



Newsletter – 10 October 2006

This is the 95th 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. Evil advice (for tourists)

As we head towards our 100th newsletter, and towards the summer tourist season, we thought it might be fun to run our first ever competition – yes, with a prize, too. Some time back *The New Statesman* asked its readers to submit examples of 'evil advice for tourists in Britain'. This yielded some wonderful recommendations, including the following:

Be sure to try the famous echo in the British Museum Reading Room

On entering an Underground train, it is customary to shake hands with every passenger.

London barbers are delighted to shave patrons' armpits.

Bus conductors like to be paid in 5 and 10 pound notes as they hate carrying heavy coins up and down the stairs.

Never attempt to tip a taxi driver.

The four readers who send us the ‘best’ pieces of advice for tourists in New Zealand – as subjectively judged by a panel of IIML staff members – will each win a \$50.00 book token. The competition is open only to subscribers to this newsletter, and the result will be announced in Newsletter 100, just before Christmas. Entries to modernletters@vuw.ac.nz by 15 December, please.

2. 2007 MA in Creative Writing

Writers applying for next year’s MA in Creative Writing (Page stream) will have the chance to study either with novelist Damien Wilkins, or with visiting American poet Dora Malech, who led the Iowa Workshop at the IIML last summer, and proved to be a very well-liked and respected teacher. Dora Malech received her B.A. degree from Yale University and her M.F.A. in Poetry from the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop. She has been the recipient of numerous honours, including a Clapp Fellowship from Yale, a Capote Fellowship and a Teaching-Writing Fellowship from the Writers’ Workshop, and a Glenn Schaeffer Award. Most recently, she has created and taught a graduate-level poetry course for the University of Iowa’s Department of Continuing Studies. In 2007 Dora will share the role of primary MA co-ordinator with Damien Wilkins, while Bill Manhire stays on the premises but takes classroom leave. She is very much looking forward to returning to New Zealand and Victoria University.

The deadline for applications to the MA (Page and Scriptwriting) programme is 1 December. For further course information and an application form, visit <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters>, or tel 04 463 6854.

3. New project scholarships for MA graduates

Writers who have completed their MA in Creative Writing are often faced with the dispiriting necessity of finding full-time employment as soon as they have submitted their manuscripts. However, some of those who are now working frantically towards the folio deadline for the 2006 MA will be the first to benefit from the brand new project scholarships set up to help students in cases where the examiners believe that four to six weeks of funded full-time writing will help bring a folio project to a level where it is ready for submission to a publisher, production house, or theatre. Up to six scholarships of \$5000 will be awarded annually to writers who have submitted an MA folio for assessment in that year, giving them some breathing space in which to put the finishing touches to their work.

4. From the whiteboard

‘Freedom to write is a very narrow freedom among the many personal imprisonments suffered by those who want to write, yet it is the master key, and if a writer has determination enough to turn the key (heedless of the desires and warnings of those who don’t understand or fear (rightly) the consequences of this outrageous daylight robbery of the imagination) then he may be able to put his dreamed works into words.’ (Janet Frame, Beginnings)

5. Invitation to Berlin – or Wellington?

Published New Zealand writers are invited to apply for the Creative New Zealand Randell Cottage Writers Residency 2007 (April 2007 to September 2007 in Wellington) and the Creative New Zealand Berlin Writers’ Residency (September 07-May 08, Berlin). Applications for Berlin residency close on 27 October, and for the Randell Cottage residency on 24 November. Further information, application forms and guidelines are here:

www.randellcottage.co.nz or email Randell@writerstrust.co.nz
creativenz.govt.nz/files/berlin-residency2006.pdf or contact Raewyn Bright
(Tel: 04-498 0741 Email: raewynb@creativenz.govt.nz).

6. A writers’ festival (by any other name)

We note that ever since 1986, when the New Zealand International Arts Festival in Wellington christened its literary component ‘Writers and Readers Week’ in an acknowledgement that the two partners are inextricably bound, most of the festivals that have sprung up around the country in its wake have felt obliged to adopt the same name (although sometimes the writers and the readers appear in reverse order of priority). We suspect this is a peculiarly New Zealand phenomenon: while there are a few ‘Writers and Readers’ events in other parts of the world, the majority are ‘book’, ‘writers’ or ‘literature’ festivals. The Otago Arts Festival is the latest to join the local trend, offering its first ‘Writers and Readers’ programme this weekend in Dunedin. Guests include Jenny Pattrick, Julie LeClerc, Cilla McQueen, Lloyd Geering and Lloyd Davis. For more information and a full programme go to:

http://www.otagofestival.co.nz/index.php?writers_menu

7. Deep South

Something’s stirring in the realms of Dunedin writing. After three years of hibernation the online literary journal *Deep South* is back in action, with twenty-five poets and four pieces of short fiction in its spring issue.

