



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Koffler launches
True Lies
FREE Writing Club for 16 to 19 year olds
April 22 to May 27, 2015**

Toronto, ON, April 21, 2015 – Tomorrow, April 22, 2015, the [Koffler Centre of the Arts](#) launches [True Lies](#), a free, six-week writing and reading club for older teens led by Canadian novelist **Emily Pohl-Weary**. **True Lies** is open to teens age 16 to 19 with an interest in writing, and the two hour sessions run each Wednesday evening until May 27. Registration is free and easily accessible through the Koffler's [website](#).

What's real? What's actually true? Is fiction a lie? Is writing fiction just an elaborate process of making up lies based on real experiences? These are some of the questions Pohl-Weary and visiting authors will cover with the teen writers over the course of the six week program. The group will explore how social media is used to create a persona, and how this attempt to curate identity affects the writer in all of us, ultimately changing the nature of writing. Memory, identity, and the blurring between fiction and reality will be among the topics Pohl-Weary and the participants will investigate. Teen writers will be invited to share their work at a public reading on May 27.

"In addition to providing a platform for established writers to connect to new audiences at the Koffler, it's also one of our primary goals to engage the next generation of readers and writers," said **Natalie Kertes**, Director of the Koffler's Literary Programs. "True Lies is a program that offers that next generation access to authors like Emily Pohl-Weary, who has been in their shoes and know what it means to take the next step."

Teen writers participating in True Lies will be invited to bring new pieces of writing to share each week, and the group, moderated by Pohl-Weary, will provide feedback. Local guest authors including OCAD Creative Writing Professor and dub poet **Lillian Allen** and **Souvankham Thammavongsa**, "one of the most interesting younger poets at work in the country," (*Globe & Mail*) will join the group to impart their craft secrets and tell stories about their career paths.

"Writing alongside the next generation and passing on knowledge inspires my own work and helps me stay hopeful about the future," says Pohl-Weary, an award-winning author, editor, and arts educator. She has published seven books, a series of girl pirate comics, and her own literary magazine. Pohl-Weary was the Toronto Public Library system's 2014 eWriter-in-Residence for Young Voices, and the University of the Fraser Valley's 2015 Kuldip Gill Writing Fellowship Writer in Residence. From July to September 2015, she will be the writer-in-residence in Dawson City, Yukon, at the Pierre Berton House. Her new collection of poetry, *Ghost Sick*, was released in February, and her most recent novel for teens, *Not Your Ordinary Wolf Girl*, was published by Penguin Razorbill (Canada) and Skyscape (U.S.A.) in 2013.

True Lies is part of the Koffler's contemporary cultural offerings for Spring 2015, which include visual arts, literary, and live performance programming. For more information and a full list of the Koffler's Spring 2015 programs, please visit [kofflerarts.org](#).

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR LISTINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**True Lies
FREE Writing and Reading Club for 16 to 19 year olds
Wednesdays, April 22 – May 27, 2015, 5 – 7 PM
Artscape Youngplace, Room 106**

180 Shaw Street

FREE | Registration required:

<http://kofflerarts.org/classes/true-lies-a-writing-and-reading-club-for-teens/>

ABOUT THE KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS

The Koffler Centre of the Arts is a Jewish cultural organization that presents a cross-disciplinary, contemporary arts program that encourages inquiry and exploration. We promote an inter-cultural dialogue that engages our Jewish identity with diverse perspectives and global voices. The Koffler Gallery and its administrative offices are located at Artscape Youngplace, in Toronto's vibrant downtown West Queen West art and design district.

Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of the Koffler Family Foundation, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Cultural Season Sponsor CIBC Wood Gundy, the Ontario Arts Council through the Community and Multidisciplinary Arts Organizations Program, our patrons and donors.

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