

FSALA15

**The Toronto Festival of Literature
and the Arts**

May 15 – May 17, 2015

Program

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Friday May 15

M o r n i n g

School visits by selected authors

A f t e r n o o n

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*event 1

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Combination Room, Trinity College
Enter through 6 Hoskin Ave

“New Theatre in Canada”
alternative theatres in Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver

Jawaid Danish (Rangmanch Canada)
Jasmine Sawant (Sawitri Theatre Group)
Diana Tso
Rahul Varma (Teesri Duniya Theatre)
Moderator: Shailja Saksena

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*event 2

4:15 – 6:00 p.m.

Combination Room, Trinity College
Enter through 6 Hoskin Ave

“Audience & Authenticity”
how does writing for western publishers & audiences mould creativity?

Walter Bgoya (Tanzania)
Jose Dalisay (Philippines)
Asma Sayed (Canada/Gujarat)
Geetanjali Shree (India)
Moderator: Dannabang Kuwabong (Canada/Ghana)

Friday May 15

***event 3**

Evening

7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Strachan Hall, Trinity College, University of Toronto

Festival Inauguration

Host: Sheniz Janmohamed

Remembering Chelva Kanaganayakam;
also Chinua Achebe, U R Ananthamurthy, and Victor Ramraj

Keynote Address: Olivia Chow

Readings

Shauna Singh Baldwin,
Kagiso Molohe,
Madeleine Thien

Musical recital: Tichaona Maradze



Saturday May 16

Munk School of Global Affairs,
Campbell Conference Facility, University of Toronto
1 Devonshire Place

***event 4**

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon
Munk Centre Room 108

“Growing Diversity, Untold Stories”
*The Changing Modes of Writing & Publishing:
the impact of self-publishing on the telling of
stories*

Charles Smith
Tasneem Jamal
Sang Kim
Dawn Promislow
Safia Fazlul

Moderator: Narendra Pachkhede

***event 5**

10:00 a.m. – 12 noon
Campbell Room

“The World and English: Challenges in
Writing and Publishing”
*Is the audience shrinking in the face of
growing English influence?*

Cheran (Tamil)
Harish Narang(Hindi)
Anar (Tamil)
Walter Bgoya (Swahili)
Jose Dalisay (Tagalog)
Moderator: Arun Prabha Mukherjee



***event 6**

10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Writers' Workshop

led by Olive Senior
Registration \$30

Saturday May 16

***event 7**

1:30 – 2:50 p.m.
Munk Centre Room 108

Public Reading

Dannabang Kuwabong
Anand Mahadevan
Olive Senior
Moderator: Elizabeth Nunez



***event 8**

3:10 – 4:30 p.m.
Munk Centre Room 108

East Asian Panel

Is “Asian-Canadian” a helpful label in terms of the Canadian canon?

Denise Chong
C Fong Hsiung
Madeleine Thien
Diana Tso
Terry Watada
Moderator: Sang Kim

Saturday May 16

***event 9**

7:00 – 10:00 pm

Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC (750 Spadina Ave)

An Evening of Dance & Literature

Ticket \$30

Readings:

Tololwa Mollel

Elizabeth Nunez

Jose Dalisay

African guitar: Tichaona Maredza

Intermission

“The Book of Sandalwood”

dance inspired by classical texts

performed by InDance with Hari Krishnan



Sunday May 17

all events in Campbell Room, Munk Centre

***event 10**

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

South Asian Panel

“Is there a unity in South Asian writing?”

Anar (Sri Lanka)

Harish Narang (India)

Geetanjali Shree (India)

Moderator: Meena Chopra

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***event 11**

2:10 - 2:30 p.m.

Carnatic Vocal Recital by Kamini Dandapani



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***event 12**

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
South Asia in Canada

Is there a unity in South Asian Canadian literature?

Cheran Rudhramurty (Tamil)

Aparna Halpe (Singhala/English)

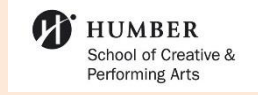
Gurdev Chauhan (Punjabi)

Shailja Saksena (Hindi)

Nasim Syed (Urdu)

Moderator: Suman Ghai

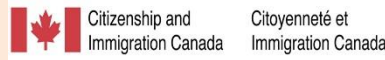
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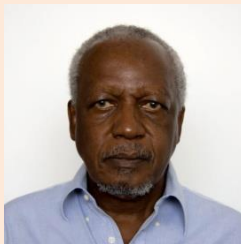
Participants

INTERNATIONAL



Anar (Issath Rehana Azeem) (Sri Lanka)

Anar writes poetry in Tamil, and several of her poems have been translated into English and appeared in journals including *Tamil Women's Poetry: A Current of Contemporary Voices* (2009, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi). She has won several awards, most notably the Government of Sri Lanka's National Literature Award and the Vijay TV Excellence in the Field of Literature (Sigaram Thotta Pengal) Award. She lives with her husband and son in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka at Sainthamaruthu.



