Singapore Writers Festival
2–11 NOV 2012
Read the Books, Meet the Authors!
contents

Welcome Messages 04
About the Singapore Writers Festival 07
In the Year 3000 – A special SWF commission 08
Festival At a Glance 10
SWF Lectures 12
Programmes 14
SWF Fringe - Origins of Desire 48
SWF Publishing Symposium 50
Authors and Speakers 52
Moderators 81
Venue Maps 86
Event Calendar 88
Ticketing Information 94
Festival Promotions 95
Thank you 95
Words Go Round 2013 96
Dear friends,

Welcome to the 15th edition of the Singapore Writers festival.

People often ask me “What is a writers festival about?” or “Do I need to write something to join?” and my answer to them is always to come, see for yourself and participate in any way you like. The Singapore Writers festival is more than just a platform to meet authors and listen to them speak about writing. It is an opportunity for you to be engaged, entertained and inspired – whatever age group you may belong to.

In today’s fast-paced world of instant communication, and gratification, it is important to remember the simple pleasures of reading and discussing stories and ideas; of learning how things begin and where they started from. Oftentimes, we do not have the time, or make the time, to dig a little deeper, to explore issues beneath the surface – the Singapore Writers festival, a celebration of cultures and the power of the written word, enables you to embark on these explorations.

The festival also remains one of the key platforms in making the National Literary Arts Plan a success. The festival puts the spotlight on our Singapore writers and their works in the four official languages, providing opportunities for Singaporeans to learn more about these works and the writing process. It also brings Singaporeans and international authors together, setting the stage for an exchange of ideas from diverse origins. Through the festival’s many activities, it is my wish to see the literary arts become an integral part of the community.

I encourage you to take the plunge and immerse yourself in multi-faceted and rewarding experiences – to read the books, meet the authors behind them and, most importantly, enrich yourself with stories about where we have come from, and where we are headed.

Please have a wonderful time at the festival!

Edmund Cheng
Chairman
National Arts Council

Philip Jeyaretnam
Chairman
Steering Committee

Welcome to a brand-new edition of the Singapore Writers Festival!

Making the festival an annual event offers the literary community a terrific opportunity to entrench books and reading within our culture. Festivals are about celebration – and that is what we will be doing over these two weeks – enthusing, arguing, babbling and rambling in equal measures!

The theme this year is Origins. It evokes beginnings, heritage and originality. In keeping with this theme, biographies and historical fiction feature prominently. Formats are designed to facilitate deeper and more sustained examination of contemporary writing, and to foster discussion and participation by the audience.

An important focus this year is on the Middle East. Several prominent Middle Eastern writers, including Izzeldin Abuelaish, Lilia Labidi and Hisham Bustani will be addressing the rich literature of the region, and how it has been both a part and a reflection of political and social change.

As usual, a distinguishing feature of our festival is an emphasis on stimulating and challenging programming in Chinese, Malay and Tamil, with strong involvement from the respective literary communities. We have continued to develop and improve our multi-lingual capacity, so that writers in different languages share experiences and consider our increasingly mingled destiny.

Together with you, I look forward to many moments of intrigue, fascination or surprise; an adventure of the spirit.
We’re back! How time zips by – it seems like only yesterday when we were saying hello to audience members at our Festival District last year!

We were delighted last year’s programming and location proved a powerful magnet and we were able to reach out to record numbers. Over 56,000 people attended the panels, activities or saw the literature-inspired art installations.

But really it isn’t a numbers game because the Singapore Writers Festival has always been intended to be an intimate, cosy festival for book-loving friends and people keen on thoughtful conversations about ideas.

I hope this year’s line up of writers will be as warmly received. International writers such as Michael Cunningham, Pico Iyer, Huang Chun-ming, Jimmy Liao and Shin Kyung-Sook will share the stage with our best and emerging Singaporean writers. Do come and listen to them, and get your books autographed.

By now, I hope you are more familiar with how the Festival Pass works and the types of free or ticketed programmes the SWF has. This year, we bring another exciting element to the table, the SWF Fringe! Held at and curated by The Arts House, we are sure this late-night programme will tantalise audiences in more ways than one.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our generous and supportive sponsors, including Lee Foundation and ilovebooks.com. A big thank-you goes out to our various venue and programming partners including the Singapore Management University, for welcoming the Festival in the heart of the city, the National Museum of Singapore, the Singapore Art Museum, the National Library and the Peranakan Museum.

We hope you enjoy the Festival and find your own unique take on Origins.

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**Paul Tan**  
Festival Director

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**SWF 2012: ORIGINS**

SWF’s 2012 theme returns to the beginning. The beginning of time, of language, of the story, of our identities...

This year’s programming shines the spotlight on story-telling, biographies, and historical fiction and traces the source of creative inspiration - what is at the heart of moving narratives, riveting characters and memorable turns-of-phrase.

At the same time, in a world of mass reproductions, new technologies and endless iterations of old stories, we reflect on what is truly original in the first place.

As humanity hurtles forward, eyes trained on the future, we also look back. We imagine the lives of those before us by drawing on shared and individual histories. *Origins* allows us to revisit our own identities, the multiple roles we assume and the masks we put on. What is at the innermost selves – our ethnic origins, the faiths we profess or the colour of the identity card we carry?

SWF 2012 promises debate, discussion and insights as we celebrate the best of the written and spoken word.
I can't believe people actually used these primitive devices for reading.

Stop messing around and help me open this door. But the sweepers have already scanned this place.

They're not thorough, sometimes they miss things.

There's nothing here. Let's head back.

What is it??

I think that's a hardcover. A real hardcover! Run the analyzer on it! Hurry!

Yeah, about that... you do know that he was not originally from Singapore, right?

Of course, but he spent most of his life living there and writing about that peculiar island.

We have to plan what we're going to do with this book carefully. Who knew that we'd even find a Seqival title from one of Singapore's greatest authors!

Oh, cynic. Everyone who was anybody wanted to live there at some point during that century!

What's peculiar was how quickly he became naturalized.

Hey, it's an open society, and despite living in over ten countries, he did eventually choose to call that island his home.

Well, I don't buy that bit about him becoming a citizen for the food. It's good, but it's not that good.

Ha ha! I'm amused at how your cynicism always kicks in whenever you're here.

Pssh!

That's because we're talking about humans.

They're always making things more complicated than they should be. It's no wonder why they've got identity issues.

It's funny coming from you considering how you've spent more than half your life on this blue planet.

Whatever can we please do now?
Festival At a Glance

SWF Lectures
- In the Beginning. There Was the Story… | PG 12
- From Where It Originates | PG 13

Literary Meals & Cocktails
- Eat Your Words with Catherine Lim | PG 16
- Eat Your Words with Ahmad Fuadi | PG 19
- Literary Cocktail: Mick Foley | PG 22
- Literary Cocktail: Linda Jaivin & Farish A Noor | PG 23
- Eat Your Words with Michael Cunningham | PG 29
- Eat Your Words with Pico Iyer | PG 40
- Eat Your Words with Izzeldin Abuelaish | PG 43
- Eat Your Words with Chi Li | PG 43

OFF-THE-PAGE

FREE EVENTS
- SWF Publishing Symposium
- Literary Meals & Cocktails
- SWF Lectures
- SWF Fringe

WORKSHOPS & MASTER CLASSES
- It’s Not About You – Writing a First Novel | PG 15
- The Sun Always Shines on TV – Creating a Drama Series | PG 18
- Writing Fashion | PG 20
- Exploring Your Personal Odyssey | PG 24
- Writing for the Bright Lights and Big Stage | PG 26
- Editors Boot Camp | PG 29
- Baba Malay 101 – Jangan Main Main! | PG 30
- Who Said Latin is Dead? | PG 33
- Singapore Literature for Reluctant Readers | PG 33
- Writing Powerful Fiction for Young Readers | PG 35
- The Poetry of Memory | PG 37
- The Making of a Graphic Novel | PG 41
- Edhugai – Tamil Songwriting | PG 41
- Writing Stories and Novels for Children | PG 43

SPECIAL FESTIVAL PASS EVENTS
- Seminar on Dr M Varadaran | PG 16
- Dramatised Presentation of Desmond Sim’s The Chair | PG 22, 33
- Urban Memories – The SWF Chinese Literary Conference | PG 37

SWF PUBLISHING SYMPOSIUM AND RIGHTS FAIR
For more details, please refer to PG 50

LITERARY PIONEER
- SWF 2012 Literary Pioneer Showcase: Ode to Masuri S N | PG 31

BRAND NEW BOOKS
- Straw, Sticks, Bricks by Cyril Wong | The Invisible Manuscript by Alfian Saa’at | Stone Monkey by Ng Yi Sheng | A View of the Ground by Jason Wei | PG 14
- An Independent Life by Chong Wing Hong | PG 15
- My Thousand Day Ordeal – A Spiritual Journey by Ching Cheong | PG 18
- Stellar Plays by Stella Kon | PG 20
- Who Are We? Five Cultural Medallion Winners Discuss Our National Identity | PG 23
- The Painter of Lost Souls by Michael Vatikiotis | PG 24
- Anthology Cerdon Malaysia dan Singapura | PG 28
- Balik Kampung: Stories of Connection/Disconnection with Different Parts of Singapore by Verena Tay | Ayam Curtain by June Yang and Joyce Chng | Fish Eats Lion by Jason Erik Lundberg | PG 27
- The Dancer by Ahmad Tohari | PG 29
- An Inordinate Fondness for Beetles by Paul Sochaczewski | PG 29
- The Resurgence of Satyam | The Singapore Decalogue by Zafar Anjum | PG 30
- Bang My Car by Ann Ang | Spectre: Stories from Dark to Light by Verena Tay | PG 30
- Miss Moorthy Investigates by Ovidia Yu | The Arayavarta Chronicles Book 1: Govinda by Krishna Udayasankar | PG 30
- Deep in the Jungle | TWE by Lal Yong Taw | PG 30
- Lingua Comica – Graphic Novels from Asia and Europe | PG 31
- Unrest by Yeng Pway Ngor | The Scent of the Real by Alvin Pang | Transparent Strangers by Loh Guan Lian | PG 32
- The Forbidden Hill Chronicles – Crown of Earth’s Desire by Terry Ho | PG 32
- A Monsoon Feast | PG 33
- Interactive children’s book launch – Tabungan Alisha by Surtini Sarwan | PG 33
- Asian Larder by Sylvia Tan | PG 35
- Vanishing Point by Felix Cheong | The Nevermind | PG 36
- Raffles and the British Invasion of Java by Tim Hannigan | PG 39
- Ask the Foodie by Christopher Tan | PG 40
- Pelancaran Karya Melayu Singapura | PG 42
- Beyond Words Children’s Picture Books and Apps | PG 43
- The Diary of Amos Lee #4: Lights, Camera, Superstar by Adeline Foo | PG 46

LITTLE LIT!
- Why and How – Tales of How Things Came To Be | PG 17
- iHero with The 2 Steves | PG 18
- Cawan dan Cerek, What Sallamah Didn’t Know | PG 20
- Action Dogs with The 2 Steves | PG 25
- Big Tales for the Little Ones | PG 26
- Making Faces with Roger Jenkins | PG 27, 44
- Parent and Child Storytelling Workshop | PG 37
- Zeus on the Loose | PG 38
- The Sister Sunshine Series | PG 39
- Bansi O’Hara | PG 45
- An Unusual Princess | PG 46

THE UKULELE GIRLS | PG 22
- Coffee Reads at tcc | PG 23, 41
- Tamil Micro-poetry Competition Prize Giving | PG 24
- Pooja Nansi | PG 26
- Tell Me a Story | PG 26, 37
- anothersundayafternoon | PG 28
- What I Talk About When I Talk About Music | PG 31
- Telling Stories about Emak and Bapak – Peranakan Life Writing | PG 31
- When Harry Met Sally 2012 | PG 32
- Poetry of Song (Concert Finale) | PG 33
- Singapore Literature Prize-giving Ceremony | PG 34
- a for alpha | PG 34
- 10 x 10 | PG 34
- READ! Singapore’s Flash Fiction Winners Announcement | PG 36
- Livehouse featuring Elaine Lam | PG 37
- Class Acts – Creative Voices from our Teachers | PG 39
- Dawn Fung | PG 40
- Escape from the Underground Vault of Secrets | PG 47
- Jonathan Meur | PG 47
- WriteCamp | PG 44
- SBPA Rights Fair 2012 | PG 50
- Passages: Finding Strength | PG 44
- Closing Debate: Sinking Roots Here is Little More than Shopping and Eating | PG 47

Festival Venues
Singapore Management University | SMU
National Museum of Singapore | NMS
Singapore Art Museum | SAM
The Peranakan Museum | TPM
The Arts House | TAH
National Library | NLB

OTHER TICKETED EVENTS
- SWF Lectures
- Literary Meals & Cocktails
- SWF Publishing Symposium
- Workshops & Master Classes

FREE EVENTS
- Brand New Books
- Little Lit!
- Off the Page

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OFF THE PAGE
- Snake | PG 14
- Suara Dari Muara (Voices from The Bay) | PG 18
- Books and Beer | PG 20
- The Ukulele Girls | PG 22
- Coffee Reads at tcc | PG 23, 41
- Sikh Micro-poetry Competition Prize Giving | PG 24
- Pooja Nansi | PG 26
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Refer to PG 94 for ticketing details.
In the Beginning, there was the Story...

FEATURING: Michael Cunningham
MODERATED BY: Kenneth Kwok
Sun 4 Nov | 4pm – 5pm | $20
Drama Theatre, School of the Arts

Novels, even the greatest of them, are descended from an ancient and fundamental human act: storytelling. At one moment, members of a prehistoric tribe are huddled around a fire, listening to a man tell a tale about the day’s hunt, and, at another, Proust is finishing the first volume of *In Search of Lost Time*. At a third moment, someone is sending out a semi-autobiographical, semi-coherent tale on the Internet. Although there’s an enormous distance between the three, all of them are engaged in essentially the same endeavor. Storytelling has, since its earliest origins, been an ongoing attempt to convey to others what it’s like to be alive, what it’s like to feel, to think, to survive in a world that has always been both marvellous and dangerous. Michael Cunningham will talk about the ways in which storytelling has changed since humans first developed speech, and the ways in which it has not.

Supported by the United States Embassy, Singapore.

From Where It Originates
“源”来如此

FEATURING: Huang Chun-ming
MODERATED BY: Koh Hock Kiat
Sun 11 Nov | 10.30am – 12.30pm | $10
Drama Theatre, School of the Arts

Taiwanese author Huang Chun-ming is a natural-born storyteller, and quite possibly one of the most captivating novelists of our time. He is without peer when it comes to creating simple tales that speak to the heart, while masterfully illuminating the social relevance, humanity and unique local colours of Taiwan. Join Huang Chun-ming in this engaging lecture, where he will share the crafts and inspirations of his mesmerising storytelling.

This session is in Mandarin with simultaneous translation in English.

主讲嘉宾: 黄春明
主持人: 许福吉
十一月十一日, 星期天 | 10.30am – 12.30pm | $10
Drama Theatre, School of the Arts

台湾著名作家黄春明是一个很会讲故事, 而且将故事说得十分精彩的小说家。他的小说《儿子的大玩偶》、《看海的日子》、《莎哟娜啦·再见》等充满人情味, 乡土味和社会性, 流转着生命的尊严以及人的生存价值,并刻画出时代变迁中小人物的悲哀、辛酸。

黄春明小说的原创性源于他对人、土地与大自然的关怀与爱。他将在演讲中与读者分享其创作灵感的源泉以及如何将故事说得如此精彩动人。

此讲座将以中文进行, 并配有英语同声翻译。
FRIDAY | 2 NOVEMBER

OFF THE PAGE: Snake
2 Nov 2012 – 13 Feb 2013 | FREE
Lawn, SAM

This special SWF commission draws parallels with the famous Greek statue Laocoön and His Sons, an influential artwork from 2nd century BC, now revered and referenced throughout the western art world as the epitome of the human anatomy and expression. With quotes from writers such as Chinhua Achebe and Shirley Lim, visual artist Gerald Leow explores our fraught relationship with the English language, our adopted tongue that is now the most widely-used global language. Is Laocoön’s struggle with the encroaching snakes a mirror of our latent discomfort with the words we speak and write?

BRAND NEW BOOKS:
Straw, Sticks, Bricks by Cyril Wong
Che Husna Azhari, Seno Gumira Ajidarma

PB
14 15

NEW BOOKS:
1 – 3 NOVEMBER

PROGRAMMES
FRIDAY

FESTIVAL PASS

PANEL:
Life Lessons from Sports
FEATURING: Shehan Karunatilaka, Mick Foley, Rohit Brijnath
MODERATED BY: Simon Reynolds
Sat 3 Nov | 10am – 11am | FESTIVAL PASS
ilovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Behind the accomplished sportsman is often a fascinating tale waiting to be told. Discover how these leading authors uncover the drama behind wrestling, cricket and sharp-shooting to draw larger lessons about life itself.

Mick Foley’s appearance is supported by the United States Embassy, Singapore.

PANEL:
Counter Texts – Facts of Fiction
FEATURING: Brian Castro, Rosaly Puthucheary, Troy Chin
MODERATED BY: Carolyn Camoens
Sat 3 Nov | 10am – 11am | FESTIVAL PASS
The Ixora Room, TPM

What happens when the lines between fiction and fact blur and our pasts are re-imagined? What powers are invested in the author, who has the ability to conjure up words and realise new realities? Do books always provide an avenue of escape?

REIM TO REEL: The Hours
FEATURING: Michael Cunningham
MODERATED BY: Tan Kheng Hua
Sat 3 Nov | 10am – 12.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
Moving Image Gallery, SAM @ 8Q

Director: Stephen Daldry | Cast: Nicole Kidman, Julianne Moore, Meryl Streep | 2002 | 114 mins | USA and UK | M18 (sexual references)

Based on the book by celebrated writer Michael Cunningham, The Hours tells how the creation of Virginia Woolf’s depression-themed novel, Mrs Dalloway, set in 1920s England echoed across eras and continents. As Woolf recuperates from a nervous breakdown, her new novel and the lives of a 1950s American housewife contemplating suicide and a new-millennium posh lesbian publisher caring for her dying friend cross paths. Relive this critically-acclaimed movie, which won Nicole Kidman the Academy Award for Best Actress.

SWF featured author Michael Cunningham will be present for a post-film dialogue.

Supported by the United States Embassy, Singapore. Curated by The Arts House

PANEL:
Hitting the Bookstands
FEATURING: Chitra Sankaran, Krys Lee, SherMay Loh
MODERATED BY: Jane Nardini
Sat 3 Nov | 10am – 11am | FESTIVAL PASS
The Salon, NMS

New voices in Asian literature talk about getting their first book out—the endless slog, rewrites and pitches— to get to the final payoff when the book is launched, read and reviewed!

BRAND NEW BOOKS:
An Independent Life by Chong Wing Hong
Sat 3 Nov | 11.30am – 12.30pm | FREE
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

An Independent Life is the last of the three volumes of columns written by Chong Wing Hong over 15 years at Lianhe Zaobao. The title of this third volume emphasises the author’s belief that readers still look for independent observations on the world around them.

PANEL:
Girl Power & Women Warriors – Living your Magazine!
FEATURING: Sharon Lim, Ong Soh Chin, Tara Barker
MODERATED BY: Trina Liang
Sat 3 Nov | 11.30am – 12.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
Glass Hall, SAM

Do women’s magazines subtly prescribe gender roles and undermine women’s self-determination with their focus on fashion, beauty and a consumerist lifestyle? This panel of industry veterans discusses if you can be a feminist and still enjoy women’s magazines.

PANEL:
The Peranakan Wields the Pen
FEATURING: Desmond Sim, Josephine Chia, Walter Woon
MODERATED BY: Phan Ming Yen
Sat 3 Nov | 11.30am – 12.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
The Ixora Room, TPM

How does one define the Peranakan sensibility? Is it an attention to detail or larger-than-life characters? Join this panel of true blue Peranakan authors to discuss the characteristics of this rich and unique culture, and see if there is a connection between heritage and aesthetics.

PANEL:
Translation in Theatre
FEATURING: Robin Loon, Candace Chong, Jeremy Tang
MODERATED BY: Kok Heng Leun
Sat 3 Nov | 11.30am – 12.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
Exhibition Gallery 2, Basement, NMS

BRIDGING the different worlds of English and Chinese, translators create new audiences for theatre. These writers, who have translated the works of Singapore playwrights and classics such as Titus Andronicus, shed light on the challenges and rewards of translating.

This session is in English and Mandarin.

FESTIvAL PASS

PANEL:
Walking with A R Wallace
FEATURING: Paul Sochaczewski, John van Wyhe
MODERATED BY: Stephen McCarty
Sat 3 Nov | 11.30am – 12.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
ilovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Often over-shadowed by Charles Darwin, Alfred Russel Wallace played a crucial part in the theory of evolution. Follow his adventures across Southeast Asia and Singapore with historian-scientist John van Wyhe and journalist-writer Paul Sochaczewski as they tell us more about the intrepid explorer and naturalist.

