

Biographical Notes on Winners 2010 Governor General's Literary Awards



Fiction

Dianne Warren, *Cool Water*

A first-time novelist, Dianne Warren is best known for her short stories and plays. One of her three published plays, *Serpent in the Night Sky*, was a GG finalist in 1992, and she has written several radio dramas for CBC. She has published three short story collections – one of which, *Bad Luck Dog* (1993), won three Saskatchewan Book Awards. Her stories can also be found in numerous anthologies, journals and magazines. A long-time resident of Saskatchewan, she brings to her writing an honest portrayal of people in rural communities, conveying their subtle complexities and deep attachments to family farmland. Dianne Warren was born in Ottawa, and is currently living in Regina.

Kim Thúy, *Ru*

With *Ru*, her first novel, Kim Thúy has dazzled readers and critics. A huge success in France, *Ru* has already won the Grand Prix RTL-Lire 2010 at the Salon du livre de Paris and was shortlisted for the Prix des cinq continents de la Francophonie. Several countries, including Italy, Spain, Sweden and Germany, have already negotiated translation rights for the book. Kim Thúy was born in Saigon and arrived in Quebec at age ten in 1978, with the first wave of boat people from Vietnam. She has degrees from the Université de Montréal in law (1993) and in linguistics and translation (1990). She has worked as a seamstress, interpreter, lawyer, restaurateur and producer. She lives in Longueuil, Que., where she now devotes herself to writing.

Poetry

Richard Greene, *Boxing the Compass*

Richard Greene has played numerous roles in Canada's literary community – poet, biographer, critic and professor of English at the University of Toronto. He edited *Graham Greene: A Life in Letters* (2007) which was highly acclaimed by the British and Canadian literary press, and he was recently commissioned by Time Warner to write a biography of British poet Edith Sitwell (in press). He is a contributing editor to *Books in Canada* and his reviews of contemporary poetry have been published in numerous journals in Canada and abroad – as has his own poetry. *Boxing the Compass* is his third collection of poetry. Originally from St. John's, Nfld., Richard Greene is currently living in Cobourg, Ont.

Danielle Fournier, *effleurés de lumière*

Danielle Fournier is the author of several collections of poetry, including *Poèmes perdus en Hongrie* (Prix Alain-Grandbois, 2003) and *Il n'y a rien d'intact dans ma chair* (GG finalist, 2005). She has participated in numerous poetry events in Quebec and abroad: she was poet-in-residence in Saorge, France, in the spring of 2004, and participated in poetry festivals in France, Italy, Hungary, Romania, Belgium, Germany, Austria and Algeria. She is a regular contributor to literary reviews including *Estuaire*, *Moebius*, *Spirale* and *Voix et Images*. Danielle Fournier taught literature for several years at college and university, and is currently the literary director of L'Hexagone. She was born and lives in Montreal.

Drama

Robert Chafe, *Afterimage*

Robert Chafe is an award-winning author of 15 plays, and co-author of another 10. His work has been brought to stages across Canada, the UK and Australia. *Robert Chafe: Two Plays. Butler's Marsh, Tempting Providence* was nominated for a GG in 2004, and he is currently working on a film adaptation of *Tempting Providence*. He is an artistic associate of the Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland theatre company and of the Magnetic North Theatre Festival, and has taught at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College in Corner Brook, Nfld. and the National Theatre School of Canada in Montreal. In creating *Afterimage*, he worked closely with fellow Newfoundlander Michael Crummey, to adapt Crummey's short story for the stage. Robert Chafe was born and lives in St. John's, Nfld.

David Paquet, *Porc-épic*

David Paquet wins a GG with his first play, *Porc-épic*. The play was performed for the first time by graduating students of the National Theatre School in 2007, directed by Frédéric Dubois. After being presented in Mexico and several European countries, it made an acclaimed appearance at L'Espace Go in Montreal in 2010, directed by Patrice Dubois. The same year, Paquet's play for adolescents, *2 b 14 AM/FM*, winner of the competition Le théâtre jeune public et la relève, was presented at Maison Théâtre, in a production directed by Claude Poissant. David Paquet is interested in stories, whether they are told through slam, storytelling or poetry. He is a graduate in playwriting from the National Theatre School of Canada, and lives in Montreal.

Non-fiction

Allan Casey, *Lakeland: Journeys into the Soul of Canada*

Freelance journalist Allan Casey wins the GG award for his first book. His articles, published in such magazines as *Adbusters*, *Canadian Geographic*, *Canadian Living*, *Reader's Digest* and *Books in Canada* have been nominated for several National Magazine Awards, and he won the inaugural Science Journalist Award from the University of British Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism. He studied English at the University of Saskatchewan and received his Masters Degree in Journalism at University of Western Ontario. *Lakeland: Journeys into the Soul of Canada* reflects his personal passion for exploring the waterways of Canada's wilderness. Allan Casey was born in Regina, raised in Prince Albert and is currently living in Saskatoon, Sask.

