



NGC
Locas Lit Fes

THE TRINIDAD & TOBAGO LITERARY FESTIVAL 2012

**FESTIVAL
GUIDE**

NGC AD

WELCOME...

... to the second NGC Bocas Lit Fest, Trinidad and Tobago's annual literary festival: a lively celebration of books and writing that brings together readers and writers from Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean, and the wider world for four days of readings, performances, workshops, discussions, film screenings, and more.

Last year's Festival was full of energy, with writers and readers turning up from all over the region to enjoy T&T's first literary festival. The feedback was positive, so we are having some of the same and a bit more added for 2012. We celebrate 50 years of Independence in 2012, and the NGC Bocas Lit Fest is marking the event in jubilant literary style, with special readings and a week-long televised debate on TV6.

The Festival also got off to a different start this year, with an evening of readings, performances, open mic and music with writers from both islands on beautiful Pigeon Point beach in Tobago, courtesy the Tobago House of Assembly Community Development and Culture Division and the Pigeon Point Heritage Park. It was a great lime to end a day that was also the

start of the Children's Festival, sponsored by KFC, which has been taking place around the country during April, and culminates in a full parallel programme of activities for children during these four festival days.

The Festival Village is again in the National Library and adjoining Old Fire Station, and includes a performance stage open to Abercromby Street, booksellers' stalls with hundreds of titles on sale in the entrance area of the Library, the Audio-Visual Room and reception area in the lower ground floor, the Children's Library activity rooms, Seminar Rooms 1 and 2 on the first and second floors, an open restaurant arcade on Hart Street, the amphitheatre, and the ground floor of the Old Fire Station. There are also satellite events at venues around the city every evening during the Festival. Check your programme and our website.

When we launched the Festival in 2011, our sponsors knew they were investing in something with the potential to grow. We are very grateful for their confidence, and delighted to report that coming out of the children's storytell-

ing events we have produced *Children's Stories from the Bocas Lit Fest 2011*, a collection of 16 stories told by children all over the country, now available for sale at the Festival and in bookshops. We have also partnered with the British Council and Commonwealth Writers to brainstorm the development of the Caribbean's publishing industry, to which the Ministry of Planning and the Economy has pledged its support. And we are very pleased that the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago is supporting the Festival's work by becoming title sponsor for the next three years.

These four days are for enjoying words, stories, and ideas, with events for everyone — from budding writers to avid readers to schoolchildren. All the readings, panels, and performances are free and open to the public.

Have fun, and see you again next year!

Marina Salandy-Brown
Founder and
Festival Director



SPONSORS & PARTNERS

The NGC Bocas Lit Fest is very grateful to our generous sponsors and partners for making this annual event possible, and particularly to the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago, the new title sponsor of Trinidad and Tobago's annual literary festival.

The Bocas Lit Fest is a non-profit organisation that is entirely funded by private sector and public sector sponsorship, and without them there would be no Festival. Thanks to all of you.

PLACE CORRECT NGC LOGO



The National Museum and Art Gallery



The Ministry of Arts and Multiculturalism



The Ministry of Planning and the Economy



UWI



UTT



TDC



Tobago House of Assembly



NLCB



The Anthony M. Saca Caribbean Awards for Excellence



NEAL & MASSY FOUNDATION



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A6



SIGNS & DESIGNS

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PROGRAMME PARTNERS



THE WRITERS UNION OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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OUR PASSION FOR THE ARTS

As a state-enterprise, and an involved corporate citizen, The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) is committed to supporting initiatives that are crucial to the development of Trinidad and Tobago. We have a particular passion for preserving indigenous art forms. We also like to get involved in "legacy" projects such as the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, which we believe help our culture to evolve. Good literature on the shelf, stimulated creative people, and education outside of the school halls ... these are the rewards we consider meaningful.

We are the custodians of one of Trinidad and Tobago's most valuable natural resources: natural gas. Over the years, NGC's Trinidad Gas Model of

Development has been viewed — and pursued — with interest around the world. So, we are always interested when there are other initiatives that take the T&T brand internationally, and show off our citizens' professionalism, talents, and drive. The NGC Bocas Lit Fest does just that.

In many areas of our Culture, NGC quietly but purposefully gives support where it is needed. We are well known for our two-decade sponsorship of the Lydians, but did you know that every year we fund many of the unsponsored steel bands? Without our contribution, they could not make it to the stage. We consider the Panorama competition a positive force in communities, and for young people, through music.

The NGC Bocas Lit Fest is unique among cultural events because of its focus on rewarding good writing, and promoting the pleasure of the written word. Returning literature and the notion of reading for pleasure to the forefront of our collective consciousness, as it was not too long ago, has the potential to stimulate a culture of reading in the region generally, and in Trinidad and Tobago specifically. We anticipate the evolution of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest in the years to come, and the positive societal changes it has the potential to create.

Larry Howai
Chairman
National Gas Company of
Trinidad and Tobago Limited

BASICS



First Citizens

Except where otherwise indicated, events take place in the National Library and Old Fire Station on Abercromby Street and Hart Street, and are free of charge. The fold-out Festival Programme gives full details of all events, venues, dates, and times.

DATES AND TIMES

Thursday 26 April: 9 am–9 pm

Friday 27 April: 10 am–10 pm

Saturday 28 April: 10 am–9 pm

Sunday 29 April: 10 am–6.30 pm

GETTING TO THE FESTIVAL

On Thursday and Friday, a free shuttle service will operate from the Savannah to the National Library on the half hour; returning on the hour from Abercromby Street, outside the Library. Free secure parking at the Savannah Grand Stand. Enter through the main Savannah entrance.

WORKSHOPS

All workshops take place in the 1st Floor Seminar room of the National Library. Workshops cost TT\$60, and pre-registration is required.

FILMS

Screenings are free, and take place in the AV Room on the lower ground floor of the National Library.

READINGS AND PANELS

Readings with Q&As and panel discussions take place in the

Old Fire Station, the AV Room on the lower ground floor, and 1st or 2nd Floor Seminar Rooms of the National Library.

BOOK SIGNINGS

After readings, talks and discussions, authors will be signing copies of their books at designated tables on the ground floor of the Library.

PERFORMANCE POETRY AND OPEN MIC

The Library Arcade on Abercromby Street is the venue for these popular daily sessions.

MUSIC

Music is on offer at the Academy for the Performing Arts (APA), Keate Street, on Saturday (5 pm), and in the Amphitheatre between the Old Fire Station and the National Library on Sunday (5 pm)

KFC CHILDREN'S BOCAS LIT FEST

Children's events take place in the Children's Library on the

ground floor. Copies of *Children's Stories from the Bocas Lit Fest 2011* are on sale at Festival booksellers.

BOOKSELLERS

Books by participating authors and others are on sale from the four official booksellers on the ground floor of the Library: Metropolitan Book Suppliers, Nigel Khan Bookseller, Paper Based, RIK Services.

FOOD COURT

Food and drink are available from 11 am to 4 pm daily at the Library Arcade on Hart Street.

T-SHIRTS AND BAGS

2012 NGC Bocas Lit Fest t-shirts and bags are on sale at the Festival Reception desk.

FEEDBACK

We want your feedback! Please leave completed forms at the Festival Reception desk, or email info@bocaslitfest.com.



compete

Show off your word skills!

Enter the First Citizens
17th Annual National Schools
Scrabble Tournament!

Date: Saturday 19th May, 2012

Time: 9.30am to 5pm

Registration ends:

Friday 11th May, 2012

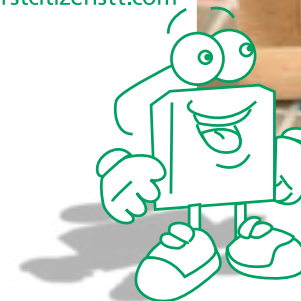
Venue: Andre Kamperveen

Hall, Dr. Joao Havelange

Centre of Excellence,

Macoya Road, Tunapuna.

