

GEORGE TOWN, LITERARY FESTIVAL 2013

Fri 29 November -
Sun 1 December

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The
Ties that
Bind



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MESSAGE FROM THE RIGHT HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER OF PENANG



On behalf of the State Government of Penang, I would like to extend my personal greetings and a warm welcome to the fabulous authors, writers and literary set of the third George Town Literary Festival.

This year, we welcome twenty local and international writers and ten moderators to our festival and we thank them all for traveling from near and far to be with us this weekend. The George Town Literary Festival may be a small and intimate festival when compared to others, but in just a few short years, this festival has garnered the reputation as one of the most anticipated literary events in the region. The strength of our shared exchange and discourse over three days in a year since 2011 has helped to spread the love for literature across many boundaries and we in Penang, welcome the opportunity for more literary dialogue once again.

The State Government of Penang is committed to creating a cultural and artistic hub in this city, which will add to the quality of life in George Town. We see this as integral in the development of a world-class city as we see this as a place where dialogue and discourse can flourish, where we can argue and debate on different points of view and be heard in a world where lines of communication are slowly breaking down.

This year we welcome a children's program where the children of George Town will be introduced to the world of literature through some of the country's most vibrant authors and illustrators. We believe that children are the eyes and ears of the future, and we believe that literature can change hearts, open minds and create individuals who are better informed about our world.

We wish you all an inspiring weekend, we want you to be provoked and delighted, to react and respond to the words that you will hear, and to be challenged on ways that will involve conversations, questions and dialogue. We hope that audiences and participants will have a time that will be remembered by all.

It is more crucial than ever to have intellectual and creative freedom, in a world where the imposition of how we should think, and how we should and should not be, are being propagated more than ever. We need an open society where differences are respected and freedoms are celebrated. And it is festivals like these where we can embrace diversity of thought and ideas and encourage efforts towards a truly civil society.

Hopefully we will discover authors who will make the world at once listen to what was said and never cease to remember. Just as the pen is mightier than the sword, ideas are more important than battle. Enjoy the festival!

Thank you.

(LIM GUAN ENG)

Chief Minister of Penang



MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PENANG GLOBAL TOURISM



Welcome to the 3rd George Town Literary Festival!

I almost have to pinch myself to believe that this IS the third edition of our lit fest. It feels like it was just last month that we welcomed all of our five writers to our humble beginning. With the encouraging support of amazing Penangites - with a special mention to our first Festival Producer, Mr Chee Sek Thim - and a small budget, we managed to put it together within a few short months after the directive from our Chief Minister in 2011.

In two years, we have managed to grow to a festival of 20 writers from more than 10 countries and with an impressive programme to boot. Kudos to our three-time Festival Curator, Ms Bernice Chauly!

I am deeply gratified to have such a long list of supporters and sponsors this year, which has enabled us to add on a children's programme and also to increase publicity on and promotion of the George Town Literary Festival. This feeds our objectives of attracting international and inter-state visitors as well as making the experience of an international literary festival accessible to the people of Penang.

It would be remiss of me not to specially thank the Management and Staff of China House for the use of their spaces – 179 Victoria Street, Vic's and The Canteen – and for their services again gratis. And, to top it this year, they have also sponsored the talented musicians who will be keeping our parties going after dark.

To the team in Penang Global Tourism who worked tirelessly in putting this festival together and more - Jason, Yu Keong, Michelle and especially, Yani for the publicity - you have done the state proud.

To The Right Honourable Chief Minister of Penang, thank you for your vision in making Penang a more livable city, a cultural and artistic hub and a place where creativity thrives.

Finally, to all of you who have come from near and far, I hope you have a great time at the festival as well as in and around George Town.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ooi Geok Ling".

Ooi Geok Ling
Managing Director

CURATOR'S NOTE



It is with great honour and pleasure that I welcome you to the third edition of the George Town Literary Festival in the historic UNESCO World Heritage Site of George Town, Penang. This year, we continue from **Voyages. Hopes. Dreams** and we hope that our participating writers will inspire you with their stories and their words, which span the breadth of the theme **The Ties That Bind**.

This weekend, we welcome 20 acclaimed writers from Malaysia, Australia, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Italy, India, America and Canada. We also have a stellar list of Malaysian and Indonesian writers, thinkers, translators and critics who will moderate a series of panel discussions, which will traverse the festival's theme of delving into the ties that bind us all. We will look at the stories that are inspired from love, landscape, memory and history and how these writers choose to deal with issues that relate to us all. We look at how the writer thinks and contemplates, and how the writer writes.

Foreign support for the festival has grown tremendously and we are working with more government agencies than ever. We are grateful for the continued support from the British Council, and we welcome the Goethe Institut, the Embassies of the Netherlands, Belgium and the United States, and Canada Council of the Arts in bringing their writers to our shores. We also thank our continuing sponsors who continue to support this festival for the third year. We believe that the festival is growing from strength to strength and we hope that the people of George Town will continue to welcome us year after year in the only state-funded literary festival in the country.

I wish you an inspired three days in the hope of new friendships and memories in the spirit of exchange, dialogue and love for the written word.

Bernice Chauly, Festival Curator

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Bernice Chauly is a Malaysian writer, poet and educator. Born in George Town, Penang to Chinese-Punjabi parents, she read Education and English Literature in Canada as a government scholar. For over 20 years, she worked extensively as a multi-disciplinary artist in the creative industries and won multiple awards for her work, which has been screened, exhibited and published worldwide. In 1998, she began organizing literary events, and in 2005, founded Readings and *CeritAku* which continue to be important platforms for established and emerging writers in Kuala Lumpur. In 2011, she was Festival Director of the Writers Unlimited Tour Kuala Lumpur/Makassar and invited to be Festival Curator of the George Town Literary Festival. She is the author of five books of poetry and prose which include *Going There and Coming Back* (1997), *The Book of Sins* (2008), *Lost in KL* (2008) and the literary memoir *Growing Up With Ghosts* (2011) which won in the Non-Fiction Category of the Reader's Choice Awards. In 2012, she was invited to be writer-in-residence with the *Nederlands Letterenfonds* (Dutch Foundation for Literature) in Amsterdam. She has toured and performed in literary festivals all over the world and currently lectures in English and Creative Writing at Taylor's University in Kuala Lumpur. Her third collection of poems *Onkalo* (2013) was launched at the Singapore Writers Festival.

Keynote Address



The Written Word in a Democratised World By DR OOI KEE BENG

Literature and the Individual

The only subject I was really excited by when I went to school here in Penang four decades ago was Literature, both as a subject and in the form of English lessons. All other subjects felt less important.

Studying the meaning-creating capacity of language has brought me a lot of joy over the years. It is wonderful to see how intricate ideas are captured, coined and communicated through written words.

My hunger for stimulating books to read was sadly limited by the small size of the library at school, and by the family budget. So I had to reread a lot of books instead to quench my thirst for literature. [How lucky today's children are, living with the Internet, but I shall discuss that later].

What I have to say today is very personal; I believe that the biographical resonates with others if expressed honestly. We are not all that different, and we journey the same route, all of us - from cradle to grave. It's just that we relate our lives differently.

