

Festival Programme
21 - 23 June 2013
MAP@Publika, Solaris Dutamas, Kuala Lumpur

As updated on 7 June 2013

Ticketing information: Unless stated otherwise, admission to all official festival events are free of charge.

Day One - Friday, 21 June

Poskod Journalism Campus
10.00am - 4.00pm, White Box

What does it mean to be a journalist, editor or publisher working in Malaysia today? We live in digital times, while the influence of print persists. We have internet freedoms, yet still contend with censorship. Social media increasingly drives business and consumption, but where does it leave traditional journalism ethics and skills?

At the inaugural **Poskod Journalism Campus**, we will address these issues and more, hearing from some of the leading voices in journalism today.

The Poskod Journalism Campus is a **one day event** that aims to:

- Help us **understand** Malaysian journalism in a global context
- Highlight the ways we can **improve** Malaysian journalism
- Facilitate **networking** among members of the industry
- Allow media students to **learn** from experienced journalists and editors

Keynote Speakers

Rehman Rashid, former Editor of The New Straits Times and former Senior Writer with *Asiaweek* in Hong Kong. Author of *A Malaysian Journey*.

Janet Steele, Associate Professor of Journalism at the School of Media and Public Affairs at George Washington University.

Panels

Panel 1: Across The Digital Divide: The Future of News

Panel 2: Lessons From Media Frontlines

Panellists and Moderators

- Jason Tan (Moderator and Panellist), Editor of The B-Side
- Steven Gan (Panellist), Founding Editor of Malaysiakini
- Jahabar Sadiq (Panellist), CEO and Editor of The Malaysian Insider
- Wong Chin Huat (Panellist), Political Columnist for The Nut Graph and FZ.com
- Ling Low (Moderator), Editor of Poskod.my
- more speakers to be announced.

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**#Word – The Cooler Lumpur Festival Launch Ceremony
Starts at 6.30pm, White Box**

The opening ceremony of #Word – The Cooler Lumpur Festival will be the official launch event. This is an invite-only event for all authors, guests and partners of the festival which will be followed by a cocktail reception.

**The Cooler Lumpur Lecture Series
By Dain Said
8.30pm - 9.30pm, Black Box**

Admission: Ticketing information to follow.

DAIN SAID is a Malaysian filmmaker and director. His film, *Bunohan* had its world premiere the Toronto International Film Festival 2011 where it was praised for its solid, visceral storytelling and arresting photography. *Bunohan* received thirteen nominations for the 25th Malaysian Film Festival and won eight. It is the second most awarded Malaysian Film Festival of-all-time after Layar Lara.

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Day Two - Saturday, 22 June

Book Swap

11.00am - 3.00pm, White Box

The team behind the charity Novels for All will be holding a book swap so that you can exchange unwanted books for new ones, or choose to buy pre-loved books to add to your collection!

Children's Tea Party

11.00am - 1.00pm, The Bee

The Last Polka will sponsor 50 cups of free ice cream for the first 50 children to attend this family event, open to all for free. They will be creating a special literary themed flavour for the festival. There will also be storytelling from local theatre groups to help children learn more about language in a fun (and yummy) way at the tea party. This event is supported by Borders Malaysia.

Narrative Journalism Workshop by Janet Steele

11.00am - 1.00pm, Interpr8 Gallery

[More information to follow.]

New Malay Literature: The Changing Face of the Malay Author

11.00am - 12.00pm, Black Box

A panel that features non-Malay writers who write in Bahasa Malaysia, this panel will challenge assumptions about language and identity in Malaysia and also explore the market for Malay fiction.

Panellists: Uthaya Shankar (Malaysia), Gina Yap (Malaysia) and Alfian Sa'at (Singapore)

Moderator: Umapagan Ampikaipakan (Malaysia)

Edinburgh World Writers Conference: Should Literature Be Political?

12.30pm - 1.30pm, Black Box

One of the official panels of the EWWC which will be live-streamed on the internet, this panel aims to discuss whether literature should be political or should be enjoyed for its aesthetic value only. Are the two separable? Panellists include Benjamin Markovits (UK), Rehman Rashid (Malaysia), Shamini Flint (Malaysia/Singapore), Di Li (Vietnam). The panel will be moderated by Sharaad Kuttan (Malaysia).

The panel will run for an hour, including a question and answer segment with audiences.

