

# **Comics and Graphic Novel Programming Announced for BKBF 2017**

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**Press Contacts:**

Kathy Daneman

Kathy Daneman Public Relations

718-778-0285 / kathy@kathydaneman.com

Laura Dolan

Geto & de Milly, Inc.

212-686-4551 / ldolan@getodemilly.com

**Brooklyn Book Festival 2017:  
Comics and Graphic Novel Programming  
Announcing an incredible lineup of comics creators  
including Gene Luen Yang, Gabrielle Bell, and Seymour  
Chwast**

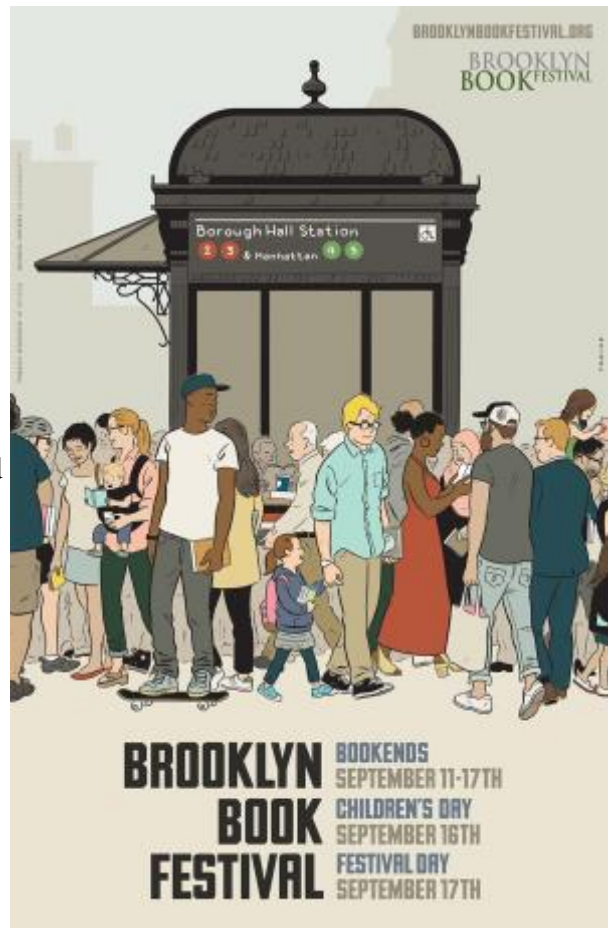
*Featured authors include: Julia Alekseyeva, Alex Alice, Iasmin Omar Ata, Pénélope Bagieu, Gabrielle Bell, Thi Bui, Amy Chu, Seymour Chwast, Jonathan Coulton, Dame Darcy, Nicole Georges, Julia Gfrörer, Ariel Gore, Jonathan Gray, Karen Green, Victoria Jamieson, Victor LaValle, Jane Mai, Alitha Martinez, George O'Connor, Benjamin Percy, Kristen Radtke, Gabby Rivera, Gregg Schigiel, Mark Siegel, R. Sikoryak, Ricardo Liniers Siri, Leslie Stein, and Gene Luen Yang.*

**BROOKLYN, NY — Monday, August 28, 2017** — On September 11 through 17, the Brooklyn Book Festival (BKBF) returns for its 12th year as the largest, free literary event in New York City. Hailed by Brooklyn as “Bonnaroo for Brooklyn bookworms and Lollapalooza for lit-lovers,” the festival continues to champion graphic novel creators and programming from around the globe.

This year the lineup of comics-focused panels, signings, workshops, children’s day programming, and official Bookend events is more robust and exciting than ever. With comics heavyweights such as **Gene Luen Yang**, **Gabrielle Bell**, and **Seymour Chwast** in attendance, BKBF has programming for each and every fan, from young adult enthusiasts to sci-fi and fantasy-buffs, and even fans of goth culture.

The festival will continue its commitment to supporting inclusion and diversity in its programming, highlighting graphic narratives and creators that focus on issues of identity and social justice, women’s rights, the LGBTQ community, and the refugee crisis, such as **Gabby Rivera**, **Thi Bui**, and **Tony Medina**. In addition to U.S. based comics creators, there is also a wonderful lineup of international comics authors this year, including **Ricardo Liniers Siri**, **Alex Alice**, and **Pénélope Bagieu**.

The festival is also thrilled to announce that this year’s official poster was created by comics legend **Adrian Tomine** with **Rodrigo Corral**. Tomine’s stunning art features attendees of the festival exploring booths at the iconic Borough Hall location.



All authors are available for interview, and books are available for review or feature.

**Below are just a few of the events putting comics, graphic novels and graphic arts center stage at the Brooklyn Book Festival. For the full schedule, be sure to visit [www.brooklynbookfestival.org](http://www.brooklynbookfestival.org).**

## **BROOKLYN BOOK FESTIVAL BOOKENDS**

- *Comics Carousel* at Union Hall / Monday, September 11 at 8 p.m.
- *Gene Luen Yang* at the Chatham Square Library / Friday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m.

- *Mama Takes the Mic—Magic and Madness from Storytellers at MUTHA and Hip Mama Magazine* at powerHouse Arena / Friday, September 15 at 7 p.m.
- *Bushwick Book Club Presents The Meat Cake Bible by Dame Darcy at Barbès* / Sunday, September 17 at 7 p.m.