I shall mention two very essential things I learned while in school at St Xavier's Institute here in Penang. These were taught me by my English teacher, a Mr Anthony Gomez. One day, I remember, he took us to the school auditorium at the beginning of English class, sat us down, turned off the lights, and played a long piece of classical music for us - some Beethoven creation that would not allow us to doze off. The class were confounded for a while of course, but we sat through it obediently. What I learned from that astounding hour was, "Experience comes before Expression". My class had just had an English lesson - a lesson on learning to express oneself - without words!

The second thing I learned from dear Mr Gomez was this. One day, we came into class, and there on the blackboard was scribbled a poem some of us recognized instantly, because this was 1971 or 1972 and John Lennon's album, *Imagine*, had just come out. It was the lyrics of "Crippled Inside" - one of the songs from the album. We then began discussing the words, as you would do with any stuffy Shakespearean sonnet in a normal lesson in literature. That had quite an impact on me: "You mean the music I listen to at home with my friends, almost as a protest, as an act of recalcitrance, is legitimate, and even acceptable in school?" Suddenly, it felt alright that English was not my mother tongue. Expressing oneself is not a technical matter. It is an art that anyone can perform.

Through these two episodes, I felt that the divide between my secret self and the big bad world began to be bridged. Most authors have a covert love affair with language, I believe, and they are often elated by their ability to give new meaning to old words.

Literature and Philosophy

Historically, being literate was the privilege of the upper classes and the priesthood, all over the world. Being the tool of power seemed to be the original function of the written word. Universal literacy is a new phenomenon in human history, and it is no coincidence that it is being realised at the same time as democracy spreads throughout the world.

It is also no coincidence that traditional philosophy was dismantled over the last century and developed into language philosophy. Philosophy has become a study of the workings of normal language and its limits. Many see this as a constraint, but it also means that profound thoughts are no longer sought only in classical philosophical texts, but in literature in general. We now learn to see normal writing - by normal people and not eggheads alone - as a depository of ideas relevant to the common man.

In fact, if we turn the matter around, we should say that the best writing in classical philosophy is actually good literature. And literature is good when it is full of philosophical meaning. What's more, it is telling that a lot of good philosophy was often presented in dialectical form - from Plato to Confucius and Wittgenstein.

The search for Logic [with a capital L] has been abandoned by most people. This is liberation from the hegemony of the age-old erroneous elitist idea that language is neutral, and that meaning is something external to us.

What results from this is a widened space that allows for creative expressions of individual realities. We are the meaning givers, each one of us.

Today, we may sneer at the standard of writing in the social media, on blog sites, and definitely in SMSes. But remember that before these tools came along, most adults did not read at all, let alone write. And our children read and wrote because they had to, not because these were activities conducive to the development of their minds.

Reading habits are changing as well because of these new technologies. It is something we have to live with, and to an extent, writing is slowly adjusting itself to the shortened attention span we have, and the sound bite culture we are living in.

So I am all for bad literature in the early Internet age. It is a stage in the democratisation of literature.

Again, it is no coincidence that changes have come, and are coming to Malaysia, in a big way at the same time as the social media and the Internet takes over our lives.

Literature and Politics

Literature is mainly about the author. It is about the time and the place that he or she lives in. It is about how he or she experiences life, given the society he comes from. Just like politics, all literature is local.

But one also has to ascertain when our time is, and where our place is. I believe that the long-term effects of colonialism are still with us. Before these effects could be rectified, the long-term effects of excessive nationalism were upon us.

The needs of the colonial economy forced roles onto us, and often as collectives and not as individuals. The nation building project, which should have dismantled this collectivisation of identities, has instead been making our collective identities stronger than ever - and in a divisive manner.

Collective identities tend therefore to overshadow individual identities - and art, especially Literature - is a counter-collectivisation process.

Literature needs a contemplative culture, both to create and to consume. By contemplation, I do not mean detachment from the here and now though. On the contrary, it is through deep attachment to the here and now that Literature stays most genuine. The individual talks to his place and his time. Even the great Shakespeare did not work in a vacuum. He had stimulation from his times, inspiration from the places he lived in and gained material through the listening, talking, reading, writing - and living - people around him.

The individual voice, if honestly expressed, is necessarily a social voice. And a social voice carries political implications. Thus, Literature by its very nature is subversive. So everyone here today is participating in something potentially subversive. But no danger, social living is potentially subversive anyway. There is no escape from that.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to mention some "Ties that Bind", which is the theme for this year's festival. Some ties are constructive and some are destructive, and there is always a dialectical relationship involved.

1. How do collective identities enable - or suppress - the author's individuality?
2. When has a person mastered Language; and when is he or she mastered by it?
3. Just as listening is a prerequisite for the ability to speak, writing is the continuation of dialogues with the material that we read. So anyone who reads should continue the thought process by writing.

In short, what I would like to say is that Literature is not for the fainthearted, but it is for everyone who is literate.

Borders Children's Programme

Fri 29 November

11.00am - 12.00pm

Amazing Eleph-art interactive session with beloved illustrator, Yusof Gajah. Suitable for 5 - 9 year-olds.

Writer: Yusof Gajah

Venue: 179 Victoria St - Downstairs

Admission: Free

Yusof Gajah is Malaysia's foremost naive art artist. Growing up in Johor, a village in Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia and in Singapore, Yusof was surrounded by nature which continues to be a major influence in his work. He studied art at Sekolah Seni Rupa in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. When he returned to Malaysia in 1975, he started his career as a fulltime artist. Since then, Yusof has built up a formidable reputation in the art world and his paintings are widely sought after, both locally and internationally. In addition to his painting, Yusof has written and illustrated a number of children's picture books. He has received numerous awards, including the Best Children's Book Illustration from the National Book Council of Malaysia and the Noma Concours Grand Prix Award (ACCU) in Tokyo, Japan for his book, *The Real Elephant*. He also conducts art workshops and especially enjoys working with children. His constant companion and supporter is his wife, Zakiah. They have three children.



Yusof Gajah

2.00pm - 3.00pm

The LearningHub Asia

A fast-paced and highly effective learning experiences for students, families and professionals. Includes activities like Memory Mania and many other fun activities!

Memory Mania - a comprehensive and fun session to improve your memory by an amazing 700%! Suitable for 6 - 12 years-olds.

**Face Painting and Elephant Cupcakes will be available from 11am to raise funds for local orphanages.

Venue: 179 Victoria St - Downstairs

Admission: Free

The LearningHub Asia develops and delivers fast-paced, engaging and highly effective learning experiences for students, families and professionals. The programs combine scientific research with state-of-the-art technology, fun interactive games and videos to ensure participants reap high impact and life-changing benefits.

Sat 30 November

10.30am - 12.00pm

While publishing a pre-teen book for another author, Josephine was inspired to write one for younger children. *Timmy Tapir Learns to Do What's Right* is her first book and is in collaboration with illustrator Joyce Sivapatham. Meet Timmy the Tapir & all the other fun animal characters, and learn about 'Integrity' with simple rhymes. There will be a story telling cum sketches, live drawings, songs and a book launch of the BM version. Suitable for 5 - 12 year-olds.

