



# July 2019 Events

Monday, July 8 / 6:00pm

**Linda Holmes**

*Evvie Drake Starts Over: A Novel*

in conversation with MARGARET H. WILLISON

\$6 tickets

@ the Brattle Theatre | 40 Brattle St.

NPR pop culture correspondent Linda Holmes discusses her debut novel, in which widow Evvie Drake and baseball player Dean Tenney reckon with their pasts as their unexpected friendship turns into something more.

She'll be joined in conversation by librarian and cultural advisory savant Margaret H. Willison.

*"I was utterly charmed—this book shows us that just because you're broken doesn't mean you can't be put back together again. You'll want to stay cozied up with these delightful, unique, and incredibly human characters long after you turn the last page."*

—Doree Shafir, author of *Startup*

Monday, July 8 / 7:00pm

**Charles Fishman**

*One Giant Leap:*

*The Impossible Mission That Flew Us to the Moon*

@ Harvard Book Store

Acclaimed writer Charles Fishman discusses his latest book—the definitive, behind-the-scenes account of the furious race to complete one of mankind's greatest achievements: putting humans on the moon.

*"The best Apollo anniversary treatment I've seen so far. . . This is a book worth careful reading."* —John M. Logsdon, author of *John F. Kennedy and the Race to the Moon*

Tuesday, July 9 / 7:00pm

**Brenda Wineapple**

*The Impeachers:*

*The Trial of Andrew Johnson and the Dream of a Just Nation*

@ Harvard Book Store

Renowned historian Brenda Wineapple discusses her latest book: a timely exploration of the dangerously precarious political climate left in the wake of Lincoln's assassination and the figures involved in the first-ever impeachment of a sitting American president.

*"In this superbly lyrical work, Brenda Wineapple has plugged a glaring hole in our historical memory through her vivid and sweeping portrayal of President Andrew Johnson's 1868 impeachment . . . A landmark study."* —Ron Chernow

Thursday, July 11 / 7:00pm

**Rachel Barenbaum**

*A Bend in the Stars: A Novel*

New Voices in Fiction

@ Harvard Book Store

Debut author Rachel Barenbaum discusses her new novel, a sweeping epic about two brilliant Jewish siblings caught up in the turmoil of looming war—and impending solar eclipse—in 1914 Russia. This event is co-sponsored by GrubStreet.

*"With the timelessness of a folk tale, the twists and turns of an adventure story, and the pleasures of a science thriller, A Bend in the Stars both fills the reader's heart and keeps it beating fast."* —Christopher Castellani

Friday, July 12 / 7:00pm

**Viken Berberian**

*The Structure is Rotten, Comrade*

@ Harvard Book Store

Acclaimed writer Viken Berberian discusses his new graphic novel: a witty and satiric art comic about an Armenian architect's obsession with Brutalist design at the expense of all else—even inciting revolution.

*"This bizarre art-comic will tickle intellectual funny bones."* —Publishers Weekly

Monday, July 15 / 7:00pm

**Roberto Sirvent and Danny Haiphong**

*American Exceptionalism and*

*American Innocence:*

*A Peoples' History of Fake News—From the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror*

@ Harvard Book Store

Professor Roberto Sirvent and activist, writer, and scholar Danny Haiphong discuss their new book: an examination of the stories we're told about the U.S. as a force of global good, and the centuries of evidence to the contrary we're encouraged to overlook.

*"Danny Haiphong and Roberto Sirvent are two of the most courageous and truthful intellectuals in the belly of the U.S. imperial beast! . . . This book keeps alive so much of the best of the radical tradition in the neo-fascist age of Trump!"* —Cornel West

Tuesday, July 16 / 7:00pm

**Liza Wieland**

*Paris, 7 A.M.:*

*A Novel*

@ Harvard Book Store

Acclaimed novelist, short story writer, and poet Liza Wieland discusses her new novel—a reimagining of the time Elizabeth Bishop spent in Paris as a young woman in 1937, where she and her friends find adventure in the rebellion fomenting against the spreading threat of Nazism.

