

International focus for 2006 Festival

Writers from around the world to fill Festival stages

As I head into my first Festival as Artistic Director, I'm happy to tell you that we have a fantastic line-up of authors for 2006. At a time when world events seem evermore perilous, it is even more important to experience the world through the words of our literary artists, who chart the voyage of our deeper selves.

This year's Bill Duthie Memorial Lecture will resume its traditional role as the Festival's final event on Sunday, October 22nd. I am pleased to announce that former Governor General **Adrienne Clarkson** will give the Duthie Lecture. Her new book, *Heart Matters*, is a memoir about her rise from humble beginnings to high office and the personalities she encountered along the way.

This year's Festival is going to be truly international. The Iraqi poet **Saadi Yousef** is coming from London, and the Mongolian poet and shaman **Galsan Tschinag** is coming from Germany. **Tash Aw** lives in England but writes about Malaysia, **José Latour** lives in Montreal but writes about Cuba, and **Anar Ali** lives in Toronto but was born in Tanganyika and writes about East Africa. Spoken word artist **Lemn Sissay** writes and performs about rediscovering his Ethiopian roots. **Fiona Farrell** and **Stephanie Johnson** from New Zealand will join Australians **Kate Grenville** and **Robert Drewe**. **Mark Billingham** and **Jon McGregor** are coming from England, **Louise Welsh** from Scotland, **Damon Galgut** from South Africa, and **Patrick McCabe** is coming from Ireland.

Canadian talent will include many BC literary gems, including **Caroline Adderson**, **Marilyn Bowering**, **Bill Gaston**, **Anosh Irani**, **Billie Livingston**,

J.B. MacKinnon, **Michael V. Smith**, **Timothy Taylor**, **Sarah Ellis** and **Dennis Foon**. **Shane Koyczan**, who brought audiences to their feet at the 2004 Festival, will return to dazzle us with his powerful spoken word poetry and impressive stage presence. The list of Canadian writers also includes **Ken Babstock**, **Anita Rau Badami**, **Dionne Brand**, **Chester Brown**, **Lynn Coady**, **Linda Holeman**, **Wayne Johnston**, **Alayna Munce**, **Noah Richler**, **Linda Spalding**, **Madeleine Thien** and more.

Beloved annual events such as **The Literary Cabaret**, **The Poetry Bash**, **The Sunday Brunch**, and **The Afternoon Tea** contain exciting surprises. **Billeh Nickerson** will once again host his event (entitled **Buns 'n Roses** this year), which showcases talented young writers. This event has become a Festival favourite which never fails to entertain, and sometimes even titillate audiences.

As the Writers Festival approaches its 20th year, there are many new developments in store. I look forward to getting an early start on the celebrations with you on Granville Island this October at the 19th Vancouver International Writers & Readers Festival.

- *Hal Wake, Artistic Director*

VANCOUVER
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FESTIVAL

October 17-22, 2006
www.writersfest.bc.ca

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Bill Gaston, Kate Grenville (photo: L. Graham), Lemn Sissay, Adrienne Clarkson

spreading the word

Each year the Writers Festival offers Spreading the Word events and programs for grades K–12 students, at the Festival and in the classroom. In fact, 50% of Festival events are geared to students. These programs inspire students by introducing them to exciting authors from around the world. This year's Spreading the Word writers include **Chester Brown, Maggie de Vries, Sarah Ellis, Fiona Farrell, Dennis Foon, Michael Kusugak, Barbara Nichol, Val Ross, Javier Sierra** and **Ellen Schwartz**.

Spreading the Word outreach programs reach hundreds of students in inner city schools and small BC communities. In April, 2005 Festival author **Clem Martini** spent a week in residence in Smithers, working with high school students and presenting readings in the community.



Clem Martini with Smithers Secondary student

Alma Lee Legacy Fund

The Vancouver International Writers Festival is excited to announce the creation of an endowment fund celebrating the accomplishments of its recently retired founder, Alma Lee. This fund will increase our ability to present international writers of significant stature to Festival audiences, develop Spreading the Word programs for schools and enhance our organizational stability. The establishment of the endowment acknowledges that we are approaching our 20th year of presenting outstanding Canadian and international writers to British Columbia audiences. For more information on the Alma Lee Legacy Fund please call 604 681 6330 ext 104.

