

1987

Poems

Shaunt Basmajian

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/kunapipi>



Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Basmajian, Shaunt, Poems, *Kunapipi*, 9(2), 1987.

Available at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/kunapipi/vol9/iss2/13>

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library: research-pubs@uow.edu.au

Poems

Abstract

THE FANTASY AT 35, and ON HOLIDAY

Shaunt Basmajian

THE FANTASY AT 35

the beautiful young
blonde centrefold
is afraid she may
have aids
and has just given up
her five month old baby
for adoption
to a middle aged couple
living out of
the province

her boyfriend
whom she's been with
for the past six months
was recently arrested
and sentenced to
five years
charged for possessing
an illegal weapon
and for running
a prostitution ring

her father
whom she hasn't seen
since she was four
just sent her a letter
'postmarked' victoria
finally admitting to
his guilt
fourteen years
too late

while
in the plaster coated
kitchenette room
downstairs
infested with mice
and roaches
i continue to drink
a cup of black coffee
hungover
with her mother

ON HOLIDAY

indian peasants
 lined up
one by one
 on the busy
spanish street
 begging for dollars
 and pesos
 hungry for
 an american burger
a 'big mac' at the
 mexican macdonald's
 while ravaged
 in the ring
scanted bulls
 remain massacred
to grab more
 tourist money
with eyes radiant
 and coiled
 too poor to glare
everywhere you look
 getting more jealous
as you drink
 their beer imported

write poetry
 on their beaches
 get burned
 in their sun
trying to escape
 for a fun holiday
 on an 'off-season'
 package deal
 watching a group
of local workers
 doing your job
in another country
 for less than
 the minimum

Jack Hodgins

INTERVIEW

Jeanne Delbaere interviewed Jack Hodgins in Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, on 7 September 1987.

Jack, we are here in the Bookstore on Bastion Street in Nanaimo where The Honorary Patron will be launched in a few days. Is it the novel you read from at the Vienna conference in 1983?

No, that one didn't work. I had been working on it since 1981. It had started as a story but had quickly developed into something much bigger. I even tried to turn it into a play but somehow it didn't come off. At the time of the Vienna conference I abandoned it for a while to work on a