



CHARLESTON LITERARY FESTIVAL

BOOKS ▶ IDEAS ▶ CONVERSATIONS

NOVEMBER 4TH-13TH 2022



WELCOME



© Gately Williams

In times of turmoil, the arts serve as a balm for the soul, bringing communities together to share ideas, laughter and tears. Most importantly, our Literary Festival is a safe space in which to visualize different ways of living and to hear a variety of opinions, with the freedom to agree or disagree. The world has changed immeasurably since our last fully in-person program in 2019, but our Festival provides a forum in which to learn from the past and to imagine a better future. Exploring relevant issues through inspiring conversations with novelists, journalists, historians, scientists, poets, biographers and performers, in a convivial setting where all are welcome, is the essence of the Charleston Literary Festival. The fact that these conversations continue to reverberate in the Festival's joyous parties and animated social gatherings, as well as in the book queue for author signings, is a testament to the quality of our speakers and their ability to engage the audience.

Events and themes to look out for this year include:

Charleston READS is a rallying call for the whole city and beyond to read Imani Perry's much praised *South to America*, culminating in her appearance at the Festival.

Trust is precious, but what does it mean in a post-truth era? Investigative journalists and a Booker-nominated novelist discuss the threats to veracity in public and private life.

The consequences of the pandemic and war in Europe are inevitable topics. So too are events counteracting current crises with hopeful dreams of Utopia.

A roster of acclaimed Black writers draw attention to the struggle for social justice.

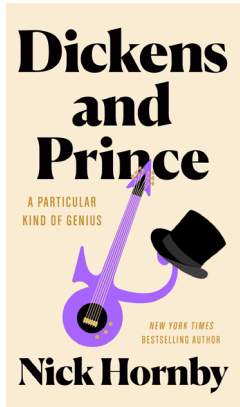
A trio of virtual sessions feature exciting authors from the UK.

The most vital ingredient of the Festival is the audience. Come, enjoy and participate!

DIANA REICH

Artistic Director

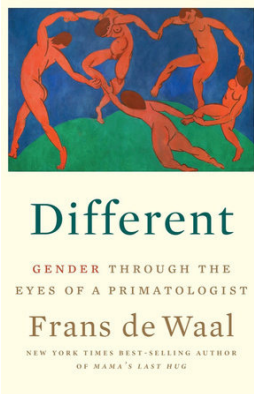
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4TH



NICK HORNBY with John Mullan

LITERARY LEGEND AND ROCK STAR 2 PM-3 PM
\$10 / Virtual Event

What do the great Victorian novelist Charles Dickens and the modern American musical icon Prince have in common? A great deal, according to bestselling author (*Fever Pitch*, *High Fidelity*, *About a Boy*) and screenwriter (*An Education*, *Brooklyn*) Nick Hornby. In his new book, *Dickens and Prince: A Particular Kind of Genius*, Hornby shares his passion for the two creative geniuses with his customary wit and originality. Delving into their unlikely similarities, he traces their extraordinary lives from poverty-stricken childhoods to global stardom and enduring cultural relevance. In conversation with John Mullan, Lord Northcliffe Professor of Modern English Literature, University College, London.



FRANS de WAAL with Jennifer Wilhelm

APES AND US 5 PM-6 PM
\$25 / Circular Congregational Church • Live Event

In his new book, *Different*, full of vivid stories about animal behavior, world-renowned primatologist Frans de Waal draws on his long career investigating chimpanzees and bonobos to argue with wit and humanity against assumptions about sex and gender that generate inequality. His conclusions pose thought-provoking questions about the relative significance of biology and cultural socialization in apes and humans. “Brilliant...brings a scientific, compassionate and balanced approach to some of the hottest controversies about sex and gender” (Yuval Noah Harari). In discussion with College of Charleston neuroscientist Jennifer Wilhelm.

