



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release**

Performing Childhood: Children's Literature Association Annual Conference

WINNIPEG—**From June 9 - 12, 2005**, scholars from around the globe will converge in Winnipeg at the Children's Literature Association annual conference to share their research, discuss current issues in children's literature, and to celebrate the accomplishments of their peers. Over 200 delegates and speakers from more than 10 countries, including Australia, South Africa, Greece, and India will be in attendance.

This upcoming conference will showcase leaders in the field of children's texts and culture. Plenary speakers include well-known Canadian children's author **Robert Munsch**, author of more than 30 picture books including *The Paperbag Princess* and *Love You Forever*, as well as New Zealand author **Margaret Mahy**.

At the awards banquet on June 11, Mahy will be presented with the 2005 Phoenix Award, a unique prize which recognizes literary merit that is coupled with "staying power." Named for the fabled bird that rose from its ashes with renewed life and beauty, the Phoenix Award is given to a book which continues to be important in the field 20 years after its initial publication.

The conference will also include the premier issue of the scholarly journal *Canadian Children's Literature / Littérature canadienne pour la jeunesse* to be published from The University of Winnipeg. This journal has recently moved to The University of Winnipeg from the University of Guelph.

Participants may register for all or any portion of the conference. To ensure accessibility to all members of the community, the University is offering the Sunday workshops **free of charge** through the generous assistance of the OmniTRAX/Broe Quest Series.

**Performing Childhood:
Children's Literature Association Annual Conference ... cont'd**

Workshops will include such topics as:

- The exploration of Canadian identity through picture books
- The understanding of poetic structure and form through games
- Reading in the age of the internet
- Readers' theatre

While the Sunday workshops are aimed primarily at classroom teachers of language arts and literature, interested members of the public are also welcome to attend.

Hosted by The University of Winnipeg, the conference will be held at the Manitoba Theatre for Young People and the Inn at the Forks.

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To learn more about the conference or to register, visit
<http://chla.uwinnipeg.ca/conference.cfm> or contact:

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