



**FOUR DAYS
TO CHANGE
THE WORLD**

**NGC
Bocas Lit Fes**

**28th
APR** | **1st
MAY**





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-  Building on long-standing partnerships
-  Creating socio-economic value
-  Generating a dynamic industry that puts energy and solutions together for the future of Trinidad and Tobago

WELCOME

The 2022 NGC Bocas Lit Fest is our twelfth annual festival and our third — and probably our last — in a completely virtual format. I write that with both pride and relief. Pride, because the Bocas Lit Fest was one of the first arts organisations in the Caribbean to respond to the pandemic by pivoting to a virtual format, continuing our work without interruption. And relief, because although the past two years have been an opportunity to rethink how we work, reaching out to geographically distant online audiences, we've also missed the excitement of our in-person festival, and the unique energy created when writers and readers meet in the flesh to celebrate their shared passion for words, stories, and ideas.

Much has changed since our last physical festival in 2019, and the idea of change was on our minds as we planned this year's programme. For the first time, we've created a festival around a single, overarching theme: **Four Days to Change the World**. It comes with a lineup of readings, discussions, and performances featuring writers and others who grapple with the instabilities and disruptions of the times we're living through, and imagine the kinder, more just future we all hope we're heading towards.

A major inspiration is the revitalising book *The Point Is to Change the World*, collecting writings by the late Guyanese activist and thinker Andaiye, radical in her commitment to "expanding human freedom" and her devotion to "conspiracies of mutual caring." Arriving in my hands in late 2021, more than a year after its publication, *The Point Is to Change the World* was both revelation and encouragement, and suggested the theme of our 2022 festival. So it's especially fitting that Andaiye's life and work will be the focus of one of our opening events on Thursday 28 April.

One thing that hasn't changed is the Bocas Lit Fest's focus on writers and readers of all ages. From the beginning, we've run a fun-filled children's programme alongside our adult festival, and this year we're delighted to launch **a new children's YouTube channel**, offering on-demand programming for audiences under 12. It goes live on Saturday 30 April, and we'll be adding new content as the months go by. October will bring the return of the **NGC Bocas Youth Fest** — launched last year — in a refreshed format, aimed at audiences aged 12 to 25. And our year-round programming as always includes the First Citizens National Poetry Slam, regular hands-on writing workshops, our monthly BYOBB book club, the virtual author interview series Bios & Bookmarks — with two further seasons to come in 2022 — and even more. A great way to keep up is to become a **Friend of the Bocas Lit Fest** — your annual membership helps support our work, and comes with exclusive benefits.

As we adjust to a new relationship with COVID-19, our programmes for readers and writers will evolve to suit, and a hybrid physical-virtual format seems to be the way forward. For now, we hope you enjoy our Four Days to Change the World, and feel inspired to imagine a better world where books and stories matter more than ever.

Nicholas Laughlin
Festival and programme director

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FOUR DAYS TO CHANGE THE WORLD 28th APR 1st MAY 2022 NGC Bocas Lit Fest

A MESSAGE FROM NGC

As humans, we have a complicated relationship with change. We associate it with positives such as progress and growth, and negatives such as erasure and loss. In some circumstances, we value constancy and stability, in others we embrace disruption. These dichotomies aside, whether change is welcome or not, it invariably brings opportunity. To turn change to our advantage, we must therefore learn to recognise and leverage the opportunities that it brings.

Consider for example the multiple waves of change buffeting the world today. The COVID-19 pandemic has upended lives, livelihoods, and economies, and is shaping the future of work and play. Equally disruptive is the climate action agenda, which requires that we make significant changes to how we produce and consume, how we move around, how we interact with the world around us. While it is easy to view these systemic changes in a negative light — as they are compelling some uncomfortable adjustments — there are many opportunities for positive growth we can choose to embrace.

For us at NGC, for example, though our industry is up against a momentous challenge to reduce the carbon footprint of our operations and products, we are choosing to leverage the new market opportunities in the clean energy space to reshape our business. We have embraced a green agenda and are exploring exciting ventures and partnerships around renewable energy technologies and fuels, energy efficiency, food security, and environmental and socioeconomic sustainability.

We are happy to see we are not alone in leveraging the change around us to build a stronger organisation. The pandemic threw a spanner in the works for live events like the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, but the festival has evolved into an even more dynamic, inclusive, and accessible platform for Caribbean literary voices as a result. Its virtual events are allowing for greater participation of international literati and larger audiences. There are now more opportunities for young talent to shine through, with the launch of the NGC Bocas Youth Fest in 2021. And, of course, the virtual platform allows for easier engagement and heightened visibility, which means more conversations are happening around Caribbean literature.

The Bocas team has seized the opportunities created by change in its operating environment, and the festival is that much stronger as a result. It is therefore fitting that they have chosen to explore the theme of change in this year's festival — change that shaped us, change that is challenging us today, and change that we need to enact to build a safe and sustainable future for our children.

We at NGC have been proud to stand with the Bocas team as title sponsors for the past 11 years of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest. As always, we are excited to see what lies in store for this edition. The festival may be constantly evolving, but we are confident its reputation of excellence will remain intact, unchanged.

Mark Loquan
President, The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited



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2022 NGC Bocas Lit Fest

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FESTIVAL BASICS



How to join the virtual 2022 NGC Bocas Lit Fest

Tune in on any of the following platforms:

www.bocaslitfest.com

facebook.com/bocaslitfest

youtube.com/bocaslitfest

Dates and times

Thursday 28 April:
 6-9 pm
Friday 29 April:
 6-9.30 pm
Saturday 30 April:
 4.30-8.30 pm
Sunday 1 May:
 4.30-9 pm

All Festival events are **free and open to the online public**. Tickets or registration are NOT required, and you don't need a YouTube or Facebook account to view events on these platforms.

Event recordings will be available on our YouTube and Facebook pages for a limited time post-Festival, for those wishing to revisit or view events at their leisure. Join the **Friends of Bocas** for access to our ever-growing content library with events from past Festivals.

NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest

Big news! On Saturday 30 April, we're launching a new **NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest YouTube channel**, where you'll find a growing library of on-demand Caribbean-themed content for young readers and viewers. Check our website and social media pages for updates.



Books and Merchandise

You can order or pick up copies of books in our programme (and others) from the Festival's booksellers:

Paper Based Bookshop

Tel: 625-3197
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Our Festival merchandise - t-shirts and tote bags - are also available at these outlets.

Hashtag

Tweeting, blogging, or posting about the Festival online? Our 2022 hashtags are #bocas2022 and #4daystochangetheworld

Open mic

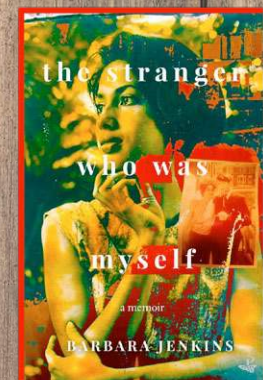
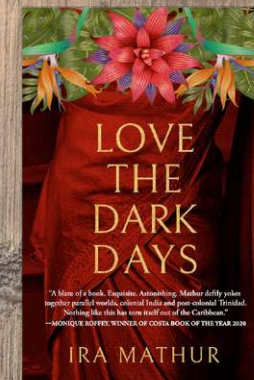
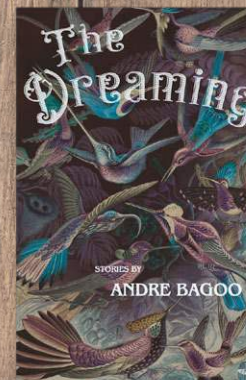
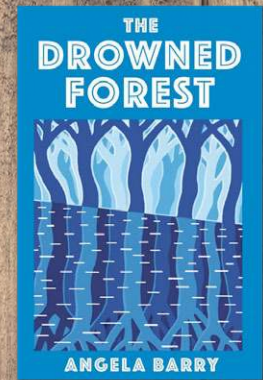
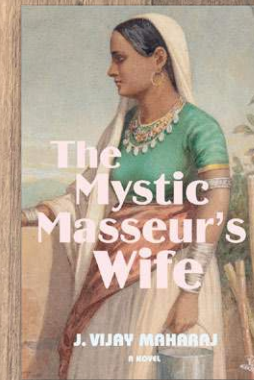
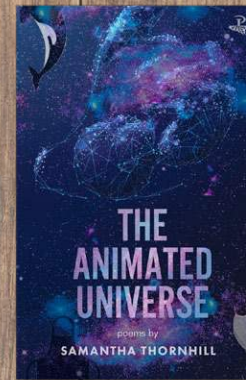
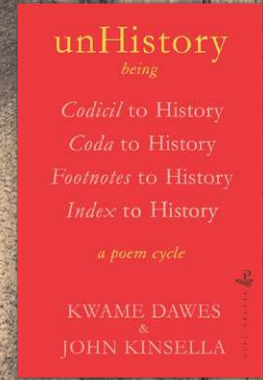
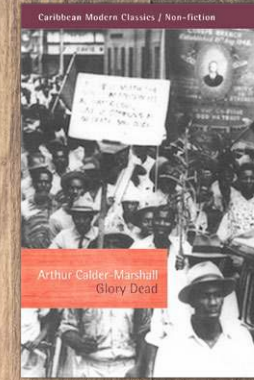
Stand and Deliver is our signature platform for new and upcoming writers of fiction, poetry, and spoken word, where they can share their work with our audience across the Caribbean. Catch this year's three episodes on Friday 29 April at 6 pm, Saturday 30 April at 4.30 pm, and Sunday 1 May at 4.30 pm

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Spring/Summer 2022 titles



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BIOS & BOOKMARKS

SEASON 7

"A Change Is Gonna Come"



"A Change Is Gonna Come", the seventh season of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest's Bios & Bookmarks author interview series, is the opening movement of our 2022 virtual festival. We feature six Caribbean authors whose recent books of fiction, poetry, and non-fiction tackle questions of change — whether personal or collective, political or cultural — exploring the changes we are living through, and the changes we need in order to create a more just society. These six authors' words and ideas will lay the ground for our annual festival at the end of April.

Episodes livestream on **Thursdays at 6 pm TT time via Facebook and YouTube**, and are available for on-demand viewing immediately after.

17 March

The essay collection *Nature's Wild* by Trinidadian-Canadian artist and writer **Andil Gosine** explores Caribbean queer theory through legal evolution, visual arts practice, and grassroots activism. Hosted by **Shivane Ramlochan**

24 March

Longlisted for the 2022 OCM Bocas Prize, the poetry

collection *Zion Roses* by Jamaican **Monica Minott** moves between history, landscape, family experience, and art and music to question the meaning of "Black modernity." Hosted by **Akilah White**

31 March

In his new collection of essays *Things I Have Withheld* — non-fiction winner of the 2022 OCM Bocas Prize — **Kei Miller** asks why so many of the things we most need to say — about race, gender, nation, and desire — are obscured in silence. Hosted by **Stephen Narain**

7 April

In his debut novel *Velorio*, Puerto Rican writer **Xavier Navarro Aquino** uses the aftermath of Hurricane Maria to investigate the meaning of community, and what solidarity and hope can look like in the face of authoritarian power. Hosted by **Breanne Mc Ivor**

14 April

In his coming-of-age memoir *Bird Uncaged*, **Marlon Peterson** — born in the US to Trinidadian parents — describes the early trauma that led to his incarceration, and his work as an anti-violence and prison abolition activist following his release. Hosted by **Amílcar Sanatan**

21 April

In their new book of poems *Like a Tree, Walking, Forward* prizewinner **Anthony Vahni Capildeo** explores the poetics of the natural world, the politics of silence, and how spirituality feeds revolution. Hosted by **Shivane Ramlochan**

Bios & Bookmarks season 7 authors and hosts

Anthony Vahni Capildeo

is a Trinidadian Scottish writer of poetry and non-fiction. Capildeo's eight books and eight pamphlets include *Like a Tree, Walking* (Carcanet, 2021) and *The Dusty Angel* (Oystercatcher, 2021). Their interests include plurilingualism, traditional masquerade, and multidisciplinary collaboration. They are Writer in Residence and Professor at the University of York.

