

To: SA PEN Members

E-Newsletter No. 8/2014 – 13/05/2014



**THE SOUTH AFRICAN CENTRE OF
PEN INTERNATIONAL**

A World Association of Writers

P O Box 732, Constantia, 7848, Cape Town

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SA PEN Event - PEN Dialogue: *The Politics of Publishing and Bookselling*, Monday, 19th May 2014, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m., Book Lounge, Cape Town

South African PEN, Open Book and the Book Lounge have a long history together and are delighted to be extending their collaborative events outside of the five day Open Book Festival and into the rest of the year.

The second of these dialogues, *The Politics of Publishing and Bookselling*, will take place at the Book Lounge on the 19th of May, chaired by Margie Orford, Executive Vice President of SA PEN.

Margie will be in discussion with Ingeborg Pelsler (publisher at Jonathan Ball), celebrated author, Niq Mhlongo, and Mervyn Sloman (Book Lounge).

Date: 19th of May 2014. Time: 17.30 for 18.00. RSVP to: booklounge@gmail.com or (021) 462 2425

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Franschhoek Literary Festival - 16th to 18th May 2014

SA PEN Event - Event no. 33. **Friday, 16th May 16-17.00.** The importance of reading. Margie Orford (Chair), Carole Bloch, Mark Heywood and Elinor Sisulu.

For the full festival programme go to www.flf.co.za/programme/. Tickets can be booked at webtickets.co.za.



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Book Launches: *Bobby* by Elizabeth Pienaar (also available in Afrikaans as *Bobbie*), **Hermanus & Johannesburg**

Human & Rousseau and The Book Cottage invite you to the launch of

BOBBY by Elizabeth Pienaar

"Uplifting and deeply touching, Bobby is truly an inspiring read for anyone who has ever loved, lost or found a 'man's best friend'."
– Joanne Lefson, animal-welfare advocate and author of *Around the World: My Travels with Oscar*.

Elizabeth is a Johannesburg-based writer, architect and mother. She will be in conversation with Celine Bakker, editor of the Hermanus Times.

17 May
14:30 for 15:00
The Book Cottage
(10 Harbour Road, Hermanus)
Wine will be served.

H&R Human & Rousseau nb UTTOGWERK PUBLISHERS The Book Cottage

*Based on a true story, for all ages.

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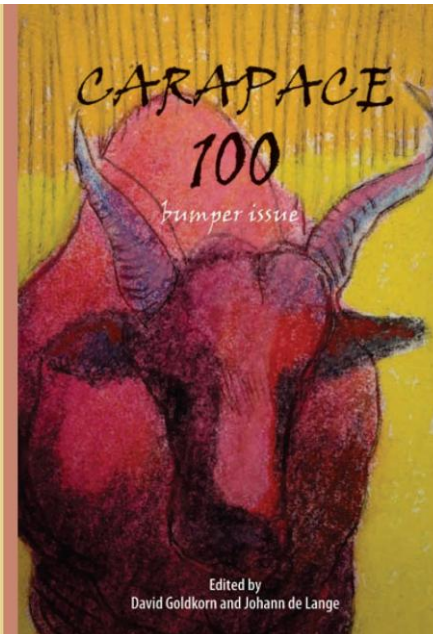
The Johannesburg launch will take place on **22nd May 2014, at Love Books, Melville, 6.00 for 6.30 pm.** RSVP to info@lovebooks.co.za or (011) 726 7408.

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PEN International has published the **case list of persecuted writers for 2013**. Please email rudebs@icon.co.za should you wish to receive a copy.

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Launch of the 100th issue of Carapace Poetry Magazine – 17th May 2014, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. Franschhoek

<p>Snailpress cordially invites you to celebrate the 100th issue of <i>Carapace Poetry Magazine</i></p> <p>at art in the yard art gallery The Yard, 38 Huguenot Street, Franschhoek (opposite La Rochelle Street)</p> <p>Saturday, 17 May 2014 19:00 for 19:30</p> <p>Space is limited so please RSVP to snailpress@gmail.com by Wednesday 14 May 2014</p>	 <p>Edited by David Goldkorn and Johann de Lange</p>
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Aerodrome PHOTOBOTH exhibition launch, Saturday, 17th May, 5.30 for 6.30 p.m., Franschhoek

Aerodrome - Our PHOTOBOTH exhibition showcasing writers who appeared at last year's Franschhoek Literary Festival will be on display in the heart of the village from the 16th May for two weeks. Please do join us for the launch at Ebony.

