

To: SA PEN Members
E-Newsletter No. 6/2014 – 26/04/2014



THE SOUTH AFRICAN CENTRE OF
PEN INTERNATIONAL

A World Association of Writers

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Junkets Competition – Deadline = Sunday, 27th April 2014

Dear Friends of Junkets

23rd April 2014 - Today is Shakespeare's 450th birthday!

So, here's a quick *Hamlet* quiz, just to celebrate. Get all five right and you could be one of two Friends of Junkets to win a copy of *Lord Hamlet aka iHamlet*.

- 1 'Hamlet is Shakespeare's longest play and Hamlet is Shakespeare's longest part.'
True or False?

- 2 The first word Hamlet speaks in the play and the last word he utters as he dies make up an ironic comment on this most wordy of plays. What are the two words?
- 3 ‘How now? A rat? Dead for a ducat, dead!’ Who did Hamlet think the ‘rat’ was?
- 4 What is the title of Tom Stoppard’s play in which the main *Hamlet* characters play minor roles and the two leads are taken by two minor characters in Shakespeare’s play?
- 5 In the late-1960s the American-British actor and writer Charles Marowitz wrote a collage of *Hamlet* which was acclaimed. What was it called? (This is easier than it looks! Google will give you the answer.)

... and one that doesn’t count: What was the name of Horatio’s girlfriend?

You’ve got only a few days to submit your answers, together with your postal address – get your entries in by midnight on Sunday 27 April, Freedom Day! Email to info.junkets@iafrica.com ...

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2014 Franschhoek Literary Festival, 16th to 18th May 2014

The programme for the 2014 Franschhoek Literary Festival is now available at www.flf.co.za/programme/ and tickets can be booked on webtickets.co.za.



A reminder of the **SA PEN event, event no. 33 on Friday, 16th May 16.00-17.00** entitled *SA PEN – the importance of reading* with Margie Orford chairing a discussion by Carole Bloch, Mark Heywood and Elinor Sisulu.

At the end of July Festival Director, Jenny Hobbs, will be stepping down to return to fulltime writing. Ann Donald will take over the post of Director. Best wishes to these ladies, both SA PEN members.

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SA PEN Dialogue event – 19th May 2014, The Book Lounge, Cape Town

SAVE THE DATE! The next PEN Dialogue will concern THE POLITICS OF PUBLISHING AND BOOKSELLING.

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SA PEN Dialogue event – 15th April 2014

SEXUALITY AND THE LAW: A DEBATE ON CULTURAL POLITICS IN AFRICA WITH SOUTH AFRICAN PEN

In light of this new wave of legislation and persecution, South African PEN held a conversation between Professor Pierre de Vos, the Claude Leon Foundation Chair in Constitutional Governance at the University of Cape Town and a well-known writer for the ‘*Daily Maverick*’, and Professor Desiree Lewis, the Head of Department of Women and Gender Studies at University of Western Cape and feminist activist. Dr. Derrick Higginbotham (UCT, English Department), who teaches queer theory and LGBTI literature, chaired the discussion which explored issues of sexuality minorities, human rights, religion, and the law in Africa

Go to <http://www.sapen.co.za/news/sa-news> or www.openbookfestival.co.za to hear the podcast and see event photographs (courtesy of Liesl Jobson). Go to @OpenBookFest to read Tweets about the event.

Go to <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/africa/140419/south-africa-gay-rights> to read an article about the event.



Desiree Lewis, Derrick Higginbotham, Margie Orford, Pierre de Vos



SA PEN thanks the panellists for their participation and the Book Lounge for hosting this event.

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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

- *Japanese Book News*, 79, Spring 2014

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Why Should We Vote For You? Campaign

1st April 2014

Arterial Network of South Africa, in association with diverse arts, culture and heritage organisations, today launched a major South African advocacy campaign to position the broad sector, across disciplines, as an important election issue in our country.

The campaign centres on a letter to all political parties in South Africa, asking them why people working in the arts, culture and heritage sector in South Africa should vote for them.

