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We thank The Friends of St. Albert Public Library for their financial support.

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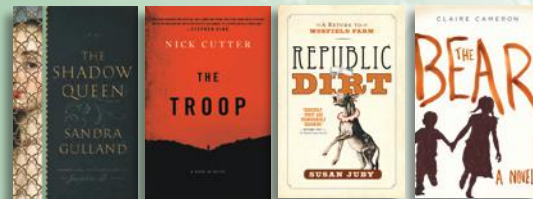
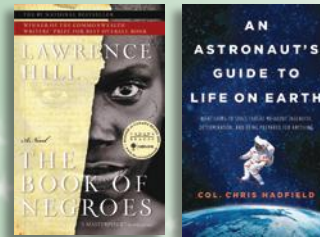


St. Albert Public Library

presents

STARFest

St. Albert Readers Festival



Fall 2015



STARFest at a glance

Friday, September 11	LAWRENCE HILL Hosted by Diana Davidson	Arden Theatre	7pm Wine Reception
Friday, October 16	SANDRA GULLAND	Forsyth Hall	7pm Wine Reception
Saturday, October 17	CRAIG DAVIDSON aka NICK CUTTER Hosted by Todd Babiak	Forsyth Hall	7pm Wine Reception
Sunday, October 18	SUSAN JUBY Hosted by Gail Sidonie Sobat	Forsyth Hall	2pm
Wednesday, October 21	CLAIRE CAMERON Hosted by Angie Abdou	Forsyth Hall	7pm Wine Reception
Friday, October 23	HEATHER O'NEILL Hosted by Anne Bailey	Forsyth Hall	7pm Wine Reception
Saturday, October 24	SEAN MICHAELS Hosted by Elizabeth Withey With theremin player Dave Clarke	Forsyth Hall	7pm Wine Reception
Sunday, October 25	COL. CHRIS HADFIELD	Arden Theatre	7:30pm Wine Reception
Wednesday, October 28	KIM THUY Hosted by Laurie Greenwood	Forsyth Hall	7pm Wine Reception
Tuesday, November 10	LORI LANSENS Hosted by Paula Simons	Forsyth Hall	7pm Wine Reception

St. Albert Place, 5 St. Anne Street,
St. Albert, AB T8N 3Z9 | Ph: (780) 459-1530



St. Albert Public Library
Cultivating Community

www.sapl.ca



Forsyth Hall is located on the main floor of St. Albert Public Library

Welcome to St. Albert Public Library and to STARFest



Charmaine Brooks
Library Board Chair



The fifth year of STARFest – in anniversary terms this would be wood (traditional) or silverware (modern). STARFest is both: a solid, proven festival in our city, with the shining lights of the Canadian literary world. And

its success is a marriage of hard-working staff and loyal audiences.

STARFest is a reflection of all that's magical about your library – a place for learning and enjoying, for meeting and connecting, a place to recapture that small-town feel. We look forward to getting to know you.

Welcome to St. Albert and to STARFest



Mayor Nolan Crouse



Another great lineup is ready and waiting at the City's annual literary festival. Whether you're a reader, a writer or just someone who loves a great night out, I thank you for visiting downtown St. Albert, the Library and STARFest. Enjoy it all!

The Insider's Guide to STARFest



Peter Bailey
Library Director

STARFest is truly a festival of stars this year—starry-eyed award winners, superstar favourites and rock star writers – we have it all!

We feel very privileged to welcome **Col. Chris Hadfield**—a Canadian icon who reignited our love of space, and challenged us to reach for our dreams with the best-selling *An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth*.

But we start with a STARFest appetizer. The brilliant **Lawrence Hill**, author of *The Book of Negroes*, will be here September 11 and will talk about his eagerly anticipated new novel, *The Illegal*.

