

Acta Biographia - Author Bios

Adreyo Sen

Adreyo Sen is pursuing his MFA at Stony Brook, Southampton.

Alex Neely

Alex Neely has been published in The Tower Journal, The Bicycle Review, The Evening Street Press, The Reveries, Danse Macabre du Jour, The Manatee and El Portal. Neely is a journalist for the U.S. Army. Over the past three years, he has covered events and written stories in the U.S., Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait and Kyrgyzstan. Neely was recognized for his journalistic efforts in the Middle East with seven Keith L. Ware Journalist awards for outstanding achievement in news publications, digital communications, news media, writing and photography.

Anne Gorrick

Anne Gorrick is the author of: I-Formation (Book 2) (Shearsman Books, Bristol, UK, 2012), I-Formation (Book 1) (Shearsman, 2010), and Kyotologic (Shearsman, 2008). She has also co-edited (with Sam Truitt) In|Filtration: An Anthology of Innovative Poetry from the Hudson River Valley (Station Hill Press, Barrytown, NY, forthcoming in 2015). She has collaborated with artist Cynthia Winika to produce a limited edition artists' book called "Swans, the ice," she said with grants through the Women's Studio Workshop in Rosendale, NY, and the New York Foundation for the Arts. She has also collaborated on large textual and/or visual projects with John Bloomberg-Rissman and Scott Helmes. She curates the reading series, Cadmium Text (www.cadmiumtextseries.blogspot.com) and co-curates (with Lynn Behrendt), the electronic journal Peep/Show at www.peepshowpoetry.blogspot.com Her visual art can be seen at: www.theropedanceraccompaniesherself.blogspot.com Anne Gorrick lives in West Park, New York.

Aryan Kaganof

Aryan Kaganof is a project of the African Noise Foundation.

Barbara Henning

Barbara Henning is the author of three novels, seven collections of poetry and four chapbooks. Her, most recent books of poetry are *A Day Like Today*, forthcoming from Negative Capability Press (2015), *A Swift Passage* (Quale Press), *Cities and Memory* (Chax Press) and a collection of object-sonnets, *My Autobiography* (United Artists). She is also the editor of *Looking Up Harryette Mullen* and *The Collected Prose of Bobbie Louise Hawkins*. Barbara lives in New York City and teaches for Writers.com <<http://Writers.com>> and for Long Island University in Brooklyn, where she is Professor Emerita.

Billy Cancel

Billy Cancel has recently appeared in *Bombay Gin*, Gobbett & Other Rooms Press. His new collection *GAUZE COAST* has recently been published by Hidden House Press. Sound poems, visual shorts and other aberrations can be found at www.billycancelpoetry.com

bruno neiva

<http://zimzalla.co.uk/objects-2/027-2/>
<http://www.erbacce-press.com/#/bruno-neiva/4586272149>
<http://www.knivesforksandspoonspress.co.uk/averbalraftsone.html>
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Charles Borkhuis

Charles Borkhuis is a poet and playwright living in NYC. His 7 books of poems include *Disappearing Acts* and *Alpha Ruins*, which was nominated for a W.C. Williams Book Award. His books of plays include: *Mouth of Shadows* and his 2 radio plays, aired on NPR, can be found on pennsound.

Colin Campbell Robinson

Colin Campbell Robinson is an Australian artist currently living in the Celtic extremity of Kernow. Colin has had numerous pieces published in journals around the world.

Christopher Brownsword

Christopher Brownsword is the author of two collections of poetry, 'Icarus was Right!' (Shearsman Books 2010) and 'Rise Like Leviathan and Rejoice!' (Oneiros Books 2014), a novella 'Blind-Worm Cycle' (Oneiros Books 2013), and two novels, 'The Scorched Highway' (Oneiros Books 2013) and 'Throw Away the Lights' (Oneiros Books 2014).

Clare Holman-Hobbs

Clare is a writer and performance poet from East Sussex, currently working on a novel and her first poetry collection.

Christopher Lyke

Christopher Lyke is a writer, a musician, and a teacher living in Chicago. He spent several years on paid vacations for Uncle Sam, but is happy to be back in Bucktown taking glaring-eyed runs past the mansions he can't afford. He is the co-founder and editor of Line of Advance, a literary outlet for veterans.

