

*PEN South Africa newsletter / Issues 16 & 17, 2018 / Interview with and tribute to Robin Malan; Oleg Sentsov's hunger strike; events, calls for submissions, and more.*

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Issues 16 & 17  
**29 August 2018**  
ISSN 2410-2210

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## **“Young People Want to Write, They Want to Have Their Say”: An interview with Robin Malan on a half-century at English Alive**

Perhaps more than any other magazine in South African literature – or, at the very least, as much as the likes of *Staffrider*, or *Contrast*, or *Classic* – *English Alive* has catalysed writing careers, and inspired people to familiarise themselves with the craft of writing. Publishing writing in English by high school students throughout South Africa for more than the past half-century, *English Alive* has provided many past,

current, and future giants of South African literature their first publications, and showed thousands of young adults that their expression is valuable.

Among the many people who have edited the annual – including new editor Twanji Kalula, and past editors Michael King and Kathleen Heugh – undoubtedly its greatest servant is Robin Malan, anthologist, playwright, novelist, humourist, sex educator, publisher and editor. Last week, at the launch of *English Alive* 51, Robin was awarded with a 50+ years Dedicated Service Award by his colleagues, named the Order of Imbewu. An apt name – for Malan has grown many seeds.

We sat down with Robin to chat about his history with *English Alive*, and you can [read this extensive and revealing interview on our website](#).

Some PEN SA members, including PEN SA President Nadia Davids, have also offered new tributes to Robin, which may be [read here](#).

*(Image supplied by Twanji Kalula)*

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## Margie Orford Interviewed about Oleg Sentsov on France 24

To mark the hundredth day of imprisoned filmmaker Oleg Sentsov's indefinite hunger strike in a Siberian penal colony, PEN SA and PEN International Board Member Margie Orford spoke to France 24's *The Debate*, in a bid to raise awareness about his plight.

Following Russia's annexation of Crimea, Ukrainian-born Sentsov was arrested in Crimea and convicted to 20 years in jail by a Russian court on charges of plotting terrorism acts. Although these allegations appear to be fabricated, Sentsov is still kept in prison by Russian authorities, without access to any correspondence.

On 22 August, our colleagues at PEN International and English PEN – in partnership with Save Oleg Sentsov, Amnesty UK, and the Belarus Free Theatre – **delivered messages of support from all over the world to the Russian Embassy in London**, urging the authorities to ensure that Sentsov is allowed to receive them. After the Russian Embassy refused to accept the messages, a reading of Sentsov's work took place.

Orford's interview with France 24 may be watched on **our site**, or at **this link**.



## **PEN SA Members at Open Book Festival and SA Book Fair**

The first fortnight of September sees a number of book festivals in South Africa's two largest cities. Most exciting are the South African Book Fair (7–9 September) taking place in Johannesburg, and Cape Town's best bookish gathering, the Open Book Festival (5–9 September), returning for its eighth year. As always, PEN SA members are prominent in each of the festivals' programmes.

Click here to find out who features!



