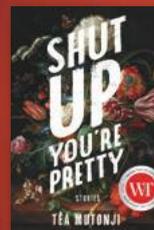
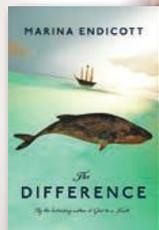
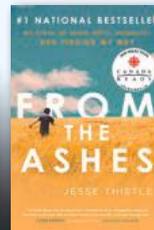
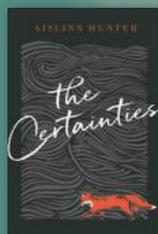




Fall 2020

Inspiration. Conversation.
9 events between October 6 – 28



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  STARFest.ca

STARFest welcome



Janice Marschner
Library Board Chair

Welcome to St. Albert Public Library and to STARFest

It's the tenth anniversary of the STARFest Readers' Festival, and our celebration includes a dazzling array of authors and books the entire country is talking about! While this year's online festival format is unique, the 2020 lineup continues to reflect St. Albert Public Library's ongoing commitment to participating in exciting, meaningful conversations, and to delivering relevant programs and opportunities for all. If you haven't visited the Library in a while, you're overdue — memberships are free for all residents!

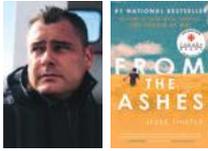


**Mayor
Cathy Heron**

Welcome to St. Albert and to STARFest

This current pandemic has allowed more time to rediscover the love of a good book. STARFest is a great opportunity to share this love and to celebrate the authors that continue to entertain us. It's a thrill to welcome this star-studded array of authors to STARFest. The St. Albert Readers Festival continues to delight St. Albertans and visitors from all across the region each year with its range of entertaining, provocative and thoughtful events that bring together avid readers, local celebrities, and our guest authors in a shared love of Canadian writing. We here in St. Albert are so proud of the work our public library does. Welcome to the Festival, and enjoy!

STARFest 2020 at a glance



Jesse Thistle
From the Ashes
Hosted by Celina Loyer
Tuesday, October 6 | 6:30 PM MST
[Online Event](#)



Téa Mutonji
Shut Up You're Pretty
Hosted by Valerie Mason-John
Monday, October 26 | 7 PM MST
[Online Event](#)



Marina Endicott
The Difference
Hosted by Jacqueline Baker
Thursday, October 15 | 7 PM MST
[Online Event](#)



Nazanine Hozar
Aria
Hosted by Marcello Di Cintio
Tuesday, October 27 | 7 PM MST
[Online Event](#)



Aislinn Hunter
The Certainties
Hosted by Thomas Trofimuk
Friday, October 16 | 7 PM MST
[Online Event](#)



Annabel Lyon
Consent
Hosted by Conni Massing
Wednesday, October 28 | 7 PM MST
[Online Event](#)



Karma Brown
Recipe for a Perfect Wife
Hosted by Jennifer Cockrall-King
Tuesday, October 20 | 7 PM MST
[Online Event](#)



Emily St. John Mandel
The Glass Hotel
Hosted by Senator Paula Simons
Friday, October 23 | 7 PM MST
[Online Event](#)



Desmond Cole
The Skin We're In
Hosted by Jesse Lipscombe
Sunday, October 25 | 7 PM MST
[Online Event](#)

Never miss another author event!

St. Albert Public Library's monthly newsletter showcases programs and events for all ages, including author and writer in residence events.

Sign up at sapl.ca

The STARFest newsletter keeps you up to date on Festival events and year-round STARFest After Hours author events.

Sign up at STARFest.ca

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STARFest 2020 October 6 – 28

Admission to all 2020 festival events will be by donation.

Donations can be made at STARFest.ca, and online during events.

Find out more at

STARFest.ca

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These local independent bookstores support STARFest events and authors:

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Welcome to STARFest 2020!



Peter Midgley

Festival Director

Our creative team has cooked up some innovative ideas for the 2020 festival, all aimed at finding ways to make you, our amazing and engaged audiences, more involved in the events than ever before. We will be using technology to our advantage to put together a smorgasbord of delights, including a cooking show with Karma Brown and Jennifer Cockrall-King, and broader discussions pertaining to literature and activism with Desmond Cole and Jesse Lipscombe.

Never fear, the familiar fare of interviews with readers' favourites is still on the menu, too: this year, we welcome Jesse Thistle, Emily St. John Mandel, Téa Mutojji, Nazanine Hozar, Annabel Lyon, Aislinn Hunter, and Marina Endicott (reprise, since her spring appearance was cancelled).

