Author: Aaron Lee Soon Yong

Aaron Lee Soon Yong is a prize-winning poet, creative writing teacher and mentor to young writers. His first collection of poems _A Visitation of Sunlight_ won an NBDCS award and was named one of 1997’s best books by _The Straits Times_.

He is also the co-editor of the best-selling _No Other City: the Ethos Anthology of Urban Poetry_, as well as _Love Gathers All: the Philippines-Singapore Anthology of Love Poetry_.

Lee’s work has appeared in many international publications. He has participated in readings and literary events in Malaysia, the US, Philippines, Germany and Australia.

Title: Five Right Angles

We are children of the City. Five Right Angles contains 51 sensitive and lyrical reflections on the joys and challenges of urban existence. As each of us tries to mould our life according to our own aspirations, we soon come to the realisation of this impossible, heart-breaking task.

Existential anxiety, personal discoveries, love and reconciliation—these experiences impart a unique meaning to our lives. Just as there exists no geometric shape with five right angles, we learn to defy our own expectations and make the best of what we have been given. We make this journey individually and together as humanity. Above all, there is a larger meaning and beauty that will be revealed only at our journey’s end.
Author: **Ng Yi-Sheng**

Ng Yi-Sheng graduated from Columbia University, USA where he majored in Comparative Literature and Writing.

His poems have been published in the poetry anthologies *First Words*, *onewing*, *No Other City* and *Love Gathers All*, as well as the journals *the2ndRule*, *QRLS*, *Softblow*, *Quarto*, *Asian Journal* and *Queer*.

In 1998, he won first prize in the NUS Poetry Competition and in 2003, fared similarly at the Writers’ Week Poetry Slam.

**Title: last boy**

“last boy” is Ng Yi-Sheng’s first solo collection of poetry, exploring his coming of age as a young Singaporean in the globalised intellectual milieu of the new millennium.

As a Singaporean educated in the New York, Ng also examines his status as one caught between cultures. Ng’s poetry thus grows from a youthful project of self-definition to one of identification through love, both sexual and intellectual, with the totality of human experience.

The title of “last boy” in itself encapsulates this development, expressing the voice of one who maintains his innocence when others have matured in hopes of achieving something grander than conventional manhood.
The Singapore Literature Prize 2008

Author: Wena Poon

Wena Poon has written many novels, short stories, reviews, screenplays and poems ever since she was a child. She completed her first novel when she was fourteen. At seventeen, she left Singapore to study in the United States and graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard University in 1995, with a degree in English Literature.

She received a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1998 and is a practising member of the New York and California State Bars. Prior to her legal career, she worked in television distribution and freelanced as a foreign correspondent for Singapore and Malaysia newspapers and magazines.

Title: Lions in Winter: Stories

This collection of insightful stories examines the quiet lives of displaced Singaporeans living abroad and in Singapore who are often torn between two worlds in their search for an imaginary homeland.

The model student who breaks his parents’ hearts when he drops out of medical school to study fashion design in London. The schoolteacher whose anxiety about white people cripples his dream retirement in Toronto. And an unlikely Singaporean family in Nevada cut off from the rest of the world by an obsessive patriarch.

Occasionally humorous, but always with compassion, she captures the rich inner lives of individuals who form part of the kaleidoscopic modern history of Asian migration in their quest for modern lives.
Author: Elmo Jayawardena

A permanent resident of Singapore, Elmo Jayawardena was born in Sri Lanka. He was Chief Pilot of Sri Lankan Airlines and an Instructor Captain with Singapore Airlines for 20 years.

Elmo is the Founder/President of AFLAC International, a humanitarian organisation working to alleviate poverty. All proceeds from the sale of his books are channeled to the poor. Forbes Global featured Elmo in 1999 for his humanitarian work and Readers Digest honoured Elmo by featuring him as an “Everyday Hero” in 2001.

His novel Sam’s Story won the Graitian Award for the best book in Sri Lanka in 2001 and his Last Kingdom of Sinhalay won the State Literary Award for the best book in Sri Lanka in 2005.

Title: Rainbows in Braille

The book is a uniquely wonderful collection of snapshots from life which offers a window to the soul of the ordinary.

