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Biographies

Alev Adil is Head of the Department of Creative, Critical and Communication Studies at the University of Greenwich where she teaches film studies, creative writing and critical theory at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Her academic research, poetry and digital art practice engage with digital environments, diasporal identities and the interstices of private and political memory. Her first collection of poetry *Venus Infers* was published in 2004 and her poetry has been widely anthologised.

Uz Afzal is an artist and a teacher. She has exhibited her work in London and has also left small items of her work in a variety of spaces, most notably, in libraries. She works conceptually and explores the emotive and the poetic. More at: www.uzafzal.com

Robert P. Baird is the former editor of *Chicago Review*, and has written for *Slate*, *Bookforum* and *Chicago Magazine*, among other outlets. He writes online at www.digitalemunction.com

Mason Ball is in his third year of a Creative Writing degree at London Metropolitan University. His work has been shortlisted twice for the university's annual creative writing competition, and last year his poem *Mother Theresa in The Winner's Enclosure* won the Sandra Ashman Award. He is currently working on the final draft of a novel.

Mary Jo Bang's five poetry collections include *Louise in Love*, *The Eye Like a Strange Balloon*, and *Elegy* - which was awarded the 2007 National Book Critics Circle Award. Her sixth collection, *The Bride of E*, will be published by Graywolf Press in autumn 2009. She has received a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship and a Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University. She's a Professor of English at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

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Dean Barker has had plays produced by Paines Plough and the London New Play Festival. He is currently working on a novel called *Spoken Song*.

John Barker was born in London and works as a professional indexer of books. His collection of prison stories *Bending the Bars* is published by Christie Books.

E.D. Blake lives in London, and is halfway through her studies on the new MFA in Creative Writing programme at Kingston University. She has previously published one short story in *Ripple*, the KU magazine, and is an audience regular at the Rhythm & Muse poetry and music night in Teddington.

Laura Bridgeman's commissions include: *Maison Splendide* (London New Plays Festival), *Junk* (Gay Sweatshop), *Medicine Girl* (Guinness Ingenuity Award), *Etiquette* (Radio 4), *ID 1000* (National Youth Theatre G.B.), and *There Is No Word For It* (Transfabulous/girlboy). Laura is currently working on a novel, *Raphael Coombs*, funded by the Arts Council of England, and *Caterpillars*, a six-part TV series. She has a PhD in Creative Writing from UEA. Laura's agent is Emily Hayward at Rod Hall.

Cris Brodahl was born in Belgium in 1963 and lives and works in Ghent. Her monochromatic oil paintings are configurations of fractured beauty that carry undertones of violence, sexuality, the subconscious and the uncanny. Brodahl uses techniques reminiscent of Surrealism such as free association and simulation of collage to create sombre and emotionally charged compositions. Recent solo exhibitions include: *The Approach W1*, London (2009); *Xavier Hufkens*, Brussels (2008); *The Yellow Tree*, Marc Foxx, Los Angeles (2007). Images courtesy The Approach, London.

Randall Brown teaches at Saint Joseph's University and Rosemont College. He holds an MFA from Vermont College. Recent work has appeared in *Quick Fiction*, *Connecticut Review*, *Saint Ann's Review*, *Evansville Review*, *Laurel Review*, *Dalhousie Review*, *upstreet*, and others. He is the author of the award-winning collection *Mad to Live* has an essay in the anthology *The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction: Tips from Editors, Teachers, and Writers in the Field*.

sean burn's plays have been/are being performed by black swan productions; breaking binary; ctc; first draft; half moon; maverick; pegasus; paines plough; queens hall arts; under construction; weaver-hughes ensemble. his dozen poetry films have received many screenings around europe. his most recent spoken-word cd is *speaksong* (with gareth mitchell, musician). skrev press (www.skrevpress.com) are publishing his third full length collection - wings are giving out - shortly. more on him at www.gobscure.info

Marianne Burton's pamphlet *The Devil's Cut* (Smiths Knoll, 2007), was a Poetry Book Society Choice. She was awarded a year's mentorship by the poetry magazine *Smiths Knoll*, won first prize in the *Msleria* competition, and publishes poetry in the UK, the US, and South Africa. She is studying Creative Writing at Royal Holloway, and is a poetry mentor for the prison arts charity, the Koestler Trust.

