**Vancouver Writers Fest 2025 Program Guide:   
Simple Text – Events With Descriptions**

This document contains information about events at the 20245 Vancouver Writers Fest with full event descriptions.

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

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# MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

01. Oh Canada!: The Alma Lee Opening Night

Information: Monday, October 20 | 7:30pm | $40

Venue: Vancouver Playhouse

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/01>

No matter how you view this country of ours, the past year has brought new focus to what it means to be Canadian. Some boldly wave the flag, while others feel uneasy about showing affection for a place with so many unresolved issues, including a legacy of colonization that has too often been covered up. As complicated as our relationship to this place may be, we need to protect the best parts of it—especially those things that make us different from our neighbours to the south. As the Trump administration threatens our values, our livelihoods, and our sovereignty, it’s more important than ever to consider what we have to lose. In sequential talks, notable Canadian authors will illuminate, through their eyes, who we are—and who we could be, if we commit to protecting this country and making it better. Featuring **Bob Joseph, Kate Beaton, Linden MacIntyre, Emma Donoghue, Canisia Lubrin, David Moscrop**, **Brent Butt**,and **Jack Wang**—see our website for the full speaker list! Hosted by **Elamin Abdelmahmoud**.

*Presented in partnership with* **STIR Vancouver***.*

# TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

02. David A. Robertson on Living with ‘Little Monsters’

Information: Tuesday, October 21 | 10:15am | $12

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/02>

From the outside, award-winning author **David A. Robertson** looks as if he has it all. But like a growing number of Canadians, he lives with “little monsters”: chronic, debilitating health anxiety and panic attacks accompanied, at times, by depression. Generalized anxiety disorders are on the rise, particularly among young people aged 15–24. In this talk specially curated for teens, Robertson will share his journey with anxiety and the tools he uses to manage his mental health, as chronicled in his book, *All the Little Monsters: How I Learned to Live with Anxiety*. Moderated by **Jael Richardson**. *Grades 8–12.*

03. Sun, Trees & Seas

Information: Tuesday, October 21 | 10:15am | $12

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/03>

Little ones will be enthralled by the wonder and beauty of nature with these richly illustrated picture books. Author **Tae Keller** and illustrator **Rachel Wada** will present and read from *We Carry the Sun*—not only an engaging history of humankind’s relationship with solar power, but also a call for kids to imagine a brighter future. Kids will then dive beneath the waves with fascinating sea creatures in *What Fish Are Saying* by **Kirsten Pendreigh***.* **Roz MacLean**’s journey into the woods, *Together, a Forest*, reveals that everyone—including those of us with neurodivergence or differing abilities—belong to nature. This educational storytime will inspire awe and respect for the environment we live in. *Grades 1–3.*

04. Masterclass with Wesley King

Information: Tuesday, October 21 | 10:15am | $12

Venue: The NEST

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/04>

**Wesley King** knows how to tell stories that have you on the edge of your seat. His books have been published around the globe, and he’s travelled with them, speaking to over 50,000 students worldwide. He even collaborated with the late NBA legend Kobe Bryant on the #1 *New York Times* bestselling *Wizenard* series. Most importantly, he knows it’s hard to be a kid, especially when you don’t fit in. His new book, *Benny on the Case*, follows a boy with Mosaic Down syndrome as he stands up to bullies while trying to solve a mystery. In this middle grade Masterclass, King will build up young writers’ confidence while sharing some of the tips and tools that made him a bestselling author. *Grades 4–7.*

*Presented thanks to the generous support of The Pitfield Family in memory of Ebie Pitfield.*

05. Tanya Boteju: Allyship as Action

Information: Tuesday, October 21 | 10:15am | $12

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/05>

Being an ally is not just a status to claim—it’s about lifelong learning and action. It's a constant, ongoing willingness to engage in the hard work of standing alongside those who don't have the same privileges. Author and teacher **Tanya Boteju** will teach middle grade students how to acknowledge their own privileges, and the difference between allyship and being performative. As a self-proclaimed imperfect ally herself, she’ll show how to address mistakes when we make them, and share some activities and tools for becoming a better ally from her book, *Allyship as Action,* before offering a candid and compassionate Q+A session*. Grades 4–7.*

06. Paranormal Activity: Ghost Stories for YA

Information: Tuesday, October 21 | 1:00pm | $12

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/06>

If ghosts are the memories that refuse to let us go, then some spectres deserve a second look. Ghosts haunt the pages of these engrossing YA novels, whether they appear as connections across time, or predatory demons. Inspired by *Madama Butterfly*, **Clara Kumagai**’s *Songs for Ghosts* is an enticing blend of globe-trotting love drama, chilling ghost story, and Japanese history. **Rachel Hartman** follows up on her *New York Times* bestseller *Seraphina* with *Among Ghosts*, a ghost story with a found-family theme set in a vibrant fantasy world. Equal parts campy and terrifying, **Corey Liu**’s *He's So Possessed with Me* is an LGBTQ+ coming of age story featuring a demon that wants to steal a boy’s heart—literally. Moderated by **Hudson Lin**. *Grades 8–12.*

07. Finding the Power Within

Information: Tuesday, October 21 | 1:00pm | $12

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/07>

These characters will show young readers how to believe in themselves—even if, and especially when, things get scary. Through engaging presentations and readings, kids will meet *Lena the Chicken*, **Linda Bailey**’s lovable chicken with the ferocity of a dinosaur, who springs into action to protect her coop from a weasel; and **Kate Beaton**’s *Shark Girl*, who takes revenge on a greedy fishing captain after getting caught in his net. In *Little Shoes*, **David A. Robertson** tells a touching story about an Indigenous boy who finds comfort through his family when he learns about the history of residential schools for the first time. With captivating illustrations from the books, this event will provide inspiration for overcoming one’s fears. *Grades 1–3.*

08. Masterclass with Tanya Boteju

Information: Tuesday, October 21 | 1:00pm | $12

Venue: The NEST

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/08>

**Tanya Boteju** is the acclaimed author of three YA novels, including *Messy Perfect*, her new book that follows a rule-following teen who starts a Gender and Sexuality Alliance at her Catholic high school. Her work explores queer identity, self-discovery, and self-acceptance.

As an educator committed to anti-oppressive teaching and learning, she also knows how to hold the attention of a classroom. In this engaging Masterclass, Boteju will guide teens in a discussion, interactive writing activity, and Q+A period around themes of perfectionism and self-expression. *Grades 8–12.*

*Presented thanks to the generous support of The Pitfield Family in memory of Ebie Pitfield.*

09. Cracking the Case

Information: Tuesday, October 21 | 1:00pm | $12

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/09>

Kids can do anything when they believe in themselves, especially when others believe in them, too. The two detectives in these middle grade titles have a few things in common: they both have Down syndrome, and a knack for solving mysteries. Featuring endearing twelve-year-old detective Mizzy, *A Skeleton in the Closet* is the first book in The Mizzy Mysteries from **Claire Hatcher-Smith**, a speech and language pathologist who has worked with children with Down syndrome for thirty-five years. In **Wesley King**’s *Benny on the Case*, Benny is bullied for having Mosaic Down syndrome, but he won’t let that stop him from catching a thief*.* The authors will share why they write for and about kids who are different in this fun and enlightening event. Moderated by **Mark Kershaw**. *Grades 4–7.*

10. Pen and Ink: Illustrated Resistance

Information: Tuesday, October 21 | 6:00pm | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/10>

In the right hands, the power of pen and ink can draw attention to injustice, challenge power structures, and illustrate paths to a better future. These graphic novelists will discuss how and why they use the form to tell important stories about sociopolitical issues that have resonated with adult and teen readers from all walks of life. **Kate Beaton**’s Canada Reads-winning *Ducks* is a memoir of her own experience working in the Alberta oil sands to pay her loans, and the devastating exploitation of humans and the environment she found in an industry rarely seen by outsiders. **Gord Hill** has met the moment with a revised and expanded version of *The Antifa Comic Book*, addressing the alarming rise of far-right aggression in various countries—as well as the mobilization against it. Moderated by **Am Johal**.

11. Linden MacIntyre: An Accidental Villain

Information: Tuesday, October 21 | 6:00pm | $27

Venue: The NEST

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/11>

Journalist, bestselling author, and Festival favourite **Linden MacIntyre**’s numerous awards include the Giller Prize, ten Gemini Awards, and an International Emmy. His latest enthralling work of nonfiction uncovers the little-known life of British Major-General Sir Hugh Tudor. Appointed by his old friend Winston Churchill to lead the police in Ireland against the IRA during the Irish War of Independence, Tudor’s brutal methods included police death squads and commanding his men to open fire on Irish civilians in the Bloody Sunday massacre. *An Accidental Villain* is a shocking account of how a man reaches the point where he acts against his own training, principles, and inclination in the service of a cause. Hear a conversation and a fascinating piece of history that will echo loudly in our present moment. Moderated by **Marsha Lederman**.

