

ENJOY A CELEBRATION OF STORIES AT THE 1000 ISLANDS WRITERS FESTIVAL

By Lorraine Payette

Calling all story lovers! The 1000 Islands Writers Festival is back this spring **April 27-29** with another great lineup of talented Canadian authors, illustrators and songwriters to entertain and inspire readers and writers in the Thousand Islands.

“Stories | A Matter of Life and Death” opens the 4th annual 1000 Islands Writers Festival at the Firehall Theatre in Gananoque. The event is a tribute to great Canadian storytellers who lead us through life’s more difficult moments by capturing us with their stories. Honorary Festival Patron Terry Fallis will take festival goers on a humorous and heartfelt journey into matters of life and death with guest authors and Gananoque singer-songwriter Kevin Head and Miss V.

For 2018 up-close-and-personal sessions will take place at local Inns and B&Bs, as well as at museums, theatres and a local gallery.

“Living Room Sessions have become one of the hallmarks of the 1000 Islands

Writers Festival and are loved by the authors just as much as their reading fans,” said Pam Hudson, Artistic Director.

“The informal venues with limited sizes make for comfortable settings that allow for great conversations. We will also host three Writers Workshops, a free Pirate Party Family Event, two meal engagements, and an evening celebration of local stories and authors.”

On this year’s list of featured writers are two-time Leacock Award-winning humorist and Festival Patron Terry Fallis (One Brother Shy); Maureen Jennings (acclaimed author of The Murdoch Mysteries); Kelley Armstrong (bestselling author of many series including the Rockton thriller trilogy, Cainsville, and the Age of Legends YA fantasy trilogy); Barbara Fradkin (two-time Arthur Ellis Crime Writing Award Winner, author of Inspector Green Mysteries and Amanda Doucette Mysteries); Kingston’s Ken Cuthbertson (more than 35 years’ experience with newspapers and

magazines in Canada, the U.S. and the U.K., author of The Halifax Explosion: Canada’s Greatest Disaster); Marissa Stapley (National Magazine Award–nominated magazine writer, Globe & Mail book reviewer, and author of Things to Do When It’s Raining); Katherine Ashenburg (writer for The New York Times, The Globe and Mail and Toronto Life, author Sophie & Cecelia); Heather Smith (author of Agony of Bun O’Keefe, Baygirl, and Ebb & Flow); children’s author Vikki VanSickle (author of The Winnowing and If I Had a Gryphon); and author/illustrator Matt James (When the Moon Comes, Northwest Passage, and The FUNeral). This year the festival will also include a Songwriters Series with local songwriters Kevin Head, Cliff Edwards and Jenica Rayne.

The festival includes events for all ages and interests including community elders at local retirement residences, events at public libraries with students from three area elementary schools, and sessions with intermediate and secondary school students at two Gananoque theatres.

“This year we are thrilled to be sharing the storytelling voices of our creative community,” said Program Director Alison Dunn. “There will be writers and books of course – but in addition, many talented artists and performers are joining us to showcase the unique powers of songwriting, oral storytelling, live theatre and visual art, to convey our stories.”

“Our festival is one for the whole community,” said Hudson. “Stories are an important part of all our lives. They are the base for our shared life experiences.” **LH**

Festival Passes \$65 Individual tickets \$10 to \$20. Purchase online at the Thousand Islands Playhouse (613-382-7020). For more information visit www.1000islandswritersfestival.ca



TERRY FALLIS



MAUREEN JENNINGS



BARBARA FRADKIN



KELLEY ARMSTRONG



KEN CUTHBERTSON



MARISSA STAPLEY



KATHERINE ASHENBURG



MATT JAMES



HEATHER SMITH



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