CONT. FROM FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4TH



MARCUS AMAKER and ANDREW MOTION

POET LAUREATES 7 PM-8 PM

\$25 / Circular Congregational Church • Live Event

A unique opportunity to hear Marcus Amaker, Charleston's first Poet Laureate, and Andrew Motion, the UK's 19th Poet Laureate, compare their roles and read from their work. Marcus Amaker was announced by Mayor John Tecklenburg as the first Poet Laureate of the City of Charleston in 2016. Andrew Motion was appointed by the late Queen for a ten-year period in 1999. They discuss the contrasting expectations of being a pioneer and of following in a long tradition. Amaker's ninth book is *Black Music Is*. Andrew Motion, Homewood Professor of the Arts at Johns Hopkins University, has published 13 collections of poetry.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5TH

THE DESPERATE HOURS

ONE HOSPITAL'S FIGHT TO SAVE A CITY
ON THE PANDEMIC'S FRONT LINES



MARIE BRENNER

"The Desperate Hours has all the drama of *G.B.*, with fast-paced narrative writing and deep factual reporting. This is a really gratified event that is so gripping as to be unbelievable."
—JAMES H. STEWART, bestselling author of *Down* and *Deep Sleep*

MARIE BRENNER with David Adams

DESPERATE HOURS 2 PM-3 PM

\$25 / Circular Congregational Church • Live Event

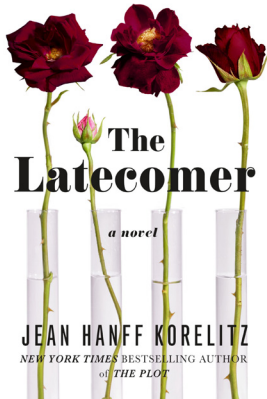
Granted complete access to the New York-Presbyterian hospital system, from the CEO to doctors, nurses, researchers and maintenance crews, Marie Brenner, award-winning *Vanity Fair* journalist, probed innumerable personal stories to discover how the staff persevered through the once-in-a-century Covid pandemic, even at great individual cost. Her investigation revealed medical heroism and corporate incompetence, prescient decisions and howling missteps, a shocking lack of supplies and lingering trauma akin to a war zone. Together with David Adams, Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Surgery at the Medical University of South Carolina, she considers what can be learned from the experience.



TINA BROWN and BETSY PRIOLEAU
with **Amanda Foreman**

PRESS AND PALACE 4 PM-5 PM
\$35 / Circular Congregational Church • Live Event

Tina Brown's *The Palace Papers* and Betsy Prioleau's *Diamonds and Deadlines* feature remarkable women, in different eras, dealing with power, glamour, fame, scandal and intrigue. Despite flouting convention in the Gilded Age, Miriam Leslie, self-styled "Empress of Journalism," wielded considerable influence through her numerous magazines. The British Royal family, with the late Queen at the helm, had to negotiate turbulent times and reinvent itself. Historian Amanda Foreman teases out their allure. Tina Brown is the former editor in chief of *Tatler*, *Vanity Fair* and *The New Yorker*, and author of *The Diana Chronicles*. Betsy Prioleau's previous book is *Swoon: Great Seducers and Why Women Love Them*.

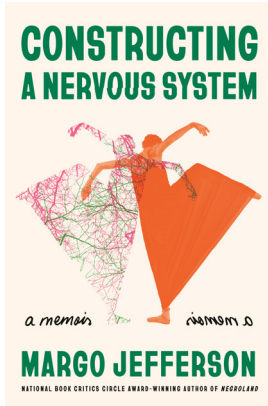


JEAN HANFF KORELITZ
with **Summer Anderson**

THE LATECOMER 6 PM-7 PM
\$25 / Circular Congregational Church • Live Event

By popular request, Jean Hanff Korelitz makes a return visit to the Festival to discuss her latest literary page-turner, *The Latecomer*, a compelling saga about family secrets and transgressions, revolving around IVF-created triplets, their unwelcome surprise sibling and haunted parents. "Read it now to get ahead of the forthcoming, inevitably star-powered TV version" (*The Atlantic*). Jean Hanff Korelitz is the bestselling author of *The Plot*, *You Should Have Known* (adapted by HBO as *The Undoing*) and other novels. She discusses *The Latecomer*'s twists and turns with Summer Anderson, Charleston Literary Festival Board member and reviewer for Books-A-Million.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6TH



