



## SOME THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS YEAR'S IFOA AUTHORS

- Debra Adelaide** Her current title, *The Household Guide to Dying*, was longlisted for the Orange Prize in March 2009. Adelaide has a keen interest in the culture of reading and of reading practices.
- Tash Aw** Based on royalties as well as prizes, Aw is the most successful Malaysian writer of recent years. Following the announcement of the Booker longlist, the Whitbread Award and his Commonwealth Writers' Prize award, he became a celebrity in Malaysia and Singapore, and is now one of the most respected literary figures in Southeast Asia.
- Linwood Barclay** When his novel *No Time for Goodbye* was published in the UK, it pushed *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* off the #1 spot. The novel became a huge UK bestseller after being selected for the Richard & Judy book club. Barclay was for more than a decade a humour columnist for the *Toronto Star*, but quit in 2008 to write thrillers full time.
- John Bemrose** *The Last Woman* was partly a result of canoe trips in northern Ontario.
- Stuart Berman** In addition to being an editor at *Eye Weekly*, he fronts a garage rock band called The Two Koreas. His interests include cycling.
- Alan Bissett** Bissett is known as one of the few novelists to perform his own work onstage as theatre. He has also written numerous plays and screenplays. Bissett wrote and performed a song with Malcolm Middleton, and has toured as a support act with several Scottish bands.
- John Brady** In addition to being a novelist, he is also an elementary school teacher. Known best for his award-winning Inspector Matt Minogue series, he also writes historical novels.
- Bonnie Burnard** Giller & Commonwealth Prize winner.
- Ron Butlin** Glasgow Citizens Theatre presented a play based on his novel *The Sound of My Voice* that ran throughout this year's Edinburgh Festival. He is currently the Edinburgh Makar (Poet-Laureate).
- Barry Callaghan** *Barrelhouse Kings* was recently translated into Italian and received a nomination for Italy's biggest prize for memoirs.
- Nicola I. Campbell** Is of Interior Salish and Métis ancestry.
- Dani Couture** In 2008, two of her poems were animated and featured on over 300 screens in the Toronto subway system as part of Nuit Blanche.
- Jennifer Cowan** Has written multiple scripts for teen TV shows and is considered a pioneer in social-media savvy books for teens. Her book's main character has a blog, and Cowan is currently developing *earthgirl* for TV.



## AUTHOR FACTS Continued

- Lorna Crozier** With her husband (Patrick Lane) she is currently designing a garden in their home.
- Gitty Daneshvari** The film rights to *School of Fear* have been optioned by Warner Bros. Daneshvari is writing her first screenplay entitled *My Life In Subtitles* – for French producers WAM – which she is writing in English, for translation into French. *School of Fear* was inspired by the author’s own very real phobias.
- Andrea De Carlo** He has worked as an assistant director to both Federico Fellini and Michelangelo Antonioni. He is also a photographer; his work appearing on the covers of all of his Italian editions. He also plays piano, guitar, and the mandolin.
- Anne DeGrace** Is a librarian and a community activist, with a focus on cultural development. In the past, she has been a bookstore owner, arts event organizer, book illustrator, self-publisher of local interest books, publishing consultant, small-time graphic designer, newspaper columnist, and stringer.
- Barry Dempster** Runs a film series in Newmarket, ON that brings foreign and independent films to the community and has raised over \$80,000 for literacy. He will be a writer in residence at the Richard Hill Public Library from October 2009 to January 2010.
- William Deverell** His favourite pastime is Forest Management. A former politician, Deverell cites *Snow Job* as “a tribute to [John] Buchan’s great (if not so honourable) adventure [politics], from an incurable political junkie.
- Margaret Elphinstone** Has previously published two historical novels set in Canada (*The Voyageurs* (2006) and *The Sea Road* (2000)). Her book *The Sea Road* was listed as one of the “100 best Scottish books of all time” in *List Magazine* and won a Scottish Arts Council Book Award.
- Lisa Foad** Winner of the ReLit Award for this, her debut book.
- Alma Fullerton** Personal interests/hobbies include: Children’s Rights, Human equality, animals, gardening and fishing. She is a finalist for this year’s TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award.
- Don Gillmor** Winner of nine National Magazine Awards.



