

Program – 7th July 2017

“Full Speed Ahead”

by Katharine Schmidt

“A Perfectly Ordinary Morning”

by Bhavani Bhaskar

“My Syrian Interlude”

by Dr. Cindy L. Halbert-Seger

“Family Myths”

by Jadi Campbell

“We”

by Harish Srinivasan

* **Intermission** *

“A Nice Guy”

by Harish Srinivasan

“Dawn”

by Katharine Schmidt

“The Big Picture”

by O’Brien Browne

“Something in the Night”

by Michael Hilton

Performers

Katharine Schmidt is a writer, copy editor, and translator. She runs the literature discussion group "Let's Read" at the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum in Stuttgart, and she translated the labels for the Haus der Geschichte Baden-Württemberg's currently running special exhibition "Carl Laemmle Presents," which focuses on the life and work of the founder of Universal Pictures. Katharine writes poems and short stories. She worked for a number of years as a newspaper and wire-service reporter, both as a staff writer in the USA and as a free-lancer in Germany for U.S. media organizations.

Bhavani Bhaskar is a student at the University of Stuttgart. She writes to express her anger, frustration and amusement. Her writing is shaped by her experiences as a woman. She loves performing for an audience and has appeared for NEAT in *Sorry, Wrong Number*; *In the Native State*; *The Marx Brothers*; *The Vagina Monologues*; and *Snow White*. She also needs to improve her bio writing skills.

Cindy L. Halbert-Seger is an American who has lived in Germany since 1995. She was born in Barberton, Ohio and has a Ph.D. in Fisheries from the University of Washington. A former marine biologist, she lost her heart to a Schwab and has since become an expert at teaching Expert English. In between teaching and being a mom to a teenager, she tries to find time to write short stories about her experiences as an expatriate. She has found her voice in satirical, creative nonfiction. Her first reading at a Dark Monday event two years ago left people rolling on the floor at her satire on Turkish teachers of English, titled "West meets East – Ayla and Anita". Since then her story of her 101-year-old Oma, "Heart of Stone," has left hearts palpating, her inside knowledge as a bedbug scientist has made people squirm in their seats while listening to "Taking the Bite out of Bedbugs," and her story about being the sister in "The Schnaps Brotherhood" has distilled new insights into Swabian culture. In her last reading, she morphed into an unforgettable spirit in "Ode from an Apple Tree." Tonight's story, "My Syrian Interlude," was inspired by her role as an impertinent German immigration official in a play on refugees titled "Springtime in the Fog".

Jadi Campbell is President of the Writers in Stuttgart. Jadi holds a BA in English Literature from the University of Oregon's Honors College. She tells the truth through fiction. Her novels *Broken In: A Novel in Stories*, *Tsunami Cowboys*, & *Grounded* are available tonight for purchase. She appeared in *The Vagina Monologues*, and last year NEAT commissioned her to write the story that connected songs in *I Like a Gershwin Tune*. She blogs at www.jadicampbell.com/

Harish Srinivasan is a versatile person: a writer, poet, screenplay writer, skit director, spoken-word performer, cricketer, and an engineer. He won 5th place in the Rabindranath Tagore awards for 2014, and has contributed to several international poetry anthologies. He recently won the poetry slam 'MERAKI,' which was held at the University of Stuttgart. He is also a member of two cricket teams, at the Bundesliga and Baden-Württemberg levels.

O'Brien Browne blogs for the Huffington Post and is a contributing editor at MHQ: the Quarterly Journal of Military History. His pieces have appeared in the Christian Science Monitor, Air & Space Smithsonian and other journals. An international educator, public speaker, seminar leader and

personal and career coach, Browne has taught at Heidelberg University and the University of Maryland and at corporations including SAP, Roche, and Johnson & Johnson. He's lived and worked throughout Europe and the Middle East. His full name is Michael O'Brien Browne (www.michaelobrowne.com).

Michael Goodwin Hilton is thrilled to be reading alongside the staggering talent of the Writers in Stuttgart. He is a writer of poems, short fiction, and plays. His works include "Blue Sky Somewhere" (Manhattan Repertory Theatre, Fall Play Festival 2009), "Dance With Winter" (Theaterhaus, Stuttgart; F.E.A.T.S. Festival 2014), and "Rodeo Clowns" (NEAT, Dark Monday Reading Series). Michael won the Governor's Award for Best Play in the State of New Jersey for his play "The Hollow" in 2004 and again for "The Art of Stephanie" the following year. He studied playwriting at Fordham University, where he produced several plays. He holds a Master of Arts from the University of Tübingen. He would like to thank the Writers in Stuttgart for sharing such rich and insightful feedback, and his wife Annika for believing in his abilities and helping him to stay focused and determined.

Michael "Mesox" Hecht was born in the seaport city of Bremerhaven. He first picked up the guitar at the age of 11 and has not put it down since! In the course of over 25 years, Michael has played with innumerable bands and formations – in a wide variety of musical styles, ranging from Irish Folk to Country, Blues and Funk. Besides being a talented singer, he is also a gifted songwriter and composer of film scores. Moreover, he has a long history of arranging and composing music for the theatre and is the musical director of the DARK MONDAY series.

The **Writers in Stuttgart** meet every month at the DAZ to share their writing experiences and ideas with each other, and to seek inspiration for new work. They also enjoy the opportunity to get out and share their creations with you, and hope to continue to do so in the future.

<http://www.daz.org/Writersgroup.html> <https://www.facebook.com/writersinstuttgart>

WRITERS IN STUTTGART

The Big Picture

Dreigroschentheater

July 7th, 2017

8 p.m.