

TRILLIUM BOOK AWARD 2025

Jury Members



French Language Jury

FRENCH LANGUAGE JURY FOR THE TRILLIUM BOOK AWARD AND TRILLIUM BOOK AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE (FRENCH)

Lisa L'Heureux is the artistic director at Théâtre Rouge Écarlate (RÉ, Ottawa), as well as a deep-diving artist, a unifier and a tinkerer. She is drawn to fragments, the unspoken, discomfort and the ephemeral.

She is the author of several solo plays, including *Ciseaux* (RÉ, 2014), *Pour l'hiver* (RÉ, 2015: awarded the 2017 Prix Jacques-Poirier), *Et si un soir* (RÉ, 2018: winner of the 2019 Trillium Award and nominated for the Governor General's Award the same year), as well as several co-written works, including *Cadences* (Théâtre Belvédère, 2021), *Tapage et autres bruits sourds* (Poids Plumes + NAC French Theatre, 2018), *Love is in the birds* (Théâtre du Trillium, 2013) and *Comment frencher un fonctionnaire sans le fatiguer* (Poids Plumes, 2014). She is also the author of children's play *Parmi les monstres* (winner of the 2025 Écrivaines et Écrivains Associés du Théâtre [E.A.T.] children's award) and of poetry collection *Haus* (published by *Prise de parole*, 2025).

Eunice Boué is a communicator, entrepreneur and mistress of ceremonies with over 12 years of experience hosting corporate events, galas, conferences, symposiums, forums and masterclasses. She is known for her stage presence, ease and professionalism.

As Executive Director of the Toronto French Book Fair, she actively promotes Francophone literature in Ontario. She established the young literary talent award, already in its second edition, and leads the CLIN project, an inclusive book club that criss-crosses Toronto to connect communities with French-language literature.

The founder of U-Event, an agency specializing in communications and public relations, she supports numerous cultural and institutional projects. Her commitment is recognized through her roles as Ambassador of the Francophonie of the Americas, finalist for the 2024 Prix GAF and chair of the 2025 Prix RelèveON awarded by the Club canadien de Toronto, where she also sits on the board of directors.

She hosts radio show *Zoom Franco* on Choq FM, which celebrates the French-speaking world. Eunice has a degree in art and literature and a master's degree in education, and she contributes actively to promoting Francophone initiatives in Canada and internationally.

Katia Grubisic is a writer, an editor and a translator. She has won the Gerald Lampert Award, the Cole Foundation Prize for Translation and the Governor General's Award.

English Language Jury

ENGLISH LANGUAGE JURY FOR THE TRILLIUM BOOK AWARD

Elyse Friedman is a critically acclaimed author of six books. Her work has been short-listed for the Trillium Book Award, The Toronto Book Award, the Relit Award and the Tom Hendry Award. Her short story *The Soother*, won the gold National Magazine Award for fiction, and she has twice won the TIFF-CBC Films Screenwriter Award. Elyse lives in Toronto.

Naben Ruthnum is the author of *Helpmeet*, *A Hero of Our Time*, *The Grimmer*, and other books. He also works as a screenwriter, and lives in the Parkdale neighbourhood of Toronto.

Anuja Varghese (she/her) is an award-winning writer based in Hamilton, ON. Her work has appeared in several literary magazines and anthologies, and she is the Fiction Editor at the *Ex-Puritan*. In 2023, Her short story collection, titled *CHRYSALIS*, won the Writers Trust of Canada Dayne Ogilvie Prize and the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction, and in 2024, was longlisted for the Carol Shields Prize for Fiction. Her debut novel, *A KISS OF CRIMSON ASH*, the first in a new fantasy trilogy inspired by medieval India, is forthcoming in spring 2026. Find Anuja online through her website anujavarghese.com.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE JURY FOR THE TRILLIUM BOOK AWARD FOR POETRY

Conyer Clayton is a queer writer from Kentucky living in Ottawa. Their latest book of surrealist prose poetry, *But the sun, and the ships, and the fish, and the waves*, won the Archibald Lampman Award. They are a Senior Editor at *Augur* and a member of VII, an Ottawa-based poetry collective, and you can find their fiction, essays, and poetry published in journals throughout the U.S. and Canada. Their third full-length collection of poetry is forthcoming in 2026 with Buckridger Books, Wolsak and Wynn. They are working on a novel with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, The Ontario Arts Council, and The Tin House Summer 2025 Workshop.

David Seymour has published two full length books of poetry, *Inter Alia* (Brick Books), and *For Display Purposes Only* (Coach House Books), and a chapbook entitled *Head Arrangements* (Junction Books). In addition to writing and editing, David has also worked in the film and television industry as an Assistant Director and, later, as the Director of Member Services for the Directors Guild of Canada. He currently resides in Lakehurst, Ontario.

Moez Surani's writing has been published internationally, including in *Harper's Magazine*, *Best American Experimental Writing*, *Best Canadian Poetry*, and the *Globe and Mail*. His visual and performance works have been shown at *Nuit Blanche Toronto*, *YYZ Artists' Outlet*, *WhiteBox* in New York, the *Cross Gallery* in Taipei and the *Colorado Springs Fine Arts Centre*. He is the author of the poetry books *Operations* and *Are the Rivers in Your Poems Real*, and the novel, *The Legend of Baraffo*.