



6 – 9 May 2010
Asian Content for the World's Children
@ The Arts House, Singapore

The festival boasts a line up of 70 speakers from different regions of the world. This is the place to be on 6 to 9 May 2010!

Speakers' Bio data

Daphne Lee, Malaysia

Daphne Lee is a children's book author, editor, and reviewer. She writes a weekly column about children's and YA books for Malaysian daily, *The Star*, and heads The Dram Projects, a non-profit organisation which uses bibliotherapy to reach out to marginalised youth. Daphne is also the publishing editor of OneRedFlower Press, a new imprint that aims to publish Malaysian children's and YA books, and also multicultural children's literature from around the world.

Teri Tan, Malaysia

Teri Tan is an international correspondent for New York-based magazine *Publishers Weekly*, reporting on current issues of interest to the international publishing and bookselling community. She joined Simon & Schuster (Singapore) in advertising and was later repatriated to Prentice Hall (Malaysia). Teri had been involved in restructuring and setting up the promotions and production departments at Thomson Learning (Singapore) and later at Pearson Education Asia. Teri has been engaged in creative communications projects as well as print-related consulting assignments.

Margaret Lim, Malaysia

Margaret Lim has written a series of four rain forest adventures portraying an eight-year-old girl called Payah who belongs to one of the indigenous groups in Sarawak, the Kayans. She was nominated by the Sabah State Library as a candidate for the prestigious 2008 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. Mission school-educated Margaret studied in Canada, returning to Sarawak to teach briefly in a secondary school on the edge of Sarawak's rain forest. This experience has influenced her writing which recalls the vanishing culture of the extended family and its values. She currently resides in Germany and continues to write in English about her Sarawakian homeland.

Alex Chacko, Singapore

Alex Chacko is publisher at Flame Of The Forest Publishing Pte Ltd, Singapore's independent publisher of mass-market titles. Since its inception in 1989, the company has producing a steady and phenomenal string of bestsellers. Before venturing into book publishing, he worked as a journalist in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian Financial Review*, and in various newspaper, TV and radio organizations in Singapore and Australia.

Jerry Hinds, Singapore

Jerry Hinds is the President of Association of Comic Artists (Singapore). He has been working in design and advertising in Singapore since 1997, and has various comic works published locally and internationally, including a short story which is written by Tom DeFalco, the Ex-Marvel Comics editor-in-chief and long running Spider-Man writer. Jerry is currently editing a number of works by local creators, and is busy compiling various curriculums as part of his effort to teach quality sequential storytelling.

Angeline Thong, Singapore

Angeline Tong is a specialist in developing inquiry-based experiential learning curriculum, programmes and exhibitions for children and adolescents. She has vast experience in working with educational institutions and parents both in Singapore and the United States across multi-disciplinary functions. Angeline holds a Masters of Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Post-Graduate Degree in Museum Studies (Education) from Harvard University.

Stanley Han, Singapore

Stanley Han is one of the Founders of Personal e-Motion Pte Ltd (PEM) incorporated in 2003. He is in charge of the company's business development, core technical development, marketing and sales. Over the years, PEM has grown from a three men start-up to a high-tech company with more than 25 staff, profitable business models, strong user base from Singapore and South-East Asia region, and a multi-million-dollar market valuation.

Ruth Wong, Singapore

Dr. Ruth Wong is attached to English Language and Literature Academic Group at the National Institute of Education. She specializes in primary methodology courses on teaching English. She is passionate about teaching, and is a

three-time recipient of the "Best Teacher of the Year" Nanyang Award. She believes in the power of reading, and indulges in the collection of children's books as a hobby.

Sharmini Flint, Singapore

Sharmini Flint writes children's books with cultural and environmental themes including *Jungle Blues* and *Turtle takes a Trip* as well as the 'Sasha' series of children's books. She also writes crime fiction, the first three books are to be published by Little Brown, UK in 2009/2010 commencing with *Inspector Singh Investigates - A Most Peculiar Malaysian Murder!*

Emily Lim, Singapore

Emily Lim, author of five books, is the 1st in Asia to win 2 medals at the IPPY Awards, the world's largest book awards, since its inception 13 years ago and also 1st in Southeast Asia to win at the Moonbeam Awards, one of the fastest growing US-based children's books competitions. *The Tale of Rusty Horse* won the 2009 Moonbeam Gold Medal, and *Prince Bear & Pauper Bear* and *Just Teddy* won IPPY Bronze Medals in 2008 and 2009.