Cynthia Ring

Cynthia Ring began writing poetry in the Mojave Desert in 2005. She writes imagist experimental poetry and is working on a book of human rights poetry. She currently lives in Nashville.

Daniel Morris

Daniel Y. Harris

Daniel Y. Harris is the author of *Esophagus Writ* (with Rupert M. Loydell, The Knives Forks and Spoons Press, 2014), *Hyperlinks of Anxiety* (Cervena Barva Press, 2013), *The New Arcana* (with John Amen, NYQ Books, 2012), *Paul Celan and the Messiah's Broken Levered Tongue* (with Adam Shechter, Cervena Barva Press, 2010; picked by *The Jewish Forward* as one of the 5 most important Jewish poetry books of 2010) and *Unio Mystica* (Cross-Cultural Communications, 2009). Some of his poetry, experimental writing, art, and essays have been published in *BlazeVOX*, *Denver Quarterly*, *European Judaism*, *Exquisite Corpse*, *The New York Quarterly*, *In Posse Review*, *The Pedestal Magazine*, *Poetry Magazine.com* and *Poetry Salzburg Review*. He is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of The New York Quarterly Foundation. His website is www.danielyharris.com <<http://www.danielyharris.com/>> .

Gregory Prendergast

hiromi suzuki

hiromi suzuki is an illustrator, poet, artist. Lives in Tokyo, Japan.

A contributor of Japanese poetry magazine 'gui' (Running by the members of Katsue Kitasono's "VOU").

Author of 'Ms. cried' 77 poems by hiromi suzuki (kisaragi publishing, 2013 ISBN978-4-901850-42-1).

j4

j4 is a collective of four persons, all given names beginning with j, who are compelled to explore transindividual composition

Jake Grieco

I'm finishing my undergraduate creative writing degree at the University of Cincinnati in May and then moving to Boulder, Colorado in the Fall to pursue my MFA in Creative Writing at the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics at Naropa University.

Janet Mason

I am an award-winning writer and blogger for *The Huffington Post*. My book, *Tea Leaves, a memoir of mothers and daughters*, was published by Bella Books in 2012. Well-received and reviewed internationally, *Tea Leaves* was recognized by the American Library Association and received a 2013 Goldie Award. Recently my short fiction has been published in *Magnolia: A Journal of Women's Socially Engaged Literature*, *On Barcelona*, *Certain Circuits Magazine*, and *APIARY Magazine*. "A Perfect Mind" is the first published excerpt of her my recently completed novel that is based partly on the Bible and explores the fluidity of gender.

Jim Kincaid

Jim Kincaid, somehow still at large, has published academic books, general non-fiction, two novels, and several short stories. He's taught at Ohio State, Berkeley, Colorado, USC, and still drones on at Pitt.

Jefferson Hansen

Jefferson Hansen is the author, most recently, of *Cruelty* (BlazeVOX), a collection of short stories, and *...beefheart saved craig* (BlazeVOX), a novel. His selected poems is entitled *Jazz Forms* (Blue Lion).

John Rigney

John Rigney teaches English at Kenmore West High School outside of Buffalo, New York. He and his wife, Dana, are the proprietors of The Second Reader Bookshop, a used bookstore in Buffalo, and the proud parents of their daughter, Fiona, who is already pursuing her own creative bent in writing and filmmaking (she's 11). John received his MA in Literature from Buffalo State College in 2000 and his BA in English from LeMoyne College in 1989. The poems in this selection were for the most part written in tandem with his students in his creative writing workshop class last fall at Kenmore West.

Jordana Meade

Jordana Meade is a writer and poet based in New York City, previously residing in Australia and South East Asia.

