



Sheri-D Wilson

The Book of Sensations

In *The Book of Sensations*, Sheri-D Wilson muses imagery that explores the connection between the natural world and the word. This cutting-edged new collection will be launched by U of C Press in April 2017.

As our world rapidly changes, Wilson is inspired to speak about how we might reconnect to each other and to the earth. She delves into the ancient world to look for answers – to seek the threads we have lost. Language is at the centre of her inquest.

Wilson presents a fine-tuned capacious vocabulary, a mythical awareness, far-reaching observation, dream-vision and a precise and reflective wit – through the surrealist eye.

The work embodies the poetic eco-system. With verve and power this collection speaks volumes. From blank page – birth of the word – the book – the library – the reader – sound through ascension. It is a cycle of life filled with poignant sensations – deep realizations. Experience. Put this book in your pocket and walk.

Dragon Rouge

Music & Poetry Recording
Music and poetry of equal Intensity

Poet Sheri-D Wilson collaborates with song-writers Barry Reynolds, Steve Coffey and Steve Berlin, in a recording of spoken word and music which traverses the outside edge. There is something ancient here bubbling below the surface of the vanguard.

Most of the pieces in this recording will be published in Wilson's upcoming collection of poetry entitled, *The Book of Sensations* (U of C Press). Three others are favorite pieces from her other collections on poems.

Both *Dragon Rouge* and *The Book of Sensations* will be launched in April, 2017 – in Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver.



Track Listing:

- 1) The River Has a Mind of her Own
- 2) Barcelona Bakery of No Return
- 3) Dreaming in Lost Languages
- 4) Love Letters
- 5) Calling the Taliesin In
- 6) Stones
- 7) Forest Bathing
- 8) Ode to my Microscopic Life
- 9) Drones
- 10) Re: Wilding
- 11) Conlanging

The Background Story:

This project has been in development for two years. Two years ago I was invited to perform my poetry in an indigenous language festival in Mexico City. This sparked my imagination and I knew I wanted to delve deeper into the ideas. SO, with that in mind, in 2016 I produced a week-long festival in Calgary called The School of Thought: Languages Lost and Found. The gathering included 60 poets, philosophers, thinkers, academics, last speakers and 'conlangers' to present ideas and share in the discussion. Educational in nature the event was an exchange of perspectives centered around the idea of 'languages lost & found'.

There are roughly 6,500 spoken languages in the world today. However, about 2,000 of those languages have fewer than 1,000 speakers. The most popular language in the world is Mandarin Chinese. There are 1,213,000,000 people in the world that speak that language. New languages are also being developed – for film, technology, et cetera. Where do languages come from? Why do we need language? What does language mean to us? What is there connection to the earth? What influence do the indigenous languages have on the new languages being formed? Last speakers – first speakers.

For a long time, I have been inspired by these ideas and the gathering was another layer of stimulation for me as writer. I learned a lot! First, out of my previous research and then from the presentations and discussions I compiled the material for this project.

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BIO'S OF THE CREATIVE TEAM



CO-PRODUCER/ ARRANGER/ MUSICIAN



Steven Berlin (born September 14, 1955, Philadelphia) is an American saxophonist, keyboardist and record producer, best known as a member of the rock group Los Lobos and, before that, Top Jimmy & the Rhythm Pigs, the Blasters, and the Flesh Eaters. Berlin is married and lives with his wife and children in Portland, Oregon.

Berlin joined the band Tuatara as a side project in 1998 on their second album, *Trading with the Enemy*.

As either a session musician or producer, Berlin has worked with the Crash Test Dummies, Backyard Tire Fire, Beat Farmers, John Lee Hooker, the Paladins, Faith No More, Dave Alvin, R.E.M., the Go-Go's, the Smithereens, the Replacements, Leo Kottke, Sheryl Crow, the Act, Los Super Seven, Rickie Lee Jones, String Cheese Incident, Alec Ounsworth (Clap Your Hands Say Yeah), Raul Malo, Rick Trevino, Jackie Greene, the Tragically Hip, Great Big Sea, the Bridge, Nathan Wiley, the Dandy Warhols, Making Movies and Deer Tick.

CO-PRODUCER/ WRITER/ PERFORMER



Sheri-D Wilson is the award-winning author of eleven books, the creator of four short films, and has released three albums which combine music and poetry. She is known for her electric performance-style, making her a favorite of festivals around the world. She has read, performed & taught in festivals across Canada, USA, UK, France, Spain, Belgium, Mexico, and South Africa.

In her poems, Wilson uses personal narrative to address themes of social justice, lost languages, bullying, violence against women and the earth. Her tenth collection of poetry, *Open Letter: Woman against Violence against Women*; was short-listed for the Robert Kroetsch Poetry Book

Award & CanLit. Her collection, *Re:Zoom* (2005), won the Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry. She was editor of the celebrated, *The Spoken Word Workbook: inspiration from poets who teach*.



