

2009 AUCKLAND WRITERS & READERS FESTIVAL

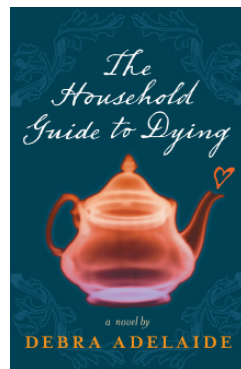
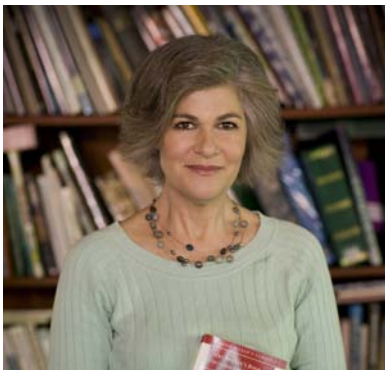
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AUCKLAND
WRITERS
& READERS
FESTIVAL

INTERNATIONAL GUESTS

Confirmed as at February 2009

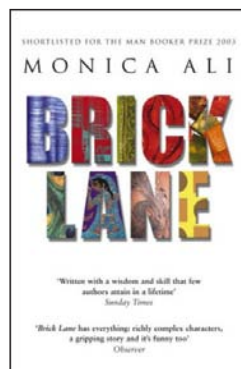
Debra Adelaide (Australia); Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Nigeria/US); Monica Ali (Bangladesh/UK); M.T. Anderson (US); Stefan Aust (Germany); Tash Aw (Taipei/UK); Marcus Chown (UK); Richard Dawkins (UK); Martin Edmond (NZ/Australia); George Friedman (US); Kirsty Gunn (NZ/UK); Mohammed Hanif (Pakistan); Hendrick Hertzberg (US); Richard Holloway (Scotland); David Malouf (Australia); Iggy McGovern (Ireland); Mal Peet (UK); Sonya Renee (US); Rhonda Sherman (US); James Surowiecki (US); Christos Tsiolkas (Australia).



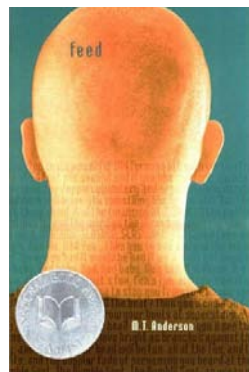
Debra Adelaide is an author, book reviewer, editor and academic. In 1990 Debra completed a PhD on Australian women's writing at the University of Sydney. She is the author of the novels *The Hotel Albatross* (1995) and *Serpent Dust* (1998), and editor of several other books including anthologies and reference books on Australian literature. Her most recent book, the novel *The Household Guide to Dying* (2008), is the story of author and domestic advice columnist Delia Bennet who, diagnosed with cancer, begins writing a guide for the dying. Debra is currently on leave from her position as senior lecturer in creative writing at the University of Technology, Sydney, where she teaches in the postgraduate and research creative writing programme. Her visit is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie grew up in Nsukka, Nigeria. She completed a master's degree in creative writing at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore and a master's degree in African Studies at Yale University. Her first novel, *Purple Hibiscus* (2003) was awarded the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book. Adichie was a Hodder fellow at Princeton University during the 2005-2006 academic year. Her second novel, *Half of a Yellow Sun* (2006), set during the Nigerian-Biafran war of the late 1960s, won the 2007 Orange Prize for Fiction. She is a 2008 MacArthur Foundation fellow and currently divides her time between the United States and Nigeria. Her new collection of short stories, *The Thing Around Your Neck*, will be published in April 2009. Her visit is supported by HarperCollins Publishers.



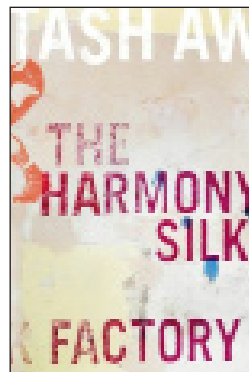
Monica Ali was born in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and grew up in England. She is one of *Granta's* Best of Young British Novelists of the decade, Newcomer of the Year at the 2004 British Book Awards and has been nominated for most of the major literary prizes in Britain. *Brick Lane*, her first novel, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize, the George Orwell Prize for political writing and the prestigious Commonwealth Writers' Prize. *Brick Lane* was adapted for the screen, and released as an award-winning film in 2007. Her second novel, *Alentejo Blue*, set in Portugal, was published in 2006. Monica Ali lives in London with her husband and two children. Her new novel, *In the Kitchen*, will be published in May 2009. Her visit is supported by Transworld Publishers.



