

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 13.

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Issue 13
15 December 2015
ISSN 2410-2210



Holiday greetings to all our PEN South Africa members and friends

This has been as busy and tumultuous a year for PEN South Africa as it has been for so many people in South Africa and around the world. The importance of freedom of expression in times of conflict has been made apparent over and over, from the lethal attacks on atheist bloggers in Bangladesh to the horrific attacks on the Charlie Hebdo journalists in Paris. PEN South Africa has been kept very busy with events both at home and abroad, but we have had time to work on both the politics and the literature that makes ours a vital PEN Centre.

This year we have concentrated on revamping PEN South Africa's online presence into a coherent, engaged representation of our Centre across all platforms. We hope you have enjoyed it and that you interact with us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)...[read more](#)

Read the SA Stories Nominated for the 2015 PEN International New Voices Award



The annual PEN International New Voices Award aims to encourage new writing in the more than 104 countries that PEN operates in and provides a much needed space for young and unpublished writers to promote their work. The 2015 winner, Rebecca F. John (Wales PEN Cymru), was **announced in October**. PEN South Africa nominated two young writers, Genna Gardini and Liam Kruger, and PEN Afrikaans nominated Carien Smith, who made it onto the **longlist**.

We are pleased to bring you the three nominated pieces – two short stories and a poem – as well as interviews with these young authors:

Read **“Performance Scale”** by Genna Gardini and our interview with her [here](#).

Read **“Sarah”** by Liam Kruger and our interview with him [here](#).

Read “**Likkewaan**” in Afrikaans or “**Leguan**” in English by Carien Smith and our interview with her [here](#).

The View from Ilorin by David Attwell



This is part of the PEN SA essay series on South African literature. If you are interested in submitting a piece, contact us on communications@pensouthafrica.co.za.

I spent the month of September in Ilorin, Nigeria, as a visitor at Kwara State University. I had personal reasons for wanting to visit Nigeria, which go back to being a student at Natal University in Durban in the late 1970s. To any young person with a conscience, the 1970s were bracing, not unlike the present. Black students who rallied behind the Black Consciousness movement were in the firing line; white students, who were freer to choose their battles, were often marked by the times too, even at historically white institutions like Natal...[read more](#)



Take Part in Worldwide Reading for Ashraf Fayadh

We will be taking part in the [Worldwide Reading](#) in support of [Ashraf Fayadh](#), the Palestinian poet that has been sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia for apostasy. Our readings will be held online, so if you would like to take part by recording yourself giving one of the readings let us know at communications@pensouthafrica.co.za so we can coordinate which passages are read.



Michael Schmidt on the South African Cities of Refuge Project

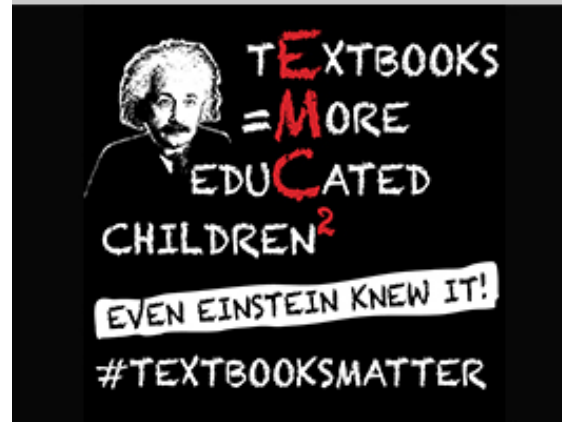
The South African Cities of Refuge Project grew out of a meeting in Johannesburg in 2011 between Swedish cultural activist Fredrik Elg, South African actor Gerhard Rudolf, and myself, a South African journalist and free press activist...[read more](#)

Cybercrimes and Cybersecurity Bill

PEN SA Concerned About Draft Cybercrimes and Cybersecurity Bill

PEN South Africa has read the draft Cybercrimes and Cybersecurity Bill (B-2015) with extreme concern. There are many features of the Bill which have the potential to harm and make inroads on freedom of expression and impose wide-ranging controls over people who use the internet...[read more](#)

NEW MEMBERS' TITLES



Update: The Supreme Court of Appeal Rules that #TextbooksMatter

Thank you to all of you who took part in the #TextbooksMatter campaign. We are pleased to report that the Supreme Court ruled in favour of SECTION27 and BEFA. Read the full statement on the judgement here...[read more](#)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Caine Prize for African Writing...[read more](#)

Queer Africa II: New and Collected

THE MYTH OF THIS
IS THAT WE'RE ALL
IN THIS TOGETHER

POETRY BY NICK MULGREW

New books from Nick Mulgrew (his debut poetry collection) and Don Pinnock, as well as an anthology featuring Sarah Lotz...[read more](#)

WELCOME!

Welcome to Professional members Isobel Dixon, Nick Mulgrew and David Attwell, and Supporter Ansa Smit.

GREETING CARD CAMPAIGN

If you would to take part in the annual PEN International Season's Greetings

Fiction...[read more](#)

2016 International Radio Playwriting Competition...[read more](#)

Speculative fiction e-magazine *Omenana*...[read more](#)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Gabeba Baderoon (Board Member), Kerry Hammerton, Lauren Beukes and Masande Ntshanga have been shortlisted for the 2015 Artists in Residency (AIR) Programme...[read more](#)

William Kentridge was named the Artist of the Year at the Apollo Awards 2015...[read more](#)

Bridget Pitt won a 2015 Maskew Miller Longman Literature Award...[read more](#)

Adré Marshall (Board Member) won the 'Three Score and Ten' Poetry Competition and Geoffrey Haresnape (former Board Member) was a runner-up...[read more](#)

Campaign and write to persecuted writers and their families please contact us on communications@pensouthafrica.co.za to request the contact details for this year's list of recipients.

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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