

# TORONTO LIT UP

Spotlighting  
Toronto  
Writers

## TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS ANNOUNCES NEW SEASON OF LOCAL AUTHOR SPOTLIGHTS WITH TORONTO LIT UP

### World Poetry Slam Champion Ian Keteku joins the Toronto Lit Up Committee

**Toronto, April 13, 2023** – Today, the Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA) announced the 26 new titles that have been selected to be part of the latest season of Toronto Lit Up, a joint initiative with Toronto Arts Council that spotlights Toronto writers and provides career-building opportunities through book launch celebrations. The upcoming season will take place between April 2023 and March 2024, and feature new works of fiction and non-fiction for adults and young people, poetry, memoir and drama, by debut and established Toronto authors. Between April 2016 and March 2023, Toronto Lit Up has presented 165 events featuring over 200 Toronto authors and illustrators.

The following new books by Torontonians will be featured during this season of Toronto Lit Up:

- **Curtis Campbell**, *Dragging Mason County* (Annick Press)
- **Patricia Scarlett**, *Blinded by the Brass Ring* (Baraka Books)
- **Bardia Sinaee & Anita Lahey**, *Best Canadian Poetry 2024* (Biblioasis)
- **Simon A.G. Spencer**, *Blood of Gods* (Birthright, book 2) (Brain Lag)
- **Derwin Mak**, *Mecha-Jesus and Other Stories* (Brain Lag)
- **Jennilee Austria**, *Reuniting with Strangers: A Novel in Stories* (Douglas & McIntyre)
- **Jillian Tamaki & Mariko Tamaki**, *Roaming* (Drawn & Quarterly)
- **Camille Hernandez-Ramdwar**, *Suite as Sugar* (Dundurn Press)
- **Daniel Innes & Christina Wong**, *Denison Avenue* (ECW Press)
- **Evelyn Chick**, *For the Love of Cocktails* (Figure 1 Publishing)
- **Sean Morley Dixon**, *The Abduction of Seven Forgers* (Freehand Books)
- **Thao Lam**, *Happy Birthday to Me* (Groundwood Books)
- **Carey Sookochef**, *The Remembering Stone* (Groundwood Books)
- **Danila Botha**, *Things That Cause Inappropriate Happiness* (Guernica Editions)
- **Chiedza Pasopanodya**, *The Sweet Spot* (Hush Harbour Press)

- **Jaypeetee Arnakak**, *The Woman and Her Bear Cub* (Inhabit Media Inc.)
- **Kate Siklosi**, *Selvage* (Invisible Publishing)
- **M. NourbeSe Philip**, *Zong! 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition* (Invisible Publishing)
- **Sade Smith**, *Julie and the Mango Tree* (Macmillan Publishers)
- **Lien Chao**, *Spiritual Pursuits and Other Stories* (Mawenzi House Publishers)
- **Craig Shreve**, *The African Samurai* (Scribner)
- **Mary Fairhurst Breen**, *Pride and Persistence: Stories of Queer Activism* (Second Story Press)
- **Mai Nguyen**, *Sunshine Nails* (Simon & Schuster)
- **Naila Keleta-Mae & Claire Hitchens**, *Performing Female Blackness* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press)
- **Jake Byrne**, *Celebrate Pride with Lockheed Martin* (Wolsak and Wynn)
- **Zhang Ling**, *Where Waters Meet* (Amazon Publishing)

Book launch events to celebrate these titles will take place in person across Toronto from April 2023-March 2024. All events will be free to attend and open to the public. The first events of the season will be:

- **April 15, 2023 at 2pm ET** — Thao Lam, *Happy Birthday to Me*, & Carey Sookocheff, *The Remembering Stone* (Groundwood Books) at Queen Books (914 Queen St. East, Toronto, ON)
- **May 1, 2023 at 6:30pm ET** — Natasha Adiyana Morris, *The Negroes are Congregating* (Playwrights Canada Press) at the Blackhurst Cultural Centre (777 Bathurst St, Toronto, ON)
- **May 4, 2023 at 7pm ET** — Brooke Lockyer, *Burr* (Nightwood Editions) at Larry's Folly (1462 Queen St. West, Toronto, ON)

Stay tuned for dates and details to come at [FestivalofAuthors.ca](https://FestivalofAuthors.ca).

### **From the Toronto Arts Council**

“Partnering with TIFA to amplify the work of Toronto authors and illustrators is something we are very proud to do. Toronto Lit Up not only generates excitement for published work, but it promotes and further strengthens our city’s rich literary community. Congratulations to the 25 authors and illustrators who are taking part in this season of Toronto Lit Up!” – **Kelly Langgard**, Director & CEO, Toronto Arts Council and Toronto Arts Foundation.

### **The Committee**

Each submission is reviewed by the Toronto Lit Up Committee, composed of **Ayesha Chatterjee** (past president, League of Canadian Poets), **Alison Jones** (*Quill and Quire*), **Ian Keteku** (OCAD U) and **Hazel Millar** (Book\*hug).

This is **Ian Keteku’s** first year on the committee. He is a writer, performer and multimedia artist. He has written and directed projects for TVO, CBC, PBS and Sesame Street. An award-winning poet, Keteku is the 2010 World Poetry Slam Champion. Keteku’s work follows in the lineage of ancient African storytellers by paying hts literature to the nation, and its creative ambition to the world.

## How to get involved:

To keep up to date on announcements, upcoming events and submission periods, follow us on social media at [@festofauthors](#) and subscribe to our [e-newsletter](#).

## About the Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA)

The Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA) inspires, empowers and connects through the art of stories, offering book lovers a breadth of bold, ambitious and accessible literary experiences. As Canada's largest literary festival, the charitable organization provides engaging opportunities to meet, hear and learn from the world's best contemporary writers and thinkers, and to celebrate the power of stories. Since 1974, TIFA has presented thousands of authors, including 22 Nobel Laureates, who represent diverse perspectives and a range of literary genres for all ages. TIFA's creative programmes continue to adapt to changing times, capturing the most innovative and enlightening forms of storytelling, on stage and online. Alongside Toronto Lit Up, TIFA delivers a year-round programme of events and festivals that reflect Toronto to its residents, its literature to the nation, and its creative ambition to the world. Visit [FestivalOfAuthors.ca](#) for more.

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.

## About Toronto Arts Council (TAC)

Toronto Arts Council (TAC) is the City of Toronto's funding body for artists and arts organizations. Since 1974, TAC has offered innovative and responsive programs, enabling artists and arts organizations to explore, create and thrive. With funding of over \$25 million annually, TAC grants lead to exhibitions, performances, readings and workshops seen each year by over five million people across the city. TAC is proud to play a leadership role in fostering Toronto's dynamic and diverse arts scene. [www.torontoartscouncil.org](http://www.torontoartscouncil.org)

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## Media Contact

Shae Loeffelholz, [media@festivalofauthors.ca](mailto:media@festivalofauthors.ca)

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