12. Debut to Bestseller

Information: Tuesday, October 21 | 6:00pm | $27

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/12>

These ambitious, bestselling, acclaimed novels are all debuts, and they come from writers you need to keep on your radar. **Emma Knight**’s instant bestseller *The Life Cycle of the Common Octopus* is a Read with Jenna Pick that has drawn comparisons to the likes of Sally Rooney and Dodie Smith. *There There* meets *The Night Watchman* in *Big Chief*, **Jon Hickey**’s monumental political novel that’s been proclaimed an instant American classic. And **Eliana Ramage**’s rave-reviewed *To the Moon and Back*, about one woman’s extraordinary quest to become the first Cherokee astronaut, is as expansive as space itself. You’ll be hearing these names again come awards season, so get to know their books now. Moderated by **Margaret Gallagher**.

13. Blood in the Pen: Stories, Crises, Repair, and the Writer

Information: Tuesday, October 21 | 8:30pm | $27

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/13>

The writer is viewed as a kind of arbiter, making sense of things, the world, and the self—especially when the dominant characteristics of the times are confusion and despair. As it relates to personhood and stewardship, storytelling during high-crisis moments in the world is about looking long and close at the root fractures of the moment and how they compel human action in all its complicated realms. Guest Curator **Canisia Lubrin** is joined for a luminous conversation about the role of the writer in times of crisis by **Otoniya J. Okot Bitek** (*We, The Kindling)*, **Saeed Teebi** (*You Will Not Kill Our Imagination*), and **Madeleine Thien** (*The Book of Records*).

*Saeed Teebi's appearance presented thanks to the generous support of* **Catherine Ross and David Ewartand***.*

14. Gems of the Emerald Isle

Information: Tuesday, October 21 | 8:30pm | $27

Venue: Performance Works

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/14>

The world is witnessing a new golden era of Irish literature, with contemporary authors from the Emerald Isle dominating international bestseller lists. Meet two of Ireland’s most acclaimed novelists at this event, elevated by live music. **Emma Donoghue**’s *Room* sold more than two million copies and was a global phenomenon; she followed it up with *The Wonder*, *The Pull of the Stars*, and now *The Paris Express*, a brilliant historical thriller that captures the politics, fears, and chaos of fin-de-siècle French society. From **Eimear McBride**, named one of the ten best British and Irish novelists writing today and “the natural heir to Joyce and Beckett,” *The City Changes Its Face* is the story of a passionate love affair, told with exquisite and fearless intimacy. Moderated by **Robert J. Wiersema**.

*Eimear McBride's attendance made possible thanks to the generous support of* **Culture Ireland***.*

15. It Runs in the Family: Georgia and Miriam Toews

Information: Tuesday, October 21 | 8:30pm | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/15>

What’s it like to be raised by a literary celebrity—to grow up in a household filled with books, and an internationally-acclaimed writing mentor at your dinner table? And on the flipside, when your child chooses the same profession, how can an author provide support and guidance while letting them walk their own path? **Miriam Toews** (*A Truce That Is Not Peace*) and **Georgia Toews** (*Nobody Asked for This*) are some of the few people who can tell us, and both are extremely successful authors in their own right. Interviewed by **David A. Robertson**, the mother-daughter duo will shed light on their literary family dynamic, their writing lives, and both of their radiant new books that explore grief, trauma, and the many kinds of love that bind us.

*Presented in partnership with* **Penguin Random House Canada***.*

16. Seven Lives and One Year in Ukraine

Information: Tuesday, October 21 | 8:30pm | $27

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/16>

Since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, onlookers across the world have identified with and rallied to the Ukrainian cause. Yet even as updates from the frontlines make front page news, and Volodymyr Zelensky has become one of the most respected politicians on the planet, the lives of ordinary Ukrainians remain mostly opaque. In *By the Second Spring*, historian **Danielle Leavitt** shares the experiences of a diverse group of Ukrainians as they react to being brutally overtaken by a more powerful neighbour. From a man whose dreams of opening a coffee shop are shattered, to a young female cadet, Leavitt—who grew up in Ukraine—bears witness to these lives with insight, compassion, and gripping storytelling, while never losing sight of the broader historical context. As the invasion continues in its fourth year, Leavitt shares this urgent new work in conversation with Ukrainian-Canadian author **Maria Reva**.

# WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

17. Word! 1

Information: Wednesday, October 22 | 10:15am | $12

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/17>

Our Spoken Word event series, curated and hosted by award-winning poet and spoken word artist **Jillian Christmas**,is a highlight of our youth programming every year—and so popular that we offer two chances to hear it, both of which sell out long before Festival Week. This Word! features three exceptional performers: **Johnny MacRae**, who has performed everything from three-minute slam pieces to long-form theatrical performances across North America; **Emilee Nimetz,** who is known as both a poet and actor for their vulnerability, authenticity, and magnetic presence; and **Anjalica Solomon**, who blends their Desi roots and Pacific Northwest upbringing in art forms such as singing, songwriting, loop pending, poetry, and the spoken word. *Grades 8–12.*

18. Good Reads for Middle Grade

Information: Wednesday, October 22 | 10:15am | $12

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/18>

Our Good Reads events are just that: superb books that will entertain and amaze kids without fail. **Whitney Gardner**’s *Free Piano (Not Haunted)* is a graphic novel with a passion for music at its core, and a pitch-perfect understanding of middle grade sensibilities. **Kim Spencer** explores identity, family, and Indigenous culture in *I Won’t Feel This Way Forever*, the follow up to her award-winning *Weird Rules to Follow*. *Carousel Summer* is another engrossing graphic novel from **Kathleen Gros**, blending a queer coming-of-age story with broader social themes about tradition and transformation. Across three sequential presentations, these authors will share humour, personal stories, and insight into how kids can identify their values, true friends, and authentic selves. Moderated by **Jael Richardson**. *Grades 4–7*.

19. Masterclass with Rebecca Wood Barrett

Information: Wednesday, October 22 | 10:15am | $12

Venue: The NEST

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/19>

Award-winning author **Rebecca Wood Barrett** has done all kinds of jobs, including submarine escape and rescue, torpedo recovery, filmmaking, video editing, heli-skiing, cat-skiing, and more—but having written her first book at the age of seven, she has always been a writer first. A passionate advocate for the literary arts who teaches both emerging and established authors, Rebecca brings her witty and supportive teaching style to this middle grade Masterclass. The author of *My Summer Camp Has Mega Sloths* will share how she crafts such exciting and unique stories, and how her wide-ranging career path has inspired her writing. *Grades 4–7.*

*Presented thanks to the generous support of The Pitfield Family in memory of Ebie Pitfield.*

20. Gord Hill: The Antifa Comic Book

Information: Wednesday, October 22 | 10:15am | $12

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/20>

First published in 2018, **Gord Hill**'s *The Antifa Comic Book* is an essential graphic novel for any young citizen’s shelf, acclaimed for its searing imagery documenting the history of fascism and anti-fascist movements. In the years since, this work has only grown in alarming relevance, as far-right movements gain traction around the world. Hill returns with a revised and expanded edition that draws attention to recent fascist activity, and the important work being done to combat it. He’ll speak candidly with teens about the power of protest and what we can all do to resist facism, as well as his writing and illustrating process. Moderated by **Christina Barber**. *Grades 8–12.*

21. You Were Made For This World

Information: Wednesday, October 22 | 1:00pm | $12

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/21>

Every young person deserves the chance to feel like they belong, are recognized, and that they matter. Celebrated Indigenous voices from across Turtle Island speak directly to young people in this joyous and inspiring anthology of letters and art. **Stephanie Sinclair**, co-editor of *You Were Made for This World*, is joined on-stage by esteemed contributors **David A. Robertson** and **katherena vermette**. Together, they’ll celebrate the potential of youth, share a sense of pride in tradition and personal teachings, and encourage young people to honour who they are and what they dream of. *Grades 4–7.*

*Presented in partnership with* **Talking Stick Festival**.

