



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS PRESENTS LIT JAM**

**TORONTO, Thursday, January 26** — The International Festival of Authors kicks off their IFOA Weekly event series on **Wednesday, February 1, 2017** with [Lit Jam](#), an interactive night of storytelling at [Harbourfront Centre](#). IFOA welcomes emerging writers from some of the province's top writing programs to compete by improvising stories on stage.

Four teams of students representing the University of Guelph Creative Writing MFA, Humber School of Creative & Performing Arts and the Humber School For Writers, the University of Toronto Scarborough English Department and Ryerson University English Faculty of Arts are challenged to work together to create and perform a story in 5 minutes. The audience is invited to participate by offering opening sentences that will inspire the competitors.

CBC's Gill Deacon will host the night of on-the-spot creativity that will be judged by authors [Danila Botha](#), [Joseph Kertes](#) and [Shari Lapena](#). **The winning team will receive a cash prize and their story will be published online in [NOW Magazine](#).**

"This event is so unique-first of all, there's the spontaneity and inventiveness of live storytelling, there's the resourcefulness and talent of improvisation, and there's also the collaborative nature of writers working in teams to tell stories. I can't wait to see the brilliant and original ideas and hear the stories they come up with. I think it's going to be really inspiring for all of us," exclaims Botha.

IFOA is encouraging the public to send in their one sentence story prompts in advance by email to [media@ifoa.org](mailto:media@ifoa.org) with the subject line Lit Jam, post them on Facebook here or tweet @ifoa using #LitJam.

Lit Jam is free and open to the public. Watch storytelling come alive before your eyes at this unique event.

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Since its inception in 1974, [IFOA](#) has hosted over 9,000 authors from more than 100 countries, including 22 Nobel Laureates. Our season runs from September to June and includes the annual International Festival of Authors (October 19–29, 2017), including Young!FOA and IFOA Ontario, and the annual ALOUD: a Celebration for Young Readers with Forest of Reading® Festival of Trees™ (May 2017).

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