

# THURSDAY 26 APRIL, 2012

#### **FESTIVAL WELCOME** The 2012 NGC Bocas Lit Fest officially kicks off!

with Penelope Beckles, Albert Laveau, Kenneth Ramchand, Cecilia Salazar, and Bhoendradatt Tewarie 9.00–10.00 am 

Old Fire Station To commemorate 50 years of Independence, local luminaries read from classic works looking back to 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"

# WORKSHOP

# Getting started

with Myriam Chancy and OCM Bocas Prize judge Fred D'Aquiar 10.00 am-12.00 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

For beginning writers: how to find your subject and voice, and break through the barrier of the opening line.

## FICTION

# Sharon Leach and Kei Miller

chaired by Nicha Selvon-Ramkissoon 10.30–11.30 am • AV Room Readings by the Jamaican authors of What You Can't Tell Him and The Last Warner Woman

## DISCUSSION

The lessons of the past: how we learn our history with Kevin Baldeosingh and Tony Martin, chaired by Brinsley Samaroo 10.30-11.30 am • Old Fire Station How are our ideas of ourselves and our

societies shaped by the way we learn about the past? Authors of recent history textbooks share their perspectives.

#### **PERFORMANCE POETRY/OPEN MIC** Lunchtime jam

11.30 am-12.30 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade

A selection of performance poets and musicians take their vibe to the streets of the city. Plus a chance for budding writers to share their work.

#### SHORT TALK Rosemary Stone on a half-century of style

11.30 am-12.00 pm 
• Old Fire Station The author of A Spirited Butterfly talks to designer Meiling about fifty years of fashion design in Trinidad and Tobago.

## FILMS

La Imagen y la Palabra (The Image and the Word), dir. Marilyn Birchfield 12.00-1.00 pm • AV Room

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

#### NEW TALENT SHOWCASE Stephen Narain

12.30–1.00 pm • Old Fire Station The first of our New Talent Showcase writers reads from his fiction and discusses his work.

Kendel Hippolyte and Lasana Sekou chaired by Rose-Ann Walker 1.00–2.00 pm • AV Room Readings by two remarkable poets from St. Lucia and St. Martin.

#### WORKSHOP

Your life as memoir with Monique Roffey 1.00–4.00 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room An introduction to life-writing: identifying your own unique story and how to tell

it, plus the ethics of writing about real

DISCUSSION

people.

## What is Caribbean art?: why we need art history

with Anne Walmsley, Christopher Cozier, Andy Jacob, and Marsha Pearce; chaired by Nicholas Laughlin 1.30–2.30 pm • Old Fire Station The co-author of Art in the Caribbean discusses the genesis of her book and the importance of the art historian's role, ioined by a leading contemporary artist. an artist-teacher, and an art scholar.

# MUSIC

50 years of pan with Kim Johnson 2.30–3.30 pm • AV Room A listening session and discussion of Trinidad's rich steelpan heritage in the decades since Independence

## SHORT TALK

Lise Winer on how words shape our world

3.30–4.30 pm • Old Fire Station The compiler of the Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad and Tobago talks to Anu Lakhan about the importance of language and everyday words.

#### Sonny Boy, dir. Maria Peters 4.00–6.00 pm • AV Room

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 the World War II.

## FICTION

Erna Brodber and Karen Lord chaired by Lisa Allen-Agostini 4.30-5.30 pm • Old Fire Station Readings by novelists from Jamaica and Barbados, from books that merge the literary and the supernatural.

# PERFORMANCE POETRY/OPEN MIC

Afternoon iam 4.30-5.30 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade A selection of performance poets and musicians take their vibe to the streets

of the city. Plus a chance for budding writers to share their work.

# **BOOK LAUNCH** Pictures from Paradise

Presented by Robert & Christopher Publishers

6.30–9.00 pm • Medulla Art Gallerv. 37 Fitt Street, Woodbrook The launch of a new book on contemporary Caribbean photography, edited

by Melanie Archer and Mariel Brown, and featuring nearly 300 images from eighteen artists. The editors will introduce the project, and images from the book will be on display.

