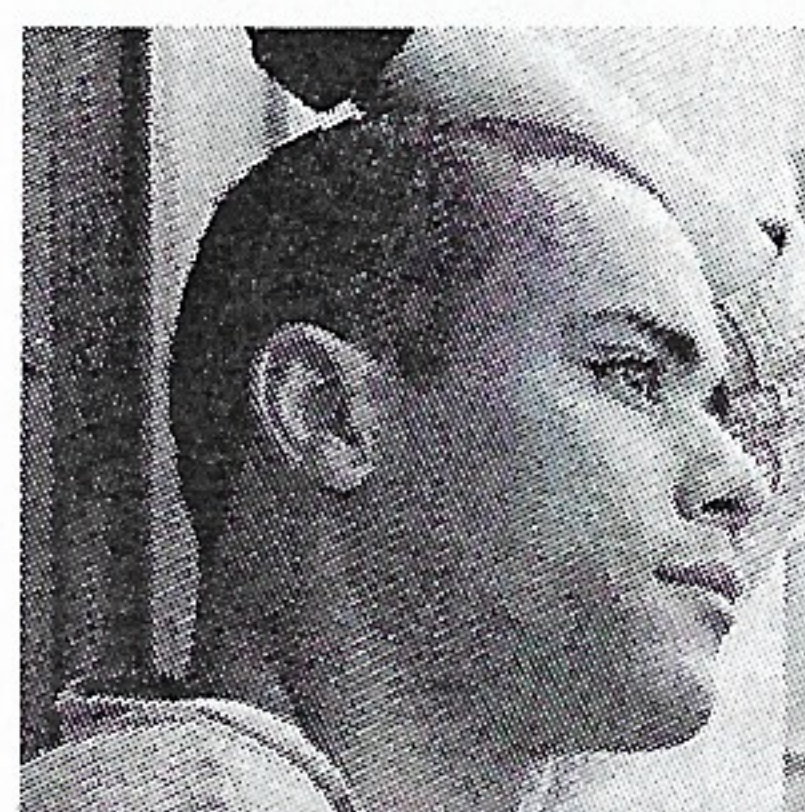


25 Writers to Watch



Rey Andújar is a Dominican writer and dramaturgist. His books have won various awards including: The International Award from Casa de Teatro, for his book of short stories, *El factor carne* (IslaNegra, 2005); The Story Award from the International Book Fair in Santo Domingo for *Amoricidio* (AgentesCatalíticos, 2007); The Ultramar Letters Award (New York, 2011) for *Saturnalia* (7Vientos, 2011); and most recently Andújar won The Cuento y Poesía Consenso Award at Northeastern University.



Kristiana Colón is a Chicago poet, playwright, actor, and educator. In 2013, she toured the UK with her collection of poems promised instruments published by Northwestern University Press. OffWestEnd.com nominated her Most Promising New Playwright. Her play *one week in spring* was a finalist for Victory Gardens' 2010 Ignition festival, and appeared in Curious Theater's Rhinoceros Festival in January 2014.



Zayd Dohrn was born underground and raised in New York City. His full-length plays include *Outside People* (The Vineyard Theatre/Naked Angels), *Want* (Steppenwolf First Look), *Sick* (Berkshire Theatre Festival), and *Reborn* (The Public/SPF). His work has been produced and developed across the country, including at Playwrights Horizons, The Atlantic Theater Co., Manhattan Theatre Club, Goodman Theatre, South Coast Rep, Ars Nova, among others.



Keith Ecker is the creator of Guts & Glory and Essay Fiesta, two of Chicago's most popular monthly live-lit series. He has performed his own work at shows throughout the city, including Write Club, Story Club, This Much Is True, Chicago Writers Conference, and Printers Row Lit Fest. His writing had been published by *Huffington Post*, *The Onion A.V. Club*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, and others. He is currently co-producing a serial, fiction-based podcast with WBEZ called *PleasureTown*.



Bill Hillmann is an author and storyteller from Chicago. His debut novel *The Old Neighborhood* has received acclaim from the *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Reader*, *Booklist* and such notable authors as Irvine Welsh, Thom Jones, and Rick Kogan. Hillmann is a former Chicago Golden Glove champion, a noted bull runner in Spain, and a union construction laborer. His writing has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Salon* and on NPR. He is a current contributor to *Playboy* online.

