



2007 BYRON BAY WRITERS FESTIVAL

Festival Writer: Robert Dessaix

Robert Dessaix is a writer, translator, broadcaster and occasional essayist. From 1985 to 1995, after teaching Russian language and literature for many years at the Australian National University and the University of New South Wales, he presented the weekly *Books and Writing* program on ABC Radio National. In more recent years he has also presented radio series on Australian public intellectuals and great travellers in history, as well as regular programs on language.

His best-known books, all translated into several European languages, are his autobiography *A Mother's Disgrace*, the novels *Night Letters* and *Corfu*, a collection of essays and short stories (*and so forth*) and, most recently, the travel memoir *Twilight of Love* which grew out of his fascination with Turgenev and Russian literature. He has also published translations of works by Dostoyevsky, Turgenev and a number of Russian poets, and his translations of plays by Anton Chekhov have been produced in theatres around Australia.

A full-time writer since 1995, Robert Dessaix lives in Hobart, Tasmania. He is currently working on another travel memoir, focusing this time on the French writer André Gide.

the festival for thinkers

the festival for thinkers