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NGC Bocas Lit Fest 7

WRITERS WANTED

FREE and open to all.

Shh!... I'm reading.

26 APRIL TO 30 APRIL 2017

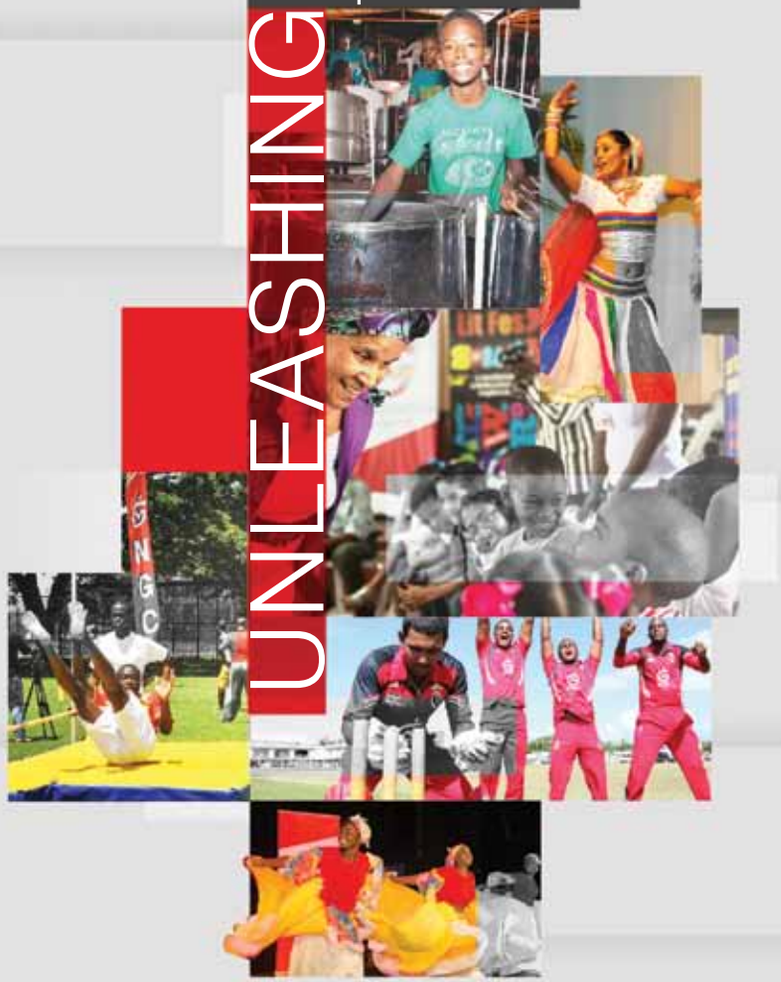
PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD

THE CARIBBEAN'S BIGGEST FESTIVAL OF WORDS, STORIES AND IDEAS.

GUIDE

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OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

UNLEASHING the potential



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Whether it's through developing social programmes, providing sponsorship, or ensuring we replant every single tree we've lost during pipeline construction, NGC continues to work toward creating a better Trinidad and Tobago by focusing support on the areas of arts and culture, education, youth development and sport and empowerment.

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NGC Bocas Lit Fest

WELCOME

READERS WANTED.

26 APRIL TO 30 APRIL 2017

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD

Welcome to the seventh NGC Bocas Lit Fest and to our packed programme of activities.

Seven is a lucky number, and we do feel lucky. Belt-tightening is increasing everywhere, so we're very grateful our enlightened sponsors continue to support the work of Bocas, recognising the value of our work promoting literature. We're lucky, too, that our local and international partnerships continue to multiply.

And we're all very lucky that the pool of literary talent in T&T and the region keeps growing. Over the past seven years, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest has become known for our special focus on new and budding writers. We're constantly on the lookout for fresh talent, and finding ways to advance the writing careers of our most promising. As always, the 2017 Festival features some of these exciting voices and offers opportunities for newcomers to share their work.

We have revamped and expanded our ***Stand and Deliver*** events, making them the centrepieces of our programme on Friday 28 and Saturday 29 April. *Stand and Deliver*, as the name suggests, is a special open mic where writers of all styles and persuasions have a chance to share their work in public. There'll be specially invited feature writers to raise the game, and some music too.

And along with the brilliant **poetry and fiction** in our programme, you'll also find a slate of high-level, hard-hitting discussions. From the start, Bocas has been not just a festival of literature, but a festival of ideas: an opportunity to **debate** the state of our country, our region, and our world, through all mediums of expression: through books, poems, songs, plays, and films, but also through conversations with some of our boldest thinkers.

In 2017, we're putting the spotlight on some of the thorniest **human rights issues** we face, bringing together writers, activists, politicians and judges to discuss press freedom, our criminal justice and prison system, and LGBT rights. We're asking how a broader agenda for human rights should be shaped by the specific needs of vulnerable groups in our society.

This year we explore the ideas of t**wo of T&T's most profound thinkers** on politics and society. The Festival opens on Thursday 27 April with a series of events reconsidering the legacy of the late C.L.R. James, including readings from his celebrated works, a panel discussing James's impact on T&T, a new documentary film, and an Extempo debate. And the closing event at the National Library on Sunday 30 April marks the tenth anniversary of the death of the visionary thinker Lloyd Best. A decade later, Best's insights into the unique predicaments and possibilities of Caribbean civilisation are more relevant than ever.

Bocas 2017 is also overflowing with performances and workshops, an action-packed children's programme and the second **CineLit: Latin American and Caribbean Literary Film Festival**, events in schools and the Port of Spain prison, appearances by musicians and Carnival performers — you can find all the details in the following pages and in our foldout Festival Programme.

It will make you think, make you smile, make you argue, make you imagine, also make you read and write, we hope — and surely make you come back next year for more.



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THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

THE CARIBBEAN'S BIGGEST FESTIVAL OF WORDS, STORIES AND IDEAS.

CELEBRATING OUR STORYTELLERS, WRITERS, POETS, AND DRAMATISTS

We are a nation of storytellers. There are stories in our songs: our calypso, soca, and chutney. There are stories in our mas, our drama and our dance. We engage in wordplay outside of eateries and on street corners, and in chance meetings at the marketplace.

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) recognises, elevates, and celebrates the innate skills of our storytellers, writers, poets, and dramatists through its ongoing title sponsorship of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest. NGC Bocas gives a voice to local and regional authors, poets, spoken-word artists, and more. It is eagerly anticipated by an increasingly global audience. It is a festival of writers, writing, readers, and ideas.

The festival's standards of excellence are applied to workshops, panel discussions, book readings, and signings, as well as poetry slam competitions and film screenings. The children are specially catered for through the Children's Storytelling Caravan, which reaches out to communities, and where children can create their own stories, which are then compiled and published as a Bocas Lit Fest production.

The NGC Bocas Lit Fest is a flagship investment in our Corporate Social Responsibility programme, through which NGC supports youth development in sport and education; the preservation and promotion of arts and culture; environmental protection and preservation; and community development and enhancement. Our partnership with Bocas has always been a particularly rewarding investment, now even more so as the event keeps evolving and expanding. As title sponsors, we have the exclusive honour of travelling in name with the NGC Bocas Lit Fest. This festival was named among the world's top twenty literary festivals by Penguin Random House — The Writers' Academy. Bibliophiles worldwide are encouraged to visit "exotic" Port-of-Spain to take in readings, performances, films, workshops, discussions, and children's storytelling in the "vibrant atmosphere" of this "rapidly expanding" literary festival. Thanks to the footprint of this festival, NGC is well on our way to becoming a globally recognised brand.

As we wish the Bocas team all the best for another successful festival instalment, we reiterate our pride in standing with them as an ally in the cause of promoting literacy and developing our creative industries.

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BASICS

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

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

DATES AND TIMES

Tuesday 18–Sunday 30 April,
CineLit: the Latin American and Caribbean Literary Film Festival at UWI, St. Augustine Campus, and the National Library
Monday 24 April, 5–9 pm
Wednesday 26 April, 10 am–11 pm
Thursday 27 April, 9 am–9 pm
Friday 28 April, 10 am–10 pm
Saturday 29 April, 10 am–8.30 pm
Sunday 30 April, 10 am–8.30 pm

GETTING TO THE FESTIVAL AND PARKING

Free, secure parking and shuttle service from Queen's Park Savannah Grand Stand to Abercromby Street (outside the Library) are available Wednesday to Friday on the half hour; returning on the hour. See our website for the shuttle schedule. Weekend street parking is free in Port of Spain and paid parking facilities are available in the nearby Parkade till 6 pm on weekdays.

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.

BOOK SIGNINGS

Authors will sign copies of their books at designated tables after readings, talks, and discussions.

BOOKSELLERS

Books by participating authors and others are on sale from official booksellers — Paper Based Bookshop, Metropolitan Book Suppliers, RIK Services Ltd, Nigel R. Khan Booksellers, and Robert & Christopher Publishers — on the ground floor of the Library.

WORKSHOPS

All workshops take place in the 1st and 2nd Floor Seminar Rooms of the National Library.

FILMS

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

OPEN MIC

Stand and Deliver is our main platform for writers — of poetry or prose — who want to read their work for peers and the festival audience. Friday 28 and Saturday 29 April, 12 noon to 1.30 pm. Sign up ahead of time at Festival info desk!

NGC CHILDREN'S BOCAS LIT FEST

Children's events take place at City Hall on Wednesday 26 April, and in the Children's Library on the ground floor Thursday to Sunday.

SALES BOOTHS

In addition to bookseller booths, Stetchers/Cross Pens and The Paper Studio Eco Design have sales booths, and a NALIS booth will offer information on library membership and act as the meeting point for free library tours.

EATING AND DRINKING

Beverages, sandwiches, and pastries are available from Rituals on the ground floor of the library and full meal service is available on the ground floor of Old Fire Station (entry through patio area).

ONLINE

Listen to live audio streaming of all events in the Old Fire Station at mixlr.com/bocaslitfest.

T-SHIRTS AND BAGS

2017 NGC Bocas Lit Fest t-shirts and bags are on sale at the Festival info desk. Support us by purchasing an original work of art. See website for details.

HASHTAG

Tweeting, blogging or posting photos from the Festival online? Our 2017 hashtag is #bocas2017.

FEEDBACK

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

FRIENDS OF BOCAS

Please sign up for our mailing list via our website so we can keep you informed year-round about literary events around the world that relate to the Caribbean.

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OUR MENU

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27TH APRIL – 30TH APRIL 2017

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FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

A festival-wide focus on **human rights issues**, including high-level panels debating crucial issues such as press freedom, T&T's criminal justice system, LGBT rights, and more.

Reconsidering the legacy of C.L.R. James, T&T's great thinker, through a day-long programme of readings, discussion, film, and an Extempo debate.

Poetry Forward, a special evening event celebrating the vitality of contemporary Caribbean poetry, with two of the last three winners of the Forward Prize and the debuts of four new books.
Thursday 27 April, 7–9.30 pm • Kaiso Blues Café, 85 Woodford Street

Noir by Night, a thrilling evening exploring the darker side of T&T's contemporary writing, including the launch of *Trinidad Noir: The Classics*.
Friday 28 April, 7.30 pm until • Big Black Box, 33 Murray Street, Woodbrook

A one-on-one conversation with **Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley,** discussing his recently published memoir, *From Mason Hall to Whitehall.*
Thursday 27 April, 5–6 pm • Old Fire Station

Writers First, a series of free seminars on the publishing business, for newly published, self-published and emerging writers.

CineLit: the Latin American and Caribbean Literary Film Festival — because the best films are based on books! See award-winning films, new to T&T screens.

A special series of entertaining **events in the Library Rotunda,** featuring storytelling and drama.

The announcement of the winner of the **2017 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature**, a major award recognising Caribbean writers of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction; and the presentation of the **2017 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award** to bookseller Joan Dayal of Paper Based.
Saturday 29 April, 7–8 pm • Old Fire Station
By invitation

The announcement of the winner of CODE's **Burt Award for Caribbean Literature,** recognising Caribbean writers of young adult literature.
Wednesday 26 April, 6.30–8 pm • 101 Art Gallery, 84 Woodford Street
By invitation

The 2017 **First Citizens National Poetry Slam,** where T&T's most talented spoken word poets compete for TT$80,000 in prizes.
Sunday 30 April, 6–8 pm • National Academy for the Performing Arts, Frederick Street. We advise pre-purchasing your tickets at the NAPA Box Office.

Behind Prison Walls: writers Debbie Jacob and Baz Dreisinger host a special event at the Port of Spain jail, with poetry readings by winners of the prisons poetry competition and a surprise list of TT poets. Streamed live at www.facebook.com/bocaslitfest
Wednesday 26 April, 4–6pm

And introducing the **Bocas Book Nook** — bring your book and join in! A special festival bookshelf for literature lovers of all genres. There are two rules: 1. Bring one AND take one, and 2. Give as good as you'd like to get.



AUTHORS, SPEAKERS, PERFORMERS

David Abdulah, political leader of the Movement for Social Justice, is a senior labour leader in Trinidad and Tobago and former General Secretary of the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union.

Malaika Adero is the author of *Up South: Stories, Studies, and Letters of This Century's African American Migrations* (The New Press). She was vice president and senior editor at Atria Books/ Simon and Schuster and is now a publishing consultant living in New York City.