Fashion Panel curated by Tongue in Chic
1.30pm - 2.30pm, Paradiso Lounge

There is lack of authority when it comes to writing about fashion in Malaysia. The relationship between the media and fashion is one of parties and networking. In our local industry there is no shortage of up and coming talent; but it seems to stop there - up and coming. Somehow the media in KL does not seem to be able to contribute or elevate these designers. Why? Is it because of the consumer culture? Is it because it's always puff pieces and the reader can see right through it? Is it because the designers cannot deliver the goods?

We will explore what needs to be done on the part of the designer and fashion media to make a viable contribution to building the sustainability of Malaysian Fashion.

The Cooler Lumpur Lecture Series
By Rishi Reddi
2.00pm - 3.00pm, Black Box

Admission: Ticketing information to follow.

RISHI REDDI is an environmental attorney for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and serves on the Board of Directors for South Asian Americans Leading Together (www.SAALT.org). Rishi Reddi's debut book of fiction, *Karma and Other Stories*, won the 2008 L.L. Winship - PEN/New England Award.

Workshop with Mariana Pascal - #Word Junior
2.00pm - 3.30pm, White Box

[More information to follow.]

Edinburgh World Writers Conference: A National Literature
3.30pm - 4.30pm, Black Box

One of the official panels of the EWWC which will be live-streamed on the internet, this panel aims to discuss the national literature - whether authors write to agree on, react against or to form the perceived notion of a national identity through literature. In this increasingly globalised world, is a national literature still relevant? It is only fitting that panellists of this session include Malaysian National Laureate A. Samad Said, Dr Ma Thida (Myanmar), Alfian Saat (Singapore). The panel will be moderated by Bernice Chauly (Malaysia).

The panel will run for an hour, including a question and answer segment with audiences.

Writing for Teens - A workshop with Nicola Morgan
3.30pm - 6.30pm, Interpr8 Gallery

Admission: Ticketing information to follow.

With hit franchises like *Twilight* and *The Hunger Games*, the teenage fiction market is increasingly important to the publishing world. But how do you capture the hearts and minds of teenagers in your writing? What are the hidden rules and pitfalls? Find out at this workshop led by award winning writer and expert on the teenage mind, Nicola Morgan.

Note: This workshop will be conducted in English for the duration of three hours with a coffee break in between. Limited places available for this workshop and participants are advised to bring their own writing devices. Paper and pens will be supplied, laptops not required. Writers who write in a different language are welcome to join this workshop!

Readings @ #Word
3.30pm - 5.30pm, The Bee

Readings organised by Sharon Bakar will run on both Saturday and Sunday afternoon of the festival. These readings will feature a line-up of both local and international writers and performers. These sessions will be modeled on the successful Readings sessions that Sharon has run in KL for the past nine years, most recently at Seksan's Gallery. The Readings have also produced two anthologies of Malaysian writing, co-edited by Sharon Bakar and Bernice Chauly.

Saturday's Readings will also see the launch of a new issue of the quarterly literary zine, *New Village*.

SERONOK (Spoken Word Performance)
5.30pm - 7.30pm, Paradiso Lounge

SERONOK is a multinational poetry-art-technology blast, where gender, culture, language and identity get loud. Watch as participants battle and tackle what it means to be where you're from, in the body you're in, with the hearts you have.

SERONOK is part of #Word's programme of Spoken Word events curated by Elaine Foster. Elaine Foster specialises in teaching performance poetry and spoken word. She regularly organizes and hosts spoken events including the unofficial KL Poetry Slam. Elaine trained under Word Forward teaching poetry slam to secondary school children in Singapore. She later joined the Academy at KLPAC to teach 10 and 12 year olds. She is currently a full time teacher with Blu Bricks.

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Film Screening by Filmmakers Anonymous
5.00pm – 7.00pm, Black Box

A series of short films followed by panel discussions will be hosted by Filmmakers Anonymous. Filmmakers Anonymous is a collective. An array of new and emerging films; compiled, not curated, from among like-minded people who are just addicted to making films - for whatever noble or twisted reasons. Since their first event in 2006, they have hosted over 20 screenings of independent short films in and around Malaysia. In addition, they have also organised symposiums - one with Wong Fu Productions in association with M.E. Malaysia - and workshops related to film, and have collaborated with a number of other collectives and organisations such as Mindvalley, KL48 Hours Film Project, Chatime, Annexe Gallery, MAPKL, Monash University and KL Urbanscapes, amongst many others.

