



Kingston WritersFest
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Kingston WritersFest announces International Marquee featuring J.M. Coetzee

-- Nobel Prize Winner and world-renowned author headlines 2011 Festival --

Kingston, ON. Kingston WritersFest (www.kingstonwritersfest.ca), the community's hottest cultural festival, is proud to announce that J.M. Coetzee, author of *Disgrace* and recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2003, will kick off the festival at the International Marquee on September 22, 2011 at Kingston's Grand Theatre. This will be Coetzee's only North American stop in a 2011 around-the-world trip.

Considered one of the world's greatest living writers, Coetzee began his career in 1969, winning numerous awards, including the French Prix Femina Étranger, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and the Irish Times Fiction Prize. As well as the Nobel Prize, he has twice won Britain's Man Booker Prize, for *The Life and Times of Michael K* (1983) and *Disgrace* (1999). He has also written two fictionalized memoirs, *Boyhood* (1997) and *Youth* (2002) and literary essays.

"Kingston is a vibrant literary environment and we're thrilled that Coetzee is joining us for an engaging and wide-ranging conversation on the art of literature," says Marilyn Simonds, artistic director, Kingston WritersFest. "This year's Festival brings exciting programming to its community of readers and writers, celebrating literacy and literary excellence in Canada," she adds.

The South-African-born Coetzee is coming to Kingston in co-operation with Rosemary Jolly, professor of South African Studies at Queen's University. In his sole public performance, he will read from recent work and engage in an onstage conversation with renowned American novelist, screenwriter and translator, Paul Auster.

These are just two among a spectacular lineup of today's prize-winning Canadian and international authors and the new literary voices of tomorrow. Some of the luminaries scheduled to appear include novelists, Elizabeth Hay, Anita rau Badami, David Adams Richards, Timothy Taylor, Peter Behrens, and Kenneth J. Harvey, poet Lorna Crozier, memoirist Romeo Dallaire, crime writer Giles Blunt, and sci-fi star Robert J. Sawyer, among others. In addition to attracting international names, Kingston WritersFest retains its robust local flavour, featuring Kingston-area authors including Helen Humphreys, Wayne Grady, Diane Schoemperlen, Y.S. Lee, Sarah Tsiang, and Laurie Lewis.

In just three years, Kingston WritersFest has become a major readers and writers festival, offering four days of surprising, provocative and entertaining programming. This year, the Festival runs September 22 – 25 and features 60 authors in more than 40 events, including readings and master classes, a dramatic musical performance of a crime novel, penetrating discussions of war and peace, the eagerly awaited favourite, Kingston Reads: Battle of the Books, and new events, including an Authors Afternoon Tea and Kids on Sunday.

Visit www.kingstonwritersfest.ca for festival information and author profiles. The event schedule will be announced in July with tickets going on sale August 18.

About Kingston WritersFest

Kingston WritersFest, committed to promoting awareness and appreciation of the literary arts in all their forms and nurturing literary expression within the Kingston community, was launched in 2006 by a core group of dedicated and hardworking volunteers under the auspices of Kingston Frontenac Public Library and Kingston Literacy. Since then it has grown with the support of authors and publishers, Kingston's independent and chain bookstores, and local businesses and media. In 2009 the festival was expanded and revamped to bring the widest range and most exciting programming possible to its community of readers.

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For accreditation, to arrange a pre-event or onsite interview or for more information, please contact Danika Lochhead at Kingston WritersFest. Tel: [613-542-1447](tel:613-542-1447). E-mail: danika.lochhead@gmail.com.