

# Contributor Biographies

**Holly Day's** published books include the nonfiction books *Music Theory for Dummies*, *Music Composition for Dummies*, *Guitar All-in-One for Dummies*, and *Piano All-in-One for Dummies*, and the poetry books *Ugly Girl* (Shoemusic Press) and *The Smell of Snow* (ELJ Publications). Her needlepoints and beadwork have recently appeared on the covers of *Your Impossible Voice*, *Sinister Wisdom*, and *QWERTY Magazine*.

**Will Donnelly's** work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Barrelhouse*, *Hobart*, *[PANK]*, *decomp magazinE*, and elsewhere, and he's an associate fiction editor for Juked. He has an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a PhD from the University of Houston, and he teaches creative writing at Berry College in Rome, Georgia.

**Morvarid Ebadi** was born in Tehran, Iran (April 18th 1999). She is a student in News Photography. Her photo published in *Blue Mesa Review* (Issue 34). She is a member of the artistic team Paradise Ocean Literary & Photography Team, with management by Seyed Morteza Hamidzadeh.

**Kristine S. Ervin** grew up in a small suburb of Oklahoma City and now teaches creative writing at West Chester University, outside of Philadelphia. She holds an MFA in Poetry from New York University and a Ph.D. in Creative Writing and Literature, with a focus in nonfiction, from the University of Houston. Her work has appeared in *Crab Orchard Review*, *Brevity*, and *Passages North*, and her essay “Cleaving To” was named a notable essay in the 2013 edition of *Best American Essays*. She is currently working on a memoir about searching for answers and a feminine identity—through texts, memory, and bodies—in the aftermath of her mother’s murder and the solving of the cold case 25 years later.

**L. Mari Harris** lives on a cattle ranch in western Nebraska, where she works as a copywriter for a small agricultural marketing company.

**Natalie Homer** is an MFA candidate at West Virginia University. Her poetry has been published or is forthcoming in *The Pinch*, *The Lascaux Review*, *Ruminate*, *Salamander*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Tinderbox Poetry Journal*, and others. She received an honorable mention for poetry in the 2017 AWP Intro Awards.

**Keya Mitra** is currently an associate professor of creative writing and literature at Pacific University. She graduated in 2010 with a doctorate from the University of Houston’s Creative Writing Program, where she also earned her MFA. In 2008, Keya spent a year in India on a Fulbright grant in creative writing. Keya’s fiction has appeared in the *Bennington Review*, *The Kenyon Review* (in 2011 and 2015), *Arts and*

*Letters, The Bellevue Literary Review, The Southwest Review, Slush Pile, Best New American Voices, Ontario Review, Orchid, Event, Fourteen Hills, Torpedo, Confrontation, Aster(ix)* and the *Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies*. Her nonfiction has been published in *Gulf Coast* and the *American Literary Review*. One of her short stories has been selected as one of the “Other Distinguished Stories” in *Best American Short Stories 2017*. She has completed two novels as well as a short-story collection and memoir.

**Sara Omidvar** was born in Tehran, Iran. Her BA was in field of photography from Islamic Azad University of Tehran. She also has a certificate of Iran Photographers House. She’s a member of the Paradise Ocean Artistic Team with management by Seyed Morteza Hamidzadeh.

**Nikola Popović** (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1979) is an Italian literature researcher and lecturer of Italian language at the Music Department of the Faculty of Philology and Arts (Kragujevac, Serbia). He has published Serbian translations of Ettore Masina, Simona Vinci, Valeria Parrella and other authors, as well as numerous essays on the aesthetics of the contemporary Italian prose in Serbia and Italy. He has published essays in the field of film, theater and literature. Apart from the book “Stories from Lebanon” (in Serbian as: “Priče iz Libana”), he has published fictions stories inspired by his trips to Lebanon, Ghana, Congo and other countries. He plays the classical guitar and the Arabian lute. Nikola is married to Stephanie and they have two children, Adam and Dana.

**Farima Qolami** was born in Qazvin, Iran. Her BA is in Graphics from Technical University of Vali'asr. She was one of the best in 32nd Cultural and Art Festival in Iran. Also her photos are published in *DoveTales*, *Duende*, *Permafrost& Artifact Nouveau* (Fall 2016, Summer 2017).

**Shann Ray** grew up in Montana and spent part of his childhood on the Northern Cheyenne reservation. Ray is the author of *Balefire: Poems* (Lost Horse) which won the High Plains Book Award in poetry, *American Masculine: Stories* (Graywolf), *American Copper: A Novel* (Unbridled), and a book of political theory, *Forgiveness and Power in the Age of Atrocity* (Rowman & Littlefield). He teaches leadership and forgiveness studies at Gonzaga University.

**Mikelyn Rochford** graduated from Pacific University with a Literature Major and a minor in Creative Writing. Mikelyn is from Bozeman, Montana, and plans to pursue a career in writing and illustration.

**Esteban Rodríguez** holds an MFA from the University of Texas-Pan American. His poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Puerto del Sol*, *Notre Dame Review*, *Raleigh Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, and *New England Review*.

**Richard Simas** is a freelance writer with a background in literature, music, and the performing arts. He contributes regularly to contemporary art and literary reviews in Europe and in North America. His writing won a Fiddlehead Fiction Prize and was included in the Journey Prize anthology and *Memória*, an anthology of Portuguese-Canadian writers. He

contributed regularly to Toronto's Musicworks magazine and attended the Disquiet International Literature program in Lisbon, thanks to a Camões Institute prize. Simas currently writes essays and articles related to contemporary Portuguese culture and translates contemporary Portuguese poetry into English, most recently, work by Margarida Vale de Gato and José Pedro Leite.

**Kyle Southard** graduated from Pacific University with a Literature Major and a minor in Creative Writing. He is a very talented writer and artist. He lives with his half-demon, half-angel cat, Jury.

**Mehrnoosh Torbatnejad** was born and raised in New York. Her poetry has appeared in *The Missing Slate*, *Passages North*, *HEArt Journal Online*, *Pinch Journal*, and is forthcoming in *Painted Bride Quarterly*. She is the poetry editor for *Noble / Gas Qtrly*, and a Best of the Net, Pushchart Prize, and Best New Poets nominee. She currently lives in New York where she practices matrimonial law.

**Erika Vives** was born and raised in Boise, Idaho before attending college at Pacific University. Currently a junior, she is double majoring in German and Journalism and minoring in photography. Vives spends most of her free time working and exploring photo processing techniques and draws a lot of her inspiration from both the complexity of the outdoors and the minimalism of everyday life. Her hope is to one day become a photojournalist.

**Lolly Ward's** full-length plays include *Mate* (California Institute of Technology; The Actors' Gang), *72 Objects* (semifinalist, O'Neill NPC), and *Theory of Nothing* (semifinalist, O'Neill NPC). Her short script *Black Press in the White House* appears in Smith and Kraus's *105 Five-Minute Plays*. She co-founded LineStorm Playwrights and produces locally with them in Portland, OR. She attended Stanford University, where she received her Bachelor's and Master's in English and Creative Writing.

**Jess Williard's** poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in *Third Coast*, *North American Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Barrow Street*, *Lake Effect*, *The New Orleans Review*, *Sycamore Review*, *Bayou Magazine*, *Iron Horse Literary Review*, *Oxford Poetry*, and other journals. Originally from Wisconsin, he currently lives in Atlanta where he is a doctoral candidate at Georgia State University.