

NGC Bocas Lit Fest

THE TRINIDAD & TOBAGO LITERARY FESTIVAL 2012

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’Aguiar
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.

POETRY

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 people.

DISCUSSION

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, joined 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.

FILM

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 jam

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 Gallery, 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 Maharaj
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.

FILM

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 Showcase writers reads from her fiction and discusses her work.

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.

WORKSHOP

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-Rahming

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-Independence decade.

PERFORMANCE

Midnight Robber showdown

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, publisher 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 Newell

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 joys—and perils?—of writing a Trinidadian character.

WORKSHOP

Sing your song

with Llewellyn “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 calypsonians 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.

POETRY

Andre Bagoo and Vahni Capildeo

chaired by Nicholas Laughlin
11.00 am–12.00 pm • *Old Fire Station*
Readings by two Trinidadian poets.

FILM

Wuthering Heights, dir. Andrea Arnold

11.00 am–1.30 pm • *AV Room*
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 adaptation, Heathcliff is cast more as a runaway slave than “of gypsy stock.”

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.

FICTION

DIY fiction

with Roger Carter, Roland P. Joseph, and Lester Orie
chaired by Rose-Anne Walker
12.00–1.00 pm • *2nd Floor Seminar Room*
Three self-published Trinidadian writers share their work and their publishing experiences.

NEW TALENT SHOWCASE

Sonia Farmer

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

WORKSHOP

Writing for performance

with Nicolette Bethel and Patti-Anne Ali
1.00–4.00 pm • *1st Floor Seminar Room*
How do you create plot, character, and narrative tension using only dialogue? Two playwright-directors offer exercises in writing for the stage and radio.

THE BIG IDEA: THE NGC BOCAS LECTURE

How different are human races, and should we care?
with Steve Jones

1.30–2.30 pm • Old Fire Station

In the first annual NGC Bocas Lecture, a leading geneticist questions 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 Literacy 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 jam

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 Maharaj

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 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.

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*.

POETRY

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

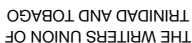
Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask, dir. Isaac Julien

12.30 am–2.00 pm • *AV Room*
A “drama-documentary” about the influential Martiniquan writer and anti-colonial theorist.

The National Library of Trinidad and Tobago
and Old Fire Station



PLACE CORRECT NGC LOGO



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.

✧ (*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.

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.

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

♀ (Mercury)

THURSDAY 26 APRIL

Events at City Hall, Knox Street

The Food Chain, with Gregory Thompson
9.10–9.30 am

Monologue by a schoolgirl
9.35–9.40 am

BREAK
10.15–10.30 am

NGC Bocas welcome
10.30–10.40 am

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

Event at National Children's Library, Hart Street

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

FRIDAY 27 APRIL

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

Writing workshop, with Felix
Edinburgh
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 μm

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 μm

**Caribbean animations
and cartoons**
3.15–4.14 pm
Multi-purpose
Room

