

Programme

9 JULY **Metaphysics for the Young and Curious:**

Bernard Beckett

Victoria University Writer in Residence and two-time New Zealand Post Young Adult Book Award winner Bernard Beckett is working on a screenplay for his novel *August*, and writing the third and final in a series of metaphysical novels, examining death. A young girl is rescued from a plague-ravaged slum by a rich benefactor, and taken to a world where nothing is as it seems...join us for a sneak preview with chair **Kate De Goldi**.

16 JULY **The Graft of Poetry: Helen Heath, Joan Fleming, Lynn Davidson, Harry Ricketts**

Four poets with collections published in the last twelve months offer a sampler of their work, and discuss the long and possibly rocky road to publication. Helen Heath (*Graft*) and Joan Fleming (*The Same as Yes*) are first-timers; Lynn Davidson (whose *Common Ground* mixes poetry and essay) and Harry Ricketts (*Just Then*) are both teachers of creative writing with longer track records. Does it get any easier after the first book? Chair: **Chris Price**.

23 JULY **Best New Zealand Poems 2011**

As a curtain raiser for National Poetry Day on 27 July, **Chris Price** introduces a baker's dozen of the 25 poets whose work was chosen by last year's editor, Bernadette Hall, for the on-line anthology *Best New Zealand Poems 2011*. We welcome Hera Lindsay Bird, Zarah Butcher-McGunnigle, Janis Freegard, Rob Hack, Dinah Hawken,



Anna Jackson, Helen Lehndorf, Kate McKinstry, Bill Manhire, Harvey Molloy, Marty Smith, Ranui Taiapa and Tim Upperton.

30 JULY **I Come from Palmerston North: James Brown**

This month sees the release of James Brown's fifth poetry collection, *Warm Auditorium*. We thought it was time to find out more about the man behind the poems, and tease out the shifts and changes in the work itself. Chair **Fergus Barrowman** drags the poet away from his desk at Te Papa to consider how work, world and words have cohabited and evolved between the covers of his books, and to give the new poems a hearing.

6 AUGUST **Bohemian Girl: Terese Svoboda**

New York writer Terese Svoboda has a body of work that includes poetry, novels, memoir, translation and over a hundred published short stories. *Black Glasses Like Clark Kent* is a memoir of her uncle's chilling experience as a military policeman in occupied Japan, and *Weapons Grade* uses poetry to interrogate the power of occupation – both political and personal. Svoboda's latest novel is *Bohemian Girl*, 'a cross between *True Grit* and *Huckleberry Finn*'. She talks with **Mary McCallum**.

13 AUGUST **Speaking in Tongues: Michael Hofmann**

In the year New Zealand takes centre-stage at the Frankfurt Book Fair, it's a pleasure to present one of the world's most highly-esteemed translators of German literature. Michael Hofmann has translated many of the

greats (Roth, Brecht, Kafka, Eich, Süskind), including his own father, the novelist Gert Hofmann. He is an award-winning poet in his own right, as well as an astute poetry critic and editor. He appears in conversation with **Bill Manhire**.

20 AUGUST **Better Than a Marriage? Ken Duncum & David O'Donnell at CIRCA**

It's said that, all going well, the playwright/director relationship can be 'better than a marriage'. Ken Duncum and David O'Donnell talk about who does what and who did what in their world premiere production of *West End Girls* (running at Circa, 4 Aug-1 Sept). Where – if anywhere – are the creative divisions between writing a play and directing it? Are they two different things – or different phases of the same thing?

27 AUGUST **Blood and Money: Gigi Fenster, Kirsten McDougall, Lawrence Patchett**

American writer Grace Paley once observed that stories could be about anything but they needed to 'retain the facts of blood and money'. The eagerly-awaited debut short fiction collection from Lawrence Patchett and the acclaimed first novels by Gigi Fenster and Kirsten McDougall, are featured in this session. Hear what three new writers think about blood and money and books. Chair: **Damien Wilkins**.

3 SEPTEMBER **Songs of My Life: Bill Manhire**

The publication of the career-view *Selected Poems* is the perfect opportunity to profile this major figure in our literature. In his retirement year from Victoria University,

it might also be time to lay to rest rumours of warm slippers and the fireside chair. The five-time winner of the New Zealand Book Award for Poetry will read and discuss his work with **Damien Wilkins**.

10 SEPTEMBER **The Next Page (1)**

Each September we preview talent emerging from the MA Writing for the Page workshops at the IIML. This week 10 writers read from prose and poetry in progress: Jessica Hansell, Megan Corcoran, Julie Hanify, Jane Blaikie, Helen Innes, Greg Kan, Samantha Byres, Kerry Brown, Hannah Mettner and Sue Francis are introduced by **Chris Price**.

17 SEPTEMBER **The Next Page (2)**

Another smorgasbord of new writing from the IIML's 2012 MA workshops. **Damien Wilkins** introduces Magnolia Wilson, Cushla Managh, Nancy Fulford, Georgia Vaughan, Zarah Butcher-McGunnigle, Lydia Wisheart, Adam Stewart, Sarah-Jane Parton, Jo Morris and Wendy Joyce.

24 SEPTEMBER **Short/Sharp/Script (1) at CIRCA**

How much drama can you cram into 60 minutes? Find out as actors perform rehearsed readings of work produced by MA (Script) students at the IIML. **Ken Duncum** introduces snappy dialogue from Vinay Choudary, Uther Dean, Francesca Emms, Kirsty Hamilton and Leon Harrison.

1 OCTOBER **Short/Sharp/Script (2) at CIRCA**

Five more funny, fast and furious mini-dramas by MA scriptwriters are delivered fresh and hot. Andy James,

Maaïke Olsthoorn, Joanna Pascoe, Jonathan Thompson and James Wypych are on show with **Ken Duncum**, once again cooking up the most entertaining lunch-hour in Wellington.

8 OCTOBER **Poems, Photographs & Regenerating Histories: Kerry Hines at CITY GALLERY**

Working with an archive of nineteenth-century photographs, Kerry Hines has written a compelling collection of poems that bring together text and image, fact and imagination, raising the question of how we look at and imagine our history. Kerry will discuss the archive and its creator, outline the origins and development of the work, and present a selection of the poems and photographs which form part of her creative writing PhD thesis. Chaired by **Roger Blackley**.

Writers on Mondays is presented with the **Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa**, and additional support from **Circa Theatre and City Gallery Wellington**



For more information contact the IIML or visit our website:
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Cover drawing of the Janet Frame Desk by Gregory O'Brien



International Institute of **Modern Letters**

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o Te Ao



From July each year, the International Institute of Modern Letters, home of Victoria University's prestigious creative writing programme, runs a series of events highlighting the very latest work of writers active in Wellington and further afield. All in all a lively and stimulating way to begin the week – and it's free!

VENUES

Events run Mondays 12.15-1.15pm on **The Marae, Level 4, Te Papa** except for:
Better Than a Marriage - Circa Theatre
Short Sharp Script 1 & 2 - Circa Theatre
Poems, Photographs & Regenerating Histories - City Gallery Wellington

Admission is free, all welcome. *(Please note that no food may be taken into the Te Papa Marae)*