



National Book Development Council of Singapore
Storytelling ● Reading ● Writing ● Publishing

All In! Young Writers Seminar 2011

Date: 19 February 2011 (Saturday)

Time: 10.00am – 5.10pm

Venue: National Museum of Singapore

10.30am – 11.15am

Keynote: The Excitement of Writing in Singapore

Speaker: Dr. Gwee Li Sui

11.15am – 11.25am

Short break

11.25am – 12.20pm

Concurrent Session 1: First Time Writers

Speakers:

i) Jesvin Yeo

- Choi! Team
- The book - Choi! Touchwood!
- The motivation
- The Process
- Reflective Thinking

ii) Samantha M De. Silva

- Why write?
- The power of narrative – the hardwiring in us that looks for meaning, completion, a resolution
- What makes a good story?
- How does a story begin?
- A few writing tips
- Why should you write?

Concurrent Session 2: Writing Historical Fictions

Speakers:

i) Dawn Farnham

- What is historical fiction? The differences between writing history and writing historical fiction
- Writing historical fiction in Singapore
- Researching and writing
- Getting published

ii) Joan Yap

- Fictionalising history
- Making history come alive for your audience
- Personal experiences of writing and self-publishing
- How historical fictions books are used in schools as supplementary reading text for History, Social Studies and National Education

12.20pm – 2.00pm

Lunch (provided)

2.00pm – 3.30pm

Forum: Getting Published

Speakers:

i) Chua Hong Koon

ii) Goh Eck Kheng

iii) Leigh K Cunningham

- Self-publishing or Working with a Publisher?
- Advantages and Disadvantages of Self-publishing
- Advantages and Disadvantages of Working with a Publisher
- Finding the Right Publisher
- Working with the Publisher
- Getting the Book Published
- Writing a Bestseller!

3.30pm – 3.40pm

Short break

3.40pm – 5.10pm

Forum: Opportunities in Writing and Printing available in Singapore and Beyond

Speakers:

i) Dr. Daniel Quadt

ii) Desmond Kon

iii) Paul Tan

5.10pm: End

Chua Hong Koon, Publisher

Hong Koon is the Publishing Director at Armour Publishing Pte Ltd. He has more than 30 years of publishing experience. Having worked in Oxford University Press and Pearson Education for many years, Hong Koon has had the opportunity to work with authors from many countries. He is also the Vice President of the Singapore Book Publishers Association (SBPA) and he chairs the Training and Copyright Sub-committee of SBPA.

Dawn Farnham, Writer

Dawn is the author of *The Red Thread*, *The Shallow Seas* and *The Hills of Singapore*, three of a four-part series of historical novels set in 19th century Singapore - *The Straits Quartet*. Her short stories are featured in anthologies and she has received grants from the Singapore Film Commission for her screenplays. She is an inaugural member of the joint British Council, Sinema and MDA's screenwriting initiative, First Draft.

Desmond Kon, Educator at Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Desmond has edited more than ten books and co-produced three audio books, several pro bono for non-profit organisations. Trained in book publishing at Stanford University, Desmond studied sociology and mass communication at the National University of Singapore, and later received his theology masters (world religions) from Harvard University and fine arts masters (creative writing) from the University of Notre Dame. With poetry and prose published in over 100 literary journals, Desmond has placed in several international writing contests.

Goh Eck Kheng, Publisher

Eck Kheng acquired wide publishing experience in Eastern Universities Press and the Times group before setting up Landmark Books. He has produced many outstanding books, both in terms of editorial content and layout, and has won numerous awards for content and design. Eck Kheng has earned the reputation within the publishing and arts community of being skilled in conceptualising books where design and content work hand in hand. He was a founding member of TheatreWorks and is a keen photographer and potter.

Dr. Gwee Li Sui, Poet, graphic artist and literary critic

Dr. Gwee wrote Singapore's first full-length graphic novel, *Myth of the Stone*, in 1993 and published a volume of verse, *Who Wants to Buy a Book of Poems?*, in 1998. He recently co-edited *From the Window of this Epoch: An Anthology of Malaysian and Singaporean Poems* in 2009 and edited *Sharing Borders: Studies in Contemporary Singaporean-Malaysian Literature II* in 2009 and *Telltale: Eleven Stories* in 2010. Gwee taught literature at the National University of Singapore for a number of years and was a writer-in-residence at Toji Cultural Centre, South Korea, in 2010.

Jesvin Yeo, Assistant Professor at Nanyang Technology University

Jesvin is a designer and educator who teaches, publishes and exhibits internationally on typography and design. She graduated from Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London and her research interests include cultural studies, design research, graphic design and transdisciplinary design.

Joan Yap, Writer

Joan started writing in 2003 after her retirement from a 25-year corporate career. She is a volunteer guide at the National Museum of Singapore and Singapore Tyler Print Institute. Her writing portfolio ranges from magazine features, business books and short stories. Her published works include two historical fiction books – *Son of an Immigrant* and *The Sacred Hill*.

Leigh K Cunningham, Executive Director of the Association of Independent Authors

Leigh is a lawyer with a career as a senior executive for various public companies in her home country of Australia. As the author of two published children's books and with two adult fiction works in progress, she aims to help other independent authors through her role as Executive Director of the Association of Independent Authors.

Paul Tan, Director, Sector Development (Literary Arts) and Singapore Writers Festival at National Arts Council

Paul has published three volumes of verse. His first two collections, *Curious Roads* in 1994 and *Driving Into Rain* in 1998, won the Commendation and Merit Prizes at the Singapore Literature Prize competition. His most recent collection is *First Meeting of Hands* in 2006. He has worked as broadcast journalist and in the Singapore Tourism Board, in various capacities, including Regional Director, North Asia, based in Japan and Director, Communications.

S.M. De Silva, Writer

Samantha studied Mass Media in Singapore. She adores Gothic lit, from renegades like Angela Carter to old reliables like Edgar Allan Poe and Bram Stoker. Vampires rock her world because she feels that they are a great platform to explore basic questions about the nature of good and evil. When she is not writing fiction, she also writes and records for the [mrbrowns](#) show.

Shazana Roslan, Writer/Editor at www.GuideGecko.com

Shazana studied Fashion Communication at Lasalle College of The Arts and has bitten by the travel bug ever since. She dreams to marry a billionaire, become a jet setter and own a couple of islands. Otherwise she will need to work hard to get a one way ticket to Hawaii and make her way across the globe. She is a former Editorial Assistant with Catalog Magazine.