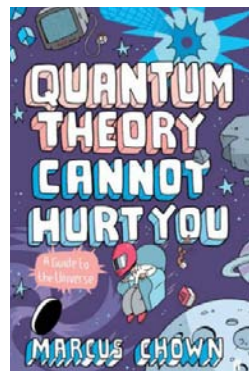
M.T. Anderson is an American author, primarily of novels for young adults. His picture books include *Handel, Who Knew What He Liked*, and *Me, All Alone, at the End of the World*, “a persuasive argument for a little solitude and space to think” (*Newsday*). His young adult books include *Thirsty*, *Burger Wuss*, *Feed* (dubbed “satire at its finest” by *Kirkus Reviews* and winner of the *Los Angeles Times Book Prize*), and the National Book Award-winning two volume epic novel *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing: Traitor to the Nation*. Anderson says “it’s insulting to believe that teens should have a different kind of book than an adult should ... if we’re going to ask our kids at age 18 to go off to war and die for their country, I don’t see any problem with asking them at age 16 to think about what that might mean.” He lives near Boston, Massachusetts. His visit is supported by Walker Books.



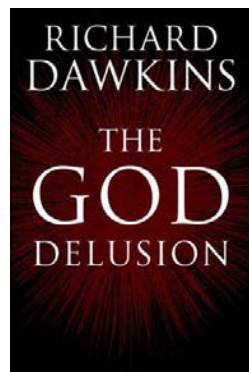
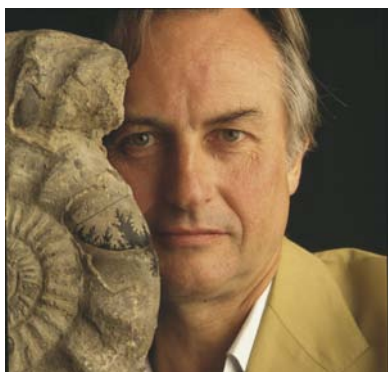
Stefan Aust was editor-in-chief of the political weekly *Der Spiegel*, Germany’s most influential magazine, for 14 years until 2008. His journalism career began in the late 1960s: he edited *Konkret* and *St Pauli-Nachrichten*, then worked on the political TV show “Panorama”. Aust is also a filmmaker, mainly of documentaries. His in-depth knowledge of German terrorism in the 1970s was the basis for his seminal work, *The Baader Meinhof Complex* (1985). The book was re-published in 2008 to coincide with the release of Bernd Eichinger’s film version, nominated in the Best Foreign Language Film category of the 2009 Oscars. Aust’s book is the definitive history of the German terrorist Red Army Faction (1970-1998): a fast-paced narrative which reads like a thriller, and an essential guide to the understanding of terrorism. His visit is supported by the Goethe Institute.



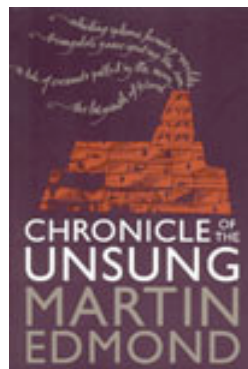
Tash Aw was born in Taipei to Malaysian-Chinese parents and grew up in Kuala Lumpur. He moved to England at 18 to attend university, where he studied Law at Cambridge and Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. He first began work on *The Harmony Silk Factory* (2005) in the evenings and at weekends until, in 2002, he left his job as a lawyer to work on the novel full time. It was finished a year later, nearly five years after Aw began the book. *The Harmony Silk Factory* won the 2005 Whitbread First Novel Award and a Commonwealth Writers’ Prize for Best First Novel, as well as being long-listed for the Man Booker Prize. Tash Aw is now a full time writer. His second novel *Map of the Invisible World*, set in post independence Malaysia and Indonesia, will be published in May 2009.