Then from October 16 to 28 we have a packed menu. **Sandra Gulland** will enthrall the history buffs, **Susan Juby** will give us a laugh-out-loud Sunday afternoon, and **Heather O'Neill**, author of *Lullabies for Little Criminals*, and **Claire Cameron**, author of *The Bear*, will take us into the world of unforgettable characters.

Craig Davidson will bring his alter ego **Nick Cutter** as we explore the two faces of a writer – the one offering literary fiction and the other gut-wrenching horror. Fans of CBC Radio's Canada Reads will be delighted to meet **Kim Thuy** as she talks about her winning book *Ru* and her new novel, *Mãn*. We also have an evening of romance, intrigue and music with Scotiabank Giller Prize winner **Sean Michaels**.

After a packed couple of weeks, we bring you a STARFest dessert. Bestselling writer **Lori Lansens** will close out STARFest on November 10.

Once again we welcome an array of talented hosts to make your STARFest events shine: **Angie Abdou; Todd Babiak; Anne Bailey; Diana Davison; Laurie Greenwood; Paula Simons; Gail Sidonie Sobat; and Elizabeth Withey.**

STARFest Facts

Although Lori Lansens studied advertising and business with a plan of becoming a copy writer, she was writing screenplays, short stories and plays before she burst onto the literary scene in 2002 with her first novel *Rush Home Road* – a story about an old black woman finding redemption through the act of caring for a five-year-old, abandoned on her doorstep. The book was translated into eight languages, published in 12 countries and was shortlisted for the Rogers Fiction Prize.

Since then Lansens has written three more novels. *The Girls* introduced two of the most remarkable characters in Canadian fiction, conjoined twins Rose and Ruby, and it was an international success. *The Wife's Tale*, the story of a wife's reawakening following the disappearance of her husband, was a *New York Times* Editor's Choice.

Lansens now lives in the Santa Monica Mountains in Southern California, where she shares her backyard with coyotes, bobcats, rattlesnakes and mountain lions. Her 2015 novel, *The Mountain Story*, is a gripping tale of adventure, sacrifice and survival in the unforgiving wilderness of a legendary mountain and was featured in CBC Books' 15 Works of Fiction to Watch For.

Paula Simons is the award-winning city columnist with the *Edmonton Journal*. She is a regular and popular interviewer at STARFest events.



Event sponsor



STARFest Tickets

Tickets for events in Forsyth Hall: \$5

Tickets for events in the Arden Theatre: \$10

Tickets for Chris Hadfield in the Arden Theatre: \$100

Tickets for all events except Chris Hadfield available from:

- www.STARFest.ca
- The Main Floor Desk at St. Albert Public Library
- (780) 459-1530

Tickets for Chris Hadfield available from:

- Arden Theatre Box Office (780) 459-1542
- Ticketmaster outlets
- Ticketmaster.ca

**Find out more at
www.STARFest.ca**



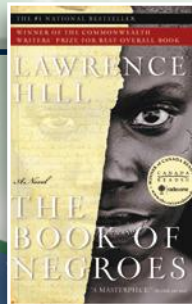
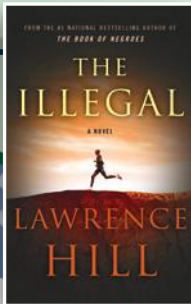
Lawrence Hill



Identity and Belonging

Explore Lawrence Hill's anticipated new novel, *The*

Illegal – just days after publication. Hill's work is greatly influenced by his American-immigrant parents' efforts in the human rights movement; but his latest book may also have been influenced by his ambition to be an Olympic runner, with the story of a man running not only as an athlete, but for his very life.



STARFest Facts

Lawrence Hill is the author of ten works of fiction and non-fiction. *The Book of Negroes* made him a household name; it met with critical acclaim and was awarded the prestigious Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Overall Best Book and won CBC's Canada Reads. It was recently adapted as a six-part TV miniseries, co-written by Hill.