MARGO JEFFERSON with Belinda Gergel

THE ARTISTS WHO MADE ME 3 PM-4 PM
\$25 / Circular Congregational Church • Live Event

In her new memoir, *Constructing a Nervous System*, Margo Jefferson, Pulitzer Prize-winning critic and acclaimed author of *Negroland*, shares the influences and passions that contribute to her sense of self—an eclectic mix including jazz luminaries, dancers, writers, artists, athletes, stars, lovers and family. Infused with the criticism that is her métier, she interrogates race, class, family, identity and art. “Margo Jefferson is one of the great innovators in modern autobiographical narrative” (Darryl Pinckney). She reflects on the art of writing a memoir with Belinda Gergel, historian and Charleston Literary Festival Board member.

Supported by Windham-Campbell Prizes.

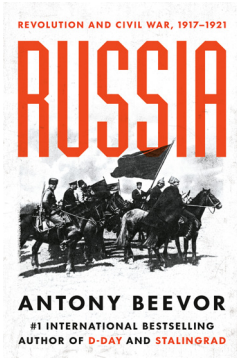
IMANI PERRY with Dr. Tamara Butler

SOUTH TO AMERICA 5 PM-6 PM
FREE / Circular Congregational Church • Live Event
(Online Reservation Required)

Imani Perry’s *South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation* is a physical and intellectual travelogue. Journeying from her home in the North to her roots in Alabama, she visits Southern cities and towns, including Charleston. In the process, she weaves together the rich tapestry of Black culture and asserts its contribution to the identity of America. Imani Perry is the Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University. Join us as we follow her through the history, rituals and landscapes of the South together with Tamara Butler, Executive Director of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture at the College of Charleston. **Charleston READS is presented by the Mayor’s Book Club, in collaboration with the Charleston Literary Festival and Oakwood University.**



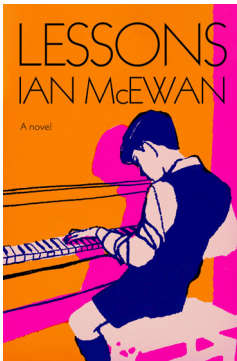
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8TH



ANTONY BEEVOR with Margaret MacMillan

RUSSIA: REVOLUTION AND CIVIL WAR 12 PM-1 PM
\$10 / Virtual Event

The four years of civil war in Russia (1917-1921) shook the world, reshaped Eastern Europe, and set the stage for conflicts whose consequences we are still living with today. In his gripping historical narrative, renowned British historian Antony Beevor conveys the drama of the civil war through the eyes of the people involved—the Czar, cavalry officers, doctors, workers on the streets, ordinary citizens—in a superb re-telling that illuminates and reframes that crucial period. He discusses the impact of the revolution and civil war on the current conflagration in Europe with Margaret MacMillan, Emeritus Professor of International History, University of Oxford.



IAN McEWAN with Geoffrey Harpham

LESSONS 2 PM-3 PM
\$10 / Virtual Event

Ian McEwan's new novel, *Lessons*, is a tour de force, with significant episodes based on his own, not uneventful, life. Following a man's existence over eight decades of personal and global upheaval, the backdrop includes the Suez and Cuban crises, Chernobyl, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Covid pandemic and climate change. Ian McEwan discusses the epic and intimate range of *Lessons*, and the impact of world events on our lives, with Geoffrey Harpham, Emeritus Director of the National Humanities Center. Ian McEwan's previous books, many of which have been adapted for the screen, include *Atonement* and *On Chesil Beach*.

CONT. FROM TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8TH

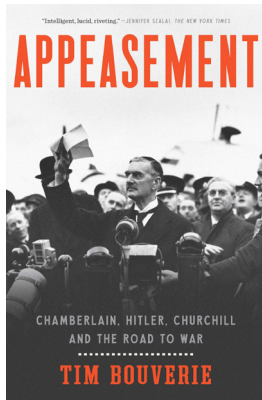


TIM BOUVERIE with Edward Hart

PERFECT PITCH 6 PM-7 PM
\$25 / Charleston Library Society • Live Event

Tim Bouverie, distinguished British historian specializing in international relations between and during the two World Wars, discovered that his lockdown solace was listening to classical music and sharing his favorites with his friends. The resulting book, *Perfect Pitch*, offers an opportunity to join his friendship circle and enjoy his selection as well as his introductions, written with verve and infectious enthusiasm. He discusses his passion for classical music with Edward Hart, Dean of the College of Charleston School of the Arts. You may even get to listen to some of his playlist.

