

VANCOUVER
WRITERS
FEST

October
21 – 27, 2024

*Exceptional Books
& Ideas in 85+ Events*

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KPU Creative Writing

Our creative writing program is a home for those who love community, creativity, and imagination.

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KWANTLEN
POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY

“KPU helped me become more confident in my work and helped me grow out of my comfort zone.”

ARIANA MOJADIDI

BACHELOR OF ARTS, CREATIVE WRITING



Ariana Mojadidi has been a passionate writer for as long as she can remember. From journal entries to poetry, Mojadidi has always been excited to create thought-provoking pieces. This interest led her to enroll in KPU's bachelor of arts in creative writing, a four-year program that facilitates imagination, critical awareness and global citizenship in an innovative, interdisciplinary classroom experience.

As Mojadidi progressed through the program to refine her writing skills, her biggest accomplishment went beyond the page to confidence building. “My most positive experience is joining a writing community and opening up and sharing my views with my remarkable peers,” she shares. “They have indeed been helpful critics and fantastic listeners.”

Through her newfound confidence and a supportive community, Mojadidi improved key employable skills, including public speaking, a previous fear that transformed into a strength. “When I was asked to read my poems at our program's wrap-up social, I was thrilled,” reflects Mojadidi. “As students, we always had opportunities to place ourselves out there and I believe that to be a big success.”

After Mojadidi completed her program, she was empowered to use her experience at KPU to fulfill her dream of becoming an educator. “Ever since I was in the third grade, I always wanted to become a teacher, an influencer, and a motivator,” she describes. “I am excited to become a profound educator like my influential professors.”

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Vancouver Writers Fest carries out its work on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations.

Welcome to the
2024 Festival!



© Yasmeen Strang

Welcome to the 37th annual Vancouver Writers Fest: an opportunity for inquisitive, book-loving people to come together for a week of literary celebration. Asking what our purpose is sits at the heart of our programming. At our core, we exist to feature the work of authors and storytellers, and to introduce our audiences to new and exciting books across many genres, but we also provide space for community, dialogue, and sparks of joy and insight.

We believe that when we connect people to exceptional books and authors, new ideas and world-expanding dialogue will follow—and, through that—a more empathetic, inspired, and just society. That’s certainly what propelled the Festival’s curation this year.

The importance of listening resonates throughout the program. Books like Ian Williams’ Massey Lecture title, *What I Mean to Say: Remaking Conversation in Our Time*, Raja G. Khouri and Jeffrey Wilkinson’s *The Wall Between: What Jews and Palestinians Don’t Want to Know About Each Other*, and Carol Off’s *At a Loss for Words: Conversation in the Age of Rage*,

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help us to better understand how we can learn from one another and, consequently, live side by side in a world that has gone haywire.

This has been an exceptionally difficult year: one of war, greed, and an urgent need to redress our political and humanitarian priorities. We do not expect to solve the world’s problems at a literary festival, but we aim to shine a light on some ideas that might create more understanding, more empathy, more ideas for action, and indeed, more hope for the future. Whether considering climate, colonization, the collapse of democracy south of the border, the housing crisis, long-term justice in Palestine and Ukraine, and an end to the escalating horrors of war, there and in so many other parts of the world, we listen with the intention of gaining new perspectives. The authors and books at the October Festival provide an opportunity to do just that.

I’m thrilled that award-winning author Kim Thúy joins us this year as our Guest Curator. Kim brings her brilliant storytelling and infectious joy to 6 events across Festival-week, including conversations for youth, centred around finding hope and belonging, as well as events for adults on the cost of writing honestly, the intersections between science and fiction, a conversation with Vietnamese-French author Thuận, and—finally—a screening of her masterpiece novel, *Ru*, come to life on screen.

Through it all, we shall continue to seek out joy. As author Ross Gay has said, “joy is a feeling we receive when we practice being entangled, or practice being alive.” Joy is not separate from sorrow, but a deeply human acknowledgment of moments of beauty in this life that, we hope, help us through such sorrow. These moments are plentiful, and I believe they are alive in the books we represent at our 2024 Festival.

Join us, and pick up a good book.

Leslie Hurtig, Artistic Director

Leslie Hurtig

A Letter from Our *Board of Directors*



Left to right: Sanika Bhurke, Julie Iannacone, Daniel Getz, Pat Cumming, Avalon Bourne, Benita Loughlin, Sonia Wong, Anna Panzo, Alison Broddle

(Regrets: Deepthi Atukorala, Steve Tornes, Jillian Stirk)

We are very proud of our mission statement at the Vancouver Writers Fest, which is “to connect people to exceptional books, ideas, and dialogue through year-round programming that ignites a passion for words and the world around us.”

The books at the heart of it all give us access to an amazing array of talented writers, while the ideas are the offshoots of those books that capture our imaginations, take us outside ourselves, and maybe

challenge us to think about something differently. But it is the dialogue that brings it—and us—all together and brings the Festival to life with spontaneous moments both on and off the stage. There is truly nothing like sharing the real-time experience of listening, laughing, reflecting, and asking questions.

For making all this happen, the Board of Directors is deeply grateful to the staff at the Writers Fest for their creativity, organization, and indeed their physical efforts to put on this festival.

We’d also like to thank our public and corporate sponsors, as well as the generous individuals and volunteers whose ongoing support and funding are essential to the existence and growth of both the Festival and our work year-round. If you’re not already a donor, we’d love it if you would please consider making even a small monthly contribution to VWF.

And finally to our members and audiences—thank you so much for being here, for joining us at these events, and for engaging with books, ideas, and each other.

—Alison Broddle, Chair, on behalf of the VWF Board of Directors

Welcoming Our Guest Curator, *Kim Thúy*



GUEST CURATOR

Look for this icon on Kim’s curated events.

EVENTS:

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28 | PAGE 25

33 | PAGE 27

42 | PAGE 31

54 | PAGE 39

74 | PAGE 50

Our hope for a Guest Curator is that, in addition to introducing a standout selection of books and writers, they will capture the present moment in a way that is unique to their perspective. That’s why we’re thrilled to have collaborated this year with celebrated Québec author **Kim Thúy**. The award-winning author of *Ru*, *Mãn*, and *Em*, among other books, Kim was chosen for her immense talent as a writer and advocate; her ancestral scope of vision; and her larger-than-life persona which exudes joy, brilliance, and compassion.

Kim has helped to curate a slate of six intriguing and uplifting events that will explore threads of identity, belonging, migration, hardship, hope—and simply brilliant writing that acknowledges and celebrates life in all its wonder.

Two events for youth shine a light in uncertain times. Middle-grade students will discover hope in a world that can be scary and dangerous, with wisdom from authors **Randy Boyagoda**, **Kern Carter**, and **Sarah Mughal Rana**.

Teens are invited to celebrate the differences and quirks that make us who we are, in an event with **Linh Nguyễn**, **Wali Shah**, and **Isabelle Picard**, exploring the age-old question of how to find both strength in our individual identities, and belonging in our communities.

Writers established, emerging, aspiring, or simply curious won’t want to miss a candid conversation about the fragile balance between art and life, with three writers who have found career success: **Heather O’Neill**, **Brandon Taylor**, and **Jenny Heijun Wills**. This will be an eye-opening conversation about the real cost of writing.

Dive into the miraculous worlds of science and nature with **Richard Powers** and **James Bradley**, whose works will have you questioning which is stranger: truth or fiction?

And, in partnership with VIFF, Kim will host a screening of the 2023 film adaptation of her Canada Reads and Governor General’s Award-winning novel *Ru*, followed by an on-stage discussion.

Founder and Lifetime Member

Alma Lee

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Program Guide
Advertising
- ZAK Design Studio,**
Festival and Program
Guide Designs
- Zg Stories,**
Festival Marketing
& Publicity

2024 Festival Participants

Caroline Adderson	Ann Cleeves	Dorothy Grant	Richard Powers
Angela Ahn	Megan Clendenan	Dr. Jennifer Grenz	Nita Prose
Rumaan Alam	Mason Coile	Yeji Y. Ham	Danny Ramadan
Sadiya Ansari	Stephen Collis	Drew Hayden Taylor	Trina Rathgeber
Bill Arnott	Sarah Cox	Sarah Henstra	Elizabeth Renzetti
Billy-Ray Belcourt	Gregor Craigie	Eric Hogan	Jael Richardson
Diana Beresford-Kroeger	Jen Currin	Nalo Hopkinson	Katherine Rundell
Shashi Bhat	Nick Cutter	Jess Housty	Tom Ryan
Tom Birdseye	Adam de Souza	Tessa Hulls	Candace Savage
Kate Black	Roddy Doyle	Tara Hungerford	Wali Shah
Randy Boyagoda	Mercedes Eng	Emiko Jean	Leanne Toshiko Simpson
James Bradley	Anne Enright	Conor Kerr	Niigaan Sinclair
Dionne Brand	Holly Flauto	Raja G. Khouri	Murray Sinclair
Kern Carter	Anne Fleming	Amorina Kingdon	Monique Gray Smith
Marty Chan	Petti Fong	Marcus Kliewer	Timothy Snyder
Myriam J. A. Chancy	Andrea Fritz	Aaron Kreuter	Jón Kalman Stefánsson
Johnnie Christmas	Elliott Gish	Uma Krishnaswami	Basil Sylvester
Dana Claxton	Holly Gramazio	Yulin Kuang	Kevin Sylvester
		Andrey Kurkov	Tanya Talaga
		Rachel Kushner	Brandon Taylor
		Evelyn Lau	Nathan Thrall
		Sarah Leavitt	Thuân
		Canisia Lubrin	Rhea Tregebov
		Minelle Mahtani	Ayelet Tsabari
		Gabor Maté, M.D.	Michael Turner
		Alison McCreesh	Jane Urquhart
		Bob McDonald	Richard Van Camp
		Kirsten McDougall	Nancy Vo
		Beverley McLachlin	Yilin Wang
		George McWhirter	Andrea Warner
		Claire Messud	Jeffrey Wilkinson
		Anne Michaels	Ian Williams
		Sarah Mughal Rana	Jenny Heijun Willis
		Zehra Naqvi	Jody Wilson-Raybould
		Roz Nay	Brandon Wint
		Anthony Nerada	Michelle Winters
		Linh S. Nguyễn	Teresa Wong
		Heather O'Neill	Jacob Wren
		Carol Off	Stephanie Wrobel
		Molly Knox Ostertag	shō yamagushiku
		Rajinderpal S. Pal	Melissa Yue
		Amanda Peters	Daniel Zomparelli
		Jane Philpott	
		Isabelle Picard	
		Adam Pottle	

Festival Tickets

Accessibility & Equitability

Festival Tickets Info

Always check the website! Please remember to check our website, as the information below is abbreviated, and event details may change.

writersfest.bc.ca/box-office

Ticket Sale Dates

Member Tickets: Tuesday, September 10 at 10am

School Groups: Thursday, September 12 at 8am


General Tickets: Tuesday, September 17 at 10am

How to Buy

Online: writersfest.bc.ca

At the event: Visit the event venue starting 45 mins prior to the performance.

Need help? If you need help completing your ticket order online, call (844) 307-7469 for Showpass customer service. Please direct all other questions to boxoffice@writersfest.bc.ca.


Pricing 

Ticket prices are listed under each event. Prices include GST and service fees. Discounts for regular events are offered for members or seniors (10%), and youth under 25 (\$15 flat fee; some events excluded).

6 for 5 deal on standard tickets

Attend six events for the price of five! When you add six standard tickets to six separate events to your cart, the price of one ticket will be waived. This discount is automatically applied at checkout and available to all. Please email boxoffice@writersfest.bc.ca or call (778) 658-0462 for assistance. *Standard tickets only. Cannot be combined with other discounts. Maximum \$27 savings per order.*

Youth Events

 YOUTH

For full information about school group bookings, including subsidy information and free livestream options, please visit writersfest.bc.ca/info-for-teachers

Accessibility at the Festival

We're committed to listening, learning, and doing the work to make the Festival a safer, low-barrier experience for you. Please reach out to boxoffice@writersfest.bc.ca. We also provide phone assistance on weekdays between 11am-4pm at (778) 658-0462.

We offer a range of accessibility information and options, including but not limited to: venue access details, ASL at select events (and upon request), priority seating, complimentary support person tickets, and reduced ticket prices for those impeded by cost. All our accessibility information can be found on our website: writersfest.bc.ca/accessibility.



Scan QR code to visit our accessibility page directly.

TERMS

We offer no exchanges or refunds except if an event is canceled. Check your order carefully before you click Pay.

Festival Pop-Up Bookstore



Festival Pop-Up Bookstore:

Origins Coffee
(1245 Cartwright St.)

Bookstore Hours:

Tuesday–Sunday
10am–10pm



Maps & Venue Information

We use several venues on Granville Island for our events, as well as some off-island locations within the city. Please input any of the addresses in the right column in your GPS of choice for guided directions, or use the **QR code below** to access our annotated and printable maps. Venue maps will be situated across Granville Island during Festival Week.



Scan QR code to access our annotated and printable maps.

Parking Information

Granville Island has a metered parking system.

Pay parking in effect **9am–10pm**

▪ Free parking **10pm–9am**

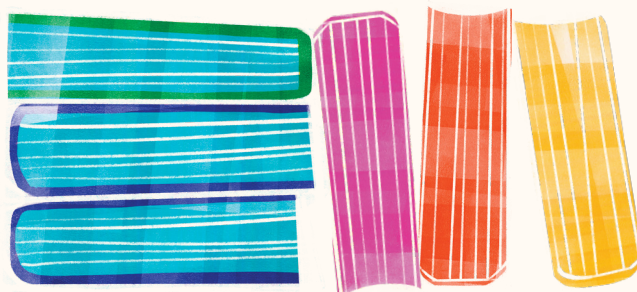
Parking is extremely limited during retail hours, especially on the weekend. We highly encourage patrons to take public transportation, taxis, or use rideshares whenever possible.

ON ISLAND VENUES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 RS
The Revue Stage,
1601 Johnston St. | 5 GS
Granville Island Stage,
1585 Johnston St. |
| 2 WT
Waterfront Theatre,
1412 Cartwright St. | 6 GH
Granville Island Hotel,
1253 Johnston St. |
| 3 N
The NEST, Third Floor,
Festival House,
1398 Cartwright St. | 7 DL
Dockside Lounge,
1253 Johnston St. |
| 4 PW
Performance Works,
1218 Cartwright St. | 8 OC
Festival Pop-Up
Bookstore
(Origins Coffee)
1245 Cartwright St. |

OFF ISLAND VENUES

- | | |
|---|--|
| PT Vancouver Playhouse,
600 Hamilton St. | DMC Djavad Mowafaghian
Cinema,
149 W Hastings St. |
| VC VIFF Centre,
1181 Seymour St. | FWT Frederic Wood
Theatre,
6354 Crescent Rd |
| CSC Chinatown Storytelling
Centre,
168 East Pender St. | OT Orpheum,
601 Smithe St. |
| AFV Alliance Française
Vancouver,
6161 Cambie St. | |



Support the *Vancouver Writers Fest*

When you give to the Vancouver Writers Fest you're supporting the power of books and storytelling. Plus, your contribution helps our efforts to eliminate barriers of participation for others. Here are three ways to give:

Become a *Festival Member*

VWF Members receive special access, perks, and exclusive content, including:

- Festival Program Guide mailed to you
- Member Preview event with a sneak peak of the Festival Reading List
- Early access to Festival tickets
- 10% discount on all Festival tickets
- A vote at the VWF Annual General Meeting

Join our community today by becoming a member: writersfest.bc.ca/membership

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$45



Become A Page-Turner — *Join Our Monthly Donor Club*

Page Turner

Page-Turners are lovers of the literary arts: just like a good book you can't put down, Page-Turners help us ensure our story keeps going.

Become a Page-Turner:

Visit writersfest.bc.ca/donate to make your monthly gift.

Monthly donations of \$10/month or more include a complimentary membership. These donations are crucial for maintaining our operational costs as we continue programs and planning for year-round events.

Become a Strategic Benefactor

Donate publicly-traded securities to our charity and benefit from significant tax savings. Eliminate taxable capital gains on these securities, receive a tax credit of the same value, and become part of the heart of our literary community. Want to know more? Contact Ashleigh Withall at awithall@writersfest.bc.ca

VWF Programming *(Year-Round)*

The Vancouver Writers Fest works year-round to connect readers to exceptional books and ideas. By leveraging the power of stories and storytelling, we seek to build empathy and connection, spark curiosity, and delight in the sheer joy of words. **Our programs include:**

October Festival

The October Festival is our flagship event, inviting 130+ authors and world-class moderators to join us across 85+ events during the third week of October every year. During this week-long event, our home on Granville Island is illuminated by VWF signage, school visits, and sold-out events from the early morning well into the evening.

Special Events

Special Events feature some of the biggest international authors being published today, engaging in provocative, illuminating conversations. Some of this year's Special Events will include **Liane Moriarty, Louise Erdrich, Malcolm Gladwell, and Daniel Levitin.**

My Roots

The My Roots Workshop encourages a small cohort of immigrants to develop and share their stories of place through a mix of writing exercises and writing craft lessons once a year. My Roots is presented thanks to the generous financial support of Hotfusion Communications Inc.

Youth Writing Contest

Our annual writing contests are for high school and elementary school students, awarding a cash prize for first and second place in each category. *The Youth Writing Contest is presented thanks to the generous support of Emily Carr University of Art + Design.*

For Schools: *Writers in the Classroom*

Our popular Writers in the Classroom program returns for fall! Designed to connect children and youth to authors through live, interactive events, the fall season of Writers in the Classroom will include 14 author visits to schools across Metro Vancouver between October and December 2024.

During each Writers in the Classroom event, authors typically read from their work, discuss their writing process, and answer student questions. All author visits are in person and typically last 60–75 minutes.

Writers in the Classroom is offered FREE of cost to schools thanks to the support of the Government of British Columbia, Modo, and Bonnie Mah.

Authors open to school visits in fall 2024 include:

1. **Uma Krishnaswami**, *Look! Look!* (Gr. 1–3) FESTIVAL WEEK ONLY
2. **Adam Pottle**, *Butterfly on the Wind* (Gr. 1–3) FESTIVAL WEEK ONLY
3. **Stephanie Ellen Sy**, *A Roof!* (Gr. 1–3)
4. **Linh S. Nguyễn**, *No Place Like Home* (Gr. 4–7) FESTIVAL WEEK ONLY
5. **Trina Rathgeber**, *Lost at Windy River* (Gr. 4–7) FESTIVAL WEEK ONLY
6. **Melissa Yue**, *Misadventures in Ghosthunting* (Gr. 4–7) FESTIVAL WEEK ONLY
7. **Johnnie Christmas**, *Gamerville* (Gr. 3–7)
8. **Petti Fong**, *Alone Together* (Gr. 4–7)
9. **Sarah Mughal Rana**, *Hope Ablaze* (Gr. 8–12) FESTIVAL WEEK ONLY
10. **Li Charmaine Anne**, *Crash Landing* (Gr. 9–12)
11. **Carleigh Baker**, *Last Woman* (Gr. 11–12)
12. **Linda Cheng**, *Gorgeous Gruesome Faces* (Gr. 9–12)
13. **Anthony Nerada**, *Skater Boy* (Gr. 9–12)
14. **Myriam J. A. Chancy**, *Village Weavers* (SFU Department of World Languages and Literatures)



For the full availability of authors and other details, please use the following QR code.



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Zg stories



Raincoast Distribution Group



Raincoast
Books



Publishers
Group Canada



Book
Express



GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



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THE TYEE

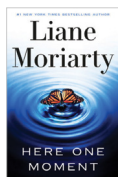


FESTIVAL SUPPORTER



We'd like to thank all of the artisans and vendors of Granville Island who donate food, goods, and services to us during Festival Week and throughout the year. See page 76 for a list of our donors.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 | 7:30 PM | \$40 AND UP \$



DMC DJAVAD MOWAFAGHIAN CINEMA

SPECIAL EVENT

Liane Moriarty in Conversation with Eddy Boudel Tan

Vancouver Writers Fest is proud to recognize SFU as a cultural partner.

Australian author **Liane Moriarty** has a gift for writing smart, sensational page-turners that have the entertainment industry waiting on speed dial. Her novel *Big Little Lies* was the inspiration behind the HBO limited series that won eight Emmy Awards; *Nine Perfect Strangers* and *Apples Never Fall* were also turned into star-studded TV adaptations. She joins us in Vancouver to launch *Here One Moment*, a riveting new novel that follows a group of passengers on a seemingly ordinary domestic flight, who learn how and when they are going to die. If you knew your future, would you try to fight fate?

A modern-day Jane Austen, Moriarty asks profound questions and humorously skewers social mores, while spinning a web of mystery. She speaks with **Eddy Boudel Tan** at the Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema, followed by an audience Q&A. Books can be purchased during check-out, or before and after the event, courtesy of Book Warehouse.

LIANE MORIARTY is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Truly Madly Guilty*, *Big Little Lies*, *The Husband's Secret*, *The Hypnotist's Love Story*, and *What Alice Forgot*. She lives in Sydney, Australia, with her husband and two children. (AUSTRALIA)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 | 7:30 PM | \$40 AND UP \$



FWT FREDERIC WOOD THEATRE

SPECIAL EVENT

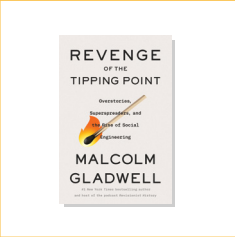
Louise Erdrich in Conversation with Carleigh Baker

A new novel by **Louise Erdrich** is a major literary event. World-renowned for her substantial body of work—including numerous award-winning and bestselling novels that centre modern-day Native American experiences—the Pulitzer Prize-winning author joins nêhiyaw âpihtawikosisân/Icelandic author **Carleigh Baker** in Vancouver to discuss *The Mighty Red*, a heartrending story about love and our tattered bond with the earth.

In Argus, North Dakota, a collection of people revolve around a fraught wedding. But human time is set against the speed of climate change. This is a novel about ordinary people living in a starkly beautiful prairie community, who must cope with devastating consequences as powerful forces upend them. Books will be available for purchase before and after the event, courtesy of Massy Books.

