

OMDC: "Culture is our Business." Promoting growth and investment in Ontario's book and magazine publishing, film and television, music and interactive digital media industries

Excellence Speaks Volumes at the Trillium Awards

Toronto's historic St. Lawrence Hall hosted an overflow crowd in a celebratory mood April 27 for the presentation of the 18th Annual Trillium Awards.

Industry insiders, and outsiders too, came together to both honour Ontario's finest books of the past year and to toast the excellent health of the province's literature. Regardless of whether they were publishers or public officials, editors or authors, booksellers or simply book lovers, everyone in the hall was first a reader, and foremost, a fan of good writing. And since readers in Ontario have never had it so good, the Trillium Awards marked the perfect occasion to fête an industry that continues to be one of the province's most highly prized cultural resources.

English and French-language juries of three members each reviewed an unprecedented 325 titles, something OMDC Chair Marcelle Lean deemed a "testament to Ontario's wealth of talent." (Not to mention the stamina of the jurors.) The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Culture and OMDC Chair Marcelle Lean shared the honour of presenting the results of the juries' deliberations.

Taking home the Trillium Book Award for Poetry as well as a cheque for \$10,000 was Maureen Scott Harris on the merit of her work *Drowning Lessons* (Pedlar Press). (Other titles in contention for the prize were Ray Hsu's *Anthropy* and Rachel Zolf's *Masque*.)

Alluding to the Award's celebration of new and emerging poets, Harris remarked: "I don't think I can call myself a new poet. I've been writing a long time. But I'm delighted to think of myself as emerging, in all shades of that word's meaning."

Antonio D'Alfonso collected the \$20,000 Prix

Trillium for *Un vendredi du mois d'août*, published by Leméac Éditeur. (Also nominated were Marguerite Andersen's *Parallèles*, Jacques Flamand's *Quand éclate la pierre* (1986-2004), Maurice Henrie's *Les roses et le verglas*, and Nathalie Stephens's *L'injure*.)

"This recognition couldn't come at a better time in my life," said a grateful D'Alfonso. Accepting the award, he noted the irony that he had originally moved to Ontario to work in English. And yet, "there are things that can be said in French, that don't come out well in English."

All That Matters (Doubleday Canada), Wayson Choy's intimate telling of Kiam-Kim Chen's coming-of-age in the Vancouver Chinatown of the 1930s and '40s, was the recipient of the \$20,000 English-language Trillium Book Award. (Choy gently joked that "even at the Giller," where he lost to Alice Munro, "I only wanted the cheque.")

In 1996, Choy had shared the Trillium for his debut novel, *The Jade Peony* with Margaret Atwood, so the win for his long-awaited follow-up could hardly be termed an upset. Though considering the shortlist included already honoured works such as Alice Munro's *Runaway*, Roo Borson's Governor-General's-Award-winning *Short Journey Upriver Toward Oishida* and Jane Jacobs' Shaughnessy-Prize-winning *Dark Age Ahead*, the jury's decision could not have been an easy one. (Also nominated were Catherine Bush for *Claire's Head*, Shaughnessy Bishop-Stall for *Down to This* and Michael Winter for *The Big Why*.)

With such powerhouse talent on display, the evening's biggest winners were, once again, the province and people of Ontario. And no one could call that an upset, either. —Jeff Wells

E-mail your news and events by the third Thursday of each month to newsletter@omdc.on.ca

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OMDC News and Program Deadlines

May 17-20 | Six Ontario-based game developers will attend **E3** in Los Angeles, California thanks to support from OMDC's Market Access Program. The participants are: Diana Arruda of Decode Entertainment; Evan Jones of Xenophile Media; Daniel Posner of Pseudo Interactive; Mare Sheppard of Metanet Software; Damir Slogar of Big Blue Bubble Inc.; and Heli Tuomi of Immersion Studios.

