

Contact: Christina Selander Bouzouina
Executive Director
Alliance Française Mpls/St Paul
612 332 0436
directeur@afmsp.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

26 Feb 2016



Alliance Française

READING AND RECEPTION WITH AWARD-WINNING LEBANESE AUTHOR RAWI HAGE

(*Minneapolis*) Award-winning author Rawi Hage will share his work and personal experience in an evening reception at Alliance Française. Born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon, Hage has gained fame for his novels, including *De Niro's Game*, *Cockroach*, and *Carnival*. Trilingual in Arabic, French and English, Hage lives in Montreal and writes in English. His debut novel, *De Niro's Game*, is set in Beirut during its troubled years during the 1980s, and was praised for "its originality, its power, its lyricism, as well as its humane appeal". On his tour through the Midwest, Hage's evening in Minneapolis will feature an interview with UMN professor Joseph R. Farag. A reception with food and drinks will follow the event.

The visit of Rawi Hage is generously supported by the Consulate General of Canada in Minneapolis, the University of Minnesota's Department of Asian Languages & Literature, and Mizna, the St Paul-based arts organization that publishes the world's only journal of Arab American literature and has featured Hage's work in past issues.

Each March, Alliance Française Mpls/St Paul joins more than 33 million people around the world to celebrate *Le Mois de la Francophonie*, an initiative to highlight the French-speaking world, outside of France, and its cultural diversity. Every year Minnesota's Alliance Française offers a series of events with a focus on one country. This year, our celebration takes us to Lebanon. The French roots in Lebanon date back to the French Mandate for Syria and the Lebanon after WWI. Now, French remains the primary foreign language taught in Lebanese public schools and much French influence remains today. In Minnesota, more than 7,000 people make up the Lebanese community, many members of which are the artists, presenters, and caterers behind this series. Learn more at afmsp.org/liban.

Event: A Conversation with Award-winning Author Rawi Hage

Host: Alliance Française Mpls/St Paul

Location: 113 N First Street, Minneapolis, MN 55401

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Time: 6:30 pm

Admission: \$10 Mizna/AF Members, \$20 General Public

More Information: 612 332 0436 or bonjour@afmsp.org

The Alliance Française Mpls/St Paul is a non-profit organization that offers French language classes and French cultural events, including music, films, lectures, conversation groups and an annual Bastille Day Celebration.