

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

CALGARY 2026

TUESDAY, OCT. 13

Witches, Cats & Poets: Story Time
Starring Jillian Tamaki, Lauren Tamaki
& Vikki VanSickle
Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor
@ 12:45 PM, FREE [MORE INFO](#)

A Celebration of Richard Wagamese
Starring Shelagh Rogers &
David A. Robertson.
Hosted by Shelley Youngblut
Patricia A. Whelan Theatre, Central Library
@ 5:30 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

Reading is FUNdamental
Starring Deborah Ellis & Vikki VanSickle
Hosted by Monti Tanner
Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor
@ 5:30 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

Opening Night Showcase
Starring Cassie Campbell-Pascall
& Clara Hughes
Patricia A. Whelan Theatre, Central Library
@ 7:30 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14

**A Morning with John Borrows
& Shelagh Rogers**
Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor
@ 10 AM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

Fierce Attachments of the Feline Variety
Starring Rosemary Sullivan
Hosted by Anne Collins
Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor
@ 12 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

Happiest Hour
Starring Eden Robinson
Hosted by Shelagh Rogers
Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor
@ 5:30 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

The Way We... Talk About Animals
Starring Neil Griffin, Richard Kelly
Kemick, Jackie Morris, Rosemary
Sullivan, Jillian Tamaki & Dan Werb
Hosted by Pam Rocker
DJD Dance Centre
@ 7:30 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

The Fabulous Andrew Sean Greer
Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor
@ 7:30 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

THURSDAY, OCT. 15

A Morning with Jackie Morris
Hosted by Rosemary Griebel
Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor
@ 10 AM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

Wild Life
Starring Neil Griffin & Dan Werb
Hosted by David Gray
Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor
@ 12 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

What a Pair! Jillian & Lauren Tamaki
Hosted by Vinh Nguyen
Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor
@ 5:30 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

A Bloody Good Cabaret
Starring Karma Brown, Kim Fu,
Dania Idriss & Daniel Zomparelli
Featuring Timothionius & Jane
Hosted by Paula Turcotte
DJD Dance Centre
@ 7:30 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

An Evening with Tayari Jones
Hosted by Liz Nugent
Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor
@ 7:30 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

FRIDAY, OCT. 16

A Morning with Ruth Ozeki
Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor
@ 10 AM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

A Toast to the Classics Lunch Experience
Starring Karma Brown, Patricia Finn,
Tayari Jones, Jennifer Lambert, Catherine
Leroux, Canisia Lubrin, Liz Nugent, Carol
Off, Ruth Ozeki & Stephanie Sinclair
Hosted by Shelley Youngblut
DJD Dance Centre
@ 12 PM, \$35 [MORE INFO](#)

Ways of Listening with Rollie Pemberton
Hosted by Jared Bland
Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor
@ 5:30 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

Literary Death Match
Starring Kurt Andersen, Kim Fu, Richard
Kelly Kemick, Liz Nugent, Carol Off,
Joss Richard & Daniel Zomparelli
Hosted by Adrian Todd Zuniga
DJD Dance Centre
@ 7:30 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

An Evening with Emily St. John Mandel
Hosted by Susin Nielsen
Memorial Park Library, Salon (1st Floor)
@ 7:30 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)



SATURDAY, OCT. 17

The Morning Yap

**Starring Karma Brown, Patricia Finn,
Jenny Jackson & Liz Nugent**

Hosted by Ali Bryan

DJD Dance Centre

@ 10 AM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

The Savage Mind with David Treuer

**Co-hosted by Michael Christie
& Tanya Talaga**

Memorial Park Library, Salon (1st Floor)

@ 10 AM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

Crime Noir with Don Gillmor,

Kevin Hardcastle & Alex Spring

Memorial Park Library, Salon (1st Floor)

@ 10 AM, FREE [MORE INFO](#)

How to Save a Country

Starring Carol Off & Ece Temelkuran

Hosted by Anne Collins

DJD Dance Centre

@ 1 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

Road Tripping with Patrick deWitt

Hosted by Kurt Andersen

Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor

@ 1 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

How to... Speculate

Starring Portia Elan & Catherine Leroux

Memorial Park Library, Salon (1st Floor)

@ 1 PM, FREE [MORE INFO](#)

