

GEORGIAN LITERATURE IN TRANSLATIONS

GEORGIAN
NATIONAL
BOOK
CENTER



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INTRODUCTION

Centuries-old Georgian literature is an important part of Georgian culture, which has played a special role in the development of the country's and the nation's unique character. The Georgian language is among hundreds of cultural languages; it is distinguished by its unique alphabet and is one of the 14 existing scripts.

Georgian literature starts with the fifth century hagiographic work, *The Martyrdom of the Holy Queen Shushanik*. The hagiographic works, historical chronicles and hymns are followed by that gem of twelfth century secular literature *The Knight in the Panther's Skin*. It anticipates the historical-cultural epoch of the fourteenth to fifteenth century, the European Renaissance with its humanistic ideals, and furthermore, contemporary European ideas (*"The lion's whelps are equal, be they male or female"*). It is unimaginable to speak of Georgian Christian culture without mentioning the Georgian translation school that started in the ninth to tenth centuries in the Mount Athos Iveron Monastery, and developed alongside European culture. It produced translations of Western and Eastern literary masterpieces, the originals of which are often lost and scholars study them based on their Georgian translations. From the nineteenth to twentieth centuries, Georgian literature absorbed and evoked all Western traditions: realism, symbolism, Dadaism, futurism,

absurdism etc. At the same time Georgian drama and theatre evolved.

In recent years, the interest in contemporary Georgian authors has significantly risen, and foreign publishers have started to translate and publish their works. This process has been strongly supported by the programme in Support of Georgian Book and Literature of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia in the years 2010-2014. Currently, even the most challenging mission has been accepted, as Georgia is confirmed to be the Guest of Honour Country at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2018, the most widely renowned event in the book world.

We are deeply convinced literature is one of the most potent tools of Georgian culture that can help define Georgia's own place on the world's cultural map. Therefore, The Georgian National Book Center (under the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection) has identified among its priorities, sharing a rich Georgian historical-cultural experience with countries of different cultures that will enhance the intercultural dialogue.

Medea Metreveli
Director of Georgian National Book Center

ABOUT THE GEORGIAN NATIONAL BOOK CENTER

The Georgian National Book Center was established by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia. The Center serves the interests of the national policy for literature, and the promotion of Georgian books and literature abroad.

The main objectives of the GNBC are to support the process of translation of Georgian and foreign literature, enhancing intercultural dialogue through literature and presenting centuries-long Georgian intellectual resources to the international literary and publishing arena.

MAIN PRIORITIES

- Designing the strategy for promotion of Georgian literature abroad and supporting its translation into foreign languages, as well as publication;
- Supporting translation and publication of foreign literature;
- Designing the strategy for the improvement of translation quality and arranging special seminars, workshops, conferences and short-term residency programs for translators;

- Organising special professional seminars, conferences and forums for the development of the publishing sector in Georgia;
- Supporting the participation of Georgia at international book fairs, and supporting collective stands of Georgian publishers;

From 2015 to 2018, one of the key projects of the GNBC will be the coordination of Georgia's presence at Frankfurt Book Fair 2018, as the Guest of Honour country.

TRANSLATION PROGRAM “GEORGIAN LITERATURE IN TRANSLATIONS”

The translation program of the Georgian National Book Center is designed for foreign publishing houses, willing to translate and publish Georgian literature in translations.

In the years 2010-2014, a number of translations and foreign publications of Georgian authors have been financed within the framework of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia.

In April 2014, The Georgian National Book Center was established, taking the responsibility to support translations and publications of Georgian literature into foreign languages. The center has already supported 10 projects. Totally, in the years 2010-2014, about fifty projects have been supported to translate and publish Georgian literature in seventeen languages, including Georgian literature anthologies (six), particular titles of different authors (forty-four).

Detailed information on translation subsidies and applications are available through our webpage at

www.book.gov.ge

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GRANTED PROJECTS

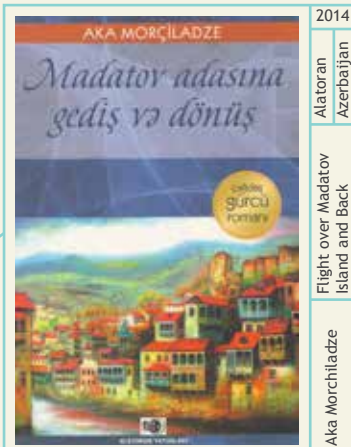


Aka Morchiladze, born in 1966 in Tbilisi, is the most recognised contemporary writer in Georgia. He studied and later taught Georgian History at Tbilisi State University. He worked as a journalist in *Sports Daily* and participated in the project “Literature Express Europe 2000”. From 2005 to 2006, he presented his own TV programme on history and literature. Several films and plays were based on his works.

Like Milorad Pavic, his favorite author, Morchiladze believes that a novel does not necessarily need to start at the beginning and proceed in a straight line to the end. Instead, he takes Umberto Eco’s theory of the emancipated reader seriously.

He is the person who has won the most SABA awards, Georgia’s main literary prize - he has received five prizes in the category of Best Novel. His novel *The Shy Emerald* is currently in the shortlist for SABA 2014.

AKA MORCHILADZE



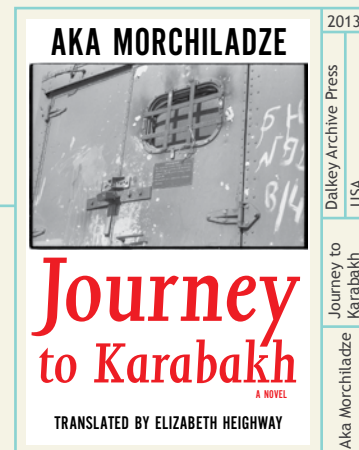
This is the novel for which Aka Morchiladze became famous, and is the first book of the Madator Trilogy describing Georgia from 1890 to the 1930s.

The action takes place in Tbilisi in 1899. The Caucasian gendarmerie is hunting the murderer of a homosexual artist, who is suspected of having close ties with the Georgian establishment. The novel demonstrates the distinguished literary talent of the author: his consummate ability to create remarkable characters and bring scenes of the past century to life. Among the characters in the novel are several historical figures such as the Norwegian writer Knut Hamsun who visited Tbilisi at the end of the nineteenth century, and the Georgian writer Ilia Chavchavadze. The author applies an interesting literary method: he exploits the heroes from another contemporary Georgian novel.

A short, true masterpiece evoking the subtle feeling and atmosphere of Georgia in the early nineteenth century.

"Their behaviour is strange and unacceptable for us, but their natural chivalry cannot fail to charm you." - This is how one of the characters of this novel, the wife of a Russian colonel, describes the Georgians. And certainly, Russians could not understand Georgians and their behaviour in the early 1800s when they first occupied the tiny country.

This tragic story of a young Georgian man who became the victim of this misunderstanding symbolises the story of Georgia as a victim of the Russian Empire.



A young man travels from Georgia to Karabakh, a contested region between Armenia and Azerbaijan, in order to buy cheap drugs. Taken prisoner first by the Azeris and then by the Armenians, he spends long enough away from home to find that he isn't really in such a hurry to be released. Is there anything waiting for him back home - so soon after the end of Georgia's own war - a place where he's weighed down by an alcoholic father and a pregnant girlfriend that his family will never accept? What is freedom, and might it be enjoyed just as well in captivity as well as at large? One of the best-selling novels ever released in Georgia, and the basis for two feature films, this is a book about the tricky business of finding - and defining - liberty.



