



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

**Advancement | Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving**

P.O. Box 160046  
Orlando, FL 32816-0046

## **UCF Alumni Book Club**

### **Bosses of Light and Sound by Nickalus Rupert '15MFA**

#### **Book Discussion Guide**

#### **Book Description**

Two movie-theater projectionists become addicted to “fixing” blockbuster films. An aged woman claims squatter’s rights at a Congo-themed mini-golf park. An eleven-toed breakfast food designer tries to save a doomed relationship by attempting a foolish stunt. Nickalus Rupert’s stories unearth humor and tenderness within the most trying aspects of being human. *Bosses of Light and Sound* will make you uncomfortable in the best way, as characters struggle to negotiate circumstances that range from ridiculous, to excruciating, to improbably sublime.

#### **About the Author**

Nickalus Rupert is a Pushcart Prize-winning fiction writer who spent most of his life near the Gulf Coast. His short story collection, *Bosses of Light and Sound*, was selected by Kevin Canty as winner of the 2019 Spokane Prize for Short Fiction, and is available from Willow Springs Books. His stories have appeared in or are forthcoming in *The Idaho Review*, *Harpur Palate*, *Witness*, *The Literary Review*, *Pleiades*, *Tin House Online*, and many other journals. Nickalus is represented by Akin Akinwumi at Willenfield Literary Agency, and is currently at work on a novel.

## Book Questions

- Which short stories were your favorite/least favorite?
- What were some of the major themes of the short story collection? Did you notice any similar topics in each story, or ways they connected?
- Let's talk about structure of the collection. Did the way the short stories were organized make sense to you? Did you feel like they flowed together well while you were reading?
- Which of the short stories did you feel like you related to the most? How come?
- If you could turn one of the short stories into a short film, which would you pick and who would you cast as the main characters?

## Resources

Author Website

<https://www.nickrupert.com/index.html>

Discussion Questions

[https://www.huntleylibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Book\\_Club\\_Short\\_Story\\_Questions\\_Nov\\_2017.pdf](https://www.huntleylibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Book_Club_Short_Story_Questions_Nov_2017.pdf)

<https://www.oprahdaily.com/entertainment/a31047508/book-club-questions/>

Florida Review Book Review

[https://floridareview.cah.ucf.edu/article/review-bosses-of-light-and-sound-by-nickalusrupert/?fbclid=IwAR3hlqGkinEIlclkCPWy\\_OUtSYSAk57bmG0YIqDWHm9xU-X5FkTG80O6U30](https://floridareview.cah.ucf.edu/article/review-bosses-of-light-and-sound-by-nickalusrupert/?fbclid=IwAR3hlqGkinEIlclkCPWy_OUtSYSAk57bmG0YIqDWHm9xU-X5FkTG80O6U30)

The Drunken Odyssey Podcast Interview

<https://thedrunkenodyssey.com/2021/02/14/episode-459-nickalusrupert/?fbclid=IwAR1TMvXyF3vMEqyevhY7KWwvrpZ3SWQA7XJ5jXuJARDmVVEuY5WirSiACLU>