

NEWSLETTER: VOLUME 26 ISSUE 2

FOURTH TERM 2023

FROM THE EDITORS DESK



It's been a busy and festive year at SADASA, and one befitting of our 80th year milestone. The Poetry Competition was a highlight, and an opportunity to discover and showcase the work of many of our talented local poets. This year schools once again booked 'live' festivals, demonstrating our famous South African resilience and ability to triumph after suffering so many losses from Covid, looting and devastating floods.

On a personal note, I've enjoyed connecting with new and old SADASA friends, and together with them coordinating outstanding Speech and Drama Festivals, knowing that approximately 10 000 learners in 2023 have benefitted from the opportunity our festivals provide in schools all over South Africa.

Rosanne

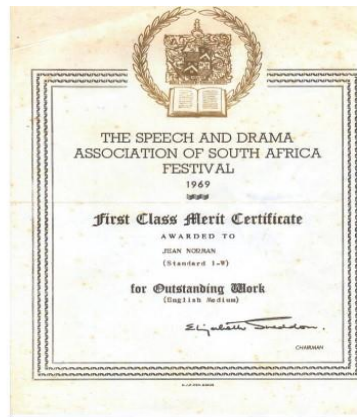


A FESTIVE 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

We are proud to celebrate our 80th birthday, and we continue to carry the torch our founder, Professor Elizabeth Sneddon lit 80 years ago. We work to foster lifelong lifeskills, improving verbal communication, and helping young people speak with ease and confidence.

We also provide a showcase platform for children with talent and ability to shine in a non-competitive environment. One such learner was Jean Norman in 1969. Jean has treasured her certificate signed by Elizabeth Sneddon and kept it safe for many years. Imagine her delight when Jean, now Jean Van Elden, recently stumbled across the first certificate she received when she entered the Speech and Drama Festival in Standard 1 (Grade 3). Jean is well known and respected in Arts and Theatre circles in KwaZulu-Natal as an accomplished Actress, Writer and Director while continuing to teach Drama full-time at Eden College in Durban.

Our certificates have been treasured by Festival participants since 1943. This year, young Grace Davidson from Winston Park Primary arrived home filled with excitement with a Certificate of Distinction. We know that Grace will treasure her certificate in much the same way as Jean has done. We hope that in 50 years time, she will show her children and grandchildren this certificate and continue to carry the same torch, inspiring others.



First Class Certificate for outstanding work presented to Jean Norman in Standard 1 in 1969, signed by our founder, and then Chairman, Professor Elizabeth Sneddon.



In 2023 Certificates of Distinction are awarded to learners who achieve A+ symbols. Congratulations, Grace Davidson!

This certificate is signed by our present SADASA Chairman, Dr Mervyn McMurtry.





POETRY COMPETITION 2023

Aspiring poets, and well-known poets heeded our call for poems and our SADASA email 'buzzed' as poems poured in from all over South Africa.

All details of the poets were removed including names, schools and grades. This was to ensure that there would be no judging bias.

Sadly, there could be just one winner per category. However, some poems were given special mention by our judging panel.

The winners poems will be included in the main part of SADASA's Syllabus 2024 to 2026.

The poems given special mention will be included in a separate addendum at the back of the syllabus. Participants entering our Speech and Drama festivals may select these poems to recite.

Read all about our winners below.



JUNIOR PRIMARY CATEGORY WINNER

Congratulations, Georgia Muller for your winning poem entitled, *My Jacket*.

Georgia bounced for joy when she discovered she had won the category prize. She can't wait to visit her local book shop to select a new book with her winning voucher.

Georgia writes:

"My name is Georgia and I am 8 years old and I go to Umhlali Preparatory School. I am in Grade 2. I love school and I love languages and art. Writing poems is a fun way to be creative and relax. It makes me happy and I enjoy rhyming the words. Dr Seuss books are my favourite and they remind me of poems because of the way they rhyme. Winning the competition has inspired me to write more poems."



Georgia Muller at home with her proud mum, Chantelle.



SENIOR PRIMARY CATEGORY WINNER

Congratulations, Saheli Bhayroo for your winning poem, *African Hearts*. Saheli Bhayroo, in Grade 7 at Durban Girls' College was very excited to hear she was the winner in her category, saying:

"To write a poem you need a great imagination. Anyone can do it. I enjoy writing poems because it feels like a safe space for me to 'let it all out.' It gives me a sense of calm and happiness. My parents have always been my biggest fans and for that I am most grateful."



Saheli at home with her mum and dad.



HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORY WINNER

Congratulations, Jose Dos Santos for your winning poem, *The Dilemma*.

Jose Dos Santos in Grade 11 at Brettonwood High, Durban said that winning made him feel ecstatic, although surprised, as he wasn't confident entering, thinking the poem might be too lovey-dovey.