An Evening with the Evening Edition
5.30pm – 6.30pm, White Box

Have you always wanted to meet the faces behind BFM's The Evening Edition? Come meet Caroline Oh, Ezra Zaid and Umapagan Ampikaipakan as they talk about their on-air experiences and why they think radio is still a relevant medium today.

One on One with Amir Muhammad
7.00pm – 8.00pm, White Box

Amir Muhammad is one of Malaysia's successful independent publishers. This is no small feat considering the tough competition the publishing world is faced with given the rise of digital publishing.

Amir Muhammad is a writer and independent filmmaker based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He has been writing for Malaysian print media since the age of 14, notably the New Straits Times. He is the publisher behind Matahari Books, FIXI and FIXI Novo.

Bump in the Night
12.00 midnight, Black Box

Prepare to tingle with a screening of ghost movies curated by Filmmakers Anonymous, before we round off the night with ghost stories told by Patrick Teoh and Jo Kukathas.

Day Three - Sunday, 23 June

Reading and the Brain - What's Going On?

A lecture by Nicola Morgan

11.00am - 12.00pm, The Bee

Admission: Ticketing information to follow.

We believe reading is good for us. But how? What happens in our brains when we read – and when we don't? Does it matter if we don't read fiction? Whether we do it for pleasure? Digital or print? How does this affect our children? Literacy expert, Nicola Morgan, unpicks recent research and hopes to enlighten and challenge.

Note: The talk will be conducted in English for the duration of one hour, including a question and answer segment with audiences.

Poetry Jamming Workshop

11.00am - 2.00pm, Paradiso Lounge

Admission: Ticketing information to follow.

Using the techniques of Poetry Slam, an international competitive spoken word platform - voice, rhythm, theatricality, drama - Poetry Jamming will look at the importance of both writing and performance technique, encouraging performers to express their individuality and to not only focus on what they're saying but how they're saying it.

Creative Writing Workshop with Benjamin Markovits

What is your novel about? Why are you writing it?

11.30am - 12.30pm, Interpr8 Gallery

Admission: Ticketing information to follow.

Benjamin Markovits will talk about ways to answer these difficult questions by looking at a poem by Robert Frost. Markovits has recently been named by Granta as one of the Best Young British Novelists of this decade. He is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at Royal Holloway, University of London.

Note: This workshop will be conducted in English for the duration of one hour, including a question and answer segment with participants. Limited seats available for this workshop and participants are advised to bring their own writing devices (laptops preferred). Paper and pens will be supplied.

The Cooler Lumpur Lecture Series

By Alfian Sa'at

12.30pm - 1.30pm, Black Box

Admission: Ticketing information to follow.

ALFIAN SA'AT is a Singaporean writer, poet and playwright. He is known for his provocative works. Alfian's plays, written in both English and Malay, have received broad attention in both Singapore and Malaysia. They have also been translated into German and Swedish, and have been read and performed in London, Zurich, Stockholm, Berlin, Hamburg and Munich.

Writing Workshop with Rishi Reddi

1.30pm - 3.30pm, Interpr8 Gallery

Admission: Ticketing information to follow.

[More information to follow.]

Book Launch - FIXI and FIXI NOVO

3.00pm - 4.00pm, White Box

Fixi and Fixi Novo is a publisher specialising in Malaysian pulp fiction – with writings in Malay and more recently in English, with more than 30 titles published since 2011. Two new titles will be launched at the festival by publisher Amir Muhammad.

Theatre Writing Workshop by Huzir Sulaiman

4.00pm - 6.00pm, Interpr8 Gallery

Admission: Ticketing information to follow.

[More information to follow.]

Edinburgh World Writers Conference: Censorship Today

2.00pm - 3.00pm, Black Box

One of the official panels of the EWWC which will be streamed live on the internet aims to talk about what impact censorship has on the state of writing and literature in Malaysia and around the world. Panellists consist of Marina Mahathir (Malaysia), Lourde de Veyra (Philippines), Nicola Morgan (UK) and Wipas Srithong (Thailand) and moderated by Ezra Zaid (Malaysia).

The conference will run for an hour, including a question and answer segment with audiences.

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Saturday's Readings will also see the launch of a new issue of the quarterly literary zine, New Village.

