

GLAD DAY LIT PRESENTS

NAKED

*Heart*

The LGBTQ Festival of Words

NOVEMBER 9, 10 & 11 2018

WORKSHOPS • PANELS • READINGS • EVENTS

[nakedheart.ca](http://nakedheart.ca)

Financial support is absolutely crucial to build this tradition of bringing people together from across the North America. The organizations and people below have made it possible to spread the word about Naked Heart, and more importantly, compensate our authors and speakers for sharing their gifts with us. **We thank you for your generosity.**

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## OUR VISION

To establish a yearly Canadian LGBTQ literary festival that amplifies love, language & freedom.

## OUR GOALS

- Strengthen literacies and the literary community of LGBTQ people.
- Create spaces for people to find new work, new opportunities, new friends and new lovers.
- Increase supports for under-represented identities, experiences and forms of language.
- Build bridges between people of different generations and cultures in the LGBTQ community.
- Use story as a catalyst to resist oppression, explore desire, increase love & heal trauma for anyone whose gender or sexual identity doesn't fit society's narrow limits and expectations.

## TO OUR COMMUNITIES

How do we join a community we are not born into? How do we nurture our desires? How do we turn pain into love? How do we find each other? How do we build a better future? The answer for many of us is story.

What's missing in our lesbian, gay, bi, trans, two-spirit and queer communities? How do we create space for possibility? Where do we listen to each other when we don't feel heard? How do we circulate our own stories outside of industries owned and controlled by forces that use us for their own gain? Where can we build relationships and solidarity in the flesh? The answer for us might be Naked Heart.

You are an important part of this Festival created by Glad Day Bookshop and our allies. We hope you share our Festival vision and our goals this year and that we can count on your support in the coming years. Your presence, your creativity, your openness and your story is deeply appreciated.

Let's make a little history this weekend.

**Michael Erickson**

Festival Coordinator, Naked Heart  
Co-owner, Glad Day Bookshop

## PROGRAM TYPE

**P** **PANELS:** A panel is a group of speakers who discuss a topic with a moderator and some audience participation.

**W** **WORKSHOPS:** Our workshops focus on building skills, insight and knowledge. They are often interactive and are led by someone experienced and skilled on their topic.

**R** **READINGS:** This is your classic literary event – it is a gathering of writers reading brief selections of their writing. There may be time for audience questions at the end.

**S** **SPECIAL EVENTS:** Social events, keynote talks & book launches.

## VENUES

 **GLAD DAY BOOKSHOP (GDB)**  
499 Church Street

 **BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES (BBT)**  
12 Alexander Street

 **56IX2 (562)**  
562 Church Street

 Sessions with this symbol will have ASL interpretation.

# SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10

11:00 am - 12:15 pm

**P** **THE WRITER'S HUSTLE (BBT)**  
AHMED DANNY RAMADAN, BĀNOO ZAN, KAI CHENG THOM  
 How do we pay those bills? How do find the energy to write? How do institutions like Can Lit, publishers and Pride Festivals support or deny us? How do we push back against the isolation that Capitalism creates?

**W** **WITNESS (GDB)**  
with TYLER PENNOCK  
Participants learn the process of how to bring a story forward into the world from within themselves - this form of storytelling is a form of parallel creation, where the details of the original story are never repeated.

**W** **IT'S IN THE STARS:**  
**BUILDING CHARACTERS BASED ON ASTROLOGY (562)**  
with DEBRA ANDERSON  
For this creative writing workshop, you don't need to know anything about astrology to attend. All you do is write! I will launch us from the fun foundation of the zodiac as a place of inspiration.

12:30 - 1:45 pm

**P** **#METOO (BBT)**  
ALEX CAFARELLI, CLEMENTINE MORRIGAN,  
 DORIANNE EMMERTON, TYLER PENNOCK  
Survivors reflect on how experiences of sexual assault or harassment informs their work, the relationship between writing and healing, the legacy of trauma and what a future of increased justice and solidarity might look like.

**W** **UNRULY VISIONS : Writing Unruly Bodies in Fiction (562)**  
with SANCHARI SUR  
What are unruly bodies? How are they written into fiction? Who can write them? These are some of the questions that will be discussed and pondered upon during this workshop.

1:45 - 2:15 pm

**LUNCH BREAK**

# FRIDAY NOVEMBER 9

6:30 - 8:30 pm

**S** **SICK THEORIES : SICKNESS AND SEXUALITY (GDB)**  
POST-CONFERENCE SOCIAL  
This is the wind down of the Sick Theories conference. It's a time to reflect on the events and connect with each other. There will also be short readings by authors sprinkled through the evening.

9:00 - 10:30 pm

**R** **WE WILL NOT BE ERASED (GDB)**  
ARIELLE TWIST, HEATH V. SALAZAR, LEE AIRTON, MANDY GOODHANDY,  
SANCHARI SUR, TERRENCE ABRAHAMS hosted by CHARLIE C PETCH  
An evening of readings by trans, non-binary & genderqueer authors.