We will offer more details about the final shape of each event closer to the festival dates. Our presentation formats will be chosen to ensure our events are safe and accessible to all. Whatever stage we're at, you can count on STARFest to do what we've always done — bring readers and authors together in memorable, thought-provoking and entertaining ways. We think it's more important than ever to continue the tradition, and to help bring you readerly joy in these uniquely challenging times.

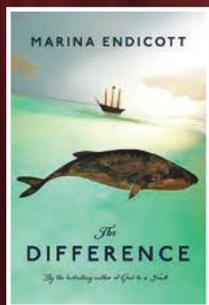
We look forward to connecting with you at STARFest for another exciting festival.



Marina Endicott *The Difference*

Hosted by Jacqueline Baker

Thursday, October 15 | 7 PM MST
Online Event



On board a barque sailing to the South Pacific, young Kay feels unwanted on her sister's honeymoon voyage. But Thea will not abandon her young sister, and so Kay accompanies her sister on a life-changing voyage. When Thea forms a bond with a young boy from a remote island, taking him away as her son, Kay is forced to examine her own assumptions about what is forgivable, and what is right.

STARFest facts

Marina Endicott's novel, *Good to a Fault*, won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book, Canada and the Caribbean, and was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. Her next novel, *The Little Shadows*, was shortlisted for the Governor General's award and longlisted for the Giller Prize, as was her last book, *Close to Hugh*. Endicott lives in Alberta most of the time.

Born in Golden, BC, Marina Endicott grew up in Nova Scotia and Toronto. She worked as an actor before moving to London, England, where she began to write fiction. After returning to Canada, she worked in theatre as a director and dramaturge in Saskatoon. Later, she and her husband moved to Mayerthorpe, AB, before moving to Edmonton. Marina Endicott currently splits her time between Edmonton, where she teaches at MacEwan University, and Saskatoon.

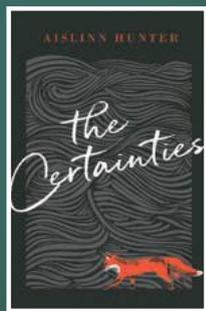
Jacqueline Baker's short story collection, *A Hard Witching*, was shortlisted for the Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, and won the Danuta Gleed Literary Award and the Alberta Book Award for short fiction. Her novels are *The Horseman's Graves*, and *The Broken Hours*, a ghost story about the final days of H.P. Lovecraft's life. She teaches creative writing at MacEwan University in Edmonton.



Aislinn Hunter *The Certainties*

Hosted by Thomas Trofimuk

Friday, October 16 | 7 PM MST
Online Event



The Certainties is a vivid, moving novel about the entwined fates of two very different refugees in two distinct moments: a war-torn Spanish border town in the 1940s; and a British island in the 1970s, as a ship full of would-be migrants approaches shore.

STARFest facts

Aislinn Hunter is an award-winning novelist and poet and the author of seven highly acclaimed books. Her work has been adapted into music, dance, art, and film — including a feature film based on her novel *Stay*, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. Her second novel, *The World Before Us*, was published to acclaim internationally, was a *Globe* Top 100 book, and won the BC Book Prize for fiction. Hunter holds degrees in Creative Writing, Art History, Writing and Cultural Politics, and English Literature. In 2018 she served as a Canadian War Artist working with Canadian and NATO forces. She teaches creative writing and lives in Vancouver, BC.

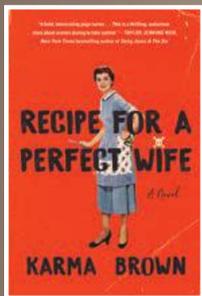
Thomas Trofimuk is an Edmonton writer who has four novels out in the world: *The 52nd Poem*, *Doubling Yourself to the Bone*, *Waiting for Columbus*, and most recently, *This is All a Lie*. He's a long-time teacher at Youthwrite (a fantastic writing camp for kids), and writes on a regular basis for his own website at www.thomastrofimuk.com.



Karma Brown *Recipe for a Perfect Wife*

Hosted by Jennifer Cockrall-King

Tuesday, October 20 | 7 PM MST
Online Event



Alice Hale leaves a promising career in publicity to follow her husband to the New York suburbs. Once there, she is determined to become a writer — and to work hard at building the kind of life her husband dreams of, complete with children. *Recipe for a Perfect Wife* is a story of women daring to take control.

