

Festival Handbook

Partners



Venue Partners

Official Hotel



Media Partners



Registration Partner



Sponsors



Kingdom of the Netherlands



GEORGETOWN, LITERARY FESTIVAL 25 - 27 NOV 2016

Hiraeth [hi-raeth]

(n) the longing for a homeland that is no longer there

VENUE

Wisma Yeap Chor Ee @ China Street Ghaut
Black Kettle @ Beach Street
The Canteen at ChinaHouse @ Victoria Street



CONTENTS

- 1 Message from the Right Honourable Chief Minister of Penang
- 2 Message from Penang Convention & Exhibition Bureau's CEO
- 3 Message from Festival Director
- 4 Keynote Synopsis
- 5 Programme Flow
- 23 Participating Writers
- 39 Participating Moderators
- 45 Participating Performers
- 48 Festival Village Guide

Message

FROM THE RIGHT HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER OF PENANG

On behalf of the Penang State Government, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you to Penang, in particular the distinguished guests, writers, moderators and performers who have come from all over the world to join our festival. Penang is honoured to host the sixth edition of the George Town Literary Festival.



GTLF has, since its inaugural edition in 2011, gained a reputation as a literary festival that dares to push boundaries by discussing provocative issues and harsh realities of the modern world. The three-day festival celebrates the world of literature and the exchange of ideas. GTLF strives to broaden the mind while cultivating creativity and instilling an appreciation for literature.

GTLF 2016 continues this tradition of the festival with its hard-hitting theme, "*Hiraeth*", a Welsh word which means "the longing for a homeland that is no longer there".

The theme captures a universal unrest and longing for a better world in a reality that sees mass displacement of people, gross violations of human rights and a growing chasm between the powerful and the dispossessed, all caused by the proliferation of crippling globalisation, urbanisation and regressive ideologies. Our world, or collective homeland, is one that is no longer recognisable.

Penang, world famous for its UNESCO World Heritage Site, sits at the confluence of the old and the new worlds. Here we are, celebrating some of the greatest contemporary thinkers and writers of the world in a city that has been recognised for its unique culture, heritage and history – a history that goes back to the days of Penang being a British outpost during the colonisation of Peninsular Malaya.

The Penang State that we know of today was established by Captain Francis Light on behalf of the British East India Company.

In 1786, the state comprised only Penang Island, which was then named Prince of Wales Island. Herein comes the Welsh connection of Penang, and the theme of this year's George Town Literary Festival.

Rising above its colonial past to become one of Malaysia's most developed and harmonious states, Penang is a hopeful reminder to all Malaysians of what can be achieved in a progressive and vibrant society; a society that holds sacred social justice, civil liberties and sustainable development.

As we stand at this juncture where Malaysia as a nation is facing grave challenges to its democracy and freedom, and we, as Malaysians, are grappling with our identity and sense of belonging, this year's theme resonates deeply with us.

It is safe to say that nowhere else in this country would such a discourse be welcomed. Penang has always prided itself as a fertile soil for intellectual discourse, a place of convergence for great thinkers, writers and poets. We have long held a tradition that respects individual thought and freedom of speech, and the Penang State Government is committed to upholding Penang's identity as the springwell of intellect, creativity and one of the world's best literary festivals.

I would like to thank and congratulate the team behind George Town Literary Festival 2016 for producing this esteemed literary festival. Last but not least, to all our guests, writers, performers and partners from the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, Australia, India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand, Poland, Sweden, and the Philippines:

Selamat datang ke Pulau Pinang!

Lim Guan Eng
Chief Minister of Penang

Message

FROM PENANG CONVENTION EXHIBITION BUREAU'S CEO



It is with great pleasure and excitement that I welcome you to the sixth edition of the George Town Literary Festival.

We at Penang Convention & Exhibition Bureau (PCEB) are humbled to be producing this year's edition of GTLF together with our co-organiser Penang Institute and partner Penang Global Tourism. We are committed to nurturing the growth of GTLF in tandem with the development of Penang as the arts and cultural hub of Malaysia.

GTFL 2016 is by far the biggest, boldest edition yet with over 60 writers, poets, performers, filmmakers and musicians from all corners of the world converging in Penang. As a born and bred Penangite, I am proud that we get to host some of the most illustrious names in the literary world.

Tan Twan Eng has said that GTLF is "one of the best literary festivals in the world", and in as much as the writers, performers and moderators make GTLF a festival of note, I believe our beautiful state of Penang plays just as important a role in the success of this festival.

Penang is a truly unique destination, one where guests can indulge in authentically Penang experiences through our diverse cultures, prized heritage, excellent cuisine and warm hospitality. We take pride in Penang being a tiny state that is packed with a whole lot of punch, and I hope you will take every opportunity of your time here to explore the many offerings of Penang.

To our partners, sponsors, friends and supporters, your trust in GTLF and Penang is sincerely appreciated. To the team working tirelessly in putting together this festival, your efforts have helped to place Penang on the world literary map, and for that, I thank you.

Finally, to all our guests at GTLF, I wish you all an engaging and wonderful time full of exciting experiences here in Penang.

Ashwin Gunasekeran
CEO of Penang Convention & Exhibition Bureau

Message

FROM FESTIVAL DIRECTOR



Welcome to the sixth edition of the George Town Literary Festival in the historic UNESCO World Heritage Site of George Town, Penang.

This year's GTLF will continue its celebration of world literature in poetry, prose and spoken word. The theme this year, *Hiraeth*, is a word of Welsh origin which has multilayered meanings of longing for a homeland, but specifically - the longing for a homeland that is no longer there. This is a theme that resonates with all human beings, it is a universal longing to belong to a place, a people, a land, a meaning. It is about the state of the planet, and the state of our current humanity. From the dawn of human civilisation, we have fought for these rights; battles have been waged for freedom, for a people, for the land. This desire is profoundly human, it is intrinsic in who we are and it is this that has driven the world to a certain madness. How do we reclaim a world that is on the verge on self-destruction? How will we write of this in our histories? Will we survive? And how?

GTFL continues its commitment in creating free discourse in thought and speech and we continue to address the many challenging and confronting issues that inform us as writers, poets, thinkers, and members of the societies we live in. We are privileged to have great minds among us and we are humbled by your presence.

We are grateful for the continued support from many embassies and cultural institutions, the businesses and corporations that believe in being patrons of the arts, and the tireless individuals who give us the arms and legs to keep moving forward.

I am indebted to the team at PCEB for producing the festival, continuing support from Penang Global Tourism and the State of Penang which has given us the freedom for six years to have open conversations, cultivate new friendships and memories in the spirit of exchange, dialogue and love for the word.

Have a wonderful festival!

About Bernice Chauly

Bernice Chauly is a Malaysian writer, poet and educator. She is the author of five books of poetry and prose which include the award-winning memoir *Growing Up With Ghosts* (2011) and her critically acclaimed third collection of poems, *Onkalo* (2013). For 20 years she worked as a multidisciplinary artist and is recognised as one of the most significant voices of her generation. She is an Honorary Fellow in Writing from the University of Iowa's International Writing Program (IWP 2014) and currently teaches creative writing at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. She is also the founder and director of the KL Writers Workshop. Her upcoming novel will be published by Epigram Books (Singapore) in 2017.



Hiraeth : The longing for a homeland that is no longer there. Homesickness tinged with grief and sadness over the lost and departed. A mix of longing, yearning, nostalgia, wistfulness. An earnest desire for the land of the past. A yearning for a home to which you cannot return.

It does seem like the whole of humanity is suffering from this longing for a homeland that is no longer there.

The millions of refugees, forced to leave their homes and living in misery and isolation in foreign lands, long for a lost home that has been bombed to smithereens.

Trump supporters in the US and the Red Shirts of Malaysia, in mourning over their perceived displacement and dispensability, long for an imaginary ideal home, devoid of threatening "Others" – a utopia that never existed in the first place.

The pervasive sense of anxiety, fear, restiveness, and sense of powerlessness over our ability to change the course of the world, the course of our own beleaguered nation, has led to this sense of *hiraeth*, of yearning for a much simpler, more harmonious past, a slower time, a comfortable context where we understood what was happening around us.

And yet, as someone who often travels the world, flying home, peering through the window at our green land below – a sense of relief and even joy permeates me.

If this is home, with all its warts, gaping holes, loss of values, where right is wrong and wrong is right, where the good are detained and charged, and the bad remain in power, what can we do?

As a Malaysian who has no intention of leaving her country, I want to believe a different kind of *hiraeth* is possible. A *hiraeth*, a longing, a yearning that will compel us to create something better, to make this country good again, to make this world more humane. And I believe this is possible.

Look at *Bersih* and what it has become: a sea of yellow that has ignited the people's imagination. A yearning for free and fair elections among civil society activists has burgeoned into a mass movement, bringing diverse Malaysians together in a call for change; for an end to corruption and abuse of power. Even Malaysians living abroad have joined this movement for change. This desperate longing for a better Malaysia has united us in a way that no political sloganeering to create One Malaysia could do.

Look at G25 – a group of retired Muslim civil servants who came together in a yearning for a Malaysia that used to embrace its pluralism, its diversity, its compassionate, kind and gentle Islam. Their *hiraeth* for that lost homeland led them to take action – a group of retirees known for conformity stepped outside their comfort zones to speak their minds in envisioning a better Malaysia.

Look at Sisters in Islam, the group I co-founded almost 30 years ago. A yearning for Muslim women to be treated as human beings of equal worth and dignity led them to unearth a rich tradition of scholarship in Islam that enables them to champion equality and justice. That lost past can be resurrected towards a better future.