LOUISE ERDRICH, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, is the award-winning author of many novels as well as volumes of poetry, children's books, and a memoir of early motherhood. Erdrich lives in Minnesota with her daughters and is the owner of Birchbark Books, a small independent bookstore. (TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA/USA)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 7:30 PM | \$40 AND UP



OT ORPHEUM THEATRE

SPECIAL EVENT

Malcolm Gladwell in Conversation with Ian Hanomansing

Malcolm Gladwell's first book, *The Tipping Point*, changed the way we think and talk about the dissemination of ideas. Twenty-five years after its publication—and many *New York Times*-bestselling books later—Gladwell reframes the lessons of his groundbreaking debut for our confounding new era, in *Revenge of the Tipping Point*.

What does the heartbreaking fate of the cheetah tell us about the way we raise our children? Why do Ivy League schools care so much about sports? What is the Magic Third, and what does it mean for racial harmony? In this provocative new work, Gladwell returns to the subject of social epidemics and tipping points, this time with the aim of explaining the dark side of contagious phenomena.

Gladwell is one of our most influential thinkers, and a “rock-star intellectual.” (*The Guardian*) He shares his unique perspective in conversation with **CBC’s *The National* host Ian Hanomansing**. Books will be available for purchase before and after the event, courtesy of Book Warehouse.

MALCOLM GLADWELL is the author of seven previous *New York Times* bestsellers. He is also the co-founder of the audio production company Pushkin Industries. Gladwell has been included in the *Time* 100 Most Influential People list and was named one of Foreign Policy’s Top Global Thinkers. (USA)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21 | ON-DEMAND | FREE

The Wall Between

EVENT NUMBER

01

PRE-RECORDED

The authors of this groundbreaking book speak to each other about how Jews and Palestinians speak (and listen) differently to each other. The “wall” they refer to is one not only of concrete, but distrust, enmity, and hate, fueling the breakdown of civil discourse in public spaces around the world. For Jews, Israel must exist; for Palestinians, the historic injustice being committed since 1948 must be reversed. Neither wants to know why the Other cannot budge on these issues. The wall is up. In this nuanced and courageous pre-recorded event, available throughout the Festival, **Raja G. Khouri** and **Jeffrey Wilkinson** begin an essential conversation for us all. Please see Event 82 for an in-person Q&A version of this event.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 7:30 PM | \$27 AND UP

A Grand Opening: *Finding Joy Amid Turmoil*

EVENT NUMBER

02

PT PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

Finding joy in times of crisis and world disorder is not only a balm; it’s a necessity. In sequential addresses, including readings and original pieces, some of the world’s biggest literary names will share what joy means to them in challenging times. Whether pertaining to the current horrors of global politics and climate crisis, or more personal inner turmoil, finding joy helps us to connect with others, illuminates a path forward, and offers the strength for us to imagine a different future. Featuring **Andrey Kurkov**, **Heather O’Neill**, **Kim Thúy**, **Tanya Talaga**, **Bill Richardson**, **John Vaillant**, and more—see our website for the full speaker list, including host!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 10:15 AM | \$12

Reconciling
History

EVENT NUMBER

03

GS GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

YOUTH

There is one question Canadians have asked the Honourable **Jody Wilson-Raybould** more than any other: What can I do to help advance reconciliation? It starts by understanding our history—our shared story, including crucial voices that have seldom been heard. The former Independent Member of Parliament, Minister of Justice, and Attorney General of Canada shares the history of our land as told through the voices of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in her new work, *Reconciling History: A Story of Canada*, co-written with Roshan Danesh. This is a brilliant opportunity for both students and adults to learn the story of our country from new angles, and hear from a leading advocate for Indigenous rights in Canada—one who is known as a bridge builder between communities. *Grades 10–12. Moderated by Michelle Cyca.*

Presented in partnership with Talking Stick Festival.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 10:15 AM | \$12

Coming of *Age*

EVENT NUMBER

04

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

YOUTH

Few stages of life involve quite so much change as that of kid to teen or, as it's known, the Middle Grades. In these years, insecurity and anxiety can take over and make it hard to navigate friendships, family, and identity. These three writers show the myriad ways we come of age. **Kern Carter** confirms that showing vulnerability and pursuing your true passion is okay for boys in *Is There A Boy Like Me?* **Isabelle Picard** shares insights into the challenges of being a young Indigenous teen through the story of Innu twins, Leon and Eloise, in *Nish: Northern Lights*. **Wali Shah** explores the difficulties of finding one's true voice as an immigrant, a Muslim, and a teenager in *Call Me Al*. In sequential presentations, they'll offer recognition and solace... not to mention riveting stories. *Grades 4–7.*

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THE VANCOUVER WRITERS FESTLEARN
MORE
HERE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 10:15 AM | \$12

The Craft of
Graphic Novels

EVENT NUMBER
05

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE YOUTH

In North America, graphic novel sales have increased by more than 100 percent since 2019: more than 35 million copies are sold every year. For many students, graphic novels begin their love of reading: if it's the bright, eye-catching drawings that captivate their attention, it's the dialogue and plot that keep it. **Alison McCreesh** (*Degrees of Separation: A Decade North of 60*), **Molly Knox Ostertag** (*The Deep Dark*), and **Adam de Souza** (*The Gulf*) talk about the craft of graphic novels: why they've become so popular as a genre; how text and graphics interact; and the "invisible art" infused in deciding what to include in every panel on the page. *Grades 8–12. Moderated by Emily Chou.*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 10:15 AM | \$12

Masterclass with
Kevin Sylvester

EVENT NUMBER
06

N THE NEST YOUTH

Talk about an inspiring morning! **Kevin Sylvester** is beloved not only for his bold illustrations and dozens of riveting books, but for his down-to-earth and hilarious approach to teaching. The master illustrator and storyteller, who comes to the Festival with *Puffin and Penguin*, offers a drawing masterclass to help kids feel comfortable developing their own visual stories. He'll guide kids through simple illustrations, showing them in real-time how he crafts his own characters. By the end of the class, students will know more about the delightfully funny antics of Puffin, Penguin, and their pals, as well as how to strengthen their drawing skills. *Grades 1–3.*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 1:00 PM | \$12

Worlds of
Imagination

EVENT NUMBER
07

GS GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE YOUTH

Whether a parallel world of ghosts, magic, or mystical creatures, the desire to imagine is one of the joys of youth... and never really leaves us if we treat it carefully. These authors know how to keep imagination alive—and how to use it to create magnificent worlds. **Katherine Rundell's** YA sensation, *Impossible Creatures*, crackles with delight in a world of unmapped islands with magical creatures. She is joined by **Linh S. Nguyễn**, whose *No Place Like Home* is a portal fantasy unlike any other, and **Melissa Yue**, whose *Misadventures in Ghosthunting* shares the fascinating protagonist Emma's ghosthunting history. Together, they'll discuss how they begin to construct such creative realities, how to keep them alive—and why they're so passionate about magical fiction. *Grades 4–7. Moderated by Jael Richardson.*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 1:00 PM | \$12

Storytime
with Nature

EVENT NUMBER
08

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE YOUTH

Settle in, get cozy, and enjoy readings from three celebrated children's writers who instill wonder for the natural world—and the communities we can become part of. **Andrea Fritz** uses Indigenous storytelling techniques and art to share the culture and language of the Hul'qumi'num'-speaking Peoples in *Crow Helps a Friend* and *Raven Gets Tricked*. Award-winning **Candace Savage** has spent decades studying the natural world, and helps youngsters understand how it all began in *Always Beginning: The Big Bang, the Universe and You*. **Monique Gray Smith** shares a heartwarming story, *Circle of Love*, demonstrating that there is always room for others in our lives. *Grades K–3.*

See website for an additional event (Event 6.5) featuring Katherine Rundell on October 22!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 1:00 PM | \$12

Masterclass
with *Marty Chan*

EVENT NUMBER

09

N THE NEST

YOUTH

Marty Chan has been professionally lying since 1998. Or, at least, that's how long the award-winning author and playwright has been storytelling for. He's the author of more than 20 books and plays, the latest of which, *Izzy Wong's Nose for News*, follows a sixth-grade student who wants to start her own hit investigative podcast. In a captivating event for students, Chan will share what he's learned from his 25+ year writing career in accessible, fun tips. How is writing a bit like playing video games? What can Star Wars teach us about writing a good story climax? And what's the difference between a "pantser" and a "planner"? Students will discover this and more in an hour that will fly by with one of the best in the industry. *Grades 4–7.*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 1:30 PM | \$12

Word! 1

EVENT NUMBER

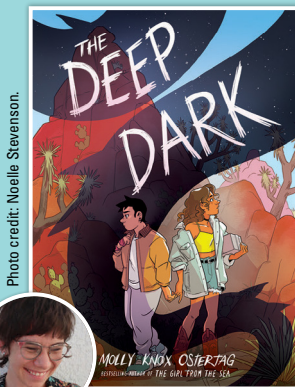
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RS THE REVUE STAGE

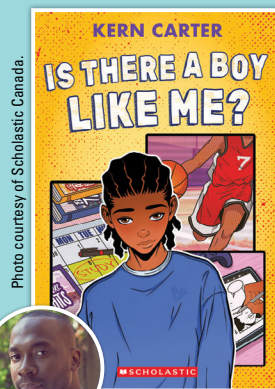
YOUTH

Our Spoken Word event series, curated and hosted by award-winning poet and spoken word artist **Jillian Christmas**, is a varied, powerful highlight of our youth programming every year. This Word! features three exceptional performers sharing poems about identity, nature, belonging, and finding your way in difficult times. **Lucia Misch** (*The Problem with Solitaire*) is a poet and performer who has performed spoken word in Poetry Slams across North America, and who facilitates workshops for young people across the coast. **Alessandra Naccarato** is an award-winning poet and essayist of *Imminent Domains: Reckoning with the Anthropocene* and *Re-Origin of Species*, whose unique perspective on our natural world and our place within it has won multiple awards. **Wali Shah** is a poet, international speaker and TED talker, and former Poet Laureate for the City of Mississauga, beloved for his freestyle poetry and new book, *Call Me Al*. *Grades 8–12. Hosted by Jillian Christmas.*

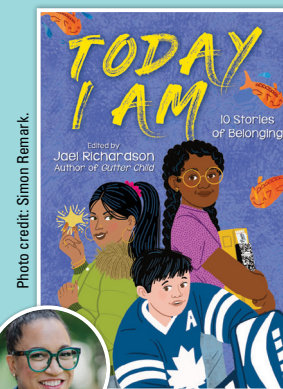
Meet these game-changing creators!



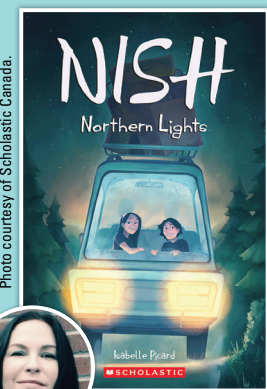
Molly Knox Ostertag



Kern Carter

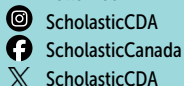


Jael Richardson



Isabelle Picard

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SCHOLASTIC

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 6:00 PM | \$27 

Elizabeth Renzetti
in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER

11

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Is feminism now passé? Should women be “over it” now that we’ve seen so much progress so quickly? No, says bestselling author and journalist **Elizabeth Renzetti**: not when women hold just 30 percent of seats in Canada’s parliament, 5 percent of CEO offices, and a tenth of the salary of male athletes. Not when a fraction of reported sexual assault cases result in convictions and when bodily autonomy continues to be challenged by elected representatives. In this galvanizing, nuanced event, Renzetti offers a fresh perspective on issues facing the country’s women, delving into the complexities of modern equity seeking. While *What She Said: Conversations About Equality* works to unite women to protect their right to exist fully and freely in the world, make no mistake: this is a fight that belongs to everyone. *Moderated by Charmaine de Silva.*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 6:00 PM | \$27 

Nita Prose
in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER

12

RS THE REVUE STAGE

From editing some of the biggest names in page-turning Canadian literature, to writing international bestsellers, **Nita Prose** has touched some of the hottest stories in mystery writing of the last 20 years. Her debut novel, *The Maid*, sold more than 2 million copies worldwide and was published in more than 40 countries, picking up major awards along the way. Her second, *The Mystery Guest*, follows the eponymous maid, Molly Gray, as she tries to solve a murder in the luxury Regency Grand Hotel. Prose will speak to the creation of a character that has touched millions and been hailed by Stephen King as “the most interesting main character in a long time,” her move from acclaimed editor to wildly successful writer, and the magic ingredients in every unputdownable mystery. *Moderated by Bill Richardson.*



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RESTAURANT

1253 Johnston Street, Vancouver | Granville Island
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 7:30 PM | \$27 

Ann Cleeves in Conversation:
The Alma Lee Opening Night Event

EVENT NUMBER

13

GS GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

Vera Stanhope, the shabby and sharp Northumberland police detective, has been hailed as a “genre immortal” by *The New York Times*. And no wonder: **Ann Cleeves’** series is internationally bestselling, was developed into a hugely popular UK TV drama, and—11 books in—continues to offer mesmerizing crime novels that are as riveting as they are insightful. In this highly anticipated evening with the author behind the detective sensation, Cleeves will share more about her latest novel in the series, *The Dark Wives*, in which DI Stanhope is called to investigate the death of a local care worker and the disappearance of troubled teen, Chloe. What drives such prolific creation? How does she weave a page-turning plot with such deft social commentary? Learn about this and more, in this fascinating evening with one of the world’s most successful writers. *Moderated by Robert J. Wiersema.*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 7:30 PM | \$27 

Scarily Brilliant:
An Evening of Literary Horror

EVENT NUMBER

14

N THE NEST

CO ASL PROVIDED

Reading these novels, it can be hard to tell whether the hairs on the back of your neck are reacting to their shiver-inducing plots, or in recognition of the talent they demonstrate. **Elliott Gish** probes the uncontrollable power of female rage and the horrors of memory in *Grey Dog*. **Yeji Y. Ham’s** *The Invisible Hotel* is a startling, speculative gothic tale about political adolescence in the afterlife of the Korean War. **Adam Pottle** shares a deeply original story of a Deaf teen who escapes his father’s basement in *Apparitions*. Together, they will discuss the process of craft: honouring and breaking from tradition; probing what is truly scary, on and off the page; and using fear to explore our shared humanity. *Moderated by Jen Sookfong Lee.*

Upstart
& Crow

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 8:30 PM | \$27 

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 8:30 PM | \$27 

Rachel Kushner
in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER

15

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Author of *The Mars Room*, *The Flamethrowers*, *Telex from Cuba*, and *The Hard Crowd*, **Rachel Kushner** envelops you with exhilarating, propulsive prose and characters whose worlds you feel lucky to glimpse—however difficult those worlds may be. *Creation Lake* is no different, billed as Kushner’s “finest achievement yet as a novelist.” It’s a work of high art, high comedy, and unforgettable pleasure in which protagonist Sadie lives both in rural, pastoral France and in a shadowy web of provocation on behalf of secretive business and government figures. The two-time National Book Award finalist and Man Booker Prize-shortlisted author will tell us more about this fascinating conceit, unlikely feminist characters, and the interconnected webs of art and politics. *Moderated by Alix Ohlin.*

Presented in partnership with Simon & Schuster Canada.

Romancing
the Page

EVENT NUMBER

16

RS THE REVUE STAGE

The romance genre has doubled in sales since 2020 as more and more readers discover that, far from fluffy escapism, stories of love can be page-turningly delicious while delving into the challenges we face in our lives. These three novelists are demonstrating just that. **Holly Gramazio’s** *The Husbands* asks, “How do we navigate life, love, and choice in a world of never-ending options?”; **Yulin Kuang’s** *How to End a Love Story* offers a new take on the enemies-to-lovers story through two TV writers trying to write themselves a new ending; and **Leanne Toshiko Simpson’s** *Never Been Better* is a heartfelt comedy about a seaside wedding reunion... and those trying to stay afloat. Together, they’ll share all about a beloved, morphing genre in an evening of wit and revelry. *Moderated by Jael Richardson.*

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 10:15 AM | \$12

Word! 2

EVENT NUMBER

17

GS GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

YOUTH

Our Spoken Word event series, curated and hosted by award-winning poet and spoken word artist **Jillian Christmas**, is a varied, powerful highlight of our youth programming every year. This Word! features three exceptional performers, sharing poems about identity, nature, belonging, and finding your way in difficult times. **Lucia Misch** (*The Problem with Solitaire*) is a poet and performer who has performed spoken word in Poetry Slams across North America, and who facilitates workshops for young people across the coast. **Alessandra Naccarato** is an award-winning poet and essayist of *Imminent Domains: Reckoning with the Anthropocene* and *Re-Origin of Species*, whose unique perspective on our natural world and our place within it has won multiple awards. **Wali Shah** is a poet, international speaker, and TED talker, and former Poet Laureate for the City of Mississauga, beloved for his freestyle poetry and new book, *Call Me Al*. Grades 8–12. Hosted by Jillian Christmas.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 10:15 AM | \$12

Big Hope for
Little Ones

EVENT NUMBER

18

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

YOUTH

Storytime is always fun, but sometimes it can be inspiring, too. In *Butterfly on the Wind*, Deaf picture book creators author **Adam Pottle** and artist Ziyue Chen combine powerful text and sweeping art into a moving story of resilience and self-belief. Kids will continue to be inspired with **Monique Gray Smith** who shows how there is always room for others in our lives in *Circle of Love*. **Nancy Vo** shows just how far faith in the people we love can take us, in *The Runaway*, the finale of the Crow Stories trilogy. Grades 1–3.

Presented in partnership with Raincoast Books.

WELCOME TO THE VANCOUVER WRITERS FEST!

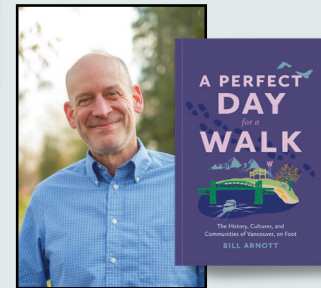
SARAH LEAVITT

Something, Not Nothing

TERESA WONG

All Our Ordinary Stories

BILL ARNOTT

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 10:15 AM | \$12 \$

Finding Hope

EVENT NUMBER

19

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

YOUTH

GUEST CURATOR

How do you find hope when your world—and perhaps even the people in it—is inconsistent, dangerous, and scary? It's a question that too many young people need to answer. **Randy Boyagoda's** *Little Sanctuary* is the story of children from the Global South living in a world that is falling apart, wracked by war. **Kern Carter**, meanwhile, shares hardships closer to home in *And Then There Was Us*, about a teenager navigating the aftermath of parental abuse. **Sarah Mughal Rana's** *Hope Ablaze* explores the ugly realities of prejudice and politics through a Muslim teen finding her voice in a post-9/11 America. Whether dealing with crises themselves, or simply learning the power of hope in adversity, students will benefit from this wise, engaging, and relatable discussion, hosted by Guest Curator **Kim Thúy**. *Grades 8–12.*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 10:15 AM | \$12 \$

Masterclass with Candace Savage

EVENT NUMBER

20

N THE NEST

YOUTH

Candace Savage has spent decades studying the fascinating world of crows and the natural world, and helps youngsters get up close and personal with these clever corvids in *How to Know a Crow*. She's also going to help students understand what it takes to transform observations about the world around us into compelling stories and prose. Fulsome and fascinating, Savage will share amazing stories and multiple tips based on a lifetime of writing. By the end of this Masterclass, students will gain a deeper insight into what it means to be a writer... and how to translate what we observe onto the page. *Grades 4–7.*

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A message from the
BC Teachers' Federation
bctf.ca

BCTF

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 1:00 PM | \$12

On Connection

EVENT NUMBER

21

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

YOUTH

Connections come in many forms, and they're nurtured in many different ways, too. The depth and range of ties among friends, family members, and even non-human animals are illuminated in these moving, fun reads. **Angela Ahn's** *Team Park* explores family approval and overcoming obstacles. **Johnnie Christmas' Gamerville** is a timely, vulnerable exploration of the importance of human connection—told through the world of video game championships. **Uma Krishnaswami's** *Birds on the Brain* celebrates the precious relationship between humans and birds, as Reeni tries to save her city's bird population. Join them for readings and conversation that will get students thinking about the importance of building ties and thinking of others—and support them in finding friendships in unusual places. *Grades 4–7. Moderated by Tanya Boteju.*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 1:00 PM | \$12

Thrilling Tales
with Richard Van Camp

EVENT NUMBER

22

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

YOUTH

Winner of the Blue Metropolis First Peoples Literary Prize, Storyteller of the Year from the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers, and the Order of the Northwest Territories, **Richard Van Camp** has written 28 books in 28 years... and it looks like his incredible career of storytelling magic continues in 2024. In his latest, *Beast*, he blends realism with hair-raising horror in a spirited tale that pits the powers of tradition against the pull of a vengeful past in the fictional town of Fort Simmer, Northwest Territories. In conversation, Van Camp will speak more about what draws him back to this riveting fictional place in multiple books, how he became so prolific, and the Indigenous stories that are inspiring him today. *Grades 8–12. Moderated by Jael Richardson.*

Presented in partnership with Talking Stick Festival.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 1:00 PM | \$12

Masterclass
with Kern Carter

EVENT NUMBER

23

N THE NEST

YOUTH

Kern Carter's *And Then There Was Us* was recently voted Top Teen Novel of 2024 by Indigo, and the YA writer's star continues to rise. Appropriately, he believes that writers are superstars, and will make every kid feel like they have the potential to be just that with his warm, high-energy, humorous, and surprising presentations that have quickly become a highlight of any festival he attends. Connecting writing and publishing to pop culture, Carter helps students build their confidence and understand their true value to the broader culture. His Masterclass is bound to connect with students and offer thought-provoking, relatable ways to use writing in our lives. *Grades 8–12.*

