

Difficult to believe we're already celebrating our third festival – time has flown since the first seeds were sown a few short years ago.

Thanks to the enthusiastic support of authors and publishers from around the world, of our patron and sponsors, our hard-working volunteers and most importantly thanks to you, the festivalgoer, the continued vitality of the Festival is ensured.

Several innovations ensure 2011 will be even more enjoyable than its predecessors:

We have two *Gala Evenings*, the inaugural *George Orwell Lecture*, the *Festival Personality of 2011* interview, the *Focus On* strand celebrating the richness of Dubai's literary culture, and two *Literary Lunches*!

This year we have more masterclasses and workshops, including for the first time Calligraphy; literary sessions enriched by music, film and art; a fascinating discussion on Islam and Compassion in our lives, and a look at the digital revolution and its impact on the future of the written word.

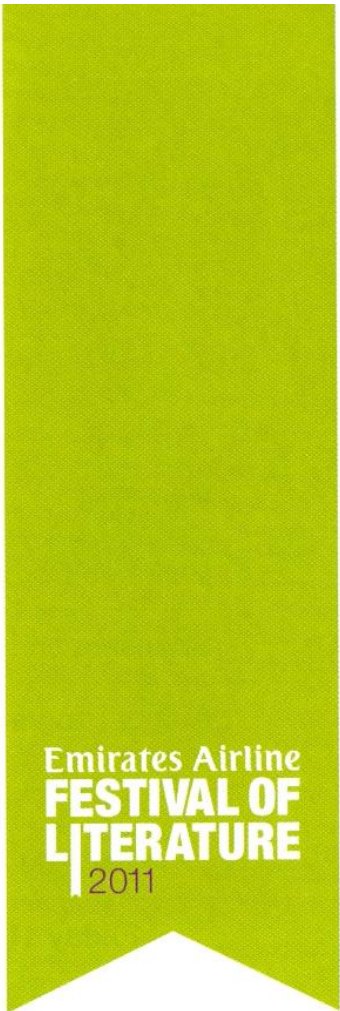
There are sessions both serious and light-hearted; sessions guaranteed to get you thinking, questioning, laughing; such diversity, such fun – together providing essential brain food of the very best kind. And talking of food, we have some delicious treats served up by celebrity chefs who will be discussing and demonstrating their culinary secrets!

There are numerous opportunities to meet and listen to a literary prizewinner: among the extraordinary range of authors taking part we have winners of the Nobel, Caine, International Prize for Arabic Fiction, Man Booker, Orange and Costa.

So welcome to the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature 2011. Come prepared for the unexpected, come prepared to be delighted, come prepared to stay: 8th to 12th March 2011.

My best wishes

Isobel 



Emirates Airline
**FESTIVAL OF
LITERATURE**
2011



What started out as a seed of an idea to spread the joy of literature, the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature has now developed into a formidable force on Dubai's cultural landscape, in a short three years. An inspiring story unto itself, Emirates Airline is proud to help write another chapter of a festival that celebrates not only the written word, but the power of imagination and the exchange of ideas. A pioneering initiative, the Festival was the first major event of its kind to be hosted in the Middle East and its resounding success is a tribute to the people of Dubai and their passion for literature and innate curiosity about the larger world.

Emirates Airline is strongly invested in supporting all forms of cultural and artistic expression, and the Festival has been instrumental in bringing together both luminaries of the literary world and burgeoning young talent, for a cultural dialogue. Since its inception, the event has touched the lives of tens of thousands of people who have had the opportunity to interact with over 150 international, regional and local authors. We are particularly proud to be playing a part in the UAE's cultural development; the launch of 12 children's books written by several students at Dubai Women's College, is one of the many ways the Festival is giving young talent a voice.

Our commitment to the arts cuts across all forms of creative expression, from the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature to the Dubai International Film Festival and the Skywards Dubai International Jazz Festival in the UAE, to our partnership with the prestigious, internationally-acclaimed Melbourne, Sydney and West Australian Symphony Orchestras in Australia. The all pervasive quality of literature reaches across borders and resonates with all cultures and ages. It changes the way we think and it is this inimitable quality that brings together bestselling international authors, prolific Arab writers, and up-and-coming talent from across the world. Cultural diversity is an essential trait of Dubai's personality and as an airline which connects the people across 110 destinations; it's a trait we both share and value.

