

Oct. 8–15,
2023

IOWA CITY Book Festival

Presented by the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature

A celebration
of Books and
Ideas in the
City of Literature

All events free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Ticket information available at iowacityofliterature.org/icbf.

SUN., OCT. 8

One Community One Book:
Joanne Ramos, C2O Pomerantz Center 1:30 p.m. The 2023 One Community, One Book is *The Farm* by Joanne Ramos. Told from the perspective of four women, *The Farm* explores gender, race, and class, and who has access to power, freedom, and choice.

Roast of Iowa City, ReUnion Brewery downtown, Doors at 5:30 p.m. Year after year, some of the area's most treasured comics and writers gather together to relentlessly burn and mock everything sacred and dear about our town. Hosted by Megan Gogerty, featuring Schmuckdate, Lauren Haldeman, Travis Coltrain, Karen Sanchez Dougall, Carson Tuttle, Jane Yan, Zach Vaugan, Zach Hoyle, and Iowa City Police Log.

MON., OCT. 9

Anna Karenina screening, FilmScene 7 p.m. This 19th-century period piece is an adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's classic novel. Readers have joined Anna Barker to read the book as part of the City of Literature's Community Reads project. Now watch the film. Adults \$13, seniors, children and students \$10. Tickets at www.icfilmscene.org.

TUE., OCT. 10

Curator Guided Tour of "Hey Buddy, I'm Bill" exhibit, UI Library gallery, 4 p.m. "Hey Buddy, I'm Bill" tells the story of Bill Sackter, the namesake of Wild Bill's (formerly Wild Bill's Coffee Shop) in the University of Iowa School of Social Work. From his early life in Minneapolis to his 44-year institutionalization for an intellectual disability to his years of friends and fame in Iowa City, the exhibit shares a glimpse into Bill's life and legacy.



Sarah Cypher, Prairie Lights, 7 p.m. A young, queer Palestinian American woman pieces together her great aunt's secrets in this sweeping debut, a family saga confronting questions of sexual identity, exile, and lineage. *The Skin and Its Girl* is a searing, poetic tale about desire and identity and a provocative exploration of how we let stories divide, unite, and define us—and even wield the power to restore a broken family.

The Machine Stops, Iowa City Public Library, 7 p.m. Opera fan and UI Professor Emerita Miriam Gilbert leads

a talk-back session on *The Machine Stops: A New Opera* by John Lake and Cecile Goding, along with the opera's lead soprano Élise DesChamps (UI School of Music) and sci-fi scholar Brooks Landon (UI Dept. of English). Selected videoclips of the 2022 CCPA production of *The Machine Stops* will be shown.

WED., OCT. 11

Marta McDowell, Coralville Public Library, noon Marta McDowell, a writer and gardener with a near-encyclopedic knowledge of the genre, illuminates the many ways in which our greatest mystery writers, from Edgar Allen Poe to authors on today's bestseller lists, have found inspiration in the sinister side of gardens in her book, *Gardening Can Be Murder*.

"How to read old paper: Searching for meaning in early modern English writing," Heather Wolfe, Shambaugh Auditorium at the UI Main Library, 6 p.m. Wolfe, a consulting curator of manuscripts at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, presents the annual Iowa Bibliophiles lecture. Join Wolfe as she digs into the archival evidence to tell a story about paper that begins with impoverished and unhoused London rag women and ends with Queen Elizabeth.



Tracie Morris, Prairie Lights, 7 p.m. Weaving intimate portraits of home with what could be the travel journals of a 21st-century troubadour, *The Iowa Writers' Workshop instructor's human/nature poems* is a hymn to the human and more-than-human world.

THU., OCT. 12

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak: Translation! Ever New, Ever Elusive, Old Capitol Senate Chamber, 6:30 p.m. This inaugural Weissbort-Spivak lecture celebrating the 50th anniversary of the MFA in Literature Translation at the University of Iowa features Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, a University Professor at Columbia University. Her first job was at Iowa (1965–77). Humanities for social justice is her obsession. Translation is the medium of this work.

The Swine Republic: Struggles with the Truth about Agriculture and Water Quality, Meeting Room A, Iowa City Public Library, 7 p.m. Author Dr. Chris Jones (*The Swine Republic*) is joined by

journalists Keith Schneider and Erin Jordan to examine Iowa and the Midwest's efforts at water quality, public information, and the modern myth of the "farmer."

"Wyrd Sisters" produced by Dreamwell Theatre, the James Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Sir Terry Pratchett's novel adapted for the stage by Stephen Briggs and directed by Josh Sazon. Pratchett takes Shakespeare's Macbeth and then turns it up 'till the knob comes off. It's all there – a wicked duke and duchess, the ghost of the murdered king, dim soldiers, strolling players, a land in peril. And who stands between the Kingdom and destruction? Three witches. Tickets at thejamesic.com.

FRI., OCT 13

International Writing Program panel discussion, Iowa City Public Library, noon On the Body: A person's body affects the way they navigate the world, and their experiences in it. How much power does a body (with regard to, for instance, race, gender, sexuality, physical ability) have over, or in, an artist's work? Busi Mahangu (South Africa), Wesley Macheso (Malawi), Kevin Chen (Taiwan).



