

To: SA PEN Members

E-Newsletter No. 9/2014 – 16/06/2014



**THE SOUTH AFRICAN CENTRE OF
PEN INTERNATIONAL**

A World Association of Writers

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Press Release - Anthony Charles Fleischer – 08/07/1928 – 05/06/2014



It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Anthony Fleischer. He was the President of South African PEN for many years and together with his wife, Dolores Fleischer, he championed literature and freedom of expression in South Africa. I joined PEN some years ago and have had the privilege of working closely with Tony for the last five years. He was a wonderful man to work with – astute, principled,

generous, gracious and kind. He taught me a great deal and was both mentor and friend. One of Tony’s great achievements was the championing of new writers who found their voice in the last two decades. The collections that South African PEN sponsored created a valuable literary space and the winners of the PEN short story awards have gone on to achieve considerable literary success. Ceridwen Dovey, Elizabeth Pienaar, Henrietta Rose-Innes, James Whyle, Justin Fox, Karen Jayes, Nadia Davids, Petina Gappah, Sean O’Toole, and others.

Tony was fiercely determined that South African PEN remain an independent voice in order to protect freedom of expression in South Africa. The curtailment of that fundamental democratic right is something he knew well from his own experience. His first novel *The Skin Is Deep* was banned by the Apartheid government in 1958. I am so glad that Tony saw a young South African writer, Masande Ntshanga, win the very first PEN International New Voices award last year. That win is the true legacy of his unflinching support of and belief in South Africa’s literary heritage. He will be greatly missed for his fiery combativeness in argument, his great capacity to listen and his desire to see the principles for which he stood all his life strengthened and deepened. He was loved and admired and respected by all who knew and worked with him. My thoughts, and those of the PEN membership, are with Dolores and his sons and their families. As Tony would say, hamba kahle.

Margie Orford
Executive Vice-President, South African PEN
6th June 2014

All condolence messages received by SA PEN have been/will be passed on to Mrs Fleischer and family. Tributes to Anthony will be published in a future newsletter and can be sent to rudebs@icon.co.za.

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SA PEN Annual General Meeting

A reminder that the electronic AGM documentation was emailed to all members on the 29th May 2014. Please acknowledge receipt of the documentation if you haven’t yet done so, as a certain number of acknowledgements is required in order to form a quorum. The deadline for comments or objections to the AGM documentation is **25th June 2014**.

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Keeping Score at the World Cup: PEN International launches campaign in defence of freedom of expression

12/06/14 - Dear PEN Colleagues,

As part of PEN’s online campaign during the World Cup - taking place in Brazil from 13th June 2014 to 13th July 2014 - we have produced digital ‘football cards’ focusing on freedom of expression issues or individual cases of writers and journalists for 12 countries which have teams in the competition. The statistics and cases used for these cards have been pulled together from PEN’s Case List.

The countries that this campaign is focusing on are: **Brazil, Cameroon, England, USA, Ecuador, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Ivory Coast, Iran, Russia and Nigeria.**

Every time any of these focus countries are due to play a match we ask that you share the cards as widely as possible via social media.

Attached** is the calendar of planned matches for all focus countries. I also attach** all the cards that you can share online. You can also view and download these from the PEN International website at <http://www.pen-international.org/newsitems/keeping-score-at-the-world-cup/>. I also include** a list of suggested tweets and officials you can tweet at. (** Attachments available on request from Deborah at rudebs@icon.co.za.)

I hope that you are able to participate in this campaign.

