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## TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS BRINGS A NEW WORLD INTO FOCUS WITH FREE VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

**TIFA's 41<sup>st</sup> edition will take place Oct. 22 - Nov. 1, 2020**

**TORONTO, August 18, 2020 - The Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA)**, Canada's largest and longest-running festival of words and ideas, returns for its 41st edition in a brand new virtual format that will be primarily **free** and accessible from around the world. The Festival has expanded its programming this year, introducing new events and initiatives including a weekend of family-friendly activities with TIFA Kids!, a range of multilingual events, innovative digital apps and activities, and newly commissioned works that respond to our current experiences with COVID-19 and explore the unique character of the city of Toronto. From **October 22 to November 1, 2020**, TIFA will bring together over 200 authors alongside musicians, artists and performers through live-streamed conversations, readings, performances, workshops and more, connecting communities and diving into important discussions relevant to these unprecedented times. Full programme will be released when registration opens on **September 22**.

"In my first year as the Director of the Toronto International Festival of Authors, I've had the privilege to work with a phenomenal team to present a dynamic lineup that will engage and inspire book lovers," said **TIFA Director Roland Gulliver**. "In adapting with these ever-changing times, I'm excited to share the joy of storytelling with a larger audience this year through our free virtual format to celebrate the best writing from Toronto, Canada and around the world. Stories are important now more than ever, offering us solace, understanding and entertainment. In such a challenging year, it is vital that we continue to come together, learn to and learn from each other, and represent and celebrate the voices from across all our communities."

In adapting with the current moment, TIFA will introduce an array of new initiatives and digital experiences to enjoy at home or on the go, including **Small Presses of Canada: An Interactive Map**, where booklovers can connect with dozens of Canada's independent presses, and **audio walking tours** where Indigenous and Toronto-based authors will guide readers through the neighbourhoods that inspire them. The Festival is also proud to present

**Skin Hunger**, a new writing commission featuring original works by ten internationally renowned writers, in reflection on the longing for human contact many have experienced in isolation during the COVID-19 crisis.

TIFA is also excited to announce its [Season 2 Book Club](#) list, which is composed of five sessions taking place monthly between September 2 to December 5. TIFA's Book Club offers festival-goers an opportunity to prepare and familiarize themselves with some of the participating authors and their latest works. The list includes **Shokoofeh Azar's** *The Enlightenment of the Greengage Tree*, **Kaie Kellough's** *Dominoes at the Crossroads*, **Emma Donoghue's** *The Pull of the Stars*, and **Jesse Thistle's** *From the Ashes: My Story of Being Métis, Homeless, and Finding My Way*. Admission is \$65 and will include interactive discussions facilitated by award-winning poet and novelist Catherine Graham. The monthly sessions are currently taking place digitally using video conferencing. Technology assistance can be provided by request. To sign up and for more information, visit [festivalofauthors.ca/bookclub](https://festivalofauthors.ca/bookclub).

The full 2020 Festival lineup will be announced in September. For more information, visit [FestivalofAuthors.ca](https://FestivalofAuthors.ca).

#### About Toronto International Festival of Authors

The Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA) is Canada's longest-running literary festival, a charitable, non-profit cultural organization. It creates literary festivals, programmes and events that bring together people of all ages to be inspired and empowered through a celebration of authors, books and stories. It generates diverse and exciting conversations across communities in the city, the nation and internationally, to foster new thinking about what it means to be living in today's world, and champions the best of Canadian and international publishing to audiences and industry. TIFA acknowledges that the land on which the organization conducts its work is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, the Wendat and the Mississaugas of the Credit.

TIFA is supported by the Government of Canada – Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Toronto Arts Council, and Ontario Creates.

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#### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

**Touchwood PR**

[press@touchwoodpr.com](mailto:press@touchwoodpr.com)

**Toronto International Festival of Authors:**

**Amy Dennis**

[media@festivalofauthors.ca](mailto:media@festivalofauthors.ca)

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