Neil Butler was born in Wexford (1976) and currently lives and works in London. He studied at the Crawford College of Art and Design in Cork and at Byam Shaw in London. He has exhibited in Ireland and the UK in both group and solo shows. Neil has recently been awarded a bursary from the Irish Arts Council to complete a new body of work. www.neilbutler.co.uk

Stefano Calligaro is an Italian artist living in Rotterdam. He works in sculpture primarily as a way to understand the rules of the space. Every installation both suggests and hides forms and narration, becoming sign and border between the surface of the sculpture and the surrounding environment. His works have been shown in venues including Second Room, Brussels, MP3, Groningen, Villa Man Centre for the Arts, Italy, Agenzia04, Bologna, Brown Project Space, Milan and Duende, Rotterdam.

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Linda Chase is an American poet living in Manchester where she is a tutor and the coordinator of the Poetry School. She also hosts the music and poetry reading series, Poets and Players, which features new and established poets. Linda's two titles published by Carcanet are *The Wedding Spy* (2001) and *Extended Family* (2006).

Donna Collier is from Atlanta, Georgia (USA) and presently lives in London. Donna has won a creative non-fiction award from The Museum Of London for her short story, *Same As James*. Ms. Collier was also selected by *Chroma: A Queer Literary and Arts Journal* to participate in The DIVINE Mentoring Scheme for Emerging Queer Writers. She is working on her first novel, *Summer Breeze*.

Sebastien Dolidon was born in Cormeilles-en-Parisis, France in 1976 and studied in the National Art Schools of Paris-Cergy. He has published portraits in several French as well as international magazines and journals such as *Art-Press*, *Libération*, *The Observer*, *Têtu*, *So Foot* and *Vacarme*.

Jenni Fagan was born Anne-Frances Moore in a Victorian asylum in 1977. She has had three legal names, moved thirty-six times, travelled, played in bands, burnt out each of her nine lives and survived to tell the tales. Jenni's first collection of poetry, *Urchin Belle* is due out with Blackheath Books, 2009. Jenni is currently completing her novel *The Panopticon* and is studying Creative Writing at the University of Greenwich. You can find her work on www.myspace.com/jennifagan

Luigi Filadoro has successfully displayed his work in numerous collections since 1989. His first solo exhibition was held at the historic City Hall, Naples in 1997. Since 2001 he has been working on a series of portraits representing famous figures of literature, art and poetry. Entitled *Icone del Moderno*, it has been exhibited throughout Italy. This project has been completed with a recent exhibition, entitled *Somiglianza del dissimile*. Amongst other interests, he teaches art and psychoanalysis in secondary schools.

Joanne Finkelstein is a sociologist trained in the Chicago School. She has published six monographs including *Dining Out - a study of modern manners* (Polity, Oxford, 1989); *After A Fashion* (New York University Press, NY, 1998); *The Sociological Bent - a study of metro cul-*

ture (Thomson, Sydney, 2005); *The Art of Self Invention* (IBTauris, London, 2007). She has undertaken research consultancies in the food, science, communications and insurance industries. She is currently Head of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Greenwich.

Dorothy Fryd is a writer and performance poet, whose poetry and fiction has been published by Leaf Books and Awen Poetry. She has performed her work at various venues in London, including the Roundhouse, the Poetry Café (Poetry Podcast Launch) and Brixton Art Gallery. She teaches poetry and creative writing workshops in primary/secondary schools and is currently working on the 2009 Lynk Reach London Teenage Poetry Slam Project and Camden Youth Slam Project.

