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READER'S FEAST* ◇ *WRITERS AT THE CONVENT

February 11, 12 & 13, 2011

Some people say that you shouldn't discuss sex, religion or politics at the dinner table. Well, that may be the case, but they are all up for discussion at next month's *Reader's Feast* ◇ *Writers at the Convent*. Add to that mix humour, sport, philosophy, UFOs and some great fiction and you have a weekend of thought provoking and entertaining discussions.

There will be the meeting of the wits when comedian **Shaun Micallef** is in conversation with **William McInnes**. **Michael Leunig** will talk about his life and work. **Andy Griffiths** will be there for the young readers and their parents.

Kate Holden, **Ros Moriarty** and **Chrissie Foster** will talk about laying their lives out on the page for all to see. Sex therapist **Bettina Arndt** will discuss sex. **Barrie Cassidy** will put politics under the microscope and soccer fan **Patrick Mangan** and footy tragic **Matthew Klugman** will talk about their favourite codes.

John Armstrong and **Damon Young** will talk about introducing philosophy into people's lives in an accessible way. **Angela Savage**, **Toni Jordan** and **Meg Mundell** will all talk about their new books.

As Victoria reels from widespread unprecedented flooding, **Chris Hammer** and **Kristin Otto** will take us on journeys through the Murray-Darling basin and our own Yarra.

US journalist and author **Daniel Akst** will discuss his latest witty book *We Have Met The Enemy – Self Control in an Age of Excess*, about what he calls the central problem of our time – how to save ourselves from what we want.

To celebrate the next edition of the Griffith Review, *Ways of Seeing – the role of the humanities in public life*, **John Armstrong**, **Peter Ellingsen** and **Peter Cochrane** will also be appearing at *Reader's Feast* ◇ *Writers at the Convent*.

Kendrah Morgan and **Lesley Harding**, authors of *Sunday's Kitchen*, will talk about life at that great Melbourne cultural landmark Heide.

Shaun Micallef will launch the much anticipated *The UFO Diaries* by exciting new Melbourne author **Martin Plowman**. Martin became interested in UFOs as a child and says he's a non-believer.

Stephanie Dowrick talks about how religion and spirituality can transform our lives and **Molly Carlile** talks about her work, helping teenagers navigate their way when someone they know dies.

Chrissie Foster and **Paul Kennedy** take a different look at religion when they address the power of the Catholic Church following their striking book – *Hell on the Way to Heaven* which seeks justice for the victims of child sexual abuse at the hands of religious practitioners.

All in all, *Reader's Feast* \diamond *Writers at the Convent* has something for everyone and offers the chance for readers and writers to join together in dialogue on many levels.

Reader's Feast \diamond *Writers at the Convent* is held at the Abbotsford Convent on February 11, 12 & 13. Tickets are just \$17.00. You can come along, hear your favourite author speak and get your book signed – all at the Abbotsford Convent.

The full program for the 2011 *Reader's Feast* \diamond *Writers at the Convent* will be published on January 22 and is available on the website – www.writersattheconvent.com.

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