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Mayda Del Valle



avery r. young



Julian David Randall



Jennifer Steele



Tara Betts

Midwest Made: Poets in Chicago Tara Betts, Mayda Del Valle, Julian David Randall, Jennifer Steele, and avery r. young

Curated by Tara Betts, Lit Editor at Newcity

Wednesday, July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM
www.bit.ly/MidwestMadeFANWebinar

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**,

in partnership with Baker Demonstration School, Compass Health Center, Evanston Scholars, Family Service of Glencoe, Foundation 65, Lake Forest Country Day School, McGaw YMCA, North Shore Country Day School, Regina Dominican High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, the School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University, Wintrust Bank, Youth and Opportunity United (Y.O.U.), YWCA Evanston/North Shore.

This event is #freeandopentothepublic and will be recorded. Suitable for youth 12+ familyactionnetwork.net

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MIDWEST MADE: POETS IN CHICAGO

CONTACT: Lonnie Stonitsch, Executive Director of FAN, lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net

Wednesday, July 8, 2020, 7:00-8:30 PM, Midwest Made: Poets in Chicago, a FAN Webinar feat. Tara Betts, Mayda Del Valle, Julian David Randall, Jennifer Steele, and avery r. young. REGISTER: www.bit.ly/MidwestMadeFANWebinar.

Acclaimed poet, educator, and editor **Tara Betts** curates an evening showcase of top Chicago poets: **Mayda Del Valle, Julian David Randall, Jennifer Steele, and avery r. young**. Ms. Betts will also perform a reading.

Tara Betts is the author of two poetry collections, *Break the Habit, Arc & Hue*, and the forthcoming *Refuse to Disappear*. She also coedited *The Being of America* and edited a critical edition of Philippa Duke Schuyler's *Adventures in Black and White*. Her work has appeared in *The Breakbeat Poets, The Long Term, Essence, POETRY*, and many other publications. Betts is Poetry Editor at *Another Chicago Magazine* and *The Langston Hughes Review* and the Lit Editor at *Newcity*.

A proud native of Chicago's South Side, **Mayda Del Valle** got her start at New York City's legendary Nuyorican Poet's Cafe, where she was the 2001 Grand Slam Champion and went on to win the 2001 National Poetry Slam Individual title, becoming the youngest and first Latina poet to do so. She has been featured in *Latina Magazine, The Source, The New York Times* and was named by *Smithsonian Magazine* as one of "America's Young Innovators in the Arts and Sciences." In May of 2009 Del Valle was invited to perform at the White House for President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.

Julian David Randall is a Living Queer Black poet from Chicago. He has received fellowships from Cave Canem, CantoMundo, Callaloo, BOAAT, Tin House and the Watering Hole. He is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize and winner of the 2019 Betty Berzon Emerging Writer Award from the Publishing Triangle. In 2015, he was named the National College Slam Best Poet. His poetry has been published in *New York Times Magazine, Ploughshares, Sixth Finch, Tin House* and *POETRY*. Randall is the author of *Refuse*, winner of the 2017 Cave Canem Poetry Prize, and a finalist for the 2019 NAACP Image Award in Poetry.

Jennifer Steele is a Chicagoan, educator, and the author of the 2018 chapbook *A House In Its Hunger*. She is a 2015 Callaloo Fellow and 2016 Poetry Incubator Fellow. She is the founder of Revolving Door Arts, a nonprofit organization and press dedicated to empowering creative community and evolving the artistic craft of young, new, and emerging writers. Steele is the inaugural recipient of the 2019 Lucille Clifton Creative Parent Award from *Raising Mothers Magazine* and her work has appeared in *Hypertext Review, Pittsburgh Poetry Review, Another Chicago Magazine, Callaloo, Columbia Poetry Review*, and others.

Interdisciplinary artist **avery r. young** is an award-winning teaching artist who has been an Arts and Public Life Artist-In-Residence at the University of Chicago. In the foreword of his most recent book *neckbone: visual verses*, Theaster Gates called him "one of our greatest living street poets...one of the most important thinkers on the Black experience." Mr. young's poems and essays have been published in Cecil McDonald's *In The Company of Black, The BreakBeat Poets, The Golden Shovel Anthology: New Poems Honoring Gwendolyn Brooks*, *AIMPrint*, and other anthologies. His work in performance, visual text, and sound design has been featured in several exhibitions and theatre festivals--notably The Hip Hop Theatre Festival, The Museum of Contemporary Art, and American Jazz Museum.

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