

# BRAND

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## Biographies

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**Helena Almeida:** born in 1934 in Portugal; graduated in painting but progressively inhabited her work, using her own body while abolishing disciplinary frontiers. Almeida is always in front of the camera but insists that her works are not self-portraits. Her work is related to the architecture of her studio, a place that belonged to her father, the sculptor Leopoldo Almeida - and this has been concomitantly stage and the protagonist of her photographs.

**Ioli Andreadi** studied acting at the Greek Art Theatre Karolos Koun and directing at RADA and King's College. She has been working as a director and playwright since 2003 in Athens and London and is writing her PhD at King's College. She has received the 3rd State Award for New Playwright (2005) in Greece and is a member of the LCT Director's Lab. In 2010 she received a Fulbright grant for artists/arts scholars.

**Robert Atkinson** [born in Sunderland 1991] is currently studying English Literature and Film at Northumbria University. This is his first published piece.

**Lucy Avery's** first play *The Last Request* was published in the first issue of *BRAND Literary Magazine*. Since then her writing credits have included: *I hope we make it through the rain*, Theatre503 (staged reading), *Crazy Bitch*, Theatre503 (staged reading). As writer/director: *This is how I lost my memory*, Camden People's Theatre (work-in-progress performance). As script development: *Edem*, Jermy Street Theatre. *The Birdcatcher* was platformed at Brockley Jack Studio Theatre in February 2011.

**Simi Awosika** lives in London. Her stories have appeared in several magazines.

**Alan Blackwood** is the author of many books and features on music, including a biography of the celebrated conductor Sir Thomas Beecham. More recently he has turned to fiction, writing a number of very short stories, or vignettes, which he hopes to publish as a collection. He is also completing a novel, *Writer's Cramp*, based on his earlier and colourful experiences in the publishing world.

**Sean Borodale** has been Fellow of the Wordsworth Trust, Guest Artist at the Rijksakademie Kunsten, Amsterdam, writer-in-residence at the *fundacio pilar i Joan Miró*, Mallorca, and Teaching Fellow at the Slade School of Fine Art. A performance of his topographical poem *Notes for an Atlas* (Isinglass 2003) was directed by Mark Rylance for Southbank's first London Festival of Literature in 2007. *Notes for an Atlas* also features on the Hackney Podcast: episode 20. [www.seanborodale.com](http://www.seanborodale.com)

**Neil Butler** was born in Ireland 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 is currently working on a new body of work for a solo exhibition. [www.neilbutler.co.uk](http://www.neilbutler.co.uk)

**Daniel Cartwright** is 22 years old, born and brought up in the Black Country, he now lives in Birmingham where he works as a gardener. This is his publishing debut.

**Md. Tahseen Alam Choudhury** is doing his PhD at the University of Greenwich. His articles include *Dionysian Determinism in O'Neill's plays*, Harvest Vol-21 2006, *French Revolution and Romanticism*, SUST Studies Vol-10 No-1 2008, *Kafka's 'In the Penal Settlement': Some Psychoanalytic Speculations*, SUST Studies Vol-10 No-1 2008, *J.G. Ballard's Crash: A Psychoanalytic Analysis*, *Metropolitan University Journal*, Vol-2 No-1 2009, and *Monica Ali's Brick Lane: Transmigration of factuality into fictionality*, Institute of Bangladesh Studies (IBS) Journal, Rajshahi University, Bangladesh Vol-31, 2008.

**Akis Dimou** was born in Greece. He studied at the Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, where he obtained his PhD in Penal Code and Criminology. His first theatre work, produced in 1995, was the

monologue '...and Juliet'. Since then, twenty of his plays have been performed in the funded and private theatre sector. His plays have been translated into English, French, Spanish and Portuguese and presented in England and Spain, as well as Greece. He lives in Thessaloniki.