For further information,
contact First Citizens Group
Corporate Communications
at 638-5917 or email us at
gcc@firstcitizenstt.com



We put you first

62-FIRST (34778) www.firstcitizenstt.com

AUTHORS, SPEAKERS, PERFORMERS

Lisa Allen-Agostini is a writer of fiction and poetry, co-editor of the *Trinidad Noir* anthology, and founder of the Allen Prize for Young Writers.

Funso Aiyejina is a Nigerian writer based in Trinidad. He is dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

Carolyn Ali is a writer of both adult and children's books. Her latest book is *Stories and Recipes from the Egg Lady*.

Patti-Ann Ali is an actor and playwright, founder of Sugar House Productions.

Ellah Allfrey, OBE, is the deputy editor of *Granta*. She is chair of the fiction judges for the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize.

Michael Anthony is the author of several novels and books of history. His *Carnivals of Trinidad and Tobago from Inception to Year 2000* was published in 2011.

Andre Bagoo is a journalist and poet. His first book of poems, *Trick Vessels*, was published in early 2012.

Kevin Baldeosingh is a journalist and author. His last nov-

el, *The Ten Incarnations of Adam Avatar*, was published in 2004. In 2011 he co-authored, with Radica Mahase, *Caribbean History for CSEC*.

Penelope Beckles is a Trinidad and Tobago Opposition Senator and former government minister.

Nicolette Bethel is a Bahamian poet, playwright, and the editor of the poetry journal *tongues of the ocean*. She is a poetry judge for the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize.

Rhoda Bharath is a fiction writer and a cultural studies researcher at UWI, St. Augustine, where she also lectures in African literature.

Rahul Bhattacharya is an Indian writer. His first book, *Pundits in Pakistan* (2005), won the Vodafone Crossword Book Award, and his novel *The Sly Company of People Who Care* (2011) was shortlisted for the Man Asia Literary Prize.

Frank Birbalsingh is a Guyanese literary scholar. He has written extensively on Caribbean literature, and is professor emeritus at York University in Toronto. He is chair of the non-fiction judges for the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize.

Bridget Brereton is professor emerita of history at UWI, St. Augustine, and author of *From Imperial College to University of the West Indies: A History of the St. Augustine Campus*, among other books.

Erna Brodber is a Jamaican writer and sociologist. Her most recent novel, *The Rainmaker's Mistake*, was published in 2007. She is a non-fiction judge for the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize.

Margaret Busby, OBE, is a British writer and publisher, co-founder and editorial director of the publishing firm Allison and Busby.

Vahni Capildeo is a Trinidadian writer of poetry and prose, based in Oxford. Her third collection of poems, *Dark and Unaccustomed Words*, was published in early 2012.

Roger Carter is the author of the short story collection *Deep in Thought about Nothing*.

Myriam Chancy is a Haitian writer and scholar. She has published three novels, most recently *The Loneliness of Angels* (2010), longlisted for the 2011 OCM Bocas Prize and winner of the 2011 Guyana Prize for Caribbean Literature.

Willi Chen is both an artist and a writer. In 2011 he published new books of poetry and fiction: *Mindscape* and *GonSang*.

Loretta Collins Klobah is a writer and scholar based at the University of Puerto Rico. Her first book, *The Twelve Foot Neon Woman*, is the winner of the poetry category of the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize.

Christopher Cozier is an artist, curator, and writer living and working in Trinidad.

Fred D'Aguilar, born in London of Guyanese parents, is a poet and fiction writer, currently teaching at Virginia Tech. His books include the poetry collection *Continental Shelf* (2009) and the novel *Bethany Bettany* (2003). He is the chair of the poetry judges for the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize.

Brendan de Caires is a Guyanese literary critic based in Toronto, where he is programmes and communications co-ordinator for PEN Canada.

Shruti Debi is a literary agent with Aitken Alexander Associates, based in New Delhi.

Sonia Farmer is a Bahamian writer, author of two chapbooks. She won the 2011 *Small Axe* Competition in poetry, and she is the founder of Poinciana Paper Press.

Rivka Galchen is a Canadian-American writer. Her novel *Atmospheric Disturbances* (2008) won the William J. Sa-

royan International Prize. In 2010 the *New Yorker* named her one of the 20 best American writers under 40.

Sterling Henderson is a Trinidadian radio journalist currently based at 195.5 FM.

Kendel Hippolyte is a St. Lucian poet and playwright. His latest book, *Fault Lines*, was published in early 2012. He is a poetry judge for the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize.

Merle Hodge is a Trinidadian writer and academic, author of the novels *Crick Crack*, *Monkey* and *The Life of Latitia*.

Andy Jacob is an artist, educator and independent curator. He has served as editorial consultant for several literary projects and has a special interest in the business of art.

Kim Johnson is a writer and cultural researcher, author of *The Illustrated Story of Pan* (2011). He is a research fellow at the University of Trinidad and Tobago, and winner of a 2011 Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Award for Excellence.

Steve Jones is professor emeritus of genetics at University College London, author of several popular science books and winner of the Michael Faraday Prize from the Royal Society. His most recent book is *Darwin's Island* (2009).

Roland P. Joseph is the author

of the short fiction collection *Prose in the Key of Life, Volume One*.

Fawzia Kane is a Trinidadian poet and architect based in London. Her debut book, *Tantie Diabliesse*, was longlisted for the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize.

Anu Lakhan is a Trinidadian writer of fiction, poems, and essays.

George Lamming is a Barbadian writer, one of the Caribbean's most distinguished literary figures. He is the author of such classic works as *In the Castle of My Skin* (1953), *The Emigrants* (1954), and *The Pleasures of Exile* (1960). He is chief judge of the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize.

Nicholas Laughlin is editor of *The Caribbean Review of Books* and programme director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

Albert Laveau, one of Trinidad and Tobago's most celebrated actors, is artistic director of the Trinidad Theatre Workshop.

Sharon Leach is a Jamaican writer, author of the short fiction collection *What You Can't Tell Him* (2006), and editor of the *Jamaica Observer's* "Bookends" section.

Karen Lord is a Barbadian writer. Her debut novel, *Redemption in Indigo* (2010), was longlisted for the 2011 OCM Bocas Prize.

Earl Lovelace is a novelist,

author of the now-classic works *The Dragon Can't Dance* and *Salt*. His novel *Is Just a Movie*, is the winner of the fiction category of the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize.

Vladimir Lucien is a St. Lucian poet whose work has been published in *BIM*, *tongues of the ocean*, *The Caribbean Review of Books*, and other journals.

Llewellyn MacIntosh is a calypsonian better known by his sobriquet, Short Pants.

Rabindranath Maharaj is a Trinidadian writer based in Canada. He has published three short fiction collections and five novels, most recently *The Amazing Absorbing Boy* (2010), which was longlisted for the 2011 OCM Bocas Prize.

Lelawattee Manoo-Rahming is a Trinidadian engineer, poet, and fiction writer, based in the Bahamas. She is the author of two poetry collections: *Curry Flavour* and *Immortelle and Bhandaaraa Poems*.

Tony Martin is emeritus professor of Africana Studies at Wellesley College, Massachusetts, and author of fourteen books, including *Caribbean History: From Pre-colonial Origins to the Present* (2012).

Shara McCallum is a Jamaican poet, author of four books, most recently *This Strange Land*, longlisted for the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize. She is director of the Stadler Centre for

Poetry at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania.

Keith McNeal is an American anthropologist based at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. He is the author of *Trance and Modernity in the Southern Caribbean: African and Hindu Popular Religions in Trinidad and Tobago* (2011).

Meiling is a Trinidadian designer, a leading figure in Caribbean fashion.

Sharon Millar is a Trinidadian fiction writer, recently graduated from the creative writing MFA programme at Lesley University in Boston.

Kei Miller is a Jamaican poet, fiction writer, and essayist. He has published three books of fiction — most recently *The Last Warner Woman* (2010) — and three collections of poems, most recently *A Light Song of Light* (2010), longlisted for the 2011 OCM Bocas Prize.

