

THURSDAY 28 APRIL
KNOW WHERE YOU COME FROM

To chart bold new directions, we need to understand where we're starting from. We open our 2022 festival with a focus on iconic Caribbean figures of the past who are still setting the agenda for the present and future.

6-6.05 pm
Our 2022 festival begins with some highlights from events of the past year

6.05-6.10 pm
A welcome message from **Mark Loquan**, president of NGC, our title sponsor

6.10-6.25 pm
Pavement Poets: 2022, a Year of Change
A rerun of the special-edition spoken word video event which launched the NGC Bocas Lit Fest's "season of change"! Five of T&T's most talented spoken word poets — **Derron Sandy, Dominique Friday, Kyle Hernandez, Gabrielle Murray, and Kleon McPherson** — share hopes and inspirations for 2022

6.30-7.45 pm
The Point is to Change the World
The Guyanese activist Andaiye (1942-2019) is considered one of the most transformative figures in the struggle for social and political rights in the post-Independence Caribbean. Her writings have now been collected in the revitalising volume *The Point is to Change the World*. Editor **Alissa Trotz** is joined by scholar-activists **Carole Boyce Davies, Honor Ford-Smith, and Sunity Maharaj** for a conversation about Andaiye's legacies for today's Caribbean

7.45-7.55 pm
Required reading: Celebrating Miss Lou
The new anthology *100+ Voices for Miss Lou* brings together dozens of writers and performers in tribute to the legendary Louise Bennett-Coverley (1919-2006). Editor **Opal Palmer Adisa** tells us why Miss Lou's words and ideas remain so powerfully compelling

8-9 pm
A Life Beyond the Boundaries
Writer, historian, philosopher, mentor: C.L.R. James (1901-1989) has shaped four generations of Caribbean and global scholars and activists. As a major new biography of the Trinidadian intellectual is finally published, biographer **John L. Williams** talks to scholar **Aaron Kamugisha** about James's relevance to our present dilemmas. *In partnership with the Royal Society of Literature*

FRIDAY 29 APRIL
LITERATURE CHANGES EVERYTHING

Words, stories, and ideas, presented on the page or on the stage, aren't just about entertainment. Writers and books actually change minds, hearts, and lives.

6-6.25 pm
Stand and Deliver
Our signature open-mic event is back! Writers from across the Caribbean share stories, poems, and music about the kinds of change the world needs. Hosted by **Jayron Remy**

6.30-8 pm
Poetry in a time of crisis
Disaster, war, economic emergency, revolution — even in times of crisis, poetry finds ways to thrive. A lineup of innovative poets from Puerto Rico — **Nicole Cecilia Delgado, Amanda Hernández, and Urayoán Noel** — share their work and ideas, and talk to **Ana Portnoy Brimmer** about the simple yet radical act of writing, translating, and publishing during times of social upheaval. *In partnership with La Impresora*

8-8.30 pm
The Difference a Word Makes
A word can change your mind, break your heart, maybe even change the world. Writers **Akhim Alexis, Simone Leid, and Hadassah K. Williams** share newly commissioned stories and poems about the awesome power of words

8.30-9.30 pm
BackChat 2022
Embracing Power, Making Change: Celebrating Caribbean LGBTQI+ Stories
This sizzling showcase brings together LGBTQI+ writers from the Caribbean and diaspora. Featuring **Kei Miller, Shani Mootoo, Rosamond S. King, Rajiv Mohabir, Andre Bagoo, Deneka Thomas, Lesley-Ann Wanliss, Shivane Ramlochan, Angelique Nixon, and Willum Watts**, musical performances by **Xoë Sazzle** and **moon the artist**, artist **Arnaldo James**, with host **Phillipé Alexander**. *In partnership with CAISO, Novel Niche, Rebel Women Lit, and Intersect Antigua*

SATURDAY 30 APRIL
THIS STORY HAS NEVER BEEN TOLD

New voices and perspectives in Caribbean writing compel us to think about the untold stories of our past and present, what has been left out of our history, and what we still need to reckon with.

4.30-5 pm
Stand and Deliver
Writers from across the Caribbean share stories, poems, and spoken word pieces about the truths we need to express, and the secrets we should no longer keep. Hosted by **Jayron Remy**

5-6 pm
Writing back
In their insightful new novels — *One Day, One Day, Congotay* and *The Mystic Masseur's Wife* — authors **Merle Hodge** and **J. Vijay Maharaj** "write back" to an earlier period of T&T's history. How do these books change the way we understand our social evolution? Hosted by **Amílcar Sanatan**

6-7 pm
A world made of stories
Ayanna Lloyd Banwo launches her acclaimed debut novel *When We Were Birds* in conversation with **Shivane Ramlochan**, and talks about the importance of storytelling in developing a sense of self and history

7-7.20 pm
Required reading
Sophie Jai and Mac Donald Dixon
Writers from T&T and St Lucia tell us about their new novels *Wild Fires* and *A Scream in the Shadows* and the hidden stories demanding to be told

7.30-8.30 pm
Winners' row
An evening celebrating the winners of the **2022 OCM Bocas Prize**, the **2022 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award**, and the two **Bocas Emerging Writers Fellows for 2022**, with readings, tributes, and highly anticipated prize announcements

SUNDAY 1 MAY
WRITE THE HARDEST LINES

Between the COVID-19 pandemic, resurgent global campaigns for social justice, and the growing climate emergency, the past two years have forced many of us to face hard realities and have difficult conversations.

4.30-5 pm
Stand and Deliver
Writers from across the Caribbean share stories, poems, and spoken word pieces reflecting on our most urgent questions and desires. Hosted by **Jayron Remy**

5-6 pm
Ways in the world
For writers **Chanda Prescod-Weinstein** and **Anita Sethi**, both members of the

global Caribbean diaspora, the natural world — whether experienced via cutting-edge theoretical physics or a journey through the rural landscape — is a lens for understanding social identity, racism, the fight for equality, and other big ideas that shape our everyday lives. They discuss their new books of non-fiction with **Georgia Popplewell**

6-6.20 pm
Required reading
Tiffanie Drayton and Brandon O'Brien
Two writers from T&T talk about tackling difficult subjects and hard conversations in forms as diverse as journalistic memoir and speculative poetry, in their books *Black American Refugee* and *Can You Sign My Tentacle?*

6.30-8 pm
The Big Idea: A future we can live with
As scientific consensus on the existential crisis that is climate change grows, Caribbean states remain on the frontlines of climate injustice, and must now reimagine what a good life can look like in a region with worsening storms, eroding shores, and dying reefs. We assemble a panel of activists and development experts to imagine and debate a future path that's both practical and sustainable. Jamaican activist, writer and filmmaker **Esther Figueroa**, Trinidadian activist and disruptor **Gillian Goddard**, and Trinidadian climate consultant **Ryan Assiu** join host **Omar Mohammed**, CEO of the Cropper Foundation. *In partnership with the Cropper Foundation*

8-9 pm
Fierce as an island
2022 brings collected volumes by two of the most vital and insistent voices in Caribbean and world poetry, **Pamela Mordecai** and **Olive Senior**. Ranging from past to present, across landscapes both natural and human, their poems interrogate as keenly as they celebrate Caribbean realities. Our festival grand finale brings them together in conversation with poet **Canisia Lubrin**, winner of the 2021 OCM Bocas Prize

All events livestreamed via

 bocaslitfest.com

 facebook.com/bocaslitfest

 youtube.com/bocaslitfest

Free and accessible to all! No registration or tickets required

#bocas2022
#4daystochangetheworld