

SUNDAY 20th JULY

NEW VOICES

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2008



10.30am for 11.00am - 12.00pm

Life's Journey

Families will enjoy this encounter with **Li Cunxin**, author of the bestselling *Mao's Last Dancer* and *The Peasant Prince*, and **Sandy Blackburn-Wright**, *Holding Up The Sky: An African Life*. Lives led tumultuously and passionately create bewitching and inspiring stories. New voices need mentoring and Li does this with grace and generosity.

Venue: Great Barn, Montsalvat, Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham

Entry: \$10.00/ \$5.00 children 6-12 yrs old.

Rest of the festival at :

St Margaret's Church Hall, Pitt Street, Eltham

Entry: \$5.00 per session. Refreshments included.

Bookings are essential for each session:

9439 8700 / elthambookshop@bigpond.com

1. 30pm - 3.00 pm

A Cat Among the Pigeons...

Memoirs, biographies and novels open up doors of memories and evoke intensely lived experiences. Where in the tangle of life does the writer start telling the story? What to leave out? What to include? And what to embellish?

Does a novel need to be free of 'what really happened'? How much do novelists mine their own lives to write their books?

Listen to **Catherine Cole**, *The Poet who Forgot*, in conversation with **Neelam Maharaj**, *Surviving Heroes*, **Sharyn Munro**, *Woman on the Mountain*, and - the cat among the pigeons - novelist **Kate Cole-Adams**, *Walking to The Moon*, as they explore memories and eloquent silences.

3.15pm - 5.15pm

Ellen Gudrun Kastan Literary Award: Nurturing New Voices

Keynote speaker: Professor Catherine Cole, RMIT School of Creative Media, will speak on the need to mentor new voices in literature to rejuvenate our reading experiences.

Join us to celebrate the winning entries of the 2008 Ellen Gudrun Kastan Literary Award. Prizes of \$1000 and \$250 for the First and Second winners will be announced in each of the categories of Poetry, Essay, Short Story and Novella. Judges **Morag Fraser**, **John Jenkins**, **Anne Manne** and **Karen Sparnon** will share their perspectives on the works submitted. Meet new writers and local publishers; enjoy readings and music.



5.30pm - 7.00pm

And Then There is Poetry....

Paul Auster calls it "utterances of daily life". Is it the poets task to simplify and stabilize the world, or is it to understand our part in it? What happens when words fail to express our deepest emotions and imaginations?

From the legendary Adelaide-based Friendly Street Poets Society, **Courtney Black**, **Roger Higgins**, **Janine Baker** and **Maggie Emmett** will present their witty, sensual and visionary poetry from recently published anthologies *New Poets 13* and *Rewired*.

Chair: **Fiona Sievers**, Rebus Press

MONDAY 21st JULY

6.30pm - 8.30pm

"Come into my parlour," said the Spider to the Fly....

What are the invisible skeins of a novel that entrap the readers in its world? Is it the carefully notched out title or the thoughtful epigraph? How seminal is the first sentence? Can we be swept away by the rhythm and beat of each polished sentence? How does a writer stir readers into an imaginary space to discover their own stories and shapes of love, hope and fear?

Morag Fraser, Adjunct Professor of Humanities at La Trobe University, will engage with four debut writers in an enlightening discussion about novelistic techniques and the effects of a truly magical craft. Featured writers: **Toni Jordan**, *Addition*, **Steven Conte**, *The Zookeeper's War*, **Christine Darcas**, *Dancing Backwards in High Heels*, and **Kevin Rabalais**, *The Landscape of Desire*.

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NEW VOICES 2008



Janine Baker's writing contains strong environmental and social themes influenced by her itinerant childhood and adolescence spent in Australia and New Guinea. She works as a non-affiliated marine scientist.

Courtney Black, born in Adelaide in 1980, is a poet of the 21st century: uncontrived, witty and fluent. Her verse is adroitly crafted. She is currently working on her first novel.



Sandy Blackburn-Wright lived in South Africa between 1988 and 2003, years coinciding with some of the most tumultuous and significant events in the history of the nation, including the release of Nelson Mandela. She now lives in Australia with her family.

