

# CONNECTING

THROUGH  
*story*



*Whistler*

**WRITERS  
FESTIVAL**

OCTOBER 12-16, 2023

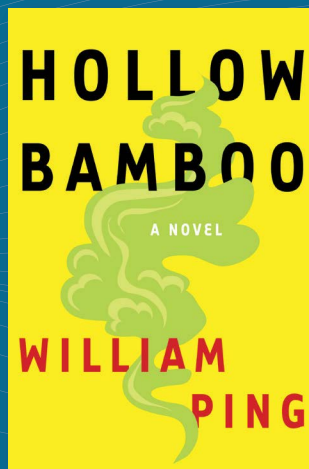


# SEE THESE AUTHORS

at the Whistler  
Writers Festival



Discover this book and more at  
 [harpercollins.ca](http://harpercollins.ca)



William Ping



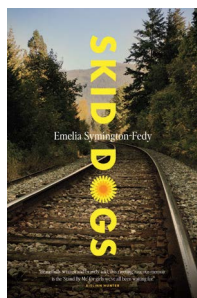
Esi Edugyan

## NEW BOOKS BY FEATURED AUTHORS



Douglas & McIntyre  
[DOUGLAS-MCINTYRE.COM](http://DOUGLAS-MCINTYRE.COM)

**HARBOUR  
PUBLISHING**  
[HARBORPUBLISHING.COM](http://HARBORPUBLISHING.COM)

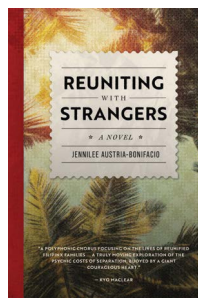


**Skid Dogs**  
EMELIA

SYMINGTON-FEDY

A memoir about the wild love of teenage friendships and the casual oppression of nineties misogyny.

MEMOIR | D&M



**Reuniting With  
Strangers**  
JENILLEE

AUSTRIA-BONIFACIO

This novel shines a light on the complexities of family reunification across the Filipino-Canadian diaspora. FICTION | D&M



**The Morning Bell  
Brings the  
Broken Hearted**  
JENNIFER MANUEL

Manuel explores the complexity of hope and the limits of good intent in this immersive novel.

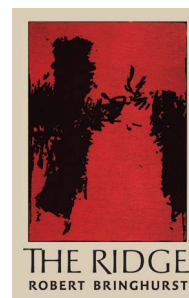
FICTION | D&M



**False Creek**  
JANE MUNRO

The latest book by Griffin Poetry Prize winner Jane Munro has an urgent, directly political voice.

POETRY | HARBOUR



**The Ridge**

ROBERT BRINGHURST

Bringhurst focuses on the ecological past, present and future of Canada's West Coast.

POETRY | HARBOUR



# WELCOME

*“That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you’re not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.” – F. Scott Fitzgerald*

Welcome to the 2023 Whistler Writers Festival. We are grateful to live, work and learn on the unceded, shared territory of the **Skwxwú7mesh** Nation (Squamish) and **Lilwat7úl** Nation (Lil’wat).

Our theme is **Connecting Through Story**. Throughout human history, all cultures have had a tradition of storytelling. Before the written word, storytelling around a fire served as a warm and entertaining way to pass the long winter nights and share vital information, especially as groups of humans grew larger, beyond the family unit.

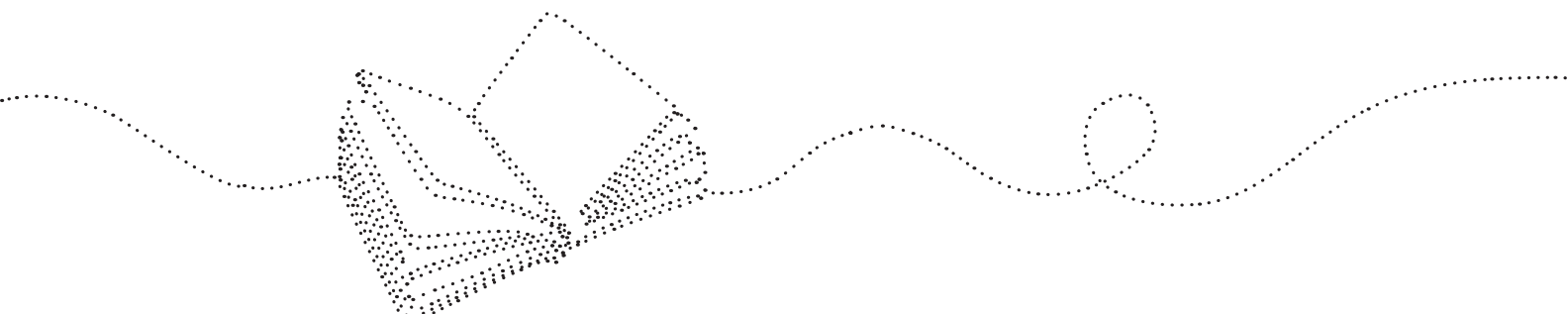
Storytelling also allows us to sit with emotions and experiences that we would not be able to in other contexts. Stories help us to feel empathy, and to understand and appreciate the differences of others.

This year we hope to bridge some of the perceived gaps that the word “literary” can create. We want our community to know that stories are for everyone. And by “community” we include anyone who is curious and open about listening to storytellers from many cultures, whether they are emerging or established, local or from afar, traditionally or independently published.

I invite you to peruse the program with curiosity. The festival has gathered together an astounding group of storytellers, poets, musicians, and actors from across Canada. Come join us around the proverbial campfire and share in the extraordinary and enthralling experience of storytelling. Listen to the voices. Hear what they have to say. Be a part of our community.

**Rebecca Wood Barrett**

Artistic Director







## Italian-Inspired Restaurant & Take Out

Spaghetti and Meatballs, Chicken Parmigiana and Lasagna are among the old school favourites prepared daily, from scratch in our open kitchen.

Open daily for lunch, dinner & takeout

Visit the website for current opening hours

121-4368 Main Street / 604.905.0400 / [pastalupino.com](http://pastalupino.com)

## DONATE TODAY

Your donation enables us to offer programming that is inclusive, diverse, and accessible.

We are proud to deliver extraordinary storytelling events and workshops through our programs, including the Whistler Writers Festival, Authors in the Schools Program, Writer in Residence Program, One Day Writing Retreats and more. A charitable receipt will be issued for your donation.

[whistlerwritersfest.com/donate](http://whistlerwritersfest.com/donate)

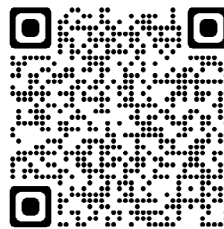
## PLANNED GIFTS

Please contact [rebecca@whistlerwritersfest.com](mailto:rebecca@whistlerwritersfest.com) to arrange a planned gift.

## THE LITERARY ARTS LEGACY FUND

A gift today is an investment that will provide a reliable, annual source of funds to help us continue to bring new ideas, voices, and change to the world. Your donation to the Literary Arts Legacy Fund is eligible for matching funds from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

*Thanks for Making a Difference.*



**SCAN TO DONATE!**

The Whistler Writing Society is a Registered Charity | 83076 2472 RR0001.



# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

### **WORKSHOP 1: INSIGHTS FROM INSIDERS: NAVIGATING CANADA'S TRADITIONAL PUBLISHING LANDSCAPE**

10:30 - 11:45 a.m. PDT | Online

### **WORKSHOP 2: PITCH YOUR HEART OUT! ONE-ON-ONE TIME WITH A TRADE PUBLISHING PRO**

1:30 - 4:30 p.m. PDT | Online

### **READING EVENT 1: THE RIDGE WITH ROBERT BRINGHURST: A CONVERSATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POETRY**

5 - 6 p.m. | Whistler Public Library

### **READING EVENT 2: INDEPENDENT NEW VOICES CANADA'S BEST INDEPENDENT AUTHORS OF 2023**

5 - 6:30 p.m. PDT | Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre & Online

### **READING EVENT 3: WORD OF MOUTH: TELLING OUR STORIES IN THE ORAL TRADITION**

7 - 9 p.m. PDT | Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre & Online

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

### **WORKSHOP 3: THE BUSINESS OF PUBLISHING**

9 - 9:45 a.m. PDT | Fairmont Chateau Whistler & Online

### **WORKSHOP 4: FROM MANUSCRIPT TO PRINTED PAGE**

10 - 11:45 a.m. PDT | Fairmont Chateau Whistler & Online

### **WORKSHOP 5: WORKSHOP YOUR CONCEPT**

2 - 3:45 a.m. PDT | Fairmont Chateau Whistler & Online

### **READING EVENT 4: FIRE WEATHER: IN CONVERSATION WITH JOHN VAILLANT**

5:30 - 6:45 p.m. PDT | Fairmont Chateau Whistler & Online

### **READING EVENT 5: SOWING THE SEEDS OF THE LUPINE REVIEW: A LITERARY MAGAZINE LAUNCH PARTY**

6:45 - 7:30 p.m. | Maury Young Arts Centre

### **READING EVENT 6: THE LITERARY CABARET**

8 - 10 p.m. | Maury Young Arts Centre

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

### **COME WRITE WITH US! WRITING, COFFEE & NETWORKING SUITE**

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

### **WORKSHOP 6: TRUE LIES: WRITING FICTION INSPIRED BY REAL LIFE**

9 - 10 a.m. PDT | Fairmont Chateau Whistler & Online

### **READING EVENT 7: DISCOVER WHAT A MUSHROOM LIVES FOR: WITH MICHAEL J. HATHAWAY**

9 - 10 a.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

### **READING EVENT 8: WRITERS OF NON-FICTION PANEL**

10 - 11:15 a.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

### **WORKSHOP 7: PANTSERS VS. PLOTTERS: HOW TO WRITE BY THE SEAT OF YOUR PANTS**

11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. PDT | Fairmont Chateau Whistler & Online

