



SOUTH AFRICA

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN CENTRE OF
PEN INTERNATIONAL**

A World Association of Writers

P O Box 30327, Tokai, 7966, Cape Town

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email: rudebs@icon.co.za (Secretary)

email: margie@margieorford.com (President)

www.sapen.co.za or <http://www.facebook.com/southafricanpen>

To: SA PEN Members

E-Newsletter No. 15/2014 – 20/10/2014

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SA PRESS RELEASE 19/10/14

Margie Orford elected to board of PEN International

Award-winning journalist and acclaimed South African writer Margie Orford has been elected to the international board of PEN International, a 10-person body that represents authors, poets, editors and other writers in more than 100 countries around the world. Orford, who is President of the South African PEN Centre, was nominated by a delegate from Denmark, seconded by a delegate from Mexico, and was elected at

the PEN International Congress at Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan earlier this month by what a delegate later described as ``a great vote’’.

Orford joined SA PEN in June 2006 and was appointed Executive Vice President in 2010 and President in June this year following the death of President Anthony Fleischer, author and former General Manager of SA Associated Newspapers (now the Times Media Group).



Orford is a celebrated crime writer. Her novels have been translated into nine languages and include the Clare Hart series of crime thrillers. She obtained a BA Hons degree at the University of Cape Town, writing her final examinations while in prison after having being detained as a student activist in the State of Emergency of 1985.

After travelling widely, she studied under the South African writer, J.M. Coetzee, and worked in publishing in the newly-independent Namibia, where she became involved in training through the African Publishers Network. In 1999 she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and while in New York she worked on a ground-breaking archival retrieval project, *Women Writing Africa: The Southern Volume* published by the Feminist Press.

As a journalist, Orford wrote for *The Guardian*, the *Observer* and *The Telegraph* in Britain and for the *Mail & Guardian*, *The Sunday Times* and *The Cape Times* in South Africa. She has published children’s books, academic books, school text books and non-fiction, including a book on climate change, on rural development in South Africa, and a history of the anti-apartheid group, The Black Sash. Her publications include:

Water Music (Oshun Books, 2013), *The Magic Fish* (2012), *Gallows Hill* (Oshun Books, 2011), *The Little Red Hen* (2011), *Daddy's Girl* (Oshun Books, 2009), *Like Clockwork* (Oshun Books, 2006), *Fabulously 40 And Beyond: Coming Into Your Power An Embracing Change* (2006), *Busi's Big Idea* (2006), *Blood Rose* (2006), *Dancing Queen* (2004), *Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism: Stories from the Developing World* (2004), *Rural Voice: The Social Change Assistance Trust, 1984-2004*, *Working in South Africa* (David Philip, 2004).

She is the patron of Rape Crisis and of the children’s book charity, the Little Hands Trust.

Orford follows the South African Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer who was appointed Vice President of PEN International, a position she held until her death.

South African PEN Centre Vice President, Dr. Raymond Louw, said he is delighted that as a member of the influential international board of PEN Margie Orford will be able to promote the interests of writers and editors in the sub-continent of Africa

where they struggle to meet the many and diverse challenges posed not only by the social and geographical environments but by the frequently severe inroads of governments on their freedoms. She has already made a powerful impact in her short period at PEN International congresses, the latest being at the congress this month where she invoked the World Association of Newspapers Declaration of Table Mountain calling for countries to scrap criminal defamation and ``insult'' laws as well as other restrictions on the press and writers. This resulted in the congress passing a resolution making a similar call on world nations. The timing is particularly appropriate for South Africa because the appeal by a former *Sowetan* journalist, Cecil Motsepe, against a conviction for criminal defamation is currently being heard in the Gauteng High Court.

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Message from Takeaki Hori, International Secretary, PEN International, 17/10/14

Dear PEN Centres,

The 80th Congress of PEN International in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan took place from the 29th September – 2nd October 2014. We would like to congratulate Central Asian PEN for the tremendous success of the Congress and thank them for the warm hospitality they showed to PEN delegates. We hope that all those Centres that attended had a positive experience.

Please find please below the Congress opening speech made by John Ralston Saul, International President.