Photo credit: Jenna Davis

STARFest facts

Karma Brown has always loved the written word. As a kid, she could usually be found with her face buried in a book, or writing stories about ice-skating elephants. Now that she's (mostly) grown up, she is the bestselling author of four novels. Her debut novel, *Come Away with Me*, was a *Globe & Mail* Best 100 Books of 2015.

Brown is also a National Magazine Award winning journalist whose work has appeared in *Self*, *Redbook*, *Canadian Living*, *Today's Parent*, and *Chatelaine*.

Karma Brown lives just outside Toronto with her husband, daughter, and a labradoodle named Fred. When not crafting copy or mulling plot lines, she is typically working out, making a mess in the kitchen and checking items off her bucket list with her family.

Jennifer Cockrall-King is a Canadian writer and author based in Naramata, in the BC Okanagan Valley. She writes about food, drinks, cooking, and nature, and is a contributing editor and columnist for the award-winning Canadian narrative journalism magazine *Eighteen Bridges*.

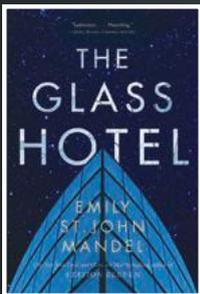


Emily St. John Mandel

The Glass Hotel

Hosted by Senator Paula Simons

Friday, October 23 | 7 PM MST
Online Event



The Glass Hotel is a captivating novel of money, beauty, white-collar crime, ghosts and moral compromise in which a woman disappears from a container ship off the coast of Mauritania, and a massive Ponzi scheme implodes in New York, dragging countless fortunes with it.

STARFest facts

Emily St. John Mandel's previous novels include *Station Eleven*, which was a finalist for a National Book Award and the PEN/Faulkner Award, and won the 2015 Arthur C. Clarke Award, among other honours. *Station Eleven* has been translated into 33 languages. Mandel was born and raised on Denman Island off the west coast of BC. She left school at 18 to study contemporary dance at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre and lived briefly in Montreal before relocating to New York City.

Mandel writes socially-conscious thriller and crime novels that deal with contemporary issues. Her strong and idiosyncratic voice has made her one of today's most sought-after writers.

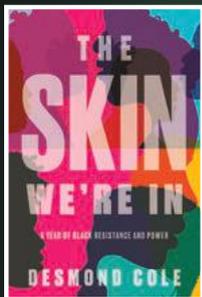
Paula Simons is a Canadian senator. She previously worked as a journalist and was a columnist for the *Edmonton Journal* in Edmonton, AB. She sits as an independent senator representing Alberta in the Senate of Canada, and is part of the Independent Senators Group caucus.



Desmond Cole *The Skin We're In*

Hosted by Jesse Lipscombe

Sunday, October 25 | 7 PM MST
Online Event



Both Cole's activism and journalism find vibrant expression in his first book, *The Skin We're In*. Puncturing the bubble of Canadian smugness and naive assumptions of a post-racial nation, Cole chronicles just one year—2017—in the struggle against racism in this country.

Photo credit: Kate Yang-Nikodym

STARFest facts

Desmond Cole is an award-winning journalist, radio host, and activist in Toronto. His writing has appeared in the *Toronto Star*, *Toronto Life*, *The Walrus*, *NOW Magazine*, *Ethnic Aisle*, *Torontoist*, *BuzzFeed*, and the *Ottawa Citizen*.

In his 2015 cover story for *Toronto Life* magazine, Desmond Cole exposed the racist actions of the Toronto police force, detailing the dozens of times he had been stopped and interrogated under the controversial practice of carding. The story quickly came to national prominence, shaking the country to its core and catapulting its author into the public sphere. Cole used his newfound profile to draw insistent, unyielding attention to the injustices faced by Black Canadians on a daily basis. Urgent, controversial, and unsparingly honest, *The Skin We're In* is a vital text for anti-racist and social justice movements in Canada, as well as a potent antidote to the all-too-present complacency of many white Canadians.

Jesse Lipscombe is an actor, former athlete, activist, entrepreneur and producer. He is behind the FlowPower fitness program, as well as the co-owner of fitness studios, and restaurants. In 2016, Jesse launched the #MakeltAwkward campaign to combat racism, misogyny, homophobia and hatred of all kinds.

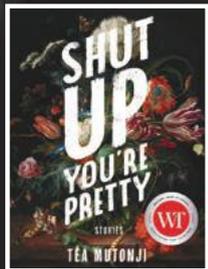


Téa Mutonji

Shut Up You're Pretty

Hosted by Valerie Mason-John

Monday, October 26 | 7 PM MST
Online Event



The punchy, sharply observed stories in *Shut up You're Pretty* blur the lines between longing and choosing, exploring the narrator's experience as an involuntary one. Tinged with pathos and humour, they interrogate the moments in which femininity, womanness, and identity are not only questioned but also imposed.

