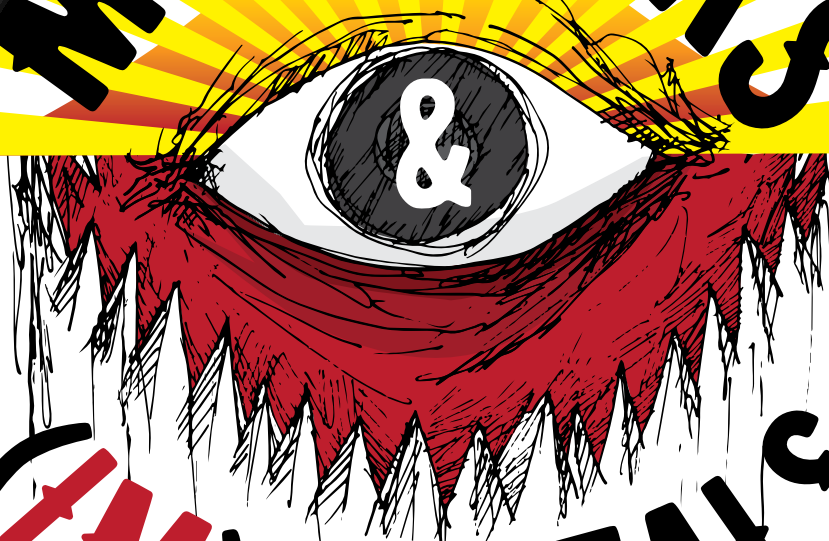




**FESTIVAL
HANDBOOK**

MONSTERS



(IM)MORTALS

24 25 26

NOVEMBER 2017

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MESSAGE from the Right Honourable Chief Minister of Penang

On behalf of the Penang State Government, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all of you to Penang, particularly the distinguished guests, writers, moderators and performers who have travelled from all over the world to be a part of our literary festival. It is a great privilege for me to host the seventh edition of the George Town Literary Festival.

Since 2011 the GTLF has aimed to encourage the literary arts to flourish freely in Penang – for writers and poets to share their words, and for audiences to be engaged and inspired. From its humble beginnings of only five participating writers in the first edition, the GTLF has traversed much territory to become the premier Malaysian literary festival.

Over the course of six years, the GTLF has hosted more than 200 writers, poets and performers from all around the world. In March this year, the GTLF was shortlisted by the London Book Fair for its International Excellence Awards 2017, putting the festival on the world map.

The GTLF 2017 continues to push the boundaries of dialogue and discourse by providing a crucial space for writers and audiences to delve into some of society's most pressing questions. This year's theme – 'Monsters and (Im)mortals' – will challenge participants to venture into a world of myths and legends, to help us to understand how our past and present affect and inspire the stories of today and tomorrow.

Set in the heart of George Town, the GTLF continues to shed light on a rich history and vibrant heritage, celebrating a colourful and varied past in our many stories; of treachery and love, of betrayal and redemption, of loss and triumph. Penang has always been a cultural melting pot – an intersection for history and trade, for intellectual discussions and the exchange of ideas. It is more evident than ever that there is a hunger and urgency for artistic expression. A city with no art or music, no literature or performing arts, no film or photography – has no soul.

The state government is committed to cultivating Penang as a centre for learning and appreciation, where we are encouraged to be proud of our heritage

and history. We have always taken pride in the fact that the GTLF is the only literary festival in the country that is funded by and supported by a state government.



This world-class festival, which encourages discourse from the public in the spirit of freedom of expression, is only possible in Penang because of the state government's commitment to champion the arts, culture and literature as well as community engagement.

The GTLF continues to have riveting conversations, provocations and panel discussions, a translators' roundtable, a poetry marathon, book launches, performances, film screenings and writing workshops. The three-day long programme will continue to expose Penangites to some of the finest literary minds in the world, to encourage the culture of reading and intellectual discourse – all of which are crucial in creating a cultured society that celebrates diversity in thought, literature and language.

I would like to thank and congratulate the team behind the George Town Literary Festival 2017 for producing this esteemed gathering. Last but not least, to all our guests, writers, performers and partners from Australia, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Singapore, Taiwan, Turkey, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States: *Selamat datang ke Pulau Pinang!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Lim Guan Eng'.

Lim Guan Eng
Chief Minister of Penang

MESSAGE from Ashwin Gunasekeran, CEO of Penang Convention & Exhibition Bureau

Welcome to all beings, mortal and immortal, to the seventh edition of the George Town Literary Festival!

The Penang Convention & Exhibition Bureau is proud to return as the producer for the George Town Literary Festival for the second year.

Despite being mainly in the business events game, we are proud to be the catalyst for the growth of this arts festival, working together closely with Bernice Chauly, the festival director. Not only is this the largest edition of the George Town Literary Festival, this is also the first time that we are introducing two new components – the Translators’ Roundtable and the the Fringe Festival.



The Translators’ Roundtable is curated by Gareth Richards and Pauline Fan, and will be the George Town Literary Festival’s dedicated translation programme in the years to come. We hope that the Translators’ Roundtable will evolve into a major homegrown translation and literary gathering that will add to Penang’s position as a hub for exchanges on languages and literature. The Fringe Festival, curated by Umapagan Ampikaipakan and Hardesh Singh, will see fun events of a ghoulish nature, such as midnight ghost storytelling and a heritage walk complete with site-specific performances in English, Malay and Penang Hokkien.

This year we have had the privilege of collaborating with various organisations to bring in more local and international speakers and performers. We have received continuing support from the Penang state government, Penang Institute and Penang Global Tourism, as well as from Astro Shaw, Black Kettle, ChinaHouse, Gerakbudaya Bookshop, Khazanah Nasional Berhad, Majestic Theatre, Maya Press, *Mekong Review*, *Penang Monthly*, Royale Chulan Penang, Tido Hostel and many others who came on board and supported us by providing numerous forms of sponsorship.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the British Council, Culture Ireland, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Embassy of Belgium in Malaysia, Hong Kong Baptist University, Goethe-Institut, Icelandic Literature Center, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur, LASALLE College of the Arts, Makassar International Writers Festival, SA Writers Centre, Singapore Literature Prize, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus and other international organisations for funding writers’ travels to the festival for the love of literature and a passion in expanding the literary terrain.

To all the literary lovers and festivalgoers, we hope you have a splendid time here with us at the George Town Literary Festival and in our lovely home state of Penang.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashwin Gunasekeran'. The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ashwin Gunasekeran
CEO of Penang Convention & Exhibition Bureau

MESSAGE from Bernice Chauly, Festival Director

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

This year we delve into a theme that dominates the current state of the world, and we will attempt to wrestle with some very difficult topics which govern the political and social realities we live in. The George Town Literary Festival is committed to addressing pertinent and provocative issues. This year we hope that our writers and poets will rise to this challenge once again.



We will look at ‘Monsters and (Im)mortals’ in a world ruled by demagogues.

We are reminded of a time when the immortals – the gods – ruled, when myth and legends pervaded our understanding of the world and the cosmos, when human beings were human and the gods immortal. Monsters lived in their midst and it was one of the reasons the gods went to war, to wage battle against fearsome beasts who threatened all manner of destruction. But there were also men who became monsters, who turned against all that was good and all that was human. ‘Monsters and (Im)mortals’ looks at light and dark, genius and madness, reality and fantasy, the element of the shadow in literature and of divine tragedy.

The George Town Literary Festival continues its commitment to creating free discourse in thought and speech, and we continue to address the many challenging and confronting issues that inform us as writers, poets, thinkers and members of the societies we live in. We are privileged to have great minds among us and we are humbled by your presence.

We are grateful for the continued support from many embassies and cultural institutions, the businesses and corporations that believe in being patrons of the arts, and the generous individuals who give us the arms and legs to keep moving forward.

I am indebted to my team at the Penang Convention & Exhibition Bureau for producing the festival, my co-curators Pauline Fan and Gareth Richards, and to Umapagan Ampikaipakan and Hardesh Singh for our very first festival Fringe. This year we have created a Translators’ Roundtable, which will hopefully be a regular feature at the festival in the years to come. Most of all, I am grateful for the continuing support from the state government of Penang and Penang Global Tourism, which has given us the freedom for seven years to have open conversations, cultivate new friendships and memories in the spirit of exchange, dialogue and love for the word.

Have a great festival!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernice Chauly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bernice Chauly
Festival Director

MONSTERS AND (IM)MORTALS IN OUR MIDST

Monsters are how our minds picture the ugly, evil, the unjust and the cruel. In our Nusantara area they may come up from the swamps, like the *gedembai*, the misshapen *gersasi* giants, or they may come in the form of black and albino crocodiles, or dragons, nagas that sink ships and take away princesses to imprison them on distant islands – that generally put fear into the innocent villagers – and with them young girls and boys. They may also come from the seat of power, the palace, as in the case of Raja Bersiung, the Fanged King, who would kill a subject each day to flavour his soup, until there was no one left in the state. Many of them are moral stories with lessons to be learnt. They are symbols or metaphors made concrete to enhance our familiar tragedies.

Immortals are now an almost passing breed in the mythologies and legends of Malaysians. With the coming of the new religions, the immortals of the past have been relegated to spend earthly lives on earth. The good offices of Hanuman, who helped many in the past, linger with his name for now. The keeper of Mount Kinabalu is still looked up to protect the sacred mountain and abode of the ancestors of the Sabahans. In the peninsula, Hang Tuah is described at the end of the epic: 'It is said that Hang Tuah did not die, for he is a military chief to all men and above all a saint ... a king to all the forest folks.' It is believed that if calamity were to befall his people he will return to save them. So he still is the protector and defender of his people forever watching over them.

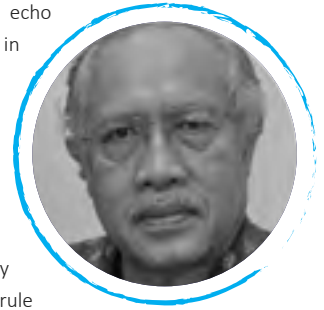
However, as myths refuse to die they cast their meaning

over time, they echo and reverberate in our time and age. As we confront demagogues, and present-day human monsters, wily politicians and military dictators who rule with outright powers, often

denying the rights of others, the myths return to offer their meanings. The *gersasi* giants, Rawana and the bloodthirsty Merong Mahawangsa, return along with them – and we see them in our government, military and commercial companies – with a force of relevance. For they are indeed real people in mythic garb. Some look forward to our immortal ancestors and protectors saving us, but others start their own war to defeat them.

These old myths point to possible solutions to the present problems. Others are reminders that among the citizens sometimes monsters may appear to trample their gardens and rights. We ask them and ourselves: are they our making?

Muhammad Haji Salleh



THE CURATORIAL TEAM



Bernice Chauly

Bernice Chauly is a Malaysian writer, poet, educator and festival director. Born in George Town to Chinese and Punjabi teachers, she read education and English literature in Canada as a government scholar. She is the author of six books of poetry and prose: *going there and coming back* (1997), *The Book of Sins* (2008), *Lost in KL* (2008), *Growing Up with Ghosts* (2011), which won the Readers' Choice Awards 2012 in the non-fiction category, and a third collection of poems, *Onkalo* (2013), described by J.M. Coetzee as 'direct, honest and powerful'. For 20 years she worked as a multidisciplinary artist and is recognised as one of the most significant voices of her generation. Since 2011 she has served as the director of the George Town Literary Festival, shortlisted at the International Excellence Awards at the London Book Fair 2017, and is an Honorary Fellow in Writing from the University of Iowa's International Writing Program (2014). She currently teaches creative writing at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. She is also the founder and director of the KL Writers Workshop. Her critically acclaimed debut novel, *Once We Were There*, was published in 2017.



Gareth Richards (Co-curator)

A former academic, Gareth Richards is a writer, editor and bookseller. He previously taught Southeast Asian politics and international political economy at Manchester University and at the Asia-Europe Institute, Universiti Malaya. He is the founder-director of Impress Creative & Editorial, a small innovative company involved in diverse areas of the arts and book production, notably consultant editing and translation. He has been the editor for Benedict Anderson, Ien Ang, Tim Bunnell, Chua Beng Huat, Jomo KS, Victor T. King, Anthony Milner, Anthony Reid, Robin Ruizendaal, Saidah Rastam, Tan Sooi Beng and Zawawi Ibrahim, among others. 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 two books of photography, *Portraits of Penang: Little India* (2011) and *Panicrama* (2016). He is also a columnist for *Penang Monthly*. Together with Aida Redza, he is working on a book about the multimedia dance production, *Moved By Padi*.

