



MEDIA ADVISORY—Six Special Events Bookend the Vancouver Writers Fest

(July 31, 2014—Vancouver, BC) The largest ever Vancouver Writers Fest is set for October 21 to 26, 2014, with 86 events planned and 103 authors coming to Granville Island. While program details are not available till mid-August, six special events set for both before and after the Festival week are now on sale.

New York Times bestselling author **Louise Penny** begins the special event lineup on Sept. 3 at St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church with her latest Chief Inspector Gamache book, *The Long Way Home*. On Sept. 27, **David Mitchell** talks to Hal Wake, the Vancouver Writers Fest's Artistic Director, at St. Andrew's-Wesley and reads from his new novel, *The Bone Clocks*, which has just been nominated for the Man Booker prize. A third special event leading up to the Festival is **Stickboy: From Page to Stage**, set for Oct. 7 at the Frederic Wood Theatre at UBC. *Stickboy*, a book by world-renowned spoken word artist **Shane Koyczan**, has been transformed into a contemporary opera, on stage at the Vancouver Playhouse starting Oct. 23. Vancouver audiences will have the opportunity to hear from Koyczan and three of his collaborators about the process of turning this very personal story into opera.

Following the six-day Festival, three more special events are planned for November. **Bruce Cockburn**, legendary Canadian singer and songwriter, talks about his long-awaited memoir, *Rumours of Glory*—a chronicle of faith, fear, and activism that is also a lively cultural and musical tour through the late twentieth century—on Nov. 10 at St. Andrew's-Wesley. On Nov. 13, two Festival special events will take place. **Alan Doyle**, Newfoundland singer-songwriter and front man of Great Big Sea, talks about his new memoir, *Where I Belong*, at the Waterfront Theatre on Granville Island. And at St. Andrew's-Wesley, **Conrad Black** is the Festival's guest as he presents his re-examination of the history of Canada. *Rise to Greatness* challenges our perception of our history and Canada's role in the world.

Tickets for all six special events are on sale now through VancouverTix.com, and details are on the Festival website at writersfest.bc.ca. Tickets for events during the Festival week in October go on sale Sept. 8.

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