June 7-10 | OMDC will sponsor sessions at **Mags University** through the Canadian Magazine Publisher's Association (CMPA) and the Canadian Business Press (CBP). Sponsorship includes the keynote presentation featuring Richard Worzel at CBP's luncheon. Worzel will provide expert insight into understanding changes affecting the magazine business and the tools to leverage those changes to a business advantage. As part of CMPA's seminars, OMDC is once again presenting "Getting on the Radar: Meet the Buyers and Planners." Advertising sales people and the media-buying decision makers will meet together in a panel setting and then in small groups, where the individual magazines will receive direct feedback on their own media kits and magazines. www.magsu.com

June 10 | OMDC, in partnership with National Film Board (NFB) and Canadian Independent Record Production Association (CIRPA) will bring the film, television and music industries together at the **REEL Music Event at North by Northeast (NXNE)**.

This day-long event will include a roundtable discussion moderated by Michael Perlmutter, Director, Music Supervision, SL Feldman & Associates; facilitated meetings between participants, organized by Speed Schmooze.com; and a networking event at the NFB. A call for applications for participation will be posted on OMDC's website on May 16. The deadline to apply for this event is May 25 by 5 p.m. To be added, please send an e-mail to programs@omdc.on.ca with the subject line "NXNE".

June 14-19 | OMDC is supporting the Canadian Film Centre's **Worldwide Short Film Festival**, a thriving short film event, and one of only three festivals in the country accredited by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. Last year's festival screened both *Ryan* and *Hardwood*, two short films that went on to be nominated for Academy Awards this year. www.worldwideshortfilmfest.com

June 29-July 2 | Up to eight Ontario producers will have the opportunity to attend the **Sunny Side of the Doc** in Marseille, France through support provided by OMDC's Market Access Program. OMDC will host an Umbrella Stand in conjunction with Hot Docs. The Sunny Side of the Doc is a very important and dynamic European television market, and chosen producers be under the guidance of market consultant Michaelle McLean. For more info on this event visit www.sunnysideofthedoc.com.

Congratulations!

Three Ontario directors are in the spotlight at **Cannes** this year! David Cronenberg's *A History of Violence* (New Line Productions) and Atom Egoyan's *Where the Truth Lies* (Serendipity Point Films), both shot in Toronto, are in official competition at Cannes, which takes place from May 11 to 22, 2005. Also screening out of competition is *Midnight Movies: From The Margin To The Mainstream*, directed by Stuart Samuels.

2005 Hot Docs Award Winners were announced on

April 29 at the Isabel Bader Theatre in Toronto. The award for Best Canadian Documentary (Feature Length) went to local director Min Sook Lee for *Hogtown: The Politics of Policing*. Best Direction in the Canadian Spectrum Program (Feature Length) went to André-Line Beauparlant's *Little Jesus* and Best Canadian Documentary (Short to Mid-Length) was awarded to Nadja Drost's *Between Midnight and the Rooster's Crow*. For a complete list of winners from this year's popular documentary festival, go to www.hotdocs.ca.

Upcoming Events and Industry Deadlines

May 10 | **Japan External Trade Organization Toronto (JETRO)** is looking to connect Canadian companies currently serving the computer graphics and visual effects needs of the entertainment industry to Japanese companies looking for services and partners. JETRO is compiling a directory to be used by Japanese companies looking for business opportunities. For more info contact JETRO's Research Provider, FAD Research, at jetro@fadresearch.com.

May 12 | The International Institute for Television Leadership is presenting **The Coming Shake-Out in Television** at Toronto's Four Seasons hotel, 21 Avenue Rd. For info and registration call 866-626-6002.

May 17 | The Canadian Consulate General in Los Angeles will present "**Doing Business in the Gaming Industry**", a breakfast seminar at E3—Electronic Entertainment Expo. For more information and registration details contact Linda (Lulu) Leszczynski, Business Development Assistant, Canadian Consulate General Los Angeles at 213-346-2718 or email Linda.leszczynski@international.gc.ca.

May 17-20 | **E3—Electronic Entertainment Expo**, the largest show of its kind in the world, is where new media producers can access the viability of their products and development. Last year, 65,000 retailers, developers, investors, analysts and media from around the world converged to launch new products, exchange ideas and make connections. www.e3expo.com

May 30 | **The 2005 Canadian New Media Awards** will honour 54 finalists at a public event at The Carlu in Toronto. This year's finalists embody the talent, creativity and innovation driving our Canadian new media industry. Of the 54 finalists, 28 are from Ontario. To order tickets or read more on the finalists and their projects, visit www.cnma.ca. Contact: Tannis Wengel & Jennifer Throop, Co-Producers: 416-760-6800 / info@cnma.ca.

