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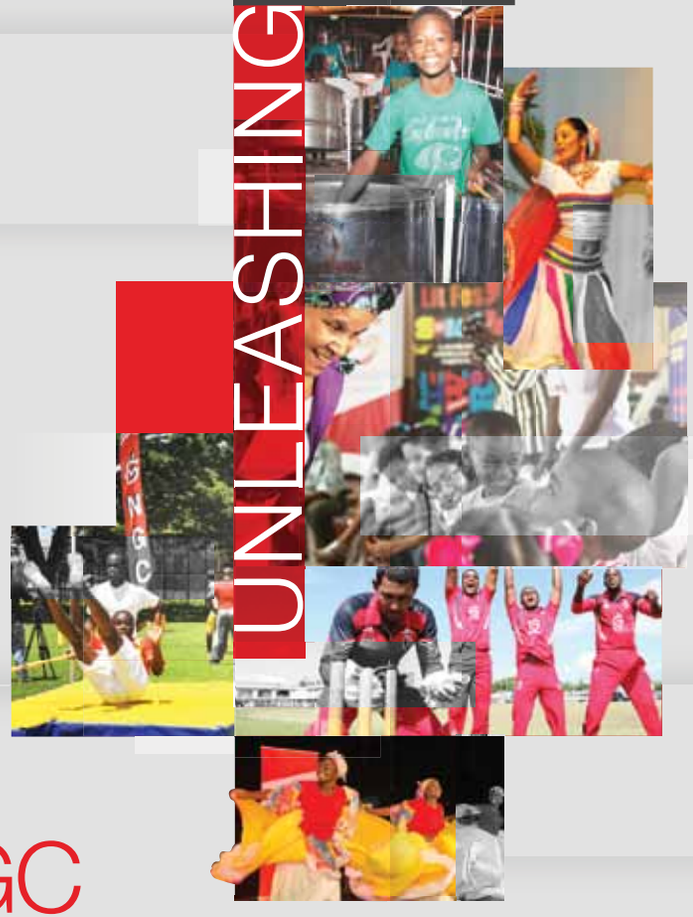
25 APRIL TO 29 APRIL 2018

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD

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WELCOME

In the eighth year of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest we return with another action-packed programme of over 100 events.

You can encounter writers who have won major international awards like the Man Booker Prize, the Windham Campbell Prizes, the Forward Prize for Poetry, and our very own OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. But you'll also find first-time authors and others on the verge of being published, sharing their work at our Stand and Deliver sessions, and honing their skills in our extraordinary workshop series.

Caribbean literature is always our special focus, but the festival also features extraordinary authors from around the world — this year, places as far-flung as Sri Lanka and New Zealand, in a special series of events considering island perspectives. They join writers from Britain, Canada, and the USA, with ancestral roots in countries as diverse as Ghana and Iran: a true reflection of the global community of literature, which defies the cheap attempts of international politicians to build barriers and burn bridges.

What else? Performances and discussions celebrating some of T&T's best-loved indigenous artforms, conversations about writers' archives and our built heritage, dramatic readings, literary tributes, stimulating intercultural exchange through translation and the third annual CineLit: Latin American and Caribbean Literary Film Festival, plus a rich programme of events for children and teenage readers.

We're proud that the NGC Bocas Lit Fest is now considered the essential time and place for new Caribbean books to make their debuts. This year, look out for *Doe Songs*, the first book of poems by Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné, and *De Rightest Place*, the debut novel by Barbara Jenkins — both winners of the former Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize — as well as new books of poems by Vahni Capildeo and Loretta Collins Klobah, a new novel by Anthony Joseph based on the life of the late, great Lord Kitchener, a family memoir by Savi Naipaul Akal, a sumptuous collection of Carnival photographs by Maria Nunes, and even more.

And, alongside the now prestigious OCM Bocas Prize and the CODE Burt Award for Caribbean Young Adult Literature, we are especially pleased to announce the new Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize for emerging authors, and promote the finalists of the first People's Choice T&T Book of the Year Award, decided by public voting.

Check this guide, and learn how these awards give writers practical incentives to do their creative work, and spread the word about the Caribbean's literary riches.

In 2018, like every year, Bocas is **Always Lit!** Have fun!

READERS WANTED.

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The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) is proud to have built its legacy of success with local talent and local leadership. Our Company has proven the heights we can conquer as a country when we look within and leverage the brilliance of our people.

NGC has supported the Bocas Lit Fest since its inception in 2011. This is a testament to our faith in the strength of the indigenous. This home-grown festival has launched careers for Trinidad and Tobago's authors, storytellers, poets, and dramatists, and shared our stories with the world. Our small size stands in contrast to the wealth of talent of our people. Its impact is astounding; its local genesis a source of pride.

As title sponsors, we have the exclusive honour of travelling in name with the NGC Bocas Lit Fest. As we wish the Bocas team all the best for another successful festival instalment, we are honoured to stand with them as corporate partners in nurturing and leveraging our creative industries as we celebrate our island state of mind.

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nalis

HOME OF THE FESTIVAL

The National Library of Trinidad and Tobago and Old Fire Station

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

Mon 16–Fri 20 April, CineLit: the Latin American and Caribbean Literary Film at UWI, St. Augustine campus / *Sat 21–Sun 29*, at the National Library

Weds 25 April, 9 am–10 pm
Thurs 26 April, 10 am–10 pm
Fri 27 April, 10 am–10 pm
Sat 28 April, 10 am–8.30 pm
Sun 29 April, 10 am–8.30 pm

Getting to the Festival and Parking

Limited free weekday parking available at Greyfriars car park, 50 Frederick Street. Paid parking is available in the nearby Parkade until 6 pm on weekdays. Weekend street parking is free in Port of Spain.

Online

Tune in to the festival livestream of events in the Old Fire Station via our Facebook page, facebook.com/bocaslitfest.

Readings and panels

Readings with Q&As and panel discussions take place in the Old Fire Station and in the National Library's AV Room (lower ground floor) and 1st and 2nd Floor Seminar Rooms.

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, Metropolitan Book Suppliers, RIK Services Ltd, Nigel R. Khan, UWI Press, and Robert & Christopher Publishers — on the ground floor of the Library.

NALIS Booth

A NALIS booth on the Library ground floor will offer information on library membership and act as the meeting point for a free library tour.

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 who want to read their work for peers and the festival audience. *Friday 27, 12.30–1 pm, and Saturday 28 April, 12.30–1.30 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 25 April, and in the Children's Library on the ground floor from Thursday to Sunday.

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). Gourmet salads are available from The House of El Catering.

T-shirts and bags

2018 NGC Bocas Lit Fest t-shirts and bags are on sale at the Festival info desk.

Hashtag

Tweeting, blogging or posting photos from the Festival online? Our 2018 hashtag is #bocas2018.

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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FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

A festival-wide focus on **island perspectives**, asking about the unique circumstances and challenges of island countries around the world, from culture to economics, from the environment to human rights — and featuring writers from Sri Lanka and New Zealand, as well as the Caribbean. See page 29.

A celebration of **international prizewinning authors**, including 2013 Man Booker Prizewinner Eleanor Catton and Windham Campbell Prizewinners André Alexis, Erna Brodber, and Lorna Goodison.

Always Lit, a big night of literature and music, featuring the launches of four exciting new books: the anthology *Thicker Than Water*, *Doe Songs* by Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné and *De Rightest Place* by Barbara Jenkins (both past winners of the Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize), and *Kitch*, a new novel by Anthony Joseph based on the life of the legendary calypsonian.
Friday 27 April, 7 pm until • Big Black Box, 33 Murray Street, Woodbrook

A spotlight on **T&T's indigenous performance traditions**, from calypso to steelpan, from the witty lyrics of Extempo to the sharp commentary of the Midnight Robber, through a series of performances and workshops. See page 28.

A special series of events on **literary archives and why they matter**, with workshops, discussions, and the presentation of commissioned new writing inspired by T&T's own literary archives.

The announcement of the winner of the **2018 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature**, a major award recognising Caribbean writers of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction, at a ceremony alongside tributes to Anne Walmsley, recipient of the **2018 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award**, and the iconic Guyanese writer Wilson Harris, who died in March 2018.
Saturday 28 April, 7–8 pm • Old Fire Station
By invitation

The announcement of the winner of the **2018 CODE Burt Award for Caribbean Literature**, recognising Caribbean writers of young adult literature.
Wednesday 25 April, 6.30–8.30 pm • The Writers' Centre, 14 Alcazar Street, St. Clair
By invitation

To mark the 70th anniversary of the ***Empire Windrush***, a special event considering how Caribbean people and culture have helped shape the rest of the world.
Sunday 29 April, 11 am–12.30 pm • Old Fire Station

Writers First, a series of free seminars on the publishing business for newly published, self-published, and emerging writers. See page 26.

The debut of ***Tito***, a Young Adult novel by Chilean Marcelo Simonetti, published in Jamaica and launched in T&T to introduce young people to Chilean literature and the great Latin American love affair with football, an example of the cultural exchange Bocas is known for.

The T&T premiere of ***Unfinished Sentences***, a new feature film on the life and career of the late writer and mentor **Wayne Brown**, and a discussion of his legacy.

The 2018 **First Citizens National Poetry Slam**, supported by First Citizens, where spoken word poets compete with their peers for $80,000 in prizes.
Sunday 29 April, 6–8 pm • National Academy for the Performing Arts
Tickets $200, available from NAPA Box Office and Francis Fashions outlets nationwide

AUTHORS, SPEAKERS, PERFORMERS

Ibrahim Ahmad is senior editor at Akashic Books, an award-winning Brooklyn-based independent publishing company that co-founded Peekash Press.

Funso Aiyejina, Deputy Festival Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest is a prize-winning Nigerian writer based in Trinidad, Professor Emeritus, Former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at UWI, St. Augustine, and a widely published critic on African and West Indian literature and culture. *Earl Lovelace,* his latest book, was published in 2017 as part of the Caribbean Biography Series.

Kaveh Akbar's poems appear in *The New Yorker, Poetry, The New York Times,* and *The Nation*. His first collection, *Calling a Wolf a Wolf,* was recently published by Penguin in the UK. Born in Iran, he teaches creative writing in the US, and has won the Pushcart Prize, a Poetry Foundation Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Fellowship, and the Poetry Society of America's Lucille Medwick Memorial Award.

André Alexis is a Trinidad-born, Canada-based author of six novels. His fifth, *Fifteen Dogs* (2015) received many honors, including the 2015 Scotiabank Giller Prize, and was followed by *The Hidden Keys* (2016). In 2017 he won a Windham Campbell Prize for fiction.

Sharifa Ali-Abdullah is the Assistant Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme for Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten. She is an economist whose work includes key partnerships with international and regional bodies including UN agencies, the IMF, World Bank, IDB, OAS, Commonwealth Secretariat and CARICOM.

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). Her latest novel, *Home Home*, was a winner of the 2017 CODE Burt Award for Caribbean Young Adult Literature.

Lauren Alleyne is the author of *Difficult Fruit* (2014). Her fiction, non-fiction, interviews and poetry have been widely published. Trinidad-born, she is currently Assistant Director of the Furious Flower Poetry Centre, James Madison University, USA, and an Associate Professor of English.

Muli Amaye is a UK-born novelist, short story writer and poet currently coordinating the MFA Creative Writing programme at UWI, St Augustine. She co-edited *The Suitcase Book of Love Poems* and the anthology *Migration Stories*. Her debut novel *A House With No Angels* is published by Crocus Press in 2018.

Raymond Antrobus is an award-winning British-Jamaican poet, performer, editor, educator and co-curator of Chill Pill, with an MA in Spoken Word education from Goldsmiths. His pamphlets *Shapes & Disfigurements of Raymond Antrobus* (2012) and *To Sweeten Bitter* (2017) were published in the UK. His debut poetry collection *The Perseverance* will appear in 2018.