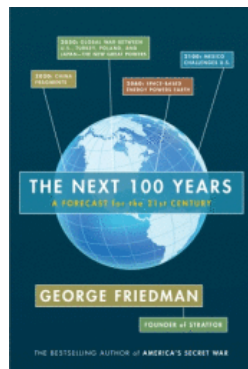
Marcus Chown is an award-winning writer and broadcaster. Formerly a radio astronomer at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, he is currently cosmology consultant of the weekly science magazine *New Scientist*. His most recent book is *Quantum Theory Cannot Hurt You* (2007), of which *The Times* said ‘readers will experience happy eureka moments.’ His previous book, *The Never-Ending Days of Being Dead* (2007), was called ‘a limousine among popular science vehicles’ by the *Guardian*, ‘a masterpiece’ by *Astronomy Now*, and described as ‘like being at a party ... with an almost perfect DJ’ in the *Independent*. Marcus Chown has also written a book for children, *Felicity Frobisher and the Three-Headed Aldebaran Dust Devil* (2008).



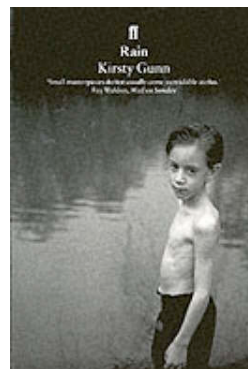
Richard Dawkins is the author of the bestselling science books *The Selfish Gene*, *The Blind Watchmaker*, *River Out of Eden*, *Climbing Mount Improbable*, *Unweaving the Rainbow*, *The Ancestor’s Tale* and *The God Delusion*. He is a Fellow of both the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Literature, has received numerous awards, and was the first holder of the Charles Simonyi Chair in the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University from 1995 until 2008. An atheist and scientific rationalist, he is famous for his advocacy of natural selection. *The God Delusion* has sold well over 1.5 million copies and has been translated into 31 languages. His television programme ‘The Genius of Charles Darwin’ won ‘Best Documentary Series’ at the British Broadcast Awards in 2009. He lives in Oxford and will be joining us via satellite.



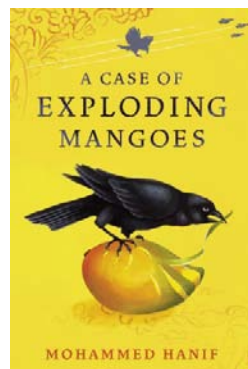
Martin Edmond was born in Ohakune and grew up in small towns in the North Island. He studied at Auckland and Victoria Universities before joining avant garde theatre group Red Mole in 1977 and touring with them for five years as an actor, stage manager and lighting designer. Since 1981 he has lived and worked as a freelance writer in Sydney. His books are *The Autobiography of My Father* (1992), *The Resurrection of Philip Clairmont* (1999), *Chronicle of the Unsung* (2004), *Luca Antara* (2006), *Waimarino County* (2007), and *The Evolution of Mirrors* (2008). His new book *The Supply Party* (2009) takes the reader on a physical trek and intellectual quest across outback Australia in the footsteps of Ludwig Becker; the official artist and naturalist on the ill-fated Burke and Wills exploring expedition of 1860-61. His visit is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.



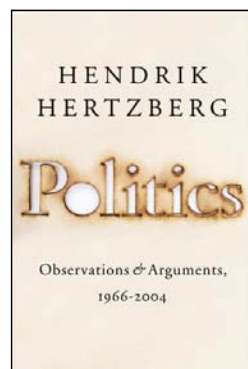
George Friedman is an internationally recognised expert in security and intelligence issues. He is founder and CEO of STRATFOR, which analyses and forecasts trends in world affairs. He is also the author of several books, including *The Future of War*, *America's Secret War*, and most recently, *The Next 100 Years: A Forecast for the 21st Century*, published in March 2009.



Kirsty Gunn was born in Wellington and studied at Victoria University and Oxford. She is the author of *This Place You Return to is Home* (1998), the critically acclaimed *Rain* (1994) which was made into a feature film, *The Keepsake* (1997), *Featherstone* (2003) which was a *New York Times* Notable Book, *The Boy and the Sea* (2006) which won the 2007 Sundial Scottish Book of the Year, and *44 Things* (2007). Her novels and short stories have been published in over twelve countries and languages around the world. She has a Chair in Creative Writing at the University of Dundee and is currently at work on her next book and a number of short stories. She is married with two daughters and lives in London and Scotland. Gunn returns to Wellington in 2009 to take up the Randell Cottage residency.