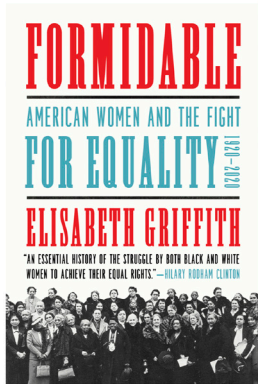
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9TH



TIM BOUVERIE with Jennifer Griffin

HITLER AND PUTIN: THE ROAD TO WAR 12 PM-1 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

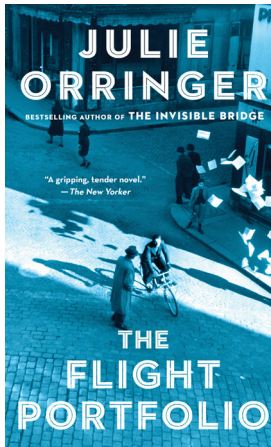
Tim Bouverie's groundbreaking book, *Appeasement*, reappraises the years of indecision, failed diplomacy, infighting, blunders and wishful thinking that enabled the Nazi conquest and domination of Europe. What can we learn from history that can be applied to dealing with Putin and the West's response to the war in Ukraine? Does his analysis have wider resonance for our times, as former democracies transmute into dictatorships? He considers the issues raised by the war in Ukraine with Jennifer Griffin, a national security correspondent for Fox News Channel who has extensively covered the Russian invasion, reporting live from Lviv and Kyiv.



ELISABETH GRIFFITH
with **Jennet Robinson Alterman**

FORMIDABLE 2 PM-3 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

Elisabeth Griffith's *Formidable* is "An essential history of the one-hundred years of struggle between 1920-2020 by both Black and white women in America to achieve equal rights" (Hillary Rodham Clinton). Griffith's illuminating, inclusive book of women's history recounts divisions alongside victories in her engaging, relevant and sweeping chronicle of women's fight for equality, which is still a work in progress. She discusses how far women have come, as well as setbacks, with Jennet Robinson Alterman, long-time South Carolina women's rights advocate and non-profit leader. Elisabeth Griffith currently teaches courses in women's history at the Smithsonian Associates.

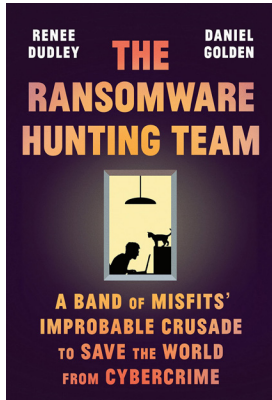


JULIE ORRINGER
with **Elizabeth Meyer-Bernstein**

THE EMERGENCY RESCUE COMMITTEE 4 PM-5 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

In her thrilling book of historical fiction, *The Flight Portfolio*, inspired by actual people and events, Julie Orringer brings to life the work of the Emergency Rescue Committee, formed to aid prominent European refugees during the Second World War trapped in Vichy France under Nazi occupation. A riveting story of derring-do, it describes how its hero procured false documents and arranged escape routes for artists, writers and dissidents fleeing the Holocaust. She discusses the moral dilemma at the heart of the book—how does one choose who to save?—with Elizabeth Meyer-Bernstein, Dean of the College of Charleston Honors College.