### **READING EVENT 9: PICTURE THIS! PICTURE BOOK READING**

10 - 10:45 p.m. | Whistler Public Library

### **READING EVENT 10: EMBRACE FEARLESSLY THE BURNING WORLD**

11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

### **READING EVENT 11: THRILLS AND CHILLS: MYSTERY AND CRIME WRITERS PANEL**

1:15 - 2:30 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

### **WORKSHOP 8: SHOW ME, DON'T TELL ME: A NON-FICTION WORKSHOP**

3 - 4 p.m. PDT | Fairmont Chateau Whistler & Online

### **READING EVENT 12: WRITERS OF FICTION**

4 - 5:15 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

### **READING EVENT 13: ASTONISHING VOYAGE: A CONVERSATION WITH ESI EDUGYAN**

6 - 7:15 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

### **READING EVENT 14: SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL: A KILLER NIGHT OF COMEDY, MURDER AND MAYHEM**

8 - 10 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

### **COME WRITE WITH US! WRITING, COFFEE & NETWORKING SUITE**

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

### **READING EVENT 15: A WALK TO LOST LAKE PARK AND BACK**

9 - 10 a.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

### **WORKSHOP 9: NOT MY STORY TO TELL, OR IS IT? GUIDELINES & FREEDOMS WHEN TELLING REAL STORIES ABOUT LIVING PEOPLE**

10 - 11 a.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

### **READING EVENT 16: SUNDAY BOOKTALK AND BREAKFAST**

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

### **READING EVENT 17: BRAVELY GOING INTO THE UNKNOWN: CHILDREN'S AND YA AUTHOR'S PANEL**

1 - 2 p.m. | Whistler Public Library

### **READING EVENT 18: BUNNY, BOOKTOK, AND A BIZARRE NEW WORLD: A CASE STUDY WITH MONA AWAD**

2 - 3:15 p.m. PDT | Fairmont Chateau Whistler & Online

### **READING EVENT 19: WRITER'S BLOCK PARTY**

8 - 10 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

### **READING EVENT 20: WRITER'S BLOCK PARTY - THE SECOND CHAPTER**

8 - 10 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

## WORKSHOP 1:

### Insights from Insiders: Navigating Canada's Traditional Publishing Landscape

Paula Ayer (Greystone Books), Cody Caetano (CookeMcDermid), Catharine Chen (Arsenal Pulp Press), Don Gorman (Rocky Mountain Books), Vici Johnstone (Caitlin Press), Stephanie Sinclair (Penguin Random House), Jen Sookfong Lee (ECW Press)

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. PDT | Online \$32

New to the publishing game, or in need of some sage advice to reset your course through Canada's traditional publishing landscape? Join industry experts—publishers, editors, and agents, who can hint at what they're looking for in a manuscript, how to best position your book for a successful acquisition, and how to make the most of your industry and writer networks. One of our most popular sessions!

**Moderator:** Katherine Fawcett

## WORKSHOP 2:

### Pitch Your Heart Out! One-on-One Time with a Trade Publishing Pro

Cody Caetano (CookeMcDermid), Catharine Chen & Jesmine Cham (Arsenal Pulp Press), Don Gorman (Rocky Mountain Books), Vici Johnstone (Caitlin Press), James Penco (Greystone Books), Stephanie Sinclair (Penguin Random House), Jen Sookfong Lee (ECW Press)

1:30 – 4:30 p.m. PDT | Online \$40 per pitch | Limited space available

Book a fifteen-minute spot to pitch your work to an industry insider and bet on your literary dreams! Use this precious one-on-one time with some of Canada's most respected publishing decision-makers to pitch your book, story idea, or poetry collection. Come prepared with a five-minute pitch and/or questions for these publishers, editors, and agents.

This session fee includes one 15-minute pitch on a first-come, first-choice basis. Choose up to four pitches total. Pro tip: Research these publishers before booking to ensure a good fit for your work (read the bios and Google the kinds of books they publish).



## READING EVENT 1:

### The Ridge with Robert Bringhurst: A Conversation on Environmental Poetry

5 – 6 p.m. PDT | In-person \$27 | Whistler Public Library

Join poet and author **Mary MacDonald** in conversation with **Robert Bringhurst**, one of Canada's most respected poets, typographers, linguists, and probing cultural historians. Bringhurst is well known for his award-winning translations of Haida storytellers. In *The Ridge*, he offers a work of nonfiction in poetic form, intensely focused on the ecological past, present and future of the West Coast of Canada. A work of discipline and passion composed of language, *The Ridge* explores how the land and people are fundamentally linked. Bringhurst is a lyrical poet with the curiosity of a scientist, and the winner of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence, former Guggenheim Fellow in poetry, and officer of the Order of Canada.

**Moderator:** Mary MacDonald

## READING EVENT 2:

### Independent New Voices Canada's Best Independent Authors of 2023

5 – 6:30 p.m. PDT | In-person FREE (RSVP) | Online FREE (RSVP)  
Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre

Accomplished writers are increasingly turning to independent publishing as a financially and creatively satisfying alternative to the traditional model. Meet some of the best independent authors in the country as finalists for the Whistler Independent Book Awards (WIBA) read from books nominated in children's literature, fiction, and non-fiction categories. Winners will be announced at Friday night's Literary Cabaret.

**Moderator:** Lynn Duncan

### READING EVENT 3:

## Word of Mouth: Telling Our Stories in the Oral Tradition

Tsawaysia Spukwus and Yvonne Wallace

7 – 9 p.m. PDT | In-person \$27 | Online \$22

Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre



Back by popular demand, a celebration of the art and tradition of oral storytelling features Yvonne Wallace (Lil'wat Nation) and Tsawaysia Spukwus (Squamish Nation), keepers of stories and songs indigenous to the shared Lil'wat and Squamish territory. To prepare local emerging storytellers, this year the festival hosted oral storytelling workshops to sleuth out Sea to Sky's emerging storytelling talent. Local storytellers were mentored and chosen to share the stage with Yvonne and Tsawaysia. We are so excited to bring the entertaining, personal, and culturally diverse tradition of oral storytelling back to the festival again this year. **Moderator: Rebecca Wood Barrett**

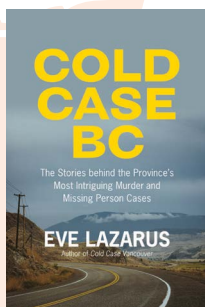


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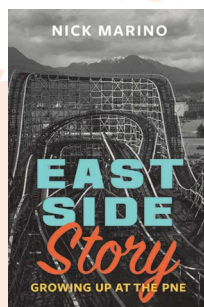


TOUCHWOOD

# WELCOME to the WHISTLER WRITERS FESTIVAL!



**EVE LAZARUS**  
*Cold Case BC*



**NICK MARINO**  
*East Side Story*



**TARA SIDHOO FRASER**  
*When My Ghost Sings*



**EMILY POHL-WEARY**  
*How to Be Found*

Catch all these great authors + more in Whistler

ARSENAL  
PULP PRESS

[arsenalpulp.com](http://arsenalpulp.com)

[whistlerwritersfest.com](http://whistlerwritersfest.com) 7



# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

## PUBLISH LIKE A PRO: WORKSHOP SERIES

Presented by Vivalogue Publishing

### WORKSHOP 3:

#### The Business of Publishing

Kilmeny Denny & Lynn Duncan

9 – 9:45 a.m. PDT | In-person \$27 | Online \$22

Fairmont Chateau Whistler & Online

Today's authors have multiple options when it comes to publishing. How do you find a publisher? Should you consider self-publishing? What is hybrid publishing? What about e-books and audiobooks? This session provides information that will help authors make the choice that best suits their needs.



### WORKSHOP 4:

#### From Manuscript to Printed Page

Kilmeny Denny & Lynn Duncan

10 – 11:45 a.m. PDT | In-person \$27 | Online \$22

Fairmont Chateau Whistler & Online

This session provides practical advice on turning your manuscript into a polished book on a budget while avoiding rookie mistakes. Do you need an editor? If so, how do you find one and what does it cost? What about proofreading? What are the trends in cover design? What are the best printing options for you and your book? Where and how can you sell and promote your book? Includes a resource list of do-it-yourself options.



### WORKSHOP 5:

#### Workshop Your Concept

Kilmeny Denny & Lynn Duncan

2 – 3:45 p.m. PDT | In-person \$27 | Online \$22

Fairmont Chateau Whistler & Online

Looking for impartial feedback from your peers and industry experts? Whether you are trying to refine your concept, decide on a title or polish a sales pitch, this session is an opportunity to hear the opinions of the facilitators and other authors. This is an interactive workshop, and participants will be encouraged to complete a worksheet prior to the session.



