

WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL

WORKSHOP
Preserving your documentary heritage, with Danielle Fraser, NALIS conservator
 Practical advice on preserving treasured documents. Includes a tour of the NALIS conservation lab
 9 am-12.30 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room • \$100
 In partnership with NALIS

FIRST-TIME AUTHORS
 Presentation by NALIS of tokens to first-time authors, 2017-2018
 10 am-12 pm • Old Fire Station

WORKSHOP
Writing the erotic, with Monique Roffey
 The OCM Bocas Prizewinning author, author of *The Tryst*, leads a masterclass in addressing the enticing subject of the erotic in fiction
 10.30 am-12.30 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • \$100
 In partnership with Wasafiri

WRITERS FIRST
 A series of free seminars for budding and self-published authors on crucial aspects of the book business

Breaking into the international children's book market, with Janet Smyth, Children and Education Programme Director at the Edinburgh International Book Festival
The importance of archiving for budding writers, with UWI librarian Lorraine Nero and scholar Alison Donnell

How to become an Amazon best-seller, with self-publishing consultant Corine LaFont
 1-4 pm • AV Room

CODE BURT AWARD
2018 announcement ceremony
 Recognising this year's winners of the Caribbean's only prize for young adult writing
 6.30-8.30 pm • Writers Centre, 14 Alcazar Street, St. Clair
 By invitation

BACKCHAT: PORT OF SPAIN
 Celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the groundbreaking, first-ever Caribbean LGBT literary reading. With drinks, music, sizzling stories, and penetrating poems. Curated by Colin Robinson
 8.30 pm until • Euphoria Lounge, 58 Dundonald Street

THURSDAY 26 APRIL

AN ISLAND STATE OF MIND
Island futures
 Climate change, the world economy, migration — tricky issues like these raise questions about the sustainability of small island societies. With a special focus on island perspectives running through the 2018 festival, we open with a high-level debate on hopes and possibilities for islands like ours. Featuring NGC President Mark Loquan, Philip Nanton, author of *Frontiers of the Caribbean*, environmentalist Alexander Girvan, and Sharifa Ali-Abdullah, Assistant Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme; chaired by Vicki Assevero. With a wake-up spoken word performance by Deneke Thomas
 10 am-12 pm • Old Fire Station

CODE BURT AWARD
2018 winners showcase
 Readings by and conversation with 2018 finalists Imam Baksh, Shakirah Bourne, and Elizabeth Jones, introduced and chaired by Janet Smyth
 10-11 am • AV Room
 In partnership with CODE

WORKSHOP
A life into fiction, with Anthony Joseph
 The author of *Kitch*, a new novel based on the life of T&T's iconic calypsonian, leads a workshop on the arts of fictional biography and biographical fiction
 10 am-12 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • \$100

ONE-ON-ONE
 With **Alex Wheatle**
 The celebrated YA writer reads from his novels and talks to Carolyn Cooper about the importance of representing diverse communities on the page
 11 am-12 pm • AV Room

FILMS
Pacific Voices
 Six short films tell the stories of young people in Papua New Guinea and Tonga
 12-1 pm • AV Room
 In partnership with Commonwealth Writers

EXTEMPO DEBATE
Island life
 Master calypsonians Black Sage and Myron B debate the positives and

Except where otherwise indicated, events take place in the National Library and Old Fire Station, Abercromby and Hart Streets, Port of Spain. All events (except workshops, *Unfinished Sentences* premiere, and First Citizens National Poetry Slam Finals) are free to the public — no tickets required. **Register in advance for workshops.**

www.bocaslitfest.com

negatives of life in a small island country, and future prospects
 12-1 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade
 In partnership with the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

SECRET LIVES
Why literary archives matter
 Scholars Alison Donnell and Evelyn O'Callaghan and writers Lorna Goodison, Kei Miller and Sharon Millar discuss the value of Caribbean literary archives and the challenges of identifying and preserving a writer's "papers" in the digital age
 1-2.30 pm • Old Fire Station
 In partnership with Caribbean Literary Heritage, supported by the Leverhulme Trust