WORKSHOP:
It’s Not About You – Writing a First Novel
INSTRUCTOR: Brian Castro
Sat 3 Nov | 11.30am – 1pm | $15
Seminar Room 2-2, School of Information Systems, SMU

This master class by top Australian novelist Brian Castro looks at the pitfalls of trying to get published—what you should, as well as should NOT, try to do. Tips on how to save a lot of time and anxiety, as well as plenty of food for thought and provocation, promise to help new writers get a good start.

SAMY SCHOOL OF INTOUATION

Middle Eastern Focus
As part of its regional spotlight, SWF 2012 turns its attention to the Middle East. In the wake of the Arab Spring and socio-political developments still unfolding, we explore the impact on the rich literary traditions and diverse cultures of the Middle East.

SESSIONS TO WATCH OUT FOR:

• LITERARY MEALS: Eat Your Words with Catherine Lim
  HOSTED BY: Clarinda Choh
  Sat 3 Nov | 12.30pm – 2pm | $60
  Viet Lang @ TAH
  Hailed as the doyenne of Singapore literature, Catherine Lim has led a colourful life as a writer, teacher, feminist and, in her own words, “a happy single on luxury cruise ship!” Let her delight you with her thoughts on Singapore literature past and present as well as tales of her many literary adventures.

Curated by The Arts House.

• SPECIAL FESTIVAL PASS EVENT: Seminar on Dr M Varadarajan
  Sat 3 Nov | 2 – 7pm | FESTIVAL PASS
  (Registration required)
  The Pod, NLB
  To mark the centenary of Tamil literature pioneer Dr M Varadarajan, this seminar organised by the Association of Singapore Tamil Writers as part of SWF, brings together writers and scholars to commemorate his works. Also known as Mu. Va. and of SWF, brings together writers and scholars to commemorate his works. Also known as Mu. Va. and

Membina Jambatan Baharu
Mengemukakan: S m Zakir, mohamed latiff Bin
mOderated By: alfian Sa’at

PERBINCANGAN PANEL: Saktinya Filem – Getting my Story to the Big Screen
FEATURING: Ahmad Tohari, Ahmad Fuadi, Rafaat Hamzah
MODERATED BY: Sanif Olek
Sat 3 Nov | 11.30am - 12.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
The Salon, NMS
Thinking of writing for the silver screen? Join Singaporean veteran Rafaat Hamzah and renowned Indonesian writers, Ahmad Tohari and Ahmad Fuadi, for insights and inspiration.

This session is in Malay.

PERBINCANGAN PANEL: Skeptical Filem – Bawalah Cerita Saya ke Layar Perak
MENGEMUKAKAN: Ahmad Tohari, Ahmad Fuadi, Rafaat Hamzah
DIMODERATKAN OLEH: Sanif Olek
Sabtu 3 Nov | 11.30pm - 12.30thg | PAS PESTA
The Salon, NMS

Anda terfikir ingin menulis untuk layar perak? Sertai Sakiyana Filem dan Ahmad Tohari, Ahmad Fuadi, Rafaat Hamzah.

Sesi ini dalam Bahasa Melayu.

SWF 2012 PROGRAMMES

3 NOVEMBER

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MENGEMUKAKAN: Ahmad Tohari, Ahmad Fuadi, Rafaat Hamzah
DIMODERATKAN OLEH: Sanif Olek
Sabtu 3 Nov | 11.30pm - 12.30thg | PAS PESTA
The Salon, NMS

Anda terfikir ingin menulis untuk layar perak? Sertai Sakiyana Filem dan Ahmad Tohari, Ahmad Fuadi, Rafaat Hamzah.

Sesi ini dalam Bahasa Melayu.

SWF 2012 PROGRAMMES

3 NOVEMBER

LITERARY MEALS: Eat Your Words with Catherine Lim
HOSTED BY: Clarinda Choh
Sat 3 Nov | 12.30pm – 2pm | $60
Viet Lang @ TAH

Hailed as the doyenne of Singapore literature, Catherine Lim has led a colourful life as a writer, teacher, feminist and, in her own words, “a happy single on luxury cruise ship!” Let her delight you with her thoughts on Singapore literature past and present as well as tales of her many literary adventures.

Curated by The Arts House.

SPECIAL FESTIVAL PASS EVENT: Seminar on Dr M Varadarajan
Sat 3 Nov | 2 – 7pm | FESTIVAL PASS
(Registration required)
The Pod, NLB
To mark the centenary of Tamil literature pioneer Dr M Varadarajan, this seminar organised by the Association of Singapore Tamil Writers as part of SWF, brings together writers and scholars to commemorate his works. Also known as Mu. Va. and

Membina Jambatan Baharu
Mengemukakan: S m Zakir, mohamed latiff Bin
mOderated By: alfian Sa’at

PERBINCANGAN PANEL: Saktinya Filem – Getting my Story to the Big Screen
FEATURING: Ahmad Tohari, Ahmad Fuadi, Rafaat Hamzah
MODERATED BY: Sanif Olek
Sat 3 Nov | 11.30am - 12.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
The Salon, NMS
Thinking of writing for the silver screen? Join Singaporean veteran Rafaat Hamzah and renowned Indonesian writers, Ahmad Tohari and Ahmad Fuadi, for insights and inspiration.

This session is in Malay.

PERBINCANGAN PANEL: Skeptical Filem – Bawalah Cerita Saya ke Layar Perak
MENGEMUKAKAN: Ahmad Tohari, Ahmad Fuadi, Rafaat Hamzah
DIMODERATKAN OLEH: Sanif Olek
Sabtu 3 Nov | 11.30pm - 12.30thg | PAS PESTA
The Salon, NMS

Anda terfikir ingin menulis untuk layar perak? Sertai Sakiyana Filem dan Ahmad Tohari, Ahmad Fuadi, Rafaat Hamzah.

Sesi ini dalam Bahasa Melayu.
OFF THE PAGE: Suara Dari Muara (Voices from The Bay)  
Sat 3 Nov | 2.30pm – 3pm | FREE  
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Suara Dari Muara is a performance based on five poems by Rafaat Hamzah that span 1988 to the present, and share the single theme of social commentary. Rafaat’s poems are bold, succinct and echo issues close to the heart of the Singapore Malays. For this performance, Suara Dari Muara will be presented in declamations, music and body movements.

This session is in Malay.

OFF THE PAGE: Suara Dari Muara  
Sabtu 3 Nov | 2.30ptg – 3ptg | PERCUMA  
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU


Sesi ini dalam Bahasa Melayu.

REAM TO REEL: Winterland  
FEATUREURING: Kjell Ola Dahl  
MODERATED BY: Zhang Wenjie  
Sat 3 Nov | 2.30pm – 4.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS  
Moving Image Gallery, SAM @ 8Q

Director: Hisham Zaman / Cast: Raoul Saraj, Shier Rahmona, Kawa Gill / 2007 | 51 mins | Norway | Rating: PG | In Kurdish and Norwegian with English subtitles

Renas, a Kurdish refugee who lives in a godforsaken spot in northern Norway, is awaiting the arrival of his fiancée, Fermeik. The betrothed couple have never met. The marriage gets off to a difficult start when Fermeik realises that neither her husband-to-be nor the country in he lives are what she imagined. The screenplay for this heart-warming film was co-written by director Hisham Zaman and Kjell Ola Dahl.

SWF-featured author Kjell Ola Dahl will be present for a post-film dialogue. Supported by the Royal Norwegian Embassy Singapore. Curated by The Arts House.

SWF Literary Pioneer  
This year, we pay homage to the life and works of one of Singapore’s literary pioneers, the late Masuri S N. With over 1,000 poems to his credit, countless translations and publications, Masuri has left an indelible mark on Singapore literature, especially in the field of Malay language and culture.

JOIN THE TRIBUTE AND DISCOVER MORE AT:
- SWF 2012 Literary Pioneer: Reliving the World of Masuri S N | PG 30
- SWF 2012 Literary Pioneer Showcase: Ode to Masuri S N | PG 31

PANEL: The City as a Character  
FEATUREURING: Jeet Thayil, Dave Chua, Eric Tinsay Valles  
MODERATED BY: Aaron Lee  
Sat 3 Nov | 2.30pm – 3.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS  
The Salon, NMS

Traversing the colourful nash of Mumbai and Manila to the hyper-urban landscape and heartlands of Singapore, this panel looks at works where the city is not a mere setting but a living, breathing character.

WORKSHOP: The Sun Always Shines on TV – Creating a Drama Series  
INSTRUCTOR: Lee Thean-jeen  
Sat 3 Nov | 2.30pm – 4pm | $15  
Seminar Room 3-2, School of Information Systems, SMU

TV and film veteran Lee Thean-jeen shares his experience in conceptualising and writing award-winning Singapore shows like The Pupil. Tap on this invaluable knowledge to find out how to create a TV drama, and enjoy the chance to come up with your own series idea and pitch it to the class. Suitable for beginners.

LITTLE LIT!: iHero with The 2 Steves  
Sat 3 Nov | 3.30pm – 4.30pm | FREE  
Big Steps, School of Information Systems, SMU

The 2 Steves, Steve Barlow and Steve Skidmore, are here and they’ve brought their arsenal of madcap comedy, music, and mayhem. You’ll meet iHero, the man who never gives up on his dreams. He’s on his way to become a hero! Summon your inner warrior, wizard, spy, alien and unleash your powers here at SWF! For ages 8 and up.

BRAND NEW BOOKS: My Thousand Day Ordeal – A Spiritual Journey by Ching Cheong  
Sat 3 Nov | 4pm – 5pm | FREE  
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Ching Cheong, a China born Hong Kong journalist and long-time former political commentator for The Straits Times, was sentenced to five years jail in Beijing in 2006 on suspicion of spying for Taiwan. He maintained his innocence and was freed on parole in 2008. Ching recounts how solitary confinement almost drove him to suicide and how he ultimately turned to Christianity.

LITERARY MEALS: Eat Your Words with Ahmad Fuadi  
HOSTED BY: Azhar Ibrahim  
Sat 3 Nov | 4pm – 5.30pm | $20  
Seribu Sari Indonesian Dining, Rendezvous Grand Hotel

Ahmad Fuadi’s coming of age novel Menara 5 Negeri took Indonesia by storm. The recent release of a film adaptation has brought even wider appeal to this charming story of young boys growing up in small town Indonesia and not giving up on their big dreams. Come have tea with the man behind the book and find out how and why this novel struck such a chord!

This session is in English and Malay. Seribu Sari Indonesian
Workshop: Writing Fashion
INSTRUCTOR: Sharon Lin
SAT 3 NOV | 4.30pm – 6pm | $15
Seminar Room 3-2, School of Information Systems, SMU

Unlock your inner fashionista and get a glimpse of the life of a fashion journalist. This hands-on workshop, conducted by industry veteran and Elle editor-in-chief Sharon Lin, shows you how to create impactful headlines and powerful copy, and reveals the tricks of the glamour trade.

OFF THE PAGE: Books and Beer
SAT 3 NOV | 5pm – 7pm | FREE (Registration required)
Switch, NTUC Trade Union House

Books and Beer bring their travelling book swap to the festival, so come down to Switch for some reading, recycling, rehydrating and regaling. The rules of the book* swap are simple. Participants are allowed to bring up to 10 pre-loved books, and ideally take home the same number of books they come with. If participants leave books behind, the organisers reserve the rights to feature them at the following event, or donate to charity.

*e-readers welcome!
Visit www.facebook.com/booksandbeersingapore to register.

Panel: Diaspora and Dislocation
FEATURING: Monique Truong, Krys Lee, Moh榛in Tejani
MODERATED BY: Sim Wai Chew
SAT 3 NOV | 5.30pm – 6.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
Exhibition Gallery 2, Basement, NMS

A diaspora is as much a mental space as a geographical dimension. This panel explores how the idea of a diaspora shapes a writer through the tensions of belonging, the myth of a motherland and the need to establish a distinct voice in one’s writing.

Monique Truong’s appearance is supported by the United States Embassy, Singapore.

Brand New Books: Stellar Plays by Stella Kon
SAT 3 NOV | 5.30pm – 6.30pm | FREE
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Stellar Plays includes two plays that won the first prize in a national competition, as well as another play that was commissioned by the Singapore Arts Festival in 1985. Brief excerpts from the works will be presented, with some audience participation. This will be followed by a Q&A with Stella.

Panel: REAM TO REEL: Human Comedy
FEATURING: Hung Hung
MODERATED BY: David Lee
SAT 3 NOV | 5.30pm – 8.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
Moving Image Gallery, SAM @ BOQ

Director: Hung Hung | Cast: Chang Ling-shien, Ethan Chen, Woon Chi- shing, Hisiao Hua-wen | 2001 | 117 mins | Taiwan | NC16 | In Mandarin with English subtitles

Human Comedy weaves four loosely adapted, updated Confucian moral fables into a sensitive, often comical portrait of contemporary Taipei. A salesgirl living in her own fantasy world; an actor forced to choose between performing a nude scene and facing his conservative mother; a bickering couple on a comical quest for a new flat; and a man facing a raging typhoon to rescue his ex-wife. In these struggles between self-interest and self-sacrifice, director and writer Hung Hung uncovers the quiet miracles of everyday life.

SWF featured author Hung Hung will be present for a post-film dialogue.
Curated by The Arts House.

Panel: Characters at the Crossroads
FEATURING: Huzir Sulaiman, Tan Tam How
MODERATED BY: Terence Chong
SAT 3 NOV | 5.30pm – 6.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
lovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Never shying away from thought-provoking content, two of Singapore’s leading playwrights talk about their recent plays, and how they channel their protagonists’ inner conflicts—whether writer’s block or mid-life crisis—into a larger, critical examination of social class, politics and art in Singapore.
PROGRAMMES 3 – 4 NOVEMBER

OFF THE PAGE: The Ukeulele Girls
Sat 3 Nov | 7pm – 7.30pm | FREE
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

The Ukeulele Girls, Kaylin & Tian, are one part sugar, one part spice and almost everything nice! While they cover songs from an eclectic mix of genres, for SWF they will be treating audiences to their catchy original tunes, with funny, heartfelt lyrics and sooping harmonies. Enjoy their self-deprecating humour, ironic little stories and kooky snapshots of everyday life.

LITERARY COCKTAIL: Linda Javlin & Farish Noor
HOSTED BY: Carolyn Camoens
Sat 3 Nov | 9.30pm – 11pm | $25
Timbre @ The Arts House

What do you get when an erotic writer and a sex historian come together? A night of uninhibited confessions as well as lessons your teacher didn’t tell you. So down a few cocktails and loosen up ‘cause it’s going to get tantalising and titillating with this unlikely pair!

Curated by The Arts House.

Please refer to P6 48 for after dark programmes.

SUNDAY / 4 NOVEMBER

OFF THE PAGE: Coffee Reads at tcc
HOSTED BY: Epiphany, the NTU English and Drama Society
Sun 4 Nov | 10am – 11am | FREE
tcc @ SMU

Start the day with piping hot coffee and literary readings at official SWF café tcc. Today’s reading puts the spotlight on SWF featured writers Mohezin Tejani, Jeet Thayil and Charlson Ong and students from Epiphany.

Supported by the tcc – the connoisseur concertos.

PANEL: Malay Literature in the 21st century
FEATUREING: Ahmad Tohari, Anuar Othman, Che Husna Azhari
MODERATED BY: Syed Ali Semait
Sun 4 Nov | 10am – 11am | FESTIVAL PASS
Glass Hall, SMU

Consider the future of literature in the Malay world.

Will more Malay authors write in English? Will there also be more translations and will new themes supersede the old?

This session is in Malay.

PERBINCANGAN PANEL: Sastera Melayu Pada Abad Ke-21
MODERATED BY: Ahmad Tohari, Anuar Othman, Che Husna Azhari
DIMODERATAN OLEH: Syed Ali Semait
Ahad 4 Nov | 10pg – 11pg | PAS PESTA
Glass Hall, SAM

Fikirkan masa depan sastera dalam dunia Melayu. Mungkinkah lebih ramai penulis Melayu menulis dalam bahasa Inggeris? Akan bertambahkah karya-karya Melayu yang diterjemahkan dan tema-tema baru menggantikan yang lama dalam karya-karya Melayu itu nanti?

Sesi ini dalam Bahasa Melayu.

PANEL: Multi-Hyphenate Writing Talents
FEATUREING: Paul French, Mukul Deva, Grant S Clark
MODERATED BY: Jeffrey Lim
Sun 4 Nov | 10am – 11am | FESTIVAL PASS
ilovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

All accomplished writers, the members of this panel wear or have worn many hats: business consultant, journalist, TV presenter, army officer and entreprenuer. Find out how they draw on their varied life experiences to produce compelling literary works.

PANEL: Recreation Korea in my Fiction
FEATUREING: Shin Kyung-Sook, Krys Lee
MODERATED BY: Hyejin Kim
Sun 4 Nov | 10am – 11am | FESTIVAL PASS
The Salon, NMS

Meet two authors with different takes on what home means: one writes in English, dealing with the dislocation of the diaspora; the other writes from inside Korea, capturing the changes to Korean society and traditional family dynamics.

This session is in English and Korean. Shin Kyung-sook’s appearance is supported by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea.
MEET THE AUTHOR: Jean Tay
MODERATED BY: Lim Ding Lee
Sun 4 Nov | 11.30am – 12.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
ilovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Meet the rising literary star of Singapore as he offers insights into his first novel, Stories for Local TV.

PANEL: Dramatic Endings
FEATURING: Candace Chong, Chong Tze Chien, Jean Tay
MODERATED BY: Tan Kheng Hua
Sun 4 Nov | 11.30am – 12.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
Exhibition Gallery 2, Basement, NMS

Discover the transformative power of theatre. Three playwriting workshop leaders share an inside look at their creative process of taking their ideas from script to stage. How does it feel to let it all go, and leave one’s text in the hands of directors and actors?

WORKSHOP: Exploring Your Personal Odyssey
INSTRUCTOR: Paul Sochaczewski
Sun 4 Nov | 11.30am – 2.30pm | $30
Seminar Room 3-2, School of Information Systems, SMU

Want to write your personal story, but don’t know where to begin? Get a head start with this workshop that shares creative writing techniques and tips like the Michaelangelo Secret, Little Red Riding Hood’s Key and the Wizard of Oz Quest. Adding to the fun are ‘Zen-music-speedwriting’ exercises! By the end of the session, you’ll have the tools to start all kinds of writing, including travel and adventure writing.

PANEL: Around the Festival Circuit
FEATURING: Hung Hung, Alvin Pang, Yong Shu Hoong
MODERATED BY: William Yeoman
Sun 4 Nov | 11.30am – 12.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
The Salon, NMS

Join our acclaimed poets who have been involved in literary festivals as both organisers and invited, featured writers. They share their experiences, their poetry and talk about why festivals play an important role in the life of a community.

PANEL: Crushed by the Weight of Flowers – Redefining the Present from the Malay Epic of the Past
FEATURING: Farish Noor, Azhar Ibrahim, Mohd Khair Ngadiron
MODERATED BY: Kartini Bte Anwar
Sun 4 Nov | 2.30pm – 3.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
Glass Hall, SAM

The past decade has seen a resurgence of interest in the Malay epic, both in the realms of popular culture and academia. This panel explores and re-thinks the truths and lessons that classical Malay epics can still offer the present generation.

This session is in English and Malay.

PERBINCANGAN PANEL: Diremukkan oleh Beratnya Bunga-bunga – Mentakrifkan Semula Masa Kini Berdasarkan Epik-epik Melayu Masa Silam
MENGEMUKAKAN: Farish Noor, Azhar Ibrahim, Mohd Khair Ngadiron
DIMODERATkan OLEH: Kartini Bte Anwar
Ahad 4 Nov | 2.30gtg – 3.30gtg | PAS PESTA
Glass Hall, SAM

Dekad yang baru berlalu menyaksikan kebangkitan semula minat terhadap epik-epik Melayu, baik dalam budaya popular mahupun akademik. Panel ini akan meneroka dan memikirkan semula kebenaran dan pengajaran yang masih mampu diberikan epik-epik Melayu kepada generasi masa kini.

Sesi ini dalam Bahasa Inggeris dan Melayu.

PANEL: Writing Gleefully
FEATURING: Jonathan Lim, Prem Anand
MODERATED BY: Adrian Tan
Sun 4 Nov | 2.30pm – 3.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
ilovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Uncover the magic behind creating laugh-out-loud spoofs. The geniuses that bring us the wildly popular TV show The Noose and the rollicking nutty Chestnuts, come clean about parodies.

Marina Mahathir In Conversation with Catherine Lim
Sun 4 Nov | 2.30pm – 3.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
The Salon, NMS

Two of our region’s leading writers and social commentators, sometimes controversial, always engaging, talk about what it means to use the written word to engage in civic society. How do they deal with naysayers and critics, and what keeps them awake at night?

PANEL: Making Peranakan Culture Come Alive
FEATURING: Julian Davison, Sylvia Tan, Peter Wee
MODERATED BY: Pearl Samuel
Sun 4 Nov | 2.30pm – 3.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
The Ixora Room, TPM

From opulent jewellery to distinctive architecture and memorable cuisine, the Peranakan lifestyle has drawn the interest of hobbyists, collectors and culture-lovers. Discover how books help keep the Peranakan world alive, by recording various facets of Peranakan culture.

