

ink summer 2007

the newsletter of the vancouver international writers & readers festival

Twenty years of celebrating writing

Award winners and Irish authors among a stellar lineup

This is a landmark year for the Vancouver International Writers Festival as we celebrate our 20th anniversary. It is probably fitting to begin with a heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped make this Festival one of the finest in the world. This year we will see the return of some Festival favourites and other writers we hope you will discover for the first time.

We are particularly excited about a writer exchange program we are doing with the Dublin Writers Festival. In June **Alistair MacLeod** and **Timothy Taylor** went to Dublin a few days before the Festival and wrote about their engagement with and exploration of the city. In October we are delighted to have two wonderful Irish writers coming to write and read about their encounter with Vancouver. **Nuala O'Faolain's** memoir *Are You Somebody?* spent many weeks on *The New York Times* bestseller list. **Claire Keegan's** story collection, *Antarctica* was a *Los Angeles Times* Book of the Year and her stories have won the William Trevor Prize and the Olive Cook Award. We look forward to what these talented writers have to say about our hometown.

This is also a year for prize winners, **Kiran Desai** won the 2006 Booker Prize, **Vincent Lam** won the Giller Prize, **Peter Behrens** the Governor-General's award for fiction, and **Lloyd Jones**, from New Zealand, won this year's Commonwealth Writers Prize. One of our children's writers, **Brian Doyle**, won the prestigious NSK Neustadt Award for lifetime achievement for his young adult fiction.

The host of *CBC Radio's* Writers and Company, **Eleanor Wachtel**, will give this year's Bill Duthie Memorial Lecture. Her new book is a collection of her

interviews and correspondence with the incomparable Carol Shields. In a voice that is intimate and direct, Shields talks about her writing, language and consciousness, and her interest in "redeeming the lives of lost or vanished women".

Once again we have a stellar cast of international writers, including two young sensations **Helen Oyeyemi** from Nigeria and **Faïza Guène** from France. **Nancy Huston** is also coming from France, **Jakob Arjouni** from Germany, **Alessandro Piperno** from Italy, **Ian Holding** from Zimbabwe and **Celestine Hitiura Vaite** from Australia.

Canada will be well represented by **Richard Wright**, **Elizabeth Hay**, **Michael Winter**, **Janice Kulyk Keefer**, **William Gibson**, **Peter Robinson** and **Edeet Ravel**. And from our home province **Jen Sookfong Lee**, **Linda Rogers**, **John Burns**, **Gail Anderson Darghatz**, and **Brendan McLeod**.

To cap things off we have two special events you won't want to miss. **Alistair MacLeod**, one of Canada's most beloved writers will perform readings accompanied by the internationally renowned **Chor Leoni Men's Choir**.

- Hal Wake, Artistic Director

VANCOUVER
INTERNATIONAL
WRITERS
& Readers
FESTIVAL

October 16–21, 2007
www.writersfest.bc.ca

Inside:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| La Joie de Lire | p.2 |
| Spreading the Word | p.2 |
| Alma Lee Legacy | p.3 |
| Staff pick | p.3 |
| Poetry selection | p.4 |
| Writing Contest | p.4 |



Peter Robinson (credit: Biserka Livaja), Kiran Desai, Peter Behrens, Helen Oyeyemi (credit: Mark Pringle 2004)

spreading the word

It's shaping up to be an exciting year for Spreading the Word, the Festival's schools program. Writers who will appear in Festival events for grades K-12 students include **Linda Bailey, John Burns, Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Évelyne Daigle, Brian Doyle, Faïza Guène, Dennis Lee, Carrie Mac** and **Kit Pearson**. These writers will engage young readers and writers with stories about the power of youth activism, the worlds of penguins and ladybugs, fantasy adventures, being a writer, 'growing-up' and more.

Back by popular demand is the multi-poet spoken word event and new this year are two workshops for secondary students with pop culture critic **Hal Niedzviecki**.

Spreading the Word's outreach programs will introduce Festival authors to students throughout BC with the Spreading the Word DVD project, Reading With Writers and the VIWF Writers-In-Residence, which this year will send a Festival author to Terrace for a week of workshops with secondary students and readings in the community. This year's student writing contest is geared to Grade 8-12 creative writing and English students. Prizes include a trip to the Festival for the winning student's class and a collection of titles from Raincoast Books, and the winning submission will be read on stage at the Festival. For more information on Spreading the Word contact Education Co-ordinator Iona Beiks at 604 215 9726.

The Vancouver International Writers Festival & Random House of Canada present

NAOMI KLEIN

The author of *No Logos* reads from her new book, *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*.



