

GEORGE  
TOWN,  
LITERARY  
FESTIVAL  
27 - 29 NOV 2015

Black Kettle • The Space@216 Beach Street  
Hock Teik Cheng Sin • ChinaHouse • Cheah Kongsı

~~WE ARE~~  
ARE WE  
WHO WE ARE?

PART OF  
**10** DAYS  
FESTIVALS  
27 NOV-6 DEC 2015

MAIN SPONSOR



PRESENTED BY







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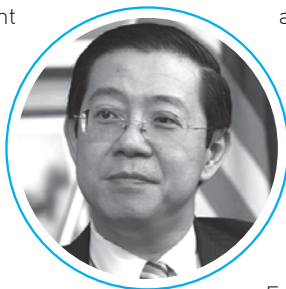


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# MESSAGE FROM THE RIGHT HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER OF PENANG . . . . .

On behalf of the State Government of Penang, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you to Penang. In particular, I would like to thank and welcome our distinguished guests, writers, moderators and performers who are from different parts of the world. Penang is honoured to host the fifth edition of George Town Literary Festival.



Since its inaugural edition in 2011, George Town Literary Festival has come a long way in establishing itself as the premier platform in Malaysia for authors, poets, publishers, readers, and book lovers to share their works, exchange ideas, and discuss literary works. The three-day state-sponsored festival strives to cultivate creativity and appreciation of literature, encourage freedom of expression, and promote the reading habit.

Once a year, Penang transforms into a crucible of ideas, where readers, writers, and book lovers would converge in the heart of George Town to engage in deep conversations about their common passion that is literature. The Festival aspires to be the biggest literary event in Malaysia.

The theme of this year's festival, "We Are Who We Are/Are We Who We Are?" couldn't be more appropriate. Malaysia is at a critical crossroad. As we seek to resolve the current political, economic and financial crises to shape a new future, we have to contemplate who we are as a nation, and what we want to become in the future. Penang should not be defined by our past but by our future.

We arrive at the idea for the future through our understanding and reflection of the past. We achieve this not by some dictation or submission to the will of the authority, but through careful deliberation engagement and acceptance. Only in a free and vibrant society, can we truly achieve such an understanding

and arrive at the idea of who we are and who we want to be as a nation and as a people. It is a dangerous thing to ignore our history and identity to the point that they are twisted to fit the interests of the powerful in the present moment.

Freedom has always been the passion of the Penang State Government-freedom not just of civil and political rights but also of equal opportunity to realise your potential and be free to be what you want to be. Over the last 7 years, Penang has proven that freedom can bring not only sustainable development but also inclusive growth. Freedom works in Penang!

Penang has always been a vibrant place for intellectual discussions and exchange of ideas. The state government is committed to uphold Penang's reputation as the birthplace of the intellectuals and a premier literary scene in Asia.

This expression and celebration of ideas is not just theoretical. Whilst the exhortation that knowledge and ideas is the fountain of progress, implementation and execution is everything. In Penang we are focused on making ideas work.

I would also like to thank and congratulate the team behind this festival for putting together such a wonderful literary festival. Last but not least, to all our guests, authors, and performers from Germany, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, Canada, Belgium, United States, Hong Kong, Philippines, Singapore, and Australia, welcome to Penang!

  
**Lim Guan Eng**  
Chief Minister of Penang



It is with great excitement that I welcome you to the 5th edition of the renowned George Town Literary Festival.

We at the Penang Institute are greatly humbled to be taking over the reins of the Festival this year. Here, I would like to convey my appreciations to Penang Global Tourism for all their efforts in organising the previous four editions. It is now up to us to carry on the torch and bring the Festival to new heights.

The success of the Festival actually has less to do with the organisers than it does its wonderful supporters and sponsors. Every year, all of you have enabled us to bring the best to Penang. This time around, we are featuring 50 amazing writers and moderators, making this year's edition by the far the biggest and boldest edition yet.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the management and staff of the Black Kettle, ChinaHouse, Hock Teik Cheng Sin, Cheah Kongsi and The Space@216 Beach Street for the use of their spaces. These locations make up our "Festival Village" along Beach Street and Armenian Street.

To the team at the Penang Institute who have worked tirelessly in putting together this festival, including Festival Director Bernice Chauly and Festival Producer Ooi Geok Ling, I thank you deeply.

Finally, to all of you who have come from near and far, I wish you all a wonderful Festival in the historical Unesco World Heritage City that is George Town.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zairil Khir Johari'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Zairil Khir Johari**  
Executive Director of Penang Institute

# MESSAGE FROM FESTIVAL DIRECTOR . . . . .



Welcome to the fifth edition of the George Town Literary Festival in the historic UNESCO World Heritage Site of George Town, Penang!

This year's GTLF will continue its celebration of world literature in poetry, prose and spoken word. The theme this year, *We Are Who We Are/Are We Who We Are?* is an issue that concerns us all and will not only address obvious questions of identity, but to delve into topics that force us to look at the human condition in ways that are not always pleasant, looking at how we treat each other, the deterioration of values, the imposition of judgements, prejudices - not just as human beings - but as writers and commentators of society. It will be a critical look at where we are, at what we have become, and where we think we're going. This is an urgent theme, one that has become pervasive and universal, which begs a discerned and necessary discourse.

We are privileged to have almost 50 participants this year - celebrated writers and poets from all over the world, top-notch moderators and innovative performers, including a wayang kulit troupe from Kelantan and Malaysia's most versatile singer-songwriters and spoken word artists. This is our biggest and boldest festival yet!

We are very grateful for continued support from the British Council, the Goethe-Institut, the Embassies of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Belgium and the United States, Canada Council of the Arts, City University Hong Kong, the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus and all our new partners who believe in the power and necessity of literature.

I welcome our new working relationship with Penang Institute, continuing support from Penang Global Tourism and finally, the State of Penang, which has given us the freedom for five years - to have open conversations, cultivate new friendships and memories in the spirit of exchange, dialogue and love for the written word.

Enjoy!

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## /////// About Bernice Chauly /////

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**Bernice Chauly** is a Malaysian writer, poet and educator. She is the author of five books of poetry and prose which include the award-winning memoir *Growing Up With Ghosts* (2011) and her critically-acclaimed third collection of poems, *Onkalo* (2013). For 20 years she worked as a multi-disciplinary artist and is recognized as one of the most significant voices of her generation. She is an Honorary Fellow in Writing from the University of Iowa's International Writing Program (IWP 2014) and currently teaches creative writing at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. She is also the founder and director of the KL Writers Workshop.



## We Are Who We Are: Are We Who We Are?



by Marina Mahathir

There are many ways in which the state of our country resonates with me, and that is besides the fact that I was born in the same year as independence. I am a Gemini, the sign of the Twins and those who know me well know that there can be two sides of me; I can be sociable yet alone, chatty yet quiet, disorganised but disciplined, slow to anger but capable of raging fury also, a lazy person who spends a lot of time working.



Malaysia, our country, seems to be the same. On one level rocked by much hate and divisiveness, usually related to race and religion. Yet on another level, totally harmonious where people simply get along perhaps because they have lived with one another for so long. On the one hand we look like a well-developed country with our highways, tall buildings and ubiquitous mobile phones, yet it doesn't take much for us to plunge into superstition, backbiting and parochialism. We love it when Malaysians succeed but at the same time we snipe at those who are outstanding in their achievements, finding fault with everything we can possibly find about them. Oh she won a gold medal? But she doesn't know how to choose her clothes!!

As a people, we can be bighearted and generous, digging deep into our pockets when others need help. But we pick and choose who we will help, based on how much affinity we feel with them, whether it is race, religion or something else. We like to say we believe in human rights but we don't truly believe that it should be universal. Yes we should be equal but not that equal.








After 58 years, we seem to still not know who we are. Are we part of this globalised twenty-first century world, or are we still a rural people, afraid of being overwhelmed by everything that other people do and say? If we are to hold our heads high in the world, what exactly do we hold them up with? The biggest ketupat?

The question is do we really need to define who we are? Do we box ourselves in when we do that? Is it better that we stumble along higgledy-piggledy in our usual chaotic fashion because that is really who we are?

And what has this to do with literature? Can any writing about us define us totally, or do they only reveal one aspect of us, resonating only with some people but not others? I am constantly surprised by people who come up to me to tell me that I write what they think. They are usually total strangers and probably had completely different life experiences from me. How is it possible for me to talk about things which mean something to them? Is there some sort of collective experience that allows me to do that? Or am I not really an individual but simply one of the 30 million Malaysians who have been shaped and shoved into one form by forces beyond our control, or forces we imagine we cannot control?



Whatever it is, defining who we are as Malaysians must surely be an ongoing process, one that cannot, and perhaps should not, become clear without much introspection. The beginning of tyranny is surely the day when that definition of 'Malaysian' becomes absolute and immovable.

# PROGRAMME FLOW . . . . .

 Book Launch    Panel    Workshop    Exhibition    Poetry    Performance    Special

**27** NOV | FRIDAY



10.30 am – 12.00 pm

 **Cheah Kongsı**  
 (Scholar's Room)  
Admission: RM 50

## Inside Out: From Imagination to Craft to Poem by Shirley Geok-Lin Lim

Beginning with a brief survey of the fundamentals of writing creatively, the workshop offers some strategies for tapping into your imagination, free writing, crafting and revising your drafts, to conclude with your completed poem and ideas for publication.