Writing can be a powerful medium to effect social reform. There are rich source materials in our homeland to make compelling narratives that can bring about awareness and change.

So can we, activists and writers, translate this *hiraeth* we feel, this longing for a better homeland, into a compelling call to action? Can we mobilise this pervasive sentiment of loss into a movement for social change?

Zainah Anwar

Co-founder of Sisters in Islam in Malaysia and Musawah



Book Launch



Panel



Workshop



Exhibition



Poetry



Performance



Films



25 – 28 Nov 2016

ALL DAY

Pengkalan Weld

Zunar's Outdoor Cartoon Exhibition

Zunar, Malaysia's beloved political cartoonist, is the recipient of the Cartooning For Peace Award 2016 (Geneva) and Courage in Editorial Cartooning Award 2011 by Cartoonists Right Network International (Washington). With the slogan, "How Can I Be Neutral, Even My Pen Has a Stand", he exposes corruption through his art. Twenty of Zunar's best cartoons will be displayed on giant billboards in this unique outdoor exhibition.



10.30 am – 12.00 pm



Classroom,

Wisma Yeap Chor Ee



Admission: RM 50

(max 12 students)

It Begins with the Writing – A masterclass in dramatic writing by Mahesh Dattani

How often do you see a play or movie and wish the script could have been better? The writer's role in any dramatic representation of theatre, cinema or television can never be denied either by the industry or by their audiences. Yet there is little emphasis on researching and developing the origin of any dramatic endeavour – the writing. The workshop session will introduce you to some fundamental principles of drama structure through writing exercises.



12.30 pm – 2.00 pm



Classroom,

Wisma Yeap Chor Ee






Admission: RM 50

(max 12 students)



Writing Home – A creative writing workshop with Nathalie Handal

This workshop (all genres) will explore home as place and memory, ancestry and family, culture and identity. We will explore how the languages we speak, the memories we have inherited (stories told by our grandparents, parents), and the places we have lived affect what we write and how we write them. Participants' works provide the imaginative background for writing home. Open to all.

 2.30 pm – 4.00 pm
 Classroom,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee
 Admission: RM 50
 (max 12 students)



From Memory to Story – A non-fiction workshop with Laurel Fantauzzo

Do you have a true story you're not sure how to bring to the page? Join non-fiction writer Laurel Fantauzzo for a writing workshop on translating your memories into compelling non-fiction. We'll free-write, play with structure, discuss details, and use low-pressure, practical exercises to break through to creating new work. Each participant will leave with the beginning of a brand new piece. This workshop is open to beginners and experienced writers alike.

 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm
 Black Kettle



VOICES: Woman I Dream

VOICES seeks to create a space for women's experiences to be heard. It is a platform which centres women's narratives – the different lives they lead, their unique situations, their challenges and dreams – amidst a world which constantly silences their opinions and polices their choices. Five women writers will be sharing their journeys through the brave telling of their own stories. This year's theme, "Woman I Dream", explores the gaps between women's aspirations and their lived realities. VOICES 2016 is produced by the Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC) and curated by Yasmin Bathamanathan.

 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm
 Black Kettle



George Town Literary Festival 2016 Opening Ceremony

- ▶ Speech by Bernice Chauly, Festival Director
- ▶ Keynote Address by Zainah Anwar
- ▶ Speech by Zairil Khir Johari, Executive Director of Penang Institute
- ▶ Speech by YAB Lim Guan Eng

 7.30 pm – 7.45 pm
 Black Kettle

Words and Movement



Performers: Aida Redza and Lee Su-Feh

 8.00 pm – 9.00 pm
 Black Kettle

Opening Lecture by A.C. Grayling – *Hiraeth*



One of the fundamental aspects of human nature is the desire to belong: to a place, to a people, and to a meaning. The longing for roots is strong even in those who don't have them; perhaps it is even stronger in the latter. There is something atavistic, evolutionary, metaphysical in this profound nostalgia of the human spirit. In our mobile and disruptive world is the lack of an answer to this longing one of the greatest threats to human well-being that we now face?

Moderator: Ahmad Fuad Rahmat

 9.30 pm
 Black Kettle
 Admission: RM 5
 (At the door)

Secret Film Screening

Introduction by Umapagan Ampikaipakan



 10.00 am – 11.00 am
 Room 1,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Reading and Panel Discussion: On Longing and the Desire for Longing

What do we long for? What is the driving force behind certain impulses? And why? We ask these writers to delve into the mysterious forces that inspire them to write what they do and the desire to keep exploring what is sometimes unattainable.

Writers: Amanda Lee Koe, Tishani Doshi, Stephen James Smith, Adriaan van Dis

Moderator: Shivani Sivagurunathan




 10.00 am – 11.00 am
 Room 2,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Panel Discussion: The Malay Dilemma – Part 2

The conversation continues with one of 2015's festival highlights. With five more powerhouse writers and thinkers, we continue to ask questions that address the most crucial issues of being Malay, how religion plays a part (or not) in their work, and how it contributes to the larger issue of being Malaysian in a time of crisis and transformation.

Writers: Faisal Tehrani, Zainah Anwar, Zairil Khir Johari, Karim Raslan, Dina Zaman

Moderator: Ahmad Fuad Rahmat



 10.30 am – 12.00 pm
 Classroom,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee
 Admission: RM 50
 (max 12 students)

Stories between Two Lines of Poetry – A workshop in flash fiction with Zishu Li

There are stories beyond words. Write them in the invisible room---The art of flash fiction writing.

把小说写在两行诗之间
看得见的故事，看不到的空间---谈微型小说的创作

This workshop will be conducted in Mandarin

 11.15 am – 12.15 pm
 Room 1,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee



Conversations: On Love, Friendship and the Prospect of Loneliness

Humanity has been pushed to the brink of existence

in so many ways. How do we continue to live in a world that has challenged us more than ever? What are the political ramifications of living with(out) love and friendship? And how does the writing life prepare us for the inevitable? A conversation with two great writers/thinkers on all that is possible and impossible in writing and being alive.

Writers: A.C. Grayling and Robert Dossaix

Moderator: Ann Lee



 11.15 am – 12.15 pm
 Room 2,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Reading and Panel Discussion: There Will Be Blood

Writers have always dealt with war, tragedy and the aftermath of bloodshed. How do they even begin to unravel the madness of genocide, of murder, of war? How do they write about it and stay sane? An unflinching conversation about the terrors of war and death, and of finding meaning in the aftermath.

Writers: Laurel Fantauzzo, Wojciech Tochman, Ghayath Almadhoun, Stefan Hertmans

Moderator: Sharaad Kuttan



 12.30pm – 1.30 pm
 Courtyard,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Poetry Showcase: Word!

Poetry, music, comedy and more. A showcase of emerging talent from Penang and beyond.

Poets/Performers: Mark Walker, Shaq, Laika Jumabhoy, Wilson Khor, Anwar Hadi, Zee Ng, Wui Jia, Garoo

Moderator: Ksatriya

 12.00pm – 1.00 pm
 Classroom,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee



Book Launch: Yangon Echoes, Virginia Henderson and Tim Webster (River Books, 2015)

Yangon Echoes is a popular history of buildings, charting social space and urban folklore linking past to present via living memories of Yangon, Myanmar. This illustrated anthology of oral histories explores everyday life through domestic connections to

heritage places. Told with courage and charm, these personal stories offer insight into what has happened and is happening to the city.



About the authors: Oral historian Virginia Henderson works with local communities and development agencies to facilitate and document cultural projects. Raised in rural Southland, New Zealand, she has a doctorate in heritage management and has lived in Southeast Asia more than 25 years.

Writer and photographer Tim Webster specialises in archival heritage documentation and environmental portraiture. His extended research into the lives of people working in the Queen Victoria Market in Melbourne is being published by Thames & Hudson in 2017. Tim has degrees in physics and mathematics with experience in journalism and education.

 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm
 Classroom,
Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Readings: Everything About Us (Word Works, 2016) edited by Sharon Bakar is the third collection of writings inspired by Readings@Seksan, Malaysia's longest-running literary event founded by Bernice Chauly in 2005. Some of the featured writers reading in this event include Jason Erik Lundberg, Marc de Faoite, Nin Harris, Vernon Daim and Dina Zaman.

The D. K. Dutt Memorial Award For Literary Excellence (established 2015) is a Malaysian literary award to reward the spirit of creative thinking fostered by D.K. Dutt in his role as a renowned educator. **Champion Fellas**, an anthology of the best submissions from 2015 is in bookstores; 2016 winners will be announced at GTLF.



 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm
 Room 1,
Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Panel Discussion: Aliens, Birdmen and Other Beings – Bringing Characters to Life on the Stage and Screen

There are endless possibilities when writers create characters and often turn to archetypes when creating them. How do screenwriters and playwrights (re)create epic (or) fictional characters and then bring them to life? How much is real and how much is fiction? Is it the same story, but told differently? A discussion about favourite film/stage characters and how 'new' characters become real.

Writers: Mahesh Dattani, Nandita Solomon, A.S. Hardy Shafii, Prabda Yoon

Moderator: Ezra Zaid

 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm
 Room 2,
Wisma Yeap Chor Ee



Reading and Panel Discussion: Speaking in Tongues: The Art and Craft of Translation

Though usually working far from the limelight, literary translators help write the world's books for new readers. But the art and craft of translation are not only undervalued but often misunderstood. Translators need to be a close reader in one language and an accomplished writer in another. They need cultural sensitivity and a writer's instincts. They strive to create something that is literary but not literal, identical and yet set apart. This panel explores these issues through a reflection of the work of translators working in and across Malay, English, Mandarin, French and German, and how they open up new worlds.