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

Lisa Allen-Agostini co-edited the crime fiction collection Trinidad Noir (2008) and is the author of the poetry collection *Swallowing the Sky* (2015) and the YA novel *The Chalice Project* (2008). She is a finalist for the 2017 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature for YA writing.

Ivor Archie is the Honourable Chief Justice of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Andre Bagoo, Trinidadian poet and journalist, has published three collections of poems: T*rick Vessels* (2012), *Burn* (2015, longlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize), and *Pitch Lake* (2017).

elisha efua bartels is a writer, editor, teacher, performer, stage manager and director. Formerly based in Washington, DC, she performed there with the Washington Shakespeare Company and Folger Shakespeare Library.

Edward Baugh is Professor Emeritus of English, UWI, Mona. His scholarly and critical publications on West Indian literature include: *Derek Walcott: Memory as Vision* (1978), *Derek Walcott* (2006) and *Frank Collymore: A Biography* (2009). His three collections of poetry include *Black Sand: New and Selected Poems* (2013).

Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné's several poetry prizes include the 2015 Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize for poetry, the Charlotte and Isidor Paiewonksy Prize by *The Caribbean Writer* in 2009, the 2012 *Small Axe* Literary Competition and the 2016 *Wasafiri* New Writing Prize. She lives in Trinidad.

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.

Kevin Browne, PhD, is an academic, currently based at UWI, St. Augustine, and co-founder of The Caribbean Memory Project, a crowd-sourced cultural heritage research platform: caribbeanmemoryproject.com.

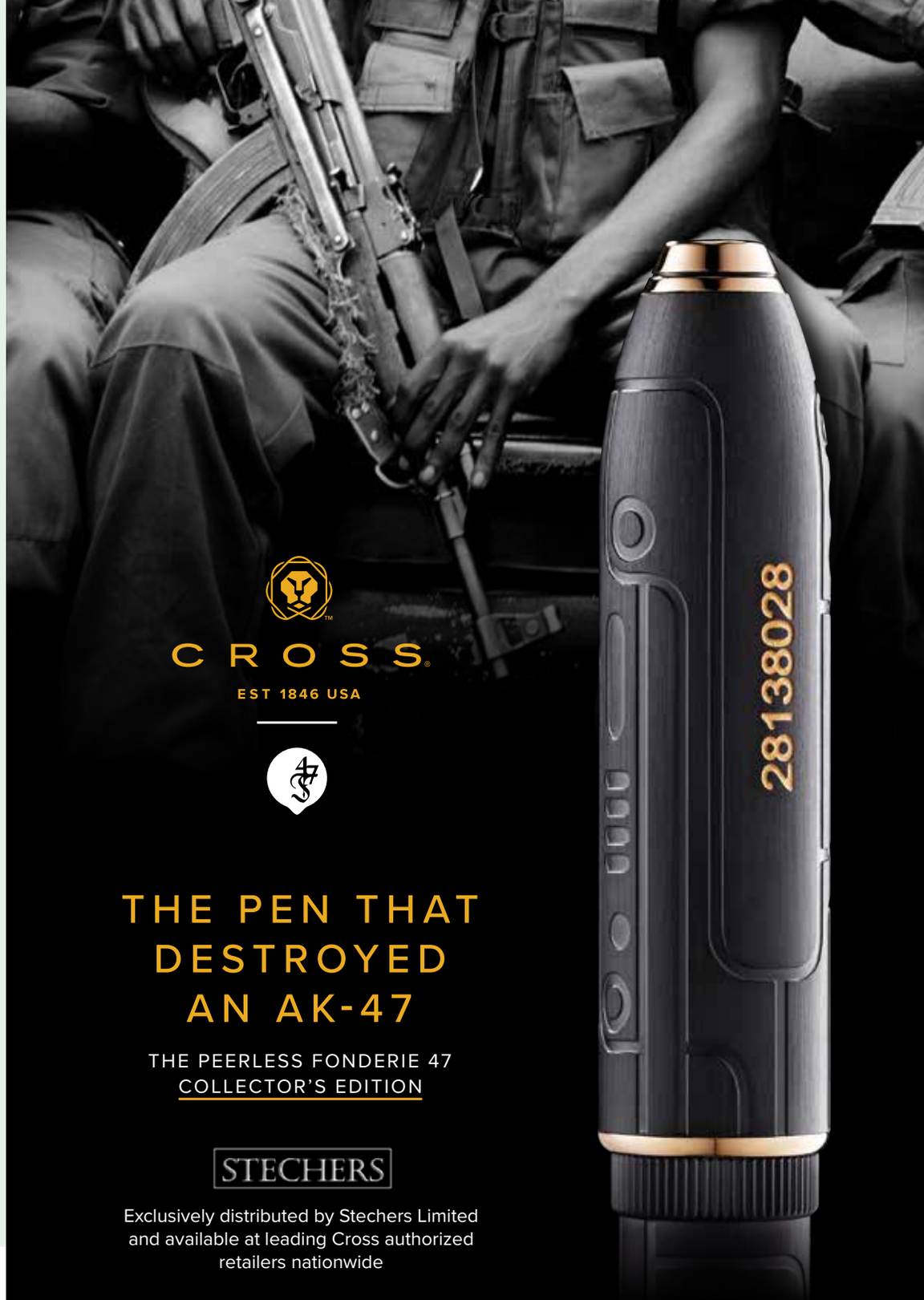
Miguel Browne, storyteller, dialect poet, rhythm rhymer, Talk Tent artiste, and history teacher at St. Mary's College, is a popular performer of long standing. His books are *Trini Talk* and *Talk Dat Talk*.

Arif Bulkan, born in Guyana, is a senior lecturer at the Hugh Wooding Law School at UWI, St. Augustine.

Nigel Camacho heads the cricket fan group Trini Posse, has sat on the T&T Cricket Board, 1995-99, and been a director of the Sir Frank Worrell Committee and a member of the Queen's Park Cricket Club management committee. He is a dentist by profession and is a founding director of the Cancer Treatment Foundation.

Vahni Capildeo's books include *No Traveller Returns* (2003), *Person Animal Figure* (2005), *Undraining Sea* (2009, shortlisted for the Guyana Prize for Literature Caribbean Award), *Dark & Unaccustomed Words* (2012, longlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize), *Utter* (2013), *Simple Complex Shapes* (2015), and *Measures of Expatriation (*2016, winner of the Forward Best Collection Prize).

Evelyn Caesar-Munroe is a Trinidadian actress, dancer and teacher.



Felicia Chang co-founded Plantain, a company with the mission to inspire everyone to want to tell their story.

Roberta Clarke, feminist activist and attorney, is the former regional programme director of UNIFEM in the Caribbean. She has written on violence against women in the Caribbean and on human rights, law and development, and gender mainstreaming.

David Dabydeen's accolades include the Commonwealth Poetry Prize, the Quiller-Couch Prize and the Guyana Prize for Literature. In 2000 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, the second West Indian and the only Guyanese writer to do so. He is a critic, writer, novelist and academic, based in the UK.

Annalee Davis is a visual artist who works with post-plantation economies and engages with the land where she lives. She is also the Caribbean Arts Manager for the British Council.

Ramesh Deosaran ORTT, Professor Emeritus, is a former Independent Senator and distinguished holder of public office in Trinidad and Tobago where he founded *The Caribbean Journal of Criminology and Social Psychology.* His dozen publications include *Inequality, Crime and Education in Trinidad and Tobago: Removing the Masks* (2016).

Nicole Dennis-Benn is the Jamaica-born author of the highly acclaimed debut novel, *Here Comes the Sun* (2016), a finalist for several awards, including the Lambda Literary Award and the National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Award.

Claudia de Verteuil, born in Trinidad, is the author of *Paradise Plums and Cocoa Beans.* Following a career in nursery teaching, she is in the final stages of an MA in Psychoanalysis, at Birkbeck University of London.

Rex Dixon, the visual artist, was born in the UK but has lived for many years in Jamaica and Trinidad. He is the co-creator, with Patricia Mohammed, of *Travels with a Husband* (2016).

Marcia Douglas is a Jamaican writer, and author of the novels *Madam Fate, Notes from a Writer's Book of Cures and Spells*, and *The Marvellous Equations of the Dread* (longlisted for the 2017 OCM Bocas Prize). She is an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Baz Dreisinger, author of *Incarceration Nations: A Journey to Justice in Prisons Around the World,* is a professor, journalist, justice worker, film and radio producer, cultural critic and prison-rights activist. A professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, she is the founder and Academic Director of the Prison-to-College Pipeline programme.

Thackwray "Dax" Driver has been the chief executive officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Energy Chamber for the past twelve years.

Aliyyah Eniath is a director at Safari Publications, a magazine publishing house, and founder/ editor-in-chief of *Belle Weddings (Caribbean)* magazine. Her debut novel *The Yard* was published in 2016.

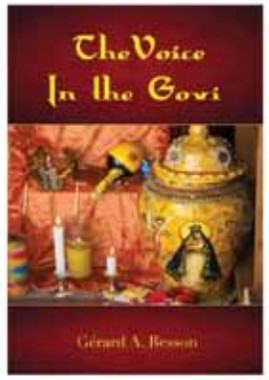
Danielle Fraser has been the Library Conservator and Head of the Preservation and Conservation (PAC) Laboratory at the Heritage Library Division, NALIS, since 2009. She is a highly qualified conservator and was a Book Conservation Fellow of the Library of Congress in 2008.

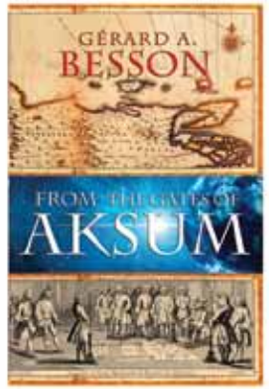
Richard Georges was born in Trinidad and raised in the British Virgin Islands, where he lives and works. He is co-editor of *Moko. Make Us All Islands* is his debut book of poems.

Wesley Gibbings is a senior print and broadcast journalist and media trainer. Currently he is a columnist/feature writer for the *Trinidad Guardian* and President of the Association of Caribbean Media Workers (ACM).

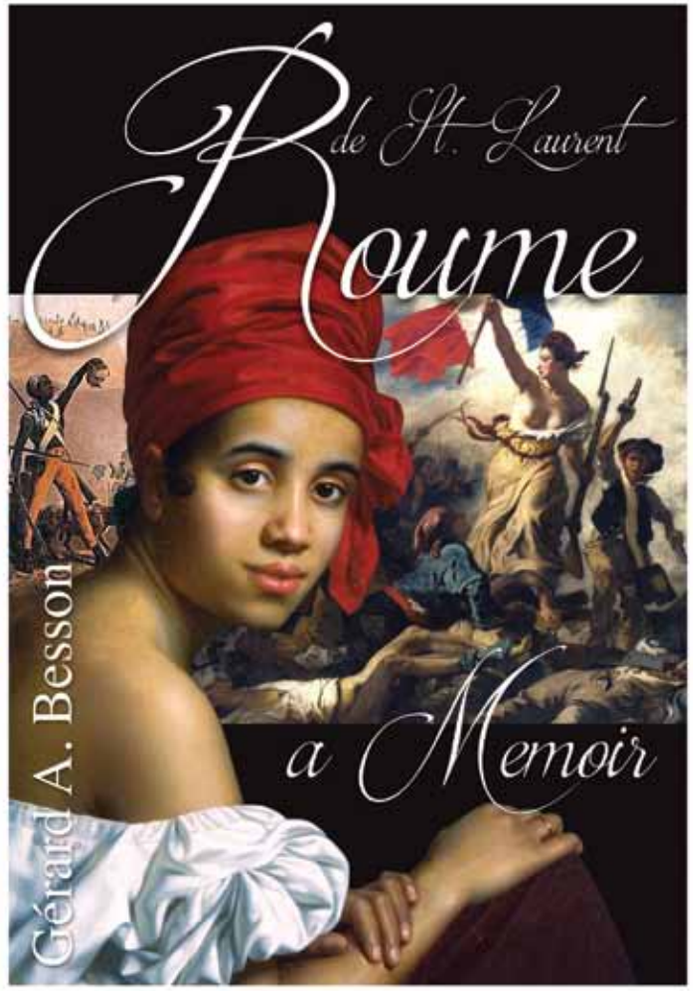
Barry Goldblatt began his career in publishing in 1989, and opened his eponymous literary agency in September 2000. He represents everything from picture books to adult fantasy & science fiction. He is head judge of CODE's Burt Award for Caribbean Literature, 2017.

Francesca Hawkins is a television news presenter and public relations specialist in Trinidad and Tobago. She is a frontline presenter for CNC3 Television and current President of the Media Association of Trinidad and Tobago.









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Susannah Herbert is the former editor of the *Sunday Times* books pages and current executive director of the Forward Arts Foundation.

Jackie Hinkson is a prominent Trinidadian artist. His autobiography *What Things Are True* was published in 2012.

Jannine Horsford is a Trinidadian poet, featured in the "Who's Next?" lineup of emerging writers at Bocas 2014.

Kevin Jared Hosein's novel *The Repenters* was longlisted for the 2017 OCM Bocas Prize, and his manuscript *The Beast of Kukuyo* is a finalist for CODEs Burt Award, 2017. He is the winner of the 2015 Commonwealth Short Story Prize, Caribbean region.

