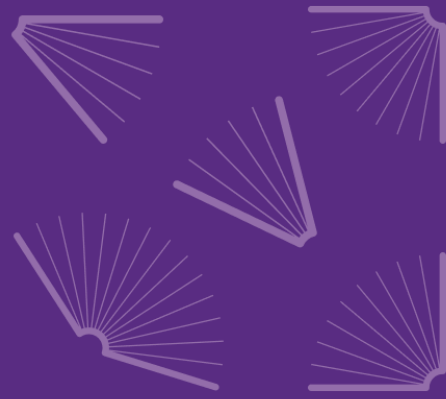




Toronto
International
Festival of
Authors

September 21 – October 1, 2023



TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS CELEBRATES FLIGHTS OF THE IMAGINATION IN 2023 PROGRAMME LINEUP

**Margaret Atwood, Billy-Ray Belcourt, Patrick deWitt, Emma Donoghue,
Anne Enright, Richard Ford, Masha Gessen, Michelle Good, Charlotte Gray,
Catherine Hernandez, Casey Plett, Sarah Polley, Makoto Yukimura, and more**

TIFA takes place September 21 – October 1, 2023

Festival Passes are now available at FestivalofAuthors.ca

TORONTO, August 22, 2023 – The **Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA)**, Canada's largest and longest-running festival of words and ideas, invites audiences to let their imaginations take flight through 200+ events and activities with hundreds of the best Canadian and international story creators. From conversations and readings, to stage performances and writing workshops, as well as crafts and activities for kids, there is a multitude of experiences to enjoy and explore at this year's Festival. Alongside some of the best fiction and non-fiction authors, poets and storytellers, including Pulitzer, Booker and Giller prize winners, audiences can savour delicious stories at Bite the Book event, celebrate storytelling in all its genres with Pop Fiction, debate contemporary issues at a Critical Conversation, or enjoy the simple pleasures of play in the TIFA Kids programme.

Taking place from **September 21 to October 1**, the Festival will welcome hundreds of authors and artists from over 20 countries. With a range of day, weekend and full-festival passes, audiences can drop in or spend the entire day. Registration is now open at FestivalofAuthors.ca.

“Whether it is the joy of play with our Swings installation or a deep dive debating democracy, the Toronto International Festival of Authors offers so many different ways to discover as we celebrate stories in all their forms and genres, and let our imaginations take flight,” said **Roland Gulliver, Toronto International Festival of Authors Director**. “In a world of constant change, this Festival offers a space to explore and welcome perspectives highlighting the essential contribution that books and stories make to our lives. We are excited to invite audiences to share this illuminating 11-day journey with creators from Canada and around the world.”

Below is a list of select TIFA programme highlights and guests attending over the course of the Festival. For the full Festival programme and schedule, please visit FestivalofAuthors.ca.

IN-PERSON CONVERSATIONS AND READINGS

TIFA will welcome an impressive lineup of authors to capture readers’ hearts and minds this fall including writers from Colombia, Japan, Taiwan, Ukraine, U.S. and across Europe. Most events are followed by free author book signings. Books can be purchased on site at Indigo's Festival bookstore or online through Rakuten Kobo.

- **Kwame Alexander:** Breaking from the traditional memoir form, Kwame Alexander’s *Why Fathers Cry at Night* is a compelling collage of poetry, letters and artifacts that delves into the complex highs and lows of marriage, parenthood and loss in a vulnerable exploration of masculine love. He’ll participate in an intimate discussion on the personal moments that informed this groundbreaking memoir.
- **Patrick deWitt:** The Booker Prize finalist of the popular novel *The Sisters Brothers* will present his latest book *The Librarianist*, which provides a poignant look at the difficulties and delights of a life lived on the sidelines. He’ll speak on the inspiration behind his latest story, his writing process and the works that have shaped his career.
- **Emma Donoghue:** Bestselling author of *Room* and *The Wonder* will discuss her latest book and inspiration behind *Learned By Heart*, a love story for the ages and at the centre of it all, a woman who truly knew her own heart.
- **Anne Enright:** The Booker Prize and the Irish Fiction Award-winning author of *The Gathering* will take the stage to discuss the wonders of poetry, generational trauma and the lasting love of a family in her latest book, *The Wren, The Wren*.
- **Richard Ford:** Marking the end of an era in American literature, *Be Mine* is his fifth and final installment of the iconic Frank Bascombe series, which has spanned nearly 40 years with four acclaimed novels and a short story collection. He’ll be joined by Festival Director, Roland Gulliver, for a memorable evening discussing his work.
- **Michelle Good:** Activist and author of the bestselling *Five Little Indians* will explore the nuances of the contemporary Indigenous experience in Canada in her latest work, *Truth Telling*. From resistance and reconciliation to the resurgence and

reclamation of Indigenous power, this collection of seven personal essays is a crucial addition to the conversation as Canada continues to develop a national approach to reconciliation.