Andil Gosine is Professor of Environmental Arts & Justice at York University, Toronto. His scholarship and artistic and curatorial practices examine imbrications of ecology, desire, and migration, and include numerous publications and multimedia projects, including his recent book *Nature's Wild: Love, Sex and Law in the Caribbean*.

Breanne Mc Ivor was born and raised in Trinidad. In 2015, she won *The Caribbean Writer's* David Hough Literary Prize. *Where There Are Monsters*, her first short story collection, was published by Peepal Tree Press in 2019, and her novel *The God of Good Looks* will be published in 2023 by HarperCollins in the US and Penguin Random House in the UK.

Kei Miller was born in Jamaica in 1978 and has written several books across a range of genres. His 2014 poetry collection, *The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion*, won the Forward Prize for Best Collection; his 2017 novel, *Augustown*, won the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, the Prix Les Afriques, and the Prix Carbet de la Caraïbe et du Tout-Monde. He is currently a professor at the University of Miami.

Monica Minott is a chartered accountant and poet, author of the collections *Kumina Queen* and *Zion Roses*, longlisted for the 2022 OCM Bocas Prize. She has received two awards in the Jamaican National Book Development Council's annual literary competitions for book-length collections of her poetry, and she was awarded first prize in the *Small Axe* Literary Competition's Poetry Prize.

Stephen Narain was raised in Freeport, Bahamas, by Guyanese parents and moved to Miami at seventeen. He is the winner of the 2020 Bristol Short Story Prize, the *Small Axe* Literary Competition's Fiction Prize, and the Alice Yard Prize for Art Writing, among other awards. He is currently at work on his first work of fiction, as well as on a book of essays and conversations exploring the relationship between art-making and freedom.

Xavier Navarro Aquino was born and raised in Puerto Rico. His fiction has appeared in *Tin House*, *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*, and *Guernica*. *Velorio* is his debut novel. Aquino is currently an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame, where he teaches in the MFA programme.

Marlon Peterson, author of *Bird Uncaged: An Abolitionist's Freedom Song*, is the principal of The Precedential Group, a social justice consulting firm. He is host of the Decarcerated Podcast, a Senior Atlantic Fellow for Racial Equity, a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network, and a 2015 recipient of the Soros Justice Fellowship.

Shivane Ramlochan is an Indo-Caribbean poet and the author of *Everyone Knows I Am a Haunting* (Peepal Tree Press, 2017), shortlisted for the Felix Dennis Forward Prize for Best First Collection, and the forthcoming *Unkillable* (Noemi Press, 2023). The recipient of residencies and grants from Catapult Caribbean Arts, Bread Loaf, and Millay Arts, she lives in Las Lomas, Trinidad.

Amílcar Sanatan is a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. His poetry has appeared in *BIM Magazine*, *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies*, *The Caribbean Writer*, *Cordite Poetry Review*, *Gutter*, *Interviewing the Caribbean*, *Magma*, *Moko Magazine*, *PREE Lit*, *Sargasso*, and *Sinking City*.

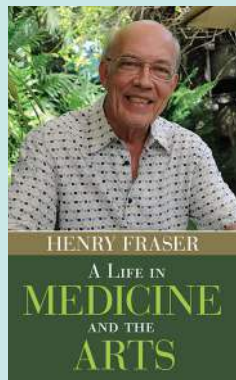
Akilah White is a Jamaican freelance book reviewer, beta reader, and bookstagrammer. Her writing has appeared in *The Book Slut*, *Rebel Women Lit Magazine*, *Inklette Magazine*, and *Intersect's Caribbean Queer Feminist Stories Vol 1*, among other venues. When she's not doomscrolling on Twitter you can find her in her online yard at @ifthisisparadise on Instagram.



Shabine and Other Stories

HAZEL SIMMONS-McDONALD

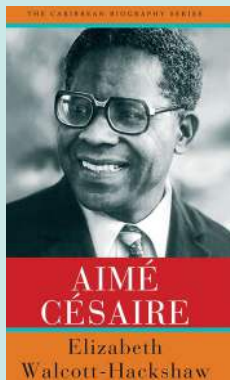
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HENRY FRASER

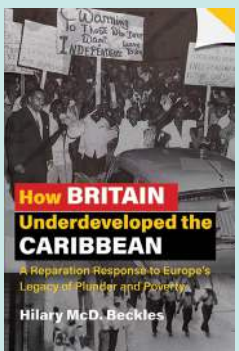
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Aimé Césaire

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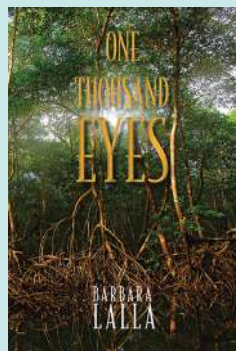


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One Thousand Eyes

BARBARA LALLA

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ISBN 9789766408206
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Caribbean Quarterly

A Journal of Caribbean Culture

Volume 67, Nos. 1–2
March–June 2021
Print ISSN 0008-6495
US\$20



PROGRAMME

Here in the Caribbean, like everywhere else in the world, we're living through a time of extraordinary change — social and cultural, technological and environmental. Two years of the COVID-19 pandemic have forced us to change the way we work and play, even our simplest daily routines. Meanwhile the threat of global climate change is looming, and recent events have compelled us to confront social inequalities in dire need of change. To survive, we need to adapt.

story of how ideas, stories, and words can change the world for the better, by focusing on some of the most vital books and authors of the past year.

All events will be livestreamed on YouTube, Facebook, and via the festival website, www.bocaslitfest.com.

THURSDAY 28 APRIL KNOW WHERE YOU COME FROM

To chart bold new directions, we need to understand where we're starting from. We open our 2022 festival with a focus on iconic Caribbean figures of the past who are still setting the agenda for the present and future.

6–6.05 pm

Our 2022 festival begins! As the livestream opens, enjoy some highlight clips from events of the past year and learn about some of our upcoming projects and programmes

6.05–6.10 pm

A welcome message from **Mark Loquan**, president of NGC, our title sponsor

6.10–6.25 pm Pavement Poets: 2022, a Year of Change

A rerun of the special-edition spoken word video event which launched the NGC Bocas Lit Fest's "season of change"! Five of T&T's most talented spoken word poets — **Derron Sandy, Dominique Friday, Kyle Hernandez, Gabrielle Murray, and Kleon McPherson** — share their hopes, concerns, and inspirations for 2022

6.30–7.45 pm The Point Is to Change the World

The Guyanese activist Andaiye (1942–2019) is considered one of the most transformative figures in the struggle for social and political rights in the post-Independence Caribbean. She was also a writer, and her essays, speeches, letters, and interviews have now been collected in the revitalising volume *The Point Is to Change the World*. Editor **Alissa Trotz** is joined by scholar-activists **Carole Boyce Davies, Honor Ford-Smith, and Sunity Maharaj** for a powerful conversation about Andaiye's legacies for today's Caribbean, and how the intersections of gender, race, and class will shape tomorrow's world

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7.45-7.55 pm

Required reading: Celebrating Miss Lou

The new anthology *100+ Voices for Miss Lou* brings together dozens of Jamaican and Caribbean writers and performers in tribute to the legendary Louise Bennett-Coverley (1919-2006). Editor **Opal Palmer Adisa** tells us why Miss Lou's words and ideas remain so powerfully compelling, with readings from poems by and about the late icon

8-9 pm

A Life Beyond the Boundaries

Writer, historian, philosopher, mentor: C.L.R. James (1901-1989) has shaped four generations of Caribbean and global scholars and activists, and his work seems more significant by the day. As a major new biography of the celebrated Trinidadian intellectual is finally published, biographer **John L. Williams** talks to scholar **Aaron Kamugisha** about James's relevance to our present dilemmas *In partnership with the Royal Society of Literature*

FRIDAY 29 APRIL
LITERATURE CHANGES EVERYTHING

Words, stories, and ideas, presented on the page or on the stage, aren't just about entertainment. Writers and books actually change minds, hearts, and lives.

6-6.25 pm

Stand and Deliver: Let's change the world

Our signature open-mic event is back! Writers from across T&T and the Caribbean share stories, poems, and spoken word pieces about the kinds of change the world needs. Hosted by **Jayron Remy**

6.30-8 pm

Poetry in a time of crisis

Disaster, war, economic emergency, revolution — even in times of crisis, poetry finds ways to thrive. A lineup of innovative poets from Puerto Rico — **Nicole Cecilia Delgado**, **Amanda Hernández**, and **Urayoán Noel** — share their work and ideas, and talk to **Ana Portnoy Brimmer** about the simple yet radical act of writing, translating, and publishing during times of social upheaval *In partnership with La Impresora*

8-8.30 pm

The Difference a Word Makes

A word can change your mind, break your heart, maybe even change the world. T&T writers **Akhim Alexis**, **Simone Leid**, and **Hadassah K. Williams** share specially commissioned new stories and poems about the awesome power of words

8.30-9.30 pm

BackChat 2022 Embracing Power, Making Change: Celebrating Caribbean LGBTQI+ Stories

A fixture of our in-person festival is back, in a new virtual format! This sizzling showcase brings together LGBTQI+ writers and artists from the Caribbean and diaspora. Featuring **Kei Miller**, **Shani Mootoo**, **Rosamond S. King**, **Rajiv Mohabir**, **Andre Bagoo**, **Deneka Thomas**, **Lesley-Ann Wanliss**, **Shivane Ramlochan**, **Angelique Nixon**, and **Willum Watts**, with musical performances by **Xoë Sazze** and **moon the artist**, and a presentation by artist **Arnaldo James**, hosted by **Phillip Alexander** *In partnership with CAISO, Novel Niche, Rebel Women Lit, and Intersect Antigua*

SATURDAY 30 APRIL
THIS STORY HAS NEVER BEEN TOLD

New voices and perspectives in Caribbean writing compel us to think about the untold stories of our past and present, what has been left out of our history, and what we still need to reckon with.

4.30-5 pm

Stand and Deliver: This story has never been told

Our signature open-mic event is back! Writers from across T&T and the Caribbean share stories, poems, and spoken word pieces about the truths we need to express, and the secrets we should no longer keep, with a few specially invited guests. Hosted by **Jayron Remy**

5-6 pm

Writing back

In their insightful new novels — *One Day*, *One Day*, *Congotay* and *The Mystic Masseur's Wife* — authors **Merle Hodge** and **J. Vijay Maharaj** “write back” to an earlier period of T&T's history, and to classic authors like Selvon and Naipaul who canonised a particular version of our history. How

do these books change the way we understand our social evolution? Hosted by **Amílcar Sanatan**

6-7 pm

A world made of stories
Ayanna Lloyd Banwo launches her acclaimed debut novel *When We Were Birds* in conversation with **Shivane Ramlochan**, and talks about the importance of storytelling in developing a sense of self and history

7-7.20 pm

Required reading: Sophie Jai and Mac Donald Dixon

Writers from T&T and St Lucia tell us about the background to their new novels, *Wild Fires* and *A Scream in the Shadows*, and the hidden stories demanding to be told

7.30-8.30 pm

Winners' row

It's the event Caribbean book lovers wait all year for! The winners of the 2022 OCM Bocas Prizes for poetry, fiction, and non-fiction — **Jason Allen-Paisant**, **Celeste Mohammed**, and **Kei Miller** — read from their books, introduced by judges **Mayra Santos-Febres**, **Shahidha Bari**, and **Godfrey Smith**, and chief judge **Roger Robinson** announces this

year's overall winner. Plus a tribute to the winners of the 2022 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award, **Funso Aiyejina** and **Merle Hodge**, and readings from work in progress by the two Bocas Emerging Writers Fellows for 2022, **Jannine Horsford** and **Rajiv Ramkhalawan**

SUNDAY 1 MAY
WRITE THE HARDEST LINES

Between the COVID-19 pandemic, resurgent global campaigns for social justice, and the growing climate emergency, the past two years have forced many of us to face hard realities and have difficult conversations. Our writers have led the way.