To access resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Delegates please visit: <http://www.pen-international.org/campaign/how-to-campaign/resolutions-adopted-at-congress-bishkek-kyrgyzstan-2014/>

In addition to the resolutions, the following decisions were taken during the Bishkek Assembly:

1. Margie Orford (South African PEN) and Teresa Cadete (Portuguese PEN) were elected to the Board for a three-year term. Yang Lian and Sylvestre Clancier came to the end of their time on the Board of PEN International. We would like to thank them both for the time they dedicated and the valued contributions they made to PEN International during their time as Board members.
2. Simona Škrabec, (Catalan PEN) was elected Chair of the PEN International Translation and Linguistic Rights Committee for a three-year term.
3. Four new Centres were elected as a member Centres of PEN International: Eritrean PEN, Honduras PEN, Liberian PEN, and Wales PEN Cymru.
4. The Pakistani PEN Centre was declared closed.

We are delighted to inform you all that the 81st PEN International Congress will be held in Québec, Canada, hosted by the Québec PEN Centre, 13-16 October 2015. More details will be available in the coming weeks and months.

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PEN International Congress - Opening speech by PEN International President, John Ralston Saul, 29th September 2014



This is the first time that PEN International has come together, in all of its variety, in Central Asia. Two hundred and fifty writers, 80 PEN Centres, every continent, every kind of writing, so many languages. We will be meeting, debating, talking in public, going into schools, and much more, throughout the city of Bishkek. This is an unprecedented gathering in this part of the world.

Our presence here is, in and of itself, a demonstration of what literature represents and how freedom of expression works.

Writers from throughout the five central Asian countries are gathered together to talk among themselves and with the rest of us. We will focus ourselves on questions of translation, of writers rising above the Russian/Ukrainian conflict, of the unacceptable rise in anti-LGBTQI legislation which limits the freedom of expression of a part of the citizenry in different parts of the world, of languages at risk, of writers in prison and many other issues. As I said a moment ago, our very presence is a demonstration of how freedom of expression works. It is about bringing people together. It is not about everyone being the same or in agreement. It is about expressing our disagreements and developing a thick enough skin to limit those disagreements to words. We all learn through repeated experiences how the discomfort of free expression is tied to social restraint and respect for the differences of others. This is all about the true complexity of rich civilizations.

The welcome in Kyrgyzstan is already remarkable. It is an enormous commitment to organize a Congress. Central Asian PEN has proved that it can be done, and in a new and imaginative way.

One of the strengths of the literature in this region is that it has not lost its links with oral culture. We are seeing around the world an opening up to a new kind of oral culture because of the constant technological breakthroughs. I believe that this unbroken oral tradition in Central Asia carries lessons for all of us as the new oral phenomenon strengthens. Everywhere this may be one of the great lessons we all take away from the 80th Congress in Bishkek.

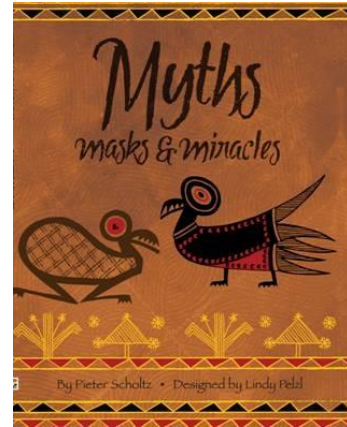
Ed. Margie Orford's report on the Bishkek Congress will appear in a future newsletter.

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Book Launch: *Myths, Masks and Miracles* by Pieter Scholtz, 20th October 2014, Durban

Pieter will be launching his new collection of traditional stories from Africa, illustrated and designed by Lindy Pelzl, on Monday evening, 29th September 2014. (This event was originally scheduled to take place in September but was postponed)

Venue: St. Clements, 191 Musgrave Road, Durban
RSVP: (031) 202-2511
For further information contact Pieter Scholtz at kwasukal@mweb.co.za



Most African countries have kept their cultural traditions and beliefs alive for thousands of years through their myths, legends and folktales. The stories in this collection are based on creation myths and folktales from various parts of Africa. They include stories about the pharaohs of Ancient Egypt and the legendary kings of Ghana, as well as stories about the ordinary people of Africa, rich and poor.

