

Press release

Thursday 8 March 2007

Multimedia poetry: Spotlight on Canada und Quebec at this year's poesiefestival berlin

Nobel Prize winner Derek Walcott, winner of the Alternative Nobel Prize Fernando Rendón and Quebecer poet Hélène Dorion will be among those appearing at the eighth poesiefestival berlin from 23 June to 1 July 2007.

For the eighth time, the Literaturwerkstatt Berlin will be presenting poetry fused with performance, music, dance and media art at the Kulturbrauerei from 23 June to 1 July 2007. The Weltklang – Night of Poetry event, this year taking place at the open-air theatre in Volkspark Friedrichshain, will once again mark the start of the festival.

Among those reading at the opening event will be Nobel Prize winner Derek Walcott (St. Lucia), winner of the Alternative Nobel Prize Fernando Rendón (Columbia) and Hélène Dorion (Quebec). The focus of this year's festival will be on the poetry of Canada and Quebec.

Canada boasts a very lively poetry scene, which is keen on experiment. Formed from cultural diversity, bilingualism and the contrast between vast rural areas and sophisticated urban centres, the poetry from Canada and Quebec is impressive above all for its unconventional fusion and mix of elements from the most diverse traditions, trends and cultures.



D. Kimm and Alexis O'Hara from Montreal

The Weltklang – Night of Poetry event, this year taking place not at Potsdamer Platz but at the open-air theatre in Volkspark Friedrichshain, will once again mark the start of the festival. Big names including Nobel Prize in Literature winner Derek Walcott, holder of the Alternative Nobel Prize Fernando Rendón and Quebecer poet Hélène Dorion will be taking part in the poetry evening under the stars right at the start of the festival.

The project from Montreal called "Room of lost steps" fuses spoken word, dance, music, text and video projections; voices are electrified, the poetry computerised. Poetry and electronics merge into a single entity. The four Quebecer poets D. Kimm, Alexis O'Hara, Fortner Anderson and Michel Vézina stand out above all for their stage presence and the performative nature of their live appearances. They will be performing with musicians Bernard Falaise and Michel F. Côté and a dancer.

In the concert entitled "e.poesie", two related art forms come face to face on stage in the search for the apparent and the inconspicuous. In one workshop, five composers and electronic music sounds artists will be setting to music five works from contemporary German-language poets. The results will be premiered during the festival. Involved in the workshop will be David Kiers (Netherlands), Robin Minard (Canada), Mark Polscher (Germany), Ana Maria Rodriguez (Argentina) and Mario Verandi (Argentina).

With well more than 10,000 visitors every year, the poesiefestival berlin is the biggest of its kind in Europe and has an international reputation. Previous guests have included Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Paul Muldoon, Laurie Anderson, Volker Braun and Friederike Mayröcker.

Saturday 23 June to Sunday 1 July
poesiefestival berlin
Kulturbrauerei, Prenzlauer Berg
Opening with Weltklang – Night of Poetry
on 23 June at 8pm
in Volkspark Friedrichshain

For further information:
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With kind support from the Canadian Embassy in Berlin, the Representation of the Quebec Government, the Canada Council for the Arts/ Conseil des Arts du Canada and the Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec.
Sponsored by the HauptstadtKulturfonds.



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