la joie de lire

The 2006 Festival marks the tenth year of **La Joie de Lire**, the VIWF French program (literally “the joy of reading”, which describes its intent). This year La Joie de Lire will include writers from BC, Québec and France. One participant is playwright **Stephan Cloutier** (BC). An actor as well as playwright and novelist, Cloutier's events will include professional actors reading scenes from his two plays for young people (*Fuego*, a comedy for 6 to 10-year olds; *Safari de banlieue* for secondary school students). Writers from Québec include **Camille Bouchard**, winner of the 2005 Governor General's Award for Children's Literature in French (for *Le Ricanement des hyènes*); popular fantasy fiction writer **Anne Robillard** will bring her Knights of Emerald (*Chevaliers d'Émeraude*), and **Danielle Simard** will have a hot-off-the press graphic novel. Simard's bande dessinée *Drôle de tour!* is due to be released in August.

Authors **Pan Bouyoucas, Patrick Deville, Gaetan Soucy**, participants in the English program, will also participate in our evening French event for adults. Check the Festival website and program guide in September for details.

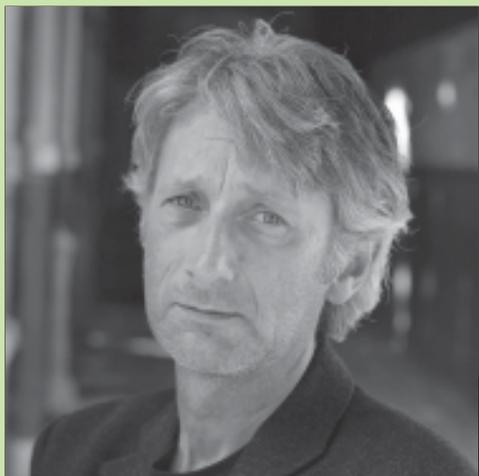
- Brenda Berck, La Joie de Lire Programmer

What is *your* book club reading? Summer is a great time to dig into a new novel. Make it even better by joining the Vancouver International Writers Festival Book Club Membership program.

Your book club's members will receive:

- Advance ticket purchase opportunities for Festival events.
- *Ink*, the VIWF newsletter, to keep you up-to-date on all our events.
- A 10% discount at selected bookstores in Greater Vancouver.
- A reading list of Festival 2006 authors
- A special Book Club rate of only \$20 per member (with a minimum of five members).

For information call 604 681 6330 or visit www.writersfest.bc.ca.



Patrick Deville (photo: Matsas Opale), Anne Robillard, Danielle Simard

staff picks

Here's what we're reading:

Maggie de Vries's book, *Tale of a Great White Fish* was a compelling exploration of the life and times of a single Fraser River sturgeon. Kids and adults will be enthralled by over 180 years of natural history as seen from the viewpoint 'a great white fish'. Illustrations by Renné Benoit are beautifully rendered in, appropriately, muted watercolours to portray life above and below the mighty Fraser River.

- Sandra Millard

Winnipeg writer **Linda Holeman** last appeared at the Festival in 2004 with *The Linnet Bird*, a book that literally kept me awake at night because I couldn't stop reading it. Her new book, *The Moonlit Cage*, had much the same effect. This is an epic tale of adventure, courage, love and redemption that takes place in Afghanistan and London in the 1850s. Holeman's attention to detail—sights, smells, sounds—is remarkable. The narrative is compelling.

Another Festival favourite of mine is **Sarah Ellis's** *The Queen's Feet*. Queen Daisy's feet do not behave themselves, they seem to have minds of their own and sometimes they just go too far. This book, with whimsical illustrations by Dusan Petricic, is a delight. We've read *The Queen's Feet* quite a few times in my household recently and it's still very fresh and funny. An excellent choice for preschoolers and also for the emerging reader who wants to read on her/his own.

- Jane Davidson

"Will you convict based upon the testimony of a single witness?" the prosecutor asked each of several possible jurors in a Hawaii courtroom. **Linda Spalding** had been living in O'ahu for fourteen years when she was called for jury duty for a murder case. Each day she attended the trial and her partner carefully removed from the newspaper all references to the case.

The Vancouver International Writers Festival and Random House of Canada present a special event with

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Mary
Lawson
&
Kevin
Patterson



7pm, Tuesday, October 10

Norman Rothstein Theatre \$15/\$13, plus \$1 facility charge

TICKETS ON SALE SEPT 11 (MEMBERS ONLY) AT THE WRITERS FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE (IN PERSON SALES ONLY).
1398 CARTWRIGHT STREET. ON SALE SEPT 18 TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC: WWW.TICKETMASTER.CA.
INFO: WWW.WRITERSFEST.BC.CA OR 604 681 6330.