Gillian Moor is a singer and songwriter, founder and producer of Songshine, the popular open mic series. She is co-curator of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest performance poetry/open mic series.

Mervyn Morris is a Jamaican poet and literary scholar, author of six books of poetry, including *I been there, sort of: New and Selected Poems* (2006).

Wendell Mottley is a former politician, international in-

vestment banker with Credit Suisse in New York, and Olympic and Commonwealth Games medallist and sports personality.

Muhammad Muwakil is a poet and actor, one of the most popular figures in the Trinidad performance poetry scene. He is co-curator of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest performance poetry/open mic series.

Stephen Narain is a fiction writer who was born in the Bahamas to Guyanese parents and moved to the United States as a teenager. He is a student in the MFA programme at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, at work on his first novel.

Achy Obejas is a Cuban-American writer based in Chicago. She has published three novels, most recently *Ruins* (2009), several short story collections, and edited the anthology *Havana Noir* (2007). She is a fiction judge for the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize.

Joseph O'Neill is an Irish novelist based in New York City. He is the author of three novels, most recently *Netherland* (2008), which won the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.

Lester Orie is the author of the novel *Ananda: Son of Hesse's Siddhartha*.

Marsha Pearce is a writer, artist, and cultural studies PhD candidate at the University of the West Indies. She is also the 2006 recipient of the Rex

Nettleford Cultural Studies Fellowship.

Georgia Popplewell is a media producer and the managing director of Global Voices Online.

Kenneth Ramchand is one of the Caribbean's most distinguished literary critics, author of the seminal study *The West Indian Novel and Its Background* (1970). He is professor emeritus of West Indian literature at the University of the West Indies and former president of the University of Trinidad and Tobago.

Giselle Rampaul is a Trinidadian literary scholar, currently based at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

Vidia Ramphal is a well-known broadcaster and sports journalist currently working at 91.1FM and CNMG.

Judy Raymond is editor in chief of the *Trinidad Guardian*, and author of several biographical works.

Monique Roffey is a Trinidadian writer based in London. Her second novel, *The White Woman on the Green Bicycle* (2010), was shortlisted for the Orange Prize, and her third, *Archipelago*, will be published in 2012.

Cecilia Salazar, winner of nine Cacique Awards, is one of Trinidad and Tobago's leading actors. She recently created the lead role in *Miss Miles*,

Tony Hall's play about the controversial Gene Miles.

Brinsley Samaroo is a Trinidadian historian, formerly based at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, and now a research fellow at the University of Trinidad and Tobago.

Lasana M. Sekou is the author of fifteen books of poems, fiction, and monologues, including *37 Poems* (2005) and *Brotherhood of the Spurs* (2007). He is the founder of House of Nehesi Publishers and co-founder of the St. Martin Book Fair.

Nicha Selvon-Ramkissoon is a Trinidadian literary scholar, currently based at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

Anita Sethi is a British writer, journalist, and broadcaster. She has written for the *UK Guardian*, the *Sunday Times*, *Granta*, and many other publications. She is the recipient of a Penguin/Decibel Prize and a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship.

Godfrey P. Smith is a former Attorney General and Foreign Minister of Belize. His biography *George Price: A Life Revealed* (2011) is the winner of the non-fiction category of the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize.

Rosemary Stone is a Trinidadian fashion designer and producer of the first Caribbean Fashion Week in 1990. Her book *A Spirited Butterfly: A History of Fashion in Trinidad and*

Tobago was published in 2011.

Johnny Temple is a musician, and co-founder of Akashic Books, based in New York City.

Bhoendradatt Tewarie is Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Planning and the Economy. A former principal of the St. Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies, he is a literary scholar by profession.

Marjorie Thorpe is a former professor of literature at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, and Commonwealth Writers' Prize judge. She is vice-chair of the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize.

Chika Unigwe is a Nigerian writer currently based in Belgium. She writes in both Dutch and English. Her most recent novel, *On Black Sisters' Street*, was published in 2009.

Rose-Ann Walker is a Trinidadian literary scholar, currently based at the University of Trinidad and Tobago.

Anne Walmsley is a writer specialising in Caribbean art and literature. She is co-author, with Stanley Greaves, of *Art in the Caribbean: An Introduction* (2010).

Lise Winer is a Canadian lexicographer, author of the landmark *Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad and Tobago* (2009). She is a non-fiction judge for the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

The televised **OCM Bocas Debate**. This annual high-level discussion of burning public-interest topics will address the legacies of Independence over four mornings on TV6's *Morning Edition* programme, hosted by Fazeer Mohammed. *Monday 23 to Thursday 26, 7 am, televised live*

The first meeting of the **Caribbean Literature Action Group** (CALAG), a new partnership between the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, the British Council, and Commonwealth Writers, supporting Caribbean writing and publishing. *Wednesday 25 • by invitation*

The official **Festival Welcome**, commemorating 50 years of Independence with readings by local luminaries from Samuel Selvon, V.S. Naipaul, Derek Walcott, Eric Williams, and "Macaw". *Thursday 26, 9–10 am • Old Fire Station*

FOR EMERGING WRITERS

The Festival also includes a series of **events focused on budding and emerging writers**: workshops in fiction, poetry, drama, and lyric-writing; a seminar on contemporary publishing; one-on-one feedback sessions for writers of fiction and poems; and our **New Talent Showcase**, shining a spotlight on promising writers close to publishing their first books. The NGC Bocas Lit Fest will also announce a **new annual award to support an emerging Caribbean writer** in completing a manuscript and making connections in the international publishing world.

The launch of **Pictures from Paradise**, a new book on contemporary Caribbean photography, featuring 18 artists. *Thursday 26, 7–9 pm • Medulla Art Gallery, Fitt Street, Woodbrook*

50 Not Out: A literary celebration of 50 years of Independence
Readings from classic works by C.L.R. James, Louise Bennett, Eric Roach, Roger Mais, John Hearne, Harold "Sonny" Ladoo, Earl Lovelace, Erna Brodner, Merle Hodge, and Mervyn Morris. Music by Ray Holman. *Friday 27, 7.30 pm till late • Martin's, Woodford Street, Newtown*

The Big Idea: How Different Are Human Races, and Should We Care? Distinguished geneticist Professor Steve Jones delivers the first annual NGC Bocas Lecture. *Saturday 28, 1.30–2.30 pm • Old Fire Station*

A **tribute to the work of the Adult Literacy Tutors Association**, featuring a special film screening and readings by ALTA alumni. *Saturday 28, 2–4 pm • AV Room*

Announcement of the **2012 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature**, the award that recognises Caribbean writers of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Preceded by the premiere of *The Old Yard: Carnival Portraits from Trinidad*. *Saturday 28 • Academy of the Performing Arts (APA), Keate Street*
Concert: 5–6.30 pm
OCM Bocas Prize ceremony: 6.30–7.30 pm
Cocktail reception (by invitation only): 7.30–8.30 pm
See page 18 for more on the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize

Celebrating the Allen Prize for Young Writers. The NGC Bocas Lit Fest is proud to host the awards ceremony for the 2012 winners of the Allen Prize, an innovative programme encouraging writers aged 12 to 19. Featuring readings by the 2011 Allen Prize winners — a chance to meet the coming generation of writers from Trinidad and Tobago. *Sunday 29, 3–4 pm • AV Room*

Plus a packed programme of **readings, discussions, and performances!**

T&T'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

On 31 August, 1962, the independent state of Trinidad and Tobago came into being. The NGC Bocas Lit Fest celebrates 50 years of Independence with a series of events and sessions that are free and open to all.

FESTIVAL WELCOME

To commemorate 50 years of Independence, local luminaries read from classic works of the Independence era: fiction by Samuel Selvon and V.S. Naipaul, poetry by Derek Walcott, a speech by Eric Williams, and satire by the notorious "Macaw".

