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## MOVING STORIES PREVIEW AT BOOKEXPLO CANADA

Curator Paul Quarrington & Founder Judith Keenan

Open the Program with a rumble June 15 @ 2:00pm

[www.movingstoriesfilmfest.com](http://www.movingstoriesfilmfest.com)

June 15, 2008 (Toronto, ON)...**BookShorts**, the seminal producer/distributor of film, video and TV programs based on books, will officially kick-off **Moving Stories** – a festival of short films celebrating the written word – with a special preview screening **Sunday, June 15th at 2:00 pm**, in the BookShorts Lounge at BookExpo Canada (MTCC, 225 Front Street West, Toronto). The preview will be hosted by Festival Founder **Judith Keenan** and Programmer **Paul Quarrington**. Authors and Directors whose work is represented in the program, as well as presenters from host venues across the country will also be in attendance. The screening include two films announced specifically in time for BookExpo: an animated short by British filmmaker **Kate Jessop** *When the Telescope Came* based on a poem by Diana Syder, as well as *A Life's Passion*, based on the novel *Renaldo* and the biography of its author **James McCreath**.

The final line-up of films, up to 12 in total to make a 90-minute screening event, will be selected by Festival Programmer **Paul Quarrington** in consultation with a prestigious panel of Film Advisors including film producer **Robert Lantos**; award-winning filmmaker **Sarah Polley**; author **Nino Ricci**; top literary publisher **Anne Collins**, and director / animator **Gary Thomas**. Festival Advisor Robert Lantos, a long-time collaborator of Quarrington's, has a marked commitment to the literary world in his films: "Many of the features I've produced – *Joshua Then and Now*, *Whale Music*, *Being Julia*, *Fugitive Pieces*, *Black Robe* and *The Sweet Hereafter*, to name just a few – are based on novels. Each adaptation brought its own individual challenges and rewards. I find the whole process endlessly fascinating."

Festival Founder Judith Keenan explains why she feels the program is well-timed: "First and foremost, **Moving Stories** is about bringing more readers to more books. When we turn a reluctant reader into a bibliophile, bring an avid reader the delight of discovering new talent, we've accomplished our highest aspiration. Second, BookShorts' objective in curating the screening program from international artists is to set a standard of excellence, for those interested in making shorts of this nature, and to set and audience expectations of what is possible. And third, reading is an entertainment; it needs to be positioned just as seductively as film, TV, and video games. We may be in danger of losing a generation of readers simply by omitting that form of outreach to the very place they spend most of their time -- in front of screens. All together, **Moving Stories** intends to amplify the natural affinities between film and literature, creating a real and virtual forum that allows audiences to appreciate the art of story through more than one media."

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"As a writer, filmmaker, even as musician, I've experienced first-hand how artistic expression needs to adapt to its medium, yet retain the spirit of an artist's original work. In screening the films submitted for Moving Stories, from places as distant as Milan, Lancaster, the Czech Republic, the USA, and all over Canada, I was amazed at the vast range of cinematic interpretation people bring to the written word. Whole film groups exist now that are expressly devoted to interpreting books on film, Kate Jessop being one of them." Quarrington has been a champion of BookShorts' initiatives since the company's launch, and his just-released novel *The Ravine* provided the ideal opportunity to write and direct his own film treatment. The resulting short film, *Pavane*, will be included in the final festival line-up, lending this genre of short-film-making another mentor and a boost in visibility to authors, music artists and filmmakers.

The program will tour nationally to prestigious literary and film festivals across North America from September to December 2008. Confirmed hosts include *St. John's International Women's Film Festival*; *Ottawa International Writers Festival*; *Winnipeg International Writers Festival*; *WordFest: Banff-Calgary International Writers Festival*; *Vancouver International Writers Festival* and *Toronto First Canadian Place*.

The final Moving Stories program line up will be announced **July 30, 2008**. The deadline for film entries is **July 10**. Authors, spoken word artists, music artists and filmmakers are encouraged to submit their films for consideration. Film submission guidelines, and information for producers interested in hosting **Moving Stories**, are available now at [www.movingstoriesfilmfest.com](http://www.movingstoriesfilmfest.com).