### READING EVENT 4:

#### Fire Weather: In Conversation with John Vaillant

5:30 – 6:45 p.m. PDT | In-person \$27 | Online \$22

Fairmont Chateau Whistler

Celebrated Vancouver-based author **John Vaillant** is a master of literary non-fiction whose previous titles in the genre, *The Golden Spruce* and *The Tiger*, are award-winning international bestsellers. In this much-anticipated event, local science/environment writer and author **Leslie Anthony** leads a conversation with John about his latest book, *Fire Weather: The Making of a Beast*, which tells the story of the 2016 Fort McMurray fire in peerless detail. By also exploring the interconnected histories of humankind's relationship to fire, the oil industry, the automobile, and climate science, Vaillant has crafted not only another brilliant read, but a message that couldn't be more timely.

Participants and book clubs are encouraged to read *Fire Weather* to fully engage in the discussion. Visit your local library, bookseller, or the fine folks at Armchair Books in Whistler ([www.whistlerbooks.com](http://www.whistlerbooks.com)) to get your copy.

**Moderator: Leslie Anthony**



#### READING EVENT 5:

### Sowing the Seeds of The Lupine Review: A Literary Magazine Launch Party

6:45 - 7:30 p.m. | In-person | FREE (RSVP)

Maury Young Arts Centre

Join us in celebrating the launch of Whistler's first literary journal, *The Lupine Review*. The inaugural edition, both in print and online, was inspired by a desire to showcase the region's developing talents. Welcome these budding writers and artists to the festival, explore their works, and help develop and sustain *The Lupine Review* — an exciting collaborative volunteer initiative. Cake will be served, and a toast will be raised!

#### READING EVENT 6:

### The Literary Cabaret

8 - 10 p.m. | In-person \$32

Maury Young Arts Centre

Sashay your way to the Literary Cabaret and enjoy a night of literary musings and live music. The West Coast Front band will jam alongside guest authors **Cody Caetano** (*Half Bads in White Regalia*), **Patrick deWitt** (*The Librarianist*), **Justene Dion-Glowa** (*Trailer Park Shakes*), **Michael Janyk** (*Go to the Start*), **Jen Sookfong Lee** (*Superfan*), **Jennifer Manuel** (*The Morning Bell Brings the Broken Hearted*), **Nick Marino** (*East Side Story: Growing up at the PNE*), **Rabbi Paul Plotkin** (*Wisdom Grows in My Garden*), and **Bronwyn Preece** (*Knee deep in high water: Riding the Muskwa-Kechika*) as they read from their newest books.

The West Coast Front features music director Geeta Das (trumpet, saxophone, and percussion), Rajan Das (upright bass), Jason Overy (percussion), and Rosalind Steel (piano and electric keys). During the evening, the winners of the Whistler Independent Book Awards will be announced for the Fiction, Non-fiction, and Children's categories. Be sure to get your tickets now before this popular event sells out!

MC: **Stephen Vogler**

canadian  
authors

## NON-FICTION CONTEST

TOTAL CASH PRIZES:

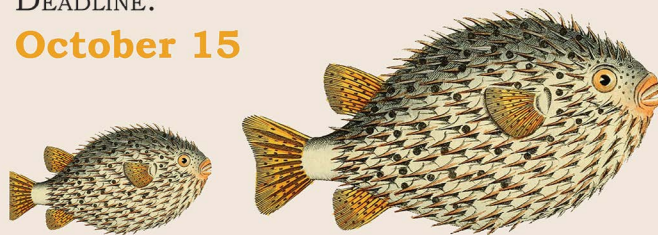
**\$3,000**

CONTEST JUDGE:

**Omar Mouallem**

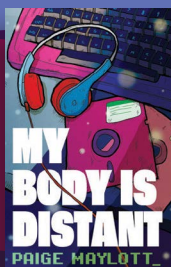
DEADLINE:

**October 15**



Visit [eventmagazine.ca](http://eventmagazine.ca)

## ECW AUTHORS AT THE FESTIVAL



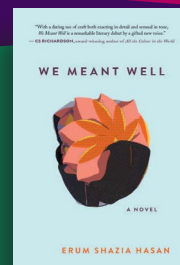
PAIGE  
MAYLOTT

**MY BODY IS DISTANT**



ERUM  
SHAZIA  
HASAN

**WE MEANT WELL**



# SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

## Come Write with Us! Writing, Coffee and Networking Suite

Open Saturday Oct. 14, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

The Federation of BC Writers welcomes festival presenters and workshop participants to stop by for a chat about all things writing! We hope you'll feel inspired by the festival and take advantage of this quiet space to write, meet fellow writers, and connect with our team. Coffee, tea, and treats are on hand to fuel your writing.

**9 - 10 a.m.** Writers Talking: Bryan Mortensen, Executive Director of the Federation of BC Writers, welcomes all writers to join him in conversations about writing, publishing, and to connect with other writers

**10 - 11 a.m.** Writing Sprint: join other writers for a writing sprint, accompanied by pianist Andrew Sims

**1 - 3 p.m.** Micro Writing Retreat: join other writers for quiet, focused writing time

### WORKSHOP 6:

## True Lies: Writing Fiction Inspired by Real Life

Emily Pohl-Weary

9 - 10 a.m. PDT | In-person \$32 | Online \$25

Fairmont Chateau Whistler

Do you have a story or anecdote about yourself that you've told millions of times to entertain people? A great way to get inspired is to sift through your own memories and experiences. Starting with reality and stretching the facts until they're no longer recognizable (and, hopefully, even more entertaining) is the perfect starting place for a story that only you can tell!

### READING EVENT 7:

## Discover What a Mushroom Lives For: with Michael J. Hathaway

9 - 10 a.m. | In-person \$27 | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

Join **Michael J. Hathaway**, author of *What a Mushroom Lives For: Matsutake and the Worlds They Make*, for a fascinating talk to discover how the prized matsutake mushroom is silently yet powerfully shaping worlds, from the Tibetan plateau to the mushrooms' final destination in Japan. A BC and Yukon Book Prize finalist, *What a Mushroom Lives For* offers a surprise-filled journey into science and human culture, and shows how fungi shape our planet and our lives in strange, diverse, and often unimaginable ways.

### READING EVENT 8:

## Writers of Non-Fiction Panel

Todd Lawson, Paige Maylott,  
Tara Sidhoo Fraser, WIBA Winner

10 - 11:15 a.m. | In-person \$27 | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

Our guest authors' newest works are sure to spawn interesting discussions on the theme of 'bodies'; how they can betray us, how reckoning with gender identity can heal us, and how our souls and psyches inhabit these corporeal shells we live in. This year's non-fiction writers panel welcomes **Todd Lawson** (*Inside the Belly of an Elephant: A Motorcycle Journey of Loss, Legacy and Ultimate Freedom*), **Paige Maylott** (*My Body is Distant*), and **Tara Sidhoo Fraser** (*When My Ghost Sings*). The event will also include the winner of the Whistler Independent Book Award for non-fiction.

**Moderator: Leslie Anthony**





#### WORKSHOP 7:

### Pantsters vs. Plotters: How to Write by the Seat of Your Pants

Iona Whishaw

11 - 12:30 p.m. PDT | In-person \$32 | Online \$25

Fairmont Chateau Whistler

This workshop will outline how Iona Whishaw writes, and what she refers to as “Pantsters vs. Plotters.” Iona is a Pantser, therefore the workshop will reflect this—what is the difference between the two? Which authors are plotters, and which are pantsters? How is her writing practice influenced by ‘Pantsing’ and how does this help in her creative process? Iona is the author of ten books (eleven in 2024!) of the popular *Lane Winslow* mystery series.

#### READING EVENT 9:

### Picture this! Picture Book Reading

10 - 10:45 p.m. | In-person | FREE (RSVP)

Whistler Public Library

Calling kids of all ages! Cozy up and join authors **Esi Edugyan** (*Garden of Lost Socks*) and **Peggy Janicki** (*The Secret Pocket*) as they read from their new picture books. *Garden of Lost Socks*, illustrated by Amélie Dubois, takes readers on a whimsical journey of friendship, curiosity, and discovery of the magic of a vibrant community. *The Secret Pocket* is based on the author’s own mother’s experience at residential school. It chronicles survival and resilience in the face of genocide and cruelty and is a celebration of quiet resistance to injustice. Sewing skills passed down through generations of Indigenous women gave children a future, stitch by stitch.

#### READING EVENT 10:

### Embrace Fearlessly the Burning World

Yvonne Blomer, Anita Lahey, Jane Munro

11:30 - 12:45 p.m. | In-person \$27 | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

*“I’m not writing about nature. I’m writing about humanity.”*

– **Barry Lopez**

In an essay writer Barry Lopez wrote for *Orion Magazine*, he asked the question if it is “still possible to face the gathering darkness and say to the physical Earth, and to all its creatures, including ourselves, fiercely and without embarrassment, ‘I love you,’ and to embrace fearlessly the burning world?”.

Ecopoetry is poetry that imagines changing the way we think and feel about living in the world. It takes a critical lens towards our relationship with the planet. These poets are writing in times of dire need, and yet, with the power of hope. Ecopoetry is the art of wrestling with and showing the reader the work can be done.

