

Highlights from the 2022-2023 Season

INPRINT **MARGARETT** **ROOT** **BROWN** **READING** **SERIES**

22/23

MOHSIN HAMID
AUGUST 1, 2022

ERIKA L. SÁNCHEZ
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

ABDULRAZAK GURNAH
SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

JAVIER ZAMORA
OCTOBER 3, 2022

MAGGIE O'FARRELL
OCTOBER 10, 2022

JOY HARJO
NOVEMBER 14, 2022

**YIYUN LI &
MATTHEW SALESSES**
JANUARY 23, 2023

ADA LIMÓN
MARCH 6, 2023

LEILA MOTTLEY
APRIL 17, 2023

ABRAHAM VERGHESE
MAY 8, 2023

inprint
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BRAZOS
BOOKSTORE

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HOUSTON
CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

Event Photos

Inprint Mohsin Hamid Reading 8/1/22



Inprint Mohsin Hamid Reading 8/1/22



Inprint Mohsin Hamid Reading 8/1/22



Inprint Erika L. Sánchez Reading 9/12/22



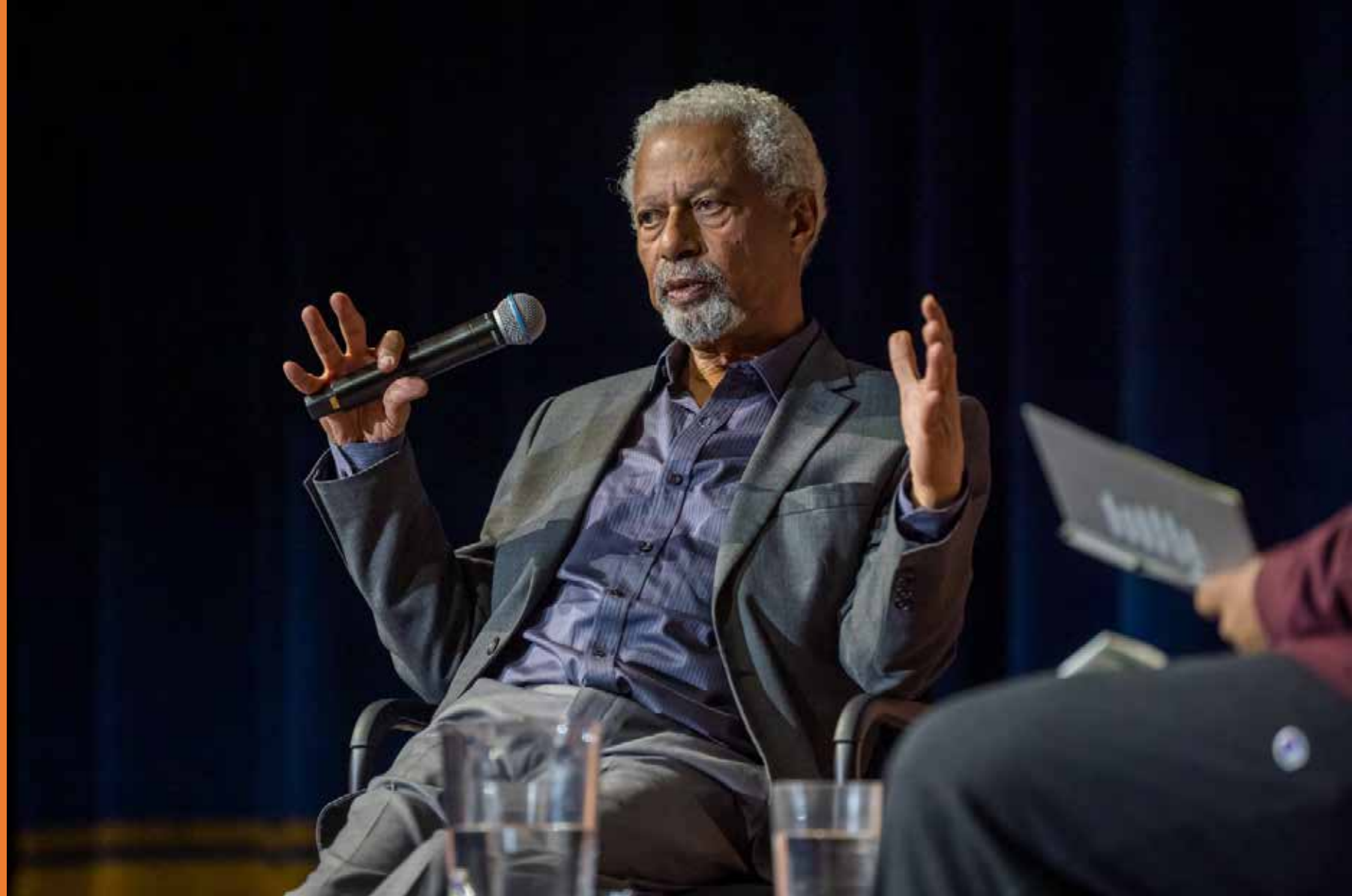
Inprint Erika L. Sánchez Reading 9/12/22



Inprint Erika L. Sánchez Reading 9/12/22



Inprint Abdulrazak Gurnah Reading 9/19/22



Inprint Abdulrazak Gurnah Reading 9/19/22



Inprint Abdulrazak Gurnah Reading 9/19/22



Inprint Abdulrazak Gurnah Reading 9/19/22



Inprint Javier Zamora Reading 10/3/22



Inprint Javier Zamora Reading 10/3/22



Inprint Javier Zamora Reading 10/3/22



Inprint Javier Zamora Reading 10/3/22



Inprint Maggie O'Farrell Reading 10/10/22



Inprint Maggie O'Farrell Reading 10/10/22



Inprint Maggie O'Farrell Reading 10/10/22



Inprint Joy Harjo Reading 11/14/22



Inprint Joy Harjo Reading 11/14/22



Inprint Joy Harjo Reading 11/14/22



Inprint Yiyun Li & Matthew Salesses Reading 1/23/23



Inprint Yiyun Li & Matthew Salesses Reading 1/23/23



Inprint Yiyun Li & Matthew Salesses Reading 1/23/23



Inprint Ada Limón Reading 3/6/23



Inprint Ada Limón Reading 3/6/23



Inprint Ada Limón Reading 3/6/23



Stats from the 2022-2023 Season

2,363

Book sales at 2022-2023 events to date

3,450

Attendance at 2022-2023 events to date

Stats from the 2022-2023 Season

\$34,182

Inprint marketing and advertising spending to date

28,760

Inprint eblast and social media reach to date

Press Clippings

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**READINGS BEGIN
AT 7:30 PM**

**TICKETS, LOCATIONS,
& DETAILS**

inprinthouston.org

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INPRINT

MARGARET

ROOT

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**“INPRINT’S WORK IS
TRANSFORMATIONAL,
WHOLLY IMPORTANT,
NECESSARY FOR
THESE TIMES.”**

— Sandra Cisneros

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**TICKETS,
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inprint

**40
YEARS**

**B THE BROWN
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**HOUSTON
ENDOWMENT**



**BRAZOS
BOOKSTORE**

**UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON**
CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

Features editor: Melissa Aguilar, features@chron.com

BOOKS

Inprint series includes Nobel winner, two poets laureate

By Andrew Dansby

STAFF WRITER

Perhaps as exciting as the list for Inprint's Margaret Root Brown Reading Series is the fact that its 2022-23 season is a full return to in-person status for the much-loved book events after the pandemic forced programming into a streaming series for two years.

Events begin Aug. 1 with British-Pakistani novelist Mohsin Hamid, who will discuss his latest book, "The Last White Man."

Eight dates are set for the 42nd season, two of them featuring U.S. poets laureate. Joy Harjo served as poet laureate starting in 2019. This week, her successor, Ada Limón, was named. Inprint brings Harjo to town Nov. 14 and Limón on March 6, 2023.

Also announced for the season will be Abdulrazak Gurnah, a Tanzanian native living in Britain who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2021. He will read and discuss his work on Sept. 19.

The season concludes May 8 with Abraham Verghese, whose 2008 novel, "Cutting for Stone," has sold more than 1 million copies.



Courtesy photo

Mohsin Hamid's fifth novel, "The Last White Man," is being published in 2022.

More information on the 2022-23 Margaret Root Brown Reading Series, including subscription and ticket sales, go to inprinthouston.org.

Aug. 1: Mohsin Hamid
Sept. 19: Abdulrazak Gurnah

Oct. 10: Maggie O'Farrell
Nov. 14: Joy Harjo
Jan. 23, 2023: Yiyun Li and Matthew Salesses

March 6: Ada Limón
April 17: Leila Mottley
May 8: Abraham Verghese

andrew.dansby@houstonchronicle.com



Courtesy photo

Poet Joy Harjo



Shawn Miller/AP/Library of Congress

Ada Limón has been named the 24th U.S. poet laureate.

| THINGS TO DO |

Best Bets: *Peter Pan*, *Somi*, and *Crying in the Bathroom*

NATALIE DE LA GARZA | SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 | 4:30AM

It's not quite fall yet and it certainly doesn't feel like autumn, so all of this week's best bets will keep you out of the heat, though not necessarily indoors. Discovery Green and Miller Outdoor Theatre will offer some evenings of can't-miss dance and music for those courageous enough to brave the mosquitos, while others can find cool air-conditioning around town at places like the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Stages, and the Wortham Theater Center. Keep reading for our list of the coming week's best offerings.



