

Singapore Writers Festival

Singapore Writers Festival 2009

The Singapore Writers Festival (SWF) is Singapore's only national literary festival and one of Singapore's major literary events. To date, it remains one of the few literary festivals in Asia that is multi-lingual, focusing on four languages - English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil.

Central to the SWF is the belief that literary arts is one of Singapore's major cultural expressions, one that contributes to the collective identity of Singaporeans. Engagement in literary arts activities provides an in-depth understanding of other cultures as well as renders the individual with the ability to influence and communicate effectively.

For 2009, the Singapore Writers Festival is going UnderCovers to bring you the literary talents such as Neil Gaiman, Taichi Yamada, Mohammed Hanif, Yan Lianke, Qiu Xiaolong, Muhammad Haji Salleh, John Lindqvist, Shamini Flint, Edwin Thumboo and John Boyne. So get comfy and ready for a whirlwind of readings, talks and meet with writers you love and whom you'll come to love.

For more information on the Singapore Writers Festival, please visit:

<http://www.singaporewritersfestival.com/>

SWF Arts Education Programmes

This year marks the launch of the SWF School Outreach initiative. School Outreach includes Arts Education Programmes (AEPs) specially customised by trained educators and practitioners to enhance students' exposure, understanding and appreciation of writing and literature.

All SWF School Outreach AEPs are endorsed under the National Arts Council-Arts Education Programme. Primary & Secondary schools, JCs, ITEs and CIs are eligible for the Tote Board Arts Grant subsidy. Polytechnics may use the subsidy for AEPs held within school premises. Availability of AEP slots is limited, so do submit your requests early! To book or enquire about the SWF School Outreach AEPs, please contact our relevant partners providing the programmes.

In partnership with Inner Discovery (SWF AEPs)

Programmes are available from 5 Oct – 8 Nov 2009

“Myths and Legends” School Workshop

3hr School Workshop | Lower Secondary | \$28 per student

Conducted in English

Come face to face with life’s monsters! (Teamwork, Leadership and Hidden Talent!)

Just as the classical Greek Hero has to undergo mental and physical challenges, so do your students, as they become the hero and the room becomes a hostile landscape littered with tasks to be completed and obstacles to overcome. All the important literary elements are here, woven together in one giant game that requires students to think on their feet, harness the power of team-work, and discover the qualities they didn’t know they had! When all the excitement is over, students begin to see how the hero’s journey might be a metaphor for their own lives, especially their growth into adulthood with all its uncertainties, challenges and fears.

“Poetry through Drama” School Workshop

3hr School Workshop | Lower Secondary | \$28 per student

Conducted in English

It begins with love and ends in disaster...

This workshop is designed as a platform for students to express their ideas – from the simplest to the grandest – and develop new confidence and enthusiasm for poetry. They discover the magic of structure, and use right away to create imaginative and original love poetry – which often leaves their classmates in awe. They also swoop in on a complex but funny poem about a General who triggers the destruction of the world... and discover how humour, imagers, and the allusion to Icarus’ fate, all weave together to convey a surprisingly serious message. Drama allow students to really get inside the poem – they dramatise the disaster, for example by creating a room full of team statues and stage a trial for the mad General – to air their judgments with a vengeance!

“Storyworks!” School Workshop

3hr School Workshop | Lower Secondary | \$28 per student

Conducted in English

Unearth Zaroff’s sinister intent, and discover how intrigue and suspense make a story work.

In this workshop, we investigate three distinctive story types. First, with a race through General Zaroff’s human hunt, students dramatise Rainford’s heroic attempt to stay alive – and uncover the elements that make this a gripping story. They learn how setting, character, suspense and the double twist at the end work to captivate readers. Students then explore and create animal fables, and discover how an entire plot can be driven by a single character trait – a useful composition tool to keep up their sleeves. In the dramatic finale, students are whisked to a time where everyone wears a

crazy hat at work, and learn how, with loads of laughter and creative writing, the hats can help people solve some unusual problems!