**The Kris Demeanor & Deborah Willis
Variety Show. Starring Arizona O'Neill,
Rollie Pemberton, Larissa Pham
& Kawai Strong Washburn**

DJD Dance Centre

@ 3 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

What a Pair! Ellie Foubi & Iain Reid

Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor

@ 3 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

L'apéro

avec Michel Jean & Catherine Leroux

Hosted by Susan Ouriou

Memorial Park Library, Salon (1st Floor)

@ 4 PM, FREE [MORE INFO](#)

The (U.S.) Breakup with Kurt Andersen

Hosted by Shelley Youngblut

Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor

@ 5:30 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

The Way We... Wear

**Starring Portia Elan, Tayari Jones,
Canisia Lubrin, Harriet Alida Lye,**

Joss Richard & Tanya Talaga

Hosted by Pam Rocker

DJD Dance Centre

@ 7:30 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

An Evening with Anand Giridharadas

Hosted by Zain Velji

Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor

@ 7:30 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

SUNDAY, OCT. 18

An Alberta State of Mind

**Starring Crystal Gail Fraser, Don Gillmor
& Patrick Lennox**

Hosted by Deborah Yedlin

DJD Dance Centre

@ 10 AM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

**What a Pair! Rachel Eliza Griffiths
& Canisia Lubrin**

Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor

@ 10 AM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

How to... Excel Editorially

**Starring Jared Bland, Anne Collins
& Jenny Jackson**

Memorial Park Library, Salon (1st Floor)

@ 10 AM, FREE [MORE INFO](#)

A Global State of Mind

**Starring Michel Jean, Catherine Leroux,
Ece Temelkuran & David Treuer**

Hosted by Zain Velji

DJD Dance Centre

@ 1 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

Art School Confidential

Starring Harriet Alida Lye

& Larissa Pham

Hosted by Rita Sirignano

Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor

@ 1 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

The Dead Dads Club

Starring Arizona O'Neill

& David A. Robertson

Hosted by Jaclyn Adomeit

Memorial Park Library, Salon (1st Floor)

@ 1 PM, FREE [MORE INFO](#)

A Celebration of Trans Storytelling

**Starring Gwen Aube, Casey Plett, Vivek
Shraya, Kat Simmers & Kai Cheng Thom**

Hosted by Pam Rocker

DJD Dance Centre

@ 3 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

A New York State of Mind

Starring Kurt Andersen, Anand

Giridharadas & Rachel Eliza Griffiths

Hosted by Shelley Youngblut

Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor

@ 3 PM, \$25 [MORE INFO](#)

What a Pair! Michael Christie

& Kawai Strong Washburn

Hosted by Rollie Pemberton

Memorial Park Library, Salon (1st Floor)

@ 3 PM, FREE [MORE INFO](#)

An Evening with Bonnie Garmus

Hosted by Susin Nielsen

Bella Concert Hall

@ 7:30 PM, \$69.95 (Includes Book) [MORE INFO](#)

EXPLORE 40+ SHOWS

We know you're ready to squeeze every bit of joy out of the 2026 Imaginarium: Canada's Liveliest Literary Festival.

Our insider tip: Get a festival pass and experience (and experiment with) more than 50 authors in 41 showcases. The pass pays for itself after just 8 shows.

This fall, Wordfest is where your imagination goes to get real. Connect with your favourite best-selling writers. Sample breakout stars. Lean into our intimate, inspired author pairings. Delight in The Way We... storytelling showcases (there are two of them!), The Kris Demeanor & Deborah Willis Variety Show, Literary Death Match, and our first Bloody Good Horror Cabaret. Add your ambitions to the mix with our interactive How To's and insider takes on the publishing biz.

FESTIVAL VENUES

WORDFEST @ MPL

Memorial Park Library, 2nd Floor
1221 2 St SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0W5

ALEXANDER CALHOUN SALON

Memorial Park Library, Main Floor
1221 2 St SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0W5

DJD DANCE CENTRE

111 12 Ave SE
Calgary, AB T2G 0Z9

CENTRAL LIBRARY

800 3 St SE
Calgary, AB T2G 2E7

BELLA CONCERT HALL

18 Mt Royal Circle SW
Calgary, AB T3E 7N5