

Malahat *lite*

Virtual Newsletter of *The Malahat Review*

Vol. 8, No. 1, February 2011

FRIENDS EDITION

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1. Meet a Friend: Connor O'Sullivan

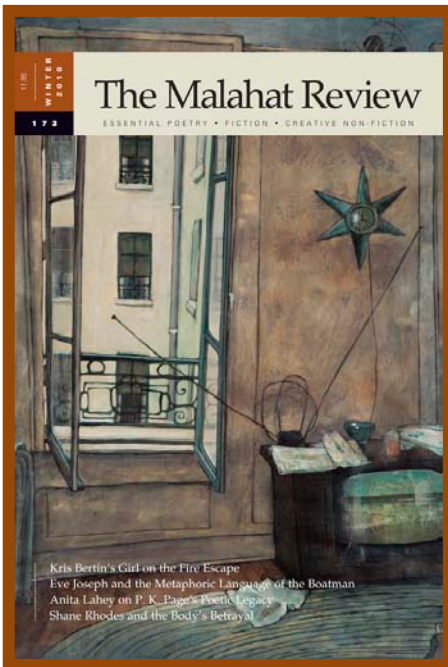
Connor O'Sullivan became a member of the **Friends of *The Malahat*** at our Fall issue launch party in November. For this edition of *Malahat lite*, volunteer **Afra Boissevain** had the opportunity to re-connect with a former middle school classmate and catch up with one of our Friends.

Afra Boissevain: How did you discover *The Malahat Review*, and why did you become a Friend of *The Malahat*?

Connor O'Sullivan: I discovered *The Malahat Review* through my mother. My mom works for UVic as the development officer for the Faculty of Fine Arts so presumably she works with student poets. The reason she introduced me to [*The Malahat Review*] is that I've been interested in poetry since my English 11 class with Mrs. Simpson. I had preferred poetry from an earlier time and was sad that my perception of modern poetry was that it was pretentious and uninspired. Mrs. Simpson said that I should give it another shot, and voila, here we are! Well, the timeline is a bit compressed but true in the essentials. And if you wanted to know, I've since re-evaluated and changed my mind, or at least lessened the severity of my judgment.

AB: Who is your all-time favourite writer and what is your favourite work by them? And, of course, why?

CO: My favourite author is a gentleman named Steven Pinker, a psycholinguist. I've read three of his six or seven books now (*How the Mind Works*, *The Language Instinct*, and *The Language of Thought*) and all of them were outstanding. I choose him as my favourite because he's capable of conveying the material he's working with easily. I wouldn't describe his writing as "beautiful" because instead of beauty in his language I see keen intelligence. I guess clarity counts for a lot for me. My favourite non-fiction author—which is how



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the designation looks in my mind—is Mr. *Lord of the Rings* [J. R. R. Tolkien]. My favourite non-fiction book is *The Outsider*, though I can't say Camus is my favourite author since I've not read anything else of his. *The Outsider* just resonates with me in a way that no other books have.

AB: The last time we met you were constantly cartooning—often about our classmates and teachers. Do you still draw caricatures and comic strips?

CO: I still love drawing but I'm not forced to have a pencil in my hand for eight hours a day anymore so it happens much less. I started working up a few more serious comic strips but I've never come up with an idea that I was interested in enough to spend all the time required to make it into a full comic with multiple panels, colour, and writing. Instead my projects became one-shot deals and more tactile: spray painting and stencils, wood burning, mosaic, et cetera.



AB: Are you at all involved with the arts scene (i.e., music, art, literature) on Vancouver Island other than with *The Malahat*? How do you find the scene?

CO: I'm not really involved in the arts scene personally so I can't say too much about it with confidence. The music part of it seems to be doing pretty well, though. Or, at least what takes place in bars and battles of the bands. I find myself a little bit alienated from the smaller, local music things because I don't feel like I fit in with the audience. For instance, I enjoy a top 40 song just as much as the average gentleman but at shows I could be looked down upon if that slipped out. I think everyone would be happier if we focused on what makes something great instead of what makes it different from the mainstream. It's very possible I'm severely out of touch or misunderstanding, though.

AB: What is your ideal way to spend time with a book?

