

2023 Festival Press Releases



SANTA FE
international
LITERARY
FESTIVAL



**For Immediate Release
November 11, 2022**

**Celebrate the Power of Story
The Santa Fe International Literary Festival
May 19–21, 2023**

Santa Fe, NM—The Santa Fe International Literary Festival will take place May 19-21, 2023, bringing together world-renowned authors, thinkers, and passionate readers.

Rich in cultural diversity and creativity, Santa Fe is home to this three-day international festival dedicated to celebrating a shared love of writing and ideas. Authors will explore issues at a time of extraordinary change—in politics, race, immigration, the environment, sustainability, and more—as well as offer good old-fashioned storytelling.

With more than thirty different events, SFILF is headquartered downtown at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center. The Festival kicks off Friday evening, May 19, 2023, followed by three days of programming, including large and small lectures and conversations, and walking tours with acclaimed authors.

In addition, a weekend community stage will feature a Santa Fe youth poetry slam, as well as a range of inspired free programming featuring local youth. On Monday, festivalgoers will have a chance to experience and explore the cultural treasures and spectacular landscapes of Northern New Mexico as authors take a deep dive into captivating topics during a series of small full- and half-day excursions.

A community event calendar will feature other literary happenings around town in the days before and after the Festival, including free author signings and readings.

SFILF's fiscal sponsor is the 501(c)(3) Fractured Atlas. SFILF's founding sponsor is the Gale Family Foundation. Our founding partners include the City of Santa Fe, Collected Works Bookstore and Coffeehouse, Santa Fe Public Library, Santa Fe New Mexican, and The Authors Guild.

Tickets will go on sale in January 2023. For more information and to sign up for news updates, go to www.SFInternationalLitFest.org. To arrange for interviews and photographs, please contact Clare Hertel at 505-670-3090 or email at Clare@ClareHertelCommunications.com.

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SANTA FE
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Celebrating the Power of Story

The Santa Fe International Literary Festival Announces 2023 Lineup of Literary Stars from Near and Far

May 19–21, 2023

John Irving, Jennifer Egan, Gillian Flynn, Colum McCann, Diana Gabaldon, Namwali Serpell, Ed Yong, David Quammen, and Luis Alberto Urrea are among the featured authors

Santa Fe, NM, January 30, 2023—[The Santa Fe International Literary Festival](#) will take place May 19–21, 2023, bringing together world-renowned authors, thinkers, and passionate readers to celebrate the power of story.

The three-day festival features big-stage presentations, intimate conversations, and walking tours with literary heroes from near and far. In all, more than thirty different festival events will take place over the weekend at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center in Santa Fe’s historic downtown.

Rich in cultural diversity and creativity, including a literary tradition that stretches back centuries, this beautiful, maverick city of Santa Fe is a perfect host for the Festival. At a time of extraordinary change, when the world seems so convulsed by conflict and intolerance, authors and readers from around the world and close to home come together over the course of three remarkable days to explore a range of issues—in politics, social and racial justice, race, the environment, and much more. We believe the Santa Fe International Literary Festival should be an important light against the dark, where the power of words, ideas, and stories capture the experience of being alive in the world; where our sense of community is strengthened; and where our shared humanity is recognized and celebrated.

Colum McCann, the celebrated Irish author of *Let the Great World Spin*, winner of the National Book Award, and the global bestseller *Apeirogon*, kicks off the festival Friday evening, May 19. Also featured during the long weekend of programming will be Jennifer Egan, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Visit from the Goon Squad* and *The Candy House*; John Irving, legendary author of *The World According to Garp* and *The Cider House Rules*; Santa Fe’s own Michael McGarrity, author of the New York

(MORE)

Times bestselling Kevin Kerney crime novels; Beth Macy, renowned journalist and author of *Dopesick* and *Raising Lazarus*; Denise Chávez, of Las Cruces, a fronteriza writer, activist, and author of *The King and Queen of Comezón* and *Loving Pedro Infante*; and others.