David Gaffney is from Manchester. He is the author of *Sawn Off Tales* (2006), *Aromabingo* (2007), *Never Never* (2008), *Buildings Crying Out*, a story using lost cat posters (Lancaster lit-fest 2009), *23 Stops To Hull*, a story about junctions on the M62 (Humbermouth festival 2009) and *Rivers Take Them*, a set of short operas with composer Ailis Ni Riain (BBC Radio Three 2008). *Destroy PowerPoint*, stories in PowerPoint format, will be at Edinburgh in August 2009.

Paul Green's fiction includes a novel *The Qliphoth* published by Libros Libertad in 2007. His most recent on-line publication is a short piece in *The Café Irreal* (<http://home.sprynet.com/~awhit/>). He's also had plays broadcast by BBC Radio 3, CBC Canada, RTE Radio and Capital FM London as well as poetry in chap books and anthologies. *Radial Citizens* is a story from a sequence of narratives from *A Beginner's Guide to Radial City*, for a multi-media project by digital artist Jeremy Welsh.

Pete Halliwell is a poet from Leicester. *Sligo* is his first venture into the world of playwriting. *Letter from a branch of the François Sagat Fan Club*, his poem about male mid-life crisis and an obsession with the French porn star of the title, is forthcoming in *The Rialto*.

Abir Hamdar recently completed a PhD at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. She has published critical articles and short stories on gender, illness/disability, exile, and jihad in the following books and journals: *Masculinity in Modern Middle Eastern Literature and Film*, *The Representation of Space in Modern Levantine Literature*, *Yearbook of English Studies*, *Al-Raida*, *MovingWorlds: Journal of Transcultural Writings*. Her play *The Silicon Bomb* was staged at the Lebanese American University.

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Steve Hollyman is a twenty-four-year-old student at the Writing School of Manchester Metropolitan University. His work has appeared in a variety of publications including *The Big Issue*, *Open Magazine* and the *Sentinel* newspaper. His first novel, *Keeping Britain Tidy*, is a gritty urban satire casting a wry eye over the phenomenon of British yob culture. Steve always welcomes discussion and debate and would love to hear from you at cleaverballone@hotmail.com.

Jess Kidd will be graduating this year with an MA in Creative Writing. She wants to promote creative writing for older people and children, and is currently teaching intergenerational writing workshops. She works part-time for a charity and is a single parent to one daughter, aged 11, who remains her harshest critic. Jess is predominantly a children's writer but is now working on a collection of short stories for adults.

Bridget Lawless writes films, short stories and plays for stage and radio and is the author of several non-fiction books. She has adapted her radio play *The Beauty of Bone* for the screen and has four other feature films in active development: *Lifelines*, *Unearthed*, *Jikkijandi* and *Bad To The Bone*. She is writing *Managed Retreat*, a collection of stories, and *Breakfast With My Unborn Children*, a stage play exploring motherhood from a childless woman's perspective.

Natasha Long recently completed an interdisciplinary MA in Chicago and now lives in York where she works as a sub-editor and journalist. Past creative non-fiction publications include a personal essay entitled *How To Fail At Being a Lesbian* in *Ducts* literary zine and articles for *Inside Out* literary arts magazine, *Bad Taste*, *The Site* and *Tableau*.

Nicholas McInerney is a dramatist and teacher who lives just outside Oxford. He has written 35 episodes of TV series, over 30 radio plays, and had plays produced at the Soho Theatre, The Orange Tree, Croydon Warehouse and The ICA, amongst others. He was the Creative Arts Fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford – and has taught extensively throughout the UK. He currently chairs

SCRIPT – the West Midlands Agency for New Dramatic Writing.

Gonzalo Melchor was born and raised in Spain and currently lives in Sydney. His work has been previously published in *Magma Poetry*. An earlier version of 'Lens' was published in the magazine *Southerly*, Australia.

