

**Black Cat Promotions, Leeds presents a Literary Soirée with
THOMAS GLAVE AND ROMMI SMITH**

@ The Viaduct, Lower Briggate, Leeds, Thursday 15 January 2009, 6.30 to 8.30 pm

Tickets £5 /£2 (low income) are available from: The Viaduct and Orlando Fashion, 174 Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7



Thomas Glave will read from his new book of short stories, *The Torturer's Wife* (City Lights, 2009). Thomas Glave is editor of *Our Caribbean: A Gathering of Lesbian and Gay Writing from the Antilles* (2008) and author of two collections: *Whose Song? and Other Stories* (2001) and the Lambda Literary Award winner *Words to Our Now: Imagination and Dissent* (2005). He is currently 2008-09 Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Professor in Writing and Humanistic Studies at MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA and teaches Creative Writing at the State University of New York, Binghamton.

Rommi Smith will read from her collection of poems *Mornings and Midnights* (forthcoming, Peepal Tree Press) about the legendary Diva Gloria Silver.

Rommi Smith is a poet, playwright and teacher living in Leeds. She has performed at Glastonbury and at arts, music and literature festivals in Amsterdam, Paris and New York. Her broadcasts include work for BBC Radio shows *The Verb*; *Woman's Hour*, *Fine Lines*, and *Poetry Please* and she took part in Radio 4's 2002 Poetry Festival. In 2007 she was Parliamentary Writer in Residence exploring the 1807 Act to abolish the British Slave Trade.



Peepal Tree Press will run a bookstall selling works from their Leeds-based publishing house. Peepal Tree Press is home of the best in Caribbean and Black British fiction, poetry, literary criticism, memoirs and historical studies. www.peepaltreepress.com

Works by Thomas Glave, including *Our Caribbean*; *Words to our Now*; and *Whose Song?* will be for sale at special discounted rates for this evening only.

More about these authors:

THOMAS GLAVE, *The Torturer's Wife*

A woman is haunted by the atrocities committed by her husband, and makes a heart-wrenching decision about atonement; secret fears and unspoken desires reveal the profound ambivalence at the heart of an interracial couple's relationship; a Jamaican man mourns his friend's death at the hands of anti-gay vigilantes; and two extraordinary young men escape the horrors of slavery when they leave their bodies behind in the Middle Passage.

'Thomas Glave walks the path of such greats in American literature as Richard Wright and James Baldwin. He cuts to the bone of what it means to be black in America, white in America, gay in America, and human in the world at large.' Gloria Naylor, author of *The Women of Brewster Place*

ROMMI SMITH, *Mornings and Midnights*

When legendary diva, Gloria Silver reads her obituary in a music paper, she feels that the forgetfulness of the world has just gone too far.

Listening to the radio she hears one of her songs being sampled without permission and concludes that there might be money in being alive. So she writes to the Press and sets in train a comeback of a kind; one that leads through further pain, not to a revival of her fortunes, but to a deeper understanding of herself.

Through Gloria's journey - of sexual abuse as a child, the aliveness of performance, the anti-climax of ordinary living, the intensities of her sexual relationships with women and men, and the despair of drug abuse - Rommi Smith creates an unforgettable character and, at the same time, creates an evocative and imaginative homage to African American jazz of the 1940s and 50s.

'Rommi's poems struck a chord in me as a musician, and being the husband, son and brother of strong Black women. Poignant, visceral reading.' Dennis Rollins

This event is supported by:

**Leeds University Union LGBT Society
Road, Leeds 7**

Orlando Fashion, Chapeltown

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