CODE BURT AWARD
Celebrating our 2017 winners
 Viviana Prado-Núñez, Kevin Jared Hosein, and Lisa Allen-Agostini, last year's CODE Burt Award winners, launch their new books *The Art of White Roses*, *The Beast of Kukuyo*, and *Home Home*
 1-2.30 pm • AV Room
 In partnership with CODE

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WORKSHOP
Short fiction, with Jacob Ross
 The prizewinning Grenadian writer and Peepal Tree Press associate editor leads a masterclass in short fiction, a literary form with a celebrated place in the Caribbean canon
 1.30-3.30 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • \$100
 In partnership with Wasafiri

WINDHAM CAMPBELL PRIZES PRESENT
Erna Brodber
 The iconic Jamaican novelist and researcher talks to Evelyn O'Callaghan about the range of her life's creative and intellectual work
 2.30-3.30 pm • Old Fire Station

TAKE TWO
 International prizewinners **Ingrid Persaud** and **Celeste Mohammed** discuss the art of the Caribbean short story with Ira Mathur
 3-4 pm • AV Room

ROBBER TALK
A celebration of the Midnight Robber, one of T&T's indigenous performance traditions. Writers Vahni Capildeo, Rhoda Bharath and Colin Robinson read new pieces inspired by the art of robber talk, and master Midnight Robber Damian Whiskey delivers sinister news and topical commentary
 3.30-4.30 pm • Old Fire Station
 In partnership with the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

BOOK LAUNCH
Meet the Naipauls
 The launch of Savi Naipaul Akal's memoir, *The Naipauls of Nepaul Street*, featuring the author in conversation with Jeremy Poynting, plus readings by Bhoë Tewarie
 5-6 pm • Old Fire Station

FILM
Unfinished Sentences
 The Trinidad and Tobago premiere of Mariel Brown's feature film about her late father, iconic writer Wayne Brown
 6.30-10 pm • Central Bank Auditorium, St. Vincent Street • tickets \$180 (includes reception and refreshments)

FRIDAY 27 APRIL

AN ISLAND STATE OF MIND
So Many Islands
 Tracy Assing and Jacob Ross, contributors to the groundbreaking anthology *So Many Islands*, in a conversation about what makes "island" writing unique. Chaired by Nicholas Laughlin
 10-11 am • Old Fire Station
 In partnership with Commonwealth Writers

TRIBUTE
The legacies of Wayne Brown
 The late Trinidadian poet, fiction-writer, editor and mentor left an indelible stamp on contemporary Caribbean letters — as attested by his daughter, filmmaker Mariel Brown, and writers Sharon Millar, Keith Jardim, and Kei Miller
 10-11.30 am • AV Room

WORKSHOP
The spoken syllabus, with Derron Sandy
 A special workshop for secondary school teachers and students, demonstrating how to use performance poetry to teach the CSEC English

syllabus, led by one of T&T's most accomplished spoken word poets
 10 am-12 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • FREE

ONE-ON-ONE
 With **Lorna Goodison**
 Jamaica's poet laureate and 2018 Windham Campbell Prizewinner reads from her monumental *Collected Poems* and talks to Funso Aiyejina about her lyrical explorations of community and history
 11 am-12 pm • Old Fire Station

FILM & DISCUSSION
Calypso and the World?
 A documentary on the life and career of the greatest exponent of calypso from Costa Rica, Walter Ferguson, "Calypso King" of Cahuita, followed by a talk on the international reach of calypso, featuring calypso historian Rudolph Ottley in conversation with photographer Maria Nunes
 11.30 am-12.30 pm • AV Room

STAND AND DELIVER
 Our signature event for new and budding writers welcomes young voices to share their stories and concerns
 12.30-1 pm • Hart Street Arcade

TAKE TWO
Ways in the world
 Poets Adalber Salas Hernández of Venezuela and Michael Kelleher of the US read from work ranging from meditations on the nature of art to personal dilemmas in troubled times; chaired by Nicholas Laughlin
 1-2 pm • Old Fire Station