PANEL: The Price to Pay
FEATURING: Ching Cheong, Tan Tarn How
MODERATED BY: Eleanor Wong
Sun 4 Nov | 2.30pm – 3.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
Exhibition Gallery 2, Basement, NMS

Who rules, the writer or the audience? How far should a writer go for his audience and what are the compromises and sacrifices he makes in the process? Veteran China observer and The Straits Times senior journalist Ching Cheong and one of Singapore’s foremost political playwrights Tan Tarn How share the stage.

LITTLE LIT!: Action Dogs with The 2 Steves
Sun 4 Nov | 2.30pm – 3.30pm | FREE
Big Steps, School of Information Systems, SMU

It’s the eternal cats versus dogs fight! Will
OFF THE PAGE: Tell Me a Story  
Sun 4 Nov | 3.30pm – 4pm | FREE  
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU  
Back for the second year, professional storyteller Kamini Ramachandran from MoonShadow Stories will read us stories by some of SWF’s featured writers. This weekend she will read from works by Suchen Christine Lim, Cyril Wong and Pico Iyer.  

Another similar storytelling session is on Sat 10 Nov.  

In the Beginning, there was the Story...  
FEATURING: Michael Cunningham  
MODERATED BY: Kenneth Kwok  
Sun 4 Nov | 4pm – 5pm | $20  
Drama Theatre, School of the Arts  
Novels, even the greatest of them, are descended from an ancient and fundamental human act: storytelling. At one moment, members of a prehistoric tribe are huddled around a fire, listening to a man tell a tale about the day’s hunt, and, at another, Proust is finishing the first volume of In Search of Lost Time. At a third moment, someone is sending out a semi-autobiographical, semi-coherent tale on the Internet. Although there’s an enormous distance between the three, all of them are engaged in essentially the same endeavor. Storytelling has, since its earliest origins, been an ongoing attempt to convey to others what it’s like to be alive, what it’s like to feel, to think, to survive in a world that has always been both murderous and dangerous. Michael Cunningham will talk about the ways in which storytelling has changed since humans first developed speech, and the ways in which it has not.  

Supported by the United States Embassy, Singapore.  

PERBINCANGAN PANEL: Mengapa Saya Menulis MENGEMUKAKAN: Ahmad Tohari, S M Zakir DIMODERATAN OLEH: Zizi Azah  
Ahad 4 Nov | 4ptg – 5ptg | PAS PESTA  
Glass Hall, SAM  
Sejauh manakah latar belakang seseorang mempengaruhi penulisannya? Bolehkah seorang penulis mengatakan asal-usulnya? Setai penulis-penulis terkenal Ahmad Tohari dan SM Zakir yang berkongsi bagaimana kehidupan mereka membentuk karya-karya mereka.  

Sesi ini dalam Bahasa Melayu.  

BRAND NEW BOOKS: Balik Kampung: Stories of Connection/Disconnection with Different Parts of Singapore by Verena Tay| Ayam Curtain by June Yang and Joyce Cheng| Fish Eats Lion by Jason Erik Lundberg  
Sun 4 Nov | 4pm – 5pm | FREE  
ilovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU  
Three very different anthologies; three different aspects of Singapore. Balik Kampung: Stories of Connection/Disconnection with Different Parts of Singapore takes you back to the village of your imagination and memory, while Ayam Curtain is a mix of bite-sized speculative fiction which offers visions of possible and probable Singapores, from the quirky to the poignant. And in Fish Eats Lion, we have more speculative Singapore short stories; looking at the inherent strangeness of the island nation in a refreshing variety of voices and perspectives.  

MEET THE AUTHOR: Shin Kyung-sook  
MODERATED BY: Gwee Li Sui  
Sun 4 Nov | 4pm – 5pm | FESTIVAL PASS  
The Ixora Room, TPM  
Join international best-selling author, Shin Kyung-sook, winner of the 2012 Man Asian Literary Prize, as she shares more about her award-winning work, Please Look After Mom, and why she is known as the new voice of her generation.  

This session is in Korean with English translation.  

STORYTELLING: Making Faces with Roger Jenkins  
FEATURING: Roger Jenkins  
Sun 4 Nov | 4.30pm – 6pm | FREE  
Big Steps, School of Information Systems, SMU  
There’s a thief, a good game and plenty of curious creatures in this lively storytelling session using masks. Watch Roger Jenkins make different faces and create your own - the first 30 kids (age 7 – 12) to arrive can paint their own masks and take them home for only $4.  

This event is repeated on Sun 11 Nov.
BRAND NEW BOOKS: Antologi Cerpen Malaysia dan Singapura (Anthology of Short Stories from Malaysia and Singapore)
Sun 4 Nov | 4.30pm – 5.30pm | FREE
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Co-published by the Malaysian Institute of Translation & Books and the National Arts Council, this special bilingual collection of 12 short stories in Malay and English provides a sampling of fiction from Malaysia and Singapore. The anthology features a varied and colourful selection of fresh, contemporary works by young, emerging writers from both countries and includes introductory prefaces on each country’s literary offerings.

MEET THE AUTHOR: Seno Gumira Ajidarma
MODERATED BY: Sa’eda Buang
Sun 4 Nov | 5.30pm – 6.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
Glass Hall, SAM

Three newly-published writers of South Asian descent talk about their works, their inspirations and peek into their crystal ball to speculate on what is next for writing from the sub-continent.

BRAND NEW BOOKS: The Dancer by Ahmad Tohari
Sun 4 Nov | 8pm – 9pm | FREE
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

A trilogy of novels, The Dancer focuses on the forces that gave rise to Communism in Indonesia and the tragic aftermath of the abortive coup in 1965. Set in Central Java, these political events form the backdrop for the tragic love story of Srintil and Rasus. Noted director Sharty Harmayn Hoffman, who adapted this novel for the big screen, will share a sneak preview of her eagerly anticipated film.

Please refer to PG 48 for after dark programmes.

WORKSHOP: Editors Boot Camp
FACILITATED BY: Cheryl Klein, Executive Editor, Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic and Francesca Main, Editorial Director, Picador
Mon 5 Nov – Wed 7 Nov | 9.30am – 5.30pm | $200
Living Room, TAH

A three-day master class for editors of fiction and children’s literature offers in-depth training and exposure to the entire value chain. Learn about acquisitions, writing incisive editorial letters, developing a critical eye, contracts, marketing and distribution. With hands-on activities, the camp will hone your skills in developmental editing, proof-reading and crafting eye-catching blurbs.

Please refer to the SWF website for updates and booking details.

Organised by the National Book Council Development of Singapore.

BRAND NEW BOOKS: An Inordinate Fondness for Beetles by Paul Sochaczewski
Mon 5 Nov | 7pm – 8pm | FREE
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Paul Sochaczewski has created an innovative form of storytelling in this book which combines biography and personal travelogue. While AR Wallace is recognised as co-discoverer of the theory of natural selection, he was also an engaging social commentator and a voracious collector of ‘natural productions’. Join the author as he examines Wallace’s themes and interprets them through his own layers of

INTERVIEW: Finding my Muse
FEATURING: O Thiam Chin, Timothy O’Grady, Felix Cheong
MODERATED BY: Philip Jeyaretnam
Sun 4 Nov | 7pm – 8pm | FESTIVAL PASS
Glass Hall, SAM

In the classic tradition, the Muse is a goddess who speaks through the writer. Who do contemporary authors invoke as they pen their stories? Our featured writers on this panel talk about their diverse sources of inspiration.

LITERARY MEALS: Eat Your Words with Michael Cunningham
HOSTED BY: Ben Slater
Sun 4 Nov | 7.30pm – 9pm | $80
Viet Lang @ The Arts House

Best known for his novel The Hours, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Cunningham also does a dozen other things besides writing fiction. He edits books, has adapted a screenplay, produced a film and teaches at Yale. Take this rare opportunity to join him for what promises to be a memorable dinner and find out how one of the major forces in American writing today juggles it all.

Supported by the United States Embassy, Singapore. Curated by The Arts House.

FESTIVAL PASS
FREE
humour, history, social commentary and sometimes outrageous personal tales.

**BRAND NEW BOOKS:** The Resurgence of Satyam | The Singapore Decalogue by Zafar Anjum
Mon 5 Nov | 7pm – 9pm | FREE
ilovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Author Zafar Anjum shows his dexterity and versatility in these two books. In *The Resurgence of Satyam*, he covers the mind-blowing resurrection of Satyam Computers, India’s fourth largest outsourcing service provider, after it was almost on the brink of bankruptcy to the tune of US$1 billion. And in *The Singapore Decalogue*, he presents 10 carefully considered forays into Singapore life. Take this opportunity to meet the author and delve into these two very diverse works.

**BRAND NEW BOOKS:** Bang My Car by Ann Ang | Spectre: Stories from Dark to Light by Verena Tay
Mon 5 Nov | 8.30pm – 9.30pm | FREE
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Authors Ann Ang and Verena Tay read from their latest works. From Ann we have a Singaporean-to-the-core volume of short stories narrated in a mixture of Singlish and English through the figure of ‘Uncle’ and from Verena, her first collection of short stories, a spectrum of tales ranging from the supernatural to magic realism.

**BRAND NEW BOOKS:** Miss Moorothy Investigates by Ovidia Yu | The Aryavarta Chronicles Book 1: Govinda by Krishna Udayasankar
Mon 5 Nov | 8.30pm – 9.30pm | FREE
ilovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Govinda by Krishna Udayasankar

by Ovidia Yu | The Aryavarta Chronicles Book 1: Govinda

BRAND NEW BOOKS: Taming | Deep in The Jungle by Lal Yong Taw
Tue 6 Nov | 7pm – 8pm | FREE
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Lal Yong Taw presents *Deep in The Jungle*, a hit here and across the Causeway, when it was translated in English in 2010. Alongside this he reads from *Zing Xiang*, a new collection of 16 novelettes and short stories written between 1962 and 2006, and published in news publications and magazines in Singapore, Malaysia and China.

This session is in Mandarin.

**WORKSHOP:** Baba Malay 101 – Jangan Main Main!
Instructor: Richard Tan
Tue 6 Nov | 7pm – 9pm | $20
ilovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

This two-hour workshop introduces this hybrid language with its colourful melange of Malay, Hokkien, and English and explains how it was widely used in the local community. Discover through drama excerpts and songs how Baba Malay is a truly vibrant and unique local lingo. Suitable for teens and above.

**SWF 2012 LITERARY PIONEER:** Revisiting the World of Masuri Salikun (1937–2005)
**CURATOR:** Oniatta Effendi
Wed 7 Nov | 7.30pm – 9pm | FREE
The Salon, NMS

A pioneer in modern Malay poetry, Masuri Salikun, popularly known as Masuri S N, is undoubtedly one of Singapore’s most important poets. He made the everyday inspirational in his poems and wrote copiously, publishing a total of 28 books, leaving a rich literary legacy for Singaporeans and the world. At this special tribute, students, teachers and fellow poets draw you into the lyrical world of Masuri as they reminisce about how his works touched their lives.

**OFF THE PAGE:** Telling stories about Emak and Babak – Peranakan Life Writing
Wed 7 Nov | 7pm – 9pm | FREE
The Ixora Room, TPM

Besides offering a “native informer” or insider point of view with their rich ethnographic details, Peranakan memoirs and fiction are poignant and compelling in the kinds of historical struggles they frame, narrate, and participate in. The subtle interweaving of public
**PROGRAMMES 7 – 9 NOVEMBER**

**Thursday | 8 November**

**BRAND NEW BOOKS: The Forbidden Hill Chronicles – Crown of Earth’s Desire by Terry Ho**

The Forbidden Hill Chronicles – Crown of Earth’s Desire is the first book in a series by Terry Ho. A fantasy novel based on Singapore’s history and his own Peranakan heritage, the story starts off in modern day Singapore and moves swiftly into an alternative dimension inspired by the forgotten history of Singapore when it was still known as Temasek. An avid fan of sci-fi and fantasy novels, Terry also weaves elements of magic, folklore and science into his story.

**Friday | 9 November**


A first by MediaCorp Radio station Warna 94.2FM, this dual-language (Malay-English) interactive book teaches two- to four-year-olds the values of saving and sharing. Join the Warna deejays as they bring the story to life through a storytelling session that also showcases the interactive elements in the e-book.

To register, visit www.ilovebooks.com from 22 October to 11 November 2012. Presented by www.ilovebooks.com

**Saturday | 10 November**

**BRAND NEW BOOKS: A Monsoon Feast**

The launch of the anthology A Monsoon Feast brings together acclaimed writers from Singapore and Kerala. The audience will be treated to a 360-degree blitz of digital and traditional media that blend the sights, sounds, tastes, smells and cultures of the two vastly different places. In the conversation that arises, the best that Singapore and Kerala have to offer comes to the fore.

Please refer to PG 48 for after dark programmes.

**Sunday | 11 November**

**Workshop:** Singapore Literature for Reluctant Readers

INSTRUCTOR: Angelia Poon

WORKSHOP: Setting Goals and Motivation for after dark programmes.

Please refer to PG 48 for after dark programmes.
MEET THE AUTHOR: S R Nathan MODERATED BY: Tommy Koh
Fri 9 Nov | 6.30pm – 7.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
The Salon, NMS

Retracing his unexpected journey to the Singapore Presidency, S R Nathan published his well received memoirs last year. Discover the genesis of that fascinating and frank account of the experiences he had along the way, the highs and lows of his personal life, and the writing habits of the popular former President.

ON THE PAGE: A for alpha
Fri 9 Nov | 7.30pm – 9pm | FREE
Big Steps, School of Information Systems, SMU

A group of young Malay writers gather to share their journeys of creating novels and poems. In their discussion, they distill the essence of a piece of writing and ask whether it starts with an idea or the written word itself, if one can even pinpoint a beginning. And they also look at what drives them: identity, culture, space or language?

This session is in Malay.
Curated by Angkatan Sasterawan ‘50.

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This session is in Malay.
Curated by Angkatan Sasterawan ‘50.

OFF THE PAGE: Singapore Literature Prize-giving Ceremony
Fri 9 Nov | 7pm – 9.30pm | BY INVITATION ONLY
The Pod, NLB

The winners of the 2012 Singapore Literature Prize will be announced at this special event. The much-anticipated awards recognise Singaporean authors of outstanding creative works published in English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil. Organised by the National Book Development Council of Singapore, the awards aim to promote Singapore literary talent, and stimulate public interest and support for creative writing in Singapore.

OFF THE PAGE: 10 x 10
Fri 9 Nov | 8pm – 9pm | FREE
ilovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

What happens when one pairs up 10 youth writers with 10 seniors? As part of Silver Arts, the National Arts Council’s inaugural platform celebrating seniors and arts, literary group Ceriph presents a unique intergenerational project where youth writers and seniors were paired together in an intimate process of creative writing. From getting to know one another, to writing together based on stimuli like past memories and artefacts, the group was taken through various genres such as haiku and prose, and discovered how bridges between generations can be built with words.

A short publication of the works created will be available at this session.

SATURDAY | 10 NOVEMBER

SWF 2012 PROGRAMMES

WORKSHOP: Writing Powerful Fiction for Young Readers
INSTRUCTOR: David Almond
Sat 10 Nov | 10am – 1pm | $30
Blue Room, TAH

This interactive workshop is designed to show that we all have powerful imaginations, an instinctive understanding of storytelling, and an ability to write with surprising fluency. This workshop will include fast exercises to stimulate spontaneous ideas; and slower guided exercises to show how stories grow and develop, and take on an organic power and form. Suitable for all ages and levels.

REAM TO REEL: Life Show
FEATURING: Chi Li
MODERATED BY: David Lee
Sat 10 Nov | 10am – 11am | FESTIVAL PASS
Screening Room, TAH

Director: Huo Jianqi | Cast: Pan Yuenying, Tao Hong, Tao Zeru | 2002 | 106 mins | China | Rating: TBC

Adapted from Chi Li’s novel, Life Show follows a tough, single woman who runs a small restaurant in writing for after dark programmes.

PLEASE REFER TO PG 48 FOR AFTER DARK PROGRAMMES.

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Blue Room, TAH

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三料影后。
身处新旧矛盾间的市井小民怎么无所适从。女主角陶有了憧憬, 看到了幸福的曙光。《生活秀》 突显了中国年多来经常光顾小吃摊的警员卓雄洲, 她开始对生活和吸毒被捕的弟弟。最折腾的是与兄嫂为了文革期间边苦苦支撑着小吃摊, 一边还得照顾年仅十岁的侄子吉庆街经营小吃摊, 生活过得孤单却毫不平静。她一来双扬是个风情万种、精明干练的独身女子, 在武汉

in collaboration with the National Library Board.

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Waxing Lyrical

The art of song-writing hails from the beginning of civilization. How do lyricists use words and work with the music? Find out what takes to put together a soaring ballad, a feet-thumping hit or a catchy song to bring people together. And hear some of the inspired creations first-hand!

GET INSPIRED AT THESE SESSIONS:

- WORKSHOP: Edhugai – Tamil Songwriting | PG 41
- PANEL: Saxing the Right Notes | PG 22
- PANEL: Sing a Song for Singapore – Writing National Day Songs | PG 19
- OFF THE PAGE: Poetry of Song (Concert Finale) | PG 33
- OFF THE PAGE: Pooja Nansi | PG 26

Panel:

Panel: Introducing Middle East Writing
FEATURING: Lilia Labidi, Hisham Bustani, Izzeldin Abuelaish
MODERATED BY: Hussin Mutilab
Sat 10 Nov | 2.30pm – 3.30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
The Ixora Room, TPM
Made up of many countries, cultures, and languages, the Middle East is as connected as it is divided. Come listen to writers from Tunisia, Jordan, and Palestine discuss literature from their region and frame its contribution to world literature.

Curated by The Arts House.

Panel: The Arab Spring and Literature
FEATURING: Lilia Labidi, Hisham Bustani, Khalil
MODERATED BY: Mira Fahmy
Sat 10 Nov | 4pm – 5pm | FESTIVAL PASS
The Ixora Room, TPM

Writers from different parts of the Arab World talk about the effect of the Arab Spring on the arts and creativity, and on literature in particular. Hisham Bustani (Jordan), Khalil (Algeria) and Lilia Labidi (Tunisia) share their varied experiences of changing times in the Arab World.

Curated by The Arts House.

Panel: Off the Page: Pooja Nansi

Panel: Getting Lost; Getting Inspired
FEATURING: Pico Iyer, Pamela Ho, Ng King Kang
MODERATED BY: Yu-mei Balasingamchow
Sat 10 Nov | 4pm – 5pm | FESTIVAL PASS
ilovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Wanderlust. Exotica. Adventures. Such is the discourse we expect of travel writers, but what lies behind the romance of the road? This panel traces the route from itinerary to captivating travelogue.

Panel: The Sister Sunshine Series
BRAND NEW BOOKS: Vanishing Point by Felix Cheong | The Nevermind Girl and Other Stories by Rosemarie Somaih
Sat 10 Nov | 3.30pm – 5pm | FREE
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Felix looks at the theme of disappearance in its many forms, both physical and psychological, in his new work, Vanishing Point, praised by Boey Kim Cheng for its “trenchant wit and well-observed details [which] are mesmerising and subtly satirical, subversive of the values of the global city.” Then join Rosemarie as she explores the struggles of adolescents and young adults in society today, throwing up issues of self-esteem, peer pressure, loyalty to friends, following rules and more.

Panel: Crossing Genres
FEATURING: Grace Chia Krakovic, Alifan Sa’at, Shirley Geok-lin Lim
MODERATED BY: Goh Eck Kheng
Sat 10 Nov | 4pm – 5pm | FESTIVAL PASS
Glass Hall, SAM


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Glass Hall, SAM

The Straits Chinese connection

An integral part of the cultural tapestry of Singapore, the Peranakan way of life is unmistakably distinctive. Learn more about a people and culture that is very much part of our shared Origins.

SESSIONS TO LOOK OUT FOR:

• WORKSHOP: Baba Malay 101 – Jangan Main Main! | PG 50
• SPECIAL FESTIVAL PASS EVENT: Desmond Sim’s The Chair | PG 22, 33
• PANEL: The Peranakan Weilds the Pen | PG 15
• PANEL: Making Peranakan Culture Come Alive | PG 25
• OFF THE PAGE: Telling stories about Emak and Bapak | PG 31

LITERARY MEALS: Eat Your Words with Pico Iyer

HOSTED BY: Deepika Shetty
Sat 10 Nov | 7.30pm – 9pm | $80
Viatn @ TAH

Novelist and essayist Pico Iyer’s work is a curious blend of travel writing, humour, cultural commentary and spirituality. In his well-known works Video Night in Kathmandu, The Lady and the Monk and The Global Soul, he looks at travel in a post-modern world, where cultures intersect and locations are as cerebral as they are physical. Let him take you on a journey over dinner to explore his various philosophies and perspectives.

Curated by The Arts House.

BRAND NEW BOOKS: Ask the Foodie by Christopher Tan

Sat 10 Nov | 8pm – 9pm | FREE
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Ask the Foodie: Kitchen Knowhow Explained began in 2006 as a conversation with Sunday Times readers about things they cooked, ate and wondered about. Author Christopher Tan received questions of just about every stripe. Some were nostalgic, others were forward-thinking, and yet others were distress calls. Many addressed just how tricky apparently simple recipes can be. This book collects more than 200 topics, tried-and-tested recipes and food trade secrets.