 <p>aerodrome WORDS & PEOPLE</p> <p><i>invites you to the launch of</i></p> <p>[PHOTOBOTH]</p> <p><i>A selection of portraits by GARETH SMIT starring local and international writers</i></p> <p>aerodrome.co.za info@aerodrome.co.za</p>	<p>when</p> <p>5.30PM - 6.30PM SATURDAY 17 MAY</p> <p>where</p> <p>EBONY 4 FRANSCHHOEK SQUARE HUGUENOT STREET FRANSCHHOEK</p> <p><i>Wine supplied by Porcupine Ridge</i></p>
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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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Book Launch: *An Imperfect Blessing* by Nadia Davids, Tuesday, 20th May 2014, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m., Book Lounge, Cape Town

It is 1993. South Africa is on the brink of total transformation and in Walmer Estate, a busy suburb on the slopes of Devil's Peak, fourteen-year-old Alia Dawood is about to undergo a transformation of her own. She watches with fascination and fear as the national drama unfolds, longing to be a part of what she knows to be history in the making. As her revolutionary aspirations strengthen in the months before the elections, her intense, radical Uncle Waleed reappears, forcing her parents and sister Nasreen to confront his subversive and dangerous past.

Nadia Davids' first novel moves across generations and communities, through the suburbs to the city centre, from the lush gardens of private schools to the dingy bars of Observatory, from landmark mosques and churches to the manic procession of the Cape Carnival, through evictions, rebellions, political assassinations and first loves. The book places one family's story at the heart of a country's rebirth and interrogates issues of faith, race, belonging and freedom.

Nadia will be in conversation with fellow SA PEN member Mark Gevisser.

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Book Launch: *Small Stones for Bromley* by Harry Owen, 22nd May 2014, 5.30 p.m., Grahamstown

The National English Literary Museum invites you to the launch of *Small Stones for Bromley*, a new book of poems by Harry Owen.

VENUE : Eastern Star Education Centre

DATE : 22nd May 2014

TIME : 17h30

RSVP : info@nelm.org.za or nelm@ru.ac.za or phone 046 622 7042

Small Stones for Bromley is Harry Owen's sixth poetry collection. His previous publications are: *Searching for Machynlleth*; *The Music of Ourselves*; *Five Books of Marriage*; *Non-Dog*; and a memorial collection for his father, *Worthy*.

He edited *I Write Who I Am: an anthology of Upstart poetry*, featuring the work of nineteen young poets from disadvantaged township schools in the Grahamstown area, and the international anthology *For Rhino in a Shrinking World*, all proceeds of which go toward efforts to save this iconic animal from extinction.

Further details are at <http://rhinoanthology.wordpress.com>

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Book Launch: *Haiku for Rapunzel* by Pieter Scholtz, Monday, 26th May 2014, Durban

Join Pieter Scholtz at St. Clement's, 191 Musgrave Road, Durban on the evening of the 26th May as he launches his new collection of haiku poems. RSVP to (031) 202-2511

A record of eleven years spent visiting Le Chateau d'eau
in the south of France.

Told in haiku and evocative illustrations, the book captures
the enchantment of the water tower that the author renamed

Rapunzel's Tower

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Journalists and bloggers around the world continue to face reprisals and restrictions on 22nd World Press Freedom Day

PEN International Press Release: 1st May 2014

On 3 May PEN International marks World Press Freedom Day – affirming the importance of freedom of expression and press freedom – a fundamental human right enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

“PEN members worldwide are personally engaged in the struggle for freedom of the press,” said Marian Botsford Fraser, Chair of PEN International’s Writers in Prison Committee. *“We are no strangers to the challenges and dangers journalists and media workers face in the course of their work, which is essential in providing checks and balances to all governments.”*

The day is also an opportunity for the international community to renew their commitment to press freedom.

The date marks the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek, a statement of principles drawn up by African journalists in 1991 calling for a free, independent and pluralistic media on that continent and throughout the world.

