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april 23 + 3 may 2015



NGC Bocas Lit Fest 5

2015 FESTIVAL GUIDE

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL!





NGC. A Global Model of Success

As a valued partner in our nation's natural gas-based energy industry, The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) has a proven model of maximising resources for industrial development and long-term prosperity, applicable far beyond the shores of Trinidad and Tobago.

NGC is a diversified, state-owned group of companies with an asset base valued at over US $7 billion. Among its pioneering subsidiaries are the National Energy Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited, responsible for providing infrastructural and marine asset development for the energy industry, and Phoenix Park Gas Processors Limited (PPGPL), one of the largest gas processing facilities in the Americas and a preferred supplier of LPG to the region.





Fulfilling the Vision of a Sustainable Future

NGC is dedicated to sustainability, its community outreach and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Our Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programme is one of the most extensive in the nation, focusing on the areas of sport, training and education, arts and culture, facilities development, human and social development and the environment. In addition, NGC is conducting a 10-year reforestation programme and applying a 'no net loss principle' by restoring areas of forest equivalent to that cleared during construction activities.

THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY
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Email: info@ngc.co.tt • Website: www.ngc.co.tt

WELCOME

In 2015, NGC Bocas Lit Fest reaches a small milestone — the fifth year of Trinidad and Tobago's annual Festival of words, stories, and ideas. Since 2011 we've hosted hundreds of events and writers, and run dozens of programmes aimed at finding and encouraging new literary talent, and expanding audiences for the literary arts. Read the rundown of our achievements on page 6 of this guide and see why we're proud of the Festival's growth and impact, and grateful to the many people who have supported us along the way.

But there's still much more to do to stimulate T&T's growing literary appetite, and nurture our writers here and across the Caribbean. We're only just getting started!

As Festival regulars will expect, the 2015 NGC Bocas Lit Fest arrives with a rich, diverse programme, overflowing with readings and discussions, performances and workshops, film screenings and exhibitions, all of which you can navigate and explore in the pages of this guide and in our fold-out programme. You'll also notice a few changes — such as our new Salon series of intimate conversations on a range of subjects — and several big themes that run through the five Festival days.

This year also brings a special focus to translation and language — how it both connects and divides us. **Lost and Found** is a series of events featuring literary translators and writers from many linguistic backgrounds, exploring why translation matters to us as readers. **Future Friday** is a day of readings from and discussions about contemporary Caribbean speculative fiction. The region's leading authors in this popular genre will tackle the question of "how fantasy can help fix reality," and budding sci-fi writers can benefit from a dedicated masterclass and sci-fi open mic event.

2015 is an election year in T&T, as most in our audience are all too aware. As our politicians gear up for their campaign, Bocas hosts two special debates on the perennially urgent topic of **good governance** — a high-level panel of former government officials and scholars, plus a lively extempo duel featuring two masters of that quick-witted artform.

Festival regulars know that Bocas is dedicated to supporting new writing, and we are offering several opportunities to hear from talented up-and-comers in our midst, including our **Who's Next?** session, spotlighting the next wave of emerging voices, our popular **Stand and Deliver** open mic event, a platform for self-published writers in **DIY Lit**, and more. We're also delighted to host the launches of five new books of Caribbean fiction and poetry.

From the beginning, Bocas has been about writing from the Caribbean. We believe the best of our writers are as good as the best writers anywhere, as the distinguished list of winners of the OCM Bocas Prize more than proves. This year, we pay tribute to major authors of older generations, such as **Derek Walcott**, **Kamau Brathwaite**, and the late **Eric Roach**, and we're also proud to feature some of the most thrilling writers of the generation now coming to international prominence.

Have an amazing and unforgettable Festival — and see you next year!

The NGC Bocas Lit Fest Team

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Without the support of our generous sponsors and partners, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest would not be possible. We're particularly grateful to the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago, title sponsor of Trinidad and Tobago's annual literary festival, and we welcome First Citizens as our new lead sponsor.

The Bocas Lit Fest is a non-profit organisation entirely funded by private and public sector sponsorship. Thanks to all our sponsors and partners.

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INSPIRED WORKS, CAPTIVATING STORIES

festival of words and ideas

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) extends literary enthusiasts a warm welcome to the NGC Bocas Lit Fest 2015.

NGC has a mandate to ensure that the wealth derived from our country's natural gas development profits the nation as a whole, and we continue to deliver on this mandate through our significant contributions to government revenues and our Corporate Social Investment (CSI) initiatives. The Company has an extensive CSI portfolio, through which we support initiatives in sport, youth and community development, the arts and culture, and education, and the NGC Bocas Lit Fest continues to be one of our flagship investments.

As a protagonist in the story of our nation's development, constantly seeking the upliftment of our people, NGC is honoured to be associated with this trailblazing festival. The NGC Bocas Lit Fest showcases the brilliance of our region's literary vanguard and liberates the voices and creative energies of our budding writers and poets. Beyond inspired works and captivating stories, the festival gifts the region with a consolidated voice in international literary circles, and has become a hallmark event followed by bibliophiles around the world. As title sponsors, it gives us great joy to see the festival continue to grow in audience and profile.

As we get set to enjoy the offerings at the NGC Bocas Lit Fest 2015, we at NGC recognise the diligence of the festival's organisers and congratulate them on their resounding success. We remain deeply committed to partnering with them on this most rewarding initiative, even more so as we see the returns on our investment in the form of international recognition for our authors, heightened interest in local and regional literature, and, of course, the wide eyes of captive festival audiences.

We wish the organisers every success and all attendees a happy festival!

BASICS

Except where otherwise indicated, daytime events take place in the National Library and Old Fire Station on Abercromby Street and Hart Street, Port of Spain, and are free of charge. Many evening events take place at different venues around the city.

The foldout Festival programme gives full details of all events, venues, dates, and times.

DATES AND TIMES

Wednesday 29 April 8 am–4 pm
Thursday 30 April: 9 am–10 pm
Friday 1 May: 10 am–10 pm
Saturday 2 May: 10 am–8 pm
Sunday 3 May: 10 am–8 pm

PARKING AND SHUTTLE

From Wednesday to Friday, a free shuttle service will operate from the Queens Park Savannah to the National Library and back. Visit our website for details. Free secure parking is available at the Savannah North Stand. Enter through the main Savannah entrance, opposite Dundonald Street, and follow signs.

There is also free street parking on Saturday and Sunday in downtown Port of Spain, and till 6 pm in nearby paid parking facilities.

READINGS AND PANELS

Readings with Q&As and panel discussions take place in the Old Fire Station and the AV Room on the lower ground floor of the National Library.

SALON SESSIONS

The 1st Floor Seminar Room is the venue for these up-close discussions, where audiences are encouraged to join in.

BOOK SIGNINGS

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

WORKSHOPS

Except for the literary translation workshop at the UWI St. Augustine Campus, all workshops take place at the National Library. Due to popular demand, *Preparing for publication* will be in the AV Room of the National Library; others will be in either the 1st Floor or 2nd Floor Seminar Room. Shorter workshops cost TT$60, and some all-day workshops cost $100. See page 29 for more information.

FILMS

Screenings are free in the AV Room on the lower ground floor of the National Library.

PERFORMANCE POETRY AND OPEN MIC

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

NGC CHILDREN'S BOCAS LIT FEST

Children's events take place in the Children's Library on the ground floor of the Library.

BOOKSELLERS

Books by participating authors and others are on sale from official booksellers on the ground floor of the Library: Paper Based, Metropolitan Book Suppliers, RIK, Nigel R. Khan, UWI Press, Signature Book Distributors, and Hodder Education.

EATING AND DRINKING

Beverages, sandwiches, and pastries are available from Rituals on the ground floor of the Library and full meal service is available in the cafeteria on the ground floor of Old Fire Station (entry through patio area). The Library Arcade on Hart Street is the place for eating, drinking, and relaxing.

T-SHIRTS AND BAGS

These are on sale at the Festival information desk.

HASHTAG

Tweeting, blogging, or posting photos from the Festival online? Our 2015 hashtag is #bocas2015.

FEEDBACK

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

FRIENDS OF BOCAS

Please sign up so we can keep you informed about our activities all year long!

TRINIDAD MELTING Pot

Food & Beverage service will be served at the historic old fire station on the existing premise at NALIS

OUR MENU

Thursday - East Indian
Friday - Creole
Saturday - Arabic
Sunday - Fusion

THURSDAY 30TH APRIL 2015–SUNDAY 3RD MAY 2015

Taste our caribbean flavours daily
9:30am to 6pm daily and priced atTTD$40.00
An a la carte menu is also available

Rituals Coffee House
Grounds for enjoyment.

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS

The 2015 NGC Bocas Lit Fest is Trinidad and Tobago's fifth annual festival of words, stories, and ideas. In just half a decade, the Festival has become the major annual literary event in the Anglophone Caribbean, thanks to our focus on writing from and about the region, and our dedication to promoting new literary talent.

The numbers speak for themselves! Apart from our packed 2015 programme, since our launch 2011 Bocas has:

• Staged 8 separate festivals: 4 in Port of Spain, 1 in South/Central Trinidad, 1 in South Trinidad, and 2 in Tobago

• Hosted over 300 different Festival events: readings, debates, performances, film screenings, book launches, poetry slams, and more

• Featured approximately 250 different writers, speakers and performers from T&T, the Caribbean, and the rest of the world

• Showcased 20 promising emerging writers in our New Talent Showcase and Who's Next? events. Of these, 4 have gone on to publish books, and 3 are included in the anthology *Coming Up Hot: Best New Poets from the Caribbean*

• Hosted 36 different workshops and masterclasses for emerging writers

• Produced 5 events outside T&T, taking our writers to the world: 3 in New York City, 1 in Miami, and 1 in St. Lucia

• The OCM Bocas Prize has longlisted 40 books (plus 9 more in 2015) by Caribbean writers, raising their international profile, and recognised 12 poetry, fiction, and non-fiction winners

• The Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize has longlisted 22 writers (plus 10 more in 2015) from across the Caribbean, recognising the best of our emerging talent, and named 2 winners

• CODE's Burt Award for writers of Young Adult literature has recognised 6 finalists in 2014 and 5 in 2015

• The Bocas Henry Swanzy Award has recognised 4 eminent publishers/scholars who have contributed to Caribbean writing, plus 1 more in 2015

• In total, Bocas has been responsible for well over TT$0.5 million being awarded in prizes to authors, excluding this year's prizes

• The festival has brought at least 20 international publishing professionals and literary festival directors to T&T, resulting in our writers being agented, getting book deals, or getting invitations to read and perform internationally

• Working with the performance poets of the 2Cents Movement, we have engaged with over 50,000 students in at least 70 secondary schools nationwide in the last two years, in the Courts Bocas spoken word tour

• We have published 4 fully illustrated children's storytelling books and entertained hundreds of children during the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest and the annual national storytelling caravan

• Bocas was a lead partner in setting up the ongoing CaribLit initiative, an umbrella group for institutions and projects promoting writers, writing, and publishers in the region

• We've also forged partnerships with leading international agencies in the field of literary arts, such as the British Council, Commonwealth Writers, Arvon, CODE, and Creative Scotland

And that was just our first 5 years—wait and see what else we have in store!

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

The **2015 NGC Bocas Lecture:** *The Big Idea! Mind Change*. Eminent neuroscientist Baroness Susan Greenfield claims that digital technological is reshaping our brains. What are the implications for society and how should we be planning our futures? In collaboration with the TT Chamber of Industry and Commerce.
Wednesday 29 April, 8–10am • TT Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Columbus Circle, Westmoorings. Pre-booking necessary.

The official **Festival Welcome**, celebrating Trinidad's late, iconic writer Raoul Pantin through readings from his poems, his journalism, his *Bim* screenplay, and memoirs.
Thursday 30 April, 9–10 am • Old Fire Station

The presentation of the **2015 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award for Distinguished Service to Caribbean Letters** to Margaret Busby, OBE.
Thursday 30 April, 5.30–7 pm • AV Room

The announcement of the winner of CODE's **Burt Award for Caribbean Literature** for Caribbean writers of young adult literature.
Friday 1 May, 6–8 pm • Old Fire Station

The announcement of the winners of the **2015 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature**.
Saturday 2 May, 6–8pm • Old Fire Station

Tributes to Caribbean literary giants: Tobago-born Eric Roach 100 years on, and St. Lucian Derek Walcott and Barbadian Kamau Brathwaite at 85. Plus **special exhibitions** on the literary legacies of Nobel Prize–winning Chilean poets Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda, hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Chile.