THE CURATORIAL TEAM



Pauline Fan (Co-curator)

Pauline Fan is a writer and literary translator from Malaysia, and presently serves as the creative director of the cultural heritage organisation PUSAKA. Her translations from German to Malay include works by Bertolt Brecht, Immanuel Kant and Franz Kafka. Her Malay translation of G.E. Lessing's *Die Ringparabel* was published by the Lessing-Akademie in Germany. She is currently completing Malay translations of the poetry of Paul Celan and the letters of Rainer Maria Rilke. Her work has appeared in *Circumference: Poetry in Translation*, the literary journal *Arkana*, Princeton University's *Inventory*, Bonn University's *Orientierungen*, *Axon: Creative Explorations*, and the Malay-language journal *Obscura: Merapat Renggang*. She is the co-editor of the Malaysian bilingual literary journal *Naratif | Kisah*. She is a literary columnist for *Esquire Malaysia* and a contributor to the *New Straits Times* and *Malaysiakini* (BM). She is the Malaysian coordinator for Lyrikline, a Berlin-based international poetry network and archive.



Hardesh Singh (Fringe Co-curator)

Hardesh Singh is the founder of PopDigital, a multidisciplinary digital practice with interests in a variety of new media operations. Its diverse portfolio include the Popfolio Network (comprising of PopTeeVee, Tongue in Chic, Poskod and Makchic), a digital agency arm (The Greatest Hits), the #Bettercities initiative to improve urban living, and the annual Cooler Lumpur Festival, a platform that brings together writers, artists, musicians and thinkers from across the globe in an attempt to create new connections, to share and spread new ideas, and to serve as a catalyst for cultural conversations. He is also the executive creative director of the Cooler Lumpur Festival.



Umapagan Ampikaipakan (Fringe Co-curator)

Umapagan 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, he is a leading literary voices. His long-running radio show on BFM89.9, *Bookmark*, is Malaysia's pre-eminent broadcast on all things book related. He is a film critic with *At the Movies* and the co-host of BFM89.9's drive-time radio show, *The Evening Edition*. He is also the literary director of the Cooler Lumpur Festival, Southeast Asia's first and only festival of ideas.



10.00am–11.00am

Heaven (Level 2)
Bangunan UAB

Conversations: The Tongue Set Free: To Liberate a Language

Translators are the unseen messengers across literature's thresholds, silently navigating the passages between structure and style, content and context, meaning and metaphor. Yet the art and craft of translation are not only undervalued but often misunderstood. Translators need to be a close reader in one language and an accomplished writer in another. They need cultural sensitivity and a writer's instincts. They strive to create something that is literary but not literal, identical and yet set apart. This conversation explores these issues with Lee Yew Leong, the founding editor of *Asymptote*, the premier site for world literature in translation and John McGlynn, who is co-founder of the Lontar Foundation, an organisation devoted to the promotion of Indonesia through the translation of literary texts.

Speaker: Lee Yew Leong and John McGlynn

Moderator: Pauline Fan

11.30am–1.00pm

@CAT (Level 3)
Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Workshop: Malay–English Literary Translation

This bilingual workshop deals with the art and craft of working to and from Malay and English, in both prose and poetry. The workshop is designed to encourage collaboration and peer learning in a small group setting. The focus is on hands-on translation and creative writing practice, with critical feedback of examples of translation practice. The workshop is open to those who are interested in translation and have the relevant linguistic aptitude.

Facilitators: Al-Mustaqeem M. Radhi, Muhammad Haji Salleh

Moderator: Mohd Izzuddin Ramli

11.30am–1.00pm

Earth (Level 1)
Bangunan UAB

Workshop: English–Mandarin Literary Translation

This bilingual workshop deals with the art and craft of working to and from Mandarin and English, in both prose and poetry. The workshop is designed to encourage collaboration and peer learning in a small group setting. The focus is on hands-on translation and creative writing practice, with critical feedback of examples of translation practice. The workshop is open to those who are interested in translation and have the relevant linguistic aptitude.

Facilitators: Lee Yew Leong, Ooi Kee Beng

Moderator: Yana Rizal

-  Book Launch
  Film
  Paid Event
  Performance
  Reading
  Translators' Roundtable
 Exhibition
  GTLF Fringe
  Panel
  Poetry
  Special Event
  Workshop




 2.00pm–3.30pm
 **Heaven (Level 2)**
Bangunan UAB

Conversations: Beyond Three Per Cent: Publishing in Translation

Literature in translation occupies a notoriously tiny niche in mainstream publishers' lists and the book market, even in multilingual societies – around three per cent. Yet there is exciting work being done across many languages and across a range of platforms. Drawing on diverse experiences from the book trade – publishing houses, translation agencies, literary magazines, micro-publishing enterprises, online websites – this conversation considers the commissioning, editorial practices, economics, problems and delights of creating literature without borders.

Facilitators: Azizah Zakaria, Jérôme Bouchaud, Khalid Jaafar, Minh Bui Jones, John McGlynn

Moderator: Gareth Richards

 2.00pm–3.30pm
 **@CAT (Level 3)**
Wisma Yeap Chor Ee
 **RM50**

SPICE Up Your Life Stories with Jo Parfitt

Jo Parfitt spent three years reading and researching autobiographies to discover how to turn ordinary life events into compelling, publishable life stories. Devising a method she calls SPICE, she shares her secrets in this fun, practical and inspiring workshop that suits writers of any level. The workshop will help you bring your journals, blogs or memoirs to life.


 2.30pm–3.30pm
 **Black Kettle (Level 2)**


Special Event: Reading Your Neighbours

In 2017 the Makassar International Writers' Festival launched a programme called 'Understanding Your Neighbours Through Literature'. Through a small circle of readers in Makassar, the festival introduced several Malaysian and Australian writers' recent works and facilitated cross-cultural discussions. M. Aan Mansyur, a festival curator, explores the relationship among neighbouring countries through literature and translation.

Speaker: M. Aan Mansyur





 3.00pm–3.45pm

 **Earth (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB

Book Launch: **Lee Su Kim, *Manek Mischiefs: Of Patriarchs, Playboys and Paramours*** (Marshall Cavendish)

Manek Mischiefs is a rich, gutsy collection of short stories by Lee Su Kim, which immerse the reader into the vivid, multi-hued world of the Peranakans. Here, the Babas take centre stage: masculine perspectives, voices and protagonists are put under the spotlight, even as fiery and headstrong heroines pursue their passions in the face of powerful obstacles. Following *Kebaya Tales* and *Sarong Secrets*, *Manek Mischiefs* completes the Peranakan trilogy. The book is named after the vibrant and brilliantly coloured *kasut manek*, or beaded shoes, that Nyonya women wear below their beautiful, flowing *kebaya* and *sarong*.

 3.45pm–5.15pm


 **Heaven (Level 2)**
Bangunan UAB

Conversations: **Entwining Tongues: The Art and Craft of Translation**

Should translated literature be entirely faithful to the original text, or should the translation be creative in its attempt not to lose the poetry of the work? How can translation account for wordplay or culturally specific nuances of meaning? Is it possible to translate experimental literature which ignores conventional grammar rules? This conversation grapples with the principles of translation of texts from different genres from one language into another, including stylistic differences, and the balance between accuracy and creativity, between craft and art. It also examines translation as a form of critical thinking, and the role of translation in culture formation.

Speakers: Azhar Ibrahim, Maung Day, James Shea, Ulrike Draesner

Moderator: Yana Rizal


 4.00pm–5.30pm


 **Black Kettle (Level 2)**

Workshop: **The Languages of the Rainbow with Pang Khee Teik**

How do we translate the diverse identities and relationships within the rainbow into local languages? In this session, Pang Khee Teik reads excerpts from his manifesto 'We Are the Rainbow', in which he names as many queer subjects as he can think of, while two people help to translate it into Penang Hokkien. As they struggle to translate, the audience is invited to help, thus making it a communal translation. This way, missing voices, unnamed relationships and stories of queer people in Malaysia are brought to life by audience members themselves.



-  Book Launch
  Film
  Paid Event
  Performance
  Reading
  Translators' Roundtable
 Exhibition
  GTLF Fringe
  Panel
  Poetry
  Special Event
  Workshop

 4.00pm–4.45pm

 **Earth (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB

Book Launch: Shivaji Das, *Angels by the Murky River* (Yoda Press)

This new collection of stories by Shivaji Das concerns his travels off the beaten path. He meets with homeless people in Mumbai and Seoul, a group of anarchists in Melbourne, China's number one football fan, the crew of a container ship, destitute diamond miners in Indonesia, Buddhist monks living in a materialistic city like Singapore, and other people who might have gone unnoticed by typical tourists.



 6.30pm–7.30pm
 **Majestic Theatre**

George Town Literary Festival 2017 Opening Ceremony

Welcome by Bernice Chauly, Festival Director

Keynote Address by Muhammad Haji Salleh

Speech by YAB Lim Guan Eng, Chief Minister of Penang

 9.00pm–11.00pm
 **Majestic Theatre**



Film Screening and Q&A: *You Mean the World to Me*

Sunny has returned to Penang to shoot his new film about his family, without their knowledge. However he has run out of money and is struggling to shoot an essential scene. His sister, Hoon, comes by the film studio and discovers that he is shooting a warts and all film about their family. In the confrontation that follows, Sunny has an epiphany that illuminates and changes his perspective of his past. Set in Penang of the 1970s, this is the first Malaysian film shot entirely in Hokkien.

Malaysia | 2017 | 98 minutes | Dir. Saw Teong Hin | With Frederick Lee, Yeo Yann Yann, Neo Swee Lin and Steve Yap

Director: Saw Teong Hin

Moderator: Umapagan Ampikaipakan

 12 midnight
 **Hin Bus Depot**

Special Event: Bump in the Night

They say that screaming together in horror really is the best therapy. So come all you weak and weary, join us at the witching hour for a late night of spooky stories. Come and let us scare you silly as some of Penang's best voices regale you with tales guaranteed to keep you up and constantly looking over your shoulder.



10.00am–11.00am



Heaven (Level 2)
Bangunan UAB

Conversations: Medusa, Yakshini, Banshee, Pontianak: The Deadly Seductress as Symbol

The archetype of the deadly seductress takes various forms in mythology and literature the world over. Associated with eroticism and danger, their narratives often bearing the mark of tragedy and injustice, these creatures embody dark sexuality and disruptive female power. This conversation explores the complex symbolism and portrayal of figures such as Medusa of Greek mythology, the Yakshini of Indian folklore, the Banshee of Celtic legends and the Pontianak who haunts the imagination of the Malay Archipelago. It also looks at ways in which writers have recast these enchantresses in a new light.

Speakers: Arshia Sattar, Dina Zaman, Intan Paramaditha, Kirsty Logan

Moderator: Pauline Fan

10.00am–11.00am



Earth (Level 1)
Bangunan UAB

Conversations: The Monsters Within: Man versus Man

Writing and talking about violence is painful but necessary. How do we deal with real violence and how do we deal with fictive violence? How do writers and activists resist and confront violence in themselves, their lives and their work? Here, we listen to three remarkable individuals who have overcome violence in their lives and have used the transformative forms of writing, poetry and activism to shape their stories and to help inspire others to tell their own.

Speakers: Kosal Khiev, Nisha Ayub, Paul McVeigh

Moderator: Danton Remoto

11.15am–12.15pm



Heaven (Level 2)
Bangunan UAB


Conversations: Pity the Nation: Journalism, Fake News and the Media


Titled after a poem by Lawrence Ferlinghetti which states, 'Pity the nation whose people are sheep, and whose shepherds mislead them / Pity the nation whose leaders are liars, whose sages are silenced, and whose bigots haunt the airwaves', this conversation looks at the state of the media, both government-controlled and private, the spread of post-fact 'fake news', and the roles that traditional and online media have in contemporary reporting and features. Is the old model of journalism facing an existential crisis? Have the news media lost their power to shape public opinion? Are online readers the new media publishers?

