

VANCOUVER
WRITERS
FEST

Exceptional Books
& Ideas in 90+ Events

October 18-25, 2026
For tickets visit writersfest.bc.ca



Granville
Island



WHAT ARE THEY SAYING ABOUT RACCOONS IN VICTORIA?

CANADA'S 
**NATIONAL
OBSERVER**
nationalobserver.com/vwf



Dear reader:

Canada's National Observer (CNO) is proud to be the media sponsor of this year's Vancouver Writers Fest. CNO started at Linda's dining room table near City Hall. In the years since, this festival has become one of the events we look forward to most.

Festivals like this one thrive on the same thing good journalism does: people paying attention. So while we have yours, we want to tell you about something big CNO has built. It's called Civic Searchlight. Here's how it evolved.

Last year, one of our reporters was working on exposing a disinformation campaign targeting town councils when he realized something was missing: council meetings live mostly as hours of unsearchable video, with no easy way in. So we built **Civic Searchlight** to open a new window into local government debate and decision-making. Type in a keyword and a location, and it surfaces what's being said. What are they saying about raccoons in Victoria? Climate change in Nanaimo? Funding for the arts in Vancouver? You can find out in a few clicks. Explore it right now by scanning the QR code or visiting us at nationalobserver.com/vwf

Civic Searchlight is just one of the things we offer free to our country. Some of the sharpest writing on the forces shaping Canada's future comes from our team every week — Max Fawcett's Receipts, Chris Hatch's Zero Carbon, Canada's Business Observer, and our climate roundup, Canada's Climate Weekly. There's a read here for you.

We do it all for one reason. Stories have the power to touch hearts and change minds.

Enjoy the festival!

Sincerely yours,



Linda Solomon Wood
Founder and Publisher,
Canada's National Observer

Jimmy Thomson
Editor in Chief,
Canada's National Observer

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

Welcome to the 2026 Festival!



© Yasmeen Strang

Fall is in the air, and with that, the 39th annual Vancouver Writers Fest! We are delighted to welcome over 150 authors from across Canada and around the world to engage in impactful dialogue and uplifting storytelling. We know that booklovers engage in reading for many reasons: some to learn; some to be transported to another world; some to spark empathy for a different idea or way of being. Whatever your reason for reading, we know you will come away from this Festival with an admirable pile of must-reads, and some new ways of looking at this world we share.

In addition to our remarkable Festival line-up, we are honoured to be hosting Special Events throughout the fall with authors of some of the most-anticipated books of the season; **Colson Whitehead, Emily St. John Mandel, R.F. Kuang, Rachel Reid, and Malcolm Gladwell** are all a part of the line-up. And, in a Vancouver Writers Fest first, **Barbara Kingsolver** will join us to help launch the Festival on Sunday, October 18 at the Orpheum Theatre with her new novel, *Partita*.

The themes for the 2026 Festival emerged during a year of reflection. How can a world so full of bad news still hold such remarkable beauty that sustains us? It's the books I've read, by authors represented here, that provided me with answers to this question, and renewed energy to resist the urge to stand idle. We've chosen to focus on the words READ, RESIST, REPAIR in our programming, but I'll also add REJOICE

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and RENEW to these. The literary arts provide us with the inspiration and imagination needed to be resilient and strong, and they also provide us with delightful respite and peace at the end of a long day.

Speaking of which, is there anything lovelier than being read to as you drift off to sleep? This year, during Festival week, we're introducing a free series of bedtime stories, read over the phoneline by a selection of Festival authors. Dial in from the comfort of your bed, or visit our Bedtime Stories phone booth near the pop-up bookstore. We hope you'll let some of our fabulous literary stars gently lull you to sleep, and remind you that the world is full of good stories.

We hope you will join us to celebrate exceptional books, ideas, and dialogue.

Leslie Hurtig

Leslie Hurtig, Artistic Director





© Kevin Clark

Greetings!

It is my joy and privilege to work alongside incredibly talented, hard-working professionals and volunteers to bring you this 39th festival. From the 400+ individuals who strive tirelessly year-round to make your Writers Fest experience an excellent one, to the 50+ production team members taking care of every detail behind the scenes, we are readying ourselves to deliver all the exceptional conversations and literary events presented in this guide.

Beyond the personnel you'll encounter at the festival is an even broader web of connections and collaborations that make the Vancouver Writers

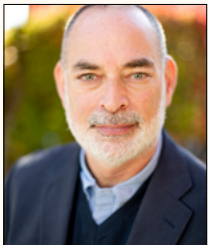
Fest a cultural touchstone in our city. Our title sponsor, CMHC Granville Island, along with our government funders, donors, and community partners make possible the logistical magic act that is an 8-day, multi-venue, multigenerational celebration of the written word. The longevity of this festival is truly a testament to their holistic, enduring support, just as it is to you, our audience.

So, whether you attend Writers Fest for the raucous laughter of **Lyrics Night**, the soulful charm of **Poetry Bash**, or the unexpected insights of an in-depth conversation, know that together, we are all building hope and community.

On behalf of our staff, to our new festival guests, a hearty welcome! To our community of returning patrons and volunteers, our sincerest thanks and appreciation.

May your festival be an enriching one that sparks renewal in your life.

Jennifer Milley, Managing Director



A Letter from Our Board of Directors

This year's Vancouver Writers Fest brings together an extraordinary lineup of writers and events. At the heart of our work is a mission to connect people to exceptional books, ideas, and dialogue, igniting a passion for words and the world around us. As we look ahead to our 40th anniversary, we are excited to share in the outstanding programming that makes the Festival so special.

Artistic Director Leslie Hurtig has crafted a dynamic program that takes inspiration, in part, from the work of award winning environmental author, John Vaillant, our 2026 Guest Curator. The Festival creates opportunities to engage with new ideas, connect with one another, and strengthen the vibrant communities we share.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we extend our thanks to the dedicated staff whose passion and hard work make the Festival such a welcoming and memorable experience. While the Festival is an annual highlight, the VWF also offers engaging year-round programming celebrating readers of all interests — from current affairs to poetry, and everything in between.

We rely on the generosity of our supporters; we are grateful to our donors, sponsors, partners, and funders whose contributions help sustain and grow our work. If you are not already a donor, we invite you to consider making a gift to help ensure the VWF can continue to deliver exceptional literary experiences for years to come.

To our members, audiences, and volunteers: thank you for bringing the Festival to life. We look forward to welcoming you this fall as we gather to celebrate the power of storytelling and the connections it creates.

Co-Chairs, Daniel Getz & Jillian Stirk



Guest Curated Events,
inspired by John Vaillant

When considering the Guest Curator for this year, I was focused on the sudden about-turn in Canada's efforts to meet its climate targets. Destabilizing threats from south of the border, combined with a sudden renewed push to fast-track oil pipelines, have many of us wondering how much more damage the earth can withstand. Few authors have written more eloquently on human conflict with the natural world than award-winning, Vancouver-based author, **John Vaillant**.

His books, including *The Golden Spruce*, *The Tiger*, and *Fire Weather*, act as a bellwether of climate risk while still encouraging his readers to maintain hope. According to John, "nature, and its impulse to flourish, will not be denied."

With his inspiring and gorgeously penned books in mind, a number of our events this year are inspired by the work of John Vaillant. We have events like **Canary in a Coal Mine (Event 17)** that delve into the breathtakingly precarious world of bird species. Another, **More than Human: Wildlife in an Age of Extinction (Event 30)**, brings three renowned authors together to discuss the ever-evolving relationship between humans and animals. And, in **Repair and Revive (Event 56)**, John Vaillant is joined by others to envision a path toward repairing our relationship with the earth, and reviving our awe of the natural world; because, "if one path is blocked, it will find another—with or without us."

Join us in celebrating the work of John Vaillant at the Vancouver Writers Fest!

—Leslie Hurtig, Artistic Director

EVENTS: [17 | PAGE 21](#) [30 | PAGE 27](#) [56 | PAGE 37](#)



GUEST CURATOR

Look for this icon on this year's specially-curated events.

YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Arts Umbrella offers programs for young people ages 2-22 in Art & Design, Dance, and Theatre, Music & Film. Registration is open for 2026/27 and includes sessional and yearlong programs.



Register now at
artsumbrella.com



ARTS UMBRELLA



Cap off your day at the Fest with a *bedtime story*.

From **October 18–25**, call our **Bedtime Story Hotline** at any time of day to hear Festival-exclusive readings of bedtime stories, narrated by acclaimed authors. Place a call from your home or mobile phone, or the dedicated phone booth on Granville Island, located near the Festival Bookstore at 100-1398 Cartwright St.

2 6 6 5
778-369-BOOK

Call to hear the full directory or search by name:

Elamin Abdelmahmoud
Anita Rau Badami
Sharon Bala
Damian Barr
Emilie Christie Burack
Catherine Chidgey
Gregor Craigie
Sarah Ellis
Kevin Hardcastle
Nazanine Hozar
Clara Hughes
Salma Hussain
Justin McElroy

Mark Medley
Jay Odjick
Carol Off
Sara O'Leary
Rollie Pemberton
Iain Reid
Anakana Schofield
Coltrane Seesequasis
Monique Gray Smith
Kai Cheng Thom
Emily Varga
Jack Wong
...and more!

VANCOUVER
**WRITERS
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Learn More:
writersfest.bc.ca/bedtime-stories



Inspired by the Filba International Festival in Argentina.

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& Elinor Morris,**
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Unger,**
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- Erica Miller,**
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- Showpass,**
Festival Box Office
- Gina Ortiz,**
2024–26 Festival Artwork
- Murray Patterson
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Program Guide Advertising
- ZAK Design Studio,**
Festival & Program
Guide Designs
- Serif,**
Festival Marketing &
Publicity
- Catalyst Agents,**
Social Media Special
Promotions

2026 Festival Participants

- Jordan Abel
- Chantel Acevedo
- Ayad Akhtar
- E.G. Alaraj
- Jamaluddin Aram
- Théodora Armstrong
- Gwen Aube
- Anita Rau Badami
- Sharon Bala
- Tessa Barbosa
- Damian Barr
- Gary Barwin
- Derek Beaulieu
- Louise K. Blight
- Ian Boothby
- Tanya Boteju
- Jennifer Botterill
- Erin Bow
- Mark Braude
- Emilie Christie Burack
- Steve Burgess
- Cassie Campbell-Pascal
- Christopher Cheung
- Catherine Chidgey
- Andrew Coyne
- Molly Crabapple
- Gregor Craigie
- Edwidge Danticat
- Camille de Peretti
- Dina Del Bucchia
- Patrick deWitt
- Cory Doctorow
- Aaron Cully Drake
- Kim Echlin
- Amal El-Mohtar
- Portia Elan
- Sarah Ellis
- Leilani Farha
- Patricia Finn
- Ellie Foubmi
- L.E. Fox
- Kim Fu
- Elee Kraljii Gardiner
- Keum Suk Gendry-Kim
- Camilla Gibb
- Jess Gibson

- Jami Gigot
- Brian Goldman
- Andrew Sean Greer
- Neil Griffin
- Pia Guerra
- Kevin Hardcastle
- Melissa Harrison
- Sally Hayden
- Faith Erin Hicks
- Wiley Wei-Chiun Ho
- Jess Housty
- Nazanine Hozar
- Clara Hughes
- Petra Hůlová
- June Hur
- Salma Hussain
- Marlon James
- Colin James
- Kirsten Johnson
- Tayari Jones
- Zak Jones
- Eve Joseph
- Kattjā
- Meghan Kemp-Gee
- Bal Khabra
- Rachael King
- Turi King
- Kung Jaadee
- Katrina Kwan
- Angélique Lalonde
- Doretta Lau
- Mark Leiren-Young
- Ferdia Lennon
- Patrick Lennox
- Hayley Lowe
- Canisia Lubrin
- Valeria Luiselli
- Jason Dove Mark
- Stacey Matson
- Justin McElroy
- Danielle McKechnie
- Mark Medley
- Robert Moor
- Shani Mootoo
- Jackie Morris
- Geoffrey D. Morrison
- Roz Nay
- Kliph Nesteroff
- Billeh Nickerson
- Liz Nugent
- Sara O'Leary

- Arizona O'Neill
- Jay Odjick
- Carol Off
- Ruth Ozeki
- Jane Park
- Mangeshig
Pawis-Steckley
- Rollie Pemberton
- Briony Penn
- Carolina Pihelgas
- Willie Poll
- Michelle Porter
- Iain Reid
- Joss Richard
- Lisa Robertson
- Eden Robinson
- Jane Rogoyska
- Jordy Rosenberg
- Eric Beck Rubin
- Ahmad Saber
- Anakana Schofield
- Coltrane Seesequasis
- Vivek Shraya
- Monique Gray Smith
- Kim Spencer
- Alex Spring
- Jason Stanley
- Robin Stevenson
- Douglas Stuart
- Chanel Sutherland
- David Szalay
- Ece Temelkuran
- Elle Tesch
- Yasuko Thanh
- Kai Cheng Thom
- David Treuer
- John Vaillant
- Emily Varga
- Kawai Strong Washburn
- Jesse Wente
- Dan Werb
- Andrew Westoll
- Iona Wishaw
- Sam Wiebe
- Damien Wilkins
- Jody Wilson-Raybould
- William Wodhams
- PP Wong
- Jack Wong
- Alan Woo
- Daniel Zomparelli

Festival Tickets

Accessibility & Equitability

Festival
Tickets Info

Always check the website!
Please remember to check our website, as the information below is abbreviated, and event details may change. writersfest.bc.ca/box-office

Ticket
Sale Dates

Member Pre-sale: Thursday, September 10 at 10am
Youth Events: Tuesday, September 15 at 8am
General Public: Thursday, September 17 at 10am

How
to Buy

Online: writersfest.bc.ca or showpass.com
At the event: Venue box offices open 45 minutes prior to the event start time.
Need help? If you need help completing your ticket order online, call (844) 307-7469 for Showpass customer service. Please direct all other questions to boxoffice@writersfest.bc.ca, or call (778) 658-0462. Operating hours are on our website.

Pricing 

Ticket prices are listed under each event. Prices include GST and service fees. Debit and Credit only.
Discounts for standard Festival events are offered for members and seniors (10%), and youth under 25 (\$15 flat fee). These discounts are automatically included in the ticket price.

Youth Events 

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

Accessibility at the Festival

We're committed to listening, learning, and doing the work to make the Festival a safer, low-barrier experience for you.

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

For more information or to make a request, please reach out to boxoffice@writersfest.bc.ca or call (778) 658-0462.

Look for these icons:

-  ASL-Interpreted Event
-  CART-Captioned Event

Scan QR code to visit our accessibility page directly.



TERMS We offer no exchanges or refunds except if an event is cancelled. Check your order carefully before you click Pay. Discounts cannot be applied retroactively.

Festival Pop-Up Bookstore



Festival Pop-Up Bookstore:
The Fishbowl
(100-1398 Cartwright St.)

Bookstore Hours:
Tuesday–Saturday:
10am–10pm
Sunday: 10am–7pm



Maps & Venue Information

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



Scan QR code to access our annotated and printable maps.

Parking Information

Granville Island has a metered parking system.

Pay parking in effect **9am–10pm**

Free parking **10pm–9am**

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

ON ISLAND VENUES

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 RS
The Revue Stage,
1601 Johnston St.</p> <p>2 WT
Waterfront Theatre,
1412 Cartwright St.</p> <p>3 N
The NEST, Third Floor,
Festival House,
1398 Cartwright St.</p> <p>4 PW
Performance Works,
1218 Cartwright St.</p> <p>5 AU
Jack and Darlene
Poole Theatre,
Arts Umbrella,
1400 Johnston St.</p> | <p>6 IC
Improv Centre,
1502 Duranleau St.</p> <p>7 DR
Dockside Restaurant,
1253 Johnston St.</p> <p>8 BK
Festival Pop-Up
Bookstore,
The Fishbowl,
100–1398 Cartwright St.</p> |
|---|---|

OFF ISLAND VENUES

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>OT Orpheum Theatre,
601 Smithe St.</p> <p>YT York Theatre,
639 Commercial Dr.</p> | <p>UC St. Andrew's-Wesley
United Church,
1022 Nelson St.</p> <p>PT Playhouse Theatre,
600 Hamilton St.</p> |
|--|---|

Support the Vancouver Writers Fest

Join Vancouver's Biggest Book Club — Become a VWF Member

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

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

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$45



Make a Charitable Donation

When you donate to the Vancouver Writers Fest, you're supporting the power of books and ideas. Your gifts help our efforts to eliminate barriers of participation for others.

DONATE TODAY



Interested in making more of an impact?

Make literature your legacy by leaving a gift in your will or benefit from tax savings by donating securities.

Contact **Ashleigh Withall** at awithall@writersfest.bc.ca to discuss how you can become part of the heart of our literary community.

VWF Programming (Year-Round)

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

OCTOBER FESTIVAL

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

BOOKS & IDEAS

Established in 2025, Books & Ideas is an event series hosted exclusively on Granville Island, home of the October Festival. With an intimate theatre venue and a pop-up bar for socializing, attendees are invited to connect more deeply with Vancouver's literary community—and meet the esteemed authors who grace the stage—in a modern space for exchanging ideas.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events feature some of the biggest international authors being published today, engaging in provocative, illuminating conversations. Some of this year's Special Events will include **Barbara Kingsolver**, **R. F. Kuang**, **Rachel Reid**, **Emily St. John Mandel**, and **Colson Whitehead**.

INCITE

This free reading series, presented in partnership with the Vancouver Public Library, features insightful, moderated conversations with emerging and established writers on a multitude of themes. Each in-person event is also live-streamed.

MY ROOTS

The My Roots Workshop encourages a small cohort of immigrants to develop and share their stories of place through a mix of writing exercises and writing craft lessons once a year.

YOUTH WRITING CONTEST

Our annual writing contests are for high school and elementary school students, awarding a cash prize and public recognition for first and second place in each category.

DIGITAL FESTIVAL

The Digital Festival offers a curated selection of professionally-recorded events from the flagship Festival, available to watch online over the winter holidays. Information about this year's selected events will be available in November.

For Schools: Writers in the Classroom

Our popular Writers in the Classroom program returns for fall! Designed to connect children and youth to authors through live, interactive events, the fall season of Writers in the Classroom will include 14 author visits to schools across Metro Vancouver between October and December 2026.

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

Writers in the Classroom is offered FREE of cost to schools thanks to the support of the Government of British Columbia, MODO, Hamber Foundation, and Bonnie Mah. Authors open to school visits in fall 2026 include **Danny Ramadan, Kim Spencer, Joanna Cheek, Hayley Lowe**, among many others.



To view the full line-up of authors and other details, please use the following QR code.



With the generous support of Bonnie Mah and The Hamber Foundation

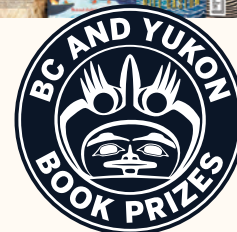
Congratulations to the 2026 finalists!



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

Alfred A. Knopf, Arsenal Pulp Press, Caitlin Press, Doubleday Canada, Douglas & McIntyre, ECW Press, Figure 1 Publishing, Frontenac House, Godwin Books, Harbour Publishing, HarperCollins Publishing, icehouse poetry/Gooselane Editions, Knopf Canada, McClelland & Stewart, Medicine Wheel Publishing, Orca Book Publishers, Page Two Books, Penguin Teen Canada, Purich Books, Strong Nations Publishing, Talonbooks, Thistledown Press, TouchWood Editions, Tundra Books, UBC Press, University of Alberta Press, Véhicule Press

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We'd like to thank all of the artisans and vendors of Granville Island who donate food, goods, and services to us during Festival Week and throughout the year.
See page 77 for a list of our donors.



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 | 7:30 PM | \$45

COLSON WHITEHEAD

In Conversation with William Johnson

DM DJAVAD MOWAFAGHIAN CINEMA

 SPECIAL EVENT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 | 7:30 PM | \$45 AND UP

EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL

In Conversation with Michelle Cyca

PT VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

 SPECIAL EVENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 | 7:30 PM | \$70 (BOOK INCLUDED)

R. F. KUANG

In Conversation with Jen Sookfong Lee

UC ST. ANDREW'S-WESLEY UNITED CHURCH

 SPECIAL EVENT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 | 7:30 PM | \$70 (BOOK INCLUDED)

RACHEL REID

In Conversation with Sophie Lui

UC ST. ANDREW'S-WESLEY UNITED CHURCH

 SPECIAL EVENT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 | 7:30 PM | \$50 AND UP



OT ORPHEUM THEATRE

SPECIAL EVENT

Barbara Kingsolver in Conversation

Thank you to our Community Partner: **Vancouver Academy of Music**, and to **HarperCollins Canada** for supporting Barbara Kingsolver's appearance in Vancouver.

Barbara Kingsolver's bestselling works of fiction—including *The Poisonwood Bible*, *Demon Copperhead*, and *The Lacuna*—have earned her a devoted readership around the world. Kingsolver joins us with her new instant classic, *Partita*, in conversation with award-winning journalist and author **Marsha Lederman**.

A promising, former music conservatory student has made peace with her marriage and modest livelihood, when a shocking phone call from an old lover shakes her to the core. With razor-sharp acuity and deep affection, *Partita* reflects on class barriers, the risks of ambition, and what might be the greatest romance of all: our eternal human longing for art and beauty.

Kingsolver herself is a pianist and music lover, and this captivating event will be uplifted by piano pieces performed by **Allen Ding**, a student at the Vancouver Academy of Music. Celebrate the opening of the 39th annual Vancouver Writers Fest at an evening of brilliant art, music, and conversation.

BARBARA KINGSOLVER is the author of ten bestselling works of fiction, as well as books of poetry, essays, and creative nonfiction. Her work has been translated into more than thirty languages. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and has received numerous awards and honors including the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the National Humanities Medal, and the National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 | 7:30 PM | \$45

Grand Openings: Read, Resist, Repair, Rejoice

EVENT NUMBER

01

PT VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

Our 2026 Festival embraces themes that are a rallying call to all concerned citizens: READ, RESIST, REPAIR, REJOICE. On this monumental evening, literary greats will transmit an indomitable light through the darkness, illuminating new and ongoing forms of resistance, and inviting hope through the enduring power of the written word. Esteemed authors and leading thinkers will take the stage, in wide-ranging sequential talks, to reflect on the essential themes at the heart of this year's Festival. Hear original works from **Ayad Akhtar**, **Cory Doctorow**, **Tayari Jones**, **Ruth Ozeki**, **Ece Temelkuran**, **John Vaillant**, **Jesse Wenthe**, and **Jody Wilson-Raybould**. Hosted by **Elamin Abdelmahmoud**.