22. Kenneth Oppel in Conversation

Information: Wednesday, October 22 | 1:00pm | $12

Venue: Performance Works

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/22>

Award-winning author **Kenneth Oppel** isn’t afraid to try new things. He’s written about a brave bat’s epic journey in the internationally bestselling Silverwing series; horror stories such as *Ghostlight* and his latest, *Best of All Worlds*; high-flying adventures set on airships 20,000 feet above the ground; charming picture books for children; and much more. This bold experimentation has been rewarded with awards and accolades, and loyal fans who can’t wait to see what he does next. In conversation, Oppel will share more about his new book and his work to date, and how his curiosity about the world drives him to create such compelling stories across multiple genres and topics. Moderated by **Shannon Ozirny**. *Grades 8–12.*

23. Masterclass with Canisia Lubrin and Jillian Christmas

Information: Wednesday, October 22 | 1:00pm | $12

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/23>

This Masterclass is an extraordinary double-bill, featuring two icons of contemporary Canadian poetry. **Canisia Lubrin** is the author of the multi-award-winning *Code Noir* and *The World After Rain*, a poetry collection epic in its vision and intimate in its exploration of grief and loss. **Jillian Christmas** is a spoken word poet, author of *The Gospel of Breaking*, and a passionate organizer and activist in our local arts community. Both authors are deeply knowledgeable about the wider literary scene, and their insight and curation has helped shape this year’s Festival. This unmissable session will give students the chance to generate new poems together and alone, learn reading and recitation techniques, and listen to a short craft talk, followed by a Q+A. *Grades 10–12.*

*Presented thanks to the generous support of The Pitfield Family in memory of Ebie Pitfield.*

24. Masterclass with Kirsten Pendreigh

Information: Wednesday, October 22 | 1:00pm | $12

Venue: The NEST

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/24>

Our youngest readers and future writers will be inspired to play, create, and imagine in this interactive Masterclass with returning favourite children’s author, **Kirsten Pendreigh**. Kids will dive into a fascinating underwater adventure as Kirsten introduces the wondrous creatures of the sea (and all their fascinating sounds!) in *What Fish Are Saying*, and get up close with the extraordinary ecosystem of a nurse log in *When a Tree Falls*. Primary students will have tons of fun, and leave with their minds brimming with stories. *Grades 1–3.*

*Presented thanks to the generous support of* **The Pitfield Family in memory of Ebie Pitfield***.*

25. Ronald Deibert on Cyber Espionage and the Fight for Democracy

Information: Wednesday, October 22 | 5:30pm | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/25>

We are barraged daily by chilling stories revealing data leaks of our most personal information. Cyber security expert **Ronald Deibert** exposes a dark underworld of digital espionage and disinformation in this talk, and in his instant bestselling book: a shocking investigation of cyber espionage that reads like a real-life thriller. Following his team of digital sleuths at the Citizen Lab as they lift the lid on dozens of covert operations, from the streets of Guatemala City to the corridors of power in the White House, *Chasing Shadows* reveals with petrifying clarity the defects in our digital ecosystem. If you feel any concern over breaches of privacy across your digital devices, but are at a loss as to how you can fight back, this event is not to be missed. Moderated by **William Johnson**.

*Presented in partnership with Simon & Schuster Canada.*

26. Fiction Beyond Imagination

Information: Wednesday, October 22 | 5:30pm | $27

Venue: The NEST

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/26>

Voracious readers can sometimes feel like they’ve seen, or read, it all. But every once in a while, a book crosses our desk that is utterly incomparable to anything we’ve read before. Discover not one, not two, but three astonishingly original works of speculative fiction that will invigorate the imaginations of even the most ravenous readers. **Amanda Leduc**’s mythical *Wild Life* follows two hyenas as they speak with humans over decades, producing a strange new religion. The heroine of *It Lasts Forever and Then It’s Over*—**Anne de Marcken**’s Ursula K. Le Guin Prize for Fiction-winning novel—is alive in the afterlife, and narrates her journey across time and space with dark humour and soul-stirring insight. From **Yiming Ma** comes *These Memories Do Not Belong to Us*, a mesmerizing sci-fi debut set in a near-future dystopia where citizens can transfer memories between minds. Moderated by **Jael Richardson**.

27. October 7th and Beyond: Marsha Lederman in Conversation with Elamin Abdelmahmoud

Information: Wednesday, October 22 | 5:30pm | $27

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/27>

As one of the leading Canadian voices on Jewish identity—and a believer in Palestinian rights, opponent of Netanyahu, and daughter of Holocaust survivors who is terrified by the rise in anti-Semitism—**Marsha Lederman** has been publicly grappling with the horrific pain and confusion that she and so many others have felt ever since the October 7th attacks on Israeli citizens, and the unceasing war that has killed over 57,000 Palestinians. *October 7th: Searching for the Humanitarian Middle* collects her columns for the *Globe and Mail*, which have been a real-time archive capturing a period of deep division and trauma. In conversation with CBC *Commotion*’s **Elamin Abdelmahmoud**, who has also spoken with numerous Palestinian authors and artists about how the war has affected them, Lederman discusses how her feelings have shifted over time since October 7th, and brings to light anti-Semitism so prevalent that it is affecting even the way AI communicates.

28. Miriam Toews in Conversation with Eleanor Wachtel

Information: Wednesday, October 22 | 7:30pm | $27

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/28>

**Miriam Toews** is a national treasure. Her nine published novels, including *A Complicated Kindness* and *Women Talking*, have immersed us in the lives of unforgettable characters, brought to life with her trademark wit and profound humanity. Now, the bestselling author tells her own story in a breathtaking memoir of stunning emotional force. Beginning with a deceptively simple question—“why do you write?”—*A Truce That Is Not Peace* weaves through Toews’ grief over her sister’s suicide and her attempts to fill the silence left behind, ultimately arriving at an answer not only as to why she writes, but why she lives. She’s interviewed by another icon of Canadian letters: **Eleanor Wachtel**, the former host of CBC Radio’s *Writers & Company*.

*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***.*

29. Reconciliation and You

Information: Wednesday, October 22 | 7:30pm | $27

Venue: Performance Works

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/29>

*ASL provided.*

Ten years have passed since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its 94 Calls to Action outlining a path towards healing from the legacy of colonization in Canada. There is still a great distance to walk on the path of reconciliation—and every individual has a role to play in this work. **David A. Robertson** shares *52 Ways to Reconcile*: one achievable and meaningful act of reconciliation every week, from hosting a movie night, to learning words in Indigenous languages, to being a mentor. Internationally-renowned as an expert in Aboriginal law, **Bruce McIvor** breaks down complex legal issues to offer straightforward answers to fundamental questions about Indigenous rights in *Indigenous Rights in One Minute*. This conversation is for everyone who wants to take up our collective responsibility to build a healthier, more equitable country. Moderated by **Michelle Cyca**.

*Presented in partnership with* **Talking Stick Festival**.

30. You Will Not Kill Our Imagination: Saeed Teebi in Conversation

Information: Wednesday, October 22 | 8:30pm | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/30>

Palestinian-Canadian author **Saeed Teebi** was at work on his first novel when the attacks on Gaza began in late 2023. The violence and cruelty of these ongoing attacks, accompanied by the assent and silence of international governments, have stunned many across the globe into a new state of permanent horror. What does it mean to be of the Palestinian diaspora in such a moment? In this vital conversation centred around his memoir, *You Will Not Kill Our Imagination,* Teebi explores the effects of the genocide on the bodies, minds, and imaginations of Palestinians, and humanity as a whole. Omar El Akkad calls it “literature of the highest order… unwilling to flinch or submit to self-censorship.” This courageous work of resistance is as urgent as it is timeless. Moderated by **Adel Iskandar**.

*Saeed Teebi's appearance presented thanks to the generous support of* **Catherine Ross** *and* **David Ewartand***.*

31. UBC Night Class

Information: Wednesday, October 22 | 8:30pm | $27

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/31>

This returning event is a top pick for all writers aspiring, emerging, and established! Night Class is an interactive workshop offering writing tips and prompts across various genres, from instructors at UBC’s renowned School of Creative Writing. Learn key writing skills in five minutes or less from **Ray Clark**, **Anosh Irani**, **Tanya Lloyd Kyi**, **Alex Marzano-Lesnevich**, and **Bronwen Tate**, as each instructor guides participants through a different concept and writing exercise. Night Class explores a wide array of styles and genres, from fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction to children's literature and interactive storytelling. This workshop is suitable for writers of every experience level. Hosted by **Tariq Hussain**.

