

LÁSZLÓ GARACZI was born in 1956 in Budapest. He is a writer, poet, dramatist and screenwriter, a cult figure of new writing in Hungary. His autobiographically inspired „Lemurian trilogy”, recounting first the childhood, then the youth, and finally the military service of a young man, has gained him critical and popular appraisal nationwide. His other works include *MetaXa*, an award winning novel about a musician crushed between two women.

FACE AND ABOUT-FACE (ARC ÉS HÁTRAARC)

Novel, 2010, 173 pages

„...being a soldier in peace-time is very different from fighting in a war, (...) it would be very hard to find anything more absurd and nonsensical than the Hungarian army of the Socialist era. (...) The absurdity of the war is far exceeded by the absurdity of, say, privates gluing leaves back onto the trees.” – litera.hu

“Despite leaving the question of survival unanswered (...) *Face and About Face* brings to one’s mind Imre Kertész’s *Fatelessness*.” – Sándor Olasz in Új Forrás

„Well seasoned with soldiers’ slang, the book with its colloquial language and smooth, easy-going style is a real treat to the reader.” – Kulter.hu

Face and About-Face continues and reinterprets the tradition of modern (anti-)war novel at the same time. The twist being that it is about the soldiers-to-be of the Cold War era who are not fighting – or fighting only against their superiors and madness. The novel challenges Joseph Heller’s *Catch-22* in its absurdity and Jaroslav Hašek’s *Švejk* in its wisdom and humour. Its unique voice and brutality makes it a prominent piece of writing in the wake of minimalism.

Face and About Face is the story of the army: a boy is called up for compulsory military service. He is supposed to do something no nineteen-year-old boy could do and at the same time remain of sound mind and body. The narrator, nicknamed Bones is capable of doing anything in order to be hospitalized and to nurse his hopes of discharge, even breaking his own arm. *Face and About-Face* is not a nostalgic soldier’s story. Neither is it an incitement against inhumanity. Bones is like Camus’s Meursault in many respects, except that he does not commit a murder, though it could have befallen him as well.

Rights sold: Austria, Droschl

KRISZTIÁN GRECSÓ was born in 1977. He is a writer, a dramatist and an editor; his unique voice and storytelling made him one of the most successful authors of the new generation of Hungarian literature. He works as an editor for *Élet és Irodalom*, the most prestigious literary magazine of the country. Grecsó has written five books and won the most prestigious Hungarian literary prizes. He lives in Budapest.

ROOM FOR YOU BESIDE ME (MELLETTEM ELFÉRSZ) Novel, 2011 (february 10), 290 pages

“*Room for You Beside Me* covers 70 years. Hungary’s twentieth century comes to life with epic credibility, banal biographical elements being used here with a near-masterly deftness of touch to link historical events.” – The Hungarian Quarterly on *Room for You Beside Me*

“His wandering motifs and marvellous depiction, cast in his own personal ‘Grecsó idiom’, with everyday miracles familiar from the works of magic realist authors, propel the author to the forefront of younger fiction writers in Hungary.” – *Népszabadság* on *Long time no see*

When the protagonist and narrator of the novel – a tax expert in his thirties recently left by his lover – is asked by a local newspaper to write an incidental article about an old family photograph, this seemingly harmless task entangles him in a web of family mysteries and long-forgotten stories. Turning to his all-knowing, beloved grandmother for advice, he succeeds in making her confess all the secrets behind the photograph, and the history of the family, the seemingly unalterable past will change forever.

This novel of Grecsó resonates with the heavy and magical tone of Central Europe, taking it’s reader through all of the twentieth-century Carpathian Basin from Romania and Transylvania through Hungary and to the Alps of Austria. Starting from the servant-world of the Hungarian countryside of the thirties and showing the working-class milieu of Budapest in the fifties, we even reach our contemporary times of ruin pubs and next-generation hipsters.

LONG TIME NO SEE (ISTEN HOZOTT) Novel, 2005, 319 pages

Rights sold to: Croatia, Fraktura – Italy, Atmosphere Libri – Czech Republic, Kniha Zlin –

Germany, Claassen – Slovenia, Didakta – Turkey, Yapi Kredi Kültür

DANCE SCHOOL (TÁNCISKOLA) Novel, 2008, 304 pages

Rights sold to: Czech Republic, Kniha Zlin

KRISZTINA TÓTH was born in Budapest. She is one of Hungary's most highly acclaimed poets and short story writers. She has won several awards, her prose and poetry has been translated into many languages. She lives in Budapest where, apart from writing and translating (from French), she designs stained-glass windows. Her latest collection of short stories "Pixel" was published in 2011 and was acclaimed by the reading audience and the critics as well.

„With her prose the brutal angel of eternal disorder has descended. She is not a destructive angel, she is experienced, she does not close her eyes at night, she does not even have eyelids. I've reread her stories with great amazement. Hungarian literature haven't had such narrative talent for a long time. She is different from any other contemporary authors. Strong as a bull and light as a butterfly. What she achieves as a writer has scarcely any tradition.”

Excerpt from Péter Nádas's afterword for the German edition of *Barcode*

„Other relationships are so intricate that one must draw a chart to understand them – the last time I had to make as many notes about the relationships between the characters was when I read *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. (...) It is worth getting lost in this well-built labyrinth: Krisztina Tóth's new volume is well-written, funny and smells of life.” – Magyar Narancs on *Pixel*

PIXEL

(BODY OF TEXT)

A novel in short stories, 2011., 168 pages

In her highly anticipated second book of prose following the successful *Barcode (Vonalkód, 2006)*, Krisztina Tóth goes further in exploring the invisible threads that connect relatives and strangers alike, determining our lives in dramatic, comic or tragic ways without our knowing. Each one of the thirty chapters telling tales of love, loss, failed attempts of communication or self-determination, in a snapshot that reveals a decisive moment in someone's life when his or her destiny is forever changed – or the moment when it is decided that it will never change at all. But these stories are also like pixels of a bigger picture, since all the characters appear, disappear and reappear in the chapters as dancers in a choreography – and the dance goes on, slowly building up a vast panorama of contemporary Hungary and Europe, a kaleidoscope of interlinked destinies.

Rights sold: Ili-Ili – Macedonia

Barcode rights sold: Berlin Verlag – Germany; Gallimard – France; El Nadir – Spain; Agite/Fra – Czech; Tympanum – Czech audiobook; B92 – Serbia; Avain – Finland; Ergo – Bulgaria; Ars Poetica – Slovakia