Writer: Josephine Yoong

Venue: 179 Victoria St - Downstairs

Admission: Free

Josephine Yoong is as an "accidental author" and publisher. Born in KL, home has been George Town for the past 15 years. In 2010, she ventured into publishing and has since published four books. The most recent is a book for pre-teens entitled *The Quest for the Great Pearl* by Singaporean author, Patricia Chew. During this time she was inspired to write a book for children with an integral theme of Integrity, plus nation building and inter-generational bonding. The book, *Timmy Tapir Learns To Do What's Right* was launched in January 2013 and has since been used in various schools and homes as a resource for embedding positive values in young hearts in a fun way. She is currently working on a similar book for teenagers.



Josephine Yoong

2.30pm - 4.00pm

What have penguins, pandas and dolphins have in common with a magic suitcase? Find out with bestselling, Penang-born illustrator, Cheng Puay Koon! Great for 5 - 9 year-olds.

Writer: PK Cheng

Venue: 179 Victoria St - Downstairs

Admission: Free

Cheng Puay Koon picked up a brush and painted faces and costumes from Chinese Opera when she was only ten. Today, she is an international best-selling author and one of Singapore's most in-demand illustrators. A national best seller in both Singapore and Malaysia, her quirky illustrations in *The Difference Between Malaysians and Singaporeans* captured her engaging and popular style. Her award-winning illustrations have featured in diverse local and leading advertising agencies and MNC's. The dedicated mother of two girls just wants her illustrations to make children smile.



PK Cheng

4.30pm - 5.30pm

How is an alphabet also an elephant? Discover the magic of Yusof Gajah's illustrations. Suitable for 5 - 9 year-olds.

Writer: Yusof Gajah

Venue: 179 Victoria St - Downstairs

Admission: Free

Sun 1 December

11.00am - 12.30pm

Besides the bestselling *Inspector Singh* novels, Shamini also writes children's books with cultural and environmental themes, including *Journey of the Chosen* (2012), an environmental fantasy, and *Ten* (2009), a tale of growing up and football. Her latest book is *Diary of a Track & Field Titan* (2013).

Meet bestselling, Malaysian born author, Shamini Flint as she reads from her latest books for intermediate children.

Writer: Shamini Flint

Venue: 179 Victoria St - Downstairs

Admission: Free

2.00pm - 3.00pm

To the young Malaysians of today, cartoonist Lat (Datuk Mohd Nor bin Khalid) is probably known mainly as the creator of the animated TV series *Kampung Boy* on Astro. The 26-episode series, based originally on the cartoon storybook *Kampung Boy* which is about childhood in a Malaysian village, first published in 1979, received great response from TV audience since it started in 1998. Lat today lives in Ipoh with his family.

Rediscover the Kampung Boy and his family with Datuk Lat himself! Suitable for all ages.

Writer: Datuk Lat

Venue: 179 Victoria St - Downstairs

Admission: Free

3.30pm - 5.00pm

[Emila Yusof](#) is a children's book writer, illustrator, blogger and occasional traveller from Pahang, Malaysia.

Read, sketch and travel with Emila Yusof and Moleskine. A travelogue event suitable for everyone.

Writer: Emila Yusof

Venue: 179 Victoria St - Downstairs

Admission: Free

Emila Yusof is a full-time artist and illustrator who has gained loyal fans both locally and internationally especially through her blog [emilayusof.com](#) where she blogs on art and travel. She is well known for her illustrations of whimsical characters that are quintessentially Malaysian. She has published a number of picture books as well as craft books which include *My Mother's Kitchen* and *Legendary Princesses of Malaysia*.



Emila Yusof

Film Screenings

Sat 30 November

7.45pm - 9.45pm

[Film Screening - Penang Shorts & More: 1](#)

A selection of ten short films by Malaysians, with an emphasis on those shot in Penang. Including Nadiah Hamzah's *Hi, I'm Julia!* There will be a Q & A session with the directors present and the audience votes for their three favourite shorts of the night.

Moderator: Amir Muhammad

Venue: ArtSpace 1, ChinaHouse

Admission: Free

Sun 1 December

4.00pm - 7.00pm

[Special Film Screening](#)

Venue: ArtSpace 1, ChinaHouse

Admission: Free

7.30pm - 9.30pm

[Film Screening - Penang Shorts & More: 2](#)

A selection of ten short films by Malaysians, with an emphasis on those shot in Penang. Including Gary Chong's *Jack Sulaiman* and the *Pill of Tomorrow*. There will be a Q & A session with the directors present and the audience votes for their three favourite shorts of the night.

Moderator: Amir Muhammad

Venue: ArtSpace 1, ChinaHouse

Admission: Free

Amir Muhammad is a Malaysian writer, publisher and occasional moviemaker. He was born in Kuala Lumpur and started writing for the print media at the age of 14. In 2000, he wrote and directed Malaysia's first DV feature, *Lips to Lips*. His films have been screened internationally, including the Sundance Film Festival and the Berlin International Film Festival. Two of his films, *Apa Khabar Orang Kampung* and *The Last Communist* have been banned in Malaysia. He formed Matahari Books in 2007 to publish creative non-fiction, and Fixi in 2011 for Malay pulp fiction. Two of the Fixi novels were made into feature films this year, *Pecah* and *KL Zombi*. He has written the books *Rojak*, *Yasmin Ahmad's Films*, *120 Malay Movies*, and *Sejarah Melayu Reloaded*.



Amir Muhammad

**Film Screening seating availability is on first come first served basis*

The Gift of Rain Trail

Sat 30 November & Mon 2 December

11.45am - 9.30pm

Based on Man Asian Literary Prize winner, Tan Twan Eng's first book, *The Gift of Rain*.

The Gift of Rain Trail is designed to experience the award-winning book in 3D. From the moment one steps onto the boat to absorb the sights, sounds and scents of Penang's northern coast line of Tanjung Tokong, Tanjung Bungah and Batu Ferringhi, the book's venues and plot will start to come alive. The trail then continues on a bus and with a trishaw ride through Penang's historical streets, which backdrop the story. It finally ends with a breathtaking funicular train ride up Penang Hill. As highlights of the trail, the author himself will meet with participants during the seafood lunch and steamboat dinner set at venues mentioned in his book.

Moderator: Umapagan Ampikaipakan

Start Point: E&O Hotel

End Point: Bellevue Hotel, Penang Hill

Admission: RM282 per person

Inclusive of lunch at Sea Pearl Lagoon Café and dinner at Bellevue Hotel

Prior booking required, please contact:

tours_pen@holidaytours.com.my

+604 238 2628



Bookfair

Fri 29 November - Sun 1 December

10.00am - 8.00pm

The Bookfair will feature local publishers and distributors - Borders, Gerakbudaya and The Penang Bookshelf.

Venue: 179 Victoria St - Downstairs

Fri 29 November

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3.00pm - 3.30pm

[Opening Ceremony with the Chief Minister of Penang](#)

Venue: Sekeping Victoria

Admission: Free

3.30pm - 4.30pm

[Keynote Address and Debate](#)

Writer: Dr Ooi Kee Beng

Moderator: Sharaad Kuttan

Panelists: Michael Kleeberg, Christine Otten, Aruni Kashyap, Dr Ooi Kee Beng

Venue: Sekeping Victoria

Admission: Free

9.00pm till late

[Music at The Canteen](#)

Singer-Songwriter Shootout with Daryl Felix, Azym! Yunor, Kien Lim, Sheila Julis and Daniel Chan Trio.