Please refer to PG 48 for after dark programmes.

SUNDAY | 11 NOVEMBER

OFF THE PAGE: Coffee Reads at tcc
HOSTED BY: Pooja Nansri
Sun 11 Nov | 10am – 11am | FREE
SMU

tcc @ SMU

Start the day with piping hot coffee and readings at the SWF official café, tcc. Together with writer-host Pooja Nansri, Felix Cheong, Alexis Wright, John Tranter and Eshkol Nevo will read from works that inspired them to start writing and confess their favourite works that are so bad they're good!

Supported by the connoisseur concerto.

PANEL: Comic Artists Capture Singapore

FEATURED: Sonny Liew, Oh Yong Hwee, Miel
MODERATED BY: Jerry Hinds
Sun 11 Nov | 10am – 11am | FESTIVAL PASS
ilovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Combining the best of comic art and text, these panelists have created compelling stories that comment on the island we call home. Find out how they create nuances of character, convey humour and move readers.

Workshop: The Making of a Graphic Novel

INSTRUCTOR: Khalil
Sun 11 Nov | 10am – 1pm | $30
Seminar Room 3-3, School of Information Systems, SMU

Join the acclaimed creator of web comic and graphic novel Zahr’s Paradise as he takes you through the process of creating a graphic novel. Pick up the basic steps involved, with a special focus on one key ingredient: the storyboard. Suitable for anyone interested in storytelling through the graphic medium.

MEET THE AUTHOR: Jimmy Liao
MODERATED: Anna Lim
Sun 11 Nov | 10am – 11am | FESTIVAL PASS
Glass Hall, SAM

Every page a poetic tapestry; every publication a magical journey. Directors have adapted his works to the big and small screens and his art has been used extensively – in children’s books to digital art and merchandise. Come join this friendly author-illustrator as he expands on an imagination that has captured audiences of all ages!

This session is in Mandarin.

作家见面会: 几米
主持人: 林安娜
十一月十一日, 星期天 | 10am – 11am |
作家节通行证
玻璃厅, SAM

第一节将用中文进行。

WORKSHOP: Edhugai – Tamil Songwriting
INSTRUCTOR: Shabir Tabare Alam
Sun 11 Nov | 10.30am – 12.30pm | $20
Seminar Room 3-4, School of Information Systems, SMU

Introducing participants to creative lyrics writing, popular singer-songwriter Shabir will show students how to apply Tamil words when writing a song. Using lateral thinking methods and team activities, this songsmith also creates songs impromptu and performs live.

WORKSHOP: Keeping our Culinary Heritage Alive
FEATURED: Rita Zahara, Devagi Sanmugam, Christopher Tan
MODERATED BY: Violet Oon
Sat 10 Nov | 5:30pm – 6:30pm | FESTIVAL PASS
The Ixora Room, TPM

Enter the world of kerosene-lit kitchens and wooden pushcarts to learn about the founding fathers and mothers of Singapore’s traditional foods. How can writing help keep our recipes and culinary traditions alive?

OFF THE PAGE: Dawn Fung
Sat 10 Nov | 7pm – 7.30pm | FREE
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Dawn Fung is a folk singer-songwriter; English teacher; founder of Baby Warehouse, a mummy-related Facebook group; and mother of two. Her music compositions are heavily influenced by biblical imagery, folk tales, and music from the 1960s. Her sold-out debut album, Eat Your Words with Pico Iyer

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PANEL: Writing to a Commission
FEATURED: Ovidia Yu, Tan Mei Ching, Alexis Wright
MODERATED BY: Peter Schoppert
Sat 10 Nov | 7pm – 8pm | FESTIVAL PASS
Glass Hall, SAM

In art history, patronage has provided invaluable support and been responsible for some of the world's best art. But there are also constraints. What happens when writers are commissioned to produce a creative work? Are they honing their creative dexterity or is this a subtle selling-out?

MEET THE AUTHOR: Rohit Brijnath
MODERATED BY: Neil Humphreys
Sat 10 Nov | 7pm – 8pm | FESTIVAL PASS
ilovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Experienced sports journalist and columnist Rohit Brijnath talks about meeting his sports heroes. Beyond locker room anecdotes, what tales of hubris and inspiration does he have to share?

LITERARY MEALS: Eat Your Words with Pico Iyer

HOSTED BY: Deepika Shetty
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Please refer to PG 48 for after dark programmes.
‘Singaporean literature’ and try to pin down the elusive phrase.

WORKSHOP: Writing Stories and Novels for Children
INSTRUCTOR: Wu Meizhen
Sun 11 Nov | 11.30am - 1pm | $15
Seminar Room 3-2, School of Information Systems, SMU
Fancy writing your own children’s book? Ever wonder how Enid Blyton or JK Rowling did it? Join Chinese children’s author, Wu Meizhen (aka Sister Sunshine) in this engaging and interactive workshop, where she will shed light on the world of children’s literature and share techniques that will capture the young readers’ imagination and interest.
This session is in Mandarin.

LITERRARY MEALS: Eat Your Words with Chi Li
HOSTED BY: Chow Teck Seng
Sun 11 Nov | 1pm - 2.30pm | $60
Viet Lang @ The Arts House

No one is more enduring and influential in contemporary Chinese writing than Chi Li. Her career, which spans over 20 years, explored and opened up new ground for literary realism in Chinese literature. Come meet the woman who has seen many a bestseller, and who enjoys a large base of readers that continues to grow.

This session is in Mandarin.

Curated By The Arts House.

LITERARY MEALS: Beyond Words Children’s Picture Books and Apps
Sun 11 Nov | 2.30pm - 3.30pm | FREE
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

The young and young-at-heart alike will delight in these children’s tales by Charlene Chua (Extraordinary Eloise), Carolyn Ann Goodwin (Dragon’s Egg), Gwen Lee (Little Cloud Wants Snow!), Yixian Quek (Happily Ever After Is So Once Upon a Time) and Tan Soon Meng (Pura the Cat), the first five winners of Beyond Words: Young and Younger 2011, a book adaptation initiative by the National Arts Council.

Meet a little girl who must help a sad baby dragon return to his family; journey with Little Cloud and his mother as they leave the tropics so they can make a snowman; recapture the wonder of life with a precocious seven-year-old, Belle; let Eloise inspire you to find the courage to be who you truly are; and help rescue Pura, a stray kitten identified as a valuable Singapura breed. All five books will be lauched in both print and app formats.
Sunday 11 November

**Sun 11 Nov | 2pm – 3.30pm | FREE**
Big Steps, School of Information Systems, SMU

There’s a thief, a good game and plenty of curious creatures in this lively story-telling session using masks. Watch Roger Jenkins make different faces and create your own – the first 30 kids (age 7 – 12) to arrive can paint their own masks and take them home for only S$4.

**PASSAGES – Finding Strength**
**CURATED AND MODERATED BY:** Yong Shu Hoong
**Sun 11 Nov | 2.30pm – 3.30pm | FREE**
Glass Hall, SAM

Singaporean writers visited low-income families to glean inspiration for original short stories that speak of how human dignity can thrive in all kinds of circumstances. They include well-known writer and theatre academic Dr K K Seet; Golden Point Award winners S. Anparasan, Hassan Hasaan Reel Ali, Quek Shin Yi and Jeremy Tiang; Chinese scriptwriter and theatre academic Dr K K Seet; Golden Point Award winner Ai Yu; as well as emerging talents like Judith Shin Yi and Jeremy Tiang; Writers will present excerpts of selected works and talk about their interactions with the residents who opened up not just their homes, but also their hearts.

**Panel: Reaching Out: Tamil Writing for Young Adults**
**FEATURING:** Indrajit Perumal Pillay, Veerappan Letchimee, Seetha Lakshmi
**MODERATED BY:** Na a Aandeappan
**Sun 11 Nov | 2.30pm – 3.30pm | Festival Pass ilovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

With the prevalence of English in Singaporean households, how can Tamil writers capture the imagination and engage the minds of the elusive teenage demographic? Hear it from the experts.

This session will be in Tamil.

**Panel: Mirror Mirror – Literary Reflections**
**FEATURING:** Gao Xiao Qing, Lin Yao, Wong Hong Mok
**MODERATED BY:** Chua Chee Lay
**Sun 11 Nov | 2.30pm – 3.30pm | Festival Pass ilovebooks.com Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU | FREE**

In this session, writers will reflect on the impact of their writing on the audiences, and how their work can offer fresh perspectives on the current social issues and developments. The panel will include well-known writer and theatre academic Dr K K Seet; Golden Point Award winners S. Anparasan, Hassan Hasaan Reel Ali, Quek Shin Yi and Jeremy Tiang; Chinese scriptwriter and theatre academic Dr K K Seet; Golden Point Award winner Ai Yu; as well as emerging talents like Judith Shin Yi and Jeremy Tiang; Writers will present excerpts of selected works and talk about their interactions with the residents who opened up not just their homes, but also their hearts.

**Panel: Skellig**
**FEATURING:** David Almond
**MODERATED BY:** Ben Slater
**Sun 11 Nov | 2.30pm – 5.30pm | Festival Pass Screening Room, TAH

Moving into a decrepit new home with his parents, Michael discovers a strange bird-like creature living in the shed at the bottom of the garden. Michael forms an unlikely friendship with the fragile creature named Skellig. But at the same time, tragedy threatens to strike his family as Michael’s baby sister is diagnosed with a serious heart condition. Based on the novel by David Almond, this charming film chronicles a boy’s coming-of-age woven with fantasy and a touch of magic.

**Panel: Raffles: Saint, Scoundrel or...**
**FEATURING:** Victoria Glendinning, Tim Hannigan
**MODERATED BY:** Timothy Barnard
**Sun 11 Nov | 2.30pm – 3.30pm | Festival Pass The Salon, NMS

Just who was Sir Stamford Raffles? Revisiting this well-known historical figure, this special panel assesses the impact of this British statesman. Join this exclusive face-off between the writers of two new biographies for a fresh perspective.
LITTLE LIT!: An Unusual Princess
FEATUREURING Sun 11 Nov, Meizhen
Sun 11 Nov | 5pm – 6pm | FREE

Big Steps, School of Information Systems, SMU

Come for an interactive session with celebrity children’s writer Wu Meizhen as she reads excerpts from the original Chinese edition of An Unusual Princess, accompanied by a guest who will read from the English edition released just earlier this year. For ages 9 and up.

This session is in Mandarin.

PANEL: Who Needs the Novel in Singapore?

Perusing the stacks – you and your team will need to work fast and solve literary riddles that will lead you out of the underground vault! Combine forces with three other swashbuckling adventurers to collect clues and solve literary riddles that will lead you out of the vault. But beware of the dangers that lurk between the stacks – you and your team will need to work fast before they find you.

Recommended for those aged 18 and above. Please wear comfortable attire and shoes. Please register your team of 4 with lynn_koh@nlb.gov.sg (Only 32 spaces available).

In collaboration with the National Library Board.

OFF THE PAGE: Jonathan Meur
Sun 11 Nov | 8.30pm – 9pm | FREE
Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU

Jonathan’s music reflects his roots in France and Mauritius. His songs tell the stories of unpredictable Aquarians, accident-prone daredevils and skilled heart menders, among other characters. His folk-pop style has been likened to Sufjan Stevens, Kings of Convenience and Regina Spektor.

SWF Noobs*, check this out!
First time to the Fest? Fear a little overwhelmed? No worries, here are some panels we recommend – light-hearted, with fresh insights and probably a good laugh thrown in too!

• PANEL: Writing gleefully
  • PANEL: you can Write too!
  • Writing!

lst Newbies

To register, visit www.ilovebooks.com from 22 Oct to 11 Nov 2012.

PANEL: New Voices in Singapore Poetry

The underground vault of secrets contains the answers to all mysteries known to man. Can you find your way back into the light? Or be forever trapped in a labyrinth of shelves? Combine forces with three other swashbuckling adventurers to collect clues and solve literary riddles that will lead you out of the vault. But beware of the dangers that lurk between the stacks – you and your team will need to work fast before they find you.

In collaboration with the National Library Board.

OFF THE PAGE: Escape from the Underground Vault of Secrets
Sun 11 Nov | 7.30pm – 8.30pm | FREE
(Registration required)

*Newbies
The Singapore Writers Festival organises a Fringe component for the first time. Held at The Arts House, it will explore The Origins of Desire. The SWF Fringe seeks to examine the different facets of desire in the literary arts, and the manifestation of sexuality in books, films, performances and the visual arts. The fringe programmes will explore the historical as well as socio-cultural significance of desire and sexuality in literature.

**The Origins of Desire**

Contemporary discussions of desire and sexuality typically are framed against Western thinking such as the Freudian and Foucauldian paradigms. But many early erotic texts hail from Asia, including the Kama Sutra, The Golden Lotus and Japanese pillow books. Has the Asian point of view been considered enough in the discourse of desire, and is there such a thing as Asian sexuality?

**Organisers:** The Arts House

**Where:** The Arts House

**When:** Sat 3 Nov | 8pm – 9pm | FESTIVAL PASS

Living Room

**FEATURING:** Linda Jaivin, Farish A Noor

**MODERATED BY:** Phan Ming Yen

**NOTE:** Please refer to page 23 for details.

**Festival Pass holders aged 21 years and above only**

**NOTE:** SWF Fringe programmes are suitable for SWF Festival Pass holders aged 21 years and above only

**PANdAL: Origins of Desire ... Whose Desire?**

**PANEL: Pleasure as Power – Sex, the Most Powerful Metaphor**

**PANEL: Gender Bender – Love in the Age of Sexual Confusion**

**PANEL: What Turns Women On?**

**PANEL: XXX – When Smut Isn’t Smut**

**PANEL: The Fifty Shades of Grey Phenomenon – What Turns Women On?**

**PERFORMANCE: The City of Desire**

**EVENT: REAM TO REEL: Flesh and Desire**

**Who Turned the Tables on Fifty Shades?**

Fifty Shades of Grey has sold millions of copies and generated endless debate. What is it about this erotic novel that has driven women raving? A female panel bravely attempts to understand this literary success and dissect what women really want in their erotic.

**FESTIVAL PASS**

**PERFORMANCE: The City of Desire**

Join the characters in Baratham’s stories as they converge in the City of Desire for a night of sensual music, dance and original music compositions. Searching unendingly for love and physical intimacy, these fragile yet resilient, assured but confused characters weave dance and text in a performance that distills the essence of love and sex through their eyes.

**Please check www.theartshouse.com.sg for full list of films and schedule.**
SYMPOSIUM

Co-organised with the Singapore Book Publishers Association

8 & 9 November | 9am – 5.30pm
The Salon, National Museum of Singapore
Tea and Lunch Provided (for full-day attendees)

Ticketing
• $20 per panel
• $60 per day pass
• $100 for a two-day pass

SBPA Rights Fair 2012
Organised by the Singapore Book Publishers Association

8 & 9 November 9am – 6pm
10 November 9am – 2pm
Salon Foyer, National Museum of Singapore
FREE

The regional Rights Fair of the Singapore Book Publishers Association, will once again be held during the SWF side-by-side with the 2-day Publishing Symposium. From 8 to 10 November, authors will be able to meet prospective publishers and literary agents to talk about getting their works published. Publishers will have the opportunity to network, buy and sell rights and explore new distribution channels. For further details and to book a Rights Table, please contact Ms Ong Beng Choo at chooworkshop@pacific.net.sg.

PUBLISHING SYMPOSIUM
Daily schedule

DAY 1 – Thu 8 Nov
9am: Registration
11.00am – 12.00pm: The Future of eBooks in Singapore
By KENNY CHAN, PETER SCHOPPERT AND BARRY CLARK
Singapore is seemingly slow to catch up with the eBook movement given its natural affinity with technology and all things geeky. Why is this so? And when is the future about to change? Kenny Chan responds from the bricks and mortar perspective whilst Peter and Barry examine the “unseen” advances already made.
12.00pm – 1.30pm: Lunch and Visit to Rights Fair
1.30pm – 2.30pm: eBooks and Other Media – A Rights Minefield or Pot of Gold?
By LYNETTE OWE
Publishers are generally aware of the value of their intellectual property but are they really equipped to cash in on all its facets? Digital rights management has been a thorny but potentially lucrative area. Lynette Owen will help navigate publishers through the potential minefield
2.30pm – 3.30pm: Publishing and Acquisition: Predicting Reading Trends
By FRANCESCA MAIN
How do you pick the next big thing? Join Francesca Main, Editorial Director at Picador, as she talks about new commissions and acquisitions. She will share about her role in commissioning fiction for Picador, drawing upon examples of recent books and the circumstances in which they were acquired, describing both the personal and commercial rationale behind key acquisitions.
3.30pm – 4.00pm: Tea Break
4.00pm – 5.00pm: Is There a Future for Independent Publishing in Singapore?
By PHILIP TATHAM, KENNY LECK AND EDMUND WEE
Publishing has been dominated by the Penguins and Random Houses, and the secret world of commissioning agents. Is there room for independent and niche publishers? And is there a market for such books in Singapore where consumption is driven by popular culture?
5.00pm – 5.30pm: Plenary Session with Malcolm Neil, Lynette Owen and Francesca Main
Join our experts in discussing the future of publishing.

DAY 2 – Fri 9 Nov
9am: Registration
9.30 – 10.30am: How to Write a Best-selling Novel and Screenplay
By MUKUL DEVA
Join best-selling author and entrepreneur, Mukul Deva, who will share with participants how to write a successful genre thriller, how to build a profitable relationship with publishers and discuss the transition of projects from print to screen.
10.30am – 11.00am: Tea Break
11.00am – 12.00pm: Writing the Successful Biography
By VICTORIA GLENDINNING
Presented by the British Council, Singapore
What does it take to write biographies? Interested in historical figures and the times they lived in? From research to creating dramatic characters, the noted biographer, Victoria Glendinning, will discuss what is required to write and create a successful biography, and how to make the past come alive.
12.00pm – 1.30pm: Lunch and Visit to Rights Fair
1.30pm – 2.30pm: Rights, Licenses & IP: An Author’s Perspective
By LYNETTE OWE
World’s leading expert on rights, Lynette Owen, will share with authors what to expect in an international publishing contract. She will explain the nuisances of intellectual property, licensing and digital rights management. Lynette will take a much deeper dive into digital rights management and licensing across 21st-century media at this session.
2.30pm – 3.30pm: eBook Marketing: Exploiting the Social Network
By MALCOLM NEIL
Malcolm Neil will explore just how authors can be empowered to promote their books. Has the evolution of the digital book really broken down the boundaries between author and reader?
3.30pm – 4.00pm: Tea Break
4.00pm – 5.00pm: Pros and Cons of Self-Publishing: Two Authors’ Perspectives
By NEIL HUMPHREYS AND LEIGH CUNNINGHAM
With self-published writers such as Colleen Hoover and R.L. Mathewson on the New York Times eBook best-seller list, self-publishing no longer suffers the stigma it once did. With all the online resources at your fingertips, should you go solo or go with a publisher? Join our speakers as they share with you their experiences and what to look out for in the crowded book market of publishing.
5.00pm – 5.30pm: Plenary Session with Mukul Deva, Lynette Owen and Malcolm Neil
Join our experts in discussing the future of publishing.
Ahmad Fuadi (Indonesia)  
PG 16, 18, 28

A Fulbright scholar and former reporter for Voice of America, Indonesian writer Ahmad Fuadi parlayed his formative years at an Islamic boarding school into his celebrated first novel, Ngen 5 Menara, which sold more than 100,000 copies in the first year of its release. Translated into English, The Land of Five Towers, the award-winning novel has also been adapted into a feature film. Ahmad is currently busy writing, speaking at home and abroad, and building a social foundation – Komunitas Menara – to aid in the education of the underprivileged.

Ahmad Fuadi (Indonesia)
Seorang sarjana Fulbright dan mantan wartawan bagi saluran Voice of America, penulis Indonesia Ahmad Fuadi menapak kejayaannya dengan membesar di sebuah pesantren dan kemudian melanjutkan pelajarannya, Ngen 5 Menara, yang terjual sebanyak 100,000 naskah pada tahun pertama ia diterbitkan. Diterjemahkan ke bahasa Inggeris dengan judul The Land of Five Towers, novel yang memenangi anugerah ini juga telah dijadikan film. Ahmad kini masih sulit menjual buku, memberi umpan kepada umat Islam dan luar negara dan membina yayasan kemasyarakatan – Komunitas Menara – untuk membantu dari segi pendidikan bagi mereka yang kurang bernasib baik.

Ahmad Tohari (Indonesia)
PG 16, 23, 26, 29

An Indonesian author who rose to prominence after he quit his banking career and entered journalism, Ahmad Tohari is perhaps best-known for his Ronggang Dukuh Paruk trilogy, based on his experience growing up in a village where his mother had been friendly with a local ronggang dancer. The trilogy has been translated into English and was made into a 2011 critically acclaimed film entitled Sang Penari (The Dancer). In recent years, Ahmad set up a magazine to preserve the Banyumasan language, runs an Islamic school with his family, promotes folk arts, and supports up-and-coming writers.

