

Programme of Events



THE TRINIDAD & TOBAGO LITERARY FESTIVAL

www.bocaslitfest.com

WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL

LAUNCH (Festival Warm Up Night)

Introducing *ARC* with Holly Bynoe and Nadia Huggins
7.00–9.00 pm • Alice Yard, 80 Roberts Street, Woodbrook

The editors of the new arts magazine host a one-night exhibition by featured artists, plus a poetry reading.

THURSDAY 28 APRIL

TRIBUTE

Festival Welcome and Remembering Keith Smith with Pat Bishop, Wendell Manwarren, Peter Minshall, Raoul Pantin and B.C. Pires
9.00–10.00 am • Old Fire Station

The festival officially kicks off with readings from the works of the late beloved newspaperman.

WORKSHOP

What Happens Next: How to Build a Plot with Marlon James and Mark McWatt
10.00 am–12.00 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Two crack fiction writers lead a workshop on giving your narrative shape and momentum.

FICTION

David Chariandy and Barbara Lalla

moderated by Lisa Allen-Agostini
10.30–11.30 am • AV Room
Readings by the Trinidadian-Canadian author of *Soucouyant* and the Jamaican-Trinidadian author of *Cascade*.

SHORT TALK

Anu Laxhan on Trinidad's street food
11.30 am–12.15 pm • Old Fire Station
The author of the *Caribbean Street Food* series gives a personal introduction to Trinidad's roadside delicacies.

PERFORMANCE POETRY/OPEN MIC

Lunchtime jam
11.30 am–12.30 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade
A selection of performance poets and musicians take their vibe to the streets of the city. Plus a chance for budding writers to share their work.

FILMS

The Saddhu of Couva, dir. Robert Yao Ramesar
Sargasso: An Introduction to the work of Jean Rhys, dir. Michael Gilkes, 1991

Caribbean Eye: Independent Voices on five Caribbean writers: C.L.R. James of Trinidad, Martin Carter of Guyana, V.S. Reid of Jamaica, Nicolás Guillén of Cuba, Aimé Césaire of Martinique, 1988
11.30 am–1.00 pm • AV Room
A film adaptation of Derek Walcott's great poem, an introduction to Jean Rhys, and a landmark film about five Caribbean writers from the Banyan archive. The screening of *The Saddhu of Couva* is supported by the Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence programme.

WORKSHOP

Sing it Loud: the rhyme and reason of writing lyrics with Wendell Manwarren of 3Canal
12.30–2.30 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room
One of Trinidad's most dexterous lyricists on writing for rapso and calypso.

WORKSHOP

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down: How to Write a Book Review with Maya Jaggi and Nicholas Laughlin
12.30–2.00 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room
What exactly is a book review, and how do you write a good one? The British critic and the editor of *The Caribbean Review of Books* give some pointers.

FICTION

Raphaël Confiant moderated by Marie Abdullah
1.00–2.00 pm • AV Room
A reading by the Martiniquan author of *Eau de Café*.

POETRY

Jane King and Tanya Shirley moderated by Giselle Rampaul
2.00–3.00 pm • AV Room
Readings by poets from St. Lucia and Jamaica.

MUSIC

Patricia Gone with ... Millicent? with Colin Robinson
3.15–4.15 pm • AV Room
A listening session and discussion of Trinidad calypso's witty treatment of same-sex love.

SHORT TALK

Holly Bynoe and Nadia Huggins on ARC
3.15–4.00 pm • Old Fire Station
The editors of the new art and culture magazine on the importance of Caribbean art publishing.

THE BOCAS DEBATE

Press vs. Government: the Freedom to Print What? with Amery Browne, Judy Raymond, and Selwyn Ryan + one more panellist TBA, chaired by Lennox Grant
4.30–6.00 pm • Old Fire Station
Two politicians face a senior journalist and political columnist in a high-level debate on the realities of press freedom.

PERFORMANCE POETRY/OPEN MIC

Afternoon jam
4.30–5.30 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade
A selection of performance poets and musicians take their vibe to the streets of the city.

FILMS

George and the Bicycle Pump, dir. Asha Lovelace
A Regular Black: The Hidden Wuthering Heights, dir. Adam Low
Caribbean Eye: Independent Voices on five Caribbean writers: C.L.R. James of Trinidad, Martin Carter of Guyana, V.S. Reid of Jamaica, Nicolás Guillén of Cuba, Aimé Césaire of Martinique, 1988
4.30–6.00 pm • AV Room
An adaptation of Earl Lovelace's short story, an investigation of the hidden Caribbean presence in the classic Emily Brontë novel, and a landmark film about five Caribbean writers, from the Banyan archive.

MUSIC

Chantal Esdelle and Moyenne
6.00–7.00 pm • Amphitheatre
A mellow jazz session with the popular quintet.

TRIBUTE AND LAUNCH

Celebrating 25 years of Peepal Tree Press with Jeremy Poynting
7.00–8.30 pm • Old Fire Station
The leading publisher of Caribbean literature celebrates its silver anniversary with the launch of its latest titles.