Jorge Lucio de Campos

Jorge Lucio de Campos was born (1958) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He is a Associated Professor of Philosophy and Theory of Communication and Culture at Escola Superior de Desenho Industrial (ESDI) of the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ). As a poet, he published the books *Arcangelo* (EdUERJ, Rio de Janeiro, 1991), *Speculum* (EdUERJ, Rio de Janeiro, 1993), *Belveder* (Diadorim, Rio de Janeiro, 1994), *A dor da linguagem* (Sette Letras, Rio de Janeiro, 1996), *À maneira negra* (Sette Letras, Rio de Janeiro, 1997) e *Prática do azul*, (Lumme, São Paulo, 2009). His poems, essays and interviews circulate in various printed and virtual magazines and sites

Josh Smith

Infiltrate. Destroy. Rebuild.

Josh Smith has already insinuated himself into the cogs and gears of the literary machine — published by the likes of Ploughshares, studying at Harvard. He sits on the Board of Directors of Canada's longest-running poetry series.

Phase One, is nearing completion....

Julia Lynn Rubin

Julia Lynn Rubin is a freelance writer currently living in Brooklyn, where she is working on her first novel. Her fiction has appeared in the North American Review, The Lascaux Review, and is forthcoming in Black Denim Lit and Dewpoint.

Kurt Cline

Kurt Cline is Associate Professor of English and World Comparative Literature, National Taipei University of Technology. Poems and stories have appeared, most recently, in *Wilderness House Literary Review*, *Apocrypha and Abstractions*, *Black Scat*, *The Bicycle Review*, and *Clockwise Cat*. Scholarly articles have appeared in *Anthropology of Consciousness*; *Concentric*, *Beatdom Literary Journal*; and *Comparative Civilizations and Cultures: Journal of the Jean Gebser Society*.

Kyle A. Valenta

Kyle A. Valenta received his MFA from Columbia University in 2013. His work can be seen in *Sixfold*, *Blackbird* and *thethepoetry.com* <<http://thethepoetry.com>>. He was a finalist for the 2013 Susan Atefat Prize administered by *Arts & Letters Journal*, and in 2014 was accepted to the Tin House Writer's Workshop and featured in the Lamprophonic Emerging Writers Reading Series. He is at work on a novel and collection of short stories inspired by the lives of escorts, fat girls, femmes, illegals, Tibetan lamas and lovers without desire. He lives in New York.

Linda King

Linda King is the author of *Dream Street Details* and *Reality Wayfarers*, both from Shoe Music Press. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals in Canada and internationally - *Room*, *CV2*, *Existere*, *The Toronto Quarterly*, *Lumina*, *Fourteen Hills*, *Gargoyle*, *Envoi*, *nthPosition*. She lives and writes near the sea on The Sunshine Coast of British Columbia.

Madiha Kahn

Madiha Khan is a confused undergrad student in Ontario, Canada. Her work has previously appeared in *Literary Orphans*, as well as her twitter page.

Kelli Rush

Kelli Rush's poems have appeared in *The Hawaii Review*, *Wicked Alice*, *The Nantahala Review*, and a couple of other, smaller journals.

Mark Cunningham

Mark Cunningham has two books out from BlazeVOX: *71 Leaves* (an e-book) and *specimens* (print).

Mark Young

Mark Young's most recent books are *the eclectic world* from gradient books of Finland, & a chapbook of visual poems, *Arachnid Nebula*, from Luna Bisonte Prods. A new collection, *HOTUS POTUS*, will be published by Meritage Press in 2015.

Maureen Mulhern

Maureen Mulhern has a BA from Sarah Lawrence College, and a MFA from the University of Iowa's Writers Workshop. Her poems have appeared in a number of journals, including *Crazyhorse*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Indiana Review*, *Phoebe*, *Poetry*, and *Prairie Schooner*. "Parallax," her first book of poetry, was published by Wesleyan University Press. Born in Birmingham, England, Maureen spent her early years in the UK before moving to the US where she is a naturalized citizen. She and her husband, tenor saxophonist Doug White, have one son, twelve cats; and are the founders of independent jazz record label, Juniper Records.

Maxwell Gontarek

Maxwell Gontarek is a Johns Hopkins University sophomore from Philadelphia. He has been published in *Apiary*, *Thoroughfare*, *Mad Poets Review*, and the Johns Hopkins News Letter. He is a columnist and editor for *Vector Magazine* and a music director for WJHU. He writes music and sings in a nameless duo and has played bass for Best New Music, Danny and the Dabs, Cedar Limbs, and Percy Sledj.