Presented in partnership with the **Pacific Salmon Foundation**.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 10:15 AM | \$12

Word! 1

EVENT NUMBER

02

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

YOUTH

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 and quick to sell out, that this year we're offering *three* chances to catch it. This Word! event features three exceptional performers: **Brandon Wint**, a sought-after performer who has presented across Canada and in Australia, Lithuania, Latvia, and Jamaica; poet and producer **fanny kearse**, who fuses their experience as a social worker and lived experiences as a marginalized human to express their activism through art; and **Ayda Niknami**, whose work explores Iranian diasporic subjectivity, love, and relational autonomy. *Grades 8–12*.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 10:15 AM | \$12 Masterclass with Gregor Craigie:
How to Fight Misinformation

EVENT NUMBER

03

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

 YOUTH

These days, finding information is a simple click away. But how can you tell if what you're reading is true or false? With fake news on the rise, fighting misinformation is more important than ever. Acclaimed author and CBC Radio host **Gregor Craigie** recounts surprising episodes of misinformation throughout history, and shares ten concrete ways to spot and prevent it—including investigating a source, asking the experts, and checking your own bias—in this empowering masterclass based on his new book, *Sticking to the Facts: 10 Ways to Fight Misinformation*. Grades 4–7.

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 10:15 AM | \$12 

Storytime with Willie Poll

EVENT NUMBER

04

N THE NEST

 YOUTH

Salmon have followed the same migration routes for thousands of years, but the fish farming industry threatens their habitat and their annual journey. Now, many Nations are advocating for change. Young readers will learn about the life cycle of wild salmon in this informative storytime session with Métis author **Willie Poll**, the author of *A Salmon Story*. From fry to spawning adults, beautiful illustrations of salmon will inspire kids to protect this keystone species for generations to come. Grades 1–3.

Presented in partnership with Talking Stick Festival.

EVENT

2026 NON-FICTION CONTEST

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 10:15 AM | \$12

Coming of Age

EVENT NUMBER
05

RS THE REVUE STAGE YOUTH

Becoming yourself isn't easy, no matter who that self might be. And the protagonists of these YA novels face serious struggles that would pose a challenge at any age: a life-altering surgery, the effects of intergenerational trauma, a dilemma of faith. With support from friends and family, and the courage to live authentically, these characters come of age in their own ways. Teenage film buff Wali Khan prepares for a brain surgery in **Salma Hussain's** *It's Not Over Yet*. In *Here for a Good Time*, **Kim Spencer** introduces us to Morgan, an Indigenous girl navigating school and a new love interest when a tragedy strikes, revealing hard truths about her mother's traumatic past. And *Ramin Abbas Has MAJOR Questions* about how his queer identity can coexist with his Muslim faith in **Ahmad Saber's** funny and thoughtful debut. Moderated by **Tanya Boteju**. Grades 8–12.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 1:00 PM | \$12

Middle Grade Heroes

EVENT NUMBER
06

IC IMPROV CENTRE YOUTH

Three beloved, award-winning middle grade authors share stories of characters who tackle very different challenges, all with bravery and heart. When her best friend is placed in the ICU after a serious accident, Albie must take charge of their project for the Young Entrepreneur Club contest in **Stacey Matson's** *Eleven Out of Ten*. **Erin Bow's** *Witchward Bound* is a magical tale of two rivals, a cat and a raven, who must learn to work together to save the witch they both care for. And in *The Book of Jupiter*, **Robin Stevenson** shares the gripping and insightful story of a girl who realizes she's lived almost her entire life inside a cult. The authors will discuss courage, creativity, and their writing process. Moderated by **Shannon Ozirny**. Grades 4–7.

VANCOUVER WRITERS FEST



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BCTF

A message from the BC Teachers' Federation | bctf.ca

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 1:00 PM | \$28

Jesse Wente: Tough Lies

EVENT NUMBER

07

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

ADULT DAYTIME

With his national bestseller *Unreconciled*, Anishinaabe author and broadcaster **Jesse Wente** cracked wide open the lies that Canada tells itself about reconciliation, offering a new path forward for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. In *Tough Lies*, he continues to face difficult questions about this country with unflinching honesty, turning his focus to his own healing path and how it informs what he sees as necessary for reconciliation between Nations. With his characteristic candor, Wente will explore topics from the controversial issue of false claims to Indigenous identity, to the racism he has faced, to his re-discovery of the game of golf—and the role it's played in his healing. Moderated by **Kathryn Gretsinger**.

Presented in partnership with Talking Stick Festival.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 1:00 PM | \$12

Graphic Novel Masterclass with
Ian Boothby and Pia Guerra

EVENT NUMBER

08

N THE NEST

YOUTH

A suspenseful page-turner filled with all the looming dread of an isolated mountain, *Frostbite* is a chilling graphic novel for teens from creative duo—and married couple—**Ian Boothby** and **Pia Guerra**. Between them, they have multiple Eisner and Shuster awards, and have worked separately, and together, on projects ranging from *Y: The Last Man* to *Simpsons Comics*. In this masterclass, they'll discuss how they collaborate with each other and how they bring such intriguing characters and settings to life through story, dialogue, and artwork. *Grades 8–12.*

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 1:00 PM | \$28

Mark Medley on Pursuing
Impossible Goals

EVENT NUMBER

09

RS THE REVUE STAGE

ADULT DAYTIME

CART CART PROVIDED

In *Live to See the Day*, journalist **Mark Medley** sets out to find people who have devoted their lives to dreams they know have little chance of coming true. Interviewing more than 250 people, Medley immersed himself in a question many have reckoned with: how to push forward when the world is telling you to give up. From the jungles of Indonesia, where a photographer has devoted his life to pursuing a mystery ape; to the deserts of the American Southwest, where a grizzled treasure hunter searches for a legendary lost fortune, Medley shares stories of hope and perseverance that defy conventional notions of what it means to live a rewarding life. Moderated by **Marsha Lederman**.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 6:00 PM | \$28

Patrick deWitt in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER

10

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Famed for his dark wit and eccentric, rollicking storylines, **Patrick deWitt** is a favourite of the Festival. The bestselling author of *The Librarianist* and *The Sisters Brothers* joins us with one of his most raucous novels yet. *Dodge City* follows a young man on an amphetamine-fueled road trip across the United States, as he flees Los Angeles and the Vietnam War draft for the safe haven of Canada. DeWitt will discuss this anticipated book, as well as how he shines a light on the stranger aspects of human behavior, to equally hilarious and poignant effect. Moderated by **David Moscrop**.

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.



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Writers Fest because fueling creative breakaways
starts with the human story.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 6:00 PM | \$28 \$

Up Next: Debuts to Watch

EVENT NUMBER

11

N THE NEST

We take great joy in spotlighting debut authors at the Festival; they get to introduce their remarkable work to an enthusiastic and well-read audience, and you get the opportunity to meet them in a more intimate venue before their inevitable rise to fame. These three authors are already garnering rave reviews. **Théodora Armstrong's** *Welcome to Sunny Town*, about a directionless art school graduate who moves to Japan to teach ESL, has earned her comparisons to Elif Batuman and Ottessa Moshfegh. **Jane Park's** *Inheritance* is a moving Korean-Canadian immigrant story, and a most anticipated book according to *Bustle*, *The Millions*, *Book Riot*, and CBC. And **Jess Gibson** shares beguiling short stories in *The Good Eye*; André Alexis called it "the best first collection of stories I've read in years." Moderated by **Marian Botsford Fraser**.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 6:00 PM | \$28 \$

Ayad Akhtar: The Radiance

EVENT NUMBER

12

RS THE REVUE STAGE

Ayad Akhtar's previous book, *Homeland Elegies*, was one of Barack Obama's favourite books of the year, and included in best of lists from *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Publishers Weekly*. This daring new novel from the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer continues his gripping fictional journey through a nation on the edge. Moving between rural America and Europe, Islam and Christianity, the intimate and the metaphysical, *The Radiance* is a tale of this fraught moment in American history; and, more broadly, a visionary novel of spiritual transformation in an age of fracture. Akhtar speaks about this electrifying new work with **Minelle Mahtani**.

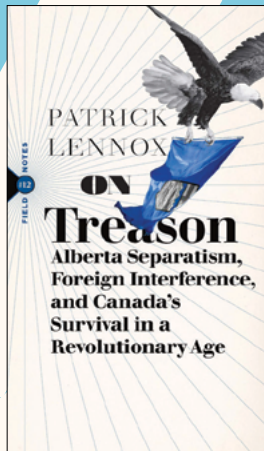
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 7:30 PM | \$35

An Evening with Colin James

EVENT NUMBER

13

YT YORK THEATRE

With twenty-one studio albums and dozens of awards, **Colin James** is one of Canada's most talented and beloved musicians. He continues to gain legions of fans around the world with each new record release and sold-out tour. In *Playing the Changes*, he shares a heartfelt coming-of-age story, from his childhood in Saskatchewan where he taught himself how to play along with blues records, to being asked as a teenager to open for legendary guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan. Filled with memorable stories and James's contagious passion for music, this is an unmissable event for his fans, and all who find inspiration in song. Moderated by **Jared Bland**.

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 8:30 PM | \$28

Tayari Jones: Kin

EVENT NUMBER

14

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

Tayari Jones's unforgettable stories are celebrated by critics and readers alike. Her books have received starred reviews from *Kirkus*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *Booklist*; been praised by Oprah and Barack Obama; and appeared on Goodreads' Most Popular list. She is one of *TIME's* 100 Most Influential People of 2026, spotlighted for her richly moving novels that stand in the tradition of civil rights organizers and the late 20th century Black women's literary renaissance. She'll speak about *Kin*—a stunning portrait of two friends navigating the complexities of life in the American South, and an Oprah's Book Club pick—alongside the rest of her acclaimed body of work. Moderated by **Kimberly Bain**.

Look out for these Orca authors at Vancouver Writers Fest

Kim Spencer

Monique Gray Smith

E.G. Alaraj

Hayley Lowe

Neil Griffin

Gregor Craigie

Mark Leiren-Young

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 8:30 PM | \$28

Iain Reid and Ellie Foubi:
Horror in Hollywood

EVENT NUMBER

15

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Bestselling author **Iain Reid** is no stranger to the film industry. His uncanny, page-turning thrillers have attracted major film adaptations, with such names attached to them as Charlie Kaufman and Saoirse Ronan. Even so, *A New Kind of Clean* represents a new level of collaboration, between himself and award-winning filmmaker **Ellie Foubi**. Originally envisioned as a film, the work became a novel as the two creators passed it back and forth, jointly crafting a masterwork of philosophical horror that follows a desperate aspiring actress who must weigh what she's willing to sacrifice to reach her dreams. Spectacular on-stage visuals will set the tone for this otherworldly conversation. Moderated by **Tom Charity**.

Presented in partnership with Vancouver International Film Festival.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 8:30 PM | \$28

Arizona O'Neill: Opioids and Organs

EVENT NUMBER

16

N THE NEST

It's 2015, and Montreal author-illustrator **Arizona O'Neill** grieves at the hospital bed of her father, a man she hardly knew, brain dead after a fentanyl overdose. Doctors encourage her to act quickly to recast him as a hero by way of organ donations. Distraught, O'Neill makes a decision that will haunt her for the rest of her life. Her heartwrenching graphic novel memoir, *Opioids and Organs*, captures her struggles to come to terms with her father's death and her role in making his life's last decision—as well as inconvenient truths about the organ industry's codependence on the opioid crisis, and its exploitation of society's outcasts. She speaks with **Garth Mullins**, harm-reduction activist and author of *Crackdown: Surviving and Resisting the War on Drugs*.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 8:30 PM | \$28

Canary in a Coal Mine

EVENT NUMBER

17

RS THE REVUE STAGE



GUEST CURATOR

There are 3 billion fewer birds in North America than a half century ago. Worldwide, almost 50% of bird species are in decline. The ones who remain are still trying to warn us of impending danger—we would be wise to listen before it's too late, as these three authors detail in their new books that explore the beauty of these creatures; the impacts of climate change on different bird species; and what they can teach us about our own future on earth. In *Where the Earth Meets the Sky*, conservation scientist **Louise K. Blight** chronicles her research on penguins surviving in the farthest reaches of Antarctica. **Briony Penn's** *The Seabird Trials* traces a landmark oil spill court battle that resulted in the first settlement in North American history to compensate for the destruction of wild animals. **Jackie Morris** introduces a compendium of winged companions in *The Book of Birds*: an illustrated love letter to birdlife, and a clarion call to protect them, co-authored by Robert Macfarlane. Moderated by **Laura Lynch**.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 10:15 AM | \$12

\$

Word! 2

EVENT NUMBER
18

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

YOUTH

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 and quick to sell out, that this year we're offering *three* chances to catch it. This Word! event features three exceptional performers: **Brandon Wint**, a sought-after performer who has presented across Canada and in Australia, Lithuania, Latvia, and Jamaica; poet and producer **fanny kearse**, who fuses their experience as a social worker and lived experiences as a marginalized human to express their activism through art; and **Ayda Niknami**, whose work explores Iranian diasporic subjectivity, love, and relational autonomy. *Grades 8–12.*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 10:15 AM | \$12

\$

Earth is Ours

EVENT NUMBER
19

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

YOUTH

Earth is ours—to enjoy, to explore, to share, to respect, and to protect for future generations. Middle grade readers will discover their own power to help save the planet, as three authors of fascinating new books take the stage one-by-one. In *One Ocean*, **Mark Leiren-Young** spotlights young climate activists and presents practical ways to keep the ocean clean, the effects of the climate crisis on our seas, and how to get political in your community. **Neil Griffin** shines a light on bats in *Bat Planet*, with facts about their biology, habitat, risks to survival, and how you can help these winged wonders. **Willie Poll** shares *Minnow*, a beautiful graphic novel about a girl who becomes a mermaid—a power that might help her stop a pipeline development! *Grades 4–7.*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 10:15 AM | \$12

\$

Storytime with Friends

EVENT NUMBER
20

N THE NEST

YOUTH

Little ones will delight in readings of these imaginative picture book stories, while learning fun and gentle lessons about how to be a good friend. In **Sara O’Leary’s** *A Friend Is a Friend Is a Friend*, featuring charming illustrations by Qin Leng, a child arrives at summer camp, wondering how to make friends when one by one, the other kids share their ideas. Croc braves his fears to enjoy an adventure with his best friend, Mac, in the early graphic novel *Mac and Croc* by **Jami Gigot**. Juni of **Hayley Lowe’s** *Juni and the Anything Tree* likes to spend recess with her favourite friend, a fallen tree in the schoolyard—until she and a new friend need to save it from a community cleanup! *Grades 1–3.*

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Salish Sea monitoring holds the key to rebuilding vital B.C. fish (6)

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 10:15 AM | \$12 

Us Against the World

EVENT NUMBER

21

RS THE REVUE STAGE



These gorgeously written new YA novels feature duos who are bonded by external pressures and fates. Forced to work together to survive a hostile world or situation, they discover each other's true self. In **Tessa Barbosa's** dark fantasy, *Isle of Teeth*, two individuals—each cast as a monster for a different reason—band together to resist the powers of empire and the calls of the goddess of death. A reader and a writer secretly fight against government book banning in *Behind Five Willows*, **June Hur's** reimagining of *Pride and Prejudice* set in historical Korea. **Emily Varga** shares *The River She Became*, an action-packed romantasy about a relic hunter, a mysterious fae captain, and the ancient crown they both seek. This is love worth fighting for. Moderated by **Sarah Suk**. Grades 8–12.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 1:00 PM | \$12 

Of Magic and Monsters

EVENT NUMBER

22

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS



The worlds of these YA fantasy novels are chilling, thrilling, and utterly immersive. In *Song of the Saltings* by **Rachael King**, people on an isolated island live by an ancient bargain: every year, a sacrifice must be made to the Glimm, the creature that haunts the salt marshes. Humans wage war with wolves for control of the land in *The Crucible of Pain*, the latest book in **Coltrane Seesequasis's** epic *A Wolf in the Sun* series. From **Elle Tesch**, *The Hanging Bones* is a gothic fantasy steeped in Germanic folklore, about a girl who enters a deadly, magical hunt to keep her family safe. The authors will share insights into how they build such engaging worlds that keep readers hooked until the very last page. Moderated by **France Perras**. Grades 8–12.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 1:00 PM | \$12 

Standing Up for Ourselves

EVENT NUMBER

23

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE



Middle school isn't easy. Kids are learning how to grapple with serious issues—from insecurity and prejudice to making choices about who and what to believe. The characters in these page-turning middle grade stories demonstrate strength of all kinds. A fledgeling shapeshifter learns how to listen to the voice in her heart, in **Kai Cheng Thom's** heartfelt and hilarious *The Shapeshifter's Guide to Gym Class*. **Jay Odjick's** kid hero fights crime and protects Indigenous artifacts in *Kaboom! Volume 1: Blast Off*. And **Robin Stevenson's** *The Book of Jupiter* follows a girl who must wrestle with what comes next when she realizes she's lived most of her life inside a cult. In an uplifting conversation, these authors will encourage young readers to believe in themselves, and to build and trust their own instincts. Moderated by **Shannon Ozirny**. Grades 4–7.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 1:00 PM | \$28 

Jackie Morris: The Art of The Book of Birds

EVENT NUMBER

24

N THE NEST



Jackie Morris's gorgeous, nature-inspired artwork has captured the hearts of hundreds of thousands of readers of all ages, and is held by multiple public art collections. She is also a great lover of birds, and this love is palpable on every page of *The Book of Birds*, an extraordinary new collaboration by Morris and author Robert Macfarlane. A re-imagining of the classic nature field guide, *The Book of Birds* shows readers not only how to identify birds, but how to identify with the forty-nine declining or endangered species featured—so that we might be moved to save them from the devastating loss of bird species worldwide. As she introduces these precious creatures and shares her hopes for their future, Morris will paint live on-stage, with a camera set up to capture every stroke and feather. Suitable for adults as well as high school students, this a rare opportunity to witness the process of a renowned artist.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 1:00 PM | \$12

We Are Connected

EVENT NUMBER
25

RS THE REVUE STAGE YOUTH

What makes you feel connected? Whether it is with your family, the land, your heritage, or the guidance of your ancestors, you belong in connection with the world. Young readers will feel a deep sense of belonging when they hear from cherished authors at this cozy storytime. Adapting a poem by celebrated author Richard Wagamese, Anishinaabe artist **Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley** invokes the powerful wisdom of the ancestors in *Canada: We Are the Story*. A parent teaches a child their heritage language and celebrates their roots in *My Language Is a Garden*, written by **E.G. Alaraj** with illustrations by Rachel Wada. Against the breathtaking backdrop of Haida Gwaii, Haida author **Kung Jaadee** explores the relationships that connect us across time and space in *I am Connected*. Grades 1–3.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 5:30 PM | \$28

Andrew Sean Greer: Villa Coco

EVENT NUMBER
26

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

An aspiring archivist takes up residence in the Italian countryside, becoming the assistant to the defiantly youthful, 92-year-old Baronessa, owner of a wondrous villa filled with art and antiques. Their utterly charming adventures unfold under the Tuscan sun in Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Andrew Sean Greer's** *Villa Coco*, coloured with an endless stream of visitors, some love conundrums, and all the delights of la dolce vita. Greer himself moved from America to Italy a decade ago, and his book—and this charismatic conversation—will transport readers into an Italian summer, while offering vital reflections on how to live a meaningful life at any age. Moderated by **Alix Ohlin**.

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Catch these authors at this year's Vancouver Writers Fest!



Yasuko Thanh
Pizza Before We Die



Dina Del Bucchia
Tougher Than the Rest



Daniel Zomparelli
Super Castle Fun Park



L.E. Fox
This Book Is a Knife

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 5:30 PM | \$28 \$

Ruth Ozeki in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER
27

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Multi-award-winning author **Ruth Ozeki** returns with a spellbinding story collection that will delight longtime fans—along with those who have yet to discover her philosophically witty, deeply compassionate work, including novels such as *The Book of Form and Emptiness* and *A Tale for the Time Being*. Spanning eras and geographies, the razor-sharp stories in *The Typing Lady* explore childhood ambition, youthful desire, midlife reinvention, and the unsparing clarity of old age. An illustrious writer at the height of her powers, Ozeki will discuss how we record ourselves in language, how language records us in return, and her own storied career. Moderated by **Margaret Gallagher**.

Presented in partnership with **Catalyst Agents**.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 5:30 PM | \$28 \$

Housing Inc. with Leilani Farha

EVENT NUMBER
29

RS THE REVUE STAGE

In Vancouver, in Canada, and across the globe, housing has become a crisis of humanity—one engineered by dictators, presidents, and prime ministers, and perfected by the financial firms that turn homes into sites of extraction. This year's Massey Lectures will be delivered by **Leilani Farha**, Global Director of an international human rights organization and former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing. In *Housing Inc.*, and in this incisive conversation, Farha reckons with a crisis four decades in the making, and argues that the fight for home requires a different ideology in which every person counts. You'll walk away invigorated to fight for housing justice, and humanity. Moderated by **Jackie Wong**.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 5:30 PM | \$28 \$

Chantel Acevedo: Spotlight on Cuba

EVENT NUMBER
28

N THE NEST

Chantel Acevedo has “written the impossible: an Odyssey for the Cuban 20th century” (Junot Diaz). Born in Miami to Cuban parents, Acevedo is the award-winning author of multiple books; *Cages* is her most personal and heartfelt yet. Over a thirty-year arc, *Cages* follows a man named Felix—a zookeeper in Cuba during the missile crisis, an exile in swinging sixties London, and finally, a dying man in 1980s AIDS-era Miami. The result is a dazzling mosaic of longing, deception, survival, and reconciliation, as well as a searing portrait of a gay man living in Fidel Castro's Cuba, where homosexuality was branded “counterrevolutionary.” Acevedo shares her illuminating book in conversation with **Maria Reva**.