*Presented in collaboration with* **UBC School of Creative Writing***. Presented in partnership with* **Peliplat***.*

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

32. Fantastic Worlds

Information: Thursday, October 23 | 10:15am | $12

Venue: Performance Works

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/32>

Each of the worlds bursting out of these YA novels—whether only slightly removed from our own or fantastically unrecognizable—will immerse readers in fascinating relationships, thought-provoking themes, and page-turning storytelling. A memory-erasing clinic ruptures a childhood friendship in **Sarah Suk**’s heart-wrenching *Meet Me at Blue Hour*. A teen who finds an old diary is haunted by the writer’s ghost in *Songs for Ghosts*, **Clara Kumagai**’s paranormal love story. **Coltrane Seesequasis**’s *The Threads of Time* takes place in a world where humanity has lost its war against nature, and wolves fight for control of the Four Territories. Take a deep dive into these worlds of wonder with three conversations featuring these relatable young authors. Moderated by **Christina Barber**. *Grades 8–12.*

33. Flamer: A Morning with Mike Curato

Information: Thursday, October 23 | 10:15am | $12

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/33>

Books can comfort, shock, entertain, amuse, and delight—and some can save lives. *Flamer* is a life-saving book, and all of the above. Award-winning author and artist **Mike Curato** draws on his own experiences as a targeted gay teen in this raw, compassionate graphic novel about a gay boy who finds self-discovery and acceptance after being bullied. Named one of the best books of the century by *Kirkus*, this book has the power to change how teens see themselves and others. In this essential event, Curato shares his journey to becoming an author/illustrator, and why and how he created *Flamer,* along with a discussion of censorship and a Q+A session. *Grades 8–12.*

34. Storytime with Nature (And Dinos!)

Information: Thursday, October 23 | 10:15am | $12

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/34>

Little ones will be endlessly delighted by this storytime featuring three presentations from beloved, award-winning picture book authors—and teachers will find recommended reads to add to their classroom shelves. **Caroline Adderson** playfully adapts one of the poet Bashō’s most famous haikus for young readers in *A Pond, a Poet, and Three Pests*. In **Linda Bailey**’s *The Great Dinosaur Sleepover*, Jake is disappointed when his friends come down with the flu and can’t attend his dino-themed birthday party, until real dinosaurs show up to celebrate with him instead! **Tae Keller** and **Rachel Wada** share *We Carry the Sun*, a poetic account of humankind’s relationship with the sun, filled with stunning illustrations. *Grades 1–3.*

35. Word! 2

Information: Thursday, October 23 | 1:00pm | $12

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/35>

Our Spoken Word event series, curated and hosted by award-winning poet and spoken word artist **Jillian Christmas**,is a highlight of our youth programming every year—and so popular that we offer two chances to hear it, both of which sell out long before Festival Week. This Word! features three exceptional performers: **Johnny MacRae**, who has performed everything from three-minute slam pieces to long-form theatrical performances across North America; **Emilee Nimetz,** who is known as both a poet and actor for their vulnerability, authenticity, and magnetic presence; and **Anjalica Solomon**, who blends their Desi roots and Pacific Northwest upbringing in art forms such as singing, songwriting, loop pending, poetry, and the spoken word. *Grades 8–12.*

36. The Misewa Series Finale: David A. Robertson in Conversation

Information: Thursday, October 23 | 1:00pm | $12

Venue: Performance Works

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/36>

Join us to celebrate the finale of The Misewa Saga, **David A. Robertson**’s adventurous, award-winning, middle grade fantasy series set in a world inspired by Narnia and Indigenous culture. The stakes are higher than ever in *The World's End*, as Eli must summon the power to protect Misewa against the dangers of colonization. Always a popular and engaging speaker, Robertson will talk about this latest and last book in the six-part series, share stories and inspiration from when he was a kid himself, and might even drop hints about the much anticipated screen adaptation of The Misewa Saga. Moderated by **Tanya Boteju**. *Grades 4–7.*

37. Storytime with Scaredy Squirrel

Information: Thursday, October 23 | 1:00pm | $12

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/37>

Readers of all ages love **Melanie Watt**’s sweetly vulnerable Scaredy Squirrel, the titular star of a bestselling book series and animated TV show. The well-prepared worrywart is back in *Nuts About Scaredy Squirrel*, a collection of five hilarious stories that show young readers that just like Scaredy Squirrel, they too can take risks and do scary things. This storytime with the series’ author and illustrator will be filled with laughter and gentle lessons on courage, adaptability, and perseverance. *Grades 1–3.*

38. Masterclass with Kenneth Oppel

Information: Thursday, October 23 | 1:00pm | $12

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/38>

Award-winning children’s and YA author **Kenneth Oppel** wrote his first novel at age fourteen—a funny book about a boy addicted to video games, which was picked up by a literary agent and published before Oppel turned twenty. Since then, he has created dozens of beloved books, including the million-copy bestselling Silverwing trilogy, and his latest heart-stopping teen survival thriller, *Best of All Worlds*. Oppel will shed light on his career path, how he shifts between and plays with genres, and more, in this fascinating Masterclass that will appeal to both middle grade and high school students. *Grades 7–10.*

*Presented thanks to the generous support of The Pitfield Family in memory of Ebie Pitfield.*

39. Cory Doctorow: Enshittification

Information: Thursday, October 23 | 5:30pm | $27

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/39>

At last, a word has been coined that encapsulates our modern era, that eloquently sums up the pressing issues of our times: *Enshittification*. The term—which creator **Cory Doctorow** describes as a diagnosis about the state of exploitative online services, and the disheartening digital world as a whole—resonated so strongly that the American Dialect Society named it the 2023 Word of the Year, and it was cited as an inspiration for the 2025 season of *Black Mirror*. With incisive urgency as well as humour, Doctorow will speak with author and political commentator **David Moscrop** about how we reached this point, and what we can collectively do to move beyond hopelessness about our enshittified fate, and back toward the optimism promised by the earliest days of the internet.

*Presented in partnership with Raincoast Books.*

40. Writing in Today's America

Information: Thursday, October 23 | 5:30pm | $27

Venue: Performance Works

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/40>

The United States is a nation in worrisome decline. Escalating divisions drive intensifying violence, longstanding institutions are unraveling, and the fabric of democracy is being torn apart at the seams by tyranny—and, in the midst of it all, writers continue to write essential works of fiction, as they have done throughout every era of political chaos and upheaval. What does it mean to create art while grappling with the realities of socio-economic ruptures, horrific acts of authoritarianism, and climate catastrophe? American authors **Jess Walter**, **Curtis Sittenfeld**, **Anne de Marcken**, and **Leila Mottley** join us for a panel discussion moderated by longtime Festival friend and editor **John Freeman**, who has brought countless stories into the world through his long career as an editor and publisher.

41. Jennifer Jones, Rock Star

Information: Thursday, October 23 | 5:30pm | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/41>

Every stone is swept home in this no-holds-barred memoir from **Jennifer Jones**, one of the greatest curlers in Canadian history. The Olympic gold medalist and six-time Canadian women's curling championship winner will surprise even her biggest fans with the stories revealed in *Rock Star: My Life On and Off the Ice.* In this candid interview, Jones will open up about the personal battles she endured during her career, the challenges of balancing world-class curling with motherhood, and her inspiring achievements in what was traditionally a male-dominated sport. A sought-after motivational speaker, her journey will inspire sports fans and a much wider audience. Moderated by **Karin Larsen**.

*Presented in partnership with Vancouver and Marpole Curling Clubs.*

42. Sarah Manguso in Conversation

Information: Thursday, October 23 | 7:30pm | $27

Venue: The NEST

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/42>

*ASL provided.*

**Sarah Manguso**’s work—in the genres of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry—has been recognized with an American Academy of Arts and Letters Literature Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Hodder Fellowship, and the Rome Prize. Her ten acclaimed books include her most recent novel *Liars*, a searing divorce drama that was named one of the best novels of the past 20 years (*Los Angeles Times*); *The Two Kinds of Decay*, a memoir of her experience with a chronic autoimmune disease; the collections *Sister Viator* and *The Captain Lands in Paradise*, poems from which have won a Pushcart Prize; and *Questions Without Answers*, a delightful work of philosophy written in collaboration with hundreds of children and illustrated by Liana Finck. The celebrated author joins **Aislinn Hunter** on stage to discuss her multifarious body of work, and the topics that are driving her curiosity these days.

43. Queer Stories on the Map

Information: Thursday, October 23 | 8:00pm | $27

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/43>

Acclaimed writers to watch from across North America—and various diaspora communities—share these tender and transformative stories about queer BIPOC characters discovering their place in a world that can be hostile to LGBTQ+ people. A Palestinian refugee plans to come out to his entire family at his birthday dinner party in *Three Parties*, **Ziyad Saadi**’s breathtaking reimagining of *Mrs. Dalloway*. **Iryn Tushabe** introduces us to an endearing young Ugandan heroine who must make difficult decisions between the religious and cultural mores of her country, and her beloved gay sister, in *Everything Is Fine Here*. *Gaysians*, the new graphic novel from **Mike Curato**, follows four gay Asians navigating love and building a chosen family in Seattle. In conversation, the authors will discuss writing queerness from outside white-centric perspectives, and how they balance depicting queer joy and pleasure with the realities of violence against LGBTQ+ people. Moderated by **Hudson Lin**.