Michael Martrich

Michael Martrich is a writer and musician from eastern Pennsylvania. He is the author of "LIKE A SEWN-UP SKIN WITH SALT" NEAR-RECOGNIZING THE SEA: AN IDIOT BODY WITHOUT ORGANS THREATENED AND TEMPTED BY BECOMING (LISTENING, WHISPERING) SEA-GHOST.

Michael Paul Hogan

Born in London, Michael Paul Hogan has been a horse racing correspondent, a dishwasher, a bartender, a copy editor, a commercial fisherman, a literary essayist, and a Features Writer and Columnist in Key West. He is currently working on a collection of Surrealist short stories and lives with his wife Susan in NE China.

Michele F Sweeney

Michele F Sweeney lives in Sydney, Australia and is a mother of a son, a secondary Drama & English Teacher and a woman who believes in the magic of the theatre, Spring and red lipstick.

Mirline Petit-Frere

Mirline Petit-Frere currently lives in Boynton Beach, FL with her parents and brothers. She works with four and five year olds at a preschool and enjoys reading various genres during her free time. She also loves to write and is committed to learning all styles and forms of writing. She also has two blogs that she is currently working on which can both be found at: novareign.blogspot.com <<http://novareign.blogspot.com>> .

Naomi Buck Palagi

Naomi Buck Palagi has work published in journals such as Spoon River Review, Otoliths, Moria, Eleven Eleven, Blue Fifth Review and Requited. Additionally, she has two chapbooks, Silver Roof Tantrum (dancing girl press, 2010), and Darkness in the Tent (Dusie Kollektiv 5, 2011).

Nat Buchbinder

Nat Buchbinder's novel, Pando, advanced to the semifinals of the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Awards. Her work has been published in *Circa Journal*, *The Stonesthrow Review* and *Honesty for Breakfast*.

Natsuko Hirata

Natsuko Hirata is a resident of Tokyo, She is the editor of Quince Wharf, an e-journal that includes translations into Japanese of poetry in English. She has done translations of the work of Sandy McIntosh and Thomas Fink, and she is currently studying poem writing with Thomas Fink. Her poetry has appeared in the Marsh Hawk Review, Otoliths, and BlazeVOX. mail to Natsuko Hirata; midsummerchild@gmail.com

Nick Monks

Nick Monks lives near Preston Lancashire. He studied philosophy at Hull University. Spent About seven years working and travelling the world. His latest pamphlet "Cities Like Jerusalem" was published by bluebell publishing. He's currently trying to work on a first novel and TV script

Parker Weston

Parker Weston is a multimedia artist residing in Mesa, Arizona (voted the most conservative big city in the United States) mainly focused on assemblage/sculpture. He has a comic strip, *Animation Taxidermy*, several short animations and musical project Stembreo, to boot. When he was a child, an overpaid psychic told his mother that he would be a writer someday. He was relieved later that she was spared the news that along the way he would be an adult shop janitor and backpacking drifter before this writing business ever came into effect.

Paul Dickey

My first full length poetry manuscript *They Say This is How Death Came Into the World* was published by Mayapple Press in January, 2011. My poetry has appeared in Verse Daily, Sentence: A Journal of Prose Poetics, Southern Poetry Review, Pleiades, 32Poems, Bellevue Literary Review, Crab Orchard Review and online at Linebreak, among other online and print publications. A second book, *Wires Over the Homeplace* was published by Pinyon Publishing in October 2013.

Peter Donnelly

Peter Donnelly was born in Dublin in 1988. He graduated with a BA International and an MA in English from University College, Dublin, concentrating on James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* in the case of the latter. In 2010 he began to publish poetry in journals across Ireland and within UCD, where he won the Undergraduate Poetry Award; his work has been said to create worlds in which "the familiar and the alien have been seamlessly fused together" by the 2013 *University Observer's* Arts Editor Steven Balbirnie.

His first collection, *Photons*, was published by Appello Press in 2014. Following its publication, celebrated playwright Frank McGuinness stated "Peter Donnelly already shows he has a strong imagination. Indeed, a savage one presents itself on occasion when the beautiful and brutal confront and confound each other."

