



Press Release

2008 Annual Writing Contest Results and Book Launch

Renaissance Publishing is proud to announce that the 2nd edition of its annual writing contest has been successfully concluded. In 2007, the inaugural contest called for entries from full-time students in Singapore. They were given the theme of love, free play in any literary genre they chose, and told to send in their most romantic work possible. 253 entries from students in 41 different schools were received, and the quality of the entries far exceeded the organiser's expectations. \$1700 in cash was given out to the top 3 entries and 38 outstanding entries were published in a compilation book titled "Romance Volume 1". The book launch and prize presentation were conducted on Valentines' Day 2008 at Borders Wheelock Place.

Last year, Renaissance offered the same amount of cash prizes – 1st \$1000, 2nd \$500, 3rd \$200 – and an additional 3 merit awards of \$100 Borders Vouchers each. These are proudly sponsored by Borders, the official bookstore for the contest. "This competition showcases the literary talent of Singaporeans and Borders is proud to support the local writing scene. The first edition of the compilation book 'Romance Volume 1' was very well received and we believe that the theme of love and romance will continue to resonate with Borders customers," said Ricardo Rodrigues, Regional Manager of Borders Singapore.

The contest was held in collaboration with the National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS) and officially supported by the National Arts Council (NAC) and National Library Board (NLB). Khor Kok Wah, Deputy CEO, NAC and Director for Literary Arts said, "NAC applauds Renaissance Publishing's initiative to discover and nurture our next generation of writers through this contest. Such platforms will certainly facilitate the development and growth of our literary landscape."

18 of the top entries for the 2008 contest will be published in a short story anthology titled 'Romance Vol. 2'. The book will be launched at Borders Wheelock Place on 14th February, 2009 at 4pm.

"Renaissance's vision and goal is to produce an international bestseller from Singapore. For that purpose our annual writing contest differs from other literary contests in that we publish the best entries for sale commercially. Because of that, we chose a universal theme of love and romance which is easily accessible to both writers as well as readers. Publishing and selling the top entries in bookstores also gives our young talents a chance to be exposed



and build up their portfolios, instead of fading away after the contest is over," says Lance Ng, Publisher of Renaissance.

"Unlike other contests, we are also committed to developing the talents uncovered in the contests. They have been given paid writing projects and in 2009, 13 of the most promising talents from the first and second contests have been offered publishing contracts to write short stories for 'Romance Vol. 3', scheduled for release on 14th February 2010. By carving a niche in the market through the "Romance" series, we hope to create a product that can break into the international market and create the commercial sustainability needed to invest in local talents and develop writing as a viable career for them."

Renaissance Publishing will also be running their annual writing contest again in 2009. This time round, on top of just winning cash prizes and Borders vouchers, winners will also win a publishing contract. The contest will be opened to anyone residing in Singapore during the contest period. Borders has already agreed to sponsor the contest again as the Official Bookstore.

Aspiring writers can visit www.renaissance.sg for more details to be released soon.

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About Renaissance Publishing

Started in July 2007, Renaissance Publishing is an independent publisher dedicated to the vision of creating the first international bestseller from Singapore.

Romance Vol. 2 is distributed by MarketAsia Distributors and available at all major bookstores from 14th Feb 2009 onwards. Price including GST will be S\$19.90.