Sharon Ismail, Singapore

Raised on a literary diet of Enid Blyton and Judy Blume, Sharon grew up wondering why the stories of people she knew were not captured in books, when those stories were large enough to fill many magical pages of her childhood. Sharon's curiosity resulted in a passion to get these voices heard, especially by our children. Sharon has worked on stage and television as an actor and host, and as an educator at primary, secondary and polytechnic levels for a decade.

Jin Pyn Lee, Singapore

Jin Pyn Lee's debut children's picture book *The Elephant and the Tree* is the first from Singapore in its genre to be translated into Japanese, Spanish, Catalan and Chinese. Its world English language print rights have also been bought. In addition to print, the animation of the story in Japanese has also won the Best Animation award in Japan, also a first for the nation. Jin Pyn herself has secured representation from renowned Andrea Brown Literary agency.

Adeline Foo, Singapore

Adeline is a mother of three and a published children's book author. She has written 14 books, with *The Diary of Amos Lee* making it to the national top ten best sellers' list. Adeline has worked 15 years in corporate public relations and advertising before becoming a stay home mum. She is currently on a government scholarship, pursuing her MFA in Dramatic Writing from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts Asia.

Ho Lee-Ling, Singapore

Ho Lee-Ling is a public historian with extensive experience in education and the heritage industry. She wrote and illustrated her 1st children's book, *Samsui Girl* in 2006. Her second book, *Wayang Girl* was published in 2008. Lee-Ling is also the author of four picture books for younger children based on the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child: *The Boy with a Tree on His Head*, *The Shadow*, *The UGB and SHUSH!*

Shekinah Linn, Singapore

The Watchtower Warrior is Shekinah Linn's first foray into children's picture books and Asian stories. Described as "a gateway into a fascinating chapter of Chinese cultural and social heritage", *The Watchtower Warrior* was published under the First-Time Writers & Illustrators Publishing Initiative in 2008. She is currently working on her second book, an original Asian story.

Benson Loo, Singapore

Benson Loo, the Co-Founder and CEO of EyePower Games, is extremely passionate in helping children become proficient in their language skills. He has, in late 2008, re-aligned his company's focus to providing innovative and effective tools for language learning. Since then, he has won the support of Arizona State University which became a shareholder in the company's subsidiary in the city of Scottsdale in early 2009. Later that year, the company's two educational products – *NewsMaker* and *Moo-O* – won prestigious educational technology awards in the United States.

Otto Fong, Singapore

Otto Fong is the author and publisher of "*Sir Fong's Adventures In Science*", a popular comic book series that introduces Science to young readers. Combining his award-winning playwrighting and comic drawing talents with a passion in Science and Science Fiction, he created his comic book series. The series combine cute comic characters, rivetting storylines and features Asian scientists to show youngsters that a career in Science can be fun and exciting.

Fong Hoe Fang, Singapore

Fong Hoe Fang is the managing director of Pagesetters Services Pte Ltd, an advertising and design house that develops integrated marketing campaigns for companies since 1987. He founded the Ethos Books imprint in 1997 and has extensive digital printing and publishing experience.

Esther Ng, Singapore

Sung Lin Gun, Singapore

Sung Lin Gun is the founder and Chief Executive Officer and Creative Director of Peach Blossom Media Pte Ltd. Lingun is an Emmy Award-nominated director as well as an executive producer who has directed and produced award-winning TV programmes. He won the Star Award for Best Sitcom of the Year for the show *School Days*. His credits include *Growing Up Creepie* (nominated for the Emmy Awards 2007), *Taoshu* (Singapore's most successful homegrown animation), and *LaMB* (which won the Golden Bell Award 2009 for Best Animation).

Petrina Kow, Singapore

Petrina Kow is perhaps Singapore's only Voice Director for Animation. She has directed and voiced many successful pre-school shows such as *Taoshu: The Warrior Boy*, *Shapes*, *Olive* and *The Rhyme Rescue Crew*. She was a presenter on the popular morning show on Class 95FM with The Flying Dutchman from 2000 to 2002, and also co-hosted the morning show with Joe Augustin from 2006-2007. But the job Petrina loves most is her role as Chief Bedtime-Storyteller to her two lovely children Victoria and Oliver.

