



## Danez Smith

Friday, November 13th 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Danez Smith is the author of [insert] *boy* (2014, YesYes Books), winner of the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry, & *Don't Call Us Dead*, forthcoming from Graywolf Press in 2017. He is also the author of two chapbooks, *Hands on Your Knees* (2013, Penmanship Books) and *Black Movie* (2015, Button Poetry), winner of the Button Poetry Prize. His work has been published and featured widely, including in *Poetry Magazine*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Buzzfeed*, *Blavity*, *Button Poetry*, *Ploughshares*. He is a 2014 Ruth Lilly - Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellow, a Cave Canem and VONA alum, and recipient of a McKnight Foundation Fellowship. He is a 2-time Individual World Poetry Slam finalist, placing 2nd in 2014. He is the micro-editor for *The Offing* and is a founding member of 2 collectives, *Dark Noise* and *Sad Boy Supper Club*. He is an MFA candidate at The University of Michigan. He is from St. Paul, MN.

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## Mara Keisling

Saturday, November 14th 7:45 PM - 8:45 PM

Mara Keisling is the founding Executive Director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. Mara is a transgender-identified woman and a parent. As one of the nation's leading voices for transgender equality, Mara has appeared on news outlets including CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News. Mara is regularly quoted in national and local print and broadcast media.

Since NCTE's founding in 2003, the organization has led or participated in coalition efforts that have won significant advances in transgender equality.

Mara is a graduate of Penn State University and did her graduate work at Harvard University in American Government. She has almost twenty-five years of professional experience in social marketing and opinion research.

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## Alexis Templeton & Brittany Ferrell

Saturday, November 14 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Brittany Ferrell and Alexis Templeton co-founded Millennial Activists United in Ferguson, MO after Michael Brown's death in 2014.

Alexis Templeton is a 21-year-old who is gender non-conforming. While involved in the Ferguson movement, Alexis became a co-founder of Millennial Activists United. Alexis advocates for the marginalized within the marginalized -black LGBTQ+, black women & black youth.

Brittany is a St. Louis native who has spent the last several years advocating for marginalized communities. Prior to the murder of Michael Brown

on August 9th, 2014, Brittany's focus was around food justice and health disparities. Since August 9th, she has helped to co-found Millennial Activists United, a grassroots organization that serves as a safe haven and advocacy for black youth, LGBTQ and cis-gendered black women. Founded on the front lines of the Ferguson uprising, MAU has organized and mobilized hundreds in direct actions and civil disobedience in St. Louis, while also bringing awareness to intersectionality in the movement. Brittany is an ER nurse, a mother of one, and a fierce advocate for justice. Brittany and Alexis married in December of 2014, 3 months after meeting while doing the work in Ferguson.

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