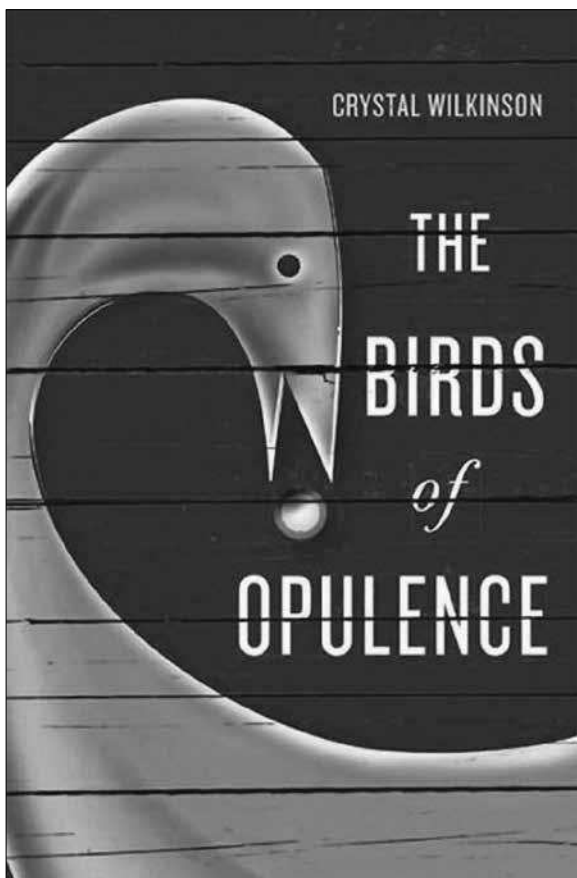


Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Crystal Wilkinson

Rising African American Writer

Author Crystal Wilkinson is the winner of the 2016 Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence for her novel *The Birds of Opulence*.

The award is named in honor of one of Louisiana's most beloved storytellers and serves to recognize rising African-American fiction writers while also expanding

the audience for black authored literature.

The Birds of Opulence is Wilkinson's first novel and centers on several generations of women in the bucolic southern black township of Opulence as they live with and sometimes surrender to madness. The Goode-Brown family, led by matriarch and pillar of

the community Minnie Mae, is plagued by old secrets and embarrassment over mental illness and illegitimacy. Meanwhile, single mother Francine Clark is haunted by her dead, lightning-struck husband and forced to fight against both the moral judgment of the community and her own rebellious daughter.

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Oddville Comedy Debut

Thomas Schroyer performs for Oddville: A New Vaudevillian Tradition, a monthly performance showcase of some of Portland's best comedic performers, coming Sunday, Jan. 8 and every second Sunday of the month from 7 p.m. to 11pm at The Steep and Thorny Way to Heaven at Southeast Second Avenue and Hawthorne.

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TOYA BEASLEY

7 A.M. - 10 A.M.
TONI TERRELL

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WANGELA

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