

## Notes on Contributors

**Charlene Rajendran** is a Malaysian writer, educator and theatre practitioner who currently teaches theatre at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Her research interests are presently focused on Southeast Asian culture, with particular emphasis on the work of Malaysian theatre director, Krishen Jit. She is keen to examine the politics of difference in plural societies and the issues of identity in urban contexts. She has written texts for theatre, poetry and articles on art-making. Her recent publication *Taxi Tales on a Crooked Bridge* (2009, Matahari Publishing) looks at negotiating identity as a Malaysian woman living in Singapore, within the frame of conversations with taxi drivers in Singapore.

**Stefanie Pillai** Phd., is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, University of Malaya, where she has been teaching for the last sixteen years. Her main area of research is on the acoustic analysis of Malaysian English sounds, and she currently heads a research project aimed at building a systematically annotated digital corpus of spoken Malaysian English. Stefanie is also interested in examining the use of English as a first language in Malaysia. Her work has appeared in journals such as *Multilingua*, *English Today* and the *Journal of Professional Communication*. Stefanie is a co-editor for the *Malaysian Journal of ELT Research* and an Editor for the *Asian EFL Journal*.

**Susan Philip** is an Associate Professor at the English Department, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya. She holds a PhD in Literature from the Australian National University. She has numerous publications on theatre, particularly the English-language theatres of Malaysia and Singapore, in books as well as journals such as *Asian Theatre Journal*, *Australasian Drama Studies*, *World Literatures Written in English*, *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, *Tirai Pangung* and *SARE*.

**Ganakumaran Subramaniam** is an Associate Professor in the School of Education, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus and President of the Malaysian English Language Teaching Association (MELTA). He holds a PhD in Literature in English, a Masters of Arts (Literary Studies) from the University of Nottingham and a Bachelor of Education from Universiti Putra Malaysia. He was the recipient of the Fulbright Award in the year 2002 and has numerous books and articles in various areas of Language Studies.

**Shanthini Pillai** is a senior lecturer at the School of Language Studies and Linguistics, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. She holds a PhD in Literary Studies from the National University of Singapore. Her main teaching areas are Literary and Cultural Theory, Literature

and the Media and Multicultural Literatures. Her research interests include the discourse of diasporic identity in literary and cultural texts and literature for education. She has numerous journal articles in various areas of Literary Studies, is a recipient of the 2006-2007 Australia-Malaysia Institute Fellowships and Director of the Special Interest Groups for the Malaysian English Language Teaching Association (MELTA).

**Leonard Jeyam** teaches literature and creative writing at the Department of English, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya.

**Leow Puay Tin** has been involved in theatre as a playwright, performer and educator. She is best known at home and abroad for her plays *Three Children*, *Ang Tau Mui* and *Family*. She is also known for her experimentalism as a writer who makes space for randomness and chance to play a part in the performance of texts and the inclusion of writings by other people, resulting in works such as *Ganesh Kalyanam*, *Second Link: The Singapore-Malaysia Text Exchange* and *Tikam: Merdeka! Merdeka? Merdeka*. She has performed her own solo texts such as *Tikam-Tikam: And Her Grandmother Said* and *The Dakini Reading Project*. These conceptual performances were directed by the late Krishen Jit. She is known for being the first actor to perform Stella Kon's monologue *Emily of Emerald Hill*, a much-loved play that has been staged repeatedly by other actors since her premier performances in 1984, under the direction of Chin San Sooi. Currently she heads the Department of Performance + Media at Sunway University College in Malaysia.

**Nicholas Y.H. Wong** is currently studying Comparative Literature and Society at Columbia University. He won an Academy of American Poets Award in 2008, but he is Malaysian and thinks of home often.

**Agnes Yeow Swee Kim** teaches literature at the Department of English, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya. Her doctoral thesis was on Conrad's Malay world. She is also interested in travel writing.