*Presented in partnership with* **Vancouver Queer Film Festival***.*

44. Literary Giants in Short Form

Information: Thursday, October 23 | 8:30pm | $27

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/44>

Three luminaries of contemporary literature grace our stage with their new short story collections that brilliantly reflect the tensions and foibles of our modern lives. **André Alexis** playfully employs a multitude of literary genres to capture not only the worlds we live in, but the ones we imagine. With acerbic wit, **Curtis Sittenfeld** writes characters that feel like old friends in *Show Don’t Tell*. And **Jonathan Lethem**’s *A Different Kind of Tension* collects new work along with some of the greatest gems from across his 35-year career, moving effortlessly between realism and the surreal to offer up utterly unpredictable tales. This is sure to be a scintillating conversation among three acclaimed authors at the height of their powers. Moderated by **Shaena Lambert**.

45. The Poetry Bash

Information: Thursday, October 23 | 8:30pm | $27

Venue: Performance Works

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/45>

For poetry connoisseurs and newcomers to the genre alike, The Poetry Bash is a gateway to discovering new-to-you poets or hearing your favourites on-stage. This atmospheric evening of readings and conviviality will be hosted by interdisciplinary and spoken word artist, and Vancouver Poetry House Artistic Director, **Johnny Trinh**. Beguiling and unforgettable poems from **Canisia Lubrin** (*The World After Rain*), **Dennis Lee** (*Wrestling with Cadence)*, **Marc Perez** (*Dayo*), **Karen Solie** (*Wellwater*), **Isabella Wang** (*November, November*), **katherena vermette** (*Procession*), and **Paul Vermeersch** (*NMLCT*) will surely take your breath away.

*Saeed Teebi's appearance presented thanks to the generous support of* **Catherine Ross** *and* **David Ewartand***.*

46. A Doctor, A Lawyer, and A Journalist Walk Into a Literary Festival

Information: Thursday, October 23 | 8:30pm | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/46>

A doctor, a lawyer, and a journalist walk into a literary festival. **Elamin Abdelmahmoud** asks, “So what brings you here?” The result is a fascinating conversation between three authors who live dual lives as professionals in other fields. **Kyle Edwards** has won two National Magazine Awards for his journalism, and joins the Festival with his debut novel, *Small Ceremonies*. Full-time pediatrician **Bindu Suresh** is also the author of the strikingly poetic *The Road Between Us*. A lawyer by day, **Saeed Teebi** shares *You Will Not Kill Our Imagination*, a vital memoir on being a member of the Palestinian diaspora. Together, they’ll discuss how their professions inform and inspire their writing, and what compels them to do both.

*Saeed Teebi's appearance presented thanks to the generous support of Catherine Ross and David Ewartand.*

# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

47. Indigenous Voices: A Steady Brightness of Being

Information: Friday, October 24 | 10:00am | $27

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/47>

This groundbreaking new anthology collects letters from Indigenous writers, activists, and thinkers, exploring the histories that have brought us to this moment, the challenges and crises faced by present-day communities, and the visions that will lead us to a new architecture for thinking about Indigeneity. **Stephanie Sinclair**, co-editor of *A Steady Brightness of Being*, joins us on-stage for an essential conversation with award-winning contributors from across Turtle Island: **David A. Robertson**, **katherena vermette**, and **Kyle Edwards**.

*Presented in partnership with* **Talking Stick Festival**.

48. The Costs of Exploitation and Sustainability

Information: Friday, October 24 | 10:00am | $27

Venue: Performance Works

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/48>

The global economy is fueled by exploitative industries that drain their profits from the planet’s most vulnerable people and places. Esteemed authors and journalists take the stage to analyze the heavy human and environmental costs of abusive resource extraction, and illuminate a better path forward. Former roughneck **Don Gillmor**’s *On Oil* maps out how the oil industry has infiltrated governments, started wars, and hushed up climate concerns. **Vince Beiser** casts his eye on the Achilles’ heel of “green power” in *Power Metal*, an exploration of how the skyrocketing demand for minerals is driving environmental havoc and rising violence. And in *Precarious*, **Marcello Di Cintio** scrutinizes global systems of migrant labour—including Canada’s Temporary Foreign Worker program, referred to in a UN report as “a breeding ground for contemporary forms of slavery.” Moderated by **David Beers**.

*Presented in partnership with* **ShareWares***.*

49. Visions of Chinatown

Information: Friday, October 24 | 10:00am | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/49>

Vancouver’s Chinatown is a vibrant cultural hub, and these two locally published titles capture both its striking visual ambience, which draws countless photographers and visitors to its streets, and the rich and diverse histories contained within. **Donna Seto**’s gorgeous illustrations of the neighbourhood’s historical buildings are collected in *Chinatown Vancouver*, alongside interviews with community members and information about these cultural sites. **Carol Lee**, founder of the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation, joins us with *Vitality,* pairing stunning photographs of Chinatown in the ‘50s, ’60s, and ’70s with interviews and historical insights gathered by the Chinatown Storytelling Centre. This event will be a feast for the eyes, while celebrating the resilience and contributions of Chinatown’s communities. Moderated by **Anna Ling Kaye**.

*Presented in partnership with* **Chinatown Storytelling Centre***.*

50. On Book Banning and Censorship

Information: Friday, October 24 | 10:00am | $27

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/50>

The freedom to read is under attack. From the destruction of libraries in ancient Rome to today’s state-sponsored efforts to suppress LGBTQ+ literature, book bans and censorship arise from the impulse toward social control. **Ira Wells**’s *On Book Banning* is a nuanced historical study, a rallying cry, and a guide to resistance. He’s joined on-stage by **Mike Curato**—whose graphic novel about queer identity and self-acceptance, *Flamer*, is “one of the most banned books in America” (NPR)—and author and translator **Jeremy Tiang**, who will discuss the coercive forms of censorship in his home country of Singapore, where some of the authors he translates are unable to have their books published. This will be a vital conversation about freedom of speech and the state of censorship today. Moderated by **Marian Botsford Fraser**.

*Presented thanks to the generous support of the* **Al Roadburg Foundation***.*

51. Elbows Up!

Information: Friday, October 24 | 1:00pm | $27

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/51>

Donald Trump thinks that Canada is for sale. In this momentous anthology and event, some of our nation’s leading cultural figures gather to respond: *This* is Canada; never the 51st state. Capturing the swell of pride and unity that is spreading across the country, along with the shock of facing down the threat of American imperialism, *Elbows Up! Canadian Voices of Resilience and Resistance* editor **Elamin Abdelmahmoud** will host a panel conversation on this pivotal moment in our country’s history with some of the book’s esteemed and influential contributors: **Jen Sookfong Lee, David Moscrop, Niigaan Sinclair**, and **Leslie Hurtig**.

*Presented in partnership with* **Penguin Random House Canada***.*

52. The Conversations

Information: Friday, October 24 | 1:00pm | $27

Venue: Performance Works

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/52>

This event is like witnessing a live recording of your favourite literary podcast—no headphones required. Moderator **Tara McGuire** conducts back-to-back interviews with the authors of some of the most anticipated novels of the season. *Let Me Go Mad in My Own Way* is a multi-generational drama from Irish author **Elaine Feeney**, whose previous novel was longlisted for the Booker Prize and included in numerous ‘best of the year’ lists. Giller Prize-winner **Ian Williams** shares a daring and absurdly funny dissection of a crumbling marriage in *You’ve Changed*. **Jack Wang**’s *The Riveter* is an exhilarating cross-cultural love story set against the backdrop of the Allied invasion of Europe in WWII. Come for the dialogue, and you’re sure to leave with all three of these must-read books in hand.

*Elaine Feeney's attendance made possible thanks to the generous support of* **Culture Ireland***.*

53. The Next Generation

Information: Friday, October 24 | 1:00pm | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/53>

These authors are topping bestseller charts, going viral on BookTok, being nominated for prestigious awards, and tackling the pressing issues of our times—all before the age of 25. **Leila Mottley** is the the youngest author ever to have a book longlisted for the Booker Prize; her new novel, *The Girls Who Grew Big*, is an electric portrait of teenage motherhood and girlhood. **Liann Zhang** casts a razor-sharp eye on influencer culture and the obsession with status in her debut thriller, *Julie Chan Is Dead*. *House of the Beast* is a dark fantasy from *The Legend of Korra* graphic novel illustrator **Michelle Wong**, laced with betrayal, vengeance, and cosmic horrors. The next generation of visionaries will discuss their buzzworthy books, and what it’s like to be an up-and-coming writer in a world turning upside down. Moderated by **Rachel Sargeant**.

54. The City of Vancouver Book Award Ceremony

Information: Friday, October 24 | 1:00pm | $0

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/54>

*ASL provided.*

We’re delighted to once again host the Vancouver Book Award ceremony at the Festival. This year’s program will include live readings from the shortlisted authors, a chance to hear from Vancouver Poet Laureate Elee Kraljii Gardiner, and a live reveal of the 2025 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. Come and celebrate this city’s extraordinary talent. Moderator TBA.

