



St. Albert Public Library

presents



STAR Fest

St. Albert Readers Festival



October 15 – 27, 2013

STARFest at a glance

 Wine reception	Tuesday, October 15 Leanne Shirliffe & Cassie Stocks Hosted by Barbara North	7pm – 8:30pm Forsyth Hall
 Wine reception	Thursday, October 17 Helen Humphreys Hosted by Diana Davidson	7pm – 8:30pm Forsyth Hall
	Friday, October 18 Corin Raymond	7pm – 8:30pm Arden Theatre
	Saturday, October 19 Trevor Cole & Anakana Schofield Hosted by Michael Hingston	2pm – 3:30pm Forsyth Hall
 Wine reception	Saturday, October 19 Carol Shaben	7pm – 8:30pm Forsyth Hall
 Wine reception	Sunday, October 20 Andrew Pyper Hosted by Paul Matwychuk	7pm – 8:30pm Forsyth Hall
 Wine reception	Tuesday, October 22 Linda Spalding Hosted by Judy Schultz	7pm – 8:30pm Forsyth Hall
 Wine reception	Wednesday, October 23 Cathy Marie Buchanan	7pm – 8:30pm Forsyth Hall
 Wine reception	Friday, October 25 Todd Babiak Hosted by Anne Bailey	7pm – 8:30pm Forsyth Hall
 Wine reception	Sunday, October 27 A Tribute to Leonardo Art Gallery Exhibition & Reception followed by Interview with Leonardo (Rooney & Punyi Productions) Ross King Hosted by Paula Simons	6pm Art Gallery of St. Albert 7pm - 9pm Arden Theatre

Welcome to STARFest

Welcome to St. Albert Public Library

Welcome to the third annual St. Albert Readers' Festival. On behalf of the staff, volunteers and Library Board I welcome back those of you who have been supporters of this Festival since 2011, as well as those of you who are yet to experience this great literary event – a fitting way to celebrate National Library Month. Thanks to the hard work of Library staff and your support, STARFest has received province-wide acclaim, receiving the *Minister's Award for Excellence* earlier this year. Thank you for making STARFest a part of your life in St. Albert.



David Climenhaga
Library Board Chair



Welcome to St. Albert and to STARFest

STARFest is a great example of how St. Albert Public Library is "cultivating community", bringing people together to share in their love of books and reading. This Festival gives everyone an amazing opportunity to get up close to their favourite writers, discover new worlds of imagination and develop their own writing skills, gaining tips from the best in the business. STARFest makes an important contribution to the cultural and artistic landscape of St. Albert, and I hope you will take time out to enjoy what's on offer. On behalf of the City of St. Albert, I welcome the stellar lineup of authors from across Canada and beyond. I hope you enjoy your visit to this great city.



Mayor Nolan Crouse



Greetings from the Honourable Doug Griffiths

Minister of Municipal Affairs



Public libraries help build strong communities.

Modern libraries are so much more than a collection of reading materials and resources. Local libraries are places to access services, locations to gather to celebrate community, and destinations to find a variety of events that entertain and enhance our quality of life.

The St. Albert Public Library and STARFest are excellent examples of how Alberta's public libraries engage, inform and inspire us.

I was pleased to recognize the St. Albert Public Library with a *Minister's Award for Excellence* for the 2012 STARFest event. As in previous years, the 2013 festival promises to engage readers, inspire future authors, and provide insight into the craft of writing and the world of publishing.

The Alberta government is proud to support public libraries across our province and to help build a strong provincial public library network. On any given day, libraries always offer something special.

Congratulations to the St. Albert Public Library on its continued success, and a warm welcome to all visitors taking in this year's STARFest.

The Insider's Guide to STARFest

Bigger and better – STARFest 2013 brings you 10 events, 13 great performances, 7 talented hosts, over a span of 13 days; some double acts, some solos, some intimate conversations, some theatrical productions.

We start by laughing out loud with humourists **Leanne Shirliffe** and **Cassie Stocks**, and then bring you more to chuckle about with **Trevor Cole** and **Anakana Schofield** later in the week. For fiction fans we offer a great choice, with **Linda Spalding**, **Helen Humphreys**, **Todd Babiak** and **Cathy Marie Buchanan**, all bestsellers, all with a great story to share. And with **Andrew Pyper**, the distinguished thriller writer, this year's STARFest is a must for fiction fans.

