

Author Myriam Beaudoin will be in Moncton on May 31st



(Moncton, May 13, 2010) Quebec author, Myriam Beaudoin, is the first recipient of the Frye Festival's inaugural Frye Academy Award. She will be in Moncton on Monday, May 31st, in order to receive her award and meet the public. The event will take place on the sixth floor of the Moncton City Hall, and will begin at 7:00 pm. During the evening, the public will have the opportunity to meet this prominent Canadian author and chat with her about her novel *Hadassa*. The event will take place in French. Entrance is free.

A jury of young readers from French and English high schools in the area chose *Hadassa*, a novel by Myriam Beaudoin, to be the grand winner of the Frye Academy Award 2010, a first for the Frye Festival. A public "Battle of the Books" took place in January and March. The students debated the merits of four books written by Canadian authors before crowning Ms. Beaudoin. During the May 31st event, the young readers will have the chance to speak with the author in front of the public. The host of the night, Renée Morel, will have an on-stage conversation with Myriam Beaudoin based on questions and comments by the young readers and will also invite the public to take part in the discussion.

Myriam Beaudoin is delighted by this honor: "Once again, today's youth have impressed me. They are curious and they like to debate: literary works, great love stories, and multiculturalism. After the Prix des Collégiens (2007), I am once again rewarded by young readers. These awards allow me to be present in high schools and colleges and to meet students and to be read by a dynamic public. I am truly touched by this nomination, and I am happy to be able to travel to Moncton in order to meet the readers. Many thanks to all!"

Hadassa, published by Leméac in 2006, is set in an Orthodox Jewish school in Montreal and follows the fascination that the students exert on a teacher and a Polish immigrant. This novel was nominated for the Prix des librairies du Québec and in 2007, it won the Prix des collégiens and the Prix France-Québec. This book is on the reading curriculum of many schools, colleges and universities in Quebec, in Vancouver, in the Maritimes, and in France.

Other than Myriam Beaudoin's *Hadassa*, the young readers have also read *Tarmac* by Nicolas Dickner, *The Gum Thief* by Douglas Coupland and the graphic novel *George Sprott (1894-1975)* by Seth.

The students who partook in this first edition of the Frye Academy Award will meet with the author before the public event to learn more about her creative process and the ideas behind the writing of this novel.

The Frye Festival hopes to present the Academy Frye Award in 2011. All the information on the Frye Festival and its events can be found at www.frye.ca.

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