

Media Release

July 8, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STARFest presents Katherine Ashenburg and Senator Paula Simons on August 13

St. ALBERT—STARFest is thrilled to bring back two STARFest favourites on August 13: Katherine Ashenburg joins us on Zoom in conversation with Senator Paula Simons, discussing Ashenburg’s new novel, *Her Turn*.

“Katherine thrilled STARFest audiences in 2018 with her debut novel, *Sofie & Cecilia*, which became a highly popular book club selection, and we're delighted to have her back with a brand-new book,” says Michelle Steinhusen, Interim STARFest Director. “And we are always honoured to have Senator Paula Simons on the stage, whether virtually or in-person. She is a longtime friend of STARFest and a perennial audience favourite.”

Flagged by *Maclean’s* and the *Globe and Mail* as a must-read for summer 2021, *Her Turn* is a sharp, witty contemporary novel about a forty-something newspaper columnist navigating her bold next chapter, set in Washington against the 2015 US presidential primary. On the surface, Liz has it all: a great job, fantastic friends and a light, noncommittal dating life. On the inside, though, she feels stuck. She’s embroiled in an affair with her married boss, and she’s still carrying the scars from a marriage that ended in betrayal and hurt. With its straight talk about sex, aging, work, politics, love, divorce and family, *Her Turn* is a smart and sparkling novel about fidelity and forgiveness that explores one woman’s second act in life and the ties that still bind her to the first.

Katherine Ashenburg is an award-winning Canadian author of several books and many magazine and newspaper articles. She has written for *The New York Times*, *The Globe and Mail* and *Toronto Life*, among other publications. In former incarnations, she was a producer at CBC Radio and was *The Globe and Mail’s* Arts and Books editor. In 2012, she won a Gold Medal at the National Magazine Awards. In 2018, just a few months shy of her 73rd birthday, she published her debut novel, *Sofie and Cecilia*. Katherine lives in Toronto.

The Honourable Paula Simons is an Independent Senator from Alberta. She joined the Senate in 2018, after a 30 year career as an investigative reporter and political columnist. She has also been – from time to time – a documentary producer, a playwright, and a writer of popular history.

This STARFest event will take place on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, August 13. Admission is free and attendees will have the option to donate to STARFest online when they register; register in advance through the Programs & Events link at www.sapl.ca.

STARFest runs over three weeks in October, 2021 – watch for our festival announcement on August 16. STARFest 2021 will continue the traditions of this award-winning festival, presenting numerous events featuring writers ranging from the new and noteworthy to long-time favourites from across Canada. For more information visit www.starfest.ca.

-30-

For more information contact:

Leslie Greentree, Marketing & Communications Specialist
St. Albert Public Library
780-459-1750
lgreentree@sapl.ca

or

Michelle Steinhusen, Interim Festival Director
St. Albert Public Library
T: 780-418-6623
msteinhusen@sapl.ca