Most of the stories are connected to real events, real people and their lot as they strut the planet. Nineteen episodes are drawn from the day to day concerts of the streets that pass us with notice and then get forgotten and misplaced.

The book moves through different contexts and time frames, from the innocent to the villain, from the past to the present, giving the reader the opportunity to delve deep and perhaps understand different pastels of life.
The Singapore Literature Prize 2008

Author: Suchen Christine Lim

Suchen Christine Lim is best known as the inaugural Singapore Literature Prize winner for her third novel, *Fistful of Colours*, currently used as a Literature text for the ‘A’ Level.

Her first novel is the groundbreaking *Ricebowl* which captures the political uncertainty and critical questioning of a group of university students in the 1970s.

In 1997, she was awarded a Fulbright fellowship in the University of Iowa’s International Writers’ Program. She has held several writing residencies overseas, including International Writer-in-Residence, University of Iowa. In 2005, she was Writer-in-Residence in Moniack Mhor Writer’s Centre, Scotland.

Title: The Lies that Build a Marriage

A mother finds out her son is gay; a daughter finds out her two mothers are lesbians; a niece stumbles upon the body of her dead uncle dressed in his wife’s sarung kebaya; and an old man’s nascent feelings for a Filipino maid lead him back to his suppressed art.

The Lies That Build A Marriage is a collection of short stories that focused on the unsung, unsaid and uncelebrated in Singapore.

Suchen delves beneath the island’s prosperity and coded decorum to reveal genuine people facing difficult issues that are normally strictly taboo. One by one, the characters chisel away the prejudice that surrounds them to sculpt a social acceptance of themselves and their circumstances.
Author: **Chia Hwee Pheng** (谢惠平)

Chia Hwee Pheng writes under the pseudonym Xi Ni Er (希尼尔). He has twice received the First Prize Award of the “Golden Lion Literary Awards” (1982 & 1993), the Book Awards from The National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS) (1990 & 1994). His works include "Kidnapping Times" and "The Stretched Credulity" (poetry), "The Unbearable Heaviness of Life", "The Earnest Mask" and "The Collection of Xi Ni Er Mini-Fiction" (mini-fiction). He is currently the President of Singapore Association of Writers.

Title: **《希尼尔小说选》**

*(The Collection of Xi Ni Er Mini-Fiction)*

The collection consists of 79 mini-fictions written in the span of past 28 years. The author is a master craftsman in the experimentation of mini-fiction writing. Each work is a further expansion of the threshold of the art form. Besides being celebrated by readers for his keen observations, his stories astutely chronicle both the light moments as well as the difficult times in the forty over years of nation building. His works are like colourful mosaics that form the fabric of the Singaporean collective consciousness.
Author: **Yeng Pway Ngon** (英培安)

Recipient of 2003 Cultural Medallion for Literature, Yeng writes in the fields of poetry, fiction, essay, drama and literary critique. His fiction *A Man Like Me* won the National Book Development’s Book Award for 1987-88. Novel *Tumult* is the winner of Singapore Literature Prize 2004. Latest novel *Trivialities About Me and Myself* was selected to be one of top 10 Best Chinese Novels World-wide for year 2006.

**Title:** 《我与我自己的二三事》
*(Trivialities About Me and Myself)*

The me and myself in the protagonist got along very well in the early years but as he grew older, myself persisted in upholding his ideals and principles, creating frustration in me in the face of hard realities of life. The two clashed continuously, with the result that me abandoned myself to achieve fame and fortune. But the protagonist’s obsession with acquiring wealth and fame eventually ruined his health and career; everything going up in smoke. In his twilight years, me desperately attempted to retrieve myself, writing letters to the latter in repentance.
The Singapore Literature Prize 2008

Author: Chia Joo Ming (谢裕民)

In 1993, Chia Joo Ming was presented with the “Young Artist” award for Literature by the National Arts Council of Singapore. He was also invited to participate in the International Writing Project in 1995. His novel “Return” (1999) was made into a television drama series while his short stories compilation “A New Language” won the 1996 Singapore Book Prize. In 2006, his compilation “Reconstructing Nanyang” won the Singapore Literature Prize. Chia is currently a Deputy Head at Lianhe Zaobao.