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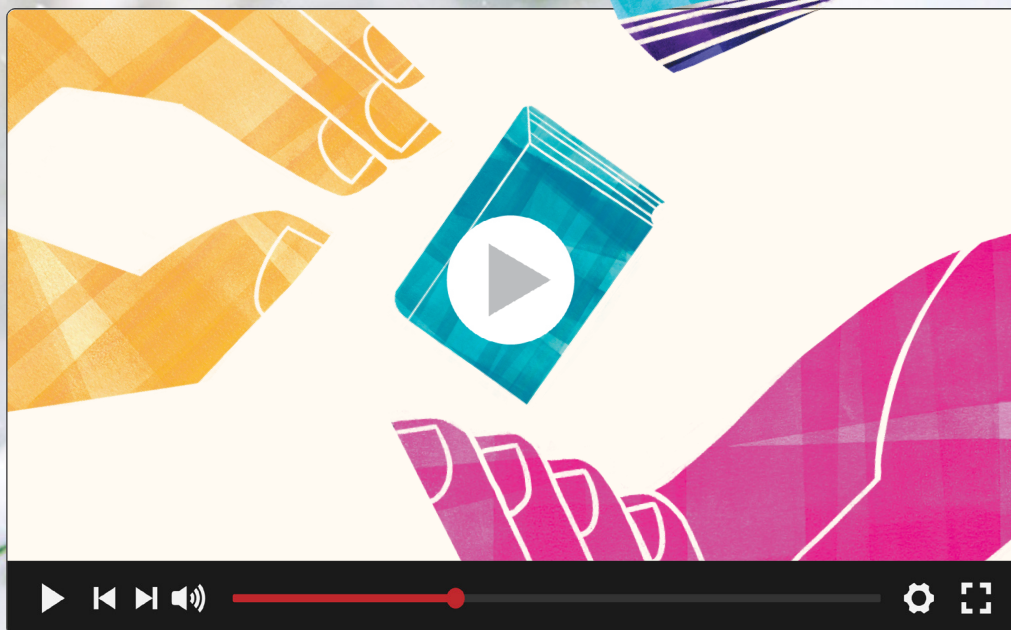
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 1:00 PM | \$12

Good Reads
for Middle Grade

EVENT NUMBER

24

RS THE REVUE STAGE

YOUTH

Our Good Reads events suggest riveting, failsafe books for kids that will keep them amazed and engaged. Co-authors and parent/child team **Kevin and Basil Sylvester** share a treasure-hunting, literary-sleuthing mystery with Zed and Gabe: two friends who are trying to solve puzzles in the haunted Glyndebourne Manor in *Night of the Living Zed*. **Marty Chan** explores a different kind of sleuthing in *Izzy Wong's Nose for News*, about a talented young podcaster embarking on an investigation. **Trina Rathgeber** takes us back to 1944, when teen Ilse Schweder gets lost while checking her family's trapline in northern Canada—and faces down the ensuing challenges with traditional Indigenous knowledge—in *Lost at Windy River*. Grades 4–7. Moderated by France Perras.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 5:30 PM | \$27

Short Stories,
Infinite Identities

EVENT NUMBER

25

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

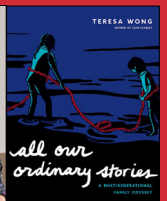
Good short stories can share expansive truths with the smallest details. Each of these authors offer mesmerizing insights into what it means to be human in their collections. Bestselling author and Festival favourite **Caroline Adderson** considers what it means to find happiness—and how we so often seem to understand it through our encounters with others—in *A Way to Be Happy*. **Shashi Bhat** shares the everyday trials and impossible expectations that come with being a woman in the sharply funny *Death by a Thousand Cuts*. **Aaron Kreuter's** *Rubble Children* tackles Jewish belonging, settler colonialism, Zionism, and anti-Zionism, love requited and unrequited, and cannabis culture, all drenched in suburban wonder and dread. Discover more about the intricate craft of short stories, which offers a necessary tapestry of humanity. Moderated by Shaena Lambert.

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Nolan Natasha, Winter Writers Residency 2024. Photo by Rita Taylor.

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VANCOUVER
WRITERS
FEST

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 5:30 PM | \$27

Night Class: *A Workshop with UBC School of Creative Writing*

EVENT NUMBER

26

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Now a staple of the Festival, this interactive, unpredictable workshop offers writing tips, tricks, and cues from five members of UBC School of Creative Writing's illustrious department: **Whitney French, Frances Koncan, Mandy Len Catron, Jen Moss, and Alix Ohlin**. Participants will learn key writing skills in five minutes or less through nimble, electrifying craft, and rapid-fire creativity. Try out concepts and follow the lead of these creative writing teachers and authors. Full of invigorating thought exercises, Night Class explores a wide array of styles and genres, from poetry and song to comics and speculative fiction. This workshop is suitable for new and established authors. Hosted by **Cecily Nicholson**.

Presented in collaboration with UBC School of Creative Writing.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 5:30 PM | \$27

Dionne Brand
in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER

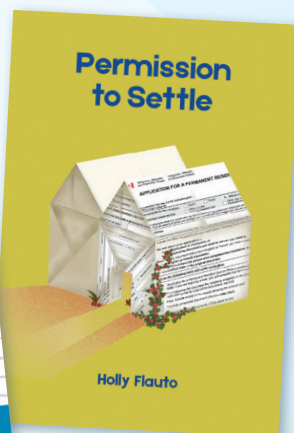
27

RS THE REVUE STAGE

Brilliant and essential: adjectives that could describe any of poet, novelist, and deep thinker **Dionne Brand**'s works but especially apply to her first major book of nonfiction in more than 20 years: *Salvage: Readings from the Wreck*. Brand offers a bracing look at the intersections of reading and life, and of what remains in the wreck of empire. She demonstrates how contemporary practices of reading and writing are shaped by the narrative structures of older, colonial, imperialist, and racist texts, and shares how she learned to read the literature of two empires, British and American, in an anti-colonial light—in order to survive and in order to live. Join us to explore these deeply important, groundbreaking ideas on stage. *Moderated by Kimberly Bain*.



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PLAYLIST: A PROFLIGACY OF YOUR LEAST-EXPECTED POEMS MICHAEL TURNER

Playlist documents the life and practice of a writer who grew up in a musical household, spent his early adult years as a touring musician and his later years programming nightclubs, hotels, galleries and festivals.

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PERMISSION TO SETTLE HOLLY FLAUTO

Permission to Settle fills in the blanks of the application for Permanent Residency, capturing common aspects of immigration — anxiety, bureaucracy of application, identity, foreignness, inadequacy — all while exploring the sense of privilege that comes from the geographically and culturally close immigration journey from the US to Canada as a modern-day settler.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 5:30 PM | \$25 *Ru + Kim Thúy
in Conversation*

EVENT NUMBER

28

VC VIFF CENTRE



GUEST CURATOR

Join the Festival, and our partners Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF), for a screening of *Ru*: the story of the arduous journey of a wealthy family fleeing from Vietnam, before landing in Quebec, based on the Governor General's Award-winning novel by **Kim Thúy**, this year's Guest Curator. Directed by Charles-Olivier Michaud, and produced by Thúy, the film is a sombre, stunningly beautiful examination of forced migration, isolation, and newfound belonging, told through the eyes of the daughter of the family, Nguyen An Tinh. Following the screening, Thúy will engage in an on-stage discussion about this bold, penetrating work. *Moderated by Anna Ling Kaye. Tickets sold by VIFF.*

Presented in partnership with VIFF.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 7:30 PM | \$27 *The Mystery
Queens*

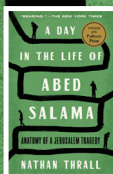
EVENT NUMBER

29

GS GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

It's no secret that these authors are some of the most celebrated in the world for weaving tales of subterfuge, deceit, and mystery. The bestsellers compare notes and ideas in a discussion akin to a cocktail party of your literary dreams... with both the authors and their unforgettable women protagonists in attendance. **Ann Cleeves'** detective Vera Stanhope may be a bit scruffy, but she knows how to solve a murder, as demonstrated in *The Dark Wives*. **Beverley McLachlin** showcases the wit and grit required of a defence attorney in *Proof*, in which Jilly Truitt defends a high-profile mother accused of kidnapping her own child. **Nita Prose's** Molly the maid character sold more than 1 million copies of her debut—and now she's back with *The Mystery Guest*. What a lineup! *Moderated by Alison Broddle.*

BRINGING GREAT WRITERS TO VANCOUVER



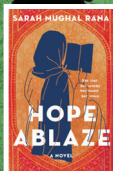
NATHAN THRALL
A Day in the Life of Abed Salama • Henry Holt & Co
Author, humanitarian project director, and professor. Winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction for *A Day in the Life of Abed Salama*.



ADAM POTTLE
Butterfly on the Wind • Roaring Brook
An award-winning writer across genres, including memoir and adult fiction. His groundbreaking fantasy play was the world's first all-Deaf musical.



ANN CLEEVES
Burial of Ghosts • Pan Macmillan
A NYT bestselling author of over thirty critically acclaimed novels. She was awarded the highest accolade in crime writing, the CWA Diamond Dagger.



SARAH MUGHAL RANA
Hope Ablaze • St. Martin's Press
Author and BookTok personality, she is also the cohost of the *On the Write Track* podcast and pursuing her MPhil in Asian studies at Oxford.



KIRSTEN MCDUGALL
She's a Killer • Gallic
Novelist, short story writer, and creative writing lecturer. Her novella *Tess* was longlisted for the Ockham NZ Book Awards and shortlisted for the Ngaio Marsh Award.



GEORGE MCWHIRTER
Self-Portrait in the Zone of Silence • New Directions
A writer, translator, editor, teacher, and Vancouver's first Poet Laureate. He has translated works by Mario Arregui, Carlos Fuentes, and José Emilio Pacheco.



LINDA CHENG
Gorgeous Gruesome Faces • Roaring Brook
A debut author whose first novel, *Gorgeous Gruesome Faces*, was won in a multi-house action.

For event listings,
visit www.writersfest.bc.ca

For more information on the authors,
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 8:30 PM | \$27 \$

Jane Urquhart
in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER

30

RS THE REVUE STAGE

One of Canada’s most decorated and admired writers, **Jane Urquhart** speaks with *Globe and Mail* journalist and author **Marsha Lederman** about her latest work of exceptional literary depth, *In Winter I Get Up at Night*. This profound story of Emer McConnell, who at 11 is injured in a great prairie storm, grows outwards from the ward in which she recovers, reaching through time and space and into the lives of those she loves the most. Urquhart’s awards, bestseller status, and honorary degrees are too numerous to list, yet she continues to share fiction that honours the richness of ordinary Canadian lives. Her warmth and wisdom are not to be missed in this compelling event. *Moderated by Marsha Lederman.*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 8:30 PM | \$27 \$

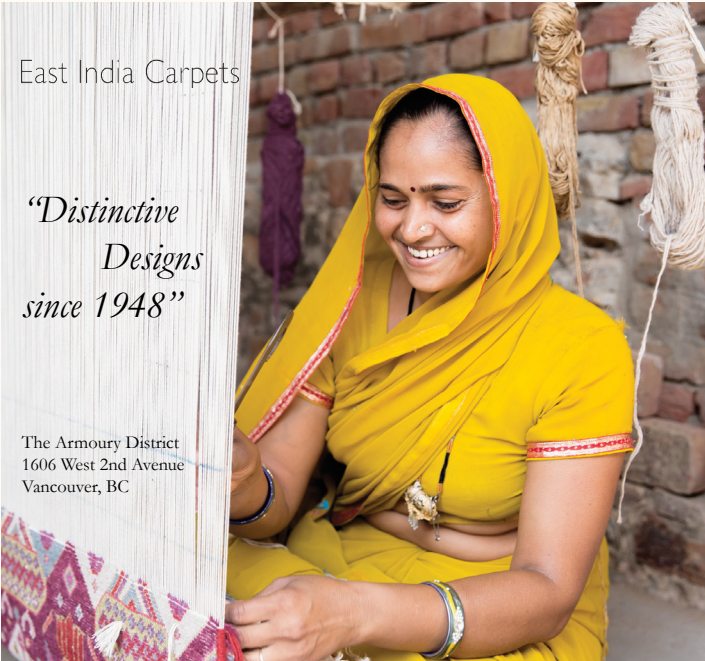
Ecosystems for Change

EVENT NUMBER

31

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

These two scientists, authors, and visionaries have dedicated their lives to connecting humans to the ecosystems we inhabit and the crucial knowledge we can gain from better respecting them. As a world-recognized biochemist and botanist, **Diana Beresford-Kroeger**—the Jane Goodall of plants—urges us to dig deeper into the science of forests and the ways they will save us from climate breakdown in *Our Green Heart*. **Dr. Jennifer Grenz**, a professor in Forest Resources Management, builds on sacred stories and field observations to share how applying new-old worldviews can save our land—and ourselves—in *Medicine Wheel for the Planet*. Their joint, interweaving expertise has never been more crucial for our collective future. Don’t miss a remarkable event probing how we use scientific lessons from both Indigenous and western thought. *Moderated by Sarah Cox.*



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 8:30 PM | \$27 \$

The Power of Political Prose

EVENT NUMBER

32

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

At a time of global political violence, it’s understandable to ask whether the pen really is mightier than the sword. Yet some of the greatest literature has been born from, and written in response to, injustices. More than this: such literature has often transformed our perceptions of what justice can mean. These three writers are no different. **Conor Kerr** (*Prairie Edge*), **Kirsten McDougall** (*She’s A Killer*), and **Jacob Wren** (*Dry Your Tears to Perfect Your Aim*) will explore the motivation behind writing such politically-involved novels and the role of writing in crafting social change. *Moderated by Michelle Cyca.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 10:15 AM | \$12

Who Are You Really?

EVENT NUMBER
33

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS YOUTH GUEST CURATOR

We all have fears that we won't be accepted, but often our differences, quirks, and individuality are what we can contribute most to our friends and communities. In this uplifting event curated by Guest Curator **Kim Thúy**, authors discuss how we can feel like we belong, and celebrate the unique characteristics we all have. **Linh Nguyễn** helps kids answer how you define "home" in her sweeping portal fantasy *No Place Like Home*. **Wali Shah** explores finding our voice in *Call Me Al*, about a teenage boy navigating his identity. **Isabelle Picard** shares a powerful coming of age story about two Innu twins in *Nish*. Together, they'll help kids navigate complex and universal questions about strength in our identities. *Grades 4–7. Moderated by Kim Thúy.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 10:15 AM | \$12

How to Navigate Adults

EVENT NUMBER
34

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE YOUTH

Relationships with parents are often tricky, and learning how to grow up beyond your childhood years—or the expectations of your parents—is a challenge every young person must face. In **Tom Birdseye's** *There Is No Map For This*, 17 year-old Ren lives with his brother to escape his mom and her husband, and is learning what it means to "man up." **Kern Carter's** anticipated *And Then There Was Us* follows 14 year-old Coi navigating the memories of her abusive mother. **Anthony Nerada** blends pop punk romance and destroying labels in *Skater Boy*, about a queer teen writing his own story. Together, these three authors move beyond stigma about difficult relationships with parents to offer grounded, wise perspectives on moving from teen years to adulthood. *Grades 8–12. Moderated by France Perras.*



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 10:15 AM | \$12

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 10:15 AM | \$12

Masterclass
with Richard Van Camp

EVENT NUMBER
35

Gumboot Kids

EVENT NUMBER
36

THE NEST YOUTH

Time doesn't work the same way it usually does around **Richard Van Camp**. The prolific, award-winning Indigenous author of 28 books—the most recent of which is *Beast*—is so entertaining, an hour will fly by as you're immersed in his creative stories that speak to both the difficult realities of life and the sense of potential we can all tap into—for ourselves and each other. In this Masterclass, he'll talk about his own career path and how he built such success, and even share some of his own writing exercises that have contributed to his accomplishments. *Grades 8–12.*

THE REVUE STAGE YOUTH

Adorable creatures, bountiful nature, and a mystery to solve? It's this perfect combination that's behind husband-and-wife team **Eric Hogan** and **Tara Hungerford**'s exceptional *Gumboot Kids* books—and the popular TV show of the same name. In this event, they'll be captivating kids with *The Case of the Disappearing Castle* and *The Case of the Noisy Neighbor*. First, Daisy and Scout are looking for answers when the sandcastle on the beach magically disappears! Where did it go? Then, the duo are puzzled by a strange knocking sound in the forest. Who's making all that noise? This promises to be an outstanding storytime of warmth and delight. *Grades K–3.*

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 1:00 PM | \$12

Crafting *Suspense*

EVENT NUMBER

37

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

YOUTH

Just how do they do it? Anyone who's tried to write a mystery knows just how difficult it is to craft that edge-of-the-seat, page-turning plot that manages to keep readers guessing while tying up dozens of loose ends by the last page. Students will learn from the best with these three exceptional writers who will share how they manage to do just that. *New York Times* bestseller **Emiko Jean** speaks to her feminist *tour de force*, *The Return of Ellie Black*, while another NYT-bestseller **Molly Knox Ostertag** shares a beautiful story of identity, family, love, and magic in *The Deep Dark*. **Tom Ryan**, meanwhile, shares an action-packed mystery about a secret society and nautical discoveries in *The Treasure Hunters Club*. Grades 10–12. Moderated by Christina Barber.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 1:00 PM | \$12

Our World,
Our Community

EVENT NUMBER

38

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

YOUTH

Understanding how to help solve problems, not just in our own lives but in our larger society, is a necessary and fulfilling part of growing up. In this varied, in-depth, and accessible hour, three knowledgeable authors share deep-dives into issues that are foundational to our lives. In *What Do We Eat?*, **Megan Clendenan** offers a delicious perspective on how we've fed ourselves for thousands of years—and what may be next. In *Walls*, CBC host **Gregor Craigie** shares the long history of human barriers... and why we build them. And, in *Alone Together*, **Petti Fong** speaks to the growing epidemic of loneliness. She helps us understand how being alone can ultimately bring us closer. Together, these three authors will guide students to better navigate our complex world. Grades 4–7.

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On behalf of all Canadians, Writers' Trust
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extraordinary investment in Canadian poetry.

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writerstrust.com/poets

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 1:00 PM | \$12

Masterclass
with *Johnnie Christmas*

EVENT NUMBER

39

N THE NEST

YOUTH

We're not sure how he does it, but **Johnnie Christmas** manages to be effortlessly cool, delightfully nice, and a #1 *New York Times* bestselling and award-winning graphic novelist... not to mention the co-creator of series *Angel Catbird* with Margaret Atwood, and adaptor of William Gibson's lost screenplay, *Alien 3* (amongst other roles). In short: this Vancouver local is a true star who can teach us a thing or two about creativity, art, and how to build a life you envision. In this Masterclass, he'll speak to the creative process behind his latest work *Gamerville*—in which a videogamer's championship aspirations are dashed when he's sent to a camp where electronics are forbidden and you're forced to socialize—and how the creative arts can build confidence and connection for you and those around you. *Grades 4–7.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 1:00 PM | \$12

Today I Am:
Stories of Belonging

EVENT NUMBER

40

RS THE REVUE STAGE

YOUTH

Discover 10 fresh, fearless works from acclaimed BIPOC authors in Canada. Join bestselling *Gutter Child* author and editor of the *Today I Am: 10 Stories of Belonging* collection, **Jael Richardson**, alongside contributors **Marty Chan** (*Izzy Wong's Nose for News*), **Danny Ramadan** (*Crooked Teeth*), and **Brandon Wint**. Ranging from short fiction to poetry and graphic fiction, these stories offer timely, thought-provoking, funny, and heartbreaking perspectives on home—from awkward family dinners, to life on the rez, to moving to a new town. Validating young people's experiences while helping them open their hearts, it's a must read and listen. *Grades 4–7. Moderated by Jael Richardson.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 5:30 PM | \$27

Knowing Who We Are
(*And Who We Can Be*)

EVENT NUMBER

41

GS GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

For decades, **Senator Murray Sinclair**, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, has fearlessly educated Canadians about the truths of our history. For the first time, joining us remotely, he shares his full story and vision for Canada in *Who We Are*. He is joined by his son, **Niigaan Sinclair**, also one of the most influential thinkers on issues impacting Indigenous communities. The younger Sinclair uses *Winipêk* (Winnipeg) to illuminate the reality of Indigenous life throughout the country—and the change that's needed. They speak with critically acclaimed author **Tanya Talaga**, whose latest work, *The Knowing*, is a seminal unraveling of the centuries-long oppression of Indigenous people. What true, lasting decolonization means is at the forefront of political urgency in Canada. These three exceptional minds and seekers of justice offer a powerful vision of how to move forward. *Moderated by Tanya Talaga.*

Presented in partnership with Talking Stick Festival.



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 5:30 PM | \$27

What I've Done For Writing

EVENT NUMBER
42

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

GUEST CURATOR

ASL PROVIDED

Ask any writer: committing to this artform is hard. You take jobs you don't want, spend too much time alone, fret and sweat at the keyboard, make do with little, and then do it all over again. More than this, writing with honesty takes spine and guts. The creation of art inevitably encroaches on life—whether through family schisms, professional divides, or controversy. These writers at the top of their game discuss what it means to write honestly—and what they have sacrificed in order to do so. Join Guest Curator **Kim Thúy** alongside **Heather O'Neill** (*The Capital of Dreams*), **Brandon Taylor** (*The Late Americans*), and **Jenny Heijun Wills** (*Everything and Nothing At All*) for a riveting discussion about the real cost of art. Moderated by **Kim Thúy**.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 5:30 PM | \$27

Self-Portrait of Translation:
George McWhirter in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER
43

THE NEST

Poet, translator, and teacher **George McWhirter** was Vancouver's first Poet Laureate, and holds a startlingly impressive list of awards and honours since then, most recently as translator from the Spanish of the 2024 Griffin Poetry Prize Winner, *Self-Portrait in the Zone of Silence* by Mexican novelist, activist, and journalist Homero Aridjis. In conversation with author and translator **Carmen Rodríguez**, he speaks to what the jury cited as "the book's enchanting variety of tones and subjects... A keynote is the sense of a person speaking with us plainly and yet from kinship with a light that bathes, and springs from, each thing." McWhirter offers a unique perspective on not only the singular collection but the enigmatic process of translating poetry.

