**Vancouver Writers Fest 2024 Program Guide:
Simple Text – Events With Descriptions**

This document contains information about events at the 2024 Vancouver Writers Fest with full event descriptions.

Events are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, visit our website.

[Ticket information](https://writersfest.bc.ca/box-office)

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# MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

## 01. The Wall Between

Information: MONDAY, OCTOBER 21 | On-Demand | FREE

Venue: Virtual (prerecorded)

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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/01>

## 02. A Grand Opening: Finding Joy Amid Turmoil

Information: MONDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 7:30 PM | $27

Venue: 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, Sadiya Ansari, and Roddy Doyle, with host Elamin Abdelmahmoud.

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/02>

# TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

## 03. Reconciling History

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/03>

## 04. Coming of Age

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/04>

## 05. The Craft of Graphic Novels

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/05>

## 06. Masterclass with Kevin Sylvester

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/06>

## 6.5. Masterclass with Katherine Rundell

Information: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 10:45 AM | $12

Venue: Revue

Youth

Katherine Rundell is a kidlit phenomenon, whose work has been compared to the likes of Tolkien and Pullman. Her first book was acquired when she was 21; since then, her multi-award-winning books for children have been translated into more than forty languages, and sold over two million copies worldwide.The immensely popular British author will enthrall students with stories about how she crafts her magical realms filled with dragons, sphinxes, griffins, and more—including the worlds of her stunning latest book, *Impossible Creatures,* and her internationally bestselling modern classic, *Rooftoppers*. *Grades 4–7.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/6-5>

## 07. Worlds of Imagination

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

Venue: 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 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.*
Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/07>

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## 08. Storytime with Nature

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

Venue: 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’q’umi’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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/08>

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## 09. Masterclass with Marty Chan

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/09>

## 10. Word! 1

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/10>

## 11. Elizabeth Renzetti in Conversation

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/11>
12. Nita Prose in Conversation

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/12>

## 13. Ann Cleeves in Conversation: The Alma Lee Opening Night EventInformation: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 7:30 PM | $27

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/13>

## 14. Scarily Brilliant: An Evening of Literary Horror

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

Venue: The NEST

*This event will include ASL interpretation.*

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 uncontainable 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/14>

## 15. Rachel Kushner in Conversation

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/15>

## 16. Romancing the Page

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/16>

# WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

## 17. Word! 2

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/17>

## 18. Big Hope for Little Ones

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/18>

## 19. Finding Hope

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

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Youth

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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/19>

## 20. Masterclass with Candace Savage

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/20>

## 21. On Connection

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/21>

## 22. Thrilling Tales with Richard Van Camp

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/22>

## 23. Masterclass with Kern Carter

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/23>

## 24. Good Reads for Middle Grade

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/24>

## 25. Short Stories, Infinite Identities

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/25>

## 26. Night Class: A Workshop with UBC School of Creative Writing

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/26>

## 27. Dionne Brand in Conversation

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/27>

## 28. *Ru* + Kim Thúy in Conversation

Information: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 5:30 PM | $25

Venue: VIFF Centre (Off-Island)

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. Link: <https://viff.org/whats-on/ru-kim-thuy-in-conversation>  *Presented in partnership with VIFF.*

## 29. The Mystery Queens

Information: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 7:30 PM | $27

Venue: 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.*

Link: https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/29

## 30. Jane Urquhart in Conversation

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/30>

## 31. Ecosystems for Change

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/31>

## 32. The Power of Political Prose

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/32>

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

## 33. Who Are You Really?

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

Venue: Performance Works

Youth

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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/33>

## 34. How To Navigate Adults

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/34>

## 35. Masterclass with Richard Van Camp

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/35>

## 36. Gumboot Kids

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

Venue: 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 Neighbour.* 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/36>

## 37. Crafting Suspense

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/37>

## 38. Our World, Our Community

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

Venue: 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 Clendenanoffers 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/38>

## 39. Masterclass with Johnnie Christmas

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

Venue: 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 Catbirdwith 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*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/39>

## 40. Today I Am: Stories of Belonging

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/40>

## 41. Knowing Who We Are (And Who We Can Be)

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

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Event update: Murray Sinclair is currently in hospital and regrettably cannot participate in this event. While we are saddened he is unable to join us, the event will feature audio of his readings from his new book *Who We Are*, alongside the conversation between Niigaan Sinclair and Tanya Talaga.