FRIDAY 29 APRIL

POETRY

Merle Collins and Anson Gonzalez moderated by Rose-Ann Walker
10.00–11.00 am • AV Room
Readings by poets from Grenada and Trinidad.

WORKSHOP

Words into Flesh: How to Create Characters with OCM Bocas Prize judge David Chariandy
10.00 am–12.00 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room
The author of *Soucouyant* leads a workshop on writing fictional characters that live and breathe.

FILMS

Wide Sargasso Sea, dir. John Duigan
Making History, dir. Karen McKinnon
11.00 am–1.00 pm • AV Room
A steamy adaptation of Jean Rhys's classic novel and a lyrical short film fuelled by the poetry of two fiery poets: the late Édouard Glissant, and Linton Kwesi Johnson, the father of dub poetry.

SHORT TALK

Bridget Brereton on writing the history of UWI
11.30 am–12.15 pm • Old Fire Station
The distinguished historian talks about researching and writing the story of UWI's St. Augustine campus.

PERFORMANCE POETRY/OPEN MIC

Lunchtime jam
12.30–1.30 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade
A selection of performance poets and musicians take their vibe to the streets of the city.

NEW TALENT SHOWCASE

Barbara Jenkins
12.30–1.00 pm • Old Fire Station
The first of our New Talent Showcase writers reads from her fiction and discusses her work.

ROUNDTABLE

Does "Caribbean literature" Really Exist? with Marlon James, Jane King, Mark McWatt, and Tanya Shirley, moderated by B.C. Pires
1.30–2.30 pm • AV Room
Four authors of fiction and poetry discuss what the label "Caribbean" means for writers and readers.

WORKSHOP

Enter stage right: the basics of drama with Raymond Choo Kong and Tony Hall
2.00–4.00 pm • Old Fire Station
The actor-director and the playwright lead a workshop on writing for the stage, and unearth the building blocks of real drama.

MEMOIR

Lorna Goodison and Charlotte Williams moderated by Geraldine Skeete
3.00–4.00 pm • AV Room
Two OCM Bocas Prize judges read from their family memoirs, from *Harvey River* and *Sugar and Slate*.

FILM

Miente, dir. Rafi Mercado
4.00–5.45 pm • AV Room
An adaptation of the novel *Different* by the Puerto Rican writer Javier Avila.

PERFORMANCE POETRY/OPEN MIC

Afternoon jam
5.00–6.00 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade
A selection of performance poets and musicians take their vibe to the streets of the city. Plus a chance for budding writers to share their work.

POETRY

Woodbrook poetry crawl
7.00–11.00 pm • Venues in Woodbrook to be announced
Unbuttoned readings by Bocas poets, at some of Port of Spain's popular nightspots. Have a drink, lime with some of the Caribbean's most talented poets.

SATURDAY 30 APRIL

FICTION

Marlon James and Tiphany Yanique moderated by Nicholas Laughlin
10.00–11.00 am • Old Fire Station
Readings by the Jamaican author of *The Book of Night Women* and the OCM Bocas Prize–shortlisted author of *How to Escape from a Leper Colony*.

WORKSHOP

When is a poem not a poem?: the basics of verse with Christian Campbell and Merle Collins
10.00 am–12.00 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room
Fine Caribbean poets from two generations discuss form, craft, and what makes a poem a poem.

FILMS

The Final Passage, dir. Peter Hall
introduced by lead actor Michael Cherrie
10.00 am–1.00 pm • AV Room
An adaptation of Caryl Phillips's debut novel, introduced by the Trinidadian lead actor.

FICTION

Earl Lovelace moderated by Gordon Rohlehr
11.00 am–12.00 pm • Old Fire Station
The celebrated Trinidadian writer reads from his new novel, *Is Just a Movie*, 2011 winner of the Regional Council of Guadeloupe Grand Prize for Caribbean Literature.

SHORT TALK

Jane Bryce and Kelly Josephs on Caribbean literary journals
12.00–1.00 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room
The editors of the journals *Poui* and *sx salon* discuss the role of literary journals.

PERFORMANCE POETRY/OPEN MIC

Lunchtime jam
12.00–1.00 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade
A selection of performance poets and musicians take their vibe to the streets of the city.

NEW TALENT SHOWCASE

Vladimir Lucien
12.30–1.00 pm • Old Fire Station
The second of our New Talent Showcase writers reads from his poems and discusses his work.

DISCUSSION

The lives of others: the privileges and perils of biography with Edward Baugh, Patrick French, OCM Bocas Prize head judge Arnold Rampersad, and Judy Raymond, moderated by OCM Bocas Prize judge Marjorie Thorpe
1.00–2.30 pm • Old Fire Station
Four biographers — whose subjects range from Frank Collymore to V.S. Naipaul to Ralph Ellison to Richard Bridgens — read from and discuss their work.

WORKSHOP

How to Say It: The Language of Fiction with Lorna Goodison and Barbara Lalla
2.00–4.00 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room
The poet/fiction-writer and the novelist/linguist lead a workshop on the basics of voice, tone, and style.

FILM

Small Island, dir. John Alexander
2.00–5.00 pm • AV Room
An adaptation of Andrea Levy's prize-winning novel about Jamaican immigrants to London in the 1940s.

