

To: SA PEN Members

E-Newsletter No. 16/2013 – 12/09/2013



SOUTH AFRICA

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

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CONTENTS:

- South African author wins PEN International's inaugural New Voices Award
- SA PEN calls on President Jacob Zuma to tackle Russia on Freedom of Expression issues at the G20 Summit
- Congratulations!
- *The Shining Girls* Charity Art Show for Rape Crisis. **Exhibition runs until 13th September 2013**
- Publications received
- Open Book Breaks a Record!
- EU leaders, stop mass surveillance
- Ronnie Kasrils' Q & A as published in the *Saturday Argus*, 31st August 2013
- Forthcoming events
- Junkets – Early Bird Scheme

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South African author wins PEN International's inaugural New Voices Award
SA PEN Press Release, 12th September 2013

The South African PEN centre of PEN International (SA PEN) is pleased to advise that **PEN International's inaugural New Voices Award** was yesterday awarded to local writer **Masande Ntshanga**. The annual award was established to encourage new writing in the countries in which PEN International operates and to provide a much needed space for young and unpublished writers to submit their work. The award actively encouraged entries from diverse linguistic regions and communities.

Masande is one of three young writers from around the world to have made this year's shortlist. All three writers are in attendance at the 79th PEN International annual Congress, being held in Reykjavik, Iceland this week, and have read from their work at an event held as part of the Reykjavík International Literary Festival.

Masande was awarded a cash prize of **\$1,000 USD** and his winning entry will be published in *PEN International* magazine. A selection of the texts submitted for the award will appear in a special e-anthology.

The 2013 award was open to unpublished writers aged 18-30. PEN International invited PEN centres around the world to submit works from one male and one female writer of their choice. SA PEN asked notable members of the literary community to nominate writers and subsequently twenty-one writers were invited to submit a work of prose or poetry. A judging panel read the submissions “blind” (i.e. they were not aware of the author of each piece) and selected two works to send on to PEN International. Similarly, the submissions that PEN International received were judged “blindly” by a panel consisting of Hephzibah Anderson, Bibi Bakare-Yusuf, Carole Blake, Alain Mabanckou, Sjón, and Luisa Valenzuela.

SA PEN’s Executive Vice-President, Margie Orford, said “Masande Ntshanga was yesterday awarded the inaugural PEN International/New Voices Award at a wonderful event in Reykjavik, Iceland, for his story *Space*. Masande is a rare talent and an assured and lyrical writer. It is wonderful that a young South African won this prestigious award.”



Masande Ntshanga

Laura McVeigh, Executive Director of PEN International, said “In each generation literary talent finds a way to rise to the top, but the New Voices Award aims to speed up this process by highlighting work by writers still unpublished. We're delighted to celebrate this talent with PEN Centres from around the world in the inaugural PEN International/New Voices Award, which continues PEN's tradition of bringing together writers worldwide to promote literature and free expression.”

Read the shortlisted stories here: <http://www.pen-international.org/pen-internationalnew-voices-award/>

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For more go to <http://www.oprahmag.co.za/view/2570/sas-masande-ntshanga-wins-2013-pen-international-new-voices-award> or diarise to pick up the November issue of *The Oprah Magazine SA*, on sale from 21st October.

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SA PEN calls on President Jacob Zuma to tackle Russia on Freedom of Expression issues at the G20 Summit
SA PEN Press Release, 29th August 2013

Free expression in Russia is under considerable threat. During the last 18 months, Russian lawmakers have passed three pieces of legislation that severely curtail writers' and activists' right to express themselves freely:

- In July 2012, criminal libel law was re-introduced to Russian law. Media outlets now face fines of up to US\$ 153,000 if they are judged to have made a libellous statement.
- In June 2013, Article 148 of the Russian Criminal Code was amended, making any act that insults religious feelings a criminal offence, with punishments of up to three years' imprisonment.
- Also in June 2013, the so-called 'anti-gay propaganda' law was passed, banning any activity that could be construed as promoting a non-heterosexual lifestyle. This new law created a series of administrative penalties in the form of fines, suspensions for legal entities, and deportations for foreign nationals.

PEN International raised its concerns regarding these laws and the Pussy Riot case in their submission to [Russia's Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\)](http://www.pen-international.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/PEN_UPR-Russia_Final-Version-12-09-28.pdf) (http://www.pen-international.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/PEN_UPR-Russia_Final-Version-12-09-28.pdf) at the UN in 2013.