Inprint is bringing Erika L. Sánchez to Houston to discuss and read from her new book *Crying in the Bathroom*. Photo by Adriana Diaz

Houstonia.

EVENTS

Upcoming Houston Book Events You Won't Want to Miss

Nobel Prize winners, local authors, and book conventions await you.

By [Alexia Partouche](#) • Updated August 11, 2022

WITH [SCHOOL STARTING AND FALL](#) just around the corner, we're putting on our thinking caps and hitting the books. If you're counting down the days until cooler weather so you can cozy up with a good story, [Bayou City bookworms will find lots](#) to love this season in Houston's literary scene. With a reading from a Nobel Prize winner, a romance book convention, and a visit from the London author dominating the psychological thriller shelves all on the near horizon, H-Town has what it takes to [quench your thirst for good literature](#).

Here's our guide to the best book events Houston has to offer over the next couple of months:

[Erika L. Sanchez | Inprint | September 12](#)

The National Book Award finalist and author of *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* is back with an exploration of self that is equal parts cutting and comedic in her new memoir, *Crying in the Bathroom*. Hear her read from the book and discuss it with Jasminne Mendez, winner of an International Latino Book Award.

Abdulrazak Gurnah | Inprint | September 19

It's not every day that Houston gets a visit from a winner of the Nobel Prize in literature, so make sure you tune in for this reading from Abdulrazak Gurnah. Awarded the Nobel Prize for his writing on the effects of colonialism, the author will be reading from his newest book, *Afterlives*, which tells a multigenerational story set on the Swahili coast during German colonial rule.

Javier Zamora | Inprint | October 3

The renowned poet continues his exploration of the Salvadoran Civil War's impact on his life through his new memoir, *Solito*, which chronicles his 3,000-mile solo migration from El Salvador to the US. The event will include a reading, an on-stage conversation with University of North Texas assistant professor of English Daniel Peña, and a book signing.

Maggie O'Farrell | Inprint | October 10

Master of historical fiction Maggie O'Farrell will be reading from her new novel, *The Marriage Portrait*, which explores the courts of Renaissance Italy through the eyes of young duchess Lucrezia de' Medici as she is thrown suddenly into marriage. The reading will be followed by an on-stage conversation with Maggie Galehouse, the former book editor at the *Houston Chronicle*.

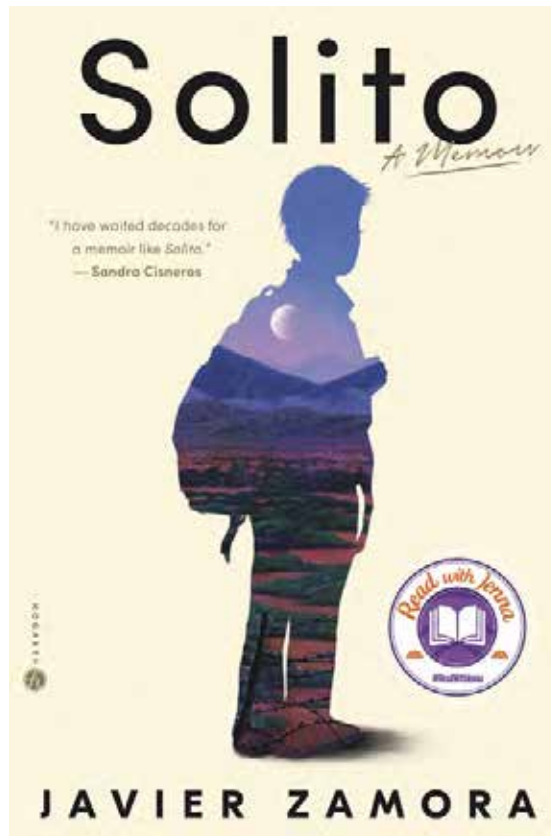
BOOKS

Javier Zamora among the authors at Houston book events this week

The renowned poet and activist will read from his new memoir, in a program presented by Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series.

 Ana Khan | October 3, 2022 Updated: October 4, 2022, 7:21 am

[f](#) [t](#) [p](#) [g](#) [e](#)



MONDAY

Javier Zamora: Author will read from his new memoir "Solito," followed by an on-stage conversation with Daniel Peña, award-winning author of "Bang." The evening will conclude with a book sale and signing. 7:30 p.m., tickets \$5. Ballroom at Bayou Place, 500 Texas; inprinthouston.org

Gov. Abbott and Beto O'Rourke set to debate, and a controversial rail company merger (Sept. 30, 2022)

On Friday's show: We preview tonight's debate between Gov. Greg Abbott and his challenger, Beto O'Rourke, and discuss whether such events influence the outcome on Election Day. And we learn more about a proposed merger of rail companies and some people's concerns about it.

MICHAEL HAGERTY | SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, 7:00 AM

Share



Listen



On Friday's show: We preview [tonight's debate](#) between Gov. Greg Abbott and his challenger, Beto O'Rourke, and discuss whether such events influence the outcome on Election Day. The debate will air at 7 p.m. on Houston's [CW Ch. 39](#) and [here on News 88.7](#).

Also this hour: We discuss the controversial merger of Canadian Pacific Railway and Kansas City Southern Railway and how it might affect rail traffic here. Hearings on the matter have been taking place this week in Washington, D.C. Residents can submit [public comments](#) on the merger through Oct. 14.

Then, we break down [The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly](#) of the week.

And writer [Javier Zamora](#) discusses his memoir, [Solito](#), which chronicles his journey from El Salvador to the United States at the age of nine. Zamora will [speak Monday night](#) at an event from Inprint at the Ballroom at Bayou Place.

BOOKS

REVIEW

Renaissance page-turner

'The Marriage Portrait' brings a murdered duchess back to life

By Chris Vognar
CORRESPONDENT

Robert Browning's 1842 poem "My Last Duchess" is a mini marvel of literature, a perfectly calibrated dramatic monologue with a dark undertone: The speaker is a duke who pulls back a curtain to reveal a portrait of his former wife, whom, we gradually realize, he has murdered. He explains all of this to an emissary from his potential next wife, suggesting his anxiety over the matter is nil.

Maggie O'Farrell, the Northern Irish novelist whose 2020 novel "Hamnet" won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, had always loved the poem. One day, just before the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, she decided to find out if it was based in reality. What she discovered would lead her to her new novel, "The Marriage Portrait," a Renaissance page-turner that brings the duchess back to life.

O'Farrell will read from and discuss the novel Oct. 10 at the University of Houston as part of the Inprint author series.

"She's dead, but also she's behind that curtain, and he controls who sees her in the poem," O'Farrell says from her home in Edinburgh. "I thought it was time to pull back that curtain and lead her out and say, 'OK, it's your turn to speak now. What's the story? What story do you have to tell us?'"

The real-life duchess was Lucrezia di Cosimo de' Medici of Florence, married to Alfonso II d'Este, Duke of Ferrara, at age 15 in 1560. The duchess died less than a year later; the cause given was "putrid fever," or typhus. But the rumors of murder began almost immediately.

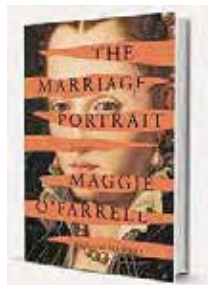
We know little detail of Lucrezia's existence. What O'Farrell has done is give her an interior life: shy but strong-willed, compassionate but fiercely determined, a gifted painter and lover of animals and underdogs. She's the runt of the litter in her own family, chosen to marry Alfonso only when her older sister dies. As her husband imposes his will on the portrait painter, she makes friends with the artist's apprentices. She's also quite intuitive and certain that her death is close at hand, largely because her husband is unable to sire a child (a circumstance, which, naturally, he blames on his wife).

There is in fact no known marriage portrait; the painting of Lucrezia that survives was commissioned by her parents before her nuptials.



Murdo Macleod

Author Maggie O'Farrell says a Robert Browning poem inspired her to write "The Marriage Portrait."



INPRINT AUTHOR SERIES

Inprint presents Maggie O'Farrell, reading from and discussing her novel "The Marriage Portrait" with Maggie Galehouse.

When: 7:30 p.m. Oct. 10

Where: University of Houston's Cullen Performance Hall, 4300 University

Tickets: \$30; inprinthouston.org

That, along with Browning's poem, was enough to capture O'Farrell's imagination. She recalls the day she waited for the portrait to download on her "rubbish phone."

"This headdress and then

her forehead, and then these eyebrows and gradually her face appeared," she says. "As soon as I saw it, I just knew that I had my next book, that I wanted to tell the side of the story that I imagined

she might tell if she was able to."

It's a marvel of a novel, propulsive in narrative and acutely attentive to minute detail. Lucrezia is blessed with the eye of a painter and, thanks to O'Farrell, a poet. Here she is on her long-dreaded wedding day: "A long triangle of light, an exact yellow replica of the window behind it, makes a sudden appearance at her feet, spreading itself out across the floor, as if reaching for her ankle. Lucrezia observes how it bends around objects in its path, drapes over a pair of shoes, a dropped cloth, a discarded shift."

Through her novel, O'Farrell grants Lucrezia a spirit that transcends her

fate in an arranged marriage, in a time and place when women of a certain social and political standing were but convenient tools to extend their families' dynastic power.

O'Farrell was determined to push beyond the exterior image and arrive at a greater truth.

"Those Renaissance portraits are so perfect," the author says. "Their surfaces are so flawless, and their expressions are often very neutral. I just always got the sense that behind the very polished veneer of these portraits are other lives and an immense psychological depth."

Chris Vognar is a Houston writer.

