



PROSE  
FEST

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**SVETLANA  
VELMAR  
JANKOVIC**

**SVETLANA VELMAR JANKOVIĆ** was born, went to school and lives in Belgrade. As a secretary and editor of the magazine *Književnost* (Literature), she was a member of the editing board led by Eli Finci and the one led by Zoran Mišić. She spent a number of years editing for the Publishing House *Prosveta*, working on the editions of contemporary Yugoslav prose and essayistic writing. She founded the library *Baština* (Legacy).

She has published novels: *Ožiljak* (*Scar*, 1956, second adapted edition 1999), *Lagum* (*Dungeon*, 1999), *Bezдно* (*The Bottomless*, 1995), *Nigdina* (*Nowhere*, 2000) and *Vostanije* (*The Uprising*, 2004); the essays: *Savremenici* (*The Contemporaries*, 1968), *Ukletnici* (*The Cursed*, 1993) and *Izabranici* (*The Chosen*, 2005); the story collections: *Dorćol* (1981), *Vračar* (1994), *Glasovi* (*Voices*, 1997), *Knjiga za Marka* (*A Book for Marko*, 1998), *Očarane naočare* (*Spell-bound Spectacles*, 2006) and *Sedam mojih drugara* (*Seven of My Pals*, 1997); the prayer *Svetilnik* (1998); the dramas *Knez Mihailo* (*Prince Mihailo*, 1994) and *Žezlo* (*Scepter*, 2001); the novelised biography *Prozraci* (*Rays Through*, 2003) and the book *Kapija Balkana* (*The Gates of the Balkans*, a quick guide through the history of Belgrade, 2011).

Awards: *Isidora Sekulić*, *Ivo Andrić*, *Meša Selimović*, *Đorđe Jovanović*, *Bora Stanković*, Award of the Serbian National Library for the most read book of 1992, the *NIN Award* in 1995, *Neven Award*, *Politikin zabavnik Award*, *6. april* for life work on Belgrade, awards *Mišićev dukat*, *Ramonda serbica*, *Stefan Mitrov Ljubiša* and *Jack Konfino*.

Her works have been translated into English, French, German, Russian, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Bulgarian, Korean and Hungarian.

Svetlana Velmar Janković is a permanent member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.



**ANTON  
BALAZ**

**ANTON BALÁŽ** (Slovakia) was born in 1943 in Lehota. He is one of the most important contemporary Slovakian writers. Best-known as a novelist, Anton Baláž is also a playwright, publicist and author of several television screenplays.

The most important novels: *Senke prošlosti (Shadows of the Past, 1978)*, *Ovde živate (You Live Here, 1983)*, *Hirurški Dekameron (The Surgical Decameron, 1989)*, *The Camp of Fallen Women (1993)*, *Doživotna ljubav (Lifelong Love, 1995)*, *Hronika srećnije budućnosti (The Chronicle of a Happier Future, 1997)*, *Penelopin povratak (Penelope's Return, 1998)*, *Zaboravljena zemlja (The Forgotten Country, 2000)*, *Bogovi sezone (The Gods of Season, 2003)*.

Baláž's novels are characterised by a critical and grotesque image of social everydayness. Baláž has shaped a picture of a totalitarian communist society in Eastern Europe, while in his works written after the 1990s, he powerfully sheds light on the holocaust of the Jewish community in Slovakia. His novel *The Camp of Fallen Women* is the best known book by Anton Baláž. In 1997, this book was adopted for film, released under the same title. The novel has been translated into Serbian.

Anton Baláž lives in Bratislava.



**JANI  
VIRK**

**Jani Virk** (Ljubljana, 1962), a novelist, journalist and translator, graduated in German Language and Comparative Literature from the Faculty of Philosophy in Ljubljana. From 1985 to 1991 he was a freelance artist, and then began working as a journalist. He is currently the Editor-in-Chief of cultural and artistic programmes for the RTV Slovenia. He is one of the most important Slovenian contemporary prose writers. He writes novels, stories, essays, poems and screenplays.