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Alfian Sa’at (Singapore)  
PG 14, 17, 38

Alfian Sa’at is Resident Playwright with WILD RICE. His published works include two collections of poetry, One Fierce Hope and A History of Amnesia, a collection of short stories, Corridor, as well as two collections of plays. In 2001, he received NAC’s Young Artist Award. His award-winning plays have been translated into German and Swedish and have been read and performed in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, London, Zurich and Berlin. His latest book is a collection of stories, Malay Sketches (2012).

Alison Jean Lester comes from a family of writers. Her first book of fiction, a short story collection entitled Locked out: Stories from Home, was published by Monsoon Books in 2006. She recently completed a novel, and is waiting as patiently as she can for an agent in New York to find the time to read it. When she’s not writing, she runs her own communication coaching business, helping people improve their business relationships and presentation skills.

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PG 38, 49

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Alvin Pang (Singapore)  
PG 25, 31, 32, 36

Alvin Pang is an author, editor and poet. His edited works include City of Rain (2003) and Tumaskic: Contemporary Writing From Singapore (2010). A Fellow of Iowa International Writing Program and recipient of NAC’s Young Artist Award in 2005, Alvin has published six volumes of poetry and creative prose. This year, he launched Other Things and Other Poems, a collection with Croatian translations and When the Barbarians Arrive under Arc Publications, UK.

Angelia Poon (Singapore)  
PG 33

Angelia Poon is a Singaporean author and Associate Professor with the National Institute of Education’s Language & Literature department. She has written numerous books, journal articles and creative works, including Island Voices: A Collection of Short Stories from Singapore (2007) and Writing Singapore: An Anthology of Singapore Literature (2009). Her most recent work was editing The Ice Ball Man and Other Poems by Margaret Leong, released in 2011.

Anuar Othman (Singapore)  
PG 23

Apart from teaching creative writing in schools and writing children’s stories for various publications, Anuar Othman has written short stories, novels, plays for radio and television, literary essays and song lyrics. A member of the Singapore Writers Centre of the National Book Development Council of Singapore, Anuar won the Golden Point Award for Short Story, Hashimoto-san, in 1997 and for Poetry in 2001. Among his works are Kisah di Bukit Cermin, Mencari Shangri-La and Tenggelamnya Kapal Prince of Wales. Several of his works have been translated into English and Chinese.

Anwar Azhar (Indonesia)
PG 17


Anwar Azhar (Singapore)
PG 17


Azhar Ibrahim (Singapore)
PG 19, 25

Azhar ibrahim, is a Visiting Fellow at the Department of Malay Studies National University of Singapore (NUS). His research interest includes sociology of religion, writing and the sociology of literature and critical literacy, and the Malay-Indonesian intellectual development. Currently he is pursuing his post-doctoral research at Stanford University. Prior to this, he was attached to the Theology Faculty, University of Copenhagen, Denmark for 2009/2010, under the NUS Overseas Postdoctoral Fellowship.

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Azhar Ibrahim (Singapore)
PG 19, 25

Barry Clark (UK – Singapore)
PG 50

Born in England, Barry moved to Singapore in 1991. Since 1998, he has been instrumental in the growth of Taylor & Francis, a specialist book distributor in the Asia Pacific, with staff in Kuala Lumpur, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taipei, Seoul. He has recruited editors based in Singapore and Beijing to take advantage of the growth in research output from the region’s research community.

Boey Kim Cheng (Australia – Singapore)
PG 35, 37, 38, 42, 47

Born in Singapore in 1965, Boey Kim Cheng is regarded as one of the best poetry collection to have emerged in the post-independence republic. His four poetry collections – three of which have won national awards – address his own disquiet about Singapore’s rapid change, and the sense of displacement and melancholy that have arisen from that. In 1996, Kim Cheng received the National Arts Council’s Young Artist Award in recognition of his artistic contribution to Singapore’s literary scene. He currently resides in Australia, where he teaches creative writing at the University of Newcastle.
Chin Che Tze (Singapore)  
**PG 24**  
A passionate playwright and director, Chin Che Tze Chien is a leading figure in Singapore Theatre. His maiden play, **Pie (1998)** catapulted him to success and won him the Singapore Dramatic Award. He continued to hone his craft at The Necessary Stage where he wrote acclaimed **SPO! (2001)**, before moving on to head puppet theatre company The Finger Players. There he created **Farthest North, Deepest South (2004)**, which made its international premiere in Budapest in 2006. Overseas time has also come from the UK’s Exposure programme and Singapore London Playhouse, both of which performed his works.

Chow Teck Seng (Singapore)  
**PG 42, 43**  
Poet Chow Teck Seng, also known as Zhou Decheng, has a string of accolades to his name. His Chinese poems have won literary awards, and been published in anthologies and in the Chinese press. When **Inspiration Arrests** the Poet was translated into French and English for the recent Festival Franco-Anglais de Poésie. In his latest poetry collection, **The Story of You and Me** (2012), he takes his art a step further by combining poetry with lomography and video.

Cheung Cheong (Hong Kong - China)  
**PG 17, 18, 25**  
A veteran journalist, Cheung Cheong has studied and commented extensively on Chinese politics for **The Straits Times** and periodicals in China. His unflinching views did not find favour with the Chinese authorities, and in 2005 imprisoned him on false charges. During his incarceration, **The Straits Times** and the journalistic community in Hong Kong extended him great support. Cheung Cheong was released in 2008 and warmly welcomed back to The Straits Times newsroom. His book **My 1,000-day Ordeal: A Spiritual Journey** tells how he weathered the most severe storm in his life.

Chitra Sankaran (Singapore)  
**PG 15**  
An Associate Professor in the English Language & Literature department at the National University of Singapore, Chitra Sankaran has literary interests that go beyond the academic. An avid and keen kuliner fan, she found the time amidst her professional duties to write her first novel, the murder mystery **Void of Reason**. Chitra was educated in India and the UK, where she earned a PhD from the University of London.

Cheng Yip Seng (Singapore)  
**PG 37**  
One of Singapore’s most accomplished newspaper editors, Cheng Yip Seng was editor-in-chief of the English and Malay Newspapers Division of Singapore Press Holdings from 1987 to 2006. His breadth of experience led him to serve in public organisations as diverse as the Institute of Policy Studies, the Bioethics Advisory Committee, the Building and Construction Authority, and the Advisory Council on the Impact of New Media on Society. He continues to be a board member of SBS Transit and Singapore’s Ambassador (non-resident) to Chile. His book, **OB Markers: My Straits Times Story** is due out in 2012.

Chien George (Singapore)  
**PG 37**  
Chien George is a Singaporean writer and academic who after his accurate and uncompromising analyses of journalism and media in Singapore. An associate professor at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University, he researches journalism and politics, covering censorship and alternative media. He is the author of three books, including his latest work, **Freedom from the Press: Journalism and State Power in Singapore**. He started his career as a journalist for The Straits Times, and continues to practice journalism as editor of What’s Up, a current affairs newspaper for young students. His book, **OB Markers: My Straits Times Story** is due out in 2012.

Che Husna Azhari (Malaysia)  
**PG 14, 23**  
An author whose works are used as standard textbook teaching texts in Malaysia. Che Husna hails from the state of Kelantan and often sets her stories there. She has written numerous collections of short stories, as well as an anthology of poems in Malay and English. Her first English collection of short stories, *Kelantan Tales*, was published in 1992, while An English Sojourn was published in 2006. She trained in engineering and now teaches the subject at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Cheong Yip Seng (Singapore)  
**PG 26**  
Well-known and outspoken Singaporean author Catherine Lim has more than 20 titles to her credit — from short stories to novels, reflective prose and poetry, and satirical pieces. Her works deal largely with the West-East divide, Asian culture, women’s issues, and Singapore’s culture, history and politics. She has won national and regional book prizes and was conferred an honorary doctorate in literature by Murdoch University, Australia, and was made a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French Ministry of Culture and Information.

Catherine Lim (Singapore)  
**PG 16, 25**  
A former senior journalist with The Straits Times, she is the author of more than 10 books on journalism, politics and media. She has trained in engineering and now teaches the subject at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

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Cheng Yip Seng (Singapore)  
**PG 37**  
An author whose works are used as standard textbook teaching texts in Malaysia. Che Husna hails from the state of Kelantan and often sets her stories there. She has written numerous collections of short stories, as well as an anthology of poems in Malay and English. Her first English collection of short stories, *Kelantan Tales*, was published in 1992, while An English Sojourn was published in 2006. She trained in engineering and now teaches the subject at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.
A prolific poet and author, Cyril Wong has published several poetry collections, most recently *Satori Blues* (2011), and also wrote a collection of short stories, *Let Me Tell You Something About That Night* (2009). Anthologies featuring his work include *Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from the Middle East, Asia and the West* (2001). He is a frequent contributor to local magazines, newspapers, and literary journals, and has participated in various cultural and artistic events in Singapore.

**David Seow (Singapore)**

David Seow is the author of several well-received children’s picture books, including the *Sam, Debbie and Di-Di* series. In 2011, his book *There’s Soup on My Pillow* was a finalist for the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators Crystal Kite Award.

**Desmond Sim (Singapore)**

Desmond Sim is a playwright, poet, and was the *Theatre & Storyplace* series. His plays have been performed in over 30 languages and are widely translated. His latest collection of short stories, *The Beating and Other Stories* (2011), has been longlisted for the 2012 Frank O’Connor International Short Story Prize.

**Devagi Sanmugam (Singapore)**

Chef Devagi Sanmugam is one of Singapore’s most dynamic and talented food personalities. Known widely as the ‘Spice Queen’, she has authored 19 cookbooks and runs her own culinary consultancy. Besides conducting workshops and master classes, creating menus and developing recipes, Chef Devagi also guides clients on food product specifications, ingredients, portion sizes, detailed production methods and procedures to ensure consistency. Her cookbook *Indian Heritage Recipes* was 1st runner up in the 2012 Gourmand World Cookbook Award.

**Dick Lee (Singapore)**

Doyen of Singapore pop and fashion, Dick Lee was one of the first to champion Asian music and worked in the industry for 12 years, with a number of both joint and solo painting exhibitions. His *Fly! There’s Soup on My Pillow* series. In 2011, his book *Autumn Tomyum* was one of eight books short-listed for the Hedwig Anuar Book Writers Crystal Kite Members’ Choice Award. It was also one of eight books short-listed for the Hedwig Anuar Children’s Book Award at the Asian Festival of Children’s Content.

**Eleanor Chia (Singapore)**

A devotee of Mandarin theatre, Elena Chia has performed in numerous plays, including *The Mad Chinaman* (1977) and *Seekor Kerbau Legam Di Dalam Warisan Kencana* by Taman Warisan Melayu. She is currently an award-winning author of 14 children’s picture books, including *Skellig*, *Clay* and *The Savage* (2011), has been longlisted for the 2012 Frank O’Connor International Short Story Prize.

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A former journalist, book editor and author with a special interest in Singapore's architectural heritage, visual heritage as well as the history of the Golden Age of Travel, Gretchen Liu is the author of several books on Singapore and its history. These include *The Singapore Foreign Service: The First 40 Years; A Pictorial History of Singapore 1819-2000; In Granite and Chumar: Singapore’s National Monuments; Pastel Portraits: Singapore’s Architectural Heritage*. She was involved in the restoration of Raffles Hotel, working on heritage projects and producing several books marking the restoration efforts.

**Grace Chua (Singapore)**
PG 47
Grace Chua is a journalist with *The Straits Times*. Her poems have been published in *QR5S* and the anthology *From Boys To Men*. Her first collection of poetry, *The Stamp Collector’s Wife* (first fruits publications), was published in 2010.

**Grace Kalaiselvi (Singapore)**
PG 26
Grace Kalaiselvi is a bilingual actress and storyteller with wide-ranging, all-encompassing works. He received the National Arts Council’s Young Artist Award in 2000 and was nominated for the Singapore Literature Prize in 2003. He has read his works at several writers’ festivals all over the world, from Edinburgh to West Cork, from Austin to Sydney, where he read his works ranging from his personal memoirs, his novels *Homies*, *World Cup Wishes* and *Neon Lament*; he has translated into English and have won acclaim with audiences in Israel and around the world. While continuing to tell stories of his homeland, Eshkol teaches creative writing and thinking at the Sam Spiegel Film & Television School, Tel Aviv University, Sapr College and the Open University.

**Felix Cheong (Singapore)**
PG 28, 38, 41
Prolific writer Felix Cheong is the author of eight books, four collections of poetry and, most recently, a collection of short stories, *Vanishing Point*. Cheong has been invited to writers’ festivals all over the world, from Edinburgh to West Cork, from Austin to Sydney, where he read his works ranging from his personal memoirs, his novels *Homies*, *World Cup Wishes* and *Neon Lament*.

**Farish A Noor (Malaysia)**

**Farah A Noor (Malaysia)**
Dubbed the ‘rock star professor’, Dr Farah A Noor gets attention for her erudite and provocative books, as well as her liberal social and political views. He is the author of *Moving Home: The Tabligh Jama’at Movement in Southeast Asia, From Majapahit to Putrajaya: Searching for Another Malaysia and The Other Malaysia: Writings on Malaysia’s Subaltern History*. This passionate thinker and world traveller has taught in Berlin, Leiden, Paris and is presently Senior Fellow at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University.

**Faeza Abdurazak (Singapore)**
PG 18, 31
Having called Manila, Taipei and Singapore home, past Eric Tinsay Valles tackles the issues of identity and migrancy, and does so with humour and empathy. His poetry has been featured in *Reflecting on the Merlion and Roulledge’s New Writing: The International Journal for the Practice and Theory of Creative Writing*, and he has published a poetry collection *A World in Transit*. He has read his poems at several writers’ festivals all over the world, from Edinburgh to West Cork, from Austin to Sydney, where he read his works ranging from his personal memoirs, his novels *Homies*, *World Cup Wishes* and *Neon Lament*.

**Grace Chia Krakovic (Singapore)**
PG 31, 38, 49
Grace writes under her maiden name, Grace Chia. In 1998 she impressed readers with her debut collection of poems, womango. Since then, many of her other poems and short stories have been published in Singapore Literature in English, *An Anthology; The Straits Times*, *SilverKris*, *Di-Verse City*, as well as in online journals like *HOW2* and *Stylist Poetry Journal*. She was the first female Singaporean writer to be invited to both the Austin International Poetry Festival and Queensland Poetry Festival, and recently released her second poetry collection, *Cordelia*.

**Grace Chua (Singapore)**
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**Eric Cheong (Singapore)**
PG 45
One of Israel’s brightest new voices, Esikol Nevo works mainly in Hebrew and has written three bestselling novels. Dealing with the themes of journeys, borders and identity, his novels *Homies*, *World Cup Wishes* and *Neon Lament* have been translated into English and have won acclaim with audiences in Israel and around the world. While continuing to tell stories of his homeland, Eshkol teaches creative writing and thinking at the Sam Spiegel Film & Television School, Tel Aviv University, Sapr College and the Open University.

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**Eshkol Nevo (Israel)**
PG 41, 42, 46
Eshkol Nevo (Israel)  PG 41, 42, 46
A former journalist, book editor and author with a special interest in Singapore’s architectural heritage, visual heritage as well as the history of the Golden Age of Travel, Gretchen Liu is the author of several books on Singapore and its history. These include *The Singapore Foreign Service: The First 40 Years; A Pictorial History of Singapore 1819-2000; In Granite and Chumar: Singapore’s National Monuments; Pastel Portraits: Singapore’s Architectural Heritage*. She was involved in the restoration of Raffles Hotel, working on heritage projects and producing several books marking the restoration efforts.

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used in Singapore. His career in the Chinese media spanned over 30 years from 1968 to 2004, including stints at Lianhe Wanbao, Lianhe Zaobao and Fuakan. Career highlights include reporting on the Malaysian election twice and the tragedy of the Hotel New World collapse. After retirement, he was active in the Singaporean Federation of Chinese Clan Associations and has written about his work on his doctorate in history at Xiamen University.

He Choo Lick (Singapore)  
Born in Singapore in 1950, He Choo Lick was a student at the Chinese High School in the tumultuous 1960s. At the age of 17, he moved to China and got caught up in the Chinese Cultural Revolution, becoming a shepherd and a builder. In the 1980s, he relocated to the US where he obtained a PhD in Linguistics from Kansas State University. Since 1990, he has been teaching at the National University of Singapore. A painter whose works have been widely exhibited, Choo Lick also writes for Lianhe Zaobao and contributes passionately to poetry translation in Singapore.

Huang Chun-ming (Taiwan)  
A multi-award-winning novelist (The Wu San Literary Award, The National Arts Award and The Government Cultural Award), Huang Chun-ming is most celebrated for his tragi-comic stories of ordinary Taiwanese. Chun-ming has recently forayed into children’s plays and Taiwanese folk operas. He has also been the artistic director of the Lu Yong Theatre, as well as the resident writer at tertiary institutions such as the National Dong Hwa University. Currently head of the Huang Da Yu (literally “Big Yellow Fish”) Children’s Theatre, he is also the founder and leader of the Round and Twisted bimonthly literary magazine and theatre group. Chun-ming’s most popular work is The Sandwich Man.

Harsh Sharma (Singapore)  
A prolific Singaporean playwright, Harsh Sharma has written over 50 plays that have been staged all over the world, including in Melbourne, Glasgow, Birmingham, Caro and London, dealing predominantly with local and global social issues like education, mental illness and race relations. Harsh’s path to success began when he joined The Necessary Stage in 1987, becoming its resident playwright in 1990. Shortly after, he obtained an MA in Playwriting from the University of Birmingham on a Shell-National Arts Council Scholarship, and in 1997 was conferred the Young Artist Award. Harsh remains resident playwright at The Necessary Stage.

Hisham Bustani (Jordan)  
Hisham Bustani is a Jordanian writer and activist acclaimed for his contemporary themes, style and language. He experiments with the boundaries of narration and poetry, and often utilises philosophy, physics, biology, cosmology and visual arts in his fiction. He has three published collections of short fiction: Of Love and Death (2008). The Monotonous Chaos of Existence (2010) and The Perception of Meaning: Prose/Music or Stories on the Borders of Poetry (2012). German socio-political magazine, INAMO, hailed him as one of the Arab world’s most influential new writers, translating and publishing his stories.

Hoa-Ming Teo (Australia)  
Hoa-Ming Teo is a novelist and historian based in the Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. Her first novel, Love and Veto (2000), won the World's Most Promising Young Writer Award. Her second novel, Behind the Moon (2005), was shortlisted for the New South Wales Premier’s Literary Awards. She is working on her third novel. She is the editor of Cultural History in Australia (2003) and has published widely on the history of travel, Orientalism, fiction and popular culture. Her non-fiction book Desert Passions: Orientalism and Romance Novels will be released in November 2012.

Hung Hung (Taiwan)  
Hung Hung is the pen name of Yen Hung-ya, a prominent poet and director of stage and film. Over the course of his career, he has been an award-winning poet and author of fiction, essays and theatre criticism, and is Chief Editor of the Performing Review and Modern Poetry journals in Taiwan. He is also the artistic and stage director of Stalker Theatre Group, which he founded in 1994, and the director of numerous plays, operas, documentaries and feature films, including The Love of Three Oranges, A Garden in the Sky and Human Comedy.

Huzir Sulaiman (Singapore)  
The playwright behind the acclaimed satire Atomic Jaya and about a dozen other plays, Huzir Sulaiman has explored diverse themes like national politics, family reconciliation, visual art, the rewriting of history and most recently, love, sex and masculinity in The Weight of Silk on Skin that opened the Man Singapore Theatre Festival in August 2011. His earlier plays are published in the book, Eight Plays (2002), and include two commissions for the Singapore Arts Festival. He teaches playwriting at the National University of Singapore and is artistic director of Checkpoint Theatre.

Indrajit Perumal Pillay (Singapore)  
Unlike many writers, Indrajit Perumal Pillay aims to write less, not more. He has not quite succeeded, though, with two poetry collections, two short story collections and a collection of essays to his name. Inspired by the likes of Anton Chekov, V S Naipaul, Claire Thom and T. Janiababam, Indrajit aims to capture the essence of life in Singapore in his poems and numerous short stories. In spite of his prolific penmanship, his main aim in writing is to eventually stop writing.

Jason Erik Lundberg (Singapore)  
Jason Erik Lundberg is no stranger to the strange. A fantasy with the fantastic and unreal led Jason to
create books like Red Dot Imrral and A Field Guide to Surreal Botany, and to founded LONTAR: The Journal of Southeast Asian Speculative Fiction. His out-of-this-world works have appeared in many specialty periodicals like Strange Horizons, Subterranean Magazine and Electric Velocipede and have been honourably mentioned in The Year’s Best Fantasy and Horror. Also a believer in fine, small presses, Jason set up Two Cranes Press with his writer-illustrator wife Janet Chui to publish original, speculative fiction.

Jason Wee (Singapore)

With his writer-illustrator wife Janet Chui to publish original, mentioned in The Year’s Best Fantasy and Horror.

