

Jury announced for 2016 BMO Winterset Award

October 12, 2016 (St. John's, NL) – ArtsNL is pleased to announce that **Alison Dyer, George Murray, and Berni Stapleton** will form the 2016 BMO Winterset Award jury.

The award encourages and promotes excellence in Newfoundland and Labrador writing. It was established in 2000 by author and journalist Richard Gwyn. It honours the memory of his late wife, Sandra Fraser Gwyn who was a social historian, prize-winning author, and passionate promoter of Newfoundland and Labrador arts. Winterset was the name of the historic house on Winter Avenue in St. John's where she grew up. In 2010 BMO Financial Group partnered with ArtsNL and the Sandra Fraser Gwyn Foundation to sponsor the award.

The winner of the 2016 BMO Winterset Award will be announced at a ceremony at Government House on March 16, 2016. Three finalists will be announced in advance of the presentation. The winner will receive a prize amount of \$12,500 and the two finalists will receive \$3,000 each.

The jurors:

Alison Dyer is a writer living in St. John's. A graduate of Memorial and Concordia universities, Dyer has been active in the cultural community of the province for three decades. She founded the St. John's International Women's Film Festival, was a member of the all-women's group Sarabande, served as a director of the inaugural Literary Arts Foundation NL, and she is a past president and executive director of the Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador (WANL). Dyer's articles are published in many Canadian and U.S. magazines and newspapers, and she has contributed docs to CBC Radio. Her poetry and short stories are published, or forthcoming, in literary journals including *Fiddlehead*, *Grain*, *Riddle Fence*, *Rhythm Poetry Magazine*, *Feathertale Review*, *Newfoundland Quarterly*, *The Nashwaak Review*, *Grimm Magazine*, *The Cuffer Anthology*, and WCDR's *Phoenix Anthology*. She's a member of the League of Canadian Poets, the Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada, and WANL. Dyer's debut poetry collection, *I'd Write the Sea Like A Parlour Game*, will be released by Creative Book Publishing (Killick Press) in the spring of 2017.

George Murray is the author of one book for children called *Wow Wow & Haw Haw* (Breakwater Books) released in 2014 and eight books of poetry, including the 2015 released *Diversion* (ECW), as well as *Whiteout* (ECW), the bestselling *Glimpse: Selected Aphorisms* (ECW), and *The Hunter* (McClelland & Stewart). Murray's work has also been included in a wide number of anthologies, journals, and magazines such as *Riddle Fence*, *The Walrus*, and *Canadian Poetries* to name a few. He is the former poetry editor for the *Literary Review of Canada*, regularly reviews poetry and fiction for the *Globe and Mail*, and has been shortlisted for the Atlantic Poetry Prize and the EJ Pratt Poetry Prize. Murray's next release, *QUICK* - new aphorisms, is scheduled for release in the spring of 2017 by ECW Press. He lives in St. John's where he is the current poet laureate for the city.

Berni Stapleton is a playwright, author, and director of unique distinction. She works to explore the inner lives of those who find the extraordinary within the ordinary. This year Berni had three plays produced within the province, *Brazil Square* and *Our Fanny* with TNL, and *The Double Axe Murders* produced by Jamie Skidmore. *Our Fanny* embarks on a provincial tour this fall. *Woman, Naked* is her new one woman play, which recently opened with Theatre St. John in New Brunswick to rave reviews. She's a recipient of the Rhonda Payne Award Theatre Award from ArtsNL and the Ambassador of Tourism Award from Hospitality NL. Her non-fiction book *They Let Down Baskets* won a WANL award, and she recently released a collection of short stories called *This is the Cat* (Creative Publishing). Stapleton's work has been published in the *Capilano Review*, *The Newfoundland Quarterly*, *Riddle Fence*, the *Cuffer Anthology*, and Breakwater Books' *Anthology of Newfoundland Plays* among others.

ArtsNL continues to accept submissions for the 2016 BMO Winterset Award.

Literary works in any genre, written by native-born Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, or residents of the province, are eligible for consideration. Works must have been published in 2016; submissions must be made by a publisher by December 31, 2016, and must include four copies of each submitted work.

Submissions should be made c/o Reg Winsor, Executive Director, ArtsNL, 1 Springdale Street, P.O. Box 98, St. John's, NL, A1C 5H5.