10:30 pm - 2:00 am

**S** **TRANSDANGEROUS! (GDB)**  
A DANCE PARTY with DJ NIK RED  
Let's burn down the binary on the dance floor!

# SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10

2:15 - 3:30 pm

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## **n̄tis̄anak by LINDSAY NIXON (BBT)**

BOOK LAUNCH with special guests

How do you honour blood and chosen kin with equal care? A groundbreaking memoir spanning nations, prairie punk scenes, and queer love stories, Lindsay Nixon's *n̄tis̄anak* is woven around grief over the loss of their mother. It also explores despair and healing through community and family, and being torn apart by the same.

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## **QUEER EST UN MOT FRANÇAIS! (GDB)**

AMÉLIE DUMOULIN, PIERRE-LUC LANDRY, SYLVIE BÉRARD

avec ARNAUD BAUDRY

Joignez-vous à nous pour une lecture public entièrement en français réunissant trois auteur·e·s primé·e·s: Pierre-Luc Landry, gagnant du Prix du livre d'Ottawa pour *Les corps extraterrestres* [Listening for Jupiter] (2015); Amélie Dumoulin, gagnante du Prix des libraires dans la catégorie Jeunesse 12-17 Québec pour *Fé M F* (2015); et Sylvie Bérard, gagnante du Prix Trillium dans la catégorie poésie de langue française pour *Oubliez* (2017).

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## **WRITING MAGIC (562)**

with SABRINA SCOTT

We commune with queer and trans ancestors, channel divinity, and manifest magic in our lives. But how can we translate all of these often wordless and deeply embodied experiences into writing? Walk away with writing techniques and prompts that merge spiritual practice and creative practice, writing and/as ritual.

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3:45 - 5:00 pm

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## **LEGENDARY CONVERSATIONS: JEWELLE GOMEZ (BBT)**

Interviewed by KIM KATRIN MILAN

We are thrilled to have Jewelle Gomez at Naked Heart in a rare Toronto appearance. The legendary writer, poet, activist, organizer and author of the first Black Lesbian vampyre novel (*The Gilda Chronicles*) will be interviewed by the always dynamic Kim Katrin Milan.

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## **SWELLING WITH PRIDE: QUEER CONCEPTION AND ADOPTION STORIES (GDB)**

BOOK LAUNCH with SARA GRAEFE (editor), GAIL MARLENE SCHWARTZ JANE BYERS, JO JEFFERSON, KIRA MEYERS-GUIDEN, RACHEL EPSTEIN, SUSAN MEYERS, SUSAN G. COLE

In *Swelling with Pride: Queer Conception and Adoption Stories*, creative non-fiction writers celebrate LGBTQ2 families and the myriad of ways we embark upon our parenting journeys.

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## **SUBJECT LINE: SUBMISSION**

### **GETTING YOUR WRITING SUBMISSION-READY (562)**

with TERENCE ABRAHAMS

Overwhelmed by the amount of lit mags out there? Unsure if your work is the right fit for any of them? Feeling a little less than confident about the submission process? From poetry to creative non-fiction, this workshop will look at how to best prepare you and your writing for submission to literary journals and beyond.

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5:15 - 6:30 pm

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## **SPECTRUMS OF SANITY: MENTAL HEALTH AND THE WRITER (BBT)**

GREG WONG, HANA SHAFI, PETER KNEGT, SLY SARKISOVA, STAR SPIDER

Revisiting one of the most significant panels of the first Naked Heart Festival in 2015, writers openly share their struggles and strategies when mental health becomes a source of creativity or crisis in the writing process.

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## **THE TIGER FLU by LARISSA LAI (GDB)**

BOOK LAUNCH with special guests: FARZANA DOCTOR, SHANI MOOTOO, and SHYAM SELVADURAI

Celebrate the launch of *The Tiger Flu* by Larissa Lai with readings by Shani Mootoo, Farzana Doctor and, of course, Larissa Lai. After the readings there will be a brief time for questions, followed by a book signing.

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6:30 - 7:30 pm

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## **DINNER BREAK**

7:30 - 8:45 pm

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## **LEGENDARY CONVERSATIONS**

### **LEAH LAKSHMI PIEPZNA-SAMARASINHA (BBT)**

Interviewed by KAI CHENG THOM

A prolific writer, cultural worker and teacher, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha's legacy echoes through the literary world and grassroots organizing.

Kai Cheng Thom will host this in-depth interview with Leah, exploring the complexities of care work and the dynamics of 'social justice', imperfection, pedestals, self care and love.

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## **ARABESQUE: THE Q IN THE ARABIA (GDB)**

AHMED DANNY RAMADAN, BASHAR LULU JABBOUR, KAMAL AL-SOLAYLEE, MONA FAITH MOUSA, NARI, hosted by KEROLOS SALEIB

Queer and Trans voices are emerging from the Middle East after years of silencing and muting by Homophobia, dictatorships, and Arab Springs. Join those Arabian artists as they tell you the beautiful truths about being apart of a community of queers that have for too long gone invisible.

# SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10

7:30 - 8:45 pm (continued)



## WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? (562)

ARIELLE TWIST, DAVID KINGSTON YEH, JODY CHAN, and SHAUNGA TAGORE  
Has queer pain eclipsed queer love in our literary tradition? Why is it so hard for us to write about love without sarcasm, mockery and cynicism? What is the relationship between love and critique, between love and justice? These heavy-hitting writers take on these heavy-hitting questions and more.

9:00 - 10:45 pm



## GRIT LIT (GDB)

DAVID KINGSTON YEH, JOIE LAMAR, HANA SHAFI, MANDY GOODHANDY, PETER KNEGT, ROLYN CHAMBERS, DORIANNE EMMERTON, SABRINA SCOTT, SHYAM SELVADURAI, and SLY SARKISOVA  
Unpredictable. Unashamed. And sometimes uncomfortable. This is Grit Lit. With gritty resolve these authors offer a look at pleasure and pain, tough truths and reclaiming desire with bad ass disruption and dignity.

# SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11

10:00 am - 12:00 pm



## EXPLORING PLAYWRITING AND DRAMATURGY (562)

with SABAH HAQUE  
Explore methods for playwriting and new play dramaturgy to help you start, develop, or finish an idea for a live performance piece. After checking in with where you are at, we'll move through some methods, and exercises to help you move forward in your playwriting and new play dramaturgy journey.

10:30 am - 12:15 pm



## THE AUTHOR FOUNDRY: THE UN-ARTISTIC ASPECTS OF YOUR SUBMISSION PACKAGE (BBT)

with SHERYL WRIGHT  
In this session, Sheryl will take you through the basics of building your submission package and researching each publisher's requirements to be sure you nail everything they ask for while avoiding the trip-wires that can tank any proposal. This session will focus on investigating the submission package requirements, creating a Hook for your Cover Letter, and the essence of an Author Bio.



## ZINE MAKING TO CELEBRATE THE DIVERSITY AND BEAUTY OF ALL BODIES (GDB)

with AMANDA SCRIVER  
For the folks who fall outside the normative, having their bodies ignored by the media and ridiculed in society isn't new. In this body positive zine, we want to ask: what does it mean and look like to practice self-love and engage in positive body love and why is it important to celebrate body liberation?

12:00 - 3:00 pm



## DRAG BRUNCH - NAKED HEART EDITION! (GDB)

AHMED DANNY RAMADAN, ERIN BROCKOBIĆ, GREG WONG, and TEDDY SYRETTE  
It's Glad Day's weekly Drag Brunch hosted by ERIN BROCKOBIĆ! In addition to the drag you love every week, there will be guest authors dropping by to share some of their punchy words and sharp wit.

12:00 - 1:15 pm



## POLICING THE BODY - RESISTANCE AND RENEWAL (BBT)

AMANDA SCRIVER, ANTHONY OLIVIERA, FATIMA JAMAL, and SABRINA SCOTT  
Our bodies are under attack, often by forces of power and authority. Often by the police themselves. What strategies do we use to disrupt and defy this discourse? How do we care for ourselves and others in the face of this violence?



## A JOURNEY IN RAINBOW MOCCASINS (562)

with TEDDY SYRETTE  
This workshop is facilitated by a 2-Spirit storyteller who engages participants to have small and large group discussions about the intersectional beauty and barriers of 2-Spirit/queer-trans Indigenous people.

2:00 - 3:15 pm



## CELEBRATING MARVELLOUS GROUNDS: QUEER OF COLOUR HISTORIES OF TORONTO (BBT)

LEZLIE LEE KAM, SHAUNGA TAGORE, TARA ATLURI, WY JOUNG KOU  
Hosted by ALVIS CHOI  
Join these queer of colour authors and the Marvellous Grounds collective for readings and a panel discussion about queer of colour stories and Marvellous Grounds' brand new books.



## WRITING SEX FOR TRAUMA SURVIVORS (562)

with ALEX CAFARELLI  
Is there a sexy story you're burning to write or re-write? Do you want to develop your own queer smut, lusty leather poems, or hot role play scripts? Writing Sex for Trauma Survivors is a hands-on workshop for new and seasoned writers who are ready to get their hands dirty with words.

# SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11

3:30 - 4:45 pm

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## UNCOMMITTED CRIMES

### THE DEFIANCE OF THE ARTISTIC IMAGI/NATION (BBT)

TARA ATLURI, FARRAH MARIE MIRANDA, ELISHA LIM, JOSHUA VETTIVELU, KERRY POTTS, and SYRUS MARCUS WARE

Tara Atluri has written *Uncommitted Crimes: The Defiance of the Artistic Imagi/nation* as a tribute to Two Spirited, racialized, Transgender, queer, gender-queer, and feminist artists who deviate from the mainstream and create art that engages with questions of societal oppression, survival, and resistance. This panel brings together some of the inspiring artists whose work is discussed in the pages of this text in the real time of Turtle Island and all of its histories of dissent.