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Junkets Publisher - A Keats Competition

Closing date for entries is midnight tomorrow, **21st October 2014** so that results can be published on Johnny Keats's birthday 10 days later, on 31st October. Prizes will be "Keatsian". Contact Robin Malan at robinmal@iafrica.com for competition details.

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English PEN members protest banning of UK memoir

Today, 17th October, leading writers and PEN members including John Carey, David Hare and Tom Stoppard voiced concerns in a letter published in the *Daily Telegraph* regarding a court ruling that prevents the publication of a memoir in the UK.

We believe that the judgment is a significant threat to freedom of expression. It is likely that it could be used to prevent publication of books and journalism in the future, on the grounds that the content may cause psychological harm to an individual.

The defendants are currently considering appealing to the Supreme Court. The current backlog of cases means that it may not get heard for at least a year. However, if there is enough of an outcry about the judgment, then this may speed up the process. We are therefore inviting all English PEN members and **supporters** to show your support by adding your name to our petition.

For more information and to add your name, please visit the English PEN website: <http://www.englishpen.org/campaigns/pen-members-protest-banning-of-uk-memoir/>

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TechSmart and Gigabyte want your South African Sci-Fi short story!

All aspiring writers, if you have a science-fiction short story in you, it's time to put fingers to keyboard and send it to us. Why? Well you could have the opportunity to have your story published in TechSmart. Good enough some might say, but more importantly, there's an amazing Gigabyte U2440N notebook up for grabs for our overall winner, worth R10 000!

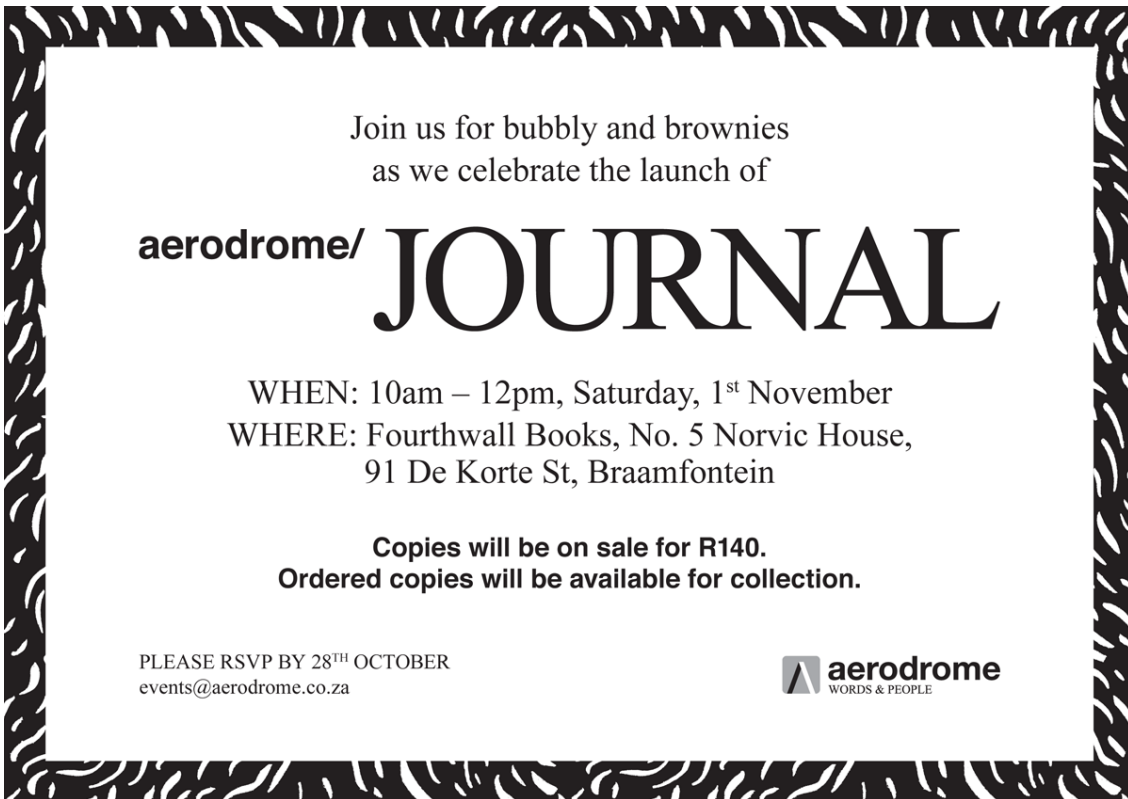
There's a little twist though; all sci-fi stories must have a South African angle. Whether it's Jabraltians invading Jozi, Cape Town stuck in a Cerebral Time Vortex, or Durban doppelgangers poisoning prime-ministers – get Mzansi in there!

