

NEWS RELEASE

Omar El Akkad, Billy-Ray Belcourtand, Martha Wainwright and many more at the 2022 Frye Festival!

The Festival to be presented in-person from April 21-May 1!

(Moncton, March 22, 2022) The 23rd Frye Festival invites the public to meet fascinating authors, in person, from **April 21 to May 1**, in the Greater Moncton area. After a 100% virtual event in 2020, and a hybrid edition last year, the Frye will be welcoming the public and most of its 2022 author lineup in person. A celebration of books, ideas, and the imagination, the Festival will host 35 award-winning authors from New Brunswick, Canada, and abroad. The complete program is available at www.frye.ca.

The Frye team has been hard at work on this 2022 edition for many months, and is thrilled to present a diverse program featuring English, French and bilingual activities suitable for audiences of all ages. “Spring is finally here, and at the Frye Festival, words are in full bloom!” says Interim Executive Director Pierre-André Doucet. “We invite the community to join us as we make room for books, ideas, and the imagination in the public sphere.”

The official launch will take place at the Aberdeen Cultural Centre on **Friday, April 22 at 11 a.m.**, with Poets Flyés **Kayla Geitzler** and **Jean-Philippe Raïche** delivering their first readings of the Festival. They will be attending and hosting various events during the course of the Festival, which will serve as inspiration for their closing poem, to be delivered in the closing days of the Festival.

Literary activities for all

Readings, literary walks and performances, storytime events: the 23rd Frye Festival has something for everyone. The program includes tea time, where words will be served ping hot and accompanied by sweets from K & M Saffron Tea House, several discussions on feminism and the art of writing, theatrical presentations, roundtable discussions, the perennially popular KidsFest, and much more. In-conversation events will take place throughout the Festival, exploring subjects such as truth, the future, relationships, the self, and the hostile world that surrounds us.

Frye Jam and Trivia Night are back!

Two popular Frye Festival events are back this year: **Frye Jam** and **Trivia Night**. On **Thursday, April 21, at 8 p.m.**, trivia and book lovers are invited to the Aberdeen Cultural Centre, where two New Brunswick drag legends invite you to test your book smarts for a chance to win prizes... and coveted bragging rights! Because reading is what? Fundamental!

Frye Jam offers literature at its most virtuosic: readings by guest authors, enhanced by musical improvisations and mesmerizing projections. Join us on **Saturday, April 30 at 8 p.m.**, with guest authors Mo Bolduc, Rébecca Déraspe, Therese Estacion, Kaie Kellough, Djennie Laguerre and Rebecca Salazar; improvised music by UmLäb, and visual projections by Carole Deveau, in an evening hosted by Poets Flyés Kayla Geitzler and Jean-Philippe Raïche.

Discover fascinating authors

Author and journalist **Omar El Akkad**'s new novel, *What Strange Paradise* (Knopf, 2021), won the Giller Prize and was named a best book of the year by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. El Akkad will talk about his latest work and how empathy, indifference, hope, and despair each blind

us to reality on **Saturday, April 30, at 3 p.m.**, at the Aberdeen Cultural Centre. He will also be joined by **Linda Rui Feng** for an in-conversation event on **Friday, April 29, at 11 a.m.**, also at the Aberdeen Cultural Centre.

Billy-Ray Belcourt is from the Driftpile Cree Nation. He is a two-time Governor General's Literary Award nominee, for *This Wound is a World* (Frontenac House, 2017) and *A History of My Brief Body* (Hamish Hamilton, 2020). Belcourt will participate virtually in two roundtable discussions: **Fragmented Narratives**, on **Friday, April 29, at 5:30 p.m.**, and **Writing Upstream**, on **Sunday, May 1, at 3 p.m.** Both events will be held at the Aberdeen Cultural Centre.

Internationally renowned singer-songwriter **Martha Wainwright's** memoir, *Stories I Might Regret Telling You*, came out in Canada with Flatiron Books in 2022. She will speak about this heartfelt work and growing up in a bohemian musical family, on **Thursday, April 28, at 12 p.m.**, with host Julie Doiron at the Aberdeen Cultural Centre. Wainwright will also be in concert at the Capitol Theatre on the previous evening.

Celebrated Vietnamese-Canadian author **Kim Thúy** (*Em*, Penguin Random House, 2020) will also be present this year, and will be featured in what is hoped to be a new signature event of the festival, **À table avec Kim Thúy / Kim Thúy's Kitchen**. Presented in collaboration with Les Brumes du Coude, this event will take place at the Aberdeen Cultural Centre on **Sunday, May 1, at 6 p.m.** (tickets: 100\$, included service and taxes), and will explore her most recent works. Festivalgoers are invited to hear her in a bilingual exchange with host Janique LeBlanc, all the while enjoying a succulent meal inspired by Kim Thúy's cookbook, *Secrets from My Vietnamese Kitchen*.