Besides one book of poetry and one book of essays, Jani Virk has published four books of stories and novelettes: *Skok (A Leap)*, 1987), *Vrata i druge priče (Door and Other Stories)*, 1991), *Muškarac nad ponorom (A Man Over an Abyss)*, 1994) and *Pogled na Tiho Brahe (A View of Tiho Brahe)*, 1998).

He has written seven novels: *Rahela* (1989), *Poslednje Sergijevo iskušnje (The Last Temptation of Sergey)*, 1996), *1895, Potres – hronika neočekivane ljubavi (1895, The Quake – A Chronicle of an Unexpected Love)*, 1997), *Smeh iza drvene ograde (The Laughter Behind a Wooden Fence)*, 2001), *Letnji sneg (Summer Snow)*, 2003), *Aritmija (Arrhythmia)*, 2004) and *Ljubav u vazduhu (Love in the Air)*, 2009).

Novels by Jani Virk have been translated in several European languages. His translations from German include works by Thomas Bernhard, Gerhard Roth, Hans Artmann and Elias Canetti. *Arhipelag* published, within its edition *A Hundred Slavic Novels*, Virk's novel *Poslednje Sergijevo iskušnje* (2010). He lives in Ljubljana.



**SLOBODAN  
TISMA**



**Slobodan Tišma** was born in 1946 in Stara Pazova, but he lives in Novi Sad. In his youth, he was involved in writing poetry, conceptual art and rock music. He spent several years in Belgrade. His published works include: ***Marinizmi*** (*Mannerisms*, poetry, 1995); ***Vrt kao to*** (*Garden as It*, poetry, 1997); ***Blues Diary*** (poetic diary, 2001); ***Urvidek*** (stories, 2005, *Stevan Sremac* Award); ***Pjesme*** (*Poems*, poetry, 2007); ***Quattro stagioni*** (novel, 2009, *Biljana Jovanović* Award) and ***Bernardijeva soba*** (*Bernadi's Room*, novel, 2011, *NIN* Award).





**FRANJA  
PETRINOVIĆ**

**FRANJA PETRINOVIĆ** was born in 1957 in Novi Slankamen. He studied at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad. He was the editor of the magazine for culture *Polja*, wrote for the Novi Sad daily *Dnevnik*, later becoming an editor for the Publishing House Stylos. He writes prose, essays and critiques. He has published: *Mimezis, mimezis romana* (*Mimesis, Mimesis of Novel*, novel, 1983, with Đorđe Pisarev), *Tkivo, opsene: povest* (*Tissue, Illusions: History*, novel, 1988), *Izveštaj anđela* (*A Report of Angels*, novel, 1997), *Pred vratima raja* (*At the Heaven's Door*, essays, 2002, with Đorđe Pisarev), *Poslednji tumač simetrije* (*The Last Interpreter of Symmetry*, novel, 2005), *Trauma – stečajne legene* (*Trauma-Bankruptcy Legends*, stories, 2009) and *Almaški kružoci lečenih mesečara* (*The Almaš Circles of Treated Moonwalkers*, novel, 2011)

He has received the following literary awards: the Vojvodinian Writers' Association *Book of Year Award* (1997), the awards *Branko Bajić* (2002), *Iskre kulture* (2006), *Laza Kostić* (2006), *Stevan Pešić* (2010) and *Sirmai Karolj* (2011).



**JELENA  
LENGOLD**

**JELENA LENGOLD (1959), a poet, storyteller and novelist.**

Jelena Lengold spent about ten years working as a journalist and editor of the cultural programme of Radio Belgrade. After that, until September 2011, she worked as a project-coordinator for the Nansenskolen Humanistic Academy from Lillehammer in Norway, teaching Conflict Management.

She lives in Belgrade as a professional writer.

Books of poetry: *Raspad botanike (The Collapse of Botany, 1982)*, *Vreteno (Spindle, 1984)*, *Podneblje maka (The Poppy Land, 1986)*, *Prolazak anđela (The Passage of Angels, 1989)*, *Sličice iz života kapelmajstora (Pictures from Life of a Chapel Master, 1991)* and *Bunar teških reči (The Well of Hard Words, 2011)*. Her book of poems *Sličice iz života kapelmajstora* earned her the Đura Jakšić Award.