Me, Margarita is a short story collection mostly narrated by an enlightened woman. It is interesting that in none of her stories does the author reveal real time and place: it could happen anywhere. Stories are told with enjoyable humour and the reader cannot help but resolve to take life more lightly.



Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili, born in 1968, lives in Tbilisi, where she works as a writer, translator and cultural journalist. Her expressive and emotional novels and short stories about men and women, love and hate, sex and disappointment are somewhat outré and sarcastic, but it is this that gives them their appeal. Ana Kordzaia has received various Georgian literary prizes, including an award for best novel of the year in 2013 for her *Who Murdered Chaika?* She also translates from German into Georgian and has in particular translated the work of Cornelia Funke and Elfriede Jelinek.

She was awarded a prize by the Goethe Institute in Tbilisi for her translation of Elfriede Jelinek's novel *Die Liebhaberinnen* (Women as Lovers).

Ana writes for various literary magazines. Currently she works as a lecturer at the Ilia State University, Tbilisi.

ANA KORDZAIA-SAMADASHVILI



2012

Unionsverlag
Switzerland

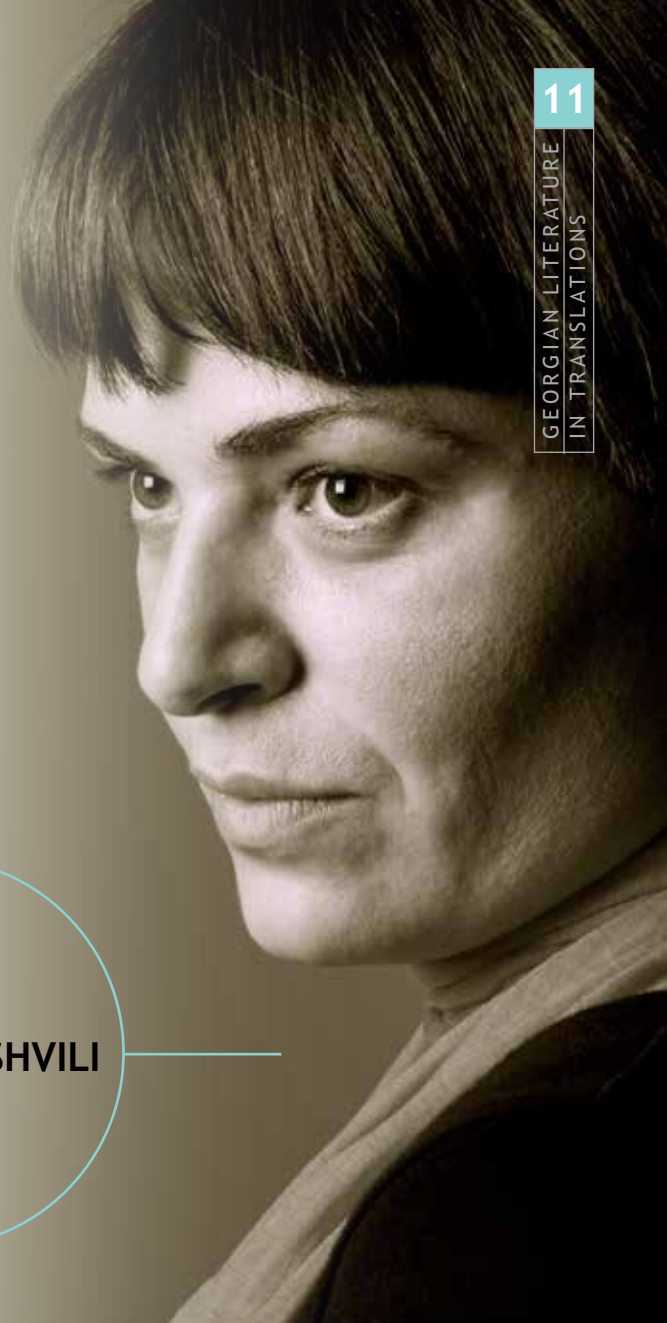
Counting out

Tamta Melashvili

➤ Tamta Melashvili's first book *Counting out* was published in 2010. The book was highly praised by critics. It is a novella about two teenage girls who live in a provincial town located within a conflict zone. The war provides a sombre background to the book. There are neither dates nor any geographical names mentioned in the story. This is a story which can happen anytime and anywhere. War is a gloomy metaphor chosen by the author to show human nature in its fullness. Two small girls are involved in drug trafficking to earn money for food. They share all the troubles of adults. Their psychological initiation into the world of adults also coincides with a physiological one - their first menstrual bleeding. One of the two girls dies while crossing a mined field. This is a tragic story written with sincerity.

Tamta Melashvili was born in Ambrolauri (in the northern part of central Georgia) in 1979. After completing her secondary education she moved to the capital, Tbilisi, where she started a course in international relations. However, she broke off her studies and spent a year living in Germany, where she started to write. In 2008, she completed a degree in gender studies at the Central European University in Budapest. She now lives in Georgia, where she works on gender issues. She has written about female migration, for example, in *Georgian Women in Germany - Empowerment through Migration? Empowering Aspects of Female Migration* (Saarbrücken 2009). She published her first stories online. Some have subsequently appeared in anthologies. Her debut work *Gatvla* (Counting out) was acclaimed by Georgian critics as the work of "a new, highly distinctive voice". *Gatvla* is a winner of the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis, 2013, Young Adults category, as well as the Georgian literary award SABA in the category of Best Newcomer in 2011.

