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Something Litquake This Way Comes



From left to right: Dave Eggers, Chris Elliott, Merrill Markoe and Tupelo Hassman

San Francisco's Literary Festival taps the rich local literary scene while also importing names associated with disparate genres to deliver programming that numbers 77 events in the main part of the festival and an additional 89 events packed into the closing night glory known as the Lit Crawl through the Mission District; among this year's highlights are in-conversation evenings with Dave Eggers & Daniel Clowes, Litquake co-founder Jack Boulware & actor, author and comic performer Chris Elliott, Susan Straight & Michelle Tea, the neo-vaudeville stylings of Andrew Sean Greer & Daniel Handler riffing answers to questions thrown from the audience, an evening with Emmy-winning writer and humor icon Merrill Markoe and three other women comedy writers, Whiting and Pushcart Prize-winner Lysley Tenorio, Rebecca Solnit, Adam Johnson, Tupelo Hassman, Michael Ian Black and a myriad of thinkers, memoirists, linguists, mystery, romance and speculative fiction writers as well as a major expansion of programming into the East Bay

Litquake 2012 runs from October 5-13; Many events are free

August 21, 2012, San Francisco – Litquake 2012 arrives in October and with it brings over 840 authors into the literary fray over a period of 9 days. 77 events are scheduled for the main portion of the festival, with an

additional 89 for the closing night Lit Crawl, which means that the Litquake tradition of getting bigger, broader (and possibly boozier) every year remains intact.

Among the new directions the festival has expanded into during 2012 is *Words and Pictures*, an arts and culture-centric series scheduled to take place at downtown museums, a major foray into the East Bay with the Berkeley Ramble and a first ever presentation at the Shotgun Players's Ashby Stage. Also on deck are special tributes to Lenore Kandel, Woody Guthrie and Juan Rulfo. This year's Barbary Coast recipient is *Poetry Flash*, which joins the select list of past awardees consisting of Armistead Maupin, Tobias Wolff, Amy Tan, Lawrence Ferlinghetti and City Lights Booksellers and Ishmael Reed.

While definitely continuing to tap into the rich mother lode of writers in the Bay Area, Litquake will welcome authors representing Mexico, Kenya, England, Ireland, Iran, Colombia, the Philippines and more. Other out-of-towners include actor, performer and writer Chris Elliott, Amy Sohn, Christopher Coake, Susan Straight, Simon Rich, Pam Houston, Emily Rapp, and *Granta* editor John Freeman.

This year welcomes many award-winning writers, from former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass and California Poet Laureates Juan Felipe Herrera and Al Young and San Francisco Poet Laureate Alejandro Murguía to One City One Book author Rebecca Solnit and Pulitzer Prize-winner J.R. Moehringer to the Emmy-winning Merrill Markoe, former head writer for *The David Letterman Show* and Booker Prize winning Kenyan author Ngugi Wa Thiong'o.

A small highlights selection of the authors, writers, literary personalities and events at Litquake 2012 are:

- Anita Amirrezvani – Author of *The Blood of Flowers* on Saturday, October 6
- Ngugi Wa Thiong'o – Nobel nominee and Booker Prize winner on Saturday, October 6
- Carolina de Robertis – International bestselling author of *The Invisible Mountain* and *Perla* on Saturday, October 6
- Merrill Markoe – Humor icon and Emmy-winning former head writer for *The David Letterman Show* as well as *Sex in the City* and the classic, *Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman* will appear along with three other female comedy writers representing hit shows *Craig Ferguson*, *My Name is Earl* and others at *Verbal Calisthenics: An Evening with Four Funny Women* on Saturday, October 6
- Jonathon Keats talking *Forgers and Prophets* with gallerist and author Richard Polsky on Saturday, October 6
- Steven Boyett – Disc Jockey, science fiction and “splatterpunk” author on Sunday, October 7
- *Rambling Reckless Hobo: A Musical and Literary Centennial Tribute to Woody Guthrie* on Sunday, October 7
- Author and comedian Michael Ian Black on Sunday, October 7
- Oriana Nazworthy – Author of the memoir *Girlvert* at Porchlight on Monday, October 8
- April Whitney – Publicist for the mega-bestselling [Boo: The Life of the World's Cutest Dog](#) "written" by a dog claiming, you guessed it, to be the world's cutest gives the inside skinny at Porchlight, Monday, October 8
- Christopher Coake – Author of the upcoming *You Came Back* who was named by *Granta* as one of “The Twenty Best Young American Novelists” on Monday, October 8
- Barbary Coast Awards honoring Bay Area publishing legend, *Poetry Flash* on Monday, October 8
- Daniel Orozco – Short story writer and former Stegner Fellow will have his story *Officer's Weep* represented at Stories on Stage on Tuesday, October 9
- Adam Johnson – Stegner Fellow and author of *The Orphan Master's Son* will have one of his short stories, *OJ Simpson Was a Friend of Mine* represented at *Stories on Stage* on Tuesday, October 9

