

Wordbrew **2016**

Artist Lookbook



ON NOVEMBER 20, 2016, the 4th annual “Local Author Showcase” was held at Acadia Café in Minneapolis, MN.

The event was named Wordbrew (easier to hashtag) but the idea behind the event has not changed in its four-year run.

There is an amazing diversity of authors here in the Midwest, working in a multitude of speculative fiction genres, and creating world-class stories. It seems a shame NOT to put a sampling of them on a stage and give them a few moments to make you laugh, cringe, gasp, shriek, or swoon.

Therefore, Wordbrew—connecting audiences with their new favorite authors. Speed dating for fiction.



Expanding on that concept, I've created this "Artist Lookbook" to commemorate the event. Herein, you'll find profiles of the authors who read at Wordbrew 2016, and the best way for you to connect with them online.

So Connect. Friend. Follow. Like. Retweet. Support.

And I know you will, because there's one more thing the Midwest has plenty of - awesome patrons of the arts like you.

See you next year...

Yours Darkly,

Conrad Zero

AIMEE KUZENSKI



Aimee Kuzenski is an author of urban fantasy stories including *The Golem Factory* and *The Golem Train*.

Her novel, *Eye of the Storm*, is written in the style of *American Gods* and the *Sandman* comics, focusing on the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

akuzenski.com

facebook.com/AimeeKuzenski

twitter.com/aimeekuzenski

MICHAEL MERRIAM



Michael Merriam is an author, actor, poet, playwright, and professional storyteller.

His novels include *Dark Waters*, *Old Blood's Fate* and *Last Car to Annwn Station*.

His story *Should We Drown in Feathered Sleep* was long-listed for the Nebula Award.

michaelmerriam.com

[Michael Merriam on Goodreads](#)

twitter.com/mmerriam

STEPHANI MAARI BOOKER



Stephani Maari Booker writes prose and poetry for the page and for performance.

Her speculative fiction has been published in *The Future of Us: An Anthology* (Charlotte Bailey & Florence Okoye, editors, https://issuu.com/afrofutures_uk) and *Jalada 02: Afrofuture(s)* (<http://jalada.org>).

goodreads.com/athenapm

mnartists.org/smbooker

ABRA STAFFIN-WIEBE

Abra Staffin-Wiebe writes stories about fluffy pink murderbears, firebirds bearing gifts, and other things beautiful and bizarre.

You can listen to or read *In Their Image* at escapepod.org, and join Abra's Quarterly Compendium of Delights at aswiebe.com for a free ebook and updates about new events and stories.

aswiebe.com

facebook.com/AbraSW



JOY ANN



Joy Ann writes fiction based on alternative history. Her writing includes conspiracy research and many metaphysical elements, including reincarnation, divination, spirits, angels, off-planet beings and more.

[Joy Ann on Facebook](#)