In 2013, Hill published the essay *Dear Sir, I Intend to Burn Your Book: An Anatomy of a Book Burning* and wrote the non-fiction book *Blood: the Stuff of Life* which won the Hamilton Literary Award for non-fiction and formed the basis of his 2013 Massey Lectures.

His new book, *The Illegal*, is Hill's fourth novel. It tells the story of a young marathon runner fleeing for his life and forced into hiding from a repressive government. This is the 'new underground,' a hidden society made up of people who are denied the basics of life because they don't have the necessary paperwork to make them full citizens. With close to one million copies of his books in print, fans have been eagerly awaiting this new novel.

Diana Davidson returns as a popular host. Her debut novel *Pilgrimage*, set on a Métis settlement in the 1890s, made the top five for the 2014 Alberta Readers' Choice Awards.



Sandra Gulland



Forging Fiction From Fact

Step back in time as Sandra Gulland takes us on a behind-the-scenes tour of the world of a historical fiction writer. Known for her in-depth research, Gulland will talk about her journey, culminating in a reading from her latest novel.



STARFest Facts

Sandra Gulland was raised in Brazil and the U.S. Her career has involved teaching Grade Two in an Inuit village in northern Labrador, working as a book editor in Toronto, and being a volunteer principal of a parent-run alternative school. Alongside her love of growing vegetables and raising chickens and pigs, Gulland was always writing.

Her interest in Josephine Bonaparte and the Napoleonic era was sparked after reading a biography of Josephine. Decades of research and consultation with period scholars followed, with travel to France, Italy and Martinique. *The Many Lives & Secret Sorrows of Josephine B.*, the first novel in what evolved to be the Josephine B. Trilogy, was published in 1995, followed in 1998 by *Tales of Passion, Tales of Woe* and in 2000 by *The Last Great Dance on Earth*. Again following extensive research, her novel, *Mistress of the Sun*, set in the court of Louis XIV, was published in 2008.

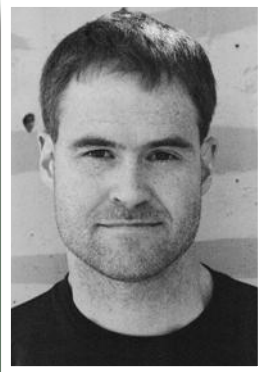
In 2014 her fifth novel, *The Shadow Queen*, featured many of the characters from *Mistress of the Sun*, although from entirely different perspectives.

She is now writing the first of two Young Adult novels about Josephine's precocious daughter Hortense.

Gulland's novels have been published in fifteen countries and translated into thirteen languages.



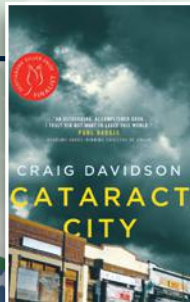
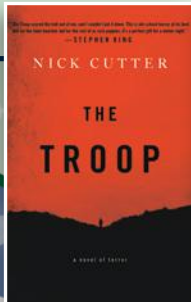
Craig Davidson / Nick Cutter



The Two Faces of a Writer

Choose your favourite – Davidson or Cutter. From boxing and dog fights

to zombies and werewolves, from lunatic prison inmates to grisly dismemberment, Craig Davidson and his alter-ego Nick Cutter bring us stories of immense power, accurate insights, and go-for-broke horror. Author Todd Babiak will be hosting this thrilling ride.



STARFest Facts

Craig Davidson has published four books of literary fiction. He is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and his articles have been published in the *National Post*, *Esquire*, *GQ*, *The Walrus*, and *The Washington Post*, among others. His first short story collection, *Rust and Bone* (2005), was a finalist for the Danuta Gleed Literary Award, was turned into an acclaimed film in 2012 and also adapted into a play. Davidson followed with *The Fighter* in 2007 and *Sarah Court* in 2010. His most recent novel, *Cataract City* was shortlisted for the 2013 Scotiabank Giller Prize.