The organisations call on political parties to engage in a national conversation about the role of the creative sector in our country. It is also asking arts, culture and heritage organisations and individuals to endorse the project and calls on artists, designers, writers, performers, musicians, heritage workers, filmmakers and all practitioners and producers working in these and related fields to create work inspired by the question: *Why should we vote for you?*

Speaking on behalf of the campaign, the Secretary General of Arterial Network South Africa, Valmont

Layne, says, “We believe cultural life and artistic creativity is a human right and not a luxury, and that all South Africans have this right. We hear a lot of lip-service to the need for social cohesion, imagination and homegrown innovation and we agree that our sector is best placed to inspire and contribute to that need. Yet the arts and our cultural lives are often marginalised. This is obvious in budget allocations, consultation processes and a general lack of respect for our contribution and, more significantly, our potential contribution.”

Layne continues: “We are confident that through the work of creative practitioners, including writers, journalists, curators, painters, performers, sculptors, dancers, poets, musicians, filmmakers, designers and artists working in experimental forms, we are influential. We aim to manifest that influence through this campaign and put the spotlight on our sectors plight – and its power.”

In addition to requesting that political parties respond to the question *Why should we vote for you?* the letter addressed to them includes a number of related questions including:

1. Does your party think arts, culture and heritage is a priority for South Africa?
2. Does your party support our sector in South Africa and in which ways?
3. What are your policies for arts, culture and heritage?
4. What would you change about current arts, culture and heritage policy in South Africa?
5. Is your party aware of the current proposed revision to South Africa’s White Paper on Arts Culture and Heritage, the process of submissions to it and its current status?
6. What does your party think about the National Development Plan in terms of the arts, culture and heritage environment?
7. Is your party aware of current public funding budgets and priorities for our sector in South Africa – in terms of published plans and realities?
8. Does your party use our sector to market itself either during the election build-up or before / after that?

9. How do you think creativity can contribute to community development, poverty alleviation and job creation in South Africa?
10. What is your policy on arts, culture and heritage education for children and adults?

As part of the campaign, practitioners and leaders in the sector will participate in debates and activities during the election build-up and the campaign will post news, responses and related information via social media.

Campaign Endorsements as of 3rd April 2014:

Academic and Non Fiction Authors’ Association of South Africa (ANFASA), The Archival Platform, Egoli Heritage Foundation, The Heritage Portal, Institute for Arts Management and Development, Northwest University (ARTEMA), ASSITEJ South Africa, My Dream for the Arts, South African National Youth Orchestra Foundation, **South African PEN (SA PEN)**, Performing Arts Network of South Africa (PANSA), South African Music Rights Organisation (SAMRO), UNIMA - Puppetry South Africa, Visual Arts Network of South Africa (VANSA), Writers’ Guild of South Africa.

Go to www.arterialnetworksouthafrica.co.za / www.facebook.com/ArterialNetworkSouthAfrica or Tumblr site www.askingforourfriends.tumblr.com/Partners to read more or to endorse the campaign and send us your music/writing/images. The Twitter User Name is whyshouldwe and the handle is **@Vote_4_You**

2 political parties have responded so far - the DA and the United Resident's Front. Their responses are published at <http://www.askingforourfriends.tumblr.com>

Several events have been held recently with a further event **planned for the 29th April at Artscape, Cape Town: *Why should we vote for you?*** *A serious debate between political party and arts, culture and heritage sector leaders.*

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Poet **Pavol Janik**, previous President and Secretary-General of the Slovak Writers' Society and previous Editor-in-Chief of the literary weekly of the Slovak Writers' Society *Literarny tyzdennik*, has contacted SA PEN and invited interested members to read his poetry at www.pavoljanik.sk and www.divokevino.cz/5111/janik.php

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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.

Book Launch: *Sunderland* by Ken Barris & Michael Cope

Jacana Media and The Book Lounge
invite you to the launch of the new novel by
Michael Cope and Ken Barris
Sunderland

"Mischievous, funny - and marvellously engineered -
Sunderland bends the mind and warms the heart."
Diane Awerbuck, author of *Gardening at Night*



DATE: Tuesday, 6 May 2014

TIME: 17:30 for 18:00

VENUE: The Book Lounge
71 Roeland Street
Corner Buitenkant and
Roeland streets
Cape Town

RSVP:
booklounge@gmail.com
021 462 24 25

**Michael Cope and Ken Barris will be
in conversation with Diane Awerbuck**



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Book Launches: *Dark Windows* by Louis Greenberg

Louis will be launching his new novel at the following events:

- Franschhoek Literary Festival, 16th-18th May 2014
- Kingsmead Book Fair, Johannesburg, 24th May 2014
- Coffee Morning, Exclusive Books, Killarney, 29th May 2014, 10:30 a.m.
- End Times Colloquium, Wits Club, Johannesburg, 23rd-25th July 2014

For more details go to <http://louisgreenberg.com>.