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## FIRST PERSON - ETHICS & EXPERIENCE (GDB)

AMANDY GOODHANDY, MICHAEL LYONS, and ROLYN CHAMBERS

What are the ethics of writing in the first person? How do we negotiate self-reflection, self-indulgence, self-harm, self-esteem and self-sabotage? These local authors will reflect on the complexities of writing about sex, community, culture, history, their friends and themselves.

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## ABLE TO SHARE (562)

COLE FORREST, JEWELLE GOMEZ, MUGABI BYENKYA

hosted by ANDREW GURZA

What accommodations or interventions are possible when we are faced with socially-constructed barriers based on our bodies and perceived abilities?

How does our writing and storytelling build a bridge while simultaneously making us a target?

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5:15 - 6:30 pm

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## INTERSECTIONALITY (BBT)

LARISSA LAI, MONA FAITH MOUSA, and VIDAL WU

How does our awareness of intersectionality ebb and flow? How are audiences responding to our insistent intersectionality? What forces are still trying to deny or distort our intersectional theory, work and lived experience?

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## WE ALL GOT OUR HIV (GDB)

A MULTI-MEDIA CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP with THOM VERNON

In this workshop, participants are invited to explore their own experience of living with stigma (HIV, queerness, racism, trauma, differing mobilities/capacities, and others) and othering using creative writing and multimedia strategies, text, "cut-ups" to create activate the origins and perpetuations of stigma.



## SEX WRITING 101 (562)

with KATE SLOAN

This is an introduction to creative, ethical, and logistical considerations involved in writing personal nonfiction about sex. Learn what makes a sex story worth writing, how to ensure the safety and comfort of the people you write about (and yourself), and how to weave your sexcapades into striking, cohesive narratives.

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6:30 - 7:00 pm

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## DINNER BREAK

7:00 - 8:15 pm

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## RACIALIZED IS A VERB (GDB)

BĀNOO ZAN, COLE FORREST, FIONA RAYE CLARKE, LARISSA LAI, SHAUNGA TAGORE, TARA ALTURI, and VIDAL WU

These racialized writers fill the space with their words.

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## WRITING FROM THE NON-BINARY (562)

HEATH V SALAZAR, JORDAAN MASON, LEE AIRTON, and SANCHARI SUR

How does writing from a non-binary perspective impact the creative practice, process and product? What are the joys and frustrations of non-binary representation?

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8:30 - 10:00 pm

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## BLAZING FEMME (GDB)

JEWELLE GOMEZ, LEAH LAKSHMI PIEPZNA-SAMARASINHA, FATIMA JAMAL,

ALEX CAFARELLI, CLEMENTINE MORRIGAN, DEBRA ANDERSON,

DORIANNE EMMERTON, and ELIO IANNACCI

Queer femme writers end the festival in a blaze of lit glory.

# AUTHOR Bios



**AHMAD DANNY RAMADAN** Ahmad Danny Ramadan is a Syrian-Canadian author, public speaker, storyteller and an LGBTQ-refugee activist. His English debut novel, *The Clothesline Swing*, continues to receive raving reviews.



**ALEX CAFARELLI** Alex Cafarelli, a genderqueer femme Jewish S/Witch, has read and performed with Naked Heart, Brockton Writer's Series, Heels on Wheels Roadshow, Body Heat Femme Porn Tour and Sins Invalid. She is published in the Lambda Award winning anthology *Glitter & Grit: Queer Performance* from the Heels on Wheels Femme Galaxy.



**AMANDA SCRIVER** Amanda Scriver is a freelance journalist best known for being fat, loud, and shouty on the Internet. Her writing has appeared on BuzzFeed, The Washington Post, FLARE, National Post, The Walrus, and Playboy. In her spare time, she can be found watching trashy reality television, applying a bold lip or eating snacks. She lives in Toronto.



**AMÉLIE DUMOULIN** has fun balancing artistic disciplines. On stage, she has collaborated to several interdisciplinary creations, notably with the Joe Jack and John Company, that she co-founded in 2003, and with *Des mots d'la dynamite*, directed by performer Nathalie Derome. But she is also a writer (for the National Arts Center in Ottawa) and published author: her first novel, *Fé M Fé* won many prizes (e.g. Prix jeunesse des libraires du Québec) and earned many friends, and so did the sequel, *Fé verte*.

**ANTHONY OLIVEIRA** Anthony Oliveira is a writer, PhD, film programmer, and pop culture critic. His writing has appeared on Birth/Movies/Death, Torontoist, The Queer Bible, Fangoria, The Washington Post, and Hazlitt.



**ARIELLE TWIST** Arielle Twist is a writer and sex educator from George Gordon First Nation, Saskatchewan, based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She is a Cree, Two-Spirit, trans femme supernova writing to reclaim and harness ancestral magic and memories. Her debut collection of poetry *Disintegrate/Dissociate* is forthcoming spring 2019 with Arsenal Pulp Press.