4.30-5 pm

Stand and Deliver: The time is now

Our signature open-mic event is back! Writers from across T&T and the Caribbean share stories, poems, and spoken word pieces reflecting on our most urgent questions and desires, personal and collective, with a few specially invited guests. Hosted by **Jayron Remy**

5–6 pm

Ways in the world

For writers **Chanda Prescod-Weinstein** and **Anita Sethi**, both members of the global Caribbean diaspora, the natural world — whether experienced via cutting-edge theoretical physics or a journey through the rural landscape — is a lens for understanding social identity, racism, the fight for equality, and other big ideas that shape our everyday lives. They discuss their new books of non-fiction with **Georgia Popplewell**

6–6.20 pm

Required reading: Tiffanie Drayton and Brandon O'Brien

Two writers from T&T talk about tackling difficult subjects and hard conversations in forms as diverse as journalistic memoir and speculative

poetry, in their books *Black American Refugee* and *Can You Sign My Tentacle?*

6.30–8 pm

The Big Idea: A future we can live with

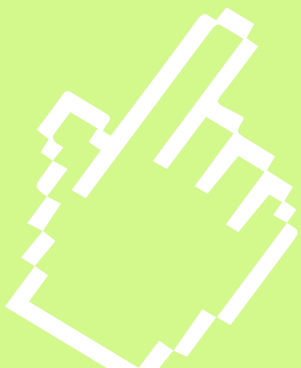
As scientific consensus on the existential crisis that is climate change grows, it's clearer than ever that countries with fossil energy-based economies have to reimagine how they fit into a net-zero world. Beyond the economics, Caribbean small island states remain on the frontlines of climate injustice, and must now reimagine what a good life can look like in a region with worsening storms, eroding shores, and dying reefs. For this "Big Idea" discussion, we bring together a panel of inter-generational activists and development experts to imagine a future path that's both practical and sustainable. Jamaican

activist, writer and filmmaker **Esther Figueroa**, Trinidadian activist and disruptor **Gillian Goddard**, and Trinidadian climate consultant **Ryan Assiu** join host **Omar Mohammed**, CEO of the Cropper Foundation *In partnership with the Cropper Foundation*

8–9 pm

Fierce as an island

2022 brings collected volumes by two of the most vital and insistent voices in Caribbean and world poetry, **Pamela Mordecai** and **Olive Senior**. Ranging from past to present, the personal to the collective, across landscapes both natural and human, their poems interrogate as keenly as they celebrate Caribbean realities. Our festival grand finale brings them together in conversation with poet **Canisia Lubrin**, winner of the 2021 OCM Bocas Prize



Funso Aiyejina, Nigeria-born and Trinidad-based since 1989, is the joint recipient of the 2022 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award. He is the retired Deputy Festival Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, a retired board director of the Bocas Lit Fest and former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at The UWI, St. Augustine, now Professor Emeritus. He won the 2000 Commonwealth Writers' Prize (Africa), is a widely published critic of African and Caribbean literature and a specialist on the work of Earl Lovelace. From 2000 to 2019 he co-ran the Cropper Foundation Writers Workshop, for Caribbean writers. His third poetry collection, *The Errors of the Rendering*, was published by Peepal Tree Press in 2020.

Phillipé Alexander is a content creator and curator of The People Man movement, which uses social media to advocate for social issues such as relationships and mental health, especially within the LGBTQ+ community.

Akhim Alexis won the Brooklyn Caribbean Lit Fest Elizabeth Nunez Award for Writers in the Caribbean. He was also a finalist for the Barry

Hannah Prize in Fiction and the Bocas Lit Fest's Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize. A Trinidadian with an MA in Literatures in English from The UWI, St. Augustine, his work has appeared and is forthcoming in *The Rumpus*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *The McNeese Review*, *Transition Magazine*, *Chestnut Review*, *Gordon Square Review*, *Moko Magazine*, *The Caribbean Writer*, and elsewhere.

Jason Allen-Paisant is a UK-based Jamaican poet and non-fiction writer. His recent work considers how we make sense of time, particularly in relation to the body, in light of African/diasporic history. He is Associate Professor in Aesthetic Theory and Decolonial Thought at the University of Leeds and directs its Institute for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies. He is the author of *Thinking with Trees* and of *Self-Portrait as Othello* (forthcoming from Carcanet Press) and is working on a memoir, *Primitive Child: On Blackness, Landscape, and Reclaiming Time*.

Ryan Assiu is Trinidadian and a qualified sustainable development climate change specialist, educator, and programme

coordinator. He has prepared technical documents and policies for companies, CSOs and governments throughout the Caribbean, and his writings focus on sharing his experiences and knowledge on a wide range of environmental topics relevant to Small Island Developing States (SIDS). He is currently a director at the consulting firm Advisors Next Door.

Andre Bagoo is an award-winning Trinidadian writer and author of several books of poetry including *Burn* (Shearsman, 2015) and *Pitch Lake* (Peepal Tree Press, 2017). He is a former newspaper journalist and his essay collection on art and literature, *The Undiscovered Country* (Peepal Tree Press, 2020), won the 2021 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, nonfiction.

Shahidha Bari is an academic, writer and broadcaster. She read English at the University of Cambridge and is now a professor at the University of the Arts, London. She presents BBC 2's flagship arts and culture programme, *Inside Culture*, and BBC Radio 3's nightly *Free Thinking* programme, also known as the Arts

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and Ideas podcast. She is the author of *Dressed: The Secret Life of Clothes* (2019), winner of The Observer Anthony Burgess Arts Journalism Prize 2016. She writes for *The Guardian*, *Times Literary Supplement* and *Frieze* magazine, and has judged the Forward Poetry Prizes and the Baillie Gifford Non-Fiction Prize.

Carole Boyce Davies is the author of *Left of Karl Marx. The Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones* (2008); *Black Women, Writing and Identity: Migrations of the Subject* (1994); and *Caribbean Spaces. Escape Routes from Twilight Zones* (2013) long-listed for the OCM Bocas Prize, 2013. She has published 13 critical works on African, African Diaspora and Caribbean literature and culture, including the 3-volume *Encyclopaedia of the African Diaspora* (Oxford: ABC-CLIO, 2008), *Claudia Jones Beyond Containment: Autobiographical Reflections, Poetry, Essays* (2011) and *Pan-African Connections* (2021). Her forthcoming book is *Black Women's Rights and the Circularities of Power* (2022). Her essays and reviews have been widely published internationally.

Nicole Cecilia Delgado is a Puerto Rican poet, translator, and book artist. Her most recent book *Adjacent Islands/ Islas adyacentes* is a bilingual poetry collection translated by Urayoán Noel, forthcoming from Ugly Duckling Presse in 2022. She is the founder and co-director of La Impresora, a poetry press, and the Risograph print shop, which is dedicated to small-scale editorial work and supporting local independent publishing in Puerto Rico. She is the 2022 Frank Riccio Artist-in-Residence at the Virginia Center for the Book/ Virginia Humanities.

Mac Donald Dixon is a St Lucian writer. Best known as a playwright, he is also an accomplished poet, painter and photographer. *A Scream in the Shadows* (Papillote Press, 2022) is his third novel.

Tiffanie Drayton is a US-born, Tobago-based journalist whose work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Vox*, *Marie Claire*, *Playboy*, *Salon*, *Complex*, and elsewhere. She has published two nonfiction young adult books, *Developing Political Leadership Skills* and *Coping with Gun Violence*, and most recently

published *Black American Refugee: Escaping the Narcissism of the American Dream* (2021).

Esther Figueroa is a Jamaican independent filmmaker, writer, linguist and environmentalist. Figueroa writes fiction, nonfiction, poetry and prose on a wide range of topics. Her novel *Limbo* (2014) was a finalist in the National Indie Excellence Awards for Multicultural Fiction. Previous publications include *Sociolinguistic Metatheory*, and *At Home the Green Remains*. Her most recent feature documentary *Fly Me to the Moon* (2019) is about modernity and the global aluminium industry.

Honor Ford-Smith is a Jamaican Canada-based scholar, theatre worker, poet and educator. She is co-founder and artistic director of Sistren (Sisters), a theatre collective of mainly working-class Jamaican women that works in community theatre and popular education. She researched, edited and contributed to Sistren's book *Lionheart Gal: Life Stories of Jamaican Women* (1986). Her poetry collection *My Mother's Last Dance* appeared in 1996. She is an Associate Professor in the Community

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Arts Practice programme, Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University, Toronto.

Dominique Friday is a Trinidadian artist. A University of the West Indies graduate in Theatre Art, she now dedicates herself to arts education. Currently, she is a Core Artist of the 2 Cents Movement, fostering self-expression and exchange among Trinbagonian youth.

Gillian Goddard is a Trinidadian systems thinker and community organiser engaged in instigating change in food and agriculture production and consumption. A graduate of Emory and Stanford universities in the USA, for 30 years she has gardened and farmed, indigenous style. She started a zero waste organic locavore vegan cafe in Trinidad, led raw food retreats in Miami Beach, kept chickens and rabbits, foraged in high desert west Texas, founded a Caribbean rural network of cocoa growing/chocolate producing communities, and recently convened the Cross Atlantic Chocolate Collective which spans 9 African and 6 Caribbean countries and African diaspora chocolate makers in the USA east and west coasts.

Amanda Hernández is a poet, editor, and co-director of La Impresora in Puerto Rico. She is the author of *La distancia es un lugar* (La Impresora, 2020); *Entre tanto amarillo* (2016); *El momento de las cosas* (2017); and *Estrategias atómicas* (2018). In 2019, she edited *Memoriza: poemas para aprenderse de memoria* — an anthology of contemporary Puerto Rican poetry. She studied Literature and Cultural Management at the University of Puerto Rico and in 2021 was named an inaugural Letras Boricuas Fellow by Flamboyán Foundation.

Kyle Hernandez is a writer and performer, with a BA in Theatre Arts (first class honours). He is the winner of The Motif Poetry Slam in Edinburgh, Scotland, and leverages his experience as a poet and award winning actor to write and direct productions across the Caribbean. His published work includes *ARON*, a BBC Radio 3 drama which premiered in the UK and at Carifesta in Trinidad and Tobago in 2019.

Merle Hodge, co-recipient of the 2022 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award for Distinguished Service to Caribbean letters, is a Trinidadian novelist and

retired lecturer at The UWI, St. Augustine. She also co-facilitated the Cropper Foundation Writers' Workshop. Her novels are *Crick Crack Monkey* (Deutsch, 1970), *The Life of Laetitia* (Farrar Straus Giroux, 1993), and *One Day, One Day, Congotay* (Peepal Tree Press, 2022).

Jannine Horsford was longlisted for the 2021 Bocas Lit Fest's Johnson and Amoy Aching Caribbean Writers' Prize. She received a Catapult Caribbean Arts Grant, and is a fellow of the inaugural Moko Magazine Poetry Masterclass, 2018, the 2016 Callaloo Writers' Workshop, and the Cropper Foundation Caribbean Writers' Workshop, 2014. Her poetry has appeared in *The Caribbean Writer*, *Caribbean Quarterly*, *The Manchester Review*, *Cordite Poetry Review*, *Moko Magazine*, *Magma*, and elsewhere.

Sophie Jai is a Trinidad-born writer. Her debut novel *Wild Fires* is published by HarperCollins in May 2022. The novel in progress was longlisted for the 2019 Bridport Prize Peggy Chapman-Andrews Award for a First Novel. Jai was a 2020 Writer-in-Residence and Visiting Fellow at the University of Oxford and



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AUTHORS & SPEAKERS

is a 2022 MSt in Creative Writing student there.

Arnaldo James is a Trinidadian visual artist, designer, project manager and curator. A graduate of The UWI and Cardiff Metropolitan University, his work has been exhibited internationally. He jointly received the 2017 James W Ray Venture Project Award and the 2021 Caribbean Development Bank's CIIF Biennial prize. His exhibition with Christopher Paul Jordan *In the Interim: Ritual Ground for a Future Black Archive* shows during May 2022 at the Frye Art Museum in the USA and he's developing "Compassionate States", a collaborative work exploring the impacts of statelessness on Indigenous and LGBTQIA Caribbean peoples.

Aaron Kamugisha is Ruth J. Simmons Professor of Africana Studies at Smith College. His current work is a study of coloniality, citizenship and freedom in the contemporary Anglophone Caribbean, mediated through the social and political thought of C.L.R. James and Sylvia Wynter. He is the editor of eight collections on Caribbean and Africana thought, including most recently *Caribbean Popular*

Culture: Power, Politics and Performance (2016) and the 2016 *Small Axe* special issue on Sylvia Wynter's *Black Metamorphosis*. He is a member of the editorial advisory board for the journals *Social and Economic Studies* and the *Journal of West Indian Literature*, and a member of the editorial collective of the journal *Small Axe: A Caribbean Journal of Criticism*.

Rosamond S. King is a critical and creative writer and performer. Her book *Island Bodies: Transgressive Sexualities in the Caribbean Imagination* was named "Best Book" by the Caribbean Studies Association. Her poetry publications include *All the Rage* and the Lambda Award-winning *Rock | Salt | Stone* and her essays have appeared in *LitHub*, *the Ms. blog*, *Sargasso*, *The Progressive*, *The Caribbean Review of Gender Studies*, and elsewhere. She is creative editor of *sx salon* and associate professor at Brooklyn College, City University of New York.

Nicholas Laughlin is festival and programme director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest and the former editor of *Caribbean Beat* and *The Caribbean Review of Books*. He has published

two books of poems, *The Strange Years of My Life* (Peepal Tree Press, 2015) and *Enemy Luck* (Peepal Tree Press, 2019). He is also co-director of Alice Yard, a contemporary art collective based in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Ayanna Lloyd Banwo is a UK-based Trinidadian novelist whose work has been published in *Moko Magazine*, *Small Axe*, *PREE*, *Callaloo*, *Anomaly* and elsewhere. She was shortlisted for the *Small Axe* Literary Competition and the *Wasafiri* New Writing Prize. Ayanna lives with her husband in London. *When We Were Birds* (Hamish Hamilton/Knopf Doubleday, 2022) is her first novel, and she is at work on her second. A UWI graduate, she holds an MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia, where she is now a Creative and Critical Writing PhD student.

Simone Leid is a Trinidadian writer. A fellow of the Cropper Foundation Caribbean Writers Workshop, she has published work in *Tongues of the Ocean*, *WomanSpeak Journal*, and *SX Salon*.

Mark Loquan, President of the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd. is a chemical engineer by

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profession, with over 30 years' experience in the petrochemical industry. He is also an award-winning composer of steelpan music and Honorary Founding Director of the NGO Music Literacy Trust.

Canisia Lubrin is a writer, editor, teacher and critic. Frequently anthologised, her work has been translated into Spanish and Italian. Her poetry collection *Voodoo Hypothesis* received several prize nominations, and her latest book *The Dyzgraphxst* won the 2021 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, the Windham-Campbell Prize, and the Griffin Poetry Prize. She holds an MFA from University of Guelph and teaches College English, and Creative Writing at the University of Toronto.

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

J. Vijay Maharaj is a Trinidadian writer and lecturer at The UWI, St. Augustine, specialising in cultural identity and cultural citizenship in Caribbean Studies. Her essays have

appeared in many journals, including *Anthurium*, *Tout Moun*, and *The Journal of West Indian Literature*. *The Mystic Masseur's Wife* (Peepal Tree Press, 2022) is her first novel.

Kleon McPherson, is a Tobagonian spoken word artist who appeared in the "Machel Monday" and the Tobago Jazz Festival. His spoken word film "Back in Times" received the 2019 Carmichael Award for Exceptional Storytelling at the Barbados Independent Film Festival and in 2021 he was awarded the prestigious Tobago Medal of Honour for Culture and Community Service. He is the recipient of the Elsa Goveia Scholarship to pursue his PhD.

Kei Miller is a Jamaica-born multi-genre writer. His essay collection *Things I Have Withheld* (Canongate/Grove Press, 2021) is the non-fiction winner of the 2022 OCM Bocas Prize, and his 2017 novel, *Augustown* (Pantheon), won the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, the Prix Les Afriques, and the Prix Carbet de la Caraïbe et du Tout-Monde. His 2014 poetry collection *The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion* (Carc Janet) won the Forward Prize for Best Collection. In 2010,

the Institute of Jamaica awarded him the Silver Musgrave medal for his contributions to Literature and in 2018 he received the Anthony Sabga medal for Arts & Letters. He is currently a professor at the University of Miami.

Rajiv Mohabir is an Indo-Caribbean American poet and the translator of *I Even Regret Night: Holi Songs of Demerara*, which won the 2020 Academy of American Poets' Harold Morton Landon Translation Award and a Hindi Language Fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies. His poetry collection *The Cowherd's Son* won the 2015 Kundiman Prize, and *The Taxidermist's Cut* (2016) won the Four Way Books Intro Prize in Poetry. The poetry collection *Cutlisch* and the memoir *Antiman* appeared in 2021.

Celeste Mohammed is a Trinidadian lawyer-turned-writer. Her 2021 debut novel-in-stories *Pleasantview* is the fiction winner of the 2022 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. She also won a 2018 PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers, the 2019 Virginia Woolf Award for Short Fiction, and the 2017 John D Gardner Memorial

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Prize for Fiction. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Lesley University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Omar Mohammed is CEO of the Cropper Foundation, after being its Programme Officer in Education for Sustainable Development for 5 years. During his original tenure at the Foundation, he also coordinated the first Latin American/Caribbean Hub of the Sub-Global Assessment Network, the follow up global programme of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

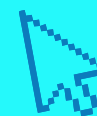
moon the artist is a two-spirit multidisciplinary creative known as a musician, writer, entrepreneur, visual artist, and tattooist. Born on Turtle Island to Jamaican parents, they are currently based in Kingston, Jamaica, and prefer to speak through music, art, and poetry. As a writer, moon explores identity through themes of culture, spirituality, race, sexuality, love, and the myriad ways they intersect.

Shani Mootoo, is an Ireland-born, Trinidadian writer who is now Canada-based. She established herself as a painter and video producer before turning her talents to writing. Her first novel *Cereus Blooms at Night*

established her as a literary figure to watch. In 2017, she was co-winner of the Jim Duggins, PhD Outstanding Mid-Career Novelist Prize of the Lambda Literary organisation. She has returned to non-literary arts but has not abandoned writing, having published the novel *Polar Vortex* in 2020.

Pamela Mordecai has published/co-published over 30 books, including textbooks, anthologies, poetry and fiction for adults and children, and (with her late husband, Martin) a reference work on Jamaica. She has been a teacher, teacher trainer, TV anchorperson, editor, newspaper columnist and publisher and has written on Caribbean literature, language teaching, education, and publishing. She lives in Toronto.

Gabrielle Murray, aged 17, is a rising spoken word artist from Tobago. She is a youth leader at her church, an active member of many clubs and is a musician and singer, well known on local television. She was 2nd overall in Tobago for the 2016 SEA exams and placed 6th on the CXC merit list for Spanish.



Angelique V. Nixon (she/her) is a Black queer feminist writer, artist, scholar, activist and a director of CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice. Her research and creative work are available widely; she is author of two books — the poetry and art chapbook titled *Saltwater Healing: Myth Memoir & Poems* and the scholarly book *Resisting Paradise: Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture*, winner of the Caribbean Studies Association's 2016 Barbara T. Christian Award. She teaches at The UWI Institute for Gender and Development Studies, St. Augustine.

Urayoán Noel is the Puerto Rican author of eight books of poetry, most recently *Transversal* (University of Arizona Press), which was longlisted for the PEN Open Book Award and named a Book of the Year by the New York Public Library. As a translator of Latin American poetry, he has been a finalist for the National Translation Award and the Best Translated Book Award. His international performances include Poesiefestival Berlin, Barcelona Poesia, and the Toronto Biennial of Art, and his work has been exhibited at the Museum of the City of New York and

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published in the New York Times. He teaches at New York University and Stetson University's MFA of the Americas.

Brandon O'Brien is a Trinidadian writer, performance poet, teaching artist and game designer. His work has been published in *Uncanny Magazine*, *Fireside Magazine*, *Strange Horizons*, *Reckoning*, and *New Worlds*, *Old Ways: Speculative Tales from the Caribbean*, among others. He is the former Poetry editor of the Hugo Award-winning magazine *FIYAH: A Magazine of Black Speculative Fiction*. His debut poetry collection is *Can You Sign My Tentacle?* (Interstellar Flight Press, 2022).

Opal Palmer Adisa, writer, gender specialist, and cultural activist, is the former University Director of The Institute for Gender and Development Studies, RCO at The UWI. She has published 22 collections, including essays, novels, short stories, poetry and children's books and been widely anthologised. The authorised children's biography of Portia Simpson Miller, Jamaica's first female Prime Minister, *Portia Dreams*, was published in 2021 and

her new story poems *The Storyteller's Return* appears in 2022. She is the editor of 100+ *Voices For Miss Lou: Poetry, Tributes, Interviews & Essays* (The UWI Press, 2021), and editor-in-chief of the journals *Interviewing the Caribbean* and *Caribbean Conjunctures*.

Georgia Popplewell is a Trinidadian writer and media producer and managing director of the international citizen media project Global Voices. She has worked in independent media since 1989 and has written extensively on culture, music, film and sport. In 2005, she started Caribbean Free Radio, the Caribbean's first podcast.

Ana Portnoy Brimmer is a Puerto Rican poet. *To Love an Island*, her debut poetry collection, won the YesYes Books' 2019 Vinyl 45 Chapbook Contest. She also won the 92Y Discovery Poetry Contest 2020 and was named one of *Poets & Writers'* 2021 debut poets. Her work has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Society and Space*, *Sixth Finch*, *Periódico de Poesía-UNAM*, *Foundry Journal*, *Sx Salon*, *The Breakbeat Poets Volume 4: LatiNEXT*, *Aftershocks of Disaster: Puerto Rico Before and After the Storm*, and *Centro*

Journal, and elsewhere. She holds a BA and an MA in English Literature from the University of Puerto Rico, and is an alumna of the MFA programme in Creative Writing at Rutgers University-Newark.

Chanda Prescod-Weinstein is an assistant professor of physics and astronomy and core faculty in women's and gender studies at the University of New Hampshire. She is also a columnist for *New Scientist* and *Physics World*. Her research in theoretical physics focuses on cosmology, neutron stars, and dark matter. She also does research in Black feminist science, technology, and society studies. *Nature* magazine named her one of the 10 people who shaped science in 2020, and *Essence* named her one of "15 Black Women Who Are Paving the Way in STEM and Breaking Barriers". She is the author of *The Disordered Cosmos: A Journey into Dark Matter, Spacetime, and Dreams Deferred*, longlisted for the 2022 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, Non-fiction.

Rajiv Ramkhalawan is an Attorney-at-Law and writer based in Trinidad and Tobago. He won *The*

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Caribbean Writer's 2020 Cecile de Jongh Literary Prize. He was shortlisted for the Beacon Street Prize and the Perito Prize and longlisted for the BCLF Elizabeth Nunez Award for Writers in the Caribbean, and the Fish Short Story Prize. He also received a regional award from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. His most recent short fiction appears in *Joyland*, *The Los Angeles Review*, *Litro Magazine*, and *The London Magazine*.

Shivane Ramlochan is a Trinidadian poet and essayist. Her book of poems *Everyone Knows I Am a Haunting* (Peepal Tree Press, 2017) was shortlisted for the 2018 Felix Dennis Forward Prize for Best First Collection. "*The Red Thread Cycle*", a suite of poems from her debut collection, won a *Small Axe* Literary Competition Prize for Poetry (second-place). She is an alumna of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Millay Arts, and Catapult Caribbean Arts Grant. Her second book, *Unkillable*, a nonfiction narrative of Indo-Caribbean women's disobedience in Trinidad, is forthcoming from Noemi Press.

Jayron "Rawkus" Remy's broad industry experience includes performance, project, event and artist management; product, brand and artist development and radio and television broadcasting. He uses music too for social and community based initiatives, including activities for dancers, actors and emerging artists, assisting in their holistic development and creating opportunities for their success as professionals in the creative and cultural industries.

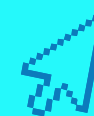
Roger Robinson is a writer and performer who lives between London and Trinidad. His book *A Portable Paradise* (Peepal Tree Press) won the prestigious T. S. Eliot Prize (2019), and his first collection, *The Butterfly Hotel*, was shortlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize, Poetry. He is the lead vocalist for King Midas Sound whose critically acclaimed debut album *Waiting for You* was released on Hyperdub Records in 2009.

Marina Salandy-Brown is the Bocas Lit Fest founder, former Festival Director, and current President. She is a former publishing and broadcast editor and is a long-standing *T&T Newsday*

columnist. Her writing has appeared in international journals, magazines and anthologies, most recently in the *New Daughters of Africa international anthology* (edited by Margaret Busby, Myriad, 2019).

Amílcar Sanatan is a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies at The UWI, St. Augustine. His poetry has appeared in *BIM Magazine*, *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies*, *The Caribbean Writer*, *Cordite Poetry Review*, *Gutter*, *Interviewing the Caribbean*, *Magma*, *Moko Magazine*, *PREE Lit*, *Sargasso* and *Sinking City*. He is an alumnus of the Obsidian Foundation's Writers' Retreat (United Kingdom, 2020) and the Cropper Foundation's Caribbean Creative Writers' Residential Workshop (Trinidad and Tobago, 2019). He has performed spoken word poetry and coordinated open mics for over a decade.

Derron Sandy is a leading spoken word artist. A five-time finalist at the First Citizens National Poetry Slam, he is the current champion after winning the National Slam title in 2021. He is creative director (theatre and film), and a performance poetry teacher with over 10 years



of experience in workshop curriculum design, coaching and performance evaluation. His work was published in Indianapolis and he was longlisted for the Bocas Lit Fest's Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize.

Mayra Santos-Febres is a prizewinning Puerto Rican writer, literary critic, and academic. She is the author of several highly regarded volumes of poetry, including *Anamú Y Manigua* (1990), *El Orden Escapado* (1991), *Boat People* (1994), *Tercer Mundo* (2004), *Huracanada* (2018), and *Lecciones De Renuncia* (2021). She has won many prestigious awards and recognitions, including the 1st prize for poetry in the Revista Triptico (1991).

Xoë Sazzle is an artist, activist, communicator, digital dreamer, contemporary collaborator, and Caribbean queen. Her activism for the past seven years in Trinidad has included performing as drag queen Mizz Jinnay and creating safe spaces for queer people. She previously served as co-chair of PrideTT, an organization that galvanized the first public Pride parade in 2018. She has also served as the

Community Liaison Officer for the Trinidad and Tobago Transgender Coalition. Currently pursuing a BA in Women's and Gender Studies at Columbia University in NYC, Xoë plans on leveraging her Ivy League education while bolstering her community resources to further the work that has begun in the area of claiming legal rights and recognition for the trans community in particular in T&T.

Olive Senior, Jamaica's current Poet Laureate (2021-2024), is the award-winning author of 18 books of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, children's literature and other published work. Her many awards include Canada's Writers Trust Matt Cohen Award for Lifetime Achievement, the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, the Commonwealth Writers Prize, an honorary doctorate from the University of the West Indies and the Gold Medal of the Institute of Jamaica. Her work has been taught internationally and is widely translated. She is from Jamaica and lives in Toronto, Canada, but returns frequently to the Caribbean which remains central to her work.

Anita Sethi was born in the UK of Guyanese ancestry and is the author of the acclaimed book *I Belong Here: A Journey Along the Backbone of Britain* (Bloomsbury Wildlife, 2021). *I Belong Here* has been described as "a magnificent and redemptive achievement" by *The Bookseller*, "a memoir of rare power" by the *UK Guardian*, and "an amazing odyssey: inspiring, powerful, encouraging and incredibly brave" by the *Independent*. It won the Books Are My Bag Readers Award.

Godfrey Smith is the author of *The Assassination of Maurice Bishop*, published in 2020 by Ian Randle Publishers, Jamaica. He is an attorney at law, a retired politician, former Attorney General of Belize, and a successful biographer. His *George Price: A Life Revealed* won the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, Non-fiction. *Michael Manley: The Biography* was published in 2016 by Ian Randle Publishers.

Deneka Thomas (they/them) is a writer, performance poet, and arts educator. Their work explores and examines issues surrounding queerness, womanhood

and the environment as it relates to the Caribbean perspective and experience. Deneka is the 2018 National Slam Champion and was 2nd runner up in 2019. They founded Bacano Leaf and curate monthly events such as open mics and writing & performance workshops, using spoken word poetry to encourage young people to tell their own stories, celebrate diverse narratives and inspire conversations around various topics.

Alissa Trotz is Professor of Caribbean Studies at New College and Director of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto. She is also affiliate faculty at the Dame Nita Barrow Institute of Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados. She is editor of the anthology *The Point Is to Change the World: Selected Writings by Andaiye* (Pluto Press Black Critique Series, 2020) and co-editor with Arif Bulkan of *Unmasking the State: Politics, Society and Economy in Guyana 1992-2015* (Ian Randle Publishers, 2019). She is editor of *In the Diaspora*, a weekly newspaper column in the Guyanese daily *Stabroek News*.

Lesley-Ann Wanliss is CEO of L.A. Wanliss Editing and Consultancy and author of the poetry e-chapbook *imago*. She is completing her MFA in Creative Writing at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. She was the recipient of the CARICOM-CANADA Emerging Leaders Scholarship and was the first Visiting Researcher in the MFA programme at The University of Guelph. She is published in *JamaicaEats*, *Cordite Poetry Review*, *Susumba Bag*, *The Caribbean Writer*, and *Jamaica Journal*. She was also the recipient of the Second Place Prize in the UWI Short Story Competition, and in the short fiction component of the *Small Axe* Literary Competition.

Willum Watt is an artist who uses natural mediums, photography, floristry, making music, exploring nature, writing poetry, and working towards helping environment and culture collaborate to build a diverse and lively Caribbean. His work also involves building a community around LGBTQ+ rights and lived experiences, Black history, and the power of artistic expression.

Hadassah K. Williams is a Trinidadian writer and the winner of the first BCLF Elizabeth Nunez Award for Writers in the Caribbean. In 2018, her story "Nerves" was shortlisted for the Cosmonauts Avenue Fiction Prize and in 2019 she won a scholarship to the Faber and Faber Academy. A mentee of prizewinning novelists Earl Lovelace and Monique Roffey, she is working on her first novel. Her writing appears in *Moko Magazine* and *Interviewing the Caribbean*. Her story "Cascadura" appears in the 2016 Peekash Press anthology *New Worlds Old Ways: Speculative Tales from the Caribbean*, edited by Karen Lord.

John L. Williams is a Welsh biographer, novelist, and crime writer of Caribbean ancestry. His non-fiction includes his account of the Cardiff Three miscarriage of justice case *Bloody Valentine* (2021), and his biography of his fellow Cardiffian *Miss Shirley Bassey* (2010), named the music book of the year by *The Times*. He is the co-founder and literary director of the Laugharne Weekend Festival in west Wales.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Access on-demand content for children on our new YouTube channel, launching on 30 April, 2022!

Our new YouTube channel for young audiences is a dedicated home for engaging children's videos inspired by Caribbean writing, with a diverse and entertaining selection that includes book read-alouds, animated stories, storytelling, performances, author interviews, and more — tailored for children ages 12 and under.

From 30 April, children can watch and re-watch videos from this year's festival programme, or dive into playlists of videos produced over the years by the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest, keeping them engaged in Caribbean words, stories, and ideas during screen-time.

Make sure to subscribe to our new children's YouTube channel to get notifications about our growing library of children's content — **stay tuned for the channel link on 30 April!**



NGC
Children's
Bocas
Lit Fest

2022 CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME
Available from
30 April on YouTube

Young Author Showcase:
Featuring Kai-De Alexis,
Naila Baynes, Coryn
Clarke, and Mila Smith

"Why fit in when you were born to stand out?"

— Dr. Seuss

Is there a specific age when you can become a writer? Nope! Are grown-ups the only ones who "know things"? Nope! Authors Kai-De Alexis (*My Hair Journey*), Naila Baynes (*Open Your Heart*), Coryn Clarke (*Chronicles of Coryn*), and Mila Smith (*This is Mila*) may be young, but they have powerful, inspiring stories to share with their friends, and the whole world. Host Osei Blake introduces us to some of Trinidad and Tobago's youngest published authors, and they offer us a sneak peek at their books!



You Tube

"Can Bears Ski?":
Storytime with author
Raymond Antrobus

In partnership with The Trinidad and Tobago Association for the Hearing Impaired (TTAHI). Sign Language will be provided for this event.
Can Bears Ski? (Walker Books) is the debut children's book from award-winning poet Raymond Antrobus that tracks a father-and-son journey into the discovery of deafness. Boy Bear cannot hear Dad Bear coming to wake him up in the morning but he can feel the floor vibrate with his heavy footsteps. He can only grasp little bits of what his teacher says to him at school. And, all the time, Boy Bear keeps hearing the question, "Can bears ski?". What does it mean? The author shares from his own experiences and reads Boy Bear's story, then we'll have a basic sign language tutorial with the TTAHI

Folklore & Fairies:
Storytime with authors
Tracey Baptiste & Liseanne
Martin-Subero

If you're brave enough to go out after dark looking for a jumbie, then you can come along on a fun romp through a forest filled with folklore creatures in *Looking for a Jumbie* by Tracey Baptiste (Balzer + Bray)! But don't worry, not all forest creatures are as creepy as jumbies — some of them are like Zoe the Fairy, who's taking us to explore the sensory wonders of Maracas Beach in the picture book *Zoe the Fairy's Discoveries: A Visit to Maracas Beach* by Liseanne Martin-Subero. *To stay on the folklore theme, check out the animation "Lagahoo in the Lagoon", a spooky tale written by children of Mayaro during NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Storytelling Caravan!*

"Little John Crow":
Storytime with authors
Ziggy & Orly Marley

Reggae icon Ziggy Marley and his wife Orly introduce us to their character Little John Crow, a young vulture (corbeau) growing up in Bull Bay on the edge of the Blue Mountains in Jamaica who embarks on a journey of self-discovery when he is abandoned by his friends. Filled with humour and memorable characters, *Little John Crow* (Akashic Books) reminds us of the

importance of accepting our differences and shows us that life offers a place and purpose for all of us — even scary scavengers!

"How to become a Calypsonian": Storytime with the Mighty Glen Glen

Do you love to sing and dance? Do you like to put on a good show? And how do you feel about glitzy costumes? Follow the six steps in the book *How to Become a Calypsonian* by Desryn Collins (Collins Big Cat) and the calypso crown could be in your reach! Join the book's main character the Mighty Glen Glen — narrated by actor Aija Jerome — for a book read-aloud, and meet musician Aaron Duncan, who started his career in Junior Calypso Monarch and is now making viral soca tunes!

The Jungle Outside:
Exploring and Creating from Nature with Danielle Boodoo-Fortune

Our Caribbean landscape is an artist's dream — we challenge you to walk outside and see what colours, textures, shapes and size materials you can find just a stone's throw from your window! In this video tutorial, artist Danielle Boodoo-Fortune, the illustrator of Joanne C. Hillhouse's children's book *The Jungle Outside* (Collins Big Cat), shows us how to create art inspired by our lush tropical environment.

After this tutorial, you can continue to explore nature with a story set in our Caribbean landscape — check out the animation "Rock Fishing at Bloody Bay" written by children of Tobago during the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Storytelling Caravan!

"The Most Magnificent":
Storytime with authors
Jeunanne Alkins and
Neala Bhagwansingh

You're invited on a historical journey with authors Jeunanne Alkins and Neala Bhagwansingh to discover which of the seven monumental houses along the Queen's Park Savannah earns the title of The Most Magnificent! Join Anita Chandradath Singh, as Mrs. Mille Fleurs, for a delightful read-aloud from this new picture book, and explore the last hundred years through the eyes of Mrs. Mille Fleurs, Professor QRC, Lady Hayes Court, Dr. Roomor, The Archbishop, Minister Whitehall, and Sir Stollmeyer. Together we'll discover what makes these buildings special — is it looks, size, age, or the people who lived in them? — and with that knowledge you can go on a mission to determine the most magnificent in your neighbourhood!

Lost at Carnival:
Storytime with the author
Gail Morong

With fancy costumes and big crowds, Trinidad Carnival is full of colour,

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

music and excitement! In *Lost at Carnival* by Gail Morong, the mas is captured in stunning watercolour illustrations by artist Jackie Hinkson, and we meet Akil, a young boy who gets lost when he is separated from his school band. This important story is both a vibrant celebration of our culture and a valuable lesson about being safe in public events. *To stay on the festival theme, check out the animations "Lost in J'ouvert" written by children of Port-of-Spain and "Drama at the Tobago Heritage Festival" written by children of Tobago during the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Storytelling Caravan!*

Our Covid Stories: Award-winning stories by children of Trinidad and Tobago

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we all went into lockdown at the same time — but did we all feel the same things? Don't miss this special playlist of original stories written by children ages five to twelve, all finalists in Dragonzilla's Short Story Writing Challenge. The stories cross over many genres, some exploring pandemic life through fantasy and others with stark realism; full of words brimming with big emotions, revealing hope and resilience and often sprinkling life with a

sense of humour. These stories give a glimpse into the emotions and experiences of 2020 and 2021 by brilliant young writers – creating an invaluable record for future generations as well as a treasure trove of entertaining stories written for children, by children! Don't miss these top stories: "The Big Fight" by Josse Franco; "A Familiar Prison" by David Ryan, and "Finger Lickin' Freedom" and "The Great Depression" by Josh Hansraj.

Dragonzilla's Storytime

Experience the magic of Dragonzilla's Storytime, where stories written by children are dramatised on screen by some of the best storytellers in the Caribbean! Since 2011, our storytelling caravan has travelled across the country, guiding children in how to craft their own stories. These unique stories are transcribed and published in books — and now made into videos too!

Dragonzilla is the mascot of the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest. This smiling friendly dragon helps children to develop a love for reading, writing and storytelling.



CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL AUTHORS, SPEAKERS, AND PERFORMERS

Kai-De Alexis is a 9-year old poet from Trinidad and Tobago. Her poem appears in the anthology *Unyielding Roots: What is your hair story?* edited by Kiana Davis, in which she shares her message that "my hair doesn't make me pretty, I was pretty all along." Kai-De enjoys gymnastics, photography, reading and playing with her dog Bella.

Jeunanne Alkins is a prize-winning creative director, author/illustrator and Design Lecturer at the University of the West Indies. Merging her graphic style and character-driven storytelling, Jeunane's mission is to spark curiosity through stories about the environment, heritage and culture. She founded the design studio Everything Slight Pepper in 2010 and has written, designed, and produced three titles for the Bright Eyed brand, including *The Most Magnificent*, co-authored with Neala Bhagwansingh.

Raymond Antrobus is a Londoner of English and Jamaican parentage. He won the Ted Hughes Award and was the first poet to receive the Rathbones Folio Prize.

His debut children's picture book *Can Bears Ski?* is illustrated by Polly Dunbar and published in the UK by Walker Books (2021) and in the US/Canada by Candle Wick Press (2020). It was an Ezra Jack Keats honouree winner in 2021 and in 2022 it was selected for a Read For Empathy (primary) Collection Award. Raymond is an advocate for many D/deaf charities including Deaf Kidz International and National Deaf Children's Society.

Naila Baynes, aged 7, is a first-time author. Her book *Open Your Heart* encourages readers to experience life and embrace its many possibilities. Naila loves to dance, sing and express herself creatively. She embodies the principles of love and kindness, and wants to use her writing to help make the world a better place.

Tracey Baptiste is the New York Times bestselling author of *Minecraft: The Crash* and the popular *Jumbies* series, including *The Jumbies*, *Rise of the Jumbies*, and *The Jumbie God's Revenge*. Her recent books include *Looking For a Jumbie*, *African Icons: Ten People Who Shaped History* and *Because Claudette*. She teaches in the MFA program at Lesley University. Find Tracey online at www.traceybaptiste.com

and connect on Twitter @traceybaptiste and Instagram @traceybaptistewrites.

Neala Bhagwansingh, co-author of *The Most Magnificent* is Trinidadian and was shortlisted for a 2022 Bocas Emerging Writers Fellowship. Her poems and short stories have appeared in *The Caribbean Writer*, *Small Axe* and *Susumba's Bookbag*. She is an alumna of The Cropper Foundation Caribbean Writers' Workshop (2014 & 2019), and The Drawing Room Project's Writers' Workshop (Jamaica, 2017). In 2014, Neala founded Write Club, a peer-review writing group and is currently working on her debut poetry collection.

Osei Blake is a young Trinidadian actor who has appeared in the Necessary Arts Productions *LadyBug Mini Movie* as Berry the Bee (2021), in *Nikkiland* as Raggarmuffin (2019), *Social Disorder* (2019) and *Arrest These Merry Gentlemen* (2018). Since successfully performing the leading role of "Joe Sabbath" in his primary school play, he has honed his skills with Necessary Arts, under his renowned mentor, Ms. Penelope Spencer.

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, the Wasafiri New Writing Prize, and the 2019 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature for Poetry for her debut collection *Doer Songs*. Her poetry is featured in the bilingual anthology *The Sea Needs No Ornament*, edited by Loretta Collins Klobah and Maria Grau Perejoan. She is the illustrator of several books, including the children's books *Lost! A Caribbean Sea Adventure* (CaribbeanReads) and *The Jungle Outside* (HarperCollins), both written by Joanne C. Hillhouse.

Anita Chandradath Singh has a longstanding career in many aspects of the arts. Born in India, Trinidad is her home by marriage and she is well-known for her career writing, directing and anchoring several landmark productions on TTT and TV6. Anita is the narrator of the children's picture book *The Most Magnificent* by Jeunanne Alkins and Neala Bhagwansingh.

Coryn Anaya Clarke is a 6-year old Trinidadian author of three books – *Chronicles of Coryn: 7 Days of Fun* about her talents and favourite activities, *Chronicles of Coryn: Adventures in Saint Kitts and*

Nevis and *Chronicles of Coryn: Gratitude Journal and Activity Book* to encourage other children to express their emotions and be thankful for the good things in their lives. She plans to write many more!

Desryn T. A. Collins, the Guyana-born, Antigua-resident author of *How to Become a Calypsonian* (HarperCollins) is passionate about the power of books to transform lives and help children discover their own voices. She holds an MA in English from UCL, University of London, and is currently Education Officer for Language Arts in St John's, Antigua.

Aaron Duncan is a musical artiste from Trinidad and Tobago. He won his first title at the age of six years old. He is a two-time National Junior Soca Monarch winner, five-time National Junior Chutney Soca Monarch winner, a four-time National Junior Calypso Monarch winner and the youngest soca artiste to compete in the International Soca Monarch finals.

Josse Franco is a talented young writer. In 2020, his short story "The Big Fight" won the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest's Dragonzilla's Short Story Writing Challenge in the 9-12 age category.

Josh Hansraj is a two-time winner of the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest's Dragonzilla's Short Story Writing Challenge. In 2020 his story "The Great Depression" won in the 5-8 age category, and in 2021 his story "Finger Lickin' Freedom" won the 9-12 age category.

Aija Jerome is a 10 year old Trinidadian actor and narrator of the book *How to Become a Calypsonian* by Desryn Collins. In 2021, Aija appeared in two short films, as Sheldon in "Covid is Christmas", written and directed by Penelope Spencer, and as Junior in "Goodbye Pa" written by Ronald Amoroso and directed by DMAD Company. Follow Aija and his brothers on Instagram @jeromebros.

Orly Marley is an Israeli-born entrepreneur and music manager. She is the co-author of *Little John Crow*, with her husband Ziggy Marley.

Ziggy Marley is an eight-time GRAMMY Award winner, Emmy Award winner, author, philanthropist, and reggae icon. He has released thirteen albums to much critical acclaim, and is the author of the children's books *I Love You Too*, *My Dog Romeo*, *Music Is in Everything*, and *Little John Crow* co-authored with his wife Orly Marley.

Liseanne Martin-Subero is the founder and Chief Designer of Phixate Studios, a Trinidad-based graphic design company. *Zoe the Fairy's Discoveries — A trip to Maracas Beach* is the first of many projects she both authored and illustrated. She aims to highlight places of interest in Trinidad and Tobago in her upcoming adventures and hopes her books will help build lifetime bonds between parents and their children.

Gail Morong spent 37 years as an educator in both Trinidad and Tobago and Canada. Her main goals are to promote the educational value of the arts and produce culturally relevant resources for learners of all ages. Her children's book, published in 2015, *Lost at Carnival* is illustrated by Jackie Hinkson.

David Ryan, a standard three student at Diego Martin Government Primary School, won first place in the 5-8 age category of the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest 2021 Dragonzilla Short Story Writing Challenge with his story "A Familiar Prison".

Mila Smith is a 10-year old girl with dyslexia from Trinidad and Tobago. She is a baker with her own baking business, an avid skateboarder, an exceptional artist, a self-proclaimed fashionista and now an author. *This is Mila*, published in 2021, tells the true story of a little girl struggling to read and write. Instead of focusing on this difference, Mila, the author and the book's main character, channels her energy into her special and amazing qualities.



OCM BOCAS PRIZE FOR CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

Presented annually since 2011, the OCM Bocas Prize — sponsored by One Caribbean Media, the largest media organisation in the Caribbean — is considered the most prestigious award for Caribbean writers. It recognises the best books of poetry, fiction, and literary non-fiction published in the previous calendar year by an author of Caribbean birth or citizenship.

The OCM Bocas Prize has two stages. First, the judging panels — made up of distinguished Caribbean and international writers and literature professionals — select the best book in each of the three genre categories. These winners then compete for the overall Prize.

The overall winner of the 2022 Prize will be announced on Saturday 30 April, during a virtual award ceremony in the festival programme, and will be awarded the sum of US\$10,000. The other two category winners in each genre will receive US\$3,000.

The 2022 judging panel is chaired by **Roger Robinson**, Trinidadian-British writer, winner of the 2019 T.S. Eliot Prize.

The 2021 OCM Bocas Prize Longlist

POETRY

Thinking with Trees
by Jason Allen-Paisant
(Carcanet Press)

What Noise Against the Cane
by Desiree C. Bailey
(Yale University Press)

Zion Roses
by Monica Minott
(Peepal Tree Press)

FICTION

What Storm, What Thunder
by Myriam J.A. Chancy
(Harper Perennial)

How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps Her House
by Cherie Jones
(Little, Brown/Tinder Press)

Pleasantview
by Celeste Mohammed
(Iq Publishing/Jacaranda Books)

NON-FICTION

Cuba: An American History
by Ada Ferrer (Scribner)

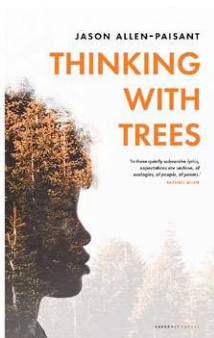
Things I Have Withheld
by Kei Miller
(Grove Atlantic/Canongate)

The Disordered Cosmos: A Journey into Dark Matter, Spacetime and Dreams Deferred
by Chanda Prescod-Weinstein
(Bold Type Books)

OVERALL CHAIR OF THE JUDGES: Roger Robinson (Trinidad and Tobago/United Kingdom)

Roger Robinson is a writer and performer who lives between London and Trinidad. His book *A Portable Paradise* won the prestigious T. S. Eliot Prize 2019, and his first collection, *The Butterfly Hotel*, was shortlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize for Poetry. Roger is the lead vocalist for King Midas Sound, whose critically acclaimed debut album *Waiting for You* was released on Hyperdub Records.

WINNER, POETRY

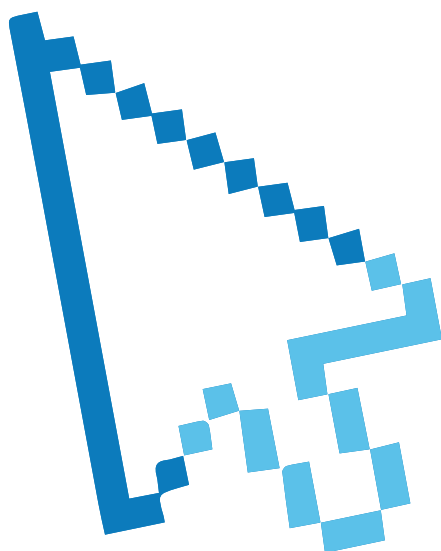


Thinking with Trees, the debut poetry collection by **Jason Allen-Paisant**, is described by the judges as “original, masterful, and beautiful.” This collection of poems “explores nature as a sacred palace for recollection in another tranquillity, far from the one proposed by Wordsworth, a recollection that makes memory present, that heals from the past of marginalisation.”

Publisher: **Carcamet Press**



Jason Allen-Paisant is from a village called Coffee Grove in Manchester, Jamaica. At present, he's a lecturer in Caribbean Poetry & Decolonial Thought in the School of English at the University of Leeds, where he's also the Director of the Institute for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies. He serves on the editorial board of *Callaloo: Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters*. He holds a doctorate in Medieval and Modern Languages from the University of Oxford, and he speaks seven languages. He lives in Leeds with his partner and two daughters.



POETRY JUDGES

Mayra Santos-Febres, Chair (Puerto Rico)

Mayra Santos-Febres is a prize winning Puerto Rican writer, literary critic, and academic. She is the author of several highly regarded volumes of poetry, including *Anamú Y Manigua* (1990), *El Orden Escapado* (1991), *Boat People* (1994), *Tercer Mundo* (2004), *Huracanada* (2018), and *Lecciones De Renuncia* (2021). She has won many prestigious awards and recognitions, including the 1st prize for poetry in the *Revista Triptico* (1991).

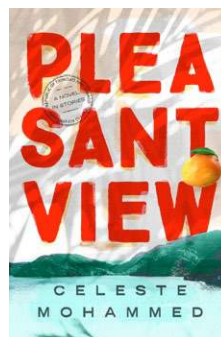
Chloe Garner (UK)

Chloe Garner is director of the UK's Ledbury Poetry Festival. Previously she worked at The Wordsworth Trust and for The Charleston Trust, both museums with strong literary connections. She judged the Costa Poetry Prize, is on the Bristol Poetry Institute Partnerships Board, and is a member of Writing West Midlands' Room 204 Writer Development Programme.

Ishion Hutchinson (Jamaica/US)

Ishion Hutchinson was born in Port Antonio, Jamaica. He is the author of two poetry collections, *House of Lords and Commons* (2016), and his first collection, *Far District* (2010). Since his first publication, Hutchinson has been the recipient of numerous awards and honours including the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry (2016). His works have appeared in several anthologies and journals, and he was awarded a 2019 Windham-Campbell Literature Prize in Poetry. He teaches in the graduate writing programme at Cornell University.

WINNER, FICTION

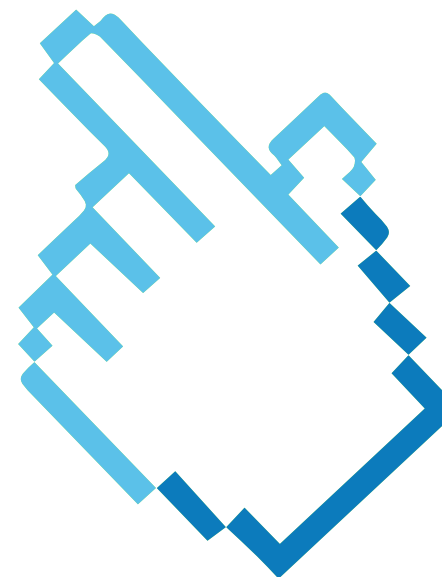


Pleasantview, **Celeste Mohammed's** “novel in stories,” “has found a daring new way to paint the portrait of a community” through a series of interlocking stories and repeating characters, remark the judges. “*Pleasantview* is a gripping read, written with a deep sense of connection to people and place, both

Publisher: **Ig Publishing/Jacaranda Books**



Celeste Mohammed is a lawyer-turned-writer. Her debut novel-in-stories, *Pleasantview*, is the winner of the 2022 OCM Bocas Prize for Fiction. Celeste holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Lesley University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is the recipient of a 2018 PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers. She was also awarded the 2019 Virginia Woolf Award for Short Fiction, and the 2017 John D Gardner Memorial Prize for Fiction. Celeste lives in Trinidad and Tobago with her family.



FICTION JUDGES

Shahidha Bari, Chair (United Kingdom)

Shahidha Bari is an academic, critic, and broadcaster, and currently a Professor at the University of the Arts London. She's the presenter of BBC 2's flagship arts and culture programme *Inside Culture* and BBC Radio 3's nightly *Free Thinking* programme, also known as the Arts and Ideas podcast. She's the author of *Dressed: The Secret Life of Clothes* (2019), the winner of The Observer Anthony Burgess Arts Journalism Prize 2016 and has been a judge for the Forward Poetry Prizes and the Baillie Gifford Non-Fiction Prize.

Christina Sharpe (United States/Canada)

Christina Sharpe is a writer, Professor, and Canada Research Chair in Black Studies in the Humanities at York University in Toronto. She is the author of *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being* and *Monstrous Intimacies: Making Post-Slavery Subjects*. Her third book, *Ordinary Notes*, will be published in 2022 (Knopf/FSG/Daunt). She is currently working on a monograph called *Black. Still. Life.* (Duke 2025).

Anton Nimblett (Trinidad and Tobago/United States)

Anton Nimblett, a Trinidadian who lives and writes in Brooklyn, is the author of the short story collections *Sections of an Orange and Now/After*. His fiction and poetry appear in several literary journals and in the anthologies *Our Caribbean*, *War Diaries*, and *The Peepal Tree Book of Contemporary Caribbean Short Stories*. He has presented work widely in the US and internationally

WINNER, NON-FICTION



The essay collection *Things I Have Withheld* by Jamaican **Kei Miller** is “a deep and stirring excursion into the taboo,” say the judges — “the ‘dark’ places where truth and reality reside... Miller summons up his courage and narrative voice as a Black Jamaican gay man to explore these unspoken truths in an unforgettable, layered and moving way.”

Publisher: **Grove Atlantic/Canongate**



Kei Miller, Jamaican born poet, novelist, and essayist, is the author of five collections of poems, including *The Cartographer Tries to Map A Way to Zion* (winner of the 2014 Forward Prize); three novels, most recently *Augustown*, overall winner of the 2017 OCM Bocas Prize; and two essay collections, *Writing down the Vision* (2013) and *Things I Have Withheld* (2021), both winners of the OCM Bocas Prize for non-fiction.

NON-FICTION JUDGES

Godfrey Smith, Chair (Belize)

Godfrey Smith is the author of *The Assassination of Maurice Bishop*, published by Ian Randle Publishers in Jamaica. He is an attorney at law, a retired politician, former Attorney General of Belize, and a successful biographer. His George Price: *A Life Revealed* won the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize for Non-Fiction. *Michael Manley: The Biography* was published in 2016.

Rachel Manley (Jamaica/Canada)

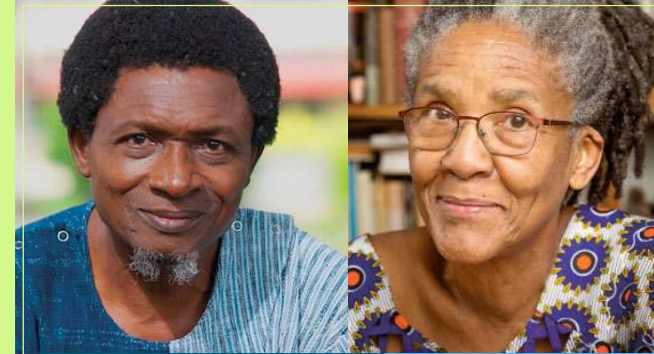
Rachel Manley is a Jamaican writer and academic. She is the recipient of Canada's Governor General's Award for English Language non-fiction (1997), for her memoir *Drumblair: Memories of a Jamaican Childhood*. Her debut novel *The Black Peacock* (2017) was shortlisted for the 2018 Amazon.ca First Novel Award. She has published additional memoirs and biographical works including *In My Father's Shade*, and *Slipstream*.

Anita Sethi (United Kingdom)

Anita Sethi was born in Manchester, UK, and is author of the acclaimed book *I Belong Here: A Journey Along the Backbone of Britain* (Bloomsbury). *I Belong Here* has been described as “a magnificent and redemptive achievement” by *The Bookseller*, “a memoir of rare power” by the UK *Guardian*, and “an amazing odyssey: inspiring, powerful, encouraging and incredibly brave” by the *Independent*. *I Belong Here* won the Books Are My Bag Readers Award.

2022 BOCAS HENRY SWANZY AWARD

for Distinguished Service to Caribbean Letters



Funso Aiyejina

Merle Hodge

Creative writing mentors and teachers

The **Bocas Henry Swanzy Award for Distinguished Service to Caribbean Letters** is named for the late BBC radio producer (1915–2004) who created a landmark platform for Caribbean writing in the 1940s and 50s through the *Caribbean Voices* programme.

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

The 2022 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award will be presented to **Funso Aiyejina** and **Merle Hodge** in recognition of their work over more than two decades as creative writing teachers and mentors, in particular through the influential Cropper Foundation Writers' Workshop.

