

# Media Release



The  
Wheeler  
Centre  
Books  
Writing  
Ideas

Embargoed until 26 November 2010

## Voices from elsewhere woven into the story of our city

### A Gala Night of Storytelling 2011 announced by the Wheeler Centre

The second **Gala Night of Storytelling** gathers writers from near and far. The event kicks off the Wheeler Centre's first programme for 2011 and invites international guests including award-winning French author **Yannick Haenel**, German poet **Dagmar Leupold** and acclaimed Indian novelist **Abha Dawesar** to share their stories, in their own words, in their own language.

Last year, the Wheeler Centre's first ever event celebrated twelve of Australia's finest writers and storytellers. They shared personal recollections and tales from folklore, they told stories of great power and they made us laugh. Their stories celebrated the diversity and depth of our City of Literature, a city built on voices from elsewhere. This year will expand the conversation when some of our own finest writers are joined by a selection of extraordinary international voices. With local actors reading the English translations, our visiting writers will deliver their stories in languages ranging from Chinese to French, German to Hindi. From the universal to the intensely personal, the international writers' stories will be interwoven with contributions from our local greats.

### A Gala Night of Storytelling 2011: Voices from Elsewhere

Friday 11 February, 2011. 7:00 – 8:30pm

Melbourne Town Hall, corner Swanston and Collins Streets, Melbourne

Tickets \$20/\$12 concession through [wheelercentre.com](http://wheelercentre.com)



**Yannick Haenel** is the author of several novels, including *Introduction à la mort française* and *Évoluer parmi les avalanches*. In Paris in 1997 he co-founded the avant-garde journal for literature, *Ligne de risque*. *The Messenger*, published in France under the title *Jan Karski*, won the *Prix Interallié* and the *Prix du roman FNAC* in 2009. It is an extraordinary work of biography, woven into a compelling and tragic novel about a man's moral courage and our collective humanity, with parallels to Thomas Keneally's *Schindler's Ark* and WG Sebald's *Austerlitz*.



**Dagmar Leupold** lives in Kirchseeon near Munich. She is a poet and novelist and this year she will hold the Liliencron Chair for Poetics at the University of Kiel. Her poetry publications include *Wie Treibholz* (Like Driftwood), *Die Lust der Frauen auf Seite 13* (Women's Desire on page 13), *Byrons Feldebett* (Byron's Cot), and *Destillate* (Distillations). Her novels include *Federgewicht* (Featherweight), *Ende der Saison* (End of the Season) and *Eden Plaza* which was recently adapted into a film. She is currently the executive chairman of the German Literature Fund.



**Abha Dawesar** is the author of four critically acclaimed novels: *Family Values*, *That Summer in Paris*, *Babyji* and *Miniplanner*. She is the recipient of numerous honours including the American Library Association's Stonewall Book Award and a Lambda Literary Award. India's leading weekly magazine *India Today* named Dawesar as one of twenty-five path-breaking Indians in 2007 and she was named one of India's 12 remarkable women by *Femina* magazine. *Babyji* was short-listed for France's most important literary award for foreign fiction Le Prix Médicis-Roman Etranger and also for Le Prix Bel Ami. The French translation of *Family Values* was shortlisted for the Prix Médicis Etranger, the Prix Femina, and the Prix RFI-témoin du monde.

The 2010 Gala sold out quickly and saw a full house at the Melbourne Town Hall.

Tickets for **A Gala Night of Storytelling 2011** go on sale **Friday 26 November** at [wheelercentre.com](http://wheelercentre.com)

Further details to be announced online. For media enquiries contact Anna Lensky 03 9094 7806, 0425 766 780 or [anna.lensky@wheelercentre.com](mailto:anna.lensky@wheelercentre.com)

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MELBOURNE  
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The Wheeler Centre

A Victorian Government initiative and the centrepiece of Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature.