

NEWS FROM

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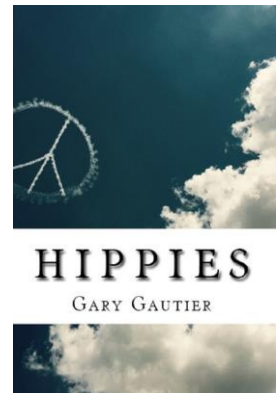
February 20, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hippies

a long-overdue epic novel of the Age of Aquarius

Hippies
Gary Gautier
CreateSpace
637 N Hennessey St., New Orleans, LA 70119
ISBN 10: 1535579862, \$10.99, 288 pages
Original release date: February 4, 2017
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By 1970, the hippie scene was faltering, a victim of both inner contradictions and external forces. The Vietnam war resistance, psychedelic drugs, sexual openness, the freedom of the commune – it seemed that everything about the 1960s could be incredibly liberating or wildly destructive. Against this backdrop, Jazmine, Ziggy, Ragman and a coterie of hippies discover an LSD-spinoff drug that triggers past life regressions and sweeps them toward a dramatic climax. This is the epic tale of hippiedom we’ve been waiting for, intimate in the lives of its characters but panoramic in its coverage of the sights, sounds, and ideals of the Age of Aquarius. *Hippies* is well-suited to readers of historical fiction, literary fiction, and anyone interested in the 1960s or the history of countercultural movements. It is also available in Kindle format.

Gary Gautier, with MA from UT-Austin and Ph.D. from CU-Boulder, has taught writing and literature at the Univ. of Colorado and LSU. He has published novels, poetry, children’s and scholarly books, literary criticism and book reviews. Gary has hitchhiked through 40 states and 8 countries, run two marathons, and once, due to a series of misadventures, spent six months as the chef at a French restaurant.



HIPPIES

Gary Gautier
CreateSpace 2017

Reviews and Comments

“What Kerouac did for the Beats with *On the Road*, Gautier has done for the sixties generation with *Hippies* ... poetic and insightful on the contradictions and conflict which made the decade so exciting and ultimately so tragic.”

Michael T. Tusa, Jr. author of *Advancing on Chaos*

“Engaging atmosphere ... and the quality of the prose is often immediate and compelling ... Gautier is at his best in the confrontation scenes between the idealistic protagonists and the authorities.”

Steve Morris, author of *The Yoga Sutras* and *Strange Thoughts, Random Mutterings*

“An intriguing story with well-developed (and unique) characters ... not too sweet, not too sad.”

Lorilin Meyer, bug bug book reviews

"Great job of incorporating fiction and nonfiction into an easily readable book that hooked you from the beginning ... made you feel like you were really living in the '60s."

Liz Gardner, Ski Lift Operator, Big Sky Montana

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HIPPIES

Gary Gautier

Detailed Synopsis

Living in a makeshift commune in New Orleans, Jazmine, Ziggy, Ragman, and a coterie of hippies struggle with the contradictions of the late 1960s. The Vietnam war resistance, psychedelic drugs, sexual openness, the freedom of the commune – it seemed that everything about the 1960s could be incredibly liberating or wildly destructive. Our hippies bring to life the sights, sounds, and ideals of the day, moving about the city, threading tales of Woodstock and Haight-Ashbury into tales of their own commune, from the time that the Red Queen’s Naked Circus visited the commune to a time still further back, when Biggles with the missing thumb and endless supply of good weed suddenly disappeared.

When Ragman discovers an LSD-spinoff drug that triggers past life regressions, everything starts to change. Jazmine, with her own difficult past, volunteers to test the “tan acid” and becomes torn between her all-too-conventional university studies and a medieval alter-ego, Rebecca. The medieval Rebecca, unable to love freely and cursed with transcendental vision, becomes Jazmine’s symbolic center, as Jazmine becomes the symbolic center for the commune, her flashbacks serving as both a unifying focus and a source of anxiety for her hippie companions.

Jazmine’s best friend, Ziggy, has his own secret which keeps him wrestling with the logic of the Vietnam War. Throw in the snarky bisexual Pepper, Tex Whittaker, Stormy, and the lovable giant, Hoss, and free love and open friendships in the commune develop along wacky and tragic paths, but all the while Jazmine and Ziggy are working out the tendrils of personal struggle and deepening connectedness. When Jazmine introduces Saul, a strident anti-war activist, into the group, relationships begin to fray. Ziggy must come to terms with his draft status without the help of Ragman’s ideals or Saul’s militancy, and he must face up to his feelings for Jazmine.

Ragman, meanwhile, tries to keep the scene together. As the keeper of the 1960s ideals, he faces most directly the double-edged sword of mind-expanding drugs, and he catches the eye of Establishment forces that would like nothing better than to bring down the hippie idealist. Faced with betrayal from inside the hippie scene and pressure from the outside, it seems Ragman’s fate is sealed, and Jazmine, Ziggy, and Stormy flee to upstate New York, seeking solace with the mysterious characters they had met long ago in the Red Queen’s Naked Circus ...