Presented in partnership with Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 8:00 PM | \$27 

Heather O'Neill
in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER

44

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Few authors can transport us quite the way **Heather O'Neill** does. Whether gritty, small town Quebec, or strange circuses or—in the case of her latest work—the magical woods of a forgotten country—we are immersed in vivid worlds of heightened emotions and possibility. In *The Capital of Dreams*, a teenage girl embarks on a breathtakingly dark fairytale, attempting to find her mother's lost manuscript in a country beset by war. In conversation with **Shaena Lambert**, O'Neill will discuss why she chose to delve so far into imagination for this latest novel, and how fairy tales can tell us more than we think about our reality. O'Neill's language has been described as "delicious as cake." Savour a conversation with a brilliant mind and multi-award-winning author who has become a revered staple of literature the world over. *Moderated by Shaena Lambert.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 8:00 PM | \$27 

Canisia Lubrin
in Conversation with Dionne Brand

EVENT NUMBER

45

N THE NEST

Code Noir, the debut fiction work from acclaimed, award-winning poet, editor, and writer **Canisia Lubrin** is every bit as dazzling as one would expect: hailed as "brilliant, challenging and ecstatic" by the *Globe and Mail*. Departing from the "Code Noir" historic decrees in 17th century France which defined the conditions of slavery in the French colonial empire, the book of the same name has 59 linked fictions, each vivid, multi-layered, and inventive. In conversation with **Dionne Brand**, these two literary stars of unrivaled daring and intellect discuss Lubrin's work to date, the process of braiding these stories, and the intellectual and emotional vigour behind them.

This event is organized in collaboration with the Canada Council for the Arts to celebrate the finalists and winners of the Governor General's Literary Awards.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 8:00 PM | \$27

Hunting for Clues

EVENT NUMBER

46

RS THE REVUE STAGE

There should be a word for the specific pleasure one receives from racing through a novel, impatiently looking for the next clue, devouring each page while not wanting the story to end. While we think of one (tell us your suggestions), let's spend an evening with three writers who do just this: write clues like no other. **Sarah Henstra's** eponymous *The Lost Tarot* is key to unraveling decades of secrets in a novel of art and deception. **Tom Ryan's** *The Treasure Hunters Club* offers a rollicking mystery about a secret society, nautical charts, and a treasure to die for. **Stephanie Wrobel's** latest, *The Hitchcock Hotel*, is a dark, suspenseful novel in which a reunion with members of an Alfred Hitchcock film club goes wrong. Just *how do they do it?* Find out tonight. Moderated by Robert J. Wiersema.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 8:30 PM | \$27

The Poetry Bash

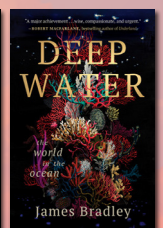
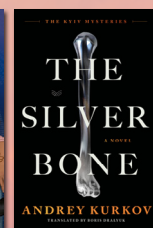
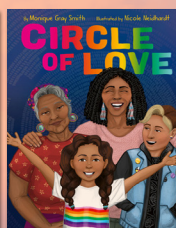
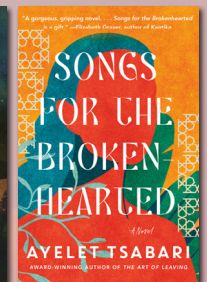
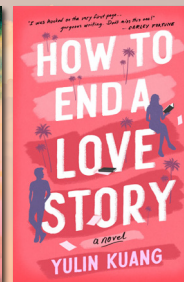
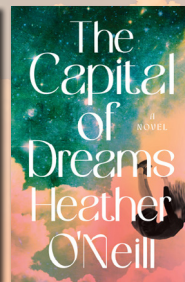
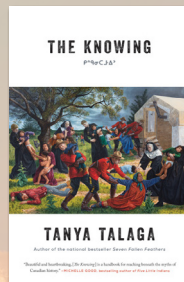
EVENT NUMBER

47

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

Enthrancing, surprising, and memorable: The Poetry Bash is a gateway to discovering new-to-you poets or hearing your favourites. Hosted by **Aislinn Hunter**, award-winning poet and editor of *Best Canadian Poetry 2025*, this year's poets include: **Stephen Collis** (*The Middle*), who investigates threatened climate futures in poetics of displacement, and wandering; **Jess Housty**, whose *Crushed Wild Mint* embodies land love, and ancestral wisdom; **Evelyn Lau**, representing *Best Canadian Poetry 2025*; **Zehra Naqvi** (*The Knot of My Tongue*), sharing a multidimensional debut about the search for language and self; **Michael Turner**, documenting a life immersed in music (*Playlist*); **shō yamagushiku**, offering an expansive vision of intergenerational witness and repair in *shima*; and **Daniel Zomparelli**, who uses wry humour to explore our lonely, scary, compelling lives in *Jump Scare*. Hosted by Aislinn Hunter.

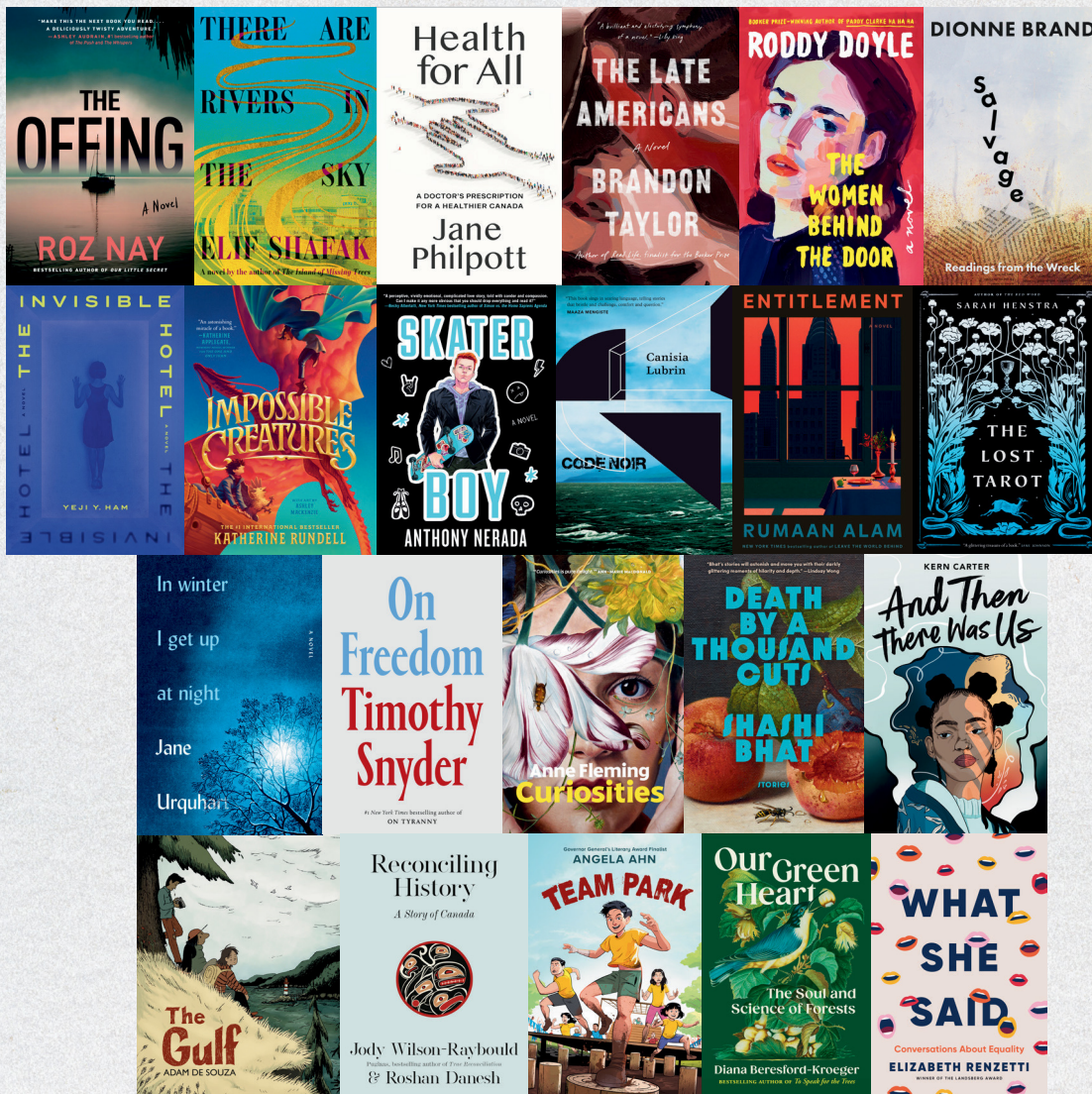
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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 8:30 PM | \$20

Literary Trivia:
80s and 90s Style

EVENT NUMBER
48

DL DOCKSIDE LOUNGE

From this Moment On, start thinking about which of your friends you'll bring to this fun 80s and 90s Music Trivia night, hosted by **Andrea Warner**, author of *We Oughta Know*, *Buffy Sainte-Marie: The Authorized Biography*, and *The Time of My Life: Dirty Dancing*. Delve into two decades of sounds and the talent behind them with questions from a former *Jeopardy!* contestant. Great music, beer, witty hosts, readings from **Rajinderpal S. Pal** and **Michelle Winters**, and the chance of victory? Perfect. And don't Sweet Surrender if you don't recall the lyrics but think You Oughta Know: by the end of the evening you'll be yelling It's All Coming Back to Me Now.

Presented in partnership with Simon Fraser University's Master of Publishing program.



emv FALL 2024

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25
PRO-D DAY

Take advantage of the Pro-D Day by joining us for daytime events on Friday, October 25 that have been curated with professional development in mind. Open to everyone, these events fit current curriculum needs, and will inspire further conversation. They are also suitable for mature high school students (*Grades 11–12 recommended*).

49. Listening in the Age of Rage

with Ian Williams and Carol Off

10am at Granville Island Stage

50. Transcendent Fiction

with Billy-Ray Belcourt, Conor Kerr, and Amanda Peters

10am at Performance Works

51. Bob McDonald: Just Say Yes

10am at The NEST

52. On Translation

with George McWhirter, Michelle Winters, and Yilin Wang

10am at Revue Stage

53. The Conversations

with Myriam J. A. Chancy, Anne Enright,
and Jón Kalman Stefánsson

1pm at Granville Island Stage

54. Science and Fiction

with Richard Powers and James Bradley

1pm at Performance Works

55. Good Reads

with Holly Gramazio, Rajinderpal
S. Pal, and Michelle Winters

1pm at Waterfront Theatre



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 10:00AM | \$27 \$

Listening in the Age of Rage

EVENT NUMBER

49

GS GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

A cruel irony of our age is the increasing prevalence of communication, and—with it—an almost inverse ability to listen or connect across political and social divides. Or, as Giller Prize-winning author and 2024 Massey lecturer **Ian Williams** explains, “We’re living at a point now where we can barely talk to each other, right?” The part of the conversation we often forget, he explains, is listening. This may help to answer former CBC *As It Happens* host **Carol Off**’s query about the reason behind the mutating meaning of six foundation words: freedom, democracy, truth, woke, choice, and taxes. How can we rebuild our shared vocabulary? In their books, and in this conversation, these two esteemed thinkers begin to answer. *Moderated by Kathryn Gretsinger.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 10:00AM | \$27 \$

Transcendent Fiction

EVENT NUMBER

50

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

Come meet three authors representing some of the most original and transcendent approaches to writing today. Each of these Indigenous writers’ works combine depth of ideas with magnetic, transfixing prose. Bestseller, Griffin Poetry Prize-winner, and literature professor **Billy-Ray Belcourt** is playful and brilliant in his prose about Indigenous love and loneliness in the short story collection *Coexistence*. Giller Prize-longlisted author **Conor Kerr** returns with *Prairie Edge*, a propulsive crime thriller that’s a critique of modern activism and a bold conception of what “Land Back” can really mean. **Amanda Peters**’ anticipated debut *Waiting for the Long Night Moon* describes the Indigenous experience from an astonishingly wide spectrum in time and place. Discover compelling fiction while getting to know three of the top writers in the country. *Moderated by Carleigh Baker, author of Last Woman.*

Presented in partnership with Talking Stick Festival.

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DANCER: JACALYN TATRO. PHOTO BY MARCUS ERIKSSON.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 10:00AM | \$27 \$

Bob McDonald:
Just Say Yes

EVENT NUMBER

51

N THE NEST

Beloved CBC *Quirks & Quarks* host **Bob McDonald** regularly regales Festival audiences with insights into under-considered topics. This year, he's delving into a fascinating topic once again: his career. In his revealing, captivating memoir, *Just Say Yes*, he offers an intimate view of the path that brought him from a blue-collar background to his long-standing role as Canada's foremost explainer of all things scientific. Starting from a low-income family in a small town to sailing adventures on the high seas, motorcycling across the continent, and travels around the world and beyond, audience members can discover the story behind this infectiously optimistic and curious communicator. *Moderated by Jerry Wasserman.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 10:00AM | \$27 \$

On Translation

EVENT NUMBER

52

RS THE REVUE STAGE

To convey not only meaning but cadence, tone, atmosphere, and style—the work of a translator is mercurial and brilliant, involving the precision of a scientist and the flair of an artist. Yet rarely are the translators those who we welcome on our stages to rapturous applause—until today. **George McWhirter** is the translator of the 2024 Griffin Poetry Prize winner, *Self-Portrait in the Zone of Silence* by renowned Mexican poet Homero Aridjis; **Michelle Winters** is the translator of works by Marie-Hélène Larochelle and joins the Festival with her own lauded new novel, *Hair for Men*. In *The Lantern and the Night Moths*, **Yilin Wang** translates poems from five of China's most innovative modern and contemporary poets. How do they describe their work, and what wonders do they find between languages? *Moderated by Bill Richardson.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 1:00 PM | \$27 \$

The *Conversations*

EVENT NUMBER

53

GS GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

In back-to-back conversations with three international authors, novelist and poet **Aislinn Hunter** probes the writing life and questions about love, intergenerational bonds, and possibility. Award-winning author **Myriam J. A. Chancy** shares an extraordinary and enduring story of two families—forever joined by country and secrets—in *Village Weavers*. Booker Prize-winner **Anne Enright** speaks to her latest work, *The Wren*, *The Wren*, which astounded critics across the globe with its breathtaking portrayal of love between mother and daughter and the glorious resilience of women. **Jón Kalman Stefánsson** is one of Iceland's most beloved novelists whose latest, *Your Absence Is Darkness*, spellbinds in a saga about a rural community and ponders the violence of fate. *Moderated by Aislinn Hunter.*

Presented in partnership with SFU's Department of World Languages and Literatures. Anne Enright's attendance made possible thanks to the generous support of Culture Ireland.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 1:00 PM | \$27 \$

Science
and Fiction

EVENT NUMBER

54

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS



GUEST CURATOR

If truth is often stranger than fiction, how do these two internationally acclaimed writers play within both genres in their work? How does their fascination with science impact their prose—and how does their imagined storytelling influence their methods when talking about our magnificent natural world? Pulitzer-winner **Richard Powers** has taken inspiration from the natural world and science throughout his career; *Playground*, a story of AI, marine biology, and morality, is no different. Award winner **James Bradley** has astounded readers in many genres, but his latest work, *Deep Water*, is a lyrical probe into our effects on the ocean. In a rigorous, creative conversation with **Claudia Casper**, they discuss the wonder in all that's nature-made and human-made—and the intersection between.

Moderated by Claudia Casper.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 1:00 PM | \$27

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 1:00 PM | FREE

Good Reads

EVENT NUMBER
55

The City of Vancouver Book Award Ceremony

EVENT NUMBER
56

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

RS THE REVUE STAGE CC ASL PROVIDED

The premise of our Good Reads event each year is simple: hear from three authors of must-read, unputdownable books. That's exactly the word used by UK reviewers of **Holly Gramazio's** magnificent debut, *The Husbands*, which has been praised by Gabrielle Zevin as a "time-bending gem." It asks how we navigate life and love if we have never-ending options. **Rajinderpal S. Pal's** *However Far Away* is an unforgettable, sweeping family saga set against the backdrop of a Sikh wedding. **Michelle Winters' Hair for Men** thrums with female rage in a story of punk, coming of age, and breaking with convention. Make space in your evening and your bookshelf for these buzzworthy books. *Moderated by Tara McGuire.*

Rueben George and Michael Simpson • Joni Low and Jeff O'Brien • Jen Sookfong Lee • C.A. Tanaka • Henry Tsang

Once again, this year's City of Vancouver Book Award will be hosted at the Festival, and you won't want to miss this afternoon of literary wonder. The program will include live readings from the shortlisted authors, and the announcement of the 2024 winner. The annual City of Vancouver Book Award has been recognizing authors of excellence of any genre since 1989. The shortlisted and winning titles contribute to the appreciation and understanding of Vancouver's diversity, history, unique character, or the achievements of its residents. *Moderated by Margaret Wittgens.*

Presented in partnership with the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Public Library.

Congratulations to the 2024 finalists!

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS



Thank you to the funders and publishers supporting this year's submissions

Arsenal Pulp Press • Brick Books • Coach House Books • Douglas & McIntyre • Dundurn Press • Greystone Books • Groundwood Books/ House of Anansi Press • Harbour Publishing • Heritage House • HighWater Press • Icehouse poetry/Goose Lane Editions • Knopf Canada • Nightwood Editions • Nimbus Publishing • Orca Book Publishers • Owlkids • Penguin Random House Canada • Puffin Canada • Radiant Press • Royal BC Museum Publications • Second Story Press • Talonbooks • UBC Press, Purich Books



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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 5:00 PM | \$27 Rumaan Alam
in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER

57

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Rumaan Alam's last book, *Leave the World Behind*, was a "Best of" book for just about every media outlet in North America, not to mention a National Book Award finalist, a *New York Times* bestseller, and now a major movie starring Mahershala Ali and Julia Roberts. The author, a *New Yorker*, *Wall Street Journal*, and NYT writer, will speak about his thrilling new book, *Entitlement*. A novel of money and morality, it's a riveting tale about the seductive distortions of money, asking us to consider questions about need and worth, race and privilege, philanthropy and generosity, passion and obsession. Alam will speak to this latest creation—and his own answers to the prescient questions he poses. Moderated by Robert J. Wiersema.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 5:00 PM | \$27 Poets
in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER

58

N THE NEST

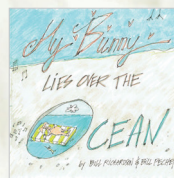
If one of the great joys of poetry is reading articulations of previously mercurial sensations, then hearing poets talk about their refinement of such ideas is surely another. **Mercedes Eng** (*cop city swagger*), **Holly Flauto** (*Permission to Settle*), **Rhea Tregobov** (*Talking to Strangers*), **shō yamagushiku** (*shima*) share varied works that grapple with who we are—in our histories, our sense of self, our identity, and our relationships to others. Ranging from implicit bias in the immigration system to the mysteries of ordinary life, to interrogating the past through familial relationships, to a threat assessment of the police, these poets demonstrate how poetry reflects our society and our souls... one breathtaking clause at a time. Moderated by Bronwen Tate.



"The Indigenous Walking Dead": the first in a new graphic horror series.

RENEGADE ARTS

"...a fun imagining of what a lost toy might be up to..."
—Lauren Soly

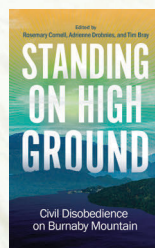


RUNNING THE GOAT

OUTSTANDING BOOKS

from the
Literary Press Group

A book showing us how we can all take a stand for climate justice.

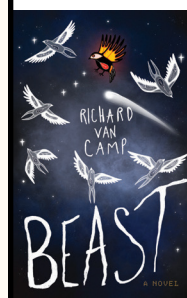


BETWEEN THE LINES

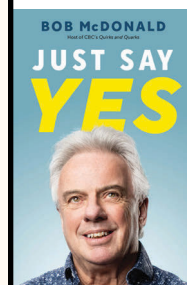


Felix isn't murdering campus bullies, but he might be next!

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A raucous feat of storytelling magic, blending 1980s nostalgia with hair-raising horror in a coming-of-age novel set in a small NWT town.

