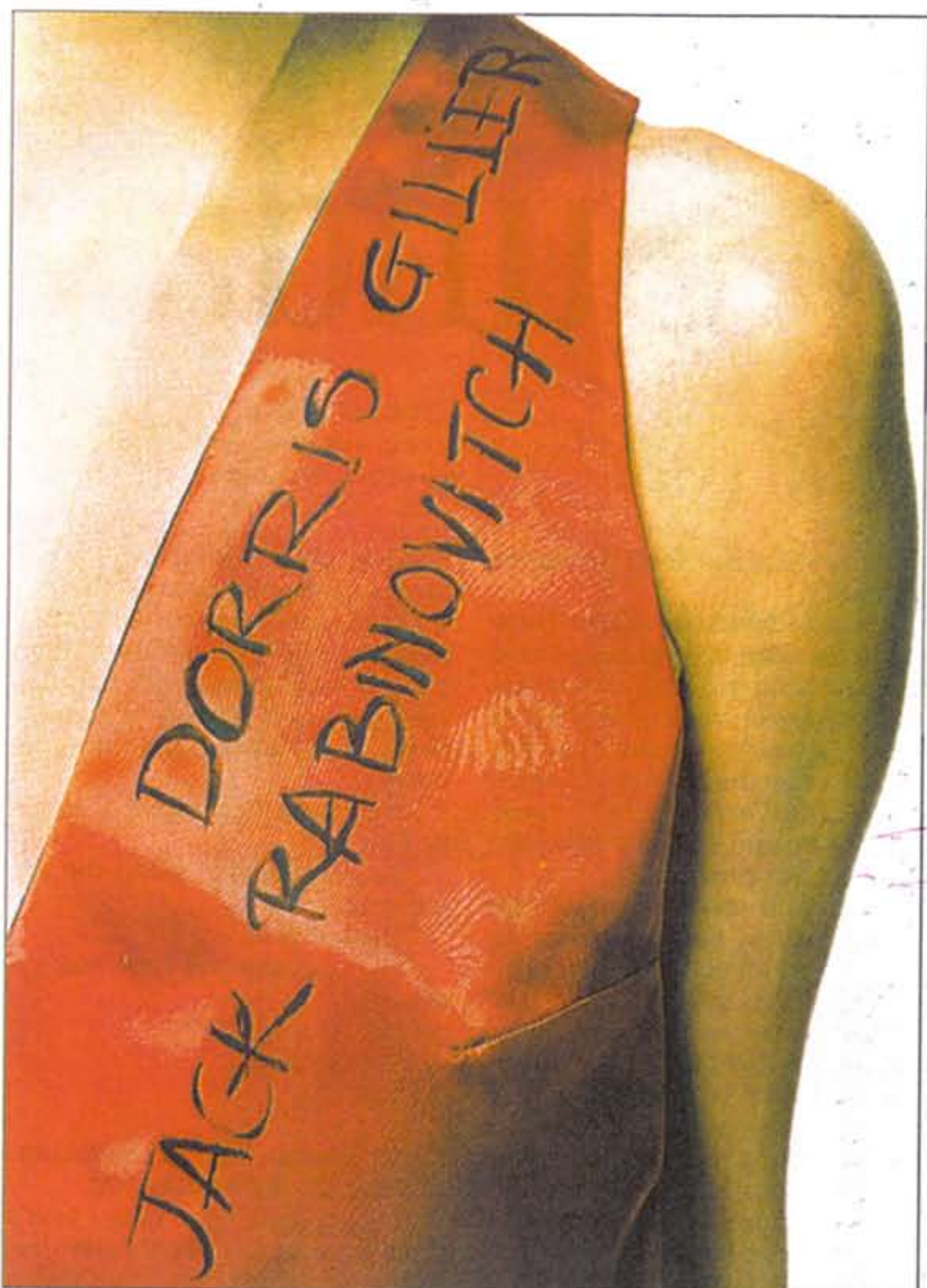


Globe Toronto

THE GLOBE AND MAIL ■ CANADA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ■ GLOBEANDMAIL

eatdrink
gose
dobool
hearplay
trybuy



JOHN HRYNIUK/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Fine Print host Carolyn Weaver went all out with her dress for the 10th anniversary Giller prize gala.

treal designer Adam Quang features the names of past winners and their books counterclockwise around the hem and the name of the prize in charcoal scrawled up the skirt's thigh-high slit. Across the bodice of the dress are the names of both the prize's founder, Jack Rabinovitch, and his late wife, Doris Giller, in whose memory the award was created.

Paired with strappy stilettos by Stuart Weitzman, the Weaver effect is very sex-meets-books, a look that matches the splashy spirit of Canada's most high-profile literary award. "One of the things I've always wanted to say with the show is that you can have a serious conversation about literature and still have fun," she says.

"I often have editors or writers from the fashion and design world on my show talking about novels, and people are surprised. They say to me, 'Wow, I had no idea that sort of person would be so articulate and well-read.' And I'm like, 'Well duh, just because someone is glamorous and stylish doesn't mean they don't go home and read at night.'"

Ms. Weaver's ceremonial Giller get-up doesn't end with the dress. Adorning her slender wrist will be a ruffled matching cuff bearing the names of all of this year's short-listed authors. When the winner is announced, Ms. Weaver will remove a decorative pebble (cleverly attached with Velcro) and replace it with a ribbon bearing the triumphant author's name.

"I wanted my outfit to be respectful to the authors and yet sassy at the same time," she says, popping a French fry in her mouth. And who are this year's short-listed authors again? Without missing a beat, Ms. Weaver begins rattling off names: "Margaret Atwood, for *Oryx and Crake*, John Bemrose for *The Island Walkers*, John Gould for *Kilter: 55 Fictions*, M.G. Vassanji for *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall...*" Her voice falters.

"There's one more, but for some reason I'm completely blanking." She screws up her face in frustration and then smiles, suddenly pleased with herself. "I'll just check my wristband! Of course, here it is: Ann-Marie MacDonald for *The Way the Crow Flies*."

Now that's a Giller dress

BY LEAH McLAREN

Carolyn Weaver doesn't mind being called the Joan Rivers of the Giller Prize. For years now, the 33-year-old *Fine Print* host has been on a mission to inject a bit of girly glitz into the typically staid Canadian literary establishment. While CBC, Bravo! and BookTV will offer live coverage of the 10th anniversary of the Giller prize gala on Nov. 4, Ms. Weaver's show (now in its third season, airing on BookTV and Rogers) will provide a livelier, more informal look at the festivities.

"I see my bit as the 'chatter' port-

ion of the evening's coverage," she says over a club sandwich at Brassaii restaurant on King Street West. "It's great talking about books, but I also love asking [Flare editor] Suzanne Boyd all about whatever fabulous dress she's wearing that night."

Ms. Weaver's second love after books is dressing up, and the Giller provides her with a perfect opportunity to combine her two favourite pastimes. This year, she went all out. In anticipation of the 10th-anniversary celebration at the Four Seasons, she had a special dress designed to commemorate the evening. The sheer-backed, red silk, two-piece number created by Mon-