

# *Exceptional Books & Ideas in 70+ Events*

VANCOUVER  
**WRITERS  
FEST**



*October*  
18 – 24 2021

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## Land Acknowledgement

The Vancouver Writers Fest carries out its work on the *ancestral and unceded lands* of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations.

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## Welcome to the Vancouver Writers Fest's 34th annual Festival!



*Leslie Hurtig*

Leslie Hurtig, *Artistic Director*

In a year when our worlds became so small, and doorways closed, it was through art, music, and books that many of us found new pathways. Now, on the cusp of our fall Festival, we invite you to join us on Granville Island, and from your homes, as we present the works of over 115 extraordinary authors in a combination of in-person, digital, and hybrid events.

For many of us, gathering together—and sharing in the energy that we gain from one another—is something we can't wait to return to. Listening, as part of a live audience, to the words and ideas of authors such as our remarkable and deeply thoughtful Guest Curator, Lawrence Hill, or Cherie Jones, Mona Awad, André Alexis, Omar El Akkad, Lauren Groff, Darrel McLeod, and Silvia Moreno-Garcia, is a powerful act that can't be replicated through video.

And yet, we saw how virtual events were able to bridge a gap by connecting people who prefer to expand their horizons through digital pathways to incredible books, ideas, and dialogue. When it became clear that international authors wouldn't be able to visit us again this year, we embraced the virtual stage and invited authors such as Colson Whitehead, Colm Tóibín, Evan Osnos, Richard Powers, Anne Serre, and Mieko Kawakami to join us in a series of digital offerings.

Similarly, we have the ability to offer hybrid events that will see authors such as Miriam Toews, Brit Bennett, Jesse Wenthe, and Anthony Doerr “beaming in” for conversation, in theatres, with esteemed interviewers and live audiences. It's a good year to experiment and the Vancouver Writers Fest is excited to do so. We're excited also to bridge a connection between writers and readers; the sharing of new viewpoints, common objectives, and fantastic reads.

With that in mind, we present you with our Festival program, “SUBJECT TO CHANGE”: This seems like a good theme for this year! It can be read many ways; on one hand, it says, bear with us as we navigate these uncertain times and put plans in place that may necessarily be altered; on the other hand, it says, take this vital topic and make changes to it that are necessary in light of all that we have learned and all that we need to achieve in the coming years. If a subject is to change, we first need to listen and to learn how to do the work. The books of these great authors are a super place to start.

*Thank you for joining us!*

From our new *Executive Director*, Kaile Shilling



Kaile Shilling, *Executive Director*

I moved with my family to Vancouver just over a year ago—a strange time to transition into a new country. Our kids enrolled in local schools, and early on, my younger child’s class read an Indigenous memoir about residential schools and heard the author talk about her book in his class (virtually, of course). What a great opportunity, I thought, to have a book and its author help introduce my son to the complicated history of his new country.

That author talk was part of the Vancouver Writers Fest’s Writers in the Classroom series. It wasn’t long after that I joined the organization as the new Executive Director. I remain impressed with the thoughtfulness and commitment to using books as a way to create connection, foster inclusion, and contextualize complex issues and ideas.

This year has been a challenging one for the organization, yet the Writers Fest has embraced change and disruption by remaining open and welcoming the new—including me. We’re continuing in that spirit by reflecting deeply on how to embrace the opportunities this year of transition has brought. Opportunities for increased accessibility, connection, and partnership.

As we start and stop and start again to emerge from an extraordinary time where our worlds became smaller and more separated, it’s an honour to be one of the first festivals planning to bring us back to in-person community, to celebrate the power of books and stories to make our world bigger and more connected once again.

From *The Board*



Alexia Jones, *Board Chair*

The VWF provides exceptional experiences for audiences to interact with writers and creators on a range of issues: social, ethical, and political as well as literary and cultural. We are thrilled with this year’s program which we believe will take you on a journey of discovery through fact, fiction, poetry, and personal stories.

A big part of our story is our commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, which drove changes this year from our board structure to the development of an equity-focused review framework for our policies and governance practices. In the context of the global pandemic, the horrific uncovering of mass graves of Indigenous children, violence and hate towards BIPOC communities, including acts of anti-Asian racism and Islamophobia, and the devastating impacts of climate change on our province, country, and world, we know this commitment is part of an ongoing, necessary, and urgent journey.

The Board wants to recognize the incredible work of the entire VWF team. They continually find ways to inspire, deliver quality programming, and meet the challenges of uncertain times. None of this would be possible without you: our volunteers, members, festival-goers, and government, individual, and corporate sponsors. We’re grateful for your contributions that make it possible to put on a world class festival and year-round programs. Thank you from all of us!

*From our Guest Curator,*  
Lawrence Hill



★ LOOK FOR THIS ICON ON  
LAWRENCE'S CURATED EVENTS.

Over the years, I have found it increasingly exciting to encourage developing writers. I know how difficult it was for me, in the early years of writing, to find a publisher for my first novel *Some Great Thing*, which seemed to puzzle at least some agents and publishers because it featured a Black journalist covering French-English tensions in Manitoba in the 1980s. I could have wallpapered my bathroom with rejection slips before Turnstone Press finally picked it up, and it was later re-published by HarperCollins. Things became easier for me later, and fortunately a number of Indigenous and Black authors have met with resounding success in Canada and abroad in recent years. But it is worth remembering not just all the struggles that we and other writers faced, but also to know that it remains a challenge for Black and Indigenous writers to attract attention, respect, and a wide readership in this country and around the world.

I have always loved attending and supporting the Vancouver Writers Fest, which is one of the most dynamic, friendly, and diverse of its kind in the world.

I was honoured to be asked to serve as the 2021 Guest Curator, as it gave me the opportunity to help writers and readers forge new and unexpected connections. I look forward to welcoming writers whose distinct voices will enrich our conversations in Canada and enhance our mutual understanding, appreciation, and respect. I have chosen to focus my curation on Black and Indigenous writers, because Canadians still have many miles to walk before they can say that Indigenous and Black people are treated with the same respect and accorded the same opportunities as other Canadians. I have drawn with great pride on authors who hail from Canada, the United States, Barbados, and Haiti, because the canvases on which I write (and read!) expand far beyond this country's borders. I wish I could have invited more writers, but know that the new, emerging, and established artists who have accepted this invitation will stimulate even greater interest in their works and those of other authors.



Jillian Christmas,  
*Spoken Word Curator*

★ LOOK FOR THIS ICON ON  
JILLIAN'S CURATED EVENTS.

Jillian Christmas is an artist, creative facilitator, curator, consultant, and advocate in the arts community. She is the long-time spoken word curator of the Vancouver Writers Fest, and former Artistic Director of Verses Festival of Words. Utilizing an anti-oppressive lens, Jillian has performed and facilitated workshops across North America. She is the author of *The Gospel of Breaking* (Arsenal Pulp Press 2020), and the forthcoming children's book, *The Magic Shell* (Flamingo Rampant Press 2021). She lives on the unceded territories of the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and Musqueam people.



Sally Zori,  
*Musical Director*

★ LOOK FOR THIS ICON ON  
SALLY'S CURATED EVENTS.

A transgender Iraqi raised in the U.A.E. and different parts of "Canada." Sally Zori (they/them) is a session musician, percussionist, and content creator. They have played stages and theatres in North America, Europe, and Australia with different bands, orchestras, musicals, theatre shows, and (one New Years Eve in 2008) was the percussionist for Aretha Franklin. In 2017, they started Zori Media, a company focused on content creation for non-profits and social ventures. Sally is currently working on a project on their experience as a third culture kid and finding Home, with live musical underscoring.

# The Festival in 2021

As local events gradually and safely return to in-person, the Vancouver Writers Fest is proud and excited to welcome patrons back to our home on Granville Island. This year, we offer a thrilling mixture of in-person and hybrid explorations, while continuing to provide a selection of stunning digital events featuring Canadian and international authors. Our Youth events remain digital this fall with both Festival-time events and virtual Writers in the Classroom visits.

2020 taught all of us the importance of remaining flexible. As such, though we have presented information for every event within this guide to the best of our ability, provincial and international health guidelines may continue to change. Please refer to our website for the most up-to-date information regarding events and guest authors.

We look forward to welcoming you in-person and digitally for this special year of returning favourites and new adventures, and encourage you to sample both to your heart's content. Thank you for your continued support of our Festival and its mission: to connect people to exceptional books, ideas, and dialogue that ignites a passion for words and the world around us.



**WE'RE ASKING THOSE ATTENDING IN PERSON TO BE FULLY VACCINATED. MASKS ARE REQUIRED AT ALL VENUES AS OF THIS PRINTING. PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR FULL AND MOST CURRENT COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS.**

## Festival Tickets Info

Always check the website! Everything in our program guide is subject to change as the Covid-19 situation evolves, and the following details are abbreviated. [writersfest.bc.ca/box-office](http://writersfest.bc.ca/box-office)

### Pricing

**NEW!** Ticket prices now include GST and service fees, so there will be no surprises at checkout.



#### Events in Theatres **\$25**

Events in Theatres are \$25 all-inclusive. Does not include events held in The Nest (Pay-What-You-Can), the Literary Cabaret (\$45), or Afternoon Tea (\$45).



#### Digital Events **Pay-What-You-Can**

Digital events remain Pay-What-You-Can this year. If you plan on multiple events, we encourage you to check out the Digital Festival Pass!



#### Digital Festival Pass **\$100**

Digital Festival Pass (\$100) includes access to all digital-only events. See full details on our website.

Discounts for single events are offered for members (10%), seniors (10%), or youth under 30 (50%).

### Terms

We offer no exchanges or refunds except if an event is cancelled. Check your order carefully before you click Pay. Everything in our program guide is subject to change, so refer to our website for current info.

### Accessibility & Equitability

We do our best to make the Festival a safe, inclusive, low-barrier experience for you. See event descriptions for accessibility information, and please reach out with additional requests and questions to [boxoffice@writersfest.bc.ca](mailto:boxoffice@writersfest.bc.ca).

### Box Office

**Please book your tickets online.** There is no physical box office location. Call (844) 307-7469 for Showpass customer service if you need help completing your ticket order. You can direct all other questions to [boxoffice@writersfest.bc.ca](mailto:boxoffice@writersfest.bc.ca).

**On-sale dates:** Tickets are available to the public starting Wednesday, September 15 at 10am. Members and teachers receive early access beginning September 8.

### Attending *the Festival*

We return for Festival Week in a hybrid capacity, including some in-person events on Granville Island. To confirm an event's location, refer to these icons.



Theatre Events

**Theatre Events** have an in-person audience, and may include a mixture of authors on-stage or streamed in from another location.



Digital Events

**Digital Events** are 100% virtual and can be livestreamed wherever you are. Book individually or get a Digital Festival Pass.



Cinema Streaming at The Nest

**Cinema Streaming at The Nest** Watch some of our digital events in a comfortable cinema setting with other patrons at The Nest! Fill your Granville Island Festival schedule and participate in live Q&As. Events streamed at The Nest can also be viewed remotely at their designated times. Seating at The Nest is filled on a first-come-first-served capacity, with some seats reserved for Digital Pass holders. Books and concessions are available to purchase at this venue.

**IMPORTANT:** Please remember to check our website, as event formats may change suddenly to comply with provincial, national, and international health mandates.

# Map & Venue Information

## Map Legend

1. **Waterfront Theatre & Festival Bookstore,**  
1412 Cartwright St.
2. **Granville Island Stage (Arts Club),**  
1585 Johnston St.
3. **The Revue Stage,**  
1601 Johnston St.
4. **Granville Island Public Market,**  
1689 Johnston St
5. **The Nest, Third Floor, Festival House,**  
1398 Cartwright St.
6. **Performance Works,**  
1218 Cartwright St.
7. **Granville Island Hotel,**  
1253 Johnston St.
8. **Granville Island Brewery,**  
1441 Cartwright St.



## Parking Information

Granville Island has a parking system with metered and all-day options.

- Pay parking in effect **11am–6pm**
- Free parking **6pm–11am**

Parking time can be purchased at parking stations, using cash or credit cards, or by using the EasyPark, PayByPhone, or Honk app.

Off-Island parking is available at the EasyPark lot (990 Lamey's Mill Rd.) and on the north side of False Creek. Consider leaving your car there and coming to Granville Island by False Creek Ferry or Aquabus.

## Public Transit & Ferries

The #50 bus stops just outside Granville Island on Anderson St.

Many other buses stop along Granville St. and West 4th. Ferries travel from various locations along the north and south shores of False Creek to Granville Island at frequent intervals.

**Translink Schedule Information**  
[translink.ca](https://www.translink.ca)

**False Creek Ferries**  
[granvilleislandferries.bc.ca](https://www.granvilleislandferries.bc.ca)

**Aquabus**  
[theaquabus.com](https://www.theaquabus.com)

# A Year of Transition

The Vancouver Writers Fest relies on Members and donations to plan and produce our world-class array of events throughout the year. This includes an increased amount of Pay-What-You-Can digital content, as we deepen our commitment to accessibility.

We're in the unique position of planning both an in-person and digital Festival as we embrace a hybrid model during this year of transition. We've listened—and heard—our community loud and clear that digital content enables participation from many who are usually unable to join us due to cost, accessibility, or geography. We're committed to continuing this connection even post-Covid. At the same time, we know our Members are eager to engage in-person, and there's no substitute for live events!

We need your support more than ever to sustain this year's unique Festival. Please consider becoming a Member or giving a donation for Pay-What-You-Can events.

## Become a *Festival Member*

The Vancouver Writers Fest is a community of passionate readers and a gathering place throughout the year to engage with inspiring ideas, contextualize complex local and global issues, and to discover diverse emerging and established voices through excellent literature.

### VWF members receive special access, perks, and exclusive content, including:

- Festival Program Guide mailed to you
- Summer Reading Guide mailed to you
- Early access to Festival tickets
- 10% discount on all Festival tickets
- Invitations to exclusive Member events
- A vote at the VWF Annual General Meeting

### Annual membership **\$40**

Be part of our community today by joining as a Member:

[writersfest.bc.ca/membership](https://writersfest.bc.ca/membership)

Book Hound 

## Become A Book Hound — Join Our Monthly Donor Club

Monthly donations are our most dependable and important pillar of support. You help us save time and banking fees while also helping us maintain a strong financial base throughout the year to allow for more sustainable programming and planning.

As we transition back to full-time and in-person programming, your contribution is critically important to us this year!

Become a Book Hound: visit [writersfest.bc.ca/bookhound](https://writersfest.bc.ca/bookhound).

Monthly donations of **\$20/month** or more include a complimentary membership.

We always welcome one-time donations as well, if you're not ready to become a monthly donor. All contributions of any kind from our community are greatly appreciated.

You can make a one-time donation anytime at [writersfest.bc.ca/donate](https://writersfest.bc.ca/donate).





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604-986-6190

[www.kidsbooks.ca](http://www.kidsbooks.ca)

## Festival *Bookstore*

Buying  
*Your Books*

**Kidsbooks**

The Festival Bookstore returns to Granville Island this year in a new location at Waterfront Theatre. Operated by local bookseller, Kidsbooks, the Festival Bookstore will stock titles from all featured authors, making it the perfect place to browse between events.

### Festival Bookstore:



Lobby of Waterfront Theatre  
(1412 Cartwright St.)

### Bookstore Hours:

Monday–Thursday	5pm–10pm
Friday–Saturday	10am–10pm
Sunday	10am–5pm

## Publisher *Thank You*

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

Allen Lane	First Second	Kids Can Press	Random House Canada
Arsenal Pulp Press	Gallery/Saga Press	Knopf Canada	Riverhead Books
Avid Readers Press	Grand Central Publishing	Little, Brown and Company	RP Kids
Balzer + Bray	Groundwood Books	Margaret K. McElderry Books	Scholastic Canada
Biblioasis	Grove/Atlantic	McClelland & Stewart	Scribner
Bond Street Books	Hachette Book Group	New Directions	Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
Book*hug Press	Hamish Hamilton	NeWest Books	Strange Light
Caitlin Press	Harbour Publishing	Nightwood Editions	Tradewind Books
Coach House Books	Harper	Open Letter	Tundra Books
Del Rey	Harper Luxe	Orca Book Publishers	Viking
Doubleday Canada	Harper Perennial	Penguin Books	WLU Press
Douglas & McIntyre	HarperAvenue	Penguin Random House Canada	Write Bloody North
Drawn & Quarterly	HarperCollins Canada	Penguin Teen	World Editions
Dundurn Press	HarperCollins Publishers	Publishers Group Canada	
ECW Press	Hodder & Stoughton	Puffin Canada	
Europa Editions	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Raincoast Books	
Farrar, Straus and Giroux	House of Anansi		

# More Than *A Festival*

The Vancouver Writers Fest runs a diverse range of programs to connect book enthusiasts from across the Lower Mainland and beyond with authors, ideas... and their own imaginations. We work year-round to introduce audiences to exceptional writing.

## Our programs include:

### Incite

Incite offers free conversations with celebrated authors and emerging talents every two weeks from January to June.



Presented in partnership with Vancouver Public Library and with support from the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association and the Government of British Columbia.

### Special Events

Our year-round Special Events feature some of the biggest international authors being published today through eye-opening conversations and extraordinary books.

### Seasonal Book Club

Our Digital Book Club program features world-renowned authors four times a year. Tickets for this event series include a copy of the book and exclusive access to a live author discussion.



Presented in partnership with SFU Continuing Studies.

### Books & Brunch

Books & Brunch combines author conversation with a delicious brunch at the boutique Granville Island Hotel.

### Whisky & Words

Our biggest annual fundraiser, where guests engage in a multi-sensory experience, exploring local and international whisky and beer and live entertainment. Learn more at [whiskywords.ca](http://whiskywords.ca).

### My Roots

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

### Youth Education Programming

**(YEP!) — VIRTUAL IN 2021**

YEP! offers students the opportunity to interact with celebrated writers from across the globe in more than 50 events designed specifically for young people, teachers, schools, and student groups.

**At the Festival:** Each year, we reach more than 12,000 K–12 students across British Columbia—in the classroom and at the Festival.

**Writers in the Classroom:** 30 authors visit local schools for intimate class discussions and school assemblies in both traditional and non-traditional learning environments.

**Youth Writing Contest:** Our annual fiction and poetry contest for high school students. A judge reviews the entries each year, awarding a cash prize for first and second place.



The Youth Writing Contest is presented thanks to the generous support of Emily Carr University of Art + Design.

Thanks to the support of Bonnie Mah and the Government of British Columbia.

To find out more about our programs, visit [writersfest.bc.ca](http://writersfest.bc.ca).

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kidsbooks

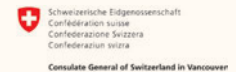


Media Sponsor

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Festival Supporter



We'd like to extend a special thank you to the publishers who helped support their authors' appearances at the 2021 Vancouver Writers Fest.



## Founder and Lifetime Member

Alma Lee

## Board of Directors

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<b>Robert McLean, Treasurer</b>	Tracy Rogers
<b>Holman Wang, Secretary</b>	Amanda Ross
	Nisha Sikka

## Staff & Collaborators

<b>Artistic Director</b> Leslie Hurtig	<b>Production Manager</b> Eduardo Ottoni
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<b>Outreach Coordinator</b> Leena Desai	
<b>Volunteer Manager</b> Kathryn Fowler	

## Festival Authors List

Jordan Abel	Omar El Akkad	Linden MacIntyre	Anne Serre
Caroline Adderson	Joshua Ferris	J.B. MacKinnon	jaye simpson
Karim Alrawi*	Sofia Fly	Beverley McLachlin	Adam Sol
Kamal Al-Solaylee	Cheryl Foggo	Darrel McLeod	Ashley Spires
André Alexis	John Freeman	Will McPhail	Maria Stepanova
Mona Awad	Claire Fuller	Silvia Moreno-Garcia	Robin Stevenson
Linwood Barclay	Pik-Shuen Fung	Cassandra Myers	Lisa Taddeo
Gary Barwin	Whitney Gardner*	Maggie Nelson	Rob Taylor
Brit Bennett	Chantal Gibson	Billeh Nickerson	Peyton Thomas
Joshua Bennett	Francisco Goldman	Susin Nielsen	Miriam Toews
Shashi Bhat	Ann Goldstein	Andrew O'Hagan	Colm Tóibín
Bertrand Bickersteth	Hiromi Goto	Alix Ohlin	Jeff VanderMeer
Lisa Bird-Wilson	Lauren Groff	Susan Orlean	Katherena Vermette
Linda Boström Knausgård	Tomson Highway	Evan Osnos	Karina Vernon
Eddy Boudel Tan	Gord Hill	Ruth Ozeki	Isabella Wang
Myriam Chancy	Lawrence Hill	Sara Pennypacker	Jesse Wente
Te-Ping Chen	Liz Howard	Valérie Perrin	Colson Whitehead
Joanna Chiu	Roy Jacobsen	Lois Peterson	Zoe Whittall
George Elliott Clarke*	Uzma Jalaluddin*	Ben Philippe	Sam Wiebe
Douglas Coupland	Carrie Jenkins	Casey Plett	Ian Williams
Christa Couture	Harold R. Johnson	Richard Powers	Brandon Wint
Molly Cross-Blanchard	Wayne Johnston	Pilar Quintana	Kathleen Winter
Joseph Dandurand	Cherie Jones	Sarah Raughley	Alex Wood
Aminder Dhaliwal	Stephen Graham Jones	Jael Richardson	Rachel Yoder
Marcello Di Cintio	Mieko Kawakami	Jaap Robben	Xiran Jay Zhao
Cherie Dimaline	Wab Kinew	David A. Robertson	
Anthony Doerr	Arno Kopecky	Tom Ryan	
Antonio Michael Downing	Gordon Korman	Yusef Salaam	
Norma Dunning	Janice Jo Lee	Kevin Sands*	
Elisa Shua Dusapin	Jen Sookfong Lee	Renée Sarojini Saklikar	
Esi Edugyan	Atticus Lish	Brian Selznick	




\* ONLY APPEARING IN WRITERS IN THE CLASSROOM EVENTS.

Wednesday, September 15 | 7:00pm

Includes Q&A ?

Digital 

#### Event Details

 Digital Event (Zoom)  Captioning  Pay-What-You-Can

# Jody Wilson-Raybould *in Conversation* with Dana Gee

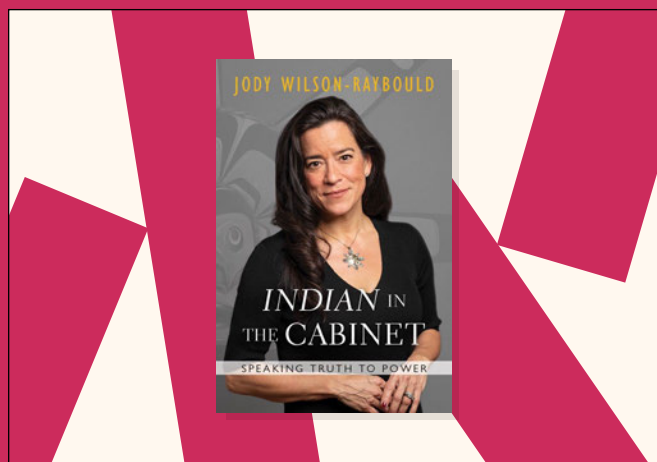
As one of the most high-profile political figures in Canada, **Jody Wilson-Raybould's** experience in Trudeau's Cabinet revealed important lessons about how we must continue to strengthen our political institutions and culture, and the changes we must make to meet challenges such as racial justice and climate change. Inspirational and full of integrity, Wilson-Raybould stood on principle at a critical juncture and resigned when the government failed to uphold its promises.

*Indian in the Cabinet: Speaking Truth to Power* is Wilson-Raybould's story of getting into federal politics, her experience as an Indigenous leader sitting around the Cabinet table, her proudest achievements, the very public SNC-Lavalin affair, and how she got out and moved forward. Hear a riveting and timely conversation on the eve of Canada's next federal election on the power of change, and our capacity to implement it, as Wilson-Raybould is joined by the *Vancouver Sun* journalist **Dana Gee** online with this exclusive book launch event, including a live Q&A with the audience.

The Honourable **Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., Q.C., M.P.**, is the Independent Member of Parliament for Vancouver Granville. She served as the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Minister of Veterans Affairs and the Associate Minister of National Defence until her resignation in 2019 following the SNC-Lavalin affair. Wilson-Raybould is a lawyer, an advocate and a leader in British Columbia's First Nations.

Jody Wilson-Raybould is a descendant of the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk and Laich-Kwil-Tach peoples, which are part of the Kwakwaka'wakw and also known as the Kwak'wala-speaking peoples. She is a member of the We Wai Kai Nation. Her traditional name, *Puglaas*, means "woman born to noble people."







Tickets Available Now



Monday, 18 October | 8:00 am

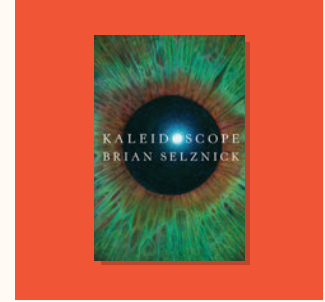
Digital 

## Event Details

-  Youth (Grades 6–12)
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Pre-recorded
-  Digital Event (YouTube)
-  Passholder Event
-  Auto-Caption Enabled

## Kaleidoscope: *Brian Selznick*

Caldecott Medalist **Brian Selznick** is known for genre-defying storytelling that combines words and images in original, expansive ways. His new book, *Kaleidoscope*, is no different. Inspired by the works of composer Philip Glass, the book shares a series of related short stories which rearrange the lives and interactions of two young boys. At the centre of each story—and the kaleidoscope—we find love, friendship, grief, hope, and a riveting perspective on our relationship with nature. The illustrator and author shares this uplifting and transcendent story, and the inspiration behind using multiple artforms to tell a story.



**BRIAN SELZNICK** has garnered countless accolades worldwide, and has been translated into more than 35 languages. He is the Caldecott Medal-winning creator of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, adapted into Martin Scorsese's Oscar-winning movie *Hugo*; and *Wonderstruck*; as well as *The Marvels* and *Baby Monkey*, *Private Eye*. Most recently, he illustrated the 20th anniversary paperback edition covers of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series. (UNITED STATES)



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Study with our faculty of internationally renowned, award-winning authors in a dynamic and inclusive environment that encourages artistic experimentation and community building.

[creativewriting.ubc.ca](http://creativewriting.ubc.ca)









Monday, 18 October | 9:30 am

Includes Q&amp;A ?

Digital 

## Event Details

-  Youth (Grades 4–7)
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Livestreamed
-  Digital Event (YouTube)
-  Passholder Event
-  Auto-Caption Enabled

## Sunny Days Inside: *Caroline Adderson*

Suddenly, in March 2020, the world shrank. Kids spent more time indoors than ever before. **Caroline Adderson**'s latest work is likely to outlive the pandemic, but it also offers a funny, wise, and accessible way to talk about the events of the last 18 months, the importance of human connection, and why we need to look after our mental health... no matter our age. *Sunny Days Inside* shares stories of kids in an apartment building, each coping with being indoors during a “grownup virus.” Some try science experiments, others run laps on their balconies, and others learn about the importance of family as everyone navigates a new way of life. A Festival favourite, Adderson will talk about her book before taking questions from classes.









**CAROLINE ADDERSON** is an award-winning author of books for young readers and adults. She wrote the picture books *Norman, Speak!* (illustrated by Qin Leng) and *I Love You One to Ten* (illustrated by Christina Leist), as well as the Jasper John Dooley and Izzy series. Her middle-grade books include *Middle of Nowhere*, *A Simple Case of Angels*, and *The Mostly True Story of Pudding Tat*, *Adventuring Cat*. She has won the Sheila Egoff Award, the Chocolate Lily Book Award, and the Diamond Willow Award. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

Monday, 18 October | 11:00am

Includes Q&amp;A ?

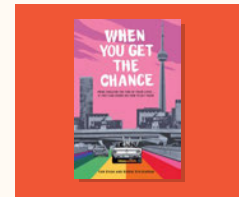
Digital 

## Event Details

-  Youth (Grades 8–12)
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Livestreamed
-  Digital Event (YouTube)
-  Passholder Event
-  Auto-Caption Enabled

## When You Get The Chance: *Tom Ryan and Robin Stevenson*

Highly-respected, award-winning authors **Tom Ryan** and **Robin Stevenson** have each penned multiple books for teens. They paired up for a powerful book about belonging, identity, love, and fun. *When You Get The Chance* shares the story of cousins on a road trip to Pride. Mark and Talia are queer, but that’s about all they have in common—Talia is desperate to see her sweetheart, Erin, while Mark just wants some fun. A page-turning read, this YA novel shares their adventures to get to Toronto Pride. Ryan and Stevenson will speak to their writing process, and the importance of being who you are, in a fun, dynamic presentation.