The festival recently added “International” to its name, representing a desire to reflect the vast diversity of the world’s literary community. The 2023 festival thus hosts an impressive list of international luminaries. In addition to McCann, they include:

- The Mexico-born Luis Alberto Urrea, acclaimed author of *The Devil’s Highway* and the soon-to-be-released *Good Night, Irene*.
- Moroccan author Laila Lalami, whose 2015 book, *The Moor’s Account* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.
- Bogotá, Colombia’s Ingrid Rojas Contreras, author of *The Man Who Could Move Clouds*, a 2022 National Book Award finalist.
- Zambian American writer Namwali Serpell, Harvard University professor and author of the award-winning books *The Old Drift* and *The Furrows*.
- Ed Yong, born in Malaysia, a Pulitzer Prize–winning science writer and author of *I Contain Multitudes* and *An Immense World*.

Other festival weekend highlights include:

Community Stage and Lunch: During the Saturday and Sunday lunch hours, some of New Mexico’s most talented up-and-coming writers will perform on the festival’s Community Stage. With free admission, visitors can expect powerful slam poetry, music, riveting readings, and more. Food trucks will be on-site, and box lunches can be ordered in advance.

Remembering Rudolfo Anaya: At 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, acclaimed authors Denise Chávez and Luis Alberto Urrea present “Recuerdos y Respeto: Homage to Rudolfo Anaya,” a tribute to the legacy of the late New Mexico author Rudolfo Anaya, the celebrated godfather of Chicano literature and recipient of the National Medal of Arts. Chávez and Urrea, whose writings and perspectives are deeply influenced by Anaya, will share personal reminiscences of their friendship with the author, insights on his literary legacy, and select readings of his works.

Community Events and Literary Day Trips: On the Wednesday and Thursday before the Festival and the Monday after, enjoy numerous book signings and literary events around town. Festivalgoers will also have a chance to experience Northern New Mexico during a series of small-group full-and half-day excursions with authors exploring their favorite topics while touring cultural treasures and spectacular landscapes.

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SFILF Young Writers & Readers: The Santa Fe International Literary Festival’s pilot program partners with local schools and nonprofit organizations to help our community’s youngest writers tell their stories. We are also collaborating with local literacy nonprofits that provide free tutoring for adults in reading, writing, and speaking English. Their experience tells us that 46 percent of New Mexicans read at or below a seventh-grade level, severely impacting opportunities for employment and other areas of life. We want to help change that by spotlighting the power of story at the Festival.

For more information and for the full 2023 Santa Fe International Literary Festival program, go to www.SFinternationallitfest.org. To arrange for interviews and photographs, please contact Clare Hertel at 505-670-3090 or email at Clare@ClareHertelCommunications.com.

SFILF’s fiscal sponsor is the 501(c)(3) Fractured Atlas. Our founding sponsor is the Gale Family Foundation. Other partners include the City of Santa Fe, The Santa Fe New Mexican, Collected Works Bookstore, the Santa Fe Public Library, and New Mexico True.

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Writers Readers Thinkers



May 19–21, 2023 Santa Fe



SANTA FE
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For Immediate Release: March 1, 2023

**N. Scott Momaday, Legendary Pulitzer Prize–Winning Author, to Lead
2023 Santa Fe International Literary Festival as Honorary Chair**

A Lifetime Dedicated to the Power of Story

Santa Fe, NM—N. Scott Momaday, the preeminent Kiowa poet and Pulitzer Prize–winning author, will serve as Honorary Chair of the 2023 Santa Fe International Literary Festival, on May 19–21 at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center. The designation recognizes Momaday’s legacy as an author, storyteller, and educator who has dedicated his life to the power of language and story.

Momaday, a longtime Santa Fe resident with deep New Mexico roots, was a featured author at the inaugural Literary Festival in 2022. As Honorary Chair, he will attend this year’s festival as its most distinguished guest.

