



American Writers Festival participants (from left): Adam Johnson, Tina Chang and Rajiv Joseph.

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## American Writers Festival in Singapore

**SINGAPORE** – The fifth edition of the American Writers Festival in Singapore is set to take place next week. Co-hosted by Yale-NUS College and the Singapore Management University, the five-day event will feature the likes of Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Adam Johnson, poet Tina Chang, Pulitzer Prize finalist playwright Rajiv Joseph, travel writer Michael Meyer, and author and journalist Nisid Hajari who will participate in readings and panel discussions, with journalist Jon Fisman and poet-novelist Desmond Kon as moderators.

The writers featured are all interested in writing about Asia. They probe into their country's relationship with Asia or talk about the pan-Asian experience. They also have ties to the region either through work, heritage or familial roots. Johnson, for instance, won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2013 for

his novel *The Orphan Master's Son*, which looks at life in North Korea, while Joseph's play *Bengal Tiger At The Baghdad Zoo* was a Pulitzer finalist in 2010 and his plays have been staged in Singapore, such as *Gruesome Playground Injuries*.

"Over the years, we have seen many eager audiences engage with and meet American writers. Through their interactions, they create deeper cultural and social exchanges. The works of the featured authors span genres and cultures that are sure to start conversations," said Robin Hemley, director of the Yale-NUS Writing Programme.

> The American Writers Festival runs from Sept 14 to 18. For more information, visit <http://www.americanwritfest.org/>. Events are free but registration is required.