## AUTHOR FACTS Continued

- Jen Hadfield** Is currently working on a novel set in a fictional fishing town in 1930s Vancouver Island. She recently received a Dewar Award to produce a solo exhibition of Shetland exvotos in the style of sacred Mexican folk art, incorporating rubrics of very short fiction.
- Elina Hirvonen** Lived in Zambia for the past two years and is currently on a car trip with her husband from Zambia to Finland. She is also a documentary filmmaker. Her first long documentary was about African immigration to Europe and has been awarded at many international festivals. In Zambia, she was volunteering for the local film industry – assistant directing and producing, and teaching. Her latest book is the most translated debut novel in Finland ever.
- Richard Holloway** Is the Chair of the joint Board of Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen. He was the 2009 guest curator at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. He is a frequent radio and TV presenter for the BBC and was one of the actors in the Edinburgh Festival performance of Margaret Atwood's *The Year of the Flood* tour.
- Quintin Jardine** *Fatal Last Words* is set in and around the Edinburgh International Book Festival, and opens with the murder of a mystery writer. He spent some time in media relations for UK politics as a government press officer in the 1970s, then with the conservative party in the early 80s. (He and William Deverell would probably find a few stories to share!)
- Lynn Johnston** Has received the Order of Canada, the Order of Manitoba, and the Ruben Award, to name a few. This is her first children's book, with a percentage of the revenue going to the Farley Foundation – a province-wide charity providing veterinary care to families on fixed or low income. The main character from this book is from her famed comic strip *For Better or for Worse*, Farley, based on her own dog.
- Joseph Kanon** Is addicted to crossword puzzles. He was Editor in Chief and CEO of Houghton Mifflin and E. P. Dutton in New York before quitting to write full time.
- Lauren Kirshner** Published this, her debut novel, at age 27. She was mentored by Margaret Atwood and wrote the novel while at U of T.
- Jim Lynch** *Border Songs* was selected as one of the 10 best novels of 2009 by Amazon.com. Lynch is an award-winning journalist in the US.
- Linden MacIntyre** Has been a journalist for 45 years.
- Valerio Massimo Manfredi** Is an Italian TV host. He studied Classics and topography of the ancient world. Has worked as a professor and lecturer since 1980 as well as conducted numerous scientific expeditions. His hobbies include archery, motorcycling, trekking, and ancient naval ship models.



## AUTHOR FACTS Continued

**Jacob McArthur Mooney**

Winner of the Authors at Harbourfront Centre Open Stage Night.

**Jean McNeil**

Has made three trips to the Antarctic and two to the Arctic. She may be the only Canadian writer to spend a significant amount of time in the Antarctic (4 months) – as she was a part of the British scientific operation (she is a citizen of the UK). She also went on a scientific expedition to Greenland this past August. She is currently writing a non-fiction book about ice and the polar region.

**Tessa McWatt**

Her second, *Dragons Cry*, was shortlisted for the City of Toronto Book Award and the Governor General's Literary Award in 2001. She currently runs an MA programme in Writing at the University of East London.

**James W. Nichol**

After a long and full writing career as a playwright for theatre, radio, TV, and film, he has just recently crossed over to writing novels. His latest novel is set in his hometown of Paris, ON after the WWII. Both he and John Bemrose are from Paris, ON.

**Susin Nielsen**

Has an extensive background writing for Canadian TV. She got her start writing for *Degrassi Junior High*. Scrabble plays a big part in her new book. She is currently shortlisted for the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award.

**Audrey Niffenegger**

In researching *Her Fearful Symmetry*, Niffenegger became a tour guide for London's famous Highgate Cemetery (final resting place of Karl Marx, George Eliot and many others) and has given occasional tours there since 2004.

**Andrew O'Hagan**

His novel *Be Near Me* was adapted for the stage by Ian McDiarmid and produced by The National Theatre of Scotland in 2009. He is currently working on a stage adaptation of *The Missing* for The National Theatre of Scotland.

**Nikos Papandreou**

Went to high school in King City, ON from 1969–75 because his family was in exile from Greece. This is his first time back in Canada since. He is currently working on a movie based on the life of Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis to be released in 2010. His book *A Crowded Heart* was shortlisted for the Los Angeles First Fiction Award in 1999.

**Iain Pears**

Was for many years an international financial correspondent for Reuters, and wrote on subjects including art, finance and history for the BBC, *Independent*, *Sunday Telegraph*, *LA Times* and others.



## AUTHOR FACTS Continued

- Kate Pullinger** Her latest novel took her nearly 14 years to write. She is currently writing a libretto for an opera based on Wilde's novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* – commissioned by the Slovak National Opera in Bratislava.
- Kathy Reichs** Her protagonist Temperance Brennan was the inspiration for the Fox TV Series *Bones*. Reichs is a Forensic Anthropologist for Province of Quebec and elsewhere.
- Leon Rooke** Is a native of North Carolina who has lived in Canada for many years. He is currently working on an art project with artist Tony Calzetta, "How God Talks in his Sleep" and 29 of his paintings will be on exhibition at the Cameron House in October.
- Jacob Scheier** Is a frequent contributor to *NOW* and NYC's *Independent*. His favourite pastime is cycling.
- Seth** His guilty pleasure is ghost stories.
- Mark Sinnett** In addition to being a writer, he also sells real estate. Sinnett has a film degree, and his guilty pleasure is good Scotch (so he'll be right at home with our Scottish focus this year)
- Kean Soo** Is a former electrical engineer. His book *Jellaby* was nominated for an Eisner Award for Best Digital Comic. He is an Assistant Editor and regular contributor to the *Flight* series of graphic novels.
- Paul Theroux** This legendary American travel writer and novelist's father was French Canadian.
- Eleanor Thom** Received the New Writing Ventures Award for Fiction in 2006 and the Robert Louis Stevenson Fellowship in 2008.
- Michael Thomas** Winner of the 2009 IMPAC Award for his debut novel.
- Adam Thorpe** Is currently working on a new translation of *Madame Bovary* for Vintage Classics.
- Mary Tilberg** Grew up as a child of displaced persons in Africa. She is currently at work on a new novel, which is to be set in the more recent past than her last book.
- Ian Weir** Tried his hand (briefly and without success) at boxing in his youth. His new novel is about a prize-fighter. Weir is one of Canada's most successful TV writers (*Dragon Boys*, *Edgemont* and others).
- David Wroblewski** Gave his very first public reading from *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* at Authors at Harbourfront Centre (Spring 2008).