VANCOUVER WRITERS FEST

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More than Human: Wildlife in an Age of Extinction

EVENT NUMBER

30

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS



GUEST CURATOR

ASL ASL PROVIDED

Human civilization has been a death knell for too many other lives on our shared planet. These three luminous works of nonfiction grapple with the ever-evolving relationships between humans and animals, and offer perspectives on climate change beyond human exceptionalism. Forced out of their natural habitats, synanthropes are wild animals who've found ways to survive and thrive in urban spaces. From crows to raccoons, scientist **Dan Werb's** *Our Wild Familiars* describes the ingenious ways they've adapted. As the climate emergency churns through the biodiversity of our planet, **Andrew Westoll** explores the practical and ethical quandaries of the modern zoo in *Born to Be Wild*. And in *Endings*, **Neil Griffin** takes us on an eye-opening, poetically lyrical, defiantly hopeful journey through the global history of extinction. Moderated by **Laura Lynch**.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 8:00 PM | \$28 \$

UBC Night Class

EVENT NUMBER

32

N THE NEST

This returning event is a perennial favourite of 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 **Sarah Leavitt**, **A.E. Osworth**, **Zac Hug**, **Frances Koncan**, and **Nalo Hopkinson**, as each instructor guides participants through a different concept and writing exercise. Night Class explores a wide array of styles and genres, from stage to screen, comics to fiction, and more. This workshop is suitable for writers of every experience level. Hosted by **Taylor Brown-Evans**.

Presented in collaboration with UBC School of Creative Writing.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 8:00 PM | \$28 \$

Valeria Luiselli in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER

31

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Your favourite author likely reads **Valeria Luiselli**. *The Chicago Review* of Books called her "a bard for our modern times." The recipient of a MacArthur "Genius" grant and International Dublin Literary Award, her awards and accolades are countless. In her latest anticipated novel, *Beginning Middle End*, a mother and daughter take a roadtrip across Sicily following the collapse of a marriage and the dissolution of their traditional family structure. The journey unearths the origins of many generations of the family, and even further back, to a mythical and geological past. In conversation with **Eleanor Wachtel**, Luiselli will delve into eternal questions about home, family, time, and memory.

Presented in partnership with Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 8:00 PM | \$28 \$

The World We Long For with Vivek Shraya and Kai Cheng Thom

EVENT NUMBER

33

RS THE REVUE STAGE

Join two of Canada's most beloved trans authors as they celebrate the release of two works of fiction exploring dystopian and utopian worlds that are frightening, fantastical, and not so far away from the world we live in today: **Vivek Shraya's** *The Hystericals*, and **Kai Cheng Thom's** *The Shapeshifter's Guide To Gym Class*. As communities around the world face the ongoing impacts of social, political, economic and environmental crises, visionary stories such as these are more important than ever. Trans and queer communities will be celebrated at this powerful and healing event, and all allies and book lovers are welcome.

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

Of Love and Lies

EVENT NUMBER
34

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

YOUTH

Why does love so often seem to be fraught with secrets, fakery, and lies? The protagonists of these coming-of-age novels navigate complicated relationships and false narratives, striving towards the truth in whom and how they love. **Tanya Boteju's** *Lake Life* follows two teens who agree to fake-date for their own self-serving reasons, until their plan goes awry. In **Ramin Abbas** *Has MAJOR Questions*, **Ahmad Saber** shares the tender and funny story of a gay Muslim teen wondering if he needs to choose between his faith and his queer identity. And a young man must confront a long-buried family secret, his tumultuous relationship with his father, and the girl who connects it all, in **Aaron Cully Drake's** *When the World Was Twice as Big*. Hear how to depict difficult relationships on the page—and how to face them in real life. Moderated by **Rachel Sargeant**. Grades 8–12.

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

Adventure Awaits!

EVENT NUMBER
35

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

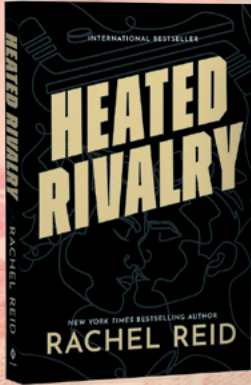
YOUTH

Pack your bags, take a deep breath, and prepare to face down a kelpie, a cyclops, and a very stubborn Highlander cow! Incredible adventures await in these page-turning books for middle grade readers. **Rachael King's** *The Grimmelings* is an unforgettable fantasy adventure about Ella, a thirteen year-old girl who must break the curse that threatens her community. Butter the cat and Owl the raven do not get along, but must band together on a timeless adventure to save their witch in **Erin Bow's** *Witchward Bound*. **Emilie Christie Burack's** *Dominic Bean and the Mammoth Melt* is filled with awe-inspiring science, exciting climate activism, and a secret woolly mammoth. The authors will share how they come up with such thrilling ideas, along with a few stories of their own childhood adventures. Moderated by **France Perras**. Grades 4–7.

SEE THESE AUTHORS AT THE VANCOUVER WRITERS FEST

SEPTEMBER OFF-SEASON PROGRAMMING

OCTOBER PROGRAMMING





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

Turi King: The Secrets of our DNA

EVENT NUMBER
36

N THE NEST

YOUTH

ADULT DAYTIME

Professor **Turi King** is one of the world's most eminent authorities on DNA and genetic research. Director of the Milner Centre for Evolution at the University of Bath, she is known for her academic work leading the genetics and identification of Richard III, advising on the case of Mary Jane Kelly (the last victim of Jack the Ripper), and leading the project on sequencing Hitler's genome. In *The Secrets of Our DNA*, she opens a dazzling window into the world of modern genetics; takes us on a journey to understand the real science behind some of the world's most famous crimes; and explains how genetics informs every aspect of our lives. King has won awards for her public engagement, and this event promises to present complex research in an accessible and utterly fascinating way for upper high school students. Moderated by **Margaret Gallagher**. *This event is suitable for adults and grades 10–12.*

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

Masterclass with Faith Erin Hicks

EVENT NUMBER
37

RS THE REVUE STAGE

YOUTH

Writer and artist **Faith Erin Hicks** has worked on famous franchises from *The Last of Us* to *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. Her solo titles have been *New York Times* bestsellers and won multiple awards. In this middle grade masterclass, she'll share the inspiration behind *Inbetweeners*, her new graphic novel about twin sisters who face various challenges when they go to animation camp; offer some tips and practices for creating compelling illustrated narratives; and even bring out her pens for an exciting on-stage drawing demo. This is a can't-miss event for budding graphic novelists and fans. *Grades 4–7.*

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



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

Word! 3

EVENT NUMBER

38

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

YOUTH

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 and quick to sell out, that this year we’re offering *three* chances to catch it. This Word! event features three exceptional performers: **Brandon Wint**, a sought-after performer who has presented across Canada and in Australia, Lithuania, Latvia, and Jamaica; poet and producer **fanny kearse**, who fuses their experience as a social worker and lived experiences as a marginalized human to express their activism through art; and **Ayda Niknami**, whose work explores Iranian diasporic subjectivity, love, and relational autonomy. *Grades 8–12.*

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

Meet My Family

EVENT NUMBER

39

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

YOUTH

Meet different families and cultures whose traditions create a loving home for kids, through these colourful picture books for young readers. *Cemetery Game* by author **Alan Woo**, with illustrations by Rachel Wada, explores the ancestor-honouring rituals of the Chinese spring festival Ching Ming, and how to find fun in them, too. Eat and explore with a young Indigenous girl visiting her family’s reserve in **Kim Spencer’s** *Springtime in Kitkatla*. A boy learns how to say goodbye to a member of his own family—the koi fish he’s always cared for—in **Jack Wong’s** *Goodbye, Koi*, illustrated in the tradition of Chinese brush painting. This cozy storytime with sequential presentations will inspire little ones to reflect on their own family traditions, and approach others’ with curiosity. *Grades 1–3.*

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

Masterclass with Monique Gray Smith

EVENT NUMBER

40

N THE NEST

YOUTH

When Charlie’s Kohkom asks him what the best part of his school day was, he knows right away: Indigenous drum circle! In *Kohkom’s First Drum*, Kohkom tells him that not very long ago she was gifted her very first drum, at a ceremony for children who never returned home from residential schools. Taken from her family when she was very little because of something called the Sixties Scoop, Kohkom only later learned what being Cree meant. Charlie teaches her a song so they can play their drums together. This masterclass for young readers with acclaimed children’s author **Monique Gray Smith** will celebrate the activities that bring families and communities together, and encourage readers to treat others with compassion. *Grades 3–6.*

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 1:00 PM | \$28

So the Story Goes

EVENT NUMBER

41

RS THE REVUE STAGE

ADULT DAYTIME

Short stories are one of our favourite forms of storytelling at the Festival, and the authors of these three exceptional collections have gifted us with a bounty of astonishing worlds, multifaceted characters, and profound insights to fill our hearts and our shelves. The clever, wry stories in **Dina Del Bucchia’s** *Tougher Than the Rest* investigate the ripple effects of wealth disparity on women. **Chanel Sutherland** traces the lives of Caribbean immigrants navigating life and identity in Canadian cities, in her linked short story collection, *Layaway Child*. **Amal El-Mohtar** offers glimpses into gleaming worlds and fairy tales with teeth, and a plethora of award-winning stories, in *Seasons of Glass and Iron*. Moderated by **Corinna Chong**.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 5:30 PM | \$28 

David Szalay: *Flesh*

EVENT NUMBER
42

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

Winner of the 2025 Booker Prize, **David Szalay's** *Flesh* is both a hypnotic page-turner and a revelatory exploration of desire, wealth, masculinity, and free will. A young man is carried thrillingly upwards on the currents of the twenty-first century's tides of money and power, from poverty to unimaginable riches—until his own competing impulses threaten to undo him completely. The Booker's panel of judges declared they “had never read anything quite like [it].” Szalay sits down for a conversation about *Flesh*, and the ineffable fates and forces that drive a life. Moderated by **Alix Ohlin**.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 5:30 PM | \$28 

Kim Echlin: *Storytelling for a World in Turmoil*

EVENT NUMBER
43

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

The acts of reading, writing, and sharing our stories are steadfast bastions against repression and despair; literature has been our shepherd throughout time, and—contrary to what some may believe—it is more essential and alive now than ever. In *Tell Others: Storytelling for a World in Turmoil*, award-winning author **Kim Echlin** blends her lived experience in different parts of the world with her wide-ranging reading, to explore in fresh ways how literature offers solace, thwarts censorship, and incites meaningful acts of resistance against the darkneses of our world. Join Echlin on a profound journey from Yugoslavia to China, and through the works of Milan Kundera, Salman Rushdie, and Margaret Atwood, as she sits down with **Aislinn Hunter** to discuss the stories that can never be silenced.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 5:30 PM | \$28 

Kawai Strong Washburn in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER
44

N THE NEST

Kawai Strong Washburn's debut novel, *Sharks in the Time of Saviors*, made him an instant literary phenomenon; it won the 2021 PEN/Hemingway award, was longlisted for the Center For Fiction First Novel Prize, and was selected as one of the year's top books by Barack Obama and the *New York Times*, among multiple other publications. He returns with a new epic tale in *The Names of the New World*, following an irresistible pair of lovers as they try to survive the destruction caused by a massive storm. Join us to hear a rising star of the literary world, before he sweeps the awards lists again. Moderated by **Maria Reva**.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 5:30 PM | \$28 

Crime Time Conversations

EVENT NUMBER
45

RS THE REVUE STAGE

Discover some of the most anticipated mystery, suspense, and crime novels of the season, as three authors take the stage to introduce their books in conversation with **Marian Botsford Fraser**. *Lower City* is a bold debut from **Alex Spring** AKA Jared Bland, blending a high-stakes viral kidnapping with incisive real-world social commentary. Detective Kate Taylor races against time to solve an art-world heist with life-or-death consequences in **William Wodhams's** *Thirty Feet Under*. Bestselling Irish author **Liz Nugent** enthralled Festival-goers with *Strange Sally Diamond*; she returns with *The Truth About Ruby Cooper*, a dark and addictive novel about two sisters and the shocking incident that changes their lives forever.

Liz Nugent's attendance made possible thanks to the generous support of Culture Ireland.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 7:30 PM | \$28

Cory Doctorow on Life After AI

EVENT NUMBER
46

UC ST. ANDREW'S-WESLEY UNITED CHURCH

In modern tech parlance, a centaur is a person who uses technology to be a better, more productive version of themselves; a reverse centaur, then, is a person forced by technology to work at an inhuman pace. These stories are all too familiar: drivers made to deliver all day long; warehouse workers forced to work without bathroom breaks; and now, knowledge workers asked for impossible productivity under the mirage of AI efficiency. In *The Reverse Centaur's Guide to Life After AI*, **Cory Doctorow**—the bestselling author of *Enshittification* and *The Internet Con*—deftly pops the AI bubble, recounting how we found ourselves in this dire situation and how we can advance to a place where the tools work for us, instead of the other way around. Moderated by **David Beers**.

Presented in partnership with **Raincoast Books**.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 8:00 PM | \$28

Marlon James in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER
47

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

The year is 1988: eight men in Kingston, Jamaica begin rehearsals for a play. Each has a different reason for being involved, but they all share one inescapable truth: all of them are gay, and must contend with the dangers that such a truth lays bare. In *The Disappears*, Booker Prize-winning author **Marlon James** (now nominated for the Prize once again in 2026) offers a harrowing, unflinching, deeply human portrait of queer life in 1980s and 1990s Jamaica. James—who grew up in Jamaica and moved to the United States to escape the homophobia he faced—will share his profoundly moving latest work in conversation with **Elamin Abdelmahmoud**.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 8:00 PM | \$28

Yasuko Thanh:
An Eyewitness Account in Gaza

EVENT NUMBER
48

N THE NEST

In the midst of the genocide in Gaza, ordinary Palestinian citizen Hassan Kanafani began posting about his daily experiences on Reddit. Three activists, moved by his words, collected his posts—which made their way to award-winning author **Yasuko Thanh**, who worked with Hassan to turn them into this book of powerful, clear-eyed witness. *Pizza Before We Die* is an essential first-hand account of the horrors of the genocide, and the dignity and resistance of the Palestinian people. Thanh is joined on-stage by **Carol Shaben**, author of *The Marriott Cell*: her co-written account of the story of wrongfully imprisoned *Al Jazeera* journalist Mohamed Fahmy. Together, they'll discuss what it means to share someone else's story when they are so horribly at risk.

Yasuko Thanh's attendance presented thanks to the generous support of an anonymous patron.

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The Festival runs from October 18–25. Positions are available September–October.

Apply by September 28, 2026.

writersfest.bc.ca/volunteer

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 8:30 PM | \$28 

The Poetry Bash

EVENT NUMBER

49

 PERFORMANCE WORKS

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. **Rob Taylor** will host this atmospheric evening of readings and conviviality, featuring an awe-inspiring lineup of readers: **Jordan Abel** (*Dad Era*), **Eve Joseph** (*Dismantling*), **Meghan Kemp-Gee** (*Nebulas*), **Canisia Lubrin** (*Bright Machine*), **Billeh Nickerson** (*Blood Clot Banana Bag*), **Gwen Aube** (*Missed Connections with Tall Girls*), **Jess Housty** (*How to Nourish a Cannibal*), and Vancouver Poet Laureate **Elea Kraljii Gardiner** (*sometimes, forest*).

Presented in partnership with Modo.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 8:30 PM | \$28 

A Haunting of Novels

EVENT NUMBER

50

 THE REVUE STAGE

The pages of these engrossing new novels are haunted by the ghosts we've long known, along with the ones born out of our current techno-capitalist age. The jump scares here come from isolation, guilt, technology, corporate bureaucracy, and the corpse of one reanimated executive director. In **Kim Fu's** *The Valley of Vengeful Ghosts*, a woman is left unmoored by the passing of her cherished mother—and her final directive to purchase real estate. Weaving together the perspectives of multiple fascinating and endearing characters, **Daniel Zomparelli's** *Super Castle Fun Park* explores our abiding need for connection, with both wit and melancholy. *We Are Underlings* by **Doretta Lau** is a wildly imaginative, absurdist dark comedy, set at the only theme park devoted to death, dying, and the afterlife. Moderated by **Robert Wiersema**.

Teachers
& Educators,**PRO-D DAY**
FRIDAY, OCT 23

Take advantage of the Pro-D Day by joining us for daytime events on Friday, October 23 that have been curated with professional development in mind. Open to everyone, these events fit current curriculum needs, and will inspire further conversation. They are also suitable for mature high school students (*Grades 11–12 recommended*).

**51. Ece Temelkuran in Conversation
with Commissioner Kasari Govender**

10am at Performance Works

52. Good Reads

Catherine Chidgey, Ferdia Lennon, and Amal El-Mohtar
10am at Waterfront Theatre

**53. Do It Wrong: Poetry Masterclass
with Derek Beaulieu**

10am at The NEST

54. Storytelling from the Edge of Reality

Angélique Lalonde, Michelle Porter, and Portia Elan
10am at Revue Stage

55. Rollie Pemberton: Ways of Listening

1pm at The Improv Centre

56. Repair and Revive

Jason Dove Mark, Robert Moor, and John Vaillant
1pm at Performance Works

57. Verses of Transformation

1pm at Waterfront Theatre

58. Monique Gray Smith: Sharing the Light

1pm at The NEST

59. Sally Hayden: This Is Also a Love Story

1pm at Revue Stage

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 10:00 AM | FREE \$

Ece Temelkuran in Conversation with Commissioner Kasari Govender

EVENT NUMBER 51

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

LIVESTREAMED

ASL ASL PROVIDED

BC's Human Rights Commissioner, **Kasari Govender**, hosts acclaimed Turkish author and journalist **Ece Temelkuran** for a vital in-person conversation and episode of the Beyond the Headlines series. They will discuss Temelkuran's latest book, *Nation of Strangers: Rebuilding Home in the 21st Century*, a Commissioner's Book Club selection, which considers a world wherein people are increasingly "unhomed." Exploring the experiences of refugees and exiles, and those who feel politically alienated, morally estranged, economically excluded, or no longer able to recognize the countries and systems around them, they'll discuss how we might rebuild "home" through our relationships and the strength we find with one another. This event is free to attend in-person or via livestream.

Presented in partnership with BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 10:00 AM | \$28 \$

Good Reads

EVENT NUMBER 52

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Our Artistic Director has the honour of reading piles upon piles of brilliant new releases every year. These three picks are reads she couldn't put down until the very last page. **Catherine Chidgey's** *The Book of Guilt* tells the gripping tale of three brothers, the only boys left in an orphanage after their friends succumb to a mysterious illness. Shortlisted for multiple awards, **Ferdia Lennon's** *Glorious Exploits* is a riotously funny account of two potters who decide to stage a play amid the Peloponnesian War. *Seasons of Glass and Iron* is a wondrous new collection, filled with award-winning and nominated stories from **Amal El-Mohtar**. In sequential interviews with **Tara McGuire**, the authors will share their compelling latest works.

Ferdia Lennon's attendance made possible thanks to the generous support of Culture Ireland. Catherine Chidgey's attendance generously supported by Creative New Zealand Toi Aotearoa.

Concessions available at: Revue Stage Waterfront Theatre Performance Works

Generously supported by Red Truck Brewing.

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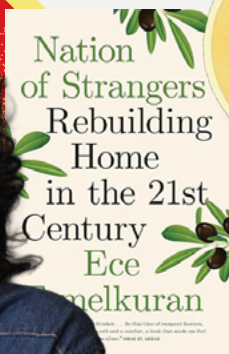


Ece Temelkuran: In conversation with Commissioner Kasari Govender

B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner speaks with author of her July 2026 **Commissioner's Book Club** pick, *Nation of Strangers*, about the experiences of those who feel like outsiders within their own countries and systems.



Ece Temelkuran
Author



Kasari Govender
B.C. Human Rights Commissioner

October 23, 2026 | 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. PT

Attend in person at: Performance Works
1218 Cartwright St, Vancouver BC

Or stream live at: bchumanrights.ca/beyond-the-headlines

The Commissioner's Book Club features monthly adult and children's selections to help readers connect with human rights issues. Learn more and read along at bchumanrights.ca/book-club or scan:



British Columbia's
**Office of the Human Rights
Commissioner**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 10:00 AM | \$28 

Do It Wrong: Poetry Masterclass with Derek Beaulieu

EVENT NUMBER

53

N THE NEST

In this radically liberating masterclass, **Derek Beaulieu** will hand poets, students, and educators a permission slip to take a path others reject, do the counter-intuitive thing, and embrace the weird. Beaulieu is the Director of Literary Arts at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity and the award-winning author/editor of over 25 collections. *Do It Wrong: How to Be a Poet In the Twenty-First Century* distills 20 years of his experience teaching creative writing into a joyfully mischievous manifesto on how to write and teach poetry with meaning. Come together with other poets for a playful and generative workshop.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 10:00 AM | \$28 

Storytelling from the Edge of Reality

EVENT NUMBER

54

RS THE REVUE STAGE

Taking place in the liminal spaces between reality, fantasy, and dreams, these mesmerizing novels will root themselves in your psyche, and linger for a long time to come. An unraveling couple are sucked into a maze of duplicate selves when they stumble on a porn film based on the ancient Greek myth of Ariadne, in **Angélique Lalonde's** eclectic *Variations on a Dream*. **Michelle Porter** spins a modern tale of identity and belonging in *A Glacier's Guide to Dying*, wherein a young Métis man searching for his missing father finds himself arguing with a dying glacier. And multiple narratives come together across time and space in **Portia Elan's** *Homebound*, united by the very things that make us human, and one unfinished video game saved to a floppy disk. Take a trip to the thresholds of reality. Moderated by **Michelle Cyca**.



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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 1:00 PM | \$28 

Rollie Pemberton: Ways of Listening

EVENT NUMBER

55

 IMPROV CENTRE

The internet has made music simultaneously omnipresent and disposable. There is more music being produced now than at any point in human history, and streaming platforms are the ultimate distribution model—yet algorithms and social media platforms have reduced music to background noise, dissuading listeners from developing their own taste, all while artist royalties plummet. In *Ways of Listening: Building a Deeper Relationship with Music in the Streaming Era*, acclaimed author **Rollie Pemberton**—AKA Cadence Weapon, Polaris Prize-winning rapper and producer—outlines a path forward for the contemporary music lover. In a lively conversation with **Elamin Abdelmahmoud**, he'll dissect our current musical landscape, from Charli xcx's groundbreaking *Brat* album rollout to AI's struggle to understand what makes a song popular.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 1:00 PM | \$28 

Repair and Revive

EVENT NUMBER

56

 PERFORMANCE WORKS GUEST CURATOR

In response to the cascading calamities of the climate emergency, three authors of vital works of environmental nonfiction come together to envision a path towards repairing our relationship with the earth—and reviving our awe of the natural world. From environmental advocate and longtime editor-in-chief of *Sierra* magazine **Jason Dove Mark**, *The Earth Said Remember Me* is a rallying cry and a manifesto against “shifting baseline syndrome”, or the normalization of extreme conditions. **Robert Moor**'s *In Trees*, a Best Book of the Year (*The New Yorker*, NPR), weaves across philosophy, history, and science to marvel at the miracle, and wisdom, of trees. **John Vaillant**'s *Fire Weather* won numerous awards for its insight into the 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire and its urgent warning about the rapidly changing relationship between fire and humankind. Come for an essential conversation about the future of our home. Moderated by **Arno Kopecky**.