John Irving in conversation with Lan Samantha Chang, Hancher Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. John Irving is one of the foremost writers of the 20th and 21st centuries. He is the author of several books, including the novels *The Cider House Rules*, *The World According to Garp*, and most recently, *The Last Chairlift*. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Irving returns to our campus and community to discuss his life and creative process alongside Iowa Writers' Workshop director Lan Samantha Chang. Tickets are free but required. Visit hancher.uiowa.edu for more information. Presented in collaboration with the Iowa Writers' Workshop, University Lecture Committee, Infinite Dream and Refocus Film Festival

"Wyrd Sisters" produced by Dreamwell Theatre, the James Theatre, 7:30 p.m. See Thursday for description.

Poetry Talks Live Iowa-Japan, 120 Phillips Hall, 8-11 p.m. A bilingual reading held simultaneously in Iowa City and Tokyo featuring Japanese poets, UI students in Japanese Literary Translation,

IWP writers from Japan, Taiwan, Jamaica, Nigeria, and Kazakhstan; young Japanese poets and many Japanese undergraduates via Zoom; and other guests. Presented by the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies and International Programs at the UI.

SAT., OCT. 14

Book Fair, MERGE, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Featuring: 508 Press, earthwords, Fools Magazine, Ice Cube Press, Iowa City Poetry, Midwest Writing Center, Paper Pie, PorchLight Literary Arts Center, Prompt Press, snapshots, The Iowa Review, The Writers Rooms, The University of Iowa Press, Wilder Things Magazine

Friends Foundation Pop-up used book sale, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Stop by the lobby of the Iowa City Public Library between festival events to browse for a new (to you) book.

Josh Larsen, Iowa City Public Library, 10 a.m. Josh Larsen is the co-host of the radio show and podcast 'Filmspotting' and author of *Movies Are Prayers*. He will discuss his new book, *Fear Not! A Christian Appreciation of Horror*. Presented in partnership with the ReFocus Film Festival.



Justin Torres, Iowa City Public Library, 11:30 a.m. Justin Torres is the author of *We the Animals*, which won the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award, was translated into fifteen languages, and was adapted into a feature film. A graduate of the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, he will read from and discuss his new book, *Blackouts*. Fellow Writers' Workshop graduate Jamel Brinkley will moderate.

Daniel Kraus, Prairie Lights, 11:30 a.m. Daniel Kraus is a *New York Times* bestselling author. His collaboration with legendary filmmaker George A. Romero, *The Living Dead*, was acclaimed by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. The Iowa native will discuss his new novel, *Whalefall*.

Kristen Roupenian, Iowa City Public Library, 1 p.m. Kristen Roupenian holds a PhD in English from Harvard, an MFA from the Helen Zell Writers'

Program at the University of Michigan, and a BA from Barnard College. She is the author of the short story, "Cat Person," which was published in *The New Yorker*. She will read from her short story collection, *Cat Person*. Presented in partnership with the ReFocus Film Festival.



Eskor David Johnson, Prairie Lights, 1 p.m. Eskor David Johnson is a writer from Trinidad and Tobago and the United States. His writing has appeared in *BOMB Magazine*, and *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*. A graduate of Harvard University and the Iowa Writers' Workshop, he currently lives in New York City. *Pay As You Go* is his debut novel.

Storytelling Across the Arts: A Conversation with Lonnie Holley & Kurt Vile, Old Capitol Senate Chamber, 1 p.m.

Lonnie Holley is a renowned visual artist and musician. His most recent album *Oh Me Oh My* reflects on his difficult personal experiences growing up in the Alabama Industrial School for Negro Children in the 1950s. Kurt Vile is one of our current era's most remarkable songwriters and guitarists. Together, Holley and Vile will discuss their creative processes. Presented in partnership with the Infinite Dream Festival.



Mindy Mejia, Prairie Lights, 2:30 p.m. Mindy Mejia is a CPA and a graduate of the Hamline University MFA program. Her debut novel, *The Dragon Keeper*, was published by Ashland Creek Press in 2012. She lives in the Twin Cities with her family, and is the author of *Strike Me Down*, *Everything You Want Me to Be*, and *Leave No Trace*. Her latest mystery novel is *To Catch a Storm*.

Nathan Hill, Iowa City Public Library, 2:30 p.m. Nathan Hill's best-selling debut novel, *The Nix*, was named the number one book of 2016 by many publications. The native Iowan returns with the Oprah Book

Club pick *Wellness*. Moving from the gritty '90s Chicago art scene to a suburbia of detox diets and home-renovation hysteria, this new novel mines the absurdities of modern technology and modern love to reveal profound, startling truths about intimacy and connection.

Patchwork: A Reading of Literary Translation, Meeting Room A, Iowa City Public Library, 4 p.m. In every corner of this universe, there is a story waiting to be heard. Join the students of the Literary Translation MFA as they gather and read excerpts from their translations of world literature. In collaboration with *Exchanges* Literary Journal, the inaugural session of this reading series celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Iowa Translation Workshop.



