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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Take A Trip Down Memory Lane

Author and celebrity chef Terry Tan releases “Stir-fried and not Shaken”,
an endearing and hilarious collection of anecdotes about Singapore in the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s

Singapore, 14 August 2008 – Join Singapore’s favourite cookbook author (with over twenty books to his name), TV chef and food writer Terry Tan as he takes a trip down Singapore’s memory lane and offers intriguing and often hilarious insights into a very different Singapore that existed in the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s.

Terry recalls iconic objects of the past such as Green Spot orange drink and Brylcreem. “Green Spot was *the* drink at parties and during Chinese New Year. Our favourite treat was to dunk love letters (*kuéh belandah*) into this drink and suck the delicious orange squash up. Brylcreem was the brilliantine of my callow youth that caused rivulets of grease to stream down my neck on hot days. One had to plaster hair down with the stuff to look anywhere like the Teddy Boys of the day. It did do a marvelous job flicking up locks and giving gauche young men some semblance of hirsute sexiness.”

Terry recalls his childhood in a 1950s village, where, at his grandmother’s request, he would use his catapult to shoot fruit bats attacking grandmother’s rambutan trees. Any captured bats were quickly removed to the kitchen to become the main ingredient in Granny’s famous flying-fox curry. Terry’s grandfather was less demanding: an opium addict, he would mope round the house in an opium-induced torpor.

With his first pay packet, Terry bought his first ever pair of long trousers – shiny and slippery, and help up by large metal buckles. With long trousers he was now able to attend the house parties that were all the rage in the early 60s and perform vigorous rumbas which otherwise would have looked odd had he been wearing his shorts.

Feeling “frus” at always being a *lampu*, or lamppost, chaperoning his elder sister on dates, Terry swiftly progressed to hiding behind rocks with his friends on Mount Faber and jumping out in front of vibrating parked cars with steamed-up windows and surprising amorous couples.

Lap up the mirth of Terry’s anecdotal observations of a Singapore long gone and enjoy memories that would otherwise be relegated to the mists of time. Old or young, readers will be endlessly fascinated by Terry’s memoirs that recall funny, familiar and forgotten moments from this forty-year passage. Meet Khan Chia Peh the trishaw man who took his daily bath in Farrer Park public swimming pool, Muthu the barber who supported his whole family in India on 50-cent haircuts, and delight in Granny’s flying-fox curries.

“Stir-fried and not Shaken: A nostalgic trip down Singapore’s memory lane” is available from all good bookstores in Singapore from 15 August 2008.

End.

To arrange for an interview with Terry Tan by email or phone, please contact:
Phil Tatham on 6377 5272 or at “phil@monsoonbooks.com.sg”

Note to Editors

About Terry Tan

Singapore’s favourite cookbook author, TV chef and food writer Terry Tan was born during the Japanese Occupation when Singapore was not Singapore but Syonanto. By the time he’d learnt to spell Syonanto it was back to being Singapore. Confusion reigned until Terry found how to make sense of the world through words and food. Schooled in the art of Nonya cooking and trained in broadcast journalism, Terry is the author of over twenty cookbooks, former Editor-in-Chief and, at time of press, Editor-at-Large of *Wine & Dine* magazine. He has also been a schoolteacher, chef, broadcaster, journalist, copywriter and food consultant.

After forty years in Singapore, Terry relocated to London, where he continues to represent Singapore as its unofficial food ambassador. This trip down Singapore’s memory lane is rich with the author’s comic patter and wry observations. And flying-fox curry.

About Monsoon Books

Monsoon Books is a Singapore-based independent publisher of fiction (literary and commercial) and creative nonfiction (biography and autobiography, memoir, true crime, narrative nonfiction, travelogue and literary journalism)—often with Asian themes—with distribution throughout Asia, the United States, Canada, UK, South Africa and the Middle East. We publish quality books from outstanding British, Irish, American, Singaporean, Malaysian, Australian and NZ writers and we have several regional bestsellers to our name.

Through sublicenses with colleagues overseas, Monsoon’s titles are translated into and published in various languages around the world. Several stories have also been adapted for the screen and televised.

Under the direction of publisher Phil Tatham, Monsoon Books offers an exciting, innovative and distinctive alternative to commercial publishing: our mission is to be unique—to find new talent and put publishing in Asia at the heart of the literary world.

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