Venue: The Canteen, ChinaHouse

Courtesy of ChinaHouse

Sat 30 November

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10.30am - 11.30am

[Reading and Panel Discussion - Passionate Minds](#)

Three women. Three writers working in different genres, forms and styles. Listen to how they are inspired to write what they do and discover the inner workings what it takes to write with passion.

Writers: Chiew-Siah Tei, Christine Otten, Annelies Verbeke

Moderator: Sharon Bakar

Venue: Vic's, Upstairs at The Canteen, ChinaHouse

Admission: Free

10.30am - 11.30am

[In Conversation with Lat](#)

You're not really Malaysian if you haven't read Lat. But what makes Lat tick? As one of the country's most beloved icons, Lat gets tickled, probed and provoked by playwright and director Huzir Sulaiman.

Writer: Datuk Lat

Moderator: Huzir Sulaiman

Venue: Sekeping Victoria

Admission: Free

11.45am - 12.45pm

[Reading and Panel Discussion - The Land\(s\) Where I Belong](#)

The relationship between landscape, memory and writing is sacrosanct. How do these elements imprint themselves upon the mind of the writer? Does the writer need to have a sense of belonging before writing about the 'land'? A riveting discussion on the significance of landscape in the work of these writers.

Writers: Eric Hansen, Mahat Akiya, Aruni Kashyap, Ali Cobby Eckermann

Moderator: Yin Shao Loong

Venue: Sekeping Victoria

Admission: Free

1.00pm - 2.00pm

[Poetry at Lunch - SILYMI presents These Boots are Made for Walking](#)

SILYMI is a collective of Penang musicians, poets, storytellers and other performance artists. These Boots are Made for Walking is a collection of introspective, observational and amusing solo, duet and group spoken word pieces, exploring the landscape of objectification, colonialism and the nation state using the body of a woman as the map.

Writers: Elaine Foster, Melizarani T. Selva, Sheena Baharuddin

Moderator: Ksatriya

Venue: Sekeping Victoria

Admission: Free

2.15pm - 3.15pm

[Reading and Panel Discussion - Lost in Malaysia](#)

Writers in Malaysia have to deal with many issues. These include censorship, a growing intolerance and sensitivity to all things racial and religious. What does it take to be a writer in Malaysia? And what happens when things get too hot to handle?

Writers: Shamini Flint, Preeta Samarasan, Dr Ghulam-Sarwar Yousof, Cecil Rajendra

Moderator: Khoo Salma

Venue: Sekeping Victoria

Admission: Free

2.15pm - 3.15pm

[In Conversation with Tash Aw](#)

Born in Taiwan but raised in Kuala Lumpur, Tash Aw is one of Malaysia's most celebrated contemporary writers. Twice nominated for the Man Booker Prize, get up close and personal with this London-based writer for an open discussion on the writer's life, its trials, joys and tribulations.

Writer: Tash Aw

Moderator: Ann Lee

Venue: Vic's, Upstairs at The Canteen, ChinaHouse

Admission: Free

3.30pm - 4.30pm

[Reading and Panel Discussion - Whose History is it Anyway?](#)

Why do writers deal with historical fact and make it fiction - or 'faction'? Is there a 'right' way of approaching history? A discussion on the importance and relevance of historical contexts in these writers and their work.

Writers: Michael Kleeberg, Chiew-Siah Tei, Huzir Sulaiman, Tan Twan Eng

Moderator: Sharaad Kuttan

Venue: Sekeping Victoria

Admission: Free

3.30pm - 4.30pm

[Reading and Panel Discussion - Counter Culture](#)

Certain writers like to delve deep into distinct sub-cultures, unearthing hidden gems in stories that are not often told. Is the element of danger part of the thrill? And how far is the writer willing to go to get the story?

Writers: Marco Ferrarese, Annelies Verbeke, Shamini Flint

Moderator: Yin Shao Loong

Venue: Vic's, Upstairs at The Canteen, ChinaHouse

Admission: Free

5.45pm - 6.30pm

[Book Launch - *Love in Penang* by Fixi Novo](#)

Love in Penang, edited by Anna Tan, is an anthology of short stories done specifically for the George Town Literary Festival, and has 18 writers including the novelists Nadia Khan, Gina Yap Lai Yoong, Kris Williamson and Dayang Noor. Come celebrate love in all its forms, set in a place we all know and, well, love!

Venue: 179 Victoria St - Upstairs

Admission: Free

6.45pm - 7.30pm

Book Launch - Nazi Goreng

Nazi Goreng is a disturbing story of one young Malay man's coming-of-age in the big city and offers a stunning portrait of the racial tensions that pervade Malaysian society. Asrul is a fanatical yet naïve Muslim skinhead from small town Kedah, who finds escape in hardcore punk and aspires to life in the big city. After Asrul is recruited by friend Malik to join a neo-Nazi skinhead gang, the boys move to Penang to realise their racially fuelled teenage dreams. Petty acts of ethnic violence against immigrant workers and minority groups in the name of Kuasa Melayu (Malay Power) earn Asrul limited social empowerment and occasional ridicule, so it is not without trepidation that he follows Malik again, this time into the seedy world of the Malaysian narcotics trade, where selling drugs offers quick money and street respect. Surrounded by corrupt police officials, shifty Iranians, gun-toting Nigerians and a sexy drug mule from mainland China, Asrul soon finds himself drawn into a downward spiral that makes him question his friends, his loved ones and his core beliefs. In this intense and gripping debut, Asia-based punk rock guitarist Marco Ferrarese dishes up a powerful portrayal of displaced urban Malay life.

Writer: Marco Ferrarese

Venue: 179 Victoria St - Upstairs

Admission: Free

7.30pm - 9.00pm

Wayang Kata IX

Wayang Kata began in Kuala Lumpur in 2006 as collaboration between the British Council and Jasmine Low and Jerome Kugan, of open mic events Doppelganger and Troubadours, as an attempt to popularise the spoken word. Three years of performances to a packed house saw a host of UK poets grace the Wayang Kata stage in Kuala Lumpur - Francesca Beard, Jacob Sam-La Rose, Malika Booker, Kim Trusty and Polarbear - alongside a constellation of rising Malaysian poetry stars. Wayang Kata is now independently funded and will host its second installation in Penang, featuring a multi-lingual lineup of poets and spoken word performers in English, Bahasa Malaysia, Hokkien, Tamil and more!

Writers: Robert Yeo, Jac SM Kee, Pam Handa, Elaine Foster, Melizarani T. Selva, Jerome Kugan, Ksatriya and more
Moderator: Jasmine Low

Venue: Studio Tang, Ren-i-Tang

Admission: RM5 per person

9.00pm till late

Music at The Canteen

Musicians: Min'z, Azyml Yunor & The Sigarettes, The Rubberbands

Venue: The Canteen, ChinaHouse

Courtesy of ChinaHouse

Sun 1 December

10.30am - 11.30am

[Reading and Panel Discussion - LOL](#)

Are some writers more predisposed to humour than others? Or is it just easier to write something funny? See how these writers use humour to draw out the complex intricacies of the human condition in their work.