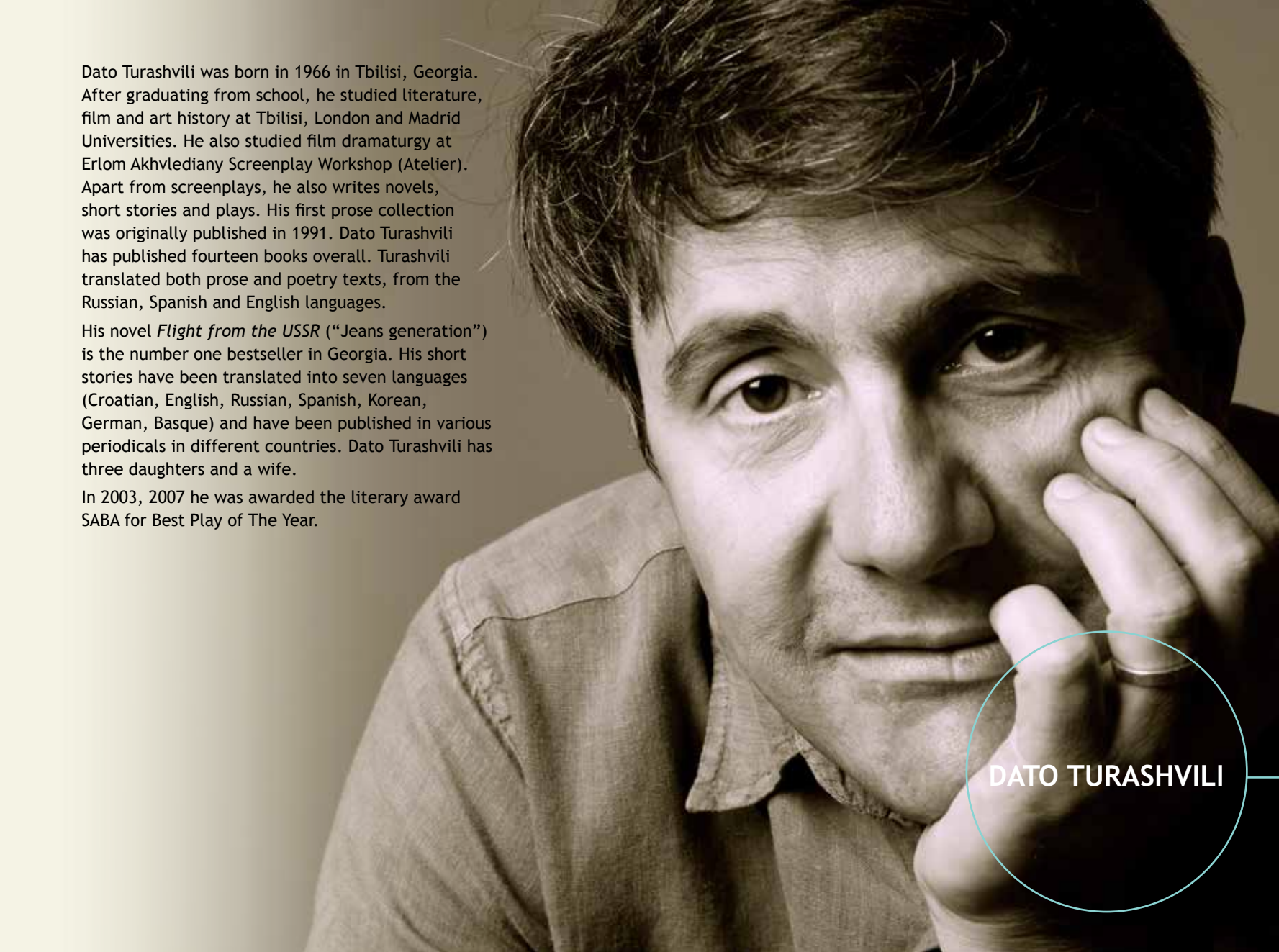
TAMTA MELASHVILI



Dato Turashvili was born in 1966 in Tbilisi, Georgia. After graduating from school, he studied literature, film and art history at Tbilisi, London and Madrid Universities. He also studied film dramaturgy at Erlom Akhvlediani Screenplay Workshop (Atelier). Apart from screenplays, he also writes novels, short stories and plays. His first prose collection was originally published in 1991. Dato Turashvili has published fourteen books overall. Turashvili translated both prose and poetry texts, from the Russian, Spanish and English languages.

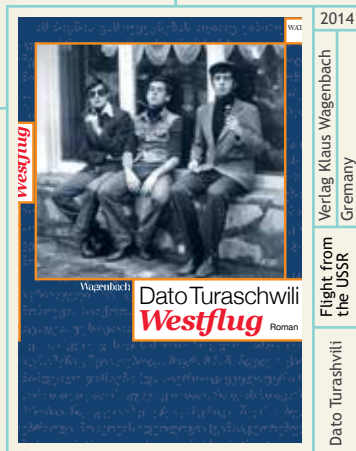
His novel *Flight from the USSR* (“Jeans generation”) is the number one bestseller in Georgia. His short stories have been translated into seven languages (Croatian, English, Russian, Spanish, Korean, German, Basque) and have been published in various periodicals in different countries. Dato Turashvili has three daughters and a wife.

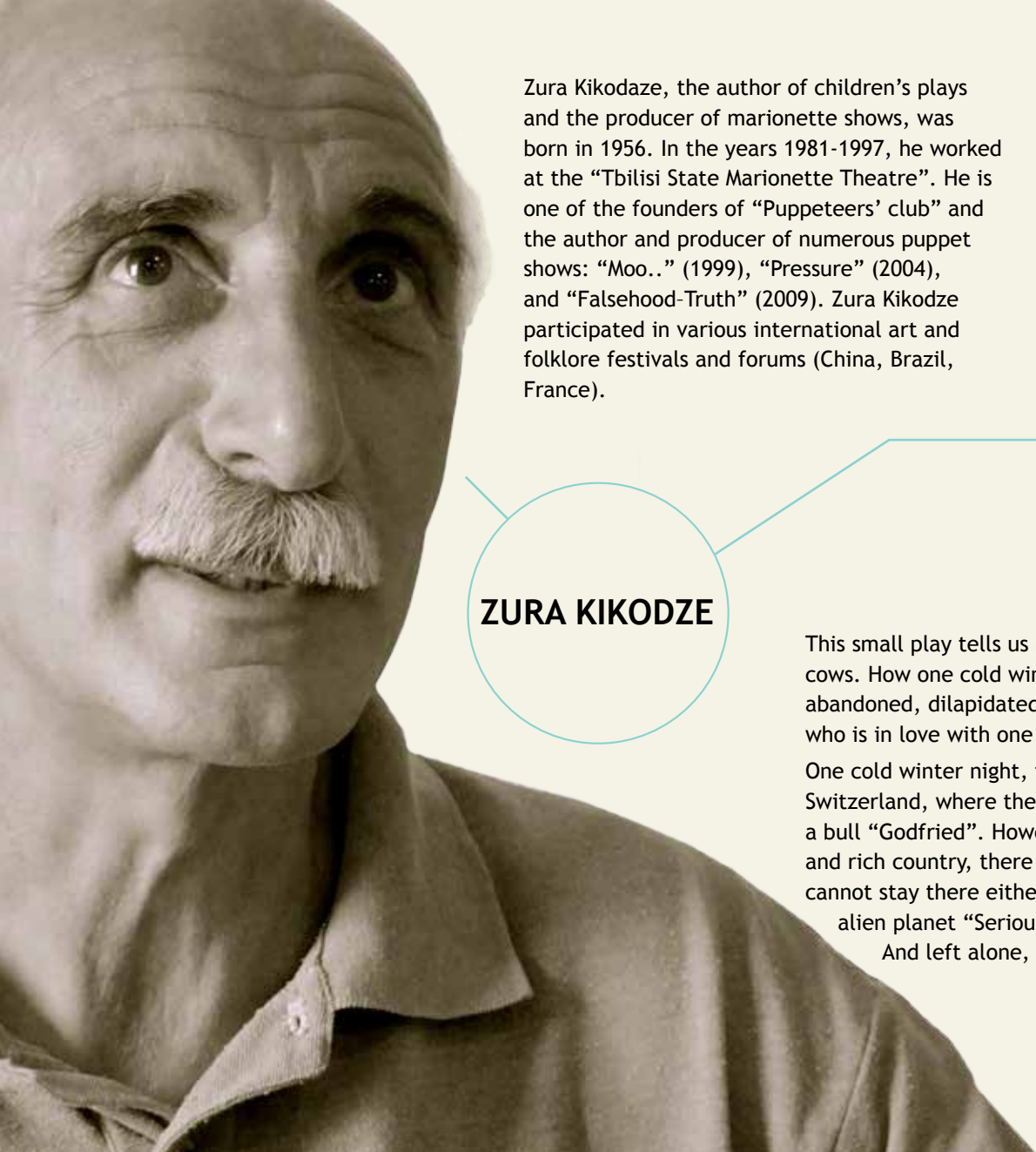
In 2003, 2007 he was awarded the literary award SABA for Best Play of The Year.

A close-up, black and white portrait of Dato Turashvili. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. His right hand is raised, with fingers resting near his eye. He is wearing a light-colored, button-down shirt. A thin, light blue circular line is drawn around his hand and the lower right portion of his face.

DATO TURASHVILI

This novel is based on one of the most tragic events in 1980s Soviet Georgia. Seven young people hijacked an airplane in an attempt to escape the Soviet Union. This was an exceptional event: at that time, even the thought of escape was criminal. The Soviet government sentenced most of the protagonists to death. Public opinion was split. Some considered them to be just common terrorists. Others argued that living under the Soviet regime was so unbearable that the hijacking of the plane was justified. *Flight from the USSR* (Jeans Generation) lets the reader closely follow the leading characters, and learn more about their motives and aspirations. The novel has been adapted for the stage, and is one of the most successful productions of the “Georgian Free Theatre”.





