



**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
MODERN LETTERS**

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

Newsletter – 6 March 2007

This is the 103rd in a series of occasional newsletters from the Victoria University centre of the International Institute of Modern Letters. For more information about any of the items, please email modernletters@vuw.ac.nz

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1. New talent at City Gallery this Friday

In conjunction with the recently opened 'Prospect 2007' exhibition of new New Zealand art, the International Institute of Modern Letters and City Gallery combine to present 'New Voices', a selection of fresh literary talent including quite a few writers who have emerged from the MA workshop room at the Institute in the last two years.

Guests include the 2005 and 2006 Adam Prize winners Michele Amas (whose book *After the dance* was recently reviewed in the *Listener*), and Anna Horsley; Schaeffer Fellowship holder Therese Lloyd; doctor-poet Angela Andrews, whose first book will appear from Victoria University Press later this year; poet-journalist Tom Fitzsimons;

IIML short fiction workshop coordinator Susan Pearce; and poet David Beach, author of an extraordinary collection of 'chopped up prose sonnets' called *Abandoned Novel* (Victoria University Press, 2006). They will present recent work at City Gallery on Friday 9 March at 1 pm, chaired by Bill Manhire. Admission is free, all welcome.

2. The expanding bookshelf

Desiree Gezentsvey was a member of the 2005 MA (Scriptwriting) workshop, but she is also a poet. Today's launch of her book *next time around / la próxima vez* (Steele Roberts) incorporates the premiere of the song cycle 'An Ocean Between Us' by NZ composer Dorothy Buchanan, using Gezenstvey's poems as lyrics, and performed by the NZ Piano Quartet (in which her husband is the violinist). The launch/concert will take place at St Andrews on The Terrace from 12 noon-1pm, and is open to all.

3. Another half dozen

Today is also the deadline for the 2007 Six Pack Competition to find new writing for an anthology to be published in NZ Book Month (2 - 30 September). If you think you can still get your manuscript there today, entry forms and criteria containing all the details are downloadable from www.nzbookmonth.co.nz, or email charlotte@nzbookmonth.co.nz with any queries.

4. By design

Award-winning book designer Sarah Maxey is responsible for many of the covers that have graced books by both Victoria and Auckland University Press in recent years. She is about to hold an exhibition of her work. 'Nice Work: a show of books and prints' will run from 12-31 March at the Bowen Galleries, 35 Ghuznee Street in Wellington (Mon-Fri 10 - 5.30, Sat 10 - 3).

5. Playing favourites

The *Guardian's* book blog has named New Zealand as its current destination of choice on a 'world literature tour' in which it invites readers to nominate the best books and authors from a particular country. This 'survey of the planet's finest writing' was apparently initiated by a user called Diego, who expressed the hope that it might include 'some authors who are currently unknown in the UK'. Readers have thus far put forward a selection of New Zealand writers who might for the most part be classified as 'the usual suspects', but there are a lot of gaps, even in that category. To tell the world about your personal favourites, visit and comment at: http://blogs.guardian.co.uk/books/2007/03/join_the_world_literature_tour.html

6. New agent for Frame estate

Janet Frame is of course among the writers recommended on the *Guardian's* blog. The Janet Frame Literary Trust has recently made a big step towards preserving (and further promoting) her international reputation by appointing New York agent Andrew Wylie to represent her work. Wylie's impressive client list includes such departed luminaries as Saul Bellow, Jorge Luis Borges, Allen Ginsberg and Paul Bowles, along with living legends Laurie Anderson, Martin Amis, Annie Leibovitz, Norman Mailer, Kenzaburo Oe, Philip Roth, Salman Rushdie, Twyla Tharp and many many more. <http://www.wylieagency.co.uk/>

7. Pacific Writers' Residency

Fulbright New Zealand and Creative New Zealand are currently calling for applications to the Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writers' Residency, an award which offers a New Zealand writer the opportunity to work for three months on a creative writing project exploring Pacific identity, culture or history at the University of Hawai'i. Valued at NZ\$30,000, the residency has previously been held by Sima Urale, Tusiata Avia and Victor Rodger. Applications close 2 April 2007. For more information visit <http://www.fulbright.org.nz/awards/nz-cnz.html> or contact Anton Carter, Pacific Islands Arts Adviser at Creative New Zealand – tel (04) 498 0729, email antonc@creativenz.govt.nz

