

## CONTRIBUTORS' NOTES

**Alfred A. Yuson**, nicknamed Krip, has authored over 35 books to date. He has gained numerous distinctions, including the Gawad Pambansang Alagad ni Balagtas from UMPIL and the SEAWrite Award — both for lifetime achievement. He has also been elevated to the Hall of Fame of the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature. He is a founding member of the Philippine Literary Arts Council (PLAC), Creative Writing Foundation, Inc. (CWF) and Manila Critics Circle, and has served as Chairman of UMPIL. He contributes an arts and culture column to *The Philippine Star*. He taught fiction and poetry at Ateneo de Manila University, where he held the Henry Lee Irwin Professorial Chair.

**Aminur Rahman** was born in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1966 and graduated with an M-PHARM[acy] degree. He has published six collections of poems (in Bangla) and three prose books. His work has been translated in more than 25 languages. He has translated 19 books of poetry and edited several poetry magazines and books. He has represented Bangladesh in the Poetry Festival in Colombia, Malaysia, Mongolia, India, Iraq, Japan, Sri Lanka, Spain, and Nicaragua. He was awarded the Chingish Khaan Gold Medal (2006), Heaven Horse Award (2015), Numera World Award of Letters (2016), Contribution Award for International Poetry (2016), Poet Dinesh Das Award (2019), and Menada Award (2019). His official website: [www.aminurrahman.org](http://www.aminurrahman.org).

**Elizabeth Marshall** is a Malaysian academic who has been working in the ghazal form for the past four years. She self-published her first collection of poems, *Sexing Kohfee* in 2014. She teaches Creative Writing to undergraduates at a Malaysian University.

**Salleh Ben Joned** (1941-2020) was a poet, academic, playwright, newspaper columnist, and occasional actor. He attended the University of Adelaide as one of the last Colombo Plan Scholars. He met his wife there and married her during their first year. Due to the disapproval of her parents, he transferred to the University of Tasmania, where he studied under the Australian poet, James Phillip McAuley. After returning to Malaysia in 1973, he worked as a lecturer at the English department, University of Malaya. In 1983, he embarked on a career as a freelance writer. His first collection of bilingual poems, *Sajak-Sajak Saleh*, was published in 1987 and republished in 1993, 2002 and 2008. This was followed by *Adam's Dream* (2007), his second

poetry collection; *As I Please* (1994) and *Nothing is Sacred* (2003), compilations of essays and his popular column in the *New Straits Times*; and the play *The Amok of Mat Solo* (2011).

**David C.E. Tneh** dabbles in the creative arts and is from Malaysia. He has published in *Asiatic, Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*, and *Transnational Literature*. David has taken a hiatus from writing for the past few years but writes predominantly on themes such as identity, memories, and culture. He was recently awarded the 2019 Study of the United States Institute, institutional fellowship by the US Dept. of State to New York University-Steinhardt. He is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Creative Industries, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Malaysia.

**Vincent Heselwood** is a writer, poet and graphic novelist from Manchester, England. His first graphic novel, *Meannhile in Zambia*, was published in 2019. He is also widely published under his pseudonym 'Eleanor Sciolistein', under which he writes horror and science fiction. A classroom teacher of English Language and Literature for over a decade, Vincent has always had a passion for words and particularly their power to amuse, terrify and provoke.

**Kiran Bhat** is a global citizen formed in a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia, to parents from Southern Karnataka, in India. He has currently traveled to over 130 countries, lived in 18 different places, and speaks 12 languages. He is primarily known as the author of *we of the forsaken world...* (2020), but he has authored books in four foreign languages. His writing has been published in *The Kenyon Review*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *The Colorado Review*, *Eclectica*, *3AM Magazine*, *The Radical Art Review*, *Cha*, *The Chakkar*, and *Mascara Literary Review*. His list of homes is vast, but his heart and spirit always remain in Mumbai, somehow. He currently lives in Melbourne. You can find him on @Weltgeist Kiran.

**Abhay K.** is the author of ten poetry collections, most recently of *The Alphabets of Latin America* (Bloomsbury) and the editor of *The Bloomsbury Book of Great Indian Love Poems*, *CAPITALS*, *The Bloomsbury Anthology of Great Indian Poems* and *New Brazilian Poems*. His poems have appeared in over 90 literary journals across the world. His poem-song 'Earth Anthem' has been translated into over 100 global languages. He has received the SAARC Literary Award 2013 and was invited to record his poems at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC, in 2018. His forthcoming poetry collections are titled *The Magic of Madagascar* and *Monsoon*.

