

## Open Book



M.A.C. Farrant



Pauline Holdstock



Harold Rhenisch



Robert Priest

The Pacific Festival of the Book and the Greater Victoria Public Library present **Open Book**, a noon-hour reading Friday, May 8 hosted by **Linda Rogers** with **M.A.C. Farrant**, **Pauline Holdstock**, **Harold Rhenisch**, student Victoria poets and Ontario poet and songwriting sensation **Robert Priest**.

Born in Sydney, Australia and raised in Victoria, British Columbia, **M.A.C. Farrant** is the acclaimed author of nine collections of satirical and humorous short fiction. As well, a novel-length memoir, *My Turquoise Years*, was published by Greystone Books/Douglas & McIntyre in 2004. A full-time writer currently residing in Sidney, B.C., she also reviews books for the *Vancouver Sun* and the *Globe & Mail*. An active promoter of literary arts, she is the co-producer and host of the Sidney Reading Series. Talon Books will publish *Down the Road to Eternity--New & Selected Fiction* in the Fall of 2009.

**Pauline Holdstock** writes novels, short fiction and essays. Her recent novel, *Beyond Measure*, was a finalist for the 2004 Giller Prize and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, Canada and Caribbean Region. It won the BC Book Prizes Ethel Wilson Award for Fiction in 2005. Her most recent work is the novella *The World of Light Where We Live*, winner of the Malahat Review 2006 Novella Contest. She also writes non-fiction and has taught at the Victoria School of Writing and at the University of Victoria. She was on the faculty of the Banff Centre Wired Writing Studio, 2006/7.

**Harold Rhenisch** was born in Penticton, B.C., in 1958. He currently in Campbell River, BC. He is a poet, an arts columnist, and was the publisher of *The Milestones Review*, a book review quarterly. For nearly thirty years, Rhenisch has striven to create an authentic literature for the silent rural parts of Canada, to place their images and dialects on an equal footing with those of the modern urban world. At the same time, he has been a student of Ezra Pound, post-modern German literature and trickster mythology.

**Robert Priest** is the author of fifteen books of poetry. His most recent book is *Reading the Bible Backwards*. He won the Acorn People's Poetry Award for his now classic *Mad Hand* (1988). His Aphorisms have already appeared in *The Farmer's Almanac* and *Colombo's Canadian Quotations*. His musical play *Minibugs and Microchips* received a \$25,000.00 Chalmer's Award. Both of his books of poems for children, *Daysongs Nightsongs* and *The Secret Invasion of Bananas* are on the CBC's recommended reading list.

Friday, May 8, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm.  
Victoria Public Library, Main Branch  
Open to the Public

Info: tel:(250) 361-9941 e-mail:ekstasis@islandnet.com