

Our Man in Cape Town - Graham Greene's Secret African Love Affair

Tim Butcher

Tuesday 7 March
18.00–19.00

LT3 Kramer Building,
Middle Campus, UCT
R100 (full fee); R50
(staff); R30 (students)

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Graham Greene, storyteller supreme of twentieth century literature, left behind novels framed by place, from Mexico to Vietnam via the Caribbean. The thread running through the richest of writing careers was a passion for Africa, a love of its lack of artifice, its purity both of good and evil.

In this lecture, Cape Town-based author Tim Butcher unravels Greene's lifelong affair with the continent: from his first

foray outside Europe in 1935 when he risked everything to trek across Liberia, to wartime service as a spy in Sierra Leone, to a Congo river expedition to explore a leprosy colony in the 1950s and his eventual 1960s taming by a life partner drawn from Equatorial Africa. As with all good African stories, there's a Cape Town leg, in Greene's case whisky-steeped, shapely and very colourful.

Tim Butcher's first book, *Blood River*, was a Richard & Judy Book Club selection, shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize, and translated into several languages. His second book, *Chasing the Devil: The Search for Africa's Fighting Spirit*, describes Graham Greene's 350 mile trek through Sierra Leone and Liberia. Tim's most recent book is *The Trigger: Hunting the Assassin who Brought the World to War*.

* As a partially self-funding entity, we are obliged to charge a small fee for extension lectures. These are fixed at Summer School rates.



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