Zura Kikodaze, the author of children's plays and the producer of marionette shows, was born in 1956. In the years 1981-1997, he worked at the "Tbilisi State Marionette Theatre". He is one of the founders of "Puppeteers' club" and the author and producer of numerous puppet shows: "Moo.." (1999), "Pressure" (2004), and "Falsehood-Truth" (2009). Zura Kikodze participated in various international art and folklore festivals and forums (China, Brazil, France).

ZURA KIKODZE



This small play tells us about the unbearable life of Georgian cows. How one cold winter, destiny gathered them in an abandoned, dilapidated stall where a kind wolf "Iasoni" comes, who is in love with one of the cows called "Ketato".

One cold winter night, they elope together abroad, namely to Switzerland, where they meet up with a Swiss cow "Viola" and a bull "Godfried". However, it turns out that in this beautiful and rich country, there are also a lot of problems and they cannot stay there either. In the end, they all fly together to the alien planet "Serious", where only grass and flowers grow.

And left alone, "Iasoni" sees them off with sad howling.

GAGA NAKHUTSRISHVILI

Gaga Nakhutsrishvili, contemporary successful Georgian poet, was born in 1971 in Tbilisi. In 1993, he graduated from Tbilisi State University, history department. He is the author of numerous poetry collections: *Strange Traveller* (1996), *Simplicity* (2001), *Departure and Expectations* (2002), *Unexpectedly* (2006), *Unusual Times* (2007), *The Girl and Europe* (2009), *Beyond the Horizon* (2012), 2013 (2013). In 2003, Gaga Nakhutsrishvili was awarded the SABA prize for “Best Poetry Collection”. He works as a lecturer at the Ilia State University, Tbilisi.





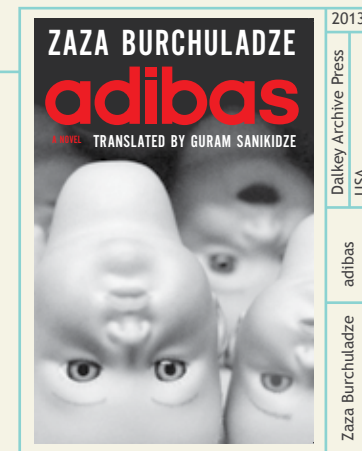
The game of “Summoning Spirits” is still quite popular in Georgia. During the game, the invoked spirit(s) gives signs to the players and confirms its presence. What will happen if one of the summoned spirits does not want to go back and decides to stay and live with the players? The novel *The Inflatable Angel* by Zaza Burchuladze narrates such a story. The summoned spirit in the book is a renowned mystic - George Gurdjieff. Gurdjieff’s spirit is visible and highly communicative.

The young hosts are initially confused by these developments and are unhappy about the prospect of their new guest staying. However, in time they realize that Gurdjieff’s spirit may bring them great benefits, like helping them get their hands on one million Euros.

Yet the young hosts will not escape without dealing with some unpleasant eventualities.



➤ War is raging in Georgia, Russian fighter planes are thundering overhead, and yet, for some, the falling bombs cause no more impact than a slight ripple moving through the purified water of their swimming pools, or the rattling of a spoon in their cappuccino cups. *Adibas* is a tragic satire describing the progressive falsification of life, invaded by consumer goods, consumer sex, and consumer carnage. *Adibas* anatomises the Western world’s ongoing “feast in a time of plague.”



Zaza Burchuladze, born in 1973, is a contemporary postmodern writer and dramatist, who graduated from Tbilisi State Academy of Fine Arts. He started writing and publishing his books at the age of 24. His short stories have regularly been published in Georgian literary and art magazines. Until 2001, he used to publish his works under the pen-name of Gregory Zamza. In Georgia, he is well known not only for his scandalous novels, but also as a talented actor, who successfully starred in Georgian feature length movies in 2008.

Zaza Burchuladze has translated numerous Russian classical and contemporary works of fiction into Georgian, such as those by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Vladimir Sorokin, etc.

Burchuladze's novels have been translated and published in the French, English, Polish and Russian languages.

His novel *Inflatable Angel* won the prize of "Best Novel of the Year" in 2011, an annual literary award held by Ilia State University. He was invited to la Nuit de la Littérature 2014 in Paris, France.



ZAZA BURCHULADZE





The Taste of Mouse is the story about the adventure of a young Polish society journalist who finds himself in the epicentre of the Abkhazian military conflict. His extraordinary story from within the conflict zone is narrated in his letters to his mother. The Polish journalist bit by bit becomes a prisoner of circumstances and is separated from his family and his country. In the end, his Georgian fellow military correspondent helps him to do so. He himself, the Georgian correspondent, tells his story in the first person. These two people experienced things at first hand, and overcame all the atrocities of the war. A destructive depression gradually destroys the Polish journalist. Although approximately nine months later, by an imaginative trick of his Georgian friend, he manages to get out from the cruel, merciless bloody arena of conflict. Human relationship and sincere friendship sits above all nationalistic phobias here. It directly reveals the absurdity of all kinds of wars, where nobody is a winner.



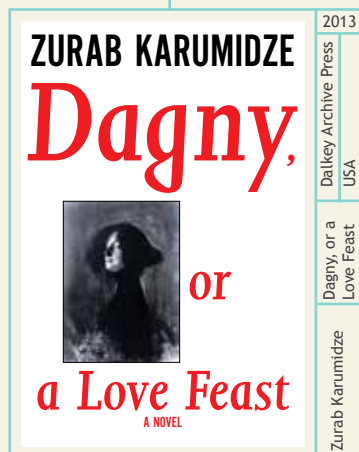
BESO KHVEDELIDZE

Beso Khvedelidze was born in 1972 in Tbilisi, Georgia. In 1996, he graduated from the Faculty of Journalism at Tbilisi State University. He is one of the most productive authors in Georgia. He has fourteen published novels and writes short stories as well as poems. His stories have been translated in ten languages. He is also a playwright and an editor at the *Literaturuli Palitra* magazine. Beso Khvedelidze is a member of the Pen Centre in Georgia.

He is awarded as the winner of various literary competitions: the Saba Literary Prize (2011); the Literature Bridges Prize, at the International Festival (Baku, 2010); the Litsakhelebi literary contest (Tbilisi, 2010); the prize for best story for the October Award (Moscow, 2009); the Tsero literary contest (Tbilisi, 2007); the Saba Literary Prize (Tbilisi, 2003); the Pen-Marathon literary contest (2002).

Zurab Karumidze was born in 1957, got his degree in English from Tbilisi State University; he got his PhD (in 1984) for his dissertation on Wit and Conceit in the poetry of John Donne. He worked for years as a research associate for the Centre for Twentieth Century Literary Studies at Tbilisi State University. He had a stint at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee as a visiting Fulbright Scholar studying Post-Modernist American meta-fiction (1994-95). Two of his short stories were published in the USA (Clockwatch Review, Bloomington, IL, 1996). He worked as an editor of English language magazines in Tbilisi - Georgia/Caucasus Profile (1995-2000) and Caucasus Context (2002-2005). He has written a novel in English - Dagny or a Love Feast (2006). The novel was longlisted for IMPAC Dublin International Literary Award in 2012. His publications include essays on culture, postmodernism, collective memory and national narratives. His book on the history of jazz music - The Life of Jazz - received the SABA Prize (2010). His last novel - Caucasian Foxtrot - featuring an American couple in Georgia in 1926 was shortlisted for the SABA prize in 2012. His long short story Bashi-Achuk or Mobi-Dick depicting tortures in a Georgian prison and the political developments of 2012 came out in 2013.