Writers: Pauline Fan, Jérôme Bouchaud, Bruce Humes, Muhammad Haji Salleh



Moderator: Gareth Richards

Supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop Penang.

 2.30 pm – 4.00 pm
 Classroom,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee
 Admission: RM 50
 (max 12 students)

Let's Talk Back In Poetry - A workshop with Nicholas Wong

In this workshop, we will examine how the genre can be a powerful force to talk back to social injustice and marginalisation by closely reading poems recently published in response to, for example, #blacklivesmatter and the Umbrella Revolution. Participants will then be invited to write about their experience of invisibility and being silenced. This workshop especially welcomes queer poets-to-be or those under-represented in contemporary writings in English.



 3.15 pm – 4.15 pm
 Room 1,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Reading and Panel Discussion: The Poet's Garden

Marianne Moore said that poetry is like "imaginary gardens with real toads in them". How do poets cultivate their 'gardens'? What grows in them? Is the poetry of the past still important to the present? Find out what how these poets continue to nurture their craft and how they continue to find (and grow) the things that matter.

Writers: Chiew Ruoh Peng, Olga Martynova, Pablo Jofré, Manal Yunus

Moderator: Shivani Sivagurunathan



 3.15 pm – 4.15 pm
 Room 2,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Panel Discussion: On Cultural Appropriation – Who Gets to Write about What

Lionel Shriver's keynote at the Brisbane Writers Festival created a literary maelstrom and elicited an avalanche of comments and debate about the issue of cultural appropriation. Writers should be able to have the freedom to create characters and inhabit those worlds as best they can? Or can they not? In a time when literary freedoms are being challenged more than ever, how do we navigate the murky lines that deal with race, culture and identity?



Writers: Amanda Lee Koe, Tash Aw, James Scudamore, Nathalie Handal

Moderator: Umapagan Ampikaipakan

 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm
 Classroom,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Finding Malaysia: Making Sense of an Eccentric Nation, Zairil Khir Johari (SIRD)

Some of the most engaging contemporary writing has seen the transformation of the political column into a literary art form. In his first collection of essays, **Finding Malaysia: Making Sense of an Eccentric Nation**, Zairil Khir Johari offers a quick-witted and focused reflection on some of the most pressing and contentious issues of the day. At the heart of the matter is the bane of Malaysian politics – the ethnic question – from which he explores a range of high-profile issues: identity, secularism, federalism and education. At once both philosophical and practical, **Finding Malaysia** lays down a marker for any serious debate over the future trajectory of the country.

 5.00 pm – 5.30 pm
 Classroom,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

The Mad Man and Other Stories, A. Jessie Michael (Maya Press)

A. Jessie Michael's collection of short stories, many of them prize-winning stories written over the last thirty years, presents life in old and contemporary Malaysia. She weaves her stories from memories, seeing possibilities and telling tales from life's twists and turns. The stories are set in her childhood city of Malacca and move with ease across boundaries of religion, race and social class.
About the Author: A. Jessie Michael is a retired associate professor of English and has been writing short stories since the 1980s. She received honourable mentions for the Asiaweek Short Story Competition. Her stories have also appeared in **The Gombak Review** and **22 Asian Short Stories** (2015).

5.30 pm – 6.30 pm
 Classroom,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Malchin Testament: Malaysian Poems, edited by Malachi Edwin Vethamani (Maya Press)
 This volume of Malaysian poetry brings together poems of established and emerging Malaysian poets writing in the English language. **Malchin Testament: Malaysian Poems** is the first volume of poems to cover a period of six decades of Malaysian poetry in English with works from more than 50 poets. All works presented in this anthology have been previously published. The poems range from the works of the early poets like Wong Phui Nam, Muhammad Haji Salleh, to Shirley Geok-lin Lim, Salleh ben Joned and finally to spoken word poets like Melizarani T. Selva to Jamal Raslan.

6.30 pm – 7.30 pm
 Courtyard,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Dance Solo: The Things I Carry
 “My body is an archive of my experiences, my sensations, my history, my ancestors”
 Lee Su-Feh explores these ideas through storytelling, song, movement and our electronic devices. Along the way, she creates a space that is part ceremony, part conference, part confessional. **The Things I Carry** is a work that was developed during the Migrant Bodies Project, an EU-sponsored choreographic project aimed at opening up a civil and artistic reflection on migrations and their cultural impact for the European and Canadian societies.
Performer: Lee Su-Feh

7.30 pm – 9.00 pm
 Courtyard,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Words and Music: Fathers and Sons
 A unique collaboration between fathers and sons through words and music. For many decades, both A. Samad Said and Cecil Rajendra have been acknowledged as leading Malaysian public intellectuals. They have produced poetry that is at once expressive and socially engaged, equally affecting when performed aloud or read on the page. Here they present poems in alliance with their musician sons, the composer guitarist Az Samad and the didgeridoo player Yasunari Rajendra. A fresh exploration of lyric and rhythm that will beguile its listeners.

Performers: A. Samad Said, Az Samad, Cecil Rajendra and Yasunari Rajendra
Supported by Penang Institute and Gerakbudaya Bookshop Penang

8.30 pm onwards
 Black Kettle

Film Screenings

1. The Dreaming by Neil Morris and William Beale (5 mins)

The Dreaming is a poetry video exhibition designed for Ruckus Slam's immersive theatre show in Melbourne, Australia. It captures Yorta Yorta man, poet and cultural performer, Neil Morris performing and reciting in the beautiful parklands of Melbourne, telling the story of The Dreaming.

2. Poetry Films by Ghayath Almadhoun and Marie Silkeberg (35 mins)

- ▶ Snow (3:31 mins)
- ▶ The Celebration (8:52 mins)
- ▶ Your Memory Is My Freedom (5:40 mins)
- ▶ The City (6:59 mins)
- ▶ Ödeläggelse IV Stockholm I Gaza (7:30 mins)

3. Big Stories Bongkud Namaus by Nadira Ilana (45 mins)

A series of community-made photographs and micro-documentaries produced over the course of a year-long film residency by Nadira Ilana in Kampung Bongkud, a Dusun village in Ranau, Sabah, Malaysia. The stories focus on the indigenous Borneo community's way of life, their relationships and dreams. Big Stories Co. is an internationally acclaimed community storytelling new media project from Australia focusing on rural communities. The series has travelled to Cambodia and West Papua, among other countries. This is their first Malaysian co-production with Sabahan filmmaker Nadira Ilana at the helm.

10.00 am – 11.00 am Room 1, Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Reading and Panel Discussion: 'Bual Nusantara' – Literary Translation in Penang: Past and Present.

For over two centuries Penang has been well known not only as a trading hub but also as a regional cultural centre. Texts took different forms: journalism, poetry, short stories, religious tracts, plays and novels, and used a variety of languages, notably Malay (both in Rumi and Jawi), Mandarin, Tamil and English. The first Malay-language novel, Syed Sheikh al-Hadi's **Faridah Hanum**, was published in Penang in the 1920s. This panel discusses the buried treasures of Penang's literary history and identifies ways to resuscitate a viable interest in translation work.

Writers: Amir Muhammad, Eddin Khoo, Muhammad Haji Salleh

Moderator: Mohd Izzuddin Ramli

This panel will be in Bahasa Malaysia



10.00 am – 11.00 am Room 2, Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Reading and Panel Discussion: Free the Word – The Politics of Poetry

Poetry has always been one of the most powerful forms of literature and poets have been feared and revered because of it. We ask these poets to delve into how poetry has been integral to their own personal lives, their political beliefs and how it continues to be a vehicle that transforms the worlds they live in.

Writers: Nicholas Wong, Melizarani T. Selva, Daphne Marlatt, Stephen James Smith

Moderator: Malachi Edwin Vethamani

 10.30 am – 11.30 am
 Classroom,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Workshop and Reading: One Red Egg and a Great Deal of Mischief, by June Chiang and Ammi (MPH, 2016)



Nine-year-old Owen lives a jolly life in beautiful Penang. But he has a BIG problem. Everyone finds him exasperating. Even the neighbour's cat. One day, he brings home a red egg from school. What's this red egg that makes him see a mind detective? Will Owen ever find out what's really wrong with him? Enjoy listening to the antics of a mischievous boy growing up in beautiful Penang and learn how to draw different facial expressions of the boy. Suitable for children under 12 years.

About the Author:

June Chiang is a lecturer who waltzes with writing at night. The story in this book was inspired by her fabulously funny son. When not writing or teaching, she spends her time strolling the beaches of Penang, thinking about nice and funny people.

About the Illustrator:

Ammi is an art teacher who loves watercolour paintings. She illustrates children's books and newspaper columns, and enjoys travelling, hiking, reading and drawing.



 11.15 am – 12.15 pm
 Room 1,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Reading and Panel Discussion: The Lives of Others – the Many Lives of Fiction

How has the writing of fiction evolved? How do fiction writers navigate the publishing world and the worlds of the lives they create on the page? Is it becoming more difficult to write fiction? Or is it becoming more necessary than ever?

Writers: James Scudamore, Zishu-Li, Faisal Tehrani, Olga Martynova

Moderator: Jason Erik Lundberg



 11.15 am – 12.15 pm
 Room 2,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Panel Discussion: The Myth of the Lazy Native – Myth and Reality in Colonial Capitalism

Syed Hussein Alatas's seminal work examined the colonial constructs of Malay, Javanese and Filipino natives from the 16th to 20th century. How much of these images influenced the colonised 'natives' and does the residue of post-colonialism still dictate who we are? Have we managed to undo the myth of the 'lazy native'?