In addition to his literary fiction, Davidson's alter ego Nick Cutter is hailed as one of the great horror writers of the day. Both *The Troop* and *The Deep* met with critical acclaim; Cutter is the winner of the inaugural James Herbert Award for Horror Writing celebrating the boldest and most exciting talent in the genre. His 2015 book, *The Acolyte*, is about a society ruled by religion that's both uncomfortably recognizable and completely alien. And as in his previous books, Cutter heartily embraces horror fiction while pushing it beyond its limitations.

Todd Babiak is an award-winning author, screenwriter, entrepreneur and former *Edmonton Journal* columnist. His most recent book is the literary thriller, *Come Barbarians*.



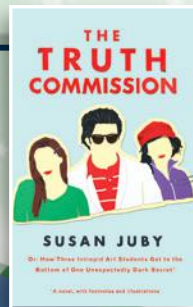
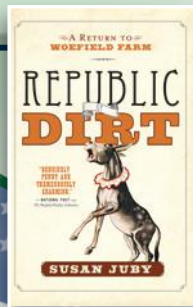
Susan Juby



Writing the Book You Love to Read

Meet Susan Juby, a writer for all ages, who masterfully

blends humor with the dysfunctional truths of the human experience. Juby's quirky characters and astute depictions of human nature provide an engaging experience for the reader. Don't miss out on this wonderful Sunday afternoon presentation.



STARFest Facts

Susan Juby abandoned her vision of a fashion design career, and took a series of low paying jobs before graduating in English Literature. She became managing editor at a self-help book publisher, has a Master's degree in publishing and teaches creative writing at Vancouver Island University.

Juby began writing her first novel, *Alice, I Think*, during her daily commute. Written for her 50-year-old godfather, she was surprised that her publisher saw it as a young adult novel. It was nominated for the Books in Canada First Novel Award and adapted into a TV series. Juby wrote three books about Alice and her family, and three more novels for young adults including her 2015 title *The Truth Commission*.

In 2011 Juby wrote her first novel specifically for adults, although many had been avid readers of her earlier teen novels. *The Woefield Poultry Collective* is a comedy about a young woman from Brooklyn who inherits a derelict farm on Vancouver Island. It was shortlisted for the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour. Following her 2012 novel, *Bright's Light*, Juby returned to the characters from *The Woefield Poultry Collective* in her 2015 novel, *The Republic of Dirt*.

This event will be hosted by Gail Sidonie Sobat, St. Albert Public Library's Writer in Residence. She is also a teacher, actor and singer, and the creator/coordinator of YouthWrite, a camp for kids who love to write.

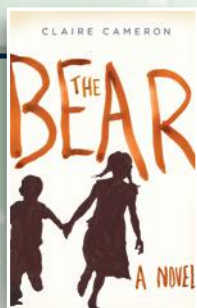


Claire Cameron



Adventurous Writing

Find out what happens when a character is pushed to the edge. Experience the tender, terrifying, poignant ride that is Claire Cameron's bestselling novel, *The Bear*, written from the point of view of a young girl as she fends for herself and her little brother after a brutal bear attack.



STARFest Facts

Claire Cameron was born, raised and lives in Toronto but has spent time living in San Francisco and London, England.

She has spent much of her life outside, canoe tripping in Algonquin Park, tree planting in Northern Ontario, climbing in California, leading month-long trips on the rivers and mountains of Oregon for Outward Bound, and travelling through the Alps and the Pyrenees. Adventure is at the heart of her writing, driven by wanting to know what happens to a character when pushed to the edge.

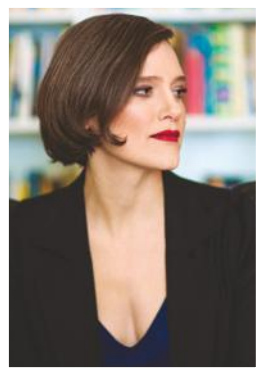
Her first novel, *The Line Painter*, was nominated for an Arthur Ellis Crime Writing Award for best first novel. Her second novel, published last year, is *The Bear*. Cameron led a trip through Algonquin Park a year after the 1991 bear attack on Lake Opeongo that killed two people; the stories she heard haunted her, eventually becoming the basis for *The Bear*. The book is a bestseller in Canada, and was nominated for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction.