Philip Bowne

Philip Bowne is a student of English Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Gloucestershire. His short fiction has been published in *The Lampeter Review*, *Carnival* anthology and by Birkbeck University's *Writers' Hub*. He has written extensively for Endsleigh, including a month long InterRail blog, detailing his experiences travelling around Europe for a month, and another blog about a week without technology. *The Guardian* published an article of his based on InterRail, this autumn. Philip is currently working on his first novel.

Sudha Srivatsan

Sudha was born and raised in India. A daughter, wife and sister, she has worked in the Middle East and London. Sudha aspires to be known in the space of poetry as someone who weaves magic into language and combines unique design and strong color to her work of art. Her work has appeared in The Commonline Journal, the Germ Magazine, Carcinogenic, Indiana Voice Journal, Bewildering Stories and due to appear in Leaves of Ink, Mused Literary Review, Subterranean Blue, Corner Club press; she has been a winner of poetry contests and was recently shortlisted for the Mary Charman Smith Poetry Competition.

Raymond Farr

Raymond Farr is author of *Ecstatic/of facts* (Otoliths 2011), & *Writing What For? across the Mourning Sky* (Blue & Yellow Dog 2012). His poems appear in And/Or, Blaze Vox, West Wind Review, Otoliths, Upstairs at Duroc, Cricket On Line, & Eratio. He has a chapbook, *Eating the Word NOISE!* Which is slated for February 2015 publication by White Knuckle Chaps & another full length collection of poems *Poetry in the Age of Zero Grav* due out from Blue & Yellow Dog in mid 2015. He is editor of Blue & Yellow Dog <http://blueyellowdog.weebly.com>

Rich Murphy

Robert Lietz

My poems have appeared in more than one hundred journals in the U.S. and Canada, in Sweden and U.K, including *Agni Review*, *Antioch Review*, *Carolina Quarterly*, *The Colorado Review*, *Epoch*, *The Georgia Review*, *Mid-American Review*, *The Missouri Review*, *The North American Review*, *The Ontario Review*, *Poetry*, and *Shenandoah*. Eight collections of poems have been published, including *Running in Place* (L'Epervier Press,). *At Park and East Division* (L'Epervier Press,) *The Lindbergh Half-century* (L'Epervier Press,) *The Inheritance* (Sandhills Press,) and *Storm Service* (Basfal Books). Basfal also published *After Business in the West: New and Selected Poems*. Besides the print publications poems have appeared in several webzines. A net search for "Robert Lietz poetry" will provide a representative selection. I have also completed several other print and hypertext (hypermedia) collections of poems for publication, including *Character in the Works: Twentieth-Century Lives*, *West of Luna Pier*, *Spooking in the Ruins*, *Keeping Touch*, and *Eating Asiago & Drinking Beer*. I spend a good deal of time taking, post-processing, and printing photographs I have been making for the past several years, exploring the relationship between the image-making and the poems I have made and am exploring.

Robert Wexelblatt

Robert Wexelblatt is professor of humanities at Boston University's College of General Studies. He has published the story collections *Life in the Temperate Zone* and *The Decline of Our Neighborhood*; a book of essays, *Professors at Play*; two short novels, *Losses* and *The Derangement of Jules Torquemal*, and essays, stories, and poems in a variety of journals. His novel *Zublinka Among Women* won the Indie Book Awards first-place prize for fiction. His most recent book is *The Artist Wears Rough Clothing*. Another, *Heiberg's Twitch*, is forthcoming.

