



TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS SUCCESSFULLY WRAPS ITS FIRST VIRTUAL EDITION

TIFA Announces Additional Events This November

TORONTO, November 2, 2020 – The Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA), Canada’s largest and longest-running festival of words and ideas, successfully wrapped its 41st edition yesterday, with the final day including appearances from Ian Rankin, Desmond Cole, Scotiabank Giller Prize shortlisted Annabel Lyon, and a special musical performance led by d’bi. young anitafrika. From October 22 to November 1, 2020, the 11-day Festival took place virtually, free for the very first time and accessible to people across the globe with the likes of Margaret Atwood, Marilynne Robinson, Jesse Thistle and Alain de Botton gracing the digital stage. Under the leadership of new Director Roland Gulliver, TIFA is pleased to announce that it received a total of 38,940 event registrations from the 205 number of events with 354 featured participants. Many events from the final weekend are still available to view.

“This year, the Toronto International Festival of Authors travelled to homes across the world, providing free access to more literary experiences than ever before with readings, conversations, performances and innovative new digital content,” said **Roland Gulliver, Director, Toronto International Festival of Authors**. “I’m delighted that our authors and audiences responded so positively to our programme and I feel inspired by the warmth, generosity and community created over the 11 days. I’m immensely proud of what my team has accomplished during a challenging year, taking our ambitions for TIFA onto a virtual platform. I’m excited for us to continue our journey to explore new ways of connecting, coming together and celebrating stories.”

Given the virtual format of this year’s Festival, many activities remain available to enjoy on TIFA’s website. These include podcast audio tours [Write in The Neighbourhood](#) and [Any Night of the Week](#), which guide listeners through locations that have inspired writers and musicians in Toronto; the [Small Press Interactive Map](#), where booklovers can connect with dozens of Canada’s independent presses; and the animated video commission of author Janie Brown’s [Radical Acts of Love](#) by Axel Kinnear. Additionally, the Festival’s comic arts story, [In Sequence: Comic Jam on the ‘Gram](#), is now available to view as a completed story sequence [here](#), featuring each comic artist’s illustrated panel contribution.

With each Festival event given a three-day viewing period, many videos from this past weekend are still available to enjoy at FestivalofAuthors.ca through to November 5.



Furthermore, a curated selection of events from the 41st Festival edition will be re-released in the near future. Details will be announced in the coming weeks.

TIFA will keep the festival momentum going with the return of its year-round event series, now entering its 46th season. The season will kick off with [TIFA Presents: Lawrence Hill in Conversation](#), on November 8 at 5pm EST, featuring the celebrated Canadian author of *The Book of Negroes* in conversation with Damon D'Oliveira who produced the television adaptation. This event is presented in partnership with FLUP-Festa Literária das Periferias in Brazil. TIFA is also co-presenting [Alexander McCall Smith: How to Raise an Elephant](#), on November 27 at 12pm EST, in partnership with the Toronto Public Library. Both events will be presented virtually and for free. Visit FestivalofAuthors.ca for more information.

About Toronto International Festival of Authors

The Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA) is Canada's longest-running literary festival, a charitable, non-profit cultural organization. It creates literary festivals, programmes and events that bring together people of all ages to be inspired and empowered through a celebration of authors, books and stories. It generates diverse and exciting conversations across communities in the city, the nation and internationally, to foster new thinking about what it means to be living in today's world, and champions the best of Canadian and international publishing to audiences and industry. TIFA acknowledges that the land on which the organization conducts its work is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, the Wendat and the Mississaugas of the Credit.

TIFA is grateful for the support of the Government of Canada – Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Toronto Arts Council, and Ontario Creates, as well as the generosity of its donors.

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