

Interviews – News – Events (INE) © 2018

Welcome all.

Today I'm very lucky to be interviewing Amit Parmessur, editor and owner of The Pangolin Review.

Hi Amit, thank you for agreeing to this interview.

INE: Tell us a little about yourself.

AP: I'm an English teacher, writer and poetry editor. Even though being a teacher is what pays the bills, these are all connected, so they all help me for a living. In the relatively unknown city of Quatre-Bornes from where I write and edit, I live with my beautiful wife, brother and parents, with as many pets as we can.

INE: Do you have any publications yourself?

AP: Since being published for the first time by Mr. Swan Morrison in The Short Humor Site, I've been included in around 150 online and print journals. A Pushcart Prize and Best of the Web nominee, I won Scooptheloot's Booger Prize for best humor, judged by Mr. Morrison, in October 2003.

INE: Tell us why you started The Pangolin Review and your vision for this literary publication.

AP: The magazine began out of love for both poetry and pangolins. Since reading about the pangolins and their plight end of 2017, I thought why not help in my own way. I tried with a poem called "Something's Rolling Down", published by Tuck Magazine. Then, The Pangolin Review was born. I sincerely did not expect it to grow so well, so quickly. It might all be the blessing of some little, magic pangolin somewhere.

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INE Note: Pangolins, often called 'scaly anteaters', are burrowing mammals that eat ants and termites. Pangolins are covered in tough, overlapping scales and roll themselves up into a tight ball when threatened. All eight species are protected under national and international laws, and two are listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. For more information, go to worldwildlife.org.



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INE: Do you have a themed submission, or is The Pangolin Review open to pretty much any form and genre of poetry?

AP: We are open to any form and genre. We might have a themed submission for some important event sometime soon. We are planning to welcome guest editors as well and much might depend on them too.

INE: What writing would you like to see more of in the submissions you receive?

AP: I look for writing that tells me something I don't know. Or writing that tells me something I know in a different way. We have enjoyed poems like Linda Imbler's "Guitar", Carrie Danaher Hoyt's "Beautiful Vandal", Yuan Changming's "In the Year of the Rooster", Psycho Kanev's "And After That" and Cymelle Leah Edwards' Velvet. We are very eclectic. Simple poems, from even the most inexperienced voices, are often a treat too.

INE: Do you have any advice for authors on what to do before they submit their writing to The Pangolin Review?

AP: The Pangolin Review has a very low rate of rejection. I think before submitting to the magazine, authors have to be honest with themselves, and send us three strong poems.

INE: What is your favorite quote?

AP: I have two actually, coming from the music world.

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If you respect a language and culture, it shows in your work.

— A. R. Rahman

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Focus on shaping your own sound and be original. A lot of people think that if they imitate the style of someone very successful then they would get more opportunities, which is never true.

— Jonita Gandhi.

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**INE: Is there anything else you would like to add that I haven't included?**

**AP:** I would like to add something about writing in the words of fellow writer Lisa Mecham: Publishing doesn't make you a writer. Having an MFA doesn't make you a writer. Having thousands of social media followers doesn't make you a writer. Fame and money don't make you a writer. Writing makes you a writer.

**INE: How can readers discover more about you and The Pangolin Review literary publication?**

Website: <https://thepangolinreview.wixsite.com/mypoetrysite>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/localtrain1>

**INE: Thank you very much for taking the time out of your busy schedule to take part in this interview. Best of luck and much success for the future.**

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