Top 11 Book & Author Events in Houston: October 2022

By Holly Beretto - Sep 27, 2022

Dig into virtual and live book events, the latest appearances by authors, and more with our roundup of book and literary events taking place in Houston in October 2022.

- **Inprint presents Maggie O'Farrell at Cullen Performance Hall at University of Houston | Monday, October 10** – The author of the best-selling *Hamnet* is in town as part of Inprint's Margaret Root Brown Reading Series. She'll read selections from her latest best-seller, *The Marriage Portrait*, followed by a discussion with former Houston Chronicle book editor Maggie Galehouse. \$30; Includes a signed copy of the book. 7:30pm.

2022/2023 Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series presents Abdulrazak Gurnah, Joy Harjo, Yiyun Li, Ada Limón, Maggie O'Farrell, Abraham Verghese, and others

Aug 18, 2022



Inprint, Houston's premier literary arts nonprofit organization, presents the 42nd season of the 2022/2023 Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series, one of the nation's leading literary showcases. The 2022/2023 season features 10 readings with an inclusive array of award-winning authors, all with new books – including Abdulrazak Gurnah, Mohsin Hamid, Joy Harjo, Yiyun Li, Ada Limón, Leila Mottley, Maggie O'Farrell, Matthew Salesses, Erika L. Sánchez, Abraham Verghese, and Javier Zamora – from August 2022 through May 2023. Each event includes a reading by the featured author(s) and an on-stage interview with a local writer, followed by a book sale and signing. In-person readings will take place on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm CT, with an online rebroadcast of each event available 3 days later. For tickets, the full schedule, and more information, visit inprinthouston.org or call 713.521.2026.

Public enthusiasm to return to the theatre remains high, and 3 different season ticket levels are now available: a premium subscription for \$450, which includes signed books by all 11 of the season's featured authors, reserved section seating, free parking, and other benefits; a premium + partner subscription for \$575, which provides a household with two seats, one set of books, and other benefits; and a classic subscription for \$225, which includes a signed copy of *New York Times* bestselling author Maggie O'Farrell's new novel *The Marriage Portrait* and other benefits. General admission tickets for individual readings are \$5 (unchanged since 1980), except for the Inprint Maggie O'Farrell Reading, which includes a book purchase as part of the ticket price. General admission tickets for in-person readings and online rebroadcasts will go on sale on the Inprint website a few weeks in advance of each event.

"What a thrill to be returning to the theatre for a full season of Inprint Brown Reading Series events, with a brilliant, diverse, international group of authors, whose work is stimulating, engaging, and fused to the *zeitgeist* of the current moment," says Inprint Executive Director Rich Levy. "With the online rebroadcast option as well, we are delighted to stay connected with fellow book lovers across the country and around the globe."²

The authors to be featured in the 2022/2023 Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series include:

- August 1, 2022 – Mohsin Hamid, Booker Prize finalist and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Exit West*, with his new novel *The Last White Man*
- September 12, 2022 – Erika L. Sánchez, National Book Award finalist, with her new memoir

Crying in the Bathroom

- September 19, 2022 – Abdulrazak Gurnah, 2021 Nobel Prize winner, with his new novel

Afterlives

- October 3, 2022 – Javier Zamora, renowned poet and activist, with his new memoir *Solito*
- October 10, 2022 – Maggie O'Farrell, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Hamnet*, with her new novel *The Marriage Portrait*
- November 14, 2022 – Joy Harjo, three-term U.S. Poet Laureate, with her new collection

Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light: 50 Poems for 50 Years

- January 23, 2023 – Yiyun Li, MacArthur Fellow, with her new novel *The Book of Goose*, and Matthew Salesses, Inprint Fellow and Prize winner and PEN/Faulkner Award finalist, with his new novel *The Sense of Wonder*

- **March 6, 2023** – **Ada Limón**, 2022–2023 U.S. Poet Laureate, with her new collection ***The Hurting Kind***
 - **April 17, 2023** – **Leila Mottley**, breakout literary star, with her debut novel ***Nightcrawling***
 - **May 8, 2023** – **Abraham Verghese**, National Humanities Medal recipient and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Cutting for Stone*, with his new novel ***The Covenant of Water***
- The series is presented by Inprint, a Houston-based literary arts nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring readers and writers. Since 1980, the Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series has featured close to 400 of the world's greatest writers from 38 countries, including winners of 12 Nobel Prizes, 70 Pulitzer Prizes, 65 National Book Awards, 54 National Book Critics Circle Awards, and 17 Booker Prizes, as well as 21 U.S. Poet Laureates. The series and Inprint receive generous underwriting support from The Brown Foundation, Inc., the National Endowment for the Arts, The Jerry C. Dearing Family Foundation, the Houston Endowment, The City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance, and the Texas Commission on the Arts. The series is presented in association with Brazos Bookstore (which offers Inprint patrons a discount on books by the season's featured authors) and the University of Houston Creative Writing Program. Special thanks also to Winpark, and the Four Seasons Hotel Houston.

BOOK

Joy Harjo, US poet laureate, talks career and new poem collection

By Andrew Dansby
STAFF WRITER

The entire notion of a volume of “collected poems” — a benchmark for any venerable and venerated poet — has been about volume. Typically, poetry anthologies are robust books, compared to the more slight collections that poets produce every few years.

Joy Harjo has always cut her own path. So the new “Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light” isn’t like other poetry retrospectives. At 127 pages — including a Sandra Cisneros foreword, notes on the poems and other pages without poems — the collection condenses a career, to date, with a curated conciseness.

The conceit for “Weaving Sundown” was that Harjo, the three-term U.S. poet laureate, would select 50 poems to represent 50 years of writing them. At 71, Harjo doesn’t view the anthology as a monolith or a tombstone, but rather as a different sort of benchmark.

She insists she has much more yet to say.

Nevertheless, “Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light” is a wonderful introduction to the Tulsa-based poet, a Mvskoke or Muscogee Nation member. Hers is a poetry untethered to Eurocentric notions of time and place. To read her work is to find a revelatory wonder in the Earth and to think about our space here differently. Inprint Houston brings Harjo to town Nov. 14. She discussed her career and her new collection.

Q: Even if this collection didn’t cover 50 years, each poem made me think about time in a different way.

A: I’m glad to hear that. There are many kinds of time. And I think about it a lot. There’s a poem called “For Calling the Spirit Back From the Wandering Earth in Its Human Feet.” Inside that poem there’s a discussion about time.

Q: One of your previous books mentioned the concept of “overculture,” a creation of overbearing commercialization. And this volume made me think of that as well as Karen Armstrong’s new book about a reverence for finding a spiri-



Shawn Miller / Blue Flower Arts

U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo’s new “Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light” contains a collection of poems that span a 50-year career.

tual sacredness in nature.

A: I think there’s a world in which the Earth is a dead thing. A place to dig still or monetize resources. But then there’s a world in which the planet is a living being and we’re part of that living being. Those ideas proceed differently with very different values and relationships, and they also differ with time.

Q: Sorry to get stuck on time, which really is an artificial construct but one we have made certain agreements regarding. Do you feel time differently now than you did when you first started writing poems? I think about songs I sing with my daughter in the car and have for more than a decade. Some stick around. Others change. Some we still love but differently than we used to.

A: Yeah, I know something has changed. I don’t feel I’m older, of course. I don’t feel elderly. But your relationship with time shifts, too, the older you are. Somebody could probably work that out as an equation. But I think it has to do with a depth of perception. You could argue children have a deeper depth of perception. They haven’t learned to cut it

off yet. Hence your daughter singing in the car. Whatever is going on in the world, she’s singing. That’s what matters. It’s absolutely everything when you consider that kind of time versus things related to money.

Q: I don’t want to get you in trouble with any sort of poetry clique because I know you’re not supposed to explain poems any more than you’re supposed to explain songs. But the notes at the end were revelatory, even just as context. Was there anxiety about offering too much information?

A: That started with my book “The woman who fell from the sky,” where I was trying to make a statement about morality. When I perform with a band or without, but when it’s any kind of music, I tell stories. These stories are not exactly about the poems. It’s not my place to say what a poem means, what’s going on in it, what the contextual things are. So that’s where it started. My friend (author) Brenda Peterson helped arrange that book for me when I was having a hard time finding a shape for it. She suggested the notes. It’s important to experience the poem first. So it’s not seen as explaining. But I think it lets

people know, poetry doesn’t occur in a vacuum. Usually people are writing, speaking from a certain place.

Q: I was intrigued by the contrast between these poems, which feel fixed, and lyrics written by Bob Dylan, whose museum and archive in Tulsa enlisted you as its artist-in-residence. The documentation in his archive suggested never-ending lyrical revisions. But poems don’t enjoy the same luxury. When completed, poems feel permanent.

A: I don’t think about it too much. I never consider too much what people will think. I guess it does get to me sometimes. But I disregarded it through a lot of the years because my poetry for those years was disregarded. Which was frustrating. But I will say, I don’t always know what I’m up to, but I know I’m up to something. My poetry doesn’t really fit squarely in any of the poetry schools. But it’s also not like I have been deliberately trying to avoid those schools. I like to joke about allusions and references that they’re Creek not Greek. I noticed nearly every collection I’ve seen, there are heavy-duty classical references going on. I’ve felt more like,

JOY HARJO

When: 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14

Where: Brockman Hall, Rice University, 6100 Main, entrance 18

Details: \$5; inprinthouston.org

“Here I am, I know these stories, also. But I know other stories, too.”