CONT. FROM WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9TH

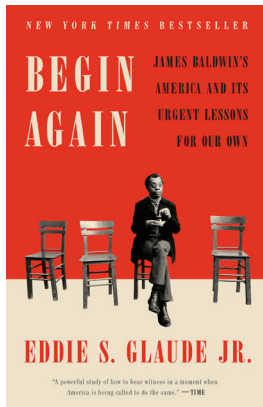


RENEE DUDLEY with **Wenda Harris Millard**

RANSOMWARE HUNTERS 6 PM-7 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

Renee Dudley's revelatory book *The Ransomware Hunting Team*, co-written with Daniel Golden, traces the exploits of a band of unsung saviors who use their skills to save millions of ransomware victims from paying billions to cyber criminals. The informal group of dedicated code-crackers outwits underworld hackers who lock computer networks in hospitals, businesses, universities, and municipal government, and demand huge payments in return for the keys. She reflects on the reasons why the most effective force against an escalating global threat is an international coterie of social misfits with Wenda Harris Millard, digital marketing and advertising pioneer familiar with the media tech business, and Charleston Literary Festival Board member.

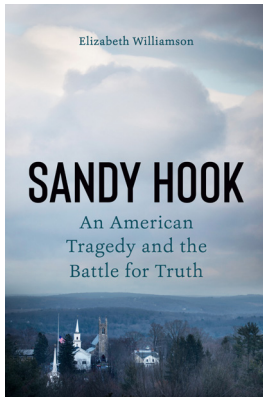
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10TH



EDDIE S. GLAUDE, JR. with **Armand Derfner**

JAMES BALDWIN'S AMERICA 2 PM-3 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.'s *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own* is a defining book for our time, an eloquent essay that combines biography, literary and social criticism, and history to make the argument that America stands on the precipice of a decision about its identity. Baldwin's life and writing serve as a pathway for Glaude to examine his own experiences, beliefs and feelings to interrogate racism in today's America. He discusses the insights and inspiration he has gained from Baldwin with Armand Derfner, civil rights lawyer and co-author of *Justice Deferred*. Eddie S. Glaude Jr. is the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor and chair of the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University.



ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON
with **Autumn Phillips**

CONSPIRACY PEDDLERS 4 PM-5 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

Elizabeth Williamson's *Sandy Hook: An American Tragedy and the Battle for Truth* is an indictment of the role of conspiracy theories in American society, told through the parents and relatives who upheld the truth of their children's fate. The book's starting point is the atrocity at Sandy Hook Elementary School, ten years ago, when twenty first graders and six educators were massacred by a gunman. What followed was a tsunami of misinformation, claiming the killings were a hoax, at the center of which was Alex Jones's *Infowars*. She discusses his recent trial and legal rout with Autumn Phillips, Executive Editor of *The Post and Courier*. Elizabeth Williamson is a feature writer for the *New York Times*.

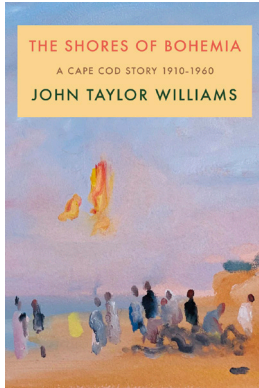


PATRICK RADDEN KEEFE
with **Ruth Streeter**

ROGUES 6 PM-7 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

In his “greatest hits” collection from *The New Yorker*: *Rogues: True Stories of Grifters, Killers, Rebels and Crooks*, Patrick Radden Keefe, author of the acclaimed *Empire of Pain*—about the role of the Sackler family in triggering the opioid epidemic—stops at nothing in his pursuit of truth. He discusses how he chooses a target, the dangers he has faced (*Rogues* features ruthless drug lords), and how his view of the world has been affected by his mesmerizing investigations into bad behaviour, with Ruth Streeter, award-winning CBS News producer (including *60 Minutes*) and Advanced Leadership Initiative Fellow at Harvard.

