

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 08 2017

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## Time Of The Writer Festival and the Passing of the Baton

**By Lidudumalingani**

Our hotel in Durban, Blue Waters, not only stares into the ocean but its blue and white paint catches the sun as it rises. One morning, after a jog, I saw the glint of the sun, showing off all the energy it brings to the hotel. It was quite beautiful. Though I had to bend my neck beyond the open windows of the next flat to see the ocean, the smell and the wet air confirmed that the ocean rested there, across the road from the hotel.

Beside this, the showmanship of Durban, which is widely spoken about and lauded by other cities, the Time of the Writer Festival was happening, and in the week that the proceedings were scheduled, the one thing that stood out for me was how the old writers mingled with the young, passing advice at every turn, cautioning about the usual habits of writers, the ways to navigate a narrative and tips on how to answer the old question, 'who do you write for?'...[read more](#)

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## **PEN SA Centre Co-Ordinator Visits PEN America**

**PEN SA Centre Co-ordinator Myolisi Sikupela visited the PEN America centre in New York in April 2017:**

There are three ways to get to New York from Washington D.C., a flight, bus or train. The train option is far more interesting and so I take the train. Truman Capote's book *In Cold Blood*, which was originally published in 1964, has a lot to do with my decision. In it, Capote writes, "*The village of Holcomb stands on the high wheat plains of western Kansas, a lonesome area that other Kansans call "out there."* Though I am nowhere near Kansas, a part of me hopes that much of the open fields that Capote is writing about are present on the journey to New York too...[read more](#)

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## the JOHANNESBURG REVIEW of BOOKS

### The Johannesburg Review of Books Has Been Launched

Last issue we wrote about the new books website, [The Reading List](#), brought to you by former Books LIVE Editor Jennifer Malec and Books LIVE founder and PEN SA member Ben Williams. This issue we are excited to announce that the two of them have just launched [The Johannesburg Review of Books](#), with Williams as the Publisher and Malec as the Editor...[read more](#)

*(Image courtesy of [The Johannesburg Review of Books](#))*

### NEW MEMBERS' TITLES



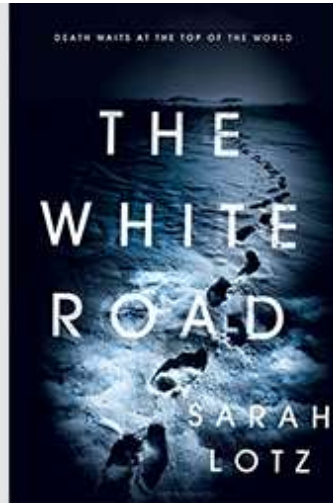
### Add Your Name to PEN SA's Call for the Release of Dr Stella Nyanzi

PEN SA has written to Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni calling for the release of Dr Stella Nyanzi, an activist, feminist, writer and academic. Click through to read more about the case and add your name in support of the call...[read more](#)

*(Image courtesy of [Azania Post](#))*

### ADVOCACY CASES

PEN SA reiterates its support for Palestinian poet Dareen Tatour and calls



New titles by PEN SA members include [The White Road](#) by Sarah Lotz, [The Swimming Lesson and Other Stories](#) by Kobus Moolman, [Accident](#) by Dawn Garisch, [Free Association](#) by Steven Boykey Sidley, a new edition of [Inside Apartheid's Prison](#) by Raymond Suttner and Abigail George has two poems featured in [Best New African Poets 2016 Anthology](#). Older titles by newly joined members include [Piggy](#) [Boy's Blues](#) by Nakhane Touré, [Akosua and Osman](#) by Manu Herstein an [Migrations](#), which Bongani Kona co-edited...[read more](#)

## WELCOME

Welcome to new PEN SA Professional

for all charges against her to be dropped...[read more](#)

PEN SA has sent a letter to the President of the Republic of Cameroon, Paul Biya, calling for the release of journalist Ahmed Abba...[read more](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Take a look at the [literary events coming up in May](#) including several festivals.

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

2017 RAW Residencies...[read more](#)

Drue Heinz Literature Prize...[read more](#)

The Lifted Brow & RMIT non/fictionLab Prize for Experimental Non-fiction...[read more](#)

The Seán Ó Faoláin International Short Story Prize...[read more](#)

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

members Manu Herbstein, Nakhane Touré, Bongani Kona and Steven Sidley.

## CENTRE NEWS

We are pleased to announce that Nooshin Erfani-Ghadimi has been co-opted to the PEN SA Board.

The PEN SA AGM will be held electronically on 31st May 2017. Please note that you need to be a paid up member to participate. If you are unsure if you are up to date with your payments please email Deborah Horn Botha at [secretary@pensouthafrica.co.za](mailto:secretary@pensouthafrica.co.za).

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Darrel Bristow-Bovey, Amy Heydenrych, Sally Partridge, Andrew Salomon and Stephen Symons have been shortlisted for the Short.Sharp.Stories Awards...[read more](#)

Achille Mbembe has been elected as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences...[read more](#)

Rattle Poetry Prize...[read more](#)

Sir Peter Ustinov Television Scriptwriting Award...[read more](#)

Pan Macmillan SA accepting manuscript submissions from 8 to 12 May...[read more](#)

## AWARDS NEWS

The UJ Prize shortlist...[read more](#)

The Brunel International African Poetry Prize...[read more](#)

The Man Booker International Prize 2017 shortlist...[read more](#)

The Arthur C. Clarke shortlist...[read more](#)

Penguin Random House UK has announced that it will be publishing *Late Essays 2006 - 2017* by Honorary PEN SA member J.M. Coezee in September...[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 email your contributions**  
to [communications@pensouthafrica.co.za](mailto:communications@pensouthafrica.co.za)



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