8. Early morning arts

Those of us who have had trouble staying awake for the late night screening of TV One's arts magazine programme Frontseat in the past may not feel much more enthusiastic about its new time slot of 8 am on Saturdays, where it competes with the Kim Hill habit and/or the sleep-in. However the show has made one small step towards escaping from the arts ghetto hour: stories from each episode are now available online. Among Frontseat's new correspondents is novelist Chad Taylor, whose first contribution appears in next Saturday's programme. According to the media release he was voted New Zealand's sexiest author by *Sunday* magazine. We hope some of Taylor's other qualifications will be on display in the programme too. To catch up with the first programme, which aired last Saturday, go to: <http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/416398/425892>

9. The expanding screen

The Arts Foundation newsletter informs us that film producers have been in the Gisborne and Wairoa areas looking for fresh faces in their search for actors to star in *The Strength of Water*, one of the projects worked on by Briar Grace-Smith when she was Victoria University Writer in Residence in 2003. *The Strength of Water* was also one of twelve international film projects accepted for a screenwriting workshop at the

Sundance Film Festival last year, and shooting will take place in the Hokianga later this year.

10. Kiwi-watching

Next week the Stout Research Centre at Victoria University commences a seminar series that offers an anthropologist's-eye-view of Kiwi behaviour in *Watching the Kiwis: How Anthropologists Look at New Zealand*. It will tackle questions such as: What are the aspects of our culture that make us Kiwi? How are we different? What do we care about and what do the choices we make reveal about us? The series is inspired by the bestselling book *Watching the English* by Kate Fox, and the first one runs from 4.10 - 5.30pm on Thursday 14 March at the Stout Research Centre, 12 Waiteata Road, Kelburn. The seminars are free and open to the public.

11. An age of innocence

Coromandel writer Tracey Slaughter (2004 Katherine Mansfield Award and author of *Her Body Rises*) presents new poetry with photographer Peter Quinn in 'An age of innocence' at the Photo Space Gallery (37 Courtenay Place). Opening night is 15 March (5pm - 7pm) and includes readings from Tracey Slaughter, Anna Jackson and Therese Lloyd. The show runs until 7 April.

12. On the bus down south

Like the New Zealand Book Council's Words on Wheels scheme, 'On the Bus – Contemporary Maori Writers on Tour' travels to a different region of New Zealand each year. From 25 - 30 March writers Hinemoana Baker, James George, Kelly Ana Morey and Apirana Taylor will visit communities, schools, libraries and art galleries in the Christchurch region. For a full programme and event updates, visit: <http://www.maoriart.org.nz/events>

13. Reside (and write) in Rotorua

Applications for a 2007 Writer in Residence are now being called for by Arts Residencies Rotorua. The closing date for applications is Friday 20 April, and the successful applicant will be provided with rent-free self-contained accommodation, a separate workplace, and a grant for the period 11 June - 28 October. Further information is available at www.creativerotorua.org.nz.

14. A dramatic history

Toi Whakaari, the New Zealand Drama School, is calling for proposals to research, write and undertake oversight of the publication of a history of the school. The

proposed history ‘will give a temporal narrative of the school from its inception to its present, including accounts of the people, events and milestones. Alongside this, the project will research and analyse the changes in perception of New Zealand culture(s) and the school's place in responding to, mediating or shaping a changing landscape in performance and the arts.’

Toi Whakaari will offer initial funding of \$10,000 – but the writer is expected to apply for further funding from agencies such as Creative New Zealand. More information on the scope of the project is available from Annie Ruth at Toi Whakaari (annie.ruth@toiwhakaari.ac.nz).

15. Pasifika Playwrights Development Forum 2007

As part of Auckland City's Pasifika celebrations and AK07's Watch This Space programme, the public have a chance to see two new Pacific works in progress for the stage at The Edge this Friday. The forum provides support for emerging Maori and Pacific Island playwrights through development of new work and an annual chance to come together and learn from each other. On Friday March 9 the public are invited to:

Under My Mother's Mattress by Fiona Collins (2 pm, Herald Theatre)

The story of the O'Connor family and their survival as an afakasi (half caste palagi/Samoan family) living in New Zealand, directed by Gary Henderson

Flintlock Musket by Kirk Torrance (6.30 pm, Herald Theatre)

Coloured by MacBeth, this bloody tragedy shows the explosive results when a search for mana and a desire for utu mix as the outside world crashes into an iwi, isolated, unprepared and unwilling for the arrival of strangers and muskets. Directed by Rachel House.