So, if you think you are the next Asimov, Clarke, Dick, Herbert or Heinlein, start writing today!

Go to <http://techsmart.co.za/news/TechSmart-Gigabyte-Sci-Fi-Short-Story-Competition.html> for further information. Entries close **31st October 2014**.

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aerodrome/JOURNAL lands in Jozi – 1st November 2014, Johannesburg




Join us for bubbly and brownies
as we celebrate the launch of

aerodrome/ JOURNAL

WHEN: 10am – 12pm, Saturday, 1st November
WHERE: Fourthwall Books, No. 5 Norvic House,
91 De Korte St, Braamfontein

**Copies will be on sale for R140.
Ordered copies will be available for collection.**

PLEASE RSVP BY 28TH OCTOBER
events@aerodrome.co.za



Bronwyn Law-Viljoen will be in conversation with AERODROME's Alexander Matthews and Djameela Dollie Daniels from 10.30 – 10.45 about the journal.

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Literary Snippets

The 2014 Nobel Prize for Literature winner is Patrick Modiano. Patrick is the 111th winner of this prize.

Richard Flanagan has won the 2014 Man Booker Prize for his novel *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*.

400 independent publishers from 45 countries signed the International Declaration of independent publishers 2014, collectively drafted during the closing meeting of the International Assembly of Independent publishers held in Cape Town, 18th -21st September 2014. Go to <http://www.alliance-editeurs.org/?lang=en> to read the Declaration.

RIP Chris van Wyk, South African children’s book author, novelist and poet (1957 – 3rd October 2014).

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Call for Applications: Writer And/Or Storyteller-In-Residence

A professional writer and/or storyteller is sought for the position of Writer/Storyteller-in-Residence at the University of Manitoba's Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture. The three-month residency, from 8th September to 8th December 2015, will require the successful candidate to spend approximately 16 hours per week providing mentorship and practical artistic advice to developing writers and storytellers at the University of Manitoba, to give a limited number of readings and/or performances on campus, and to lead an informal non-credit workshop. The remaining time is to be devoted to the writer or storyteller’s own artistic projects. The successful candidate will receive a salary of \$15 000.00 CAD, plus rent-free accommodation and return transportation to Winnipeg. There may also be a separate additional residency from 3rd January to 3rd April 2016, subject to availability of funds, so applicants are encouraged to mention their availability during this period as well. The application deadline is Friday, **7th November 2014**. Please contact ccwoc@cc.umanitoba.ca for full application details.

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Patricia Schonstein has a new blog. Go to <http://www.blog.patriciaschonstein.com/?p=1706#more> and <http://patriciaschonstein.bookslive.co.za/blog/2014/09/12/poetry-in-the-art-of-john-kramer/>



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Junkets Publisher – Thundafund

In an attempt to focus on the rich storytelling heritage of South Africa, last year Junkets Publisher put out a call for short plays that were stage adaptations of African folktales suitable for performance or rehearsed reading in the upper Grades of the primary school and the lower Grades of the high school.

37 plays were submitted. The entire process of compiling (reading, assessing, selecting, discussing) was done using pseudonyms: apart from plays they may have written and submitted themselves, the co-compilers did not know who had written which plays until the entire process was completed.

