

gleebooks

gleaner

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Vale Jean Baudrillard

In 1984 Edward Colless and I invited Jean Baudrillard to Sydney to be keynote speaker at FUTUR◊FALL: Excursions into Post-Modernity, Australia's first conference/art event on postmodernism. FUTUR◊FALL consisted of four nights of performances and three days of papers at five different venues, with over 1200 people at the Opening Night, 1200 at Baudrillard's first lecture and over 700 registered for the event. What a celebration it was. For FUTUR◊FALL I wrote and taped with Emmanuel Gasparinados this rap below, a rap picturing the world as I thought, accorded with Baudrillard's

vision. It was played at the end of the performances on the Opening Night of FUTUR◊FALL, a night called by me 'The Eve of Distraction'. I offer it to gleebooks' gleaner' as a different kind of obituary to Jean, and I dedicate it to him now, as I did then.



Jean Baudrillard
29 July 1929 - 6 March 2007

Bestsellers - Nonfiction

- Silencing Dissent: How the Australian Government is Controlling Public Opinion and Stifling Debate** - Clive Hamilton & Sarah Maddison \$24.95
- The Peaceful Pill Handbook** - Philip Nitschke & Fiona Stewart \$35.00
- Gittinomics** - Ross Gittins \$26.95
- Red Carpets and Other Banana Skins** - Rupert Everett \$27.95
- Freedom Next Time** - John Pilger \$35.00
- The God Delusion** - Richard Dawkins \$35.00
- Another Country** - Nicholas Rothwell \$32.00
- Quarterly Essay 23: The History Question** - Inga Clendinnen \$14.95
- Infidel: My Life** - Ali Ayaan Hirsi \$34.95
- The Existential Jesus** - John Carroll \$35.00

Bestsellers - Literature

- The Inheritance of Loss** - Kiran Desai \$32.95
- The Secret River** - Kate Grenville \$29.95
- A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian** - Marina Lewycka \$24.95
- Every Move You Make** - David Malouf \$39.95
- Two Caravans** - Marina Lewycka \$32.95
- Glue** - Irvine Welsh \$23.95
- The Kite Runner** - Khaled Hosseini \$22.95
- The Good Husband of Zebra Drive** - Alexander McCall Smith \$29.95
- The Widow and Her Hero** - Thomas Keneally \$39.95
- Salmon Fishing in the Yemen** - Paul Torday \$32.95

Literary News

The 2007 **Commonwealth Writers' Prize** Best Book and Best First Book awards regional winners have been announced. Australian Andrew O'Connor won Best First Book for *Tuvalu* in the South East Asia and South Pacific region. See www.commonwealthfoundation.com for the list of winners. The overall winner to be announced on 27 May. Admirers of **JM Coetzee** will be pleased to know that Text Publishing have signed his new novel, *Diary of a Bad Year*, to be published in September this year. Respected and internationally renowned Australian writer **Elizabeth Jolley** died in February. Her awards included the Age Book of the Year award, the Age fiction prize, the Miles Franklin award, the National Book Council (Banjo) award, the NSW Premier's literary award, WA critical and historical prize and WA Premier's fiction award. A feature film was made from her book *The Well* and her latest book was published in 2006, *Learning to Dance*, edited by Caroline Lurie. The shortlist for this year's **National Biography Award** has been announced. The six titles are: *Arthur Tange* by Peter Edwards, *Mr Stuart's Track* by John Bailey, *The Beginner's Guide to Winning the Nobel Prize* by Peter Doherty, *No Time for Dances* by Gillian Bouras, *East of Time* by Jacob B Rosenberg, *Margaret Olley: Far From a Still Life* by Meg Stewart. The winner of the \$20,000 prize will be announced at the State Library of NSW on 27 March (after this *gleaner* goes to print).

The Last Word

There are many things to celebrate in the month of April (Fools, Chocolate, Eggs, Easter, ANZACS, Autumn...) and this *gleaner* gives you more: Collector's editions from Malouf and Shakespeare, competitions and a premium from Tracy Chevalier; the steps to get your manuscript out there (with flair); and literary events to make you aware. So until next month, be of good cheer! (With thanks to *The Cat in the Hat* who turned 50 this year). Isabelle.

To Jean Baudrillard

THE FUTUR◊FALL RAP

Alan Cholodenko

In the difference between difference and In
Difference is seen as the scene to be in
But what is difference at the end of the trip
When difference meets the indifference
of the strip.

What are lines of flight
At the end of the light
When the only attraction
Is the Eve of Distraction.
FUTUR◊FALL: where the night never ends.

In the era of simulation
Nothing's left but fascination
No production
Seduction
All across the nation
It's computerisation, satellisation,
Miniaturisation, orbitalisation.
Walt Disney's in suspended animation(!)
The Retro-Neo-Mise-en-Abime
Transistor-No Resister Sister-Mise-en-
Obscene.

No subject, no object
No future, no past
No text, no context
Presence's absence at last.

The death of the author
The death of the reader
Contra Barthes
The death of art.
No referent, no sign
No cosmic design.
Tell me: what do you feel
'bout the death of the real?
Tell me, what do you feel
'bout the death of the real?

Polarities implode
At the end of the road.
Radical eclectic
Retro aesthetic
History's end's
Just around the bend.
Catastrophe
Is all that I can see.
It's Apocalypse Now
Hyper-real

Tell me, what do you feel
'bout the Hyper-real? .

Zarathustra

Had the news to
Tell the nation:

I feature
Nietzsche.

I feature
Nietzsche.

I feature
Nietzsche.

Deleuze and Guattari
Mitsubishi Atari

Body without organs
Deterrence machine

The episteme
Has run out of steam.

The epistemé
Has had its day.

Lévi-Strauss
Raus raus.

No no, no no
To Foucault (and Donzelot).

The episteme
Has run out of steam.

Lyotard's dream
Is a passeist scene.

No passion.
Fashion.

No loophole.
Black hole.

In the difference between difference and In
Difference is seen as the scene to be in.
But what is difference at the end of the trip
When difference meets the indifference
of the strip.

Tell me,
What do you feel
'bout the Hyper-real?
The post is the most
From coast to coast.
All across the nation
A brand new sensation.
Affirmation, negation
What is the equation?
Do the FUTUR◊FALL.
Do the FUTUR◊FALL...

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1. See the *International Journal of Baudrillard Studies* website for obituaries by Gerry Coulter, its Editor, and by Rex Butler.