

CONTRIBUTORS' NOTES

Alan Massey is a short story writer and poet from Jacksonville Beach, Florida. His works have appeared in *Adelaide Magazine* and *The Adirondack Review*. The themes of his works include: man vs nature, loneliness, and domestic relationships (family and loved ones). When he is not writing he is working some odd job or another. And when he is not working or writing he can be found somewhere near the beach. He sincerely thanks you for reading his work.

Alshaad Kara is a Mauritian poet who writes from his heart. His latest poems were published in three anthologies, *Les gardeurs de Rêves*, *Love Letters to Poe, Volume 2: Houses of Usber*, and *20.35 Africa: An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry Vol. V*.

Bartek Boryczka moved with his parents from Krakow, Poland to Eau-Claire, Wisconsin at the age of 3 years. He has a bachelor's degree in psychology. He now lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and works as a care coordinator for refugees. He is a voracious reader and writer. Reading is his greatest addiction and writing is his life.

Brandon K. Liew is a writer, reviewer, and scholar of Malaysian Literature. He was shortlisted for the LIMINAL & Pantera Press Nonfiction Prize 2021, and has fiction slated for publication in *The Second Link: A Malaysia-Singapore Literary Anthology* (Marshall Cavendish, 2023). He also reviews contemporary work for *The Guardian* and *Liminal Magazine*. Brandon is the curator of the audio-archive *A Wasteland of Malaysian Poetry in English*, guest editor for *Portside Review*, and treasurer of the Malaysian Writers Society. Visit him at www.brandonliew.com.

Jude Aquilina is an award-winning poet and author whose work is published in literary journals, newspapers and anthologies across Australia and abroad. He is a member of Asia Pacific Writers and Translators Association. Jude has published and edited many books, including *Knifing the Ice*, *On a moon spiced night* and *Tadpoles in the Torrens: Poems for Young Readers*. Jude is a freelance writer, editor, mentor and educator, who teaches creative writing to a wide cross-section of the community, at schools, libraries, community centres, universities, and in a prison.

Ismim Putera (he/him) is the author of the poetry chapbook *Tide of Time* (Mug and Paper Publishing, 2021). His work can be found in the recent anthology *Tapestry of Colours: Stories from Asia* (2021) and many online journals. His poem 'Durian Blossoms' won third prize in 7th Singapore Poetry Contest and 'Jantina' was longlisted for the Malaysian Poetry Writing Competition 2021. His most recent publication is *Hallucinogenic Lines: Poems* (Melaka: SYFE, 2021).

Liverpool-Irish poet **Lawrence Pettener**, M.A., freelances in Malaysia's Klang Valley as copy-editor, proofreader and writer. He mentors poets towards first collections and offers Poet in Resonance schemes for small businesses and institutions with empathic values. His book reviews and artist interviews have appeared in *The Star* and *Asian Review of Books*. Having reached live audiences, poetry journals and the BBC since 1979, his 2017 collection, *May All Beings Rock*, rocked. He has received plaudits from Ted Hughes, Philip Gross, Shirley Lim, Wong Phui Nam, and Carrie Etter. Three further complete poetry collections await publication.

Leon Wing took on writing wholeheartedly after taking online courses from Open University and University of Iowa. His poems are in *PoetryPoem*, *Readings from Readings 2*, *The Malaysian Poetic Chronicles*, *Eksentrika*, *Rambutan Literary*, *Haikuniverse*, and *Malaysian Indie Fiction*. A poem about the Syrian migration to Europe appears in the Fixi anthology *Little Basket 2017*. He occasionally takes some poems apart and puts them back together on the poetry blog *puisipoesy*. He has short stories in *Eksentrika*, *Queer Southeast Asia*, the Asian Canadian literary magazine *Ricepaper*, and in anthologies like *PJ Confidential* and *Remang* (a collection of Malaysian ghost stories).

Longbir Terang is a poet, lyricist & translator who hails from Diphu, Karbi Anglong, North-east India. He has written three poetry collections – *Sengve Alunjir Vol.1* (2019), *Ne Artho Nangrot ra Nevi Asat Langtha te* (2022), and *Nangne Ale Ave Akithi Ke* (2023) – and a collection of critical writing: *Alam Kangsirdam Vol.1* (2019). He has written more than 50 songs for Karbi music albums.

Niccolo Bechtler is a poet from central New Jersey. He currently studies in the MFA program at University of Washington, Seattle, where he also teaches undergraduate writing courses. Before moving to Seattle, he studied journalism and creative writing at American University in Washington, DC. His poetry has appeared in *Glassworks*, *American Literary*, and elsewhere. Prior to beginning graduate school, he worked for several years as a bicycle mechanic.

Sanket Mhatre has been featured at Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, Jaipur Literature Festival and Glass House Poetry Festival. His first book of cross-translated poems, *The Coordinates Of Us*, won the prestigious Raza Foundation Grant after being shortlisted at IWrite2020 at Jaipur Literature Festival. Sanket's poems have appeared in anthologies such as *Shape Of A Poem*, *The Well Earned*, *Brown Critique Home Anthology*, *Poetry Conclave Yearbook*, as well as literary magazines such as *Punch*, *Borderless*, *Muse India*, *Madras Courier*, *The Usawa Literary Review*, and *Men Matters Online Journal*.

