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Litquake Turns 15, Publishes First Book and Stages a Quinceañera to Open 2014 Festival



From left to right: Emma Donoghue, Nicholson Baker, Chinelo Okparanta; Paolo Giordano; Marc Maron

Eclectic is the watchword for the Bay Area literary festival's 2014 programming which will feature National Book Critics Award Winner Nicholson Baker, Man Booker Prize finalist and bestselling author Emma Donoghue, as well as Nigerian sensation Chinelo Okparanta author of *Happiness, Like Water*; Canadian folkie Bruce Cockburn joins a long list of musicians who have appeared over the years—including Patti Smith, Tom Waits and Steve Earle—when he previews his soon to be published memoir; Dave Eggers and Vendela Vida will be on hand to receive Litquake's 2014 Barbary Coast Award on behalf of 826 Valencia, *McSweeney's* and *The Believer*; Paxton Gate hosts author Robert Maybury on the subject of "rogue taxidermy;" Daniel Handler and Pulitzer winner Adam Johnson headline an afternoon of Best American Nonrequired Reading, while a Poetry World Series takes over The Make-Out Room; Paolo Giordano author of *The Solitude of Prime Numbers* at the Italian Cultural Institute; comedian/podcaster Marc Maron at Z Space; *Drive!*, Litquake's first foray into publishing is released and the closing night Lit Crawl expands from 86 venues to 100

Litquake 2014 runs from October 10-18; www.litquake.org

San Francisco August 7, 2014 –Litquake, San Francisco's much beloved literary festival turns 15 in 2014. To celebrate the milestone they will open this year's festival with an opening night on Friday, October 10, sponsored in part by The Consulate General of Mexico at Z Space in the Mission. Fittingly enough, during the festival, Litquake will host a tribute night to the famed Mexican poet Octavio Paz who also had an accomplished career as a diplomat, as well as Gabriel Garcia Marquez, who passed away earlier this year.

Providing Bay Area audiences with literary excellence through live readings, performances, cutting edge panels and cross-media events during its nine-day festival in October since 1999, Litquake also offers the Bay Area a full slate of literary programming throughout the year via the monthly literary salon, Epicenter and the annual digi.lit conference. Each year the Barbary Coast Award is given during the festival itself to a recipient deemed to have left an indelible mark on Bay Area arts and letters.

In addition to hosting Nobel and Pulitzer winners, one of whom, Patti Smith took to the stage during *Hardly Strictly Bluegrass* to sing the festival's praises after appearing the night before at a Litquake event, the festival is adamant about showcasing the wealth of literary talent that calls the Bay Area Home. "There is no reason why fans of the written word anywhere should feel their opportunity to see the very best writers in the world in San Francisco is limited to a single day or weekend," say cofounders Jack Boulware and Jane Ganahl.

This Year's Mix

This year's mix of authors and literary personalities is a typically heady one and will include Nigerian sensation Chinelo Okparanta (*Happiness, Like Water*) in conversation with NoViolet Bulawayo at the Museum of the African Diaspora (MOAD) on Sunday, October 12; Irish author and Man Booker Prize finalist Emma Donoghue, who now calls Canada home on Monday

October 15 at Z Space; National Book Critics Award winner Nicholson Baker coming in from Maine on Wednesday, October 15, also at Z Space.

In keeping with Litquake's affinity for music and musicians, Bruce Cockburn joins a rich and varied list that includes Patti Smith, Tom Waits, Dan the Automator, Mark Eitzel, Steve Earle, Ray Manzarek, John Doe, Exene Cervenka and Lars Ullrich, when he previews his soon to be published memoir. Originally from Canada, Cockburn who began his career in the 80s—and first came to the attention of the American public with "If I Had a Rocket Launcher"—now calls the Bay Area home. Cockburn will appear at The Make-Out Room on Friday, October 17.

