Press Contact Liam Passmore Shave and a Haircut <u>liam@shaveandahaircut.biz</u> 415-865-0860 (t) 415-218-1544 (c)

# Litquake Announces 2013 Fall Festival Lineup



Right to left: Viola Di Grado; TC Boyle (credit Jamieson Fry); cover of Perv by Jesse Bering; Anne Perry

Short story maestro and novelist TC Boyle, Guggenheim fellow and mistress-of-the matter-of-fact-handling-of-taboo-subjects Mary Gaitskill, international best selling author of historical detective fiction Anne Perry, psychologist and writer Jesse Bering fittingly bringing his provocative *Perv* to the Armory Club, writer, actress and performance artist Sandra Tsing Loh appearing at the Center for Literary Arts in San Jose, the Reverend Cecil Williams, Isabele Allende, authors from France & Mexico as well as the young Italian sensation Viola Di Grado, all these authors and more are on the docket; this year's Barbary Coast recipient will be Last Gasp publisher Ron Turner; opening night will see the unpacking of the Steampunk trunk in an evening sponsored by the French Consulate and Hendrick's Gin that celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first book published by Jules Verne

Litquake 2013 runs from October 11 through October 19; closing night Lit Crawl through the Mission District will feature more than 80 venues

**July 11, 2013, San Francisco** – Litquake's 2013 lineup is pulsing with literary life, with luminaries as varied and as well known as TC Boyle and Mary Gaitskill leading a charge that will also include best selling author of international detective fiction, Anne Perry, and Italian sensation Viola Di Grado.

Friday, October 18 perhaps freights the biggest wattage of the festival, when TC Boyle appears at Z Space, Mary Gaitskill at the California College of the Arts, and Anne Perry in conversation with well known Bay Area mystery writer Willie Gordon at the Glass Door Gallery.

The programming for 2013 will be more varied than ever, and take place in as always, a variety of venues. For the first time, San Francisco's semi-notorious Armory—former home of the National Guard and now the home of kink.com—will host a Litquake reading at its nearby Armory Club, when psychologist and author Jesse Bering brings his book *Perv: The Sexual Deviant in All of Us* to San Francisco on Sunday, October 13. The book will be barely a week old as its official release date is the first week of October.

Notable events happening outside of the city limits include writer, actress, performance artist and "pop culture analyst" Sandra Tsing Loh appearing at the San Jose Center for the Literary Arts on Tuesday October, October 15. Sandra will also appear at the Litquake edition of Porchlight on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup>. 2013 also sees the much anticipated return of Words on the Waves, on Saturday, October 19. Words on the Waves takes place on the fabled houseboats of Sausalito. It debuted during Litquake 2011, but went MIA in 2012 due to construction on the docks. This year's edition will include NY Times best selling author Joyce Maynard, poet Dean Rader, and the SMITH magazine 6-word memoirs.

# **Barbary Coast Awards 2013**

The recipient of this year's Barbary Coast award is the bearded Bay Area legend, Ron Turner, founder and publisher of Last Gasp. Turner joins an impressive list of past recipients: Armistead Maupin, 2007; Tobias Wolff, 2008; Amy Tan, 2009; Lawrence Ferlinghetti/City Lights Books, 2010; Ishmael Reed, 2011 and Poetry Flash, 2012. The Barbary Coast Awards will be held on Wednesday, October 16 at Z Space.

Originally starting out as a book and underground comix publisher, Last Gasp has published Robert Crumb, Tim Biskup, Ron English and many others. More information on Ron Turner and Last Gasp can be found <u>here</u>.

The Barbary Coast Awards is always a multi-media affair—complete with musical performances—that brings together a formidable line up to pay homage to the recipient. This year will be no exception.

# **International Authors**

As it has for the past few years, Litquake has made a concentrated effort to bring authors from other countries into the fold. 2013 sees this trend continue and will see writers from France, Mexico and Africa all appearing. Of special interest is the young 25 year-old Italian sensation Viola Di Grado, who will be make her San Francisco debut. As *The New York Times T Magazine* noted in 2012, her rapid rise to the best seller charts in Italy for what they call her "fearless first novel" *70% Acrylic, 30% Wool,* "can mainly be attributed to her shimmering prose," which one Italian critic compared to oriental porcelain. Di Grado will appear at the Italian Cultural Institute on Thursday, October 17.

