

GEORGE
TOWN
LITERARY
FESTIVAL
2014



Capital

28-30 NOV 2014
THE WHITEAWAYS ARCADE
GEORGE TOWN, PENANG

georgetownlitfest.com

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Capital

Because Penang is fast becoming the arts, culture, and heritage capital of the country. Because we are one of the food capitals of the world.

Because capital is wealth, both financial and intellectual. It is the catalyst for growth. It is the skill, knowledge, and experience that will move us forward. It is human potential.

Because capital is a conversation about the future.

Because words, whether whispered or
TYPED IN CAPS, are a valuable resource.

What is literature, if not capital?

CURATED BY



**COOLER
LUMPUR**

THE GEORGE TOWN LECTURES

A series of lectures from engaging and influential writers, sharing thought-provoking ideas and philosophies.

Capital: Opening Keynote Address, by Eddin Khoo

Friday 28 November, 6.30pm / Gallery 2

Malaysian writer, translator and poet Eddin Khoo kicks off this year's George Town Literary Festival with a keynote address on the festival theme, "Capital". Eddin Khoo is the editor of numerous books on history, literature and culture. He is the founder of PUSAKA, a cultural centre which has collaborated with many of Malaysia's leading traditional artists.

Tuah, Jebat, and the Battle for the Malay Soul, by Kassim Ahmad

Saturday 29 November, 11.30am / Gallery 2

Kassim Ahmad is one of Malaysia's foremost thinkers, philosophers, and political activists. He grabbed national headlines in the 1950s with his dissertation on the character of Hang Tuah. He has challenged the traditional interpretation of the mythology and made the hitherto hero Hang Tuah nothing more than a palace hack, while elevating the anti-hero Hang Jebat as the true hero. Kassim Ahmad takes us into the inner lives of Hang Tuah and Hang Jebat, while dissecting the inner workings of the Malay soul.

The Incarnations, by Susan Barker

Sunday 30 November, 11.30am / Gallery 2

Susan Barker is the author of the novels *Sayonara Bar* (2005) and *The Orientalist* and *The Ghost* (2008). Both novels have been longlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize. Her third novel *The Incarnations* is about a taxi driver in contemporary Beijing and interwoven with tales from the Tang Dynasty, the invasion of Genghis Khan, the Ming Dynasty, the Opium War, and the Cultural Revolution. * Followed by a Q&A with Bernice Chauly.

THE GEORGE TOWN CLASSROOMS

Workshops with world-class writers, offering inspiration and practical advice on writing and publishing.

For "What Publishers Want", tickets can be purchased at the door 30 minutes before the session begins. For all other workshops, tickets can be purchased between 9.30am - 10.30am on 29 & 30 November at the Festival Information Centre. Remaining tickets will be sold at the door before the session begins.

Places for Classrooms are limited so purchase early to avoid disappointment.

What Publishers Want: Bernadette Foley

Friday 28 November, 2.30pm / Gallery 3 / RM30 / 2 hours

Have you written the manuscript for a novel or do you have an intriguing idea for a non-fiction book and want to take the next step towards publication? In this workshop we will discuss ways to build your writing career, pitch to a publisher, what to expect along the way, and why a rejection letter shouldn't stop you.

Inventing Characters: Susan Barker

Saturday 29 November, 11.30am / Gallery 3 / RM30 / 2 hours

How does a fiction writer create convincing and memorable characters? How can we create a protagonist who emotionally engages the reader and persuades them to read on? This workshop will explore aspects of characterisation and discuss the techniques for creating characters who come to life on the page.

Prose: Said El Haji

Saturday 29 November, 2.00pm / Gallery 3 / RM30 / 2 hours

Said El Haji is a novelist and short story writer. Join him as he leads a workshop exploring the ins and outs of writing prose, taking you inside the mind of a writer, and showing you the painstaking process of telling a good story.