Cameron's writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Globe & Mail* and *The Rumpus*. She is a staff writer at *The Millions*.

Angie Abdou has been a guest at the Library on more than one occasion and now returns to host. All three of her novels have been critically acclaimed including her 2014 book *Between*.

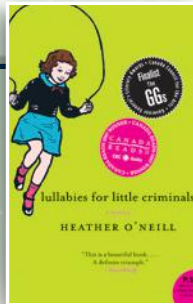


Heather O'Neill



Powerful Stories

Get close to the characters in this Montreal writer's astonishing works. From the street-life epic *Lullabies for Little Criminals*, which took off like a rocket, to her new collection of short stories, Heather O'Neill's writing is a physical force, with affection and compassion for her bohemian characters.



STARFest Facts

Heather O'Neill was born and lives in Montreal, but she spent some time living in the American South. She is a poet, short story writer, screenwriter, journalist and novelist. She has won gold twice at the National Magazine Awards.

O'Neill published her debut novel, *Lullabies for Little Criminals*, in 2006. A gritty, heart-wrenching novel about bruised innocence on Montreal's feral streets, the book is the story of the strength, wits and luck necessary for survival. It won Canada Reads and the Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction, and was nominated for eight other awards including the Orange Prize and the Governor General's Award. *Lullabies for Little Criminals* was a publishing sensation in Canada and went on to become an international bestseller. O'Neill was named by *Chatelaine* as one of the most influential women in Canada.

In her second novel, *The Girl Who Was Saturday Night*, O'Neill returns to the grubby, enchanted city with a tale of the vice of fame and the ties of family. It was shortlisted for the Giller Prize in 2014. Her 2015 *Daydreams of Angels*, is a compelling collection of short stories filled with quirky characters and captivating descriptions of worlds both real and imagined.

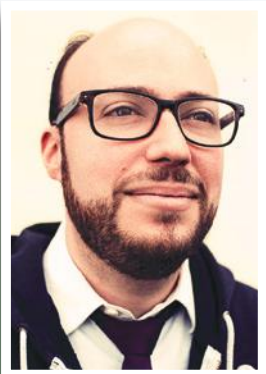
Host Anne Bailey, is a Canadian literature scholar, a writer and communications professional at the University of Alberta, and a popular host at the Library.



Reception sponsor

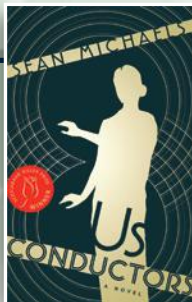


Sean Michaels



An Instrument of Love

Tune in to the Giller award-winning Sean Michaels as he talks about how his win has transformed his career and how blog writing acted as a training ground for the orchestration of his first novel. Michaels' presentation will be complemented by theremin player Dave Clarke.



STARFest Facts

Sean Michaels is an influential writer and critic in the world of independent music, known for his dreamy, literary writing style. He founded *Said the Gramophone*, recognized by *Time* as one of the world's 25 best blogs. He has also written about travel, food and culture, and has two National Magazine Awards.

In 2014, Michaels published his first novel, *Us Conductors*. In a series of flashbacks and correspondence, *Us Conductors* takes us from the glitz of 1930s New York to the gulags of the Soviet Union. The book is inspired by the lives of Lev Termen, inventor of the theremin, and its greatest player Clara Rockmore. This is a book of love and electricity, jazz and espionage—filled with music, longing and a little kung fu. Michaels is only the second debut novelist to win the Scotiabank Giller Prize in its 21-year-history. The book also won the Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction and was one of five books nominated for Amazon.ca's 2015 First Novel Awards.