7:30 pm Thursday Oct 4
Frederic Wood Theatre
University of British Columbia
6354 Crescent Road

Tickets \$15/\$13



VANCOUVER
INTERNATIONAL
WRITERS
& Readers
FESTIVAL



RANDOM HOUSE
OF CANADA LIMITED
www.randomhouse.ca

TICKETS ON SALE SEPT 10 (MEMBERS ONLY) AT THE WRITERS FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE (IN PERSON SALES ONLY).
1398 CARTWRIGHT STREET. ON SALE SEPT 17 TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC: WWW.TICKETMASTER.CA.
INFO: WWW.WRITERSFEST.BC.CA OR 604 681 6330.

la joie de lire

Each year, in collaboration with the French Consulate, the Festival presents writers from France whose work has been translated into English. This enables us to present them in French as part of **La Joie de Lire**, and to introduce them to English readers as well. Since **La Joie de Lire** is primarily directed at school students, we are pleased that the 2007 program will include young French author **Faïza Guène**, whose novel **Kiffe Kiffe Demain** portrays life in a fictional suburb of Paris through the eyes of Doria, a teenager born in Morocco. The novel, published when Guène was 19,

has been a bestseller in France and translated into 26 languages.

This year, **La Joie de Lire** will present for the first time a writer of non-fiction. **Évelyne Daigle**, a Québec biologist who, among other accomplishments, has been on a scientific journey to Antarctica, will be here with her book on penguins. Popular Québec storyteller/novelists/playwrites **Sylvain Meunier** and **Michel Noël** will complete the 2007 program with Sylvain's *policiers* and novels for students of all ages and Michel's books based on the tales of his native heritage.
- Brenda Berck, *La Joie de Lire* programmer



Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Linda Bailey, Brian Doyle, Kit Pearson, Évelyne Daigle, Dennis Lee, Faïza Guène, John Burns, Carrie Mac, Hal Niedzviecki

Alma Lee Legacy Fund

The Alma Lee Legacy Fund campaign goal is within sight, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our donors, members, board and writers. To date we have raised \$260,138 in donations and pledges, leaving just \$89,862 to raise to reach our goal of \$350,000.

Many thanks to our lead donors Colin & Helen Harris, Jab Sidhoo, the Cynthia Woodward Development Fund, Scott Griffin, KMC Foundation, Bonnie Mah, Joanne & David McDonald, Brenda & Michael O'Keefe, Ebie & Ian Pitfield, Sheahan & Gerald McGavin, Sandra Garossino, Jan Whitford and Michael Stevenson, Ian and Janie Strang, Yasmeen and Andrew Strang, Rod & Laurie Scheuerman, Helen Shore, John Welson, Thomas Allen & Son. Thanks as well to the BC Arts Renaissance Fund and Canadian Heritage for matching each donation that we have received.

The fund will help us present acclaimed Canadian and international writers to Festival audiences and inspire young readers and writers by offering Spreading the Word programs for schools. For more information on the Alma Lee Legacy Fund please call Ann McDonnell at 604 681 6330.

staff picks

Kiffe Kiffe Demain

Most Canadians, if they know anything about life in *les banlieues*, (the impoverished suburbs of Paris where many immigrants live) will think of last year's reports of widespread rioting and vivid images of cars engulfed in flames. Fifteen year-old Doria, the narrator of *Kiffe Kiffe Demain* or *Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow* (Harcourt Books) by **Faïza Guène** tells a different story.

Guène does an excellent job of countering tmedia stereotypes about life in the banlieues. French readers have acknowledged its authenticity—the book has been a bestseller in France and has been translated into 26 languages.

Born in Morocco, living with her mother in a fictional suburban apartment complex, (her father has deserted the family), Doria is simultaneously wise, naïve, and romantic about her life and her future. Her mother works as a motel maid, but can't join the other exploited workers on strike for fear of losing their only income.

A social worker urges Doria's mother to take a literacy course so that she can be eligible for a better job and Doria encourages her. Of course, Doria doesn't herself want to follow the social worker's advice but then, she's fifteen and her life is

consumed with school, her friends and her desire for acceptance—and she is secretly falling in love and dealing with all that that entails. Doria is wryly perceptive about both the adults and the peers in her life.

- *Brenda Berck*

The Song Before It Is Sung

Justin Cartwright's new book, published by Bloomsbury, is the imaginative and beautifully told story of friends caught up in the horrors of World War II and Hitler's Germany. Cartwright's novel is based on the failed attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler in 1944.