For those of you who seek out facts, we're delighted to welcome **Carol Shaben** whose first book received great acclaim and recently won an award for creative non-fiction. We also welcome **Ross King**, master storyteller, who will round off an evening dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci, where you'll witness an interview with the man himself, courtesy of **Rooney & Punyi Productions**.

And in partnership with the Arden Theatre, we invite you to an evening of words and music with **Corin Raymond**.

As if our star lineup of authors was not enough, we also bring you stellar hosts. From writers to media personalities: **Barbara North**, **Paul Matwychuk**, **Paula Simons**, **Michael Hingston**, **Anne Bailey**, **Diana Davidson** and **Judy Schultz**. Our hosts will ask those searching questions and keep each event rolling along.

I hope you can join us as we "cultivate community" at STARFest 2013.



Peter Bailey
Library Director

STARFest Tickets

All tickets \$10

except Corin Raymond at the Arden (\$20). 

STARFest Constellation Package   

Buy tickets for any **three** STARFest events, and get a fourth STARFest event **free**. Offer excludes Corin Raymond at the Arden Theatre.

Tickets available from:

Main Floor Desk at St. Albert Public Library or by calling (780) 459-1530.

Tickets for Helen Humphreys, Carol Shaben and Ross King are also available from TIX on the Square, Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edmonton.

Corin Raymond tickets only available through the Arden Theatre Box Office (780) 459-1542, Ticketmaster outlets or Ticketmaster.ca.

Find out more at: www.STARFest.ca

Leanne Shirtliffe & Cassie Stocks

Funny First Steps

Tuesday, October 15, 2013 – 7pm

Laugh out loud as Leanne Shirtliffe and Cassie Stocks talk with comedian Barbara North about writing first books.



STARFest FACTS

Leanne Shirtliffe is a teacher, the mother of tween twins and author of *Don't Lick the Minivan: Things I Never Thought I'd Say to My Kids*. Her 8-year stint working in Asia turned out to be a build-your-own-family adventure: Shirtliffe met her Canadian husband in Bahrain, and had her twins in Bangkok.



She writes humorous pieces for *The Huffington Post* and Nickelodeon's *NickMom.com* and has been published by *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Calgary Herald*, and *The Globe and Mail*. She blogs at *IronicMom.com*.

Cassie Stocks was born in Edmonton: a former biker chick, actress, rich man's gardener, aircraft cleaner, and caretaker of a hydroponic pot factory. A *Writing with Style* workshop at the Banff Centre inspired her to quit her job at a steel fabrication plant and begin a degree in professional writing, completed in 2011 with distinction.

Stocks was a winner in the CBC Alberta Anthology Short Fiction contest. Her short story "The Painter" aired on CBC Radio One.

Her first novel, *Dance, Gladys, Dance*, a witty, affectionate tale with a supernatural twist, won the 2013 Leacock Award for Humour.

Barbara North is an award-winning writer, editor, stand-up comic, and star of several original comedic TV and radio shows.



Wine Reception

Helen Humphreys



Research, Writing and the Path to Success

Thursday, October 17, 2013 – 7pm

Hear how Helen Humphreys found her way into writing, as she shares her journey to becoming a multi award-winning and much-loved author. She will be in conversation with local writer Diana Davidson.

STARFest FACTS

Helen Humphreys is the author of four books of poetry, six novels, and two works of creative non-fiction.

Her first two novels, *Leaving Earth* and *Afterimage*, won awards; and her third novel, *The Lost Garden*, was a *Canada Reads* selection. All were *New York Times* Notable Books of the Year. *Coventry* was a national bestseller and an award-winner, was chosen as one of the top 100 books of the year by *The Globe and Mail*, and as one of the top ten books of the year by the *Ottawa Citizen* and *NOW Magazine*. Her non-fiction work, *The Frozen Thames*, was also a national bestseller.

Her most recent work of non-fiction is *Nocturne*, a memoir about the life and death of her brother, Martin. It is an offering to his memory and to all those living through the loss of family and friends.

In 2009 Humphreys was awarded the Harbourfront Festival Prize for literary excellence.

Diana Davidson is an Edmonton-based writer and teacher and winner of numerous literary prizes. She is the director of the Public Library Services branch with Alberta's Department of Municipal Affairs. Her first novel, *Pilgrimage*, will be available September 2013.

LitFest. EDMONTON'S NONFICTION FESTIVAL & STARFest St. Albert Readers Festival in partnership



Wine Reception

Corin Raymond



A Love Letter to Literature and Song

Friday, October 18, 2013 – 7pm
Arden Theatre - Tickets \$20

Corin Raymond's one-man show, *Bookworm*, tells the story of a father reading to his son, growing up in a library, and meeting the Minotaur just outside of Wawa. Corin will also perform music from his double album, *Paper Nickels*.

