

To: SA PEN Members

**E-Newsletter No. 8/2013 – 17/05/2013**



## THE SOUTH AFRICAN CENTRE OF

### PEN INTERNATIONAL

#### A World Association of Writers

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#### Franschhoek Literary Festival, 17th to 19th May 2013

Safe travels to everyone popping through to Franschhoek for the weekend. SA PEN members who will be participating in events are:

Ann Donald, Anton Harber, Antony Albeker, Beverly Rycroft, Brent Meersman, Colleen Higgs, Dawn Garisch, Diane Awerbuck, Finuala Dowling, Fiona Snyckers, Gus Ferguson, Hamilton Wende, Helen Moffett, Ingrid de Kok, Jamala Safari, Jane Raphaely, Jenny Hobbs, Justin Fox, Karen Jayes, Ken Barris, Kerry Hammerton, Lauren Beukes, Liesl Jobson, Louis Greenberg, Michele Magwood, Rahla Xenopolous, Samantha Page, Sarah Lotz, Sean O'Toole, Shaun Johnson, Tan Twan Eng, and Zapiro.

To book tickets for all events please go to [www.webtickets.co.za](http://www.webtickets.co.za). Festival programme available at <http://www.flf.co.za/index.php/programme>

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**Prufrock - New South African Literary Magazine**  
**By Anneke Rautenbach**

*Prufrock* is a new South African literary magazine founded by four University of Cape Town graduates, featuring longform non-fiction, fiction, poetry, photography and illustration. It calls itself simply ‘a magazine of writing’, believing in the pursuit of ‘damn fine writing’ and a ‘means to put it in its place.’

It is inspired to act as a mouthpiece for a young South Africa, taking as its unlikely muse Eliot’s J. Alfred Prufrock, master of self-doubt and cynicism and an embodiment of the post-honeymoon nation’s less becoming qualities: disillusionment, paralysis, apathy. *Prufrock* is a means to embrace this, to say the unsayable, name the unnameable and to have fun along the way.

*Prufrock* believes in the South African here-and-now, and that non-fiction can be just as beautiful and satisfying as fiction. In light of the Secrecy Bill, Anton Harber recalls the selective cultural boycott in 1980s South Africa: Salman Rushdie, just after the publication of *The Satanic Verses*, is due to visit South Africa to talk about freedom of speech. Literary bigwigs Gordimer and Coetzee, on separate sides of the fence, climb into the ring over his subsequent ‘disinvitation’. This as Harber’s newspaper, *The Weekly Mail*, is forced by government to shut down for a month.

Other features include Kwazulu Natal’s amateur standup comedy scene and a personal account of *The Paris Review*’s 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Revel held in New York from the perspective of a South African intern. Young artists in Gaza speak about creativity under Hamas’s iron grip. All is published here for the first time.

The maiden publication will be available for sale (R40) by Exclusive Books at this year’s Franschhoek Literary Festival (17th – 19th May). It will also be available at the Book Lounge in Cape Town and Love Books in Johannesburg.

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**Launch of New South African Review 3: The Second Phase – Tragedy or Farce**  
Published by Wits University Press

SA PEN member Judith February, Head of HSRC’s democracy, governance and service delivery research programme, will be in discussion with others at the launch of this publication at The Book Lounge, **Wednesday, 22nd May, 5.30 for 6pm**

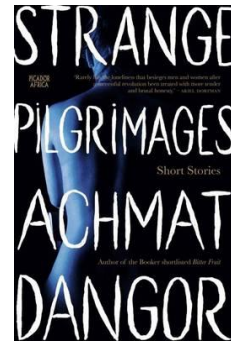
To RSVP email [booklounge@gmail.com](mailto:booklounge@gmail.com), or call (021) 462 2425.

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**Book Launch – *Strange Pilgrimages* by Achmat Dangor**

**Date: Tuesday, 29th May 2013**  
Venue: Exclusive Books Hyde Park  
Time: 6 for 6.30 pm  
RSVP: hydepark@exclusivebooks.co.za

A collection of short stories by poet and novelist Achmat Dangor.



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**The Sunday Times Literary Award Longlists**



The Sunday Times recently revealed the longlists for its 2013 literary awards.

