

# The Nature Island Literary Festival & Book Fair 2011

**Gino Morrow**

**Beverley East**

**Trish Cooke**

**Joanne Skerret**

**Snoo Wilson**

**Lisa Paravisini-Gebert**

**Ras Mo**

**Ken Corsbie**

**Kendel Hippolyte**

**Keegan Maharaj**

**Daniela Soidman**

**Lennox Honychurch**

**The Irish Kid**

**King Karessah**

**Paulette Jno. Baptiste**

**Sonia Agpa**

**Barbara Bully-Thomas**

**Pan Africanist Group**

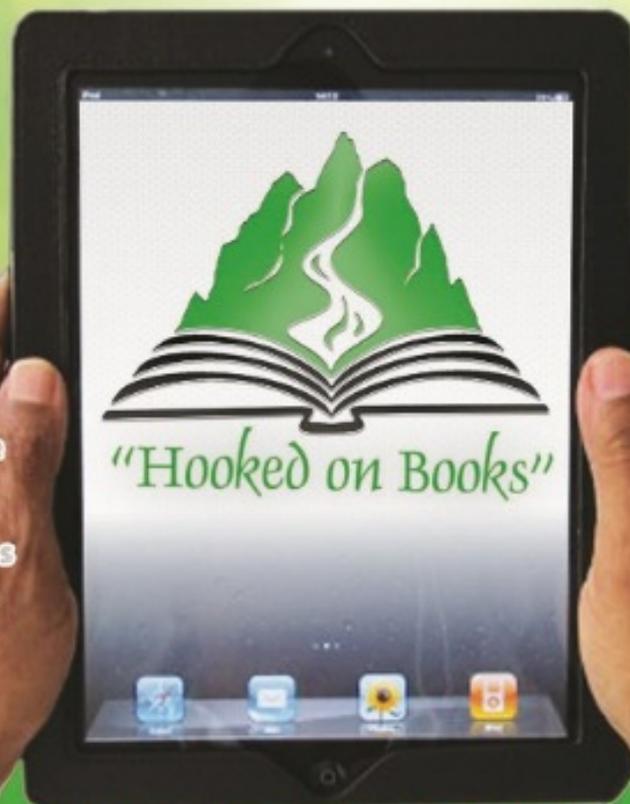
**GBSS Choral Speech**

**CHS Choral Speech**

**SF Sisserou Singers**

**Top Dominican Poets**

*A FREE Creative Weekend  
for Everyone*



**Great New Books**

**Book Exchange**

**Children's Books**

**Book Shops**

**Publishers**

**Readings**

**Story Telling**

**Writing Competitions**

**Win an iPad**

**Great Prizes**

**Fun for Kids**

**Music**

**Games**

**Family Fun**

**Great Food**

**Workshops**

**Training**

**Open Mic**

**Poetry Sessions**

**Movies**

**Meet the Writers**

**Become a Writer**

**Win an iPad courtesy NTRC!**

**August 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>  
UWI OPEN CAMPUS  
ELMSHALL ROAD**

## Press Release for 2011 Event --- August 5 – 7, 2011

Set your calendars: the fourth annual Nature Island Literary Festival and Book Fair opens on Friday evening, the 5th August, at the UWI Open Campus on Elmshall Road, Roseau, with a wide variety of rich and entertaining performances, from both local and overseas writers, performers, musicians, and more. The Festival continues through Saturday and Sunday with readings, open mic sessions (open to anyone who wishes to read or recite their work on stage), a large number of workshops, a wide range of books for sale and a book exchange.

**All events are free!** You can walk in and out whenever you want to—but you'll miss a lot if you leave!

Alwin Bully, Festival Chairman, feels that the public is in for another treat this August and had this to say: "This year's Festival will introduce a number of new names to the public – artists, both local and international who have made their mark on the literary scene and have much to offer by way of innovative expression in poetry and prose. But the festival is so diverse in the wide range of offerings – spoken word performance poets, books, film, calypso as literature, writing workshops, children's events, competitions, Creole cuisine and so on – that there's something there for every one whatever your taste – for FREE. It's a unique and refreshing way to spend a weekend."

