

Notes on Contributors

Alicia Izharuddin is Research Associate in the “Women’s Studies in Religion Program” at Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University, USA. She holds a PhD from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and has published extensively on feminism, gender and sexuality in Malaysia and Indonesia. She is also the author of *Gender and Islam in Indonesian Cinema* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017) and has a keen interest in developing theories related to intimacies, negative emotions, and religious imperfection in Muslim communities.

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Andrew Hock Soon Ng is Associate Professor at Monash University Malaysia where he teaches literature and creative writing. His research areas include Gothic and horror fiction and film, postcolonial narratives and postmodern aesthetics. He is the author of four books and he has also contributed numerous articles to various peer-reviewed journals and edited collections.

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Anitha Devi Pillai is an applied linguist and teacher educator at the National Institute of Education (NTU, Singapore), where she teaches courses on writing pedagogy and writing skills. She has authored five books, including *From Kerala to Singapore: Voices from the Singapore Malayalee Community* (2017), *From Estate to Embassy: Memories of an Ambassador* (2019), which is reviewed in this issue of *SARE*, and *The Story of Onam* (in press). She has also published academic papers, poems, stories and newspaper articles. Her next creative project is a translation of Kamaladevi Aravindan’s Tamil historical novel based on the lives of Indians in Singapore and Malaysia, titled *Sembawang*.

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Asad Latif is a former journalist and former Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore. A Singaporean, he was born in Calcutta, where he read English Honours at Presidency College before receiving his Masters of Letters degree in History at Cambridge, where he was a Chevening and

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Bernhard Drax (AKA Draxtor™ in social VR) is an award-winning media maker from Munich, Germany who has produced more than 200 mini-documentaries on the subject of economic and creative opportunities in virtual worlds via his “Drax Files World Makers” series on YouTube. With a background in music as well as radio journalism, Drax recently completed the documentary “Our Digital Selves” for the National Science Foundation which examines embodiment and place-making in VR as it empowers people with various disabilities. He is currently completing the soundtrack for the French film *Mamatchki* as well as preparing a VR mini-series for Luxembourg television featuring Linden Lab’s Sansar platform as playground for historical re-enactment.

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Chen Cuifen is winner of the Troubadour International Poetry Prize 2018. Her fiction is forthcoming in an anthology from Ethos Books and Margaret River Press in late 2019, while her creative nonfiction is forthcoming in *Fourth Genre*. She was born and raised in Singapore, where she is currently pursuing an MA in Creative Writing at LASALLE College of the Arts.

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Chi P. Pham is Tenure Researcher at the Institute for Literature in the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Hà Nội, Vietnam. She is currently also Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Hamburg, Germany. She holds a PhD in Literary Theory from the Vietnam Graduate Academy of Social Sciences and a PhD in Comparative Literatures from the University of California-Riverside, USA. Her recent publications include: (as author) *Cảm nghiệm thẩm mỹ trong sử thi Ramayana* (Aesthetic Experience in the Ramayana) (Hanoi: NXB Đại học Quốc gia, 2015, book); (as co-editor) *Ecologies in Southeast Asian Literatures: Histories, Myths, and Societies* (Vernon Press, 2019); and “A Critique of the Orientalist Divide: Setting Side by Side of Domestic Spaces in R.K. Narayan’s *The Dark Room* (1938) and Rachilde’s *The Juggler* (1900)” in *Comparative Literature Studies*, Vol. 3, No.53, 2018 (Penn State University Press).

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Chris Mooney-Singh is Lecturer in the M.A. Creative Writing programme at LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore. Australian-born he has been a permanent resident of Singapore since 1999 and is the co-editor of poetry slam in Singapore and Malaysia. He has published several books of poetry, the last being *The Bearded Chameleon*. He is also the Artistic Director of Lit Up Asia Festival, and director of Word Forward Limited and The Writers Centre, Singapore. In 2015 he gained his doctorate in Creative Writing from Monash University, Australia and in the same year his verse novel *Foreign Madam and the White Yogi* was commended in the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards (unpublished manuscript, fiction category).

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Darryl Whetter is the inaugural director of the first Creative Writing MA programme in Singapore and Southeast Asia (at the LASALLE College of the Arts). He is the author of three books of fiction and two poetry collections. In his native Canada, his debut collection of stories was a Globe and Mail Top 100 Book of 2003 and, *Origins*, his first poetry collection, received a starred review in *Quill & Quire*. His scholarly articles on literature and Creative Writing pedagogy have been published by Routledge, the National Poetry Foundation (USA), and Presses Sorbonne Nouvelle, France. He has a novel forthcoming from Penguin in 2020.