Writers: Rodaan Al Galidi, Annelies Verbeke, Datuk Lat, Michael Kleeberg

Moderator: Ann Lee

Venue: Sekeping Victoria

Admission: Free

10.30am - 11.30am

[In Conversation with Madeleine Thien](#)

Born to a father who hails from Sabah in East Malaysia, Maddie, as she is fondly known, is one of Canada's most acclaimed female authors. We share an open, honest discussion about the themes of her work, her passions and her life as a writer.

Writer: Madeleine Thien

Moderator: Kadek Krishna Adidharma

Venue: Vic's, Upstairs at The Canteen, ChinaHouse

Admission: Free

11.45am - 12.45pm

[Reading and Panel Discussion - Infinite Possibilities](#)

How does an idea for a book begin? How do writers begin to 'see' and 'hear' their characters? How do plots unfold? An insight into the art and craft of fiction, and bringing an idea and its characters to life.

Writers: Tash Aw, Preeta Samarasan, Huzir Sulaiman, Christine Otten

Moderator: Umapagan Ampikaipakan

Venue: Sekeping Victoria

Admission: Free

1.00pm - 2.00pm

[Poetry at Lunch - Bad Poets](#)

[SILYMI](#) presents [Bad Poets](#). [SILYMI](#) is a collective of Penang musicians, poets, storytellers and other performance artists.

Bad Poets is a showcase of storytelling, inherited tales of great kingdoms and poetic stories in search of history and identity. Challenging accepted notions and pre-conceptions of literature, poetry, history and identity, these bad poets are out to make you feel good.

Writers: Ibitoye Azeez, Ksatriya, Lucille Das, Mark Walker, Shannon Frances

Moderator: Ksatriya

Venue: Sekeping Victoria

Admission: Free

2.15pm - 3.15pm

[Reading and Panel Discussion - The Horror, The Horror](#)

War and conflict is an age-old theme that has inspired writers and poets for millennia. From the loss of life, to the loss of land, culture and identity, these writers have written about the many horrors that have plagued their people and others. Listen to how they deal with the pain that comes with confronting these issues and the resolve they find through writing and hope.

Writers: Aruni Kashyap, Ali Cobby Eckermann, Madeleine Thien, Mahat Akiya

Moderator: Kadek Krishna Adidharma

Venue: Sekeping Victoria

Admission: Free

2.15pm - 3.15pm

[In Conversation with Eric Hansen](#)

Eric Hansen has traveled the world in search of stories, extraordinary characters and adventure since the 70's and is without doubt, one of the world's great travel writers. From Borneo to Yemen, Cannes to Vanuatu, Hansen has captivated and thrilled generations of readers and is delighted to be back in his beloved Malaysia.

Writer: Eric Hansen

Moderator: Bernice Chauly

Venue: Vic's, Upstairs at The Canteen, ChinaHouse

Admission: Free

3.30pm - 4.30pm

[Poetry Reading](#)

[A Language of Our Own](#)

A spectacular lineup of all the GTLF 2013 poets who will perform in Dutch, English, and Bahasa Malaysia. Not to be missed!

Writers: Mahat Akiya, Rodaan Al Galidi, Ali Cobby Eckermann, Cecil Rajendra, Dr Ghulam-Sarwar Yousof, Christine Otten

Moderator: Jasmine Low

Venue: Sekeping Victoria

Admission: Free

5.15pm - 6.00pm

[Book Launch - *Tropical Madness* by Fixi Novo](#)

Langkawi-based Marc de Faoite will present his debut collection of short fiction. *Tropical Madness* takes us from the depths of jungles to the heights of skyscrapers to bring us lucid accounts of all sorts of tropical maladies.

Marc de Faoite was born in Ireland, but has spent more than half his life living in England, Belgium, France, India and currently Malaysia, where he lives a quiet, reclusive life. His stories have appeared in publications in Malaysia, Singapore and Ireland.

Writer: Marc de Faoite

Venue: 179 Victoria St - Upstairs

Admission: Free

6.15pm - 7.00pm

Book Launch - *My Burning Hill*

My Burning Hill is a long poem in fifty-six sections. In this reflective and retrospective musing, the speaker is in a wheelchair, moves from one pertinent moment in the political history of Singapore since 1942 to another. By interlacing these political events with the depth of memory, the speaker exalts the significance of each moment, both pleasant and unpleasant. The reader will also understand the sacrifices and struggles that are expected from individuals who have dedicated their lives to a great purpose.

Rosalyn Puthuchery, a Singaporean with roots in Johor Bahru, retired from teaching in 2001. The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy was conferred on her in February 2006 from the National University of Singapore. *Different Voices* and her first novel *The Tessellated Path* were published in 2009. Two collections of poems, *Pillow Your Dreams* (1978), *The Fragmented Ego* (1978), were reprinted under the title *Mirrored Mirages* in 2008. Her third and fourth collections of poems are titled *Dance of His Doorsteps* (1992) and *Footfalls in the Rain* (2008). Her second novel *In the Wake of Terror* was published in 2012.

Writer: Rosalyn Puthuchery

Venue: 179 Victoria St - Upstairs

Admission: Free

8.00pm till late

Finale - Open Mic

Last year's Open Mic was epic, legendary and breathtakingly beautiful. It's hard to know what to expect, but you can be sure that it will sum up the festival in every way. So, put your name down, and the stage is yours!

Moderators: Jasmine Low and Ksatriya

Venue: The Canteen, ChinaHouse

Admission: Free

Participating Writers

Mahat Akiya, is the only published Orang Asli (indigenous) writer from the Semai tribe. Born in Ladang Ulu Bernam, Perak in 1953, he took on the pen name Akiya when he began writing poems towards the end of his career as a DJ for the Orang Asli radio station, Asyik FM. His poems have given society an insight into the psyche of the Orang Asli, intimating their aspirations and hopes, and rectifying negative perceptions society has had of them. His first novel, *Perang Sangkil* (Slave Wars), is based on the struggle and history of his people. *Tuntut* (Claim), an anthology of Orang Asli short stories and *Perjuangan Warisan Orang Asli: Suara Dari Dalam* (Orang Asli Heritage Struggle: Voices from Within) an anthology of poetry - are his attempts to connect Orang Asli history, heritage and future to his own people and to Malaysian society. He has three manuscripts, which are currently being edited for publication.



Mahat Akiya

Tash Aw grew up in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia before leaving to attend university in England. He is the author of three novels, *The Harmony Silk Factory* (2005), *Map of the Invisible World* (2009) and *Five Star Billionaire* (2013), which have won the Whitbread First Book Award and Commonwealth Writers Prize, and twice been nominated for the Man Booker Prize. His novels have also been translated into 23 languages. A frequent contributor to the BBC, Tash also writes and reviews for a number of publications, including the *Guardian* and the *Times Literary Supplement*. His short fiction has won an O. Henry Award and was included in the landmark 100th issue of *Granta*.



Tash Aw

Tash Aw is supported by the British Council

Ali Cobby Eckermann is a Torres Strait island indigenous writer who has received great acclaim as a poet and verse novelist. Her work reflects upon her personal journey and her reconnection with her Yankunytjatjara/Kokatha family. In 2012 she received a Deadly Award for Outstanding Achievement in Literature. In 2010 she performed at the Ubud Writers & Readers Festival in Bali, and in 2012 at the Reaching the World Summit in Bangkok. Ali runs an Aboriginal Writers Retreat in Koolunga SA where she now lives. The retreat provides a creative, relaxed, and enjoyable environment for artistic projects and the advancement of Indigenous literacy. In 2013 she was selected by Australia Poetry as the Poetry Ambassador to Ireland. Her verse novel *Ruby Moonlight* won the Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry and Book of the Year at the recent 2013 NSW Premier's Awards in Sydney. *Too Afraid to Cry* (2013) is her much anticipated memoir.