Speakers: Gündüz Vassaf, Gwen Robinson, Jahabar Sadiq, Laksmi Pamuntjak, Mei Fong

Moderator: Michael Vatikiotis

-  Book Launch
  Film
  Paid Event
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  Workshop

 11.15am–12.15pm


 **Earth (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB


Conversations: The Rise of the Right: The State of the World and the End of Democracy

Humanity is in crisis. The planet is in crisis. Are we now living in one of the ‘most dangerous times for humanity’, as Stephen Hawking claims? And with many governments veering to extremist versions of authoritarian populism associated with the far right, we need to ask: Is this the end of democracy, or is it the end of the illusion of democracy? How do we save the planet, and ourselves?

Speakers: Caroline de Gruyter, David Van Reybrouck, Khalid Jaafar, Maung Day

Moderator: Ann Lee


 12.30pm–2.00pm


 **Earth (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB

Poetry Marathon

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

Poets: A. Samad Said, Al-Mustaqeem M. Radhi, Takako Arai, Jérôme Bouchaud, Maung Day, Jelena Dinic, Ulrike Draesner, Kosal Khiev, Gerður Kristný, Kirsty Logan, M. Aan Mansyur, Paul McVeigh, Laksmi Pamuntjak, Rahmat Haron, James Shea, Darryl Whetter and Gündüz Vassaf

 2.00–3.30pm

 **@CAT (Level 3)**
Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

 **RM50**

Workshop: Make Your Travels Worth a Fortune with Marco Ferrarese

Got a mind full of memories and a disk full of great photos, but don't know how to turn them into gold? This hands-on, practical and fun workshop will guide you on how to crack the travel writing industry, step by step, from starving to thriving in the world of digital and printed travel media. The workshop covers brainstorming to pitching, dealing with rejections and edits, to tips for staying sane and productive on the road. It will give you all the tools you need to make you roam the globe, free, hunting for highly sellable travel stories.



2.00pm–3.00pm

Heaven (Level 2)
Bangunan UAB

Perbualan: Bumi dan Kayangan: Makhhluk Ajaib sebagai Metafora dalam Bayangan Alam Melayu

Makhhluk ajaib sememangnya lazim dalam bayangan alam Melayu, seringkali menjelma dalam bentuk gergasi atau raksasa, dewa kayangan, semangat, hantu, jembalang dan sebagainya di alam ghaib dan nyata. Panel ini menerokai makhhluk ajaib dan juga mitos sebagai metafora dalam tradisi lisan dan sastra Melayu, dan bagaimana ia mempengaruhi kesusasteraan masa kini. Adakah makhhluk-makhhluk ini menggambarkan sisi-sisi tersirat dalam pemikiran dan pandangan dunia Melayu? Kita juga mempertimbangkan pemerian makhhluk-makhhluk ini sebagai metafora untuk keuzuran atau kemurungan, dan juga sebagai penggunaan sastra untuk kritikan sosial dan subversif.

Ahli panel: Al-Mustaqeem M. Radhi, Fahmi Mustaffa, Rahmat Haron, Zunar

Pemudahcara: Yana Rizal

Conversations: Bumi dan Kayangan: Otherworldly Creatures as Metaphor in the Malay Imagination


Otherworldly creatures are ubiquitous in the Malay imagination, often taking the shape of ogres, celestial beings, earth spirits and ghosts in the seen and unseen world. This conversation explores otherworldly and mystical creatures as metaphors in Malay oral traditions and written literature, and looks at how these metaphors may have influenced contemporary Malay literary work. How do these creatures reveal hidden aspects of the Malay psyche and worldview? It also considers the imagining of otherworldly creatures as metaphors for illness and depression, as well as a literary device for social critique and subversion.


Speakers: Al-Mustaqeem M. Radhi, Fahmi Mustaffa, Rahmat Haron, Zunar

Moderator: Yana Rizal

*** This conversation will be in Bahasa Malaysia*

-  Book Launch
  Film
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-  Exhibition
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  Panel
  Poetry
  Special Event
  Workshop

 2.00pm–3.00pm


 **Earth (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB


Conversations: Poetry: Is the Poem Still Sublime?

Since antiquity, and in most cultures, poetry has been a vessel for the language of lovers and the secret messages of mystics. Whether giving expression to divine or earthly ecstasy, poetry was once imbued with the power to transcend the limitations of mundane human life, through aesthetic ideals and concepts of the 'sublime'. Does the sublime still hold true for poets today? Have the violence and tragedy of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries affirmed Adorno's claim that 'to write poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric'? How do contemporary poets navigate the realms of sacred and profane, of beauty and violence, in their own poetic practice?

Speakers: Darryl Whetter, James Shea, Jelena Dinic, Takako Arai

Moderator: Danton Remoto

 3.15pm–4.15pm


 **Heaven (Level 2)**
Bangunan UAB


Conversations: Braver Worlds: Visions of the Future/Past

Speculative, dystopian and fantastical genres have always been a challenge for some, but not for others. These four writers have defined and re-defined the genres they work in and continue to create worlds that defy our imaginations. How do they revision the future and the past? How does the writer act as an agent for the in-between of what is real, plausible and fantastical? And is this the way of writing the future?.

Speakers: Dorothy Tse, Felicia Yap, Intan Paramaditha, Zen Cho

Moderator: Jason Erik Lundberg

 3.15pm–4.15pm

 **Earth (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB


Conversations: Supermen


Sonny Liew and Zunar are two of a kind. They have braved bans, arrests and governmental scorn, but continue to work through the medium of the graphic novel and political cartoons to offer compelling alternatives to official narratives. They are celebrated locally and internationally, as they are also reviled by some. Here are two award-winning, controversial artists and storytellers who will share the ties that bind them to their work, their ideas of pushing visual narratives and the risks they take in telling the personal and the political.

Speakers: Sonny Liew, Zunar

Moderator: Umapagan Ampikaipakan




 4.00pm–5.30pm


 **@CAT (Level 3)**
Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

 **RM50**

Workshop: Arriving at Your Own Door with Kosal Khiev

This writing workshop discusses and inspects three parts of the self – the inner, the outer and the external. It seeks to align all three – and explore how one may correlate with or differ from the others. And which self is most important? The aim is to enable participants to gain a deeper insight into the multiple selves and how they can serve the creative act in the healthiest, most perceptive ways.

 4.30pm–5.15pm


 **Heaven (Level 2)**
Bangunan UAB


Conversations: Objects of Desire: The Return of Regional Print Magazines

More than a decade after the closure of *Asiaweek* (2001) and the *Far Eastern Economic Review* (2004) a gaping hole in regional journalism emerged. But under pressure from rising costs and a mass migration of readers and advertising to the internet, new and old magazines have found a haven and a lease of life online. But, of course, online is not quite the real thing. Warm-blooded creatures still yearn for the physical object, the tactile experience. In recent years the hard-copy magazine has made a comeback: *Southeast Asia Globe* (2007), *Nikkei Asian Review* (2013) and the *Mekong Review* (2015). Is this the dawn of a new magazine epoch in Asia? What does the rise and fall and fall and rise of regional magazines say about the region? And does it matter?

Speakers: Gwen Robinson, Michael Vatikiotis, Minh Bui Jones

Moderator: Gareth Richards


 4.30pm–5.30pm

 **Earth (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB

Award: The Fay Khoo Award for Food and Drink Writing

The Fay Khoo Award was established to honour the life and achievements of the writer, publisher, critic, radio host and dedicated environmentalist Fay Khoo, who died of cancer this year. Fay regarded food as a cultural expression and great unifier. There was no greater pleasure than to bring friends together around food, sharing meals of great complexity and humble fare with equal gusto. Fay also wrote, passionately, about her food experience in all its guises, and thoroughly deserved the accolades she received in her professional life. The award aims to recognise new and talented voices, and to encourage excellence in food and drink writing.


-  Book Launch
  Film
  Paid Event
  Performance
  Reading
  Translators' Roundtable
 Exhibition
  GTLF Fringe
  Panel
  Poetry
  Special Event
  Workshop


 4.30pm–5.30pm

 **Black Kettle (Level 2)**

Reading: LASALLE University Student Reading


The first of the first: Singapore's LASALLE College of the Arts has partnered with Goldsmiths, London University to offer the first taught creative writing master's degree in Southeast Asia. Hear poetry, fiction and non-fiction from LASALLE's first cohort of writers. These writer-explorers hail from Canada, China, France, the Philippines and Singapore. Unique voices; telling stories.


 5.30pm–6.15pm

 **Heaven (Level 2)**
Bangunan UAB

Book Launch: K.S. Maniam, *A Stranger to Love*

K.S. Maniam's new collection of stories captures the experiences of people who, desiring to lead untroubled and comfortable lives, blind themselves to the social and political forces that wreck such hopes. This blindness produces tragic consequences: the man who sees himself springing from his own sense of history, only to end up like the foam on a non-existent sea; or the rich man who wants to connect with society by donating his wealth but ends up being haunted, like a spirit, by exploiters. But some individuals survive the trauma of rejection, humiliation, misplaced passion and ambition. A master storyteller at the top of his form.


 5.45pm–6.45pm

 **Earth (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB

Book Launch: Jit Murad Plays (Matahari Books)

Described as Malaysia's 'contemporary penglipur lara, the teller of tales about our social and personal manners here and now, and the soother of our neuroses', Jit Murad is considered to be among Southeast Asia's finest – and funniest – playwrights. Showcasing distinctive wit, warmth and originality, *Jit Murad Plays* includes five of his personal favourites: *Gold Rain and Hailstones*, *Visits*, *The Storyteller*, *Malam Konsert* and *Spilt Gravy on Rice*. The volume also contains notes by the playwright and directors, reviews and photographs, and an insightful essay by Susan Philip that sheds light on the themes and value of Jit Murad's work.





 5.45pm–6.30pm

 **Black Kettle (Level 2)**

Book Launch: Dina Zaman, *Holy Men, Holy Women: A Journey into the Faiths of Malaysians and Other Essays* (SIRD)


Needing a break from her first book, *I Am Muslim*, Dina Zaman embarked on a two-year journey around Malaysia, meeting people of many faiths and beliefs: nuns, *silat* practitioners who she inadvertently offended, hijabis who pole danced, and ended up in Memali and discovered their story. She came home covered in flour, found and ran away from the worst toilet in Malaysia, had a mild *kutu* infestation on her head and was told she would have three husbands (one after the other, not at the same time). ‘The third will be forever, and you’ll find that you’re coming home.’ This is Malaysia, peopled by holy men and holy women.

 6.30pm–7.15pm

 **Earth (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB

Book Launch: Malachi Edwin Vethamani, *Coitus Interruptus and Other Stories* (Maya Press)

Life, love, loneliness and death are the four poles that line this collection of stories. The characters are varied – women torn between marriage and emancipated lives of their own, young boys whose taste or memory are shaped by 13 May 1969, mixed-race couples split by the walls of race and religion, gay men whose love cannot be understood by their family or nation, sassy stories showcasing the clash between superstition and modernity. Cool, clever and controversial, these stories show the shadow and light of contemporary Malaysia through the small, daily lives of its unforgettable characters.


 6.45pm–7.45pm


 **Black Kettle (Level 2)**

Award: Penang Monthly Book Prize

Penang Monthly, the leading city magazine, celebrates literary excellence with the inaugural Penang Monthly Book Prize. The prize celebrates exceptional works of fiction – novels or short-story collections – written in English, with Malaysia at least as its partial subject matter or setting. The panel of four judges consists of prominent and respected figures of Malaysia’s literary and academic worlds: Pauline Fan, Muhammad Haji Salleh, Ooi Kee Beng and Gareth Richards.