Ayana Mathis, Prairie Lights Books, 4 p.m. Iowa Writers' Workshop Graduate Ayana Mathis reads from her new novel, *The Unsettled*. From the moment Ava Carson and her ten-year-old son, Toussaint, arrive at the Glenn Avenue family shelter in Philadelphia 1985, Ava is already plotting a way out. She is determined to rescue her son from the perils and indignities of that place, and to save herself from the complicated past that led them there.

Open House Party at PorchLight Literary Arts Center, 6-8 p.m. Join PorchLight for drinks and appetizers. Walk through the space and learn about programs and opportunities, including residencies, the new co-op model, Misfit Master Classes, the PromptPress Reading Room, and free programming.

"Wyrd Sisters" produced by Dreamwell Theatre, the James Theatre, 7:30 p.m. See Thursday for description.

SUN., OCT. 15

Writers Row – Local Author Book Fair, MERGE, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Join us as local authors present their latest works, answer questions, and sign books. Browse each author's table where various books will be available for purchase.

CONTINUED >>

Find the full schedule at iowacityofliterature.org/icbf



Staff
John Kenyon, Executive Director
Rachael Carlson, Director of Operations
Zoë Miller and Katherine Steahly, Marketing Assistants
Ara Javaheri and Grace Westergaard, Interns
Little Village Creative Services, Design

Support provided by the Iowa Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Thank you: Aron Aji, Allison Ames Gaistad, Anna Barker, John Busbee, Erika Christiansen, Ben Delgado, Beth Fisher, Aaron Greenwald, Kathleen Johnson, Jason Paulios, Andre Perry, Sara Pinkham, Jordan Sellegren, Andrew Sherburne, Jane Van Voorhis, Jan Weissmiller

Two big partnerships fuel our two biggest events this year. The first, the Literary Legends event featuring John Irving in conversation with Lan Samantha Chang, is a collaboration among several organizations, but Hancher's Infinite Dream Festival, as the venue hosting the event, is perhaps first among equals. The University of Iowa Center for Advancement, the Writers' Workshop, the UI Lecture Committee, FilmScene and the Iowa City Public Library also partnered on the event. The other big partnership is with FilmScene's ReFocus Film Festival. For the second year, FilmScene and the City of Literature intentionally overlapped our schedules, and the result is a cross-pollination between the two festivals that not only yielded the appearance by filmmaker Werner Herzog, but other programming that will allow multiple chances to see certain authors and presenters.

Welcome to the 15th annual Iowa City Book Festival. Over the past decade-and-a-half, we have offered hundreds of events featuring more than 500 authors and presenters. Each year we are able to do so in large part because of our arts and culture programming partners in the community. That is the case again this year, with more than 30 events presented in partnership with 19 other organizations and institutions.

Presented by the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature

IOWA CITY Book Festival

Presented by the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature

Oct. 8–15, 2023

A celebration
of Books and Ideas in the
City of Literature



Find the full schedule at
iowacityofliterature.org/icbf

All events free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.
Ticket information available at iowacityofliterature.org/icbf.

SPONSORED BY



Find the full schedule at
iowacityofliterature.org/icbf

Paul Engle Prize
THU, OCT. 19
Paul Engle Prize:
Joan Naviyuk Kane, Coralville
Public Library, 7 p.m.
The festival may have come to an end, but the literary programming continues as the City of Literature presents the 12th Paul Engle Prize to Joan Navluk Kane. A native poet from Alaska, Kane is the author of several collections, including 2021's *Dark Traffic*. She lives in Oregon, where she is currently a Visiting Associate Professor at Reed College. The prize, established in 2011, honors an individual who, like Paul Engle, represents a pioneering spirit in the world of literature through writing, editing, publishing, or teaching, and whose active participation in the larger issues of the day has contributed to the betterment of the world through the literary arts. Free and open to the public.



the street is a stage in shadow. And in the wings hide the other players: parents; cops; renovators; landlords; those who write the headlines, the histories, and the laws; those who award this neighborhood its name.

"Wyrd Sisters" produced by Dreamwell Theatre, the James Theatre, 2 p.m. See Thursday for description.



Cinema Savant: Werner Herzog, Englert Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Legendary film director Werner Herzog will receive FilmScene's Cinema Savant award and appear in conversation to discuss his life in film and read from his soon-to-be-released autobiography, *Every*

Man for Himself and *God Against All: A Memoir*. This is a ticketed event. Visit refocusfilmfestival.org for more information. Presented in partnership with FilmScene's ReFocus Film Festival, Prairie Lights Bookstore, Infinite Dream Festival, and The Englert Theatre.

OCT. 15 LOCAL AUTHOR BOOK FAIR

- Nina Barragan
- Judith Brenner
- R.C. Davis
- Joseph Dobrian
- Juan Fournneau a.k.a. Latin Thunder
- Jean Herring & Shannon Triplett
- Ron Kinscherf
- Jason Liegois
- Katy Metz
- Tony Myers
- Michelle Powers
- Jennifer Tirrell
- Syn Tirrell
- Seth Thill
- M.L. Williams
- Nina Wilson
- The Writers' Rooms



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

SPONSORED BY THE CITY OF CORALVILLE