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Litquake Unveils Plans for 2013

In its 14th year San Francisco's literary festival continues to pump up the ambition volume with expanded year-long programming that includes digi.lit, its first ever conference to cover the realities and implications of digital publishing from creation to consumption, a new slate of monthly Epicenter literary salons, participation in the Noise Pop Festival—with a special *Way Behind the Music* night that exhumes the juiciest and at times the most baffling passages from the memoirs of famous musicians—along with the awarding of its annual Barbary Coast Award to Ron Turner, the force behind noted “low brow and pop surrealist” purveyors, Last Gasp Publishing; in addition it is partnering with the French, Italian and Mexican consulates to add noted authors from those countries into the festival mix

Litquake 2013 will run one week later than normal in 2013, October 11 – 19

January 30, 2013, San Francisco - Litquake, San Francisco's Literary Festival comes back from its record run in 2012 with plans for an even more ambitious 2013. Highlights include digi.lit, a new conference that will cover the realities and implications of digital publishing from creation to consumption, a new slate of monthly Epicenter literary salons, as well as participation in the Noise Pop Festival with a special *Way Behind the Music* night that exhumes the juiciest—and at times the most baffling—passages from the memoirs of famous musicians. In addition Litquake will give its annual Barbary Coast Award to Ron Turner, the force behind Last Gasp Publishing.

Since its inception, Litquake has presented over 4600 authors to a collective audience of over 100,000; in 2012 80% of Litquake events were free.

The publishing revolution caused by e-books and other changes wrought by the advent of digital innovation has been on the collective mind of Litquake for some time, and the new conference is being designed to address the confusion and opportunities that have sprung up in the wake of said changes. The digi.lit conference is scheduled for late spring.

"In the 12 years we've been doing Litquake, we've seen some mighty huge developments and trends, but nothing compares to the impact of technology on writing and publishing," says Litquake co-founder Jack Boulware. "On the one hand you've got collaboration across platforms with authors producing, storing and distributing content via the cloud, and the rise of lit-centric social networking sites like Goodreads, while on the other, a slew of choices have emerged as to how readers can access the written word, from iPads, Kindles and other mobile devices, as well as print-on-demand options."

Adds other co-founder Jane Ganahl, "We live in an era where people can produce their own coffee table

books! And while there is nothing quite like a good old or new fashioned book store, it is, to quote Orwell, a brave new world, and Litquake and literature are a part of that.”

Epicenter Literary Salon Series

The monthly literary salon known as Epicenter, which was held exclusively at Tosca in 2012, will continue in 2013, but will be at a new location starting in March.

February 19, 7 pm at Tosca in North Beach; Admission FREE

New York Times “Drink” columnist and *This American Life* contributor [Rosie Schaap](#), author of *Drinking With Men: A Memoir* will be in conversation with poet, Stegner Fellow, cocktail enthusiast and Litquake committee member, Robin Ekiss.

February 26, 7pm at Tosca in North Beach; Admission FREE

French author Arno Bertina comes to San Francisco for the launch of his first novel in English, *Brando, My Solitude*. Arno will be in conversation with his translator, American author Laird Hunt. This event will be in French, with English translation

March 12, 7 pm (Location TBA) Admission FREE

New York City-based novelist and Believer Book Award-winner [Sam Lipsyte](#) in conversation with San Francisco novelist [Joshua Mohr](#)

April 16, 7 pm (Location TBA) Admission FREE

Celebrating the launch of novelist and Los Angeles Review of Books senior fiction editor [Matthew Specktor](#)'s *American Dream Machine*.

May 21, 7pm (Location TBA) Admission FREE

[NoViolet Bulawayo](#), author of *We Need New Names*. Originally from Zimbabwe, NoViolet's debut novel is one of the most highly anticipated launches of the year. “I knew this writer was going to blow up” – Junot Diaz

Complete Epicenter schedule can be found here <http://www.litquake.org/festival/epicenter>

Noise Pop Festival – February 21

For the third year in a row, Litquake and Noise Pop present the raucous return of *Way Behind the Music*, a night of hilariously odd and music memoirs brought to juicy (and sometimes baffling) life onstage. A lineup of esteemed musicians and writers will read excerpts from a choice selection of music autobiographies, featuring the actual published literary efforts of David Cassidy, One Direction, LeAnn Rimes, Micky Dolenz, Flavor Flav, Cherry Vanilla, Pete Townshend, Peter Criss, Snoop Dogg, Jane Carter (mother of Backstreet Boy Nick Carter), Duran Duran's John Taylor, Steven Tyler, Charles Mingus, Rolling Stones Sax Player Bobby Keys and hip-hop vixen Karrine Steffans.

Also on deck, John Doe, of X fame will be reading from one of the curated autobiographies!

Way Behind the Music III

February 21, 2013 - 7:00 PM

1772 Market Street

\$12 advance/\$15 at door

Hosted by Anthony Bedard (Hank IV); More information can be found [here](#)

Ron Turner of Last Gasp to receive Barbary Coast Award

Ron Turner is the force behind Last Gasp, one of the largest and oldest publishers and purveyors of underground books and comics in the world, which recently celebrated its 41st year in business. Over the years they have published, and in some cases brought to light, some of the most respected and talented artists working today, including R. Crumb, Justin Green, Bill Griffith, Mark Ryden, Aline Kominsky-Crumb, Frank Kozik, Todd Schorr, Winston Smith, Spain Rodriguez, Robert Williams, and countless others. They currently publish 12-20 new titles per year, focusing on 'lowbrow' and 'pop surrealist' artists, as well as graphic novels and pop culture titles, servicing a large network of niche comic stores, galleries and other outlets.

Last Gasp books have been glowingly reviewed in *The New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Playboy* magazine, *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, *School Library Journal*, *Juxtapoz* magazine, the *Guardian*, *Hi-Fructose* magazine, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Austin Chronicle*, *American Book Review*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. Last Gasp was named "Best Local Publisher" in 2009, 2010, and 2011 by readers of the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*.

Turner joins a list of prior Barbary Coast Award honorees consisting of:

Armistead Maupin - 2007

Tobias Wolff - 2008

Amy Tan - 2009

Lawrence Ferlinghetti/City Lights Publishing - 2010

Ishmael Reed - 2011

Joyce Jenkins & Poetry Flash -2012

Turner will receive the Award during the Litquake, which will run from October 11-19, 2013.

About Litquake

Litquake, San Francisco's annual literary festival, was founded by Bay Area writers in order to put on a week-long literary spectacle for book lovers, complete with cutting-edge panels, unique cross-media events, and hundreds of readings. Since its founding in 1999, the festival has presented more than 4600 author appearances for an audience of over 100,000 in its lively and inclusive celebration of San Francisco's thriving contemporary literary scene. Litquake seeks to foster interest in literature, perpetuate a sense of literary community, and provide a vibrant forum for Bay Area writing as a complement to the city's music, film, and cultural festivals. Festival runs October 11-19, 2013. www.litquake.org

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