

SOUTHERN COURIER

Poetry night

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21 May 10 @ 10:19am

The voices of Australia's greatest contemporary poets have been captured in a rare collection to help illustrate the resurgence of interest in poetry, across Australia.

The 40 poem set, especially produced for schools, families and libraries, draws on the thoughts of a cross section of poetry enthusiasts gathered from a series of grass roots projects undertaken by The Red Room Company during the past two years.

The collection will be launched this week at the Sydney Writers' Festival.

"If the responses received to our projects are a guide, and I think they are, poetry is on an incredible growth curve," commented Johanna Featherstone, Artistic Director of The Red Room Company.

"The urge to turn thoughts on all manner of things into the written word is coming from the bottom up, evidencing the emergence of new generations of poets to augment our solid pool of working poets.

"And the wonderful thing is the quality of these works –the writing is enlivening and inspirational."

The Poems to Share event at the Writers' Festival on Friday night will feature 11 poets – Lachlan Brown, Andy Quan, Greg McLaren, Joanne Burns, Judith Bishop, Adam Aitken, Fiona Wright, Elizabeth Allen, Kate Fagan and Lindsay Tuggle and Keri Glastonbury.

Each will recite works and share stories about poetry and their adventures with Red Room Company projects.

The 40 set collection, produced in collaboration with Sydney designers Corban & Blair, is at the heart of a poetry-development campaign being conducted in association with the NSW libraries over a 40 week period.

In 2011, the poems will be on display, on a weekly basis, combined with activities to encourage the writings of library-goers, along with workshops and readings.

Poems to Share: Upstairs, 2/3 Hickson Road, The Rocks, Friday 21 May, 6pm-7.30pm

Media inquiries: Johanna Featherstone, Red Room Company, on 0425 312 334, or Graham Cassidy, Cato Counsel, on 0419 202 317

The Red Room Company creates, promotes and publishes a spectrum of poetry by Australian writers, in unusual ways. The company is not-for-profit and is supported by The Nielson Foundation, The Australia Council for the Arts, Arts NSW and The Ian Potter Foundation.