



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
ATTENTION: BOOKS, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITORS

## **Koffler Centre of the Arts brings David Bezmozgis, Gary Shteyngart, Gal Beckerman, Irwin Cotler and more to the 2011 International Festival of Authors**

**Toronto, ON, October 5, 2011** – The **Koffler Centre of the Arts** is proud to present a day of conversations and gatherings with top Jewish authors from around the world at this year's International Festival of Authors (IFOA). **The Koffler @ IFOA** is on **Sunday, October 23, 2011, 11 AM to 6 PM** at the Lakeside Terrace at Harbourfront Centre, 235 Queens Quay West, Toronto.

The **International Festival of Authors** brings together the best writers of contemporary world literature for 12 days of readings, talks, discussions and public book signings. The Koffler @ IFOA is full day of talks focusing on new books exploring Russian-Jewish stories as part of the **kofflerkultura** series, as well as new works in translation, the thematic focus of this year's IFOA.

The Koffler @ IFOA features Toronto-based author **David Bezmozgis**, whose new book *The Free World* – about a Jewish family escaping the Iron Curtain – is shortlisted for the 2011 Scotiabank Giller Prize.

New York-based writer **Gal Beckerman** and the **Honourable Irwin Cotler** join Bezmozgis in conversation at 11 AM. Beckerman is the opinion editor at *The Forward* and author of *When They Come for Us, We'll Be Gone*, winner of the 2010 National Jewish Book Award. The Honourable Irwin Cotler, MP, is the former Minister of Justice of Canada and a prominent international human rights attorney. The conversation will be moderated by **Lori Starr**, Executive Director of the Koffler Centre of the Arts.

Russian-born, New York-based novelist **Gary Shteyngart**, author of *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* and *Super Sad True Love Story*, joins Bezmozgis for *Writing Russian Roots* at 3:30 PM. Shteyngart and Bezmozgis, born in the former Soviet Union in the 70s, moved to Toronto and New York respectively as children, and mine their Russian-Jewish immigrant experiences in their writing. The conversation will be moderated by **Gal Beckerman**.

The Koffler @ IFOA also features *Found in Translation*, talks on new works in translation hosted by filmmaker and York University professor, **Julia Creet** at 1 PM. Author **Peter Filkins** and Israeli novelist, poet and theatre director **Michal Govrin** will read from their latest works. Govrin was selected in 2010 by the Salon du Livre of Paris as one of the 30 most influential writers of the past thirty years and has published ten books of poetry and fiction with translations into both English and French.

Featured authors and the winners of the **2011 Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards** will be available to sign books at 5 PM. A selection of new Jewish books curated by the team of the Toronto Jewish Book Festival will be available for purchase.

The Koffler @ IFOA is presented by the Koffler Centre of the Arts together with the International Festival of Authors.

For the full day schedule and event details, visit [www.kofflerarts.org](http://www.kofflerarts.org)  
For tickets and full details on the International Festival of Authors, visit [www.readings.org](http://www.readings.org)

### **About the Koffler Centre of the Arts**

Koffler Centre of the Arts is Canada's only cutting-edge contemporary, multidisciplinary Jewish cultural institution. It has a broad mandate to serve all, and present a wide range of artistic programs through a

global lens in a specifically Canadian context. The Koffler Centre of the Arts is an agency of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Planning is underway on a brand new, architecturally innovative Koffler Centre of the Arts on the Sherman Campus. In July 2009, the Koffler's administrative offices and all classes opened in the Prosserman JCC on the Sherman Campus. More information at <http://tomorrowcampaign.com>

Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of Cultural Season Sponsor **CIBC Wood Gundy**, Media Partner **National Post**, the **Ontario Arts Council** through the Community and Multidisciplinary Arts Organizations Program, our patrons and members. Koffler Centre of the Arts is an agency of **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto**.

#### **KOFFLER ON THE ROAD!**

Watch for Koffler programs off-site around Toronto! As we prepare for our new facility to be completed, the Koffler Centre of the Arts is continuing to program exhibitions, events and performances both at our current facilities and at various downtown sites in Toronto. Check our website for details and watch out for Koffler events in *your* neighbourhood!

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