Emblematic of this regressive approach to free expression is the continued imprisonment of Nadezhda Tolokonnivova and Mariya Alekhina, two members of the female punk band Pussy Riot. Tolokonnivova, Alekhina and another member of the band, Yekaterina Samutsevich, were convicted in August 2012 on charges of 'hooliganism motivated by religious hatred'. This followed Pussy Riot's performance of a 'punk prayer' at the Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Moscow in February 2012. Each woman was punished with a two-year prison sentence (Samutsevich's sentence was later suspended).

The convictions and sentencing of Tolokonnivova, Alekhina and Samutsevich – which have been widely condemned inside Russia and throughout the world – represent a violation of their right to free expression as guaranteed by Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Russia in 1973. On 17th August 2013, PEN International's President, John Ralston Saul, addressed an [open letter to President Vladimir Putin](http://www.pen-international.org/newsitems/letter-from-john-ralston-saul-to-president-putin-one-year-after-the-pussy-riot-convictions/?preview=true&preview_id=18417&preview_nonce=47a9ca8e45) (http://www.pen-international.org/newsitems/letter-from-john-ralston-saul-to-president-putin-one-year-after-the-pussy-riot-convictions/?preview=true&preview_id=18417&preview_nonce=47a9ca8e45) of the Russian Federation, urging the release of Nadezhda Tolokonnivova and Mariya Alekhina, and urging the repeal of the three afore-mentioned pieces of anti-free expression legislation.

SA PEN has written to President Jacob Zuma, who will be attending the upcoming G20 summit, and asked him to call on the Russian Federation to free the two imprisoned member of Pussy Riot, to repeal the three pieces of anti-free expression legislation passed in the last 18 months, and to fully comply with its

obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to respect freedom of opinion and expression.

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Free expression in Russia is under serious threat. Last week, PEN launched its Russia G20 campaign, which focuses on recent anti-free expression legislation and on the continued imprisonment of Pussy Riot; PEN International's President, John Ralston Saul, has also written an open letter to President Vladimir Putin raising the same issues.

I recently interviewed a number of Russian writers and journalists. We talked about Edward Snowden, Pussy Riot, the new anti-gay law and what NGOs like PEN can actually achieve with regard to Russia. An article based on the interviews is available at [Huffington Post \(http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/cathal-sheerin/edward-snowden-pussy-riot_b_3826039.html\)](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/cathal-sheerin/edward-snowden-pussy-riot_b_3826039.html). Please feel free to share or use in any way you see fit.

Cathal Sheerin, Researcher & Campaigner, Europe Programme, Writers in Prison Committee, PEN International, 28th August 2013

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Congratulations!

1. To the following SA PEN members on being shortlisted for the M-Net Literary Award: English
 - Ken Barris for *Life Underwater* (Kwela)
 - Imraan Coovadia for *The Institute for Taxi Poetry* (Umuzi)
 - James Whyle for *The Book of War* (Jacana)

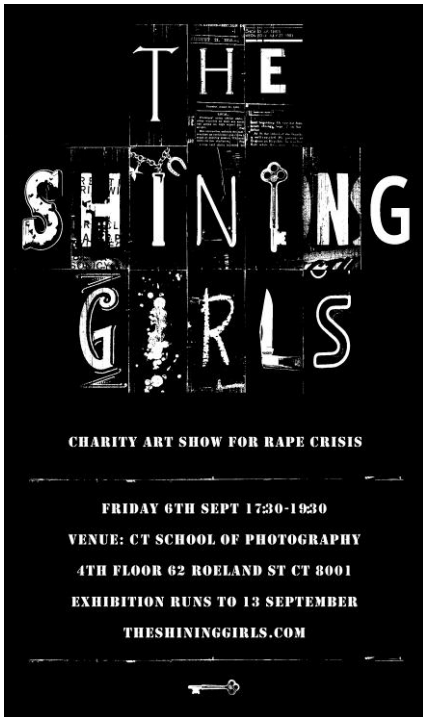
And to André Brink on being shortlisted for the M-Net Literary Award: Afrikaans for *Philida* (Human & Rousseau).



2. To Lauren Beukes on being shortlisted for the Crime Writers' Association 2013 Gold Dagger Award for her novel *The Shining Girls*. The winner will be announced at the Specsavers Crime Thriller Awards 2013 on 24th October.
3. To Zimbabwean author NoViolet Bulawayo on being longlisted for the Guardian First Book Award for her debut novel, *We Need New Names*. The winner of the £10,000 prize will be chosen from five works of fiction, five non-fiction books and a collection of poems, and will be announced in November. NoViolet was also shortlisted, this week for the Man Booker Award for *We Need New Names*. NoViolet received an honourable mention by JM Coetzee for our 2009 PEN/Studzinski Literary Award for her story, *Snapshots*. She was the winner of the 2011 Caine Prize.

