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“The Arabic word mahjar refers collectively to all the lands of Arab, most often Lebanese, migration. It has overtones of separation, renunciation, estrangement and abandonment but, for the Lebanese particularly, it is a place-word redolent with pride in achievement as well as distance from homeland. Australia is one the lands of the mahjar.”

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EVA SALLIS IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

Mahjar will be published by Allen & Unwin on 4 April 2003
$19.95pb ISBN 1741140714

For further information, review copies or to arrange an interview, please contact
April Murdoch, Publicity Manager, Allen & Unwin, tel 02 8425 0100 & email: aprilm@allenandunwin.com
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EVA SALLIS

Eva Sallis was born in Bendigo and grew up in Germany and the Adelaide Hills. She studied Arabic intensively for seven years and travels regularly to the Middle East, particularly Yemen. She has an MA and a PhD, specialising in comparative literature (Arabic and English), and is a lecturer in Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide.

Eva is a writer of literary fiction. Her work often gives a different view of Middle Eastern culture and people. Her first novel *Hiam* won *The Australian/Vogel Literary Award* for 1997, the *Nita May Dobbie Literary Award* and was shortlisted for *The Courier Mail* Book of the Year in 1999 and the *National Fiction Award* in 2000. Her second novel, *The City of Sealions*, is set in Australia and Yemen, and explores ideas on cultural and communal alienation and belonging, a recurrent theme of her work. Other works include a book of literary criticism, *Sheherazade through the Looking Glass: the Metamorphosis of the 1001 Nights*; the libretto for ‘Alienation’ a commissioned music theatre piece performed for the Centenary of Federation celebrations in 2001; and a number of short stories, poems, academic and literary articles and reviews.

She has been active in recent times in raising public awareness of the rights and experiences of refugees and asylum seekers. She is one of the co-founders of Australians Against Racism, and scripted the controversial television commercial ‘Faces in the Crowd’, aired in 2001 on Human Rights day. The hugely successful ‘Australia IS Refugees!’ Schools essay/story competition, run nationwide in 2002, was her next major project. She co-edited the booklet *AIR! Winning Stories 2002* from the competition winners. She is editing a major book from the best entries.

Eva is currently working on a novel entitled *The Marsh Birds*, set in Iraq, Syria, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand.

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The Mahjar was a literary movement started by Arabic-speaking writers who had emigrated to America from Ottoman-ruled Lebanon, Syria and Palestine at the turn of the 20th century. Like their predecessors in the Nahda movement (or the "Arab Renaissance"), writers of the Mahjar movement were stimulated by their personal encounter with the Western world and participated in the renewal of Arabic literature, hence their proponents being sometimes referred to as writers of the "late Nahda". These writers... The Mahjar (Arabic: المهاجر, romanized: al-mahjar, one of its more literal meanings being "the Arab diaspora") was a literary movement started by Arabic-speaking writers who had emigrated to America from Ottoman-ruled Lebanon, Syria and Palestine at the turn of the 20th century. Literary historian Nadeem Naimy assesses the group's importance as having shifted the criteria of aesthetic merit in Arabic literature: Focusing on Man rather than on language... View Mahjar Literature Research Papers on Academia.edu for free. Recent papers in Mahjar Literature. Papers. People. Gender Politics in Gibran, Naimy, and 'Alifa Karam. Early Arabic writings by Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931) and Mikhael Naimy (1889-1988) have often been cited as evidence that mahjar writers held progressive, liberal, and open-minded views on gender and society. Indeed, the social and more. The Mahjar was a literary movement started by Arabic-speaking writers who had emigrated to America from Ottoman-ruled Lebanon, Syria and Palestine at the turn of the 20th century. Like their predecessors in the Nahda movement, writers of the Mahjar movement were stimulated...