

## ART AT THE KNIFE'S EDGE

PEN Canada and ACTA Victoriana presents 'Art at the Knife's Edge', an evening of readings by Canadian author Karen Connelly and two exiled writers: Faruk Myrtaj and Saghi Ghahraman.

Please join us Wednesday January 23, 2008 from 7-9pm in Alumni Hall (located in Old Vic at Victoria College in the University of Toronto). Refreshments will be provided.

Tickets are \$5.00 for students and \$10.00 for non-students. They will be available beginning Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008 in the VUSAC Office, located in Room 107 in Wymilwood (150 Charles St. West). Tickets will also be available at the door.

50 Reservation tickets are available for those unable to go to the VUSAC Office, but are interested in securing tickets in advance. Email [actavic@yahoo.ca](mailto:actavic@yahoo.ca) with your name, number of guests (maximum of 2 guests), and phone number by Friday January 18, 2008.

Email [actavic@yahoo.ca](mailto:actavic@yahoo.ca) for more information.

[www.pencanada.ca](http://www.pencanada.ca)    [www.actavictoriana.ca](http://www.actavictoriana.ca)

Map: <http://www.vicu.utoronto.ca/about/maps/uvic.htm>

### **PEN Canada**

PEN Canada is a centre of International PEN that campaigns on behalf of writers around the world persecuted for the expression of their thoughts as guaranteed in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In Canada, it supports the right to free expression as enshrined in Section 2(b) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. More details at [www.pencanada.ca](http://www.pencanada.ca)

### **Author Biographies**

#### **Karen Connelly**

Karen Connelly is the author of seven books of best-selling fiction, non-fiction and poetry, the most recent being *The Border Surrounds Us*. She has read from and lectured on her work in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. She is also a working photographer. Her best-selling book, *Touch the Dragon, A Thai Journal*, won the Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction in 1993, and was a *New York Times* Notable Travel Book of the Year in 2002. Her new novel *The Lizard Cage* illuminates the tragic story of modern Burma by focusing on the lives of two people: a Burmese political prisoner and the child-labourer he befriends. A deeply layered work about the transforming power of language and of love, it is her first full-length work of prose in a decade.

Her other books include *Grace and Poison*, *One Room in a Castle*, *This Brighter Prison*, *The Disorder of Love*, and *The Small Words in My Body*.

### **Faruk Myrtaj**

Writer and journalist Faruk Myrtaj has published six short story collections, one novel and a series of essays and poems. While in Albania he wrote for a series of local, Kosovan and Macedonian newspapers, and became vice director of the Albanian News Agency, in the country's Ministry of Culture. In 1996, the Albanian Culture and Sports Ministry awarded Myrtaj a national short story prize for his collection *Official Nudo*. He has translated the works of Truman Capote, Alistair MacLeod, William Saroyan and others from English into Albanian. In November 2003 Faruk came to Canada with his wife and children. Since arriving here, he has published book reviews and short stories in local Toronto media, and was recently published in PEN Canada's *Speaking in Tongues* anthology. Myrtaj is also a member of the Writers' Union of Canada.

### **Saghi Ghahraman**

Saghi Ghahraman was born in Mash'had, Iran, in 1957. She fled Iran in 1981 after country-wide arrests of Tudeh Party members and its women's organization branch took place. She lived as a refugee in Turkey before emigrating to Canada in 1988. She has published four collections of Persian poetry and short fiction, and has given readings in Europe through Persian literary organizations of writers-in-exile as well as, in English, at Montreal's Blue Metropolis festival. She has been an editorial board member of Sepidar, a Persian literary magazine in Toronto, and contributed to various Persian quarterlies and magazines. Saghi is currently chief-editor of Cheraq on-line, a Toronto-based queer Iranian monthly magazine.