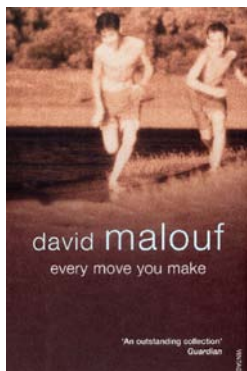
Mohammed Hanif was born in Okara, Pakistan. After leaving the Pakistan Air Force Academy to pursue a career in journalism, he worked for *Newsline* and *The Washington Post*, and in 1996 moved to London to work for the BBC. He has written plays for the stage and screen, including a critically acclaimed BBC drama and the feature film *The Long Night*. Hanif is a graduate of University of East Anglia's creative writing programme. His first book *A Case of Exploding Mangoes* was published in 2008. It was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, shortlisted for *The Guardian* First Book Award, and won the Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize. After 12 years in England, in 2008 he returned with his wife and 10 year old son to live in Karachi, Pakistan, where he is currently the BBC's special correspondent.



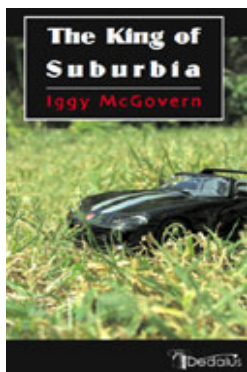
Hendrik Hertzberg is a senior editor and staff writer at *The New Yorker*, and is the magazine's chief political commentator. Hertzberg originally joined *The New Yorker* in 1969 after serving as an officer in the U.S. Navy. He left after the 1976 Presidential election and served as President Jimmy Carter's chief speechwriter from 1979 until 1981. From 1981 until 1992 he was associated with *The New Republic* and served two terms as its editor. During his second stint as editor, between 1988 and 1992, *The New Republic* won three National Magazine Awards, including back-to-back awards for General Excellence. In 1992, he returned to *The New Yorker*. He is the author of *Politics: Observations & Arguments* (2004). In 2006, his Comment essays won a National Magazine Award for Columns and Commentary. Hertzberg lives in New York City.



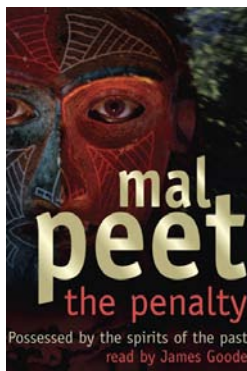
Richard Holloway is a Scottish writer and broadcaster with a specific interest in issues around religious belief in the modern world. In 2000 Holloway resigned as Bishop of Edinburgh in the Scottish Episcopal Church and now describes himself as a “Christian Agnostic”. He was Gresham Professor of Divinity in the City of London and remains a Fellow of the Royal Society. Holloway has written for many newspapers in Britain including *The Times*, *Guardian*, *Sunday Herald* and the *Scotsman* and presented his own series on BBC Television. His books include *On Forgiveness* (2002), *Looking in the Distance* (2004), *Godless Morality* (1999) and *Doubts and Loves* (2001). Holloway’s latest book is *Between the Monster and the Saint* (2008), a controversial exploration of the human capacity for good and evil.



David Malouf is the award-winning Australian author of short story collections *The Complete Stories* (2008) (winner of the Australia Asia Literary Award), *Dream Stuff* (2000), (“these stories are pearls”, *Spectator*) and *Every Move You Make* (2007). He has also written a number of acclaimed novels including *The Great World* (1990) (winner of The Commonwealth Writers’ and Miles Franklin Prizes) and *Remembering Babylon* (1993) (shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and winner of the Impac Dublin Literary Award). He also writes poetry, drama and libretti for operas. Born and brought up in Brisbane, he lives in Sydney. His latest novel, *Ransom*, will be published in April 2009. His visit is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.