Q: You have these other outlets, including music. Was there an aha moment or a trailhead for you and poetry?

A: You know, I didn’t know I’d end up working with poetry in school. I knew I was drawn to music. And in the junior high I went to, the teacher wouldn’t let girls play saxophone. My stepfather forbid me to sing. He didn’t want me singing in the house. It wasn’t that I was a bad singer. It was his way of exerting control over my joy, so to speak. So I walked away. Poetry helped me find a way back. I always heard poetry. I heard music, too, and wrote songs for a band. But those were different than when I was writing a poem. Sometimes poems would become songs. But not always.

Q: The most recent and closing poem, “Without,” felt resonant, given how shrill things are now in this country and internationally and how insignificant humankind is in a timeline that preceded us by millions of years. I keep going back to your line, “The world will keep trudging through time without us.”

A: “Without” was written during COVID times. And there was a political and racial reckoning, severe political manipulation of people’s fears. Anyway, that was one of my favorite poems I’ve written. It seemed like a good one to conclude the collection with because it’s a doorway toward where we’re going now.

Q: The poem and the book — they don’t feel like a farewell.

A: I keep working. I haven’t retired. I don’t think I ever will.

andrew.dansby@houstonchronicle.com

DINING

The legend of Texas barbecue is alive and well

In the movie “The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance,” a U.S. senator (played by Jimmy Stewart) regales a group of reporters with stories of both actual and embellished accomplishments. When he asks what they plan to write about him, one of the reporters famously quips, “This is the West, sir. When the legend becomes fact, print the legend.”



J.C. Reid

Though misquoted and misattributed over the years, the comment still applies

today: Every story has components of fact and fiction, and the fiction is usually more interesting than the fact.

Except when it comes to Texas barbecue. I am often asked why Texas barbecue is so popular. From my experience, it comes down to authenticity.

The alignment of fact and legend in Texas barbecue is in full force in Lockhart.

The popularity and influence of Lockhart, known as the “Barbecue Capital of Texas,” has waxed and waned over the years. Recently, the influence of Austin has become predominant, where barbecue destinations with retro-cool dining rooms, sleek barrel smokers and highly marbled brisket are the media darlings of celebrities and influencers.

To be sure, the best joints



Photos by J.C. Reid / Contributor

Stepping up to the cutting block at Smitty’s Market in Lockhart transports diners to an earlier time.



The smell of post oak smoke wafts through the dining room.

SMITTY’S MARKET

208 S. Commerce, Lockhart
512-398-9344

provide an outstanding product and experience. But they have garnered some criticism for the homogenization of Texas barbecue. In other words, they are the real deal, though lacking in the unique and sometimes messy myths and truths that only time can bestow.

Lockhart, on the other hand, is awash in myths and legends. From the family feuds of the Schmidts and the Blacks, to the time-capsule atmosphere of Smitty’s Market, Texas barbecue history can be tasted and experienced.

Walking into Smitty’s is like stepping into the 1920s, when the building was constructed. Passing through the vestibule into a low-lit pit room, you first brush up against a fire pit openly burning next to the order counter; if you’re wearing shorts and get a little close, you can feel the hair singe on your legs.

The smell of rendering fat and post oak smoke create a Pavlovian response, conveniently as you approach the cutting block to place your order. You may find the darkly painted brick walls unusual (why black?) until you realize that’s a patina of smoke from decades of cooking.

There are literal stalactites of creosote hanging from the ceiling

above the pits.

Place your order meat-market-style (by the pound) and the order-taker barks the details to the meat-cutters standing at the well-worn chopping block behind. Meat is pulled off the pit, sliced to order, wrapped in butcher paper and handed over after you pay (cash only).

Move into the brighter dining room and stock up on the accoutrements of classic Central Texas-style barbecue — bread, pickles, onions and cheese. You can have a knife, but don’t ask for a fork — they don’t provide them here in classic meat-market barbecue tradition.

Off to one corner, the owner, Nina Schmidt Sells, watches the comings and goings of both locals and tourists. We chat briefly, and she laments the difficulty of upholding the myths and traditions of Texas barbecue as Lockhart is quickly becoming a suburb of Austin, bringing rising property values and gentrification.

She’s still committed to the traditions, though.

We often see something on TV or social media that hypes a place (restaurants in particular), inspiring us to make a visit, only to be disappointed when it turns out the fiction was greater than reality. Fortunately, when you print the legend of Texas barbecue, you are also printing the facts, and vice-versa.

jcreid@jcreidtx.com
twitter.com/jcreidtx

CULTURE

Inprint Hosts a Pair of Beloved Poet Laureates at Rice



Chris Becker / Nov. 11, 2022



Mendez and Harjo (Harjo photo by Shawn Miller)

Now in its 42nd season, the [Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series](#) is still going strong, bringing award-winning writers from around the world to Houston to read from their work and engage in a lively, onstage discussion with Texas-based authors, journalists, and poets.

On Monday, Nov. 14, at Rice University's Brockman Hall for Opera, the series brings U.S. Poet Laureate [Joy Harjo](#) to the stage for a reading and discussion with Texas Poet Laureate Lupe Mendez, who was born in Jalisco, Mexico, in 1976, grew up in

Galveston, and is one of the Houston's best known poets and activists. (Mendez is one of several poets featured in our [2017 article about Houston's thriving poetry scene](#).) Harjo, who lives in Tulsa, is a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and is the first Native American to hold the position of U.S. Poet Laureate.


It's a logical and inspired pairing, as Texas culture is so strongly rooted in that of indigenous tribes who have lived on the land going back thousands of years ago and on up to the present day. Harjo's writing connects back to the legacies of her ancestors and displacement, drawing inspiration from Navajo horse songs and the rhythms of jazz, and is described by author Sandra Cisneros as "light and elixir, the very best prescription for us in wounded times." She is the author of nine books of poetry, several plays and children's books, and two memoirs. And if that weren't enough, Harjo is also a talented performer, who also plays saxophone and has released seven albums of original music. Her new book, titled *Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light*, is an annotated compilation of poems written over the past 50 years, addressing such profound life events everyone can identify with, such as losing a parent, becoming a mother, and falling in love.



the Rice Thresher

RICE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER — SINCE 1916

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2022 — HOUSTON, TX



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Celebrate Indigenous heritage in HTX



Vivian Lang / Thresher

By [Sara Davidson](#) 11/8/22 11:55pm

This November is Native American Heritage Month, and places both near and far from campus in the greater Houston area are hosting several events. Ranging from intimate readings to lively performances, this list includes representation from many of the tribes, not only regionally, but also from across the United States. Learn about several of the many things coming to Houston for this heritage month and be sure to check out your favorites.

Native American Championship Pow Wow

Traders Village, as mentioned in the Thresher's local markets article, not only has great steals on the market scene, but is also hosting the 32nd Annual Native American Championship Pow Wow. This is a two day event happening Nov. 12 and 13 that will have tribal dance contests, an arts and crafts show, music and more. Hundreds of Native Americans from across the country will be there to represent their heritage with authentic food and other offerings. Authentic tipis will also be on display with more information about various tribal histories. This event has something for everyone, whether you want to learn about the history, see and taste authentic traditions or stroll among the many shops selling goods from the represented tribes.

Inprint at Brockman Hall

Within the hedges of campus, Brockman Hall will host Inprint, a literacy arts nonprofit, on Nov 14. Guest speaker and three-term U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo will be reading her new poetry collection "Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light: 50 Poems for 50 Years." She was the first Native American to hold the U.S. Poet Laureate position, and is part of the nonprofit Margaret Root Brown Reading Series. Rice students can receive free tickets upon request, otherwise tickets are \$5.

American Indian Center of Houston

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This cultural center is "devoted to enhancing the Native American community in the Greater Houston area through personal, social, health and cultural development." They have been open since early 2020 and seek to serve the over 60,000 Native Americans that call Houston home. While they have no upcoming events hosted by them listed on their website, they do have great resources about Native American culture.

Book of the Month Club

This virtual book club hosted by Bel Canto Books has monthly Zoom meetings to discuss the latest book on their list. To honor Native American Heritage Month, the club will be reading "Calling for a Blanket Dance" by Oscar Hokeah, with the following meeting set for Dec. 13. The book is about a young Native American man learning more about finding strength in his familial identity, and the author is a regional Native American fiction writer. If you're looking for a great book to read and then get to discuss once the dust of finals season settles, this is a great club to try out.

MORE FROM THE RICE THRESHER

A&E 11/9/22 12:57am



[Review: 'The Banshees of Inisherin' perfectly balances comedy and drama](#)

By [Jay Collura](#)

As "The Banshees of Inisherin" begins, the audience is introduced to Inisherin, an island off the coast of Ireland divided into corners for farming by cobblestone walls. For Pádraic Súilleabháin (Colin Farrell), the repetitive cycle of working and then going to the pub is sufficient, as his happy-go-lucky attitude and welcoming demeanor immediately establish. This cycle is interrupted, however, when Colm Doherty (Brendan Gleeson) announces that he will no longer talk to Pádraic, despite the fact

A&E 11/9/22 12:56am



[Review: 'Her Loss' is a solid, if lopsided, collaborative album](#)

By [Jacob Pellegrino](#)

For his past two albums, Drake's best tracks have featured 21 Savage, and for good reason: the duo displays strong chemistry and elicits some of Drake's best bars in years. "Her Loss," a collaborative album between Drake and 21 Savage, promised a continuation of what we'd heard in "Knife Talk" and "Jimmy Cooks." However, it is largely a Drake album that regularly features 21 Savage. While still a solid listen with some really enjoyable moments, the album falls flat in delivering the kinetic collaborations we have seen in the past.

