1. WELCOME

Phoebe Robinson, Host
Dion Graham, Announcer

2. PRESENTATION OF THE LITERARIAN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN LITERARY COMMUNITY

To Nancy Pearl by Ron Charles

3. PRESENTATION OF THE MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICAN LETTERS

To Karen Tei Yamashita by Viet Thanh Nguyen

4. REMARKS

David Steinberger
Chair of the Board, National Book Foundation
Ruth Dickey
Executive Director, National Book Foundation

5. PRESENTATION OF THE 72ND NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS

YOUNG PEOPLE’S LITERATURE
Presented by Cathryn Mercier, Panel Chair

TRANSLATED LITERATURE
Presented by Stephen Snyder, Panel Chair

POETRY
Presented by A. Van Jordan, Panel Chair

NONFICTION
Presented by Nell Painter, Panel Chair

FICTION
Presented by Luis Alberto Urrea, Panel Chair

6. CLOSING REMARKS
Phoebe Robinson is a stand-up comedian, writer, producer, and actress. She is the co-creator and co-star of the hit podcast turned HBO series *2 Dope Queens* and other critically acclaimed podcasts including *Sooo Many White Guys* and *Black Frasier*. She’s also the New York Times bestselling author of *You Can’t Touch My Hair: And Other Things I Still Have to Explain* and *Everything’s Trash, But It’s Okay* which has been picked up as a series order for Freeform. Additionally, Phoebe starred in the films *Ibiza* and *What Men Want*, and was a moderator for Michelle Obama’s *Becoming* book tour where she interviewed the former first lady. In 2019, Phoebe launched Tiny Reparations, a production company under ABC Signature, whose first series *Doing the Most with Phoebe Robinson*, premiered April 2021 on Comedy Central. In 2021, Phoebe published her third book of essays, *Please Don’t Sit on My Bed in Your Outside Clothes*, which quickly became a national bestseller and the inaugural title from her imprint, Tiny Reparations Books, which champions writers of color. Her debut hour comedy special, *Sorry, Harriet Tubman*, premiered in October 2021 on HBO Max.

Dion Graham, from HBO’s *The Wire*, also narrates *The First 48* on A&E. An award-winning and critically acclaimed actor and narrator, he has performed on Broadway, off Broadway, internationally, in films, and in several hit television series. His performances have been praised as thoughtful and compelling, vivid and full of life.
Congratulations
To Our 2021 NBA Finalists

FICTION

HELL OF A BOOK
Jason Mott

lauren groff
matrix
Lauren Groff

THE PROPHETS
Robert Jones, Jr.

NONFICTION

A LITTLE DEVIL IN AMERICA
Hanif Abdurraqib

ALL THAT SHE CARRIED
Tiya Miles

YOUNG PEOPLE’S LITERATURE

THE LEGEND OF AUNTIE P
Shing Yin Khor

LAST NIGHT AT THE TELEGRAPH CLUB
Malinda Lo

The Bright to Sec
Kyle Lukoff
Simon & Schuster and Scribner congratulate ANTHONY DOERR and all of the finalists and honorees for the National Book Awards.

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The National Book Foundation
and Celebrates Great Books and Writers

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HarperCollins Publishers warmly congratulates tonight’s honorees

Karen Tei Yamashita
Nancy Pearl

and all of tonight’s National Book Award finalists

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We Applaud
Our 2021 NBA Longlisters

**FICTION**

Katie Kitamura

Richard Powers

**NONFICTION**

Scott Ellsworth

Heather McGhee

**YOUNG PEOPLE’S LITERATURE**

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