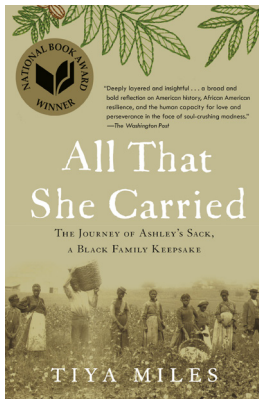
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11TH



JOHN TAYLOR WILLIAMS with Regina Marler

THE SHORES OF BOHEMIA 2 PM-3 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

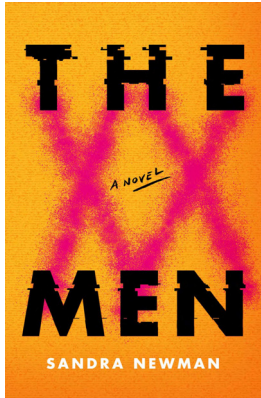
John Taylor Williams' *The Shores of Bohemia: A Cape Cod Story, 1910-1960*, is a beguiling portrait of the unconventional would-be utopia on the beaches of Cape Cod created by artists and writers such as Eugene O'Neill, Tennessee Williams, Mary McCarthy, Edward Hopper, Mark Rothko and Walter Gropius in the first half of the 20th century. Marriages, divorces, re-marriages, bar fights, and nude cocktail parties took place with dizzying frequency. Yet it was a crucible of creativity. John Taylor Williams, publisher and Charleston Literary Festival Board member, discusses the lure of bohemia with Regina Marler, who has written about the Bloomsbury Group, the British equivalent of the Cape Cod milieu.



TIYA MILES with Kameelah Martin

ASHLEY'S SACK 4 PM-5 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

Tiya Miles' *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, A Black Family Keepsake*, was the recipient of the National Book Award for Nonfiction in 2021. It is the poignant story of one object's capacity to symbolize the history of a family and the experience of slavery: a rough cotton sack containing basic essentials given by a mother to her young daughter before their enforced separation, then passed down through generations. She discusses "the tears of things" with Kameelah Martin, Director of African American Studies at the College of Charleston. Tiya Miles is the Michael Garvey Professor of History at Harvard University.



SANDRA NEWMAN with **Regina Marler**

THE MEN 6 PM-7 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

Sandra Newman's novel *The Men* imagines a world in which half of humanity—anyone with a Y-chromosome—mysteriously vanishes. How the left-behind women deal with this liberation, this bereavement, this flawed utopia, gives the novel its dramatic tension. Her previous fiction includes *The Heavens* and *The Country of Ice Cream Star*. She is currently working on a feminist re-telling of *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, approved by the Orwell Estate. She discusses why she is drawn to conjuring up utopias and dystopias with Regina Marler, *New York Review of Books* critic.

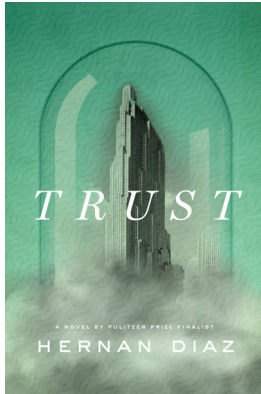
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12TH



JYOTI THOTTAM with **Adam Shoemaker**

SISTERS 2 PM-3 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

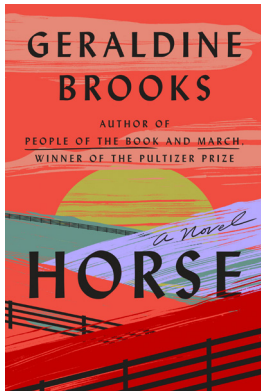
Jyoti Thottam's *Sisters of Mokama* is a never-before-told story about two pioneering groups of women in the 1940s: six intrepid nuns from Appalachia and a set of young Indian trainee nurses, including Thottam's mother, who joined them to establish a hospital in one of the poorest states in India. She discusses their struggles, accomplishments and legacy (the hospital they created still exists) with Adam Shoemaker, Rector at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Charleston, who recently undertook his own quest to meet Muslim members of his family in Egypt. Jyoti Thottam is a senior opinion editor at the *New York Times*.



HERNAN DIAZ with **Bill Goldstein**

TRUST 4 PM-5 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

Shifting between the roaring 1920s and different timespans over a century, Hernan Diaz's Booker long-listed *Trust* is a literary mystery recounting different versions of a Wall Street businessman and his wife in the years leading up to the Great Depression. A razor-sharp dissection of capitalism, class, greed and the meaning of money, as well as an intimate love story, it engages the reader in solving the puzzle and uncovering the truth. He discusses the novel's interconnected stories-within-stories with Bill Goldstein, editor of the *New York Times* Books website and book critic for the weekend edition of WNBC's *Today in New York*.