**Dave Early** is seldom smarter than the average bear.

**Jason Price Everett** was born in 1972. He was educated at Lafayette College, Cornell University and the University of Paris. His first book, *Unfictions*, was published by 8th House Publishing in 2009 and was praised by internationally recognized author Michael Moorcock as 'a superb first novel.' His work has appeared in *The Mad Hatters' Review*, *The Prague Literary Review*, *Underground Voices*, *BLATT*, *Alchemy Review*, *Carcinogenic Poetry* and *KGB Bar Lit Magazine*. He lives in Montreal.

**Andrew Fentham** was born in Birmingham in 1986. His work has been included in *The London Magazine*, *Poetry Review*, *Other Poetry*, *Dream Catcher* and a recent feature in *The Rialto* on poets under the age of 35.

**Edouard Fraipont's** photographs explore the transformation of moving human figures into transitive, ghost-like traces, challenging boundaries between the material and the ethereal. The photographs in *Between Two Worlds* were executed during a British Council exchange programme in the UK in 2007. The impact of the dramatically different light and climate from Brazil compelled him to work indoors, resulting in dramatically dark work, with intimations of danger, mystery, even insanity.

**Katia Gerou** trained at the Greek Art Theater Karolos Koun. She has been working there since 1979 as a leading actress and drama teacher. She has played in numerous productions of ancient drama, contemporary plays and films, having collaborated with directors such as Karolos Koun and Giorgos Lazanis. She received the Honorary Award in Patras, Organisation of Cultural events, 2004; and the Award for Best Female Role at the 14th International Mediterranean Film Festival Tetouan, 2006.

**Peter Grimes** is a doctoral student in English and Comparative Literature at the University of Cincinnati, in Ohio. His fiction has appeared in *Narrative*, *Mid-American Review*, *Mississippi Review*, *cream city review*, and other US journals.

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**Joseph Horgan** was born in Birmingham of Irish parents. Has lived in Co Cork since 1999. He is a past winner of the Patrick Kavanagh Award. His work has been broadcast on radio and television and published in Ireland, the UK, Europe and the USA. He is the author of two books, a poetry collection, *Slipping Letters Beneath the Sea* (Doghouse, 2008) and a prose work about landscape and memory, *The Song at Your Backdoor* (Collins Press, 2010).

**A.M. Howcroft's** stories have appeared frequently in magazines and collections such as *Momaya*, *Leaf* and the *Bristol Short Story Prize Anthology*. He has been regularly placed or shortlisted in established competitions such as *Calderdale*, *Fish*, *Legend* and *New Writer*. In addition to prose he has published graphic stories and been broadcast on BBC Radio. Anthony is also the founder of *InkTears*, a website championing the short story genre.

**Anietie Isong** is a PhD student at De Montfort University, Leicester. He is also a speechwriter. Anietie has won a Commonwealth Short Story Award and an Oluadah Equiano Prize for Fiction. His short stories have appeared in *Farafina*, *Spirit of the Commonwealth*, the BBC, *In Posse Review*, and *Okike*. Anietie's short story *Devotion* is included in an anthology *Roads Ahead* edited by Catherine O'Flynn. His first novel is forthcoming from Tindal Street Press.

**Jurga Ivanauskaitė** (1961–2007) was a prose writer, essayist, playwright, painter and poet. In 1980 she graduated from M.K.Čiurlionis Art School. In 1985 she completed her studies at Vilnius Art Academy and concurrently published her first book, a collection of short stories *The Year of the Lilies of the Valley*. The writer published seven novels, two fairy tales for children, a book of essays and two books of poetry.

**Anthony Joseph** is a Trinidad-born poet, novelist, musician and lecturer often described as 'the leader of the black avant-garde in Britain'. He is the author of three poetry collections, *Desafinado* (1994), *Teragaton* (1998) and *Bird Head Son* (2009) and his first novel, *The African Origins of UFOs* was published in 2006. His new collection, *Rubber Orchestras*, is published by Salt in Autumn 2011.