Best Wishes,
Sahar

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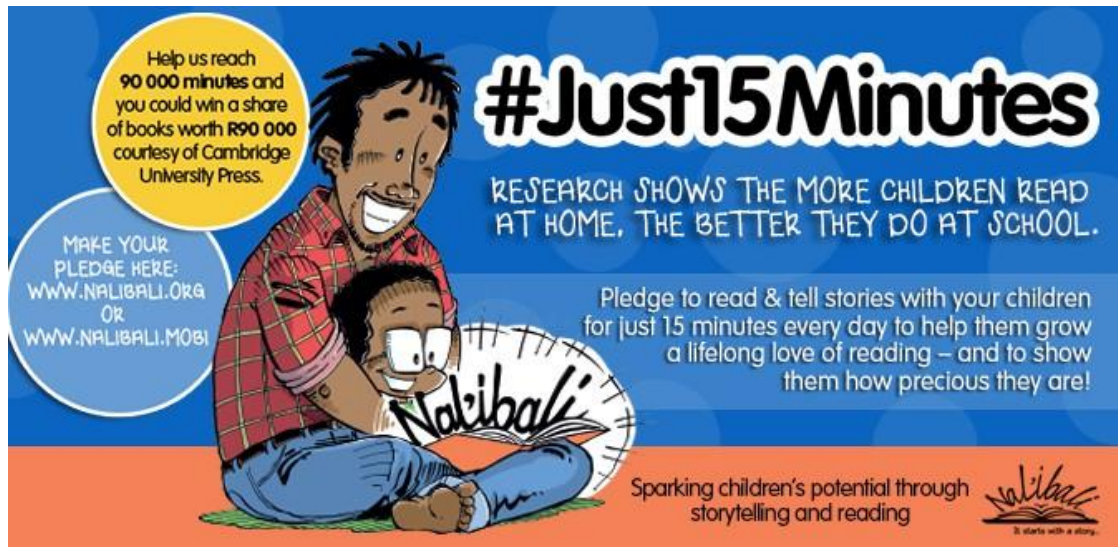
SA PEN Event - PEN Dialogue: *The Politics of Publishing and Bookselling*, Monday, 19th May 2014, Cape Town

A video, along with photos taken at this event can be viewed at www.sapen.co.za or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFhDC5jXKJM>. With grateful thanks to Liesl Jobson and John Hishin for their services.

Details of the next SA PEN Dialogue will be announced in due course.

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Nal'ibali - Pledge #Just15Minutes. Deadline = 30th June 2014



This Youth Month, Nal'ibali is calling on adults to play a fundamental role in their children's literacy development by pledging to read or tell stories with them for #Just15Minutes every day. Why? Research shows that being told stories and being read to at home are the things most likely to help make children successful learners at school – yet only 5% of parents in South Africa read to their children.

Starting this Children's Day and throughout the month of June, pledge your #Just15Minutes of reading at <http://nalibali.org/pledge-just15minutes/>. By reading and sharing stories with children a little bit every day, you are showing them that reading can be an enjoyable and entertaining activity. Knowing this is what inspires them to want to read – and then to read more and more. This is how they establish a satisfying, lifelong relationship with books and reading. What's more, reading to children every day no matter how busy you are, means you are making time for them. This sends them a loving message and shows them how important they are.

If you're not sure where to start, read our tips for how to get reading and how to get storytelling with children. You can also visit our Story section for a range of stories to tell in 6 South African languages. Make your pledge today and show your children how precious they are!

If you would like to endorse this project and be featured on Facebook go to <https://www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA>. As a writer check out and like and support Nal'ibali too.

Don't forget to like the SA PEN Facebook page as well while you are at it! <https://www.facebook.com/southafricanpen>

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Short Story Day Competition. Deadline = 30th June 2014

Before every inch of the world had been explored, cartographers denoted uncharted territories as *terra incognita*. This year, Short Story Day Africa asks writers to look deep into their imaginations to draw out stories fantastical and mythical. Envision Africa in the future, or an alternative history to the ones we've been told and sold. Dragons in Diamey? Werewolves in Windhoek? Don't be passé – think beyond what you already know about speculative fiction. Here be dragons. Here be lions. Step off those well-worn paths into *terra incognita*.

Short Story Day Africa wants your speculative fiction: horror, fantasy, dystopian, sci-fi, alternative history and magical realism all fit the bill.

Go to <http://shortstorydayafrica.org/write-2014-2/terra-incognita/> for full details of this year's Short Story Day competition and prizes.

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Franschhoek Literary Festival - SA PEN event: The Importance of Reading
By Adré Marshall

Photo courtesy of L. Jobson



At this well-attended PEN event, Margie Orford (SA PEN), discussed with Carole Bloch (PRAESA), Mark Heywood (Section 27) and Eleanor Sisulu (Pukupedia), the importance of reading as “a critical skill for learning and a lifelong enjoyment of books.”

