

ALMOST ISLAND

Contributors: Monsoon 2015

Adil Jussawalla was born in Bombay in 1940. He was a student of Architecture in London between 1957 and 1958. He read English Language and Literature at Oxford and taught at a language school in London before returning to Bombay in 1970. His published works include four books of poems, *Land's End* (1962), *Missing Person* (1976), *The Right Kind of Dog* (2013), and *Trying to Say Goodbye* (2011), published by Almost Island Books, which won a Sahitya Akademi Award for the year 2014. Jussawalla is also the editor of the influential anthology, *New Writing in India* (Penguin, 1974). *Maps for a Mortal Moon*, a selection of his prose, introduced and edited by Jerry Pinto, was published in 2014. *I Dreamt a Horse Fell from the Sky*, a selection of his poems, fiction and non-fiction, will be published later this year.

Anna Deeny Morales (Washington, DC, 1973) has translated *Purgatory* (University of California Press, 2009) and *Dreams for Kurosawa* (arrow as aarow press, 2012), both by Raúl Zurita. She is editing and translating a volume of selected poetry by Zurita called *Sky Below*, forthcoming from Northwestern University Press. Translations of poetry by Alejandra Pizarnik, Gabriela Mistral and Idea Vilariño were published in *Pinholes in the Night*, an anthology of Latin American Poetry, selected by Zurita and edited by Forrest Gander (Copper Canyon Press). Deeny has also published translations of poetry by Nicanor Parra, Marosa di Giorgio, Amanda Berenguer, Malú Urriola, among others, in anthologies and journals such as *The Paris Review*, *Mandorla*, *BOMB*, and *The Harvard Review Online*. Her translation of *Floating Lanterns* by Mercedes Roffé is forthcoming in 2015 from Shearsman Press. Deeny has a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, and teaches in Modern Languages and Literatures at Catholic University. Currently she is writing a book about the poetic structures of solitude and history in Latin America.

Dhoomil was the pen-name of Sudama Panday, who was born in Khewali, a village near Varanasi, in 1936. He was educated in the village and in Varanasi, and was an instructor at the Industrial Training Institute in the city for several years. He died in 1975. He published one collection, *Sansad se Sadak Tak* (From the Parliament to the Street, 1972), during his

short lifetime and one posthumous collection, *Kal Sunna Mujhe* (Hear Me Tomorrow, 1977), which won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1979.

Highly acclaimed as a poet, a dramatist, a children's author, and a novelist, **Gábor Schein** lives in Budapest, where he is a professor at the Hungarian Literary History Institute of Eötvös Loránd University. He has written nine collections of poetry and three novels. English translations of his writing have appeared on www.hlo.hu and **B O D Y**.

Poet and dance producer/curator, **Karthika Nair** was born in Kerala and lives in Paris. Nair is the author of *Bearings* (HarperCollins India, 2009), a poetry collection and *The Honey Hunter/Le Tigre de Miel* (Young Zubaan, India/Editions Hélium, France, 2013), a children's book illustrated by Joëlle Jolivet. She was also the principal scriptwriter of *DESH*, choreographer Akram Khan's award-winning dance production. In Karthika Nair's résumé as an enabler, one finds mention of Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Damien Jalet, Käfig/Mourad Merzouki, two Olivier awards, Auditorium Musica per Roma, the Louvre, the Shaolin Temple, misadventures with ninja swords and pachyderms, among others, many of which make their way willy-nilly into her poetry (though, hopefully, not into this retelling of the Mahabharata).

Otilie Mulzet translates from Hungarian and Mongolian. In 2014, she won the Best Translated Book Award for her translation of László Krasznahorkai's *Seiobo There Below*. Upcoming translations include *Destruction and Sorrow beneath the Heavens* by László Krasznahorkai (Seagull, 2016) and *The Dispossessed* by Szilárd Borbely (HarperCollins, 2016).

