

Centre welcomes new storyteller



Photo by Susan Rich
Writer Toby Cygman (left) with new CCWOC storyteller/writer-in-residence Patrick Ryan.

BY JESS WOOLFORD
For The Bulletin

Patrick Ryan was welcomed on September 21 by the University of Manitoba's Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture (CCWOC). The event included a performance by Ryan and a reading by U of M creative writing graduand Toby Cygman. Dr. Patrick Ryan has been announced as CCWOC's fall 2011 storyteller/writer-in-residence.

Ryan will be in residence from September 19 to December 7, 2011, and will be available, by appointment, to mentor storytellers and creative writers who wish to improve their craft. Over the course of the semester he will also visit classes, give performances and readings, and facilitate a storytelling circle.

In addition, Ryan will work on his own projects, including finishing articles on a collection of stories he's been gathering from a 90-year-old storyteller in Belfast and developing a manuscript for an anthology.

Ryan has worked as a teacher and professional storyteller for over 30 years. He regularly tours Britain, Europe and the U.S., performing, lecturing and conducting workshops. He has written for the BBC and has participated in several major storytelling projects, such as:

- Living Stories of the World, a multicultural workshop for primary children in inner- and outer-London;
- Kick into Reading and Sports Stories, programs that unite footballers and coaches with schoolchildren through reading;

- Listen Up!, an innovative, long-term storytelling residency in Northern Ireland schools that utilizes storytelling as a means of teaching and learning;
- Writing Together, a project looking at the impact of writer and storyteller residencies upon teaching and learning.

Now based in London, Ryan grew up in Illinois where he attended the Universities of Illinois and Chicago. He taught primary school in the United States and Great Britain for 10 years and in 2004 completed his doctoral degree at the University of Glamorgan where he is now a research fellow at the George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling.

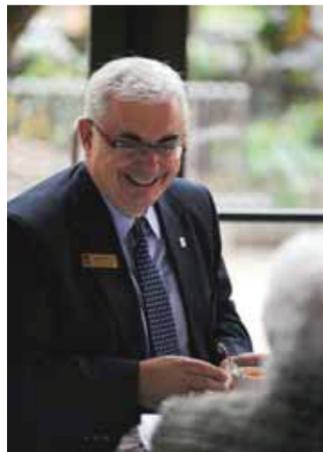
"Patrick Ryan is an extraordinary artist and scholar whose work reminds us that all human beings are storytellers," said Warren Cariou, director of CCWOC and Canada Research Chair in Narrative, Community and Indigenous Cultures.

"He shows us how traditional and newly-created stories can come alive in the present moment through the media as well as through the storyteller's craft. He brings a unique combination of storytelling experience, community activism and scholarly expertise to the university and to our broader community this term. We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from him."

For help with your creative writing or storytelling, contact Patrick at ccwocwir@cc.umanitoba.ca or at 480-1067 to arrange a free one-on-one meeting with him. Or join him for one of his free Wednesday storytelling circles.

For more see CCWOC website at: umanitoba.ca/centres/ccwoc

HOMECOMING 2011



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Friday, October 14, 2011, 3:00 p.m.
Robert Schultz Theatre, Room 172, St. John's College
Wine & Cheese Reception to follow in the Galleria

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