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NGC Bocas Lit Fest

01 TO 05 MAY 2019

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD

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NGC Bocas Lit Fest

01 MAY TO 05 MAY 2019

PORT OF SPAIN TRINIDAD

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

WRITERS WANTED · Shh!... I'm reading. · READERS WANTED.

The world appears to be in turmoil, and few of us can do anything much, as individuals, to change that state of affairs. But together we can try to bring insights into what really is a constant. Change is always with us. It's just that sometimes things get out of tune.

Our history as a Caribbean people has been about dancing to the missed beat, inhabiting the space in between, and we have become masters of the syncopated rhythm. We excel at existing in a shifting reality. It is something our writers understand and live, and the very best capture it in their work.

At the 2019 NGC Bocas Lit Fest, the ninth successive literary festival in T&T, we acknowledge this moment in time with some of the most glorious writers these tropical, complex, and often unfathomable islands have produced. Whether they continue to live at home or have moved to the US, UK, Canada, or wherever else, their work is infused with the memory and knowledge of our uniqueness that springs not from one source, but many.

I am so very excited by the *new voices* that keep bursting onto the literary stage in fiction, poetry, and literary non-fiction. Their work, and that of the already celebrated, resonates with the issues of contemporary life. In programming the festival, we have taken our lead from them. The main theme of *Border Crossings* arose from the pages of the extraordinary books that are available at this year's festival and which are our tool for breaking through the walls that separate nations and cultures, in a time of renewed anxiety about immigration, national sovereignty, refugees, identity, class, ethnicity, sexuality, rights, violence, and human dignity.

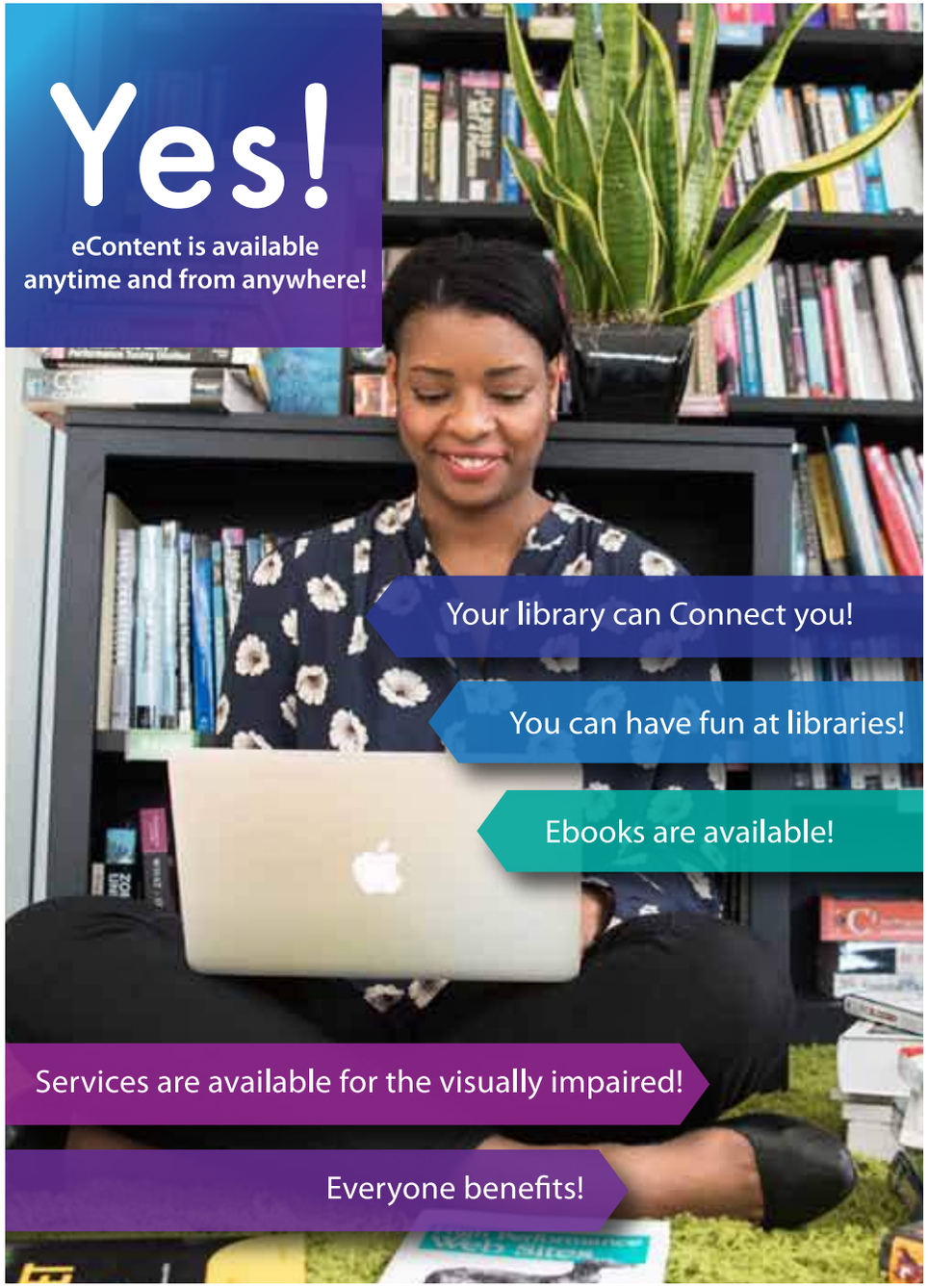
*Other Pasts, Other Futures* is another recurring festival theme, and focuses on Caribbean science fiction and fantasy, including folklore and fairy tales; Marlon James and Nalo Hopkinson are genre champions and not to be missed. *Family Matters* focuses on writing that tackles difficult questions about ancestry, home, inheritance, and other family themes. And, true to our name, in our festival focus on *Indigenous artforms* we continue our thoughtful, creative exploration of T&T's music, performance, and folk art, and interrogate the ways these influence our writers.

The various prizes we have created all take the keen reader to the finest writing in each genre, for whichever age. The winners of the 2019 OCM Bocas Prize, all Trinbagonians for the very first time, are a special treat, all of them must-reads. For those writers yet to be discovered, there are sessions earmarked for their readings, and for those wanting to enhance their writing, again we take advantage of the massive collective know-how of our festival writers to offer invaluable workshops. Spoken word, children's storytelling, book launches, celebrations of the classics, and literary salons are all in the mix for 2019.

I wish you all a splendid festival, and am putting you on alert for 2020. We are counting on you to celebrate ten years of the work of the Bocas Lit Fest, all year long.

**Marina Salandy-Brown**
**Festival Founder and Director**

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# THERE ARE SO MANY STORIES

Without fail, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest continues to prove a most deserving investment. Since its inception, this festival has returned immeasurable value in the form of greater exposure for Caribbean writers, greater recognition for Caribbean works, and a greater international profile for regional literature. As title sponsors, we at The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) look forward with hunger to this year's Bocas fare.

Turning as per usual on a provocative theme, the 2019 edition is at once a dedication to the freedoms that define our time in history and a spotlight on the barriers that remain to be cleared. This as the world grapples with such issues as migration, strained international relations, gender identity, miscegenation, and technology.

There are so many stories in the *why* of crossing borders, the *who* and *how*. Stories with two sides: the inspiring triumphs over circumstance and limitation, versus the injustices of invasion and aggression upon rights. Whether they are shared through prose, spoken word, or intellectual debate, these are stories that can bisect opinion, and which will no doubt provoke thought and conversation.

## WE CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR THEM ALL.

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## HOME OF THE FESTIVAL

The National Library of Trinidad and Tobago and Old Fire Station

# BASICS

The foldout Festival programme gives 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, Port of Spain, and are free of charge. Evening events take place at venues around the city.

## DATES AND TIMES

*Wednesday 1 May, 10 am–10 pm*
*Thursday 2 May, 10 am–10 pm*
*Friday 3 May, 10 am–10 pm*
*Saturday 4 May, 10 am–8.30 pm*
*Sunday 5 May, 10 am–8.30 pm*

## GETTING TO THE FESTIVAL AND PARKING

From Wednesday to Friday, there are limited free parking spaces for festival attendees at the parking lot at 50-52 Frederick Street (formerly Greyfriars Church). Parking tickets must be validated at the Festival Info Desk. Street parking is free in Port of Spain and unregulated at weekends. Drop is the festival rideshare partner, and offers festival attendees a discount. Apply the promo code *bocas19* when booking your ride via the Drop app, website, or by phone (code active from 1 to 5 May).

## ONLINE

Follow our Facebook livestream of all events taking place in the Old Fire Station, at facebook.com/bocaslitfest. *Supported by FLOW*

## READINGS AND PANELS

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

## BOOK SIGNINGS

After readings, talks, and discussions, authors will be signing copies of their books at designated tables.

## WORKSHOPS

All writing workshops take place in the 1st Floor Seminar Room 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 the Festival's main platform for new writers who want to read their work for peers and the festival audience. Sign up in advance at our Festival Info Desk on the ground floor (in front of the security desk).

## NGC CHILDREN'S BOCAS LIT FEST

Children's events take place in the Children's Library on the ground floor, and at City Hall on Tuesday 30 April.

## BOOKSELLERS AND BOOTHS

Books by participating authors and others are on sale from official booksellers — Paper Based Bookshop, Metropolitan Book Suppliers, RIK Services Ltd — on the ground floor of the Library. In addition to booksellers, the festival village showcases an array of talented local craftsmanship with goods on sale.

## EATING AND DRINKING

Beverages, sandwiches, and pastries are available from Rituals on the ground floor of the library, and a buffet lunch service is available on the ground floor of Old Fire Station (entry through patio area). Also in the Old Fire Station café, House of El Catering has healthy, hearty salads on offer.

## T-SHIRTS AND BAGS

Our popular t-shirts and bags are on sale at the Festival info desk.

## HASHTAG

Tweeting, blogging, or posting photos from the Festival online? Our 2019 hashtag is #bocas2019.

## FEEDBACK

We want your feedback! Please leave completed forms in the feedback box at the Festival Info 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-long about literary events around the world that relate to the Caribbean.





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# FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



Readings and discussions featuring some of Caribbean literature's biggest contemporary names, from Jamaican Booker Prizewinner and bestseller **Marlon James** to Trinidad-born novelist **Claire Adam**, acclaimed for her debut novel *Golden Child*; from **Nalo Hopkinson**, the most celebrated name in Caribbean science fiction, to **Caryl Phillips**, the award-winning novelist and screenwriter; and a celebration of **Earl Lovelace's** classic, ***The Dragon Can't Dance***. Plus international literary stars, **Marina Warner** and **Diana Evans** of the UK, **Yuri Herrera** of Mexico, and inspiring US poet **Danez Smith**, winner of the 2018 Forward Prize.

The biggest night of celebrating excellence in Caribbean literature — the announcement of the winners of the **2019 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature** for writers of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction and the inaugural **Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize** for an emerging Caribbean writer.

A celebration of the winners of the **CODE Burt Award for Caribbean Young Adult Literature**.

**Border Crossings**, a timely series of events running through the entire festival programme, asking how literature and the arts break through the barriers that separate nations and cultures.

**Time Machine**, a unique star-studded night of literature and music at the Big Black Box, with readings by writers who explore alternate pasts and possible futures.

Rare **high-level discussion panels** on topics of public interest, including the future of Caribbean regionalism, the crisis of equality in Trinidad and Tobago, the contemporary relevance of myth and folklore, and the 75th anniversary of Eric Williams's classic work *Capitalism and Slavery*.

The launches of some of the year's biggest Caribbean books, including ***We Mark Your Memory***, a new anthology of writing by the descendants of Indian indenture; ***New Daughters of Africa***, collecting fiction, essays and poems by African diaspora women from around the world; a long-awaited new book of essays by Gordon Rohlehr, professor emeritus of West Indian literature; and a collection of essays investigating the legacy of the Naipauls, T&T's most distinguished literary family.

**Writers First,** a series of free seminars on the publishing business for newly published, self-published, and emerging writers, plus **New Voices**, a showcase of some of the best self-published and emerging writers of the past year.

Events celebrating **T&T's indigenous and performance traditions** — from an Extempo debate with two masters of the calypso artform to an ole mas competition, and a special session where contemporary T&T writers offer their "Tales for the Bookman." Plus **a tribute to the late Mighty Shadow** in song.

**Inspired by the Archives,** a special event where contemporary writers share new work based on Caribbean literary archives.

The much anticipated 2019 **First Citizens National Poetry Slam**, supported by First Citizens, where Spoken Word poets compete with their peers for $80,000 in prizes, including a top prize of $50,000.

