A Sea of Diversity

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LitFest 2011 will feature writing workshops and public readings from poets and authors, including Dayton native Katrina Kittle and a performance by the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Friday and Saturday, April 1-2.

The theme for this year's festival of literary arts is, "A Sea of Diversity: Rising Tides, Rising Authors."

Featured guests on Friday, April 1, include award-winning poets Kwame Dawes and Kathy Fagan.

Dawes is a Distinguished Poet in Residence at the University of South Carolina. His works range across poetry and nonfiction, and he won a 2009 Emmy for his documentary project Live Hope Love: Living and Loving with AIDS in Jamaica, a gallery of poetry, biography, video, and images found online at www.livehopelove.com.

Vasser Miller Prize-winner Kathy Fagan has published four collections of poetry, including her most recent, Lip, and National Poetry Series Selection The Raft. Fagan is a professor of creative writing at The Ohio State University.

On Saturday, authors Frank X Walker and Katrina Kittle will give readings. Walker is co-founder of the Affrilachian Poets and founder of the Bluegrass Black Arts Consortium. His most recent collection, Isaac Murphy: I Dedicate this Ride, is a poetic exploration of the life of the famous African-American jockey.

Dayton native Katrina Kittle is the author of four novels, including Indie Next and Midwest Connections Pick, The Blessings of the Animals.

A poetry slam will close the festival Saturday night.

Schedule of events:

**Friday, April 1**

6:30-7 p.m., Humanities Center lobby: LitFest Opening Reception
7-9 p.m., Sears Recital Hall, Humanities Center: Readings by Kathy Fagan and Kwame Dawes
9 p.m., ArtStreet Studio B: Howl, starring James Franco, ArtStreet Friday Night Film Series

**Saturday, April 2**

10:30-11 a.m., ArtStreet: Morning coffee and conversation
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., ArtStreet and McGinnis Center: "How to Apply to Creative Writing Graduate Programs" panel discussion.
12:30-1:30 p.m., McGinnis Center: Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, performing "Lyric Fire: A Tribute to Paul Laurence Dunbar."
1:30-3 p.m., ArtStreet and McGinnis Center: Poetry and writing workshops
3:30-5 p.m., ArtStreet: Open mic readings for workshop participants
7:30-9 p.m., ArtStreet Studio D: Readings by Katrina Kittle and Frank X Walker
10 p.m., ArtStreet Studio D: Poetry Slam

All events are free and open to the public. See the full schedule at the University of Dayton LitFest 2011 Facebook page or at the related link.

*For more information, contact Molly Sexton, English department, at 937-229-3614 or molly.sexton@notes.udayton.edu.*