AWP 2024 Outline

EVENT TITLE: Bedfellows: Sex and Shame

EVENT DESCRIPTION: Join us in a nuanced and intimate conversation about the intersection of sex and shame. What does it take for us to write unabashedly about sex? How do we trace the roots of our shame? In this panel, five writers will talk about how they come to the page to address personal and collective stigmas surrounding sexuality. What do we gain from writing about sex? In what ways can we release trauma and unlearn that which we’ve been taught is deviant? How can writing free us?

EVENT CATEGORY: Multiple Literary Genres Craft Discussion

Event Organizer
Tyler Anne Whichard: Tyler Anne Whichard is a queer Southern writer from North Carolina. She received her MFA from UNC-Wilmington where she interned for Ecotone as a fiction reader and worked on Lookout Books' 2019 release, This Is My Body. Her writing appears in Brevity, The Rumpus, and HAD, among others.

Event Organizer & Event Moderator
Jessica Nirvana Ram: Jessica Nirvana Ram is an Indo-Guyanese poet and essayist. She earned her MFA at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and received her BA from Susquehanna University. Jessica's full length collection EARTHLY GODS will be published with Variant Lit in 2024.

Event Participants
K. Iver is a nonbinary trans poet born in Mississippi. Their book Short Film Starring My Beloved's Red Bronco won the 2022 Ballard Spahr Prize from Milkweed Editions. Their work is in Boston Review, Kenyon Review, TriQuarterly, and elsewhere. They have a PhD in poetry from Florida State University.

Dr. Taylor Byas is an assistant features editor for The Rumpus and poetry acquisitions editor for Variant Literature. She is the author of two chapbooks, and the forthcoming full-length I Done Clicked My Heels Three Times. She is represented by the Deborah Harris Agency.

Sam Herschel Wein has an MFA in creative writing from the University of Tennessee and was the recipient of a 2022 Pushcart Prize. Their third chapbook, Butt Stuff Flower Bush, is forthcoming from Porkbelly Press.

OPENING REMARKS & OUTLINE
Moderator will welcome everyone and provide an introductory question for panelists. Then each panelist will read two- or three-minutes of their work related to the panel topic. We have six overarching topics to cover over the course of the panel with variations on questions based on how the organic conversation flows between panelists. At the end of the discussion we will leave time for the audience members to pose any questions they might have for individual panelists or the panel as a whole.