Michel Lavoie, *C'est ma seigneurie que je réclame : la lutte des Hurons de Lorette pour la seigneurie de Sillery, 1650-1900*

Michel Lavoie is an associate professor in history at the Université de Sherbrooke, and has a PhD in history from Université Laval in Quebec City. His area of expertise deals with Quebec's Aboriginal Peoples, and how they have been affected by various government policies throughout Canada's history. He contributed essays to *Mémoires d'un avenir* (ed. Jean-Philippe Warren, 2006) and *La rénovation de l'héritage démocratique : Entre fondation et refondation* (ed. Anne Trépanier, 2009). Director of the historical journal *Recherches amérindiennes au Québec* from 2005 to 2010, Michel Lavoie currently works as a consultant in history based in Saint-Raphaël, Que.

Children's Literature – Text

Wendy Phillips, *Fishtailing*

Wendy Phillips wins a GG with her first novel. Her love of words began when she was a child; she started writing at the age of 11. She continued to study words, earning degrees in journalism, English, education and children's literature. Throughout her career, she has worked as a bookbinder, English teacher and high school teacher-librarian. Wendy Phillips was born and raised in Kamloops, B.C., but lived in Ottawa, Lesotho and Australia, before moving to her current home of Richmond, B.C.

Élise Turcotte, *Rose : derrière le rideau de la folie*

Award-winning poet and novelist Élise Turcotte has published several collections of poetry, including *La voix de Carla* (Prix Émile-Nelligan, 1987) and *La terre est ici* (Prix Émile-Nelligan, 1989). She has also published short stories (*Caravane*, 1994), novels (including *Le bruit des choses vivantes*, Prix Louis-Hémon, 1991, *L'île de la Merci*, 1997, and *La maison étrangère*, 2002), and several children's books. She won a GG in 2003 for *La maison étrangère*, and its English translation by Sheila Fischman (*The Alien House*) was a GG finalist in 2004. Her work has been translated into English, Catalan and Spanish. Born in Sorel, Que., Élise Turcotte writes and teaches literature in Montreal.

Children's Literature – Illustration

Jon Klassen, *Cat's Night Out*

Often drawing inspiration from folk tales, acclaimed illustrator Jon Klassen is known for his ability to bring stories to life by imaginatively evoking their mood and setting. His accomplishments extend beyond children's literature; he has worked on several high-profile animated film/video projects, such as *Coraline*, U2's music video, *I'll Go Crazy If I Don't Go Crazy Tonight*, and the BBC's promotion of its 2010 Winter Olympics coverage. Born in Niagara Falls, Ont., Jon Klassen studied at Sheridan College in Toronto, and is currently working as a book illustrator in Los Angeles.

Daniel Sylvestre, *Rose : derrière le rideau de la folie*

Young readers will be familiar with Daniel Sylvestre's illustrations for the series *Puce*, *Zunik* and *Clémentine*. A highly sought-after illustrator, he has illustrated the texts of several authors for young people, among them Yvon Brochu (*Alexis dans de beaux draps*, 1992), Denis Côté (*L'Idole des Inactifs*, 1989), Maryse Pelletier (*Une vie en éclats*, 1997) and Sylvie Desrosiers (*Mais qui va trouver le trésor?*, 1992). He won the Québec/Wallonie-Bruxelles 1984 children's literature prize for the first volume of the *Zunik* series and was a GG finalist in 2007 for his illustrations in *Ma vie de reptile* by Sylvie Massicotte. An acclaimed printmaker, he studied the decorative arts and graphic arts in Paris. Daniel Sylvestre is currently living in Montreal.

Translation

Linda Gaboriau, *Forests*

Linda Gaboriau is a dramaturge and literary translator renowned for her translations of some 100 plays and novels by some of Quebec's most prominent writers, including many of the Quebec plays best known to English Canadian audiences. *Forests* is her third translation of a Wajdi Mouawad play and represents her second GG (*Stones and Ashes*, 1996, a translation of Daniel Danis's *Cendres de cailloux*). After studying French language and literature at McGill University, she freelanced as a journalist for the CBC and the *Montreal Gazette*. She has worked in Canadian and Québécois theatre and is founding director of the Banff International Literary Translation Centre, where she directed numerous translation residencies and international exchange projects. Originally from Boston, Linda Gaboriau has been based in Montreal since 1963.

Sophie Voillot, *Le cafard*

After studying literature and linguistics, Sophie Voillot worked briefly as a screenwriter before turning to translation and terminology. For 25 years she has practiced the art of translation and has authored several literary translations, winning her first GG in 2006 with *Un jardin de papier* (translation of *Salamander* by Thomas Wharton). She was a GG finalist in 2007 for *La fin de l'alphabet* (translation of *The End of the Alphabet* by C. S. Richardson), and in 2008 for her translation of *The Logogryphe* by Thomas Wharton. She translated Rawi Hage's first novel, *De Niro's Game* (*Parfum de poussière*), which went on to win Le combat des livres 2009. She has published her own poems and short stories in various reviews. Born in Marseille, France, Sophie Voillot grew up in Quebec City and now lives in Montreal.