

Contributors

Tawanda Chipato is one of six children. The family home is in Paddonhurst, Bulawayo. He attended Milton School and has spent 12 of his 27 years in Bulawayo. At present he is in the final year of a BSc degree in Computer Science and Statistics at the University of Zimbabwe. His ambition is to write the great African novel.

Mathew Chokuwenga, born in 1974, is from a family of eight children. He comes from Chegutu where he now works as a computer graphic designer. As well as writing, he paints, sculpts and plays music. He won an award for English Literature in the UNDP Artists against Poverty Competition and has exhibited at the Delta and Verandah Galleries.

Spencer Crewe is a third generation Zimbabwean, born in 1946 in Thorngrove. He emerged from Bulawayo Technical College as an Electrical Technician. He has been married for 32 years and has two sons. He lives and works in Botswana, but his heart is in Zimbabwe, where he hopes to return within a couple of years. Besides his family and country, his great passions are reading and sitting on the bank of a Zimbabwe river praying to God for a big fish on the end of his lure.

Bhekilizwe Dube, aged 25, lives in Bulawayo. After studying literature, linguistics, Spanish and theatre arts at the University of Zimbabwe for two years, he became a dancer, poet and actor with Sofika Performing Arts. He is presently employed as a literature tutor and seller of visual arts to tourists in Botswana.

John Eppel was born in South Africa in 1947 and grew up in Zimbabwe. He is Head of English at Christian Brothers College in Bulawayo. His first novel, *D.G.G. Berry's The Great North Road*, won the M-Net Prize in South Africa. His second novel, *Hatchings*, was short-listed for the M-Net Prize and was chosen for the series in the *Times Literary Supplement* on the most significant books to have come out of Africa. His first book of poems, *Spoils of War*, won the Ingrid Jonker Prize. His other novels, *The Giraffe Man*, *The Curse of the Ripe Tomato* and *The Holy Innocents*, and his poetry anthologies, *Sonata for Matabeleland* and *Selected Poems: 1965-1995*, have received critical acclaim. He has also written two study guides for Literature in English.

Rain in Winter is to be published in *Carapace*(South Africa).

Shari Eppel is from Bulawayo and has published her poems in several anthologies and magazines. She is a psychologist and a human rights activist with an international reputation. She was the first recipient of the prestigious Barbara Chester award for her work in the field of human rights.

Derek Huggins emigrated to Southern Rhodesia in 1959 at the age of eighteen to join the B.S.A. Police. He rode horse patrols in Matabeleland and later became a detective with the Criminal Investigation Department. In 1974 he opened Gallery Delta for the promotion of contemporary painting. Concurrently, he was the Chief Executive of the National Arts Foundation from 1975 to 1988. *Mtagati Mkulu* was written around thirty years ago.

Anne Simone Hutton, originally from Germany, came to Zimbabwe in 1990. Between 1994 and 2002 she had a studio at the National Gallery in Bulawayo from where she painted for her annual exhibitions. The vitality of Africa and her special love for Bulawayo gave her inspiration to paint and write. She now lives in New Zealand with her husband and son.

Pete Hutton emigrated from England to Zimbabwe in 1990 with his family. He taught English in a state school for some years before starting a tourism business. His writing usually takes the form of prose sketches, but he also writes some poetry. In 2002 he moved to New Zealand, the land of his ancestors.

A.D.C. Hyland, a Londoner, came to Zimbabwe in 1998 as Professor of Architecture at the National University of Science and Technology. He has practised as an architect and taught architecture in England, Ghana and Cyprus. Poetry has been a major interest since his youth and he has published several poems in magazines.

Judy Maposa was born in Bulawayo in 1972, the first of seven children, and was educated at John Tallach in Ntabazinduna and at Mzilikazi High School. She has worked as a proof reader and quality controller at *The Chronicle* and *Sunday News* since 1994. She has had several poems published in these papers. For her, poetry is the language of the emotions - a natural medium for their expression.

Masimba Manyonga was born and raised near Chivhu, but now lives in Northend in Bulawayo. He has written many manuscripts, but *A Seed of Hope* is his first publication. He believes that “if he can’t write, he might as well stop breathing.”

