

In collaboration with the Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival,  
The Centre for Literacy presents:

# GRASSROOTS: COMMUNITY WRITING AND ARTS

April 1-3, 2004

## Memory and multiple literacies



*"Literature  
gives us a memory of lives  
we did not lead."*

– Unknown

### WHO WILL PARTICIPATE?

Writers, producers, coordinators, artists, actors, and animators who have created, performed, written and learned, in community-based settings rather than inside institutions, and who have found unique ways to link literacy and the arts.

### INVITEES INCLUDE:

- Paula Belina and a colleague from Streeatears, Montreal
- Robert Davis and four writer-performers from Beat the Streets Peace Power, Toronto
- Joshua Dorsey and a student filmmaker from O2 Film Crew, Montreal
- Jackie Hall and two student writers from Literacy in Action, Sherbrooke, QC
- Mary Norton and Judy Murphy and from Drawing out the Self (DOTS), The Learning Centre, Edmonton
- Bonnie Sroke and a participant from "Zippers", Vancouver
- Julian Sefton-Green, Head of Media Arts and Education, WAC Media and Performing Arts Center, London (UK)

Moderator: Linda Shohet, Director, The Centre for Literacy

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Teachers, literacy educators, arts educators, workers in community-based groups, professional writers, social workers, community animators and members of the public who are interested in alternative forums and venues for learning..

**M**emory connects to literacy in many ways. Specialists agree that reading comprehension is dependent on prior knowledge, certainly one form of memory. Reading books gives us memories of places we've never been. Reading the world is also inseparable from memory, as we weave new memories and draw upon old ones in complex patterns. For some individuals, memory can be a barrier to learning, and many programs for adult learners and at-risk youth focus on helping students mediate and shape their memories as part of the effort to gain self-esteem and move on.

This year's Grassroots: Community Writing and Arts event will showcase some brilliant examples from Quebec, Canada and abroad of the ways that the concept of multiple literacies can be used to reach more students.

A free three-hour public session at the Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival on Friday, April 2, 2004, will give us an opportunity to share the ways that memory connects to learning and understanding in relation to multiple literacies – making meaning through words, sounds and symbols in different media. The invited participants will share their stories, poems, artifacts, performances, videos and music.

In conjunction with this event, The Centre for Literacy will offer a series of low-cost workshops on Thursday, April 1 and Saturday, April 3, that explore how community arts programs connect to literacy, and that consider models for outreach, sustainability and bridging to the formal education sector.

### EVENTS

#### Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival: Community Writing and Arts 2004

A public session

Friday, April 2, 2004

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Hotel  
1255 Jeanne-Mance,  
Metro Station: Place-des-Arts.  
NO CHARGE