Gabrielle Hosein is a lecturer and Head of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, UWI. She has been involved in Caribbean feminist movement building for two decades.

David McDermott Hughes, author of *Energy without Conscience: Oil, Climate Change, and Complicity*, is Professor of Anthropology at Rutgers University.

Ishion Hutchinson was born in Jamaica and is the author of two poetry collections, *Far District and House of Lords* and *Commons*, longlisted for the 2017 OCM Bocas Prize. He teaches in the graduate writing programme at Cornell University.

Asha Javeed is a senior journalist at the *Express* Newspapers.

Debbie Jacob, author of *Wishing for Wings* and a longtime newspaper columnist, is also an English teacher in T&T prisons and at the International School of Port of Spain where she is Head Librarian.

Andy Johnson is a senior journalist who has held various positions in Trinidad and Tobago's print and electronic media. He was the founding President of the Media Association of Trinidad and Tobago, MATT.

Kwynn Johnson is a Trinidadian artist and a Haitian Studies Scholar. Her thirty-foot drawing titled *Place as a Palimpsest* uses representations of the forty-two scenes from Acts I and II of Derek Walcott's play *The Haitian Earth.*

Anthony Joseph is a Trinidadian poet, novelist and musician. His publications include three volumes of poetry and a novel, *The African Origins of UFOs*. He lectures in Creative Writing at Birkbeck College, London.

Aaron Kamugisha, senior lecturer in Cultural Studies at the University of the West Indies, Barbados, has edited eight collections on Caribbean and Africana thought, including *Caribbean Popular Culture: Power, Politics and Performance* (2016) and *Small Axe 49* (March 2016), a special issue on Sylvia Wynter's *Black Metamorphosis.*

Peter Kimani is a Kenyan novelist and journalist based in Nairobi, where he teaches at Aga Khan University's Graduate School of Media and Communications. *Dance of the Jakaranda*, a *New York Times* Editors' Choice selection, is his third novel.

Rosamond S. King is a creative and critical writer and performer. The poetry collection *Rock | Salt | Stone* and the award-winning scholarly book *Island Bodies: Transgressive Sexualities in the Caribbean Imagination* are her most recent publications. She is Creative Editor of *sx salon* and Associate Professor at Brooklyn College.

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.*

Nicholas Laughlin is programme director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest and editor of *Caribbean Beat* and *The Caribbean Review of Books*. His book of poems *The Strange Years of My Life* was published in 2015.

Louis Lee Sing, former Mayor of Port of Spain has published two books, *Local Government in Trinidad — Conspiracy Against the People* (2014), and *I Used To Live in Heaven* (2017).

Ayanna Gillian Lloyd is a fiction and creative non-fiction writer from Trinidad and Tobago. Her work has been published in *The Caribbean Writer* and shortlisted for the *Small Axe* Literary Competition and the *Wasafiri* New Writing Prize.

Mark Loquan, President of the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd., is a chemical engineer by profession, with over thirty years' experience in the petrochemical industry. He is also an award-winning composer of steelpan music and Honorary

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Founding Director of the non-profit organisation the Music Literacy Trust.

Earl Lovelace, Trinidadian novelist and co-editor of *Trinidad Noir: The Classics* (2016). His books include the Caribbean classic *The Dragon Can't Dance* and *Salt*, winner of the 1997 Commonwealth Writers' Prize. His novel *Is Just a Movie* won the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize and the Grand Prize for Caribbean Literature from the Regional Council of Guadeloupe.

Gillian Lucky is a judge at the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago and former Director of the Police Complaints Authority.

Llewellyn "Short Pants" MacIntosh is a celebrated calypsonian and Extempo master. He is also an educator and radio broadcaster.

Sunity Maharaj runs her own multi-media production and consulting company. She is the Managing Director of the Lloyd Best Institute of the West Indies and is a senior career journalist.

Senator Wade Mark is a former Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, and former government minister. He currently leads the Opposition senators in T&T's Parliament.

Ira Mathur is an Indian-born multimedia Caribbean freelance journalist, broadcaster, and writer of fiction and memoir.

Sharon Millar is the Trinidadian author of *The Whale House and Other Stories*, longlisted for the 2016 OCM Bocas Prize. She is the winner of the 2013 Commonwealth Short Story Prize and the 2012 *Small Axe* Short Fiction Award.

Kei Miller, Jamaican born poet, novelist, essayist and blogger won the 2014 OCM Bocas non-fiction Prize and his *Augustown*, is the fiction winner of the 2017 OCM Bocas Prize for fiction. His *The Cartographer Tries to Map A Way to Zion*, won the 2014 Forward Prize for the best poetry collection and was shortlisted in the Costa Book Award poetry category.

Rajiv Mohabir is the author of *The Taxidermist's Cut,* winner of the 2014 Four Way Books Intro to Poetry Prize and finalist in the 2017 Lambda Literary Award in Gay Poetry. His second collection *The Cowherd's Son,* winner of the 2015 Kundiman Prize, is forthcoming from Tupelo Press in May 2017.

Patricia Mohammed, scholar, writer and filmmaker, is Professor of Gender and Cultural Studies and Campus Coordinator/Chair, School for Graduate Studies and Research at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, a post she has held variously since 2007.

Nancy Morejón, Cuban poet, critic and essayist, is the most internationally successful and widely translated Cuban woman poet of the post-revolutionary period. She was awarded the Cuban Premio de la Crítica (Critic's Prize) for *Piedra Pulida*, and in 2001 won Cuba's National Prize for Literature.

Gillian Moor is a Trinidadian writer and musician, founder of the popular Songshine performance and open mic series.

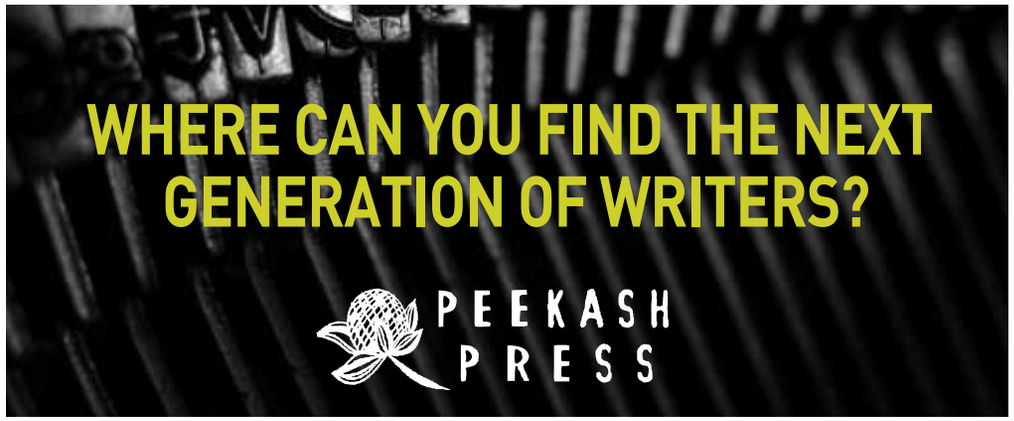
Philip Murray, aka **Black Sage**, is a calypsonian renowned as master of Extempo singing, and three-time national Extempo champion.

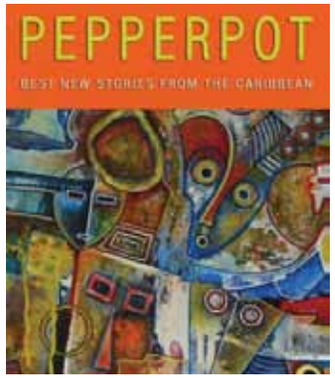
Philip Nanton, author of *Canouan Suite and Other Pieces* (2016), a work of literary non-fiction, *Frontiers of the Caribbean* (2017) and *Island Voices from St. Christopher and the Barracudas* (2014), is a performance artist and writer from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, living in Barbados.

Sushiela Nasta is Founding Editor of *Wasafiri: Magazine of International Contemporary Writing*, (1984). She has judged several literary prizes and published widely on Caribbean, South Asian and Black British literatures.

Angelique V. Nixon, writer, artist, teacher, scholar, activist, and poet, born and raised in The Bahamas, is currently Lecturer at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, UWI, St Augustine. Her book *Resisting Paradise: Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture* was published in 2015.

Evelyn O'Callaghan was educated in Jamaica and lives in Barbados, where she is Professor of West Indian Literature at UWI, Cave Hill. She has published extensively on West Indian literature, particularly on women's writing and early Caribbean narratives.

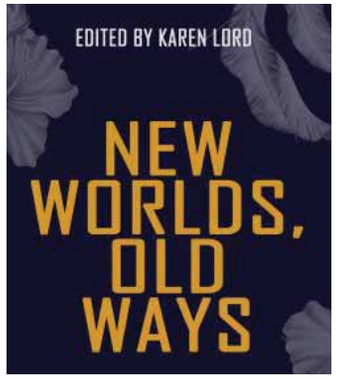




PEPPERPOT: Best New Stories from the Caribbean
Featuring outstanding entries from the 2013 Commonwealth Short Story Prize, with a preface by Olive Senior



COMING UP HOT: Eight New Poets from the Caribbean
Featuring Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné, Danielle Jennings, Ruel Johnson, Monica Minott, Debra Prividence, Shivanee Ramlochan, Colin Robinson, and Sassy Ross. Preface by Kwame Dawes



New Worlds, Old Ways: Speculative Tales tom the Caribbean
Up and coming voices in Caribbean speculative short fiction, edited by Karen Lord

COMING SOON

So Many Islands: Stories from the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and Pacific
Featuring fiction, poetry and essays from small island counties across the Commonwealth. Edited by Nicholas Laughlin

And an exciting collection of new writing from past finalists of the Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize, 2013–2015
Edited by Funso Aiyejina (November 2017)

Peekash is a joint project of

NGC Bocas Lit Fest
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Supported by

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Commonwealth Writers

Gilberte O'Sullivan is a Trinidadian poet, featured in the "Who's Next?" lineup of emerging writers at Bocas 2014.

Marsha Pearce is a Trinidadian writer, artist, and lecturer at UWI, St. Augustine. She is the 2006 recipient of the Rex Nettleford Cultural Studies Fellowship.

Betty Peter, Trinidadian author of the popular children's book *Brown Sugar and Spice* (2010) has a passion for literacy and literature and interacting with young readers, celebrating books with "a mango tree, not an apple tree, and ships that sail on a Caribbean sea!"

Franka Philip is the Features Editor of the *Trinidad Guardian* newspaper.

Viviana Prado-Núñez, born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, is a freshman at Columbia University majoring in Creative Writing. *The Art of White Roses*, her first book, is a finalist for the 2017 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature.

Jennifer Rahim is a Trinidadian poet, winner of the 2010 Casa de las Américas prize for her poetry collection *Approaching Sabbaths*. Her latest book is *Curfew Chronicles*.

Kenneth Ramchand, Professor Emeritus of West Indian Literature at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine is known as the most prominent living critic of Caribbean fiction, and was awarded a Trinidad and Tobago Chaconia Medal for his work in literature, as well as the 2014 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award.

Shivanee Ramlochan's debut poetry collection *Everyone Knows I Am a Haunting* is launched at this year's festival. She is a Trinidadian writer, editor, book reviewer and also social media coordinator for the NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

Judy Raymond, senior journalist and editor, is a former editor in chief of the *Trinidad Guardian*. Her latest book is *The Colour of Shadows: Images of Caribbean Slavery* (2016).

Nicole Roberts is a Hispanic Studies specialist and Head of the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics at UWI, St. Augustine. In 2011, she co-edited with Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw *Border Crossings: A Trilingual Anthology of Caribbean Women Writers.*

Colin Robinson has returned home to Trinidad and Tobago twice: from Leeds at age four, and from Brooklyn at forty-five. His debut book of poems, *You Have You Father Hard Head*, was published in 2016.

Kim Robinson-Walcott, is editor/head of *Caribbean Quarterly*, UWI, Mona, and of *Jamaica Journal*, published by the Institute of Jamaica. Her scholarly articles, book chapters, short stories and poems have been widely published and anthologised.

Monique Roffey is a Trinidadian writer based in Port of Spain and London. Her third novel, *Archipelago*, won the 2013 OCM Bocas Prize and *House of Ashes* was shortlisted for the novel category of the Costa Book Award and shortlisted for the 2015 OCM Bocas Prize. Her latest book *The Tryst* will be published in July 2017.

Keir Roopnarine is a teacher, tutor, and lifelong advocate for women's and children's rights, working with UNFPA, and as Secretary of the Hindu Women's Organisation. She is an advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights, and against gender-based and domestic violence.

Dr. Keith Rowley is the Honourable Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and author of the memoir *From Mason Hall to Whitehall* (2016).

Marina Salandy-Brown is the Bocas Lit Fest founder and Festival Director.

Inspector Derrick Sharbodie, a police officer since 1989, is the founder of St James Police Youth Club for at-risk youth. In 2011 he was awarded the Chaconia Medal for public service.

Safiya Sinclair is the author of *Cannibal,* winner of the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry, longlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize and the PEN Open Book Award, and winner of the 2017 OCM Bocas Prize, poetry category. Other honours include a Whiting Writers' Award, fellowships from the Poetry Foundation, Yaddo, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, and the Fine Arts Work Centre in Provincetown.