**TOM RYAN** is an award-winning author for children and teens. His debut novel, *Way To Go*, was nominated for the OLA White Pine Award and made the 2013 ALA Rainbow List. His follow-up, *Tag Along*, received glowing reviews and was nominated for a number of distinctions, including CCBC's (Canadian Children's Books Council) Best Books and the 2013 ALA Rainbow List. Ryan was born and raised in Inverness, and lives in Halifax with his husband and their awesome dog. (NOVA SCOTIA)







**ROBIN STEVENSON** is the author of more than twenty books for children and teens. She regularly presents in schools, offering book talks, creative writing workshops, and presentations on LGBTQ+ Pride. Her YA novel *A Thousand Shades of Blue* was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award, and is included on CBC's list, "100 YA Novels that Make You Proud to Be Canadian." Stevenson lives on the west coast of Canada with her partner and their son. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

Monday, 18 October | 2:00pm

Includes Q&A 

Digital 

**Event Details**

-  Youth (Grades 8–12)
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Livestreamed
-  Digital Event (YouTube)
-  Passholder Event
-  Auto-Caption Enabled

## Walking in Two Worlds: *Wab Kinew*

This is a must-read book of the season—and a perfect choice for fans of gaming, *Ready Player One*, and the *Otherworld* series. **Wab Kinew**—bestselling author, journalist, and politician—returns with another captivating story, this time about an Indigenous teen girl caught between the real and virtual world. Bugz and her friend Feng bond as outsiders and gamers, but must decide what to do in the face of temptations and when they encounter family and community trauma. Engaging and sage, Kinew captivates audiences of every age with his storytelling. He'll share the inspiration behind his latest work before fielding questions from classes.



**WAB KINEW** is the bestselling, award-winning author of *Go Show the World* and *The Reason You Walk*. A member of the Midewin and an Honorary Witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, he is a former journalist, hip-hop artist, and television host who was named by Postmedia News as one of “9 Aboriginal movers and shakers you should know.” Kinew, a provincial politician, lives in Winnipeg with his family. (MANITOBA)

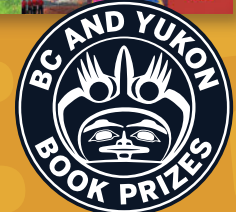
# CONGRATULATIONS

to the finalists of the 2021 BC and Yukon Book Prizes



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Monday, 18 October | 6:00pm

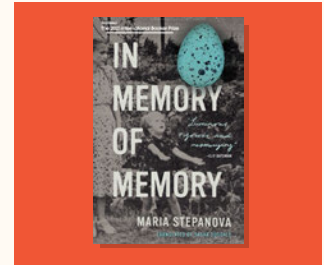
Cinema & Streaming 

**Event Details**

-  Cinema (**The Nest**) and At-Home Viewing
-  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)
-  Auto-Caption Enabled
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Pre-recorded

## Maria Stepanova in Conversation with Aislinn Hunter

**Maria Stepanova** became an internationally-recognized name in literature thanks to her Booker Prize-shortlisted, genre-defying work. In Russia, she has been revered as one of the most important poets of the post-Soviet generation for years. *In Memory of Memory* is a response to Stepanova’s own lived experience, sifting through faded photographs, old postcards, letters, diaries, and heaps of souvenirs to tell the story of how her seemingly ordinary Jewish family somehow managed to survive the myriad persecutions and repressions of the last century. In dialogue with writers like Roland Barthes, W. G. Sebald, Susan Sontag, and Osip Mandelstam, Stepanova’s work is a rare gift. The author speaks with poet and novelist **Aislinn Hunter** about blending genres and grappling with the past.



**MARIA STEPANOVA** is one of the most distinctive voices of Russia’s post-Soviet literary generation. An award-winning poet and prose writer, essayist, and journalist, Stepanova is the author of ten poetry collections and three books of essays. Her novel *In Memory of Memory* was shortlisted for the 2021 International Man Booker Prize. Stepanova is the founder of the online crowd-sourced journal *Colta.ru*, which covers the cultural, social and political reality of contemporary Russia, reaching nearly a million visitors each month. (RUSSIA)

**AISLINN HUNTER** is the author of eight highly acclaimed books including the bestselling novel *The Certainties* and *The World Before Us*, winner of the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. She teaches creative writing at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

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A message from the BC Teachers' Federation | [bctf.ca](http://bctf.ca)

istock

Monday, 18 October | 6:00pm

Digital 

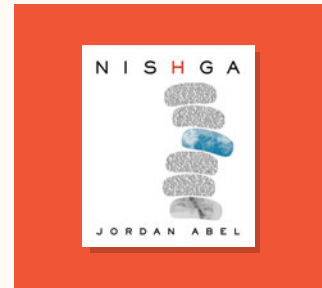
## Event Details

 Digital Event (Podcast) Available wherever podcasts are streamed.

## PODCAST: *Jordan Abel in Conversation with Tanya Talaga*

Griffin Poetry Prize winner **Jordan Abel's** *Nishga* is a groundbreaking, deeply personal, and devastating autobiographical meditation that attempts to address the complicated legacies of Canada's residential school system and contemporary Indigenous existence. It is necessary reading; an astounding work that explores some of the most pressing issues of our time. Journalist and award-winning author, **Tanya Talaga**, who has worked throughout her career to document and advocate for the need for justice for Indigenous peoples in Canada, speaks to Abel about his latest work. They speak to confronting difficult truths, and how both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples engage with a history of colonial violence that is quite often rendered invisible. This is not only essential reading; it's essential listening.

**PUBLISHING @ SFU** Presented in partnership with SFU's Master of Publishing program.



**JORDAN ABEL** is a Nisga'a writer from Vancouver. He is the author of *The Place of Scraps* (winner of the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize), *Un/inhabited*, and *Injun* (winner of the Griffin Poetry Prize). Abel's work has been published in numerous journals and magazines—including *Canadian Literature* and *Poetry Is Dead*—and his visual poetry has been exhibited at the Polygon Gallery and the Oslo Pilot Project Room. He teaches Indigenous Literatures and Creative Writing at the University of Alberta. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

**TANYA TALAGA** is the author of *Seven Fallen Feathers*: a multi-award winning, nationally bestselling title. Talaga was the 2017–2018 Atkinson Fellow in Public Policy and the 2018 CBC Massey Lecturer.

Monday, 18 October | 7:30pm

Includes Q&A Theatre 

## Event Details

 Theatre Event (Waterfront Theatre)  \$25 (All-Inclusive)  ASL on Request

## Matrix: *Lauren Groff in Conversation with John Freeman*

Of all the attributes **Lauren Groff** possesses, range is surely one of them. Her “all-conquering” 2015 novel, *Fates and Furies*, was a literary masterpiece about a modern day marriage, creativity, and perception. *Florida* brought storms, snakes, and sinkholes to lurk at the edges of everyday life in strange, affecting stories. And now, her latest anticipated work, *Matrix*, explores the raptures and hardships of life in a 15th century convent, as told by seventeen-year-old Marie de France. Groff's accolades wouldn't fit onto this page: a two-time finalist for the National Book Award; finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Prize; Winner of the American Booksellers' Association Award; a bestseller many times over; and a writer beloved by readers and critics alike. Hear from this fascinating mind—and one of our finest writers today—as she speaks to author, poet, and editor, **John Freeman**.



**LAUREN GROFF** is a two-time National Book Award finalist and *The New York Times*-bestselling author of three novels—*The Monsters of Templeton*, *Arcadia*, and *Fates and Furies*—and the celebrated short story collections *Delicate Edible Birds* and *Florida*. She has won The Story Prize, the PEN/O. Henry Award, and been a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. She was named one of *Granta's* 2017 Best Young American Novelists. (UNITED STATES)

**JOHN FREEMAN** is the editor of *Freeman's*, a literary annual of new writing, an executive editor at Alfred A. Knopf, and author of two books of nonfiction. He teaches at The New School and is Distinguished Writer-in Residence at New York University.

Monday, 18 October | 7:30pm

Includes Q&amp;A ?

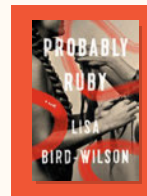
Theatre 

## Event Details

- ★ Curated by Lawrence Hill
- 💰 \$25 (All-Inclusive)
-  Theatre Event (Revue Stage)
-  ASL on Request

## One-to-One With Lisa Bird-Wilson and Katherena Vermette

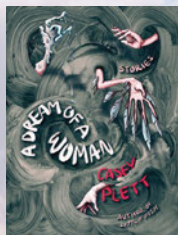
**Lisa Bird-Wilson's** stunning new novel, *Probably Ruby*, follows the spirited protagonist Ruby as she begins to search in the unlikeliest of places for her Indigenous identity. She speaks with award-winning novelist **Katherena Vermette**, whose novel *The Break* won multiple awards and nominations. *The Strangers*, Vermette's latest, is a staggering intergenerational saga that explores how connected we are, even when we are forced apart. Two of the most celebrated Indigenous authors on Turtle Island explore key themes in their work, including the experience of womanhood amidst trauma, the importance of interconnectedness, and the exceptional Indigenous voices emerging today.



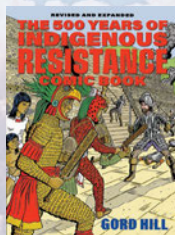
**LISA BIRD-WILSON** is a Saskatchewan Métis and nēhiyaw writer whose work appears in literary magazines and anthologies across Canada. Her fiction book, *Just Pretending*, was a finalist for the national Danuta Gleed Literary Award and won four Saskatchewan Book Awards, including the 2014 Book of the Year. In 2019, it was selected to be the Saskatchewan One Book One Province campaign choice to promote reading across the province. (SASKATCHEWAN)

**KATHERENA VERMETTE** is a Métis writer from Treaty 1 territory, heart of the Métis nation, Winnipeg. Her poetry collection *North End Love Songs* won the Governor General's Literary Award. Her award-winning novel *The Break* was a bestseller in Canada. She is also the author of the graphic novel series, *A Girl Called Echo*, the children's picture book, *The Girl and The Wolf*, and co-wrote and co-directed the short documentary, *this river*. *The Strangers* is her second novel. (MANITOBA)

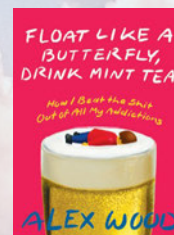
## DREAM AUTHORS AT THE VANCOUVER WRITERS FEST!



**CASEY PLETT**  
*A Dream of a Woman*



**GORD HILL**  
*The 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance Comic Book*



**ALEX WOOD**  
(and editor Charles Demers)  
*Float like a Butterfly, Drink Mint Tea*



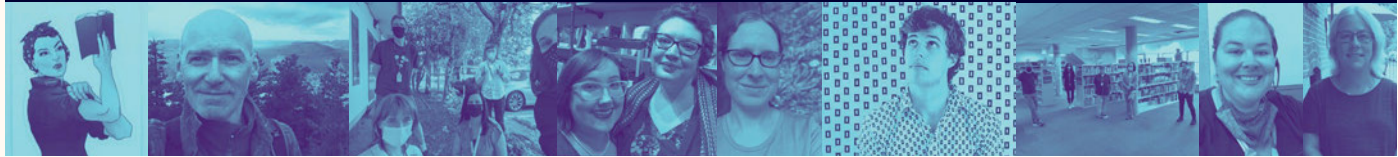
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# CUPE 391 IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE VANCOUVER WRITERS FEST

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 **PAGE TWO**  
[pagetwo.com](http://pagetwo.com)

Tuesday, 19 October | 9:30am

Includes Q&amp;A ?

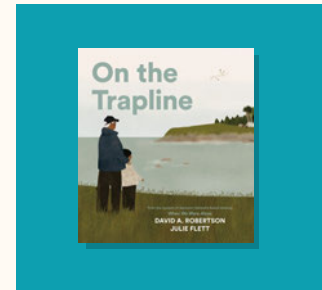
Digital 

## Event Details

-  Youth (Grades K–2)
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Livestreamed
-  Digital Event (YouTube)
-  Passholder Event
-  Auto-Caption Enabled

## On The Trapline: *David A. Robertson*

Spend an engaging morning with bestselling, Governor General's Literary Award-winning author **David A. Robertson** who will keep little ones entertained with his latest work *On the Trapline*. In collaboration with illustrator Julie Flett, Robertson's work celebrates Indigenous culture and traditions, and honours our connections to the past. This book perfectly captures the experience of a young child's wonder as he is introduced to places that hold meaning to his family. This wonder will surely traverse the airwaves as the veteran speaker, and father himself, shares this meaningful tale with young audiences.



**DAVID A. ROBERTSON** is the author of numerous books for young readers including *When We Were Alone*, which won the 2017 Governor General's Literary Award. *The Barren Grounds* received a starred review from *Kirkus* and was a *Kirkus* and *Quill & Quire* best middle-grade book of 2020. A sought-after speaker and educator, as well as recent recipient of the Writers' Union of Canada's Freedom to Read Award, Robertson is a member of the Norway House Cree Nation. (MANITOBA)









Presented in collaboration with the Vancouver International Children's Festival.

Tuesday, 19 October | 11:00am

Includes Q&amp;A ?

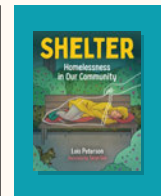
Digital 

## Event Details

-  Youth (Grades 4–7)
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Livestreamed
-  Digital Event (YouTube)
-  Passholder Event
-  Auto-Caption Enabled

## Home Truths with Jen Sookfong Lee and Lois Peterson

Home. At its best, home keeps us safe, gives us identity, and brings us joy. It's, well... *home*. What happens when home no longer means that? What drives people to search for new homes? What causes people to become homeless? And what can you do to help? This conversation with two esteemed authors will help youth grapple with important social questions and issues affecting their communities and beyond. **Jen Sookfong Lee's** *Finding Home: The Journey of Immigrants and Refugees* shows how human migration has shaped the world and explores some of the challenges facing immigrants and refugees today. **Lois Peterson's** *Shelter: Homelessness in Our Community* looks at the reason there are 150 million homeless people in the world today, the myths we often hear, and what actions we can take to ensure everyone has a place to call home.



**JEN SOOKFONG LEE** is the author of *The Conjoined*, nominated for the International Dublin Literary Award and a finalist for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, and *The Better Mother*, a finalist for the City of Vancouver Book Award. She was a columnist for CBC Radio One's *The Next Chapter* for many years. She teaches at The Writer's Studio Online with Simon Fraser University, edits fiction for Wolsak & Wynn, and co-hosts the literary podcast *Can't Lit*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

**LOIS PETERSON** is the award-winning author of eight books of fiction for children, and numerous short stories, essays, and articles for adults. She worked at a public library for more than 35 years and worked as executive director of a homeless shelter. She lives in Nanaimo. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

Tuesday, 19 October | 2:00pm

Includes Q&amp;A

Digital

## Event Details

- ★ Curated by Jillian Christmas
- 💰 Pay-What-You-Can
- 🗣️ Auto-Caption Enabled
- 👤 Youth (Grades 8–12)
- 🎫 Passholder Event
- 👤 Hosted by Jillian Christmas
- 📺 Digital Event (YouTube)
- 📺 Livestreamed

# Word!

## *With* Sofia Fly, Janice Jo Lee, and Cassandra Myers

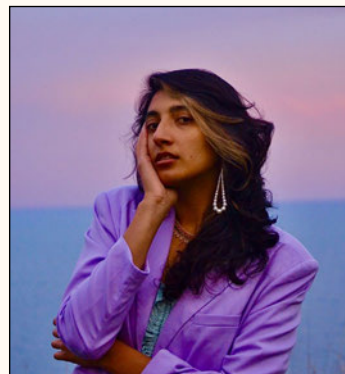
By now our audiences know: Word! is one of the most popular, acclaimed events of our program every year. While seeing these artists on screen may be different, what remains is the magnetic energy of each storyteller and the ability for youth to engage with important ideas through spoken word poetry. Spoken Word Curator **Jillian Christmas** has invited some of the most exciting artists in the field. **Sofia Fly** is an LGBTQ rapper and producer who channels inspiration from her Latin roots and Toronto upbringing. **Janice Jo Lee** is a folk-soul singer-songwriter, spoken word poet, actor, and playwright from Kitchener, Ontario of Korean ancestry. And **Cassandra Myers** is a queer, trans, mad, South Asian-Italian poet, performer, educator, and social worker from Toronto, Ontario, who has performed their work across the United States and Canada. Each of them promises to ignite the day.



**SOFIA FLY** is a DJ/Producer/Musician. Her music features poetic party-girl lyrics set to a Latin inspired fusion of trap and house music. A Trans woman and Queer nightlife Queen, she frequently DJs across the city in-person and virtually playing sets built around her own signature remixes and beats. She's performed spoken word across the country and won first place at the Canadian National Festival of Spoken Word with the Toronto Poetry Slam Team in 2013. (ONTARIO)



**JANICE JO LEE** aka Sing Hey, is a contemporary folk artist of Korean ancestry. Lee is a hard femme, queer, radical, comedian, truth-teller and satirist. In Waterloo Region, Lee was voted Best Performance Artist from 2016 to 2020. She was the City of Kitchener's Artist in Residence in 2015. She is the founding artistic director of the Kitchener-Waterloo Poetry Slam. Lee has worked as an educator for ten years facilitating arts, anti-oppression and leadership workshops across Canada. (ONTARIO)








**CASSANDRA MYERS** is a queer, non-binary, South Asian-Italian, disabled poet, performer, community worker, and facilitator in Tkaronto, Ontario. Myers' is a national spoken word champion and has won awards such as the ARC Poetry Magazine's Poem of the Year Award. Cassandra's forthcoming book is anticipated with Write Bloody Publishing. (ONTARIO)

Tuesday, 19 October | 7:00pm

Cinema & Streaming 

## Event Details

-  Cinema (**The Nest**) and At-Home Viewing
-  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)
-  Auto-Caption Enabled
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Pre-recorded

## On Animals: *Susan Orlean in Conversation* with Mark Medley

Each time **Susan Orlean** graces the Writers Fest with a visit, audiences are reminded why she is called “a national treasure” by *The Washington Post*. The *New Yorker* staff writer, and author of *The Library Book* joins us to celebrate her latest work—a collection of musings, meditations, and in-depth profiles about animals. “I think I’ll always have animals and I think I’ll always write about them. Their unknowability challenges me. Our affection for them intrigues me,” she explained, when sharing the motivation behind these works, written on her farm and amidst her travels. Orlean has the uncanny ability to make us newly recognize and think differently about items and beings in our midst. *On Animals* is yet another stunning example of Orlean’s transcendent skill as a writer to make us newly recognize and think differently about items and creatures in our midst.



**SUSAN ORLEAN** has been a staff writer at *The New Yorker* since 1992. She is the author of seven books, including *Rin Tin Tin*, *Saturday Night*, and *The Orchid Thief*, which was made into the Academy Award–winning film *Adaptation*. She lives with her family and her animals in Los Angeles. (UNITED STATES)

**MARK MEDLEY** is Deputy Editor of the *Globe and Mail*'s Opinion section. He previously served as its Books Editor. His work has appeared in publications including *Toronto Life*, *The Walrus*, and across the Postmedia chain of newspapers.

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Congratulations, BCIT alumnus Eddy Boudel Tan, on your latest novel, *The Rebellious Tide*.

## Join the Writers Fest Become a Member today

Check our website  
or page #8 for details.

Tuesday, 19 October | 7:30pm

Includes Q&amp;A



Theatre



## Event Details

Theatre Events  
(Granville Island Stage)

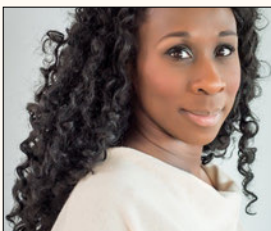
\$ \$25 (All-Inclusive)

ASL Provided

## Out of the Sun: *Esi Edugyan in Conversation* with Chantal Gibson

“What happens when we consider stories at the margins? How do they complicate our certainties of who we are, as individuals, as nations, and as human beings?” Undoubtedly one of the most lauded writers in Canada today, **Esi Edugyan** asks these essential questions in her 2021 Massey Lecture: *Out of the Sun: On Race and Storytelling*. She speaks about this latest non-fiction work with artist, poet, and author **Chantal Gibson**. Edugyan’s accolades include being a finalist for the Booker Prize, the Governor General’s Literary Award, the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize, and the Orange Prize. She is one of only two people to have won the Scotiabank Giller Prize twice: first for *Half-Blood Blues* and, most recently, for *Washington Black*. This incisive analysis of the relationship between race and art cements her as one of the most exciting thinkers in the country.

Listen to CBC Radio IDEAS this fall for a unique audio experience from Esi Edugyan as she delivers the 2021 Massey Lecture, *Out of the Sun*, on CBC Radio One and CBC Listen. Visit [CBC.ca/ideas](https://www.cbc.ca/ideas) for more information.



**ESI EDUGYAN** is the award-winning and internationally bestselling author of *Washington Black*, which was a finalist for the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize and the Man Booker Award; and *Half-Blood Blues*, which was a finalist for the Governor General’s Literary Award and the Man Booker Prize. Both won the Scotiabank Giller Prize. She is also the author of *The Second Life of Samuel Tyne*, and *Dreaming of Elsewhere*, which is part of the Kreisel Memorial Lecture Series. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

**CHANTAL GIBSON** is an award-winning writer-artist-educator whose work confronts colonialism head on. Her debut book of poetry, *How She Read*, was the winner of the 2020 Pat Lowther Memorial Award and the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize.

# SANKOFA




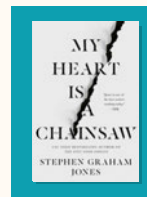
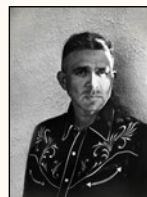
African Routes, Canadian Roots

November 4, 2021 – March 27, 2022

**MOA**Museum of Anthropology at UBC  
A place of world arts + cultures



Tuesday, 19 October | 7:30pm

Includes Q&A Theatre Hybrid **Event Details - Authors Joining In-Person & Virtually** Theatre Hybrid Event (**Waterfront Theatre**) Stephen Graham Jones (**virtual**);  
Silvia Moreno-Garcia (**on-stage**) \$25 (All-Inclusive) Moderated by Amber Dawn  
(**on-stage**) ASL on Request

## Spine-Chillingly Good: *With Stephen Graham Jones* and Silvia Moreno-Garcia

Sometimes writing makes you take a breath in anticipation. Sometimes it catches you off guard with new ideas that transcend what you've read before. And sometimes both. These authors have both defied and redefined the noir and thriller genres.

**Stephen Graham Jones'** *The Only Good Indians* was a *New York Times* bestseller and called "one of 2020's buzziest horror novels" by *Buzzfeed*. He returns with *My Heart is a Chainsaw* in which a young female protagonist needs to save her town.

**Silvia Moreno-Garcia's** debut, *Mexican Gothic*, was a media favourite internationally, thanks to its chilling gothic horror tropes and *Jane Eyre*/1950s Mexico mashup. Her latest, *Velvet Was the Night*, is a "delicious, twisted treat." Discover two of the most interesting writers who can make the hair on the back of your neck stand up, as they talk craft, the art of the scare, and what draws them to the dark.

**STEPHEN GRAHAM JONES** is the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *The Only Good Indians*. He has been an NEA fellowship recipient, has won the Jesse Jones Award for Best Work of Fiction from the Texas Institute of Letters, the Independent Publishers Award for Multicultural Fiction, a Bram Stoker Award, four This is Horror Awards; and has been a finalist for the Shirley Jackson Award and the World Fantasy Award. He teaches at the University of Colorado, Boulder. (UNITED STATES)

**SILVIA MORENO-GARCIA** is the *New York Times*-bestselling author of the critically acclaimed speculative novels *Gods of Jade and Shadow*, *Signal to Noise*, *Certain Dark Things*, and *The Beautiful Ones*; and the crime novel *Untamed Shore*. She has edited several anthologies, including the World Fantasy Award-winning *She Walks in Shadows* (aka *Cthulhu's Daughters*). She lives in Vancouver. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

**AMBER DAWN** is the author of five books and the editor of three anthologies. She currently teaches creative writing at Douglas College, as well as guest mentors at several low-barriers, community-driven spaces.



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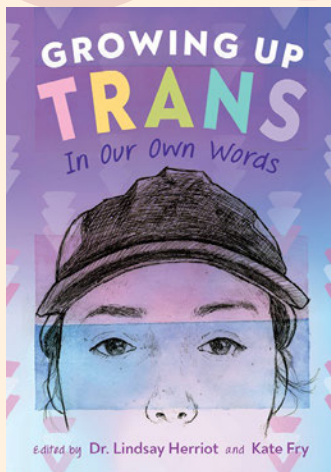
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# EXPLORE THE WORLD

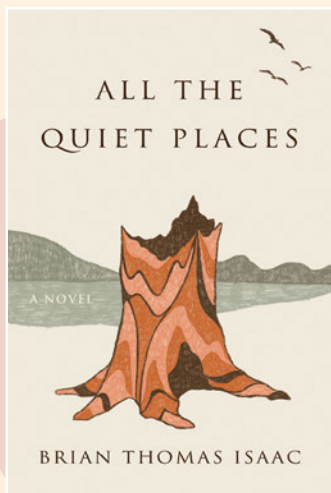
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**BC BOOKS**

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Mischief Making  
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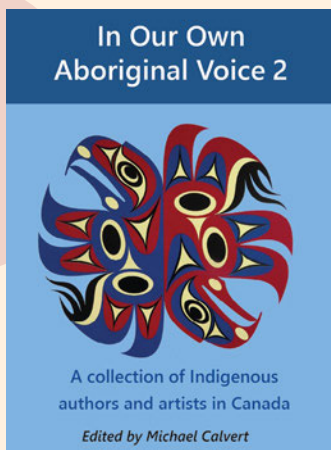
INDIGENOUS ART

Arab Fairy Tale Feasts  
by Karim Alrawi; illustrated by Nahid Kazemi  
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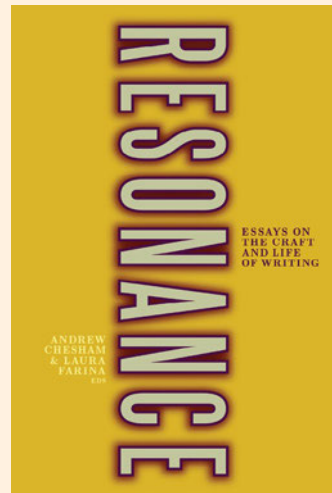
CHILDREN'S BOOK

In Our Own Aboriginal Voice 2  
edited by Michael Calvert  
REBEL MOUNTAIN PRESS



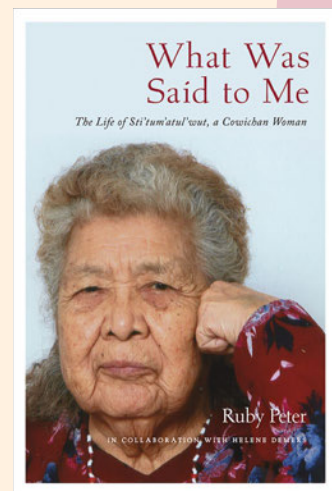
ANTHOLOGY

Resonance  
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ANVIL PRESS



NONFICTION

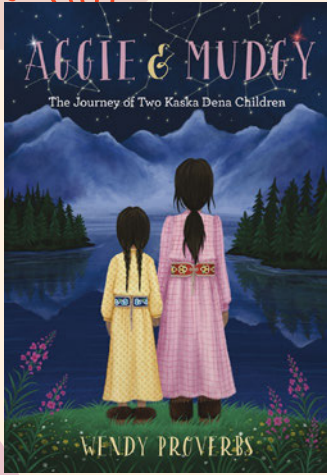
What Was Said to Me  
by Ruby Peter, in collaboration with Helene Demers  
ROYAL BC MUSEUM



MEMOIR

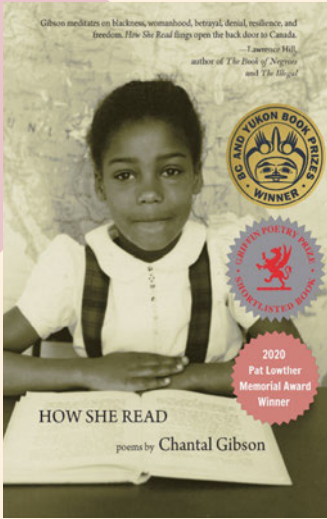


Aggie & Muddy  
by Wendy Proverbs  
HERITAGE HOUSE



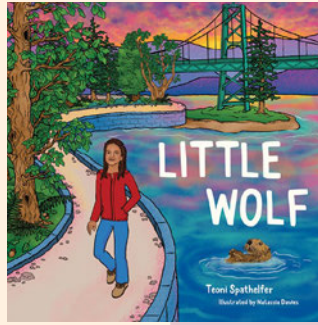
YOUTH FICTION

How She Read  
by Chantal Gibson  
CAITLIN PRESS



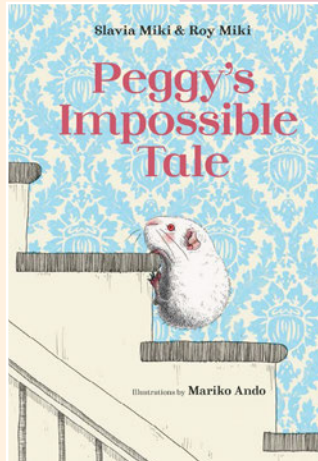
POETRY

Little Wolf  
by Teoni Spatheifer  
HERITAGE HOUSE



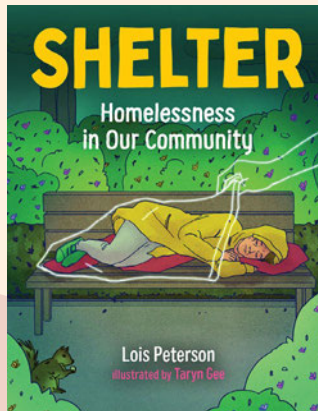
PICTURE BOOK

Peggy's Impossible Tale  
by Slavia Miki & Roy Miki; illustrated by Mariko Ando  
TRADEWIND BOOKS



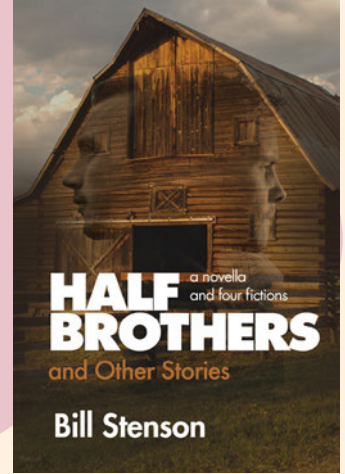
CHAPTER BOOK

Shelter  
by Lois Peterson  
ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS



YOUTH NONFICTION

Half Brothers  
by Bill Stenson  
MOTHER TONGUE PUBLISHING



FICTION

All That Monk Business  
by Barry Kennedy  
NOW OR NEVER PUBLISHING



FICTION









Wednesday, 20 October | 9:30am

Includes Q&amp;A ?

