

Critics' picks



BOMB MAGAZINE RELEASE PARTY

Fete the new issue of *BOMB* alongside some of its recent contributors, including inimitable poet and cultural critic Claudia Rankine, pictured. ▶ The powerHouse Arena; Wed 15

FREE

FRANKLIN PARK READING SERIES

What do you get when a frighteningly original author enters the mind of a serial killer? Blake Butler's 300,000,000, which the author launches this evening with three other superb writers. ▶ Franklin Park; Mon 13

FREE

BINYAVANGA WAINAINA

A Kenyan author who bravely came out as gay in response to Nigeria's anti-gay law, Wainaina should be everyone's role model; hear him read tonight. ▶ Shepard Hall (at City College); Thu 9

FREE

BROOKLYN POETS YAWP

Think you can't write poetry? Give Cynthia Cruz one hour, and you might be surprised by your own literary talent. ▶ 61 Local; Mon 13

† CHEAP

LESLIE JAMISON AND JESS ROW IN CONVERSATION

The authors of two of our favorite recent books in one room, talking to each other? We're giddy with anticipation. ▶ NYU, Lillian Vernon Creative Writers House; Thu 9

FREE



discuss the show's impact after more than half a century. Three-day and four-day weekend passes are sold out, but single-day passes are still available for Thu 9.

* The New Yorker Festival

Various locations (festival.newyorker.com). Over the course of a weekend, staff writers and editors from the magazine interview dozens of movie stars, authors, musicians and more. Tickets usually disappear in a blink; if you didn't secure a pass, try your luck at the SVA Theatre (333 W 23rd St between Eighth and Ninth Aves), where last-minute passes for all events will be available two hours prior to each occasion.

* FREE Steamboat: A Literary Humor Series Greenlight

Bookstore, 686 Fulton St at South Portland Ave, Fort Greene, Brooklyn (718-246-0200, greenlightbookstore.com). Subway: B, D, N, Q, R, 2, 3, 4, 5 to Atlantic Ave-Barclays Ctr; C to Lafayette Ave; G to Fulton St. 7:30pm. Comic writer Bob Powers invites like-minded satirists Dan Kennedy, Dave Hill and Evan Allgood to his recurring humor series. Come for the laughs, stick around for the comped drinks.

FREE Matthew Thomas: We Are Not Ourselves

Glucksman Ireland House (at New York University), 1 Washington Mews between Fifth Ave and University Pl (212-998-3950). Subway: A, C, E, B, D, F, M to W 4th St; N, R to 8th St-NYU. 7pm. NYU's Glucksman Ireland House may cater to Hibernophiles (people who love all things Irish, of course), but everyone can enjoy their free public programs, like debut novelist Matthew Thomas reading from his powerful epic about Irish-Americans living in mid-20th-century Queens.

FREE A Tribute to Mark Strand

The New School, J.M. Kaplan Hall, 66 W 12th St between Fifth and Sixth Aves (212-229-5611, writingnewschool.edu). Subway: F to 14th St; L, N, Q, R, 4, 5, 6 to 14th St-Union Sq. 7pm. Strand, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet who has been publishing since the 1960s, is turning 80, and a large group of his friends and fellow poets, like Ed Hirsch, Jorie Graham, Charles Wright and Mary Jo Salter, read tonight to honor his life and work.

FREE Binyavanga Wainaina

Shepard Hall (at City College), W 138th St at Convent Ave (212-

650-7000). Subway: A, C, B, D to 145th St; 1 to 137th St. 6pm. City College continues its new Chinua Achebe Legacy Series, which brings renowned African authors to speak at the school. Kenyan memoirist and essayist Binyavanga Wainaina (who was named one of *Time's* Most Influential People in the World earlier this year) will read from and talk about his coming-of-age memoir, *One Day I Will Write About This Place*.

Friday 10

FREE David Lehman and Leah Umansky

New York University, Lillian Vernon Creative Writers House, 58 W 10th St between Fifth and Sixth Aves (212-998-8816, cwp.fas.nyu.edu). Subway: A, C, E, B, D, F, M to W 4th St; N, R to 8th St-NYU. 5pm. Kick off your weekend with a little poetry from two local writers. NYU's Creative Writing Program pairs established poet Lehman with Umansky, who is perhaps best known for her *Mad Men* and *Game of Thrones*-inspired verses.

* The New Yorker Festival

See Thu 9.

FREE Joyce Carol Oates St.

Francis College, 180 Remsen St between Clinton and Court Sts, Brooklyn Heights (718-522-2300, stfranciscollege.edu). Subway: R to Court St; 2, 3, 4, 5 to Borough Hall. 7pm. The well-decorated and incredibly prolific author (she's written more than 100 books) stops by Brooklyn to read from and answer questions about her new book, *Lovely, Dark, Deep*, an eerie story collection filled with mania, vulnerability and quite a bit of terror.

Saturday 11

FREE The Center for Book Arts 40th Anniversary Colloquium

Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), 11 W 53rd St between Fifth and Sixth Aves (212-708-9400, moma.org). Subway: D, F to 47-50th Sts-Rockefeller Ctr; E to Fifth Ave-53rd St. 10am-5pm; R.S.V.P. to 212-481-0295. We pay so much attention to the words in books, it's easy to forget how much work goes into creating the physical objects themselves. That's the focus of the Center for Book Arts, which celebrates 40 decades of literary artistry with a day of panels and lectures about "The Collecting of

Artist Books." See centerforbookarts.org for full program information and details on the colloquium's prominent speakers.

* The New Yorker Festival

See Thu 9.

† The Singapore Literature Festival

92Y, 1395 Lexington Ave at 92nd St (212-415-5780, 92y.org). Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 86th St; 6 to 96th St. 2-6pm; \$10 for one program, \$20 for all-day pass. Thanks to a successful fund-raising campaign and dedicated group of volunteers, this inaugural festival brings together 15 Singaporean authors from their home country and the U.S. to read and talk about topics like ethnicity, language and the politics of love. For descriptions of the day's three programs, check singaporeliteraturefestival.com.

Sunday 12

FREE Arno Camenisch: The Alp

BookCourt, 163 Court St between Dean and Pacific Sts, Cobble Hill, Brooklyn (718-875-3677, bookcourt.com). Subway: F, G to Bergen St; R to Court St; 2, 3, 4, 5 to Borough Hall. 7pm. Quick, what do you know about Swiss literature? Drawing a blank? Then take note: For the first time, Swiss author Camenisch's slim, award-winning novel, *The Alp*, is available in English, and the writer makes a rare stateside appearance to read from and talk about his book tonight.

* The New Yorker Festival

See Thu 9.

Monday 13

* FREE Eula Biss: On Immunity

Community Bookstore, 143 Seventh Ave between Carroll St and Garfield Pl, Park Slope, Brooklyn (718-783-3075, communitybookstore.net). Subway: B, Q to Seventh Ave; 2, 3 to Grand Army Plaza. 7pm. A book about vaccination may not seem like the most fascinating read, but Biss's unique blend of history, anecdotes and considerate analysis could win over even the most diffident readers. Join her for an undoubtedly thoughtful and engaging reading and conversation. See story, page 37.

* † Brooklyn Poets Yawp 61

Local, 61 Bergen St between Boerum Pl and Smith St, Cobble Hill,