

June 16, 2009

The Winnipeg International Writers Festival is excited to feature Hal Niedzviecki at the THIN AIR 2009 School Stage. Hal Niedzviecki is one of the 2009 THIN AIR Festival writers where he will be talking about his teenage friendly work, the award winning *The Big Book of Pop Culture*. In it he uses upbeat, spirited writing to discuss independent/alternative action and how students can understand and create pop culture themselves.

His latest adult non-fiction book *The Peep Diaries: How We're Learning to Love Watching Ourselves and Our Neighbours* appears at number 12 on O Magazine's list of 25 Books You Can't Put Down. Hal is the former host of *Subcultures* on CBC Radio One and is working on a documentary film called *Peep Me*. Hal's focus on the new culture being created by electronic social media raises interesting questions about values and privacy itself.

The Big Book of Pop Culture (Annick Press, 2007) In *The Big Book of Pop Culture*, indie-guru Hal Niedzviecki offers a how-to journey to creating pop culture. In upbeat, spirited writing, Niedzviecki first leads readers through a quick history of entertainment, including its early origins, to the present day, when corporate powers largely determine what we read, hear and view. Niedzviecki then shows how to reclaim cultural expression by encouraging everyone to use the tools of modern media: print (self-publishing zines, comics and books), video (making movies and shows), CD (creating original music) and the indie-paradise of the internet (websites, blogs—even developing video games). Quick and easy do-in-a-day project ideas are included to get things started so emerging artists will feel ready to tackle more ambitious works. Punctuated by inspiring interviews with young creators, engaging sidebars, and zine-style graphics that capture the spirit of the indie movement, is an empowering guide to original artistic expression.

Awards Include:

2007 Gold Award, National Parenting Publications "The Year's Best" List, Resource Links New York Public Library's Books for the Teen Age 2008 Independent Publisher Book Award 2008, Bronze Best Books for Kids & Teens 2008, starred selection, Canadian Children's Book Centre

Hal will be featured on the THIN AIR School Stage on Thursday, September 24 at 1:00pm. Hal will also be available for a limited number of School Visits. Spaces are filling up fast so please contact us soon!

For details about the THIN AIR School Program, contact Tavia Palmer at (204) 927-7323 or at info@thinairwinnipeg.ca More information and on-line registration are available at the THIN AIR website at www.thinairwinnipeg.ca