**BĀNOO ZAN** Bānoo Zan has over 170 published poems and three books, including *Songs of Exile* (2016) and *Letters to My Father* (2017.) She founded Shab-e She'r (Poetry Night), Toronto's most diverse poetry reading and open mic series, in 2012.



**BASHAR LULU JABBOUR** Bashar Lulu Jabbour is an immigrant poet residing in Kitchener-Waterloo. An active arts organizer. Basher is the Artistic Director of the Kitchener-Waterloo poetry slam.



**CLEMENTINE MORRIGAN** Clementine Morigan is the author of three books: *You Can't Own the Fucking Stars*, *The Size of a Bird*, and *Rupture*. They also write the zine *Fucking Magic*. Her work has appeared in a number of publications including Shameless Magazine and GUTS Magazine. More of their work can be found at [clementinemorrigan.com](http://clementinemorrigan.com).





**COLE FORREST** Cole Forrest is an Ojibwe artist based in Toronto, Ontario. Originally from Nipissing First Nation, Cole strives for compassion and acceptance within the arts. He has written, directed, and acted in various short films, theatre pieces, and a musical. Cole is regarded as an emerging cultural leader of Northern Ontario.



**DAVID KINGSTON YEH** works as a LGBTQ youth counsellor in Toronto. His short fiction has appeared in numerous magazines. David was listed as “writers to watch in 2018” by CBC Books, after publishing his debut novel: *A Boy at the Edge of the World*.



**DEBRA ANDERSON** Debra Anderson was the recipient of the Writers’ Trust of Canada’s ‘Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBTQ Emerging Writers.’ Debra has taught Writing Workshops at WOTS, the Toronto Public Library, and World Pride. Herizons described *Code White* as “a book that looks killer in a pair of fishnets.” [debraanderson.ca](http://debraanderson.ca)



**DORIANNE EMMERTON** Dorianne Emmerton writes things, often queer speculative fiction. Landscape matters to her, be it northern forest, like where she was raised, or metropolis, where she now lives. Publications include stories in: *Tesseract Twenty-One: Nevertheless, Ink Stains Volume Seven: Decay, Friend.Follow.Text. #storiesFromLivingOnline*, and on [writeoutpublishing.com](http://writeoutpublishing.com) come December.



**ELIO IANNACCI** Elio Iannacci is an award-winning journalist, editor and writer. His work regularly appears in Maclean’s magazine. He has been published in The Globe and Mail, The National Post and The Hollywood Reporter as well as numerous American, Italian and German print and online publications.

**ELISHA LIM** Elisha Lim is a queer story-teller and comic artist, whose graphic novel *100 Crushes* was published by Koyama Press and catalogues a generation of queer and trans stories from Toronto, Berlin, Montreal and Singapore. Lim has created award winning claymation films, contributed to solo and group art exhibits, and also founded the annual anti-racist Montreal art festival “Qouleur.”



**FARRAH MARIE MIRANDA** Farrah Miranda is an Abu Dhabi born, Toronto-based artist of Goan and Mangalorean descent. *Speaking Fruit*, the artist’s most recent project, was one of 200 exceptional projects funded by the Canada Council for the Arts New Chapter Program. Her writing appears in diverse publications such as, *In the Wake of the Komagata Maru: Transpacific Migration, Race and Contemporary Art, VOZ-À-VOZ, Decolonization, Indigeneity & Society, Border Criminologies, Rabble and FUSE Magazine.*



**FARZANA DOCTOR** Farzana Doctor is the author of three novels: *Stealing Nasreen, Six Metres of Pavement* (which won a 2012 Lambda Literary Award and was short-listed for the 2012 Toronto Book Award and was the One Book One Brampton 2017 winner) and *All Inclusive*, a Kobo 2015 and National Post Best Book of the Year. She’s just completed a novel and a poetry collection. [www.farzanadoctor.com](http://www.farzanadoctor.com)



**FATIMA JAMAL** (b. 1990) is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, and public speaker living in Bedstuy, Brooklyn, hailing from Atlanta, Georgia. Named by Teen Vogue as one of the “coolest queers on the internet,” Jamal is also known as ‘fatfemme’, a moniker that encapsulates life at the intersection of fat and femme identity – “spaces that people are afraid to occupy,” she names. Jamal produces work around the body, exploring identity formation, race, gender, sexuality, desire, beauty, and ugliness.



**FIONA RAYE CLARKE** Fiona Raye Clarke is a Trinidadian-Canadian writer. She has received support for her fiction and playwriting from the Ontario Arts Council and is an Amherst Writers & Artists Method facilitator. Fiona was a 2018 Diaspora Dialogues Long Form Mentorship Program mentee and a Writer in Residence at Firefly Creative Writing





**GREG WONG** Greg Wong (Wrong Note Rusty) is a queer Canadian multidisciplinary artist living in Toronto. A former big band musician and University of Toronto dropout, he now primarily works as a freelance photographer and performing artist with Canada's premiere all-male burlesque troupe, BoylesqueTO.