# AUTHORS, SPEAKERS, PERFORMERS

**Marie Abdulah** is a bibliophile and collector of French Caribbean writing. She teaches French at the Alliance Française.

**James Christopher Aboud** is the author of the poetry collections *The Stone Rose* and *Lagahoo Poems,* winner of the 1995 James Rodway Prize for Poetry awarded by Derek Walcott's Rat Island Foundation. He is a Trinidad and Tobago High Court judge.

**Claire Adam** is a Trinidadian living in the UK. Her critically acclaimed debut novel *Golden Child* (2019) is published by Faber & Faber (UK) and by SJP for Hogarth in North America.

**Funso Aiyejina,** Deputy Festival Director, NGC Bocas Lit Fest, is a prize-winning Nigerian writer. Professor Emeritus and literary scholar, his biography *Earl Lovelace* was published in 2017 as part of the UWI Press Caribbean Biography Series.

**Patti-Anne Ali** is a Trinidadian producer, actor, writer, director, playwright and founder of Sugar House Productions. She has appeared internationally in theatre, film, and television productions.

**Lisa Allen Agostini** is co-editor of *Trinidad Noir* (2008), author of the poetry collection *Swallowing the Sky* (2015) and the YA novel *The Chalice Project* (2008). Her latest novel, *Home Home*, won a 2017 CODE Burt Award for Young Adult Literature.

**Muli Amaye** is a UK-born fiction writer, poet, and current coordinator of the MFA Creative Writing programme at UWI, St Augustine. Her debut novel *A House With No Angels* was published by Crocus Press in 2019.

**Alexia Arthurs** has been published in *Granta, The Sewanee Review, Small Axe, Virginia Quarterly Review, Vice, Shondaland, Buzzfeed,* and *The Paris Review,* which awarded her the Plimpton Prize in 2017. *How to Love a Jamaican* is her first book.

**Theresa Awai** is an award-winning stage, television and film actress and playwright. Her first book, *Swing High, Iron Pot and Other Stories,* was launched in December 2018.

**Andre Bagoo**, Trinidadian poet and journalist, has authored four collections of poems: *Trick Vessels* (2012), *Burn* (2015, longlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize), *Pitch Lake* (2017), and *The City of Dreadful Night* (2018).

**Prithiviraj Bahadursingh** is a paediatrician attached to the South West Regional Health Authority, and the author of the novel *For the Love of Pan*, which deals with the issue of autism among young people.

**Sharlan Bailey**, musician, composer/songwriter and producer, is the son of the late calypsonian Winston "Shadow" Bailey. He is co-founder and a member of the band Soul Quarters. In 2019 he assumed the legacy of "The Shadow", rebranding himself "The Dread Wizard".

**Heather Barker** is a Barbadian writer. Her work has appeared in *So Many Islands: Stories from the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Indian, and Pacific Oceans*, *Pepperpot: Best New Stories from the Caribbean*, and other anthologies and journals. She is a finalist for the 2019 Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize.

**Juan Aníbal Barría** is the ambassador of the Republic of Chile to Trinidad and Tobago and former Head of Mission in Norway and non-resident in Iceland. He was formerly Permanent Representative at the OAS in Washington.

**Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné** is a Trinidadian poet and visual artist. Her accolades include the 2012 *Small Axe* Literary Competition, the 2015 Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize and



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*Wasafiri* New Writing Prize, and the 2019 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature (poetry).

**Motilal Boodoosingh** is a retired offshore production worker and short story writer. He recently published a collection of short stories, *Kal Kahanis*.

**Vashti Bowlah** is a writer from Trinidad and Tobago. Her stories have been published in Caribbean and international journals and have also gained her literary awards and nominations. She is the author of *Under the Peepal Tree*. Her second book, titled *Sugarcane Valley: Stories of East Indian Folklore & Superstition*, will be launched in May 2019.

**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. She is a past editor of the *Journal of Caribbean History*.

**Lesley-Ann Brown** is a Trinidadian-American educator and writer who has been based in Denmark for the past 20 years. She is currently touring the world to promote her book *Decolonial Daughter: Letters from a Black Woman to her European Son.*

**Kevin Adonis Browne** is a Trinidadian photographer, poet, archivist and scholar of contemporary rhetoric and Caribbean culture at UWI, St. Augustine. *High Mas: Carnival and The Poetic of Caribbean Culture* is the winner 2019 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature (non-fiction).

**Mariano Browne**, political commentator and former Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Minister of Trade and Industry of Trinidad and Tobago, is the author of many published papers on banking and finance.

**Jane Bryce** is professor emerita of African literature and cinema at UWI, Cave Hill, and chair of fiction judges for the 2019 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. Her published work includes the short story collection *Chameleon*.

**Margaret Busby**, OBE, is a celebrated British-Ghanaian writer, editor, critic and pioneering publisher of Caribbean origin. She is editor of the landmark *Daughters of Africa* (1992) and *New Daughters of Africa* (2019).

**Esbeth Callender-Brathwaite**'s novella *Empty Arms* chronicles the experience of trying to adopt a child with her husband of fourteen years.

**Nigel Campbell** is a Trinidadian music industry analyst, commentator and reviewer. He publishes *Jazz in the Islands* magazine (jazz.tt), and produces concerts and music festivals including *Jazz Artists on the Greens* (jaotg.org).

**Javier Carbajosa** is ambassador of Spain to Trinidad and Tobago and six other Caribbean countries, Permanent Observer to ACS, Caricom, and OECS, and a former Ambassador at Large for migration issues.

**Heather Cateau**, Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities and Education, UWI, St. Augustine, is co-author of *Capitalism and Slavery Fifty Years Later*, *History of the Caribbean in the Atlantic World*, and *Beyond Tradition: Reinterpreting the Caribbean Historical Experience*.

**Sofia Chote**, attorney and Independent Senator in the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, was previously a public prosecutor, judge of the Supreme Court, and member of the Law Reform Commission and Mercy Committee.

**Selwyn R. Cudjoe** is professor of Africana Studies at Wellesley College, Massachusetts, and a *T&T Express columnist.* His most recent book is *The Slave Master of Trinidad: William Hardin Burnley and the Nineteenth-Century Atlantic World*, longlisted for the 2019 OCM Bocas Prize.

**Stella Chong Sing** is a Trinidadian poet and teacher. Her research interests include existential literature and postcolonial literature, feminist studies, and Indian-Caribbean history and identity.

**Emma D'Costa**, Commonwealth Foundation Project Manager, has worked on various international cultural projects and oversees the Commonwealth Short Story Prize and Commonwealth Writers' translation initiatives.




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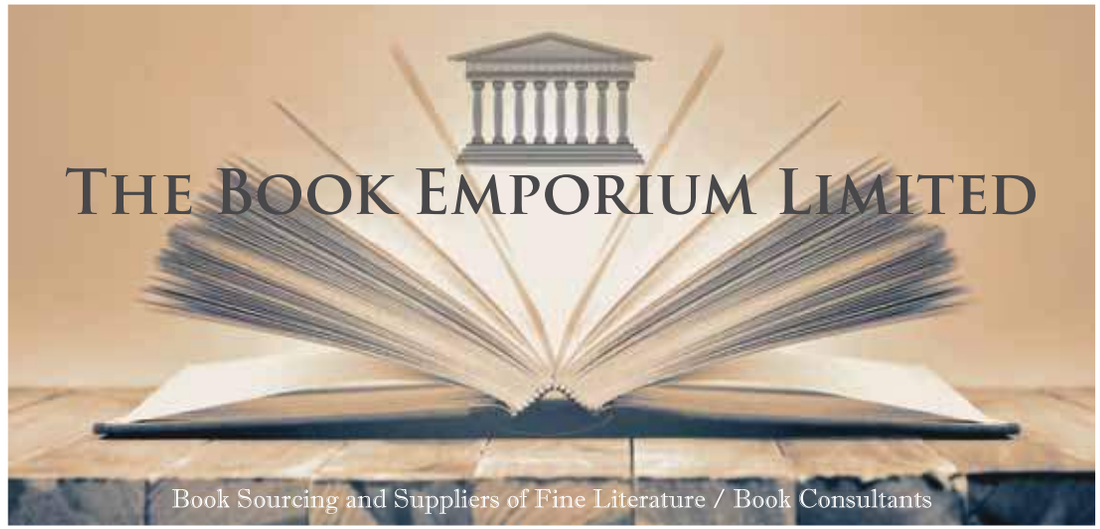
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**Marcia Douglas** is a Jamaican author of the novels *Madam Fate*, *Notes from a Writer's Book of Cures and Spells*, and *The Marvellous Equations of the Dread* (longlisted for the 2017 OCM Bocas Prize). She is an Associate Professor at the University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

**Regina Dumas** is owner/manager of Cuffie River Nature Retreat in Tobago and author of *Memoir of a Cocoa Farmer's Daughter*.

**Schuyler Esprit** is a Dominican academic and founder of the non-profit Create Caribbean Research Institute. Her book *West Indian Readers: A Social History* is awaiting publication.

**Diana Evans** is a British author of Nigerian and English descent. The latest of her three novels, *Ordinary People*, was nominated for the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction. Her first, *26a*, won the inaugural Orange Award for New Writers.

**Jeanelle Frontin**, 2019 Burt Award finalist, is the author of *The Unmarked Girl* and *The Eld Queen*, the first two books of *The YaraStar Trilogy*. She is the Founder and CEO of Mark Made Group Ltd., a Caribbean-based company specialising in entertainment and the arts.

**Ifeona Fulani** is a Jamaican writer teaching at New York University. Her works of fiction include the novel *Seasons of Dust* (1997) and collection of short stories *Ten Days in Jamaica* (2012).

**Tamika Gibson** is the author of *Dreams Beyond the Shore*, winner of the 2016 CODE Burt Award for Caribbean YA Literature and one of *Kirkus Reviews'* Best Teen Books of 2017. She is a 2019 Burt Award finalist.

**Paula Gopee-Scoon** is Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Trade and Industry, with 12 years in public office. Her background is in law and she is a banker by profession.

**Lucy Hannah** is a writer and producer. She founded Commonwealth Writers in 2011 and co-founded BBC Writers Room in the 1990s. She has worked for a range of international organisations to initiate and establish creative projects, mostly in areas of conflict and post-conflict.

**Julie Harris**, Strategic Planning Director, Lonsdale Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, is a Jamaican musician and composer.

**Gary Hector** is the founder of the T&T rock and roll band jointpop, which has released several successful albums with an eclectic mix of various styles of pop music.

**Yuri Herrera** is a Mexican political scientist and author of *Kingdom Cons*, *Transmigration of Bodies*, and *Signs Preceding the End of the World*, which won a 2016 Best Translated Book Award. His latest book is *El incendio de la mina El Bordo*.

**Kendel Hippolyte** is a St Lucian poet, playwright, and director. His collection *Fault Lines* won the 2013 OCM Bocas Prize for poetry. His latest book is *Word Planting*.

**Merle Hodge** is a Trinidadian writer, author of the novels *Crick Crack Monkey* (1970) and *The Life of Laetitia* (1993), as well as co-facilitator of the Cropper Foundation Writers' Workshop.

**Nalo Hopkinson** is a Jamaican-Canadian author of numerous celebrated novels and short stories. She has won several awards and is a recipient of the Octavia E. Butler Memorial Award for contributions to science fiction/fantasy.

**Gabrielle Jamela Hosein** is a Lecturer and Head of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, at UWI, St. Augustine. She has been involved in Caribbean feminist movement-building for two decades.

**Kevin Jared Hosein**'s novel *The Repenters* was longlisted for the 2017 OCM Bocas Prize, and his YA novel *The Beast of Kukuyo* won the 2017 CODE Burt Award. In 2015, he won the Commonwealth Short Story Prize, Caribbean region and in 2018 he was the overall winner. He lives in Trinidad.

**Rashad Hosein** is a writer, musician and an avid cook. He is currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in Literatures in English and Linguistics at the



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University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. He is shortlisted for the 2019 Commonwealth Short Story Competition.

**Marlon James** is a Jamaican writer, winner of the 2015 Man Booker Prize, American Book Award, Anisfield-Wolf Book Prize, and OCM Bocas Prize for fiction for *A Brief History of Seven Killings*. *Black Leopard, Red Wolf*, is the first novel in his *Dark Star Trilogy*.

**Arielle John** is a millennial writer, arts educator, and cultural researcher. A Callaloo Fellow, Goldsmiths Alumna, and youth mentor within the international Brave New Voices Network, her solo-performance *Bout Blue* was staged in 2018.

**Andrew Johnson** began his career in journalism in 1972. He is Head of News and Current Affairs at Power 102FM and a columnist at the T&T Express. Previously he was the CEO of T&T's Government Information Services (GIS).