ZURAB KARUMIDZE



As the title suggests, there are two contrasting stories unfolding in this novel. One is that of Norwegian poetess and dramatist Dagny Juel (1867-1901), a beautiful and creative woman, whose errant life brings her to a totally foreign country. Dagny Juel was an inspiration to such celebrities as Edward Munch, August Strindberg, Gustav Vigeland, and was “Queen” of the Berlin bohemian scene of the 1890s. The other story is a phantasmagoric mixture of religious mysticism and eroticism, and mythic origins of arts and politics. It is a play with various cultural themes, traversing such extremes as shamanic art and Bach’s art of the fugue, gnosticism and modernist aesthetics and linguistics. This mix of themes and ideas is rendered in a story of a so-called Agape, the “Love Feast”, a half-religious half-artistic event. The topos where the “Love Feast” intersects with reality is the city of limitless feasting and wine-crazed discussion - Tiflis.

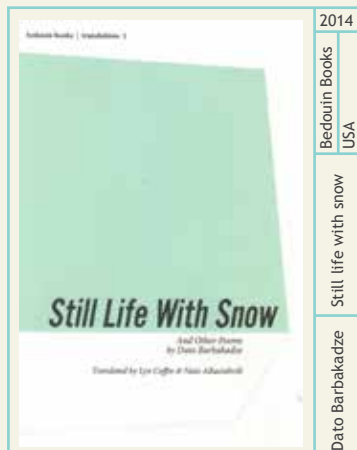


Jemal Karchkhadze was born in 1936 in the village of Ukhuti in western Georgia, and died on the 20th of March 1998 in Tbilisi. He completed his secondary education in the city of Kutaisi, after which he moved to the capital to continue his studies at the Tbilisi State University from which he graduated in 1960 with a degree in Georgian language and literature. His earliest writings date from this period. Karchkhadze held various posts between 1961 and 1982, before deciding to give up regular employment so as to devote himself full-time to his writing. Jemal Karchkhadze's first published works were very well received by the public, but were met with harsh criticism from the Soviet critics of the time. In spite of this, he continued to write regularly and to publish his works. It is worth noting that Jemal Karchkhadze received no award or prize during his lifetime. Karchkhadze was rediscovered in the new millennium by a new generation, and today his popularity continues to rise and rise.

JEMAL KARCHKHADZE



> The novel *Antonio and David* was first published in 1986. This novel is set in medieval Georgia, and the narrator is an Italian traveller who visits the country together with a group of European missionaries. "Antonio and David" is a tense drama in which the struggle to save Man's soul plays out against the strife-ridden background of historical realities and religious discourse. This emotionally charged novel is written with impeccable flair and in strikingly accomplished language.



➤ Dato Barbakadze in the collection of his poems *Still Life With Snow* speaks with a distinct voice and rare vision in poems that invite contemplation more than dramatic reaction. If they sometimes feel a little cold on the first reading, it may be because they carry the shivering realities of a life lived under harsh circumstances, seen through eyes that did not turn away from tough questions. But always, from poem to poem, there is within the poetry the warmth of real humanity and the brightness, the hungry intelligence of his song, fresh as new-fallen snow. (Sam Hamill)

DATO BARBAKADZE

Dato Barbakadze was born in Tbilisi. He studied philosophy and psychology at the Tbilisi State University (1984-92). He pursued his post-graduate studies in the Department of Sociology (1992-94), but left a standard academic career to pursue independent projects in Georgian and German literature. He has followed a non-traditional academic path for the past twenty years. In 1991, he founded a literary video-magazine *Dato Barbakadze's Magazine*, which for two years was regularly performed at the Tbilisi State University. From 1991 to 2001, he taught courses in logic, the history of philosophy, aesthetics and introductory philosophy courses in several universities in Tbilisi. From 2002 to 2005, he lived in Germany where he pursued his literary interests and studied philosophy, ancient history and sociology at the University of Münster. He has been a member of the European Writers' Union - "Kogge" since 2007. He has published more than twenty books (poetry, prose, essays and translations). His books are published in German-speaking countries; some are translated into English and French, as well as in languages of post-Soviet countries.





BASA JANIKASHVILI

Basa Janikashvili, born in 1974, graduated from the Rustaveli Theatrical and Movie State Institute. In 1998, he published his first book of short stories and plays. Since then, he has written numerous plays that have been regularly performed at theatres in Georgia. Some have also been staged in Great Britain and Russia. In 2006, he was awarded the SABA literary prize for Best Play. In 2009, he won the Russia and Caucasus Region category of the BBC International Radio Playwriting Competition. In 2014, Basa won another international playwright's competition - "Talk About Boundaries" - for his play *Angry Bird*.

Janikashvili is also one of Georgia's most successful television and radio producers.

A new novel *Shoot'em up* is about the Russian-Georgian August War of 2008 by Basa Janikashvili. As the war starts, one family's summer holiday destination becomes the frontline of the war. Husband and wife, Guram and Vera, conduct their own war. A pebble thrown by their son hits and downs a Russian fighter plane. The captured pilots are to be shot dead. However, before the death penalty is to be carried-out, the Georgians astonish the Russian pilots with their hospitality and warm reception. The boundaries between real and virtual worlds are often lost in the novel. It is up to the reader to decide whether the characters will become real participants in the conflict or players of a computer game.



2014

PR: Prime Company
Ukraine

Shoot'em up

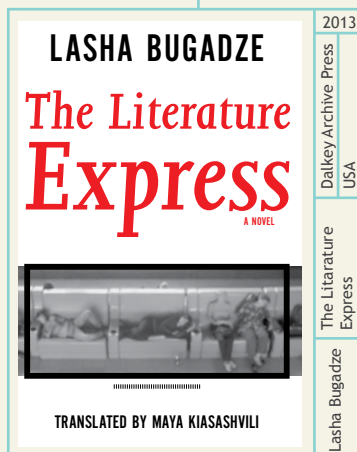
Basa Janikashvili

Lasha Bugadze, born in Tbilisi in 1977, has authored numerous novels as well as plays that have been performed in different European cities. Bugadze focuses his critical and ironic attention on inter-generational relationships and describes situations in which people fall victim to their prejudices, rigid ideas or stereotypes.

Lasha is a winner of the BBC International Radio Playwriting Competition for his play *The Navigator* in 2011. He is a four-time winner of the most prestigious Georgian literary award SABA. Bugadze's latest novel *Lucretia 515* is currently shortlisted for SABA 2014, in the category of Best Novel. Meanwhile, his *The President Has Come to See You* is shortlisted in the category of Best Play. The play was staged in the Royal Court Theatre, London in the summer of 2013; the first and only play by a Georgian author to have been performed on the stage of the Royal Court Theatre.

Lasha recently spent three months at the International Residences at Récollets, in Paris, France, at the invitation of The City of Paris and the Institut français. He has also been awarded a PhD scholarship by the DAAD.

