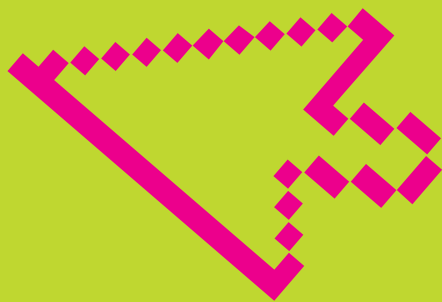


NGC
bocas
Lit Fes **X**
TEN YEARS STRONG **2021**



NGC **bocas** **Youth Fes**

Streaming on

<https://www.bocaslitfest.com/youth/youth-festival/>

19 Aug 2021

1-5.30pm



#bocasyouthfestival2021



UNSTOPPABLE ENERGY

Green energy constantly replenishes itself.

As is the nature of green energy, our commitment to serve is unending. It extends into a future where we evolve beyond our gas business to deliver renewable energy to enrich our lives and generations to come.



The new age of energy is here.

WELCOME to the 2021 NGC Bocas Youth Fest

It gives me enormous pleasure to welcome you to the very first **NGC BOCAS YOUTH FEST** and the launch of the **NGC Bocas Youth Writer Award**.

Young people are living through an exceptionally difficult period, whether it be isolation from friends, problems of being at school and university only online, or experiencing increased unemployment. Yet you are the bridge between the future and this strange present, dominated by uncertainty and fraught attempts to navigate our way through a pandemic that seems determined to persist.

I hope this short, inaugural festival will offer you some respite, spark ideas, and encourage you to think about the many different ways in which you can contribute to the new thinking needed for the important journey we must make over the next few years. More than ever, your voice is important, and I hope you will set your imaginations free to consider the impossible.

Our rich literature is a source of great inspiration, and this festival offers you unprecedented access to influential writers, to different ways of seeing and thinking, a chance to learn how to express your thoughts in poetic fashion, through bookstagramming, spoken word or creative writing, and to meet other young people who have discovered ways of meeting big challenges.

We have wanted, for a long time, to add a festival specifically for young people to our children's and adult's festivals, both of which are now in their 11th year. However, everything has its moment and will not be rushed. Now I see that the vast amount of work we have done with young adults over the last decade has been a preparation for this wonderful, new festival, and makes the launch of the exciting **NGC Bocas Youth Writer Award** possible.

Enjoy the festival, and remember to give us your feedback so that next year can be even more of a treat!

Marina Salandy-Brown
Festival Founder and Director



A WELCOME FROM NGC

Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is changing faster than we can process, in ways we have yet to fully understand. However, there is one certainty amid all the change — our “new normal” will be built on technology, and we must evolve as a result. This is particularly evident in the sphere of education. The reality is that the digital tools and platforms that have enabled schools to function over the past year will become an integral part of future learning models.

The NGC Bocas Lit Fest recognised the opportunity that this disruption in education presented. This was the chance to reach even greater audiences and deliver even more innovative products through virtual platforms. Online learning offers the advantages of greater access and channels for engagement. It also allows for content to reach and be delivered by a wider participant pool from across the country, and indeed the world, without the often-prohibitive logistics of live events.

The NGC Bocas Youth Fest represents a novel approach to engaging young people in the literary arts. Not only does this first-of-its-kind festival seek to bridge the divide between the curriculum and real-world applications of the literary arts, but it aims to strengthen creative and linguistic capacity among our students, especially those in under-served communities.

We at NGC consider education and skills development to be pillars of long-term national sustainability. By building capacity in our creative sector, NGC Bocas Lit Fest continues to create value and open prospects for our people, our culture, and the economy. We therefore see this partnership as an important and rewarding investment in our country’s future. We wish the NGC Bocas Youth Fest team all the best, as they undertake yet another groundbreaking project. We also wish all festival attendees happy learning.

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago is title sponsor of the NGC Bocas Youth Fest.

Accessing the Youth Fest

All events of the festival are free and open to the online public. Tickets or registration information are NOT required. A Facebook or YouTube account is not required in order to view the Festival events on these platforms.