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I Nyoman Sedana is Professor at the *Institut Seni Indonesia* (Indonesian Institute of the Arts) in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia. He comes from a traditional family of dancers in Gianyar and graduated from Kokar High School and Asti College of Performing Arts before joining the faculty at ISI. His wayang (shadow theatre) teachers include I Nyoman Sumandhi and Dalang Sidja. He received his MA from Brown University and PhD from the University of Georgia. His research in puppet traditions of Asia has been supported by the Asian Cultural Council, the Ford Foundation, the IIAS in Leiden, the National University of Singapore and other institutions. He is co-author of *Performance in Bali* (with Leon Rubin).

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Jay Jay Jegathesan holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) degree from the University of Western Australia (UWA), with a major in management and marketing. An employee of UWA since 2004, Jay Jay is based in the Graduate Research School coordinating a unit looking after the interests of prospective PhD students in the medical field. He is the founder and leader of the UWA presence in 3D virtual worlds. His research interests extend to looking at groups of artists, film makers and educators through the lens of Communities of Practice, as well as investigating how perceptions of institutions when experienced through virtual technologies are able to impact on and influence perceptions of the real. He helmed 8 international 3D film and animation challenges and has produced films that were selected to 7 Academy Award qualifying festivals. Films produced by Jay Jay have been Official Selections to more than 400 films festivals across the world and have won more than 200 awards.

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John Charles Ryan is a poet, naturalist and Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of New England in Australia. Recent publications include *The Language of Plants* (Minnesota, 2017), *Southeast Asian Ecocriticism* (Lexington, 2017), *Forest Family* (Brill, 2018) and *Australian Wetland Cultures* (Lexington, 2019). His published poetry includes the books *Two With Nature* (Fremantle Press, 2012), *Primavariants* (ICLL Press, 2017) and *The Earth Decides* (Cyberwit, 2017). He works collaboratively with botanists, visual artists and musicians.

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John Thieme is Senior Fellow at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK. He previously held Chairs at the University of Hull and London South Bank University, and has also taught at the Universities of Guyana and North London and, as an Annual Visiting Professor, at the University of Turin. His critical work includes the books *Postcolonial Con-Texts: Writing Back to the Canon*, *Postcolonial Literary Geographies: Out of Place*, and monographs on Derek Walcott, V.S. Naipaul and R.K. Narayan. He edited *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature* for two decades and is General Editor of the Manchester University Press Contemporary World Writers Series. His creative writing includes *Paco's Atlas and Other Poems* (reviewed in this issue) and the novel *The Book of Francis Barber*, both published in 2018.

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Kirpal Singh is a poet, literary and cultural critic and university lecturer. He recently retired from his position as Associate Professor at the Singapore Management University, but remains a powerful voice in Singapore's creative and literary circles. A presence in the local literary scene since the 1970s, Singh has written and published several collections of poetry and books and articles on creative thinking. He also has the distinction of being the first Asian director of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 1993 and 1994.

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Marta Dvořák was born in Budapest, grew up in Canada, and went on to teach World Literatures at the Sorbonne in Paris. Her book *The Faces of Carnival in Anita Desai's In Custody* led to a Visiting Fellowship at Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. She has edited books ranging from *Tropes and Territories* (with W. H. New) and *Crosstalk* (with Diana Brydon) to *Translocated Modernisms* (with Dean Irvine). Her book on Mavis Gallant is in press.

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Oliver Castaignede was born in France and has lived in Singapore for the past 18 years. He went back to writing in 2015 after a 20-year (corporate) interlude. He is a graduate of the LASALLE College of the Arts' MA in creative writing and writes in both French and English. His first novel was published in France in 2018 and his other creative works, including a short play, have been featured or are forthcoming in English magazines. **Email address:** olivier.a.castaignede@gmail.com

Peter Morgan is completing an MA at the LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore). In addition to having published technical writing Peter has read poetry and short story extracts at Lit Up Asia-Pacific (Singapore, 2018), George Town Literary Festival (Penang, 2018), and the Australasian Association of Writing Programs (Perth, Australia, 2018). Peter's published photography includes images in *The Seventy Wonders of China* (Thames and Hudson), *The New Republic*, an Argentinean math textbook and a German surfing magazine. He has worked for a number of years on health and education projects in China, Japan, the UK and now Singapore.

