

First novel foray is quite the Story

Add yet another discipline to the lengthy resume that is the domain of Kate Story.

The Peterborough playwright, music performer, choreographer and dancer is now a writer of prose fiction, next week launching her first novel, *Blasted*.



Kate Story

Street in Toronto.

"Geographically, the book definitely mimes some of my own experience," relates Story, who grew up in Southside St. John's and lived in Toronto before moving to Peterborough.

"Ruby lives on same road I grew up on in St. John's and in the same apartment I had in Toronto."

But that, notes Story, is where any similarity ends.

"Ruby seized me fully-formed and demanded that I write about her," she says.

This Thursday (Aug. 28), Story will launch *Blasted* at Artspace, 378 Ayler St. N. The 8 p.m. event, presented by Cooked And Eaten, will see her accompanied by musicians Curtis Driedger and Derek Bell, whose stylings will evoke *Blasted*'s moods and themes. Admission is free. And on Aug. 30, starting at 11 a.m., Story will be at Chapters on Lansdowne Street West to sign copies of her book.

Among those who given *Blasted* advance praise is River Thieves author Michael Crummy, who has declared *Blasted* "raw and strange and hilarious and affecting."

The somewhat autobiographical book relates the story of Ruby Jones, a young Newfoundland "lurching between love affairs and cities," all the while "haunted by the mysteries that surround her father and generations before."

Steeped in Newfoundland folklore, *Blasted* explores the contrasts and conflicts between generations, geographies and contemporary life in Southside St. John's and on Queen

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While this is Story's first novel, her short stories have been published in the magazines *Broken Pencil* and *Kiss Machine*. Other written work by her has been produced as plays, performance art and theatre dance productions. Her body of work has seen her twice nominated (2004 and 2006) for Ontario Arts Council's K.M. Hunter Artists Award.

As well as being available at each local event, *Blasted* can also be ordered online at www.creativebookpublishing.ca and www.amazon.com

Paul Rellinger