Digital 

## Event Details

-  Youth (Grades K–3)
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Livestreamed
-  Digital Event (YouTube)
-  Passholder Event
-  Auto-Caption Enabled

## Burt the Beetle Doesn't Bite

### With Ashley Spires

Join us for a reading and conversation with bestselling children's author **Ashley Spires**. She brings her signature deadpan humour to *Burt the Beetle Doesn't Bite*: a hilarious story about one bug's quest for greatness! Spires shows children why being special is just as much about who you are as it is about your abilities. This is sure to be a charming morning of science fun.



Presented in collaboration with the Vancouver International Children's Festival.










**ASHLEY SPIRES** grew up in Tsawwassen. As a child she was constantly making drawings, stories, and small polymer clay figures. Despite being told she wasn't the best drawer, she set out from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design to become a children's book illustrator. Now, some twenty years later, she is known for creating many quirky beloved characters, including Small Saul, Larf, and Binky the Space Cat, who is now featured on his own animated television series. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

Wednesday, 20 October | 11:00am

Includes Q&amp;A ?

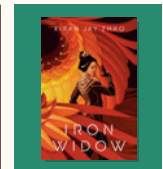
Digital 

## Event Details

-  Youth (Grades 8–12)
-  Passholder Event
-  Moderated by Sukhmani Purewal
-  Digital Event (YouTube)
-  Livestreamed
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Auto-Caption Enabled

## Fierce and Bold Heroines of YA with Sarah Raughley and Xiran Jay Zhao

One event, two exhilarating authors and titles for YA readers to devour. **Sarah Raughley's** latest release, *The Bones of Ruin*, features Iris, an African tightrope dancer in Victorian London with an unnatural power—she cannot die. But her fate becomes complicated when she enters the apocalyptic battle “the Tournament of Freaks” and old, forgotten memories begin to surface. In **Xiran Jay Zhao's** *Iron Widow*, the boys of Huaxia dream of pairing up with the girls who pilot giant, transforming robots that can battle aliens... but who die from mental strain in doing so. But Zetian herself is an Iron Widow—someone who can sacrifice boys to power up robots instead. Can she stop others from being sacrificed? Find out how these authors create the worlds that take their readers to new heights.



**SARAH RAUGHLEY** grew up in Southern Ontario writing stories about freakish little girls with powers because she secretly wanted to be one. Sarah has been nominated for the Aurora Award for Best YA Novel. As an academic, Sarah has taught undergraduate courses and acted as a postdoctoral fellow. Her research concerns representations of race and gender in popular media culture, youth culture, and postcolonialism. She has written and edited articles in political, cultural, and academic publications. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

**XIRAN JAY ZHAO** is a first-gen immigrant from small-town China who was raised by the Internet. A recent graduate of Simon Fraser University, they wrote science fiction and fantasy while they probably should have been studying more about biochemical pathways. You can find them on Twitter for memes, Instagram for cosplays and fancy outfits, and YouTube for long videos about Chinese history and culture. *Iron Widow* is their first novel. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



Foundation







**SUKHMANI PUREWAL** is an avid reader of books, especially YA books, which have been a major part of her life and impacted much of her path. So much so she (alongside a beautiful group of humans) founded INFUSION YA Book Festival. She is all about community (and coffee, especially coffee), and when she's not reading you can usually find her at her local coffee shop getting ready for book finding.

Wednesday, 20 October | 2:00pm

Includes Q&amp;A

Digital

## Event Details

-  Youth (Grades 3–7)
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Livestreamed
-  Digital Event (YouTube)
-  Passholder Event
-  Auto-Caption Enabled

## Pax, Journey Home

### With Sara Pennypacker

Following the international success of Amazon Best Book of the Year, *Pax*, Sara Pennypacker follows up with an anticipated sequel, *Pax: Journey Home*, in which Peter and his pet fox, Pax, must journey towards home, healing, and each other after a series of misadventures and challenges. Illustrated by celebrated artist Jon Klassen, this is a captivating title for middle grades, and will make for compelling storytelling followed by a Q&A with Pennypacker.



**SARA PENNYPACKER** is the author of the #1 *New York Times*-bestselling *Pax*; the award-winning *Clementine* series and its spinoff series, *Waylon*; and the acclaimed novels *Summer of the Gypsy Moths* and *Here in the Real World*. She divides her time between Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and Florida. (UNITED STATES)

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Wednesday, 20 October | 6:00pm

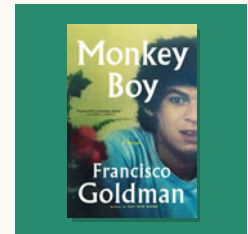
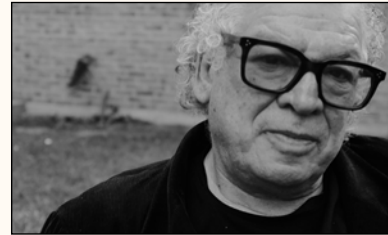
Includes Q&amp;A

Cinema &amp; Streaming

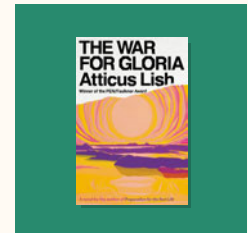


## Event Details

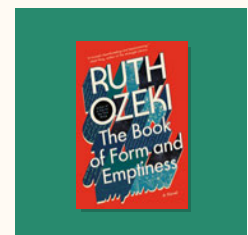
-  Cinema (The Nest) and At-Home Viewing
-  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)
-  Live Captioning Provided
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Livestreamed
-  Moderated by Claudia Casper



**FRANCISCO GOLDMAN** has published five novels and two books of nonfiction. *The Long Night of White Chickens* was awarded the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction. His novels have been finalists for several prizes, including the Pen/Faulkner Prize, the International IMPAC Dublin literary award, and more. *The Interior Circuit* was named one of 10 best books of the year by the *LA Times*. He teaches at Trinity College in Connecticut, and lives in Mexico City. (MEXICO/UNITED STATES)



**ATTICUS LISH** is the author of *Preparation for the Next Life*, which won the 2015 Pen/Faulkner Award for Fiction and the 2016 Grand Prix de Littérature Américaine. He lives in Kentucky. (UNITED STATES)



**RUTH OZEKI** is a novelist, filmmaker, and Zen Buddhist priest. She is the award-winning author of three novels, *My Year of Meats*, *All Over Creation*, and *A Tale for the Time Being*, which was a finalist for the 2013 Booker Prize. Her nonfiction work includes *The Face: A Time Code* and *Halving the Bones*. She is affiliated with the Everyday Zen Foundation and teaches creative writing at Smith College. (UNITED STATES/BRITISH COLUMBIA)

**CLAUDIA CASPER** is the author of four novels, including *The Mercy Journals*, winner of the 2017 Philip K. Dick Award for distinguished science fiction, and *The Reconstruction*, which is being adapted for film.

# Family Ties that Bind with Francisco Goldman, Atticus Lish, and Ruth Ozeki






Often the heart of the matter, stories of family underscore some of the most intimate and poignant moments in our lives. Delve into these ancestral tales and stories of modern familial dynamics. **Francisco Goldman** is one of the most important literary voices writing today. *Monkey Boy* is arguably one of his finest works—a stunning portrait of family, and growing up Mexican-American in New York City. **Atticus Lish**, a PEN/Faulkner winning author, has penned a searing, tender novel about parental relationships and the often-painful move into adulthood. *The War for Gloria* follows a young boy struggling to become a man, and to protect his mother, in a town beset by working class and affluent divides. **Ruth Ozeki** was a finalist for the Booker Prize with *A Tale for the Time Being*. She returns to the Festival with *The Book of Form and Emptiness*, that grapples with loss, growing up, and our relationship with things, as told through Benny Oh who's hearing voices as he lives with his disturbed mother.

Wednesday, 20 October | 6:00pm

Includes Q&amp;A ?

Theatre Hybrid 

## Event Details - Authors Joining In-Person &amp; Virtually

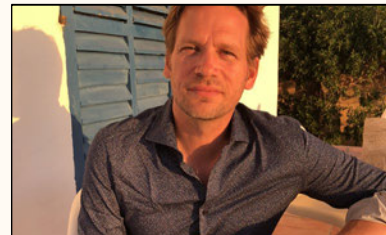
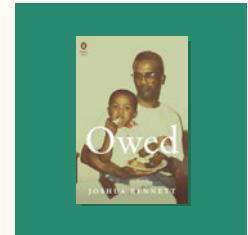
-  Theatre Hybrid Event (Waterfront Theatre)
-  Lauren Groff (on-stage); Joshua Bennet (virtual)
-  Moderated by John Freeman (on-stage)
-  \$25 (All-Inclusive)
-  ASL on Request

# Freeman's With Lauren Groff and Joshua Bennett

Change. That ever-present, essential, inevitable part of life that we expect... and sometimes even embrace. The rapid, universal change of the past 18 months—from a pandemic to political unrest—was felt in our work, personal relationships; in every facet of our lives. *Freeman's*, an event that dovetails with the bi-annual journal of the same name, discusses these changes of recent months, and how we live with and adapt to change in our lives. Editor **John Freeman** is joined by **Joshua Bennett** (*Owed*) and **Lauren Groff** (*Matrix*) to explore two original pieces each author created for the journal, and to muse on writing as a response and coping mechanism to change. *Freeman's* is a highlight on the Writers Fest calendar for our regulars; always thought-provoking, exquisitely literary, and deeply human.



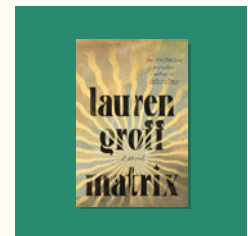
**JOSHUA BENNETT** is a poet, performer, and Professor of English and Creative Writing at Dartmouth College. He is the author of two collections of poetry, as well as a book of criticism, *Being Property Once Myself: Blackness and the End of Man*. His writing has been published in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Paris Review*, *Poetry*, and elsewhere. In 2021, he was the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Whiting Award in Poetry and Nonfiction. (UNITED STATES)

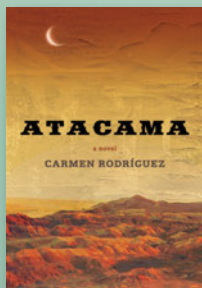


**JOHN FREEMAN** is the founder of the literary annual *Freeman's* and the author and editor of *Dictionary of the Undoing*, *The Park*, *Tales of Two Planets*, *The Penguin Book of the Modern American Short Story*, and, with Tracy K. Smith, *There's a Revolution Outside, My Love*. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, and *Orions*. The former editor of *Granta*, he teaches writing at NYU and is an executive editor at Alfred A. Knopf. (UNITED STATES)



**LAUREN GROFF** is a two-time National Book Award finalist and *The New York Times*-bestselling author of three novels—*The Monsters of Templeton*, *Arcadia*, and *Fates and Furies*—and the celebrated short story collections *Delicate Edible Birds* and *Florida*. She has won The Story Prize, the PEN/O. Henry Award, and been a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. She was named one of *Granta's* 2017 Best Young American Novelists. (UNITED STATES)





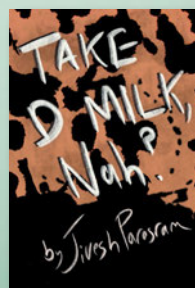
**Atacama**  
Carmen Rodríguez

Fernwood Publishing  
Fiction



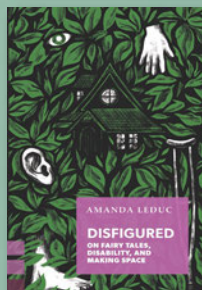
**blue gait**  
shauna paull

Mother Tongue  
Publishing  
Poetry



**Take d Milk, Nah?**  
Jivesh Parasram

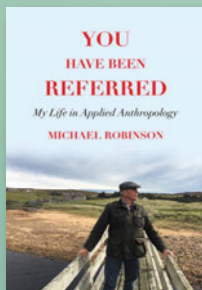
Playwrights Canada Press  
Drama



**Disfigured:  
On Fairy Tales,  
Disability and  
Making Space**

Amanda Leduc

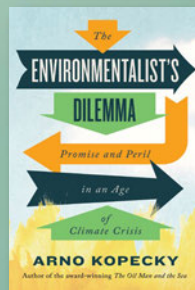
Coach House Books  
Literary Criticism



**You have been  
Referred:  
My Life in Applied  
Anthropology**

Michael Robynson

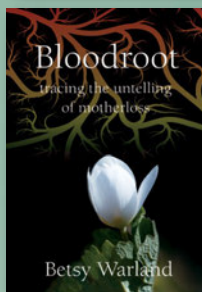
Bayeux Arts  
Memoir



**The  
Environmentalist's  
Dilemma: Promise and  
Peril in an Age of  
Climate Crisis**

Arno Kopecky

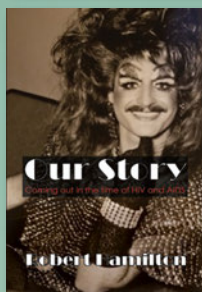
ECW Press  
Non-fiction



**Bloodroot:  
Tracing the Untelling  
of Motherloss**

Betsy Warland

Inanna Publications  
Memoir



**Our Story: Coming  
out in the time of  
HIV and AIDS**

Robert Hamilton

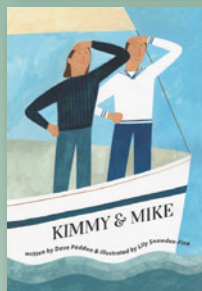
Renaissance Press  
Memoir



**Broken Dawn  
Blessings: Poems**

Adam Sol

ECW Press  
Poetry



**Kimmy & Mike**

Dave Paddon,  
illustrated by  
Lily Snowden-Fine

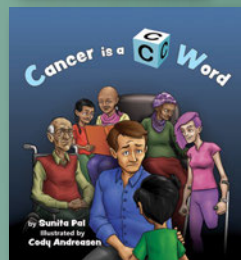
Running the Goat  
Children (Ages 6-8)



**Hare B&B**

Bill Richardson,  
illustrated by  
Bill Pechet

Running the Goat  
Children (Ages 6-8)



**Cancer is a C Word**

Sunita Pal, illustrated  
by Cody Andreasen

Rebel Mountain Press  
Children (Ages 3-8)

# THOUGHT-PROVOKING READS

FROM THE FIERCELY INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS OF THE LITERARY PRESS GROUP

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Wednesday, 20 October | 7:00pm

Includes Q&amp;A ?

Theatre 

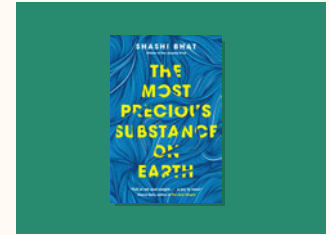
## Event Details

 Theatre Event (Revue Stage) ASL on Request \$25 (All-Inclusive) Moderated by Jen Sookfong Lee

# Good Reads With Shashi Bhat, Jael Richardson, and Lisa Bird-Wilson

Journey Prize Winner **Shashi Bhat**'s latest work is darkly funny, moving, and unsettling. *The Most Precious Substance on Earth* is a page-turning coming-of-age novel that explores how silence can shape a life. FOLD Festival Director and CBC Q books columnist **Jael Richardson** already plays an important role in shaping Canadian literature. Her debut, *Gutter Child*, is a must-read dystopian novel set in a world where the most vulnerable must gain freedom by working off their debt to society. **Lisa Bird-Wilson**'s *Probably Ruby* is an audacious and brave work about an adopted woman's search for her Indigenous identity. Join us for a must-listen conversation about three must-read titles this season.

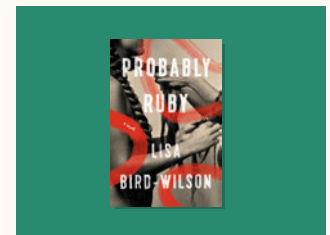
**JEN SOOKFONG LEE** teaches at The Writer's Studio Online with Simon Fraser University, edits fiction for Wolsak & Wynn, and co-hosts the literary podcast *Can't Lit*. Her books include *The Conjoined*, *The Better Mother*, and *The End of East*.



**SHASHI BHAT** is a winner of the Journey Prize and has been shortlisted for a National Magazine Award and the RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers. Her stories have appeared in such publications as *The Fiddlehead*, *The Malahat Review*, *subTerrain*, *PRISM international*, and several anthologies. Her debut novel, *The Family Took Shape*, was a finalist for the Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award. Her most recent novel is *The Most Precious Substance on Earth*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



**JAEL RICHARDSON** is the executive director of the FOLD literary festival, the books columnist on CBC Radio's *q* and an outspoken advocate on issues of diversity. She is the author of the award-winning memoir *The Stone Thrower: A Daughter's Lesson, a Father's Life*. Her essay "Conception" is part of *Room's* first Women of Colour edition, and excerpts from her first play, *my upside down black face*, appear in the anthology *T-Dot Griots: An Anthology of Toronto's Black Storytellers*. (ONTARIO)




**LISA BIRD-WILSON** is a Saskatchewan Métis and nêhiyaw writer whose work appears in literary magazines and anthologies across Canada. Her fiction book, *Just Pretending*, was a finalist for the national Danuta Glead Literary Award and won four Saskatchewan Book Awards, including the 2014 Book of the Year. In 2019, it was selected to be the Saskatchewan One Book One Province campaign choice to promote reading across the province. (SASKATCHEWAN)

Wednesday, 20 October | 7:30pm

Includes Q&amp;A

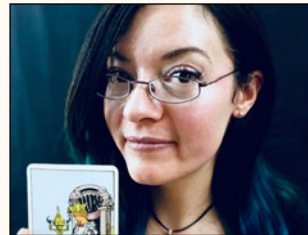
Theatre 

## Event Details

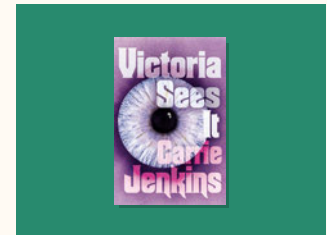
 Theatre  
(Performance Works) ASL Provided \$25 (All-Inclusive) Moderator Rob Wiersema

# Hook, Line, and Sinker with Carrie Jenkins, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, and Sam Wiebe

If only there was a word for that sense of anticipation and delight that comes with opening the cover of a new thriller, knowing you'll be spellbound for the next 300 pages. How do thriller writers create such suspense? These three different writers of mystery, thriller, and horror speak to how they create the propulsive books they do. **Carrie Jenkins'** debut is a queer psychological thriller following Victoria, paired with a police officer, as they try to locate her best friend while finding a miasma of sexism and isolation along the way. **Silvia Moreno-Garcia's** work is atmospheric from the first sentence. Her latest work, *Velvet Was the Night*, is a "delicious twisted treat for lovers of noir," set in 1970s Mexico City. **Sam Wiebe** is a beloved local writer and lauded thriller author. *Hell and Gone: A Wakeland Novel* explores the depths of Vancouver's criminal underworld. We're hooked.



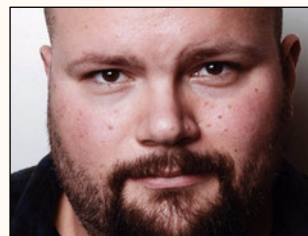
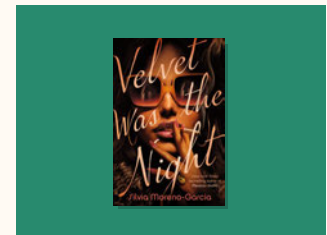
**CARRIE JENKINS** is an award-winning philosopher and writer. She is Canada Research Chair in Philosophy at the University of British Columbia and holds a PhD from Trinity College, Cambridge, and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia. She is the author of *What Love Is* and *What It Could Be* and *Uninvited: Talking Back to Plato*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



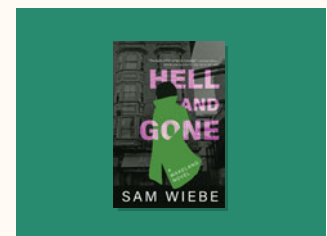
Foundation



**SILVIA MORENO-GARCIA** is the *New York Times*-bestselling author of the critically acclaimed speculative novels *Gods of Jade* and *Shadow*, *Signal to Noise*, *Certain Dark Things*, and *The Beautiful Ones*; and the crime novel *Untamed Shore*. She has edited several anthologies, including the World Fantasy Award-winning *She Walks in Shadows* (aka *Cthulhu's Daughters*). She lives in Vancouver. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



**SAM WIEBE** is the award-winning author of the Wakeland novels, one of the most authentic and acclaimed detective series in Canada, including *Invisible Dead* and *Cut You Down* (Random House, 2016 and 2018). Wiebe's other books include *Never Going Back* (Rapid Reads, 2020), *Last of the Independents* (Dundurn, 2014) and the *Vancouver Noir* anthology (Akashic Books, 2018), which he edited. He lives in New Westminster. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



# Influence

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**Tawahum Bige**  
Bachelor of Arts,  
Creative Writing

Tawahum Bige is a Łutselk'e Dene, Plains Cree poet and spoken word artist from unceded Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Territory (Vancouver). Completing his Bachelor of Arts in creative writing at KPU in 2019, he's continued to establish himself in the arts community, working as a poetry mentorship facilitator and self-employed writer.

"KPU encouraged me to get involved in the field before I even graduated. Finding that path changed my whole life's direction. You can work and connect on an intimate level here. It's easy to feel welcome." Speaking at various rallies and protests and performing at venues across Canada, Tawahum represented KPU at the

Canadian Festival of Spoken Word and completed the first-ever Indigenous Spoken Word residency at the Banff Centre during his education. He also worked with other members of the KPU community to run the annual KPU Pow Wow and served as an Aboriginal Student Representative with the Kwantlen Student Association.

"I connected with Indigenous culture and community. I was representing myself and my communities in the public or at national events" he says, adding, "the relatively small yet active Indigenous community on campus allows you to engage with your Indigeneity on your own terms in a safe environment."

**“You will never actually be fully ready—dive in head-first anyway. The process will teach you more than you would ever know.”**

Now, Tawahum has been published in over a dozen literary journals and magazines, with his work first being published before he completed his degree and receiving his first grant to create his own poetry collection within a year of graduating. He currently has self-published three chapbooks, with additional poetry collections coming soon.







**> [kpu.ca/creativewriting](https://kpu.ca/creativewriting)**

Wednesday, 20 October | 7:30pm

Cinema &amp; Streaming



## Event Details

-  Cinema (**The Nest**) and At-Home Viewing
-  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)
-  In French with English Subtitles
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Pre-recorded
-  Moderator TBA

# Entre Nous with Elisa Shua Dusapin, Valérie Perrin, and Anne Serre

The sensibilities and writings of Europe have captivated hearts since the continent began. Three of Europe's most successful authors join the Writers Fest for an intimate conversation. **Elisa Shua Dusapin** won the Prix Robert-Walser, Prix Alpha, and the Prix Régine-Deforges for *Winter in Sochko*: a quiet, enigmatic, and atmospheric debut. **Anne Serre's** fourteenth book, *The Beginners*, explores love as a form of greed, when happily-married Anna falls in love at first sight with another: Thomas. Sensual and exhilarating, moral and unforgettable, it is another reminder of why Serre is one of the most respected authors in the world today. **Valérie Perrin's** debut *Fresh Water for Flowers* was the bestselling book in Europe in 2020 and earned Perrin extensive accolades. Listen to these exceptional female authors share tales of craft and love with each other in their first language, French, with English subtitles.



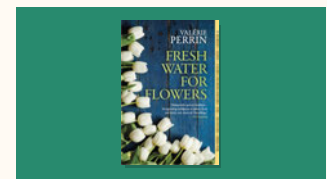
**ELISA SHUA DUSAPIN** was born in France in 1992 and raised in Paris, Seoul, and Switzerland. *Winter in Sokcho* is her first novel. Published in 2016 to wide acclaim, it was awarded the Prix Robert Walser and the Prix Régine Desforges and has been translated into six languages. (SWITZERLAND)

Presented thanks to the support of the  
Consulate General of Switzerland in  
Vancouver and Alliance Française.



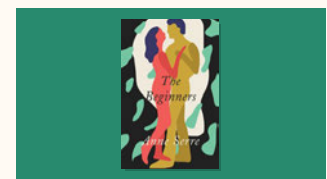
**VALÉRIE PERRIN** was born in 1967 in Remiremont, in the Vosges Mountains, France. She grew up in Burgundy and settled in Paris in 1986. Her novel *The Forgotten Sunday* won the Booksellers Choice Award. Her English-language debut, *Fresh Water for Flowers* won the Maison de la Presse Prize. *Figaro Littéraire* named Perrin one of the ten best-selling authors in France in 2019. (FRANCE)

Presented thanks to the support of Alliance  
Française and the Consulate General of France  
in Vancouver.



**ANNE SERRE** is a French writer, born in Bordeaux. She is the author of fourteen books, as well as numerous short stories and essays, and the recipient of a 2008 Cino del Duca Foundation award. Her first novel *Les Gouvernantes* was praised in *La Croix* for 'its remarkable economy of style and in *Libération* as 'a delightful Sabbath'. (FRANCE)

Presented thanks to the support of Alliance  
Française and the Consulate General of France  
in Vancouver.



Presented in partnership  
with the Consulate General  
of France in Vancouver and  
Alliance Française.

Wednesday, 20 October | 8:30pm

Includes Q&amp;A

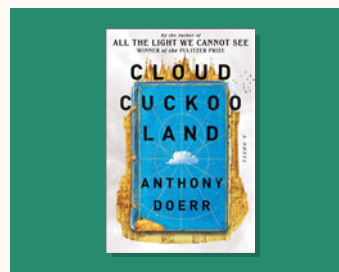
Theatre Hybrid

## Event Details

Live Event (Waterfront Theatre) ASL on Request Anthony Doerr (virtual)  
Marsha Lederman  
(on-stage)  
\$25 (All-Inclusive)

## Cloud Cuckoo Land: *Anthony Doerr in Conversation* with Marsha Lederman

Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Anthony Doerr**'s books traverse continents and centuries but—most importantly—immerse us in some of the most complex, difficult, and beautiful dynamics humans have faced throughout history. His instant *New York Times* bestseller set in occupied France, *All the Light We Cannot See*, is a beloved favourite of readers worldwide. His latest, *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, follows multiple protagonists—from children fleeing a besieged city in 1453 to 14-year-old Konstance living in the mid-22nd century on an ark-like spaceship, and others in between. What unites characters across centuries is a determination to survive and a hunger for stories. Doerr shares more about his passion for crafting tales that speak to what it means to be human with *Globe and Mail* journalist, and Writers Fest veteran, **Marsha Lederman**.



**ANTHONY DOERR** is the author of *All the Light We Cannot See*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the Carnegie Medal, the Alex Award, and a #1 *New York Times* bestseller. He is also the author of *Memory Wall*, *The Shell Collector*, *About Grace*, and the memoir *Four Seasons in Rome*. He has won five O. Henry Prizes, the Rome Prize, the New York Public Library's Young Lions Award, the National Magazine Award for fiction, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Story Prize. (UNITED STATES)

**MARSHA LEDERMAN** is the Western Arts Correspondent for the *Globe and Mail*. She covers the film and television industry, visual art, literature, music, theatre, dance, cultural policy, and other related areas.

## The Wosk-McDonald Aldine Collection at Simon Fraser University Library



SFU Library holds more than 100 volumes in Latin, Greek, and Italian from the press of Aldus Manutius [1452-1515], the foremost editor, printer, and publisher of the Italian Renaissance. The innovations Aldus developed and perfected permanently transformed the landscape of printing and publishing.

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Thursday, 21 October | 9:30am

Includes Q&amp;A ?

