

Friday, 19 May

9:00-11:00

1

News24 Breakfast: THE NEXT NEW SOUTH AFRICA?

(REUBEN'S RESTAURANT & BAR)

Join News24 editor-in-chief **Adriaan Basson** in discussion with **Ferial Haffajee**, **Prince Mashele** and **Richard Calland** to discuss the state of South Africa's coalition politics and infrastructure collapse. Who will rule the country after 2024?

Tickets at R450 (including a buffet breakfast)

10:00 -12:00

1b

THE STORY OF YOU – Memoir writing workshop

(LIBRARY)

Join bestselling publisher and author **Melinda Ferguson** for a 2-hour live-writing memoir workshop. Get tips on how to improve your personal writing as well as invaluable insights into the publishing scene in South Africa. Bring a notebook and pen. Tickets at R250

11:30-12:30

2

SPEAK TO YOUR SPARK

(CHURCH HALL)

Art journalist and long-time friend **Diane de Beer** talks to **Nataniël** about storytelling, longevity, inspiration and the rare art of understanding cover design. A light-hearted and insightful conversation, which will likely end in tears.

– Sponsored by Ninety One SA

11:30-12:30

3

UNTWISTING THE TALE

(NEW SCHOOL HALL)

Can you confront and process trauma by reading – or writing – fiction about terrible crimes? **John Maytham** peers behind the corkboard with the South African authors of three dark new thrillers – **Margie Orford** (*The Eye of the Beholder*), **Lester Walbrugh** (*Elton Baatjies*) and **Tracey Hawthorne** (*Flipped*).

4

SORRY BEYOND WORDS

(OLD SCHOOL HALL)

Hlonipha Mokoena untangles the knot of apology with co-editor **Melanie Judge** and fellow contributor **Nurina Ally** to *Unsettling Apologies: Critical Writing on Apology from South Africa*. Also on the panel is **Marina Cantacuzino**, author of *Forgiveness: An Exploration*.

5

BOUNDLESS COURAGE

(NG CHURCH)

Documentary maker, **Jordy Sank** (*I am Here*), will be in conversation with the astonishingly resilient Auschwitz survivor **Ella Blumenthal** and **Joanne Jowell** (author of *I Am Ella*) as they trace her remarkable life journey. Ella lives in Sea Point and turns 103 in July this year.

6

WALKING WITH ELEPHANTS

(CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)

Sarah Bullen talks to **Françoise Malby-Anthony** about her book *The Elephants of Thula Thula*, an astonishing account of her life's work caring for hundreds of troubled pachyderms at the rehabilitation reserve she established with her late husband, Lawrence Anthony.

13:00-14:00

7

WHY FICTION?

(NG CHURCH)

Gail Schimmel explores the social roles and personal motivations of creating fiction with a trio of acclaimed storytellers: **Rachel Joyce**, **Margie Orford** and **Sue Nyathi**.
– Sponsored by Ninety One SA

8

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

(NEW SCHOOL HALL)

Dennis Davis tracks the descent of ANC leadership with **Richard Calland** and **Mabel Sithole** (via Zoom), co-authors of *The Presidents: From Mandela to Ramaphosa, Leadership in the Age of Crisis*.

9

THE RELEASE

(OLD SCHOOL HALL)

Melody Pick-Cornelius will be in conversation with **Marina Cantacuzino**, author of *Forgiveness: An Exploration*, and former Public Protector **Thuli Madonsela**. The forgiveness of self and others creates a restorative narrative with the power to transform lives – but how does one actually deeply forgive?

10

PLATH, BEYOND THE MYTH (Virtual)

(CHURCH HALL)

Dominique Botha talks with **Heather Clark** (via Zoom) about her biography of a genius who has been reduced to the image of her suicide in contemporary culture. *Red Comet: The Short Life and Blazing Art of Sylvia Plath* correct the picture magisterially.

13:00-14:00

11

FULL DISCLOSURE

(CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)

Koketso Sachane discusses the art of self-narrative to two maestros of bittersweet memoir: **Melinda Ferguson** (*Bamboozled*) and **Herman Lategan** (*Hoerkind*, soon to be published in English as *Child of a Whore*). What does it feel like to reveal everything to the world?

12

INCANTATIONS

(COUNCIL CHAMBERS)

Malika Ndlovu in conversation with poets **Khadija Tracey Heeger** (*Thicker Than Sorrow*) – who is also an actor, playwright and activist – and **Grant Jethas** (*Afvlerkmens*), a well-known son of Franschhoek. Their new collections investigate a rich palette of themes, from reviving family history and collective memory to resilience in the face of personal crisis.

13

FLIGHT OR WRITE

(HOSPICE)

C.A. Davids in conversation with **Vernon R.L. Head**, author of the acclaimed bestseller *The Search For the Rarest Bird in the World*. His new novel, *On The Wave of Gulls*, animates the overlapping lives of a troubled Cape Town architect, a homeless wanderer and a seagull in search of a mate.
– Sponsored by Pam Golding Properties

14:00-16:00

14

NOVEL IDEAS – Novel Writing Workshop

(LIBRARY)

Learn the basics on how to plot a novel, develop strong characters and drive story, with writing coach and agent **Sarah Bullen**. We will unpack the key genre conventions of thrillers, crime, New Adult, Young Adult and romance fiction that writers need to construct a strong story. Tickets at R250

14:30-15:30

15

PRISONERS OF LOVE

(NG CHURCH)

Winnie & Nelson is a shattering, revelatory account of a relationship that shaped South Africa's journey to freedom. **Jonny Steinberg** speaks to **Hlonipha Mokoena** about Winnie and Nelson's unique marriage – its longings, its obsessions, its deceptions – in this page-turning political biography.

