

Meet the Author Evening



Discussion with John Asfour about his work and life as a poet

John Asfour is a Lebanese-Canadian poet, writer, and teacher. At the age of 13, a grenade exploded in his face during the Lebanon crisis, leaving him blind. Asfour is the author of four books of poetry in English and two in Arabic. He translated the poetry of Muhammed al-Maghut into

English under the title *Joy is Not my Profession*, and he selected, edited and introduced the landmark anthology *When the Words Burn: An Anthology of Modern Arabic Poetry*.

Date: May 28, 2009 ~ 7 - 10 pm

Location: The Lyceum

Cost: \$35 per person

**Wine, non-alcoholic beverages & tasty morsels will be provided & the author will autograph your copy of his book*

*We are blessed to have Asfour join us at the Lyceum during his stay in Vancouver. Asfour is the inaugural writer in residence at the Joy Kogawa House, where he will be working on his latest book, **Blindfold**. The poems in this work will explore feelings of loss, displacement and disorientation experienced by the disabled while relating those themes to those experienced by immigrants. Asfour suggests that the disabled often feel like foreigners in their own land, hampered by prejudice, communication barriers and the sense of "limited personality" that also characterizes the second-language learner.*

While at the Lyceum, Asfour will read selections of his work written while in Vancouver. The images created by this poetry will remain with you for a very long time. He will accompany some of his words with lute playing.

If participants would like to get a taste of Asfour's work, copies of his book *One Fish from a Rooftop* will be available for sale at the Lyceum at the usual bookclub discount.



**CHRISTIANNE'S LYCEUM
OF LITERATURE AND ART**



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