



QUEBEC WRITERS' FEDERATION

QWF ANNOUNCES QUEBEC LITERARY AWARDS SHORTLIST

Celebrating the work of English-language authors in Quebec

[*Montreal. October 25, 2005*] "I think one striking thing about this year's candidates is how many have brought their talent here from other parts of the world," said Ian Ferrier, President of the Quebec Writers' Federation. The 2005 QWF Awards, in this *Montreal World Book Capital* year, will be announced on **Wednesday, November 23 at Le Lion d'Or**. They consist of five literary awards of \$2,000 and an honorary Community Award.

"Fred Bruemmer arrived here from Latvia, Neil Bissoondath from Trinidad. Born in Beirut, Dimitri Nasrallah spent his childhood in Athens, Kuwait and Dubai before he came here. David Homel came here from the wilds of Chicago and Denise Roig from the heat of LA," said Ferrier. "I find it remarkable that all of these people came to a French province and stayed, and have made such a contribution to our literary culture. It means that English literature is alive and thriving in Quebec, and that Quebec can still attract and keep some of the best English writers in the country."

Nominated for this year's Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction are **Denise Roig** for her collection of short stories *Any Day Now* and previous QWF Award winners **William Weintraub** for his novel *Crazy About Lili* and **Neil Bissoondath** for *The Unyielding Clamour of the Night*. Weintraub won the QSPELL Non-fiction Prize in 1997 and Bissoondath the Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction in 2002.

The McAuslan First Book Prize nominees are three young Montreal writers with undoubtedly bright literary futures, **Marci Denesiuk** for *The Far Away Home*, **Matthew Fox** for *Cities of Weather* and **Dimitri Nasrallah** for *Blackbodying*. This prize, sponsored by McAuslan Brewing Inc., is open to books of fiction, non-fiction and poetry, which makes the jury's job notoriously tricky. Interestingly, the three nominated books this year are all works of fiction.

The nominees for the A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry, sponsored by the family of Sidney Weisbord, include two poets who are no strangers to the poetry shortlist, **Mark Abley** for *The Silver Palace Restaurant* and Governor-General's Award-winner **Erín Moure** for *Little Theatres*. They are joined by an exciting newcomer to the QWF Awards showcase, **Sherwin Tjia**, whose book *The World is a Heartbreaker*, is a collection of what he calls pseudo-

haikus. Last week Moure's book was also shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry.

The books nominated for this year's Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-Fiction are *Survival: A Refugee Life* by **Fred Bruemmer**, *Sir William Hingston (1829-1907): Montreal Mayor, Surgeon and Banker* by Montreal Gazette writer **Alan Hustak** and *A Lover's Quarrel* by last year's A. M. Klein Prize for Poetry winner **Carmine Starnino**.

This year's Translation Prize will honour an English translator working to bring a French text to English readers. Appearing twice in this category is **Fred A. Reed**, nominated for *Truth or Death: The Quest for Immortality in the Western Narrative Tradition* (translation of *Raconter et mourir* by **Thierry Hentsch**) and, collaborating with **David Homel**, for *All That Glitters* (translation of *L'Élu du hasard* by **Martine Desjardins**). The Reed-Homel team won the QWF Translation Prize in 2003 and, that same year, Homel won the Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction. Both Homel and Reed were recently nominated for Governor General's Literary Award for Translation (French to English) for *All That Glitters*, with Reed again receiving a solo nomination for his translation of the Hentsch text.

Also nominated in the Translation category this year is **Daniel Sloate** for *No End to the World* (a translation of selected poems by **Hélène Dorion**).

The winner of the QWF Community Award will be announced in the coming weeks. The winners of the five literary awards will be announced at the annual **QWF Literary Awards Gala** at the **Lion d'Or** (1676 Ontario E.) on **Wednesday, November 23 at 7 p.m.** The Gala is open to the general public and will be hosted by Tracey McKee, host of Global Television's *This Morning Live*. Tickets are \$10 and are available at selected bookstores, at the QWF office and at the door (space permitting). For ticket information, call (514) 933-0878.

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