

## Dear You, Love Me: Queer(ing) as/and Epistolary Form

**EVENT DESCRIPTION:** What about the letter appeals to queer writers across multiple genres? How, when, and why do queer writers turn to/make use of epistolary form? Working with and within the form of the letter, this diverse panel of three transgenerational queer-identified writers reveals epistolarity as an aperture for vulnerability, renewed intimacy with the body, and access for/to past and future selves. In writing to an imagined audience of every/one, how might we use the letter to express desires yet to come?

**EVENT CATEGORY:** Multiple Literary Genres Craft

**EVENT ORGANIZER:** Ames Hawkins ([ahawkins@colum.edu](mailto:ahawkins@colum.edu))

**EVENT MODERATOR:** Ames Hawkins ([ahawkins@colum.edu](mailto:ahawkins@colum.edu))

### EVENT PARTICIPANTS AND BIOS:

**Samuel Ace** is the author most recently of *OUR WEATHER OUR SEA* (Black Radish), and *MEET ME THERE* (Belladonna\* Germinal Texts). He is a recipient of an Astraea Writer's Award and a multi-time finalist for the Lambda Literary Award and the National Poetry Series. He teaches at Mt. Holyoke College.

**CM Burroughs** is Associate Professor of Poetry at Columbia College Chicago. Her books are *The Vital System* and *Master Suffering*. She has been awarded fellowships from organizations including Yaddo, The MacDowell Colony, and Cave Canem Foundation.

**Ames Hawkins** is a trans writer and author of the award-winning book, *These are Love(d) Letters*. A professor of English and creative writing at Columbia College Chicago, Ames has been a Lambda Fellow, and in residence at Breadloaf, Banff Centre, and Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.

## EVENT OVERVIEW:

As moderator of the event, Ames Hawkins will begin with a welcome letter that frames the event and offers short bios of all presenters in alphabetical order: Samuel Ace, CM Burroughs and Ames Hawkins.

In turn, Ace, Burroughs and Hawkins will read aloud letters they have written that address any/all of the following questions:

- What about the letter appeals to queer writers across multiple genres?
- How, when, and why do queer writers turn to/make use of epistolary form?
- In writing to an imagined audience of every/one, how might we use the letter to express desires yet to come?

Epistolarity will be invoked to queer the Q&A as panelists will offer prompts and invite the audience to write short letter-question-reflections that they may read or ask others to read and to which anyone may respond.

We plan to add more specific language to this outline as soon as we are able. Please email Ames Hawkins ([ahawkins@colum.edu](mailto:ahawkins@colum.edu)) if you have any questions/concerns.