There are a large number of exciting and accomplished writers, artists of all stripes, and performers coming from overseas for the Festival. They will be involved in a variety of events and activities. These include the dynamic and crowd-stopping spoken-word poetry performances of Gino Morrow (US) and Keegan Maharaj (T&T), readings by the highly acclaimed St. Lucian poet Kendel Hippolyte, the comedic storytelling of the great Ken Corsbie from Guyana, and sessions by Beverly East (Jamaica), Snoo Wilson (UK), and the well-known writer-critic and biographer of Phyllis Shand Allfrey, Lizabeth Paravisini (US). And, of course, the best of local writers, choral speech groups and musicians.

There are also many great Dominican-born writers and performers coming: Ras Mo, who will be bringing his trademark performance style; Joanne Skerrett, who will be launching a new book at the Festival; Trish Cooke (DOM/UK), prize-winning children's writer and scriptwriter; and many more.

And if you like what you hear or just want a chance to pick up some fun, top-quality books, our book fair offers you the chance to buy a large number of books. What's better than seeing a great performance—and then getting to pick up your own copy of the performer's work? And with our book exchange feature, you can bring a book of your own and exchange it for one of ours.

On top of all this, there will be a large number of our always-popular workshops about writing of all kinds, you'll be able to hear some good music, there will be food and drinks available at the food court, and you'll be able to watch and discuss a unique Caribbean film.

And even before the Festival, there's great stuff going on: there are workshops taking place over the month of July, readings and music and book exchanges in village centers across the island, and radio readings and talks, among other things.

So, no matter your age or interests, the Nature Island Literary Festival has something for you. It comes just once a year, is free, and offers you the chance to take part in a Festival that has been well-received and has featured established and up-and-coming artists from Dominica and abroad since it began. Come on down and be a part of something great.

## 2011 Guest Writers



### TRISH COOKE

Trish Cooke was born in the north of England – where she now lives – of Dominican parentage. She is a prize-winning children’s writer (her book “So Much” won the prestigious Smarties book prize among other awards) and has written scripts for theatre, TV, radio and film in the UK. She is also an actress and for eight years presented the hit pre-school BBC TV programme Playdays. She is very experienced in presenting story sessions and workshops to children of all ages. She is currently working on a new children's picture book to be published by Papillote Press. -- She will be bringing her books to the Festival and will be presenting at both the children’s festival and the main Literary Festival where she will share her knowledge about writing for children.

**Learn More** ► [www.trishcooke.co.uk](http://www.trishcooke.co.uk)



### KEN CORSBIE

Ken Corsbie, the great veteran storyteller and master of many artistic forms, says this of himself: “In Guyana, my home country for most of my life, and in all the English speaking Caribbean islands and territories, I have been storyteller, humorist, journalist, radio announcer and producer, theatre designer/director/actor. Living in America since 1996, I bring all of these experiences and skills (and athlete/dancer) to my performances/workshops. I bring too, the sounds of sea and rain forest, heat of sun, accents of island voices, rhythms of calypso and carnival, humour and sometimes humbug of living and loving in the Caribbean.” His storytelling talents will grace the Festival in many shapes and forms.

**Learn More** ► [http://westindianencyclopedia.com/wiki/Ken\\_Corsbie](http://westindianencyclopedia.com/wiki/Ken_Corsbie)



### BEVERLEY EAST

Born in Jamaica, brought up in the UK and now living in the US, Beverley East is a novelist and successful graphologist (handwriting analysis). Her work in the UK and the US includes consultancies on recruitment, training and helping individuals identify their personal and professional potential. She is the author of the best-selling book, *Finding Mr. Write – a New Slant on Selecting the Perfect Mate*; her debut novel, *Reaper of Souls*, was launched in 2007. It tells the story of a famous train crash in Jamaica which killed 254 people. Beverley will be sharing her expertise at the festival.

**Learn More** ► [www.writeanalysis.com/profile.asp](http://www.writeanalysis.com/profile.asp)



### Kendel Hippolyte

Kendel Hippolyte is a St Lucian poet, playwright and theatre director. Born in 1952, he has been described as “perhaps the outstanding poet of his generation”. He studied and worked as a teacher in Jamaica in the 1970s before returning to St Lucia. There he has been a cultural officer, teacher, research officer at the Folk Research Centre in Castries, lecturer and scriptwriter. A cultural activist, most recently he was the facilitator (drama) in a community alternative to violence project in St Lucia. His writing is wide-ranging in linguistic styles and includes poems written in Creole. He has published five books of poetry and his work has appeared in many anthologies and journals. He edited an anthology of performance poetry from the Eastern Caribbean called *So Much Poetry in We People*. His own latest collection of poetry, *Night Vision*, was published in 2005.

