



Press Note:

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 – Day 3

Event: *'Poetry Cafe'*
2nd day dedicated to the love of poetry

Kolkata, 16th January, 2016: *'Poetry Polyphony'*, where poets read their works in Hindi, Bengali, Urdu and English marked the second day of what was a literary innovation at Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 hosted at Goethe Institut /Max Mueller Bhavan.

The gathering featured famous Australian Poet **Susan Hawthorne** followed by a debate on *'Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world'* - **Shelly**, based on Percy Bysshe Shelley's "Defence of Poetry" with **Bashabi Fraser, Chandrani Biswas and Rui Coias**. The discussion threw light on various formats of verses and widely accepted and adopted style of poetry. The next session *'Degrees of Separation'* saw Portuguese poet **Rui Coias** read excerpts from his works while in conversation with **Authur Cardozo** ending like the first day with a vibrant Poetry Paradigm and Pop Up poets reading their work.

The two day Poetry Café' featured remarkable, exclusive and unconventional rendition of the art called poetry and attracted not only poets but the poetry enthusiasts of Kolkata.

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.

Dr Susan Hawthorne has worked in the book industry for more than thirty years and is publisher and co-founder, with Renate Klein, of Spinifex Press, an award-winning Australian independent feminist press that turns 25 years old in 2016. Susan is Adjunct Professor in the Writing Program at James Cook University, Townsville and is the English Language Co-ordinator of the International Alliance of Independent Publishing based in Paris. In 2015 Susan received the George Robertson Award for Service to the Publishing Industry. Susan is also a poet, novelist and political commentator. Her most recent books are *Lupa and Lamb* (poetry, 2014) and *Bibliodiversity: A Manifesto for independent Publishing* (2014) which has been published in nineteen countries and five languages. Her poetry collection *Cow* (2011), written while on an Asialink Residency in Chennai, was shortlisted for the Kenneth Slessor Poetry Award in the 2012 New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards.

Arthur Cardozo is a poet, adman, dramatist, script writer, feature writer writer and cartoonist and had his own advertising, communication and branding agency organization called Cardozone Communico. He is the Vice- President of Poetry Paradigm.

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, Gubl.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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