Walter Bgoya (Tanzania)

Walter Bgoya was for many years the Managing Director of Tanzania Publishing House, and is currently the founder and CEO of Tanzania's largest publisher, Mkuki na Nyota, winner of the NOMA Award for African publishing. Previous to that he served as a diplomat in Ethiopia, China, North Korea, and the Organization of African Unity, and the United Nations. He publishes in both English and Swahili and has discovered major talents in Swahili poetry and fiction, and has himself edited and translated numerous works.



Jose Dalisay (Philippines)

Jose Dalisay Jr was born in Romblon, Philippines in 1954. He has published nearly 30 books of stories, plays, and essays, six of them receiving the National Book Award from the Manila Critics Circle. In 1998, he was named to the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Centennial Honors List as one of the 100 most accomplished Filipino artists of the past century. In 2007, his second novel, *Soledad's Sister*, was shortlisted for the inaugural Man Asian Literary Prize in Hong Kong.



Perumal Murugan(India)

PERUMAL MURUGAN is a well-known contemporary Tamil writer and poet. He has published seven novels, four collections of short stories and four collections of poetry. Two of his novels have been translated into English to wide acclaim: *Seasons of the Palm*, which was shortlisted for the prestigious Kiriya Award in 2005, and *Current Show*. FOR REASONS OF HARASSMENT FOR HIS LAST NOVEL, THE AUTHOR HAS HAD TO WITHDRAW FROM THE FESTIVAL.



Geetanjali Shree (India)

Geetanjali Shree is the author of five novels, of which *Mai* won the Sahitya Akademi Award in India and has been translated into many languages. She has also published a number of collections of short stories. Her other awards include the Krisna Baldev Vaid Samman, Hindi Akademi Award, Indu Sharma Katha Samman, and Dwijdev Samman. Geetanjali has long been associated with theatre also, and plays with scripts prepared by her have been staged in Toronto, Tokyo, Berlin, Seoul, and several Indian cities. Her novels are: *Mai*, *Hamara Shahar Us Baras*, *Tirohit*, *Khali Jagah*, and *Aarampaar* (in press).

Harish Narang (India)

Harish Narang writes fiction in Hindi and is also a Hindi-English and English-Hindi translator. Former professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, he is also the author of many critical writings. His translations into Hindi include works by Chinua Achebe, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, MG Vassanji, Marta Tikanen, and Ernest Hemingway. His translations into English include works by Surya Kant Tripathi and Nirala. He is the author of two collections of stories: *Pakistani Bachha*, and *Sunte the Sahar Hogi*. He was born in current Pakistan and was educated in Delhi.



Elizabeth Nunez (Trinidad)

Elizabeth Nunez is the author of eight novels, four of which were selected as the New York Times Editors Choice. Among them, *Boundaries* was nominated for the 2012 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Fiction, *Anna In-Between* won the PEN Oakland Award, and *Prospero's Daughter* was 2006 Novel of the Year for *Black Issues Book Review*. *Not for Everyday Use*, Nunez's memoir, was published in April 2014. Elizabeth Nunez is a Distinguished Professor at Hunter College, the City University of New York.

CANADIAN



Shauna Singh Baldwin

Shauna Singh Baldwin's first novel, *What the Body Remembers* received the 2000 Commonwealth Writer's Prize for Best Book (Canada-Caribbean region) and has been translated into fourteen languages. Her second novel *The Tiger Claw* was a finalist for Canada's Giller Prize. Shauna is the author of *English Lessons and Other Stories*, *We Are Not in Pakistan: Stories* and coauthor of *A Foreign Visitor's Survival Guide to America*. Her awards include the Writer's Union of Canada Award for Short Prose and the Canadian Literary Award. *English Lessons* received the Friends of American Writers Award. *The Selector of Souls*, a novel, received the Anne Powers Fiction Prize. Shauna holds an MBA from Marquette University and an MFA from the University of British Columbia.