Sudeep Sen's [www.sudeepsen.org] prize-winning books include: *Postmarked India: New & Selected Poems*; *Rain*; *Aria* (A. K. Ramanujan Translation Award); *Fractals: New & Selected Poems | Translations 1980-2015*; *EroText*; *Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation* (2021-22 Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize winner); and *Red. The Whispering Anklets* and *Blue Nude: Ekphrasis & New Poems* (Jorge Zalamea International Poetry Prize) are forthcoming. Sen's works have been translated into over 25 languages. His words have appeared in numerous publications and broadcast channels. He is the editorial director of AARK ARTS, editor of *Atlas*, and currently on a fellowship as a writer-in-residence at the Nirox Foundation (South Africa). The Government of India awarded him the senior fellowship for "outstanding persons in the field of culture/literature." Sen is the first Asian honoured to deliver the Derek Walcott Lecture and read at the Nobel Laureate Festival.

Urna Bose is an award-winning advertising professional, writer, poet, editor, and reviewer. Her poetry has gone viral globally. She won 'The Enchanting Editor Award 2019', from the Telangana Poetry Forum, the 'Women Empowered - Scintillating Creative Impactful – Feminine Power Inspiration Award 2020', and the prestigious Nissim International Prize for Poetry, 2021. As the Deputy Editor for *Different Truths*, she also devotes her time to the 'Poet 2 Poet' column. Urna's advertising campaigns have won both Indian and global creativity awards, and some are even industry case studies. Urna believes that soulful poetry and gooey chocolate cake can pretty much fix everything.

William Waters is an associate professor, in the Department of English at the University of Houston Downtown. Along with Sonja Foss, he is coauthor of *Destination Dissertation: A Traveler's Guide to a Done Dissertation*. His research and teaching interests are in writing theory and modern grammar.

Fa Abdul is a multi-award-winning playwright and director in the local performing arts scene, a published author, television scriptwriter, media trainer, and mother. Her ultimate mission in life is to live out of a small suitcase.

Zee is someone who is still enthusiastic about learning about himself, and he has gone through a cycle of learning adventures that have taken him from being a corporate drone to being a wellness teacher and, finally, a mental health practitioner. This is his first screenplay, and he's clearly proud of *His Story*. Moving on, it is unknown which dreary revelations he might be willing to include in his writings.

Karam Tabba had recently made the move to Kuala Lumpur. The hustle and bustle of the big city has been keeping him busy... Busy seeing his IT day job through, Busy commuting during rush hour, and busy doing side gigs whenever presented; too busy for friends. He has not written a lot of plays but for the ones he did, he kept them under lock and key, hidden from the world by the fear that they are not good enough. The script he wrote for *His Story* however, needed to be shared; in hopes that it saves someone.

Lawrence Chin enjoys reading and writing stories. He believes every story is worth telling because someone from somewhere is somehow waiting to listen to that story. He gets lost in his stories and he is found in them. He talks to Peter from 19 minutes, because they are friends.

Yee Heng Yeh is a writer and Mandarin-to-English translator. His poetry has been featured in *The KITTA! Podcast*, *adda*, *Strange Horizons*, *Malaysian Millennial Voices*, *NutMag*, *Apparition Lit*, and was shortlisted in the Malaysian Poetry Writing Competition 2021. His translations of poetry have also appeared in *Mantis* and *Nashville Review*, while his short fiction has been published in *Reader's Digest Asia* and *Guernica*. His short plays have been staged in Short+Sweet and FRESH. You can find him on Twitter at @HengYeh42.

John Mauk began professional life as a rhetorical theorist with a penchant for epistemology. In recent years, he committed to fiction. His stories have appeared in journals such as *Salamander*, *Arts and Letters*, *New Millennium Writings*; his essays and blog posts in *Rumpus*, *Beatrice.com*, and *Writer's Digest*. Black Lawrence Press published his first full-length story collection, *Field Notes for the Earthbound*. In 2022, he launched a video series, *Prose from the Underground*, which features interviews and craft talks for working writers: <http://johnmauk.com/prose-from-the-underground/>. He currently lives and writes in northern Michigan.

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. Writing since 2006, he has published both locally and internationally in anthologies, literary journals and e-magazines. His first collection of short stories *Latha's Christmas & Other Stories* was published in 2013, while *The Elephant Trophy & Other Stories* was published by Penguin-Random House SEA in 2021. He currently teaches at Universiti Teknologi MARA (Perak Campus), West Malaysia.

Reuben Dass is a writer and novelist based in Singapore. He writes mostly crime fiction and occasionally some poetry. He is the author of *The Number Four*, a crime novel published by MPH Publishing in Malaysia. He first dabbled in creative writing during his years as an undergraduate student in London. Whilst he currently earns a living as a policy researcher, he hopes to one day live in a quaint cottage on a remote island or a quiet countryside, and write stories for a living. His lifelong dream is to write and produce a film someday.

Martin Perlman is a writer living in Seattle, Washington, USA. Previous published work has been included in *Rosebud Magazine*, *Santa Barbara Connexions*, *Skeptical Inquirer*, and *Drash—A Northwest Mosaic*, with new acceptances in *Catamaran Literary Journal* (Winter 2023) and *Sortes* (Winter 2023). He wrote a whimsical novel, *Thinks Out Loud, A Blog at First* (Marrow Press). In his non-writing time, he likes to bend notes on a blues harp.

Reema Rajbanshi is a creative and critical writer of Assamese heritage, born in Miami and raised in the Bronx. Her linked story collection *Sugar, Smoke, Song* (Red Hen Press, 2020) won the 2018 Women's Prose Prize and explores the lives of girls, women, and immigrants in the U.S through semi-experimental forms. She holds a Ph.D. in Literature, with an emphasis on histories of race/caste and bondage in Brazil and India, and is currently working on the excerpted travel memoir *A Woman Named Lightning, A Man Named Victorious* and a World Literature monograph *Indigeneities at the Millenium: Caste Articulations*.

Zephyr Dorsey is an American author of fiction and nonfiction.