

5TH ANNIVERSARY
BAY AREA
BOOK
FESTIVAL

MAY 4 + 5, 2019
DOWNTOWN BERKELEY
225 AUTHORS • 100 SESSIONS
FREE OUTDOOR FAIR



FOR TICKETS + INFO:
BAYBOOKFEST.ORG

Brave New Worlds: Speculative Fiction, Sci Fi, and Fantasy Programming

Saturday, May 4

11:00 - 12:15

Facing the World Through Fantasy: An Interview with Justina Ireland (Florence Schwimmley Little Theater)

Justina Ireland interviewed by Alexandria Brown

"Zombies are a writer's best friend," said Justina Ireland, young adult fantasy fiction writer and author of the New York Times bestselling novel "Dread Nation." The novel explores an alternate Civil War where zombie-slaying biracial teenager Jane McKeene gets caught in a conspiracy and finds herself in a desperate fight for her life. In conversation with author and YA librarian Alexandria Brown, Ireland unpacks how she employs planet-hopping Star Wars characters, half-god assassins, and more to dig into complex questions about capitalism, science, racism, and inequality.

1:30 - 2:45

Let The World Move: Speculative Fiction From the Periphery (Veteran's Memorial Building Auditorium)

Lesley Nneka Arimah, Alice Sola Kim, Carmen Maria Machado, moderated by Namwali Serpell

"I stood at the border, stood at the edge and claimed it as central," Toni Morrison said, "Claimed it as central, and let the rest of the world move over to where I was." First and second-generation immigrant writers Lesley Nneka Arimah, Alice Sola Kim, Carmen Maria Machado, and Namwali Serpell tackle the mysterious, the wild, the terrifying, and the magical in their speculative fiction. With rich and enthralling work that defies convention, they are creating a cultural shift in the literary landscape. Presented by the UC Berkeley English Department and the Peripheral Futures Working Group.

7:00 - 9:30

Worlds of Ursula K. Le Guin: Film and Conversation (Freight & Salvage)

Arwen Curry, Annalee Newitz, Kim Stanley Robinson, David Streitfeld

"Resistance and change often begin in art. Very often in our art, the art of words," said Ursula K. Le Guin in her courageous speech upon receiving the 2014 American National Book Foundation Medal. (She called for literary freedom and condemned unbridled capitalism.) Le Guin's impact on literature can hardly be overstated. Our tribute to Le Guin, who died last year at 88, will start by screening the recent documentary about her life, "Worlds of Ursula K. Le Guin." A conversation will follow with Arwen Curry, the filmmaker; Annalee Newitz, journalist and author most recently of the novel "Autonomous"; Kim Stanley Robinson, Le Guin's friend and sci-fi legend; and David Streitfeld, reporter and author of the new compilation "Ursula K. Le Guin: The Last Interview and Other Conversations."

Sunday, May 5

11:00 - 12:15

Fierce Femmes (Florence Schwimmley Little Theater)

Zoraida Córdova, Anna-Marie McLemore, Cindy Pon, moderated by Yodassa Williams

No damsels in distress here! These powerful young women protagonists are almost as incredible as the writers who crafted them. Join Zoraida Córdova ("Bruja Born"), Anna Marie McLemore ("Blanca Y Roja"), and Cindy Pon ("Ruse") for a discussion on how their characters use their brains and brujería to devise a way out of serious danger.

11:45 - 1:00

A People's Future of the United States (The Marsh Theater)

Omar El Akkad, Charlie Jane Anders, Lesley Nneka Arimah, Justina Ireland, moderated by Vernon Kieve

The imagination is our escape hatch, our resistance weapon, and a window to warn us where our choices can lead. In this spectacular collection of speculative fiction, writers set their sights on the road ahead, with stories that challenge American mythology, release us from chokeholds of history, and give us new futures to believe in. Blending the dystopian and the utopian, the commonplace and the strange, these tales are badass: pulsing with energy and imagination, vivid with struggle and resilience.