“I am truly delighted to serve as Honorary Chair of the Santa Fe Literary Festival 2023,” Momaday said. “I participated in the first festival last year and know it to have been a great success. Santa Fe has long been an important center for the arts, and the Literary Festival adds significantly to our international reputation and to our dedication to the great tradition of literature itself.”

“We couldn’t possibly be more honored to have N. Scott Momaday as not just a friend of the Festival but our Honorary Chair,” said Mark Bryant, Santa Fe International Literary Festival co-founder and chief curator. “Poet, playwright, essayist, painter, Pulitzer Prize winner, and international treasure, Scott is legend. His profound and revolutionary work—*House Made of Dawn* and *The Ancient Child*, to name just two of his many books—has inspired generations of readers and writers around the world. We’re extremely privileged to have him with us over the Festival weekend.”

Momaday was born in Oklahoma but spent most of his youth in the Southwest, most significantly at Walatowa, Jemez Pueblo, where he lived from age 12 to 17. He studied poetry at the University of New Mexico because of its kinship to the oral traditions of the Kiowa and the Towa-speaking people of Jemez. He earned his Ph.D from Stanford University and a teaching post at the University of California, Santa Barbara, followed.

In 1969, at 35, Momaday rocketed onto the international literary scene when his first novel, *House Made of Dawn*, set at Jemez Pueblo, won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. The prize elevated Momaday as the premier Native writer of the 20th century and a singular voice in American letters. He has since published 17 books, from his bestselling *The Way to Rainy Mountain*, in 1969, to *The Names*, in 1976, to 2020’s *Earth Keeper: Reflections on the American Land* and *Dream Drawings: Configurations of a Timeless Kind*, in 2022.

Today, Momaday is credited with preserving Native oral traditions and inspiring generations of Indigenous writers, scholars, and activists to stay connected to the ancestors and the land.

He is the recipient of countless international honors, including the National Medal of Arts, the nation's highest honor for lifetime achievement, and the Academy of American Poets Prize. He is also the subject of the 2019 PBS American Masters documentary *Words from a Bear*.

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Tickets are now on sale. For more information and to sign up for news updates, go to www.SFInternationalLitFest.org. To arrange for interviews and photographs, please contact Clare Hertel at 505-670-3090 or email at Clare@ClareHertelCommunications.com.

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Writers Readers Thinkers



May 19–21, 2023 Santa Fe

Event Schedule

PHOTO © JACK PARSONS

FRIDAY, MAY 19

5:00–6:15 PM **Opening Reception** All ticket holders are welcome!

6:30–8:00 PM **On the Big Stage with Colum McCann**
One of this century's finest writers and author of the bestselling, transformative *Apeirogon* and *Let the Great World Spin*. McCann will be in conversation with **Deborah Taffa**. Presented by La Fonda on the Plaza.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

8:00–9:00 AM **Morning Meditation and Author Talk with Roshi Joan Halifax**
Morning meditation and author talk with Roshi Joan Halifax, activist, author, and renowned Buddhist teacher.

9:15–10:30 AM **On the Big Stage with Jennifer Egan**
The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the modern classic *A Visit from the Goon Squad* and its new sibling novel *The Candy House*. Egan will be in conversation with **Alex Parsons**.

11:00 AM–12:15 PM **On the Big Stage with Ed Yong**
Pulitzer Prize-winning exploratory journalist and author of *An Immense World*, an ingenious look at the sensory worlds of animals, and the hugely entertaining *I Contain Multitudes*, about how the invisible world of microbes shapes our species. Yong will be in conversation with **Sandra Blakeslee**.

12:30–2:00 PM **Free Community Stage in the Courtyard**

2:00–3:00 PM
Please select one event for this time slot
On Stage with David Treuer
The bestselling author of *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee*, *Rez Life*, and several other much-admired books about the struggles to preserve Native identity and stories in a transformative era. Treuer will be in conversation with **Deborah Taffa**. Presented by *Santa Fe Magazine*.