Dave Clarke is a writer, actor, composer, sound designer and winner of several awards for his work in theatre and film. He is also the sound guy for CBC Radio's *The Irrelevant Show*. He will play the theremin as part of this evening's event.

This event will be hosted by Elizabeth Withey, the Writer in Residence at Edmonton Public Library, and book columnist at the *Edmonton Journal*.



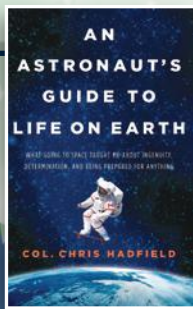
Col. Chris Hadfield



An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth: An Intimate Evening with Col. Chris Hadfield

Reach for the stars with the first

Canadian Commander of the International Space Station. Col. Chris Hadfield's commitment, intelligence, sacrifice and hard work have allowed him to achieve his dreams and taught him some valuable lessons. Col. Hadfield will share extraordinary stories from his life as an astronaut, and help you make the impossible a reality at this stellar event.



STARFest Facts

As a young boy Chris Hadfield quietly began his mission towards becoming an astronaut, learning mechanics on tractors and old cars, flying with his father and brothers every chance he could, enrolling in air cadets and eventually becoming a test pilot flying over 70 types of aircraft. His determination enabled him to close the seemingly unbridgeable gap between being an Ontario farm boy and the first Canadian to walk in space, by making sure that when the opportunity arose, he would be prepared for it.

Col. Hadfield is a pioneer of many historic "firsts": Canada's first fully-qualified Space Shuttle crew member, the first Canadian to operate the Canadarm in space, the first Canadian to board a Russian spacecraft as he helped build space station *Mir*, and in 2013 he was Commander of the International Space Station – the first and only Canadian to ever command a spaceship.

Through his 21-years as an astronaut, three spaceflights and 2,600 orbits of Earth, Col. Chris Hadfield has become a worldwide sensation, harnessing the power of social media to make outer space accessible to millions and infusing a sense of wonder into our collective consciousness. He continues to bring the marvels of science and space travel to everyone he encounters, and we are thrilled to welcome him to St. Albert.



Kim Thuy



A Lullaby to Canada

Give a warm welcome to Canada Reads winner,

Kim Thuy. Her books are a fascinating contemplation on life as an immigrant, caught between identities. Thuy will share her thoughts on memory and immigration, and leave you reflecting on life in all its wonder.



STARFest Facts

Kim Thuy was born in Saigon. At the age of 10, she and her family fled the Vietnamese communist regime, and arrived in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Their adaptations to the new climate, language and culture were eased by the warmth of their neighbours' welcome. After trying various occupations—farm worker, seamstress, cashier, cook—Thuy pursued degrees in linguistics and translation, then in law. At the same time, she opened a restaurant in Montreal to introduce the city to the cuisine of her native country.

Thuy's first novel, *Ru*, fictionalizes her family's long journey from Vietnam to Québec and the discovery of their new environment. *Ru* won the prestigious Governor General's Award, was shortlisted for the 2012 Scotiabank Giller Prize and the 2013 Amazon.ca First Novel Award, and won CBC's 2015 Canada Reads. It has been published in 20 countries around the world, in a translation from the original French.

Kim Thuy's latest novel, *Mãn*, is a triumph of poetic beauty and a moving meditation on how love and food are inextricably entwined, through the story of a young woman sent from Vietnam to marry a man living in Montreal. Thuy calls it her most personal work yet.

Host Laurie Greenwood is CBC Radio's book columnist and former Edmonton independent bookstore owner.



Lori Lansens



Surviving

Discover the art of great storytelling as Lori Lansens talks with journalist Paula

Simons. Her novels introduce us to unique characters, portrayed through intimate storytelling and emotional insight. Her latest novel *The Mountain Story* ensures her continued reputation among those who appreciate great literary works as well as a darn good read.