Recipient of: 2015 City of Calgary Award * 2015 Writer-In-Residence (Kwantlen University) * 2013 CBC Top 10 Poets in Canada * 2009 Ted Talk * 2006 Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry * 2005 SpoCan Poet of Honour * People's Choice * 2006 Woman of Vision * 5 Rosies * 2003 USA Heavyweight Title * 5 Jessie Nominations * Ace Award.

Her work has received national and international acclaim with such honours as a 2013 feature interview with Canadian icon Shelagh Rogers, a 2012 article in *Chatelaine Magazine*, a 2012 TED Talk, and the subject of a half-hour documentary called *Heart of a Poet*. In 2009 she was named one of the top ten poets in Canada by CBC.

A strong advocate for social change:

In 2016 she produced – *The School of Thought: Languages Lost & Found*. She was Artistic Director of the Calgary Spoken Word Festival (2003-2014), and she founded and was Director of the Spoken Word Program @ Banff Centre (2005-2012).

www.sheridwilson.com

ARRANGER/ MUSICIAN



Barry Reynolds, born in Bolton, Lancashire, is a British guitar player, songwriter, composer and producer, best known for his long lasting collaboration with Marianne Faithfull.

Reynolds first emerged with the band Pacific Drift which recorded one album that was released in 1970. Reynolds served as guitar player, one of the songwriters and lead vocalist for this short-lived quartet from Manchester, England. *Feelin' Free*

the band's only album was released on Deram Nova in 1970. The album was reissued by Grapefruit Records on CD in 2010. Reynolds left the band in 1970.



After joining blues band Blodwyn Pig alongside Mick Abrahams of Jethro Tull, Reynolds moved to the US in 1972 then traveled to Mexico before returning to the UK. In 1974, Reynolds released a single, *Outsiders Point of View*, on RAK Records produced by Alan David. In 1976, Reynolds joined Marianne Faithfull's band, beginning a writing partnership that initially produced songs *Broken English* and *Why Do You Do It?*, which attracted the attention of Island Records' founder Chris Blackwell who then signed Marianne in 1978 and released the album *Broken English* the following year.

Reynolds continued to work as a song-writing collaborator with Faithfull and as guitarist in her band for two more albums *Dangerous Acquaintances* released in 1981 and *A Child's Adventure* released in 1983. After a 16-year break Reynolds and Faithfull resumed collaborating on *Vagabond Ways* in 1999.

In 1980, Reynolds joined Sly and Robbie, Wally Badarou, Mikey Chung and Uziah "Sticky" Thompson, aka the Compass Point Allstars, a studio band Blackwell created and named after his Compass Point Studios in Nassau, Bahamas to produce albums by Grace Jones, Joe Cocker and Black Uhuru among others. He then released his first solo album *I Scare Myself* recorded with the Allstars, namely Sly and Robbie, Wally Badarou, Mikey Chung and Uziah "Sticky" Thompson with Judy Mowatt and Marcia Griffiths singing backing vocals on two tracks. Also included are the following tracks recorded with Marianne Faithfull: *Guilt*, *Broken English* and *Times Square*.

After moving back to New York, Reynolds has since devoted most of his time to writing, notably with Baaba Maal (*Nomad Soul* and *Television* albums), Grace Jones ("*Well Well Well*" on her 2008 *Hurricane* album), all the while continuing working with Marianne Faithfull. His last collaborations include the 2013 compilation *Son of Rogues Gallery: Pirate Ballads, Sea Songs & Chanteys* with Beth Orton, Johnny Depp, Lou Reed and Pete Doherty.



ARRANGER/ MUSICIAN

Steve Coffey

A songwriter and a well-known painter that has been known to dabble in film, Steve's Multi-disciplinary existence continues to push the boundaries of one man's artistic expression. Originally from Winnipeg, Steve now makes his home with his family in Vulcan, Alberta.

MUSICIAN



Liam MacDonald

Liam's life as a drummer/percussionist began when he was 9 years old in Kitchener, Ontario when his uncle, who was a professional drummer, left a beautiful set of old Rogers drums in the basement of the house he grew up in. After a few years of orchestral percussion lessons, he started playing in clubs with Rock and R & B bands and continued to do so throughout his teens.

In 1997 Liam relocated to the West Coast and has been calling Vancouver home for the last 15 years. Since Liam has been in Vancouver he has been equally in

demand for his Drumset playing as well as his abilities as a Multi-percussionist, this has led him to working with an extremely eclectic mix of projects.

Although Liam's quest for new sounds and rhythms from around the world is ongoing, his primary focus has been that of Afro Brazilian & Afro Cuban percussion and frame drums from the Middle East. After several study trips to Brasil and throughout the United States short list of Liam's past and present teachers are:

Luiz Guello (Pandeiro), Carlinhos Pandeiro de Ouro (Pandeiro), Everaldo Santos Brito (Music and Songs of Candomble), Crispin Junior (Timbalada Style Samba Reggae) Michel Merhej (Riq), Jorge Alabe (Rio Style Samba) Marcio Bahia (Brazilian Drumset), Jack Duncan (Folkloric and Modern Afro Cuban percussion).