

# ORCAS ISLAND LIT FEST APRIL 17 – 19 2020

*A celebration of literature  
and community in an  
inspiringly beautiful place.*  
Tickets at [www.oilf.org](http://www.oilf.org)

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

# 2020 FEATURED ARTISTS



**TIMOTHY EGAN** is the author of nine books. His book on the Dust Bowl, *The Worst Hard Time*, won the 2006 National Book Award for nonfiction. His most recent book is *A Pilgrimage to Eternity: from Canterbury to Rome in*

*Search of Faith*. Egan writes a biweekly opinion piece for *The New York Times*. As a *Times* correspondent, he shares a Pulitzer Prize. A third-generation Westerner and father of two, Mr. Egan lives in Seattle.



**NICOLA GRIFFITH** is a dual US/UK citizen living in Seattle with her wife, novelist and screenwriter Kelley Eskridge. She is the author of seven award-winning novels, including *Hild* and *So Lucky* (which both won the

Washington State Book Award), three novels about Aud Torvingen soon to be reissued by Farrar, Straus and Giroux/Picador, and is working on her eighth, *Menewood*, the sequel to *Hild*.



**KIJ JOHNSON** writes speculative and experimental fiction, and is the winner of the Hugo, Nebula, World Fantasy and Sturgeon Awards, among others. Of her writing, Ursula K. Le Guin said, “Kij Johnson has an unrivalled gift for making the unreal real and the real unreal.” Johnson teaches creative writing at the University of Kansas and novel structure in public workshops for the Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction, and divides her time between the Midwest and the West Coast.



**ARTHUR PHILLIPS** is the author of the novels *Prague*, *The Egyptologist*, *Angelica*, *The Song Is You*, *The Tragedy of Arthur*, and the newly released *The King at the Edge of the World*. *The Song Is You*, a *New York Times* Notable Book, made the *Washington Post's* best of 2009 list, and inspired *Kirkus* to write, “Phillips still looks like the best American novelist to have emerged in the present decade.” He lives in New York with his two sons.



**ROWAN RICARDO PHILLIPS** is a 2015 Guggenheim Fellow and the author of *Living Weapon; Heaven*, which was longlisted for the 2015 National Book Award; and *The Ground: Poems*, for which he received a 2013 Whiting Writers' Award, the 2013 PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award, and the 2013 Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award for Poetry. His poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *Poetry*, *Granta*, and many other publications.



**LUIS ALBERTO URREA** is a 2019 Guggenheim Fellow, a Pulitzer Prize finalist for nonfiction and the best-selling author of 18 books of fiction, nonfiction and poetry. His most recent book is *The House of Broken Angels*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of the year and finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. His novel *Into the Beautiful North* is a selection of the NEA Big Reads program. He is a distinguished professor of creative writing at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

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**EMBARGO UNTIL : JANUARY 31, 2020, 10:00 A.M. (PST)**

## **ORCAS ISLAND LIT FEST ANNOUNCES 2020 FEATURED ARTISTS**

**Festival attracts lineup of award-winning and best-selling authors in its third year**

Eastsound, WA — January 31, 2020 — The Orcas Island Lit Fest today announced its 2020 featured artists. Highlights include Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* columnist Timothy Egan, two-time Washington State Book Award winner Nicola Griffith, international best-selling author Arthur Phillips and best-selling award-winning author Luis Alberto Urrea. Other celebrated featured artists headlining this spring's festival include award-winning sci-fi and fantasy writer Kij Johnson and Whiting Award-winning poet Rowan Ricardo Phillips.

The festival, slated for April 17-19, 2020, will start off Friday night with a Lit Walk held at multiple venues around the village of Eastsound, followed by two days of panels, readings and a book fair hosted at the Orcas Center for the Performing Arts. The OILF Kids' Fest, a free community-focused event, will take place Saturday morning at the Orcas Island Library.

“We are truly honored to host such a prestigious lineup in our third year,” said Jule Treneer, co-founder of the Orcas Island Lit Fest. “In addition to our featured artists, we’ll be welcoming over 50 phenomenal writers from the Pacific Northwest and beyond, folks like memoirist Claire Dederer, award-winning novelist Joan Frank and author and naturalist Lyanda Lynn Haupt. A remarkable lineup for a one-of-a-kind event.”

“This is a festival for anyone who loves books and great conversation,” added Scott Hutchins, Orcas Island Lit Fest co-founder and vice president. “Smart discussions, compelling readings, literary fun and live music—it’s got it all.”

### **About the Orcas Island Lit Fest**

The Orcas Island Lit Fest (OILF) is an annual celebration of literature and community held in an inspiringly beautiful place. OILF brings together renowned authors and avid readers, visitors and locals, for three days of panels, readings and events that highlight the vibrant literary culture of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. From Pulitzer Prize-winners to gifted new voices, our festival lineup represents the finest in contemporary fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and more. The Orcas Island Lit Fest is an opportunity to engage with world-class writers and their work in an intimate, inclusive setting that welcomes everyone who loves books.

Detailed information about OILF and this year’s headlining authors, as well as a link to purchase tickets, can be found on the festival website: [oilf.org](http://oilf.org). OILF news and updates are also available on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

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# FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Lit Walk** ♦ Friday evening, April 17

*A reading event in stages, free to the public and featuring local and regional writers, held in multiple venues around the village of Eastsound.*

**The Lit Fest** ♦ Saturday, April 18 – Sunday, April 19

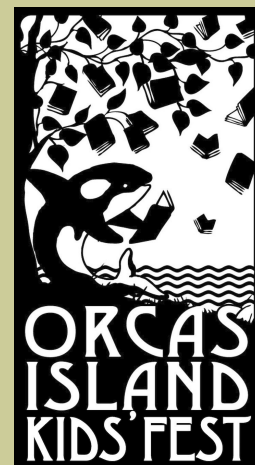
*Featuring two tracks of moderated panel discussions, readings and interviews with acclaimed writers of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and more, held at the Orcas Center for the Performing Arts.*

**OILF Book Fair & Bistro** ♦ Saturday, April 18 – Sunday, April 19

*Featuring exhibits by literary journals and independent and small press publishers, alongside local merchants and artists, in the Orcas Center Madrona Room.*

**OILF Kids' Fest** ♦ Saturday morning, April 18

*A free reading event featuring award-winning children's and YA authors, hosted at the Orcas Public Library.*



# PRESS ASSETS

The Orcas Island Lit Fest is committed to helping the press produce accurate and appealing coverage of our events.

For more information, please contact:  
Jule Treneer, Co-founder and President  
jule@oilf.org  
(360) 376-6669

Featured Artist Headshots + Bios:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rzEowNZhLLFR24od8KEgPrV6RE7tu5k4?usp=sharing>

Festival Photos:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1g9ik1VxxGQcGcA5pQO4RZn7\\_xXqNFLBJ?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1g9ik1VxxGQcGcA5pQO4RZn7_xXqNFLBJ?usp=sharing)

Promotional Video:

<https://vimeo.com/344355797>

For general information and images of the San Juan Islands, please contact the San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau:

<https://www.visitsanjuans.com/media>

## April 17–19, 2020

