



Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador

Haymarket Square, 202-223 Duckworth Street, St. John's, NL, A1C 6N1

T: 709-739-5215 or 1-866-739-5215 F: 709-739-5931 E: wanl@nf.aibn.com

<http://wanl.ca/>

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

WANL'S COME FROM AWAY READING SERIES BRINGS AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR MIRIAM TOEWS TO ST. JOHN'S AND CORNER BROOK

October 27, 2010: Celebrated author Miriam Toews (pronounced tâves) will read at The Ship Pub in St. John's on Sunday, November 14 at 8:00 PM, and at Jennifer's Bar Room in Corner Brook on Monday, November 15 at 8:30 PM, as part of the Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland & Labrador's new Come From Away Reading Series. Admission is free.

For the Come From Away Reading Series, WANL asked three Newfoundland writers, "If you were to invite a writer from another province to come read on the Rock, who would it be?" They told us who they wanted and we've invited them. Poet and novelist Michael Crummey invited Miriam Toews and will be introducing the author in St. John's.

One of Newfoundland and Labrador's most well-known authors, **Michael Crummey** was born in Buchans and now lives in St. John's, Newfoundland. Since first winning Memorial University's Gregory J. Power Poetry Contest in 1986, Crummey has continued to receive accolades for his poetry and prose. His debut novel, *River Thieves* (2001) became a Canadian bestseller, winning the Thomas Head Raddall Award, the Winterset Award for Excellence in Newfoundland Writing, and the Atlantic Independent Booksellers' Choice Award. His most recent novel, the gorgeous Newfoundland epic *Galore*, won the 2010 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book (Canada & Caribbean) and the Canadian Authors Association Literary Award. Michael Crummey will be introducing Miriam Toews at The Ship on November 14.

Miriam Toews (pronounced tâves) was born in 1964 in the small Mennonite town of Steinbach, Manitoba. She left Steinbach at eighteen, living in Montreal and London and touring Europe before

coming back to Manitoba, where she earned a B.A. in film studies at the University of Manitoba. Later she packed up with her children and partner and moved to Halifax to attend the University of King's College, where she received a bachelor's degree in journalism. Upon returning to Winnipeg with her family in 1991, she freelanced at the CBC, making radio documentaries. When her youngest daughter started nursery school, Toews decided it was time to try writing a novel.

Miriam Toews's first novel, *Summer of My Amazing Luck*, was published in 1996; it was nominated for the Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour and won the John Hirsch Award. Published two years later, her second novel, *A Boy of Good Breeding*, won the McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award. Her third novel, the bestselling *A Complicated Kindness*, was a Giller Prize Finalist and won the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction, and was the winning selection for CBC's 2006 Canada Reads competition. Her most recent novel, *The Flying Troutmans*, won the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. Toews has also written a non-fiction literary biography/auto-biography, *Swing Low: A Life*, which won the McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award and the Alexander Kennedy Isbister Award for Non-Fiction, and garnered praise for, among other things, the remarkable courage and candour Toews displays in writing about her father's struggle with bipolar disorder and his suicide. A brand new work of fiction by Miriam Toews, *Small Bird, Beating Heart*, is set to be released this spring. The Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador is delighted to welcome Miriam Toews to the Rock.

The Come From Away Reading Series gives the Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland & Labrador the opportunity to ask writers from here to introduce us to writers they admire from elsewhere. WANL is pleased to bring Michael Crummey and Miriam Toews together for this exciting event.

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Media contact: Théa Morash, Executive Director
Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland & Labrador
Haymarket Square, 202-223 Duckworth Street
St. John's, NL, A1C 6N1
Tel: 709-739-5215
E-mail: w anl@nf.aibn.com

The Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland & Labrador (WANL) is a not-for-profit organization established in 1987 to contribute to a supportive environment for writing in the province.