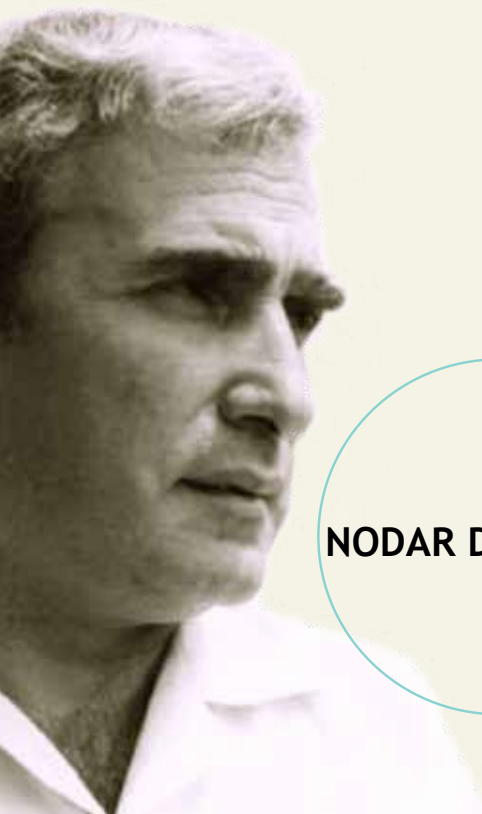
LASHA BUGADZE



The Literature Express is about literature and writers; more precisely, unknown and mediocre authors travelling together. A literary association has invited authors of various nationalities to a seminar and the narrative follows their train journey throughout Europe in the Literature-Express, a train specially chartered for the seminar. The novel describes the self-absorption of the authors and their inability to communicate with each other. They are portrayed as inward looking and disinterested in their fellow travellers' work. The novel is therefore a reflection on literature and the unsuccessful author.

The main character of the story is a Georgian author. At the heart of the novel is a love story involving the Georgian author and his Polish translator's wife. However, their romance is as unsuccessful as the central protagonist's attempts at literary success. At the end of this fascinating voyage into Europe, we will find out that all authors participating in the seminar are writing their new books on the Literature Express. Let's see how the Georgian author fares.

Nodar Dumbadze (1928 -1984) was born in Tbilisi. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics at Tbilisi State University in 1950. The same year, his first poems and humorous stories appeared in the Georgian press. His works are remarkable for the simplicity and lyricism of the prose, humour, and melancholy coupled with optimism. He was awarded the highest literary prize in Georgia, the Shota Rustaveli State Prize in 1975 and the highest prize in the Soviet Union, the Lenin Prize in 1980. Most of his major works have been dramatized and/or filmed. He died in Tbilisi and was buried at the Children's Town "Mziuri" founded by him. In September 2009, he was reburied in the Mtatsminda Pantheon.

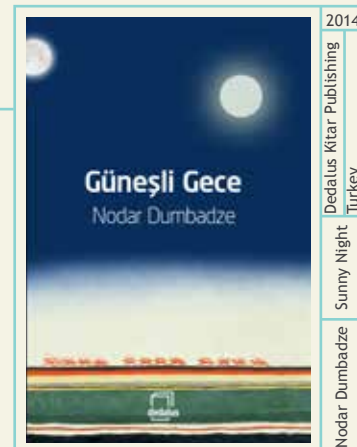


NODAR DUMBADZE



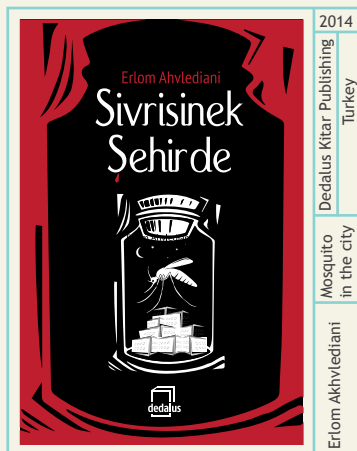
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The White Banners is a work written about the Soviet prison in the 50s of the last century. The prison cell resembles a mini version of Georgia, where the lives of people of different nationalities, beliefs and social status are simmering in a covered melting pot. The main character of the novel, a student called Zaza Nakashidze, eagerly fights to prove his innocence. Whilst he is pursuing this, a complicated canvass opens out, revealing the passions and lives of ordinary people within the prison and outside of it. The idea of this work is that a human remains a human even in prison.



↓

The Sunny Night is a full and unforgettable picture of youth culture in the Soviet Union as it sought its own identity (Robert Payne). *The Sunny Night* was published by Washington Square Press (New York) in 1968. In the foreword by Robert Payne (one of the most famous critics, translators and writers in the USA) describes Dumbadze as a follower of nineteenth century traditions, but at the same time, he considers him as the ultimate contemporary writer; the writer who was the first to give Western readers an opportunity to look into the soul of Soviet people, Soviet students, and an opportunity to see a broad and realistic picture of their lives. His opinion is that it is through Dumbadze's skills that the foreign reader could have no doubt in the truthfulness of his captivating and unforgettable story.