- Lysley Tenorio – Whiting and Pushcart Prize winner and former Stegner Fellow’s *Monstress* will be featured at *Stories on Stage* on Tuesday, October 9
- *Two Guys from Chicago: Dave Eggers and Daniel Clowes* in conversation on Tuesday, October 9
- Author Daniel Alarcón along with others representing Radio Ambulente will tell stories “from the Americas” on Tuesday, October 9
- Independent publishing legend Adam Parfrey (from Feral House) in conversation on Wednesday, October 10
- An evening of *Original Shorts* on Wednesday, October 10
- Tupelo Hassman – Author of *Girlchild* on Wednesday, October 10
- KALW’s *Philosophy Talk*, live with John Perry and Ken Taylor on the theme of “Things to do with Fictions” with guest Joshua Landy, associate professor of French at Stanford University on Wednesday, October 10
- Andrew Sean Greer – Author of *The Confessions of Max Tivoli* and *The Story of a Marriage* and Daniel Handler, aka Lemony Snicket on Thursday, October 11
- Susan Straight –National Book Award winner for *Highwire Moon* on Thursday, October 11
- Rebeccal Solnit – Guggenheim Fellow and author of *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities that Arise in Disaster* on Thursday, October 11
- Chris Elliott – Actor, comedian, writer and television personality in conversation with Litquake co-founder Jack Boulware on Friday, October 12
- The challenges (and rewards) of family during *Making the Skeleton Dance: Women Authors* on Friday, October 12
- Doug Fine, author of the new book *Too High to Fail: Cannabis and The New Green Revolution* on Friday, October 12
- The Berkeley Ramble the afternoon of Saturday, October 13
- SG Browne – Science fiction author of *Breathers* and *Fated* at the Lit Crawl on Saturday, October 13
- Robert Haas – Poet and former US Poet Laureate at the Lit Crawl on Saturday, October 13
- Seth Harwood – Author of *Jack Wakes Up* and other smart thrillers at the Lit Crawl on Saturday, October 13
- Elizabeth Tallent – Author and teacher whose work has been included in *Best American Short Stories* and *Pushcart Prize collections* at the Lit Crawl on Saturday, October 13
- Waldo Martin – Co-author of *Black against Empire*, a new and definitive history of the Black Panthers on Saturday, October 13
- *Nancy Drew Noir* – a performance piece with Eddie Muller in the window at Lost Weekend Video in the Mission at the Lit Crawl on Saturday, October 13

Also: Kidquake * Teenquake * LGBT * Science Fiction *Memoir * Mystery * Food * Nonfiction * More * More * More

Without doubt, the "sexiest" night of the festival is inevitably the closing night Lit Crawl, which this year numbers 86 venues and freights more than half of the total number of authors, period with 450 that single night. Venues range from bars, restaurants and galleries to a bike store, a barbershop and a bowling alley. Also on board as a venue this year is a hidden recording studio where Antony and The Johnsons, Jaco Pastorius, Public Enemy, [Will.i.am](#), Jonathan Richman, Phil Collins, Flo Rida, Herbie Hancock, DEVO, and Bob Mould have all recorded. And of course, a sex store (Good Vibrations) as well as Kadist, an international arts organization showcases art magazines from around the world.

