



Author photo ©

PHIL BOWEN was born in Liverpool in 1949 where he taught Drama until 1979. He has worked as a full-time writer, performer and teacher since 1994. Work from his first full collection 'Variety's Hammer' was selected for *The Forward Anthology* of 1998. His biography of the Mersey Poets *A Gallery to Play to* has recently been updated and re-published by Liverpool University Press and he written four plays for the stage.

Whether laugh-out-loud funny or staring straight into the abyss, Phil Bowen's highly distinctive poems are written with great originality, rhythm and nerve. Here are poems that pass 'the spelling test' – casting a spell that in turn creates a distinct world whose landscape readers can inhabit for the poems' duration.

Praise for Phil Bowen

'For those who say poetry that is deep and meaningful can't be enjoyable, and those who think poetry that is enjoyable can't be deep and meaningful, think again. Phil Bowen's is. Reading him is like suddenly being asked to dance.'

— SELIMA HILL

'Auden-like public statements mixed with the bleakness of Larkin... dark comedy and irresistible humour combined with melancholic sensuousness.' — BELINDA COOKE, *Shearsman Magazine*

'Phil Bowen's poems crackle with vitality . . . a skilful and pleasure giving poet.' — D.M. THOMAS

'Unusual and striking . . . great fun to read.'
— SOPHIE HANNAH, *The Frogmore Papers*

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nowhere's far

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'A riotous assembly! Phil Bowen's poems have always been unique, and it's great to see them gathered together.' — BRIAN PATTEN