25 Writers to Watch



Jac Jemc's first novel, *My Only Wife* (Dzanc Books), was named a finalist for the 2013 PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction and winner of the Paula Anderson Book Award. She is also the author of a collection of stories, *A Different Bed Every Time* (Dzanc Books), due out in October 2014. She is the web nonfiction editor for *Hobart* and poetry editor at *decomp*. In 2012, she was the recipient of an Illinois Arts Council Professional Development Grant.



Parneshia Jones is recipient of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award, the Margaret Walker Short Story Award, and the Aquarius Press Legacy Award. She is published in several anthologies, and has been commissioned by Art for Humanity in South Africa, Shorefront Legacy, and featured on Chicago Public Radio. Her first collection of poetry, *Vessel*, is forthcoming from Milkweed Editions (April 2015).



Rebecca Kling is a transgender artist and educator who explores gender and identity through solo pieces and educational workshops. Her multidisciplinary performances incorporate conversational storytelling, personal narrative, humor, and more. In 2013, Kling was named as part of the inaugural Trans 100 list, which aims to highlight and celebrate excellence in the trans community.

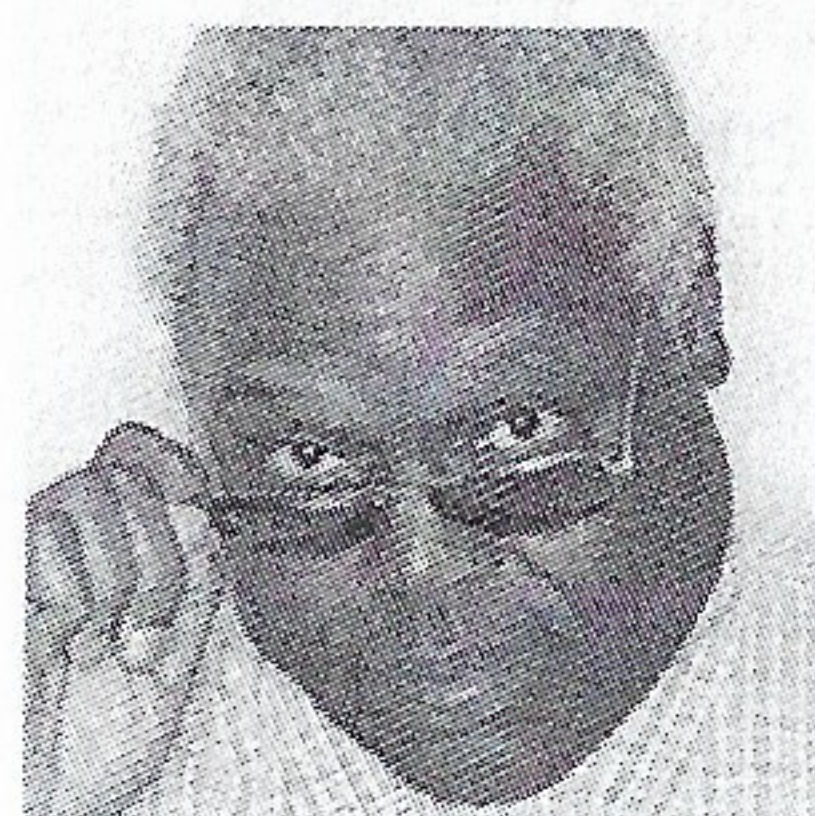


Jacob S. Knabb is Editor-in-Chief of *Curbside Splendor Publishing*. His stories and essays have been published at *The Collagist*, *THE2NDHAND*, *Consequence of Sound*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, and elsewhere. He teaches creative writing and publishing at Lake Forest College and is currently working on a novel set in West Virginia in the '90s.