Featuring Penelope Beckles, Albert Laveau, Kenneth Ramchand, Cecilia Salazar, Bhoendradatt Tewarie. *Thursday 26 April, 9 am • Old Fire Station*

OCM BOCAS DEBATE

Four television debates on TV6's *Morning Edition*, covering political, economic and cultural developments in Trinidad and Tobago since Independence. *Monday 23 to Thursday 26 April, 7 am, televised live*

50 YEARS OF FASHION

The author of *A Spirited Butterfly*, Rosemarie Stone, talks to designer Meiling about half a century of fashion in Trinidad and Tobago. *Thursday 26 April, 11.30 am • Old Fire Station*

50 YEARS OF ART

Anne Walmsley, co-author of *Art in the Caribbean*, joined by contemporary artist

Christopher Cozier, art scholar Marsha Pearce, and artist-educator Andy Jacob. *Thursday 26 April, 1.30 pm • Old Fire Station*

MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF PAN

A listening session and discussion of Trinidad's rich steelpan heritage with Kim Johnson, author of *The Illustrated Story of Pan*. *Thursday 26 April, 2.30 pm • AV Room*

OUR OWN LANGUAGE

Lise Winer, editor of the *Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad and Tobago*, talks to Anu Lakhani about the importance of language and everyday words. *Thursday 26 April, 3.30 pm • Old Fire Station*

MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF CARNIVAL

The author of *The Carnivals of Trinidad and Tobago*, Michael Anthony, talks to Sterling Henderson about how the festival has changed over the past century. *Friday 27 April, 10 am • Old Fire Station*

50 YEARS OF CARIBBEAN PUBLISHING

Anne Walmsley, the former Caribbean editor for Long-

mans, shares her memories of Caribbean writers and publishing in a formative post-Independence decade. *Friday 27 April, 2.30 pm • Old Fire Station*

50 YEARS OF SPORT

Wendell Mottley talks to Vidia Ramphal about Basil Ince's book *Olympian*, and our great athletes of the past fifty years. *Friday 27 April, 10 am • Old Fire Station*

50 YEARS OF POSTCOLONIAL WRITING AND LITERARY TRADITION

With Loretta Collins Klobah, Karen Lord, Shara McCallum, and Kei Miller; chaired by Kenneth Ramchand. *Sunday 29 April, 1 pm • Old Fire Station*

OUR IDEA OF THE "NATION"

With Bridget Brereton, Frank Birbalsingh, and Godfrey P. Smith. *Sunday 29 April, 2.30 pm • Old Fire Station*

The NGC Bocas Lit Fest is an official event in the 50th Anniversary of Independence celebrations, and its work with the Caribbean Literature Action Group (CALAG) is supported by the Ministry of Planning and Economy, as part of its Creative Industries thrust for economic diversification.

FICTION & POETRY

At the heart of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest are a series of readings by some of Trinidad and Tobago's and the Caribbean's finest writers of fiction and poetry — from authors of books already considered contemporary classics to prizewinning newcomers.

At each session, writers read from and discuss their recent books, and answer questions from the audience. Each reading includes a book-signing session. Books are available from participating booksellers.

The 2012 Festival includes several events celebrating emerging writers, including:

DIY fiction

Roger Carter, Roland P. Joseph, and Lester Orie read from their self-published fiction, and discuss their publishing experiences with Rose-Anne Walker.

Saturday 28 April, 12–1 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room

The 2012 NGC Bocas Lit fest also partners with the **Writers' Union of Trinidad and Tobago** for two special events:

Celebrating Willi Chen

The beloved writer and artist reads from his recent fiction and poetry, in a programme hosted by the Writers' Union of Trinidad and Tobago.

2nd Floor Seminar Room • Saturday 28 April, 1.30–2.30 pm

Homegrown talent

Members of the Writers' Union of Trinidad and Tobago share their fiction and poetry.

2nd Floor Seminar Room • Saturday 28 April, 2.30–4.00 pm

Performance poetry/open mic

Because some of the liveliest contemporary poetry lives not on the page but on the stage, the Festival showcases Trinidad and Tobago's vibrant performance poetry scene, with daily performances and open mic sessions. Curated by writer and musician Gillian Moor of Songshine and poet Muhammad Muwakil, these sessions combine hot rhythms with cool lyrics, and change your ideas about poetry.

Abercromby Street arcade, National Library

Thursday 26 April

Lunchtime jam, 11.30 am–12.30 pm

Afternoon jam, 4.30–6 pm

Friday 27 April

Lunchtime jam, 12.30–1.30 pm

Afterwork jam, 4.30–6 pm

Saturday 28 April

Lunchtime jam, 12–1 pm

Afternoon jam, 4–5 pm

Sunday 29 April

Lunchtime jam, 12–1 pm

Sponsored by First Citizens

See the full schedule of fiction and poetry readings in the fold-out programme.



PANELS & DISCUSSIONS

The NGC Bocas Lit Fest is a festival not only of literature, but also of ideas. Our programme includes a series of panels and talks on topics ranging from current affairs to questions of the ages, led by some of our sharpest writer-thinkers.

The lessons of the past: How we learn our history

How are our ideas of ourselves and our societies shaped by the way we learn about the past? Kevin Baldeosingh and Tony Martin, authors of recent history textbooks, talk with well-known historian Brinsley Samaroo.

Thursday 26 April, 10.30–11.30 am • Old Fire Station

What is Caribbean art?: Why we need art history

Anne Walmsley, co-author of *Art in the Caribbean*, joins artist Christopher Cozier, artist-educator Andy Jacobs, and scholar Marsha Pearce for a conversation about Caribbean art history: who writes it, why do we need it, and how do art historians help shape our visual imagination?

Thursday 26 April, 1.30–2.30 pm • Old Fire Station

From the pitch to the page: The literature of cricket

Rahul Bhattacharya, author of *Pundits in Pakistan*, and Joseph O'Neill, author of *Netherland*, talk to Brendan de Caires about the intersections between the sport and literary writing.

Friday 27 April, 1–2 pm • Old Fire Station

Heart of darkness?: Caribbean noir

Johnny Temple of Akashic Books joins *Trinidad Noir* co-editor Lisa Allen-Agostini and *Havana Noir* editor Achy Obejas for a conversation about how this dark genre suits contemporary Caribbean life; chaired by Georgia Popplewell.

Friday 27 April, 3.30–4.30 pm • Old Fire Station

The Big Idea: How Different Are Human Races and Should We Care?

In the first annual NGC Bocas Lecture, geneticist Steve Jones questions our notions of “race”, and discusses the vexed issue with Kevin Baldeosingh.

Saturday 28 April, 1.30–2.30 pm • Old Fire Station

Anxieties of influence: Postcolonial writing and literary tradition

“Postcolonial” writers in English juggle literary influences ranging from classic British literature to indigenous traditions to the ever-expanding body of “world” literature. Is this a burden or a blessing? Loretta Collins Klobah, Karen Lord, Shara McCallum and Kei Miller talk to pioneering critic Kenneth Ramchand

about finding their own distinctive voices.

Sunday 29 April, 1–2 pm • Old Fire Station

National interests: How our idea of the “nation” has changed since Independence

Historian Bridget Brereton leads a conversation with literary scholar Frank Birbalsingh and Godfrey P. Smith, author of *George Price: A Life Revealed*, about post-Independence nationalism.

Sunday 29 April, 2.30–3.30 pm • Old Fire Station

SHORT TALKS

Lively, sharply focused conversations with authors of recent non-fiction books.

Rosemary Stone, author of *A Spirited Butterfly*, on a half century of fashion design in Trinidad and Tobago.

Old Fire Station • Thursday 26 April, 11.30am–12 pm

Lise Winer, author of the *Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad and Tobago*, on how language shapes our understanding of the world.