The 2014 recipient of this year's Barbary Coast Award is the network of worthy projects founded by Dave Eggers and Vendela Vida, including 826 Valencia, *McSweeney's*, *The Believer* and Voice of Witness. Eggers and Vida join a list of former recipients that include Armistead Maupin, Amy Tan, Tobias Wolff and Lawrence Ferlinghetti and City Lights Booksellers. Friday, October 17 at Z Space.

Also on deck will be the release party for *Drivel*, Litquake's first foray into the world of publishing. Based on the hugely successful series of Regreturature readings it has staged along with the SF Writer's Grotto over the last four years, *Drivel* assembles the embarrassing early work of writers who went onto the become masters of the craft.

Contributors to this "collection of wordy, overwrought and insipid writing by America's most beloved authors and artists," edited by Julia Scott include: Dave Eggers, Amy Tan, Chuck Palahniuk, Rick Moody, Mary Roach, Gillian Flynn and more.

Confirmed contributors reading from *Drivel* at Litquake are: Andrew Sean Greer, Wendy MacNaughton, Po Bronson, Peter Orner, Joe Loya, Tupelo Hassman and Ellen Sussman; Emcee: Jack Boulware.

Select Festival Highlights

- **Best American Nonrequired Reading:** Pulitzer winner Adam Johnson author of *The Orphan Master's Son* joins Daniel Handler who is the editor of the Best American Nonrequired Reading series this year, to host a deceptively casual afternoon discussion and panel. [Sunday, October 12 at Z Space](#)
- **Barely Published:** This Litquake perennial favorite has a new producer who says of his approach, "If this were fashion, it would be a mix of high and low." Patrick Lettelier who is working on an AIDS memoir; Peter Bullen, self described sit-down comedian working on a novel; Irish American poet and playwright Carron Oswald; Lee Daniel Kravetz author of *Supersurvivors: The Surprising Link Between Suffering & Success*; memoirist Nancy Davis and Sonya Renee Taylor. [Sunday, October 12 at Make-Out Room](#)
- **A Replacement Life:** Boris Fishman author of *A Replacement Life* in conversation with Molly Antopol author of *The UnAmericans*. [Sunday, October 16 at The Contemporary Jewish Museum](#)
- **Porchlight:** Litquake continues its long tradition of partnering with the venerable SF-based Porchlight for an evening of live stories, this year on the theme of "Brushes with the other side of fame," featuring erotica writer Antonia Crane, memoirist Joshua Safran and mortician Caitlin Doughty. [Monday, October 13 at the Verdi Club](#)
- **Paxton Gate Presents:** Robert Marbury author of *Taxidermy Art: A Rogue's Guide to the Work, the Culture and How To Do It Yourself*. [Tuesday, October 14 at Paxton Gate](#)
- **Saying Our Share: Surviving the Missions:** Live performance with Native American performance artist James Luna and Chicano writer, activist and performance artist Guillermo Gómez-Peña. [Tuesday, Oct. 14 at Z Space](#)
- **Poetry World Series:** Poets take over the Make-Out Room in the Mission! [Wednesday, October 15 at the Make-Out Room](#)
- **craigslist LIVE!:** Actor readings of craigslist's greatest postings. [Wednesday, October 15 at Hattery](#)

- **Swords to Ploughshares:** A panel of women soldiers including Kayla Williams, author of the memoir *Love My Rifle More Than You*; Mariette Kalinowski contributor to *Fire and Forget: Short Stories from the Long War*; former US Navy Seal Christopher Beck, now living her life truthfully as Kristen Beck, a transgender woman, who has a new book soon to be released. Moderated by Evette Davis. Wednesday, October 15 in the Koret Auditorium at the SFPL
- **Hot Flash Fiction:** Buckle up – the lineup says it all: Cameron Tuttle, Ellen Sussman, April Sinclair, Beth Lisick and Litquake's own Jane Ganahl. Thursday, October 16 at Mechanics Library
- **Lit on the Lake:** East Bay Authors Novella Carpenter, Joseph DiPrisco, Nayomi Munaweera and Opal Palmer Adisa, will read accompanied by a stunning view. Thursday, October 16 at the Lake Chalet Seafood Bar & Grill in Oakland
- **Paolo Giordano:** Italian author of *The Solitude of Prime Numbers*—which has sold over a million copies and been translated into 30 languages, comes to San Francisco. Friday, October 17 at The Italian Cultural Institute
- **Marc Levy and Lola Lafon:** French novelist Marc Levy and author/singer/musician Lola Lafon. Thursday, October 16 and Friday, October 17 respectively at Modernism Gallery