CO: I love reading in all situations, of course! I spend the majority of my book-bound hours outside Starbucks, sitting on the sidewalk while I'm on break. But the ideal way? In the summer it's easy: grab a book, head for the ocean. During the winter it's a little harder: bundle up to the max and just stay in the back yard. Oh, and cigarettes! The best way to read is outside but the very best way to read is outside with a cigarette.

2. One-time Offer for our Friends: Reduced Entry fee for our 2011 Far Horizons Award for Short Fiction

In every Friends edition of *Malahat lite*, we will present a new offer to our Friends. This time, we would like to offer you a reduced entry fee to our next contest:

The 2011 Far Horizons Award for Short Fiction.

This time only, **Friends of *The Malahat*** can enter The 2011 Far Horizons Award for Short Fiction for **\$10 per entry**. (Regular entry fee is \$25/entry.)

NOTE: this reduced fee does not include a one-year subscription

Not a Friend? Not a problem!

Use the form below to **join The Friends of *The Malahat*** between now and May 1, 2011 **for only \$25** (regular rate is \$45). You can then enter the Far Horizons contest for the Friends rate of \$10 per entry.

I want to be a Friend of *The Malahat*!

Name:

Address:

City:

Postal Code:

Phone Number:

Email address:

Visa / MasterCard:

Expiry:

{Please make **\$25** cheques payable to
The Malahat Review}

Mail to:

The Malahat Review
Friends of *The Malahat*
The University of Victoria
PO Box 1700, Stn CSC
Victoria BC V8W 2Y2

This offer valid until May 1, 2011

As a Friend of *The Malahat*, you will receive:

a one-year subscription to
The Malahat Review

a 10% discount at
Renaissance Books (a
fabulous used book store
at 14 Bastion Square in
Victoria)

invitations to four issue
launches per year

free admission to all
ticketed *Malahat* events

special offers at our
launch parties, such as
free books, or entry into a
draw for a door prize

discounted registration
fees at two *Malahat*-
sponsored workshops per
year

discounted subscriptions
to select Canadian literary
magazines: *The
Fiddlehead, Arc Poetry,*
and *EVENT*

Malahat lite delivered
monthly to your inbox
(including the Friends
edition, sent every three
months only to Friends
and Victoria residents)

a free coffee, tea, or
cookie at the Overleaf
Cafe and Bookshop's
Saturday salons from 12-3
p.m. (1105 Pandora Ave.
at Cook St.)

3. Malahat Summer Workshop

The Malahat Review will now offer biannual workshops at which Friends of *The Malahat* can register for half price.

In November, we hosted “Wither—or Whither—The Book Review? A Panel Discussion.” Our Assistant Editor, Rhonda Batchelor moderated a panel discussion amongst columnist Amy Reiswig, English professor Jamie Dopp, poetry blogger David Kosub, and publisher Ruth Linka.

This summer, we will host another workshop. Here’s your chance to let us know what sort of workshop you would be interested in attending. These workshops are for you, after all!

Send an email to:

malahat@uvic.ca

with the subject:
Friends Workshop

and let us know what type of **workshop** you would be interested in attending this summer.

4. Upcoming Contests



2011 Far Horizons Award for Short Fiction

Deadline: **May 1, 2011**

Prize: \$1000

Entry fee: \$25 (includes a one-year subscription)

\$10 for Friends of *The Malahat* (subscription not included)

Emerging writers whose fiction is not yet published in book

form are encouraged to enter their short fiction of up to 3500 words in length.

2011 Creative Non-Fiction Prize

Deadline: **August 1, 2011**

Prize: \$1000

Entry fee: \$35 (includes a one-year subscription)

Enter one piece of creative non-fiction between 2000 and 3000 words in length. No restrictions as to subject matter or approach apply.

2012 Open Season Awards

Deadline: **November 1, 2011**

Prize: \$1000 awarded in each of three genres

Entry fee: \$35 (includes a one-year subscription)

Enter either:

- up to three poems max 100 lines each
- one short story up to 2500 words in length
- one creative non-fiction story up to 2500 words

2012 Novella Prize

Deadline: **February 1, 2012**

Prize: \$1500

Entry fee: \$35 (includes a one-year subscription)

Enter a single work of fiction between 10,000 and 20,000 words in length. No restrictions as to subject matter or approach apply.

More info on all contests:

http://www.malahatreview.ca/contests/contests_info.html