Catch the vibe on Friday afternoon, at a special after-work Afternoon Jam, featuring music by Ruth Osman, Gerry Williams, Kyle Richardson, and the Ernesto Latin Show.
Friday 1 May, 4–5 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade

A **Friday-night celebration of T&T's beloved musician Roy Cape,** with a discussion of his new collaborative memoir, and his greatest musical hits to get you dancing, jumping, and waving.
Friday 1 May, 8–10 pm • Big Black Box, Murray Street, Woodbrook

Lost and Found, a major programme of events investigating language barriers and the importance of translation, with workshops, debates, discussion on regional languages including Trini Patois, and a riveting translation slam. See page 27

Future Friday, a day of readings and discussions exploring contemporary Caribbean speculative fiction and sci-fi, including a special sci-fi open mic session. See page 26
Friday 1 May • Old Fire Station and Abercromby Street Arcade

Sunday Launch, the debuts of four new books of poetry and fiction by Trinidadian writers
Sunday 3 May, 1–5 pm • Old Fire Station

Exciting finals of the **Verses Bocas Poetry Slam** where the most talented spoken word poets compete for a top prize of TT$20,000 and the title of **First Citizens National Poetry Champion.**
Sunday 3 May, 5.30–8 pm • Globe Theatre, Park Street

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

AUTHORS, SPEAKERS, PERFORMERS

Lisa Allen-Agostini is editor of the *Sunday Guardian* Arts Section, and founder of The Allen Prize for Young Writers. Her collection of poems *Swallowing the Sky* is published by Cane Arrow Press 2015.

Clare Alexander is a distinguished former publisher whose writers won the 1995 Booker, Orange and Whitbread prizes, the first editor to achieve this hat trick. Now an award-winning literary agent, she is chair of the 2015 OCM Bocas Prize fiction panel.

Patience Agbabi, OCM Bocas Prize 2015 poetry judge, is a British poet of Nigerian parentage who celebrates the written and spoken word. *Telling Tales*, her exhilarating, multicultural remix of The Canterbury Tales, was shortlisted for the 2014 Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry.

Funso Aiyejina is a prizewining Nigerian writer based in Trinidad. Professor Emeritus and Former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at UWI, St. Augustine, he is the Deputy Festival Director of the Bocas Lit Fest.

June Aming was shortlisted for the *Small Axe* Literary Competition in 2014. She is currently working on a collection of short stories.

Andre Bagoo is a poet and journalist working in Trinidad. His second book of poems, *Burn*, is published by Shearsman Books in 2015

Kelly Baker Josephs, Associate Professor of English at York College, City University of New York, is the author of *Disturbers of the Peace: Representations of Madness in Anglophone Caribbean Literature* (2013) and editor of *sx salon: a small axe literary platform*.

Imam Baksh is a Guyanese writer. The manuscript of his debut novel, *Children of the Spider*, is one of the winners of CODE's Burt Award for Caribbean Literature.

Gustavo Barrera Calderón is a Chilean author of six poetry collections. His work has been anthologized and appeared in international publications. He is also a storyteller and has participated in several public exhibitions that integrate music, poetry and performance.

Elliot Bastien is Trinidadian poet, shortlisted for the 2015 Hollick Arvon Prize.

Edward Baugh is a Jamaican poet and Professor Emeritus of English, UWI, Mona. His three collections of poetry include, most recently, *Black Sand: New and Selected Poems*.

Rhoda Bharath is a Caribbean writer, teacher, and political and cultural blogger. Her debut collection of short stories, *The Ten Days Executive and Other Stories,* is published by Peepal Tree Press 2015.

Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné is a Trinidadian poet and artist. She was awarded the Charlotte and Isidor Paiewonksy Prize by *The Caribbean Writer*, 2009, and is the poetry winner of the 2012 *Small Axe* Literary competition. She is shortlisted for the 2015 Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize.

Shane Book, Canadian poet and filmmaker of Trinidadian descent, is a graduate of New York University, the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and was a Stegner Fellow at Stanford University. His most recent poetry collection is Congotronics, shortlisted for the Griffin Prize.

Laurence Breiner, Professor of English at Boston University, chairs the 2015 OCM Bocas Prize poetry judges and is the author of *An Introduc-*

THE STORY OF INDIGENOUS BANKING

1914

The first steam boat passes through the Panama Canal and World War I breaks out in Europe, the population of Trinidad and Tobago is just 350,000 and Port-Of-Spain had just been named a "City". Change is in the air, and Trinidad is well on its way to financial growth, but even though it's been almost a century since the emancipation of slavery; sugar and cheap labour are the still the mainstays of the national economy. Equal opportunity and access to services are still a long way off for the working class.

But this is about to change.

On July 22nd, 1914, the working-man woke up and found that for the first time, there was a bank that would do business with him. Where he couldn't afford the shilling to open a bank account before, the Trinidad Cooperative Bank - affectionately known as the Penny Bank - opened its doors by asking for just one penny.



Thus began the Trinidad Cooperative Bank's relationship with the citizens of its country. Made by the people, for the people, the Trinidad Cooperative Bank quickly became an aggressive pioneer of affordable housing in Trinidad.

In 1929, TCB acquired land in Belmont on which they built and rented 30 low-cost houses which were eventually sold to their tenants on a rent-to-buy basis.

During World War II, as Trinidad and Tobago became a key location in the war effort and a society under a strong cultural influence of the US, our booming oil economy gave rise to construction and manufacturing. From this, Independence became possible in 1962, and Trinidad propelled into the "Black Power" movement of the 70's with a population approaching 900,000.



With the competition for homeownership at an all-time high, the National Commercial Bank of Trinidad & Tobago and the Workers' Bank - the second and third indigenous institutions in Trinidad - entered the local bank scape.



The NCB became the first bank to lend 75% of property value and subsequently rose their percentage to 90% when they partnered with an insurance company to insure 15% of the value of a mortgage for their clients.

Hence, the 90% financing claim was born - a promise that banks continue to offer today.

First Citizens Bank

In 1993, to ensure the survival of the legacy and vision that each of these three banks worked tirelessly to establish, the National Commercial Bank, the Workers' Bank and the Trinidad Cooperative Bank all merged to form First Citizens Bank.

The rest, as they say, is both history and our future.

As we celebrate 100 years of indigenous banking, we celebrate all the benefits, unique perspectives and evolutions it continues to bring to our society; and First Citizens bank continues creating its legacy of equal service and opportunity for all its citizens.

This is only part of the story of indigenous banking.
Visit www.firstcitizensstory.com for more.

First Citizens
We put you first

tion to West Indian Poetry and *Black Yeats: Eric Roach and the Politics of Caribbean Poetry*.

Bridget Brereton is Professor Emerita of history at UWI, St. Augustine, and author of *Race Relations in Colonial Trinidad* and *A history of Modern Trinidad*, among other books.

Tobias S. Buckell, born in Grenada, is a *New York Times* bestselling author who has been nominated for the Hugo, Nebula, and John W. Campbell Awards. His latest novel, *Hurricane Fever*, follows on from the successful *Arctic Rising*.

Margaret Busby, OBE, is a British writer, editor and critic of Caribbean origin who co-founded Allison and Busby publishers in 1967. She is a former chair of the OCM Bocas Prize for fiction and of the Commonwealth Book Prize. She is the recipient of the 2015 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award.

Roy Cape, born in Trinidad in 1942, is an internationally renowned calypso and soca musician and bandleader. He is co-author of his biography, *Roy Cape: A Life on the Calypso and Soca Bandstand*.

David Codling is the British Council Regional Arts Director, Americas. The interplay between the arts, politics and social issues is a constant feature of his work.

Carolyn Cooper, Jamaican columnist, broadcaster and professor of literary and cultural studies at UWI, Mona, chairs the 2015 OCM Bocas Prize non-fiction judges. She is the author of two influential books on Jamaican popular culture, *Sound Clash* and *Noises in the Blood*, and the editor of *Global Reggae*.

Michael Cozier is a writer from Icacos, Trinidad. His novel *Putting Up A Resistance* is a finalist for the Burt Award for Caribbean Literature 2015.

Fred D'Aguiar is a London-born Guyanese author of twelve books of fiction, poetry, and plays. His latest novel is *Children of Paradise* (2014). He teaches at Virginia Tech in the USA, and is a judge for the 2015 Commonwealth Short Story Prize.

Alvin Daniell is the composer of several Trinidad and Tobago hit calypsos, an arts television presenter and well-known adjudicator of calypso, steelpan and singing competitions throughout the Caribbean.

Danielle Delon is the editor of *The Letters of Margaret Mann* and a publisher whose current projects include a new book about Trinidad and Tobago bridges.

Laura Dowrich is a Trinidadian music and entertainment journalist.

Darren Doyle, shortlisted for the 2015 Commonwealth Short Story Prize, is working on getting his first novel published.

Jean Antoine-Dunne, Senior Lecturer in Literatures in English at University of West Indies, St Augustine, is a Walcott specialist. Her documentary *Walcott as Poet and Seer* will be screened during the festival. She is an editor of the *Journal of West Indian Literature*.

Summer Edward, poet, writer, and healing artist, is founder and Managing Editor of *Anansesem* Caribbean children's literature ezine. Her poetry and art have appeared in *Whaleheart: Journey into the Night with Maya Christina Gonzalez and 23 Courageous Artist Authors*.

Jo-Anne Ferreira is a Senior Lecturer in Linguistics at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. Her research interests include the history of Portuguese language and culture in the Caribbean, and South American French Creole varieties.

R.S.A. Garcia is a Trinidadian science-fiction writer. Her debut novel *Lex Talionis* received a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly*; her short story "Douen Mother" was a quarter-finalist in the Writers of the Future Contest, 2004.

Danielle Gianetti is a retired scholar/advertising execu-



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tive/freelance writer. She is the joint editor of *The Flowering Rock*, the collected poems of Eric Roach.

Kenneth "Ken" Gordon is a former broadcaster, media entrepreneur, captain of industry, senator, Chairman of the West Indies Cricket Board, and Chairman of the Integrity Commision, Trinidad and Tobago. His 1999 memoir, *Getting it Write: Winning Caribbean Press Freedom*, was published by Ian Randle Publishers.

Jenny Green is a retired teacher and author of the memoir *Somewhere Round the Corner*.

Baroness Susan Greenfield is a leading British scientist, writer, broadcaster and Senior Research Fellow at Lincoln College, Oxford. Her research explores how the 21st century environment affects brain development, a subject explored in her latest book *Mind Change: How digital technologies are leaving their mark on our brains*.

Jocelyne Guilbault is Professor of Ethnomusicology at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of *Governing Sound: The Cultural Politics of Trinidad's Carnival Musics* and *Zouk: World Music in the West Indies*. She co-authored *Roy Cape: A Life on the Calypso and Soca Bandstand*.

Daniel Hahn is an award-winning translator, writer and editor, with some forty books to his name. His most recent include the new *Oxford Companion to Children's Literature* and a translation of an Angolan novel. He chairs the Society of Authors, the UK writers' union.

Nnamdi Hodge is a Trinidadian language teacher, researcher, writer and co-producer of *Vini Chante an Patois—Come sing in Patois*, a bilingual songbook and CD of local patois songs.

Nalo Hopkinson, 2015 OCM Bocas Prize judge, is a novelist and short story writer. A multiple international award winner in the speculative fiction genre, she is a professor of Creative Writing at the University of California, Riverside. Her short story collection *Falling in Love With Hominids* is published by Tachyon Books, 2015.

Kevin Jared Hosein is a Trinidadian poet, writer and science teacher. He illustrated and published *Littletown Secrets* in 2013. He is shortlisted for the 2015 Commonwealth Short Story Prize.

Naomi Jackson studied fiction at the Iowa Writers' Workshop where she was awarded the Maytag Fellowship for Excellence in Fiction to complete her first novel, *The Star Side of Bird Hill*.

Ruel Johnson is a Guyanese writer of fiction and poetry. He has twice won the Guyana Prize for Literature.

Lynn Joseph is a Trinidadian author of several books for children and young adults. Her manuscript *Dancing in the Rain* is one of the winners of the 2015 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature.

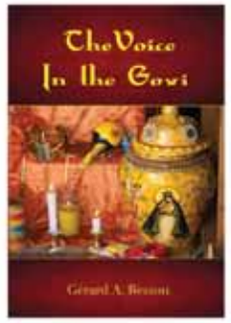
Ria Julien, 2015 OCM Bocas Prize judge, is a NY-based Trinidadian literary agent with Frances Goldin Literary Agency, specialising in literary fiction and non-fiction, especially books with a progressive political orientation.

Michael Kelleher, Director of the Windham-Campbell Literature Prizes, Yale University, is the author of the forthcoming poetry collection *Visible Instruments* from Chax, and *Human Scale* and *To Be Sung*, both from Blazevox.

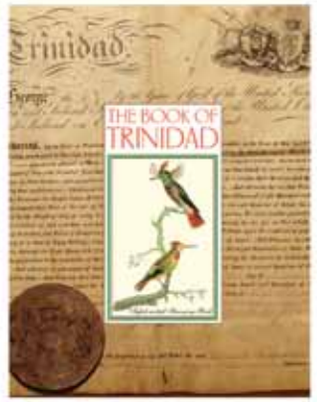
Rosamond S. King is a critical and creative writer and artist whose scholarly work focuses on Caribbean and African literature, sexuality and performance. Her recent book *Island Bodies: Transgressive Sexualities in the Caribbean Imagination* is published by University Press of Florida.

