

Judging Panel for the Adult Entries:

[Craig Clevenger](#) is the author of the *The Contortionist's Handbook*, *Dermaphoria*, and most recently [Mother Howl](#). He is also the moderator of the **Goleta Valley Library's Writers' Workshop**, which is open to adults and teens who write in any genre, fiction or non-fiction. The workshop meets on the first Saturday of each month to share work, exchange feedback, offer mutual support and discuss the tools of the trade.

[Sadie Hartmann](#) reviews horror for *Scream* magazine and *Cemetery Dance Online*, is an active voting member of the Horror Writers Association, and is editor-in-chief of her own horror fiction imprint, Dark Hart. Hartmann is the author of [101 Horror Books to Read Before You're Murdered](#), released in August of 2023 from Page Street Books.

[Anne Mai Yee Jansen](#) is a literature and ethnic studies PhD. who currently teaches writing in Cal Poly's Ethnic Studies department. She loves a good haunting and is an avid consumer of horror, magical realism, and pretty much any "weird" fiction. Find her articles on **Book Riot!**

[Stephen Graham Jones](#) is the *New York Times* best-selling author of more than thirty books and several hundred short stories (plus a few graphic novels), including such modern horror classics as [The Only Good Indians](#), [My Heart is a Chainsaw](#) and *Don't Fear the Reaper*. He is a recipient of the **Shirley Jackson Award** and the **Bram Stoker Award**, among others.

[Shobha Rao](#) moved to the United States from India at the age of seven. She is the author of the short story collection, *An Unrestored Woman*, and the novel, [Girls Burn Brighter](#). She is the winner of the Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Fiction, and her story "Kavitha and Mustafa" was chosen by T.C. Boyle for inclusion in *Best American Short Stories 2015*.

Judging Panel for the Middle and High School entries:

[Craig Clevenger](#) is the author of the *The Contortionist's Handbook*, *Dermaphoria*, and most recently *Mother Howl*. He is also the moderator of the **Goleta Valley Library's Writers' Workshop**, which is open to adults and teens who write in any genre, fiction or non-fiction. The workshop meets on the first Saturday of each month to share work, exchange feedback, offer mutual support and discuss the tools of the trade.

[Arvind Ethan David](#) is a writer and producer who works across TV, film, audio, theatre and graphic novels. In the horror space he was Stoker nominated for his graphic novel with Mike Carey, *Darkness Visible* and has just finished his *GRAY* series of graphic novels, an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

His audio dramas include: *The Neil Gaiman at the End of the Universe*, and, coming from Audible in 2024, the science fiction Anthology series *Earworms* and the full cast adaptation *Dorian Gray: An (Un)True Crime Podcast*.

[Anne Mai Yee Jansen](#) is a literature and ethnic studies PhD. who currently teaches writing in Cal Poly's Ethnic Studies department. She loves a good haunting and is an avid consumer of horror, magical realism, and pretty much any "weird" fiction. Find her articles on **Book Riot!**

[Gary Robinson](#) is an award-winning writer and filmmaker of Choctaw/Cherokee descent who has worked most of his life to create Indigenous content in dozens of Indigenous educational, informational, and documentary television projects. He is the author of sixteen books, including most recently *Billy Buckhorn: Book of Spells*, the first in a teen/young adult fantasy adventure series.