

To: SA PEN Members
E-Newsletter No. 3/2014 – 10/03/2014



THE SOUTH AFRICAN CENTRE OF
PEN INTERNATIONAL
A World Association of Writers

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Book Launch - *Invisible Others* by Karina M. Szczurek, Tuesday, 11th March, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m., The Book Lounge, Cape Town

“Don't we all carry scars which remain invisible to others?”



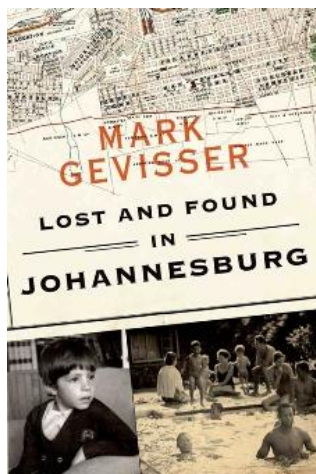
Karina's first novel is the story of a relationship between a South African writer and a Polish historian who meet in Paris. She is trying to escape the aftermath of a turbulent affair. He is grieving the death of his partner. Both have difficulties in articulating the pain caused by the losses they have experienced. And it seems that not even the magic of Paris can heal them...

Set against the stark beauty of contemporary Paris, *Invisible Others* is a story about loss, intimacy, and the inability to communicate despite best intentions. Provocative, sensual and fiercely honest, the novel captures our feeble attempts at deciphering those fleeting moments when others, consciously or not, leave indelible marks on our lives.

Karina will be in conversation with novelist Sally Partridge.
RSVP to Tel: (021) 462-2425 / booklounge@gmail.com

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Book Launch - *Lost and Found in Johannesburg* by Mark Gevisser, *Wednesday, 12th March, 6.00 for 6.30 p.m., Quagga, Kalk Bay*



Quagga and Kalk Bay Books invite you to the launch of
Lost and Found in Johannesburg
by Mark Gevisser

Mark will be in conversation with Imraan Coovadia
Where: Quagga, 86 Main Road, Kalk Bay
When: Wednesday 12 March at 6.00 for 6.30 p.m.
RSVP ESSENTIAL - Please email
events@kalkbaybooks.co.za
or call us on (021)788 2266

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Book Launch - *Lost and Found in Johannesburg* by Mark Gevisser, *Thursday, 13th March, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m., The Book Lounge, Cape Town*

When Mark Gevisser was a little boy, growing up in a apartheid South Africa, he was obsessed with maps, and with the Holmden's Registry, Johannesburg's Street Guide, in particular. He played a game called "Dispatcher" with this eccentric guide, transporting himself across the city into places that would otherwise be forbidden him. It was through "Dispatcher" that he discovered apartheid, by realising that he could not find an access route to the neighbouring township of Alexandra, and later, by realising that Soweto was not mapped at all. This was the beginning of a lifelong obsession with maps and with photographs, and what they tell us about borders and boundaries: how we define ourselves by staying within them, or by transgressing them.

Johannesburg is a place of edges and boundaries; no place for a flaneur: this book is Gevisser's account of getting lost in his home town, and then finding himself, and then getting lost again, as a gay Jewish South African who was raised under apartheid and who became an adult and married a man of a different race as the country moved towards freedom. Using maps and memories, photographs and stories, *Lost and Found in Johannesburg* presents a new way of understanding race and sexuality, heritage and otherness. If Gevisser transcended boundaries by playing "Dispatcher"

as a boy, his own boundaries were brutally ruptured when he was attacked in a home invasion in January 2012, while completing this book. *Lost and Found in Johannesburg* is the story of that journey.

Mark will be in conversation with Damon Galgut.
RSVP to Tel: (021) 462-2425 / booklounge@gmail.com

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Mother Language Day, 21st February 2014
By Adré Marshall

PEN SA celebrated International Mother-Language Day on 21st February by organising a very successful event at Kalk Bay Books.