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## PUBLICITY CONTACTS

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## MOVING STORIES FILM FESTIVAL: PROFILES

### ABOUT BOOKSHORTS

BookShorts produce and distribute short films based on books with the mandate to support literacy of all kinds. Since the company's launch in 2004, she has produced sixteen original film productions, a national television series, an syndicated Internet video series (movingstories.tv), upwards of 125 video features inspired by books and authors, and has just launched a live screening event featuring premium quality short films celebrating the written word (movingstoriesfilmfest.com).

### FOUNDER / PRODUCER JUDITH KEENAN

Judith Keenan's 20-year career in Canada and the United States has been focused on business development in the culture and entertainment sector. She is currently Executive Director and Founder of BookShorts Inc. and its sister company BookShorts Literacy Program. She produced her first book-inspired video in 1994 in New York City for best-selling Canadian author Douglas Cooper, and has not looked back since. <http://www.bookshorts.com>

### PROGRAMMER PAUL QUARRINGTON

Novelist Paul Quarrington is an author, filmmaker an award-winning screenwriter and a musician, most recently in the band *Porkbelly Futures*, and an acclaimed non-fiction writer. His last novel, *Galveston*, was nominated for the Giller; *Whale Music* won the Governor General's Award for Fiction in 1989. Quarrington has won the Stephen Leacock Medal and Canada Reads for *King Leary*.

### ANNE COLLINS Film Advisor

Collins is an award-winning non-fiction writer and former magazine editor, currently the publisher and Vice-President of Random House Canada. Collins publishes some exceptional talent, including Douglas Coupland, Richard Gwyn, Richard Florida, Graham Swift, Julian Barnes, Graham Swift, Robert Hough, Giles Blunt, Shaena Lambert, and Paul Quarrington among many others.

### NINO RICCI Film Advisor

Ricci's 1990 bestseller *Lives of the Saints* won the Governor General's Award, the SmithBooks / Books in Canada First Novel Award, and the F.G. Bressani Prize. The novel was a national bestseller, and Ricci followed with the acclaimed *In a Glass House* (1993) and *Where she has gone* (1997), which was a finalist for the Giller Prize. His most recent novel is *Testament*. *Lives of the Saints* was adapted and broadcast as a mini-series for CTV & Canal 5; he continues to develop projects for the screen.

### ROBERT LANTOS Film Advisor

Lantos is one of the top players in the North American film scene. Having founded and built Canada's leading film and television company, Alliance Communications, Lantos has produced more than 30 films including: Cannes Grand Prix winner and Academy Award nominated *The Sweet Hereafter*; Golden Globe nominated films *Sunshine* and *Being Julia*; Cannes Special Jury Prize winner *Crash*; as well as Genie Award Winners *Where the Truth Lies* and *Black Robe*. He also produced the commercial success *Men With Brooms*. Lantos now focuses exclusively on producing films

### SARAH POLLEY Film Advisor

Polley is a renowned actress, writer and director whose feature film debut *Away from Her* racked up international nominations and awards, swept the Genies, and garnered Polley an Academy Award nomination for best adapted screenplay. As an actress, Polley is the media critic's darling, known for eschewing mainstream Hollywood and choosing more independent fare. Polley is undeniably a cinematic artist, known as much for her intelligence as her remarkable talent.

### GARY THOMAS Film Advisor

Thomas began his career in animation and computer graphics, working in television commercials. He was a creative director at Centro Digital Pictures in Hong Kong, where he oversaw the development of one of Asia's leading animation and special effects houses. He moved to Sydney for Garner McLennan Design. He returned to Toronto in 1997 and in 1998 opened Crush, one of Canada's foremost motion graphics and effects studios, now also producing original content and live action. He and his Crush team garnered 2008's One Show award recognizing their innovative shorts for Douglas Coupland's *The Gum Thief*.

### PUBLICITY

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