June 1 | **The imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival** is accepting submissions for features, shorts, documentaries, dramas, comedies, animation, and more. imagineNATIVE is an international festival that celebrates latest works by Indigenous peoples on the forefront of innovation in film, video, radio and new media. There is no entry fee. The festival pays screening fees for programmed works. Call 416-585-2333, email info@imagineNATIVE.org or see imagineNATIVE.org.

June 2 | The Toronto Chapter of the **International Game Developers' Association** is holding "The Indie Showcase." This is a great opportunity for independent developers from the Toronto Chapter to show off their stuff and hone their "elevator pitch" by presenting to their peers. Interested applicants should contact anne-marie@womenwise.com with a one-page description of their project, accompanied by screen shots.

July 15 | Early submissions due for the **Whistler Film Festival 2005**. Aug. 19 is the short film submission deadline; Sept. 23 is the feature film deadline. The festival will be held Dec. 1 to 4, 2005. Film submission guidelines and forms are at whistlerfilmfestival.com.

June 20-July 1 | **The National Research Council of Canada**, with the support of the Science and Technology Commission of Beijing, Shanghai and Qingdao and the Canadian Embassy in China are organizing a multi-media technology mission to Beijing, Shanghai and Qingdao, China, June 20 to July 1. The delegation is limited to 12 to 15 companies. If you are interested, please contact your IRAP Industrial Advisors or Lin Shen, International Administrator, at 604-666-8757 fax 604-666-8746 or lin.shen@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca.

Sept. 1-2 | **The European Games Network (EGN)** is a trade event held in London, the only one of its kind in the UK, and the third-largest electronic games market in the world. Interested participants are encouraged to start thinking about it now. The Canadian High Commission in London may coordinate a collective booth at EGN for Canadian companies, if there is enough interest. For information contact Peter Aterman through www.europeangamesnetwork.co.uk.

Ongoing | The Cultural Human Resources Council (CHRC) announced the release of a **Competency Chart and Profile for New Media Content Creators**. These tools, created by professional New Media Content Creators, are designed to help artists, educators, employers and government address gaps in formal education and training in the new media industry. For details email info@culturalhrc.ca.

Ongoing | **Calendar Networks Canadian Advanced Technology Organizations**, Canada's advanced technology organizations, have pooled their event calendars into an online tool called "**@CANADA**." The initiative, spearheaded by the Canadian Advanced Technology Alliance, will provide Canadian and foreign executives with a window into the world of Canadian technology. www.atcanada.org

Upcoming Markets, Awards and Festivals

May 7-15	Toronto Jewish Film Festival, Toronto. www.tjff.com
May 11-22	Festival de Cannes, France. www.festival-cannes.com
May 12-15	Digifest, Toronto. www.dx.org/digifest.
May 17-20	E3—The Electronic Entertainment Expo, Los Angeles. www.e3expo.com
May 19-22	Mattawa Film Festival, Town of Mattawa. www.cinefest.ca
May 30	Canadian New Media Awards, Toronto. www.cnma.ca
June 6	K.R. Wilson Awards, Toronto. www.cbp.ca
June 7-9	Mags University at the Old Mill, Toronto. www.magsu.com
June 9	Canadian Society of Magazine Editors' Awards, Toronto. www.canadianeditors.ca
June 9-11	North by Northeast, Toronto. www.nxne.com
June 10	National Magazine Awards, Toronto. www.nmaf.net
June 10-12	nextMEDIA, The International Interactive Media Festival, The Banff Centre, Banff, Alta. www.nextmedia2005.com
June 14-19	Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival, Toronto. www.worldwideshortfilmfest.com
June 15-17	Vancouver International Digital Festival, Vancouver. www.vidfest.com
Sept. 8-17	Toronto International Film Festival. www.e.bell.ca/filmfest
Sept 21-25	Ottawa International Animation Festival 2005. www.awn.com/ottawa/