

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 12 2016

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Issue 12
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Sunday Times Literary Award Convener Michele Magwood Discusses this Year's Winners

By Michele Magwood

In Susanna Jones' haunting 2001 novel *The Earthquake Bird* she introduced the idea of a bird that sings to alert people to the tremors of the coming calamity. It is a more lyrical metaphor than that of the canary in the coal mine, but the idea is the same – an early warning system. The *Sunday Times* Literary Awards have always served as a barometer of the nation's concerns and anxieties, a cross-section slice of themes and preoccupations. The non-fiction Alan Paton Award and the Barry Ronge Fiction Prize entries funnel the zeitgeist onto the page. In 2006, for instance, when the bane of HIV/Aids was spreading, the Alan Paton judges insisted on awarding

two books the prize: Edwin Cameron's *Witness to Aids* and *Aidsafari* by Adam Levin; in 2013 *For the Mercy of Water*, Karen Jayes' bleak, unsettling novel about control of resources and gender violence took the fiction prize.

The image of earthquake birds came to mind on Saturday night when this year's winners were announced in Johannesburg...[read more](#)

(Image courtesy of Books LIVE)

PEN South Africa Protests the Suspension of Three SABC Senior Journalists

We strongly encourage you to attend the protests which are being held at the SABC offices in Cape Town and Johannesburg tomorrow morning. Keep an eye on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts for the details.

PEN South Africa has expressed a strong protest at the suspension of three senior South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) journalists apparently for protesting at a news conference at an order prohibiting them from covering a Right2Know protest outside the SABC headquarters in Auckland Park, Johannesburg...[read more](#)

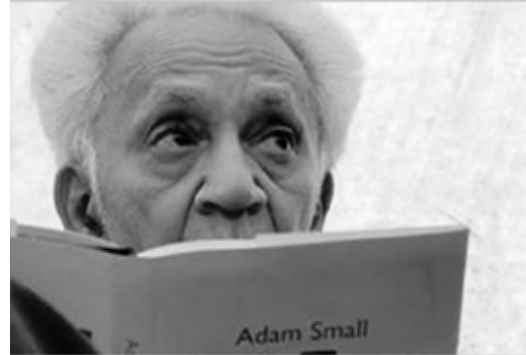


Salil Tripathi: Writer in Prison Committee Chair's Notebook #2

It is not often that I get to write a letter with some good news. But a few good things happened in the last few weeks, and therefore it is good to begin this letter on a note of cheer...[read more](#)

PLEASE SEND IN AGM RESPONSES

The electronic AGM was sent out on Tuesday 31 May. The deadline for responses is today at 5 PM. If you didn't receive the email let us know at communications@pensouthafrica.co.za.



RIP Adam Small (1936-2016)

Poet, writer, academic and Black Consciousness activist Adam Small passed away last week. Read the obituaries and tributes to him on [Books LIVE](#), [The Conversation](#) and [Mail & Guardian](#).

HAVE YOUR SAY

We are putting together a report on the state of freedom of expression in South Africa and we'd love your input. Please send us one or two lines on what freedom of expression means to you and /or why you think it is important to protect. communications@pensouthafrica.co.za.

UPCOMING EVENTS

See what's happening in July...[read more](#)

NEW MEMBERS' TITLES



Recent titles from PEN SA members include [Wild As It Gets](#) by Don Pinnock. Maren Bodenstein contributed to [The Pot and Other Stories](#) edited by Ellen Banda-Aaku. [Bahati Books announced](#) that they will be publishing Sihle Ntuli's second poetry anthology and Henrietta Rose-Innes [shared the news](#) that two of her novels, [Nineveh](#) and [Green Lion](#), will be published in the

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

2016 Morland Writing Scholarships for African Writers...[read more](#)

2016 ANFASA Grant Scheme for Authors...[read more](#)

McGregor Poetry Festival "Voices on Fire" Poetry Competition...[read more](#)

2017 Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award...[read more](#)

HG Wells Short Story Competition...[read more](#)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Finuala Dowling has won the 2016 Herman Charles Bosman Prize...[read more](#)

Fred Khumalo has been shortlisted for the Half the World Global Literati Award 2016. You can read his entry and **vote for him to win** the People's Choice Award...[read more](#)

PEN SA member Stephen Symon was shortlisted for the 2016 Short Sharp Stories Awards...[read more](#)

UK by Aardvark Bureau...[read more](#)

WELCOME!

Welcome to new Professional members
Ameera Patel and John Matisonn.

Send us your news

Had a book published recently? Attended or participated in a festival? Won an award?
Achieved a personal milestone of note? We welcome any news of your activities for
future issues of the PEN SA newsletter.

Please email your contributions to communications@pensouthafrica.co.za



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