Jeet Thayil (India – UK)

Before Irishman John Dougherty became a children’s author, he was a Jack-of-all-trades. After studying psychology, he tried his hand as a YMCA hotel worker, factory machine operator, unsuccessful singer-songwriter, and finally a primary school teacher. Whilst John was teaching, his interest in children’s literature awakened and he soon began writing stories and publishing children’s books. After the publication of Zeus on the Loose (2004), he left teaching and took up writing full-time. His books have been shortlisted for a number of prestigious awards, but, more importantly, they make children giggle.

Jeremy Tiang (Singapore)

Jeremy Tiang is an award-winning songwriter and accidental singer with five solo Mandarin albums to his name. Most times, he is surprised when reminded that he has written more than 200 songs for A-list Asian singers such as Jacky Cheung, Kit Chan, Leslie Cheung, Jeff Zhang and Jolin Tsai, as well as not one but two National Day songs. In 2010, the musical he co-wrote with Liang Wern Fook, December Rain, won Best Musical Score in The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. Jeremy’s dream is to have more time and energy to write original musicals for the Asian stage.

John Dougherty (Ireland)

Before Irishman John Dougherty became a children’s author, he was a Jack-of-all-trades. After studying psychology, he tried his hand as a YMCA hotel worker, factory machine operator, unsuccessful singer-songwriter, and finally a primary school teacher. Whilst John was teaching, his interest in children’s literature awakened and he soon began writing stories and publishing children’s books. After the publication of Zeus on the Loose (2004), he left teaching and took up writing full-time. His books have been shortlisted for a number of prestigious awards, but, more importantly, they make children giggle.

John Trantor (Australia)

John Trantor is one of Australia’s most eminent poets. Known for poetic innovation and experimentation, he has written book-length poems, computer-assisted works and interpretations of other poets’ verses. Over 20 of John’s poetry collections have been published, including Urban Myths, which won four major Australian prizes, and his latest book, Starlight: 150 Australian poems. In 2004 the book has already picked up two awards. He was also co-editor of the seminal The Penguin Book of Modern Australian Poetry and founder of both online poetry magazine Jacket and the Australian Poetry Library, an extensive collection of works, biographies and bibliographies dating back to 1800.

Josephine Chia (Singapore)

Josephine Chia divides her time between Singapore and England, her two homes. Her short stories were first published in literary journal SINGA, and her break came in 1992 when her short story, Tropical Fever, won a British award and was published by Harper Collins. She has published seven books, including her memoirs, Frog under a Coconut Tree, the second edition of which was released in the UK in 2011. She teaches creative writing, English as a second language, yoga and cookery in England and has run creative writing workshops in Singapore.

Julian Davison (Singapore)

Author and television presenter, Julian Davison has edited or contributed to several reference books and scholarly works relating to the region, including books on Balinese and Indonesian architecture. For
Kamini Ramachandran (Singapore)  
PG 26, 37
Storyteller Kamini Ramachandran keeps the ancient art of storytelling very much alive. Through the organisation that she co-founded, MoonShadow Stories, Kamini provides storytelling consultancy services for a variety of museums, institutions, organisations and festivals — focusing on reintroducing storytelling to adults with the aim that they will pass this on to their children and thus reignite a tradition. She has been commissioned to research and create storytelling content for animation projects and folklore publications, and is currently president of the Storytelling Association (Singapore).

Kenny Chan (Singapore)  
PG 50
Kenny Chan has been a constant in the Singapore book industry for the last 30 years as a retailer, distributor and publisher. As Store Director at Books Kinokuniya, Kenny and his team have changed the retail landscape and helped create one of the world’s finest book store chains. Books Kinokuniya has long been a key provider of storytelling consultancy services for animation projects and folklore publications, and is currently president of the Storytelling Association (Singapore).

Kenny Leck (Singapore)  
PG 51
Kenny Leck is the co-founder of BooksActually, an independent literary book store. He also helms the publishing imprint Math Paper Teal and, the handmade stationery line, Birds & Co. Artist and collector, his most characteristic art works are boxes assembled from found objects.

Kevin Tan (Singapore)  
PG 22, 35
Kevin Tan is a professor of law and the author and editor of over 25 books on law, politics and history. A graduate of the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, and of Yale Law School, Kevin has also been active in civil society, most notably as President of the Singapore Heritage Society from 2000 to 2011. Among his well-known historical works are: Encounters with Singapore Legal History (2010); Marshal of Singapore: A Biography (2009); and Spaces of the Dead: A Case from the Living (2011).

Khalil (Iran – US)  
PG 39, 41, 45, 46
For political cartoonist Khalil, the pen is funnier than the sword. Mixing wit and humour with sharp political statements, Khalil is one of the most popular artists in alternative media, particularly online. The graphic novel he co-authored, Zanah’s Paradise (2010), which is about people power in the Middle East, was first serialised on the web, made it to The New York Times bestsellers list, and has been translated into 15 languages. His book, Mission Accomplished: Wicked Cartoons by America’s Most Wanted Political Cartoonist, was published in 2007. Khalil was born and raised in Algeria and currently lives in Berkeley, California.

Krissy Lee (Korea - US)  
PG 15, 20, 23
Her own life spanning both sides of the Pacific, Korean writer Krissy Lee's first book, Drifting House (2012), also deals with the complex dynamic between her homeland and migrant Korean communities in the US. She has first-hand experience of this, having been born in Seoul, raised in California and Washington, and attended university in the US and the UK. Her other writing has appeared in numerous publications, including the Kenyon Review, New Statesman, and Conde Nast Traveller. She was a finalist for Best New American Voices in 2006 and received a special mention at the 2012 Pushcart Prize XXXVI.

Krisna Udayasankar (Singapore)  
PG 28, 30, 42
Krisna Udayasankar’s journey to becoming a writer took her through degrees in law, business and management, as she discovered that she was as good at writing stories as she was at articles and legal briefs. From that emerged The Aryanvata Chronicles, a series of mythological-historical novels set in ancient India. She is currently working on the second and third books of the series, as well as a collection of prose-poems entitled Objects of Affection and a short story collection Made in Singapore. Krisna currently lectures at Nanyang Technological University.

Lee Tzu Pheng (Singapore)  
PG 51
Lee Tzu Pheng, who has won numerous awards for her poetry, including the Singapore Cultural Medallion (1985), the Southeast Asia Write Award (1997), and the Gabrielle Miastral Award (1996) from the Republic of Chile, and the Montblanc-NUS Centre for the Arts Literary Award. Three of her poetry collections won the National Book Development Council of Singapore Award for poetry in English. She is internationally published and known for her work in mentoring younger writers. Her poetry is studied in literature courses in Australia, Canada and the US, and has been read over the BBC, and set to music for choral performance.

Leigh K Cunningham (Australia – Singapore)  
PG 51
Leigh K Cunningham is a full-time writer who has won four awards for her two children’s books and her #1 bestselling family saga, Dain, Lea and Me. The New and Better Anti-Social was released in May 2012 and has been short-listed for two Readers Favorite awards. Formerly a lawyer in her native Australia, she is also the founder and Executive Director of the Association of Independent Authors.

Leslie Tay (Singapore)  
PG 27
Dr Leslie Tay, better known as ‘Thealshootpot’, roams around Singapore in search of the best hawker food and then publishes his mouth-watering pictures on his avidly-followed food blog, ieatishootipost.sg. His blog is now regarded as one of the best authorities on Singapore food and is also filled with musings on life in Singapore in general. In 2010, he published The End of Char Kway Teow, which is a collection of hawker lore to celebrate Singapore’s rich culinary heritage. His book was a national bestseller and placed third in the inaugural POPULAR Reader’s Choice Awards in 2011.

Lila Labidi (Tunisia)  
PG 38, 39
A strong leader for whom the glass ceiling is meant to be broken, Tunisian politician, academic and women’s rights advocate Lila Labidi became her country’s Minister of Activities and Thought Leaders - SWF 2012 - Page 64 of 65
Luo Ming (Singapore)  
A leading figure in Singapore Chinese literature, Luo Ming (Yap Khoon Chan) heads the Singapore Literature Society. Formed in 1980, the Society aims to bring local writers together and promote Singapore writing, particularly in Chinese. Luo Ming spearheads all its activities and, in addition, is Chief Editor of several key literary Mandarin publications, including Xin Jia Po Wen Yi, Xin Jia Po Wen Yi Biao, Bao Dan Wen Xuan and Zuo Jia Po Ping Lun Xuan.

Lin Yao (Singapore)  
PG 44

Lin Yao, 19, is a newcomer to the literary scene. She is currently studying at Dunman High School and, since 2009, has contributed more than 20 articles to the Chinese student publication, Z2comma. She is also a student correspondent for Lianhe Zaobao.

Luo Ming (Singapore)  
PG 34

Luo Ming spearheads all its activities and, in addition, is Chief Editor of several key literary Mandarin publications, including Xin Jia Po Wen Yi, Xin Jia Po Wen Yi Biao, Bao Dan Wen Xuan and Zuo Jia Po Ping Lun Xuan.

Lynette Owen (UK)  
PG 50, 51

Lynette Owen, OBE, is Director of Copyright at Pearson Education. She began her publishing career at Cambridge University Press and went on to work at Pitman Publishing and Marshall Cavendish, before joining Longman, now Pearson Education. She is the world’s leading accredited expert on Rights and has a particular interest in licensing to emerging publishing markets.

Linda Jaisingh (Singapore)  
PG 19, 23, 48

Having spent nine years in Taiwan, Hong Kong and China, Linda Jaisingh writes extensively on China’s politics and culture. Her Chinese memoir, The Monkey and the Dragon, was well received as was her historical novel, When Two Balloons Met. Her latest book, Calling the Birds, is a fictionalized account of a dead writer's last film and a dark comedy about refugees.

Maxime Pilon (France – Singapore)  
PG 22

History buff Maxime Pilon co-authored the book The French in Singapore (with Danièle Weiler), shedding light on this little-known aspect of Singapore history. Maxime’s love of history is intertwined with his sojourns. He taught history at schools in Ho Chi Minh City, Mumbai and Copenhagen before moving to Singapore in 2001, where he continues to teach history at the Lycée Français de Singapour. He has since become a Singapore permanent resident and had, in 2008, been awarded the Knight of the Order of Academic Palms by the French Ministry of Education.

Mayo Martin (Singapore – Philippines)  
PG 28

Mayo Martin is the Deputy Features Editor for the TODAY newspaper. He also maintains the newspaper’s arts blog Art For’s Sake!, covering various performing, visual and literary arts events in Singapore. He previously released a book of poetry in his native Filipino, entitled Babel, and produced Uniberso: New Pinoy Poets Calling, a bilingual spoken word anthology of emerging Filipino poets.

Meira Chand (Singapore)  
PG 36, 42

Meira Chand, a Novelist Meira Chand, who is of Sinhalese parentage, was born and grew up in London, and lived for many years in Japan and also in India. She has resided in Singapore since 1981. Not surprisingly, her novels explore issues of identity, discrimination and racism set in the lands she has lived in. Her latest novel, A Different Sky, was released in 2010 and takes place in pre-independence Singapore.

Michael Cunningham (US)  
PG 12, 14, 17, 26, 29

“Like my hero Virginia Woolf, I do lack confidence,” Michael Cunningham once said. A surprising statement from a writer whose novel The Hours won him the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the PEN/Faulkner Award, sealing his place in the firmament of American literature. That was one thing that was not true of Cunningham when he was a writer, having published the novel A Home at the End of the World to wide acclaim in 1990 and By Nightfall in 2010. Michael holds several fellowships and is also a senior lecturer.
Mohd Love Foley (US)

Foley possesses the rare talent of being able to both wrestle and write. Known popularly as Mankind, Cactus Jack and Dude Love, Mick wrestled professionally for over 15 years and was a three-time World Wrestling Entertainment Champion. He has also written New York Times bestsellers Foley is Good: And the Real World is Better Than Wrestling and Have a Nice Day: A Tale of Blood and Sweatsocks, and two children’s books, Halloween Hijinx and Christmas Chaos. His latest book, Countdown to Lockdown, was released in 2010.

Arrangements for the appearance of Mick Foley made through Hachette Speakers Bureau, New York, NY.

Miel (Singapore)

Originally from the Philippines, Miel is a well-known visual journalist/cartoonist and resident artist with The Straits Times, which he joined in 1992. In addition to his day job, he also illustrates for the Cartoonists’ and Writers’ Syndicate and has received recognition from the Society of Publishers in Asia and the prestigious National Cartoonists’ Society in the US. His illustrations have appeared in many international periodicals, such as the International Herald Tribune, New York Times, Washington Post and Newsweek.

Mohamed Latiff Bin Mohamed (Singapore)

One of the most prolific writers to come after the generation of Singapore Malay writers, Mohamed Latiff’s many accolades include the Singapore Literature Prize in 2004, 2006 and 2008 – the latter for his collection of poems, Bila Rama-Rama Patah Sayapnya (2006). His writing revolves around the life and struggles of the Malay community in post-independence Singapore, touches on the meaning of life and fundamental problems facing humanity, as well as critically assesses the historical aspects of humanity. He is the vice-president of literary association Angkatan Sasterawan ‘50.

Mohamed Latiff Ngadiron (Malaysia)

Mohd Khair Ngadiron, born in Kota Tinggi, Johor, is the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Malaysian Institute of Translation & Books (GMMF). Mohd Khair has presented working papers at local and overseas seminars, such as the Academia Round Table Conference, the International Book Conference and National Book Awards 2012, the XIX World Congress of the International Federation of Translators (FIT) in San Francisco and the First International Conference of Islamic World Publishers in Tehran.

Mohd Khair Ngadiron (Malaysia)

Mohd Khair Ngadiron, also known as Koto Tinggi, Johor, is an actor, playwright, director and scriptwriter for the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation, and is the author of a series of business books published by Penguin India.

Mukul Deva (Singapore – India)

Mukul Deva is one of the most successful Indian thriller writers. Published by Harper Collins India, Mukul’s books have topped the Indian bestseller lists. The first book in his action thriller quartet, Lashkar, is now bound for a major motion picture. Mukul is also a successful businessman running his own security company and is the author of a series of business books published by Penguin India.

Nadiputra (Singapore)

Playwright, director, producer and actor, Almadhi Al-Haj Ibrahim, more popularly known by his pen name Nadiputra, has more than 300 stage, radio and television plays and poems to his name. He is a writer, producer, director and scriptwriter for the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation (now Mediacorp) from 1983 to 2000. In 1985, he founded Theatre Nadi for children, and in 1986, received the Cultural Medallion for Drama. He has written, produced and directed Lorang Buangkok, a musical drama inspired by the last standing kampong (village) in Singapore.

Nadiputra (Singapore)

Almadhi Al-Haj Ibrahim, atau lebih dikenali daripada satu-satunya kampung terakhir yang diilhamkan daripada, menulis, mengarah dan menulis drama yang lebih dahsyat daripada 300 drama pentas, drama dan teledrama teater. Dalam tiga tahun terakhir, Nadiputra telah menulis, mengarah dan menulis drama yang lebih dahsyat daripada 300 drama pentas, drama dan teledrama teater dan juga puisi. Nadiputra merupakan seorang penulis, pengarah dan penulis skrip untuk Perbadanan Penyiaran

Ng King Kang (Singapore)

What Dr Ng King Kang does, he does a lot of. This media personality, author and lyricist has penned hundreds of Chinese songs, including ones for Jacky Cheung, Andy Lau, Aaron Kwok and Gigi Leung. He has written many plays and has recorded four albums to date. In the field of writing, King Kang has authored 18 books, including a ground-breaking chronicle of gay history in Singapore Born This Way. And, his travels have taken him to 215 cities in 47 countries around the globe. King Kang is currently a senior correspondent with Chinese daily Lianhe Zaobao.

Ng King Kang (Singapore)

A Chameleon’s Tale: True Stories of a Global Nomad. He spent the next 20 years exploring the world, travelling far and wide, becoming fluent in eight languages in the process. The author of 18 books, including the international bestsellers Halloween Hijinx and Have a Nice Day!: A Tale of Blood and Sweatsocks, and a finalist for a PEN Book Award in New York; and his latest work, Born This Way.

Nian Hong (Malaysia)

Nian Hong (Teo Tiek Hui) is most known for his children’s books, such as Fei Nao, Mo Lun and Nian Hong’s Collection of Children’s Literature, which comprise songs, poems, stories, plays and children’s theatre. A school teacher and principal for most of his life, Nian Hong has been a school teacher and principal, spending a total of 39 years in education. Among his former pupils is one of Malaysia’s Deputy Ministers of Higher Education, Dr Hoo Kow Chung, who described Nian Hong as “quick-witted and creative” and lauded his contribution towards the development of children’s literature.

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Nicholas Liu (Singapore)  
P.G 35, 47
Nicholas Liu has had poems published in magazines and journals including GLRS, Poetry Review (UK), RHINO, and Stand. He is the Editor of Unsweet Magazine and the author of twochapbooks, He Gives Them White Robes (Chapbook Publisher, 2011) and Failure to Apply the Method (Grey Book Press, 2012). His first full collection, Versions from the English, is forthcoming from firstfruits publications. He is currently a JD student at the Singapore Management University.

Ong Soh Chin (Singapore)  
P.G 15
Ong Soh Chin is a journalist and editor with long and wide-ranging experience, having, over 20 years, covered the arts, entertainment, fashion, beauty, lifestyle, and politics. She has worked for major magazines and newspapers, having worked at the three major media groups in Singapore, and is currently a columnist with The Straits Times, as well as director of her own media consultancy, Percolate. Since 2009, she has also been a consultant for the Asia Fashion Exchange, Singapore’s annual national fashion event.

Ovidia Yu (Singapore)  
P.G 30, 40, 46, 47
Describing herself as a writer, yogi and free-spirited Christian, Ovidia Yu had her heart set on being a writer from a young age. Quitting medical school to devote herself to her craft, she went on to write short stories, novels and over 30 plays, including The Woman in a Tree on the Hill, the only Singapore play to win an Edinburgh Fringe First, and Hetting (On) Women, which won Best Original Script at The Straits Times Theatre Awards. Fresh from the Toji Residency in Korea, she launches Miss Mortality investigates at SWF this year, while her new mystery starring a Peranakan super sleuth is published next year by New York publisher William Morrow.

Peter Wee (Singapore)  
P.G 25
The President of the Peranakan Association and well known leading authority on Peranakan culture, Baba Peter Wee’s collection of ceramics, beaded shoes, antique sarongs and all things Nonya spans over 40 years and is enviously one of the most complete collections on Peranakan culture in Singapore. Peter’s books include A Peranakan Legacy: The Heritage of the Straits Chinese, an exquisite fashion pieces such as embroidered clothing and gold and silver jewellery, and items of daily living that chronicles the rich heritage of the Straits Chinese.

Philipp Jeyaretnam (Singapore)  
P.G 14, 28
Philip Jeyaretnam is a Cambridge-educated lawyer and writer. His first book, First, Loves, was on The Sunday Times Bestseller List for 18 months; subsequent bestsellers include Raffles Place: A Lament, Abraham’s Promise and Tigers in Paradise, a collection of his earlier works with two essays on Singaporean literature in English. In his capacity as a lawyer, he has been a Visiting Fulbright Fellow at Harvard Law School and received the Anney Neave Award for constitutional law writing and writing on the rule of law. He was President of the Law Society from 2004–2007 and is Managing Partner at law firm Rodyk & Davidson.

Philip Tatham (UK – Singapore)  
P.G 51
Philip Tatham is one of the more colourful publishers in Singapore and his publishing company Monssooon Books has set the benchmark for innovative commercial publishing. Monssooon is a leading publisher of books and ebooks on Southeast Asia and Philip advocates producing books to challenge and entertain the reader. His mission statement is to be unique.

Pico Iyer (UK)  
P.G 38, 39, 40
When Pico Iyer travels, he looks for those curious and comical junctions where different cultures intersect. Once describing himself as “a global village on two legs”, Pico is one of the most revered and respected travel writers and thea volunteer of cultural exchange in this culture today. His books, such as Video Night in Kathmandu, The Lady and the Monk and Cuba and the Night, have been translated into several languages and published in Europe, Asia, South
My Head

Richard Tan (Singapore)

Baba Richard Tan has been actively promoting the Peranakan culture since the 1980s. Over the years, he has taken on numerous roles as playwright, director, choreographer and he has gone on to produce old and new works that bring out this rich and colourful heritage. Co-founder of The Main Wayang Company, Singapore’s only professional cultural arts and Peranakan theatre group, Richard believes one of the ways to further revive the Peranakan way of life is to bring back the spoken language of their very own, the Baba patos.

Richard Tan (Singapore)  PG 22, 30, 33

Rilla Melati (Singapore)

Imbued with a love of drama, television, and writing, media personality Rilla Melati started her career as a child star in the now classic Malay children’s series Mat Yo Yo. Since then she has gone behind the camera to write for many award-winning children’s television programmes including the hit pre-school series Tra La La. She has also written children’s books Tikus Putih Adil and Gajaq untuk Adil, and continues to entertain and educate children with her Malay language education company, Mini Monsters, which she co-founded with Malay media champion Najip Ali.

Rilla Melati (Singapore)  PG 20

Robin Loon (Singapore)

For Robin Loon, Singapore has been writing for the theatre since 1989. His recent works as a playwright include Mata Hati (Teater Ekamatra, 2011) and DAV (ABYTRI, 2011). A pracitising playwright/dramaturg and theatre researcher/educator at the NUS Theatre Studies Programme, Robin is deeply committed to nurturing new writing talent and content creation specifically for the theatre. Singapore’s Creative translation of Chay Chee-Yang’s A Language Of Their Own premiered at Singapore Arts Festival 2012.