PEN International monitors attacks on hundreds of journalists worldwide each year, highlighting the dangers they face. The organisation campaigns for dozens of emblematic cases of journalists persecuted by governments in all regions of the world. PEN also campaigns on behalf of transitional media and internet users, recognising that writers – including online journalists, bloggers and social media producers – in the digital world, where news is increasingly produced and consumed, are no less subject to forms of persecution such as arbitrary arrest, torture, unfair trials, physical attacks (including in the most extreme cases killing) and threats than their traditional media colleagues.

Digital media has vastly expanded the capability of individuals, groups and whole societies to express themselves both privately and publicly, to associate freely, to exchange literature, ideas and information. Whilst digital media has expanded the ability of individuals to share in such a way, it has also increased the number of individuals who are vulnerable to persecution for their writing.

Online writers additionally face new forms of attack such as cyber-attacks, data breaches, invasion of privacy and undue surveillance. Through its Declaration on Digital Freedom, PEN has been campaigning to protect journalists online and highlight the ways in which assaults, such as online censorship and illegal surveillance, limit the right to freedom of expression – which includes the right to receive and impart information – and undermine press freedom.

This year PEN International is highlighting press freedom in four countries: Turkey, Honduras, Russia and Ethiopia. To read more go to <http://www.pen-international.org/newsitems/pen-marks-world-press-freedom-day/>

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Shot at Cannes

Press Release: 26/04/2014

A film produced and written by Durban filmmaker and AFDA Durban Scriptwriting Lecturer, (*Ed. – and SA PEN member*) Janet van Eeden, *A Shot at the Big Time*, the short, has been selected for the Cannes Court Metrage, the short film corner of the official Cannes Festival 2014. It was chosen over many, many entries.

“This honour is something my co-producer, Magda M. Olchawska, and I have dreamed of since we joined forces to make *A Shot at the Big Time*, the short,” says Van Eeden. “We met online when I ran the Indiegogo.com crowd-funding campaign in 2011. I’d given up on the dream recently and am working hard at present raising funds to make the feature film by the end of the year, so when Magda let me know late on Thursday night that we’d been accepted I was over the moon.”

Van Eeden launched the crowd-funding campaign for *Shot* on 11th of the 11th 2011, on Remembrance Day, in remembrance of her brother, Jimmy, who was killed on the border in mysterious circumstances after being there for only three days in 1979.

“I’d never been able to forget Jimmy’s tragic life, and after being challenged by film and theatre critic, Robert Greig, to write about my own life instead of writing plays about literary greats, I finally had the courage to put pen to paper and tackle one of the saddest experiences of my life,” she explains.

“Jimmy was my idol in the small town of Odendaalsrus. He was a rock star in the eyes of all the youngsters as he was the lead singer in a band which dreamed of making the big time. When he received his call-up papers when he was only seventeen, his dream was put on hold. Especially after he had a traumatic incident in basics which made him go AWOL, steal a rifle and fire rounds of bullets into the rubbish dump with the members of his band. A terrible accident happened and Jimmy had a breakdown and was classified as mentally unfit for military service. He tried to put his life back together again but he was broken by the events,” says Van Eeden. “Three years later the army forgot about the fact that they’d classified him as unfit and called him up to do Border duty. He was part of the infantry but he did not want to kill anyone. There are conflicting stories of what happened to him on the border on that fateful day, but all we know for sure is that three days after arriving on the border, my parents received a phone call telling them that Jimmy had been killed by a ricochet bullet.”

The feature film script of *A Shot at the Big Time* is based on the story of the tragic loss of Van Eeden’s brother which she says is Oedipal in its intensity. When she couldn’t get funding for the feature without giving away the rights to the film completely, and thereby compromising on the integrity of the story, she decided to do a crowd-funding campaign after listening to US expert Peter Broderick at the Durban Film Mart in 2011. She decided to produce the film herself. She didn’t raise enough money for the feature on Indiegogo.com but received so much support, including finding gifted young director from Australia, Stephen de Villiers, and London producer Magda M. Olchawska, that they decided to shoot the short film instead. The lead actors auditioned online as part of the crowd-funding campaign and “the best actors I could’ve dreamt of” were found in Brad Backhouse as Jimmy and Sean C. Michael as the antagonist Van Staden, as well as ex-Durbanite Tim Wells as Wiese. De Villiers flew out in July 2012 to film *Shot the Short*. Even an Executive Producer, Athol Williams, was found through the campaign and he gave whatever he could to make the short film happen.

