

## Introduction to Geoffrey Philp's Works

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Born in Struie, Jamaica, Geoffrey Philp now lives in Miami and teaches English and Creative Writing at the InterAmerican Campus, Miami Dade college.

He has written three children's books, *Marcus and the Amazons* (2011), *Grandpa Sydney's Anancy Stories* (2012), and *The Christmas Dutch Pot Baby* (2012); two collections of short stories, *Uncle Obadiah and the Alien* (1997) and *Who's Your Daddy?* (2009); five poetry collections, *Exodus and Other Poems* (1990), *Florida Bound* (1995), *Hurricane Center* (1998), *Xango Music* (2001), and *Dub Wise* (2010) and two novels, *Benjamin, My Son* (2003) and *Garvey's Ghost* (2016).

His poems and short stories have been published in the most prestigious journals and anthologies of Caribbean literature, such as *Small Axe*, *Asili*, *The Caribbean Writer*, *Gulf Stream*, *Florida in Poetry: A History of the Imagination*, *Wheel and Come Again: An Anthology of Reggae Poetry*, *Whispers from the Cotton Tree Root*, *The Oxford Book of Caribbean Short Stories*, and *The Oxford Book of Caribbean Verse*.

Some of his awards include the 2015 Luminary Award from the Consulate General of Miami, Florida; Daily News Prize 2009 (The Caribbean Writer, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix); 2008 Outstanding Writer (Jamaica Cultural Development Commission, Jamaica); Sauza 'Stay Pure' Award 2000 (Sauza Inc., New York); Florida Individual Artist Fellowship 1997 (Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida); 'Escape to Create 1995' (Seaside Institute, Seaside, Florida.); James Michener Fellowships, 1990-1992 (University of Miami, Miami, Florida), and the Canute Brodhurst Prize 1993 (The Caribbean Writer, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix).

He posts interviews, reviews, fiction, poetry, podcasts, and literary events from the Caribbean and Florida on his blog <http://geoffreyphilp.blogspot.com>.

His production has been mainly influenced by Derek Walcott, Kamau Brathwaite and V.S. Naipaul, but we should also point out the importance of Bob Marley's music and life. Echoes of African Yoruba tradition and spirituality, the experience of exile and above all the importance of memory are always at the centre of Philp's work.

Set in Jamaica or Miami, his stories focus on the difficulties faced by teenagers growing up in the Caribbean or in the Caribbean diaspora; family and social dramas within the Jamaican community; political and spiritual issues and the importance of the political dimensions of the reggae and the Rastafari movements.