

### **List of Featured International Writers**

#### **Eli Amir (Israel)**

Eli Amir is well-known in Israel for his involvement with new immigrants and his activity in Palestinian-Jewish relations. He has published four bestselling novels and a novella. His debut novel, *Scapegoat* was an astounding success and established him as a prolific writer.

#### **Tash Aw (Malaysia/United Kingdom)**

Tash Aw was born in Taipei and brought up in Malaysia. He moved to England in his teens and now lives in London. *The Harmony Silk Factory*, his first novel won the Whitbread First Novel Award in 2005 and was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize in the same year.

#### **Kunal Basu (India/United Kingdom)**

Kunal Basu is the author of three historical novels, *The Opium Clerk*, *The Miniaturist* and *Racists*, all of which have been reviewed widely. He is also a Fellow at Templeton College, Oxford University.

#### **Bei Dao (USA/China)**

Bei Dao is an award-winning Chinese poet currently based in Hong Kong. He has taught in several universities in USA. Bei Dao has also been nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature several times.

#### **Paddy Bushe (Ireland)**

Paddy Bushe has published seven collections of poetry and three books of translations. He has won the Strokestown International Prize, the Listowel Writers' Week Poetry Prize, Duais an Oireachtais and, most recently, the Michael Hartnett Award.

#### **Kurt Busiek (USA)**

From a childhood barred of comics to becoming a multi-award-winning writer, Kurt Busiek has come a long way – working on such diverse comic series as *Iron Fist*, *Liberty Project*, *Mickey Mouse* and the critically-acclaimed *Marvels*, where he collaborated with painter Alex Ross.

#### **Nigel Cawthorne ( United Kingdom)**

Nigel Cawthorne has been writing professionally for twenty-eight years. He is a prolific creative non-fiction writer who has written on a diverse number of topics and has contributed articles to numerous international newspapers and magazines. He is well-known for his series, *Sex Lives...* of books on prominent figures of past and present.

#### **Jung Chang (China/United Kingdom)**

Jung Chang was born in China but currently resides in the United Kingdom. Her biography, *Wild Swans*, has sold over 10 million copies worldwide. Her latest work is a biography on Mao Tze Tung entitled, *Mao: The Untold Story*, co-written with Jon Halliday.

### **Charlie Dark (United Kingdom)**

With flamboyant gestures and vocal gymnastics, writer, producer and DJ Charlie Dark has made a dynamic impact on the UK poetry and performance scene as one-third of the critically-acclaimed Attica Blues, as well as for his community work in pushing poetry and creative writing to young people across the UK.

### **David Davidar (Canada/India)**

One of the founding members of Penguin India, author and publisher David Davidar is currently based in Canada. *The House of Blue Mangoes*, his first novel, was picked by *The New York Times* as a 'Notable Book' in 2002. His second novel, *The Solitude of Emperors*, was recently released in September 2007.

### **Alexander Deriev (Sweden)**

Alexander Deriev is the editor and publisher of the online and in-print journal of poetry, translation and art, *Ars Interpres*. Alexander Deriev has published several books in Russian and English. One of them, *Who Is Who in the Churches of Jerusalem*, is being considered as a candidate for the Albert Outler Prize of American Society of Church History.

### **Regina Derieva (Russia/Sweden)**

Regina Derieva is an acclaimed Russian poet and writer who has been described by *The Guardian* as a possible future Nobel Prize winner. She is the author of twenty books of poems, prose and essays and her works have been translated into many languages. In 2003, Derieva has been awarded the Shannon Fellowship of the International Thomas Merton Society.

### **Faisal Tehrani (Malaysia)**

Faisal Tehrani is the pen name of Mohd Faizal Bin Musa, an award-winning novelist, poet, short story writer, playwright and television script writer. In 2007, Faisal won first place in the Adult Novel category for *Bedar Sukma* Bisu and *Manikam Kalbu* for the Youth category for the DBP Golden Jubilee Literature Awards.

### **Madhur Jaffrey (India/United Kingdom)**

As an actress, TV presenter and writer, Madhur Jaffrey is best known for her cookery – a skill she picked up out of necessity than frivolity. With four decades of culinary experience behind her, it's the straight-talking clarity of her language that unravels the mysteries of Indian food that makes her books so successful.

