

V.S. NAIPAUL

reading & in conversation
with

Farrukh Dhondy and Martina Ghosh-Schellhorn

Saturday, 4 November 2006, 8 p.m.

Henry Le Boeuf Hall, BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels



"I am the sum of my books," Sir Vidia Naipaul stated in his 2001 Nobel Prize acceptance lecture; "It's been like this because of my background." Born in 1932 in Trinidad, an island to which his Indian grandfather had been transported for work on the sugar plantations as an indentured labourer, Naipaul found himself fascinated by the very idea of 'India'. He writes: "When I became a writer those areas of darkness around me as a child became my subjects ... I had to travel to India because there was no one to tell me what the India my grandparents had come from was like." Three highly acclaimed, personal accounts of his engagement with India have emerged from Naipaul's resolute attempts to fathom the meaning of "home" and "belonging".

In his reading, Naipaul will take us on a voyage imaginaire to the unique India he has created. Following on this, Indian fellow-writer Farrukh Dhondy, a pioneer of multicultural entertainment in the UK, and the author of prize-winning children's books, plays and film scripts, will converse, along with the Indo-German academic Martina Ghosh-Schellhorn, an authority on transcultural identity, with Naipaul about his current views on an India he continues to analyse and creatively engage with.

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