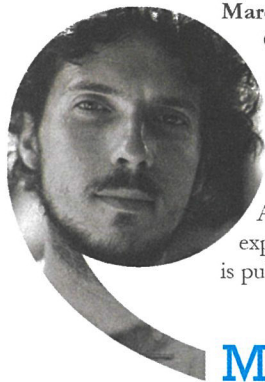


Ali Cobby Eckermann

Ali Cobby Eckermann is supported by Holiday Tours



Marco Ferrarese has traveled to over 50 countries and lived in Italy, the United States, China, Australia and Malaysia. He started vagabonding as a punk rock guitarist in Europe and North America, playing at the most famous and infamous stages across both continents. Since late 2007, he relocated to East Asia and after one year of teaching Italian and English in China, he traveled overland from Mongolia to Melbourne hopping only on one short flight. Since 2009 he is based in Southeast Asia as a writer, hardcore punk musician and researcher. In 2012 he over-landed from Asia to Europe hitch hiking from Singapore to Italy. His first novel *Nazi Goreng* explores the underbelly of Malaysian international drug trade and displaced youth and is published in 2013 by Monsoon Books, Singapore.



Marco Ferrarese



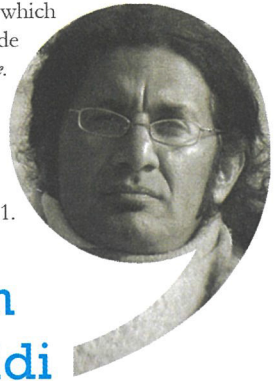
Malaysian-born **Shamini Flint** was a corporate lawyer before resigning to be a stay-at-home mum, writer, part-time lecturer and environmental activist. Her *Inspector Singh* crime novels are published by Little, Brown (UK) and Minotaur (US) and translated into numerous languages. Her sixth and most recent title is *Inspector Singh Investigates: A Calamitous Chinese Killing* (2013). She also writes children's books with cultural and environmental themes, including *Journey of the Chosen* (2012), an environmental fantasy, and *Ten* (2009), a tale of growing up and football. Her latest book is *Diary of a Truck & Field Titan* (2013). She lives in Singapore.



Shamini Flint



Rodaan Al Galidi was born in Iraq and has lived in the Netherlands for 15 years, which included many years as a refugee. He has written more than 10 books, which include poetry, short stories and novels, including his last collection, *“Rather not”, Said Love*. His mother tongue is Arabic but he writes in Dutch. He performs regularly in the Netherlands and Belgium and has performed in festivals in Turkey, Ukraine, Indonesia and the Dutch Antilles. He won the European Union Prize for Literature for the Netherlands (2011) for his novel *The Autist and the Homing Pigeon*. He first performed in Malaysia at the Writers Unlimited Tour Kuala Lumpur/Makassar in 2011. He lives in the Canary Islands in Spain.

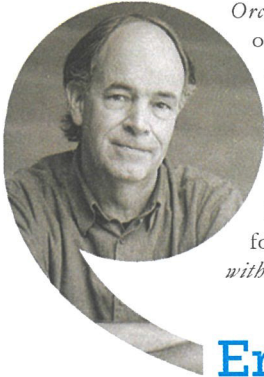


Rodaan Al Galidi

Rodaan Al Galidi is supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



Eric Hansen, author of the internationally acclaimed *Stranger in the Forest*, *Motoring with Mohammed*, *Orchid Fever*, and *The Bird Man* and the *Lap Dancer*, has been called “one of the most original travel writers working today by Kirkus Reviews. National Geographic described *Stranger in the Forest* as a “Masterpiece of the Genre” and one of the 100 best adventure travel books ever written. Born in San Francisco, and a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Hansen traveled extensively throughout the Middle East, Afghanistan, Nepal, India, Israel, Southeast Asia and Australia for thirty years. He has been awarded the French literary prize Le Grand Prix de Voyage. In 2005 he was a finalist in the PEN USA Literary Awards for Creative nonfiction for his most recent book, *The Bird Man and the Lap Dancer - Close Encounters with Strangers*.



Eric Hansen

Eric Hansen is supported by the US Embassy



Aruni Kashyap is the author of *The House With a Thousand Stories* (Viking, 2013), a novel set against the secret-killings of Assam, a series of extra-judicial murders allegedly conducted by the Indian government to quell militancy in Assam. He has also translated and introduced celebrated Indian author Indira Goswami’s last work of fiction, *The Bronze Sword of Thengphakhri Tehsildar*, for Zubaan Books (2013). He won the Charles Wallace India Trust Scholarship for Creative Writing to the University of Edinburgh in 2009. He is currently editing a collection of short stories set against the Assam-India conflict, penned by writers from Assam, for Harper Collins India. He divides his time between in Minnesota and Assam, India.



Aruni Kashyap





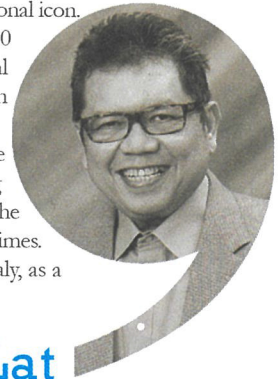
© Joerg Schwalfenberg

Michael Kleeberg, born in 1959, lives in Berlin and is the author of five novels, two novellas and two collections of short stories. Among other prizes he won include the Lion Feuchtwanger Award for best historical novel in 2000 and the Mainzer Literaturpreis for best contemporary novel in 2007. He is considered one of Germany's outstanding novelists. His work has been translated into 12 languages. He also works as a translator from French and English and has translated authors such as Marcel Proust and John Dos Passos.

Michael Kleeberg

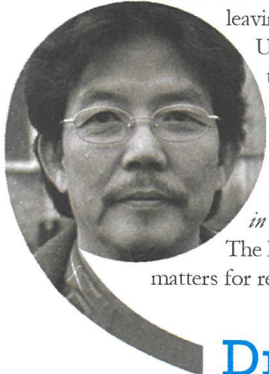
Michael Kleeberg is supported by the Goethe Institut

Born in Kota Baharu, Gopeng, Perak in 1951, **Lat** is a Malaysian cartoonist and national icon. Winner of the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize in 2002, Lat has published more than 20 volumes of cartoons since he was 13 years old. His work illustrates Malaysia's social and political realities, portraying them in a comedic light without bias. Lat's best-known work is *The Kampung Boy* (1979), which has been translated and published worldwide and made into an award-winning TV series. In 1994, the Sultan of Perak bestowed Lat the honorific title of Datuk, in recognition for promoting social harmony and understanding through his cartoons. Born into humble origins, Lat's career began in the 1960s when he started drawing cartoons for Berita Minggu and later from 1974 for the New Straits Times. In 1998 he was awarded the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship and was in Perugia, Italy, as a participant in the Civitella Ranieri Fellowship Program in 2011.



