



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 30, 2007

DIASPORA DIALOGUES ISSUES 2007 OPEN CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Looking for emerging writers of fiction, poetry and drama in GTA

(TORONTO) Diaspora Dialogues invites submissions to its annual publishing/mentoring program from emerging writers of **short stories less than 3,000 words in length, plays of any length** and/or up to **5 poems, with each poem being no more than 75 lines**. (See below for definition of 'emerging.')

The primary focus of Diaspora Dialogues is on first- and second-generation immigrants to Canada who live in the greater Toronto region. First-generation is defined as those who were born outside the country; second generation as those born in Canada to one or both parents born elsewhere. Submissions from First Nations writers are also welcome. The setting of the works must be, at least in part, Toronto. The project is meant to create a literature of this city that is as culturally diverse as the city itself. Writers are encouraged to keep this mandate in mind, but addressing this theme directly is not essential in the submission.

Through an adjudicated process, a shortlist of approximately 20 writers will be chosen and each assigned (free of charge) to an established writer or dramaturge in a mentoring capacity to gain feedback on their work. A selection of the finished pieces will be published in the annual Diaspora Dialogues anthology. Additionally, they will be published on the Diaspora Dialogues website and some will be published or read through print and radio partners.

The 2007 Diaspora Dialogues commissioned writers/mentors include Michael Redhill, Alissa York, Judy Fong Bates, Molly Peacock and Yvette Nolan among others still to be announced.

Diaspora Dialogues runs a very popular monthly multi-disciplinary literary and performance festival in venues across the city from Harbourfront to theatres, libraries and other facilities. Each emerging writer in the mentoring program will be given a chance to present their work to a live audience at one of these events, and the plays chosen for the program will be staged using professional actors/directors.

Diaspora Dialogues supports the creation and presentation of new fiction, poetry and drama that reflect the complexity of the city back to Torontonians through the eyes of its richly diverse communities. Please see www.diasporadialogues.com for further details.

Submission guidelines:

- The greater Toronto region must exist in the story, poem or play in some way. This can mean using the city as a physical setting. It can mean exploring what the city means to you in a psychological or metaphorical way. It can mean writing about a person, issue or geographic location that is Toronto-specific. The definition is broad, but Toronto must be somehow present in the work.

- The work must be original and not previously published or produced.
- Short stories must be 3,000 words or less; up to 5 poems may be submitted, with each poem being no more than 75 lines; and plays can be short or full-length. Only one submission per category per person (one person may submit one from each category if desired).
- Note: last year's open call required the plays to be less than twenty minutes in length and for no more than 3 characters. This requirement has been changed and either short or full-length plays can be submitted. Short-listed playwrights will meet with the dramaturge to decide whether to develop a short or long piece. A staged workshop reading will be part of the dramaturgy cycle.
- Submissions must be in English.
- Writers/poets must not have been previously published in a full-length manuscript of their own (although appearance in magazines and/or anthologies are acceptable). Playwrights must have not had a full-length play (greater than 75 minutes) professionally produced.
- Those submitting must live in the greater Toronto region.
- Submissions must include a short biographical note. Full contact information should be on the cover sheet, but the submission itself must only include the name of the work and no identifying information as the submissions are read blind.
- Submissions will not be accepted electronically. If you wish your submission returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

We welcome your submission! **Deadline is May 11, 2007.** Early submissions are encouraged. No submissions will be accepted after the deadline. **Results available by June 11, 2007.**

Please mail to:

Diaspora Dialogues Charitable Organization
170 Bloor Street West, Suite 804
Toronto, ON M5S 1T9

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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