Mark Heywood pointed out that in terms of Section 27 of the Constitution, all citizens have a right not only to social justice but also to education. A quality education for all, which is based on a high level of literacy, is a democratic right which is being denied particularly to the poor communities in our country. “It is tragic that today the doors of learning and culture are closed on poor people.” Only 7% of schools have an adequately stocked library. As for public libraries, there is at present a backlog of 2 7000 libraries. Ironically, great importance was attached to libraries, and to learning and culture generally, by the first generation of African leaders.

Carol Bloch spoke about PRAESA's support for the Nal'ibali Reading for Enjoyment campaign. Through this project, selected children's stories are translated into a number of indigenous languages so that children can read stories in a language they understand. Nal'ibali creates bilingual stories which are widely published in six provinces. Almost 80 stories so far have been translated into five languages. (*Ed's note: SA PEN has assisted with the translation work thanks to funding received from PEN International*). A network of workshops where adults read to children contributes to fostering an interest in, and enthusiasm for, reading. This is in accordance with the global emphasis on children's literacy, on early reading. Reading should not be for utilitarian purposes only but also, primarily, for pleasure.

Elinor Sisulu, according to Carol, represents this “pleasure principle”! Elinor is active in the “African Story Book Project”, which publishes stories in a number of African countries.

She deplores the neglect today of the great tradition of African literature and actively strives to contribute to a revival of this rich tradition. An example of this is the Xhosa Children’s Literary Festival in Grahamstown, site of the traditional Grahamstown Arts Festival, which originally catered mainly for the white middle class. Elinor stressed that “*all* citizens must be touched by the arts”, and the gap between rich schools and poor schools must be closed.

The social and political consequences of low levels of literacy need to be emphasized. Citizens play a crucial role in democracy but if denied literacy, they are denied the building blocks of education. Furthermore, African literature is not accorded a place in our schools.

Elinor pointed out that it is a fallacy that “learning to read is hard, as it is not natural”. Well trained, motivated teachers can stimulate and develop an interest in reading at an early age. Children have the right *to enjoy* reading. After Grade 3, all reading material is in English so pupils who do not have English as their mother-tongue tend to learn by rote and their creativity is stifled. In spite of the relatively large allocation of funds to education, the performance of South African children is worse than that of other African countries such as Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, etc. This could be partly because in the budget, Higher Education gets more than Primary Education, whereas the foundation phase is in fact vitally important.

The attitude of some teachers and librarians in South Africa could also be a factor. “National Book Week in the Nelson Mandela Metropole last year was undermined - by striking librarians! Writers such as Zakes Mda, Sindiwe Magona and others were denied the right to talk and inspire a love of reading in the community.”

Elinor Sisulu further pointed out that the populist political culture is playing a destructive role.

Questions from the audience raised issues such as:

- What about ‘the heard word’? Nal’ibali publishes stories, but rhymes, songs, and other forms of orality are also important. Orality feeds literacy and vice versa.
- Children also need non-fiction books on phenomena such as dinosaurs, black holes etc.
- The Fundzi Literacy Project caters for teenage readers; stories are told on cell phones, stories relevant to the lives of teenagers.
- A continuum between digital and print should be fostered.
- And the good news: in Franschhoek, all the schools are now equipped with libraries staffed by librarians. (Congratulations to the organisers of the Franschhoek Literary Festival, which has contributed to this achievement).

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On Reading

By Jill Morsbach, 17/05/14

I attended the PEN talk on the subject of reading at the Franschoek Literary Festival; it was all very serious but needful and important stuff, and it's so encouraging to hear about all the organisations and ventures that are working in the poorer areas to foster literacy. Herewith some thoughts on reading.



I'm afraid a culture of reading is fast on the demise, especially amongst young people. Reading is a skill that I think is eventually going to die out, like jousting in the Middle Ages. People no longer challenge one another in the lists, with horse and lance. Jousting took practice, courage and perseverance to get it right. So does reading.

Today young people just don't have the time, or make the time, to read. I foresee that in the future, not all that distant, the written language will have been reduced to a few cryptic symbols, like quirky faces and punctuation marks, to convey the whole gamut of human expression. We're seeing it now, in sms and internet language. At school, children will learn only these basic symbols, which will be perfectly adequate to convey the minimum of meaning — all that will be required in a rushed world where there isn't enough time to read or write long messages. Or long anything.