1.00 pm – 2.30 pm

 **Cheah Kongsı**  
 (Scholar's Room)  
Admission: RM 50

## How to Bring a Poem to Life by Omar Musa

Award-winning spoken word poet, rapper and verse novelist Omar Musa leads a workshop on how to write, edit, rehearse and perform a spoken word poem.

3.00 pm – 4.00 pm

 **Black Kettle**  
(Mrs Potts)

## Voices : Woman is I Personal monologues from Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC)

VOICES by Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC) returns this year with its second edition, "Woman is I". In a world that silences women and depicts them as two-dimensional caricatures, PWDC is honouring the individuality of women and their voices at the George Town Literary Festival 2015. "VOICES: Woman is I" is a process of discovery and expression through personal narratives - of women and by women.

4.00 pm – 5.00 pm

 **The Space@216**








## The Prosecution of Anwar Ibrahim – The Final Play (Marshall Cavendish) by Mark Trowell

*(See Mark Trowell's bio on page 32)*

The Prosecution of Anwar Ibrahim: The Final Play (Marshall Cavendish) records the events surrounding opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's acquittal after trial on a charge of sodomy and the appeals that ultimately resulted in his conviction and



# PROGRAMME FLOW . . . . .

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imprisonment. The book records significant events in the life of Malaysia. Was the prosecution of Anwar about upholding moral values or was the law used simply as a weapon against a political adversary? The book raises further questions about the human condition. It is about how we treat each other; how laws impose upon a community certain values, cultural prejudices and even decrees how a community must act. Should citizens be ruled by law, or the rule of law?

Featuring special guest **Azmi Sharom**.

 **6.00 pm – 7.30 pm**  
**Black Kettle**  
**(Mrs Potts)**

**Opening Ceremony with Chief Minister of Penang**  
Speeches by Bernice Chauly (Festival Director), Executive Director of YB Zairil Khir Johari (Executive Director of Penang Institute) and Chief Minister of Penang, YAB Lim Guan Eng. Keynote address by Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir and performance by Jaap Blonk.








 **8.00 pm – 9.00 pm**  
**Hock Teik Cheng Sin**  
**Temple**

**Wayang Kulit Seri Warisan Pusaka**  
PUSAKA presents the Kumpulan Wayang Kulit Sri Warisan Pusaka from Machang, Kelantan. The group is led by Abdul Rahman Dollah (Dalang Nawil) and Mohamad Hassan Noor. They are both disciples of the late great Tok Dalang Abdullah Ibrahim, famously known as Tok Dalang Dollah Baju Merah. The group has performed to great acclaim both nationally and internationally, and just recently completed a US residency with CaravanSerai in a month long tour of 6 cities around the mid-west in Spring 2015. With an introduction by Eddin Khoo, Director of Pusaka.

 **9.30 pm**  
**ChinaHouse (The Canteen)**

**Music at The Canteen**  
**Performer:** Mia Palencia

# PROGRAMME FLOW . . . . .

 Book Launch  Panel  Workshop  Exhibition  Poetry  Performance  Special

## 28 NOV | SATURDAY

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 9.30 am  
The Space@216

### Cartooning as an Art of Protest

Opening of art exhibition by Malaysian cartoonist, Zunar. Exhibition to be launched by YB Zairil Khir Johari, Executive Director of Penang Institute.

 10.00 am – 11.00 am  
Black Kettle  
(Chip)

### Reading and Panel Discussion: The Other Side of Silence

Four women writing in different genres, forms and styles. Listen to how they deal about the unspeakable, of 'silences' in literature, of liberation and personal truths.

**Writers:** Anja Utler, Franca Treur, Xu Xi, Chuah Guat Eng

**Moderator:** Shivani Sivagurunathan

 Black Kettle  
(Mrs Potts)

### Reading and Panel Discussion: The Play's the Thing

The performing arts have had a long, varied and intimate relationship with the written word. Lyrics, scripts and incantations infuse the world of performance, which produce a reshaping and reimagining of texts. Four writers, four performers, explore how words evoke, interpret and embody the act.

**Writers:** Marco Ferrarese, Paul Augustin, Tan Sooi Beng, Robin Ruizendaal








**Moderator:** Latif Kamaluddin

 10.30 am – 12.00 pm  
Cheah Kongs  
(Scholar's Room)  
 Admission: RM 50

### Maureen Freely - What is Literary Translation?

We all know that translations cannot be trusted, unless we are certain, as readers, that they are accurate and faithful to the original. But what does that actually mean in practice? What are the principles that working translators abide by, when

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 Book Launch    Panel    Workshop    Exhibition    Poetry    Performance    Special

the text they hope to carry into a new language is subtle and complex? In this session, Maureen Freely will offer a few examples from her own work to draw out some of those principles. She will also give participants a chance to attempt this difficult art for themselves.

11.15 am – 12.15 pm

 **Black Kettle**  
(Mrs Potts)

## Reading and Panel Discussion: The State of the Nation

Where is Malaysian writing at now? Does it feature enough or not at all in our personal and political landscape? Does the state of the nation influence the state of our writing?

**Writers:** Tan Twan Eng, Shirley Geok-Lin Lim, Lim Swee Tin, Amir Muhammad

**Moderator:** Malachi Edwin Vethamani

 **Black Kettle**  
(Chip)

## Reading and Panel Discussion: The Malay Dilemma

What does it mean to be Malay in Malaysia? Is the Malay dilemma more real now than ever before? How does this translate to narrative, opinion, art and politics? An open discussion about being Malay in Malaysia.

**Writers:** Marina Mahathir, Zunar, Omar Musa, Dain Iskandar Said

**Moderator:** Fuad Rahmat

12.30 pm – 1.45 pm

 **ChinaHouse** (The Canteen)






## Poetry at Lunch: Poetry Marathon

A non-stop performance of festival poets and their work. A celebration of poets, poetry and the world.

**Poets:** Jaap Blonk, Kate Rogers, Danton Remoto, Anja Utler, Omar Musa, Dipika Mukherjee, Lawrence Ypil, Shivani Sivagurunathan, Lim Swee Tin, Pablo Jofré, Joshua Ip, Eddin Khoo.

**Moderator:** Jasmine Low

# PROGRAMME FLOW . . . . .

 Book Launch  Panel  Workshop  Exhibition  Poetry  Performance  Special

2.00 pm – 3.00 pm

 Black Kettle  
(Mrs Potts)

## Conversations: Who Is Entitled?

Two prominent opinion-makers speak on issues that deal with Islam, social justice and civil society. What divides the East/West? What defines us most? Is it race, religion or nationality? Why is it becoming harder to be tolerant and why do we so easily become silent in the face of terror?

**Writers:** Wajahat Ali, Marina Mahathir

**Moderator:** Umapagan Ampikaipakan

 Black Kettle  
(Chip)


## Reading and Panel Discussion: Fear, Guns and Amerika

Is America the land of the free and home of the brave? What is America afraid of? Can America reimagine itself? And how does the writer deal with writing, literary landscapes and staying alive?

**Writers:** Lawrence Ypil, Robin Hemley, Xu Xi, Dipika Mukherjee

**Moderator:** Sharaad Kuttan

3.15 pm – 4.15 pm

 Black Kettle  
(Mrs Potts)

## Conversations: Can The Subterranean Speak?

Is language and metaphor evolving enough to include narratives of climate change? Is poetry and prose still fixated on the human, mythical, conscious, physical? Will we allow the earth to speak, and how will we do it? Two wordsmiths deal with the complexities of language, responsibility and humanity.

**Writers:** Maureen Freely, Anja Utler








**Moderator:** Shivani Sivagurunathan

 Black Kettle  
(Chip)

## Reading and Panel Discussion: Futile States

2015 is the year of ASEAN and the creation of a South East Asian community of 10 countries. Are we ready to be united? What are our strengths? How do we write against the divides of language, identity and

# PROGRAMME FLOW . . . . .

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politics? Will we come together in unity? Or will we fail?

**Writers:** Joshua Ip, Danton Remoto, Lily Yulianti Farid, Chuah Guat Eng

**Moderator:** Yin Shao Loong

5.00 pm – 5.45 pm

 [The Space@216](#)

## **Bibliography of Malaysian Literature in English (Maya Press) by Malachi Edwin Vethamani**

The documentation of Malaysian literary works in English is an on-going project, which the author first undertook in the mid-1990s, and resulted in the publication of the first edition of this volume in 2001. The focus in this bibliography is mainly on four genres since 2010: novels, short stories, poetry and drama.

6.00 pm – 6.30 pm

 [The Space@216](#)

## **Rules of Desire (Fixi Novo) by Dipika Mukherjee**

In *Rules of Desire*, yearning becomes both dangerous and erotic, leading the readers into worlds where the unthinkable becomes possible. Mukherjee's stories careen from urban Kuala Lumpur to cosmopolitan Shanghai, then small towns of India and the remote wilderness of America.








6.30 pm - 7.15 pm

 [The Space@216](#)

## **And the winners for the D.K Dutt Memorial Award are...**

The D. K. Dutt Memorial Award For Literary Excellence was established in the memory of Delip Kumar Dutt (1929-2015), an educator and an avid sports person. He was the President of the Schools Sports Council of Malaysia and many of his former students represented Malaysia in sports, especially hockey and athletics, at international competitions. This award rewards the spirit of creative thinking and respect for sportsmanship fostered by D.K. Dutt in his role as a renowned Malaysian educator.