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a memoirBOB
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Canada's foremost explainer of all things scientific offers a memoir of his early years and five decades as a science journalist.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE
7:30 PM	-	SPECIAL EVENT: Liane Moriarty in Conversation with Eddy Boudel Tan	DMC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE
7:30 PM	-	SPECIAL EVENT: Louise Erdrich in Conversation with Carleigh Baker	FWT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE
7:30 PM	-	SPECIAL EVENT: Malcolm Gladwell in Conversation with Ian Hanomansing	OT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE
9:00 AM	1	The Wall Between	OD ON-DEMAND
7:30 PM	2	A Grand Opening: Finding Joy Amid Turmoil	PT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE
10:15 AM	3	Reconciling History	GS
10:15 AM	4	Coming of Age	PW
10:15 AM	5	The Craft of Graphic Novels	WT
10:15 AM	6	Masterclass with Kevin Sylvester	N
10:45 AM	6.5	Masterclass with Katherine Rundell	RS
1:00 PM	7	Worlds of Imagination	GS
1:00 PM	8	Storytime with Nature	WT
1:00 PM	9	Masterclass with Marty Chan	N
1:30 PM	10	Word! (1)	RS
6:00 PM	11	Elizabeth Renzetti in Conversation	WT
6:00 PM	12	Nita Prose in Conversation	RS
7:30 PM	13	Ann Cleeves in Conversation: The Alma Lee Opening Night Event	GS
7:30 PM	14	Scarily Brilliant: An Evening of Literary Horror	N ASL

8:30 PM	15	Rachel Kushner in Conversation	WT
8:30 PM	16	Romancing the Page	RS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE
10:15 AM	17	Word! (2)	GS
10:15 AM	18	Big Hope for Little Ones	PW
10:15 AM	19	Finding Hope	WT
10:15 AM	20	Masterclass with Candace Savage	N
1:00 PM	21	On Connection	PW
1:00 PM	22	Thrilling Tales with Richard Van Camp	WT
1:00 PM	23	Masterclass with Kern Carter	N
1:00 PM	24	Goods Reads for Middle Grade	RS
5:30 PM	25	Short Stories, Infinite Identities	PW
5:30 PM	26	Night Class: A Workshop with UBC School of Creative Writing	WT
5:30 PM	27	Dionne Brand in Conversation	RS
5:30 PM	28	Ru + Kim Thúy in Conversation	VC
7:30 PM	29	The Mystery Queens	GS
8:30 PM	30	Jane Urquhart in Conversation	RS
8:30 PM	31	Ecosystems for Change	PW
8:30 PM	32	The Power of Political Prose	WT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE
10:15 AM	33	Who Are You Really?	PW
10:15 AM	34	How to Navigate Adults	WT
10:15 AM	35	Masterclass with Richard Van Camp	N
10:15 AM	36	Gumboot Kids	RS
1:00 PM	37	Crafting Suspense	PW
1:00 PM	38	Our World, Our Community	WT
1:00 PM	39	Masterclass with Johnnie Christmas	N

1:00 PM	40	Today I Am: Stories of Belonging	RS	
5:30 PM	41	Knowing Who We Are (And Who We Can Be)	GS	HYBRID
5:30 PM	42	What I've Done For Writing	PW	ASL
5:30 PM	43	Self-Portrait of Translation: George McWhirter in Conversation	N	
8:00 PM	44	Heather O'Neill in Conversation	WT	
8:00 PM	45	Canisia Lubrin in Conversation with Dionne Brand	N	
8:00 PM	46	Hunting for Clues	RS	
8:30 PM	47	The Poetry Bash	PW	
8:30 PM	48	Literary Trivia: 80s and 90s Style	DL	

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE	
10:00 AM	49	Listening in the Age of Rage	GS	
10:00 AM	50	Transcendent Fiction	PW	
10:00 AM	51	Bob McDonald: Just Say Yes	N	
10:00 AM	52	On Translation	RS	
1:00 PM	53	The Conversations	GS	
1:00 PM	54	Science and Fiction	PW	
1:00 PM	55	Good Reads	WT	
1:00 PM	56	The City of Vancouver Book Award Ceremony	RS	ASL
5:00 PM	57	Rumaan Alam in Conversation	WT	
5:00 PM	58	Poets in Conversation	N	
5:00 PM	59	Andrey Kurkov's Silver Pen	RS	
7:30 PM	60	The Knowing, with Tanya Talaga	GS	ASL
8:00 PM	61	Highway to the Danger Zone: Lyrics Night	PW	
8:00 PM	62	Anne Michaels in Conversation	N	
8:00 PM	63	Singing the Depths	RS	
9:30 PM	64	Night Fever: Dance Party	PW	

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE
10:30 AM	65	Nathan Thrall in Conversation with Carol Off	GS

10:30 AM	66	Roddy Doyle in Conversation	PW	
10:30 AM	67	Friends, on Finding One’s Voice	N	
10:30 AM	68	A Perfect Day For a Walk with Bill Arnott	RS	
1:30 PM	69	Rebuilding Pillars of Society	GS	ASL
1:30 PM	70	Claire Messud in Conversation with Eleanor Wachtel	WT	
1:30 PM	71	Blending Genres: VMI Betsy Warland Between Genres Award	N	
1:30 PM	72	Less is More: Celebrating Short Stories	RS	
5:00 PM	73	On Grief and Trauma: Personal and Global	GS	
5:00 PM	74	Thuận in Conversation	WT	
5:00 PM	75	Nalo Hopkinson in Conversation	N	
8:00 PM	76	The Literary Cabaret	PW	
8:00 PM	77	Drawing Out Family Histories	WT	
8:00 PM	78	Drew Hayden Taylor in Conversation	N	
8:00 PM	79	Fright Night	RS	

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE
10:30 AM	80	Food for Thought	PW
11:00 AM	81	On Matriarchs	WT
11:00 AM	82	The Wall Between: Q&A with Raja G. Khouri	N
2:00 PM	83	Chiller Thrillers	WT
2:00 PM	84	Emerge	N
3:30 PM	85	The Afternoon Tea	PW
5:00 PM	86	Art Speaks: Dana Claxton and Dorothy Grant	WT
7:00 PM	87	On Freedom: Timothy Snyder with <i>The Current's</i> Matt Galloway	GS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE
7:30 PM	-	SPECIAL EVENT: Daniel Levitin with Special Musical Guests	PT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 5:00 PM | \$27

Andrey Kurkov's
Silver Pen

EVENT NUMBER

59

RS THE REVUE STAGE

When Ukrainian bestselling author **Andrey Kurkov** visited us last year to discuss his *Diary of an Invasion*, reflections from the first year of Russia's war on Ukraine, tickets were snapped up in days. We expect the same for this event, albeit for a lighter subject: Kurkov's intriguing, atmospheric thriller *The Silver Bone* is a "gift for crime fiction fans" according to the *New York Times*, and a *Times* and *Financial Times* 2024 pick. He'll speak about how the story takes inspiration from the real archives of crime enforcement agencies in Kyiv in 1919; why humour is so important to him in this work—and all others; and why he enjoys mastering so many genres, always with probing intellect, insight, and wit. *Moderated by Maria Reva.*

Andrey Kurkov's appearance presented thanks to the generous support of Lauren Dembicky-Polivka, in memory of her father.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 7:30 PM | \$27

The Knowing,
with Tanya Talaga

EVENT NUMBER

60

GS GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

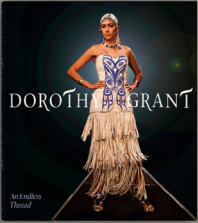
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We all owe a great deal of gratitude—not just admiration—to award-winning, Anishinaabe author and journalist **Tanya Talaga**, whose work (such as *Seven Fallen Feathers* and *All Our Relations*) has transformed Canadians' understanding of the systemic injustices faced by Indigenous peoples across the country, and offered deeply important, actionable recommendations for how to meet and overcome such wrongs. *The Knowing* is another essential read: the unfolding of Canadian history unlike anything we have read before. It is the history of the country through an Indigenous lens, beginning with the life of her great-great-grandmother Annie Carpenter and her family as they experienced decades of government- and Church-sanctioned disenfranchisement and genocide. She will speak to this deeply personal, seminal work that continues to unravel centuries-long oppression. *Moderated by Candis Callison.*

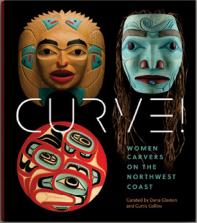
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AUTHORS APPEARING AT THE FESTIVAL



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Dorothy Grant: An Endless Thread



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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 8:00 PM | \$27 

Highway to the Danger Zone: *Lyrics Night*

EVENT NUMBER

61

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

Can You Feel The Love Tonight? Following our highly successful Lyrics Nights celebrating various decades, and the Endless Love we've received from our authors and audience since their launch, we're returning with the same concept... But on a trip to the movies! Come get Footloose with host **Elamin Abdelmahmoud** and hear your favourite authors take on dramatic readings of classic songs from movie soundtracks. It'll be a Whole New World of songs you know and love, brought to life by brilliant readers. And don't forget that the fun continues with a dance party following the event (see Event 64). You Won't Want to Miss a Thing. Hosted by *Elamin Abdelmahmoud*.

Receive a 50% discount to **64. Night Fever: Dance Party** if you purchase them at the same time!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 8:00 PM | \$27 

Anne Michaels *in Conversation*

EVENT NUMBER

62

N THE NEST

Of her work, **Anne Michaels** once said, "...the heart of my writing life has been the exploration of 'what love makes us capable of, and incapable of.'" Her writing, meanwhile, shows us what writers can be capable of: luminous, compelling, even life-changing prose. In this intimate conversation, the much-decorated writer (winner of the Orange Prize, Guardian Fiction Prize, shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize, and Giller Prize, to name a few), speaks to her latest work, *Held*, which Margaret Atwood confirms "couldn't be more timely." Spanning four generations, it explores war and its aftermath; the way desire, longing, and trauma work transformations even decades later. Join us for a discussion with one of the finest minds alive today about topics enmeshed in our hearts. Moderated by *Minelle Mahtani*.

Presented in partnership with Penguin Random House Canada.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 8:00 PM | \$27 

Singing *the Depths*

EVENT NUMBER

63

RS REVUE STAGE

Given that more than 70 percent of our world is ocean, and that they contain 91 percent of the world's water, isn't it surprising how little we still know about this life-giving, awe-inducing body? These exceptional researchers and authors help us understand more about The Deep while speaking to the sense of wonder many of us feel upon contemplating the waves. **James Bradley** reckons with our complex connection to the seas, incorporating insights of philosophers, scientists, and artists to understand our impacts on the ocean in *Deep Water*. **Amorina Kingdon** uncovers magnificent, strange happenings in the deep sea in her revelatory *Sing Like Fish*, which documents how underwater animals use tapping and sound to navigate. Together, they paint a picture of the hidden brilliance of our marine ecosystems—and what we must do to protect and preserve them. Moderated by *Laura Lynch*.

Presented with the generous support of Pacific Salmon Foundation.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 9:30 PM | \$10 

Night Fever: *Dance Party*

EVENT NUMBER

64

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

Whether you've been aching to boogie to "The Ken Song," pretend to play volleyball to "Danger Zone," or simply dance your socks off with some of your favourite authors, our dance party is the answer for all your Hollywood and literary dreams (well, maybe some of them). We'll be playing the catchiest songs from film soundtracks over the years, as well as tracks that will keep you dancing, dancing well into the night. Come revel with us in an event that has quickly become a fun Festival highlight. Featuring *DJ Ice B on the turntables*.

Receive a 50% discount to the dance party if you purchase tickets to **61. Highway to the Danger Zone: Lyrics Night** at the same time!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 10:30 AM | \$27

Nathan Thrall in Conversation
with Carol Off

EVENT NUMBER

65

GS GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

Winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction, **Nathan Thrall's** *A Day in the Life of Abed Salama: Anatomy of a Jerusalem Tragedy*, has been called searing, essential, magnificent, vital, and heartbreaking, but perhaps it is best described by David Schulman in the *New York Review of Books* who said, "I know of no other writing on Israel and Palestine that reaches this depth of perception and understanding." It offers a new perspective of the struggle over Israel/Palestine as told through the aftermath of a tragic crash involving five-year-old Milad Salama and his father, Abed. Thrall, in conversation with **Carol Off**, speaks to his journalistic paragon and what it tells us given the horrors unfolding in Gaza.

Nathan Thrall's appearance presented thanks to the generous support of Yasmeen and Andrew Strang.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 10:30 AM | \$27

Roddy Doyle
in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER

66

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

When Booker Prize-winner **Roddy Doyle** published *The Woman Who Walked Into Doors* almost 30 years ago, it was hailed internationally as an unsparing portrait of domestic abuse. Protagonist Paula Spencer is a woman as extraordinary as she is ordinary, rebuilding her life after years of living with a violent husband whom she loved. Now, *The Women Behind the Door* returns to Paula at 66, finally living her life... until her eldest daughter returns home in crisis. This is a delicate portrait of shame and its shadows. Few can write humanity like Doyle, holding humour and grace amidst hard truths. He'll share reflections from his remarkable career to date, his motivation behind writing the Paula Spencer series, and more, in a highlight of the literary calendar. *Moderated by Jerry Wasserman.*

Roddy Doyle's attendance made possible thanks to the generous support of Culture Ireland.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 10:30 AM | \$27 Friends,
on Finding One's Voice

EVENT NUMBER

67

N THE NEST

Broadcaster and journalist **Minelle Mahtani** has captivated Canadians with her enveloping, welcoming perspective and work supporting others to share their own stories. Her memoir, *May It Have a Happy Ending*, describes her poignant journey of gaining her voice just as her mother lost her own. **Ayelet Tsabari** is a celebrated literary voice, whose debut novel, *Songs for the Brokenhearted*, shares the journey of a young Yemeni Israeli woman who, lost within family stories, discovers her mother's secret romance—and the reverberations of decisions through history. These two magnetic speakers also happen to be very good friends. Together, they'll discuss the hard, beautiful work of finding one's voice, through history and through stories, in an intimate conversation to remember.

Presented thanks to the generous support of Sam Znaimer in memory of Nancy Richler.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 10:30 AM | \$27 A Perfect Day for a Walk
with Bill Arnott

EVENT NUMBER

68

RS REVUE STAGE

Why not take a saunter with bestselling author **Bill Arnott**, whose *A Perfect Day for a Walk* offers a fresh take on the streets, parks, vistas, nooks, and crannies of the Vancouver we think we know. Join us inside for a Q&A with Arnott, whose fascinating anecdotes and encyclopedic knowledge of the city's forgotten history will offer a new perspective on home. Then, come shine or rain (so bring those umbrellas), he'll guide you on a walking tour on and around Granville Island, where you'll discover places you've walked by time after time, and new facts about iconic landmarks. You'll leave feeling as energized in body as mind.

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Museum of Anthropology at UBC
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 1:30 PM | \$27

Rebuilding Pillars of Society

EVENT NUMBER
69

GS GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE CS ASL PROVIDED

The issues of healthcare and housing are always top of mind for Canadians, and key issues in this year's provincial election. While our political identity has, for decades, included pride for a social safety net, excellent healthcare, and housing for all, these societal pillars are crumbling—and fast. In conversation with the *Globe and Mail's* health reporter, **André Picard**, these two authors offer practical and politically savvy solutions to ensure these basic human rights are available to all. CBC host and author **Gregor Craigie** speaks to how we can restore social housing and affordable homes in *Our Crumbling Foundation*; widely respected medical expert and former Minister of Health, **Jane Philpott**, discusses the change we need to preserve our healthcare system in *Health for All*. Leave informed... and resolute. *Moderated by André Picard.*

Presented thanks to the generous support of the AI Roadburg Foundation.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 1:30 PM | \$27

Claire Messud in Conversation
with *Eleanor Wachtel*

EVENT NUMBER
70

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

"Is it a betrayal?" bestselling author **Claire Messud** wrote of her choice to draw on her family's history, including relatives' letters and memoirs, for her latest novel, *This Strange Eventful History*. Her answer is as rich and nuanced as this exceptional novel, chosen by Oprah, *New York Magazine*, *The Guardian*, and the *Globe and Mail* (amongst others) as a Book of 2024 for its sweeping telling of a family through seven decades of upheaval, from 1940 to 2010. She speaks with former CBC *Writers & Company* host, **Eleanor Wachtel**, about art imitating life, the freedom and responsibility of writing family, and her process for creating such rich interior lives of characters we quickly grow to understand. Join us for a conversation with one of the finest novelists of this generation.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 1:30 PM | \$27

Blending Genres: *VMI Betsy Warland
Between Genres Award*

EVENT NUMBER
71

N THE NEST

Each of these authors combine the unexpected—either writing in many genres across works, or blending multiple genres in one book. The result, in every case, is a work as fascinating for its form as for its story. We delve into these kaleidoscopic offerings before a ceremony for the **VMI Betsy Warland Between Genres Award**. **Alison McCreesh's** *Degrees of Separation* and **Sarah Leavitt's** *Something, Not Nothing* both defy expectations of what a graphic novel can be, and the depths of creativity and poignancy they exude. **Canisia Lubrin's** *Code Noir* is a masterpiece of 59 braided fictions that speak to the colonial empire and those who transcend it. **Michael Turner's** *Playlist* blends poetry, memoir, and music journalism to consider a writing life immersed in music. Discover new horizons in writing and celebrate craft with these talents. *Moderated by Elee Kraljii Gardiner.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 1:30 PM | \$27

Less is More:
Celebrating Short Stories

EVENT NUMBER
72

RS REVUE STAGE

Good short stories can share expansive truths with the smallest details. Each of these authors has built a reputation for articulating our depths with exquisitely crafted, luminescent prose. Together, they discuss why short stories are, in many ways, a true artistic form, and how a narrower word count leads to more expansive characters. Multi-award-winning, bestselling **Billy-Ray Belcourt** shares a masterful yet playful collection about Indigenous love and loneliness in *Coexistence*. **Jen Currin's** *Disembark* features queer characters navigating new worlds, new circumstances, and new methods of relating to the people around them. And **Amanda Peters' Waiting for the Long Night Moon** describes the Indigenous experience from an astonishingly wide spectrum in time and place. *Moderated by Tara McGuire.*



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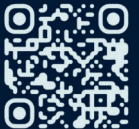
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 5:00 PM | \$27

On Grief and Trauma:
Personal and Global

EVENT NUMBER
73

GS GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

After the horrors of the October 7th terror attack in Israel and the ongoing atrocities perpetrated in Israel's war in Gaza, billions of us are trying to process: process the brutality of these acts, process seeing so much trauma, process what it means to seek justice on an international stage. But what does that processing entail? And how do we begin such processing in both private and community spheres? **Dr. Gabor Maté, MD** is a retired physician, Holocaust survivor, and world-renowned trauma expert. **Raja G. Khouri** is a community organizer, human rights advocate, and co-author of *The Wall Between: What Jews and Palestinians Don't Want to Know about Each Other*. Together, in conversation with **Elamin Abdelmahmoud**, they discuss the need for a new public language to talk about the profound grief of the last 12 months—and beyond—and why this grief can only be overcome in community. *Moderated by Elamin Abdelmahmoud.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 5:00 PM | \$27

Thuận in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER
74

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

GUEST CURATOR

One of the most intriguing novels of the 21st century, **Thuận's** *Elevator in Sài Gòn* combines elements of the detective thriller, historical romance, and postcolonial ghost story into a scathing satire of life in a communist state: a satire still banned in Vietnam today. It follows a young Vietnamese woman's obsession with her mother's past, zigzagging across France and Asia to try to answer the unanswerable. She speaks about the life of someone embracing new culture—from studying at universities in Russia and France; her views on the ongoing censorship of her work; and finding joy amidst hardships in a country that has become home. This promises to be a beautiful conversation with musings on literature, identity—and hope.


Thuận's appearance presented with the generous support of Consulate General of France in Vancouver.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 5:00 PM | \$27

Nalo Hopkinson
in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER
75

N THE NEST

Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award-winning science fiction and fantasy author **Nalo Hopkinson's** body of work is nothing short of astonishing. Her more than a dozen books span different universes and dimensions—but all centre non-normative voices and experiences, and explore the potential that emanates from doing so. She discusses imagination and equity; identity and possibility in conversation with **Doretta Lau**. She'll also delve into the ideas within her new release, *Blackheart Man*, in which the magical island of Chynchin faces conquerors from abroad and something even darker from within. Its fate is told through the story of Veycosi—a poor student with a complex polyamorous personal life—as he grapples with sinister forces at work. *Moderated by Doretta Lau.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 8:00 PM | \$50

The Literary Cabaret

EVENT NUMBER

76

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

It's a formula that never fails: combine six acclaimed and award-winning authors with one band and a table of friends for a night of art and delight! At the helm of the Vancouver Writers Fest flagship event is Musical Director, **Benjamin Millman**: a pianist, producer, and multi-instrumentalist hailing from Vancouver, whose mission is to pay homage to the great legacy of the Black American and African Diasporic Music he loves. His band, **The Oxymorons**, accompany literary greats including **Roddy Doyle** (*The Women Behind the Door*), **Anne Enright** (*The Wren, The Wren*), **Richard Powers** (*Playground*), **Jón Kalman Stefánsson** (*Your Absence Is Darkness*), **Brandon Taylor** (*The Late Americans*), and **Ayelet Tsabari** (*Songs for the Brokenhearted*). Hosted by Musical Director Benjamin Millman.

Anne Enright's and Roddy Doyle's attendance made possible thanks to the generous support of Culture Ireland.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 8:00 PM | \$27

Drawing Out
Family Histories

EVENT NUMBER

77

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

In her genre-defying *Feeding Ghosts*—"Crying in H Mart meets *Persepolis*"—**Tessa Hulls** tells the story of three generations of women in her family, exploring love, grief, exile, and identity. **Teresa Wong** also explores multigenerational ties and memories in *All Our Ordinary Stories*, sharing the obstacles a daughter faces trying to connect to her immigrant parents. **Sarah Leavitt**, meanwhile, explores a different kind of loss in *Something, Not Nothing*: that of the death of her partner of 22 years. Using deeply moving text and abstract images, textures, poetic text, layers of watercolour, ink, and coloured pencil, she explores love, loss, and navigating the two. Together, these exceptional artists discuss baring oneself through visual art and the poignancy of graphic novels for sharing complex ideas. Moderated by Emily Chou.