Crime and Punishment, Cops and Journalists with Sally Denton and Michael McGarrity
Investigative reporter and nonfiction author Sally Denton and bestselling crime novelist Michael McGarrity on writing about law enforcement, criminal justice, and more.

In Conversation with Luis Alberto Urrea
The Pulitzer Prize finalist and critically acclaimed author of seventeen books, including *Good Night, Irene* and *The House of Broken Angels*, on breaking down borders instead of putting up walls. Urrea will be in conversation with **Michelle Otero**. Presented by Michael and Cindi Pettit.

SATURDAY, MAY 20 CONT.

3:30–4:30 PM

Please select one event for this time slot

In Conversation with **Laila Lalami**

The Moroccan-born winner of the American Book Award and author of *The Moor's Account* and *Conditional Citizens*, on race, immigration, and much more.

In Conversation with **Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah**

The author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Friday Black* and the awe-inspiring new novel *Chain-Gang All-Stars*, one of the year's most anticipated books.

The Village: Writing Northern New Mexico with **Stanley Crawford, Lucy Lippard, and Don J. Usner**

Three authors of classic titles on New Mexico village life—from Dixon to Chimayó to Galisteo—compare notes on the inspiration and challenge of writing about the complex communities they call home. Whether native or newcomer, their experiences and stories illuminate themes of migration, integration, and responsibility to the ancestors and the land.

4:45–5:45 PM



Spirit Tasting and Author Talk

After a short walk from the Convention Center to nearby Sazón, join Chef Fernando Olea, winner of the James Beard Award for Best Chef of the Southwest, for an adventure into the spirits of Mexico where you will learn the differences between sotol, bacanora, tequila, and mezcal. The offering includes a flight of five mezcals, two flavors of sangritas, as well as a tasting of famous moles. Luis Alberto Urrea, celebrated author of over 15 books, including *The Devil's Highway* and *The Hummingbird's Daughter*, and his wife, Cindy, will join the event as the guests of honor. *Good Night, Irene*, Urrea's newest novel, is receiving rave reviews. It will be available ahead of its May 30 official release exclusively to SFILF festivalgoers.

5:30–6:30 PM

Reception All ticket holders are welcome!

6:30–7:45 PM

On the Big Stage with **John Irving**

Literary legend; lifelong voice for social justice, feminism, and tolerance for sexual minorities; and author of seventeen books, including *The World According to Garp*, *The Cider House Rules*, and *The Last Chairlift*. Irving will be in conversation with **Douglas Preston**. Presented by The Authors Guild.

SCHEDULE CONTINUES →



Celebrate the power of story.

Books by festival authors are available to buy with your ticket purchase, and can be picked up at the festival.

And many more...

SUNDAY, MAY 21

8:00–9:00 AM

Morning Meditation and Author Talk with **Natalie Goldberg**

Morning meditation and author talk with Natalie Goldberg, legendary writing teacher and author of *Writing Down the Bones*.

9:15–10:30 AM

On the Big Stage with **Gillian Flynn**

The legendary thriller writer and author of *Sharp Objects*, *Dark Places* and the runaway international hit *Gone Girl*. Flynn will be in conversation with **Kathleen McCleery**.

11:00 AM–12:15 PM

On the Big Stage with **David Quammen**

The revered author of *Breathless*, *Spillover*, and *The Tangled Tree*, on the scientific and moral thickets of our fast-vanishing natural world. Quammen will be in conversation with **Mark Bryant**. Presented by Edelma and David Huntley.

12:30–2:00 PM

Free Community Stage in the Courtyard

2:00–3:00 PM

Please select one event for this time slot

Recuerdos y Respeto: A Tribute to Rudolfo Anaya, with **Denise Chávez** and **Luis Alberto Urrea**

A celebration of Rudolfo Anaya, the late New Mexican author of *Bless Me, Ultima*, godfather of Chicano literature, and recipient of the National Medal of Arts, the nation's highest artistic honor. Featuring reminiscences, insights, and readings of his work by two acclaimed authors. The tribute will be moderated by **Estevan Rael-Gálvez**.