**Moderator: Mary MacDonald**

#### READING EVENT 11:

### Thrills and Chills:

### Mystery and Crime Writers Panel

Shari Lapena, Eve Lazarus, Emelia Symington-Fedy, Iona Whishaw

1:15 - 2:30 p.m. | In-person \$27 | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

Amber Cowie investigates four new thrillers by award-winning authors; **Shari Lapena** (*Everyone Here is Lying*), **Eve Lazarus** (*Cold Case BC: The Stories Behind the Province’s Most Sensational Missing and Murdered Persons Cases*), **Emelia Symington-Fedy** (*Skid Dogs*) and **Iona Whishaw** (*To Track A Traitor*) to uncover the secrets behind their seductive suspense and true crime tales. Both structure and storytelling will be explored with short readings and in-depth discussion. Every audience member will be invited to solve the mystery in a fan fiction crime story based on one of the authors’ characters and the lucky winner will take on all four books! This event is presented in collaboration with BC and Yukon Book Prizes.

**Moderator: Amber Cowie**



#### WORKSHOP 8:

### Show Me, Don't Tell Me: A Non-Fiction Workshop

Todd Lawson

3 – 4 p.m. PDT | In-person \$32 | Online \$25

Fairmont Chateau Whistler

Local author **Todd Lawson** (*Inside the Belly of an Elephant: A Motorcycle Journey of Loss, Legacy and Ultimate Freedom*) and publisher of *Mountain Life Media*, uses his 'go for it, and get out of your own way' attitude in writing and in life, as he pursues his passions for all things outdoor adventure, sport, photography, and education. His workshop will cover aspects of eliminating passive voice, using dialogue to make your stories more engaging, and enhancing stories with your own unique descriptors that will make any piece 'pop.' Come ready to write!

#### READING EVENT 12:

### Writers of Fiction

Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio, Erum Shazia Hasan,

William Ping, WIBA Winner

4 – 5:15 p.m. | In-person \$27 | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

Moderator and author **Kevin Chong** leads a conversation with four authors of fiction about the topics and passions that drive their work: the isolation and loneliness of the immigrant experience; the dangers of assumptions; the complicated search for meaning and connection in human rights work; and persecution of race and faith. Featuring **Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio** (*Reuniting with Strangers: A Novel in Stories*), **Erum Shazia Hasan** (*We Meant Well*), **William Ping** (*Hollow Bamboo*), and the 2023 Whistler Independent Book Awards winner for fiction.

**Moderator: Kevin Chong**



#### READING EVENT 13:

### Astonishing Voyage: A Conversation with Esi Edugyan

6 – 7:15 p.m. PDT | In-person \$27 | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

Join **Jasmine Sealy** in a captivating conversation with multi-award winning, Canadian literary phenom **Esi Edugyan**, author of *Washington Black*, *Out of the Sun: Art, Race and the Future*, *We Are Bone and Earth*, *Dreaming of Elsewhere*, and *Half-Blood Blues*, which won the Scotiabank Giller Prize and was a finalist for the Man Booker Prize, the Governor General's Literary Award, the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and the Orange Prize. They will traverse a wide-ranging conversation about Edugyan's body of work, exploring ideas of racial and cultural identity, the institution of slavery, the language of music, and her latest role as the Booker Prize chair of judges.

**Moderator: Jasmine Sealy**

#### READING EVENT 14:

### Saturday Night Special:

### A Killer Night of Comedy, Murder and Mayhem

Featuring Brent Butt

8 – 10 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

In-person \$65 (includes a copy of Brent Butt's book, *Huge*)

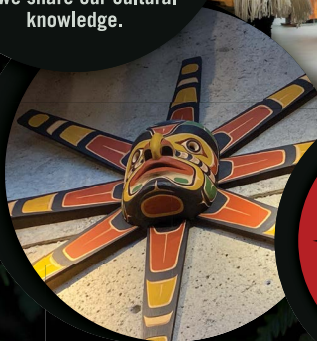
In comedy, killing is a good thing. From the popular entertainer **Brent Butt**, comes an unexpectedly dark and twisted thriller, *Huge*. An award-winning screenwriter and International Emmy nominee, Butt delivers a debut novel that tells the tale of a trio's standup comedy tour turned terrifying. Join us for a murderously wicked Saturday night of standup comedy, a *Huge* reading performance, and thriller-themed improv from Whistler's own **Laugh Out LIVE!** comedy troupe. Tickets for our Saturday Night Special include your very own copy of *Huge*, killer appetizers, and a criminally delicious liquid libation.



# ANCIENT STORIES YOUTHFUL VOICES

Visit Whistler's authentic Indigenous experience

Listen to the hand drum  
welcome songs, watch an  
inspiring short film, participate  
in guided or self-guided tours,  
and connect with our  
two distinct Nations, the  
Skwxwú7mesh and Lilwat7úl,  
as we share our cultural  
knowledge.



**Skwxwú7mesh Lilwat7úl**  
**SQUAMISH LÍLWAT CULTURAL CENTRE**

**FIRST NATIONS MUSEUM + TOURS + GIFT SHOP + CAFÉ**

**Huy Chexw, Kukw'stumc'kalap!**

We raise our hands to the Whistler Writer's Festival for their continued support of Indigenous authors.  
We look forward to welcoming festival guests, speakers and supporters to our thriving cultural centre  
to tour, shop and dine Indigenous in Whistler's Upper Village.

Visit us in the Upper Village,  
4584 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC

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# SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

## Come Write with Us! Writing, Coffee and Networking Suite

Open Sunday Oct. 15, 9 - 1 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler  
The Federation of BC Writers welcomes festival presenters and workshop participants to stop by for a chat about all things writing! We hope you'll feel inspired by the festival and take advantage of this quiet space to write, meet fellow writers, and connect with our team. Coffee, tea, and treats are on hand to fuel your writing.

**9 - 10 a.m.** Writers Talking: Bryan Mortensen, Executive Director of the Federation of BC Writers, welcomes all writers to join him in conversations about writing, publishing, and to connect with other writers

**10 - 11 a.m.** Writing Sprint: join other writers for a writing sprint, accompanied by pianist Andrew Sims

**11am - 1p.m.** Micro Writing Retreat: join other writers for quiet, focused writing time

### READING EVENT 15:

#### A Walk to Lost Lake Park and Back

**Yvonne Blomer, Justene Dion-Glowa, Rabbi Paul Plotkin**

9 - 10 a.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

In-person \$32 - Includes a warm beverage and tasty treat

Take in the fresh mountain air and enjoy exciting readings and lively literary conversation with awarding-winning authors, **Yvonne Blomer** (*The Last Show on Earth*), **Justene Dion-Glowa** (*Trailer Park Shakes*) and **Rabbi Paul Plotkin** (*Wisdom Grows in My Garden*). Starting from the Fairmont Chateau Whistler, you will meander through the forests of Lost Lake Park to the lakeside and back. The flat gravel trail is a 3.2 km round trip. This session will go ahead rain or shine, so please bring appropriate outdoor wear.

**Moderator: Grant Lawrence**

### WORKSHOP 9:

#### Not My Story to tell, or is it? Guidelines & Freedoms when Telling Real Stories about Living People

**Emelia Symington-Fedy**

10 - 11 a.m. | In-person \$32 | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

When it comes down to it, the question we have to answer when writing about others is — can I look this person in the eye? Whether they're an abuser, family member, or part of your community, it might not matter as much what they've done, as how it will affect *you* going public. Do you have the strength or interest to engage with public opinion? This is the first question of many that Emelia will offer in this one-hour class — to help prepare you for the consequences of honesty in memoir. Emelia will share personal writing examples from her book, *Skid Dogs*, to illustrate that sometimes there is more empowerment in omission. By the end of the session, you'll feel more confident in what "truths" you want to tell, why you want to tell them, and how to stand behind yourself.

### READING EVENT 16:

#### Sunday BookTalk and Breakfast

**Mona Awad, Kevin Chong, Alicia Elliott, Rowan Jetté Knox**

Doors Open 10:45 am | Breakfast at 11 a.m.

Event from 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

In-person \$55 (inc. buffet breakfast) | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

Enjoy the Fairmont's delicious Whiskey Jack Continental buffet breakfast in the good company of other booklovers before the enthralling BookTalk begins. Moderator and author **William Ping** will engage four award-winning authors — **Mona Awad** (*Rouge*), **Kevin Chong** (*The Double Life of Benson Yu*), **Alicia Elliott** (*And Then She Fell*), and **Rowan Jetté Knox** (*One Sunny Afternoon*) — in conversation about their new releases. Their books offer startling and insightful views of: the obsession with beauty and the complicated relationships between mothers and daughters; a graphic novelist who loses control of his own story when his fraught upbringing in 1980s Chinatown resurfaces; a mind-bending look at motherhood and mental health of a young Indigenous woman whose picture perfect life may have horrifying consequences; and a profoundly moving memoir of how recovery from trauma, triggered by online abuse, can lead to newfound strength, resilience and confidence.

**Moderator: William Ping**



#### READING EVENT 17:

### Bravely Going into the Unknown: Children's and YA Author's Panel

Leslie Gentile, Emily Pohl-Weary, Andrea Warner, WIBA Winner

1 – 2 p.m. | In-person | FREE (RSVP) | Whistler Public Library

The unknown can be a scary place, especially for youth. Moderator Sara Leach explores books with characters, both real and imagined, who boldly and bravely seek to find the truth, even when they don't know what lies ahead. Join us for an in-depth conversation with acclaimed children's and YA authors, **Leslie Gentile** (*Shamus the Urban Rez Dog P.I.*), **Emily Pohl-Weary** (*How to Be Found*), **Andrea Warner** (*Rise Up and Sing!: Power, Protest and Activism in Music*) and the 2023 Whistler Independent Book Awards winner for children's fiction. These authors don't shy away from tackling big, challenging mysteries and injustices in a way that all ages can absorb and understand.