BRINGING GREAT WRITERS TO VANCOUVER



CAMILLE DE PERETTI
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Europa Editions



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Henry Holt & Co



JUNE HUR
Behind Five Willows
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ERIC BECK RUBIN
Ten Clear Days
Turtle Point Press



PETRA HULOVÁ
The Long Version
World Editions



CORY DOCTOROW
The Reverse Centaur's Guide to Life After AI
Farrar, Straus and Giroux



ELLE TESCH
The Hanging Bones
Feiwel and Friends



CAROLINA PIHEGAS
The Cut Line
World Editions



AMAL EL-MOHTAR
Seasons of Glass and Iron
Tor



EMILY VARGA
The River She Became
Wednesday Books



FAITH ERIN HICKS
Inbetweens
First Second

Raincoast Distribution Group

For event listings, visit www.writersfest.bc.caFor more information about the authors, visit www.raincoastgroup.com

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 1:00 PM | \$28

Verses of Transformation

EVENT NUMBER
57

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Multi-award-winning poet **Canisia Lubrin** introduced this event at last year’s Festival to great accolade; attendees called it “inspiring and beautiful,” “a pure joy,” and remarked that “Vancouver needs more events like this.” We’re thrilled to bring it back for a second year, featuring a new lineup of poets to shake and wake up your spirit: **Jordan Abel**, **Gwen Aube**, **Camilla Gibb**, **Jess Housty**, **Shani Mootoo**, and **Lisa Robertson**. Once again, Lubrin will bring her bag of thought-provoking questions, and each poet will read from their work and reflect on a secret question drawn from the bag on-stage and posed, one poet to the next, in a carousel-style reading and fireside-style chat. The result is a uniquely memorable and transformative event.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 1:00 PM | \$28

Monique Gray Smith: Sharing the Light

EVENT NUMBER
58

N THE NEST

Award-winning author **Monique Gray Smith**’s books resonate with readers of all generations and backgrounds. In *Sharing the Light*, she weaves together short stories, poignant reflections, and thoughtful questions that invite readers to pause and reconnect with their inner light. And as an Indigenous author, Smith brings her cultural wisdom and unique perspective to each offering. This healing event will be filled with comforting stories and actionable guidance on how to care for ourselves and the world around us. You’ll leave hopeful and inspired. Moderated by **Carleigh Baker**.

Presented in partnership with Talking Stick Festival.



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Pacific Baroque Orchestra | Vancouver Youth Choir

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 1:00 PM | \$28

Sally Hayden: This Is Also a Love Story

EVENT NUMBER
59

RS THE REVUE STAGE

Celebrated foreign correspondent **Sally Hayden** has spent her career on the frontlines—with headlines in the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Al Jazeera*, and other outlets across the world—uncovering some of the darkest crises of our time. Yet in her latest work of nonfiction, *This Is Also a Love Story*, she’s chosen to highlight the incredible goodness she’s encountered, shown by people across the globe. Hear deeply human stories of enduring love in the face of catastrophe, from a mother in Nigeria who risks everything to save her daughter from forced marriage to Boko Haram militants, to a couple separated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Moderated by **Kathryn Gretzinger**.

Sally Hayden’s attendance made possible thanks to the generous support of Culture Ireland.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 5:00 PM | \$28

Icons of the Ice: Jennifer Botterill and Cassie Campbell-Pascall

EVENT NUMBER

60

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

It's Hockey Night at the Vancouver Writers Fest, where our stage will be graced by two legends who paved the way for women's hockey in Canada. As the longest-serving captain in Canadian women's hockey history, **Cassie Campbell-Pascall** was the first of any gender to lead the country to two Olympic gold medals. **Jennifer Botterill** debuted as the youngest player on Team Canada at the first Olympics for women's ice hockey, going on to win three gold medals. After retiring from the game, both women have continued to set records and advocate tirelessly for the future of women's hockey. They'll discuss life on and off the ice, in an inspiring conversation about how to give your all to any sport or passion. Moderated by **Karin Larsen**.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 5:00 PM | \$28

True Life Fiction

EVENT NUMBER

61

RS THE REVUE STAGE

Is it fact, fiction, or a malleable third category, somewhere in between? Three authors join us with standout works of autofiction, offering a kernel of truth and a dash of myth. **Shani Mootoo** offers her most intimate work yet in *Starry Starry Night*, following a young girl and her family as they navigate life in 1960s Trinidad. In *Ten Clear Days*, **Eric Beck Rubin** shares the story of his grandmother, a Holocaust survivor, who requests medical assistance in dying in her final days. **Damien Wilkins** joins us from New Zealand with novel *Delirious*, in which an aging couple faces challenging questions about care. Moderated by **Shaena Lambert**.

Participation of Eric Beck Rubin made possible thanks to the generous support of Sam Znaimer in memory of award-winning novelist Nancy Richler. Damien Wilkins' attendance generously supported by Creative New Zealand Toi Aotearoa.

2026/27 SEASON

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ROGERS V. ROGERS
JAN 19–31, 2027

Photo // Tom Rooney by Dahlia Katz

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18				
TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE	
7:30 PM	1	Special Event: Barbara Kingsolver in Conversation	OT	
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19				
TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE	
7:30 PM	1	Grand Openings: Read, Resist, Repair, Rejoice	PT	
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20				
TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE	
10:15 AM	2	Word! 1	PW	
10:15 AM	3	Masterclass with Gregor Craigie: How to Fight Misinformation	WT	
10:15 AM	4	Storytime with Willie Poll	N	
10:15 AM	5	Coming of Age	RS	
1:00 PM	6	Middle Grade Heroes	IC	
1:00 PM	7	Jesse Wentz: Tough Lies	WT	
1:00 PM	8	Graphic Novel Masterclass with Ian Boothby and Pia Guerra	N	
1:00 PM	9	Mark Medley on Pursuing Impossible Goals	RS	
6:00 PM	10	Patrick deWitt in Conversation	WT	
6:00 PM	11	Up Next: Debuts to Watch	N	
6:00 PM	12	Ayad Akhtar: The Radiance	RS	
7:30 PM	13	An Evening with Colin James	YT	
8:30 PM	14	Tayari Jones: Kin	PW	
8:30 PM	15	Iain Reid and Ellie Foubi: Horror in Hollywood	WT	
8:30 PM	16	Arizona O'Neill: Opioids and Organs	N	
8:30 PM	17	Canary in a Coal Mine	RS	

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21				
TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE	
10:15 AM	18	Word! 2	PW	
10:15 AM	19	Earth is Ours	WT	
10:15 AM	20	Storytime with Friends	N	
10:15 AM	21	Us Against the World	RS	
1:00 PM	22	Of Magic and Monsters	PW	
1:00 PM	23	Standing Up for Ourselves	WT	
1:00 PM	24	Jackie Morris: The Art of The Book of Birds	N	
1:00 PM	25	We Are Connected	RS	
5:30 PM	26	Andrew Sean Greer: Villa Coco	PW	
5:30 PM	27	Ruth Ozeki in Conversation	WT	
5:30 PM	28	Chantel Acevedo: Spotlight on Cuba	N	
5:30 PM	29	Housing Inc. with Leilani Farha	RS	
8:00 PM	30	More than Human: Wildlife in an Age of Extinction	PW	
8:00 PM	31	Valeria Luiselli in Conversation	WT	
8:00 PM	32	UBC Night Class	N	
8:00 PM	33	The World We Long For with Vivek Shraya and Kai Cheng Thom	RS	
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22				
TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE	
10:15 AM	34	Of Love and Lies	PW	
10:15 AM	35	Adventure Awaits!	WT	
10:15 AM	36	Turi King: The Secrets of our DNA	N	
10:15 AM	37	Masterclass with Faith Erin Hicks	RS	
1:00 PM	38	Word! 3	PW	
1:00 PM	39	Meet My Family	WT	
1:00 PM	40	Masterclass with Monique Gray Smith	N	
1:00 PM	41	So the Story Goes	RS	
5:30 PM	42	David Szalay: Flesh	PW	

5:30 PM	43	Kim Echlin: Storytelling for a World in Turmoil	WT
5:30 PM	44	Kawai Strong Washburn in Conversation	N
5:30 PM	45	Crime Time Conversations	RS
7:30 PM	46	Cory Doctorow on Life After AI	AW
8:00 PM	47	Marlon James in Conversation	WT
8:00 PM	48	Yasuko Thanh: An Eyewitness Account in Gaza	N
8:30 PM	49	The Poetry Bash	PW
8:30 PM	50	A Haunting of Novels	RS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE
10:00 AM	51	Ece Temelkuran in Conversation with Commissioner Kasari Govender	PW ASL
10:00 AM	52	Good Reads	WT
10:00 AM	53	Do It Wrong: Poetry Masterclass with Derek Beaulieu	N
10:00 AM	54	Storytelling from the Edge of Reality	RS
1:00 PM	55	Rollie Pemberton: Ways of Listening	IC
1:00 PM	56	Repair and Revive	PW 
1:00 PM	57	Verses of Transformation	WT
1:00 PM	58	Monique Gray Smith: Sharing the Light	N
1:00 PM	59	Sally Hayden: This Is Also a Love Story	RS
5:00 PM	60	Icons of the Ice: Jennifer Botterill and Cassie Campbell-Pascall	PW
5:00 PM	61	True Life Fiction	RS
5:00 PM	62	Liz Nugent in Conversation	N
5:00 PM	63	Eden Robinson in Conversation	WT
8:00 PM	64	Dancing On My Own: Lyrics Night	PW
7:00 PM	65	An Evening with the Scots: Douglas Stuart and Damian Barr	AW
8:00 PM	66	Anakana Schofield: Library of Brothel	N
8:00 PM	67	The Politics of Fiction	RS
10:00 PM	68	Let's Groove: Dance Party	PW

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE
10:30 AM	69	Roundtable on Canadian Sovereignty	PW
10:30 AM	70	Echoes of WWII: Resisting Fascism, Then and Now	WT CART
10:30 AM	71	Poets in Conversation	N
10:30 AM	72	David Treuer in Conversation	RS
1:30 PM	73	Vancouver: A Field Guide	AU
1:30 PM	74	Molly Crabapple on the Story of the Jewish Bund	WT
1:30 PM	75	Blending Genres	N
1:30 PM	76	The Dating Game: Romance Novel Edition	RS
5:00 PM	77	Jason Stanley: Erasing History	WT
5:00 PM	78	Sarah Ellis in Conversation	N
5:00 PM	79	Beauty and Terror: Kevin Hardcastle and Zak Jones in Conversation	RS
7:30 PM	80	Lit Cab	PW
8:00 PM	81	Edwidge Danticat in Conversation	WT
8:00 PM	82	The Responsibility of War	N
8:00 PM	83	Kliph Nesteroff: Sorry, We're Funny	RS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

TIME	#	EVENT	VENUE
10:00 AM	84	Clara Hughes: Learning to Breathe	PW ASL
10:30 AM	85	Emerge	WT
10:30 AM	86	Keum Suk Gendry-Kim: My Friend Kim Jong Un	N
10:30 AM	87	The Conversations	RS
10:30 AM	88	Food for Thought	DR
1:30 PM	89	All Eyes on the North	WT
1:30 PM	90	Women's Voices from Europe	N
1:30 PM	91	Best of BC Mysteries	RS
3:30 PM	92	The Afternoon Tea	PW
7:00 PM	93	Closing Night: True Patriot Love with Carol Off	YT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 5:00 PM | \$28

Liz Nugent in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER
62

THE NEST

Before becoming a full-time writer, **Liz Nugent** worked in film, theatre, and television. We're lucky she turned her efforts to writing perfect jewels of crime fiction, like *Skin Deep*, *Our Little Cruelties*, and *Strange Sally Diamond*. Her #1 bestselling books have won her devoted fans around the world, along with five Irish Book Awards. Nugent joins us in-person from Dublin with her latest brilliantly plotted masterpiece, *The Truth About Ruby Cooper*. This new, gripping suspense novel alternates between the perspectives of two sisters as they grapple with the incident that changed both of their lives forever. Hear from one of the top crime writers working today. Moderated by **Robert Wiersema**.

Liz Nugent's attendance made possible thanks to the generous support of Culture Ireland.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 5:00 PM | \$28

Eden Robinson in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER
63

WATERFRONT THEATRE

Internationally acclaimed Haisla and Heiltsuk author **Eden Robinson** has cemented her place as one of Canada's literary giants. From her groundbreaking debut, *Monkey Beach*, to her bestselling Trickster trilogy, she brings readers on page-turning rides through supernatural worlds steeped in Indigenous traditions. *The Sorceress of Sky Serpents* is the latest anticipated adventure from the Writers' Trust Engel/Findley Award-winning writer, set on a dangerous planet where monsters haunt the survivors of an apocalyptic sorcerers' war. In conversation with **Monique Gray Smith**, Robinson will discuss how she wove fantasy with the Indigenous cultures of the Pacific Northwest to create a new, one-of-a-kind world.

Presented in partnership with Penguin Random House Canada and Talking Stick Festival.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 8:00 PM | \$45

Dancing On My Own: Lyrics Night

EVENT NUMBER
64

PERFORMANCE WORKS

Help! Our Festival authors are stuck on an Island in the Sun! But look on the Mr. Brightside—they've each got one Irreplaceable song to keep them Stayin' Alive. In this year's edition of our beloved Lyrics Night—featuring dramatic readings of song lyrics that will have you laughing, crying, and everything in between—writers will serenade you with the one song they'd bring to a deserted island. Whether their picks are Rhythms of the Night or Bittersweet Symphonies, they'll have you feeling like you're Soaking Up the Sun right there with them. Hosted by **Elamin Abdelmahmoud** with **DJ Ice B**. See our website for the list of participants! Plus, stick around afterwards to groove with your favourite authors at our celebrated Dance Party (Event #68).

Add a free ticket to event 68. Let's Groove: Dance Party when you purchase tickets to Lyrics Night!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 7:00 PM | \$28

An Evening with the Scots:
Douglas Stuart and Damian Barr

EVENT NUMBER
65

ST. ANDREW'S-WESLEY CHURCH

Enjoy an evening in the fine company of two of Scotland's most renowned contemporary writers: **Douglas Stuart** and **Damian Barr**. Stuart, the Booker Prize-winning author of *Shuggie Bain* and *Young Mungo*, returns with his latest masterpiece recently longlisted for the 2026 Booker Prize, *John of John*. This astonishingly layered portrait of a father-son relationship is sure to bring Stuart new awards and devotees. Damian Barr's debut novel, *You Will Be Safe Here*, was shortlisted for six major awards; his acclaimed book *The Two Roberts* reimagines one of the most passionate love stories of modern British art, in a moving meditation on devotion and obsession, art, and class. Moderated by **Bill Richardson**.

Damian Barr's attendance presented thanks to the generous support of an anonymous patron and Publishing Scotland's Author International Travel Fund.



Illuminating Stories by *Homegrown* Voices

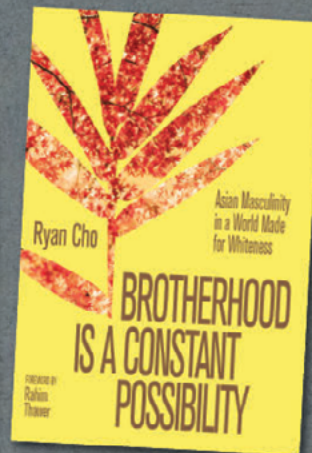
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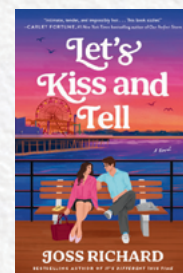
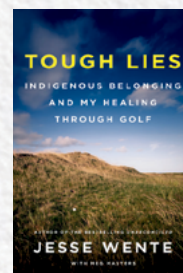
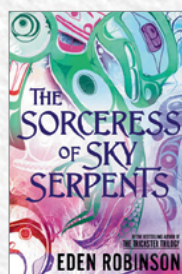
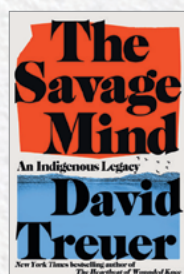
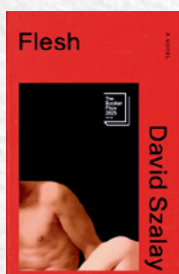
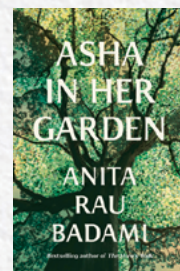
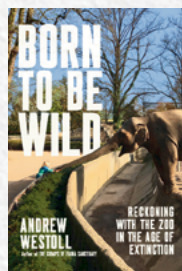
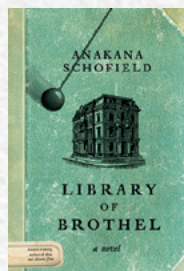
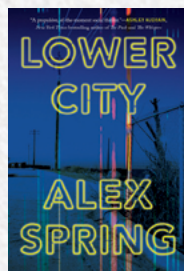
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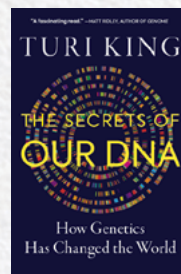
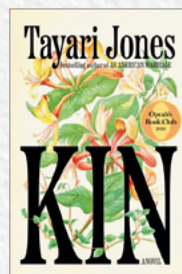
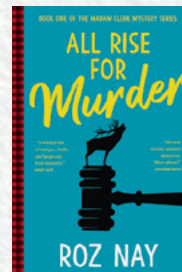
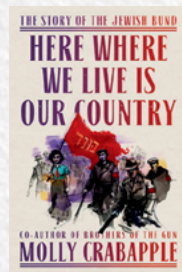
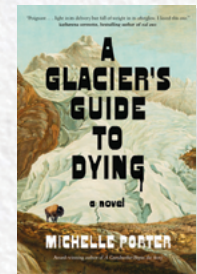
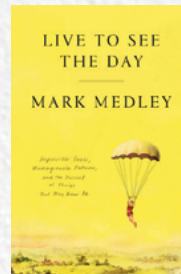
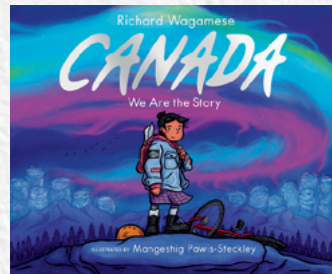
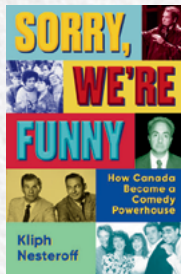
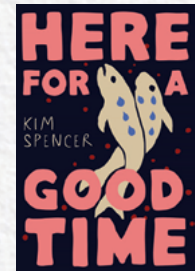
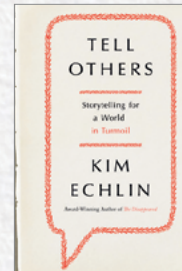
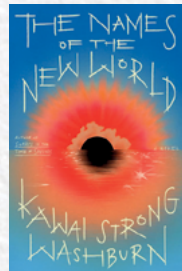
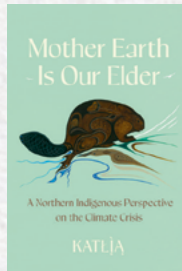
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 8:00 PM | \$28

Anakana Schofield: Library of Brothel

EVENT NUMBER

66

THE NEST

Embark on a literary journey like nothing before in **Anakana Schofield's** *Library of Brothel*. In a class with Beckett, Joyce, and O'Brien (*The Guardian*), Schofield's absurdist creation is a cri de coeur for human connection and the right to meaningful work, told with irresistibly inventive style and uproarious humour. In a building perched in a city where jobs are scarce, no one can find a date, and many struggle just to be housed, a unique and precarious economy flourishes. Cross the threshold and enter a world of intellectual stimulation and effervescent experiments with language. Moderated by **Mark Medley**.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 8:00 PM | \$28

The Politics of Fiction

EVENT NUMBER

67

THE REVUE STAGE

Fiction wields a uniquely compelling power to critique or disseminate political ideas, and in doing so, bend the course of history. Whether they examine a lost history of labour buried underneath Paris, a rent-controlled apartment in modern-day Manhattan, or a proletarian revolution at the end of the twenty-first century, these fascinating novels are bolstered by their political missives. **Jordy Rosenberg's** *Night Night Fawn* offers an unhinged manifesto from a dying woman, and "the Marxist, trans, comedic dystopia we need in 2026" (*Electric Literature*). **Lisa Robertson** poetically excavates the unrepresented labour of Parisian laundresses, and of women past and present, in *Riverwork*. Capitalism is skewered in *The Coffin of Honey*, **Geoffrey D. Morrison's** space-age fable of Marxist theory and ancient empires. Moderated by **David Moscrop**.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 10:00 PM | \$28

Let's Groove: Dance Party

EVENT NUMBER

68

PERFORMANCE WORKS

We Just Can't Get Enough of our annual dance party where writers and readers alike get On the Floor to Pump Up the Jam. There's no need to feel Blue (Da Ba Dee) when you can Jump Around to some Club Classics. And as with every Festival event, you'll face thought-provoking questions like "What Is Love?", "Can I Kick It?", and "Who Let the Dogs Out?" So please Say You'll Be There, because You Should Be Dancing at this Festival Friday night favourite. Featuring **DJ Ice B** on the turntables.

The dance party is ticketed and open to all; receive a free ticket to the dance party if you purchase tickets to 64. Lyrics Night at the same time!