Jose writes:

"I decided to put something I was experiencing at the time into a poem. To give context, I had these romantic feelings for someone. At the time, everything was so whimsical, and being a teenager, the feelings felt so intense."



Jose with his mum and teacher, Mr Kuldip.



ADULT CATEGORY WINNER

Congratulations, Nirvashnee Naidu for your winning poem, *I Became the Moon*.

Nirvashnee Naidu was born in Shallcross, Durban and currently lives in Shaka's Rock on the KZN North Coast. She's an entrepreneur that operates a clothing business that designs, manufactures and delivers fashion apparel to retail chains.

Nirvashnee writes:

"I started writing poetry about 3 decades ago. I didn't realise it then, but I started writing as a means of dealing with the severe mental trauma that I was experiencing at the time. It has been an absolutely cathartic journey that has culminated in publishing 'Where the Lotus Flower Blooms'.

My poems are about love and other pain. Some take the reader through a harrowing journey through mud-filled, filthy waters of abuse, depression and despair to a place of immeasurable beauty, where hope, healing and resilience ultimately prevail. Writing poetry has provided me with a voice to finally speak up for myself, and to be that voice for everyone who hasn't yet found theirs."



Poet and author, Nirvashnee Naidu.



POETRY COMPETITION SPECIAL MENTIONS: CONGRATULATIONS!

Uminathi Zuma in Grade 9 from Hamilton College, Ladysmith writes:

"I write poetry because it is my voice, it is the way I communicate my emotions, my beliefs, my life and everything that is anything. Poetry is the way I want to leave my legacy and footsteps for mankind. Poetry is the way I share the stories that have been embedded in me."

Jake Savage, in Grade 11 from Clifton College, Durban writes:

"I love writing poetry because of its versatility. It can be adapted into so many forms and mediums such as music and film. It is truly an expression of one's innermost thoughts, experiences and beliefs."



Uminathi Zuma in Grade 8 from Hamilton College, Ladysmith for her poem, *Africa*



Jake Savage in Grade 11 from Clifton College, Durban for his poem, *Century of Moons*



POETRY COMPETITION SPECIAL MENTIONS: CONGRATULATIONS!

Mandisa Mbambo in Grade 11 from Eshowe High School writes:

"Poetry is more than just words on a page, it's a window into the soul. Every verse is a breath of life, every stanza a tiny universe. When I write poetry, I feel as if I'm operating a door to another dimension that is full of wonder and magic. It's a place where I can explore my deepest thoughts and emotions, and express them in a way that is both beautiful and unique. When I write poetry, I feel I'm becoming one with the universe, and that is why I enjoy it so much."

Zahra Dawood in Grade 7 from Durban Girls' College writes:

"I enjoy writing poetry because it allows me to express my thoughts and emotions in a creative and unique way. Writing is my personal space to express myself and connect with others who share the same love for words. One of my earliest memories is of my parents reading books to me and one of my fondest memories is of my Dad telling me his "Merlin stories" before bedtime. The characters were all made up in his imagination and they had the most amazing adventures. It was definitely the beginning of my love for reading and writing."



Mandisa Mbambo in Grade 11 from Eshowe High School, Eshowe for her poem entitled, *Whispers in the Rain*.



Zahra Dawood in Grade 7 from Durban Girls' College, Durban for her poem entitled, *Twilight*.



POETRY COMPETITION ADULT CATEGORY SPECIAL MENTIONS: CONGRATULATIONS!

Pam Couperthwaite is retired teacher and now lives in Port Alfred in the Eastern Cape.

Pam writes:

"Writing poetry is challenging and stimulating. One experiences an emotion, an event, or has an idea and there is the urge to write using a measure of metre, rhyme, building to a climax, and conclusion. The measure of achievement lies in one's personal satisfaction with the outcome."

Andrea Cropper is self-employed and lives in Durban.

Andrea writes:

"The reason why I enjoy writing poetry is because it teaches you the economy of words and of the thinking process. Between each comma and a word there are spaces of thought the size of cathedrals that the poet needs to skillfully shape with tools of the the imagination and musical rhythm. There is no room for excess!"



Pam Couperthwaite, Adult category for her poem, *Shadows*



Andrea Cropper, Adult Category for her poem, *Depression is a Guest*



THE 20TH BRUCE PIPER AWARD MONOLOGUE COMPETITION 2023

The atmosphere was electric at this year's annual Bruce Piper Award Monologue Competition held at Cowan House in Hilton, KwaZulu-Natal on Saturday, 21 October 2023. 15 outstanding participants from Grosvenor Girls' High, Holy Family College, King Edward High, Port Shepstone High, Vryheid Landbou High and Wembley College performed varied monologues.

Congratulations to Kyra Kalu from Port Shepstone High for winning first place and Jack Stephens from Port Shepstone High for being Runner-up.

