

## Press Note:

### Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 – Day 3

**Event:** Discussion – ‘Whoddunit? A Crime Writers’ Conclave’

**Kolkata, 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2015:** Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 hosted an intriguing and edgy discussion, ‘*Whoddunit?*’ with a team of crime and thriller writers from across the globe like, **Caryl Ferey** (France), **Hakan Nesser** (Sweden) and **Zac O’Yeah** (Sweden/India). The session was presented with the Hindustan Times Crime Writers Festival New Delhi, Crime Writers Forum of South Asia and Oxford Bookstore, supported by French Book Office & Embassy of Sweden, New Delhi. The authors were in conversation **Kishwar Desai** eminent author and columnist, sharing their perspectives about the art of crime writing to see how it influences society and reflect the blurring lines of right and wrong.

The discussion also highlighted how the big wave of crime fiction is sweeping through the Indian publishing industry, with a host of writers stepping inside the chilling darkness of a criminal’s mind.

#### **About the Panelists:**

**Caryl Ferey:** Caryl Ferey was born in Caen, France. In 1994, he published his first novel *Avec un ange sur les yeux*. In 1995 he published his first crime novel *Delicta Mortalia – péché mortel* in which Detective Mc Cash appeared for the first time. In 2008, he published *Zulu* – his first novel to be translated into English, a huge success both in France and abroad. It was his third novel and second crime novel which made him famous and started his career as a French crime novelist. Being himself a great traveller, the writer locates his novels all around the world.

**Håkan Nesser:** Hakan Nesser is one of Sweden’s most successful authors, with a number of successful novels, mostly crime fiction. He has won Best Swedish Crime Novel Award three times and his novel *Carambole* won the Glass Key award in 2000. His books have been translated from Swedish into 9 languages. Hakan Nesser has published 20 books in Swedish. Five from his series about Van Veeteren have so far been translated to English. They are *Borkmann’s Point* (2006), *The Return* (2007), *The Mind’s Eye* (2008), *Woman with Birthmark* (2009), and *The Inspector and Silence* (2010).

**Zac O'Yeah:** Zac O'Yeah used to work at a theatre in Gothenburg, Sweden – the harbor town where his detective novel *Once Upon A Time In Scandinavistan* is set – and toured with a pop group until he retired early at 25 and came to India. Since then he has published twelve books in Swedish, many of them important bestsellers – including the Gandhi-biography “Mahatma!” which was short-listed for the August Prize 2008 for best nonfiction book of the year. His most recent book is the comic thriller *Mr. Majestic!* (2012 in English; 2013 in Swedish; 2014 in German). He is currently working on a new thriller and a film project. He is also a literary critic and columnist.

**Kishwar Desai:** Kishwar Desai is an Indian author and columnist. Her latest novel *The Sea of Innocence* has just been published in India and will shortly be published in UK and Australia. Her first novel, *Witness the Night* won the Costa Book Award in 2010 for Best First Novel and has been translated into over 25 languages. It was also shortlisted for the Author's Club First Novel Award and longlisted for the Man Asian Literary Prize. Her critically acclaimed novel, *Origins of Love* was published in June 2012. Desai also has a biography *Darlingji: The True Love Story of Nargis and Sunil Dutt* to her credit. She has also had a long and successful career as a print and TV journalist.

**About Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF):**

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) is Kolkata's pioneering literary festival. Instituted in 2010 by the Apeejay Surrendra Group and its heritage Oxford Bookstore on Park Street, AKLF grows out of the bookstore's year round involvement with books, writers & publishers. In the six years since Kolkata saw her first literary festival in AKLF, literary festivals have mushroomed across the country, but AKLF stands apart with its unique identity as the only one with a now 94-year-old bookstore as its nucleus. AKLF offers an atmosphere of warm, welcoming intimacy, favors depth over size, and includes a variety of subjects from history to the environment. AKLF also celebrates Kolkata's magnificent public monuments and heritage sites as settings for Festival events and eminent literati and cultural stalwarts from across India and overseas join the festival scheduled every year in the second week of January. In 2015 AKLF explores literature as part of our tangible and intangible heritage, a theme that runs through several sessions of the festival. AKLF focusses on younger writers, newer voices and fresh audiences in its ongoing attempt to build an audience for books and reading. Prominent personalities attending will be Hanif Kureishi, Naseeruddin Shah, Charles Allen, John Elliott, Mohammed Hanif, Leila Seth, Michael Buckley, Upamanyu Chatterjee, David Davidar, Shekhar Gupta, Shashi Tharoor, Asish Nandy, Ramachandra Guha, Kishwar Desai, Nabaneeta Dev Sen amongst several others. There are some firsts in AKLF 2015. A heritage literary walk, a literary 'adda', a Young Adult litfest for high school students, a bloggers' meet, a children's bookfest crammed with activities, even a standup comic for the college crowd and a leadership training session for young teens on importance of character, karma and individual social responsibility™. Add to that our signature heritage site evenings at The Indian Museum, National Library, Victoria Memorial, Lascar War Memorial, in-depth discussions, top of the line authors, thinkers and performers, and you have a literary experience not to be missed. And all absolutely free for Kolkata and her culture-loving audience.

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