# FRIDAY 27 APRIL, 2012

## POETRY

Loretta Collins Klobah and Fawzia Kane chaired by Vladimir Lucien

10.00-11.00 am • AV Room Poets from Puerto Rico and Trinidad read from their debut books.

# WORKSHOP

Getting to the end with Karen Lord and Rabindranath Maharai 10.00 am-12.00 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

For advanced writers: how to bring a work in progress to its best conclusion.

# SHORT TALK

Michael Anthony on the evolution of Carnival 10.00–10.45 am • Old Fire Station The author of The Carnivals of Trinidad and Tobago talks to Sterling Henderson about how the annual festival has changed over the past century.

# FICTION

Fred D'Aguiar and Achy Obejas chaired by Margaret Busby 11.00 am-12.00 pm • Old Fire Station Readings by the Guyanese-British and Cuban-American authors of novels on

history, family, and exile.

W.A.R. Stories, dir. Clairmont Chung 11.00 am-12.30 pm • AV Room A documentary on the life of Walter Rodney, the Guyanese historian and activist killed in a still mysterious incident in 1980.

# NEW TALENT SHOWCASE

Sharon Millar 12.30–1.00 pm • Old Fire Station The second of our 2012 New Talent

and discusses her work

Showcase writers reads from her fiction

# **PERFORMANCE POETRY/OPEN MIC**

Lunchtime jam 12.30–1.30 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade A selection of performance poets and musicians take their vibe to the streets of the city. Plus a chance for budding writers to share their work.

# DISCUSSION

From the pitch to the page: the literature of cricket with Rahul Bhattacharya and Joseph O'Neill, chaired by Brendan de Caires 1.00-2.00 pm • Old Fire Station The authors of Pundits in Pakistan about the India cricket team's tour of Pakistan in 2003–2004 — and Netherland – a novel in which cricket plays a central role - discuss the intersections between the sport and literary writing.

# WORKCHOD

Form and freedom with Shara McCallum and Kei Miller 1.00–4.00 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room For poets: exploring how different forms and structures can create new channels for imagination.

## POETRY

**Nicolette Bethel and Lelawattee** Manoo-Bahming chaired by Sonia Farmer 2 00-3 00 pm • AV Room Readings by two poets based in the Bahamas.

## SHORT TALK

Anne Walmsley on Caribbean publishing in the 1970s 2.30–3.15 pm • Old Fire Station The former Caribbean editor for Longmans talks to Nicholas Laughlin about her memories of Caribbean writers and

publishing in a formative post-Inde-

Midnight Robber showdown

# pendence decade. PERFORMANCE

2.30-3.30 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade Mocking pretenders beware! Featuring Kurtis Gross, Fedon Honoré, Johnny Stollmeyer, and Bill Trotman

## DISCUSSION

Heart of darkness?: Caribbean noir with Johnny Temple, Lisa Allen-Agostini, and Achy Obejas; chaired by Georgia Popplewell 3.30-4.30 pm • Old Fire Station The founder of Akashic Books, publishe of a celebrated noir fiction anthology series, joins the editors of Trinidad Noir and Havana Noir for a conversation about how and why this dark genre suits contemporary Caribbean life.

#### FILM

# Love in the Time of Cholera, dir. Mike Newel

4.00-6.00 pm • AV Room An adaptation of the celebrated novel by Gabriel García Márquez, about a long-smouldering love triangle-set in Cartagena on Colombia's Caribbean coast.

# PERFORMANCE POETRY/OPEN MIC

Afterwork jam 4.30–6.00 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade

A selection of performance poets and musicians take their vibe to the streets of the city. Plus a chance for budding writers to share their work.

