

AN ANATOMY OF WRITING AND POLITICS, MEMORY AND DEMOCRACY

JAVIER CERCAS



SYDNEY IDEAS

Co-presented with the
Sydney Democracy
Initiative at the
University of Sydney, and
the Instituto Cervantes
in Sydney



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

DATE
WEDNESDAY 29 FEBRUARY 2012

TIME
6.30PM TO 8.00PM

VENUE
THE GREAT HALL, QUADRANGLE,
THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

COST
\$20/\$15 CONCESSION
FREE FOR UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
STAFF, STUDENTS AND ALUMNI
(REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

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www.sydney.cervantes.es

Javier Cercas is Spain's most celebrated contemporary writer. He was born in Ibahernando, in central Spain, in 1962. Fascinated from a young age by the works of Jorge Luis Borges and determined to become a writer, Cercas studied Spanish literature at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. His haunting novel *Soldiers of Salamis* (2004) became a great success. Digging into the painful history of Spain's Civil War through the gripping, death-defying story of fascist soldier Sanchez Mazas, Cercas uses irony, paradox and self-references to involve his readers in the creation of the novel, in this way encouraging them to ponder for themselves questions about the vital importance in a democracy of coming to terms with the past and the difficulty of deciding what is true, what is false and what cannot be remembered.

Cercas is the author of nine books and many shorter texts and translations. His most recent work is *The Anatomy of a Moment* (2011), a controversial prize-winning account of the failed coup d'état in Spain in February 1981. Cercas is the recipient of many Spanish and international awards, including the Premio Salambó and the Premio Nacional de Narrativa in Spain, the International Foreign Fiction Prize in United Kingdom, the Grinzane Cavour in Italy and the Athens Prize for Literature in Greece. A regular contributor to the Catalan edition of *El País*, he lives in Barcelona.

PRINCIPAL PARTNER BENDIGO AND ADELAIDE BANK
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Javier Cercas is in Australia as a guest of Adelaide Writers' Week 2012. His books will be on sale at the venue and he will be available to sign copies after the presentation.