Congratulations and good luck to the following SA PEN members who were named in the Fiction Prize longlist for their publications:

- ❖ *For the Mercy of Water* by Karen Jayes, Penguin
- ❖ *Home Remedies* by Diane Awerbuck, Umuzi
- ❖ *Invisible Furies* by Michiel Heyns, Jonathan Ball
- ❖ *Life Underwater* by Ken Barris, Kwela
- ❖ *Philida* by Andre Brink, Harvill & Secker
- ❖ *Solace* by Andrew Brown, Zebra
- ❖ *The Book of War* by James Whyte, Jacana
- ❖ *The Institute for Taxi Poetry* by Imraan Coovadia, Umuzi
- ❖ *Us and Them* by Rosemund J Handler, Penguin

Congratulations also go to the following SA PEN members who were named in the Alan Paton Award longlist for their publications:

- ❖ *Eloquent Body* by Dawn Garisch, Modjaji Books
- ❖ *Jane Raphaely Unedited* by Jane Raphaely, Associated Media Publishing

Fiction Prize judges Michele Magwood, Sarah Nuttall, Andries Oliphant and Alan Paton Award judges Peter Harris, Prishani Naidoo and Ben Williams will be narrowing their respective longlists down to a shortlist of five, which will be announced at the Franschoek Literary Festival tomorrow evening, 18th May.



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## **Fourteenth Caine Prize shortlist announced**

The shortlist for the 2013 Caine Prize for African Writing was announced on Wednesday, 15th May and among the five stories chosen are an unprecedented four Nigerian entries.

The Chair of judges, art historian and broadcaster, Gus Casely-Hayford said, “The shortlist was selected from 96 entries from 16 African countries. They are all outstanding African stories that were drawn from an extraordinary body of high quality submissions.”

The 2013 shortlist comprises:

- Elnathan John (Nigeria) ‘Bayan Layi’ from *Per Contra*, Issue 25 (USA, 2012) [www.percontra.net](http://www.percontra.net)
- Tope Folarin (Nigeria) ‘Miracle’ from *Transition*, Issue 109 (Bloomington, 2012) <http://dubois.fas.harvard.edu/transition-magazine>
- Pede Hollist (Sierra Leone) ‘Foreign Aid’ from *Journal of Progressive Human Services*, Vol. 23.3 (Philadelphia, 2012) [http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wphs20#.UZOV4bVlk\\_g](http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wphs20#.UZOV4bVlk_g)
- Abubakar Adam Ibrahim (Nigeria) ‘The Whispering Trees’ from *The Whispering Trees*, published by Parrésia Publishers (Lagos, 2012) <http://www.paresiapublishers.com/>
- Chinelo Okparanta (Nigeria) ‘America’ from *Granta*, Issue 118 (London, 2012) [www.granta.com](http://www.granta.com)

The winner will be announced in July. For more information go to [www.caineprize.com](http://www.caineprize.com)

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A warm **welcome to new members:** S.A. Partridge, Hedley Twidle, Grizéll Azar-Luxton and Terry Westby-Nunn



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## **Forthcoming events**

- ❖ **Fugard Festival & JM Coetzee & Nobel Laureates Festival** – 23rd to 26th May 2013, Richmond, Karoo. [www.richmondnc.co.za](http://www.richmondnc.co.za)
- ❖ **Kingsmead Book Fair** – 25th May 2013, Johannesburg. [www.kingsmead.co.za/bookfair/](http://www.kingsmead.co.za/bookfair/)
- ❖ **The National Arts Festival** - 27th June to 7th July 2013, Grahamstown. [www.nationalartsfestival.co.za](http://www.nationalartsfestival.co.za)

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## **Media24 Books Literary Awards and Jan Rabie Rapport Prize - Shortlists**

Media24 Books recently announced the shortlists for the 2013 Media24 Books Literary Awards and Jan Rabie Rapport Prize. These prizes are awarded annually in six categories to celebrate literary excellence.

The six categories are:

- W.A. Hofmeyr Prize for best Afrikaans literary work across all genres.
- Herman Charles Bosman Prize for English literary work across all genres.
- Recht Malan Prize for best non-literary or non-fiction book.
- M.E.R Prize for best youth novel (ages 8 to 16, however not exclusive).
- M.E.R. Prize for best illustrated children's book (ages 0 to 8, however not exclusive).
- Jan Rabie Rapport Prize for the best debut or early work characterised by fresh and innovative Afrikaans prose.

Congratulations and good luck to the following SA PEN members who made the shortlists:

### **Herman Charles Bosman Prize:**

- ❖ *Groundwork* by Rustum Kozain, published by Kwela Books/Snailpress
- ❖ *Life Underwater* by Ken Barris, published by Kwela Books

### **The M.E.R. Prize for best illustrated children's book:**

- ❖ *Princess Talia and the Dragon* by Helen Brain, illustrated by Vian Oelofsen, published by Human & Rousseau

The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in Cape Town on Friday, 7th June 2013.