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★ 6.30 pm - 10.00 pm  
★ The Blue Mansion

## Dinner & Conversation with Tan Twan Eng

Hosted by: Malachi Edwin Vethamani

Cost: RM150 nett (4-course dinner),



RM240nett (Dinner paired with 3 wines)

For reservations, please call Ms Sim Mann Chyun at 016-4880056/04-2283306 ext 106 or email [info@georgetownlitfest.com](mailto:info@georgetownlitfest.com)

7.00 pm - 8.00 pm  
 ChinaHouse  
 (Vic's Upstairs)

## Aku Mahu Hidup Seribu Tahun Lagi – the poetry of Chairil Anwar

The Indonesian poet Chairil Anwar (1922-1949) is still acknowledged as one of the most influential poets of the Nusantara. Although he died mysteriously at the age of 26, his 70 poems remain iconic and are revered by generations of poets, writers and artists. A conversation between **Lily Yulianti Farid** and **Eddin Khoo**, with readings from festival poets.

7.30 pm till late  
 The Space@216  


## Two Book Launches and Live Music!

### Book Launch #1- Young and Malay: Growing Up in Multicultural Malaysia (Gerakbudaya); edited by Ooi Kee Beng, Wan Hamidi Hamid

Penang-born Wan Hamidi Hamid has spent more than 25 years in journalism, working with, among others Berita Harian, New Straits Times, The Star, The Sun and The Straits Times, as well as the online news portal The Malaysian Insider. He has covered current issues, particularly Malaysian politics. He also had a stint as media relations adviser at the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur. At present, he helps the Democratic Action Party with media relations, political communication and publicity.

*(See Ooi Kee Beng's bio on page 28)*

### Book Launch #2 -Banana Punk Rawk Trails (SIRD) by Marco Ferrarese


Do we really know what passes through young

# PROGRAMME FLOW . . . . .

 Book Launch


 Panel

 Workshop

 Exhibition

 Poetry

 Performance

 Special

Malaysian minds? Especially those shaken by the body electric of music and foreign subcultures? Experience a slice of the Malaysian underground scene with food for the mind and loud music for the rebel soul. Punk Rawk Trails by Marco Ferrarese, a metal punk guitarist himself – sets the spotlight on what happens when an indigestion of ‘budaya kuning’ turns your world upside down with the sound of shrieking rawk and roll. If that wasn’t enough, get a peek of unhinged live underground music with the bossy 70’s power rock of Speed Witches (Kuala Lumpur), the lysergic emanations of COMA (Penang), and the skull-crushing D-beat madness of Angkara (Kulim, Kedah). Remember: if it’s too loud, you’re too old. So party on!!!

*(See Marco Ferrarese’s bio on page 22)*

9.30 pm

 ChinaHouse (The Canteen)

**Music at The Canteen**

**Performer:** Reza Salleh

10.30 pm

 Hock Teik Cheng Sin Temple


**Spoken Word Event - Pontianak**

Pontianak explores the way women and ‘the feminine’ have been systematically demonized, their stories buried, their collective and individual power taken away from them, their role in society demeaned, diminished and their natural, universal status as goddesses removed, through traditional patriarchal narratives told as myth and legend. Drawing from the ghost stories and folklore that permeated our childhood nightmares and imagination, Pontianak is a re-imagining of the witch and of the feminine told through the spoken word poetry of five different women contemporary poets.

**Poets/Performers:** Elaine Foster, Sheena Baharudin, Melizarani T. Selva, Ilya Sumanto and Nabila Najwa.

## 29 NOV | SUNDAY

10.00 am – 11.00am


 **Black Kettle**  
(Chip)

### **Conversations: The Contemporary Asian Woman Writer.**

Both writers live and work in North America and have written extensively about being Asian and Chinese. Is there a sisterhood of sorts? Is there a 'politic' about writing from this point of view? How do they extrapolate the biography and geography of semiotics and translate it into the material?

**Writers:** Judy Fong Bates, Shirley Geok-Lin Lim

**Moderator:** Sharon Bakar

 **Black Kettle**  
(Mrs Potts)



### **Reading and Panel Discussion: Dangerous Ideas**

The history of ideas is a dynamic field of enquiry that is marginalised in Malaysia. How does this help us understand society? Is it a basis for new thinking for the future? Much discussion in Malaysia is circular – debates about nation, ethnicity and democracy are rigid paradigms. Why has this happened?

**Writers:** Khairudin Aljunied, Anthony Milner, Ooi Kee Beng, Khoo Salma

**Moderator:** Gareth Richards


10.30 am – 12.30 pm

 **Cheah Kongs**  
 **(Scholar's Room)**  
**Admission: RM20**

### **Basic Painting and Cartoon Workshop with Zunar**

How do you draw and create a cartoon character? How do you give it facial expression? Learn how to draw basic characters and objects, create perspective and tips for writing dialogue.

11.15 am – 12.15 pm








 **Black Kettle**  
(Chip)

### **Conversations: Writing from the Low Countries.**

Dutch and Flemish writers have a tradition of devout religious passion, medieval mysticism and anti-Reformation polemic. Here are two portraits of exemplary women writers who have explored their



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own emotional, social and political worlds in ways that have defied uncertain norms and created pathways into new ways of seeing.

**Writers:** Anne Provoost, Franca Treur

**Moderator:** Lawrence Ypil

## Black Kettle (Mrs Potts)

### **Reading and Panel Discussion: Shame on You!**

What is the concept of shame in literature? Is there a logic to shame? Do we need to write about it and do we feel guilty when we do? An open discussion into the ethics of shame and guilt in writing.

**Writers:** Wajahat Ali, Hanne Ørstavik, Maureen Freely

**Moderator:** Michael Vatikiotis

## 12.30 am – 1.45 pm ChinaHouse (The Canteen)

### **Poetry at Lunch – Penang Showcase!**

Featuring Shannon and Zee Ng, Anwar Hadi, Kasvini Muniandy, Claudia Angelique, Yasmin Bathmanathan and Kee How, Laika Jumabhoy, Mark Walker and Melizarani T. Selva.

**Moderator:** Ksatriya

## 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm Black Kettle (Chip)

### **Reading and Panel Discussion: Poetry and the World**

How has poetry evolved? Is the poet's role more urgent than ever? What matters now in poetry? What does it seek? A showcase of poetry and poets from around the world.

**Poets:** Joshua Ip, Danton Remoto, Lim Swee Tin, Pablo Jofré








**Moderator:** Kate Rogers

## Black Kettle (Mrs Potts)

### **Reading and Panel Discussion: Hello Darkness**

Why do we create characters that do bad things? What possesses some writers to write about the

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darkness and evil in humanity? And is there some form of redemption for the writer in the end?

**Writers:** Omar Musa, Anne Provoost, Evan Fallenberg, Hanne Ørstavik

**Moderator:** Fuad Rahmat

3.15 pm – 4.15 pm

 **Black Kettle**  
(Mrs Potts)

## **Conversations: The Pain of the Memoir**

Autobiographical writing often comes from trying to understand some measure of grief and pain. Why is the memoir so difficult, yet necessary to write? What is the driving force behind writing the personal for the public?

**Writers:** Judy Fong Bates, Robin Hemley

**Moderator:** Evan Fallenberg

5.00 pm - 5.45 pm

 **The Space@216**

## **Book Discussion: Talkin' About Taboo**

Malaysian spoken word poet Melizarani T. Selva will perform poems from her recently launched poetry collection entitled Taboo.

Published by Perfect Binding Press, her book has made the MPH Top 10 Best-Sellers list and has been described as a force of nature. Hosted by Penang poet Ksatriya, the session will also feature a musical performance by Kafayat Quadri.

6.00 pm - 6.45 pm

 **The Space@216**

## **Two Book Launches:**

### **Book Launch #1- There Be Monsters by Julya Oui (Fixi Novo)**

13 new stories from the author of Here Be Nightmares, launched at GTLF 2014 and subsequently longlisted for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award. Among the featured stories are "The Night it Rained Murder", "The Strange Solitude of Hungry Helen" and "That Lonely Bastard." Another foray by Julya Oui into the creepiest realms of the human heart and mind,

where things are never as placid and wholesome as surfaces may suggest.

## **Book Launch #2- Cerpen by Regina Ibrahim (Fixi Novo)**

Oleh penulis novel bestseller Perjalanan. Puluhan kisah kisah pendek memaparkan situasi dan pergelutan manusia. Mengisahkan bagaimana mereka menghadapi kemelut hidup secara sinis, luka, duka dan jenaka. Ia cuba membawa pembaca ke alam hidup objek cerita secara ringkas dan mudah tanpa memohon sebarang rasa prejudis dalam bahasa yang tidak terlalu puitis ataupun akademik. Tiada kaitan dengan mana-mana insan yang hidup ataupun mati. Bermula dengan kisah yang melibatkan identiti diri, seksualiti, pencarian hidup, kisah-kisah sakit mental hinggalah ke kehidupan suri rumahtangga yang kita anggap terlalu biasa. Kisah-kisah semasa yang sering kita dengar secara sipi-sipi sahaja sepanjang perjalanan hidup!








7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

 **ChinaHouse**  
(Vic's Upstairs)

## **Festival Finale: Interchange – in conversation with Dain Iskandar Said, Nandita Solomon, June Tan and Redza Minhat**

Dain Iskandar Said is one of Malaysia's most celebrated filmmakers. His film Bunohan premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2011 and has been screened worldwide to critical acclaim. His next film Interchange, a supernatural thriller, is one the most anticipated Malaysian films of 2016. This panel will include the film's producer, scriptwriters and will feature an exclusive segment from the film. Nandita Solomon is an award-winning producer and co-founder of film production company, Apparat. She has worked across various studio and independent films that have screened at various international festivals from Cannes to Busan. She produced Bunohan which premiered at the Toronto

# PROGRAMME FLOW . . . . .

-  Book Launch
-  Panel
-  Workshop
-  Exhibition
-  Poetry
-  Performance
-  Special

International Film Festival and swept eight awards at the Malaysian Film Festival 2013 including Best Film and Best Screenplay.