Among the varied participants in the various Crawl programming are a Michelin-starred chef, Daniel Patterson, a Nancy Drew impersonator and a charismatic skateboarder/preacher who is a former prison

inmate/junkie

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

Friday, Oct. 5

7 PM Ballot Box Bash

Saturday, Oct. 6

Noon-4 PM Off the Richter Scale

 Noon Masters of Flash

1 PM First Fiction

2 PM Around the World

3 PM Visionary Women

1 PM Litquake in the Castro

2 PM Joie De Livre! WNBA

3:30 PM Re-Writing America: Race & Re-Imaginings in Post-9/11 America

4 PM Teenquake Lit Olympics

5 PM Spiritual Memoirs for Agnostics

6 PM Public Writing Session

7 PM Barely Published Authors

8 PM Verbal Calisthenics: An Evening With Four Funny Women

Sunday, Oct. 7

Noon-4 PM Off the Richter Scale

Noon Poet-Fest

 1 PM Facts Without Bounds

 2 PM The Fantastic

 3 PM Dangerous Nonfiction

1-6 PM Words & Pictures: A Cultural Stroll Through Yerba Buena

1 PM History of Chinatown @ SF Historical Society

 1 PM On Language & Writing @ UC Berkeley Extension Art & Design Center

 2:15 PM Comics on Comics

2:15 PM An Art World Conversation @ UC Berkeley Extension Art & Design Center

3:30 PM Drawn Out Stories @ CJM

3:30 PM Decolonising the Mind @ MoAD

4:45 PM Art of the Imagination @ YBCA

2 PM Litquake in the Bookstore: Bird & Beckett

4 PM Writers at the Bar

5 PM Pitchapalooza

6 PM Beast Parade: A Tribute to Lenore Kandel

6 PM The Dirty Side of Democracy

6 PM Female Voices from the East Bay

7 PM Books Inc: John Perry

7 PM Booksmith: Michael Ian Black

8 PM Reckless Rambling Hobo: A Woody Guthrie Tribute

Monday, Oct. 8

3 PM First Time Authors Reveal All

- 5 PM The Latest from Publishing Pros
- 6 PM Transforming Moby-Dick into an Opera
- 7 PM The Stories Behind Book Selling
- 7 PM Litquake Presents the Barbary Coast Award to Poetry Flash
- 7 PM A Granta Salon
- 7 PM Quiet Lightning
- 8 PM Putting the Best Spin on an Impossible Situation: Porchlight

Tuesday, Oct. 9

- 10 AM Kidquake
- 12:30 PM Lines & Lyrics: Cave Canem
- 6 PM Austen A-Go-Go
- 6 PM Language & Politics
- 6:30 PM 40 Years of Asian American Literatures
- 6:30 PM Good & Evil: The Foundation of Character
- 7 PM Books Inc.: JR Moehringer
- 7 PM West Coast Review
- 7 PM Stories on Stage
- 7 PM A Night of Noir & Burlesque
- 7 PM Radio Ambulante Live
- 8 PM Two Guys from Chicago: Dave Eggers & Daniel Clowes

Wednesday, Oct. 10

- 10 AM Kidquake
- 1:30 PM Poetry of Disability
- 6 PM The New Science of Anti-Aging
- 6 PM Juan Rulfo: Four Tales
- 6 PM RADAR Reading Series
- 7 PM Original Shorts
- 7 PM An Evening with SF Poet Laureate Alejandro Murguía
- 7 PM Philosophy Talk, Live!
- 7 PM Writers to Know
- 7 PM Cowboy Noir
- 7:30 PM A Night with Adam Parfrey

Thursday, Oct. 11

- 6 PM Susan Straight & Michelle Tea in Conversation
- 6 PM One City One Book: Rebecca Solnit
- 6 PM Sex on the Beach: Bawdy Storytelling at the Beach Chalet
- 7 PM Flight of Poets
- 7 PM Trevor Paglen @ the SF MoMA
- 7 PM Amy Sohn & Katie Crouch in Conversation
- 7 PM Literature of Cross-Border Reality
- 7 PM Benicia Literary Arts
- 7 PM Goodreads LitQuiz
- 8 PM Andrew Sean Greer & Daniel Handler in Conversation
- 8 PM Subterranean SF
- 8 PM Literary Death Match