Oh, the spoken language will stay, of course, but in an impoverished form. How many adjectives are there in the tomes of the Greater Oxford Dictionary? I wouldn't like to guess. But already most young people know only two: cool, and awesome. On top of that there is the present universal vendetta being waged by literary people against the adjective as well as the adverb. Steer clear of them, they advise authors. Stick to nouns and verbs. What these descriptive words have done to deserve such ostracism, I am not at all sure. Suffice it to say this is one more step on the path to language impoverishment.

In a hundred years' time our coal and oil will have run out and there'll be no more electricity. Thus no more cellphones, no internet, no Kindles, no written language at all, because pen and paper — that is, books — will long be obsolete. By then, on the spoken front, we may well be so limited of choice that we will be forced to resort to grunts, sighs, groans and gestures as our means of communicating.

Well, we started off that way, several thousand years ago, in our caves. Who's to say before many more decades have passed that we won't have come full circle?

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A warm **welcome to new member**: Mark Heywood

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Franschhoek Literary Festival

By James Clarke

We'll make more effort next year. I am talking of my partner and I who attended the annual Franschhoek Literary Festival in May for the first time. Through failing to book we were able to attend far too few of the one-hour discussions groups that popped up throughout the weekend.

At least we made a valuable discovery – we discovered Franschhoek itself. This delightful Western Cape village, nestling in a valley, must be the cosiest in South Africa.

We stayed at la Petite Ferme in a charming self-catering lakeside cottage above the valley; a valley gilded by the deep autumn colours of vineyards, pin oaks and a fiery red maple that outshone the sun. I didn't count the number of restaurants in town, but there's such a choice that we were tempted to cancel our journey east to De Hoop just so that we could sample a couple more.

Most are French in character and French in name for the area was the major French Huguenot settlement 400 years ago. In recent years, thanks to the vision of a retired Johannesburg couple, Dennis and Penny Gordon, the village has become South Africa's gourmet capital.

Penny, the main initiator in helping Franschhoek become South Africa's gourmet capital, worked with her husband on the *Rand Daily Mail*. The family, including their son, well-known chef Matthew, owns three restaurants – Matthew being the restaurant kingpin now. Penny's main business concern is her Belgian chocolate factory.

The Literary Festival attracts writers and readers by the thousands and is the highlight of the village's year. Its main street is thronged with people, all with a common interest – books.

Curiously there was very little talk of e-books. Curious because so many authors – including best selling writers – are nowadays abandoning conventional publishing in favour of “self-publishing” via the electronic medium. They (should I say “we”) call themselves “indies” (for independent). Royalties are far higher and far more frequent.

Even so, most authors, including me, like to see their work between covers. Vanity I suppose. Ironic that – it used to be self-publishing that was known as vanity publishing until very recently.

And most readers insist real books look nicer, smell nicer and feel better than an electronic tablet which, of course, they do. Having a foot in both worlds I often wonder if the e-book threatens the existence of the conventional book. Then I think, was the bus ever a threat to the car industry?

The vibrant festival and its street markets stage one-hour talk shows wherever there's room – in the church, school halls; even the council chamber. Many were so popular there wasn't even standing room.

Although many literary stars were black there were disappointingly few in the audiences. Which brings me to one of the discussions. It was chaired by Michael Jordaan, ex CEO of FNB. Under his interrogation – all very

humorous – was thrilled writer and public relations person, Angela Makholwa; *Black Like You* writer and entrepreneur Herman Mashaba; author Peter Vundla; and author/entrepreneur, Bertie du Plessis. But only two black people were in the audience. Why so few?

A comment from the floor provided a clue. A speaker said he found children in a township school struggling with Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. What on earth is the relevance of Shakespeare? How can schools foist advanced literature on youngsters before they have learnt to enjoy reading?

Roald Dahl put it well when he said, “Books (for young people) should not be daunting, they should be funny, exciting and wonderful; and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage.”

The sole aim for an English teacher should surely be to get children to *love* reading. Sadly, reading is a pain to far too many children today.

Ed's note: This piece is based on James' column, “Stoep Talk”, and was first published in *The Star* and “Speaker's Corner” in the *Independent on Saturday* in Durban). Re e-book and “indie” publishing – James now has six books published as e-books and 30 as conventional books.

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ArtBeat Afrika – Call for Submissions – Deadline = 30th July 2014

Artbeat Afrika, a community of Contemporary African Creative Writers are calling for submissions for their first short story anthology. All published and unpublished African writers are invited to submit stories. For further information go to <http://storymojafrica.wordpress.com/2014/03/20/artbeat-afrika-call-out-for-submissions/>

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PEN International New Voices Award 2014

Earlier in the year SA PEN was once again invited by PEN International to submit two entries, from unpublished South African writers aged 18 to 30, for the 2014 PEN International New Voices Award. SA PEN asked notable members of the literary community to nominate writers and subsequently a number of writers were invited to submit a work of prose or poetry. A judging panel read the fourteen submissions received “blind” (i.e. they were not aware of the author of each piece) and selected two works to send on to PEN International.

We now await the results of PEN International's “blind” judging process. Last year our nominee, Masande Ntshanga, won the inaugural New Voices Award.

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Congratulations Corner!

Congratulations to Lauren Beukes on winning the 2013/2014 University of Johannesburg Prize for South African Writing in English for her novel *The Shining Girls*. *The Shining Girls* has also been nominated for the British Fantasy Awards, Best Horror Novel category.

Also nominated in the British Fantasy Awards, Best Anthology category, is *End of the Road* which includes a story by S.L. Grey (aka Louis Greenberg & Sarah Lotz).



Congratulations to S.A. Partridge on winning the M.E.R. Prize for best youth novel at the Media24 Books Literary Awards for *Sharp Edges*.



Congratulations to Maya Fowler on the occasion of her marriage to Grant earlier in the year. Maya's book *The Elephant in the Room* is now available on Goodreads at https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9530011-the-elephant-in-the-room?from_search=true. Feel free to rate the book or note accordingly if you "Want to read" it.



Congratulations to the SA PEN members who were longlisted for this year's *Sunday Times* Literary Awards. They are:



For the *Sunday Times* Fiction Prize:

- Lauren Beukes for *The Shining Girls* (Umuzi)
- SL Grey for *The New Girl* (Corvus/Atlantic Books)
- Zakes Mda for *The Sculptors of Mapungubwe* (Kwela)
- Niq Mhlongo for *Way Back Home* (Kwela)
- Margie Orford for *Water Music* (Jonathan Ball)
- Meg Vandermerwe for *Zebra Crossing* (Umuzi)
- James Whyle for *Walk* (Jacana Media)
- Rachel Zadok for *Sister-Sister* (Kwela)

For the *Sunday Times* Alan Paton Award:

- Max du Preez for *A Rumour of Spring: South Africa after 20 Years of Democracy* (Zebra Press)
- Christa Kuljian for *Sanctuary: How an Inner-City Church Spilled onto a Sidewalk* (Jacana Media)
- Toni Strasburg for *Fractured Lives* (Modjaji Books)

A Rumour of Spring and *The Shining Girls* were subsequently shortlisted. The winners will be announced on the 28th June 2014.

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Margie Orford on “Surveillance in South Africa: a Grievous Bodily Harm”

Margie Orford presented a paper in New York in 2013 at a PEN America event. A student at the University of Cape Town in the 1980s, journalist Margie Orford's anecdotes retell a story of oppression and surveillance in her native South Africa. Revisiting history, Orford examines how half a century of surveillance has repainted the post-Apartheid landscape of South Africa, not only in the political sphere, but also in terms of literature.

The paper can be read at <http://www.pen.org/surveillance-south-africa-grievous-bodily-harm>

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‘Africa 39’

‘Africa 39’ is an initiative of the UK-Based Hay Festival which it carries out with World Book Capitals - with Bogota in 2007 and Beirut in 2010. This project comprises the selection and celebration of 39 writers under the age of 40 who have the potential to define the literature of an area or language. ‘Africa 39’ features writers from Africa, South of the Sahara.

The research to arrive at the names of the authors was carried out by Kenyan author Binyavanga Wainana. A long list of about 100 names emerged from screening of the over 200 entries from Africa and the diaspora responded to a call that drew participation from authors, publishers, academics, libraries, readers, etc., around Africa and the diaspora. The panel of judges, who selected the final 39 were- Elechi Amadi, Margaret Busby and Tess Onwueme.

The 39 writers have been commissioned to write for an anthology to be published by Bloomsbury with foreword by Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka. Ellah Allfree will edit the Africa 39 anthology.

