

TSEAD BRUINJA IS A DUTCH POET. HE MADE HIS DEBUT IN 2000 WITH THE FRISIAN LANGUAGE COLLECTION CALLED **THE METERS IN THE RED**. IN A CANDID INTERVIEW WITH INDYANA TSEAD TALKS ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE IN INDIA WHEN HE HAD TRAVELLED TO HYDERABAD TO TAKE PLACE IN THE CITY'S LITERARY FESTIVAL IN THE YEAR 2015.



Bruinja's debut in the Dutch language, *Dat het zo horde* (The way it should sound), was published in 2003, and was nominated for the Jo Peters Poetry Prize the following year. Bruinja compiles anthologies – including the famous *Kutgedichten* (Twat Poems) and the anthology *Droom in Blauweregenjas – nieuwe Friesedichters* (Dream in a Blue Raincoat - new Frisian poets) – writes critical reviews, hosts literary events and performs in the Netherlands and abroad, often with musician Jaap van Keulen and occasionally with the flamenco dancer Tanja van Susteren. His most recent collections are *Overwoekerd* (Overgrown; 2010), and *Angel* (Hook; 2008). The latter was published in newspaper form and appeared as a free download on a Dutch literary blog. Within a month it had been downloaded 2000 times.

**Q Since when did you start writing poetry?**

I started writing poetry when I was about 13.

**Q How has verses influenced your life?**

They have made me think in a more musical way and made me aware of the way my brain works. I think the free associative part of our brain is very important and can tell us some things that the more rational or calculative mind is unable to.

**Q What was your academic background and how did the interest grow?**

I studied English at the Rijks Universiteit Groningen. My main interests were American literature. I have a BA degree.

**Q Tell us a bit about your India trip. How was the Hyderabad Literary festival? How did you feel being a part of it...**

I enjoyed the Hyderabad Literary Festival, but the best part for me was working with poets from Switzerland, India, Portugal and Wales for a whole week. We translated each other's work as part of a Literature Across Frontiers program.

**Q Your travails in India...**

Besides readings in Hyderabad we also read in Delhi and Bangalore. I enjoyed all three places, especially the historical sights, the food and



meeting local people. People were very friendly. I did have a bit of trouble getting used to the big crowds and the busy traffic.

**Q Your association with poetry and world literature...**

As a poet I have travelled to festivals in Macedonia, Zimbabwe, Nicaragua, Indonesia, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Wales, France, The Ukraine, Lithuania, Poland and Belgium. Meeting poets from all over the world and travelling to and through these countries have made them a lot more tangible and less abstract to me. I guess travelling makes you think about unnecessary generalisations.

**Q Your published works so far... have you translated your works in any other language?**

My work has been translated into Afrikaans, Arabic, German, French, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Polish and a lot of other languages.