

—Slug:.....COMM-0851.arts.lit_fest_cocktail_hr
—Contributor.....
—Contributor email.....
—For section..... The Arts
—Format..... News - no byline
—Dateline..... Brattleboro
—Article Number:..... 42916



Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Brattleboro Literary Festival announces February Cocktail
2 Hour authors

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 The Brattleboro Literary Festival, an annual three-day
6 festival founded in 2002, will host Ada Calhoun and Jessica
7 Anthony Thursday, Feb. 12, for a virtual cocktail hour at 5 p.m.
8 The event is free and open to the public.

9 Festival organizers say they are very excited to host
10 Anthony and welcome back Calhoun, *New York Times* bestselling
11 author of *Crush: A Novel*, which, according to promotional

12 materials has been hailed on NBC's *Today* show as the month's
13 Best Romance, praised by *The Washington Post* for its "whirlwind
14 of desire and possibility," and named by *Time* magazine as one of
15 the 100 Must-Read Books of 2025.

16 Calhoun's memoir *Also a Poet* was named one of the 100
17 Notable Books of 2022 by *The New York Times*, one of Maureen
18 Corrigan's favorites on NPR, and one of 50 Notable Works of
19 Nonfiction by *The Washington Post*. It was longlisted for the
20 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. *The New*
21 *York Times* Book Review called it "a big valentine to New York
22 City past and present, and a contribution to literary scholarship,
23 molten with soul."

24 Past books include *Why We Can't Sleep*, *Wedding Toasts*
25 *I'll Never Give*, and *St. Marks is Dead*.

26 Anthony is the author of four books of fiction, among
27 them the 2024 novel *The Most*, longlisted for the National Book
28 Award in Fiction, and a finalist for the Prix Fitzgerald. Her novel
29 *Enter the Aardvark* was a finalist for the New England Book
30 Award in Fiction.

31 Her novels have been published in over a dozen
32 countries, and are featured in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Esquire*, *The*
33 *Guardian*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and *The*
34 *New York Times* Book Review as an Editors' Choice.

35 Anthony served as the 41st Bridge Guard in Literature, in
36 Štúrovo, Slovakia. She has received literary fellowships from the
37 Maine Arts Commission, the Millay Colony, Ucross, MacDowell,
38 the Bogliasco Foundation, and recently spent a month in
39 residence at the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of
40 George Washington.

41 She won the inaugural Amanda Davis Highwire Fiction
42 Award from McSweeney's, and she is a recipient of the Creative
43 Capital Award for Literature. Her story "The Death of Mustango
44 Salvaje," originally published by McSweeney's, is currently in
45 development with A24 for a limited TV series, filmed in Spain.

46 The Brattleboro Literary Festival has grown from year to
47 year to “become one of the region’s most significant annual
48 events, drawing more tourists, more sponsors and has presented
49 over 1,000 authors, including winners of the Pulitzer Prize,
50 National Book Award, National Book Critics Circle Award,
51 Women’s Prize, Newbery Medal and Caldecott Medal, among
52 others,” wrote organizers in a news release.

53 The Brattleboro area has a strong history of writing and
54 publishing. In addition to Saul Bellow, authors Rudyard Kipling,
55 John Irving, Mary Wilkins Freeman, Lucy Terry Prince, and many
56 more called the area home.

57 The Festival celebrate its 25th anniversary this October.
58 Register for the event at bit.ly/BrattLitFeb2026. To make a tax
59 deductible donation to the festival, go to
60 brattleborolitfest.org/donate-now.

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