Emerita Miriam Gilbert leads The Machine Stops, a searing, poetic tale about lineage. Lights, 7 p.m.


SUN., OCT. 8

TUE., OCT. 10

Sarah Cyphers, Prairie Lights, 7 p.m. A young, queer Palestinian American woman, Sarah Cyphers has her great aunt’s secrets in this sweeping debut, a family saga confronting questions of sexual identity, exile, and line. The Skin on Her Girl is a raw, personal account of her desire and identity and a provocative exploration of how sexualities divide units, and define us even when we valorize the power to destroy a broken family.

The Machine Stops, Iowa City Public Library, 7 p.m. Opera fan and U of I Professor Emerita Miriam Gilbert leads a talk-back session on The Machine Stops: A New Opera by John Lake and Cecile Dougal, along with the opera’s lead soprano Kisra Edes-Charmpa (UI School of Music) and ac-fi artist Brooklyn Lander (LA Dept. of English). Selected videos of the 2022 CCA production of The Machine Stops will be shown.

WED., OCT. 11

Marta McDowell, Coralville Public Library, noon Marta McDowell is a writer and gardener with a near-encyclopedic knowledge of the genus, illuminates the many ways in which our greatest mystery writers, from Edith Wharton to today’s bestsellers, have found inspiration in the smallest slice of gardeners in her book, Glimmering Com Be Murder.

How to read old paper: Searching for meaning in early modern English writing

THU., OCT. 12

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak: Translators! Ever New, Ever Elusive, Old Capitol Senate Chamber, 1 p.m. The inaugural Weissbort-Spivak Shambaugh Auditorium at the UI M L King Jr. 6 p.m. Why is a common curator of manuscripts at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. presenting the annual Iowa Bibliophile lecture. Jon Wolf as he digine the archival evidence to tell a story about paper that begins with impoverished and unleashed London rag women and ends with Queen Elizabeth.

Traci Morris, Prairie Lights, 7 p.m. Weaving intimate portraits of what would have been could be the travel journals Ayana Mathis, Prairie Lights Books, 4 p.m. Iowa Writers’ Workshop Graduate for Ayana Mathis reads from her new novel, The Unmoored. From the great aunt’s and her ten-year-old son, Toussaint, arise at the Great Minnesota Family Shelter in Philadelphia, 1025, Avis is already plotting a way out. She is determined to raise her son, Devain, and independencies of that place, and so save herself from the complicated past that led them there.

Open House Party at PortCityLight Literary Arts Center, 4-7 p.m. PortCityLight for drinks and appetizers. Walk through the space and learn about upcoming events to browse for a book.

“Wyrd Sisters” produced by Dreamswirl Theatre, the James Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Poetry Talk Live-iowa-Ipam, 12:15 Phillips Hall, 0-11 p.m. A bilingual reading held simultaneously in Iowa City and Tokyo featuring Japanese and American poets, U students in Japanese Literary Translation, IUP writers from Japan, Taiwan, Jamaica, Nigeria, and Kazakhstan, young Japanese poeA. The Modern Myth of “Farmer”

“Wyrd Sisters” produced by Dreamswirl Theatre, the James Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

SAT., OCT. 14


Friends Foundation Pop-up 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 “Filmplotting” and author of Movies Are Prayers. He will discuss his new book, Face Oil: A Christian Appreciation of Makeup. Presented in partnership with the Rafrancia Film Festival.

Justin Torres, Iowa City Public Library, 11:30 a.m. Justin Torres is the author of We the Animals, which won the C V Caili 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 novel, Birkenshok. Fellow Writers Workshop grad James Brinkley will moderate.

Mindy Mejia, Prairie Lights, 1:30 p.m. Mindy Mejia is a CPA and a graduate of the University of Iowa MFA program. Her debut novel, The Omegon Roomer, was published by Ashland Creek Press in 2012. She writes in the Twin Cities with her family, and is the author of Strike Me Down, Everything You Touch Is Ruined, and Leave Love Traces. Her latest mystery novel is To Catch a Orro.


