



Press Release

Official Book Launch of "Romance Vol. 1"

Budding Young Writers to receive BIG 'Ang Pows' on Valentine's Day

38 young and promising local writers will be recognized for their literary talents on Valentine's Day this year with cash awarded to them in Lunar New Year 'Ang Pows'.

These full time students with ages ranging from 14 to 25 took part in a writing contest organized by local independent publisher, Renaissance Publishing, in July 2007. They were given a free hand to express the theme of 'Love' in any genre of literary writing they favored; with the sole judging criteria being how 'romantic' their works were. The contest was opened to full time students in local schools and tertiary institutions and the prizes - a total of \$1700 in cash and a chance to be published as an author!

A total of 253 entries were submitted from 41 different schools, polytechnics, and universities. A plethora of short stories, poems, love letters and other literary works were submitted. The quality of the entries exceeded all expectations and Renaissance Publishing decided to compile the best entries for publication.

Lance Ng, publisher of Renaissance Publishing says, "Renaissance has a dream to produce the first international bestseller from a Singapore writer. When we took the plunge to organize this contest to uncover new talents, we were actually quite worried that reading and writing was no longer popular amongst today's youths with all the other distractions of the digital age. After we finished judging the stack of entries, it was clear to us we were very wrong! There were actually many amazing talents amongst our youths waiting to be uncovered and polished. It became apparent to us that we will not be doing them justice if we did not publish their work and showcase this immense pool of talents".

'Romance Volume 1', the 272 page compilation book featuring 38 short listed entries from this contest, will be launched on 14th Feb 2008 at Borders Wheelock. Mr Ramachandran, Executive Director of National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS), the official partner of this writing contest, will be giving the introductory address, followed by a prize presentation ceremony and autograph signing session.

In addition to giving away the prize money of \$1700 to the winners of the top 3 entries, Renaissance Publishing will also be giving away a total of \$545 to 10 of the young writers uncovered from the contest. They took part in another paid writing project to compile a book of 'Daily Love Notes'. This is part of Renaissance's commitment to these young talents to continue motivating them to develop their writing skills beyond the contest, with the dream that one day, one of them will produce a piece of work that will put Singapore on the map in the world of literature.