ROUNDTABLE

Digital Reading: The Future of Literature with Andre Bagoo, Elspeth Duncan, and Mark Lyndersay, moderated by Georgia Popplewell
3.00–4.00 pm • Old Fire Station
Are new technologies changing the way we read and write, and if so how? Writers and techies put their heads together to discuss the question. Plus a reading from Elspeth Duncan's novel *Daisy Chain*.

WORKSHOP

Facing Critique: How to Workshop your Writing with Rhoda Bharath and Barbara Jenkins
3.00–5.00 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room
Two emerging writers and workshop veterans on how to critique your work alone and with others.

PERFORMANCE POETRY/OPEN MIC

Afternoon jam
3.30–4.30 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade
A selection of performance poets and musicians take their vibe to the streets of the city.

Philip Nanton

4.30–5.00 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade
The Vincentian poet and performer shares his comic observations of Caribbean life.

MUSIC

Janáček's Kreutzer Sonata with Simon Browne, Patrick Jones, Eleanor Ryan, and Jonathan Storer
5.30–6.30 pm • Old Fire Station
The Czech composer Leoš Janáček's String Quartet

No. 1 was inspired by Leo Tolstoy's novella *The Kreutzer Sonata* — which in turn was inspired by a Beethoven violin sonata. In this lecture-performance, the string quartet will trace the story of the chain of influences and perform the full piece by Janáček.

Chibale Drumming Ensemble

6.30–7.00 pm • Amphitheatre
A spirited performance by the talented group of children drummers.

OCM BOCAS PRIZE FOR CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

2011 OCM Bocas Prize announcement ceremony
7.00–9.00 pm • Old Fire Station
The winner of the first annual OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature is announced. *By invitation.*

SUNDAY 1 MAY

POETRY

Edward Baugh and Christian Campbell moderated by Funso Aiyejina
10.00–11.00 am • Old Fire Station
Readings by a Jamaican and a Bahamian poet.

WORKSHOP

What Every Writer Wants to Know: How to get Published with OCM Bocas Prize judge Margaret Busby, Ken Jaikaransingh, and Jeremy Poynting
10.00 am–12.00 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room
Three leading Caribbean publishers offer practical advice to emerging writers.

FILMS

George and the Bicycle Pump and Joebell and America, dir. Asha Lovelace
10.00 am–12.00 pm • AV Room
Adaptations of two stories by celebrated Trinidadian author Earl Lovelace.

POETRY

James Christopher Aboud and Mark McWatt moderated by Giselle Rampaul
11.00–12.00 am • Old Fire Station
Readings by poets from Trinidad and Guyana.

SHORT TALK

Kim Johnson on music and ways of listening
11.30 am–12.15 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room
The writer, historian, and 2011 Arts and Letters Laureate of the Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence on how our sense of hearing influences our experience of the world. Supported by the Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence programme.

PERFORMANCE POETRY/OPEN MIC

Lunchtime jam
11.30 am–12.30 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade
A selection of performance poets and musicians take their vibe to the streets of the city.

NEW TALENT SHOWCASE

Alake Pilgrim
12.30–1.00 pm • Old Fire Station
The third of our New Talent Showcase writers reads from her fiction and discusses her work.

DISCUSSION

India Up Close: A Candid Look at the Subcontinent with Patrick French and Samantha Subramanian, moderated by Nicholas Laughlin
1.00–2.30 pm • Old Fire Station
The authors of recent books about contemporary India discuss the realities and possibilities of the world's second most populous nation.

FILMS

The Hummingbird Tree, dir. Noella Smith
Making History, dir. Karen McKinnon
2.00–3.45 pm • AV Room
An adaptation of Ian McDonald's coming-of-age novel, and a lyrical short film fuelled by the poetry of Édouard Glissant and Linton Kwesi Johnson.

WORKSHOP

Threats and Curses: The Secrets of Robber Talk with Kurtis Gross
2.30–4.00 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room
A Midnight Robber extraordinaire leads a workshop on the tricks of the tribe. Mocking pretenders beware!

TRIBUTE

Remembering Édouard Glissant with Raphaël Confiant
3.00–4.00 pm • Old Fire Station
Reflections and memories of the late, celebrated Martiniquan poet by his countryman. Supported by the Alliance Française.

OCM BOCAS PRIZE

Celebrating the 2011 shortlist
4.00–5.00 pm • Old Fire Station
Readings from the three books shortlisted for the 2011 OCM Bocas Prize: Edwidge Danticat's *Create Dangerously: the Immigrant Artist at Work*; Derek Walcott's *White Egrets*; and Tiphany Yanique's *How to Escape from a Leper Colony*.

POETRY AND MUSIC

Bocas farewell
5.00–6.30 pm • Amphitheatre
The 2011 Bocas Lit Fest closes with musical performances by Mike Germaine and Destino Jazz, plus the lyrical Freetown Collective.

Unless otherwise stated, all venues are at the **National Library of Trinidad and Tobago and Old Fire Station, Abercromby & Hart Streets, Port of Spain.**