Roger Craik

Roger Craik, Associate Professor of English at Kent State University Ashtabula, has written three full-length poetry books – *I Simply Stared* (2002), *Rhinoceros in Clumber Park* (2003) and *The Darkening Green* (2004), and the chapbook *Those Years* (2007), (translated into Bulgarian in 2009), and, most recently, *Of England Still* (2009). His poetry has appeared in several national poetry journals, such as *The Formalist*, *Fulcrum*, *The Literary Review* and *The Atlanta Review*. English by birth and educated at the universities of Reading and Southampton, Craik has worked as a journalist, TV critic and chess columnist. Before coming to the USA in 1991, he worked in Turkish universities and was awarded a Beineke Fellowship to Yale in 1990. He is widely traveled, having visited North Yemen, Egypt, South Africa, Tibet, Nepal, Japan, Bulgaria (where he taught during spring 2007 on a Fulbright Scholarship to Sofia University), and, more recently, the United Arab Emirates, Austria, and Croatia. His poems have appeared in Romanian, and from 2013-14 he is a Fulbright Scholar at Oradea University in Romania. Poetry is his passion: he writes for at least an hour, over coffee, each morning before breakfast, and he enjoys watching the birds during all the seasons.

S. M. Hutton

S. M. Hutton has been published in *A Celebration of Western New York Poets*, “[the advancing idiom]”, “Artvoice”, “The Buffalo News - Spotlight: Poetry”, *Brigid's Fire*, and “NOMAD: Art + Word from the Buffalo Herd”. She was the winner of the 2006 SUNY at Buffalo Arthur Axlerod Memorial Award for poetry. She received her B.A. from SUNY at Buffalo, NY in Media Study. Until 1995, she studied and worked as an independent video and film production artist. In 2011, she worked as a co-organizer of the inaugural annual global movement, 100,000 Poets for Change, and the event in Buffalo, NY. She lives in Western New York.

Scott Penney

Recent publications are *Artful Dodge*, *basalt*, *Faultline*, *Fugue*, and *Salon*. In 2013, I was a resident at the Vermont Studio Center. In 2014, I was a resident of the MacDowell Colony.

Shailee Perry

I'm currently on my way to getting a Bachelors degree in English from Brigham Young University-Idaho. Creative nonfiction works are my favorite pieces to put together, so I do my best to do the most exciting things in life so that I'll have something interesting to write about. I've worked as a Wild land Firefighter for the past two summers, and I plan on continuing that career for as long as I can. Hiking through the mountains and chasing after fire is a dream come true!

Robert Sheppard

Robert Sheppard lives in Liverpool, UK, and is Professor of Poetry and Poetics at Edge Hill University and he co-organises the Storm and Golden Sky reading series. His 'autrebiographies' *Words Out of Time* are forthcoming and he is currently de-selecting poems for a selected poems. His latest book from Shearsman, *A Translated Man*, contains the fictional poems of a supposed Belgian poet, René Van Valckenborch. Emboldened by this experiment, he is curating a collaborative enterprise to write the works of the 28 European Union of Imaginary Poets that were invented by Van Valckenborch. 'The Ern Malley Suite' is Sheppard's contribution as himself to this project. He blogs a lot at www.robertsheppard.blogspot.com. He is writing a critical book on form.

Simon Perchik

Simon Perchik is an attorney whose poems have appeared in Partisan Review, The Nation, Osiris, Poetry, The New Yorker, and elsewhere. His most recent collection is *Almost Rain*, published by River Otter Press (2013). For more information, free e-books and his essay titled "Magic, Illusion and Other Realities" please visit his website at www.simonperchik.com.

Spencer Dew

Spencer Dew is the author of several books, including the novel *Here Is How It Happens* and a study of Kathy Acker's work, *Learning for Revolution*.

Sophia Pandeya

Sophia Pandeya is an in-between, an inhabitant of hyphen. A South Asian-American poet whose ancestry lies in India, she was born in Pakistan, on the "other" side of an artificial border trumped up from identity politics and the entrails of empire. Ever since, she has been obsessed with dismantling the concept of "otherness" and borders into one big yarn. Consequently her writing dwells in the liminal, engaging with

borders that are linguistic, cultural, religious, temporal, personal, geographical and metaphysical. She herself crossed quite a few onerous borders before moving to New York in 1989 where she met her husband Raam Pandeya, a former journalist, poet, and adept of an ancient healing known as Kayakalpa, which she has imbibed and practiced for the last two and a half decades. During her time in Manhattan she also garnered critical acclaim for her acting as a deranged immigrant housewife in Bina Sharif's *Watchman* at the Theater For The New City, before moving to California where she currently resides with her husband and son. Her poetry has been published in the print anthologies, *Cactus Heart*, *Askew Poetry*, *Bank Heavy Press* and *Spilled Ink* as well in a number of online journals including *Poetry International*, *The Adirondack Review*, *The Daily O*, *Lantern Journal*, *Convergence Journal* and *Full Of Crow*. *Peripheries*, her debut collection of poems is being published by Cyberhex Press in July. Links to her work can be found at her site www.trancelucence.net <<http://www.trancelucence.net>> and she blogs at <https://www.tumblr.com/blog/rootsandwings>