Books of stories: *Pokisli lavovi (Rain Soaked Lions, 1994)*, *Lift (1999)*, *Vašarski mađioničar (A Circus Magician, 2008, 2009)* and *Pretesteriši me (Saw Me in Half, 2009)*.

She has received the *European Literary Award* for her book of stories *Vašarski mađioničar*, as well as the awards *Žensko pero*, *Biljana Jovanović* and the *Golden Hit Liber*.

Novel: *Baltimor (Baltimore) (2003, 2011)*.

Prose and poetry of Jelena Lengold have been translated into English, Italian, Danish, French, Bulgarian, Romanian, Ukrainian and Czech.

Stories by Jelena Lengold have been selected for a number of anthologies and reviews of contemporary Serbian literature published in Serbia and abroad.



**VLADAN  
MATIJEVIĆ**

**VLADAN MATIJEVIĆ** was born in 1962 in Čačak. He worked for eighteen years at the factory of base chemistry, and since 2005 he has been employed at the *Gallery of Nadežda Petrović* in Čačak.

He has published nine books, majority of which have had several editions, some being translated into French, German and Spanish. Some of his stories have been translated into as many as ten languages of the world, while his drama ***Udarna igla (The Striker)*** has been translated into Russian. He lives in Čačak and is a father of two.

He has published:

***Ne remeteći rasulo (Without Disturbing the Chaos)***, poetry, 1991) ***Van kontrole (Out of Control)***, novel, 1995) ***R. C. Neminovno (Unavoidable)***, novel, 1997) ***Samosvođenje (Self-reduction)***, poetry, 1999) ***Prilično mrtvi (Rather Dead)***, stories, 2000, Andrić Award) ***Pisac izdaleka (A Writer from Far Away)***, novel, 2003, NIN Award, the awards *Golden Hit Liber* and *Golden Bestseller*), ***Časovi radosti (Moments of Joy)***, novel, 2006) ***Žilavi komadi (Tough Plays)***, dramas, 2009) ***Vrlo malo svetlosti (Very Little Light)***, novel, 2010, awards *Meša Selimović*, *Borisav Stanković* and *Isidora Sekulić*).



**JOVAN  
NIKOLIC**



**JOVAN NIKOLIĆ** was born in 1955 in Belgrade, and as a child of a musician he lived in all cities of former Yugoslavia. In 1963 the family Nikolić returned to Čačak, where they originate from. From 1981 Jovan Nikolić lived in Belgrade, where he worked as a freelance journalist in several media, a columnist, actor, cabaret performer and singer at nightclubs.

He has authored the following books: *Gost niotkuda (A Guest from Nowhere)*, in Serbian and Roma language, (1982) *Đurđevdan (The Day of St George)*, (1987), *Neću da se rodim (I Don't Want to Be Born)*, (1991), *Oči pokojnog jagnjeta (The Eyes of the Late Lamb)*, (1993), *Telo i okolina (Body and Environment)*, (1994), *Mala noćna muzika (Little Night Music)*, (1998) *Soba s točkom (The Room with a Wheel)*, (2004, German edition, 2011 in Serbian). He has written texts for the groups *Generacija 5*, *Zabranjeno pušenje*, *Ođila* and musician Radomir Mihailović Točak ... The latest lyrics by Nikolić, *Bubamara*, is a leitmotif of the film *Black Cat, White Cat* directed by Emir Kusturica.

After the NATO bombing, Jovan Nikolić moved to Germany, where he continued to write and publish, and his work finally got him recognitions: in December 2011 everybody in Cologne read Jovan Nikolić's novel *Bela vrana, crno jagnje (White Crow, Black Sheep)*, which was selected within the project *A City Book*. This respected recognition was established in 2003 by the *Culture House*, and Nikolić's third book was published in 2006 in German, and reprinted in 10,000 copies and read for seven days in about thirty places around the city of Cologne at a reasonable price. This Cologne recognition was previously awarded to Nobel Prize winners: Orhan Pamuk, Haruki Murakami and Italo Calvino.



