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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **The Literary Ventures Fund teams with British publisher Marion Boyars Publishers, Ltd. to bring Award-winning Ryall McMaster novel, *Feather Man*, to readers in the United States.**

BOSTON/NEW YORK—The Literary Ventures Fund ([www.literaryventuresfund.org](http://www.literaryventuresfund.org)), the non-profit foundation that makes philanthropic investment in important works of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, today announced its newest project: *Feather Man*, a novel by acclaimed Australian writer Rhyll McMaster, winner of the inaugural \$32,000 Barbara Jefferis Award. Marion Boyars Publishers, Ltd., will publish *Feather Man* in the US in August, 2008. Marion Boyars Publishers, Ltd. books are distributed in the U.S. by Consortium Book Sales and Distribution.

We are pleased that our first UK partnership is with such an esteemed independent press," said Jim Bildner, Chairman and founder of Literary Ventures Fund. "Marion Boyars is known and respected for being a haven for creative writers to tell their stories. LVF was founded in the same spirit, so that publishers may do the best possible work for their writers."

*Feather Man* is Rhyll McMaster's first novel. Set against the backdrop of rural Australia in the 1950s and the London art world of the 1970s, McMaster meticulously paints the landscapes of protagonist Sooky's internal and external worlds through a narrator not unlike Scout of *To Kill A Mockingbird*. The book artfully combines comedy with emotional intensity. McMaster's previously published, *Washing the Money*, a collection of poems, won the Victorian Premier's Prize and the Grace Leven Prize and her work has been broadcast on Australian national radio and television.

The Barbara Jefferis Award administered by the Australian Society of Authors and is offered annually for "the best novel written by an Australian author that depicts women and girls in a positive way or otherwise empowers the status of women and girls in society." The announcement of the 2008 was made on Friday, March 28.

"Marion Boyars Publishers is delighted to be working with some of the best professionals in US publishing, who have experience both of large presses and the independent publishing scene," said Catheryn Kilgarriff, publisher of Marion Boyars. The quality of the LVF personnel is what attracted us to work with LVF. It is the perfect platform with which to launch a new international star, Rhyll McMaster."

The Literary Ventures Fund, a first-of-its-kind, not-for-profit private foundation, serves as a primary "partner-in-risk" with authors and publishers in advancing works of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Using a philanthropic investment model, it provides supplementary support to literary authors and publishers by offering them a variety

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of resources. LVF's efforts help ensure that exceptional literary works with a potential for broad readership reach the widest possible audience and remain in print for years to come. In addition, LVF fulfills its public-policy mission by presenting programs that generate discussion about the broader literary landscape, the role of publishing in serving literary writers, and how more readers can become engaged with literature.

**For advance reading copies contact Kate Travers at [ktravers@literaryventuresfund.org](mailto:ktravers@literaryventuresfund.org)**

**Link to a Sydney Morning Herald article announcing Rhyll McMaster's award.**  
<http://www.smh.com.au/news/books/plotting-novel-left-poet-at-a-loss-for-words/2008/03/28/1206207399861.html>