DISCUSSION
Pan, present and future
 The state of our national instrument, and its possible futures, discussed by pan arranger and academic Jeannine Remy, musician Johann Chuckaree, Nestor Sullivan of Pam-beri, and journalist Mark Lyndersay, chaired by Sunity Maharaj
 1-2.30 pm • AV Room

ONE-ON-ONE
 With **Romesh Gunesequera**
 The renowned Sri Lankan writer talks to Susheila Nasta about his life and work spanning continents and oceans
 10-11 am • Old Fire Station

WORKSHOP
Writing the divine, with Kaveh Akbar
 The experience of the divine is essential to many, but how does this translate into literature? One of the most celebrated new US poets leads a workshop exploring the question
 10 am-12 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • \$100

TAKE THREE
Keep it short
 Grenadian Jacob Ross and Trinidadians Jennifer Rahim and Keith Jardim read from and discuss their short fiction with a sharp eye on the perils and politics of the contemporary Caribbean; chaired by Jeremy Poynting
 2-3.30 pm • Old Fire Station

FILM
Green Days by the River
 An adaptation of the popular 1950s coming-of-age novel by T&T's beloved writer Michael Anthony, set in southeast Trinidad
 11 am-12.45 pm • AV Room

THE SUFFRAGE OF ELVIRA AT 60
 Dramatised excerpts from V.S. Naipaul's classic political satire, directed by Kenneth Ramchand
 11.30 am-12 pm • Library Rotunda

WRITERS' LAB
 Workshop your writing with Muli Amaye, head of UWI's MFA creative writing programme. Open to emerging writers
 11 am-1 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room

STAND AND DELIVER
Our signature event for new and budding writers
 With guest feature readers including Amanda McIntyre and M. James Cooper
 12.30-1.30 pm • Hart Street Arcade

SECRET LIVES
Inspired by the archives
 Presenting new pieces inspired by T&T's literary archives, by Andre Bago, Anu Lakhan, and Breanne McIvor, joined in conversation with Forward Prizewinner Kei Miller
 1.30 pm-2.30 pm • Old Fire Station
 In partnership with Caribbean Literary Heritage, supported by the Leverhulme Trust

SALON
 Barbadian writer and editor **Robert Edson Sandiford** on balancing creative and editorial roles, and the literary scene in Bim
 1.30-2.30 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room

WORKSHOP
Extempo masterclass, led by Short Pants and Myron B
 Two of T&T's extempo masters teach the art of fast thinking and clever lyrics
 1.30-3.30 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • \$100
 In partnership with the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

TAKE TWO
Haiti in all my dreams
 The devastating Haitian earthquake of 2010 underlies the work in fiction and poetry by Haitian-American writers Katia D. Ulysse and Danielle Legros Georges. Chaired by Ibrahim Ahmad
 2.30-3.30 pm • Old Fire Station

SALON
 An intimate conversation with **Barbara Lalla**, author of *Grounds for Tenure*, as she talks to Shivanee Ramlochan about her career wrestling with language as both linguist and novelist
 3-4 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room

IMAGINING A CITY
How Port of Spain became a modern city
 Scholar Stephen Stuempfle discusses his new book *Port of Spain: The Construction of a Caribbean City, 1888-1962*, and what the hidden archives reveal about the development of T&T's capital, with writer Judy Raymond, heritage architect Rudylynn Roberts, and historian Bridget Brereton
 3.30-4.30 pm • Old Fire Station

WRITERS UNION PRESENTS
 Writers' Union members present their recent work, plus a feature presentation on "Writing as Workshop" by scholar Kumar Mahabir
 4.30-6 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

OLD MAS COMPETITION
I-Land State of Mind
 Words meet costumes and performance in T&T's traditional protest masquerade
 5-6 pm • Hart Street Arcade
 In partnership with the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

OCM BOCAS PRIZE AND BOCAS HENRY SWANZY AWARD
2018 announcement ceremony
 The festival's centrepiece awards ceremony recognises the past year's best books of poetry and fiction, and we honour the 2018 Bocas Henry Swanzy Awardee, Anne Walmsley
 7-8 pm • Old Fire Station
 By invitation