Learn more:

[www.jakoproductions.com/main.asp?sID=13&page=KendelHippolyte](http://www.jakoproductions.com/main.asp?sID=13&page=KendelHippolyte)



## Keegan Maharaj

Keegan Maharaj is currently a youth and cultural activist working with the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs in Trinidad and Tobago. From a young age, Keegan's performing prowess has been evident. He has performed at numerous forums including Best Village, Youth Assembly and school's drama festival in Trinidad as well as in the United States, London and Guyana. In addition to all this, Keegan has been able to maintain a firm grounding and active role as a community leader in his hometown Penal, a bustling village in south Trinidad. A former member of the student's guild at UWI, Keegan first ventured onto the national stage as lead singer, poet and songwriter of Washikong the Band, as well as a director of Washikong Music Ltd. But it was not until he crossed paths with Muhammad Muwakil and Lou Lyons, did he truly embrace his purpose. This trio forms the core of the band and social activist group Freetown Collective. Together they have toured the UK and Guyana, receiving critical acclaim from both audiences. A passionate believer in universal human rights and justice, Keegan has ambitions to be a global advocate of truth through music.



## RAS MO

Ras Mo is one of Dominica's best-known cultural artists. He is an award-winning poet, musician, teacher and youth worker. He currently lives in the US where he runs the *Pink & Blue Arts for Violence Prevention*. Based in California, this organization uses music and performance poetry to counter gang violence and drugs. He is enormously experienced in the field of popular education for youth development and leadership. As one drama therapy leader has written: "Ras Mo is hip, current, and his message of non-violence and respect for women and culture is spot on." He performed at the second Nature Island Literary Festival and will be back this year to inspire us.

[Learn More ► www.rasmo.net](http://www.rasmo.net)



## GINO MORROW

Gino Morrow is a Four-time Slam Champion and has appeared at many venues including the American Jazz Museum, National Black United Front, Kansas City Exposure, Lansing Correctional Facility, The Jazz and Heritage Festival, and Juneteenth. He has opened for a number of well-known artists in different venues in the mid-west and along the east coast, including Amiri Baraka, Gil-Scott Heron, Ursula Rucker, Gwendolyn Brooks, Jessica Care Moore-Poole, The Last Poets, The Watts Prophets, Sonia Sanchez, Phyllis Y. Stickney, Ivan Van Sertima, Dick Gregory, and The Roots. He has been described as one of the most "buzz-worthy performance poets" in the industry. An exciting, mold-breaking performer, he will surely be one of the stars of the Literary Festival where you can hear him perform and lead a workshop.

[Learn More ► YouTube Video Clips](#) (at the page click "[glmcreative 5 videos](#)" for more)



## LISA PARAVISINI-GEBERT

Professor Lisa Paravisini-Gebert was born and raised in Puerto Rico but has spent her academic life in the US. She is a distinguished professor in the department of Hispanic Studies Program at Vassar College in New York State. She specializes in the multi-disciplinary comparative study of the Caribbean. Her interest in Dominica began with her biography of Phyllis Shand Allfrey, first published in 1996. She has visited Dominica many times, most recently as head of an environmental program for Vassar students. Her books range from biographies (including the forthcoming, *Cuba's Jose Marti*) to studies on Caribbean literature, religion and art. She also edited *It Falls Into Place, the short stories of Phyllis Shand Allfrey*.

[Learn More ► http://repeatingislands.com/about-us/](http://repeatingislands.com/about-us/)



## **Dr. PAULETTE DURIZOT JNO-BAPTISTE**

Dr. Paulette Durizot Jno-Baptiste is a Guadeloupean researcher of Creole languages of the Antilles. She has been involved in the educational system in Guadeloupe since the 1970s when she pioneered a bilingual Creole-French teaching method - the starting point for her research. She was awarded her doctorate in Anthropology of Education *The Question of Creole in the Guadeloupean School System: the Historical and Contemporary Use of Language and Culture* by the University of the Antilles and French Guyana. The purpose of her research has been to investigate the status of Creole in the educational systems of Dominica, Guadeloupe and Curacao. She has contributed to many international conferences and publications. She is in charge of two academic missions including the coordination of an academic Creole review *Pawol maké asi mès é labitid an peyi karayib*, and as the representative for schools associated with UNESCO in Guadeloupe. At the Festival, she will take part in a panel discussing the Creole language. Her topic will be: "*Literature and Imaginative Faculties in Creole Speaking Countries: The Responsibility of Schools*".