A&E 11/9/22 12:54am



[Review: Rec Room's apocalyptic romantic comedy thriller 'Put Your House in Order' is a promising show for the spooky season](#)

By [Gina Matos](#)

Upon walking through its doors, Rec Room quickly distinguishes itself from other local theatre spaces in Houston: its cozy lighting, exposed brick walls and dynamic background music lend themselves to an intimate, homely environment before the show even begins. As the audience trickles into the venue for the night's show, the stage's intricate set design, furnished with a full-thrust front porch and yard

Top 8 Book & Author Events in Houston: January 2023

By **Holly Beretto** - Dec 28, 2022



Inprint hosts live author discussions in January 2023 | Courtesy of Inprint

- **Inprint presents Yiyun Li & Matthew Salesses Reading at Congregation Emanu El | Monday, January 23** – The authors will read from their new novels, *The Book of Goose* and *The Sense of Wonder*. Following the reading, the pair will discuss their works and approaches to writing with Brenda Paynado. \$5. 7:30pm.

| THINGS TO DO |

Best Bets: *Descendant*, Films from Iran, and *Blues in My Coffee*

NATALIE DE LA GARZA | JANUARY 19, 2023 | 4:30AM



Matthew Salesses joins Yiyun Li as part of Inprint's 2022/2023 Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series. Photo by Grace Salesses

On Monday, January 23, at 7:30 p.m. **Inprint** will welcome authors **Yiyun Li and Matthew Salesses** to **Congregation Emanu El** as part of the **2022/2023 Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series**. Li most recently authored *The Book of Goose*, named by *Time* as one of the **must-read books of 2022**, about the “**obsessive friendship**” between two teens “**in rural 1950s France in the grim**

aftermath of World War II.” Salesses, a University of Houston Creative Writing Program grad recently released the Linsanity-inspired *The Sense of Wonder*, which has been described as “a remarkable feat of artistic prowess that somehow blends the themes of K-drama with the spectacle of sports drama in a way that resets our frame of reference for the Korean American experience.” Both will read from their new books, and then engage in a conversation with **Brenda Peynado before ending the evening with a book sale and signing. Tickets can be purchased [here](#) for \$5.**

Julia Cameron among the authors at Houston book events this week



Ana Khan | January 23, 2023 Updated: January 24, 2023, 12:52 pm



Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series present Yiyun Li and Matthew Salesses.

Photo: Courtesy of Inprint



MONDAY

Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series: MacArthur Fellow Yiyun Li and Inprint fellowship and prize recipient Matthew Salesses will read from their new novels "The Book of Goose" and "The Sense of Wonder," followed by an

on-stage conversation with Brenda Peynado, author of "The Rock Eaters" and UH Creative Writing Program faculty member. The evening will conclude with a book sale and signing. 7:30 p.m., tickets \$5. Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunset; inprinthouston.org

Houston Arts Journal

Arts News & Commentary from Houston, Texas

Inprint adds newly-named U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón to its 2022-23 season



Catherine Lu

July 22, 2022

Arts and Culture, Arts
Education, Blog,
Literary arts, Poetry



Ada Limón will be the 24th U.S. Poet Laureate / Courtesy of Inprint

As organizers at [Inprint](#) were finalizing the details of its upcoming 42nd season of its Margaret Root Brown Reading Series, one slot in the line-up was still open.

Then [Ada Limón](#) was awarded the country's highest honor in the field of poetry – the position of U.S. Poet Laureate – as announced on July 12 by the Library of Congress.

LIBRARY

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NEWS: Ada Limón (@adalimon) is the next U.S. Poet Laureate & will take up her duties in the fall, opening the Library's annual literary season on Sept. 29 with a reading of her work in the Coolidge Auditorium.



newsroom.loc.gov

Librarian of Congress Names Ada Limón the Nation's 24th U.S. Poet L...
Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced the appointment of Ada Limón as the nation's 24th U.S. Poet Laureate for 2022-2023.

6:58 AM · Jul 12, 2022



LIBRARY

[Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)



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Acting quickly, Inprint reached out to Limón to invite her to come to Houston next season, adding her to the [2022-23 roster](#), which also includes six award-winning novelists and current U.S. Poet Laureate [Joy Harjo](#).

“We were thinking of including Ada in the upcoming season since her fantastic new collection [The Hurting Kind](#) was released in May – and I was just about to invite her, when we received the news,” said Rich Levy, Inprint’s Executive Director.

“All the joy in the community about her appointment sealed the deal! We were lucky she was available. A brief email exchange, and we were set,” he said.



Inprint

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You asked, we answered — Ada Limón, the newly appointed 2022-2023 U.S. Poet Laureate, is now part of next year's lineup! Get the details here: inprinthouston.org/for-readers/in... 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌



3:31 PM · Jul 15, 2022



21



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Days later, Inprint announced its 2022-23 season – its first full, in person season since the pandemic – with Limón scheduled to appear in a poetry reading and on-stage interview on March 6, 2023, the venue still to be determined at this time.

Levy says he is “thrilled and delighted” at Limón’s new national role.

“Personally, I am a great admirer of Ada’s work – “The Raincoat,” from *The Carrying*, is I think one of the most moving and concise tributes to the unselfish energy and love of mothers that I have ever read,” said Levy.



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My god,
I thought, my whole life I've been under her
raincoat thinking it was somehow a marvel
that I never got wet.

—Ada Limón

poets.org/poem/raincoat

#MothersDay



poets.org

The Raincoat

When the doctor suggested surgery

6:30 AM · May 9, 2021



506



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Limón begins her term as U.S. Poet Laureate on September 29, succeeding Harjo, who will appear on Inprint's upcoming season on November 14, 2022 at Rice University's Brockman Hall for Opera.

"I really truly believe with my whole body in the power of poetry and in the power of poetry to heal and bring together communities and celebrate the interconnectedness that we all have with each other," said Limón in an

[interview with the Library of Congress](#). “And I think this is a huge opportunity to really honor those beliefs.”



Organizers at Inprint say that they loved the idea of presenting both the 23rd and 24th U.S. Poet Laureates in the same season, as part of their mission of championing poetry and nurturing writers everywhere – but also at this moment when [poetry may be on the rise](#).

“It seems in the U.S. and elsewhere that more and more people are reading poetry, and feel empowered to write poetry. And if the pandemic has introduced some folks to the joys of poetry, then I am grateful for that salubrious effect,” said Levy.

“For too long, poetry was an elitist enterprise. I think both Joy and Ada are part of the trend among our Poet Laureates and in general to enlarge and enrich the canon and the field,” he said.

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“For too long, poetry was an elitist enterprise. I think both Joy and Ada are part of the trend among our Poet Laureates and in general to enlarge and enrich the canon and the field,” he said.

Complete information about Inprint’s season, which includes [virtual options](#), is available [here](#).

Since 1980, the Inprint Brown Reading Series has featured more than 400 award-winning writers of fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry from 37 countries, including 19 U.S. Poet Laureates. Limón [previously appeared in a joint reading](#) with Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gregory Pardlo in 2017.

Public defender costs and caseloads (Feb. 27, 2023)

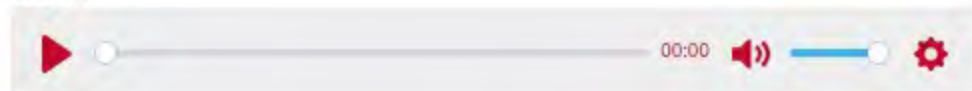
On Monday's show: We discuss the money Harris County spends for court-appointed defense attorneys and the caseloads of those public defenders. And U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón talks about how nature plays a role in her work and her love of Houston's grackles.

MICHAEL HAGERTY | FEBRUARY 27, 2023, 7:00 AM

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On Monday's show: Harris County taxpayers are [spent more than \\$60 million](#) last year for court-appointed private attorneys to represent low-income defendants. And some of those lawyers are taking on far too many cases. We learn more from Harris County Chief Public Defender Alex Bunin and Houston Chronicle investigative reporter Neena Satija, who's been looking into this.

Also this hour: U.S. Poet Laureate [Ada Limón](#) talks about the role nature plays in her work and her love of Houston's grackles. She's coming to Houston for an [event with Inprint](#) on March 6.

Then, columnist [Dwight Silverman](#) discusses some of the latest developments in consumer technology

And we get an update on Houston sports from [Jeff Balke](#), who writes for Houston Press and co-hosts the [Bleav in Astros podcast](#).