### **Elmo Jayawardena (Sri Lanka)**

Pilot, and President of Association For Lighting A Candle (AFLAC) International, Elmo Jayawardena won the Graetean Award in Sri Lanka for his first book *Sam's Story*. His second book also won the State Literary Award for best book in 2005. Named an 'Everyday Hero' by *Reader's Digest*, all proceeds from his books go toward AFLAC.

### **Richard Katrovas (USA)**

Richard Katrovas is the founding academic director of the Prague Summer Programme and the author of six books of poetry. He currently divides his time between the Czech Republic and the US, where he is an English professor at Western Michigan University.

### **Lan Po-Chou (Taiwan)**

Lan Po-chou is a novelist, literary critic and documentary producer. A writer of exceeding talent and a visionary thinker, he won the Jury Award for Fiction and the China Times Literary Award and his novel *Song of the Veiled Carriage* was nominated for the Hung Hsing-fu Award for Fiction.

### **Arnošt Lustig (Czech Republic)**

Arnošt Lustig is a renowned Czech literary figure who has written prolifically. His body of work includes critically acclaimed novels, *Waiting for Leah* and *Lovely Green Eyes*, short stories, plays and screenplays. His works often involve the Holocaust and he is a two-time winner of the Jewish National Book Award.

### **Sharanya Manivannan (Malaysia/India)**

Sharanya Manivannan was born in India in 1985 and grew up in Sri Lanka and Malaysia. A writer, dancer, painter, actress, photographer, journalist and activist, she is working on her first novel, *Constellation of Scars* and a collection of poems, *Witchcraft*. She lives in Chennai.

### **Anita Nair (India)**

Anita Nair is a masterful storyteller with fine writing. Her first collection of short stories, *Satyr of the Subway* won a fellowship with the Virginia Center for Creative Arts. Born in Kerala, India, Nair's second book, *The Better Man* became the first book by an Indian writer to be published by Picador USA. She currently resides in Bangalore.

### **A Samad Said (Malaysia)**

Dato A Samad Said is the recipient of the prestigious Malaysian National Literary Laureate. He is the author of eight books, of which his best selling novel, *Salina*, has been translated into several languages and is studied by literature students across Malaysia.

### **Gail Simone (USA)**

Gail Simone is a multiple award-winning comic book writer, of such acclaimed series as *Birds of Prey*, *Wonder Woman*, *Justice League*, *X-men Unlimited*, the children's series *Gus Beezer*, *Teen Titans*, *Bart Simpsons Comics*, and many, many more. A former hairdresser, she became known in the comics world for a satirical column on the internet, where she poked fun at all aspects of the industry.

### **Sitok Srengenge (Indonesia)**

Sitok Srengenge is Programme Coordinator for the Utan Kayu Community, a lecturer at the Jakarta Arts Institute and editor of the Kalam Cultural Journal. His work has appeared in *2001: Secrets Need Words*; the *Nonsens Poetry* anthology, and various poetry and short fiction anthologies in Indonesia. Last year, Srengenge was cited as one of his country's leaders in society in culture by *Asiaweek* magazine.

### **Su Tong (China)**

Based in Nanjing, Su Tong is the author of several works of fiction, his most famous being, *Raise the Red Lantern*, which was made into a film by critically-acclaimed director, Zhang Yimou. *My Life as Emperor*, his latest novel, has been translated into English.

### **Lena Tamilvanan (India)**

Lena Tamilvanan is a well-known writer among the Tamil community globally. Under his expertise in editing, he has edited a staggering 3400 books (and counting). Lena has published 69 books on various subjects, and has travelled widely to Tamil communities around the world to speak on Tamil literature and his writing.

### **Tan Twan Eng (Malaysia)**

Tan Twan Eng is a Malaysian-born lawyer who has recently published his first work in the UK, *The Gift of Rain*, to rave reviews. He is currently working on his second novel. Tan is also a regular contributor to food and wine columns for various publications.

### **Teo Hsu-Ming (Australia)**

Born in Malaysia in 1970, Teo Hsu-Ming's family migrated to Australia in 1977. Her first novel, *Love and Vertigo*, was awarded the Australian/Vogel Award. She has been selected as one of the three Commended writers in the *Sydney Morning Herald's* Best Young Australian Novelists.