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Ardene Sirjoo is a well-known broadcaster and co-host of *The 95 Mandate*, a weekly current affairs talk show on i95.5FM radio, as well as Marketing Coordinator of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

Godfrey P. Smith, Belizean attorney and politician, is the author of *The Biography of Michael Manley* (2016). His biography *George Price: A Life Revealed* was the non-fiction winner of the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize.

Gregory Sloane-Seale works with and on behalf of "at risk" youth at community level and is the national coordinator of the Ministry of National Security's Citizen Security Programme. One of its main objectives is the reduction of crime and violence levels in specific "high needs" communities in Trinidad and Tobago.

Nathalie Taghaboni, author of *The Savanoy Series* was born in Trinidad, raised in Toronto, and now resides in the USA. She is the CEO of the independent publishing company Commess University.

Johnny Temple is the founder of New York publishing house Akashic Books and chair of the Brooklyn Literary Council. He edited the short story collection *USA Noir*.

H(ubert) Nigel Thomas was born in St Vincent and now lives in Montreal, Canada. His novels *Spirits in the Dark* (1993) and *No Safeguards* (2015) were shortlisted for the Paragraphe Quebec Writers Federation Hugh MacLennan Fiction Prize. In 2013 he was awarded Université Laval's Hommage aux créateurs.

Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw is a Trinidadian writer, author of the short story collection *Four Taxis Facing North* and the novel *Mrs. B.* She is professor of French literature at UWI, St Augustine, and co-author, with Nicole Roberts, of *Border Crossings: A Trilingual Anthology of Caribbean Women Writers*, published by UWI Press.

Eliot Weinberger is a contemporary American writer, essayist, editor, and translator whose writing regularly features in the *London Review of Books* and has appeared in over thirty languages. His numerous books include An *Elemental Thing* (2007) and *The Ghosts of Birds* (2016).

MIdnight Robber **Damian Whiskey** has been portraying this Traditional Mas character since the age of ten and is a multiple title Midnight Robber champion.

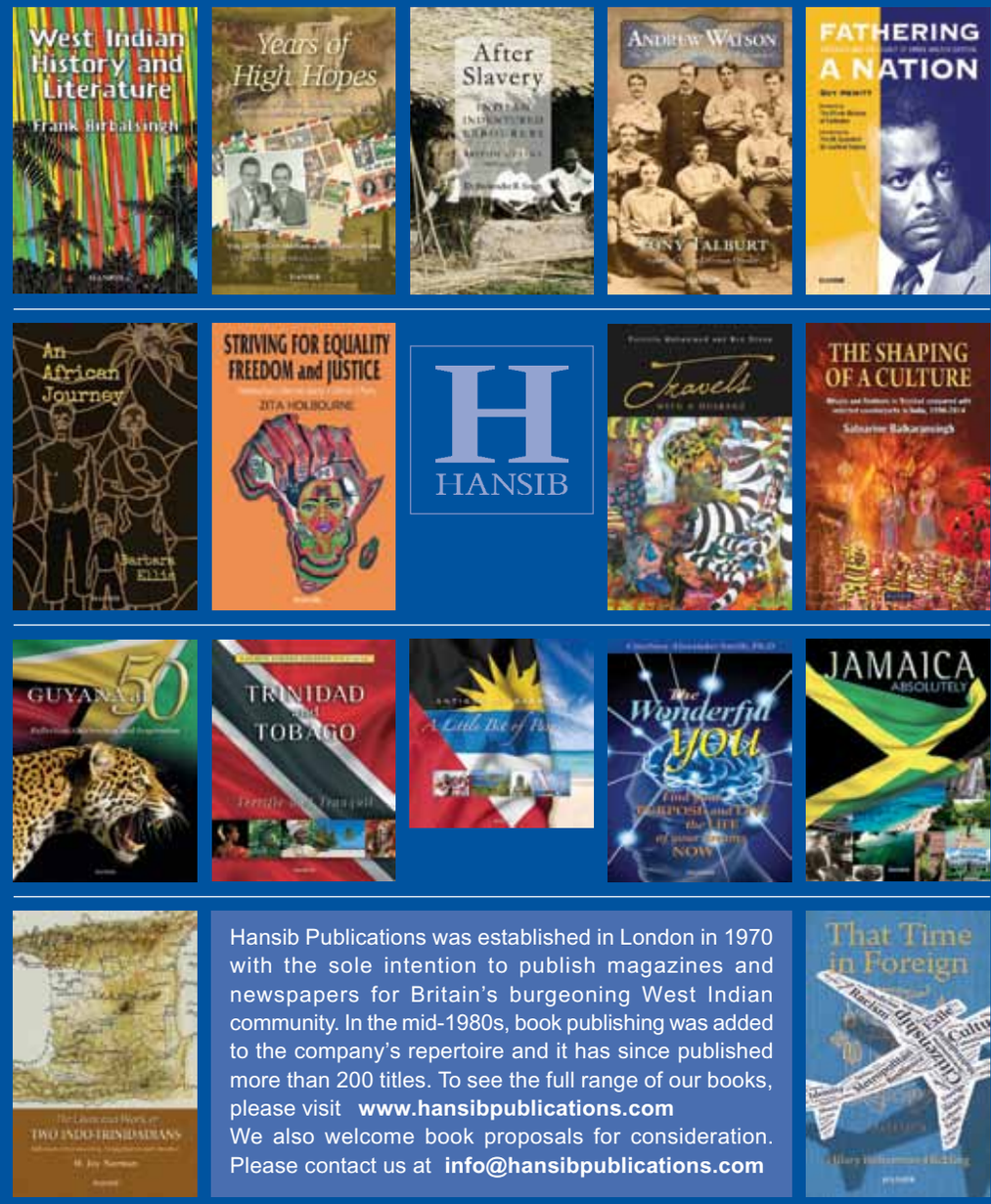
Mark Wilson writes for *The Economist* and the Economist Intelligence Unit, has a weekly column in the *Trinidad Express*, and has written several Caribbean texts for Oxford University Press. He also lectures in Global Media and other areas of journalism at Costaatt.

Joan Yuille-Williams is a former Deputy Political leader of the People's National Movement and former Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs in the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

THE CARIBBEAN'S BIGGEST FESTIVAL OF WORDS, STORIES AND IDEAS.

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Hansib Publications was established in London in 1970 with the sole intention to publish magazines and newspapers for Britain's burgeoning West Indian community. In the mid-1980s, book publishing was added to the company's repertoire and it has since published more than 200 titles. To see the full range of our books, please visit **www.hansibpublications.com**
We also welcome book proposals for consideration. Please contact us at **info@hansibpublications.com**

www.hansibpublications.com

WORDS ALIVE

A stellar lineup of writers from the Caribbean and around the world bring the best of contemporary poetry and fiction to Port of Spain.

They are the stars of the festival: extraordinary local, regional and international poets, fiction writers, and essayists, sharing their work and ideas through readings and conversation. At these events, writers read from and discuss their recent books and answer questions from the audience. A book-signing session follows each reading. Authors' books are available from the participating booksellers.

In our **One-on-One** sessions, authors are matched with carefully chosen interlocutors for penetrating conversations that begin with their books and range far afield:

Godfrey Smith
The award-winning biographer of Michael Manley talks to scholar and novelist Barbara Lalla about his move from active politics to biographical and historical writing.
Thursday 27 April, 2.30–3.30 pm • Old Fire Station

David Dabydeen
The celebrated Guyanese poet, novelist, and scholar talks to *Wasafiri* editor Susheila Nasta about his career spanning genres and continents, and how contemporary Guyanese writing tackles the intricacies of the country's troubled politics and history.
Friday 28 April, 10–11 am • Old Fire Station

Nancy Morejón
The celebrated Cuban poet talks to Nicole Roberts about her life and work, and the crucial necessity of translation for Caribbean literary exchange.
Friday 28 April, 2–3 pm • Old Fire Station

Edward Baugh
The eminent Jamaican writer and scholar talks to Ishion Hutchinson about a life and career in devotion to poetry.
Saturday 29 April, 11 am–12 pm • Old Fire Station

Peter Kimani
The Kenyan author of *Dance of the Jakaranda* talks to Johnny Temple about his transition from journalism to fiction writing, and the literary scene in East Africa.
Saturday 29 April, 1.30–2.30 pm • Old Fire Station

Eliot Weinberger
The eminent American writer and translator talks to Nicholas Laughlin about his explorations in the art of the essay, from history to natural science to politics.
Saturday 29 April, 2.30–3.30 pm • Old Fire Station

In our **Take Two** sessions we pair off writers for readings and Q&As on topics of current interest. Check the foldout Festival programme for a full list.

The Books That Made Me
It's become a festival tradition: a Sunday morning conversation about how books shape lives and ideas. Writers Edward Baugh, Vahni Capildeo, Rajiv Mohabir, and Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné discuss their key literary influences with Ayanna Gillian Lloyd.
Sunday 30 April, 10–11 am • Old Fire Station

Writers' Union Presents, another Bocas tradition, is a showcase for readings by members of the Writers' Union of Trinidad and Tobago. This year's event features "Epic Poetry from the East", as the literature of India becomes the inspiration for a new wave of T&T's writers.
Saturday 30 April, 4–6 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room.
Presented in partnership with the Writers Union of Trinidad and Tobago

THE CARIBBEAN'S BIGGEST FESTIVAL OF WORDS, STORIES AND IDEAS.

Curfew Chronicles
We're delighted that Bocas 2017 will host the launch of a new collection of linked short stories by Jennifer Rahim. *Curfew Chronicles* takes in a broad sweep of contemporary T&T and tackles some of the most contentious events in the country's recent history.
Sunday 30 April, 3–4 pm • Old Fire Station



WRITERS LAB
A chance to workshop your writing in a safe space with author and academic Muli Amaye, who runs the MFA creative writing course at UWI, St. Augustine. Free and open to writers publishing their own work or with work in progress
Saturday 29 April, 1.30–2.30 pm
Sunday 30 April 12.30–1.30 pm
2nd Floor Seminar Room



BOCAS HITS THE TOWN

On Festival evenings, our writers gallivant across Port of Spain, with readings and performances at venues around the city.

Lit: On Fleek
Drinks, music, poems, stories, and a sizzling open mic: come and lime with some of the Caribbean's best LGBT writers, plus some surprise guests. Featuring Kei Miller, Rosamond S. King, Nicole Dennis-Benn, Rajiv Mohabir, Angelique Nixon, Colin Robinson, Andre Bagoo, and more.
Wednesday 26 April, 8.30 pm until • Euphoria Lounge, 58 Dundonald Street
In partnership with Bohemia Posse and the Alliance for Justice & Diversity

Poetry Forward
Celebrating the vitality of contemporary Caribbean poetry
This special two-part event begins with readings by Forward Prize-winning poets Kei Miller and Vahni Capildeo and a conversation with Susannah Herbert, director of the Forward Arts Foundation; followed by readings from four debut books: *Pitch Lake*, by Andre Bagoo; *Make Us All Islands*, by Richard Georges; *Rock | Salt | Stone*, by Rosamond S. King; and *Everyone Knows I Am a Haunting*, by Shivanee Ramlochan; with music by Gillian Moor.
Thursday 27April, 9.30 pm • Kaiso Blues Café, 85 Woodford Street

Noir By Night
Celebrating the launch of *Trinidad Noir: The Classics*
With Earl Lovelace, co-editor of a new anthology of classic noir writing, plus writers Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw and Sharon Millar, alongside Anthony Joseph, Kevin Jared Hosein, Ayanna Gillian Lloyd, and music by jazz artistes Vaughnette Bigford and Theron Shaw. Hosted by elisha efua bartels.
Friday 28 April, 7.30 pm until • Big Black Box, 33 Murray Street, Woodbrook

First Citizens

National Poetry Slam Finals
The festival's grand finale! T&T's top performance poets compete to be named the 2017 First Citizens National Poetry Slam champion
Sunday 30 April, 6–8.30 pm • National Academy for the Performing Arts, Frederick Street
Tickets available in advance at NAPA box office. See website for more information.



WRITERS FIRST

The NGC Bocas Lit Fest is the Caribbean's leading showcase for emerging writers, with a slew of events that seek out and support promising new talent.

In 2017 we once again present **Writers First,** on Wednesday 26 April, a special series of free seminars for budding and self-published writers on key areas of the book business, led by publishing experts:

- **How the publishing business really works,** with agent and editor Malaika Adero
- **Media relations for writers,** with *Trinidad Guardian* features editor Franka Philip
- **How to win at social media,** with novelist Nicole Dennis-Benn
- **5,000 and counting: how to make your book a bestseller,** with Betty Peter

1 pm–4 pm • AV Room

Photos above: Malaika Adero, Franka Philip, Nicole Dennis-Benn, Betty Peter

Writers First also includes the First-Time Authors' Appreciation Programme by Bocas partner NALIS (the National Library and Information System Authority), recognising all T&T authors who published their debut books in 2016.

Stand and Deliver

Our signature platform for new and budding writers is back, front and centre in our programme. Here's your chance to test your work in progress with an eager audience. Feature authors Louis Lee Sing, Jannine Horsford, Gilberte O'Sullivan, Colin Robinson, Angelique Nixon, and Otávio Maia Chelotti lead a lineup of writers across genres. You can share your work too: sign up ahead of time at our info desk. MC'd by Jayron Remy, a.k.a. DJ Rawkus.

Friday 28 and Saturday 29 April, 12–1.30 pm • Library Amphitheatre

ARCADE EVENTS

Human, right?

A human rights-themed Ole Mas competition

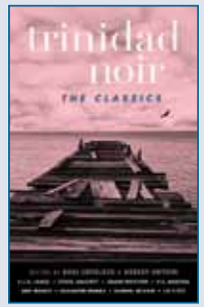
Integrating this year's human rights agenda with one of T&T's most cherished folk traditions, revered for its wit and homage to "picong", this competition displays the finest coupling of the conscious and the humorous. Ole mas bands parade their genius for the public and judges for special prizes and bragging rights.

Saturday 29 April, 5–6pm • Hart Street Arcade

Stand Up for Your Rights

It's a special human rights open mic event, where you can read your original poems or stories tackling human rights issues, and compete for the approval of Chief Justice Ivor Archie. With a feature performance by Midnight Robber Damian Whiskey.

Sunday 30 April, 12.30–1 pm • Hart Street Arcade



TRINIDAD NOIR: THE CLASSICS
EDITED BY EARL LOVELACE & ROBERT ANTONI

Two of Trinidad's top literary writers masterfully curate this retrospective of the nation's best writing over the past century.

CLASSIC STORIES & POEMS BY: C.L.R. James, Derek Walcott, Samuel Selvon, Eric Roach, V.S. Naipaul, Harold Sonny Ladoo, Michael Anthony, Willi Chen, Earl Lovelace, Robert Antoni, Elizabeth Nunez, Ismith Khan, Lawrence Scott, Wayne Brown, Jennifer Rahim, Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw, Sharon Millar, Barbara Jenkins, and Shani Mootoo.

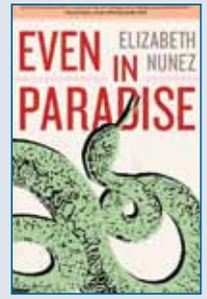
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EVEN IN PARADISE BY ELIZABETH NUNEZ

"A dazzling, epic triumph." —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

"Nunez crafts an introspective tale as her vividly drawn characters navigate complications of heritage, race, and loyalty." —*Booklist*

"A Caribbean reimagining of *King Lear* that adds colonialism and racism to the story of three sisters, the men they love and their battle over the deed to their father's beloved property." —*Ms. Magazine*



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BIG IDEAS

At the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, the focus on words, stories, and ideas goes beyond the literary to include a wide-ranging series of discussions and debates covering topical issues of the day and questions for the ages.

This year, the spotlight is on **human rights**, with a special programme of high-level discussions tackling key issues facing Trinidad and Tobago:

Are all rights created equal?

Human rights apply to all citizens, but should the needs of vulnerable communities — children, the disabled, mentally ill — lead in setting the agenda? Youth activist Gregory Sloane-Seale, author Claudia de Verteuil, Police Inspector Derrick Sharbodie, and Keir Roopnarine of the Hindu Women's Organisation discuss the question; chaired by Ira Mathur.
Thursday 27 April, 1–2.30 pm • Old Fire Station

Why a free press matters

A free press is one of a democratic society's major safeguards — but the price of that freedom is permanent vigilance. Senior T&T journalists Wesley Gibbings and Asha Javeed debate the question with Kenyan journalist and writer Peter Kimani and former government spokesman Andy Johnson; chaired by journalist Mark Wilson.
Friday 28 April, 4.30–6 pm • Old Fire Station

How change gets made

In the push to advance LGBT rights in the Caribbean, which platform leads the way — legislative action, the courts, high-profile activism, or grassroots organising? And what's the value of using the arts and scholarship to drive the narrative of change? Attorney Arif Bulkan, writers and activists Colin Robinson and Angelique Nixon, and Parliamentarian Wade Mark join the debate; chaired by attorney Roberta Clarke.
Saturday 29 April, 4–5 pm • AV Room

Crime and punishment

As T&T struggles with a growing crime problem, is our criminal justice system helping matters, or making them worse? Justice Gillian Lucky debates the question with criminologist Ramesh Deosaran, teacher and writer Debbie Jacob, and scholar Baz Dreisinger; chaired by Francesca Hawkins.
Sunday 30 April, 11 am–12.30 pm • Old Fire Station

Other Festival discussions range over diverse subjects, from the ethics of an energy economy to family history:

Energy Without Conscience: Oil Climate Change and Complicity

The launch of a controversial new study of T&T's crucial energy sector, with a discussion between author David Hughes, former government minister Eden Shand, Thackwray "Dax" Driver, CEO of the Energy Chamber, and academic Gabrielle Hosein. Chaired by Sunity Maharaj; closing remarks by Mark Loquan, NGC President.
Monday 24 April, 5.30–7 pm • AV Room

Words + images

Writers and artists discuss books of hybrid genre where images are not merely illustrations and words are not merely captions. With Patricia Mohammed and Rex Dixon, authors of *Travels with a Husband*; Philip Nanton, author of *Canouan Suite*; and artist Annalee Davis; chaired by scholar Marsha Pearce.
Friday 28 April, 11 am–12 pm • Old Fire Station

Not just in the family

When does the history of one family become relevant to a broader society? Kevin Browne of the Caribbean Memory Project, Bocas festival director Marina Salandy-Brown and Felicia Chang of Plaintain Press discuss the question; chaired by Judy Raymond.
Saturday 29 April, 3.30–4.30 pm • Old Fire Station

Where is the Best book?

Lloyd Best was one of the Caribbean's seminal thinkers, whose ideas have infiltrated our political and cultural discourse. But his deliberate avoidance of book publishing and his reliance on newspapers and journals have perhaps made his writing inaccessible to contemporary readers. Ten years after his death, we pay tribute to Best and debate his groundbreaking body of work.
Sunday 30 April, 4–5 pm • Old Fire Station



Why C.L.R. James still matters

Nearly three decades after his death, T&T's iconic thinker and writer C.L.R. James remains acutely relevant as we navigate the realities of the 21st century. In a time of political crisis, what can we learn from James's life and thought? A special series of events on Thursday 27 April explores his ideas.

The legacy of C.L.R. James

As we open the festival, actress Evelyn Caesar-Munroe, politicians Joan Yuille-Williams and Louis Lee Sing, cricket expert Nigel Camacho, and artist Jackie Hinkson read excerpts from James's key works.
9–10 am • Old Fire Station

C.L.R. James reconsidered

What can James's writings and ideas tell us about contemporary predicaments, in T&T, the Caribbean, and the wider world? Labour leader David Abdulah and scholars Kenneth Ramchand, Bridget Brereton, and Aaron Kamugisha debate the issue; chaired by Ardene Sirjoo.
10.30 am–12 pm • Old Fire Station

CLR vs the Doc: an Extempo debate

Master calypsonians Black Sage and Short Pants debate the relationship between C.L.R. James and Prime Minister Eric Williams in unique Extempo style.
12–1 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade

Every Cook Can Govern

This historical tour-de-force of film interweaves never-before-seen footage of C.L.R. James himself with personal contributions from those who knew him and astute historical and political analysis from leading scholars of his work.
1–3 pm • AV Room

ROTUNDA EVENTS

The National Library's soaring rotunda, home to the Festival booksellers, is also where you'll find a series of entertaining events, ranging from storytelling to drama.

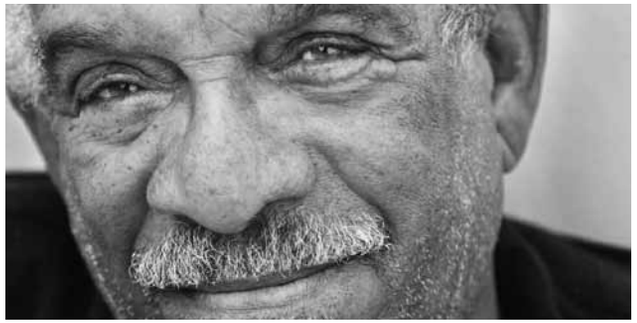
Telling Tales
Readings and performance of much-loved poems and stories in dialect by Talk Tent artiste Miguel Browne. For all ages.
Saturday 29 April, 11 am–12 pm

Trini Talk and Talk Dat Talk
In a lively, interactive session, Miguel Browne plays with our Trini-English language. Great fun for the whole family.
Saturday 29 April, 2–3pm

Walcott on Stage
In tribute to the late Nobel laureate Derek Walcott, a series of readings from some of his most popular stage plays: *Ti-Jean and His Brothers*, *The Joker of Seville,* and *Beef, No Chicken*. Directed by Brenda Hughes, featuring Aryana Mohammed, Ann Marie Grant, Arnold Goindhan, and Kearn Samuel.
Sunday 30 April, 11.30 am–12 pm

The Lion Makers
It's a dramatic history lesson, with a few twists. Presenting an excerpt from a new play by Raymond Ramcharitar, taking a sly look at the relationship between T&T's first prime minister, Eric Williams, his onetime mentor C.L.R James, and political figures Rudranath Capildeo and Albert Gomes. Directed by Brenda Hughes, and featuring Nigel Scott, Michael Cherrie, Arnold Goindhan, Ann Marie Grant, and Kearn Samuel.
Sunday 30 April, 1–1.30 pm

Brenda Hughes, the director of our Festival drama readings, is Artistic Director of the Monkey Mountain theatre production company. She has produced and directed plays by Derek Walcott, Trevor Rhone, Ronald Amoroso, Roderick Walcott, and August Strindberg. Trained in acting at Shakespeare and Company, The Mount, Lenox, Massachusetts, she has co-created/created roles in some classic Walcott plays.



Place as Palimpsest
by Kwynn Johnson
(2017, Graphite and conte crayon on 140-lb cold-pressed watercolour paper, 30' x 3')

This monumental drawing inspired by the work of the late Derek Walcott is installed in the Library AV Room Foyer (basement level) for the duration of the Festival. Artist Kwynn Johnson writes:

The forty-two scenes which make up Acts I and II of the play The Haitian Earth (1984), set in Cap-Haïtien, have been "storyboarded" in this drawing. Walcott re-staged scenes from the play in Trinidad in 2004, with set design by Kwynn Johnson and Carol Williams. This is a visual contemplation of place and meaning, highlighting vestiges of history found in the geological layers of Cap-Haïtien. Place, like a palimpsest, changes with the erosion of the soil, as well as with the build-up of successive layers over time. This 30-foot drawing/scroll highlights key moments which have become physically and symbolically etched in the geological layers. If the geology of place becomes a layered repository of history, then place is a spatial palimpsest.

Informal artist's talk
Friday 28 April, 1.30–2 pm
AV Room Foyer

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- Pigeon pea & vegetable ragu
- Spicy kimchi
- Watercress salad

We're inside the Trinity Cathedral Car Park, Abercromby Street (Opp. Nalis East Entrance).
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TT$45

YOUNG ADULTS



The NGC Bocas Lit Fest is a festival for all ages, and this year we have a special focus on young adults, aged 12 to 18: the next generation of readers and writers.

Working with the Ministry of Education, selected Bocas 2017 authors — including the three finalists for CODE's 2017 Burt Award — are visiting secondary schools around Trinidad on *Wednesday 26 April.* And secondary school teachers are invited to bring their students of literature, history, and social studies to the Festival on *Thursday 27 and Friday 28 April* to experience our readings, performances and discussions — and participate too, in the audience Q&A built into each programme event.

We're also hosting a special workshop on *Friday 28 April* for secondary school literature teachers. Celebrated Jamaican writer Kei Miller will lead a session designed to help educators teach poetry more effectively in the classroom, making the genre more accessible to students.

YA Writers Showcase
Lisa Allen-Agostini, Kevin Jared Hosein, and Viviana Prado-Nuñéz, the three 2017 Burt Award finalists, discuss the challenges and opportunities of writing for young adult readers.
Thursday 27 April, 3.30–4.30 pm • AV Room



At Bocas we believe sometimes the youngest voices can share the brightest ideas. This year, to prove that youth voices matter, we're proud to announce our inaugural team of NGC Bocas Lit Fest Youth Bloggers. They'll be covering everything at the Festival, from politics to poetry, spoken word sessions to prize ceremonies. The vibrant, social media savvy team members, all aged 25 and under, are:

- Andrew Pereira
- Apphia Barton
- Ariel Matthews
- Ashlee Burnett
- Giselle Permell
- Keston Charles
- Kimberly Inglis
- Ronnel Nurse

Our Youth Bloggers will be front and centre at many of our festival events — you can spot them by their special badges. Keep an eye on our website for their daily reports.

SAY IT LOUD

Across T&T, the spoken word movement brings together words, rhythms, and a chance for people to express their deepest concerns.
And the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, working with the activist 2Cents Movement, is in the vanguard of developing the genre that provides a bridge between the oral tradition and the written word.