Jessie Wee, Singapore

With her very first series of ten books, *The Adventures of Mooty*, written for her two sons, and first published in 1980, Jessie Wee came to be recognized as 'a pioneer in Singapore's creative writing scene for children.' Fuelled by her conviction that "children in Singapore need stories they can identify with, stories they can call their own", Jessie has, since then, written 30 books. Five of her children's books were commissioned by U.K. publishers, two by American Express International Incorporated and she was also the contributor to books published by the Asian Culture Centre for UNESCO (Japan).

Cherian George, Singapore

Cherian George is an associate professor and head of journalism and publishing at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He is the co-founder and publisher of *What's Up*, a monthly current affairs newspaper for students aged 9-14. Used in schools since 2003, *What's Up* practises values-driven journalism, using the news as a source of stories to explain the world and enrich childhood.

Tracy Wong, Singapore

Tracy Wong is the Director of Creative Services at Animax, Asia's first youth brand channel specializing in Japanese animation and youth entertainment. Overseeing the on-air and off-air marketing of the Animax brand, Tracy provides the direction to create campaigns to drive tune-in for shows, as well as to shape a distinct identity for Animax. Previously with sister channel AXN, Tracy also garnered prestigious honours including Promax International & Asia, New York Festivals and Asia Image's Apollo awards.

Ruth Wong, Singapore

Ruth Wong (Dr) is attached to English Language and Literature Academic Group at the National Institute of Education. She specializes in primary methodology courses on teaching English. She is passionate about teaching, and is a three-time recipient of the "Best Teacher of the Year" Nanyang Award. She believes in the power of reading, and indulges in the collection of children's books as a hobby.

Zubaidah Mohsen, Singapore

Zubaidah Mohsen is a Senior Librarian with the Children's Services team of the Public Libraries Singapore where she is responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating specialist library services and collections; and identifying the needs for target user groups such as children, parents and educators. Zubaidah also looks into the professional development of the Children's Librarians. She holds a Masters of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education from the Wheelock College, USA.

Raneetha Rajaratnam, Singapore

Raneetha Rajaratnam is a Senior Librarian who has been with the National Library Board (NLB) for 13 years. She is currently the Northern Region Head for Children's Services, overseeing the programmes, services, collection and manpower within the region. Raneetha is also responsible for looking into the professional development of the Children's Librarians through developing and conducting courses in Children's Literature and Storytelling.

Vikas Malkani, Singapore

Vikas Malkani is considered one of the world's leading teachers of personal growth and self-development. Vikas created the popular **SoulKids™** transformational programme that brings essential life-skills for success and happiness to children. SoulKids is designed to make children more confident and creative. SoulKids has been featured on TV, Radio and Print Media around the world. His work has been profiled in countless international publications, from cover stories to special features.

Chitra Shegar, Singapore

An Asst Professor with National Institute of Education, Chitra Shegar's areas of specialty are literacy development, language teaching methodology, second language acquisition and teacher education. She was the Lead Principal

Investigator for two literacy projects funded by Ministry of Education. She has published in several books and international journals and is a Managing Editor of *Pedagogies*, an International journal.

Geraldine Zuzarte, Singapore

Geraldine Zuzarte, the Deputy Head (Academic) for Centre for Higher Education of SEED Institute, has more than 15 years of experience in early childhood administration and management. Geraldine is also the Centre Director of The Caterpillar's Cove Child Development and Study Centre, the first such centre to be jointly set up with Ngee Ann Polytechnic that serves as a model childcare centre to promote best practices in Early Childhood Education.

Cynthia Tan, Singapore

Cynthia Tan graduated as valedictorian from the Wheelock College Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Educational Studies and Leadership. Belonging to the inaugural cohort of Wheelock's full-time degree programme, she was elected as President of the Student Organization. As President, she was a member of the Advisory Board of the Wheelock College-Singapore Programme and currently still serves on the board as an Alumnus.

Mark Evan Nelson, Singapore

Asst Professor Mark Evan Nelson was a postdoctoral research fellow in the department of Language, Literacy and Culture in the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Berkeley. Mark has also been a teacher from primary to post-secondary levels in the U.S and Japan. His current research is concerned with understanding the semiotic, sociocultural and pedagogical implications of multimodal textual communication.