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

55. Curtis Sittenfeld in Conversation

Information: Friday, October 24 | 5:00pm | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/55>

With her distinctive voice, astute observations, and ability to write characters so complex and real they seem like old friends, **Curtis Sittenfeld** peels back the layers of our lives—both in her bestselling novels, such as *Prep, Rodham*, and *Romantic Comedy*, as well as her dazzling latest short story collection: *Show Don’t Tell*. In this warm and witty event, Sittenfeld sits down for a conversation about her work to date, the power of female friendship, and how she looks past assumptions to write such nuanced characters. Moderated by **Alix Ohlin**.

56. Souvankham Thammavongsa in Conversation

Information: Friday, October 24 | 5:00pm | $27

Venue: The NEST

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/56>

**Souvankham Thammavongsa**’s debut collection, *How to Pronounce Knife*, exploded onto the literary scene—winning her the Giller Prize and Trillium Book Award, and bringing the multifaceted stories of Laotian refugees into the spotlight. Her much anticipated first novel unfolds over a single day in the life of a nail salon owner, painting a deeply intimate portrait of the immigrant experience, and offers a penetrating exploration of class, labour, and the inseparable alienation and violence that results. Thammavongsa speaks about *Pick A Colour,* andtelling the nuanced stories of immigrants with solidarity and grace, with **Doretta Lau**.

57. Walter Mosley in Conversation

Information: Friday, October 24 | 5:00pm | $27

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/57>

The name Easy Rawlins stirs excitement in the hearts of readers and fear in the hearts of his foes. Multi-award-winning author **Walter Mosley**’s iconic detective has thrilled readers, while the series has continually delivered sharp social and racial commentary since 1990. In *Gray Dawn*, the series' latest gritty installment, Rawlins has settled into the happy rhythm of his life in Los Angeles when a dangerous woman from his past returns to disturb this newfound balance. Don’t miss hearing from a pioneer of the crime-fiction genre. As an esteemed non-fiction author, Mosley will also discuss his essay in the new anthology *California Rewritten*, edited by **John Freeman**, who will interview him on-stage.

58. The Feminine Grotesque

Information: Friday, October 24 | 7:00pm | $27

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/58>

These novels will creep under your skin with their horror-tinged tales of witchcraft and demons—and their unsettling reflections on race, class, privilege, womanhood, and intergenerational trauma will continue to haunt you long after. Returning Festival fan favourites **Mona Awad** (*We Love You, Bunny*), **Jen Sookfong Lee** (*The Hunger We Pass Down*), and **Silvia Moreno-Garcia** (*The Bewitching*) confront power imbalances, slip between genres, and deliver page-turning chills in their latest novels. They’re joined by **Mattea Roach**, host of CBC’s *Bookends*, for a smart and subversive conversation that will be recorded for the show.

59. Ahead By A Century: Lyrics Night

Information: Friday, October 24 | 8:00pm | $27

Venue: Performance Works

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/59>

You Oughta Know, there will be no Sweet Surrender to The Americans by us Wheat Kings and Snowbirds. That’s why this year’s lyrics night—a fan-favourite event featuring dramatic readings of song lyrics with some of your favourite authors—focuses on Rockin’ in the Free World by Canadian artists. Everybody Knows that When We Stand Together, we’re Taking Care of Business. So Don’t Let It Bring You Down: join us and we’ll Raise a Little Hell. As you hear a new take on your favourite Anthem, reinterpreted by literary icons, you’ll be saying “It’s All Coming Back To Me Now.” Don’t forget that the fun continues with a dance party afterwards (Event 62). Hosted by **Elamin Abdelmahmoud,** with **DJ Ice B** on the turntables. See our website for the list of participants!

*Receive a 50% discount to* ***62. Shake It Off: Dance Party*** *when you purchase the tickets at the same time!*

60. The Art of Living

Information: Friday, October 24 | 8:00pm | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/60>

Art is inseparable from life in these luminous novels that explore the myriad ways art can shape and drive our fates. **Christine Estima**’s *Letters to Kafka* explores the torrid love affair between translator and resistance fighter Milena Jesenská and Franz Kafka, carried out in passionate letter correspondence. Following her mother’s sudden death, Isabel must adapt to a new life in the home of her father—Miguel de Cervantes, the celebrated author of *Don Quixote*—in **Martha Bátiz**’s *A Daughter’s Place*. And in *Mona’s Eyes* by **Thomas Schlesser**, Mona’s grandfather introduces her (and readers) to fifty-two great works of art—one per week, before she loses her eyesight forever. These novels explore what it means to be human through acts of artistic expression, and this conversation will be no different. Moderated by **Paloma Pacheco**.

*Presented in partnership with* **Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society***. Thomas Schlesser's appearance presented with the generous support of* **Consulate General of France in Vancouver***.*

61. Guy Gavriel Kay in Conversation

Information: Friday, October 24 | 8:00pm | $27

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/61>

The internationally bestselling author of *Tigana, All the Seas of the World*, and *A Brightness Long Ago*, **Guy Gavriel Kay** is one of our most decorated fantasy writers—and a skilled worldbuilder who blends history and fantasy to bring entirely original narratives to life. *Written on the Dark* is another masterpiece, set in a magical version of medieval France, replete with ambitious royals, assassins, and invading armies. He’ll speak to this latest novel, along with the rest of his extraordinary body of work, and how he researches and draws from the past to create worlds unlike anything we’ve seen before. Moderated by **Robert J. Wiersema**.

62. Shake It Off: Dance Party

Information: Friday, October 24 | 9:30pm | $10

Venue: Performance Works

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/62>

Bring your Moves Like Jagger to this party that will have you Dance the Night Away. It might be your Party Rock Anthem that gets you to Shake It Off and Scream & Shout, but (We) Gotta Feeling this is one night of revelry you won’t want to miss. After all, we’re Crazy In Love with these beats. Come do a jig or Safety Dance 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* ***59. Lyrics Night*** *at the same time!*

# SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

63. Verses of Transformation

Information: Saturday, October 25 | 10:30am | $27

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/63>

Poets are notoriously understood as bulwarks of counterculture. They exist against the grain, against the rising tide of autocratic ruin, against threats to liberatory values. We could go on; the list is long. Join an awe-inspiring lineup of poets—Guest Curator **Canisia Lubrin**, **Billy-Ray Belcourt**, **Junie Désil**, **Cecily Nicholson**, **Danez Smith**, **Karen Solie**, and **Paul Vermeersch**—as they read and reflect on a secret question drawn from a bag on-stage and posed, one poet to the next, in a carousel-style reading and fireside-style chat. Enjoy a drink from the bar and settle in for this incandescent conversation.

64. Tim Cook on The Good Allies: Canada and the US in Wartime

Information: Saturday, October 25 | 10:30am | $27

Venue: Performance Works

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/64>

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, it set in motion a deadly struggle between the Axis powers and the Allies, but also fraught negotiations and shifting relationships between the Allies. To defend the coasts of North America, Canada and the US forged a new military alliance—one that would ultimately last long after the war ended. Bestselling author and Chief Historian at the Canadian War Museum **Tim Cook** joins us with *The Good Allies*: a masterful account of how the two nations made the transition from wary rivals to steadfast allies. This conversation will explore our intertwined history of bleeding together to save the world from the threat of fascism; it will also probe the realities of our relationship in the present moment, in light of all that we have done together and for each other. Moderated by **Stephen Quinn**.

65. Raising Hare

Information: Saturday, October 25 | 10:30am | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/65>

Has a book ever been so profoundly special that you forget to release a bated breath? In February 2021, **Chloe Dalton** rescued a newborn hare that had been chased by a dog. Though she intended to care for it and return it to the wilderness, it continued to return to Dalton’s house day after day, becoming her constant and unlikely companion throughout the pandemic lockdown. *Raising Hare* is a poignant account of their remarkable friendship, which is a portrait of all humankind’s relationship with nature—and a testament to the transformative power of approaching the natural world with love. Dalton speaks about her *New York Times* bestselling debut, and about trust, freedom, and beauty, with **Aislinn Hunter** at this unmissable event.

66. Bitter and Sweet: Bonny Reichert and Karolina Ramqvist

Information: Saturday, October 25 | 10:30am | $27

Venue: The NEST

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/66>

Food is nourishment, love, a holder of memories; it can be fraught with fear and vulnerability, and—often overlooked by those living in comfort—it is necessary for human survival. These two authors share profound journeys through the complex emotions and relationships attached to what we consume, and what consumes us. Chef and author **Bonny Reichert** grew up hearing stories about her father’s near-starvation in Auschwitz-Birkenau. She follows the roots of her food obsession through lifetimes of both scarcity and plenty in *How to Share an Egg*. Renowned Swedish author **Karolina Ramqvist** explores the hunger for food and more in *Bread and Milk*, tracing the fraught relationships between the women in her family, and how their struggles with vulnerability replicate themselves in obsessive relationships with food. Moderated by **Meeru Dhalwala**.