The headline event is the **2017 First Citizens National Poetry Slam**, with TT$80,000 for the top three poets. The competition takes place over several rounds. The best 32 competitors in the Auditions moved on to the semi-finals. The climax is the final play-off between the top 12 and defending champion Seth Sylvester at the National Poetry Slam Finals, the keenly anticipated closing event of the 2017 NGC Bocas Lit Fest.
Sunday 30 April, 6–8 pm • National Academy for the Performing Arts, Frederick Street

But our spoken word programmes also run year round and start with the young:



Courts Bocas Secondary Schools "Speak Out" Spoken Word Tour
With over 120 schools visited and 57,200 students reached so far, the Courts Bocas Secondary Schools Speak Out Tour is geared towards promoting art and literacy through actively engaging students in critical thought and explorations of language and creativity. The tour includes free workshops for students that introduce them to writing and performance and offer the opportunity to work closely with the tour's well-known performance poets, developing newly crafted work.

Courts Bocas Speak Out Intercol
The exciting championship has blossomed from an individual poet competition to a team event where students now train together in preparation for group poetry performances. Over 100 students participated in the 2016 inaugural run of the group poetry competition, and October 2017 we will see new schools and new student performers face off.

U.WE Speak and USC Speak
The oldest existing open mic in Trinidad and Tobago, U.WE Speak was established at the University of the West Indies campus by Muhammad Muwakil and Nku Davis in 2005 as a space for students to explore societal issues through arts and discussion. Currently, both U.WE Speak and U.SC Speak are produced by the 2 Cents Movement, in collaboration with the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, and remain a compelling part of campus life and a space for creative discourse.

Pavement Poets
The young poets of the 2Cents Movement are broadening their patch. Around town and in shopping malls, from Trincity to City Hall, our pavement poets will ply their verse in a series of poetry pop-ups:

Friday 21 April: City Gate, POS. 4-5 pm
Saturday 22 April: Trincity Mall, 11am-12 pm, Long Circular Mall, 2 pm
Tuesday 25 April: Selected food court areas in POS., 12-1 pm

code | Rewriting the story for global literacy

A Literary Award Like No Other!

Call for Submissions

CODE's Burt Award for Caribbean Literature opens for submissions on 1 July 2017.

Authors and publishers of literature for young adults:

submit your unpublished manuscripts, published books, or self-published books by 31 October 2017.

- $22,000 CAD in cash prizes for up to 3 winning authors
- Guaranteed purchase and distribution to schools and libraries
- More than 22,000 award-winning books distributed across the Caribbean to date!

Updated guidelines available online July 1

codecan.org/burt-award-caribbean

In partnership with: NGC Bocas Lit Fest

For information:

Bocas Lit Fest
info@bocaslitfest.com

CODE'S BURT AWARD FOR CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

The Burt Award, now in its fourth year, is presented annually 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 philanthropist William (Bill) Burt and the Literary Prizes Foundation and the Bocas Lit Fest, the Award aims to provide engaging and culturally relevant books for young Caribbean people, while championing literacy, building language skills, and fostering the love and habit of reading among young adult readers.

Up to three prizes are awarded each year: a First Prize of CAD $10,000 CAD, a Second Prize of CAD $7,000 and a Third Prize of CAD $5,000.

The Award also supports the Caribbean publishing industry by including a guaranteed purchase of up to 2,000 copies of each winning book, which are distributed throughout the region via select libraries, schools, and literacy organizations. Books are also available for sale in bookshops.

2017 FINALISTS

Waiting for the Bus by Lisa Allen-Agostini (Trinidad & Tobago) — manuscript
The Beast of Kukuyo by Kevin Jared Hosein (Trinidad & Tobago) — manuscript
The Art of White Roses by Viviana Prado-Núñez (Puerto Rico/ USA) — self-published

The 2017 winners are announced on *Wednesday 26 April 2017.* With the support of CODE and the Bocas Lit Fest, the winning manuscripts will be published following the award announcement.

code

JUDGES

Barry Goldblatt is a literary agent based in New York City. He began his career in publishing in 1989, and opened his eponymous literary agency in September 2000, representing everything from picture books to adult fantasy and science fiction. His clients include bestselling and award winning authors including Libba Bray (to whom he is also happily married), Angela Johnson, Kate Milford, Christopher Barzak, Tobias Buckell, and Fran Wilde.

Jasmin Simmons is senior Librarian at the Heritage Library Division, NALIS, with responsibility for collections management, especially within the ambit of West Indian material. She is a 2010 Salzburg Fellow and 2016 International Federation of Library Associations and Institution (IFLA) Fellow. As a member of the UNESCO Memory of the World Committee, she demonstrates her passion for the preservation of documentary heritage of Trinidad and Tobago. She is also an avid puppeteer and storyteller.

Nicole Swift is a programme manager at Miami Book Fair, exercising her dream of creating stellar author lineups for kids, young adults, comics and other special projects. She holds a degree in writing, literature, and publishing from Emerson College, and worked at Books & Books for years as a bookseller and store merchandiser.

CINELIT: THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN LITERARY FILM FESTIVAL



Films based on literature and writers' lives are an integral part of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest programme.

2017 is the second year of the groundbreaking CineLit programme, a festival within a festival, including dozens of shorts and feature-length award-winning films, from adaptations of beloved literary classics from across Latin America and the Caribbean to documentaries on the lives of leading writers.

From Tuesday *18 April to Sunday 30 April, CineLit* includes screenings at three locations on the UWI, St. Augustine campus and at the National Library in Port of Spain.

CineLit is a partnership between the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, The University of the West Indies and the embassies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Venezuela and Spain.

Highlights of the 2017 film programme include:

Gabo (back by popular demand!), a documentary on revered Colombian author Gabriel García Márquez

***Every Cook Can Govern*,** a documentary on the life and work of C.L.R. James

Multiple award-winning feature ***The Motorcycle Diaries*,** about Che Guevara's legendary 1952 road trip through South America.

***Vinicius*,** a documentary using archival photos and images to tell the story of acclaimed Brazilian composer Vinicius de Moraes.

Films based on novels by Mario Vargas Llosa, José Soler Puig, Adolfo Bioy Casares, and other great Latin American writers.

A celebration of the career of Nobel laureate Derek Walcott, through screen adaptations of his play *Dream on Monkey Mountain* and poem "The Saddhu of Couva", plus a documentary on his life and thought.

All screenings are free. See foldout CineLit programme for full details.



The screening of ***Historias del Canal*** includes a panel discussion about the impact of the Panama Canal on the lives of Caribbean peoples and the geopolitical and economic impact for Latin American and the world. *Tuesday 18 April, 2.30 pm • The Auditorium, Centre for Language Learning, UWI*

A panel discussion is part of the screening of ***Ciudad en Rojo*.** *Thursday 20 April, 5 pm • Film Unit, UWI*

CINELit PARTNERS



WORKSHOPS

Insightful, informative sessions for budding writers, led by distinguished authors and other literature professionals.

Preservation and Conservation, with Danielle Fraser, NALIS conservator.
Expert advice on preserving treasured documents, books, and other paper-based objects. Includes a tour of the NALIS conservation lab.
Wednesday 26 April, 9 am–12 pm • NALIS Heritage Library and Conservation Lab • free

Making Your Case, with Baz Dreisinger, author of *Incarceration Nations*, and writer for the *New York Times, Los Angeles Times*, and *Wall Street Journal.*
The fundamentals of research and interviewing, structuring an argument and making the most convincing use of evidence in narrative non-fiction writing. For non-fiction writers and current affairs journalists.
Thursday 27 April, 1.30–4 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • $100

Writing For Young Adults:
A masterclass with Barry Goldblatt
The literary agent and CODE's Burt Award judge reveals how to be a successful YA author. What are teens, agents, and publishers looking for, and how do writers get in on the act?
Friday 28 April, 10 am–12.30 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room • $100

Learning from the Classics, with award-winning poet and essayist Ishion Hutchinson
How the works of past authors — whether ancient classics or more recent masterpieces — can trigger inspiration and experiment, with special reference to poetry.
Friday 28 April, 1.30–3.30 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • $100

How to Witness Your Own Work, with poet, artist, performer and academic Rosamond S. King
This interactive workshop introduces writers of narrative poetry, experimental fiction, and scholarly prose to the basic elements of reading literature out loud.
Saturday 29 April, 10 am–12.30 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • $100

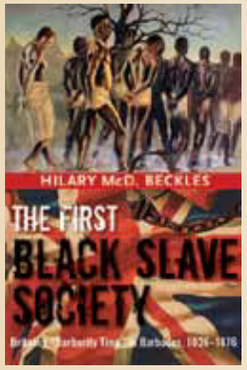
The Art of Biography, with 2012 OCM Bocas Prize non-fiction winner Godfrey Smith
Writing family history, personal memoir, or official biography demands good research and organisation of data, and finding the narrative thread. This workshop gets you on the road to writing.
Saturday 29 April, 1.30–3.30 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • $100

Tongueless Whispering: a masterclass with Vahni Capildeo, winner of the 2016 Forward Prize
A special two-part masterclass investigating how to integrate non-human, historical, silent or musical elements as "voice" into poems. For intermediate and advanced writers only.
Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 April, 10.30 am–12.30 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • $200

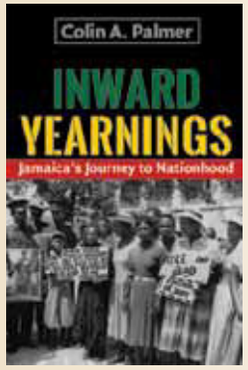
Note: pre-registration required. Book via www.bocaslitfest.com/2017/events/workshops.

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Britain's "Barbarity Time" in Barbados, 1636–1876
HILARY McD. BECKLES
2016
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320pp 6 x 9
US$35 (s) Paper



Inward Yearnings
Jamaica's Journey to Nationhood
COLIN A. PALMER
2016
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OCM BOCAS PRIZE FOR CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

The annual OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature — sponsored by One Caribbean Media, the largest media organisation in the Caribbean and parent company of *TV6, i.95.5FM* and *Hott 93 radio*, and the *Express* newspapers in Trinidad and Tobago — is the region's leading literary award.

Books published in 2016 by authors of Caribbean birth or citizenship were eligible for the 2017 Prize, in three genre categories: poetry, fiction, and literary non-fiction.

The Prize has two stages. First, panels of distinguished judges select the best book in each of the three genre categories. Next, the chairs of the poetry, fiction, and non-fiction panels form a jury to select the final winner from among the three genre winners, joined by the overall prize chair.

In 2017 the OCM Bocas Prize is chaired by the eminent Jamaican poet and scholar Edward Baugh, Professor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies.

The overall winner of the 2017 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, to be announced on Saturday 29 April, will receive US$10,000, with cash awards of US$3,000 for the genre winners.

The inaugural OCM Bocas Prize winner in 2011 was the late Nobel laureate Derek Walcott, for his poetry collection *White Egrets.* Earl Lovelace's novel *Is Just a Movie* was the 2012 winner and in 2013 Monique Roffey won for her novel *Archipelago*. The 2014 winner was Robert Antoni's novel *As Flies to Whatless Boys*. St Lucian debut author Vladimir Lucien won the 2015 Prize for his poetry collection *Sounding Ground,* and the 2016 winner was Jamaican Olive Senior, for her short fiction collection *The Pain Tree.*

2017 PRIZE LONGLIST

Poetry

House of Lords and Commons, by Ishion Hutchinson (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Kingston Buttercup, by Ann-Margaret Lim (Peepal Tree Press)

Cannibal, by Safiya Sinclair (University of Nebraska Press)

Fiction

The Marvellous Equations of the Dread, by Marcia Douglas (Peepal Tree Press)

The Repenters, by Kevin Jared Hosein (Peepal Tree Press)

Augustown, by Kei Miller (Weidenfeld and Nicolson)

Non-Fiction

The First Black Slave Society: Britain's "Barbarity Time" in Barbados, 1636–1876, by Hilary McD. Beckles (University of the West Indies Press)

Virtual Glimpses into the Past/A Walk Back in Time: Snapshots of the History of Trinidad and Tobago, by Angelo Bissessarsingh (Queen Bishop Publishing)

Inward Yearnings: Jamaica's Journey to Nationhood, by Colin A. Palmer (University of the West Indies Press)

WINNER, POETRY



Cannibal — Safiya Sinclair's first book of poems — is haunted by the character of Caliban from *The Tempest*, as it explores Jamaican childhood and womanhood, and otherness in a strange place that may be the United States where the poet now lives, or language itself. "Sinclair manages to imbue her writing with such strength and spirit that it gives her poems a disturbing and provocative edge," write the judges, "sometimes shocking, at other times soft and sensual."

Publisher: University of Nebraska Press, United States

***From* "Home":**

Have I forgotten it—
wild conch-shell dialect,

black apostrophe curled
tight on my tongue?

Or how the Spanish built walls
of broken glass to keep me out

but the Doctor Bird kept chasing
and raking me in: This place

is your place, wreathed in red
Sargassum, ancient driftwood
nursed on the pensive sea . . .



Safiya Sinclair was born and raised in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Her first full-length collection, *Cannibal*, won the 2015 *Prairie Schooner* Book Prize in Poetry and a 2016 Whiting Writers' Award. She is currently a PhD candidate in literature and creative writing at the University of Southern California..

POETRY JUDGES

Chair: David Dabydeen is a Guyana-born critic, writer, novelist and academic, based in the UK. His accolades include the Commonwealth Poetry Prize, the Quiller-Couch Prize and the Guyana Prize for Literature. In 2000 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, the second West Indian and the only Guyanese writer to be awarded the title.