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## **2013 Commonwealth Book Prize and Commonwealth Short Story Prize – Shortlists**

Congratulations to SA PEN members Jamala Safari (*The Great Agony and Pure Laughter of the Gods*, Umuzi) and SA Partridge (for her story *Take Me Home United Road*) on making the shortlists for the Commonwealth Book Prize and the Commonwealth Short Story Prize:

The Commonwealth Book Prize is awarded for the best first novel, and the Commonwealth Short Story Prize for the best piece of unpublished short fiction. Encompassing a span of 54 countries, entries are judged within the five regions of Africa, Asia, Canada and Europe, the Caribbean and the Pacific, each of which produced a regional winner, which sadly did not include Jamala or Partridge, for the two prizes.

The overall winners will be announced at the Hay Festival, on 31 May 2013. For more information go to <http://www.commonwealthwriters.org/>

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**Open Book & Etonnants Voyageurs**

**By Frankie Murrey**

A significant number of South African authors will be boarding planes later this week to participate in Etonnants Voyageurs. (18th to 20th May) <http://www.etonnants-voyageurs.com>.

Some of you may remember the exciting partnership we forged with the French Festival in 2012, which saw 10 French speaking authors join us for Open Book last year...we are delighted that the partnership continues and that they will be welcoming the same number of South Africans at their festival!

Authors who will be travelling are - in alphabetical order - Mark Behr, Kevin Bloom\*, André Brink\*, Damon Galgut, Michiel Heyns\*, Kopano Matlwa\*, Deon Meyer, Niq Mhlongo, Kgebetli Moele and Mike Nicol\*. (\* denotes SA PEN members)

We are expecting the 3 day festival to do much to raise awareness about the talented writing happening in South Africa!



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**Mondays at St. Clements - Short Story Competition 2013**

**Precisely 100 words (no more, no less)**

In celebration of the shortest day of the year which falls on the 21st June in 2013, Mondays at St. Clements is celebrating National Short Story Day. To date we have received 63 submissions. **Closing date is Monday, 3rd June.**

**GUIDELINES:**

- length: 100 words (excluding title). Stories of more or less than 100 words will be disqualified
- entries by email to [kwasuka1@mweb.co.za](mailto:kwasuka1@mweb.co.za)
- state author's name and wordcount
- use large font: e.g. Times New Roman, 14 pt.
- author of winning story will receive a presentation box of wine or electric coffee percolator.
- stories will be adjudicated by DAVID BASCKIN
- author's names will be deleted for adjudication
- no more than 7 submissions per person will be considered
- stories submitted for previous competitions will not be considered
- the top ten stories will be published in *le petit déjeuner 3*, comprising a selection of 50 short stories
- all stories will be read at St. Clements on the two Mondays following the presentation.

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## **The South African Literary Awards (SALA)**

The 8th annual South African Literary Awards invite South African writers to submit their work from 23rd April 2013 **to 7th June 2013**.

Founded by the wRite Associates, in partnership with the national Department of Arts and Culture, the main aim of the South African Literary Awards is to celebrate literary excellence in the depiction and sharing of South Africa's histories, value systems, philosophies and arts as inscribed and preserved in all the languages of South Africa, particularly the official languages. The Awards aim to become the most prestigious and respected literary accolades in South African literature.

It is with great pleasure we announce enhancing amendments to the following awards categories:

- a) The Literary Journalism Award category is now known as the Zwelakhe Sisulu Literary Journalism Award. This is in honour of the late Zwelakhe Sisulu for his selfless and dedicated contribution to journalism and struggle for literary advancement and freedom. He was the Special Advisor of SALA's legacy project – the inaugural Africa Century International African Writers Conference – committing his strategic insight, foresight and resources to its success and intention for future growth.
- b) Nadine Gordimer Short Story Award now also accepts work in Afrikaans and English languages.
- c) K. Sello Duiker Memorial Literary Award now accepts only authors up to age 40, said Morakabe Raks Seakhoa, Project Director of the S.A Literary Awards/Africa Century International African Writers Conference and Managing Director of the wRite associates.