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 10:30 AM | \$28 

Roundtable on Canadian Sovereignty

EVENT NUMBER

69

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

Canadian politics is at a crossroads, faced with both foreign interference and aggression, and crumbling institutions from within. Respected authors and political commentators take the stage to address the threats undermining Canadian democracy and sovereignty, and discuss solutions for our survival. **Andrew Coyne's** *The Crisis of Canadian Democracy* is a powerful wake-up call, revealing a parliamentary structure eroded by unaccountable leaders, disempowered MPs, manipulated elections, and systemic dysfunction. **Patrick Lennox** worked to counter foreign interference for over a decade; in *On Treason*, he investigates how the Alberta separatism movement has been aided and abetted by foreign actors and targeted disinformation. **Carol Off** takes us on a journey through Canadian history in *True Patriot Love*, weaving it with personal experiences to offer a clear-eyed perspective on the future of our country. Moderated by **Max Fawcett**.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 10:30 AM | \$28 

Echoes of WWII: Resisting Fascism, Then and Now

EVENT NUMBER

70

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

The warnings of WWII ring out piercingly today, as a new wave of fascism threatens countries around the globe. Acclaimed authors **Mark Braude** and **Jane Rogoyska** share the breathtaking real stories of ordinary citizens who resisted fascism and helped each other survive. Braude's *The Typewriter and the Guillotine* reveals the story of Janet Flanner, an American journalist assigned to write a puff piece about Paris. Upon encountering signs of rising extremism, she worked tirelessly to alert readers to the dangers of the Third Reich instead, reinventing *The New Yorker* in the process. The Hotel Lutetia in Paris has long been a meeting place for artists, intellectuals, musicians, and politicians; in *Hotel Exile*, Jane Rogoyska covers the years when it became a place of refuge for people escaping Nazi Germany. Moderated by **Robert Wiersema**.

Jane Rogoyska's appearance generously supported by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Vancouver.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 10:30 AM | \$28 

Poets in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER

71

N THE NEST

Join an exhilarating conversation about craft, language, and meaning as three renowned Canadian poets sit down for a wide-ranging conversation about the art of verse. **Canisia Lubrin** guided many memorable conversations as our 2025 Guest Curator; the Carol Shields Prize for Fiction-winning author returns with *Bright Machine*, a collection that addresses the myth of the developed world and its heirs and casualties. Griffin Poetry Prize-winning poet **Eve Joseph** takes things apart and builds them again from scratch, transforming the mundane into the mysterious, in *Dismantling*. Along with being a celebrated poet, **Derek Beaulieu** has 20 years of experience teaching creative writing; he offers a manifesto on thinking outside the box in *Do It Wrong: How to Be a Poet In the Twenty-First Century*. Hosted by **Aislinn Hunter**.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 10:30 AM | \$28 

David Treuer in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER

72

RS THE REVUE STAGE

Growing up on the Leech Lake reservation in Minnesota, bestselling author **David Treuer** inherited two often opposing views of America. His mother, the first American Indigenous woman judge in the country, grew up facing poverty and violence perpetuated by racist institutions. His father, a Holocaust survivor, came to view America as the country that offered him refuge and freedom from persecution. Treuer leverages this unique dual perspective in his groundbreaking memoir, *The Savage Mind: An Indigenous Legacy*. In this moving conversation, he'll reckon with the history of violence in North America and our complicity in normalizing it, while offering a hopeful view of Turtle Island's future. Moderated by **Stephanie Sinclair**.

Presented in partnership with Talking Stick Festival.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 1:30 PM | \$28 

Vancouver: A Field Guide

EVENT NUMBER
73

AU ARTS UMBRELLA

Local legends disclose little-known facts, share varying perspectives, and profile the people who keep Vancouver’s heart beating at this panel event centred on the city we call home. **Steve Burgess** offers his philosophy for living well on a budget, along with localized practical tips, in *Cheapskate in Lotusland*. Journalist **Christopher Cheung**’s *Very Vancouver* takes us beneath the surface of the “city of glass,” revealing how real families, businesses, and individuals are making a home here. **Justin McElroy** offers a different take in *Searching for the Best Place on Earth*: seeking a fresh vantage point, he visited fifty-two countries in fifty-two weeks to see how Vancouver truly compares on the world stage. Moderated by **Sam Wiebe**, the author of *Shot in Vancouver*, a history of Vancouver’s film industry.

Presented in partnership with the Magazine Association of BC.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 1:30 PM | \$28 

Molly Crabapple on the Story of the Jewish Bund

EVENT NUMBER
74

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Established in 1897, the Jewish Labor Bund was once the most influential Jewish political force in eastern Europe. Secular, socialist, and uncompromisingly anti-Zionist, the Bundists fought for dignity and equality, not in an imagined homeland in Palestine but “here where we live.” Award-winning writer and artist **Molly Crabapple** offers the first popular history of the Bund in *Here Where We Live Is Our Country*. Naomi Klein called it “that rarest of books: a gripping, human story of love, idealism, and betrayal—and an immense, rigorous contribution to the historical record.” Crabapple will bring a revolutionary movement to life, and address its message of solidarity and liberation in our current place in history, in conversation with **Peter Klein**.

Scholastic Canada is proud to present:



Photo credit: Nicola Davison

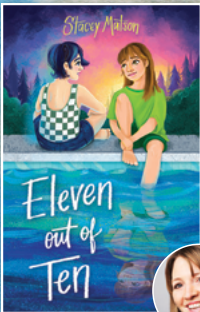


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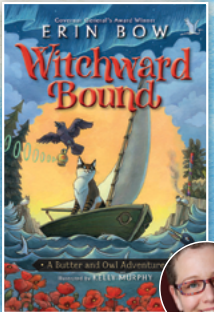


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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 1:30 PM | \$28

Blending Genres

EVENT NUMBER

75

N THE NEST

Each of these authors combine the unexpected—either writing in many genres across works, or blending multiple genres in one book. Bestselling author **Camilla Gibb**'s debut poetry collection, *I Used to Be a Pisces*, weaves poems of hope, grief, and the persistent pursuit of renewal with her original collage work. Straddling fiction and memoir, *Ten Clear Days* delves into the story of author **Eric Beck Rubin**'s grandmother, a Holocaust survivor who requested medical assistance in dying in her final days. **Anakana Schofield**'s previous book won the Amazon First Novel Award; she brings readers on a madcap journey through implausible architecture and syntactic innovation in *Library of Brothel*. Moderated by Vancouver Poet Laureate **Elea Kraljii Gardiner**.

Participation of Eric Beck Rubin made possible thanks to the generous support of **Sam Znaimer** in memory of **Nancy Richler**.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 5:00 PM | \$28

Jason Stanley: Erasing History

EVENT NUMBER

77

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Bestselling author **Jason Stanley** started teaching at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy as part of a small exodus of former Yale professors, all experts in authoritarianism, who left the United States in light of the Trump administration's attacks on civil liberties. In the United States and elsewhere across the globe, democracy faces new threats from authoritarian movements. To understand this assault, we must understand the lessons of our past. In *Erasing History*, Stanley exposes the true danger of authoritarianism's attacks on institutions of education, historically places of critical inquiry and preservation of common memory. He'll illustrate that hearts and minds are won in our schools and universities—places that democratic societies across the world are now ill-prepared to help defend against fascism. Moderated by **David Moscrop**.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 1:30 PM | \$28

The Dating Game:
Romance Novel Edition

EVENT NUMBER

76

RS THE REVUE STAGE

Looking for a hot new romance novel to sweep you off your feet? We've got four irresistible suitors for you! Inspired by dating game shows of yore, this panel puts romance authors in the hot seat to help you find your next match. **Bal Khabra** explores an unexpected spark between a star hockey player and his coach's daughter in *Embrace*. **Katrina Kwan** returns to the Festival with *Love Among Thieves*, a spicy romance between a hacker and his target. In *Let's Kiss and Tell*, Canada Reads-shortlisted author **Joss Richard** brings a sex columnist and a newspaper reporter together for a sizzling new twist on fake dating. And in *This Changes Everything*, **Danielle McKechnie** turns the nostalgia of a big-city romcom into a tender story about second chances. Take your most suitable book home, or all four; we encourage experimenting. Hosted by **Rachel Sargeant**.

WT50
Writers' Trust of Canada

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 5:00 PM | \$28

Sarah Ellis in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER
78

THE NEST

Sarah Ellis’s wife had been toughing it out with multiple sclerosis for more than a decade when she finally received a date for a medically assisted death in Switzerland. In *My Year in Fairyland*, Ellis, a celebrated children’s book author, shares an unforgettable memoir about the year of waiting for the appointed date—a year filled with astonishing moments of playfulness and joy, followed by searing grief, and abiding love. Bill Richardson, who called the book “its own kind of miracle,” interviews Ellis about her journey and what has come after, in this tender and intimate event.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 5:00 PM | \$28

Beauty and Terror: Kevin Hardcastle and Zak Jones in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER
79

THE REVUE STAGE

These acclaimed, must-read new novels immerse readers in searing family dramas set in rural North American communities. With unforgettable storylines and breathtaking prose, they illuminate heartwrenching generational inheritances of pain and violence—as well as the love and resilience of those living on the edge. Three sisters fight for ownership of their dead father’s farm in Kevin Hardcastle’s propulsive and thrilling *County Road Six*; in the process, a long-buried family secret comes to light, revealing an unanticipated inheritance of violence. Following three generations living in isolated Appalachia, Zak Jones’s *Fancy Gap* is an unflinching look at the desperation that throws kerosene on the flames of opioid use, poverty, illness, and apocalyptic Christianity. They’ll speak about how they crafted these revelatory novels with attention and empathy.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 7:30 PM | \$55

Lit Cab

EVENT NUMBER
80

PERFORMANCE WORKS

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 returns as our charismatic Musical Director, leading his band, The OxyMorons, in performing original pieces that will accompany lyrical readings from literary greats: Catherine Chidgey (*The Book of Guilt*), Kim Fu (*The Valley of Vengeful Ghosts*), Melissa Harrison (*The Given World*), Ferdia Lennon (*Glorious Exploits*), Jordy Rosenberg (*Night Night Fawn*), and Douglas Stuart (*John of John*).

Ferdia Lennon’s attendance made possible thanks to the generous support of Culture Ireland. Catherine Chidgey’s attendance generously supported by Creative New Zealand Toi Aotearoa.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 8:00 PM | \$28

Edwidge Danticat in Conversation

EVENT NUMBER
81

WATERFRONT THEATRE

The recipient of a MacArthur “Genius” grant, Edwidge Danticat’s renowned works of fiction include *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, an Oprah’s Book Club selection; *The Dew Breaker*, a PEN/Faulkner Award finalist and winner of the inaugural Story Prize; and *Claire of the Sea Light*, a *New York Times* Notable Book. *Dèy* is her first novel in more than a decade, and one of her most deeply affecting works yet. Moving from Haiti to Brooklyn to Miami, *Dèy* follows a narrator who flits between worlds like a firefly, telling a deeply affecting story of the Haitian diaspora, grief, and inseverable family ties. Danticat speaks to this exquisitely beautiful novel, and her work to date, with former host of CBC Radio’s *Writers & Company*, Eleanor Wachtel.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 8:00 PM | \$28

The Responsibility of War

EVENT NUMBER

82

N THE NEST

In the midst of deep suffering, there is also unassailable humanity, resistance, and hope; these authors come together for a powerful discussion about the terrible costs of war and our collective responsibility to humanity. In his essay collection *The Blood of Things*, **Jamaluddin Aram** reflects on the complexities of exile and his birthplace in Afghanistan. **Nazanine Hozar** is the Iranian-Canadian author of *The Small Ones*, a searing novel about children caught up in a military insurgence along the Iran–Iraq border. Foreign correspondent **Sally Hayden** has covered some of the darkest moments of our time; *This Is Also a Love Story* reveals the love and goodness she's encountered too, challenging us to reconsider preconceptions and imagine a better world. Moderated by **Minelle Mahtani**.

Sally Hayden's attendance made possible thanks to the generous support of Culture Ireland.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 8:00 PM | \$28

Kliph Nesteroff: Sorry, We're Funny

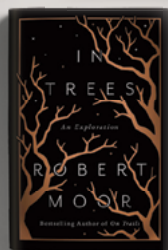
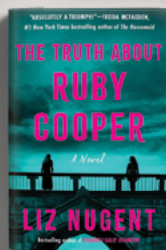
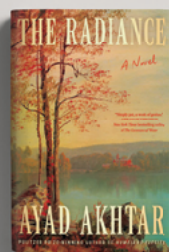
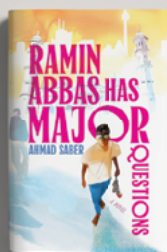
EVENT NUMBER

83

RS THE REVUE STAGE

"You can hardly move about Hollywood and Manhattan without bumping into Canadians," wrote *Variety* in the 1960s. Scores of talented Canadian comics had already infiltrated American writers' rooms and studios, while dreaming of a comedy scene they could call their very own. The infrastructure didn't exist at home yet, so our comedians began to build it independently. Pushing back against cultural conservatism, media control, and national modesty, they invented a new and distinctly Canadian kind of comedy—sly, smart and subversive, character-driven and absurdist, and quietly revolutionary. **Kliph Nesteroff**, the "premier popular historian of comedy" (*New York Times*) shares the impressive history of Canadian comedy in *Sorry, We're Funny* and at this entertaining event. Moderated by **Charles Demers**.

Simon & Schuster Canada presents



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 10:00 AM | \$28

Clara Hughes: Learning to Breathe

EVENT NUMBER
84

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

Elite Canadian athlete **Clara Hughes** is the only person in history to have won multiple medals in both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games. The six-time medalist powered through pain to achieve extraordinary success—with profound consequences for her body and mind. A catastrophic knee injury coincided with menopausal hot flashes and dizzying mood swings, forcing her into stillness and depression. Finding little support through traditional avenues, Clara turned to psychedelic-assisted therapy. Grab a cup of coffee and spend your Sunday with this Canadian icon as she shares her healing journey in a vulnerable and humorous conversation with **Joanna Cheek**.

*Presented in partnership with **Simon & Schuster Canada**.*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 10:30 AM | \$10

Emerge

EVENT NUMBER
85

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Join SFU Creative Writing to hear readings from *emerge 26*: the annual anthology from the students of The Writer's Studio program at Simon Fraser University. You'll receive a tantalizing taste of work from those emerging authors who have participated in the illustrious program this year, and discover new voices in the writing community, from novelists and poets to essayists. For aspiring authors, hear from writers who have turned a dream of creating into a reality with the help of professional mentors. Join this immersive celebration of new talent!

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 10:30 AM | \$28

Keum Suk Gendry-Kim: My Friend Kim Jong Un

EVENT NUMBER
86

N THE NEST

On an island near Seoul, North Korea sits visible from cartoonist **Keum Suk Gendry-Kim**'s home and studio. The spectre of the infamous dictatorship looms over daily life. In *My Friend Kim Jong Un*, the Harvey Award-winning Korean graphic novelist explores the life of the supreme leader, and the long shadow North Korea casts over Korean society. Weaving her personal accounts together with interviews with former South Korean president Moon Jae-in, North Korean defectors, researchers, journalists, and even Kim's former chef, this book is a cautionary tale on what makes a dictator, at a time when these lessons are more relevant in the West than ever. In this rare Canadian appearance, Gendry-Kim will speak with acclaimed translator **Janet Hong**, who has translated all her books into English.

WIN A PRIZE PACK OF VWF BOOKS

ASTRONAUT CHILDREN OF DUNBAR STREET WILEY WEI-CHIUN HO

SEARCHING FOR THE BEST PLACE ON EARTH JUSTIN MCELROY

CHEAPSKATE IN LOTUSLAND STEVE BURGESS

Humanitarieenne Kirsten Johnson

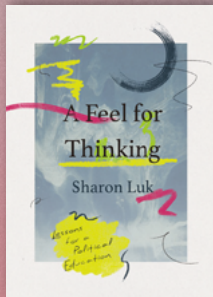
HOW TO NOURISH A CANNIBAL JESS HOUSTY

THE SEABIRD TRIALS BRIONY PENN

When the World Was Twice as Big Aaron Cully Drake

FREE ENTRY

FERNWOOD | Nonfiction



A pocket book on big ideas in social justice for those seeking refuge in learning.

ANVIL PRESS | Poetry



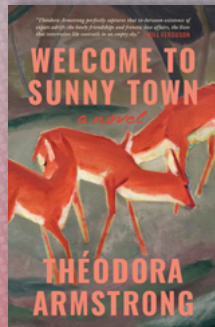
Poems that delve into perceptions of luck and fortune, grief and survivor's guilt.

RENEGADE | Graphic Novel



Winner of the 2026 Doug Wright Best Small Press Book Award.

FREEHAND BOOKS | Fiction



“Raw and bracingly fresh... one of the few expat stories that refuse fantasy.”
—Sheung-King

PLAYWRIGHTS | Drama



A relentless eco-activist creates family chaos amidst a climate disaster.

TRACE PRESS | Poetry



Eltom is an incisive lyricist of the visceral, the political, and the surreal.

METONYMY | Poetry



“In embodied time, desire can move freely, musically.”
—BC Review

TRACE PRESS | Poetry



101 poems on war, exile, desire, and the pandemic.

ANVIL PRESS | Poetry



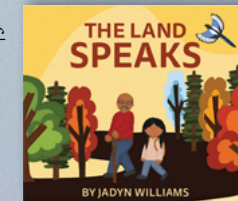
New prose poems from Griffin Prize winner Eve Joseph.

ECW PRESS | Nonfiction



“A heartwarming reminder of the city’s layered history and community spirit.”
—Ken Lum

KEGEDONCE | Juvenile Fiction



Every season carries a gift.

INANNA | Fiction



“Flawed, messy, imperfect, and wonderfully relatable.”
—Kirti Bhadresha

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the Literary Press Group of Canada | allitup.ca

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 10:30 AM | \$28

The Conversations

EVENT NUMBER
87

RS THE REVUE STAGE

This popular returning event is like witnessing a live recording of your favourite literary podcast—no headphones required. Moderator **Marsha Lederman** conducts back-to-back interviews with the authors of some of the most talked about novels of the season. **Sharon Bala**, the bestselling author of *The Boat People*, joins us with *Good Guys*, a page-turning moral drama about the dark side of philanthropy. **PP Wong**'s Canada Reads-longlisted dystopian thriller, *Slice the Water*, explores the amplifying impacts of technology in a military dictatorship ruled by a book-burning king. Multi-award-winning author **Gary Barwin** spins a hilarious and poignant tale of love, death, and sacrifice in *The Comedian's Book of the Dead*.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 10:30 AM | \$55

Food for Thought

EVENT NUMBER
88

DR DOCKSIDE RESTAURANT

This signature event returns with the luminous ideas and fascinating readings you've come to expect—in a comfortable new venue with an elevated dining experience. We're thrilled to bring Food for Thought to the Dockside Restaurant at the Granville Island Hotel. Enjoy a delicious continental breakfast with coffee and tea as seven authors of intriguing nonfiction explore topics at the forefront of our minds: **Brian Goldman** (*The Casino Shift*), **Kirsten Johnson** (*Humanitaire: A Doctor's Stories from the Conflict Zone*), **Turi King** (*The Secrets of our DNA*), **Justin McElroy** (*Searching for the Best Place on Earth*), **Wiley Wei-Chiun Ho** (*The Astronaut Children of Dunbar Street*), and **Jody Wilson-Raybould** (*The Inbetween Leader*). Hosted by **Kathryn Gretsinger**.

Presented in partnership with Dockside Restaurant.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 1:30 PM | \$28

All Eyes on the North

EVENT NUMBER
89

WT WATERFRONT THEATRE

Canada is under siege from the simultaneous threats of climate change ravaging the land, and foreign interference undermining the foundations of our democracy. These intertwining perils are not a coincidence, but the result of capitalist government policies that prioritize resource extraction over protection of land and people. **L.E. Fox** dissects climate change from a radical, working-class perspective in *This Book Is a Knife*. In *Mother Earth Is Our Elder*, Dene activist and writer **Katłja** offers insight from elders and knowledge keepers who have long protected Mother Earth. **Patrick Lennox**'s urgent *On Treason* reveals the calculated influence of the global far right on the Albertan separatist referendum, touching upon northern resource extraction that is a driving force of this dangerous movement. Moderated by **David Moscrop**.

Presented in partnership with Lime Canada.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 1:30 PM | \$28

Women's Voices from Europe

EVENT NUMBER
90

N THE NEST

Here is a rare opportunity to hear from three influential, contemporary European writers, all on one Vancouver stage. Award-winning Estonian writer and poet **Carolina Pihelgas** shares her first work to be translated into English; *The Cut Line* follows a woman who flees to the countryside to put an end to her toxic 14-year relationship. *The Long Version*, by renowned Czech author **Petra Hůlová**, explores the shifting meanings of feminism over generations as a woman and her daughter clash. **Camille de Peretti** joins us from France with *Portrait of an Unknown Woman*, a dazzling reimagining of the life of Gustav Klimt's model in one of his most iconic paintings. Moderated by **Anna Ling Kaye**.

Camille de Peretti's appearance presented with the generous support of the Institut français du Canada. Presented in Partnership with Alliance Française Vancouver.



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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 1:30 PM | \$28 \$

Best of BC Mysteries

EVENT NUMBER

91

RS THE REVUE STAGE

From the waters of False Creek to seemingly idyllic rural towns, these page-turners from lauded local crime writers delve into chilling or charming mysteries based right here in British Columbia. *Guns Across the River*, the gritty sixth novel in **Sam Wiebe's** renowned Wakeland series, follows an attempted suicide case into the corruption of Vancouver's underworld. **Iona Whishaw** lightens things up in *A False and Fatal Claim*, an entertaining mystery in which Lane Winslow, a Nancy Drew for adults, must try to get guests to a wedding alive and in one piece. **Roz Nay** introduces a quirky cast of characters and a murder plot in her instant classic cozy mystery, *All Rise for Murder*. Moderated by **Robert Wiersema**.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 3:30 PM | \$55 \$

The Afternoon Tea

EVENT NUMBER

92

PW PERFORMANCE WORKS

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: **Anita Rau Badami** (*Asha in Her Garden*), **Patricia Finn** (*The Golden Boy*), **Melissa Harrison** (*The Given World*), **Nazanine Hozar** (*The Small Ones*), **Eden Robinson** (*The Sorceress of Sky Serpents*), and **Damien Wilkins** (*Delirious*). Hosted by **Bill Richardson**. *Generously sponsored by the Faris Family in memory of Yulanda Faris.*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 7:00 PM | \$28 \$

Closing Night: True Patriot Love with Carol Off

EVENT NUMBER

93

YT YORK THEATRE

Come together with other engaged readers and thinkers at this year's closing night event, where we'll consider who we are as Canadians, where we're going, and why Canada is seen by many as a beacon of hope in an age of cynicism. In *True Patriot Love*, former CBC Radio host **Carol Off** reveals a hopeful portrait of our collective identity. Off also wrote the foreword for a forthcoming republication of *The Vanishing Country* by the late author and activist Mel Hurtig. Originally published in 2002, Hurtig's book is a trailblazing record of the alarming "sellout" of Canada to the USA. Off speaks with **David Moscrop**, editor of this new edition, about how lessons from the crises of the past sixty years have prepared Canadians to seize the current moment to become a more mature and sovereign country.