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/deepsouth>

8. Mythic Pacific

Fulbright New Zealand are presenting a free public lecture by Tusiata Avia and Ngahuia Te Awekotuku, who will discuss their Fulbright experiences in the US and read from recent writings. Tusiata Avia - author of *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt* and graduate of the IIML's MA class of 2002 - held the Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writer's Residency in Hawai'i in 2005, where she worked on new poems inspired by Samoan goddess Nafanua. Dr Ngahuia Te Awekotuku, author of *Ruahine: Mythic Women* and other books, received a Fulbright New Zealand Travel Award in 2004 to speak alongside writers Toni Morrison and Gayatri Spivak in the US. The two writers will speak from 5.30-7.00 pm on Thursday 19 October at the National Library Auditorium Molesworth Street, Wellington. Admission is free, but please register your attendance by emailing info@fulbright.org.nz or phoning (04) 472 2065 by Monday 16 October.

9. Bats in the family

The annual BATS Theatre STAB commission for innovative new theatre promises to be a family affair. The two separate plays (for the price of one) on offer from Open Book Productions are titled *I Ain't Nothing But* and *A Glimmer In The Dark, She Said*, and feature writing and direction by sister-act Amanda and Whiti Hereaka and music by CL BOB, the jazz group that includes Amanda's husband (and Arts Foundation supremo) Simon Bowden. Whiti Hereaka is a graduate of the IIML MA Scriptwriting programme. Open Book Productions have won awards for their production design for the 2000, 2003 and 2006 Fringe Festivals, as well as winning Best Theatre in 2000 and Best Outdoor Show in 2001. The two separate plays are performed simultaneously at Shed 11, 8pm, 17-26 October. Tickets: \$18 full / \$12 concession/ \$26 STAB season pass, tel 04 802 4175 or email book@bats.co.nz.

10. You're (Un)invited

Victoria University's Theatre Programme presents this year's fourth and final season of student-directed plays from Wednesday 11 –Saturday 14 October. While all three plays are comically entertaining they each deal with different people and issues that are 'uninvited'. Michael Hurd's *Rooster Rag* is directed by Francesca Emms, Eugene Ionesco's *The Bald Soprano* by Stuart Henderson and *The Red Balloon*, written by Damian Trasler, is directed by Fergus Jack-Hinton. All three productions will be performed at Studio 77, 77 Fairlie Terrace, Kelburn. at 7pm; tickets \$12 waged and \$8 unwaged. Music film and theatre students have also been collaborating on new performance works, and their final programme is performed from 12-14 October, 6.30pm & 9.30pm at Drama House Studio, 93 Kelburn Parade. Admission for this series is by koha, but book ahead as seats are limited. For bookings and further information on both series, contact Lee Barry on (04) 463 5221 or email

lee.barry@vuw.ac.nz

11. Snails on film

Ed Lynden-Bell, who was a member of the inaugural MA (Script) workshop at the Institute in 2002, is directing a feature film titled *The Last Great Snail Race*, the highly imaginative story of a group of urban 20-somethings. If you live in Wellington, shooting may be coming to a place near you: it's scheduled for November and December in the central city.

12. Recent web reading

A rival Six Pack

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/AK0609/S00163.htm>

The script that counts

http://www.nytimes.com/2006/09/23/movies/23harw.html?_r=1&ref=arts&oref=slogin

Gilbert Sorrentino

http://esposito.typepad.com/TQC_5/Sorrentino_Trib.html

Splatter art

<http://www.jacksonpollock.org/>

Franz Wright

<http://www.cprw.com/Hilbert/wright.htm>

Banned in Malaysia

<http://arts.guardian.co.uk/features/story/0,,1871169,00.html>

A day in the life

<http://books.guardian.co.uk/digestedread/story/0,,1885594,00.html>

Bu-Ba-Bu

http://ukraine.poetryinternationalweb.org/piw_cms/cms/cms_module/index.php?obj_id=7514

