

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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What: LitFest Pasadena 2021

Dates: Saturday & Sunday, May 15-16, 2021

Times: Noon to 6:00pm daily

Location: Livestreaming on LitFest Facebook page, LBP YouTube Channel, and at www.litfestpasadena.org



LitFest Pasadena 2021 Goes Virtual!

Pasadena, CA (April 15, 2021) -- On Saturday and Sunday, May 15-16, noon to 6:00 p.m., **LitFest Pasadena** live streams panel discussions, readings, and conversations on a range of current topics and genres. Our 2021 event is the 9th presentation of the event, which has attracted hundreds of well-known writers, poets, journalists, and essayists along with thousands of literary enthusiasts. Unlike a commercial, book-selling event, **LitFest** has established a growing reputation as being writer-centric, conversational, and issue oriented. This year's virtual festival will be the first time audience members can participate from coast-to-coast and beyond.

Panel discussions will include *The Twists and Turns of True Crime* with bestselling author and podcaster **Rabia Chaudry**, **Alex Marzano-Lesnevich**, and Pasadena's own **Chip Jacobs**; *Don't Hit Repeat* with **Jinghuan Liu Tervalon** and **John Powers** (film critic, NPR and *Vogue*) in conversation with **Myles Matsuno** and a screening of his *First to Go: Story of the Kataoka Family* documentary; *Graphic Novels and Inclusivity* with BOOM! Studios's **Shannon Watters**, **Josh Trujillo**, co-writer of the new Marvel Captain America teen gay superhero, **Amanda Meadows**, senior editor at Oni Press, and **Pamela Ribon**, creator of the original comic series SLAM! and screenwriter for the feature film *Moana*, along with **Carly Usdin**, **Mariah-Rose Marie**, and **Gary Phillips**; *Writing Ourselves* with **Jervey Tervalon**, **Donnell Alexander**, **Rachel Harper**, **Keenan Norris**, **Lisa Teasley**, and **Kia Penso**; *Untangling the Family Story* with bestselling author **J. Ryan Stradal**, **Steph Cha**, **Amy Meyerson**, and **Sergio Troncoso**; *Speculative Los Angeles* with **Denise Hamilton**, **Lynell George**, **Kathleen Kaufman**, and **Duane Swierczynski**; *Our Culinary Table* with **Elisa Callow** (*The Urban Forager*), **Bill Esparza**, and **Val**

Zavala; *Authors and Airwaves* with **Tony DuShane**, **Meghan Daum** (The Unspeakable Podcast), and **Zibby Owens** (*Moms Don't Have Time to Read Books*); *Modern Kid Lit: Writing from the Heart* with **Tracy Holczer**, **Rajani LaRocca**, **Dana Middleton**, and **Mae Respicio**; *Stories of the New Unionism* with **Mia McIver** (UC-AFT), **Arlene Inouye** (UTLA), **Carolina Miranda** (*Los Angeles Times* Guild); **Christine O'Connell** (Union of Rutgers Administrators-AFT Teachers), **Todd Wolfson** (Rutgers AAUP-AFT), and **Lindsay Zafir** (Editor, *The Forge*); *Our SoCal DNA* with **Ryka Aoki**, **Aimee Bender**, **Natashia Deón**, **Deborah Lott**, **Luis Rodriguez**, and **Michael Torres**; and *Publishers' Roundtable* with **Rare Bird**, **Red Hen Press**, **Unnamed Press**, and **TSEHAI Publishing**.

“**Writers' Bootcamp**” sessions will provide important industry information and career-building tools for aspiring authors.

Other highlights include a reading by LA Poet Laureate **Lynne Thompson**, the **East Pasadena Poets** reading in traditional LitFest locations, the **Pasadena Rose Poets** reading in unusual places, **Poets in Distress**, **Zephyr Poets**, **Omega Sci Fi Awards** and **Locavore Lit LA readers**; a screening of *6th Grade Cannibals*; journalist **Rainesford Stauffer** reading from her upcoming release *An Ordinary Age: Finding Your Way in a World that Expects Exceptional*; and you certainly don't want to miss the **Dark Pasadena** segment coming to you from Mountain View Cemetery.

PUBLIC VIEWING: The virtual **LitFest Pasadena** is accessible for viewing on Saturday and Sunday, May 15-16, 2021, noon to 6 p.m. via the **LitFest Pasadena** Facebook page, the Light Bringer Project YouTube channel, and at www.litfestpasadena.org.

LitFest Pasadena is presented by **Light Bringer Project**, the Pasadena-based arts and education nonprofit, and **Locavore Lit LA**, the literary journal and resource for educators.

Organizers would like to thank our partners **Vroman's Bookstore**, **Red Hen Press** and **Rare Bird Press** for their ongoing and loyal support.

LitFest Pasadena is made possible by the support of the **City of Pasadena** and the **Pasadena Village Association**.

Photographs available upon request

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