- **Charlotte Gray:** With her latest book, *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons*, historian and biographer shines a light on two women who worked tirelessly to raise two of the most powerful players on the global stage of history – Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. Packed with keen social and historical insight, this dual biography paints a captivating portrait of the women who shaped the men that shaped the world.
- **Catherine Hernandez:** Following the success of her acclaimed debut novel *Scarborough* and *Crosshairs*, her latest book *The Story of Us*, follows an Overseas Filipino Worker who navigates the challenges of life in a new country and develops an unexpected connection with a patient.
- **Sean Michaels:** The Giller Prize-winner will discuss living in technologically advanced yet unsettling times, as portrayed in his newest book, *Do You Remember Being Born?* where a 75-year-old poet accepts a commission to collaborate with a mysterious new AI.
- **Casey Plett:** Author of *Little Fish* and *A Dream of a Woman* will present a new edition of the debut story collection *Safe Girl to Love*. Back in print after a long absence these stories feature young trans women stumbling through loss, sex, harassment, and show growing up as a trans girl can be charming, funny, frustrating, or sad, but never predictable.
- **Makoto Yukimura:** The internationally renowned Manga creator comes to Canada for the first time, offering a rare glimpse behind the scenes of the vivid, vicious world of *Vinland Saga*, the bestselling books that inspired the hugely popular Netflix adaptation. Presented with the support of The Japan Foundation, Toronto and Kodansha USA Publishing.

BITE THE BOOK

Exploring the connection between food and community, from dough-making to dumpling tasting, TIFA will welcome subject matter experts including authors, chefs, food critics, and nutritional scientists to participate in multi-sensory events with food and wine tastings, baking and delicious conversations.

- **Natalie MacLean:** The self-described “wine witch” will discuss the inspirations behind her national bestseller: *Wine Witch on Fire: Rising from the Ashes of Divorce, Defamation, and Drinking Too Much*, followed by a wine tasting.

- **John Lorinc:** A group of Toronto food writers will present an evening of conversation, food tastings and stories in a celebration of all things dumplings, as it relates to the book *What We Talk About When We Talk About Dumplings*.
- **Bill Buford:** The founding editor of *Granta* and trained chef will share his food and literary knowledge in his book *Dirt*, about conquering the intimidating world of French haute cuisine.
- **Taras Grescoe:** In the tradition of Anthony Bourdain, he'll offer a globe-trotting account of ancient cuisines from his book *The Lost Supper*, and why reviving foods of the past is key to saving the future.

POP FICTION

Whether escaping to a new world or reimagining one, Pop Fiction invites readers to celebrate stories of sweeping sagas, heroes and villains, soulmates, and whatever else makes story-loving hearts POP! This programme spotlights the best in genre fiction including fantasy, science fiction, graphic novels and speculative fiction, romance and horror. Highlights include:

- **Nick Cutter and Andrew Sullivan:** Their book *The Handyman Method: A Story of Terror* is a modern twist on classic horror, weaving together haunted houses, destructive insecurities, and the trials of home improvement into a chilling and unsettling masterpiece.
- **Nicki Pau Preto:** *Gideon the Ninth* meets the *Game of Thrones* White Walkers in *Bonesmith*, a dark fantasy about a disgraced ghost-fighting warrior who must journey into a haunted wasteland.
- **Craig Shreve:** In his powerful novel *The African Samurai*, discover the story of Yasuke, Japan's first foreign-born samurai and only samurai of African descent.
- **Wattpad's Ask the Expert: Writing Romance in 2023:** Wendy Million and Romi Moondi, two of Wattpad WEBTOON Book Group's most popular romance authors, will discuss the genre's new wave of popularity and answer questions about writing.

PERFORMANCES

- **Margaret Atwood and Theater of War Productions** (available live and virtually) This free, public event is an exciting new collaboration exploring power and control, domestic violence and family dynamics by way of presenting two versions of the same story: one written by Giovanni Boccaccio in 1348 during the bubonic plague, and the other by Atwood in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic. This dramatic reading will be followed by a discussion among community panelists and a guided audience discussion.

