



ISOBEL ABULHOUL OBE

CEO & Trustee – Emirates Literature Foundation
Director – Emirates Airline Festival of Literature

Isobel Abulhoul came to Dubai in 1968 and co-founded Magrudy's, a bookshop chain, in 1975. In 2008 Isobel founded and is Director of the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature, the Middle East's largest celebration of the written and spoken word. The Festival has won the Best Festival title at the Middle East Event Awards in 2013, 2014 and 2015. In October 2016, the Festival has been awarded as Best Family Day out given by Time Out Kids Dubai and received another award as Favourite Festival given by What's On awards in November 2016 and 2017.

In 2013, HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and also the Festival patron, issued a Decree forming the Emirates Literature Foundation, naming Isobel as one of the trustees on the Board. In addition, Isobel also holds the position of CEO of the Foundation.

Isobel has received several awards and accolades over the years, including Cultural Personality of the Year by Dr. HH Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, the Ruler of Sharjah in 2010 and an OBE by HM Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain in 2012.

As the co-host of 'Talking of Books', broadcast weekly on Dubai Eye 103.8 FM, Isobel has now found an enjoyable way to spend Saturday mornings discussing the latest titles and interviewing authors from around the world.



FOR THE LOVE OF THE WORD

-An exclusive workshop for DBWC by Emirates Literature Foundation

Discussion Points:

- Why reading and books are important throughout our lives and not just when we were students
- How to choose a good book
- Book groups, how to start one and general rules
- How to make reading a shared experience
- Other ways to enjoy literature
- Why reading for pleasure is vital for every child
- Stepping outside your comfort zone