Since inception in 2005, these literary Awards have grown in leaps and bounds, boasting, to date, 10 categories, recognizing over 100 women and men of letters:

1. National Poet Laureate Prize
2. Lifetime Achievement Literary Award
3. Posthumous Literary Award
4. Nadine Gordimer Short Story Award
5. K. Sello Duiker Memorial Award
6. Literary Translators Award
7. Literary Journalism Award
8. First-time Published Author Award
9. Poetry Award
10. Chairperson's Award
11. Creative Non-Fiction Award

For more information call (011) 791 3585 or email [info@sala.org.za](mailto:info@sala.org.za) or visit [www.sala.org.za](http://www.sala.org.za).

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**2013 Frank O’Connor International Short Story Award**

Congratulations and good luck to Liesl Jobson on her recent collection of short stories, *Ride the Tortoise*, making the longlist for the 2013 Frank O’Connor International Short Story Award. The longlist of seventy-five books will be whittled down to a shortlist of up to six books to be announced in June. The winner will be announced in July. The award will be presented at the culmination of the Cork International Short Story Festival in September.

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**PEN International’s Declaration on Digital Freedom – Translations Available**

Please note that Xhosa and Zulu translations of this declaration will be posted on the SA PEN website shortly ([www.sapen.co.za](http://www.sapen.co.za)). Alternatively you may email [rudebs@icon.co.za](mailto:rudebs@icon.co.za) to request a copy.

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**Independent Foreign Fiction Prize (IFFP) - Shortlist**

Congratulations and good luck to Michiel Heyns for making the six-book shortlist for this year’s prize for his translation of *Bundu* by Chris Barnard.

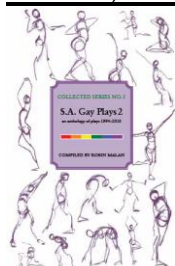
The Independent Foreign Prize honours the best work of fiction by a living author, which has been translated into English from any other language and published in the United Kingdom. Uniquely, the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize gives the winning author and translator equal status: each receives £5,000. The winner of the award will be announced on the 20th May.

Independent Foreign Fiction Prize Readers Day – “Upcoming we have our 18th May Readers Day where reading groups from across the U.K. will be convening at the Free Word Centre to host a series of discussions around this year's shortlist. The day will include talks from judges, authors and translators, discussions of the individual titles, a workshop with English Pen, a translation duel and the announcement of the Readers' Choice winner.”

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**Members’ Publications**

**S.A. Gay Plays 2: an anthology of plays 1994–2013 compiled by Robin Malan**



*S.A. Gay Plays 1: the Artscape Dublin Festival plays*

*S.A. Gay Plays 2: an anthology of plays 1994–2013*

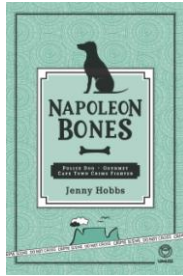
The fact that ten gay-themed plays written by South African playwrights since 1994 can be collected in a two-volume anthology tells you something about the burgeoning of gay plays that took place in the wake of the 1996 South African Constitution. For the first time ever anywhere in the world, the Constitution explicitly outlawed any



form of discrimination based on, among other things, sexual orientation. For gay people in South Africa, that was a hugely significant moment. These plays serve to illuminate that brave legislative act conferring dignity.

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**Napoleon Bones by Jenny Hobbs**



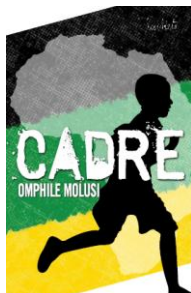
Napoleon Bones: police dog, gourmet, Cape Town crime fighter. Not your average pavement special. Aside from being a culinary expert and a thinking woman’s companion, he’s one half of an all-rescues K9 unit tasked to help track down the notorious Blackjacks gang.

Their search takes Bones and his partner, the ginger-haired cycling enthusiast Rusty Gordon, from the streets of the Bo Kaap to the trails of Table Mountains and the backyards of the Cape Flats, all the while investigating perlemoen poaching and dog fights, rescuing terrified people from dangerous situations, and saving many a damsel (and doe-eyed bitch) in distress.

Jenny Hobbs’s hilarious crime-thriller spoof is a smorgasbord of delectable characters. This is a Cape Town you won’t find in any tourist book.

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**Cadre by Omphile Molusi**



Countries go through times of turmoil when in transition from one state of governing to a new order. We would do well to remember that those struggles consist of many personal, individual struggles. Cadre records one such story.

Omphile Molusi’s new play had its world premiere at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre in February 2013; it had a four-week season at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg; will be performed at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown in June-July; before touring to the Edinburgh Festival and the Adelaide Festival of the Arts.

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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, 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>

