dean, Arts and Letters

ODU Virginia Beach

Department of Women's Studies

Office of Leadership and
Student Involvement

Edith White and the
Forrest P. White Endowment

Jerri Fuller Dickeski

Clay McNutt and John Miller

The Muse Writers Center

LitFriends

Karen Vaughan and the Perry Library

Marc Katz and the
University Village Bookstore

SpringHill Suites by Marriott Norfolk

Borjo Coffeehouse

Dr. Jennifer Fish and Women's Studies

Friends of Women's Studies

Dr. Avi Santo and the
Institute for the Humanities

Slover Library

The ODU Monarch Community Alliance

Chris Hanna and the Department of
Communication and Theatre Arts

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, Oct. 1

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 40th 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. 2

1 p.m. **Kaitlyn Greenidge** (*We Love You, Charlie Freeman*), University Theatre

2:30 p.m. **Don Lee** (*Lonesome Lies Before Us; Country of Origin*), University Theatre

4 p.m. **Laurie Ann Guerrero** (*A Crown for Gumecindo; A Tongue in the Mouth of the Dying*), University Theatre

8 p.m. **Olivia Laing** (*The Lonely City; The Trip to Echo Spring; On Writers and Drinking*), Chandler Recital Hall

Tuesday, Oct. 3

1 p.m. **Janet Peery** (*The Exact Nature of Our Wrongs; The River Beyond the World*) and **Tim Seibles** (*One Turn Around the Sun; Fast Animal*), University Theatre

2:30 p.m. **Alexandra Petri** (*A Field Guide to Awkward Silences*), University Theatre

4 p.m. **Amaud Jamaul Johnson** (*Darktown Follies; Red Summer*), University Theatre

8 p.m. **Sarah Stacke** (*Love from Manenberg*), Slover Library, 235 E. Plume Street, Norfolk

Wednesday, Oct. 4

1 p.m. **Lamar Giles** (*Overturned; Fake ID*), University Theatre

2:30 p.m. **Drew Lopezina** (*Through an Indian's Looking-Glass: A Cultural Biography of William Apess, Pequot*) and **Remica Bingham-Risher** (*Starlight and Error; What We Ask of Flesh*), University Theatre

4 p.m. **Ellen McLaughlin** (*Lysistrata; Days and Nights Within*), University Theatre

7:30 p.m. "**Lysistrata**," adapted by Ellen McLaughlin based on the play by Aristophanes, directed by Chris Hanna, Goode Theatre, Tickets: \$15 at ODUArtsTix.com and (757) 683-5305

Thursday, Oct. 5

12:30 p.m. **Mahogany Browne** (*Smudge; Redbone*), ODU Virginia Beach

2:30 p.m. **Garth Greenwell** (*What Belongs to You*), University Theatre

4 p.m. **Carrie Fountain** (*Instant Winner; Burn Lake*), University Theatre

7:30 p.m. President's Lecture Series speaker **Roz Chast** (*Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*; *Going Into Town: A Love Letter to New York*), Ted Constant Convocation Center