The recordings of Festival events will remain available on our Facebook and YouTube pages for a limited time post-Festival, for those wishing to revisit or view events at their leisure.

Books and Merchandise

You can reserve, pre-order or pick up copies of any of the books on our programme (and others) from the Festival’s booksellers:

Paper Based Bookshop

Tel: 625-3197
Email: paperbasedbookshop@gmail.com
• Local Delivery
Available via TPOST
www.paperbased.org

Metropolitan Book Suppliers

Tel: (868) 623-3462

A Virtual Festival

Tune in to the NGC Bocas Youth Fest on either of the following platforms:

www.bocaslitfest.com

facebook.com/bocaslitfest.com

youtube.com/bocaslitfest.com

The entire festival will be broadcast in one livestream from both our Facebook and YouTube pages.

Dates and times

Monday 26 July

6-8 pm
(masterclass, by registration)

Wednesday 28 July

6-8 pm
(masterclass, by registration)

Thursday 19 August

1-5.30 pm



FRIENDS OF BOCAS LIT FEST

If you appreciate what we do, then become a Friend of the Bocas Lit Fest.

Since 2011, Bocas has built a community of people of all ages and many different countries who are dedicated to the advancement of Caribbean literature. Bocas has nurtured emerging writers from the region, instigated important conversations about the arts and culture, encouraged the growth of spoken word, and brought renowned and internationally acclaimed writers to the stage at our annual festival.

We know that there are many like-minded individuals who support our work and believe in the sustainability of our mission. We need you to keep us going strong.

We invite those who love Caribbean literature and our annual festivals — now to include the NGC Bocas Youth Fest — and our many other projects to become a Friend of the Bocas Lit Fest. Friends gain access to our full literary archives, as well as specially curated content such as writers’ seminars, newsletters, book bulletins and early alerts to our year-round offerings. Friends’ packages include discounts on our workshops, festival art, popular t-shirts and other merchandise, and we will be adding treats as we go along.

The Bocas Lit Fest has become an institution, but its future is only guaranteed if we continue to grow this strong community of people committed to helping ensure our sustainability.

Find out more at www.bocaslitfest.com/friends



Monday 26 & Wednesday 28 July • 6-8 pm

Spoken Word Masterclass with Derron Sandy

Some of the stories we walk around with anticipate spoken word poetry to set them free. Over a two-day period, Derron Sandy offers you a freedom pass for your stories. His easygoing nature and wealth of knowledge make acquiring the skills of spoken word poetry an experience that will change your life. Get an opportunity to create a spoken word piece and the chance to be featured in the NGC Bocas Youth Fest. Join this masterclass with the master teacher. Your story depends on it!

Register at <https://www.bocaslitfest.com/events/spoken-word-poetry-masterclass-with-derron-sandy>

Thursday 19 August

Stand and Deliver

Fifteen emerging spoken word poets from across the Caribbean present pieces they developed through our spoken word masterclass! Be engaged by diverse themes, performance styles, and voices filmed in the unique spaces of this cohort of poets. Hosted by Derron Sandy. **1-2 pm**

Port of Spain: "A Writer's Heaven"

A special screening of a pioneering film exploring the richness of Port of Spain as a backdrop to some

of the Caribbean's best literary creations. Join host Wendell Manwarren as he tours Trinidad and Tobago's capital, exploring the city through works of classic and contemporary literature. **2-2.30 pm**

10 Questions with YA author Sarah Dass

We get to know Tobagonian author Sarah Dass as she discusses her debut novel *Where the Rhythm Takes You* (Balzer & Bray), and her insights on writing YA romance and getting published. Inspired by Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, *Where the Rhythm Takes You* is a romantic, mesmerising novel of first love and second chances. **2.30-3 pm**

Author Access Pass: Olive Senior

Secondary school students enjoy exclusive access to authors on the CSEC Reading List through our Youth Fest's Author Access Pass. This special series kicks off this inaugural Youth Fest with students Zayna Joseph (St. Lucia), Tevin Douglas (Trinidad and Tobago), and Celestial Marshall (Trinidad and Tobago) interviewing one of our best-loved and best-known Caribbean authors, Jamaican Poet Laureate Olive Senior. **3-3.45 pm**