Paula Morris's wedding anniversary

<http://babiesarefireproof.blogspot.com/2006/09/anniversaries.html#comments>

Pavement art

<http://users.skynet.be/J.Beever/swim.htm>

The black art

<http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/blackarts/index.html>

A couple of Leonard Cohen poems

<http://books.guardian.co.uk/print/0,,329587951-110738,00.html>

The poetry reading from hell

<http://www.griffinpoetryprize.com/speeches.php?t=3>

Hoax du jour

http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/04/books/04viol.html?_r=1&ref=arts&ref=slogin

Duncum reviewed

<http://www.theatreview.org.nz/reviews/review.php?id=340>

http://www.listener.co.nz/issue/3463/artsbooks/7075/the_holo_men_.html

Truisms

<http://mfx.dasburo.com/art/truisms/>

The wonderful world of copyright

<http://www.cjr.org/issues/2006/5/Vaidhyanathan.asp>

Mister Jones

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,20440124-5001986,00.html>

Which masterpieces are crap?

http://commentisfree.guardian.co.uk/open_thread/2006/09/which_master_pieces_are_secretl.html

13. Great lists of our time

An anatomy of our discontents:

Absolutism and Its Discontents by Michael S. Kimmel

America and Its Discontents by Bobie Macauley & Larzer Ziff

Assimilation and Its Discontents by Barry Rubin

Auto Work and Its Discontents by B.J. Eli Widick

British government and its discontents by Geoffrey Smith

Capitalism and Its Discontents by Michael J. Boskin

Childhood and Its Discontents by Joseph Dunne and James Kelly

Christendom and its Discontents by Scott L. Waugh and Peter Diehl

Civilization and Its Discontents by Sigmund Freud
Civil Society And Its Discontents by Leslie Herzberger
Darwinism and its Discontents by Michael Ruse
Day labor and its discontents by Rene Francisco Poitevin
Democracy and its discontents by Daniel J Boorstin
Deregulation And Its Discontents by M. Ramesh and Michael Howlett
Desire and Its Discontents by Eugene Goodheart
Diplomacy and Its Discontents by James Eayrs
Diversity and Its Discontents by Neil J. Smelser and Jeffrey C.
Alexander
Economics and Its Discontents by Richard P. F. Holt and Steven Pressman
Feminism and Its Discontents by Mari Jo Buhle
Freedom and its Discontents by George Weigel
French Civilization and Its Discontents by Stovall Tyler
German Unification and Its Discontents by Richard T. Gray and Sabine
Wilke
Globalization and Its Discontents by Joseph E. Stiglitz
Hierarchy and Its Discontents by Steven M. Parish
Hybridity and its Discontents by Annie Coombes
Individualism and Its Discontents by Charles E. Mitchell
Inflation and Its Discontents by Michael J. Boskin
Innovation and Its Discontents by Adam B. Jaffe and Josh Lerner
Italy and Its Discontents by Paul Ginsborg
Jazz and Its Discontents by Francis Davis
Liberalism and Its Discontents by Alan Brinkley
Manliness and Its Discontents by Martin Summers
Modernism and Its Discontents by Bruce E. Fleming
Modernity and Its Discontents by Cesar Grana
Narrative and Its Discontents by D. A. Miller
Peace and Its Discontents by Edward W. Said
Physicalism and its Discontents by Carl Gillett and Barry Loewer
Popular Education and Its Discontents by Lawrence A. Cremin
Postmodernity and Its Discontents by Zygmunt Bauman
Progress and Its Discontents by Gabriel A. Almond
Psychotherapy and Its Discontents by Windy Dryden and Colin Feltham
Puritanism and Its Discontents by Laura Lunger Knoppers
Representation and Its Discontents by Azade Seyhan
Romanticism and Its Discontents by Anita Brookner
Secularization and Its Discontents by Stephen Bates
Sexuality and its Discontents by Jeffrey Weeks
Social Security and Its Discontents by Michael D. Tanner
Symbolization and Its Discontents by Jeanne Randolph and Steve Reinke
Symmetry and its Discontents by S. L. Zabell
The Good Life and Its Discontents by Robert J. Samuelson
The Mind and Its Discontents by Grant Gillett
The Modern University and its Discontents by Sheldon Rothblatt
War and Its Discontents by James Patout Burns
Work and Its Discontents by Daniel Bell