A Shot at the Big Time was one of the projects selected for the Durban Film Mart in 2012 and the short film premiered at the Durban International Film Festival in July 2013. It was awarded an eThekweni Film Award in November 2013.

Van Eeden and Producer, Magda M. Olchawska will represent *A Shot at the Big Time* at Cannes.

Ed.: Safe and happy travels Janet.

Go to <http://sub.festival-cannes.fr/SfcCatalogue/MovieDetail/081f5cb4-ae6c-431f-941b-48b1d5bf782d> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yup20BzinJY> for more information.



Janet with Joe Eszterhas, at Screenwriters' Festival 2013. Photo by Mrs Eszterhas

Executive Producer, and fellow SA PEN member Athol Williams had this to say:

When I first heard about Janet's project to produce *A Shot at the Big Time* it struck me immediately as something that I wanted to be a part of because it so closely tracked what my poetry is about - how lies and deception can rob us of our humanity, and how truth, though unpleasant at times, can heal.

Apartheid and its associated wars created many deep wounds that still endure today. I believe that *A Shot at the Big Time* can have a profoundly healing role for those who still bear these wounds. There are many like Janet who lost loved ones on both sides of the conflicts, and many who participated in the atrocities. They will all respond differently to the movie, some will feel heard for the first time, others will find comfort or still others will have their eyes opened about what transpired on our borders. The movie generates anger among those who continue to worship at the altar of violence and oppression – we should show them tenderness but not yield to their anger.

I think the movie will also contribute to racial reconciliation in South Africa ... I wouldn't be surprised if many black South Africans think all white men enjoyed being in the army and thrived on the violence – if they didn't enjoy it then at least they were there because they believed in their cause. The movie shows that this wasn't the case.

I have exchanged countless emails with Janet over the last 2-3 years as we've worked on the movie. In one of them I wrote "you are the wildebeest who turns back to help a fellow wildebeest that has been cornered by lions." I greatly admire Janet's courage and vision in producing this movie – it hasn't been easy for her to deal with the constant reminder of the loss of her brother under such horrendous circumstances, and it hasn't been easy dealing with the many naysayers, but I believe the movie will be a blessing to those who watch it - the selection for Cannes is evidence of this. The entire cast and team has been incredible, producing something of beauty that they can all be proud of. I have been only too happy to be part of the cheerleading squad.

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Forthcoming events

- ❖ **Franschhoek Literary Festival** – 16th to 18th May 2014. www.flf.co.za
- ❖ **Kingsmead Book Fair** – 24th May 2014, Kingsmead College, Johannesburg. www.kingsmead.co.za/bookfair
- ❖ **South African Book Fair (formerly the Cape Town Book Fair)** – 13th to 15th June 2014, Cape Town. www.capetownbookfair.co.za
- ❖ **National Short Story Day** - 21st June 2014. www.shortstorydayafrica.org
- ❖ **National Arts Festival** - 3rd to 13th July 2014, Grahamstown. www.nationalartsfestival.co.za

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Africa Centre - Artists In Residency 2014. [Deadline = 20th June 2014](#)

The Africa Centre has formed partnerships with artist in residency programmes in Australia, Brazil, India, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, South Africa and the United States to provide eight residencies for its Artists in Residency (AIR) 2014 Programme.

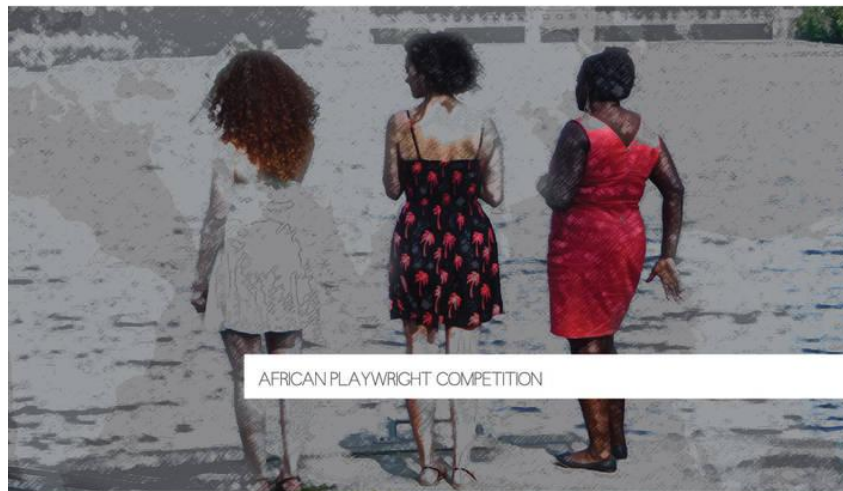
AIR is seeking applications from African artists who are both socially engaged and stretching the boundaries of their creative domain. The AIR partners select an artist from a short list provided by the Africa Centre, for one of their 2014 or 2015 residencies. The costs of the residency and round-trip airfare are included in each residency award made. The residencies are available to all types of artists, but each residency has different durations, structures and requirements. **Deadline for application submissions is the 20th June 2014.**