Launch of the NGC Bocas Youth Writer Award

Who has been the most influential young person in literary arts in the last year? This inaugural award seeks to find and celebrate young people making waves from any corner of literature: poetry,

fiction, non-fiction, spoken word, blog writing, and even song lyrics. Join us as we open the call for nominations and launch this special award! Featuring Head Judge Franka Philip, founder of the Bocas Lit Fest Marina Salandy-Brown, and Myles Lewis of title sponsor The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago. **3.45-4 pm**

Bookstagramming Beginnings with Apphia Barton & Saajid Hosein

Two young Instagram bloggers and book enthusiasts, Apphia Barton (@apphiareads) and Saajid Hosein (@musaho_books), sit down with us to explain the growing buzz around "bookstagramming", what it is, and the opportunities it holds for young Caribbean readers. **4-4.30 pm**

The Big Debate: For Better or Worse?

Do youth today have a better future in Trinidad and Tobago than their parents? Young people from diverse fields come together to examine this question, with honesty, data, and passion. Featuring Shane John (President, Trinidad Youth Council), Sarah Prince (environmental consultant), Jasher De Gannes (law student), Kemuel Pascall (former youth parliamentarian), Okera Duncan (entrepreneur), and Chrisette Benjamin (youth advocate), moderated by media personality Ardene Sirjoo. **4.30-5.30 pm**

4.30-5.30 pm



Apphia Barton

Trinidadian book enthusiast, lover of words and aspiring writer, Apphia uses her vivid imagination and creative ideas to learn from and influence her environment. She attributes all that she is to her relationship with books and reading.

Chrisette Benjamin

A 21-year-old graduate in International Relations from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, youth leader, Vice Chairman of the Nariva Mayaro District Youth Council, writer for *Caribbean Insight* magazine, and a strong advocate for amplifying the voice of the nation's youth. In 2020, she registered her youth-led NGO, the "I Believe In Success Foundation" which focuses on addressing sustainable development goal #1 No Poverty, and Sustainable development Goal #4 Quality Education, in the Rio Claro/Mayaro district. She was the Opposition Chief Whip in the historic Young Woman In Leadership Parliament Sitting 2020 and Leader of the House, Minister of Planning in the Historic Virtual 18th National Youth Parliament. In 2017, she was selected by the US Embassy to represent Trinidad and Tobago at a leadership exchange programme in the United States as a Youth Ambassador.

Sarah Dass

Sarah was born in Trinidad but has been a Tobago resident since age two. A graduate of University College London, she works as an office administrator by day and writes stories about the Caribbean by night. Sarah's debut novel *Where the Rhythm Takes You* is a contemporary Young Adult novel, inspired by her childhood, spent in a seaside hotel.

Jásher De Gannes

Jásher De Gannes is a second-year law student at the University of the West Indies and co-hosts "Youth in Focus" on I.S.A.C 98.1 FM Radio. She was selected as a national and

regional youth parliamentarian and participated in parliamentary debates from 2018 to 2021. In December 2020, she was sworn in as the youth area representative for her community of Canaan/Bon Accord and as the youth Premier, which is equivalent to the youth Chief Secretary. Jásher is the founder of the bilingual vacation camp for children "Señorita Jásher's Spanish camp". During the COVID-19 pandemic, she started teaching Spanish and French classes online and used the proceeds to buy toys for deprived children in her community for Christmas 2020.

Tevin Douglas

Tevin is a 16-year-old student of St. Benedict's College, Trinidad and Tobago. He started writing poetry about 6 years ago and has written over 300 of his own poems, which he shares on social media.

Okera Duncan

Okera Duncan is an island scholar, young visionary, entrepreneur, influencer, and a current International Business Major at the Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business. His many leadership posts and portfolios include CEO and Founder of Sapienza Educational Services (Language and Cultural Services Business) and Influencer at BrightBoy Inspired (Social Media Blog). He is a culture fanatic and sees great potential for the Caribbean region, especially Trinidad and Tobago, to connect, share, and invest with its CARICOM and Latin American neighbours. He speaks English, French, and Spanish fluently and studies Brazilian Portuguese and Chinese Mandarin.

