



PRESS RELEASE

Lawrence Hill, author of *The Book of Negroes*, will star in the Frye Festival's fall Community Read in Moncton

(Moncton, July 19, 2011) The [Frye Festival](#) invites everyone to put *The Book of Negroes* on their summer reading list! Award-winning author Lawrence Hill will be the star of the Festival's first event of its 2011-2012 season, the fall Community Read, on September 20 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the lobby of Moncton City Hall. The event will be followed by a reception with refreshments hosted by the City of Moncton. Moncton City Hall is located at 655 Main Street.

"Make the most of your summer reading to discover a great Canadian writer and read an important and gripping novel," suggests Frye Festival Executive Director Danielle LeBlanc. "Lawrence Hill's writings on belonging and identity are something that the culturally diverse community of Greater Moncton can relate to and appreciate, and the compelling story and characters stay with the reader long after the final page has been read."

The Book of Negroes

The Book of Negroes is Hill's third novel and has won many awards, including the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book. It tells the life story of Aminata Diallo, an 11-year old girl who is kidnapped from her African village and sold as a slave in South Carolina. She makes her way to New York and eventually gains her freedom and settles in Nova Scotia before returning to her homeland. The novel is inspired by the Book of Negroes, an historical ledger containing names and personal details of black people in North America, and particularly of the 3,000 freedom-seekers who made their way to Nova Scotia at the end of the American Revolutionary War – the same journey that Aminata takes in Hill's *The Book of Negroes*. Copies of the historical document can be found in the Nova Scotia Public Archives, the National Archives of Canada and a few libraries in the United States. For a link to a reader's guide and references, visit www.frye.ca.

About the Community Read series

The Frye Festival's Community Read series presents bilingual authors whose books are available in translation. The aim is to encourage dialogue between the linguistic communities by rallying them around one author and one book. The series launched in 2007 with the visit of Yann Martel and was repeated in 2008 with Kathy Reichs, in 2009 with Neil Smith and Rawi Hage, and in 2010 with Daniel Poliquin and Adam Gopnik.

About Lawrence Hill

Born in Toronto and growing up in the region of Don Mills during the 60s, [Lawrence Hill](#) is the son of American immigrants. His parents came to Canada the day after they married. His parents were heavily involved in the American Civil Rights Movement, and this is where Mr. Hill draws inspiration for his writing, which touches on issues of belonging and identity.

Formerly a reporter with The Globe and Mail and parliamentary correspondent for The Winnipeg Free Press, Hill also speaks French and Spanish. He has lived and worked across Canada, in Baltimore, and in Spain and France. He has a B.A. in economics from Laval University in Quebec City and an M.A. in writing from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Hill lives in Hamilton, Ontario.

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INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS:

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