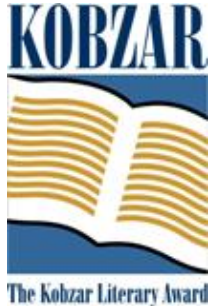


MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release



Jurors Announced for \$25,000 Kobzar Literary Award 2006

Toronto, November 15, 2005 – The Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko (the Shevchenko Foundation) is pleased to announce the Kobzar Literary Award 2006 judging panel. In alphabetical order:

Myrna Kostash - journalist and non-fiction author

Mieko Ouchi – actor, writer and director for theatre, film and TV

Bill Richardson – writer and CBC broadcaster

Antanas Sileika – journalist & fiction author, artistic director of the Humber School of Writers

“We are very pleased by the calibre of this judging panel”, states Andriy Hladyshevsky, Q.C., President of the Shevchenko Foundation. “All four members are highly regarded in their respective fields, and will bring diverse talents and experience to the judging process.”

The vision of the Shevchenko Foundation for the Kobzar Literary Award is to foster cultural development through the literary arts and create opportunities for all Canadian writers to explore Ukrainian Canadian themes that are relevant to Canadians.

The Kobzar Literary Award 2006 list of finalists will be released on Monday, January 16, 2006. The inaugural Kobzar Literary Award 2006 winner will be announced at a dinner and awards ceremony on Thursday, March 2, 2006 at Toronto’s Eglinton Grand.

Presented every two years, the \$25,000 Kobzar Literary Award recognizes a Canadian writer who best presents a Ukrainian Canadian theme with literary merit through poetry, play, screenplay, musical, fiction, non-fiction or young people’s literature.

For more information, contact:

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www.kobzarliteraryaward.com



BIOGRAPHIES – Jurors, Kobzar Literary Award 2006



Myrna Kostash is an Edmonton-based writer of non-fiction. Her most recent books are *The Doomed Bridegroom: A Memoir* (1998) and the national best-seller *The Next Canada: Looking for the Future Nation* (2000). Forthcoming (Fall 2005): *Reading the River: A Traveller's Companion to the North Saskatchewan River*.

Her creative non-fiction has appeared in Brick, Border Crossings, Descant, The Camrose Review, Capilano Review, Prairie Fire, Geist, dandelion, CV II, Literatura na swiecie (Warsaw), Stozher (Skopje), and Mostovi (Belgrade). Her essays and articles have appeared in anthologies such as *The Thinking Heart: Best Canadian Essays*; *The Vintage Book of Canadian Memoirs*; *Why Are You Telling Me This? Eleven Acts of Intimate Journalism*; *Fresh Tracks: Writing the Western Landscape*; *Threshold: An Anthology of Contemporary Writing From Alberta*, and *AWOL: Tales for Travel-Inspired Minds*. She is fondly remembered for *All of Baba's Children*, Hurtig, 1978.

She has taught widely, most recently in the Split Rock Arts Program of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, USA, and Women's Words Writing Week, University of Alberta. She has been writer-in-residence at the Regina Public Library, Saskatoon Public Library and the University of Alberta. In 2001, she was a finalist in the Writers' Trust of Canada's Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing. She is a member of the Board of the Parkland Institute at the University of Alberta and is active in many writers' organizations.



Mieko Ouchi is an Edmonton based actor, writer, and director who works in theatre, film and television. She has starred in the CBC TV movie *The War Between Us* directed by Anne Wheeler, and the Baton television pilot, *The Orange Seed Myth and Other Lies Mothers Tell*.

Recent theatre directing work includes *The Plum Tree*, *The Incredible Adventures of Mary Jane Mosquito* and *Are We There Yet?* for Concrete Theatre, and *Slowly An Exchange Is Taking Place*, *The Mystery School*, *Dear Penthouse* and *The Cloister* at the Edmonton International Fringe Festival among others. Her award-winning films *By This Parting*, *Samurai Swing* and *Shepherd's Pie and Sushi* have played over 30 festivals around the world and have been aired on CBC, W Network and Bravo! *Shepherd's Pie and Sushi* is a documentary, which explores her paternal ancestry as she examines her grandfather Edward Ouchi's experiences as a Japanese immigrant to Canada. Her most recent film, *Minor Keys*, a documentary film for the National Film Board and CBC's *The Nature of Things with David Suzuki* on child music prodigies, won a Golden Sheaf Award for Best Biography Documentary and garnered Mieko a nomination for Best Director at the 2004 Yorkton Film Festival.

In 2004, Mieko was a finalist for a Governor General's Literary Award for her play *The Red Priest (Eight Ways To Say Goodbye)*. The play won the 2005 Canadian Author's Association Carol Bolt Prize for Drama. It is published by Playwrights Canada Press. Her second play *The Blue Light* will premiere at Alberta Theatre Project's playRites Festival (Calgary) in February and have a second production at Workshop West Theatre (Edmonton) in April.



Bill Richardson is a writer and broadcaster. He has hosted and produced a number of programmes for CBC Radio and Television, including *As You Like It*, *The Roundup*, *Bunny Watson*, *Canada Reads*, and *Booked on Saturday Night*.

His books include *The Bachelor Brothers' Bed & Breakfast*, *Scorned and Beloved: Dead of Winter Meetings with Canadian Eccentrics*, *Waiting for Gertrude*, and *After Hamelin*, a novel for children. Bill is a regular contributor to the *Georgia Straight*, *The Globe and Mail*, and is a columnist for *Reader's Digest*.

Among his awards, the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, a National Magazine Award for fiction, the Silver Birch Award for children's fiction, and the Vancouver Arts Award. He lives in Vancouver.

Annick Press additional books:

Sally Dog Little Undercover Agent (2003); But If They Do (2003); Sally Dog Little (2002)



Antanas Sileika, Artistic Director of the Humber School of Writers, is the author of three works of fiction, and many magazine and newspaper articles. "Buying on Time" was serialized on CBC Radio's "Between the Covers" and "Woman in Bronze" was a Globe and Mail Best Book of 2004.

Selected Publications:

Woman in Bronze. Toronto, Ontario: Random House Canada, 2004; *Buying on Time*. Erin, Ontario: Porcupine's Quill, 1997; *Dinner At the End of the World*. Oakville, Ontario: Mosaic Press, 1994.

Awards:

Short-listed, Stephen Leacock Award for Humour.

Short-listed, City of Toronto Book Award.

For more information, contact:

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