

For Immediate Release: April 22, 2009 • Please include in all listings / announcements



PROUD VOICES READING SERIES: The Third Annual Celebration of Queer Writers at Pride Week 2009

Showcasing the very best of Canada's Queer literary community, **Pride Toronto** presents the third annual **PROUD VOICES READING SERIES** as part of **Pride Week 2009**. Featuring established veterans and emerging writers, the **PROUD VOICES READING SERIES** was curated by **Susan G. Cole** and will take place at the James Canning Gardens Stage on **Saturday, June 27** and **Sunday, June 28**.

Featuring the works of short story writers, novelists, poets and playwrights, **Proud Voices** will feature onstage interviews, a special playwright's component and a spoken word show case.

The line-up includes:

Saturday June 27 (starting at 3pm): **Lisa Foad, Shani Mootoo, Farzana Doctor, Suki Lee, Karine Silverwoman, Emma McKenna, Jeffrey Round, Kenji Tokawa, Billeh Nickerson** and *The Lesbian Mother Series* with **Elizabeth Ruth, Diane Flacks** and **Susan G. Cole**.

This afternoon is hosted by Susan G. Cole & Mariko Tamaki.

Sunday June 28 (starting at 3pm): **John Miller, Andrew Binks, S. Bear Bergman, Brian Francis, Zoe Whittall, The Dayne Ogilvie Prize Winner, Derek McCormack, The Playwrights Series** with **Damien Atkins** and **Catherine Hernandez** and *The Spoken Word Showcase* with **Krsytle Mullin, Molle Dorst** and **Duncan Armstrong**. This afternoon is hosted by Susan G. Cole & Billeh Nickerson.

Susan G. Cole is an author, playwright, activist and the entertainment and books editor at NOW Magazine in Toronto. She has written two books on violence against women (*Pornography and The Sex Crisis* and *Power Surge*, both from Second Story) and the groundbreaking play 'A Fertile Imagination', about two lesbians trying to have a baby, produced by Nightwood Theatre in 1991 and published last year in *Lesbian Plays: Coming Of Age In Canada* (Playwrights Canada Press). She can also be read in Herizons Magazine and heard on Radio 640's Media and the Message panel every Thursday morning at 9 am.

Pride Toronto is the not-for-profit organization that hosts Pride Week, an annual festival held during the last week of June in downtown Toronto. Pride Toronto exists to celebrate the history, courage, diversity and future of Toronto's LGBTTIQQ 2S communities (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Questioning, Two-Spirited) and is one of the leading cultural events of its kind in the world. Toronto's Pride Week has been named the Best Festival in Canada by the Canadian Special Events Industry, is recognized as one of only Eight Signature Events in the city of Toronto, and is ranked as one of the TOP 50 festivals in Ontario by Festivals and Events Ontario. www.pridetoronto.com

PROUD VOICES READING SERIES – PART OF PRIDE WEEK 2009

Curated by Susan G. Cole

James Canning Gardens (between Gloucester & Dundonald Streets)

Saturday June 27 and Sunday June 28, 2009

Starting at 3pm both afternoons

FREE ADMISSION

www.pridetoronto.com

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