Deon Marcus was born in Bulawayo in 1978 and educated at Milton Junior School and Christian Brothers College. He also studied piano and viola at the Zimbabwe Academy of Music and is currently a member of the Bulawayo Philharmonic Orchestra. He holds an honours degree in accounting science from the University of South Africa.

Christopher Mlalazi was born in 1970 in the Plumtree district, but bred in Bulawayo. He works as a clerk at a local high school. He has had poems and a short story published in the *Sunday News* and his play, *Soil of the Son*, performed by Umkhathi Theatre Works, has been staged successfully at a number of venues in Bulawayo.

Jane Morris, the editor, was born in South Wales in 1953. After being brought up in Wales, she was for many years an expatriate in England, before moving to Bulawayo in 1994. She has a BA and MA in American Literature, as well as social work and training qualifications. She works as a clinical social worker, training manager and book publisher.

Farai Mpfu was born in 1980 in Bulawayo, a first born child in a family of five. He grew up in the townships of Bulawayo, where he still lives. He attended school at Cyrene Mission and later went to the University of Zimbabwe, from where he graduated with an honours degree in theatre arts. He is currently working as an advanced level Literature in English teacher

Mzana Mthimkhulu was born in 1954 at Mpilo Hospital, just across the street from Barbour Fields Stadium. He has lived in Bulawayo most of his life and is currently a human resources practitioner. His short stories and social commentaries have appeared in several newspapers and magazines in Zimbabwe and South Africa. He has been a columnist of the *Sunday News*. The story *True Love* first appeared in the *Sunday News*. He is married and has three children.

Jackson Ndlovu was born in Nkayi District in 1958 and did his secondary education in Bulawayo. He is married with five children. He is involved with several community development groups, including the Edward Ndlovu Memorial Trust, the Historical Association of Zimbabwe and the Mafela Trust. He is a librarian at the Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe and a Library and Information Science student at the National University of Science and Technology.

Pathisa Nyathi was born in Sankonjana, Kezi, in 1951. He was a teacher, lecturer and head teacher before moving to his present post of Education Officer. He is a published poet, playwright, historian and biographer; his most recent publications being *In Search of Freedom: Masotsha Ndlovu, Material Culture of the AmaNdebele, Izibongo Lezangelo ZamaNdebele kaMzilikazi, Alvord Mabena: the Man and his Roots* and *Traditional Ceremonies of the AmaNdebele*. He is involved in many development activities, including being Chairman of the Zimbabwe Writers Union (Bulawayo Branch), Vice Chairman of the Zimbabwe Academic and Non-Fiction Authors Association and a Board Member of the Zimbabwe International Book Fair.

Terence Ranger came to Zimbabwe in 1957 to teach at the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Thereafter he was Professor at the Universities of Dar es Salaam, UCLA, Manchester and Oxford. On retirement from Oxford in 1997 he spent three and a half years as Visiting Professor at the University of Zimbabwe. He has written seven books about the history of Zimbabwe, the latest two being on southern and northern Matabeleland. He is currently writing a social history of Bulawayo.

Bicycles and the Social History of Bulawayo was published in *Thatha Bhasikili*, accompanying an exhibition of the same name at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe in Bulawayo.

John S. Read moved from the University of Zimbabwe to become Professor of Applied Biology at the National University of Science and Technology in 2000. He has taught and travelled widely in Africa, Europe and Japan. His poetry collection, *Msasas in the Longrass*, was published in 2000.

Bryony Rheam was born in Kadoma in 1974. She went to school in Bulawayo, before moving to the UK where she obtained a BA and MA in English. She lectured in Singapore for one year before returning to teach English at Peterhouse in Marondera. Despite not living in Bulawayo for over ten years, she still feels a strong allegiance to it and to Matabeleland in general.

Godfrey M. Sibanda was born in Bulawayo in 1969. Most of his formative years were spent in Bulawayo and he completed his education at the University of Zimbabwe and the University Complutense de Madrid. He taught mathematics in several schools before becoming a Spanish/English translator/interpreter and tourist guide in Victoria Falls.

Shirley Tarr was born in Bulawayo in 1957. She lives in Ntabazinduna and runs a small business with her husband in the city. She is blissfully married with no children, three dogs and a cat.