

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**June 15, 2020****SPL announces Danny Ramadan as 2020/21 Writer in Residence**

An award-winning author, public speaker and LGBTQ-refugee activist, Danny Ramadan has been named Saskatoon Public Library's (SPL) Writer in Residence for 2020/21.

The Vancouver-based author's debut novel, *The Clothesline Swing*, won the Independent Publisher Book Award for LGBT Fiction, The Canadian Authors Association's award for Best Fiction, and was shortlisted for the Evergreen Award, Sunburst Award and a Lambda Award. It was longlisted for Canada Reads 2018 and has been translated to French, German and Hebrew. His latest book, a children's publication titled *Salma the Syrian Chef*, was released this past March.

"I must have walked on clouds the day I was offered the Writer in Residency role at SPL. I am truly honoured to be part of this vibrant and welcoming team," said Ramadan. "Working with the Saskatoon writing community, and becoming part of the journey of many up-and-coming authors and writers, is a privilege I carry with respect. I am also proud to bring my writing experience in fiction, non-fiction, journalism and writing for children, as well as my intersectional identity as a queer man of colour, to the work I do with the library, and the work I do with everyone who seeks my support."

Ramadan's residency with SPL starts Sept. 1 and runs until May 2021. He will begin meeting with writers remotely from his home in Vancouver, though he may move to Saskatoon for the second half of his residency if social distancing guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic are lifted.

"In these uncertain and tumultuous times, it is especially timely to have a writer like Danny—someone who promotes and represents both inclusion and diversity—joining SPL," said Carol Cooley, SPL's CEO. "As an author who has experience with many different styles and genres, I am confident he will be treasured resource for many of our community's writers in the coming year."

Ramadan is SPL's 40th Writer in Residence since the program was established in 1981. For more information, visit: www.saskatoonlibrary.ca/wir.

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For more information, contact:

Kirk Sibbald, Marketing & Communications
Saskatoon Public Library
e. k.sibbald@saskatoonlibrary.ca
p. (306) 281-2926