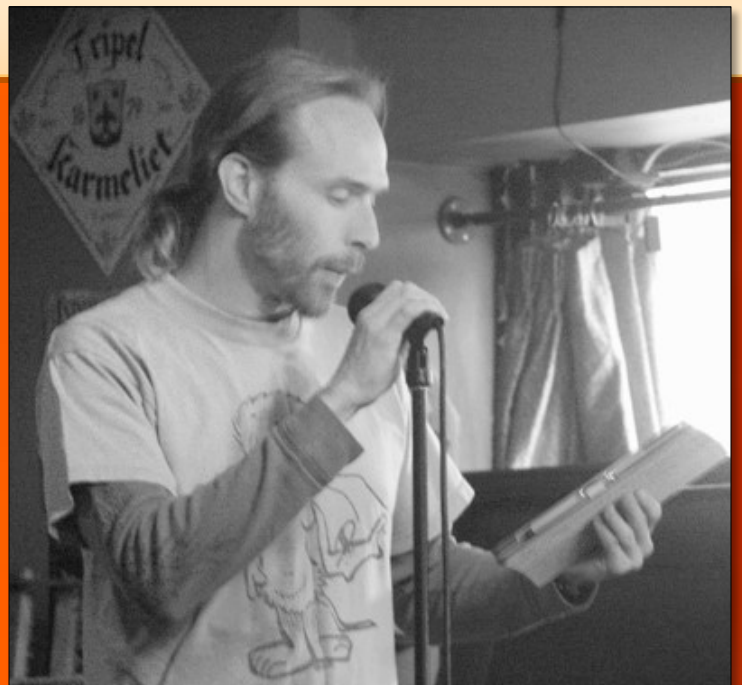
MICHAEL A. O'LEARY JR

Michael A. O'Leary Jr is author of the monster / thriller / science-fiction / fantasy / action / adventure/ horror novel, *Terata*.

He let his kids read it, and they said it was better than the *Deadpool* movie.

[facebook.com/goyalion](#)

[Terata on Amazon](#)



JO ROBSON



Jo Robson writes Urban Fantasy / Paranormal Romance, and has been wandering into superhero territory lately.

Jo's "fifteen minutes into the future comedy" short story will be published in the upcoming (successfully kickstarted) compilation *No Shit, There I Was—An Anthology of Improbable Tales*.

twitter.com/TheLogicMouse

BRIANA LAWRENCE

Briana Lawrence is an author of urban fantasy including *magnifiqueNOIR*—the story of black, queer, magical girls who save the world with the power of friendship, glitter, and fantastic hair.

magnifiquenoir.com

facebook.com/magnifiqueNOIR

twitter.com/BrichibiTweets

facebook.com/brichibicosplays

brichibi.tumblr.com



ERIC M. HEIDEMAN



Eric M. Heideman is a 'Writers of the Future' winner and Edgar-winning author of over 150 essays, articles and reviews. He is also an instigator of many local literary staples, including *Tales of the Unanticipated* magazine, Diversicon and Arcana cons, Krushenko's Lounge, and the Speculations Readings Series, which has continued since 1996. Eric's satire *Raiders of the Seventh Planet* is available on Amazon.

facebook.com/eric.m.heideman

SUSAN TAITEL

Susan Taitel is a Chicago native, who had to move to the Twin Cities in order for the Cubs to win the World Series.

Susan has been published on McSweeney's Internet Tendency and recently graduated from the Viable Paradise Writer's Workshop.

susantaitel.com

twitter.com/susantaitel



NAOMI KRITZER



Naomi Kritzer grew up in Madison, WI, a small lunar colony populated mostly by academics. She now lives in St. Paul, MN with her spouse, two kids and two cats. She won the Hugo Award for Best Short Story this year for her story *Cat Pictures Please*.

Her stories have appeared in *Clarkesworld*, *Asimov's*, *Analog*, *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, *Lightspeed* and others.

She has five novels published by Bantam.

naomikritzer.com

CONRAD ZERO

Conrad Zero. Host of Wordbrew 2016.

Author of dark fiction. Sociopath.

His publications include *Big Game* and *Homeward Through Darkness*. Sign up at cultofzero.com to get a free copy of his upcoming short story, *The Gloom Queen*.

conradzero.com

[Conrad Zero on Facebook](#)