Nancy Morejón, Cuban poet, critic and essayist, is the most internationally successful and widely translated Cuban woman poet of the post-revolutionary period. She was awarded the Cuban Premio de la Crítica (Critic's Prize) for Piedra Pulida, and in 2001 won Cuba's National Prize for Literature.

Peter Straus was a publisher for twenty years, ending up as Editor in Chief at Macmillan UK and publisher of Picador, where he set up a poetry imprint at Picador. He then joined Rogers, Coleridge and White as a literary agent in 2002. He is currently Managing Director of Rogers, Coleridge and White.

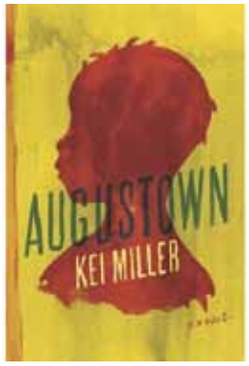
FICTION JUDGES

Chair: Sushiela Nasta is Founding Editor of *Wasafiri: Magazine of International Contemporary Writing* (1984). She has judged several literary prizes and published widely on Caribbean, South Asian and Black British literatures.

Malaika Adero is the author of *Up South: Stories, Studies, and Letters of This Century's African American Migrations* (The New Press). She was vice president and senior editor at Atria Books/ Simon and Schuster and is now a publishing consultant living in New York City.

H. Nigel Thomas was born in St Vincent and now lives in Montreal, Canada. His novels *Spirits in the Dark* (1993) and *No Safeguards* (2015) were shortlisted for the *Paragraphe Quebec Writers Federation* Hugh MacLennan Fiction Prize. In 2013 he was awarded Université Laval's Hommage aux créateurs.

WINNER, FICTION



In ***Augustown*** — his third novel and ninth published book — Kei Miller offers a historical epic ranging over sixty years of Jamaican history, with its complexities of class, ethnicity, religion, and language. "It is a spell-binding novel written in simple, well limned, imagistic prose," note the judges. "It's a novel that's realistic — a realism grounded in history — and magic-realist."

Publisher: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, United Kingdom

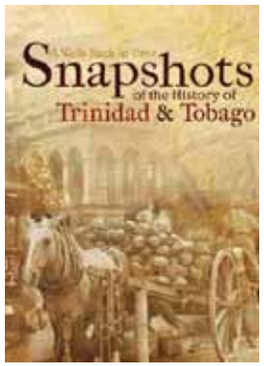
***From* Augustown:**

Augustown has rhythms and patterns from which is constructed its own sense of the banal, of the unspectacular, of the "hardly to be commented on". For this reason not even the threelegged dog, Cocoa — who eats out of the garbage bins he religiously overturns and who sleeps so soundly in a pothole each night that cars have to honk their horns or flash their bright lights and wait for the mutt to yawn and, in his slow, limping way, extract himself from the cracked depression in the road — raises a single eyebrow . . .



Kei Miller is a Jamaican writer of poems, fiction, and essays. He has published nine books, including *The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion*, winner of the 2014 Forward Prize, and *Writing Down the Vision*, winner of the 2014 OCM Bocas Prize for non-fiction. He is currently based in London.

WINNER, NON-FICTION



Angelo Bissessarsingh's twin books *Virtual Glimpses into the Past* and *A Walk Back in Time*, considered by the judges as two volumes of a larger work, collect vignettes from the history of Trinidad and Tobago, which the judges describe as "a graphic reminder of the rich architecture that must be preserved," offering an effortless read for those for whom the past is a forgotten country.

Publisher: Queen Bishop Publishing, Trinidad and Tobago

***From* "The Soucouyant of Saut D'Eau":**

One of the most gruelling hikes in Trinidad is the trek from the mountain eyrie of Paramin down to the secluded bay of Saut D'Eau. The knees buckle and backs ache — more than one person has ripped hamstrings on the steep downward trail. The deep blue waters and cove are a silent witness to a time when a handful of fisherfolk settled here in the post-emancipation era. The descendants of ex-slaves who had been bound to estates in the area, in the northwest of the island, these hardy mariners lived in complete isolation, there being no connection to civilisation except by the hazardous path over the mountains, or by boat . . .



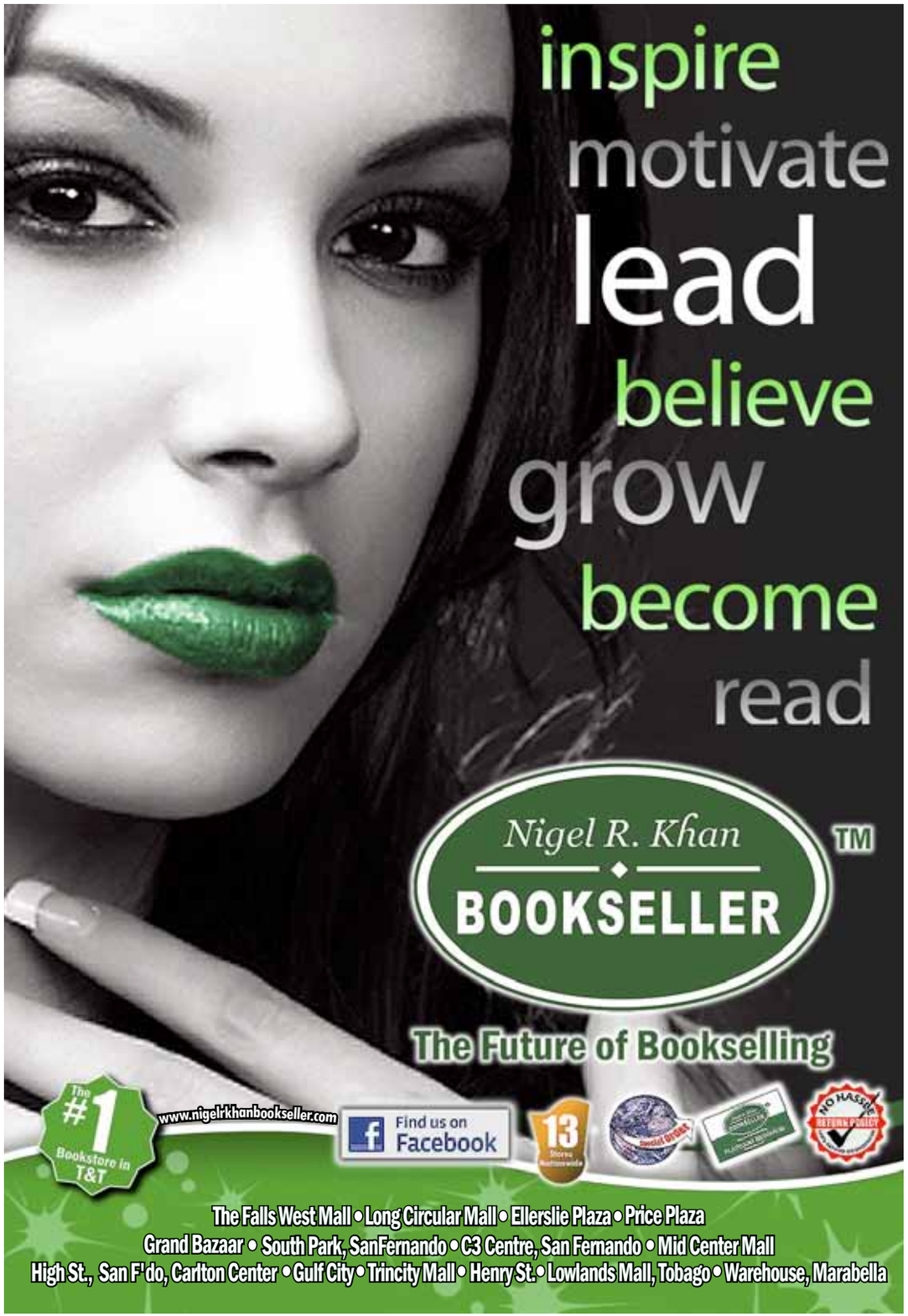
Trinidadian Angelo Bissessarsingh was a self-taught historian who won a devoted following among Trinidadian readers for his enthusiastic style and passion for research, displayed in his weekly newspaper column, his online writing, and his published books. Bissessarsingh passed away in early 2017, during the judging period for the OCM Bocas Prize.

NON FICTION JUDGES

Chair: Kim Robinson-Walcott, is editor/head of *Caribbean Quarterly*, UWI, Mona, and of *Jamaica Journal*, published by the Institute of Jamaica. Her scholarly articles, book chapters, short stories and poems have been widely published.

Aaron Kamugisha, senior lecturer in Cultural Studies at the University of the West Indies, Barbados, has edited eight collections on Caribbean and Africana thought, including *Caribbean Popular Culture: Power, Politics and Performance* (2016) and *Small Axe 49* (March 2016), a special issue on Sylvia Wynter's *Black Metamorphosis.*

Patricia Mohammed, scholar, writer and filmmaker, is Professor of Gender and Cultural Studies and Campus Coordinator/Chair, School for Graduate Studies and Research at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, a post she has held variously since 2007.





The Award is a generously 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. It takes the form of a calf and marbled paper Book Box, bound in an early nineteenth century style, and dedicated to the recipient.

BOCAS HENRY SWANZY AWARD

The Bocas Henry Swanzy Award for Distinguished Service to Caribbean Letters is named for the late BBC radio producer (1915–2004) who created a landmark platform for Caribbean writing in the 1940s and '50s. The *Caribbean Voices* programme, which broadcast fiction and poems across the region, built an audience for West Indian literature at a crucial stage in its development, and supported a generation of 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, founded in 2013. Awardees are chosen by the festival organising committee, and receive the award at a special festival event.

The recipient of the 2017 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award is **Joan Dayal**, proprietor of Paper Based, one of the Caribbean's leading independent bookshops, which celebrates its thirtieth anniversary this year.

Since its inception, Paper Based has been home not only to the sale of titles in Caribbean fiction, non-fiction, and poetry: through a regular reading series, it has become a platform for the voices of both emerging and established Caribbean writers.

Dayal's business acumen is rooted in a tireless, passionate love of local and regional writing, and it is through this lens that her work at Paper Based has supported, enriched, and amplified the bookshelves of thousands of Caribbean readers. Dayal has turned bookselling and Caribbean literary representation at Paper Based into a titanic institution.

The 2017 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award will be presented as part of the OCM Bocas Prize ceremony on *Saturday 29 April, 7–8 pm, in the Old Fire Station.*

In 2013, the inaugural Bocas Henry Swanzy Award was presented to **John La Rose** (deceased) 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, and in 2015 the award was presented to **Margaret Busby**, OBE, publisher, editor, and broadcaster. The 2016 winner was editor and publisher **Jeremy Poynting**, founder of Peepal Tree Press.

NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest

The NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest is a special and exciting programme of events for young readers.

During the month of April, our Children's Storytelling Caravan for 5–13-year-olds travels all around Trinidad and Tobago, as children get to share their wonderful stories with us. It culminates in the five-day Children's Festival at the Children's Library (NALIS) in Port of Spain, a treat of readings from children's books by their authors, creative writing workshops, films, and the last stop of the Storytelling Caravan.

During the Caravan, dynamic, experienced storytellers and trained teams from the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest discuss ideas for stories with children, guiding them through the basics of exposition towards character development, observation of the environment, personal, social and community relationships, unleashing and guiding the children's creativity and inspiring them to value self-expression through the written word.

The stories the children create are illustrated and published annually in a colouring book and in the Sunday *Junior Express*.

Our arrival in Port of Spain is celebrated on at the ***Imagine New Worlds*** event at City Hall, hosted by His Worship the Mayor Joel Martinez and The Port of Spain Corporation, where 300 children from schools all over the nation come together to experience the work of authors, artists and performers from here and abroad.

The City Hall programme includes:

- Readings from the annual *Children's Storytelling Book*
- Natalie Edgecombe, from Montserrat, who joins the UWI Seismic Research Centre to share *Volcano Stories* written by child survivors of the catastrophic volcanic eruption.
- A pictorial journey with The National Trust that takes us to parts of historic Trinidad and Tobago
- Book readings and activities brimming with stories and songs about culture, places and people found in: *My Land, Panderica, Flight to Paramin* and *Bim and Bam*
- The return of the award-winning Lewis siblings and their original monologues
- A 2Cents poet and his passion
- Chatting with Children, in which a mother gets her say
- Our surprise guests, from the world of multimedia
- Workshops in writing and performing poetry

All events are free but pre-registration is required for all storytelling sessions, and by schools attending the City Hall event. Visit www.bocaslitfest.com/children to register or call 71-BOCAS

City Hall Participants

Gregory Thompson is an educator, author of children's books and the website creator of magz4kidz.com. "Inspired books inspiring minds" is his motto for his books.

Brian Benoit is CEO of the Benoit Academy of Steel Pan, founder of Panimation Studios and author of *The Legends of Panderica* animated book series, which won the Ideas to Innovation (i2i) competition for promising technology and the development of a novel industry.

Sufia Giza Amenwahsu is a poet who performs poetry to music. She is an Alumna of Cave Canem South. An ancestrally inspired artist of Gullah-Geechee descent, she has recorded CDs and chapbooks.