After a short introduction explaining the purpose of UNESCO'S International Mother-Language Day and the role of PEN International in supporting this celebration, three outstanding speakers presented a richly rewarding programme.

Tessa Dowling of the Department of Africa Languages, U.C.T, gave a lively and entertaining talk on "Seeing the world through the eyes of an African Language speaker". Those of us who speak only two of South Africa's 11 official languages (English and Afrikaans) were given an insight into the differences between our various languages. Some English words that don't exist in Xhosa, for example, are "late" (translated as "after the time"), "stressed" and "empty" (translated as "not full"). These fascinating conceptual gaps stimulated great interest in the audience, particularly the non-Xhosa speakers.

The Nal'ibali "Reading for Pleasure" project was the main focus of the inspiring and informative presentation given by Carole Bloch, director of PRAESA, U.C.T. This project, supported by PEN SA, is dedicated to promoting literacy and a love of literature in young readers. Stories for children are translated into as many of our mother-tongue languages as possible, thus encouraging young readers and their adult mentors to use and value their own mother-tongue languages. It was heartening to see how well the children were responding to this valuable initiative.

Our third participant, Nobuhle Mngcwengi (Xhosa Fundis), dressed in a beautiful traditional Xhosa outfit, charmed and delighted the audience with her rendition of Xhosa lyrics. She also spoke movingly of her experiences and the challenges confronting her as a young Xhosa woman striving to preserve her linguistic and cultural heritage. In a world increasingly dominated by English, she strives passionately to promote the use of her mother-tongue. Singer, poet and dynamic Xhosa teacher, she enchanted us all.

As a member of the audience commented after the conclusion of this event, "it was dignified, informative and entertaining". The 45-50 interested people who attended left feeling enriched and inspired with a new appreciation of our indigenous languages. On behalf of PEN SA, we wish to thank all participants. Our thanks too to Audrey Rademeyer of Kalk Bay Books for so graciously hosting this event, which

was in every way a wonderful celebration of the values promoted by International Mother Language Day - linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

Call for entries for 2014 South African Arts Journalism Awards

Press Release, 27th February 2014

The National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, and Business and Arts South Africa (BASA) are pleased to call for entries to the second annual South African Arts Journalism Awards. The awards identify excellence, expertise and creativity. In doing so, they promote the practice of arts and cultural journalism, strengthen its national profile and celebrate its importance, range, diversity, fluidity and vitality.

“The work of our country’s arts journalists is hugely important to our industry,” Festival CEO Tony Lankester said. “As observers, critics, commentators and analysts, journalists are an important link between artists and audiences. A good journalist will help us contextualise and make sense of the work of our artists. Their words, pictures and sound will help us engage more deeply with our artists, and acknowledge the role they play in our complex society.”

“Just as they hold us to high standards, so too do we need to recognise those journalists who are the peak of their profession and who go about their work with integrity and passion,” Lankester continued.

Once again the awards will recognise arts journalism from across the media spectrum and, as promised last year, in 2014 Photography is to be recognised as a standalone category. Work will be assessed, broadly, in three categories: text (print and online), images (photography) and audio/video material (radio, television, podcasts, vodcasts and other digital content).

Competition guidelines, rules for submission and further details can be downloaded from www.nationalartsfestival.co.za or www.basa.co.za

“This year we are expecting entries from two sources – either journalists may submit their own work for consideration, or their editors may submit on their behalf. The source of the entry won’t be a factor in the judging process, but we hope that by allowing editors to enter their journalists, those who were reluctant to put themselves forward in the past will be in contention,” judging panel convenor Prof Chris Thurman said.

Winners will be announced during the course of this year’s National Arts Festival. As in 2013, Gold and Silver awards will be made, along with the coveted overall Arts Journalist of the Year award. In addition, the judging panel may choose to recognise extraordinary achievement in or special contributions to arts journalism in South Africa.

