

New Orleans Poetry Festival, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contacts:

Bill Lavender (Lavender Ink) bill@lavenderink.org

Megan Burns (Trembling Pillow Press) mburns70124@gmail.com

Lavender Ink and Trembling Pillow presses are organizing the first annual New Orleans Poetry Festival to take place April 15–17, 2016. The festival will include a weekend full of poetry performances, readings, workshops and demonstrations, a small press fair, walking tours, and a grand open mic at The Maple Leaf Bar.

The festival begins with an opening reception at Siberia, 2227 St. Claude, at 5 PM, Friday April 15. The reception will be followed at 6 with a “Poets With Bands” concert, featuring four acts which combine poetry and music. Skin Verb features New Orleans poet Brett Evans accompanied by guitarist Rob Cambre with Janine Hayes. Also featured will be Language poet Bruce Andrews performing his work with experimental guitarists Rob Cambre and Donald Miller. The Call Girls, a rock band that includes poets Bill Lavender (guitar, vocals) and Chris Shipman (drums), will also perform, as will Shock Patina, another rock trio fronted by New Orleans poet Moose Jackson.

On Saturday, April 16 the Festival moves a block down the street to the Arts Estuary, 1024 Elysian Fields, with some events next door at Mags, 940 Elysian Fields. These two venues will host more than 60 poets from New Orleans and around the nation for a day of readings, panels and workshops, with a Small Press Fair featuring books by participants along with book-making demonstrations, tarot readings, workshops and more. New Orleans poet and author Rodger Kamenetz will lead a workshop on dreams and poetry.

Saturday evening the festivities move to Mags for Happy Hour at 6 PM, followed by performances by Baton Rouge poet Laura Mullen, Nigerian poet Niyi Osundare, and international poets Nicole Peyrafitte, Pierre Joris, and Adeena Kerasick.

The performances will be followed by a dance party with music provided by MySpiltMilk.com.

Sunday morning, April 17, there are walking tours of literary New Orleans, with other events TBA.

The festival will close with an open mic reading at the Maple Leaf Bar, home of the oldest reading series in the South.

The New Orleans Poetry Festival, 2016 is sponsored by local presses Lavender Ink and Trembling Pillow Press, with co-sponsors Black Radish Press, Tubby and Coos Bookshop, and a small army of volunteers.



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