Presented in partnership with Canada's National Observer.

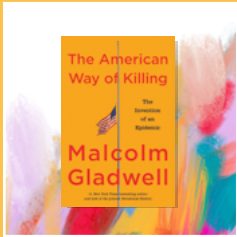
Publisher Thank You

Thank you to the following publishers for supporting author travel at this year's Festival.

- | | |
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| Europa Editions | Scholastic Canada |
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| Hachette Book Group Canada | Sutherland House Books |
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| Kegendonce Press | |
| Kids Can Press | |



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 | 7:30 PM | \$45 AND UP \$



PT VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

SPECIAL EVENT

Malcolm Gladwell in Conversation

From *New York Times* bestselling author **Malcolm Gladwell** comes his most urgent book yet: a provocative investigation of America's epidemic of gun violence. In *The American Way of Killing*, Gladwell explores the American "peculiarity"—how the world's wealthiest country came to suffer from a problem typically only seen in the world's poorest countries.

Drawing on original interviews, archival and social science research, and his trademark insight, Gladwell approaches the American paradox through a series of stories. In a sweeping narrative that travels across the United States, Gladwell paints a picture of a country that does not understand its most pressing social problem, and as result, does not understand how to fix it. A member of the Order of Canada and one of *TIME*'s 100 most influential people, Gladwell is widely recognized as one of our leading thinkers today.

MALCOLM GLADWELL is the author of eight *New York Times* bestsellers: *The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, *Outliers*, *What the Dog Saw*, *David and Goliath*, *Talking to Strangers*, *The Bomber Mafia*, and *Revenge of the Tipping Point*. He is also the cofounder of Pushkin Industries, an audio-content company that produces *Revisionist History*, among other podcasts and audiobooks. (CANADA/USA)

JORDAN ABEL DAD ERA



JORDAN ABEL is a queer Nisga'a writer from Vancouver. He is the author of *The Place of Scraps*, *Injun*, *NISHGA*, and recently, *Dad Era*. Abel has won the Griffin Poetry Prize and the Governor General's Award and is a Professor at the University of Alberta, where he teaches Indigenous Literatures, Research-Creation, and Creative Writing. (NISGA'A)



EVENTS: 49 | PAGE 33 57 | PAGE 38 64 | PAGE 42

CHANTEL ACEVEDO CAGES



CHANTEL ACEVEDO is the author of *Love and Ghost Letters*, *A Falling Star*, *The Distant Marvels*, and *The Living Infinite*. Her latest acclaimed novel is *Cages*. Acevedo's books have been listed on several state educator and librarian lists and she has been nominated for the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. Acevedo is a Professor of English & Creative Writing at the University of Miami. (USA)



EVENTS: 28 | PAGE 26

AYAD AKHTAR THE RADIANCE



AYAD AKHTAR is a novelist and playwright. He is the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and an award in literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His novels include *American Dervish*, a Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year; *Homeland Elegies*; and most recently, *The Radiance*. (USA)



EVENTS: 01 | PAGE 14 12 | PAGE 19

E.G. ALARAJ MY LANGUAGE IS A GARDEN



E.G. ALARAJ is the author of *My Language Is a Garden*. She grew up in the magical place that every child knows, where ideas look like pictures drawn from crayons, paint, or ink and sound like stories from long ago and far away. She spent her childhood with her nose in storybooks, art books, music books, notebooks, and trouble. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 25 | PAGE 24

JAMALUDDIN ARAM THE BLOOD OF THINGS: A LOVE LETTER TO AFGHANISTAN

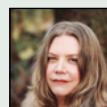


JAMALUDDIN ARAM is an Afghan-Canadian writer and author of *The Blood of Things* and *Nothing Good Happens in Wazirabad on Wednesday*. His short story "This Hard Easy Life" was a finalist for the RBC Bronwen Wallace Award in 2020. He is the associate producer of the Oscar-nominated film *Buzkashi Boys*. (AFGHANISTAN/ONTARIO)

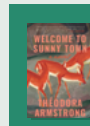


EVENTS: 82 | PAGE 51

THÉODORA ARMSTRONG WELCOME TO SUNNY TOWN

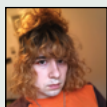


THÉODORA ARMSTRONG is a fiction writer, poet, and photographer. Her collection of short fiction, *Clear Skies*, *No Wind*, *100% Visibility*, was a finalist for the Danuta Gleed Literary Award for Fiction and the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. *Welcome to Sunny Town* is her debut novel. She lives in North Vancouver with her husband and two children. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 11 | PAGE 19

GWEN AUBE MISSED CONNECTIONS WITH TALL GIRLS



GWEN AUBE is a working-class writer living in Montréal, Québec and author of *Missed Connections with Tall Girls*. Her work has appeared in *The Gay & Lesbian Review*, *The New Orleans Review*, *Contemporary Verse 2*, *Expat Press*, and *Room Magazine*. (QUÉBEC)



EVENTS: 49 | PAGE 33 57 | PAGE 38

ANITA RAU BADAMI ASHA IN HER GARDEN



ANITA RAU BADAMI is the bestselling author of *The Hero's Walk*, which won the Regional Commonwealth Writers' Prize and was longlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. The recipient of the Marian Engel Award for a woman writer in mid-career, Badami is also a visual artist. *Asha in Her Garden* is her latest novel. (INDIA/QUÉBEC)



EVENTS: 92 | PAGE 55

SHARON BALA GOOD GUYS



SHARON BALA is the bestselling author of *The Boat People*, which won the 2020 Newfoundland & Labrador Book Award and the 2019 Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction. She has published stories in *Hazlitt*, *Maisonnette*, *Riddle Fence*, *Room*, and *PRISM international*. *Good Guys* is her second novel. (NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR)



EVENTS: 64 | PAGE 42 87 | PAGE 54

DAMIAN BARR THE TWO ROBERTS



DAMIAN BARR is an award-winning writer, broadcaster, and journalist. His memoir *Maggie & Me* won Stonewall Writer of the Year and *Sunday Times* Memoir of the Year. His debut novel, *You Will Be Safe Here*, was shortlisted for six major awards. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and lives in Brighton, England. His recent novel is *The Two Roberts*. (SCOTLAND)



EVENTS: 65 | PAGE 42

DEREK BEAULIEU DO IT WRONG



DEREK BEAULIEU is the author/editor of over twenty-five collections of poetry, prose, and criticism, including *Silence: Lectures and Writings*, *Surface Tension*, and most recently, *Do It Wrong*. Beaulieu has served as Poet Laureate of both Calgary and Banff and is the Director of Literary Arts at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. (ALBERTA)



EVENTS: 53 | PAGE 36 71 | PAGE 47

IAN BOOTHBY FROSTBITE: A GRAPHIC NOVEL



IAN BOOTHBY has been making his own comics since he was 16. Boothby has written comic books for *The Simpsons*, *Scooby-Doo*, and many others. Boothby has also won an Eisner Award for Best Short Story along with the artist Nina Matsumoto. *Frostbite* is his latest work, created in collaboration with Pia Guerra. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 08 | PAGE 17

TESSA BARBOSA ISLE OF TEETH



TESSA BARBOSA is a Filipina Canadian author who writes fantasy novels by night and software help by day. *The Moonlight Blade* was her debut novel, and *Isle of Teeth* is her second work for young adults. Barbosa lives in Vancouver, Canada, with her children, an anxious cat, and a growing plant collection. (PHILIPPINES/BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 21 | PAGE 23

GARY BARWIN THE COMEDIAN'S BOOK OF THE DEAD



GARY BARWIN is a writer, musician, multimedia artist, and the author of thirty-five books of poetry, fiction, and essays. His bestselling novel *Yiddish for Pirates* was shortlisted for and won many awards. His latest novel is *The Comedian's Book of the Dead*. Barwin lives in Hamilton, Ontario. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 64 | PAGE 42 87 | PAGE 54

LOUISE K. BLIGHT WHERE THE EARTH MEETS THE SKY



LOUISE K. BLIGHT is a conservation scientist with a PhD in zoology. An adjunct professor at the University of Victoria's School of Environmental Studies, she is also co-chair of the birds specialist group of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. *Where the Earth Meets the Sky* is her first book. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 17 | PAGE 21

TANYA BOTEJU LAKE LIFE



TANYA BOTEJU lives on unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations (Vancouver, BC). Part-time, she teaches English to clever, sassy young people. In both teaching and writing, Boteju looks to bend the universe even the tiniest bit toward justice. Her latest novel is *Lake Life*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 34 | PAGE 28

JENNIFER BOTTERILL WHY NOT YOU



JENNIFER BOTTERILL is a celebrated athlete. She was a member of the Canadian Women's Hockey Team for 14 years; she is a three-time Olympic champion and part of the 2025 Hockey Hall of Fame class. Botterill is an in-demand NHL analyst, engaging keynote speaker, and peak performance coach. *Why Not You* is her first biography. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 60 | PAGE 39

ERIN BOW WITCHWARD BOUND



ERIN BOW studied particle physics in college, going on to work at the CERN laboratory near Geneva, Switzerland. She then decided to leave science to focus on her love of writing. Bow has received the Governor General's Award for Young People's Literature for *Stand on the Sky* & the Newbery Honor for *Simon Sort of Says*. *Witchward Bound* is her latest novel. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 06 | PAGE 16 35 | PAGE 28

MARK BRAUDE THE TYPEWRITER AND THE GUILLOTINE



MARK BRAUDE is the author of *The Typewriter and the Guillotine* and *Kiki Man Ray*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2022 and a *New Yorker* Best Book of the Year. He has been a Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University, a Visiting Fellow at the American Library in Paris, and an NEH Public Scholar. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

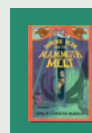


EVENTS: 70 | PAGE 47

EMILIE CHRISTIE BURACK DOMINIC BEAN AND THE MAMMOTH MELT



EMILIE CHRISTIE BURACK is the author of the award-winning debut novel *The Runaway's Gold*. She holds an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts and lives in New Hampshire, where she is the co-founder of the New Hampshire Book Festival. *Dominic Bean and the Mammoth Melt* is her latest work. (USA)



EVENTS: 35 | PAGE 28

STEVE BURGESS CHEAPSKATE IN LOTUSLAND



STEVE BURGESS is a writer and broadcaster whose honours include two Canadian National Magazine awards. Burgess is a contributing editor of *The Tyee* and an award-winning documentary director. He is also the author of *Reservations: The Pleasures and Perils of Travel*, which was longlisted for the Leacock Medal, and recently, *Cheapskate in Lotusland*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 73 | PAGE 48

CASSIE CAMPBELL-PASCALL JUST A GIRL



CASSIE CAMPBELL-PASCALL led the national women's hockey team to Olympic gold in 2002 and 2006. She was the first female Hockey Night in Canada analyst and the first female player in Canada's Sports Hall of Fame. She remains active in broadcasting and coaching, advocating for women's hockey. *Just a Girl* is her first memoir. (ALBERTA/ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 60 | PAGE 39

CHRISTOPHER CHEUNG VERY VANCOUVER

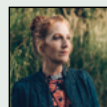


CHRISTOPHER CHEUNG is the author of *Very Vancouver: Uncovering the Soul of a West Coast City* and *Under the White Gaze: Solving the Problem of Race and Representation in Canadian Journalism*. He has worked as a reporter at *The Tyee*, *Metro*, and the *Vancouver Courier* and has received two Webster Awards, BC's top journalism prize. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

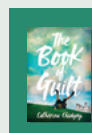


EVENTS: 73 | PAGE 48

CATHERINE CHIDGEY THE BOOK OF GUILT



CATHERINE CHIDGEY is an internationally acclaimed New Zealand novelist. Her debut, *In a Fishbone Church*, won major awards in New Zealand, the Commonwealth, and the UK. Her subsequent novels earned recognition from the *New York Times* and major prizes. Recent titles include *The Axeman's Carnival*, *Pet*, and *The Book of Guilt*. (NEW ZEALAND)



EVENTS: 52 | PAGE 34 80 | PAGE 50

ANDREW COYNE | THE CRISIS OF CANADIAN DEMOCRACY



ANDREW COYNE is a columnist for *The Globe and Mail*. Raised in Winnipeg, Coyne holds degrees from the University of Toronto and the London School of Economics. He has previously written for *Maclean's*, the *New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. He is a weekly panelist on CBC's *The National* and the author of *The Crisis of Canadian Democracy*. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 69 | PAGE 47

GREGOR CRAIGIE | STICKING TO THE FACTS

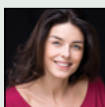


GREGOR CRAIGIE is a radio journalist and writer. He has worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for many years. Craigie is the author of *Why Humans Build Up* and *Walls*, as well as *Saving Wolfgang*, his children's fiction debut, and *Sticking to the Facts*. Craigie lives in Victoria. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 03 | PAGE 15

CAMILLE DE PERETTI | PORTRAIT OF AN UNKNOWN WOMAN



CAMILLE DE PERETTI was born in Paris in 1980. Passionate about painting and literature, she has been writing since 2005 and is the author of nine novels, including her most recent, *Portrait of an Unknown Woman*. (FRANCE)



EVENTS: 90 | PAGE 54

PATRICK DEWITT | DODGE CITY

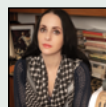


PATRICK DEWITT is the author of *The Librarianist* (winner of the Leacock Medal), *French Exit* (finalist for the Giller Prize), *The Sisters Brothers* (winner of the Governor General's Literary Award, the Atwood Gibson Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Leacock Medal, and a finalist for the Booker Prize and the Giller Prize), and *Dodge City*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA/USA)



EVENTS: 10 | PAGE 17

MOLLY CRABAPPLE | HERE WHERE WE LIVE IS OUR COUNTRY

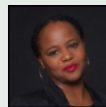


MOLLY CRABAPPLE is an artist and writer based in New York. She is the author of three books, including the *New York Times* bestseller *Here Where We Live Is Our Country*, and has been published in *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Guardian*, *Rolling Stone*, and elsewhere. Her animations have won two Emmys and an Edward R. Murrow Award. (PUERTO RICO)



EVENTS: 74 | PAGE 48

EDWIDGE DANTICAT | DÈY

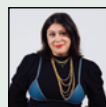


EDWIDGE DANTICAT is the author of numerous books, including *The Art of Death*, a National Book Critics Circle finalist; *Brother, I'm Dying*, a National Book Critics Circle Award winner and National Book Award finalist; *The Dew Breaker*, a PEN/Faulkner Award finalist and winner of the inaugural Story Prize; and *Dèy*, her most recent work. (HAITI/USA)

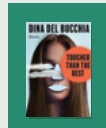


EVENTS: 81 | PAGE 50

DINA DEL BUCCHIA | TOUGHER THAN THE REST



DINA DEL BUCCHIA is the author of the story collections *Tougher Than the Rest* and *Don't Tell Me What to Do* (Arsenal Pulp Press) and five collections of poetry: *Coping with Emotions and Otters*; *Rom Com* (written with Daniel Zomparelli); *It's a Big Deal!*; *You're Gonna Love This* (all Talonbooks); and *Blind Items* (Insomniac Press). (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 41 | PAGE 30 64 | PAGE 42

CORY DOCTOROW | THE REVERSE CENTAUR'S GUIDE TO LIFE AFTER AI



CORY DOCTOROW is a *New York Times* bestselling science fiction author, activist, and journalist. His many books include *Enshittification*, *Picks and Shovels*, *The Lost Cause*, and recently, *The Reverse Centaur's Guide to Life After AI*. In 2020, Doctorow was inducted into the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame. (CANADA/USA/ENGLAND)



EVENTS: 01 | PAGE 14 46 | PAGE 32

AARON CULLY DRAKE WHEN THE WORLD WAS TWICE AS BIG



AARON CULLY DRAKE was shortlisted for the Amazon Canada First Novel Award and longlisted for the Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour for his debut novel, *Do You Think This Is Strange?* Drake is a former newspaper reporter and editor. *When the World Was Twice as Big* is his latest novel. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 34 | PAGE 28 64 | PAGE 42

KIM ECHLIN TELL OTHERS

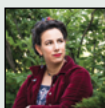


KIM ECHLIN is the award-winning author of *Tell Others*, *Elephant Winter*, *Dagmar's Daughter*, *Under the Visible Life*, and *Speak, Silence*, winner of the Toronto Book Award. Her novel *The Disappeared* won the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award and was published in 20 countries. She serves on the board of PEN International. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 43 | PAGE 31

AMAL EL-MOHTAR SEASONS OF GLASS AND IRON

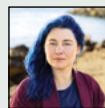


AMAL EL-MOHTAR is a Hugo Award-winning author of science fiction, fantasy, poetry, and criticism. Her books include *Seasons of Glass and Iron* and the *New York Times* bestseller *This Is How You Lose the Time War*, which has been translated into over ten languages. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times* and on *NPR Books*. (LEBANON/ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 41 | PAGE 30 52 | PAGE 34 64 | PAGE 42

PORTIA ELAN HOMEBOUND



PORTIA ELAN studied history at Stanford University and earned an MFA from the University of Victoria, British Columbia, before returning to California, where she has worked as a teacher and public librarian. A former Lambda Literary Fellow, she lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her wife and cats. *Homebound* is her first novel. (USA)



EVENTS: 54 | PAGE 36 64 | PAGE 42

SARAH ELLIS MY YEAR IN FAIRYLAND

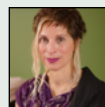


SARAH ELLIS is the author of 20 books, including *My Year in Fairyland*. She has received honours such as the Canadian Governor General's Award for Children's Literature and her books have been included on the American Library Association's list of notable books. She is the recipient of the British Columbia Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 78 | PAGE 50

LEILANI FARHA HOUSING INC.



LEILANI FARHA is Global Director of The Shift, an international human rights organization focused on housing, finance, and climate. She was UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing and is the 2026 Massey Lecturer. Leilani is a lawyer, an advocate, and author of *Housing Inc.* (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 29 | PAGE 26

PATRICIA FINN THE GOLDEN BOY



PATRICIA FINN is a writer, ghostwriter, editor, and author of *The Golden Boy*. She was educated in Canada and New Zealand, where she completed post-graduate work in English and classics. She has worked for television networks and production companies in both countries, including CBC and Television New Zealand. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 92 | PAGE 55

ELLIE FOUMBI A NEW KIND OF CLEAN



ELLIE FOUMBI is an award-winning screenwriter and director. She was born in Cameroon and grew up in Westchester, New York. After completing an MFA at Columbia University's School of the Arts, she made her acclaimed debut feature film, *Our Father, the Devil*. *A New Kind of Clean* is her debut novel, written with Iain Reid. (USA)



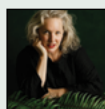
EVENTS: 15 | PAGE 21

L.E. FOX THIS BOOK IS A KNIFE

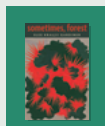

L.E. FOX's work explores class, gender, sexuality, the environment, and the messy places where these realities intersect. They are the author of two essay collections: *This Has Always Been a War* and *This Book Is a Knife* (nominated for the 2026 Jim Deva Prize for Writing That Provokes). (YUKON)



EVENTS: 89 | PAGE 54

ELEE KRALJII GARDINER SOMETIMES, FOREST


ELEE KRALJII GARDINER is the author of *serpentine loop*, *Trauma Head*, and *sometimes, forest*. She was the editor of the anthologies *V6A: Writing from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside* and *Against Death: 35 Essays on Living*. Kraljii Gardiner works across disciplines and administers the Warland Award for hybrid literature. She is Vancouver's seventh Poet Laureate. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



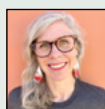
EVENTS: 49 | PAGE 33

CAMILLA GIBB I USED TO BE A PISCES


CAMILLA GIBB is the internationally acclaimed author of five novels, including *Mouthing the Words*, *The Petty Details of So-and-so's Life*, and *Sweetness in the Belly*. Gibb has received the Trillium Book Award and the City of Toronto Book Award and has been shortlisted for the Giller Prize. *I Used to Be a Pisces* is her first poetry collection. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 57 | PAGE 38 75 | PAGE 49

JAMI GIGOT MAC AND CROC


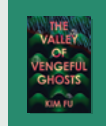
JAMI GIGOT is the author and illustrator of several picture books, including *Mac and Croc*. She also works in the VFX film industry and has contributed to many award-winning films. Originally from Madison, Wisconsin, she now lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, with her husband, two children, and a big orange cat. (BRITISH COLUMBIA/USA)



EVENTS: 20 | PAGE 22

KIM FU THE VALLEY OF VENGEFUL GHOSTS


KIM FU is the author of the acclaimed, prize-winning novels *For Today I Am a Boy* and *The Lost Girls of Camp Forevermore*. Her story collection *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century* won the Washington State Book Award and the Pacific Northwest Book Award. *The Valley of Vengeful Ghosts* is her latest novel. (BRITISH COLUMBIA/USA)



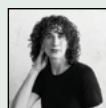
EVENTS: 50 | PAGE 33 80 | PAGE 50

KEUM SUK GENDRY-KIM MY FRIEND KIM JONG UN

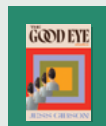

KEUM SUK GENDRY-KIM was born in Goheung in Jeolla Province. She has cartooned the graphic novels *Grass*, *The Waiting*, *La saison des pluies*, and *A Woman of Siberia*, among many others. *Grass* appeared on Best of the Year lists from the *New York Times* and *The Guardian*. *My Friend Kim Jong Un* is her latest work. (KOREA)