Vicki-Ann Assevero is a senior legal counsel, consultant on transactional mediation, and social entrepreneur with a longstanding interest in sustainable development. In 2012 she founded The Green Market Santa Cruz, which the UNEP recognised in 2016 as an example of integrated sustainable development in practice. A graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School, in 2010 she received an LLM in Sustainable Development Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Tracy Assing is a writer, editor and filmmaker. Her 2010 film *The Amerindians* explored Assing's own identity, the indigenous history of T&T, and the political structure of the Santa Rosa Carib Community (now the First People's Community). Her writing has appeared in *The*

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Caribbean Review of Books, *The Encyclopedia of Caribbean Archaeology,* and the 2018 Peekash Press anthology *So Many Islands*.

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

Imam Baksh is a writer from Guyana. His manuscript *Children of the Spider* won first place in the 2015 CODE Burt Award for Caribbean Young Adult Literature, published in 2016 by Blue Banyan Books. His manuscript *The Dark of the Sea* is a 2018 CODE Burt Award finalist.

Tracey Baptiste is the author of the *Jumbies* middle grade series. Her eleven other children's books include *Angel's Grace* and *The Totally Gross History of Ancient Egypt*. She also teaches in Lesley University's Creative Writing MFA programme.

Rhoda Bharath is a Trinidadian writer, teacher, and political and cultural blogger. Her debut book *The Ten Days Executive and Other Stories* was published in 2015.

Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné's several poetry prizes include the 2016 *Wasafiri* New Writing Prize, the 2015 Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize, and the 2012 *Small Axe* Literary Competition. *Doe Songs* (2018) is her debut book of poems, launched at this year's Festival.

Shakirah Bourne, Barbadian writer and filmmaker, is a 2018 CODE Burt Award Finalist. Her collection of stories *In Time of Need* won the 2015 Governor General's Award for Excellence. Her newest manuscript won the Prime Minister's Award at the Frank Collymore Literary Awards. Her film adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream. A Caribbean Dream*, was released in London in 2017 and nominated for three UK National Film Awards.

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

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.

Erna Brodber, activist, scholar, and writer, is a 2017 winner of the Windham Campbell Prize. She has also won a Prince Claus Award (2006), Jamaica's Musgrave Medal (1999), and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize (1989). Her latest novel is *Nothing's Mat* (2014).

Mariel Brown is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and the director of SAVANT Ltd (savantmedia.tv), a creative and production company based in Trinidad and Tobago. She has worked in television and print since 1997. Her most recent film is the feature *Unfinished Sentences*, about her father, the late Trinidadian writer Wayne Brown.

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), *Measures of Expatriation* (2016 winner of the Forward Best Collection Prize), and *Venus as a Bear* (2018). She is chair of the poetry judges for the 2018 OCM Bocas Prize.

Eleanor Catton is a fiction writer, born in Canada and raised in New Zealand. Her first novel, *The Rehearsal*, won the UK Society of Authors Betty Trask Award, and was longlisted for the *Guardian* First Book Award and the 2010 Orange Prize for Fiction. Her second novel, *The Luminaries*, won the 2013 Man Booker Prize.

David Chariandy's debut novel *Soucouyant* received nominations from eleven literary awards juries, including a Governor General's Literary Award shortlisting, a Gold Independent Publisher Award for Best Novel, and the Scotiabank Giller Prize longlist. *Brother*, his second novel, won the 2017 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. He lives in Vancouver, Canada.

Johan Chuckaree started playing pan aged 4, becoming a staple frontline player for the iconic Phase II Pan Groove led

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by Len Boogsie Sharpe, and an international pan ambassador. In 2013 he co-founded the Indigisounds Steelpan Sample Library to promote pan internationally on digital platforms.

Loretta Collins Klobah's first book, *The Twelve Foot Neon Woman* (Peepal Tree Press, 2011), received the OCM Bocas Prize (poetry) and was shortlisted for the Felix Dennis Prize in the Forward Prize series. She has been awarded the Pushcart Prize, the Earl Lyons Award from the Academy of American Poets, and the Pam Wallace Award for an Aspiring Woman Writer. She is a professor of Caribbean literature and creative writing at University of Puerto Rico.

Carolyn Cooper, Professor Emerita, UWI, Mona, Jamaica, is the author of two influential books on Jamaican popular culture, *Sound Clash* (2004) and *Noises in the Blood* (1993), and the editor of *Global Reggae* (2012). She is a broadcaster, *Jamaica Gleaner* columnist and chaired the non-fiction panel of the OCM Bocas Prize, 2015.

M. James Cooper was born in Trinidad and Tobago. His writing can be found in *Moko Magazine* and *Black Issues.* His collection T*omorrow, Please God: The Seven Narratives*, is described as African-centred, steeped in Caribbean folklore and cultural narrative styles.

Alison Donnell is Head of School of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. Her latest research project on Caribbean Literary Heritage (2017–2020) is funded by the Leverhulme Trust and brings her critical interest in recovering neglected writers together with her commitment to safeguarding the future of the literary past.

Sonia Farmer's *Infidelities* (Poinciana Paper Press, 2017) was longlisted for the 2018 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature (poetry). Her poems won the 2011 *Small Axe* Literary Competition and have appeared in various journals. Also a visual artist and founder of Poncianna Paper Press, she is an MFA student in Book Arts at the University of Iowa.

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 was a Book Conservation Fellow of the Library of Congress in 2008.

Joanne V. Gabbin, Professor of English, James Madison University, founded the Furious Flower Poetry Centre in 1999. She is the author of *Sterling A. Brown: Building the Black Aesthetic Tradition*, editor of *Furious Flower: African American Poetry From the Black Arts Movement to the Present* and *The Furious Flowering of African American Poetry*, and executive producer of the Furious Flower video series.

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,* his debut book of poems, was shortlisted for the 2017 Felix Dennis Forward Prize. His latest book is *Giant* (2018).

Alexander Girvan is an environmental economist with regional and international institutions such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the University of the West Indies, to advance the inclusion of environmental factors in policy-making decisions.

Lorna Goodison, Poet Laureate of Jamaica, has received many honours including a 2018 Windham Campbell Prize for fiction, Jamaica's Musgrave Medal (1999), and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize (1987). She is Professor Emerita at the University of Michigan. Her many books include her *Collected Poems*, published in 2017.

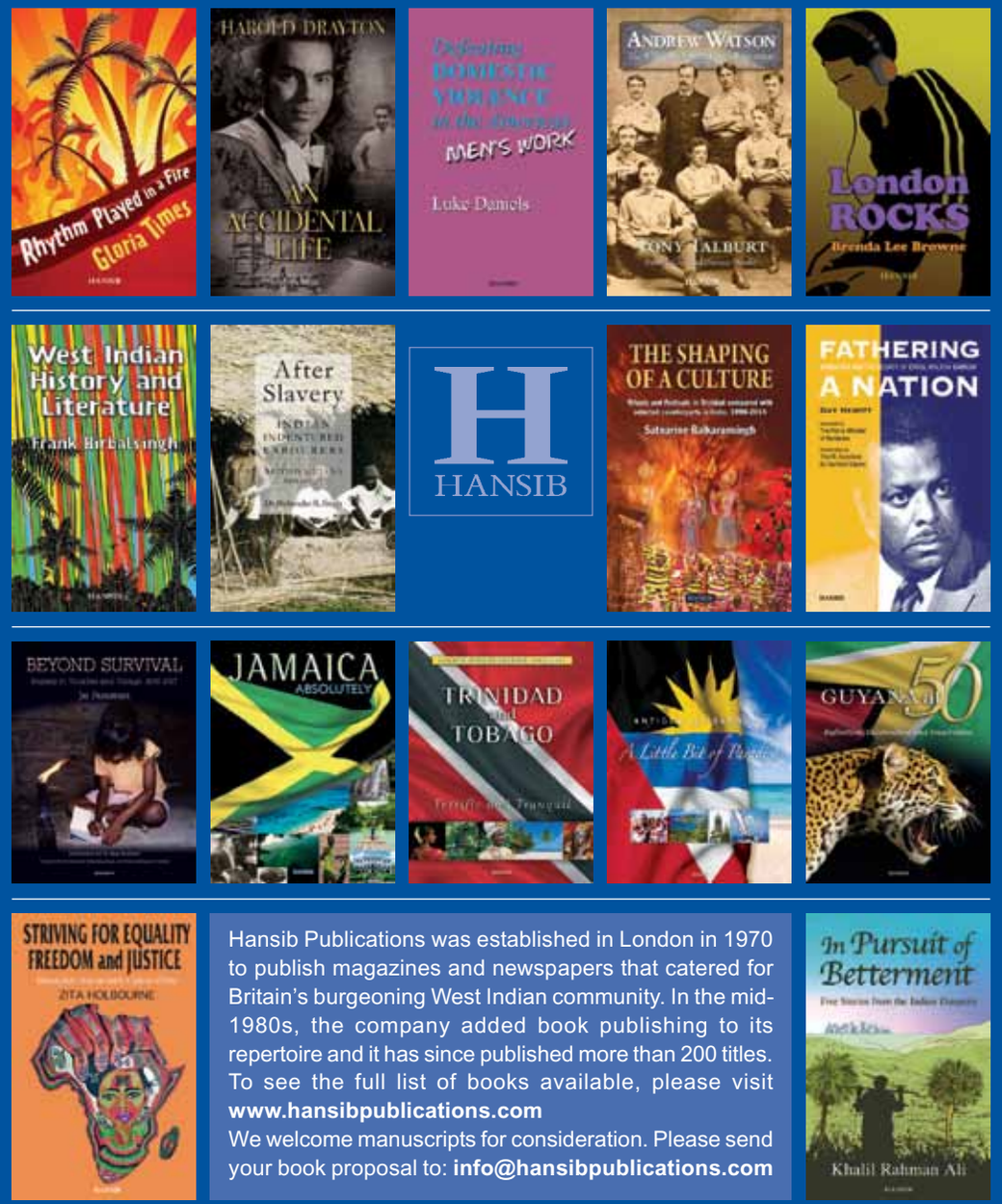
Debbie Goodman is the Manager, Corporate Communications at NALIS. She is an integrated marketing communications specialist.

Romesh Gunesekera is a Sri Lanka-born British writer whose widely acclaimed first novel *Reef* was published in 1994 and short-listed for the Booker Prize and the *Guardian* Fiction Prize. His most recent book, *Noontide Toll*, was published in 2014.

Lucy Hannah is a writer and producer. She founded Commonwealth Writers in 2011 and co-founded BBC Writersroom in the 1990s. She has worked for a

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range of international organisations to initiate and establish creative projects, mostly in areas of conflict and post-conflict.

Sterling Henderson is a well-known journalist with over 15 years' experience. His life experience, which includes living in Trinidad, Jamaica and New York City, leads to the launch of his debut album *When Soca Fill Meh Mouth*.

Afua Hirsch is a writer, broadcaster, barrister and human rights development worker of Ghanaian, English and Jewish heritage. She is the Social Affairs and Education Editor for Sky News. She writes a fortnightly column for the UK *Guardian* and she is the author of *Brit(ish): On Race, Identity and Belonging* (2018).

Kevin Jared Hosein's novel *The Repenters* was longlisted for the 2017 OCM Bocas Prize and his novel *The Beast of Kukuyo* was a winner of the 2017 CODE Burt Award for Caribbean Young Adult Literature. In 2015 he won the Commonwealth Short Story Prize, Caribbean region.

Debbie Jacob is the author of the much admired *Wishing for Wings. Making Waves* was published in 2017. She is an English teacher in T&T prisons and at the International School of Port of Spain, where she is also Head Librarian.

Keith Jardim is from Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana. His stories have appeared in many publications, and his book *Near Open Water* was published in 2011 by Peepal Tree Press.

Barbara Jenkins is a Trinidadian writer, author of the short fiction collection *Sic Transit Wagon*. She was won several prizes including the 2013 Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize and the Guyana Prize. Her debut novel *De Rightest Place* is published in 2018.