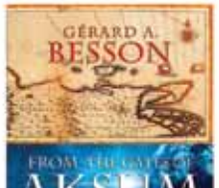
Barbara Lalla, Professor Emerita of language and literature at UWI, St. Augustine, is the author of many academic publications and the novels *Cascade*, *Arch of Fire*, and most recently *Uncle Brother*.

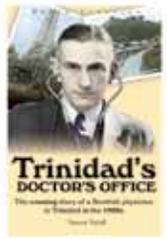
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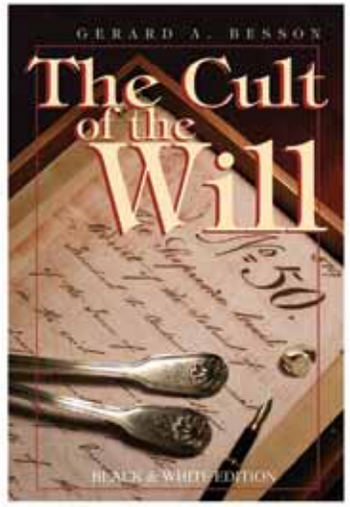
HISTORY MAKES THE PERFECT PRESENT



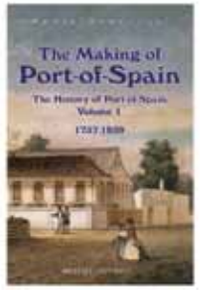








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ryteller and the Coordinator for Culture in the Division of Community Development and Culture for the Tobago House of Assembly. In 2006 she was a Gold Medalist in the Acting World Championships of the Performing Arts, Hollywood, California, among many other awards.

Treldon Layne is a motivational speaker, composer and poet. He has published two works of poetry entitled *They Stole It, I Must Replace It* and *Rise Up and Bolt Forward*.

Ayanna Gillian Lloyd is a fiction and life writer from Trinidad & Tobago. She has been published in *The Caribbean Writer* and been shortlisted for *Wasafiri's* New Writing Prize and the *Small Axe* Literary Competition.

Nicholas Laughlin is the Programme Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

Jaime Lee Loy is a writer, visual artist and filmmaker. Her short story "Bury Your Mother" appeared in the 2008 anthology *Trinidad Noir* and was later filmed. She is currently working on a novella entitled *Fine and Loose Rope*.

Louis Lee Sing was the Mayor of Port of Spain, 2010–2013. His memoir, a document of that office, *Local Government in Trinidad — Conspiracy Against the People,* was published in 2014 by Lee Sing Arts.

Karen Lord, a Barbadian research consultant and author, is known for her multiple-award-winning novels *Redemption in Indigo* (Frank Collymore Literary Award 2008, Bocas Prize 2011 longlist) and *The Best of All Possible Worlds* (Frank Collymore Literary Award 2009). Her third novel, *The Galaxy Game*, was published in 2015.

Earl Lovelace is a Trinidadian novelist, playwright, and short story writer. He has won numerous awards, including the 1997 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for his novel *Salt* and the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize for his latest novel, *Is Just a Movie*.

Vladimir Lucien is a St. Lucian poet. His debut collection *Sounding Ground* is the winner of the 2015 OCM Bocas Prize for poetry.

Mark Lyndersay is a Trinidadian photographer and journalist. His *BitDepth* is the longest running column on technology in T&T.

Aonghas MacNeacail is a native Gael from the Isle of Skye and an award-winning poet and songwriter in Gaelic, English, and Scots.

Narad Mahabir is a drama student at the University of Trinidad and Tobago.

Sunity Maharaj is the Managing Director of the Lloyd Best Institute of the West Indies. She is a career journalist of over 35 years' experience and also runs her own multi-media production and consulting company.

Eric Maitrejean is Lecturer in French and Conference Interpreting at UWI, St. Augustine. He has translated Derek Walcott's *Pantomime* into French and short stories by Olive Senior and Shani Mootoo, among others.

Diana McCaulay is a Jamaican writer, newspaper columnist and environmental activist. Her first manuscript for young adults, *The Dolphin Catchers*, is one of the winners of the 2015 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature.

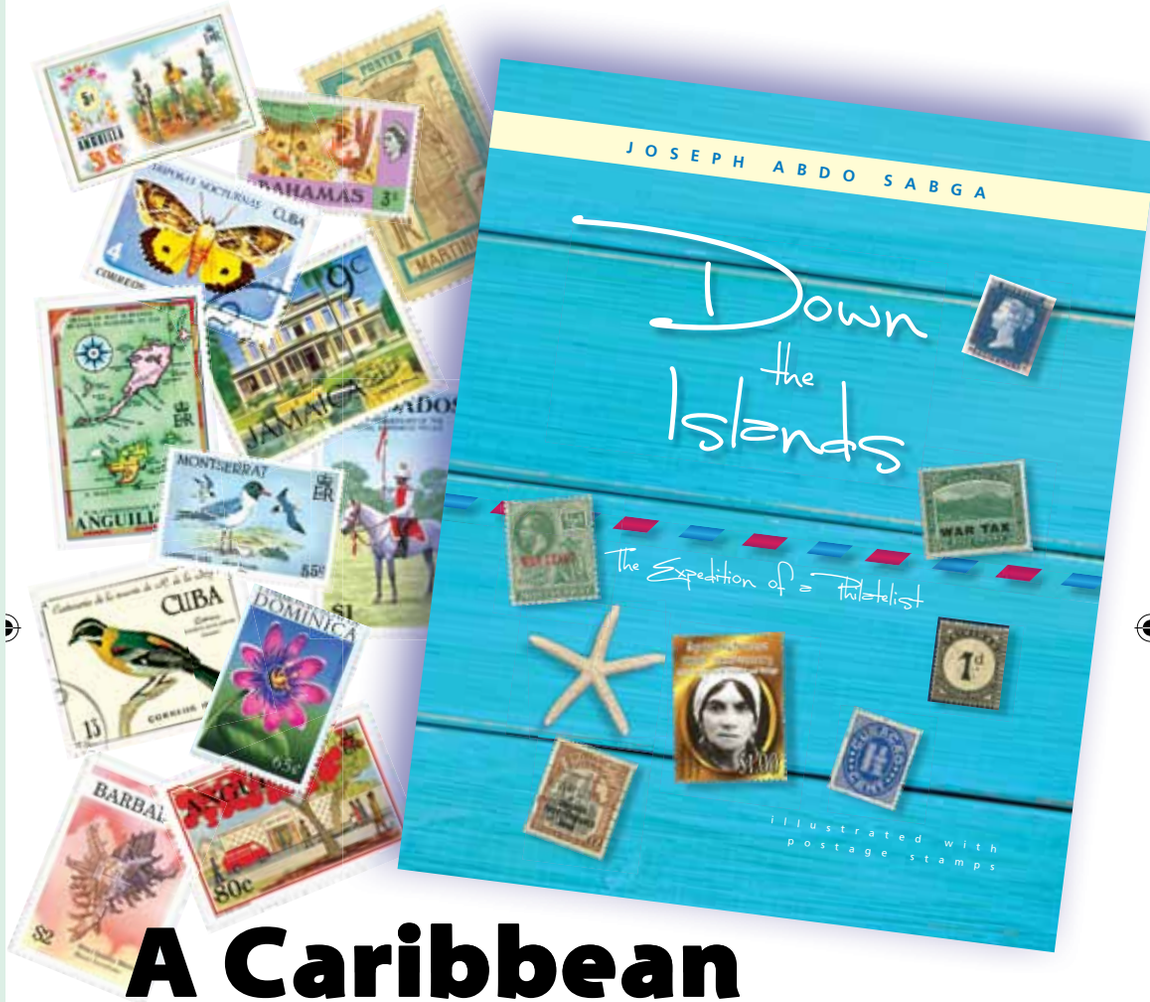
Hazel McShine is a Trinidadian writer. Her short story "The Wall" was shortlisted for the 2014 *Small Axe* Literary Competition.

Sharon Millar is a Trinidadian writer and winner of the 2013 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for her story "The Whale House", also the title of her 2015 debut short story collection. She was featured in the Bocas New Talent Showcase in 2013.

Kei Miller, Jamaican-born poet, fiction writer, essayist and blogger was the winner of 2014 OCM Bocas Prize for non-fiction. His latest book, *The Cartographer Tries to Map A Way to Zion*, won the 2014 Forward Prize and was shortlisted in the poetry

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category of the Costa Book Awards.

Shani Mootoo, born in Dublin to Trinidadian parents, raised in Trinidad, and now based in Canada, is a visual artist and fiction writer. Her most recent novel, *Moving Forward Sideways Like a Crab*, is published by DoubleDay Canada.

Philip Murray, aka Black Sage, is a calypsonian renowned as master of extempo singing.

Stephen Narain is a graduate of the MFA programme at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and is at work on his first novel.

Brandon O'Brien is a poet, dramatist and devout reader of speculative fiction. He is a finalist in the 2015 Verses Bocas Poetry Slam competition.

Basdeo Panday served as the fifth Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago from 1995 to 2001.

Mandisa Pantin, writer, film producer, and director, is currently working on a biodocumentary of her father, the late Raoul Pantin, writer and journalist.

Kasey Phillips is a music producer, head of Precision Productions.

Jeremy Poynting is the founder and Managing Editor of the UK publishing house Peepal Tree Press, the largest publisher of Caribbean literature in the UK.

Ken Ramchand is one of the Caribbean's most distinguished literary critics, author of the seminal study *The West Indian Novel and its Background*. He is Professor Emeritus of West Indian Literature at the University of West Indies.

Toodesh Ramesar, shortlisted for the 2015 Commonwealth Short Story Prize, is a Trinidadian writer, literature teacher and winner of several prizes including the 2005 Derek Walcott and University of West Indies Prize for Poetry.

Shivanee Ramlochan is a Trinidadian poet, literary reviewer and official Bocas blogger. She was featured in the New Talent Showcase at Bocas 2013. She is shortlisted for the 2015 Hollick Arvon Prize Caribbean Writers Prize.

Mark Raymond is an architect and educator.

Rhoda Reddock is Deputy Principal of UWI's St. Augustine campus.

Colin Robinson is a poet and essayist whose work has appeared in film, dance, serials and anthologies. A journalist and human rights activist, he is co-founder of CAISO Coalition Advocating for Inclusion of Sexual Orientation.

Che Rodriguez is an accomplished Trinidadian actor, producer and director, with a career spanning forty years in television, theatre and film.

Monique Roffey is a Trinidadian writer based in Port of Spain and London. Her third novel, *Archipelago*, won the 2013 OCM Bocas Prize. Her most recent novel, *House of Ashes*, was shortlisted for the novel category of the Costa Book Awards and the 2015 OCM Bocas Prize.

Silvio Torres-Saillant, nonfiction judge of the OCM Bocas Prize 2015, was born in the Dominican Republic and now is a Syracuse University English Professor. His books include *Caribbean Poetics* (2d. ed., Peepal Tree 2013).

Vanessa Salazar is a Trinidadian author of young adult fiction. Her first novel *Selima and the Merfolk* begins a three-book series.

Idrees Saleem is the Verses Bocas Poetry Slam 2014 champion and also a founding member of DMAD Company, a drama company geared toward stimulating social change.

Brinsley Samaroo, former head of the History department at UWI, St. Augustine, has written extensively on the history of Trinidad and Tobago. His most recent work is *The Price of Conscience: Howard Noel*

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Lawrence Scott is a Trinidadian fiction writer, winner of the 1998 Commonwealth Writers' Prize. His most recent book is the short story collection *Leaving by Plane, Swimming Back Under Water*.

Desiree Seebaran is a Trinidadian poet, an alumna of the 2010 Cropper Foundation Caribbean Writers Workshop, and was shortlisted for the 2014 *Small Axe* Literary Competition.

Olive Senior is a Jamaican writer based in Canada. She is the author of several prizewinning books, including the Commonwealth Writers' Prize-winning *Summer Lightning*. Her most recent book, *Dying to Better Themselves: West Indians and the Building of the Panama Canal* is the winner of the 2015 OCM Bocas Prize for non-fiction.

Vaughn T. Stanford is the Trinidadian author of *Tales from Mysteria* and *Desires: A Collection of Caribbean Short Stories*.

Gerda Stevenson is an award-winning actor, writer, director and singer-songwriter. She is the author of the poetry collection *If This Were Real* and the stage plays *Federer Versus Murray* and *Skeleton Wumman*. She was nominated Scots Singer of the Year, 2014.

John O. Stewart, Professor Emeritus at the University of California, Davis, is a Trinidadian novelist and anthropologist. His titles include *Last Cool Days; Curving Road; Drinkers, Drummers and Decent Folk*; and *Looking for Josephine*.

Kimmy Stoute-Robinson is a Trinidadian actress and dancer.

Bhaskar Sunkara, founding editor and publisher of *Jacobin* magazine, is a socialist political activist based in New York. He is a judge for the 2015 OCM Bocas Prize in non-fiction.

Surujpal Teelucksingh is Professor of Medicine at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

Johnny Temple is the founder of publishing house Akashic Books based in New York City.

