



NGC
Bocas
Lit Fest



28 to
30 APR
TRINIDAD
& TOBAGO

This year, we're returning to an in-person festival — but if you can't make it to Port of Spain, you don't have to miss out! We're streaming selected events in the 2023 NGC Bocas Lit Fest programme — watch from anywhere in the world, for FREE! #bocas2023 #whatsyourstory

WATCH OUR FESTIVAL LIVESTREAM ONLINE!

FRIDAY 28 APRIL

BOCAS IS BACK!

The NGC Bocas Lit Fest returns to downtown Port of Spain! As we kick off, spoken word poet **Shimiah Lewis** welcomes us back to the festival village
10-10.30 am • Old Fire Station

BIG IDEAS

Equal for all

How does the promise of equality written into our national anthem actually play out for people with physical and mental differences and disabilities? With **Kenneth Suratt**, T&T Blind Welfare Association; **Lisa Ghany**, Down Syndrome Family Network; **Tessa Pascall**, Ministry of Social Development and Family Services; and poet **Celia Sorhaingo**; moderated by **Jacqueline Huggins**, Division of Student Services and Development at UWI, St. Augustine
10.30 am-12 pm • Old Fire Station

TAKE TWO

Debut novelists **Cherie Jones** (*How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps Her House*) and **Sharma Taylor** (*What a Mother's Love Don't Teach You*) share their narratives about family, love, and loss. Hosted by **Alake Pilgrim**
1-2 pm • Old Fire Station

TAKE TWO

Jan Carson (*The Raptures*) and **Ayanna Lloyd Banwo** (*When We Were Birds*) read from novels exploring the boundaries between this life and the next. Hosted by **Hadassah K. Williams**
2-3 pm • Old Fire Station
In partnership with the British Council and the Belfast International Arts Festival

TAKE THREE

Debut books of poems exploring personal and collective Caribbean histories. Featuring **Desiree C. Bailey** (*What Noise Against the Cane*), **Safiya Kamaria Kinshasa** (*Cane, Corn & Gully*), and **Samantha Thornhill** (*The Animated Universe*). Hosted by **Shivane Ramlochan**
3-4.30 pm • Old Fire Station

TAKE TWO

Family responsibilities collide with individual desires in the novels of **Kevin Jared Hosein** (*Hungry Ghosts*) and **Celeste Mohammed** (*Pleasantview*). Hosted by **Lisa Outar**
4.30-5.30 pm • Old Fire Station

SATURDAY 29 APRIL

ONE ON ONE

Booker Prize winner **Bernardine Evaristo** talks to **Ayesha Harruna Attah** about her groundbreaking novel *Girl, Woman, Other*
10-11 am • Old Fire Station
With special thanks to the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative

TAKE TWO

Lauren Francis-Sharma (*Book of the Little Axe*) and **Michael Magee** (*Close to Home*) tackle the never-simple bonds of family in their recent novels. Hosted by **Teresa White**
11 am-12 pm • Old Fire Station
In partnership with the British Council and the Belfast International Arts Festival

ONE ON ONE

Linton Kwesi Johnson is celebrated for his poetry and music. Now a new book, *Time Come*, collects his prose in a wide-ranging exploration of Caribbean and Black British culture. In conversation with **Ronald Cummings**
1-2 pm • Old Fire Station

TAKE TWO

Poets **Jason Allen-Paisant** (*Self-Portrait as Othello*) and **Celia Sorhaingo** (*Radical Normalisation*) write about multiplicities of selves and personas. Hosted by **L. Renée**
2-3 pm • Old Fire Station

BIG IDEAS

The crisis of our time?

Climate change is also a question of climate justice, tied to long histories of inequality and exploitation. How do we make it truly urgent to people in the vulnerable states of the Caribbean? With T&T climate negotiator **Kishan Kumarsingh**; NGC President **Mark Loquan**; **Vianney-Marie Williams**, Caribbean Youth Environment Network PRO; and community activist **Roslyn Williams-George**; chaired by academic **Keron Niles**
3.30-5 pm • Old Fire Station
In partnership with the Cropper Foundation

OCM BOCAS PRIZE + BOCAS HENRY SWANZY AWARD 2023 announcement ceremony

Celebrating the past year's best books of poetry, fiction, and literary non-fiction
7-8.30 pm • Mille Fleurs, 23 Maraval Road

SUNDAY 30 APRIL

TAKE THREE

Matters of the heart are the driving forces behind novels by **Sarah Dass** (*When the Vibe Is Right*), **N.G. Peltier** (*Don't Go Baking My Heart*), and **Ayesha Harruna Attah** (*Zainab Takes New York*). Hosted by **Cindy Allman**
10-11.30 am • Old Fire Station

TAKE TWO

Family and friendship weave into rich narrative tapestries in the fiction of **Breanne Mc Ivor** (*The God of Good Looks*) and **Cleyvis Natera** (*Neruda on the Park*). Hosted by **Caroline Mackenzie**
11.30 am-12.30 pm • Old Fire Station

TAKE THREE

The intensity of queer desire burns in poetry collections by **Andre Bagoo** (*Narcissus*), **Adam Lowe** (*Patterflash*), and **Padraig Regan** (*Some Integrity*). Hosted by **Brandon O'Brien**
1-2.30 pm • Old Fire Station
In partnership with the British Council and the Belfast International Arts Festival

ONE ON ONE

In *Sonnets for Albert*, winner of the 2023 OCM Bocas Prize for Poetry and the 2022 T.S. Eliot Prize, **Anthony Joseph** offers a moving portrait of the bonds and barriers between father and son. He talks with **Amílcar Sanatan**
2.30-3.30 pm • Old Fire Station

BOOK LAUNCH

In Search of Harold Sonny Ladoo

Half a century after the death of Harold Sonny Ladoo, **Christopher Laird**'s new biography offers analysis of his unsparing fiction. Joining him in conversation are writer **Kevin Jared Hosein** and academic **Gabrielle Hosein**. Chaired by **Jeremy Poynting**
3.30-5.00 pm • Old Fire Station

STREAMING VIA

bocaslitfest.com
youtube.com/bocaslitfest
facebook.com/bocaslitfest