June Tan studied biology and is a writer for short and feature films. Her first musical, "Cheras the Musical" was staged in October.

Redza Minhat is an actor, a writer and a producer. He is the co-founder of 'Projek Disko Baldi' - a comedy ensemble where he writes and performs sketches and is currently the resident writer for Playground Productions.

**Moderator:** Bernice Chauly

 **9.30 pm**  
ChinaHouse (The Canteen)

**Music at the Canteen**  
**Performer:** Zalila Lee



## Being Faust – Enter Mephisto

“If I sold my friends to find love and get rich ... wouldn't that be a good deal?”

“Being Faust – Enter Mephisto” is a “big game”. It's a physical game enriched with online and social media elements, based on Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's drama “Faust”.



The game format is unique: A group of players gathers at a specific site at a specific time. Each player assumes the role of young Faust. Equipped with a smartphone and the intention to take life on, the players enter the tempting digital world of MEPHISTO&co., where values and ideals are up for sale. Upon logging into the game, the deal between Faust and MEPHISTO&co. is sealed; the soul sold, and thus begins the game of seduction: how far are the players willing to go? Can success and beauty really be purchased? Is there a way back into “uninvolved pleasure”, to true love and friendship?



The starting point for this innovative project, which has been developed by Goethe-Institut Korea and NOLGONG, was the question of

how and with which means Faust and Mephisto were to meet in the digital age. The universal questions remain the same: What do I value in life? What are my personal values based on? Which price am I willing to pay for success?

**Venue:** Hin Bus Depot Art Centre 31, Jalan Gurdwara, George Town

**Time:** Friday, Nov 27, 8pm (Premiere Game)  
Saturday, Nov 28, 4pm, 8pm  
Sunday, Nov 29, 4pm, 8pm

**Number of Players per session:** 50

**Game Language:** English; Quotation boxes in German and English

# PARTICIPATING WRITERS . . . . .



## Wajahat Ali

**Wajahat Ali** is a TV host, attorney and playwright. He is a journalist at Al Jazeera America. He helped launch the network as co-host of Al Jazeera America's The Stream, a daily news show that extended the conversation to social media and beyond. Ali is also the author of *The Domestic Crusaders*—the first major play about Muslim Americans, post-9/11. He is the lead author of the investigative report *Fear Inc: The Roots of the Islamophobia Network in America*. Witty and emphatic, he speaks on the multifaceted Muslim American experience, and an emergent generation of millennials poised for social change.

*Wajahat Ali is supported by the U.S. Embassy*



## Khairudin Aljunied

**Khairudin Aljunied** is an Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore. He has authored and edited several books which include *Colonialism, Violence and Muslims in Southeast Asia* (2009) and the newly published *Radicals: Resistance and Protest in Colonial Malaya* (2015). He is currently working on a book about Muslim cosmopolitan cultures in Southeast Asia.

*Khairudin Aljunied is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop*



## Paul Augustin

**Paul Augustin** was a musician for more than 15 years, recording compositions and producing three albums. He joined an events management company and then set up the Capricorn Connection – which focuses on festival organisation and management. He founded and has directed the Penang Island Jazz Festival since 2004. He is also a founder member of the Asian Jazz Festival Organisation and has been regularly invited to major jazz and music industry conferences across the world. He recently co-authored (with James Lochhead) the bestselling book, *Just for the Love of It: Popular Music in Penang, 1930s–1960s* (SIRD, 2015).

*Paul Augustin is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop*



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## Jaap Blonk

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**Jaap Blonk** is a Dutch composer and poet. His unfinished studies in mathematics and musicology mainly created a penchant for activities in a Dadaist vein, in the early 1980s he discovered the power and flexibility of his voice, and set out on a long-term research of phonetics and the possibilities of the human voice. At present, he has developed into a specialist in the creation and performance of sound poetry, supported by a powerful stage presence. He performs and gives workshops worldwide on a regular basis. With the use of live electronics the scope and range of his work has acquired a considerable extension and from his sound poetry scores he developed an independent body of visual work, which has been published and exhibited worldwide.

*Jaap Blonk is supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands*



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## Evan Fallenberg

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**Evan Fallenberg** is the author of the novels *Light Fell* (Soho Press, 2008) and *When We Danced on Water* (HarperCollins, 2011) and a translator of Hebrew fiction, plays and libretti. He has won or been shortlisted for prizes that include an American Library Association Award, the Edmund White Award, the National Jewish Book Award, the PEN Translation Prize and the TLS Prize for Translation of Hebrew Literature. He teaches creative writing and literary translation at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv and City University of Hong Kong, and has been invited to residencies by the MacDowell Colony, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Ledig-Rowohlt Foundation/Chateau de Lavigny. Fallenberg serves as an advisor to the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature and as a judge for the Galtelli Literary Prize, and is founder and artistic director of Arabesque: an Arts and Residency Center in Old Acre.


# FESTIVAL VILLAGE GUIDE . . . . .


 Armenian Street Heritage Hotel

50m

 Hotel

 **Hock Teik Cheng Sin Temple**  
57, Armenian Street,  
10200 George Town,  
Penang

 **Cheah Kongsi**  
8, Armenian Street,  
10300 George Town,  
Penang

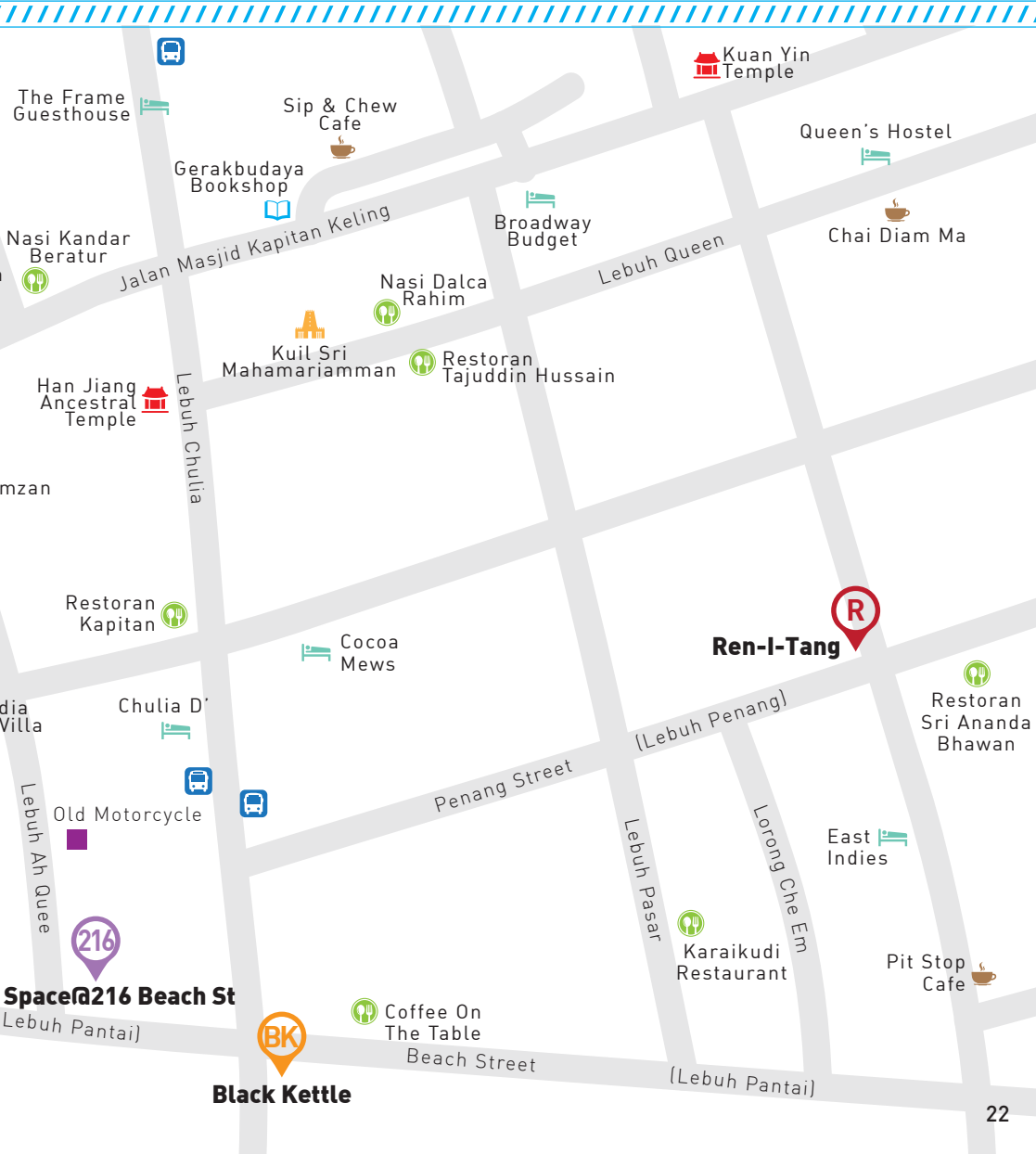
 **ChinaHouse**  
153 & 155, Beach Street  
10300 George Town,  
Penang





- Hotel
- Ren-I-Tang Hotel
- Bus Stop
- Cafe
- Restaurant
- Mosque
- Chinese Temple
- Indian Temple
- Street Art

et, 183B, Victoria Street 10300 George Town, Penang	<b>216</b> <b>The Space@216 Beach St</b> 216, Beach Street, 10300 George Town, Penang	<b>BK</b> <b>Black Kettle</b> 105, Beach Street 10200 George Town, Penang
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## Lily Yulianti Farid

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**Lily Yulianti Farid** is a short story writer, founder and director of the Makassar International Writers Festival in Makassar, Sulawesi, Indonesia. Her published story collections are: Makkunrai (2008), Maisaura (2008), Family Room (2010), Ayahmu Bulan Engkau Matahari (2011). She has participated at Ubud Writers and Readers Festival, Winternachten Festival, The Hague; Word Storm Festival, Byron Bay Writers Festival, Melbourne Writers Festival, Bendigo Writers Festival and the Salihara Biennale. She received her MA and PhD in gender studies at the University of Melbourne, Australia. She co-founded Rumata' Artspace in Makassar in 2010 and works as one of the executive directors.

