

The **Man** Hong Kong International **Literary Festival 2010**

Celebrating the Voices from New Zealand

The 2010 Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival promises to be one of the most exciting yet! This year, the Festival will be hosting over 35 award-winning international authors including; André Brink, Alexander McCall Smith, Jill Dawson, Su Tong, Marilyn Chin and Louis de Bernières and more than 60 events are planned. One of the highlights will be the New Zealand talent; the Festival will be honoured to welcome Emily Perkins and Mo Zhi Hong.

Emily Perkins was born in Christchurch, New Zealand. She grew up in Auckland and Wellington and studied acting at the New Zealand Drama School / Te Kura Toi Whakaari and writing at Victoria University and worked as a TV actor. Perkins won attention when Picador (UK) published her first collection of stories, *Not Her Real Name* (1996), while she was living in London. It was short listed for the New Zealand Book Award, won the Best First Book (Fiction) Award and subsequently won the Faber Award in the UK. Perkins' other novels are *Leave Before You Go* (1998) and *The New Girl* (2001), which was short listed for the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize. In 2006 she was the Buddle Findlay Sargeson Fellow. She used the fellowship to work on her latest book, *Novel About My Wife* (2008), a taut, sensuous and chilling portrait of a marriage beset by paranoia and obsession.

Mo Zhi Hong lives in Auckland but grew up in Singapore, Taiwan, Canada, China, the USA and New Zealand. In the dot-com boom he developed software in New York, and later taught in China. His first novel, *The Year of the Shanghai Shark*, won The Commonwealth Writers' Prize 2009 Best First Book for South East Asia and Pacific.

Come and hear Emily Perkins and Mo Zhi Hong at the following events:

But I Didn't Like the Characters

Monday, 15 March 2010

New Zealand Consul General's Residence, 15:30-17:00

Have you ever finished a book that captivated you in every respect – it was well written, the plot was engaging and you couldn't put it down – but you disliked, or even loathed, the

characters? In *Novel About My Wife*, a chilling portrait of a marriage beset by paranoia and obsession, **Emily Perkins's** male narrator, bitter and disaffected Tom Stone, is dysfunctional, selfish and unlikeable, yet she handles his character so deftly that you love the book despite him. Join this award-winning author in conversation with Festival Manager **Amanda Hayes**.

Obsessive Love

Tuesday, 16 March 2010

Picture This, Suite 1308, 9 Queen's Rd, 19:30 - 20:30

The success of *not her real name and other stories* launched **Emily Perkins** to literary fame. This award-winning author's latest work, *Novel About My Wife*, is an atmospheric psychological thriller set in a dark and sometimes desperate London. Perkins discusses how this novel is a departure from her previous works: it is more plot-driven, tightly structured and place-specific. Listen to Perkins talk about the dislocation of the immigrant experience, the disturbing consequences of diseases of the mind and the challenges of creative inspiration. Moderated by **Karen Koh**.

Eccentric Characters

Thursday, 18 March 2010

The Fringe Club Theatre, 2 Lower Albert Rd, 19:30 – 20:30

Winner of the 2009 Commonwealth Writers' Prize Best Book Award, South East Asia and the Pacific region, **Mo Zhi Hong's** *The Year of the Shanghai Shark* is a quirky coming-of-age novel full of eccentric and unforgettable characters: the elderly poet who writes poems in the town square with a brush dipped in a can of water, the local repair man who has ingenious ways of fixing broken things and the cousin who excels at school but discovers that he has to learn English if he is to pursue his dream of emigrating to America. Winner of the 2007 Miles Franklin Literary Award, **Alexis Wright's** latest novel, *Carpentaria*, is a blend of myth and scripture, politics and farce that teems with extraordinary characters – the outcast saviour Elias Smith, the religious zealot Mozzie Fishman, the murderous mayor Bruiser, the moth-ridden Captain Nicoli Finn and the queen of the rubbish dump. Join them in conversation with **David Parker** as they discuss writing quirky and memorable characters.

Tickets can be purchased on the Festival's website: www.festival.org.hk