

MEDIA RELEASE

the west

australian poems 1989–2009

john mateer

About the Book

The West represents twenty years of work by internationally renowned poet John Mateer.

This is the first time his Australian poems have been published together in one volume and is a timely and rewarding retrospective. Taking its bearings from the Indian Ocean, Mateer's poetry crisscrosses the continent taking the reader on a journey into the psyche, culture and landscape of this country.

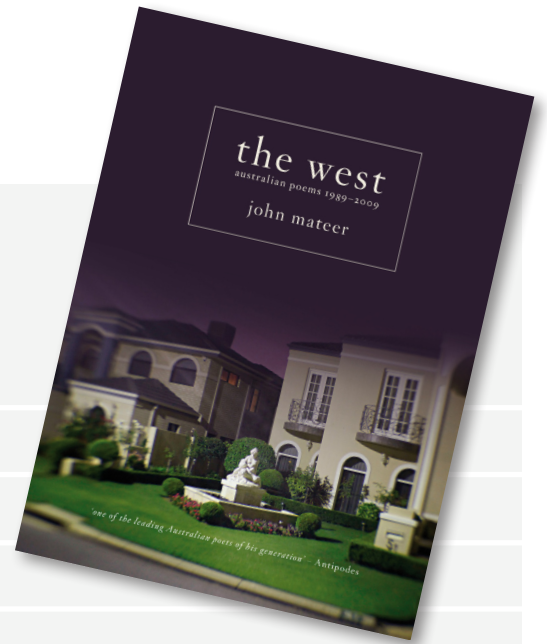
Mateer's poetry was described as 'powerfully intense' by *The Japan Times*. *Antipodes* said it was 'risky and experimental' while the *Australian Book Review* noted his 'force and directness'. The *Weekend Australian* said Mateer was a poet "brilliantly and very differently writing himself into this country".

About the Author

John Mateer has been published in Australia, South Africa, Sumatra, Japan, Macau and Portugal. Born in South Africa, he spent his childhood in South Africa and Canada and, since 1989, has lived in Australia.

Key Points

- Mateer published five books with Fremantle Press including *Barefoot Speech*, which won the 2001 Victorian Premier's prize for poetry.
- *Ex-white*, a collection of two decades of his South African work, was published in 2009 in Austria, and *Namban*, a collection on vestiges of Portuguese empire, is forthcoming in Portugal.
- Mateer is a recipient of the Centenary Medal for his contribution to Australian literature.
- *The West* will be launched as part of Fremantle Poetry Month in July 2010 alongside the work of Caroline Caddy and the New Poets.



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