**Zisis Kardianos**, born in 1962, lives in Zakynthos, Greece. His work has been published in Greek and foreign photographic and travel magazines. His essay "feast day" was published in the online magazine *Burn*: <http://www.burnmagazine.org/essays/2010/06/zisis-kardianos-feastday/> and some thoughts

on his photos in the B blog <http://blakeandrews.blogspot.com/2011/01/zisis-kardianos-what-was-he-thinking.html> His photos are snapshots often taken on the fly. <http://www.zisiskardianos.gr>

**Adriana Lestido's** generation of female photographers only became visible after the dictatorship collapsed in Argentina in 1983. Lestido's documentation of mothers and daughters in different relationships and contexts form the core of her oeuvre, having earned her international recognition and awards in Spain and the US. In 1999, she exhibited "Mothers in Prison" at the International Center of Photography, New York, for which she received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation award.

**Klairie Lionaki** is a Greek writer and theatre director living in Paris. Her works have been published and presented in Greece, England, and France. Her play *Shall we dance?* was presented at the Symposium *Text in Context*, Southbank Centre, London Literature Festival 2010; and as a libretto for an opera by Yiorgos Vassilandonakis commissioned by the National Opera of Athens in 2008. Her play *Reality* was presented in the festival *Anagnoseis* at the National Theatre of Greece in 2010.

**Tom Mays** is a composer, computer musician and teacher – Associate Professor of new technologies applied to composition at the National Superior Conservatory of Music in Paris. He has co-founded Studio Césaré in Reims, realized musical environments for composers at IRCAM and participated in numerous musical experiences as a composer or performer, his works being commissioned and supported by various studios and organizations such as Césaré, La Muse en Circuit, Le Cirm, La Grande Fabrique, and Radio France. He is especially interested in gestural performance of real-time computer systems for both written and improvised music, as well as in interaction between music and video.

**Chris McCormack** is a writer and art critic based in London. He has written for numerous magazines, including *Art Monthly*, *Art Review* and *Modern Painters*, and is a critic for BBC Radio 2 Art's Programme presented by Claudia Winkleman. His previous fiction has been published in *Brand* and *White Collar*. He is currently working on a project with artist Jim Richards about the life of Glenn Gould.

**Charlie Moss** was born in Wiltshire. He trained in medicine and currently works as a doctor on the South Coast. He uses his spare time to write short stories, and he is attempting a first novel. He is particularly interested in exploring themes of dislocation, absurdity and loss.

**Beatrice J Murphy** has a BA in Creative Writing with Drama Studies and is currently completing an MA in Creative and Critical Writing at the University of Winchester. She has been published in *Vortex*, *First Edition*, *In The Red*, *The Lounge Companion Vol. 2*, *The Fiction Week Literary Review* and *Burning Houses*. She won the 2008 Hampshire County Council Six Word Story Competition, and is the 2011 Spoken Word Stage Organiser for Ejector Seat Arts.

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**Amita Murray** is a London-based writer and dancer. She has lived in Delhi, California, and London, and writes about the comedy of personal and cultural relationships. She writes features, reviews, stories, and – since she knows next to nothing about poetry – the odd poem. She is published in *Writing Raw*, *London Festival Fringe*, *Brighton Fashion Week*, *Radia*, *Asia Writes*, and others. Read [www.amitamurray.blogspot.com](http://www.amitamurray.blogspot.com) to discover Amita's love for markets, eating out and – sadly – television.

**Irene Musoke** graduated with a BA in Creative Writing from the University of Greenwich in 2010. This is her first published work.

**Christos Nikolopoulos** was born and lives in Greece. He graduated from Democritus University (Faculty of Law) and Athens Professional Journalism Lab. Attended master-classes on Drama, Art, Cultural Management. He's worked for papers, magazines, did seminars at Media schools and worked (as translator, drama analysis consultant) for theatre productions. His play *The Interview* was presented in the Interplay-Europe Festival 2004. His play *Norma-l/n* was staged in Athens (2010). His books *Shootings* (short stories), *Fragile* (plays) were published by Sokolis-Kouledakis Publishing.

