

## Black Cat Promotions, Leeds

*In association with the White Spaces Network and the Centre for Ethnicity and Racism Studies, University of Leeds presents*

### Dorothea Smartt and Jane Liddell-King



**Dorothea Smartt** will read from her collection of poems, *Ship Shape* (Peepal Tree Press, 2008)

Dorothea Smartt connects past and present, presence and absence in this rich collection. At its heart a sequence of poems excavates the missing history of Samboo, an African slave brought from the Caribbean to Lancaster where he died within days of his arrival and is presumed buried at Sunderland Point. The sequence imagines Samboo's experience, renaming him Bilal. This deeply personal response to the bicentenary of the abolition of British slave trading is accompanied by contemporary poems that, in the vitality of lives revealed, provide a counterpoint to the emptiness of a past life cut short, whilst echoing a continuity of loss wrought by the fragmentation of African Caribbean families through continuing migrations and death.

*'Dorothea Smartt reveals a poetic intelligence and maturity of form and content which definitely locates her among the best of her generation of poets.'* **Carole Boyce Davies, Cornell University**

**Dorothea Smartt**, born and raised in London, is of Barbadian heritage. Winner of the Forward Prize, her work appears in *IC3: The Penguin Book of New Black Writing in Britain* (2000) and *A Storm Between Fingers* (2007) and as part of *LandFall* (2009) at the Museum of London Docklands, which explores the Atlantic Ocean as natural phenomenon and transporter of dreams and peoples.



**Jane Liddell-King** will read from her collection of poems *Faces in the Void* (2008)

*Faces in the Void: Czech Survivors of the Holocaust* is a joint project with photographer, Marion Davies. It investigates the impact of politics and place on past and present Czech Jewish life reflecting themes of loss, survival and regeneration. Torah scrolls in a Cambridge synagogue that originated from the Czech Republic inspired visits to discover if any survivors of the Holocaust and Communism remained in the towns from which the scrolls originally came. Developed in England by meeting 105 year old Terezin survivor, Alice Herz Sommer, 100 year old Sir Nicholas Winton who organised the Kindertransport from Czechoslovakia and 80 year old writer Vera Gissing who was among the 669 children whom he rescued, unique and intersecting stories emerge.

**Jane Liddell-King** is a poet and playwright and lives in Cambridge. Winner of the Seatonian Prize, her work has been published in several journals and anthologies including *The Dybbuk of Delight: An Anthology of Jewish Women's Verse* (1995).

**@ The Old Red Lion, Meadow Lane (across Leeds Bridge)  
Thursday 9 July 2009, 6.30 to 8.30 pm**

**Admission is free of charge**