

Kali Fajardo-Anstine Post Visit

By Ally Harbaugh

For the last event of the Winter with the Writers 2020 season, the Interns were thrilled to receive National Book Award Finalist Kali Fajardo-Anstine on Thursday morning. Her collection of short stories, *Sabrina & Corina*, has been a subject of much anticipation, and for us to be able to work closely with her in the craft of our own short stories has been an invaluable experience. Her first published collection has been the recipient of numerous accolades, and most recently, a finalist place for The Story Prize. Her fiction has appeared in *The American Scholar*, *Boston Review*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *The Idaho Review*, *Southwestern American Literature*, and more.

At 2:00pm on Thursday, the Interns had the opportunity to workshop their submissions, focusing on the “Origin Myth” of the stories, which encouraged us to put necessary thought into where our stories are set and the culture of the environment. This exercise is something that Fajardo-Anstine employs in her craft of short stories, and how knowing such elements of a time and place help navigate our characters through the narrative as a whole. The Interns were charmed by her personable and approachable demeanor, and the passion that she conveys when sharing her method of framing short fiction.

Following the Masterclass and Workshop, we had the honor to witness Fajardo-Anstine read from *Sabrina & Corina* at the final reading and Q&A of the season. Her animated voice filled Bush Auditorium with the joy and tragedy that came to life in her collection. The Q&A then ensued, and the audience received much anticipated answers to their questions on both the craft and topic of the collection. With tears in our eyes at the closing of this season, the Interns exchanged goodbyes and farewells with the writers. This season has brought joy and laughter to Rollins College, and gave us the incredible honor of sharing our passion for the literary arts with our campus community.