A Call for Entries

Welcome to the second Rascals Prize competition, a S$2,000 biennial award for the best piece of research on the subject of lesbians, gays, bi-sexuals and transgender (LGBT) and Singapore.

What is needed?

- The entry deals with a subject related to LGBT and Singapore.
- The entry can be in the form of
  - a written research paper (max 10,000 words)
  - a documentary film (no longer than 1 hour)
  - an audio programme (no longer than 1 hour).
- Creative writing (short stories or poetry) shall not be accepted for this competition.
- The entry may be co-authored/co-produced by more than one person.
- The entry can be in any of the four official languages of Singapore. In the event that an entry is shortlisted for the final round of the competition, the entrant will be asked to provide a full English translation of the work.
- The entry can be a piece of work already prepared for and submitted to an academic institution or journal. This includes undergraduate projects submitted for grading in universities, colleges or polytechnics in any country or paper submitted to an academic journal.
- People of all nationalities resident anywhere are eligible for this competition.

Entry Deadline

- All entries must reach the organizers by 31 January 2011
Entry Procedure

- All entries should be accompanied by a short abstract of no more than 300 words and a short CV(s) of the entrant(s). The CV should provide name, date of birth, highest academic qualification, nationality, current occupation, email and postal address.
- Text entries should be submitted as a pdf file to: pluadmin@gmail.com
  Write “Rascals Prize entry” in the subject heading of the email.
- Film and audio entries should be sent as a CD to the following address:
  Rascals Prize
c/o Russell Heng Hiang Khng
112 Lengkong Tiga
#12-223
Singapore 410112
The organizing committee will not be held responsible for any lost mail and is unable to return any disc submitted for the competition.

Judging Process

- The award will meet the highest standards of academic integrity. An independent jury will be tasked to select a winner based purely on research and academic merit. Whether the work helps or hinders gay activism shall not be a consideration.
- The Jury comprises four academics in various fields who are working in Singapore. Their decision will be final.
- To raise the standard of impartiality, the organizers will forward all entries anonymously to the Jury.
- The Jury shall be looking for academic qualities such as data collection, analysis, theory-building and social relevance.
- Should there be more than 10 entries, the Rascals Prize organizers shall convene a Shortlisting Committee, that will select the 10 most deserving entries for consideration by the jury. Entrants will be informed if their works do not make the shortlist. The authors may appeal to the jury to overrule the Shortlisting Committee's selection. The Jury may, upon a unanimous vote, grant the appeal and include the work in the shortlist.
- The Jury has the discretion of splitting the prize between 2 equally deserving works, in which case each joint winner will be awarded S$1,000. The Jury also reserves the right not to award the prize if they consider none of the entries to be of sufficient merit.
- The four academics making up the Jury are:
  a) Dr Brian Bergen-Aurand, Assistant Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University.
b) Dr Terence Chong King Shan, Senior Fellow, Coordinator of Regional Social and Cultural Studies Programme, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

c) Dr Lai Ah Eng, Senior Research Fellow, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore.

d) Dr Lo Mun Hou, Assistant Professor, University Scholars Programme, National University of Singapore.

**Winners' Obligations**

- The author(s) of the winning work(s) shall grant The Rascals Prize non-exclusive publication rights.
- Winner(s) should be agreeable to reasonable requests for publicity and media interviews, including photography.
- Author(s) of winning essays shall allow PLU to post these essays on the PLU website. In the event that the author(s) decline for whatever reasons, they are obliged to return the award.
- Winner(s) based in Singapore shall attend the prize-giving ceremony.

**Who is behind the Rascals Prize and why?**

The prize is organized by People Like Us (PLU), Singapore’s first gay advocacy group. It seeks to encourage academic and research work that adds to knowledge of gay issues in Singapore, and is in line with PLU’s mission statement which says: "...to promote an informed understanding" of LGBT issues.

The name of the award commemorates a seminal event in Singapore's gay history. In May 1993, police officers brusquely interrupted a regular Sunday gay night at a dance club named Rascals. Patrons without identification were hauled off to the police station for the night. Such detention exceeded police powers, and the behaviour of the police strongly suggested intent to harass.

The indignation over the raid on Rascals galvanised a group of gay people into action and thus PLU was born.

For more details please see [www.plu.org](http://www.plu.org)

Please send all enquiries to [pluadmin@gmail.com](mailto:pluadmin@gmail.com)