Among other guest authors at the Frye this year are **Zoe Whittall**, author of four novels, including *The Spectacular* (HarperCollins, 2021), a CBC Books Best of Canadian Fiction, and an Xtra Magazine Best Queer and Trans Books of the Year. Whittall is also a Canadian Screen Award-winning TV and film writer, whose credits include the *Baroness von Sketch Show*, *Degrassi*, and *Schitt's Creek*. **Therese Estacion** is part of the Visayan diaspora community. She is a bilateral below knee and partial hands amputee. Her first collection of poems, *Phantompains*, was published in 2021 by Book*hug. Poet, sound performer, and fiction writer **Kaie Kellough's** short story collection, *Dominoes at the Crossroads* (2020), was published by Vehicule Press to national acclaim. He has written plays for television and librettos for large ensembles. **Casey Plett**, author of *A Dream of a Woman* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2021), is the co-editor of *Meanwhile, Elsewhere: Science Fiction and Fantasy From Transgender Writers* (LittlePuss Press, 2021). The author of multiple books, including her debut novel, *Gutter Child* (HarperCollins, 2021), **Jael Richardson** is a book columnist on CBC's *q*, and the founder and Executive Director of the Festival of Literary Diversity.

The public will also have the opportunity to discover several authors who have been finalists or longlisted for the Giller Prize, including **Aimee Wall** with *We, Jane* (Book*hug, 2021), and **Linda Rui Feng** with *Swimming Back to Trout River* (Simon & Schuster, 2021). Elsewhere, they will also meet **Christy Ann Conlin**, longlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize and author of *The Speed of Mercy* (House of Anansi, 2021).

A finalist of the Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry, **Rebecca Salazar** (she/they) is a writer, editor, and community organizer living on unceded Wolastoqiyik territory. Their first full-length collection is *sulphurtongue* (McClelland & Stewart, 2021). **Colin Barrett** is a laureate of the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award. His new short story collection, *Homesickness* (Grove Atlantic), is upcoming in May 2022. Born in Canada, Barrett grew up in County Mayo, Ireland.

Discovering the World of children literature

Every year, the Frye offers young festivalgoers the chance to dive headfirst into the world of literature thanks to several programs including *Writers in the Schools*, the Storytime series, and KidsFest.

Novelist and children's writer **Sara O'Leary** is from St. Martins, New Brunswick. Her most recent picture books are *This is Ruby* (Tundra Books, 2021), *A Kid is a Kid is a Kid* (Groundwood Books, 2021), and *Gemma and the Giant Girl* (Tundra Books, 2021). **Jon-Erik Lappano**'s debut book, *Tokyo Digs a Garden* (Groundwood Books, 2016), won the Governor General's Literary Award. With Groundwood Books, he has also published *Maggie's Treasure* (2020), *Song for the Snow* (2021), and most recently, *Martin and the River* (2022). **Nhung N. Tran-Davies** is an author, physician, mother, and an advocate for social justice in education. *The Doll* is a picture book about the migration experience illustrated by Ravy Puth, published by Second Story Press in 2021.

Celebrating Atlantic talent

Atlantic Canadian authors are once again at the centre of this year's Frye Festival. On **Friday, April 22, at 5:30 p.m.**, discover new voices from New Brunswick during **Prelude**, at the Aberdeen Cultural Centre. Readings from emerging authors will be preceded by musical performances, and the Provincial Creative Writing Contest awards ceremony. This year's guest artists are: Aimée Després-Smyth, Boronkoli Djan, Carl Philippe Gionet, Joseph Drew Lavigne, Tallas Munro, and Louis-Martin Savard. The evening will continue with the second edition of **Atlantic Spotlight**, at 8 p.m., featuring readings by Jean Babineau, Fernande Chouinard, Triny Finlay, shalan joudry, Sonya Malaborza, and Amber McMillan.

Most Frye Festival events will be held in the Greater Moncton region, but some activities will take place in Shediac, Bouctouche, Sussex, Sackville, and Petitcodiac, thanks to the new *Writers in the Community* program, made possible thanks to the generous support of the TD Bank Group. A few private events will also take place in various communities as part of this program. Unless otherwise specified, admission to all events is pay-what-you-can (suggested prices: \$15, \$10, or \$5 per adult). All youth, children and family events are presented free of charge.