Crime Fiction 101: Brian Stoddart

Saturday 29 November, 4.30pm / Gallery 3 / RM30 / 2 hours

Join Brian Stoddart, the author of the crime novels *A Madras Miasma* and its sequel *The Pallampur Predicament*, as he takes you step-by-step through the process of formulating a good murder mystery.

Travel Writing: John Krich

Sunday 30 November, 1.30pm / Gallery 3 / RM50 / 3 hours

This inspirational workshop will take you through the world of travel writing. Acclaimed travel writer John Krich (The New York Times, Conde Nast Traveler, Wall Street Journal) shares tricks of the trade for making travel writing as personal and thrilling as travel itself, drawing on his own writing as well as that of Paul Theroux, Colin Thurbon and others. A must for laureates of wanderlust.

Polish Your Writing: Bernadette Foley

Sunday 30 November, 5.00pm / Gallery 3 / RM30 / 2 hours

One draft is rarely enough so this workshop will explore the skill of editing and reworking your own writing. Step back from your manuscript and assess it critically as if you were reading it for the first time: what you should watch out for, what to change and how to decide it's finished – for now.

THE GEORGE TOWN CONVERSATIONS

A series of panel discussions on the issues and ideas that shape literature and society.

What Are You Hiding?

Saturday 29 November, 10.00am / Gallery 2

In this age of sedition and surveillance, many a scribe has chosen to not write on topics that might subject them to scrutiny - both by society and by the government. In this panel, authors explore the act of self-censorship and the effect it has on writers and writing.

Panelists: Ooi Kee Beng, Sudhir Thomas Vadaketh, Leila S. Chudori.

Moderator: Sharaad Kuttan.

Publishing Today

Saturday 29 November, 10.30am / Lightbox

Self-publishing is making a splash. Independent publishers are daring to differ. Somehow, books are still being bought and sold. How is modern publishing evolving? Publishers share their insights on new trends and the impact on writers and readers.

Panelists: Bernadette Foley, Hans Kemp, Tom Vater.

Moderator: Amir Muhammad.

A Sense of Place

Saturday 29 November, 12.30pm / Lightbox

A sense of place is one of those qualities readers look for in a book, but what exactly does it mean? A poet, a travel writer, and a novelist discuss the varying effects that spaces and places have on their writing.

Panelists: Sudhir Thomas Vadaketh, Shivani Sivagurunathan, Marco Ferrarese.

Moderator: Bernice Chauly.

Logging Off: Writing In the Age of the Internet

Saturday 29 November, 1.30pm / Gallery 2

We live a multi-screen existence, where the internet constantly demands our attention: Twitter. Facebook. Buzzfeed. What does all of this access and excess mean for the writer? Can it be a benefit, as well as a bane? Writers and publishers tell us how they turn it off, and then on again.

Panelists: Bernadette Foley, Sonny Liew, Ahmad Fuad Rahmat.

Moderator: Ling Low.

Writers Digest: Food Writing Today

Saturday 29 November, 2.30pm / Lightbox

How can we talk about food without gorging on it first? Pick up one of our festival food maps, taste Penang's famous street food, then sit back and chew the fat. Three renowned food writers discuss the ins and outs of eating, talking, and writing about food.

Panelists: CK Lam, Ken Tho, John Krich.

Moderator: Ksatriya.

Egads! This Book Has Pictures!

Saturday 29 November, 4.00pm / Lightbox

The graphic novel has come a long way. It has become an accessible format to tell any and every kind of story, from superhero fiction to travel narratives to hard-hitting journalism. This panel explores the inner workings of the graphic novel with those who work to merge words with pictures.

Panelists: Sonny Liew, Zan Azlee, Arif Rafhan Othman.

Moderator: Umapagan Ampikaipakan.

The Art of the Political Biography

Saturday 29 November, 4.30pm / Gallery 2

Three political biographers sit down to dissect the do's and don'ts of the political biography, exploring how we chronicle the lives and times of our political doyens.