Irene van de Mheen studied at the Kampen University of Fine Art and the Massana Art College in Barcelona. Having spent the last 16 years in Spain, she now lives and works in Amsterdam. Irene's drawings and site-specific installations have been shown in international galleries and museums. Public design commissions include a sculpture for the Huesca Congress Centre, a stage design for a contemporary dance group, and a public square in Algeciras.

Christina Mirjol was born in Casablanca and is based in Paris. She completed an MA in Theatrical Studies. Her series of fragments *Screams* (Editions du Laquet, 1999) now comprised of 200 texts, has been published in several literary magazines. Her theatre work includes *La Fin des Paysages* (2001), *Cantiga para Já, Place de la Révolution*, co-written with Jean-Pierre Sarrazac (2003). Her novels *Suzanne ou le récit de la honte* (Thyde Monnier Prize, 2007) and *Dernières lueurs* (2008) have been published by the Editions du Mercure de France.

Michelle Mitchell-Foust is the author of *Circassian Girl*, winner of the Elixir Prize in 2001, and *Imago Mundi* (Elixir, 2005). She is a winner of the NATION/ 'Discovery' award, the Columbia Poetry Prize, and the Missouri Arts Council Award, and her work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *Antioch Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Columbia*, *Quarterly West*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Interim*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Brand* and *Rain Taxi*.

Marianne Morris was born in Canada in 1981, and was raised in the UK from the age of 8. She is the author of *Tutu Muse* (Fly By Night, 2007), *A New Book From Barque Press Which They Will Probably Not Print* (Barque Press, 2006) and a number of chapbooks published by Bad Press, the former guerrilla press which Morris started in 2002. She currently holds the Harper-Wood Studentship for Creative Writing at St John's College, Cambridge.

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Katrina Naomi's first full collection *The Girl with the Cactus Handshake*, for which she received an Arts Council England writer's award, will be published in October 2009 by Templar Poetry - www.templarpoetry.co.uk. In 2008 she won the Templar Poetry Competition with her pamphlet *Lunch at the Elephant & Castle* and the 2008 Ledbury Text Poem Contest. Katrina recently received a Hawthornden Fellowship and completed an MA in Creative and Life Writing at Goldsmiths.

Marion Naugrette (born 1984) is studying at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, after graduating from the Sorbonne. She is currently taking the Agrégation exam to become a full English Professor. She wrote the preface to a French edition of Jack Kerouac's poems (Seghers, 2002) and plans to take her MA final degree in Irish poetry next year. She is currently translating Cherry Smyth's poetry collection, *One Wanted Thing* (Lagan Press, 2006) into French.

Eftychia Panayiotou was born in Nicosia, Cyprus, 1980. She studied Philosophy at the University of Athens and Modern Greek at King's College London. She lives in Athens and works as text editor and translator. She also writes book reviews for various domestic literary newspapers and magazines. *Megas Kipouros (Great Gardener)* is her first poetry collection (2007).

Karol Radziszewski was born in 1980, and lives and works in Warsaw. He is a painter, performer, public intervener and editor of underground gay magazine *DIK Fagazine* which has become an invaluable wider resource on contemporary art and cultural trends in Eastern Europe. Radziszewski has had solo exhibitions in The Centre for Contemporary Art, Warsaw and Zacheta National Gallery, Warsaw. Recent solo exhibitions include *Hidden Power* at Monika Bobinska, London and *Study* at Lokal 30, Warsaw.

Nina Rapi's plays include: *Reasons to Hide*, Tristan Bates Theatre (workshop production); *Lovers*, Gielgud Theatre, West End Shorts Season; the award-winning *Angelstare*; *Edgewise*, Gate Theatre (staged reading); *Josie's Restrooms*, ICA; *Tricky*, Tart Gallery (published by Heinemann); *Ithaka*, Riverside studios (winner of Best Play Award, Bits Theatre Festival, Pirani, India & published in *Seven Plays by Women* - winner of the Raymond Williams Award). She is now writing *Out Where?* a new collection of stories, awarded an Arts Council Writing Grant. More at: www.nina-rapi.com

Lyndsey Rice has been working in publishing for a while. She was Literary Editor for Oxford University Press, then moved to the theatre sector, where she ran the Genesis Directors Project at the Young Vic, London. Later she worked as a freelance script reader, moving on to become the Literary Officer at Soho Theatre. She is now the General Manager of *Brand*.