Dr Catherine Cole is a writer, researcher and academic recently appointed Professor of Creative Writing at RMIT. With more than ten years experience in teaching writing, she is an old hand at mentoring new voices. Her most recent book, *The Poet Who Forgot*, traces the unique friendship and mentor-apprentice relationship she shared with AD Hope.



Kate Cole-Adams, a Melbourne-based writer and journalist, began her career as the sole reporter for the Victorian *Fruit and Vegetable Marketplace*. She has since worked for the *Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Time* magazine, and currently divides her time between sub-editing and writing.

Steven Conte has supported his writing through work as a bank teller, waiter, barman, cleaner, life model, taxi driver, editor and book reviewer. Born in rural New South Wales, he has hitchhiked 3,000 kilometres around Europe and lived for several months in Berlin, an experience that provided the initial inspiration for his debut novel. He has a PhD in Creative Writing.



Li Cunxin was born into a poor rural family in north-east China. At the age of eleven he was chosen by Madame Mao to become a student at the Beijing Dance Academy. After defecting to the West, he became one of the best male dancers in the world. He is now a senior manager in a major stockbroking firm and lives in Melbourne with his family.



Christine Darcas was born in the US and spent two years as a famine-relief worker in Chad, where she met her future husband. After stints in Hong Kong and France, she and her family are now permanent Australian residents. Christine is a successful Latin Dancesport competitor.

Roger Higgins' work in the water and mineral industries lends an interesting timbre to his poetry. An intricate craftsman, he is a sophisticated and sensual user of metaphor, sound and grammatical action.



Toni Jordan was born in Brisbane, where she trained as a scientist. Following an early mid-life crisis, Toni left her job in the vitamin industry and enrolled in Professional Writing and Editing at RMIT. In 2006 she won a Varuna Awards master class to develop her debut novel, *Addition*.

Neelam Maharaj was born and grew up in India but now lives in Melbourne with her partner, Laurie Clancy. She has three daughters and works at Victoria University.



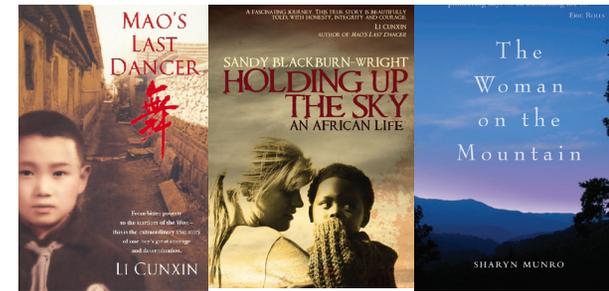
Sharyn Munro is a freelance writer and award-winning short-story writer who lives self-sufficiently in a mudbrick cabin on her remote mountain wildlife refuge. She is regenerating her property's vegetation, at a pace dictated by her ageing knees.

Kevin Rabelais grew up in New Orleans and now lives in Melbourne. His work has appeared in the *Age*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Weekend Australian*, as well as in numerous literary journals.



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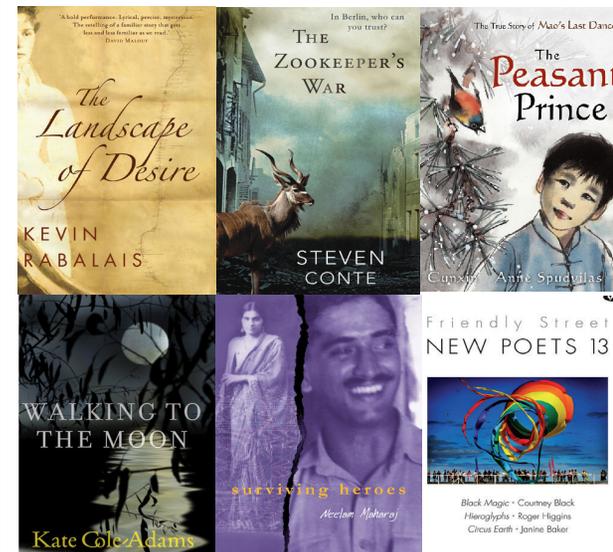
NEW VOICES 2008



A celebration of debut works



SUNDAY 20 & MONDAY 21 JULY



Black Magic - Courtney Black
Hologlyphs - Roger Higgins
Circus Earth - Janine Baker