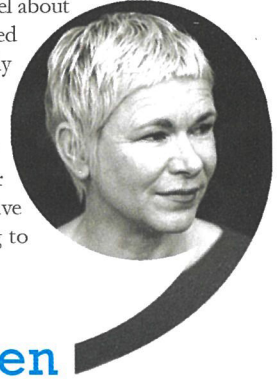
Datuk Lat

Dr Ooi Kee Beng is Deputy Director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore, where he has been attached since 2004. He was born and raised in Penang, and was a journalist with The Straits Echo before leaving for Stockholm University in 1978. He received his Ph.D. in Sinology from Stockholm University, and has been working on nation-building in Asia and Malaysian politics over the last two decades. He worked at Ericsson Electronics in Sweden for 22 years while studying and lecturing at Stockholm University. His key books include *Done Making Do: 1 Party Rule Ends in Malaysian* (Genta Media & ISEAS 2013); *Malaya's First Year at the United Nations* (2009); *March 8: Eclipsing May 13* (2008); *Lost in Transition: Malaysia under Abdullah*. (2008); *Continent Coast Ocean: Dynamics of Regionalism in Eastern Asia* (2007); and *The Reluctant Politician: Tun Dr Ismail and His Time* (2006). The last two won major awards. He writes regular opinion pieces on Malaysian and general matters for regional and global mass media, including The Edge.



Dr Ooi Kee Beng

Christine Otten is a Dutch novelist/journalist and one of the most important writers of her generation in the Netherlands. She has written seven novels and a collection of short stories. Her novel about the African-American poets, *De laatste dichters* (The Last Poets, 2004), was nominated for the prestigious Libris Literature prize and adapted into a play which was critically acclaimed for its sensual and musical style of writing. Her latest book *Om adem te kunnen halen* (So I Can Breathe, 2013) is a personal novel about her father, who was a psychiatric patient and Otten's relationship with him. The book was critically acclaimed and she was praised for the way she mingled real life with fiction, and for her style of writing. Otten often fuses factual stories with fiction, and does extensive research before she embarks on a new book. She also teaches Creative Writing to homeless people and organizes literary events in Amsterdam.



Christine Otten is supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Christine Otten

Cecil Rajendra was born in Penang and received his formal education in St. Xavier's institution, University of Singapore and Lincoln's Inn in London. His first book *Embryo* was published in London in 1965 and has since authored 21 collections of poetry. Cecil's poems have been published in over 50 countries and been translated into several languages. His classic parody of *Security Laws The Animal & Insect Act* attracted over 3 million hits online. In 1993, his passport was impounded to stop him from presenting his environmental poems abroad. Cecil is a lawyer by profession and credited with being the Founder of Legal Aid in Malaysia. In 2005, he received the first Lifetime Humanitarian Award for his pioneering Legal Aid work and his inspirational poetry. He also received the DIVA Award (Danish International Visiting Artists) from the Arts Council of Denmark in 2011.



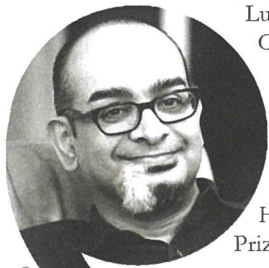
Cecil Rajendra

Preeta Samarasan was born and raised in Ipoh, Perak. Her debut novel *Evening Is The Whole Day*, was translated into 15 languages and shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize. She now lives in rural France with her husband and their two daughters. She is working on a second novel, which is set primarily in Cameron Highlands and deals with religious freedom and Operation Lalang, a government clampdown on political and social activists, which happened in Malaysia in 1987.



Preeta Samarasan

One of the most critically acclaimed dramatists in Southeast Asia, **Huzir Sulaiman** was born in 1973 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Now a resident of Singapore, he is the Joint Artistic Director of Checkpoint Theatre, and teaches Playwriting at the National University of Singapore. Huzir also heads Studio Wong Huzir, a creative consultancy, and is the publisher of POSKOD.SG, an online magazine about Singapore. His most recent play, *The Weight of Silk on Skin*, opened the Man Singapore Theatre Festival in 2011, and won Best Original Script in the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. His *Collected Plays 1998-2012*, was published in June 2013 by Checkpoint Theatre. Huzir was educated at Princeton University, where he won the Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize, and is a Yale World Fellow.



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Huzir Sulaiman

Tan Twan Eng, was born in Penang, Malaysia. *The Gift of Rain*, his first novel, was long listed for the Man Booker Prize. His latest novel, *The Garden of Evening Mists*, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2012, a first for any Malaysian author and won the Man Asian Literary Prize in March 2013. It also won the Walter Scott Prize 2013, from a shortlist of authors which included Hilary Mantel, Rose Tremain, Thomas Kenneally, Pat Barker and Anthony Quinn. He is the first writer from outside the United Kingdom to win this award. It has since been translated into 13 languages. He divides his time between Kuala Lumpur and Cape Town.



Tan Twan Eng

Chiew-Siah Tei was born and raised in Tampin, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia. A writer who is keen on experimenting with form and medium, Tei produces works that range across literature, film and theatre, in both Chinese and English. She has won awards for her Chinese prose, including the Hua Zong International Chinese Fiction Award. Her script for the film *Night Swimmer*, won Best Short Film at the Venice International Film Festival, and her play, *Three Thousand Troubled Threads*, was staged at the Edinburgh International Festival. Her first novel, *Little Hut of Leaping Fishes*, won the Reader's Choice Award in Malaysia, and was listed for the inaugural Man Asian Literary Prize and Best Scottish Fiction Prize. Her second book, *The Mouse Deer Kingdom*, set in early 20th century Malaya, is published in October.



Chiew-Siah Tei

Chiew-Siah Tei is supported by Fingertec



Madeleine Thien is the author of three books of fiction, including *Dogs at the Perimeter*, which was published by Granta Books in 2012. Her fiction and essays have appeared in *The Guardian*, *PEN America*, the *Globe & Mail*, *Brick*, *Granta*, the *Financial Times* and the *Asia Literary Review* and her novels have been translated into 18 languages. She is a previous winner of the Ovid Festival Prize, the City of Vancouver Book Award, the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, and the Amazon.ca First Novel Award, and was a finalist for the Kiriya Prize and the Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best First Book. She is working on a novel about classical Western music and Chinese musicians in 1960's Shanghai. She lives in Vancouver, Canada.

Madeleine Thien

Madeleine Thien is supported by the Canada Council for the Arts

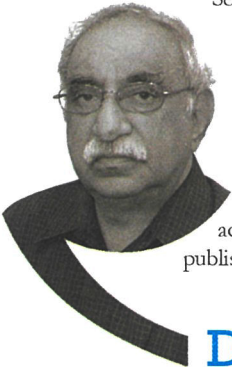
Annelies Verbeke is a Belgian writer whose debut novel *Sleep!* was published by De Geus in the Netherlands in 2003. She then wrote two novels *Giant*, and *Saving Fish*, two collections of short stories, *Greener Grass* and *Assumptions*, a collection of journalistic stories *Awake*, (a collaboration with photographer Charlie De Keersmaecker) and most recently, the graphic novella *Tirol Inferno*, written in iambic pentameter and rhyme with illustrator Klaas Verplancke. Her work has been translated to 22 languages and won numerous prizes. She has also written plays and film scripts, and regularly writes for newspapers. She is a great lover of short stories, resulting in several publications on the subject, which include her own collections and the international anthology *To The City*, which she edited with Sanneke Van Hassel. She lives in Brussels and is a member of PEN Vlaanderen, the Dutch – speaking chapter of Belgian PEN.