Old Fire Station • Thursday 26 April, 3.30–4.30 pm

continued on page 14

NEW TALENT SHOWCASE

Every year, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest selects exceptionally talented writers who are yet to publish their first book, and gives them a platform to share their writing via our New Talent Showcase. Four writers have been selected for 2012. *Daily, 12.30 to 1 pm, Old Fire Station*

Stephen Narain (Bahamas/fiction) • *Thursday 26 April*
Sharon Millar (Trinidad/fiction) • *Friday 27 April*
Sonia Farmer (Bahamas/poetry) • *Saturday 28 April*
Rhoda Bharath (Trinidad/fiction) • *Sunday 29 April*

Sponsored by Courts

WORKSHOPS

SHORT TALKS *continued*

Michael Anthony, author of *The Carnivals of Trinidad and Tobago*, on how the annual festival has changed in the past century.
Old Fire Station • Friday 27 April, 10–10.45 am

Anne Walmsley, former Caribbean editor for Longmans, shares her memories of Caribbean writers and writing in the decade after Independence.
Old Fire Station • Friday 27 April, 2.30–3.15 pm

Wendell Mottley, former Olympic athlete, talks to **Vidia Ramphal** about Basil Ince's book *Olympian*, and Trinidad and Tobago's athletic heroes of the last fifty years.
Old Fire Station • Saturday 28 April, 10–10.45 am

Keith McNeal, anthropologist and author of *Trance and Modernity in the Southern Caribbean*, on researching traditions of spirit mediumship in Trinidad and Tobago.
1st Floor Seminar Room • Sunday 29 April, 1.30–2.00 pm

Sponsored by Courts

A series of informative, practical sessions for budding writers. Pre-registration and pre-payment of TT\$60 per workshop required.

Getting started, with Fred D'Aguiar and Myriam Chancy
For new writers: How to find your subject and voice, and break through the barrier of the opening line.
Thursday 26 April, 10 am–12 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Your life as memoir, with Monique Roffey
An introduction to life-writing: identifying your own unique story and how to tell it, plus the ethics of writing about real people.
Thursday 26 April, 1–4 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Getting to the end, with Rabindranath Maharaj and Karen Lord
For advanced writers: How to bring a work in progress to its best conclusion.
Friday 27 April, 10 am–12 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Form and freedom, with Shara McCallum and Kei Miller
For poets: exploring how different forms and structures can create new channels for the imagination.
Friday 27 April, 1–4 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Sing your song, with Llewellyn "Short Pants" MacIntosh
Literature meets music in lyric-writing. A masterclass from

one of the cleverest calypsonians in the business.

Saturday 28 April, 10 am–12 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Writing for performance, with Nicolette Bethel and Patti-Ann Ali
How do you create plot, character, and narrative tension using only dialogue? Two playwright-directors offer exercises in writing for the stage, radio, and other forms of performance.

Saturday 27 April, 1–4 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

How to get published, with Ellah Allfrey, Shruti Debi, and Johnny Temple

A journal editor, a literary agent, and a publisher explain how the business of contemporary publishing works, and give tips on packaging and selling your manuscript.

Sunday 29 April, 10 am–12 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

If you are interested in attending one of our workshops, contact us at info@bocaslitfest.com or by phone at (868) 625 8328 to verify there is still space available. Fee: TT\$60 per workshop.

FILMS

Sponsored by Flow

A selection of films based on Caribbean books and poems or with strong literary connections. All screened in the Audio Visual Room on the lower ground floor, National Library.

La Imagen y la Palabra (The Image and the Word)
Directed by Marilyn Birchfield (2011, 60 mins)

A series of twelve short film adaptations of poems by Venezuelan writers.

Thursday 26 April, 12 pm

Sonny Boy
Directed by Maria Peters (2011, 130 mins)

An adaptation of the 2004 book by Dutch writer Annejet van der Zijl, about a young Surinamese man who travels to the Netherlands in 1920. There he finds love across the barrier of race, until his family is threatened by the outbreak of World War II.

Thursday 26 April, 4 pm

W.A.R.
Directed by Clairmont Chung (2010, 160 mins)

A documentary on Walter Rodney, the Guyanese historian and activist killed in 1980 in a still mysterious incident, offering new insight into his life, career, and legacy.

Friday 27 April, 11 am

Love in the Time of Cholera
Directed by Mike Newell (2007, 130 mins)

An adaptation of the celebrated novel by Gabriel García Márquez, about a long-smoul-

dering love triangle — set in Cartagena on Colombia's Caribbean coast.

Friday 27 April, 4 pm

Wuthering Heights
Directed by Andrea Arnold (2011, 123 mins)

An adaptation of the classic novel by Emily Brontë. A poor boy of unknown origins is rescued from poverty by the Earnshaw family; he develops an intense relationship with his young foster sister. In this new film adaptation, Heathcliff is cast more as a runaway slave than "of gypsy stock."

Saturday 28 April, 11 am

The First Grader
Directed by Justin Chadwick (2010, 103 mins)
An uplifting true story set in

Kenya, about an octogenarian who goes back to school to learn to read and write.

Following the screening, Paula Lucie-Smith of the Adult Literary Tutors Association will discuss her organisation's work, and ALTA alumni will read their own pieces reflecting on the film.

Saturday 28 April, 2 pm
Supported by the Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence programme

Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask

Directed by Isaac Julien (1996, 70 mins)
A drama-documentary about the influential Martiniquan writer and anti-colonial theorist. Followed by an open discussion.

Sunday 29 April, 12.30 pm
Supported by the Alliance Française/Embassy of France in Trinidad and Tobago

Wuthering Heights



ART & MUSIC



The festival programme includes several events celebrating contemporary Caribbean visual art, and a music programme covering a range of styles, blending words with sound.

Books and Stupas

An exhibition of *papier mâché* sculptures by Wendy Nanan, inspired by the traditional Bookman masquerade of Trinidad Carnival — a devil carrying an oversize book inscribed with the names of the damned. Nanan's pieces are giant books that reveal stories about religion, love, life and death.

3 to 24 April • Medulla Art Gallery, 37 Fitt Street, Woodbrook

Selected works from *Books and Stupas* are on display in the National Library during the NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

Tales for the Bookman

A special pre-festival event: Lisa Allen-Agostini, Barbara Jenkins, Anu Lakhan, and

Vladimir Lucien read stories and poems responding to the works in *Books and Stupas*. Friday 13 April, 7–9 pm • Medulla Art Gallery

What is Caribbean art?: Why we need art history

A discussion with Anne Walmsley, Christopher Cozier, Andy Jacob, and Marsha Pearce. Chaired by Nicholas Laughlin.

Thursday 26 April, 1.30–3 pm • Old Fire Station



Pictures from Paradise

Presented by Robert & Christopher Publishers

The launch of a new book on contemporary Caribbean photography, edited by Melanie Archer and Mariel Brown, featuring 18 artists. Images from the book will be on view.

Thursday 26 April, 6.30–10 pm • Medulla Art Gallery

50 not out

Pan supremo Ray Holman plays solo at our celebration of 50 years of writing from Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica Friday 27 April, 7.30 pm • Martin's, Woodford Street, Newtown

From the Old Yard

The premiere of *The Old Yard: Carnival Portraits from Trinidad*, composed by Adam Walters for strings, wind, and percussion, inspired by traditional characters such as the Moko Jumbie and Dame Lorraine. With poems by Muhammad Muwakil and images by photographer Maria Nunes. The programme includes Peter Warlock's *Songs for Tenor and String Quartet*, featuring Edward Cumberbatch.

Saturday 28 April, 5 pm • Theatre 1, Academy for the Performing Arts, Keate Street

Bocas farewell

The 2012 festival closes with performances by poet and musician Gillian Moor, the Freetown Collective, jazz vocalist Ruth Osman, and Mike Germain and El Destino.

Sunday 29 April, 5–6.30 pm • Library amphitheatre

Festival artist: NIKOLAI NOEL

Every year the NGC Bocas Lit Fest invites an artist to create a limited-edition work of art. The first numbered piece becomes part of the unique Festival Art Collection of the National Museum and Art Gallery.