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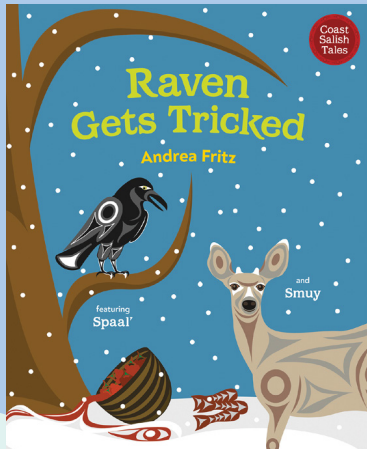
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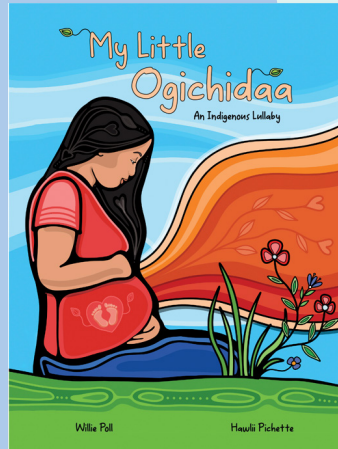
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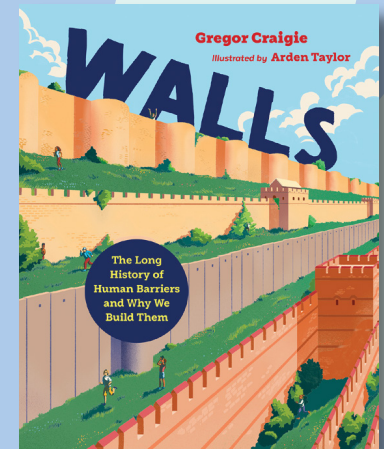
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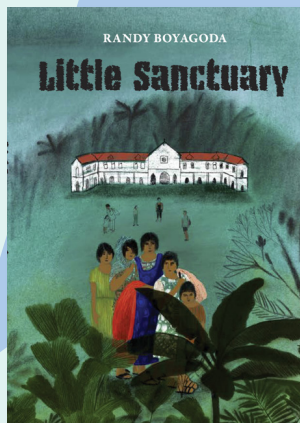
A deer tricks a greedy raven into sharing his food.
ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS



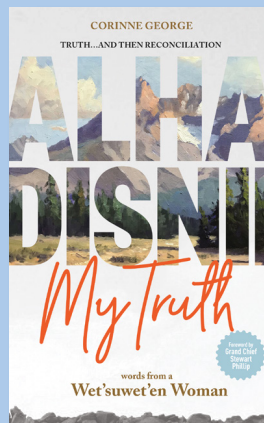
An Indigenous lullaby from a mother to her unborn little warrior.
MEDICINE WHEEL PUBLISHING



An exploration of why and how people have built walls all over the world.
ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS



A dystopian YA novel set in a Global South wracked by war.
TRADEWIND BOOKS



A Wet'suwet'en Woman's journey through trauma towards healing.
MEDICINE WHEEL PUBLISHING



A collection of poems embodying land love and ancestral wisdom.
NIGHTWOOD EDITIONS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 8:00 PM | \$27

Drew Hayden Taylor
in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER

78

N THE NEST

Whether the dozens of plays, the novels, or the anthologies, a through line runs through **Drew Hayden Taylor's** work: they all tickle the funny bone, sometimes with a subtle twist, sometimes with laugh-out-loud prose. Writing about the world from an Indigenous perspective, this ability to cause a smile is how he bridges gaps between cultures. His latest, instant bestseller, *Cold*, is no exception. Taking tropes from the murder mystery, police procedural, thriller, and horror genres, Taylor weaves a pulsing narrative about two women stranded after a plane crash... a high stakes adventure that still manages to make us laugh. He speaks about his remarkable body of work, the philosophy behind such joy-seeking, and how he navigates between genres—and cultures—with such aplomb. Moderated by Michelle Cyca.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 8:00 PM | \$27

Fright Night

EVENT NUMBER

79

RS REVUE STAGE

Let's face it: you're either someone who likes reading books that make you want to nervously look over your shoulder while reading, or you're not. But, judging by the popularity of these three titles, there are many millions of us who love a good scare. We speak with three authors who have some of the creepiest, smartest books on the market. **Nick Cutter's** *The Queen* is a terrifying heart-pounder of a novel in which a young woman searches for her missing friend only to discover a shocking truth. **Mason Coile's** *William* offers psychological horror meets cyber noir in a haunted house story in which the ghost is AI. And **Marcus Kliewer's** eerily haunting debut, *We Used to Live Here*, features two homeowners whose lives turn upside down in a novel so compelling it's now on its way to becoming a major Netflix movie. Find yourself leaving the light on? Don't say we didn't warn you. Moderated by Robert J. Wiersema.

Presented in partnership with Talking Stick Festival.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 | 10:30 AM | \$45 \$

Food for *Thought*

EVENT NUMBER

80

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

Six authors explore topics at the forefront of our minds while guests enjoy a continental breakfast and our signature mimosas. Delving into the natural world, **Sarah Cox** offers a fresh perspective on protecting biodiversity in *Signs of Life*, while **Amorina Kingdon** offers a captivating exploration of underwater sound in *Sing Like Fish*. In the human animal kingdom, **Kate Black** meets our consumerism and nostalgia head on in *Big Mall*. **Jane Philpott**, one of Canada's most respected health professionals, sets out a roadmap to our well-being in *Health for All*. **Danny Ramadan** shares his captivating story, from Syrian refugee to bestselling author, in his new memoir, *Crooked Teeth*, while **Niigaan Sinclair** uses the story of Winnipeg to illuminate the reality of Indigenous life all over what is called Canada in *Winipêk*. Talk about food for thought. *Hosted by Kathryn Gretzinger.*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 | 11:00 AM | \$27 \$

On Matriarchs

EVENT NUMBER

81

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Women are the foundation of our lives, our families, our society. Yet the role of matriarchs—our mothers, aunts, and grandmothers—is often sorely under-celebrated in Western culture. How can we honour the experiences of women who have gone before us, and reckon with the tapestry of love, grief, forgiveness, and hope which pierce all their lives? These three exquisite memoirs begin to answer this. Together in conversation, **Sadiya Ansari** (*In Exile*), **Tessa Hulls** (*Feeding Ghosts*), and **Minelle Mahtani** (*May It Have a Happy Ending*) will share the stories of generations of women before them; the complexity of identity in motherhood; and what these tales uncover about race, identity, and power today. *Moderated by Anna Ling Kaye.*

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 | 11:00 AM | PWYC (STARTING AT \$10)

The Wall Between:
Q&A with Raja G. Khouri

EVENT NUMBER
82

N THE NEST

Raja G. Khouri joins us in-person to host a screening of his pre-recorded conversation with **Jeffrey Wilkinson**, in which they discuss their groundbreaking work, *The Wall Between: What Jews and Palestinians Don't Want to Know about Each Other*. For Jews, Israel must exist; for Palestinians, the historic injustice being committed since 1948 must be reversed. Neither wants to know why the Other cannot budge on these issues. The wall is up. How can it be dismantled with dignity and safety for all? Following the conversation screening, Khouri will answer audience questions in a space for listening and reflecting on how we can all work towards a lasting peace.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 | 2:00 PM | \$27 \$

Chiller Thrillers

EVENT NUMBER
83

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

"I need something I just can't put down," we often hear. Whether it's insomnia, an upcoming vacation, rediscovering reading, or simply escaping from the world, we've all had moments where the only book that will do is one we can absolutely devour. Look no further than these three thrillers, each adapting the genre in deeply exciting ways. *New York Times* bestseller **Emiko Jean** explores the embers of hope that burn in the aftermath of tragedy in a twisty, shocking page-turner, *The Return of Ellie Black*. Bestseller **Roz Nay** is back with a fast-paced, cat-and-mouse story where two young women are chased through dangerous Australian waters in *The Offing*. In *Cold*, from award-winning **Drew Hayden Taylor**, a plane crash leaves two women fighting to survive in a hilarious, propulsive work. Trust us: these books will get your pulse racing. *Moderated by Robert J. Wiersema.*



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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 | 2:00 PM | FREE \$

Emerge

EVENT NUMBER
84

N THE NEST

Join us at this free event to celebrate the latest work from **The Writer's Studio** at Simon Fraser University: *emerge 24: The Writer's Studio Anthology*. Hear a sample of work from those who have participated in the illustrious studio this year, and insights from the writers who mentored them along the way. Find out more about the practices that fuel creative work, and see the results of those practices in the form of new work from exciting emerging voices. It's an immersive celebration of new talent and established community.

Presented in collaboration with SFU's The Writer's Studio.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 | 3:30 PM | \$55 \$

The Afternoon Tea

EVENT NUMBER
85

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

Savour an afternoon of outstanding readings and high tea delicacies, at one of our most beloved returning events. The tables will be laden with scones, sandwiches, and cookies; the tea and coffee will be flowing, alongside a signature glass of sherry. Accompanying the sumptuous spread are readings of anticipated new fiction from celebrated authors: **Myriam J. A. Chancy** (*Village Weavers*), **Anne Fleming** (*Curiosities*), **Conor Kerr** (*Prairie Edge*), **Kirsten McDougall** (*She's A Killer*), **Claire Messud** (*This Strange Eventful History*), and **Jacob Wren** (*Dry Your Tears to Perfect Your Aim*). Hosted by **Bill Richardson**.

Generously sponsored by the Faris Family in memory of Yulanda Faris.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 | 5:00 PM | \$27 \$

Art Speaks: *Dana Claxton and Dorothy Grant*

EVENT NUMBER
86

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Dana Claxton and **Dorothy Grant** are both revered for their transformative, groundbreaking works of Indigenous Northwest Coast Art. Dana Claxton's work has been displayed in museums across the globe, while her contributions to art history continue through her role of Professor of Art History at UBC. *Curve!: Women Carvers on the Northwest Coast* is no different, offering an eighty-year overview of wood and argillite carving by Indigenous women artists on the Northwest Coast. Meanwhile Haida designer, Dorothy Grant, made her life's mission to bring her culture's traditional art into contemporary fashion while adhering to the principle of Yaguudang, or respect for oneself and others. *Dorothy Grant: An Endless Thread* celebrates her remarkable career. In conversation together, and alongside visuals of magnificent artworks, they discuss the rich landscape of contemporary Indigenous art. Moderated by **Damara Jacobs-Petersen**.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 | 7:00 PM | \$27 \$

On Freedom: Timothy Snyder with *The Current's* Matt Galloway

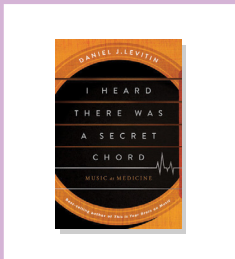
EVENT NUMBER
87

GS GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

Our closing night event is, appropriately, with the "leading interpreter of our dark times" (*The Guardian*): acclaimed Yale historian and *New York Times* bestseller **Timothy Snyder** speaks with CBC's *The Current's* **Matt Galloway**. His work has offered startling reinterpretations of political collapse while fighting authoritarianism and inspiring others to do the same. In his latest philosophical tour-de-force, *On Freedom*, he helps us see exactly what we're fighting for. Drawing on works and conversations from philosophers, political dissidents, and contemporary thinkers, he identifies the "habits of mind" that will allow us to design a government in which we and future generations can flourish: a project at the forefront of minds across the globe. This brilliant keynote is as kind as it is cerebral, as urgent as it is unmissable.

Presented in partnership with Penguin Random House Canada.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 | 7:30 PM | \$50 AND UP \$



PT PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

SPECIAL EVENT

Daniel Levitin with *Special Musical Guests*

Music is perhaps one of humanity's oldest medicines, as well as its most universal. Neuroscientist, musician, and bestselling author **Daniel J. Levitin** reveals how the deep connections between music and the human brain can be harnessed for healing in his extraordinary follow-up to *This Is Your Brain on Music*—which revolutionized our understanding of the neuroscience of song.

A work of dazzling ideas, cutting-edge research, and joyful celebration of the human mind, *I Heard There Was a Secret Chord* explores the critical role music has played in human evolution. Long considered the remit of ancient practice and alternative medicine, scientific evidence is emerging that music can offer profoundly effective treatment for a whole host of ailments, from Alzheimer's to PTSD, depression, pain, and cognitive injury. It is, in short, one of the most remarkably promising new therapies available today.

Discover how music can create profound benefits for those both young and old. This event will also feature special musical guests, to be announced! *Books will be available for purchase before and after the event.*

DANIEL J. LEVITIN is the *New York Times* bestselling author of five previous books. Levitin is James McGill Professor Emeritus of Psychology, Neuroscience and Music at McGill University, and Founding Dean of Minerva University in San Francisco. As a musician and composer, he has worked with artists including Sting, Stevie Wonder, and Joni Mitchell. (QUEBEC/USA)

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CAROLINE ADDERSON A WAY TO BE HAPPY



CAROLINE ADDERSON is the author of five novels, three short story collections, and many books for young readers. She is the recipient of three BC Book Prizes, three CBC Literary Awards, and the Marian Engel Award for mid-career achievement. She joins the Festival with her latest collection, *A Way to Be Happy*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

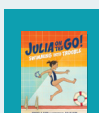
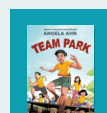


EVENTS: 25 | PAGE 23

ANGELA AHN TEAM PARK & SWIMMING INTO TROUBLE



ANGELA AHN is a former teacher and librarian. She is the author of several children's books, including *Krista Kim-Bap* and *Peter Lee's Notes from the Field*, which was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award and was named a USBBY Outstanding International Book. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

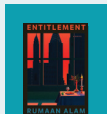


EVENTS: 21 | PAGE 21

RUMAAN ALAM ENTITLEMENT



RUMAAN ALAM is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling novel *Leave the World Behind*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award, as well as the novels *Rich and Pretty* and *That Kind of Mother*. He lives in Brooklyn. (USA)



EVENTS: 57 | PAGE 41

SADIYA ANSARI IN EXILE



SADIYA ANSARI is a journalist based in London. Her award-winning, legislation-changing work has appeared in *The Guardian*, *VICE*, *Maclean's*, and *The Globe and Mail*, among others. She is co-founder of the Canadian Journalists of Colour, and a 2023–24 Asper Visiting Professor at UBC. (CANADA/PAKISTAN/UK)

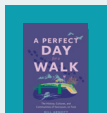


EVENTS: 81 | PAGE 54

BILL ARNOTT A PERFECT DAY FOR A WALK



BILL ARNOTT is the author of *A Season on Vancouver Island* and the award-winning *Gone Viking* books, all published by Rocky Mountain Books. A fellow of London's Royal Geographical Society, he's a frequent presenter and guest on podcasts, TV, and radio. When not roaming the globe, Bill can be found on Canada's west coast. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

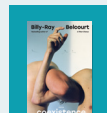


EVENTS: 68 | PAGE 47

BILLY-RAY BELCOURT COEXISTENCE

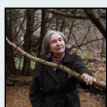


BILLY-RAY BELCOURT (he/him) is from the Driftpile Cree Nation. He won the 2018 Griffin Poetry Prize for his collection, *This Wound Is a World*. His memoir, *A History of My Brief Body*, won the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize. Belcourt is Assistant Professor of Indigenous Creative Writing at UBC. (DRIFTPILE CREE NATION)

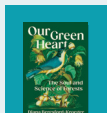


EVENTS: 50 | PAGE 37 72 | PAGE 48

DIANA BERESFORD-KROEGER OUR GREEN HEART

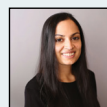


DIANA BERESFORD-KROEGER is a renowned scientist in medical biochemistry, botany, and medicine. She has won numerous awards and authored several bestselling books on nature, including *Arboretum America: A Philosophy of the Forest* and *To Speak for the Trees*. She authored and presented the documentary *Call of the Forest* based on her book *The Global Forest*. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 31 | PAGE 26

SHASHI BHAT DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS



SHASHI BHAT is the author of *Death by a Thousand Cuts*, *The Most Precious Substance on Earth*, a Governor General's Award finalist, and *The Family Took Shape*. Her fiction has won the Writers' Trust/McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize and more. She is the editor-in-chief of *EVENT* magazine and teaches creative writing at Douglas College. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 25 | PAGE 23

TOM BIRDSEYE | THERE IS NO MAP FOR THIS



TOM BIRDSEYE is the author of nineteen books for young readers. His books have won or been a finalist for state children's choice awards forty-three times. Tom is faculty emeritus in the Writing for Children and Young Adults program at Vermont College of Fine Arts. He lives in Corvallis, Oregon. (USA)



EVENTS: 34 | PAGE 27

RANDY BOYAGODA | LITTLE SANCTUARY



RANDY BOYAGODA is a novelist and professor of English at the University of Toronto. His novels, which include *Original Prin* and *Dante's Indiana*, have been nominated for the Giller Prize and the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. He lives in Toronto with his wife and four daughters. *Little Sanctuary* is his first novel for young readers. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 19 | PAGE 20

DIONNE BRAND | SALVAGE



DIONNE BRAND is an award-winning author of twenty-three books of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. She has received the Griffin Poetry Prize, Toronto Book Award, and Trillium Book Prize. Brand is the Editorial Director of Alchemy, an imprint of Knopf Canada, and University Professor Emerita at the University of Guelph. (ONTARIO)

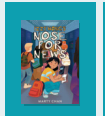


EVENTS: 27 | PAGE 24

MARTY CHAN | IZZY WONG'S NOSE FOR NEWS & TODAY I AM

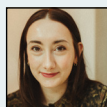


MARTY CHAN is an award-winning author of dozens of books for kids, including *Cosplay Crime*, *Kung Fu Master*, *Haunted Hospital*, *Dragon on the Loose* and the award-winning Marty Chan Mystery series. He tours schools and libraries across Canada to ignite a passion for reading in kids. He lives in Edmonton. (ALBERTA)



EVENTS: 09 | PAGE 15 24 | PAGE 23 40 | PAGE 30

KATE BLACK | BIG MALL

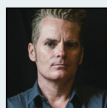


KATE BLACK is a writer whose essays have been published in *The Globe and Mail*, *The Walrus*, and *Maisonneuve*. In 2020, she was selected as one of Canada's top emerging voices in non-fiction by the RBC Taylor Prize and the National Magazine Awards. She grew up in Alberta and now lives in Vancouver. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

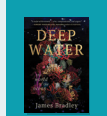


EVENTS: 80 | PAGE 54

JAMES BRADLEY | DEEP WATER

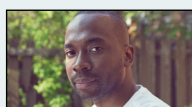


JAMES BRADLEY is a writer and critic. His books include seven novels and a book of poetry. Alongside his books, James has an established career as an essayist and reviewer. His work has won a wide range of Australian and international literary awards. He is currently an Honorary Associate at the Sydney Environment Centre at the University of Sydney. (AUSTRALIA)

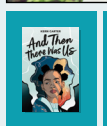


EVENTS: 54 | PAGE 39 63 | PAGE 45

KERN CARTER | AND THEN THERE WAS US & IS THERE A BOY LIKE ME?



KERN CARTER is the author of *Boys and Girls Screaming*, along with two self-published novels, *Thoughts of a Fractured Soul* (novella) and *Beauty Scars*. In addition to his writing, Kern is a filmmaker and teaches professional writing at a local college, committed to supporting emerging writers and helping them find their voice. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 04 | P. 13 19 | P. 20 23 | P. 21 34 | P. 27

MYRIAM J. A. CHANCY | VILLAGE WEAVERS



MYRIAM J. A. CHANCY is an award-winning Haitian-Canadian-American writer, the HBA Chair in the Humanities at Scripps College in Claremont, California and a Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. (HAITI/CANADA/USA)



EVENTS: 63 | PAGE 39 85 | PAGE 56

JOHNNIE CHRISTMAS

GAMERVILLE



JOHNNIE CHRISTMAS is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling graphic novelist and author-illustrator of the critically acclaimed middle grade graphic novel *Swim Team*, which was longlisted for the National Book Award, was a Coretta Scott King Honor Book for Illustration, and was named a Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2022. (BRITISH COLUMBIA/USA)



EVENTS: 21 | PAGE 21 39 | PAGE 30

DANA CLAXTON

CURVE!: WOMEN CARVERS ON THE NORTHWEST COAST



DANA CLAXTON is a critically acclaimed, award-winning artist and filmmaker. Her practice investigates indigeneity, beauty, the body, the socio-political, and the spiritual. Claxton's work is held in major collections throughout Canada and the United States. She is Head of the Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory at UBC. (WOOD MOUNTAIN LAKOTA FIRST NATION/SASKATCHEWAN)



EVENTS: 86 | PAGE 56

ANN CLEEVES

THE DARK WIVES



ANN CLEEVES is the bestselling author of the beloved detectives Vera Stanhope, Jimmy Perez and Matthew Venn. Ann's work has been adapted into the TV sensations *Vera*, *Shetland* and *The Long Call*. In 2017, she received the prestigious CWA Diamond Dagger for her contributions to crime writing. (UK)



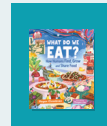
EVENTS: 13 | PAGE 17 29 | PAGE 25

MEGAN CLENDENAN

WHAT DO WE EAT?