The quality of the submissions persuaded the compilers that there was material good enough for two volumes. Junkets Publisher will now publish the two volumes, with 12 plays in each volume. *African Folktales Onstage! 1 & 2* will appear at the same time at the end of this year, 2014, or early in 2015.

Regular means of funding being tricky at the moment, after an initial grant of R10 000,00 from the Distell Foundation, Junkets has taken the step of going to Thundafund, who are guiding us through a crowdfunding campaign. This has the nerve-wracking element of a ‘tipping-point’: if we don’t reach R25 000 by the end of the 45-day campaign, all pledges are returned to the supporters and we get nothing at all. So, it is essential to try to urge everyone we know to get involved in the campaign.

As of 7th October 2014, the amount raised is R10 650,00. Anyone interested in helping us along, please go to [https:// www.thundafund.com/junkets](https://www.thundafund.com/junkets) to browse around and see if you can assist by backing us to a certain amount and receiving a reward from us.

Robin Malan, Junkets Publisher

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Writers Boot Camp comes to Cape Town, 24th – 29th November 2014

Writers’ Studio in conjunction with Cape Town Central Library present five days of writing workshops for emerging and established writers. Facilitated by acclaimed writers and teachers, and fuelled by peer critique, the daily sessions are designed to help participants assess their own work objectively while working on issues of craft. A series of evening events and a story exchange seminar powered by Narrative 4 will complete the workshops.

The Writers Boot Camp will be facilitated by Jeffery Renard Allen, Rob Spillman, Rachel Zadok, Binyavanga Wainaina and Jenna Bass. Guest speakers will include Ntone Edjabe and Siphiwo Mahala.

How to Apply - Send a writing sample, your best short story (3 000 words max) and a short bio to meandmymanuscript@gmail.com by midnight of **31st October 2014**. Selected applicants will be informed by 8th of November 2014.

The workshop is non-residential and, as such, participants are responsible for all logistical aspects of their participation.

The workshop is free, participants will not be charged a participation fee.

Writers' Studio organises programs for anyone wishing to nurture their creativity, stimulate their imagination and develop their writing skills. Writers' Studio is for both beginner writers, would like to learn the fundamentals of writing, and experienced writers who wish to sharpen their writing skills. Writers' Studio was started in 2013 by Nigerian writer, Samuel Kolawole. Writers' Studio has successfully organised writing workshops in several major cities in Nigeria with hundreds of writers participating. The project was so well-received that in 2014 the organization decided to extend their activities to other African countries. In June 2014, Writers' Studio, in collaboration with the Center for African Cultural Excellence (CACE), the Prince Claus Fund, the Danish Centre for Culture and Development, Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa, and The African Writers Trust, presented a five day workshop during the WRITIVISM Festival in Kampala, Uganda. The project was in collaboration with Center for African Cultural Excellence (CACE). Past facilitators of Writers' Studio workshops have included, amongst others, literary agent David Godwin; Zukiswa Wanner; NoViolet Bulawayo; Abubakar Adam Ibrahim; Toni Kan; Igoni Barrett; Yewande Omotoso; Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi and Ayodele Morroco Clarke.

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Congratulations Corner!

Congratulations to **Lauren Beukes** on winning a British Fantasy Award 2014, The August Derleth Award for best horror novel for *The Shining Girls*.

Congratulations to **Diane Awerbuck** – her story, *Leatherman*, has been chosen as a finalist for this year's Short Story Day Africa competition.

Congratulations to **Lauren Beukes and Sarah Lotz** and on being nominated for a 2014 Mbokodo Award. These awards are aimed at recognising southern African women in the arts.



Congratulations to **Zukiswa Wanner** on representing South Africa at Africa39 events at the Port Harcourt Book Festival, held in Nigeria over the weekend.