**Frank Ortega** has work in *The Madison Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Seneca Review*, *Oberon* and the human rights poetry anthology, *I Go to the Ruined Place* (Lost Horse Press), and received a *New York Foundation for the Arts* Poetry Fellowship. In 2010, he was commended in *The UK National Poetry Competition*, organised by the Poetry Society, awarded a *Jentel Foundation* residency, and was a finalist for the *Mississippi Review Prize*. Please write the writer: [corbinortega@gmail.com](mailto:corbinortega@gmail.com)

**Peter Oswald** is a poet, playwright and performer. Writer in Residence at Shakespeare's Globe 1998-2005, three plays performed there, two at the National Theatre, plays performed on Broadway and West End and around the world. Currently under commission from the National Theatre. His short plays were

performed recently as *Short Shifts* in Berlin at the English Speaking Theatre. He performs with wife Alice as *Attention Seekers*. *Rosewater* will be performed April 2011 at the *Bike Shed Theatre*, Exeter.

**Paul Perry** is the author and editor of a number of books, including *The Drowning of the Saints*, *Goldsmith's Ghost*, *The Orchid Keeper*, and *The Last Falcon and Small Ordinance* which appeared from The Dedalus Press in 2010. Based in Dublin, he teaches at the Creative Writing Programme at Kingston University, London and the MA in Creative Writing at UCD. He translated Jurga's poetry with the help of Lithuanian writer Ruta Suchodolskyte.

**Ian Pople's** *Saving Spaces* is published by Arc.

**Nina Rapi** is a playwright and short story writer. Her plays include: *Kiss the Shadow*, Soho Theatre, Lyric Theatre & Southbank Centre; *Reasons to Hide*, Tristan Bates Theatre; *Lovers*, Gielgud Theatre, West End Shorts Season; the award-winning *Angelstate*; *Edgewise*, National Theatre of Greece & Gate Theatre; *Josie's Restrooms*, ICA; *Ithaka*, Riverside studios (winner of Best Play Award, Bits Theatre Festival, Pirani, India & published in *Seven Plays by Women*). Her stories have been published in the UK, Greece and USA. More at: [www.nina-rapi.com](http://www.nina-rapi.com).

**Vandy Rattana**, born in Phnom Penh in 1980, was a founding member of the artist collective Stiev Selepak (Art Rebels), and opened Phnom Penh's first artist-run exhibition space, SaSa Gallery, in 2009. His most renowned series, *Fire of the Year* (2008) chronicles a small district outside Phnom Penh as a common fire razes it; the series was a finalist for the 2009 Sovereign Asian Art Prize and led to Vandy representing Cambodia at The 6th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art.

**Sinead Roarty** lives in Sydney where she writes ads by day and bedtime stories at night. She has post-graduate degrees in Fine Arts and Design and an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Technology where she's now working on a novel about art and taboo for a higher research degree. Her stories have been shortlisted for national awards and appear in various anthologies. *The Charm* won the Shoalhaven Literary Award and was first published in Melbourne Books' *Award Winning Australian Writing 2010*.

**Jennifer Russell** has been published previously in Brand and in ShOp. She lives in the south-west of Ireland and teaches Public Health in the University of Cork.

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**Anjan Saha** is a poet, writer and the director of London Literature Lounge. He has performed internationally, from the Jazz Cafe in the Czech Republic to Mumbai, India. He holds an MA in Cultural Management and has produced events for venues including the Southbank Centre, King's Place, Tate Britain, Barbican Library and Riverside Studios. His work has been published in *London Magazine*, *Pulse Magazine*, *Kin (Renaissance One)*, *A Storm Between Fingers Anthology* and *Brand*.

**Lara Schnitzer** was born in The Netherlands, in 1969, and lives and works in Los Angeles. Museum exhibitions include: *Two Masters and Her Vile Perfume*, Sculpture Center, New York (2010), *Dance Witches Dance*, Museum Het Domein, Sittard (2008), *My Other Car is a Broom*, Magasin 3, Stockholm (2005); *Unmonumental: Falling to Pieces in the 21st Century*, The New Museum, New York (2007) and *Eight Sculptors from Los Angeles*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2007).