**Mahesh Dattani** is a playwright, stage director, and mentor. His plays have been translated and performed in many languages across India and Nepal. For his anthology *Final Solutions and Other Plays*, Dattani received the Sahitya Akademi Award. His works as a director include an English adaptation of Rabindranath Tagore's story "Chokher Bali" (for Barnard College) and *Snapshots of a Fervid Sunrise*, an adaptation of Federico García Lorca's *Blood Wedding* (for ICS Theatre, New Jersey). During the pandemic, he wrote *Untouchable* for Stream On and directed several Zoom productions. His film work as a writer and director includes *Mango Souffle* (2000) and *Morning Raga* (2003). He is currently the Artistic Director of Playpen Performing Arts Trust. He lives in Mumbai, India.

**Arthur Foo**, a sexagenarian from Ipoh, first dabbled in literature when he wrote an essay about his late mother and since then, he has never stopped writing. Mystery, fantasy and romance are the genres of writing he enjoys working in most. His *Natasha* series and *Snow Phoenix and Me* were nominated for the *Readers' Choice Awards* between 2013 and 2016. The highlight of his writing journey (so far) came in 2018 when his mystery thriller *Rogue Angel* was shortlisted in the internationally acclaimed Watty Awards. He is presently crafting another romantic fantasy tale set in his beloved hometown during the Swinging Sixties. He expects the book to be out by late 2021. For more information, you may contact him at: [arthurfoo57@gmail.com](mailto:arthurfoo57@gmail.com)

**Andrew Sia** is a veteran Malaysian journalist who has covered social issues, the environment, adventure travel and also politics. He is best known for his satirical column called "teh tarik." He is now venturing into fiction writing.

**Uthaya Sankar SB** is a freelance writer, trainer, and publisher. He has always been a controversial figure in the Malaysian literary scene for being outspoken on many issues. Uthaya is keen on doing research and writing about the Indian culture in Bahasa Malaysia. His recent books are *Thirukkural dan Megha Duta* (2018), *Ramayana dan Mahabharata* (2019), *Vetalam dan Vikramaditya* (2020), and *Putaria* (2020). He is currently a columnist with *Utusan Malaysia*. The original full-length "Perang dalam Minda" was published in *Dewan Masyarakat* (January 2019). This abridged version was translated by Pragalath Kumar from *Busana Babasa* (2019).

**K Pragalath** is a former journalist who has ventured into digital marketing. His first short story was in Bahasa Malaysia entitled “Dana and Darah,” published on Eksentrika.com in 2019. He also contributed an English article on the *Mahabharata* in the recently launched *The Classics Challengers—From Reading to Writing*.

**Pang Khee Teik** is an activist, organiser, arts consultant, and writer. He has been the director of Arts for Grabs for the past ten years, and co-founded Seksualiti Merdeka in 2008. He has also worked as the arts programme director at The Annexe Gallery and as the editor of *Kakiseni*. His short story ‘Cream of the Crop’ first appeared in *Body 2 Body: A Malaysian Queer Anthology* (2009), for which he served as editor as well, alongside Jerome Kugan. It was republished in *Ronggeng-Ronggeng: Malaysian Short Stories* (Maya Press, 2020), edited by Malachi Edwin Vethamani.

**Feroz Faisal Dawson** (1966-2012) grew up with his mother, Faridah Merican, after his parents divorced. He was involved in theatre at a young age and read film studies at Penn State University. Upon returning to Malaysia, he worked at a commercial production house, where he eventually became an assistant film director. He directed two music videos that were nominated for seven awards at Malaysia’s first music video awards in 1996. These videos led to him directing commercials in Indonesia. Feroz was an avid cricket fan from his school days at Sultan Abdul Samad, Petaling Jaya.

**Christina Yin** is a former news anchor, broadcast journalist, columnist and communications executive for an international conservation organisation. She is a writer and educator living in Sarawak, Malaysia. A Senior Lecturer at Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus, Christina’s PhD is the culmination of her love for creative writing and conservation. Her thesis, *Creative Nonfiction: True Stories of People involved in Fifty Years of Conservation of the Orang-utan in Sarawak, Malaysia*, is part scholarly and part creative, a first for the University of Nottingham Malaysia. Her fiction and nonfiction writing have appeared in *eTropic*, *TEXT*, *New Writing* and *Anak Sastra*, among others.

