The English Reading Series – Winter 2022

Christian McKay Heidicker

Christian McKay Heidicker reads and writes and drinks tea. His cat, Lucifer Morningstar, keeps the demons out of his apartment, while his other cat, Rorschach, keeps dragging them back in. Christian is the author of the Newbery Honor-winning Scary Stories for Young Foxes and its companion SSFFY: The City, as well as the Thieves of Weirdwood trilogy, Cure for the Common Universe, and Attack of the 50 Foot Wallflower. He lives by a graveyard in Salt Lake City, Utah. Visit his spirit at cmheidicker.com.

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Karan Mahajan

Karan Mahajan is the author of Family Planning, a finalist for the International Dylan Thomas Prize, and The Association of Small Bombs, which was shortlisted for the 2016 National Book Award, won the 2017 NYPL Young Lions Fiction Award, and was named one of the New York Times Book Review’s “10 Best Books of 2016.” In 2017, he was selected as one of Granta’s Best Young American Novelists. His reporting and criticism have appeared in the New York Times, The New York Review of Books, Vanity Fair, The New Yorker Online, and other venues. He teaches at Brown University.

Photo by Lonnie Anderson

Jimmy Baca

Jimmy Baca is an American poet, memoirist, and screenwriter from New Mexico. While serving a five-year sentence in a maximum security prison, he learned to read and began to turn his life around, eventually emerging as a prolific artist of the spoken and written word.

Photo by Lonnie Anderson

Elizabeth McCracken

Elizabeth McCracken is the author of seven books: Here's Your Hat What's Your Hurry, The Giant's House, Niagara Falls All Over Again, An Exact Replica of a Pigment of My Imagination, Thunderstruck & Other Stories, Bowlaway, and the forthcoming collection of short stories The Souvenir Museum. She's received grants and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and others. Thunderstruck & Other Stories won the 2015 Story Prize. Her work has been published in The Best American Short Stories, The Pushcart Prize, The O. Henry Prize, The New York Times Magazine, and many other places.

George Handley

George Handley teaches and writes about the environmental humanities at BYU. His publications include the environmental memoir, Home Waters; a novel, American Fork; and two recent collections of essays, If Truth Were A Child, and The Hope of Nature. He is a founding member of LDS Earth Stewardship, Conserve Utah Valley, and Mormon Scholars in the Humanities. He currently serves on the board of Trustees for the Nature Conservancy of Utah and on the Provo City Council.

Amy Leach

Amy Leach grew up in Texas and earned her MFA from the Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa. Her work has appeared in The Best American Essays, The Best American Science and Nature Writing, and numerous other publications, including Granta, A Public Space, Orion, Tin House, and the Los Angeles Review of Books. She is a recipient of a Whiting Writers’ Award, a Roma Jaffe Foundation Award, and a Pushcart Prize. Her books are Things That Are and The Everybody Ensemble. Leach lives in Bozeman and teaches creative writing at MSU.

(Friday at 12:00 pm in the HBLL Auditorium

Go to ers.byu.edu to find out more about BYU’s English Reading Series.