Photo credit: Sandro Pehar

STARFest facts

Born in Congo, Kinshasa, Téa Mutonji is a poet and author. Her debut collection, *Shut Up You're Pretty*, was published by Vivek Shraya's imprint, VS. Books (Arsenal Pulp Press). It was a finalist for the Rogers Writers' Trust in Canadian fiction (2019) and a *Globe & Mail* Best Book of the Year. *Shut Up You're Pretty* won the 2020 Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction and the Ontario Trillium Award in Fiction (2020). Her essay, "The Price of Being Pretty," published by *Walrus Magazine*, is a finalist for a Digital Award in Publishing for Best Personal Essay. Mutonji writes and gets lost in downtown Toronto.

Since the 1990s, Valerie Mason-John has been a performer and spoken-word poet using the stage name Queenie. Black British by birth, she has now become a Canadian. Mason-John is the author of eight books and works as a public speaker in Mindfulness for Addiction and Emotional Well Being and is a trainer in anti-bullying and conflict resolution.



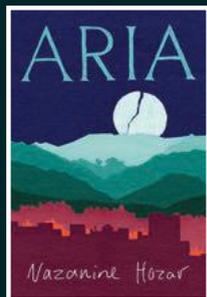
Nazanine Hozar

Aria

Hosted by Marcello Di Cintio

Tuesday, October 27 | 7 PM MST

Online Event



Nazanine Hozar’s stunning debut takes us inside the Iranian revolution — but seen like never before, through the eyes of an orphan girl. The novel’s heart-pounding conclusion takes us through the brutal revolution that installs the Ayatollah Khomeini as Iran’s supreme leader, even as Aria falls in love and becomes a young mother herself.

Photo credit: Tenille Campbell

STARFest facts

Nazanine Hozar was born in Tehran during the chaotic days leading up to the revolution that would depose the Shah of Iran and bring to power the religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini. The year after her birth, Iraq invaded Iran, sparking a war. It is this tumultuous time that provides the background to *Aria*, Hozar’s first novel.

Hozar came to Canada with her mother when she was seven, settling in Surrey, BC. *Aria* began life as a screenplay during her time as a creative writing student at the University of British Columbia, but eventually morphed into a novel. Significant portions of *Aria* were composed on the bus to and from the university. Hozar’s fiction and nonfiction have been published in *The Vancouver Observer* and *Prairie Fire* magazine.

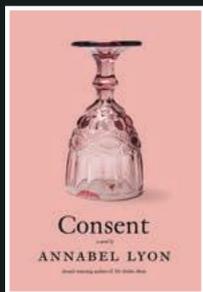
Marcello Di Cintio is the author of four books, including *Walls: Travels Along the Barricades*, which won the 2013 Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing, and *Pay No Heed to the Rockets: Palestine in the Present Tense*, winner of the W.O. Mitchell City of Calgary Book Prize. Di Cintio’s book about the secret lives of taxi drivers will appear in Spring 2021.



Annabel Lyon *Consent*

Hosted by Conni Massing

Wednesday, October 28 | 7 PM MST
Online Event



Consent is a smart, mysterious and heartbreaking novel centred on two sets of sisters whose lives are braided together when tragedy changes them forever. This startling, moving, thought-provoking novel explores the complexities of familial duty and how love can become entangled with guilt, resentment and regret.

Photo credit: Phillip Chin

STARFest facts

Annabel Lyon is the author of the novel *The Golden Mean*, a bestseller in Canada that won the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, was shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Governor General's Award, and has been translated into fourteen languages. She is also the author of a story collection, *Oxygen*, a book of novellas, *The Best Thing for You*, and two juvenile novels, *All-Season Edie* and *Encore Edie*.

Annabel Lyon lives in BC with her husband and two children, where she teaches creative writing at the University of British Columbia.

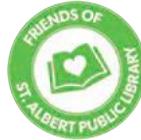
Conni Massing is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter, and the current Writer in Residence at St. Albert Public Library. She has worked in television and film, including as an editor and/or writer for numerous TV shows, including *North of 60* and *Mentors*. Conni is also the author of a comic memoir, *Roadtripping: On the Move with the Buffalo Gals*. She has taught writing at the University of Alberta, Red Deer College and the National Theatre School of Canada.

STARFest supporters

We thank the City of St. Albert, the Library's main funder, for its ongoing support.



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