**Moderator:** Sara Leach

#### READING EVENT 18:

### Bunny, BookTok, and a Bizarre New World: A Case Study with Mona Awad

2 – 3:15 p.m. PDT | In-person \$27 | Online \$22

Fairmont Chateau Whistler

Join **Katherine Fawcett** (*Swan Suit*, *Little Washer of Sorrows*) and **Mona Awad** (*Bunny*, *All's Well*, *Rouge*, *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl*) as they discuss the astonishing and circular influences of film and TV, books, social media, and now, Artificial Intelligence on the creative and business process. Awad's award-winning book *Bunny*, a mix of fairytale, horror, and satire, has been influenced by certain mean-girl characters spawned on film and TV. After the book was released, a BookTok fan-casting hashtag gained a viral 4.1 billion views. Hollywood came knocking, and the book is being adapted for the screen and a loyal fan base. As digital permeates and gives, so does it take, and Awad is one of the first authors to bring a copyright lawsuit against the makers of ChatGPT for using her books to train the AI chatbot without consent, credit, or compensation.

**Moderator:** Katherine Fawcett



MARQUIS

#### READING EVENT 19:

### Writer's Block Party

Laugh Out *LIVE!*

8 – 10 p.m. | In-person \$35 | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

They say comedy is tragedy plus timing. And there's nothing more tragic for creatives than a mental logjam. Help us smash the barriers at the Writer's Block Party, with the hilarious improv troupe **Laugh Out LIVE!** featuring **Dave Francis**, **Rebecca Mason**, and **Ira Pettie**.

A not-to-be-missed Whistler experience, this smorgasbord of high energy improv, edgy stand-up, and all-original sketch comedy takes a humorous shot at literary clichés, obsessive writers, and fanatical booklovers. Whether you're a writer or reader, liven up your Sunday night with a gut-busting giggle!

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## MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

#### READING EVENT 20:

### Writer's Block Party - The Second Chapter

Laugh Out *LIVE!*

8 – 10 p.m. | In-person \$35 | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

They say comedy is tragedy plus timing. And there's nothing more tragic for creatives than a mental logjam. Help us smash the barriers at the Writer's Block Party, with the hilarious improv troupe **Laugh Out LIVE!** featuring **Dave Francis**, **Rebecca Mason**, and **Ira Pettie**.

A not-to-be-missed Whistler experience, this smorgasbord of high energy improv, edgy stand-up, and all-original sketch comedy takes a humorous shot at literary clichés, obsessive writers and fanatical booklovers. Whether you're a writer or reader, come close out the 2023 festival with a belly-laugh!

# WHISTLER INDEPENDENT BOOK AWARDS

## SPONSORED BY



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## AWARD PARTNERS

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For over 100 years, Canadian Authors Association has been providing professional development and networking opportunities for writers at all stages of their writing careers: aspiring, emerging, and professional. Canadian Authors Association is proud to partner with Vivalogue to administer the Whistler Independent Book Awards. Association members provide thoughtful peer reviews for all entries and judge shortlisted books as part of the finalist selection process. Join us and increase your participation in the vibrant Canadian literary scene. [canadianauthors.org](http://canadianauthors.org)



Vivalogue was founded in 2010 to provide professional publishing support to authors interested in self-publishing. [vivalogue.com](http://vivalogue.com)

## THE JUDGES

### Fiction

**AMBER COWIE** was a Whistler Book Awards nominee. Her first book hit number one overall on Amazon and was a top-100 bestselling Kindle book of 2018. Her latest book, *Last One Alive*, was released by Simon and Schuster Canada in May 2022. [ambercowie.com](http://ambercowie.com)

**DARCIE FRIESEN HOSSACK**'s short story collection, *Mennonites Don't Dance*, was a runner-up for the 2011 Danuta Gleed Award, shortlisted for the 2011 Commonwealth Writers Prize and the 2012 OLA Forest of Reading Evergreen Award for Adult Fiction. Her new novel, *Stillwater*, was published in Spring 2023 by Tidewater Press. [darciefriesenhossack.wordpress.com](http://darciefriesenhossack.wordpress.com)

### Non-Fiction

**JJ LEE**'s debut book, *The Measure of a Man: The Story of a Father, a Son, and a Suit*, was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award, the Charles Taylor Prize, the Hubert Evans Prize and the Hilary Weston Writer's Trust Prize. He is the editor of a forthcoming book, *Better Next Year: An Anthology of Christmas Epiphanies*. [jj-lee.com](http://jj-lee.com)

**SONJA LARSEN**'s work has appeared in literary publications in the US, Canada and the UK. Her memoir *Red Star Tattoo: My Life As a Girl Revolutionary* (Random House Canada) won the 2017 Edna Staebler Non Fiction award and was shortlisted for the Writers Trust Non Fiction Award. She is currently working on her second book about her experiences running a computer lab in an inner-city community centre. [sonjalarsen.com](http://sonjalarsen.com)

### Children's

**ARTHUR SLADE** is the author of thirty-one novels for young readers including *The Hunchback Assignments*, which won the prestigious TD Canadian Children's Literature Award, and *Dust*, winner of the Governor General's Award for Children's Literature. He lives in Saskatoon, Canada. [arthurslade.com](http://arthurslade.com)

**SARA LEACH** is a teacher-librarian and the award-winning author of nine books for children, including the acclaimed *Slug Days* trilogy. Her middle grade novel *Count Me In* has been translated into four languages, and won the Red Cedar Book Award. [saraleach.com](http://saraleach.com)



# FINALISTS 2023



## **Marilyn Carr (Non-fiction)**

*Nowhere Like this Place: Tales from a Nuclear Childhood*  
Marilyn is an MFA graduate from the University of King's College, and this memoir is the first in a trilogy about her life. Her second memoir, *How I Invented the Internet*, was published in 2022, and the third will be published in 2024. Marilyn blogs about the absurdness of everyday life at [marilyncarr.com](http://marilyncarr.com).



## **Bob Henderson & Sean Blenkinsop (Non-fiction)**

*Paddling Pathways: Reflections from a Changing Landscape*

Sean Blenkinsop is a Professor in the Faculty of Education, Simon Fraser University. Bob

Henderson is a retired professor in Outdoor and Environmental Education at McMaster University.



## **Chief Robert Joseph (Non-fiction)**

*Namwayut: A Pathway to Reconciliation*  
Chief Dr Robert Joseph, OBC, OC is a Hereditary Chief of the Gwawaenuk People, Ambassador for Reconciliation Canada, Chair of the Native American Leadership Alliance for Peace and Reconciliation, and the 2016 winner of the Indspire Lifetime Achievement Award. He was Executive Director of the Indian Residential School Survivors Society.



## **Jill MacLean (Fiction)**

*The Arrows of Mercy*

Jill MacLean is the Canadian author of three juvenile and two young adult novels, which have won four awards and received numerous nominations. Two of the books are in the Nova Scotia school system.

*The Arrows of Mercy* was a new venture: a medieval novel for adults. [jillmaclean.mywriting.network](http://jillmaclean.mywriting.network).



## **Submit Your Book**

The Whistler Independent Book Awards (WIBAs) are open to Canadian authors who have self-published a fiction, non-fiction or children's book in the last five years. They are the only juried awards of this kind. Submissions for the 2024 awards will be accepted March 1–April 30, 2024.



## **H. Pham-Fraser (Children's)**

*The Little Girl*

Hieu loves reading and being outdoors – even better when she can engage in both activities simultaneously. Her book, which is based on a true story, explores how students anglicize their names to fit in and encourages all of us to embrace differences for a more inclusive, kinder society. [hieubooks.ca](http://hieubooks.ca).



## **Bernice Santos (Fiction)**

*Ghosts of a Cure*

Bernice Santos is a fiction and non-fiction writer based in Toronto.

She holds an HBA from the University of Toronto, where she studied Professional Writing and Communications Technology. She writes short stories, articles and oral forms of storytelling. [berniceantos.com](http://berniceantos.com)



## **Tom Stewart (Fiction)**

*Immortal North*

Tom is an award-nominated novelist who was born in 1982 and grew up near Winnipeg. He studied literature and philosophy at University of Manitoba, worked in the North as a fishing and hunting guide and bush-plane pilot. He now lives in Tofino on Vancouver Island. [luckydollarmedia.com](http://luckydollarmedia.com).



## **Helen Row Toews (Children's)**

*The Legacy:*

*Volume Three of the Runstaff Chronicles*

Helen lives on her family's farm near Marshall, Saskatchewan where she writes humour columns for newspapers across the Prairies, fantasy, and sweet romance. [helentoews.com](http://helentoews.com)



## **Rud Verhagen (Children's)**

*The Last Green Dragon*

Rud Verhagen loves reading, writing, and biking. She lives on Vancouver Island with her family. Having embraced island life, she swims several times a week in the cold waters of the Pacific Northwest. *The Last Green Dragon* is her first book.