*Lily Yulianti Farid is supported by AirAsia*



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## Marco Ferrarese

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**Marco Ferrarese** has travelled extensively and lived in Italy, the United States, China, Australia and Malaysia. He started vagabonding as a punk rock guitarist with metal punk band The Nerds, hitting the most famous and infamous stages across Europe and North America. Since 2009 he has been based in Southeast Asia as a writer, hardcore punk musician and researcher. He has written about travel, culture and extreme music in Asia. Marco's first pulp novel Nazi Goreng (2013) explores the underbelly of the Malaysian international drug trade and displaced youth and is a bestseller in Malaysia. It was recently translated into Bahasa Malaysia by DuBook Press (2015). His short stories were featured in anthologies KL Noir Blue and Lost in Putrajaya (2014). His latest book, Banana Punk Rawk Trails (2015), documents his forays into the world of Malaysian and Indonesian metal punk.

*Marco Ferrarese is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop*



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## Judy Fong Bates //

**Judy Fong Bates** immigrated to Canada from China as a young child. She is the author of the critically acclaimed short-story collection, *China Dog and Other Stories*, and the novel, *Midnight at the Dragon Café*, which was an American Library Association Notable Book, and the Everybody Reads selection for Portland, Oregon, and Toronto, Canada. Her latest work, a family memoir, *The Year of Finding Memory*, was listed in 'The 2010 Globe 100' by the Globe and Mail. She is currently working on a novel. Judy has two adult daughters and three grandchildren and lives with her husband on a farm outside of Toronto.

*Judy Fong Bates is supported by Canada Council for the Arts*



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## Maureen Freely //

**Maureen Freely** is an author, a journalist, a translator, and the Head of the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies at the University of Warwick. She is perhaps best known as the translator of five books the Turkish Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk. More recently she has translated or co-translated works by Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar, Sait Faik Abasıyanık, Sabahatin Ali, Fetiye Çetin, Hasan Ali Toptaş, Tuba Çandar, and Sema Kaygusuz. Her own seventh novel, *Sailing through Byzantium*, was named as one of the best novels of 2013 in both the TLS and the Sunday Times. A fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and formerly chair of the Translators Association, she is currently the President of English PEN.

*Maureen Freely is supported by the British Council*



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## Chuah Guat Eng //

**Chuah Guat Eng** is a Malaysian fiction writer. Her literary publications include two novels, *Echoes of Silence* (1994, 2009) and *Days of Change* (2010), and three short-story collections, *Tales from the Baram River* (2001), *The Old House* (2008), and *Dream Stuff* (2014). She has a PhD from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia for her thesis, *From Conflict to Insight: A Zen-based Reading Procedure for the Analysis of Fiction*.



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## Robin Hemley //

**Robin Hemley** is a graduate of the Iowa Writers Workshop and former Director of the Nonfiction Writing Program at The University of Iowa. He is the author of 11 works of fiction and nonfiction and the winner of such awards as a Guggenheim Fellowship, A Bogliasco Fellowship, and three Pushcart prizes in fiction and nonfiction. He has been awarded residencies at the Bogliasco Foundation, the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, the MacDowell Colony, Varuna Writers House, the Hermitage, and others. His work has appeared in such journals as The New York Times, New York Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, Orion, and many of the finest literary magazines in the U.S. He is currently the Director of the Writing Program at Yale-NUS College in Singapore.



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## Joshua Ip //

**Joshua Ip** is the Singapore Literature Prize-winning author of two volumes of poetry from Math Paper Press: *making love with scrabble tiles* (2013), and *sonnets from the singlish* (2012). He won the Golden Point Award for Prose in 2013, and was runner-up for Poetry in 2011. He has co-edited two poetry anthologies: *A Luxury We Cannot Afford* (2014) and *SingPoWriMo 2014: The Anthology* (2014). He is working on his first graphic novel, *Ten Stories Below* (2015). He organized the inaugural Singapore Poetry Writing Month in 2014, and the first Singapore Manuscript Bootcamp in 2015.



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## Pablo Jofré //

**Pablo Jofré** has published *Extranjería* (Ediciones Bizarrras, Ciudad de Guatemala 2015), *Usted* (Milena Berlin, 2013), *Abecedario* (Siníndice, Logroño 2012/Cuarto Propio, Santiago 2015) and in the anthology *El tejedor en... Berlín* by Ernesto Estrella and Jorge Locane (L.U.P.I., Sestao 2015). Together with musician Andi Meißner he leads the poetry-music duo Jofre Meissner Project. In June 2012 his poem *The Light Age* was included in the *Bombing of Poems* event (Casagrande-Southbank Center) over the Jubilee Garden in London. In 2010, he won the first prize at the Sant Andreu de la Barca Competition (in Spain), for his poem *La Danza De La Existencia* and in 2009, he was awarded an Honourable Mention in the Chilean National Contest of Literature Gabriela Mistral for his book *Abecedario*. He studies literature, anthropology and journalism in Chilean and Spanish universities, and lives and works as cultural reporter and literary translator in Berlin.



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## Dain Iskandar Said

**Dain Iskandar Said** has worked with images for almost 30 years, concentrating on feature films, documentaries and video installations. His work has been showcased at the Sydney Biennale and the Burj Al Arab. His last film *Bunohan* won international acclaim. He is currently finishing his film 'Interchange', to be released in 2016.

*Dain Iskandar Said is supported by Aparat.*



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## Khoo Salma

**Khoo Salma** is a Penang-based writer, publisher and heritage advocate. She is currently president of Penang Heritage Trust and custodian of the Sun Yat Sen Museum, Penang, at 120 Armenian Street. As co-founder of the Little Penang Street Market through Lestari Heritage Network, she has been involved in growing Penang's creative economy. She has written or co-written more than a dozen books on Penang and Perak – on social history, cultural heritage and sustainable development – including *Penang Postcard Collection, 1899–1930s* (2003), *More than Merchants: A History of the German-Speaking Community in Penang, 1800s–1940s* (2006), *Sun Yat Sen in Penang* (2008), *Heritage Houses of Penang* (2009) and the award-winning *The Chulia in Penang: Patronage and Place-Making around the Kapitan Kling Mosque, 1786–1957* (2014).

*Khoo Salma is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop*



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## Lim Swee Tin

**Lim Swee Tin** was born in Bachok, Kelantan. He began writing in the early 1970's and published his first collection of poems *Eva* in 1981. Lim has won many literary awards which include the '1983 Puisiputra 2 Award' for his collection of poems entitled *Akrab* (1985), the 1982/83, 1984/85, 1988/89 *Hadiah Sastera Malaysia* (Malaysia Literary Award) and the SEA Write Award in 2000. Among his collections of poems are *A Child and the Other Poems* (1993), *Sebuah Fregmen Cinta* (1998, 2000), *Citra Kurnia* (2004), *Memetik Mawar* (2005), *Sukma Cemara* (2006), *Potret Harum Kuntum Zaitun* (2006), *Cakerawala Kemerdekaan* (2007), *Eva Masih untuk Sebuah Nama* (2008), *Mencari Indah* (2008), and *Stanza Memmorable* (2009), *Embun Sejuta Mawar* (2015). He currently lectures in Malay Literature at University Putra Malaysia.



## Shirley Geok-lin Lim //

**Shirley Geok-lin Lim** is a Malaysian-born, US-based writer and poet who has written seven poetry (Crossing the Peninsula won the Commonwealth Poetry Prize, first for a woman and Asian) and three short story collections, three novels, The Shirley Lim Collection, and Among the White Moon Faces (American Book Award memoir winner). Malacca-born, she has also published critical studies and numerous anthologies (The Forbidden Stitch was a 1990 American Book Award winner) is a Fulbright and Wien International Fellow and completed her Ph.D. at Brandeis University. Recipient of the MELUS Lifetime Achievement Award and UCSB Faculty Research Lecture Award, Ngee Ann Kongsi Distinguished Professorship (NUS), she served as Chair Professor of English at University of Hong Kong. She is launching three new poetry collections in 2015: The Irreversible Sun (West End Press); Do You Live In? and Ars Poetic for the Day (Ethos).



## Marina Mahathir //

**Marina Mahathir** is a newspaper columnist, human rights activist, TV producer and founder of a women's travel website, Zafigo.com. Her activism began with 12 years as President of the Malaysian AIDS Council, and currently as a member of the Board of Sisters in Islam. She travels frequently to speak at conferences and corporate events, locally and abroad. Since 1989, she has written a bi-weekly column called Musings in The Star newspaper and has had her pieces published in 50 days: Rantings by MM (2009) and Telling It Straight (2012).