*"Liza Wieland, in this rendering, captures a sensibility that is believable as Bishop's, complete with its sometimes acerbic lucidity, its wit, and crystalline precision of mind. Paris, 7 A.M. stands with works like Colm Toibin's The Master in its startlingly credible rendition of the inner life of a great artist of our time."* —Madison Smartt Bell, author of *Master at the Crossroads and Devil's Dream*

Wednesday, July 17 / 7:00pm

**Courtney Maum**

*Costalegre:*

*A Novel*

in conversation with MICHELLE HOOVER  
@ Harvard Book Store

Critically acclaimed author Courtney Maum discusses her new novel, about an heiress and art collector who spirits her favorite Surrealists away from Europe on the brink of WWII to the Mexican jungle, and her neglected, love-starved teenage daughter.

She'll be joined in conversation by Michelle Hoover, head of GrubStreet's Novel Incubator Program.

*"[Costalegre] is a marvel: so lively, intimate, and strange you don't read so much as dream the voice and visions of Lara, our 15 year old narrator. . . This is an unforgettable book, by a writer who proves on these pages that she can do anything."* —Julie Buntin, author of *Marlena*

Thursday, July 18 / 7:00pm

**Pablo Medina**

*The Cuban Comedy:*

*A Novel*

in conversation with ALICE HOFFMAN  
@ Harvard Book Store

Acclaimed poet, novelist, and translator Pablo Medina discusses his latest novel: a humorous, Kafkaesque study of post-revolutionary life in 1960s Cuba, seen through the eyes of Elena, a rural girl who longs to become a poet.

He'll be joined in conversation by celebrated local writer Alice Hoffman, author of *Practical Magic*.

*"Medina has written a novel in which one could lose one's self, just as the aspiring poet, Elena, is embroiled in the chaos of one of the most compelling moments in Cuban history. The prose is classic Medina: rich, insightful, and delectable."* —Angie Cruz, author of *Dominicana*

# July 2019 Events, *continued*

Friday, July 19 / 7:00pm

## Daphne Kalotay

*Blue Hours: A Novel*

in conversation with RISHI REDDI

@ Harvard Book Store

Award-winning author Daphne Kalotay discusses her new novel, in which a reclusive New England woman goes on a journey to Afghanistan to search for a missing friend who she hasn't spoken to in decades.

She'll be joined in conversation by acclaimed writer and environmental attorney Rishi Reddi.

*"Only a book this good could move so well from the intensities of youth to the disasters of the global world—love's joys and miscalculations from the East Village to Afghanistan. Beautifully written, Blue Hours did that rarest of things: it took me places I never expected to go."*

—Joan Silber, author of *Improvement*

Monday, July 22 / 7:00pm

## David Blair and Steve Almond

*Walk Around:*

*Essays on Poetry and Place*  
and

*William Stoner and the Battle for the Inner Life*

@ Harvard Book Store

Award-winning poet David Blair and bestselling author Steve Almond discuss their new works of literary criticism: an engaging, wide-ranging collection of essays about the poetics of everyday life, and an examination of the importance of John Williams's seminal novel *Stoner* to American culture and to Almond's own personal experience.

*"David Blair has a wild, restless imagination and he uses language like a saw, a hammer, a velvet whip. His music, his diction, his refusal to use (ever!) clichés, his syntax all drive hearts forward."* —Thomas Lux

*"A brilliant, sorrowful, hopeful, hilarious, painfully honest love letter, not just to Stoner but to writing, marriage, teaching, reading, parenting, even death. Which makes this book, like the one it praises, a love letter to life."*  
—Matthew Zapruder

Tuesday, July 23 / 7:00pm

## Safi Bahcall

*Loonshots:*

*How to Nurture the Crazy Ideas That Win Wars, Cure Diseases, and Transform Industries*

@ Harvard Book Store

Acclaimed physicist and biotech entrepreneur Safi Bahcall discusses his debut book, which investigates the scientific concept of phase transitions and how they can provide a framework for rethinking everything we thought we knew about group behavior and the roots of radical change.