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The Shining Girls Charity Art Show for Rape Crisis



Exhibition runs until 13th September, open 9am-5pm daily at the Cape Town School of Photography, 4th Floor, 62 Roeland Street, Cape Town (above Vida, opposite The Book Lounge).

Lauren Beukes has been working with curator Jacki Lang for the last couple of months to put together a charity art show loosely inspired by *The Shining Girls* as part of the Open Book Festival.

The idea was to have amazing local talent create original, accessible art work from a page cruelly ripped out of her novel, all sold at the same affordable price, with all proceeds going to Rape Crisis.

They approached some of their favourite artists, illustrators, designers, photographers, architects and even ceramicists and jewellery designers to create an original piece of art on a page ripped out

of *The Shining Girls*. They could do whatever they liked with it – paint over it, draw on it, cut it up or cross-stitch it, re-create a scene, riff off the general themes of the book or spark off one word that meant something to them.

Over 50 fantastic artists have contributed, including Zapiro, Conrad Botes, Faith 47, Dineo Seshee Bopape, Roger Ballen, Serge Alain Nitigeka, Wim Botha, Claudette Schreuders, Gabby Raaff, Frank van Reenen, Jordan Metcalf, Liza Grobler, Olaf Bischoff, Paul Senyol, Peter Eastman, Rikus Ferreira, Beth Diane Armstrong, Hannelie Taute and Joey Hi-Fi to name a few. They are hoping to raise R50 000 by selling the works at the incredibly affordable and democratic price of R1 000 each.

Read more at: <http://laurenbeukes.com/total-book-deseccration-for-a-totally-good-cause-the-shining-girls-charity-art-show/>

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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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Publications received

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

- *THE TAIPEI CHINESE PEN A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY CHINESE LITERATURE FROM TAIWAN*, Spring 2013, No. 163

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Open Book Breaks a Record!

Central Library in Cape Town was buzzing on Tuesday, 27th September as Open Book, together with the Library set about breaking the world record for the longest book domino chain. While we are still waiting official confirmation from Guinness, we have – unofficially – set a new record with 2 586 books going down! We are over the moon and absolutely delighted that some were able to take time out of their schedules to witness it all happen! **Open Book**

Go to <http://bookslive.co.za/blog/2013/08/27/open-book-and-cape-town-central-library-break-world-record-for-longest-book-domino-chain/> to watch the video.



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EU leaders, stop mass surveillance

SA PEN and PEN International has signed a petition calling on heads of government to state their opposition to all systems of mass surveillance including the US's NSA PRISM system and similar systems in several countries in Europe. Europe's leaders have not yet taken any action to stop this abuse of our right to privacy and freedom of expression. We call on Europe's leaders to place this issue firmly on the agenda for the next European Council Summit in October.

Thanks to recent revelations we know that governments are using digital technology to monitor our emails, phone calls and the websites we visit. This is an attack on our freedom of speech and an invasion of our privacy. Tell Europe's leaders to take action to stop the US, UK and other governments from carrying out mass surveillance.

If you would like to sign the petition yourself, and/or share it with others go to <http://chn.ge/1c2L7Ty>.

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Ronnie Kasrils' Q & A as published in the Saturday Argus, 31st August 2013
(reproduced with Ronnie's kind permission)

Q - What are the major threats to the free flow of information in South Africa currently?

A – A growing culture of secrecy stemming from government and ruling party paranoia; security order institutions inclined to serve corrupt political and personal agendas rather than the constitution and bill of rights.

Q - What could the campaign do that it is not currently doing?

A – Taking its message to broad sections of society and particularly in the languages spoken and understood at the grass roots; alerting ordinary people that the flow of information is not only a vital issue for the media but effects such things as service delivery and corruption at the local municipal level.

Q - What do you think the impact of the Right2Know campaign has been in strengthening civil society and advocating access to information?

A - A growing culture of secrecy stemming from government and ruling party paranoia; security order institutions inclined to serve corrupt political and personal agendas rather than the constitution and bill of rights.

Q - On its 3rd anniversary, what would you like to congratulate the R2K campaign on?

A - The campaign has had considerable effect in alerting people to the dangers inherent in a security-inclined state; in keeping the message on the front page; in pressurising parliament to effect some changes in the legislation; in building a common front among many organisations and individuals supporting the free flow of necessary information.

Q - What advice/recommendations would you like to give to R2K, going forward?

A - Congratulations to the R2K for talking truth to power; for not being afraid to be labelled agents of foreign powers; for standing up in support of our constitutional rights; for creating a platform in defence of our hard won democratic rights.