## Anthony Milner //

**Anthony Milner** is the Tun Hussein Onn Chair in International Studies at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia; Adjunct Professor at the University of Malaya; and Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne. He has been one of the leading historians of Malaysia over the past thirty years and a pioneer in the history of ideas. He is the author of Kerajaan: Malay Political Culture on the Eve of Colonial Rule (1982), The Invention of Politics in Colonial Malaya (1995, 2002) and The Malays (2008, 2012).

*Anthony Milner is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop*



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## Omar Musa

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**Omar Musa** is a Malaysian-Australian author, rapper and poet from Queanbeyan, Australia. He is the former winner of the Australian Poetry Slam and the Indian Ocean Poetry Slam. He has released three hip hop albums, two poetry books (including Parang), appeared on ABC's Q&A and received a standing ovation at TEDx Sydney at the Sydney Opera House. He has toured his poetry and music extensively internationally, in Asia, the USA, Europe, South America and Australia. His debut novel Here Come the Dogs was published by Penguin Australia in 2014. Here Come the Dogs was long-listed for the Miles Franklin Award and he was named one of the Sydney Morning Herald's Young Novelists of the Year in 2015. Here Come the Dogs comes out in the USA through The New Press in January 2016. He is currently working on a new album and a novel that is set in Malaysia and Indonesia.

*Omar Musa is supported by AirAsia*



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## Amir Muhammad

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**Amir Muhammad** is a writer, publisher and occasional filmmaker from Malaysia. Two of his documentaries have been banned. His publishing company Fixi was established in 2011 and has to date published 115 titles. Fixi won the coveted International Adult Trade Publisher Award at the London Book Fair 2014.

*Amir Muhammad is supported by Fixi*



## Dipika Mukherjee

**Dipika Mukherjee** is a writer and sociolinguist. Her debut novel, *Thunder Demons* (Gyaana 2011), was long-listed for the Man Asian Literary Prize; it is being republished (Repeater, UK) and distributed by Penguin/Random House worldwide in Summer 2016. She also won the 2014 Gayatri GaMarsh Memorial Award for Literary Excellence and the Platform Flash Fiction competition in April 2009. She has edited two anthologies of Southeast Asian short stories: *Silverfish New Writing 6* (2006) and *The Merlion and Hibiscus* (2002) and her first poetry chapbook, *The Palimpsest of Exile*, was published by Rubicon Press (Canada) in 2009. Her writing appears in publications around the world including *Asia Literary Review*, *World Literature Today*, *Rhino*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, *Postcolonial Text* and *South Asian Review*. She is a Contributing Editor for *Jaggery* [A Southasian Diasporic Arts and Literature Journal] and curates an Asian/American Reading Series for the Literary Guild, Chicago.

*Dipika Mukherjee is supported by Fixi.*



## Ooi Kee Beng

**Ooi Kee Beng** is the Deputy Director of ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (formerly the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies), Singapore. He is a prolific writer and observer of the Malaysian scene. He writes for *The Edge Weekly* and is the founding-editor of *ISEAS Perspective*, *ISEAS Monitor* and *Penang Monthly*. His major books include the award-winning *The Reluctant Politician: Tun Dr Ismail and His Time* (2006); *The Eurasian Core and Its Edges: Dialogues with Wang Gungwu on the History of the World* (2015); *Lim Kit Siang: Defying the Odds* (2015); *Merdeka for the Mind: Essays on Malaysian Struggles in the 21st Century* (2015); *In Lieu of Ideology: An Intellectual Biography of Goh Keng Swee* (2010); *Continent, Coast, Ocean: Dynamics of Regionalism in Eastern Asia* (2008); and *Lost in Transition: Malaysia under Abdullah* (2008). He has translated several classical Chinese war manuals into Swedish and English.

*Ooi Kee Beng is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop*





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## Hanne Ørstavik

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With the publication of the novel *Cut* (Hakk) in 1994, **Hanne Ørstavik** embarked on a career that would make her one of the most remarkable and admired authors in Norwegian contemporary literature. Her literary breakthrough came three years later with the publication of *Love* (Kjærlighet), which in 2006 was voted the 6th best Norwegian book of the last 25 years in a prestigious contest in *Dagbladet*. Since then she has written 14 acclaimed and much discussed novels and received a host of literary prizes which include the Dobloug Prize (2002) and the Brage Prize (2004) for her novel *Presten*. In 2008, Oktober publishing house published the anthology *Openings*, containing essays on Ørstavik's books written by Nordic literary critics and academics. Her work has been translated into 18 languages.

*Hanne Ørstavik is supported by Forlaget Oktober and Mimir Sdn Bhd*



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## Anne Provoost

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Belgian writer **Anne Provoost** is the author of a series of provocative novels that examine topics as varied as right-wing extremism, sexual abuse, and religion through the eyes of young protagonists. One of her novels was made into an English-language feature film. She is a member of the Royal Academy of Dutch Language and Literature and a member of PEN. Her work has been translated into 20 different languages.

*Anne Provoost is supported by the Embassy of Belgium*



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## Danton Remoto

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**Danton Remoto** studied at universities in the Philippines, the UK and the USA. He has published 12 books in English and Filipino and have been published in the UK, US, Spain, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Japan. He is a popular TV and radio presenter in the Philippines as well as a Professorial Lecturer at Ateneo de Manila University.

*Danton Remoto is supported by the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus*



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## Kate Rogers

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**Kate Rogers'** new poetry collection, *Foreign Skin*, debuts in Toronto with Aeolus House Press in July 2015 and in Hong Kong in October this year. Kate's poetry about the Hong Kong protests last year have appeared in *The Guardian* and the *Asia Literary Review*. Other recent publication credits include the *Kyoto Journal*; *ASIATIC: the Journal of English Language and Literature* at the Islamic University of Malaysia; *Contemporary Verse II*; *Orbis International*; and *Many Mountains Moving*. Previous books are *City of Stairs* (2012) and *Painting the Borrowed House* (2008), both of which received publication grants from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council. Kate is co-editor of the *OutLoud Too* anthology (2014) and co-editor of *Not A Muse: the inner lives of women* (2009).



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## Robin Ruizendaal

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**Robin Ruizendaal** is the director of the Taiyuan Asian Puppet Theatre Museum and artistic director of the Taiyuan Puppet Theatre Company in Taipei, Taiwan. He holds a PhD in Sinology from Leiden University in the Netherlands. He has written and directed more than 20 modern and traditional Taiwanese theatre productions that have been performed in over 30 countries around the world, including Malaysia. He has done field research on most Asian puppet theatre traditions and curated numerous puppet theatre exhibitions around the world, and is the author of *Asian Theatre Puppets* (Thames & Hudson, 2009). He is cultural adviser to the Taipei city government.

*Robin Ruizendaal is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop*



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## Tan Sooi Beng

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**Tan Sooi Beng** is professor of ethnomusicology at the School of Arts, Universiti Sains Malaysia. She is the author of *Bangsawan: A Social and Stylistic History of Popular Malay Opera* (Oxford University Press, 1993), and co-author of *Music of Malaysia: Classical, Folk and Syncretic Traditions* (Ashgate, 2004) and *Longing for the Past: The 78 RPM Era in Southeast Asia* (Dust to Digital, 2013). She is the musical director and composer for youth theatre community productions such as *Kisah Pulau Pinang* (2006), *Ronggeng Merdeka* (2007), *Kotai Penang* (2008), *Opera Pasar* (2010), *Ceritera Taman Botanik* (2011) and *George Town Heboh: Streets Alive* (2012) and *Wayang Time* (2015). Her gamelan composition *Perubahan* has been recorded in the CD *Rhythm in Bronze* (Five Arts Centre, 2001).

*Tan Sooi Beng is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop*



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## Tan Twan Eng

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**Tan Twan Eng** was born in Penang, Malaysia. His debut novel, *The Gift of Rain*, was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize. His second novel, *The Garden of Evening Mists*, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and won the Man Asian Prize and the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction, and was also shortlisted for the IMPAC-Dublin Prize. He is currently working on his third novel.



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## Franca Treur

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**Franca Treur** is a Dutch novelist who has been nominated for a range of literary awards and won the 2010 Selexyz Debut Prize for her bestselling novel *Dorsvloer vol confetti* (Confetti on the Threshing Floor). The novel was released as a feature-length and prize winning film in 2014 called 'Confetti Harvest'. Her second novel, *De woongroep* (The Roommates), was published in 2014. She is a regular contributor of stories, columns and essays to national newspapers and journals which include *NRC Handelsblad*, *deVolkskrant*, *Groene Amsterdammer*, *Vrij Nederland*, *radio 1* and *Vogue*. Her collection of short stories *Ik zou maar nergens op rekenen* (I shouldn't wager on anything) is forthcoming. She lives in Amsterdam.

*Franca Treur is supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands*



## Mark Trowell

**Mark Trowell** is a leading Australian criminal lawyer and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2000. He has prosecuted criminal cases for the Director of Public Prosecutions and has also appeared as counsel at two Royal Commissions. He is co-chair of the criminal law standing committee of LAWASIA. He has also represented the interests of the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union at the sedition trial of the late Karpal Singh; the criminal trials and appeals of opposition leaders Anwar Ibrahim in Malaysia and Sarath Fonseka in Sri Lanka. In 2013 he was an observer at the treason trials of several members of the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (commonly known as the Red Shirts) in Thailand. He has published *Sodomy II: The Trial of Anwar Ibrahim* (Marshall Cavendish, 2012) and *The Prosecution of Anwar Ibrahim: The Final Play* (Marshall Cavendish, 2015).