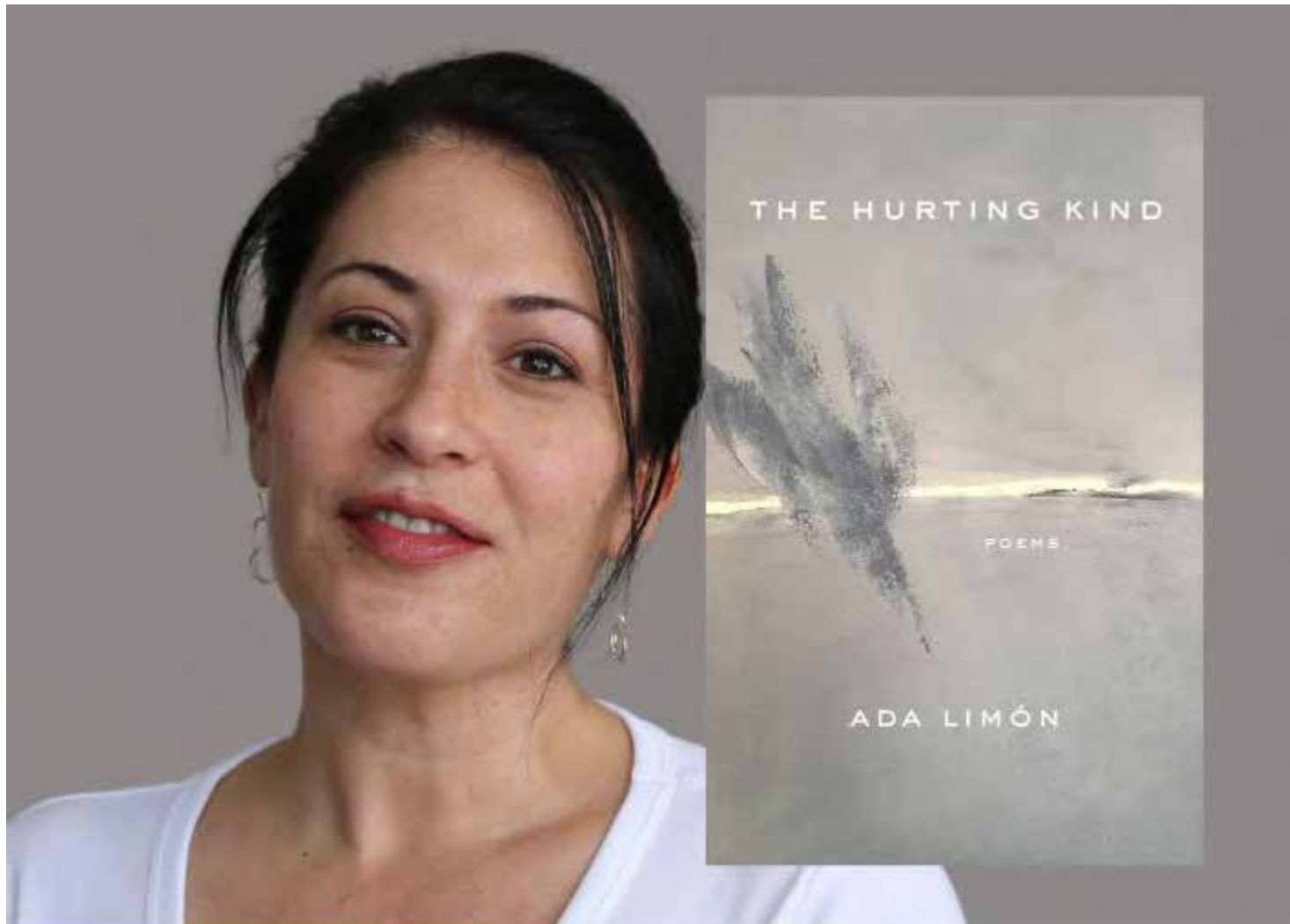
BOOKS

Shana Ross, Laura Murillo among the authors at Houston book events this week

By the Book celebrates women's stories with a special event at Discovery Green, featuring Laura Murillo, Shana Ross and Houston Chronicle's Culture Columnist Joy Sewing.



Ana Khan | March 5, 2023 updated: March 6, 2023, 9:04 am



U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón.

Photo: Photo by Lucas Marquardt

MONDAY

Ada Limón: The U.S. Poet Laureate will read from her new collection, "The Hurting Kind," followed by an onstage conversation with Roberto Tejada, author of the poetry collection "Why the Assembly Disbanded." The evening will conclude with a book sale and signing. 7:30-9 p.m., tickets \$5, the Ballroom at Bayou Place, 500 Texas; inprinthouston.org

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Inprint Mohsin Hamid Reading

2022
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**Inprint
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IN-PERSON EVENT

MONDAY
August 1, 2022
7:30 PM CT

Mohsin Hamid

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Inprint Mohsin Hamid Reading

Join Inprint in person or online for the launch of the **2022-2023 Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series**, featuring Booker Prize finalist and *New York Times* bestselling author **Mohsin Hamid**.

From the author of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*, and *Exit West* comes the new novel ***The Last White Man***, “an emotionally gut-punching exploration of race, privilege, grief, and white anxiety” (*Mother Jones*). About the book, Ayad Akhtar writes, “*The Last White Man* is perhaps Hamid’s most remarkable work yet...an extraordinary vision of human possibility.”

For \$5 tickets or more information, visit inprinthouston.org.

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From the New York Times bestselling author of *Exit West* comes “an emotionally gut-punching exploration of race, privilege, grief, and white anxiety.” To spend a summer evening with Booker Prize finalist Mohsin Hamid sharing his new novel *The Last White Man*, visit inprinthouston.org for \$5 tickets.

2022
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Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series



IN-PERSON EVENT
MONDAY
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Mohsin Hamid

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FEATURING BOOKER
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HAMID



MONDAY

August 1, 2022

7:30 PM

(DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 PM)

Hubbard Stage, Alley Theatre

Join Inprint for the launch of the 2022/2023 Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series, featuring Booker Prize finalist and *New York Times* bestselling author **MOHSIN HAMID**. From the author of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*, and *Exit West* comes Hamid's new novel *The Last White Man*, "an emotionally gut-punching exploration of race, privilege, grief, and white anxiety" (*Mother Jones*). The program will include a brief reading, an on-stage conversation with celebrated Houston author **CHITRA BANERJEE DIVAKARUNI**, and a book sale and signing.

"Hamid is one of his generation's most
inventive and gifted writers"

— *The New York Times*

"Hamid reminds us yet again that fiction sometimes
provides the most direct path to truth."

— *BookPage*

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ABDULRAZAK GURNAH SEPTEMBER 19, 2022	ADA LIMÓN MARCH 6, 2023
JAVIER ZAMORA OCTOBER 3, 2022	LEILA MOTTLEY APRIL 17, 2023
MAGGIE O'FARRELL OCTOBER 10, 2022	ABRAHAM VERGHESE MAY 8, 2023

FOR SEASON TICKETS & DETAILS inprint.org

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For season tickets and details, head to inprint.org.

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Season tickets include signed books, reserved seating, free parking, online rebroadcast access, and other benefits. For tickets and more information, visit inprinthouston.org.



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MUSIC

Rodney Crowell gets lyrical

Songwriter's 'Word for Word' offers context, edits and insights into his songs



Joseph Llanes

Rodney Crowell gives readers a firsthand look at how he wrote some of his hit songs in the new book "Word for Word."

By Andrew Dansby
STAFF WRITER

Rodney Crowell cut his path long ago. The new "Word for Word" is his second book, but he is, at age 72, comfortable with what he's meant to do.

"It's pretty obvious to me that the only line of work that's a natural fit for me," he says, "is writing songs."

The subject of how Crowell expresses himself through writing creates tangles because Crowell's "Chinaberry Sidewalks" — a memoir published more than a decade ago — possessed a poetic yet naturalistic tone as he described growing up in Jacinto City and Houston, raised by two distinctive parents who lived and loved with equal and combative fervor.

"Word for Word," out Sept. 13, is a valuable next offering from Crowell. Though the songwriter asks for clarification about the concept of an "origin story," he has written two books now that serve as such.

"Chinaberry Sidewalks" covers a more vague Peter Parker-type tale.

"My parents, with their genetic predispositions and personalities, were part of how I expressed myself," Crowell says. "My father, who loved to sing, and my mother, who loved to make (expletive) up."

With great creativity comes great responsibility.

"That laid the groundwork for me becoming a songwriter," he says of his raising.

"Word for Word" doesn't pick up from "Chinaberry Sidewalks" — not exactly — at least not in a manner of a linear timeline. There are in-

troductory remarks in this lovingly assembled book of lyrics. The book also includes short pieces written by Crowell to offer context for a creative life that rose above ordinary.

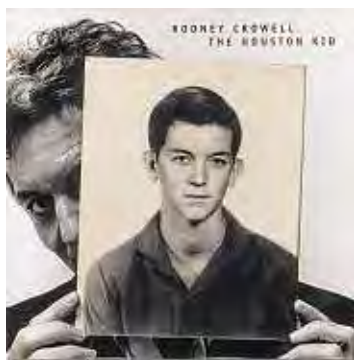
The craft of songwriting

The book tells the tale of a songwriter who has enjoyed both acclaim and commercial success. While it doesn't start at the end — because the end continues to be written — "Word for Word" begins much closer to the end than the beginning.

One of the first songs presented is "The Flyboy and the Kid." The song effortlessly prompts contemplation. It's "May you..." construct tips to Bob Dylan's "Forever Young," which likely had some lyrical ancestor. My initial reading was that the song was about Guy Clark — a creative mentor who died in 2016, two years after the song appeared on Crowell's "Tarpaper Sky" album. But it doesn't really matter because the song sings from any of us to any of those who offered some sliver of guidance along a turbulent and twisting flight path.

Crowell is quick to offer admiration for later albums by Dylan or Leonard Cohen. He does not subscribe to the notion that radiant youth creates the best songs, necessarily. Rather, songwriting is a craft of repetition, editing and wisdom. He'll play his numerous 1980s hits for fans at shows, and those songs don't cause him any sort of creative anguish.

But he says, "I've worked harder and more consistently over the past 20 years of my career than the first 20 years.

RODNEY CROWELL**When:** 8 p.m. Oct. 18**Where:** Heights Theater, 339 W. 19th**Details:** \$38; theheightstheater.com

Courtesy photo

Rodney Crowell released the album "The Houston Kid" in 2001.

