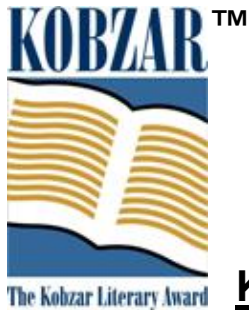


MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release



Kobzar™ Literary Award 2006 Shortlist Announcement

Toronto, January 16, 2006 – This morning the Board of Directors of the Shevchenko Foundation announced the Kobzar™ Literary Award 2006 shortlist.

Presented biennially, 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.

The four finalists are (in alphabetical order by author):

- **Lisa Grekul** for *Kalyna's Song*, published by Coteau Books
- **Laura Langston** for *Lesia's Dream*, published by HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.
- **Danny Schur** for *Strike! - The Musical*, script by Danny Schur & Rick Chafe, lyrics & music by Danny Schur
- **Larry Warwaruk** for *Andrei and the Snow Walker*, published by Coteau Books

The finalists were selected by an esteemed judging panel comprised of: journalist and non-fiction author, Myrna Kostash; actor, writer and director for theatre, film and TV, Mieko Ouchi; writer and CBC broadcaster, Bill Richardson; and journalist, fiction author & Artistic Director of the Humber College Writer's Program, Antanas Sileika.

"We are very pleased with the exemplary and innovative approaches taken by the shortlisted authors in their treatment of Ukrainian Canadian themes." Andriy Hladyshevsky, Q.C., President of the Shevchenko Foundation.

The finalists will be honoured and 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.

For more information, contact:

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About the Kobzar™ Literary Award 2006 Finalists

Lisa Grekul

KALYNA'S SONG

Coteau Books

ISBN: 1-55050-225-5; \$19.95CN/\$17.95US; 5" X 8"; 400 Pages; Paper; Novel



This is a startling debut novel about coming-of-age in Alberta and Africa; a portrait of the artist as a young Ukrainian woman.

Growing up in the small northern Alberta community of St. Paul, Colleen Lutzak has both positives and negatives to deal with - she has an abundance of musical talent, excellent grades in school, and a close extended family. On the other hand, she has a melodramatic mother, an older sister who doesn't always appreciate Colleen's talent, a nemesis named Carla Senko who manages to screw up every triumph Colleen closes in on, and a cousin named Kalyna.

Kalyna is Colleen's alter ego - they have the same name in different languages - and Kalyna is a mystery. She used to be normal, but something happened to her that no one will talk about. A grown woman who once had a family, Kalyna talks and acts like a child. She loves Colleen's music more than anything in the world, and brings out every protective instinct in her young cousin.

Colleen vigorously practises her youthful idealism as well as her talent; this mindset means life's lessons will be particularly hard on her. Her beloved music teacher, who shared and supported her pride in her Ukrainian heritage, suddenly dies. Colleen fails miserably in her first attempt at university in Edmonton, mainly because she resents and resists any reality that is other than what she expects. She is so determined to get away from all the "disappointments" of home that she registers to attend the United World College campus in Swaziland for a year.

Obviously, Swaziland is an utterly foreign experience. Her sense of identity and self-worth is challenged by her foreign surroundings, her homesickness, the suicide of her closest friend and the sudden death of Kalyna. This final tragedy forces Colleen to face adult decisions about the purpose to which she should devote her life and her talent.

*Lisa Grekul lives in Kelowna and teaches Canadian literature in the Department of Critical Studies at the University of British Columbia--Okanagan. She grew up in St. Paul, Alberta, with a Ukrainian heritage, worked as a musician and attended school in Swaziland. She received a creative writing award from the University of Alberta and a doctoral fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Her novel **Kalyna's Song** (2003) was shortlisted for the Amazon.ca/Books in Canada Best First Book Award. She is the author of **Leaving Shadows: Literature in English by Canada's Ukrainians** (2005).*

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Laura Langston
LESIA'S DREAM

HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.

ISBN: 0006392830; Format: Paperback; Pages: 256; \$15.99(CAN)



Baba (grandmother) had made Lesia a promise: “Just remember the flower is not always open. But if your effort is true, your rewards will be sweet.” Lesia treasures those words as she and her family leave Baba and flee for Canada. Disturbed by rumors of war, taxed and persecuted by their Austrian rulers, and worn down by years of hunger and poverty in their homeland, the Magus family clings to the hope that their 160 acres of uncleared prairie land will give them wealth, security—and respect. But even though there is no fighting in Canada, the First World War hunts the family down in their adopted country. Declared enemies of Canada, Lesia’s father, brother and other immigrants are shipped off to an internment camp, leaving Lesia, her pregnant mother and her little sister to survive the winter alone in their sod hut on the prairie. And now the government official has told them that if they do not clear the obligatory 10 acres a year, they will lose their land too.

Wrapped around a little-known episode in Canadian history, *Lesia’s Dream* is a powerful story, gripping in its unvarnished portrait of a people whose spirit and strength of character could not be crushed. Accomplished children’s writer Laura Langston blends a fast-paced adventure, a moving immigrant tale and a sensitive coming-of-age story that will resonate with its adolescent audience.