Saajid Hosein

Trinidadian BookTuber and Bookstagrammer. Saajid runs the YouTube channel "Books are my Social Life" and the Instagram Page @musaho_books. His main aim is to read diversely, with a special focus on Caribbean and Muslim literature, and recommend the stories he enjoys to his audiences.

Shane John

Shane John is a first year Law student, Executive Secretary of the National Parang Association of Trinidad and Tobago, Integrity Ambassador of the National Commission of Integrity of Trinidad and Tobago, and President of the Trinidad Youth Council. He was Head Boy of the Prefects at Queen's Royal College, and was awarded the Principal's Award in 2018 and 2019. In 2019 he won the Student Leadership National Youth Award of Trinidad and Tobago for youth service and represented Trinidad and Tobago at the ECOSOC Conference at the UN. He participated in South Korea at the Model United Nation simulation debate held by the Rotary club of Port of Spain and UNHCR, debating the topic of refugees and migration, and returned in 2020 as a trainer to over 200 delegates.

Zayna Joseph

Zayna is a student at Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, St. Lucia, and also a young writer with a passion for spoken word poetry and prose pieces, and has a particular love for Caribbean folk tales.

Myles Lewis

The National Gas Company is title sponsor of the NGC Bocas Youth Fest and Myles Lewis is Head, Corporate Social Responsibility.

Wendell Manwarren is an actor, rapso artiste, music producer, masman, co-founder of 3 Canal, whose Carnival bands and theatrical productions have consistently won awards both locally and internationally.

Celestial Marshall

Celestial Marshall is a 19-year-old writer and spoken word performer from La Brea. Currently an Upper Six Business Student attending Vessigny Secondary School, she is also a social and tech activist involved in numerous youth NGOs and initiatives. She recently was a part of the Urban Word NYC Black Girl Magic Fellowship and is

currently working on publishing two poetry books.

Kemuel Pascall

Kemuel Pascall is pursuing a BA in Journalism at the College of Science Technology and the Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT), and is a civilian employee of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. A former RBC Young Leader, he represented COSTAATT at the 16th National Youth Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as Opposition Member for Caroni Central, and served as a member of 15th Regional Youth Parliament. He is passionate about youth development, communications, development of parliamentary practice and procedure and the development of Trinidad and Tobago.

Franka Philip

Trinidadian journalist and media consultant with more than 15 years experience in online, radio and print with specialist skills in digital media. She is the co-founder of the media company Trini Good Media.

Sarah Prince

A born nature lover, Sarah has taken her passion for the environment and pursued it academically. Having studied Environmental Science and Sustainable Technology at the University of the West Indies, she now works with the UNDP and is able to contribute to a more sustainable Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, Sarah serves as a choreographer for the DPC Dance Troupe.

Marina Salandy-Brown

Bocas Lit Fest founder and Festival Director.

Derron Sandy

Derron is a full-time spoken word performer and a master teaching artist with over ten years of experience in workshop curriculum design, coaching, and evaluating spoken word performances. He provides creative direction (theatre and film), educational products, master classes and riveting performances. He has been awarded in the field of performance on multiple occasions.

Olive Senior

The award-winning author of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, children's literature and other published work. Her many awards include Canada's Writers Trust Matt Cohen Award for Lifetime Achievement, the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, an honorary doctorate from the University of the West Indies, and the Gold Musgrave Medal of the Institute of Jamaica. Her work has been taught internationally and is widely translated. Olive Senior is from Jamaica and lives in Toronto, Canada, but returns frequently to the Caribbean, which remains central to her work.

Ardene Sirjoo

With over 13 years of broadcast experience, Ardene is a popular voice on news and current affairs station i95.5FM. She is also co-founder and a director of Trini Good Media, a digital media company specialising in audio production.