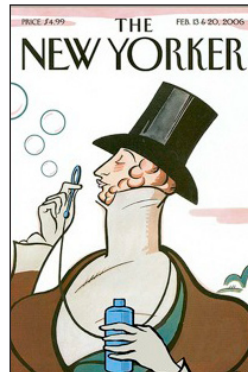
Iggy McGovern was born in Coleraine and resides in Dublin where he is Associate Professor of Physics at Trinity College. His poetry has been widely published in anthologies and journals in Ireland and abroad, as well as in the popular ‘Poetry in Motion’ series on trains in the Dublin suburban rail system (DART). Well-known for his witty, playful, but emotionally engaged poems, McGovern is the recipient of the McCrae Literary Award and the Hennessy Literary Award for poetry. A first collection *The King of Suburbia* (Dedalus Press 2005) received the inaugural Glen Dimplex New Writers Award for Poetry.



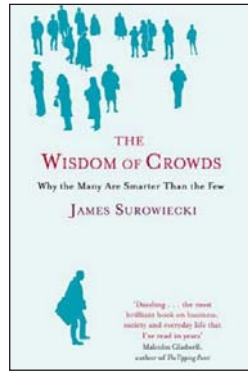
Mal Peet grew up in North Norfolk, later moving to south-west England to work in a variety of jobs before turning full-time to writing and illustrating in the early 1990s - his cartoons have appeared in a number of magazines including *Time Out* and *Private Eye*. Peet has established a strong and distinctive voice in young adult fiction with the 2005 Carnegie Medal winning *Tamar*, a moving tale of two men engaged in secret operations during World War II in Holland, and his popular series featuring top South American sports journalist Paul Faustino in *Keeper* (2003), *The Penalty* (2006) and his most recent novel *Exposure* (2008). Faustino is an investigative reporter in the world of sports, specifically football, and his stories also feature historical narratives surrounding slavery, the occult and the effect of the media on people’s lives. His visit is supported by Walker Books.



Sonya Renee is an American performance poet. She is a National and International Poetry Slam Champion, an HBO Def Poet and an international touring artist championing many social causes including AIDS Awareness and Women’s Rights issues. Sonya Renee is easily one of the most distinguished, accomplished and recognizable females in the world of Slam Poetry. After a meteoric rise to poetry superstardom in 2004, Sonya has redefined the role and impact of women in slam since her whirlwind arrival on the scene, consistently ranking at the top of every major national and international poetry slam every year since then.



Rhonda Sherman is the Founding Director of The New Yorker Festival - now entering its tenth year - a weekend-long series of over fifty events in New York City produced by *The New Yorker* magazine every October. As Director of Editorial Promotion for the magazine, she also produces The New Yorker College Tour, The New Yorker Conference, The New Yorker Speakeasy, and Fiction Live, among other programmes. She joined the business staff of *The New Yorker* in 1986 as Promotion Director. She was then promoted to Vice President of Advertising Promotion and New Business Development. In 1995, she joined the editorial staff. Previously, she worked at *Esquire* and *Gentlemen's Quarterly* and was on the launch team of *Spin*. Sherman lives in Brooklyn, New York.



James Surowiecki has been a staff writer at *The New Yorker* since 2000 and writes the magazine's Financial Page. He moved to *The New Yorker* from *Slate*, where he wrote the Moneybox column. He has also been a contributing editor at *Fortune*, a staff writer at *Talk*, and the business columnist for *New York* magazine. He has contributed to *The Wall Street Journal*, *Wired*, the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Washington Post*, and *Lingua Franca*, and has written on subjects ranging from Silicon Valley to college basketball. His bestselling book, *The Wisdom of Crowds: Why the Many Are Smarter than the Few and How Collective Wisdom Shapes Business, Economies, Societies, and Nations* came out in 2004. Surowiecki lives in Brooklyn, New York. His visit is sponsored by Air New Zealand.



Christos Tsiolkas is the Greek-Australian author of four novels and "one of Australia's pre-eminent contemporary novelists" (*The Age*). Tsiolkas is also a playwright, essayist and screen writer. His novels include *Loaded*, which was made into the feature film *Head-On*, *The Jesus Man*, *Dead Europe*, which won the 2006 *Age* Fiction Prize and the 2006 Melbourne Best Writing Award, and his most recent novel *The Slap*, where a man slaps a child (not his own) at a suburban barbeque, the consequences of which reverberate through the lives of the witnesses to the incident. Tsiolkas lives in Melbourne. His visit is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

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