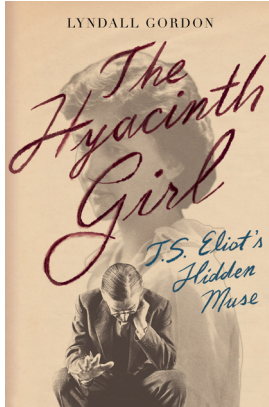


GERALDINE BROOKS
with **Anne Blessing**

HORSE 6 PM-7 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

In her sixth novel, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks' subject is the famed Kentucky thoroughbred Lexington, king of the antebellum racetrack and beyond (he was the greatest sire of his age), as well as an exploration of the racism on which the horseracing industry was built. Although a triumphant feat of her creative imagination, blending different time periods, art, science and athleticism, many of the novel's themes and characters are based on fact. She discusses the passions that horses can inspire in humans with Anne Blessing, horse-lover and Charleston Literary Festival Board member.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13TH



LYNDALL GORDON with Bill Goldstein

T.S. ELIOT'S HIDDEN MUSE 2 PM-3 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

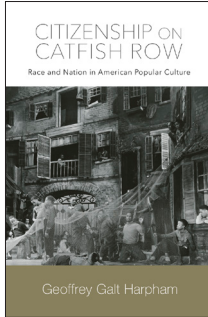
In *The Hyacinth Girl: T.S. Eliot's Hidden Muse*, British biographer Lyndall Gordon draws on dramatic new material—1,131 recently unsealed letters he wrote to Emily Hale—to reveal a hidden Eliot. Born and educated in America, Eliot met Emily Hale, a drama teacher, before he left for Europe in his early 20s. They continued their relationship by letter and occasional meetings over 25 years and she inspired some of his most famous poems. Lyndall Gordon discusses with Bill Goldstein, author of *The World Broke in Two*, the new light the letters shed on Eliot and his work.



EDOARDO BALLERINI

THE WASTE LAND 4 PM-5 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

In a unique appearance for the Festival, Edoardo Ballerini performs T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* and some of his other best-known poems. Ballerini was commissioned by the Estate of T.S. Eliot and his publisher, Faber & Faber, to record the Centenary Edition of the landmark poem. Originally published in 1922, *The Waste Land* was the most revolutionary poem of its time, offering a devastating vision of modern civilization that has lost none of its power. Ballerini is widely regarded as the brightest star of the audiobook era, one of the finest narrators of literature today.



**GEOFFREY HARPHAM and ALYSON
CAMBRIDGE with Harlan Greene**

PORGY AND BESS REASSESED 6 PM-7 PM
\$25 / Dock Street Theatre • Live Event

George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* is rooted in Charleston. DuBose Heyward, on whose 1925 novel *Porgy* the opera is based, centered on the Gullah community in Catfish Row, was born in Charleston. In 1934, he and Gershwin spent several weeks in Charleston working on the opera. We bring three cultural figures together to discuss their perspectives on *Porgy and Bess*. Geoffrey Harpham, Emeritus Professor of the National Humanities Center, discusses this iconic work in his new book *Citizenship on Catfish Row*. Renowned American soprano Alyson Cambridge first sang the role of Bess at the 2016 Spoleto Festival. Historian Harlan Greene, native of Charleston, worked on the papers of DuBose Heyward and his collaboration with Gershwin on *Porgy and Bess*. A fitting climax to the Festival.





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TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW.
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ALL SESSION ACCESS PASS	\$525
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<i>-RIVERS GREEN AT THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON</i>	

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Rivers Green At The College Of Charleston

71 Coming Street

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The Charleston Library Society

164 King Street

The Dock Street Theatre

135 Church Street

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HOW TO GIVE:

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For the health and safety of all, the Charleston Literary Festival will follow the latest Covid-19 guidelines as issued by the CDC on or before opening day.

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