

**Media Release**

June 3, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STARFest presents bestselling author Nita Prose on June 27**

St. ALBERT—STARFest is thrilled to kick off our 2022 season on June 27 with Nita Prose, author of the *The Maid*, one of the most anticipated books of 2022 and an instant New York Times and Canadian bestseller. Prose will be in conversation with STARFest alumni Amy Jones in an online event.

*The Maid* was picked up by Universal Pictures before it was published to be adapted into a film; the release date has not yet been announced. This charming mystery stars twenty-five-year-old Molly Gray, who struggles with social skills and misreads the intentions of others. Her gran used to interpret the world for her, codifying it into simple rules that Molly could live by.

Since her Gran died, twenty-five-year-old Molly has been navigating life's complexities all by herself. No matter—she throws herself with gusto into her work as a hotel maid. Her unique character and her obsessive love of cleaning make her an ideal fit for the job. But Molly's orderly life is upended the day she enters the suite of the infamous and wealthy Charles Black, only to find Mr. Black dead in his bed. Before she knows what's happening, Molly's unusual demeanour has the police targeting her as their lead suspect.

Glamour Magazine says this about *The Maid*: "A twist-and-turn whodunit, set in a five-star hotel, from the perspective of the maid who finds the body. Think *Clue*. Think page-turner."

The New York Times says: "An endearing debut ... The reader comes to understand Molly's worldview, and to sympathize with her longing to be accepted – a quest that gives *The Maid* real emotional heft."

Nita Prose is a long-time editor at Simon & Schuster Publishing, serving many bestselling authors and their books. She lives in Toronto.

"We're thrilled to have Nita Prose at STARFest, and we are excited to pair her with STARFest alumni Amy Jones, who charmed our 2019 audiences with her wit and warmth," says STARFest director Michelle Steinhusen.

Amy Jones came to STARFest in 2019 with her critically acclaimed novel, *Every Little Piece of Me*, which explores the intense friendship between two young women whose every move is chronicled on the public stage. Her first novel, *We're All in This Together*, won the Northern Lit Award, and was a finalist for the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour. Her story collection, *What Boys Like*, won the Metcalf-Rooke Award and was a finalist for the ReLit Award. Amy lives in Toronto.

This STARFest event will take place on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 27. 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](http://www.sapl.ca).

The STARFest Readers Festival returns to in-person events over three weeks this October, and we're working on a fantastic lineup of artists and interviewers! We will announce the lineup on June 20 and tickets will go on sale on August 15. STARFest 2022 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. Be the first to know about STARFest 2022 by subscribing to our newsletter at [www.starfest.ca](http://www.starfest.ca).

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