Elizabeth J. Jones has published history books and numerous articles about Bermuda. Her short story *The Ceremony* appears in the Peekash publication *New Worlds Old Ways*, an anthology of speculative fiction. Her first YA novel *A Dark Iris* is a finalist for the 2018 CODE Burt Award for Caribbean Young Adult Literature.

Anthony Joseph is a Trinidadian poet, novelist and musician. His publications include three volumes of poetry and two novels, *The African Origins of UFOs* (2006) and *Kitch* (2018). He lectures in Creative Writing at Birkbeck College, London.

Kelly Baker Josephs is Associate Professor of English, York College/CUNY, specialising in world Anglophone literature with an emphasis on Caribbean literature. Her current project, Caribbean Articulations: Storytelling in a Digital Age addresses Caribbean narratives constructed and communicated via digital formats. She is the editor of *sx salon: a small axe literary platform* and manages The Caribbean Commons website.

Michael Kelleher is the director of the Windham Campbell Literature Prizes at Yale University and former Artistic and Associate Director of Just Buffalo Literary Centre in Buffalo, New York. His published collections of poetry include *Visible Instruments* (Chax, 2017), *Museum Hours* (BlazeVOX, 2016), *Human Scale* (BlazeVOX, 2007), and *To Be Sung* (BlazeVOX, 2004).

Corine LaFont is an award-winning author, speaker, publisher, consultant and online radio host who recently launched an online educational portal, The Self Publishing University dot com, to help writers self publish.

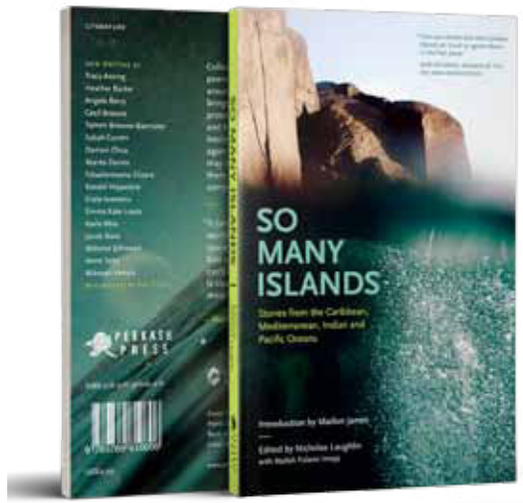
Anu Lakhan is a writer and editorial triage consultant. She writes about books and food. She facilitated a writing course at UWI, St Augustine for eight years.

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, Uncle Brother,* and most recently *Grounds for Tenure*.

Nicholas Laughlin is programme director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, editor of *Caribbean Beat* and *The Caribbean Review of Books,* and author of *The Strange Years of My Life*.

Simone Leid has worked in the field of Gender and Development and International Development for over 13 years in T&T. She is a fellow of the Cropper

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Thicker Than Water shows us how a new generation of Caribbean authors address perennial questions of love, betrayal, and memory in small places where personal and collective histories are often troublingly intertwined. With new writing by nineteen finalists for the Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize, a groundbreaking award administered from 2013 to 2015 by the Bocas Lit Fest.

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Danielle Legros Georges is a Haiti-born US author of two poetry collections, *The Dear Remote Nearness of You* (2016), winner of the New England Poetry Club's 2016 Sheila Margaret Motton Book Prize, and *Maroon* (2001). She is a professor at Lesley University and in 2014 was named Boston's second poet laureate.

Mark Lyndersay is a professional photographer and journalist working in Trinidad and Tobago for over thirty years. His blog *lyndersaydigital.com* offers an archive of his photography and regular independent reviews and opinion pieces on culture, technology and the creative industries.

Wendell Manwarren is an actor, rapso artiste, music producer, masman, and Carnival bandleader whose theatrical productions have consistently won awards both locally and internationally. He is co-founder of 3Canal, the rapso group.

Amanda T. McIntyre is a feminist writer, pan-Africanist, cultural activist and co-director of Caribbean feminist group WOMANTRA. Her most recently published work includes the short stories *Rainy Season,* and *Petite Careme,* published in *Womanspeak; Journal of Writing and Art by Caribbean Women.*

Breanne McIvor is a Trinidadian author who co-founded People's Republic of Writing (PROW). In 2015, her story *Kristoff and Bonnie* won *The Caribbean Writer's* David Hough Literary Prize. Her work has also appeared in Commonwealth Writers' *adda*, *Origami Journal*, Akashic Books' *Duppy Thursdays* series.

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

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

Kumar Mahabir is an anthropologist and Assistant Professor at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). He is the author of eleven books and recipient of the Humming Bird Medal (Silver) for service to Trinidad and Tobago in the sphere of Education.

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.

Ira Mathur is an Indian-born multimedia freelance journalist and T&T *Sunday Guardian* columnist with nine regional awards for excellence in journalism. She was shortlisted for the 2013 and 2014 Hollick Arvon Prize. An excerpt from her novel in progress is anthologised in *Thicker Than Water,* Peekash Press, 2018.

From Jamaica, **Shara McCallum** is the author of five books of poetry: *Madwoman*, *The Face of Water: New and Selected Poems*, *This Strange Land*, *Song of Thieves*, and *The Water Between Us*. Recognition for her writing includes a Witter Bynner Fellowship from the Library of Congress, a National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Fellowship, and the Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize for Poetry. She is currently Liberal Arts Professor of English at Penn State University.

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, Jamaica-born poet, novelist, essayist, and blogger, won the 2014 OCM Bocas Prize for non-fiction and his novel *Augustown* was the overall winner of the 2017 OCM Bocas Prize. *The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion* won the 2014 Forward Prize for best poetry collection and was shortlisted for a Costa Book Award. He teaches at the University of Exeter.

Celeste Mohammed's work has appeared in *The New England Review*, *The Rumpus*, *Kweli Journal*, and elsewhere. She won the 2018 PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers and was a finalist for the 2018 *New England Review* Emerging Writers Award and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Myron B (Myron Bruce) is the 2018 Extempo Champion and a Dimanche Gras 2018 Calypso Monarch Finalist.

Savitri (Savi) Naipaul Akal was born in Trinidad, the fifth child and fourth daughter of Seepersad and Droapatie Naipaul, sister of Vidia and Shiva. Her family memoir *The Naipauls of Nepaul Street* will be published in May 2018.

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.

Susheila Nasta, MBE, distinguished academic and literary critic is Founding Editor of *Wasafiri: Magazine of International Contemporary Writing* and has published widely on Caribbean, South Asian and Black British literatures. Recent books include *India in Britain* (2012) and *Asian Britain*: *A Photographic History* (2013). She is currently writing a biography entitled, *The Bloomsbury Indians* and co-editing the first *Cambridge History of Black and Asian British Writing*.

Lorraine Nero is a West Indiana and Special Collections librarian at the Alma Jordan Library, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad.

Angelique Nixon lectures at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, UWI, St. Augustine. Her scholarly book *Resisting Paradise: Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture* (University Press of Mississippi, 2015) won the Caribbean Studies Association 2016 Barbara T. Christian Award. She is author of *Saltwater Healing – A Myth Memoir and Poems* (Poinciana Paper Press, 2013).

Maria Nunes is a Trinidad and Tobago photographer and producer who works in the field of cultural heritage, specializing in imagery of carnival-based traditions and the work of performing artists. Her book *In a World of Their Own: Carnival Dreamers & Makers: Photographs by Maria Nunes* is published in Trinidad and Tobago by Robert and Christopher Publishers (2018).

Brandon O'Brien is a performance poet, teaching artist, and speculative fiction writer whose work has been widely anthologized and shortlisted for the 2014 Alice Yard Prize for Art Writing and the 2014 and 2015 Small Axe Literary Competitions.

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. She is chair of the fiction judges for the 2018 OCM Bocas Prize.

Rudolph Ottley is Assistant Professor at the Academy of the Arts, Letters, Culture and Public Affairs at the University of Trinidad and Tobago. *Ambataila Women: The Untold Story in Calypso from Chanterelle to Calypsonian 1838-2014* is his latest publication about T&T's musical history.

Ingrid Persaud's first novel *If I Never Went Home* was published in 2013. In 2017, her first short story *The Sweet Sop* was the overall winner of the Commonwealth Short Story Prize.

Jeremy Poynting is the founder of Peepal Tree Press based in the UK, the leading publisher of contemporary Caribbean writing. As a literary critic he has published widely in journals such as *The New Voices* and *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* on the topic of Indo-Caribbean literature.

Viviana Prado-Núñez was born in Puerto Rico and is an

undergraduate at Columbia University. *The Art of White Roses*, her first book, won the 2017 CODE Burt Award for Caribbean Young Adult Literature and will be launched at this year's festival.

Jennifer Rahim is a widely published poet, fiction writer and literary critic. She co-edited and introduced two collections of essays, *Beyond Borders: Cross-Culturalism and the Caribbean Canon* (2009) and *Created in the West Indies: Caribbean Perspectives on V.S. Naipaul* (2011). Her poetry collection *Approaching Sabbaths* (2009) was awarded a 2010 Casa de las Américas Prize. *Curfew Chronicles: A Fiction* (2017), her second short story collection is winner of the 2018 OCM Bocas Prize fiction category.

Ken Ramchand, distinguished literary critic, is Professor Emeritus of West Indian literature at the University of West Indies and a former President of the University of Trinidad and Tobago. In 2014, he received the Bocas Henry Swanzy Award for his distinguished service to Caribbean letters.

Shivanee Ramlochan is a Trinidadian poet, arts reporter and book blogger. She is the Book Reviews Editor for *Caribbean Beat* magazine, writes about books for the NGC Bocas Lit Fest and Paper Based Bookshop and is deputy editor *The Caribbean Review of Books*. Her debut book, *Everyone Knows I Am a Haunting*, was published in 2017 by Peepal Tree Press.

Judy Raymond is a writer and editor-in-chief of T&T's *Newsday*. Her latest book is *The Colour of Shadows: Images of Caribbean Slavery* (2016). Her essay "On the Edges of History" appears in *Thicker Than Water,* published by Peekash Press. She is the chair of the non-fiction judges for the 2018 OCM Bocas Prize.

Jeannine Remy, a 2000 Fulbright fellow, lectures in music in the Department for Creative and Festival Arts, UWI, St. Augustine and is the co-author of *Steelpan in Education: A History of the Northern Illinois University Steelband.* As a steelpan arranger, performer and pan historian she has researched and aided the archiving of T&T's steelpan music.

Rudylynn De Four Roberts, architect and Past President and Fellow of the Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Architects, focuses on restoring historic buildings and lobbying for the preservation of national built heritage through Citizens for Conservation, The National Trust and the Queen's Park Savannah Management Committee.

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

Monique Roffey is a Trinidadian writer whose third novel, *Archipelago*, won the 2013 OCM Bocas Prize. *House of Ashes* was shortlisted for the 2015 novel category of the Costa Book Award and the OCM Bocas Prize. Her second novel, *The White Woman on the Green Bicycle*, was shortlisted for the 2010 Orange Prize and 2011 Encore Prize. Her latest book *The Tryst* was published in 2017.

Jacob Ross is a UK-based Grenadian writer. His critically acclaimed works include *Pynter Bender, Song for Simone* and *A Way to Catch the Dust*. His latest novel is *The Bone Readers*. His short story collection *Tell No-One About This* was longlisted for the 2018 OCM Bocas Prize.

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

Adalber Salas Hernández is a Venezuelan poet, essayist and translator. He is the author of several books of poems, most recently *Salvoconducto* (2015), *Río en blanco* (2016), *mínimos* (2016), and *La ciencia de las despedidas* (2018). He has published translations of Marguerite Duras, Antonin Artaud, Mário de Andrade, and Yusef Komunyakaa, among others.

