

**Room magazine announces author line-up for the second annual Growing Room literary festival  
March 1-4, 2018, Vancouver, BC**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver, BC (January 8, 2018): After a successful first year, **Growing Room: A Feminist Literary Festival** returns this March with an exciting new line-up of authors.

The second annual festival will take place on **March 1-4, 2018** in **Mount Pleasant, Vancouver**. It follows a successful inaugural festival in 2017, which saw more than 500 unique attendees at 24 events over a five-day period, with multiple events selling out after only a few days.

The 2018 festival will feature acclaimed authors such as **Gurjinder Basran** (*Someone You Love is Gone*), **Maggie de Vries** (*Rabbit Ears*), **Ijeoma Oluo** (*So You Want to Talk About Race*), **Bev Sellars** (*They Called Me Number One*), **Gwen Benaway** (*Passage*), **Silvia Moreno-Garcia** (*Signal to Noise*), **Casey Plett** (*A Safe Girl to Love*), **Farzana Doctor** (*All Inclusive*), and **Caroline Adderson** (*Ellen in Pieces*), along with more than 30 other established and up-and-coming names. Guests will also be delighted to see a handful of familiar faces from 2017, including **Amber Dawn** (*Sodom Road Exit*), **Betsy Warland** (*Oscar of Between*), and **Carleigh Baker** (*Bad Endings*).

The festival will include **18 panels and readings**, **nine workshops**, an **opening night party** featuring music by **Too Attached** (**Vivek Shraya** and **Shamik Shraya**) at the Fox Cabaret, and a small number of special events and partner events, including a live recording of *Room's* new podcast, *Fainting Couch Feminists*. For the first time, the festival will also offer affordable literary consultations with editors and writing mentors **Anna Ling Kaye**, **Chelene Knight**, **Jen Sookfong Lee**, and **Adèle Barclay**.

Panels and readings cover diverse topics such as the problems with White Feminism, trauma and self-care, and the complexities and responsibilities of writing about family and other loved ones. Workshops will include new offerings by **Farzana Doctor**, **Molly Billows**, **Jillian Christmas**, **Adèle Barclay**, **Chantal Gibson**, **Maggie de Vries**, and **Jónína Kirton and Sharon Jinkerson-Brass**, and the return of 2017 festival favourites **Jen Currin** and **barbara findlay**.

Panel and readings are **by donation** with the option to attend for free, while workshops cost between \$15-\$20 and tickets to the opening night party are \$15. Although the festival is branded as feminist, events are open to anyone with a passion for literature.

Full event details will be announced on **Monday, January 15, 2018**. Registration for events will open on **Thursday, February 1, 2018** at midnight.

**Growing Room: A Feminist Literary Festival 2018 will feature:** Amber Dawn, Caroline Adderson, Joanne Arnott, Carleigh Baker, Marie Annharte Baker, Adèle Barclay, Gurjinder Basran, Gwen Benaway, Molly Billows, Selina Boan, Jillian Christmas, Kim Clark, Jen Currin, Maggie de Vries, Farzana Doctor, Leanne Dunic, barbara findlay, Elee Kraljii Gardiner, Sierra Skye Gemma, Chantal Gibson, Taryn Hubbard, Jia Hwang, Sharon Jinkerson-Brass, Jessica Johns, Manal Kamran, Anna Ling Kaye, Jónína Kirton, Chelene Knight, Lydia Kwa, Jen Sookfong Lee, Mica Lemiski, Mary MacDonald, Minelle Mahtani, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Samantha Nock, Ijeoma Oluo, Deanna Partridge-David, Casey Plett, Emily Pohl-Weary, Chelsea Rooney, Clea Roberts, Bev Sellars, Vivek Shraya and Shamik Shraya (Too Attached), Mallory Tater, Betsy Warland, Rita Wong, Elaine Woo, and more!

*Note: the line-up above includes a small number of writers who will appear only as moderators, workshop instructors, or author consults.*

### **About *Room* Magazine**

The Growing Room festival is operated by the West Coast Feminist Literary Magazine Society, a not-for-profit organization and the publisher of *Room*, a quarterly feminist literary journal.

*Room* was founded in 1975 and publishes fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, reviews, artwork, and interviews by writers and artists who identify as women (cis and trans), trans men, Two-Spirit, or non-binary. Work that originally appeared in *Room* has been anthologized in *The Journey Prize Anthology*, *Best Canadian Poetry*, *Best Canadian Stories*, *Best Canadian Essays*, and has been nominated for National Magazine Awards.

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It is with deep gratitude that we are able to hold all Growing Room events on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh, and Squamish peoples.

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