

CONTRIBUTORS' NOTES

Shirley Geok-lin Lim's *Crossing the Peninsula* won the Commonwealth Poetry Prize, first for a woman and Asian. She received two American Book awards, the second for *Among the White Moon Faces* (Feminist Press); published ten poetry and three short story collections, two novels (*Joss and Gold* and *Sister Swing*), a children's novel, *Princess Shawl*, *The Shirley Lim Collection*; and edited numerous anthologies and critical texts. She served as Chair, Women's Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara and University of Hong Kong English Chair Professor; received Multiethnic Literatures of U.S. & Feminist Press Lifetime Achievement Awards, and UCSB Research Lecture Award; and is now Professor Emerita at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Sudeep Sen's books include: *Postmarked India, Rain, Aria* (A. K. Ramanujan Translation Award), *Fractals, EroText*, and *Kaifi Azmi. Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation; Blue Nude: Ekphrasis & New Poems* (Jorge Zalamea International Poetry Prize) and *The Whispering Anklets* are forthcoming. His works have been translated into over 25 languages and appeared in numerous publications and broadcast channels. He is the editorial director of AARK ARTS, editor of *Atlas*, and currently the inaugural artist-in-residence at the Museo Camera. Sen is the first Asian honoured to deliver the Derek Walcott Lecture and read at the Nobel Laureate Festival. The Government of India awarded him the senior fellowship for "outstanding persons in the field of culture/literature."

Leonard Jeyam is a lecturer, writer, and literary critic. These days he also dabbles in food histories. He has published his poetry and literary criticism in various anthologies and journals in America, Europe and Asia. He is currently writing a book of short fiction entitled *A Short History of Memory*.

Paul GnanaSelvam is an Ipoh-born writer and poet whose work often focuses on the experiences, issues and identity conflicts of those in the Indian diaspora. His first collection of short stories, *Latha's Christmas and Other Stories*, was published in 2013. His poems and short stories have been published both locally and internationally in e-magazines, anthologies and literary journals. His upcoming collection of short stories is

slated to be published by Penguin Random House SEA in the first quarter of 2021. He currently lectures at University Tunku Abdul Rahman (Perak Campus), Malaysia.

Lawrence Pettener is a father and a husband, a Liverpool-Irish writer and copy-editor. His poetry has reached journals, live audiences and the BBC since 1979, with nods from Ted Hughes, Roger McGough and others. An M.A. in Creative Writing followed (Bath Spa, UK). Two poetry publications later, his next one is due out this year: *Poems from the Third World War*. He is working on two further full-length collections and (as Kwailo Lumpur), a compendium of comic commentaries on encounters with Malaysian food. He edits solo authors' works, mostly, from his Subang Jaya office.

Ismim Putera is a poet and writer from Sarawak, Malaysia. His works have appeared in *Fahmidan Journal*, *Re-side Magazine*, *The Remnant Archives*, *Anak Sastra*, *Ghost Heart Literary Magazine*, *Prismatica Magazine* and *Quarterly Literary Review Singapore (QLRS)*.

Vernon Daim is a biracial, multilingual Malaysian. His poems and short stories have appeared and anthologized in *Eksentrika*, *Eastlit*, *Asiatic*, *Readings for Readings 2*, *Asian Centre Anthology of Malaysian Poetry in English*, *Everything about Us*, *Bitter Root Sweet Fruit*, *Malchin Testament: Malaysian Poems*, *Voice & Verse Poetry Magazine*, and *QLRS*. In 2016 and 2017, he read his works at the Georgetown Literary Festival. He currently teaches English in Pahang. He has presented papers on education and ELT at conferences such as MELTA, MICELT and ICELT.

Luis Ortega was educated in his native Spain, where he studied modern languages, as well as in the UK, where he completed degrees in both performing arts and music. He has sung with many professional vocal ensembles and musical directors, and has directed for the stage himself, for a while with his own production company in the UK. Luis has been featured in poetry anthologies in Spain and has also translated foreign literature into Spanish. For more than a decade now, he has focused his main professional activities around education, as a teacher, lecturer and coach in either modern languages, theatre or music in Europe, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Today, Luis makes his home in Granada, Spain.

KS Maniam (1942 - 2020) was a prolific and critically acclaimed Indian Malaysian literary scholar, novelist, essayist, poet, and playwright. He was the inaugural recipient of the Raja Rao Award in 2000: a recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Literature of the South Asian Diaspora. He published three novels: *The Return* (1981), *In A Far Country* (1993), and *Between Lives* (2003). His short stories have appeared in numerous anthologies and journals — and in five collections: *Plot, The Aborting, Parablames and Other Stories* (1989), *Arriving and Other Stories* (1995), *Haunting the Tiger* (1996), *faced out* (2004), *The Loved Flaw* (2006), and *A Stranger to Love* (2018). *Two Heartbeats Away* (2019), a compilation of poems, was his last publication.

John McRae recently retired as Special Professor Language in Literature Studies at the University of Nottingham, after having worked in more than 70 countries and published more than 60 books. He now works with Southwark Playhouse Elders Company for whom wrote these monologues and for whom he has directed KING LEAR and HENRY V, which was also staged at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse in London.

Sharon Bakar was born in Britain but has lived in Malaysia since 1984. A teacher-trainer by profession, she now teaches creative writing and publishes books through her company Word Works. She has edited/co-edited six previous collections of Malaysian writings, including the *Readings from Readings* series (the latest of which is *Everything About Us*) which has grown out of the monthly literary event she organises: Readings@Seksan. Her articles, reviews and fiction have appeared in a number of Malaysian publications. She can be contacted at sharonbakar@yahoo.com.

Shivani Sivagurunathan is a Malaysian academic who teaches creative writing at the University of Nottingham Malaysia. Her first book, *Wildlife on Coal Island*, was published by UPM Press in 2011 and republished by HarperCollins India in 2012. Her short stories and poems have been published in many international journals including *Cha: An Asian Literary Magazine*, *Agenda*, and *Construction Literary Magazine*. Her first novel *Yalpanam* is due for publication in 2021.

Marc de Faoite was born in Dublin, but has been a Malaysia-based freelance writer and editor since 2007. *Tropical Madness*, a collection of his short stories, was longlisted for the 2014 Frank O'Connor International Short Story Prize. Learn more at www.marcdéfaoite.com.

Wong Phui Nam is a Malaysian poet and playwright. His lifelong passion for poetry was nurtured by his time at Raffles College, Singapore (which later became the University of Malaya) in the 1950s. Most of his early poems appeared in the anthology *Bunga Emas* (1964). His first poetry collection, *How the Hills are Distant*, was published by Tenggara in 1968. After a long hiatus, he published *Remembering Grandma and Other Poems* (1989), *Ways of Exile* (1993), *Against the Wilderness* (2000), *An Acre of Day's Glass: Collected Poems* (2006), and *The Hidden Papyrus of Hen-tau* (2013). His first play, *Anike*, was published and performed in 2006. A second play, *Aduni*, was published in *Asiatic* the same year. He republished *Hidden Papyrus* in 2019 (Blublack Productions).

Malachi Edwin Vethamani is a Malaysian poet, writer, editor, critic, bibliographer and academic. His publications include *Coitus Interruptus and Other Stories* (2018) and two poetry collections: *Life Happens* (Maya Press, 2017) and *Complicated Lives* (Maya Press, 2016). He has edited two volumes of Malaysian writings which cover a period of over 60 years: *Malchin Testament: Malaysian Poems* (Maya Press, 2017) and *Ronggeng-Ronggeng: Malaysian Short Stories* (Maya Press, 2020). His song 'Solitude' premiered at the Malaysian Jazz Marathon 2020. He is the Founding Editor of *Men Matters Online Journal*.