[independentbookawards.ca](http://independentbookawards.ca)

# OUR PROGRAMS

## AUTHORS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

In 2023, we welcome authors Leslie Gentile (*Shamus the Urban Rez Dog, Pt*), Andrea Warner (*Rise Up and Sing! Power, Pride and Activism in Music*), and Emily Pohl-Weary (*How to be Found*), who will give presentations to students in 21 Sea to Sky schools from Squamish to Mount Currie. The sessions will be recorded and offered to 600+ schools throughout B.C. Reading sets of books are delivered to classrooms for study prior to the events. We'll also be taking the show on the road with our Creative Writers in the Classroom program in 2024.

### Sponsored by:



## WHISTLER WRITER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM WITH CODY CAETANO

We are thrilled to welcome award-winning writer Cody Caetano (*Half-Bads in White Regalia*) as the mentor author for the 2023 Whistler Writer in Residence program. Cody will work one-on-one with local writers to develop their writing projects, and hold group writing craft lectures at the Artists' Cabin on Alta Lake during the fall.

### Sponsored by:



Community  
Enrichment  
Program



## WHISTLER INDEPENDENT BOOK AWARDS

The Whistler Independent Book Awards (WIBA) are the only juried competition open exclusively to self-published Canadian authors, honouring the best in indie publishing. The WIBAs are a partnership between Vivalogue Publishing and the Whistler Writers Festival.

[independentbookawards.ca](http://independentbookawards.ca)

## IBPOC SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship is for writers or storytellers who are Indigenous, Black or a person of colour (IBPoC) and includes the Whistler Writer in Residence program, and an all-access Festival Pass.

## ONE DAY WRITING RETREATS

New this year! Writers met every month in the spring at The Point Artist-run Centre for inspiration, support, a potluck lunch, and a day of writing on the peaceful shores of Alta Lake.

## SPRING READING EVENTS

Spring is our time for renewal, readings featuring local authors, music, and gathering together for enthralling literary events and workshops.

## GET INVOLVED WITH US

If you are interested in being a voting member of The Whistler Writing Society, volunteering, or becoming a director of the board, please check out our info at [whistlerwritersfest.com](http://whistlerwritersfest.com), or reach out to [writers@whistlerwritersfest.com](mailto:writers@whistlerwritersfest.com)

# GUEST

# Speakers



**LESLIE ANTHONY** is a Whistler-based writer, editor, biologist, and occasional filmmaker. A former editor at *Powder*, *Bike* and *SKIER* magazines, he continues his residence on the masthead of numerous ski and outdoor

publications globally. Anthony oversees award-winning *Mountain Life Annual*, pens a weekly column in *Pique Newsmagazine*, and writes broadly on travel, adventure, science, and the environment in magazines like *Canadian Geographic*.

## READING EVENTS 4 + 8



**JENNILEE AUSTRIA-BONIFACIO** is a Filipina Canadian author and the founder of Filipino Talks—an initiative that builds bridges between educators and Filipino families. Her work as a school board consultant, researcher, journalist, and school

settlement worker inspired her first novel, *Reuniting with Strangers: A Novel Told in Stories*.

## READING EVENTS 12



**MONA AWAD** is the author of *All's Well*, *Bunny*, and *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl*. *Bunny* was named a Best Book of 2019 by Time, Vogue, the New York Public Library, and is being developed for film. *All's Well* was a finalist for a Goodreads Choice

Award. *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl* won the Amazon Best First Novel Award and was shortlisted for the Giller Prize. Awad's new novel *Rouge* is being adapted for film. She teaches fiction in the creative writing program at Syracuse University and is based in Boston.

## READING EVENTS 16 + 18



**PAULA AYER** is senior editor at Greystone Books, a Vancouver-based publisher of nonfiction books about nature, science, health, and social issues. Paula has edited a variety of books for adults and children, with a focus on high-quality and creative

nonfiction. She has also written several award-winning books for young readers.

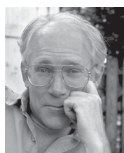
## WORKSHOP 1



**YVONNE BLOMER's** *The Last Show on Earth* (Caitlin Press, 2022) explores grief, love, and climate change. In 2022, she had a #2bookyear with *Book of Places: 10th Anniversary Edition* (Palimpsest Press) also being released.

Yvonne has edited five anthologies, most recently *Hologram: Homage to PK Page* (Caitlin Press, 2023). She teaches on Zoom and lives on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Lekwungen) people.

## READING EVENTS 10 + 15



**ROBERT BRINGHURST**, winner of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence and former Guggenheim Fellow in poetry, trained in sciences at MIT but made his career in the humanities. He is an officer of the Order of Canada and

recipient of two honorary doctorates. He lives on Quadra Island, BC. His most recent work is *The Ridge*, which addresses the natures of language, of music and of love through the lens of human dependence on, and misuse of, the natural world.

## READING EVENT 1



**BRENT BUTT** is a comedian, actor, writer and creator of TV's *Corner Gas* and *Hiccups*, as well as the feature film *No Clue*. His upcoming debut novel *Huge* will be released with Doubleday Canada in October 2023.

## READING EVENT 14



**CODY CAETANO** is a literary agent with CookMcDermid. He works with writers of original literary fiction and non-fiction. Cody's debut memoir, *Half-Bads in White Regalia* received the 2023 Indigenous Voices Award for Best Published Prose and made

the longlists for Canada Reads 2023 and the 2023 Leacock Medal for Humour. His writing has appeared in *Esse*, *Grain*, *The Walrus*, and elsewhere. Cody is an off-reserve member of Pinaymootang First Nation. His mother's family is from the Manitoba Interlake and his father's family emigrated to Canada from the Azores in the 1960s.

## READING EVENT 6 | WORKSHOPS 1 + 2



**JESMINE CHAM** is the assistant editor at Arsenal Pulp Press. A graduate of SFU's Master of Publishing program, they have worked as the project manager/production editor at Wonderwell, provided editorial and marketing

support to *Geist* magazine and Greystone Books, and copy edited and proofread manuscripts for Douglas & McIntyre and Harbours Publishing. Jesmine lives in Vancouver, B.C.

## WORKSHOP 2





**CATHARINE CHEN** is the Editor of Arsenal Pulp Press, a Vancouver publisher of literary fiction, non-fiction, and poetry; social issues and gender studies; and LGBTQ2S+ and BIPOC voices. She has a Creative Writing MFA from UBC and has done

support/freelance work for Playwrights Theatre Centre, the Vancouver Writers Fest, HarperCollins Canada, Dundurn Press, Inhabit Media/Education, and Wattpad Books.

#### WORKSHOPS 1 + 2



**KEVIN CHONG** is the author of seven books of fiction and nonfiction, including the new novel *The Double Life of Benson Yu*. His creative nonfiction and journalism have recently appeared or are forthcoming in *Time Magazine*, *Literary Hub*,

*Montecristo*, and the *Walrus*. An Associate Professor at the UBC Okanagan, he lives in Vancouver.

#### READING EVENTS 12 + 16



**AMBER COWIE** is a novelist living in Squamish, a small town on the west coast of BC. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Salon*, and *The Globe and Mail*. Her fifth book, *The Off-Season*, will be released by Simon & Schuster in May 2024.

#### READING EVENT 11



**KILMENY DENNY** is based in the UK and draws on thirty years' experience in print and digital media to provide editing, design, and website services to self-publishing authors through Vivalogue Publishing. She was formerly Assistant Editor at BBC

Worldwide Publishing and the Editor of the BBC Worldwide Radio Times Guide to Films (seven editions).

#### WORKSHOPS 3, 4 + 5



**PATRICK DEWITT**'s most recent work of fiction is *The Librarianist*. He is the author of the novels *French Exit* (an international bestseller and Scotiabank Giller Prize finalist), *The Sisters Brothers* (winner of the Governor General's Literary Award

for Fiction and the Atwood Gibson Writers' Trust Fiction Prize), and the critically acclaimed *Undermajordomo Minor* and *Ablutions*. Born in British Columbia, he now resides in Portland, Oregon.

#### READING EVENT 6



**JUSTENE DION-GLOWA** is a queer Métis creative, beadworker, and poet born in Winnipeg and has been residing in Secwepemcúl'ecw since 2014. They are a Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity alum. They have been working in the human services

field for nearly a decade. Their microchap, *TEETH*, is available from Ghost City Press and their most recent poetry collection *Trailer Park Shakes*, is published by Brick Books.

#### READING EVENTS 6 + 15



**LYNN DUNCAN** founded Vivalogue Publishing to help self-published authors achieve creative and financial success. Vivalogue founded and continues to administer The Whistler Independent Book Awards, sponsored by The Writers' Union of

Canada. Lynn and business partner Kilmeny Denny also operate a trade publishing company, Tidewater Press.

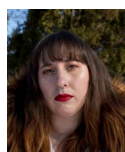
#### READING EVENT 2 | WORKSHOPS 3, 4 + 5



**ESI EDUGYAN** is the author of *Half-Blood Blues*, *Dreaming of Elsewhere*, and *Washington Black*, which was shortlisted for the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and the Man Booker Prize and won the 2018 Scotia Bank Giller Prize. She lives in

Victoria, B.C.