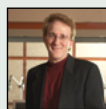
EVENTS: 86 | PAGE 52

JESS GIBSON THE GOOD EYE


JESS GIBSON was born in Toronto and frequently moved with her family, attending schools in England, Germany, the United States, Australia, and France. She later studied at McGill and the University of Toronto. After receiving her PhD in Art History from Yale University she spent several years teaching Art History. *The Good Eye* is her first book. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 11 | PAGE 19

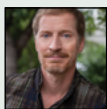
BRIAN GOLDMAN THE CASINO SHIFT: STORIES FROM AN ER ON THE EDGE


DR. BRIAN GOLDMAN is an ER doctor and bestselling author of *The Casino Shift*. His CBC Radio show and podcast, *White Coat, Black Art*, has been on the air for over a decade. A sought-after speaker, he is also the host of *The Dose*, a CBC podcast about personal health. Goldman lives in Toronto with his family. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 88 | PAGE 54

ANDREW SEAN GREER VILLA COCO



ANDREW SEAN GREER is the bestselling author of eight works of fiction, including Pulitzer Prize winner *Less* and, recently, *Villa Coco*. He is the recipient of the Northern California Book Award, the California Book Award, the New York Public Library Young Lions Award and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Public Library. (USA)



EVENTS: 26 | PAGE 24

PIA GUERRA FROSTBITE

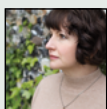


PIA GUERRA was a 2023 Pulitzer Prize Finalist for her contributions to *The Washington Post*. She co-created *Y: The Last Man*, a NYT bestseller and winner of multiple Eisner Awards. Guerra is a contributor for *The New Yorker*, co-creator of *Mannequin on the Moon* cartoons, and illustrator of *Frostbite*, written by Ian Boothby. (BRITISH COLUMBIA/USA)



EVENTS: 08 | PAGE 17

MELISSA HARRISON THE GIVEN WORLD

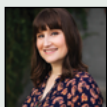


MELISSA HARRISON is a novelist, nature writer, podcaster, and children's author. Her 2018 novel *All Among the Barley* was the UK winner of the European Prize for Literature. Her work has been shortlisted for the Costa Book Award and the Wainwright Prize and longlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction. *The Given World* is her latest novel. (ENGLAND)

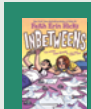


EVENTS: 80 | PAGE 50 92 | PAGE 55

FAITH ERIN HICKS INBETWEENS



FAITH ERIN HICKS is the award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling writer and artist of over a dozen books, including *Inbetweens*. Among many distinctions, she has won two Eisner Awards for *The Adventures of Superhero Girl* and *The Divided Earth*. She lives in Vancouver, BC. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

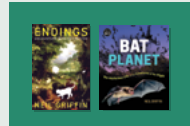


EVENTS: 37 | PAGE 29

NEIL GRIFFIN ENDINGS & BAT PLANET



NEIL GRIFFIN is a writer and former wildlife biologist. His nature writing has appeared in magazines across Canada, and he is the author of *Endings* and *Bat Planet*, along with two poetry chapbooks. He is an instructor in the Writing Department at the University of Victoria, where he received his MFA in writing. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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KEVIN HARDCASTLE COUNTY ROAD SIX

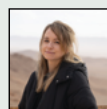


KEVIN HARDCASTLE is a fiction writer from Simcoe County, Ontario. He is the author of the novels *In the Cage* and *County Road Six*. His short story collection *Debris* won the Trillium Book Award and the ReLit Award for Short Fiction, and was a runner-up for the Danuta Gleed Literary Award, and a finalist for the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 64 | PAGE 42 79 | PAGE 50

SALLY HAYDEN THIS IS ALSO A LOVE STORY



SALLY HAYDEN is an Irish journalist focused on migration, conflict, and humanitarian crises. Hayden's work has been featured by the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and many others. Her first book, *My Fourth Time, We Drowned*, won the Orwell Prize and was a finalist for the Baillie Gifford Prize. *This Is Also a Love Story* is her latest book. (IRELAND)



EVENTS: 59 | PAGE 38 82 | PAGE 51

WILEY WEI-CHIUN HO THE ASTRONAUT CHILDREN OF DUNBAR STREET

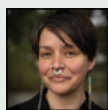


WILEY WEI-CHIUN HO has published short stories and essays in several anthologies and literary magazines, and a memoir, *The Astronaut Children of Dunbar Street*. She was also a finalist for the 2021 Jim Wong-Chu Award for Emerging Writers (presented by the Asian Canadian Writers' Workshop). She lives in North Vancouver, BC. (TAIWAN/BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 88 | PAGE 54

JESS HOUSTY HOW TO NOURISH A CANNIBAL

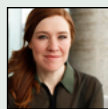


JESS HOUSTY (*‘Cúagilákv*) is a parent, writer, author of *How to Nourish a Cannibal*, and a grassroots activist with Heiltsuk (Indigenous) and mixed settler ancestry. They are an herbalist and land-based educator, also working in the non-profit and philanthropic sectors. Housty lives with their family in the unceded ancestral territory in Bella Bella, BC. (HEILTSUK/BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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CLARA HUGHES LEARNING TO BREATHE



CLARA HUGHES became the only Canadian athlete to win multiple medals in both the Summer and Winter Games. She is a member of the Order of Manitoba and an officer of the Order of Canada, has received a star on Canada's Walk of Fame, and was inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame. She is the author of *Learning to Breathe*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

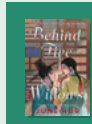


EVENTS: 84 | PAGE 52

JUNE HUR BEHIND FIVE WILLOWS



JUNE HUR was born in South Korea and spent her formative years in the USA, Canada, and South Korea before studying History and Literature at the University of Toronto and working at the city's public library. Her work has been featured in *Forbes*, NPR, the *New York Times*, CBC, and KBS. *Behind Five Willows* is her latest novel. (KOREA)



EVENTS: 21 | PAGE 23

MARLON JAMES THE DISAPPEARERS



MARLON JAMES is the Booker Prize-winning author of *A Brief History of Seven Killings*. His other notable works include the *New York Times* bestselling *Black Leopard, Red Wolf*; *The Book of Night Women*; and most recently, the 2026 Booker Prize-nominated *The Disappearers*. In 2019, *TIME* magazine named him one of the one hundred most influential people in the world. (USA)



EVENTS: 47 | PAGE 32

NAZANINE HOZAR THE SMALL ONES



NAZANINE HOZAR was born in Tehran, Iran, before coming to Canada as a child. Her debut novel, *Aria*, is an award-nominated bestseller that was published to international acclaim. *The Small Ones* is her second novel. Hozar lives in Vancouver, British Columbia. (IRAN/BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 82 | PAGE 51 92 | PAGE 55

PETRA HŮLOVÁ THE LONG VERSION



PETRA HŮLOVÁ is a fiction writer and the recipient of several literary awards, including Czechia's highest literary recognitions—the Magnesia Litera, the Josef Škvorecký Award, and the Jiří Orten Award. Her ten novels have been translated into thirteen languages, and both *The Movement* and *The Long Version*, published by World Editions, challenge sexual norms. (CZECH REPUBLIC)



EVENTS: 90 | PAGE 54

SALMA HUSSAIN IT'S NOT OVER YET



SALMA HUSSAIN grew up in the UAE and immigrated to Canada when she was thirteen years old. Her first novel, *The Secret Diary of Mona Hasan*, was a *Quill & Quire* Book of the Year. Hussain writes witty, warm, voice-driven fiction about the surprising ways we grow when life veers off-script. She is the author of *It's Not Over Yet*. (PAKISTAN/ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 05 | PAGE 16

COLIN JAMES PLAYING THE CHANGES



COLIN JAMES OBC is one of Canada's most beloved musicians. With eight Juno Awards and multi-platinum sales, he continues to gain fans all around the world. In 2013, he was inducted into the Canadian Music Industry Hall of Fame and in 2024 was appointed to the Order of British Columbia. He is the author of *Playing the Changes*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA/SASKATCHEWAN)



EVENTS: 13 | PAGE 20

KIRSTEN JOHNSON HUMANITARIENNE



DR. KIRSTEN JOHNSON is the founder of the humanitarian non-profit Humanitarian U. She has worked with international organizations such as the Canadian Red Cross and the World Health Organization. She lives and works in Montréal, with locums in Nunavik, Newfoundland, and Labrador. *Humanitaire* is her first book. (QUÉBEC)



EVENTS: 88 | PAGE 54

ZAK JONES FANCY GAP

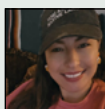


ZAK JONES is a writer, literary scholar, and US Army Veteran. He is the winner of the Writers' Trust of Canada's 2023 Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers. Zak holds an MA in English Literature & Creative Writing from the University of Toronto, where he is currently a PhD candidate. *Fancy Gap* is his debut novel. (ONTARIO/USA)



EVENTS: 64 | PAGE 42 79 | PAGE 50

KATĚJA MOTHER EARTH IS OUR ELDER

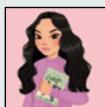


KATĚJA is a northern Dene woman who spends time between her ancestral homelands in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and Lekwungen Speaking Peoples Coast Salish Territory. She is the author of *Northern Wildflower*, as Catherine Lafferty, and most recently, *Mother Earth Is Our Elder*. (DENE/NORTHWEST TERRITORIES/BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 89 | PAGE 54

BAL Khabra EMBRACE



BAL Khabra is a Canadian writer and book lover. Before she decided to jump into the romance pool, she spent her time gushing about books on social media. She loves reading about love, watching movies about love, and now, writing about it herself. *Embrace* is her fourth novel. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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TAYARI JONES KIN

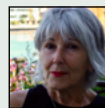


TAYARI JONES is the *New York Times* bestselling author of five novels, most recently *Kin*, an Oprah's Book Club Selection. Her novel *An American Marriage* was an Oprah's Book Club Selection and won many awards, including the Women's Prize for Fiction. Jones is the C.H. Candler Professor of English and Creative Writing at Emory University in Atlanta. (USA)



EVENTS: 01 | PAGE 14 14 | PAGE 20

EVE JOSEPH DISMANTLING

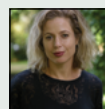


EVE JOSEPH lives on the unceded traditional territories of the Lekwungen peoples. Her first books of poetry, *The Startled Heart* and *The Secret Signature of Things*, were nominated for the Dorothy Livesay Award. Her 2018 collection of poetry, *Quarrels*, was nominated for several prizes and won the Griffin Poetry Prize. *Dismantling* is her latest work. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 49 | PAGE 33 71 | PAGE 47

MEGHAN KEMP-GEE NEBULAS



MEGHAN KEMP-GEE is an award-winning poet, teacher, and scriptwriter. She is the author of *The Animal in the Room*, co-creator of *One More Year*, and co-editor of *Come Out and Play*. She lives in North Vancouver on the unceded traditional territories of the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. *Nebulas* is her latest work. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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RACHAEL KING SONG OF THE SALTINGS & THE GRIMMELINGS



RACHAEL KING is one of New Zealand's best-loved writers for children. Her novels often reflect her love for the Scottish folklore of her ancestors—the weirder the better. When she was young, she read fantasy books voraciously and galloped horses bareback along beaches. *Song of the Saltings* and *The Grimmelings* are her latest books. (NEW ZEALAND)



EVENTS: 22 | PAGE 23 35 | PAGE 28

TURI KING THE SECRETS OF OUR DNA

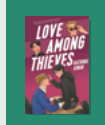

TURI KING is best known for leading the genetic identification of King Richard III and co-hosting the BBC television series *DNA Family Secrets*. She has won numerous awards for her ability to present complex findings on DNA and genetic science in an accessible and compelling way. *The Secrets of Our DNA* is her latest work. (ENGLAND)



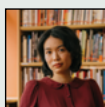
EVENTS: 36 | PAGE 29 88 | PAGE 54

KATRINA KWAN LOVE AMONG THIEVES


KATRINA KWAN is a Vancouver-based author and actress. After graduating from Acadia University with a BA in political science with honours, Kwan honed her creative skills as a freelance ghostwriter. With several ghostwritten romance novels under her belt, she's ecstatic to finally be writing books under her own name, most recently *Love Among Thieves*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



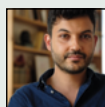
EVENTS: 76 | PAGE 49

DORETTA LAU WE ARE UNDERLINGS


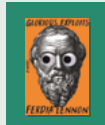
DORETTA LAU started watching horror movies at age nine and sketch comedy at eleven. After that, there was nothing to do but become a writer. She is the author of the acclaimed collection *How Does a Single Blade of Grass Thank the Sun?* Her debut novel is *We Are Underlings*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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FERDIA LENNON GLORIOUS EXPLOITS


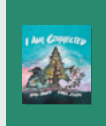
FERDIA LENNON was born and raised in Dublin. He holds a BA in history and classics from University College Dublin and an MA in prose fiction from the University of East Anglia. *Glorious Exploits* is his first novel. A *Sunday Times* bestseller, it was adapted for BBC Radio 4 and was the winner of the Waterstones Debut Fiction Prize 2024. (IRELAND)



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KUNG JAADEE I AM CONNECTED


KUNG JAADEE (Roberta Kennedy) is a professional Indigenous Storyteller, educator (BA and BED), and published author, most recently of *I am Connected*. She belongs to the X̱aayda (Haida), x̱w̱m̱əθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), S̱ḵw̱x̱w̱7mesh (Squamish), Tlingit, səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and is also part Hawaiian. (SQUAMISH AND HAIDA NATIONS/BRITISH COLUMBIA)



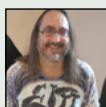
EVENTS: 25 | PAGE 24

ANGÉLIQUE LALONDE VARIATIONS ON A DREAM

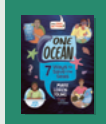

ANGÉLIQUE LALONDE's work has been featured in *PRISM international* and *Room*, among other publications. She received the 2019 Writers' Trust McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize. She lives on Gitxsan Territory in Northern BC. Her short story collection *Glorious Frazzled Beings* was shortlisted for the Giller Prize. *Variations on a Dream* is her first novel. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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MARK LEIREN-YOUNG ONE OCEAN


MARK LEIREN-YOUNG is a writer, documentary filmmaker, playwright, podcaster, and orca activist. Mark has written for young audiences for ABC, PBS, YTV, Treehouse and BBC Kids. His books for young readers include *Orcas of the Salish Sea*, *Octopus Ocean*, the City of Victoria Children's Book Prize winner *Orcas Everywhere*, and *One Ocean*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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PATRICK LENNOX ON TREASON


PATRICK LENNOX is a Canadian writer. He worked to counter foreign interference for over a decade in both Ottawa and Edmonton with Canada's security and intelligence community. He first started writing about Canada-US relations 20 years ago, and has a PhD in political science from the University of Toronto. *On Treason* is his latest work. (ALBERTA)



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HAYLEY LOWE JUNI AND THE ANYTHING TREE

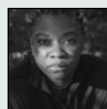


HAYLEY LOWE is an illustrator and storyteller who enjoys exploring a range of media. In previous chapters of her life, Lowe worked as a contemporary dancer and as a children's yoga instructor, where she used storytelling as a tool to teach and ignite imaginations. She is the author of *Juni and the Anything Tree*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 20 | PAGE 22

CANISIA LUBRIN BRIGHT MACHINE



CANISIA LUBRIN writes, edits, and teaches. Poet and author of *Code Noir*, *The Dyzgraphxst*, *Voodoo Hypothesis*, *The World After Rain*, and *Bright Machine*, Lubrin is the recipient of, among other distinctions, a 2021 Windham-Campbell Prize, OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, Griffin Poetry Prize, and Carol Shields Prize for Fiction. (ONTARIO)



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VALERIA LUISELLI BEGINNING MIDDLE END



VALERIA LUISELLI is an acclaimed writer of both fiction and nonfiction. She is the author of *Sidewalks*, *Faces in the Crowd*, and *The Story of My Teeth*, and, most recently, *Beginning Middle End*. She is the winner of two Los Angeles Times Book Prizes, an American Book Award, the Folio Prize, and the 2021 International Dublin Literary Award. (MEXICO/USA)

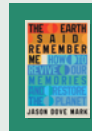


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JASON DOVE MARK THE EARTH SAID REMEMBER ME



JASON DOVE MARK has served as editor-in-chief of *Sierra* and editor of *Earth Island Journal*. He is the author of *Satellites in the High Country* and, most recently, *The Earth Said Remember Me*. His writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *The Atlantic*. He lives in the Pacific Northwest. (USA)

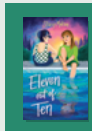


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STACEY MATSON ELEVEN OUT OF TEN



STACEY MATSON has worked in a theatre program on Parliament Hill and written theatre pieces for the Glenbow Museum and for the All-Nations Theatre in Calgary. She recently completed her Master of Arts in Children's Literature at the University of British Columbia. *Eleven Out of Ten* is her latest novel. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 06 | PAGE 16

JUSTIN MCELROY SEARCHING FOR THE BEST PLACE ON EARTH



JUSTIN MCELROY is an award-winning journalist and municipal affairs reporter. Known for his keen insights, he has covered local politics across BC for CBC News since 2015. In 2024, he took a year off to visit 52 countries in 52 weeks, exploring what makes a city "world-class." *Searching for the Best Place on Earth* is his debut book. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

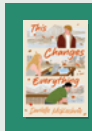


EVENTS: 73 | PAGE 48 88 | PAGE 54

DANIELLE MCKECHNIE THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING



DANIELLE MCKECHNIE studied at Circle in the Square Theatre School before moving to Los Angeles and transitioning to behind-the-scenes, where she worked throughout the entertainment industry in film, television, traditional radio, and live entertainment. *This Changes Everything* is her debut adult novel. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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MARK MEDLEY LIVE TO SEE THE DAY



MARK MEDLEY is Deputy Editor of *The Globe and Mail's* Opinion section. He previously served as *The Globe and Mail's* Books Editor, and prior to joining the paper in 2014, spent more than seven years at the *National Post*. He is the debut author of the national bestseller *Live to See the Day: Impossible Goals, Unimaginable Futures, and the Pursuit of Things That May Never Be*. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 09 | PAGE 17

ROBERT MOOR
IN TREES



ROBERT MOOR is the bestselling author of *On Trails* and *In Trees*. *On Trails* garnered the National Outdoor Book Award, the Pacific Northwest Book Award, and the William Saroyan International Prize. His writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *New York* magazine, and *n+1*, among other publications. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 56 | PAGE 37

JACKIE MORRIS
THE BOOK OF BIRDS



JACKIE MORRIS has written or illustrated over seventy books, including the beloved children's classics *Tell Me a Dragon*, *Wild Folk*, *The House Without Windows*, and most recently, *The Book of Birds*. She is the internationally bestselling and award-winning co-creator of *The Lost Words* and *The Lost Spells*. (ENGLAND)



EVENTS: 17 | PAGE 21 24 | PAGE 23

ROZ NAY
ALL RISE FOR MURDER



ROZ NAY is the bestselling author of four acclaimed thrillers, including the award-winning *Our Little Secret* and the TV-optional *The Offing*. The BC-based writer's global background spans Africa, Australia, the US, and the UK. *All Rise for Murder* debuts her new Madam Clerk cozy mystery series. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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BILLEH NICKERSON
BLOOD CLOT BANANA BAG



BILLEH NICKERSON is an author, editor, and educator whose books include *Artificial Cherry* and most recently *Blood Clot Banana Bag*. He is also the co-editor of *Seminal: The Anthology of Canada's Gay Male Poets*. He is a former Associate Dean and long-time faculty in the Creative Writing department at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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SHANI MOOTOO
STARRY STARRY NIGHT

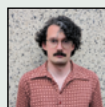


SHANI MOOTOO is the multiple award-winning author of six novels, three poetry books, and one short story collection. Her latest novel is *Starry Starry Night*. Mootoo was born in Ireland, raised in Trinidad, and lives in Southern Ontario. (ONTARIO/IRELAND)



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GEOFFREY D. MORRISON
THE COFFIN OF HONEY



GEOFFREY D. MORRISON is a language teacher and trade unionist who lives on unceded Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh territory. His debut novel, *Falling Hour* (Coach House Books, 2023), was longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award and a finalist for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. *The Coffin of Honey* is his second novel. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 67 | PAGE 46

KLIPH NESTEROFF
SORRY, WE'RE FUNNY



KLIPH NESTEROFF is the author of four books, including *Sorry, We're Funny*. Called the “historian of comedy” by the *New York Times*, his work has been praised by Mel Brooks and Steve Martin. A regular on *WTF with Marc Maron*, he appears on CNN and HBO, and has worked with Judd Apatow and Rob Reiner. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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LIZ NUGENT
THE TRUTH ABOUT RUBY COOPER

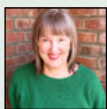


LIZ NUGENT worked in film, theatre, and television before becoming a full-time writer. Her five previous novels—*Unravelling Oliver*, *Lying in Wait*, *Skin Deep*, *Our Little Cruelties*, and *Strange Sally Diamond*—have each been #1 bestsellers, with her most recent being *The Truth About Ruby Cooper*. She lives in Dublin. (IRELAND)



EVENTS: 45 | PAGE 31 62 | PAGE 42

SARA O'LEARY A FRIEND IS A FRIEND IS A FRIEND

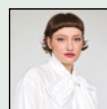


SARA O'LEARY's notable picture books include *A Family Is a Family Is a Family*, *A Kid Is a Kid Is a Kid* (TD Canadian Children's Literature Award finalist), and *A Friend Is a Friend Is a Friend*. O'Leary has won the Vicky Metcalf Award for Literature for Young People in recognition of an exceptional body of work. (NOVA SCOTIA)

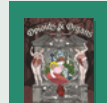


EVENTS: 20 | PAGE 22

ARIZONA O'NEILL OPIOIDS AND ORGANS



ARIZONA O'NEILL is a Montreal-based author and illustrator. She is the illustrator of Nelly Arcan's *L'enfant dans le miroir* and Heather O'Neill's *Valentine in Montreal*. Her comics have appeared in *Hazlitt*, *Exclaim!*, and *Canadian Geographic*. She has created animated videos for many outlets, including CBC. *Opioids and Organs* is her debut graphic novel. (QUÉBEC)

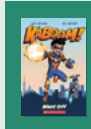


EVENTS: 16 | PAGE 21

JAY ODJICK KABOOM! VOLUME 1



JAY ODJICK is an artist & writer from the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Algonquin community, just outside of Maniwaki, QC. He has created comic books and produced an animated TV series. He illustrated Robert Munsch's *Bear for Breakfast/Makwa kidji kijeᓃà wisiniyàn* and *The Ocean Goes on Forever*. *Kaboom! Volume 1* is his latest work. (KITIGAN ZIBI ANISHINABEG ALGONQUIN)