Writers: Chris Keulemans, Ayu Utami, Laurel Fantauzzo, Dain Iskandar Said

Moderator: Lawrence Lacambra Ypil

 12.00 pm – 12.45 pm
 Classroom,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Solo Performance: How Enid Blyton Changed My Life – Robert Dessaix



It is Enid Blyton, Robert Dessaix believes, rather than Pushkin, Proust or whoever wrote **Tootle**, who has had the most enduring effect on his imaginative life. (In fact, he can't even remember reading Proust.) It's not just a matter of treacle pudding and naughty fairies. Enid Blyton, a charmless woman who rarely left Buckinghamshire, nevertheless knew all about enchantment, adventure and the secret places children like to escape to. Robert Dessaix has never found his way home.

 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm
 Courtyard,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Poetry Marathon



A non-stop performance of festival poets and their work. A celebration of poets, poetry and the world.

Poets: Chiew Ruoh Peng, Faisal Tehrani, Daphne Marlatt, Manal Yunus, Melizarani T. Selva, Nathalie Handal, Nicholas Wong, Tishani Doshi, Stephen James Smith, Olga Martynova, Pablo Jofré, Stefan Hertmans and Ghayath Almadhoun.

 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm
 Classroom,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee
 Admission: RM 50
 (max 12 students)

Workshop: Pleasure & Landscapes in Words and Body – Lee Su-Feh

Lee Su-Feh will teach a class exploring ways to move with voice and text. Using pleasure as a guiding principle, this class offers tools to tune in to sensation as a way to mine the body for movement and words. Participants may bring a piece of text to work with or choose to explore creating words within the workshop.



 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm
 Room 1,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Reading and Panel Discussion: My Father, My Mother, My Grandfather – On Bloodlines

Writing about family is difficult and often fraught, and to many, indulgent and sentimental. But the stories that have inspired these writers are simple, yet extraordinary. These works have revealed history, diaspora and the most private parts of the self. How do we traverse into the lives of our parents and grandparents and how do we (re)work their stories to make them our own?

Writers: Tash Aw, Adriaan van Dis, Stefan Hertmans

Moderator: Kam Raslan



 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm
 Room 2, Wisma Yeap
 Chor Ee

Reading and Panel Discussion: Who Run the World – Women and the Power of Writing

Women have continued to push the boundaries of the word in all possible ways, but there is still a fear of the feminine voice, of what women write about and how. What does it mean to be feminist and a writer? Are female writers still scrutinised under a male gaze? How does the world deal with women and the power of the words they create?

Writers: Dina Zaman, Ayu Utami, Tishani Doshi, Daphne Marlatt



Moderator: Sharon Bakar

 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm
 Classroom,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Readings: UNMC English Students

Join the Creative Writing seniors from the University of Nottingham Malaysia as they perform their best works, meticulously crafted under the guidance of their lecturers. The poems and prose excerpts display the newly experimental as reflections of our world. Yet, to some, these reflections will be more akin to echoes; to break new ground is also to yearn for the soil of our past.

Moderator: Shivani Sivagurunathan



 3.15 pm – 4.15 pm
 Room 1,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Reading and Panel Discussion: The Good Earth – *Hiraeth*

The notion of a homeland is one that drives many writers to some form of narrative. What do these writers carry with them when they write about home? What constitutes a home-land? Is there a longing to return to a 'home' and if not, how is the land allowed to speak?

Writers: Nathalie Handal, Nadira Ilana, Chris Keulemans, Prabda Yoon

Moderator: Michael Vatikiotis

 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm
 Classroom,
 Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Album Launch: They Call Us Loud, by William Beale
 William Beale, author of **They Call Us Loud** (2015), an Australian spoken word poet, writer and actor with years of experience performing, producing and teaching in international poetry communities, launches the audiobook collection of his book. Come on down for a loud listening party meets poetry performance party. William will also tease a couple of tracks from his next album **Homecoming**, a musical and poetic collaboration with Australian music producer Tuna. Co-creative producer of Melbourne's famous Slamalamadingdong,

co-founder of Malaysia's poetry open mic, If Walls Could Talk, and winner of various performing arts awards, his work has been called "a boy howling his way into the world, despite all its muzzles".

5.00pm – 6.00 pm
Classroom,
Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Fixi Double Book Launch: Delima by Regina Ibrahim + **Them Horrors Be Everywhere** by Julya Oui
Repeating their double-launch from last year with brand-new books are soul sisters Regina Ibrahim and Julya Oui. Regina's novel **Delima** (in Malay) is about an all-girl band and takes us on a musical, culinary and commercial journey which includes Penang and Indonesia. Julya's short story collection **Them Horrors Be Everywhere** completes the spooky, surreal and sinister triptych that started with **Here Be Nightmares** (2014) and continued with **There Be Monsters** (2015).

6.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Classroom,
Wisma Yeap Chor Ee

Book Launch: WASABI by Zunar (2016)
WASABI (Wa Sapu Billion) is Malaysian cartoonist Zunar's 19th political cartoon book. "I want people to turn their anger into laughter, because laughter is the best form of protest". The 126-page cartoon book consists of more than 150 cartoons mainly focusing on the 1MDB scandal – the 4.5 billion ringgit 'donation' to the Malaysian Prime Minister's personal account – as well as poking fun at his "muse", the First Lady of Malaysia.

8.30 pm onwards
The Canteen,
ChinaHouse

Festival Finale
Open Mic with festival participants and more!
Hosted by :
Sharon Bakar and Yasmin Bathamanathan

Participating WRITERS



A.C. Grayling

A.C. Grayling is the Master of the New College of the Humanities, London, and its Professor of Philosophy, and the author of over thirty books of philosophy, biography, history of ideas, and essays. He is a columnist for **Prospect** magazine, and was for a number of years a columnist on the **Guardian** and **Times**. He has contributed to many leading newspapers in the UK, US and Australia, and to BBC radios 4, 3, 2 and the World Service, for which he did the annual Exchanges at the Frontier series; and he has often appeared on television. He has twice been a judge on the Booker Prize, in 2015 serving as the Chair of the judging panel. He is a Vice President of the British Humanist Association, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

A.C. Grayling is supported by the British Council and New College of the Humanities.



Adriaan van Dis

Adriaan van Dis is an acclaimed Dutch novelist, playwright, documentary-maker and poet. Raised in a family that was part Dutch and part Indo-European in Indonesia, his work deals with themes of identity, race and the trauma of war. He made his literary debut in 1983 with the highly successful novella, **Nathan Sid**. After several works of travel fiction including **The Promised Land** (1990) and **In Africa** (1991), his breakthrough came with the publication **Indische duinen** (**My Father's War**, 1994), about the son of an Indonesian family, born in the Netherlands and raised in an atmosphere of silenced grief. In 2014, he published **Ik kom terug** (**I Will Return**), an autobiographical novel about his complicated relationship with his mother, who was willing to tell him her life story in exchange for a gentle death. The novel won the Libris Prize for Best Book of the Year in 2015 and in early 2016, he received the prestigious Constantijn Huygens Prize for his body of work.

Adriaan van Dis is supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands.



Amanda Lee Koe

Amanda Lee Koe is the fiction editor of *Esquire* (Singapore), editor of essay platform *Poskod.sg*, and a 2013 Honorary Fellow of the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa. She is the youngest winner of the Singapore Literature Prize for the short story collection *Ministry of Moral Panic*, which was long listed for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award. Her work has appeared in e-flux's *Art Agenda*, *Asymptote*, *Guernica Daily*, *Asia Literary Review*, *Manifesta Journal* #18, and she has been translated into German. Based between Singapore and New York, she is working on her first novel.



Amir Muhammad

Amir Muhammad is a filmmaker, writer and publisher. As a writer, his books include *120 Malay Movies* (2010) and *Yasmin Ahmad's Films* (2010). He founded the publishing houses Matahari Books in 2007 and Buku Fixi in 2011. The latter has published over 150 titles in Malay and English, specialising in original edgy, urban fiction. Buku Fixi won The Bookseller International Adult Trade Publisher Award at the 2014 London Book Fair. Under the Fixi Verso imprint, he has ventured into literary translation, with Malay-language versions of work by renowned authors such as Neil Gaiman, Stephen King, John Green, Haruki Murakami and others. A translated anthology, *Malay Pulp Fiction*, is on the cards for release in London in 2017.

Amir Muhammad is supported by Penang Institute.



A.S. Hardy Shafii

A.S. Hardy Shafii trained in acting at Goldsmiths College, University of London where he obtained his MA degree in Performance Studies, and he completed his PhD in 2004 at the School of the Arts, Universiti Sains Malaysia. His most recent work *Makyung: Perspectives on Malaysia's Traditional Theatre* (Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka) was published in 2015. As a theatre director, he has directed different genres ranging from the absurd *It is Not A Suicide* (Vietnam, 2013), *Hamlet* (Penang, 2014), the traditional theatre *Boria Jawi*

Peranakan (2014), the experimental play *Reflections On Another* (Shanghai, 2014) to *The Sound of Silence* (Singapore, 2015 and New Delhi, 2016). Currently, he is the Deputy Dean of Research, Graduates & Linkages at the School of the Arts, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).

A.S. Hardy Shafii is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.