## **GREGORY RABESS**

Gregory Rabess is a Dominican culture and communications specialist, poet, writer and musician from the north-eastern village of Atkinson. Much of his work involves the documentation and promotion of Dominican culture and he has been involved in the development of music, the Kweyol language, media and culture for more than 35 years. A self-taught musician he is known by the name Wochla, after the signature song of his first album of the same name. His songs have been recorded by top local artists such as Ophelia, Hunter and King Hurricane. A leading researcher and promoter of the Kweyol language, he has been a member of the Konmite pou Etid Kweyol from its inception in the early 1980s. At this year's Festival, he will be appearing on a panel discussing Kweyol.



## **JOANNE SKERRETT**

Joanne Skerrett is a Dominican-born writer whose first book for young people, *Abraham's Treasure* (published by Papillote Press) will be launched at the Festival. Set in Dominica, *Abraham's Treasure* is an exhilarating and touching adventure story with teenage twins as heroes. Joanne went to the Dominica Grammar School before moving to the US with her family. She is now a lawyer and lives in Washington DC. She has published four novels, including *Letting Loose*, which is set in Dominica, *She Who Shops*, *Sugar vs. Spice* and *My Best White Friend*. Joanne will be discussing her writing at the Festival.

[Learn More ► www.joanneskerrett.blogspot.com](http://www.joanneskerrett.blogspot.com)



## **SNOO WILSON**

Snoo is an award-winning English playwright whose work has been performed on the West End stage in London, in the United States and on television. He has taught at the University of East Anglia, England, at Goldsmith's College London and at University College of San Diego, California. His plays are known for their originality and humor. One critic wrote that Snoo's play, *The Grass Widow*: "Hilariously confirms that Mr. Wilson is the liveliest and most enlivening English dramatist of his generation." Snoo will be leading a workshop on playwriting during the festival.

[Learn More ► www.snoowilson.co.uk](http://www.snoowilson.co.uk)



# THE NATURE ISLAND LITERARY FESTIVAL & BOOK FAIR

UWI OPEN CAMPUS, ELMSHALL ROAD, ROSEAU  
AUGUST 5 -7, 2011

**“HOOKED ON BOOKS”**

## PROGRAMME

### FRIDAY 5

6.00 PRE-SHOW: JING-PING MUSIC

6.15 GUESTS SEATED

6.29 ARRIVAL OF H.E. THE PRESIDENT

6.30 **OPENING CEREMONY**

6.30 NATIONAL ANTHEM

6.31 PRAYER SONG – Ian Anthony

6.33 CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Alwin Bully

6.40 THE SIXTH FORM SISSEROU SINGERS

6.55 KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. FRANCIS SEVERIN, Head, UWI Open Campus

7.10 GRANDBAY SEC.SCHOOL: CHORAL SPEECH

7.15 – 7.40 **FIRE-STARTERS**

DOMINICAN VISIONS (Poets of the Nature Isle)

KEEGAN MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago)

7.40 – 8.10 **VOICE OF THE PITONS: THE POETRY OF KENDEL HIPPOLYTE** (St. Lucia)

8.10 – 8.25 **AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...**

KEN CORSBIE : STORY-TELLER (Guyana/US)

MARVIN FABIEN : LIGHT SOUND AND POETRY (Dominica)

8.30 OPENING OF BOOK FAIR

**SIMMER DOWN:** JING PING MUSIC/ BARS OPEN

AFTER SESSION FESTIVAL CHOICE: “RUINS” RESTAURANT, OLD MARKET SQUARE, DOWNTOWN ROSEAU, FEATURING FESTIVAL ARTISTS AND OPEN MIC (To be Confirmed)