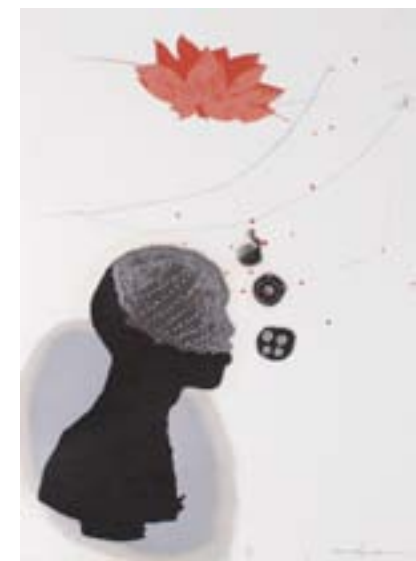
The 2012 festival artist is Trinidadian Nikolai Noel, currently a Fulbright Grantee in the Virginia Commonwealth University Painting and Printmaking MFA programme. His work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions at CCA7, Alice Yard, The Independent New York, NADA, and the Art Museum of the Americas.

☿ (*Mercury*) is from a wider series called *Gathering Instruments*, in which the artist invents a mythological voyager. At sea in a strange world, this voyager searches for a home — both physical and spiritual — somewhere over the horizon. Noel refers to images from cartography, geometry, optics, astronomy, and also alchemy and magic, as he imagines “a fictional process and apparatus” for navigating this journey. ☿ (*Mercury*) depicts

“this stranded figure accessing arcane information,” Noel writes, “in an effort to find a starting place,” a new centre.

The title of the work refers to both the planet Mercury and the element mercury as understood in ancient alchemy. Astrologically, the planet Mercury is believed to govern human reasoning and thinking, communication, and adaptability to changing circumstances. Alchemists considered the element mercury to be the *prima materia* or “first matter” of all metals — the beginning point for the mythical transmutation of base substances into gold.

Noel's image is a visual allegory of humankind's search for knowledge and understanding of the world, using “instruments” of both science and the



☿ (*Mercury*)

Silkscreen on archival paper, 27 x 19.5 inches

Edition of 70, signed and numbered by the artist

Studio: Axelle Fine Art, NY
Price: TT\$2,500

imagination. It also depicts Caribbean people's quest to imagine, find, or build their new home in the waters of the New World, drawing on their ancestral knowledge to create a new map that locates the Caribbean at the centre of our own destiny.

Sponsored by



The National Museum and Art Gallery

The Trinidad and Tobago National Museum and Art Gallery Festival Art Collection was started in 2008. Other works in the collection are: *Lapeyrouse Wall*, by Peter Doig; *Cobo*, by Edward Bowen; and *Now Showing*, by Christopher Cozier (commissioned by the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival); and *Give and Take*, by Chris Ofilé (commissioned by the NGC Bocas Lit Fest).

For information on purchasing, contact Jaime Lee Loy: (868) 771 4113 / 221 2840
info@bocaslitfest.com

OCM BOCAS PRIZE FOR CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

2012 is the second year of the annual OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, sponsored by One Caribbean Media, the largest media organisation in the Caribbean and owners of TV6, Hott 93 radio, the *Express* newspapers in Trinidad and Tobago, and the Caribbean-wide radio Superstation.

Books published in 2011 by authors of Caribbean birth or citizenship were eligible in three genre categories: poetry, fiction, and literary non-fiction.

The OCM Bocas Prize has two stages. First, panels of distinguished judges select the best book in each of the three genre categories. Next, the chairs of the poetry, fiction, and non-fiction panels,

joined by the overall chair and vice-chair of the prize, form a final prize jury to select the final winner from the three genre winners.

The 2012 longlist includes writers representing six different Caribbean countries, and the shortlisted books, comprising the winners in each genre category, are from Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Belize.

The overall winner of the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, announced on Saturday 28 April, will receive US\$10,000. The winner in each category receives a crystal trophy.

The winner of the first OCM Bocas Prize in 2011 was Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott, for his poetry collection *White Egrets*. Edwidge Danticat's *Create Dangerously* won the non-fiction category, and Tiphonie Yanique's debut book *How to Escape From a Leper Colony* was the winner of the fiction category.

2012 PRIZE LONGLIST

Poetry

The Twelve Foot Neon Woman, by Loretta Collins Klobah (Puerto Rico)

Tantie Diabliesse, by Fawzia Kane (Trinidad and Tobago)

This Strange Land, by Shara McCallum (Jamaica/USA)

Fiction

The Ladies Are Upstairs, by Merle Collins (Grenada)

Near Open Water, by Keith Jardim (Trinidad and Tobago)

Is Just a Movie, by Earl Lovelace (Trinidad and Tobago)

Vital Signs, by Tessa McWatt (Guyana/Canada)

Non-fiction

Olympian: 75 Years of Trinidad and Tobago in Olympic Sport, by Basil Ince (Trinidad and Tobago)

Colour Me English: Thoughts About Migrations and Belonging Before and After 9/11, by Caryl Phillips (St. Kitts/UK)

George Price: A Life Revealed, by Godfrey P. Smith (Belize)

WINNER, POETRY



Loretta Collins Klobah's *The Twelve Foot Neon Woman* presents a vividly contemporary poetic voice which focuses on the ruminations of a powerful female narrator, navigating the Caribbean's intricately plotted history and identity.

Publisher: Peepal Tree Press, United Kingdom

From The Twelve Foot Neon Woman on Top of Maria's Exotik Pleasure Palace Speaks of Papayas, Hurricanes, and Wakes

Look, with that scaffold up my back,
I was feeling Christ-like, like the stone Xavior
on the rock pinnacles of Río de Janeiro.
Felt like conducting the bloody symphony
of carnival in Rio's Sambadrome, or stalking
through the streets like Oya, orisha of whirlwinds
and cemeteries. Felt like flying to Guadeloupe,
Point-à-Pitre, where Kweyol rap booms through
the graveyards. Felt like landing on the black and white
checkerboard crypts of Morne-à-l'Eau.
Felt like it would free me from mourning you.
Felt like tasting of salt, and reggae, and rude boys.
Felt like sunning myself on the walls of the Fortaleza.
Felt like stretching my electric legs . . .



Loretta Collins Klobah is a professor of Caribbean Literature and creative writing at the University of Puerto Rico, San Juan. She has lived in various locations related to the Caribbean experience, including Jamaica, England, and Canada. She earned an MFA in poetry writing from the Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa, where she also completed a doctoral degree in English, with an emphasis on Caribbean literary and cultural studies. This is her first poetry collection.

POETRY JUDGES

Chair: Fred D'Aguiar, British-Guyanese poet and fiction writer, has published eleven widely translated works. His most recent book, *Continental Shelf* (2009) was a UK Poetry Book Society Choice and shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. He is the Gloria D. Smith Professor of English at Virginia Tech, USA.

Nicolette Bethel, Bahamian writer and anthropologist, is a former Bahamas Director of Culture and has published several poems and short stories, and co-authored and co-produced plays for the Bahamian stage. She is the editor-in-chief of the poetry journal *tongues of the ocean*, and head of the Shakespeare in Paradise theatre festival.

Kendel Hippolyte, St. Lucian poet and playwright, has designed and directed poetry workshops in locations such as Wales and Barbados. He has published six collections of poetry, most recently *Fault Lines* (2012). In 2000 he was awarded the St. Lucia Medal of Merit (Gold) for his commitment and contribution to the arts. He is a coordinator of the Word Alive Literary Festival.

FICTION JUDGES

Chair: Ellah Allfrey, is the Deputy Editor of *Granta* magazine. Prior to this, she worked at Jonathan Cape, where, in addition to publishing history titles, she introduced a series of young African writers. She was a 2010 judge of the Caine Prize for African Writing and the David Cohen Prize. In 2011 she received the OBE for her contributions to the publishing industry.

Rabindranath Maharaj, Trinidadian-Canadian writer, has published five novels and three short story collections. *The Interloper* (1995) and *A Perfect Pledge* (2005) were nominated for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize. *The Amazing Absorbing Boy*, (2010) was longlisted for the inaugural OCM Bocas Prize and won the 2010 Trillium Book Award and the 2011 Toronto Book Award.