Ayu Utami

Ayu Utami is an award-winning Indonesian writer who was a laureate of the 2000 Prince Claus Awards. During Indonesia's military regime, she was a journalist and press freedom activist. She was one of the founders of The Alliance of Independent Journalists, an organisation that was later banned by the Suharto government. After the political change, she focused on writing novels. Her first novel, *Saman* (1998) won the 1st prize at the Jakarta Arts Council Novel Competition. In 2008, Utami published *Pengadilan Susila* (*Susila's Trial*), based on her play *Sidang Susila* co-authored by veteran playwright Agus Noor. Her stories reflect Indonesian society and the country's political situation in what she calls "critical spiritualism". She is also the Director of the Salihara Literary Biennale in Komunitas Salihara, an independent art centre in Jakarta.



Bruce Humes

Bruce Humes is a Chinese-to-English literary translator. After cutting his teeth on French in Paris, he studied Modern Chinese at university to acquire the tools he'd need to do his own research. Keen to experience 'socialism with Chinese characteristics', he first took a detour to Taipei and Hong Kong and went on to reside in Shanghai, Kunming and Shenzhen. Initially, he launched magazines and websites for Chinese business people, but later decided to go in the opposite direction – by introducing China to the outside world. His translations include the bestseller *Shanghai Baby* by Wei Hui (2001), several coffee-table tomes on ancient Chinese costumes, painting and tea, and Chi Zijian's *The Last Quarter of the Moon* (2014). Bruce's blog *Altaic Storytelling* focuses on writing by Altaic peoples from Anatolia to Siberia.

Bruce Humes is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.



Chiew Ruoh Peng

Chiew Ruoh Peng is a Malaysian poet who has won several literary awards including the Hua Zong Literary Award (Malaysia), Hai-O Literary Award (Malaysia) and Outstanding Young Poet Award (Taiwan). Three collections of his work have been published under the titles **Lovesick**, **Speedread** and **Vanilla**. He is a columnist for **China Press** (Malaysia) and is also a spoken word poet and performer.



Chris Keulemans

Chris Keulemans was born in Tunisia, grew up in Indonesia and is a travelling writer and journalist, based in Amsterdam. He has published six books of fiction and non-fiction and many articles on literature, war, cinema, refugees, design, cities and migration. His work has been translated into English, Spanish, Polish, Bahasa Indonesia, Bosnian and more. His novel **A Short Walk in the Hills** was longlisted for the Dutch National Book Award in 1994. He was the director of De Balie, centre for arts and politics, and the founder of arts centre Tolhuistuin, both in Amsterdam. As a moderator, he has worked in the Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, US, Spain, Slovakia and elsewhere.



Dain Iskandar Said

Dain Iskandar Said studied film in London and has worked with images for almost 30 years, concentrating on feature films, documentaries and video installations. His work has been showcased at the Sydney Biennale and the Burj Al Arab. His film **Bunohan** won international acclaim, and his latest feature **Interchange** was the first Malaysian film to be shown at the Piazza Grande at this year's Locarno International Film Festival. **Interchange** is one of the most anticipated Malaysian films of 2017 and will also be screened at festivals in Toronto, London, Barcelona and Singapore.



Daphne Marlatt

Born in Australia, Vancouver poet **Daphne Marlatt** immigrated to Canada from Penang, Malaysia as a child in 1951. She is a critically acclaimed poet and novelist whose cross-genre work has been translated into French and Dutch. The bicultural production of her Canadian Noh play, **The Gull**, received the 2008 International Uchimura Naoya Prize. Her novelistic long poem, **The Given**, won the 2009 Dorothy Livesay Award. In 2012, she was awarded the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award. Her most recent poetry titles are **Liquidities: Vancouver Poems Then and Now** (2013), selected poetry titled **Rivering: The Poetry of Daphne Marlatt** (2014) edited by Susan Knutson, and **Reading Sveva** (forthcoming, 2016).

Daphne Marlatt is supported by Canada Council for the Arts.



Dina Zaman

Dina Zaman has been writing for the Malaysian media since 1994. In her early years as a writer, she was known for her poetry and fiction, play and broadcast writing. In 2005, she worked for Malaysiakini.com, and began writing a column which became the bestselling book, **I Am Muslim** (Silverfish, 2007). Over the past decade she has been writing about Muslim life and religion in the public sphere. Her latest book, **King of the Sea** (Silverfish, 2012), was longlisted for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award. She was also an Asian Public Intellectual Fellow (2012–2013), during which she produced the essay, **Two Families: A Comparative Study of the Influences of Saints and Their Teachings on Faith in Malaysia and Indonesia**. Her passion and curiosity about society, religion and perception led her to co-found IMAN Research in 2015.

Dina Zaman is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.



Eddin Khoo

Eddin Khoo is a poet, writer, translator, journalist and teacher. He is the founder of Pusaka, one of the region's leading cultural centres, and the publishing house Kala, which devotes itself to publishing literary translations from the world's languages into Malay. He has worked intimately with Malaysia's custodians of the traditional and ritual arts including shadow

puppeteers, musicians, dramatists and dancers. In recognition of his work in culture, Eddin was selected as one of the Asians of the Year 2006 by Channel News Asia, Singapore. He is the co-author of a study on traditional Malay woodcarving **The Spirit of Wood** (2003), and has translated the Indonesian poet Goenawan Mohamad and the Malaysian poet Latiff Mohidin into English and will publish his Malay translation of Walt Whitman's **Leaves of Grass** in 2016.

Eddin Khoo is supported by Penang Institute.



Faisal Tehrani

The prolific scholar, human rights activist and novelist **Faisal Tehrani** is a controversial figure in his home country of Malaysia. Six out of his 23 literary works have been banned by the Malaysian government. Among his literary works highlighting human rights are **Homoseksual** and **Seorang Muslim Seorang Lutheran (A Muslim, A Lutheran, 2015)**. In 2016, Tehrani also published a book for children focusing on Article 1 and 2 (UDHR 1948) entitled **Advencer Yaya dan Fufu Book 1: Jangan Cakap Begitu**. His 23rd novel, **Bagaimana Anyss Naik Ke Langit (How Anyss Went to Heaven)**, is a story about a human rights activist who is murdered for trying to expose the systematic rape committed against the indigenous Penan women in the state of Sarawak, Malaysia.



Ghayath Almadhoun

Syrian poet **Ghayath Almadhoun** was born in a refugee camp in Damascus, the child of a Palestinian father and a Syrian mother. He studied Arabic literature at the University of Damascus and made his debut in 2004 with the collection **Qasaed sakatat sahwān (Unintentional Poems)**. In 2008 he moved to Stockholm, where he sought political asylum. In Sweden, he published two poetry collections, of which the second, **Till Damaskus**, was written with the Swedish poet Marie Silkeberg. With Silkeberg, he collaborated on poetry films on topics, which include the attacks in Gaza. In his poems, Almadhoun describes the experiences of asylum seekers, homesickness for a homeland, and the guilt of a young intellectual who has abandoned his native country. In 2012 he was awarded the Klas de Vylders prize by the Swedish Writers Union. His most recent collection, **La astatee alhoudour (I Cannot Be Present)** was published in 2014.



James Scudamore

James Scudamore is the author of the novels **Wreaking**, **Heliopolis**, and **The Amnesia Clinic**. He has received the Somerset Maugham Award and been nominated for many other prizes, including the Costa First Novel Award, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, the Dylan Thomas Prize and the Man Booker Prize. He has held teaching positions at the University of East Anglia, the City University of Hong Kong and on the Guardian / UEA Masterclass scheme.

James Scudamore is supported by the British Council.



Jérôme Bouchaud

Jérôme Bouchaud is a writer, literary translator and publisher. He has been living in Asia for the past 14 years and made Malaysia home nine years ago. He has written numerous travel books and translated a few novels, short stories and poems from English to French. He currently curates **Lettres de Malaisie** a French-language webzine dedicated to literature from and about Malaysia. He is also the founder of **Editions Jentayu**, a small publishing venture focusing on Pan-Asian literature and literary translation. Its main publication is the eponymous **Jentayu Review**, a biannual literary review dedicated to writings from Asia translated into French, with four issues released so far. Jérôme's latest book is **Langkawi Style (The Lemongrass, 2015)**, a tribute to Langkawi's craftsmakers and artists, with photographs by George Town-based photographer Howard Tan.

Jérôme Bouchaud is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.



Karim Raslan

Karim Raslan is an acclaimed Southeast Asian writer. A graduate of the University of Cambridge, he has developed a deep understanding of politics, society and business across Southeast Asia. His columns from his multimedia initiative, **Ceritalah ASEAN**, which discusses socio-political developments and current issues in the region, are syndicated in Indonesia

[Kompas.com], Singapore [the **Straits Times**], Malaysia [Astro Awani in English and Malay and **Sin Chew** in Chinese], the Philippines (ABS-CBN), Vietnam (Vietnamnet), Thailand (**Post Today**), Myanmar (**Irrawaddy**) and Hong Kong (**South China Morning Post**). He is the author of five books, **Ceritalah: Malaysia in Transition, Heroes and Other Stories, Ceritalah 2: Journeys through Southeast Asia** and **Ceritalah 3: Malaysia the Dream Deferred** as well as his first Bahasa Indonesia-language book, **Ceritalah Indonesia**. Karim also helmed two well-received documentaries: **Ceritalah Malaysia** (2013) and **Ceritalah Indonesia** (2014).



Laurel Fantauzzo

Laurel Fantauzzo grew up in California with a Filipina mother and an Italian American father. Her work has appeared in the **New York Times**, **Esquire Philippines**, and **The Rumpus**. She received her Master of Fine Arts in Nonfiction Writing at the University of Iowa, and she has earned grants and residencies from Erasmus, Fulbright, and Hedgebrook. Her debut non-fiction book **The First Impulse** (Anvil Publishing, 2016) explores a love story and a mystery in Metro Manila. She is represented by Writers' House in New York City and teaches at Yale-NUS College. She lives between Singapore and Quezon City, Philippines.