## **SATURDAY 6**

- 9.00 – 1.00: **WORKSHOPS:** Travel Writing (P.Cask); Playwriting (S.Wilson); Opening Doors to Early Literacy (T.Cooke/B.Bully-Thomas); Ideas and Issues (K.Maharaj/G.Morrow)
- 1.00 - 2.00: **LUNCH WITH MUSIC**
- 2.00 – 2.30 **WINNERS CIRCLE:** COMPETITION WINNERS IN PERFORMANCE. NYC FINALISTS AND DIASPORA COMPETITION WINNERS.
- 2.30 – 3.00 **OPEN MIC**
- 3.00 – 3.45 **AND IT SO HAPPEN...:** TRISH COOKE (UK) AND JOANNE SKERRETT (Dom/US) on writing for children.
- 4.00 – 5.00 **A LIFE ON AN ISLAND:** LISA PARAVASINI-GEBERT (US) on PHYLLIS SHAND ALLFREY (PowerPoint Presentation –Lecture Theatre)
- 5.00 – 6.00 **SUPPER BREAK with MUSIC**
- 6.00 – 6.45 **FINDING MR. /MS. WRITE:** BEVERLEY EAST (Jam): The art of Graphology (PowerPoint presentation – Lecture Theatre)
- 7.00 – 8.30 **TONGUES OF FIRE:** KEEGAN MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago) and GINO MORROW (US) serve up two red hot dishes of stand-up poetry for today!
- 8.45 – 10.15 **FESTIVAL CHOICE MOVIE:** “MOLOCH TROPICAL”.
- A powerful Haitian movie by acclaimed director Raoul Peck that you won’t see anywhere else and will never forget. (To be confirmed).
- SIMMER DOWN 2:** MUSIC/ BARS OPEN
- AFTER SESSION FESTIVAL CHOICE:** “CREOLA”. GREAT MUSIC, GREAT FOOD AND DANCING AT ANCHORAGE HOTEL, CASTLE COMFORT.

## **SUNDAY 7**

- 10.00 **BREAKFAST IS LIT.:** CREOLE B/FAST OR BRUNCH WITH JING PING MUSIC
- 10.30- 11.30 **DR. HONYCHURCH PRESENTS:** EDWARD S. DAWBINEY: The Philanthropy of Education and Literature (PowerPoint Presentation – Lecture Theatre)
- 11.45 – 12.30 **DEEPENING EMANCIPATION’S ROOTS:** Pan Africanist Panel Discussion
- 12.30 – 1.30 **LUNCH WITH CUATRO BAND and virtuoso Guitarist TYSON JOHNSON**
- 1.30 – 1.35 **MANY LIPS ONE VOICE:** CHS CHORAL SPEECH
- 1.35 - 2.05 **OPEN MIC**

- 2.15 – 2.50 **KWEYOL DOUVAN:** Panel discussion on Kweyol as Literature with GREG RABESS (Dom) Paulette Durizot Jno.Baptiste (Guadeloupe) and Sonia Agpa (Dom)
- 3.00 - 4.00 **WOMAN ALIVE:** DANIELA SOIDMAN (Ven.) and BEVERLEY EAST (Jam) - Venezuelan poetry and the amazing story of the great Jamaica Train crash.
- 4.15 – 4.50 **TOUGH WORDS, STRONG RHYTHMS:** The Performance Poetry of RAS MO (D/ca)
- 5.00 – 5.45 **STORY COME TO BUMP:** KEN CORSBIE – Master Story teller (Guy)
- 6.00 – 6.45 **CALYPSO ASCENDING** – The poetic lyrics of Gregory “King Karessah” Riviere (D/ca)
- 6.45 – 7.15 **CLOSURE:** WRITING COMPETITIONS RESULTS; PRIZES AND AWARDS; ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
- 7.15 **BAL FINI...** (MUSIC /BARS OPEN)

**SPONSORS: LIME; DOMLEC; UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES OPEN CAMPUS; MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS; NATIONAL BANK OF DOMINICA; DOMINICA AID BANK; DOMINICA NATIONAL LOTTERY; ARCHIPELAGO; ANCHORAGE HOTEL; GARRAWAY HOTEL; PAPILOTTE WILDERNESS RETREAT; SUTTON PLACE HOTEL; JUNGLE BAY RESORT; SECRET BAY RESORT; FLAMBOYANT HOTEL; DR. DAMIAN DUBLIN**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.dominicalitfest.com](http://www.dominicalitfest.com)**

The National Cultural Council &  
The Cultural Division

Present

# Emancipation Celebration 2011



July 23<sup>rd</sup> – “Emancipation Vibrations”  
A Cultural Extravaganza  
Wesley Basketball Court – 6 p.m.

July 26<sup>th</sup> – Art & Craft Exhibition Old Mill  
7:30 p.m.

July 27<sup>th</sup> – Golden Drum Awards Ceremony  
Arawak 8 p.m.

July 30<sup>th</sup> Emancipation Hike – Penville  
Capuchin Registration Fee: \$20.

Fri, Sat, Sun. August 5, 6, & 7.  
Nature Island Book Fair  
and Literary Festival  
UWI Open Campus