

# MOTIVE CRIME & MYSTERY FESTIVAL

## TIFA RETURNS TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME WITH 2023 MOTIVE CRIME & MYSTERY FESTIVAL

Toronto International Festival of Authors Reveals the Best in Crime  
and Mystery Lit

Lineup includes James Comey, Linwood Barclay, Perry Chafe, Joy  
Fielding, Johana Gustawsson, Anthony Horowitz, Maureen Jennings,  
Deepti Kapoor, Shari Lapena, Harini Nagendra, and more.

Passes on sale May 4



TORONTO, May 2, 2023 - Proceed with caution! The **Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA)** today announced the guest lineup and programming for the second annual **MOTIVE**, Canada's largest crime and mystery writing festival, taking place June 2 to 4. Book lovers will be able to come together to enjoy over 40 in-person events at Harbourfront Centre and three free virtual offerings. MOTIVE will welcome some of the world's leading masters of mystery to participate in readings, conversations, book signings, masterclasses, musical performances and more. Passes go on sale on May 4 at [FestivalofAuthors.ca/Motive](https://FestivalofAuthors.ca/Motive) and through the Harbourfront Centre Box Office by phone at [416-973-4000](tel:416-973-4000).

From cosy crime to police procedural, psychological thriller to true crime, these page-turning genres have produced some of the most celebrated storytellers worldwide, who are loved by readers everywhere.

“We are thrilled to be presenting the second MOTIVE programme and to celebrate great crime and mystery writing from Canada and around the world. Crime and mystery writing continues to captivate readers. The genre’s popularity attests to the power of masterful storytelling that also allows us to reflect on our contemporary, social issues,” said **Roland Gulliver**, Director, Toronto International Festival of Authors. “Festival goers can experience the finest storytellers across a broad range of genres and entertaining events, which perhaps challenge preconceived notions of mystery and crime literature. As we prepare for the second year of MOTIVE, we look forward to welcoming everyone for a wonderful weekend full of mystery.”

Below is some of the wide array of programming that will be offered at this year’s MOTIVE. For more information, visit [FestivalofAuthors.ca/Motive](http://FestivalofAuthors.ca/Motive).

### CONVERSATIONS AND READINGS

The Festival is pleased to welcome an incredible selection of writers from Canada and around the world including Denmark, France, Iceland, India, Norway, UK and US, to discuss their spine-chilling stories, including:

- Former FBI director **James Comey** introduces his debut novel, *Central Park West*. Drawing from his decades in federal law enforcement and years in Manhattan as a mob prosecutor, the story follows a murder investigation that reveals deadly connections between high-ranking politicians and the mafia.
- Prolific UK writer **Anthony Horowitz**, known for creating some of the most beloved TV series including *Midsomer Murders*, and has continued the careers of Sherlock Holmes and Ian Fleming with the third in his Bond series, *With a Mind to Kill*, recently published. He will take the stage to discuss his fourth book in the Detective Hawthorne series, *The Twist of a Knife*.
- Master of suspense **Linwood Barclay** returns to MOTIVE with his twisty, fast-paced thriller *The Lie Maker*, about a man desperately trying to track down his father before his enemies can get to him.
- CP24 crime specialist and retired Toronto detective **Steve Ryan** presents *The Ghosts That Haunt Me*, in which he reflects on six of the many cases in his career that greatly impacted him.

Bestselling crime and mystery writers will come together to connect through thematic conversations, including:

- Canadian bestselling author **Shari Lapena** and the “Queen of Icelandic crime” **Yrsa Sigurdardottir** will discuss chilling family secrets in their thrillers.
- YA writer **Sheena Kamal** and Ghanaian-American novelist **Kwei Quartey** will speak on their newest stories, featuring brave, bold women on a search.
- Human rights activist and author **Ausma Zehanat Khan** joins writer and war veteran **Kevin Powers** on how crime fiction can be used to explore global issues.
- Diné filmmaker and author **Ramona Emerson** and “Queen of French Noir” **Johana Gustawsson** will discuss their books involving spirits and black magic.

- South Asian authors **Vaseem Khan** and **Harini Nagendra** will discuss the vibrant Indian cities featured in their latest work and how the political climate plays into their stories.

### CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

Each day, authors and experts will examine thrilling themes of the culture and politics that shape the world around us and the books we read. Presented in partnership with the Provocations Festival. Highlights include:

- **Bearing Witness**, with legal scholar **Kent Roach** and journalist **Tamara Cherry** on complexities, issues and realities of reporting crime.
- **Cybercrime**, with novelist **Vaseem Khan** and **Cameron Field**, vice-president at VIDOCCQ, a firm that designs tailored investigation, intelligence and risk management solutions.
- **True Crime Histories**, with Canadian authors **Susan Goldenberg**, **Sharon Ann Cook** and **Margaret Carson**, exploring how class, gender representation and prejudice lead to miscarriages of justice.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

TIFA will host a number of thrilling special events throughout the weekend, including:

- **Newfoundland Noir**: The Toronto launch of **Perry Chafe's** *Closer By Sea* with his long-time creative collaborator, and fellow Newfoundlander, **Allan Hawco** (*Republic of Doyle*). This dual interview and kitchen party-style jam session includes live musical performances by Maureen Ennis of The Ennis Sisters, and special guests.
- **Anthony Horowitz on James Bond**: internationally bestselling author will do a deep dive into the rich history behind the iconic James Bond series, including his own latest Bond novel, *With A Mind to Kill*.
- **Tea, Cake and Murder, with Jessa Maxwell and Amy Stuart**: an afternoon tea and cake served with a delicious slice of murder as they dig into their latest books.

### MASTERCLASSES

In these creative writing workshops, aspiring writers will learn how to craft compelling stories and bring captivating characters to life through hands-on lessons from industry experts. Some events include:

- French-Swedish crime writer **Johana Gustawsson** explores character-building.
- Podcaster and writer **Catherine Fogarty** will help transform true crime stories into unforgettable reads.
- Author **Melodie Campbell** will show you how to kill with comedy.
- American author **Ryan Gattis** offers immersive storytelling techniques.

### TIFA KIDS

Engaging and inspiring young book lovers, TIFA will feature a special event for elementary and middle school students on June 2 to meet, hear and learn from UK author **Anthony Horowitz** about his bestselling YA series, *Alex Rider*, now in its third series on Amazon Prime. Ideal for grades 5-8.

## FREE FESTIVAL EXPERIENCES

Alongside the event programme, TIFA offers an enhanced festival experience with a wide variety of free events and books signings for all audiences to enjoy at Harbourfront Centre:

- **Lunchtime Taster with Ryan Gattis, Johanna Gustawsson and Harini Nagendra:** bring your lunch and enjoy a picnic with a taste of suspense with these celebrated authors.
- **Ask the Expert, with Margaret Cannon, Karen Sullivan and Bjarni Porsteinsson** about how to write and publish a crime novel.
- **Outdoor readings** from numerous authors including **Roxanne Bouchard** (*Whisper of the Seal*), **Daniel Kalla** (*Fit to Die*), **Marcie R. Rendon** (*Sinister Graves*) and **Jonathan Whitelaw** (*The Bingo Hall Detectives*).
- **MOTIVE Bookstore** browse the specially curated bookstore for your next favourite read, presented in partnership with Indigo and digital bookseller Rakuten Kobo.

## DIGITAL SERIES

Additionally, three pre-recorded digital events featuring international authors will be available to watch for free all week long:

- Scottish author **Neil Forsyth** on his captivating heist book *The Gold*, inspired the hit BBC drama coming to Canada in June.
- Indian author **Deepti Kapoor's** second novel, *Age of Vice*, part crime thriller and family saga.
- British novelist **Martin Edwards** on *The Life of Crime: Detecting the History of Mysteries and their Creators*, the first major history of crime-fiction released in several decades.

This year, MOTIVE will introduce a **Festival Pass**, allowing attendees to explore as much of the Festival as they wish, with either a three-day pass (\$64.99 - \$99.99) or one-day pass (\$24.99 - \$39.99), including entry to all standard events. **Premium** three-day passes (\$99.99 - \$149.99) and one-day passes (\$39.99 - \$59.99) include priority entry to all standard events plus entry to date-applicable Premium events. A limited number of single tickets will be released for Premium events on May 23. **Masterclass** tickets are excluded from the Festival/Premium passes and are \$49. MOTIVE's free offerings include outdoor activities at Harbourfront, book signings and digital events to enjoy.

Visit [FestivalofAuthors.ca/Motive](https://FestivalofAuthors.ca/Motive) to view the full programme lineup and to book passes.

## **Toronto International Festival of Authors**

The Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA) inspires, empowers and connects through the art of stories, offering book lovers a breadth of bold, ambitious and accessible literary experiences. As Canada's largest literary festival, the charitable organization provides engaging opportunities to meet, hear and learn from the world's best contemporary writers and thinkers, and to celebrate the power of stories. Since 1974, TIFA has presented thousands of authors, including 22 Nobel Laureates, who represent diverse perspectives and

a range of literary genres for all ages. TIFA's creative programmes continue to adapt to changing times, capturing the most innovative and enlightening forms of storytelling, on stage and online. Based at Harbourfront Centre, TIFA delivers a year-round programme of events and activities that reflect Toronto to its residents, its literature to the nation, and its creative ambition to the world. The 44th edition of TIFA's flagship festival will take place September 21 - October 1, 2023.

TIFA is grateful for the support of the Government of Canada - Department of Canadian Heritage; the Canada Council for the Arts; Ontario Creates; the Ontario Arts Council; and Toronto Arts Council; as well as the generous support offered by our many Patrons, donors and supporters.

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