**OTO  
TOLNAI**

**OTTÓ TOLNAI** was born in Kanjiža in 1940. The works of this poet, storyteller, playwright and essayist have been translated into Serbian, German, Polish, English, Dutch, Slovakian, French and Italian. Ottó Tolnai is the most prolific and all-rounded author in the literature of Vojvodinian Hungarians. He has experimented with all possible art forms, living a life in metamorphoses, shifting from poetry to essay, from experimental novel to drama. He studied Hungarian Language and Literature in Novi Sad and Philosophy in Zagreb. He has received all major literary awards of former Yugoslavia – *Hid Award* twice (1974, 1978), *Szirmai Award* (1988), *Todor Manojlović Award* (2007) and in Hungary – the awards *Attila József* (1991), *Endre Ady* (1995), *Tibor Déry* (1995) *Milan Füst* (1997), *Sándor Weöres* (1999), and *Miklós Radnóti* (2000). Elected to the Hungarian Academy of Literature and Arts in 1998, he received the highest Hungarian state award, the *Kossuth Prize*, in 2007.

Poetry collections: *Homorú versek (The Concave Poems, 1963)*; *Sirálymellcsont (The Seagull's Breastbone, 1967)*; *Valóban mi lesz velünk? (What Will Really Become of Us, with István Domonkos, 1968)*; *MAO-POE, with István Domonkos, 1968*; *Szeplötelen kis gépek, csöpp fejedelmi jelvények (Flawless Little Machines, Tiny Royal Insignia, 1968)*; *Agyonvert csipke (Battered Lace, 1969)*; *Legyek karfiol (To Be a Cauliflower, 1973)*; *Versek (Poems, 1973)*; *Világpör (The Dust of the World, 1980)*; *Vidéki Orfeusz (A Provincial Orpheus, selected poems, 1983)*; *Gyökerrágó (The Root Devourer, 1986)*; *Versek könyve (A Book of Poems, 1992)*; *Wilhelm-dalok (The Poems of Wilhelm, 1992)*; *Árvacsáth (Orphans, 1992)*; *Balkáni babér (The Balkan Laurel, 2001)*; *Szög a nadirban (A Nail in Nadir, 2005)*; *Ómama egy rotterdami gengszterfilmben (The Granny in a Rotterdam Gangster Movie, novel of poems, 2006)*.

Collections of children poetry: *Elefántpuszi (Elephant's Kiss)*, 1982); *Rokoko (Rococo)*, 1986)

Novels: *Rovarház (The House of Insects)*, 1969); *A tengeri kagyló (Seashell)*, 2011.)

Collections of novelettes: *Gogol halála (Gogol's Death)*, 1972); *Virág utca 3 (3 Florists' Street)*, 1983); *Prózák könyve (The Book of Prose)*, 1987); *Kékitölgolyó (The Blue)*, 1994); *A pompeji szerelmesek (The Pompeii Lovers)*, 2007); *Grenadírmas*, 2008; *Világítótorny eladó (A Lighthouse for Sale)*, 2010).

Books of essays on visual arts: *Sáfrány Imre*, a monograph, 1978; *Meztelen bohóc (The Naked Clown)*, 1992); *Rothadt márvány (The Rotten Marble)*, 1997).

Staged dramas: *Végeladás (Clearance Sale)*, 1979); *Bayer-aspirin*, 1982; *Briliáns (Diamond)*, 1985, 1991); *Paripacitrom (Horse Breath)*, 1991); at the Budapest *Jurta Színház* theatre *Mamuttemető (Mammoth Graveyard)*, 1988); collection of dramatic texts *Végel(ö)adás (Clearance Sale – The Last Performance)*, 1997).

Available in Serbian:

*Gerilske pesme (Guerrilla Poems)*, poetry, 1967); *ZOO* (poetry, bilingual, 1969); *Kuća insekata (The House of Insects)*, novel, 1976); *Priče iz robne kuće (Stories from a Department Store)*, novelettes, 1986); *Krik ruže (A Cry of Roses)*, poetry, 1988); *Rusma ili minijum možda (To the Russians or Minium Perhaps)*, poetry, 1990); *Krvoločna zečica (A Blood Thirsty Doe)*, short prose, 2006); *Pesnik od svinjske masti (A Poet of Pig Fat)*, novel-interview, 2009) and *Morska školjka (Seashell)*, novel, 2011).