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A Sea of Diversity

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A Sea of Diversity

03.25.2011 | Campus and Community, Culture and Society

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 (url: <http://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.