-  Book Launch
  Film
  Paid Event
  Performance
  Reading
  Translators' Roundtable
 Exhibition
  GTLF Fringe
  Panel
  Poetry
  Special Event
  Workshop

 7.00pm–7.45pm

 **Earth (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB

Book Launch: Michael Vatikiotis, *Blood and Silk: Power and Conflict in Modern Southeast Asia* (Orion)


'The gun is never far removed from the political arena in Southeast Asia,' writes Michael Vatikiotis in his part memoir and part political study of the dynamics of modern Southeast Asia. *Blood and Silk* delves deeply into the complexities of power and brutal realities of violent internal conflict in the region. He explains why Southeast Asia has become the frontline of two of the most important global conflicts: the struggle between a declining West and a rising China, and that between religious tolerance and extremism. The book interweaves first-hand, hair-raising experiences of violence with a sharp-eyed and timely analysis in a multilayered portrait of the region.

 8.00pm–9.30pm

 **Fort Cornwallis**

Special Event: George Town Nights

We all know that George Town is a city rich in history and heritage. We've heard all the stories from the colonials to the clans. We've walked its streets and tasted everything it has to offer. Or have we? This year, experience a new side of the city as we take you down that previously untrodden path, of George Town by night, of secret haunts and unknown histories.

 10.00pm–12 midnight

 **The Canteen, ChinaHouse**

Performer: Faliq Auri Trio

Faliq Auri Trio is a Malaysian Celtic fusion trio founded and led by Faliq Auri on uilleann pipes, whistles, soprano saxophone and flute. The trio includes Suriya Prakash on guitars and Abdul Karim Zafiruddin on percussion. Their music brings a blend of Malaysian/Nusantara flavours with gypsy rhythms and Celtic music.



10.00am–11.00 am

H
Heaven (Level 2)
Bangunan UAB

Conversations: Madmen and Madder Women: The Genius of Madness and the Madness of Genius

'Those whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad.' How is it possible to create in a world that itself may appear to be insane? Does the creative artist have to opt out of 'normality'? Is this their prescribed destiny? Many of history's most creative geniuses, including writers, were considered to be 'mad' or 'mentally ill'. In part, this is to do with the ways that artists seem to live and work beyond the pale of societal rules – seen as transgressing cultural, religious or political norms. Historically, this was even more the case with female creatives. Or is the very idea of the 'creative genius' a fabled conceit?

Speakers: Chris Keulemans, Saidah Rastam, Suchen Christine Lim, Ulrike Draesner

Moderator: Kam Raslan

10.00am–11.00am

E
Earth (Level 1)
Bangunan UAB

Conversations: Hang Tuah: Loser, God-King, Hero? Unravelling the Psyche of the Malay Man/Author

Two of Malaysia's national laureates engage in conversation on the layered aspects of Hang Tuah, the legendary Malay warrior. Widely considered to be the pre-eminent hero of classical Malay literature, Hang Tuah embodies the ideal values of bravery and loyalty. Modern interpretations, however, reveal Hang Tuah as a less than heroic figure. Did blind feudal loyalty drive him to kill his companion, the true hero, Hang Jebat? Or is Hang Tuah a tragic hero caught between duty and friendship? This conversation enters the mind of the Malay man and author through the prism of Hang Tuah's ethical dilemma.

Speakers: A. Samad Said, Muhammad Haji Salleh

Moderator: Mohd Izzuddin Ramli

*** This conversation will be in English and Bahasa Malaysia*

Perbualan antara dua orang Sasterwan Negara, A. Samad Said dan Muhammad Haji Salleh, merenungkan lapisan makna watak Hang Tuah, pahlawan Melayu tersohor. Dianggap sebagai wira terunggul sastera klasik Melayu, Hang Tuah merangkumi nilai-nilai keberanian dan kesetiaan yang amat disanjung. Namun, terdapat tafsiran modern yang menguraikan Hang Tuah sebagai watak yang rumit dan bukan wira semata-mata.

-  Book Launch
  Film
  Paid Event
  Performance
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 Exhibition
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  Panel
  Poetry
  Special Event
  Workshop

Adakah Hang Tuah didorong oleh kesetiaan feodal yang buta untuk membunuh sahabatnya Hang Jebat, pahlawan yang sejati? Adakah Hang Tuah merupakan wira tragis yang terjat antara tugas dan persahabatan? Perbualan ini akan menyelami alam fikiran dan kesusasteraan Melayu melalui prisma dilema etika Hang Tuah.

*** Perbualan ini akan dijalankan dalam Bahasa Melayu dan Bahasa Inggeris*



 11.15am–12.15pm
 **Heaven (Level 2)**
Bangunan UAB

Conversations: When Immortals Walked Among Us

There are many commonalities in the world's mythologies and cosmologies. Greek legends, Norse and Celtic sagas, and Hindu epics all had gods and goddesses who were anthropomorphic and therefore resistant to Joseph Campbell's argument – 'that the secret cause of all suffering is mortality itself, which is the prime condition of life.' Did the immortals deny humans the right to live uninterrupted, guilt-free lives? What is the notion of 'god' and its mythos in literature? We examine some of our most enduring myths, the power they still wield in our everyday lives and narratives, and how these stories have evolved from then until now.

Speakers: Arshia Sattar, Gerður Kristný, Paul McVeigh, Zen Cho

Moderator: Jason Erik Lundberg

 11.15am–12.15pm
 **Earth (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB


Conversations: Now Is the Time of Monsters: Nations, States, Citizens

This is a tricky time to be a state, and an even trickier time to be a citizen. Since the nineteenth century, the state has taken hold as the mega-form of political association. The architects of modern states often (though not always) imagined them as coterminous with the 'nation', whether understood in narrow ethnic or broader civic terms. Today, the state is assailed by a whole set of contradictory forces. Global liberalism urges ever-closer integration that signals a movement away from the primacy of the nation-state. By contrast, nativism and nationalism – driven by a yearning for a strong, unifying order – capture a new politics of resentment.

Speakers: Caroline de Gruyter, Kosal Khiev, Mei Fong, Ooi Kee Beng

Moderator: Michael Vatikiotis



 12.30pm–2.00pm


 **Black Kettle (Level 2)**


Reading: Woman I Rise: Personal Monologues from Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC)

Whether in the big moves towards gender equality or the in-between moments of life, women have myriad untold stories of how they strive to claim their agency on a day-to-day basis. Now in its fourth year, PWDC's Voices programme spotlights the everyday resilience of women – their struggles, actions, determination – as they rise in the face of adversity.

Introduced by: Anna Tan

Featuring: Cheah Wui Jia, Chee Siew Hoong, Gwendoline Esther Hay, Lai Suk Yin, Katrina Jorene Maliamauv, Diyaa Mani, Sumitra Selvaraj

 2.00pm–3.00pm


 **Heaven (Level 2)**
Bangunan UAB


Conversations: How to Become a Dictator: The Need for Blood and Why We Still Hate

When thinking of hatred, we usually think of a very strong personal feeling or emotion. But it seems that 'hate' has begun colonising new spheres, operating as a social and political force that can both manipulate and mobilise entire publics. Sometimes this is the hatred of the powerful: hatred as the operation of power. History is riddled with the blood of innocents, perpetrated by men and regimes that committed great atrocities. And then there is also hatred as a response to power. People react with hatred toward those who humiliate them, control their movement or deny their rights. Is there a way out of this hate-filled morass?

Speakers: David Van Reybrouck, Jelena Dinic, Laksmi Pamuntjak, Maung Day

Moderator: Kam Raslan

 2.00pm–3.00pm

 **Earth (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB


Conversations: The Greater the Light, the Darker the Shadow: Writing, Religion, Patriarchy, Hypocrisy


The constant battle between the forces of light and darkness permeates many literary traditions. But how do writers deal with the shadow? Is the black, blacker than ever? Are there more variants in extremities now than before? How do we wrestle with the nature of man who wants to be god-like and yet, give into his ambiguous desires?

Speakers: Azhar Ibrahim, Dina Zaman, Felicia Yap, Suchen Christine Lim

Moderator: Sharon Bakar

-  Book Launch
  Film
  Paid Event
  Performance
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  Translators' Roundtable
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  Poetry
  Special Event
  Workshop


 2.00pm–3.30pm

 @CAT (Level 3)
Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

 RM50

Workshop: Bashō's Guide to Writing Images with James Shea

A master of concrete language, the Japanese *haiku* poet Matsuo Bashō serves as a useful guide for how to render the world in clear and concise images. Join this poetry workshop to read and discuss *haiku* images, and to learn how to write your own memorable images. The workshop includes an in-class writing activity and a discussion of the participants' work.

 2.15pm–3.00pm


 Black Kettle (Level 2)

Book Launch: Women's Aid Organisation, *Tina's Journey*

The Women's Aid Organisation (WAO) is launching a book of pictures and poetry as a new public education effort on domestic violence. *Tina's Journey* is created from the words written by survivors of domestic violence, the result of Bernice Chauly's two-year workshops with the residents of WAO's crisis shelter, empowering them with a voice of their own. *Tina's Journey* is curated by Bernice Chauly and Kelvin Ang, and illustrated by Chan Wen Li. As part of the launch, several survivors will be reading from their own works.

This project is funded by KL Writers Workshop, Selangor Properties Berhad and the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC)

 3.15pm–4.15pm

 Heaven (Level 2)
Bangunan UAB


Conversations: Real and Imagined Utopias


'Another world is not only possible, she is on her way.' Alternative universes – often framed in the idea of constructing a utopia – are really devices for embarrassing the present, as imaginary cultures used to unsettle our own, with all their failings. In order to change the world we live in we need to be able to imagine the world we desire. But to portray the future in the language of the present may well be to betray it. A truly radical change would defeat the categories we currently have to hand. If we can speak of the future at all, how can we transform the ways in which we are still tied to the present?

Speakers: Chris Keulemans, Lee Yew Leong, Saidah Rastam, Sonny Liew

Moderator: Gareth Richards




 3.15pm–4.15pm

 **Earth (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB

Conversations: Caliban: Monster, Noble Savage, Revolutionary?

Half-man half-beast, Caliban of *The Tempest* is one of Shakespeare's most ambiguous and unsettling characters. Enslaved on his native island by Prospero, Caliban has been interpreted as a symbol of the colonial subject who rebels against his masters. Is Caliban a barbaric monster, a 'noble savage' corrupted by 'civilisation', or a revolutionary plotting to overthrow his oppressors? This conversation explores the idea of the 'primitive' in literature, reflecting on how this idea was approached by writers such as Joseph Conrad, Daniel Defoe and Rudyard Kipling, and critiqued by writers such as Aimé Césaire and Frantz Fanon. It also looks at the contemporary relevance of this theme.

Speakers: Fahmi Mustaffa, Gerður Kristný, Gündüz Vassaf, Minh Bui Jones
Moderator: Eddin Khoo

 3.15pm–4.15pm

 **Black Kettle (Level 2)**

Reading: Tenby International School

Enter the world of storytelling and interpretation. Be mesmerised, as Tenby Schools Penang take you on a journey of expressing oneself through storytelling and understanding of literature in the form of paintings and other art forms. Six children aged 10 to 12 will each tell an original story based on the festival theme 'Monsters and (Im)mortals'. Their stories will also be showcased throughout the festival as part of the Tenby Art and Design exhibition alongside the artworks of selected Tenby Schools Penang students.


 4.30pm–5.30pm


 **Black Kettle (Level 2)**

Reading: University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC) Students

Join the creative writing seniors from the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus as they perform their best works, meticulously crafted under the guidance of their lecturers. The poems and prose excerpts display the newly experimental as reflections of our world. Yet, to some, these reflections will be more akin to echoes; to break new ground is also to yearn for the soil of our past.

-  Book Launch
  Film
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  Special Event
  Workshop


 4.30pm–5.30pm


 **Earth (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB

Conversations: The Role of a Literary Agent

Literary agents are a vital link in the publication process, and their role has begun to expand. Now, they not only find publishers for their authors, they also edit, act as their cheerleaders, account managers, publicists – the list goes on; however, ultimately, the literary agent aims to place each manuscript within a publishing house in the language of origin and in translation around the world. In this session Kelly Falconer, founder of the Asia Literary Agency, will give an overview of her work, share some anecdotes, and will allow plenty of time for questions from the audience.