### **Madeleine Thien (Canada)**

Madeleine Thien's first book, *Simple Recipes*, a collection of stories, won four awards in Canada and was a finalist for the regional Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best First Book. Her novel, *Certainty*, was a shortlisted for the Kiriyaama Book Prize. It won the Amazon/Books in Canada First Novel Award, and was named a *Globe & Mail* Book of the Year. *Certainty* has been translated into fourteen languages. Madeleine lives in Montreal.

### **Loung Ung (USA)**

Born in Cambodia, Loung Ung is a survivor of the killing fields. Her memoir, *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers*, is a recipient of the 2001 Asian/Pacific American Librarian's Association award for 'Excellence in Adult Non-Fiction Literature'. She speaks all over the world on Cambodia, child soldiers, women and war, domestic violence, and landmines.

### **Mark Waid (USA)**

Since his first comic book purchase at age four, Mark Waid has been inspired. Through various jobs including a stint as a lounge singer, he has yet to find out as eclectic or fun as scripting comic books – his current full-time career thankfully. His impressive CV includes *Gotham by Gaslight*, *X-Men*, *Archie*, and with artist Alex Ross, *Kingdom Come*, one of the three best-selling graphic novels of all time.

### **Wang Anyi (China)**

Wang Anyi is one of contemporary China's most influential and innovative writers, and current chairperson of the Shanghai Writers' Association. Her novels have received numerous awards and her most prominent work, *Everlasting Regret*, is considered by many to be a modern classic.

## **List of Participating Singapore Writers**

### **Boey Kim Cheng**

Boey Kim Cheng, NAC Young Artist of 1995, is a poet of free verse whose poems point towards a quest for sources of spiritual peace and self-fulfillment. *Somewhere Bound* and its subsequent volumes, *Another Place* and *Days of No Name* all won various national awards in Singapore.

### **Meira Chand**

Meira Chand, of Indian-Swiss parentage, was born and educated in London, but have lived in Japan, Bombay and now, Singapore. She is the author of highly praised seven novels of which one of them, *House of the Sun* became the first Asian play adapted for the British stage and was voted Critic's Choice.

### **Felix Cheong**

Felix Cheong is a poet, freelance writer and adjunct lecturer in Creative Writing. A recipient of NAC's Young Artist Award in 2000, he has published three volumes of poetry and two novels for children. His latest work, published in 2007, is entitled, *The Woman in the Last Carriage*.

### **Chia Hwee Pheng**

Xi Ni Er is the pseudonym of poet/novelist Chia Hwee Pheng, whose major works include a collection of new poetry, *Kidnapping Time*, and the mini novels, *The Unbearable Heaviness of Life*. He has won many major awards including the Singapore Golden Lion Award and the National Book Development Council of Singapore's Book Award.

### **Goh Poh Seng**

Born in Malaya, Goh Poh Seng, is an award-winning novelist and author of several anthologies of poems. His first novel, *If We Dream Too Long*, won the National Book Development Council of Singapore's Fiction Book Award and has been translated into other languages. He practiced medicine in Singapore for 25 years and currently lives in Vancouver.

### **Rasiah Halil**

Fulbright scholar Rasiah Halil is a poet, writer, translator and an educator. Her works which dwell on social and humanitarian issues have received many commendation prizes and awards since 1983, while *Peristiwa* and *Dalang: Episod Tiga* won the Malay Literature Prize Award in 1999 and 2001 respectively.

### **Heng Siok Tian**

Heng Siok Tian has a distinct poetry style which is marked by her brief, attenuated observations or meditations on a particular image or word, drawn out by linguistic play. *Crossing the Chopsticks and Other Poems* received great praise and commendation. Heng was Honorary Fellow at the University of Iowa's International Writing Programme in 2000.

### **KTM Iqbal**

Iqbal is a poet and has been actively writing since 1958. His poems are written in both the traditional and modern styles. He has published seven collections of poetry and has received numerous prestigious awards including the Singapore Literature Merit Award in 2007.