The author experiments with various formats and techniques of the modern novel, coupled with evolving linguistic witticisms, to discover literary vistas.

The author uses Singapore as a locus to depict the myriad facets of Chinese migration to Singapore and South East Asia since the beginning of 20th Century. With the delineation of the peoples’ emotional interactions and influences amid rapid societal changes, the author expresses his reflections on and concern for the experience of growing up on this island.

Title: 《谢裕民小说选》(Chia Joo Ming’s Short Stories)
Author: **Liang Wern Fook** (梁文福)

Dr Liang Wern Fook is a writer, composer, lyricist and educator in Chinese language and literature. He is the Language Director of Xue Er You Language Centre and Asst. Professor (Adjunct) with Nanyang Technological University’s Division of Chinese. Dr Liang received gold medal awards both from the National University of Singapore’s Arts and Social Sciences Faculty and the Chinese Studies Department (1988).

He was voted “Most Popular Writer” by local students in a poll organized by Lianhe Zaobao (1990), received the National Arts Council’s first Young Artist Award (1992), and was voted “Person Who Best Represents the Xinyao Spirit” in a 2003 public poll conducted by COMPASS. Liang Wern Fook has over ten publications in various genres of creative writing, and has over two hundred musical compositions and songs to his name.

Title: **《左手的快乐》**

*(Left Hand’s Happiness)*

“Left Hand’s Happiness” is Liang Wern Fook’s first collection of 53 novelettes. These include historical reflections, scientific fantasy, cultural concerns, current affairs satires, political allusions, relationships and educational topics, kinship and naivety... etc. The linguistics and subject matters of the book capture a strong Singapore flavour, while its literary techniques demonstrate boldness and accord space for aesthetic appreciation. Widely acknowledged as a classic by critics, “Left Hand’s Happiness” was also selected for the National Library’s “Read! Singapore 2007” reading programme.
Author: **Teoh Hee La (张曦娜)**

Teoh Hee La (pen name Zhang Xi Na) is a senior correspondent with the Chinese newspaper LianHe ZaoBao. She has won 12 prizes in short story contests within the region. In 1990 and 1994, she won the acclaimed book award given by the National Book Development Council of Singapore and was also awarded the Golden Lion Award in 1985, 1987, 1989 and 1991. In 2000 she won South East Asian Write Award. Zhang Xi Na has 9 published works of both fiction and nonfiction.

Title: **《张曦娜小说选》**

(Zhang Xi Na's Short Stories)

Zhang Xi Na’s Short Stories is the collection of 9 short stories. The stories tell of the changes in life and the changes in Chinese traditional cultural psychology structure in our society. The stories also delve into the declining standard of Chinese language education in 1980’s and 1990’s.
Author: Pan Cheng Lui (潘正镭)

Pan Cheng Lui is the current Lianhe Zaobao Senior Executive Editor, Head of Fukan Section as well as the Editor of Zaobao Sunday.

His works include poetry anthologies “Tell it to the Sun”, “Ropedancing on the Equator”, “the Tree of Rebirth”, “I, a Poet at the Crack of Dawn”; collection of essays “Look”, “Alap”; and prose anthology, “The Hour of Exchange”. Pan is also the chief editor for “Writers and their Rooms” and literary anthology “Four Corners Eight Planes”. He planned and published an audiobook “30 Voices”.

Apart from having his poetic work “The Ballad of the Rock” exhibited at MRT stations, his poetries have also been adapted into dance and musical performances.

Title: 《天微明时我是诗人》
(I, a Poet at the crack of Dawn)

“I, a Poet at the crack of Dawn” is Pan Cheng Lui’s fourth poetry collection. The 56 first works were written from 1998 to 2005, and are categorised into 5 sections: 1 Life’s conversations; 2 Empathy with sufferers; 3 Crystal: sharing with the snow, 4 float: An exchange with the scenery; 5 “The Ant Man”: contemplations of the city.