## Anja Utler

**Anja Utler** was born in Schwandorf, Germany in 1973, and currently shuttles between Vienna, where she teaches poetry at the University of Applied Arts, and Regensburg, where she is involved in a research project on the perception of spoken poetry. Her poetry collection *mülden – entzündeln* won the coveted Leonce-und-Lena-Preis for Poetry in 2003. For her innovative poetic exploration of political issues such as ecology in her latest book *ausgeübt. Eine Kurskorrektur*, she was awarded with the Basler Lyrikpreis (Basel Poetry Prize) in 2014. Utler's works explore the impact of different media and modes of perception on the experience of a text: her works *brinnen* (2006) and *jana, vermacht* (2009) were both published in print and audio formats; *jana, vermacht* was also transformed into an installation for an exhibition in 2014. Her work has been translated into more than 20 languages.

*Anja Utler is supported by the Goethe-Institut*



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## Xu Xi 許素細

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**Xu Xi 許素細** is author of nine books of fiction & essays. Recent titles are *Access: Thirteen Tales* and the novel *Habit of a Foreign Sky*, a finalist for the Man Asian Literary Prize. She is also editor of four anthologies of Hong Kong literature in English, most recently *The Queen of Statue Square: New Hong Kong Short Fiction*. For eighteen years, she had a parallel career in marketing for multinationals in Asia and the U.S. Currently, she is writer-in-residence at City University of Hong Kong where she established and directs Asia's first low-residency MFA in creative writing. A Chinese-Indonesian native of Hong Kong, she lives between New York and Hong Kong.

*Xu Xi is supported by City University of Hong Kong*

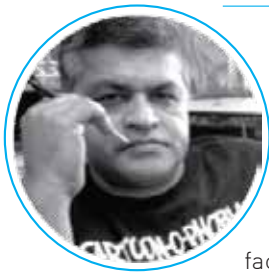


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## Lawrence Lacambra Ypil

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**Lawrence Lacambra Ypil** is a poet and essayist from Cebu, Philippines. He has received an MFA in Nonfiction Writing from the University of Iowa and an MFA in Poetry from Washington University in St. Louis, USA. His work has received awards from the Academy of American Poets Prize, the Philippines Free Press and the Carlos Palanca Awards. His first book of poems *The Highest Hiding Place* received the Madrigal Gonzalez Best First Book Award.



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## Zunar

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**Zunar (Zulkiflee SM Anwar Ulhaque)** is a political cartoonist from Malaysia. With the slogan, "How Can I be Neutral, Even My Pen Has a Stand", he exposes corruption and abuse of power committed by the government of Malaysia through his art. Zunar is now facing nine charges under the Sedition Act and facing possible 43 years imprisonment if he is sentenced and charged in a court proceeding due to start in September 2015. Five of his books have been banned by the Malaysian government on the grounds that the contents are "detrimental to public order." He was awarded the Courage in Editorial Cartooning Award 2011 by Cartoonists Rights Network International and the Human Rights Watch Hellman/Hammett Award for 2011 & 2015.

## PARTICIPATING MODERATORS . . . . .



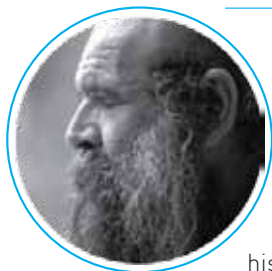
### Umapagan Ampikaipakan

**Umapagan Ampikaipakan** is a media moll. You can find him almost everywhere - from newsprint to the world-wide-web, from radio to television - where he contemplates everything from the idiosyncrasies of Malaysian politics to his unnatural obsession with the written word. Blessed with a critic's pen and a reader's enthusiasm, Uma, 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 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 annual gathering of literary minds, thought leaders and Asia's first and only festival of ideas.



### Sharon Bakar

**Sharon Bakar** was born in Britain but has lived and worked in Malaysia for more than 30 years. A teacher-trainer by profession, she now teaches creative writing in partnership with various organisations. Her articles, reviews, and short fiction have appeared in a number of Malaysian publications. She is the editor of an anthology of short fiction, Collateral Damage, published by Silverfish Books, and is the co-editor (along with Bernice Chauly) of the Readings From Readings series which has grown out of Kuala Lumpur's longest running literary event, Readings@Seksan, started by Bernice Chauly in 2005.



### Latif Kamaluddin

**Latif Kamaluddin** is a former professor at Universiti Sains Malaysia and currently a freelance researcher. He spent almost 20 years doing street work with transgendered communities, developmental work with the visually impaired, urban poor and abused children. He has six poetry anthologies to his credit and currently working on two more. Latif has travelled extensively, having trained in Germany, Scotland, Sweden and Australia. He is also an experienced holistic nutritional counselor and practitioner of Surat Shabd Yoga (Yoga of Sound and Light).



## Eddin Khoo

**Eddin Khoo** a poet, writer, translator and journalist. Following a tenure as an arts and culture journalist with the Sunday Star, Malaysia's leading English language weekly, he founded the cultural centre PUSAKA. He has worked intimately with some of Malaysia's leading traditional artists including shadow puppeteers, musicians, dramatists and dancers. He has focused principally on the state of Kelantan, researching aspects of oral transmission, cultural and religious politics and aspects of ritual in traditional theatre. Among his publications is a book of selected writings by the Malaysian artist and critic Ismail Zain, *Intermediations: Selected Writings on Art*, and a translation of poems into Malay, *Sajak-Sajak* by the American poet Christopher Merrill. He collaborated with Ibrahim Hussein to complete the acclaimed Malaysian artist's autobiography, titled *Ib: A Life*.



## Sharaad Kuttan

**Sharaad Kuttan** has a MA in Sociology from the National University of Singapore. He co-edited a collection of essays on Singapore, titled *Looking At Culture* in the early 1990s. He is also a member of the Singapore branch of the International Art Critics Association. As part of his contributions to the human rights agenda in Malaysia he co-founded the Centre for Independent Journalism and ran the short-lived Radiq Radio initiative. He has a chapter on civil society action in the struggle for electoral reform in the *Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia* publication, *Elections and Democracy in Malaysia*. He is currently a producer with the radio station, BFM89.9 in the Klang valley.



## Jasmine Low

**Jasmine Low** has actively promoted the arts, independent music and spoken word community events since 2002. A big part of her contribution to the arts community in the Klang Valley include curating and organising a series of music and spoken word events titled *Valhalla Open Mic*, *Doppelganger Open Mic*, *Open Stage* and *Wayang Kata*. She has presented her ideas on sound frequencies at TEDxMMU. Jasmine is also co-founder of a creative marketing agency [GoInternationalGroup.com](http://GoInternationalGroup.com) and social enterprise startup [Doppelmyfund.com](http://Doppelmyfund.com).



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## Dhanendran Maheswaran

**Dhanendran Maheswaran** or Ksatriya, is driven by this powerful statement - "Be kind, be brave, speak truth". He is a storyteller, poet and performer who explores the themes of identity, marginalization and social justice through music and poetry. He runs "Say It Like You Mean It" (SILYMI), a mentorship program for young artists and is the current Chair for the Penang Arts Industries Roundtable, an independent initiative to map the Penang arts landscape and discuss development pathways.



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## Ahmad Fuad Rahmat

**Ahmad Fuad Rahmat** is currently doing his PhD in cultural studies at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. He is also the editor-in-chief for [ProjekDialog.com](http://ProjekDialog.com) and co-hosts School on BFM Radio with Sharaad Kuttan.



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## Gareth Richards

**Gareth Richards** is a former academic who taught politics at the University of Manchester and Universiti Malaya. He is the founder-director of Impress Creative & Editorial, a small and innovative company involved in diverse areas of the arts and book production, notably consultant editing and translation. In May 2014 he set up Gerakbudaya Bookshop, Penang, the first independent bookshop in the UNESCO World Heritage site of George Town. He is the co-author/editor of *Asia-Europe Interregionalism: Critical Perspectives* (1999) and wrote the texts for *Portraits of Penang: Little India* (2011).





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**Azmi Sharom** //

**Azmi Sharom** is an associate professor in the Faculty of Law, Universiti Malaya, where he teaches environmental law and human rights Law. His latest academic publications are as chief editor of Human Rights and Peace in Southeast Asia Series 2: Defying the Impasse, and Human Rights and Peace in Southeast Asia Series 2: Amplifying the Voices (Southeast Asian Human Rights Studies Network, 2013). He writes fortnightly columns on current affairs for The Star and Sin Chew Jit Poh. A selection of his journalistic writing was published as Brave New World (SIRD, 2015) this year.



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**Shivani Sivagurunathan** //

**Shivani Sivagurunathan** writes short fiction and poetry. Her collection of short stories, *Wildlife on Coal Island*, came out in 2011 and was republished by Harper Collins India in 2012. She lectures in English Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. She is currently working on a new collection of short stories.



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**Michael Vatikiotis** //

**Michael Vatikiotis** works on promoting dialogue and conflict resolution in Southeast Asia. Formerly editor of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, Vatikiotis has been a writer and journalist in Asia for 27 years. He has lived in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Hong Kong and has written two books on regional politics. His published fiction includes *The Spice Garden*, a novel on religious conflict in Eastern Indonesia and *The Painter of Lost Souls*. He is a regular contributor to a number of regional newspapers. Vatikiotis is a graduate of the School of Oriental and African Studies in London has a PhD from Oxford University and an honorary doctorate from the University of Maryland.