Robin Loon (Singapore)  PG 15

Rita Zahra (Singapore)

Rita Zahra, bilingual television presenter, newsreader, television producer and director, lecturer, scriptwriter and journalist, has now added entrepreneur, cook and author to her long list of achievements. Through ATER, her integrated media agency, she continues to expand her presence in the culinary world, with television, cooking programmes she conceptualises, directs and produces, and cookbooks she creates; tapping on her late mother’s and grandmother’s legacy of recipes.

Rita Zahra (Singapore)  PG 21, 40

Rita Zahra (Singapore)

Rita Zahra is a successful playwright and television director. In 2011, she co-authored a biography of Indian shooter Abhinav Bindra entitled A Shot at History. She currently resides in Singapore, where she writes for The Straits Times.

Rita Zahra (Singapore)  PG 22, 29

Richard Lord (Singapore)

Richard Lord is the author or co-author of some 20 books. Amongst the many books he has edited is the anthology, Crime Scene Singapore (Monsano Books, 2010). One of his stories from that collection was adapted as the Mediacorp mini-series Keong Saik Street, first broadcast in March of this year. He is currently the editor of the Crime Scene Asia series of crime fiction books. He is now finishing up on his complete five-volume novel, Beggar’s Bounty, scheduled to appear in early 2013.

Richard Lord (Singapore)  PG 42, 49

Rohit Brindhath (Singapore)

Veteran sports journalist Rohit Brindhath has interviewed and written about the who’s who in the sporting world. He has contributed to illustrious sports publications, most notably in India, such as India Today, The Sportstar and Sportsworld at the start of his career. He has also contributed to the BBC News online. In 2011 he co-authored a biography of Indian shooter Abhinav Bindra entitled A Shot at History. He currently resides in Singapore, where he writes for The Straits Times.

Rohit Brindhath (Singapore)  PG 14

Rosaly Puthucheary (Singapore)

A poet, actor, director and producer who has also penned songs as well as scripts for television and theatre, Rahatam has been writing since the late 1980s. Describing his poetry as “bold, succinct” and echoing issues “close to the heart of his people,” he has seen his poetry featured in newspapers and on radio, and published his compilation of poems, Yang Bilang, in 2007. An award-winning actor, he has appeared in more than 40 stage plays and 35 television dramas. In Kallang Roar The Movie (2006), he portrayed Malaysian football legend Mohd Dahari.

Rahatam (Singapore)  PG 16, 18

Rafael Hamzah (Singapore)

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Rafael Hamzah (Singapore)  PG 16, 18

Rafael Hamzah (Singapore)


Rafael Hamzah (Singapore)  PG 16, 18

Rilla Melati (Singapore)


Rilla Melati (Singapore)  PG 20

Robin Loon (Singapore)

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Robin Loon (Singapore)  PG 15

Rita Zahra (Singapore)


Rita Zahra (Singapore)  PG 22, 30, 33

S M Zakir (Malaysia)

S M Zakir (Malaysia)  PG 17, 19, 26

Syed Mohd Zakir Syed Othlim, better known as SM Zakir, is a journalist and author who has written short stories, poetry, film criticism, a biography, socio-cultural essays and political commentary. He started writing in 1990 and is now secretary general of the Malaysian National Writers Association. His works include A Language Of Their Own (1992), his third book being Ahli Politik, released in 2012. He is currently based in Selangor and writes columns for several magazines.

S M Zakir (Malaysia)  PG 17, 19, 26

Roger Jenkins (Singapore)

Roger Jenkins has been a professional storyteller since 1988. Thanks to his spontaneous, comedic and often participatory style of telling, he is a popular performer and storytelling trainer in schools, libraries and at community events. He has performed at festivals in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Manilla, Perth, Hong Kong, Bahrain, and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. In 2012, he self-published a resource book, Stories for Moral Education, in two volumes (Juniors and Teens) which are both proving popular with teachers and parents.

Roger Jenkins (Singapore)  PG 17, 27, 44

Rohit Brindhath (Singapore)

Veteran sports journalist Rohit Brindhath has interviewed and written about the who’s who in the sporting world. He has contributed to illustrious sports publications, most notably in India, such as India Today, The Sportstar and Sportsworld at the start of his career. He has also contributed to the BBC News online. In 2011 he co-authored a biography of Indian shooter Abhinav Bindra entitled A Shot at History. He currently resides in Singapore, where he writes for The Straits Times.

Rohit Brindhath (Singapore)  PG 14

Rosaly Puthucheary (Singapore)

Rosaly Puthucheary, a Singaporean with roots in Johor Bahru, has been writing poems since 1952. Two volumes of poems, Pillow Your Dreams (1978) and The Fragmented Ego (1978), were reissued under the title Mirrored Mirages in 2008. Dance on His Doorsteps (1992), her third volume, was followed by Footfalls in the Rain in 2008. Her second novel, In the Wake of Terror, was published in 2012.

Rosaly Puthucheary (Singapore)  PG 14

S R Nathan (Singapore)

S R Nathan (Singapore)  PG 34, 35

Former president of Singapore S R Nathan has had a long and illustrious career working for both the public service and the private sector. It is well covered in his memoirs An Unexpected Journey: Path to the Presidency. This journey involved starting off as a
medical social worker in 1955, before moving up the ranks to become permanent secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, executive chairman of the Straits Times Press and later become permanent secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, executive chairman of the Straits Times Press and Televisions, Institut Kesenian Jakarta, and University of Indonesia.

Seetha Lakshmi (Singapore)  
Seetha Lakshmi is currently associate professor at the Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group of the National Institute of Education. For the past nine years, she has been involved in research projects on the Tamil language, presented over 30 papers at local and international conferences, published more than 50 articles, reviews and book chapters, and written more than 10 books either as a sole or co-author. Outside her academic work, she writes Tamil short stories and also has extensive experience in journalism and broadcasting.

Shabir Tabare Alam (Singapore)  
Shabir Tabare Alam won the inaugural Vasantham Star singing competition in 2005 and never looked back. Since then, he has gone on to become one of the most successful music producers in the Singapore Indian music scene. He has recorded three studio albums, scored music for film and television, performed at national events, and appeared on stage and in television series. One of his latest works was composing, writing and arranging the song, Singai Naadu, the official Tamil song for the 2012 National Day Parade.

Shamini is an environmental activist who also writes books’ proceeds to the World Wildlife Fund. Before promoting fair trade products and donates part of her pamphlet which sold more than 60,000 copies.

Shamin Flint (Singapore)  
Behind an overweight, sweaty police detective is a woman named Shamin Flint. Creator of the series Inspector Singh Investigates, Shamin is, as a crime mystery writer in Singapore, a rare breed. When she is not writing about Inspector Singh’s misadventures, Shamin is an environmental activist who also writes children’s books with environmental themes. She is noted for promoting fair trade products and fourth novels of the series. Two of her short stories were published in Best of Southeast Asian Erotica. Shamin is also currently developing several book projects on fitness-related themes such as bodybuilding and yoga.

Sharon Ong (Singapore)  
One of the founding directors and proprietors of Starfish Literary Consulting Pte Ltd, a boutique firm which caters to the well-established names of authors, novelists, composers and publishers, Sharon Ong’s other full-time ‘day job’ is writing XXX-rated erotica under a pseudonym. She wrote her first erotic novel accidentally over six weeks in 2008, and is now preparing two titles for publication and working on the tenth novel in the series. Two of her short stories were published in Best of Southeast Asian Erotica. Sharon is also currently developing several book projects on fitness-related themes such as bodybuilding and yoga.

SherMay Loh (Singapore)  
Children’s writer SherMay Loh has gotten her writing career off to a good start. Her debut mystery/adventure novel, Archibald and the Black Knight’s Ring, was released in June 2012.

Shin Kyung-Sook (Korea)  
Shin Kyung-Sook is the author of numerous works of fiction and is one of South Korea’s most widely read and acclaimed novelists. Please Look After Mom, winner of the 2011 Man Asian Literary Prize, is her first book to appear in English and will be published in 19 countries. She has been honoured with the Manhae Literature Prize, the Dong-in Literature Prize, and the Yi Sang Literary Prize, as well as France’s Chevalier de l’Insigne. While she calls Seoul home, she is currently visiting scholar at Columbia University in New York City.
Simon Tay (Singapore)  
PG 39  
Simon Tay is a respected academic, thinker, political and economic adviser, and creative writer. Concurrently a law professor at the National University of Singapore, chairman of think-tank Singapore Institute of International Affairs, and senior consultant at WongPartnership, he has numerous written articles and books, the latest of which, Asia Alone: The Dangerous Post Crisis Divide from America, was reviewed internationally. His short stories and poems have been highly commended, adopted for television and stage, translated and published in anthologies. His novel, City of Small Blessings, was awarded the 2010 Singapore Literature Prize.

Siti Mastura Alwi (Singapore)  
PG 21  
For Chef Siti Mastura Alwi, cooking is a way of giving back to the community. Through her company, Siti’s Delights Baking Academy, she runs culinary workshops and also has her own baking show on television, Vanila, which is into its third season. She has been a judge on Malaysian Masterchef, writes columns for Benta Minggu and has published her first recipe book, Ignite The Flame...Bonding the Generations. With this book, Chef Siti hopes to inspire people to start baking and build bonds, especially between different generations.

Siti Mastura Alwi (Singapore)  
PG 21  
Bagi Cef Siti Mastura Alwi, memasak adalah satu cara untuk menyumbang kembali kepada masyarakat. Melalui syarikatnya, Akademi Memasak Siti’s Delights, beliau menganjurkan bengkel-bengkel memasak dan juga memupuk rasa pencintaan memasaknya di televisyen, Vanila, yang kini dalam musim ketiga. Beliau pernah menjadi hakim dalam seri Malaysia Masterchef, menulis resep memakai Benta Minggu dan menembakkan buku resipi yang pertama, Nyabalan Api...Menanak Antara Generasi. Dengan buku ini, Cef Siti Mastura berharap dapat mendorong orang ramai agar mula memasak dan menggunakan masa tersebut untuk membaik pertalian dan perhubungan, terutama di antara generasi-generasi yang berbeza.

Sylvia Tan (Singapore)  
PG 25, 27, 35  
Sylvia Tan is a Singaporean food writer, newspaper and website columnist. She is the author of eight cookbooks, including best seller Singapore’s famous Fang Chi Food (1997) and Modern Nonya (2015). She has also given lectures, workshops and cooking demonstrations, particularly on Nonya cooking. Before writing about food full time, she was a newspaper journalist for more than 20 years.

Tai Yu Hsiang (Singapore)  
PG 33  
Ever since stumbling across a collection of Horace translated into English, Tai Yu Hsiang has been fascinated by Greek classics, getting a degree in Latin and Ancient Greek. Believing that we know who we are, and where we are heading, by knowing where we come from, he aims to foster awareness of the classics and their enduring importance today.

Tan Chee Lay (Singapore)  
PG 36, 42  
Chinese scholar Dr Tan Chee Lay is deputy executive director of the Singapore Centre for Chinese Language. He is dedicated to promoting Chinese language and literature among students, and initiated the bilingual Singapore Student Literary Award, numerous school-based Artist-in-Residence programmes and the Hwa Chong Literary Series, which publishes books by student writers. A prolific writer himself, he has published three poetry and three essay collections, and creates cross-genre works like lyrical plays, prose poetry and performance literature.

Tan Mei Ching (Singapore)  
PG 40  
Tan Mei Ching writes novels, short stories, plays, and children’s books. Her novel, Beyond the Village Gate, was awarded a Commendation at the Singapore Literature Prize, and her short story collection, Crossing Distance, received a Merit at the Singapore Literature Prize and a Commendation at the National Book Development Council of Singapore Book Awards. She has written over 90 commissioned books for children, and has written and produced multimedia content and games for children and young adults. She has also written and designed content for online games.

Tana De Rozario (Singapore)  
PG 48  
Tana De Rozario is an artist, writer and curator who has exhibited in Singapore and abroad. Her work stems from themes of love, loss and home. Co-founder/curator of Etiquette, Singapore’s first ongoing arts event/collective focused on feminist issues, she recently completed her first poetry manuscript, and is currently working on her first novel. When she is not writing about herself in the third person or leaving passive-aggressive one-liners on her Twitter account, Tania freelances as a writer for TimeOut, and as an art educator at LASALLE College of the Arts.

Theophilus Kwek (Singapore)  
PG 47  
Largely inspired by vague explorations of the Singaporean landscape, Theophilus Kwek is, at 18, a new but already accomplished writer. Having started writing just over two years ago, his poems have been featured in the Mascara Literary Review, Cerip, Reflecting on the Merlion and & Words: Poems Singapore and Beyond, as well as in competitions here and abroad, receiving a Commendation at the 2010 Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award. While honing his writing, he also pursues his twin passions of photography and music.

Sonny Liew (Singapore)  
PG 41  
A gifted comic artist, Sonny Liew is known for his ability to treat social issues of the day using archetypal characters and a good dash of humour. His work includes Wonderland (Disney/SLG), My Father in Frankke (DC/Vertigo), Regulators (DC Minx) and Sense and Sensibility (Marvel Comics). He spearheaded comics anthologies Liquid City Volumes 1 and 2 (Image Comics), and is the creator of Maxx, a paranormal collection of short stories that has already picked up major awards. His brilliant illustrations have also earned him an Eisner nomination and the 2010 Singapore Young Artist Award.

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Tay Kewei (Singapore)  
PG 22  
Singer-songwriter Tay Kewei has two major albums under her belt and has collaborated with international superstar David Tao, Wang Leehom and Jin Lin on world tours. She won the Local New Artiste (Media’s Choice) award at the Singapore HT Awards 2010 and was also appointed the IP Ambassador for IP05 (Intellectual Property Office of Singapore) alongside local music icon Dick Lee. She recently launched her first single, Fallin, in Cannes, France, and simultaneously released her eponymous album. The album ranked 8th on the HMV Jazz / Easy-Listing chart during the first two weeks of its release.

The 2 Steves  
PG 18, 25  
Steve Barlow and Steve Skidmore, collectively known as ‘The 2 Steves’, are the UK’s most popular writing double act for young people, specialising in comedy in adventure. They have been writing together for over 20 years, and have written over 150 books for young people. They have also acted as series editors for major publishing houses. In addition to their many popular fiction titles, they have written extensively for the reluctant/stuggling reader and contributed comedy/educational material for television shows.

Simon Tay (Singapore)  
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Tim Hannigan (UK – Indonesia)  
PG 39, 45  
Tim Hannigan is an author, journalist and photographer who has come a long way from his origins of Cornwall, England. Specialising in Indonesia and the Indian Subcontinent, Tim has written numerous articles and shot countless photographs of these regions and beyond. His first book, Murder in the Hindu Kush (2011), is a biography of the intriguing 19th century British explorer, George Hayward; and was shortlisted for the Boardman Tasker Book Award for Mountain Literature.

Timothy O’Grady (Chicago, USA)  
PG 28, 45  
Coming from an Irish-Catholic family in Chicago, Timothy O’Grady never set foot in Ireland growing up but evokes his ancestral homeland in his writing. When he was 22, he left the United States and spent the next 30 years living in the Catholic capitals of Ireland, Poland and
Could Read the Sky (1998) and Spain. He is the author of three novels: Troy Chin (Singapore) PG 14 road trips across the country’s mountains, deserts and Divine Magnetic Lands (1991), and this year, her short story “Niraigal” was chosen as one of Electricity: She lives in the countryside in Somerset, England, with her third husband — with whom she travels in a Dubai-tight industry. Shares has been writing Tamil short stories and 1970s and 1980s, her stories were featured in traditional history books. President of the 1961-1969 and 1970-1988. The official language of the Republic of Singapore is Mandarin Chinese, and the main language of the Chinese community is Singapore. It is also the language of instruction at primary and secondary schools. English is the second official language of the Republic of Singapore. While English is widely spoken, particularly among the younger generation, Mandarin Chinese remains the most commonly spoken language among the Singaporean Chinese community. Since the 1950s, Chinese language learning has become more widespread, especially among students in primary and secondary schools. In addition to Mandarin Chinese, Hokkien is also widely spoken among the Chinese community. Chinese New Year, the most important festival in the Chinese calendar, is celebrated with a variety of activities and traditions, including the exchange of red packets, family gatherings, and feasts. These customs vary in different regions of China, with the most prominent being in the northern provinces. Although the Chinese diaspora worldwide, China has one of the largest Chinese-speaking populations in the world. In 2018, the population of the Chinese diaspora was estimated to be around 67 million people, with significant concentrations in countries such as the United States, Canada, Brazil, and Australia. The Chinese language is a tonal language, with two main dialects: Mandarin and Cantonese. Mandarin is the official language of China and Singapore, while Cantonese is spoken in Hong Kong, Macau, and other parts of southern China. Tamil Murasu and 1980s, her stories were featured in the 10-volume news clippings on Singapore's history into the 10-volume Singapore Roots Series. Walter first joined NUS in 1981 as a member of the teaching staff in the Faculty of Law, and later served as Sub- and Vice-Dean. Walter is an accomplished legal writer and is the author of several legal textbooks and two collections of his columns on local 25 years, Verena Tay has published three collections of plays: 2019. His literary works, mainly poetry, include A Man like Me, A Collection of Xi Ni’Er Mini-Fiction, and A Studio of Modernist writers of Malaya in the 1960s. Poet, novelist, playwright and critic, he has published 25 books: five novels, two collections of short stories, three volumes of poetry; two collections of stage plays, 11 volumes of essays, a collection of social critique and another of literary criticism. His novels, A Man like Me and Triabilivs: An Islander and I, published in 2010, have both won the Singapore Literature Prize and the latter was also listed as one of the 10 Best Chinese Novels in the World for 2006 by Asia Weekly. His latest novel, The Studio, was also similarly listed by Asia Weekly. Yeng received the Cultural Medallion for Literature in 2003. He is the author of three novels: MOTHERLAND (1991), I COULD READ THE SKY (1998) and SPAIN. He is the author of three novels: TROY CHIN (SINGAPORE) PG 14 road trips across the country’s mountains, deserts and Divine Magnetic Lands (1991). He is also the author of two collections of stage plays, 11 volumes of essays, a collection of social critique and another of literary criticism. His novels, A Man like Me and Triabilivs: An Islander and I, published in 2010, have both won the Singapore Literature Prize and the latter was also listed as one of the 10 Best Chinese Novels in the World for 2006 by Asia Weekly. His latest novel, The Studio, was also similarly listed by Asia Weekly. Yeng received the Cultural Medallion for Literature in 2003. He is the author of three novels: MOTHERLAND (1991), I COULD READ THE SKY (1998) and SPAIN. He is the author of three novels: TROY CHIN (SINGAPORE) PG 14 road trips across the country’s mountains, deserts and Divine Magnetic Lands (1991). He is also the author of two collections of stage plays, 11 volumes of essays, a collection of social critique and another of literary criticism. His novels, A Man like Me and Triabilivs: An Islander and I, published in 2010, have both won the Singapore Literature Prize and the latter was also listed as one of the 10 Best Chinese Novels in the World for 2006 by Asia Weekly. His latest novel, The Studio, was also similarly listed by Asia Weekly. Yeng received the Cultural Medallion for Literature in 2003.
You Jin (Singapore)  

You Jin has no less than 156 titles under her name: novels, essays, travelogues, collections of short stories, essays and articles published in Singapore, China and Taiwan. In Singapore, her books are used as school texts. She was the first recipient of the inaugural Singapore Chinese Literature Award (1991) from the Singapore Literature Society, as well as the Mont Blanc-NUS Centre for the Arts Literary Award (1996). She received the Cultural Medallion in 2009. You Jin is an avid traveller and has visited up to 90 countries to date.

Zafar Anjum (Singapore)  

Zafar Anjum (Singapore) has been published in India, the US, the UK, Singapore and other countries. Apart from his novel, Of Seminal Fluids (2000), his stories have been anthologised in Love and Lust in Singapore (2010), Crime Scene: Singapore (2010) and Best of Southeast Asian Erotica (2010), and he recently finished a collection of short stories. As he works on his second novel and his first feature-length screenplay, he also blogs, mentors budding writers and is editor of kitsab.org, a literary website.

Zou Lu (China – Singapore)  

Zou Lu was born in Liaoning Province in Yunnan, Of Manchurian descent, Zou Lu was born and grew up in Liaoning Province in Yunnan, China, and presently lives in Singapore. In 2006, she published Time, A Beautiful River, which won the 2006 Singapore Literature Prize. Shu Hoong has since seen his work published overseas, in literary journals like Hong Kong’s Asia Literary Review and Sweden’s Ars Interpres, and actively promotes Singapore at literary festivals and events around the world.

You Jin (Singapore)  PG 23, 35

You Jin has no less than 156 titles under her name: novels, essays, travelogues, collections of short stories, essays and articles published in Singapore, China and Taiwan. In Singapore, her books are used as school texts. She was the first recipient of the inaugural Singapore Chinese Literature Award (1991) from the Singapore Literature Society, as well as the Mont Blanc-NUS Centre for the Arts Literary Award (1996). She received the Cultural Medallion in 2009. You Jin is an avid traveller and has visited up to 90 countries to date.