**Jacqueline Laguardia** is a Cuban academic, teaching at the Institute of International Relations, UWI, St. Augustine. She is an economist and expert in Caribbean and regional relations.

**Anu Lakhan** is a writer and editorial triage consultant. She writes about books and food. Her chapbook *Letters to K* was published in 2018.

**Barbara Lalla** is a Jamaica-born Professor Emerita of language and literature at UWI, St. Augustine, and the author of the novels *Cascade*, *Arch of Fire*, *Uncle Brother,* and *Grounds for Tenure*.

**Nicholas Laughlin** is programme director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest and editor of *Caribbean Beat*. He has published two books of poems: *The Strange Years of My Life* (2015) and *Enemy Luck* (2019).

**Ayanna Gillian Lloyd** is a writer from Trinidad and Tobago. She is an (almost) graduate of the MA Creative Writing Prose Fiction at UEA and is currently pursuing the PhD in Creative-Critical Writing, also at UEA. She was shortlisted for the *Wasafiri* New Writing Prize and received the second-place prize in the *Small Axe* Literary Competition.

**Brian London,** Trinidadian calypsonian, songwriter, and 2019 National Extempo Monarch, is a many-times junior and national calypso finalist, known for his compelling social and political commentary.

**Karen Lord** is a Barbadian writer and research consultant. Her debut novel *Redemption in Indigo* (2010) won several awards. She is the editor of the Peekash Press anthology *New Worlds, Old Ways: Speculative Tales from the Caribbean* (2016). Her latest novel is the forthcoming *Unraveling*.

**Earl Lovelace** is the Trinidadian author of *The Dragon Can't Dance,* considered a Caribbean classic, and *Salt,* winner of the 1997 Commonwealth Writers' Prize. *Is Just a Movie* won the 2013 OCM Bocas Prize and the Grand Prize for Caribbean Literature from the Regional Council of Guadeloupe.

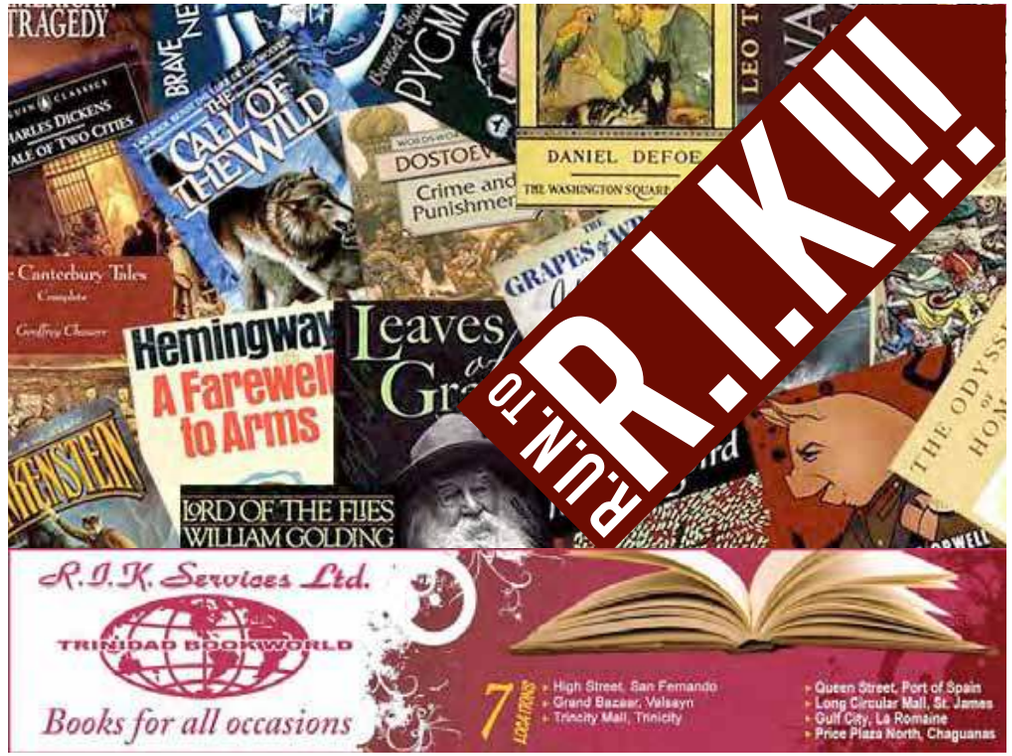
**Canisia Lubrin** is a St. Lucia-born writer, editor, critic, and teacher of creative writing at the University of Toronto. She is the author of the award-nominated poetry collection *Voodoo Hypothesis.*

**Mark Lyndersay** is a photographer and journalist working in Trinidad and Tobago, His column, BitDepth, is the longest running column reporting on technology in the country.

**Vijay Maharaj** has lectured at the University of the West Indies since August 2000, specialising in cultural identity and cultural citizenship in Caribbean Studies. She is the editor of the new collection of essays *Seepersad and Sons: Naipaulian Synergies*, launched at the 2019 NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

**Nick Makoha** is a Uganda-born British poet. His book *Kingdom of Gravity* was shortlisted for the 2017 Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection. His one-man show *My Father & Other Superheroes* debuted to sold-out performances at the 2013 London Literature Festival and is currently on tour.






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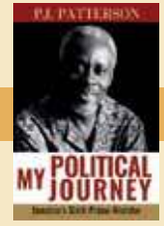
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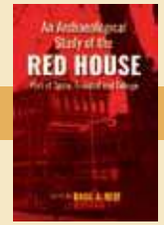

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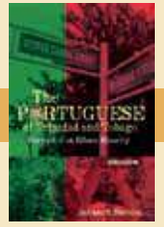

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JUDY RAYMOND
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*Jamaica's Sixth Prime Minister*
P.J. PATTERSON
2018
ISBN 978-976-640-701-8
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BASIL A. REID (ED.)
2018
ISBN 978-976-640-672-1
272pp 7 x 10
US$50 (s) Paper




The Portuguese of Trinidad and Tobago
*Portrait of an Ethnic Minority*
JO-ANNE S. FERREIRA
2018
ISBN 978-976-640-660-8
194pp 6 x 9
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**Diana McCaulay** is the Jamaican author of *Dog-Heart* (2010), *Huracan (2012), Gone To Drift (2016),* and *White Liver Gal* (2017). She won the 2014 Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize and is a finalist for the 2019 CODE Burt Award.

**Breanne McIvor** is a Trinidadian author and co-founder of the literary activist group People's Republic of Writing (PROW). Her debut short story collection *Here There Are Monsters* (Peepal Tree Press) is launched at the 2019 NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

**Celeste Mohammed** is a Trinidadian writer. Her work has appeared in *The New England Review*, *The Rumpus*, and *Kweli Journal*, among other places. She is the recipient of a 2018 PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers.

**Luke Neima** is the online editor and digital director of *Granta* magazine. His reviews, fiction, and translations have appeared in the *Times Literary Supplement*, *Prospect Magazine,* and *The White Review*.

**Anton Nimblett** is a New-York based Trinidadian author. He has published two short fiction collections, *Sections of an Orange* (2009) and *Now/After*, launched at the 2019 NGC Bocas Lit Fest. *The author's travel is sponsored by Caribbean Airlines, our Airline of Choice.*

**Angelique V. Nixon**, Bahamian writer, artist, teacher, scholar, activist, and poet, lectures in gender and development studies at UWI, St Augustine. Her book, *Resisting Paradise: Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture,* was published in 2015.

**Christine Norton** is a photographer and one of the Directors of The Noel Norton Collection Limited, managing the care and development of the Noel Norton database of photography. She searched the Noel Norton Collection to curate the upcoming publication, *Minshall by Norton*.

**Maria Nunes** is a Trinidadian photographer and producer specialising in imagery of Carnival-based traditions and the work of performing artists. *In a World of Their Own: Carnival Dreamers & Makers* was published by Robert and Christopher Publishers in 2018.

**Ruth Osman** is a Guyanese singer/songwriter and flautist based in Trinidad. Her debut album *Letting Go* was released in 2013 Her second album is *Elemental*.

**Abigail Parry**'s poems have been translated into Spanish and Japanese and widely published internationally. Her first collection *Jinx* was shortlisted for the 2018 Felix Dennis Forward Prize for Best First Collection.

**Sharda Patasar** is a cultural researcher, arts and culture columnist for the T&T *Newsday,* and a sitar player of classical North Indian, fusion, and experimental music.

**Ingrid Persaud**'s short story "The Sweet Sop" won the 2017 regional and overall Commonwealth Writers Short Story Prize and the BBC's 2018 National Short Story Award. Her novel *Love After Love* will be published by Faber in 2020.

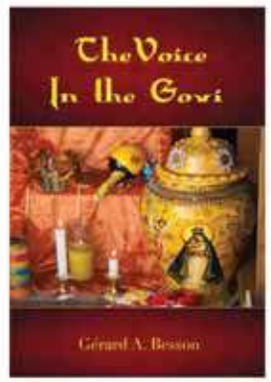
**Franka Philip,** co-founder of the media company Trini Good Media, is a Trinidadian journalist and media consultant with more than 15 years' experience in online, radio, and print, with specialist skills in digital media.

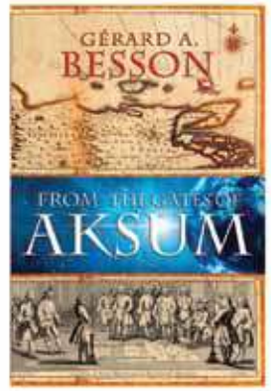
**Caryl Phillips** is a St. Kitts-born British writer of fiction and non-fiction, winner of the 2013 Anthony N. Sabga Award for Caribbean Excellence, the PEN Open Book Award, and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize. His 1993 novel *Crossing the River* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

**Geoffrey Philp** is a Miami-based Jamaican writer, author of two novels, five poetry collections, two collections of short stories, and three children's books. He was a Jamaica 2016 Diaspora Luminary Honoree for Literature. His new poetry collection, *Letter from Marcus Garvey,* is in progress.

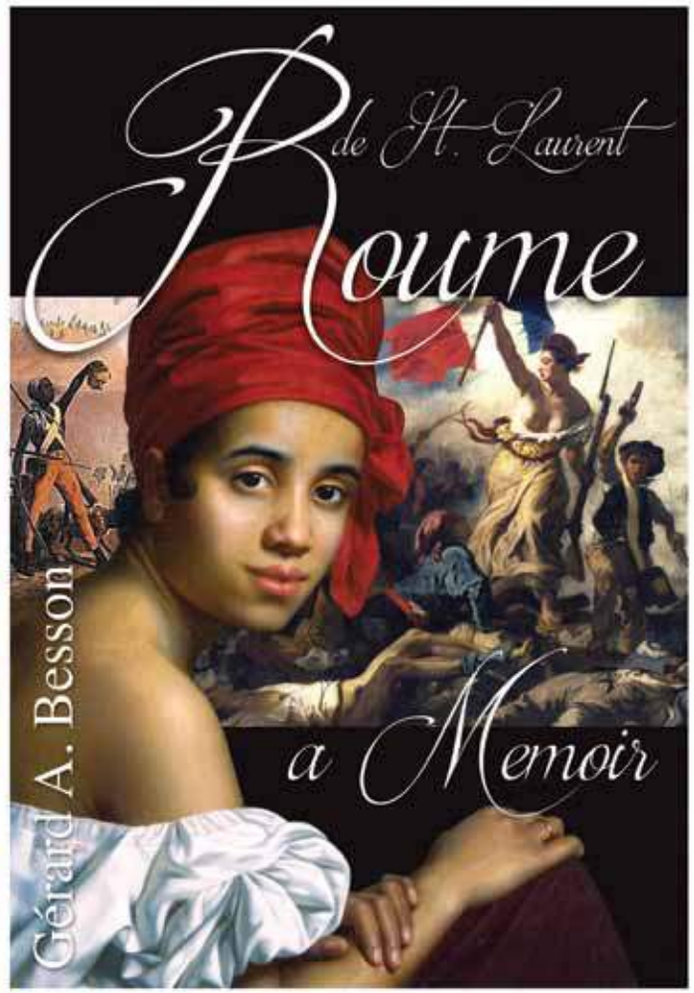
**Néhémy Pierre-Dahomey** is a Haitian author whose award-winning debut novel











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**Alake Pilgrim** is a Trinidadian writer, two-time winner of the Commonwealth Short Story Competition for the Caribbean region and a Small Axe Literary Prize. *Blue Crabs* was published by the Centre for Fiction (New York).

**Kenneth Ramchand**, literary critic and author of the seminal study *The West Indian Novel and Its Background*, received the 2014 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award. He is professor emeritus of West Indian literature at UWI and former president of the University of Trinidad and Tobago.

**Shivanee Ramlochan** is a Trinidadian poet, arts reporter, book blogger, and reviewer. Her debut poetry collection *Everyone Knows I Am a Haunting* was shortlisted for the 2018 Felix Dennis Forward Prize for Best First Collection.

**Nicola Ramsaran** is the author of the book *Shackled Freedom*, which aims to speak for those who suffer in silence from schizophrenia and other mental illness disorders.

**Ian Randle** founded Ian Randle Publishers in Jamaica in 1990, widely recognised as a leading publisher of books about the Caribbean. His many awards for distinguished service to publishing and literature include the 2019 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award.

**Judy Raymond** is a writer and editor-in-chief of the T&T *Newsday*. She is the author of several biographies; her latest, *Beryl McBurnie,* was published by UWI Press in 2018. *The Colour of Shadows: Images of Caribbean Slavery* was published in 2016.

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

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

**Gordon Rohlehr,** Guyana-born literary scholar long based in Trinidad, is Emeritus Professor at UWI, St. Augustine. His books include *Calypso and Society in Pre-Independence Trinidad* (1990), *My Strangled City and Other Essays* (1992), *The Shape of That Hurt and Other Essays* (1992), and *A Scuffling of Islands: Essays on Calypso* (2004). *Perfected Fables Now: A Bookman Signs Off on Seven Decades* is launched at the 2019 NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

**Ivette Romero** is professor of Spanish and Coordinator of Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Marist College. Her books include *Women at Sea: Travel Writing and the Margins of Caribbean Discourse* (2001) and *Displacements and Transformations in Caribbean Cultures* (2008). She is co-editor of the Repeating Islands Caribbean culture blog.

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

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

**Marina Salandy-Brown** is the Bocas Lit Fest founder and Festival Director. Now a T&T *Newsday* columnist, her writing has appeared in international journals and magazines and the *New Daughters of Africa* anthology (2019).

**Brinsley Samaroo**, Trinidadian university historian (UWI and UTT) has written extensively on the history of Trinidad and Tobago, focusing on working-class movements, Indo-Caribbean history, and political and institutional development.

**Amílcar Sanatan** is an academic whose poetry has appeared in the *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies* and *Interviewing the Caribbean*. He coordinates the UWI Socialist Student Conference and hosts the open-mic U.WE Speak.



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**Derry Sandy** is a Trinidad-born, New York-based attorney. His debut novel *Greyborn Rising* is his attempt to share Trinidad's rich oral traditions with a broader audience.

**Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders,** President of the Caribbean Court of Justice since 2018, is from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. He joined the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) bench in 2005.

**Nicole Sealey**, born in the US Virgin Islands, is the author of the poetry collection *Ordinary Beast*, finalist for the 2018 PEN Open Book Award and 2018 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. She is the executive director at the Cave Canem Foundation and a 2019–2020 Hodder Fellow at Princeton University. *The author's travel is sponsored by Caribbean Airlines, our Airline of Choice.*

**Desiree Seebaran** is a Trinidadian writer and editor. She is an alum of the Cropper Foundation Residential Workshop for Writers (2010). Her work has been shortlisted for the 2014 *Small Axe* Literary Competition (poetry).

**José Serulle**, ambassador of the Dominican Republic to Trinidad and Tobago, Permanent representative at the ACS, and Dean of the Diplomatic Corp, is also a bibliophile and director of an annual arts festival in his country.

**Krystal A. Sital** is the Trinidad-born author of the family memoir *Secrets We Kept: Three Women of Trinidad*. A PEN award finalist, her work has appeared in *Elle Magazine, The New York Times, Salon,* and other periodicals.

**Danez Smith** is the author of *Don't Call Us* Dead (2017), winner of the 2018 Forward Prize for Best Collection and a National Book Award Finalist. Their previous poetry collection *[insert] Boy* (2014) won the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry and the Kate Tufts Discovery Award.

**Jane Soomer**, a longtime diplomat from St. Lucia, is the first woman to head the Association of Caribbean States, based in Trinidad and Tobago. She is an historian by profession.

**Attillah Springer**, Trinidadian writer and jouvayist, writes on culture, memory and traditional mas, social justice, and African spirituality. She is a Director of Idakeda Group, a family collective for national social change.

**Janet Steel** leads Commonwealth Writers, the cultural initiative of the Commonwealth Foundation. Prior to this post, she spent over thirty years working in the cultural sector, primarily in theatre and new writing.

**Alexandra Stewart** is a four-time finalist and 2017 second-place champion in the First Citizens National Poetry Slam. She is currently a student of the Creative Writing MFA programme at the University of the West Indies.

**Jennifer Thomas-Straker** is the author of the childhood memoir *The Village, The Child*.

**Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw** is a Trinidadian fiction writer and Professor of French Caribbean Literature at UWI, St. Augustine. Her debut novel *Mrs. B* was shortlisted for the Guyana Prize for Literature in 2014.

**Tristan Walker** is a Trinidadian author and police officer with a love for crime and suspense novels. *Another Last Chance* is his debut book.

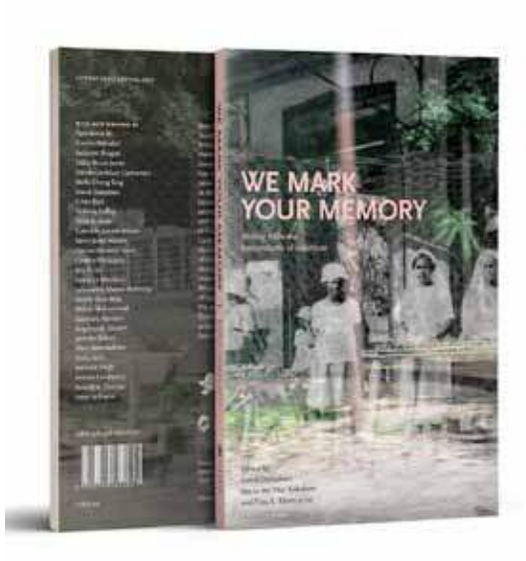
**Anthony Wall** is Creative Advisor to the BBC's *Arena* Archive. From 1978 to 2018 he directed and edited films in the legendary, multi-award-winning BBC-TV arts documentary strand *Arena*.

**Marina Warner,** DBE, is a British novelist, mythographer, and cultural historian whose work has won several leading international prizes. She is Professor of English and Creative Writing at Birkbeck College and President of the Royal Society of Literature.

**Gary Younge,** is an award-winning journalist and UK *Guardian* editor-at-large. He has authored five works of non-fiction, most recently *Another Day in the Death of America: A Chronicle of Ten Short Lives* (2016).

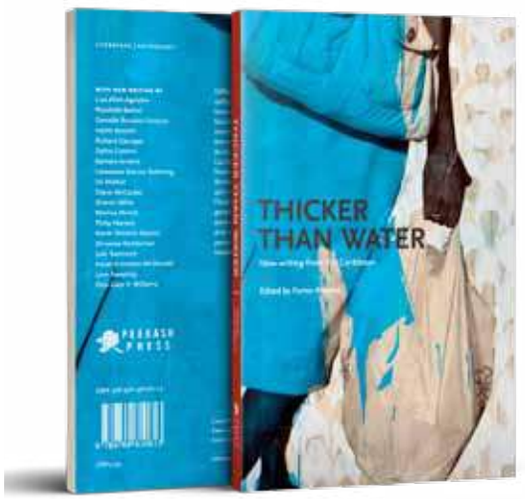



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# WORDS ALIVE




At the heart of the festival are brilliant authors in all genres, from T&T, the Caribbean, and the wider world, bringing the best of contemporary literature to Port of Spain. They read from and discuss their recent books and answer questions from the audience, followed by book-signing sessions. Authors' books are available from the participating booksellers.

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

**Gary Younge**, British writer and *UK Guardian* editor-at-large, talks to Kevin Browne about how race continues to shape politics in Britain and the United States.
*Thursday 2 May, 2–3 pm • Old Fire Station*

**Earl Lovelace**, T&T's eminent novelist, reads from his classic novel *The Dragon Can't Dance* and discusses how its concerns have remained relevant after forty years. Introduced by Funso Aiyejina.
*Friday 3 May, 10–11 am • AV Room*

Celebrated Kittitian-British writer **Caryl Phillips** reads from his new novel inspired by the life of Jean Rhys, and discusses his life in letters with *Granta* online editor Luke Neima.
*Friday 3 May, 1–2 pm • Old Fire Station • In partnership with the ANSA Foundation*

**Krystal Sital,** author of the family memoir *Secrets We Kept*, talks to Angelique Nixon about the traumas that lurk within families
*Friday 3 May, 3–4 pm • Old Fire Station*

**Diana Evans**, award-winning British novelist, talks to Lucy Hannah about her books exploring contemporary London and its contradictions of race and class.
*Saturday 4 May, 11 am–12 pm • Old Fire Station*
*In partnership with the British Council*

Mexican writer **Yuri Herrera** reads from his fiction exploring the meaning of cultural and physical borders in the age of Trump, and talks to *Granta* online editor Luke Neima.
*Saturday 4 May, 1–2 pm • Old Fire Station*

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

**Writers' Union Presents**, another Festival tradition, is a showcase for readings and presentations by members of the Writers' Union of Trinidad and Tobago. This year's event features the theme **Folklore: the supernatural and the extraordinary.**
*Saturday 4 May, 4.30–6 pm • 1st Floor Seminar Room*

We also pay tribute to the late British author **Andrea Levy**, whose acclaimed novel *Small Island* documents the lives of *Windrush* immigrants in Britain. Editor Margaret Busby, journalist Gary Younge, and NGC Bocas Lit Fest founder Marina Salandy-Brown discuss her indelible legacy, with readings from her most celebrated book.
*Saturday 4 May, 10–11 am • Old Fire Station*

For the second year in a row, we present **Inspired by the Archives**, a groundbreaking series, in which writers of today are commissioned to explore the Caribbean's literary archives and write new creative works. Featuring Kendel Hippolyte, Celeste Mohammed, and Alexandra Stewart.
*Saturday 4 May, 11.30 am–12.30 pm • AV Room In partnership with Caribbean Literary Heritage*

The 2019 NGC Bocas Lit Fest also marks significant anniversaries of two outstanding literary entities:

**CROPPER FOUNDATION AT 20**
As the landmark writing workshop celebrates its 20th anniversary, celebrated Cropper alumni share their work and memories. Introduced by Funso Aiyejina and Merle Hodge, with readings by Rhoda Bharath, Andre Bagoo, Barbara Jenkins, Shivanee Ramlochan, and Colin Robinson.
*Saturday 4 May, 1–2 pm • AV Room*

***GRANTA* AT 40**
Launched in 1979, *Granta* has become one of the world's most celebrated literary magazines, and a recognised champion of new authors. As the magazine celebrates its 40th anniversary, online editor Luke Neima discusses its history and editorial philosophy, and reveals what its editors are looking for in new submissions. With a guest reading by award-winning fiction writer Ingrid Persaud, a *Granta* alumna.
*Sunday 5 May, 10–11 am • 1st Floor Seminar Room*

## BOOK LAUNCHES

They may be the most eagerly anticipated events in the NGC Bocas Lit Fest programme: extraordinary new books make their debuts, shifting our conversations and ideas. All books launched at the festival are available for sale from Festival booksellers.

***We Mark Your Memory***
Presenting the latest Peekash Press anthology, collecting new writing from around the Commonwealth reflecting on the experience of Indian indentureship. With readings by Patti-Anne Ali, Stella Chong Sing, Gabrielle Hosein, and Kevin Jared Hosein, a Commonwealth Writers Conversation chaired by Janet Steel, and a musical performance by Sharda Patasar.
*Wednesday 1 May, 6.30–8.30 pm • The Writers Centre, 14 Alcazar Street, St. Clair • In partnership with Commonwealth Writers*

***New Daughters of Africa***
The successor to the groundbreaking *Daughters of Africa* anthology of African and African-diaspora women writers has its Caribbean debut, introduced by editor Margaret Busby and Marina Salandy-Brown, with readings by TT writers Lisa Allen-Agostini, Alake Pilgrim, Attillah Springer, plus Diana Evans, Ifeona Fulani, and Nalo Hopkinson.
*Thursday 2 May, 6.30–7.30 pm • Library Amphitheatre*
*In partnership with the British Council*

***Seepersad and Sons***
This new collection of essays, fiction, and poetry launches with a debate about the legacies of the Naipaul literary dynasty for contemporary Caribbean writers. Featuring editor Vijay Maharaj, scholar Kenneth Ramchand, and writer Anton Nimblett; chaired by Andre Bagoo.
*Friday 3 May, 4.30–6 pm • Old Fire Station*

***The Peepal Tree Book of Contemporary Caribbean Short Stories***
Presenting a talent-packed new anthology of some of the Caribbean's best writers of short fiction, introduced by co-editor Jacob Ross.
*Sunday 5 May, 11 am–12 pm • Old Fire Station*

***Where There Are Monsters* and *Now, After***
Two extraordinary new short story collections by Breanne McIvor and Anton Nimblett make their debut. With readings by the authors and a conversation chaired by Colin Robinson.
*Sunday 5 May, 3–4 pm • Old Fire Station*

***Perfected Fables Now: A Bookman Signs Off on Seven Decades***
As the beloved literary scholar and calypso expert Gordon Rohlehr launches his most recent book — which he also describes as his last — writers and calypsonians pay tribute through their words and music.
*Sunday 5 May, 4–5.30 pm • Old Fire Station*

# CROSSING BORDERS

In a time of renewed and urgent international anxiety about borders, immigration, refugees, and national sovereignty — all of which affect Caribbean nations — how do books and writers chart possible passages through borders both physical and metaphorical, external and internal? The 2019 NGC Bocas Lit Fest considers these questions through a programme stream that includes readings and performances, discussions, and films. Writers from across the Caribbean and their contemporaries from Mexico, Britain, the African diaspora, and further afield read from their own border-crossing fiction, poems, and essays, and join a conversation that grows more urgent by the day.

**Breaking borders**
Writers reflect on a world where political anxieties restrict freedom of movement for all. With Diana Evans, Yuri Herrera, and Nick Makoha; chaired by Jane Bryce
*Friday 3 May, 3–4.30 pm •*
*Old Fire Station*
*In partnership with the British Council*

**One from ten leaves who?**
Has the decades-long project of Caribbean regionalism gone stale? A debate on the future of Caribbean unity, featuring June Soomer, secretary-general of the ACS; Adrian Saunders, president of the CCJ; Paula Gopee-Scoon, T&T Minister of Trade; and scholar Schuyler Esprit; chaired by Ian Randle
*Saturday 4 May, 10–11.30 am •*
*AV Room*

**Reading beyond boundaries**
Politicians draw borders, and artists transcend them. Writers Arielle John, Barbara Lalla, and Shivanee Ramlochan share newly commissioned pieces reflecting on how their work has been shaped and inspired by authors from distant times and places, plus a guest reading by Anu Lakhan, author of *Letters to K*; chaired by Nicholas Laughlin
*Sunday 5 May, 1–2 pm •*
*Old Fire Station*
*In partnership with the British Council*

**European border crossings**
A special film series, presented in partnership with the Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago

Ranging from the early 20th century to the present, these three films make connections to classic European literary authors as they consider issues ranging from migration to the refugee crisis.

***Promise at Dawn*** (2017)
From his childhood in Poland and his adolescence in Nice, to his years as a student in Paris and his tough training as a pilot during World War II, this tragi-comedy tells the romantic story of Romain Gary, one of the most famous French novelists and the only writer ever to have won the Goncourt Prize for French literature twice. Directed by Eric Barbier
*Friday 3 May, 12.30–3 pm •*
*AV Room*

***Stefan Zweig: Farewell to Europe*** (2016)
This acclaimed drama charts the years of exile in the life of famous Jewish Austrian writer Stefan Zweig, his inner struggle for the "right attitude" toward the events in war-torn Europe, and his search for a new home. Directed by Maria Schrader
*Saturday 4 May, 5–7 pm •*
*AV Room*

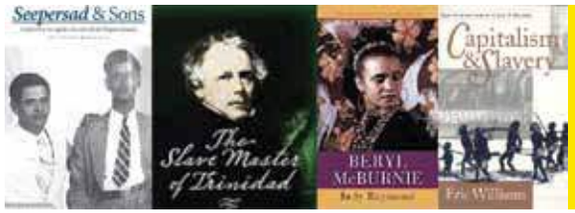
***The Other Side of Hope*** (2017)
Khaled, a Syrian refugee, stows away on a freighter to Helsinki. Meanwhile, Wikström, a salesman who wins big in a poker game, buys himself a restaurant with the proceeds. When the authorities turn down his application for asylum, Wikström offers Khaled a job, and they form a Utopian union with the restaurant's waitress, the chef, and his dog. Directed by Aki Kaurismäki
*Saturday 4 May, 7–9 pm •*
*AV Room*

## WORDS WITHOUT BORDERS

Focusing on the literature and society of our Latin American neighbours, in partnership with the embassies of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, and Spain

**Reading in tongues**
Despite our geographical proximity, the contemporary literature of the non-Anglophone Caribbean is little known to T&T readers. Bibliophile, arts festival director, and ambassador of the Dominican Republic to T&T José Serulle joins scholars Nicole Roberts, Ivette Romero and Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw for an informal conversation about regional literature and the challenges faced by our literary neighbours
***Thursday 2 May, 4–5 pm •***
***AV Room***

**Across the Bocas del Dragon**
The Caribbean islands sit on one side of the Caribbean basin. On the other side are millions of mainly Spanish speakers who share similar histories, even cultures — yet we remain cut off by language. Juan Aníbal Barría, Ambassador of Chile; Javier Carbajosa, Ambassador of Spain; and José Serulle, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic, discuss contemporary politics and society in Central and South America, against a backdrop of shifting political tides that wash all our shores. Chaired by Cuban scholar Jacqueline Laguardia.
***Friday 3 May, 11–12 pm •***
***AV Room***




# BIG IDEAS

As a festival of ideas, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest includes discussion panels, debates, and talks that range from literary subjects to burning topics in current affairs, with a lineup of opinionated expert speakers.

**An equal place?**
Do T&T's laws and traditions undermine the promise of equality in our anthem? A hard-hitting debate on issues of gender, class, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, and human rights, with Mariano Browne, Sofia Chote, Andy Johnson, and Attillah Springer, chaired by Colin Robinson.
*Thursday 2 May, 10–11.30 am •*
*Old Fire Station*

***Capitalism and Slavery* at 75**
Three quarters of a century ago, Eric Williams's groundbreaking historical and economic study changed the way we understand colonialism, the British Empire, the institution of slavery, and the rationale for Emancipation. Historians Selwyn Cudjoe and Heather Cateau and writer Caryl Phillips discuss its legacy and continued relevance. Chaired by Gabrielle Hosein
*Friday 3 May, 10–11.30 am •*
*Old Fire Station*

**The Naipaul inheritance**
The new book of essays *Seepersad and Sons* launches with a debate about the legacies of the Naipaul literary dynasty. Featuring editor Vijay Maharaj, scholar Kenneth Ramchand, and writer Anton Nimblett; chaired by Andre Bagoo
*Friday 3 May, 4.30–6 pm •*
*Old Fire Station*

**Heroes and villains**
The authors of new biographical works discuss how and why we should remember those figures from the past, who have shaped us, for better and worse. With Selwyn Cudjoe, author of *The Slave Master of Trinidad*, Judy Raymond, author of *Beryl McBurnie*, and Funso Aiyejina, author of *Earl Lovelace*; chaired by Bridget Brereton
*Sunday 5 May, 10–11 am •*
*Old Fire Station*

**Why fairy tales still matter**
Eminent author and critic **Marina Warner** gives a thrilling and insightful talk on the origins of the folk stories we call fairy tales, and why they remain vital today. Followed by a surprise-filled session in which contemporary Caribbean writers read their works inspired by fairy tales and folklore. Featuring James Christopher Aboud, Alexia Arthurs, Andre Bagoo, and Vashti Bowlah
*Sunday 5 May, 11 am–1 pm •*
*AV Room*



# 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, offering opportunities for new authors to share their work and network with literary professionals.

The Festival's opening day, Wednesday 1 May, is dedicated to our Writers First series, with free seminars for budding and self-published writers on key areas of the book business, led by publishing experts:

• **What every fiction publisher is looking for**, with Jacob Ross, author and associate fiction editor at Peepal Tree Press

• **Are writers born or made? And how can workshopping nurture your talent?**, with Muli Amaye, author and head of the creative writing MFA programme at UWI, St. Augustine
*10 am–12 pm • AV Room*

• **The five most important things you don't know about publishing**, with Ian Randle, eminent Jamaican publisher

• **The art of the blurb**, with celebrated UK editor and publisher Margaret Busby

• **Writing to the world**, with Janet Steel and Emma D'Costa of Commonwealth Writers
*1–4 pm • AV Room*

Writers First also includes two **New Voices** showcase sessions where a curated selection of debut and self-published authors read from their books, featuring Theresa Awai, Prithiviraj Bahadursingh, Motilal Boodoosingh, Lesley-Ann Brown, Esbeth Callender-Brathwaite, Regina Dumas, Nicola Ramsaran, Derry Sandy, Jennifer Thomas-Straker, and Tristan Walker
*12 pm–1 pm and 4.30–6 pm • AV Room*

**STAND AND DELIVER**
Our signature platform for new and budding writers remains at the front and centre of our programme. Test your work in progress! Feature authors lead a lineup of writers across genres. You can share your work too: sign up in advance at our info desk.
*Friday 3 May, 12–1 pm; Saturday 4 May, 12–1.30 pm; Sunday 5 May, 12–1.30 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade*

## 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.

Check our website aqnd social media for the **Pavement Poets** venues and schedule!




# TALK YUH TALK

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 our writers. At the 2019 Festival, in partnership with the Ministry of Community Development, Culture, and the Arts, we showcase these vital elements of our heritage.

**Every creed and race: an extempo debate**
Master calypsonians Black Sage and 2019 Extempo Monarch Brian London debate the theory and reality of equality in T&T. A favourite Bocas tradition!
*Thursday 2 May, 12–12.30 pm • Abercromby Street Arcade*

**Our music too**
We claim calypso and steelpan as T&T's "national" musical forms, but what about other genres in which we excel? A discussion on the significance of and prospects for genres like jazz, traditional Indian music, rock, and classical. With Sharda Patasar, Gary Hector, Ruth Osman, and Mark Lyndersay, chaired by Nigel A. Campbell
*Thursday 2 May, 1–2.30 pm • AV Room*

**Tales for the Bookman**
T&T Carnival's traditional Bookman character never speaks, but he carries a huge volume containing the names of condemned souls. Following our riveting tribute to the Midnight Robber at our 2018 festival, at Bocas 2019 we commission writers Kevin Jared Hosein, Anton Nimblett, and Alake Pilgrim to write new short stories for the Bookman's Book of the Damned
*Friday 3 May, 11.30 am–12.30 pm • Old Fire Station*

**Capturing Carnival**
A panel discussion on the art and science of Carnival photography, focused on three extraordinary new books, with Maria Nunes (*A World of Their Own*), Kevin Adonis Browne (*High Mas*), and Christine Norton (*Minshall by Norton*), chaired by Franka Philip
*Friday 3 May, 5–6 pm • AV Room*

**Every creed and race: an ole mas competition**
Words meet costumes and performance in T&T's traditional protest masquerade. Dedicated to the late ole mas maestro Bunny Dieffenthaller, and with prizes for the best ole mas band.
*Saturday 4 May, 5–6.30 pm • Hart Street Arcade*

**Memories of Shadow**
A tribute in song to the late, great calypsonian The Mighty Shadow, with classic tunes performed by his son Sharlan Bailey.
*Sunday 5 May, 11.30 am–12 pm • Library Rotunda*

# SAY IT LOUD

**The most popular and life-changing literary genre in contemporary T&T may be Spoken Word, an artform bringing together words, rhythms, and hard-hitting exploration of serious social and personal issues. Working with our partners the 2Cents Movement, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest is leading the way in this ever-surging movement.**



## 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. Join us at the keenly anticipated climax of the 2019 NGC Bocas Lit Fest!
*Sunday 29 April, 6–8 pm • National Academy or the Performing Arts • $200*

*Tickets for the final: $200, available at Francis Fashions outlets in Arima, Trincity Mall, Henry Street (POS), West Mall, Prize Plaza, High Street (San Fernando), Gulf City Mall, Lowlands (Tobago). For ticket information, call 319 4749*

## 2019 FINALISTS

**Javaughn Forde**
**Red Frederick**
**Kyle Hernandez**
**Isaiah Wayne John**
**Abdul Karim**
**Shimiah Lewis**
**Michael Logie**
**Marcus Millette**
**Muhammad Muwakil**
**Brendon O'Brien**
**Idrees Saleem**
**Shineque Saunders**
**Alexandra Stewart**
**Crystal St. Hillaire**
**Seth Sylvester**
**Deneka Thomas,** defending champion



## For the Love of Poems: an alternative slam

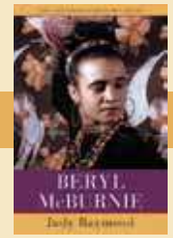
Enjoy some of the best talent from the First Citizens National Poetry Small semi-final round, performing now without the pressure of competition, for the sheer love of poetry. Featuring Arnaldo Conliff, Dennis Joseph, Ahmad Muhammad, Iyana Phillips, and Emmanuel Villafana.
*Saturday 4 May, 11.30 am–12 pm • Library Rotunda*


# The University of the West Indies Press

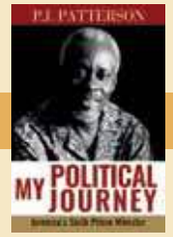
## THE PREMIER SCHOLARLY BOOK PUBLISHER IN THE CARIBBEAN



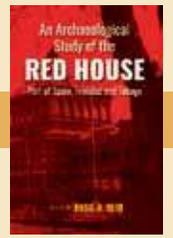

**Free**
MARTIN MORDECAI
2018
ISBN 978-976-640-681-3
592pp 6 x 9
US$40 (s) Paper




**Beryl McBurnie**
JUDY RAYMOND
2018
ISBN 978-976-640-678-3
122pp 6 x 9
US$25 Cloth




**My Political Journey**
*Jamaica's Sixth Prime Minister*
P.J. PATTERSON
2018
ISBN 978-976-640-701-8
478pp 7 x 10
US$75 (s) Cloth




**An Archaeological Study of the Red House, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**
BASIL A. REID (ED.)
2018
ISBN 978-976-640-672-1
272pp 7 x 10
US$50 (s) Paper




**The Portuguese of Trinidad and Tobago**
*Portrait of an Ethnic Minority*
JO-ANNE S. FERREIRA
2018
ISBN 978-976-640-660-8
194pp 6 x 9
US$30 (s) Paper

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# *SCHEDULE OF SHOWS AND EVENTS DRY SEASON - 2019*

101 Art Gallery @ Holder's Studio

- 21 February – 13 March
  **KAREN SYLVESTER - PERSPECTIVES**
  This show allows our carnival visitors to take delivery of their chosen works immediately.
- 14 – 27 March
  **SHALINI SINGH - FROM THE EARTH**
- 28 March – 10 April
  **REBECCA FOSTER - TRINIDAD IN COLOUR**
- 11 – 27 April
  **CELEBRATING JOYOUS KIMME**
  A selection of small gilt and painted bronzes by celebrated sculptor Luise Kimme from the studio/museum
- 4 – 9 May
  **MUMTAZ** - A SELF MANAGED SHOW
  There is no Gallery commission added to the list price of the works in this show
- 16 - 18 May
  **CHRISTINE NORTON - PHOTOGRAPHY** - A SELF MANAGED SHOW
  There is no Gallery commission added to the list price of the works in this show
- 19 May - 1 September
  Works in our consignment gallery by: **Knolly Greenidge, Sybil Atteck, Trevor Rostant, Boscoe Holder, Geoffrey Holder, M P Alladin, Noel Vaucrosson, Carlisle Chang, Ramon Navarro etc.**
  Our consignment gallery is open permanently, during our opening hours

84 Woodford St. Newtown | 628-4081 | 101artgallery.com | marknpereira@gmail.com | Gallery Hours: Tues. - Fri. Noon - 6 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Instagram.com/101ArtGalleryTT Fb.com/101art



# FILMS

From adaptations of literary works to dramas based on writers' lives, plus documentaries relevant to Festival themes, our film screenings are an integral part of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

Our 2019 programme includes two special film series:

***ARENA* PRESENTS**
Co-produced by Speaking Volumes and Lucy Hannah, as part of the *Your Local Arena* series.
*In partnership with the British Council*

The BBC's *Arena* documentary series, launched in 1975, is one of the world's most acclaimed TV film series focused on the arts. This selection of five films from the *Arena* archives (1975–2011) highlights documentaries that cover writers and other cultural figures who contributed to breaking cultural barriers in their lives and work.

***My Name Is Celia Cruz*** (1988)
Meet the late, great queen of Cuban music in this fascinating film from director Anthony Wall
*Thursday 2 May, 2.30–3.30 pm • AV Room*

***Gilberto Gil: Back to Bahia*** (1990)
The life and times of Brazil's most popular musical icon, in a documentary directed by Francis Hanly and Tim May
*Thursday 2 May, 5.30–6.30 pm • AV Room*

***The Strange Luck of V.S. Naipaul*** (2008)
This honest, insightful documentary on T&T's late Nobel laureate profiles the man behind the mask of literary genius. Directed by Adam Low
*Friday 3 May, 6–7.30 pm • AV Room*

**One-on-one with Anthony Wall**
The pioneering UK director talks to Lucy Hannah about the celebrated *Arena* documentary series and his life in film
*Saturday 4 May, 2–3 pm • AV Room*

***C.L.R. James's First Eleven*** (1986)
T&T's great writer, political philosopher, and cricket enthusiast picks his all-time ultimate cricket team, in this short documentary directed by Charlie Pattinson
*Saturday 4 May, 3–3.30 pm • AV Room*

***Brixton to Barbados*** (1981)
Pioneering dub poet Linton Kwesi Johnson leaves his home in London and travels to Barbados to experience Carifesta 1981. Directed by Anthony Wall
*Saturday 4 May, 3.30–4.30 pm • AV Room*

**EUROPEAN BORDER CROSSINGS**
A special film series, presented in partnership with the Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago. See page 26 for details.

***Roma*** (2018)
Cleo is one of two domestic workers who help Antonio and Sofía take care of their four children in 1970s Mexico City. Complications arise when Antonio runs away with his mistress and Cleo finds out she's pregnant. When Sofía decides to take the kids on vacation, she invites Cleo for a much-needed getaway. Directed by Alfonso Cuarón; winner of three 2019 Academy Awards including best director, and six other major awards
*Wednesday 1 May, 6.30–9 pm • AV Room • In partnership with the Embassy of Mexico, courtesy Netflix*

NETFLIX

***Sun, Sea, and Science*** (2018)
The expertise of T&T's scientists is a major untapped resource, argues this incise documentary, profiling microbiologist Adesh Ramsubhag, computer scientist Patrick Hosein, and medical researcher Paul Teelucksingh. Introduced by director Raymond Ramcharitar
*Friday 3 May, 3–4 pm • AV Room*
*In partnership with the ANSA Foundation*

***Brown Girl Begins*** (2017)
It's 2049 on a forsaken island off the coast of Toronto, where the survival of the islanders depends on young Ti-Jeanne to risk death by a spirit so she can take her place as a Caribbean priestess and save her people. Director Sharon Lewis presents her thrilling adaptation of Nalo Hopkinson's landmark SFF novel *Brown Girl in the Ring*
*Sunday 5 May, 3.30–5 pm • AV Room*
*In partnership with Brown Girl Begins*

# WORKSHOPS

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

***Writing for Comics***, with Nalo Hopkinson
If you dream of writing comics and graphic novels but don't know how to start, Nalo Hopkinson, writer of DC Comics' *House of Whispers* series, will guide you through the first steps of imagining your story in graphic format.
*Thursday 2 May, 10 am–12.30 pm*

**Writing as a stranger**, with Nick Makoha
The Forward Prize-shortlisted UK poet leads a hands-on session exploring the "metic experience," exploring issues of identity, race, and migration through the eyes of foreigners and exiles.
*Thursday 2 May, 1.30–4 pm*
*In partnership with the British Council*

**Performance and stagecraft for writers**, with Janet Steel
Contemporary writers are expected to be masterful performers of their own work but may lack the necessary dramatic skills. Actor and director Janet Steel prepares writers for the podium.
*Friday 3 May, 10 am–12.30 pm*
*In partnership with Commonwealth Writers*

**Creating memorable characters**, with Marcia Douglas
Characters who seize the reader's imagination: that's every author's goal. Celebrated fiction writer and poet Marcia Douglas shows you how to get started.
*Friday 3 May, 1.30–4 pm*

**Writing through trauma**, with Krystal Sital
Sometimes the most painful topics are the ones we feel driven to write about, but how do you turn personal or family trauma into a compelling narrative? The author of *Secrets We Kept*, explores how to begin to shape private stories into public stories.
*Saturday 4 May, 10 am–12.30 pm*

**Flash fiction**, with Geoffrey Philp
Writing short-short fiction requires a particular discipline and specific skills. Jamaican author Geoffrey Philp offers practical guidance to writing the best concise stories.
*Saturday 4 May, 1.30–4 pm*

**All workshops take place in the 1st Floor Seminar Room. Pre-registration required. Book via www.bocaslitfest.com/2019/events/workshops. Registration fee: $100**



# BOCAS HENRY SWANZY AWARD

The 2019 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award will be presented to publishing pioneer **Ian Randle** of Jamaica, founder and chairman of Ian Randle Publishers Limited, which he founded in 1990 as the Caribbean's first commercial scholarly publishing company.

The Bocas Henry Swanzy Award for Distinguished Service to Caribbean Letters is named for the late BBC World Service radio producer (1915–2004). His work as an editor and producer on *Caribbean Voices*, first produced by Una Marston of Jamaica, provided a landmark platform for Caribbean writing in the 1940s and '50s, broadcasting fiction and poems by West Indian writers across the region.

Since 2013, the 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. Awardees are chosen by the Bocas Lit Fest. In previous years, the Bocas Henry Swanzy Award was presented to:

- **Anne Walmsley, writer, researcher, former publisher of Longman Caribbean (2018)**
- **Joan Dayal, proprietor of Paper Based Books (2017)**
- **Jeremy Poynting, founder of Peepal Tree Press (2016)**
- **Publisher, editor and broadcaster Margaret Busby OBE (2015)**
- **Literary critics and academics Kenneth Ramchand and Gordon Rohlehr (2014)**
- **Publishers John La Rose and Sarah White of New Beacon Books (2013)**

**About Ian Randle, 2019 awardee**

Ian Randle has over forty-five years' experience as a local, regional and international publisher across all genres and at all levels. His early career was in the field of educational publishing, where between 1985 and 1990 he produced landmark textbook titles in partnership with the British firm Heinemann Educational Books.

In 1990, he founded the publishing company which bears his name. Today, Ian Randle Publishers (IRP), headquartered in Kingston, Jamaica, is recognised as a leading publisher of books on and about the Caribbean, encompassing its history, politics, the arts, biography, literature and the law, as well as contemporary topics, such as the media, gender issues, food security and education.

Randle is the recipient of the Silver Musgrave Medal from the Institute of Jamaica and the Jamaican National Honour the Order of Distinction (Officer Class), both for services to publishing. In 2012, he was named a Laureate of the Prince Claus Fund of the Netherlands, "for transcending language barriers to build capacities in Caribbean publishing." In 2013, his contribution to scholarly publishing was recognised by his alma mater when the University of the West Indies St Augustine campus conferred on him an honorary LLD degree.

**The 2019 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award will be formally presented at the NGC Bocas Lit Fest on Sunday 5 May, 2–3 pm, AV Room**



# CODE BURT AWARD FOR CARIBBEAN YA LITERATURE



Now in its sixth and final year, the CODE Burt Award for Caribbean Young Adult Literature recognises excellent, engaging, and culturally relevant books in English, written by Caribbean authors for readers aged 12-18. The award was established by CODE — a Canadian charitable organisation that has been advancing literacy and learning for 60 years — with the generous support of William (Bill) Burt and in partnership with the Bocas Lit Fest.

A shortlist of six — from a total of 46 submissions of both published books and unpublished manuscripts, by authors from across ten Caribbean countries — was announced in March:

*Jomo's Story*, by Nastassian Brandon (Jamaica)

*The Unmarked Girl*, by Jeanelle Frontin (T&T)

*The Accidental Prize*, by Tamika Gibson (T&T)

*The Mermaid Pools*, by Rehannah Azeeyah Khan (T&T)

*Daylight Come*, by Diana McCaulay (Jamaica)

*Rise of the Clearrock*, by Celia Sankar/S.P. Claret (T&T)

Three finalists, **Jeanelle Frontin, Diana McCaulay** and **Tamika Gibson,** were announced in April 2019. The winner will be named during the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, and all three finalists will visit T&T schools during the Festival. This year the winning title is awarded $10,000 CDN, and the two finalists each receive $2,000 CDN.

**2019 Burt Award winners showcase**

Readings by and conversation with 2019 finalists Jeanelle Frontin, Diana McCaulay, and Tamika Gibson, chaired by Jasmin Simmons, and the announcement of this year's winner by chief judge Ian Randle.
*Thursday 2 May, 10–11.30 am • AV Room*
*In partnership with CODE*

**School visits**

During the 2019 NGC Bocas Lit Fest, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the 2019 Burt Award finalists and other festival writers will visit schools in and around Port of Spain.

code | Rewriting the story for global literacy

## JUDGES

**Ian Randle**, Jury Chairperson, is Chairman of Ian Randle Publishers Limited, the 26-year old company which he founded in 1990, now recognised as one of the leading publishers of books on and about the Caribbean.

**Muli Amaye** is a novelist, short story writer and poet. She teaches creative writing at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine, and is the coordinator of the MFA in Creative Writing.

**Ayesha Gibson-Gill** has been the Cultural Officer for Literary Arts at the National Cultural Foundation Barbados since 2012, where she coordinates and produces literary workshops, competitions, festivals and events. She is an arts administrator, artistic director and producer, writer, actor, former radio announcer, sometime vocalist and mother.

**Saajid Hosein** is a 21-year-old MPhil student of Gender Studies at the University of the West Indies. His passion for books and reading has prompted him to create and run the YouTube channel, *Books are my Social Life*.

ONE CARIBBEAN MEDIA LIMITED

# THE OCM BOCAS PRIZE FOR CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

2019 is the ninth year of the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, sponsored by One Caribbean Media, the largest media house in the Caribbean. Awarded annually, the OCM Bocas Prize is the region's leading literary award.

Books published in 2018 by authors of Caribbean birth or citizenship were eligible for the 2019 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 and scholar Marina Warner.

The overall winner of the 2018 OCM Bocas Prize, announced on Saturday 4 May, will receive US$10,000, with a cash award of US$3,000 for the other genre winners.

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); *Augustown*, by Kei Miller (2017); and *Curfew Chronicles*, by Jennifer Rahim (2018).

## 2019 PRIZE LONGLIST

### POETRY

*Doe Songs*, by Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné (Peepal Tree Press)

*Ricantations*, by Loretta Collins Klobah (Peepal Tree Press)

*Giant*, by Richard Georges (Platypus Press)

### FICTION

*Cut Guavas*, by Robert Antoni (Peepal Tree Press)

*Theory*, by Dionne Brand (Knopf Canada)

*Kitch*, by Anthony Joseph (Peepal Tree Press)

### NON-FICTION

*High Mas: Carnival and the Poetics of Caribbean Culture*, by Kevin Adonis Browne (University Press of Mississippi)

*The Slave Master of Trinidad: William Hardin Burnley and the Nineteenth-Century Atlantic World*, by Selwyn R. Cudjoe (University of Massachusetts Press)

*A Response to Enslavement: Playing Their Way to Virtue*, by Peter A. Roberts (University of the West Indies Press)

## WINNER, POETRY




***Doe Songs*** is the debut book by Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné. "It marks the arrival of an extraordinary voice," write the prize judges. "Boodoo-Fortuné investigates the personal and the political, deploying a stunning range of imagery and themes. Mothers and daughters, hunters and the hunted, metal and fire meet in this dazzling constellation of archetypes.... An unforgettable book, as dulcet as it is ruthless."

Publishers: Peepal Tree Press (United Kingdom)

From **TO ENTER MY MOTHER'S HOUSE**

To enter my mother's house
I must walk backwards with
smoke in my mouth.

To pass through the keyhole
I must become a spout
of water, a single hair
from an ocelot's back.

I must go back thirty years
to recreate myself, carve
my face on the unburnt tip
of a match, strike my teeth
thrice against her name.



**Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné** is a poet and artist from Trinidad and Tobago. She was awarded the Charlotte and Isidor Paiewonsky Prize by *The Caribbean Writer's* editorial board in 2009, nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2010, and awarded the *Small Axe* Poetry Prize in 2012. In 2015, she won the Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize, and the following year she won the *Wasafiri* New Writing Prize for poetry.

## POETRY JUDGES

**Chair: Geoffrey Philp** is a Miami-based Jamaican writer, author of two novels, five poetry collections, two collections of short stories, and three children's books. He was a Jamaica 2016 Diaspora Luminary Honoree for Literature. His new poetry collection, *Letter from Marcus Garvey,* is in progress.

**Andre Bagoo**, Trinidadian poet and journalist, has authored four collections of poems: *Trick Vessels* (2012), *Burn* (2015, longlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize), *Pitch Lake* (2017), and *The City of Dreadful Night* (2018).

**Nicole Sealey**, born in the US Virgin Islands, is the author of the poetry collection *Ordinary Beast*, finalist for the 2018 PEN Open Book Award and 2018 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. She is the executive director at the Cave Canem Foundation, 2018–2019 Doris Lippman Visiting Poet at the City College of New York, and a 2019–2020 Hodder Fellow at Princeton University,

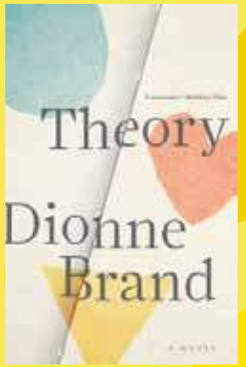
## FICTION JUDGES

**Chair: Jane Bryce** is professor emerita of African literature and cinema at UWI, Cave Hill, and chair of fiction judges for the 2019 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. Her published work includes the short story collection *Chameleon*.

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

**Schuyler Esprit** is a Dominican academic and founder of the non-profit Create Caribbean Research Institute. Her book *West Indian Readers: A Social History* is awaiting publication.

## WINNER, FICTION




***Theory***, Dionne Brand's sixth book of fiction, is narrated by a graduate student trying to write an ambitious thesis on the past, present, and future of art, culture, race, gender, class, and politics. In the judges' words, "Its motivating energy can be boiled down to the question the protagonist asks herself: 'Why am I here now and what is my next move?' Brand resolutely refuses easy pieties, insisting instead on her 'otherwise angled' vision — a clear-eyed and unsentimental objectivity."

Publisher: Knopf Canada

From **THEORY**

He, of all people, I had expected to understand the importance of my thesis and my complete devotion to pursuing a life in academia. But people change; one minute you know them, the next minute they scare the hell out of you. So many things can knock you off your axis. Small things. One day you are orbiting happily and then the tiniest meteorite kicks you off your stride....



Born in Trinidad and based in Canada, **Dionne Brand** is a celebrated writer of fiction, poetry, essays, and memoir. Among other awards, her books have won the Griffin Poetry Prize, Canada's Governor General's Literary Award, the Trillium Book Award, the Pat Lowther Memorial Award, and the Toronto Book Award. She is currently Professor of English at the School of English and Theatre Studies at the University of Guelph.

## WINNER, NON-FICTION




***High Mas: Carnival and the Poetics of Caribbean Culture*** by Kevin Adonis Browne blends photography, essay, memoir, poetry, and polemic "to transformative effect," write the judges. "Impressive in scope, lyrical in style, and innovative in form, *High Mas* impresses both as a work of literature and art.... The result is a radical, genre-defying tribute to a cherished tradition in the finest tradition of literary non-fiction."

Publisher: University Press of Mississippi

From **HIGH MAS**

I've come to a place where obeah still breathes, where metaphors are gathered up, picked apart, and consumed in the sun and (sometimes) driving rain. I know that, same as every year, I'll soon be left to sift through Wednesday's ashes for some semblance of the everyday, catching myself now and again to ask, shamelessly, unironically, what happened. Then, as now, I'll seek no definitive resolution, only some clarity (complex and shamanic though it may seem)....



**Kevin Adonis Browne**, born in Trinidad and Tobago, is a photographer, poet, archivist, and scholar of contemporary rhetoric and Caribbean culture. His previous books include *Tropic Tendencies: Rhetoric, Popular Culture, and the Anglophone Caribbean*. He is currently based in Trinidad, where he works at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

## NON-FICTION JUDGES

**Chair: Gary Younge,** is an award-winning journalist and UK *Guardian* editor-at-large. He has authored five works of non-fiction, most recently *Another Day in the Death of America: A Chronicle of Ten Short Lives* (2016).

**Ivette Romero** is professor of Spanish and Coordinator of Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Marist College. Her books include *Women at Sea: Travel Writing and the Margins of Caribbean Discourse* (2001) and *Displacements and Transformations in Caribbean Cultures* (2008). She is co-editor of the Repeating Islands Caribbean culture blog.

**Brinsley Samaroo**, Trinidadian university historian (UWI and UTT) has written extensively on the history of Trinidad and Tobago, focusing on working-class movements, Indo-Caribbean history, and political and institutional development.



## OCM BOCAS PRIZE OVERALL CHAIR

**Marina Warner** is a writer of fiction, cultural history, and criticism. Her grandfather, the cricketer Pelham ("Plum") Warner, was born and brought up in Port of Spain. Her novels include *Indigo* (1994), a Caribbean-set revisioning of *The Tempest*, and *The Leto Bundle* (2000), a mythological sequence about a woman refugee. This eminent writer's work has won many literary awards: her study of the Arabian Nights, *Stranger Magic* (2011), won a National Book Critics Circle Award, the Truman Capote Award for Literary Criticism and a Sheikh Zayed Book Award; in 2015, she was awarded the Holberg Prize in the Arts and Humanities and was made a Dame of the British Empire (DBE) in the same year. She is Professor of English and Creative Writing at Birkbeck College (University of London), President of the Royal Society of Literature, and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Academy.






## THE JOHNSON AND AMOY ACHONG CARIBBEAN WRITERS PRIZE





Announced last year and awarded for the first time in 2019, the Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize is sponsored by philanthropist Dr. Kongsheik Achong Low and administered by The Bocas Lit Fest and Arvon.

This prize is named after Johnson and Amoy Achong, and commemorates their lives as hardworking 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 is an annual award, which allows an emerging Caribbean writer living and working in the Anglophone Caribbean to devote time to advancing or finishing a literary work, with support from an established writer as mentor. 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$3,000, a year's mentoring by an established writer, travel to the United Kingdom to attend a one-week intensive Arvon creative writing course at one of Arvon's internationally renowned writing houses, and three days in London to network with editors and publishers, hosted by Arvon, in association with the Free Word Centre and a leading London literary agency.

Three writers are shortlisted for the 2019 Prize:

**Heather Barker** (Barbados)
**Subraj Singh** (Guyana)
**Sharma Taylor** (Jamaica)

A further six were longlisted:

**Lelawatee Manoo-Rahming**
(Trinidad and Tobago/
The Bahamas)

**Ira Mathur**
(Trinidad and Tobago)

**Otancia Noel**
(Trinidad and Tobago)

**A-dZiko Simba Gegele**
(Jamaica)

**Portia Subran**
(Trinidad and Tobago)

**Racquel Williams**
(Barbados)

**The winner will be announced on 4 May, 2019, at the 2019 NGC Bocas Lit Fest.**

# CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

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

The lineup starts during the month of April with an annual **Storytelling Caravan**, a series of free, island-wide storytelling events for children aged 5-12. At every venue, some of the nation's best storytellers perform, after which children are divided into two age groups, and invited to craft a story based on a suggested title.

Trained teams from the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest discuss ideas for story elaboration, guiding children through the basics of exposition towards character development, observation of the environment, personal, social and community relationships. It is our hope that by unleashing and guiding the children's creativity, they are inspired 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*.

The Caravan's arrival in Port of Spain is celebrated at **City Hall** on **Tuesday 30 April** with ***Imagine New Worlds***.

Supported by the Ministry of Education, this event is hosted by His Worship the Mayor of Port of Spain and the Port of Spain City Corporation. Three hundred students and teachers from primary schools across the nation greet each other. The occasion attracts esteemed authors, poets, illustrators, artists, animators, and songwriters. This year, the focus will shift to the traditions, culture and music of Tobago. Throughout the event, we will read stories written by children during past visits to the sister isle.
*Note: This event is reserved for schools.*

After a jam-packed month of storytelling, the Children's Festival kicks off on Wednesday **1 May at the National Library**, with a series of book reading sessions and workshops. Young readers are invited to listen to esteemed local authors as they share their stories and love for our culture. Students can also participate in workshops, including ones focused on lyric writing, creative writing, and comic book creation.