Malcolm London, is a poet, activist, and educator. He appeared on PBS for the first ever televised TED Talk with John Legend & Bill Gates, and has shared stages with actor Matt Damon & rapper Lupe Fiasco. In 2010, London was apart of the prestigious Steppenwolf Theatre Young Adult Council and is winner of *Louder Than A Bomb Youth Poetry Festival* 2011. Malcolm's work has been featured on national outlets including CBS, NPR, *Huffington Post*, *The Root*, and the *Chicago Tribune*.

25 Writers to Watch



Eric May graduated with a BA in Writing/English from Columbia College Chicago in 1975 and the following year joined what was then Columbia's Writing Department as a part-time instructor. His fiction and nonfiction have been published in such literary anthologies as *Criminal Class Review*, *Briefly Knocked Unconscious By a Low-flying Duck*, *Fish Stories: Collective I*, *Sport Literate*, *Angels in My Oven*, and *f5 Magazine*. His debut novel, *Bedrock Faith*, was published by Akashic Books.



Gwendolyn A. Mitchell is a poet and editor. Her poetry has appeared in a number of journals and anthologies, and she is the author of two poetry collections, *Veins and Rivers* and *House of Women*, and the author of the book-length poem, *Ain't I Black*. She is the co-editor of two anthologies, *Releasing the Spirit* and *Describe the Moment*. Her forthcoming book, *Among the Missing*, will be published later this year. Mitchell currently serves as Senior Editor for Third World Press.



Sahar Mustafah writes about "the others"—Arabs in the United States and abroad, who are often deemed strange and disparate from the larger racial community. Her work has appeared in anthologies and journals including *Great Lakes Review*, *Word Riot*, *Flyleaf*, *Hair Trigger*, and *Chicago Literati*, and she's performed with 2nd Story Chicago. She's the recipient of a Pushcart nomination. She is a teacher and co-founder of *Bird's Thumb*, an online literary journal devoted to new and emerging voices.



Nnedi Okorafor is a novelist of African-based science fiction, fantasy, and magical realism for children and adults. Okorafor's novels include *Who Fears Death* (winner of World Fantasy Award, Best Novel), *Akata Witch* (an Amazon.com Best Book of the Year), *Zahrah the Windseeker* (winner of the Wole Soyinka Prize for African Literature), and *The Shadow Speaker* (winner of the CBS Parallax Award). Her young adult novel *Akata Witch 2: Breaking Kola* is scheduled for release in 2015.



Coya Paz is a poet, Artistic Director of Free Street Theater, and an Assistant Professor in the Theatre School at DePaul University. She is also a founding member of Proyecto Latina, and the co-founder of Teatro Luna. Recent projects include *Nerds, Sluts, (Commies) and Jocks* and *DOPE* at Free Street Theater, and *The Americans*, based on interviews. Coya holds a PhD in Performance Studies at Northwestern University and is a regular commentator on race, media, and pop culture for *Vocalo*.

25 Writers to Watch



Cecilia Pinto's writing has appeared in a variety of publications including *Esquire*, *Fence*, *Quarter After Eight*, *Diagram*, and *TriQuarterly*. Her work appears in *Saints of Hysteria*, *Sonneteering*, *Mentor and Muse*, *Billet-Doux*, and elsewhere. She has worked with students in the Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Park District, and has taught for Northwestern University, the Graham School at the University of Chicago, and the Poetry Center of Chicago, among others.