STARFest FACTS

Raymond has created a love letter to literature. *Bookworm* is a one-man show about Raymond's life-long adoration of books. He is the son of a die-hard bibliophile, a high-school history teacher, a librarian, and a bookseller who collected 15,000 volumes. This sparked Raymond's lifetime passion for books.

Bookworm is an ode to books and the people who love them. Raymond cleverly mixes everyday autobiography with an inherited love of what lies between the covers of his favourite books. A true story told with passion and grace, *Bookworm* is for anyone who loves to read, and re-read, beloved books. "Reading aloud to someone is a way to cross souls," says Raymond, making you ache to return to your favourite books, recite poems from memory, and read aloud to someone you love.

Raymond was in the two-man band The Undesirables and now performs with his all-star band, The Sundowners. Raymond has released six albums to date including three as a solo artist. His album *Paper Nickels* was funded with Canadian Tire money given to him by Canadians all across the country.

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Trevor Cole & Anakana Schofield



Dark and Light

Saturday, October 19, 2013 – 2pm

Spend an afternoon with award-winners Trevor Cole and Anakana Schofield as they discuss dealing with dark and disturbing subjects – while still making us laugh. Holding it all together will be the *Edmonton Journal's* Michael Hingston.



STARFest FACTS

Trevor Cole has received international acclaim for his fiction and journalism for which he has won nine National Magazine Awards. His first two novels, *Norman Bray in the Performance of His Life* and *The Fearsome Particles*, were short-listed for the Governor General's Literary Award.

His most recent novel, *Practical Jean*, won the 2011 Leacock Medal for Humour. It is a darkly humorous tale of a woman inspired to protect her friends from the indignities of aging – by killing them!

In 2013 Cole won a Canada Council award for outstanding artistic achievement as a writer in mid-career.

Anakana Schofield is an Irish-Canadian writer with a background in theatre and film. She has written for *The Globe and Mail* among many other Canadian newspapers.

Her debut novel, *Malarky*, is a dark and comic tale of a betrayed woman's rage and frustration. It was named on 16 Best Book of the Year lists, won the Amazon.ca First Novel Award, and was a Barnes & Noble Summer 2012 Discover Great New Writers pick. The CBC included Schofield in their 2012 Writers-to-Watch list.

Michael Hingston is the *Edmonton Journal's* books columnist. His first novel, *The Dilettantes*, will be released September 2013.

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Carol Shaben



Tragedy, Truth and Transformation

Saturday, October 19, 2013 – 7pm

Travel into the abyss with Carol Shaben as she shares the very personal story of an Albertan plane crash.

STARFest FACTS

A former international trade consultant and journalist, Carol Shaben left her business career in 2005 to focus on her longtime passion for writing. She has since published fiction and non-fiction, locally, nationally and internationally.

Into the Abyss is her first book, a true story of a commuter plane crash in northern Canada. Shaben first wrote about bush flying and Canada's small commuter airline industry in *The Walrus* in 2009. The article was nominated for three National Magazine Awards, winning a Gold Medal in Investigative Journalism. Shaben believes that these awards "catapulted me from the ground floor of my writing profession to the penthouse suite".

Into the Abyss, recounts the experiences of four survivors of a 1984 plane crash in remote Northern Alberta. The survivors were: the author's father and Canada's first Muslim Cabinet Minister, the rookie pilot, an RCMP officer and the criminal he was escorting. The book explores how a single, tragic event can become a catalyst for transformation. It was selected by Barnes & Noble as a 2013 Discover Great New Writers pick, and has won this year's Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction.

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Wine Reception

Andrew Pyper



Behind the Bestsellers

Sunday, October 20, 2013 – 7pm

Meet Andrew Pyper, a fixture on the Canadian bestsellers lists as he explores with writer and film reviewer Paul Matwychuk his drive to be a writer – from childhood imaginary stories to becoming a leading light in the mystery/thriller genre.

STARFest FACTS

Known as Canada's scariest writer, Andrew Pyper received degrees in English literature and law, but has never practised law. He has been a professional writer for 13 years.

His debut novel, *Lost Girls*, was a national bestseller and winner of the Arthur Ellis Award for Best First Novel. Pyper is attached as screenwriter for a feature film adaptation of *Lost Girls*.