“Play in a Day” School Workshop

Six sessions (double periods) or 6 hrs over 2 afternoons | 40 pax per group @ \$65 per student
Conducted in English

Exploring Character, Action Dialogue for a 10-minute play

Putting characters into a corner is the job of the playwright – as students learn when they step into this workshop and our play about young Johnny Choo. They try on different hats – audience, actor, director – to see how the parts of a play fit together, and to understand the invisible things a playwright must think about – mood, contrast, and surprise. Students love the dramatic stuff: the acting of their classmates; twists and turns of the plot; and the more spectacular elements of theatre. But what they love most is the human aspect of a play: how it is what a character does in a crisis, for example, that reveals who they are.

Contact Details

Mervyn Sinaga

Tel: 6467 5015

Hp: 9855 2848

Email: mervyn@innerdiscovery.com

URL: www.innerdiscovery.com

In partnership with Doby Studio Pte Ltd (SWF AEPs)

Programmes are available from 5 Oct – 8 Nov 2009

“Introduction to Mystery Writing through Comics” School Talk

1hr School Assembly Talk | Primary 3 – Secondary 2 | \$160 per session

Conducted in English or Mandarin

Ever wondered how can you create a suspense story as captivating as the all-time favourite manga series Detective Conan and Death Note? Join us in un-covering how one can make use of expressions and different camera angle shots to create a suspense comics. Students will get hands-on practice in mystery writing under the guidance of the trainer. This talk will kick start students in creating their own mysteries!

“Mystery Writing through Storyboarding” School Workshop

2hr School Workshop | Primary 3 – Secondary 2 | \$320 per session

Conducted in English or Mandarin

This hands-on workshop focuses on the steps to mystery story-writing and storyboarding. Our local comic artists will guide students to create storyboard for a short mystery story. Participants will get a chance to critique and analyze popular mangas, and apply graphic representation skills to their stories.

Doby’s Manga Appreciation and Storyboarding Course

2 x 2hr School Workshop | Primary 5 and above | \$640 per session

Conducted in English or Mandarin

Storyboarding is a crucial aspect in creating a captivating story. In this 2-day workshop, participant will learn some skills in researching, drawing and storyboarding. Advanced knowledge of using camera angles and shots to add variations to a comic will also be discussed. In the session, participants will get to try doing their own comic story hands-on under the guidance of local comic artist. The participants are reminded to bring their own writing material.

Contact details

Tel: 6221 9069

Email: admin@dobystudio.com

URL: <http://www.dobystudio.com>

SWF School Outreach Free Programmes

As part of the Festival's initiative to create an interesting and immersive literary environment for students, we have planned a series of specially designed free school outreach talks and workshops. These programmes are held at The Arts House, which is the official SWF venue, and teachers can use the booking form below to reserve places. Students will get to meet international authors such as John Boyne and Kate McCaffrey as well as Singaporean authors, Wena Poon and Daren Shiau.

SWF School Outreach Free Programmes

All events are held at The Arts House

Kate McCaffrey: Young Adult Fiction

Mon 26 Oct | 10-11am | Chamber

This session is suitable for students ages 10 and above. It is a one hour talk by Kate McCaffrey, author of two award-winning novels for young adults, *Destroying Avalon* and *In Ecstasy*, which explores the themes of cyber bullying and drug abuse. Students will get to meet and talk to one of Australia's gifted writers.

John Boyne: Writing a Novel

Mon 26 Oct | 11.30am-12.30pm | Chamber

This session is suitable for students ages 15 and above and strongly recommended for those interested in creative writing. It is a one hour talk by renowned writer, John Boyne, author of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* and *The House of Special Purpose*. Students will learn the processes on how to get started on creative writing and completing a novel.