Keep up the good fight; do not be afraid or intimidated; remember we must educate our rulers

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Forthcoming events

- ❖ **International Translation Day** – 30th September 2013
- ❖ **Frankfurt Book Fair** – 9th to 13th October 2013. www.buchmesse.de/en/fbf/
- ❖ **Poetry Africa Festival** - 14th to 19th October 2013, Durban. www.cca.ukzn.ac.za/index.php/festivals
- ❖ **PEN International Day of the Imprisoned Writer** – 15th November 2013
- ❖ **BookBedonned Literary Festival** – 24th to 26th October 2013, Richmond. www.richmondnc.co.za

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Junkets – Early Bird Scheme

Dear Colleagues and Friends of Junkets

Junkets Publisher is a small independent not-for-profit publisher specialising in new Southern African plays in The Playscript Series (for which we won the 2009 Arts & Culture Trust Excellence Award) and The Collected Series, anthologies of Southern African plays, as well as a growing list of gay-themed books in the GayJunkets imprint.

We can't afford paid advertising, and so we rely on informal 'marketing' and 'promo', such as the email you are reading now. We also occasionally run an Early-Bird offer on our forthcoming titles.

In partnership with the National Arts Festival, we are about to publish two groundbreaking books:

'Now I am alone' 1 – SA Monologues
F & M 16+

'Now I am alone' 2 – SA Monologues
F & M 16+

both compiled by Robin Malan, Diana Wilson and David Fick.

Features of the books:

- Each volume contains 15 monologues for female performers and 15 monologues for male performers. That's 30 monologues in each volume; 60 monologues in all.
- These monologues are all Southern African in character; the authors are all from Southern Africa.
- The range of monologues covers all social and ethnic diversities.
- The material is suitable for young-adult performers from about 16

upwards; the monologues are not useful for early-teens or children.

- The monologues will be invaluable for students doing examination pieces; for solo performance; for entry into university drama departments and drama schools; and for auditioning for theatre groups and companies.

The authors:

- In the two volumes you will find experienced theatre names such as Greig Coetzee, Juliet Jenkin, Zakes Mda, Mike van Graan, Nicholas Spagnoletti, Geraldine Aron, Andrew Buckland, Omphile Molusi, Paul Slabolepszy, Brett Bailey, Fiona Coyne, Reza de Wet, Sue Pam-Grant, Sibusiso Mamba, Craig Higginson, Karen Jeynes, Ingrid Wylde, Rosemund Handler, Pieter Jacobs, Malika Ndlovu, Ashraf Johardien, Heinrich Reisenhofer, Motshabi Tyelele, Gideon van Eeden, and Jonathan Nkala.
- Also, new and emerging writers such as Lauren Bates, Rob K Baum, Suenel Holloway, Ongezwa Mbele, Jonathan Orton, Elaine Davie, M Cassiem D'arcy, Jon Keevy, Caitlin Macleod, René Muller, Phillip M Dikotla, Pfarelo N., Vanessa Bower, Masitha Hoeane, and Kei Janse van Rensburg

The range of issues handled in the monologues is wide; the styles are varied; the mood and tone are contrasting; the opportunities to display interpretative acting skills are abundant.

Each monologue is given a four-page spread:

- Page 1 gives details of the monologue and the play it is drawn from.
- Page 2 gives some information about the character, the context of the monologue, and offers some pointers that might be useful to the performer.
- Pages 3 & 4 give the monologue, set with wide margins to allow for annotations.
- The three compilers wrote the support material – their initials appear below their contributions.

Clearly, these two volumes will prove valuable to everyone involved in drama, theatre arts and performing arts in all high schools, tertiary drama departments, teacher-training institutions and theatre companies. School libraries, university libraries and public libraries will be very keen to acquire them.

The publication-date for both volumes is 2nd December 2013. The books will be launched on Thursday, 30th January 2014. The launch is supported by the Distell Foundation

So, here's the Early-Bird scheme:

- Normally, each book costs R140 plus p&p.
- The Early-Bird scheme offers you a discount on each book of R20, i.e. each book costs R120, to which p&p is added.
- Buy both books 1 and 2 for R240, plus p&p (if you are in the Cape Town area and can collect from Junkets, then p&p does not apply).
- For this discount to apply, you need to pre-pay, i.e. before the publication-date of 2nd December 2013.
- To order please contact me at robinmal@iafrica.com.

Many thanks for your support.
Regards. Robin Malan

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Please note that SA PEN Newsletters, from issue no. 1 of 2013 onwards, are henceforth available to members **and** to the public on the SA PEN website at <http://www.sapen.co.za/newsletter-archive>