Mahesh Dattani

Mahesh Dattani is an acclaimed playwright, stage director, screen writer and filmmaker from India. In 1998, he won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award, the highest award for a literary work in India for his book **Final Solutions and Other Plays**. His plays are produced in all the major cities of India and have been produced in the UK, USA, Australia, Sri Lanka, Canada and the UAE. His film **Mango Souffle**, which he wrote and directed, won Best Picture at the Barcelona Film Festival (2003). **Where Did I Leave My Purdah** and **Gauhar** are his most recent works as a playwright, both directed by Lillete Dubey of The Prime Time Theatre Company, Mumbai. Most recently, he directed his plays **30 Days in September** and **The Big Fat City** on film for Zee Theatre Productions. He lives in Mumbai.

Mahesh Dattani is supported by University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus and Maya Press.



Manal Younus

Manal Younus is a South Australian-based spoken word poet who believes that storytelling is the most powerful tool one can own. The two-time Australian poetry slam national finalist performed for the first time when she was 15, and as a young Muslim woman with Eritrean origins, she uses stories to both explore and create her identity while causing conversations to empower young people, particularly those from minority groups. Outside of the literary world, Manal works in theatre and community arts directly engaging in the development of other writers and creatives. After self-publishing her first collection of poetry titled **Reap**, Manal has toured across Australia performing her work.

Manal Younus is supported by SA Writers Centre in South Australia.



Melizarani T. Selva

Melizarani T. Selva is a spoken word poet, educator, journalist and author of **Taboo**. As the only Malaysian to speak at Asia's largest TEDx event, TEDxGateway (Mumbai), she has also won first runner-up at both The National Singapore Slam and Ubud Writers and Readers Festival 2014 slam. To date, her poems have seen prominent stages including ASEAN Poetry Recitation, Cri de Femme International Poetry Festival in New Delhi and various events in six countries. Published by Perfect Binding Press, her first book titled **Taboo** (2015) made the MPH Top 10 bestsellers' list. Her poems have also been translated into Bahasa Malaysia and published by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka. She currently organises Kuala Lumpur's only monthly poetry open mic, If Walls Could Talk, a poetry workshop series Poets in Progress and a bilingual poetry slam event, Slamokrasi.



Muhammad Haji Salleh

Muhammad Haji Salleh is an acclaimed Malaysian poet, critic, translator, editor and Professor of Literature who has published over 35 books in both Malay and English. He has published 14 books of poems, including **Sajak-sajak Pendatang** (Poems of the Outsider, 1973), **Buku Perjalanan Si Tenggang II** (1977), **Travel Journals of Si Tenggang II** (1979), **Time and its People**

(1978), *Beyond the Archipelago* (1995), *Sebuah Unggun di Tepi Danau* [A Campfire by the Lake, 1996], *Aksara Usia* [The Alphabet of Time, 1996], and *Rowing Down Two Rivers* (1999). Muhammad has won many national prizes for his poetry and criticism/theory, and was named National Laureate of Malaysia in 1991. Among his international awards are the ASEAN Literary Award 1977, S.E.A. Write Award 1997, and MASTERA (Southeast Asia Literary Council) Award 2001. He is now Professor Emeritus at Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Muhammad Haji Salleh is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.



Nadira Ilana

Nadira Ilana is an independent filmmaker and writer from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. She has directed, written and produced several short films and documentaries including *Dream Cradle* and *Lastik: Once Upon a Time in the East* for Astro and Red Communications. She is best known for her political-historical documentary *The Silent Riot*, which was awarded Best Human Rights Documentary at the Freedom Film Festival 2012. In 2016, Nadira completed a film residency as part of Big Stories, Small Towns, an internationally acclaimed new media micro-documentary series from Australia. She is currently in development for her first feature film titled *Wilderness*, set in her coastal hometown.



Nandita Solomon

Nandita Solomon is a Malaysian film producer and co-founder of independent film production company, Apparat, with director Dain Iskandar Said. She produced and co-wrote Apparat's first production, the documentary *Fish Listeners of Setiu Lagoon*. Subsequently, she produced *Bunohan* (2011), which had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, and went on to screen at various festivals around the world. *Bunohan* is one of a handful of Malaysian films to secure international distribution and was Malaysia's second-ever submission for the Academy Awards Best Foreign Language Film category. She also produced *Interchange* (2016), Said's latest film that recently had its world premiere at the 2016 Locarno International Film Festival. Developing a script is one of her favourite phases in the making of a film.



Nathalie Handal

Nathalie Handal was raised in Latin America, France and the Arab world, and educated in the United States and United Kingdom. Her recent books include the flash collection *The Republics*, lauded as "one of the most inventive books by one of today's most diverse writers" and winner of the Virginia Faulkner Award for Excellence in Writing; the bestselling *The Invisible Star*; the critically acclaimed *Poet in Andalucía*; and *Love and Strange Horses*, winner of the Gold Medal Independent Publisher Book Award, which *The New York Times* says is "a book that trembles with belonging (and longing)." Handal is a Lannan Foundation Fellow, Centro Andaluz de las Letras Fellow, Fondazione di Venezia Fellow, and winner of the Alejo Zuloaga Order in Literature, among other honours. Based in New York and Paris, she is a professor at Columbia University, and writes the literary travel column *The City* and is a writer for Words without Borders.



Nicholas Wong

Nicholas Wong is the author of *Crevasse* [Kaya Press], winner of the 28th Lambda Literary Award in Gay Poetry. He teaches Education at the University of Hong Kong, and is the Vice President of PEN Hong Kong.



Olga Martynova

Olga Martynova was born in 1962 in Dudinka, Krasnoyarsk Krai in Russia. She is a Russian-German writer; she writes poems in Russian, prose and essays in German. She grew up in Leningrad and lives in Frankfurt. She was awarded the Hubert Burda Prize for poets from Eastern, Southern and Central Europe in 2000, the Roswitha von Gandersheim Prize in 2011 and the Adelbert von Chamisso Promotion Prize in 2011. Her novel *Sogar Papageien überleben uns* (Even Parrots Survive Us) was on the shortlist of the Aspekte Prize and on the longlist of the German Book Prize in 2010. She won the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize (2012) with a chapter of her novel *Mörikes Schlüsselbein* (Moerike's Collarbone) and the Prize for Literature of Berlin (2015).

Olga Martynova is supported by the Goethe-Institut.



Pauline Fan

Pauline Fan is a writer and literary translator from Malaysia, and presently serves as Creative Director of the cultural heritage organisation, PUSAKA. Her translations from German to Malay include works by Bertolt Brecht, Immanuel Kant, G.E. Lessing and Franz Kafka. Her Malay translation of Lessing's *Die Ringparabel* was published by the Lessing-Akademie in Germany.

She is currently completing Malay translations of the poetry of Paul Celan and the letters of Rainer Maria Rilke. Her translations and essays have appeared in *Inventory*, Princeton University's journal on literary translation; *Orientierungen*, Bonn University's journal of Asian culture; *Zeitzug*, a Central European online journal; *Axon: Creative Explorations*; and the Malay-language journal, *Obscura: Merapat Renggang*. Pauline is a contributor for the *New Straits Times* and *Malaysiakini.com*. She is the Malaysian coordinator for Lyrikline, a Berlin-based international poetry network and archive. She holds a Masters in Modern German Literature from Oxford University.

Pauline Fan is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.



Pablo Jofré

Berlin-based Chilean poet **Pablo Jofré** has published the poetry collections *Usted* (2013) and *Abecedario* (2015). Together with musician Andi Meißner, he leads the poetry rock and pop duo *Jofre Meissner Project*. In June 2012, his poem *The Light Age* (*Extranjería*) was included in the Bombing of Poems event (Casagrande-Southbank Centre) over the Jubilee Gardens in London.

In 2016, he won the scholarship of literary creation of the Chilean Ministry of Culture for his poetry project *Berlin-Manila* (2017). Pablo has won numerous awards, including the first prize at the Sant Andreu de la Barca Competition (in Spain) for his poem *La Danza De La Existencia* in 2010 and the Honourable Mention Prize of the Chilean National Contest of Literature Gabriela Mistral for his book *Abecedario* in 2009. He is currently working on the poetry collection *Extranjería* (Ediciones Bizarrras, Guatemala 2016) and translations from *Abecedario* in Russian, English, German, Italian and Mandarin.

Pablo Jofré is supported by the Senate Chancellery of Berlin.



Prabda Yoon

Prabda Yoon is a writer, translator and publisher in Bangkok, Thailand. He won the S.E.A. Write Award for the story collection *Kwam Na Ja Pen* in 2002. A new collection of his stories will be published in English in the UK in early 2017.

Motel Mist, which he wrote and directed, premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2016 and was in competition for the Hivos Tiger Awards.



Robert Dessaix

Robert Dessaix is a writer, translator and broadcaster whose best-known books are the autobiography *A Mother's Disgrace*, the novels *Night Letters* and *Corfu*, and the travel memoirs *Twilight of Love* and *Arabesques*. From 1985 to 1995, after teaching Russian language and literature for many years at the Australian National University and the University of New South

Wales, he presented the weekly Books and Writing programme on ABC Radio National. He has also published translations of works by Dostoyevsky, Turgenev and a number of Russian poets, and his translations with Aubrey Mellor of plays by Anton Chekhov have been produced in theatres around Australia. His most recent publications are his essay collection *As I Was Saying* (presently being translated into Malay) and his memoir *What Days Are For*. He lives in Hobart, Tasmania.