The list of the 39 was unveiled at the Port Harcourt World Book Capital stand at the London Book Fair in April and includes SA PEN member Stanley Kenani, Sifiso Mzombe, Zukiswa Wanner and Mary Watson

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Book Reviews by Tim Anderson, 28/05/2014

From time to time SA PEN receives publications from other PEN centres. Tim Anderson recently reviewed two such publications.

PRISON POEMS

By Mahvash Sabet. Translated and adapted from the original Persian. Published by George Ronald, Publisher, Ltd, Oxford.

The poet is a middle-aged mother of two children and is currently serving a 20-year prison sentence for being prominent in the disapproved Bahai religion and therefore indirectly a security threat, but her conviction was (had to be) on contrived political grounds. She had been a psychologist and teacher as well as a school principal, but after the Iranian Revolution she was dismissed and barred from teaching at any state school. Her poems are lovely to read, quite beautiful and extraordinarily free of rancour and bitterness. She is resigned to her situation but doesn't ignore the misery and helplessness of unjust incarceration. She remains sharply observant of small events while evidently communicating some comfort to fellow inmates.

NORTH KOREAN WRITERS IN EXILE, PEN Literature, 2014 1st Issue

The first 84 pages of this collection is background material and is interesting and relevant.

All the stories and many of the poems are disappointingly similar in their themes, which is hardly surprising given the cruelty, oppression and persecution which pervades everyday life in North Korea. Nevertheless the poets come over as much more creative than the novelists! The translations seem over-literal and are very wooden, failing to convey the literary styles of their authors - perhaps because the originals themselves lacked distinctiveness. Many of the stories are heavy with dialogue and short on narrative background. Nearly every character has a multi-syllable name unmemorable to Western readers and this makes it tedious to follow story development. What cannot be excused are the hundreds of literals; it seems that no English-speaker checked the final proofs.

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2014 ImpACT Awards open for nominations – Deadline = 8th August 2014

12/05/2014 - The Arts & Culture Trust (ACT) invites nominations for its ImpACT Awards for Young Professionals, which are presented as part of their annual Awards Ceremony held in recognition and celebration of excellence in South African arts, culture and creativity.

Since 1998, the ACT Awards have recognised individuals and organisations that have made significant contributions to cultural life in South Africa. A prominent element of the ACT Awards is the presentation of prestigious Lifetime Achievement Awards allocated by the ACT Board of Trustees. Additionally, four ImpACT Awards are awarded annually to honour young professional artists whose work has made an impact within the first five years of their professional careers.

Public nominations are now open in the four categories which include:

ImpACT Award for Theatre - Artists practicing the disciplines of Dance, Acting, Writing for Theatre, Musical Theatre and Physical Theatre are eligible for nomination.

For more information and to submit your nominations go to <http://tinyurl.com/lc29a66> or <http://www.act.org.za/programmes/awards.html>.

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Yale Drama Series – [Deadline = 15th August 2014](#)

The Yale Drama Series competition is seeking submissions of new plays for its 2015 award. The winner of this annual competition will be awarded the David C. Horn Prize of \$10 000, the publication of his/her manuscript by Yale University Press, and a reading at Lincoln Center. The 2015 winning play will be selected by Nicholas Wright.

The Yale Drama Series was created in 2007 to support emerging playwrights. Playwrights may only submit one manuscript each year for consideration.

For more information about the Yale Drama Series go to <http://yalepress.yale.edu/yupbooks/drama.asp> or e-mail yaledramaseries@yale.edu.

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University of Leipzig student asks for help

An overseas student is requiring help as per her message below. If you are able to assist her in any way please email Pineapple Jeske directly at apjeske@yahoo.com. Enquiries have been made and the University of Leipzig has confirmed that Pineapple is working on such a thesis.

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

I am a student of English Studies at the University of Leipzig, Germany. I am preparing to write my final thesis on the topic "Great Britain and its people through the eyes of South African and Australian female travellers". Having searched already for quite a while but still not found any primary literature on this topic (preferably from the last 20 years; if not possible from the last 50 years) I found your organisation and wanted to ask whether you can possibly help me with author names, where else to search, maybe whom else to contact, etc.

I would be very happy if you could maybe give some advice - even my consulting professors indicated it could be difficult to find something, which I hope to disprove.