Speaker: Kelly Falconer


 4.30pm–5.30pm

 **Heaven (Level 2)**
Bangunan UAB

Award: D.K. Dutt Memorial for Literary Excellence

This year's festival once again acknowledges the winners of the D.K. Dutt Memorial for Literary Excellence, now in its third year. This is a Malaysian honour to reward the spirit of creative thinking fostered by the late D.K. Dutt, a renowned educator and sportsperson who was once president of the Schools Sports Council of Malaysia. *Champion Fellas*, the anthology of the best submissions from the 2015 contest, is already available in bookshops. *Bitter Roots, Sweet Fruit*, the anthology from the 2016 contest, will be launched at the festival, and the winner of the award will be announced during this ceremony.

 4.30pm–5.30pm

 **@CAT (Level 3)**
Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Seminar: Improving your Reading and Writing Skills for SPM and Beyond: Lessons Learnt from a C+ Student with Mei Fong

Seminar on improving English-language reading and writing skills from Mei Fong, who went from being an average student at Sekolah Kebangsaan Bukit Bintang Kuala Lumpur to winning scholarships to Columbia University and an award-winning international writing career. Open to students and their parents.



5.45pm–6.45pm

Earth (Level 1)
Bangunan UAB

Reading and Conversations: *Tenang Telah Membawa Resah* | The Calm Has Brought the Storm

A special poetry reading and conversation with one of Malaysia's most beloved poets, Latiff Mohidin. Since his first volume of poetry, *Sungai Mekong*, was published in 1972, Latiff Mohidin has become an icon of modern Malay poetry, interweaving bold, modernist sensibilities with a wanderer's yearning to rediscover the hidden landscapes of his homeland and region. Latiff Mohidin will read a selection of poems in the Malay original alongside English translations by Eddin Khoo.

Speaker: Latiff Mohidin

Moderator/Translator: Eddin Khoo

5.45pm–6.45pm

Black Kettle (Level 2)

Book Launches: Faisal Tehrani, *Profesor* (FIXI) and Regina Ibrahim, *Budiman* (FIXI)

Faisal Tehrani's new novel, *Profesor*, grapples with some of the most taboo themes in contemporary Malaysian society. Suliza is a lesbian feminist professor. She discovered her sexuality while at a religious school in Kelantan. Her first relationship ended in tragedy. Suliza continues her studies in the United States, where she starts researching and advocating for human rights. She and her lawyer friend Maria (also a lesbian activist) are frequently the targets of conservative groups. When a cleaner at her university reveals that her abusive husband is a wanted terrorist, the dangers become even greater.

Regina Ibrahim's new novel, *Budiman*, is a companion volume to her 2016 book *Delima*. Ahmad Budiman bin Nassarudin is a handsome actor from Alor Setar. The narrative traces his route to stardom and the various challenges he encounters along the way, including fickle friendships, lewd propositions and attempts at sabotage. A particularly persistent rumour is that he has a secret love child hidden away somewhere. He needs to address this accusation before things get out of hand.

-  Book Launch
-  Film
-  Paid Event
-  Performance
-  Reading
-  Translators' Roundtable
-  Exhibition
-  GTLF Fringe
-  Panel
-  Poetry
-  Special Event
-  Workshop



7.00pm–7.45pm



Black Kettle (Level 2)

Book Launch: Jahabar Sadiq, *Kandaqstan* (Matahari Books)

The first book from the well-known journalist Jahabar Sadiq, *Kandaqstan*, is the product of a year's sabbatical from writing about news and current affairs. He coins the term 'Kandaqstan' to describe all the good food that comes out from Penang and other parts of Malaysia, where the *mamaks* excel in whipping up the tastiest of curries and dishes. It's a fond, witty travelogue that stimulates the mind and the stomach in equal measure.



9.00pm



The Canteen, ChinaHouse

Festival Finale

This endearing GTLF tradition lives on! Expect comedians, spoken word poets, musicians and the unexpected!

Emcee: Melizarani T. Selva

Faliq Auri Trio

Open Mic

HAPPENING SIMULTANEOUSLY


24 NOV
Friday


25 NOV
Saturday


26 NOV
Sunday

 Book Launch


 Film

 Paid Event

 Performance

 Reading


 Translators' Roundtable


 Exhibition


 GTLF Fringe


 Panel

 Poetry

 Special Event


 Workshop

 10.00am–6.00pm

 **Marketplace (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB

Pop-Up Market

Look out for this year's pop-up market featuring a friendly picnic-style arrangement at the Marketplace located in Bangunan UAB. The centrepiece will be the bookstall curated by Gerakbudaya Bookshop, Penang, featuring titles by all festival writers and moderators, as well as a wide range of other fiction, poetry, cultural studies, current affairs, CDs and postcards. Drop by for a quick break to savour selected street foods, homemade confectionery and pastries, paired with a cup of brewed artisan coffee. If you are looking to spend money on local crafts, the festival is showcasing handmade Penan bags to support the indigenous community in Sarawak. Need a ride? Fret not as Uber will be hosting their own booth – so do approach their ambassadors for more information on free rides.

 10.00am–6.00pm


 **Black Kettle and**
Bangunan UAB

Between the Lines

This storytelling experiment invites attendees to engage with an artist in the crafting of a tale. As the former tell a story, the artist listens, sketches, and questions details, prodding at characters and rearranging the sequence of events. The drawing process responds to this discussion and negotiation, until a new story and illustration – or perhaps something else – emerges. Illustrations will be displayed alongside a text summary of the story for the duration of the festival, after which they will be available for purchase by participants via donation.

Artist: Charis Loke

 10.00am–6.00pm

 **Marketplace (Level 1)**
Bangunan UAB

These Streets Are Alive

As part of this year's GTLF Fringe, we have commissioned some of our best artists and doodlers to create a series of short graphic stories set in and around the streets of our beloved George Town. These single-page stories will be available digitally in the lead up to the festival. There will also be a limited run of print editions available for purchase during the festival.

PARTICIPATING WRITERS



A. Samad Said

A. Samad Said is one of Malaysia's most prominent public intellectuals. His first job was at Singapore General Hospital but after six months he moved to Kuala Lumpur to work for the newspaper *Fikiran Rakyat*. He then joined *Berita Harian*, a national daily and became its editor. He is renowned for his poetry, novels, short stories, essays and plays. His major works include *Salina* (1961), *Hujan Pagi* (1987), *Warkah Eropah* (1991), *Cinta Fansuri* (1994), *Al-Amin* (1999), *Lantai T. Pinkie* (1996) and *68 Soneta Pohon Ginkgo* (2008). He received the SEA Write Award (1979) and in 1986 was accorded the Anugerah Sasterawan Negara (National Literary Award), Malaysia's leading literary honour.

A. Samad Said is supported by Penang Institute.



Al-Mustaqeem M. Radhi

Al-Mustaqeem M. Radhi is a Kuala Lumpur-based translator, writer and editor. As a translator into Malay, he has published some 30 books, including George Orwell's *Animal Farm* (as *Politik Kandang*, 2014) and Ibn Rusyd's (*Averroes*) *Decisive Treatise and Epistle Dedicatory* (as *Makalah Penentu Hubungan antara Syariah dan Falsafah*, 2006). He is currently translating T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* and Nikola Madzirov's *Remnants of Another Age*. He is also the chief editor at IBDE Ilham, a publishing house based in Selangor, Malaysia.

Al-Mustaqeem M. Radhi is supported by Penang Institute.



Arshia Sattar

Arshia Sattar is an author, translator and facilitator who works with epics and the storytelling traditions of the Indian subcontinent. Her bestselling translation of Valmiki's *The Ramayana* (1996) from Sanskrit texts has remained continuously in print for more than 20 years. Her essays on the *Ramayana* as a tragic love story, *Lost Loves: Exploring Rama's Anguish* (2011) was shortlisted for the Crossword Book Award (2011). Her most recent publications are *Ramayana for Children* (2016) and *Uttara: The Book of Answers* (2016), a translation and commentary on the last book of the Valmiki's *Ramayana*. She teaches classical Indian literature at various institutions in India and abroad, and writes about books for a number of magazines and journals.

Arshia Sattar is supported by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.



Azhar Ibrahim

Azhar Ibrahim is a researcher, writer and translator. His research interests include the comparative sociology of religion, the sociology of literature, critical literacy and Malay-Indonesian intellectual development. His major publications include *Contemporary Islamic Discourse in the Malay-Indonesian World: Critical Perspectives* (2014), *Narrating Presence: Awakening from Cultural Amnesia* (2014), *Menyanggah Belunggu Kerancuan Fikiran Masakini* (2016) and *Historical Imagination and Cultural Responses to Colonialism and Nationalism* (2017). He is a lecturer in the Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore.

Azhar Ibrahim is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.



Azizah Zakaria

Azizah Zakaria is an educator, arts manager, translator and publisher, with more than a decade's experience in producing for the stage and television. She was the translator for the National Library Board's *Aksara: The Passage of Malay Scripts* (2007), on the history and development of the Malay language. At the same time, she created a micro-publishing imprint responsible for, among others, Rafaat Haji Hamzah's *Yang Bilang* (2007), Nadiputra's *Lorong Buang Kok: The Musical* (2012), Mohamed Latiff Mohamed's *Kota Airmata* (2013), Suratman's *Suratman* (2014) and Aidli Mosbit's *Chantek* (2016). She teaches at the School of Technology for the Arts, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore.

Azizah Zakaria is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.



Caroline de Gruyter

Caroline de Gruyter is an author and journalist based in Oslo, Norway. She is a European affairs correspondent and columnist for the leading Dutch newspaper *NRC Handelsblad*. She lived and worked in Brussels for seven years, covering the euro crisis and European politics. She was awarded the prestigious Anne Vondeling Prize (2013) for political reporting and her weekly column 'In Europe' won the Heldring Prize (2015) for best columnist. Her most recent book is *Zwitserlevens: De nieuwe politieke realiteit in Europa* (2015), a personal account of the clash between globalisation and democracy in a Swiss village.

Caroline de Gruyter is supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Malaysia.



Chris Keulemans

Chris Keulemans is a writer, journalist and cultural activist based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. In the 1990s he was curator and director of De Balie, a centre for culture and politics; and from 2006 to 2014 he was the founder and artistic director of Tolhuistuin, an arts centre, both located in Amsterdam. He has published novels, essays and plays, as well as numerous articles on art, social movements, migration, music, cinema and war – with a particular focus on art after crises.

Chris Keulemans is supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Malaysia.



Darryl Whetter

Darryl Whetter is a writer, editor, critic and the inaugural director of the first taught creative writing MA in Southeast Asia at LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore. His publications include a short-story collection, *A Sharp Tooth in the Fur* (2003), two novels, *The Push & the Pull* (2008) and *Keeping Things Whole* (2013), and a poetry collection *Origins* (2012), which is concerned with evolution, energy and extinction. His new collection of poems, *Search Box Bed*, is in press.

Darryl Whetter is supported by LASALLE College of the Arts.



David Van Reybrouck

David Van Reybrouck is a journalist, writer of literary non-fiction, cultural historian, poet and playwright. He is the author of several acclaimed books. His first, *De Plag* (The Plague), is a cross between a travelogue and a literary whodunnit set in post-apartheid South Africa. His book *Congo: The Epic History of a People* (2010/2014), based on hundreds of interviews and 10 research trips to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, won numerous awards including the AKO Literature Prize (2010), the Libris History Prize (2010) and the NDR Kultur Sachbuchpreis (2012). His most recent books include (as essayist) *The First World War Now* (2015), a reflection by 10 Magnum photographers on the impact of war; *Against Elections: The Case for Democracy* (2016); and (with Mohamed El Bachiri) *Een jihad van liefde* (A Jihad for Love, 2016), which will be published in English, French and German.

David Van Reybrouck is supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Malaysia.



Dina Zaman

Dina Zaman is a journalist, writer and founder of IMAN Research, whose aim is to examine the connections between society, religion and perception in order to strengthen community resilience. For many years she worked in the media, serving as an editor and columnist at *Malaysiakini.com*, the *Malaysian Insider* and the *Malay Mail Online*. Her book *I Am Muslim* (2007) brought together some of these essays in a study of Islamic religious life as it is lived by Muslims themselves. Her short-story collection, *King of the Sea* (2012) explores themes of love, grief, loss and longing. Her new collection of essays, *Holy Men, Holy Women*, is due later this year.

Dina Zaman is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.



