



## Commonwealth Foundation

The overall winners of the 22nd **Commonwealth Writers' Prize (CWP)** will be announced on 18 May 2008 at the **Franschhoek Literary Festival**.

The **Commonwealth Writers' Prize**, an international award for fiction, is presented annually by the **Commonwealth Foundation**. It aims to bring Commonwealth voices to a wider audience and thereby encourage inter-cultural learning, respect and understanding. The week-long final programme is being run in partnership with the **Department of Arts and Culture, South Africa**, and the **Franschhoek Literary Festival**. The regional winners will be taking part in a week-long series of events in South Africa in May 2008, including readings, discussions and other public events, culminating in the announcement of the overall **Best Book** and **Best First Book** winners.

The author of the overall **Best Book** will be awarded a prize of £10,000 and author of the overall **Best First Book**, £5,000. Each regional winner receives £1,000.

### 2008 Commonwealth Writers' Prize Regional Winners

#### BEST BOOK:

- **Africa:** Karen King-Aribisala, (Nigeria), *The Hangman's Game*
- **Canada & Caribbean:** Lawrence Hill, (Canada), *The Book of Negroes*
- **Europe & South Asia:** Indra Sinha, (India), *Animal's People*
- **South East Asia & South Pacific:** Steven Carroll, (Australia), *The Time We Have Taken*

#### BEST FIRST BOOK:

- **Africa:** Sade Adeniran, (Nigeria), *Imagine This*
- **Canada & Caribbean:** C.S. Richardson, (Canada), *The End of the Alphabet*
- **Europe & South Asia:** Tahmima Anam, (Bangladesh), *A Golden Age*
- **South East Asia & South Pacific:** Karen Foxlee, (Australia), *The Anatomy of Wings*

Macquarie Group  
Foundation



### Commonwealth Writers' Prize at the Franschhoek Literary Festival (FLF)

#### Friday 16 May

16h00-17h00

#### Best First Book Winners

(Franschhoek High School Hall:

Free Event)

The CWP **Best First Book** regional winners read from their work and talk about their life and work.

#### Saturday 17 May

11h30-12h30

#### Best Book Winners

(Franschhoek High School Hall:

Free Event)

The CWP **Best Book** regional winners read from their work and talk about their life, work and their latest novels.

#### Sunday 18 May

14h30-15h30

#### Final Announcement

(Franschhoek High School Hall:

Free Event)

The winners of the overall **Best Book** and **Best First Book** prizes will be announced. In addition, this event will also include the presentation of the **Olive Schreiner Prize** for poetry.

The **Commonwealth Writers' Prize** is organised and funded by the **Commonwealth Foundation**, with the support of the **Macquarie Group Foundation** across all four regions. The **Commonwealth Foundation** is an intergovernmental organisation working to help civil society organisations promote democracy, development and cultural understanding in Commonwealth countries.



# flf poetry club

... ALL FREE EVENTS

## Friday 16 May

**14h30-15h30: FLF Prizewinners**  
(NG Church Hall)

Competition judge and poetry godfather **Gus Ferguson** and Blue Downs rap poet **Jitsvinger** present prizes to the FLF Poetry Competition prize-winners, to be followed by readings of their prize-winning poems. (The Poetry Competition is sponsored by Dr Steenkamp & Associates)

## In Essence coffee shop:

## Friday 16 May

**16h00-17h00: Jitsvinger**

A first in Franschoek: Blue Downs rap poet **Jitsvinger**.

## Saturday 17 May

**10h00-10h30: Jamala James Safari book launch – Tam-Tam Sings**

Introducing **Jamala James Safari** from Bukavu, Congo – a Franschoek resident – and his first book of poetry, *Tam-Tam Sings*.

**10h30-11h30: Modjaji Books**

**Colleen Higgs** of the new imprint **Modjaji Books** presents poets **Megan Hall**, *Fourth Child*, and **Azila Talit Reisenberger**, *Life in Translation*, who will read from their work.

**14h30-15h30: Rustum Kozain**

Local poet **Rustum Kozain**, this year's winner of the **Olive Schreiner Prize** for his collection *This Carting Life*, speaks about and performs his work.

**16h00-17h00: Gabeba Baderoon**

Cape Town poet **Gabeba Baderoon** (*The Dream in the Next Body*) brings her unique magic to the Franschoek Literary Festival.

**18h00-18h30: Red Earth Rising**

Songs and poems with guitar, starring **Barbara Fairhead** and **Jacques Coetzee**.

**18h30 onwards: Off-the-Wall Poets**

An open-mike event with performance poet and MC **Caroline Blackburn**, **Gus Ferguson**, local and Cape Town poets. Bring & perform your own poems!

## Sunday 18th May

**10h00-11h00: Sandile Dikeni**

**Sandile Dikeni**, one of SA's most respected poets, brings his own brand of poetry to the FLF, reading from his new collection *Planting Water*.

**11h30-12h30: Keorapetse Kgositsile**

SA's distinguished Poet Laureate **Keorapetse Kgositsile**, mentor of younger writers and author of *This Way I Salute You*, discusses and performs his work.

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## The FLF Library Fund

Reading is a foundation skill for education, and good libraries are essential assets for any community. One of the aims of this festival is to encourage a reading culture. We try to achieve this by running a poetry competition, organising school and prison visits by writers, and holding free poetry and storytelling events.

The festival also raises funds to make appropriate books available in local languages, specially to children. Last year the FLF Library Fund raised over R104 000 from ticket sales and donations. This amount has been committed to the library in the new Dalabuhle School at Tsotsombeni, and the Fund will continue to help establish first-rate libraries in local schools that need them.

We thank the Exclusive Books Reading Trust for its donation of a fully-stocked container children's library, and the reading public for backing the FLF by coming to join us. You can further support this vital cause by donating books or funds at the Festival Exhibition.

**Jenny Hobbs**

**Franschoek Literary Director**