

MARYGROVE CONSERVANCY

In collaboration with the Tuxedo Project
is proud to present

THE 33RD ANNUAL BAUDER CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN AUTHORS LECTURE

featuring

New York Times Bestselling Novelist

Brit
BENNETT



FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022

8 P.M.

Marygrove Theatre
Detroit, Michigan

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THE LILLIAN AND DON BAUDER CONTEMPORARY
AMERICAN AUTHORS LECTURE

www.marygroveconservancy.org/arts-culture/caals

WELCOME

Racheal Allen

Chief Operating Officer

Marygrove Conservancy

INTRODUCTION OF BRIT BENNETT

Bayan Founas

Detroit Poet and English Teacher

The School at Marygrove

READING/CONVERSATION

Brit Bennett and Bayan Founas

QUESTION & ANSWER

BOOKSIGNING

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About the Author:

Brit Bennett



Brit Bennett is the author of two *New York Times* bestselling novels, *The Mothers* (2016) and *The Vanishing Half* (2020), one of the most-read books of 2020-21. Her essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The New Republic*, *The Oxford American*, *The Paris Review*, *Vogue*, and *Jezebel*. Her 2014 essay, “I Don’t Know What To Do with Good White People,” brought her widespread attention. Her essays have been likened to those of Ta-Nehisi Coates, and her fiction has been linked to that of Toni Morrison.

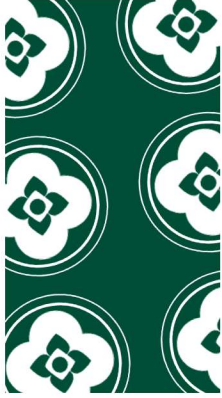
A native of Southern California, Bennett graduated from Stanford University with a BA in English and received an MFA from the University of Michigan where she received a Hopwood Award for Graduate Short Fiction and the 2014 Hurston/Wright Award for College Writers. She also studied at Oxford University.

Publishers Weekly calls *The Mothers* a “brilliant, tumultuous debut novel.” *The Mothers* was longlisted for the NBCC John Leonard First Novel Prize and the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction. Bennett was named a 5 Under 35 honoree by the National Book Foundation.

Kirkus says that *The Vanishing Half* is “a tour de force,” “assured and magnetic. . . expertly paced,” and adds, “Bennett is deeply engaged in the unknowability of other people and the scourge of colorism.... Bennett keeps all these plot threads thrumming and her social commentary crisp... in this rich, sharp story about the way identity is formed.” NPR and *Fresh Air*’s Maureen Corrigan writes, “Again and again, throughout this entertaining and brazenly improbable novel, Bennett stops readers...in their tracks with...pointed observations about privilege and racism.”

Brit Bennett has been interviewed on *The Daily Show*, *Good Morning America*, and *PBS Books*.

MARYGROVE CONSERVANCY



About the Marygrove Conservancy: Established in 2018, the Marygrove Conservancy is a nonprofit organization that manages operations and stewards the 53-acre Marygrove College campus in northwest Detroit as a resource for high-quality uses in the community. Partnering organizations offering educational programs are tenants of the conservancy.

Learn more: www.marygroveconservancy.org

The Conservancy's Department of Arts & Culture's award-winning community engagement & legacy projects include the Contemporary American Authors Lecture Series (CAALS), Institute for Detroit Studies (IDS), and Arts Infused Education (AIE).

Learn more: www.marygroveconservancy.org/arts-culture/

About CAALS: Established in 1989, the Contemporary American Authors Lecture Series each April brings a notable African American author to the Marygrove Conservancy campus for a public lecture and workshops for students and the community. Through the generous support of foundations, corporate and private donors, and the Lillian and Donald Bauder Endowment, the series has remained free and accessible to the metropolitan Detroit community. Through its collaboration with Detroit Public Television and PBS Books the series now reaches a wide, national audience.

Learn more: www.marygroveconservancy.org/arts-culture/caals



About the Tuxedo Project: The Tuxedo Project (TXP) is a (501c3) literary and community center located on Detroit's west side. Founded by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Stephen Henderson, its mission is to leverage the Arts as a catalyst for positive change through literature, personal storytelling, and the free exchange of ideas.

Learn more: www.tuxedoproject.com

About Bayan Founas: Bayan Founas is an award-winning poet and English teacher at the School at Marygrove. Hailing from Hamtramck, Michigan, she graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in Women's Studies (2014) and an M.A. in Educational Leadership and Policy with K-12 Administrator Certification (2019). Passionate about making educational reforms in communities of color, Founas created a creative writing and arts program, Writing for Freedom, in 2016 for youth of color. She is a 2021 Kresge Arts Gilda awardee, an InsideOut Literary Arts writer-in-residence, and a 2019 Motown Mic finalist.

Learn more: www.bayanfounas.com





The Tuxedo Project

About this year's Tuxedo Project workshop facilitators:

- **Alana Gracey** is a poet and spoken word artist with an appreciation for writers of all ages and backgrounds. Her social advocacy is in service of women existing in vulnerable states of survival. Alana is a teaching artist for InsideOut Literary Arts and the basic needs organizer with Mothering Justice, a grassroots policy advocacy organization that provides mothers of color. Alana facilitated The Tuxedo Project's virtual book discussion of *The Mothers* for adults.
- **Ashley Calhoun** is the co-founder of Literary Detroit, a book culture web portal and artist collective. Over the past decade, she has worked with social, political, and artistic organizations throughout Metro Detroit to strengthen their communities through philanthropy and sustainable change. Ashley co-facilitated The Tuxedo Project's virtual programming for CAALS.
- **Charlene McNary** is a reader, writer, and crafter in the Detroit Metro Area who has lent her talents for strategy and facilitation to The Tuxedo Project since its first year of programming. She supports local non-profits helping them connect the dots behind their numbers for greater impact. This spring, she facilitated an adult book discussion focused on *The Vanishing Half*.
- **Rose Gorman** is the director and resident fellow at The Tuxedo Project. She facilitates reading and writing groups for youth and adults, including formerly homeless veterans, recent immigrants, incarcerated people, and LGBTQ+ youth and elders. She also works as a teaching artist for InsideOut Literary Arts. This year, Rose worked with high schoolers in Marygrove's creative writing class, as the group read, discussed, and wrote about key themes in *The Mothers*.



About The School at Marygrove: The School at Marygrove develops critical thinkers and community-minded citizens who have the skills and knowledge to be makers and leaders in the 21st century. The social justice and engineering focus enables students to identify and solve complex problems, actively participating in the creation of a more just and equitable future. Every graduate will be prepared to pursue their passions and succeed in any personal and professional endeavors.

Learn more: [Our School / Overview \(detroitk12.org\)](http://detroitk12.org)



About Detroit Public Television: Detroit Public TV – WTVS is the viewer-supported PBS member station serving Southeast Michigan. Our vision is for a community in which people trust public TV to help them discover new ideas, make informed decisions, and enjoy enriched lives.


Learn more: [About Detroit Public TV - Detroit Public TV \(dptv.org\)](http://dptv.org)



About PBS Books: "PBS Books" is dedicated to connecting books with audiences by engaging them in unique experiences to spark their curiosity and encourage a life-long love of reading and learning. Over the last four years, "PBS Books" has interviewed outstanding authors at national book festivals, developing an amazing archive of more than 600 contemporary author interviews.

Learn more: www.pbsbooks.org





The Bauder Contemporary American Authors Lecture
is made possible through the generous support of

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The Marygrove Conservancy recognizes the honorary founders for contributing to the success of the Contemporary American Authors Lecture Series.

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Don Bauder (in memoriam)

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