

## Shakespeare Lives in Translation at TranslateSingapore 2016

*Enjoy a great feast of languages with the literary and performance translation workshops hosted by British Council in partnership with Shakespeare's Globe, British Centre for Literary Translation, Writers' Centre Norwich and The Select Centre (Singapore)*

### 30 August 2016

*Singapore* – The British Council has partnered with Shakespeare's Globe, the British Centre for Literary Translation, Writers' Centre Norwich and The Select Centre (Singapore) to develop literary and performance translation workshops in Singapore, encouraging participants to explore the cultural and linguistic challenges and complexities of translating Shakespeare's plays and poetry.

**"Shakespeare Lives in Translation – A Great Feast of Languages"** is part of *Shakespeare Lives*, a global celebration of William Shakespeare's influence on culture, language education and society. The programme will be launched as part of Select Centre's TranslateSingapore 2016 Festival.

The workshops run from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm daily, over four days from 29 September to 2 October, 2016 (Thurs-Sun) at the iconic National Gallery Singapore. They will be conducted in two languages – English-Chinese and English-Malay. The workshop will equip Singapore and regional translators and artists with the skills to work on complex linguistic challenges across theatre and literature.

Participants will be guided by local facilitators to translate dialogues, jokes, puns and the sonnets into local vernacular. The texts from Hamlet and Romeo & Juliet will play a key role in defining the intercultural significance and nuances of Shakespeare's prose and poetry in Mandarin or Malay. These discussions take place alongside specially made video recordings of actors from Shakespeare's Globe.

**Patrick Spottiswoode**, founding Director of Globe Education at Shakespeare's Globe, will be the workshop's text advisor and will chair the discussions and public events.

The English-Chinese facilitators are **Shelly Bryant**, poet, writer and translator and **Dr Lee Chee Keng**, Assistant Professor of Humanities (Theatre) at Yale-NUS College, and Assistant Director and Chinese Translation Editor of A|S|I|A (Asian Shakespeare Intercultural Archive).

Facilitators for the English-Malay workshops are multi-disciplinary arts practitioner, educator and writer **"Big" Zulfadli Rashid**, and poet, writer, translator and educator **Rasiah Halil**, whose works, in poetry, short story, essay and translation, dwell largely on social and humanitarian issues.

The workshops will culminate in a public performance of the newly translated texts. They will be accompanied by a public panel discussion around key cultural and societal themes raised by the translation and adaptation of Shakespeare's writings during the workshops.

Sarah Meisch, Director of Arts, British Council shared, "The universal themes of Shakespeare's works such as identity, conflict, ambition and tyranny have been translated into films, opera, theatre and other art forms in many languages. We hope that these translation workshops celebrating

Shakespeare's influence will help develop the capabilities of the local translation sector, as writers, translators and artists come together for a unique intercultural dialogue."

### **Shakespeare Lives in Translation Workshop Details**

Date: 29 Sept – 2 Oct 2016 (Thurs-Sun)

Venue: National Gallery Singapore, Rooftop Studios, 1 St Andrew Road, Singapore 178957

Full Fees: \$1,200 inclusive of GST before British Council subsidy

Translator/ Arts Practitioner/ Academia: \$160 nett

Student concession fees: \$120 nett

For more information, please visit: [www.britishcouncil.sg/ShakespeareLives](http://www.britishcouncil.sg/ShakespeareLives)

*\*The British Council is committed to making the arts accessible to all. Participants with access needs can contact [arts@britishcouncil.org.sg](mailto:arts@britishcouncil.org.sg)*

## NOTES TO EDITOR

### 1. About the British Council's Shakespeare Lives programme

Shakespeare Lives 2016 is a global celebration of the influence of William Shakespeare on culture, language, education and society. The British Council, the GREAT Britain campaign and an unprecedented number of partners will commemorate the 400th anniversary of his death with a series of initiatives including a unique online collaboration, performances on stage and film, exhibitions, public readings, conversations, debates and educational resources that people around the world and of all ages can actively join in with from January to December 2016.

2. *"Shakespeare Lives in Translation - A Great Feast of Languages"* is a year-long international focus on translating Shakespeare in literature and performance. It will involve a series of up to eight international translation conferences and a chain of public panel discussions between British and international translators, writers, academics and practitioners.

3. The Select Centre's *TranslateSingapore Festival* is the first translation festival of its kind in Singapore and was launched in 2015. It seeks to (a) raise awareness about translation in society; (b) develop the capability of the local translation industry; (c) facilitate the exchange of best practices; and (d) establish Singapore as the translation hub of the region.

4. The GREAT Britain campaign has delivered a direct return to the economy of over £1bn since its launch and is now active in 144 countries. Unifying the international growth promotion efforts of UK Trade & Investment, VisitBritain, British Council, FCO and a number of other departments, GREAT aims to deliver significant and long-term increases in trade, tourism, education and inward investment in support of HMG's prosperity and growth agenda.

