

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 18 2017

[View this email in your browser](#)



Issue 18
3 October 2017
ISSN 2410-2210



Open Book 2017: “Writing is not about saying the right thing”

‘The Sellout’ was one of the two talks at the 2017 Open Book Festival that were presented by PEN South Africa. We will be bringing you more news on the other event, ‘Women’s Manifesto’, at a later date but in the meantime we are very pleased to announce that the Women’s Manifesto was unanimously passed at the PEN International Congress last month.

By Rachel Zadok

Open Book Festival, Thursday night, 7.45pm. Streetlights illuminate the drizzle falling on to Cape Town's parched streets. Inside the Fugard Theatre, there is an air of tension. Harry Garuba stalks the stage, holding a sheaf of notes, lips moving in silent preparation. His hair glistens with tiny droplets of condensation, maybe rain, maybe perspiration. He seems nervous, and who could blame him? Professor Garuba may be Head of Department and Associate Professor in the Centre for African Studies at the University of Cape Town, but he's about to share the stage with Paul Beatty, author of *The Sellout*. It's a novel that is both controversial and acclaimed. In 2015, it won the coveted National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction. A year later, *The Sellout* became the first American novel to win the Man Booker Prize, for which all English-language novels became eligible two years earlier...[read more](#)

(Pictured: Man Booker Prize winner Paul Beatty signs copies of his book The Sellout. Photo credit: Retha Ferguson, courtesy of Open Book Festival.)

PEN Welcomes Release of Poet Mahvash Sabet After More Than a Decade in Prison

PEN International welcomes the release of teacher and poet Mahvash Sabet, one of a group of seven Baha'i leaders known as the 'Yaran-i-Iran' – 'Friends of Iran' – detained in 2008 for their faith and activities related to running the affairs of the Bahá'í community in Iran. On 18 September 2017, Sabet was the first of the group to be released from prison, having served almost a decade in detention. Following her release, she has issued a public call for the release of her six fellow detainees...[read more](#)

Iran Press Watch has published an interview with Sabet about her years in prison and solitary confinement...[read more](#)

8 out of 10 writers believe that fake news and censorship is on the rise

228 writers responded to a three question survey by PEN International in August 2017.

81% of all writers polled believed that fake news had become an increasing issue in the last 12 months.*

81% of writers thought that censorship was on the rise**



Results of PEN International Survey on Censorship and Fake News

PEN International's questionnaire, completed by 228 international writers, revealed that more than 81% of respondents believe that both 'fake news' and censorship have become an increasing concern in the last 12 months. A further 87% also believe that combating racism and xenophobia is central to their roles as writers...[read more](#)

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

NEW MEMBERS' TITLES



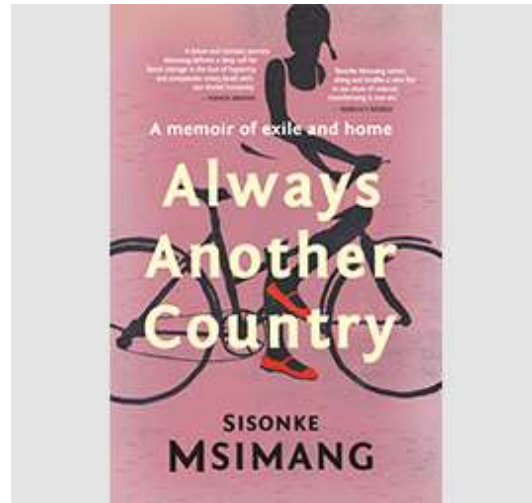
The PEN America Digital Archive Has Been Launched

PEN America have launched a [digital archive](#) featuring more than 1 500 hours of audio and video footage from 2 200 writers dating back to the 1960s. Kyle Dacuyan has written a literary activist's guide to the archive and shared a selection of artefacts from it [here](#).

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

See what's [coming up this month](#), including book launches for PEN SA members Raymond Suttner, Brent



New titles by PEN SA members include [Always Another Country](#) by Sisonke Msimang and [Sunset Claws](#) by Brent Meersman. An older title by a newly joined PEN SA member is [Message To A Blackman In Africa](#) by Vukulu Sizwe Maphindani...[read more](#)

WELCOME

Welcome to new PEN SA Professional member Vukulu Sizwe Maphindani.

AWARDS NEWS

The Man Booker Prize shortlist has been announced...[read more](#)

Meersman, Refiloe Moahloli and Sisonke Msimang.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

2018 Iceland Writers Retreat Alumni Award...[read more](#)

Graywolf Press Africa Prize - a new prize for unpublished debut novels by African authors...[read more](#)

Call for poems for the Best "New" African Poets 2017 anthology...[read more](#)

Commonwealth Short Story Prize...[read more](#)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Darrel Bristow-Bovey has won the 2017 SCRIBE Scriptwriting Competition...[read more](#)

Jim Pascual Agustin has been shortlisted for the 2017 Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Award...[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



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](#)