### **Philip Jeyaretnam**

Philip Jeyaretnam whose literary works has received international and national attention, has published two well-reviewed novels, a linked collection of short stories, as well as individual stories and reflective essays. He was educated in Cambridge as a lawyer and most recently, conferred as Senior Counsel of the legal community in Singapore.

### **Isa Kamari**

2007 Cultural Medallion recipient, Isa Kamari, an architect by profession but a writer by heart, is best-known for his first novel *Satu Bumi* which delved into the issues surrounding Singapore during and after World War II. A dynamic and experimental writer, his poetry (*Sumur Usia*) and plays (*Dua Wajah* and *Mengejar Bayangan*) have been critically acclaimed.

### **Leong Liew Geok**

Leong Liew Geok is a prolific writer on papers concerning regional and national literature from a historical standpoint. Her published works also includes two collections of poetry, *Love is Not Enough* and *Women without Men*. A third volume *Passions* is in gestation. Born in Penang, Malaysia, she currently resides in Singapore with her family.

### **Suchen Christine Lim**

Suchen Christine Lim's novel, *Fistful of Colours* won the inaugural 1992 Singapore Literature Prize, making her the first Singaporean and woman to win the award. She recently published a collection of short stories entitled, *The Lies That Build a Marriage*.

### **Murugadiyan**

Murugadiyan writes under the pseudonym Murugadhasan. A poet, he has published nine books and composed numerous folksongs on devotion, patriotism, community and nature. He currently conducts monthly workshops for budding poets.

### **Suratman Markasan**

Suratman Markasan is a poet and a novelist. He has also written and presented many working papers pertaining to literature, language and culture in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. Suratman has received numerous literary awards including the SEA Write Award and the Tun Seri Lanang Award for his contributions to literature.

### **Alvin Pang**

Alvin Pang's poetry has been described as articulate, yet conversational. He has published two volumes of poetry which has attracted literary attention both locally and internationally. Pang was an Honorary Fellow at the University of Iowa's International Writing Programme in 2002, and an invited poet at the 2003 Edinburgh International Book Festival.

### **Daren Shiau**

Fulbright scholar Daren Shiau is a lawyer by profession, a poet, novelist and an active environmentalist. His novel *Heartland*, a consciously Singaporean novel won a Commendation Award in the 1998 Singapore Literature Prize. Along with *Heartland*, *Island Voices* was commissioned by the Ministry of Education as part of the Singaporean text in the 'O' Level curriculum.

### **SP Thinnappan**

SP Thinnappan is a leading scholar in Singapore who has worked tirelessly to promote Tamil in Singapore and its diaspora through his research and publications. As a passionate educator and a scholarly writer, he has published four books, and many research papers and articles in various international academic journals.

### **Toh Hsien Min**

Before he turned 18, Toh Hsien Min had written *Iambus* (1994), which revealed his potential. His next volume *The Enclosure of Love* (2001), written while in England, was more sophisticated and varied. The founder and chief editor of Quarterly Literary Review of Singapore ([www.qlrs.com](http://www.qlrs.com)), his third collection is due early 2008.

### **Cyril Wong**

Poet Cyril Wong received NAC's Young Artist Award in 2005 and has published five volumes of poetry. Wong was a co-winner of the Singapore Literature Prize in 2006 with poet Yong Shu Hoong for *unmarked treasure*. Largely confessional, Wong's poetry shows formal awareness and imaginative depth. He is also founder and co-editor of the online poetry Softblow ([www.softblow.com](http://www.softblow.com)).

### **Yeng Pway Ngon**

Yeng Pway Ngon is a poet, playwright and critic who won the National Book Development Council of Singapore's Book Award for his novel *A Man Like Me*, and received the Cultural Medallion (2003). *Asiaweek* magazine voted Yeng's *Me and My Affairs* as one of the Top 10 Chinese Novels of 2006.

### **Yong Shu Hoong**

Born in 1966, Yong Shu Hoong, is a poet and a freelance journalist. He has published four volumes of poetry in a free verse characterised by conversational ease. Self-effacing, wry and rarely satirical, Yong has read his work at many literary festivals abroad, and has been organizing the monthly subTEXT readings since 2001. Yong was co-winner of the 2006 Singapore Literature Prize (together with Cyril Wong) for *Frottage*.