- ***How to Fail as a Pop Star with Vivek Shraya***: Multidisciplinary artist Vivek Shraya will present her coming-of-age series about a queer brown boy trying to achieve pop stardom, as told by the queer trans femme that boy becomes. Evolving from a one-person stage show to a book adaptation, and now an upcoming CBC Gem original series, TIFA will present an advance screening of episodes, a brief performance from Vivek's play, songs from the soundtrack and an insightful conversation with Vivek, series director Vanessa Matsui and co-star Ayesha Mansur Gonsavles.
- **The Woman Who Was Everything**: Canadian actors Michelle Giroux, Diego Matamoros and Tom McCamus will bring letters to life in a performance based on the book by Craig Stephenson and directed by former Tarragon Theatre Artistic Director Richard Rose.
- **Canadian Arabic Orchestra**: Embark on a musical journey through the Middle East with the Canadian Arabic Orchestra (CAO). From Syria to Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, Iraq, Turkey and Azerbaijan, audiences will experience the rhythms of classical Middle Eastern music. A wonderful culmination of the [Taking Flight – Dreams of Democracy](#) stream spotlighting Arabic writers.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **2023 PEN Canada Graeme Gibson Talk – Notes On An Invasion**: TIFA, in partnership with PEN Canada and CBC Radio's IDEAS, will bring Russian-American writer and activist **Masha Gessen** with Ukrainian author and Russian speaker **Andrey Kurkov** in an important conversation on Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine. Both have urgent knowledge of the war, the geopolitical forces at work as well as the political figures behind those forces.
- **Toronto Book Award**: Beloved Academy Award-winning filmmaker and writer **Sarah Polley** is the 2022 recipient of the Toronto Book Award and will receive her commemorative stone from the Award establishment at a ceremony held in the Toronto Book Garden. Event will be followed by a live conversation with Polley.

FREE EVENTS

- **The Swings**: Across the 11 days, TIFA will present the North American premiere of All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre's unique one-of-a-kind experience "[The Swings](#)," a giant five-metre tall swing installation to unlock joyful childhood memories and spark imagination.
- **TIFA Kids**: Children and youth of all ages can enjoy a fun-filled programme with plenty of activities. From superheroes to graphic novels, whimsical adventures to spooky

stories, in addition to arts & crafts, sing-alongs and baking. More information on TIFA Kids programming can be found [here](#).

- **Exhibitions and Installations:** Including **Writers Behind Typewriters** by OCAD University's Creative writing program, **The Book Sanctuary** in partnership with the Toronto Public Library (TPL), and **The Small Press Fair**, curated by **Kate Siklosi**.

MASTERCLASSES

The Humber School for Writers returns to TIFA to present a series of daily professional writing masterclasses led by its renowned faculty members and acclaimed authors. Each 90-minute class will be presented in person and focus on a specific aspect of writing craft.

Masterclasses include: Tone with **David Bezmozgis**; World Building with **Siddhartha Deb**; Memoir in the Age of Transparency with **Charles Foran**; Finding Your Voice with **Kathy Friedman**; Writing for an Audience with **Saeed Teebi**; In Praise of Process with **Alissa York**; and more from **Leila Aboulela**, **Kate Cayley**, **Kyo Maclear**, **Alberto Manguel** and **Shyam Selvadura**.

For more information and to view the full programme lineup, visit FestivalOfAuthors.ca.

Toronto International Festival of Authors

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. Based at Harbourfront Centre, TIFA delivers a year-round programme of events and activities that reflect Toronto to its residents, its literature to the nation, and its creative ambition to the world. The 2023 flagship festival will take place September 21 – October 1, 2023.

TIFA is grateful for the support of the Government of Canada – Department of Canadian Heritage; the Canada Council for the Arts; Ontario Creates; the Ontario Arts Council; and Toronto Arts Council. Lead philanthropic support is generously provided by the Global Authors Club: Gail and Mark Appel, The Marilyn and Charles Baillie Family Foundation, The Bennett Family Foundation, The Honourable Nicole Eaton, Janet and Willard L'Heureux,

Harriet Lewis and Eldon Bennett, Miles Nadal and Peerage Realty Partners, Beth Nowers and Jack Curtin, Nalini and Timothy Stewart.

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