5. The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. The organisation creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. The British Council works in more than 100 countries and its 8,000 staff – including 2,000 teachers – work with thousands of professionals

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and policy makers and millions of young people every year by teaching English, sharing the arts and delivering education and society programmes.

6. The British Council is a UK charity governed by Royal Charter. A core publicly-funded grant provides 20 per cent of overall turnover which in 2014 was £864 million. The rest of its revenues are earned from services which customers around the world pay for, such as English classes and taking UK examinations, and also through education and development contracts and from partnerships with public and private organisations. All work is in pursuit of the British Council's charitable purpose and supports prosperity and security for the UK and globally.



## ANNEX A : PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

**The Select Centre** is a not-for-profit organisation based in Singapore. Firmly rooted in Southeast Asia, our core mission is to advance and facilitate the interflow of ideas and knowledge among different languages, cultures and disciplines through translation, adaptation and other forms of intercultural practice. We organise a full-year calendar of programmes, including the TranslateSingapore festival; Translators Lab masterclass; Literary Gateway, a platform that promotes Southeast Asia and Singapore; mentorships, residencies and school workshops.  
[www.selectcentre.org](http://www.selectcentre.org)

**Writers' Centre Norwich** is a dynamic literary organisation based in the East of England. Its mission is to explore the artistic and social impact of creative writing through pioneering and collaborative projects, working with writers and other partners regionally, nationally and internationally. WCN is undergoing an ambitious period of growth and expansion. A new building, Dragon Hall – a medieval merchant's hall – will open as a specialist venue for literature, the National Centre for Writing, in 2017. It will be a space where the best in world literature is easily accessible to audiences and readers, where emerging talent is nurtured and celebrated, and which benefits its local communities through participatory programmes and innovative education partnerships.  
[www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk](http://www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk)

The **British Centre for Literary Translation** is Britain's leading centre for the development, promotion and support of literary translation and contemporary writing from around the world. Founded by the writer and academic W.G. Sebald in 1989, BCLT is part of the School of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia in Norwich and supports the school's Master of Arts in Literary Translation. BCLT is a member of the international RECIT network of literary translation centres and an Associate Member of the Free Word Centre. BCLT combines teaching, research and expertise with an ambitious outreach programme.  
[www.bclt.org.uk](http://www.bclt.org.uk)

**Shakespeare's Globe** is a unique international resource dedicated to the exploration of Shakespeare's work and the playhouse for which he wrote through the connected means of performance and education. Founded by the pioneering American actor and director Sam Wanamaker, the Globe Theatre, Globe Exhibition & Tour and Globe Education seek to further the experience and international understanding of Shakespeare in performance.  
[www.shakespearesglobe.com](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com)



**ANNEX B : BIOS**
**Kate Griffin**
**Associate Programme Director, Writers Centre Norwich**

**Kate Griffin** is Associate Programme Director at Writers' Centre Norwich, contributing to the development of WCN's international activities. Formerly international programme director at the British Centre for Literary Translation, Kate has developed projects in the Middle East, Asia and Europe. She also works with the London Review Bookshop on its World Literature series, and was a judge of the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize from 2005 to 2010. She worked for Arts Council England from 2001 to 2010, specialising in international literature and translation, and she spent most of the 1990s working overseas in Belgium and Russia.

**Patrick Spottiswoode**
**Founding Director, Globe Education**

Patrick Spottiswoode joined Shakespeare's Globe in 1984 and became founding Director, Globe Education in 1989. He worked with Sam Wanamaker for 9 years.

When Patrick joined, there were two full-time staff in the entire organisation. There are now 28 full-time and over 70 freelance staff in Globe Education alone who work with over 100,000 people of all ages and nationalities every year.

In 1995 Patrick initiated Read Not Dead, a 30 year project to stage and record readings with professional casts of all surviving English plays written between 1567 and 1642. In 2000 he oversaw the creation of the first of two Globe/King's MAs. Globe Education now offers undergraduate courses, MA modules and conservatory acting programmes for over 800 students every year. He has curated a range of education seasons with events throughout the year, including *Shakespeare and Islam* in 2004 and 2005, which sought to build bridges with British Muslim Communities as well as explore Anglo-Islamic relations in the early modern period. In 2006 he established the Sam Wanamaker Festival which annually involves every accredited British drama school. He was awarded the President's Medal by the Conference of Drama Schools (now Drama UK) in 2007.

Patrick has undertaken annual lecture tours to schools, universities and theatres the length and breadth of Germany since 1985. A partnership in 1991 between Globe Education and S-E-T, the Bremen educational tours company, has led to over 25,000 German students and teachers visiting the Globe every year for workshops and lectures. His 2010 series *Shakespeare is German* explored Germany's particular fascination with Shakespeare and resulted in a BBC radio documentary which he presented. Over the past seven years Deutsche Bank UK has supported an annual production in the Globe created especially for young people which has enabled Globe Education to give close to 100,000 free tickets to London schools.

