

CityLit Project presents

CITYLIT STUDIO VII: *Writers on Craft, Creativity & Community*

CITYLIT Studio



Saturday, October 22, 2022
1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
The Clifton House

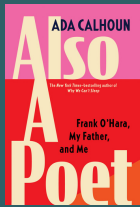


CityLit Studio VII: *Writers on Craft, Creativity, and Community*, presented as a part of **Free Fall Baltimore**, is a FREE and unique opportunity for writers to experience readings/lectures by two authors in different genres.

Participants engage in deep-dive discussions on craft and the writing process. The session includes a Q & A and book signing. Books provided by **Greedy Reads**.

The Clifton House
2605 Talbot Road, Baltimore, MD 21216

Featuring:



Ada Calhoun

"The Stories That One Must Tell: *Identifying the memoir you're destined to write*"

James Salter wrote, "There are stories that one must tell and years that one must tell them." In this studio, writers will determine the stories they need to tell now and explore how to tell them. We will discuss characters, narrative arcs, research, and style; and we will talk practically about the editorial and proposal process. Telling the stories you are here to tell is a potential gift for you and for the world. Joy Harjo says, "I believe that if you do not answer the noise and urgency of your gifts, they will turn on you, or drag you down with their immense sadness at being abandoned." A memoir done well is the best kind of service journalism—it helps other people think about their own lives, and to reflect on how they want to be human beings in the world.

Ada Calhoun is the author of **Also a Poet: Frank O'Hara, My Father, and Me**. In a rave, *The New York Times* called it a "grand-slam of a memoir." *Vogue* and *Oprah Daily* have both named it one of the best books of 2022 so far. Previous books include *The New York Times* bestseller **Why We Can't Sleep: Women's New Midlife Crisis**, about the plight of Generation X women; a collection of essays on marriage (three of which appeared in *The New York Times* Modern Love column), **Wedding Toasts I'll Never Give**; and a four-hundred-year history of the street she grew up on, **St. Marks Is Dead**, chosen as one of the best nonfiction books of 2015 by *Kirkus Reviews* and the *Boston Globe*.

<http://adacalhoun.com>



Remica Bingham-Risher

"What We're Coming To: *Cultivation, Artful Tending, Regeneration, and Sustainability*"

As we share the space of Lucille Clifton, one of the greatest American poets writing in the last century, we'll defer to her wisdom and seek to answer: How do you become "care/full" for and with yourself and your art? How do you keep moving? What strategies are there for cultivating a writing life that does not stall and suffer in the wake of all your other living? In this session, we'll focus on sustaining a creative life with generative reading and writing activities, techniques for crafting poetry or prose, holding on to community in the absence of community, and finding ways to move your work into the wider world of publishing.

Remica Bingham-Risher is a Cave Canem fellow and Afrillachian Poet. Her work has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Writer's Chronicle*, *Callaloo*, and *Essence*. She is the author of **Conversion**, winner of the Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award, **What We Ask of Flesh**, and **Starlight & Error**. In her memoir, **Soul Culture: Black Poets, Books, and Questions That Grew Me Up**, she examines cultural traditions, myths, and music from the Four Tops to Beyoncé, and reflects on the enduring gifts of art and community.

<http://www.remicabinghamrisher.com>

In partnership with **ScribeBente Maternum** and **The Clifton House**, CityLit introduces a special edition of the Studio with guest authors spending time with participants of the **Write Like a Mother Retreat**. The first in-person and Baltimore-focused event where mothers who write are front and center in the care and feeding of an artist. A retreat located in the home where renowned poet Lucille Clifton penned a few poems. Books provided by **Greedy Reads** with a special gift from **The Ivy Bookshop** for Retreat participants.

Free Fall Baltimore is made possible by the **Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts**, an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and the generous contributions of the **Maryland State Arts Council** and **BGE**.



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