

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 06.

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pen
SOUTH AFRICA

Write!
Africa,
Write!

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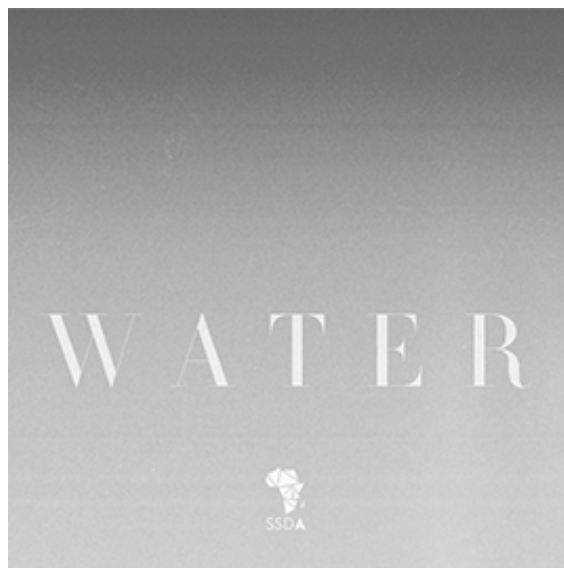
ZP Dala, a debut novelist and PEN South Africa member, was subjected to a severe physical assault and harassment after she expressed admiration for the work of Salman Rushdie amongst others. Instead of celebrating the launch of her first novel at the Durban Time of the Writer Festival she was hospitalised. Freedom of expression, freedom of thought is the foundational democratic right. PEN South Africa and the world PEN community stands in solidarity with Ms Dala. We are proud to publish her response to the intimidation and threats to which she was subjected.

My Writing Journey

by ZP Dala

The week beginning 15 March 2015 was supposed to have been the highlight of my literary career. I was due to launch my debut novel *What About Meera* in a prestigious function on Saturday, 21 March and preceding this I was the featured author at one of South Africa's most sought after literary festivals, **The Time of the Writer**. The theme of the 2015 Festival was "Writing For Our Lives" and in the wake of the atrocious Charlie Hebdo tragedy as well as the gagging of Bangladeshi writer, Tasleema Nasreen who was forced into exile after being attacked, the group of African writers that assembled for the festival felt a deep sense of poignancy to speak out for freedom of expression.

I was no different. Here was my opportunity to have my voice heard! In a country like South Africa which had suffered the horrors of apartheid just a mere 20 years ago, all us writers felt a responsibility to speak our truths....[read more](#)



2015 Short Story Day Africa Prize Longlist

Short Story Day Africa have announced the 2015 Prize longlist, which includes two PEN SA members - Christine Coates and Louis Greenberg...[read more](#)

NEW MEMBERS' TITLES



Nal'ibali Launches National 'Story Bosso' Storytelling Competition

This September, the Nal'ibali reading-for-enjoyment campaign is launching a nationwide storytelling competition to find South Africa's first 'Story Bosso'. Aimed at reawakening a love of storytelling and reading among South Africans of all ages, the competition will connect the public to ideas and inspiration on how to tell stories and read aloud to others; showcase a range of local stories (in all South African languages), as well as



Stray is an anthology of animal stories and poems edited by PEN SA members Helen Moffett and Diane Awerbuck. It includes stories from other PEN members including Gabeba Baderoon (board member), Margaret Clough, Gail Dendy, Richard de Nooy, Finuala Dowling, Justin Fox (board member), Michiel Heyns, Colleen Higgs, Jenny Hobbs, Liesl Jobson, Rustum Kozain, Sarah Lotz, Siphwo Mahala, Niq Mhlongo, Thando Mgqolozana, SA Partridge, Henrietta Rose-Innes, Beverly Rycroft, Alex Smith, Fiona Snyckers, Zukiswa Wanner and James Whyte...[read more](#)

CONGRATULATIONS!

identify undiscovered storytellers in communities across the country...[read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Take a look at what's happening in September ...[read more](#)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

African Literature Today...[read more](#)

ImpACT Awards...[read more](#)

ANFASA Grant Scheme...[read more](#)

Manchester Writing Competition...[read more](#)

Short.Sharp.Stories 2016 theme...[read more](#)

Build Your Own Blog new Writer Scholarship...[read more](#)

Charl-Pierre Naudé has been shortlisted for the Poetry Prize in the 2015 ATKV-Woordveertjies for *Al die lieflike dade*...[read more](#)

Anirood (John) Singh's short story "Karma's Map" was included in the Short.Sharp.Stories anthology *Incredible Journey*...[read more](#)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

CJ "Jonty" Driver and Catriona Ross.

FEEDBACK

This is the second issue of our newsletter in its new format. We'd love to hear your thoughts on it. Send any questions, comments or feedback to Lindsay at communications@pensouthafrica.co.za

NIHSS Book, Creative Collection, and Digital Contribution Awards...[read more](#)

REMINDER

The [Open Book Festival](#) is being held in Cape Town next week from Wednesday 9th to Sunday 13th September.

There are [thirty-eight PEN SA members](#) that will be taking part in the events, as well as two [PEN Dialogues](#) not to be missed. Unfortunately the deadline for free tickets has passed, but the PEN Dialogue tickets are only R45 and if you book today or tomorrow you'll get a [free ticket to another event of your choice](#) (click through for the full info on that offer). Don't miss out on the opportunity to hear [Ukrainian author Andrey Kurkov](#) speak.

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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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.

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