*"A wonderful book that explores the beauty, quirkiness and complexity of ideas, Loonshots will both educate and entertain you. If you care about ideas—especially new and out-of-the-box ones—you need to read this book."* —Siddhartha Mukherjee

Wednesday, July 24 / 7:00pm

## Dan Albert

*Are We There Yet?:*

*The American Automobile Past, Present, and Driverless*

@ Harvard Book Store

Author and historian of tech culture Dan Albert discusses his debut book, which combines historical scholarship with personal narrative to examine how car culture has suffused America's DNA.

*"[Albert's] wise, funny, erudite tour of the American car and road is part memoir, part history, part polemic. All of it is necessary. It's like taking a long drive through the twentieth century with someone who can actually identify the sights."* —Keith Gessen

Thursday, July 25 / 7:00pm

## John James

*The Milk Hours: Poems*

@ Harvard Book Store

Max Ritvo Prize-winning poet John James discusses his debut collection, an elegant exploration of what it means to exist within a state of loss and in a time of profound global and personal upheaval.

*"The poetry of the earth is intensely alive in the poems of John James. . . . Out of the sorrowful fragments of personal history, [he] has created a book of unusual intelligence and beauty."* —Henri Cole

Sunday, July 28 / 7:00pm

## The Harvard Square Book Circle

discusses James Baldwin's

*Giovanni's Room*

@ Harvard Book Store

Our in-store book club discusses James Baldwin's groundbreaking novel about love and the fear of love.

Monday, July 29 / 7:00pm

## Sam Bett

*Star* by Yukio Mishima

in conversation with DANIEL JOSEPH

Works in Translation

@ Harvard Book Store

Award-winning translator Sam Bett discusses his experience translating Yukio Mishima's novel—a portrait of a celebrity coming apart at the seams—for an English-speaking audience. He'll be joined in conversation by musician and translator Daniel Joseph.

*"This little novella gives a bang-filled rush, reflecting on the empty deceit of fame and the psychology of celebrity. Once you're on top of the world, can you ever escape it?"* —Literary Hub

Tuesday, July 30 / 7:00pm

## Lisa Taddeo and

## Taffy Brodesser-Akner

*Three Women*

and

*Fleishman Is in Trouble: A Novel*

@ Harvard Book Store

Acclaimed writer and journalist Lisa Taddeo and *New York Times Magazine* staff writer Taffy Brodesser-Akner discuss their highly anticipated debut books: a groundbreaking effort of immersive reporting that follows three women's intimate relationships over the course of eight years, and the story of a middle-aged man trying to reconstruct the truth of his failed marriage after his ex-wife disappears.

*"I can't remember the last time a book affected me as profoundly as Three Women. Lisa Taddeo is a tireless reporter, a brilliant writer, and a storyteller possessed of almost supernatural humanity. . . . Truly, Three Women is an extraordinary offering."*  
—Elizabeth Gilbert

*"From its opening pages, Fleishman Is in Trouble is shrewdly observed, brimming with wisdom, and utterly of this moment. Not until its explosive final pages are you fully aware of its cunning ferocity. Taffy Brodesser-Akner's debut is that rare and delicious treat: a page-turner with heft."*  
—Maria Semple

Wednesday, July 31 / 7:00pm

## Sharon Marcus

*The Drama of Celebrity*

in conversation with JOSEPH REZEK

@ Harvard Book Store

Award-winning author and editor Sharon Marcus discusses her latest book, a deeply researched history of our obsession with fame that traces back to its 19th-century roots, focusing on the cult of celebrity around Sarah Bernhardt.

She'll be joined in conversation by Joseph Rezek, Director of Graduate Studies in English at Boston University.

*"A landmark book for the history of popular culture. . . . A brilliant, transformative account of the way that celebrity works."* —Deborah Cohen

*Tickets for events requiring them are available at [harvard.com/events](http://harvard.com/events). Unless otherwise noted, venues are in Cambridge.*

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