Marjorie Thorpe is a former Campus and University Dean of the Faculty of Arts and General Studies at UWI, St. Augustine. From 1988 to 1992 she was Trinidad and Tobago's ambassador to the United Nations. She is the Vice Chief Judge of the 2015 OCM Bocas Prize.

Daniela Tramacere, Italian economist, is Chargé d'Affaires of the EU Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago. With long-standing experience in development cooperation and foreign relations, she has worked in Delhi, Buenos Aires, and Europe.

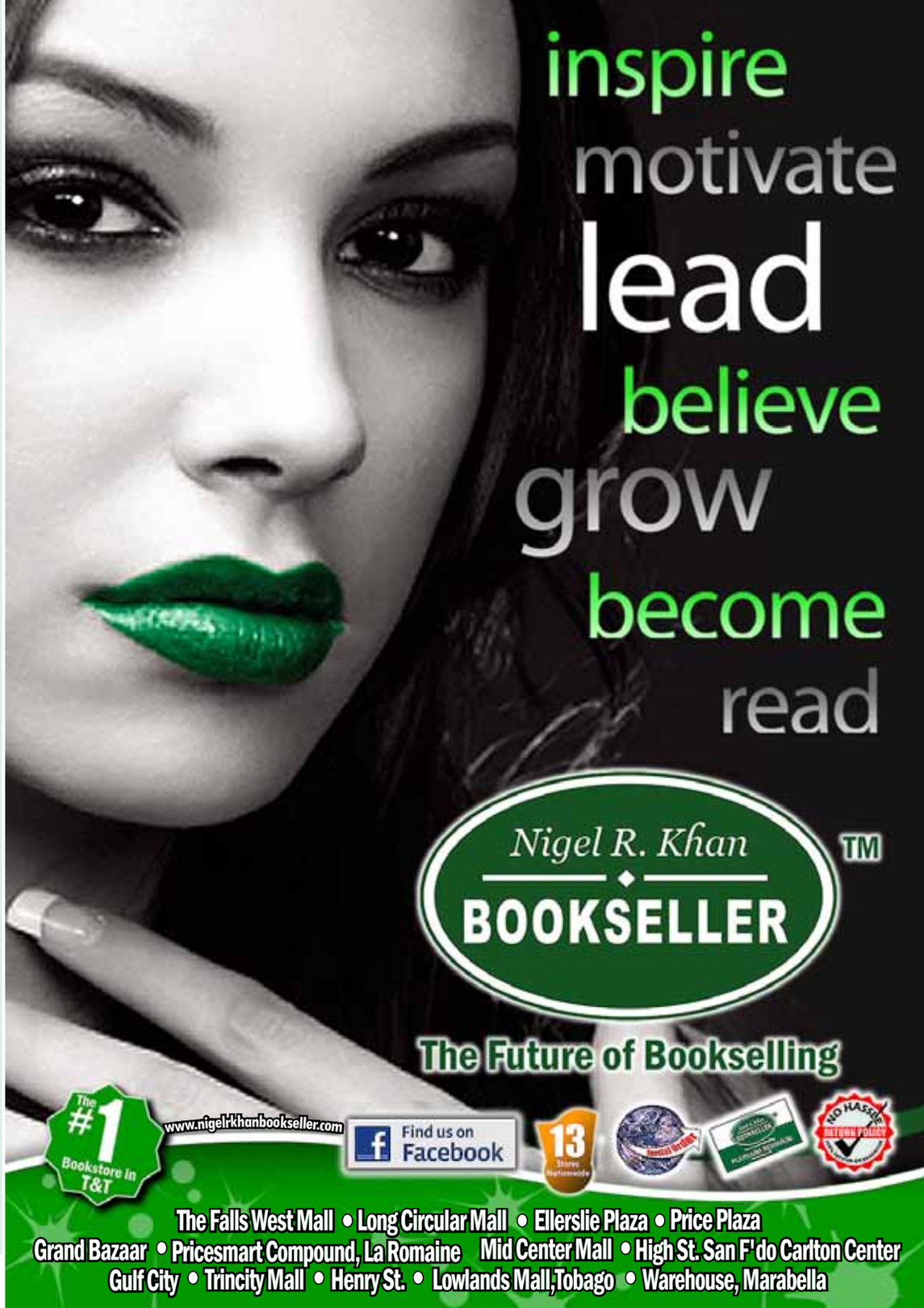
Derek Walcott, OBE, is a Saint Lucian poet, playwright, writer and visual artist. He is the recipient of numerous honours and awards, including the Nobel Prize for Literature, 1992. He won the inaugural OCM Bocas Prize in 2011 for his book *White Egrets*.

Dara Wilkinson-Bobb, Assistant Lecturer in the Writing Centre at UWI, St. Augustine, has been published in a number of Caribbean literary magazines.

Lise Winer is a Canadian linguist and the editor of the first scholarly work on T&T language, *Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad and Tobago*.

Frank Wynne is a literary translator from French and Spanish and winner of three major prizes for his translations from the French: the 2002 IMPAC Prize, the 2005 Independent Foreign Fiction Prize, and the 2008 Scott Moncrieff Prize.

Tiphanie Yanique is the author of the short story collection. *How to Escape from a Leper Colony*, winner of the 2011 OCM Bocas Prize for fiction. Her debut novel, *Land of Love and Drowning,* won the 2014 Centre for Fiction First Novel Prize and was shortlisted for 2015 OCM Bocas Prize for fiction.



FICTION & POETRY

The best of contemporary poetry and fiction, from an exciting lineup of Caribbean and international authors

At the heart of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest is a series of readings and conversations with some of the best writers from Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean, and further afield—from world-famous authors to prizewinning newcomers. Festival writers read from and discuss their recent books and take questions from the audience. A book-signing session follows each reading. Authors' books are available from the participating booksellers.

• Our **One-on-One** sessions turn the spotlight on eminent authors, as they read from their work and discuss their ideas, influences, and inspirations:

Dying to Better Themselves
Olive Senior talks to historian Bridget Brereton about her groundbreaking new book on West Indian workers who helped build the Panama Canal
Thursday 30 April, 2–3 pm • Old Fire Station

Black Sand
Eminent Jamaican poet and scholar Edward Baugh reads from his most recent collection and discusses his life in Caribbean letters with Marjorie Thorpe
Friday 1 May, 3–4 pm • Old Fire Station

Telling Tales
Poet Patience Agbabi drags Chaucer into the 21st century in this lively, unexpected adaptation of *The Canterbury Tales*
Saturday 2 May, 2–3 pm • Old Fire Station
Presented in partnership with Renaissance One

• The Festival's **Take Two** sessions pair off writers for readings and Q&As on topics of current interest. Check the foldout Festival Programme for a full list.

• Bocas 2015 includes the **debuts** of exciting new books at two special events:

Peekash Presents
The launch of *Coming Up Hot: Best New Poets* from the Caribbean, a new anthology of emerging poets, featuring readings by Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné, Ruel Johnson, Shivanee Ramlochan, and Colin Robinson
7.30–10 pm • De Nu Pub, French Street
Presented in partnership with Peekash and Commonwealth Writers

Sunday Launch
Four new books of fiction and poetry by Trinidadian writers make their debut:

The Ten-Days Executive, by Rhoda Bharath (Peepal Tree Press)

Swallowing the Sky, by Lisa Allen-Agostini (Cane Arrow Press)

The Whale House, by Sharon Millar (Peepal Tree Press)

Burn, by Andre Bagoo (Shearsman)

Sunday 3 May, 1–5 pm • Old Fire Station

• In what's become a Bocas tradition, we again partner with the Writers' Union of Trinidad and Tobago for a special event. At **Writers' Union Presents**, writer and scholar Barbara Lalla reads from her latest novel, *Uncle Brother,* and shares her experience of writing family history into fiction, followed by readings from Writers' Union members
Saturday 2 May, 2–5 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room.



NEW TALENT

Over the past five years, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest has become the Caribbean's major annual showcase for emerging writers.

Who's Next?
Four up-and-coming writers from T&T share their fiction and poems. Featuring Elliot Bastien, Summer Edward, Brandon O'Brien, and Dara Wilkinson
Friday 1 May, 10–11 am • Old Fire Station

Small Axe Literary Competition showcase
Past winners and shortlistees of the annual prize for emerging Caribbean writers read from their work, introduced by *sx salon* editor Kelly Baker Josephs. Featuring June Aming, Ruel Johnson, Jaime Lee Loy, Hazel McShine, Stephen Narain, and Desiree Seeberan
11 am–12 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Open mics
From the beginning, the Festival's open mic series has been one of the most popular parts of our programme. This year we feature three open mic events, two of them with special themes:

Stand and Deliver
Calling all writers of prose and poetry!
Thursday 30 April, 12.45–1.30 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade

Sci-fi open mic
Budding writers of speculative fiction: this event is just for you
Friday 1 May, 12–1 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade

Micro Abierto
A Spanish-language open mic — bring your lyrics, *amigos!* With a guest reading by Dr. José Serulle Ramia, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic, and a feature performance by Chilean poet Gustavo Barrera Calderón
12–12.30 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade
Presented in partnership with the Secretariat for the Implementation of Spanish

ORAL TRADITIONS

From folk tales to calpyso lyrics, T&T's oral traditions enrich and inform our written literature — and our Festival programme.

Extempo Debate
Extempo masters Black Sage and Lingo bring their cutting wit to a debate about politics and politricks.
Thursday 30 April, 12–12.45 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade

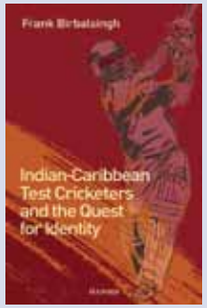
Tell Me a Story
Storytelling isn't just for children. Glenda-Rose Nassoma Layne, expert of the artform, weaves her tales.
Sunday 3 May, 10–11 am • Abercromby Street Arcade

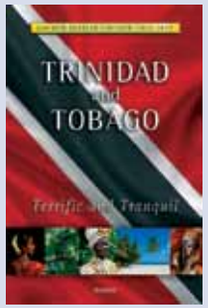
Sunday Lime
Music, traditional Carnival characters, even a magician, to lived up your festival afternoon. Featuring Idrees Salim as the Midnight Robber; music by Denlis Bertrand, Gabrielle Scott, Jhonn Young, and Pauliana Padmore; drama by DMAD Company; and Kes the Illusionist.
Sunday 3 May, 1–2 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade



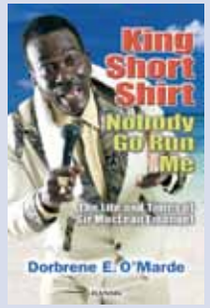
HANSIB PUBLICATIONS

MULTICULTURAL PUBLISHING SINCE 1970



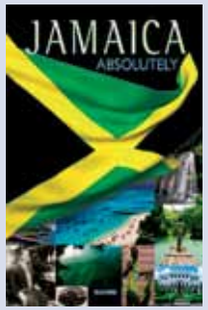


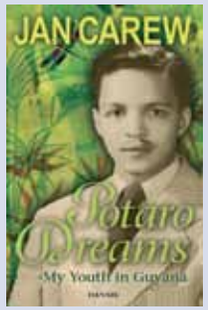




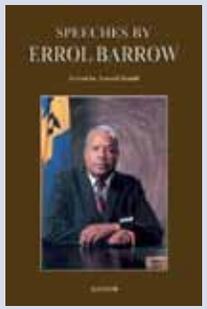
"Marking 45 years in publishing"

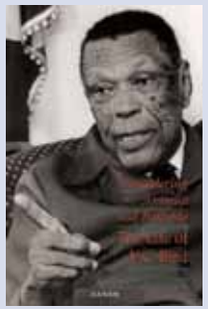


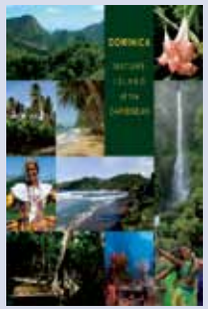


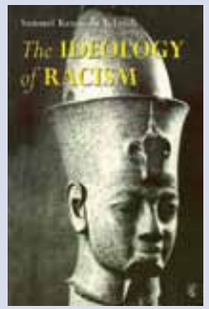








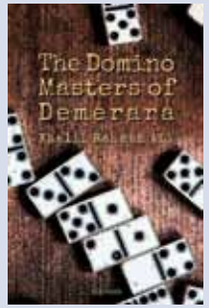


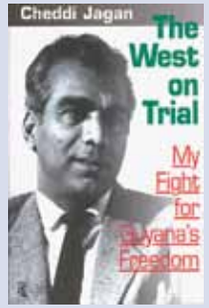


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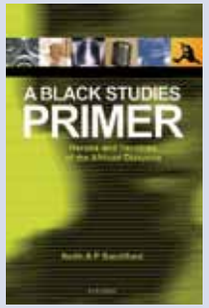
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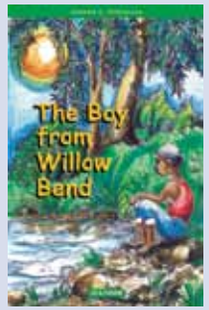




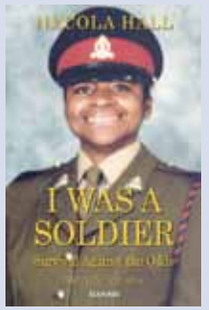




"Marking 45 years in publishing"

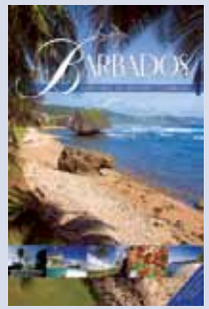


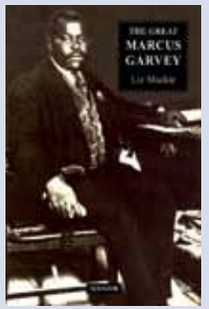


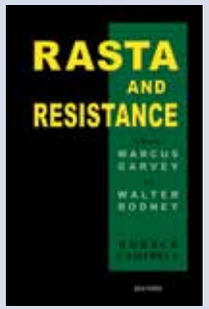












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BIG IDEAS

Debate the questions of the day or of the ages with our panels of writers and thinkers, and join intimate salon conversations

The 2015 NGC Bocas Lit Fest includes a series of panels and talks which explore topics ranging from current affairs to questions of the ages, led by some of our sharpest writers and thinkers. This year, we introduce a special Salon series of intimate, up-close conversations, where audiences are encouraged to join in.