**HANA SHAFI** Hana. 24. Toronto. But you can just call me Frizz Kid. Freelance artist, writer, human ambassador to the Cat Galaxy, and Lord of the Rings enthusiast. One day I started doodling and I never stopped. I wrote and illustrated the book *It Begins With The Body*.



**HEATH V. SALAZAR** Heath V. Salazar (they/them) is an award-winning Latinx performer and writer. Having completed a Spoken Word residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts, they've since premiered their play VIRGEN with the Emerging Creators Unit at Buddies In Bad Times where they are now an Artist in Residence.



**JEWELLE GOMEZ** Jewelle Gomez, playwright, novelist, poet, is the author of the first Black Lesbian vampyre novel, *THE GILDA STORIES*, in print more than 25 years. She is playwright in residence at New Conservatory Theatre which premiered, *WAITING FOR GIOVANNI*, about James Baldwin. Follow her on Twitter and Instagram @VampyreVamp.



**JODY CHAN** Jody Chan writes and builds community in Tkaronto/Toronto. Their chapbook "*haunt*" is published with Damaged Goods Press, and their poetry is published in BOAAT, Nat. Brut, and elsewhere.

**JOIE LAMAR** Puerto Rican Author Joie Lamar published her first novel, volume 1 of a 2-part memoir titled *MAMBO LIPS* in 2016. Since then, she has published volume 2, *Salsa Hips*, and a poetry book titled *Sapphoetry*. The latest addition to her portfolio is a beautiful coffee table book dedicated to the Orlando Pulse massacre victims, *Cuarenta Y Nueve*. [www.joielamar.com](http://www.joielamar.com)



**JORDAAN MASON** Jordaan Mason makes music, poetry, fiction, and film about their experiences with depression and being non-binary. They are the author of the novels *The Skin Team* (Magic Helicopter 2013) and the forthcoming *The End of Cinnamon* (Magic Helicopter 2019). They have also released eight full-length albums, three collections of poetry, and two short films. They live in Toronto with their husband and their cats.



**JOSHUA VETTIVELU** is an artist, programmer, and educator working within sculpture, video, installation and performance. Their works explore how larger frameworks of power manifest within intimate relationships. Recently their practice examines the tensions that emerge when personal experiences are mined for art production, and how this allows institutions to posture and position themselves as self-reflexive. Currently, Vettivelu teaches in the faculty of Art and Continuing Education at OCADU.



**KAI CHENG THOM** is a writer, performer, lasagna lover, and wicked witch. She lives and dreams from the unceded Indigenous territories that make up colonial-era Canada. A prolific poet, fiction writer, and essayist, her published book-length works include the award-winning *Fierce Femmes and Notorious Liars: A Dangerous Trans Girl's Confabulous Memoir* (Metonymy Press).



**KAMAL AL-SOLAYLEE** Dr. Al-Solaylee is the author of the national bestselling memoir *Intolerable: A Memoir of Extremes* which won the 2013 Toronto Book Award and was a finalist for the CBC's Canada Reads, the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Nonfiction and the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Non-fiction. His latest book, *Brown: What Being Brown in the World Today Means (to Everyone)*, was hailed as "essential reading" by the Globe and Mail.





**KAMILAH HAYWOOD** Kamilah Haywood is a three time published urban fiction Toronto, Canadian Author signed to Kya Publishing. Her current Novels are *Concrete Jungle*, *Diamond in the Rough* and *Diamond in the Rough part II*. For more information visit [www.kyapublishing.com](http://www.kyapublishing.com).



**KATE SLOAN** Kate Sloan is a journalist and essayist whose work has appeared in *Cosmopolitan*, *Teen Vogue*, *Glamour*, and more. She writes an award-winning blog ([GirlyJuice.net](http://GirlyJuice.net)) about sex, kink, relationships, style, and mental health. She also co-hosts a podcast for sex nerds called *The Dildorks*. She's a bi, kinky, polyamorous, white femme.



**KERRY POTTS** Currently Faculty at Humber College and George Brown College, Kerry teaches Sociology, Introduction to Arts and Sciences, Indigenous Studies, and a course she created called *Indigenous Perspectives on Music, Film and Media*. She has also taught at OISE/U of T and Seneca College. Kerry is the long-time Chair of Native Women in the Arts, a local organization focusing on the advancement of indigenous women artists.



**LARISSA LAI** Larissa Lai is the author of six books including the novels *Salt Fish Girl* and *The Tiger Flu*. Recipient of an Astraea Award and finalist for seven more, she holds a Canada Research Chair at the University of Calgary and directs *The Insurgent Architects' House for Creative Writing* there.



**LEAH LAKSHMI PIEPZA-SAMARASINHA** is the Lambda Award winning author of *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice*, *Dirty River: A Queer Femme of Color Dreaming Her Way Home*, *Bodymap*, *Love Cake* and co-editor of *The Revolution Starts At Home: Confronting Intimate Violence in Activist Communities*.