#### READING EVENTS 9 + 13



**ALICIA ELLIOTT** is a Mohawk writer living in Brantford, ON. She has written for *The Globe and Mail*, *CBC*, *Hazlitt* and many others. Her first book, *A Mind Spread Out On The Ground*, was a national bestseller in Canada. It was nominated for the

Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction and won the Forest of Reading Evergreen Award. She was chosen by Tanya Talaga as the 2018 recipient of the RBC Taylor Emerging Writer Award. Her debut novel, *And Then She Fell*, comes out in the fall of 2023.

#### READING EVENT 16



**KATHERINE FAWCETT** is a Squamish-based author/playwright/teacher who lives a full life in a small town with a little dog and a big appetite. Her latest book, *The Swan Suit* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2020) was a finalist for the ReLit award, as was

*The Little Washer of Sorrows*, her first fiction release (Thistlewood, 2015). Fawcett has taught creative writing at SFU's The Writers' Studio and plays violin with the Sea to Sky String Orchestra.

#### READING EVENT 18 | WORKSHOP 1



**LESLIE GENTILE** grew up singing and telling stories in the back seat of the car with her siblings, so it was only natural that she became a musician and author. Her debut novel, *Elvis, Me, and the Lemonade Stand Summer*, won the City of

Victoria Children's Book Prize and the Jean Little First-Novel Prize. Leslie has written songs to go with her readings and performs them across Canada and as far away as Hong Kong. Her newest work of juvenile fiction is *Shamus, the Urban Rez Dog, P.I.* Leslie is of Salish, Tuscarora and Scottish heritage and lives on the traditional territory of the WSÁNEĆ people.

#### READING EVENT 17 | AITS PROGRAM



**DON GORMAN** lives in Victoria, BC, and is the publisher of Rocky Mountain Books. He has spent the past 25 years working within the book trade. Along with publishing 20-30 books a year, he spends much of his time working with other book

publishers and sales representatives on issues relating to marketing, metadata, and project management within the book publishing industry. He has served on the boards of the Association of Canadian Publishers (ACP), the Book Publishers Association of Alberta (BPAA), Pubwest (USA), and is a member of the College of Fellows for the Royal Canadian Geographic Society. He is currently the President of the Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia (Books BC).

#### WORKSHOPS 1 + 2



**MICHAEL J. HATHAWAY** is a professor of anthropology at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada, and the author of the award-winning *What a Mushroom Lives For: Matsutake and the Worlds They Make*. He is a member of the

Matsutake Worlds Research Group.

#### READING EVENT 7





**PEGGY JANICKI** is an award-winning Dakelh teacher from the Nak'azdli Whut'en First Nation. She holds a Master of Education in Indigenous knowledges/Indigenous pedagogies from the University of British Columbia. Peggy has worked

for decades to reveal the hidden stories and histories of Indigenous Peoples, as featured in UBC's Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) "Reconciliation through Indigenous Education." When her mother shared a secret story that changed all their lives and highlighted the impacts of colonization, Peggy also became a storyteller. *The Secret Pocket* is her first book.

#### READING EVENT 9



**MICHAEL JANYK** grew up in Whistler and was raised in a family of ski racers, where at an early age, he was inspired to compete for Canada on the World stage. He raced on the Canadian Alpine National Team for fourteen years, is a three time

Olympian and World Championship Bronze medallist in Slalom. *Go To The Start* is his first book that shares his journey and the transformations that came from it. He lives in Whistler with his wife and daughter.

#### READING EVENT 6



**ROWAN JETTÉ KNOX** (formerly known as Amanda Jetté Knox) is an award-winning journalist, writer, certified professional coach, and human rights advocate with a special focus on LGBTQ2+ rights and mental health. *Love Lives Here: A Story of*

*Thriving in a Transgender Family* was a #1 bestseller, an Indigo Best Book of the Year, and on the 2020 Canada Reads Longlist. His work has been featured on the BBC, CBC, *The Today Show*, *O Magazine*, *The Social*, and *The Marilyn Denis Show*. He was a 2019 *Chatelaine* Woman of the Year, a 2020 Top 25 Woman of Influence, and was chosen as one of 2020's Most Influential Parents by Today's Parent. *One sunny afternoon: A Memoir of Trauma and Healing* is Rowan's newest release.

#### READING EVENT 16



**VICI JOHNSTONE** of Caitlin Press, publishes work to reflect the diverse cultures, histories and concerns of BC while bridging the gap between the urban and the rural. Caitlin Press is committed to its feminist origins, publishing bold works by and about

BC women. After winning the 2015 Jim Douglas Award, Caitlin Press launched Dagger Editions, publishing literary fiction, non-fiction, and poetry by and about people identifying as queer women. Caitlin Press publishes culturally significant fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, and on occasion children's or young adult titles.

#### WORKSHOP 1 + 2



**ANITA LAHEY** is the author of *The Mystery Shopping Cart: Essays on Poetry and Culture* and two poetry collections: *Spinning Side Kick* and *Out to Dry in Cape Breton*. An award-winning magazine journalist, her book, *The Last Goldfish: A True*

*Tale of Friendship*, was a finalist for the Ottawa Book Award. Her recent poetry collection, *While Supplies Last*, was released in 2023 with Vehicule Press. Lahey serves as series editor of the annual anthology, *Best Canadian Poetry*. She lives in Ottawa with her family.

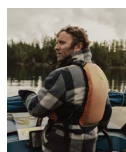
#### READING EVENT 10



**SHARI LAPENA** is the international bestselling author of the thrillers *The Couple Next Door*, *A Stranger in the House*, *An Unwanted Guest*, *Someone We Know*, *The End of Her*, and *Not a Happy Family*, which have all been New York Times and The

Sunday Times (London) bestsellers. Her books have been sold in forty territories around the world. She lives on a farm outside of Toronto. *Everyone Here Is Lying* is her seventh thriller.

#### READING EVENT 11



**GRANT LAWRENCE** is the author of best-selling books: *Return to Solitude*, *Adventures in Solitude*, *The Lonely End of the Rink*, and *Dirty Windshields*. Grant's first children's picture book, *Bailey the Bat and the Tangled Moose*, was released in 2021.

He is the first author to win the Bill Duthie Booksellers Choice award twice. He is the host of CBC's Music Top 20, lead singer of The Smugglers, a Canadian Screen Award winner, and a local newspaper columnist.

#### READING EVENT 15



**TODD LAWSON** believes in passion, diversity, and the search for freedom outside. He's an avid world traveller, writer, photographer, creator, storyteller, mountain athlete, humanitarian, adventure-seeker, and lover of life and all its wonderful ways. "Stay

in your lane" is not in Todd's vocabulary. He is the publisher, producer, and photo editor at *Mountain Life Media*, CEO/Founder of RISE Outdoor Innovation Inc., and Co-Founder of the Rise and Sean Foundation. *Inside the Belly of an Elephant* is his first book. Todd lives in Whistler, British Columbia.

#### READING EVENT 8 | WORKSHOP 8



**EVE LAZARUS** is the author of 10 books of non-fiction, and she is the host and producer of the true crime podcast *Cold Case Canada*. Her books include the BC bestsellers *Cold Case BC*; *Vancouver Exposed*; *Murder by Milkshake*; *Blood, Sweat, and Fear*;

and *Cold Case Vancouver*. Eve blogs at Every Place has a Story: [www.evelazarus.com](http://www.evelazarus.com)

#### READING EVENT 11



**LAUGH OUT LIVE!** are Dave Francis, Rebecca Mason, and Ira Pettie. With their quick-witted quips and comedic colloquialisms, this titillating trio of twisted tits is poised and ready to half-heartedly promise to not let you down as long as it

doesn't require too much effort on their part. By leveraging the wisdom of their mantra, "It's not us, it's you," they've traded in their skis for TikToks, moved out of their parents' basements, and now, they're serious about comedy.

#### READING EVENTS 14, 19 + 20



**SARA LEACH** is the author of nine books for children, including *Duck Days* which concludes the acclaimed *Slug Days* trilogy. Her middle grade novel, *Count Me In*, has been translated into four languages, and won the Red Cedar Book Award. Sara

is a frequent presenter at elementary schools and public libraries across North America. She lives in Whistler, BC, where she works as a teacher-librarian and plays on the trails.

#### READING EVENT 17



**JEN SOOKFONG LEE's** books include *The Conjoined*, nominated for the International Dublin Literary Award and a finalist for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, *The Better Mother*, a finalist for the City of Vancouver Book Award, *The End of*

*East*, *The Shadow List*, and most recently *SuperFan: How Pop Culture Broke my Heart*. Jen acquires and edits for ECW Press and co-hosts the literary podcast Can't Lit.

#### READING EVENT 6 | WORKSHOPS 1 + 2



**MARY MACDONALD** has written poetry for ballet, public art, and libretto. Her work has appeared in Room Magazine and Pique Newsmagazine. Her chapbook, *Going In Now*, was published in 2014 by NIB Publishing and her short story

collection, *The Crooked Thing* was released in fall 2020 by Caitlin Press. She is a member of the Whistler writers' group The Vicious Circle and serves as curator and moderator for the poetry division of the Whistler Writers Festival.

#### READING EVENTS 1 + 10



**JENNIFER MANUEL** has achieved acclaim for her short fiction, including the Storyteller's Award at the Surrey International Writers Conference in 2013. Her short fiction is published in *PRISM International*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Room Magazine* and

*Little Fiction*. A long-time activist in Indigenous issues, Manuel taught at schools in the lands of the Tahltan and Nuu-chah-nulth peoples. She lives on Vancouver Island, BC. Her second novel is *The Morning Bell Brings the Broken Hearted*.