MEGAN CLENDENAN is the author of *Cities*, and the Green Earth Award winner *Fresh Air, Clean Water*. She is also a co-author of *Design Like Nature*. She enjoys learning about how people ate throughout history. Megan lives near Vancouver with her family, where she likes growing vegetables in her backyard. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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MASON COILE

WILLIAM



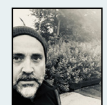
MASON COILE is a pseudonym of Andrew Pyper, the award-winning author of ten novels, including *The Demonologist*, which won the International Thriller Writers Award, and *Lost Girls*, which was a *New York Times* bestseller and Notable Book of the Year. Both Coile and Pyper live in Toronto. (ONTARIO)



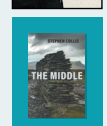
EVENTS: 79 | PAGE 53

STEPHEN COLLIS

THE MIDDLE



STEPHEN COLLIS is the author of fourteen books of poetry and prose, including two parts of a trilogy: *A History of the Theories of Rain* (2021), a finalist for the Governor General's Award for poetry, and *The Middle* (2024), both published by Talonbooks. In 2025 Pamenar Press will publish *Knock Down House*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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SARAH COX

SIGNS OF LIFE



SARAH COX is an award-winning journalist based in Victoria, BC, where she writes for *The Narwhal*. Her book *Breaching the Peace: The Site C Dam and a Valley's Stand against Big Hydro* won a BC Book Prize and was a finalist for the Writer's Trust Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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GREGOR CRAIGIE

OUR CRUMBLING FOUNDATION & WALLS

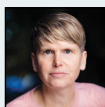


GREGOR CRAIGIE has been a journalist at the BBC World Service, CBC Radio, CBS Radio and Public Radio International for more than 25 years. His first book for adults, *On Borrowed Time*, was a finalist for both the Writer's Trust Balsillie Prize for Public Policy and the City of Victoria Book Prize. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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JEN CURRIN | DISEMBARK

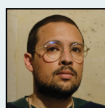


JEN CURRIN is the author of seven books, including *Hide/Seeker: Stories*, which won a Canadian Independent Book Award, and *The Inquisition Yours*, which won the 2011 Audre Lorde Award and was a Lambda finalist. They teach creative writing and English at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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ADAM DE SOUZA | THE GULF

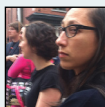


ADAM DE SOUZA is a Canadian cartoonist and illustrator. He has been self-publishing his work for the better part of a decade. His ongoing comic strip "Blind Alley" was 2022's recipient of the Cartoonist Studio Prize for web comics. He has illustrated children's books and worked for publications such as *The Globe and Mail*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 05 | PAGE 14

MERCEDES ENG | COP CITY SWAGGER



MERCEDES ENG is the author of *Mercenary English*, *Prison Industrial Complex Explodes* (winner of the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize), *my yt mama*, and *cop city swagger*. She recently co-curated her first exhibition with Keimi Nakashima-Ochoa, *Inside/Out: the art show my dad never had*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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HOLLY FLAUTO | PERMISSION TO SETTLE



HOLLY FLAUTO is a poet, storyteller, writer, and learner. Their writing has previously been published in *The ex-Puritan*, *Joyland*, and *The Rusty Toque*. They teach English and Creative Writing at Capilano University. Originally from the US, Holly currently lives in Vancouver. (BRITISH COLUMBIA/USA)

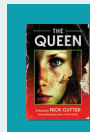


EVENTS: 58 | PAGE 41

NICK CUTTER | THE QUEEN



NICK CUTTER is the author of the critically acclaimed national bestseller *The Troop* (which is currently being developed for film with producer James Wan), *The Deep*, *Little Heaven*, and *The Handyman Method*. Nick Cutter is the pseudonym for Craig Davidson, whose much-lauded literary fiction includes *Rust and Bone* and the short story collection *Cascade*. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 79 | PAGE 53

RODDY DOYLE | THE WOMEN BEHIND THE DOOR

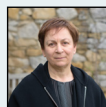


RODDY DOYLE is an Irish novelist, dramatist, and screenwriter. Several of his books have been made into successful films, beginning with *The Commitments*. He is the author of 11 acclaimed novels, including *The Van*, *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha* (winner of the Booker Prize), and, most recently, *The Women Behind the Door*. (IRELAND)



EVENTS: 66 | PAGE 46 76 | PAGE 51

ANNE ENRIGHT | THE WREN, THE WREN



ANNE ENRIGHT is an Irish writer. She won the Man Booker Prize and the Irish Fiction Award for her novel *The Gathering*, which became a longtime national bestseller in Canada. She has published two books of stories and eight novels, including *The Forgotten Waltz*, which won the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. (IRELAND)

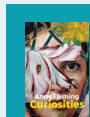


EVENTS: 53 | PAGE 39 76 | PAGE 51

ANNE FLEMING | CURIOSITIES



ANNE FLEMING is the author of *Pool-Hopping and Other Stories*, shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction and the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize; and the novel *Anomaly*. Her middle-grade novel, *The Goat*, was named one of the Top Ten Children's Books of the Year by the New York Public Library and *The Wall Street Journal*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 85 | PAGE 56

PETTI FONG ALONE TOGETHER



PETTI FONG is a journalist, educator, and author. During the pandemic she created a podcast on the topic of isolation and loneliness. The podcast, *Alone Together*, has been downloaded by hundreds of thousands of listeners and heard in more than 30 countries. Petti lives in Vancouver. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

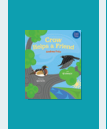


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ANDREA FRITZ CROW HELPS A FRIEND & RAVEN GETS TRICKED

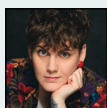


ANDREA FRITZ is a Coast Salish artist and storyteller from the Lyackson First Nation of the Hul'q'um'num'-speaking Peoples on the West Coast of Canada. Andrea strives to express her People's history and all our futures using her art. She has had numerous gallery shows and participates in community-based art pieces. (LYACKSON FIRST NATION/BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 08 | PAGE 14

ELLIOTT GISH GREY DOG

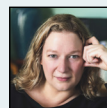


ELLIOTT GISH is a writer and librarian from Halifax, where she lives with her partner. A graduate of Simon Fraser University's Writer's Studio, Gish's fiction has appeared in many journals, including *the New Quarterly*, *the Baltimore Review*, and the *Dalhousie Review*, and was nominated for a 2022 Pushcart Prize. (NOVA SCOTIA)



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HOLLY GRAMAZIO THE HUSBANDS

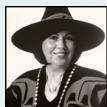


HOLLY GRAMAZIO is a writer, game designer, and curator. She founded the experimental games festival Now Play This, and wrote the script for the award-winning indie video game *Dicey Dungeons*. She's particularly interested in rules, play, cities, gardens, and games that get people acting creatively. *The Husbands* is her first novel. (AUSTRALIA/UK)

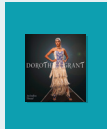


EVENTS: 16 | PAGE 18 55 | PAGE 40

DOROTHY GRANT DOROTHY GRANT: AN ENDLESS THREAD



DOROTHY GRANT is an Indigenous fashion designer whose work has appeared in exhibitions around the world and is held in the permanent collections of numerous institutions, including the Museum of Anthropology at UBC, the National Gallery of Canada, and the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. (HAIDA/BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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DR. JENNIFER GRENZ MEDICINE WHEEL FOR THE PLANET



DR. JENNIFER GRENZ is a Nlaka'pamux Indigenous ecologist and scholar with a PhD in Integrated Studies in Land and Food Systems from the University of British Columbia. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Forest Resources Management at UBC and has travelled extensively across North America presenting keynote lectures. (NLAKE'PAMUX/BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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YEJI Y. HAM THE INVISIBLE HOTEL

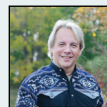


YEJI Y. HAM is a Korean Canadian writer. She received her BA in Creative Writing from UBC and MFA in Literary Arts from Brown University. Her short story collection *Doraesol* was awarded the Frances Mason Harris' 26 Prizes in Fiction. Her works have appeared in *Shorts*, *Wilderness Journal*, *The Rivet Journal*, and more. (KOREA/CANADA)



EVENTS: 14 | PAGE 17

DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR COLD

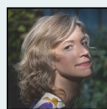


DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR is an Ojibway from the Curve Lake First Nations in Ontario. He has been an award-winning playwright, a journalist/columnist, short story writer, novelist, television scriptwriter, and has worked on over 20 documentaries exploring the Native experience. He is the author of 34 books. (ANISHINAABE/ONTARIO)



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SARAH HENSTRA THE LOST TAROT

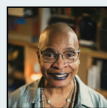


SARAH HENSTRA is the author of *The Red Word*, which won the 2018 Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction, and the young adult novels *Mad Miss Mimic*, a CLA Best Book for Teens, and *We Contain Multitudes*. Sarah has a PhD in English and is a professor at Toronto Metropolitan University. (ONTARIO)



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NALO HOPKINSON BLACKHEART MAN



NALO HOPKINSON is the award-winning author of numerous books. Nalo grew up in Jamaica, Trinidad, and Guyana before moving to Canada when she was sixteen. She writes science fiction and fantasy, exploring their potential for centering non-normative voices and experiences. She is now based in Vancouver. (BRITISH COLUMBIA/JAMAICA)



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TESSA HULLS FEEDING GHOSTS

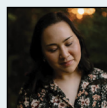


TESSA HULLS is an artist, writer, and adventurer. Her essays have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Atlas Obscura*, and *Adventure Journal*, and her comics have been published in *The Rumpus*, *City Arts*, and *Spark*. She is the recipient of the Washington Artist Trust Arts Innovator Award. *Feeding Ghosts* is her first book. (USA)



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EMIKO JEAN THE RETURN OF ELLIE BLACK



EMIKO JEAN is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the young adult novels *Tokyo Dreaming* and *Tokyo Ever After*, a Reese Witherspoon/Hello Sunshine pick, as well as the novel *Mika in Real Life*, which was a Good Morning America Book Club pick. She lives in Washington. (USA)



EVENTS: 37 | PAGE 29 83 | PAGE 55

ERIC HOGAN THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING CASTLE & THE CASE OF THE NOISY NEIGHBOR



ERIC HOGAN is part of a husband-and-wife team with his wife Tara Hungerford, who run Imagine Create Media and are the creators of *The Gumboot Kids*, an award-winning CBC program for children aged 3–7 years old, and the book series spin-off, *Gumboot Kids Nature Mysteries*. They live with their two children in Vancouver. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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JESS HOUSTY CRUSHED WILD MINT



JESS HOUSTY is a parent, writer, and grassroots activist with Heiltsuk (Indigenous) and mixed settler ancestry. They serve their community as an herbalist and land-based educator alongside broader work in the non-profit and philanthropic sectors. They reside and thrive in their unceded ancestral territory in the community of Bella Bella. (HEILTSUK/BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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TARA HUNGERFORD THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING CASTLE & THE CASE OF THE NOISY NEIGHBOR



TARA HUNGERFORD is part of a husband-and-wife team with her husband Eric Hogan, who run Imagine Create Media and are the creators of *The Gumboot Kids*, an award-winning CBC program for children aged 3–7 years old, and the book series spin-off, *Gumboot Kids Nature Mysteries*. They live with their two children in Vancouver. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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CONOR KERR PRAIRIE EDGE



CONOR KERR is a Métis/Ukrainian writer living in Edmonton. He is the author of two previous poetry collections and the novel *Avenue of Champions*, which was shortlisted for the Amazon Canada First Novel Award, longlisted for the Giller Prize, and won the ReLit award. Conor is an Assistant Professor at the University of Alberta. (MÉTIS/UKRAINE/ALBERTA)



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RAJA G. KHOURI THE WALL BETWEEN

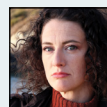


RAJA G. KHOURI is CEO of Khouri Conversations, the founding president of the Canadian Arab Institute, board member at Project Rozana (Canada), and a former 10-year commissioner with the Ontario Human Rights Commission. He is a Canada Committee member of Human Rights Watch, and co-founder of the Canadian Arab/Jewish Leadership Dialogue Group. (LEBANON/ONTARIO)



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AMORINA KINGDON SING LIKE FISH



AMORINA KINGDON is a science writer whose work has been anthologized in *Best Canadian Essays* and received honours including a Digital Publishing Award, a Jack Webster Award, and a Best New Magazine Writer from the National Magazine Awards. Previously, she was a staff writer for *Hakai Magazine*. She lives in Victoria. (ONTARIO/BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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MARCUS KLIEWER WE USED TO LIVE HERE



MARCUS KLIEWER is a writer and stop-motion animator. His debut novel *We Used to Live Here* began as a serialised short story on Reddit, where it won the Scariest Story of 2021 award on the NoSleep forum (eighteen million members). Film rights have already been snapped up by Netflix. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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AARON KREUTER RUBBLE CHILDREN



AARON KREUTER is the author of four previous books, including the 2022 Governor General's Literary Award shortlisted poetry collection *Shifting Baseline Syndrome*. His other books are *Arguments for Lawn Chairs*, *You and Me*, *Belonging*, and *Leaving Other People Alone* (UAlberta Press). He lives in Toronto and teaches at Trent University. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: [25 | PAGE 23](#)

UMA KRISHNASWAMI LOOK! LOOK! & BIRDS ON THE BRAIN

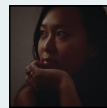


UMA KRISHNASWAMI was born in India and now lives in Victoria, BC. She has been nominated twice for the prestigious Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. Uma is faculty emerita in the Writing for Children and Young Adults program at Vermont College of Fine Arts. (BRITISH COLUMBIA/USA/INDIA)



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YULIN KUANG HOW TO END A LOVE STORY



YULIN KUANG is a screenwriter and director, whose credits include The CW's *I Ship It* and Hulu's *Dollface*. She was once fired from a Hallmark movie for being 'too hip for Hallmark' and is the adapting screenwriter of Emily Henry's *People We Meet On Vacation*, and the writer/director of the forthcoming *Beach Read* film. (USA)

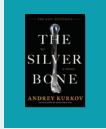


EVENTS: [16 | PAGE 18](#)

ANDREY KURKOV THE SILVER BONE

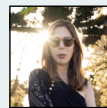


ANDREY KURKOV is a Ukrainian author and public intellectual who writes in Russian and Ukrainian. He is the author of 19 novels, including the bestselling *Death and the Penguin*, nine books for children, and about 20 documentary, fiction, and TV movie scripts. (UKRAINE)



EVENTS: [02 | PAGE 12](#) [59 | PAGE 44](#)

RACHEL KUSHNER CREATION LAKE





RACHEL KUSHNER is the author of *Creation Lake*, *The Hard Crowd*, and *The Mars Room*. She has won the Prix Médicis, was a finalist for the Booker Prize, and was twice a finalist for the National Book Award in Fiction. Rachel is a Guggenheim Foundation Fellow. (USA)



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EVELYN LAU BEST CANADIAN POETRY 2025



EVELYN LAU is a lifelong Vancouverite who has authored 14 books, including nine volumes of poetry. Her memoir *Runaway: Diary of a Street Kid*, published when she was 18, was made into a CBC movie. From 2011–2014, Evelyn served as Poet Laureate for the City of Vancouver. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

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SARAH LEAVITT SOMETHING, NOT NOTHING



SARAH LEAVITT is the author of the graphic memoir *Tangles: A Story About Alzheimer's, My Mother, and Me*, which is currently in production as a feature-length animation, and the award-winning historical fiction comic *Agnes, Murderess*. She is an assistant professor in the School of Creative Writing at UBC, where she has taught since 2012. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

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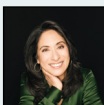
CANISIA LUBRIN CODE NOIR



CANISIA LUBRIN is the author of works including *Voodoo Hypothesis* and *The Dyzgraphxst*. Her awards include the Griffin Poetry Prize and the Writer's Trust of Canada Rising Stars prize. *Code Noir: Metamorphoses* is her debut fiction. She is poetry editor at McClelland & Stewart and coordinates the Creative Writing MFA at the University of Guelph. (ST. LUCIA/ONTARIO)

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MINELLE MAHTANI MAY IT HAVE A HAPPY ENDING



MINELLE MAHTANI is an author, scholar, and former radio host. She has won several prizes for her work, including a Digital Publishing Award for an essay in *The Walrus* that became the basis for *May It Have a Happy Ending*, her debut memoir. She lives in Vancouver. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

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DR. GABOR MATÉ, MD THE MYTH OF NORMAL



DR. GABOR MATÉ, MD is a celebrated speaker and bestselling author who is highly sought after for his expertise on addiction, stress, and childhood development, among other topics. Dr. Maté has written several books, including #1 *Globe and Mail* bestseller *The Myth of Normal*. His works have been published in more than thirty languages. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

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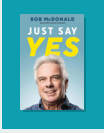

ALISON MCCREESH DEGREES OF SEPARATION



ALISON MCCREESH is an artist and graphic novelist living in Yellowknife. Contemporary life in the North is a theme that carries through her creative work. Alison's past books include the award-winning graphic novel *Ramshackle: A Yellowknife Story*, as well as the travelogue *Norths, Two Suitcases and a Stroller around the Circumpolar World*. (NORTHWEST TERRITORIES)

EVENTS: 05 | PAGE 14 71 | PAGE 48



BOB MCDONALD JUST SAY YES



BOB MCDONALD is host of CBC's *Quirks and Quarks*, Canada's national science radio program, and is a respected science communicator. His honours include the Michael Smith Award for science promotion from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Officer of the Order of Canada, and having an asteroid named after him. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

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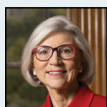
KIRSTEN MCDOUGALL SHE'S A KILLER



KIRSTEN MCDOUGALL is a novelist, short story writer, and creative writing lecturer. Her 2017 novel *Tess* was longlisted for the Ockham NZ Book Awards and shortlisted for the Ngaio Marsh Award. *She's a Killer* was longlisted for the Ockham NZ Book Awards 2022. (NEW ZEALAND)

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BEVERLEY MCLACHLIN PROOF

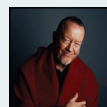


BEVERLEY MCLACHLIN is the #1 bestselling author of the novels *Full Disclosure* and *Denial*, and a memoir, *Truth Be Told*, which won the Writers' Trust Shaughnessy Cohen Prize. From 2000–2017, McLachlin was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada—the first woman to hold that position. She is a Companion of the Order of Canada. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 29 | PAGE 25

GEORGE MCWHIRTER SELF-PORTRAIT IN THE ZONE OF SILENCE

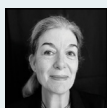


GEORGE MCWHIRTER is an Irish-Canadian poet and translator. His poetry is anthologized in *The Penguin Book of Canadian Verse* and *Irish Writing in the Twentieth Century*. He has translated four collections by Homero Aridjis, including *Self-Portrait in the Zone of Silence*, which won the 2024 Griffin Poetry Prize. He was Vancouver's Inaugural Poet Laureate. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 43 | PAGE 31 52 | PAGE 39

CLAIRE MESSUD THIS STRANGE EVENTFUL HISTORY



CLAIRE MESSUD is an American novelist who has been awarded Guggenheim and Radcliffe Fellowships and the Strauss Living Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She is Senior Lecturer on Fiction at Harvard University and lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with her husband and children. (CANADA/USA/FRANCE)



EVENTS: 70 | PAGE 48 85 | PAGE 56

ANNE MICHAELS HELD

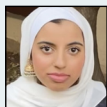


ANNE MICHAELS is a Canadian poet and novelist. Her books have been translated into more than forty-five languages and have won dozens of international awards, including the Orange Prize for Fiction, the Guardian Fiction Prize, and the Lannan Literary Award for Fiction. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 62 | PAGE 45

SARAH MUGHAL RANA HOPE ABLAZE

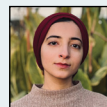


SARAH MUGHAL RANA is a Muslim author who graduated from the University of Toronto and is now pursuing her MPhil in Asian studies at Oxford. She works at the intersection of human rights and Asian policy. She is a BookTok personality and co-host of *On the Write Track* podcast. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 19 | PAGE 20

ZEHRA NAQVI THE KNOT OF MY TONGUE



ZEHRA NAQVI is a Karachi-born writer raised on unceded Coast Salish Territories (Vancouver, BC). She is a winner of the Writers' Trust of Canada 2021 RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers. She holds two MSc degrees from Oxford University where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 47 | PAGE 33

ROZ NAY THE OFFING

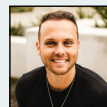


ROZ NAY is the bestselling author of *Hurry Home* and *Our Little Secret*, which won the Douglas Kennedy Prize for best foreign thriller in France and was nominated for the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize for Mystery and the Arthur Ellis Best First Crime Novel Award. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

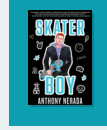


EVENTS: 83 | PAGE 55

ANTHONY NERADA SKATER BOY



ANTHONY NERADA is an author who became a writer after his fifth-grade teacher told him it was his destiny. Anthony holds a BA in psychology and two diplomas in publishing and public relations. His debut novel, *Skater Boy*, was named a Kids' Indie Next Pick by the American Booksellers Association. He lives in Vancouver. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

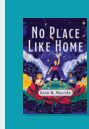


EVENTS: 34 | PAGE 27

LINH S. NGUYỄN | NO PLACE LIKE HOME

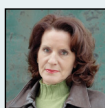


LINH S. NGUYỄN is a Vietnamese immigrant to Canada who straddles many intersecting worlds. Her stories revolve around home, liminality, and living between cultures. She graduated from the University of Toronto and went on to pursue her master's in Arts, Creativity and Education at the University of Cambridge. (ONTARIO/VIETNAM)



EVENTS: 07 | PAGE 14 33 | PAGE 27

CAROL OFF | AT A LOSS FOR WORDS



CAROL OFF is a journalist who spent 16 years co-hosting the CBC radio program *As It Happens*. Her first bestselling book, *The Lion, the Fox and the Eagle* was published in 2000. Since then, she's written more works of narrative nonfiction, including the award-winning *All We Leave Behind: A Reporter's Journey into the Lives of Others*. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 49 | PAGE 37

RAJINDERPAL S. PAL | HOWEVER FAR AWAY



RAJINDERPAL S. PAL is a critically acclaimed writer and stage performer. He is the author of two collections of award-winning poetry, *pappaji wrote poetry in a language i cannot read* and *pulse*. Born in India and raised in Great Britain, Pal now resides in Toronto. *However Far Away* is his first novel. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 48 | PAGE 36 55 | PAGE 40

JANE PHILPOTT | HEALTH FOR ALL

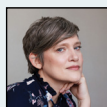


JANE PHILPOTT is the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Director of the School of Medicine at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. She was a family doctor in Markham-Stouffville for 17 years and served as a member of parliament and federal Minister of Health. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 69 | PAGE 48 80 | PAGE 54

HEATHER O'NEILL | THE CAPITAL OF DREAMS

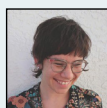


HEATHER O'NEILL is a novelist, short-story writer, and essayist. Her works have been #1 national bestsellers, winners of the Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction, and shortlisted for the Giller Prize, among other honours. She has won CBC's Canada Reads both as a novelist and a champion. (QUEBEC)

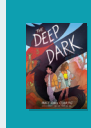


EVENTS: 02 | PAGE 12 42 | PAGE 31 44 | PAGE 32

MOLLY KNOX OSTERTAG | THE DEEP DARK

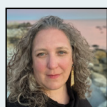


MOLLY KNOX OSTERTAG is the acclaimed ABA Indie and *New York Times* bestselling graphic novel author-illustrator of *The Girl from the Sea* and the *Witch Boy* trilogy, as well as a writer for animation. A graduate of the School of Visual Arts, Molly was featured in the *Forbes 30 Under 30: Media list* in 2020. (USA)



EVENTS: 05 | PAGE 14 37 | PAGE 29

AMANDA PETERS | WAITING FOR THE LONG NIGHT MOON

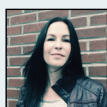


AMANDA PETERS is a writer of Mi'kmaq and settler ancestry. Her debut novel, *The Berry Pickers*, was a critically acclaimed bestseller in Canada. She is the winner of the 2021 Indigenous Voices Award for unpublished prose and a participant in the 2021 Writers' Trust Rising Stars Program. (MI'KMA'KI/NOVA SCOTIA)