*Participation of Bonny Reichert made possible thanks to the generous support of Sam Znaimer in memory of Nancy Richler. This event is being implemented with the assistance of a grant from the Swedish Arts Council.*

67. Building Suspense

Information: Saturday, October 25 | 10:30am | $27

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/67>

Fans of intricately twisting plots and high-stakes suspense will not want to miss this year’s crime and thriller fiction event, featuring three page-turners from acclaimed authors. **Terry Fallis**’s tenth novel, *The Marionette*, introduces readers to a new hero: a thriller writer whose life takes an unexpected turn into the perilous world of espionage with Canada’s Security Intelligence Service. *The Tiger and the Cosmonaut* by **Eddy Boudel Tan** is equal parts nail-biting mystery, and tender portrait of immigrant family relationships. **Jonathan Lethem** traces more than fifty years of one neighborhood’s community, crime, and gentrification in *Brooklyn Crime Novel*, named a best book of the year by multiple publications. The panelists will discuss the craft of suspense, and how they keep readers on the edge of their seats. Moderated by **Robert J. Wiersema**.

68. Terry O’Reilly: Against the Grain

Information: Saturday, October 25 | 1:30pm | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/68>

Meet and learn from people who ignored conventional wisdom, found or invented a better way, questioned the status quo at great sacrifice, and pushed for change against all odds. Author, host of CBC Radio’s *Under the Influence*, and award-winning advertiser **Terry O’Reilly** profiles fascinating mavericks across various industries in *Against the Grain: Defiant Giants Who Changed the World*. Gain valuable insight from the experiences of visionaries such as COVID vaccine co-creator Dr. Katalin Karikó, screenwriter Norman Lear, NHL coach Roger Neilson, and O’Reilly himself as he recounts these stories and more in a captivating talk. Moderated by **Kathryn Gretsinger**.

*Presented in partnership with* **BCIT School of Business****and Media** *and* **Peliplat**.

69. Dennis Lee: Wrestling with Cadence

Information: Saturday, October 25 | 1:30pm | $27

Venue: The NEST

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/69>

**Dennis Lee** is not only one of Canada’s most decorated poets, but one of the finest poets working in the English language. His expansive body of work is revered for the beauty, directness, and rhythm of his language—and for a mysterious force that Lee refers to as *cadence*: the intuitive perception of pre-verbal rhythms and energies. In a career-spanning new collection of critical and personal essays, *Wrestling with Cadence*, Lee reflects on how this germinating force has driven and defined his work. Cadence will permeate this thought-provoking conversation, as Lee rhythmically alternates between readings of his poems, and conversation with Vancouver Poet Laureate **Elee Kraljii Gardiner** about the force that structures them, and how he writes such unforgettable poetry.

70. Christian Allaire: From the Rez to the Runway

Information: Saturday, October 25 | 1:30pm | $27

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/70>

**Christian Allaire** lives and works at the centre of the global fashion industry in New York City, where he covers celebrity style, red carpets, emerging designers and trends, and more as a senior fashion and style writer for *Vogue*—but he was once a young boy growing up on the Nipissing First Nation reserve in Ontario, harbouring a high fashion dream that seemed like a remote fantasy. From his first encounters with traditional Ojibwe powwow regalia, through grinding as an unpaid intern to build the career he has today, Allaire’s memoir, *From the Rez to the Runway*, is a candid, inspiring account of how a boy from the rez broke into the exclusive world of fashion, carving out a space for himself and his community. Moderated by **Michelle Cyca**.

*Presented in partnership with* **HarperCollins Canada Ltd** *and* **Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week***.*

71. Crosscurrents of History

Information: Saturday, October 25 | 5:00pm | $27

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/71>

James Baldwin said, “If history were past, history wouldn’t matter. History is present… You and I are history. We carry our history. We act our history.” Writers are often thought of as existing between worlds. These three writers and their books cross the livewires of recent history with their books, attending to fractures of time, chance, and place—all streams that heighten our experiences of the present world. How do these impact the way we see ourselves, and by extension, how we make stories and lives despite these fractures? **Megha Majumdar** (*A Guardian and a Thief*), **Kyle Edwards** (*Small Ceremonies*), and **Maria Reva** (*Endling*) discuss, in conversation with Guest Curator **Canisia Lubrin**.

72. Wisdom, Age & Beauty

Information: Saturday, October 25 | 5:00pm | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/72>

With age comes experience and wisdom that can sometimes be overlooked by society—particularly when the holder of such insight is a woman. Three authors boldly defy erasure with big, vivacious stories that celebrate resilience and beauty of all kinds, and challenge the notion that feminism, self-reinvention, or daring writing could be restricted by age. *Margaret's New Look* is a page-turning mystery from career chameleon **Katherine Ashenburg**, who published her first fiction book at the age of 72. **Susan Swan** shares a lifetime’s worth of wisdom about carving her own path as a woman, mother, and artist in her memoir, *Big Girls Don’t Cry*. And after turning 70, **Merilyn Simonds** began to take weekly walks with her centenarian friend; the result is *Walking with Beth*, a heartfelt meditation that delves into rarely seen corners of older women’s lives, passions, and friendships. Moderated by **Marian Botsford Fraser**.

73. Short Stories from Here

Information: Saturday, October 25 | 5:00pm | $27

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/73>

Within their brief pages, short stories have an immense power to transform perspectives, capture essential truths, and introduce us to unforgettable characters. Enjoy a thought-provoking conversation and readings from three local authors of outstanding new collections. Set on an island in BC’s Salish Sea, **Bill Gaston**’s *Tunnel Island* follows characters striving to overcome pasts that often include a catastrophic error. The stories in *Welcome to the Neighbourhood* by **Clea Young** explore the labyrinthine inner lives of women, with a distinct Pacific Northwest flair. **Jacquelyn Zong-Li Ross** incorporates elements of fable, surrealism, satire, art, and cultural criticism to deliver a wonderfully strange exploration of the creative process in *The Longest Way to Eat a Melon*. Moderated by **Holly Flauto**.

74. The Lit Cab

Information: Saturday, October 25 | 7:30pm | $55

Venue: Performance Works

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/74>

A perennial favourite that sells out every year, the Literary Cabaret is a guaranteed hit: combine six acclaimed and award-winning authors with one band and a table of friends for a night of art and delight! Pianist, producer, and multi-instrumentalist **Benjamin Millman** returnsas our charismatic Musical Director, leading his band, **The Oxymorons**, in accompanying lyrical readings from literary greats: **Michael Bennett** (*Carved in Blood*), **Antonio Michael Downing** (*Black Cherokee*), **Anne de Marcken** (*It Lasts Forever and Then It’s Over*), **Fiona McFarlane** (*Highway Thirteen*), **Michael Redhill** (*The Trial of Katterfelto*), and **Danez Smith** (*Bluff*).

*Michael Bennett's attendance generously supported by Creative New Zealand Toi Aotearoa.*

75. On Tyranny: Timothy Snyder in Conversation

Information: Saturday, October 25 | 8:00pm | $27

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/75>

*ASL provided.*

Esteemed author and thinker **Timothy Snyder**’s conversation at our 2024 Festival was a resounding highlight, roaming through a wide array of sociopolitical topics with incisive eloquence. He returns to consider a book that has only grown in relevance in the years since it was published: the #1 *New York Times* bestselling guide for surviving and resisting America’s turn towards authoritarianism, *On Tyranny*. An American historian who recently moved to Toronto, Snyder shares his deep knowledge and perspective of the evolving political landscape, and revisits his essential body of work, in conversation with **John Freeman**.

76. Mona Awad in Conversation

Information: Saturday, October 25 | 8:00pm | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/76>

**Mona Awad** writes the gothic fairy tales of our fever dreams. Her dark and wickedly funny novels have been a fixture of bestseller and “Best Of” lists, and won her a devoted fanbase. She returns with the highly anticipated follow-up to *Bunny*, the sensational cult classic that’s soon to become a feature film. *We Love You, Bunny* is simultaneously a prequel, a sequel, and a dazzlingly original stand-alone novel. Follow the Bunnies on a surreal journey into the heart of dark academia, as Awad spills secrets from one of the most talked-about releases of the season. Moderated by **Robert J. Wiersema**.

77. Soundtrack of Life

Information: Saturday, October 25 | 8:00pm | $27

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/77>

These books can’t stay silent; their music-infused storylines will have you humming along to the rhythm. Three authors convene to share narratives, memories, characters, and themes that are inextricably shaped by the soundtrack of life. Set in 1984 to the music of Tina Turner, Madonna, and Stevie Nicks, *After We Drowned* by **Jill Yonit Goldberg** is a haunting coming-of-age story with a fierce feminist subplot. **Holly Brickley**’s instant bestseller, *Deep Cuts*, follows two lovers over a span of many years as they’re alternately drawn together and wrenched apart by their shared love of music. **Michael V. Smith** has written a moving memoir and ode to music in *Soundtrack*, which replays his personal memories and significant moments in queer history to the songs of the era. Join us to laugh, cry, and maybe even sing. Moderated by **Margaret Gallagher**.