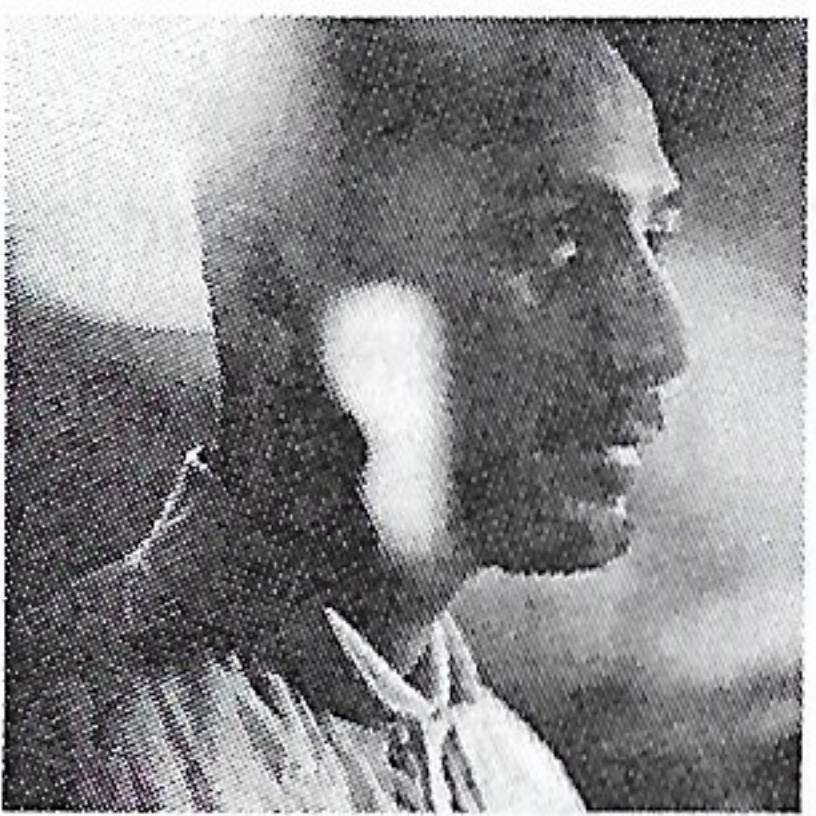
Awarded a 2014-2015 Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University, a 2013 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship, and 2008 Ruth Lilly Fellowship, **Roger Reeves'** poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Best American Poetry*, *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *Tin House*, and *2014 Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses*. *King Me*, his first book of poems, was published by Copper Canyon Press in 2013.



Kathleen Rooney is a founding editor of Rose Metal Press and a founding member of Poems While You Wait. The author of seven books of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction, she is the winner of a Ruth Lilly Award. Her debut novel *O, Democracy!* has just been released by Fifth Star Press. Her recent essays and criticism have appeared or are forthcoming in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Chicago Sun Times*, *Salon*, *The Believer*, and *The Rumpus*.



Mahmoud Saeed (born 1939) is an Iraqi-born American award-winning novelist. He wrote an award-winning short story in the newspaper *Fata Al-Iraq* in 1956. He published a collection of short stories, *Port Saeed and Other Stories*, in 1957. Authorities banned the publication of any of his books from 1963 to 2008. Other novels include *The Girls of Jacob*, *The World Through the Angel's Eyes*, *I am the One Who Saw (Saddam City)*, and *Trilogy of Chicago*.



Jacob Saenz is a CantoMundo Fellow whose poetry has been published in *Poetry*, *TriQuarterly*, *Pinwheel*, *The Economy* and other journals. He has been recipient of a Letras Latinas Residency and a Ruth Lilly Poetry Fellowship. He currently serves as an associate editor for *RHINO*.

25 Writers to Watch



Erika L. Sánchez is a Fulbright Scholar, CantoMundo Fellow, and winner of the "Discovery"/*Boston Review Prize*. Her poetry has appeared in several publications, including *Boston Review*, has been heard on NPR's "Latino USA", and is forthcoming in *diode* and *Please Excuse This Poem: 100 New Poems for the Next Generation* (Penguin 2015). Her nonfiction appears in *The Guardian*, *Al Jazeera*, *Rolling Stone*, *Salon*, *NBC News*, *Cosmopolitan*, and many others.



Megan Stielstra's essay collection, *Once I Was Cool*, is forthcoming in May 2014. Her work is included in *The Best American Essays 2013*, *Poets & Writers*, *The Rumpus*, *PANK*, and elsewhere, and her story collection, *Everyone Remain Calm*, was a Chicago Tribune Favorite of 2011. She's the Literary Director of the 2nd Story storytelling series and teaches creative writing at Columbia College Chicago.