Wena Poon: How to Get Published

Mon 26 Oct | 1-2pm | Chamber

This session is suitable for students ages 15 and above. It is a one hour talk by one of Singapore's top writers, Wena Poon, author of *Lions in Winter*. Students will learn the steps in which a novel is put together; from writing, to selling a manuscript and getting published.

Imtiaz Dharker: How to Appreciate Poetry

Mon 26 Oct | 2.30-3.30pm | Chamber

This session is suitable for students ages 13 and above. It is a one hour workshop by Imtiaz Dharker, a Scottish Muslim poet, whose poems have been included in the GCSE syllabus. Students will learn how to appreciate poetry as well as how to start writing poetry.

Island Voices: Stella Kon, Ovidia Yu and Philip Jeyaretnam

Moderated by Angelia Poon

Tue 27 Oct | 10-11am | Chamber

This session is suitable for teachers and students ages 13 and above. *Island Voices* is a collection of short stories from Singapore. It is a one hour session where teachers and students will get to meet and discuss the stories from *Island Voices* with writers, Stella Kon, Ovidia Yu and Philip Jeyaretnam.

Heartland by Daren Shiau

Tue 27 Oct | 11.30am-12.30pm | Chamber

This session is suitable for teachers and students ages 14 and above. It is a one hour talk by one of Singapore's top writers, Daren Shiau, whose novel, *Heartland*, is part of the 'O' Level syllabus. Students and teachers will get to meet the writer and discuss the ideas, characters and inspirations behind *Heartland*.

Off Centre by Haresh Sharma

Tue 27 Oct | 1-2pm | Chamber

This session is suitable for teachers and students ages 14 and above. It is a one hour talk by one of Singapore's most original voices in theatre, Haresh Sharma. His play, *Off Centre*, is part of the 'O' Level syllabus. Students and teachers will get to meet the playwright and discuss the social issues, characters and themes in *Off Centre*.

Malay Literature: Muhammad Haji Salleh, Anwar Ridhwan and Baha Zain (in Malay)

Tue 27 Oct | 2.30-4pm | Chamber

This session is suitable for teachers and students ages 15 and above and strongly recommended for those studying Malay literature. It is a one hour talk by three top Malaysian writers, Muhammad Haji Salleh, Anwar Ridhwan and Baha Zain. Students and teachers will get to meet and talk with these three literary giants of Malay literature. An opportunity not to be missed!

Teaching Language through Poetry: A Focus on Skill Development

For Primary and Secondary School teachers

Conducted by Katie Ham

Tue 27 Oct | 3.30-5.30pm | Living Room

For some, the teaching of poetry is stressful, to be avoided at all costs and, often, educators find that most of the poetry taught to students in class is very Anglo-centric. This 2-hour, hands on workshop will focus on empowering teachers when tackling poetry in the classroom. Participants will be guided through these questions:

- * How can teachers both recognise and teach poetic devices with ease in the classroom?
- * How can teachers embrace the use of local poetry to engage their students in lessons?
- * How can teachers use poetry as a springboard to further creative writing or exposition tasks?

The skills covered are applicable to teaching the Language Arts / Literature programmes at both Primary and Secondary levels. The target audience is teachers who are unfamiliar with teaching poetry, and those who would like some new ideas in tackling poetry in the classroom.

Ah Kong's Clock / Pip's Garden

Recommended for ages 5-8

Wed 28 Oct | 9.30am-10.30am | Living Room

In collaboration with Straits Times Press

Meet Belinda Chan and Lynette Long as they tell a story about a timeless grandfather clock that has been well-loved throughout the generations.

Join Lorraine Tan as she recounts the story of Pip who is an ordinary boy who likes gardening. Unfortunately, nothing ordinary ever grows in Pip's garden! Join Pip as he journeys across towers of bushes and pebble hills to discover that sometimes, being different may be the best gift one could ever have.

Students will get to meet and talk with the writers and illustrators!

