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Mirjana Mrkela, Ibrahim Kajan, Vid Barić, Leyla Karaca
(Turkiye), Denis Bašić (Bosnia-USA)...



JASNA ŠAMIĆ was born in Sarajevo, where she studied at the University of Sarajevo, oriental languages and literatures, Turkish, Arabic and Persian: Third Cycle or Post-graduated Thesis in General Linguistics and Turkology, PHD degree at The Faculty of Philosophy of Sarajevo in 1977; and at the University of Paris -Sorbonne Nouvelle, she did the Thesis of National Doctorate (Doctorat d'Etatès Lettres) in 1984, on Sufism and History. Professor of Oriental Literatures at the University of Sarajevo, Director of Research associated to the CNRS in 1992, Professor of Languages, Literatures, History and Civilisation of the Balkans at the University Marc Bloch of Strasbourg, she collaborated with Radio France Internationale and France Culture. Member of The Asian Society (Société asiatique), Paris, from 1984, Member of the Union of Writers of Bosnia, from 1974, Member of the international PEN Club, France from 2017 and of Bosnian International PEN from 2006, Member of the Union of Writers of France, from 1996. She collaborated with many former Yugoslavian, European and American revues and magazines, and participated at International Conferences in a number of cities in the world. She gave Lectures at many Universities of former Yugoslaviam and Europe. Director of a literary review Književna sehara (www.balkan-sehara.com). Author of many books (poetry, novels, essaie), published in French and in Bosnian, she wrote also a philosophy essai about Sufism. Jasna Šamić is a winner of the Stendhal French Literary Prize (Lauréate du programme Missions Stendhal) in 2008, of the Gauchez-Pillippot prize in 2014, of Naji Naam intern. literary prize for all her work, in 2018, winner of Prize of Salon du livre des Balkans, Paris 2018, and several littératy prizes in Bosnia. **Our recommendations: 1. Room with a view of the ocean, novel; 2. Kingdom of shadows, novel; 3. Landscapes of wandering soul (Ninth Wave), novel.**



BORIS JOVANOVIĆ KASTEL (born in Trebinje, Bosnia, 1971), lives in Podgorica (Montenegro). He considered by literary critics the most important Montenegrin poet of Mediterranean origin and prominent name of Mediterranean poetry. He published 20 books of poetry and four books of selected essays: His poetry was translated in Italian, English, Polish, Czech, Hungarian, Albanian, Ukrainian and Slovenian, also presented in a few of Anthologies of the World Poetry Poetry prizes - *Literary feather* for the best book of the Year (Croatian Literary Society, 2016), *Književni branovi* (Literary encounters in Struga, 2017), *Balkan Jewelry* (Institute for Humanities *Belko*, Belgrade, Serbia) and prize *Goran Bujić* (Croatian Literary Society) for contribution to the poetry of the Mediterranean. Selected as one of thirty poets of the world for The VI World Poetry Festival in Calcuta (India, 2012). **Our recommendation: *Without the land (2015); Testament in mussels (ShuraPublications 2019)***. „B. J. Kastel has, unlike his piers, immediately joined the group of distinguished poets. Indeed, many great poets had their greatest successes precisely when they were young. Boris Jovanović Kastel immediately entered the world of literature in a grand manner. Soon, he became one of our most significant poets. It is already well known that his source of inspiration is the Mediterranean, which can give a lot in every way, especially in spiritual sense. Boris Jovanović Kastel has grown into a free-minded individual and a great author. He became all that thanks to his reading, knowledge and great talent, but also thanks to the Mediterranean, as the area where he exists and travels through time and space, usually alone, avoiding any flock.“ (Vladimir Sekulić).



ZORAN ŽMIRIĆ (Rijeka, 1969) is a writer and a member of the Croatian Writers' Society.

