

# Publishers Writers Network

The Publishers Writers Network (PWN) is a gathering of professionals and amateurs in the writing and publishing world for an entertaining and engaging evening.

This month writer and editor Ralph Modder will join us for our PWN session to share his experiences in writing and publishing.



JOIN US

NOV 4<sup>th</sup> 2008

7 p.m.

Ear Shot @ Arts House  
(1 Old Parliament Lane)

Admission is free

To register,  
call 6848 8290 or  
email [info@bookcouncil.sg](mailto:info@bookcouncil.sg)  
with your name, email  
& tel. no.

Organised by:



## Tears of A Teen-age 'Comfort Woman'

This is the true account of the courage and suffering of 'Swee Lian' who, like thousands of other 'sex slaves' had withheld their real identities because of the shame the story would bring to themselves and their families. She was 16 when she was imprisoned and raped by a Japanese *Kempeitai* (military/secret police) officer and forced to become a 'sex slave' in a Japanese army-run brothel in former British North Borneo (now Sabah) in 1942. Her parents were arrested by the *Kempeitai* and died as the result of torture while in prison.

She made an incredible escape to Japanese-occupied Singapore in 1943 where she took refuge in a Buddhist nunnery until the surrender of Japan in 1945. In 1948 she married Choon, her 'student-days sweetheart' and a guerrilla fighter, fulfilling a promise they had made before her escape to Singapore. He died in Australia in 1969 where they had settled and where she had lived with members of her family until her death in 1981.

## The Editor

Ralph Modder is the co-author of *The Battlefield Guide*, the internationally best-selling chronology of the Japanese invasion of Malaya and Singapore. He has also written several stories and screenplays for feature films including *Sergeant Hassan*, starring the late Malay film legend Tan Sri P. Ramlee. The film had a royal charity premiere in Kuala Lumpur in aid of the Royal Malay Regiment's Widows and Orphans Fund.

He recently appeared in a one-hour BBC World Service programme, *Fall of A Fortress*, to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the surrender of Singapore to the Japanese in February 1942 and a similar programme produced by Australian Television.

## Facilitator

Ralph Modder will be joined by Pauline Javani, representative from his publisher, Horizon Books.

An evening of  
scintillating  
discussion on  
publishing and  
writing  
patterns.

## Tears Of A Teen-age "Comfort Woman"



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