



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PARTICIPANTS ANNOUNCED FOR POETRY NOW: 9th ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE BARDS

TORONTO, March 7, 2017 — IFOA is delighted to announce the 20 poets selected for this year's **Poetry NOW** event taking place on **March 29, 2017**. IFOA Director **Geoffrey E. Taylor**, Juno award winning recording artist and dub poet **Lillian Allen** and 2016 Poetry NOW winner **Chris Chambers** will serve as this year's jury. The winner will receive an invitation to read at the **38th edition of the International Festival of Authors (October 19 to October 29, 2017)** and have their book and IFOA event advertised in **NOW Magazine**.

The 20 established and emerging poets selected to grace the IFOA stage are: **Susie Berg, Ronna Bloom, Julie Cameron Gray, Glen Downie, Amanda Earl, David B. Goldstein, Jill Jorgensen, Patricia Keeney, Jennifer LoveGrove, Majlinda Bashllari, Owain Nicholson, John Nyman, Chris Pannell, Marilyn Potter, Nicholas Power, Concetta Principe, Lisa Richter, Stuart Ross, Kilby Smith-McGregor** and **Dane Swan**. IFOA welcomes back *NOW Magazine's* **Susan G. Cole** to host this year's competition.

IFOA joined their long-time media partner *NOW Magazine* in issuing an open call for submissions from poets who have been published within the past five years and are currently in print with a trade publisher. IFOA accepted submissions for the event through each poet's publishing representative until February 24. At the event, each poet will read for up to five minutes, and their books will be for sale.

Event date, time and location: **Wednesday, March 29 at 7:30pm** in the Brigantine Room, 235 Queens Quay West, Toronto.

Tickets: \$10 to the general public, FREE for supporters, students and youth 25 & under.

IFOA Weekly readings continue through till the end of June 2017. For more information and to purchase tickets, the public may visit ifoa.org or call the **Harbourfront Centre Box Office at 416-973-4000**.

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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 IFOA Ontario, Toronto Lit Up and the annual ALOUD: a Celebration for Young Readers with Forest of Reading® Festival of Trees™ (May 2017).

Toronto's independent weekly, **NOW Magazine** was launched in 1981 as the city's alternative voice. Since then, it has become the largest alternative news and entertainment weekly in North America, and is considered one of Toronto's most influential taste-making publications both in print weekly and online every day of the week. *NOW Magazine* is available free every Thursday and daily on nowtoronto.com, mobile and iPad. Find *NOW* on Twitter [@nowtoronto](https://twitter.com/nowtoronto).

MEDIA CONTACTS

Eirini Moschaki: emoschaki@ifoa.org; 416-973-5836

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