

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 16 2017

[View this email in your browser](#)

**pen**  
SOUTH AFRICA

**Write!**  
Africa,  
**Write!**

Issue 16  
**30 August 2017**

ISSN 2410-2210



## Points of Illumination: Wordfest South Africa This Year and Next

**By Chris Mann, Wordfest Convenor and PEN SA member**

'Mr Pikoli, I hear that you're investigating the Commissioner of Police'.

'Yes, Mr President'.

'Mr Pikoli, I want you to stop the investigation.'

'Mr President, I can't do that.'

Vusi Pikoli, the former director of the National Prosecuting Authority, during the launch of his biography at **Wordfest** a few years ago, quoted this exchange with Thabo Mbeki.

Each year brings similar moments of illumination, and this year was no exception.

Who can forget the moment when a young *imbongi* from Port Elizabeth attacked the State President? Or when former Constitutional Court judge Albie Sachs said, 'I want to make it clear, the spirit of O.R. Tambo wrote the constitution'?...[read more](#)

*(Image courtesy of **Wordfest**)*

---

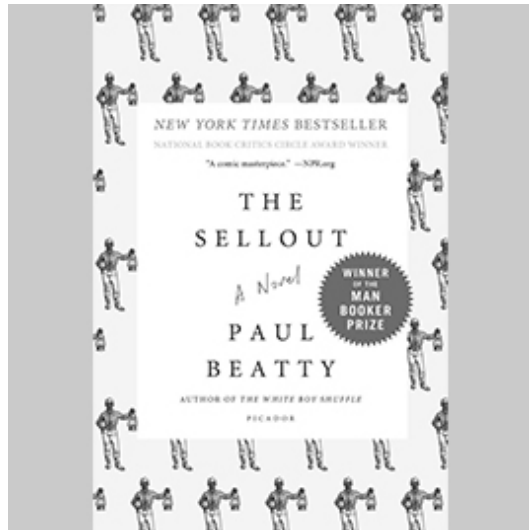
## **PEN SA Gravely Concerned About Threats Against *Inxeba* Cast and Filmmakers**

It is with grave concern that PEN SA notes the **threats of violence** being levelled at the actors and makers of the film *Inxeba*, among them, PEN SA member, **Nakhane**.

The film, which explores themes of masculinity, tradition and homosexuality, tells the story of Xolani, a caregiver during a Xhosa male initiation ceremony who becomes romantically involved with another caregiver.

Amongst the film's decriers are AmaXhosa King Mpendulo Zwelonke Sigcawu, **who seeks to halt the distribution of the film** on the grounds that it violates traditional Xhosa rules surrounding the sacred rite...[read more](#)

---



### Read an Excerpt from Paul Beatty's Man Booker Prize-winning Novel, *The Sellout*

American author Paul Beatty will be at this year's Open Book Festival, and will be speaking at one of the two talks PEN SA is presenting. [Read an excerpt](#) from his Man Booker Prize-winning novel *The Sellout*, which he'll be discussing with Harry Garuba. We are pleased to announce that PEN SA Board Member Gabeba Baderoon will be joining the panel for PEN SA's other event, *Women's Manifesto*...[read more](#)

(Image courtesy of [Macmillan](#))

### NEW MEMBERS' TITLES



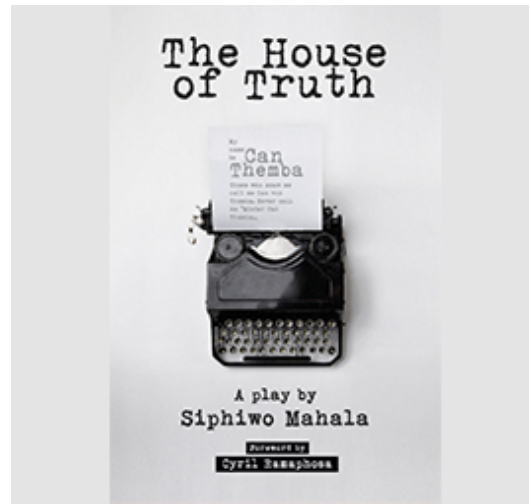
### PEN Condemns the Arbitrary Dismissal of Three Journalists from Egyptian Newspaper

PEN International stands in solidarity with the Egyptian writers and journalists who were dismissed from their work at a leading newspaper on 26 July 2017 due to the expression of an opinion that contradicted the official position of the Egyptian authorities...[read more](#)

(Image courtesy of [PEN International](#))

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Still coming up this month: PEN SA member Masande Ntshanga and Songeziwe Mahlangu will be discussing



PEN SA member Sphiwo Mahala's play [The House of Truth](#) is now available in book form...[read more](#)

## CONGRATULATIONS!

PEN SA members Petina Gappah and Sisonke Msimang have been shortlisted for the inaugural Brittle Paper Literary Awards and Koleka Putuma was shortlisted in the poetry category for her PEN SA Student Writing Prize-winning poem "Water" ...[read more](#)

PEN SA Board Member Justin Fox and PEN SA member Margaret Clough have retrospectively been named winners of the inaugural Patricia

their debut novels at the UCT Creative Writing Centre's Decolonisation and Literature series. The talk will be held on 31 August at 4 PM in AC Jordan 116 at the University of Cape Town.

See what's on in [September](#), including Open Book, South African Book Fair, Independent Author Book Fair and the Hilton Arts Festival.

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Theme announced for the 2018 Short Sharp Stories Award...[read more](#)

Type/Cast is calling for submissions for its fourth issue...[read more](#)

JIAS Writing Fellowships 2018...[read more](#)

2017 ANFASA Grant Scheme for Authors...[read more](#)

2018 Etisalat Prize For Literature...[read more](#)

## WELCOME

Schonstein Poetry in McGregor Award and Anne Schuster, who sadly passed away this year, was granted the 2016 Acclaim Award for her service to poetry through mentorship...[read more](#)

PEN SA member Sarah Lotz's *The Three* trilogy will be adapted into an eight-part drama by the BBC...[read more](#)

PEN SA members Henrietta Rose-Innes and Karen Jennings were on *The Guardian's* 2017 Not The Booker Prize longlist...[read more](#)

Welcome to new PEN SA Professional members Romy Sommer, Jane Taylor and Carmel Rickard.

## AWARDS NEWS

The winners of the Writivism 2017 prizes for fiction and nonfiction have been announced...[read more](#)

The Nielsen Booksellers Choice Award winner has been announced...[read more](#)

## 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 let us know if your email changes so we can update our mailing list.

**Please email your contributions**  
to [communications@pensouthafrica.co.za](mailto:communications@pensouthafrica.co.za)



Facebook



Twitter



Website

*Copyright © 2017 PEN South Africa, all rights reserved. All information regarding awards/competitions, residencies, festivals, etc., included in this newsletter is passed on to you as a service to PEN SA members. Any questions regarding entry rules, entry processes, festival programmes, etc., should be sent directly to the relevant organisers. PEN SA attempts to establish that the information received is genuine before passing this on to our members, but we cannot be held responsible should that not be the case.*

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

PEN South Africa · Tokai · Cape Town, Wc 7966 · South Africa

MailChimp