Dorothy Tse

Dorothy Tse is a writer and assistant professor of creative writing at Hong Kong Baptist University. She has published three short-story collections in Chinese. Her short-story collection *So Black* (好黑) won the Hong Kong Biennial Award for Chinese Literature (2005) and *A Dictionary of Two Cities* (雙城辭典), co-authored with Hon Lai-chu, won the Hong Kong Book Prize (2013). Her first English-language short-story collection is *Snow and Shadow* (2014) – comprising both translations from the earlier collections and new work. She is also a co-founder of the Hong Kong literary magazine *Fleurs des lettres*.

Dorothy Tse is supported by Hong Kong Baptist University.



Fahmi Mustaffa

Fahmi Mustaffa is a Penang-based writer whose fictional work addresses questions of ethics and philosophy, including topics that are deemed ‘sensitive’ in Malaysia. His debut novel, *Laknat* (2015), tackles the place of homosexuality within the dominant religious discourse. His second novel, *Suatu Hari Nanti Manusia Akan Melupakan Tuhan* (2016), set in a dystopian future, focuses on religio-ethical issues that confront human civilisation. His recently published novel *Amsterdam* (2017) offers a portrait of the city inhabited by those at its very margins.



Felicia Yap

Felicia Yap grew up in Kuala Lumpur. She has been a radioactive-cell biologist, a war historian, a university lecturer, a technology journalist, a theatre critic, a flea market trader and a catwalk model. She lives in London and is a graduate of the Faber Academy's novel writing programme. Her debut thriller *Yesterday* (2017) is a futuristic murder mystery dealing with short-term memory loss. She has been selected as *The Observer's* Rising Star for Fiction (2017).



Gerður Kristný

Gerður Kristný, is a versatile and prolific Icelandic author. Over the past 25 years, she has written poems, novels, short stories, children's books, stage plays and non-fictional works. She has received numerous awards for her work including the Icelandic Journalism Award for her biography *Myndin af pabba: saga Thelmu* (2005), a true story of child abuse, and the Icelandic Literary Award for the poem cycle *Blóðhófnir* (*Bloodhoof*, 2010), based on the myths from the Eddic poem *Skírnimál*. Her latest publication is the novel *Hestvík* (2016).

Gerður Kristný is supported by the Icelandic Literature Center.



Gündüz Vassaf

Gündüz Vassaf originally trained as a psychologist and is the author of 14 critically acclaimed books of non-fiction, fiction, essays and poetry, weaving together philosophy, psychology, literature and anecdote. He is widely regarded as one of the most important critical voices in Turkey. His bestseller, *Cehennem Övgü* (*Prisoners of Ourselves*, 1992/2012), examines the totalitarianism of everyday life and the quest for freedom. His most recent books are the epic poem *A Cat in Istanbul* (2014), *Nazım* (*We Will See Good Days*, 2015) and *What Can I Do?* (2016), all published in Turkish. He writes a weekly column for the newspaper *Radikal*.



Gwen Robinson

Gwen Robinson is the chief editor of the *Nikkei Asian Review*. She was previously a senior editor and correspondent at the *Financial Times*, the North Asia correspondent for *The Times* (London) and an editor/writer at the *Nikkei Weekly*. In the 1980s, she covered Southeast Asia from Manila and Bangkok for US, Australian and British media organisations. She is a senior fellow at the Institute of Security and International Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, specialising in Myanmar and the Southeast Asian region.



Intan Paramaditha

Intan Paramaditha is an Indonesian author and a lecturer in media and film studies at Macquarie University, Australia. Reworking horror, myths and fairy tales, her fiction explores the relationship between gender and sexuality, culture and politics. She has published two collections of short stories: *Sihir Perempuan* (2005), shortlisted for the 2005 Khatulistiwa Literary Award, and *Kumpulan Budak Setan* (with Eka Kurniawan and Ugoran Prasad, 2010). She collaborated with Teater Garasi in the production of *Goyang Penasaran*, a play on sexuality and religious conservatism in Indonesia. Her novel *Gentayangan: Pilih Sendiri Petualangan Sepatu Merahmu* (The Wandering: Choose Your Own Red Shoes Adventure) has just been published, and a short-story collection in English, translated by Stephen Epstein, is due in early 2018.



Jahabar Sadiq

Jahabar Sadiq has been in journalism since high school and never looked at another career. He honed his reporting skills at the *New Straits Times*, went on to the *Business Times* before settling at Reuters where he was first a correspondent and later its television producer. He reported from Afghanistan to East Timor, and elsewhere in between, before returning to Malaysia in 2010 where he ran the *Malaysian Insider* until its demise in March 2016. A year later he started a news portal called the *Malaysian Insight*. His new book, *Kandaqstan*, was named for all the good food that came out of Penang and other parts of Malaysia.

Jahabar Sadiq is supported by Matahari Books.



James Shea

James Shea is the author of two books of poetry, *Star in the Eye* (2008), which was included in the Poetry Society of America's New American Poets series, and *The Lost Novel* (2014). His poems have appeared in various literary journals and anthologies including *Isn't It Romantic: 100 Love Poems by Younger American Poets* (2004) and *The New Census: An Anthology of Contemporary American Poetry* (2013). A former Fulbright Scholar in Hong Kong, he is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Humanities and Creative Writing, Hong Kong Baptist University.

James Shea is supported by Hong Kong Baptist University.



Jelena Dinic

Jelena Dinic migrated to Australia from Serbia in her teens and writes in both Serbian and English. Her work has been published in leading Australian journals and anthologies. Her chapbook *Buttons on My Dress* (2015) is a reflection on her journey from Serbia to the Adelaide Hills, where she now lives with her family. Her poem 'The Silence of Siskins' (2015) was selected and published in *The Best Australian Poems 2016*. She currently runs Friendly Street Poets Featured Poet Series and a poetry group at Thebarton Senior College where she works.

Jelena Dinic is supported by the SA Writers Centre.



Jérôme Bouchaud

Jérôme Bouchaud is a writer, literary translator and publisher. He has been living in Asia for the past 15 years and made Malaysia home 10 years ago. He founded and curates *Lettres de Malaisie*, a French-language webzine dedicated to literature from and about Malaysia. In 2015 he launched Editions Jentayu, a publishing venture focusing on pan-Asian literature and literary translation. Its main publication is the eponymous *Jentayu* review, a biannual literary journal dedicated to writings from Asia translated into French, with eight issues released so far. His latest book, *Langkawi Style* (with Howard Tan, 2015), is a tribute to Langkawi's craftmakers and artists.

Jérôme Bouchaud is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.



John H. McGlynn

John H. McGlynn lives in Jakarta, Indonesia, where he co-founded and serves as director of publications for the Lontar Foundation, the only organisation in the world devoted to the promotion of Indonesia through the translation of literary texts. Through Lontar, he has ushered into print more than 200 books on Indonesian literature and culture. As the translator of several dozen publications himself, he has garnered much international praise for his work. John McGlynn is a contributing editor to several literary journals, including *Manoa* and *Words Without Borders*. He is also head of the literary and translation funding programmes of Indonesia's National Book Committee.



Kelly Falconer

Kelly Falconer is the founder of the Asia Literary Agency, representing Asian authors, experts on Asia and writers living in the Australia-Asia region. Previously she was an editor of fiction and non-fiction in London, working for a variety of publishers including Weidenfeld & Nicolson, Virgin Books and *Granta* magazine. In 2012 she was the editor of the Hong Kong-based *Asia Literary Review*. She has contributed to the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Financial Times* and the *Spectator*.



Khalid Jaafar

Khalid Jaafar is a writer, literary translator and publisher. He was a reporter with the *National Echo* and the *Business Times* before becoming press secretary to Anwar Ibrahim. He then co-founded Parti Keadilan Rakyat, serving as a news editor for *Berita Keadilan* until 2001. In 2002 he became the publisher and news editor of *Siasah*, a monthly magazine on opinion and current affairs, and his articles were published in a book, *Tumit Achilles* (2003). He has facilitated the translation of major works of philosophy and non-fiction into Malay, and is currently the executive director of Institut Kajian Dasar. Since 2004 he has served as the head of strategy and research development in the Office of the Chief Minister of Selangor.

Khalid Jaafar is supported by Penang Institute.



Kirsty Logan

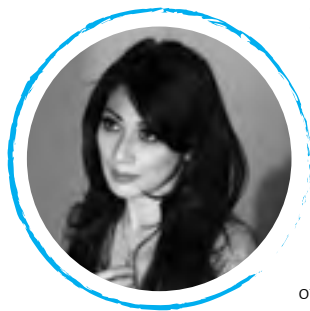
Kirsty Logan is the author of the short-story collection *The Rental Heart and Other Fairytales* (2014), awarded the Polari First Book Prize and the Saboteur Award for Best Short Story Collection, and a novel *The Gracekeepers* (2015), which won the Lambda Literary Award. Her most recent book, *A Portable Shelter* (2016), is a collection of linked short stories inspired by Scottish folktales and was published in a limited edition with custom woodblock illustrations. Her next novel, *The Gloaming*, is out in May 2018. She is currently working on a collection of short horror stories, a television pilot script and a musical collaboration project.

Kirsty Logan is supported by the British Council.



Kosal Khiev

Kosal Khiev is a poet, tattoo artist and survivor of the US prison system. Born in a Thai refugee camp, his family fled to the United States in 1981 to escape the aftermath of the Khmer Rouge war. While serving 14 years in prison he discovered spoken word poetry from a former Vietnam War veteran. Upon release in 2011, he was deported to Cambodia, where he used poetry to uplift his situation. He has been selected as the first artist-in-residence with Studio Revolt, a new media lab based in Phnom Penh, where he is collaborating on *Spoken Kosal: Verses in Exile*, a series of short films featuring his poetry.



Laksmi Pamuntjak

Laksmi Pamuntjak is a bilingual Indonesian novelist, poet, essayist, journalist and food critic. Her bestselling first novel, *Amba (The Question of Red)*, 2012/2016, won Germany's LiBeraturpreis (2016) and was named in first place on the Weltempfänger list of the best works of fiction translated into German (2015). The novel was also shortlisted for the Khatulistiwa Literary Award (2012). Her latest book, *There Are Tears in Things* (2017), contains poems and prose texts, newly and previously published, collected over a period of 15 years. Her novel *The Birdwoman's Palate* is due in 2018. She also writes on culture and politics for the *Guardian* and divides her time between Berlin and Jakarta.



Latiff Mohidin

Latiff Mohidin is a poet and visual artist. He has published seven volumes of poetry, including *Kembara Malam* (1974), *Sungai Mekong* (1972) and *Pesisir Waktu* (1981), as well as several art books. His corpus of poetical work earned him the SEA Write Award (1984) and many national awards. His poems been translated into English, Chinese, German, Italian, Danish and Tamil. As a painter, he has redefined Malaysian visual arts with series such as *Langkawi* (1979), *Mindscape* (1983), and *Pago-Pago* (1964). His artworks have been exhibited worldwide in over 30 solo exhibitions. He has translated Georg Büchner's *Woyzeck* and Goethe's *Faust* from German to Malay, and has produced Malay versions of world classics such as the *Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam, the poetry of Rumi, Lao Zi's *Tao Te Ching* and Noh plays by Yukio Mishima.



Lee Yew Leong

Lee Yew Leong is an editor and translator, and the founder of Asymptote, a free portal of world literature which won the London Book Fair Award for International Literary Translation Initiative (2015). He advocated for greater inclusiveness in world literature via 76 weekly Translation Tuesday showcases he curated for the *Guardian*. His translations of contemporary Taiwanese literature include Fu-chen Lo's *From Taiwan to the World and Back* (2015). He is a recipient of the James Assatly Memorial Prize for Fiction and served as one of the judges for PEN International's New Voices Award (2016).



M. Aan Mansyur

M. Aan Mansyur works as a community librarian at Katakerja, a social and creative space in Makassar, Indonesia, and is the curator of the Makassar International Writers Festival. He is the author of several volumes of poetry and prose, including *Aku Hendak Pindah Rumah* (2008), *Tokoh-tokoh yang Melawan Kita dalam Satu Cerita* (2012) and *Kukila* (2012), while a recent collection of his poetry, *Tidak Ada New York Hari Ini* (2016), became a national bestseller.

