

# OXFORD AMERICAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: **Kelsey White** [kwhite@oxfordamerican.org](mailto:kwhite@oxfordamerican.org) 501-416-6525

## **The *Oxford American's* Food Issue will be on newsstands March 23** *Guest edited by Alice Randall, the issue features 22 writers, 28 visual artists, 6 recipes, 1 playlist, and a special section on sweet potato pie*

February 19, 2021—CONWAY, ARKANSAS—The *Oxford American's* Spring 2021 edition is devoted to exploring the intersections of food, art, and identity.



The issue is guest edited by **Alice Randall**, the *New York Times* best-selling novelist, award-winning songwriter, educator, and food activist whose books include *Soul Food Love* (written with Caroline Randall Williams), which won the NAACP Image Award, and *Black Bottom Saints*, which was excerpted in the *OA's* Winter 2020 music issue. She has contributed to the *Oxford American* since 2010.

In her introduction to the issue, Randall writes:

“Black Lives Matter. Say Her Name. Sedition. These seven words, one for each day of the week, were the words high in my mind as we worked on this issue in January. Reckoning comes before reconciliation and often begins at the table. Reading the getting-to-final drafts of the articles and stories and poems in this issue, I was astounded to discover, one more time, how the sweetness of the table can ease our most bitter hour. There is joy in that. And joy for the table is where art and history enter our bodies and through our bodies our lives, through food and conversation.”

Contributors include **Crystal Wilkinson**, who offers a meditation on cooking in the time of COVID; **Cynthia R. Greenlee**, who investigates the history and transformation of pimento cheese; **Channing Gerard Joseph**, who illuminates the significance of the cakewalk; **Ashanté M. Reese**, who explores the fraught history of Imperial Sugar Company; restaurateurs **Brad Johnson** and **Tandy Wilson**; poets **Tarfia Faizullah** and **Caroline Randall Williams**; and fiction writers **J. Shores-Argüello** and **Eugenia Collier**. Writer and DJ **Ayana Contreras** shares a playlist of “Sweet Potato Sounds.”

On the cover is a photograph by **Frank Frances**, from his series *Remember the South*.

The issue is available now for pre-order at [OxfordAmericanGoods.org](https://OxfordAmericanGoods.org). Copies will mail to subscribers on March 10, 2021. The issue will be available on newsstands nationwide on March 23. For bulk orders, contact [jmassey@oxfordamerican.org](mailto:jmassey@oxfordamerican.org).

### **ABOUT THE OXFORD AMERICAN**

Founded in 1992, the Oxford American (OA) is a nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to explore the complexity and vitality of the American South through exceptional writing, music, and visual art.