#### **READING/PERFORMANCE**

50 Not Out: A literary celebration of 50 years of Independence 7.30 pm till late • Martin's, Woodford Street, Newtown 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.

# SATURDAY 28 APRIL, 2012

## FICTION

One on one with Joseph O'Neill 10.00–11.00 am • AV Room The Dutch-born Irish author of Netherland reads from his work and talks to Judy Raymond about the joysand perils?-of writing a Trinidadian character.

# WORKSHOP

Sing your song

with Llewellvn "Short Pants" MacIntosh 10.00 am-12.00 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Literature meets music in lyric-writing. A masterclass from one of the cleverest calvosonians in the business.

# SHORT TALK

# Wendell Mottley and Vidia Ramphal on Trinidad and Tobago's athletic legacy

10.00–11.00 am • Old Fire Station The former Olympic athlete and the well-known sports commentator discuss Basil Ince's Olympian and our great athletes of the past fifty years.

Andre Bagoo and Vahni Capildeo chaired by Nicholas Laughlin 11.00 am-12.00 pm • Old Fire Station Readings by two Trinidadian poets.

An adaptation of the classic novel by Emily

Brontë. A poor boy of unknown origins is

family: he develops an intense relationship

rescued from poverty by the Earnshaw

with his young foster sister. In this new

adaptation. Heathcliff is cast more as a

**PERFORMANCE POETRY/OPEN MIC** 

12.00–1.00 pm • Abercromby Street

A selection of performance poets and

musicians take their vibe to the streets

of the city. Plus a chance for budding

with Roger Carter. Roland P. Joseph.

12.00-1.00 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar

Three self-published Trinidadian writers

share their work and their publishing

chaired by Rose-Anne Walker

**NEW TALENT SHOWCASE** 

and discusses her work.

Writing for performance

12.30–1.00 pm • Old Fire Station

The third of our 2012 New Talent

Showcase writers reads from her poems

with Nicolette Bethel and Patti-Anne Ali

1.00–4.00 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

How do you create plot, character, and

Two playwright-directors offer exercises

narrative tension using only dialogue?

in writing for the stage and radio.

THE BIG IDEA: THE NGC BOCAS

How different are human races, and

writers to share their work

runaway slave than "of gypsy stock."

Lunchtime jam

Arcade

FICTION

Room

**DIY** fiction

and Lester Orie

experiences.

Sonia Farmer

WORKSHOP

I FCTURE

should we care?

with Steve Jones

# Wuthering Heights, dir. Andrea Arnold

11.00 am-1.30 pm • AV Room

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1.30-2.30 pm • Old Fire Station In the first annual NGC Bocas Lecture, a leading geneticist guestions our notions of "race", and discusses the vexed issue with Kevin Baldeosingh.

#### TRIBUTE Celebrating Willi Chen

Presented by the Writers' Union of Trinidad and Tobago 1.30-2.30 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room

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

# FILM AND READING

The right to read 2.00-4.00 pm • AV Room

Following a screening of the film The First Grader (2010) - an uplifting story set in Kenya, about an octogenarian who goes back to school to learn to read and write - 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.

# FICTION AND POETRY

Homegrown talent Presented by the Writers' Union of Trinidad and Tobago

2.30-3.30 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room

Readings from members of the Writers' Union of Trinidad and Tobago

# FICTION

**Rivka Galchen and Monique Roffey** chaired by Anita Sethi 3.00–4.00 pm • Old Fire Station Readings from the Canadian author of Atmospheric Disturbances and the Trinidadian author of Archipelago.

# PERFORMANCE POETRY/OPEN MIC

Afternoon iam 4.00–5.00 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade

A selection of performance poets and musicians take their vibe to the streets of the city. Plus a chance for budding writers to share their work.