On Stage with **Ingrid Rojas Contreras**

The Colombian-born National Book Award finalist and author of *Fruit of the Drunken Tree* and *The Man Who Could Move Clouds*. Contreras will be in conversation with **Marin Sardy**.

In Conversation with **Beth Macy**

The journalist and bestselling nonfiction author of *Dopesick*, the basis for the award-winning Hulu miniseries, and last year's *Raising Lazarus*, Macy's moving next installment in the defining American disaster story of our time. Macy will be in conversation with **Hampton Sides**.

3:30–4:30 PM

Please select one event for this time slot

On Stage with **Diana Gabaldon**

The internationally bestselling author of the massively popular *Outlander* and the Lord John Grey series. Gabaldon will be in conversation with **Kate Nelson**.

In Conversation with **Namwali Serpell**

The Zambian-born author of the award-winning *The Old Drift* and the elegiac masterpiece *The Furrows*, named one of the top books of 2022 by *The New York Times* and President Barack Obama. Serpell will be in conversation with **Patricia Trujillo**.

In Conversation with **Manuel Muñoz**

"Master of the short story," winner of three O. Henry Awards, and author of *The Consequences*, *Zigzagger*, and *What You See in the Dark*. Muñoz will be in conversation with **Laura Furman**.

4:45–5:45 PM



Spirit Tasting and Author Talk

After a short walk from the Convention Center, raise a glass of botanical spirits with local treasure and James Beard Cheryl Alters Jamison at Los Poblanos Farm Shop Norte. Enjoy a tasting of their specialty gin with nibbles. Jamison will share her knowledge of New Mexico cooking and the importance of farms like Los Poblanos, which has been growing and distilling botanicals on their historical farm in the village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque for two decades. Books will be available at the Farm Shop.

5:30–6:30 PM

Reception All ticket holders are welcome!

6:15–7:45 PM

On the Big Stage with **Yvon Chouinard**

Patagonia founder, alpinist, activist, and author of several books including *Let My People Go Surfing* on business, adventure, and giving away your company to help save the planet. Yvon will be in conversation with **Jon Krakauer**.

Community Events

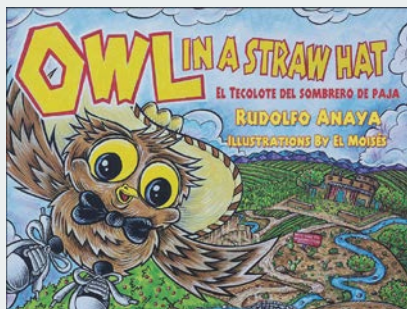
AT SANTA FE INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL



PHOTO © JACK PARSONS

FREE FAMILY AND YOUTH EVENTS AT THE FESTIVAL

In Celebration of Rudolfo Anaya



Owl in a Straw Hat / El Tecolote del Sombrero de Paja, with Denise Chávez

SATURDAY, MAY 20

3:00 PM

CONVENTION CENTER (LAMY ROOM)

Bring the family! Renowned author Denise Chávez hosts a bilingual, intergenerational reading, storytelling, and craft session for families, based on Rudolfo Anaya's popular children's book *Owl in a Straw Hat / El Tecolote del Sombrero de Paja*.

Young Writers and Readers at SFILF

ALL WEEKEND

Visit sfinternationallitfest.org/young-writers-readers for times and details

Collected Works Bookstore has curated six free events throughout the Festival for children 4 through 13, including a reading hour, and writing and poetry workshops.

LITERARY DAY TRIPS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Writing in the Wild

MONDAY, MAY 22

9:00–11:00 AM

\$125

To sign up, please email katie@katiearnold.net

Join Natalie Goldberg and Katie Arnold for a morning of walking and writing on Santa Fe's hiking trails. Together, participants will explore the connection between silence, movement, nature, and their imaginations. Walking through the natural world is a form of story-gathering and telling, as well as a moving meditation. The deeper we go into the silence of forest and mountains, the deeper we go into our own minds. Join us as we walk the trails in search of ideas and inspiration, foraging for stories.