THURSDAY 30 APRIL

Who's in charge?: The problems and possibilities of good governance
With Basdeo Panday, Louis Lee Sing, and Brinsley Samaroo; moderated by Sunity Maharaj
10.30 am–12 pm • Old Fire Station

Secrets of the creative mind
Susan Greenfield talks to architect Mark Raymond about the neuroscience of creativity
10.30 am–12 pm • AV Room

Salon: The business of translation
Translators Daniel Hahn and Frank Wynne, publisher Johnny Temple, and literary agent Ria Julien give an inside perspective on the publishing world's view of translation
10.30–11.30 am • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Salon: The world of children's writing
Daniel Hahn, editor of the new *Oxford Companion to Children's Literature*, on global trends in writing for young readers
1–2 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Dying to Better Themselves
Olive Senior, author of a groundbreaking new book on West Indian workers who helped build the Panama Canal, on capturing this crucial era in Caribbean history
2–3 pm • Old Fire Station

Nation vs. language
Scholars Carolyn Cooper and Silvio Torres-Saillant, diplomat Daniela Tramacere, and poet Gerda Stevenson debate questions of language, identity, and national consciousness in the Caribbean and further afield; moderated by David Codling
4–5 pm • Old Fire Station

FRIDAY 1 MAY

Salon: Introducing the Windham Campbell Prizes
Michael Kelleher, administrator of these awards for international writers based at Yale University, on what the Windham Campbell Prizes mean for Caribbean authors
12–1 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Salon: Translating the past
Colonised by foreign invaders, forced to speak a new language, resisting a predatory ruling class — is this medieval England, or the modern Caribbean? Or both? Poet Patience Agbabi and novelist-scholar Barbara Lalla discuss how medieval authors like Chaucer relate to 21st-century Caribbean concerns; moderated by Nicholas Laughlin
1–2 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Salon: *Blacks, Mulattos, and the Dominican Nation*
Scholar Silvio Torres-Saillant discusses the importance of this landmark book by sociologist Franklin Franco
2–3 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Patois, Trinidad's heritage language
Linguists Jo-Anne Ferreira and Nnamdi Hodge pose provocative questions about the language spoken by many of our great-grandparents — and its impact on how we think and speak today. Chaired by linguist Lise Winer
4–5 pm • AV Room

Salon: *Island Bodies*
Poet and scholar Rosamond King talks to Colin Robinson about the Caribbean's "transgressive sexualities."
4–5 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

SATURDAY 2 MAY

Writing in tongues
Writers from three corners of the world discuss the problems and privileges of writing across language borders, and what gets lost — or found — in translation. Featuring Kei Miller, Gustavo Barrera Calderón, and Aonghas MacNeacail; chaired by Daniel Hahn
10–11 am • Old Fire Station

Salon: The best of CODE's Burt Awards
Three finalist writers of the 2015 Burt Awards read from and discuss their work with Richard Finch. Featuring Imam Baksh, Michael Cozier, and Diana McCaulay
10–11 am • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Salon: The legacy of Roy Cape
Jocelyne Guilbault talks to journalists Mark Lyndersay and Laura Dowrich and producer Kasey Philips about the cultural impact of T&T's popular musician; chaired by Rhoda Reddock
11 am–12 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Salon: DIY Lit
Five recent self-published authors read from their work and share their insights into doing it your own way. Featuring Jenny Green, Treldon Layne, Vanessa Salazar, Vaughn T. Stanford, and John O. Stewart
1–2 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

SUNDAY 3 MAY

Walcott vs. Brathwaite?
Forty years ago, Derek Walcott and Kamau Brathwaite seemed to many readers like opposing poles of Caribbean poetry. How accurate was this idea then, and how has it changed? The legacies of two enduring Caribbean poets, debated by Edward Baugh, Kelly Baker Josephs, and Jean Antoine-Dunne; moderated by Laurence Breiner
10–11 am • Old Fire Station

To the barricades!
Bhaskar Sunkara, editor of the politics magazine *Jacobin*, talks to publisher Johnny Temple about the state of the left in today's United States
12–1 pm • AV Room

Salon: Building *Bridges*
Danielle Delon talks about her journey towards documenting the historic bridges of T&T
2–3 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

THE 2015 NGC BOCAS LECTURE



The Big Idea! Mind Change
Eminent neuroscientist Baroness Susan Greenfield claims that digital technological is reshaping our brains. What are the implications for society and how should we be planning our futures? In collaboration with the TT Chamber of Industry and Commerce.
Wednesday 29 April, 8–10am • TT Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Columbus Circle, Westmoorings. Pre-booking necessary.

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Wasafiri New Writing Prize 2015



We are looking for creative submissions in three categories: Poetry, Fiction and Life Writing. The competition is open to anyone worldwide who has not published a complete book in their chosen category.

Entries will be accepted until 24 July 2015 and a small fee applies.

For further information contact wasafiriprize@open.ac.uk or go to www.wasafiri.org/wasafiri-new-writing-prize.asp

This year's judges are Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, Toby Litt and Roger Robinson with Susheila Nasta

IN TRIBUTE

Honouring our literary heritage and our great writers, past and present

Derek Walcott at 85
In 2011, the St. Lucian Nobel Laureate was the inaugural winner of the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. As the fifth annual prize ceremony returns to the Old Fire Station — once home to Walcott's Trinidad Theatre Workshop — we pay tribute with a programme of literary and musical performances. Featuring the debut of a new setting of two poems from *White Egrets* by Trinidadian composer Dominique Le Gendre, performed by Tahirah Osborne and Enrique Ali, plus performances and readings by Edward Baugh, Nigel Scott, and Wendell Manwarren.
Saturday 2 May, 6.30 pm • Old Fire Station
Part of the OCM Bocas Prize ceremony • BY INVITATION

Our programme also includes a special Derek Walcott film series, including documentaries, adaptations of his works, and a filmed version of one of his landmark plays. See page 30 for details.

Kamau Brathwaite at 85
As the iconic Barbadian poet celebrates a landmark birthday, we celebrate his inimitable voice at a special event, featuring scholar Kelly Baker Josephs and poets Vladimir Lucien and Philip Nanton
Sunday 3 May, 12 pm–1 pm • Old Fire Station

Eric Roach at 100
2015 is the centenary of T&T's pioneering poet and playwright. A handful of his works are still celebrated, but how much do we remember of the man and his writing? Roach's biographer Laurence Breiner, his editors Kenneth Ramchand and Danielle Gianetti, authors Earl Lovelace and Andre Bagoo, and Minister of Arts and Multiculturalism Dr. Lincoln Douglas pay tribute through readings and conversation
Saturday 2 May, 2–3 pm • AV Room

Roy Cape: a life on the bandstand
His recent memoir, written collaboratively with Jocelyne Guilbault, captures the life and creative times of one of T&T's star musicians. A special Friday night event elebrates Roy Cape's genius, with his co-author and Alvin Daniell, plus music and a guest performance by 3Canal
Friday 1 May, 8 pm until • Big Black Box, Murray Street, Woodbrook

From Chile with love

As part of the 2015 Festival's focus on language and translation, we are delighted to host two exhibitions, courtesy the Embassy of the Republic of Chile.

Gabriela Mistral (1889–1957), Chilean poet and diplomat, was the first writer from Latin America to win a Nobel Prize in Literature, in 1945. This special exhibition marks the 70th anniversary of this historic milestone. At its opening, paying tribute to the work of Mistral — born Lucila Godoy Alcayaga — will be Chilean poet Gustavo Barrera Calderón.
Opening ceremony on Wednesday 29 April, 11.30 am–12.30 pm, and open to the public daily thereafter • National Library Atrium

Pablo Neruda (1904–1973) was "the greatest poet in any language," according to Gabriel García Márquez. Although he won the 1971 Nobel Prize in Literature, he is not well known to the English-reading public, as only a modest part of his work has been translated into English. A small exhibition on Neruda will be on view during the Festival.
Open daily • Lower ground floor, outside Library AV Room

Gustavo Barrera Calderón's participation supported by the Embassy of the Republic of Chile and Norton Lilly

FUTURE FRIDAY

A special programme of events focused on Caribbean speculative fiction and all the ways that "reality" can learn from "fantasy"

From *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to *Star Trek*, *Gulliver's Travels* to *The Wizard of Earthsea*, *The Lord of the Rings* to *The War of the Worlds*, works of speculative fiction — a diverse genre that includes fantasy, sci-fi, the supernatural and the futuristic — have entertained readers while asking hard questions about what we think of as "reality."

The 2015 NGC Bocas Lit Fest will bring together for the first time the three leading Caribbean writers of speculative fiction — Nalo Hopkinson, Tobias S. Buckell, and Karen Lord — plus Trinidad's debut author R.S.A. Garcia, for a special programme of events that asks how fantasy can fix reality.

Through readings from their books and a highlight debate on Future Friday (*1 May*) these writers explore how the alternate worlds, utopias, and dystopias created in their books help us understand our own contemporary societies, and help us imagine better futures.

Brave new worlds: how fantasy can fix reality
Caribbean speculative fiction authors Tobias Buckell, R.S.A. Garcia, Nalo Hopkinson, and Karen Lord explore how fiction about the fantastic can drive us to imagine alternative futures; moderated by Shivanee Ramlochan
11 am–12 pm • Old Fire Station

Followed by readings from the authors' most recent books:

Tobias S. Buckell and R.S.A. Garcia
1–2 pm • Old Fire Station

Nalo Hopkinson and Karen Lord
2–3 pm • Old Fire Station

Our programme also includes two special events for budding writers of the genre. On Wednesday 29 April, a **speculative fiction masterclass** with Karen Lord, plus a meet-the-authors session with Nalo Hopkinson, Tobias Buckell, and R.S.A. Garcia, offer feedback and focused advice.









LOST AND FOUND

Why translation matters: authors and translators debate how language both connects and divides

Caribbean peoples speak five main languages, official and unofficial: Spanish, French, Kweyol, Dutch, and English. We also speak a host of indigenous and regional languages all over Latin America and the Caribbean. Language connects people, but it can also divide.

This year our Festival explores a range of questions about language and translation through a series of debates, readings, and workshops. We'll ask why only three per cent of the literature we read in English is translated from other languages, and what is the effect of that on our cultures, economies, and politics.

WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL

Introduction to literary translation
With Daniel Hahn
What exactly is the job of a literary translator, and your relationship to the text and its author? A daylong workshop for budding translators.
Fluency in a language other than English highly recommended
9.30 am–12 pm, 1.30 pm–4 pm • Faculty of Humanities, UWI, St. Augustine

THURSDAY 30 APRIL

The business of translation
Translator Daniel Hahn, publisher Johnny Temple, and literary agent Ria Julien give an inside perspective on the publishing world's view of translation
10.30–11.30 am • 1st Floor Seminar Room

Nation vs. language
Scholars Carolyn Cooper and Silvio Torres-Saillant, diplomat Daniela Tramacere, and poet Gerda Stevenson debate questions of language, identity, and national consciousness in the Caribbean and further afield; moderated by David Codling
4–5 pm • Old Fire Station

FRIDAY 1 MAY

Translating the past
Colonised by foreign invaders, forced to speak a new language, resisting a predatory ruling class — is this medieval England, or the modern Caribbean? Or both? Poet Patience Agbabi and novelist-scholar Barbara Lalla discuss how medieval authors like Chaucer relate to 21st-century Caribbean concerns; chaired by Nicholas Laughlin
1–2 pm, 1st Floor Seminar Room

BRITISH COUNCIL

Patois: Trinidad's heritage language
Linguists Jo-Anne Ferreira and Nnamdi Hodge pose provocative questions about the language spoken by many of our great-grandparents — and its impact on how we think and speak today. Chaired by linguist Lise Winer
4–5 pm • AV Room

SATURDAY 2 MAY

Writing in tongues
Writers from three corners of the world discuss the problems and privileges of writing across language borders, and what gets lost — or found — in translation. Featuring Kei Miller, Gustavo Barrera Calderón, and Aonghas MacNeacail; chaired by Daniel Hahn
10–11 am • Old Fire Station

Translation Slam
Literary translation as a competitive sport? Game on! With Daniel Hahn and Frank Wynne, "refereed" by Eric Maitrejean
1–2 pm • Old Fire Station
Supported by the British Council

Micro Abierto
A Spanish-language open mic — bring your lyrics, *amigos!* With a guest reading by Dr. José Serulle Ramia, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic, and a feature performance by Chilean poet Gustavo Barrera Calderón
12–12.30 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade
Presented in partnership with the Secretariat for the Implementation of Spanish

WORKSHOPS

A series of lively, informative, practical sessions for budding writers, led by distinguished writers and other publishing professionals

TUESDAY 28 APRIL

The Heart/Mind Dilemma: Using your character's inner conflict to create a oowerful story
A daylong workshop for committed writers of YA fiction, with Lynn Joseph. This is the second in a series of annual free workshops as part of CODE's Burt Award for Caribbean Literature programme.
10 am–12 pm, 1.30 pm–3.30 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room
In partnership with CODE

WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL

Introduction to literary translation with Daniel Hahn
What exactly is the job of a literary translator, and your relationship to the text and its author? A daylong workshop for budding translators. *Fluency in a language other than English highly recommended.*
9.30 am–12 pm, 1.30 pm–4 pm • Faculty of Humanities, UWI, St. Augustine

Preparing for publication with Jeremy Poynting, publisher and editor, Peepal Tree Press
So you think you have a book worth publishing — what comes next? How do you prepare your manuscript and approach a publisher? A special daylong workshop for advanced emerging writers.
10 am–12 pm, 1.30–3.30 pm • AV Room

Speculative fiction masterclass — plus a "meet the authors" session!
With Karen Lord (main facilitator), Nalo Hopkinson, Tobias Buckell, R.S.A. Garcia
Workshop your speculative fiction in progress, and meet leading writers of the genre.
10 am–12.30 pm, 2 pm–4 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

THURSDAY 30 APRIL

Life stories: sharing strategies with Jocelyne Guilbault
A workshop on life writing, exploring both classic and innovative methods for capturing true-life stories.
10.30 am–12.30 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room

Reading in public with Earl Lovelace
Writers are expected to be masterful performers, but it doesn't always come naturally. An interactive session on how best to present your writing to a live audience.
1.30–4 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room

FRIDAY 1 MAY

Poetry: where it begins with Kei Miller
The award-winning writer investigates the sources of poetry — and how to tap into them. For beginning poets.
10 am–12.30 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room

Fiction: the art of vision and revision with Monique Roffey
Just get the first draft down on paper, writers are told. But what comes next?
1.30–4 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room

SATURDAY 2 MAY

How to start a magazine in six weeks with Bhaskar Sunkara
Straight out of college, this Trinidadian-American editor founded a successful magazine of politics and current affairs. Could you do the same?
10 am–12.30 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room, National Library

Writing (for) the Commonwealth with Fred D'Aguiar
The celebrated writer — and Caribbean judge for the 2015 Commonwealth Short Story Prize — explores how to write fiction deeply rooted in a particular location but accessible to readers from anywhere.
1.30–4 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room, National Library

Note: pre-registration required. Full-day workshops cost TT$60; other workshops cost $60.

SAY IT LOUD





Members of the 2Cents Movement featured in the March/April 2015 issue of *Caribbean Beat* magazine

Welcome to the spoken word renaissance

Spoken word, also referred to as performance poetry, is becoming increasingly popular across Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean. The Bocas Lit Fest has been working with the activist Spoken Word youth group the 2Cents Movement to develop the genre that provides a bridge between the oral tradition and the written word.

First Citizens are the sponsors of **The Verses Bocas Poetry Slam**, to be known from 2015 as the **First Citizens National Poetry Slam,** with a top prize of TT$20,000. The competition takes place over several rounds: auditions, held in February, were open to all competitors. The top 32 performers moved on to the semi-finals in late March.

The climax is the final play-off between 2014 winner, Idrees Saleem, and the 12 finalists at the Verses Bocas Poetry Slam Finals, the hotly contested closing event of the 2015 NGC Bocas Lit Fest.
Sunday 3 May, 5.30–8 pm • Globe Theatre, Park Street

The Courts Bocas Secondary Schools Speak Out Tour is in its second year. No other project of this scope or kind has been undertaken in Secondary Schools. The buy-in from stakeholders such as the Ministry of Education, school administration and students is evidence that the project has resonated deeply and is addressing real youth developmental concerns.

Between October 2014 and January 2015, the 2Cents Movement team visited 53 schools across the country and performed for over 25,000 children, of whom 120 went on to attend workshops in order to take part in the 2015 **Courts Bocas Speak Out Intercol.** Sixteen schools vied for the top prize at the Intercol Finals on 26 March. Winner Michael Logie from St. Augustine Secondary is a guest performer at the Verses Bocas Poetry Slam Finals on Sunday 3 May.

First Citizens

In 2015, First Citizens became the Bocas Lit Fest's first Lead Sponsor, proving invaluable support for the newly renamed First Citizens National Poetry Slam and the Festival's spoken word and open mic events.

2¢ movement

FILMS



Still from *Dust*, directed by Shane Book

Our screening programme includes films based on Caribbean literature and culture, with literary connections, or linked to other festival events. All films are screened in the Audio Visual Room on the lower ground floor of the National Library.

Celebrating Derek Walcott

Poetry Is an Island, dir. Ida Does
A moving and award-winning portrait of the poet, grounding his words and ideas in the landscape of St. Lucia
Thursday 30 April, 12.30–2.30 pm
Friday 1 May, 10 am–12 pm

Walcott as Poet and Seer, dir. Jean Antoine-Dunne
The Saddhu of Couva, dir. Yao Ramesar
An exploration of Walcott's legacy by a leading critic of his work, and a lyrical adaptation of one of his poems.
Friday 1 May • 12.30–1.45 pm

Dream on Monkey Mountain (filmed for NBC by Hugh Robertson)
The cast of the original 1970 production of Walcott's landmark play, in a rarely seen archival film recording.
Friday 1 May, 2–3.30 pm
Saturday 2 May, 10 am–11.30 pm

The Rig, dir. Derek Walcott
Originally filmed for broadcast on T&T television in the early 1980s, this feature-length drama written and directed by Walcott tells the story of a love affair in Mayaro, on Trinidad's southeast coast.
Saturday 2 May, 12–1.30 pm

Caribbean writers in Canada

My Dinner with Shani:
Shani Mootoo
Gardening with Olive:
Olive Senior
Fabulous Spaces:
Nalo Hopkinson
Three documentaries on celebrated Caribbean-Canadian writers, all directed by Frances-Anne Solomon

Dust and *Praise and Blame*
Directed by Shane Book
Two short films by the Trinidadian-Canadian poet, including a world debut

Saturday 2 May, 3.30–5.30 pm
Sunday 3 May, 10 am–12 pm



Revisiting Bim

The beloved Trinidadian film classic, with a screenplay with the late Raoul Pantin.

Bim, dir. Hugh Robertson
Sunday 3 May, 3.00–5.30 pm
Courtesy Suzanne Robertson

A Literary Award Like No Other!

Call for Submissions

The Burt Award for Caribbean Literature opens for submissions on 1 June 2015.

Authors and publishers of literature for young people: submit your unpublished manuscripts, published books, or self-published books by 23 October 2015.

Burt Award for Caribbean Literature — code

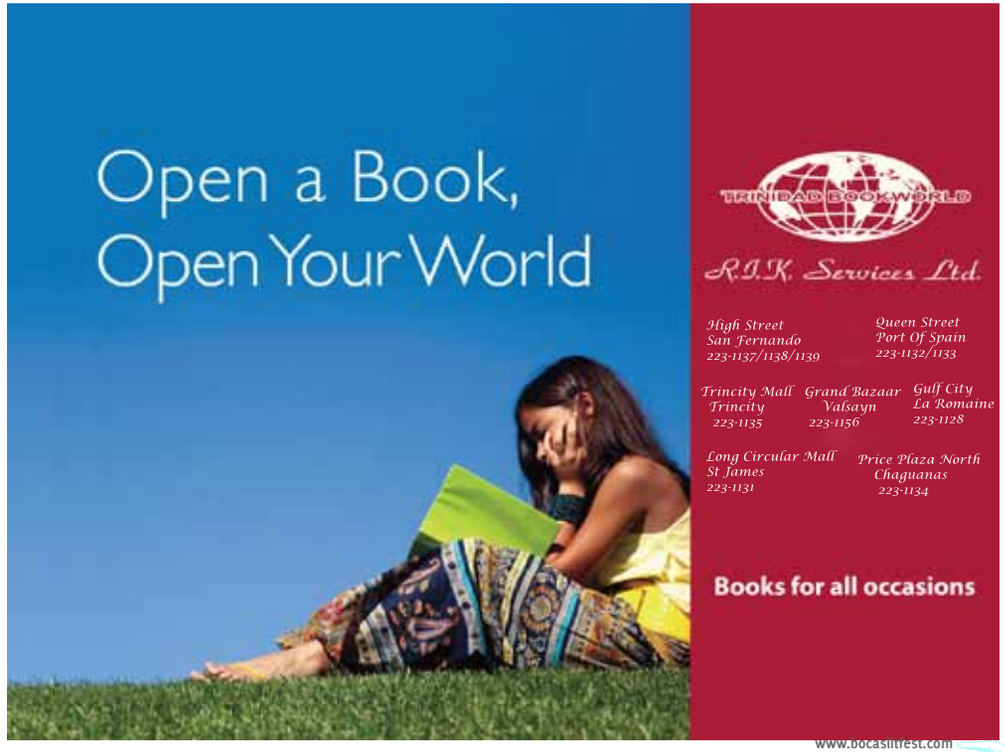
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ONE CARIBBEAN MEDIA LIMITED

OCM BOCAS PRIZE FOR CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

In 2015 we celebrate the fifth 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, i.95.5FM and Hott 93 radio, and the *Express* newspapers in Trinidad and Tobago.

The OCM Bocas Prize is the region's leading literary award. Books published in 2014 by authors of Caribbean birth or citizenship are eligible for the 2015 Prize in three genre categories: poetry, fiction, and literary non-fiction.

The Prize has two stages. First, panels of international 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 2015 longlist includes writers representing five different Caribbean countries, and the shortlisted books, comprising the winners in each genre category, represent Jamaica and St. Lucia.

The overall winner of the 2015 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, to be announced on Saturday 2 May, will receive US$10,000, with US$3,000 cash awards for the other genre winners.

The first OCM Bocas Prize winner in 2011 was Derek Walcott, for his poetry collection *White Egrets*. The 2012 winner was Earl Lovelace, for his novel *Is Just a Movie*. In 2013 the Prize was won by Monique Roffey, for her novel *Archipelago*, and the 2014 winner was Robert Antoni, for his novel *As Flies to Whatless Boys*.

2015 PRIZE LONGLIST

Poetry

Sounding Ground, by Vladimir Lucien (St. Lucia)

The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion, by Kei Miller (Jamaica)

The Merchant of Feathers, by Tanya Shirley (Jamaica)

Fiction

A Brief History of Seven Killings, by Marlon James (Jamaica)

House of Ashes, Monique Roffey, by (Trinidad and Tobago)

Land of Love and Drowning, by Tiphanie Yanique (US Virgin Islands)

Non-Fiction

Not for Everyday Use, by Elizabeth Nunez (Trinidad and Tobago)

King Short Shirt: Nobody Go Run Me, by Dorbrene E. O'Marde (Antigua and Barbuda)

Dying to Better Themselves: West Indians and the Building of the Panama Canal, by Olive Senior (Jamaica)

WINNER, POETRY



Sounding Ground — Vladimir Lucien's debut book — explores social and cultural boundaries in the poet's home island, moving between considerations of bloodlines both familial and linguistic. "His language makes inspired use of various kinds and registers of creole, which are always ... crucial to the purposes of the individual poem," write the Prize judges. "His poems have the kind of life-energy to be found hidden in any cubic metre of fertile soil."

Publisher: Peepal Tree Press, United Kingdom

From **"My Grandmother's Mind"**:

Many times what is on my grandmother's mind
is what to cook when she gets home
for her husband, the man's man. We call him
"Pah-pah", like the sound of two quick slaps,
like the sound of the catapult-slippers that
smack his hard foot-bottom when he walks out
with his man's stride out into the field, potbellied
and satisfied like Barbados. My grandmother,
"Ms. Yoolee", carries that thought like a basket
of unsold produce on her head from the market
in Bridgetown, leaving behind the hot memories
of arguments and strife, the damp salad of her worries ...