A partnership with UC Davis in 2006 has led to the creation of a Globe Education Academy of teachers based at the Mondavi Center at Davis. Patrick initiated an annual workshop conference for teachers, *Shakespeare Works when Shakespeare Plays*, at the Mondavi Center in 2012.

Patrick has been on the London faculty of several US universities and has directed academic conferences in London and in Venice. In 2013, he will lecture at the University of Vienna, York and Victoria (New Zealand) and open the Italian Association of Shakespearean and Early Modern Studies in Padua. He will also be keynote speaker at the Scottish Council for Independent Schools and speak at the Neuss Globe Festival in Germany.

Under his guidance Globe publications has grown from the Globe Occasional Papers and the facsimile First Folio series into the pioneering Globe Education Shakespeare series for schools, now launched as interactive iBooks.

In 2009, Patrick was President of the Shakespeare Club of Great Britain. In 2011, he received an Honorary PhD from the University of Warwick and became an honorary fellow of King's College London. Patrick was President of Shakespeare Theatre Association in 2011 and 2012. He is a proud recipient of an Al Mahabba Award and the 2011 Burbage Award from the American Shakespeare Center. He is on the Board of the Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, the Institute of Historical Dress and is a Patron of the Lighthouse Trust

## WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

### Malay Track



An educator, a writer, and a multi-disciplinary arts practitioner, **Zulfadli Rashid** or 'Big' as he is known to his peers, has explored diverse issues pertaining to the Singaporean person in his works. In his practice, Zulfadli has had the opportunity to become the resident playwright of Ponggung Arts and has written and adapted numerous plays staged by various companies and freelance performers. Apart from writing plays, he also dabbles in poetry recitals and performance art when such opportunities arise. In January 2016, his play, 'The Chronicles of One and Zero: Kancil', a collaboration with the artist collective, Zeugma, was presented at the M1 Fringe Festival, where it received encouraging responses from the audience. Currently, he is mentoring young, exciting playwrights in Teater Ekamatra's Playwright Mentorship Programme. Looking forward to the future, Zulfadli hopes to work with artistes of various disciplines to continue to create works that will entertain, enlighten, and inspire.



**Rasiah Halil** is a poet, writer, translator and educator. Published since 1972 in Singapore and later in Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Iowa, USA, and Australia, Rasiah's works, in poetry, short story, essay and translation, dwell largely on social and humanitarian issues. Her books include *Perbualan Buku Catatan Seorang Gipsi* [Conversations: Notebook of a Gypsy; 1988], *Orang Luar* [The Outsider; 1991], *Sungai & Lautan* [River & Ocean; 1995], *Ayah Tidak Sayang Padaku Lagi* [Father No Longer Loves Me; 2007], *Hikayat Sri Anggerik* [The Chronicles of Sri Anggerik; 2007] and *Nyanyian Si Anak Dagang* (Songs of the Outsider. 2013) and her works can also be found in various compilations. Since 1983, Rasiah's works received many Commendations and five Malay Literature Awards for poetry, literary essays and books. Under the pseudonyms of 'Sri Anggerik' (1998 – 2006) and 'Tun Fatimah' (2004 – 2009), Rasiah wrote topics on human interest and literature for the Singapore Malay

newspaper, Berita Minggu. She taught in a junior college and three institutions of higher learning in Singapore and Brunei. Rasiah attended the University of Iowa's International Writing Programme in 1995 on a Fulbright Scholarship.

### Chinese Track



**Shelly Bryant** divides her year between Shanghai and Singapore, working as a poet, writer, and translator. She is the author of eight volumes of poetry (Alban Lake and Math Paper Press), a pair of travel guides for the cities of Suzhou and Shanghai (Urbanatomy), and a book on classical Chinese gardens (Hong Kong University Press). She has translated work from the Chinese for Penguin Books, Epigram Publishing, the National Library Board in Singapore, Giramondo Books, and Rinchen Books. Shelly's poetry has appeared in journals, magazines, and websites around the world, as well as in several art exhibitions. Her translation of Sheng Keyi's *Northern Girls* was long-listed for the Man Asian Literary Prize in 2012, and her translation of You Jin's *In Time, Out of Place* was shortlisted for the Singapore Literature Prize in 2016. You can visit her website at [shellybryant.com](http://shellybryant.com)



**Dr Lee Chee Keng** brings with him over two decades of experience across diverse types of translations, both from English into Chinese as well as Chinese into English. He also translates from Japanese into Chinese. He is a writer and academic who works in both Chinese and English. He is currently Assistant Professor of Humanities (Theatre) at Yale-NUS College, and also serves as Assistant Director and Chinese Translation Editor of A|S|I|A (Asian Shakespeare Intercultural Archive), an online education and research archive for Asian Shakespeare performances.

### **For media enquiries, please contact**

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