twitter.com/conradzero



2016 FICTION WRITERS' SHOWCASE **WORDBREW**

~ PROSE THAT REFRESHES ~

**FREE
SKETCHES**

PRIZES

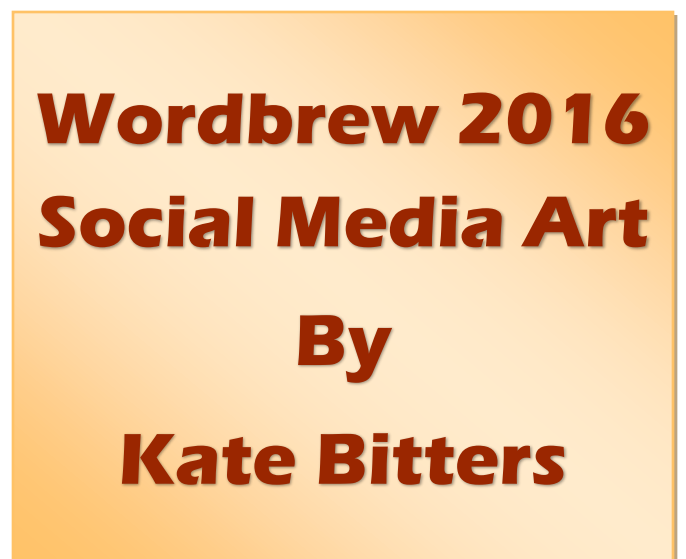
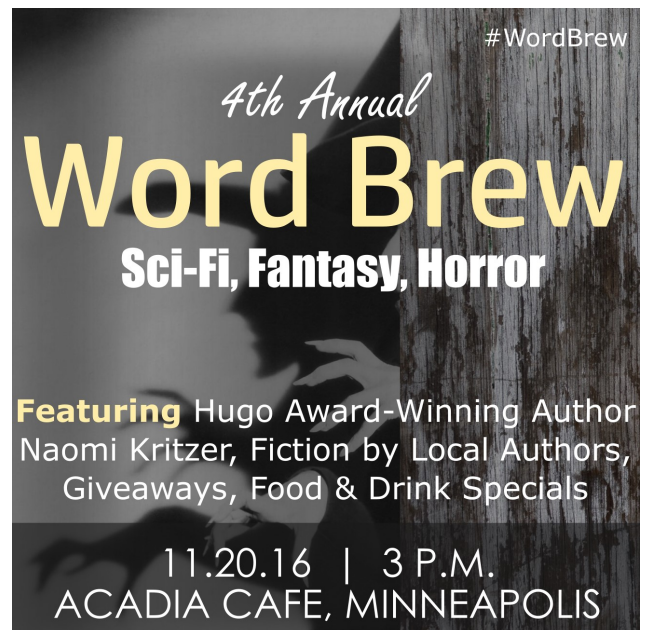
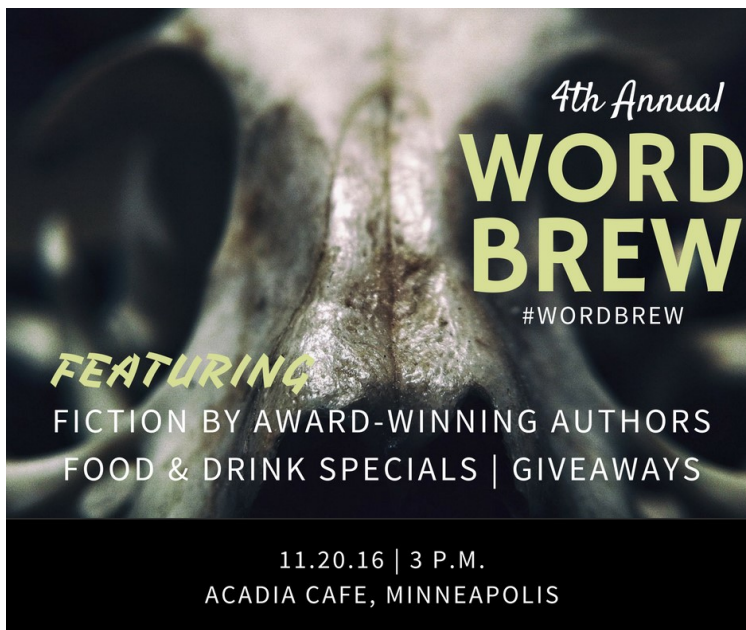
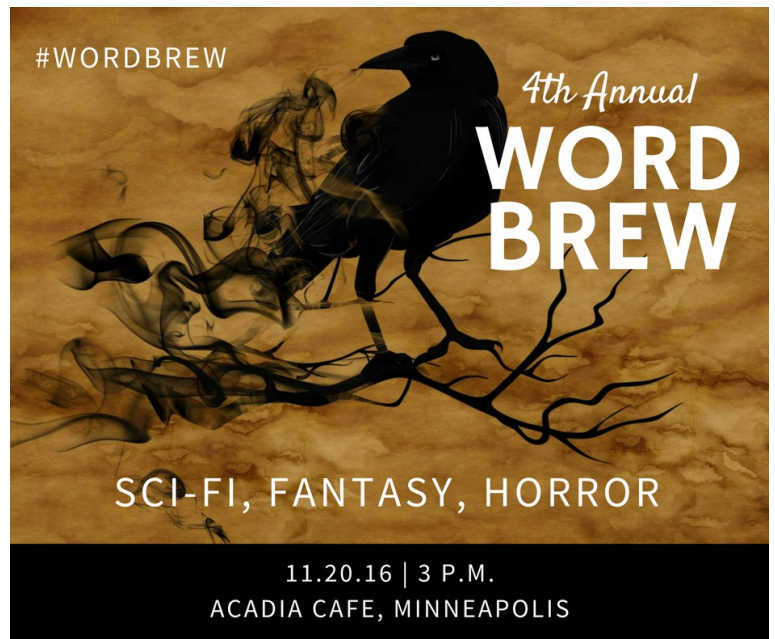
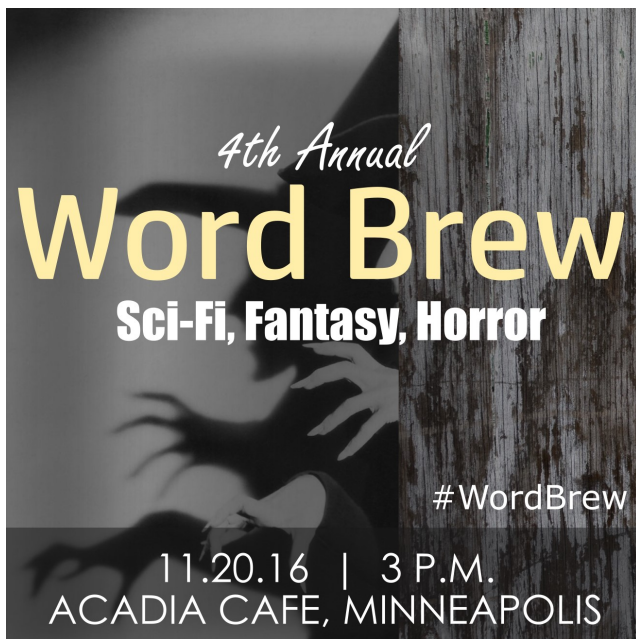
**AWARD
WINNING
AUTHORS**