M. Aan Mansyur is supported by Makassar International Writers Festival.



Maung Day

Maung Day is a Burmese poet, visual artist, translator and development worker. He has published six books of poetry in Burmese and one in English. His poems have appeared in literary journals such as *The Wolf*, *The Owl*, *Guernica*, *Shampoo*, *International Poetry Review* and *Bengal Lights*. He has translated poetry by Adonis, Maram al-Masri, Tomas Tranströmer, Ilya Kaminsky, Robert Kelly, Dennis Cooper and Kim Addonizio. He has also shown his artworks internationally. He now lives and works in Yangon, Burma.



Mei Fong

Mei Fong is an award-winning investigative journalist and writer. She shared a Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting (2007) as part of a team at the *Wall Street Journal*, while her stories on China's migrant workers won a 2006 Human Rights Press Award from Amnesty International and the Hong Kong Correspondents Club. Her book, *One Child* (2016), on the history and consequences of China's one-child policy, also weaves in details on her childhood growing up in Malaysia, including family ties in Penang. *One Child* was voted one of 2016's top 10 non-fiction books by Zocalo, has won an award from the American Society of Journalists and Authors, and has been critically acclaimed around the world.



Minh Bui Jones

Minh Bui Jones is a serial publisher and editor of journals and magazines, and the founding editor of *Mekong Review*, a literary quarterly publishing fiction, non-fiction and poetry from mainland Southeast Asia. He also initiated the Mekong Translation, a new publishing venture to translate and publish literary classics from the Mekong region. He is the founding editor of *The Diplomat*, *American Review* and the *Euro Daily*, an online business and political news website. He was formerly a television producer at SBS-TV, reporter at the *Sydney Morning Herald* and news editor at *Asia Times Online*. He currently contributes to Knowledge@Wharton of the Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania.

Minh Bui Jones is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.



Muhammad Haji Salleh

Muhammad Haji Salleh is a Malaysian poet, critic, translator, editor and professor of literature, who has published over 35 books in both Malay and English. He has published 14 books of poems, including *Sajak-Sajak Pendatang* (1973), *Buku Perjalanan Si Tenggang II* (1977), *Travel Journals of Si Tenggang II* (1979), *Time and Its People* (1978), *Beyond the Archipelago* (1995), *Sebuah Unggun di Tepi Danau* (1996), *Aksara Usia* (1996) and *Rowing Down Two Rivers* (1999). He has published a definitive translation of *Hikayat Hang Tuah* (2010). He has won many national prizes for his poetry and criticism/theory: the National Laureate of Malaysia (1991), the ASEAN Literary Award (1977), SEA Write Award (1997) and MASTERA (Southeast Asia Literary Council) Award (2001). He is now professor emeritus at the Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Muhammad Haji Salleh is supported by Penang Institute.



Nisha Ayub

Nisha Ayub is a leading advocate for transgender rights in Malaysia. She is the project director of the Seed Foundation, the first trans-led non-governmental organisation in the country. She is also the co-founder of Justice for Sisters, which provides legal aid to transgender individuals and seeks to end persecution of LGBTI people. She has been advocating on behalf of transgender people community for the past eight years. She has been honoured as Hero of the Year at the Asia LGBT Milestone Awards (2015), Human Rights Watch's Alison Des Forges Award for the Extraordinary Activism (2015) and the US Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award (2016).



Ooi Kee Beng

Ooi Kee Beng is a sinologist and political biographer. He has published biographies of prominent politicians from Malaysia and Singapore, including Ismail Abdul Rahman, Goh Keng Swee, Lim Kit Siang and Yusof Ishak. He has also translated several ancient war manuals from classical Chinese into Swedish and English. These include the 'art of war' books *Sunzi bingfa*, *Weilliaozi bingfa* and *Wuzi bingfa*. The Swedish editions were the first ever from classical Chinese into Swedish. He is also the founder-editor of *Penang Monthly*, Penang Institute's policy brief series *ISSUES*, and Singapore's ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute's *ISEAS Perspective*. He is the executive director of Penang Institute.



Paul McVeigh

Paul McVeigh, who is based in Belfast, Northern Ireland, founded a theatre company, wrote and directed plays, and has also written comedy for stand-ups, writing shows and toured the comedy festival circuit. His short stories have been published in literary journals and anthologies, and been aired on BBC Radio. His first novel, *The Good Son* (2015), garnered many accolades, winning the McCrea Literary Award (2015) and the Polari Prize (2016). In translation as *Un bon garçon*, the novel is currently shortlisted for France's Prix du Roman Cezam. He is a co-founder of the annual London Short Story Festival.

Paul McVeigh is supported by Culture Ireland.



Rahmat Haron

Rahmat Haron wears many hats as an activist, poet, writer, visual and performance artist. He has published two books of poetry in Malay, *Utopia Trauma* (2006) and *Yang Terbangsatkan* (2017). His art deals with social interaction and compromise with regard to individual problems, conflicts, and the complex psychologies that come into play. Self-proclaimed as an 'outsider artist', his opinion pieces on social, cultural, political, human rights and environmental issues can be found at Malaysiakini.com, an independent news website.



Saidah Rastam

Saidah Rastam is a composer who has written music for theatre, film, martial artists, choral groups, orchestras and electronica. She was the music director for the launch of the Petronas Twin Towers, as well as for the large-scale musical productions *M! The Opera*, *Spirits* and *Malam Terang Bulan*. The publication of her book *Rosalie and Other Love Songs* (2017) is part of a preservation project on Malayan music recordings, manuscripts and oral history. She is a senior research fellow of Khazanah Nasional and is currently researching the history of Malacca.

Saidah Rastam is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.



Saw Teong Hin

Saw Teong Hin is an award-winning writer, producer and director, whose directorial debut, *Puteri Gunung Ledang* (2004), was the first Malaysian film selected by the Venice International Film Festival. His semi-autobiographical Penang Hokkien film, *You Mean the World to Me* (2017), shot by Christopher Doyle, enjoyed both critical and popular acclaim. For the theatre, he co-wrote the book for *Puteri Gunung Ledang: The Musical* (2006), for which he won a BOH Cameronian Arts Award. He has also directed *Emily of Emerald Hill* (2010) and *Silat* (2012), a martial arts dance drama. He was the creative director for both opening and closing ceremonies of the 2017 Southeast Asian Games.



Sonny Liew

Sonny Liew is a graphic artist/illustrator, who was born in Malaysia and is based in Singapore. His first published illustration work was the comic strip *Frankie and Poo* in *The New Paper*. His break in the US comic industry was with Vertigo Comics' *My Faith in Frankie*. He has since been published by Flight Anthologies, Marvel Comics, First Second Books and DC Comics. He is the creator of *Malinky Robot*, recipient of an Xeric Award (2004) and winner of the Comic Album of the Year at Utopiales International SF Festival (2008). *The Art of Charlie Chan Hock Chye* (2015) has been a global phenomenon, winning the Singapore Literature Prize (2016) and the Book of the Year at the Singapore Book Awards (2016), while the US edition scooped an unprecedented three Eisner Awards (2017): Best Writer/Artist, Best US Edition of International Material – Asia, and Best Publication Design.

Sonny Liew is supported by the Singapore Literature Prize.



Suchen Christine Lim

Suchen Christine Lim is a writer whose work spans different genres: novels, short stories, children's books, non-fiction and a play. She has published five acclaimed novels. Her second novel, *Fistful of Colours* (1990), won the inaugural Singapore Literature Prize and was chosen as one of 10 classic Singapore novels by the *Sunday Times*. Her latest novel *The River's Song* (2014) was selected by Kirkus Reviews as one of 100 Best Books of 2015. Her other works include *A Bit of Earth* (2001) and the short-story collection *The Lies that Build a Marriage* (2007), both shortlisted for the Singapore Literature Prize. She received the SEA Write Award (2012) in recognition of her body of work.

Suchen Christine Lim is supported by the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus.



Takako Arai

Takako Arai is a poet known for her avant-garde, experimental style incorporating the use of dialect, radical juxtaposition of images and the use of sentence fragments. She has published three books of poems: *Haō Bekki* (*The Emperor's Unfortunate Lover*, 1997), *Tamashii dansu* (*Soul Dance*, 2007) and *Betto to shokki* (*Beds and Looms*, 2013). Some of the poems in her second collection, which won the Oguma Hideo Prize, appear in English translation in *Four from Japan: Contemporary Poetry and Essays by Women* (2006) and *Soul Dance: Poems of Takako Arai* (2008). She is the editor of *Mi'Te*, a journal featuring poetry and criticism. She teaches Japanese and Japanese poetry at Saitama University.

Takako Arai is supported by the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur.



Ulrike Draesner

Ulrike Draesner is a poet, novelist, short-story writer, translator and essayist. She has published five major poetry collections, five novels, two of which were nominated for the Deutschen Buchpreis, three collections of stories and two collections of essays. She also engages in cross-media projects with other artists, including sculpting, music and performing arts. Her most recent novel, *Sieben Sprünge vom Rand der Welt* (*Seven Springs*, 2014) deals with the importance of family memory across four generations. She has translated the work of Louise Glück, Charles Simmons and Gertrude Stein, among others, into German. She has received numerous poetry readerships literary prizes, most recently the Nicolas-Born Prize for Literature (2016).

Ulrike Draesner is supported by Goethe-Institut.



Zen Cho

Zen Cho is a short-story writer, novelist and editor. She is the author of the Crawford Award-winning short story collection *Spirits Abroad* (2014) and editor of the anthology *Cyberpunk: Malaysia* (2015). She has been nominated for the Campbell Award for Best New Writer and honour-listed for the Carl Brandon Society Awards for her short fiction. Her debut novel *Sorcerer to the Crown* (2016), about magic, intrigue and politics in Regency London, won a British Fantasy Award for Best Newcomer and was a Locus Awards finalist for Best First Novel. She currently lives in London.



Zunar

Zulkiflee Anwar Ulhaque, better known as **Zunar**, is a political cartoonist who has been drawing editorial cartoons for the past 30 years. His work exposes corruption and abuse of power committed by the government of Malaysia through his art. His most recent books include *Sapuman: Man of Steel* (2015), *Wasabi: Wa Sapu Billion* (2016) and *Twit Twit Cincin* (2017). He was selected by Amnesty International as the Malaysian representative for their biggest annual international campaign, Write for Rights (#W4R) 2015. He was awarded the Courage in Editorial Cartooning Award (2011) by Cartoonists Right Network International, the Cartooning for Peace Award (2016) and the Human Rights Watch Hellman/Hammett Award (2011 and 2015).

Zunar is supported by Penang Institute.

PARTICIPATING MODERATORS



Ann Lee

Ann Lee is a playwright, writer, editor and researcher. Her work for the stage has been performed in Kuala Lumpur, Ubud, Sydney and New York, and is published in *Sex, Stage & State: Kuali Works Plays* (2011). She has published short stories in collections such as *Body2Body: A Malaysian Queer Anthology* (2009) and *Malaysian Tales: Retold and Remixed* (2011), and edited an anthology of fiction about Sabah, *Chronicles of KK* (2016). She is an Asia Leadership Fellow, awarded by the Japan Foundation and the International House of Japan for her work in the arts, media, and NGO sector, and is currently a doctoral candidate at the National University of Singapore.



Danton R. Remoto

Danton R. Remoto is writer, editor and scholar. He has published 12 books – of poems, essays and edited anthologies – the latest of which is *Riverrun: A Novel* (2015). His work has been published in Hong Kong, Japan, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Britain and the United States. He is working on a second novel as well as a collection of short stories. In 2015 he received the National Achievement Award in Poetry from the Writers' Union of the Philippines. He is a professor of creative writing and literature at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus.



Eddin Khoo

Eddin Khoo is a poet, writer, translator, journalist and teacher. He is the founder of Pusaka, one of the region's leading cultural centres, and the publishing house Kala, which devotes itself to publishing literary translations from the world's languages into Malay. He has worked intimately with Malaysia's custodians of the traditional and ritual arts including shadow puppeteers, musicians, dramatists and dancers. In recognition of his work in culture, he was selected as one of the Asians of the Year 2006 by Channel NewsAsia, Singapore. He is the co-author of a study on traditional Malay woodcarving, *The Spirit of Wood* (2003), and has translated the Indonesian poet Goenawan Mohamad and the Malaysian poet Latiff Mohidin into English.