Panel Discussion- Malaysian Noir:
The Real and Unreal in Crime Fiction
4.00pm - 5.00pm, Paradiso Lounge

Asian Noir is increasingly popular in fiction and film. Here we speak to some Noir authors about this trend and about the darker side of their cities. Uma and Joe will also be hosting a screening at Paradiso Lounge just before the panel. Umaandjoe.com is everything you've ever wanted from an online show about movies - from previews to reviews.

Panelists: Shamini Flint, Brian Gomez, Rozlan Mohd Noor

Moderator: TBC

"Translations" by MOCAFest
5.00 pm - 7.00pm, Black Box

"Translations" explores the significance of classical poetry from the Muslim world in its original context as well as its modern relevance. There will be a performance that combines music, poetry, the spoken word and dialogue. This event is curated by MOCAFest.

Numinous - presents the Best of Spoken Word
5.30pm - 7.00pm, Paradiso Lounge

In conjunction with #Word: The Cooler Lumpur Festival, NUMINOUS presents a special spoken word edition featuring regional poets from Singapore, Australia as well as Malaysia's very own Melizarani, Jamal Raslan and many more. Provocative, inspirational, humorous; this event is not to be missed. So bring your family and friends as we celebrate the art of spoken word poetry.

NUMINOUS is a bi-monthly multidisciplinary arts event. Showcasing both new and established artists, this home grown event continues to celebrate the passion, inspiration and talent that lie in all of us.

The Cooler Lumpur Lecture Series
Freedom and Literature – a lecture by Dr Ma Thida
8.30pm -9.30pm, Black Box

Admission: Ticketing information to follow.

DR MA THIDA is a Burmese surgeon, human rights activist and writer, famously known as the leading intellectual in Burma whose writings dealt with her country's political situation. She was sentenced to prison for twenty years for "endangering public peace, having contact with illegal organisations, and distributing unlawful literature." She has published nine books in Burmese and English, including two fictional works of and a prison memoir.

General Festival Events

Edinburgh World Writers' Conference

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the influential and famous Edinburgh World Writers' Conference, the Edinburgh International Book Festival and the British Council is hosting the inaugural international travelling sessions of the conference. The conference in Kuala Lumpur will be hosted here at #Word: The Cooler Lumpur Festival, with writers from the UK and Malaysia discussing the conference themes of "Should Literature Be Political", "Censorship Today" and "A National Literature". As part of the EWWC programme, we will be hosting award winning teenage novelist, Nicola Morgan and author Benjamin Markovits.

Supported by the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund, Creative Scotland, the City of Edinburgh Council and Event Scotland.

Children's Programme by Borders Malaysia

22-23 June, White Box

Borders will be collaborating with publishers and non-book partners to present a variety of literary-related activities for children such as workshops on reading with expression and drama as well as book reading and word games. Participation is on a first come first served basis although there may also be opportunities for pre-sign ups.

Please check for updates on their FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/bordersmalaysia>

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**Art in Search of Words
Interpr8 Gallery, throughout the festival**

During #Word, Publika will play host to an art exhibition curated especially for the festival by Interpr8 Gallery. Art works will be accompanied by spaces and materials for viewers to respond in words.

The exhibition is curated by Sharmin Parameswaran, owner of Interpr8, and Rachel Jena, art writer and critic:

#WORD is set to be a festival where sentences, syntax, and of course, words float about, begging to be read, heard, and responded to.

For the festival, we thought of developing an art exhibition with a difference. Where the rest of the festival encourages reading on a literary level, we'd like to create an environment that encourages the reading of art.

Having handpicked a diverse range of artists for ART IN SEARCH OF WORDS, the ingredients of the exhibition will run the gamut of media, from installations to paintings or fabrications that defy definition. The variety will be liberating, offering viewers the opportunity to examine art from a variety of sources and imaginations. We hope this will fire up their own.

Some artworks will receive more attention than others. There may be no words to describe some pieces, whereas others will ignite a flurry. We believe the beauty in the exhibition to be this, and that artworks really are, above all, wonderful objects that are forever in search of words.

We hope the ART IN SEARCH OF WORDS exhibition will get audiences talking and that it gets more KLites going in search of art.

Note:

Information in this document is presumed to be correct at the point of publishing. Readers should be aware that the programs, regulations, policies, and other information contained in this document are subject to change without notice. The festival organisers and partners shall not be held responsible for any losses or damages suffered by readers as a result of use of this document.

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