The plot's conspirators were discovered, tortured and executed. Among the conspirators was Axel von Gottberg, a Rhodes scholar who had made several close friends at Oxford. His closest friend, Elya Mendel leaves his papers and letters to a former student, who becomes obsessed with understanding and uncovering the fate of the two friends. The novel examines the moral complexities of friendship in times of great upheaval, and people struggling to make sense of their lives when the world is in chaos.

- *Ann McDonnell*



ALLF lead donors Jab Sidhoo and Sandy Garossino

What is *your* book club reading? Summer is a great time to dig into a new novel. Make it even better by joining the Vancouver International Writers Festival Book Club Membership program.

Your book club's members will receive:

- Advance ticket purchase opportunities for Festival events.
- *Ink*, the VIWF newsletter, to keep you up-to-date on all our events.
- A 10% discount at selected bookstores in Greater Vancouver.
- A reading list of Festival 2007 authors
- A special Book Club rate of only \$20 per member (with a minimum of five members).

For information call 604 681 6330 or visit www.writersfest.bc.ca.

Volunteers needed

Join our team of 200+ fantastic volunteers for the 20th Vancouver International Writers Festival. If you have some spare time and would like to immerse yourself in the literary world for a couple of weeks this fall, please contact us at volunteer@writersfest.bc.ca or call the office at 604 681 6330. Volunteer Co-ordinator Kathryn Fowler will be on staff in August and will be happy to speak with you about our volunteer opportunities.

VANCOUVER
INTERNATIONAL
WRITERS
& Readers
FESTIVAL

The Vancouver International Writers Festival strives to encourage an appreciation of the written word and to promote literacy by providing a forum where readers and writers can meet. We produce special events and an annual Festival featuring Canadian and international writers for readers of all ages.

Artistic Director: Hal Wake

Founding Artistic Director: Alma Lee

General Manager: Aletha Humphreys

Development & Marketing Manager: Ann McDonell

Administrative Assistant: Sandra Millard

Bookkeeping Services: Office Alternatives

Advertising Sales: Matt Davy

Education Co-ordinator: Ilona Beiks

Festival Design: Hangar 18 Creative Group

Food & Beverage Services: Myrna Casino

Ink Layout and Design: Ann McDonell

Media Relations Manager: Judith Walker

Production Co-ordinator: Eduardo Ottoni

Programmer, La Joie de Lire: Brenda Berck

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Kathryn Fowler

Writer Services Co-ordinator: Clea Young

Website Design: Robin Puga/Digiloom Design and Deployment

Board of Directors: Chair: Leslie Hurtig

Vice-Chair: Kathryn Shoemaker, *Secretary:* Jim

Mayhew, *Treasurer:* Kevin Eldridge

Members: Lorne Beiles, Shirley Lew, Gloria

Loree, Brenda O'Keefe, Ebie Pitfield, Rod

Scheurman, Yasmeen Strang, Jan Whitford

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL
writers
& readers
festival
*presenting a world of words
on Granville Island*

October 16–21

CELEBRATING
20
YEARS

Tickets on sale to VIWF members Sept 10, school groups on Sept 11, general public Sept 17. Check the Festival program guide or our website in late August for complete program details.

www.writersfest.bc.ca

poetry

niels hav

DIALECT

In the dialect I spoke as a child
we couldn't say 'my love,'
'I love you' or 'beautiful'.
We saw concepts like that as
expressions of hysteria;
besides, those words were too classy for us,
they didn't suit the work clothes
we wore. Much later I learned
that beauty is a reality,
and that feelings can be expressed directly in words.
But to see yourself as a victim
is only self-delusion. Certain words
still cause difficulty.



From the collection *We Are Here* by Niels Hav
Translated from the Danish by Patrick Friesen & P.K. Brask
Published by BookThug, 2006
Reprinted with permission

The Vancouver International Writers Festival is committed to protecting the privacy of our members and patrons. We will not trade or sell your contact information to other businesses or organizations.

THE NINTH ANNUAL VIWF

POETRY & SHORT STORY WRITING CONTEST

Pick up your pen!

**Submit your finest prose and
poetry to the Writers Festival
Poetry & Short Story Contest**

Poetry: 500 word limit

Short fiction: 1,500 word limit

Entry fee per submission: \$10

Sponsored by



1st Prize \$350
2nd Prize \$250

Prizes will be awarded to the top two entries in both the poetry and creative short fiction categories.

First prize winners in each category will be published in *subTerrain* magazine; all winners will be published on the Writers Festival website: www.writersfest.bc.ca.

Contest deadline: October 21, 2007.
Check our website for complete submission details.