Stephanie Kaylor

Nicholas Alexander Hayes

Nicholas Alexander Hayes is the author of *Between* (Atropos Press) and *NIV: 39 & 27* (BlazeVOX [books]). His recent writing has appeared in *Your Impossible Voice* and *Requited Journal*.

Valerie Smith

Valerie Smith is a graduate student in the Master of Arts in Professional Writing program at Kennesaw State University. Her poetry has appeared in *Speakin' Out News*, *The Pointer*, and *Circle in the Spiral*. Her prose has appeared in *The East Cobber* and *The Bright Side*. She is a freelance editor, elementary school teacher, and member of the Georgia Writers Association.

Vincent Craig Wright

Vincent Craig Wright is a short story writer and songwriter from Ashland Oregon. Professor of Creative Writing at Southern Oregon University, recently Craig's stories have appeared in *BlazeVox*, *Vol. 1 Brooklyn*, *Fourteen Hills*, *Solstice*, *SleetMagazine* and *The Harvard Advocate*. Craig has published one book of stories, *Redemption Center* (Bear Star Press) and songs with *Megatrax* and *BMG*.

Wade Stevenson

Wade Stevenson was born in New York City in 1945. He is the author of several books of poetry, a memoir "One Time in Paris" and a novel, "The Electric Affinities."

Zachary Scott Hamilton

Nickolas Maynard

When ever I am asked to write a "brief" or "summarized" account of my life; I always find myself pondering at the prospect of actually accomplishing such a task. I only say this because I naturally tend to lure my self down the streets of tangency; as if I were a tourist in a country I had never been, but had yet felt so familiar with. Even now my fingers form a little rhythm, gliding across the keyboard, while my mind wanders aimlessly through thoughts and experiences. Purposefully aimless or aimlessly purposeful; sounds like a conundrum--I can imagine--but it is part of a process of discovery. Each time I sit down and write one of these, I discover something new about myself. Terrified of vanity, I intentionally try to steer clear from accolades and accomplishments. As of late, silence has become my enemy, deafening almost, an empty void where a curious and wandering mind wishes not to wander; but rather forget. It is shame I fear the most, deliver me from evil and forgive me of my trespasses as I forgive those that trespass against me.....myself----my own worst enemy.

I was born in Bangor, ME in the year of our lord 1983. Yes it is the same town where the infamous Stephen King dwells in his gargoyle protected mansion. None the less, it is the birthplace of this young writer, Nickolas Maynard; son of Albert and Susan Maynard and not to mention, damn proud to be that son. Before I go any further, I must bring light to the most unique sister a brother could ever ask for, Sara; 3 years my sibling and like her brother: tough as nails and just as sharp. I couldn't of asked for a better family or a better childhood; my parents were and still are figures of inspiration to me. Even though they are divorced, they are living joyful lives and they are the most honorable people I have ever met or aspired more to be like---I would have taken any attribute, integrity (something they both share), I wonder if I truly possess that quality. I suppose if I did, I wouldn't be wondering if I had it or not.

I broke every rule, my first phrases as a child was contradictory: "I said yes, I said no". I guess thats one of those blanket remarks that covers all your bases. One could never really lose an argument; I was a smart little piss ant and I knew it. I started skateboarding, playing guitar, wooing girls, playing tennis, playing baseball, wooing girls, snowboarding, and wooing girls. The wooing was done with the assistance of Dave Matthews, a pretty good singing voice and the gift gab. I don't know if I mentioned poetry as part of the wooing process, but yes, poetry was an integral part at dazzling my girlfriends. I wrote and still write in a

fashion that would be called “Stream of Consciousness” writing; where the poem started and stopped when my fingers stopped, each sentence started and finished as if the letter that made each word had minds of their own, an agenda, the perfect thought, the perfectly imperfect perfection and flow of it all--this whole Bio is being written the same way. I have no recollection of how I started or where I’ve been taking you, but something tells me it will all make sense somehow.