Antonia Chandrasegaran, Singapore

Dr Antonia Chandrasegaran teaches writing-related courses including an in-service course for teachers on the teaching of expository writing. Her research papers have been published in *Journal of Second Language Writing*, *Linguistics and Education*, and *Asian Journal of English Language Teaching*. She is the author of *Intervening in the Writing Process* and co-author of *Teaching Expository Writing: Genre Practices and Thinking Skills*.

Kwah Poh Foong, Singapore

A lecturer at the National Institute of Education, Kwah Poh Foong teaches courses in grammar, communication skills for teachers, and academic writing. She has a Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics and Master of Education in Teaching from the University of Texas at Arlington, U.S.A. Her teaching philosophy is to engage students in their learning process to become independent and thinking individuals.

Claire Yio Siew Koon, Singapore

Claire Yio, a senior lecturer at National Institute of Education, in addition to conducting in-service courses for teachers in Singapore, she has also provided teacher training workshops in Taiwan, Vietnam and the Philippines. Claire had also served as a specialist writer/project director in CDIS/MOE and as an assistant director, Languages and Literature Branch, CPDD/MOE before she took up her position in NIE.

Barbara Spilchuk, Singapore

Dr. Barbara Spilchuk has wide experience as a lecturer, curriculum developer and international educator. She holds a Masters in Language Learning and a Ph.D. in Education Administration and Leadership from the University of Alberta, CA. She was a lecturer in Education at the University of Alberta and the coordinator of Canadian trainers working with Chinese teachers using a new collaborative Canadian/Chinese ESL textbook series.

George Jacobs, Singapore

Dr George Jacobs has taught in Asia for 20 years. Among his favourite topics in education are cooperative learning, extensive reading and environmental education. George has written books for preschool and primary school students. Three of his books for teachers are *Read Aloud Asia* (Times), *Successful Strategies for Extensive Reading* (SEAMEO RELC) and *Teachers' Sourcebook for Cooperative Learning* (Corwin Press).

Sylvia Foo Mei Lian, Singapore

Sylvia Foo holds a Masters of Arts (English Language) and a Diploma in Education. Sylvia is also trained in the Orton-Gillingham and Hornsby approaches for developing the literacy skills of dyslexic learners. She was extensively involved in training teachers, MOE Allied Educators and parents in dyslexia support. Sylvia currently works as Educational Advisor for MCYC Community Services Society, overseeing its specialist intervention programme for learners with literacy and language difficulties.

Maureen Khoo, Singapore

Maureen Khoo has been a lecturer in the English Language and Literature Academic Group in NIE since 1984 and has recently retired. She was a member of the original Reading & English Acquisition Project team that trained in-service teachers into Shared Book Approach and Modified Language Experience Approach. Since then she has been training pre-service and in-service teachers in Primary English Methodology and approaches to literacy.

Carmelita C Ballesteros, Singapore

Dr. Carmelita C. Ballesteros is a grandmother, teacher, children's book author, and occasional blogger from the Philippines. Carmelita has taught ESL/EFL, written pronunciation textbooks, and trained teachers in the

Philippines and Taiwan (Da-Yeh University). Currently based in Singapore, she teaches Children's Literature at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University.

Karina Africa Bolasco, Philippines

Karina Bolasco has been in the book publishing business for 29 years now. Anvil Publishing Inc which she founded has grown into the biggest and most prestigious publishing house in the country today. Anvil has been cited Publisher of the Year 8 times and close to 125 of its titles have been given the National Book Award in different categories by the Manila Critics Circle. Karina was hailed as one of the 10 Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service in 1995 for her work in book publishing and literacy development.

Mra Hninzi, Myanmar

Mra Hninzi has translated numerous novels and children's books from English/French to the Myanmar language. Mra was the recipient of the Myanmar Ministry of Information's Literary Award (*the Sarpay Beikman Award*) for Best Translation Manuscript of 2004. She contributed regularly to journals and magazines, and has published 4 books.

Risuan Aramcharoen, Thailand

Risuan Aramcharoen is the President of The Publishers and Booksellers Association of Thailand (PUBAT) and the Managing Director of Plan For Kids Co., Ltd. Having been in the publishing industry for almost 30 years, she focuses on producing and distributing quality children's books and media. Together with Books for Children Foundation, she initiated "Book Start" in Thailand. She is also one of leaders who pushed for the "Reading as a National Agenda" with the Thai government, resulting in a "National Reading Day" on April 2nd each year.