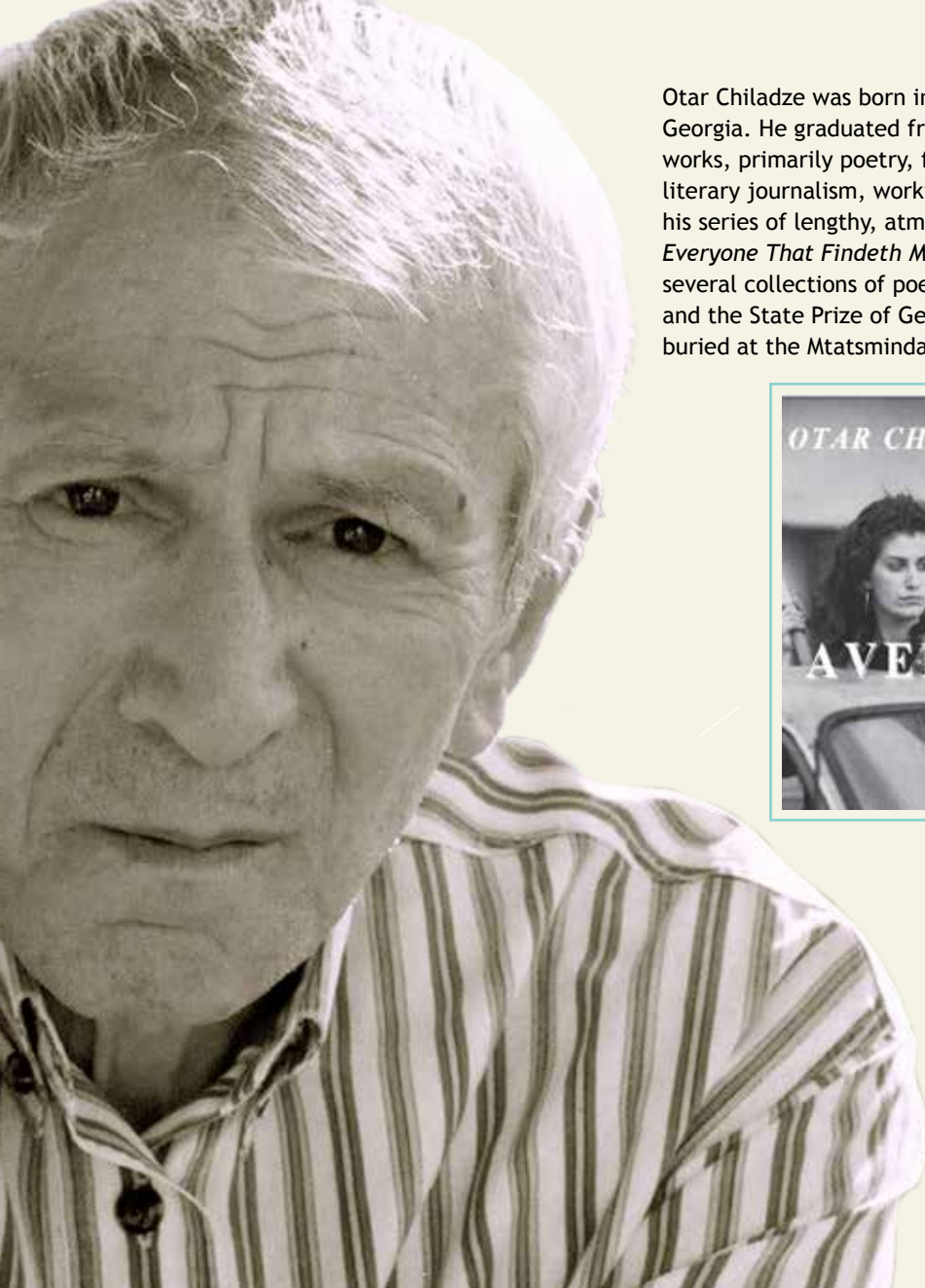


Mosquito in the City is a philosophical novel about matters of life. The mosquito is a metaphor of a human being discovered in an unknown world. The author represents it as a humanized insect, at the same time comparing him with Eros, the God of Love. The sting of the mosquito causes love, which is illness. And because Eros is a god, killing him is a fatal crime. But on the other hand, death is the only way to turn into a god, which is why the mosquito, an innocent human, is looking for a person who will help him end his existence. This novel written in a minimalist style is full of paradoxes, combining imagination and reality.

ERLOM AKHVLEDIANI

Erlom Akhvlediani, a well-known Georgian writer and scriptwriter, was born in Tbilisi in 1933, and died in 2012. Erlom Akhvlediani graduated from Tbilisi State University in the faculty of history in 1957 and passed higher educational courses in Moscow during the years 1962-1964. From 1962 to 1999 he wrote scenarios for eighteen films and starred in four movies. Erlom Akhvlediani is the author of three novels and numerous short stories. His works are translated and published in Russian, Armenian, Czech, German, Hungarian and Arabic. Erlom Akhvlediani received the USSR State Prize and several literary prizes, his novel *Mosquito in the City* won the literary award SABA for Best Novel of the Year in 2011.





Otar Chiladze was born in Signaghi, a small town in Kakheti, the easternmost province of Georgia. He graduated from Tbilisi State University with a degree in journalism in 1956. His works, primarily poetry, first appeared in the 1950s. At the same time, Chiladze engaged in literary journalism, working for leading literary magazines in Tbilisi. He gained popularity with his series of lengthy, atmospheric novels, such as *A Man Was Going Down the Road* (1972-1973), *Everyone That Findeth Me* (1976), *Avelum* (1995), and others. Otar Chiladze also published several collections of poems and plays. He was awarded the Shota Rustaveli State Prize in 1983 and the State Prize of Georgia in 1993. He died after a long illness in October 2009 and was buried at the Mtatsminda Pantheon in Tbilisi.



2013
Garnet Press
UK
A VELUM
Otar Chiladze

OTAR CHILADZE

▼

The March 1956 demonstrators in Tbilisi were followed a generation later in April 1989 by more victims of Soviet armed force. The life of Avelum, Otar Chiladze's hero, spans these two traumatic events: a writer, torn between uncompromising ideals and Soviet reality, between love affairs and family, Avelum has a tragic life, which is told in a sometimes touching, sometimes profoundly questioning account. It also provides the best insight into the forces that shape today's Georgia. The fifth, perhaps the greatest of Chiladze's novels, *Avelum* nearly won him the Nobel Prize in 1999.



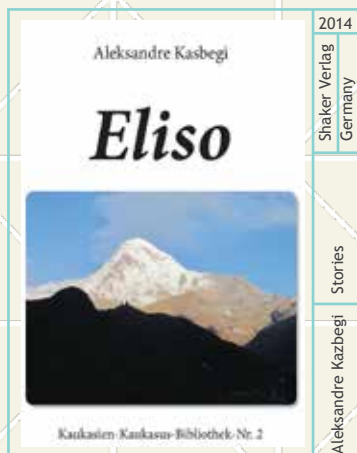
Vazha-Pshavela (name at birth - Luka Razikashvili, 1861-1915)
"is the greatest genius of modern Georgia. At the peak of his works are the poems and stories of tragic narrative and humanistic pathos that amalgamate his individual philosophy, Caucasian myth and general human tragedy."

Levan Berdzenishvili

"With his narrative poems Vazha put before us such a mirror of humanity that it would be right not to look into it lest we see dragons, dwarfs, boors, and those who revile humanity. But to save us there is placed before us the mirror of our own faces, our own bellied and sick brains."

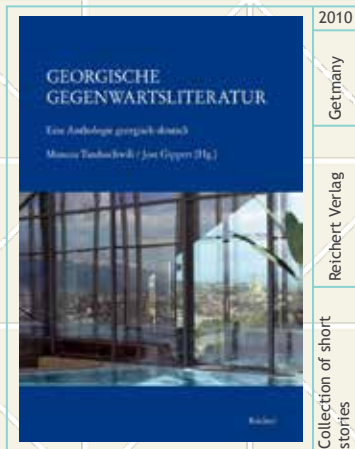
Besik Kharanauli

The collection brings together stories by Vazha-Pshavela, *Mouse Trap* among them.



Aleksandre Kazbegi (1848-1893) depicted the captivating landscapes of the Georgian mountain country in his works. Love of motherland in his writings is inseparable from ideals of fairness, humanity, and readiness for struggle with the oppressors of the people. A certain idealization of the past and the laws of clan society are linked in his works with rejection of the stern laws of the community. The power of authenticity and a keen sense of contemporaneity in his descriptions rank Kazbegi with the great masters of XIX century Georgian prose. The collection brings together stories by Alexandre Kazbegi, *Eliso* among them.

ANTHOLOGIES



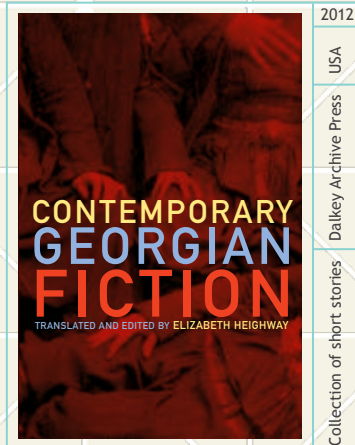
2010

Germany

Reichert Verlag

Collection of short stories

Authors: Basa Janikashvili, Dato Turashvili, Beso Khvedelidze, Aka Morchiladze, Zaza Burchuladze, Lasha Bugadze.



2012

USA

Dalkey Archive Press

Collection of short stories

Authors: Mariam Bekauri, Lasha Bugadze, Zaza Burchuladze, David Dephy, Teona Dolenjashvili, Guram Dochanashvili, Rezo Gabriadze, Kote Jandieri, Irakli Javakhadze, Davit Kartvelishvili, Besik Kharanauli, Mamuka Kherkheulidze, Archil Kikodze, Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili, Zurab Lezhava, Maka Mikeladze, Aka Morchiladze, Zaal Samadashvili, Nugzar Shataidze, Nino Tepnadze.



2012

Germany

Frankfurt Verlagsanstalt

Collection of short stories by Georgian Female Authors

Authors: Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili, Maka Mikeladze, Ekaterine Togonidze, Eka Tchilava, Tamta Melashvili, Nestan (Nene) Kvinikadze, Nino Kharatishvili.



