

Notable nominees at WordFest

SPOTLIGHT

WordFest runs from Oct. 11 to 16 and various venues in Calgary and Banff. Visit wordfest.com.

ERIC VOLMERS
CALGARY HERALD

The good fortunes of author Patrick deWitt have nevertheless forced him to pull out of WordFest this year, organizers say.

The Vancouver Island native was not only longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize on Tuesday but also landed on the shortlist for the international Man Booker Prize for Fiction for his critically acclaimed novel *The Sisters Brothers*.

Unfortunately, scheduling for the latter prize, which will be handed out in London on Oct. 18, has required him cancel his appearances at local WordFest events.

Mary Kapusta, marketing manager for WordFest, said deWitt will likely come to Calgary for a separate event later in the year.

Still, the literary festival will not be light on nominated authors.

Eight of the 17 authors longlisted for the Giller Tuesday will be attending this year's festivities in Calgary and Banff. Attendees who made the list include Calgarian Suzette Mayr for her novel *Monoceros*; Edmontonians Lynn Coady and past Giller nominee Marina Endicott for *The Antagonist* and the *Little Shadows* respectively; Torontonian David Bezmozgis for his novel *The Free World*; Newfoundlander Wayne Johnston for *A World Elsewhere*; Montreal's Dany Laferriere for *The Return*; Vancouver's Zsuzsi Gartner for her short-story collection *Better Living Through Plastic Explosives*; and Saskatoon's Guy Vanderhaeghe for his novel *A Good Man*. Other authors on the longlist with Albertan connections include former Calgarians Myrna Dey, whose novel *Extensions* won the Reader's Choice nominee, and Esi Edugyan for *Half-Blood Blues*. (And it came as no surprise that Michael Ondaatje's name was on the list for *The Cat's Table*.)

The shortlist for the \$50,000 Giller will be announced Oct. 4. The winner will be announced in Toronto on Nov. 8.

Former Calgarian up for Man Booker

Author one of six authors on shortlist

AMY SMART
POSTMEDIA NEWS

Two Vancouver Island authors have been named to both the shortlist for the Man Booker Prize for Fiction and the longlist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. Former Calgarian Esi Edugyan's *Half-Blood Blues* centres on the arrest of an Afro-German trumpet player in wartime Europe. Patrick deWitt, a Vancouver Island native who now calls Portland, Oregon, home, is recognized for *The Sisters Brothers*, the story of two cowboy assassins hunting a gold prospector.

Both of the book-prize lists were announced Tuesday.

"It feels great, it feels like Christmas," Edugyan said from her home in Colwood. "I wasn't

expecting to be shortlisted for the Booker, that was really a long-shot, so it's really amazing. And of course the Giller — that's a long-shot, too."

Edugyan and deWitt are among six authors on the Booker shortlist. The winner of the prize, which will be announced Oct. 18, will be awarded about \$78,500, while each of the shortlisted titles earns \$3,900.

Works by four British authors also made the list: *The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes; *Jamrach's Menagerie* by Carol Birch; *Pigeon English* by Stephen Kelman; and *Snowdrops* by A.D. Miller.

There are 17 books on the Giller longlist, including those by Edugyan and deWitt. The winner of the Canadian prize will be announced Nov. 8 and awarded \$50,000. The prize recognizes "the author of the best Canadian novel or short story collection published in English." Finalists will be announced Oct. 4.



Arnold Lim, Postmedia

Esi Edugyan's novel *Half-blood Blues* is out now.

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