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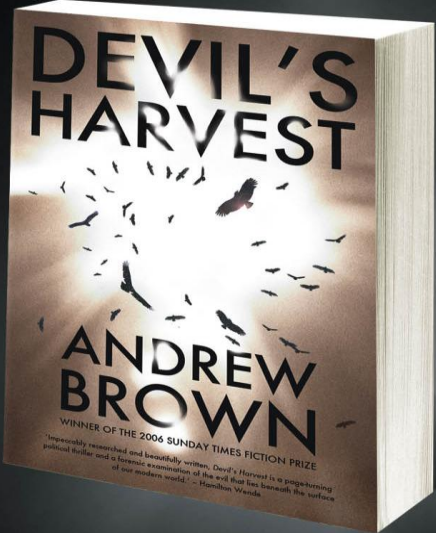
Book Launches: *Devil's Harvest* by Andrew Brown

ZEBRA PRESS AND THE BOOK LOUNGE INVITE YOU TO
THE LAUNCH OF ANDREW BROWN'S NEW NOVEL

DEVIL'S HARVEST

'Andrew Brown is probably one of the best of
the new generation of South African writers.'
- ANTHONY EGAN, *Mail & Guardian*

DATE: Tuesday, 13 May
TIME: 17h30 for 18h00
VENUE: The Book Lounge, 71 Roeland Street,
Chr. Buitenkant, Cape Town
RSVP: The Book Lounge on 021 462 2425
or booklounge@gmail.com by Friday, 9 May



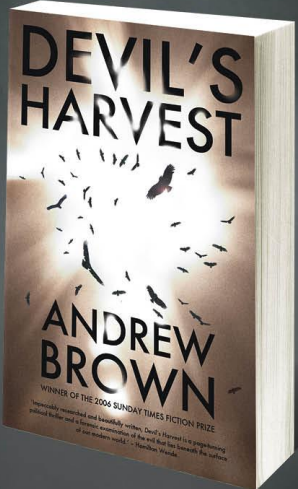
ZEBRA PRESS **THE BOOK LOUNGE** *Leopard's Leap*

ZEBRA PRESS &
ANDREW BROWN INVITE YOU
TO THE BOOK LAUNCH OF

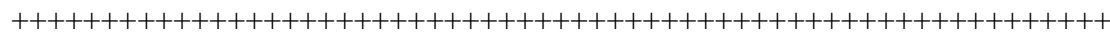
DEVIL'S HARVEST

A POLITICAL THRILLER WITH A GLOBAL SETTING,
FROM MILITARY OFFICES IN BRITAIN TO THE
WAR-TORN LANDSCAPES OF SOUTH SUDAN

DATE: Friday, 16 May 2014
TIME: 17h30 for 18h00
VENUE: EBONY Gallery
4 Franschhoek Square, Franschhoek
RSVP: Lorianne Brown
lorienneb@randomstruik.co.za or 011 4843538



ZEBRA PRESS **EBONY**



Caine Prize shortlist announced

Congratulations to Diane Awerbuck on being shortlisted for this year's Caine Prize for her story entitled "Phosphorescence" in *Cabin Fever*. The winner of the £10,000 prize will be announced at a celebratory dinner at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, on Monday, 14th July. To commemorate this being the fifteen year of the Caine Prize each shortlisted writer will also be awarded £500.

The winner of the Caine Prize will be given the opportunity of taking up a month's residence at Georgetown University, as a Writer-in-Residence at the Lannan Center for Poetics and Social Practice. The winner will also be invited to take part in the Open Book Festival in Cape Town in September 2014, the Storymoja Hay Festival in Nairobi and the Ake Festival in Nigeria.

For more information on the shortlisted authors, and to read their stories, go to www.caineprize.com

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European Union Literary Award 2014 – Deadline = 15th June 2014

The European Union Literary Award has at its core the ideal of promoting new South African literature that speaks not only to South Africans but also to an international audience. The award is the first of its kind in the world and is supported by various member states of the European Union. The prize consists of a R25 000,00 cash prize and the winning novel will be published by Jacana Media. Submit your unpublished novel by 15th June 2014. Go to <http://www.jacana.co.za/eu-literary-award-49298> for further information.