Sunday, Nov. 20
2 to 6 p.m.
Acadia Cafe
329 Cedar Av S, Mpls.

www.meetup.com/minnspec

Roy C. Booth, Eric Heideman, Dale Carothers,
Aimee Kuzenski, Michael Merriam, Briana Lawrence,
Stephani Maari Booker, Naomi Kritzer
and more...

Wordbrew 2016 poster art by Terry Faust



THE WORDBREW 2016 TEAM

Thanks much to these
fine folks who
dedicated their time
and energy to making
Wordbrew 2016
awesome.

Kate Bitters
Vu Dang
Terry Faust
Michael Merriam
Michael A. O'Leary Jr.
Margaret Taylor
Abra Staffin-Wiebe
Conrad Zero

FRIENDS OF WORDBREW 2016

Thanks much to the
friends of Wordbrew
2016 for their
support!

Acadia Pub
<http://acadiapub.com/>

Wise Ink Publishing Services
<http://www.wiseinkpub.com/>

Dreamhaven Books
<http://dreamhavenbooks.com/>

THE MINNESOTA SPECULATIVE FICTION WRITERS GROUP

MNSpec is a
meetup.com group of
speculative fiction
writers in MN.

Join Us!
<https://www.meetup.com/MinnSpec/>

*Event pictures by Terry Faust.
Wordbrew artwork by Terry Faust and Kate Bitters
Artist Lookbook layout and design by Conrad Zero*