*Laura Langston is the author of several books for children and adults. **No Such Thing As Far Away** was a Children’s Choice pick by the Canadian Children’s Book Centre; **The Fox’s Kettle** was nominated for a Governor General’s Award for Illustration; and **Pay Dirt!** her non-fiction book for junior/YA readers, was nominated for the Red Cedar and Silver Birch awards. A former writer and broadcaster for the CBC, she is a regular contributor to Canadian Gardening magazine. Laura Langston lives in Victoria, B.C.*

Danny Schur
STRIKE! - THE MUSICAL

In May and June, 1919, the eyes of North America were fixed on the "Chicago of the North" Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Even the New York Times watched in disbelief as the third-largest city in Canada came to a total halt due to a General Strike. A General Strike had been quickly quashed in Seattle earlier that spring but in Winnipeg, the strike lasted six weeks and resulted in sympathetic strikes all across Canada. Revolution, it was thought, had been imported from Russia and taken root in Winnipeg!

"Strike! Has Important Message For Humanity" - Winnipeg Free Press

The Ukrainian Canadian experience is indelibly marked by the internment of Ukrainians during the First World War era. Winnipeg's great General Strike of 1919, so hot on the heels of the war, occurred in a climate of xenophobia, paranoia and overt discrimination directed towards the immigrants of Winnipeg's North End, of which Ukrainians were so much a part. And within this setting is the story of Mike Sokolowski, the Ukrainian immigrant everyman, who finds himself at the epicenter of Canada's most famous labour uprising. So much of the shame, and yet so much of the nobility, of the Ukrainian experience in Canada can be traced to this fateful six weeks in Winnipeg in 1919. This is the story of Strike! - The Musical.

"Four Stars...Fabulous...Passionate...Inspiring" - The Winnipeg Sun

Despite the eighty-five years that have passed since 1919, there is much of that world that parallels ours. Bolshevism was to 1919 what terrorism is to our world. Spanish Influenza (although far more deadly) was the equivalent of S.A.R.S. A war had just ended, leaving chaos in its wake. And profound political polarisation (in regards to the Strike) is witnessed in today's divide over same-sex marriage. All are proof that the lessons of 1919 can speak to us today.

"Compelling...Genuine...Wonderful" - The Globe and Mail

*Dubbed Canada's "Andrew Lloyd Webber" by the CBC, Winnipeg's Danny Schur was raised in Ethelbert, Manitoba and demonstrated musical talent at an early age. A gifted pianist, he studied composition at the University of Manitoba before pursuing a career as an eight-time Juno-nominated composer/producer. In 2000, Danny tread down his current career path of composer/producer of original musicals with his first musical, **The Bridge**, commissioned to celebrate 100 years of Ukrainian settlement in Canada. Danny's third musical, **STRIKE!** premiered in Winnipeg in May, 2005 to universally positive reviews. **STRIKE!** will open the 2006 season at Saskatoon's Persephone Theatre in September.*

*Rick Chafe is a Winnipeg playwright and dramaturge with more than a dozen productions to his credit, including **The Secret Mask**, produced at the Carol Shields Festival of New Works and **The Odyssey**, produced by Shakespeare in the Ruins. He collaborated with Danny Schur on the final production-ready version of the script to **STRIKE!***

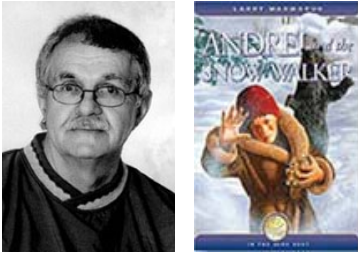
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Larry Warwaruk

ANDREI AND THE SNOW WALKER

Coteau Books

ISBN: 1-55050-213-1; \$9.95CN/\$8.95US; 5¼" x 7½"; 202 Pages; 6 Illustrations; Paper



In search of a better life, twelve-year-old Andrei and his family move from Ukraine to a Canadian homestead near Batoche, Saskatchewan, in the spring of 1900. Andrei's grandfather brings with them an ancient Scythian bowl given to him by an old hermit - a strange, glowing bowl which may have magical power.

Andrei has never worked so hard, helping to build a home, breaking land and learning to hunt with two Métis friends, Gabriel and Chi Pete. They tell him about Snow Walker, a man of unusual powers and wisdom - a man some say can change into a bear. Sometimes, in the woods, Andrei thinks he sees a figure moving through the trees.

Near Christmas, Andrei is caught in a swirling blizzard while trying to use the strange bowl's magic to help his family. When he falls through river ice, he sees not only that the magic bowl cannot save him, but also that he must let it go to have a chance of surviving. Suddenly, someone strong pulls him from the river. In a cabin in the woods, Andrei at last meets Snow Walker and learns that this land has its own wisdom and power.

*Larry Warwaruk is the author of the novels **The Ukrainian Wedding** and **Rope of Time** and the non-fiction book **Red Finns of the Coteau**, published in 1984, as well as a number of short stories published in *GRAIN*, *NeWest Review* and elsewhere. He is the general editor of **Sundog Highway: Writing from Saskatchewan**, Coteau's definitive anthology of Saskatchewan literature. Several of his works have won Saskatchewan Writers Guild literary awards. He is also active in community theatre - he founded the Snakebite Players in Beechy, Saskatchewan, and won several Best Director awards in Saskatchewan Community Theatre festivals. Born in Regina, Larry Warwaruk grew up in southern Saskatchewan, took his academic degrees in Regina and at the University of Oregon, and was a teacher and principal in central Saskatchewan for many years. He lives with his family in Outlook, Saskatchewan.*

For more information, contact:

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