From the start, Spalding kept a notebook, writing thoughts about the trial and personal memories prompted by that experience. On the last day of the trial, Spalding arrived at the courtroom five minutes late—and was dismissed from the jury. Shortly after, the remaining jurors found 22-year old Maryann Acker guilty of murder.

Eighteen years later, now living in Toronto, Spalding came across the notebook from that time, along with the bits of paper clipped from the newspaper years before. Determined to find out what had happened to Acker, she discovered Acker was still in prison in California, and wrote to her there.

Who Named the Knife: a Book of Murder and Memory is Linda Spalding's genre-bending examination of her relationship with Acker, whose role in two murders rocked Hawaii in the late 1970s. At first fueled by Spalding's belief that had she not been late and dismissed from the jury, Acker might not have been convicted, the relationship developed with letters, prison visits, and phone calls. The book moves from the specifics of Acker's case and trial to become an exploration of guilt for actions committed and not committed in everyone's life, of women

in prison and women imprisoned by expectations and life situations. Above all, it is an eloquent exploration of family, love and memory.

- Brenda Berck

Call for Volunteers

The Vancouver International Writers Festival relies on 200+ fantastic volunteers to make our Festival a success. Volunteers make essential contributions by helping with everything from program distribution to stage set-up to driving writers around town. We'll give you great coffee and great events with Canadian and international writers in return, as well as our gratitude.

If you have some spare time and would like to immerse yourself in the literary world for a couple of weeks this fall, please contact us at volunteer@writersfest.bc.ca or call the office at 604 681 6330. Volunteer Co-ordinator Kathryn Fowler will be on staff in August and will be happy to speak with you about our volunteer opportunities.

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The Vancouver International Writers Festival strives to encourage an appreciation of the written word and to promote literacy by providing a forum where readers and writers can meet. We produce special events and an annual Festival featuring compelling and diverse Canadian and international writers.

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Bookkeeping Services: Office Alternatives

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Festival Design: Hangar 18 Creative Group

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Elizabeth Glancy

Ink Layout and Design: Ann McDonell

Media Relations Manager: Judith Walker

Programmer, La Joie de Lire: Brenda Berck

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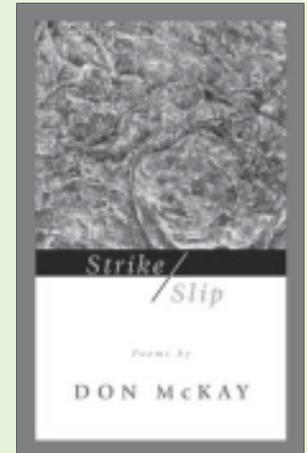
Yasmeen Strang, Jan Whitford

Poetry

Don MacKay

Astonished

astounded, astonished, astunned, stopped short
and turned toward stone, the moment
filling with its slow
stratified time. Standing there, your face
cratered by its gawk,
you might be the symbol signifying eon.
What are you, empty or pregnant? Somewhere
sediments accumulate on seabeds, seabeds
rear up into mountains, ammonites
fossilize into gems. Are you thinking
or being thought? Cities
as sand dunes, epics
as e-mail. Astonished
you are famous and anonymous, the border
washed out by so soft a thing as weather. Someone
inside you steps from the forest and across the beach
toward the nameless all-dissolving ocean.



"Astonished" from *Strike/Slip* by Don McKay (2006). Used by permission of McClelland & Stewart Ltd. Please visit our poetry website: www.mcclelland.com/poetry

The Vancouver International Writers Festival is committed to protecting the privacy of our members and patrons. We will not trade or sell your contact information to other businesses or organizations.

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL

writers & readers festival

*presenting a world of words
on Granville Island*

October 17–22,
2006

www.writersfest.bc.ca

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL VIWF POETRY & SHORT STORY WRITING CONTEST



1st Prize \$350
2nd Prize \$250

**Submit your finest prose and
poetry to the Writers Festival
Poetry & Short Story Contest**

Poetry: 500 word limit

Short fiction: 1,500 word limit

Entry fee per submission: \$10

Sponsored by



Prizes will be awarded to the top two entries in both the poetry and creative short fiction categories.

First prize winners in each category will be published in *subTerrain* magazine; all winners will be published on the Writers Festival website: www.writersfest.bc.ca.

Contest deadline: October 22, 2006. Check our website for complete submission details.