Friday, Oct. 12

5:30 PM Cannabis and the New Green Economic Revolution

6 PM Novel Endings: Spicy Drinks and Artisanal Desserts

6 PM Making the Skeleton Dance: Women Authors

7 PM Teenquake: NYMBC

7 PM Naked Truth: Storytelling at the Mill Valley Library

7 PM Epic: Fantasy Lit Is the Future

8 PM Booksmith: Literary Clown Foolery

8 PM (VIP party 6:45 PM) Chris Elliott in Conversation with Jack Boulware

Saturday, Oct. 13

1-5:30 PM The Art of Writing

1 PM The Art of Long-Form Journalism

2:30 PM The Art of Short Fiction

4 PM The Art of the Novel

1-5 PM The Berkeley Ramble

1 PM A Kosher Christmas @ The Magnes Museum

2 PM Black Against the Empire @ The Brower Center

3PM Chew on This @ The Marsh

4 PM Lyrics & Dirgest @ Pegasus

4 PM Pints, Poetry & Prose @ Bec's

6-9:30 PM The Infamous Lit Crawl

The 2012 closing night crawl aims to be more delicious, more culturally diverse, more queer, and yes, even more kid friendly than ever before. And will feature more than its share of only in San Francisco moments.

More Culturally Diverse

- An anthology of South Asian poetry
- An anthology about the secret lives of Muslim women
- Speculative fiction from writers of color
- A reading called “Brown People Don’t Read?”
- Hyphen, the Asian-American culture magazine
- Cipactli, the Latina/Latino Studies Arts and Literature Journal at SFSU, hosted by SF Poet Laureate Alejandro Murguia
- Bilingual reading with CandoMundo Xican poets at MCC
- KQED’s Writer’s Block at Brunos

More Delicious

- Star chefs at Craftsman & Wolves, including Daniel Patterson, Eddie Lau, and Richie Nakano, hosted by The Tablehopper
- Filipino lit at one of the city’s first Filipino restaurants, complete with lumpia
- An anthology about families and food at Mission Cheese
- Cheesemonger Gordon Edgar reading for Canteen at Laszlo Bar
- Ice-cream book signing at 18 Reasons with authors from BiRite

More Queer

- In addition to many queer-identified readers at many venues, the crawl includes many Queer events:
- BARTab at Martuni's
- RADAR reading series "performative literary event" atop the pool table at Lexington Club
- GuyWriters at F.S.C. Barbershop
- The Bent Boys at Dog Eared Books

More Kid Friendly (4 kid-dedicated readings, the most ever)

- In praise of ice cream by kid writers at 18 Reasons
- CA poets in the Schools, featuring star students and instructors
- WritersCorp student writers
- 826 Valencia release party with cookies and milk

More "Only in San Francisco"

- Alive Haiku battle in Clarion Alley (hosted by MUNI Diaries)
- A ministry that preaches poetry from a box in Clarion Alley (Faithful Fools)
- A reading based on the concept of 'Torschlusspanik' (German, translates as 'gate-closing panic' and refers to the sense that opportunities diminish as one ages)
- The Worst: writers telling stories about their worst dates, jobs, and roommates jobs eve
- True Crime from the *San Francisco Examiner* at the Mission Police Station
- Hear Hear, a storytelling radio program from KALW tries it out live
- 7x7 magazine's Post Century Moderns at the Lone Palm

A complete schedule is available online at <http://litquake.org/2012-festival-schedule>

The Lit Crawl Schedule is scheduled to be online by 8/24

Note: Litquake offers several ticket packages whereby if you buy 5 tickets you can a 10% discount or 3 tickets and get a 5% discount as well as discounts for the Authors In-Conversation series and the Art of Writing Panels

About Litquake

Litquake, San Francisco's annual literary festival, was founded by Bay Area writers in order to put on a week-long literary spectacle for book lovers, complete with cutting-edge panels, unique cross-media events, and hundreds of readings. Since its founding in 1999, the festival has presented more than **3,650** author appearances for an audience of over **83,500** in its lively and inclusive celebration of San Francisco's thriving contemporary literary scene. Litquake seeks to foster interest in literature, perpetuate a sense of literary community, and provide a vibrant forum for Bay Area writing as a complement to the city's music, film, and cultural festivals. Dates: 10/5-13, 2012. www.litquake.org

Litquake is made possible in part due to the support of the following sponsors: The Miner Anderson Family Foundation, San Francisco Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts, Bernard Osher Fund, Blurb.com, Black Balloon Publishing, Scrivener, California Institute of Integral Studies, Chronicle Books, HarperOne, UC Berkeley Extension's Creative Writing Program, Jardinière, Stanford Humanities Center and the Human Experience at Stanford University, Stanford Continuing Studies, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, The Consulate-General of Mexico in San Francisco, The Book Club of California, City

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