Andrew's subsequent novels, which include *The Killing Circle*, *The Wildfire Season* and *The Guardians*, were all ranked as Best Books of the Year.

His new novel, *The Demonologist*, is another spellbinding literary horror story in which a professor must use his knowledge of demonic mythology to rescue his daughter from the underworld. The film rights have been sold to Universal Pictures.

Outside of fiction writing, Pyper is a regular contributor of essays and criticism to Canadian magazines and newspapers, including *The Globe and Mail*, and *Quill & Quire*.

Paul Matwychuk is the General Manager of NeWest Press, writer, editor and film and theatre reviewer for Edmonton AM on CBC Radio.

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Wine Reception

Linda Spalding



The Purchase: Fiction Inspired by Fact

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 – 7pm

Step back in time as Linda Spalding talks about her prize-winning novel, *The Purchase*, inspired by her Quaker ancestors. She will be speaking with travel, food and fiction writer, Judy Schultz.

STARFest FACTS

Linda Spalding, Kansas-born Canadian fiction and non-fiction writer, often explores world cultures and the clash between contemporary life and traditional beliefs. Her most recent book, *The Purchase*, is about pioneer life and slavery and has been described as a "haunting spin on the plantation novel". It won the 2012 Governor General's Literary Prize for Fiction.

Spalding is also well known for *Who Named the Knife*, the true story of the murder trial of Maryann Acker. Spalding's earlier books include the novels *Mere*, co-authored with her daughter Esta Spalding; *The Paper Wife*; *Daughters of Captain Cook*; and the non-fiction book *The Follow*, about renowned orangutan expert Birute Galdikas.

Spalding is an editor of *Brick*, a journal of reviews. She has been awarded the Harbourfront Festival Prize for her contribution to the Canadian literary community. She lives in Toronto with her husband, writer Michael Ondaatje.

Judy Schultz is a prolific food and travel writer who published her first novel, *Freddy's War*, in 2011.



Wine Reception

Cathy Marie Buchanan



Becoming a Writer

Wednesday, October 23, 2013 – 7pm

Discover how reluctant writer Cathy Marie Buchanan eventually threw off the trappings of the corporate life for the writing life, and her inspiration for the bestselling *The Painted Girls*.

STARFest FACTS

Cathy Marie Buchanan spent the bulk of her non-writing life at IBM, first in finance, then in technical sales. Her stories have appeared in many of Canada's most respected literary journals, and she has received awards from both the Toronto and the Ontario Arts Councils.

Her debut novel, *The Day the Falls Stood Still* was a *New York Times* bestseller and a Barnes and Noble Recommends selection. *The Painted Girls*, published in 2013 has garnered rave reviews. It was a *People* magazine pick, a *Vogue* "People Are Talking About" book, and included in *Entertainment Weekly's* Must List. It debuted on the *New York Times* bestsellers list and is a #1 national bestseller in Canada. The book is set in belle époque Paris, inspired by the real-life model for Degas' Little Dancer Aged Fourteen and by the era's most famous criminal trials.

Born and raised in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Buchanan now lives in Toronto.



Wine Reception

Todd Babiak



A Thrilling Departure

Friday, October 25, 2013 – 7pm

Travel to a world of political gamesmanship as Todd Babiak talks to Anne Bailey about his hot-off-the-press fifth novel, *Come Barbarians*, a departure from his previous novels to suspense thriller.

STARFest FACTS

Todd Babiak is an award-winning author, screenwriter, entrepreneur and former *Edmonton Journal* columnist. His novel, *The Garneau Block*, was a #1 regional bestseller, nominated for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the winner of the City of Edmonton Book Prize. *Toby: A Man*, was shortlisted for the Stephen Leacock Medal and won the Alberta Book Award for Best Novel.

His latest and fifth novel, *Come Barbarians*, is due out September 2013. Set in the south of France, it tells of a man trying to leave his past behind who is caught in a shadowy web of political ambition and violence. It is a gripping novel of murder, revenge and high stakes, balanced by moments of love, loyalty and loss.

Babiak lives in Edmonton, with long writing trips to France – sometimes for a month, sometimes a year. He is the co-founder of Story Engine, a consulting company based in Edmonton and Vancouver.

Anne Bailey is a writer at the University of Alberta. Author of two books of literary criticism, she has written for *Legacy*, *New Trail* and *Work of Arts*.



Wine Reception

Say farewell to STARFest 2013 with programs, performance and prose, dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci artist, scientist, inventor.