#### READING EVENT 6



**NICK MARINO** is a writer, comedian, and teacher from Vancouver. His family has lived in Vancouver for over a century and has deep roots in the East Side of the city. Nick has performed at Just for Laughs Northwest. *East Side Story*:

*Growing Up at the PNE* is his first book.

#### READING EVENT 6



**PAIGE MAYLOTT** is the author of *My Body is Distant: A Memoir* exploring gender transition, critical illness, and self-discovery in alternate realities. Based in Hamilton, Ontario, she is an avid gamer who enjoys collecting rabbit paraphernalia,

eighties nostalgia, and caring for her adorable, but demanding, furry family.

#### READING EVENT 8



**BRYAN MORTENSEN** is a writer, traveller, and administrator who calls the Comox Valley home. He is the Executive Director of the Federation of British Columbia Writers and has a degree in English from the University of Alberta with a minor in Philosophy.

At his core, Bryan believes in advocating for, and with, people who have been traditionally marginalized. Nine out of ten of Bryan's friends describe him as fun and or exhausting.

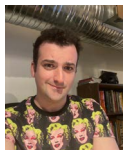
#### WRITING, COFFEE & NETWORKING SUITE



**JANE MUNRO** is a Canadian poet, writer, and educator. In 2015, her collection *Blue Sonoma* won the Griffin Poetry Prize. Munro's recent books include *Open Every Window: A Memoir* and poetry collections *Glass Float* and *False Creek*. She lives

in Vancouver, BC.

#### READING EVENT 10



**JAMES PENCO** (he/him) is an editor, writer, and performer based in Vancouver, BC. He is currently the Assistant Editor at Greystone Books, where he has worked on a wide range of science and nature nonfiction books.

#### WORKSHOP 2



**WILLIAM PING** is a Chinese-Canadian writer from Newfoundland. After completing his Master of Arts at Memorial University in 2020, he was named a Fellow of the School of Graduate Studies. He received the 2022 Cox & Palmer Creative Writing

Award as well as the 2021 Landfall Trust. His debut novel, *Hollow Bamboo*, which he wrote for his master's degree, received the Award for Thesis Excellence from the English department and was shortlisted for the Amazon.ca First Novel Award. His work has previously been featured on the CBC, in *Riddle Fence*, and in the anthologies *Us*, *Now* and *Hard Ticket*.

#### READING EVENTS 12 + 16



**RABBI PAUL PLOTKIN** was born in Toronto and was a pulpit Rabbi for 40 years beginning in Vancouver. After a divorce, he wrote a book on the healing power of Psalms entitled, *The Lord Is My Shepherd, Why Do I Still Want?* His newest book, *Wisdom*

*Grows in My Garden*, is a compilation of 25 life lessons learned from his garden. He blogs on Medium.

#### READING EVENTS 6 + 15



**EMILY POHL-WEARY's** latest YA novel is *How to Be Found* (Arsenal Pulp, 2023). Her audio play, *The Witch's Circle*, produced by Odyssey Theatre, can be streamed at [theotherpath.ca/listen](http://theotherpath.ca/listen). Previous books include *Not Your Ordinary*

*Wolf Girl* (YA), *Ghost Sick* (poetry), and *Better to Have Loved: The Life of Judith Merrill* (Hugo Award-winning biography).

#### READING EVENT 17 | WORKSHOP 6 AITS PROGRAM



**BRONWYN PREECE** holds a PhD in Performance, and an MA and BFA in Applied Theatre. Her 2023 publications are *knee deep in high water: riding the Muskwa-Kechika* (Caitlin Press, 2023), a collection of expedition poems, and the children's book, *Sea to*

*Sky Alphabet*, in which she worked with the Lil'wat and Squamish Nations to incorporate words from both respective languages. All her artistic and educational work aims towards cultivating place-based awareness & small acts of reconciliatory repair.

#### READING EVENT 6



**JASMINE SEALY** is a Barbadian-Canadian writer. Her debut novel, *The Island of Forgetting*, was published in 2022. It was shortlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, the Rakuten Kobo Emerging Writer Prize and it won the Amazon Canada

First Novel Award. She lives in Vancouver.

#### READING EVENT 13



**ERUM SHAZIA HASAN** was born in Canada, raised in France, and is of South Asian heritage. A Sustainable Development Consultant for various UN agencies, she designs initiatives to improve livelihoods, supporting opportunities for women while

protecting biodiversity. Her debut novel, *We Meant Well*, grapples with timely questions about what it means to be charitable, who deserves what, and who gets the power to decide.

#### READING EVENT 12



**TARA SIDHOO FRASER** is a queer writer and creator of South Asian and Scottish ancestry. Her work has been published in *Autostraddle* and *Anathema* magazines, among others. *When My Ghost Sings* is her first book. She lives in Vancouver.

#### READING EVENT 8



**ANDREW SIMS** completed a Bachelor of Music in piano from Baylor University and Master of Music in piano from the University of Alberta. He maintains a busy teaching studio of students ranging from beginners to advanced. Andrew is an

examiner for the Canadian National Conservatory of Music and is in demand as an accompanist in the Comox Valley; he specializes in creative, holistic, and positive teaching, particularly with music learning theory and developing music audition and literacy.

#### WRITING, COFFEE & NETWORKING SUITE



**STEPHANIE SINCLAIR** is Publisher of McClelland & Stewart. She is a Cree, Ojibwe, and German/Jewish settler. While at Transatlantic Agency, she represented literary fiction and non-fiction with a focus on Indigenous creators and political engagement,

and managed translation rights programs for Page Two Books and *Drawn & Quarterly*. Her authors were acknowledged by virtually every awards jury in the country. In 2020, Stephanie joined CookeMcDermid, becoming the #1 ranked agent in the country in both fiction and non-fiction. Through it all, she has been a fierce advocate, activist, mentor, and curator organizing events to challenge colonial practices in publishing and to advance the work of reconciliation.

#### WORKSHOPS 1 + 2



**TSAWAYSIA SPUKWUS (ALICE GUSS)** was born and raised in Squamish, BC and is mother to three children, grandma of two girls. Tsawaysia is Cultural Ambassador,

Knowledge Keeper, and Facilitator of various mediums including drum

making, wool and cedar weaving, traditional medicine, and plant walks. Tsawaysia is masterful at bringing innovative learning opportunities to all people through workshops, drumming, singing, storytelling and getting people dancing. She is currently an Indigenous Cultural Programmer with the Museum of North Vancouver.

#### READING EVENT 3



**EMELIA SYMINGTON-FEDY** is an international theater creator and founding co-artistic director of The Chop, with over twenty-five playwriting credits, Emelia is a

graduate of Studio 58 (Langara

College) and The SFU Writer's Studio Graduate Program. For almost twenty years she has made documentaries and personal essays for CBC radio. Emelia lives in the Shuswap with her family. *Skid Dogs* is her first book.

#### READING EVENT 11 | WORKSHOP 9



#### THE WEST COAST

**FRONT** band features Musical Director Geeta Das (winds and percussion), Rajan Das (upright and electric bass), Jason Overy

(drums and percussion), and Rosalind Steel (piano and keyboard).

#### READING EVENT 6



**JOHN VAILLANT's** work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *National Geographic*, and *the Guardian*. His nonfiction books, *The Golden Spruce* (2005) and *The Tiger* (2010) were both award-winning bestsellers. In 2014, Vaillant won

the Windham-Campbell Prize award. His most recent book is *Fire Weather: The Making of a Beast* (2023).

#### READING EVENT 4



**STEPHEN VOGLER** is an author, playwright, and musician. He has published three books including *Only in Whistler: Tales of a Mountain Town* (2009) and has written and presented for CBC

Radio's Ideas. Stephen and his band, West Coast Front, released their most recent EP, *Corn Chips & Bourbon*, in 2022. The band will be playing in the Literary Cabaret at this year's Whistler Writers Festival.

#### READING EVENT 6



**YVONNE WALLACE** (Ucwalmicw) is from the Lil'wat Nation and a graduate of Humber College's Theatre Acting program and holds a Bachelor of Liberal Arts from Capilano University. She has written three plays: *Smothered Sweetly*, *The*

*Last Dance*, and *útszan*, a play dealing with language reclamation and her own progress in language fluency. She teaches *ucwalmicwts* to other adult learners at the Ts'zil Learning Centre. She's currently writing *7 Misconceptions of a Half-Breed Mother*, a tragicomedy about the public-school system.

#### READING EVENT 3



**ANDREA WARNER** writes and talks. A lot. She's the author of *Rise Up and Sing! Power, Protest, and Activism in Music*, *Buffy Sainte-Marie: The Authorized Biography*, and co-wrote the documentary *Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On*. Andrea is

a settler who was born and raised in Vancouver on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

#### READING EVENT 17 | AITS PROGRAM



**IONA WHISHAW** is a former educator and social worker whose mother and grandfather were both spies during their respective wars. She is the award-winning author of *To Track a Traitor*, the tenth book in the *Globe and Mail* bestselling Lane

Winslow Mystery series.

#### READING EVENT 11 | WORKSHOP 7



# THANK YOU

The Whistler Writing Society would like to thank its sponsors for their generosity.  
Without their continued enthusiasm and support, this festival would not be possible.

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