



Press Note:

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 – Day 3

Event: *'New Asia Now'*

Book Launch - New Asia Now: Griffith Review

Kolkata, 15th January, 2016: Day 3 of Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 began with the launch of a unique anthology of new Asia writings – **New Asia Now: Griffith Review**, co-edited by **Julianne Schultz** and **Jane Camens**. With more than 30 contributors writing a mix of memoir, reportage, fiction and poetry, this anthology does what it sets out to do – bring Asia closer and reflect the Asian gaze on Australia. The launch was followed by an engaging discussion on the theme of the book with **Anuradha Lohia**, Vice Chancellor of Presidency University, Kolkata as the chief guest. The event was graced by Jane Camens, co-editor of Griffith Review and Anjum Hasan, Indian poet and novelist.

The event was organized in association with the **Australian High Commission**. Griffith Review: New Asia Now showcases outstanding young writers from the countries at the centre of Asia's ongoing transformation. They write about people and places they know with passion, flair and insight.

About Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF): 2016

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 grew out of the bookstore's year round involvement with books, writers & publishers. In the seven 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 nearly 100 year-old bookstore as its nucleus. AKLF offers an atmosphere of warm, welcoming intimacy, favours 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 2016 AKLF celebrates diverse themes encompassing books, theatre, the arts and cinema. AKLF's focus is on younger writers, newer voices and fresh audiences in its ongoing attempt to build an audience for books and reading. The 7th edition of AKLF is poised to scale new heights, with an outstanding and meticulously curated programme, bringing the world and the nation to Kolkata. Continuing to celebrate the city's magnificent public monuments and heritage sites the festival rediscovers the quaint and hidden charms of the city through heritage walks. AKLF highlights several unique concepts with a fresh approach that reflects current concerns such as diversity, gender equality, continuities across borders and youth engagements, which are also broad themes running through the festival. AKLF signature heritage

sites include Nandan, Town Hall steps, The Indian Museum, Presidency University, Tollygunge Club and Victoria Memorial. AKLF 2016 has participation from Australia, Israel, Scotland, Italy, Nigeria, Portugal as well as England, France, Germany, Pakistan, Bhutan and others. Some of the prominent personalities who will be part of the literary extravaganza are Ben Okri, Meera Syal, Christine Manfield, Ashis Nandy, Vir Sanghvi, Bharathi S Pradhan, Shatrughan Sinha, Shobhaa De and more. The four day long, multi-faceted event has several stimulating components designed to give visitors and the audience an enriching experience, with a great blend of literature, culture, art and heritage. And all of this is absolutely free for Kolkata and her culture-loving audience.

Notes to Editor:

Prof. Anuradha Lohia is a molecular parasitologist who has done extensive research in the field of infectious disease. She is a Senior Professor and past-Chairperson of the Department of Biochemistry at the Bose Institute, Kolkata. Previously, she served as the founding Chief Executive Officer of the UK-India collaborative 'Wellcome Trust/ DBT India Alliance' - an organization that supports excellence in medical research. She received the National award for young women scientist from the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. She is currently the Vice Chancellor of Presidency University, Kolkata.

Anjum Hasan is an Indian poet and novelist. *Street on the Hill* (Sahitya Akademi, 2006) was her debut collection of poems. Her debut novel *Lunatic in my Head* (Zubaan-Penguin, 2007) was shortlisted for the Crossword Book Award 2007. Her second novel *Neti, Neti* was long listed for the Man Asian Literary Prize and DSC Prize for South Asian Literature, and shortlisted for The Hindu Literary Prize. Her new novel *The Cosmopolitans*, which explores the angst of the new urban Indian, has received critical praise.

Jane Camens is the Executive Director, Asia Pacific Writers & Translators. Asia Pacific Writers & Translators (APWT) is a network for writers and literary translators. Each year we hold a conference in our region. In 2015 the conference, *Against the Grain*, is in Manila, 22-25 October. She is also co-editing *NEW ASIA NOW*, a forthcoming issue of *Griffith REVIEW*, being published in July 2015. In addition she edits APWT's online publication, *LEAP+* (www.leap-plus.com). Her short fiction has been published and broadcast around the place and has won a couple of international prizes.

AKLF 2016 Partners and Associations:

The AKLF 2016 edition has forged several new, prestigious associations, following its impressive collaborations in first year in 2010. We are proud to welcome on board both our new and regular partners including the Victoria Memorial Hall, Indian Museum, Australian High Commission, Embassy of Italy in India, Bloody Scotland, British Council, Calcutta Debating Circle, Crime Writers Festival, Embassy of Israel in India, Alliance Française, Portugal Embassy, Presidency University, Jaipur Literary Festival, Yes Foundation, FACES, Open Doors, FREED, The Creative Arts, Poetry Paradigm, MAKAIAS, Tollygunge Club, Max Muller Bhavan - Goethe Institute, The Park, Modern High School for Girls, Rakshak Foundation, Aishee, Streets of Calcutta, Calcutta Instagrammers, Wikipedia, Caravan, BEE books, GIBL.in, Bulk Email SMS India, Presto, She and Griffith Review. We also have 91.9 friends FM as radio partner, The Times of India as Print Media Partner, Anderson as Printing Partner, Selvel as Outdoor Partner, Typhoo as Refreshment Partner, Mera Tiffin as Food Partner, Indismart and Anon Production as special partners. A wide cross section of publishers, which include Niyogi Publishers, Future Publishers, OM Books and others will showcase their authors at AKLF 2016. AKLF is proud of these associations and hope they keep growing year on year.

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