EVENTS: 50 | PAGE 37 72 | PAGE 48

ISABELLE PICARD | NISH



ISABELLE PICARD is originally from Wendake Reserve in Quebec and is an ethnologist, Radio-Canada's Senior Specialist in Indigenous Affairs, and a lecturer at UQAM. She aims to increase understanding of the realities and challenges faced by Indigenous peoples of Quebec. (QUEBEC)

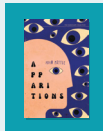


EVENTS: 04 | PAGE 13 33 | PAGE 27

ADAM POTTLE APPARITIONS & BUTTERFLY ON THE WIND



ADAM POTTLE is an award-winning Canadian author with books in multiple genres. His play *The Black Drum* is the world's first all-Deaf musical. Born Deaf and raised in a hearing family, he has a PhD in English Literature and has taught English and Creative Writing for nearly 20 years. (SASKATCHEWAN)

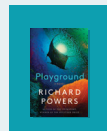


EVENTS: 14 | PAGE 17 18 | PAGE 19

RICHARD POWERS PLAYGROUND

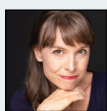


RICHARD POWERS is the bestselling author of *Bewilderment*, which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize; *The Overstory*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction and the William Dean Howells Medal; and *The Echo Maker*, winner of the National Book Award for Fiction. He lives in Tennessee. (US)



EVENTS: 54 | PAGE 39 76 | PAGE 51

NITA PROSE THE MYSTERY GUEST



NITA PROSE is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Mystery Guest* and *The Maid*, which has sold over 2 million copies and is published in more than forty countries. Her most recent novella is *The Mistletoe Mystery*. Nita lives in Toronto. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 12 | PAGE 16 29 | PAGE 25

DANNY RAMADAN CROOKED TEETH & TODAY I AM

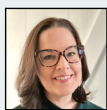


DANNY RAMADAN is a Syrian-Canadian author, public speaker, and advocate for LGBTQ+ refugees. His debut novel, *The Clothesline Swing*, was longlisted for Canada Reads. His second novel, *The Foghorn Echoes*, won a Lambda Literary Award. He lives in Vancouver with his husband. (SYRIA/BRITISH COLUMBIA)

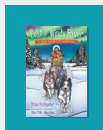


EVENTS: 40 | PAGE 30 80 | PAGE 54

TRINA RATHGEBER LOST AT WINDY RIVER



TRINA RATHGEBER is a member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and grew up in Manitoba, where she did all the things that northern kids do, from playing hockey to building forts. She is the author of *French Fries Are Potatoes* and *The Bunnies Talk Money*. (PETER BALLANTYNE CREE NATION/ALBERTA)

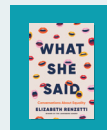


EVENTS: 24 | PAGE 23

ELIZABETH RENZETTI WHAT SHE SAID



ELIZABETH RENZETTI is a bestselling Canadian author and journalist. She has worked as the Arts and Books editor for *The Globe and Mail*. In 2020 she won the Landsberg Award for her reporting on gender equality. She is the author of the essay collection *Shrewed: A Wry and Closely Observed Look at the Lives of Women and Girls* and the novel *Based on a True Story*. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 11 | PAGE 16

JAELE RICHARDSON TODAY I AM

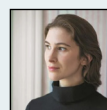


JAELE RICHARDSON is the author of the memoir *The Stone Thrower*, a picture book by the same title, and two additional picture books. Her debut novel, *Gutter Child*, was shortlisted for the Amazon First Novel Award. She is the founder and Executive Director of the Festival of Literary Diversity (FOLD). (ONTARIO)

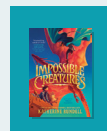


EVENTS: 40 | PAGE 30

KATHERINE RUNDELL IMPOSSIBLE CREATURES



KATHERINE RUNDELL is the author of *Rooftoppers* (An ALA Notable Book, winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize), and *Cartwheeling in Thunderstorms*. She is a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. Her books for adults include *Super-Infinite*, and *Why You Should Read Children's Books, Even Though You Are So Old and Wise*. (UK)



EVENTS: 07 | PAGE 14 6.5 | SEE WEBSITE

TOM RYAN THE TREASURE HUNTERS CLUB



TOM RYAN is an award-winning author, screenwriter, and producer. He has previously written novels for young adults, including *I Hope You're Listening*, which won the 2021 Lambda Award for Best LGBTQ Mystery. Tom, his husband, and their dog live in Nova Scotia. (NOVA SCOTIA)

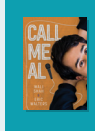


EVENTS: 37 | PAGE 29 46 | PAGE 33

WALI SHAH CALL ME AL



WALI SHAH is a poet and public speaker who, growing up, faced pressure from his Pakistani-immigrant parents to choose a profession that would justify their sacrifices. He surprised them by inspiring youth with his powerful verse, delivering TED talks, and serving as a poet laureate for the city of Mississauga. (ONTARIO)

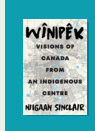


EVENTS: 04 | PAGE 13 33 | PAGE 27

NIIGAAN SINCLAIR WĪNĪPĒK



NIIGAAN SINCLAIR is Anishinaabe and an Assistant Professor at the University of Manitoba. He is a commentator on Indigenous issues on CTV, CBC, and APTN, and his written work can be found in *The Exile Edition of Native Canadian Fiction and Drama*, and numerous newspapers. Niigaan is the co-editor of the award-winning *Manitowapow*, and *Centering Anishinaabeg Studies*. (ANISHINAABE/WINNIPEG)



EVENTS: 41 | PAGE 30 80 | PAGE 54

MONIQUE GRAY SMITH CIRCLE OF LOVE



MONIQUE GRAY SMITH is the award-winning and bestselling author of nine books for readers of all ages. She is Cree, Lakota, and Scottish and the mother of teenage twins. An inspirational, sought-after speaker and consultant, she lives in Victoria, British Columbia. (CREE/BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 08 | PAGE 14 18 | PAGE 19

CANDACE SAVAGE HOW TO KNOW A CROW & ALWAYS BEGINNING



CANDACE SAVAGE is an award-winning writer, community organiser, and grandmother based in Saskatoon, Treaty Six territory. She has written more than two dozen books for children and adults, including *Always Beginning: The Big Bang, the Universe and You* and *How to Know a Crow*. (SASKATCHEWAN)



EVENTS: 08 | PAGE 14 20 | PAGE 20

LEANNE TOSHIKO SIMPSON NEVER BEEN BETTER



LEANNE TOSHIKO SIMPSON is a mixed-race Yonsei writer who lives with bipolar disorder. She was named Scarborough's Emerging Writer and was nominated for the Journey Prize. She co-founded a reflective writing program at Canada's largest mental health hospital and teaches at the University of Toronto. (ONTARIO)

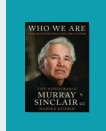


EVENTS: 16 | PAGE 18

MURRAY SINCLAIR WHO WE ARE



MURRAY SINCLAIR is a former member of the Canadian Senate, a judge for 28 years, and First Nations lawyer who served as chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). He has won numerous awards, and received Honorary Doctorates from 14 Canadian universities. (ANISHINAABE/WINNIPEG)



EVENTS: 41 | PAGE 30

TIMOTHY SNYDER ON FREEDOM



TIMOTHY SNYDER is the Richard C. Levin Professor of History and Global Affairs at Yale University and a permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna. His books, which have been published in over forty languages, include *Bloodlands*, *Black Earth*, *On Tyranny*, *The Road to Unfreedom*, and *On Freedom*. (USA)



EVENTS: 87 | PAGE 56

JÓN KALMAN STEFÁNSSON

YOUR ABSENCE IS DARKNESS



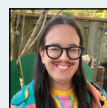
JÓN KALMAN STEFÁNSSON is an Icelandic author whose novel *Summer Light, and Then Comes the Night* received the Icelandic Prize for Literature in 2005. In 2011 he was awarded the prestigious P. O. Enquist Award. His books include *Heaven and Hell*, and the Booker Prize-longlisted *Fish Have No Feet*. (ICELAND)



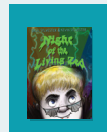
EVENTS: 53 | PAGE 39 76 | PAGE 51

BASIL SYLVESTER

NIGHT OF THE LIVING ZED



BASIL SYLVESTER is a non-binary writer and bookseller. Their first book, *The Fabulous Zed Watson!*, co-written with Kevin Sylvester, was a finalist for the 2021 Governor General's Literary Award, the 2021 Lambda Award and the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award. *Night of the Living Zed* is their second novel. (ONTARIO)



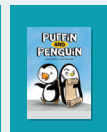
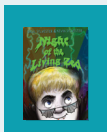
EVENTS: 24 | PAGE 23

KEVIN SYLVESTER

NIGHT OF THE LIVING ZED & PUFFIN AND PENGUIN



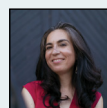
KEVIN SYLVESTER is an award-winning author, illustrator and broadcaster. Best known for the MiNRS trilogy and the Neil Flambé series, he is the creator of over 30 children's books, including picture books, middle-grade novels, and nonfiction books. (ONTARIO)



06 | PAGE 14 24 | PAGE 23

TANYA TALAGA

THE KNOWING



TANYA TALAGA is the acclaimed author of the national bestseller *Seven Fallen Feathers*, which won the RBC Taylor Prize, the First Nation Communities Read: Young Adult/Adult Award, and was CBC's Nonfiction Book of the Year. Talaga was the 2017–2018 Atkinson Fellow in Public Policy and the 2019 VWF Guest Curator. (ANISHINAABE/ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 02 | PAGE 12 41 | PAGE 30 60 | PAGE 44

BRANDON TAYLOR

THE LATE AMERICANS



BRANDON TAYLOR is the author of the novel *Real Life*, which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and the National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Prize. His collection *Filthy Animals*, a national bestseller, was awarded The Story Prize and shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize. (USA)



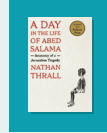
EVENTS: 42 | PAGE 31 76 | PAGE 51

NATHAN THRALL

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ABED SALAMA



NATHAN THRALL received the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction for *A Day in the Life of Abed Salama*. Also the author of *The Only Language They Understand: Forcing Compromise in Israel and Palestine*, his writing has appeared in *New York Times Magazine* and more. He lives in Jerusalem. (USA)



EVENTS: 65 | PAGE 46

THUẬN

ELEVATOR IN SÀI GÒN



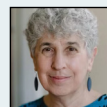
THUẬN is a recipient of the Writers' Union Prize, the highest award in Vietnamese literature. Seven of her novels were translated and published in France. *Chinatown*, her debut novel in English, won a PEN Translates Award, the 2023 ALTA National Translation Award, and was shortlisted for the 2023 Republic of Consciousness Prize. (VIETNAM/FRANCE)



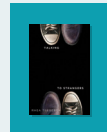
EVENTS: 74 | PAGE 50

RHEA TREGEBOV

TALKING TO STRANGERS





RHEA TREGEBOV is the celebrated author of poetry, novels, and children's picture books. Her eighth collection of poetry is *Talking to Strangers* (Véhicule Press). Born in Saskatoon and raised in Winnipeg, she lives in Vancouver, where she is Associate Professor Emerita at the School of Creative Writing at UBC. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 58 | PAGE 41

AYELET TSABARI

SONGS FOR THE BROKENHEARTED





AYELET TSABARI's memoir *The Art of Leaving* was the winner of the Canadian Jewish Literary Awards, a finalist for the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction, and more. *The Best Place on Earth* won the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature and the Edward Lewis Wallant Award for Jewish Fiction. (ISRAEL/CANADA)

EVENTS: 67 | PAGE 47 76 | PAGE 51

JANE URQUHART

IN WINTER I GET UP AT NIGHT





JANE URQUHART, OC, is one of Canada's best loved writers and has been nominated for the world's leading literary prizes including the Booker Prize, the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and the Orange Prize. *The Stone Carvers* was a finalist for the Giller Prize and *The Underpainter* won the Governor General's Award. (ONTARIO)

EVENTS: 30 | PAGE 26

NANCY VO

THE RUNAWAY





NANCY VO was raised where the sun rose in the prairies and set behind the Rockies. She's the author/illustrator of the Crow Stories trilogy, as well as the author/illustrator of *Boobies* and the illustrator of *As Glenn as Can Be* by Sarah Ellis. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

EVENTS: 18 | PAGE 19

ANDREA WARNER

WE OUGHTA KNOW





ANDREA WARNER lives in Vancouver on the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseil-Waututh First Nations. Her books include *Rise Up and Sing!: Power, Protest, and Activism in Music* and *Buffy Sainte-Marie: The Authorized Biography*. She is the co-writer and associate producer of the documentary *Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

EVENTS: 48 | PAGE 36

MICHAEL TURNER

PLAYLIST

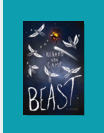



MICHAEL TURNER lives in the garrison town of Vancouver, unceded Coast Salish territories. His books include *Hard Core Logo*, *The Pornographer's Poem* and, more recently, *9x11 and Other Poems Like Bird, Nine, x and Eleven*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

EVENTS: 47 | PAGE 33 71 | PAGE 48

RICHARD VAN CAMP

BEAST



RICHARD VAN CAMP was born in Fort Smith, NWT, and is a member of the Dogrib (Tłı̨chǫ) Dene Nation. He's been awarded the Blue Metropolis First Peoples Literary Prize; Storyteller of the Year from the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers; and the Order of the Northwest Territories. (TŁİCHO/ALBERTA)

EVENTS: 22 | PAGE 21 35 | PAGE 28

YILIN WANG

THE LANTERN AND THE NIGHT MOTHS



YILIN WANG (she/they) is a Chinese diaspora writer, poet, and Chinese-English translator. Her writing has appeared in *Clarkesworld*, *Fantasy Magazine*, *Words Without Borders*, *The Malahat Review*, *CV2*, *The Toronto Star*, and elsewhere. She's the editor and translator of *The Lantern and the Night Moths* (Invisible Publishing, 2024). (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

EVENTS: 52 | PAGE 39

JEFFREY WILKINSON

THE WALL BETWEEN



JEFFREY WILKINSON is an American Jew who lives in Canada. He holds a doctorate in Education from the University of Toronto and works actively in the Jewish community and beyond on issues relating to trauma and the Israel/Palestine struggle. Jeff's partnership with Raja has become central to his work. (ONTARIO)

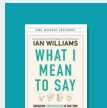
EVENTS: 01 | PAGE 12 82 | PAGE 55

IAN WILLIAMS

WHAT I MEAN TO SAY: REMAKING CONVERSATION IN OUR TIME



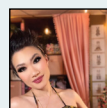
IAN WILLIAMS's works have won or been shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the Griffin Poetry Prize, the Danuta Gleed Literary Award, and more. Williams completed his PhD at the University of Toronto, where he's now a professor of English and director of the Creative Writing program. (ONTARIO)



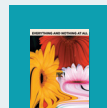
EVENTS: 49 | PAGE 37

JENNY HEIJUN WILLS

EVERYTHING AND NOTHING AT ALL



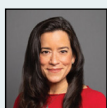
JENNY HEIJUN WILLS was born in Seoul, South Korea and was adopted and raised in a white family in Southern Ontario. She's the author of *Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related.*, which won the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Nonfiction Prize in 2019 and the Manitoba Book Awards' Best First Book Prize in 2020. (MANITOBA)



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JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD

RECONCILING HISTORY: A STORY OF CANADA



JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD served as the Independent Member of Parliament for Vancouver Granville, Minister of Justice, and Attorney General of Canada. Wilson-Raybould is a lawyer and an advocate and leader among Canada's Indigenous Peoples with a strong reputation as a bridge builder between communities. Wilson-Raybould has written two bestselling books, *"Indian" in the Cabinet* and *From Where I Stand*.



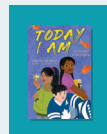
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BRANDON WINT

TODAY I AM



BRANDON WINT is an Ontario-born poet, spoken word artist, educator and multi-disciplinary storyteller based in western Canada. *Divine Animal* is his debut collection of poetry. His debut film, *My Body Is A Poem/The World Makes With Me* screened at DOXA documentary film festival and Reelworld Film Festival in 2023.



EVENTS: 40 | PAGE 30

MICHELLE WINTERS

HAIR FOR MEN



MICHELLE WINTERS is a writer, painter, and translator born and raised in Saint John, NB. Her debut novel, *I Am a Truck*, was shortlisted for the 2017 Scotiabank Giller Prize. She is the translator of *Kiss the Undertow* and *Daniil and Vanya* by Marie-Hélène Larochelle. She lives in Toronto. (ONTARIO)



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TERESA WONG

ALL OUR ORDINARY STORIES



TERESA WONG's comics and illustrated essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *McSweeney's*, and *The Walrus*. Her graphic memoir, *Dear Scarlet: The Story of My Postpartum Depression*, was a finalist for the W.O. Mitchell Book Prize and was longlisted for Canada Reads. She currently teaches comics at Gotham Writers Workshop. (ALBERTA)



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JACOB WREN

DRY YOUR TEARS TO PERFECT YOUR AIM



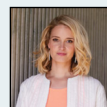
JACOB WREN's books include *Polyamorous Love Song* (a *Globe and Mail* best book of 2014); *Rich and Poor* (finalist for the Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction and a *Globe and Mail* best book of 2016); and *Authenticity is a Feeling*. Wren is co-artistic director of the interdisciplinary group PME-ART. (QUEBEC)



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STEPHANIE WROBEL

THE HITCHCOCK HOTEL




STEPHANIE WROBEL is the author of *Darling Rose Gold*, an international bestseller that has sold in twenty-one countries and was shortlisted for the Edgar Award for Best First Novel. Wrobel grew up in Chicago and now lives in New York. *This Might Hurt* is her second novel, and *The Hitchcock Hotel* is her third. (USA)




EVENTS: 46 | PAGE 33

SHŌ YAMAGUSHIKU

SHIMA



shō yamagushiku's work is grounded in a diasporic okinawan consciousness. He writes from the homelands of the Lekwungen and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples (Victoria, BC). His first poetry collection, entitled *shima*, reflects ancestors, violence, and tradition. (OKINAWA/BRITISH COLUMBIA)



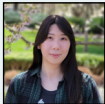
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MELISSA YUE

MISADVENTURES IN GHOSTHUNTING



MELISSA YUE can often be found obsessively researching ghost stories over bubble tea. Her work is informed by her experiences in the Chinese-Canadian diaspora community, her previous career in education, and all her nerdy interests. She views her writing as a way to connect to her roots. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)




EVENTS:

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DANIEL ZOMPARELLI

JUMP SCARE



DANIEL ZOMPARELLI is the author of *Davie Street Translations*, and *Rom Com* co-written with Dina Del Bucchia. His collection *Everything Is Awful and You're a Terrible Person* was nominated for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize and won the ReLit Short Fiction Award. He co-edited *Queer Little Nightmares* with David Ly. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS:

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Thank you, Wendi Mackay.

In 2022, Wendi Mackay left a generous bequest to the Vancouver Writers Fest in her will, ensuring that children and youth can access the Festival—and stories that transform our worlds—for years to come.

If you, like Wendi, believe in the transformative power of books and ideas, consider supporting the Vancouver Writers Fest as part of your legacy giving. Our team will work with you and your financial planner to ensure all tax and membership benefits are in order and explore options—including living trusts, beneficiary designations, securities, endowment gifts, or planned giving.

Please contact Development Manager, Ashleigh Withall at awithall@writersfest.bc.ca to discuss legacy gift options.



2024 Festival *Moderators*

Dialogue is the heart of the Vancouver Writers Fest. We understand the lasting impact a rich conversation can have on our collective ability to understand ourselves and the world around us. That’s why we carefully choose each moderator for every event at our Festival and year-round.

We’re lucky to collaborate with renowned journalists, academics, public speakers, authors, and experts across many fields, who travel from across Canada and the U.S. to lend their valuable perspectives and insights with authors and our audience. Some of the moderators we are delighted to welcome to the Festival this year include CBC Radio hosts **Matt Galloway**, **Elamin Abdelmahmoud**, **Carol Off**, and former *Writers & Company* host **Eleanor Wachtel**; and journalists and award-winning authors **André Picard**, **Marsha Lederman**, **Shaena Lambert**, **Aislinn Hunter**, **Dionne Brand**, and many more.

Visit our website for the most up-to-date list of moderators and all their biographies.

<https://writersfest.bc.ca/2024-moderators>



Eleanor Wachtel interviews Pierre Jarawan at the 2022 Festival.



Moderators

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Kimberly Bain	Marsha Lederman
Carleigh Baker	Jen Sookfong Lee
Christina Barber	Laura Lynch
Tanya Boteju	Minelle Mahtani
Eddy Boudel Tan	Tara McGuire
Dionne Brand	Cecily Nicholson
Alison Broddle	Carol Off
Candis Callison	Alix Ohlin
Claudia Casper	France Perras
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The Alma Lee Legacy Fund

In 2006, The Vancouver Writers Fest and several of our community supporters established an endowment fund to celebrate the accomplishments of Festival founder Alma Lee. Our \$1 million dollar endowment fund at the Vancouver Foundation enables the Festival to continue to thrive.

To see who has supported the Alma Lee Legacy Fund, please visit our website.

Page Turner



VWF Page-Turners are members of our monthly giving club, and are designated by the ■■ icon to the right of their name.

Welcome to our new Page-Turners:

Zoe Bake-Paterson	Susin Nielsen
Lauren Dembicky-Polivka	Lisa Ochowycz
Catherine Fallis	Carolyn Pederson
Holly Flauto	Ronnie Tessler
Ariel Hudnall	Deborah Thomas
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Donations received between
July 21, 2023 and July 20, 2024.

Thank you to all of our other donors, who donate through Canada Helps, Benevity, United Way, and other giving platforms.

Our heartfelt appreciation to every person who has included the Vancouver Writers Fest in their planned giving by becoming members of the Postscript Society.

Thank you to our amazing 320+ *volunteers!*

92%

of volunteers surveyed in 2023
indicated plans to return



Volunteer with us this fall!

The Festival runs from October 21–27, 2024.
Positions are available September–October.

writersfest.bc.ca/volunteer



Apply by
October 8, 2024.



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FEB 28 Translinear Light: *The Music of Alice Coltrane*

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