VLADIMIR LUCIEN is a St. Lucian poet. *Sounding Ground*, his debut poetry collection, was launched at the 2014 NGC Bocas Lit Fest. He is a past winner of the *Small Axe* Literary Competition for Poetry, and has appeared at literary festivals and other events in the United States, the Netherlands, Suriname, Barbados, and Guadeloupe.

POETRY JUDGES

Chair: Laurence Breiner is Professor of English at Boston University. He is the author of *An Introduction to West Indian Poetry* and *Black Yeats: Eric Roach and the Politics of Caribbean Poetry* as well as numerous articles and reviews on Caribbean literature.

Patience Agbabi is a sought-after poet who celebrates the written and spoken word. She read English at Oxford, has an MA in Creative Writing from Sussex and has lectured in Creative Writing in several UK universities. Her fourth collection, *Telling Tales* (Canongate, 2014), is an exhilarating, multicultural remix of *The Canterbury Tales*, shortlisted for the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry.

Pamela Mordecai immigrated to Canada from Jamaica in 1994. In 2012, TSAR published her fifth poetry collection, *Subversive Sonnets*. She has also published five children's books, a short story collection, and a reference work on Jamaica (with her husband, Martin). Thomas Allen recently published *Red Jacket,* a novel.

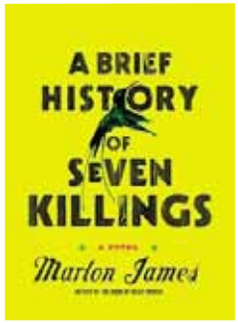
FICTION JUDGES

Chair: Clare Alexander became a literary agent in 1998 after more than 20 years as a publisher, latterly as Publisher of Viking and Editor-in-chief of Macmillan. She was named Orion Publishing Group Literary Agent of the Year at the 2007 British Book Industry Awards and was awarded the 2008 Kim Scott Walwyn Prize, which honours outstanding achievements by women in publishing.

Nalo Hopkinson, born in Jamaica, is a Jamaican-Canadian whose taproots extend to Trinidad and Guyana. She has published numerous books and short stories, winning the John W. Campbell Award, the Locus Award, the World Fantasy Award, the Sunburst Award (twice), and the Norton Award. She is a professor of Creative Writing at the University of California, Riverside.

Ria Julien, a NY based Trinidadian, is a literary agent with Frances Goldin Literary Agency in New York City. The agency specialises in literary fiction and non-fiction, especially books with a progressive political orientation.

WINNER, FICTION



Marlon James's *A Brief History of Seven Killings* is an epic account of Jamaican society and politics in the 1970s, hinged on a failed assassination attempt on "the Singer" (Bob Marley). It encompasses local and international politics, violence and trauma, through a multiplicity of arresting voices. "To experience the visceral power of reading this novel," write the judges, "is to see, smell, and feel what great literature can do."

Publisher: Riverhead, United States

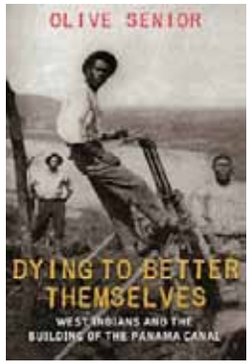
From ***A Brief History of Seven Killings***:

Listen.
Dead people never stop talking. Maybe because death is not death at all, just a detention after school. You know where you're coming from and you're always returning from it. You know where you're going though you never seem to get there and you're just dead. Dead. It sounds final but it's a word missing an *ing*. You come across men longer dead than you, walking all the time though heading nowhere and you listen to them howl and hiss because we're all spirits or we think we are all spirits but we're all just dead . . .



MARLON JAMES is a Jamaican writer, currently a professor of literature and creative writing at Macalester College in Minnesota. He is the author of three award-winning novels: *John Crow's Devil* (2005), *The Book of Night Women* (2009), and *A Brief History of Seven Killings* (2014).

WINNER, NON-FICTION



In her historical work *Dying to Better Themselves: West Indians and the Building of the Panama Canal*, Olive Senior draws on official accounts and personal documents to capture the voices of the early 20th century Caribbean migrants to Panama. Senior "elegantly achieves the requisite balance between the demands of factuality and the permissiveness of creativity," write the judges, "craftily deploying her creative writing skills to animate historical data."

Publisher: UWI Press, Jamaica

From ***Dying to Better Themselves:***

. . . like many West Indians of my generation, I grew up in a household of people who had "gone to Panama": my great-uncle Edward Rupert Peart of Manchester, Jamaica, and his sister Isobel (who had joined him in Panama and later in New York) returned to Jamaica and settled at Haddo, Westmoreland. My maternal grandfather Lewis Arnold Peart had also gone to Panama at the time of canal construction, but he died long before I was born. I have no knowledge of his life there. This book represents both a search for and a tribute to the composite "grandfather": the legendary forefather who vanished, or who came home crippled, as well as the one who brought home "Panama gold" and used it to better himself . . .



OLIVE SENIOR is a Jamaican writer, currently based in Canada. She is the author of several prizewinning books, including the Commonwealth Writers' Prize-winning *Summer Lightning*, three other books of fiction and four collections of poems.

NON FICTION JUDGES

Chair: Carolyn Cooper is a professor of literary and cultural studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. She is the author of two influential books on Jamaican popular culture, *Sound Clash* (2004) and *Noises in the Blood* (1993), and editor of *Global Reggae* (2012). She writes a weekly column for the *Jamaica Gleaner* and co-hosts a weekly current affairs radio programme, *Big Tingz A Gwaan*.

Silvio Torres-Saillant has lectured lately at universities in Europe and South America, delivering the 2013 Walter Rodney Lecture at the University of Warwick and the 2015 Martin Luther King commemorative address in Geneva (NY). A Syracuse University English Professor, his books include *Caribbean Poetics*.

Bhaskar Sunkara is the founding editor and publisher of *Jacobin* magazine. His parents emigrated from Trinidad in 1988, the year before he was born. Sunkara is a socialist political activist based in New York.

2014 OCM BOCAS PRIZE OVERALL CROSS-GENRE JUDGING PANEL



Chair: Austin Clarke, Barbados-born, Canada-based, is a celebrated novelist, short-story writer, and journalist, and the winner of numerous awards, including the Rogers Communication Writers Trust Prize, the W.O. Mitchell Prize, the Giller Prize for fiction, the Trillium Prize, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Canada and the Caribbean region, and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for best book.



Vice Chair: Marjorie Thorpe, representative of the OCM Bocas Prize administrators, was Regional Chair of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize (Canada and the Caribbean) from 2003 to 2005. A former University Dean of the Faculty of Arts and General Studies, UWI, she was subsequently appointed Trinidad and Tobago's Ambassador to the United Nations, Deputy Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

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Upcoming Exhibitions:

Luise Kimme

Works cast in the Tobago Foundry

Opening Saturday 2 May 2015, 5 - 8 pm

Exhibition closes Friday 15 May at 6 pm

Previews:
Thu 30 April and Fri 1 May 4 - 6 pm
Saturday 2 May 10 am - 2 pm

The Ralph and Vera Baney Private Collection

Opening Saturday 6 June, 2015, 5 - 8 pm

Exhibition closes Friday 19 June at 6 pm

Previews:
Thu 4 and Fri 5 June 4 - 6 pm
Saturday 6 June 10 am - 2 pm

We sell throughout the year from our website, and ship internationally

HOLLICK ARVON CARIBBEAN WRITERS PRIZE

Presented by the Hollick Family Trust, Arvon, and the Bocas Lit Fest

Now in its third and final year, the Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize is an annual award which allows an emerging Caribbean writer living and working in the Anglophone Caribbean to devote time to advancing or finishing a literary work, with support from an established writer as mentor. From 2013 to 2015 it was sponsored by the Hollick Family Charitable Trust and administered by Britain's leading literary charitable trust, Arvon, and the Bocas Lit Fest.

Over the last three years, the Hollick Arvon Prize was offered across three literary genres — fiction in 2013, non-fiction in 2014, and poetry in 2015. The Prize consists of a cash award of approximately US$5,000, a year's mentoring by an established writer, travel to the United Kingdom to attend a one-week intensive Arvon creative writing course at one of Arvon's internationally renowned writing houses, and three days in London to network with editors and publishers, hosted by Arvon, in association with the Free Word Centre and the Rogers, Coleridge & White literary agency.

The inaugural winner in 2013 was Barbara Jenkins of Trinidad and Tobago, and Diana McCaulay of Jamaica won the 2014 Prize.

A total of 53 writers from 12 Caribbean countries entered for this year's Prize, the last to be sponsored by the Hollick Family Charitable Trust in the UK, whose generous support of this important initiative we gratefully acknowledge.

The winner of the 2015 Hollick Arvon Prize is announced on Saturday 2 May at the 2015 NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

2015 SHORTLIST

Elliot Bastien, Trinidad and Tobago
Nicolette Bethel, the Bahamas
Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné, Trinidad and Tobago
Richard Georges, British Virgin Islands
Shivanee Ramlochan, Trinidad and Tobago

2015 LONGLIST

Zahra Gordon, Trinidad and Tobago
Monica Minott, Jamaica
Xavier Navarro, Puerto Rico
Lynn Sweeting, The Bahamas
Peta-Gaye V. Williams, Jamaica

JUDGES

Chair: **Funso Aiyejina**, Deputy Festival Director, Bocas Lit Fest
Ruth Borthwick, Chief Executive, Arvon
Edward Baugh, poet and scholar
Jennifer Hewson, literary agent, Rogers, Coleridge & White
Caroline Hollick, Hollick Family Charitable Trust

BOCAS HENRY SWANZY AWARD

The **Bocas Henry Swanzy Award for Distinguished Service to Caribbean Letters** is named for the late BBC World Service radio producer (1915–2004) who created a landmark platform for Caribbean writing in the 1940s and 50s. The *Caribbean Voices* programme built an audience for West Indian literature at a crucial stage in its development, and supported a generation of then-emerging writers.

Each year the NGC Bocas Lit Fest honours Swanzy's memory and recognises the achievements of other editors, broadcasters, publishers, and critics via the Bocas Henry Swanzy Award. Awardees are chosen by the festival organising committee.

The recipient of the 2015 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award is **Margaret Busby**, OBE, publisher, editor, and broadcaster, in recognition of her decades-long role in promoting Caribbean, African, and Black British writers and publishers in the United Kingdom.

Born in Ghana of Trinidadian heritage, Busby was educated in the UK, and is today one of the most eminent persons in British publishing. In 1967 she co-founded with Clive Allison the publishing house Allison & Busby (A&B), where she was Editorial Director for twenty years. She was then the youngest woman and the first black woman to found a publishing house in the UK. The Allison & Busby catalogue was an innovative, unpredictable, international list of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and children's books.

Among A&B's impressive list of authors were C.L.R. James, Chester Himes, George Lamming, Roy Heath, Ishmael Reed, John Edgar Wideman, Nuruddin Farah, Rosa Guy, Val Wilmer, Colin MacInnes, H. Rap Brown, Julius Lester, Adrian Mitchell, and Carlos Moore.

Since leaving A&B in 1987, Margaret has continued to play an active role in promoting Caribbean and African writing. She is currently patron of Independent Black Publishers (IBP), and a member of the Arts Council's Diversity in Publishing steering group. She has served as a judge for many literary awards, including the Orange Prize, the *Independent* Foreign Fiction Prize, the Caine Prize for African Writing, the Commonwealth Book Prize, and the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature.

An award-winning writer, editor, critic, and consultant, she has written articles and reviews for many publications, including the *Guardian, Independent, Observer, New Statesman, Wasafiri,* and *The Times Literary Supplement*. She also broadcasts on radio and television. Her radio abridgements and dramatizations include works by C.L.R. James, Jean Rhys, Wole Soyinka, Timothy Mo, Sam Selvon, Walter Mosley, Henry Louis Gates, Lawrence Scott, and Simi Bedford.

In 2013 the inaugural Bocas Henry Swanzy Award was presented to **John La Rose** (posthumously) and **Sarah White** of New Beacon Books. The 2014 winners were **Kenneth Ramchand** and **Gordon Rohlehr**, literary critics and professors emeriti of the University of the West Indies.

Bocas Henry Swanzy Award ceremony, with an address by Margaret Busby, featuring Clare Alexander and Lawrence Scott
Thursday 30 April, 5.30–6.30 pm • AV Room

The Award is donated by **Charles Gledhill**, a London-based bookbinder, conservator of antiquarian books, and maker of modern bindings, who also works with contemporary artists in the creation of artists' books and portfolios. The award takes the form of a book box in the style of the eighteenth century, bound in calf and marbled paper, with decorative gold tooling to the spine.

BURT AWARD FOR CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

CODE's Burt Award for Caribbean Literature was inaugurated in 2014. It is an annual award presented to three English-language literary works for young adults (aged 12 to 18) written by Caribbean authors. Established by CODE — a Canadian charitable organisation that has been supporting literacy and learning for over 50 years — in collaboration with William (Bill) Burt and the Literary Prizes Foundation, the Award aims to provide engaging and culturally relevant books for young people across the Caribbean.