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## Malachi Edwin Vethamani //

**Malachi Edwin Vethamani** is Professor of Modern English Literature, School of English, at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. His most recent publication is *A Bibliography of Malaysian Literature in English* (Maya Press). He has a monthly column entitled *English Language Matters* in the *New Sunday Times*, a national Malaysian newspaper.



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## Yin Shao Loong //

**Yin Shao Loong** has served as policy advisor to the Selangor State Executive Councillor for Environment, Tourism, and Consumer Affairs. He was formerly a Research Officer at the Third World Network with extensive experience in treaty processes at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD). A columnist at *The Malaysian Insider* and the *Selangor Times*, he edited *Malaysian Environment in Crisis* (2004) and *New Malaysian Essays: Vol. 3* (2010). In 2012 he delivered several public lectures on the history of ideas of race. He is currently the Executive Director of Institut Rakyat, a progressive think tank based in Kuala Lumpur.

# PARTICIPATING PERFORMERS . . . . .



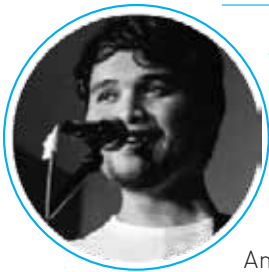
## Mia Palencia

**Mia Palencia** launched her luminous career as the other half of well-loved Sabahan jazz duo Double Take with Roger Wang when she was just 16 years old. In 2007, she began writing and producing original music and has released three solo albums and toured in Indonesia, Singapore, and Australia. In 2010, she was offered a full scholarship to study Songwriting at the University of Tasmania. Her research, which involved analysing traditional Sabahan music and incorporating it into contemporary composition led her to compose original music for Malaysia’s longest-running musical, “Mud: Our Story of KL.” Her soon-to-be released seventh album featuring her Australian quartet, In Good Company was recorded with prolific Australian jazz producer Mal Stanley at ABC Studios, Melbourne.



## Pusaka

**PUSAKA** is proud to present, as part of the George Town Literary Festival, Kumpulan Wayang Kulit Sri Warisan Pusaka from Machang, Kelantan. The group is led by Abdul Rahman Dollah (Dalang Nawi) and Mohamad Hassan Noor. They are both disciples of the late great Tok Dalang Abdullah Ibrahim, famously known as Tok Dalang Dollah Baju Merah. The group has performed to great acclaim both nationally and internationally, and just recently completed a US residency with CaravanSerai in a month long tour of 6 cities around the mid-west in Spring 2015.



## Reza Salleh

**Reza Salleh** is a central figure in Malaysia’s thriving singer-songwriter circuit and is often seen in an intimate, solo acoustic format or backed by a tight, dynamic full-piece band. He calls his music “a little bit of everything”, drawing from pop, grunge, R&B and folk. A winner and five-time nominee at Anugerah Industri Music 2011, Reza was also the first independent singer-songwriter to be invited to do a full showcase at the Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS. He has performed in Australia, Laos, Singapore, Thailand, Korea, Indonesia and Japan. He was the first Malaysian to be invited to play at Japan’s 19th Annual Sunset Live Festival in Fukuoka, Japan (2011) and invited to play the Asia Music Found showcase and the Nakasu Jazz Festival in 2014 and 2015.



## Pontianak

Women have been accused of being witches, for practicing witchcraft since the beginning of time. But in pre-historical societies, women grew herbs, developed medicines, healed the sick, kept the land fertile, all the while connected to spiritual life through prayer and ceremony. They were seen as priestesses, doctors. These women held the knowledge to society's physical and spiritual health. The tides turned and these prayers and blessings were later accused of being spells and magic, and women were killed for 'practicing' such 'dark arts', chased out of, even banned from their traditional roles, their knowledge stolen from them. Pontianak explores the way women and 'the feminine' have been systematically demonized, their stories buried, their collective and individual power taken away from them, their role in society demeaned and diminished and their natural, universal status as goddesses removed, through traditional patriarchal narratives told as myth and legend. Drawing from the ghost stories and folklore that permeated our childhood nightmares and imagination, Pontianak is a re-imagining of the witch and of the feminine told through the spoken word poetry of five different women contemporary poets.

**-SHEENA BAHARUDIN** is a spoken word artist, writer, curator of the multidisciplinary performing arts event Numinous, published poet and educator. She has performed her works at various events including Melaka Arts Festival, Urbanscapes, Incitement, the George Town Literary Festival and Lit Up Fest in Singapore. Her first collection of poems, Rhymes for Mending Hearts, was published in 2013. She is currently working on her second book of poems.

**-MELIZARANI T.SELVA** is a spoken word poet, writer and entrepreneur. Her rhymes are drawn from her infatuation with food, a wild curiosity in taboos and all the things her Mother told her not to do. She has performed her poetry at various literary events in Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Melbourne including Readings@Seksan and gained first runner up at The National Singapore Slam, Lit Up 2013. Her first book of poems Taboo was recently published.

**-ELAINE FOSTER** is a writer, performer, poetry educator and activist. Founder of The Big Fish – a storytelling event for big kids, Elaine performs her poetry solo and in ensemble and has performed at #Word - The Cooler Lumpur Festival, Urbanscapes, the Ubud Writers and Readers Festival, the George Town Literary Festival, kakiseni fest, the KLPAC Festival, and the Edinburgh Fringe Fest with PBH's Other Voices Cabaret.

**-ILLYA SUMANTO** is a spoken word artiste, director for children’s theater, event organizer, and part-time TV host, of which her current project is Giler Selamba Jane. She was part of SERONOK, a multinational Indonesia-Malaysia-US-UK poetry-art-technology collaboration that performed in KL, Jakarta and the Ubud’s Writers & Readers Festival.

**-NABILA NAJWA** is a writer of poetry and prose published in Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and the United States. She has a profound interest in the underground DIY scene including the publication of independent zines. This is her first time collaborating in an ensemble performance to a live audience.



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### **Zalila Lee** //

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**Zalila Lee** bares her soul through shaded-headgear and intimately strung words. With her gritty vocals, she sings with an emotional dynamism, coupled with an intense conviction on guitar through a crossbreed of plucking, strumming, and palm thumping. Her recently released album, Shadows, displays her musical influences from folk and blues, with her own distinct rhythms and lyricism. Active in the Malaysian music scene for the past decade as a percussionist and back-up vocalist, she has worked on records with artists like Shelley Leong, Az Samad, and Bihzhu, as well as live shows with Paladin, Froya, and Elvira Arul. As she has been so much part of other artists stories, it’s now time to tell her story at the GTLF.

# FESTIVAL CALENDAR . . . . .

DIRECTORY

 Paid Event

 Book Launch

 Special

 Panel

9.30am

10.00am

11.00am

12.00pm

1.00pm

2.00pm



3.00pm

4.00pm



**27**  
NOV

Inside Out: From Imagination to Craft to Poem by Shirley Geok-Lin Lim

How to Bring a Poem to Life by Omar Musa

Voices : Woman is I  
Personal monologues from Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC)



**28**  
NOV



Cartooning as an Art of Protest

Poetry: Poetry Marathon

Who Is Entitled?  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Fear, Guns and Amerika




Can The Subterra Speak  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Futile St

The Other Side of Silence  
\*\*\*\*\*  
The Play's the Thing

The State of the Nation  
\*\*\*\*\*  
The Malay Dilemma

What is Literary Translation? by Maureen Freely



**29**  
NOV

The Contemporary Asian Woman Writer  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Dangerous Ideas

Writing from the Low Countries  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Shame on You!

Poetry: Penang Showcase!

Poetry and the World  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Hello Darkness

The Pain the Men

Basic Painting and Cartoon Workshop with Zunar



Workshop



Poetry

VENUE



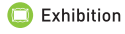
Hock Teik Cheng Sin Temple



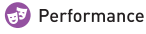
ChinaHouse



Black Kettle



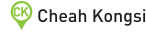
Exhibition



Performance



The Space@216 Beach St



Cheah Kongsı

00pm 5.00pm 6.00pm 7.00pm 8.00pm 9.00pm 10.00pm 11.00pm

 The Prosecution of Anwar Ibrahim – The Final Play by Mark Trowell		 Opening Ceremony with Chief Minister of Penang		 Wayang Kulit Seri Warisan Pusaka		 Music at The Canteen Mia Palencia	
 ...ne mean ...? ... * ...ates	 Bibliography of Malaysian Literature in English by Malachi Edwin Vethamani	 Rules of Desire by Dipika Mukherjee	 D.K Dutt Memorial Award   Aku Mahu Hidup Seribu Tahun Lagi – Chairil Anwar poetry		 Book Launches and Live Music! Book Launch #1- Young and Malay: Growing Up in Multicultural Malaysia Book Launch #2 -Banana Punk Rawk Trails by Marco Ferrarese	 Music at The Canteen Reza Salleh	 Spoken Word Event - Pontianak.
 ...n of ...noir	 Book Discussion: Talkin' About Taboo	 Book Launch #1- There Be Monsters by Julya Oui  Book Launch #2- Cerpen by Regina Ibrahim	 Festival Finale: Interchange with Dain Iskandar Said, Nandita Solomon, June Tan and Redza Minhat		 Dinner & Conversation with Tan Twan Eng at The Blue Mansion	 Music at The Canteen Zalila Lee	

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