

**Whistler Writers Festival  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Suggested Social Media Post: Paul Shore and Farida Somjee win Whistler Independent Book Awards #Whistler

**Paul Shore and Farida Somjee win Whistler Independent Book Awards**

**Oct 17, 2017: Whistler, B.C.** – Paul Shore of Whistler, BC, and Farida Somjee of Vancouver, BC, have won this year’s Whistler Independent Book Awards (WIBA). Shore won the WIBA Non-Fiction Award for his memoir, *Uncorked*, set within the rampart walls of a village in Provence. Somjee won the WIBA Fiction Award for her novel, *The Beggar’s Dance*, set in the streets of coastal Africa.

The winners were announced by WIBA organizers Lynn Duncan and Kilmeny Denny at the Whistler Writers Festival’s improvisational Literary Cabaret at the Maury Young Arts Centre. Two-time winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Canadian Humour, Terry Fallis, whose reading at the cabaret entertained the capacity audience said, “It is wonderful to see talented, up-and-coming, independent authors recognized. It is a challenging process to start out on your own and work to have your creativity discovered.”

“*The Beggar’s Dance* is a challenging and captivating novel,” said Gail Anderson-Dargatz, a Giller Prize finalist and judge of the Fiction Award. “The real strength of this novel is in Somjee’s portrayal of the secondary characters’ heartache and joy, and how Juma, unwittingly or with purpose, orchestrates change within his community.”

“In *Uncorked*, Shore’s use of the game of Pétanque as a point of entry to address areas of personal alienation is a great literary and narrative choice,” said, J.J. Lee, one of the judges for the Non-Fiction award, and CBC radio host, author, and Governor General’s Literary Award finalist. “This memoir made me laugh; especially Paul’s foil Hubert, who is a star. And its funny and illuminating stories contain a soul that is touching too!”

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**About the Awards**

Established in 2016 to recognize excellence in Canadian independent publishing, the Whistler Independent Book Awards offers prizes in two categories: fiction and non-fiction. Jointly administered by the Whistler Writing Society and Vivalogue Publishing, the Whistler Independent Book Awards (WIBAs) provide independent authors with a

unique opportunity to have their work recognized through a juried process typically reserved for trade-published titles.

#### About the Whistler Writers Festival

The Whistler Writers Festival runs October 11 to 14, 2018. Now in its seventeenth year, the Whistler Writers Festival brings together the very best Canadian and international authors for a weekend packed with readings, workshops, speaker panels, spoken word events, music and more. For more information, visit [www.whistlerwritersfest.com](http://www.whistlerwritersfest.com).

#### About the Authors

Farida Somjee was born in Mbeya, Tanzania, and grew up in the coastal city of Dar es Salaam. Many of her childhood memories resonate with her and come across in her writing. She moved to Canada in her late teens with twenty dollars in her pocket, a lot of dreams and God on her side. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, with her husband and son. *The Beggar's Dance* is her first novel. [www.faridasomjee.blogspot.ca](http://www.faridasomjee.blogspot.ca)

Paul Shore is an author and technology industry veteran, who has worked around the globe. Paul's drive to embrace new challenges has seen him involved in a variety of pursuits, including spending an inspiring, and at times physically risky, few years working for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games. He lives in Whistler with his wife and young children, exploring the mountains and ocean of the coast. [www.pshore.com](http://www.pshore.com)

#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

Stella Harvey, Artistic Director

The Whistler Writers Festival

E: [stella\\_harvey@telus.net](mailto:stella_harvey@telus.net)

P: 604-932-4518