Eddie Tay, Hong Kong

Eddie Tay is an Assistant Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he teaches Children's Literature, Creative Writing and Reading Poetry. He is the author of two poetry collections, *Remnants* and *A Lover's Soliloquy*. He is currently serving as the Reviews Editor of Hong Kong's premier online literary journal, *Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*.

Kathleen Ahrens, Hong Kong

Kathleen Ahrens is the International Regional Advisor Chair and member of the SCBWI Board of Advisors for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, which is a professional organization for those involved in the creation of media content for children. A linguist and a writer, she is a professor at Hong Kong Baptist University, where she is also a member of the International Writer's Workshop Planning Committee. Kathleen is published in children's magazine market in the US, and has translated top-selling children's books in the Taiwan market.

Misako Ohnuki, Japan

Misako Ohnuki is currently the Director of Culture Division, Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU). In addition, she lectures Children's Literature at the Japan Women's University and is the visiting Associate Professor at the National Museum of Ethnology Japan. Misako has written and published several picture books and textbooks for children, besides editing ACCU's children's publications.

Holly Thompson, Japan

Holly Thompson earned her M.A. in fiction writing from New York University and teaches creative writing at Yokohama City University. Her fiction is often set in Japan and explores issues of biculturalism and identity. Author of the YA verse novel *Orchards* (Delacorte, 2011), the novel *Ash* (Stone Bridge Press), and the picture book *The Wakame Gatherers* (Shen's Books), she is Regional Advisor of the Tokyo chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Naomi Kojima, Japan

Born in Japan, Naomi spent her childhood years in the U.S. and studied sculpture at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. Her picture books have been published in the U.S. and Japan, and have been translated into French, Swedish, and Indonesian. Her picture books include *The Alphabet Picture Book* (Kaisei-sha) and *Singing Shijimi Clams* (Kane Miller). She is the translator of *Dear Genius, The Letters of Ursula Nordstrom*, by Leonard Marcus, which will be published 2010 by Kaiseisha. She lives in Tokyo, writing and illustrating stories for children.

Mita Kapur, India

Mita Kapur is a freelance journalist regularly featured in many newspapers and magazines. She covers social and developmental issues along with travel, food and lifestyle humor stories. She has co-directed and directed the Jaipur Literature Festival in the years 2006 and 2007. She is the founder and CEO of Siyahi, a literary consultancy where she doubles up as a literary agent along with conceptualising and directing literary events.

Sayoni Basu, India

Educated at Calcutta and Oxford, Sayoni Basu has been working in publishing for many years. She has worked at OUP and Penguin, and is currently publishing director at Scholastic India. Scholastic Corporation is the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books and a leader in educational technology.

Atanu Roy, India

Atanu Roy, a cartoonist as well as one of India's most respected illustrators for children's books, has illustrated over a hundred books, games and educational aids in various styles. He has won various national and international awards for his work. Atanu is also actively involved in the curriculum development programmes for primary schools in India. He is currently working on a book of collected stories by Ruskin Bond and a couple of books for the National Book Trust, India.

Paro Anand, India

Paro Anand is the author of children and young adult books, including plays, short stories, novellas and novels. She headed the National Centre for Children's Literature, The National Book Trust, the apex body for children's literature in India. Paro has been awarded for her contribution to children's literature by *The Russian Centre for Science and Culture*. She has been a resource person with the *Rajiv Gandhi Foundation*, working with children impacted by terrorist, separatist violence in Kashmir. Her *No Guns At My Son's Funeral* was nominated onto the IBBY Honor List 2006 as the best book for young people from India.

Radhika Menon, India

Radhika Menon's deep interest in children and their reading inspired her to set up Tulika Publishers in 1996. Today, books from Tulika - currently being published in nine different Indian languages including English - are regarded as the benchmark in children's publishing in India. She is actively involved in the entire publishing process: from selection of titles, to editorial inputs, visualization and innovative design. This is what gives Tulika's books the edge.

Anushka Ravishankar, India

Dubbed 'India's Dr. Seuss', Anushka Ravishankar is one of India's most celebrated children's authors. A tremendously talented poet, she is often credited with being the first writer to adapt the difficult nonsense verse form to the cadences of Indian English. Anushka has won national and international acclaim for the 15 jubilant and artful verse-tales she's released with Tara Publishing over the last decade, rights to these books have been snapped up in the US, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Korea, Italy, Japan and Spain.