Main works

- The Shadow Theater (narratives collection - Adamić, 2002)
- Our time eaten by Pac-Man (columns coll- Meandar, 2005)
- Blockbuster (novel -VBZ, 2009. AdPublik, 2012. Fabula, 2018. Hena com, 2018.)
- Rijeka Rock Hymns (a book about the emergence of the best rock songs from 1979 to 2009 in Rijeka - Baklje, 2011)
- Dream-traveler (novel - Croatian Writers Society, 2014)
- Written with a bullet (antiwar poetry coll-Studio TiM,
- Right Hemisphere Traveling (novel - Hena com, 2017)
- The patient from room #19 (novel - Hena com, 2018)

Prizes and awards:

- Award winner "Literary Feather" for the Book of the Year awarded by the Croatian Literary Society - Blockbuster (2010)
- Winner of the City of Rijeka annual award for creative work and special achievements in culture (2011).
- The winner of the super short story contest CeKaPe (2013)
- Zmirić's bestselling novel **Blockbuster** has been translated and released in Italy, Poland, and Ukraine, where it has achieved tremendous success. In Ukraine, it has been proclaimed the most important novel published in that country in recent years. The novel carries a strong anti-war message and it was compared with the works of Remarque and Hemingway.

More about Zoran Zmiric can be found at the Croatian Literature Ministry of Culture page:
<https://goo.gl/SY9s19>, also on Wikipedia.

Our recommendation: a novel Blockbuster !!!



MARINA ŠUR PUHLOVSKI was born in Zagreb, 1948. She got her B.A. in Comparative Literature and Philosophy at the University of Zagreb, at the Faculty of Philosophy. She lives and works in Zagreb.

Her first story, 'Under the table', was published in 1974 in the Journal of the Croatian Writers *Republika*. Since then she has published numerous stories in many literary magazines and newspapers, but the first book, a novel *Trojanska kobila (The Trojan Mare)*, was published in 1991 – just before the outbreak of the past war in Yugoslavia. However, by 1991 she wrote nine books which she could not publish due to various reasons (not political); it was more likely that Šur Puhlovsky deliberately refused to fit into the generation of 'postmoderna'. She openly distanced herself from that circle and pursued her own literary 'voice', not recognised at the time. War broke out – putting everything else on stand-by. During times of war, however, she was still able to publish stories in magazines – like the novel „Ništarija“ I (*The good-for-nothing man*), she wrote in her youth – it was released in two parts in the 'Forum' (Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts). It was only in 1996, at the age of 48, when her second collection of short stories- written when she was 30 years old - *A rabbit in the attic*, was published. In the following 20 years she published all the books from „her drawer“, publishing one or two a year, together with those that she was writing alongside – for a total of 20 titles. Her novels longlisted and shortlisted for national awards.

References:

Her latest novel, [Divljakuša \(A Wild Woman\) won the publishing house VBZ's prize for the best novel of the year, and was subsequently published in 2018, becoming a literary bestseller.](#)



NADEŽDA RADOVIĆ

Born 1948 in Slovenia, lives in Belgrade (Serbia). Redactor of editions “Women's identities”, Media Bookstore Krug Belgrade, editor-in-chief of Fenster's (trust, reconciliation, honesty) until 2006, coordinator of organization Belgrade Women's Lobby, national coordinator of the international project Women memory... Permanent associate of newspaper Today (Danas) in Belgrade..

Nadežda Radović has published ten books and hundreds of articles, critiques, reportages and interviews.

References:

Books that in a cronical way speak of the past but ARE **LOOKING FORWARD THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY** [which look to the future of man :](#)

- Danubian German's Women I and II,*
- The Boy from neighborhood*
- The Boy from the last transport*

Those three books speak about the fate of the Danubian Germans, their life stories as „betrayers and enemies“, after the Second War.

Translated in Austria : Based on all these stories Johan Holik of Salzburga has compiled and equipped the book "Donauschwabinnen", Salzburg, 2003.



JOVAN NIKOLAIDIS

Writer, publisher, journalist, translator, persistent in affirmation of Montenegrin multiculturalism. He sees the Balkans as a zone of tolerance and peaceful coexistence. Founder of the first Albanian language newspapers in Montenegro - "Chronicle". Founder and long-time editor of *PLIMApus* culture magazine. Founder of the branch of the Matica Crnogorska in Ulcinj. Member of the Montenegrin Society of Independent Writers.

Some of the published works: *Valdinos 33*, novel; *Ulcinj's letters*, essays; Montenegrin guilty, political essays, *Čapuri*, poetry, *I wake up with a stranger in myself*, poetry; *Montenegro and/or Monte Negro*, essays; *Monahos*, essay; *Bone Distributors*, essays; *His hair was blurred, blue, silky*, stories; *Albanians and I*, travel essay, *The old man in the bay*, stories; *Twenty Bright Themes*, short stories,

Recommendation:

[Our Lives Are the Escapes](#), novel (ShuraPublications 2018).