Zafar Anjum (Singapore)  PG 29, 30

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Zou Lu (China – Singapore)  PG 27

Zou Lu was born in Liaoning Province in Yunnan, China, and presently lives in Singapore. In 2006, she published Time, A Beautiful River, which won the 2006 Singapore Literature Prize. Shu Hoong has since seen his work published overseas, in literary journals like Hong Kong’s Asia Literary Review and Sweden’s Ars Interpres, and actively promotes Singapore at literary festivals and events around the world.

AUTHORS & SPEAKERS

MODERATORS

Aaron Lee  PG 18

Aaron is the prize-winning editor and poet whose works include A Visitation of Sunlight and Five Right Angles – a finalist for the Singapore Literature Prize.

Aaron Maniam  PG 36

Aaron’s debut collection, Morning at Memory’s Border, was one of three books shortlisted for the Singapore Literature Prize in 2007.

Adrian Tan  PG 25, 47

Adrian is a novelist and a litigator. His two books, The Teenage Textbook and The Teenage Workbook, both topped bestseller lists.

Alison Lester  PG 38, 39

Alison started her writing career as a freelance magazine writer. Her short story collection, Locked Out, was published in 2006.

Angle Chew Monksfield  PG 24

Angie is Founder and Chairperson of Brahm Centre, a charity that promotes individual and spiritual well-being, and healthy living. She is also the President of the Buddhist Fellowship.

Arun Mahizhnan  PG 24

A Special Research Adviser at the Institute of Policy Studies and Adjunct Professor at the Nanyang Technological University.

Asad Latif  PG 46

Former journalist Asad Latif is a researcher at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. He received an M. Litt. in History at Cambridge, and was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Harvard.

Ben Slater  PG 29

Ben is an author of Kinda Hot: The Making of Saint Jack in Singapore, script editor for films including Ho Tzu Nyen’s HERE, and co-writer of the sci-fi thriller Camera.

Boon Chan  PG 22

Boon Chan is a media correspondent with The Straits Times. He writes about film, music and television with a focus on Asian film and pop music.

Brian Bergen-Aurand  PG 48

Brian was the gender and sexuality editor of Cimator magazine and currently teaches Comparative Studies, Film and Ethics at Nanyang Technological University.

Carolyn Camoens  PG 14, 23

Carolyn has over 12 years' experience managing multi-market and integrated communications programs for major brands. She has written for print, stage and screen.

Cheong Suk Wai  PG 22

Suk Wai is a senior writer for The Straits Times. She read law at the National University of Singapore and was previously a construction lawyer.

Christopher Lim  PG 42

Christopher writes for the Lifestyle section of The Business Times, covering areas such as books, music, beverages and consumer technology.

Corrie Tan  PG 29

Corrie is an arts journalist and reviewer with The Straits Times. She is the co-author of Page 2 Primer: Your Guide to Good English and Greater Knowledge (2009).

Deborah Tan  PG 49

Deborah is the first editor-in-chief of Cosmopolitan Singapore. She is also an active blogger on cosmopolitan.sg and deborhanton.com.

Deepika Shetty  PG 28, 40

A correspondent for The Straits Times, Deepika tracks arts and Indian entertainment. Among others, she has covered India Art Fair and the Jaipur Literature Festival.

Desmond Kon  PG 45

Desmond is an interdisciplinary artist who has edited more than ten books and co-produced three audio books, with several edited pro bono for non-profit organisations.

Eleanor Wong  PG 25, 46, 49

Writer, lawyer and academic Eleanor Wong combines her legal and literary skills to write plays that often deal with controversial subjects and is best-known for her trilogy, Invitation to Treat.

Gene Tan  PG 47, 49

Gene is a director at the National Library, looking after the Arts and the Singapore Memory Project. He is also President of the Library Association of Singapore.
Hussin Mutalib is a senior Singaporean academic with the NUS. He is the author of six books on politics and teaches the only course on Middle East Politics offered in Singapore.

Siok Tian has written five volumes of poetry. Currently an educator, her poems and writings have also been published in France, Italy, Australia, India, USA, Philippines and Sweden.

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Jennifer Crawford joined Nanyang Technological Institute as Assistant Professor in 2009. She is herself a poet with critical interests in contemporary creative and experimental writings.

Jerry Hinds is a poet, graphic artist and literary critic who wrote Singapore's first full-length graphic novel, Myth of the Stone, and Who Wants to Buy a Book of Poems?, a volume of humorous verse.

John Richardson works in the Department of English Language and Literature at the National University of Singapore, researching 18th century British Literature.

Kenneth Kwock is a former secondary school teacher. Kenneth now edits the online arts journal, The Flying Inkpot, and is Deputy Director of Arts Education at the National Arts Council.

Kevin Tan is a professor of law and the author and editor of over 25 books on law, politics and history. From 2001 to 2011, he was also President of the Singapore Heritage Society.

Kirpal Singh is a poet, educator, literary and cultural critic. Now Associate Professor of English Literature at Singapore Management University, he has five collections of poetry to his name.

Koh Tai Ann is a poet who is with the Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University. Her interests include Singapore and Malaysian literature.

Lee U-Wen is a journalist who spends all his free time (almost) watching professional wrestling. He will never forget Mick Foley vs Edge at Wrestlemania 22 in Chicago, 2006.

Mimi Kirk is Editor for the Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore. Her writing has appeared in the Atlantic, Foreign Policy, and Middle East Report.

Miral Fahmy is a writer-lawyer who has published two collections of short stories, Faith & Lies (1999) and The Coffin That Wouldn’t Bury (2008). He has been widely anthologised.

Miral Fahmy

After a long journalism career that has taken her across the Middle East, Miral, originally from Egypt, is now an editor with Reuters in Singapore.

Neil Humphreys is a humour columnist and sports pundit who has written for TODAY and The Straits Times. He is also the successful author of seven books, including Return to a Sexy Island (2012).

Nicholas Liu is editor of the Unswept literary journal and a poet whose first full collection of poems, Versions from the English, is forthcoming from firstfruits publications.

Pearl Schoppert is a publishing entrepreneur, editor and writer. He has worked with Times Publishing, Editions Didier Millet and has been director of NUS Publishing.

Peter Schoppert is a publisher entrepreneur, editor and writer. He has worked with Times Publishing, Editions Didier Millet and has been director of NUS Publishing.

Philip Jeyaretnam is a Cambridge-educated lawyer and writer. His first book, First Loves (1987), comprising nine linked stories, was on The Sunday Times Bestseller List for 18 months.

Richard Lord is professor of law and the author and editor of over 25 books on law, politics and history. From 2001 to 2011, he was also President of the Singapore Heritage Society.

Richard Lord has edited numerous books, including the anthology, Crime Scene Singapore. His upcoming crime novel, expected in early 2013, is called Beggars’ Bounty.

Sim Wai Chew

WC Sim has research interests in British-Asian and Southeast Asian writing. He is the editor of Island Voices: A Collection of Short Stories from Singapore.

Simon Reynolds is a professor of law and the author and editor of over 25 books on law, politics and history. From 2001 to 2011, he was also President of the Singapore Heritage Society.

Stephen McCarty is a former South China Morning Post Books Editor. He has appeared at literary festivals the world over and would be delighted to work as a full-time moderator.

Steven Chia is a producer for the AM Live! morning show on Channel NewsAsia. He also volunteers with the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre.

Tan Chee Lay is a professor of law and the author and editor of over 25 books on law, politics and history. From 2001 to 2011, he was also President of the Singapore Heritage Society.

Tan Dan Feng is a professor of law and the author and editor of over 25 books on law, politics and history. From 2001 to 2011, he was also President of the Singapore Heritage Society.

Tan Hsueh Yun is a former journalist and magazine editor. Ming Yen is deputy chief executive of The Old Parliament House. His first book of fiction is 2012’s That Night by the Beach and Other Stories for a Film Score.

Terence Chong is a sociologist and Senior Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. He is the author of The Theatre and the State in Singapore: Orthodoxy and Resistance (2010).

Timothy Barnard is a professor of law and the author and editor of over 25 books on law, politics and history. From 2001 to 2011, he was also President of the Singapore Heritage Society.

Timothy Barnard teaches history at the National University of Singapore. His research interests focus on the social and environmental history of the Malay World.
Tommy Koh  PG 34
Professor Tommy Koh is Ambassador-At-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and was Singapore’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York for 13 years.

Trina Liang-Lin  PG 15
Trina is Managing Director at Templebridge Investments and President of UN Women National Committee Singapore (previously named UNIFEM).

Venka Purushothaman  PG 28
Venka has written on visual arts, theatre and cultural policy. He is also Vice President (Academic) & Provost at LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore.

Violet Oon  PG 40
A leading authority on Asian Cuisine, in particular her native Nonya cuisine, Violet is a former food critic who is renowned as a chef and food ambassador for Singapore.

William Yeoman  PG 25
William is Books Editor and Senior Arts Writer for The West Australian, and is a contributor to classical music magazines Gramophone and ABC Classic FM’s Limelight.

Yeoh Siew Hoon  PG 38
Siew Hoon combines her love of travel and writing in her profession as a travel industry journalist and commentator. She is also an established speaker and published author.

Yu-Mei Balasingmamchow  PG 22, 39
Yu-Mei is the co-author of the award-winning history book Singapore: A Biography. She has also written for Lonely Planet and is working on her first novel.

Zhang Wenjie  PG 18
Wenjie was the programmer for The Substation’s Moving Images film programme 22nd Singapore International Film Festival and currently heads the National Museum Cinémathèque.

Alfian Sa’at  PG 14, 17, 38
Alfian merupakan seorang penulis drama tetap di syarikat teater W!LD RICE dan beliau telah membukukan puisi serta koleksi cerpen terbaru Malay Sketches (2012).

Kartini Bte Anwar  PG 25
Puan Kartini bte Anwar mengajar Sastera Klasik Melayu/Indonesia, Sastera untuk Kanak-kanak & Remaja and Teori Kritikal di NIE/NTU.

Rohadzal Sudai  PG 21
Rohadzal pernah menjadi pengarah teater dan dramawan, selesa itu sebagai seorang perancang dan kini, pengaturcara seni di Esplanade.

Sa’eda Buang  PG 28
Dr Sa’eda binti Buang adalah Pensyarah Senior di Institut Pendidikan Nasional, seorang penyelidik dan penulis yang telah menerima anugerah untuk puisi-puisi dan cerpen-cerpen.

Sanif Olek  PG 16

Syed Ali Semait  PG 23
Syed Ali bin Ahmad Semait merupakan Pengarah Utama Pustaka Nasional Pte Ltd serta ahli Jawatankuasa Eksekutif Persatuan Penerbit Buku Singapura.

Yazid Hussein  PG 19
Yazid sedang meneliti sastra Melayu di Universiti Malaya dan beliau juga mengajar di Pioneer Junior College dan UniSim.

Zizi Azah  PG 26, 47
Zizi ialah seorang penulis drama, pengarah teater dan pengarah artistik Teater Ekamatra. Beliau telah menerima pelbagai produksi teater yang dipersembahkan dalam bahasa Melayu, Melayu dan Peranakan.

Anna  PG 44
Anna is a multi-awarded 2005-2006 Asian Artist of the Year. She has received numerous awards for her work in theatre, film and television in Malaysia. She has been named as one of the top 100 leaders in Malaysia by TimeOut.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 AM</td>
<td>Life Lessons from Sports</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 11.30 AM | Walking with AR Wallace  
WS: It's Not About You: Writing a First Novel |
| 1.30 PM | Of Book Awards and Best Sellers  
WS: The Sun Always Shines on TV |
| 4 PM  | Making it (up) in the Middle Kingdom  
WS: Writing Fashion 4.30pm–6pm |
| 5.30 PM | Characters at the Crossroads  
Hitting the Right Notes: Diaspora and Dislocation |
| 7 PM  | Crime Scene: Do not Enter  
Reconstructing S’pore History |
| 8 PM  | Origins of Desire  
Pleasure as Power* |

**Saturday, 4th November 2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 AM</td>
<td>Multi-hyphenate Writing Talents</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 11.30 AM | MTA: Mick Foley  
WS: Exploring Your Personal Odyssey |
| 2.30 PM | Writing Gleefully  
WS: Writing Through the Bright Lights & the Big Stage 3pm–6pm |
| 4 PM  | Lip-Smacking, Fingertip-Writing: See it!  
Why! Write |
| 5.30 PM | MTA: Sano Kumira Aijerma  
Growing Up is Tough - Or Is It? |
| 7 PM  | Up and Coming  
Writing in a Multi-Cultural World |

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**Legend:**
- **ICW** – In Conversation With
- **LC** – Literary Cocktails
- **LM** – Literary Meals
- **MTA** – Meet the Author
- **RR** – Ream to Reel
- **WS** – Workshop

Weekend free events are not listed. Please refer to Festival at a Glance on page 12 for these free events – Little Lit! Off the Page, Brand New Books. Workshops, Literary Cocktails, Literary Meals, and the SWF Lecture are separately ticketed. All other items are Festival Pass sessions. All timings are start-times, unless otherwise indicated.

* Please note that this is a Fringe event recommended for SWF Festival Pass holders 21 years and above.
## EVENT CALENDAR 5 – 9 NOV

### MON 5 NOV
- **SMU**
  - ilovebooks.com Pavilion

### TUE 6 NOV
- **WS**: Baba Malay 101 – Jangan Main Main!
  - 7pm – 9pm
- **Menghayati Dunia Masuri Salikun**
  - 7.30pm – 9pm | **FREE**

### WED 7 NOV
- **Quiet Faith, Finding a Voice**
  - 7.30pm – 9pm
- **Beer Reads**
  - 6pm – 8pm | **FREE**

### THU 8 NOV
- **WS**: Who said Latin is Dead?
  - 7.30pm – 9.30pm
- **SWF Publishing Symposium**
  - 9am – 6pm
- **The Chair**
  - 7.30pm – 9pm
- **Poetry of Song**
  - 7pm – 9pm | **FREE**

### FRI 9 NOV
- **WS**: Singapore Literature for Reluctant Readers
  - 3pm – 6pm
- **SWF Publishing Symposium**
  - 9am – 6pm
- **MTA: S R Nathan**
  - 6.30pm – 7.30pm
- **The Fifty Shades of Grey Phenomenon**
  - 8pm – 9pm
- **Pillow Fight**
  - 8pm – 9pm
- **The City of Desire**
  - 9.30pm – 10.30pm

### OTHERS
- **Editors Boot Camp**
  - 9.30am – 5.30pm
- **Gender Bender**
  - 8pm – 9pm
- **Editors Boot Camp**
  - 9.30am – 5.30pm
- **XX: When Smut Isn’t Smut**
  - 8pm – 9pm
- **When Harry Met Sally**
  - 7.30pm – 9.30pm

### LEGEND:
- **ICW** – In Conversation With
- **LC** – Literary Cocktails
- **LM** – Literary Meals
- **MTA** – Meet the Author
- **RR** – Reel to Reel
- **WS** – Workshop

### All sessions are Panels, unless otherwise stated. Workshops, Literary Cocktails, Literary Meals and the SWF Lectures are separately ticketed. All other items are Festival Pass sessions. All timings are start-times, unless otherwise indicated.

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### Event Calendar 10 Nov

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 AM</td>
<td>The Noblest of Occupations</td>
<td>Pavilion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 AM</td>
<td>Akmal Pang ICW, John Tranter</td>
<td>SMU School of Information Systems, Level 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30 PM</td>
<td>You Can Write Tool</td>
<td>TPM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 PM</td>
<td>Getting Lost, Getting Inspired</td>
<td>TPM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.30 PM</td>
<td>Homeland, Origins, Beginnings</td>
<td>TPM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>MTA: Rohit Brijnath</td>
<td>TPM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 PM</td>
<td>The City of Desire</td>
<td>TPM</td>
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### Event Calendar 11 Nov

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 AM</td>
<td>Comic Artists Capture Singapore</td>
<td>Pavilion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 AM</td>
<td>Stories from a Shrinking Globe</td>
<td>TPM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30 PM</td>
<td>Reaching Out: Tamil Writing for Young Adults</td>
<td>TPM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 PM</td>
<td>JM Sali ICW, Ma Elangkannan</td>
<td>TPM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Closing/Debate</td>
<td>TPM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Legend
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- LC – Literary Cocktails
- MTA – Meet the Author
- RR – Ream to Reel
- WS – Workshop

Weekend free events are not listed. Please refer to Festival at a Glance on page 12 for these free events – Little Lit! Off the Page, Brand New Books. Workshops, Literary Cocktails, Literary Meals and the SWF Lectures are separately ticketed. All other items are Festival Pass sessions. All timings are start-times, unless otherwise indicated.

*Please note that this is a Fringe event recommended for SWF Festival Pass holders 21 years and above.
1. The SWF Festival Pass | $15
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Festival Pass events include:
• Panel Discussions
• Meet the Author
• In Conversation With
• Ream to Reel
• Special Festival Pass Events
• SWF Fringe (21 years and above)

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• In Conversation With
• Ream to Reel
• Special Festival Pass Events
• SWF Fringe (21 years and above)

2. The SWF Lectures
• In the Beginning, There Was the Story... | $20
• From Where It Originates | $10

3. Workshops & Master Classes
• It’s Not About You – Writing a First Novel | $15
• The Sun Always Shines on TV – Creating a Drama Series | $15
• Writing Fashion | $15
• Exploring Your Personal Odyssey | $30
• Writing for the Bright Lights and Big Stage | $50
• Editors Boot Camp (3 days) | $200
• Baba Malay 101 – Jangan Main Main! | $20
• Who Said Latin is Dead? | $20
• Singapore Literature for Reluctant Readers | $30
• Writing Powerful Fiction for Young Readers | $30
• The Poetry of Memory | $30
• The Making of a Graphic Novel | $30
• Edhugai – Tamil Songwriting | $20
• Writing Stories and Novels for Children | $15

4. The SWF Publishing Symposium
• 1 day pass | $60
• 2 day pass | $100
• Single panel | $20

5. Literary Meals & Cocktails
• Eat Your Words with Catherine Lim | $60
• Eat Your Words with Ahmad Fuadi | $20
• Literary Cocktails: Mick Foley | $25
• Literary Cocktails: Linda Jaivin & Farish A Noor | $25
• Eat Your Words with Michael Cunningham | $80
• Eat Your Words with Pico Iyer | $80
• Eat Your Words with Izzeldin Abuelaish | $40
• Eat Your Words with Chi Li | $60

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Festival Pavilion, Campus Green, SMU
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15% discount with min. spend of $20

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Rendezvous Grand Hotel Singapore
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93 Stamford Road
Flash your Festival Pass and get access to A Life of Practice – Kuo Pau Kun exhibition during the Singapore Writers Festival

SWITCH
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10% off non-promotional F&B items

73 Bras Basah Road, NTUC Trade Union House
10% off non-promotional F&B items

THE SHOP
1 Old Parliament Lane, The Arts House
15% discount

1 Old Parliament Lane, The Arts House
15% discount

VIA MAR
71 Bras Basah Road, Singapore Art Museum
10% discount on a la carte items

71 Bras Basah Road, Singapore Art Museum
10% discount on a la carte items

VIET LANG
1 Old Parliament Lane, The Arts House
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Flash your Singapore Writers Festival Pass / Ticket from 2 – 11 November 2012 and enjoy the following promotions!
Teachers, do you need a novelist who knows how to spin a good yarn? Then, we’ve got the programme for you! Praying for a playwright who can inspire your pupils? Then, look no further! Looking for a lyricist who can get students to love words? We’ve got that covered!

Words Go Round – the Singapore Writers Festival school programme – brings writers into the schools to meet students face-to-face and inspire our next generation of writers and readers. It gives all students in Singapore the unique opportunity to meet both local and international authors up-close and personal, through talks, workshops and interactive sessions.

And we programme for all children, from Primary school pupils to Junior College students, and in Singapore’s four official languages – English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil – so schools can always expect a vast and varied selection of activities to choose from.

But, of course, the best reason to book one of our programmes is that Words Go Round 2013 will give students and teachers the rare chance to meet such amazing writers as John Boyne (The Boy in The Striped Pyjamas), Ho Minfong (Sing to the Dawn), Jean Tay (“Everything But the Brain” and “Boom”), and Suchen Christine Lim (Rice Bowl and A Bit of Earth).

And we don’t just encourage your students to consume literature. We encourage them to create it too with our 2013 creative writing competition, A Pocketful of Pantun. Quick, simple and close-to-the-heart, the pantun is a Malay poetic form of grace and charm. And if that’s not enough incentive to get your students writing, then the treasure trove of prizes that will be on offer, most certainly will!

So, teachers, get your calendars out and save the date! And we look forward to seeing you in 2013!

Bookings begin from 26 November 2012.

Please visit our website www.singaporewritersfestival.com for updates on the Singapore Writers Festival (SWF) and Words Go Round (WGR) programme.

Email us at NAC_WGR@nac.gov.sg if you would like us to put you on the WGR mailing list!

Like the Singapore Writers Festival on Facebook (sgwritersfest) and follow us on Twitter!