



Gordon Kirkland At Large

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Press Release

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Humorist Gordon Kirkland Joins BookTelevision's 3-Day Novel Contest Live Television Event

After a successful first season, **BookTelevision** is once again bringing 12 writers chosen from hundreds of candidates from across Canada to participate in the world's most grueling literary competition, the "**3-Day Novel Contest**," live on national television. One of this year's twelve writers will be award-winning humorist **Gordon Kirkland** from Pitt Meadows, BC.

The twelve writers will spend Labor Day weekend in Edmonton, Alberta's largest Chapters bookstore, each with the nearly impossible task of completing a full length novel in 72 hours. To make the process even more daunting, the competitors are faced with numerous distractions throughout the event, not the least of which is trying to write in the midst a busy bookstore. In addition, the contestants will face a number of as yet undisclosed challenges. Last year's challenges ranged from participating in a poetry slam to being given antique typewriters to work on for a period of time, and there will also be a number of additional writing assignments throughout the weekend to draw the writers away from the task at hand.

BookTelevision will once again bring the event to national television, broadcasting brief updates of the contest from Edmonton throughout the weekend and producing a reality series to air at a later date. Sponsors include The Writers Guild of Alberta.

"I was away on tour when the show aired last season," Kirkland said, "so I'm thankful that they will be rerunning some of the episodes between now and the weekend so I can get a better idea of what I am in for."

Last season's shows will be airing Wednesdays at 9:30 PM Eastern (6:30 PM Pacific) on BookTelevision.

Tate Young, the show's producer, points out that no one will be 'voted off the island,' they will just face plenty of adversity in trying to complete their novels. Contestants will work round the clock, although bunk beds will be provided at the back of the store to give them the opportunity to take an occasional nap.

"I think I will probably be voted off the top bunk," said Kirkland, who often pokes fun at his size.

Kirkland is no stranger to writing. His syndicated humor column has appeared in newspapers in Canada and the United States since 1994. His five books of short humor have received critical acclaim. Three have been awarded the Stephen Leacock Award of Merit for Humour as finalists for the Leacock Medal. His latest book, *I May Be Big But I Didn't Cause That Solar Eclipse*, was launched in the United

States on June first of this year. Its Canadian release is coincidentally scheduled for September first, while he is filming the show.

"We've had the September release date planned for several months, long before we knew about the show," Kirkland said.

Kirkland is better known in the USA than at home, something familiar to many Canadians in the entertainment industry. BookExpo-America has just named him as the seventh in a series of book industry characters. He is also a member of the faculty of the prestigious Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop at the University of Dayton in Ohio, and the Southern California Writers Conference in San Diego.

"I have a basic concept of what I will be writing, but until I actually sit down and start writing, I don't know what my characters will decide to do or say," Kirkland added. "My wife says she knows the feeling. She's never sure what I will do or say, but then again, neither am I."

- 30 -

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Download High-resolution photos of Gordon Kirkland at
http://www.accesslearning.com/media/images%5CFullSize%5CGordon_1.jpg
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Read Gordon's Extended Bio and View His Video Profiles at
http://www.booktelevision.com/3Day.aspx?pg=finalists/Gordon_Kirkland

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