Panelists: Pamela Ong, Eddin Khoo, Ooi Kee Beng.

Moderator: Sharaad Kuttan.

In Conversation With Sudeep Sen

Saturday 29 November, 5.30pm / Lightbox

Sudeep Sen is a major new generation voice in world literature and poetry. His poetry has been translated into 25 languages. Sen's prize-winning books include: Postmarked India: New & Selected Poems (HarperCollins), Distracted Geographies, Rain, Aria (A K Ramanujan Translation Award), Ladakh, and The HarperCollins Book of English Poetry (editor).

In conversation with Malachi Edwin Vethamani.

The End of the Rainbow: How Writers Make Money

Sunday 30 November, 10.00am / Lightbox

What does it mean to be a full time writer? Can it pay the bills? Should art come before commerce? Three masters of their craft speak about what it takes to survive out there in the big bad world.

Panelists: Miguel Syjuco, Zan Azlee, Rozlan Mohd. Noor.

Moderator: Maya Tan Abdullah.

In Conversation with Wong Phui Nam

Sunday 30 November, 10.00am / Gallery 2

Poet Wong Phui Nam has left an indelible mark on Malaysian literary history. His poetry reflects his struggle with identity, roots, ethnicity and even language. Join this literary pioneer as he discusses his writing, his career, as well as what it means to be a poet in Malaysia. *In conversation with Umapagan Ampikaipakan.*

The New Time Travelers

Sunday 30 November, 11.30am / Lightbox

The poetry of today must be the most relevant, contemporary, and engaged response to our moment and to our current condition. With that in mind, what then does it mean to be a poet in the 21st century? How does poetry intersect and interact with the modern world? Poets from around the world discuss these questions and more.

Panelists: Ksatriya, Sudeep Sen, Dr. Thomas Wohlfahrt.

Moderator: Sheena Baharudin.

Malaysian Writing Today

Sunday 30 November, 1.30pm / Gallery 2

The last decade has seen a proliferation of Malaysian writing in both English and Bahasa Malaysia. But does quantity equal quality? Do writers in Malaysia have access to the kind of infrastructure and support they require? A writer, a poet, and a publisher get down and dirty in a frank look at the state of Malaysian writing today.

Panelists: Wong Phui Nam, Amir Muhammad, Julya Oui.

Moderator: Bernice Chauly.

Stranger Than Fiction

Sunday 30 November, 2.00pm / Lightbox

Writers pull inspiration from all around them, by looking through the veneer of the world and trying to explain it in new ways. But where is the line between reality and fiction, and what happens when the distinction blurs?

Panelists: Miguel Syjuco, Leila S. Chudori, Said El Haji.

Moderator: Brian Stoddart.

In Conversation with Kassim Ahmad

Sunday 30 November, 3.00pm / Gallery 2

A no holds barred, one-on-one conversation with the writer, philosopher, former socialist politician and Muslim intellectual Kassim Ahmad, about his thoughts, his writings, as well as the many seditions and scandals that have plagued both his life and his work.

In Conversation with Ahmad Fuad Rahmat.

The Ever Present Past

Sunday 30 November, 4.30pm / Gallery 2

The past is present. It is all around us. History is both the key to our inspiration and the baggage that we are incapable of escaping. Can we write beyond the ever-present influence of our cultures and histories? Should we?

Panelists: Susan Barker, Shivani Sivagurunathan, Said El Haji.

Moderator: Khoo Salma.

OFF THE PAGE

Performances, storytelling, film screenings and more events where you can unwind and meet festival writers.

Opening ceremony of the George Town Literary Festival 2014

Friday 28 November, 5.30pm / Gallery 2

We celebrate the launch of the festival with a welcome address from the Chief Minister of Penang and the festival curator, followed by the keynote address.

Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC) presents VOICES: The Realities of Women

Friday 28 November, 2.00pm / Gallery 2

This storytelling session, followed by a Q&A, is the culmination of a women's writing programme by PWDC. Hear the stories that were written during the programme – stories of women from the local community who were interviewed by the writers of VOICES. Just as varied as the women who call Penang home, these are their unique stories.

Laugh Out Loud

Friday 28 November, 9.00pm, The Bee

Comedy night with Malaysia's up-and-coming comedians.

Murakami Three Ways

Saturday 29 November, 3.00pm / Gallery 2

To celebrate the launch of the new Bahasa Malaysia translation of Haruki Murakami's latest novel, we present a multi-lingual reading from *Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage* in Japanese, English and BM; followed by a discussion on translation.

Say It Like You Mean It presents CAMPUR-CAMPUR!

Saturday 29 November, 6.00pm / Gallery 2

Sunday 30 November, 6.00pm / Gallery 2

What if a "Capital" isn't just a physical space, but any space where people can come together and discover a shared identity? Capital idea! Say It Like You Mean It (SILYMI) invites you to an experiment of music, comedy, poetry and identity. SILYMI presents CAMPUR-CAMPUR! * *In English, Hokkien and Bahasa Malaysia.*

Book Launch: Rozlan Mohd Noor and Tunku Halim

Saturday 29 November, 6.00pm / Twelve Cups Coffee

Join Amir Muhammad and his publishing team at Buku Fixi as they launch two brand new novels by Rozlan Mohd. Noor and Tunku Halim.

Battle of the Bookish - Quiz Night

Saturday 29 November, 9.00pm / The Bee

Bring your friends and test your literary knowledge at this fiendishly fun quiz night.

Film Screening: Poetry on Film

Sunday 30 November, 3.30pm / Lightbox

A screening of short films inspired by poetry. Curated by Dr. Thomas Wohlfahrt, Director of Literaturwerkstatt Berlin.

Film Screening: Di Ambang: Stateless in Sabah

Sunday 30 November, 5.30pm / Lightbox

This documentary follows the lives of undocumented Filipino migrant families living in Sabah. Followed by a Q&A with the director and producer.

Book Launch: The Pallampur Predicament by Brian Stoddart

Sunday 30 November, 4.00pm / Gallery 1

Superintendent Le Fanu, a man of impeccable investigative methods, is back! Meet author Brian Stoddart and his publishers as they launch the follow-up novel to *A Madras Miasma*.

Book Launch: Regina Ibrahim and Julya Oui

Sunday 30 November, 6.00pm / Twelve Cups Coffee

Join Amir Muhammad and his publishing team at Buku Fixi as they launch two brand new books by Regina Ibrahim and Julya Oui.

GEORGE TOWN JUNIOR

Storytelling, creative workshops and games for children and young adults.

Children's Storytelling Session

Saturday 29 November, 11.00am / Gallery 1

Let little imaginations take flight with this children's storytelling session aimed at children aged 6 - 10 years old, with stories in English and Bahasa Malaysia.

Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Drawing Stories with Arif Rafhan Othman

Sunday 30 November, 10.30am / Gallery 1

How do you make your stories come to life through pictures? Graphic novel illustrator Arif Rafhan Othman will give a workshop for young people on drawing stories.

Admission is free but numbers are limited. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Creative Games with Borders

Saturday 29 November, 2.00pm - 5.00pm / Gallery 1

Sunday 30 November, 12.30pm - 2.30pm / Gallery 1

Borders presents hours of mind-bending fun! Test your problem solving skills with brain teaser puzzles. Or, learn how to build almost anything from KEVA planks. *Open to all ages, but children under 13 must be supervised by an adult.*

VENUES

The George Town Literary Festival venue is **The Whiteaways Arcade** on Lebuhraya Pantai. This venue includes Gallery 1, Gallery 2, Gallery 3, Lightbox and Twelve Cups Coffee.