... The fact that time is finite, that makes the work a blessing. It's not about getting noticed or ego gratification or trying to meet a girl."

"Word for Word," to its credit, does not polish a four-decade career. Crowell offers up images of lyric sheets that reveal a labored self-editing process. The passage of time — Crowell was writing songs in the early '70s and put out his first album in 1978 — means even he can be surprised by what he found in his notebooks or, as he puts it, "note pads and airplane barf bags."

Crowell admits he, too, is surprised, that he's still in possession of seemingly disposable scraps from his past. Fortunately, he also possesses a curiosity about those scraps.

"Honestly, I looked at a couple of old lines on old notepads

and thought, 'Why did I throw that out?' " he says. "There were times I wasn't sure I replaced it with a better choice.

"But what's done is done. And most of the time, the edits were for the best."

A more fulfilling path

That sort of finality doesn't apply to the arc of Crowell's career, though. His debut album came out in 1978, and a decade later he put out "Diamonds and Dirt," a hit-filled bully of a record that took him from respected songwriter to country music star.

But the '90s were less kind commercially, and by 2001, the measure for success had changed. Crowell that year released "The Houston Kid," a reflective album about his youth here. It made no gestures toward mainstream radio play but drew overwhelming acclaim for the quality of the writing.

Crowell has since released more records than his youthful peak period, with songs that don't find their way to mainstream country radio. But he found a more fulfilling path. Today — and for two decades now — he can intersperse old favorites with songs that make him prouder as a writer.

Because of the arc of his career, Crowell can also take a longer view of his work. One of the first songs he wrote to get recorded was "Bluebird Wine," which Emmylou Harris covered in the '70s. Crowell didn't get around to recording it until the 21st century. He refers to "Shame on the Moon," a tune he cut in the early 1980s, as "still unresolved."

While Crowell's more recent work has certainly landed with

those who admire and appreciate a well-crafted song piece of lyric writing, one of the great services provided by "Word for Word" is presentation of his '90s songs — those that got lost between the cushions of his youthful and venerable successes.

"Jewel of the South" is a song that escaped my attention, despite my affinity for Crowell's work. Its opening line is equal parts elegant and evocative. Crowell flings open the gate to possibilities for where the song might go: "One fine morning when the wild geese fly/I'm taking my chances on the sunny side."

Crowell doesn't go into details in the book, as he does in so many of the other songs. But asked about it, he offers the sort of memory and reflection that course throughout "Word for Word."

"I think that couplet came right away," he says. "The next line or two, I did some sculpting to get to that."

Crowell sings a bit of the song to remind himself of the machinery of his own creation that propels his own musical flying machine.

He points out a later line — "One fine morning and it won't be long" — could have started the song.

"I've thought about that song long after the fact," Crowell says. "Especially the past year and a half of touring. I open some shows with that song. And I get to the third verse. I have a little chuckle inside thinking, I'm giving them this opening line.

"And it's in the last verse."

andrew.dansby
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MONDAY
September 12, 2022
7:30 PM

Ballroom at Bayou Place

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Crying in the Bathroom
A Memoir
Erika L. Sánchez
I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter

Join Inprint in person or online for a reading on September 12 featuring **Erika L. Sánchez**, National Book Award finalist for her debut novel *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*.

Erika comes to Houston to share her new memoir *Crying in the Bathroom*, a book of brilliant essays that “feel like a conversation with a good friend” about her lifelong battle with depression, falling in love with comedy, connecting to Buddhism, making it as a Mexican American writer, getting an abortion, and more.

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RARE PUBLIC APPEARANCE

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Inprint Javier Zamora Reading

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**JAVIER
ZAMORA**

Solito
JAVIER ZAMORA

MONDAY
October 3, 2022
7:30 PM

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Ballroom at Bayou Place

Join Inprint in person or online for a reading on October 3 featuring Javier Zamora, the first-ever Salvadoran to make the *New York Times* bestseller list, with his new memoir *Solito*.

Solito was just named a Jenna's Book Club Pick and tells the heartbreaking story of how Zamora migrated alone from El Salvador to the US at the age of nine. According to Sandra Cisneros, *Solito* is "the mythic journey of our era.... I have waited decades for a memoir like *Solito*." The *Los Angeles Times* adds, "Zamora's storytelling is crafted with stunning intimacy, and you'll feel so close to the boy he was then that you'll think about him long after the book is done. It's impossible not to feel both immersed in and changed by this extraordinary book."

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FEATURING NEW YORK
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AUTHOR OF HAMNET

MAGGIE O'FARRELL



MONDAY

October 10, 2022

7:30 PM

Cullen Performance Hall
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

MAGGIE O'FARRELL comes to Houston to share her new novel *The Marriage Portrait*, "a beguiling tale of power, politics, and one woman's fight for agency" set in Renaissance Italy

(*The Globe and Mail*). "Full of the same kinds of intense details that made *Hamnet* come alive," *The Marriage Portrait* follows young duchess Lucrezia de' Medici as she makes her way in a troubled marriage and unfamiliar court. The program will include a brief reading, an on-stage conversation with former *Houston Chronicle* book editor Maggie Galehouse, and a book signing.

"You may know the history, and you may think you know what's coming, but don't be so sure.... O'Farrell is one of the most exciting novelists alive."

— *The Washington Post*

"O'Farrell demonstrates fiction's ability to offer counter narratives to those of received history, to open before us imaginative abundance and a tremulous sense of possibility."

— *The Boston Globe*

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**MAGGIE
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MEET THE AUTHOR

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ADA LIMÓN



MONDAY

March 6, 2023

7:30PM

Ballroom at Bayou Place

ADA LIMÓN, 2022-2023 U. S. Poet Laureate, is the author of six poetry collections, including *Lucky Wreck*, *This Big Fake World*, National Book Award finalist *Bright Dead Things*, National Book Critics Circle Award winner *The Carrying*, and her latest *The Hurting Kind*.

"Ada Limón is a poet who connects. Her accessible, engaging poems ground us in where we are and who we share our world with. They speak of intimate truths, of the beauty and heartbreak that is living, in ways that help us move forward."

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Our first author studied under Toni Morrison and Joyce Carol Oates during his time at Princeton. No wonder his debut novel was shortlisted for the Booker Prize!



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He told his Harvard Law School professor he wanted to write a novel about a trial for his thesis. Have you read it? 📖📖📖



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For several years, our first author worked as a management consultant in New York and London while writing on the side. In 2015, he was appointed the firm's first-ever Chief Storytelling Officer!



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His latest novel is structured in the form of a self-help book, an idea that started out as a joke between friends. Any guesses?



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One of his books was tuned into a film starring Riz Ahmed, Liev Schreiber, Kate Hudson, and Keifer Sutherland. We hear a lot of it was shot in Delhi? 🇮🇳🇮🇳🇮🇳



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🥁 Drum roll please 🥁 Mohsin Hamid will be visiting Houston in just a few short weeks to share his new novel *The Last White Man!*

📅 August 1, 2022



Last time Booker Prize finalist Mohsin Hamid visited Houston, he shared his "daringly original" third novel *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*. Raise your hand if you were there in 2014! 🥁🥁🥁

To meet Mohsin Hamid this Monday, visit inprinthouston.org.



THE NEW YORKER
THE FACE IN THE MIRROR
By Mohsin Hamid



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For more advice from Erika about building your career



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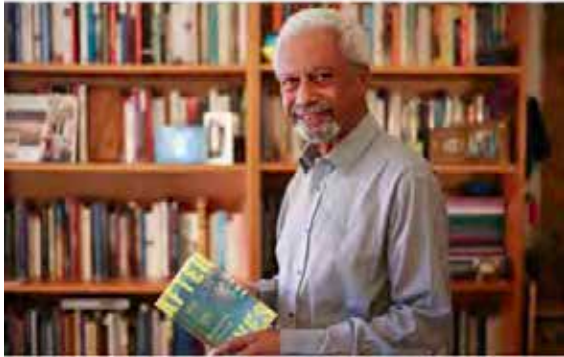


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Houstonia. Upcoming Houston Book Events You Won't Want to Miss

Nobel Prize winners, local authors, and book conventions await you.
By Alesia Partin@inpr



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inprinthouston 2021 Nobel Prize winner Abdulrazak Gurnah will be with us in just a few days! To learn more about his tenth novel Afterlives, visit inprint.org.
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inprinthouston ICYMI: Inprint Executive Director Rich Levy and Inprint Associate Director Krupa Parikh chat about all things bookish! For more information about our upcoming readings, visit inprint.org.

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ivanbrave_ 🔥 Line up

September 14

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JAVIER ZAMORA

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Solito

MONDAY
October 3, 2022
7:30 PM

Ballroom at Bayou Place

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Oct 3

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2 likes

inprinthouston Javier Zamora's new memoir *Solito* tells the heartbreaking story of how he migrated alone from El Salvador to the US at the age of 9. Join us on October 3rd for the first-ever Salvadoran account of "what it takes to reach the border, cross it on foot, and survive" (Carolyn Forché). \$5 tickets on sale at the link in our bio!



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Calling all book people! It's time to try your hand at guessing the third author in our 42nd season. #InprintBigReveal 🍷🍷🍷

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Our third author wrote a memoir about her 17 near-death experiences, which includes giving the slip to a man who later strangled another woman on the same hiking path.



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As a kid, she suffered from acute encephalitis and she still sometimes sees things upside down.



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Her latest novel follows a young duchess making her way in 16th-century Florence. Sound familiar?



