

RANDY BOYAGODA JOINS THE BOARD OF TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS



Randy Boyagoda (Photo credit: Angela Lewis)

TORONTO, June 16, 2020 – The **Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA)** is pleased to announce the appointment of **Randy Boyagoda** to its board of directors. Boyagoda will serve the board of the directors, chaired by **Charles Baillie**, for a two-year term.

Novelist Randy Boyagoda is a professor of English at the University of Toronto, where he is also Principal of St. Michael's College and holds the Basilian Chair in Christianity, Arts and Letters. His most recent novel, *Original Prin*, was a 2018 *Globe and Mail* Best Book of the Year and a 2019 *New York Times* Editor's Choice. He was Chair of the 2019 ScotiaBank Giller Prize.

Randy Boyagoda is no stranger to the Toronto International Festival of Authors, having appeared on its stage in recent years as both a featured author, and interviewer. Boyagoda also hosts the biweekly podcast series "[Writers Off the Page: 40 Years of TIFA](#)" produced in partnership with the Toronto Public Library, and Library and Archives Canada.

"The Toronto International Festival of Authors has a profound impact on the creative and intellectual life of the city, and likewise on the Canadian publishing community, connecting readers and writers to a flourishing world of storytelling," said **Randy Boyagoda**. "I've experienced it first hand as an author, dating from my debut novel, and am excited to contribute to TIFA's exceptional growth in this new Board role."

"We are delighted to welcome Randy to TIFA's board of directors. Randy brings with him decades of leadership experience and talent as a writer, critic and scholar. Randy's expertise



and energy will strengthen TIFA’s ability to promote writers and serve the book-loving community,” said **Charles Baillie**, TIFA board chair.

“Having recently taken the helm at the Toronto International Festival of Authors, I am excited that this next phase for TIFA will include the addition of Randy to our board. His international reputation precedes him. As an author, scholar and Torontonian, I can think of no better person to help TIFA drive its mission to reflect the city to its residents, its literature to the nation and Canada’s creative ambition to the world,” said **Roland Gulliver**, TIFA Director. (Gulliver joined the Toronto International Festival of Authors in February 2020.)

For a full list of the Toronto International Festival of Authors board of directors, [click here](#).

About the Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA)

The Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA) is Canada’s longest-running literary festival, a charitable, non-for-profit cultural organization. Since 1974, the 11-day Festival has presented the finest of Canadian and international writers, artists and thinkers across the range of literary genres, offering audiences access and empowerment to meet, hear and learn from the finest contemporary writers and thinkers of our time. Alongside the flagship Festival, TIFA partners with and delivers a range of literary highlights throughout the year with a programme of events, activities and mini-festivals including Toronto Lit Up, Lit On Tour, Forest of Reading® Festival and Word On The Street. TIFA will celebrate the 41st edition of the Festival October 22 – November 1, 2020. FestivalofAuthors.ca | Follow us @FestofAuthors

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