Congratulations to the following 2014 South African Literary Award nominees:
Poetry Award - **Kobus Moolman**, *Left Over*
Nadine Gordimer Short Story Award - **Gary Cummiskey**, *Off-ramp* AND **Liesl Jobson**, *Ride the Tortoise*
K Sello Duiker Memorial Literary Award (For Young Writers) - **Jamala Safari**, *The Great Agony and Pure laughter of the Gods*
Creative Non-Fiction Award - **Toni Strasburg**, *Fractured Lives*

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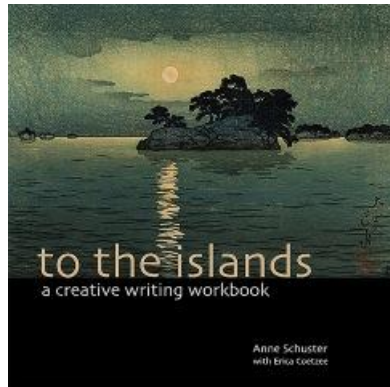
Forthcoming events

- ❖ **McGregor Poetry Festival** – 23rd to 26th October 2014. www.mcgregorpoetryfestival.co.za
- ❖ **BookBedonned Literary Festival** – 23rd to 25th October 2014, Richmond in the Karoo. www.richmondnc.co.za
- ❖ **PEN International Day of the Dead** – 2nd November 2014.
- ❖ **International African Writers’ Day** - 7th November 2014.
- ❖ **Prins Albert Leesfees** - 7th to 9th November 2014. www.princealbert.org.za/forthcoming/leesfees-2014/leesfees-programme-2014/
- ❖ **Aldeburgh Poetry Festival** – 7th to 9th November 2014, UK. www.thepoetrytrust.org/festival/programme/
- ❖ **PEN International Day of the Imprisoned Writer** – 15th November 2014
- ❖ **International Day To End Impunity For Crimes Against Journalists** – 23rd November 2014. www.daytoendimpunity.org

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Members’ Publications

To The Islands: A Creative Writing Workbook by Anne Schuster with Erica Coetzee



Based on a course designed by acclaimed writing facilitator, Anne Schuster, this practical, inspirational and invaluable guide will encourage writers to pick up their pens and start cultivating a writing habit.

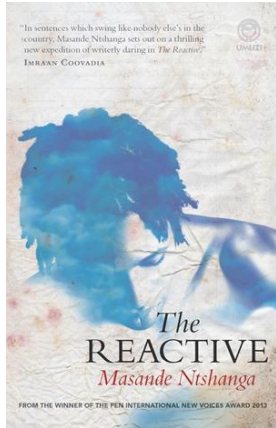
Discover five imaginary islands that lie waiting for you in the sea of creativity, each with an itinerary specially devised to lead you on writing adventures. Sail to the Island of Wu-Wei, where writing is effortless. Follow your creative intuition around the Island of Wuzhi and write spontaneously on the Island of Ziran. Visit the Island of Xin to write from the body and explore creative tension on the Island of Yin-Yang.

There are many approaches to 'learning' creative writing. The approach that underpins this workbook is inspired by practice. It is founded on the idea that what writers need most is to write. Writers find their feet by writing. They tune their voices by writing. To write frequently and with abandon allows you to explore the palettes and scenery of your creative universe. It is through writing that you discover your own islands.

Using poetry and prose, the 25 excursions in this workbook will encourage you to experiment and cultivate a writing habit, even if you only have half an hour a day to spare, while the writing tips and quotes from teachers and authors will keep you focused and inspired.

To the Islands can be purchased at <http://www.anneschuster.co.za/index.php?page=order2> or by contacting info@anneschuster.co.za. It is also available in bookstores nationwide. Cost = R240,00

The Reactive by Masande Ntshanga



In a city that has lost its shimmer, Lindanathi and his two friends Ruan and Cecelia sell illegal pharmaceuticals while chasing their next high. Lindanathi, deeply troubled by his hand in his brother's death, has turned his back on his family, until a message from home reminds him of a promise he made years before. When a puzzling masked man enters their lives, Lindanathi is faced with a decision: continue his life in Cape Town, or return to his family and to all he has left behind. Rendered in lyrical, bright prose and set in a not-so-new South Africa, *The Reactive* is a poignant, life-affirming story about secrets, memory, chemical abuse and family, and the redemption that comes from facing what haunts us most.

Masande Ntshanga is the winner of the inaugural, 2013 PEN International New Voices Award.

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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>