

MEDIA RELEASE

the west

australian poems 1989-2009

BY JOHN MATEER

ABOUT THE BOOK

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

It is a timely and rewarding retrospective. Taking its bearings from the Indian Ocean, Mateer's poetry journeys into the psyche, culture and landscape of Australia, his adopted country.

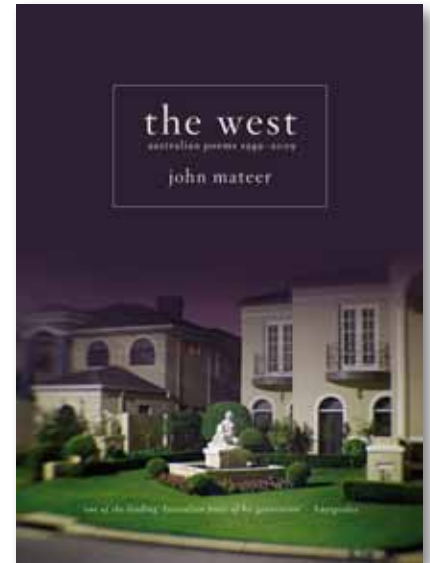
Mateer's poetry was described as 'powerfully intense' by *The Japan Times*. *Antipodes* said it was 'risky and experimental' while the *Australian Book Review* noted his 'force and directness'. The *Weekend Australian* said Mateer was a poet 'brilliantly and very differently writing himself into this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

MEDIA NOTES

- Mateer's most recent appearance was at PEN's Free the Word Festival in London 2010.
- Mateer was a writer-in-residence in Portugal in 2010, Beijing in 2009 and Ledig House in Hudson New York in 2008. He has also been a writer-in-residence in Japan and Indonesia.
- Mateer has appeared at Leipzig Liest, Germany 2009, the Words without Borders Festival, Czech Republic 2007, Tokyo Festival of Contemporary Poetry and Dance 2007, Stockholm International Poetry Festival 2007, Sri Lanka Galle International Literary Festival, Sri Lanka 2007, Medana Poetry Festival, Slovenia 2006, International Meeting of Poets, Portugal, 2005, the Chicago Humanities Festival 2005, WordFeast International Poetry Festival, Singapore 2003, and Poetry Africa, South Africa 2001.
- *Ex-white*, a collection of two decades of his South African work, was published in 2009 in Austria, and *Namban*, a collection on the vestiges of Portuguese empire, is forthcoming in Portugal.
- Mateer has two more volumes of work, one in German and another in Spanish, scheduled for publication.
- Mateer is also a recipient of the Centenary Medal for his contribution to Australian literature.
- *The West* is available in Europe from Amazon UK and from the Independent Publishers Group in the USA.



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