# MUSIC

From the Old Yard with the University of Trinidad and



Tobago faculty musicians, and guests Edward Cumberbatch, Muhammad Muwakil, and Maria Nunes 5.00-6.30 pm • Theatre 1, UTT Academy for the Performing Arts, Keate Street The world premiere of The Old Yard: Carnival Portraits from Trinidad, composed by Adam Walters for strings. wind, and percussion, and featuring poems by Muhammad Muwakil and images by photographer Maria Nunes; together with Peter Warlock's Songs for Tenor and String Quartet, featuring Edward Cumberbatch.

# OCM BOCAS PRIZE FOR CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

# 2012 OCM Bocas Prize

announcement ceremony 6.30–7.30 pm • Theatre 1, UTT Academy for the Performing Arts, Keate Street

The winner of the second annual OCM Bocas Prize is announced.

# SUNDAY 29 APRIL, 2012

## POETRY

Kei Miller and Mervyn Morris moderated by Nicholas Laughlin

10.00-11.00 am 

Old Fire Station Readings by two Jamaican poets.

## FICTION

## One on one with Rabindranath Maharai

10.00-11.00 am • AV Room The Canada-based Trinidadian author of The Amazing Absorbing Boy reads from his work and talks to Kenneth Ramchand about the contemporary novel of migration.

## WORKSHOP

## How to get published

with Ellah Allfrey, OBE, Shruti Debi, and Johnny Temple 10.00 am-12.00 pm • 1st Floor Seminar

Room A iournal editor, a literary agent, and a

publisher explain how the business of contemporary publishing works, and give tips on packaging and selling your manuscript.

## FICTION

#### Rahul Bhattacharya and Chika Unigwe chaired by Anita Sethi

11.00 am-12.00 pm • Old Fire Station Readings by the Indian author of The Sly Company of People Who Care and the Nigerian author of On Black Sisters Street

#### POFTRY

Fred D'Aguiar and Shara McCallum chaired by Giselle Rampaul 11.00 am-12.00 pm • AV Room Readings by poets from Guyana and Jamaica.

# **PERFORMANCE POETRY/OPEN MIC**

Lunchtime jam 12.00–1.00 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade

A selection of performance poets and musicians take their vibe to the streets of the city. Plus a chance for budding writers to share their work.

#### NEW TALENT SHOWCASE Rhoda Bharath

12.30–1.00 pm • Old Fire Station The last of our 2012 New Talent Showcase writers reads from her fiction and discusses her work.

# FILM

#### Frantz Fanon: Black Skin. White Mask, dir. Isaac Julien

12.30 am–2.00 pm • AV Room A "drama-documentary" about the influential Martiniquan writer and anticolonial theorist.

# DISCUSSION

# Anxieties of influence: postcolonial writing and literary tradition

with Loretta Collins Klobah, Karen Lord, Shara McCallum, and Kei Miller; chaired by Kenneth Ramchand 1.00-2.00 pm • Old Fire Station

"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? Four writers discuss their own personal literary influences and finding their own distinctive voices.

# SHORT TALK

Keith McNeal on catching the spirit 1 30-2 00 • 1st Floor Seminar Room

The author of *Trance and Modernity* in the Southern Caribbean talks about researching traditions of trance performance and spirit mediumship in Trinidad and Tobago.

## FICTION

#### One on one with Myriam Chancy 2.00–3.00 pm • AV Room

The Haitian author of the Guyana Prizewinning The Loneliness of Angels talks to Funso Aivejina about the intersections of history, romance, spirituality, and politics in her novel.

#### DISCUSSION

## National interests: how our idea of the "nation" has changed since Independence

with Bridget Brereton, Frank Birbalsingh, and Godfrey P. Smith 2.30–3.30 pm • Old Fire Station One of Trinidad's best known historians leads a conversation on post-Independence nationalism. How has our definition of the "nation" changed over the past 50 years, and what does it mean for contemporary Caribbean society? Joining her are an eminent Guvanese literary scholar and political commentator, and a former attorney general of Belize, author of the biography George Price: A Life Revealed.