Up to three prizes are awarded each year to the authors of the winning titles: a First Prize of CAD $10,000, a Second Prize of CAD $7,000 and a Third Prize of CAD $5,000. Publishers of winning titles are awarded a guaranteed purchase of up to 2,500 copies which are donated to select libraries, schools and literacy organisations for distribution throughout the region.

Over the last year 7,500 copies of the first three winning titles (*All Over Again* by Adziko Simba Gegele, *Musical Youth* by Joanne C. Hillhouse, and *Inner City Girl* by Colleen Smith-Dennis) have been distributed to schools, libraries, and community organisations in 12 Caribbean countries. The titles were also used in Trinidad and Tobago for two unique intensive secondary school teachers' workshops

The 2015 winners are being named on Friday 1 May, at the 2015 NGC Bocas Lit Fest. Winning manuscripts will be published six months after the prize announcement.

JUDGES

Debbie Jacob (Trinidad & Tobago) is a teacher, librarian, journalist, and author of eight books, most recently *Wishing for Wings*.

Verna Wilkins (Grenada-born, London-Based) is founder of Tamarind Books. She is the author of forty picture books and eight biographies for young people.

Joanne C. Hillhouse (Antigua & Barbuda) is the author of *The Boy from Willow Bend, Dancing Nude in the Moonlight, Fish Outta Water*, and *Oh Gad!*. Her manuscript, *Musical Youth*, placed second for the inaugural Burt Award in 2014.

Richard Scrimger (Canada) has published sixteen books for adults and children, and written for television and print media. His first adult novel, *Crosstown*, was a finalist for the City of Toronto Book Award, and his second, *Mystical Rose*, was a Globe & Mail book of the year.

2015 shortlist

Children of the Spider, by Imam Baksh, Guyana (manuscript to be published)

Putting Up a Resistance, by Michael Cozier, Trinidad and Tobago (self-published book)

Dancing in the Rain, by Lynn Joseph, Trinidad and Tobago (manuscript to be published)

Prayer to the Motivator, by Kamau Mahakoe, Jamaica (manuscript to be published)

The Dolphin Catchers, by Diana McCaulay, Jamaica (manuscript to be published)

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

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NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest

The NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest is a special programme of events for young readers. During the month of April, our Children's Storytelling Caravan travels all around Trinidad and Tobago, as children get to meet our expert storytellers and share their wonderful stories with us. It culminates in the four-day Children's Festival at the National Library, a treat of readings from children's books by their authors, creative writing workshops, films, and the last stop of the Storytelling Caravan. All events take place in the Children's Library on the ground floor of the National Library, Port of Spain.

THURSDAY 30 APRIL

Reading
Grannie's Coal Pot and *Wygenia* and *The Wonder of the World Leaf*, Summer Edward
9.00–9.15 am

Writing Workshop
With Summer Edward and Colin Bootman
Two author/illustrators use art to get to the heart of reading and writing.
9.20–10.15am

Reading
Flowers in the Sky, Lynn Joseph
10.30–11.00 am

Pictorial Tour: The Making of Port of Spain
11.00–11.30 am

Writing Workshop: The Art of Writing
With Sufia Giza Amenwahsu
12.30–1.30 pm

Writing Workshop: The Power of Words
With Lisa Allen-Agostini
1.45–2.45 pm

FRIDAY 1 MAY

Reading
Littletown Secrets, K. Jared Hosein
9.00–9.30 am

Reading
The Black Lake, Grace Achoy
9.35–10.15 am

Reading
The Dolphin Catchers, Diana McCaulay
10.25–10.45 am

Writing Workshop
With Eintou Springer
For visiting schools
11.00–12.00 pm

Readings
Trapped in Dunstan's Cave and *Sea Scapes,* Carol Mitchell
1–1.30 pm

Reading
How Monkey Got his Tail, Imam Baksh
1.35–2.00 pm

SATURDAY 2 MAY

NGC Bocas Storytelling Caravan
The Red House Bones with Eintou Springer
9.00–11.15 am

Interactive Reading
Benjamin Zepaniah, Verna Wilkins
11.30–12.00 pm

Reading
Tales from Moruga, Raziah Ahmed
1.00–1.30 pm

Drawing the Word
Illustrating and drawing inspired by stories, with Ingrid Newman
1.40–2.30 pm

Reading
The Steel Pan of Harlem, Colin Bootman
2.40–3.45 pm

SUNDAY 3 MAY

Local animations, courtesy Full Circle
10.30 am onwards

Magic
Kes the Illusionist

CHILDREN'S AUTHORS, PERFORMERS AND WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

Grace Achoy is a Trinidadian librarian whose love of reading and passion for her heritage led to the creation of *The Black Lake*, which is loosely based on an Amerindian folklore about the Pitch Lake in La Brea. She lives in San Fernando.

Senator the Hon. Raziah Ahmed is President of the Senate and a lover of Trinidad and Tobago's folktales. She is a guest reader at the 2015 Children's NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

Lisa Allen-Agostini, editor of the *Sunday Guardian Arts Section*, author of *The Chalice Project* (Macmillan Caribbean), and co-editor of *Trinidad Noir* (Akashic Books), is the founder of The Allen Prize for Young Writers. Her collection of poems *Swallowing the Sky* is published by Cane Arrow Press in 2015.

Imam Baksh is a Guyanese writer. His short story "How Monkey Got His Tail" was published in the Guyana Annual magazine, 2009, and his debut novel, *Children of the Spider,* is one of the winners of the 2015 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature.

Colin Bootman, Trinidad born, New York raised, received his BFA from The School of Visual Arts in New York. Author of *Young Frederick Douglass,* 1994, he has illustrated and published more than twenty-five books. Recipient of many awards, he now splits his time between Trinidad and the US.

Summer Edward, poet, writer and healing artist, is the founder and Managing Editor of *Anansesem* Caribbean children's literature ezine. Her poetry and art appeared in *Whaleheart: Journey into the Night with Maya Christina Gonzalez and 23 Courageous Artist Authors.*

Sufia Giza Amenwahsu, poet, is an Ancestrally Inspired Artist of Gullah-Geechee descent. Co-founder of the Riverside Renaissance Writers Group, California, she and her husband, Baba Seitu, perform poetry and music and present workshops on the healing power of music.

Kevin Jared Hosein, was shortlisted for the *Small Axe* Literary Prize and the Commonwealth Short Story Prize, and is featured in *Pepperpot: Best New Stories from the Caribbean*. His debut book, *Littletown Secrets,* is a fantasy tale for younger audiences about a town haunted by mystical creatures.

Lynn Joseph is a Trinidadian author of several books for children and young adults. Her manuscript *Dancing in the Rain* is one of the winners of the 2015 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature.

Diana McCaulay is a Jamaican writer, newspaper columnist and environmental activist. Her first novel for young readers, *The Dolphin Catchers*, is one of the winners of the 2015 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature.

Carol Mitchell, St. Kitts and Nevis–born, US-based, author of many children's books, is a publisher at Caribbean Reads Publishing. Her work has appeared in *Poui*, Akashic's *Mondays Are Murder* series and the St. Somewhere Journal. She is the author of the children's books *Seascapes*, illustrated by Trinidadian artist Vanessa Soodeen, and *Trapped in Dunstan's Cave.*

Verna Allette Wilkins, celebrated author of 30 books for young people, with her books featured on the BBC and on the Schools National Curriculum, is the founder of Tamarind Books. Awards include the British Book Industry Decibel Award for Multicultural Publishing and an Honorary Doctor of Letters.

CHILDREN'S STORYTELLERS

Masters of the oral tradition travel around the country to tell stories to children, and to hear their stories too.

Natacha Jones, Trinidadian, is a media dynamo. After winning the Cacique Award for sound in *The Wine of Astonishment* (1987), she worked as a TV producer and presenter. Nowadays she immerses herself in television and radio production, focusing on issues related to women and children.

Thelma Perkins, UK born with Trinidadian roots, retired to a life of writing and storytelling in Tobago. Her publications include: *In Search of Mr McKenzie*, The Women's Press; a story for children, *Wishing on a Wooden Spoon*, Mantra Publishing and a novel, *Roundabouts,* Mango Publishing.

Lylah Persad, writer, director, actor, storyteller, is the Creative and Artistic Director of LP Entertainment Theatre. She produced *Once Upon a Toy Shop*, an interactive children's anti-bullying musical production, which, with Gayelle the channel, is to be made into a TV series.

Eintou Pearl Springer is a former Poet Laureate of Port of Spain. In her work with *The Idakeda Group* she explores social issues using traditional performance forms. Her publications include four collections of poetry for adults, three for children, and *God Child*, a collection of children's stories.

Auntie Thea (Theodora Ulerie), co-ordinator of Baku Productions is the Founder/ Creative Director of Culture House, a facility for developing cultural awareness among young people. A writer and celebrated storyteller, she is the premier in-house Storyteller at the Port of Spain Children's Library.



Meet Dragonzilla!

FESTIVAL T-SHIRTS



When we first introduced them, our bold "WRITERS WANTED" and "READERS WANTED" t-shirts were instant classics. Everyone in the Caribbean literati had to have one. This year, we release two cheeky new designs, plus a line of t-shirts for children as well. Quantities are limited — come and check for your size at the Festival welcome desk in the Library Atrium!

Adult t-shirts: TT$80
Children's t-shirts: TT$60



WHO'S WHO

Meet the members of the 2015 NGC Bocas Lit fest team

Marina Salandy-Brown is the founder and Festival Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest. She was the first Executive Director of the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival. Since 2005 she has been a *Newsday* columnist. She is a former BBC prize-winning programme maker with a publishing background She was awarded a Doctor of Letters (DLitt), *Honoris Causa* by the University of Westminster in 2005, and by the University of the West Indies in 2013. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Funso Aiyejina is the Deputy Festival Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest. He is the former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, and now Professor Emeritus. He is also a prize-winning poet and short story writer, whose awards include the 2000 Commonwealth Writers Prize (Africa). Born in Nigeria, he has been based in Trinidad and Tobago since 1989. Since 2000 he has co-run the Cropper Foundation Writers Workshop, for Caribbean writers.

Nicholas Laughlin is the Programme Director of the Festival and a member of the OCM Bocas Prize organising committee. He is the editor of *The Caribbean Review of Books* and the arts and travel magazine *Caribbean Beat*. He is also co-director of the contemporary art space and network Alice Yard.

Danielle Delon is Director of the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest. She is the editor of *The Letters of Margaret Mann*, is a former magazine editor, and is a publisher whose current projects include a book about the history of the bridges of Trinidad and Tobago.

Anna Lucie-Smith, Festival Programme Coordinator, was previously content editor at the National Library and Information Systems Authority, and a publishing assistant at the University of Trinidad and Tobago Press.

Marielle Forbes is the Festival's Hospitality and Business Manager, and the main liaison for visiting writers.

Jean-Claude Cournand, founder of the 2 Cents Movement, and **Mickel Guanfranco Alexander** are Coordinators of the Verses Bocas Poetry Slam and the Festival's spoken word and open mic events.

Joan Dayal is Festival Booksellers' Coordinator and owner of Paper Based bookshop, which for 28 years has specialised in Caribbean literature and post-colonial writing.

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

Kenrick Attale, CEO of Lonsdale Saatchi & Saatchi Advertisng, is the Festival's Marketing Director.

Marjorie Thorpe is Vice Chair of the OCM Bocas Prize judging panel.

Shivanee Ramlochan, Festival Blogger and Social Media Coordinator, is also a writer of poetry and fiction and a book critic.

Malene Joseph is the Burt Award Ceremony Coordinator.

Natasha Solano is the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Coordinator.

Natacha Jones and **Ariana Herbert** are the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Storytelling Assistants.

Barbara Jenkins is the Festival's Programme Assistant.

Marlon James, official Festival Photographer, is a well-known Jamaican artist currently based in Trinidad.

Richard Mark Rawlins, Festival Designer, has worked in various areas of graphic design, and his work as a visual artist has been shown in several exhibitions. He is the publisher of the contemporary art and design e-magazine *Draconian Switch*.

Cedric Smart, Technical Coordinator, is a consultant providing a complete service in sound design and production.

James Barber is the administrator of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest website.

Krystal Smart is a Guest Coordinator for the Festival.

Linda Leona Lee is the Festival's Workshop Coordinator.

Gerry Anthony is the Festival's Performance Event Coordinator.

Maurice Chevalier is the Festival Decor Coordinator.

Veronique Majani is the OCM Bocas Prize After-Party Coordinator.

Pat Ganase is the Festival's PR Advisor.

Ardene Sirjoo, Ghislaine Agostini, **Gem Rowe**, **Stefan Rampersad**, **Irma Rambaran** and **Lisa Huggins** are principal Festival volunteers.

Vincent O'Neil and **Nicolas Perez** are the Festival's Online Livestream Technicians.



HOME OF THE FESTIVAL

The National Library of Trinidad and Tobago and Old Fire Station

CREDITS & THANKS

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

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Funso Aiyejina
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