**LEE AIRTON** Lee Airton is an Assistant Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies in Education at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Their research brings affect, assemblage and queer theory frameworks to bear on educational practices related to gender and sexuality in schooling and teacher education. Dr. Airton's public scholarship includes the blog *They Is My Pronoun*, the *No Big Deal* social media initiative, and the book *Gender – Your Guide*.



**LEZLIE LEE KAM** leZlie Lee Kam is a world majority, Brown, Indo, Carib, Trini, callaloo, queer dyke, differently-abled elder. She lives my life from an anti-oppression, anti-racism, inter generational and intersectional perspective. She advocates for 2spirit, Indigenous and queer people of colour. leZlie enjoys dancing, dim sum and a "hot" lime anytime.



**LINDSAY NIXON** Lindsay Nixon is a Cree-Métis-Saulteaux curator, award-nominated editor, award-nominated writer and McGill Art History Ph.D. student. They currently hold the position of Editor-at-Large for *Canadian Art*. Their forthcoming memoir, *nítisânak*, is to be released in September 2018 through Metonymy Press. Born and raised in the prairies, Lindsay currently lives Tio'tia:ke/Mooniyaang—unceded Haudenosaunee and Anishinabe territories (Montreal, QC).

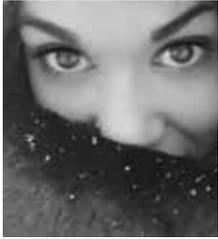


**M.J. LYONS** MJ Lyons is a writer, bookstore professional and game maker. His debut novel, *Murder at the World's Fair*, a steampunk murder mystery, will be published with Renaissance Press. Credits include: "History Boys", Xtra column on lesser known LGBT history; LongStory, dating game for young people; Later Daters, retirement community dating game.



**MANDY GOODHANDY** Mandy Goodhandy is an author ("*Just Call Me Lady*"), singer, dancer, comedian, entrepreneur, transgender rights advocate (Canada census 2010 & 2016) and a recording artist (CD also titled "*Just Call Me Lady*"). She is a proud senior turning 65 this year (2018) and has been living as a transgender woman for over twenty-five years.





**MONA MOUSA** Mona Faith Mousa is a spoken word poet and motivational speaker. When she is at home Mona is heavily active in all facets of her community as the founder and director of Feather & Anchor a talent management agency serving performance artists from the BiPOC & LGBT communities.



**MUGABI BYENKYA** Mugabi Byenkya is a writer, poet and occasional rapper. His debut novel, *'Dear Philomena,'* was published in 2017 and he recently concluded a 30 city North America/East Africa supporting book tour. Mugabi was named one of 56 writers who has contributed to his native Uganda's literary heritage since independence.



**PETER KNEGT** Peter Knegt is a writer, media maker and arts curator. His work includes the book *About Canada: Queer Rights*, the docu-series *Canada's a Drag* and numerous award-winning short films. He currently works as a writer, producer and on-air correspondent for the CBC.



**PIERRE-LUC LANDRY** is a professor in the Department of French, Literature, and Culture at the Royal Military College of Canada, in Kingston. He published two novels with Éditions Druide, *L'équation du temps* in 2013 (finalist for the Prix des lecteurs de Radio-Canada and shortlisted for the Prix France-Québec) and *Les corps extraterrestres* in 2015 (winner of the Ottawa Book Award). Pierre-Luc also works in book publishing as a literary editor and was the publisher at La Mèche from 2014 to 2017.

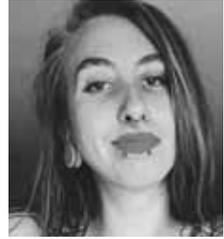


**ROLYN CHAMBERS** Born in Jamaica, Rolyn Chambers grew up in Mississauga, before attending Ontario College of Art and Design University. His society column, *Deep Dish*, ran for almost 15 years in both *fab* and *Xtra!* Magazines. Chambers is currently a graphic designer and free-lance writer. His first book, *The Boy Who Brought Down A Bathhouse*, was published last year to excellent reviews.

**SABAH HAQUE** Sabah Haque (সাবা হক, قح حابص) is a multidisciplinary artist, and producer. She is first generation Turtle Island settler with roots in Bangladesh. Sabah is the Development Coordinator at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, a graduate Generator's Artist Producer Training Program, and the Apprentice Artist Producer at Pandemic Theatre. Sabah aims to connect authentic diverse stories to the world.



**SABRINA SCOTT** Sabrina Scott has been reading tarot and doing witchcraft for 18 years. Their practice is deeply intuitive and mediumistic, with a focus on trance, ecstasy, and communing with the dead. They see magic as a way of building relationship with non-human beings. Their first graphic novel *Witchbody* was nominated for the Doug Wright Awards, the biggest comics award series in Canada.



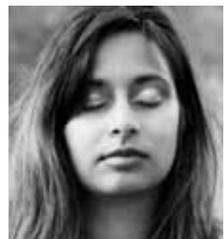
**SANCHARI SUR** Sanchari Sur is a 2018 recipient of Lambda Literary Fellowship. Her work has been published in Toronto Book Award shortlisted *The Unpublished City* (Book\*hug, 2017), *Humber Literary Review*, *Room*, and *Prism International*. She is a PhD candidate in English at Wilfrid Laurier University, and the curator/co-founder of *Balderdash Reading Series*.