EVENTS: 23 | PAGE 23

CAROL OFF TRUE PATRIOT LOVE



CAROL OFF spent almost sixteen years co-hosting the multi-award-winning CBC radio program, *As It Happens*. Her books include *At a Loss for Words: Conversations in an Age of Rage* and *All We Leave Behind: A Reporter's Journey into the Lives of Others*, winner of the British Columbia National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction. Her latest book is *True Patriot Love*. (ONTARIO)



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RUTH OZEKI THE TYPING LADY



RUTH OZEKI is the author of *The Typing Lady: And Other Fictions*. Her multi-award winning novels include *The Book of Form and Emptiness* and *A Tale for the Time Being*. She is a Buddhist priest affiliated with the Everyday Zen Foundation, and Professor Emerita of English Language and Literature at Smith College. (USA)

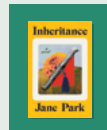


EVENTS: 01 | PAGE 14 27 | PAGE 26

JANE PARK INHERITANCE



JANE PARK is a second-generation Korean Canadian writer. She is a MacDowell Fellow, and was a participant in the Banff Centre's Writing Studio, and *Diaspora Dialogues*. Currently, she is pursuing an MFA at the University of British Columbia. *Inheritance* is her debut novel. (ALBERTA)



EVENTS: 11 | PAGE 19

MANGESHIG PAWIS-STECKLEY CANADA & MOOZ / MOOSE



MANGESHIG PAWIS-STECKLEY is the multidisciplinary Anishinaabe artist and member of Wasauksing First Nation behind *Boozhoo! / Hello!*, *Mooz / Moose*, and *Canada*, among others. He lives in the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples with his wife Maria and daughter Mino. (ANISHINAABE/ONTARIO/BC)



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ROLLIE PEMBERTON WAYS OF LISTENING



ROLLIE PEMBERTON AKA CADENCE WEAPON is an Edmonton-born, Hamilton-based writer, rapper, producer, DJ, cultural commentator, and author of *Ways of Listening*. He has released six albums, and his writing has been published in *Pitchfork*, *The Guardian*, and *Wired*. His debut memoir, *Bedroom Rapper*, was a *Globe and Mail* Best Book of the Year. (ONTARIO/ALBERTA)



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BRIONY PENN THE SEABIRD TRIALS

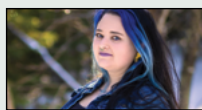


BRIONY PENN is an award-winning writer, naturalist, and environmental activist. Her books include *Following the Good River*, winner of the Victoria Butler Book Prize; *The Real Thing: The Natural History of Ian McTaggart Cowan*, which won the BC Book Prize and the Hamilton Mack Laing Award for Environmental History; and *The Seabird Trials*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

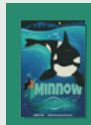


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WILLIE POLL MINNOW & A SALMON STORY



WILLIE POLL is a Métis author from the Robinson Huron Treaty Territory and a member of the Métis Nation of Ontario. She currently resides on Prince Edward Island as a guest on the traditional lands of the Wabanaki and Mi'kma'ki people. *Minnow* and *A Salmon Story* are her latest works. (PEI/ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 04 | PAGE 15 19 | PAGE 22

IAIN REID A NEW KIND OF CLEAN

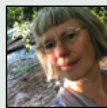


IAIN REID has written six acclaimed books, most recently *A New Kind of Clean* with Ellie Foubmi. His *New York Times* bestselling novel *I'm Thinking of Ending Things* was adapted into a Netflix film by Charlie Kaufman. His second novel, *Foe*, was also adapted to film, and his third novel, *We Spread*, was nominated for the Governor General's Literary Award. (ONTARIO)



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LISA ROBERTSON RIVERWORK



LISA ROBERTSON is a Canadian poet, essayist, and novelist who lives in France. She was given the C. D. Wright Award for Poetry by the Foundation for Contemporary Art in 2018, and her novel *The Baudelaire Fractal* was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award for Fiction. *Riverwork* is her latest work. (ONTARIO/FRANCE)



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CAROLINA PIHELGAS THE CUT LINE



CAROLINA PIHELGAS is an Estonian writer, poet, translator, and editor. Her collection of prose poems *Valgus kivi sees* ('The Light Within the Stone,' 2019) received the Estonian Cultural Endowment Award for the best poetry book of the year. *The Cut Line* is her second work of prose and her first work translated into English. (ESTONIA)



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MICHELLE PORTER A GLACIER'S GUIDE TO DYING



MICHELLE PORTER's debut novel, *A Grandmother Begins the Story*, won the Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award and was a finalist for the Atwood Gibson Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. Porter lives in St. John's, where she teaches creative writing and Métis Literature at Memorial University. *A Glacier's Guide to Dying* is her latest novel. (NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR)

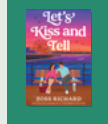


EVENTS: 54 | PAGE 36

JOSS RICHARD LET'S KISS AND TELL



JOSS RICHARD is the *USA Today* bestselling author of *It's Different This Time*, a Canada Reads 2026 finalist. A Daytime Emmy Award winner, she has worked with Netflix, Disney, Hello Sunshine, and Reese's Book Club. Born in Toronto, Ontario to Filipino immigrant parents, she now lives in Los Angeles. *Let's Kiss and Tell* is her latest novel. (PHILIPPINES)



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EDEN ROBINSON THE SORCERESS OF SKY SERPENTS



EDEN ROBINSON is the author of several award-winning books, including *Monkey Beach*, which won the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize and was a finalist for the Giller Prize and the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction, and recently, *The Sorceress of Sky Serpents*. Her book *Son of a Trickster* was a finalist for the Giller Prize & Canada Reads. (HAISLA/HEILTSUK)



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JANE ROGOYSKA HOTEL EXILE

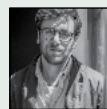


JANE ROGOYSKA is the author of *Surviving Katyń: Stalin's Polish Massacre and the Search for Truth*, a winner of the Mark Lynton History Prize; *Gerda Taro: Inventing Robert Capa*; *Kozłowski*; and *Hotel Exile*, a finalist for the Women's Prize for Nonfiction. She lives in London. (ENGLAND)



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JORDY ROSENBERG NIGHT NIGHT FAWN



JORDY ROSENBERG is the author of *Confessions of the Fox*, which was a *New York Times* Editors' Choice, and named one of the best books of 2018 by *The New Yorker*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and others. He is an Associate Professor in English Language and Literatures at the UBC Centre for Climate Justice. *Night Night Fawn* is his latest novel. (USA/BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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ERIC BECK RUBIN TEN CLEAR DAYS



ERIC BECK RUBIN is a novelist and academic. His debut, *School of Velocity*, was a *Guardian* Book of the Year. He produced the *Burning Books* podcast for seven years. Rubin teaches architectural and cultural history at the University of Toronto and collaborates with art galleries and firms on design exhibitions and contests. *Ten Clear Days* is his latest novel. (ONTARIO)

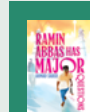


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AHMAD SABER RAMIN ABBAS HAS MAJOR QUESTIONS



AHMAD SABER grew up in Pakistan before his family moved to Canada. He is a medical doctor specializing in rheumatology, and *Ramin Abbas Has MAJOR Questions* is his debut novel, based in part on his own lived experience. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 05 | PAGE 16 34 | PAGE 28

ANAKANA SCHOFIELD LIBRARY OF BROTHEL

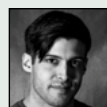


ANAKANA SCHOFIELD is the author of four acclaimed novels: *Library of Brothel*, *Bina*, *Martin John*, and *Malarky*, which have won and been nominated for numerous literary awards. Her essays and columns appear regularly in the *Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Star*. She's written for *The Guardian*, the *New York Times*, and the *Irish Times*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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COLTRANE SEESEQUASIS THE CRUCIBLE OF PAIN



COLTRANE SEESEQUASIS is a fantasy writer of Willow Cree heritage who grew up in Gatineau, Québec. Inspired by a love of nature as well as myths and folklore that challenge the limits of creativity, Seesequasis joins a new generation of writers, adding his voice to the immersive genre of fantasy. *The Crucible of Pain* is his latest work. (WILLOW CREE/QUÉBEC)



EVENTS: 22 | PAGE 23

VIVEK SHRAYA THE HYSTERICALS



VIVEK SHRAYA is an artist whose body of work crosses the boundaries of music, literature, visual art, theatre, TV, film, and fashion. Her bestselling book, *I'm Afraid of Men*, was heralded by *Vanity Fair* as "cultural rocket fuel." She has been a brand ambassador for MAC Cosmetics and Pantene and a guest host on *The Social* and CBC's *Q*. *The Hystericals* is her latest novel. (ALBERTA/ONTARIO)



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MONIQUE GRAY SMITH SHARING THE LIGHT & KOHKOM'S FIRST DRUM



MONIQUE GRAY SMITH is an award-winning, bestselling author and public speaker. Woven into all of Smith's writing and her speaking engagements is the teaching that Love is Medicine. Her most recent work includes *Kohkom's First Drum* and *Sharing the Light*. Smith lives on the Traditional Territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ Peoples. (CREE/SCOTLAND/BRITISH COLUMBIA)

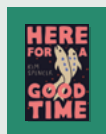


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KIM SPENCER HERE FOR A GOOD TIME & SPRINGTIME IN KITKATLA



KIM SPENCER is an award-winning, bestselling author. Her debut novel, *Weird Rules To Follow*, won multiple awards, including a 2024 Pacific Northwest Book Award. *Here For a Good Time* and *Springtime in Kitkatla* are her latest works. (GITXAALA NATION)



EVENTS: 05 | PAGE 16 39 | PAGE 30

JASON STANLEY ERASING HISTORY

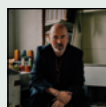


JASON STANLEY is the Bissell-Heyd-Associates Chair in American Studies at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy at the University of Toronto. He is the author of seven books, including *How Fascism Works* and, recently, *Erasing History*. His writing on authoritarianism and democracy has appeared in *The Guardian*, the *New York Times*, and many others. (USA)



EVENTS: 77 | PAGE 49

DOUGLAS STUART JOHN OF JOHN



DOUGLAS STUART is a Scottish-American novelist whose most recent work is the widely acclaimed *John of John*. His *New York Times*-bestselling debut novel, *Shuggie Bain*, won the 2020 Booker Prize and the Sue Kaufman Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. It was a finalist for the National Book Award, PEN/Hemingway Award, as well as several other literary awards. (SCOTLAND/USA)



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DAVID SZALAY FLESH



DAVID SZALAY was born in Montreal in 1974 and moved to the UK the following year. His most recent novel, *Flesh*, won the 2025 Booker Prize. He won the Betty Trask Prize for his first novel, *London and the South-East* (2008), and was recently named one of the *Telegraph's* "Top 20 British Writers under 40." (ENGLAND/HUNGARY)

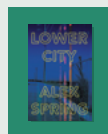


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ALEX SPRING LOWER CITY



ALEX SPRING is the pen name of Jared Bland, a writer and editor who lives in Toronto and Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. His crime fiction debut, *Lower City*, is "a novel that understands the anxieties of our time and uses them as a springboard into a dark underworld you can't get enough of" (Elamin Abdelmehmoud). (ONTARIO/NOVA SCOTIA)



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ROBIN STEVENSON THE BOOK OF JUPITER

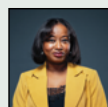


ROBIN STEVENSON is an award-winning author of extensive works of fiction and nonfiction for kids and teens. Her books have received numerous starred reviews, won a Stonewall Honor, and been finalists for the Governor General's Literary Awards, the Lambda Literary Awards, and many others. *The Book of Jupiter* is her latest work. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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CHANEL SUTHERLAND LAYAWAY CHILD

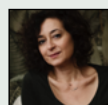


CHANEL SUTHERLAND is a Vincentian Canadian writer of fiction and creative nonfiction. She won the 2025 Commonwealth Short Story Prize, which she was also longlisted for in 2022. Sutherland is also the winner of the 2021 CBC Nonfiction Prize and the 2022 CBC Short Story Prize. *Layaway Child* is her latest work. (QUÉBEC)



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ECE TEMELKURAN NATION OF STRANGERS



ECE TEMELKURAN is an internationally acclaimed Turkish writer, political thinker, and public speaker whose work has been published worldwide and in several languages. *How to Lose a Country: The Seven Steps From Democracy to Dictatorship* received international praise. *Nation of Strangers* is her latest work. (TURKEY)



EVENTS: 01 | PAGE 14 51 | PAGE 34

ELLE TESCH THE HANGING BONES



ELLE TESCH has lived just east of Vancouver her entire life. Surrounded by forests and mountains, it was inevitable that she would daydream about what might lurk in those trees. She twists places she loves and writes what she knows best: hungry monsters, casually cruel villains, and ace-spec girls in the stories they deserve. She is the author of *The Hanging Bones*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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YASUKO THANH PIZZA BEFORE WE DIE



YASUKO THANH is a writer and a creative writing instructor at the University of Victoria. She is the author of two novels; a short story collection; and a memoir, *Mistakes to Run With*, which was a finalist for the Jim Deva Prize for Writing that Provokes. *Pizza Before We Die*, written with Hassan Kanafani, is her latest work. (VIETNAM/GERMANY/LEKWUNGEN TERRITORIES)



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KAI CHENG THOM THE SHAPESHIFTER'S GUIDE TO GYM CLASS

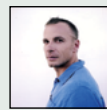


KAI CHENG THOM is a Chinese-Canadian writer, performance artist, mental health community worker, youth counsellor, and former social worker. Thom, a non-binary transgender woman, has published five books, most recently *The Shapeshifter's Guide to Gym Class*. She is a two-time Lambda Literary Award finalist. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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DAVID TREUER THE SAVAGE MIND: AN INDIGENOUS LEGACY



DAVID TREUER is the author of several fiction and nonfiction novels, including *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee*, a National Book Award Finalist, and most recently, *The Savage Mind*. Treuer is a Professor of English at the University of Southern California, an editor-at-large at Pantheon Books, and a contributing writer at *The Atlantic*. (OJIBWE/USA)



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JOHN VAILLANT FIRE WEATHER, THE GOLDEN SPRUCE, & THE TIGER

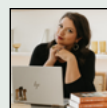


JOHN VAILLANT's acclaimed, award-winning nonfiction books, *Fire Weather*, *The Golden Spruce*, and *The Tiger*, were national bestsellers. His latest book, *Fire Weather*, was a finalist for the 2024 Pulitzer Prize and won the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing and the Baillie Gifford prize for Nonfiction. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

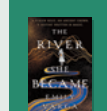


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EMILY VARGA THE RIVER SHE BECAME



EMILY VARGA is an internationally bestselling YA author, most recently of *The River She Became*. She now calls Western Canada her home, where she lives with her family and their menagerie of pets. When not writing, Varga works as a family lawyer, where she learned more about storytelling than she ever expected. (ALBERTA)

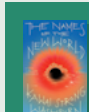


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KAWAI STRONG WASHBURN THE NAMES OF THE NEW WORLD



KAWAI STRONG WASHBURN was born and raised on the Hamakua coast of the Big Island of Hawai'i. His first novel, *Sharks in the Time of Saviors*, won the 2021 PEN/Hemingway award for debut novel and was selected as a notable or best book of the year by over a dozen publications. *The Names of the New World* is his latest work. (USA)



EVENTS: 44 | PAGE 31

JESSE WENTE TOUGH LIES



JESSE WENTE is a writer, broadcaster, speaker, and arts administrator. Born and raised in Toronto, his family comes from Chicago and Genaabaajing Anishinaabek, and he is a member of the Serpent River First Nation. His bestselling memoir, *Unreconciled*, won the Rakuten Kobo Emerging Writer Prize for Non-Fiction. *Tough Lies* is his latest work. (SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION/ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 01 | PAGE 14 07 | PAGE 17

DAN WERB OUR WILD FAMILIARS



DAN WERB is an award-winning writer and epidemiologist whose work has appeared in *The Globe and Mail*, the *New York Times*, and many other outlets in Canada and the US. His previous book, *The Invisible Siege*, won the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction in 2022. *Our Wild Familiars* is his latest work. (ONTARIO)

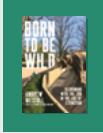


EVENTS: 30 | PAGE 27

ANDREW WESTOLL BORN TO BE WILD



ANDREW WESTOLL is a former primatologist-in-training, current Associate Professor of Creative Writing and English at the University of Toronto Scarborough, and author of *Born to be Wild*. His previous nonfiction book, the national bestseller *The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary*, was awarded the Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Nonfiction. (ONTARIO)



EVENTS: 30 | PAGE 27

IONA WHISHAW A FALSE AND FATAL CLAIM



IONA WHISHAW is a former educator and social worker whose mother and grandfather were both spies during their respective wars. She is the award-winning author of the *Globe and Mail* bestselling Lane Winslow Mystery series. *A False and Fatal Claim* is her latest novel. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, with her husband. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

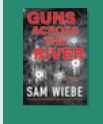


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SAM WIEBE GUNS ACROSS THE RIVER



SAM WIEBE is the author of the bestselling *Ocean Drive* (2024), as well as the Wakeland novels, one of the most authentic and acclaimed detective series in Canada, including *Sunset and Jericho* (2023) and *The Last Exile* (2025). *Guns Across the River* is his latest novel. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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DAMIEN WILKINS DELIRIOUS



DAMIEN WILKINS is the author of fourteen books, including *Delirious*, which won the Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction at the 2025 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. He is Director of the International Institute of Modern Letters Te Pūtahi Tui Auaha o Te Ao at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington. (NEW ZEALAND)



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JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD THE INBETWEEN LEADER



The Honourable **DR. JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD, PC, OBC, KC**, is the former Minister of Justice and Attorney General, a member of We Wai Kai Nation, a lawyer, a leader among Canada's Indigenous Peoples, and the author of four bestselling books. *The Inbetween Leader* is her most recent work. (WE WAI KAI NATION/BRITISH COLUMBIA)



EVENTS: 01 | PAGE 14 88 | PAGE 54

WILLIAM WODHAMS THIRTY FEET UNDER



WILLIAM WODHAMS lives in Vancouver, BC, with his wife and ill-behaved dog. His stories have appeared in several publications, and his first novel, *Declan Tucker's Grand Debut*, was published in 2024. *Thirty Feet Under* was named a finalist for the 2024 Crime Writers of Canada Best Unpublished Crime Novel Award. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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PP WONG SLICE THE WATER



PP WONG is an author, screenwriter, and editor. Her critically acclaimed debut novel, *The Life of a Banana*, was nominated for the Women's Prize for Fiction. Wong has a degree in Anthropology and Law from The London School of Economics and an MFA from UBC. *Slice the Water* is her latest work. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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JACK WONG GOODBYE, KOI

JACK WONG was born in Hong Kong and raised in Vancouver, BC. His acclaimed picture book *When You Can Swim* has won the Governor General's Award for Illustration, the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award, and the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award. He is also the creator of the picture book *All That Grows* and, most recently, *Goodbye, Koi*. (NOVA SCOTIA)



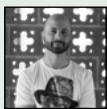
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ALAN WOO CEMETERY GAME

ALAN WOO is a teen services librarian with the Surrey Public Library. *Maggie's Chopsticks*, his first picture book, won the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize and was shortlisted for the Chocolate Lily Award. Woo's writing has appeared in *Ricepaper* and *Quills Canadian Poetry Magazine*, among many others. *Cemetery Game* is his latest work. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



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DANIEL ZOMPARELLI SUPER CASTLE FUN PARK

DANIEL ZOMPARELLI is the author of several poetry collections, most recently *Jump Scare*, and the short story collection *Everything Is Awful and You're a Terrible Person*. He co-edited *Queer Little Nightmares*. *Super Castle Fun Park* is his first novel. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



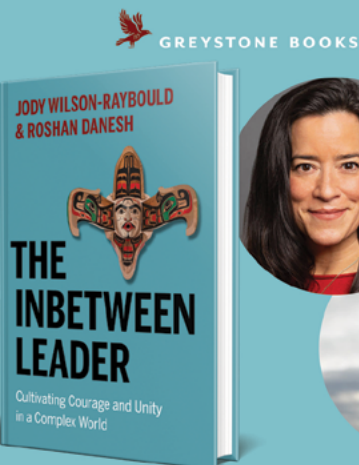
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2026 Festival Moderators

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

We’re lucky to collaborate with renowned journalists, academics, public speakers, authors, and experts across many fields, who travel from across Canada and the U.S. to lend their valuable perspectives and insights with authors and our audience. Some of the moderators we are delighted to welcome to the Festival this year include **Eleanor Wachtel, Laura Lynch, David Moscrop, Maria Reva, Max Fawcett, Margaret Gallagher, Michelle Cyca, Kathryn Gretsinger, Arno Kopecky, Bill Richardson, Carleigh Baker, Garth Mullins**, and many more.

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

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



Moderators

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Michelle Cyca	Minelle Mahtani	Eleanor Wachtel
Charlie Demers	Tara McGuire	Sam Wiebe
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Canisia Lubrin moderates a panel conversation at the 2025 Festival.

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and are designated by the icon to the right of their name.

Welcome to our new Page-Turners:

- Marian Botsford Fraser
Sarah de Leeuw
Daniel Getz
Aiman Hasnat
Julie Iannacone
Nicola McLaren
- Anna Panzo
Cathy Pedersen
Elena Prins
Melanie Rupp
Lorenz von Fersen
Holman Wang

Donations received between July 21, 2025 and July 30, 2026

Thank you to all of our other donors, who donate through
Canada Helps, Charitable Impact, Benevity, United Way,
and other giving platforms.
Our heartfelt appreciation to every person who has
included the Vancouver Writers Fest in their planned giving
by becoming members of the Postscript Society.



Granville Island is pleased to have supported the Vancouver Writers Fest for 39 years. Welcome back.

We are proud to sponsor many of Vancouver's most inspiring festivals, cultural events and performances with revenue generated here on Granville Island. Please support the restaurants, artisans, and businesses while you are here. Visit granvilleisland.com  





SAT FEB 6 / 7:30PM
Fran Lebowitz

OCT 8 Naomi Klein & Astra Taylor

OCT 15 Zadie Smith

NOV 5 Min Jin Lee

NOV 8 Ta-Nehisi Coates

JAN 28 Ocean Vuong