Digital 

## Event Details

-  Youth (Grades 5–8)
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Livestreamed
-  Digital Event (YouTube)
-  Passholder Event
-  Auto-Caption Enabled

## *The Great Bear: The Misewa Saga* with David A. Robertson

**David A. Robertson's** The Misewa Series blends Narnia-like world building with traditional Indigenous stories of the sky and constellations to produce an epic, middle-grade fantasy series, nominated for multiple awards and featured as a “Best Book” by media outlets across the country. *The Great Bear* is the second book, following the bestselling *The Barren Grounds*, in which Eli and Morgan journey once more to Misewa to visit their animal friends. In conversation with classrooms, Robertson can speak to the inspiration behind an Indigenous fantasy series, the lessons that his characters learn from others on their journey, and some of the ways we can face challenges in our lifetimes.



**DAVID A. ROBERTSON** is the author of numerous books for young readers including *When We Were Alone*, which won the 2017 Governor General's Literary Award. *The Barren Grounds* received a starred review from *Kirkus* and was a *Kirkus* and *Quill & Quire* best middle-grade book of 2020. A sought-after speaker and educator, as well as recent recipient of the Writers' Union of Canada's Freedom to Read Award, Robertson is a member of the Norway House Cree Nation. (MANITOBA)



## The best way to support a community is to be a part of it.

At the heart of every community, you'll find organizations fuelled by committed people who are passionate about building a better future for us all. We are inspired by our friends at the **Vancouver Writers Fest**, who continue to share the importance of storytelling, community and listening to new voices and perspectives.

[rbc.com/community](https://rbc.com/community)



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90780 (08/2021)

Thursday, 21 October | 11:00am

Includes Q&amp;A ?

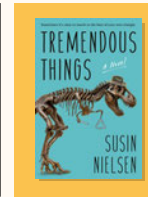
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## Event Details

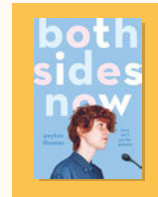
-  Youth (Grades 8–12)
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Auto-Caption Enabled
-  Digital Event (YouTube)
-  Passholder Event
-  Moderated by Tanya Lloyd Kyi
-  Livestreamed

## Marvellous Stories for YA with Susin Nielsen and Peyton Thomas

Spend a captivating hour with a highly-celebrated children's writer and an emerging author spotlighted as one to watch. **Susin Nielsen** is a favourite of the Festival; a Governor General's Literary Award-winning author whose stories balance whimsy and sincerity. In her latest, *Tremendous Things*, Wilbur hopes to replace humiliation with true romance on a band trip to Paris, the City of Love. **Peyton Thomas'** *Both Sides Now* is a warm and witty novel about a trans teen finding his place in the world. Finch is ready to win the National Speech and Debate Tournament, but standing in the way is the final topic for debate: transgender rights. Will he need to argue against his own humanity? Or is who you are not up for debate? Audiences will hear from each of these authors in conversation on stories which celebrate authenticity and love.



**SUSIN NIELSEN** has written for many beloved Canadian TV shows. Her first two young adult novels, *Word Nerd* and *Dear George Clooney: Please Marry My Mom*, won multiple young readers' choice awards. She won the Governor General's Literary Award and the Canadian Library Association's Children's Book of the Year for *The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen*. Her most recent novel, *No Fixed Address*, won the Red Maple Award, the Violet Downey Book Award, and the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



**PEYTON THOMAS** is a freelance journalist with bylines in *Pitchfork*, *Billboard*, and *Vanity Fair*. He was a 2016 Lambda Literary Fellow, studying under Benjamin Alire Sáenz. *Both Sides Now* is his debut novel. (ONTARIO)



Foundation

**TANYA LLOYD KYI** is the author of over thirty books for children and young adults, including *Snoozefest*, *Me and Banksy*, and *This Is Your Brain on Stereotypes*. She teaches writing for children at UBC's School of Creative Writing.

### Real Vancouver Writers' Series

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CANADA'S ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

Thursday, 21 October | 2:00pm

Includes Q&amp;A

Digital

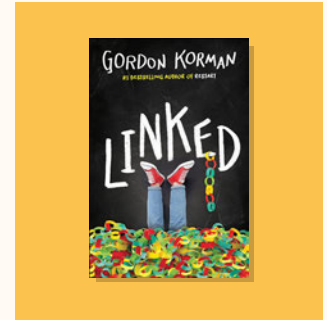
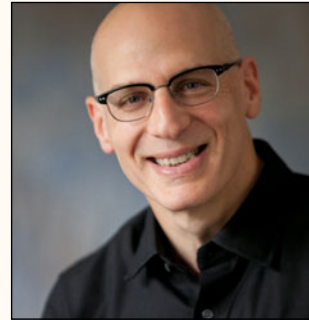
## Event Details

- Youth (Grades 3–7)
- Pay-What-You-Can
- Livestreamed
- Digital Event (YouTube)
- Passholder Event
- Auto-Caption Enabled

## Linked

### With Gordon Korman

**Gordon Korman** proves time and again why he's such a beloved author through the 80+ books and 28 million copies he's sold. In his latest work, *Linked*, three friends deal with the consequences of hate-speech vandalism in their school when a swastika is discovered. Michael is the first person to see it, so he's the first suspect. But Link, who's popular, is expected by everyone else to figure it out. Dana's the only Jewish girl in town, and now everyone's treating her like an outsider. Korman shows readers that the most common question—*Who did it?*—isn't nearly as important as *why*. In an immersive, thought-provoking, and highly-engaging presentation, Korman shares the themes of this compelling new book for middle grade students.



**GORDON KORMAN** is the #1 bestselling author of three books in *The 39 Clues* series as well as eight books in his *Swindle* series: *Swindle*, *Zoobreak*, *Framed*, *Showoff*, *Hideout*, *Jackpot*, *Unleashed*, and *Jingle*. He has published numerous other children's books, including *This Can't Be Happening at Macdonald Hall!* published when he was 14. Gordon grew up in Thornhill, Ontario and he lives in New York with his family. (UNITED STATES)

## See our authors at Vancouver Writers Fest!



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Thursday, 21 October | 4:00pm

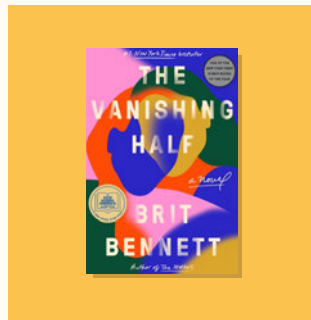
Digital 

## Event Details

-  Digital Event (YouTube)
-  Pre-recorded
-  Passholder Event
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Auto-Caption Enabled

## The Vanishing Half: *Brit Bennett in Conversation* with Jael Richardson

**Brit Bennett's** second novel, *The Vanishing Half*, achieved what many authors can only fathom: a page-turning, instant summer classic and a remarkable story of literary merit. Assured, magnetic, dazzling: the title may suggest disappearing but Bennett is now a major name, a centrepiece, of US contemporary literature. She speaks with FOLD Festival Director and author of *Gutter Child*, **Jael Richardson**, about her tale of race and family. The Vignes twin sisters are identical but when they run away from a small, southern Black community, their daily lives as adults become radically different as one lives as a black woman and the other passes as white. Bennett has written extensively about racism, protest, and social justice, and has been featured in the most prominent media outlets in the continent. This is an opportunity to hear from a bold, exacting mind about topics that matter most.



**BRIT BENNETT** is the author of *The Mothers*, a finalist for both the NBCC John Leonard First Novel Prize and the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize. Her second novel, *The Vanishing Half*, was longlisted for the National Book Award, a finalist for the Women's Prize, and named one of the ten best books of the year by *The New York Times*. Bennett has also been named a National Book Foundation honoree, and one of *Time's* Next 100 Influential People. (UNITED STATES)

**JAEI RICHARDSON** is the author of *The Stone Thrower*, a book columnist on CBC's q, and the founder and Artistic Director for the Festival of Literary Diversity (FOLD). *Gutter Child* is her debut novel.



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**SFU** PUBLISHING PROGRAM

Thursday, 21 October | 6:00pm

Cinema &amp; Streaming

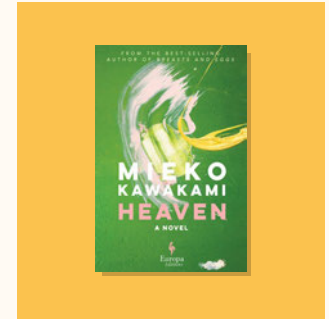
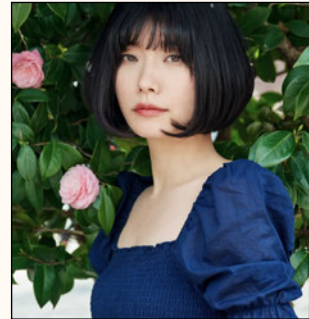


## Event Details

-  Cinema (The Nest) and At-Home Viewing
-  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)
-  Auto-Caption Enabled
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Pre-recorded
-  In Conversation with Christina Laffin

## Heaven, Breasts and Eggs: *Mieko Kawakami in Conversation*

**Mieko Kawakami** is more than a bestselling, internationally lauded author. She has transformed awareness of, and debate about, feminism in Japan, gracefully weaving between the roles of cultural critic, philosopher, and literary phenom. As *The Guardian* summarizes, “Kawakami has made her name articulating womanhood in Japan better than any living author.” Most Western audiences were first introduced to her through *Breasts and Eggs*: a story of three women navigating patriarchy and the lack of reproductive autonomy it inflicts (amongst other things). *Heaven*, originally written in 2009 and launched in English for the first time this year, explores the experience of adolescence. This is an opportunity to hear from someone Haruki Murakami has said “is always ceaselessly growing and evolving,” and possibly one of the most exciting writers of the 21st century.



**MIEKO KAWAKAMI** is the author of the internationally best-selling novel, *Breasts and Eggs*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year and one of *Time's* Best 10 Books of 2020. Born in Osaka, Kawakami made her literary debut as a poet in 2006. Her books have been translated into many languages. She has received numerous prestigious literary awards in Japan, including the Akutagawa Prize, the Tanizaki Prize, and the Murasaki Shikibu Prize. Kawakami lives in Tokyo. (JAPAN)

**CHRISTINA LAFFIN** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Asian Studies, and the Canada Research Chair in Premodern Japanese Literature and Culture. Her research interests include: Medieval travel diaries; women's education and socialization before 1600; poetic practices and waka culture; theories of travel, gender, and autobiography; noh theatre; and comparative approaches to medieval literature.



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# Digital Passes available!



Check our website  
or page #6 for details.

Thursday, 21 October | 6:00pm

Theatre 

## Event Details

 Interactive Workshop  Theatre (Revue Stage)  \$25 (All-Inclusive)  ASL on Request  Hosted by Alix Ohlin

## UBC Creative Writing: *Night Class* With Billy-Ray Belcourt, Tanya Lloyd Kyi, Sarah Leavitt, and Lindsay Wong

Now a staple of the Festival, this interactive, unpredictable workshop offers writing tips, tricks, and cues from six members of UBC Creative Writing's illustrious department. Participants will learn key writing skills in five minutes or less through nimble, electrifying craft and rapid-fire creativity. Try out concepts and ask questions before listening to UBC students share model work. Full of invigorating thought exercises, *Night Class* explores a wide array of styles and genres, from poetry, song, and screenwriting to comics, nonfiction, and YA. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to gain key insights that will help take your writing to the next level.

**This workshop is suitable for new and established authors.  
Check our website for further info, including instructor bios.**







Presented in collaboration with  
UBC Creative Writing.

Thursday, 21 October | 7:30pm

Includes Q&A Theatre 

## Event Details

 Curated by Lawrence Hill  \$25 (All-Inclusive)  Moderated by Lawrence Hill  
 Theatre Event (Performance Works)  ASL Provided

## Caribbean Masterpieces With Myriam Chancy and Cherie Jones

**Cherie Jones** and **Myriam Chancy** have both written powerful, dynamic, disturbing novels about upheaval and injustice in the Caribbean. Jones, a Barbadian writer, took the world by storm this year with the publication of her debut novel *How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps Her House*: an ambitious, layered novel in which her young Barbadian protagonist fights for her life. Chancy, who was born in Port-au-Prince and raised in Haiti and in Canada, teaches at Scripps College in California. Her new novel, *What Storm, What Thunder* masterfully charts the inner lives of ten characters whose lives are affected by an earthquake that rocks Haiti and its people to the core. Join them in conversation with Guest Curator **Lawrence Hill** as they discuss modern Caribbean literature.



**MYRIAM CHANCY** was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. A Guggenheim Fellow, she currently holds the Hartley Burr Alexander Chair in the Humanities at Scripps College in California. Her first novel, *Spirit of Haiti*, was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize (Best First Book, Canada/Caribbean) in 2004. *The Loneliness of Angels* won the Guyana Prize for Literature Caribbean Award (Best Fiction) and was shortlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature in 2011. (UNITED STATES)



**CHERIE JONES** was born in Barbados in 1974. A graduate of the MA program at Sheffield Hallam University, she was awarded a fellowship at the Vermont Studio Center. Her short fiction has been published in *PANK*, *Reflex Fiction*, and the *Feminist Wire*. (BARBADOS)



Presented in partnership with  
HarperCollins Canada.

**Monday, 18 October**

TIME	FORMAT	EVENT & PARTICIPANTS	
8:00am	PRE-RECORDED (YOUTUBE)	Kaleidoscope: Brian Selznick – Brian Selznick	P.14
9:30am	LIVESTREAMED (YOUTUBE)	Sunny Days Inside: Caroline Adderson – Caroline Adderson	P.15
11:00am	LIVESTREAMED (YOUTUBE)	When You Get The Chance: Tom Ryan and Robin Stevenson – Tom Ryan, Robin Stevenson	P.15
2:00pm	LIVESTREAMED (YOUTUBE)	Walking in Two Worlds: Wab Kinew – Wab Kinew	P.16
6:00pm	PRE-RECORDED CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	Maria Stepanova in Conversation with Aislinn Hunter – Maria Stepanova, Aislinn Hunter	P.17
6:00pm	DIGITAL EVENT (PODCAST)	PODCAST: Jordan Abel in Conversation with Tanya Talaga – Jordan Abel, Tanya Talaga	P.18
7:30pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (WATERFRONT THEATRE)	Matrix: Lauren Groff in Conversation with John Freeman – Lauren Groff, John Freeman	P.18
7:30pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (REVUE STAGE)	One-to-One With Lisa Bird-Wilson and Katherena Vermette – Lisa Bird-Wilson, Katherena Vermette	P.19

**Tuesday, 19 October**

TIME	FORMAT	EVENT & PARTICIPANTS	
9:30am	LIVESTREAMED (YOUTUBE)	On The Trapline: David A. Robertson – David A. Robertson	P.21
11:00am	LIVESTREAMED (YOUTUBE)	Home Truths With Jen Sookfong Lee and Lois Peterson – Jen Sookfong Lee, Lois Peterson	P.21
2:00pm	LIVESTREAMED (YOUTUBE)	Word! With Janice Jo Lee, Sofia Fly, and Cassandra Myers – Janice Jo Lee, Sofia Fly, Cassandra Myers	P.22
7:00pm	PRE-RECORDED CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	On Animals: Susan Orlean in Conversation with Mark Medley – Susan Orlean, Mark Medley	P.23
7:30pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE)	Out of the Sun: Esi Edugyan in Conversation with Chantal Gibson – Esi Edugyan, Chantal Gibson	P.24
7:30pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (WATERFRONT THEATRE)	Spine-Chillingly Good: With Stephen Graham Jones and Silvia Moreno-Garcia; moderated by Amber Dawn	P.25

**Wednesday, 20 October**

TIME	FORMAT	EVENT & PARTICIPANTS	
9:30am	LIVESTREAMED (YOUTUBE)	Burt the Beetle Doesn't Bite: With Ashley Spires – Ashley Spires	P.28
11:00am	LIVESTREAMED (YOUTUBE)	Fierce and Bold Heroines of YA: With Sarah Raughley and Xiran Jay Zhao; moderated by Sukhmani Purewal	P.28
2:00pm	LIVESTREAMED (YOUTUBE)	Pax, Journey Home: With Sara Pennypacker – Sara Pennypacker	P.29

6:00pm	LIVESTREAMED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	Family Ties that Bind: With Francisco Goldman, Atticus Lish, and Ruth Ozeki – Francisco Goldman, Atticus Lish, Ruth Ozeki; moderated by Claudia Casper	P.30
6:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (WATERFRONT THEATRE)	Freeman's: With Lauren Groff and Joshua Bennett – Lauren Groff, Joshua Bennett; moderated by John Freeman	P.31
7:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (REVUE STAGE)	Good Reads: With Shashi Bhat, Jael Richardson, and Lisa Bird-Wilson – Shashi Bhat, Jael Richardson, Lisa Bird-Wilson; moderated by Jen Sookfong Lee	P.33
7:30pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (PERFORMANCE WORKS)	Hook, Line and Sinker: With Carrie Jenkins, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, and Sam Wiebe – Carrie Jenkins, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Sam Wiebe; moderated by Rob Wiersema	P.34
7:30pm	PRE-RECORDED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	Entre Nous: With Elisa Shua Dusapin, Anne Serre, and Valérie Perrin – Elisa Shua Dusapin, Anne Serre, Valérie Perrin	P.36
8:30pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (WATERFRONT THEATRE)	Cloud Cuckoo Land: Anthony Doerr in Conversation with Marsha Lederman – Anthony Doerr, Marsha Lederman	P.37

**Thursday, 21 October**

TIME	FORMAT	EVENT & PARTICIPANTS	
9:30am	LIVESTREAMED (YOUTUBE)	The Great Bear: The Misewa Saga: With David A. Robertson – David A. Robertson	P.38
11:00am	LIVESTREAMED (YOUTUBE)	Marvellous Stories for YA: With Susin Nielsen and Peyton Thomas – Susin Nielsen, Peyton Thomas; moderated by Tanya Lloyd Kyi	P.39
2:00pm	LIVESTREAMED (YOUTUBE)	Linked: With Gordon Korman – Gordon Korman	P.40
4:00pm	PRE-RECORDED (YOUTUBE)	The Vanishing Half: Brit Bennett in Conversation with Jael Richardson – Brit Bennett; interviewed by Jael Richardson	P.41
6:00pm	PRE-RECORDED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	Heaven, Breasts and Eggs: Mieko Kawakami in Conversation with Christina Laffin – Mieko Kawakami, Christina Laffin	P.42
6:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (REVUE STAGE)	"UBC Creative Writing: Night Class with Billy-Ray Belcourt, Tanya Lloyd Kyi, Sarah Leavitt, and Lindsay Wong" – Billy-Ray Belcourt, Tanya Lloyd Kyi, Sarah Leavitt, Lindsay Wong; hosted by Alix Ohlin	P.43
7:30pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (PERFORMANCE WORKS)	Caribbean Masterpieces: With Cherie Jones and Myriam Chancy, moderated by Lawrence Hill – Cherie Jones, Myriam Chancy; moderated by Lawrence Hill	P.43
8:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (WATERFRONT THEATRE)	The Spectacular Complexity of Womanhood: With Mona Awad, Zoe Whittall, and Rachel Yoder – Mona Awad, Zoe Whittall, and Rachel Yoder; moderated by Leslie Hurtig	P.46
8:00pm	PRE-RECORDED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	Permanent Astonishment: Tomson Highway in Conversation with TBC – Tomson Highway, TBA	P.47
8:30pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (REVUE STAGE)	Word! Spoken Word For Adults: With jaye simpson, Brandon Wint, and TBA – jaye simpson, Brandon Wint, TBA; hosted by Jillian Christmas	P.48
9:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (GRANVILLE ISLAND BREWERY PUB)	 The Emoji Lit Pub Quiz with Rob Taylor – Rob Taylor	P.49

## Friday, 22 October

TIME	FORMAT	EVENT & PARTICIPANTS	
10:00am	LIVE IN-PERSON (REVUE STAGE)	<b>The Winter Wives: Linden MacIntyre in Conversation with David Ebner</b> – Linden MacIntyre, David Ebner	P.50
10:00am	LIVESTREAMED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	<b>Complex Histories: With Gary Barwin, Roy Jacobsen, and Kathleen Winter</b> – Gary Barwin, Roy Jacobsen, Kathleen Winter; moderated by Kathryn Gretsinger	P.51
10:30am	LIVE IN-PERSON (WATERFRONT THEATRE)	<b>The Power of Comics: With Aminder Dhaliwal, Hiromi Goto, and Gord Hill</b> – Aminder Dhaliwal, Hiromi Goto, Gord Hill; moderated by Ken Boesem	P.54
11:30am	LIVE IN-PERSON (PERFORMANCE WORKS)	<b>Top Picks for Teachers: New Classics for School Reading</b> – Cherie Dimaline, David A. Robertson, and Robin Stevenson; moderated by Tanya Boteju	P.55
12:00pm	LIVESTREAMED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	<b>Black Literature on the Prairies: With Cheryl Foggo and Karina Vernon</b> – Cherie Dimaline, David A. Robertson, and Robin Stevenson; hosted by Lawrence Hill	P.56
1:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (REVUE STAGE)	<b>What Strange Paradise: Omar El Akkad in Conversation with Mark Medley</b> – Omar El Akkad, Mark Medley	P.57
1:30pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (WATERFRONT THEATRE)	<b>Defying Stereotypes in Memoir: With Ben Philippe and Ian Williams</b> – Ben Philippe, Ian Williams; moderated by TBA	P.57
2:00pm	LIVESTREAMED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	<b>The Intricate Craft of Poetry: With Brandon Wint, Liz Howard, and Adam Sol</b> – Brandon Wint, Liz Howard, Adam Sol; moderated by Shazia Hafiz Ramji	P.58
2:30pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (PERFORMANCE WORKS)	<b>It's Not Too Late: How We Can Still Fight The Climate Crisis: With Arno Kopecky and J.B. MacKinnon</b> – Arno Kopecky, J.B. MacKinnon; moderated by Laura Lynch	P.59
6:00pm	PRE-RECORDED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	<b>China Unbound: Joanna Chiu in Conversation with Doug Saunders</b> Joanna Chiu, Doug Saunders	P.59
6:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (WATERFRONT THEATRE)	<b>Ring: André Alexis in Conversation with Mark Medley</b> – André Alexis, Mark Medley	P.60
8:00pm	LIVESTREAMED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	<b>On Freedom: Maggie Nelson in Conversation with Baharak Yousefi</b> – Maggie Nelson, Baharak Yousefi	P.61
8:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (REVUE STAGE)	<b>Journeys For Home: One-to-One with Kamal Al-Solaylee and Marcello Di Cintio</b> – Kamal Al-Solaylee, Marcello Di Cintio	P.61
8:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (PERFORMANCE WORKS)	<b>The Poetry Bash: With Bertrand Bickersteth, Molly Cross-Bianchard, Joseph Dandurand, Chantal Gibson, Billeh Nickerson, and Rob Taylor; hosted by Aislinn Hunter</b>	P.62

## Saturday, 23 October

TIME	FORMAT	EVENT & PARTICIPANTS	
10:30am	LIVE IN-PERSON (PERFORMANCE WORKS)	<b>One-to-One With Linwood Barclay and Beverley McLachlin</b> – Linwood Barclay, Beverley McLachlin	P.63
10:30am	LIVE IN-PERSON (REVUE STAGE)	<b>with/holding: Chantal Gibson in Conversation with Lawrence Hill</b> – Chantal Gibson, Lawrence Hill	P.64
11:00am	LIVESTREAMED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	<b>Bewilderment: Richard Powers in Conversation with Eleanor Wachtel</b> – Richard Powers, Eleanor Wachtel	P.64
11:00am	LIVE IN-PERSON (WATERFRONT THEATRE)	<b>Unreconciled: Jesse Wentz in Conversation with Tanya Talaga</b> – Jesse Wentz, Tanya Talaga	P.65
1:00pm	LIVESTREAMED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	<b>Wildland: The Making of America's Fury: Evan Osnos in Conversation with Omar El Akkad</b> – Evan Osnos, Omar El Akkad	P.65


2:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (WATERFRONT THEATRE)	<b>Poets in Conversation: With Bertrand Bickersteth, Adam Sol, and Isabella Wang</b> – Bertrand Bickersteth, Adam Sol, Isabella Wang; moderated by Sheryda Warrener	P.66
2:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (REVUE STAGE)	<b>Short Stories, Great Tales: With Norma Dunning, Alix Ohlin, and Casey Plett</b> – Norma Dunning, Alix Ohlin, Casey Plett; moderated by Bill Richardson	P.67
3:00pm	LIVESTREAMED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	<b>The Lying Life of Adults: Ann Goldstein in Conversation with John Freeman</b> – Ann Goldstein, John Freeman	P.68
5:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (WATERFRONT THEATRE)	<b>Fight Night: Miriam Toews in Conversation with Marsha Lederman</b> – Miriam Toews, Marsha Lederman	P.68
5:00pm	PRE-RECORDED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	<b>The Mystery of Right and Wrong: Wayne Johnston in Conversation with Hal Wake</b> – Wayne Johnston, Hal Wake	P.69
7:00pm	PRE-RECORDED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	<b>The Threads of Family and Resilience: With Te-Ping Chen and Pik-Shuen Fung</b> – Te-Ping Chen, Pik-Shuen Fung; moderated by Anna Ling Kaye	P.69
8:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (PERFORMANCE WORKS)	<b>The Literary Cabaret: With Mona Awad, Gary Barwin, Marcello Di Cintio, Omar El Akkad, Christa Couture, and Darrel McLeod</b>	P.70
8:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (REVUE STAGE)	<b>Float Like a Butterfly, Drink Mint Tea: Alex Wood in Conversation with Charles Demers</b> – Alex Wood, Charles Demers	P.71
8:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (WATERFRONT THEATRE)	<b>Binge: Douglas Coupland in Conversation with Lisa Christiansen</b> – Douglas Coupland, Lisa Christiansen	P.71

## Sunday, 24 October 2021





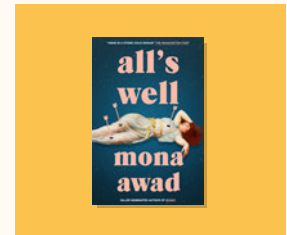
TIME	FORMAT	EVENT & PARTICIPANTS	
9:00am	DIGITAL EVENT (PODCAST)	<b>Saga Boy: Antonio Michael Downing in Conversation with Barbara Chirinos</b> – Antonio Michael Downing, Barbara Chirinos	P.72
10:30am	LIVE IN-PERSON (WATERFRONT THEATRE)	<b>The Human Connection: With Hiromi Goto and Will McPhail</b> – Hiromi Goto, Will McPhail; moderated by Taylor Brown-Evans	P.72
10:30am	LIVE IN-PERSON (REVUE STAGE)	<b>Gripping Tales: With Linwood Barclay, Cherie Jones, and Eddy Boudel Tan</b> – Linwood Barclay, Cherie Jones, Eddy Boudel Tan	P.73
11:00am	LIVE IN-PERSON (GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE)	<b>Hunting for Stars: Cherie Dimaline in Conversation with David A. Robertson</b> – Cherie Dimaline, David A. Robertson	P.74
11:00am	LIVESTREAMED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	<b>The International Sunday Brunch: With Joshua Ferris, Claire Fuller, Jeff VanderMeer, Jaap Robben, Linda Boström Knausgård, and Pilar Quintana; hosted by Kathryn Gretsinger</b>	P.75
1:00pm	PRE-RECORDED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	<b>The Magician and the Mayflies: One-to-One with Colm Tóibín and Andrew O'Hagan</b> – Colm Tóibín, Andrew O'Hagan	P.76
1:30pm	LIVESTREAMED, AT-HOME VIEWING	<b>Emerge</b>	P.76
2:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (WATERFRONT THEATRE)	<b>Blending Genres: With Hiromi Goto, Harold R. Johnson, and Renée Sarojini Saklikar; moderated by Rachel Rose</b>	P.77
3:30pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (PERFORMANCE WORKS)	<b>The Afternoon Tea: Myriam Chancy, Linden MacIntyre, Casey Plett, Jael Richardson, Ian Williams, Zoe Whittall; hosted by Bill Richardson</b>	P.78
3:30pm	PRE-RECORDED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	<b>Animal: Lisa Taddeo in Conversation with Tara McGuire</b> – Lisa Taddeo, Tara McGuire	P.79
5:00pm	PRE-RECORDED, CINEMA AND HOME VIEWING	<b>Yusef Salaam in Conversation with Matt Galloway</b> – Yusef Salaam, Matt Galloway	P.79
7:00pm	LIVE IN-PERSON (REVUE STAGE)	<b>Danny Ramadan Presents: A Night of Storytelling</b> – Authors: Amber Dawn, Jaz Papadopoulos, David Ly, Brandi Bird; hosted by Danny Ramadan	P.80

Thursday, 21 October | 8:00pm

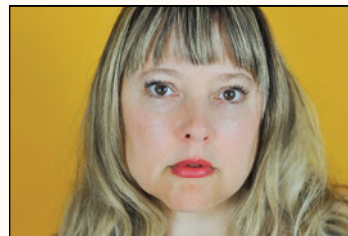
Includes Q&amp;A ?