**All events are free, but pre-registration by parents or guardians is required to book a space. Please call 71 BOCAS (712 6227) to register.**

NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest

## Wednesday 1 May

WORKSHOP
**Rise and Shine Storytime, with Aunty Thea**
This workshop is aimed at encouraging children to embrace Aunty Thea's success formula, described as a personal, positive value system.
*9.30–11 am • Children's Library*

READING
***Lola and the Dancing Ladybugs***
First-time author Mary Cuffy explores literacy, numeracy, and dance while incorporating jazz rhythms to get children moving and having fun while they learn.
*10–11 am • Children's Library*

WORKSHOP
**Creativity Writing, with Lisa Allen-Agostini**
Children learn the basics of creative writing through a fun, interactive, hands-on workshop. For beginner and intermediate levels.
*10–11.15 am • Children's Library*

WORKSHOP
**The Adventures of Marvin the Mischievous Manicou, with Oprah Francis**
Centered on the storybook *The Adventures of Marvin the Mischievous Manicou*, the workshop will feature interactive activities to educate children on local wildlife and culture through fun and creative learning.
*1–2 pm • Children's Library*

WORKSHOP
**Children's Rights and Child Protection**
Create Future Good hosts a creative participant-interactive workshop on children's rights and child protection. Children learn, share, write, draw, compose, design, and create messages to help protect themselves and their friends.
*1–2 pm • Children's Library*

## Thursday 2 May

WORKSHOP
**Comic Book Workshop, with Everard McBain**
Participants will learn how to create and publish their own comic book. Children will be exploring character creation, storytelling, page layout, lettering, and publishing.
*9–10 am • Children's Library*

WORKSHOP
**Bringing character and setting to life, with Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné**
Children work closely with the text in order to bring character and setting to life. Based on the book *Lost! A Caribbean Sea Adventure,* written by Joanne Hillhouse and illustrated by Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné.
*9–10.15 am • Children's Library*

READING
***Anansi and the 10 Dragons***
Rubadiri Victor looks at the process of metabolising ancient ancestral and indigenous folklore into modern pop cultural artefacts like books, movies, animation, video games, etc., using Anansi as an example.
*10–11 am • Children's Library*

READING
***Mike's Mission***
In the second book in *The Money Adventures of Mike Murray and Friends* series, Aisha Acres explores topics such as charity, fundraising, volunteering, and leadership. It follows Mike along with his friends Justin and Liz as they raise funds for a classmate whose family lost everything in a flood.
*1–2 pm • Children's Library*

WORKSHOP
**Creative Writing, with Felix Edinborough**
The workshop will focus on Creative Writing. The participants will be given practice on the most important elements in creative writing and how to improve their creative writing skills. At the end they should feel more confident of their writing and be prepared to write on any topic given.
*1–2 pm • Children's Library*

## Friday 3 May

READING
***The Adventures of Ana and Her Magic Dogs***
This patriotic book is about a little girl, Ana, and her magic dogs, who use their powers to teach her about Trinidad and Tobago. Come join them on their adventure, with author Verena Boodoosingh.
*9–10 am • Children's Library*

WORKSHOP
**Lyric-writing Workshop, with Freetown Collective**
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 lyrics and songs.
*10.15–11.15 am • Children's Library*

READING
***The Magic Cave***
Two siblings and their best friend discover a magic cave. Every time they enter the cave, they are greeted by a new and exciting land. Aarti Gosine's book is filled with stories of their adventures in the different lands.
*10.30–11.15 am • Children's Library*

WORKSHOP
**Telling Your Own Stories, with Sufia Giza**
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.
*1–2 pm • Children's Library*

WORKSHOP
***AGRIman Agventures,* with Jeunanne Alkins**
The AGRIman comic books set the stage for the world's first food and nutrition security superhero — on a mission to battle disease and starvation. Creative director Jeunanne Alkins will share insights into the story development process and tips that can help bring your characters to life.
*1–2 pm • Children's Library*

## Saturday 4 May

STORYTELLING
**With Lylah Persad**
A fun and interactive story-telling session, on the topic "Trapped in My Phone."
*9.30 am–12 pm • Children's Library*

WORKSHOP
**Comic-book Workshop, with Everard McBain**
Participants will learn how to create and publish their own comic book. Children will be exploring character creation, storytelling, page layout, lettering, and publishing.
*1.30–2.30 pm • Children's Library*

PRESENTATION
**Santimanitay, with Warren Le Platte**
This fun and interactive game offers a path to the character's ultimate goal, which is filled with challenges. Players must avoid Hard Luck spaces, get past Midnight Robbers, take advantage of Warrahoon cards, AND display their knowledge of Trinidad and Tobago Carnival.
*2.45–3.45 pm • Children's Library*

## Sunday 5 May

VIDEO PRESENTATION
**Animation videos**
The Animae Caribe Animation and Digital Media Festival is the largest Caribbean animation platform. Started 17 years ago by Camille Selvon Abrahams, when animation in the Caribbean was a fledgling industry, it has massively grown since then.
*9–11.45 am • Children's Library*

READING
***Marcus and the Amazons***
After travelling through the forest, Marcus returns to his home and discovers that Amazons have enslaved his colony and imprisoned Princess Amy, his bride-to-be. With the help of his friends from the forest, Marcus must save Princess Amy and rally his colony to stand against the Amazons. With author Geoffrey Philp. *12–1 pm • Children's Library*

**Dragonzilla's Birthday Party**
Our beloved mascot, Dragonzilla, celebrates his birthday with a party! This year's theme, "Toys", will be celebrated in grand style when children dress up as their favorite toy and enjoy face painting by Lylah Persad. Prizes will be given to the children with the most creative costumes.
*2–4 pm • Children's Library*

## CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS

**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.

**Lisa Allen-Agostini** is a writer and editor from Trinidad and Tobago. She is the author of the YA novels *Home Home* (Papillote Press, 2018) and *The Chalice Project* (Macmillan Caribbean, 2008), and the collection of poems *Swallowing the Sky* (Cane Arrow Press, 2015). A journalist, she has worked for all three Trinidad and Tobago national newspapers and is currently a freelance feature writer for the *Newsday*.

**Jeunanne Alkins** is designing a world in which children can grow up playing with iconography that feels like her island home. She is a prize-winning creative director, author/illustrator and the founder of design studio Everything Slight Pepper.

**Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné** is a Trinidadian poet and artist. The many books she has illustrated include *Lost! A Caribbean Sea Adventure*, by Joanne C. Hillhouse. Her debut poetry collection *Doe Songs* is the winner of the 2019 OCM Bocas Prize for Poetry.

**Verena Boodoosingh** is a former TV host and journalist. She has over ten years' experience in the media and public relations arena. In July 2016, she launched her first book in her children's series entitled *The Adventures of Ana and Her Magic Dogs*. Currently she is working on her first fantasy novel, which will be published in September 2019.

**Mary Cuffy** is an Early Childhood Curriculum Programme Facilitator. She is very passionate about early childhood education. She is a first-time author of the book *Lola and the Dancing Ladybugs*. She also wants to inspire children to read, write, create, imagine, and dream.

**Felix Edinborough** has performed as a Pierrot Grenade for over thirty years, at many international cultural festivals. A retired Principal of St Francis Boys' College (formerly Belmont Boys' Secondary School), he has been the Chief Examiner of English for SEA and English A CSEC for several years.

**Oprah Francis** is the author and illustrator behind the children's storybook *The Adventures of Marvin the Mischievous Manicou.* Hailing from Trinidad and Tobago, this up-and-coming author is working to foster a greater sense of cultural pride and appreciation for local content.

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.

**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.

**Aarti Gosine** was born in 1976 and started writing at the age of eight. She has written three children's books: *The Magic Cave*, *More Adventures in the Magic Cave*, and *The Jaeden Ring*. She also writes short stories for *The Northerly*, a community based supplement and is the Managing Editor for *Trinidad Weddings* magazine.

**Warren Le Platte** is a freelance graphic designer, illustrator and photographer. He has been involved in Carnival since childhood, from playing mas to designing and constructing costumes, and has developed a deep love and appreciation for Trinidad and Tobago Carnival and its rich history.

**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*.

**Nadella Oya** is Director of Create Future Good**,** a social impact organisation with a clear purpose: "We help children realise their power". Createfuturegood builds awareness, and advocates for children's rights and their wellbeing through media and art interventions using creative expression and innovative projects, programs and campaigns.

**Lylah Persad**, writer, director, actor, storyteller, is the Creative and Artistic Director of LP Entertainment Theatre. She is currently the preschool drama teacher at the Full Quiver Academy for Excellence and also hosts workshops for teens and adults in speech articulation and character development.

**Geoffrey Philp** has written two novels, five poetry collections, two collections of short stories, and three children's books: *Marcus and the Amazons*, *Grandpa Sydney's Anancy Stories*, and *The Christmas Dutch Pot Baby*.

**Auntie Thea (Theodora Ulerie)** is a writer and celebrated storyteller. She is the co-ordinator of Baku Productions and is the Founder/Creative Director of Culture House, a facility for developing cultural awareness among young people.

**Rubadiri Victor** is a multimedia artist and cultural activist. His book *Anansi and the 10 Dragons* is the first of a seven-part series depicting adventures of Anansi's grandmother as a young spider. The series is part of a larger universe of books entitled *Myths for a New Time.*



# WHO'S WHO

Meet the members of the 2019 NGC Bocas Lit fest team.

**Marina Salandy-Brown** is the founder and Vice President of the Bocas Lit Fest, Festival Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, and a *Newsday* columnist. She is a former senior prizewinning BBC programme maker with a publishing background and member of the Arts Council of London's Literary Panel. In 2005, she received the degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt), *Honoris Causa*, from the University of Westminster (UK), and in 2013 from the University of the West Indies. 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 and a member of the board of directors of the Bocas Lit Fest. He is the former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine and now Professor Emeritus. He is also a prizewinning poet and short story writer. He won the 2000 Commonwealth Writers' Prize (Africa). Born in Nigeria, he has been based in Trinidad and Tobago since 1989. He is a widely published critic of African and Caribbean literature and a specialist on the work of Earl Lovelace. Since 2000 he has co-run the Cropper Foundation Writers Workshop, for Caribbean writers.

**Nicholas Laughlin** is the Programme Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest. He is the editor of *The Caribbean Review of Books* and the arts and travel magazine *Caribbean Beat*. He is also co-director of the contemporary art space and network Alice Yard.

**Danielle Delon** is Director of the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest. She is the publisher and editor of several historical publications, including *The Letters of Margaret Mann, Bridges of Trinidad & Tobago, Ice Age Trinidad* (for children) and *A Handbook of Trinidad Cookery.*

## THE FESTIVAL TEAM

**Anna Lucie-Smith,**
Festival and Publishing Manager

**Marielle Forbes,**
General and Hospitality Manager

**Ardene Sirjoo,**
Media Coordinator

**Kimberly De Souza,**
NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Coordinator

**Natacha Jones,**
NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Host

**Shivanee Ramlochan**,
Social Media Coordinator and Festival Blogger

**Mickel Guanfranco Alexander**,
Spoken Word Events Coordinator

**Malene Joseph,**
Programme Coordinator

**Patrice Matthews,**
Project Coordinator

**Ashlee Burnett,**
Social Media Assistant

**Emma Johnston,**
Events Coordinator

**Marlon James,**
Official Festival Photographer

**Richard Mark Rawlins,**
Graphic Design

**Shedrack Worrell,**
Project Coordinator

**Arielle John,**
Ole Mas Competition Coordinator

**Mahalia Davis-Botswain,**
Green Room & Merchandise Manager

**Nickisha McClean Parris,**
Old Fire Station Venue Manager

## FESTIVAL YOUTH BLOGGERS

In its third 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 2019 NGC Bocas Lit Fest Youth Bloggers are:

**Apphia Barton**
**Ashlee Burnett**
**Kyle Hernandez**
**Joziann Lewis**
**Alexandra Stewart**
**Giselle Permell**

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.

# THE WRITERS CENTRE 14 ALCAZAR STREET PORT OF SPAIN

Since March 2018, the Bocas Lit Fest and our partners the 2Cents Movement have been headquartered at 14 Alcazar Street in Port of Spain's St. Clair neighbourhood. This historic bungalow with its breezy verandah and high ceilings includes a dedicated event space where we host host readings, book launches, workshops, and other events year-round.

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.

To keep on top of our new programme of year-round events outside the Festival season, visit our website at www.bocaslitfest.com, join our mailing list, or follow us on social media.



# CREDITS & THANKS

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

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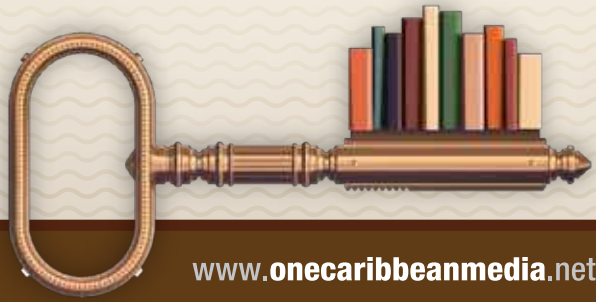
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