## SEPTEMBER 16: CHILDREN’S DAY

**Reading Without Walls: Gene Luen Yang** (*Secret Coders*), the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, joins **Jacqueline Woodson** (*Brown Girl Dreaming*), **Rita Williams Garcia** (*Clayton Byrd Goes Underground*), and **Ellen Oh** (*Spirit Hunters*)—in a discussion about opening readers’ eyes to new ideas and experiences.

**Growing Pains:** author **Victoria Jamieson** (*All’s Faire in Middle School*) and **Sharon Draper** (*Stella by Starlight*) join **Holly McGhee** (*Matylda, Bright and Tender*) to discuss the hurdles and humiliations of growing up. Moderated by Lisa Graff.

### In addition:

- A special international picture book program feature includes Toon Books’ **Liniers!**
- Join **Maira Kalman** at the Picture Book stage
- This year’s illustrator smack-down includes comics authors Liniers, **George O’Connor**, **Gregg Schigiel** and more.
- Join **Chris Raschka** reading *The Doorman’s Repose* and leading a workshop.

## SEPTEMBER 17: BROOKLYN BOOK FESTIVAL DAY

**Shapeshifters: Novelist Write Comics!** More and more comics writers also create acclaimed novels and short stories. What does it take to shape-shift between these publishing cultures? With **Victor LaValle** (*Destroyer*), **Gabby Rivera** (*America*) and **Ben Percy** (*Green Arrow*), moderated by **Alitha E. Martinez** (*World of Wakanda*).

**Paint it Black: Goth Culture and Comics:** As 1980s-1990s nostalgia surges, the dark visuals of the goth culture of that era are thriving and inspiring contemporary comics artists. With **Dame Darcy** (*Meat Cake*), and new voices **Julia Gfrörer** (*Laid Waste*) and **Jane Mai** (*So Pretty / Very Rotten*), moderated by **Nicole J. Georges** (*Fetch*).

**Mothers and Other Monster Myths:** This panel is for anyone who has a complicated relationship with their mother—so basically, everyone. With **Gabrielle Bell** (*Everything is Flammable*), **Thi Bui** (*The Best We Could Do*), and **Julia Alekseyeva** (*Soviet Daughter*), moderated by **Ariel Gore** (*We Were Witches*).

**I'm Gonna Live Forever: Fame and Its Discontents:** Comics is uniquely tackling the complex roots of celebrity, the absurdities of internet culture, and all the branching paths to fame, in the digital age. With **Jonathan Coulton** (*Solid State*) and acclaimed cartoonists **R. Sikoryak** (*Terms and Conditions*) and **Pénélope Bagieu** (*California Dreamin'*), moderated by **Jonathan Gray**.

**How Artists Think:** Design legend **Seymour Chwast** (*At War with War*), internationally recognized cartoonist **Liniers** (*Macanudo*), and rising star, Brooklyn-based creator **Leslie Stein** (*Present*) undertake a sure-to-be-lively conversation. They'll explore how their artistic lives and careers have been shaped by influences, opportunities, and the times they've lived in. A look into the minds of artists who have shaped graphic design, illustration, and comic-strip storytelling into their own distinct points of view. Moderated by **Karen Green**, Columbia University Libraries.

**Adulting: What Comes After Coming of Age?:** Social media makes fun of #Adulting, but the graphic novels on this panel are a mix of memoir and autobiographical fiction that probe the seemingly endless process of finding oneself. With: **Iasmin Omar Ata** (*Mi(s)handra*), **Nicole J. Georges** (*Fetch*) and **Kristen Radtke** (*Imagine Wanting Only This*). Moderated by **Mira Jacob** (*The Sleepwalker's Guide to Dancing*).

**Adventure Awaits:** With moderator **Gregg Schigiel** (*PIX: Too Super for School*), authors **Mark Siegel** (*5 Worlds Book 1: The Sand Warrior*), **Jarrett J. Krosoczka** (*Star Wars: Jedi Academy*), and **Amy Chu** (*Ana and the Cosmic Race*) reveal the secrets to writing and illustrating stories in which heroes rise, villains fall, and destinies are fulfilled.

**See It to Believe It:** Comics fans, check out hot-off-the-press graphic novels by international creators! With bestselling French star **Alex Alice** (*Castle in the Stars*), and award-winners **Jessica Abel** (*Trish Trash*) and **Tony Medina** (*I Am Alfonso Jones*). Moderated by **Cassandra Pelham** (*Scholastic Graphix*).

### **About the Brooklyn Book Festival**

BKBF is presented by the non-profit Brooklyn Book Festival, Inc. and the Brooklyn Book Festival Literary Council. The Festival is made possible with the generous support of the Amazon Literary Partnership, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Brooklyn Borough President's Office/NYC & Company Foundation, Con Edison, Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, Forest City Ratner Companies, LaVazza, National Endowment for the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, New York State Council on the Arts, St. Francis College, NYU Tandon School of Engineering, and WeWork. The festival's media sponsors are abc7NY and WNYC.

Cultural and programming partners include BAM, Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn Public Library, Center for Fiction, The Nation, National Book Foundation, New York Review of Books, New York University, Poetry Society of America, St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church, St. Francis College, The Times Literary Supplement, Whiting Foundation, and Windham-Campbell Prizes.

For more information about the Brooklyn Book Festival, visit <http://www.brooklynbookfestival.org> or check out the official Facebook page, follow the Festival on Instagram (@bkbookfest) and on Twitter (@BKBF).

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