Niigaan Sinclair, one of the most influential thinkers on issues impacting Indigenous communities, uses *Wînipêk*(Winnipeg)to illuminate the reality of Indigenous life throughout the country—and the change that’s needed. He speaks with critically acclaimed author Tanya Talaga, whose latest work, *The Knowing****,***isa 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 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/41>

## 42. What I've Done For Writing

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

Venue: Performance Works

*This event will include ASL interpretation.*

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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/42>

## 43. Self-Portrait of Translation: George McWhirter in Conversation

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

Venue: 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 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/43>

## 44. Heather O’Neill in Conversation

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/44>

## 45. Canisia Lubrin in Conversation with Dionne Brand

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/45>

## 46. Hunting for Clues

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/46>

## 47. The Poetry Bash

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

Venue: Performance Works

Entrancing, 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*); s[hō yamagushiku](https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-author-2024/sho-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.*

*Presented in partnership with KPU Creative Writing.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/47>

## 48. Literary Trivia: 80s and 90s Style

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/48>

# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

## 49. Listening in the Age of Rage

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/49>

## 50. Transcendent Fiction

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/50>

## 51. Bob McDonald: Just Say Yes

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/51>

## 52. On Translation

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/52>

## 53. The Conversations

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/53>

## 54. Science and Fiction

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

Venue: 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.

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/54>

## 55. Good Reads

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

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/55>

## 56. The City of Vancouver Book Award Ceremony

Information: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 1:00 PM | FREE

Venue: Revue Stage

*This event will include ASL interpretation.*

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

Once again, this year’s 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 Book Award 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/56>

## 57. CANCELLED - Rumaan Alam in Conversation

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

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

## We regret that Rumaan Alam is no longer able to join us for this event.

##  58. Poets in Conversation

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

Venue: 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 Tregebov (*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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/58>

## 59. Andrey Kurkov’s Silver Pen

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

Venue: 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* isa “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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/59>

## 60. The Knowing, with Tanya Talaga

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

Venue: Granville Island Stage

*This event will include ASL interpretation.*

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.*

*Presented in partnership with HarperCollins Canada Ltd.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/60>

## 61. Highway to the Danger Zone: Lyrics Night

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

Venue: 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!*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/61>

## 62. Anne Michaels in Conversation

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

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/62>

## 63. Singing the Depths

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/63>

## 64. Night Fever: Dance Party

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

Venue: 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!*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/64>

# SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

## 65. Nathan Thrall in Conversation with Carol Off

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

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/65>

## 66. Roddy Doyle in Conversation

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/66>

## 67. Friends, on Finding One’s Voice

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/67>

## 68. A Perfect Day For a Walk with Bill Arnott

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

Venue: 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.

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/68>

## 69. Rebuilding Pillars of Society

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

Venue: Granville Island Stage

*This event will include ASL interpretation.*

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*’shealth 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/69>

## 70. Claire Messud in Conversation with Eleanor Wachtel

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

Venue: 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.

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/70>

## 71. Blending Genres: VMI Betsy Warland Between Genres Award

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/71>

## 72. Less is More: Celebrating Short Stories

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

Venue: 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, bestsellingBilly-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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/72>

## 73. On Grief and Trauma: Personal and Global

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

Venue: 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 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/73>

## 74. Thuận in Conversation

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/74>

## 75. Nalo Hopkinson in Conversation

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/75>

## 76. The Literary Cabaret

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/76>

## 77. Drawing Out Family Histories

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/77>

## 78. Drew Hayden Taylor in Conversation

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/78>

*Presented in partnership with Talking Stick Festival.*

## 79. Fright Night

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

Venue: 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 titles, there are many millions of us who love a good scare. We speak with two 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. Marcus Kliewer’seerily 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/79>

# SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

## 80. Food for Thought

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

Venue: 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 *Wînipêk.* Talk about food for thought. *Hosted by Kathryn Gretsinger.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/80>

## 81. On Matriarchs

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/81>

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

Information: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 | 11:00 AM | PWYC (Starting at $10)

Venue: 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.

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/82>

## 83. Chiller Thrillers

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/83>

## 84. Emerge

Information: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 | 2:00 PM | FREE

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/84>

## 85. The Afternoon Tea

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/85>

## 86. Art Speaks: Dana Claxton and Dorothy Grant

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

Venue: 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 it 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.*

*Presented in partnership with the Museum of Anthropology at UBC.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/86>

## 87. On Freedom: Timothy Snyder with *The Current*’s Matt Galloway

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

Venue: 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.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2024/87>