Storytellers

Theodora Ulerie, known as Auntie Thea, is a cultural practitioner with international experience as an arts education facilitator, actress and storyteller. She is the founder and creative director of Culture House.

Lylah Persad is a writer, director, actor, storyteller and creative and artistic director of LP Entertainment Theatre. She is also a preschool drama teacher and hosts workshops for teens and adults in speech articulation and character development. She is co-author of *Tales from the Forest*.

Avion Crooks is a full time primary school teacher for over thirty years and a part time storyteller and actress specialising in broadcasting, dance and drama curriculum facilitation.



Thelma Perkins is a storyteller and writer living in Tobago. Her children's books include *In Search of Mr. McKenzie* and *Wishing on a Wooden Spoon*. Her first novel is *Roundabouts*.

Glenda Nassoma Layne is a professional storyteller. She is the winner of the World Championship of the Performing Arts, Hollywood, California, 2007, and a Gold Medalist for the Acting World Championship of the Performing Arts, Hollywood, California, 2006.

Joan Osborne, knows as Auntie Queenie, conducts storytelling workshops and has been a judge in the Best Village programme. She is the former Director of the Heritage Library at NALIS.

Lalonde Ochoa is trained in workshop facilitation and educative theatre and is currently a resident player with National Theatre Arts Company of Trinidad and Tobago.

Children's Festival Participants at the National Library

Jeunanne Alkins, an award-winning artist, is a children's book author, illustrator and creative director of The Studio Everything Slight Pepper. Most recently, her *Bim and Bam* TV series pitch at Kingston Animation Festival 2016 in Jamaica won her two prizes.

Janine Mendes-Franco is the scriptwriter of *The Adventures of Bim and Bam* and member of the Content Development and Monitoring Committee of the Trinidad and Tobago Film Company.

Natalie Edgecombe is a communications specialist from Montserrat. Her documentary *The Volcano Generation* won several UN awards. In 2013, she joined the Montserrat Volcano Observatory team as Education and Outreach Coordinator. She is the editor of *Volcano Stories*, published by The UWI Seismic Research Centre.

Agyei Archer is a Graphic Designer with a strong focus in new products and design for education.

Penelope Spencer is a director of the Necessary Arts School and Necessary Arts etc. This seven-time Cacique Award-winner is an esteemed actress, writer, dancer and drama coach. She is co-author of *Tales from the Forest*.

Colin Bootman has illustrated and written over twenty-five published children's books and recently won the 2017 NAACP Image Award as illustrator for the children's book *Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas*.

Muhammad Muwakil is a Trinidadian poet and musician, and is a founding member of the band Freetown Collective whose aim is to free the listener of negativity and social inhibitions.

Lou Lyons is a founding member of the band Freetown Collective. He is a musical innovator, adept with the guitar, drums, and flute and a notable baritone vocalist.

Omardath Maharaj is an Agricultural Economist and lead consultant of iTHiNK Global Consulting Services Limited. He has developed community-based organizations, with farmer and fisher folk associations.

Sheetal Daswani is an education consultant, mother, dreamer, author, wanderer, birth doula, educator and human rights defender, who works with at-risk communities to promote sustainable and meaningful social change.

Britta Rajkumar is a primary school English teacher creating a series of books to teach children how to care for their environment and defend their beliefs through *Boysie and the Kisakadee*.

Melissa Matthews is an artist, writer, and entrepreneur. She first published *Makaynuh & The Magical Curtains* in 2016, and is developing a series of stories based on the adventures of her daughter, Makena.

Kahaya Sooklalsingh has a Master's degree in Psychology/ Leadership from the University of Dayton. She works with people at the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

Thursday 27 April

INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION
The Adventures of Bim and Bam by Jeunanne Alkins
A dramatised reading of the ridiculous adventures of *Bim and Bam,* five year old twins, while on vacation with their family, followed by a workshop with creator Jeunanne Alkins and scriptwriter Janine Mendes-Franco exploring the process of developing the film's characters.
9.15 am

INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION
Volcano Stories
Natalie Edgecombe of the Montserrat Volcano Observatory reads from *Volcano Stories,* featuring 26 winning entries from the 2013 Montserrat Volcano Observatory Creative Writing Competition. Participants journey to the fantastic worlds of volcanoes and earthquakes through the mediums of stories and film.
10.30 am

INTERACTIVE READING
My Land: Adventures around Trinidad and Tobago
Each chapter in My Land draws on at least one of the nine core subject areas of the Primary School curriculum, including English Language, Mathematics and Science.
12.30 pm

DRAMATIC READING
Tales from the Forest
Lylah Persad reads *Soucouyant from Tales from the Forest.*
1.40 pm

Friday 28 April

INTERACTIVE READING
Fish for the Grand Lady
Award winning illustrator and author Colin Bootman reads from *Fish for the Grand Lady*, part of the Caribbean Easy Reader Series, to promote reading within the diaspora with particular reference to our Caribbean cultural experiences.
9–10 am

DRAMATIC READING
Mama D'Lo from Tales from the Forest
Penelope Spencer reads *Mama D'Lo from Tales from the Forest*, with reading and writing exercises to stimulate creativity for all ages.
10.15 am

WORKSHOP
I Am Who I Say I Am
Freetown Collective's Muhammad and Lou believe that everyone has a voice but not everyone knows it. Participants are encouraged to find their voices and the know-how to create their own songs.
12 pm

WORKSHOP
My Food and Me
Omardath Maharaj engages children in activities to promote awareness of healthy food choices.
1.15 pm

Saturday 29 April

STORYTELLING CARAVAN
(pre-registration required)
How the Golden Tree Frog Found Its Voice
Storyteller Joan Osborne tells wonderful tales, and then children together create their own story, which is later published in the Bocas Lit Fest Storytelling Caravan book series and in the Sunday *Junior Express.*
10 am

READINGS
Zeee
Join author Sheetal Daswani for a very special reading of her book *Zeee,* as it takes its readers wandering on a whimsical adventure that captures the magic and dreams inside every child's mind. To be followed by a "Dream Big" craft session.
12.30 pm

Boysie and the Kiskadee
The first in a series of books that teach children how to save the environment. Britta Rajkumar reads *Boysie and the Kiskadee.* Boysie stands up against Mr. Mean Tractor to prevent deforestation and gains Mr Kiskadee's gratitude.
1 pm

THURS 27 to SAT 29 APRIL

Makaynuh and the Magical Curtains
Melissa Matthews reads from *Makaynuh & The Magical Curtains*, which explores the pure joy, excitement and adventure that children can find in imagining about the simplest things, in this case, a pair of living room curtains.
1.30 pm



WORKSHOP
Paper Making
Learn how to use shredded paper to make jewellery, post cards, bookmarks and more! Kahaya Sooklalsingh and Janilla Carrington of the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities explore how the things we take for granted can be beautiful treasures.
2.15 pm • pre-registration required via website

All events are FREE and take place in the Children's Library Reading Room



NGC BOCAS LIT FEST PRESENTS DRAGONZILLA AT HIS 7TH BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Hear Dragonzilla sing and join him in his Dragonzilla Dance!
in collaboration with The National Theatre Arts Company

Storytelling, old-time games, and treats!
& KESS the best Magician and Illusionist in the Caribbean

Sunday 30 April, 1 to 4pm

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED AND LIMITED TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE ATTENDED AT LEAST TWO STORYTELLING SESSIONS SINCE 2012



101 Art Gallery



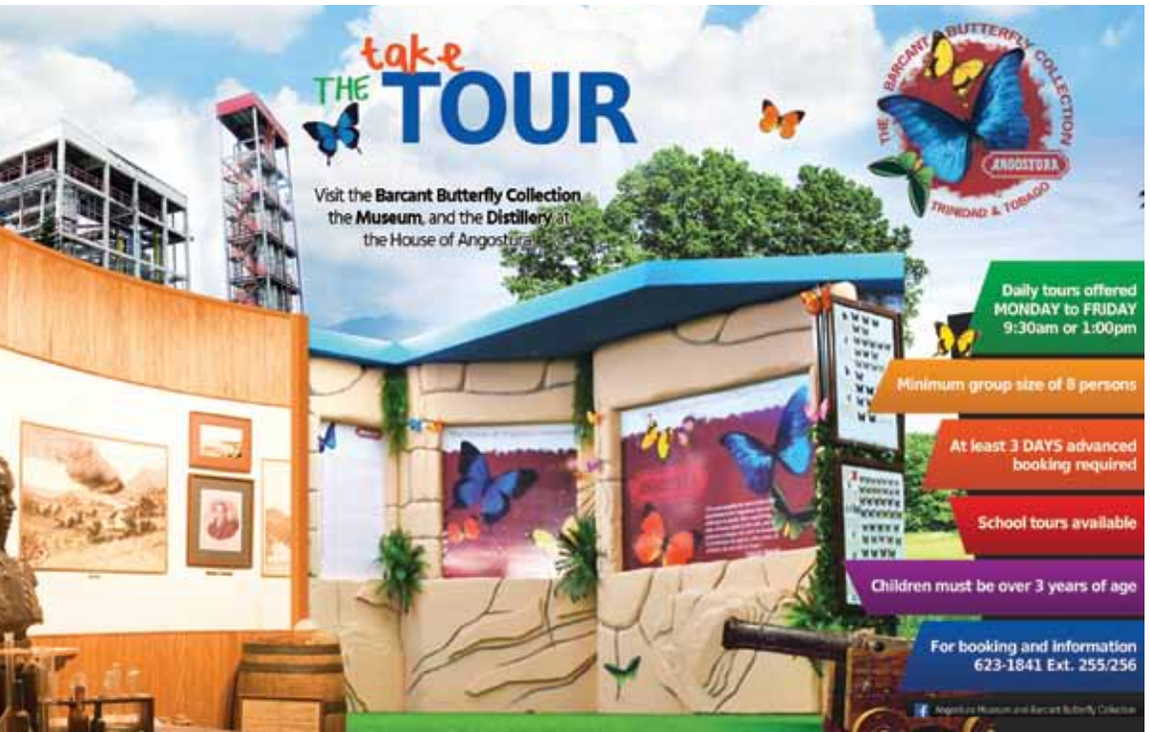




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FESTIVAL T-SHIRTS

They're both coveted souvenirs of our Festival and an essential fashion statement for Caribbean literati. Quantities are limited — come and check for your size at the Festival info desk!

Adult t-shirts: TT$100
Children's t-shirts: TT$60



CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Every year the NGC Bocas Lit Fest publishes a children's colouring storybook of stories told by T&T's children during the previous year's Storytelling Caravan. These are special editions and the 2017 edition is available from festival booksellers. Earlier editions can be ordered on line.





WHO'S WHO

Meet the members of the 2017 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, and since 2005 has been a consultant with the Trinidad and Tobago Film Company and a *Newsday* columnist. She is a former BBC prize-winning programme maker with a publishing background and member of the Arts Council of Great Britain's Literary Panel. She is a current member of the British Council's Arts Advisory Committee. 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 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. He is a widely published critic of African and Caribbean literature and a specialist on the work of Earl Lovelace. Since 2000 he has co-run the Cropper Foundation Writers Workshop.

Nicholas Laughlin is the Programme Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest 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. His book of poems *The Strange Years of My Life* was published in 2015.

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 the editor and publisher of *Bridges of Trinidad and Tobago, Ice Age Trinidad* and *A Handbook of Trinidad Cookery*, under the Cassique Publications imprint.

Anna Lucie-Smith is the Festival's Programme Coordinator.

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

Kenrick Attale is the Festival's Marketing Director.

Ardene Sirjoo is the Festival's Marketing Coordinator.

Shivanee Ramlochan, Festival Blogger and Social Media Coordinator, is a writer who blogs about books at novelniche.wordpress.com.

Jean-Claude Cournand is the Bocas Youth Outreach Coordinator and founder of the 2 Cents Movement.

Indra Ramcharan-Jack, the Festival's Merchandising and Sales Coordinator.

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

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

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

Ayrïd Chandler is the Festival's Graphic Design Assistant.

Melanie Archer is the Graphic Designer of the CineLit programme.

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

Dianne Wells is Events Coordinator for the Festival's awards ceremonies.

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.

Maurice Chevalier is the Festival Decor Coordinator.

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

Vincent O'Neil is the Festival's Livestream Coordinator and Technical Advisor.

Stefan Rampersad is the Festival Village Coordinator.

Gem Rowe is the lead Festival volunteer.

North Eleven are the Festival's audiovisual and film screening partners.



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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Enjoy special discounts and giveaways from our downtown merchant and festival partners during the week of April 24! Present your festival guide or writer's badge at Mode Alive and Jimmy Aboud for special surprise mark-downs. Visit our social media pages for more details.

The organisers of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest would like to thank everyone who has made this Festival possible. To Myles Lewis at NGC, Evelena Bruce of First Citizens, the staff of Lonsdale Saatchi & Saatchi and to everyone in the OCM group, a very special thanks for your most valuable support. Thanks to all our volunteers, and to the directors and staff of NALIS. Thanks to NCC for facilitating our Park and Ride service. Thanks to Flow and MovieTowne for advertising support. Thanks to the Port of Spain City Corporation for hosting our day of children's activities on 26 April. And thanks to the merchants of Port of Spain for partnering with Bocas.

The Bocas Lit Fest

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