Erica Jong, Iowa City Public Library, 2:30 p.m. Erica Jong and a writer from Trinidad and Tobago and the United States. His writing has appeared in RICH 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 Lone Hellyer Kell & Art, Old Capitol Senate Chamber, 1 p.m. Lone Hellyer Kell is a renowned visual artist and musician. Her most recent album, Oh My, reflects on his difficult personal experiences growing up in the Alabama Industrial School for Negro Children in the 2000s. Kell is one of our current work’s most remarkable songwriters and guitarists. Together, Hellyer and Kell will discuss their creative processes. Presented in partnership with the Infinite Dream Festival.

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itself. For these children, everywhere, a currency power asserted. The money is exchanged, goes down: the dance. On the streets of 1970s the top of his powers. de force by a writer at is a breathtaking tour verve and delirious wit, with kaleidoscopic Lights, 2 p.m. Jonathan Lethem, Prairie the current Iowa Student student who serves as Davenport high school Also on the bill is Lola Hear from some of the by writers of all ages. by displaying poems literary tradition and the community's rich award this neighborhood and the laws; those who write the renovators; landlords; players: parents; cops; wings hide the other in shadow. And in the street is a stage the current Iowa Student Poet Ambassador, the Iowa Student reading featuring The Writers' Rooms

**Oct. 15**

**LOCAL AUTHOR BOOK FAIR**

- Nina Barragan
- Judith Brereton
- R.C. Davis
- Joseph Dostien
- Juan Fernandez-Ayllon, Latino Thunder
- Jean Harring & Sherman Tripplett
- Ron Kinscherf
- Jason Liegois
- Kathy Medz
- Tony Myers
- Michelle Powers
- Jennifer Timel
- Srin Timel
- Seth Thill
- M.L. Williams
- Nina Wilson
- The Writers’ Room

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Poetry in Public reading featuring the Iowa Student Post Ambassador;
Meeting Room A, Iowa City Public Library;
12:30 p.m. Poetry in Public celebrates our community’s rich literary tradition and local writing talent by displaying poems by writers of all ages. Hear from some of the 2023 Selected Poets. Also on the bill is Lola Nakashima-Brooke, a Davenport high school student who serves as the current Iowa Student Post Ambassador.

Jonathan Lethem, Prairie Light, 2 p.m. Written with kaleidoscopic verse and delicious wit, Brooklyn Crime Novel is a breathtaking four de force by a writer at the top of his powers. On the streets of 1970s Brooklyn, a daily ritual goes down: the dance. Money is exchanged, belongings surrendered; power asserted. The promise of violence lies everywhere, a currency: itself. For these children, Black, brown, and white, every avenue, a currency power asserted. The

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Find the full schedule at [iowacityofliterature.org/icbf](http://iowacityofliterature.org/icbf)

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

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**FILMSCENE’S REFOCUS FILM FESTIVAL**

By presenting films and conversations with filmmakers leading up to FilmScene’s ReFocus Film Festival, we provide the chance to see certain authors and presenters. This year, we’re proud to present the 12th Paul Engle Prize to Joan Naviyuk Kane, Coralville Public Library, 7 p.m. The festival may have come to an end, but the literary programming continues as the 12th Paul Engle Prize to Joan Naviyuk Kane, Coralville Public Library, 7 p.m. The festival may have come to an end, but the literary programming continues as the

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**THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS**

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**IOWA CITY BOOK FESTIVAL CONTINUED**

The street is a stage in shadows. 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, 6 p.m. See Thursday for description.

Man for Himself and God Against All Men Memric. This is a ticketed event. Visit refoocusfilmfestival.org for more information. Presented in partnership with FilmScene’s ReFocus Film Festival, Prairie Lights Bookstore, Infinite Dream Festival, and The Englert Theatre.

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**IOWA CITY BOOK FESTIVAL 2023**

Oct. 8–15, 2023

A celebration of Books and Ideas in the City of Literature

Find the full schedule at [iowacityofliterature.org/icbf](http://iowacityofliterature.org/icbf)