

Schedule of Events 2007 Tom Dent Literary Festival

Thursday, November 1, 6:30 pm

Author's Showcase

This year's Authors Showcase features the literary growth of a New Orleans talent *Ronald Gauthier* and the memoirs of a familiar daytime PBS actor, *Roscoe Orman*.

Ronald Gauthier, author of three New Orleans based crime novels will discuss his latest book, *Crescent City Countdown* at the Author's Showcase. His familiar protagonist Jeannette Plaisance, who came to life in his first novel *Prey for Me*, returns in *Crescent City Countdown* to lead readers along a suspenseful crime solving path. The former NOPL branch manager holds a master's in library science from LSU and a master's in counseling from Xavier University. In addition to working in the library, he has served as an adult literacy instructor for NOPL and the prison system in Louisiana.



Join longtime Sesame Street Actor Roscoe Orman, who starred as Gordon on the show, as he discusses his memoir *Sesame Street Dad: Evolution of an Actor*. Orman, who was once a member of the New Orleans based Free Southern Theatre, will reflect on his time spent here and his encounters with Tom Dent. He began taking his writing talents seriously during that time as well, as he studied under the watchful eye of New Orleans native, writer and playwright, Tom Dent. Orman has written two books, *Sesame Street Dad: Evolution of an Actor* (Inkwater Press, 2006), which is Orman's memoirs and *Ricky and Mobo*, (Inkwater Press, 2007) a newly released children's book.



Friday, November 2, 10:30 am

Storyteller Angela the Yarnspinner

Kids will enjoy the literary magic of Storyteller Angela the Yarnspinner as she weaves her magic through African folk tales pulled from her African basket. Her stories are inspired by people and places around the world and hold an abundance of meaning for the little ears who hear them. The Yarnspinner will lead listeners on an imaginative ride through folk tales that delight and entertain. Each student attending the program will receive a hand full of books compliments of Scholastic Books and First Book. Groups are welcome Please call in advance 596-2597.



Saturday, November 3, 1 pm

Tom Dent Forum Who Was Marcus Christian?

Louisiana researcher and clinical social worker, Barbara Trevigne will delve into the life of the late New Orleans historian and writer Marcus Christian. Christian, who was a prolific writer on New Orleans and African Americans, is still unknown to many locals. He inspired many writers and researched topics on African American Ironworkers of Louisiana, African American Soldiers and wrote several books of poetry.



Trevigne is a member of the Louisiana Creole Historical Research Association and the St Dominique Special Interest Group. As part of the Living Legends series, she does historical reenactments and has portrayed Manon, the Calla Lady and Marie Laveaux, the Voodoo Queen in several venues throughout the city.

About the Tom Dent Literary Festival



The Tom Dent Literary Festival was established in 1999 as a tribute to New Orleans author Thomas Covington Dent who had passed away the previous year. Dent was a mentor to many young writers both here and around the nation. While a student at Morehouse College, he served as editor of the student newspaper. While living in New York, he established the Umbra Workshop and its poetry magazine "Umbra." This was the beginning of Dent's efforts to create literary venues for the voices of African American authors. He also co founded, Callaloo literary journal and the Free Southern Theatre, where he both directed and wrote numerous plays.

The New Orleans Public Library began paying tribute to this native son by allowing his inspiring spirit to be rekindled in an annual literary forum focused on the literary works of African American authors. The event grew into a festival and in 2005 was on the cusp of celebrating the works of contemporary African American writers through poetry, storytelling, and lectures at locations outside of the library until the city was spun into disarray in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. This year, 2007, marks the return of the festival. We hope that you will take part in our return as we move forward in the spirit of Tom Dent to continue to promote the works of our African American writers.

For more information on Tom Dent check out his books and these websites:

[Southern Journey: A Return to the Civil Rights Movement](#), (New York: W. Morrow), 1997

[Blue Lights and River Songs: Poems](#), (Detroit: Lotus Press), 1982

[Magnolia Street](#), (New Orleans, self-published), 1976.

<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/info/aarcinfo/dent/dent.htm>

www.black-collegian.com/african/dent9.shtml

www.nathielturner.com

With support from