#### **Other Notable Appearances/Programming**

In addition, the 2013 schedule will also freight Jerry Stahl as part of the RADAR show at the SFPL, The Literary Death Match at the Elbo Room, Barely Published at the Make-Out Room, Why There Are Words with Jane Smiley in Sausalito, Flight of Poets at Hotel Rex, the Reverend Cecil Williams at Glide Memorial, and an evening on perception and the nature of reality at The Mechanics Institute, Quiet Lighting at the Conservatory of Flowers and much more.

The opening weekend of Saturday, October 12 and Sunday, October 13 will be centered around the Off the Richter Scale readings, which stars authors from a variety of different genres grouped together in assigned hours. Photographer and Soft Skull author Scot Sothern —known for his transgressive and controversial work—will show his work as well as read from it.

Also, Litquake will co-present Isabele Allende in conversation with Bill Petrocelli at Book Passage in Corte Madera.

Litquake offers its first ever programming highlighting literature written by native Americans on Monday, October 14:

- Natalie Diaz When My Brother Was an Aztec
- Deborah Miranda Bad Indians: A Tribal Memoir
- Gordon Johnson Fast Cars and Frybread: Reports from the Rez
- Greg Sarris Watermelon Nights

# **Opening and Closing Nights**

Opening night is Friday, October 11 and will celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first book published by Jules Verne. Often called the father of science fiction, his influence is especially felt in the Steampunk genre, what with books such as *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, Journey to the Center of the Earth* and *Around the World in 80 Days*.

Sponsored by Hendrick's and the French Embassy, the evening will celebrate gin & literature with an actual short presentation on the subject, as well as all things having to do with past notions about what the future would be. Helping that along will be an in-conversation chat between Michael David Johnson, the resident futurist at Intel and Jean Christophe Valtat, the noted French Steampunk author whose much anticipated new book, *Luminous Chaos* will be published during Litquake.

There will be live music and attendees are encouraged to dress for the occasion. Opening night is Friday, October 11 at Z Space in the Mission. Vive le Steampunk!

Litquake 2013 will close, as it always does, with the final night's Lit Crawl through the Mission District, where over 80 venues will host readings and performances over the course of the evening. Among the highlights:

• RADAR Productions and Sister Spit Books continue their annual tradition of hosting a reading atop the pool table at the Lexington Club

• The Black Futurist Project, an arts, community and technology collaboration featuring forward thinking Black artists from the Bay Area

• Narrative Magazine presents Ann Packer, David Corbett, New York Times best-seller Carol Edgarian, and Tom Jenks, former editor of Esquire and GQ

- Pink Thunder featuring Michael Zapruder who fashions free-verse pop art songs from poems by contemporary American poets
- Asian American culture magazine Hyphen getting down and dirty about sex and sexuality

- The Science Writers' Handbook featuring professional cheese maker Louella Hill
- Conspiracy of Beards, 30 men singing original 4-5 part harmony a capella arrangements of Leonard Cohen songs
- The Day My Nipple Fell Off, young breast cancer survivors including a stripper who continues to strip post mastectomy
- Recipients of the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction: A 30th-Anniversary Reading featuring Molly Giles
- Erotic Poetry from a Myrrh, Mothwing, Smoke: Erotic Poems, a recently released anthology from Tupelo Press

• Women's Voices including Sylvie Simmons, the subject of BBC documentary The Rock Chick, and author of the NY Times bestseller *I'm Your Man: The Life of Leonard Cohen* 

• Noisebridge's anarchic hackers and makers hosting a techno-utopian literary and spoken word hack fest

• U.C. Berkeley's six-week Summer Creative Writing Program featuring Faith Adiele, the author of a travel memoir about becoming Thailand's first black Buddhist nun

- International Poetry Library celebrating Los Días de Los Muertos with Poet Laureate of SF Alejandro Murguía at Casa Bonampak
- Coliloquy presenting a night of interactive storytelling, where audience members help choose what happens next
- 826 Valencia where student authors (ages 6 to 18) read from their latest publications. Cookies and milk to follow
- Community memoir workshop members including Joy Kawaguchi, a woman who avoided the Japanese internment camps by moving to Utah in 1942

• Fierce Fat Girls on Life, Love and Fashion- listen to the hot babes of Hot & Heavy, an anthology about body love, fat awesomeness and losing hate not weight

# The schedule outlining the festival will come online by mid-August.

# 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 4,600 author appearances for an audience of over 100,000 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. **Dates:** 10/11-19, 2013. www.litquake.org

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