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Forthcoming events

- ❖ *Why should we vote for you? A serious debate between political party and arts, culture and heritage sector leaders - 29th April at Artscape, Cape Town.* www.arterialnetworksouthafrica.co.za
- ❖ **World Press Freedom Day** – 3rd May 2014
- ❖ **Chipping Campden Literature Festival** – 6th to 11th May 2014. www.campdenlitfest.co.uk
- ❖ **The dancing in other words Spier Poetry Festival** – 9th & 10th May 2014. Stellenbosch. www.spierpoetryfestival.co.za
- ❖ **Franschhoek Literary Festival** – 16th to 18th May 2014. www.flf.co.za
- ❖ **SA PEN event at Franschhoek Literary Festival - event no. 33 on Friday, 16th May, 16.00-17.00 - SA PEN – the importance of reading.**
- ❖ **Kingsmead Book Fair** – 24th May 2014, Kingsmead College, Johannesburg. www.kingsmead.co.za/bookfair
- ❖ **SA PEN Dialogue event – 19th May 2014, The Book Lounge, Cape Town - The Politics of Publishing and Bookselling.**

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New Fringe Festival for Cape Town

Press Release – 15th April 2014

The National Arts Festival and the City of Cape Town today announced a partnership which will see the launch of a new performing arts festival in September, modelled on some of the world’s iconic events.

The new Cape Town Fringe is inspired by the energy and ethos of popular Fringe Festivals in New York, Amsterdam, Adelaide and Edinburgh, and will feature “young, dynamic and cutting edge” work from some of the country’s leading theatremakers, according to Festival CEO Tony Lankester.

The Cape Town Fringe aims to present around 40 productions in venues in and around the city centre, as well as in satellite venues in areas such as Langa. “Access is critical to the success of a Fringe and was a big factor in our decision to proceed with this project,” Executive Deputy Mayor, Ian Neilson, acting Mayoral Committee Member for Tourism, Events and Marketing said. “Ticket pricing, choice of venues as well as the scheduling of performances all contribute to making a Fringe Festival appeal to as many people as possible, both traditional and non-traditional theatergoing audiences,” Neilson continued.

A public call for proposals was made at the launch of the event, with the Festival’s Artistic Director, Ismail Mahomed, saying that organisers were looking for work that is “brash, bold, cheeky, outspoken, confident, socially aware and independent”.

The Cape Town Fringe will run from 25th September until 5th October 2014. The call for proposals is currently open and more information can be found at www.capetownfringe.co.za

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Congratulations to:

- **Rustum Kozain** on winning the **Olive Schreiner Prize for Poetry** for *Groundwork*.
- **Beverly Rycroft** on winning the **Thomas Pringle Award for Poetry in Journals** for her poem, ‘Letter to the Otherside’ published in *Carapace*, volume 93.
- **Lauren Beukes** on her novel *The Shining Girls* being one of the six books nominated for the **Strand Magazine Critics Award for Best Novel**. The winner will be announced on the 9th July in New York.

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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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Global Citizen Journalism Project

Dear PEN Colleagues,

As part of a new initiative – the Global Citizen Journalism Project - PEN International is working with The Global Poverty Project to build a network of on-the-ground journalists from across the globe to share local stories on both the Global Citizen and PEN International websites.

The global poverty project is looking to the PEN membership to recruit at least twenty international correspondents from around the world to tell local stories of challenges faced and progress made, and to become part of a movement of global citizens who are committed to taking action in support of the world’s poor and seeing an end to extreme poverty by 2030.

Currently the issues that we’d like the reports and pitch ideas to focus on are:

- Education
- Women and girls
- Enterprise and innovation

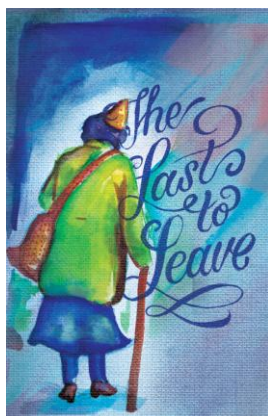
Please submit any questions and pitch stories to Emily Burgess, Global Communications Coordinator at the Global Poverty Project: emily.burgess@globalpovertyproject.com or Sahar Halaimzai: Sahar.halaimzai@pen-international.org

Ed’s note: It seems that contributors will be remunerated for their submissions.

