



The Cooked and Eaten Reading Series
PO Box 352, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, K9J 3Z6
readings@cookedandateen.com - cookedandateen.com

CALL FOR POETS - APRIL 17, 2009

The Cooked and Eaten Poetry of Everyday Life Marathon

Do you write poetry? Do you read poetry? Do you love poetry? Do you hate poetry?

Here's your chance to spring poetry on an unsuspecting world. Fifteen minutes is all it takes.

From 9am to 9pm on Friday, April 17, 2009, poets all over Canada and in the U.S. will be speaking poetry aloud to random passers by, to assembled audiences or to no one in particular. Take part and have your poetry **join the flock of words that will fly across the country.**

How do you participate?

Anytime before April 17th you can sign up for a time slot by filling in our short online form at cookedandateen.com. You can choose any time of day and any length of time.

How does it work?

On the day of the marathon a poet will start reading 15 minutes of poetry at 9am. As soon as they're finished another poet somewhere else will read for 15 minutes, and on it will go throughout the day until 9pm.

You may get an incredible feeling on the day of the Marathon. As you get ready to start your reading you know there is another poet somewhere finishing up and as you finish, you know there's someone out there to carry on. Poets feel connected from coast to coast.

Where are all the other poets?

We will distribute a schedule of all the poets who have signed up so you can see who is reading where and when..

What will happen to all this poetry?

Poets are encouraged to create documentation of their reading: video, audio, still photography, sketches or a combination of the above. These records will be posted the Cooked and Eaten website.

Don't be shy. This is about bringing poetry in all it's forms to all the corners of daily life. If you've got fifteen minutes of poems, or can make one poem last 15 minutes, you're in. If you aren't a poet, but have a favourite poem or three you'd like to read, you're in. If you do performance poetry or spoken word, all the

better. If you know a number of poets you can get together to read for an hour or share 15 minutes.

Each reader who signs up is emailed a printable .pdf of a Poetry of Everyday Life Marathon poster to put up and flier to hand out at his or her chosen venue explaining the event to passers by.

Where have people read their poetry in past marathons?

Locations include (but are certinally not limited to): Bookstore, hospital, street corner, hotel, shopping mall, art gallery, cafe/restaurant, retail store, bus stop, on a plane, favourite park, theatre, school/classroom, backyard party, farm, at home, sculpture garden, under and old growth tree, in a canoe on a lake, library, to a cherry tree in bloom, at the beach, at the gym.

Where do I send my photos and videos?

Once you have finished your reading, you can send your archived media (photos, audio, video, sketches, etc.) to:

readings@cookedandateen.com

I have a big group of poet friends, can I organize something in my own city?

Yes! Many groups are starting to organize their own poetry mini-marathons under the Cooked and Eaten Poetry of Everyday Life Marathon title. You can put together your own twelve hours or you can put together one, two or four hours, whatever you like.

If you have a group and would like to participate, send me an email at

readings@cookedandateen.com if you have questions, need support or would like more information about setting up a marathon, short or long, in your own town.

- o -

For Information and photos of last year's event, go to: cookedandateen.com

From the flier poets pass out on the day of the event:

Today, across Canada, poets are standing up and reading their poetry aloud in celebration of Poetry Month. People are reading in Toronto, Ottawa, Cornwall, Salt Spring Island, Calgary, Lund, Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Peterborough and many places in between.

Poets are presenting themselves in bookstores and schools, at bus stops, under trees in forests, by beaches, in restaurants and retail stores and right here in front of you.

As soon as this poet is finished, another poet will start reading somewhere else - every fifteen minutes. 100 poets and then some.

For a complete schedule go to www.cookedandateen.com.

While you are here, listening to this poet, and as you go about the rest of your day, take a moment to notice the poetry all around you. The poetry of everyday life. Today, poetry is being brought to life across the country. Tomorrow? It will still be there, perhaps more silent, but still there. Take time to look for it, when you can.

For now, enjoy the Cooked and Eaten Poetry of Everyday Life Marathon.

— 0 —

Take this opportunity to be part of a cross country day of guerilla poetry.

Contact:

Esther Vincent
Coordinator, The Cooked and Eaten
readings@cookedandateen.com
PO Box 352, Peterborough ON K9J 6Z3

What does poetry mean to you?

Poetry is the most compressed form of literature.

Poetry is an attempt to understand the world in human terms.

Poetry is itself a magic spell which is a key to the ineffable. - Aleister Crowley

Poetry is as precise as geometry. - Gustave Flaubert

Poetry heals the wounds inflicted by reason. - Novalis

Poetry is nearer to vital truth than history. - Plato

Poetry is ordinary language raised to the Nth power. - Paul Engle

Poetry is the art of uniting pleasure with truth. - Samuel Johnson

Poetry is thoughts that breathe, and words that burn. - Thomas Gray

There's no poetry in money, but then there's no money in poetry, either. - Robert Graves

To have great poets, there must be great audiences. - Walt Whitman

Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood. - T. S. Eliot

The figure a poem makes. **It begins in delight and ends in wisdom.** - Robert Frost