**EVENT TITLE: The Craft of the Literary Podcast Interview**

**Event Description:** This panel will explore the craft of the literary podcast interview with an eye toward both the "how" and the "why" of interviewing. What are the challenges and opportunities of podcasting as a medium for literary interviews? What is the role of the host? How can we create spaces to facilitate meaningful conversations? The panelists will share their insights and experiences interviewing writers from a variety of genres.

**EVENT CATEGORY: Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism**

**Event Organizer:**  
**Mike Sakasegawa** is a writer, photographer, and host of the podcasts *Keep the Channel Open* and *LikeWise Fiction*. His writing has appeared in *Catapult*, *Last Exit*, and *Don’t Take Pictures Magazine*.

**Event Participants:  
David Naimon** is co-author of *Ursula K. Le Guin: Conversations on Writing* (Tin House Books) and host of the literary podcast *Between the Covers* (tinhouse.com/podcasts). His work can be found in *AGNI*, *VQR*, *Tin House*, *Fourth Genre*, *Zyzzyva*, *StoryQuarterly*, and elsewhere.

**Rachel Zucker** is the author of ten books, including *SoundMachine*, *MOTHERs*, and *Museum of Accidents*, which was a finalist for the NBCC Award. Zucker teaches poetry at NYU and is the host of the podcast *Commonplace: Conversations with Poets (and Other People)*.

**Dujie Tahat** co-hosts *The Poet Salon Podcast*. A recipient of fellowships from Brooklyn Poets, Hugo House, and Jack Straw, his poems have been published or are forthcoming in *Sugar House Review*, *The Journal*, *The Southeast Review*, *Narrative*, *Bennington Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Nimrod*, and elsewhere.

**Housekeeping Announcements:**

* **Welcome to The Craft of the Literary Podcast Interview**!
* The panel portion is being recorded and, if possible, may be released as part of one or more of our respective podcasts. The Q&A will not be recorded.
* Please silence your phones and other devices.
* Written copies of the event outline are available at the front of the room. If you’d like a copy, please let us know and we’ll get one to you, or you can come up and grab one on your own.
* There will be time for Q&A at the end of the panel, and at least one panelist or moderator will be available after the panel to answer questions if we run out of time.

**Opening Moderator Remarks:**

* *Keep the Channel Open* is an arts and literature podcast featuring conversations with artists, writers, and other creative people. It started in January of 2016.
* Starting out, I had no formal training in how to conduct an interview and largely had to figure out on my own what makes for a good interview.
* A lot of what I learned came from studying other shows, including the ones hosted by today’s panelists.
* Each of our shows has a different style and tone, and each takes a different approach to the literary interview.
* Today we’re going to be exploring both the *how*s and the *why*s of what each of us does with our shows.

**MODERATOR QUESTIONS:**

1. What do you think makes an interview good or bad for you, as the host?
2. Many of us may not have a specific, formal, written mission statement for our shows, but we nevertheless have some motivating purpose or desire that drives our shows, and some set of principles that guide how our shows are crafted and how they’ve evolved over time. With that in mind, what would you say the mission of your show is?
3. Following up on that, how does that mission or purpose guide you in determining who you invite to be a guest on your show?
4. What do you view as the role of an interview host, and how does this influence the way you conduct your show?
5. How do you go about establishing rapport with your guests? Do you have any specific, conscious strategies that you employ to do this, or is your process more instinctive?
6. How does the format of your show influence the interview? How did you arrive at your format?
7. How do you prep for an interview? Do you write your questions out ahead of time, or go more off the cuff? If you do have questions in mind, do you share them with the guest beforehand, or do any sort of pre-interview calls or meetings? How do you think your interviews are made better or worse because of these choices?
8. To what extent are surprise and discovery important to your interview process? How do you make room for or facilitate them?
9. I have found that one of the more challenging aspects of interviewing is when you are interviewing across some sort of difference, whether that be race, gender, class, disability, or any number of other facets of identity. As an interview host, how do you establish rapport and trust across difference? What do you feel are the opportunities opened up by interviewing across difference, and what are the potential pitfalls?
10. Do you consider what you do on your show to be “interviews” or “conversations”? Do you feel that that is an important distinction?
11. When speaking with your guests, are you more oriented toward the one-on-one interaction in the room, or more toward presenting something to the listeners? What motivates that orientation, and what do you think is facilitated by it?