Theatre Hybrid 

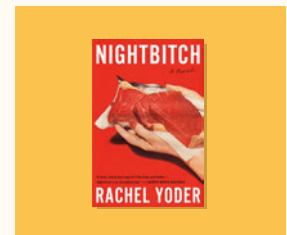
## Event Details - Authors Joining In-Person &amp; Virtually

 Theatre Hybrid Event  
(Waterfront Theatre) Mona Awad (on-stage);  
Zoe Whittall (on-stage);  
Rachel Yoder (virtual) ASL on Request Moderated by  
Leslie Hurtig (on-stage) \$25 (All-Inclusive)

**MONA AWAD** is the author of *Bunny* and *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl*, which was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, winner of the Amazon Canada First Novel Award, the Colorado Book Award, and an Honorable Mention from the Arab American Book Awards. The recipient of a PhD in English and Creative Writing from the University of Denver, she has published work in *Time*, *VICE*, *Electric Literature*, *McSweeney's*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and elsewhere. (UNITED STATES)



**ZOE WHITTALL** is the author of three previous novels: the Giller-shortlisted *The Best Kind of People*, Lambda-winning *Holding Still for as Long as Possible*, and debut *Bottle Rocket Hearts*. She has published three collections of poetry, *The Best Ten Minutes of Your Life*, *Precordial Thump*, and *The Emily Valentine Poems*. She is also a Canadian Screen Award-winning TV and film writer, with credits on the *Baroness Von Sketch Show*, *Schitt's Creek*, *Degrassi*, and others. (ONTARIO)





**RACHEL YODER** is the founder of *draft: the journal of process*. She holds MFAs from the University of Arizona (fiction) and the University of Iowa (nonfiction), where she was an Iowa Arts Fellow. Her stories and essays have been published in literary journals such as *The Kenyon Review* and *The Missouri Review*, as well as national outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Sun*, and *Lit Hub*. She lives in Iowa City with her husband and son. (UNITED STATES)

# The Spectacular Complexity of Womanhood







## With Mona Awad, Zoe Whittall, and Rachel Yoder

Join three exceptional writers as they probe, blast, and confront the bizarre, challenging, beautiful, transcendent, dangerous, and downright contradictory complexities of womanhood. This promises to be an evening of wry observation, of catharsis, of hilarity. **Mona Awad** transfixed audiences when she visited the Festival to promote her novel, *Bunny*. She returns with *All's Well*: a piercingly funny story of a theatre director at breaking point. Scotiabank Giller Prize finalist **Zoe Whittall** (*The Best Kind of People*) joins us with her latest work, *The Spectacular*, traversing three generations of women, each of whom are grappling with the consequences of motherhood, abandonment, and the knife edge of opportunity and disappointment that is rife in female experience. **Rachel Yoder** looks at motherhood slightly differently; *Nightbitch* follows a stay-at-home mom who comes to believe she's turning into a dog. These books, and these sensational female authors, are a tonic. Come imbibe with us.

Thursday, 21 October | 8:00pm

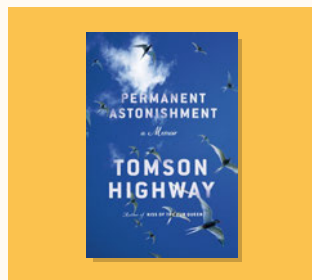
Cinema & Streaming  

## Event Details

-  Cinema (The Nest) and At-Home Viewing
-  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)
-  Auto-Caption Enabled
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Pre-recorded
-  In Conversation with TBA

## Permanent Astonishment: *Tomson Highway in Conversation*

One of the most acclaimed Indigenous writers and performers in Canada shares his epic life story in a new memoir and conversation. **Tomson Highway** was born in a snowbank on an island in the sub-Arctic, the 11th of 12 children in a nomadic Cree family. *Permanent Astonishment* shares his joy of the natural world and his family—from being pulled by dogsled beneath a night sky alive with stars to singing country music songs around the campfire. He also shares what happened after and away from that idyllic childhood; flow to residential school when he was six years old, where his younger brother, René, soon joined him. *Permanent Astonishment* is also an embrace to René's final words when he died too young. "Don't mourn me, be joyful," he said. Highway demonstrates just that through a hilarious and profound work that explores culture, conquest, and survival.



**TOMSON HIGHWAY** is the celebrated author of the novel *Kiss of the Fur Queen* and several plays including *The Rez Sisters* and *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing*, both of which won Dora Mavor Moore Awards and Floyd S. Chalmers Awards. He has criss-crossed North America, Europe, and the world with his readings, lectures, piano performances, and teaching engagements. He divides his time between Canada and Italy. (QUÉBEC/ITALY)



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Thursday, 21 October | 8:30pm

Includes Q&amp;A ?

Theatre 

## Event Details

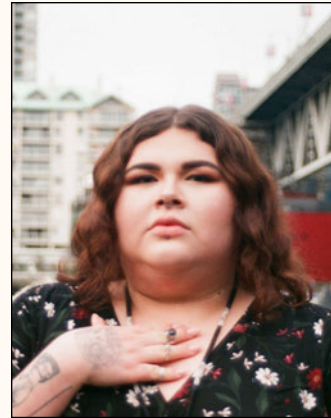
-  Theatre Event (Revue Stage)
-  ASL on Request
-  \$25 (All-Inclusive)
-  Hosted by Jillian Christmas

# Word!

## Spoken Word For Adults with jaye simpson and Brandon Wint

Our Spoken Word event series, curated by award-winning poet and spoken word artist **Jillian Christmas**, is an effervescent, powerful highlight of our youth programming every year. We're so excited to bring this exceptional series to the rest of our audience for the first time. Performers include **jaye simpson**: an Oji-Cree Saulteaux Indigiqueer from Sapotaweyak Cree Nation. Their work has been published in various publications and their latest work, *it was never going to be okay*, was shortlisted for the Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBTQ2S+ Emerging Writers and won the Indigenous Voices Award. **Brandon Wint** is an Ontario-born poet, spoken word artist, and educator whose poems and essays have been published in national anthologies. *Divine Animal* is his debut book of poetry. These are artists at the top of their game; whose vocalization will move, rivet, and provoke. Come find out what the excitement is about.

**Additional spoken word artist to be announced.**  
Please check our website for updates.



**jaye simpson** is an Oji-Cree Saulteaux Indigiqueer from Sapotaweyak Cree Nation. their work has appeared in the anthologies *Hustling Verse*, *Love After the End* and the forthcoming anthology *The Care We Dream Of*. *it was never going to be okay* was shortlisted for the 2021 ReLit Award for poetry and won the 2021 Indigenous Voices Award. they are a displaced Indigenous person resisting, ruminating, and residing on x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), səliiwətaʔ (Tseil-waututh), and skw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish) First Nations territories. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



Foundation



**BRANDON WINT** is a poet, spoken word artist, and educator. For more than a decade, Wint has been a sought-after, touring performer, and has presented his work in the United States, Australia, Lithuania, Latvia, and Jamaica. His poems and essays have been published in national anthologies, including *The Great Black North: Contemporary African-Canadian Poetry* (Frontenac House, 2013) and *Black Writers Matter* (University of Regina Press, 2019). *Divine Animal* is his debut book of poetry. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)





Foundation



Thursday, 21 October | 9:00pm

Theatre 

## Event Details

 Theatre Event  
(Venue to be announced) \$15 Hosted by Rob Taylor

# The Emoji Lit Pub Quiz *With Rob Taylor*

Join us for a first-for-the-Fest literary pub quiz, inspired by a growing online quiz trend: identifying book titles by emoji representations. Hosted by poet and literary raconteur **Rob Taylor**, this fast-paced evening will feature book-related emoji quizzes (Would you guess that a bunny tail and two skyscrapers represents a Dickens classic?) and “Mad-Lib Readings,” in which authors give readings from their work with sections blanked out for audience participation. There will even be a Wrong Answers Only round with author **Rhea Tregebov** choosing her favourite incorrect guesses... perfect for anyone who has never placed first in a pub quiz. Don't miss this effervescent evening of escapades.

**ROB TAYLOR** is the author of *Strangers* (Biblioasis, 2021) and three other poetry collections, and the guest editor of *Best Canadian Poetry 2019* (Biblioasis, 2019). He teaches Creative Writing at Simon Fraser University.



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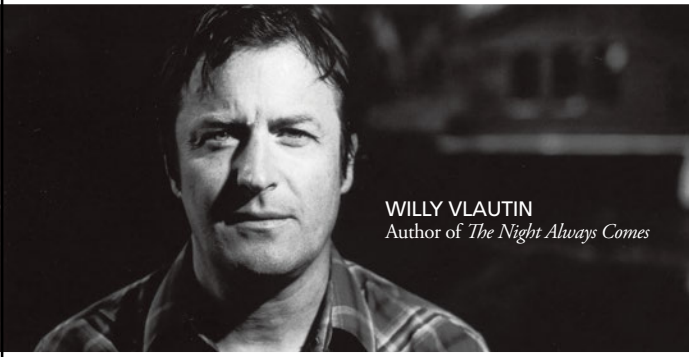
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Friday, 22 October | 10:00am

Includes Q&A 

Theatre 

Event Details

 Theatre Event (Waterfront Theatre)  \$25 (All-Inclusive)  ASL on Request

## *The Winter Wives:* Linden MacIntyre in Conversation with David Ebner

Bestselling, award-winning author, journalist, and broadcaster **Linden MacIntyre** is invited to our Festival year after year. Not only because he's in popular demand from our audience, but also because every event proves to be a captivating conversation about storytelling and what makes us human. In conversation, MacIntyre will speak about his new book, *The Winter Wives*, which weaves together threads of crime, disability, and dementia. Two old friends couldn't be more different—Allan is a successful and wealthy sportsman; Byron lives at home caring for his ill mother and has a disability resulting from a childhood illness. The fault lines between them start to show. But when Allan suffers a stroke, both friends are forced to confront their weaknesses and strengths, and the tangles of their relationship.






**LINDEN MACINTYRE** is a bestselling author who has won the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-fiction, the Evelyn Richardson Award, the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the Dartmouth Book Award, and the CBA Libris Fiction Book of the Year Award for his books. A distinguished broadcast journalist, MacIntyre spent twenty-four years as the co-host of *The Fifth Estate*. He has won ten Gemini awards for his work. (ONTARIO)




**DAVID EBNER** is a national correspondent at *The Globe and Mail*. He has reported on a wide range of stories, and was a finalist for a National Newspaper Award in sports in 2013.

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Friday, 22 October | 10:00am

Includes Q&amp;A



Cinema &amp; Streaming



## Event Details

Cinema (The Nest) and At-Home Viewing

Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)

Live Captioning Provided

Pay-What-You-Can

Livestreamed

Moderated by Kathryn Gretsinger

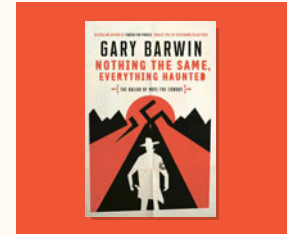
# Complex Histories With Gary Barwin, Roy Jacobsen, and Kathleen Winter

Literary historical novels often bring us the gift of enabling us to see events of the past more clearly than ever before. These three authors prove it. **Gary Barwin's** *Nothing the Same, Everything Haunted* is full of sharp wit, pathos, and reimagined history, as a middle-aged Jewish man who dreams of being a cowboy goes on an eccentric quest across Europe following the 1941 Nazi invasion of Luthiania. **Roy Jacobsen** captivated readers with his Booker-shortlisted novel, *The Unseen*. The follow up, *White Shadow*, centres on Ingrid, a Norwegian woman living alone on a small island during the Nazi occupation, who falls in love with a Russian prisoner of war who washes ashore—and the persecution that follows. Giller-shortlisted novelist **Kathleen Winter** returns with a stunning reimagining of the lost years of misunderstood Romantic Era genius Dorothy Wordsworth in *Undersong: A Novel*. Find out how these authors balance their stories with the weight of historic realism, and the balance between truth and fiction.

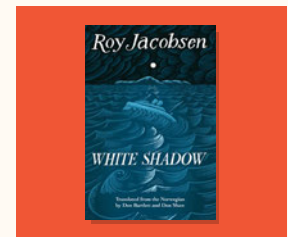
**KATHRYN GRETSINGER** is an associate professor of teaching at the School of Journalism, Writing, and Media. She is a long-time public broadcaster at the CBC, and has been named one of North America's top innovative journalism educators.



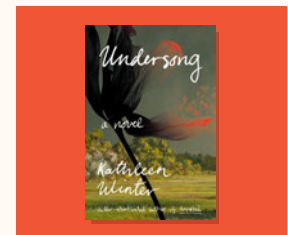
**GARY BARWIN** is a composer, multidisciplinary artist, and the author of twenty-three books. His recent national bestselling novel, *Yiddish for Pirates*, won the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour as well as the Canadian Jewish Literary Award and the Hamilton Literary Award. It was also a finalist for both the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction. His prose and poetry have been published in hundreds of magazines and journals internationally. (ONTARIO)



**ROY JACOBSEN** has twice been nominated for the Nordic Council's Literary Award. He is the author of more than fifteen novels and is a member of the Norwegian Academy for Language and Literature. In 2009, he was shortlisted for the Dublin IMPAC Award for his novel *The Burnt-Out Town of Miracles*. *The Unseen* was a bestseller in Norway and was shortlisted for the 2017 Man Booker International Prize and the 2018 International Dublin Literary Award. (NORWAY)



**KATHLEEN WINTER** is the author of *Annabel*, which was shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the Governor General's Literary Award, the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Amazon.ca First Novel Award, and numerous other awards. It was also a *Globe and Mail* "Best Book," a *New York Times* "Notable" book, a *Quill & Quire* "Book of the Year" and #1 bestseller in Canada. Her novel *Lost* was longlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award. (QUÉBEC)



# PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE CANADA WELCOMES OUR AUTHORS TO



# THE VANCOUVER WRITERS FEST




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Random House  
Canada


Friday, 22 October | 10:30am


Includes Q&A 


Theatre Hybrid 


**Event Details - Authors Joining In-Person & Virtually**

 Theatre Hybrid Event  
(Waterfront Theatre)

 Aminder Dhaliwal (virtual); Hiromi Goto (on-stage); Gord Hill (on-stage)

 \$25 (All-Inclusive)

 Moderated by Ken Boesem (on-stage)

 ASL on Request

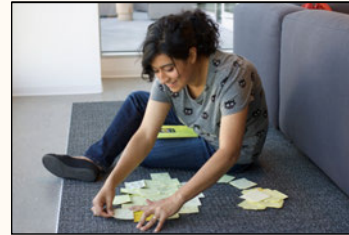
# The Power of Comics with Aminder Dhaliwal, Hiromi Goto, and Gord Hill

Comics and graphic novels continue to expand in popularity and influence. The genre is now worth an estimated \$1.28 billion in publishing. More than this, we have a new recognition for the remarkable impact this literary form has on understanding social injustices and offering unique political commentary. We're joined by three comic artists, each of whom explore important topics through their art. **Aminder Dhaliwal**, author of *Cyclopedia Exotica*, which appeared on 25 "best of" lists; poet and novelist **Hiromi Goto** who launches a tender, literary graphic novel, *Shadow List*; and **Gord Hill**, author of a series of seminal illustrated histories of Indigenous struggles in the Americas, including *The 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance Comic Book*. Why do they choose to use this form to make statements about the state of the world? Find out in a riveting event for all ages.

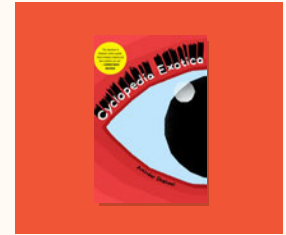


**Community Partner:**  
Vancouver Comic Arts Festival

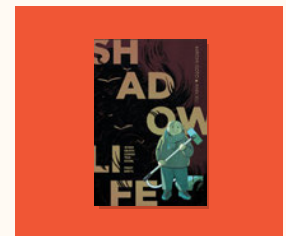
**KEN BOESEM** is a Vancouver cartoonist and historian. He writes and draws the serialized comic strip *The Village*, which follows a fictional group of friends and lovers set in a Vancouver neighborhood. *The Village* has been serialized since 2005.



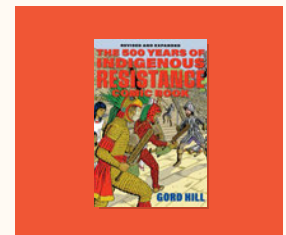
**AMINDER DHALIWAL** has worked as the Director at Disney TV Animation, a Storyboard Director at Cartoon Network, and Storyboard Director on the Nickelodeon show *Sanjay and Craig*. Her first graphic novel, *Woman World*, was serialized on Instagram where she gathered 250,000 followers, and it appeared on 25 best of the year lists and received nominations for numerous awards including the Eisner, Ignatz, Harvey, and the Stephen Leacock Medal. *Cyclopedia Exotica*, published in May 2021, is her second book. (UNITED STATES)



**HIROMI GOTO** is an emigrant from Japan who gratefully resides in Lekwungen Territory. Her first novel, *Chorus of Mushrooms*, won a 1995 Commonwealth Writers' Prize Best First Book, and was the co-winner of the Canada-Japan Book Award. *The Kappa Child* was awarded the 2001 James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award. Her other honours include The Sunburst Award and the Carl Brandon Parallax Award. Her first graphic novel, *Shadow Life*, with illustrations by artist Ann Xu, published in Spring 2021. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)





**GORD HILL** is a member of the Kwakwaka'wakw nation whose territory is located on northern Vancouver Island and adjacent mainland in the province of "British Columbia." His previous books include *The Antifa Comic Book*, *The Anti-Capitalist Resistance Comic Book*, and the first edition of this book, published as *The 500 Years of Resistance Comic Book* in 2010. He has been involved in Indigenous people's and anti-globalization movements since 1990. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



Friday, 22 October | 11:30am

Includes Q&amp;A ?

Theatre **Event Details** Theatre Event (**Performance Works**)  Moderated by Tanya Boteju \$25 (All-Inclusive)  ASL on Request

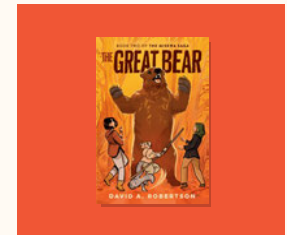
# Top Picks for Teachers: New Classics for School Reading

There are perennial books beloved to teachers and students alike. How do we begin to amalgamate new classics; books that have caught millions of imaginations and continue to be go-to reads for youth? Three authors at the top of their game explore just that. They'll speak about their new books, and the importance of broadening our school reading lists to ensure that both traditional and contemporary books of influence are accessible to young minds across the country. You'll leave with great suggestions for your next favourite classroom choice. Hear from perennial bestselling author **Cherie Dimaline** (*Hunting by Stars*, sequel to *The Marrow Thieves*); **David A. Robertson** (*The Great Bear*); and **Robin Stevenson** (*When You Get the Chance*).

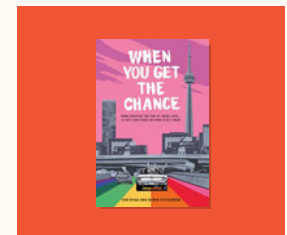
**TANYA BOTEJU** is an English teacher and writer whose debut novel, *Kings, Queens, and In-Betweens*, was named a Top Ten Indie Next Pick by the American Booksellers Association, and selected for the American Librarian Association 2020 Rainbow List.



**CHERIE DIMALINE** is a member of the Georgian Bay Métis Community. Her most recent novel *Empire of Wild* was named Indigo's #1 Best Book of 2019, and has been recently featured in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Chicago Review of Books*, *goop!*, and *Shondalands*. Dimaline lives in Ontario, on her ancestral grounds, where she is working on a new YA book, her next adult novel, and the forthcoming TV adaptation of *The Marrow Thieves*. (ONTARIO)




**DAVID A. ROBERTSON** is the author of numerous books for young readers including *When We Were Alone*, which won the 2017 Governor General's Literary Award. *The Barren Grounds* received a starred review from *Kirkus* and was a *Kirkus* and *Quill & Quire* best middle-grade book of 2020. A sought-after speaker and educator, as well as recent recipient of the Writers' Union of Canada's Freedom to Read Award, Robertson is a member of the Norway House Cree Nation. (MANITOBA)










**ROBIN STEVENSON** is the author of more than twenty books for children and teens. She regularly presents in schools, offering book talks, creative writing workshops, and presentations on LGBTQ+ Pride. Her YA novel *A Thousand Shades of Blue* was a finalist for the Governor General's Award, and is included on CBC's list, "100 YA Novels that Make You Proud to Be Canadian." Stevenson lives on the west coast of Canada with her partner and their son. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

Friday, 22 October | 12:00pm

Includes Q&A 

Cinema & Streaming  

**Event Details**

-  Curated by Lawrence Hill
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Livestreamed
-  Cinema (The Nest) and At-Home Viewing
-  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)
-  Live Captioning Provided
-  Moderated by Lawrence Hill

## Black Literature on the Prairies With Cheryl Foggo and Karina Vernon

Calgary writer and filmmaker **Cheryl Foggo** and Toronto writer and scholar **Karina Vernon** will enter into a conversation, moderated by **Lawrence Hill**, about Black literature, identity, and history on the Canadian Prairies. Foggo is a celebrated playwright and journalist and the author of three children’s/YA books and the much-celebrated memoir *Pourin’ Down Rain: A Black Woman Claims Her Place in the Canadian West*. Most recently, Foggo wrote and directed the 2020 NFB film documentary *John Ware Reimagined*, about a prominent but oft-misunderstood 19th century Black cowboy from Alberta. Vernon, an associate professor of English at the University of Toronto, is a leading Canadian scholar on Black Canadian literature with a particular interest in prairie writing. Her book *The Black Prairie Archives: an Anthology* appeared in 2020 with Wilfrid Laurier University Press.



**CHERYL FOGGO** is a playwright, author and filmmaker, whose work over the last 30 years has focused on the lives of Western Canadians of African descent. In 2020 her NFB feature documentary *John Ware Reclaimed* received the Alberta Feature Audience Choice Award at the Calgary International Film Festival. She is the 2021 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Outstanding Artist Award, the Calgary Black Chambers Black Achievement Award, and the Doug and Lois Mitchell Outstanding Calgary Artist Award. (ALBERTA)



**KARINA VERNON** is an associate professor of English at the University of Toronto, where her teaching and research focus on black Canadian literature, archives, and decolonization. (ONTARIO)





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— Kim Senklip Harvey,  
*Sylx & Tsilhqot’in playwright*

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Friday, 22 October | 1:00pm

Includes Q&amp;A

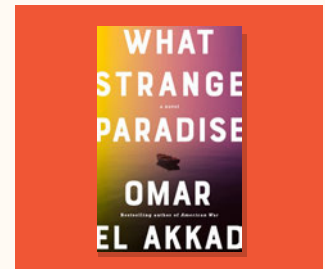
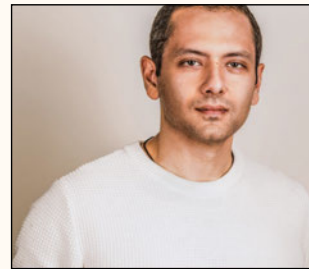
Theatre

## Event Details

Theatre Event (Revue Stage) \$25 (All-Inclusive) ASL on Request

## What Strange Paradise: Omar El Akkad in Conversation with Mark Medley

**Omar El Akkad's** masterpiece, *American War*, captivated readers with its eerie possibility; the brutality of war in the near future when the United States is once again divided in bloodshed, this time about fossil fuels. His follow up, *What Strange Paradise*, is equally prescient: a devastating yet beautiful story of two children against the backdrop of the refugee crisis, and the dehumanization of those who must flee home. The *New York Times* has said it "deserves to be an instant classic." El Akkad's writing is both fortune-telling dystopia and precise cultural criticism; a necessary writer who probes our humanity. He speaks with *Globe and Mail* editor, **Mark Medley**, about his work and the future.



**OMAR EL AKKAD** is an author and a journalist who has won Canada's National Newspaper Award for Investigative Journalism. His debut novel, *American War*, won the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award, the Oregon Book Award for fiction, and the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize. It was listed as one of the best books of the year by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *GQ*, *NPR*, and *Esquire*, and for BBC's 100 Novels That Shaped Our World. (UNITED STATES)

**MARK MEDLEY** is Deputy Editor of the *Globe and Mail's* Opinion section. He previously served as its Books Editor. His work has appeared in publications including *Toronto Life*, *The Walrus*, and across the Postmedia chain of newspapers.

Friday, 22 October | 1:30pm

Includes Q&amp;A

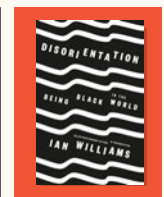
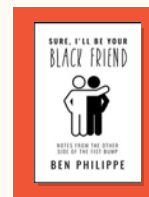
Theatre Hybrid

## Event Details - Authors Joining In-Person &amp; Virtually

Curated by Lawrence Hill ASL on Request  
 Theatre Hybrid Event (Waterfront Theatre) Ben Philippe (virtual); Ian Williams (on-stage)  
 \$25 (All-Inclusive) Moderator TBA

## Defying Stereotypes in Memoir With Ben Philippe and Ian Williams

Both authors of provocative, lively, spirited, and stereotype-defying memoirs, **Ben Philippe** and **Ian Williams** are sure to launch into a riveting conversation. Philippe is a New York-based writer and screenwriter with two young adult novels to his credit. His new adult nonfiction book is the memoir in essays, *Sure I'll Be Your Black Friend: Notes From the Other Side of the Fist Bump*. Philippe's new book begins with the line, "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a good white person of liberal leanings must be in want of a Black friend..." Williams is an award-winning poet, a Giller-prize winning novelist (*Reproduction*), and associate professor at the University of Toronto. His new set of essays *Disorientation: On Being Black in the World* begins with the line, "My resolution this year is to learn how to swim," and captures the impact of social encounters that focus suddenly, unexpectedly, harshly, or hilariously on matters of racial identity.



**BEN PHILIPPE** is a New York-based writer and screenwriter. Born in Haiti and raised in Montreal, Canada, he has a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University and an MFA from the Michener Center for Writers in Austin, Texas. He has written two young adult novels: *Field Guide to the North American Teenager*, winner of the 2020 William C. Morris Award, and *Charming as a Verb*. *Sure, I'll Be Your Black Friend* is his first book of adult nonfiction. (UNITED STATES)







**IAN WILLIAMS** was born in Trinidad and raised in Canada. He won the 2019 Scotiabank Giller Prize for his novel, *Reproduction*. His poetry collection, *Personals*, was shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize and the Robert Kroetsch Poetry Book Award. Williams holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Toronto and has recently returned as a tenured professor. His third poetry collection, *Word Problems*, was published by Coach House Press in the fall of 2020. (TORONTO)

Friday, 22 October | 2:00pm

Includes Q&A 

Cinema & Streaming  

Event Details

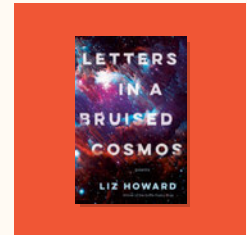
-  Cinema (The Nest) and At-Home Viewing
-  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)
-  Live Captioning Provided
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Livestreamed
-  Moderated by Shazia Hafiz Ramji

# The Intricate Craft of Poetry with Liz Howard, Adam Sol, and Brandon Wint

We bring together three poets renowned for their magnificent experimentation with form and structure to discuss contemporary poetry and the craft behind three collections that ask the essential questions of our time. Ontario-born poet, spoken word artist, and educator **Brandon Wint**'s poems and essays have been published in national anthologies. *Divine Animal* is his debut collection. Griffin Poetry Prize winner **Liz Howard**'s latest work is *Letters in a Bruised Cosmos*. In propulsive verse, she asks, "Who do we become after the worst has happened?". **Adam Sol** is a Trillium Book Award-winning poet, whose latest collection, *Broken Dawn Blessings*, explores how we respond to others' pain, both the pain of those we love and those we don't know. Moderated by celebrated and award-winning poet, **Shazia Hafiz Ramji**.

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**SHAZIA HAFIZ RAMJI** was a finalist for the 2021 National Magazine Awards for two poems published in *Event* magazine. Her first book *Port of Being* won the Robert Kroetsch Award for Innovative Poetry.



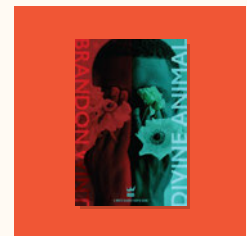
**LIZ HOWARD** won the 2016 Griffin Poetry Prize for her debut collection *Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent*, which was also shortlisted for the 2015 Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry and named a *Globe and Mail* top 100 book. Her poetry has appeared in *Canadian Art*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Poetry Magazine*, and *Best Canadian Poetry 2018*. She is of mixed settler and Anishinaabe heritage. Born and raised on Treaty 9 territory in northern Ontario, she currently lives in Toronto. (ONTARIO)



**ADAM SOL** has published four previous books of poetry, and one collection of essays, *How a Poem Moves: A Field Guide for Readers of Poetry*. He is the Coordinator of the Creative Expression & Society Program at the University of Toronto's Victoria College. *Broken Dawn Blessings* is his newest collection of poetry. (ONTARIO)



Presented thanks to the generous support of Sam Znaimer in memory of Nancy Richler, and of ECW Press.