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At the age of 16, she borrowed a real human skull from her high school's biology lab to complete her Shakespeare costume. 🤖🤖



Inprint @InprintHouston · 6/30/22
You're on a roll! This fall, Maggie O'Farrell brings us the new novel The Marriage Portrait and we can hardly contain our excitement.

📅 October 10, 2022



Inprint @InprintHouston · 6/30/22
Join us after the long weekend for another round of author clues! 🤖🤖🤖🤖



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INPRINT MARGARET ROOT BROWN 22/23 READING SERIES

FEATURING BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF HAMNET

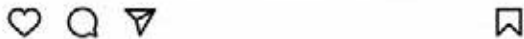
MAGGIE O'FARRELL

MONDAY
October 10, 2022
7:30 PM

inprint Culican Performance Hall, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Today at 7:30 PM CT

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inprinthouston If you loved the international bestseller #Hamnet, come out tomorrow night to hear Maggie O'Farrell talk about her latest literary adventure! History nerds, we're looking at you. *****

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Review: 'The Marriage Portrait' is a Renaissance page-turner that brings a murdered duchess back to life

Chris Vognar, Correspondent

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inprinthouston When Irish novelist Maggie O'Farrell found out about the mysterious death of real-life duchess Lucrezia de' Medici, she couldn't help but ask "What story does she have to tell us?"

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The Washington Post

In Maggie O'Farrell's 'The Marriage Portrait,' matrimony leads to death

Review by Ron Charles

Today at 7:30 PM CT

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inprinthouston According to Ron Charles for the @washingtonpost, Maggie O'Farrell is "one of the most exciting novelists alive."

To get a glimpse into Renaissance Italy and the life of young duchess Lucrezia de' Medici, visit inprint.org for

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inprinthouston Now that you're hooked, join us tonight at 7:30 pm for a reading with the marvelous Maggie O'Farrell in conversation with Maggie Galehouse! Tickets still available at inprint.org.

#maggieofarrell #themarriageportrait #hamnet #iamiamiam #nationalbookcriticscircleaward #irishwriter #houstonevents #houston #authorevents #booksigning #literaryhouston #inprintmargarettrootbrownreadingseries #inprint #thismustbetheplace



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inprintheouston Today's weather is perfect for reading poetry. We don't make the rules!

October 19

CityBook

CULTURE

Inprint Hosts a Pair of Beloved Poet Laureates at Rice

Chris Becker / Nov. 11, 2022



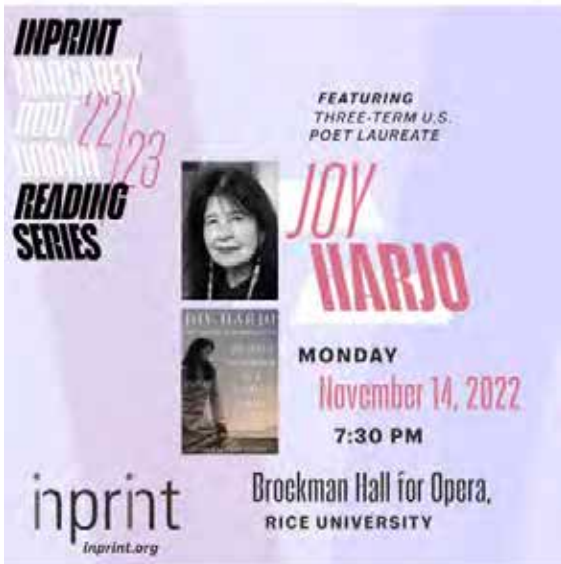
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inprintheouston U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo x Texas Poet Laureate Lupe Mendez = 🔥🔥🔥



16 likes

culturemaphou The first Native American to hold the position of U.S. Poet Laureate is coming to Houston on November 14! Renowned writer Joy Harjo will read from her new poetry collection Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light: 50 Poems for 50 Years, followed by an on-stage conversation with Lupe Mendez, 2022 Texas Poet Laureate. The evening will conclude with a book sale and signing. Link in bio for \$5 tickets and more information.

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Rice University News @RiceUNews

On Monday at the @ShepherdSchool's Brockman Hall for Opera, the @InprintHouston series brings former U.S. Poet Laureate @JoyHarjo to the stage for a reading and discussion with Texas Poet Laureate @thepoetmendez. houstoncitybook.com/inprint-housto... #poetry #poets #Houston #HoustonTX #Texas




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The Washington Post
 'The Sense of Wonder' puts a fictional spin on Jeremy Lin's ascendance
 Review by [Ron Charles](#) January 11, 2023



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inprinthouston "What Salesses does here is a remarkable feat of artistic prowess that somehow blends the themes of K-drama with the spectacle of sports drama in a way that resets our frame of


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salon
 22 books we're looking forward to in 2023
 By [ALISON STINE](#) - [HANH NGUYEN](#) JANUARY 1, 2023



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inprinthouston According to [@salonofficial](#), "You get the feeling that PEN/Faulker finalist Matthew Salesses was made for this moment, for this particular story."


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MATTHEW SALESSES INTERVIEW
 Houston Matters
 with Michael Hagerty




0:43

2:19 -1:21

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inprinthouston "What really appealed to me is that I could write a book about K-drama and then legitimately call it research." — Former Houstonian & [@uhcwp](#) grad Matthew Salesses for [@houstonmatters](#)

Inprint @InprintHouston · 7/7/22
Replying to @InprintHouston
Our fifth author is currently reading 10 books simultaneously, each in 15-page increments. Who can relate?

Inprint @InprintHouston · 7/7/22
She moved to the US at the age of 22 to study immunology. 🌱🌱🌱 Soon enough she found herself in a writing workshop led by Marilynne Robinson!

Inprint @InprintHouston · 7/7/22
She writes in English, even though her first language is Chinese.

Inprint @InprintHouston · 7/7/22
Any chance you recognize the new book cover? 🤔🤔🤔



Inprint @InprintHouston · 7/7/22
During the pandemic, she started a virtual book club on Leo Tolstoy's War and Peace.

Inprint @InprintHouston · 7/7/22
NEXT UP 📖 Our sixth author always wanted to write a novel that switched between two worlds like in Zelda: Ocarina of Time.

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Replying to @InprintHouston
Can you decode this anagram? Sweetmeats Slash

Inprint @InprintHouston · 7/7/22
He was adopted from Korea at the age of 2. Ideas anyone?

Inprint @InprintHouston · 7/7/22
His new novel is about an Asian American basketball star who shocks the world and a film producer trying to bring K-drama to America.

Inprint @InprintHouston · 7/7/22
Our sixth author taught Inprint Writers Workshops for several years and was known to stick giant post-it notes around the room for mapping out revisions.

Inprint @InprintHouston · 7/7/22
Great guessing everyone! Yiyun Li & Matthew Salesses will be visiting the Bayou City to chat about their new novels The Book of Goose and The Sense of Wonder. 🤔🤔🤔

📅 January 23, 2023



👍👍👍👍👍


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The Guardian
Yiyun Li: 'I'm not that nice friendly Chinese lady who writes... Being subversive is important to me'
 Claire Armitstead



Jan 23

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Liked by chrisccander and 28 others

inprinthouston Chinese American author Yiyun Li has never gravitated toward the narratives that are the most convenient. To learn more about her latest novel on devotion and deception, visit the link in our bio!


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The New York Times
Why Write? Yiyun Li's New Novel Explores Our Urge to Invent.
 By Megan O'Grady



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Liked by cedilnik and 23 others

inprinthouston "Li, of course, has never been the kind of writer who tells you what you want to hear, and this is surely part of why she has become, while still... more


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TIME
The 10 Best Fiction Books of 2022
 BY ANNABEL GUTTERMAN
 DECEMBER 5, 2022 10:34 AM EST




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Liked by nick_a1meida and 21 others

inprinthouston Yiyun Li's new release *The Book of Goose* is the story of fate, art, influence, and intimacy between childhood best friends. To get 10% off on this "cutting portrait of girlhood," visit [@brazosbookstore](#) this Christmas and use the discount code INPRINT.

melyiswritingagain @zullycuellar

inprinthouston and brazosbookstore
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0:28

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👤👤 Liked by bloomsdayliterary and 48 others

inprinthouston "In order to find joy, we have to move through grief and sorrow." — U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón


To explore this idea together, reserve your seats to Ada Limón's Inprint appearance on March 6th at the link in our bio!

robinreagler ♥️

jessehookgrips Love that smile ♥️

February 13

inprinthouston
The Ballroom at Bayou Place



INPRINT
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FEATURING
THE FIRST LATINA
U.S. POET LAUREATE

ADA LIMÓN

MONDAY
March 6, 2023
7:30 PM

Ballroom at Bayou Place

inprint
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👤👤 Liked by cedilnik and 32 others

inprinthouston This Women's History Month, come meet the first Latina U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón! \$5 tickets at inprint.org.

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ADA LIMÓN INTERVIEW 0:40

Houston Matters
with Michael Hagerty

2:19 -1:21

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👤👤 Liked by cedilnik and 15 others

inprinthouston Did you catch U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón on @houstonmatters yesterday in advance of her Inprint appearance?

Tune in for a great conversation about reconnecting with nature, finding joy in the little things, and leaning

inprinthouston
Alley Theatre



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👤👤 Liked by cedilnik and 41 others

inprinthouston Who remembers seeing U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón in 2017 for the release of Bright Dead Things??? We can't wait to have her back in Houston this Monday!

Get your \$5 tickets at inprint.org.