www.ShaunaSinghBaldwin.com



Gurdev Chauhan

Gurdev Chauhan has published 5 books of poetry in Punjabi (*Nikkian Berian Nikkey Chappu*, *Makki Da Geet*, *Dibb De Sittey*, *Saptak* and *Aksmaat*) and one book of poetry in English *The Song of Maize*. He has also translated Amrita Pritam's book *Ekk Thi Sara* from Hindi as *Life and Poetry of Sara Shagufta*. In addition he has published two books of satire (*Kutta Kitab te Gulab*, and *Desi Murg Valiti Baang*) and two books of creative nonfiction in Punjabi, *Aas Paas* and *Chashamdeed*. Currently he is the Chief Editor of *South Asian Ensemble*, a Canadian Quarterly of Literature, Arts, and Culture.



Cheran

R Cheran is one of the most celebrated Sri Lankan Tamil poets, writing in Tamil. He is currently an associate professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology at the University of Windsor. His publications include *History and Imagination: Tamil Culture in the Global Context* (2007), *New Demarcations: Essays in Tamil Studies* (2009), and *You Cannot Turn Away* (2011), a collection of poetry translated from Tamil.



Denise Chong

Denise Chong, two-time finalist for the Governor General's literary award, is best known for her family memoir *The Concubine's Children*, a *Globe and Mail* best seller for 93 weeks. Described as "beautiful, haunting and wise" by the *New York Times* Book Review, it is now a Penguin Canada "Modern Classic." She has subsequently published *The Girl in the Picture* about the Vietnam War and its famous casualty, *Egg on Mao*, and *Lives of the Family: Stories of Fate and Circumstance*. Chong's most anthologized work is a speech, *Being Canadian*. She lives in Ottawa.



Jawaid Danish

Jawaid Danish is the founder and Artistic Director of RangManch-Canada, a theatrical group promoting Indian theatre in Canada. He organises the Hindustani Drama Festival annually, showcasing the varied and rich heritage of Indian theatre. He has received numerous awards and recognition, among them are The Civic Arts Award-Pickering 2010; South Asian Theatre Festival Award – New Jersey 2008; and the Shiromani Sahitya Award – India 2007. He has read and presented his plays in the Universities of Delhi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Dhaka, Karachi, Sweden and Tokyo.



Safia Fazlul

Safia Fazlul left Bangladesh with her family as a baby and spent the first ten years of her life in Oslo, Norway. She then moved to Toronto where she studied history and sociology at the University of Toronto. Growing up in a traditional Bangladeshi family while simultaneously trying to fit into Canadian culture inspired her to write her novel, *The Harem*. Safia works in the financial industry and writes in her spare time.

Suman K Ghai

Suman K Ghai is a founder director of the Hindi Writers Guild in Toronto. He writes stories, plays, and poetry, and his work has been published in many anthologies.



C Fong Hsiung

C Fong Hsiung, a Hakka Chinese, was born in Kolkata, India, and immigrated to Canada in the 1970s. She is the author of *The Picture Bride*, a novel set in the Tangda neighbourhood of Kolkata and in Toronto. She lives in Markham, Ontario.



Sang Kim

Sang Kim is a fiction writer, playwright, chef, and restaurateur. He is the recipient of the 2013 Gloria Vanderbilt Prize for Short Fiction. His upcoming third book, *Woody Allen Ate My Kimchi*, takes a candid and humorous look behind-the-scenes at some of the top restaurants and hotels in Ontario. He is currently working on the second play of the Holocaust Trilogy, called *The Lottery*. He is the owner of the popular Windup Bird Café in downtown Toronto and runs Sushi Making for the Soul, a weekly sushi-making class, where he merges his passions for Japanese cuisine, sustainable seafood, and food literacy for children.



Dannabang Kuwabong

Dannabang Kuwabong is a Ghanaian Canadian born in Nanville in the Upper West Region of Ghana. He was educated in Ghana, Scotland, and Canada and teaches Caribbean literature at the University of Puerto Rico, San Juan. He has published three books: *Konga and other Dagaaba Folktales*, *Caribbean Blues & Love's Genealogy* (poetry), and *Voices from Kibuli Country* (poetry). Kuwabong's poetry adds a new dimension to the growing body of new voices that is beginning to expand and redefine Canadian literature.