Lynette Thomas, Australia

Lynette Thomas has been involved in children's books for over 10 years professionally, both as a specialist children's bookseller and as a writer and editor. She was one of the awardees of Singapore's First Time Writers and Illustrators Publishing Initiative in its second year for her picture book "*My Day*". She has also written for various children's and teen magazines, and continues to pursue her interest in writing books for young children.

Ken Spillman, Australia

With 23 books to his name, Dr Ken Spillman is one of Australia's most prolific authors, editors and critics. His work includes fiction for children, teenagers and adults; short film and documentary video scripts; poetry; history; travel writing; sports writing; and criticism. Ken has won or been shortlisted for numerous literary awards, and the US reference Contemporary Authors has compiled an entry on his career. Ken frequently conducts residencies and workshops at libraries, writers' centres and schools.

John Danalis, Australia

John Danalis is a children's book writer and illustrator, book designer and storyteller. He is also a popular presenter and workshop tutor at schools. John and his partner Stella Danalis have their own design and illustration studio, Peripheral Vision. Now in its fifteenth year, and with almost 100 national awards behind them, their studio is 100% literature and publishing based. John's first picture book *Uncle Lou's Tattoos* was released in 2000 and since then he has written or illustrated six other titles.

Sally Heinrich, Australia

A writer and illustrator, much of Sally's work is influenced by living and travelling in Asia and through her work, she hopes to provide a way of bridging cultural boundaries, and to foster greater understanding between people from different backgrounds. Apart from children's books, her work includes illustrations for the Singapore Zoo and Night Safari.

Paul Kooperman, Australia

Paul Kooperman was awarded the Established-Writer-in-Residence at the Katharine Susannah Pritchard Centre in 1997, has worked in the script departments of several television shows, had a feature film produced in 2006, called *Wil*, and has since received several feature film commissions. Paul was the sole in-house writer for Stacey Testro (Executive Producer of the SAW horror film series) in 2006/07, and has two screenwriting books published. He is director of the Australian Poetry Centre and lectures screenwriting at the JMC Academy in South Melbourne.

Christopher Cheng, Australia

With more than 27 titles ranging from picture books, to non-fiction, and historical fiction, a libretto for a musical and also the story for an animation which is under development, Christopher is well experienced in Australian children's literature. Chris holds a Masters Degree in Children's Literature and in 2009 received the Lady Cutler

Award for services to children's literature. He is co-regional head of the SCBWI for Australia and New Zealand and is a devoted advocate of children's literature.

Clive Newman, Australia

Clive Newman has worked in the publishing industry for over 30 years. His responsibilities as Manager of Sales, Marketing, Distribution and Foreign Rights with Fremantle Press include the assessment of market potential within the general trade and specialist outlets of titles in the annual publishing program, determining with the publishing team the format in which individual titles will be published, and the co-ordination of marketing and promotional campaigns. He has a particular interest in publications for junior and adolescent readers.

Shane Davis, Australia

Shane Davis is the founder and CEO of Intrepica Pty Ltd, an Australian company that is behind a revolutionary online program for teaching English literacy. A natural evolution in digital learning, Intrepica is the result of more than 10 years experience creating and publishing e-learning resources for students of all ages and ability.

Sharon Flindell, Australia

Sharon Flindell is the CEO of writingWA (www.writingWA.org), the peak body for the writing and publishing industry in Western Australia. writingWA delivers a range of services designed to increase audiences for West Australian publications and create new opportunities for writers.

John McKenzie, New Zealand

John McKenzie is a Principal Lecturer at the University of Canterbury College of Education, passionate about the centrality of story, in all its guises, in the curriculum. He designed and implemented the graduate level Diploma in Children's Literature. He has many conference papers to his credit, is involved in the development of literacy qualifications in South Africa and has been awarded the Betty Gilderdale Award for services to NZ children's literature.

Bill Rosenblatt, US

Bill Rosenblatt is president of GiantSteps Media Technology Strategies, a consulting firm whose clients include content providers and digital media technology companies. Bill bridges the gaps between business and technology in the digital media world. He brings content providers expertise in areas such as digital rights management, content management and distribution, cross-media strategy, and digital product strategy, and he provides technology vendors with market strategy, business development, and product management services.