YEAR ROUND

PROGRAMMING

BIOES & BOOKMARKS

Bios & Bookmarks, an online reading series with Caribbean authors powered by the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, was launched in the midst of the coronavirus "lockdown" period in April 2020, and is now one of our most popular virtual offerings. In the second half of 2021, we're back with two seasons, each with six episodes featuring readings and discussions with both familiar and new Caribbean writers across the region and diaspora — allowing us to get to know the faces behind the words and what's on their bookshelves. All previous episodes can be viewed on our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/bocaslitfest.

The upcoming season will begin in September, promising to rile emotions and delve into relationships, love, identity and belonging, under the theme of "Telling Complex Family Stories". The episodes air live on **Sundays at 3 pm on our Facebook page**.

WORKSHOP

Speculative Fiction Masterclass

with Karen Lord and Tobias Buckell



New submission date for writing samples: **Friday August 6**

#bocasworkshops2021 #bocas2021

Aug 27, Sep 10, Sep 24, Oct 1

Intermediate + Advanced Levels

\$1,000 TTD

Via zoom

Register now at www.bocaslitfest.com.

Limited spots available!

Open to international participants
Certificate upon completion



WORKSHOPS



2021 GUIDE

SEP 25



Scriptwriting, with playwright and theatre director David Edgecombe
Scripted dialogue can be a challenge when putting your ideas down on paper. Explore techniques to help you get your vision through to performance with an experienced writer and director.

All levels / FREE
10-11:30am

OCT 2



Writing for Children, with prizewinning writer Joanne Hillhouse
This 2-part seminar examines your current work in progress and focuses on everything from concept, to character development and illustrations. Create captivating, page-turning work for young readers aged 7-12.

Intermediate + Advanced Levels / \$300
10-11:30am

OCT 30



From Short Story to Novel, with Sharma Taylor
Making the transition from a 10-page short story to a 200-page book can be daunting. Learn how Sharma Taylor transferred the craft and technique of short story writing to win a 2-book publishing deal with her debut novel.

All levels / \$300
10-11:30am

NOV 27



The History Around Me: Writing Popular History, with Bridget Brereton
Learn the fundamentals of producing well researched and written pieces on historical topics, including biographies and autobiographies/memoirs, from our most well-known historian and get creative with engaging your audience.

All levels / \$300
10-11:30am

For information on all our workshops, visit <https://www.bocaslitfest.com/workshops/> or email us at workshops@bocaslitfest.com



Enjoy a **10% discount on all workshops** as a Friend of the Bocas Lit Fest. Sign up here to subscribe - <https://www.bocaslitfest.com/friends/>



Marina Salandy-Brown

is the founder and Vice President of the Bocas Lit Fest, Festival Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, and a Newsday columnist. She is a former editor and prizewinning BBC programme maker with a publishing background and member of the Arts Council of London's Literary Panel. In 2005, she received the degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt), *honoris causa*, from the University of Westminster (UK), and in 2013 from the University of the West Indies. She is a current member of the British Council's Arts Advisory Committee and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Her writing has appeared in international magazines and literary anthologies, including *New Daughters of Africa* (2019). In 2020, she was honoured with the Chilean Strait of Magellan Award for Innovation, and named an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

Nicholas Laughlin is Programme Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest. He is also the editor of the arts and travel magazine *Caribbean Beat* and co-director of the contemporary art space and network Alice Yard. He has published two books of poems, *The*

Strange Years of My Life and *Enemy Luck*.

Danielle Delon is Director of the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest. She is the editor and publisher of several historical publications, including *The Letters of Margaret Mann*, *Bridges of Trinidad & Tobago*, *Ice Age Trinidad* (for children) and *A Handbook of Trinidad Cookery*.

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The Bocas Lit Fest is a non-profit company incorporated and registered in Trinidad and Tobago in 2010.

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THANKS FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU WHO MADE THIS FESTIVAL POSSIBLE

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#bocasyouthfest2021

Bocas Lit Fest Merch

Shop your favourite slogans in tees & totes.



Purchase our commemorative 10 year festival poster by artist Jackie Hinkson



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**Trinidad and Tobago Literary Festival
a festival of words and ideas**

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