Robert Dessaix is supported by Arts Tasmania.



Stefan Hertmans

Stefan Hertmans is a Flemish Belgian writer, author of a vast literary and essayist oeuvre, which has won numerous prizes. His last novel, *War and Turpentine*, is an internationally acclaimed bestseller. His essays are mostly concerned with the place of arts in today's democratic society. Previously he was Professor of Art Criticism, Agogics and Text Analysis at the

University College Ghent. He has engaged intensely in the debates following the terrorist attacks in Brussels on 22 March and has recently written a short play **Antigone in Molenbeek** which was performed at the Amsterdam Forum Re:creating Europe in June 2016. His concern for the arts as the most outstanding form to convey human rights in times of political and cultural crisis, and his strong personal engagement, triggered his invitation to the Fundamental Rights Forum in Vienna.

Stefan Hertmans is supported by the Embassy of Belgium in Malaysia.



Stephen James Smith

Stephen James Smith is a Dublin poet and playwright central to the rise of the vibrant spoken word genre in Ireland today. A prolific performer, Stephen has appeared on stages around the globe, most notably with musician Glen Hansard at the London Palladium and the National Concert Hall in Dublin; as well as appearances at Irish festivals such as Dublin Writers' Festival, Cúirt International Literary Festival, The Electric Picnic and Dublin Fringe Festival. His recently commissioned poem **Dublin You Are** amassed over 300,000 views and in 2012 he was invited to perform for the Irish Olympic team in London. Stephen's work has been translated into Irish, Spanish, Slovenian, Polish, Dutch and Italian. His poetry videos have been screened at film festivals around the world and he has featured in numerous TV programmes such as RTÉ's IFTA Award-winning documentary **WB Yeats: No Country for Old Men**.

Stephen James Smith is supported by Culture Ireland.



Tash Aw

Tash Aw was born in Taipei to Malaysian parents. He grew up in Kuala Lumpur and attended university in the UK. His work has been translated into 23 languages and has twice been longlisted for the Booker Prize. His debut novel, **The Harmony Silk Factory** won the Whitbread First Novel Award in 2005.

Tash Aw is supported by the Singapore Writers Festival



Tishani Doshi

Tishani Doshi is an award-winning writer and dancer of Welsh-Gujarati descent. Born in Madras, India, in 1975, she received a Masters in Writing from the Johns Hopkins University, and worked in London in advertising before returning to India in 2001, where a chance encounter with the legendary choreographer Chandralekha led her to an unexpected career in dance. She has published five books of fiction and poetry, the most recent of which is **The Adulterous Citizen** (poems, stories, essays). Doshi has won the Forward Poetry Prize for best first collection and the All-India Poetry Prize, and her work has been translated into several languages. She currently lives on a beach in Tamil Nadu.

Tishani Doshi is supported by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.



Wojciech Tochman

Wojciech Tochman, born in 1969 in Krakow, Poland, is a non-fiction writer and contributor to the daily, **Gazeta Wyborcza**, and one of the most widely translated non-fiction Polish authors. His books have been published (among others) into English, French, Italian, Russian, and Dutch. With **Like Eating a Stone** (2002), about post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tochman was a finalist for the Nike Literary Prize and for the Prix Témoignage du Monde, awarded by the Radio France International. His two other books, **Today We're Going to Draw Death** (2010) portrays the scars of the Rwandan genocide that can still be found today and **Eli, Eli** (2013) is about poverty and tourism in the Philippines. He is also the co-author of **The Caravan** – a non-fiction piece about Syrian refugees in Jordan. He is the director the Polish Institute of Reportage. He lives in Warsaw.



Zainah Anwar

Zainah Anwar is the co-founder of two ground-breaking women's rights groups, Sisters in Islam in Malaysia and Musawah, the global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family. She is a passionate advocate for women's rights in Islam, and argues for the possibility and necessity of equality and justice for women living in Muslim contexts. Her publications

include **Islamic Revivalism in Malaysia: Dakwah Among the Students** and **Legacy of Honour**. She also writes a monthly column, **Sharing the Nation**, in the **Sunday Star**. Zainah has been named by **Newsweek** and **The Daily Beast** as one of the 150 women “who shake the world”, and by Women Deliver as one of 100 most inspiring people in championing the rights of women and girls.



Zairil Khir Johari

Zairil Khir Johari was elected as the Member of Parliament for Bukit Bendera, Penang in the 2013 general election. A graduate of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, he is currently the Democratic Action Party’s Assistant Secretary for National Publicity and Vice-Chairman of the party’s Penang State Committee. He is also

the Executive Director of the Penang Institute, a state-funded public policy think tank based in Penang. Through his work in Parliament and the Penang Institute, he actively spearheads discussions on issues such as national education, identity politics and federalism. In 2014, Zairil was selected as a Global Leader of Tomorrow by the 44th St Gallen Symposium in Switzerland, an annual conference aimed at fostering inter-generational and inter-cultural dialogue. He is currently pursuing his PhD in political science at Universiti Sains Malaysia and writes extensively. **Finding Malaysia: Making Sense of an Eccentric Nation** is his first publication.

Zairil Khir Johari is supported by Penang Institute.



Zishu-Li

Zishu-Li is a Malaysian novelist. She has won numerous literary awards including the Hua Zong Literary Award (Malaysia), UDN Literary Award (Taiwan) and China Times Literary Award (Taiwan). Her novels have been published in Malaysia, Taiwan and China, and these include **The Years of Remembrance**, **Wild Buddha**, **Gateway to Heaven** and **The Inevitable Coincidence**. She writes prose as well, and two compilations were published with the titles **Of Disordered Timeline** and **The Pause Button**. Her work as a columnist for **Ming Pao Monthly** (Hong Kong) has been compiled and published in the book, **Solo**.

Participating

MODERATORS



Ahmad Fuad Rahmat

Ahmad Fuad Rahmat is a PhD candidate at the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. He co-hosts the radio show on BFM89.9 called **Night School** with Sharaad Kuttan and is a founding member of Projek Dialog, a platform for greater multicultural understanding among Malaysian youths.



Ann Lee

Ann Lee was born in Tawau, Sabah. She is a playwright, writer, and currently a PhD student at the National University of Singapore, researching political satire in Southeast Asia. She holds a BA (Hons) in Applied Photography, Film and Television (Westminster) and an MSc in History of Science, Medicine and Technology (Oxon). She is also an Asia Leadership Fellow, awarded by the Japan Foundation and The International House of Japan. Her published short stories include those in **Body2Body: A Malaysian Queer Anthology** (Matahari, 2009) and **Malaysian Tales: Retold and Remixed** (ZI, 2011) and most recently edited an anthology of fiction about Sabah, **Chronicles of KK** (Fixi, forthcoming, 2016). Her work for the stage has been published in **Sex, Stage & State: Kuali Works Plays** (Parama Adhi Perkasa, 2011) and performed in Kuala Lumpur, Ubud, Sydney, and New York. Ann is working on a new full-length play, **Not Far Now**.



Ezra Zaid

If you’re looking for a quick hit of **Ezra Zaid**, look no further than the Internet or a working radio. You might have seen him on YouTube hosting **That Effing Show**, a popular satirical online series delighting in the absurdities of our local news and politics. If not, you may hear him on BFM89.9’s **Evening Edition** during your drive home, providing commentary about local and

international stories alike. Recently, he has extended his work to hosting documentaries for The History Channel and Channel News Asia. With a focus on political science and philosophy, he graduated from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. He regularly provides commentary on Malaysian current affairs that have featured on Al Jazeera, CNN, **The New York Times**, ABC Radio Australia and **The Straits Times** (Singapore). He is also the co-founder of PopDigital, a creative media shop specialising in media and technology.

.....



Gareth Richards

Gareth Richards is a former academic who taught politics at the University of Manchester and Universiti Malaya. He is the founder-director of Impress Creative & Editorial, a small and innovative company involved in diverse areas of the arts and book production, notably consultant editing and translation. In May 2014, he set up Gerakbudaya Bookshop, Penang, the first independent bookshop in the UNESCO World Heritage site of George Town. He is the co-author/editor of **Asia–Europe Interregionalism: Critical Perspectives** (1999) and wrote the texts for two books of photography, **Portraits of Penang: Little India** (2011) and **Panicrama** (2016).

Gareth Richards is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.

.....



Jason Erik Lundberg

Jason Erik Lundberg was born in New York, grew up in North Carolina, and has lived in Singapore since 2007. He is the author and anthologist of over twenty books, including **Red Dot Irreal** (2011), **The Alchemy of Happiness** (2012), **Fish Eats Lion** (2012), **Strange Mammals** (2013), **Embracing the Strange** (2013), **Carol the Coral** (2016), the **Bo Bo** and **Cha Cha** picture book series, and the biennial **Best New Singaporean Short Stories** anthology series. He is also the founding editor of **LONTAR: The Journal of Southeast Asian Speculative Fiction** (est. 2012), and a recipient of the Creation Grant from Singapore’s National Arts Council. His writing has been shortlisted for the SLF Fountain Award, Brenda L. Smart Award for Short Fiction, SCBWI Crystal Kite Member Choice Award and POPULAR Readers’ Choice Award, and honourably mentioned twice in The Year’s Best Fantasy and Horror.



Kam Raslan

Kam Raslan is a Malaysian writer and radio broadcaster who originally worked in film. He has a long-running column in **The Edge**, has written a novel, **Confessions of an Old Boy** (2007) and is currently writing a non-fiction study of the 1890s.

