

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 05 2017

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Celebrating Trevor Noah by Karina M. Szczurek

“Wow it looks even crazier on a news stand. Look mom, I’m on the cover of Time magazine,” Trevor Noah **tweeted** on 4 March. Call it serendipity, but the very same day I was on Skype with my mother in Austria, showing her *By, Die Burger’s* Saturday supplement, with my face on the front page. And I was just as proud, sharing the moment with the person to whom it would mean the most: my mother. Admittedly, *By* is not *Time* – and I am by far not as accomplished or famous as Trevor Noah – but in both cases because of contributions to local culture and entertainment foreigners

featured on the cover of a publication of note in a country they adopted as their own. I don't know about Trevor Noah, but the honour made me feel I truly belonged.

In his recent memoir, *Born a Crime* (Pan Macmillan, 2016), Noah writes lovingly about the person who broadened his horizons: "my mother started her little project – me – at a time when she could not have known that apartheid would end. There was no reason to think it would end; it had seen generations come and go. I was nearly six when Mandela was released, ten before democracy finally came, yet she was preparing me to live a life of freedom long before we knew freedom would exist." ...[read more](#)

(Image courtesy of Time Magazine via [Connect](#))

Yewande Omotoso Longlisted for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction

Congratulations to PEN SA member Yewande Omotoso, who has been longlisted for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction!

Omotoso is longlisted for her latest novel *The Woman Next Door*. South African writer Fiona Melrose has also been included on the longlist for her novel *Midwinter*. The winner will be announced on 7 June 2017.

[See the full Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction longlist here.](#)



PEN International Interview Series Marks International Women's Day 2017

"I have to work three times harder than male writers to prove that I can write stories that resonate with everyday life" - Grace Mutandwa, Chairperson of PEN Zimbabwe, (pictured above).

To mark International Women's Day 2017 PEN International interviewed three women writers and activists: [Elif Shafak](#), [Hanan al-Shaykh](#) and [Grace Mutandwa...read more](#)

PEN SA AFRICA PULSE

A Nigerian musician has been sent to



Short Story Day Africa's 2017 Anthology *Migrations* Has Been Published

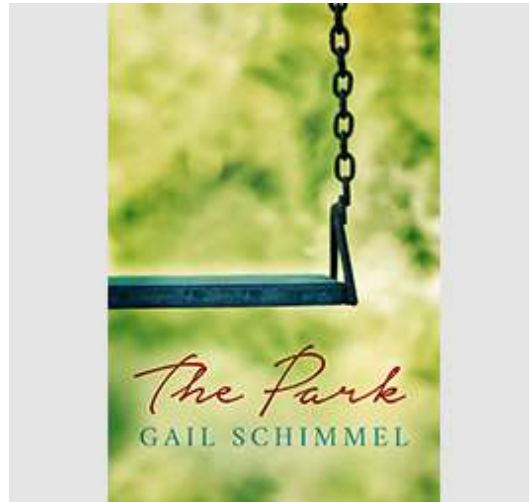
[Short Story Day Africa](#) have published the 2017 anthology [Migrations: New Short Fiction from Africa](#) featuring writing from the 2016 Short Story Day Africa Prize. PEN SA members Efemia Chela and Helen Moffett edited the anthology along with Bongani Kona and members Fred Khumalo, Arja Salafranca and Karen Jennings have stories included in the collection.

Read Sibongile Fisher's Short Story Day Africa Prize-winning story "A Door Ajar" from the anthology [...read more](#)

prison for allegedly violating the state's censorship board law with a newly-released song and a hate speech case has been postponed at the Durban Equality Court after the two men being charged with inciting racial hatred asked for more time to prepare for the trial...[read more](#)

An editor and a journalist have been arrested in Zimbabwe for 'undermining' President Robert Mugabe and South African Minister of State Security has threatened to censor social media...[read more](#)

NEW MEMBERS' TITLES



New titles by PEN SA members

UPCOMING EVENTS

Take a look at the [literary events still coming up this month](#) and [see what's happening in April](#). Saturday is [Indiebookday](#), which celebrates books published by independent publishers, take part by using #indiebookday.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

ICAPA-Writivism Script-Writing Residency...[read more](#)

Next Generation Speaks Writing Challenge...[read more](#)

Applications open to attend the International Literature Showcase in Norwich...[read more](#)

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

Transnational Arts Production Science Fiction Short Story Competition...[read more](#)

Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest...[read more](#)

ABR Elizabeth Jolley Short Story

include [The Park](#) by Gail Schimmel with Abigail George's poems "When the happiness hits", "The winter rain of Johannesburg", "Winter leaf and the smell of apples" and "World hold on (a prayer)" being featured in [Happy – A Collection of Poetry and Prose on Happiness and Being Happy](#) compiled by Robin Barratt. As mentioned above, [Short Story Day Africa](#)'s 2017 anthology [Migrations: New Short Fiction from Africa](#) was also published this month...[read more](#)

WELCOME!

Welcome to new PEN SA Professional members Gail Schimmel, Brian Walter and Larissa Newton.

Prize...[read more](#)

SA Youth Essay Writing Competition Against Racism...[read more](#)

AWARDS NEWS

Breyten Breytenbach has been named the winner of the Zbigniew Herbert International Literary Award 2017...[read more](#)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to [Modjaji Books](#) who recently celebrated 10 years of independent publishing. Publisher Colleen Higgs is a member of PEN SA.

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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