Thank you very much for your help!
Sincerely,
Pineapple Jeske

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South African Book Fair

The South African Book Fair, formerly the Cape Town Book Fair, took place this weekend. A number of SA PEN members participated in events, i.e. Brent Meersman, Mike Nicol, Gabeba Baderoon, Michiel Heyns, Edwin Cameron, Andrew

Brown, Sipiwo Mahala, Ben Williams, Albie Sachs, Imraan Coovadia, Sean O’Toole, and Thando Mgqolozana.

Feedback on the Fair would be welcomed for publication in a future newsletter.

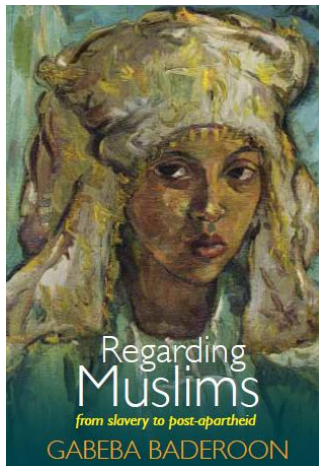
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Forthcoming events

- ❖ **National Short Story Day** - 21st June 2014. www.shortstorydayafrica.org
- ❖ **National Arts Festival** - 3rd to 13th July 2014, Grahamstown. www.nationalartsfestival.co.za
- ❖ **Fermoy International Poetry Festival** – 31st July to 4th August 2014, Ireland. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fermoy-International-Poetry-Festival/670944919601851>

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Members’ Publications



Regarding Muslims: from Slavery to Post-apartheid by Gabeba Baderoon

How do Muslims fit into South Africa’s well-known narratives of colonialism, apartheid and post-apartheid?

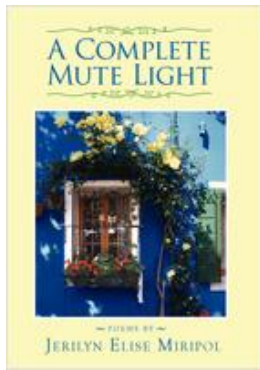
South Africa is notorious for apartheid, but this system of institutionalised racism was first shaped by 176 years of slavery and its brutality. Slaves from East Africa, India and South-East Asia, many of whom were Muslim, constituted the majority of the population of the initial Cape Colony.

Regarding Muslims argues that the 350-year archive of images documenting Muslims in South Africa is central to understanding the development of concepts of race, sexuality and belonging. Baderoon explores an extensive repertoire of picturesque Muslim figures in South African popular culture, a set of images whose instability is revealed when more disquieting images burst into prominence during moments of crisis.

Popular culture, visual art, jokes, bodily practices, oral narratives and rich seams of literature reveal the complexity and subtlety of contributions brought to the South African narrative by Muslims, especially in the post-apartheid period, in which artists and writers reclaim and subvert the gaze, and opt for intricacy and open-endedness as alternatives to the themes of extremism and alienation that dominate Western portrayals of Muslims.

Carefully researched, intimate and devastating by turns, *Regarding Muslims* analyses the role of Muslims from South Africa’s founding moments to the contemporary period, and points to the resonance of this analysis for other communities across the globe.

A Complete Mute Light: Poems by Jerilyn Miripol



Jerilyn Elise Miripol was a Fellow at The Ragdale Foundation in 1985. She was accepted to The Breadloaf Writers' Conference in Middlebury, Vermont; The Aspen Writers' Workshop; she received a full-tuition scholarship at The Squaw Valley Community of Writers in Olympic Valley, California; she was asked to study with Pulitzer-Prize Winning poet, Lisel Mueller, at The University of Indiana, Bloomington.

Her poetry was published in a mental-health textbook, "*Group Psychotherapy: Practice and Development*" by Barry Levine PhD which was published by Prentice-Hall.

She is a poet-in-the-prisons teaching writing to prisoners, as well as sending them relevant books for their education, in Lexington, Kentucky, The Pontiac Correctional Center in Illinois and Joliet Prison.

Ms Miripol is a writing-therapist with an office in The Mental Health Center at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, Illinois. She works with students who are on disability (SSI, Medicare and Medicaid) due to their mental illness. She, also, teaches students from the community-at-large through an ad in *The Chicago Tribune*.

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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>