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Saints and Sinners LGBT Literary Festival
A program of the
Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival

NEW ORLEANS – Saints and Sinners, an annual LGBT literary conference, will run concurrently with the The Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival, March 24-26, 2017.

Founded in collaboration with NO/AIDS Task Force, Saints and Sinners (SAS) began as a creative outlet to showcase the vibrant and diverse LGBT literary community and offer HIV/AIDS information.

“Literature has long nurtured hope and empathy and inspired community,” said executive director Paul Willis. “As one of our longtime participants told me, ‘Saints and Sinners is the only true writing community I have.’ The Festival celebrates this city’s longstanding attraction for LGBT writers, and offers both established and emerging authors, as well as readers, the opportunity to meaningfully connect, gain information, and nurture their craft skills—and let the good times roll in true New Orleans fashion.”

A SAS weekend pass ($150) includes our welcome reception, “Glitter with the Literati” on Friday, March 24 at the historic Gallier
The 2017 three-day event includes noted speakers such as:

- Dorothy Allison, author of Bastard Out of Carolina (National Book award finalist) and the novel Cavedweller;
- Jamie Brickhouse, author of the Amazon “Best Book May 2015” Dangerous When Wet: a Memoir of Booze, Sex, and My Mother, and two-time Moth Story SLAM winner;
- Jericho Brown, Whiting Writers Award-winner and author of the poetry collections Please and The New Testament;
- Kate Carroll de Gutes, Lambda Literary Award-winner for her memoir Objects In Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear;
- Kyan Douglas, cast member on the hit BRAVO show Queer Eye for the Straight Guy, and recipient of an individual Human Rights Campaign LGBTQ Leadership Award,
- Matthew Griffin, author of the critically acclaimed novel Hide;
- Raphael Kadushin, Executive Editor at the University of Wisconsin Press and noted food and travel journalist;
- Michele Karlsberg, publicity and marketing expert;
- Felice Picano, acclaimed author of over 30 books of poetry, fiction, memoirs, nonfiction, and plays;
- Martin Pousson, Louisiana native whose most recent novel is Black Sheep Boy;
- Jake Shears, lead singer for the Scissor Sisters, songwriter and made his theatrical debut in the L.A. production of Bent;
- Justin Torres, author of the best-selling debut novel We the Animals and a graduate of the Iowa Writer’s Workshop.

The Festival features a diverse array of artistic and educational offerings. Saints and Sinners offers two full days’ worth of panel discussions; a reading series sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation; the Eighth Annual SAS Short Fiction Contest Book Launch Party in the Hotel Monteleone’s Vieux Carre Room; and admission to our Hall of Fame Closing Reception.
discussions, with topics ranging from publishing and marketing to retrospectives on the LGBT movement. Our reading series also takes place both days featuring nearly fifty writers. Panel topics at the 2017 Festival include: memoir, mystery writing, historical fiction, Building Fires In The Snow: Alaskan LGBT writing, LGBT Books that Changed My Life and Influenced My Writing, and a special presentation on Gay Hollywood in the Golden Age by Felice Picano. For a complete schedule visit: SASFest.org.

As part of your SAS weekend itinerary, you can purchase tickets for our Saints and Sinners French Quarter Walking Tour ($25). The tour is led by LGBTQ historian Frank Perez who relays the neighborhood’s queer history and its rich literary heritage. Student Weekend Passes available for $25. Single Day Passes are also available. **Office number: 504-581-1144.**

All SAS weekend pass holders can also attend any Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Festival panel discussions free of charge. TW/NOLF panelists include: Rick Bragg, Patricia Bosworth, Robert Olen Butler, Dick Cavett, Amy Dickinson, Wally Lamb, and many others.

**About Saints and Sinners**
Since 2003, Saints and Sinners Literary Festival ([www.sasfest.org](http://www.sasfest.org)) brings together the who’s who of the LGBT literary world. The Festival features panels and master classes by authors, editors, and publishers for emerging writers and LGBT literature fans. Follow [@SASFest](https://twitter.com/SASFest) on Twitter and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) for updates. #SAS17

**Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival**
TW/NOLF ([www.tennesseewilliams.net](http://www.tennesseewilliams.net)) For more on the Festival, follow us on Twitter at [@TWFestNOLA](https://twitter.com/TWFestNOLA) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com). #TWF17