Robert Edison Sandiford is a Canada-born Barbadian novelist and author of four short story collections. As an editor he co-founded *ArtsEtc,* a periodical devoted to culture

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CELEBRATING 25 Years

in Barbados. He has won awards for both his writing and editing, including Barbados' Governor General's Award of Excellence in Literary Arts and the Harold Hoyte Award, respectively.

Derron Sandy is a Trinidadian spoken word poet and the artistic director of the The 2 Cents Movement. He has performed for over eight years at the highest national level and around the Caribbean. He is working on his first collection of poetry and short stories.

Janet Smyth is the Children & Education Programme Director at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. Former Director of the Pushkin Prizes, she founded Blast-Off Books, a specialist children and young adult bookshop and school supply business.

Stephen Stuempfle is Executive Director of the Society for Ethnomusicology at Indiana University in Bloomington, and Adjunct Associate Professor in IU's Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. He is the author of *The Steelband Movement: The Forging of a National Art in Trinidad and Tobago* (1995) and co-editor of *Music, Memory, Resistance: Calypso and the Caribbean Literary Imagination* (2007). His latest book is *Port of Spain: The Construction of a Caribbean City, 1888-1962.*

Nestor Sullivan, MA Carnival Studies, is former Captain and Manager of Pamberi Steel Orchestra, Chairman Eastern Region and VP & Public Relations Officer of the Steelband Association (Pan Trinbago), and Operations Manager of T&T National Steel Orchestra. He has played in and arranged steelband tours in Europe, Asia, the UK and USA.

Mervyn Taylor is a Trinidad-born poet who also works in visual art. He has taught at the New School and in the New York City public school system and is the author of six books of poetry, including *No Back Door* (2010), which received the Paterson Award for Literary Excellence, *The Waving Gallery* (2014), and *Voices Carry* (2017).

Bhoendradatt Tewarie is a former Minister of Planning and the Economy in the government of Trinidad and Tobago, and former Principal of the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies. He is a Naipaul scholar.

Deneka Thomas is a spoken word poet and aspiring author with an urgent voice that rises against gender inequality, advances advocacy for women, encourages self and body image appreciation and exhorts environmental awareness. These combine to create her personal brand of ecofeminism.

Katia D. Ulysse is a Haiti-born fiction writer whose short stories, essays, and Pushcart Prize–nominated poetry appear in numerous literary journals and anthologies. She has taught in Baltimore public schools and served as Goucher College's Spring 2017 Kratz Writer in Residence. *Drifting* is her short story collection. *Mouths Don't Speak* is her latest novel.

Alex Wheatle, MBE, is a British novelist of Jamaican heritage. His first novel *Brixton Rock* appeared in 1999. His debut YA novel *Liccle Bit* (2015) was longlisted for the Carnegie Medal. *Crongton Knights,* the 2016 follow-up novel won the Guardian's Children's fiction award and the Renaissance Quiz Writers' Choice Award. *Straight Outta Crongton,* the third in the *Crongton* trilogy, appeared in 2017.

Damian Whiskey has been portraying the Midnight Robber traditional *mas* character since the age of ten and is a multiple-title Midnight Robber champion.

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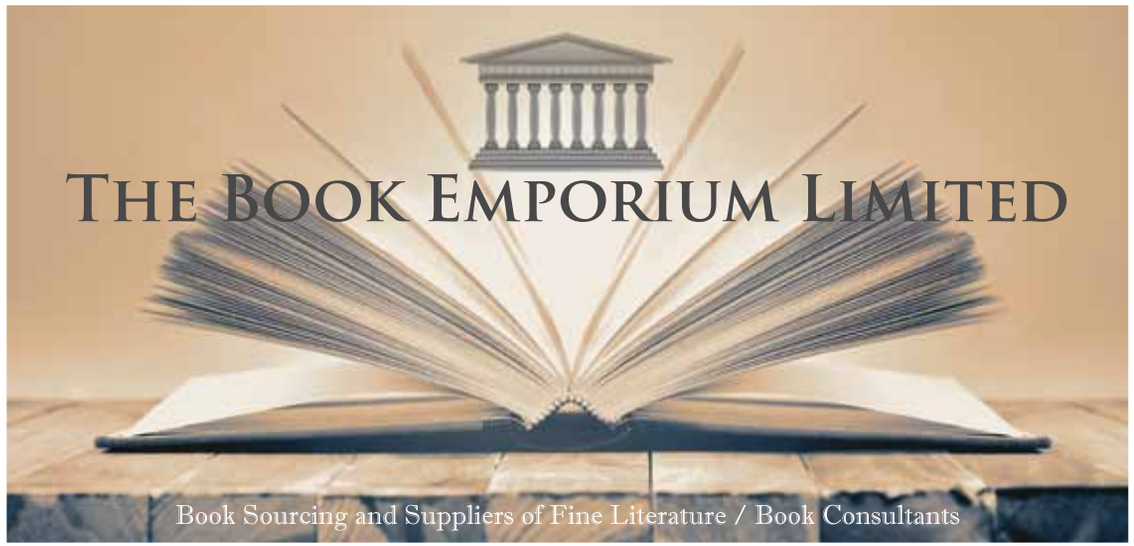
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WORDS ALIVE

Extraordinary authors from T&T, the Caribbean, and around the world are at the heart of the festival, bringing the best of contemporary literature to Port of Spain.

Poets, fiction writers, essayists, memoirists: sharing their work and ideas through readings and conversation, they make the NGC Bocas Lit Fest a celebration of words and stories. At each of these events, writers read from and discuss their recent books and answer questions from the audience, followed by a book-signing session. Authors' books are available from the participating booksellers.

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

Alex Wheatle
The celebrated British YA writer reads from his award-winning novels and talks to Carolyn Cooper about the importance of representing diverse communities on the page.
Thursday 26 April, 11 am–12 pm
• AV Room
Supported by CODE

Lorna Goodison
Jamaica's Poet Laureate and recent winner of a Windham Campbell Prize reads from her *Collected Poems* and her prose and talks to Funso Aiyejina about her lyrical explorations of family, community and history.
Friday 27 April, 11 am-12 pm
• Old Fire Station

David Chariandy
The author of *Brother*, winner of the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, talks to Kelly Baker Josephs about his novels turning family history into investigations of community and identity.
Friday 27 April, 3.30–4.30 pm
• Old Fire Station

Romesh Gunesekera
The renowned Sri Lankan writer talks to Susheila Nasta about his life and work spanning continents and oceans.
Saturday 28 April, 10–11 am
• Old Fire Station

In our **Take Two** sessions we pair off writers for readings and Q&As on topics of current interest, while our **Salon** series offers intimate conversations on literary topics. Check the foldout Festival programme for a full list of events.

Writers' Union Presents, another Festival tradition, is a showcase for readings by members of the Writers' Union of Trinidad and Tobago. This year's event includes a feature address on "Writing as Worship" by scholar Kumar Mahabir.

We also pay tribute to **Wayne Brown**, the late Trinidadian poet, fiction-writer, editor and mentor, who left an indelible stamp on contemporary Caribbean letters — as attested by his daughter, filmmaker Mariel Brown, and writers Sharon Millar, Keith Jardim, and Kei Miller.
Friday 27 April, 10–11.30 am
• AV Room

Speaking in tongues
It's the final event in the Old Fire Station, an extraordinary poetry doubleheader: 2012 OCM Bocas poetry prizewinner Loretta Collins Klobah and T&T's own brilliantly unpredictable Vahni Capildeo introduce their new books to the world, with guest readings by Andre Bagoo, Simone Leid, Brandon O'Brien, and Shivanee Ramlochan.
Sunday 29 April, 3.30–5 pm
• Old Fire Station

Celebrating prizewinners

Through special collaborations with two of the world's most prestigious literary prizes, we celebrate extraordinary writers at the pinnacle of achievement.

MAN BOOKER PRIZE PRESENTS

Eleanor Catton
The author of *The Luminaries*, winner of the 2013 Man Booker Prize, talks to Shivanee Ramlochan about the challenges of historical fiction, the literature of New Zealand, and her experience of being the youngest-ever winner of one of the world's most famous literary awards.
Sunday 29 April, 10–11 am
• Old Fire Station

WINDHAM CAMPBELL PRIZES PRESENT

Erna Brodber
The iconic Jamaican novelist and researcher, winner of a 2017 Windham Campbell Prize, talks to Evelyn O'Callaghan about the range of her life's creative and intellectual work.
Thursday 26 April, 2.30–3.30 pm • Old Fire Station

André Alexis
The Trinidad-born and Canada-based writer, author of the multiple-award-winning novel *Fifteen Dogs*, talks to Michael Kelleher about literature, ideas, the problematic concept of "home," and winning a 2017 Windham Campbell Prize.
Sunday 29 April, 2.30–3.30 pm
• Old Fire Station

BOCAS HITS THE TOWN









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

BACKCHAT: PORT OF SPAIN
Celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the groundbreaking, first-ever Caribbean LGBT literary reading. With drinks, music, sizzling stories, and penetrating poems. Curated by Colin Robinson.
Wednesday 25 April, 8.30 pm until • Euphoria Lounge, 58 Dundonald Street

ALWAYS LIT
A big night of literature and music at the Big Black Box
The launch of *Thicker Than Water*, a new anthology of fiction, poems, and creative non-fiction by Hollick Arvon Prize finalists, plus the debut book of poems by Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné, a debut novel by Barbara Jenkins, and words and music celebrating *Kitch* by Anthony Joseph. With Kiwan Landreth-Smith on guitar, Mikhail Salcedo on steelpan and percussion, Eleanor Ryan on violin, and vocals by Krisson Joseph.
Friday 27 April, 7 pm until
• Big Black Box, 33 Murray Street, Woodbrook

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 2018 we once again present **Writers First**, a special series of free seminars for budding and self-published writers on key areas of the book business, led by publishing experts:

- **Breaking into the international children's book market**, with Janet Smyth, Children and Education Programme Director, Edinburgh International Book Festival
- **The importance of archiving for budding writers**, with UWI Librarian Lorraine Nero and scholar Alison Donnell
- **How to become an Amazon bestseller**, with self-publishing consultant Corine LaFont

Wednesday 25 April, 1 pm–4 pm • AV Room

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 2017.

STAND AND DELIVER

Our signature platform for new and budding writers remains at the front and centre of our programme. Here's your chance to test your work in progress with an eager audience. Feature authors lead a lineup of writers across genres. You can share your work too: sign up ahead of time at our info desk.

Friday 27 April, 12.30–1.00 pm and Saturday 28 April, 12.30–1.30 pm • Hart Street Arcade

WRITERS' LAB

Workshop your writing with Muli Amaye, head of UWI's MFA creative writing programme. Open to emerging writers looking for feedback on current projects.

Saturday 28 April, 11 am–1 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room

HITTING THE STREET

Recognising the dynamism of spoken word and its ability to inform, entertain, and mobilise, spoken word poets pop up in selected public spaces around Port of Spain, performing poetry and encouraging audience participation and interaction.

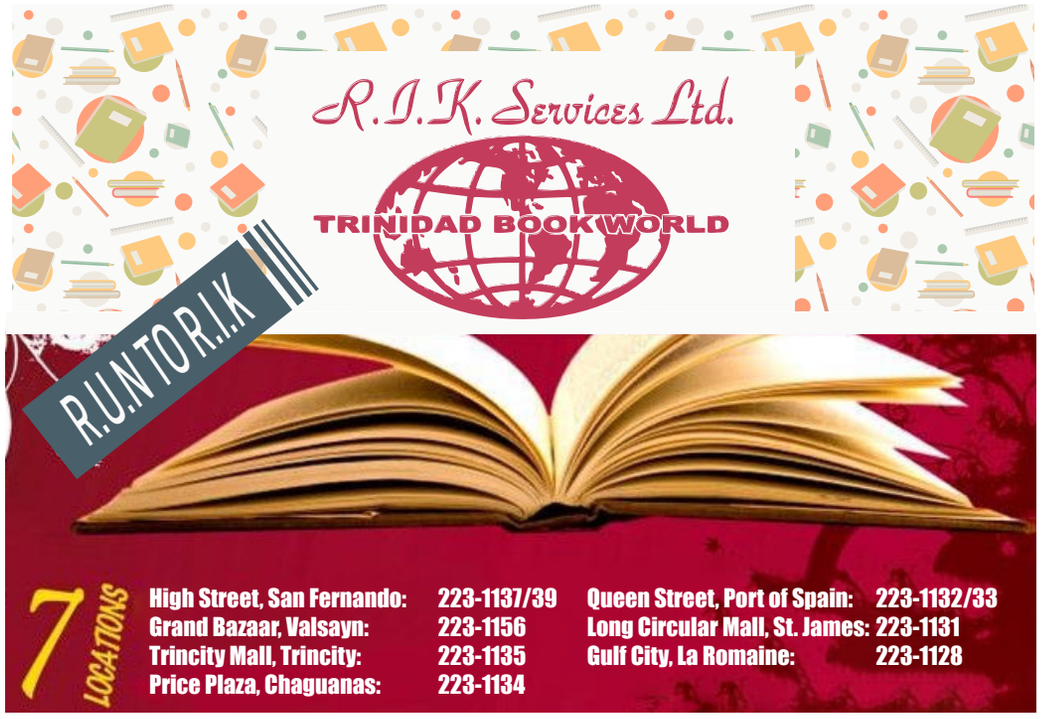
PAVEMENT POETS

Friday 20 April, 4–5 pm • City Gate
Saturday 21 April, 11 am–12 pm • Long Circular Mall
Thursday 26 April, 2–3 pm • Woodford Square
Friday 27April, 3–4 pm • Lower Charlotte Street
In association with the Downtown Merchants Association

THE LUNCHTIME JAM

Open Mic events
Thursday 26 and Friday 27 April, 12.30–1.30 pm
The Breakfast Shed, Wrightson Road





BIG IDEAS







The NGC Bocas Lit Fest is a festival of ideas, where writers and their audience come to think together and debate topical issues of the day and questions for the ages.

How Port of Spain became a modern city
Scholar Stephen Stuempfle discusses his new book *Port of Spain: The Construction of a Caribbean City, 1888–1962*, and what the hidden archives reveal about the development of T&T's capital, with writer Judy Raymond, heritage architect Rudylynn Roberts, and historian Bridget Brereton.
Saturday 28 April, 3.30–4.30 pm • Old Fire Station

Beyond boundaries
In North America and Europe, home to substantial Caribbean diaspora populations, recent politics have put questions of ethnicity and migration on the front burner. UK writer Afua Hirsch, author of *Brit(ish),* TT-based Debbie Jacob, author of *Making Waves*, Anthony Joseph, author of *Kitch*, and Muli Amaye, author of *A House with No Angels*, talk to Alison Donnell about reckoning with identity in the age of Trump and Brexit, the Caribbean's contribution to global culture, and the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the *Empire Windrush*.
Sunday 29 April, 11 am–12.30 pm • Old Fire Station
In partnership with the British Council

Crossing tongues
Writers and translators Adalber Salas Hernández of Venezuela, Loretta Collins Klobah of Puerto Rico, Haitian-American Danielle Legros Georges, and Vahni Capildeo of TT/UK on how and why writing crosses borders of language, and how translation feeds our sense of ourselves as citizens of a global literature.
Sunday 29 April, 11 am–12 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

What does Commonwealth literature mean in the 21st century, and how do writers from very different nations of the former British Empire question the history that connects them? Writers Romesh Gunesekera and Sharon Millar, both contributors to a special Commonwealth issue of the Australian journal *The Griffith Review*, talk to Lucy Hannah.
Sunday 29 April, 2–3 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room

SECRET LIVES

A series of conversations about Caribbean literary archives and their relevance to researchers, writers, and readers, presented in partnership with Caribbean Literary Heritage, supported by the Leverhulme Trust.

Why literary archives matter
Scholars Alison Donnell and Evelyn O'Callaghan and writers Kei Miller, Lorna Goodison and Sharon Millar discuss the value of Caribbean literary archives and the challenges of identifying and preserving a writer's "papers" in the digital age.
Thursday 26 April, 1–2.30 pm • Old Fire Station

Inspired by the archives
Presenting commissioned new pieces inspired by T&T's literary archives, by writers Andre Bagoo, Anu Lakhan, and Breanne McIvor, joined in conversation with Kei Miller.
Saturday 28 April, 1.30–2.30 pm • Old Fire Station





AN ISLAND STATE OF MIND

In 2018, we turn the spotlight on **island perspectives,** with a series of events tackling key concerns facing island nations in the Caribbean and around the world.

Island futures
Climate change, the world economy, migration — these tricky issues raise questions about the sustainability of small island societies. This high-level debate on hopes and possibilities for islands like ours features NGC President Mark Loquan, Philip Nanton, author of *Frontiers of the Caribbean*, environmentalist Alexander Girvan, and Sharifa Ali-Abdullah, Assistant Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme; chaired by Vicki Assevero. With a wake-up spoken word performance by Deneka Thomas.
Thursday 26 April, 10 am–12 pm • Old Fire Station

Island life
Master calypsonians Black Sage and Myron B debate, in extempo style, the positives and negatives of life in a small island country, and what the future may hold.
Thursday 26 April, 12–1 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade
In partnership with the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

So Many Islands
Tracy Assing of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenadian Jacob Ross, contributors to the groundbreaking anthology *So Many Islands*, in a conversation about what makes "island" writing unique. Chaired by Nicholas Laughlin.
Friday 27 April, 10–11 am • Old Fire Station
In partnership with Commonwealth Writers

OUR INDIGENOUS ARTFORMS

Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

Trinidad and Tobago's indigenous performance traditions influence and inspire doers and thinkers in all areas of cultural life — including writers. At the 2018 Festival, in partnership with the Ministry of Community Development, Culture, and the Arts, we showcase these vital elements of our heritage.

Island life: an extempo debate
Master calypsonians Black Sage and Myron B debate the positives and negatives of life in a small island country, and what the future may hold, in inimitable extempo style. A real Bocas tradition!
Thursday 26 April, 12–1 pm
• Abercromby Street Arcade

Robber talk
A celebration of the Midnight Robber, a T&T's Carnival masquerade tradition. Writers Vahni Capildeo, Rhoda Bharath and Colin Robinson read new pieces inspired by the art of robber talk, and master Midnight Robber Damian Whiskey delivers sinister news and topical commentary.
Thursday 26 April, 3.30–4.30 pm • Old Fire Station



Calypso and the World?
A documentary on the life and career of the greatest exponent of calypso from Costa Rica, Walter Ferguson, "Calypso King" of Cahuita, followed by a talk on the international reach of calypso, featuring calypso historian Rudolph Ottley in conversation with culture archivist Maria Nunes.
Friday 27 April, 11.30 am–12.30 pm • AV Room

Pan, present, and future
The state of our national instrument, and its possible futures, discussed by pan arranger and academic Jeannine Remy, co-author of *Steelpan in Education: A History of the Northern Illinois University Steelband*, musician Johann Chuckaree, Nestor Sullivan of Pamberi, and journalist Mark Lyndersay. Chaired by Sunity Maharaj.
Friday 27 April, 1–2.30 pm
• AV Room

Extempo masterclass, led by Short Pants and Myron B
Two T&T extempo masters teach the art of fast thinking and clever lyrics.
Saturday 28 April, 1.30–3.30 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room
• $100
Pre-registration required



I-Land State of Mind: an ole mas competition
Words meet costumes and performance in T&T's traditional protest masquerade! With prizes for the best ole mas band.
Saturday 28 April, 5–6 pm
• Hart Street Arcade
Pre-registration required





Rotunda Events

The Library's lofty rotunda is the venue for two fun events celebrating our literary heritage.

***The Suffrage of Elvira* at 60**
Dramatised excerpts from V.S. Naipaul's classic political satire, directed by Kenneth Ramchand.
Saturday 28 April, 11.30 am–12 pm • Library Rotunda

***The Black Jacobins* at 80**
Excerpts from the theatrical adaptation of C.L.R James's classic, directed by Wendell Manwarren.
Sunday 29 April, 11.30 am–12 pm • Library Rotunda







101 Art Gallery

84 Woodford Street
Newtown
Port of Spain
Trinidad and Tobago, W.I.

Tel.: (868) 628 4081
email: marknpereira@gmail.com
website: http://101artgallery.com

mailing:
P.O.Box 4686
St James
Port of Spain
Trinidad and Tobago, W.I.

PORT OF SPAIN CHOCOLATE TOUR

Organised by The Alliance of Rural Communities Trinidad and Tobago

Books and chocolate. Rum and chocolate. Dreams and chocolate. A specially conceived tour for NGC Bocas Lit Fest patrons starts with viewing documents in the Heritage Library collection to comprehend the complex history of cocoa in Trinidad and Tobago, followed by a proprietary cocoa drink made with fresh cocoa and dark rum, and news about innovation in cocoa in the Caribbean today. A stroll to a nearby local cafe run by a self-described "mad chocolate scientist" will expose patrons to local fine-flavoured, differently styled chocolate from various estates and aid understanding — mentally and with our taste buds — of how terroir, genetics, and social justice define what chocolate is all about.

Thursday 26 and Friday 27 April, 12–2 pm
Meeting point: Hart Street Arcade entrance, National Library
Cost: $150 per person

Limited spaces, so book early at workshops@bocaslitfest.com





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 2018 authors — including the three finalists for the 2018 CODE Burt Award — visit secondary schools in and around Port of Spain on Wednesday 25 April. And secondary school teachers are invited to bring their students of literature, history, and social studies to the Festival on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 April to experience our readings, performances and discussions — and participate too, in the audience Q&A built into each session.

Events focused on young adult readers include:

Thursday 26 April

2018 CODE Burt Award winners showcase
Readings by and conversation with 2018 finalists Imam Baksh, Shakirah Bourne, and Elizabeth Jones, introduced and chaired by Janet Smyth.
10–11 am • AV Room

One-on-one with **Alex Wheatle**
The celebrated YA writer reads from his novels and talks to Carolyn Cooper about the importance of representing diverse communities on the page.
11 am–12 pm • AV Room

Celebrating the 2017 CODE Burt Award winners
Viviana Prado-Núñez, Kevin Jared Hosein, and Lisa Allen-Agostini, 2017 CODE Burt Award winners, launch their new books *The Art of White Roses*, *The Beast of Kukuyo,* and *Home Home.*
1–2.30 pm • AV Room
All in partnership with CODE

Friday 27 April

The spoken syllabus, with Derron Sandy
A special workshop for secondary school teachers and students, demonstrating how to use performance poetry to teach the CSEC English syllabus, led by one of T&T's most accomplished spoken word poets.
10 am–12 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • FREE, but pre-registration required

One-on-one with **Lorna Goodison**
Jamaica's poet laureate, included in the CSEC syllabus, reads from her poems and talks to Funso Aiyejina about her lyrical explorations of family, community and history.
11 am–12 pm • Old Fire Station

In its second year, the **Bocas Lit Fest Youth Blogger programme** amplifies the power of young people's voices. We combine hands-on workshop training with behind-the-scenes festival access and year-round writing opportunities, to show our bloggers they're a valuable part of the Bocas team. The 2018 NGC Bocas Lit Fest Youth Bloggers are a mix of our inaugural participants, and new applicants from diverse backgrounds:

- Apphia Barton
- Ashlee Burnett
- Kyle Hernandez
- Saajid Hosein
- Kimberly Inglis
- Joziann Lewis
- Ariel Matthews
- Raéann Parris
- Giselle Permell
- Alexandra Stewart

Each Youth Blogger has an engaging wealth of perspectives to share — you can spot them at the festival by their specially marked badges. Keep an eye on our website for their reports.

SAY IT LOUD

First Citizens



It's the most powerful literary movement in today's T&T: spoken word brings together words, rhythm, and a chance for people to express their concerns and ambitions. Working with the 2Cents Movement, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest is in the vanguard of developing the genre.

First Citizens National Poetry Slam

Open to all ages, the First Citizens National Poetry Slam is T&T's national spoken word competition, sponsored by First Citizens in collaboration with the Bocas Lit Fest and The 2Cents Movement. Participants go through a three-round process: auditions, semi-finals, and finals. Every year, hundreds of poets compete for a grand prize of $50,000.00 — the largest spoken word prize offered in the region — plus a second prize of $20,000 and third prize of $10,000.
Sunday 29 April, 6–8 pm • National Academy for the Performing Arts • $200
Tickets available at NAPA box office and Francis Fashions outlets nationwide from 23 March

Raise the Bar

This exciting championship, launched in 2016, has blossomed from an individual poet competition to a team event where students now train together in preparation for group poetry performances. It comes out of the annual Secondary Schools Speak Out Tour, in which poets of the 2Cents Movement travel to secondary schools nationwide, introducing fellow young people to spoken word.

In the 2017 competition, 17 schools vied to be national champions, and St. George's College, Barataria, emerged the winners. Each year, over 100 students participate, and we expect the number to grow.

Since the Secondary Schools Speak Out Tour started back in 2013, 133 of the nation's secondary schools have participated in poetry performances for nearly 73,000 schoolchildren. The tour is geared towards promoting art and literacy through actively engaging students in critical thought and explorations of language and creativity, while offering a stimulating and entertaining experience of poetry.

The tour includes free workshops for students to introduce them to writing and performance. Students have the opportunity to work closely with the tour's popular performance poets, developing newly crafted work. Many of them have gone on to compete in the First Citizens National Poetry Slam.

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 Bocas Lit Fest, and remain a compelling part of campus life and a space for creative discourse.

code | Rewriting the story for global literacy

Do you have a great novel, creative non-fiction, or graphic novel for youth ages 12 to18?

Be ready for the CODE Burt Award for Caribbean Young Adult Literature 2019 Submissions

2019 will be the 6th year for the CODE Burt Award for Caribbean Young Adult Literature! To date, over 37,000 copies of award-winning YA novels have been distributed throughout the Caribbean to young readers. This literary award and readership initiative recognizes excellence in Caribbean-authored literature for young adults, ages 12-18. With the generous support of the Literary Prizes Foundation based in Canada, the CODE Burt Award is given annually to three English-language literary works for youth created by Caribbean writers, and illustrators.

The winning title is awarded $10,000 and the two finalists each receives $2,000. Local Caribbean publishers are granted a guaranteed purchase of a maximum of 2,500 copies. These copies are then distributed to youth in schools, libraries, and community centers across the region.

Eligible manuscripts and books published between November 1, 2017 and October 31, 2018 must be submitted to the NGC Bocas Lit Fest no later than October 31, 2018. Updated eligiblility guidelines and submission forms are available:

www.burtawards.org
www.bocaslitfest.com

NGC Bocas Lit Fest
THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LITERARY FESTIVAL

THE CODE BURT AWARD FOR CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

The CODE Burt Award for Caribbean Young Adult Literature is an annual award for up to three English-language Young Adult (aged 12–18) literary works written by Caribbean authors. Established by CODE — a Canadian charitable organisation that has been supporting literacy and learning for over 59 years — with the generous support of the Literary Prizes Foundation and in partnership with the Bocas Lit Fest, the award aims to provide engaging and culturally-relevant books for young people across the Caribbean.

The winning title is awarded $10,000 CDN, and two finalists receive $2,000 CDN each. In addition, publishers of all three books are guaranteed the purchase of up to 2,500 copies. A dedicated network of regional partners has worked with CODE to distribute over 36,000 award-winning books in eleven Caribbean countries to date. Their efforts ensure Caribbean youth have access to great books in their schools, libraries, and communities.



2018 FINALISTS

A Dark Iris by Elizabeth J. Jones (Bermuda) — manuscript

My Fishy Stepmom by Shakirah Bourne (Barbados) — manuscript

The Dark of the Sea by Imam Baksh (Guyana) — manuscript

The winner is announced on 25 April at the opening night celebration of the 2018 NGC Bocas Lit Fest at The Writers' Centre, home of the Bocas Lit Fest and 2Cents Movement in Port of Spain.

code
read. learn. live.

JUDGES

Janet Smyth is the Children & Education Programme Director at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. Former Director of the Pushkin Prizes, she founded Blast-Off Books, a specialist children and young adult bookshop and school supply business.

Karen Lord is a Barbadian author and research consultant whose debut novel *Redemption in Indigo* won the 2008 Frank Collymore Literary Award, among other prizes, and was nominated for the 2011 World Fantasy Award for Best Novel. She is also the author of the science fiction duology *The Best of All Possible Worlds* and *The Galaxy Game*, and the editor of the anthology *New Worlds, Old Ways: Speculative Tales from the Caribbean*.

Alex Wheatle, MBE, is a British novelist of Jamaican heritage. His first novel *Brixton Rock* appeared in 1999, he won the London Arts Board Writers Prize in 2000. His debut YA novel *Liccle Bit* (2015) was longlisted for the Carnegie Medal. *Crongton Knights,* the 2016 follow-up novel won the Guardian's Children's fiction award, the Renaissance Quiz Writers' Choice Award and was shortlisted for the 2017 Bookseller Young Adult prize. *Straight Outta Crongton,* the third in the *Crongton* trilogy, appeared in 2017.



CINELIT: THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN LITERARY FILM FESTIVAL

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

2017 is the third year of the groundbreaking CineLit, a festival within a festival, including dozens of short 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. Many of these films are making their T&T debut.

CineLit is a partnership between the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, UWI, and the embassies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, México, Panamá, Peru, Venezuela and Spain.

Screenings are free. See the CineLit programme for details that include a special animation programme for children.

Special screening events:

Unfinished Sentences
The Trinidad and Tobago premiere of Mariel Brown's feature film about her late father, iconic writer Wayne Brown.
Thursday 26 April, 6.30–10 pm • Central Bank Auditorium • tickets $180 (includes cocktail reception)

Pacific Voices
Six short films tell the stories of young people in Papua New Guinea and Tonga.
Thursday 26 April, 12–1 pm • AV Room
Sunday 29 April, 3–4 pm • AV Room
In partnership with Commonwealth Writers

Moving Pictures and Borders
An international collaboration between six literary festivals on five continents, pairing poets and filmmakers for a series of new poetry films. Six poets from Trinidad and Tobago, South Africa, Bangladesh, Croatia, Canada and the UK wrote pieces on the theme of "inheritance," which were then interpreted by six filmmakers from different countries, matching words and images across borders. These are the pairings:

Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné (T&T) / filmmaker **Puleng Langa Stuart** (South Africa)
Toni Stuart (South Africa) / filmmaker **Probar Ripon** (Bangladesh)
Nausheen Eusuf (Bangladesh) / filmmaker **Sergej Stanojkovski** (Croatia)
Miroslav Milanovic (Croatia) / filmmaker **Eric Bent** (Canada)
Roseline Lambert (Canada) / filmmaker **Annie Watson** (UK)
Kayo Chingonyi (UK) / filmmaker **Maya Cozier** (T&T)
Friday 27 April, 5–6 pm • AV Room

Supported by the British Council in partnership with Writers' Centre Norwich, UK, as part of the International Literature Showcase

Participating festivals: NGC Bocas Lit Fest, T&T; Open Book Festival, South Africa; Dhaka Lit Fest, Bangladesh; Festival of the European Short Story, Croatia; Mile End Poets' Festival, Canada; Wordlife, UK

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WORKSHOPS

A series of insightful, informative sessions for writers at different stages of development, led by distinguished authors and other professionals.

Preserving your Documentary Heritage, 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 25 April, 9 am–12:30 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room • $100

Writing the Erotic, with Monique Roffey
The OCM Bocas Prize-winning author of *The Tryst* leads a masterclass in addressing the subject of the erotic in fiction and life-writing.
Wednesday 25 April, 10.30am–12:30 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • $100
In partnership with *Wasafiri*

Life into Fiction, with Anthony Joseph
The author of *Kitch,* a new novel based on the life of T&T's iconic calypsonian, Lord Kitchener, leads a workshop on the arts of fictional biography and biographical fiction.
Thursday 26 April, 10 am–12 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • $100

Short Fiction, with Jacob Ross
The Grenadian writer and Peepal Tree Press associate editor leads a masterclass in short fiction, a literary form with a celebrated place in the Caribbean canon.
Thursday 26 April, 1.30–3.30 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • $100
In partnership with *Wasafiri*

The Spoken Syllabus, with Derron Sandy
The spoken-word artist, performer and creative director of the 2Cents Movement leads a special workshop for secondary school teachers and students, demonstrating how to use performance poetry to teach the CSEC English syllabus.
Friday 27 April, 10 am–12 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • FREE

Character and Story Development for YA fiction, with Alex Wheatle
The celebrated YA author leads this masterclass in the fundamentals of creating compelling characters and gripping plot for young adult readers.
Friday 27 April, 1.30–3.30 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • $100
Supported by CODE

Writing the Divine, with Kaveh Akbar
One of the most celebrated emerging US poets explores the question of how to translate the experience of the divine, essential to many, into literature.
Saturday 28 April, 10 am–12 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • $100

Extempo Masterclass, with Short Pants and Myron B.
Two of T&T's Extempo masters teach the art of fast thinking and clever lyrics.
Saturday 28 April, 1.30 pm–3.30 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room • $100
In partnership with the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

Writing from Catastrophe, with Richard Georges
The British Virgin Islands poet, shortlisted for the 2017 Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Book of Poems, leads a workshop in writing out of catastrophic situations.
Sunday 29 April, 10 am–12 pm • 2nd Floor Seminar Room • $100

Note: pre-registration required. Book via www.bocaslitfest.com/2018/events/workshops

THE JOHNSON AND AMOY ACHONG CARIBBEAN WRITERS PRIZE





The Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize is a new award, launched in 2018. Sponsored by philanthropist Dr. Kongsheik Achong Low and administered by The Bocas Lit Fest and Arvon, it is named for Dr. Achong Low's parents, and commemorates their lives as loyal and hard-working citizens of Trinidad and Tobago whose children have continued to contribute to the building of the country. Dr. Achong Low is a medical practitioner and Chairman of Medcorp Limited.

The Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize, awarded annually, allows an emerging Caribbean writer living and working in the Anglophone Caribbean to devote time to advancing or finishing a literary work, with support from an established writer as mentor. The prize is offered across three literary genres: fiction in 2019, non-fiction in 2020, and poetry in 2021.

The Prize consists of a cash award of US$3,500, one year's mentoring by an established writer, travel to the United Kingdom to attend a one-week intensive Arvon creative writing course at one of Arvon's internationally renowned writing houses, and three days in London to network with editors and publishers, hosted by Arvon, in association with the Free Word Centre and leading London literary agency, Rogers Coleridge and White. The Prize will open for entries on 1 June, 2018, and the first winner will be announced in 2019.

This Prize replaces the Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize, which ran from 2013 to 2015. The inaugural winner of the Hollick Arvon Prize in 2013 was Barbara Jenkins of Trinidad and Tobago (fiction), followed by Diana McCaulay of Jamaica (non-fiction) in 2014, and Trinidadian Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné (poetry) in 2015.

At the 2018 NGC Bocas Lit Fest, two of these past awardees, Jenkins and Boodoo-Fortuné, will launch their new books, the results of winning the Hollick Arvon Prize.

ONE CARIBBEAN MEDIA LIMITED

THE 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*, the *Express* newspapers in Trinidad and Tobago and a Caribbean radio network and regional newspapers — is the region's leading literary award.

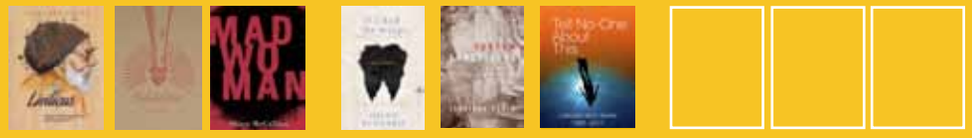
Books published in 2017 by authors of Caribbean birth or citizenship were eligible for the 2018 Prize, in three genre categories: poetry, fiction, and literary non-fiction.

The Prize has two stages. First, judging panels select the best book in each of the three genre categories. Next, the respective 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 2018 the OCM Bocas Prize is chaired by the celebrated writer Lorna Goodison, current Poet Laureate of Jamaica, 2014 winner of the OCM Bocas Prize for poetry, and winner of a 2018 Windham Campbell Prize.

The overall winner of the 2018 OCM Bocas Prize, announced on Saturday 28 April, will receive US$10,000, with a cash award of US$3,000 for the other genre winner.

The previous winners of the OCM Bocas Prize were *White Egrets*, by Derek Walcott (2011); *Is Just a Movie*, by Earl Lovelace (2012); *Archipelago*, by Monique Roffey (2013); *As Flies to Whatless Boys*, by Robert Antoni (2014); *Sounding Ground*, by Vladimir Lucien (2015); *The Pain Tree*, by Olive Senior (2016); and *Augustown*, by Kei Miller (2017).

2018 PRIZE LONGLIST



POETRY

Liviticus, by Kamau Brathwaite (House of Nehesi)

Infidelities, by Sonia Farmer (Poinciana Paper Press)

Madwoman, by Shara McCallum (Peepal Tree Press/Alice James Books)

FICTION

If I Had the Wings, by Helen Klonaris (Peepal Tree Press)

Curfew Chronicles, by Jennifer Rahim (Peepal Tree Press)

Tell No-One About This, by Jacob Ross (Peepal Tree Press)

NON-FICTION

No books were longlisted in the non-fiction category this year.

WINNER, POETRY



Shara McCallum's ***Madwoman*** is the author's fifth book of poems. Drawing on personal and collective memory, McCallum's poems are an exploration of womanhood, asking how perspectives and identities evolve over time, in different landscapes, in response to changing desires and traumas. Girlhood, adolescence, motherhood, middle and old age are stages in the growth of both anger and wisdom, charted in urgently lyrical lines.

Publishers: Peepal Tree Press (United Kingdom) and Alice James Books (United States)

"Memory"

I bruise the way the most secreted,
most tender part of a thigh exposed
purples then blues. No spit-shine shoes,
I'm dirt you can't wash from your feet.
Wherever you go, know I'm the wind
accosting the trees, the howling night
of your sea. Try to leave me, I'll pin you
between a rock and a hard place, will hunt you,
even as you erase your tracks
with the tail-ends of your skirt. You think
I'm gristle, begging to be chewed?
No, my love: I'm bone. Rather: the sound
bone makes when it snaps; that ditty
lingering in you, like ruin.



From Jamaica, **Shara McCallum** is the author of five books of poetry: *Madwoman*, *The Face of Water: New and Selected Poems*, *This Strange Land*, *Song of Thieves*, and *The Water Between Us*. Recognition for her writing includes a Witter Bynner Fellowship from the Library of Congress, a National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Fellowship, and the Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize for Poetry. She is currently Liberal Arts Professor of English at Penn State University.

POETRY JUDGES

Chair: **Vahni Capildeo**'s books include *No Traveller Returns* (2003), *Person Animal Figure* (2005), *Undraining Sea* (2009), *Dark & Unaccustomed Words* (2012, longlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize), *Utter* (2013), *Simple Complex Shapes* (2015), *Measures of Expatriation* (2016 winner of the Forward Best Collection Prize), and *Venus as a Bear* (2018).

Loretta Collins Klobah's first book, *The Twelve Foot Neon Woman* (Peepal Tree Press, 2011), received the OCM Bocas Prize in the category of poetry and was short-listed for the Felix Dennis Prize in the Forward Prize series. She lives in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where she is a professor of Caribbean literature and creative writing at University of Puerto Rico.

Danielle Legros Georges was born in Haiti and raised in the United States. She is the author of two poetry collections: *The Dear Remote Nearness of You* (Barrow Street Press, 2016), winner of the New England Poetry Club's 2016 Sheila Margaret Motton Book Prize, and *Maroon* (Curbstone Books, 2001). In 2014 she was chosen as Boston's second poet laureate. She is a professor at Lesley University and lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

FICTION JUDGES

Chair: 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.

Maya Jaggi is an award-winning British cultural journalist. She has reported on arts and culture from five continents, and is an influential voice on world literature. Some of her interviews appear in the books *Lives and Works* (2002) and *Writing Across Worlds* (2004). Also a presenter, she contributes to radio and television, and has judged literary awards including the David Cohen, Orange, and Commonwealth Writers prizes.

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

WINNER, FICTION



Curfew Chronicles is Jennifer Rahim's second book of fiction. She has also published four books of poems. Set during a fictionalised version of Trinidad and Tobago's 2011 State of Emergency, *Curfew Chronicles* is a series of linked short stories unfolding over a period of twenty-four hours, with a cast of interconnected characters from all levels of society. The book, write the judges, is "challenging, requiring attentive reading, but one is amply rewarded for this care.... This is a profoundly moving work, demonstrating that despite the martyrdom of the good and the banality of evil, 'There [is] a connection.'"

Publisher: Peepal Tree Press, United Kingdom

***From* Curfew Chronicles:**

The lady at No. 27 was always on time to catch the truck as it swung down Immortelle Drive. It was seldom late – seven o'clock every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. That was the routine. No real change.
She knew the truck. Someone had painted the words Run Man on the right side of the back loader. The driver was usually the same – close-trimmed pepper-grey beard and sunglasses, the lens rectangular shaped. He had mastered the art of reading his newspaper as the truck crawled, then surged along the street in response to the sharp "YEAH" from the two collectors.
Her ritual waiting at the gate offered a little window of wonder . . .



Jennifer Rahim is a widely published poet, fiction writer and literary critic. Her poetry collection *Approaching Sabbaths* (2009) was awarded a 2010 Casa de las Américas Prize. *Songster and Other Stories* (2007) is her well-received collection of short stories. *Curfew Chronicles: A Fiction* (2017) is her second short story collection.

NON-FICTION JUDGES

Chair: Judy Raymond is a writer and editor-in-chief of T&T's *Newsday*. Her latest book is *The Colour of Shadows: Images of Caribbean Slavery* (2016). Her essay "On the Edges of History" appears in *Thicker Than Water*, published by Peekash Press, 2018.

Robert Edison Sandiford is a Canada-born Barbadian novelist and author of four short story collections. As an editor he co-foudned *ArtsEtc*, a periodical devoted to culture in Barbados. He has won awards for both his writing and editing, including Barbados' Governor General's Award of Excellence in Literary Arts and the Harold Hoyte Award respectively.

Jeremy Taylor is a writer, editor and publisher who was born in England and has lived and worked in Trinidad and Tobago since 1971. He co-founded Media and Editorial Projects Limited (MEP) in 1991, and is a former editor of *Caribbean Beat*. He has published several books, including two collections of essays and articles, *Going to Ground* (1994) and *A Black & White Book* (2003).



To be awarded for the first time in 2018, the People's Choice T&T Book of the Year, devised by the Bocas Lit Fest in partnership with *Newsday* and NALIS, is an annual award decided entirely by readers through online voting. The prize showcases the wide array of books published by writers in Trinidad and Tobago, and generates publicity for the most popular reads.

In the first year of the award, books published or self-published in English between 1 January, 2016, and 31 December, 2017, by citizens and residents of Trinidad and Tobago are eligible.

The winner is selected by the voting public via the Bocas Lit Fest website. In the first voting round (23 February to 25 April), the public will select the top six books from all nominated titles. Voters can vote only once, but can select up to six books.

The authors of the top six books appear at a special event at the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, on Sunday 29 April. In the second round of voting (1 May to 1 June), the public will choose among the top six books to decide the final winner. Voters can vote only once, and can select only one book as their choice of winner in this round

The author of the winning book will receive TT$5,000 and a subscription to *Newsday* on-line, N Touch.

To vote for the 2018 People's Choice T&T Book of the Year, visit **www.bocaslitfest.com/2018/peoples-choice-award**

THE HOUSE OF
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Visit the Barcant Butterfly Collection, the Museum,
and the Distillery at the House of Angostura.

BOOKING DETAILS

Daily tours offered Monday to Friday 9:30 am or 1:00 pm; tours last approximately 2½ hrs including sampling time. Minimum of three (3) days advanced booking required. Minimum group booking size of eight (8) persons. School tours available; children under twelve (12) years are not allowed at the bottling plant or distillery areas.

For booking and information contact 623-1841 Ext. 255

Angostura Museum and Barcant Butterfly Collection



THE 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 through the *Caribbean Voices* programme, which broadcast fiction and poems by West Indian writers across the region.

Since 2013, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest has honoured Swanzy's memory and recognised the achievements of editors, broadcasters, critics, and others via the annual Bocas Henry Swanzy Award.

The 2018 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award will be presented to **Anne Walmsley**, writer and researcher, the former publisher of Longman Caribbean, editor of the landmark anthologies *The Sun's Eye* and *Facing the Sea*, and historian of the Caribbean Artists' Movement (CAM).

Walmsley began her career in publishing in the 1950s, at the renowned house of Faber, before moving to Jamaica, where she worked as a teacher for three years. Her experience in the Caribbean led her, on her return to London, to join Longman's as their first Caribbean editor.

In that role she travelled around the Caribbean in 1961, meeting writers and editors. She shepherded at least one key new writer into print, and tended several more with welcome reprints. She also edited *The Sun's Eye* as an anthology for use in secondary schools, introducing a generation of young Caribbean readers to the growing literature of their region.

After retiring from Longman, Walmsley began formal research into the Caribbean Artists' Movement, whose London meetings she had attended in the 1960s. Her PhD dissertation was later published in 1992 as *The Caribbean Artists Movement: A Literary and Cultural History, 1966–1971*, the definitive document of a significant moment in Caribbean cultural history.

Walmsley's articles and essays on numerous Caribbean writers and artists have appeared in a range of periodicals and books. In 2009 she was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of the West Indies for her contributions to Caribbean literature and art. In recent years, she has donated her archive and library — a rich resource for future scholars — to several university libraries, including the Main Library at UWI's St. Augustine campus.

The previous winners of the Bocas Henry Swanzy Award were publishers John La Rose and Sarah White of New Beacon Books (2013); literary critics Kenneth Ramchand and Gordon Rohlehr (2014); editor and broadcaster Margaret Busby, OBE (2015); Jeremy Poynting, founder of Peepal Tree Press (2016); and Joan Dayal, proprietor of Paper Based Books (2017).

NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest



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

Every April, our NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Storytelling Caravan for 5–13-year-olds travels around Trinidad and Tobago, allowing children to share their wonderful stories. 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, gifted storytellers and trained teams from the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest guide children through the craft of storytelling, encouraging observation of the environment, personal, social and community relationships, and unleashing and leading the children's creativity, 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 Wednesday 25 April 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 **2018 City Hall** programme includes:

- International author Tracey Baptiste, creator of *The Jumbies*
- Stories come to life with Daniel O'Brien, Jeunnane Alkins and Everard Mc Bain
- *Maya and the Magic Island* by Patti-Ann Ali, dramatised by The National Theatre Arts Company
- Performances by Penelope Spencer and Nicki Crosby
- The 2 Cents Movement
- Storytelling by Glenda-Rose Layne
- The History of Woodford Square by The National Trust
- Kess the Illusionist
- Plus lunch in Woodford Square!

9 am–12.45 pm

All events are free but pre-registration is required for all workshop sessions, and by schools attending the City Hall event. Visit www.bocaslitfest.com/2018/children to register, or call 71-BOCAS

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS AT CITY HALL AND THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

Aisha Acres is the founder of Connect the Dots, a consulting agency specialising in business strategy development and financial literacy education. *The Money Adventures of Mike Murray and Friends* is her first publication.