Longtime friends and Zen practitioners, Katie and Natalie will share their way of walking in nature as a way of writing. This is a generative, process-oriented walking and writing workshop that will include periods of silence. Bring a pen and a notebook and your curiosity, as we'll be stopping often along the trail for writing exercises and prompts. All levels of hikers, walkers, and writers are welcome.

Natalie Goldberg is the renowned author of 15 books, including the international bestseller *Writing Down the Bones*, *Wild Mind*, and *Three Simple Lines*. Katie is the author of the critically acclaimed memoir *Running Home*, an ultrarunning champion, and a frequent contributor to *Outside* magazine and *The New York Times*. Her next book, *Brief Flashings in the Phenomenal World*, will be published in 2024.



Community Literary Events

THURSDAY, MAY 18 & MONDAY, MAY 22

Visit sfinternationallitfest.org/community-events for listing and details

Taking place all over town, these events will include:

- Free author talk with Tracee Stanley, author of the bestselling book *Radiant Rest*, at Living Threads Studio
- Free showing of *Bless Me Ultima* in honor of the SFILF Rudolph Anaya Tribute at the Jean Cocteau Cinema
- SITE Santa Fe hosts Radius Books events
- *and more!*

COMMUNITY STAGE

Event Programming, Food Trucks, and Box Lunches

SATURDAY, MAY 20 & SUNDAY, MAY 21

12:30–2:00 PM

CONVENTION CENTER COURTYARD

Join us for lunch, and don't miss the free community stage performances!

Some of New Mexico's most talented up-and-coming poets and writers will perform on the Festival's Community Stage. Visitors can expect powerful slam poetry, music, riveting readings, and more. **Jambo** and **Ramblin' Café** food trucks will be on-site, and box lunches can be ordered in advance.



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Recuerdos y Respeto: Homage to Rudolfo Anaya

Free readings throughout May with the Santa Fe Public Library

The Santa Fe International Literary Festival event, “Recuerdos y Respeto: Homage to Rudolfo Anaya,” on Sunday, May 21, is the inspiration behind several free public educational outreach initiatives and community collaborations intended to connect young readers, writers, and their families to Anaya’s life and writings.

National and local publishers—including Grand Central Publishing, a division of Hachette Book Group, Library of America, Museum of New Mexico Press, Rio Grande Books, University of New Mexico Press, and University of Oklahoma Press—have donated hundreds of books by Anaya to support the festival’s initiative to provide free books to participants and others in the community.

Reading Rudolfo Anaya

The Santa Fe International Literary Festival and Santa Fe Public Library celebrate the Godfather of Chicano literature with children’s story hours at various libraries, featuring guest readers presenting Anaya’s books for children.

At the Libraries:

- **The First Tortilla** and **Juan and the Jackalope** by Rudolfo Anaya
Guest Reader: Patricia Perea, poet and educator, New Mexico History Museum
Wednesday, May 3, 10:30-11:30 a.m., for preschool-aged children
Oliver La Farge Branch, 1730 Llano St.
- **The Santero’s Miracle** by Rudolfo Anaya
Guest Reader: Nicolasa Chávez, deputy New Mexico State Historian
Thursday, May 11, 10:30-11:30 a.m., for preschool-aged children
Main Library, 145 Washington Ave.
- **Serafina’s Stories** by Rudolfo Anaya
Guest Reader: Pat Mora, celebrated bilingual author, poet and literacy advocate
Saturday, May 13, 11 a.m.-Noon, for school-aged children
Southside Branch, 6599 Jaguar Dr.

- **How Chile Came to New Mexico** by Rudolfo Anaya
Guest Reader: Nicolas Otero, artist and Anaya children's book illustrator
 Tuesday, May 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m., for preschool-aged children
 Southside Branch, 6599 Jaguar Dr.