2013

Sweden

Tranan

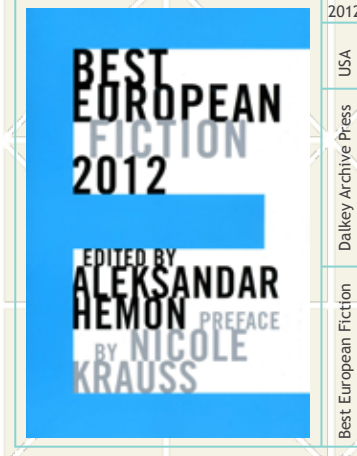
Collection of short stories

Authors: Mika Kikacheishvili, Kote Jandieri, Irma Tavelidze, Beso Khvedelidze, Aka Morchiladze, Lasha Bugadze, Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili, Davit Kartvelishvili, Rezo Cheishvili, Guram Dochanashvili, Zurab Lezhava, Guram Megrelishvili, Jemal Karchkhadze, Zaza Burchuladze.

GEORGIAN AUTHORS IN THE BEST EUROPEAN FICTION SERIES



Zurab Lezhava, *Sex for Fridge*



David Dephy, *Chair*



Lasha Bugadze, *The Sins of the Wolf*



Guram Dochanashvili, *A Fellow Traveler*

TRANSLATED GEORGIAN TITLES IN PRINT 2014

Anthology of Georgian Poetry / Italy , Giuliano Ladolfi Editore

B. Janikashvili, Absurdistan / Italy , Palombi Editori

N. Dumbadze, The Law of Eternity / Macedonia, Izdavachka Kukja Ikona

I. Samsonadze, Ear pillow/ Armenia, Antares

D. Turashvili, Flight From The USSR / Armenia, Antares

A. Kordzaia, Me, Margarita / USA, Dalkey Archive Press

M. Javakhishvili, Kvachi Kvachantiradze / USA, Dalkey Archive Press

T. Chiladze, The Brueghel Moon / USA, Dalkey Archive Press

Z. Burchuladze, Adibas / Italy, Odoya

Z. Burchuladze, Inflatable Angel / Russia, Ad Marginem Press

Anthology of Georgian Literature / Germany, Shaker Verlag

M. Javakhishvili, “The White Collar / Germany, Shaker Verlag

Z. Karumidze, Dagny / Turkey, Dedalus Kitar Publishing

T. Melashvili, Counting out / Russia, Samokat Publishing House

E. Akhvlediani, Vano and Niko, USA, Dalkey Archive Press

Shota Rustaveli, “The Knight in the Panther’s Skin”, Germany, Reichert Verlag

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Georgian National Book Center /E-mail: book@mcs.gov.ge / Webpage: www.book.gov.ge



BOOK FAIRS

LEIPZIG
BOOK FAIR
2012

Authors'
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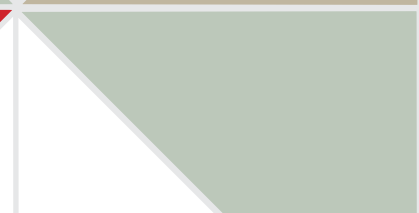
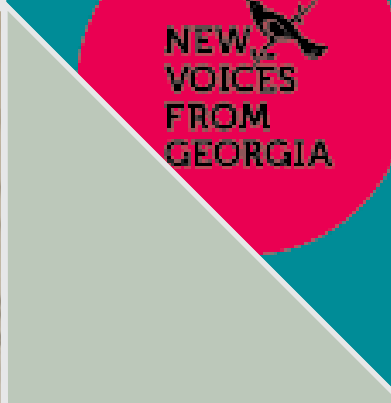
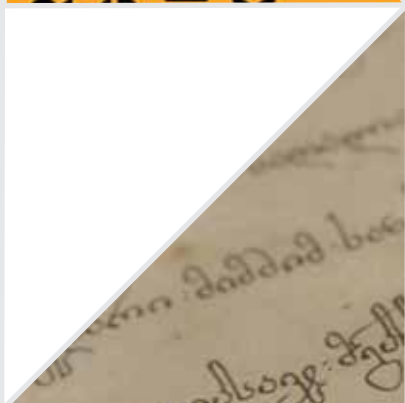
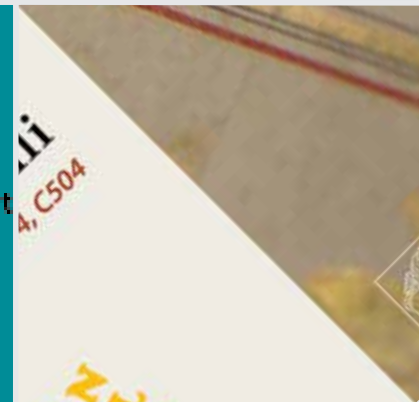
9 April 11:30 - 12:30

The London Book fair

International Rights Cent

London

GEORGIAN FRAM E FRANK FAIR



15.03.2013 / 15:00
Hall 2, Stand H204MINISTRY OF CULTURE
AND MONUMENT PROTECTION
OF GEORGIAGEORGIAN
PUBLISHERS AND
BOOKSELLERS
ASSOCIATION

GEORGIAN NATIONAL STANDS AT INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIRS

Since 2007, Georgia has been presented at different international book fairs with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and the Georgian National Book Center. In order to promote Georgian literature and authors worldwide, Georgia presents its national stand and literary events, at exhibition halls, literary salons and clubs, within the framework of international book fairs.

From 2007 to 2014, Georgia participates at the following book fairs:

- The Frankfurt Book Fair 2007-2014
- The Leipzig Book Fair 2012-2014
- The London Book Fair 2013-2014





PROGRAMS

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

LITERARY FORUM DIALOGUE

The Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and the Georgian National Book Center hosts Literary Forum & Dialogue for domestic and foreign publishers, translators and Literary Agents on yearly basis. The referred Forum & Dialogue is aimed at facilitation of promotion of both foreign literature in Georgia and Georgian literature abroad. What is most important, the event stimulates the networking between the local and foreign publishers. In 2011-2014 the event has already hosted presentations and discussions on the issues of publishing and literature, with the participation of about 50 foreign publishers, translators and literary agents from different countries.

TRANSLATION WORKSHOPS

- Translation workshops

In collaboration with the Goethe Institute, the workshops for Georgian and German translators in translating from Georgian into German and vice versa are held on yearly basis. Workshop participants, under the supervision of professional translators, work on preselected literary pieces for five days. The project aims at developing professional skills of literary translators. The workshop produced the German translation of Tamta Melashvili's novel "Gatvla" in 2011 which received German National Prize for Youth Literature in 2013.

- Poetry Translation Workshop

In cooperation with the Literature Across Frontiers and the British Council in Georgia on 9 - 15 September 2014, at the Writers' House of Georgia, the Poetry Translation Workshop was organized. Workshop was focused on preparing English versions of poems by six Georgian poets selected for the anthology of contemporary Georgian poetry to be published by Arc Publications (UK) and is therefore part of a larger project of preparing, publishing and promoting the anthology which will come out in 2015.

The workshop also created long-term connections between Georgian poets, critics, and translators on the one hand and UK poets on the other. It also represented the next step in cooperation between LAF and the Georgian National Book Center whose representatives were able to plan the following phase of promoting the published Georgian Poetry Anthology in the UK.

SEMINARS FOR PUBLISHERS

On September 25-27, 2014 professional seminars on International Rights and Publishing Management were organized by GNBC and the Goethe Institute. In frames of the project the experts from Germany Elke Fuhmann (Fischer Verlag) and Wolfgang Ferchl (Knaus Verlag) were invited. Up to 25 Georgian publisher had the opportunity to get to know the experts' experience in the publishing sector and develop their professional skills.



May 2014

THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
AND
MONUMENT PROTECTION

39

GEORGIAN LITERATURE
IN TRANSLATIONS



Lit
Dialog

*for Publishers
Translators
Writers*

22-23 May 2012



5 May 2011

MINISTRY OF CULTURE





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Georgian National Book Center

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