Tasneem Jamal

Tasneem Jamal was born in Mbarara, Uganda, and immigrated to Canada with her family in 1975. She worked as a journalist for over a decade as an editor at *The Globe and Mail*, *Saturday Night* magazine, and the *National Post*. She has written fiction and non-fiction for the *Toronto Review of Contemporary Writing Abroad*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Saturday Night*, the *National Post* and the *Literary Review of Canada*. *Where the Air Is Sweet* is her first novel. She lives in Kitchener with her husband and two daughters.



Anand Mahadevan

Anand Mahadevan is a Toronto-based writer interested in the in-between lives of men and women following migration, coming out, inside and outside families. His first novel *The Strike* was published to critical acclaim in Canada and India. A recipient of a Canada-US Fulbright Fellowship, Anand has recently finished his second novel *American Sufi* and currently teaches writing at the University of Toronto Schools as he works on his third book.



Tichaona Maredza

Tichaona Daniel Maredza is a Zimbabwean singer, multi-instrumentalist and composer whose music, while rooted in traditional styles of Zimbabwe, has a contemporary flair. He has appeared at festivals across Ontario including Afrofest and has accompanied visiting African musicians like Zimbabwean legends Thomas Mapfumo and Oliver Mtukudzi. Tich is the band leader of The Tich Maredza Band, a five piece multicultural band.



Kagiso Molohe

Kagiso Lesego Molohe was born and raised in South Africa and is a graduate of the University of Cape Town where she studied with André Brink and Dorothy Driver. Her three published young adult novels are: *Dancing in the Dust* (TSAR, 2002; OUPSA, 2004), *The Mending Season* (OUPSA, 2005; Baobab Books 2008) and *This Book Betrays My Brother* (OUPSA, 2012). All three are read in schools across Southern Africa and *The Mending Season* was on the set work list in 2006. *This Book Betrays My Brother* won the prestigious Percy Fitzpatrick Prize for youth literature for 2014. Kagiso lives in Ottawa with her partner and two children and has just completed her first adult novel.



Tololwa Mollel

Tololwa M Mollel is a Tanzanian-born author of nineteen internationally published books for the young and not so young readers, in English and Kiswahili. *My Rows and Piles of Coins* and *Big Boy* won the Writers Guild of Alberta awards and *The Orphan Boy* won the Governor General's Award for Illustrations. *From Lands of the Night* is his latest book. He has been translated into Korean, Serbian, Norwegian, Bengali, and several South African languages. Tololwa also writes stories for theatre, in some of which he performs.



Arun Prabha Mukherjee

Arun Prabha Mukherjee is professor of English at York University. Her teaching interests are South Asian and Minority Canadian literatures, and she is the author of *Towards an Aesthetic of Opposition: Essays on Literature; Criticism and Cultural Imperialism; Oppositional Aesthetics: Readings from a Hyphenated Space*; and *Postcolonialism: My Living*. Her translation of Omprakash Valmiki's autobiography *Joothan: A Dalit's Life* won the New India Foundation Prize for "the finest book published in India during 2002-2003." Her translation of Sharankumar Limbale's novel *Hindu* was published in 2010.



Narendra Pachkhede

Narendra Pachkhédé is an essayist and writer who has published across various disciplines. His publications include *Transpose*, based on international Conference on Cultural Production in Contemporary Canada, Regina (2007), the quarter-century retrospective of Video Art titled *International Geographic* (2006), and an anthology of essays. His films have been shown internationally and he sits on various juries of international film and arts festivals in Canada and Europe.



Dawn Promislow

Dawn Promislow was born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa, and has lived in Toronto since 1987. Her writing has appeared in several journals, and has been anthologized in *TOK: Writing the New Toronto* and *African Roar 2012*. Her debut short story collection, *Jewels and Other Stories* (2010), was longlisted for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award 2011 and was named one of the 8 best fiction debuts of 2011 by *The Globe and Mail* (Canada). She is writing a novel.



Jasmine Sawant

Jasmine Sawant was writing essays, articles and short stories while in Mumbai, India, but it was when she moved to Saudi Arabia that she started writing plays, and in Canada she continues to write plays and radio scripts for commercials. She is the co-founder and artistic co-Director of SAWITRI Theatre Group, a woman-centred theatre organization based in Mississauga, and is currently on the Advisory Board of Meadowvale Theatre, Mississauga. In her daytime avatar, Jasmine is the general manager of the award-winning dance company SAMPRADAYA Dance Creations.