**SHANI MOOTOO** Shani Mootoo is a novelist, poet and visual artist. Among her novels are *Moving Forward Sideways Like a Crab*, longlisted for the Scotia Bank Giller Prize, shortlisted for the Lambda Award, *Valmiki's Daughter*, longlisted for the Scotia Bank Giller Prize and *Cereus Blooms at Night*, shortlisted for several prizes including the Giller Prize, and longlisted for the Man Booker Prize. [www.shanimootoo.com](http://www.shanimootoo.com) IG: @shani\_mootoo



**SHAUNGA TAGORE** Shaunga Tagore is a storyteller, astrologer & cosmic philosopher. She writes & performs theatre, movement, song & multi-media. Her play, *Letters to the Universe*, was presented at The Theatre Centre in 2017. Catch her on youtube where she provides monthly in-depth astrology readings for survivors, creators, weirdos & queer unicorns. Link: [www.shaungatagore.com](http://www.shaungatagore.com) | @astrology4survivors on IG





**SHERYL WRIGHT** started her career in the military as a Photographer. During those early years she quietly volunteered her skills to the Body Politic and their fledgling magazine, Xtra. She would go on to earn an Electrical Engineering Degree and learn to fly. As a pilot, she's operated everything from commuter jets, helicopters, and seaplanes including working as a fire patrol/spotter, air ambulance Captain, and a line pilot for Canadian Airlines.



**SHYAM SELVADURAI** Shyam Selvadurai's *Funny Boy* won the W.H. Smith/ Books in Canada First Novel Award and the Lambda Literary Award in the US. He is the author of *Cinnamon Gardens* and *Swimming in the Monsoon Sea*. His latest novel is *The Hungry Ghosts*.



**SLY SARKISOVA** On Coast Salish territory and in Tkaronto, Sly Sarkisova has spent his life supporting folks surviving structural violence and intergenerational traumas. He centres radical emotional honesty, observation, and empathy in his psychotherapy practice, writing, photography, and living. Sly explores identity, resiliency and coping in his upcoming family memoir, "*Ordinary Life*."



**STAR SPIDER** Star Spider is a writer from Toronto, and has recently published her debut novel, *Past Tense*, with Harper Collins Canada. Star's stories deal with mental health and LGBTQ themes and she is a student of psychology at Ryerson University. Star's short stories have been published in many places including Grain Magazine, Necessary Fiction and Flyleaf Journal. [starspider.ca](http://starspider.ca)



**SYLVIE BÉRARD** wears many queer hats: writer, teacher, scholar, literary critique and...semiotician. She teaches French Canadian and Indigenous literatures as well as creative writing at Trent University, and she is also affiliated with the Ph.D. in Cultural Studies. Her research includes French Canadian science fiction and queer literature and translation. She also published many long and short stories, and the science fiction novels *Terre des Autres* (Alire, 2004), and *La Saga d'Illige* (Alire 2011).

**SYRUS MARCUS WARE** Syrus Marcus Ware is a Vanier Scholar, a visual artist, community activist, researcher, youth-advocate and educator. For 12 years, he was the Coordinator of the Art Gallery of Ontario Youth Program. Syrus is currently a facilitator/designer for the Cultural Leaders Lab (Toronto Arts Council & The Banff Centre). He is the inaugural artist-in-residence for Daniels Spectrum (2016/2017). Syrus is also a core-team member of Black Lives Matter Toronto.

**TARA ATLURI** Tara Atluri has a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD). She is an academic, teacher, writer, and artist who is involved in social movements globally. Tara has written two books, and multiple scholarly and journalistic articles. She lives between Bangalore, India and Toronto, Canada.

**TEDDY SYRETTE** (Ozhawa Aanung Kwe - Yellow Star Woman) is a 2-Spirit, Anishnabe person of Batchewana First Nation near Sault Ste. Marie Ontario. Teddy is of the Wolf Clan, if you're interested, and is an advocate and storyteller, bringing awareness to 2-Spirit/Queer-Trans Indigenous People and their communities. They travel all around Turtle Island advocating for inclusion, compassion and understanding for Indigenous people who identify as being 2-Spirit and for queer-trans people.

**TERRENCE ABRAHAMS** Terrence Abrahams is a poet, editor and English MA student at Ryerson University. His first poetry chapbook was published this year by Penrose Press, and his second will arrive in early 2019 from ZED Press. Find him on Twitter at [@trabrahams](https://twitter.com/trabrahams).

**THOM VERNON** Thom Vernon is a writer, actor, and educator whose work explores the meanings applied to bodies. His most recent creative writing and multi-media projects addressing HIV+ and other stigmas include the short films *I Got Nothing To Say* and *Criminal*; and the video installation looking at you, looking at me.





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