

AWG: Genre & Gender Panelists (in order on flyer left to right)

Andromeda Romano-Lax is the author of five novels translated into 11 languages, including *The Spanish Bow*, A NYT Editors' Choice, and *Annie and the Wolves* (2021), selected by Booklist as a Top Ten Historical Novel. Her novels reflect her interest in topics as varied as art acquisition during the Nazi era (*The Detour*), psychological scandals of the 1920s (*Behave*), and artificial intelligence and the future of eldercare (*Plum Rains*). Born in Chicago, she lived in Alaska (where she co-founded 49 Writers), Taiwan, and Mexico before settling on a small island in British Columbia, Canada.

Raquel Polanco is a Hispanic-American poet in her mid-twenties who continually inspired by God, human relationships, daydreaming, and humpback whales. As the daughter of Dominican-Honduran parents, she has learned the value of language, authenticity, and cultural expression through the art of writing. Over the years, she has used her poetry as a form of self-expression and advocacy through storytelling. Most recently, she won 1st Runner Up in the Miss Alaska USA 2020 pageant and has been using spoken word poetry to unify her community in Anchorage, Alaska. Poetry is, for her, the sacred path towards empathy and healing.

Jamey Bradbury is the author of *The Wild Inside*, which John Irving called, "An unusual love story and a creepy horror novel--[a combination] of the Bronte sisters and Stephen King." *The Wild Inside* has been translated in five languages. Jamey's fiction has appeared in *Black Warrior Review*, where it was the winner of the annual fiction contest), *Spark + Echo*, *Sou'wester*, and *Zone 3*. Jamey grew up in the Midwest and lives in Anchorage, Alaska.

Paul Greci is the award-winning author of four young adult and middle grade novels. *Surviving Bear Island* (Move Books 2015) and *Follow The River* (Move Books 2021) are both Junior Library Guild Selections, *Hostile Territory* (Macmillan 2020) was an Anchorage Daily News 2020 Favorite, and *The Wild Lands* (Macmillan 2019) is described as a "great high-stakes wilderness tale" by the School Library Journal. Paul has spent most of his 30-year teaching career working with struggling and reluctant readers in Fairbanks and when writing his stories, he aims to engage this population. When Paul isn't teaching or writing you can find him running, walking and snow-shoeing the trails around Fairbanks, sea kayaking in Prince William Sound, or curled up with a good book next to the wood stove.

Kristen Ritter is a playwright and storyteller living and working in Anchorage, Alaska. She holds an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts and a BA from Vassar College.

Awards and honors include the Alaska State Council on the Arts Literary Award, a Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive residency, a Brazilian literature research grant, the Vermont Ham Humor Award, and a finalist place for the Hunger Mountain Chapbook Series.

Her plays have been presented at the Valdez Theater Conference for the past four years and she is a member of the Alaska Writers Workshop Residency with Theater Alaska. She wrote her master's thesis on comedy, feminism, and emerging narrative tropes in young adult fiction. When she's not writing, she enjoys backpacking, rock climbing, and performing improv comedy.