At the Festival:

- **Owl in A Straw Hat/El Tecolote del Sombrero de Paja, with SFILF Author Denise Chávez**
 Renowned author Denise Chávez, of Las Cruces, hosts a bilingual, intergenerational reading, storytelling, and craft session for families based on Rudolfo Anaya's popular children's book, *Owl in A Straw Hat/El Tecolote del Sombrero de Paja*.

Saturday, May 20, 3 p.m.

Santa Fe Community Convention Center, Lamy Room (downstairs), 201 W. Marcy St.
 Free admission; no Festival ticket required.

Jean Cocteau Cinema Presents:

Bless Me, Ultima

The Santa Fe International Literary Festival and Jean Cocteau Cinema celebrate the Godfather of Chicano literature with a free community screening of the 2012 feature film, *Bless Me, Ultima*, based on Anaya's classic 1972 novel and filmed in New Mexico. Directed by Carl Franklin and starring Luke Ganalon and Míriam Colón. PG-13.

FREE Community Screening

Monday, May 22, 6 p.m.

Jean Cocteau Cinema, 418 Montezuma Ave.

505-466-5528

Support for "Recuerdos y Respeto: Homage to Rudolfo Anaya" and related community programming is provided by AT&T, University of Oklahoma Press, Santa Fe Public Library, Friends of the Santa Fe Public Library, Grand Central Publishing (a division of Hachette Book Group), Library of America, Museum of New Mexico Press, Rio Grande Books, University of New Mexico Press, and Jean Cocteau Cinema.





Remembering Rudolfo Anaya

*Acclaimed Authors Denise Chávez and Luis Alberto Urrea
Celebrate the Godfather of Chicano Literature*

Santa Fe International Literary Festival, 2 p.m., May 21, 2023

Santa Fe, NM—Acclaimed authors Denise Chávez and Luis Alberto Urrea will pay tribute to the legacy of the late New Mexico author Rudolfo Anaya, the celebrated godfather of Chicano literature and recipient of the National Medal of Arts, at the Santa Fe International Literary Festival. The event continues the Festival’s tradition of honoring a significant New Mexico writer posthumously.

Chávez and Urrea, whose writings and perspectives are deeply influenced by Anaya, take the Festival stage with “Recuerdos y Respeto: Homage to Rudolfo Anaya” at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 21. The two will bring Anaya into the room with personal reminiscences of their friendship with the author, insights on his literary legacy, and select readings of his works.

A beloved son of Nuevo México, Anaya’s 1972 breakout novel, *Bless Me, Ultima*, transformed the literary landscape of the late 20th century with a powerful exploration of Indo-Hispano identity in the Southwest. Today, the book has sold more than two million copies in English, and more than 80,000 in Spanish, in the U.S. alone, and has been translated into several languages. The author’s subsequent contributions to the international literary canon spanned a range of genres—fiction, nonfiction, playwrighting, poetry, children’s literature, and more—increasing awareness of the political power of the Chicano movement, capturing the deeply rooted spirituality and cultural traditions of Nuevo México, and redefining the American experience for readers far beyond the Southwest.

By the end of his life in 2020, Anaya was a literary giant, recipient of the American Book

Award and the 2001 National Medal of Arts, the nation's highest honor for lifetime achievement. In a 2015 interview, shortly before receiving the National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama, he summed up his literary vision, saying, ""The heart of New Mexico is, for me, the people, la gente —los compadres, las comadres, los tíos, las tías, los vecinos. It's the connection and the understanding between my Indo-Hispano cultures. If people don't make that connection, they don't understand New Mexico.

Influencing Generations

As author, scholar, and activist, Anaya's desire to transform his mystical upbringing on the windswept llano of east central New Mexico into art, and his persistence in a mainstream publishing industry that initially rejected his bilingual expression and Chicano vision, paved the way for generations of writers, including Chávez, of Las Cruces, Anaya's close friend and protégé.