SHURA DUMANIC

Understanding the Balkans, where I was born and where I live, as a world in a cup- a multitude of nations, languages, cultures, and customs. I'm aware of the difficulties and the delicate skills of living together, the joy of accepting, the sadness of going apart...To be born and to grow on the crossroads of worlds, the East and the West, the North and the South, on the Balkans, means carrying all those worlds in oneself - absorbing them and struggling with them, mixing with others and remaining oneself.. The name I carry also reflects the region I live in: Šuhreta or Šuhra in Bosnia, Šura in Croatia and Serbia, Shura away from the Balkans.As a woman, I feel that we were forbidden to love each other. In the past, but today as well. As a woman, I know that the only way out is to love, to accept and to help each other.All that I do is influenced by that knowledge, as are some of my activities listed below.

Shura (Šuhreta) Dumanić was born in Doboj (Bosnia), she finished primary and secondary schools in Tuzla, graduated studies of journalism at Faculty of political sciences in Belgrade, and took M.A. degree at Faculty of political sciences in Sarajevo. Her three-month specialization finished at the University of Hamburg in 2000 (the theme was "Globalization and identity"). Shura Dumanic is very active for the second decade in peace movements, she is a trainer in the area of culture of non-violence. Mother of two children, she lives in Opatija (Croatia). She is a publicist, writher, and in charge her own publishing house (ShuraPublications). She has published a large number of articles, reviews, critiques, interviews, stories.

As a result of her experience and commitment, she wrote the ["Rose of Damascus"](#)(anti-war novel)-ShuraPublications, which comes out of the press this year.



DARIJA ŽILIĆ

Born: in Zagreb in 1972, she studied history and comparative literature on the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. Her poems are translated to Italian, Slovenian, Slovak, Franch and English; published in the revues "Consuequence" and "Sententia" in the U.S.A., in the book "Voci di donne della ex Jugoslavia", Akkuaria, Catania, 2010), and in the collection "2010 - L'annuario mondiale della poesia"(edited by Fausto Ciompi); she is represented in "A Megaphone: Editors Juliana Spahr and Stephanie Young", Chainlinks, 2011, she is also presented in a Anthology of Croatian poetry „Surfacing“(Harbor Mountain Press, 2014.)

Books published in Croatia:

- "Grudi i jagode", poetry collection, AGM, Zagreb, 2005
- "Pisati mlijekom", collection of essays on modern poetry, Altagama, Zagreb, 2008; - "Pleši, Modesty, pleši"; poetry; Algoritam, Zagreb, 2010; - "Muza izvan geta; Essays on the Contemporary Literature", Biakova, Zagreb, 2010;
- "Paralelni vrtovi“, coll.of textes, Shura Publications, Opatija 2011;
- "Nomads & hibrids, Essays on Literature and Film", Biakova, Zagreb, 2011; - "Tropizmi", Meandarmedia, Zagreb, 2011; - "Omara ", short stories; Biakova, Zagreb, 2012 ; - "Tropizmi" 2, Essays on Poetry and Prose, Litteris, Zagreb, 2013; - "Klavžar"- short stories, Biakova, Zagreb; -., Tropizmi 3, Litteris, Zagreb, 2017;
- Svanuće, Biakova, Zagreb, 2018;

Awards:

- "Julije Benešić" Award for Literary Criticism, for the book *The Muse outside the Ghetto*, 2010;
- "Kiklop" Award for the best poetry collection 2011, for the book of poetry *Dance, Modesty, Dance*

References: collection of poetry *Svanuće*, Biakova, Zagreb



MIRJANA MRKELA

was born in Belgrade in 1955. She has lived in Zadar since her high school days. He writes novels, plays, stories, poems and reports. Her texts are published on Croatian Radio, in children's magazines and magazines for the blind. In 2013, she received the Grigor Vitez Award.