*Presented in partnership with* **Langara College** *and* **Peliplat***.*

# SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

78. Food for Thought

Information: Sunday, October 26 | 10:30am | $40

Venue: Performance Works

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/78>

Seven authors of intriguing nonfiction titles explore topics at the forefront of our minds, in this popular returning event where TED Talk meets café social, with a morning snack included. **Scott McIntyre**, co-founder of Douglas & McIntyre, shares his story of making a life in Canadian publishing in *A Precarious Enterprise*, while *Vogue* writer **Christian Allaire**’s *From the Rez to the Runway* takes us behind the scenes of the fashion industry. Science writer **Jay Ingram** *(The Science of Pets)*and Women’s Prize finalist **Chloe Dalton** (*Raising Hare*) both delve into the meaningful bonds between humans and animals. **Eve Lazarus** explores a forgotten tragedy in *Beneath Dark Waters*, an account of the 1914 sinking of the *Empress of Ireland;* **Nilo Tabrizy** spotlights Iran’s recent women-led uprising in *For the Sun After Long Nights*. And *Bread and Milk* traces author **Karolina Ramqvist**’s life and relationships through the lens of food. Come hungry for insight. Hosted by **Kathryn Gretsinger**.

*This event is being implemented with the assistance of a grant from the* **Swedish Arts Council***.*

79. The Divorce Diaries

Information: Sunday, October 26 | 10:30am | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/79>

Though divorce rates are at their lowest in decades, readers have never been more enamoured with the stories that come from humans parting ways. From fiction to memoir, women are exploring how ending a partnership can reclaim agency, challenge patriarchy—or even release unbridled and long-held rage. **Haley Mlotek**, as the daughter of a divorced marriage counselor, weaves the story of her separation with profound inquiries into family, friendship, and love in *No Fault*. **Sarah Manguso**’s *Liars*, an NPR Book of the Year, subverts the usual narratives as a dissatisfied wife proves marriage makes liars out of all. **Plum Johnson**’s memoir, *The Trouble with Fairytales*, examines how we so often fall for the notion of “happily ever after,” and how it can take a lifetime to fulfill the most important relationship—the one with ourselves. Moderated by **Cori Howard**.

80. Reconciling

Information: Sunday, October 26 | 10:30am | $27

Venue: The NEST

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/80>

When **Larry Grant** talks about reconciliation, he uses the verb reconciling to signify an ongoing, unfinished process we’re all going through. “To not belong was forced upon me by the colonial society that surrounded me,” he says. “But reconciling with myself is part of all that.” The son of a Musqueam cultural leader and an immigrant from China tells the story of his extraordinary life and heritage in *Reconciling: A Lifelong Struggle to Belong*. Unfolding through a series of conversations between himself and writer **Scott Steedman**, his memoir brings us from the Musqueam reserve to Chinatown, the site of the Mission Residential School to the University of British Columbia, where he is now the Elder-in-residence. Mirroring the book’s format, Scott will interview Larry on-stage, in a wise conversation with much to teach us.

*Presented in partnership with* **Talking Stick Festival**.

81. Global Political Narratives

Information: Sunday, October 26 | 10:30am | $27

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/81>

Take an international journey with these razor-sharp novels that offer up stunning storylines, while shedding light on significant political conflicts and acts of resistance around the world. **Sheung-King**’s *Batshit Seven* follows a disaffected millennial living through the Hong Kong protests, in a darkly funny indictment of the cycles of imperialism. **Maria Reva** brings us to Ukraine in her raved-about debut novel, *Endling*, where a snail researcher and her sisters go on a search for their missing mother—and come face-to-face with the Russian invasion instead. **Jeremy Tiang** tells interlocking stories of leftist movements and political detentions in Singapore and Malaysia, uncovering decades of the region’s history in *State of Emergency*. Moderated by **Renée Sarojini Saklikar**.

*Presented in partnership with SFU's Department of World Languages and Literatures and Peliplat.*

82. Kiran Desai in Conversation

Information: Sunday, October 26 | 2:00pm | $27

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/82>

Fans of **Kiran Desai**’s work have been eagerly awaiting a new novel for nearly 20 years. Her 2006 book, *The Inheritance of Loss*, won both the Booker Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Masterpieces take time, and it was undeniably worth waiting for *The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny*, which is sure to capture the attention of major prize juries once again. This sweeping and intimate love story follows two young people whose fates intersect and diverge across continents and years, as they navigate the many forces that shape their lives: country, class, race, history, and family. Desai delves into her writing life, the nature of artistic ambition, and the complicated bonds that link. Moderated by **Eleanor Wachtel**.

*Presented in partnership with* **Indian Summer Festival** *and* **The Dhahan Prize***.*

83. A Trio of Vast Ideas

Information: Sunday, October 26 | 2:00pm | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/83>

These immersive, short interviews reveal profound observations, as **Minelle Mahtani** sits down with three authors of transformative non-fiction titles in back-to-back talks. **Claire Cameron**’s *How to Survive a Bear Attack* weaves together a memoir about her experience with skin cancer and an investigation of a fatal black bear attack, in a meditation on the precious act of survival. In his defining essay collection *Wînipêk*, **Niigaan Sinclair** tells the story of Winnipeg—the place he calls "ground zero" of Canada's future—to illuminate the reality of Indigenous life across the country. **elin kelsey** is an environmental activist who leads with hope; she shares *How to Be Hopeful*, an inspiring and evidence-based guide to dealing with climate anxiety.

84. Emerge

Information: Sunday, October 26 | 2:00pm | $0

Venue: Revue Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/84>

Join us at this free event to celebrate the latest work from **The Writer’s Studio** at Simon Fraser University, and their anthology series’ twenty-fifth anniversary! *emerge 25:* *The Writer’s Studio Anthology* collects the work of this year’s graduating class. Hear readings from those who have participated in the illustrious studio, 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 Writers Studio***. Presented in partnership with* **Peliplat***.*

85. The Afternoon Tea

Information: Sunday, October 26 | 3:30pm | $50

Venue: Performance Works

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/85>

Savour an afternoon of outstanding readings and high tea delicacies, at this beloved Writers Fest tradition first started by our late founding artistic director, Alma Lee. 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 captivating fiction from celebrated authors: **Katherine Ashenburg** (*Margaret's New Look*), **Terry Fallis** (*The Marionette*), **Fiona McFarlane** (*Highway Thirteen*), **Susin Nielsen** (*Snap*), **Megha Majumdar** (*A Guardian and a Thief*), **Michael Redhill** (*The Trial of Katterfelto*). Hosted by **Sophie Lui**.

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

86. Closing Night Event: Susan Orlean with The Current’s Matt Galloway

Information: Sunday, October 26 | 7:00pm | $27

Venue: Granville Island Stage

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/86>

Our closing night event features an author and journalist who has been shaping the cultural narrative for decades. Along with *The New Yorker*, where she’s been a staff writer since 1992, **Susan Orlean** has written for *Rolling Stone, Vogue, The New York Times Magazine*, and *Esquire*, always with her distinctive voice. Having enthralled us with bestselling books like *The Library Book* and *The Orchid Thief*, Orlean invites readers into her own extraordinary story in her eighth book, *Joyride*. Infused with an irrepressible exuberance, Orlean’s memoir traces her career through a golden era of journalism, and offers up invaluable advice for writers and anyone else pursuing a creative path. She speaks with CBC *The Current*’s **Matt Galloway** about confronting writer’s block, the shifting landscape of journalism, and how she follows her curiosity to the most unexpected places.

87. The Crime Scene

Information: Sunday, October 26 | 7:00pm | $27

Venue: Waterfront Theatre

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2025/87>

*ASL provided.*

Some of the most exciting writers working in the crime and thriller genres today gather from New Zealand, the US, and Vancouver, for an evening of page-turning crime fiction rooted in place and culture. **Michael Bennett**’s *Carved in Blood* follows a Māori former detective as she’s called back to the force to investigate the murder of her ex-husband. In *Gray Dawn*, the latest book in **Walter Mosley**’s bestselling series, Easy Rawlins chases a mysterious and dangerous woman through gritty 1970s Los Angeles. And hometown hero **Sam Wiebe**’s *The Last Exile* finds PI Dave Wakeland at the centre of gang warfare on the streets of Vancouver. Join us at the scene of the crime. Moderated by **Jerry Wasserman**.

*Michael Bennett's attendance generously supported by Creative New Zealand Toi Aotearoa.*