**BRANDON WINT** is a poet, spoken word artist, and educator. For more than a decade, Wint has been a sought-after, touring performer, and has presented his work in the United States, Australia, Lithuania, Latvia, and Jamaica. His poems and essays have been published in national anthologies, including *The Great Black North: Contemporary African-Canadian Poetry* (Frontenac House, 2013) and *Black Writers Matter* (University of Regina Press, 2019). *Divine Animal* is his debut book of poetry. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



Friday, 22 October | 2:30pm

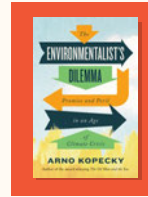
Includes Q&A Theatre 

## Event Details

-  Theatre (Performance Works)  ASL on Request
-  \$25 (All-Inclusive)  Moderated by Laura Lynch

## It's Not Too Late: How We Can Still Fight the Climate Crisis

Optimism is a particularly notable virtue in today's age, when wildfires and floods rage, and headlines warn that we're past the point of no return for a liveable climate. How do we continue to push for change amidst such significant forces, of nature and government? How do we replace ennui with purpose? And will it really make a difference? Journalist and author **Arno Kopecky** believes so. In the surprisingly funny *The Environmentalist's Dilemma* he reminds us that, in fact, humanity's doing better than ever. **J.B. MacKinnon**, bestselling author of *The 100 Mile Diet*, and now *The Day the World Stops Shopping*, meanwhile offers us fascinating insight into our individual habits and why ending consumerism can help to save our planet, and ourselves. Join these two minds for a relatable, wise, and fascinating conversation about why it's not as bad as you might think (and what comes next).



**ARNO KOPECKY** is an environmental journalist and author whose dispatches from four continents have appeared in the *Globe and Mail*, *The Walrus*, the *Literary Review of Canada*, *Reader's Digest*, and others. His last book, *The Oil Man and the Sea*, chronicled the battle to keep oil tankers out of British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest and was shortlisted for the 2014 Governor General's Literary Award. He lives in Vancouver. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)




**J.B. MACKINNON** is a writer based in Vancouver. He is the author of the bestsellers *The 100-Mile Diet*, co-written with Alisa Smith, and *The Once and Future World*. His writing has appeared in major Canadian media outlets, as well as such publications as *The New Yorker*, *National Geographic* and Best American Science and Nature Writing series. His first book, *Dead Man in Paradise*, won the Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)









Presented thanks to the support of ECW Press.

**LAURA LYNCH** is a journalist and host who has won the prestigious Nieman fellowship from Harvard University, awards from the British Bar Association, the Canadian Bar Association, and Amnesty International, among others.

Friday, 22 October | 6:00pm

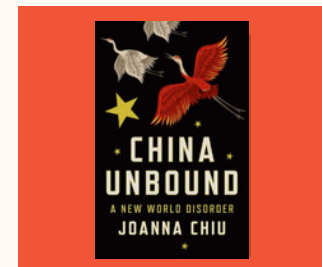
Cinema & Streaming  

## Event Details

-  Cinema (The Nest)  Pay-What-You-Can  Live-Captioning Enabled
-  and At-Home Viewing  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)  Pre-recorded

## China Unbound: Joanna Chiu in Conversation with Doug Saunders

As the world's second-largest economy, China is extending its influence across the globe with the complicity of democratic nations. Internationally recognized reporter **Joanna Chiu** has spent a decade tracking China's propulsive rise, from the political aspects of the multi-billion-dollar "New Silk Road" global investment project to a growing sway on foreign countries and multilateral institutions through "United Front" efforts. As the United States stumbles, Chiu's anticipated work, *China Unbound: A New World Disorder* exposes Beijing's high-tech surveillance and aggressive measures that result in human rights violations against those who challenge its power. She speaks to *Globe and Mail* journalist **Doug Saunders** about why the new world order she sees has disturbing implications for global stability, prosperity, and civil rights everywhere.



**JOANNA CHIU** is an internationally recognized authority on China, whose work has appeared in the *Guardian*, *Foreign Policy*, *BBC World*, *The Atlantic*, *Newsweek*, *Quartz*, *Al Jazeera*, *GlobalPost*, *CBC*, and *NPR*. In 2012 her story on refugees in Hong Kong won a Human Rights Press Award, and in 2018 her report on #MeToo cases in Asia was named one of the best *Foreign Policy* long-form stories. She is currently a senior journalist covering China-related topics for the *Toronto Star*. (ONTARIO)

**DOUG SAUNDERS** is the *Globe and Mail's* international affairs columnist. He has won the National Newspaper Award on five occasions and the Stanley McDowell Prize, and has been shortlisted for a National Magazine Award.

Friday, 22 October | 6:00pm

Includes Q&A Theatre 

## Event Details

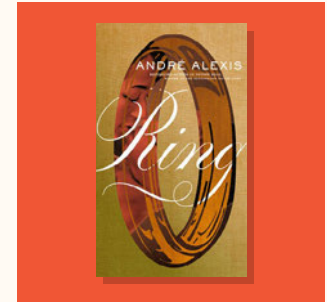
 Theatre Event (Waterfront Theatre)  \$25 (All-Inclusive)  ASL on Request

## Ring: André Alexis in Conversation with Mark Medley

No matter the depth of feeling for our beloved, there is always a moment (or a few) when we'd like to change *something* about them. Right? Scotiabank Giller Prize and Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize winner, **André Alexis**, probes love, romance, and the past in his latest novel, *Ring*, in which a woman in love is gifted a ring that will allow her to change three things about her partner. Following on the heels of *Pastoral*, *Fifteen Dogs*, *The Hidden Keys*, and *Days by Moonlight*, it completes Alexis' Quincunx: five genre-bending, stunning novels. We welcome this extraordinary literary mind to discuss his five works, and the philosophy imbued in his latest, with *Globe and Mail* editor, **Mark Medley**.



**ANDRÉ ALEXIS** was born in Trinidad and grew up in Canada. He has twice won the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize for *Days by Moonlight* and *Fifteen Dogs*, which also won the Scotiabank Giller Prize. His other books include *Pastoral*, *The Hidden Keys*, *Asylum*, *The Night Piece: Collected Short Fiction*, and most recently, *Ring*. (ONTARIO)



Presented thanks to the support of Coach House Books.

**MARK MEDLEY** is Deputy Editor of the *Globe and Mail's* Opinion section. He previously served as its Books Editor. His work has appeared in publications including *Toronto Life*, *The Walrus* and across the Postmedia chain of newspapers.



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Friday, 22 October | 8:00pm

Includes Q&amp;A ?

Cinema & Streaming 

## Event Details

-  Cinema (The Nest) and At-Home Viewing
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Livestreamed
-  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)
-  Live Captioning Provided

## On Freedom: Maggie Nelson in Conversation with Baharak Yousefi

Those who are first introduced to **Maggie Nelson** soon notice her name throughout their literary and social worlds. The award-winning writer, scholar, poet, and critic is one of the most prolific and influential Western thinkers today. As *Vulture* shared, “Reading Nelson is like watching a prima ballerina deliver the performance of a lifetime: athletic, graceful, and awe-inspiring.” The same goes for her latest work, *On Freedom: Four Songs of Care and Constraint*, which draws on a vast range of material to explore how we might think, experience, or talk about freedom. Thinking publicly through the knots in our culture—from recent art-world debates to the turbulent legacies of sexual liberation, from the painful paradoxes of addiction to the lure of despair in the face of the climate crisis—is itself a practice of freedom, a means of forging fortitude, courage, and company.



**MAGGIE NELSON** is the author of several books of poetry and prose, most recently the *New York Times* bestseller and National Book Critics Circle Award winner *The Argonauts*. She teaches at the University of Southern California and lives in Los Angeles. (UNITED STATES)


**BAHARAK YOUSEFI** has been peddling books in Vancouver for the past twenty-two years. She is a bookseller-turned-librarian and a refugee-turned-settler. Baharak is co-editor of *Feminists Among Us: Resistance and Advocacy in Library Leadership*.

Friday, 22 October | 8:00pm

Includes Q&amp;A ?

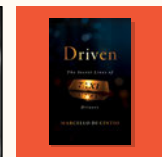
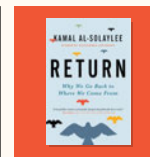
Theatre 

## Event Details

-  Theatre Event (Revue Stage)
-  \$25 (All-Inclusive)
-  ASL on Request

## Journeys For Home: One-to-One with Kamal Al-Solaylee and Marcello Di Cintio

Our headlines underscore the geopolitical forces that shape these tumultuous times, but too infrequently do we hear from voices whose lives and homes are impacted by such pressures. Two exceptional journalists and authors share such stories—and discuss their motivation to seek them out. **Kamal Al-Solaylee**’s *Return: Why We Go Back to Where We Come From* includes conversations with dozens of people like himself who have chosen to—or long to—return to their homelands. *Driven*, by **Marcello Di Cintio**, shares conversations with taxi drivers, their backgrounds ranging from the Iraqi National Guard, to the Westboro Baptist Church, to an arranged marriage that left one woman stranded in a foreign country with nothing but a suitcase. There are thousands of unknown stories around us. By hearing them, we see the world in a new light.



**KAMAL AL-SOLAYLEE** is the author of the bestselling memoir *Intolerable: A Memoir of Extremes*, which won the 2013 Toronto Book Award. His second book, *Brown: What Being Brown in the World Today Means (to Everyone)*, was hailed as “essential reading” by the *Globe and Mail*. A finalist for the Governor General’s Literary Award for Nonfiction and the Trillium Book Award, Al-Solaylee won the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing. He teaches journalism and literary nonfiction at Ryerson University. (ONTARIO)

**MARCELLO DI CINTIO** is the author of four previous books, including *Walls: Travels Along the Barricades*, which won the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing and the W.O. Mitchell City of Calgary Book Prize, and *Pay No Heed to the Rockets: Palestine in the Present Tense*—also a W.O. Mitchell Prize winner. Di Cintio’s magazine writing has appeared in publications such as the *International New York Times*, *The Walrus*, *Canadian Geographic*, and *Afar*. (ALBERTA)





SFU LIBRARY

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Friday, 22 October | 8:00pm

Theatre 

## Event Details

-  Live Event (**Performance Works**)
-  ASL Provided
-  \$25 (All-Inclusive)
-  Hosted by Aislinn Hunter

## The Poetry Bash

### With Bertrand Bickersteth, Molly Cross-Blanchard, Joseph Dandurand, Chantal Gibson, Billeh Nickerson, and Rob Taylor

We say it year after year: The Poetry Bash is a long-time audience favourite for a reason. There's a reverence in the air, and a sense of possibility met with hilarity, collective gasps and cathartic insights. And now it's back on stage, for an atmospheric evening to kickstart the weekend. Hosted by poet and award-winning author **Aislinn Hunter**, the lineup includes some of the most talked-about poets in Canada today. Spend the evening with **Bertrand Bickersteth**, whose collection *The Response of Weeds* is a CBC Poetry Book of the Year; Métis writer and *Room Magazine* editor **Molly Cross-Blanchard** whose *Exhibitionist* is a 2021 favourite; prolific poet and Kwantlen First Nations member, **Joseph Dandurand** (*Sh:lám*); artist, poet, and writer **Chantal Gibson** (*with/holding*); Poetry Bash favourite and writer, poet, and producer **Billeh Nickerson** (*Duct-Taped Roses*); and poet and critic **Rob Taylor**, who launches his fourth collection, *Strangers*.



Presented in partnership with  
KPU Creative Writing.

**AISLINN HUNTER** is the author of eight highly acclaimed books including the bestselling novel *The Certainties* and *The World Before Us*, winner of the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. She teaches creative writing at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.



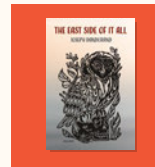
**BERTRAND BICKERSTETH** is a poet, playwright, essayist, and educator born in Sierra Leone and raised in Alberta. In 2021, CBC named him a Black writer to watch. His collection of poetry, *The Response of Weeds*, won the League of Canadian Poets' Gerald Lampert Memorial Award and the Writers' Guild of Alberta's Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry. He has been a contributor/columnist for CBC's *The Next Chapter* and *Black on the Prairies*. (ALBERTA)



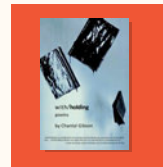
**MOLLY CROSS-BLANCHARD** is a white and Métis writer and editor born on Treaty 3 territory (Fort Frances, ON), raised on Treaty 6 territory (Prince Albert, SK), and living on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples (Vancouver, BC). She holds an English BA from the University of Winnipeg and a Creative Writing MFA from the University of British Columbia, and is the publisher of *Room* magazine. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



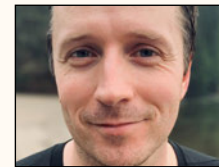
**JOSEPH DANDURAND** is a member of Kwantlen First Nation. He is the director of the Kwantlen Cultural Centre. He was recently shortlisted for the 2021 Griffin Poetry Prize for his collection, *The East Side of It All*. Dandurand is the author of four other books of poetry, including *SH:LAM (The Doctor)* and *I Will Be Corrupted*, as well as the bestselling children's book *The Sasquatch, the Fire and the Cedar Baskets*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



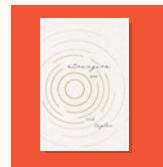
**CHANTAL GIBSON** is an award-winning writer-artist-educator, whose work overlaps between literary and visual art and confronts colonialism head on. Gibson's debut book of poetry, *How She Read* was the winner of the 2020 Pat Lowther Memorial Award and the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize and a finalist for the 2020 Griffin Poetry Prize. Recipient of the prestigious 2021 3M National Teaching Fellowship, Gibson teaches writing and visual communication at Simon Fraser University. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



**BILLEH NICKERSON** is the author of six previous books, including *Artificial Cherry*, which was nominated for the City of Vancouver Book Award. He is a past editor of both *Event* and *Prism International*, and co-editor of the groundbreaking anthology *Seminal: The Anthology of Canada's Gay Male Poets*. His latest book is *Duct-Taped Roses*. He lives and works in Vancouver where he is the co-chair of the Creative Writing Department at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



**ROB TAYLOR** is the author of *Strangers* (Biblioasis) and three other poetry collections. He is also the editor of *What the Poets are Doing: Canadian Poets in Conversation* (Nightwood Editions), and the guest editor of *Best Canadian Poetry 2019* (Biblioasis). He lives with his wife and children in Port Moody, on the on the unceded territories of the kwikwəłəm (Kwikwetlem), xw̓məθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh úxwumixw (Squamish) and səliilwətaʔ (Tsleil-waututh) peoples. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



The Vancouver Writers Fest is grateful to all those in our community who have provided an immense amount of support in these difficult times.

Thanks to you—our donors, sponsors, partners, and Members—we've been able to continue to create a community of passionate readers, who engage with complex ideas and excellent literature from authors across Canada and around the world. We can't wait to see you back in our theatres and on our digital stages this year.

VANCOUVER  
WRITERS  
FEST


Saturday, 23 October | 10:30am


Includes Q&A ?

Theatre 

Event Details

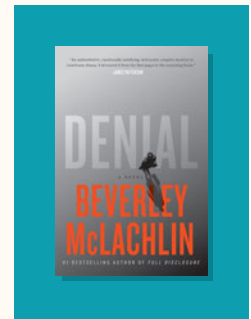
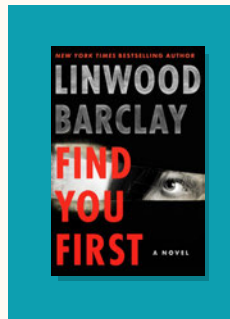
 Theatre (Performance Works)

 \$25 (All-Inclusive)

 ASL on Request

# One-to-One With Linwood Barclay and Beverley McLachlin

Listen to two of the most exciting crime writers speak to each other about their works in an intimate conversation between former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and bestselling author, **Beverley McLachlin**, and *New York Times* bestselling author **Linwood Barclay**. After her #1 debut, *Full Disclosure*, McLachlin offers another taut new thriller, this time exploring what happens when Jilly Truitt, a lawyer, stumbles across a dark truth hanging over an accused family she's defending. Will this new information result in the truth...or denial? In Barclay's latest, *Find You First*, millionaire Miles is in a race against time against a terminal illness. As his potential heirs begin to vanish, he must ask—who is the vicious killer, and how close are they? Don't miss this riveting discussion between authors who know how to turn pages.



**LINWOOD BARCLAY** is the author of nineteen previous novels, and two thrillers for children. A *New York Times* bestselling author, his books have been translated into more than two dozen languages. He wrote the screenplay adaptation for his novel *Never Saw it Coming* and his book *The Accident* has been made into a TV series in France. His novel *No Time for Goodbye* was a global bestseller. (ONTARIO)



**BEVERLEY MCLACHLIN** was the Chief Justice of Canada from 2000 to 2017. She is the first woman to hold that position and the longest-serving Chief Justice in Canadian history. Her memoir, *Truth Be Told*, won the Writers' Trust Shaughnessy Cohen Prize and the Ottawa Book Award for Nonfiction. Her debut novel, *Full Disclosure*, was a #1 national bestseller and was shortlisted for the Arthur Ellis Best First Crime Novel Award. McLachlin is a Companion of the Order of Canada. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

Saturday, 23 October | 10:30am

Includes Q&amp;A

Theatre 

## Event Details

- ★ Curated by Lawrence Hill
- \$ \$25 (All-Inclusive)
-  Theatre (Revue Stage)
-  ASL on Request

*with/holding:*

## Chantal Gibson in Conversation with Lawrence Hill

Award-winning Vancouver poet **Chantal Gibson** joins the Vancouver Writers Fest stage once more to discuss, in an interview with **Lawrence Hill**, her latest new poetry collection *with/holding*: a collection of genre-blurring poems that examines the representation and reproduction of Blackness across communication media and popular culture. Gibson lives a fascinating life as an award-winning teacher at Simon Fraser University, a successful visual artist whose art has been exhibited at museums and galleries across Canada and the United States, and as a poet who has landed with a splash on the Canadian literary scene. Her first collection, *How She Read* meditates on Blackness, womanhood, denial, and freedom. She explores these themes and more in this morning's illuminating conversation.




**CHANTAL GIBSON** is an award-winning writer-artist-educator, whose work overlaps between literary and visual art and confronts colonialism head on. Gibson's debut book of poetry, *How She Read*, was the winner of the 2020 Pat Lowther Memorial Award and the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize and a finalist for the 2020 Griffin Poetry Prize. Recipient of the prestigious 2021 3M National Teaching Fellowship, Gibson teaches writing and visual communication at Simon Fraser University. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

UBC Library






Presented in  
partnership with UBC Library.

Saturday, 23 October | 11:00am

Includes Q&amp;A

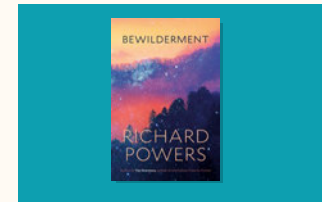
Cinema & Streaming 

## Event Details

-  Cinema (The Nest) and At-Home Viewing
-  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)
-  Live Captioning Provided
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Livestreamed

## *Bewilderment*: Richard Powers in Conversation with Eleanor Wachtel

**Richard Powers'** Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Overstory*, is both a dazzling work of literature and an ecological hymn; arguably one of the most powerful calls for conservation of our forests that now sits, in plain sight, on shelves across the globe. This may be Powers' most famous work, but the prolific writer's 13 other titles are similarly notable, praiseworthy, and lauded. *Bewilderment*, his latest novel—longlisted for this year's Booker Prize—is no different: exploring father-son relationships... and the cosmos. Theo Byrne is a widowed astrobiologist and father to Robin, a young boy on the verge of being expelled. So what better solution than to take the boy to other planets? Powers speaks about his imaginative, heartfelt tale with CBC *Writers and Company* host, and inimitable interviewer, **Eleanor Wachtel**.



**RICHARD POWERS** is the author of twelve novels. His most recent, *The Overstory*, won the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction and was a finalist for the Booker Prize. *The Overstory* has been on the *New York Times* bestseller list for 63 weeks to date, with more than 1 million copies in print across all formats. Powers is also the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship and the National Book Award, among other accolades. (UNITED STATES)

**ELEANOR WACHTEL** has earned a reputation as one of the world's best literary interviewers during her 30 years as host of *Writers and Company* on CBC Radio. She has been awarded nine honorary degrees, and Officer of the Order of Canada.





Presented in partnership  
with the Toronto  
International Festival of  
Authors (TIFA).



The official  
bookseller for this  
event is Indigo.

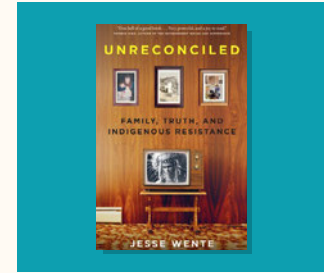


Saturday, 23 October | 11:00am

Includes Q&A Theatre Hybrid **Event Details - Authors Joining In-Person & Virtually** Theatre Hybrid Event  
(Waterfront Theatre) ASL on Request \$25 (All-Inclusive) Jesse Wente (virtual);  
Tanya Talaga (in-person)

## Unreconciled: Jesse Wente in Conversation with Tanya Talaga

From a celebrated Indigenous writer comes a stirring call to arms to build a new, respectful relationship between the nation of Canada and Indigenous peoples. Of **Jesse Wente's** new book, *Unreconciled*, **Tanya Talaga** explains, "By telling his own story, Jesse provides Canada with an essential roadmap of how to move forward through the myth of reconciliation towards the possibility of a just country. There is much work to be done but reading Jesse's words, soaking them in and letting them settle in your mind, will set us all on the right path." Who better to interview Wente than Talaga, herself one of the most celebrated and influential Indigenous writers, whose work—such as *Seven Fallen Feathers* and *All My Relations*—has transformed our thinking about justice in Canada? Don't miss this important conversation about how to transcend our current thinking, and systems, for a fair and equitable future.







**JESSE WENTE** is an Anishinaabe writer, broadcaster, and arts leader. He is a member of the Serpent River First Nation. Best known for more than two decades spent as a columnist for CBC Radio's *Metro Morning*, in 2018 he was named the first Executive Director of the Indigenous Screen Office. Wente was appointed Chair of the Canada Council for the Arts in 2020, the only First Nations person to ever hold the position. (ONTARIO)

**TANYA TALAGA** is the author of *Seven Fallen Feathers*: a multi-award winning, nationally bestselling title. Talaga was the 2017–2018 Atkinson Fellow in Public Policy and the 2018 CBC Massey Lecturer.

Penguin  
Random House  
CanadaPresented in partnership with  
Penguin Random House Canada.

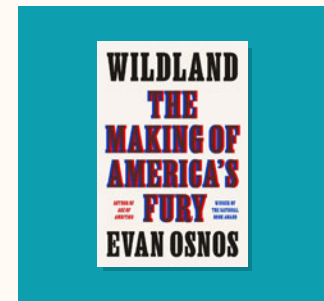
Saturday, 23 October | 1:00pm

Includes Q&A Cinema & Streaming  **Event Details** Cinema (The Nest)  
and At-Home Viewing Passholder Event  
(Valid at The Nest) Live Captioning  
Provided Pay-What-You-Can Livestreamed

## Wildland: The Making of America's Fury

### Evan Osnos in Conversation with Omar El Akkad

Through the fever pitch of anger, hatred, and civil unrest that rapidly crescendoed in 2020 we saw the disillusionment of millions of Americans, and the dissolution of American politics as it was previously known. National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer **Evan Osnos** illuminates the origins of America's political fury in this prescient, essential analysis. *Wildland: The Making of America's Fury* follows ordinary individuals as they navigate 21st century America in three places: Greenwich, Connecticut; Clarksburg, West Virginia; and Chicago, Illinois. Through their voices, we understand the origins of this political turmoil—from the collapse of social infrastructure to the rightward shift of the financial elite, to the compounded effects of segregation and violence. The recent fate of America has been one of the loudest, most consistent conversations of the past few years, on both sides of the border. Osnos speaks with award-winning *American War* author **Omar El Akkad** about why, and what's next.



**EVAN OSNOS** is a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, a CNN contributor, and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. Based in Washington D.C., he writes about politics and foreign affairs. His first book, *Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China*, won the 2014 National Book award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. In 2020, he published the international bestseller, *Joe Biden: The Life, the Run, and What Matters Now*. (UNITED STATES)



**OMAR EL AKKAD** is an author and a journalist whose work earned Canada's National Newspaper Award for Investigative Journalism. His debut novel, *American War*, was selected by the BBC as one of 100 Novels That Shaped Our World.

Saturday, 23 October | 2:00pm

Includes Q&amp;A

Theatre 

## Event Details

 Theatre  
(Waterfront Theatre) \$25 (All-Inclusive) ASL on Request Moderated by  
Sheryda Warrenner

# Poets in Conversation With Bertrand Bickersteth, Adam Sol, and Isabella Wang

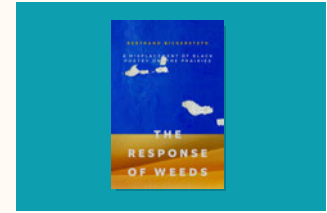
Join the discussion about craft, language, and nuance with four of Canada's most exciting poetic voices, each exploring identity, language, and intimacy through transcendent ways with verse. **Bertrand Bickersteth's** *The Response of Weeds* is a CBC Poetry Book of the Year and explores what it means to be Black and Albertan through a variety of prisms: historical, biographical, and geographical. Trillium Book Award-winning poet **Adam Sol's** latest collection tries to find moments of blessing in the midst of public and personal pain. *Pebble Swing* is the debut from one of Canada's promising emerging poets, **Isabella Wang**, who—as an immigrant whose grasp of Mandarin is fading—explores language, fragmentation, and absence.

Generously sponsored by Sam Znaimer in memory of Nancy Richler.

**SHERYDA WARRENER** is the author of two poetry collections: *Hard Feelings* (Snare, 2010) and *Floating is Everything* (Nightwood, 2015). Her work can be found in *Event*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Grain*, *Hazlitt*, and *The Believer*, among others. She is a recipient of *The Puritan's* Thomas Morton Memorial Prize for poetry, and recent poems have been selected for *Best Canadian Poetry* and *The Next Wave: An Anthology of 21st Century Canadian Poetry*.



**BERTRAND BICKERSTETH** is a poet, playwright, essayist, and educator born in Sierra Leone and raised in Alberta. In 2021, CBC named him a Black writer to watch. His collection of poetry, *The Response of Weeds*, won the League of Canadian Poets' Gerald Lampert Memorial Award and the Writers' Guild of Alberta's Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry. He has been a contributor/columnist for CBC's *The Next Chapter* and *Black on the Prairies*. (ALBERTA)



**ADAM SOL** has published four previous books of poetry, and one collection of essays, *How a Poem Moves: A Field Guide for Readers of Poetry*. He is the Coordinator of the Creative Expression & Society Program at the University of Toronto's Victoria College. *Broken Dawn Blessings* is his newest collection of poetry. (ONTARIO)



Presented thanks to the generous support of Sam Znaimer in memory of Nancy Richler, and of ECW Press.



**ISABELLA WANG** is the author of the chapbook *On Forgetting a Language* (Baseline Press, 2019). She was the youngest writer to be shortlisted twice for *The New Quarterly's* Edna Staebler Personal Essay Contest. Wang's poetry and prose have appeared in over thirty literary journals and three anthologies. She studies English and world literature at Simon Fraser University and is an editor at *Room* magazine. *Pebble Swing* is her debut full-length poetry collection. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)







Foundation

Saturday, 23 October | 2:00pm

Includes Q&A Theatre 

## Event Details

 Theatre  
(Revue Stage) \$25 (All-Inclusive) Moderated by  
Bill Richardson ASL on Request

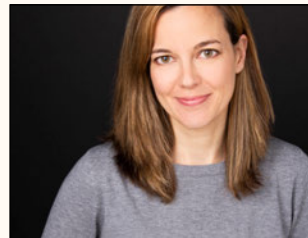
# Short Stories, Great Tales with Norma Dunning, Alix Ohlin, and Casey Plett

The short story: the hardest narrative to craft and an often-underrated form, it's one of the Festival's favourite areas to explore in events. Rediscover the beauty of these slim delights with an event exploring the crafting behind them. **Norma Dunning** draws on both lived experience and cultural memory to weave six new short stories centred on modern-day Inuk characters in *Tainna*; *The Unseen Ones*. Two-time Scotiabank Giller Prize Finalist, **Alix Ohlin** is incapable of writing a story that's anything other than a masterclass in craft. *We Want What We Want* is populated by bad parents and inescapable old flames. Lambda Literary Award winner **Casey Plett's** collection, *A Dream of a Woman*, is one of the most anticipated books of the season. Her work buzzes with quiet intensity and intimate complexities as Plett centers transgender women seeking stable, adult lives.

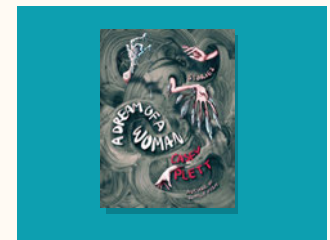
**BILL RICHARDSON** is the author of *I Saw Three Ships*, a collection of stories set in Vancouver's West End; and *Hare B&B*, a picture book with illustrations by Bill Pechet. He has two books forthcoming.