Aiyejina and Hodge led the residential workshop from its founding in 2000, guiding and mentoring participants from across the Caribbean, many of whom have gone on not only to be published, but acclaimed for their books. In addition, Aiyejina was the founder of the creative writing MFA (Master of Fine Arts) programme at The University of the West Indies' St. Augustine campus, the first degree-granting programme in creative writing in the Anglophone Caribbean. Aiyejina was also a founding board member and former deputy festival director of the Bocas Lit Fest, retiring from this role in 2020. He did anything and everything he could, as a director of Bocas Lit Fest, to ensure the NGO succeeded in its task of developing and promoting Caribbean writers, and for ten years he also remained a steadfast and much-loved member of Team Bocas.

Both Aiyejina and Hodge are acclaimed authors themselves, but the Bocas Henry Swanzy Award recognises their crucial parallel work as teachers and mentors of younger authors, and their dedication to nurturing a generation of writers grounded in Caribbean literary tradition and language, exploring the region's social complexities.

The Bocas Henry Swanzy Award will be formally presented to Funso Aiyejina and Merle Hodge during a **virtual ceremony on Saturday 30 April**, during the **Winners' Row** prize ceremony of the 2022 NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

Past winners of the Bocas Henry Swanzy Award

2013
John La Rose
and Sarah White

2014
Kenneth
Ramchand and
Gordon Rohlehr

2015
Margaret Busby

2016
Jeremy Poynting

2017
Joan Dayal

2018
Anne Walmsley

2019
Ian Randle

2020
Kamau
Brathwaite

2021
Edward Baugh
and Mervyn
Morris



Bocas Emerging Writers Fellowships 2022



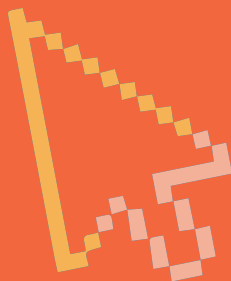
2022 Bocas Emerging Writers Fellowships shortlists

POETRY

Topher Allen
(Jamaica)
Xan-Xi Bethel
(The Bahamas)
Neala Bhagwansingh
(Trinidad and Tobago)
Johanna Gibson
(British Virgin Islands)
Ubaldimir Guerra
(Belize)
Jannine Horsford
(Trinidad and Tobago)
Jay T. John
(Trinidad and Tobago)
Gillian Moore
(Trinidad and Tobago)
Ruth Osman
(Guyana/ Trinidad and Tobago)
Allyson Weekes
(Trinidad and Tobago)

PROSE

Tracy Assing
(Trinidad and Tobago)
Heather Barker
(Barbados)
Ayrld Chandler
(Trinidad and Tobago)
Rachael Amanda Espinet
(Trinidad and Tobago)
Amir Denzel Hall
(Trinidad and Tobago)
Michelle John
(Trinidad and Tobago)
Garvin Tafari Parsons
(Trinidad and Tobago)
Rajiv Ramkhalawan
(Trinidad and Tobago)
Ark Ramsay
(Barbados)
Alexandra Stewart
(Trinidad and Tobago)



The **Bocas Emerging Writers Fellowships** are a pair of one-time fellowships for emerging Caribbean-based writers in English, in two categories: prose (fiction or non-fiction) and poetry.

They are intended to support early-career Caribbean writers whose work explores questions of personal and collective identity and responsibility, and ideas of belonging, displacement, and home. The fellowships will run for a period of six months, during which both writers will receive support in advancing or completing a book manuscript or other body of work.

Each fellowship includes a cash award of TT\$10,000; six months' mentorship from an established author; publication of a chapbook with an excerpt from the writer's work in progress; and participation in a one-week intensive online writing workshop hosted by Arvon (UK).

From over 100 applicants, two fellowship shortlists were announced in February, and the successful fellows, **Jannine Horsford** for poetry and **Rajiv Ramkhalawan** for prose, were announced in early April. Both writers will present their work in progress on **Saturday 30 April**, during the **Winners' Row** prize ceremony of the 2022 NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

The fellowships are made possible by generous donations from Canisia Lubrin, winner of the overall 2021 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature; Dionne Brand, winner of the 2019 OCM Bocas Prize in the fiction category; Christina Sharpe, judge for the 2022 OCM Bocas Prize in the fiction category; and Allyson Holder, friend and supporter of the Bocas Lit Fest.

NGC Bocas Youth Fes 2022

In 2021, we made history by producing Trinidad and Tobago's first literary festival for youth: the NGC Bocas Youth Fest, founded with the aim of making literature relevant, appealing, and accessible to young people aged 12 to 25, nationwide. The inaugural festival took place on 19 August in a virtual format, streamed via YouTube and Facebook, featuring 19 participants across eight dynamic events.

The NGC Bocas Youth Fest returns in 2022 with a fresh mix of programmes and an expanded delivery approach spanning the entire month of October. Look forward to new editions of last year's hits, and join the action as we bring to life new festival elements.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Writing My Career

Literature is often underestimated as a valuable subject for employability. "Writing My Career" shows how studying literature adds value to a wide variety of career paths, including advertising and copywriting, journalism, teaching, business, and more. Professionals from different career paths will share the ways they use their literature education on the job.

Literature Expo

Students sometimes think of "literature" only as the books on the recommended reading list for exams. But it's actually a much broader field that encompasses a wide variety of writing forms: comics, movie and TV scripts, blogging, journalism, non-fiction, poetry, and much more. Join Bocas on a journey to discover new frontiers in the literary arts.

Author Access Pass

Literary giants will get up close and personal with young readers in this conversation series, specifically aimed at equipping students in their CSEC literature journey.

The Big Issue Debate Series

For this riveting debate series on contemporary topics in literature, youth teams will bring wit and flair to the fore as they dissect arguments and push the envelope on how literature is taught, learned, and understood.

NGC Bocas Youth Writer Award

Last year we broke new ground, as Harmony Farrell took home our first-ever NGC Bocas Youth Writer Award. Who will win the title next? Step up for 2022's NGC Bocas Youth Writer Award, as we celebrate young writers across multiple mediums: from blogs to journalism, short stories to poetry. Let's recognise the young people who are using the written word to make an impact!

BOCAS ALL YEAR

We've got many more events and projects in store for 2022, from regular programmes that have become audience favourites to new additions to our repertoire.



THE FIRST CITIZENS NATIONAL POETRY SLAM

In 2022, our signature spoken word event — the largest stage for spoken word in the Caribbean — celebrates its tenth edition! Open to all ages, the **First Citizens National Poetry Slam** is T&T's national spoken word competition. For a decade, the annual slam has drawn hundreds of spoken word poets of all ages from across Trinidad and Tobago, who compete through audition and semi-final rounds to earn a place in the finals, scheduled this year for **October**. The winner of the slam takes home a prize of TT\$50,000 — the largest spoken word prize in the Anglophone Caribbean —

sponsored by **First Citizens**. A second prize of \$20,000 and third prize of \$10,000 are also awarded.

In this milestone year, the slam will turn things up a notch. Stay tuned to our website and social media platforms for updates.



WORKSHOPS

Creative workshops with visionary facilitators drawn from the fields of literature and publishing have been staples of our annual festival from the start. Now they are available throughout the year, via Zoom, for you to access wherever you are, in an intimate setting with personalised feedback and support. Upcoming workshop sessions include:

MAY

Start with the Story: Crafting Personal Narratives

We often think of fiction and non-fiction as opposites, but both genres draw on similar skills in telling compelling stories, whether invented or grounded in fact. In this creative non-fiction workshop, learn how to apply elements and techniques of fiction to deliver captivating personal stories rooted in historical context. Facilitated by **Debbie Jacob**, an award-winning journalist, author, librarian, and prison reform activist, whose career spans over three decades and books such as *Wishing for Wings* and *Making Waves: How the West Indies Shaped the United States*.

JUNE

Writing for Children

Children are your toughest critics. Creating captivating page-turners that hold their interest is a real challenge. This three-part workshop features award-

winning children's authors **Carol Mitchell, Joanne Hillhouse, and Tracey Baptiste**, covering key elements in writing fiction for six- to twelve-year-olds, like developing plot and character, writing fantasy, and design and illustration. Explore your inner child and tap into your imagination to produce engrossing children's books, combining careful design elements with stories that bring your characters to life.

JULY/AUGUST

Telling Indigenous Stories

The Caribbean's Indigenous peoples have shaped our history, culture, and language in ways many of us don't even recognise. There are still so many Indigenous stories waiting to be told. In this masterclass led by facilitators of Indigenous heritage, whose work spans both literature and film, you'll learn how to research, understand, and convey the stories of our Indigenous communities through print and other media, while maintaining authenticity and interest.

And look out for more hands-on workshops later in 2022, on topics such as Afro-Futurism, intellectual property law for authors, and "Points from a Publisher". Premium members of Friends of Bocas get a 10% discount on all our workshop offerings, so consider taking a membership!



BRING YOUR OWN BOOK AND BOTTLE (BYOBB)

Our virtual BYOBB events — on **the last Wednesday of every month** — offer a twist on your typical book club format. Participants, many of them regulars, join via Zoom with a beverage in one hand and a book of their choice in the other. It's a chance to share what you've been reading recently, get recommendations, and catch up on newly published book titles in a casual, intimate atmosphere. Each BYOBB includes a guest, usually a writer, to talk about their books, answer questions, and hear what you think.

This welcoming community of avid readers and bibliophiles is free to join, and even if you haven't read anything by this month's guest author, you can still feel free to listen in. The pressure is off, and the sharing is on!



BIOS & BOOKMARKS

There are **two more seasons** of our author interview series to come later this year — with some exciting twists to the now-familiar format! Bios & Bookmarks season 8 will launch in July, with another diverse lineup of authors of recent books in all genres.



T&T'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

On 31 August, Trinidad and Tobago will mark six decades of Independence — a moment to celebrate, but also to reflect on our nation's history, ideals, and culture, and our hopes and ambitions for the future. T&T's writers have always played a crucial role in recording and narrating our national "story" through novels, poems, plays, and works of history, biography, and other genres. In **August**, the Bocas Lit Fest will present a specially curated programme exploring the place of literature in the evolution of Trinidad and Tobago, and what our writers can tell us about the journey ahead. Stay tuned for details!



Launched in 2021, the Friends of Bocas Lit Fest is a **virtual community of book- and literature-lovers who support our work, and believe in the sustainability of our mission.**

An annual Friends of Bocas membership — with two affordable tiers — gives you access to specially curated content, early alerts on our year-round offerings, discounts on our workshops, festival art, popular T-shirts and other merchandise, and more. **Your membership fee directly supports our programmes dedicated to the advancement of Caribbean literature** — nurturing emerging writers from the region, instigating important conversations about arts and culture, and bringing internationally acclaimed writers to the virtual or physical stage at our annual festival.

Over the past twelve years, the Bocas Lit Fest has become a beloved institution, but its future is guaranteed only if we continue to grow this strong community of people committed to helping ensure our sustainability for generations to come.

Visit www.bocaslitfest.com/friends to learn more, and join a true Caribbean literature movement!



Nicholas Laughlin, Festival and Programme Director

Jean-Claude Courmand, Chief Executive Officer

Anna Lucie-Smith, Festival and Publishing Manager

Marielle Forbes, Youth and General Manager

Shivane Ramlochan, Social Media Manager

Patrice Matthews, Exec Admin and Project Manager

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Maria Tappin, OCM Bocas Prize and Festival Programme Admin

Maiya Bijou, Friends of Bocas Lit Fest Co-ordinator

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Elechi Todd Videography, Video Production

Impact Media, Video Production

Ardene Sirjoo, Festival Voiceover

Chantal Esdelle, Festival Signature Music Composer and Performer

Lonsdale Saatchi & Saatchi, Television Ad Production

James Barber, Webmaster

The Bocas Lit Fest is a non-profit company incorporated and registered in Trinidad and Tobago in 2010.

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THANKS FROM ALL OF US
TO ALL OF YOU WHO MADE
THIS FESTIVAL POSSIBLE



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The Bocas Lit Fest

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