

AGO Creative Minds at Massey Hall – Participant Bios

Salman Rushdie is the award-winning author of thirteen novels— including *Midnight's Children* (for which he won the Booker Prize and the Best of the Booker), *Shame*, *The Satanic Verses*, *Haroun and The Sea of Stories*, *The Moor's Last Sigh*, *Fury*, *The Enchantress of Florence*, *Luka and the Fire of Life*, and his newest novel, *The Golden House*. He has also published a book of stories, *East, West*, and four works of nonfiction—*Joseph Anton*, *The Jaguar Smile*, *Imaginary Homelands*, and *Step Across This Line*—and co-edited two anthologies, *Mirrorwork* and *Best American Short Stories 2008*. His books have been translated into over forty languages. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University. A former president of PEN America, Rushdie holds the rank of Commandeur in the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres – France's highest artistic honour, and was knighted in 2007 for services to literature.

Andrea Fraser is one of the most provocative and influential artists of her generation. Fraser's work spans performance, video, and a range of other mediums and appears both as a social critique and an ethical investigation. Fraser famously posed the question of whether art is, metaphorically, prostitution by sleeping with a collector on camera in *Untitled* (2003). Her site-specific project *Down the River* for the Whitney Museum of American Art, used audio recorded at Sing Sing prison to bridge the social, cultural, and geographic divide separating museums from correctional facilities. Surveys of her work have been presented at museums around the world, and her books include *Andrea Fraser: Works 1984-2003*; *Museum Highlights: The Writings of Andrea Fraser*; *Texts, Scripts, Transcripts*; and *Andrea Fraser*. Fraser is Department Chair and Professor, Interdisciplinary Studio in the Department of Art at UCLA.

Charles Officer's filmmaking career began with a slate of award-winning short films that premiered at international film festivals around the world. He is an alumnus of the Canadian Film Centre Director Residency where his debut fiction feature *Nurse.Fighter.Boy* was produced. The film premiered at TIFF '08 and earned 10 Genie Nominations. Charles followed with his first feature documentary *Mighty Jerome* that won 4 Leo Awards in 2011 and a 2012 Emmy Award for Best Historical Documentary.

Officer directed *Stone Thrower: The Chuck Ealey Story* for the documentary series *Engraved On A Nation* (2014 CSA for best documentary series). CBC Firsthand commissioned *The Skin We're In*, featuring journalist and activist Desmond Cole in 2017. His latest feature documentary, *Unarmed Verses* premiered in 2017 and won Best Canadian Feature Awards at Hot Docs, VIFF (Vancouver International Film Festival) and the People's Choice Award at 2018 TIFF Top Ten Canadian Film Festival.

Charles recently completed directing multiple episodes of the dramatic series *21 Thunder*, premiering internationally on Netflix in 2018. He is currently in post-production with *Invisible Essence: Le Petit Prince*, a feature documentary based on the international bestselling novella. Projects in development are the feature crime drama *Akilla's Escape*, and a limited-series adaptation of Mordecai Richler's novel *Son of a Smaller Hero*.

Winnipeg-bred Hamilton-based **Iskwé** ('woman' in Cree) has an unmistakable sound that weaves her Irish and Cree/Dené/Métis roots with poignant politically charged lyrics, dark soulful R&B rhythms, electronic flourishes, and trip hop breakbeats. Bridging cross-cultural aesthetics while exploring her own struggle to both fit into and break away from modern Western archetypes has been an important part of Iskwé's artistic vision since the release of her self-titled debut album in late 2013. Her debut single "Nobody Knows," was featured in the Netflix series *Between* and captivated audiences by turning a stark spotlight on the more than 1200 missing and murdered Indigenous women here in Canada. Her single, "The Unforgotten" featuring iconic throat singer Tanya Tagaq is a dark, politically-charged track based on a round dance. Iskwé was named one of the 'Top 10 Artists to Watch' by CBC Music. Her sophomore album *The Fight Within* is nominated for the 2018 Juno Indigenous Music Album of the Year.