“The media tell the stories and narrative of the arts sector – a sector which highlights social capital, EQ and Shared Value. It is because of this, that we support this Award, acknowledging and recognising the hard work that it takes to be a good - even great - arts journalist,” Michelle Constant, BASA CEO said.

The deadline for entries is Friday, 28th March 2014.

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Please be reminded that your annual **SA PEN subscription fees for the 2014-2015 year** were due and payable in December. Contact Deborah at rudebs@icon.co.za should you not have received your renewal letter in December. **Thank you** to all members who have already paid.

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Etisalat Prize for Literature 2014

Etisalat, the Nigerian innovative telecommunications company, recently announced the winner of its 2013 Prize for Literature - NoViolet Bulawayo for her debut novel *We Need New Names* by Little, Brown and Company / Chatto & Windus, UK. Hearty congratulations, however, to SA PEN members Yewande Omotoso (*Bom Boy* by Modjaji Publishers) and Karen Jennings (*Finding Soutbek* by Holland Park Press) on making the shortlist, along with NoViolet. Jamala Safari (*The Great Agony And Pure Laughter Of The Gods* by Random House Struik) was one of the nine authors longlisted for the award. The Etisalat Prize for Literature is the first ever pan-African prize to applaud first time writers of published fiction.



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Congratulations to SA PEN member Tan Twan Eng on being longlisted for the **2014 IMPAC Dublin Award** for his novel *The Garden of Evening Mists*. The shortlist will be announced on the 9th April 2014 and the winner of the €100 000 award announced on the 12th June 2014.

Go to <http://www.impactdublinaward.ie/nominees/> to view the complete longlist.

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Africa Book Link

Enjoy your first free trial of the Africa Book Link (ABL), a newsletter announcing new and forthcoming books in the fields of African literatures and languages, book events, conferences, seminars, etc.

All the books that appear in the ABL editions will be included in a new database for African Languages & Literatures (*dALL*), that is currently under construction.

Try out your (temporary) free access at: <http://database.dall.be>.

- account name: **Trial**
- password: **TRIAL_TRIAL**

Please email africabooklink@telenet.be if you would like to subscribe to this newsletter.

Gilbert Braspenning (Editor)

Email rudebs@icon.co.za to request the ABL e-newsletter no.s 1 & 2 if required.

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Go to <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/04/oscar-pistorius-trial-black-stranger-defence> to read an article by Margie Orford.

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A warm **welcome to new members**: Arthur Goldstuck, Karen Jennings, Keorapetse Kgositsile, and Marianne Thamm.



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Publications received

SA PEN has received the following publications. Should you wish to read any of them please contact Deborah on rudebs@icon.co.za

- The Taipei Chinese Pen, A Quarterly Journal Of Contemporary Chinese Literature From Taiwan, Autumn 2013, No. 165

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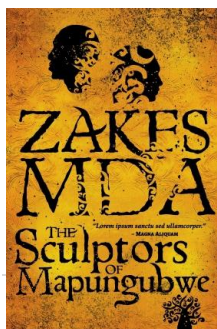
Forthcoming events

- ❖ **Woordfees** – 6th to 16th March 2014, Stellenbosch. www.woordfees.co.za
- ❖ **Time of the Writer International Writers Festival** – 17th to 22nd March 2013, Durban. www.cca.ukzn.ac.za
- ❖ **Knysna Literary Festival** – 18th to 23rd March 2013. www.knysnaliteraryfestival.co.za
- ❖ **Paris Book Fair** – 21st to 24th March 2014, Paris. www.salondulivreparis.com
- ❖ **The 40th Annual African Literature Association Conference** – 9th to 13th April 2014. Wits, Johannesburg. www.ala2014.co.za
- ❖ **World Book Day** – 23rd April 2014

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Members' Publications

The Sculptors of Mapungubwe by Zakes Mda



The Sculptors of Mapungubwe is Mda's first novel since 2009's bestselling *Black Diamond*. The narrative centres on the timeless kingdom of Mapungubwe where the royal sculptor has two heirs, Chata and Rendani. As they grow, so grows their rivalry – and their extraordinary talents.