6pm – Gallery Exhibition and Reception

Art Gallery of St. Albert

The Art Gallery of St. Albert will be exhibiting the results of three Gallery-run programs based on da Vinci's art. Come see how St. Albertans have been inspired by this amazing man. To take part in the da Vinci-inspired Gallery programs on October 12, 17 and 19, please call (780) 460-4310.

7pm – Interview with Leonardo

Arden Theatre

The illegitimate son of a nobleman, inspired by an uncle who nurtured his passion for nature, Leonardo was a genius, a true visionary. He was a man consumed by the beauty and perfection of the world around him, driven by curiosity to create magnificent works of art. This riveting performance by Paul Punyi of Rooney and Punyi Productions will bring Leonardo da Vinci to life.



Rooney and Punyi are a husband and wife team of professional actors who have been delivering educational theatre since 1979. They have acted with some of the finest theatre companies in the country and have appeared on TV, radio and in film. They are recipients of the St. Albert Mayor's Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award 2013.

Children's Programs at the Library

Children can learn about the life, art and inventions of Leonardo, and create masterpieces themselves.

Grades 1-6: Saturday, October 5, 2013. 11am to 12 noon.
Ages 4-6: Wednesday, October 9, 2013. 6:30pm to 7:15pm
Call (780) 459-1532 to register.

7:30pm - Ross King I'm Not Making This Up

Delve into the world of art and history with Ross King, winner of two Governor General's Awards, most recently for *Leonardo and the Last Supper*. He will be in conversation with award-winning journalist, Paula Simons.



STARFest FACTS

King is the bestselling author of six books on Italian, French and Canadian art and history, and two historical novels, *Domino* and *Ex-Libris*. His books have been nominated for a National Book Critics' Circle Award, the Charles Taylor Prize, and the National Award for Arts Writing.

His latest book, *Leonardo and the Last Supper*, explores how, amid war and political turmoil, and his own insecurities, da Vinci created the masterpiece that would forever define him. It has been described as "gripping" by the *New York Times*, and "fascinating" by the *Financial Times*. It was awarded the 2012 Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction.

Born and raised in Canada, Ross has lived in England since moving to London for post-doctoral studies in 1992. He has lectured widely in both Europe and North America, including at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Smithsonian. He has also given lectures and guided tours in Florence, Rome and Paris.

Paula Simons is the *Edmonton Journal's* city columnist. She has earned five prestigious National Newspaper Award citations of merit for her editorials, columns and investigative political reporting.



Wine Reception

Coming soon to St. Albert Public Library

Prairie Tales 15 and Reception

Friday, 27 September – 7pm - 9pm

Join us for an after-hours reception and screening of *Prairie Tales 15*, an anthology of this year's best short films and videos, made by the shining lights of the Alberta media arts scene.

MakerSpace for Kids & Families

Saturday, September 28 – 2pm - 4pm

MakerSpace is a shared space where people collaborate and share tools, resources and knowledge. We'll be making art from old CDs and DVDs, and broken electronics. Suitable for grades 1-6 and their parents.

After Hours with Diana Davidson and Michael Hingston

Saturday, September 28 – 7pm - 8:30pm

Join us for a book launch and reception with Diana Davidson, award-winning creative non-fiction writer, Michael Hingston, *Edmonton Journal* book columnist, and host Anne Bailey. Davidson's fiction debut is *The Pilgrimage*, a novel of love and loss set on the Métis settlement of Lac St. Anne. Hingston will be discussing his literary and comedic debut, *The Dilettantes*.

Writing Workshop with Natasha Deen

Sunday, September 29 – 10am - 1pm

Regional Writer-in-Residence Natasha Deen returns. Explore all aspects of writing – plot, story, characters – as well as hints about publishing and making a living as a writer. For adults and teens

Book Launch with Corinne Jeffery

Sunday September 29 – 2pm - 4pm

Join Corinne in the Library for the launch of *Choosing: 1940-1989*, the final book in the *Understanding Ursula* trilogy

Reserve your spot at these Culture Days programs by calling (780) 459-1682, or for the MakerSpace program, (780) 459-1532.

More information at SAPL.ca or StArtsFest.ca

Alberta Culture Days
September 27-29, 2013
Discover • Experience • Celebrate



STARFest Supporters

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



We thank The Friends of St. Albert Public Library for their financial support for STARFest and numerous other Library endeavours.

STARFest is supported by the Government of Alberta through its Community Spirit Program.



Thank you to our partner LitFest. Check out the LitFest website for their 2013 lineup: www.litfestalberta.org