

**SHEHAN KARUNATILAKA**  
Creative Director/ Author/Feature Writer

PORTFOLIO

[www.shehanwriter.com](http://www.shehanwriter.com)

WORK HISTORY

- **Superson** Finland, **Tangent** Singapore, Creative Consultant (2020 - Present)
- **EightFour** Digital, **Untitled Project** Singapore, Creative Director (2016 - Present)
- **Affno Group**, Executive Creative Director (2020 – 2022)
- **Facebook** APAC, **Havas** Singapore, **VCCP** Singapore, Creative Strategist (Freelance) (2018-2019)
- **BBH** Singapore, **Iris** Amsterdam, Senior Freelance Creative (2014-17)
- **Y&R, Grey, TBWA, Lowe & JWT**, Singapore, Freelance Writer (2013-14)
- **BBDO**, Singapore, Creative Group Head (2012-13)
- **Iris**, Singapore, Creative Group Head, (2010-11)
- **Grant McCann-Erickson**, Colombo. Creative Director. (2006-08)
- **BoyMeetsGirl**, Springer and Jacoby, London. Copywriter (2004–05)
- **ARC Leo Burnett, TMP Worldwide**, London. Freelance Writer (2003)
- **Grant McCann-Erickson**, Colombo. Copywriter (1997- 2002)

EDUCATION

**Post-Graduate Diploma in Business and Administration**

Massey University, New Zealand (1996- 1997)

**Bachelor of Arts (Eng. Lit.)**

Massey University, New Zealand (1993-1995)

CLIENTS

Netflix, Samsung, Citroen, Facebook, Phillips, Scoot, Tokio Marine, Diageo, AIA, Adidas. Nike, DKNY, Sri Lankan Airlines, Mercedes-Benz, Audi, Chrysler-Jeep, Volkswagen, Castrol, Coca-Cola, Sunquick, Nestle, Dilmah Tea, Pizza Hut, Horlicks, Breeze, Bayer, SingTel, M1, HP, Cinnamon Hotels, Sampath Bank, HSBC, Great Eastern Life, Asian Alliance Insurance, Sony, Blackberry, GSK, Metropolitan Police, UNICEF, Singapore Navy, Guinness, Heineken, Tiger, Stella Artois, Bacardi Breezer, Heart FM, Disney, London Zoo, Lion Beer, Green Tape, Pepper, HNB.

ADVERTISING AWARDS

- **TV** - Gold. PATA , Singapore. 2007 - *Home away from Home*
- **Interactive** - Silver. John Caples, New York. 2005 - *Flash Hunk*
- **Digital** - Best of Show. Mobius, London. 2005 - *Flash Hunk*
- **Radio** - Silver. Chillies, Colombo. 2008 - *B4ur27.com*
- **Print** - Silver. Chillies, Colombo. 2006 - *Healthguard*
- **Activation** – Gold. Effies, Singapore. 2010 – *Formula Chair*
- **Event** – Gold. Effies, Singapore. 2012 – *Guinness*
- **Social** – Gold. Effies, Singapore 2022 – *Singtel Dash PET*

## **Shehan Karunatilaka**

Writer. Creative. Author.

Shehan has over 20 years' experience working for ad agencies, tech firms, media houses, start-ups and multinationals across Singapore, London, Colombo, Sydney and Amsterdam.

He's written commercials, radio spots, ads, web copy, digital strategies, activation campaigns, social posts and even brochures for the likes of BBH, Facebook, Iris, Havas, McCann, BBDO, Grey, Y&R, Bates and JWT.

He's also written features on sport, music and travel for *The Guardian*, *Rolling Stone*, *Wisden*, *GQ*, *Conde Nast* and *National Geographic*.

Shehan has published two novels and three childrens' books, including *Chinaman: The Legend of Pradeep Mathew*, winner of the 2012 Commonwealth Book prize.

He enjoys reading, travelling, playing bass, solving problems, planting seeds, and getting stuff done. He also enjoys doing nothing, at least once a week.

### PUBLISHED WORK

#### **NOVELS**

- **Chinaman: The Legend of Pradeep Mathew.**  
Random House India, 2010. Jonathan Cape UK 2011.  
Graywolf Press 2012.
- **Chats With The Dead**  
Penguin 2020.
- **The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida**  
Sort Of Books 2022. (Aug)
- **The Birth Lottery and Other Surprises**  
Hachette India 2022. (Oct) Little, Brown UK 2023.

#### **CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

- **Please Don't Put That In Your Mouth**  
Speaking Tiger Books 2019.
- **Where Shall I Poop?**  
Papaya Books 2020.
- **Those Sneaky Plants**  
Papaya Books 2021.
- **I'm Never Ever Going to Sleep**  
Papaya Books 2022. (Nov)

#### **SCREENPLAYS**

- **800: The Murali Story** (Feature Film)  
(Shooting April 2022)
- **Nineteen Ninety Six** (5-part Docu-series)

(Shooting September 2022)

### SHORT STORIES

- **The Colonials.** Open Magazine, 2020.
- **Diaspora.** Litro Magazine, 2016.
- **Djibouti.** The Indian Quarterly, 2014.
- **Seven Lakhs.** Himal Magazine, 2012.
- **Veysee.** Blue, Anthology of Sri Lankan Erotica, 2011.

### TRAVEL WRITING

- **Yangon Calling.** Qantas Traveller, May 2016.
- **Not the Colombo they told you about.** Conde Nast, February 2015.
- **Theme Park from Hell.** National Geographic, September 2012.
- **A Piece of String.** Ox-Travels Anthology, Edited by Michael Palin, Profile Books, 2011.

### FEATURE WRITING

- **The Lankan Underground.** GQ, March 2013.
- **Angels and Drunks.** Rolling Stone, July 2012.
- **The City.** Newsweek, October 2011.
- **How Cricket saved Sri Lanka.** The Guardian, 2011.

### FICTION AWARDS

- Longlist – **Booker Prize 2022** – The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida
- Winner - **Commonwealth Book Prize** – Chinaman: The Legend of Pradeep Mathew
- Winner - **DSC Prize 2012** - Chinaman
- Winner - **Gratiaen Prize 2008** – Chinaman
- Waterstones **Top 11 debut novels 2011** – Chinaman
- Shortlist - **Gratiaen Prize 2015** – Devil Dance
- Shortlist - **Gratiaen Prize 2016** – Short Eats

### LINKS

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shehan\\_Karunatilaka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shehan_Karunatilaka)

[https://www.theguardian.com/books/2012/jun/08/shehan-karunatilaka-commonwealth-book-prize?CMP=tw\\_t\\_gu](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2012/jun/08/shehan-karunatilaka-commonwealth-book-prize?CMP=tw_t_gu)

<https://twitter.com/SalmanRushdie/status/161473145595895808>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/8198781-chinaman>

<http://www.campaignbriefasia.com/2010/02/iris-singapore-appoints-shehan.html>

<https://wisden.com/stories/magazine/best-cricket-book-ever-revealed-wcm>