

Press Note:

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 – Day 2

Event: *'Crime Time'*

A discussion on crime writing across borders

Kolkata, 15th January, 2016: Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 hosted an intriguing and thrilling discussion titled, *'Crime Time'* with a team of crime writers from across the globe, **Veronique Ovalde** (France), **Liad Shoham** (Israel) and **Pier Giorgio Pulixi** (Italy), along with **Barun Chanda**, popular actor and writer and **Victor Kalyan Ghoshe**, writer, musician, lecturer, and social researcher.

The session was presented with the Hindustan Times Crime Writers Festival New Delhi and Oxford Bookstores, supported by Embassy of France, Embassy of Israel, Italian Embassy Cultural Centre. The authors were in conversation with **Kishwar Desai**, eminent author and columnist, sharing their perspectives about the art of crime writing, various facets and the evolution of the genre.

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 with a 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 Editors

Liad Shoham, is an Israeli writer and attorney. His LLB is from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem and he did his LLM in International Commercial Law at the London School of Economics. Shoham, who still works as an attorney, writes legal thrillers, and is considered Israel's leading crime writer and often compared to John Grisham. All his crime novels (six to date) have been critically acclaimed bestsellers. His books are realistic depictions of Israel's criminal justice system, as the police and the courts themselves are reflections of the country's society. Some notable titles written by him are Unlisted Number (2008), A week in the life (2008) Fruits of the poisonous tree (2009), Retrial (2010), Line up (2011), Asylum City (2013), Blood Oranges (2014). Liam also wrote two children's books, Daddy is building a cake (2013) and My First Goal (2014).

Kishwar Desai is an Indian author and columnist. Her novel The Sea of Innocence has been published in India, UK and Australia. Her first novel, Witness the Night won the Costa Book Award in 2010 for Best First Novel and has been translated into over 25 languages. It was shortlisted for the Author's Club First Novel Award and longlisted for the Man Asian Literary Prize. Her critically acclaimed novel, Origins of Love was published in June 2012 and dealt with the controversial subject of surrogacy and adoption. Desai also has a biography Darlingji: The True Love Story of Nargis and Sunil Dutt to her credit. She has also had a long and successful career as a print and TV journalist.

Veronique Ovalde was born in 1972 and is the author of several novels including, in English, Kick the Animal Out and And My See-Through Heart. She has two children, works in publishing, and lives and writes in Paris.

Piergiorgio Pulixi was born in Cagliari, Sardinia, in 1982. He is a member of Sabot, an experiment in collective crime fiction writing created by Massimo Carlotto, Italy's preeminent author of crime fiction. He lives in London.

Victor Kalyan Ghoshe A writer and a musician by heart, a Lecturer, a Social researcher and an award winning 'International Communication Professional'; whose mission is to rediscover tribal and folk art forms & cultures and use them for universal harmony. Every piece of Ghoshe's work (his music, writings & paintings) reflects 'The core philosophy of this universe in its simplest form - "Life"'. Ghoshe holds a master's degree in Social Work and a PG Diploma in Communication Design. He is pursuing his higher studies in 'Social Communication through music'. He works in the Social Sector. Closely attached with the Ministry of Health, Govt of India as a Communication Adviser and attached with Indian Institute of Mass Communication, and Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi as a guest lecturer.

Barun Chanda is an advertising professional, actor and author. The most memorable role has been in Satyajit ray's 'Seemaboddho' for which he won a special President of India Award. In 1992 he was a part of director Rituparno Ghosh's debut film Hirer Angti. He has been a part of a number of acclaimed films like Kalo Cheetah, Tolly Lights, Antaheen and Laptop. His most recent film Bela Sheshe has been both a critical and commercial success. He has also tackled Bollywood with equal aplomb with movies like Lootera and Roy. Other than his acting prowess, Barun is also

a prolific writer who along with being a regular film reviewer and contributor of articles to major dailies, in the last eight years has published four highly acclaimed and successful novels in Bengali. His work has played a major role in establishing the adult thriller genre in Bengali literature. The actor's two novels in Bengali, Shaaper Jhaapi and Kidnap, were whodunnits featuring private eye Abinash Roy. His new work Coke (2015) is his first novel in English.

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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