**NORMA DUNNING** is a writer as well as a scholar, researcher, professor and grandmother. Her first book, the short story collection, *Annie Muktuk and Other Stories* (University of Alberta Press, 2017), received the Danuta Gleed Literary Award, the Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story, and the Bronze for short stories in the Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Awards. She is also the author of the poetry collection *Eskimo Pie* (Bookland Press, 2020), an Alberta bestseller. (ALBERTA)



**ALIX OHLIN** is the author of five books, including the novels *Inside* and *Dual Citizens*, which were both finalists for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Tin House*, *Best American Short Stories*, and many other publications. Born and raised in Montreal, she lives in Vancouver, where she chairs the creative writing program at the University of British Columbia. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)






**CASEY PLETT** is the author of *Little Fish* and *A Safe Girl to Love*, and co-editor with Cat Fitzpatrick of the anthology *Meanwhile, Elsewhere: Science Fiction and Fantasy from Transgender Writers*. She has written for *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, the *New York Times*, *Maclean's*, the *Walrus*, and others. She is the winner of a Lambda Literary Award for Best Transgender Fiction and received an Honour of Distinction from the Writers' Trust of Canada's Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBTQ Emerging Writers. (ONTARIO)

Saturday, 23 October | 3:00pm

Includes Q&A Cinema & Streaming  

## Event Details

 Cinema (**The Nest**)  
and At-Home Viewing Passholder Event  
(Valid at The Nest) Live Captioning  
Provided Pay-What-You-Can Livestreamed

## *The Lying Life of Adults*: Ann Goldstein in Conversation with John Freeman

"I believe that books, once they are written, have no need of their authors," wrote Elena Ferrante in a 1991 letter, explaining the rationale for her anonymity. Many do, however, need translators. **Ann Goldstein** has made millions of readers very, very happy, as the long-time translator of Elena Ferrante's masterful Neapolitan Quartet. To celebrate the paperback release of *The Lying Life of Adults*, she speaks with writer and editor **John Freeman** about this fascinating and challenging career. How does one begin to depict the rhythm of one language into the other? What is Goldstein's relationship between the original text and the translated version? How does she ensure both the voice of the author and the characters sing in the second language? And what's the difference between translating Elena Ferrante and Primo Levi? Join us for a bubbling, intellectually fascinating conversation on the literary arts.






**ANN GOLDSTEIN** is a celebrated translator of Italian and longtime chief of the copy department at *The New Yorker*. She has translated into English all of Elena Ferrante's books, including the *New York Times* bestseller, *The Story of the Lost Child*, which was shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize. She has been honored with a Guggenheim Fellowship and is the recipient of the PEN Renato Poggioli Translation Award. She lives in New York. (UNITED STATES)

**JOHN FREEMAN** is the editor of *Freeman's*, a literary annual of new writing, an executive editor at Alfred A. Knopf, and author of two books of nonfiction. He teaches at The New School and is Distinguished Writer-in Residence at New York University.

Saturday, 23 October | 5:00pm

Includes Q&A Theatre Hybrid 

## Event Details - Authors Joining In-Person &amp; Virtually

 Theatre  
(**Waterfront Theatre**) \$25 (All-Inclusive) Miriam Toews (**virtual**)  
Marsha Lederman  
(**on-stage**) ASL on Request

## *Fight Night*: Miriam Toews in Conversation with Marsha Lederman

One of Canada's best loved authors has done it again: *Fight Night* is a funny, smart, headlong rush of a novel told in the voice of Swiv, a nine-year-old living with her pregnant mother and lively grandmother. Together, these three generations share the world, and the pains and love of womanhood. **Miriam Toews**, author of *Women Talking*, *A Complicated Kindness*, and *All My Puny Sorrows*, shares insight into her latest work with *Globe and Mail* Western Arts Correspondent, **Marsha Lederman**, exploring why she writes about women often at the edge of society, the complex bonds of family, and how she creates that heart-seeking balance of ferocious truth and humour.








**MIRIAM TOEWS** is the author of seven bestselling novels: *Women Talking*, *All My Puny Sorrows*, *Summer of My Amazing Luck*, *A Boy of Good Breeding*, *A Complicated Kindness*, *The Flying Troutmans*, and *Irma Voth*, and one work of nonfiction, *Swing Low: A Life*. She is a winner of the Governor General's Literary for Fiction, the Libris Award for Fiction Book of the Year, the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, and the Writers Trust Marian Engel/Timothy Findley Award. (ONTARIO)

**MARSHA LEDERMAN** is the Western Arts Correspondent for the *Globe and Mail*. She covers the film and television industry, visual art, literature, music, theatre, dance, cultural policy, and other related areas.

Saturday, 23 October | 5:00pm

Cinema & Streaming 

## Event Details

-  Cinema (The Nest) and At-Home Viewing
-  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)
-  Auto-Caption Enabled
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Pre-recorded

## *The Mystery of Right and Wrong:* Wayne Johnston in Conversation with Hal Wake

**Wayne Johnston** is one of the country's most critically acclaimed and beloved writers, whose ability to write about the ties of family, and place, have earned him long-time fans on both sides of the Atlantic. *The Mystery of Right and Wrong* is perhaps his most poignant to date. In it, Johnston reveals haunting family secrets he's kept for more than 30 years, unfolding them in a novel that grapples with sexual abuse, male violence, and madness. The work explores the relationship of Wade Jackson, a young writer, with Rachel van Hout: the youngest of four daughters from a Dutch/South African family, each of whom have significant mental health challenges. This is a deeply personal book and a stunning piece of literature. Johnston speaks with long-time friend and former Artistic Director, **Hal Wake**, about the writing journey.









**WAYNE JOHNSTON** is the author of *The Story of Bobby O'Malley*, winner of the WH Smith/Books in Canada First Novel Award. *Baltimore's Mansion* won the inaugural Charles Taylor Prize for literary non-fiction. *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams* was nominated for sixteen awards including the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction, and was a Canada Reads finalist defended by Justin Trudeau. Johnston's most recent novel, *First Snow, Last Light*, was longlisted for the IMPAC Dublin prize. (NEWFOUNDLAND)

**HAL WAKE** has been engaged with the literary community in Canada for more than 30 years. He has hosted or moderated hundreds of literary events at festivals around the world and was the artistic director of the Vancouver Writers Fest for twelve years. Currently he is the Chair of the Canada 2020 Literary Program Committee for the Frankfurt International Book Fair.

Saturday, 23 October | 7:00pm

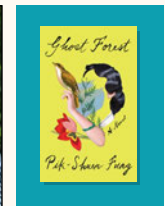
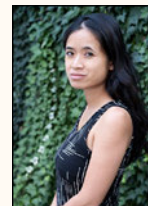
Cinema & Streaming 

## Event Details

-  Cinema (The Nest) and At-Home Viewing
-  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)
-  Auto-Caption Enabled
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Pre-recorded
-  Moderated by Anna Ling Kaye

## *The Threads of Family and Resilience* With Te-Ping Chen and Pik-Shuen Fung

**Te-Ping Chen's** debut fiction, *Land of Big Numbers: Stories*, is lauded by NPR as "as brilliant an instance of a journalist's keen eye manifesting in luminous fiction as one can find." Through piercing realism and tongue-in-cheek magic realism, it shares journeys of Chinese communities, their history, their government, and how all of that has tumbled into the present, where social mobility is extremely limited. **Pik-Shuen Fung's** *Ghost Forest* reveals the resilient threads of matrilineal history and the inheritance of stories and silences in a moving story of a Chinese-Canadian astronaut family. These remarkable, perceptive writers discuss history inherited in 21st century China, and their depictions of modern day Chinese and Canadian-Chinese family dynamics, with award-winning author and journalist, **Anna Ling Kaye**.



**TE-PING CHEN** has been published in, or is forthcoming from, *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, *Guernica*, *Tin House*, and *The Atlantic*. A reporter with the *Wall Street Journal*, she was previously a correspondent for the paper in Beijing and Hong Kong. Prior to joining the *Journal* in 2012, she spent a year in China as a Fulbright fellow. *The Land of Big Numbers* is her first book. She lives in Philadelphia. (UNITED STATES)

**PIK-SHUEN FUNG** is a Canadian writer and artist living in New York City. She is the recipient of fellowships and residencies from the Asian American Writers' Workshop, Kundiman, the Millay Colony, and Storyknife. *Ghost Forest* is her first book. (UNITED STATES)






Foundation

**ANNA LING KAYE** is a writer and editor, and columnist on CBC Radio. Her fiction has been shortlisted for the Journey Prize and received the 2021 RBC Bronwen Wallace Award.

Saturday, 23 October | 8:00pm

Theatre 

## Event Details

 Theatre Event  
(Performance Works) ASL on Request \$45 (All-Inclusive) Host and Musical Director:  
Sally Zori and The Allegories

## The Literary Cabaret

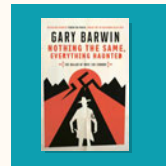
With Mona Awad, Gary Barwin,  
Marcello Di Cintio, Omar El Akkad,  
Christa Couture, and Darrel McLeod

Of all the delights of returning to physical Festival stages, this one feels the sweetest: the return of the Festival's flagship event, the Literary Cabaret. It's a magical coalescence of author readings and improvised songs; an atmospheric, immersive evening of art. Returning at the helm of these fusions is **Sally Zori**: Musical Director and lead in Sally Zori & The Allegories. The band will accompany critically acclaimed author **Mona Awad** (*All's Well*); writer, composer, and poet **Gary Barwin** (*Nothing the Same, Everything Haunted*); award-winning journalist and author **Marcello Di Cintio** (*Driven*); bestseller and award-winner **Omar El Akkad** (*What Strange Paradise*), lauded memoirist **Christa Couture** (*How To Lose Everything*); and award-winning, inspirational voice, **Darrel McLeod** (*Peyakow*). Welcome back.

Youth discounts not available for this event.



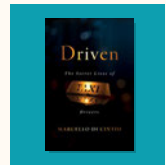
**MONA AWAD** is the author of *Bunny* and *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl*, which was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, winner of the Amazon Canada First Novel Award, the Colorado Book Award, and an Honorable Mention from the Arab American Book Awards. The recipient of a PhD in English and Creative Writing from the University of Denver, she has published work in *Time*, *VICE*, *Electric Literature*, *McSweeney's*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and elsewhere. (UNITED STATES)



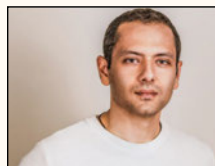
**GARY BARWIN** is a composer, multidisciplinary artist, and the author of twenty-three books. His recent national bestselling novel, *Yiddish for Pirates*, won the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour as well as the Canadian Jewish Literary Award and the Hamilton Literary Award. It was also a finalist for both the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction. His prose and poetry have been published in hundreds of magazines and journals internationally. (ONTARIO)



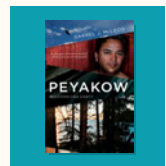
**CHRISTA COUTURE** is an award-winning performing and recording artist, writer and broadcaster. She is also proudly Indigenous (mixed Cree and Scandinavian), queer, and a mom. Her seventh album *Safe Harbour* was released in 2020. As a writer and storyteller, she has been published in *Room*, *Shameless*, and *Augur* magazines. Couture is a frequent contributor to CBC Radio and is currently the weekday after host on 106.5 elmnt fm in Toronto. *How to Lose Everything* is her first book. (ONTARIO)



**MARCELLO DI CINTIO** is the author of four previous books, including *Walls: Travels Along the Barricades*, which won the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing and the W.O. Mitchell City of Calgary Book Prize, and *Pay No Heed to the Rockets: Palestine in the Present Tense*—also a W.O. Mitchell Prize winner. Di Cintio's magazine writing has appeared in publications such as the *International New York Times*, *The Walrus*, *Canadian Geographic*, and *Afar*. (ALBERTA)



**OMAR EL AKKAD** is an author and a journalist who has won Canada's National Newspaper Award for Investigative Journalism. His debut novel, *American War*, won the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award, the Oregon Book Award for fiction, and the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize. It was listed as one of the best books of the year by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *GO*, *NPR*, and *Esquire*, and for BBC's 100 Novels That Shaped Our World. (UNITED STATES)






**DARREL MCLEOD** is Cree from Treaty 8 territory in Alberta. Darrel was a chief negotiator of land claims for the federal government and executive director of education and international affairs with the Assembly of First Nations. *Peyakow: Reclaiming Cree Dignity* is his second memoir following the events in his Governor General's Literary Award-winning *Mamaskatch: A Cree Coming of Age*. McLeod lives, writes, sings, and plays jazz guitar in Sooke, BC and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

Saturday, 23 October | 8:00pm

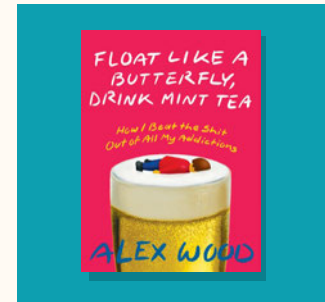
Includes Q&A Theatre 

## Event Details

 Theatre (Revue Stage)  \$25 (All-Inclusive)  ASL on Request

## Float Like a Butterfly, Drink Mint Tea: Alex Wood in Conversation with Charles Demers

**Alex Wood** doesn't do things by half. After being on a dedicated fast track to die young (and drunk), the drug-addicted, alcoholic comedian decided to quit... everything. Wood gave up alcohol, drugs, red meat, dairy, social media, porn, credit cards, nail-biting, and gossip—all at once. He speaks with *Robin's Egg* imprint publisher, comedian, and friend **Charles Demers** about this transition—and the heartbreak, relapses, and abuse along the way, alongside love, support, and lots of laughter. With humour and candour, Wood shares the deep shame of addiction, and how he began to overcome it in order to survive. They say that humour is the best medicine. This conversation between two of the funniest folks in Vancouver is sure to offer entertaining insights into banishing one's demons.



**ALEX WOOD** is a comedian, writer, and podcaster who has been featured on NBC's *Today Show*, Kevin Hart's *LOL*, *Vice*, and Sirius XM Radio. His podcast *How Alex Wood Quit Everything* takes listeners on a journey through his addiction and subsequent recovery. *Float like a Butterfly, Drink Mint Tea* is his first book. (ONTARIO)

**CHARLES DEMERS** is an author, comedian, actor, playwright, screenwriter, political activist, and one of the most frequently returning stars of CBC Radio's *The Debaters*. His most recent book, *Primary Obsessions*, is shortlisted for the 2021 Bill Duthie Booksellers' Choice Award.

Saturday, 23 October | 8:00pm

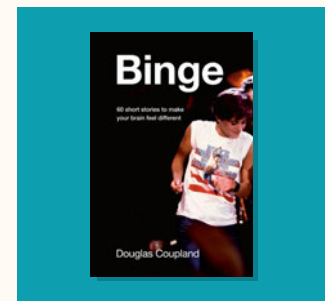
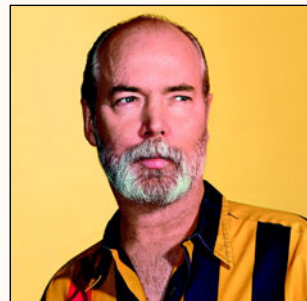
Includes Q&A Theatre 

## Event Details

 Theatre (Waterfront Theatre)  \$25 (All-Inclusive)  ASL Provided

## Binge: Douglas Coupland in Conversation with Lisa Christiansen

"If you love Doug's fiction, this collection is like rain on the desert," says the publisher of **Douglas Coupland's** first work of fiction since 2013, *Binge*. And certainly, for the millions of readers for whom Coupland's existentialism, profundity, and hilarity was generation-defining, this is a welcome collection to devour. A collection of 60 stories featuring myriad characters—from the maudlin to the absurd—they ask us to question how we should be living. The bestselling author speaks with CBC producer **Lisa Christiansen** about his latest.



**DOUGLAS COUPLAND** is a Canadian writer, visual artist and designer. His first novel is the 1991 international bestseller *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture*, still celebrated for its cultural relevancy thirty years since initial publication. He is a member of the Royal Canadian Academy, an Officer of the Order of Canada, an Officer of the Order of British Columbia, a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, and a recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

**LISA CHRISTIANSEN** is a broadcaster on CBC Radio's *On the Coast*, as well as a music panelist on *q*. She is the co-host of the feminism and pop culture podcast *Pop This!* and a two time Polaris Music Prize grand.




Community partner:  
Opus Art Supplies

Sunday, 24 October | 9:00am

Digital 

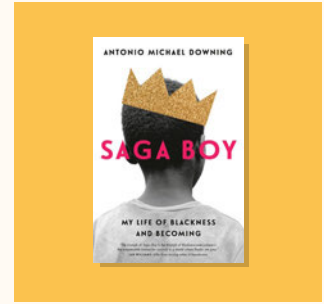
## Event Details

 Digital Event (Podcast) Available wherever podcasts are streamed.

## Podcast:

### *Saga Boy*: Antonio Michael Downing in Conversation with Barbara Chirinos


**Antonio Michael Downing** was raised by his indomitable grandmother in the lush rainforest of southern Trinidad, but—at age 11—is uprooted to Canada when she dies. He is sent to live with his stern, evangelical Aunt Joan in Wabigoon, a tiny northern Ontario community where he is one of only a few Black children in the town. His memoir, *Saga Boy*, is a creative, startling mash-up of memories and mythology as he shares the experience of growing up as an immigrant minority and longing for home. Eventually, he becomes a “Saga Boy”: a Trinidadian playboy, addicted to escapism, attention, and sex. When the inevitable crash happens, he finds himself in a cold, stone jail cell. Yet this is a story of pride and reclamation, as Downing reclaims his Black identity and embraces a rich heritage. Don't miss the opportunity to hear his unforgettable story.






**ANTONIO MICHAEL DOWNING** grew up in southern Trinidad, Northern Ontario, Scarborough, and Kitchener. He is a musician, writer, and activist based in Toronto. His 2010 debut novel, *Molasses* (Blaurock Press), was published to critical acclaim. In 2017 he was named by the RBC Taylor Prize as one of Canada's top Emerging Authors for nonfiction. He performs and composes music as John Orpheus.



**BARBARA CHIRINOS** is an independent Curator and Producer. She is the founder and co-curator for VIFF Celebrates Black History Month, and served as Executive Director of the Granville Island Cultural Society and as Managing Director of the Vancouver Folk Music Festival.

Sunday, 24 October | 10:30am

Includes Q&A Theatre Hybrid 

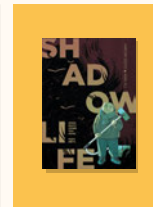
## Event Details - Authors Joining In-Person &amp; Virtually

 Theatre Hybrid Event (Waterfront Theatre)  Hiromi Goto (on-stage); Will McPhail (virtual)  Moderated by Taylor Brown-Evans (on-stage)

 \$25 (All-Inclusive)  ASL on Request

## *The Human Connection:* With Hiromi Goto and Will McPhail

It's an understatement to say that we have each explored and understood isolation in different ways over the past 18 months. Unexpectedly, suddenly, and universally we were alone. As we slowly emerge from such seclusion, two exceptional graphic novelists talk about the need for human connection, and how that manifests in various forms. **Hiromi Goto** shares an empowering tribute to older women in *Shadow Life*, sharing the story of Kumiko: a 76-year-old bisexual widow up for anything... including a smack-down with Death. *The New Yorker* cartoonist, **Will McPhail**, offers an equally exquisite work about the other end of the age spectrum, as a millennial attempts to evolve from performative actions in life to truly connecting with people with *In*. Each author has built a career exploring the absurdities and complexities of being human. In this warm, relatable conversation they discuss why connection is essential for our nature, too.



**HIROMI GOTO** is an emigrant from Japan who gratefully resides in Lekwungen Territory. Her first novel, *Chorus of Mushrooms*, won a 1995 Commonwealth Writers' Prize Best First Book, and was the co-winner of the Canada-Japan Book Award. *The Kappa Child* was awarded the 2001 James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award. Her other honours include the Sunburst Award and the Carl Brandon Parallax Award. Her first graphic novel, *Shadow Life*, with illustrations by artist Ann Xu, published in Spring 2021. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

**WILL MCPHAIL** has been contributing cartoons, sketchbooks, and humour pieces to *The New Yorker* since 2014. He was the winner of the Reuben Award for cartooning in 2017 and 2018. He lives in Edinburgh, Scotland. (UNITED KINGDOM)




**TAYLOR BROWN-EVANS** is a writer, illustrator, and cartoonist living in Vancouver. His work has appeared in *Geist*, *Poetry is Dead*, and *Ricepaper Magazine*. His project *Songs for a Lost Pod* is a comicbook collaboration with songwriter, Leah Abramson.



Sunday, 24 October | 10:30am

Includes Q&A Theatre 

## Event Details

 Theatre Event  
(Revue Stage) ASL on Request \$25 (All-Inclusive) Moderated by Rob Wiersema

# Gripping Tales

## With Linwood Barclay, Cherie Jones, and Eddy Boudel Tan

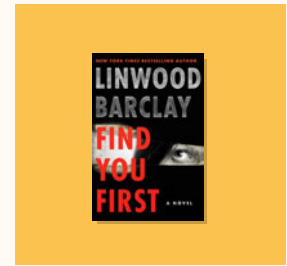
These authors write in different genres but one thing connects them all: their ability to create spellbinding stories. **Linwood Barclay** is a household favourite for his prolific output of unputdownable thrillers. He returns with *Find You First*. **Cherie Jones'** *How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps Her House* has earned comparisons to Zadie Smith and Marlon James. The critically acclaimed debut follows four people in Barbados, each desperate to escape their legacy of violence in a so-called "paradise." **Eddy Boudel Tan's** debut, *After Elias*, cemented him as an author to watch. He returns with *The Rebellious Tide*, described as a "propulsive, unpredictable adventure." Discover three new works you'll be recommending as soon as you turn the last page.



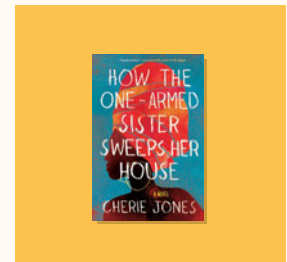
Presented in partnership with  
the BCIT Alumni Association.



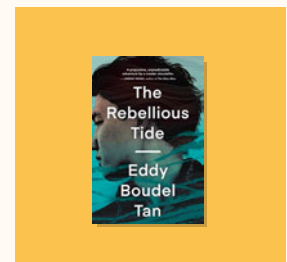
**LINWOOD BARCLAY** is the author of nineteen previous novels, and two thrillers for children. A *New York Times* bestselling author, his books have been translated into more than two dozen languages. He wrote the screenplay adaptation for his novel *Never Saw it Coming* and his book *The Accident* has been made into a TV series in France. His novel *No Time for Goodbye* was a global bestseller. (ONTARIO)



**CHERIE JONES** was born in Barbados in 1974. A graduate of the MA program at Sheffield Hallam University, she was awarded a fellowship at the Vermont Studio Center. Her short fiction has been published in *PANK*, *Reflex Fiction*, and the *Feminist Wire*. (BARBADOS)



**EDDY BOUDEL TAN** is the author of the novels *After Elias* and *The Rebellious Tide*. He's been selected as a 2021 Rising Star by the Writers' Trust of Canada and a finalist for the Edmund White Award. As a queer Asian Canadian, he celebrates diverse voices through his writing. His stories can also be found in *Joyland*, *Yolk*, *Gertrude Press*, and the *G&LR*. He lives with his husband in Vancouver. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



Sunday, 24 October | 11:00am

Includes Q&amp;A



Theatre



## Event Details

 Theatre Event  
(Revue Stage)

\$25 (All-Inclusive)

ASL Provided

*Hunting for Stars:*Cherie Dimaline in Conversation  
with David A. Robertson

*The Marrow Thieves* is a slim volume with a sweeping story and expansive impact. Since publication in 2017, it has won multiple awards, been mentioned in countless “best of” lists, and remained firmly on the bestseller list for not only months, but years. It demonstrated that **Cherie Dimaline** is an astonishing literary gift; one of the most influential writers of her generation. She releases the sequel to the story to much anticipation. *Hunting by Stars* continues the adventure in a dystopian world where the Indigenous people of North America are being hunted for their bone marrow and ability to dream. In this intimate conversation, Dimaline shares the themes and writing process behind this latest work, the evolution of modern writing as she sees it, and what’s next for this remarkable author.

Canada Council  
for the ArtsConseil des arts  
du Canada

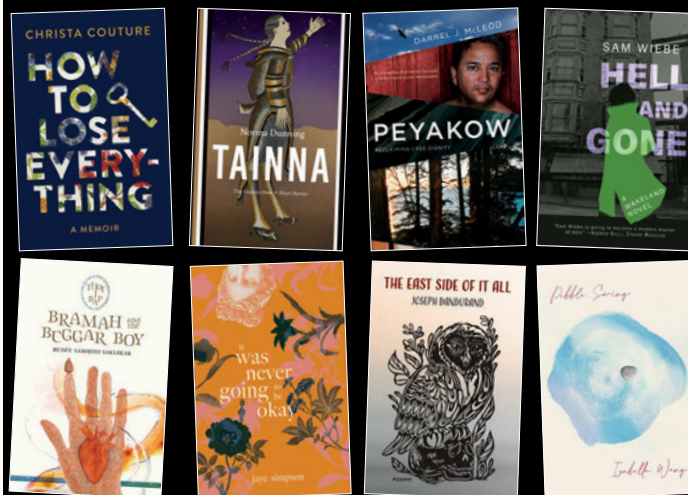
ggbooks.ca

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.

**DAVID A. ROBERTSON** is the author of numerous award-winning books and graphic novels for young readers. A sought-after speaker and educator, he is a member of the Norway House Cree Nation.



**CHERIE DIMALINE** is a member of the Georgian Bay Metis Community. Her most recent novel *Empire of Wild* was named Indigo’s #1 Best Book of 2019, and has been recently featured in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Chicago Review of Books*, *goop!*, and *Shondalands*. Cherie lives in Ontario, on her ancestral grounds, where she is working on a new YA book, her next adult novel, and the forthcoming TV adaptation of *The Marrow Thieves*. (ONTARIO)

AUTHORS FROM DOUGLAS & MCINTYRE, HARBOUR PUBLISHING  
& NIGHTWOOD EDITIONS AT THE VANCOUVER WRITERS FESTIVAL**HOW TO LOSE EVERYTHING** | *Christa Couture*

A memoir that bears witness to the shift in perspective that comes with grief, told with gentleness and generosity. D&M, \$22.95

**TAINNA: THE UNSEEN ONES** | *Norma Dunning*

Powerful short stories centred on modern-day Inuk characters living in the Canadian south. D&M, \$19.95

**PEYAKOW: RECLAIMING CREE DIGNITY** | *Darrel J. McLeod*

Buoyed throughout by McLeod’s unquenchable spirit, this memoir is an inspiring account of triumph. D&M, \$29.95

**HELL AND GONE** | *Sam Wiebe*

A captivating new thriller in the Wakeland detective series that explores Vancouver’s criminal underworld. HARBOUR, \$24.95

**BRAMAH AND THE BEGGAR BOY** | *Renée Sarojini Saklikar*

An epic fantasy in verse about a time-travelling locksmith; the first book in the THOT J BAP series. NIGHTWOOD, \$26.95

**IT WAS NEVER GOING TO BE OKAY** | *Jaye Simpson*

Poetry and prose about Indigeneity and queerness. NIGHTWOOD, \$18.95


**THE EAST SIDE OF IT ALL** | *Joseph Dandurand*

A finalist for the Griffin Poetry Prize, this book follows a broken man who finally accepts his storytelling gift. NIGHTWOOD, \$18.95







**PEBBLE SWING** | *Isabella Wang*

A much-anticipated debut collection from one of Canada’s most promising emerging poets. NIGHTWOOD, \$18.95

Sunday, 24 October | 11:00am

Cinema & Streaming 

## Event Details

-  Cinema (**The Nest**)  
and At-Home Viewing
-  Passholder Event  
(Valid at The Nest)
-  Live Captioning  
Provided
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Livestreamed
-  Hosted by Kathryn  
Gretsinger

## The International Sunday Brunch

### With Joshua Ferris, Claire Fuller, Linda Boström Knausgård, Pilar Quintana, Jaap Robben, and Jeff VanderMeer

Sunday is made for slow, quiet mornings of contemplation, relaxation... and deliciousness. Enjoy a cozy morning at home with your favourite brunch, and listen to readings from a range of fascinating international writers, each sharing their favourite passages from new releases. **Joshua Ferris** (*A Calling for Charlie Barnes*) is a *New Yorker* 40 Under 40 and PEN/Hemingway award recipient; Desmond Elliott Prize-winner **Claire Fuller** presents her Women's Prize shortlisted novel, *Unsettled Ground*; **Jeff VanderMeer**, a Nebula and Shirley Jackson Award winner, returns to bestseller status with *Hummingbird Salamander*; **Jaap Robben** was longlisted for the Booker and offers another tender tale in *Summer Brother*; **Linda Boström Knausgård** shares a poignant, nuanced story of overcoming mental illness and isolation; and **Pilar Quintana** shares *The Bitch*, a finalist for the 2020 National Book Award for Translated Literature. Share some eggs with these literary stars.

