



Melbourne Writers Festival 2008 features Canadian writers

Notable Canadian writers **Gil Adamson**, **Gwynne Dyer**, **David Rakoff** and **Maude Barlow** are attending the 2008 Melbourne Writers Festival. We expect huge interest in their events and would appreciate it if you could pass on this information to anyone interested who would like to join us. These authors' visits have been supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Gil Adamson is an acclaimed poet and short story writer in Canada. She lives in Toronto but spent a few years in Australia as a child. *The Outlander* is Gil's first novel. It has already received rave reviews in Canada and the US.

A recipient of Sweden's Right Livelihood Award (the "Alternative Nobel") and a Lannan Cultural Freedom Fellowship, **Maude Barlow** is head of the Council of Canadians, Canada's largest public advocacy organisation, and founder of the Blue Planet Project. She is the author of sixteen books, including *Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis and the Coming Battle for the Right to Water* and *Blue Gold* – published in over fifty countries – and is on the board of Food and Water Watch and the International Forum on Globalisation. She lives in Ottawa, Canada.

Gwynne Dyer has worked as a freelance journalist, columnist, broadcaster and lecturer on international affairs for more than 20 years, but he was originally trained as an historian. Born in Newfoundland, he received degrees from Canadian, American and British universities, finishing with a Ph.D. in Military and Middle Eastern History from the University of London. His twice-weekly column on international affairs is published by over 175 papers in some 45 countries. His award-winning television and radio documentary series have been seen around the world and include *War*, *The Human Race*, and *Protection Force*, *The Gorbachev Revolution* and *Millenium*. Gwynne is the author of several books, including *War and Future: Tense*, and, most recently, *Climate Wars*.

David Rakoff is the author of the books *Fraud* and *Don't Get Too Comfortable*. He has been a regular contributor to *The New York Times Magazine*, *Outside Magazine*, *GQ*, and Public Radio International's *This American Life*, and his writing has also appeared in *Salon*, *Wired*, *SEED Magazine*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *The New York Observer*, and *Slate*, among others. Born in Montreal and raised in Toronto, he has lived in New York City since 1982.

More than 300 writers will appear at the 2008 Melbourne Writers Festival over 10 days from 22 – 31 August. Events are scheduled from 10:00AM until late in Federation Square and other city venues. The full program is available online and in *The Age* on Friday, July 18. Early bird discounts are available until August 2.

Please contact us for more information and we hope you and your friends join us.

Bookings

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Gwynne Dyer, Maude Barlow and Gil Adamson appear courtesy of the Canada Council for the Arts