She has published books: Dear Oliver, novel, 2012;

Love Songs, poetry, 2013; Mea younger sister, a novel for teenagers, Zagreb, 2014; My Zadar Reader, children's collection, Zadar, 2014; Meet the inventions of Faust Vrančić, didactic cards, Naklada Nika, Zagreb, 2015; Journey Blindly, travelogues, Naklada Bošković, Split, 2016; In the Land of Plavia, educational stories, Zagreb, 2016; Bob bobić mahuna, illustrated collection of stories, Naklada Iris Illyrica, Zagreb, 2017; Sparrow- children's stories, Naklada Nika, Zagreb 2016; Stand here, Captain !, picture book, 2018; We are two worlds, a collection of poems, Shura Publications, Opatija, 2019, Kornjača bundašica, radio-story, Zagreb, 2012.; Dear Oliver, novel for children, 2012.; Dinosaurs are not gone, collection of poems for children, Iris Illyrica, Zagreb, 2019., and others.

Our recommendation: **We are two worlds**, a collection of poems, Shura Publications, Opatija, 2019;

Dear Oliver, novel for children, Zadar, 2012.



LAURA MARCHIG

is a member of the Italian minority in Croatia and writes mainly in Italian. Poet, writer, translator, playwright, worker and organizer in the field of culture, she is also a political activist. Born in Rijeka, she graduated in 1987 from the Faculty of Philosophy in Florence on the topic of the writer Enrico Morovich. She was a journalist-editor of the cultural section of the daily "La Voce del Popolo", editor-in-chief of the cultural magazine "La battana", and from 2004 to 2014 she was the director of the Italian Drama of the Croatian National Theater Ivana pl. Zajc from Rijeka. She has published three books of poetry, stories and essays. She is the author of theatrical texts and adaptations for the theater. He writes, directs and interprets poetic site specific projects and recitals. Her novel Snoopy Polka was published in Italy in 2015 (Oltre edizioni, Sestri Levante). Since 2018, he has been writing for the "Rijeka Danas" portal, a satirical column in the Fiuman dialect "La scartaza" (Rough Brush). She has won several literary awards, including the Istria Nobilissima Poetry Prize, Hystria, the Leone di Muggia National Italian Prose Prize. Since January 1, 2017, she has been recognized as a Freelance Artist (playwright), and is a member of the Croatian Association of Independent Artists. She is a member of the Croatian Society of Dramatic Artists, the Croatian Writers' Association, and the Croatian P.E.N Club.

Our recommendation: **Snoopy polka**, novel, Shura Publications, Opatija, 2019.



IBRAHIM KAJAN

was born on November 1, 1944 in Mostar (Bosnia). After primary and secondary education, he studied and graduated from the Pedagogical Academy in Dubrovnik and the Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation in Zagreb. He holds a master's degree and a doctorate in humanities, field of literature, from the Faculty of Humanities, Džemal Bijedić University in Mostar. He is the founder of the magazine for culture and social issues BEHAR (1992-2001). For ten years (2002-2012) he was engaged in Mostar in the capacity of Assistant Cantonal Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Sports, ie as a professor at the Faculty of Humanities, and in recent years as acting dean. He lives in Zagreb.

He is a member of the Croatian Writers' Association, the BiH Writers' Association, the PEN Center of BiH, and the American-Bosnian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Important works: Arabia of love, poetry, Sarajevo, 1967, To find a house, poetry, Zagreb, 1978, Yellow bird, poetry, Sarajevo, 1980, 2007, Wuppertal, 1993, Ljubavni huhujek, poetry, Sarajevo, 1989, Muslim tribute in blood, Zagreb, 1992, There is little love, selected poems, Zagreb. Wuppertal, 1994, Under the Behar My Lamb Sleeps, anthology of children's Bosniak poetry, Zagreb, 1996; In the Footsteps of God's Prophets, travelogue, Tešanj, 1999, Mostar, 2005 and 2016; Melek, selected poems, Sarajevo, 2002., Another fairy tale, poems, Zenica, 2003, Katarina Kosača - last dinner, drama, Tešanj, 2003, Katarina, last Queen of Bosnia, novel, Tuzla 2004 and 2005, Sarajevo, 2007, Zagreb, 2007 and 2012. and 2015.; Trace of Bosnian kings, travelogue, Tuzla, 2007, Zagreb, 2008, Sarajevo, 2010, Development and forms of children's Bosnian-Herzegovinian novel, study, Sarajevo, 2008, A city of great light, Mostar views., Mostar, 2014, Journey to Blagaj-Views of Blagaj. Translation: Amina Imami. Mostar, 2017, Screams and Whispers, Travelogues from the Land of Hum, Tuzla, 2017, Mujaga Komadina, monography, Sarajevo, 2018.

