

Media Release
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The Writers Guild of Alberta Announces
The 2009 Alberta Literary Awards Shortlist!

The Writers Guild of Alberta is thrilled to announce the finalists for the **2009 Alberta Literary Awards!** The Alberta Literary Awards recognize and celebrate the highest standards of literary excellence from Alberta authors.

Awards jurors have deliberated over 140 submissions to select 21 finalists in seven categories. Finalists represent extraordinary literary work written by Alberta authors and published in 2008.

Winners will be announced and awards presented at the a **Literary Awards Gala on Saturday May 23, 2009** at the **Hotel Arts in Calgary (119 – 12 Avenue SW)** as part of The Writers' Union of Canada and the Writers Guild of Alberta **Limitless Sky Conference**, a national partnership which is the first of its kind in Alberta.

Information on this year's shortlisted authors is attached with this media release.

The Writers Guild of Alberta is a provincial arts service organization that represents both professional and emerging writers in Alberta. Their mission is to support, encourage and promote writers and writing, to safeguard the freedom to write and to read, and to advocate for the well-being of writers.

Tickets to the Awards Gala are \$50. Registration for the Limitless Sky conference (including a ticket to the gala) is \$230 for WGA members, \$290 for non-members. For more information or to register, please call **1-800-665-5354** or visit www.writersguild.ab.ca.

-More-

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2009 Alberta Literary Awards Shortlist

R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature (Sponsored by Western Financial Group's *West Magazine*)

- Hazel Hutchins (Canmore) and Gail Herbert—*Mattland*, Annick Press
- Jessica Meserve (Edmonton)—*Can Anybody Hear Me?*, Andersen Press
- Shenaaz Nanji (Calgary)—*Indian Tales: A Barefoot Collection*, Barefoot Books

Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction (Sponsored by Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association)

- Marina Endicott (Edmonton)—*Good to a Fault*, Freehand Books
- Jaspreet Singh (Calgary)—*Chef*, Véhicule Press
- Samantha Warwick (Calgary)—*Sage Island*, Brindle & Glass

Wilfred Eggleston Award for Non-Fiction (Sponsored by The Banff Centre)

- Caterina Edwards (Edmonton)—*Finding Rosa: A Mother with Alzheimer's, a Daughter in Search of the Past*, Greystone Books
- Shawna Lemay (Edmonton)—*Calm Things*, Palimpsest Press
- Rudy Wiebe (Edmonton)—*Big Bear*, Penguin Group

Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama (Sponsored by Alberta Views)

- Collin Doyle (Edmonton)—*The Mighty Carlins*
- Conni Massing (Edmonton)—*The Myth of Summer*, from *Conni Massing: Two Plays*, Playwrights Canada Press
- Sharon Pollock (Calgary)—*Kabloona Talk*, from *Sharon Pollock: Collected Works Volume Three*, Playwrights Canada Press

Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry (Supported by Stephan V. Benediktson)

- Weyman Chan (Calgary)—*Noise from the Laundry*, Talonbooks
 - Su Croll (Edmonton)—*Blood Mother*, Signature Editions
 - Lisa Martin-DeMoor (Edmonton)—*One Crow Sorrow*, Brindle & Glass
- Honourable Mention: E.D. Blodgett (Edmonton)—*Poems for a Small Park*, Athabasca University Press

Amber Bowerman Memorial Travel Writing Award (Supported by Ann Campbell)

- Leah Bailly (Calgary)—“Long Views Across Nothing”
- Andrew Derksen (Calgary)—“El Verbo Esperar”
- Erica Wiens (Edmonton)—“The Composition of a Memory”

Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story (Supported by John Ballem)

- Jonathan Ball (Calgary)—“Costa Rican Green,” in *Etchings*
 - Andrea Beça (Edmonton)—“The Disappearing Act,” in *FreeFall*
 - Barb Howard (Bragg Creek)—“Mrs. Goodfellow's Dog,” in *Grain*
- Honourable Mention: Betty Jane Hegerat (Calgary)—“Pockets,” in *Alberta Views*

Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Prize

The jury has decided not to present an award in this category for this year.

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