



Dear friends of Sangam House,

It's been a while since we've been in touch but, rest assured, we are well and forging ahead with the new season and with new plans for the next year or so. It's hard to believe, but we've just started our fifth season – thank you to so many of you who have been with us from the time when we were just an idea. And equally to those who have joined us more recently. We've grown over the years – from 16 writers in our first season to about 25 this year. You can see who is with us in Season 5 by going to our website. (<http://www.sangamhouse.org/sangam-2012-13-residents/>)

Old partners have stayed with us, new partners have come to join hands, and our individual donors remain as loyal as ever. Thank you all.

The Prakriti Foundation has doubled its support to Sangam House, which means that we are now able to offer a residency period to a writer in Kannada, the local language of the state in which we are now located. InKo Centre, Chennai, has also doubled their support and now sends us two writers from Korea each season. Additionally, in collaboration with the ARKO (the Arts Council of Korea) and KLTi (Korean Literary Translation Institute), two Indian alumni of Sangam House will be selected for month long residency periods in Korea.

We are delighted to welcome the National Arts Council from Singapore on board. They're sending us two writers from Singapore – all of this diversity enriches our program and makes an individual writer's time at Sangam House all the more rewarding.



We are happy to host Nadia Bubbe, a graphic novelist from Germany for a few days. Nadia is in India on a fellowship from the local Goethe Institut. We hope this will be the beginning of a sustained and fulfilling relationship with the Institut in Bangalore.

We are back at Nrityagram for this season—our third year in the beautiful dance village which hosts us with so much warmth and affection. Since we feel like family here, we'd like to share some good news about the Nrityagram Dance Ensemble with you all. Their new work, *Samhara*, which opened to rave reviews at the Joyce Theatre in New York, was nominated for a Bessie (the dance world's equivalent of the Oscar) in three separate categories. Those of us who were here in the last season watched this work develop in rehearsal – a real privilege, as well as a pleasure. We have a busy few months ahead of us. Our readings in the city continue with new partners – Bhoomija, a local arts trust joins us to support the monthly readings in Bangalore. We will be using a new and exciting Creative Commons space in the city, Jaaga, as the venue for our readings. This will help us reach beyond the literary community and we look forward to generating more collaborations among artists of all kinds.

We've scheduled Lekhana, our literary weekend, for January 18, 19 and 20 in 2013. Once again, our focus is on the writers and the languages that inhabit Bangalore. Our theme is 'Writing the Spoken Word' and we plan to emphasise poetry, drama and oral history. We have new partners for Lekhana – we believe that more people coming together to organise Lekhana is a good measure of our success. Our primary supporter this year is Bhoomija and we are in partnership with outofprintmagazine, an online journal for short fiction. We're still in the process of negotiating other partnerships for the weekend. Lekhana 2013 will be at Jagriti Theatre, allowing us to explore the world of drama more fully. As before, Lekhana will have panel discussions, readings and small performances. If you are in Bangalore at the time, please join us.

The second volume of the multi-lingual Sangam House Reader, *Other Places*, will be ready by the end of the year – wait for your copy! This time, it contains pieces from the writers who have



been with us through Seasons 3 and 4. Once again, the Reader is supported, in part, by InKo Centre, Chennai.

Our publishing program steps out and about this year. We are very excited to be publishing *Wild Girls, Wicked Words*, a bi-lingual edition of Tamil poems by women, rendered into English by award-winning translator Lakshmi Holmstrom. Kalachuvadu Press, Tamil Nadu's leading publisher of contemporary writing, is our partner in this venture. Through this partnership, we emphasise our commitment to literary cultures – the more of us that work together, the stronger we will all be.

A little bit of added excitement – we'll be launching *Wild Girls, Wicked Words* at Lekhana in January. Our translator, Lakshmi, will be with us for the event.

Along with Nrityagram, we're hosting a 'reunion' in 2013 at the end of the current season – some writers just want to keep coming back to Sangam House! The dates are early February through mid-March – perhaps some of you would like to come, too.

And last but not least, we have a new member on our administration team. Rahul Soni, a writer and translator, joins DW and me as a happy worker bee. Rahul was with us as a writer last year and decided that he could not bear to be without Sangam House. We're delighted to have him – he remains in residence right through the season and while he is a man of few words, he holds the fort, if not forth.

We send you season's greetings from India where we are celebrating Diwali, the festival of lights, this week. May the new year bring you all peace and prosperity as we extend our good wishes for the upcoming holiday season in other parts of the world.

As always, with thanks and much good feeling,



Arshia Sattar, DW Gibson and Rahul Soni