

LitFest Pasadena Celebrates the Written Word with Two Days of Literary Happenings and Special Guest Authors *Throughout the Pasadena Playhouse District, May 20-21, 2017*

Pasadena, CA -- (May 12, 2017) LitFest Pasadena, the city and Southland's free literary arts festival, celebrates its sixth year with a packed weekend of readings, authors' panels, poetry, and celebrity guests on May 20 & 21, 2017. Programming for all ages and interests runs from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on May 20 and from 11:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on May 21. LitFest Pasadena is presented by the nonprofit arts and education organizations Light Bringer Project and Literature for Life. Go to www.LitFestPasadena.org for a complete schedule of authors and events.

LitFest Pasadena unfolds on the sidewalks and in the storefronts, corridors and unique venues of the highly walkable Playhouse District. Vroman's Bookstore and the historic Pasadena Playhouse serve as anchor points, as the festival continues its legacy of featuring Pulitzer Prize winners, L.A.'s most diverse and exciting authors, and eclectic panels. Programming and author highlights include:

Saturday, May 20 Highlights

- * Poet Laureate of Los Angeles (2014-16) **Luis Rodriguez** (Always Running) talking about his indigenous roots and what it means to "Write Indigenous California."
- * Pulitzer Prize-winning L.A. Times Restaurant Critic **Jonathan Gold** discussing the legacy of Julia Child.
- * **Las Lunas Locas'** "Poems on Demand" with poems generated on the sidewalk in real time for attendees - curated by L.A. poet **Jessica Ceballos Campbell**.
- * A celebrity guest lineup dramatically reading top new sci-fi stories from around the world at "The Roswell Award!" including **Allison Scagliotti** (Stitchers), **Tim Russ** (Star Trek: Voyager), **Madison McLaughlin** (Arrow), and **Carlease Burke** (Crowded).
- * Crime writer **Denise Hamilton** (Damage Control) will talk about the influence of running on her craft with fellow "Running Writers."
- * Top Young Adult novelists **Lissa Price** (Starters), **Jennifer Brody** (The 13th Continuum), and more discuss "Conflict, Destiny, and Self-Determination."
- * The Pasadena Public Library hosts "**Flights of Fantasy Story Theater**" for children.
- * Famed afro-futurist writer **Nalo Hopkinson** (The Chaos) joins the Shades & Shadows Reading Series for an evening of dark fiction from noir mystery to sci-fi.

Plus readings and panels on: "Refugee America"; "Sunshine Noir"; "Spontaneity in Conversation & Writing"; "Cute Filipinos on a Saturday Afternoon"; "Los Angeles Review of Books Editors In Conversation"; readings by "Literature for Life's Issue 5 Authors"; "Making Space, Holding Space"; Red Hen Press Poetry Readings; and more!

Sunday, May 21 Highlights

- * The Managing Editor of Snopes, **Brooke Binkowski** discusses "Hostile Environment Reporting for Young Female Journalists."
- * Award-winning fiction writer **Dana Johnson** in a discussion with **Jervey Tervalon** (Monster's Chef) and other well-known African American novelists on "Writing in the Times of Black Lives Matter."

* Popular comic book and TV writer **Brandon Easton** (Agent Carter), joins fellow comic book writers to discuss “Manga Influences on American Culture.”

* L.A. literary critic and essayist **David Ulin** (Sidewalking) joins **Lian Dolan** (Helen of Pasadena), **Christopher Noxon** (Plus One), and others to discuss the “Humor & Heartbreak of L.A.”

* **Joseph Shuldiner** (Pure Vegan) talks about “The L.A. Cookbook” with fellow cookbook writers **Bill Esparza** (L.A. Mexicano) and **Amelia Saltsman** (The Seasonal Jewish Kitchen).

* Best-selling author **Heidi Durrow** (The Girl Who Fell from the Sky) and critically acclaimed **Natashia Deón** (Grace) discuss their ideas on “Mixed-Race and Interracial Experience To Make Meaning in a Time of Protest.”

* Celebrity guests read L.A. County teens’ top sci-fi stories at The Tomorrow Prize, including **Jonathan Slavin** (Dr. Ken), **Jasika Nicole** (Fringe), **Peter Mackenzie** (Black-ish), **Anna Maria Horsford** (The Bold and the Beautiful), and **David Blue** (SGU Stargate Universe).

Authors’ books will be on sale at Vroman’s Bookstore and guests can purchase books to be signed after the panels.

LitFest Pasadena is presented with the generous support of: City of Pasadena, Pasadena Arts Council, Vroman’s Bookstore, Pasadena Playhouse, Pasadena Public Library, Mysterious Galaxy Books, Zona Rosa Coffee, Los Angeles Times Food Bowl, El Portal Mexican Cuisine, Sci-Fest L.A., Walt Girdner Photo Studio and Gallery, Blaze Pizza, Monopole Wine, IDS Real Estate Group, Jones Coffee Roasters, Geoffrey’s Comics, Roy’s, and others.

WHAT: LitFest Pasadena

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21, 2017

TIMES: Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, 11:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Pasadena Playhouse District, Pasadena CA

PARKING: Paid parking structures are available throughout the Pasadena Playhouse District.

For a complete schedule of events and authors, visit: www.LitFestPasadena.org.

For more information on participating as a sponsor, community partner or volunteer, call Patricia Hurley at (626) 590-1134 or by email hurleypanne@yahoo.com. All other press inquiries may be directed to Festival Director Rosalind Helfand at 310-869-5749 or rozhelpand@gmail.com.

Facebook: LitFestPasadena Twitter: [@LitFestPasadena](https://twitter.com/LitFestPasadena) Instagram: [#litfestpasadena](https://www.instagram.com/litfestpasadena)

LitFest Pasadena is made possible in part by the Pasadena Arts & Culture Commission and the City of Pasadena Cultural Affairs Division. The festival is also supported by the Playhouse Management District.

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