**Danton Remoto** is a poet, fiction writer, critic, editor and creative writing professor. The Writers' Union of the Philippines gave him a National Achievement Award in Literature (Gawad Balagtas sa Panitikan) in 2015. He has published a book of short fiction, three books of poems, and five books of nonfiction, all originally written in English. His body of work is cited in *The Routledge Concise History of Southeast Asian Writing in English*, *The Encyclopaedia of Postcolonial Literature*, and *The Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of Literature*. In 2018, he attended the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference at Middlebury College, Vermont. His novel, *Riverrun*, has just been published by Penguin Random House South East Asia to critical acclaim. He has just finished a second novel entitled *The Country of Desire* as well as a collection of short stories, *The Heart of Summer*.

**Ron Jeyathurai Backus** is a non-binary Queer educator, who identifies with the pronouns he/they. After obtaining an MA in Postcolonial and Global Literatures from Queen Mary University of London, his subsequent academic insights, expose the structures of historicism, homosexual identity, trauma and racial injury, stacked up against Tamil/Indian Malaysian bodies. His areas of research include narratives on postcoloniality, and its relationship to race-isms, genders and sexualities of the Indian diaspora. A firm believer in decolonisation, he is an iconoclast of mainstream queer culture, including the notorious racial preference pretext. He currently lectures literary-critical theory units with Monash University Malaysia.

**Paul GnanaSelvam Pakirathan** is a lecturer at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, (Kampar Campus), West Malaysia. He is a published writer (fiction) and poet whose work often focuses on the experiences, issues and identity conflicts of those in the Indian Diaspora. His upcoming collection of short stories, *The Elephant Trophy & Other Short Stories* will be published by Penguin Random House SEA in July 2021.

**Malachi Edwin Vethamani** is a poet, writer, editor, critic and bibliographer. He was conferred the title Emeritus Professor by University of Nottingham upon his retirement in January 2021. His publications include: *Coitus Interruptus and Other Stories* (2018), two collections of poems, *Complicated Lives* (Maya Press, 2016) and *Life Happens* (Maya Press, 2017). 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). *Malchin Testament: Malaysian Poems* won the Anugerah Buku Malaysia (Malaysia Book Award) 2020 in the English Language category, organised by the Malaysian Publishers'

Association. His most recent publication is an edited volume of poems entitled *Malaysian Millennial Voices* (Maya Press, 2021).

**Chuah Guat Eng** is a Malaysian fiction writer. She read English Literature at the University of Malaya Kuala Lumpur; German Literature at Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich, Germany; and she has a PhD from the National University of Malaysia. Her published works include two novels, *Echoes of Silence* (1994) and *Days of Change* (2010), and three collections of short stories: *Tales from the Baram River* (2001), *The Old House and Other Stories* (2008), and *Dream Stuff* (2014). *Echoes of Silence* has been translated into Italian and German. Some of the short stories have been translated into other languages, including Malay, Chinese, Slovene, and Spanish. Currently, while working on her third novel, she occasionally teaches subjects related to literature and creative writing at a local university.

**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-tai* (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).

**Susan Philip** is an Associate Professor in the English Department, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya. She has several publications on theatre, in journals such as the *Asian Theatre Journal*, *World Literature Written in English*, *Australasian Drama Studies* and *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*. She has published on digital media in *Asiatic*, on community theatre in *Kajian Malaysia*, and on crime fiction in *SARE* and *International Journal of Indonesian Studies*. She also has a chapter in the recent book *Making Heritage in Malaysia* (ed. Sharmani Gabriel), as well as several other chapters on theatre in numerous other books.

**Antares Maitreya** was formerly known in KL literary, music and theatre circles as Kit Lee. He quit the urban matrix and became the Abominable Jungleman in 1992, magically morphing into “a pandimensional, pantheistic, multiple-personality solipsist.” He has left an intriguing trail of artefacts under various *noms de guerre*, including four books, idiosyncratic musical explorations (as Guano Breath) and ponderous metaphysical musings (in his Magick River blog).

**J. K. Asher** is a Malaysian and has a second home in Sydney. Her novel, *The Inverted Banyan Tree*, was published in Kuala Lumpur (2017) and London (2019). In his review of the novel, Johan Jaafar praised its “audacious use of cultural appropriation” and noted that its blend of magical realism, history, and living memory reminded him of Gabriel García Márquez. Asher works with Refugees in Sydney and the Rohingya in Malaysia to give them a voice. She has worked in film and television and is currently working on a documentary.

**Amir Muhammad** is a Malaysian who produces books (under the company Buku Fixi and its imprint Matahari Books) as well as movies (under the company Kuman Pictures).