Uma Krishnaswami, US

Uma Krishnaswami is the author of a dozen books for young readers. Among them are picture books including *The Happiest Tree* and *Monsoon*, early readers, and a middle grade novel, *Naming Maya*. Her picture book, *Chachaji's Cup*, was recently turned into a musical for young audiences, *Tea With Chachaji*. Since 2006, she has been on the faculty of the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA program in Writing for Children and Young Adults.

Warren Buckleitner, US

Warren Buckleitner has been reviewing children's technology products since the 1980s, and is the founding editor of Children's Technology Review. He is also a regular contributor to the New York Times. From 1997-2002, he was the coordinator for the Bologna New Media Prize, an international contest on children's interactive media. He is a former preschool and elementary school teacher and holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology.

Jeff Yang, US

Jonathan Doff, US

Jonathan Doff's plays for young people include *4 A.M.*, *After Math*, *Thank You for Flushing My Head in the Toilet* and other rarely used expressions and *High School (non) Musical*. Produced worldwide and published by Playscripts, Brooklyn Publishers and others, he authored *Young Playwrights 101*, a textbook for young playwrights and those who teach them, and co-founded online publisher YouthPLAYS.com. Jonathan has served as US Cultural Envoy to Barbados and Visiting Associate Professor of Theatre at Hollins University. He holds a BA in Dramatic Writing and Literature from Harvard University and an MFA in Playwriting from UCLA.

Sharad Devarajan, US

Sharad Devarajan was the Co-Founder, CEO & Publisher of Virgin Comics LLC and Virgin Animation Pvt. Ltd, a set of companies he originally founded with Sir Richard Branson, author Deepak Chopra and filmmaker Shekhar Kapur. Recently Mr. Devarajan led a management buyout of Virgin Comics and renamed the Company, Liquid Comics. Sharad is also a producer on a number of theatrical live-action film projects based on Liquid's comic properties including the *Warner Bros.* film adaptation of *Gamekeeper*.

Susan Harris Sharples, US

Professor Susan Harris-Sharples's focus of research and study interest is developmental and multicultural literacy and urban education. She is Professor Emeritus of Education at Wheelock College, and served as the first Dean of

Education. Susan has taught abroad in Calcutta, India, and Karachi, Pakistan. She has written about appropriate use and difficulty levels of textbooks in classrooms, children's writing, and multicultural education.

Rukhsana Khan, Canada

Rukhsana Khan is an award-winning author and storyteller. She was born in Lahore, Pakistan and immigrated to Canada at the age of three. She has ten books published and others under contract. She has appeared on television and radio numerous times, has been featured at international conferences in Denmark, Mexico and South Africa, and has presented all across Canada and the U.S. She tells tales of India, Persia, the Middle East, as well as her own stories.

Greg Childs, UK

Greg spent over 20 years in BBC Children's as a director, producer and innovator, where he launched the first children's internet services, the BBC's children's channels and interactive television for kids. He has developed interactive strategies for Disney, Zenith Entertainment, Create, SIP and Samka Entertainment, and worked on digital communications projects for the English Department for Education. Greg runs the UK national Children's Media Conference and is a founder member of the Save Kids' TV campaign.

Nathalie Beau, France

Nathalie Beau created one of the first children's bookshops in France. She is one of the founders of the Children's Booksellers Association of which she was the president for five years. Thereafter, she worked for publishers, Gallimard Jeunesse and Nathan Jeunesse. From 1998, she is in charge of the French section of IBBY, at *La Joie par les livres*- National Children's Books Centre. From 2008, the National Centre became a part of the French National Library and Nathalie is in charge of the international sector.

Curator for Children's Book Illustrators Gallery

Susanna Goho-Quek, Singapore

From her work as an interior designer, Susanna cultivated a love for Chinese art and antiques, which resulted in a series of collaborative exhibitions with Muzium Negara, Kuala Lumpur, and Selangor Museum from 2000 onwards. Currently she divides her time between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, where she has a gallery specializing in Chinese and Tibetan art and antiques. In recent years, Susanna has been devoting more time to charity work and programmes for children. In 2009, she held two solo art exhibitions in Kuala Lumpur to raise funds for street children in Kuala Lumpur. She has also written and illustrated her own original books and stories for children.

Organisers:



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The festival organisers reserve the right to change speakers, events and/or session times, dates, and other details as necessary.

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