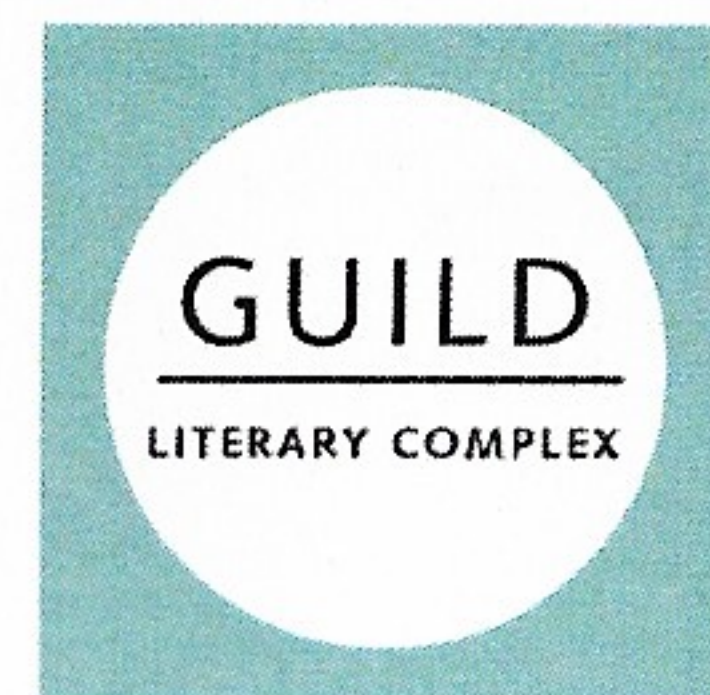
Natasha Tarpley is the author of several acclaimed books for children and adults including *Girl in the Mirror: Three Generations of Black Women in Motion*, *I Love My Hair!*, and *Princess Tiana and the Royal Ball*, a companion to the Disney movie, *The Princess and the Frog*. Her first *Middle Grade* novel is forthcoming from Scholastic in 2015. Natasha is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Illinois Arts Council, among others.



Cyn Vargas' short story collection is being published by Curbside Splendor Publishing and set to be released in spring 2015. She received a Top 25 Finalist & an Honorable Mention award in Glimmer Train's Short Story Award for New Writers contests. Her work has appeared in *Word Riot*, *Split Lip Magazine*, *Hypertext Magazine*, and elsewhere.



Jamila Woods is a poet, singer, playwright, and teaching artist. A Pushcart Prize nominee, her poetry has been published by *MUZZLE*, *Radius*, and Third World Press. Jamila was named Best Female Poet (CUPSI) in 2009, two-time champion of the Louder Than A Bomb College Slam (2008 & 2010), and was a finalist at the 2011 National PoetrySlam. She is a founding member of Young Chicago Author's Teaching Artist Corps, where she currently serves as Associate Artistic Director.



GUILD LITERARY COMPLEX
Celebrating 25 Years of
Cross-Cultural Programming
1989-2014

The Guild Literary Complex wishes to extend special thanks to:

Victory Gardens Theater and managing director Chris Mannelli for hosting REVEAL 25; Newcity for being our media partner; Lagunitas Brewing Company for the generous supply of beer; Jim Beam for bourbon and vodka; and A Tray To Remember and La Bruquena restaurant for contributing to our fine smorgasbord.

We also wish to thank:

our five past and present directors for sharing their stories— Kimberly Dixon-Mays, Julie Parson-Nesbitt, Ellen Placey Wadey, John Rich, and Michael Warr; our 25 Writers to Watch for the work they bring to the world and the work yet to emerge; Heather K. Anderson for her tremendous REVEAL design theme and on-site display; Anjulie Rao, the Guild's new marketing coordinator; Anna Hayden-Roy, the Guild's intern; the entire board of the Guild Literary Complex for wine, champagne, and so much more; Mary Delaware and Cyndi Fecher for a final design assist; Sommers and Fahrenbach, Inc. for printing our invitations; Gapers Block for additional advertising; Jay Too for the night's music; Demian Krentz for handyman work; Noël Jones for concept inspiration; Tia Chucha Press and Luis J. Rodriguez for being a catalyst; all former Guild staff and board members; our many event partners, venues, sponsors, funders, and volunteers; 25 years of amazing artists and audiences; and you, tonight's attendees— your personal contributions help the Guild support and sustain diverse, divergent, and emerging literary voices in Chicago.

**Thank you. It's been a great 25 years.
Here's to the next quarter century!**



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