**MEMBERS' NEW TITLES**





'Subversive and electric and yet achingly familiar.' – LAUREN BEUKES

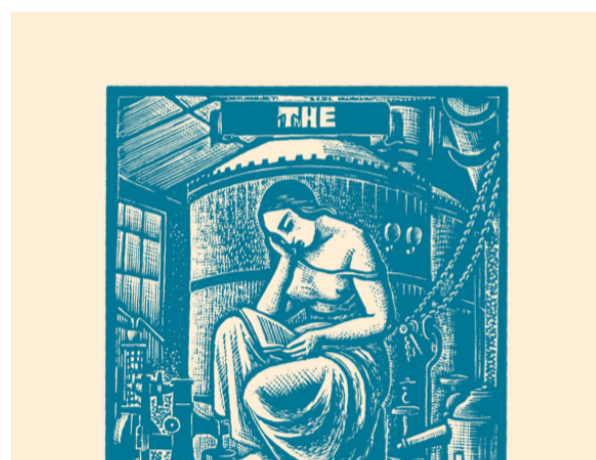
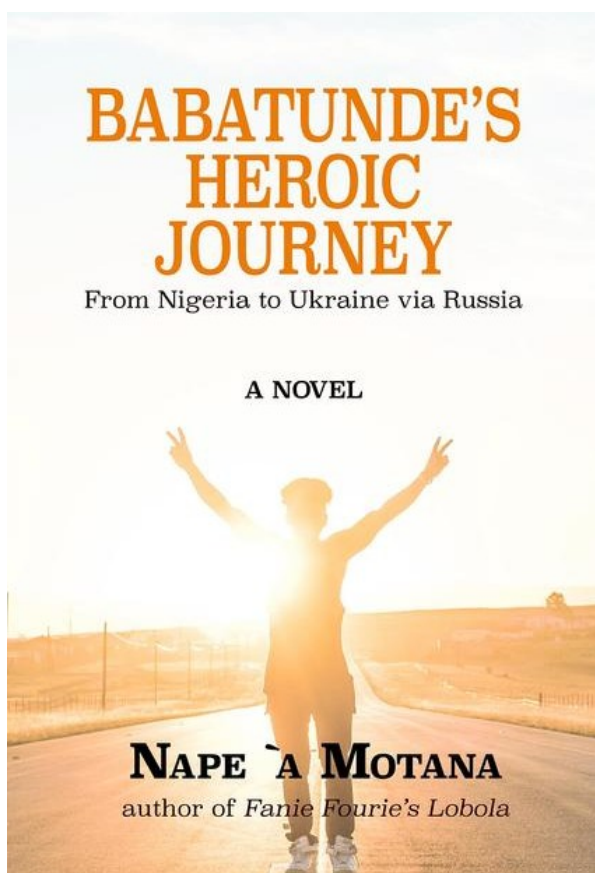
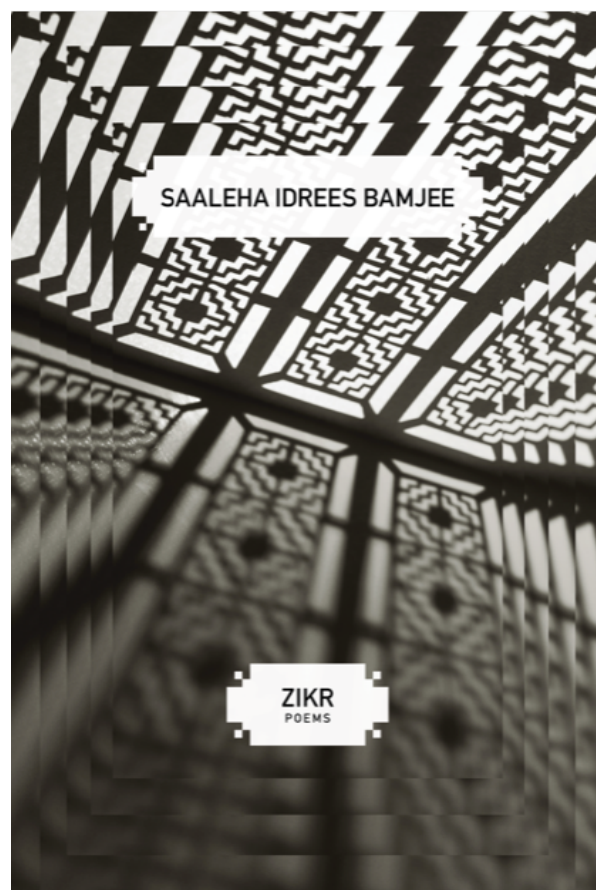
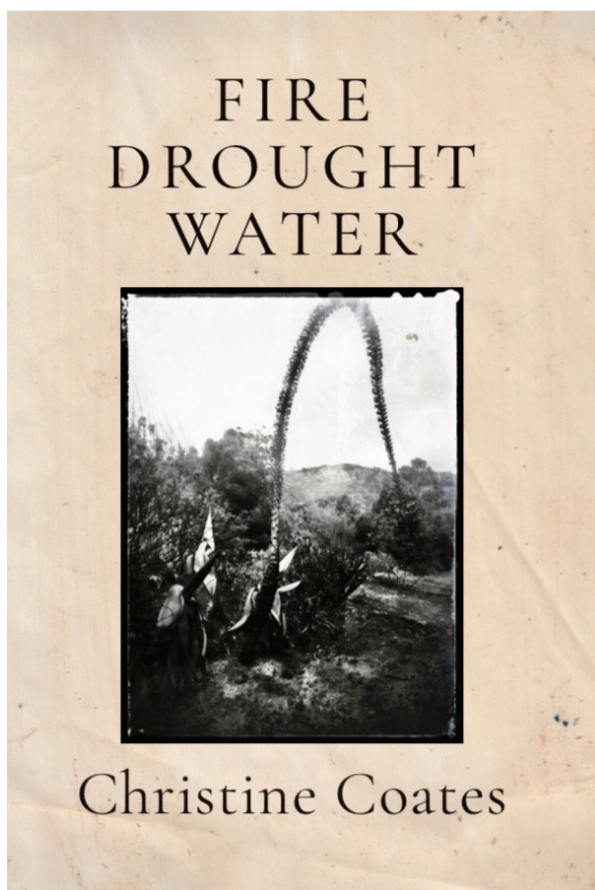
**MOHALE MASHIGO**



# Intruders

**SHORT STORIES**

**PICADOR  
AFRICA**



**So many releases from PEN SA members this month!**

New and upcoming releases from PEN SA members include *Intruders* by Mohale Mashigo, *Zikr* by Saaleha Idrees Bamjee, *Babatunde's Heroic Journey* by

Nape'a Motana, *Fire Drought Water* by Christine Coates, and *The Coroner's Wife* by Joan Hambidge (trans Charl JF Cilliers, Johann de Lange, Jo Nel and Douglas Reid Skinner).

Please send us your new releases to [newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za](mailto:newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za).

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## **CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS**

**NEW: The 2018 Vodacom Journalist of the Year Awards are Open** (Deadline 31 August)

**NEW: The 7th Africa Century International African Writers Conference Calls for Papers** (Deadline 7 September)

**NEW: Enter The 2018 Olive Schreiner Prize for Prose** (Deadline 21 September)

**NEW: Apply for the 2018 ANFASA Grant Scheme for Authors (Fiction and Non-Fiction)** (Deadline 30 September)

**NEW: Africa Centre's Artists In Residency Programme Opens for 2018 Applications** (Deadline 15 October)

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

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

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

**The 2018 Short Story Day Africa Prize, Hotel Africa, is Open for Entries** (Deadline extended to 31 October)

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

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## **MEMBER NEWS**

**Anton Krueger has been longlisted for the 2018 Dinaane Debut Fiction Award for his manuscript, *The University Currently Known As...***

**Achille Mbembe has become the first African scholar to win the €100000 Gerda Henkel Prize for Research**

**Janet van Eeden is to speak at 2018 London Screenwriters' Festival**

**Kirsten Miller will appear at the Midlands Literary Festival**

**The programme has been released for 2018 ICA Live Art Festival, featuring PEN SA members and friends.**

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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)

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