SUNDAY 29 APRIL

MAN BOOKER PRIZE PRESENTS
Eleanor Catton
 The author of *The Luminaries* talks to Shivanee Ramlochan about the challenges of historical fiction, the literature of New Zealand, and her experience of being the youngest-ever winner of one of the world's most famous literary awards
 10-11 am • Old Fire Station

DISCUSSION
Beyond boundaries
 In North America and Europe, home to substantial Caribbean diaspora populations, recent politics have put questions of ethnicity and migration on the front burner. UK writer Afua Hirsch, author of *Brit(ish)*, and TT-based Debbie Jacob, author of *Making Waves*, Anthony Joseph, author of *Kitch*, and Muli Amaye, author of *A House with No Angels*, talk to Alison Donnell about reckoning with identity in the age of Trump and Brexit, and the Caribbean's contribution to global culture
 11 am-12.30 pm • Old Fire Station
 In partnership with the British Council

WORKSHOP
Writing from catastrophe, with Richard Georges
 Shortlisted for the 2017 Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Book of Poems,



the BVI writer leads a workshop in writing out of catastrophic situations
 10 am-12 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room • \$100

DISCUSSION
Crossing tongues
 Writers and translators Adalber Salas Hernández of Venezuela, Loretta Collins Klobah of Puerto Rico, Haitian-American Danielle Legros Georges, and Vahni Capildeo of TT/UK on how and why writing crosses borders of language, and how translation feeds our sense of ourselves as citizens of a global literature
 11 am-12 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

THE BLACK JACOBINS AT 80
 Excerpts from the theatrical adaptation of C.L.R James's classic account of the Haitian Revolution, directed by Wendell Manwarren
 11.30 am-12 pm • Library Rotunda

PEOPLE'S CHOICE T&T BOOK OF THE YEAR
 Readings by the six finalists for the inaugural award, as voted by readers across the country, introduced by *Newsday* editor in chief Judy Raymond
 12.30-1.30 pm • Hart Street Arcade

TAKE TWO
Let poems blaze
 US poet Kaveh Akbar and Jamaican Shara McCallum read from their poems addressing addiction, madness, home, and the divine. Chaired by Shivanee Ramlochan
 1.30-2.30 pm • Old Fire Station

SALON
 What does **Commonwealth literature** mean in the 21st century, and

how do writers from the very different nations of the Commonwealth question the history that connects them? Writers Romesh Gunesequera and Sharon Millar, both contributors to a special Commonwealth issue of the Australian journal *The Griffith Review*, talk to Lucy Hannah
 2-3 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

WINDHAM CAMPBELL PRIZES PRESENT
André Alexis
 The Trinidad-born and Canada-based writer, author of the multiple-award-winning novel *Fifteen Dogs*, talks to Michael Kelleher about literature, ideas, and the problematic concept of "home"
 2.30-3.30 pm • Old Fire Station

SUNDAY LAUNCH
Speaking in tongues
 An extraordinary poetry double-header, as two new books — *Ricantations* by 2012 OCM Bocas poetry prizewinner Loretta Collins Klobah and *Venus as a Bear* by TT's own Forward Prizewinner Vahni Capildeo — make their world debuts, with guest readings by Andre Bago, Simone Leid, Brandon O'Brien, and Shivanee Ramlochan
 3.30-5 pm • Old Fire Station

FIRST CITIZENS NATIONAL POETRY SLAM FINAL
The festival's grand finale!
 It's the year's biggest night of poetry, as T&T's top performance poets vie for the championship and the first prize of TT\$50,000. Come and root for your favourites!
 6-8 pm • National Academy for the Performing Arts
 Tickets \$200, available from NAPA Box Office and Francis Fashions outlets nationwide

Experience Bocas online!
 Can't make it to one of the events? Then tune in to the online festival livestream, with video of all events in the Old Fire Station via our Facebook page, [facebook.com/bocaslitfest](https://www.facebook.com/bocaslitfest)