**Justina Šemetaitė** is a student, writer and journalist. Born in Lithuania, now living in London and completing a BA in Creative Writing at Greenwich University. While currently at work on her first poetry collection, she also writes for various Lithuanian publications. This is her first publication in English.

**Richard Skinner's** first novel, *The Red Dancer*, was published in 2001 by Faber and has been translated into seven languages. His second novel, *The Velvet Gentleman*, was published in France in 2008 and was shortlisted for the Prix Livres & Musiques. His poetry has appeared in *First Pressings*, *South* and *Staple*. He teaches on the MA in Creative & Life Writing at Goldsmiths. He also tutors at the Faber Academy. <http://richardskinner.weebly.com>

**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 *Magnetic North*, 2006; *The Shop*, *Staple*, *The North*, *Magma* and *Poetry Ireland Review*. She was shortlisted for the National Poetry Prize 2010, and 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*.

**Jon Stone** is co-creator of collaborative poetry publishers Sidekick Books ([www.drfulminare.com](http://www.drfulminare.com)) and arts journal *Fuselit*. He was highly commended in the National Poetry Competition 2009, the



same year his debut pamphlet, *Scarecrows* (Happenstance), was released. His writing has also been exhibited at a gallery in Shoreditch and showcased in *Magma*, and a full collection, *School of Forgery*, is due out from Salt in spring 2011. Jon blogs on poetry, computer games, comics and allsorts at [fuselit.blogspot.com](http://fuselit.blogspot.com).

**Joelle Taylor** is a poet, playwright, stand up novelist and cultural terrorist. She has performed nationally and internationally with the British Council, travelling to Botswana and Zimbabwe. Ex-UK Slam Champion she now hosts Mother Foucault spoken word burlesque. Her first full collection *Ska Tissue* is released in May 2011.

**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](mailto:arteo71@hotmail.com)).

**Ivor Thomas** This is the very first work of fiction written by Ivor Thomas ever to be published. Ivor's background is in advertising – he was a copywriter by trade – but moved to Barcelona three years ago to dedicate himself to writing fiction. He has completed a collection of short stories entitled *The Incompetent Cook* and, when he is not actually writing, he spends his time seeking a publisher.

**Hara Topa** was born in Volos in 1981. She is a graduate of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of English Language and Philology, and holds a Master's Degree in American Literature and Culture from the same University. She has worked as an English teacher and translator and has participated, as an actress, in various plays since 2007. She is currently a student at Voutsinas Drama School, in Thessaloniki, Greece.

**Thodoris Tzalavras** is a Greek photographer, currently based in Cyprus. In 2010, along with writer Ioanna Mavrou, he established the independent imprint Book Ex Machina, through which they released the monograph *Nicosia in Dark and White*. His first completed long-term personal project, it deals with the abandoned buildings adjacent to the so called Green Line in Nicosia, the divided capital of Cyprus.

**G.C. Waldrep** is the author of four poetry collections, most recently *Archicembalo* (Tupelo, 2009) and *Your Father on the Train of Ghosts* (BOA Editions, 2011 – in collaboration with John Gallaher). Other recent work has appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Ploughshares*, *New American Writing*, *The Nation*, *New England Review*, *Harper's*, and in the UK in *Poetry London*. He lives in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

**Dawn Wood** is originally from County Tyrone and now works as a science lecturer at the University of Abertay, Dundee. Her poetry collection, *Quarry* (Templar Poetry), was shortlisted for the Aldeburgh First Collection prize in 2009, and her pamphlet, *Connoisseur*, was a winner in the 2009 Templar Poetry Pamphlet Competition. Her latest collection is *Hermes with Gift* (University of Abertay Press, 2011).

**Li San Xing's** poetry and prose has appeared in *The Rialto*, *Smiths Knoll*, *The Liberal*, *Gutter* and *Short FICTION* and he was shortlisted for an Eric Gregory Award in 2010. He was born in Edinburgh and lives in London.