I had romance and love, I had romances and love, pure love. When I was 11 the first CD I got was James Brown “The Golden Hits” the second CD was “The Quintessential Billy Holiday”. To this day, I have memorized every word and the memories of each song are so special to me. I had a much stronger connection to music back then, pure, innocent, hopelessly foolish but romantic at heart and not foolishly. I miss--me--I look in the mirror and I see a stranger; empty and devoid of the foolishly cherished moments and words that painted life with an array of colors and left out the blacks and the greys....those would come later. I am remiss and cannot go down that tangent.

I was a reckless endangerment to society in my late teens! I defied everything, church, the law, the universe, everything and anything. I lived through more life or death encounters in 3 years than most do their entire lives. Not to mention, this tomfoolery was before I decided to join the Army. I was completely against the idea, and I mean against with every drop of blood in my body; until one night, asleep, I had a dream. That night, somewhere around September 2003, I dreamt that I was in World War II and some guy was grabbing my arm, he was covered in blood and kept asking me to read him his last rites than tell something to his wife. No matter what I did, the shelling and gunfire in the background was too loud for me to hear what this guy was saying. I grew angry and more angry until I screamed (to whom I presumed were the Nazi’s) “Will you shut up already! I can’t hear a God damn thing!. I woke up, angry and for the life of me I couldn’t figure out why. I remember the dream later that day and I when I say later I mean the moment that I signed the dotted line for a 5 year contract and 3 years of Inactive Ready Reserve for the United States Army, Military Police.

Nov 19th, 2003 was the day I swore my oath of enlistment. Little did I know, this little mantra, repeated by 13 people or so in a small room covered in flags, was going to be my undoing. I was going to be torn to pieces and put back together again. Some for the good, some for the worse.

7 years and some change, I served 2 tours in Iraq and one in Korea, right on the DMZ. God told me I had a gift, well two gifts actually, the gift of gab and how to spill it on to paper and the gift on how to train a dog to find bombs, bad guys and bite the bad guys when I found them (if they failed to cooperate). I was a sponge, I was a fast tracker, I absorbed every piece of training advice I could from anyone anywhere; ever if it was bad. I would just put it into my mental tool box and drive on. I wanted, so bad, to leave the MP corps and go ODA, Special Forces K9 or Ranger K9. Those programs never existed when I became a handler in early 2005.

Iraq, I am afraid I cannot divulge any information on that subject. I still get excited about the feelings of adrenaline pumping through my veins. Ergo, my mind is probably still over there, and let’s keep that on the QT.

War, combat, good lord I was born again and killed, buried born again, killed and buried, then born again. I have no idea where I am right now. I am attending community college at CCBC in Essex Maryland and I am alive. I have a beautiful daughter and a loving family. I don't know what is going to happen to me, but I just hope I find my sense of humor so I can pass that on to my 2 years and 4 months old (who looks just like me) like it was a enchanting gift or something, you know, like a cool trick to "wow" your friends, the trick of always being funny, even if it's awkward and untimed, it's just Maynard, as my friends would call it. I must say, I do see a comedic resemblance of myself in my father....I am laughing out loud...that goes to my mother.

I miss my little family and I am so grateful for my new adventure as a father. To my mother I will say, "There will always be a TV show or an Art gallery we can sit down and laugh at"..to my father I would say, "I can't wait for that cup of coffee, your morning sense of humor and the rocking chairs....not to forget...the unforgettable smell of Maine pine on a summer morning. To my sister I will say, we laugh all the time and we both need to go to Road Rage Management classes. To my daughter, Madelyn Paige Maynard, I love you with all my heart, you look just like Daddy and if you only knew how brushes with death that almost took your father life...I would rather you know how many miracles I have been given to find my to you.

I live in Freeland, MD with my wife, Monica, I love you and my daughter Madelyn. To my whole family I love all of you. This was suppose to be a short bio?