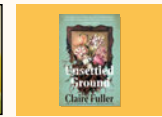
**SFU** DEPARTMENT OF WORLD  
LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

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

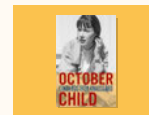
**KATHRYN GRETSINGER** is an associate professor of teaching at the School of Journalism, Writing, and Media. She is a long-time public broadcaster at the CBC, and has been named one of North America's top innovative journalism educators.



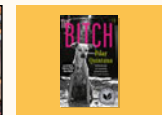
**JOSHUA FERRIS** was a finalist for the National Book Award, winner of the Barnes and Noble Discover Award and the PEN/Hemingway Award, and was named one of *The New Yorker's* "20 Under 40" writers in 2010. His novel *To Rise Again at a Decent Hour* won the Dylan Thomas Prize and was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. His short stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, and *Best American Short Stories*. (UNITED STATES)



**CLAIRE FULLER** is the bestselling and award-winning author of three previous novels: *Our Endless Numbered Days*, which won the Desmond Elliott Prize and was a finalist for the Edinburgh International Book Festival First Book Award; *Swimming Lessons*, which was a national bestseller; and *Bitter Orange*, which was longlisted for the Dublin International Literary Award. Claire has an M.A. in Creative and Critical Writing from the University of Winchester and lives in Hampshire with her husband and two children. (UNITED KINGDOM)



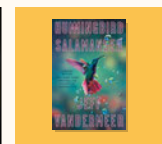
**LINDA BOSTRÖM KNAUSGÅRD** is a Swedish author and poet, as well as a producer of documentaries for national radio. Her first novel, *The Helios Disaster*, was longlisted for the 2020 National Book Award in Translated Literature. *Welcome to America* was nominated for the prestigious Swedish August Prize and the Svenska Dagbladet Literary Prize, and longlisted for the 2020 Best Translated Book Award and the 2020 National Translation Award in Prose in the United States. *October Child* is a bestseller throughout Scandinavia. (SWEDEN)



**PILAR QUINTANA** is a Colombian author. She debuted with *Cosquillas en la lengua* in 2003, and published *Coleccionistas de polvos raros* in 2007, the same year the Hay Festival selected her as one of the most promising young authors in Latin America. Her latest novel, *The Bitch*, won the prestigious Colombian Biblioteca de Narrativa Prize, and was a finalist for the 2020 National Book Award Longlist for Translated Literature. (COLOMBIA)





**JAAP ROBBERN** is a poet, playwright, performer, and acclaimed children's author. *You Have Me to Love*, his first novel for adults, won the 2014 Dutch Booksellers Award, the Dioraphte Prize, and the ANV Award for best Dutch debut. Robben was chosen as one of the featured debut authors at the 2018 Brooklyn Book Festival. *Summer Brother*, a bestseller in the Netherlands, is his second novel. (NETHERLANDS)








**JEFF VANDERMEER** is the author of the national bestseller *Borne*, which received widespread critical acclaim. His prior novels include the Southern Reach trilogy (*Annihilation*, *Authority*, and *Acceptance*). *Annihilation* won the Nebula and Shirley Jackson Awards, has been translated into 35 languages, and was made into a film from Paramount Pictures. His nonfiction has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Atlantic*, *Slate*, *Salon*, and *Washington Post*. (UNITED STATES)

Sunday, 24 October | 1:00pm

Cinema & Streaming  

## Event Details

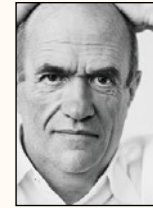
-  Cinema (**The Nest**) and At-Home Viewing
-  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)
-  Pre-recorded
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Auto-Caption Enabled

## *The Magician and the Mayflies:* *One-to-One* with Andrew O'Hagan and Colm Tóibín

Imagine the comfort of conversation between two old friends and the fierce ideas of two award-winning, legendary writers sharing ideas. You can expect both from this conversation between long-time confidantes, **Colm Tóibín** and **Andrew O'Hagan**, as they discuss their latest works and individual writing processes. Tóibín's latest book is his most dazzling and ambitious yet, telling the story of German writer Thomas Mann. *The Magician* is a profound meditation on creative ambition, civic responsibility, queer desire, and the pull of history. Booker-shortlisted author and *London Review of Books* editor-at-large, O'Hagan, shares a finely tuned drama in *Mayflies*: a story of friendship, making life one's own, and the impermanence of human condition. Overhear a conversation between two greats.



**ANDREW O'HAGAN** has been nominated for the Booker Prize three times, won the E.M. Forster Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and was voted one of *Granta's* Best of Young British Novelists in 2003. He is Editor-at-Large of the *London Review of Books* and a contributor to *Esquire*, the *New York Review of Books*, and *The New Yorker*. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a UK Ambassador for Unicef. (UNITED KINGDOM)







**COLM TÓIBÍN** is an internationally acclaimed, award-winning author. His novels include *The Master*, winner of the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, *Le prix du meilleur livre étranger*, and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for Fiction; and *Brooklyn*, winner of the Costa Book Award. His works also include *The Empty Family*, *The Testament of Mary*, and *Nora Webster*. He lives in Dublin. (IRELAND)

Sunday, 24 October | 1:30pm

Digital 

## Event Details

-  Digital Event (**Zoom**)
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Auto-Caption Enabled
-  Livestreamed

# Emerge

Join SFU Creative Writing to hear readings from *emerge 21*: 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 the emerging authors who have participated in the illustrious program this year, and discover new voices in the writing community, from novelists to 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!







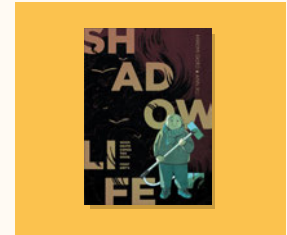
Presented in collaboration  
with SFU Creative Writing.

Sunday, 24 October | 2:00pm

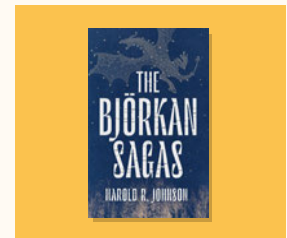
Includes Q&A Theatre 

## Event Details

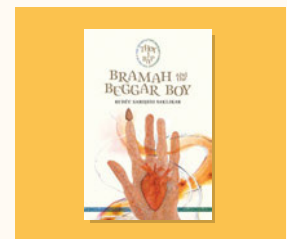
-  Theatre Event  
(Waterfront Theatre)
-  ASL on Request
-  \$25 (All-Inclusive)
-  Moderated by  
Rachel Rose



**HIROMI GOTO** is an emigrant from Japan who gratefully resides in Lekwungen Territory. Her first novel, *Chorus of Mushrooms*, won a 1995 Commonwealth Writers' Prize Best First Book, and was the co-winner of the Canada-Japan Book Award. *The Kappa Child* was awarded the 2001 James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award. Her other honours include The Sunburst Award and the Carl Brandon Parallax Award. Her first graphic novel, *Shadow Life*, with illustrations by artist Ann Xu, published in Spring 2021. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



**HAROLD R. JOHNSON** is the author of five works of fiction and five works of nonfiction, including *Firewater: How Alcohol Is Killing My People (and Yours)*, which was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for Nonfiction. A graduate of Harvard Law School, he managed a private practice for several years before becoming a Crown prosecutor. Johnson is a member of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation. He is now retired from the practice of law and writes full-time. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



**RENÉE SAROJINI SAKLIKAR** is a poet, lawyer, and author of the groundbreaking poetry book, *children of air india*, about the bombing of Air India Flight 182 which won the Canadian Authors Association Poetry Prize. A former poet laureate for the City of Surrey, her work has been adapted for opera, visual art and dance. Her epic fantasy series in verse, THOT J BAP: The Heart Of This Journey Bears All Patterns, begins with *Bramah and the Beggar Boy*. (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

# Blending Genres With Hiromi Goto, Harold R. Johnson, and Renée Sarojini Saklikar

It's achievement enough to publish a literary work, but one that combines genres—and excels in all of them—is a talent that few possess. **Hiromi Goto** has produced acclaimed poetry and novels—and now *Shadow Life*, a graphic novel that's steeped in literary fiction with poetic magical realism. **Harold R. Johnson** is an acclaimed fiction and non-fiction writer. In *The Björkan Sagas*, he merges myth, fantasy, and history into an epic of exploration and adventure. **Renée Sarojini Saklikar** is an award-winning author, lawyer, and poet whose latest work was 10 years in the making. *Bramah and the Beggar Boy* is intellectually, geographically, and temporally wide-ranging: ambitious in scope. As the publisher explains, "The portal is deep. The portal is open. Take a deep breath. Jump."

## Award Ceremony



Following this event, the Vancouver Writers Fest is proud to host the **VMI Warland Between Genres Award**. Vancouver Manuscript Intensive directors Rachel Rose and Elee Kraljii Gardiner are pleased to introduce the inaugural VMI Warland Between Genres Award, judged by Wayne Compton. Named in honour of Betsy Warland, this award celebrates works that disrupt convention about what a book should be, how it should read, what it should sound like, and what subject matter is acceptable. This award honours Warland's trajectory and ethos by celebrating the importance of the hybrid and unclassifiable.

**RACHEL ROSE** is the author of four collections of poetry, and her fiction debut *The Octopus Has Three Hearts* was published in 2021. She was Poet Laureate of Vancouver from 2014–2017.

Sunday, 24 October | 3:30pm

Theatre 

## Event Details

 Theatre Event  
(Performance Works) ASL on Request \$45 (All-Inclusive) Hosted by  
Bill Richardson

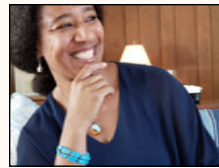
## The Afternoon Tea with Myriam Chancy, Linden MacIntyre, Casey Plett, Jael Richardson, Ian Williams, and Zoe Whittall

One of the Festival's signature events returns as a live, Live event! Nibble on scones with clotted cream and jam, munch on sandwiches and quiches, and quaff carefully chosen tea selections as you listen to celebrated writers reading their latest works. This year's featured authors include some of CanLit's favourite names, including **Myriam Chancy** (*What Storm, What Thunder: A Novel*), **Linden MacIntyre** (*The Winter Wives*), **Casey Plett** (*A Dream of a Woman*), **Jael Richardson** (*Gutter Child*), **Ian Williams** (*Disorientation*), and **Zoe Whittall** (*The Spectacular*). What better way to enjoy the return of our physical Festival with fellow bibliophiles?

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

Youth discounts not available for this event.

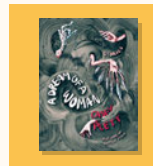
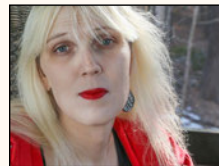
**BILL RICHARDSON** is the author of *I Saw Three Ships*, a collection of stories set in Vancouver's West End; and *Hare B&B*, a picture book with illustrations by Bill Pechet. He has two books forthcoming.



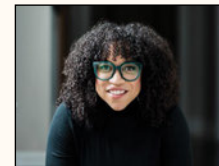
**MYRIAM CHANCY** was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. A Guggenheim Fellow, she currently holds the Hartley Burr Alexander Chair in the Humanities at Scripps College in California. Her first novel, *Spirit of Haiti*, was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize (Best First Book, Canada/Caribbean) in 2004. *The Loneliness of Angels* won the Guyana Prize for Literature Caribbean Award (Best Fiction) and was shortlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature in 2011. (UNITED STATES)



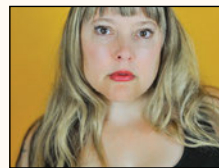
**LINDEN MACINTYRE** is a bestselling author who has won the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-fiction, the Evelyn Richardson Award, the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the Dartmouth Book Award, and the CBA Libris Fiction Book of the Year Award for his books. A distinguished broadcast journalist, MacIntyre spent twenty-four years as the co-host of *The Fifth Estate*. He has won ten Gemini awards for his work. (ONTARIO)



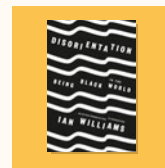
**CASEY PLETT** is the author of *Little Fish* and *A Safe Girl to Love*, and co-editor with Cat Fitzpatrick of the anthology *Meanwhile, Elsewhere: Science Fiction and Fantasy from Transgender Writers*. She has written for *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, the *New York Times*, *Maclean's*, the *Walrus*, and others. She is the winner of a Lambda Literary Award for Best Transgender Fiction and received an Honour of Distinction from the Writers' Trust of Canada's Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBTQ Emerging Writers. (ONTARIO)



**JAEL RICHARDSON** is the executive director of the FOLD literary festival, the books columnist on CBC Radio's *q* and an outspoken advocate on issues of diversity. She is the author of the award-winning memoir *The Stone Thrower: A Daughter's Lesson, a Father's Life*. Her essay "Conception" is part of *Room's* first Women of Colour edition, and excerpts from her first play, *my upside down black face*, appear in the anthology *T-Dot Griots: An Anthology of Toronto's Black Storytellers*. (ONTARIO)




**ZOE WHITTALL** is the author of three previous novels: the Giller-shortlisted *The Best Kind of People*, Lambda-winning *Holding Still for as Long as Possible*, and debut *Bottle Rocket Hearts*. She has published three collections of poetry, *The Best Ten Minutes of Your Life*, *Precordial Thump*, and *The Emily Valentine Poems*. She is also a Canadian Screen Award-winning TV and film writer, with credits on the *Baroness Von Sketch Show*, *Schitt's Creek*, *Degrassi*, and others. (ONTARIO)








**IAN WILLIAMS** was born in Trinidad and raised in Canada. He won the 2019 Scotiabank Giller Prize for his novel, *Reproduction*. His poetry collection, *Personals*, was shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize and the Robert Kroetsch Poetry Book Award. Williams holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Toronto and has recently returned as a tenured professor. His third poetry collection, *Word Problems*, was published by Coach House Press in the fall of 2020. (TORONTO)

Sunday, 24 October | 3:30pm

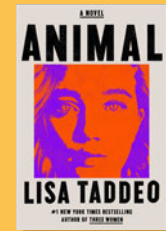
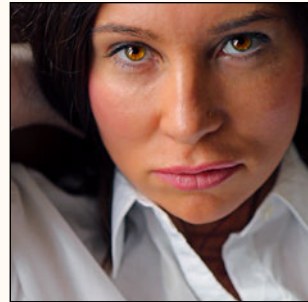
Cinema & Streaming 

## Event Details

-  Cinema (The Nest) and At-Home Viewing
-  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)
-  Pre-recorded
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Auto-Caption Enabled

## *Animal*: Lisa Taddeo in Conversation with Tara McGuire


Of her international bestseller *Three Women*, **Lisa Taddeo** has told the press, “I thought I was writing a quiet little book.” But her debut was one of the most celebrated books of 2019, named on 30 “best of” lists and hailed with praise such as “a dazzling achievement” and “an astonishing masterpiece.” But if *Three Women* was a silent classic, *Animal* roars. It shares the world of Joan, who—after enduring a lifetime of cruelty from men—begins to transform from prey into predator. “Honestly, sometimes I think it’s the only recourse. Killing men in times like these,” she explains. Raw, scorching, and dazzling, *Animal* is an exhilarating read. Taddeo shares more about her writing process, working through misogyny on the page, and what inspired the evolution of Joan.








**LISA TADDEO** is the author of *Three Women*. She has contributed to *The New York Times*, *New York* magazine, *Esquire*, *Elle*, *Glamour*, and many other publications. Her nonfiction has been included in the anthologies *Best American Political Writing* and *Best American Sports Writing*, and her short stories have won two Pushcart Prizes. She lives with her husband and daughter in New England. (UNITED STATES)

**TARA MCGUIRE** is a former broadcaster turned writer. She is a graduate of The Writer’s Studio at Simon Fraser University, and the UBC School of Creative Writing. Her forthcoming book will be published by Arsenal Pulp Press.

Sunday, 24 October | 5:00pm

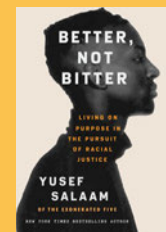
Cinema & Streaming 

## Event Details

-  Cinema (The Nest) and At-Home Viewing
-  Passholder Event (Valid at The Nest)
-  Pre-recorded
-  Pay-What-You-Can
-  Auto-Caption Enabled

## Yusef Salaam *in Conversation* with Matt Galloway

**Dr. Yusef Salaam** was fifteen years old when his life was upended. Wrongly convicted with four other boys in the “Central Park Jogger case,” he spent years behind bars. In 2002, their sentences were overturned, and they became known as the “Exonerated Five” across the globe. Now, Dr. Salaam—a poet, inspirational speaker, and prison reform activist—shares his story as a call to action for a more just system of law, and an example of how frustration and anger can be channeled into action. The recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from President Barack Obama speaks with CBC *The Current*’s **Matt Galloway** about his vision for future justice. This promises to be a riveting, inspiring event—and one that offers a deeply important perspective on how we can all contribute to equity.






**YUSEF SALAAM** is a prison abolitionist, who, at age fourteen was one of five teenage boys wrongly convicted in the Central Park jogger case. In 2002, the sentences were overturned, and all of the Central Park Five were exonerated for the crime they didn’t commit. He is an inspirational speaker, advocate and educator on issues of mass incarceration, police brutality and misconduct, press ethics and bias, and the disparities in the criminal justice system, especially for men of color. (UNITED STATES)

**MATT GALLOWAY** is the host of *The Current* on CBC Radio One. He has been with CBC Radio for more than 15 years, and has anchored CBC Radio’s coverage of the Olympic Games on several occasions.

Sunday, 24 October | 7:00pm

Theatre 

## Event Details

 Theatre Event  
(Revue Stage) \$10 (All-Inclusive) ASL on Request

## Danny Ramadan Presents: A Night of Storytelling

The Night of Storytelling returns in its seventh year with a new home at the Vancouver Writers Fest. Join Syrian-Canadian author **Danny Ramadan** as he brings Queer, Trans, and Two-Spirit authors to the Revue Stage for a night of readings, stories, and joy under the theme "Evil Exes." Each of the four authors will read from their work, before talking candidly about what constitutes an evil ex, and the tipping point between lovers and foes (they might even spill the tea on an ex or two).

Danny Ramadan will be joined by **Amber Dawn**, **Jaz Papadopoulos**, **David Ly**, and **Brandi Bird**. Check our website for more info, and guest bios.



**DANNY RAMADAN** is a Syrian-Canadian author and LGBTQ-refugees advocate. His debut novel, *The Clothesline Swing*, won multiple awards. His next novel, *The Foghorn Echoes* (2022), and memoir, *Crooked Teeth* (2024), are forthcoming from Penguin Random House.



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Sunday, September 26 | 5pm PT

Tickets Available Now



Book + Ticket (\$45)

Digital Event (Zoom) Fulfilled by Kidsbooks

# *Harlem Shuffle:* Colson Whitehead in Conversation

Join us for our Fall Book Club, featuring *Harlem Shuffle*, the highly-anticipated new release from **Colson Whitehead**, a Festival favourite and the two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Nickel Boys* and *The Underground Railroad*, both of which were also instant, #1 *New York Times* bestsellers. A gloriously entertaining novel of heists, shakedowns, and rip-offs in the 1960s, *Harlem Shuffle* is centered around the unassuming Ray Carney, an upstanding furniture salesman, making a decent life for himself and his family. But cash is tight, so Ray joins his cousin Freddie to rob the Hotel Theresa. The heist doesn't go as planned and Ray gets mixed up with assorted Harlem lowlifes, thus beginning the internal tussle between Ray the striver and Ray the crook. *Harlem Shuffle* is a family saga posing as a crime novel, a hilarious morality play, a novel about race and power, and ultimately a love letter to Harlem.

Be one of the first to read this powerhouse of a novel. Ticket buyers to our Fall Book Club will receive a hardcover of *Harlem Shuffle* as part of their purchase. *Harlem Shuffle* releases September 14.



"Two-time Pulitzer winner Colson Whitehead returns with a sizzling heist novel set in civil rights-era Harlem. Whitehead's loving depiction of a Harlem 60 years gone—that rustling, keening thing of people and concrete—lands as detailed and vivid as James Joyce's Dubliners. Don't be surprised if this one wins Whitehead another major award."

Publishers Weekly ★

"Whitehead adds another genre to an ever-diversifying portfolio with his first crime novel, and it's a corker, delivering a portrait of Harlem in the early '60s, culminating with the Harlem Riot of 1964, that is brushed with lovingly etched detail and features a wonderful panoply of characters who spring to full-bodied life, blending joy, humor, and tragedy. A triumph on every level."

Booklist ★

# Words from *Our Community*

Author and teacher **Doretta Lau** is a fan of the Festival, a long-time supporter, moderator, and facilitator of the annual My Roots workshop.

“Every year, I’m excited for Vancouver Writers Fest’s lineup. Who might I get to see speak? Some of my best memories have happened thanks to the VWF. Before I knew I was going to be a writer, I queued after a reading to meet Wayson Choy, who was so kind. I realized then that writers were real people living in our contemporary moment, and not just a name on the cover of a book.

“When the pandemic hit, the Writers Fest became a lifeline to the reading and writing community. Jen Sookfong Lee interviewing Ethan Hawke for the Festival’s book club was a major Zoom highlight. On a personal level, the VWF made it possible for me to work with writers who have immigrated to Canada through the My Roots workshops.”

We’re grateful for members of our community like Doretta who help make this Festival a welcoming, engaging, and warm space for all to be inspired by exceptional books, ideas, and dialogue.

Join Doretta and become a part of the Vancouver Writers Fest today. Contact Lauren Dembicky-Polivka, Development Manager, for more information on how to support the Festival.

[ldembicky@writersfest.bc.ca](mailto:ldembicky@writersfest.bc.ca) – 604-262-1190



## Thank You to *Our Donors*

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Jane Flick  
Cynthia Flood  
William Gibson  
Maryke Gilmore  
Mary Gilzean  
Linda Graham  
Louise Hager  
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Margaret Hewlett  
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Donations received between  
July 21, 2020 and July 22, 2021.

### Members of The Postscript Society

Beth Coleman  
Leslie Hurtig   
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Terry Whitehead  
Eagranie Yuh

### The Alma Lee Legacy Fund

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

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

 Book Hound 

**VWF Book Hounds**, members of our monthly giving club.

# Writers in the Classroom



**Karim Alrawi**

*Arab Fairy Tale Feasts*  
(Gr. 4-7)



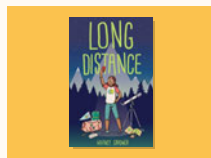
**George Elliott Clarke**

*Where Beauty Survived: An Africadian Memoir*  
(Gr. 11-12)



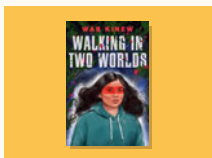
**Whitney Gardner**

*Long Distance*  
(Gr. 4-7)



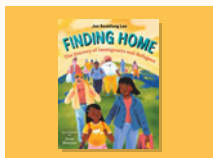
**Wab Kinew**

*Walking in Two Worlds*  
(Gr. 8-12)



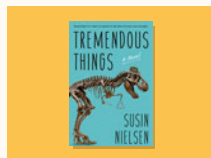
**Jen Sookfong Lee**

*Finding Home: The Journey of Immigrants and Refugees*  
(Gr. 5-7)



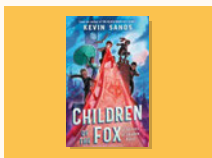
**Susin Nielsen**

*Tremendous Things*  
(Gr. 8-10)



**Kevin Sands**

*Children of the Fox: Thieves of Shadow, Book One*  
(Gr. 4-7)



**Adam Sol**

*How a Poem Moves: A Field Guide for Readers of Poetry*  
(Gr. 10-12)



**Ashley Spires**

*Burt the Beetle Doesn't Bite*  
(Gr. K-3)



Presented thanks to the generous support of Sam Znaimer in memory of Nancy Richler, and of ECW Press.

Our Writers in the Classroom program—designed to connect children and youth to authors through live, interactive events—continues in 2021 in a virtual format. Invite an author from our stellar 2021 lineup to discuss their most recent title (and share secrets of the writing craft) with your class.

These digital visits will enliven and enrich classroom discussion in the lead-up to the author's appearance, and leave you much to unpack with your students afterwards.

To book an author, please apply by September 30, 2021. You can find the form at [writersfest.bc.ca/education/writers-in-the-classroom](http://writersfest.bc.ca/education/writers-in-the-classroom).

**Please note: bookings are made on a first-come, first-serve basis.**



*This program is presented thanks to the support of Bonnie Mah and the Government of British Columbia*



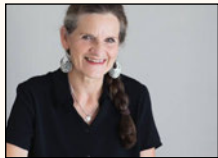
**Gord Hill**

*The 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance Comic Book: Revised and Expanded*  
(Gr. 10-12)



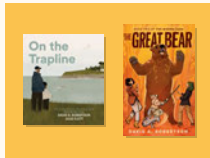
**Uzma Jalaluddin**

*Hana Khan Carries On*  
(Gr. 10-12)



**Lois Peterson**

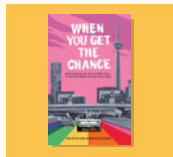
*Shelter: Homelessness in Our Community*  
(Gr. 5-7)



**David A. Robertson**

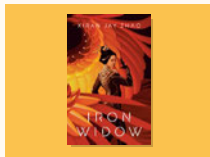
*On the Trapline*  
(Gr. 1-3)

*The Great Bear: The Misewa Saga, Book Two*  
(Gr. 6-8)



**Robin Stevenson and Tom Ryan**

*When You Get the Chance*  
(Gr. 8-12)



**Xiran Jay Zhao**

*Iron Widow*  
(Gr. 8-12)



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Continuing Studies

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# Now Streaming!



The Books & Ideas Audio series is a collection of some of the most beloved author conversations to ever grace our stages. This year, this includes two exclusive, podcast-only events with Jordan Abel (in conversation with Tanya Talaga, p.18), and Antonio Michael Downing (in conversation with Barbara Chirinos, p.72).

Learn more about these incredible events, and other Books & Ideas Audio conversations, at [writersfest.bc.ca/audioseries](http://writersfest.bc.ca/audioseries).

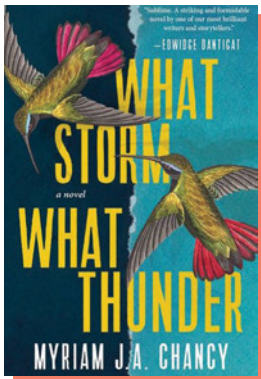
## 2021 Festival Moderators

We thank all of the hosts and moderators who will be joining us at this year's Festival. To learn more about each of these individuals, please visit our website. Additional moderators to be announced.

Ken Boesem	Kathryn Gretsinger	Bill Richardson
Tanya Boteju	Shazia Hafiz Ramji	David A. Robertson
Taylor Brown-Evans	Lawrence Hill	Rachel Rose
Claudia Casper	Aislinn Hunter	Doug Saunders
Barbara Chirinos	Christina Laffin	Jen Sookfong Lee
Lisa Christiansen	Marsha Lederman	Tanya Talaga
Jillian Christmas	Anna Ling Kaye	Rob Taylor
Amber Dawn	Tanya Lloyd Kyi	Eleanor Wachtel
Charles Demers	Laura Lynch	Hal Wake
David Ebner	Tara McGuire	Sheryda Warrener
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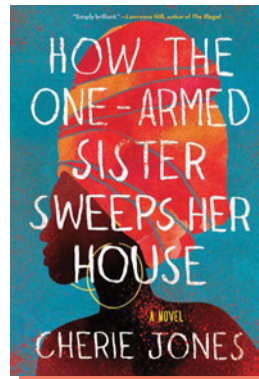
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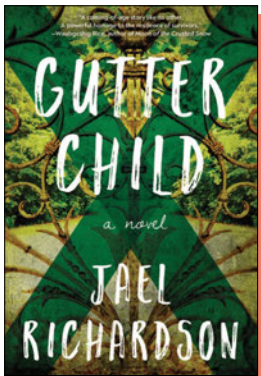
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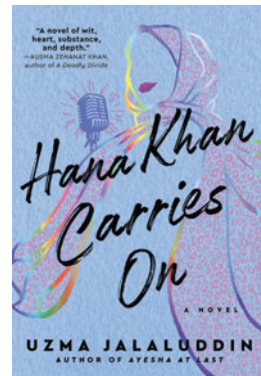
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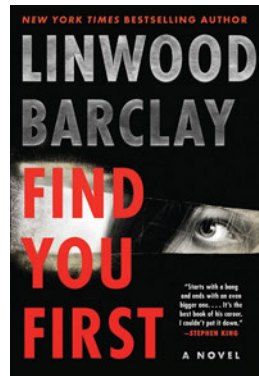
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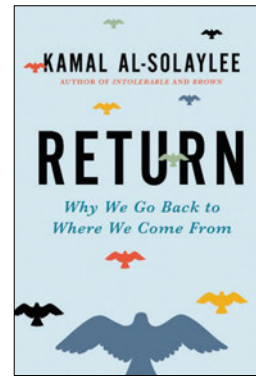
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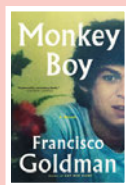
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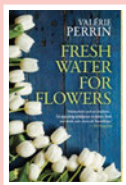
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Dusapin is a Franco-Korean author. In 2016 she published *Hiver à Sokcho*, which won numerous awards, including the Prix Robert-Walser, Prix Alpha and the Prix Régine-Deforges.

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