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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Attn: Entertainment, Arts & Culture Editors

## LINEUP UNVEILED FOR 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE BARDS

*Headliners To Include Adebé Derango-Adem, Joe Fiorito, Doyali Islam, Hana Shafi & More*

**TORONTO, ON** — The Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA) has unveiled the competitor lineup for **PoetryNOW: The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle of the Bards**, with buzzy-worthy poets **Adebé DeRango-Adem, Joe Fiorito, Doyali Islam, Hana Shafi** and more. A total of 20 poets will compete in the popular poetry competition, hosted by **Susan G. Cole** (*NOW Magazine*) and taking place **Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 7:30pm** in [Harbourfront Centre](#)'s Brigantine Room.

"We are looking forward to showcasing a diverse range of voices, themes and poetic genres this year," says TIFA Deputy Director **Christine Saratsiotis**. "The 11<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Bards will be one thrilling competition!"

Competitor lineup:

- **Chris Bailey** (*What Your Hands Have Done*, Nightwood Editions, 2018) - A commercial fisherman from PEI and past recipient of the Milton Acorn Award for Poetry.
- **Chris Banks** (*Cloud Versus Grand Unification Theory*, ECW Press, 2017) - Awarded the Jack Chalmers Award for poetry, and finalist for the Gerald Lampert Award for best first book of poetry in Canada.
- **Michelle Brown** (*Safe Words*, Palimpsest Press, 2018) - Previously shortlisted for CV2's Young Buck poetry prize and longlisted for the CBC poetry prize.
- **Brenda Clews** (*Tidal Fury*, Guernica Editions, 2016) – Multi-media artist whose poetry has appeared in *Tessera*, and *ARM Journal*, and many online publications.
- **Adebé DeRango-Adem** (*The Unmooring*, Mansfield Press, 2018) - Hailed by Canada's poet laureate as "a young Canadian author to watch", and nominated for both the Dylan Thomas Prize and the 2015 Pat Lowther award.
- **Kelly Norah Drukker** (*Small Fires*, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2016) – Winner of the A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry, the Concordia University First Book Prize, and finalist for the Grand Prix du livre de Montréal.
- **Kim Fahner** (*These Wings*, Pedlar Press, 2019) - The fourth poet laureate of the City of Greater Sudbury, and author of four previous volumes of poetry.
- **Joe Fiorito** (*City Poems*, Exile Editions, 2018) – Journalist and winner of the National Newspaper Award for Columns, the Brassani Prize for Short Fiction, and the City of Toronto Book Award.
- **Sonja Greckol** (*No Line in Time*, Tighrtrope Books, 2017) – Activist and author whose work has appeared in *Literary Review of Canada*, *Canadian Literature*, *Dalhousie Review*, *CV2* and others.
- **Doyali Islam** (*heft*, McClelland & Stewart, 2019) - Winner of several national contests and prizes, poetry editor of *Arc Poetry Magazine*, and poetry finalist for the National Magazine Awards.
- **Jim Johnstone** (*The Chemical Life*, Vehicule Press, 2018) - Winner of a CBC Literary Award, *The Fiddlehead's* Ralph Gustafson Poetry Prize, *Poetry's* Editors Prize for Book Reviewing, and more.
- **Jay Millar** (*I Could Have Pretended to be Better Than You*, Anvil Press, 2019) - Author, editor, publisher, teacher, virtual bookseller and long-time fixture of the Toronto publishing scene.
- **Clementine Morrigan** (*The Size of a Bird*, Inanna Publications, 2017) - Writer, artist, educator, and working witch, whose creative work has appeared in *Prose & Lore* and *Soliloquies*.

- **Jim Nason** (*Rooster, Dog, Crow*, Frontenac Press, 2018) - Finalist for the CBC Literary Award in both fiction and poetry categories, Nason's work has been published across Canada and the U.S.
- **Peter Norman** (*Some of Us and Most of You Are Dead*, Wolsak & Wynn, 2018) – Winner of the Battle of the Bards in 2013, and finalist for the Trillium Poetry Book Award.
- **Hana Shafi** (*It Begins with the Body*, Book\*hug, 2018) – Writer, illustrator and recipient of the Women Who Inspire Award from the Canadian Council for Muslim Women.
- **Smokii Sumac** (*you are enough: love poems for the end of the world*, Kegeedonce, 2018) - Sumac's work has appeared in *Write, Canadian Literature* and on coffee sleeves as a winner of Peterborough's e-city lit's artsweek contest.
- **Matthew Walsh** (*These are not the potatoes of my youth*, Gooselane Editions, 2019) – Hailing from Nova Scotia, Walsh's work has appeared in the *Malahat Review*, *Arc*, *Existere*, *Matrix* and *Geist*.
- **Anna Yin** (*Nightlights*, Black Moss Press, 2017) - Mississauga's Inaugural Poet Laureate, author of four collections of poetry, and winner of the 2005 Ted Plantos Memorial Award and two MARTYs.
- **Banoo Zan** (*Letters to My Father*, Piquant Press, 2017) - Founder of Shab-e She'r (Poetry Night), Toronto's most diverse poetry open mic series, and author of more than 120 published poems.

One winner will be selected by a judging panel composed of TIFA Director **Geoffrey E. Taylor** and poets **Andy McGuire** (*Country Club*) and **Alison Pick** (*Strangers With The Same Dream*). The winner will be invited to participate in the **40<sup>th</sup> edition of the Toronto International Festival of Authors (October 24 – November 3, 2019)**, and have their book and Festival event advertised in *NOW Magazine*.

Tickets on sale now (\$10 | Free for students & youth aged 25 and under) at [FestivalofAuthors.ca/PoetryNOW](http://FestivalofAuthors.ca/PoetryNOW).

## Social Media

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## About Toronto International Festival of Authors

The Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA) is Canada's largest and longest-running festival of words and ideas. Since 1974, it has hosted over 9,000 authors from more than 100 countries, including 22 Nobel Laureates and countless other award winners. Mandated to advance the art of literature, TIFA connects curious readers of every kind with leading authors and provides forums to showcase Canadian talent to the world. TIFA presents events and programmes all year round and will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival Oct. 24 – Nov. 3, 2019. Based at Harbourfront Centre.

## About NOW

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## Media Contact

Amy Dennis, Head of Marketing, Toronto International Festival of Authors  
416-973-4395 | [adennis@festivalofauthors.ca](mailto:adennis@festivalofauthors.ca)

