**1455 Summer Festival**

**Q&A/Talking Points for Speakers**

1. **General Questions:**

* **What is 1455 Literary Arts?**
  + 1455 is a nonprofit organization committed to advancing the art and craft of storytelling.
  + The organization has created an environment that supports and celebrates what writers are doing. It builds community through our shared passion and helps authors shine a light on each other’s work.
  + 1455 helps writers and storytellers feel like they are part of something bigger than themselves.
* **What is the 1455 Summer Festival?**
  + The 1455 Summer Festival is a free, three-day virtual gathering of leading writers, literary artists and creatives to celebrate and share the art of storytelling and community-building.
* **Why are you participating in the 1455 Summer Festival?**
* *This answer is personal to each speaker, but some suggestions are:*
  + I’m speaking at this event because I know what it’s like to struggle with the writing/storytelling process, and I want to give back to the writing community by sharing my own struggles, methods, and triumphs around the art of storytelling.
  + I’m speaking at this event because the pandemic has created a void in the writing community and I look forward to interfacing with fellow writers and those who attend to learn and enjoy.

1. **Less Likely Questions/Additional Background for Speakers:**

* **What types of artists are speaking/presenting during the festival?**
  + There’s a vast range of speakers--200+ in all--who will be sharing their experiences, passions, backgrounds and wisdom. The festival has attracted major book award winners (The Booker Prize, The PEN/Faulkner Award, the National Book Award and more), celebrated media figures, up-and-coming authors and poets, journalists, sports writers, and more.
* **How does this festival differ from book fairs or other literary arts festivals?**
  + The festival’s goal is to focus on providing a sense of community and solidarity as we explore the specific art and craft of storytelling.
  + While many presenters are authors, we also have political journalists, filmmakers, sports figures, lawyers, environmental advocates and illustrators, among many other professions.
  + The topics the panels will cover range from politics to race relations to sexual equality to sports and the environment. But the common denominator is that everyone is passionate about storytelling and the crucial role it plays in creative and academic fields and beyond.
  + By staying with a virtual format, we’ve been able to attract some truly stellar and international storytelling talent to our lineup, ranging from Booker prize-winning author Douglas Stuart to journalists Lisa Ling and Jake Tapper, environmental advocate Philippe Cousteau and some of this year’s hottest writers--Brian Broome and Deeshaw Philyaw, S.A. Cosby, Angie Kim, and many more.
* **What do you expect attendees to get out of this event?**
  + Anyone who is a storyteller, aspires to be a storyteller, or simply appreciates meaningful storytelling will be able to soak in the knowledge, experience and community making up the three days--and as they continue their storytelling journeys.

**Suggested Tweets:**

* Honored and excited to be part of #1455SummerFest2022 presented by @1455LitArts July 15-17. Be sure to check out my panel **[NAME]** at **[DATE, TIME, EDT].**
* I’m joining **[OTHER PANELISTS’ NAMES**] as part of the [**NAME OF**] panel at #1455SummerFest2022 from July 14-16. Watch this and 60+ other sessions free and online. Learn more and register here:<http://1455litarts.org/summerfest>
* Learn the art of storytelling from me and other writers during #1455SummerFest2022 presented by @1455LitArts. Three days of amazing sessions--all free and virtual. Learn more and register here:<http://1455litarts.org/summerfest>

**Hashtags:**

**Insert any additional hashtags or @ tags that 1455 Social Media team has designated**

#1455SummerFest2022

#storytelling

#creativity

#community

#Blackwriters

#womenwriters

#LGBTQwriters