Jeunanne Alkins is a prize-winning creative director, author/illustrator, and the founder of design studio Everything Slight Pepper. She is the Children's Zone Coordinator for the New Fire Festival, industry coordinator for the Trinidad + Tobago Film Festival, and sits on the Board of Management for Asa Wright Nature Centre.

Imam Baksh is a writer from Guyana. His manuscript *Children of the Spider* won first place in the 2015 CODE Burt Award for Caribbean Young Adult Literature, published in 2016 by Blue Banyan Books. His manuscript *The Dark of the Sea* is a 2018 CODE Burt Award finalist.

Tracey Baptiste is the author of the middle-grade *Jumbies* series of novels: *The Jumbies, Rise of the Jumbies*. A third novel is scheduled for 2019. Her eleven other children's books include *Angel's Grace* and *The Totally Gross History of Ancient Egypt*. She teaches in Lesley University's Creative Writing MFA programme.

Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné is a Trinidadian poet and artist. Her work appears in exhibitions locally and internationally. The many books she has illustrated include *Lost! A Caribbean Sea Adventure*, by Joanne C. Hillhouse. In 2016 she won the *Wasafiri* New Writing Prize and in 2015, the Hollick Arvon Prize. Her debut poetry collection *Doe Songs* is being launched at the 2018 NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

At the centre of **Freetown Collective** are Muhammad Muwakil and Lou Lyons: poets, lyricists and musicians, joined onstage by three young women singers affectionately known as "the Freetown Lionesses". Freetown's dynamic music gives younger generations a strong voice in an ever-changing world.

D.H. Gibbs is an author, illustrator, and lifelong bibliophile from T&T, who blends her creative abilities to craft children's and new adult books for readers everywhere.

Sufia Giza Amenwahsu is a Spoken Word poetess, documentary filmmaker, historian, naturalist, graphic artist, public relations expert, certified yoga instructor, and a Cave Canem South Alumni.

Jade Drakes is a Trinidadian jeweller who studied metalsmithing and theatre at Slippery Rock University, learning to craft animal horn and bone under Professor Robert J. Bruya. She later mastered bench jewellery and stone setting.

Kyle Hernandez is a 23-year-old artist who uses absurdism and the performance arts as a vehicle for discourse. He participated in the 2017 London Roundhouse International Talking Doorsteps Programme and placed 2nd in the 2016 First Citizens National Poetry Slam. He is a Senior Teaching Artist with the 2 Cents Movement.

Majeed Karim is a 19-year-old junior performance poet with the 2 Cents Movement. He also works with the organisation Create Future Good and at St. George's College he co-founded the creative group 6Geng.

Melissa Matthews is an artist, writer, and entrepreneur. In 2016 she published *Makaynuh & The Magical Curtains,* the first of her illustrated stories based on the adventures of her beloved daughter, Makena.

Everard McBain is a graphic designer. His GemGfx company provides award-winning graphic design support for several companies, both locally and abroad. With his wife Dixie Ann he created the three-part graphic novel series *Celflux*.

Marcus Millette is a writer, spoken word poet and teaching artiste. He is a two-time national poetry slam finalist. His unique outlook on life derives from his hometown where he learned the harsh realities of life. He believes his voice is a representation of those who live the struggle.

Glenda Nassoma Layne is a professional storyteller and also interprets art through dance and poetry. A 2006 Gold Medalist in the Acting World Championship of the Performing Arts, Hollywood, in 2007 she won two Gold Medals, a Bronze and an industry award for Acting & Spokesmodel in the World Championship of the Performing Arts. She is Director of Culture in the Division of Community Development and Culture, Tobago House of Assembly.

Daniel O'Brien is a Trinidadian-born, US-based author and illustrator with a BFA in Illustration from The School of Visual Arts. His new book is *The Carnival Prince*.

Lalonde Jay Ochoa is a drama and theatre arts teacher at Cedros Secondary and part-time lecturer at the University of

the West Indies. His improvisational work interprets classical scripts through use of traditional forms (festivals, mas and folk).

Derron Sandy is a master spoken word poet, Artistic Director of the 2 Cents Movement, director of youth theatre company *I Am Christian Theatre,* and owner of educative media production company *Quays Productions.* He is a four-time T&T National Poetry Slam Finalist. In 2017, he participated in the International Literature Showcase in Norwich.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

Thursday 26 April

INTERACTIVE READING
The Jumbies and Rise of the Jumbies
Author Tracey Baptiste reads from *The Jumbies* and *Rise of the Jumbies*, talks about creatures from Trinbagonian folklore, and uses role play
9–9.30 am • Children's Reading Room

INTERACTIVE READING
The Carnival Prince
Daniel O'Brien reads from *The Carnival Prince*, a vibrant world in which Carnival comes to life
9.30–10 am • Children's Reading Room

INTERACTIVE READING
Don't Go Mango Picking
Author D.H. Gibbs invites children to listen to Sandy and Deanna's spooky adventure in the heart of Wallerfield
10.15–10.45 am • Children's Reading Room

SPOKEN WORD WORKSHOP
"Ah like what ah hearing,"
with Kyle Hernandez
This workshop outlines the importance of the individual voice. Through spoken word and improvisational theatre, students learn how to communicate their thoughts effectively and see value in their own opinions
10.45–11.45 am • Children's Multipurpose Room

POETRY WORKSHOP
Sufia Giza Amenwahsu's workshop encourages children to tell their own stories. By working in groups, brainstorming, writing a poem and finally performing their work, students learn the art of storytelling, performance poetry, etiquette and stage presence
12.15–1.15 pm • Children's Multipurpose Room

ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOP
Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné invites children to learn how to work closely with a story in order to bring character and setting to life
1–2 pm • Children's Multipurpose Room

INTERACTIVE READING
The Money Adventures of Mike Murray and Friends
Aisha Acres introduces ten-year-old Mike Murray as he devises a plan to go on a family vacation and attend a gaming expo abroad
2–2.30 pm • Children's Reading Room

Friday 27 April

NONFICTION WORKSHOP
Tracey Baptiste focuses on how to find reliable sources, how to organize information, fact-check, and use interesting details to frame a story
9–10 am • Children's Multipurpose Room

INTERACTIVE READING
High Flying Fish, from The Adventures of Bim and Bam
Globetrotting twins Bim and Bam return for another jam-packed session! Creator Jeunanne Alkins reads the pilot script and follows with the chance to illustrate your very own comic strip
10.15–10.45 am • Children's Reading Room

INTERACTIVE READING
Makaynuh and the Naughty Mosquitoes
Melissa Matthews's book explores the exciting and sometimes frustrating ways in which everyday activities — in this case a trip to the doctor — can unlock an unexpected adventure through the vivid imagination and perception of a young child
10.45–11.15 am • Children's Reading Room

ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOP
Using Shapes to Imitate Life
Explore and enhance your drawing skills with Daniel O'Brien, learn to recognise simple shapes in the world around us, and then use them to recreate our favorite animals
12.15–1.15 pm • Children's Multipurpose Room

POETRY WORKSHOP
This highly interactive session with Derron Sandy mixes writing and performance, using musical rhythms to help children tell different stories. Students also learn the importance of assessing which stories are important to them and how to use their newly found skill to make a difference
1.15–2.15 pm • Children's Multipurpose Room

Saturday 28 April

STORYTELLING CARAVAN
A Walk in the Dark
Listen to storyteller Lalonde Ochoa's exciting tales, then together create your own story, as a team. Stories will later be published as part of the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Storytelling Caravan series of colouring books
10 am–12 pm • Children's Library
Pre-registration required

INTERACTIVE READING
How Monkey Got His Tail
When the animals hold a contest to see who is the smartest of them all, monkey's pride gets him into trouble. An original story by Imam Baksh, in the style of a traditional West Indian folktale
12.30–1 pm • Children's Library

COMICS WORKSHOP
How to Create and Publish Your Own Graphic Novel
Celfux co-creator Everard Mc Bain takes us through the process of creating and self-publishing a graphic novel, including the technical process of creating a book digitally and choosing the right self-publishing platform
12.30–1.30 pm • Children's Library Multipurpose Room
Pre-registration required

INTERACTIVE READING
High Flying Fish, from The Adventures of Bim and Bam
Globetrotting twins Bim and Bam have another jam-packed session! Creator Jeunanne Alkins reads the pilot script, followed by drawing and the chance to make your very own comic strip
1–1.30 pm • Children's Reading Room

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Aisha Acres introduces ten-year-old Mike Murray who devises a plan to go on a family vacation and attend a gaming expo abroad
1.30–2 pm • Children's Reading Room

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2–2.30 pm • Children's Reading Room

SONGWRITING WORKSHOP
I Am Who I Say I Am
Freetown Collective's Muhammad and Lou believe the awakening of a voice is the most important step. Participants find the courage and know-how to create their own sound and songs
1.30–2.30 pm • Children's Library Multipurpose Room
Pre-registration required

ART WORKSHOP
The Animal Inside You
A fun and interactive workshop with Jade Drakes, where children explore blind drawings, painting and simple movement with a focus on our wild friends, the animals
2.30–3.30 pm • Children's Library Multipurpose Room
Pre-registration required

Sunday 29 April

Children's films
See the CineLit programme for details
10 am–3 pm • Library AV Room

Dragonzilla's Birthday Party
Children are invited to Dragonzilla's 8th Birthday Party! Refreshments will be on sale
2–4 pm
Pre-registration required

WHO'S WHO

Meet the members of the 2018 NGC Bocas Lit Fest team

Marina Salandy-Brown is the founder and Festival Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest. She is a *Newsday* columnist and a former senior BBC prize-winning programme maker with a publishing background and member of the Arts Council of London's Literary Panel. In 2005 the University of Westminster awarded her the Doctor of Letters (DLitt), *Honoris Causa*, and the University of the West Indies, in 2013. She is a current member of the British Council's Arts Advisory Committee and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Funso Aiyejina is the Deputy Festival Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest. He is Professor Emeritus, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine and a prizewinning poet and short story writer. 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, for Caribbean writers.

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, Festival and Publishing Manager, was previously content editor at the National Library and Information Systems Authority, and a publishing assistant at the University of Trinidad and Tobago Press.

Marielle Forbes is the Festival's Hospitality and General 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.net.

Malene Joseph is the Festival's Workshop Coordinator and the Festival's Merchandising and Sales Coordinator.

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

Ariana Herbert is the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Coordinator.

Natacha Jones is the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Storytelling Host.

Mickel Guanfranco Alexander is the National Poetry Slam Coordinator.

Ashlee Burnett is the Festival's Social Media Assistant.

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

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

Stefan Rampersad is the Festival's Design Assistant.

Melanie Archer is the 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.

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.

Gem Rowe is the lead Festival volunteer.

Lisa Huggins is the lead CineLit volunteer.

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

THE WRITERS CENTRE 14 ALCAZAR STREET, PORT OF SPAIN

A permanent home for writers and literary programmes in Port of Spain: that's been a longstanding goal for the Bocas Lit Fest, finally fulfilled in March 2018 with our move to 14 Alcazar Street in Port of Spain's St. Clair neighbourhood. This historic bungalow with its breezy verandah and high ceilings is now the home of the Bocas Lit Fest team, as well as our partners the 2Cents Movement.

And for the first time ever, in addition to our excellent National Library network, we have a dedicated event space to host readings, book launches, workshops, and other events year-round. The Writers Centre will help affirm Port of Spain's growing reputation as the literary capital of the Anglophone Caribbean.

The event space is also available for hire, for meetings, workshops, and other functions. 14 Alcazar Street also offers hot-desking and co-working spaces, for rent by professionals needing a temporary workspace with full office facilities.

And keep an eye on the Bocas Lit Fest website and social media for our new programme of year-round events at The Writers Centre!



CREDITS & THANKS

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

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The NGC Bocas Lit Fest

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