Shailja Saxena

Shailja Saksena writes stories, poems, articles, and plays in Hindi. A founding director of Hindi Writers Guild in Toronto, she has directed several Hindi plays, including *Andha Yug* by Dr. Dharmveer Bharti (2010), *Rashmirathi* (2012), and *Mitro Marjani* (2013). Her creative works have been published in several magazines, and her poetry is collected in the volume *Kya Tum Ko Bhi Aisa Laga?*



Asma Sayed

Asma Sayed teaches at Canadian universities in the areas of Comparative Literature, Communication Studies and Women's Studies. She is the editor of *M. G. Vassanji: Essays on His Works* (2014) and *Writing Diaspora: Transnational Memories, Identities and Cultures* (2014); she is also co-editor of *World on a Maple Leaf: a Treasury of Canadian Multicultural Folktales* (2011), and writes a film column for *AwaaZ* – a periodical in Kenya. Asma is a translator and has translated folk tales from Gujarati into English.



Olive Senior

Olive Senior is one of Canada's most internationally recognized and acclaimed writers. Among her many awards and honours she has won the Commonwealth Writers Prize and F.G. Bressani Literary Prize, was nominated for a Governor-General's Literary Award, and was runner-up for the Casa de Las Americas Prize and the Pat Lowther Award. In 2003, she received the Norman Washington Manley Foundation Award for Excellence (preservation of cultural heritage – Jamaica). Her body of published work includes four books of poetry, three collections of short stories and several award-winning non-fiction works on Caribbean culture.



Charles Smith

Charles C Smith is a Toronto poet, lecturer, and arts administrator. His most recent books are *Travelogue of the Bereaved* (poetry, 2014) and *The Dirty War: The Making of the Myth of Black Dangerousness* (essays, 2014). He has published his poetry in numerous magazines and edited several volumes of poetry. Currently he is the Cultural Liaison in the Dean's Office at the University of Toronto, Scarborough.



Nasim Syed

Nasim Syed, originally from Karachi, Pakistan, is a poet, short-story writer, columnist, and an activist on women's issues. She has published two poetry collections, *Adhi gawahi*, and *Samunder rasta dega*, a collection of criticism on the poetry of John Eliya, a collection of translations of Aboriginal poetry into Urdu, titled *Mukame Bashindeon ke shairi*, and most recently a collection of short stories (afsana), *jis tan lage*. *Adhi gawahi* won the best book award from Adbi Markaz Los Angeles, and *Samundar rastadega* from the Washington Urdu Society.



Madeleine Thien

Madeleine Thien is the author of three books of fiction. Her most recent novel, *Dogs at the Perimeter*, was a finalist of the 2014 International Literature Prize awarded in Berlin. She is a recipient of the City of Vancouver Book Award, the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, the Amazon.ca First Novel Award, and the Ovid Festival Prize, and her writing has appeared in *The Guardian*, *Granta*, *PEN America*, *Asia Literary Review*, *Brick*, and elsewhere. Her books have been translated into 22 languages. Since 2010, she has been part of the international faculty in the MFA program at City University of Hong Kong.



Diana Tso

Diana Tso is a performer, playwright, poet, and story-teller who has worked with diverse theatres internationally, including Ariane Mnouchkine's Théâtre du Soleil in France and the Portugal-based Espiral Theatre. Her performances include *Dante's Inferno* and *Dora*- award winning *Chekhov Shorts*, both with Theatre Smith-Gilmour, and *by the way, Miss...* with Urge/Theatre Direct, for which she shared the Dora Mavor Award for Outstanding Ensemble Performance. Her play *Red Snow* had its world premier for a two- week run in Toronto in 2012 and was followed by its international premiere in the same year at the Shanghai International Contemporary Theatre Festival in China.



Terry Watada

Terry Watada is a Toronto poet, novelist, essayist, and playwright. His books include *The Game of 100 Ghosts* (poetry, 2014), *The Sword, The Medal and the Rosary* (manga, 2013), *The TBC: The Toronto Buddhist Church, 1995 - 2010*, and *Kuroshio: The Blood of Foxes*, (novel, 2007). Seven of his plays have achieved mainstage production. In 2013 he was presented the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and the NAJC National Merit Award recognizing his writing, his music and his community volunteerism in 2013. More recently he was awarded the Dr Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Award for a lifetime dedicated to the development of human rights in Canada.