

*PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 14, 2018 / Contribute to a survey on the changing self-image of journalists; PEN SA members flood the Poetry in McGregor festival; events, calls for submissions, and more.*

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## **Contribute to The New Beats, A Survey of Journalists Who Have Changed or Lost Their Jobs**

As stated in an article last week by Glenda Nevill on [themediaonline.co.za](http://themediaonline.co.za), "that the craft of journalism is changing almost daily and traditional media has experienced unprecedented digital disruption is a statement of fact." But how do journalists, many of whom are losing their jobs or finding their journalistic occupations change beyond recognition, cope in such an atmosphere?

Wits University academic and PEN SA member Dr Glenda Daniels has called what is happening in our media a figurative “journalist bloodbath”:

its effects are noticeable in the quality of writing, editing and often a lack of context in stories. Daniels is heading the South African wing of a global journalism survey, The New Beats, which is focusing on “professional identity transitions”.

Today, on the behest of people involved in The New Beats study, we are asking our members who are either currently journalists or have been journalists, to contribute to the survey. In particular, the survey "tracks journalists who have left the newsroom for other beats, such as a gig here and a gig there, freelance work, academia, PR and [government communications], early retirement, among others. [It] also encompasses those who accepted retrenchment packages, and those who were made redundant."

In looking at these "professional identity transitions", Dr Daniels and her colleagues in many countries around the world will gain insights into how the unprecedented media disruption of the past ten to twenty years has unfolded for media workers, both in positive and negative terms. (One of Dr Daniels' colleagues has, for example, found that some media workers have been relieved to break free of newsrooms.)

“It’s important that the history of this transition is recorded," Dr Daniels says.

**The New Beats survey is anonymous, online, and can be accessed here.**

*(Image by Nick Mulgrew)*

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## **PEN SA Members Flood the Poetry in McGregor Line-up**

PEN SA members and staff feature prominently on the programme for the **2018 Poetry in McGregor festival**, which this year is themed – appropriately enough, given the drought in the area – *The Sound of Water*. It is taking place from 24 to 28 August this year.

This festival, held in the eponymous Western Cape town (nearby Robertson), has quickly become one of South Africa's premier poetry festivals, with intimate venues, a wide and diverse set of performers, and engaged audiences. Other than page poets on the programme are community groups, musicians, rappers, poetry collectives, and students from all over South Africa, who will read and perform their work in English, Zulu, Afrikaans and Xhosa.

There will also be book launches, workshops, informal gatherings, open mics, and film viewings. Funds derived from the events will be put back into The McGregor Arts Community Project where support is given to local community projects.

Included this year on the Poetry in McGregor programme are, in no particular order: Board Member Adré Marshall; Honourary Member Geoffrey Haresnape; Members Elisa Galgut, Francine Simon, Megan Ross, Athol Williams, Douglas Reid Skinner, Helen Moffett, Jacques Coetzee, Jonty Driver, Karin Schimke, Kobus Moolman, Phillippa Yaa de Villiers, Margaret Clough, Michele Betty, Kerry Hammerton, Patricia Schonstein, Philippa Anne Kabali-Kagwa, Sandra Hill, Stephen Symons, and Wendy Woodward; and Head of Communications Nick Mulgrew.

Apart from the great line-up, McGregor is a friendly, relaxed village with great wineries, wildlife, restaurants, with all venues within walking distance of the other.

The full line-up of poets can be found [here](#), along with more information about the festival.

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The poster is for the South African launch of 'The Prison Letters of Nelson Mandela'. It features the title in large orange letters, the date 'Wednesday 25 July 2018' at 'The Fugard Theatre, Cape Town', and a list of participants including Njabulo Ndebele, Justice Albie Sachs, and Buhle Ngaba. It also includes a ticketing notice, logos for PEN SA, Penguin Random House, and The Fugard Theatre, and a '100 Years of Nelson Mandela' logo.

PEN SA, Penguin Random House SA, The Fugard Theatre and The Mandela Rhodes Foundation present the South African launch of

THE PRISON LETTERS OF  
**NELSON MANDELA**

Wednesday 25 July 2018 • The Fugard Theatre, Cape Town  
Reception and drinks from 18h00  
Discussion and readings w/ Njabulo Ndebele, Justice Albie Sachs, Buhle Ngaba & more at 19h30

TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR FREE FROM THE FUGARD THEATRE BOX OFFICE  
PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS STRICTLY A TICKETED EVENT • NO TICKET, NO ENTRY

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN

**PEN** SOUTH AFRICA **FREE WRITING**

Penguin Random House South Africa

THE **FUGARD** THEATRE • CAPE TOWN

THE MANDELA RHODES FOUNDATION

BOOKS ON SALE  
CASH BAR UNTIL CLOSE  
THE PRISON LETTERS OF NELSON MANDELA, EDITED BY SAHM VENTER, OUT 10 JULY 2018.

100 Years of Nelson Mandela 2018 The Legacy

SOUND ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY EASTERN ACOUSTICS / MEAD PROVIDED BY THE CAPE TOWN MEAD COMPANY

Applications for PEN SA members' tickets to the launch of *The Prison Letters of Nelson Mandela* are now **closed**. If you missed out, though, don't worry! Limited tickets are still available to the public through **The Fugard Theatre Box Office**.

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## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to member Masande Ntshanga, whose debut novel *The Reactive* has been shortlisted for the [Society of Authors' 2018 Betty Trask Prize](#).

Congratulations to PEN SA member ZP Dala, whose novel *The Architecture of Loss* has been [shortlisted for the 2018](#)

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

**NEW:** [Self-Publishers in East Africa: Apply for the African Writers Trust Publishing Fellowship Programme](#)

[PEN America Grants for 2018/2019 Now Open for Applications](#) (Various deadlines)

[Enter for an Opportunity to Pitch Your](#)

Clara Johnson Award for Women's Literature.

More good news for member Shubnum Khan, who has won the 2018 Octavia Butler Fellowship as well as a Jack Jones Literary Arts retreat in New Mexico, U.S.A.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Check our calendar of literary events throughout July by clicking [here](#).

*Please submit your literary events for conclusion on our events calendar by e-mailing [newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za](mailto:newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za).*

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## MEMBERS' NEW TITLES



New and upcoming releases from PEN SA members include *A Spy in Time* by

Book to Jacana Media in Person  
(Deadline 25 July)

The Oxford Brookes Poetry Centre's 2018 International Poetry Competition is Open to Entries (Deadline 6 August)

The Yale Drama Series Award for Emerging Playwrights Seeks Entries (Deadline 15 August)

City Press Tafelberg Nonfiction Award Now Open for Entries (Deadline 31 July)

Gerald Kraak Award and Anthology Deadline Extended (Deadline 31 August)

JIAS Offers Month-Long Residencies in Johannesburg (Deadline 31 August)

The 2018 Short Story Day Africa Prize, Hotel Africa, is Open for Entries  
(Deadline 31 August)

Apply for the 2018 Miles Morland Foundation Writing Scholarships for African Writers (Deadline 30 September)

*[Click here to view all calls for submissions](#)*

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## WELCOME

A warm welcome to new PEN SA Professional Member, Liz McGregor!

Imraan Coovadia.

*Please send us your new releases*

to [newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za](mailto:newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za).

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## Send us your news

Had a book published recently? Attended or participated in a festival? Won an award? Achieved a personal milestone of note? We welcome any news of your activities for future issues of the PEN SA newsletter. Please let us know if your email changes so we can update our mailing list.

**Please email your contributions**  
to [newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za](mailto:newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za)

[Twitter](#) [Website](#)

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