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Prabhu Gupta retired as Distinguished Professor of Global Business, Management and Public Policy at William Carey University, Shillong, India. His first published poem appeared in *The Illustrated Weekly of India* in the 1960s. Since then, his work has appeared in *Desh Aur Diaspora*, *Indian PEN*, *Journal of Indian Writing in English*, *Kunapipi*, *Masala*, *MuseIndia*, *Poetry24*, *Ship of Fools*, *The Poets Republic*, and *The Redbeck Anthology of British Asian Poetry*. Two volumes of his own poems, *Beginnings* and *Continuations*, were published in the 1970s by the Writers' Workshop, Calcutta. He edited *Lotus: An Anthology of Contemporary Indian Religious Poetry in English* (1986) as well as *Selected Poems of Leela Dharmaraj* (1988), and compiled *Black British Literature: An Annotated Bibliography* (Dangaroo Press, 1986). He has served as Chairman of the Association for the Teaching of Caribbean, African, Asian and Associated Literatures; Literature Advisor to the South East Arts Association; Organizer, Greater London Literature Competition; and as Member of the Panel of Judges for the Commonwealth Poetry Prize. In January 2017, Skylark Publications, UK, selected him as Poet of the Month, and he is included in *Debrett's People of Today*. He lives in the UK.

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Priyanka Srivastava was born in India and although trained as a dentist now spends her time as a poet, writer and artist who has been a permanent resident of Singapore for the past twelve years. She usually spends her free time in libraries or cafes sketching and painting faces. For the past two years she has also been reading her work at Singapore Poetry Slam and other Singapore reading events.

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Savinder Kaur is Executive Director of Lit Up Festival as well as of Word Forward Limited and The Writers Centre, Singapore. She holds a B.A. in Economics from London University and a MSc. in Training from the University of Leicester, UK but has a working background in theatre production work in Singapore. She is the co-founder of poetry slam in Singapore and Malaysia and has steered the Lit Up Festival from its inception. **Email address:** savinder@wordforward.org

Scott Grant holds a PhD from Monash University, Melbourne, Australia where he is Lecturer in Chinese Studies in the Faculty of Arts. Known as Kaylee in Second Life, he has taught Chinese language and culture at tertiary level for more than 20 years at Monash University. He coordinates and teaches two gateway units, Chinese Introductory 1 & 2, and two capstone units, Chinese Online Media 1 & 2. He is the creator of the Monash Chinese Island virtual language learning simulation in Second Life that has been part of the formal beginner level curriculum at Monash since 2008. Scott has also conducted collaborative research and jointly published a number of papers on educational uses of 3D multi-user virtual environments covering topics including self-efficacy, cognitive skills, second language acquisition and foreign language anxiety.

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Sreedhevi Iyer is affiliated with the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia. Having lived in Malaysia, Hong Kong and Australia, she can only answer “many places” when asked where she is from. Her writing has been published in several countries, including the United States, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Australia, Sweden, and Italy. *Jungle Without Water and Other Stories* is her first book published in Australia. The Southeast Asian edition was shortlisted for the Penang Monthly Book Prize 2017. Her fiction work has also been nominated for the Pushcart Prize in the United States. She has guest edited *Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*, and *Drunken Boat*, and was writer-in-residence at Lingnan University of Liberal Arts in Hong Kong. Sreedhevi gained her MFA and PhD from City University Hong Kong, and currently lives in Melbourne. **Email address:** sreedhevi@hotmail.com

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Uma Jayaraman teaches at the National University of Singapore. She is a published short-story writer and playwright who writes and directs plays in Tamil, Hindi and English. In her works she explores the mundane but life-changing realities of lives in displacement. Jayarajan is particularly interested in contextualizing her stories in her Southeast Asian experiences. She has also published on Southeast Asian writers and their work. **Email**

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Valerie Ang was born and raised in Singapore. She is a writer of queer fiction and poetry, and the proud owner of a three-foot stuffed whale. Her writing has been featured in *Cortex*, the *Ekphrastic Review*, and *Shot Glass Journal*, and is forthcoming in *Speculative Nonfiction*.

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Victor Emmanuel Carmelo D. Nadera Jr (Vim Nadera) is Professor at the University of the Philippines-Diliman and was also until recently the Director of the Philippines High School for the Arts, in Los Baños, the Philippines. He holds a PhD in Philippine Studies from UP-Diliman. His dissertation includes his poems turned into songs by Joey Ayala and other musicians who composed an album entitled “Palay, Bigas, Kanin.” After gaining his BS and MA in Psychology from the University of Santo Tomas, he was an expressive arts therapist to cancer survivors, persons with AIDS (PWA), drug patients, “comfort women,” streetkids, as well as victims of abuse, calamities, and grief. As a performance artist, Victor represented the Philippines in art festivals in South Korea (2013), Germany (2013), Thailand (2012 and 2006), the United States (2011), Japan (2010), Singapore (2008 and 2002), Taiwan (2007, 2006, and 2001), and Malaysia (2001 and 2000). As a *lakandiwa*, the judge in a Balagtasan trio, he is the V in the Balagtasan team – MTV – with M or Mike Coroza and T or Teo Antonio. The group was invited to perform at the Filipino American Book Festival 1 and 2 at the San Francisco Library and the

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