Taiwanese Poet Ya Xuan lauded Pan Cheng Lui for his manifold and exceptional approach towards poetry. Singapore artist Tan Swie Hian said, “With “I’m a poet at dawn”, Cheng Lui proved that E. Guillevic made used of heightened perception to shock oneself, and in doing so, validated the great poets’ mode of using high standards to shock others.
Author: Muhammad Salihin bin Sulaiman Jeem

For 20 years, Muhammad Salihin has been writing short stories, poems, book reviews, art review, art critic, translation, scripts for radio and TV dramas. In 1995 and 2003, he received Honourable Mention in Golden Point Award (NAC/SPH) in Short Story category. Recently, he received Young Writers Award (Anugerah Mas) 2008 from Majlis Pusat. Till date, he has published three books: Penghuni Senja, Dari Dua Benua and Anugerah Bulan Buat Bonda. Muhammah Salihin actively writes TV and radio dramas with a recent screening on Suria titled “1988 ... Segaris Sinar”.

Title: Anugerah Bulan Buat Bonda

Anugerah Bulan Buat Bonda is a collection of 20 short stories of which most take place in different locations: Turkey (Bey di Persimpangan), China (Sai Hu), New Zealand (Otahuhu), Java (Lembah Mahligai Sakti), Madinah (Janggut Putih dan Kurma Segar), Perancis, Itali, Malaysia, Saudi, Canada (Menara) and many more. Salihin also explored using scenes such as the universe (Menziarah Siarah), the vast ocean (Sidang) or the greens of the jungle (Dedaunan).
Author: Mohamed Latiff Mohamed

Mohamed Latiff Mohamed is one of the most prolific writers after the first generation of writers in the Singapore Malay literary scene. His many accolades include the Montblanc-NUS Centre for the Arts Literary Award (1998), the SEA Write award (2002), the Tun Seri Lanang Award (2003) and the Singapore Literature Prize in 2004 and 2006.

Mohamed Latiff ’s works revolve around the life and struggles of the Malay community in post-independent Singapore. His works also touch on fundamental problems facing humanity, life and the meaning of life as well as critically assessing the historical aspects of humanity.

Title: Bila Rama - Rama Patah Sayapnya

This collection of poems illustrates the problems faced by the community and those affecting mankind. Reality and imagination are intertwined aesthetically with realism and surrealism. This collection also discusses society in its many different levels, written with intellectual sharpness and poetic use of language that inspires emotions in the reader.

The collection also portrays the evolution of ethnicity in the midst of modernisation and the impact of globalisation. The spirit of humanity and the complete loss of traditions and identity are sharply illustrated.
Author: **Suratman Markasan**

Suratman has been a member of ASAS '50 since 1952. He was one of the judges for the First Asean Literary Award held in Bangkok in 1977, and was a committee member of World Congress of Poets for South East Asia in 1989.

Some of the books that have been published under his name, *Perempuan Kerudung Hitam* (short stories, 1991); *Potret Isteri Yang Hilang* (poems, 1993); *Penghulu Yang Hilang Segala-galanya* (novels, 1998); *Kembali Kepada Al-Quran* (short stories, 2000) and *Puisi Luka dan Puisi Duka* (poems, 2004).

He received South East Asian Writers Award in 1989; the Montblance-NUS Centre for the Arts Literary Awards in 1997; Nusantara Literary Award in 1999 and Tun Seri Lanang Literary Award in 1999.

**Title: Langau Menyerang Masjid Dan Cerita-Cerita nnya**

This is an anthology of 16 short stories dwelling on the characters of human beings within the mosque; those with good intentions in the beginning but who gave in to self-interest as in “Masjid”; “Merpati-merpati Masjid” and “Perempuan-perempuan Jatuh di Majid”; and also those who do good only in the presence of their leaders as related in “Siapa Bunuh Kuchingku?”; “Ayat-ayat Yang Melayang” and “Siapa Yang Gila?”

Nevertheless, there are those who are sincerely true to Allah. This is seen in “Haji Gulung Tikar”; “Pintu and Perjalanan Solat”. Lastly, characters who claim to be very religious but yet are prideful as mention in “Di Neraka Penuh Dengan orang-orang Yang Solat”.
Author: Peter Augustine Goh

Peter Augustine Goh, the pen name of Goh Mey Teck, is a Chinese writer who writes in Malay. Peter’s has won numerous awards, which include the National Short Story Writing Competition (Commendation) in 1983, ‘84, ‘86 and ‘89; the Malay Literary Awards (Merit) in 1992, ‘94, ‘96, ‘98, 2003, 2005 and the first prize in 2007; the Singapore Literature Prize (Commendation) in 1990, ‘94 and ‘96; and the Golden Point Award in 2003.