Jason Erik Lundberg

Jason Erik Lundberg is the author and anthologist of more than 20 books, including *Red Dot Irreal* (2013), *The Alchemy of Happiness* (2013), the six-book *Bo Bo and Cha Cha* children's picture book series as well as *Carol the Coral* (2016). He is the editor of the biennial *Best New Singaporean Short Stories* anthology series. He serves as the fiction editor at Epigram Books, as well as the founding editor of *LONTAR: The Journal of Southeast Asian Speculative Fiction*. His writing has been shortlisted for the SLF Fountain Award, Brenda L. Smart Award for Short Fiction, SCBWI Crystal Kite Member Choice Award and Popular Readers' Choice Award. He has lived in Singapore since 2007.



Kam Raslan

Kam Raslan is a writer and radio broadcaster who originally worked in film, television and theatre. He has a long-running column for *The Edge* and *Off the Edge* magazines. He has published a novel *Confessions of an Old Boy* (2007) and his earlier writings were compiled in *Generation: A Collection of Contemporary Malaysian Ideas* (1997). He also writes for the Instant Cafe Theatre and co-hosts the 'A Bit of Culture' radio show on BFM 89.9.



Melizarani T. Selva

Melizarani T. Selva is a spoken word poet, journalist and poetry educator. Her first collection, *Taboo* (2015), was a critical and commercial success. Her poems have been translated into French and Bahasa Malaysia, and has performed her work internationally, notably in Britain, India and Indonesia. She is the founder of Kuala Lumpur's monthly spoken word poetry open mic, 'If Walls Could Talk', and a bilingual poetry slam, 'Slamokrasi'. She teaches performance poetry at international and national schools.



Mohd Izzuddin Ramli

Mohd Izzuddin Ramli is a researcher at Penang Institute. His research interests include culture, local politics, subaltern studies and literary production, particularly translation work. He writes social and political commentary on local news portals and for *Penang Monthly*. He has published essays in *Letters to Home: Young Malaysians Write Back* (2016), *Lastik! Lontaran Batu-Batu Kerikil* (2016) and *Prisma: Koleksi Rencana Kontemporari, Suara Anak Muda, Seni dan Budaya* (2015). He is working on a Malay-language translation of Anthony Milner's *The Malays*.



Michael Vatikiotis

Michael Vatikiotis has worked as a writer and journalist in Southeast Asia for the past 30 years. After training as a journalist with the BBC in London, he moved to Southeast Asia and was a correspondent and then chief editor of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. He has written three books on the politics of Southeast Asia, the latest of which is *Blood and Silk: Power and Conflict in Modern Southeast Asia* (2017). He currently works as a mediator in armed conflict as the Asia Regional Director of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and lives in Singapore.



Sharon Bakar

Sharon Bakar is a writer, editor and teacher. Her articles, reviews and short fiction have appeared in a number of publications. She is a creative writing teacher and has run courses for Oxford University Press, Monash University and the British Council. She also organises Readings, the monthly event for local writers at Seksan Gallery in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur. Three collections of writing have emerged from this event, the most recent being *Everything About Us* (2016). She is also co-organiser and sponsor of the annual D.K. Dutt Award for Literary Excellence. She has lived in Malaysia since 1984.



Yana Rizal

Yana Rizal is a cultural researcher, writer, poet and literary translator. She is the co-editor of Khoo Kay Kim's *I, KKK: The Autobiography of a Historian* (2017) and is currently completing a translation of his essays. She is also the co-curator of the Kuala Lumpur Literary Festival and has led the *Khabar dan Angin* interfaith art project which culminated in an exhibition at Balai Seni Visual Negara. She is the co-editor of the bilingual literary journal, *Naratif | Kisah*; has translated works by the award-winning author, Faisal Tehrani, and is completing a translation of a collection of folk tales in classical Malay.

PARTICIPATING PERFORMERS



Faliq Auri Trio

Faliq Auri Trio is a Malaysian Celtic fusion trio founded and led by Faliq Auri on uilleann pipes, whistles, soprano saxophone and flute. The trio includes Suriya Prakash on guitars and Abdul Karim Zafiruddin on percussion. Their music brings a blend of Malaysian/Nusantara flavours with gypsy rhythms and Celtic music.

PARTICIPATING WORKSHOP LEADERS

Al-Mustaqeem M. Radhi & Muhammad Haji Salleh

Malay-English Literary Translation

Lee Yew Leong & Ooi Kee Beng

English-Mandarin Literary Translation

James Shea

Bashō's Guide to Writing Images

Kosal Khiev

Arriving at Your Own Door

Mei Fong

**Improving your Reading and Writing Skills for SPM and Beyond:
Lessons Learnt from a C+ Student**

Jo Parfitt • [SPICE Up Your Life Stories](#)

Jo Parfitt is a journalist, writing teacher and mentor. She has authored over 30 books, and makes a living from her love of 'sharing what I know to help others to grow'. Her company, Summertime Publishing, helps new writers to plan, write and publish work based on their own life experiences.

Marco Ferrarese • [Make Your Travels Worth a Fortune](#)

Marco Ferrarese is a travel writer, novelist and anthropologist. He has published more than 100 articles on Malaysia, Southeast Asia, India and overlanding from Asia to Europe for *BBC Travel*, *CNN Travel*, *The Guardian*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *DK Eyewitness Travel*, *Air Asia Travel3Sixty*, *Nikkei Asian Review* and more. He wrote the Malaysia and Brunei chapters for Rough Guide's *Southeast Asia on a Budget* (2018) and is working on the new edition of *Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei*. He is the author of the novel *Nazi Goreng* (2013), *Banana Punk Rawk Trails* (2016) and a collection of his travel writing, *The Travels of Marco Yolo* (2017).

Pang Khee Teik • [The Languages of the Rainbow](#)

Pang Khee Teik is a creative artist working in a range of media and an activist on LGBT issues. He co-founded the sexuality rights festival, *Seksualiti Merdeka*, in Kuala Lumpur and moderates its online social media platforms. As an actor, he has performed in theatre and independent films. His photographs have been exhibited internationally. And as a writer, he co-edited *Body 2 Body: A Malaysian Queer Anthology* (with Jerome Kugan, 2009) and is an editor for *Queer Southeast Asia: A Literary Journal of Transgressive Art*. He was formerly the arts programme director of the Annexe Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, and for the last 10 years he has been the director of the art and activism bazaar, *Art for Grabs*.

PARTICIPATING ARTIST

Charis Loke

Charis Loke is an illustrator and educator based in Penang, Malaysia. Trained as a scientist and schoolteacher, she now illustrates for clients like Gerakbudaya, Editions Jentayu and TEDxKL; her work has been shown in galleries in the United States, Britain, Nepal and Malaysia. She is interested in the relationships between word and image as well as how images are used to communicate, enhance and subvert narratives. She teaches art workshops for young people and teachers, and is a member of Arts-ED, a community arts and culture education non-profit organisation.

PARTICIPATING BOOK LAUNCH AUTHORS

Dina Zaman

[Holy Men, Holy Women: A Journey into the Faiths of Malaysians and Other Essays](#)

Jahabar Sadiq

[Kandaqstan](#)

Michael Vatikiotis

[Blood and Silk: Power and Conflict in Modern Southeast Asia](#)

Women's Aid Organisation

[Tina's Journey](#)

Faisal Tehrani • [Profesor](#)

Faisal Tehrani is a novelist, poet, essayist and playwright. Among his most notable publications are *Cinta Hari-hari Rusuhan* (2000), *Perempuan Politikus Melayu* (2000) and the revisionist historical fiction *1515* (2002), which won a National Book Award. The novel *Bagaimana Anyss Naik ke Langit* (2014) was translated into English as *How Anyss Went to Heaven* (2016). His latest book *Profesor* is due this year and deals with human rights issues.

Jit Murad • [Jit Murad Plays](#)

Jit Murad is a playwright, director and actor. A co-founder of the Instant Café Theatre Company, Malaysia, he helped establish its reputation for satire. As a co-director of Dramalab, he has also helped nurture Malaysian writing for the theatre. The newly published *Jit Murad Plays* (2017) brings together five of his most notable pieces for the theatre: *Gold Rain and Hailstones*, *Visits*, *The Storyteller*, *Malam Konsert* and *Spilt Gravy on Rice*. His film credits include Shuhaimi Baba's *Selubung* (1993) and John Boorman's *Beyond Rangoon* (1995).

K.S. Maniam • [A Stranger to Love](#)

K.S. Maniam is a short-story writer, novelist and dramatist. He is the author of three novels: *The Return* (1981), *In a Far Country* (1993) and *Between Lives* (2003). His short stories have appeared in local and international journals and anthologies, notably in *Manoa* (1999), *Kunapipi* (2000) and *A Rainbow Feast: New Asian Short Stories* (2011). He published three short-story collections *Arriving and Other Stories* (1995), *Haunting the Tiger* (1996) and *The Loved Flaw* (2001), and a collection of stories and plays, *Sensuous Horizons* (1994). He was the inaugural recipient of the Raja Rao Award (2000) for his outstanding contribution to the literature of the South Asian diaspora.

Lee Su Kim • [Manek Mischiefs: Of Patriachs, Playboys and Paramours](#)

Lee Su Kim has published 11 books of fiction and non-fiction. Her debut collection of Peranakan life stories, *Kebaya Tales: Of Matriarchs, Maidens, Mistresses and Matchmakers* (2011) won the Popular-Star Readers' Choice Awards for Fiction. She published another collection, *Sarong Secrets: Of Love, Loss and Longing* (2014). She was an associate professor of English language studies at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, where she lectured and published widely on language, culture and identity. She is the chief editor of *Border Crossings: Moving between Languages and Cultural Frameworks* (2007).

Malachi Edwin Vethamani • [Coitus Interruptus and Other Stories](#)

Malachi Edwin Vethamani is a poet, short-story writer, critic and scholar of contemporary literature. His stories have been published in *Lakeview Journal* (2017) and in 'The Literary Page', *New Straits Times* (1995, 1996); *Coitus Interruptus and Other Stories* (2017) is his first collection of short stories. He has published two volumes of poetry, *Life Happens* (2017) and *Complicated Lives* (2016), and edited an anthology of Malaysian poetry in English entitled *Malchin Testament* (2016). He has also published *A Bibliography of Malaysian Literature in English* (2015). He is a professor at the School of English, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus.

Regina Ibrahim • [Budiman](#)

Regina Ibrahim is a holistic artist. A former schoolteacher, she started writing creatively at a relatively age. She has published seven books and appeared in many more anthologies. She is also a painter and is active on social media with a view to inspiring young people. While she began by writing about transgender issues, she now engages with other topics as an inspiration for her realist fiction. Her previous books include *Perjalanan* (2014), *Cerpen* (2015) and *Delima* (2016).

Shivaji Das • [Angels by the Murky River](#)

Shivaji Das is the author of three travel memoir and photography books: *Sacred Love: Erotic Art in the Temples of Nepal* (2013), *Journeys with the Caterpillar* (2013) and *Angels by the Murky River* (2017). He is the conceptualiser of the Migrant and Refugee Poetry competitions in Singapore and Malaysia. His work has been featured in *Time*, *The Economist*, *Asian Geographic* and the BBC.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Penang Convention & Exhibition Bureau

<i>Adviser:</i>	Ashwin Gunasekeran
<i>Festival Producer:</i>	Yasmin Bathamanathan
<i>Design Lead:</i>	Terry Neoh
<i>Festival Coordinator:</i>	Stephanie Kee
<i>Production Assistants:</i>	Toh Mei Chern Siti Sarah bt Ismail Magdalyn Quek
<i>Interns</i>	Sherlyn Phuah Carenne Loh Liew Wei San Ooi Chen Wei

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Ida Nerina
John Brunton
Martin Axe
Omar Merican
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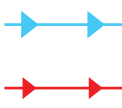
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ChinaHouse



Gerakbudaya
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-  **Royale Chulan Penang**
-  **Tido Hostel**



Cafe / Coffee Shop



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