

INSIDE
TODAY:

FESTIVALS
Latino Expo has taken
its own musical journey
See Page E2

AWARDS
MTV Video Music Awards to get
time trippy with Beyonce, Lady Gaga
See Page E3

ENTERTAINMENT

LATEST NEWS AT CALGARYHERALD.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR: RUTH MYLES 403-235-7263 RMYLES@CALGARYHERALD.COM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2011

in Liberia (The Redemption
of General Butt Naked.)

The festival, which runs
from Sept. 23 to Oct. 2, has
also released the lineup for
its late-night screenings
and Black Carpet Gala.

Monster Brawl, a surreal
black comedy and send-up
of both monster movies
and professional wrestling,
will be screened Sept. 30
at the Plaza. Other oddball
entries into the late-night
schedule include George
the Hedgehog, an animated
film about a booze-soaked,
sex-crazed hedgehog; the
post-apocalyptic thriller
The Divide; and Saint, a
"satirical splatter film"
about Christmas. For a full
list of documentaries and
late-night screenings visit
calgaryfilm.com.



Postmedia News Archive
Marina Endicotta will read
at WordFest.

New digs, eclectic writers for WordFest

Five days of
readings and
performances

ERIC VOLMERS
CALGARY HERALD

A who's who of Canadian
literary prize winners, a
critic's darling from Ger-
many, an Inuit throat singer,
a former Saturday Night
Live writer and a Canadian
expat who has become the
toast of The New Yorker

are among the eclectic
group of writers and per-
formers coming to Calgary
and Banff for the 16th an-
nual WordFest.

The festival, which will
run from Oct. 11 to 16 in
various Calgary locations
and the Banff Centre,
announced a lineup of
76 writers Wednesday
morning at its new digs,
the Hotel Le Germain in
downtown Calgary. Artistic
director Jo Steffens, over-
seeing her first WordFest,
offered a glimpse into a
busy five days of readings,

performances and panel
discussions.

"It's a whole different
experience than sitting in
your armchair at home with
your nose in a book," Stef-
fens said.

"The question I always
think about: What gets the
people out of the chair and
down to the festival? And
it's that one-of-a-kind expe-
rience.

"Those are the experi-
ences you remember and
look back on."

In the spirit, WordFest
will continue to spread its

wings into different disci-
plines and mediums this
year.

Alongside more tradi-
tional literary love-ins such
as its evening readings and
Poetry Bash, the festival
will present a radio play
based on the work of Jes-
sica Westhead, a text-based
installation on outdoor bill-
boards and performances
from musical acts such as
singer-songwriter Justin
Rutledge and Inuit throat
singer Tanya Tagaq.

SEE WORDFEST, PAGE E7

STARTS SEPTEMBER 13
Starring REX HARRINGTON

Featuring Peter Anderson and Dean Paul Gibson

TOSCA
CAFE

Created and staged by Carey Perloff and
Val Caniparoli. The American Conservatory
Theater (San Francisco) production. A co-
production with the Vancouver Playhouse



2011-12
Theatre
Calgary

DENNIS GARNHUM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR TICKETS CALL
THEATRE CALGARY
403-294-7447

theatrecalgary.com [f](#) [t](#)

SPECIAL OFFER FOR
NEW SUBSCRIBERS!

5 PLAYS
FOR \$135!

Single tickets to all
plays on sale now.
Look in tomorrow's
Swerve for our
season brochure.



Calgary Herald Archive
Clockwise from top left: Patrick deWitt, Elizabeth Hay and Miriam Toews will attend Wordfest.

WORDFEST: Strong list of talent

FROM E1

Panels will explore topics such as the digital world of writing and publishing, while the First Calgary Financial Book Rapport will bring students together with 19 authors to promote literacy and a love of reading.

But Wednesday's launch was largely about telling Calgary who will be coming to town over the five days. The festival boasts a particularly strong list of Canadian literary talent this year.

Sixty-four homegrown authors will be participating, including prizewinners Miriam Toews, Johanna Skibsrud, Elizabeth Hay, Wayne Johnston, Patrick Lane, Guy Vanderhaeghe and Patrick deWitt.

Marina Endicott, Andrew Ni-

kiforuk, Will Ferguson, Derek Beaulieu, Lynn Coady and Rosemary Griebel are among the Albertan writers who will be on hand for readings and panel discussions.

"It gives us a bit of profile in the community," says Griebel, a poet who will be reading from her book *Yes* at the festival.

"As a writer you slave alone for years on a book and suddenly to have it receive this kind of attention is important."

German prizewinner Thomas Pletzinger, who is making international waves with his book *Funeral for a Dog*, leads an impressive global contingent that will also include writers from the U.K., the U.S., St. Lucia, Australia, Scotland and Mexico.

Patricia Marx, the first female

elected to Harvard Lampoon, former SNL scribe and current staff writer at *The New Yorker* will present her comedic novel *Starting From Happy*.

Lisa See, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, will be at the festival reading from her new book *Dreams of Joy*.

Former Torontonian David Bezmozgis, recently named one of the 20 Under 40 promising fiction writers in *The New Yorker*, will bring his debut novel *The Free World*.

Bezmozgis, who is also a filmmaker, as written for *The New Yorker* and *Harpers*.

For a full list of authors and events visit wordfest.com.