.....



Ksatriya

Ksatriya is an idea-preneur. He believes that there is great creative potential in Penang and Malaysia, and works to help realise dreams, support learning and encourage expression. He is the co-founder of Say It Like You Mean It, the first local mentorship programme for new performing artists in music, comedy and spoken word.

.....



Lawrence Lacambra Ypil

Lawrence Lacambra Ypil is a poet and essayist from Cebu, the Philippines. He is the author of **The Highest Hiding Place** and has received MFAs from Washington University in St Louis and the Nonfiction Writing Program of the University of Iowa.

.....



Malachi Edwin Vethamani

Malachi Edwin Vethamani is Professor of Modern English Literature, School of English, at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. His areas of specialisation include Malaysian Literature in English, New Literatures in English, Victorian Literature, World Englishes, Malaysian English and teaching literature in English. He has a monthly column on English language and literature in the **New Sunday Times**, a Malaysian national newspaper. His latest publication is a collection of poems, **Complicated Lives** (Maya Press). In 2015, he published **A Bibliography of Malaysian Literature in English** (Maya Press).

Malachi Edwin Vethamani is supported by Maya Press.



Michael Vatikiotis

Michael Vatikiotis has been writing and reporting about Southeast Asia for more than thirty years. He was formerly a correspondent and then editor of the **Far Eastern Economic Review** and a BBC correspondent. He has written two novels set in Indonesia and two collections of short stories set in Southeast Asia. His next book, on power and conflict in Southeast Asia, will be published in 2017.



Mohd Izzuddin Ramli

Mohd Izzuddin Ramli is a researcher at Nusantara Studies, Penang Institute. He graduated from Universiti Sains Malaysia in Political Science and Anthropology. His interests are in culture, local politics and subaltern studies. His current research is on literary activities in Penang, particularly on the aspect of translation. Apart from his academic work, he also shares his social and political commentary on local news portals and writes for **Penang Monthly**. His recent work is included in **Lastik! Lontaran Batu-Batu Kerikil** (2016) and **Prisma: Koleksi Rencana Kontemporari, Suara Anak Muda, Seni dan Budaya** (2015).



Sharaad Kuttan

Sharaad Kuttan has a Masters in Sociology from the National University of Singapore. He co-edited a collection of essays on Singapore, titled **Looking At Culture** in the early 1990s. He is also a member of the Singapore branch of the International Art Critics Association. As part of his contributions to the human rights agenda in Malaysia, he co-founded the Centre for Independent Journalism and ran the short-lived Radiq Radio initiative. He has a chapter on civil society action in the struggle for electoral reform in the *Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia* publication, **Elections and Democracy in Malaysia**. He is currently a producer on BFM89.9.



Sharon Bakar

Sharon Bakar was born in Britain but has lived in Malaysia since 1984. A teacher trainer by profession, she now teaches creative writing through her company Word Works. Her articles, reviews, and short fiction have appeared in a number of Malaysian publications. She has edited or co-edited and published four collections of Malaysian writing. The latest is **Everything About Us**, launched in August 2016 and based on the monthly literary event she organises – Readings @ Seksan.



Shivani Sivagurunathan

Shivani Sivagurunathan writes short fiction and poetry. Her collection of short stories, **Wildlife on Coal Island** came out in 2011 and was republished by Harper Collins India in 2012. She lectures in English Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. She is currently working on a new collection of short stories.



Umapagan Ampikaipakan

Umapagan Ampikaipakan is a media moll. You can find him almost everywhere - from newsprint to the World Wide Web, from radio to television - where he contemplates everything from the idiosyncrasies of Malaysian politics to his unnatural obsession with the written word. Blessed with a critic's pen and a reader's enthusiasm, Uma is one of our foremost literary voices.

His long-running radio show, **Bookmark** on BFM89.9, is Malaysia's pre-eminent broadcast on all things book related. He is also a film critic with **At the Movies**, a pop-culture columnist for #edGY, and the co-host of BFM89.9's drive time radio show, **The Evening Edition**. And when he's not doing all of that, Uma runs The Cooler Lumpur Festival, KL's yearly gathering of literary minds and thought leaders, and Asia's first and only festival of ideas.



Yasmin Bathamanathan

Yasmin Bathamanathan is a Penang-based writer, poet and playwright. She is one half of the Si-Jin Poets who work with elements of translation, contextual interpretation and imagination. Si-Jin Poets' experimental poetry project, **Found in Translation** is a first-of-its-kind Penang Hokkien-English bilingual poetry book. As an intersectional feminist and advocate for women's participation in the arts, she developed and curated the women writers' programme **VOICES** for George Town Literary Festival in 2014, 2015 and 2016.



A. Samad Said (Pak Samad)

A. Samad Said (Pak Samad) was born in Singapore in 1932. His first job was at Singapore General Hospital, but six months later he moved to Kuala Lumpur to work for the newspaper **Fikiran Rakyat**. He then joined **Berita Harian**, a national daily and became its editor and was also made special assistant to the group editor of the Straits Times Group. Samad left the Straits Times in 1987, and since then has been a full-time writer. He is renowned for his poetry, novels, short stories, essays and plays. His major works include **Salina**, **Hujan Pagi**, **Cinta Fansuri**, **Al-Amin**, **Warkah Eropah** and **Lantai T. Pinkie**. His most recent anthology of essays is **Ilham di Tepi Tasik**. He received the S.E.A. Write Award in 1979 and in 1986 was accorded the Anugerah Sasterawan Negara (National Literary Award), Malaysia's leading literary honour. He was the co-chairperson of Bersih 2.0.

A. Samad Said is supported by Penang Institute.



Az Samad

The guitarist-composer-educator **Az Samad** graduated from and taught at the Berklee College of Music, USA, as well as completing a Masters in Music (Jazz Studies) from San Jose State University. A versatile musician, he has recorded with Grammy winners Flaco Jiménez and Max Baca; performed in the United States, Europe and in many Asian countries; and appeared on 22 albums ranging in style from Tex-Mex and contemporary jazz to solo acoustic guitar. He has also appeared as a soloist with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra. His works have been described as 'richly textured, poetic and atmospheric'. Previously based in Berkeley, California, Az now lives in Kuala Lumpur. In addition to performing and teaching, he also records, writes music for short films and mentors aspiring musicians. As a writer, Az was a columnist with **The Star** for the column 'Beats & Bytes'.

Az Samad is supported by Penang Institute.



Aida Redza

Aida Redza is trained in ballet, modern dance and traditional Malay dance. She was educated at Universiti Sains Malaysia, the University of North Carolina, USA and Hogeschool voor de Kunsten, the Netherlands. She has performed professionally with the People's Association Dance Company in Singapore and the John Gamble Dance Theater and Jan Van Dyke Dance Group in the United States. She has performed as a dancer and worked as a choreographer and teacher, to critical acclaim, in many countries, including Australia, Britain, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands, Portugal, Thailand and Singapore. Aida's repertoire of works and performances comprises numerous collaborative choreographies for multidimensional dance and theatre performances, including **Moved by Padi** (2016), **Cross Waves and Moving Jetties** (2015), **Bridges** and **Kaki Lima** (2013) and **River Meets Light** (2011). She is the founder of Euphoria Penang, a vehicle for training young dancers.

Aida Redza is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.



Cecil Rajendra

Cecil Rajendra is a lawyer by profession but a poet by compulsion. Despite being in active legal practice, notably in human rights cases, he has published over 20 collections of poetry and written a highly acclaimed biography of Asia's striptease queen Rose Chan, **No Bed of Roses** (2013). His poems have been published in over 50 countries and been translated into several languages. A collection of poems to celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of his first book – **Personal & Profane** – was published in 2015. And his new collection – **Shakti Symphony: Love Lyrics** – came out earlier this year. Cecil Rajendra has received multiple awards for his poetry and human rights work, including a Malaysian Lifetime Humanitarian Award in 2004 and a Danish International Visiting Artist award in 2011. In 2015 he was declared a Living Heritage Treasure by Penang Heritage Trust.

Cecil Rajendra is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.



Lee Su-Feh

Lee Su-Feh was born and raised in Malaysia and lives in Vancouver. In 1985, she left Malaysia for Paris, where she lived for two years and was influenced by the late Lari Leong. Since arriving in Vancouver in 1988, she has created a body of work that interrogates the contemporary body as a site of intersecting and displaced histories and habits. As Artistic Director of Battery Opera Performance, she has worked both alone and in collaboration with other artists. Recently, she was part of **Migrant Bodies**, a two-year Canada-EU choreographic project ruminating on migration and its implications on European and Canadian societies. Out of this project, she created a solo **The Things I Carry**, which she is now continuing to develop and perform. Some of her other current projects involve making dance machines, and developing as a Fitzmaurice Voicework teacher.

Lee Su-Feh is supported by Battery Opera.



Yasunari Rajendra

Yasunari Rajendra holds a degree in fashion design from Middlesex University, United Kingdom. But his real interests lie in exploring the natural universe through various creative disciplines. He has produced music albums, films and documentaries, fabricated didgeridoos, created murals, and designed posters and book covers for Malaysian and international publishers. He has collaborated in multi-arts productions with cultural icons such as the photographer Ismail Hashim and dancer/choreographer Aida Redza. Some of his film work has appeared in productions for the Discovery Channel and 20th Century Fox. As a senior partner of Friends of Artistes Liaison he has also organised and participated in several musical events and is currently with the Kim Haus group.

Yasunari Rajendra is supported by Gerakbudaya Bookshop.