Also on the schedule: Kidquake, Teenquake, Science Fiction, Poetry, Memoir, Genre Fiction and much more

High Res Images Available [HERE](#)

Litquake will hold special author tributes to the following authors:

- **Malcolm Margolin** - author, founder and publisher of Heyday Books at The Book Club of California on Monday, October 13
- **Richard Brautigan** - writer whose black comic inclinations came to exquisite fruition in *Trout Fishing in America* and other works, and who made his home in the Bay Area. This is presented in conjunction with The Bancroft Library on Monday, October 13
- **Gabriel Garcia Marquez** - The Nobel Prize winning novelist of *100 Years of Solitude*, *Love in the Time of Cholera* and *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* passed away earlier this year, and this tribute is one of a number of memorials being held around the world in honor of that fact. At the SFPL, Mission Branch, Wednesday, October 15
- **Octavio Paz** - the influential poet and diplomat will be honored at the Mexican Art Museum on Friday, October 17

Full 2014 schedule + tickets on sale, Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at www.litquake.org

Closing Night Lit Crawl

As always, Litquake will close with the Lit Crawl, a literary pub-crawl through the Mission District. This year there will be a total of 100 venues hosting readings staged over the course three phases, mainly along Valencia Street (up from 86 venues in 2013). Approximately half of the 850 or so writers participating in Litquake will read during during this evening, Saturday, October 18.

Taking over the Mission for 3.5 hours, the Lit Crawl will roll out in three phases in bars, galleries, coffee houses and an array of retail outlets, as well as the Mission Police Station. Highlights include The Rumpus at the Make-Out room, Dinosaur Magazine INTL at La Movida, the Lambda Literary Foundation, RADAR at the Lexington Club, Disembodied Poetics at Dijital Fix, Conspiracy of Beards at the McCoppin Hub, a Lit Slam, Memoir and much more. There is so much happening at the Lit Crawl it has its own Tumblr. <http://litcrawl.tumblr.com>

Starting with events at Martuni's and Flax on Valencia and Market, the Lit Crawl will wind its way south through the Mission mostly along Valencia with 1 hour readings in each of three phases: **Phase 1:** 6pm to 7pm; **Phase 2:** 7:15pm to 8:15pm; **Phase 3:** 8:30pm to 9:30pm

What: Litquake 2014

When: October 10-18, 2014

Times: Varied

Where: Throughout San Francisco and the Bay Area

Information and Tickets: www.litquake.org

Approximately 80% of Litquake Events are FREE

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 5,350 author appearances for an audience of over 115,000 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. **2014 Dates:** 10/10-18. www.litquake.org

Litquake is made possible in part due to the support of the following sponsors: The Miner Anderson Family Foundation, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, Craig Connects, Black Balloon Publishing, California Institute of Integral Studies, Chronicle Books, HarperOne, Stanford Humanities Center and the Human Experience at Stanford University, Stanford Continuing Studies, Panta Rhea Foundation, The UC Berkeley Extension Writing Program, UC Press, Scribd, SF Travel, The Consulate General of Mexico, San Francisco, The Goethe-Institut in San Francisco, The Consulate General of France in San Francisco, The Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco, The Book Club of California, The Museum of the African Diaspora, News from Native California, Native Arts and Cultures Foundation and The Hotel Rex. **Media Sponsors:** 7x7 magazine, KQED, KALW 91.7, The San Francisco Bay Guardian, The Bold Italic and Johnny Funcheap. **Media Partners:** BARTab, Stitcher.

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