

Media Release



Photo: Phil Doyle, Sunday Star Times

Writer Stephanie Johnson comes to Hawke's Bay as part of writers project and will be giving special talk.

On Sunday 27 September, award winning author, poet and playwright Stephanie Johnson will present "Talking With The Dead - Weaving History into Fiction" at Te Pania Hotel.

A rare treat from a dynamic speaker. Stephanie will join Friends' of the Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust for Brunch at Te Pania Hotel on Sunday 27 September 2009 at 10.30am. Event organiser Ani Tylee says "The talk will appeal to writers and readers, and is an ideal opportunity for book club groups".

Stephanie will be in Hawke's Bay as the writer of The Miniatures - an exciting fantasy project at HB MAG weaving imagined stories around an exhibition of exquisite miniatures donated to the Museum in the 1950's by Rev. Bren. "With Stephanie here for the exhibition the Friends' want to organise a fun event for a wider public audience", Ani says.

Stephanie is a sixth generation New Zealander and the author of over a dozen books - novels, poetry and collections of short stories. She has also written for the stage, radio and screen. Most of her work is set here in Aotearoa, both during recent times and in the past. She has received numerous literary prizes and awards.

Since 1988 Stephanie has worked as a creative writing tutor at various summer schools & evening schools in Australia and New Zealand. With Witi Ihimaera, she established the Masters in Creative Writing at the University of Auckland and co-taught that degree from 2004-2006. Stephanie is co-founder (with Peter Wells) of the Auckland Writers and Readers Festival, a highly successful international festival that runs every year in late May.

Literary prizes and awards include the Deutz Medal for Fiction, Montana Book Awards, 2003 (for The Shag Incident), Literary Fellow at Auckland University, 2001, Belief short-listed for Montana Book Awards, 2001, Katherine Mansfield Fellow, Menton, France, 2000, The Whistler third prize in Montana Book Awards, 1999, Leading Writers' Grant, Creative New Zealand, 1997, winner of Dymocks/Quote Unquote Reader's Poll, Best New Zealand Book 1996 (for The Heart's Wild Surf), Crimes of Neglect shortlisted for Wattie Book Awards, 1993, Bruce Mason Memorial Playwright's Award, 1985.

Tickets for "Talking With The Dead - Weaving History into Fiction" are \$35 each, or \$32 for Friends' of the Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust and are available from Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery, Napier and Poppies Bookshop, Havelock North.

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