Annelies Verbeke is supported by His Excellency Marc Mullie and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium

Annelies Verbeke

Dr Ghulam-Sarwar Yousof is one of the world's leading scholars of Southeast Asian theatre. He is currently Senior Academic Fellow in the English Department of the International Islamic University Malaysia and Expert at the Cultural Centre, University of Malaya. He has been actively involved in many national and international cultural organisations. In 1985 he prepared the dossier for the successful nomination of *Maek Yong* (Kelantanese female dance-trance-drama) as an item of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity for submission to UNESCO. He also served as Malaysia's representative on the Board of Governors of the Asia-Europe Foundation and as a member of the Penang Heritage Advisory Board. Dr Ghulam-Sarwar Yousof is the author of numerous academic papers and more than a dozen volumes on theatre, literature and culture. His published literary work includes poetry, drama and short stories.



Dr Ghulam-Sarwar Yousof

Moderators

Born in Bali in 1979 and raised multi-lingual, **Kadek Krishna Adidharma** is a translator, interpreter, environmental consultant, curator and writer. Walking Home, his column in the Jakarta Post discussed his adaptation to returning to Indonesia after nine years living overseas. His translations have been published alongside the original in bilingual editions of *Don Quixote* by Goenawan Mohamad, *The Art of Learning by Doing* by Sarita Newson and TERRA, an anthology of writing from WordStorm, the Northern Territory Writers' Festival in Darwin, Australia.

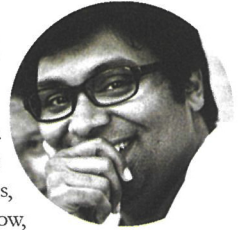


Kadek Krishna Adidharma

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Umapagan Ampikaipakan

Umapagan Ampikaipakan is a media moll. Blessed with a critic's pen and a reader's enthusiasm, Uma (as he is fondly known), is one of Malaysia's foremost literary voices. His long running radio show, Bookmark on BFM89.9, is Malaysia's pre-eminent broadcast on all things book related. He is also a film critic with Uma + Joe at the Movies, a pop-culture columnist for #edGY, and the co-host of BFM89.9's drive time radio show, The Evening Edition. He also runs The Cooler Lumpur Festival, KL's (now) yearly gathering of literary minds and thought leaders.



Sharon Bakar was born in the UK but has lived and worked in Nigeria and, for the past 28 years, in Malaysia. She is a teacher-trainer, freelance writer, editor, creative writing teacher, literary blogger, and most recently, independent publisher. Her articles, reviews, and short fiction have appeared in publications including The Star, Off the Edge, Kakiseni, Quill and in A Subtle Degree of Restraint (MPH 2011). She is the editor of an anthology of short fiction, Collateral Damage (Silverfish Books). She organizes *Readings*, a monthly event for local writers, KL, and is the co-editor (along with Bernice Chauly) and publisher of *Readings From Readings: New Malaysian Writing*, and *Readings From Readings 2: New Writing from Malaysia, Singapore and Beyond* a collection of pieces by writers who have read at the event.



Sharon Bakar

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Khoo Salma Nasution

Khoo Salma Nasution is currently president of the Penang Heritage Trust. She runs Areca Books, a publisher of books on cultural heritage and social history, and the Sun Yat Sen Museum, a private house museum in a conserved 1880's townhouse. She is the author of *Streets of George Town, Penang* (1993), *Penang Postcard Collection* (2003), *More Than Merchants* (2006), *Sun Yat Sen in Penang* (2008) and *Heritage Houses of*

Penang (2009). She has recently contributed book chapters: *Exploring Shared Histories, Preserving Shared Heritage: Penang's Links to a Siamese Past*, *Protecting Siam's Heritage* published by The Siam Society (2013) and 'George Town, Penang: Managing a Multicultural World Heritage Site' in Francis E. Hutchinson and Johan Saravanamuttu's, *Catching the Wind: Penang in a Rising Asia*, published by ISEAS (2013).

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Ksatriya is a Penang-based poet and songwriter. Nominated at the VOICE Independent Music Awards (VIMA) in 2012 for his World Fusion piece "Salam", he is now making regular appearances at various venues in Penang and Kuala Lumpur. He has performed at art and literary festivals, boutique cafes and large concerts to enthusiastic audiences. Most recently, his rap piece "Monday Blues" reached Number 1 on the Traxx FM Upstage charts.



Ksatriya



Sharaad Kuttan

Sharaad Kuttan is a radio producer and presenter with BFM89.9, hosting a daily morning show on current affairs. He also hosts a show on philosophy and social theory called Night School and one on the media called The Week in Review. As a graduate student in Singapore, he co-edited a collection of essays on cultural politics in the city-state: *Looking at Culture* (1996) and has contributed a chapter on civil society activism to a volume on the electoral system in Malaysia - *Elections and Democracy in Malaysia* (2005). He's worked as an activist, journalist and teacher and has played moderator at the George Town Literary Festival since its inception.

Ann Lee is a writer/playwright and founding member of the theatre company, Kualu Works. Her selected and produced works for the stage are available in *Sex, Stage & State: Kualu Works Plays* (2011), including *Tarap Man* which won a Boh Cameronian Arts award for Best Original Script (2007) and *From Table Mountain to Teluk Intan* by Shahimah Idris which was staged at the New York International Fringe Festival. Her recent published work includes 'The Theme Park of Pulau Jerejak' in *New Malaysian Essays* (2009); 'Sabah No More the Pariah, or Still?' in *March 8: Time for Real Change* (2008, 2010); 'Su and her Natural Love for Swimming' in *Malaysian Tales: Retold and Remixed* (2011); and 'Hafiz's Dilemma' in *Body2Body: A Queer Malaysian Anthology* (2009). Ann divides her time between Malaysia and Indonesia.



Ann Lee



Jasmine Low

Jasmine Low is a social entrepreneur, writer, director/producer and is a supporter providing platforms for artistic talent in Malaysia. As one of the early ones who organised live open mic series called *DoppelgangerKL* and *Wayang Kata*, she's hosted over 500 music and literary events since 2002. Today, she wears the hat of Festival Director for two festivals; *FEYST Indie Youth Fest (KL)* and the *In-between Arts Fest (Penang)*. She also runs a marketing communication firm and believes in pushing the envelope to bring together the government, the corporate sector, non-profit organizations and communities through music and the arts.

Yin Shao Loong is Research Director of Institut Rakyat, a public policy think tank. His career spans from government to environmental and Third World activism. A Fulbright Scholar, he has studied chemistry, environmental technology, cultural studies and political science. He has been active in supporting human rights, especially indigenous peoples' rights and worked on reforms on indigenous customary land in Selangor state. He has edited *New Malaysian Essays, Vol 3*, which features an essay in Temuan, a major Orang Asli language. He writes a column with the Malay Mail Online.



Yin Shao Loong

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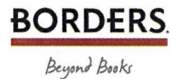
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