Pasifika Theatre Forum (9.30am - 12.30pm, Limelight Bar, level 2, Aotea Centre)

An essential event for those interested in participating in the development of Maori and Pacific island theatre in Auckland.

For further information contact: Mark Amery, Playmarket:

director@playmarket.org.nz or Ph. (04) 382 8462/ 027 3566 128

16. Adam Playreading Series 2007

This series runs in August and September at Downstage Theatre. It provides rehearsed readings of four full-length NZ plays ready to be considered for professional production, and yet to be produced in Wellington. Plays are frequently picked up for production as a result of this series. Scripts (preferably in electronic form) should be submitted to Playmarket (scripts@playmarket.org.nz, or PO Box 9767, Te Aro, Wellington) by Friday 30 March, along with a full list of characters with brief description, and a brief synopsis. Contact Playmarket with any queries.

17. Flip the script

A smaller-scale theatre project from Playmarket aims to generate seven evenings of 'outrageous bite-sized drama'. Playwrights are invited to submit a five-minute script by the Friday prior to performance. Performances take place at 9 pm at Limelight, Aotea Centre, The Edge in Auckland on March 31, May 5, June 23, July 28, September 1 and October 6. Email scripts@playmarket.org.nz.

18. Two for Rathcoola

At the launch of Bernadette Hall's new book *The Ponies* on 20 February it was announced that Bernadette has been awarded this year's residency at Rathcoola in Ireland. Writers interested in applying for this residency will have to wait a while, though, as the 2008 residency has also been awarded already. It's gone to Dunedin-based novelist Catherine Chidgey.

19. Recent web reading

Louise Wareham Leonard

http://www.listener.co.nz/issue/3481/artsbooks/7952/first_love_horticulture.html;jsessionid=75B8E5C95E4C0E929FECAC1157DCD6B8

Catching up with Andrew Johnston

<http://www.beattiesbookblog.blogspot.com/>

Late delivery

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/02/16/npost16.xml>

How to use a book

<http://www.devilducky.com/media/57946/>

How to get away without reading

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/24/books/24read.html?_r=2&ref=arts&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

How to talk to plants

<http://www.botanicalls.com/>

Jane Smiley's sex scenes

<http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/opinion/la-op-smiley18feb18,1,1895138.story>

YouTube or Me First?

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-esteem27feb27,0,716236.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

Anglo-Saxon poem

<http://unlocked-wordhoard.blogspot.com/2007/01/ruin-movie.html>

Why the world (still) needs publishers

<http://books.guardian.co.uk/review/story/0,,2025116,00.html>

Graham Beattie on the digital future

<http://beattiesbookblog.blogspot.com/2007/03/digitise-or-die-are-days-of-independent.html#links>

The smell of rain

<http://rubystreet.blogspot.com/2007/01/smell-of-rain.html>

20. Great lists of our time

Courtesy of our correspondent David Geary, a list of recreational vehicles at the Fort Victoria RV Park, British Columbia, Canada:

Airstream Classic / Aljo / Allegro Bus / Aristocrat / Award

Bonair / Bounder / Brave

Cameo / Canadream / Chief / Chieftain / Citation Supreme / Classic Supreme / Coachman / Coachmaster / Companion / Continental / Corsair

Diplomat / Discovery / Dolphin / Double Eagle / Dutchman

Eagle / Empress / Esta villa / Executive Dream

Flagstaff / Flair / Fleetwood / Frontier

Glendale / Golden Falcon

Imperial / Innsbruck by Gulfstream / Islander

Jamboree / Jayco

Kingsley / Knight / Komfort / Kountry Star / Kustom Koach

Layton / Legend / Londonaire

Mallard / Manor / Marquis by Airstream / Monaco / Montana

Nash / Nomad / Northlander

Oakland / Oasis / Okanagan

Pace Arrow / Pinnacle / Prairie Schooner / Presidential / prevost itasca / Prowler / Pursuit

Regal / Rockwood / Royal Classic

Sandpiper / Security Penthouse 33 / Signature Series / Slumber Queen / Southwind /
Starcraft / Sun Valley / Supreme Traveleze

Tahoe / Terry Resort / Terry Taurus / Titanium / Topaz / Trail-lite / Travelaire
Genesis

Ultralite

Vanguard / Vanguard second generation / Venture / Viking

Wanderer / Westchester / Wildcat / Wilderness / Winnebago / Woodland Park