Jazmine, on the porch of the country house in upstate New York, comes to recognize that she is in an asylum. The doctor gently eases her back through all the stories of Ziggy and Ragman, pointing out exactly why she had created these characters to satisfy specific needs from her traumatic past. Now it all makes sense to Jazmine – the struggle, her need to be the volunteer for the tan acid, the poignant history of the medieval Rebecca, the role of Ragman and Ziggy – but no, not Ziggy. He could NOT be a figment of her imagination. Once again, Jazmine feels her identity tearing apart in a crisis of existential proportions, and what she does with it sets up the final sequence of the novel.

HIPPIES

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Free Business Cards and Bookmarks

UPON REQUEST

Free business cards (up to 40) and bookmarks (up to 10) are available to any press kit recipient interested in having them for customers or friends. Simply send your request to drggautier@gmail.com with "Hippies card request" in the subject line. *No purchase necessary.*

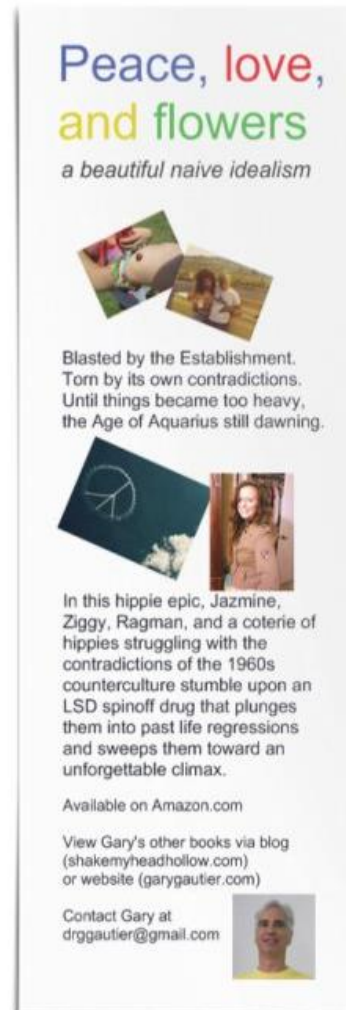


In this long overdue epic of the Age of Aquarius, Ziggy, Jazmine, Ragman, and a coterie of hippies struggling with the contradictions of the 1960s counterculture stumble upon an LSD spin-off drug that plunges them into past life regressions and sweeps them to a dramatic climax.

Available on Amazon.com

View all Gary's books via blog (shakemyheadhollow.com), website (garygautier.com),

Or search Gary Gautier on Amazon.com



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EDUCATION

Ph.D. (English), Univ. of Colo. at Boulder, 1993; M.A. (English), Univ. of Texas at Austin, 1985.

PUBLICATIONS

Fiction

Hippies (CreateSpace, 2017), view at www.garygautier.com

Mr. Robert's Bones (shakemyheadhollow.com press, 2015), view at www.garygautier.com.

Children's Literature

Spaghetti and Peas (All About Kids Press, 2002), view at www.garygautier.com.

Poetry

Year of the Butterfly (shakemyheadhollow.com press, 2017), view at www.garygautier.com

Poetry published in *Solid Quarter* (2010), *Natchez Poetry Anthology* (2006), *Concrete Wolf* (2002), *Louisiana English Journal* (1998), *Silver Quill Anthology* (1996) and *The Cannon* (1986).

Literary Criticism

Books

Landed Patriarchy in Fielding's Novels (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 1998), 360 pages.

Intro. to the Random House edition of John Cleland's *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure* (2001).

Selected Book Reviews

"Separation and Contact," Review of *Terra Firma* (Austin: Agave Noir, 2005), in *FYI* 2:1, p. 18.

Review of Michael Ford's *Carbon* (poetry), *Pulse Literary Jour.* (www.heartsoundspress.com, 2007).

Selected Articles

"Slavery and the Fashioning of Race in *Oroonoko*, *Robinson Crusoe*, and Equiano's *Life*," *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* 42 (2001): 161-79.

"Gothic Villains, Romantic Heroes, and a New Age of Power Relations," *Genre* 32 (1999): 201-34.

"Henry and Sarah Fielding on Romance and Sensibility," *Novel* 31 (1998): 195-214.

"Class, Gender, and the Unreliable Narrator in *Fanny Hill*," *Style* 28 (1994): 133-45.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Children's Literature

"The Clam Who Wanted to be Famous"

"The Angel, the Clown, and the Chinese Dragon" (1st prize, Deep South Writers Conference)

"The Hundred-Year Fair"

"The Fish Who Got Away"

Screenplays

Mr. Robert's Bones (family feature): Racism, ghosts, and hidden treasure in an old mid-city house. (Austin Film Festival, 2nd round; Moondance Film Festival, Semi-Finalist; Kids First! recommended)

In Memory of Maggie LeBlanc (indie feature): Amidst health food stores, yoga retreats, gurus, quacks and seekers, a neurotic young man whose life is stagnant is forced to a crisis when his big brother shows up with the news that he has murdered Maggie Leblanc and asks for sanctuary.

The Second Coming (short): A Pentecostal, an atheist, and a retired stripper cross paths on the road.

PERSONAL

I've taught writing, literature, and humanities at CU-Boulder, LSU, and The University of New Orleans, and spent two years volunteering in elementary classrooms. I was born in New Orleans, have hitchhiked through 40 states and 8 countries, bartended in 3 states, run two marathons, and once, due to a series of misadventures, spent six months as the chef at a French restaurant.