"For me, a young woman growing up in the desert of southern New Mexico, *Bless Me, Ultima* was a beacon of hope and gave me respite from the lack of seeing my own kin come to life in art and words. I thought to myself maybe someday, too, I could become a writer," Chávez said. "When I did meet Mr. Anaya and he became my mentor and teacher, I was challenged further when he asked me, point blank and without fanfare: 'So what are you going to do? Become a writer or what?'"

Today, Chávez is the American Book Award-winning author of *The King and Queen of Comezón*, *Loving Pedro Infante*, *A Taco Testimony: Meditations on Family, Food and Culture*, and *Face of an Angel*. The owner of Casa Camino Real Bookstore in Las Cruces, she is widely known as an activist for books and writers in the New Mexico borderlands, including founding and directing the Border Book Festival in Las Cruces for 20 years until 2015. She is currently director and co-founder of the Border Servant Corps project, *Libros para el Viaje/Books for the Journey*, which delivers books to refugee, migrant, and asylum-seeking children and families on the U.S.–Mexico border.

For the multi-award-winning Urrea, who was born in Tijuana to a Mexican father and American mother, Anaya's Chicano expression of a dual-culture identity was also formative. Writing in the introduction to the 2022 Library of America anthology, *Anaya: Bless Me, Ultima, Tortuga, Alburquerque*, which he edited, Urrea recalled receiving Anaya's "wise counsel on my own long novels about *curanderismo*—books I could not have written if not for his *Bless Me, Ultima*."

Anaya's influence informed Urrea's celebrated historical novels *The Hummingbird's Daughter* and *Queen of America*, which together tell the epic story of Teresita Urrea, the author's great-aunt who was a healer and Mexican folk hero. Urrea is also the author of books that span a range of genres, including *The Devil's Highway*, a nonfiction account of a group of Mexican immigrants lost in the Arizona desert, and the novels *Into the Beautiful North* and *The House of Broken Angels*. His newest novel, *Good Night, Irene*, inspired by his

mother's service in the Red Cross, will be available in advance of its May 30 publication at the Santa Fe International Literary Festival.

"Recuerdos y Respeto: Homage to Rudolfo Anaya" is also the inspiration behind several educational outreach initiatives and community collaborations intended to connect young readers, writers, and their families to Anaya's writings. The Festival and the Santa Fe Public Library will celebrate Anaya beginning May 3 with weekly children's story hours at various libraries, featuring guest readers presenting Anaya's bilingual books for children. National and local publishers have donated hundreds of books by Anaya to support the Festival's initiative to provide free books to participants in Anaya-related events at the libraries, at the Festival, and elsewhere in the community. Additionally, at 6 p.m. on May 22, the Jean Cocteau Cinema will present a free community screening of the 2012 feature film, *Bless Me, Ultima*, based on Anaya's classic 1972 novel and filmed in New Mexico.

Support for "Recuerdos y Respeto: Homage to Rudolfo Anaya" and related community programming is provided by AT&T, University of Oklahoma Press, Santa Fe Public Library, Friends of the Santa Fe Public Library, Grand Central Publishing (a division of Hachette Book Group), Library of America, Museum of New Mexico Press, Rio Grande Books, University of New Mexico Press, and Jean Cocteau Cinema.

SFILF's fiscal sponsor is the 501(c)(3) Fractured Atlas. SFILF's founding sponsor is the Gale Family Foundation. Our founding partners include the City of Santa Fe, Collected Works Bookstore and Coffeehouse, Santa Fe Public Library, Santa Fe New Mexican, and The Authors Guild.

Tickets will go on sale in January 2023. For more information and to sign up for news updates, go to www.SFInternationalLitFest. To arrange for interviews and photographs, please contact Clare Hertel at 505-670-3090 or email at clare@clarehertelcommunications.com.

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May 19–21, 2023 Santa Fe