Prashansa Taneja studies literature and foreign languages at Bennington College in Vermont, USA. Her book reviews have appeared in the *Guardian UK*, *The Millions* and the *Sunday Guardian*. Currently, she is working on an English translation of Upendranath Ashk's memoir of his supposed enmity with Saadat Hasan Manto, *My Enemy: Manto*.

Rahul Soni is a writer, editor and translator. He has edited the anthology of Hindi poetry in English translation, *Home From A Distance* (Pratilipi Books, 2011), and translated Shrikant Verma's collection of poetry, *Magadh* (Almost Island, 2013) and Geetanjali Shree's novel *The Roof Beneath Their Feet* (HarperCollins, 2013).

Raúl Zurita Canessa (Santiago de Chile, 1950) is one of Latin America's foremost and celebrated poets. He studied Civil Engineering at the Universidad Santa María de Valparaíso. Along with other artists, in 1979 he founded CADA, Colectivo de Acciones de Arte, an art action group dedicated to the creation of public and political art that would resist the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. His literary include *Purgatorio* (1979), *Anteparaíso* (1982), *El paraíso está vacío* (1984), *Canto a su amor desaparecido* (1985), *Canto de los ríos que se aman* (1993), *La vida nueva* (1994), *Poemas militantes* (2000), *El día más blanco* (2000), *INRI* (2003), *Mi mejilla es el cielo estrellado* (2004), *Los poemas muertos* (2006), *Los países muertos* (2006), *Las ciudades de agua* (2007), *Poemas de amor* (2007), *Zurita/ In Memoriam* (2007) and *Zurita* (2011). In 1982 he directed the sky writing of the poem "The New Life" over Queens, New York, and in 1992 he bulldozed "ni pena ni miedo" ("no shame no fear") into the Desert of Atacama. Zurita has been awarded the Premio Pablo Neruda, the Premio Nacional de Literatura de Chile, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. From 1990-1995, he served as the Chilean cultural attaché to Italy. His works have been translated into English, German, Russian, Italian, Swiss, Chinese, Bengali, Turkish and Hindi. He now lives in Santiago and teaches literature at the Universidad Diego Portales.

Ravi Shankar is Poet-in-Residence and Associate Professor of English at Central Connecticut State University, Chairman of the Connecticut Young Writers Trust and the founding editor of *Drunken Boat*. He has published or edited seven books of poems, including *Deepening Groove*, *Radha Says*, *Seamless Matter*, *Voluptuous Bristle*, *Wanton Textiles*, and *Instrumentality*. Along with Tina Chang and Nathalie Handal, he edited *Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from Asia, the Middle East & Beyond* (W.W Norton & Co.), called "a beautiful achievement for world literature" by Nobel Laureate Nadine Gordimer. He has won a Pushcart Prize, been featured in *The New York Times* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, appeared on the BBC and NPR, and has performed his work around the world. He is currently on the faculty of the first international MFA Program at City University of Hong Kong.

Shrilal Shukla (1925-2011) was one of the pre-eminent writers of Hindi literature in the post-Independence era. His novels, short stories and essays present an astutely satirical view of life in India after Independence. Shukla was a Provincial Civil Services (PCS) officer for

the state government of Uttar Pradesh and later became an IAS officer. His most famous work is the novel *Raag Darbari*, a masterpiece of social and political satire set in rural India. Shukla was awarded the Padma Bhushan and the Jnanpith Award for his services to Hindi literature.

Zhou Sivan was born in Malaysia and lived in Singapore and New York. He currently resides in Chicago and is writing a dissertation on the transnational and multilingual networks of socialist realism and modernism in the literary archive of Malayan communism. His poems appear in anthologies and journals such as *Lana Turner*, *Asymptote*, *The Salt Anthology of New Writing*, and *The Columbia Review*. His collection of sonnets, *Zero Copula*, is forthcoming in 2015 from Delete Press.