Rochee the Friendliest Cockroach / Like Fins for Feet / The Little Red Helicopter

Recommended for ages 5-8

Wed 28 Oct | 11am-12.30pm | Living Room

In collaboration with Straits Times Press

Meet Gavin Choo and Rochee! Despite being the friendliest cockroach in town, Rochee finds it hard to befriend that special someone. Can Rochee find a way to win her heart? Join him to find out!

Join Perry Ho and Kristal Melson as they relate a fantastic tale... One morning, you wake up to find the most unlikely visitor in your room – a Blue Whale. It is no different from the wind blowing a moth or a paper bag across your path. Once you get over the whaleness of the moment, your day goes on, like it did yesterday, and most likely, like it will tomorrow. Today however...

Join Pauline Loh and Ong Sheng Hua in this delightful tale... Charlene and Kevin love the little red helicopter in the playground. One day, they notice the little helicopter looks quite different – it looks real! Join them as they go on a fantastic flight of fantasy in the little red helicopter!

Students will get to meet and talk with the writers and illustrators!

Uncover the Comic Artist Within

Recommended for ages 9 and above

Thu 29 Oct | 2pm – 5pm | Chamber

In collaboration with Doby Studio Pte Ltd

At this talk and book launch, several Singapore writers and comic artists will share their experiences on how they got their educational comics published. The authors include Otto Fong and student winners of the National Comic Challenge. Some titles to be launched at this event include *Teambuilding Games*, *Enrich your Vocabulary through Comics* and a compilation of budding student artists' works.

Singapore Writers Festival

Singapore Writers Festival 2009 School Outreach Free Programmes Application Form

Please email or fax to:

Ms Wong Jia Min

SWF School Outreach Free Programmes

Tel: 6837 9741

Fax: 6837 3017

Email: wong_jia_min@nac.gov.sg

Please complete this application form by 15 October 2009. Applicants will be notified by email within 5 business days of receipt of their application form.

Please note:

- Applications will be prioritised according to the date of receipt of the application form by the Festival
- As all events are free, this application form constitutes a firm commitment by your school to take the full number of requested seats, if available and confirmed.
- The programme is subject to change and schools will be informed accordingly.

| Date Time | Event | No of students | No of teachers | Total number |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Mon 26 Oct 10-11am | Kate McCaffrey: Young Adult Fiction | | | |
| Mon 26 Oct 11.30am- 12.30pm | John Boyne: Writing a Novel | | | |
| Mon 26 Oct 1-2pm | Wena Poon: How to Get Published | | | |
| Mon 26 Oct 2.30-3.30pm | Imtiaz Dharker: How to Appreciate Poetry | | | |
| Tue 27 Oct 10-11am | Island Voices: Stella Kon, Ovidia Yu and Philip Jeyaretnam | | | |
| Tue 27 Oct 11.30am- 12.30pm | Heartland by Daren Shiau | | | |

Programmes may be subject to change. Please refer to www.singaporewritersfestival.com for updates.

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| Tue 27 Oct 2.30-4pm | Malay Literature: Muhammad Haji Salleh, Anwar Ridhwan and Baha Zain (in Malay) | | | |
| Tue 27 Oct 3.30-5.30pm | Teaching Language through Poetry: A Focus on Skill Development Conducted by Katie Ham (for teachers only) | | | |
| Wed 28 Oct 9.30am-10.30am | Ah Kong's Clock / Pip's Garden | | | |
| Wed 28 Oct 11am-12.30pm | Rochee the Friendliest Cockroach / Like Fins for Feet / The Little Red Helicopter | | | |
| Thu 29 Oct 2pm – 5pm | Uncover the Comic Artist Within | | | |

CONTACT DETAILS (PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK LETTERS)

Name and position: _____

School: _____

Email / Phone / Fax: _____

Address: _____

Signature and school stamp: _____ Date: _____

All SWF School Outreach Free Programmes are held at:

**The Arts House
1 Old Parliament Lane
Singapore 179429**