Go to <http://africacentre.net/artist-in-residency-programme-2014/> for further information.

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African Playwright Competition. [Deadline = 30th June 2014](#)

theatralize.company



YOU are a playwright of African descent and love writing plays about any topic that concerns your country and culture?

WE invite you to participate in our 'Playwright Competition!
These are the conditions:

The play should be at least 50 pages - the choice of topic is YOURS

as long as it revolves around YOUR country and YOUR culture and depicts any kind of legal religious colonial or other cultural process taking place in YOUR country - now or throughout history!

WE are a German playwright initiative and our main goal is to promote international understanding and dialogue through theatre. We are always researching new playwrights who would like to see their plays produced and performed in Germany.

The winner and first runner-up will be integrated into our catalogue and presented to German theatres. In case of performance in any theatre nationwide, the playwright will receive a percentage of the box office income - by contract!

We accept plays that are sent in by June 30th 2014.

Please visit our homepage www.theatralize.com for further information or to contact us.

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Pambazuka Special Issue: Africa in 50 years time – inventing a new Africa. Deadline = Friday, 16th May 2014

On 25th May 2014 the African Union (AU) will be 12 years old, having been set up in Addis Ababa on 9th July 2002 to replace the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The OAU waged a struggle for the decolonisation of the African continent from 1963 until it was supplanted by the AU.

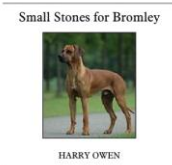
In May 2014 *Pambazuka News* seeks to have a special issue on projecting into the future what Africa will look like in 50 years time. What kind of Africa do women, youth, trade union activists, environmentalists, human rights, LGBTI and sex worker activists envision? What are the dreams of African writers, poets, scientists, engineers, agronomists, musicians for the continent in 50 years time?

Poems, short stories and personal opinion pieces are welcome. **Deadline for submission of articles = Friday, 16th May 2014.** Go to <http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/announce/90936> for further information.

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Members' Publications

Small Stones for Bromley by Harry Owen



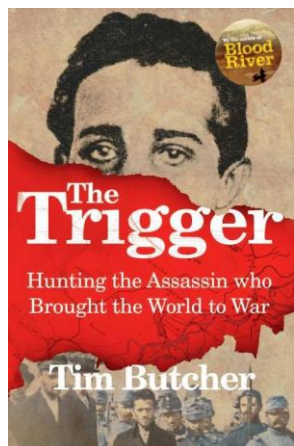
“A genuflecting ocean,
shadows of palm fronds on the deck,
a rich sizzle of frying mushrooms

and one leggy hound,
no longer lost,
spread out on the carpet
in a jacuzzi of sunlight.”

(*A Handful of Small Stones for Bromley*)

Small Stones for Bromley is Harry Owen’s sixth full collection of poetry.

The Trigger – Hunting the Assassin Who Brought the World to War by Tim Butcher



On a summer morning in Sarajevo a hundred years ago, a teenage assassin named Gavrilo Princip fired not just the opening shots of the First World War but the starting gun for modern history, when he killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Yet the events Princip triggered were so monumental that his own story has been largely overlooked, his role garbled and motivations misrepresented.

The Trigger puts this right, filling out as never before a figure who changed our world and whose legacy still has an impact on all of us today. Born a penniless backwoodsman, Princip’s life changed when he trekked through Bosnia and Serbia to attend school. As he ventured across fault lines of faith, nationalism and empire, so tightly clustered in the Balkans, radicalisation slowly transformed him from a frail farm boy into history’s most influential assassin.

Tim has a number of launch events in the UK, Europe and South Africa. For dates and booking details please go to <https://www.facebook.com/timbobutcher>

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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>