



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS PRESENTS TORONTO LIT UP: MARCH TO JUNE 2017

TORONTO, Wednesday, March 15, 2017— The International Festival of Authors (IFOA) and the Toronto Arts Council (TAC) invite you to the **Toronto Lit Up** book launches taking place across the city from March to June, 2017. This is an opportunity to meet and learn more about Toronto-based authors and their work.

March 16: Avid blogger Kerry Clare launches *Mitzi Bytes*. A grown-up *Harriet the Spy* for the digital age, *Mitzi Bytes* examines the bonds of family and friendship, and the truths we dare tell about ourselves—and others. (Ben McNally Bookstore, 7pm)

April 6: Please join the League of Canadian Poets and the IFOA in launching National Poetry Month, and the new works of five wonderful Toronto poets, including R. Kolewe, Kateri Lanthier, Jennifer LoveGrove, Phoebe Wang, and Catriona Wright. (Toronto Centre for the Arts, 6:30pm)

April 11: Award-winning journalist and novelist Trevor Cole launches *The Whisky King*, a rich and fascinating history of Canada's first celebrity mobster, the King of the Bootleggers, Rocco Perri and the man who pursued him, "Operative No. 1," Canada's first undercover Mountie. (The Emmett Ray Bar, 6:30pm)

April 19: Author of three previous novels Joanna Goodman launches *The Finishing School*, a suspenseful, provocative novel of friendship, secrets and deceit. A successful writer returns to her elite Swiss boarding school to get to the bottom of a tragic accident that took place while she was a student twenty years earlier. (Ben McNally Bookstore, 8pm)

April 25: Claire Cameron launches *The Last Neanderthal*. From the bestselling author of *The Bear*, *The Last Neanderthal* is the enthralling story of two women separated by millennia, but linked by an epic journey that will transform them both. (No One Writes To the Colonel, 6pm)

April 26: Award-winning author Barbara Gowdy launches her new book *Little Sister*. Like *The White Bone*, Gowdy's international bestseller, *Little Sister* is a fictional tour de force. As the author explores the limits of the human mind, the result is an impassioned tale of one woman's determination to help a woman she has never met, and to come to terms with a death for which she has always felt responsible. (Boxcar Social, Harbourfront Centre, 6:30pm)

May 2: Antanas Sileika presents *Barefoot Bingo Caller*, a rollicking memoir through the shifting zeitgeist of the last five decades. Antanas has a keen eye for social comedy, bringing to life such memorable

characters as ageing beat poets, oblivious college students, the queen of the booze cans, and an obdurate porcupine. (Lithuanian House, 8pm)

May 11: Julia Cooper launches *The Last Word: Reviving The Dying Art of Eulogy*. Braiding her delightful, lively cultural analysis with her own personal experiences of loss, Cooper makes a stunning and compelling case for a more compassionate approach to grief. (St. Stephens Church, 8pm)

May 18: Stephanie Chambers, Jane Farrow, Maureen Fitzgerald, Ed Jackson, John Lorinc, Tim McCaskell, Tatum Taylor and Rahim Thawer launch *Any Other Way: How Toronto Got Queer*. From the earliest pioneers to the parades, pride and politics of the contemporary era, *Any Other Way* draws on a range of voices to explore how the residents of queer Toronto have shaped and reshaped one of the world's most diverse cities. (Buddies in Bad Times, 7pm)

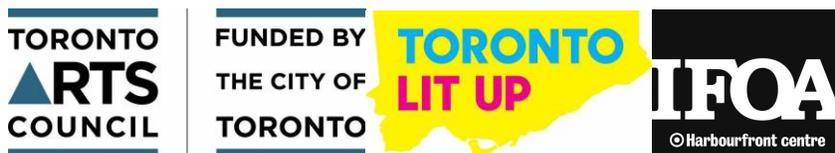
May 30: Award-winning author Pasha Malla launches *Fugue States*, the wild and poignant story of two young men who embark on a Don Quixote-like quest from Canada to Kashmir, India. (The Gladstone Hotel, 7pm)

June 18: Authors Domenico Capilongo (*Send*), George Elliot Clarke (*Canticles I: mmxvii*) and Irene Guilford (*Waiting for Stalin to Die*) are launching their new works. (The Supermarket, 3:30pm)

June 22: Toronto Lit Up presents *The Unpublished City*, a project that was conceived to offer writers of this wonderfully diverse city the opportunity to share their unpublished work. Participating writers that will be featured in *The Unpublished City* launch, include: Diana Biacora, David Bradford, Nicole Chin, Simone Dalton, Dalton Derkson, Doyali Islam, Laboni Islam, Ian Kamau, Adnan Khan, Shoilee Khan, Canisia Lubrin, Sofia Mostaghimi, Nadia Ragbar, Rudrapriya Rathore, Sanchari Sur, Katheryn Wabegijig, Chuqiao Yang and Phoebe Wang. (Lakeside Terrace, Harbourfront Centre, 7:30pm)

Stay tuned for more Toronto Lit Up events in June. For more information, please visit ifoa.org. These are free public events.

Toronto Lit Up is a three year initiative, spearheaded by the Toronto Arts Council and the IFOA, designed to spotlight Toronto's writers and empower local artists with career-building opportunities. **Toronto Lit Up** will feature works from a variety of genre. The committee, composed of Dionne Brand (University of Guelph and Chair of the committee), Alison Jones (Quill and Quire), Hazel Millar (Literary Press Group), Christine Saratsiotis (IFOA), and Geoffrey Taylor (IFOA) will adjudicate all selections. The committee will be looking to include published works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, prose, short-story, graphic and more. Publishers can submit more than one author for committee consideration for this program. For more information, please visit <http://ifoa.org/toronto-lit-up>.



Toronto Arts Council (TAC) is the City of Toronto's funding body for artists and arts organizations. Since 1974, TAC has played a major role in the city's cultural industries by supporting a very broad range of artistic activity. From the emerging artist to the most established, from celebrated institutions to arts that challenge convention, TAC is typically the first funder to offer support. Today, TAC grants lead to exhibitions, performances, readings and workshops seen annually by over 7.5 million people.

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, and the annual ALOUD: a Celebration for Young Readers with Forest of Reading® Festival of Trees™ (May 16-18, 2017). IFOA's Toronto Lit Up programme runs year-round.

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