

**From:** Mississippi Book Festival [info@msbookfestival.com](mailto:info@msbookfestival.com)  
**Subject:** Jesmyn Ward Coming Back to Book Fest!  
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*Come to the Literary Lawn Party—August 18, 2018!*

## MISSISSIPPI BOOK FESTIVAL



**Jesmyn Ward Coming Back  
to Book Fest!**

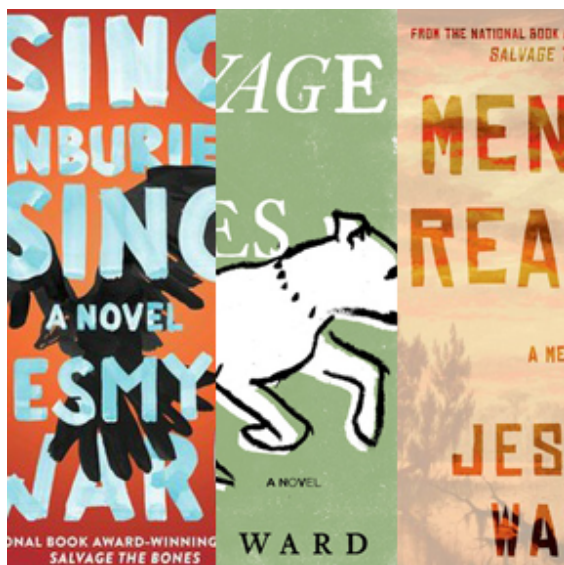
We are thrilled to welcome two-time National Book Award winner and DeLisle, Mississippi, native Jesmyn Ward back to the Mississippi Book Festival for 2018. Last fall, she became the first woman and black author to claim two National Book Awards for Fiction, when her third novel, 2017's *Sing, Unburied, Sing* followed her second book, 2011's *Salvage the Bones* in winning the honor. An important part of our 2016 event, Ward will again share her literary gifts, deep roots and provocative insights and conversation with an audience who shares her past and celebrates her successes.



## Award-winning Third Novel

Jesmyn Ward's third novel, *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, has drawn comparisons to William Faulkner and Toni Morrison and praise for its heartbreakingly eloquent narrative in the odyssey of a broken black family in rural Mississippi. The journey of a drug-addled mother and her two kids to prison to fetch their just-released white father continues Ward's focus on the struggles of race, class, poverty and the continued burden history brings to bear.

Watch Ward receive her award [here](#) >.



## Honoring Our Own

Jesmyn Ward has won recognition for her literary achievements since Publishers Weekly hailed her debut novel as a "fresh new voice" in 2008. Her *Salvage the Bones* won Ward her first National Book Award in 2011 and the memoir that followed, *Men We Reaped*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. In 2016, she was selected by the American Academy of Arts and Letters for the Strauss Living Award. In 2017, in addition to her second National Book Award, she was named a 2017 MacArthur Fellow — the fellowship often called a "genius grant."

## LOOKING AHEAD:

Weekly emailers will keep you in the know as details of the festival unfold. Stay tuned and encourage family and friends to sign up for e-news. The more the merrier!

Share with others to sign up [here](#).

## NEXT UP:

Application forms for exhibitors will be available March 1.

Check out 2018 [funder opportunities and benefits](#).

Stop by and see us at "Day at the Capitol" on March 22.

## MISSISSIPPI BOOK FESTIVAL

FREE and open to the public, the Mississippi Book Festival draws thousands to its annual "literary lawn party" held in and around the State Capitol Building each August. Since its debut in 2015, this non-profit has celebrated writing, reading, and our literary heritage, as well as connected readers with hundreds of contemporary authors.

*A Summer Staple in Downtown Jackson*

Mississippi Book Festival

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