Performed dramas:

Five radio dramas were performed on Radio Zagreb (1973-1980), one on the Radio Sarajevo, and the stage drama by Katarina Kosača - the Last Dinner performed by the Mostar Youth Theater, directed by Seja Đulić and Tanja Miletić-Oručević (2003). A new version of the same play, directed by Gradimir Gojer, premiered in January 2005, on the stage of Sarajevo's SARTR Theater.

Ibrahim Kajan is a Winner of many awards, including:

Golden Pen Award -Brčko 2003, for the play Katarina Kosača - the Last Dinner; and the award for the best play:Katarina Kosača - the Last Dinner, performed by the Sarajevo's War Theater SARTR, in Zenica in 2005.

Our recommendation: **Katarina – the Bosnian queen.** novel.



VID BARIĆ

He was born in Rijeka in 1988, where he studied and graduated with a master's degree from the Department of Cultural Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy. He lives in Zagreb, where he is employed as a journalist.

In the **underGrad** edition of our publishing house, he published a collection of satirical stories **Fiumanski, opet lažeš (Fiumanski, you are lying again)** 2020, which was a complete success.

We are expecting new titles from this talented writer.



LEYLA KARACA Turkish author, poet, was born in April 1976 in Istanbul. She graduated from the Faculty of Arts Department of Philosophy at the Middle East Technical University at 1999. She worked as a teacher in various schools. Translations, poems, articles, essays and short stories have been published in various journals and literary magazines. And still she continues to write in many magazines. She lives in Ankara. Main Works: Sonsuzla Sek Sek- Poetry Book - 2010 (Hopscotch With The Eternity) Sonsuzla Sek Sek translated into Croatian language with the name of the Igra s Vjecnoscju at 2022.

Göğsündeki Gökyüzü- Novel - 2013 (The Sky In Your Heart). Göğsündeki Gökyüzü is the story of a mystical and fascinating journey. A passionate love and searching of the Truth together. This novel was selected as the best novel of the year 2013 by ESKADER in Turkey. On the other, this novel translated to English, Croatian and Indian languages with TEDA project.

Kalbinin Müziği- Story Book - 2015 (The Music Of Your Heart) Story book translated into German language with TEDA project.; Kurt Ağzı- Novel - 2016 (The Mouth Of The Wolf), The book translated into English.

Tales set for Children, Çintirik and Pintirik-2015 Gizemli Robot Fabrikası , child novel (The Mysterious Robot Factory)- 2018

Gülbey -The Youth Novel 2018. ;Sayı Büyücüsü- The Child novel, (The Wizard Of Numbers)- 2019

Sonsuz Zeka - Spiritual, (The Infinite Intelligence)- 2020 Also the author presented the report 'From the Collective Prejudice To Pure Consciousness' within the context of ISCAT 2015 First International Symposium on Critical and Analytical Thinking (Sakarya University 10 April 2015) The author has also given seminars on Writing Schools especially on the subjects poetry, emotional intelligence, subconscious... The author also takes part in various poetry events in Turkey.



MILAN RAKOVAC was born on December 12, 1939 in Rahovci near Poreč. Graduated from the Naval Academy in Divulje. After leaving the military service, he held certain cultural and political positions in Pula, Rijeka and Zagreb. For a short time, he was the editor-in-chief of "Glas Istra" from Pula. He regularly publishes newspaper columns and journalistic texts.

He worked as an independent editor in the Documentary Program of Croatian Television. Author of several cultural-historical essays broadcast on the Third Program of Croatian Radio. He was a member of several editorial boards and the founder and program manager of the international border meetings FORUM TOMIZZA in Umag, Koper and Trieste.

Represented in anthologies, joint collections, lexicons, etc. Noted in Croatian Lexicon II (Zagreb 1997).

He has published dozens of books, polemical texts, plays, and writes poetry. We highlight the books **Illyricum, Adriatic postcards** (together with Jovan Nikolaidis), **Slovo Bosni...**

His works have been translated into Italian, German, English, Ukrainian, Slovenian.

Important critics and authors in Croatia and Italy wrote about the author and his books.

Awarded several times for poetry and prose.