The Emirates Airline Festival of Literature is peerless; it reaches out to the people of Dubai in a way few others can. We are particularly proud of the impact the festival has had on students - from the annual Students' Writing Competition to the Education Day at Dubai Cultural and Scientific Association at Al Mamzar, where authors reach out to inspire young minds to be curious and expand the boundaries of their imagination.

The Emirates Airline Festival of Literature takes us on a journey through fictional worlds, timeless stories and fascinating cultures, and this year's line up of literary stalwarts is sure to inspire, challenge and educate. We are honoured to be a part of this truly invigorating festival for another year, and hope that you will be a part of the cultural movement and build on the Festival's success.

Sir Maurice Flanagan

Executive Vice Chairman, Emirates Airline & Group

Marc Meyers



Sara Al-Alewi



Simon Armitage



Wafa' Tamowska



Ibrahim M Ibrahim



Sion Scott-Wilson



GHADA ABDEL AAL & SARA AL-ALEWI

Chair: Sima Abedrabboh

The Bridget Joneses of the Arab world?

086 AL BARAHA 3 18:00 - 19:00

What's it like to be a young Egyptian female living in a society where getting married is considered the ultimate goal, even while her attempts to find a partner are hampered by well-meaning friends and relatives? When **Ghada Abdel Aal** started her blog, *I Want to Get Married*, she struck a chord with the single women of Egypt and the blog soon became a hugely successful book, with a tv adaptation to follow.

Sara Al-Alewi is a bestselling young Saudi author, whose books include *Saudi Girls* (2007), *The Woman's Game: a Man* (2008) and just published this January *Men of Lies*.

Find out what unites these two young female Arab voices – and what divides them.

Arabic



RAAD Middle East

Session Sponsor

MARC MEYERS

Focus on Mind over matter: explosive facts in thriller fiction

In conversation with Nic Labuschagne

125 AL KHAIMAH 19:00 - 20:00

Marc Meyers, Distinguished Professor of Materials Science at the University of California and Life Member of Clare Hall Cambridge (UK) has written many ground breaking academic works covering his field of speciality. He now brings his expert knowledge to a fascinating work of fiction *Chechnya Jihad*. In this novel the accidental discovery in New Mexico of a super explosive, sends assistant professor Jean-Claude Delvaux into a whirlwind of travel, passion, and discovery. Delvaux meets with tragedy in Chechnya, while taking part in its liberation struggle, and emerges broken-hearted from the rubble of Grozny, swearing off violence. Destiny strikes again when Del-

vaux is lured by love and loyalty around the world and into the new nexus of conflict, a brutal jihad in the mountains of Afghanistan.

TOBY EADY

Focus on Taking books across borders
In conversation

126 AL MAJLIS 19:00 - 20:00

Toby Eady is a well-known literary agent and leading figure in the dialogue between Western publishers and Asian writers. He believes in bringing different publishing communities together to challenge the 'frozen curiosity of the west'.

DIGITAL REVOLUTION 2: IS THE BOOK DEAD?

Chair Paul Blezard

How technology is impacting on books and the way we read them

088 AL RAS 2 19:30 - 21:00

There are now more than 80 e-reading devices, innumerable apps have added a new and 'enhanced' element to the reading experience, and for the first time in the US this past Christmas, some titles sold more copies of their digital versions than their paper equivalents. Is this a threat or an opportunity? In China millions have already abandoned traditional books for mobile phone novels, while a further explosion in devices and e-content worldwide is predicted over the coming months. What does this mean for the traditional paper book? And for the writers of those books? Can e-books offer better access to literature in poorer regions of the world? Can they stimulate an explosion in reading? And, with the inclusion of audio, graphics and film content, when do books actually stop becoming books?

Our panel will tackle the big questions facing all book-lovers – authors, readers and publishers alike – and debate the possible outcomes of a book world in turmoil.

Panelists include **Rajnish Kautia** and **Khaled Al Khamissi**

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