Special thanks to our two adjudicator's, Dr Mervyn McMurtry and Mr David Spteri for adjudicating the event.

Special acknowledgements to Mr Derek Braans, Principal of Cowan House and Mrs Julie Meiklejohn for the use of the venue.



Our 2023 candidates enjoying a 'magical' afternoon together and making new friends.



SADASA BURSARIES 2023

Each year SADASA awards three tuition bursaries to participants of our Speech and Drama Festivals who show promise.

Congratulations!

- The Elizabeth Sneddon bursary 2023 is awarded to Anotha Mtshali from New Germany Primary.
- The Hazel Meyer bursary 2023 is awarded to Mpiloyethu Mncube from Berg Street Primary.
- The Jilian Hurst bursary is awarded to two learners, Ria Narainsamy and Kellan Kusel from Hillcrest Primary. Ria and Kellan each receive a part-bursary.



Thank you Westville Senior Primary for donating tuition bursaries for the following learners:

- Emma Mumford
- Ava Morrow
- Ashton Singh
- Yuvna Panday



1983 - 2023: 40 YEARS OF DRAMA

In September of this year, the Ida Gartrell Studio of Speech & Drama in Eshowe marked its 40th year of existence. Celebrations are being planned, and many past and present students have been invited to celebrate this achievement.

Developing your potential since 1983 is the watchword of the studio and it is the motivation for its continued existence.

Over the years, the studio took a turn at more diverse occupations - creative development training workshops, events, and a costume hire wardrobe. The voice, body and breathwork with traumatised patients developed out of a partnership with a clinical psychologist, into The Confidence Clinic. Professional storytelling (specifically Zulu mythology) arose from years of research and the Stargazing and Stories programme. Scriptwriting for children's TV programmes, Child Abuse prevention programmes, Voices beyond the Walls, Radio Plays for Community Radio developed out of many years working in Zululand prisons. Community and NGO projects included working with JIKA, a community college, a Birding Project with rural schools, Senzokuhle, Justice and Women and The New Readers Project. Writing stories for school readers, acting, directing, lecturing, examining, adjudication and teaching Drama in schools has continued on and off.

Please contact Ida at idadag@telkomsa.net, and follow her Facebook page to receive more information.

Love makes the world go round, but Drama makes it spin!

Information received from Ida Gartrell.



Members of the Ida Gartrell Studio.



DON'T MISS OUT!



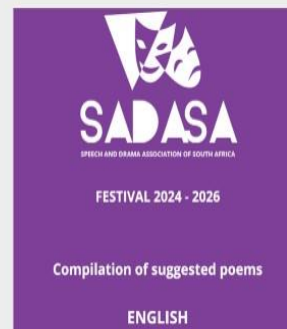
SYLLABUS 2024-2026

We are excited to announce that there will be a new Syllabus in 2024. We have worked hard to include some fresh and exciting new poems, from local and international poets.

Thank you to SADASA committee members, Mervyn McMurtry, Margie Marnewick, Philippa Savage, Jean Van Elden, Les Coull, Mbali Nguse, David Spiteri, Brett Beiles and Genesis Cele for your work selecting and editing our new English and isiZulu Syllabus books.

The English Syllabus will be available for purchase by the beginning of December 2023.

The isiZulu Syllabus will be available for purchase from April 2024.





THANK YOU TO OUR ADJUDICATION PANEL 2023

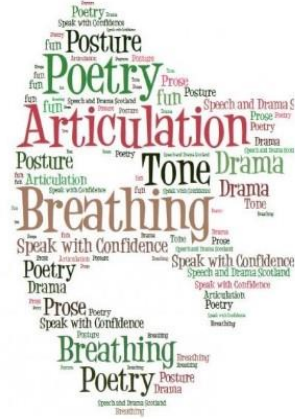
SADASA would not have enjoyed a successful and rewarding year without our highly-skilled, and experienced adjudication panel. Thank you, adjudicators for all you do each year to encourage participants at our Speech and Drama Festivals.

The following adjudicators visited schools this year.

Cathie Brooks-Neill, Genesis Cele, Seren Coetzee, Les Coull, Sharon Colby, Tracy Deeb, Sandra Fourie, Ida Gartrell, Rosanne Hurly-Coyne, Danita Kliem, Margie Marnewick, Barbie Meyer, Mbali Nguse, Helana Olivier, Caroline Palmer, Di Paterson, Philippa Savage, David Spiteri, Carla Tate and Cherry Yallup.

THANK YOU LOUD CROWD MEDIA

We are grateful to Fenella Rivalland, and the staff at Loud Crowd Media for keeping our website and designs current and beautiful!



LOOKING TO 2024

We look forward to booking your Speech and Drama Festival 2024!

Bookings for Festival 2024 are open. Please book your school festival as soon as possible so we can accommodate your selected dates.

We wish you a safe and joyful festive season with your family and friends.



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