But while Rendani becomes a master sculptor of the animals that run in the wild hills and lush valleys of the land, Chata learns to carve fantastic beings from his dreams, creatures never before seen on the Earth. From this natural rivalry between brothers, Zakes Mda crafts an irresistibly rich fable of love and family.

What makes the better art, perfect mimicry or inspiration? Who makes the better wife, a princess or a mysterious dancer? Ageless and contemporary, deceptive in its simplicity and mythical in its scope, *The Sculptors of Mapungubwe* encompasses all we know of love, envy and the artist's primal power to forge art from nature and nature into art.

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Rainbow Scars, a play by Mike van Graan



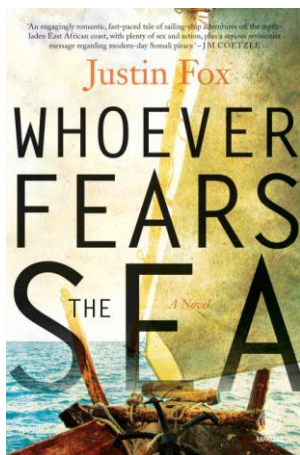
The play deals with a young born-free black girl adopted into a white family – with the best of intentions, of course. Inadvertently, this brings about an alienation from her township family. The catalyst in attempting to resolve this situation is her cousin Sicelo, who finally succeeds in making contact with both Lindiwe and her adoptive mother Ellen.

The play raises many pertinent and very contemporary issues that South Africans either are battling with at the moment or definitely need to be!

The play won an Ovation Award at the National Arts Festival in 2013.

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Whoever Fears the Sea by Justin Fox

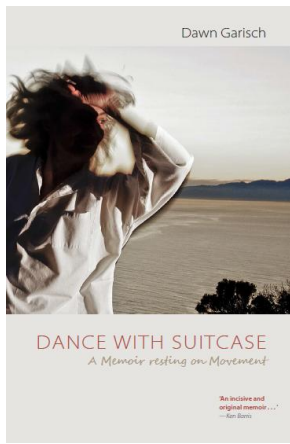


South African scriptwriter Paul Waterson is in Kenya to research a documentary film. It's October 2001, and his relationship has come to an unexpected end. Searching for solace in Mombasa, Malindi and Lamu, he becomes obsessed with finding the last remaining mtepe dhow in Somalia, a magnificent, sewn vessel harking back to Africa's rich maritime past. But getting someone to take him into Somali waters is proving near impossible. When he does manage to talk a dhow captain into the journey, he and the crew are oblivious to the dangers that lie in store.

JM Coetzee writes of the novel: "An engagingly romantic, fast-paced tale of sailing-ship adventures off the myth-laden East African coast, with plenty of sex and action, plus a serious revisionist message regarding modern-day Somali piracy."

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Dance With Suitcase: A Memoir Resting on Movement by Dawn Garisch



In *Dance with Suitcase* Dawn Garisch, medical doctor and award-winning author and poet, courageously exposes the narratives that have shaped her as she moves through her life — escape and barricade, stillness and whirlwind, grief and exuberance, proposing that the spontaneous dance she practices is a medium of both self discovery and self-recovery, bringing playful and surprising elements into awareness.

Dance with Suitcase, written as a companion piece to the critically acclaimed *Eloquent Body*, is both a memoir of Dawn’s life experience and her philosophy around movement, dance and expressing creativity.

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Had a book published recently? Attended or participated in a Festival? Won an award? Achieved a personal milestone of note? The compiler would welcome any news of your activities for future issues of the SA PEN e-newsletter. Please e-mail your contributions to rudebs@icon.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 SA PEN members. Any questions regarding entry rules, entry processes, festival programmes, etc., should be forwarded direct to the relevant organisers. SA PEN 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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Please note that SA PEN Newsletters are available to members and to the public on the SA PEN website at <http://www.sapen.co.za/newsletter-archive>