# ALLEN PRIZE FOR YOUNG WRITERS

Allen Prize announcement ceremony 3.00–4.00 pm • AV Room Meet the coming generation of writers from Trinidad and Tobago, at the awards ceremony for the annual prize for writers aged 12 to 19. Featuring readings from selected winners of the 2011 prizes.

# FOOD AND STORIES

Tea with the Egg Lady

3.00–4.00 pm • Library Amphitheatre Carolyn Ali talks about her new book of recipes and recollections, and shares treats with her audience.

#### OCM BOCAS PRIZE

Celebrating the 2012 winners 4.00–5.00 pm • Old Fire Station Readings from the three books shortlisted for the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize: The Twelve Foot Neon Woman, by Loretta Collins Klobah (poetry winner), Is Just a *Movie*, by Earl Lovelace (fiction winner), and George Price: A Life Revealed, by Godfrey P. Smith (non-fiction winner). Introduced by Mariorie Thorpe, vice chair of the 2012 Prize judges

#### POETRY AND MUSIC Bocas Farewell

5.00-6.30 pm • Library Amphitheatre The 2012 NGC Bocas Lit Fest closes with sunset performances of music and poetry. Featuring poet and musician Gillian Moor, the Freetown Collective, jazz vocalist Ruth Osman, and Mike Germain and FI Destino.

Except where otherwise indicated. events take place in the National Library and Old Fire Station, Abercromby Street and Hart Street, Port of Spain. All events are free and open to the public.



and Old Fire Station

The National Library of Trinidad and Tobago

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**FESTIVAL PROGRAMME** 

26 to 29 April, 2012 www.bocaslitfest.com

# **Festival artist: NIKOLAI NOEL**

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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, sponsor of the work.

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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 locates the Caribbean at the centre of 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.

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SUPERSTATION

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 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 our own destiny.

These valuable prints are sold to raise funds for the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, to which the artist donated this limited edition

# ¥ (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

# **CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME**

# THURSDAY 26 APRIL

Events at City Hall, Knox Street

Selections from Bocas Children's Stories 2011 with a surprise reader 9.00–9.10 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 9.40–10.00 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 Mavat. with Omar Lewis 10.40–11.00 am

> Little Lion on the Ball, with Kellie Magnus 11.00–11.20 am

**Telling Tales From Saint** Lucia, with Nahdjla Carasco Bailey 11.20–12.00 pm

Event at National Children's Library, Hart Street

Writing workshop, with Lisa Allen-Agostini. 1.15–2.45 pm Multi-purpose Room

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

# FRIDAY 27 APRIL

Stories from the Monkey Polo Series, with AI Ramsawack 10.00–10.15 am Activity Room

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

LUNCH 12.30–1.30 pm

Writing workshop, with Felix Edinborough 1.30-2.30 pm Multi-purpose Room

# SATURDAY 28 APRIL

KFC storytelling, with Miguel Browne: "Lost on J'Ouvert Morning" 10.00 am-12.00 pm Activity/Multipurpose Room

LUNCH 12.00-1.00 pm

Caribbean animations and cartoons 1.00–2.00 pm Multi-purpose Room For ages 7 to 14

BREAK 2.00–2.30 pm

The Snake King of Kalinago and Gregory Cool, with Polly Patullo 2.30-3.10 pm Activity Room

Caribbean animations and cartoons 3.10–3.30 pm Multi-purpose Room

# SUNDAY 29 APRIL

Stories from the Monkey Polo Series, with Al Ramsawack 10.00–11.45 am Multi-purpose Room

The Princess, the Treasure and the Blue Dragon, with Stacey Alfonso-Mills 11.45 am-12.00 pm Multi-purpose Room

LUNCH 12.00–1.00 pm

KFC Storytelling, with Auntie Thea: "Adventure on Maracas Bay" 1.00–3.00 pm Activity/Multi-purpose Room

BREAK 3.00–3.15 pm

Caribbean animation and cartoons 3.15–4.14 pm Multi-purpose Room