Achy Obejas, Cuban-American writer and journalist, has written three novels, a short story collection, and a poetry collection. Her awards include a Pulitzer Prize, numerous Peter Lisagor journalism honours, two Lambda Literary Awards, and a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in poetry.

WINNER, FICTION



Earl Lovelace's *Is Just a Movie* is a compelling and sensitive portrayal of multi-layered Trinidadian society in the late 20th century, told in the author's unmistakable style with both nostalgic and redemptive nuance.

Publisher: Faber, United Kingdom

From *Is Just a Movie*

Right after Carnival, a fella from America come down here to Trinidad, say he making movies in the island. Big announcement. Big write-up. Front page. He building up the movie industry. Big talk. Local talent wedded to foreign technology, the set of shit you hear already. But with the help of the government and the business community, the movie gets under way.

They have auditions. I set out to go. As a well-known composer and singer of calypso, a real calypsonian, not just a fella who sing other people songs, I don't expect a problem. I will show them. Forget calypso. I will be a movie star . . . They have auditions. I set out to go . . . And I do for them a piece of my Midnight Robber speech:

My name is Kangkala, maker of confusion . . .



Earl Lovelace was born in Toco and spent most of his life in Trinidad and Tobago. He has been a journalist, and writer in residence at the University of the West Indies and at universities in the United States and Britain. His books have been translated into German, Dutch, French and Hungarian, and his short stories have been widely anthologised. His books include *While Gods Are Falling*, winner of the BP Independence Award, the Caribbean classic *The Dragon Can't Dance*, and *Salt*, which won the 1997 Commonwealth Writers' Prize.

WINNER, NON-FICTION



Godfrey P. Smith's *George Price: A Life Revealed* marks a highlight of lovingly compiled and masterfully researched biography, illuminating the former Belizean Prime Minister's march towards securing national Independence.

Publisher: Ian Randle Publishers, Jamaica

From *George Price: A Life Revealed*

At precisely 5.15 a.m. the door of the old, wooden, grey house creaked open, just as it had done every morning at the same time for the past seventy years. An old man, thin and frail, came slowly down the stairs, stepping carefully over a dog lying on the top step. "I see you're there," he said as he approached the gate, key at the ready, unlocking the small padlock that kept the gate locked at night, and stepped out onto the street. His face was alert from a full night's rest, his slightly long hair freshly combed. His blue guayabera matched the cerulean patches of sky straining to emerge from behind the grey rain clouds hanging with low, fickle uncertainty over the August morning. He wore dark blue pinstriped trousers, khaki socks and a pair of comfortable-looking shoes made, he said, from ostrich skin. It was a gift from his grand-nephew. . .



Godfrey Smith is a former member of the Belize House of Representatives for the Pickstock Division previously held by George Price. He served as a cabinet minister in the PUP administration of Said Musa from 1999 to 2008, holding various positions, including Attorney General and Foreign Minister. Smith is a practicing attorney at law. This is his first biography.

NON-FICTION JUDGES

Chair: Frank Birbalsingh, Guyanese academic and author, is one of the most significant contributors to the study of the Indo-Caribbean diaspora. His books include *The Rise of West Indian Cricket*, and *Novels and the Nation: Essays in Canadian Literature*. He is professor emeritus at York University in Toronto.

Erna Brodber, Jamaican writer and sociologist, is the author of three novels. *Myal* received the 1989 Caribbean and Canadian regional Commonwealth Writers' Prize. She has also published works of non-fiction including *The Second Generation of Freeman in Jamaica* (2004) and *The Continent of Black Consciousness* (2003).

Lise Winer, Canadian academic, is the author of the *Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad & Tobago* (2009), the most comprehensive investigation of the Trinidadian and Tobagonian lexicography, and *Badjohns, Bhaaji & Banknote Blue: Essays on the Social History of Language in Trinidad and Tobago* (2007). She is a professor in the Faculty of Education at McGill University.

**2012 OCM BOCAS PRIZE
OVERALL CROSS-GENRE
JUDGING PANEL**

Chair: **George Lamming**, Barbadian writer and scholar, has created a significant and influential body of work, which includes his novels *In the Castle of My Skin* (1953) and *The Emigrants* (1954), numerous essays, poems, and short fiction, anthologies and social commentary. His extensive list of awards and accolades includes a



Guggenheim Fellowship in 1955, a Canada Council Fellowship in 1962, a Langston Hughes Medal in 1998, the Order of the Caribbean Community in 2008, a 2011 Caribbean Hibiscus Prize, and an ALBA Cultural Award in 2012.

Vice Chair: **Marjorie Thorpe**, representative of the OCM Bocas Prize administrators, was Regional Chair of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize (Canada and the Caribbean) 2003–2005. She is a former Chair of the Academic Screening Committee of the Fulbright 2000 Scholarship Awards; a former Dean of the Faculty of Arts and General Studies at UWI, St. Augustine; Trinidad and Tobago's former

Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations; and Deputy Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women. She is currently a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Salaries Review Commission and the Strategy and Planning Committee of the University of the West Indies.

Ellah Allfrey, OBE, Chair of the Fiction Panel.

Frank Birbalsingh, Chair of the Non-fiction Panel.

Fred D'Aguiar, Chair of the Poetry Panel.

LONSDALE AD

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

The NGC Bocas Lit Fest is a festival for all ages, including a full programme of activities for young readers, sponsored by KFC. During the last weekend in March and weekends during April there were story-telling events for children around the country, and alongside the main Festival from 26 to 29 April runs a full programme of events for children.



All children's events from Friday 27 to Sunday 29 April take place at the National Children's Library

THURSDAY 26 APRIL

Events at City Hall, Knox Street

Selections from *Bocas Children's Stories 2011*, with a surprise reader
9–9.10 am

The Food Chain, with Gregory Thompson
9.10–9.30 am

Monologue by a 10-year-old
9.30–9.35 am

Monologue by a schoolgirl
9.35–9.40 am

Stories from Bocas Lit Fest, read by children
9.40–10 am

BREAK
10.15–10.30 am

Performance by Kes the Illusionist
10.15–10.30 am

NGC Bocas welcome
10.30–10.40 am

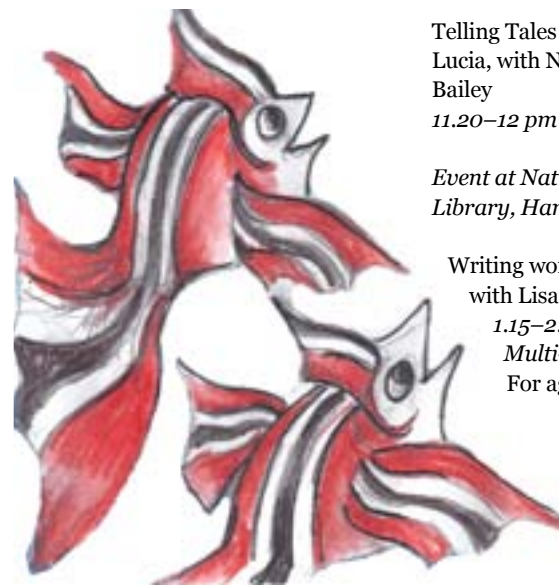
The Wonderful World of Mayat, with Omar Lewis
10.40–11 am

Little Lion on the Ball, with Kellie Magnus
11–11.20 am

Telling Tales From Saint Lucia, with Nahdjla Carasco Bailey
11.20–12 pm

Event at National Children's Library, Hart Street

Writing workshop, with Lisa Allen-Agostini.
1.15–2.45 pm
Multi-purpose Room
For ages 9 to 14



FRIDAY 27 APRIL

Stories from the Monkey Polo Series, with Al Ramsawack
10–10.15 am
Activity Room
For ages 8 to 12

Telling Tales From St. Lucia, with Nahdjla C. Bailey
10.15–11.15 am
Multi-purpose Room

The Wonderful World of Mayat, with Omar Lewis
11.30 am–12.30 pm
Multi-purpose Room
For ages 6 to 9

LUNCH
12.30–1.30 pm

Writing workshop, with Felix Edinborough
1.30–2.30 pm
Multi-purpose Room
For ages 9 to 14



Children's Stories from the Bocas Lit Fest 2011 is a collection of 16 stories told by children during last year's Children's Festival. It is beautifully illustrated, and contains a map of Trinidad and Tobago, and questions to make readers think.