Anna Robinson is a poet and non-fiction writer from South London. Her first publication *Songs from the Flats* (Hearing Eye) was Poetry Book Society pamphlet choice for winter 2005/6. Her first full collection is due from Enitharmon in 2010. Anna worked as a print finisher's bench hand from 1987-1991 and developed her love of text in that job.

Simon Roch is an artist who returned at 31 to the Essex of his birth to write a book. This is his first publication.

Yvonne de Rosa won 1st Prize in the category of Architecture in the International Photography Award (IPA), 2008, and was selected by the Flash Forward Jury of Emerging Photography, 2008. *Crazy God* was shown at Palazzo delle Arti Napoli (PAN), 2008-9 and was selected by The World Health Organization to be showcased at the World Conference on Poverty and Health, 2007. Image is courtesy of The Cynthia Corbett Gallery.

Claire Sharpe's poetry was awarded a 2008 grant by the Toronto Arts Council, shortlisted in the 2007 CBC Literary Awards competition, and has appeared in journals in Canada and the UK. Her essay about the work of Finnish writer Tove Jansson was published in an international collection entitled *Tove Jansson Rediscovered* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing). Claire returned to Canada in 2005 after spending nearly six years in England, and she currently works in literary publishing.

Cherry Smyth is a poet, short story writer and art critic. Her latest poetry collection, *One Wanted Thing*, was published by Lagan Press, 2006. Her poems appear in *Breaking the Skin*, Black Mountain Press, 2002; the Apples and Snakes Anthology, *Velocity*, 2003; *Magnetic North*, 2006; *The Shop, Staple, The North, Magma* and *Poetry Ireland Review*. She was a prize-winner in the Tonbridge Poetry Competition, 2006 and the London Writers' Competition, 2007. She also writes for *Modern Painters*, *Art Monthly*, *Art Review* and *Circa*.

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Raffaele Teo is a freelance graphic designer & artist. After attending Art School in Italy, he went on to invest all his energies in Comparative Literature and Humanities Studies, moving to London in the mid '90s where he specialized in Graphic Design. He's been working as a designer and illustrator since then for *Chroma Literary Journal*, Apis Books, Birkbeck College and the United Nations, among others (arteo71@hotmail.com).

Dimitris Tsomokos is from Greece, lives in London and works as a theoretical physicist.

Michael Wagg is an actor and writer. As an actor he works regularly in theatre, film and radio. He wrote an MPhil thesis on Shakespeare's clowns and fools (University of Hull, 1998). Recent writing includes *The Fahrenheit Diaries*, a tour diary for *The Guardian* website arts pages and a piece for *The Guardian* on site-sensitive theatre. His poetry has been published in anthologies by Arrival Press and Forward Press. From Warwickshire, he lives in London.

Mark Wagstaff was born on the Kent coast and has lived most of his life in London, where the city and its people inspire much of his work. Mark has published four novels, a collection of short stories and has contributed to numerous magazines and anthologies. His latest novel *In Sparta* is available now from bookshops or from www.troubador.co.uk

JL Williams was born in New Jersey and studied at Wellesley College with the poet Frank Bidart and on the MLitt in Creative Writing at the University of Glasgow. Her poetry has been published in journals including *The Wolf*, *Poetry Salzburg Review*, *Poetry Wales* and coming up in *Fulcrum and Stand*. She is one of the founding members of the SHIFT experimental writing collective and is on the editorial board of VAIR Poetry Magazine. <http://jlwpoetry.googlepages.com>