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Members’ Publications

***The Last to Leave* by Margaret Clough**



The Last to leave is Margaret Clough’s second collection of poetry. These poems follow on from her first popular collection, *At Least the Duck Survived*, The light warm-hearted tone continues as does Clough’s engagement with aging and mortality.



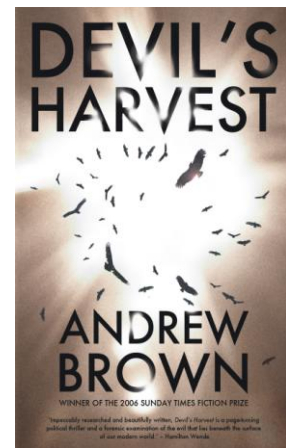
Sister Moon by Kirsten Miller

‘There’s no escaping this one,’ he says, but not to me. He says it to the ground and the sky and the thin arms of the waiting trees, but not to me. A film-maker by profession, Catherine has the perfect family: a supportive husband and a bright ten-year-old daughter. But Catherine’s beloved father is deteriorating. As he slips away into dementia, so too does a guilty truth they share: they both know what happened to Devin, Catherine’s sister, a shadow in a beautiful skin. Catherine’s adult success has come at a price. Now she has to come to terms with the silences in her past. Sister Moon is a story of love and growing up, of exclusion and abuse. Moving, and emotionally charged, Kirsten Miller’s second novel renders the insidious consequences of family secrets.

Devil’s Harvest by Andrew Brown

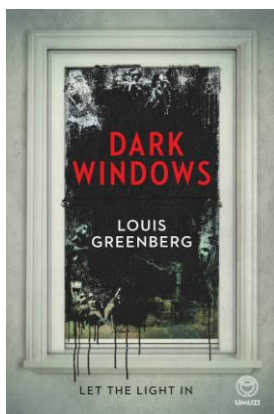
After a secret drone strike on a civilian target in South Sudan, RAF air marshal George Bartholomew discovers that a piece of shrapnel traceable back to a British Reaper has been left behind at the scene. He will do anything to get it back, but he is not the only one.

Dissatisfied with his life and ousted from the marital bed, Associate Professor Gabriel Cockburn, an ambitious botanist at Bristol University, sets out to South Sudan in pursuit of a rare plant that is crucial to his research. Once there, he finds himself caught up in the travails of a young Sudanese woman, Alek, who agrees to guide him through dangerous territory to find the plant. But Alek has an agenda of her own.



As events move beyond their control, the lives of these characters are thrown together, with explosive results.

A political thriller that spans the globe, from the halls of Bristol University and London’s secretive MI6 building to the dusty streets of Juba and the refugee camps in war-torn South Sudan, *Devil’s Harvest* exposes the dark truths of the international arms trade and the plight of the world’s newest country.



Dark Windows by Louis Greenberg

Johannesburg is becalmed. A wave of New Age belief and an apparent cure for crime have radically altered South Africa’s political landscape.

Jay Rowan has been hired to black out the windows of random vacant rooms. He’s trying to keep out of trouble, but he’s a pawn in political aide Kenneth Lang’s project Dark Windows. A mystical charlatan has convinced Lang’s boss that she can affect the ultimate transformation with a supernatural visitation, the

Arrival, and Lang needs to prepare for its coming. When Jay and his married girlfriend Beth realise that someone has died in every room, political and personal tensions come to a head and Jay, Beth and Lang must confront the past they've been trying to avoid.

Dark Windows is a moody, intelligent literary thriller.

Sunderland by Ken Barris & Michael Cope



Unhappily married Cape Town academic Art Berger is offered what appears to be a professional lifeline: to reconstitute the final papers of the great South African writer Charles de Villiers into the novel he was writing at the time of his death. He is uncomfortable about the role of ghostwriter, but the project becomes literary detective-work he cannot give up.

Introduce De Villiers's beautiful daughter Taryn, and Art is ensnared. *Sunderland* alternates between sections, mostly in journal form, chronicling Art's struggle to make sense of De Villiers's fragmented and disordered text, and sections scenes, notes, outlines from that very work (also entitled 'Sunderland'). This novel of ideas and of character is a fascinating collaboration by two of South Africa's finest and most lauded wranglers of words.

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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>