**Gallery 1
(Upstairs)**



**Gallery 2
(Above Old Town Coffee)**



**Gallery 3
(Upstairs)**



**Lightbox
(Upstairs)**



**Twelve Cups Coffee
(Street Level)**



**Festival Information Centre
(Street Level)**



**Fringe Festival Venue
(The Bee @ 44 Jln Muntri)**



FESTIVAL TEAM

Penang Global Tourism

Cooler Lumpur

Su Aziz

Manager of Communications

Umapagan Ampikaipakan

Director

D'Yani Ramoo

Senior Assistant Manager
of Communications

Ling Low

Producer

Mabel Ho

Assistant Producer

FESTIVAL CALENDAR

- THE GEORGE TOWN LECTURES
- THE GEORGE TOWN CLASSROOMS
- THE GEORGE TOWN CONVERSATIONS
- OFF THE PAGE
- GEORGE TOWN JUNIOR

FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER

10:00 AM	
10:30 AM	
11:00 AM	
11:30 AM	
12:00 PM	
12:30 PM	
1:00 PM	
1:30 PM	
2:00 PM	PWDC presents VOICES / Gallery 2
2:30 PM	What Publishers Want / Gallery 3
3:00 PM	
3:30 PM	
4:00 PM	
4:30 PM	
5:00 PM	
5:30 PM	Opening Ceremony / Gallery 2
6:00 PM	
6:30 PM	Keynote: Rehman Rashid / Gallery 2
7:00 PM	
7:30 PM	
8:00 PM	
8:30 PM	
9:00 PM	Laugh Out Loud / The Bee
9:30 PM	

SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER

10:00 AM	What are you hiding? / Gallery 2		
10:30 AM		Publishing Today / Lightbox	
11:00 AM			Children's Storytelling / Gallery 1
11:30 AM	Kassim Ahmad - Lecture / Gallery 2	Inventing Characters / Gallery 3	
12:00 PM			
12:30 PM			A Sense of Place / Lightbox
1:00 PM			
1:30 PM	Logging Off / Gallery 2		
2:00 PM		Poetry 101 / Gallery 3	
2:30 PM			Writers Digest: Food Writing / Lightbox
3:00 PM	Murakami Three Ways / Gallery 2		
3:30 PM			
4:00 PM			Egads! This Book Has Pictures! / Lightbox
4:30 PM	The Art of Political Biography / Gallery 2	Crime Fiction 101 / Gallery 3	
5:00 PM			
5:30 PM			
6:00 PM	Say It Like You Mean It / Gallery 2		Fixi Book Launch / Twelve Cups Coffee
6:30 PM			
7:00 PM			
7:30 PM			
8:00 PM			
8:30 PM			
9:00 PM			Battle of the Bookish Quiz Night / The Bee
9:30 PM			

SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER

10:00 AM	In Conversation with Wong Phui Nam / Gallery 2		How Writers Make Money / Lightbox	
10:30 AM				Drawing Stories / Gallery 1
11:00 AM		Other People's Stories / Gallery 3		
11:30 AM	Lecture: Susan Barker / Gallery 2		New Time Travelers / Lightbox	
12:00 PM				
12:30 PM				Creative Games with Borders / Gallery 1
1:00 PM				
1:30 PM	Malaysian Writing Today / Gallery 2	Travel Writing / Gallery 3		
2:00 PM			Stranger Than Fiction / Lightbox	
2:30 PM				
3:00 PM	In Conversation With Kassim Ahmad / Gallery 2			
3:30 PM			Poetry on Film / Lightbox	
4:00 PM				Book Launch: Brian Stoddart / Gallery 1
4:30 PM	The Ever Present Past / Gallery 2			
5:00 PM		Polish Your Writing / Gallery 3		
5:30 PM			Stateless in Sabah / Lightbox	
6:00 PM	Say It Like You Mean It / Gallery 2			Book Launch: Fixi / Twelve Cups Coffee
6:30 PM				
7:00 PM				
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8:00 PM				
8:30 PM				
9:00 PM				
9:30 PM				

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