Stories include: The Adventures of a Baby Turtle, An Adventure in the Northern Range, Hyarima's Last Feast, How the King Fish Got His Name, The Secret of the Devil's Woodyard, The Corbeau Who Wanted to Be Beautiful, and Trouble in the Market.

Available for purchase from booksellers at the Festival and in bookshops. Price: TT\$100.

SATURDAY 28 APRIL

KFC storytelling, with Miguel Browne: "Lost on J'Ouvert Morning"

10 am–12 pm

Activity/Multi-purpose Room

For ages 7 to 14

LUNCH

12–1 pm

Caribbean animations and cartoons

1–2 pm

Multi-purpose Room

For ages 7 to 14

BREAK

2–2.30 pm

The Snake King of Kalinago and Gregory Cool, with Polly Pattullo

2.30–3.10 pm

Activity Room

Caribbean animations and cartoons

3.10–3.30 pm

Multi-purpose Room

For ages 7 to 14

CHILDREN'S STORYTELLERS

Five masters of the oral tradition travel around the country in April to tell stories to children, and to hear theirs too.

Glenda Nassoma Rose Layne is an accomplished performance storyteller with a strong belief in the oral tradition. Her original scripts have won international awards, and despite the demands of her position as head of the Culture department in the Division of Community Development and Culture in Tobago, she finds time to practice her craft.

Theodora Ulerie (Auntie Thea) has been telling stories to people of all ages at home and abroad since 1984, through her Rise 'N Shine Workshops. She is also a poet, writer, and community arts consultant.

Lylah Persad, storyteller and actor, is also a creative director, writer, former business manager of the Trinidad Theatre Workshop, and founder of St. Kitts Experience Theatre.

Miguel Browne, storyteller, dialect poet, rhythm rhymers, Talk Tent star, and history teacher at St. Mary's College, is a popular performer of long standing.

Dara Healy is a trained dancer and performance poet who writes and performs her work for children through the Idakeda Company and on TV and radio, both locally and internationally.

Once a poet showed me a world in a grain of sand. He said there was heaven in a wildflower, and my imagination glowed. The KFC Children's Bocas Lit Fest intends to light many sparks in young minds, opening doors through which men and women emerge as authors, journalists, film writers — as people who see the rainbow in a hummingbird's wing. If, like Rumi, they learn that somewhere there is a field where the pen is mightier than the sword, then the KFC Children's Bocas Lit Fest would have achieved our aims.

Danielle Delon, KFC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Director

CHILDREN'S AUTHORS

Five authors of children's literature read from their books.

Kellie Magnus is a Jamaican journalist and author of *Little Lion Goes to School*, *Little Lion at Bat* and *Jamaica: Caribbean Street Food*. She writes feature articles for the New York editions of both the *Daily News* and the *Jamaica Gleaner*.

Al Ramsawack has written over 300 children's stories, including the Monkey Polo series. He is an artist, folklorist, recipient of the Humming Bird Medal (Silver) 2004 for folklore/culture and the 1997 Media Award for best television documentary, and is the story-time columnist for the *Sunday Guardian's Sun Shine* children's magazine.

Gregory Thompson, author of a series of books for young readers called *The Adventures of Mantie and Andy*, is also a teacher.

Omar Lewis, the creator and illustrator of *The Wonderful World of Myat*, is a senior lecturer and consultant on the UTT Animation Programme. His extensive illustration career includes stints with Marvel Comics in New York.

Nahdjila Carasco Bailey is the author of *Time for Poetry (Bite In)* and *Telling Tales From Saint Lucia*.

Polly Pattullo is a journalist and a publisher of children's books. In 2011 her Papillote Press published *The Snake King of the Kalinago*, and also *Abraham's Treasure* by Joanne Skerrett, a great adventure story for young people. Set in Dominica, the book is described by the award-winning children's writer Ros Asquith as "a moving coming of age story packed with tropical adventure."

SUNDAY 29 APRIL

Stories from the Monkey Polo Series, with Al Ramsawack

10–11.45 am

Multi-purpose Room

For ages 7 to 14

The Princess, the Treasure and the Blue Dragon, with Stacey Alfonso-Mills

11.45 am–12 pm

Multi-purpose Room

LUNCH

12–1 pm

KFC Storytelling, with Auntie Thea: "Adventure on Maracas Bay"

1–3 pm

Activity/Multi-purpose Room

BREAK

3–3.15 pm

Caribbean animations and cartoons

3.15–4.15 pm

Multi-purpose Room

For ages 7 to 14



Special Guest

Kes the Illusionist, called the Caribbean's greatest magician, has been mesmerising audiences for the last 10 years.

WHO'S WHO

Meet the members of the 2012 NGC Bocas Lit Fest team.

Marina Salandy-Brown is the founder and Festival Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest and OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. She was previously the Executive Director of the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival, and since 2005 has been a consultant with the Trinidad and Tobago Film Company and a regional media consultant. She is a prize-winning former BBC programme maker with a publishing background, and since 2005 has been a *Newsday* columnist. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a former member of the Arts Council of Great Britain's Literary Panel, and in 2005 was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Westminster.

Nicholas Laughlin is the Programme Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest and a member of the OCM Bocas Prize organising committee. He is editor of *The Caribbean Review of Books* and has served as a judge for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and Commonwealth Short Story Competition. He is also co-director of the contemporary art space Alice Yard.

Danielle Delon is Director of the KFC Children's Bocas Lit Fest. She is the editor of *The Letters of Margaret Mann*, a

former magazine editor, and a publisher whose current projects include a new book about Trinidad and Tobago food. She is also the Festival's unofficial photographer.

Patrice Matthews is the owner/managing director of a marketing and business consultancy, Achieve, established in 2000, and has worked in the local telecommunications, film, and media industries. She also freelances as a Virtual Assistant, providing a variety of business support services. She is the Festival's Administrator.

Joan Dayal, the Festival's Booksellers' Coordinator, is the owner of Paper Based, the bookshop that for 25 years has specialised in Caribbean literature and post-colonial writing, and promotes the work of a wide range of local artists.

Lucita Esau, OCM Bocas Prize Ceremony and Merchandising Coordinator, runs her own design business.

Gillian Moor, writer, poet, singer, and founder of Songshine, is Co-organiser of the Festival's Performance Poetry and Open Mic events.

Muhammad Muwakil, a performance poet and member of

the Freetown Collective, is the co-organiser of the Performance Poetry and Open Mic sessions of the Festival.

Sophie Meyer is curator of the Festival's film programme. She is a documentary filmmaker whose works have been screened at the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival.

Natacha Jones, KFC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Storytelling Coordinator, is a broadcaster and actor.

Yvonne Thomas, Festival Volunteers Coordinator, is a veteran theatre production manager who also worked with Peter Minshall's mas camp.

Rodell Warner, the official Festival photographer, was a recipient of the 2011 Commonwealth Connections International Arts Residency. He curates the often-updated toomucheyes.com.

Shivane Ramlochan, the official Festival blogger, is a writer who blogs about books at novelniche.wordpress.com.

Cedric Smart is the Festival's Technical Coordinator. He is a consultant providing a complete service in sound, sound design and sound production.

Marielle Forbes is Guest Coordinator for the Festival.

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CREDITS & THANKS

The NGC Bocas Lit Fest Organising Committee also includes:

Kenrick Attale
Funso Aiyejina
Marjorie Thorpe
Linda Leona Lee
Anu Lakhan
Rhoda Bharath

The Bocas Lit Fest is a non-profit company incorporated and registered in Trinidad and Tobago.

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staff of Lonsdale Saatchi & Saatchi, who have again come up trumps, and to everyone at the CCN group, a very special thanks for your most valuable support and for putting your expertise at our disposal.



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