To date, he has 12 children novels, 5 adult novels, 5 collection of short stories; 8 joint collection of short stories and 3 joint collection of poetry with writers from Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Indonesia; and a joint collection of radio dramas with local writers to his credit.

Title: Cetusan Kalbu Seorang Penyair

This collection comprises 101 poems with a religious theme. Sorrow, awareness, gratefulness, godly and piousness reflected from the heart of a ‘servant’ towards His Almighty.

The collection also includes some non-religious poems such as “Putaran Waktu” which is dedicated to a teacher and his student; “Jika Tanggang Tak Derhaka” about the relationship between a mother and her child; “Post Card Dari New York” presented in a narrative manner about a father who received a postcard from his son in New York, and “Cinta Seorang Wanita” mirrors the value of love of a woman in the eyes of a man.
Johar Buang has written in several genres since the early 1980s but is reputed as a poet in the Malay Archipelago. Many of his literary works were printed in various publications, anthologies of poetry and short stories in Singapore as well as overseas. His creative writings have been translated into English, Mandarin and Russian.

Johar Buang has won several awards such as the Hadiah Sastera Anugerah Persuratan (by Malay Language Council); Golden Point Award; Anugerah Sastera Darul Iman Malaysia; National Book Development Council of Singapore’s Book Award; and Islamic Poetry Prize Negara Brunei Darussalam. Among his poetry that had been published are Cahaya Di Negeri Ini, Sahara, Dinding-Dinding Kaca, Cinta Pohon Tamar and Perahu Melayu Di Lautan Khulzu.

Title: Perahu Melayu Di Lautan Khulzum

This collection of spiritual poems is an exploration of the thoughts of the Malays in their search for an unwavering belief and the true self in a life’s journey that is riddled with challenges and obstacles. The suggestions that were raised in his poems can be easily understood as the poet presents symbols and metaphors that are simple and effective. For example, his poem MRT has successfully linked life in the present day to an important historical event in Islam. As the poet travelled in the MRT, he reminisced the time when the Holy Prophet Muhammad was transported by Buraq, a heavenly creature, from Masjidil Haram (mosque in Mecca) to Masjidil Aqsa (mosque in Palestine). This physical journey was made synonymous to the spiritual journey of a person in his hope to meeting his Creator.
Author: **Manaf Hamzah**


Abbul Manaf also has three children’s novel titles, *Pelangi Biru, Taman Rasidah Utama*, and *Si Mata Kencana*.

He won the Best Novel in 2007 awarded by Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura for *Aylana*.

**Title: Sekeras Waja, Selembut Sutera**

1700 AD. Two peoples who were destined to be together, faced challenges with courage as the story journeys from the city of Basrah to Istanbul...

Hard as steel, that was the heart of young sea captain from Turkey, Demir. His live was full of bitterness from the past. He had pledged to return to Istanbul to clear his name. He had not anticipated the encounter with a mysterious lady ...

Smooth as silk, that was the heart of a young lady, known only as Abi. She does not know herself due to a memory loss. Yet she was independent and hopeful. Her life became complicated when she met Captain Demir...
The Singapore Literature Prize 2008

Author: **Jayanthi Sankar**

A permanent resident of Singapore, Jayanthi Sankar has been writing in Tamil since 1995.

Jayanthi has written many short stories, essays and novels. In 2006, her short stories collection ‘niyaayangkL pothuvaanavai’ received the ‘Arima Shakthi Virudhu’ - an award organised and bestowed by the Lions Club of Thiruppoor, India. Her short stories have been published in anthologies like ‘vaanavil koottam’ along with short stories by leading Tamil writers.

Jayanthi’s short stories have also been translated into other Indian languages, for example ‘thirusangku’ that was translated into Hindi and published in Bharathiya Vidhya Bhavan’s ‘Navneet’ - Hindi Digest.

**Title: Pin Seat (Back Seat)**

‘Pin Seat’, a collection of 16 short stories, is based on a Singaporean theme. The short stories dealt with the social issues she has observed from her life in this multiracial society.

