

Press Note:

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 – Day 4

Event: A session on ‘A Case of Exploding Ideas: A Literary Conversation’

Mohammed Hanif in conversation with Ruchir Joshi

Kolkata, 17th January, 2015: Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 hosted an engaging session on ‘*A Case of Exploding Ideas: A Literary Conversation*’ with **Mohammed Hanif**, award-winning Pakistani writer and journalist and Kolkata based writer, filmmaker and columnist, **Ruchir Joshi**. The session captured the minds of two iconic fiction writers on how they weave social commentary into their work.

About the Authors:

Mohammed Hanif

Mohammed Hanif is a Pakistani writer and journalist. His first novel *A Case of Exploding Mangoes* (2008) was shortlisted for the 2008 Guardian First Book Award and longlisted for the 2008 Man Booker Prize. It won the 2009 Commonwealth Book Prize in the Best First Book category and the 2008 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize. Hanif has also written for the stage and screen, including a feature film, *The Long Night* (2002), a BBC radio play, *What Now, Now That We Are Dead?*, and the stage play *The Dictator's Wife* (2008). His second novel, *Our Lady of Alice Bhatti*, published in 2011, was shortlisted for the Wellcome Trust Book Prize (2012), and the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature (2013).

Ruchir Joshi

Ruchir Joshi is a writer, filmmaker, photographer and columnist for *The Telegraph*, *India Today* as well as other publications. He is best known for his debut novel titled *The Last Jet-Engine Laugh*. He is also the editor of India’s first anthology of contemporary erotica *Electric Feather: The Tranquebar Book of Erotic Stories*.

About Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF):

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) is Kolkata’s pioneering literary festival. Instituted in 2010 by the Apeejay Surrendra Group and its heritage Oxford Bookstore on Park Street, AKLF grows out of the bookstore’s year round involvement with books, writers & publishers. In the six years since Kolkata saw her first literary festival in AKLF, literary festivals have mushroomed across the country, but AKLF stands apart with its unique identity as the only one with a now 94-year-old bookstore as its nucleus. AKLF offers an atmosphere of warm, welcoming intimacy, favors depth over size, and includes a variety of subjects from history to the environment. AKLF also celebrates Kolkata’s magnificent public monuments and heritage sites as settings for Festival events and eminent literati and cultural stalwarts from across India and overseas join the festival scheduled every year in the second week of January. In 2015 AKLF explores literature as part of our tangible and intangible heritage, a theme that runs through several sessions of the festival. AKLF focusses

on younger writers, newer voices and fresh audiences in its ongoing attempt to build an audience for books and reading. Prominent personalities attending will be Hanif Kureishi, Naseeruddin Shah, Charles Allen, John Elliott, Mohammed Hanif, Leila Seth, Michael Buckley, Upamanyu Chatterjee, David Davidar, Shekhar Gupta, Shashi Tharoor, Asish Nandy, Ramachandra Guha, Kishwar Desai, Muzzafar and Meera Ali, Nabaneeta Dev Sen amongst several others. There are some firsts in AKLF 2015. A heritage literary walk, a literary 'adda', a Young Adult litfest for high school students, a bloggers' meet, a children's bookfest crammed with activities, even a standup comic for the college crowd and a leadership training session for young teens on importance of character, karma and individual social responsibility™. Add to that our signature heritage site evenings at The Indian Museum, National Library, Victoria Memorial, Lascar War Memorial, indepth discussions, top of the line authors, thinkers and performers, and you have a literary experience not to be missed. And all absolutely free for Kolkata and her culture-loving audience.

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