The writer’s stories involve situations related to movements in Tamil Nadu and Singapore with educated immigrants from Tamil Nadu to Singapore and overseas.

These stories examine values that are often neglected or forgotten. Stories that speak of various themes; a family affected by AIDS, an orphaned old folk, an ex-convict’s life at home and in the society, a teenage pregnancy, and many others.
Author: J.M. Sali

J.M. Sali started writing in 1955 and has over 50 books to his credit. Sali has won many literary awards which include Kannan Magazine (Tamil Nadu) Children’s Novel Prize (1959), Chennai Children’s Writers Association’s Award (1962), Best Tamil Novel Award from the Tamil Nadu Government (1978), Best Children’s Book Prize (1995), and the National Book Development Council of Singapore Book Award (1996).

Some of his short stories have been translated into English, Hindi, Urdu and Sinhalese. His works have been prescribed as text books in colleges & universities.

Title: Aayul Thandanai  
(Life Imprisonment)

This novel is about an educated daughter-in-law’s suffering and her husband’s innocence because of the mother-in-law’s cruel attitude. It unfolds through the character Habiba who remains silent throughout. As in many Tamil stories, this one is set in the traditional family background. Still it manages to bring forward the hard fact that there are many ‘Habibas’ among us in Singapore who suffer in silence.
Author: **K Kanagalatha**

LATHA has published two collections of modern Tamil poetry: *Theeveli* (Firespace), and *Paampuk Kaattil Oru THaazhai* (A Screwpine in Snakeforest). Her poems have been anthologized in *Journeys: Words, Home and Nation*, a multilingual anthology published by The Centre for the Arts, National University of Singapore (1995), *Rhythms-A Singaporean Millennial Anthology of Poetry*, published by the National Arts Council (2000), and *Kanavum Vidiyum - Anthology of Contemporary Tamil Poetry by Women Poets* by the Sahitya Academy of India (2003).

Her bilingual poem Still Human was also featured in the MRT trains: Poems on the Move series by the National Arts Council. Her poems and short stories have also appeared in prominent Tamil literary journals like *Kanayaazhi* (India), *Kaalachuvadu* (India), *Uyirnizhal* (France) and *Sarinigar* (Sri Lanka). *Theeveli* is used as a BA literary text in Periyar University, India and in Tamil Nadu. She is currently a News Editor with Tamil Murasu.

**Title: Naan Kolai Seyum Penkal (The Women I Murder)**

Naan Kolai Seyum Penkal is an unprecedented collection of disturbing and darkly beautiful stories of the ‘other’ - the female voice in Singapore Tamil literature. The stories cover a broad range of social issues without ever losing momentum and at times are provocatively irreverent, but always honest and insightful.

The multilayered tales of femininity, botched relationships, psychological breakdown, family tensions, struggle and negotiation for space and identity as a ‘minority gender’ within a male-dominated ethnic minority, take place outside comfortable and familiar patterns in the distinctive Singapore multi-ethnic social milieu, providing the space for excitement, danger, and transformation.
Author: **Palanisamy Subramanian**

Palanisamy Subramanian is known as Subra among the Tamil writers and readers. He has won prizes awarded by the Singapore Tamil Writers Association for his short stories. He is also a 2-time receiver of the Golden Pen Award. Subra has published two collections of short stories and one collection of poetry.

**Title: Ouyir Ourugum Sabtham (The Sound of Melting Soul)**

Ouyir Ourugum Sabtham is a compilation of ten short stories based on the Singaporean family life:

1. Sabhthamillatha Azhugai (Crying without sound)
2. Jeippadhu Nijam (Victory Assured)
3. Azhuthvitzhiyalodu (Eyes with tears)
4. Aymbadhu million (Fifty million)
5. Ouyirai Thiruppi Thanthuvidu (Please return my soul)
6. Kozhi mithitha Kunchu (Hen stamped chick)
7. Inna Seitharai Oruthal (Forgive those who harm to one)
8. Ouyir Ourugum Sabtham (A sound of melting soul)
9. Rothan (A bamboo stick)
10. Idhayam Nuzhaintha Ouyir (A soul entered into the heart)