– Sponsored by Ninety One SA

16

NO FURTHER

(NEW SCHOOL HALL)

Tony Leon is in conversation with BBC correspondent **Andrew Harding** and historian **Irina Filatova** about the Russia-Ukraine war. Harding's book *A Small, Stubborn Town: Life, Death and Defiance in Ukraine* is a gripping portrait of the people of Voznesensk and the heroic stand they took against Putin's invaders in March 2022.

Friday, 19 May

14:30-15:30

17

HARD PLACES

(OLD SCHOOL HALL)

Joy Watson welcomes two fearless memoirists who have written their way out of crisis and substance abuse: **Sara-Jayne Makwala King** (*Mad Bad Love And How the Things We Love Can Nearly Kill Us*) and **Pamela Power** (*My Year of Getting Shit-Faced: How I Tried and Failed to Give Up Alcohol and Learned the Joys of Moderation*).

18

THE HIGH ROAD

(CHURCH HALL)

South Africa's unstoppable endurance cyclist **Grant Lottering** (*Riding Life*) tells inspirational stories of resilience and determination – not least his return from the brink of death after a crash in the Alps that stopped his heart – but not his life passion.

19

RAISED VOICES

(CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)

Danielle Weakley explores the magic of reanimating female histories with **Joanne Joseph** (*Children of Sugarcane*, SA Book Awards winner 2022) and **Laila Manack**, whose debut novel, *Sisters of the Circus*, is the rip-roaring tale of Indian sisters who become trapeze artists, after being kidnapped and sold to the circus at age four.

20

INSIDE STORY

(COUNCIL CHAMBERS)

Michele Magwood in discussion with former MP and diplomat **Melanie Verwoerd** about her compelling memoir *Never Waste a Good Hysterectomy* – a raw, frank and hopeful account of her operation and its surprising emotional aftermath.

14:30-15:30

21

FLIGHT PATHS

(HOSPICE HALL)

Melinda Ferguson gets airborne with **Robert Gentle**. His inspiring memoir *The Scholarship Kids* recounts his and his twin brother's boyhood dream of studying aviation, back in the days when it was a whites-only dream – and how their flair for French made it come true, opening up a world beyond apartheid South Africa.

– Sponsored by Pam Golding Properties

22

Screening: *I am Here* documentary

(THEATRE)

A life-affirming and truly inspiring documentary about the remarkable life of Holocaust survivor, **Ella Blumenthal**. Her recollections, include tales of three concentration camps, and of narrowly escaping death in a gas chamber.

16:00-17:00

23

LAST RIGHTS

(NG CHURCH)

Kabous Meiring talks with **Sean Davison** (via Zoom) about his revelatory memoir *The Price of Mercy* and the struggle to decriminalise assisted suicide in South Africa, and **Willem Landman** of right-to-die activist group, DignitySA.

– Sponsored by Ninety One SA

24

SHADOWS OF A GIANT

(NEW SCHOOL HALL)

Janet Smith explores the legacy of Chris Hani, 30 years after his murder, with **Beauregard Tromp** (*Hani: A Life Too Short*) and **Justice Malala** (*The Plot to Save South Africa: Chris Hani's Murder and the Week Nelson Mandela Averted Civil War*). Justice Malala will join via Zoom.

16:00-17:00

25

BLOEDHONDE (Afrikaans)

(OLD SCHOOL HALL)

Beide **Rudie van Rensburg** en **Irma Venter** is gesoute misdaadskrywers wie nie skroom om eksentrieke en dikwels onwaarskynlike hoofkarakters op hulle lesers los te laat nie. Ontgin saam met **Jonathan Amid** gunsteling karakters soss Kassie Kasselman, Carl Nester en Ami Prinsloo.

26

ADAPTABILITY (Virtual)

(CHURCH HALL)

Pippa Hudson meets crime fiction sensation **Ann Cleeves** (via Zoom), winner of the Crime Writers' Association Diamond Dagger in 2017. Her acclaimed novels have given us three compelling TV sleuths: Vera Stanhope (*Vera*), Jimmy Perez (*Shetland*) and Matthew Venn (*The Long Call*). Why are her thrillers so perfectly suited to the screen?

27

WELCOME TO BABEL

(CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)

Michiel Heyns talks with **Etienne van Heerden** about his audacious novel *A Library to Flee* (translated by Henrietta Rose-Innes), a sprawling exploration of campus culture wars, state surveillance and the dystopian power of the internet.

28

SAFARI SO GOOD

(COUNCIL CHAMBERS)

Gail Schimmel talks to **James Hendry** – safari guide, wildlife TV presenter, photographer and author – about his latest novel *Return to the Wild*, set in the Kruger Park, and the true events that inspire his bush-life bestsellers.

16:00-17:00

29

BENEATH OUR FEET

(HOSPICE HALL)

Koketso Sachane in discussion with lawyer and land restitution expert **Bulelwa Mabasa** of Werksmans Attorneys. Her passionate memoir *My Land Obsession* connects her childhood and her Soweto family's history of dispossession with the current impasse over land inequality, and the way forward to justice.

– Sponsored by Pam Golding Properties

16:30-18:00

29b

Screening: BLIND AMBITION documentary

(THEATRE)

A feel good documentary about four refugees who conquered the odds to become South Africa's top sommeliers after escaping starvation and tyranny in their homeland of Zimbabwe.

19:00-20:30

30

NATANIËL IN CONCERT

(NG CHURCH)

Singer, songwriter and storyteller **Nataniël** in concert with Steinway pianist **Charl du Plessis** (23 years together on stage!).

Stories mostly in Afrikaans, songs always in English, original and evergreen ballads, soul, blues and swing. Fantasy, humour, beauty, nostalgia, wisdom and truth!

Tickets at R300

– Venue sponsored by Ninety One SA

19:00-22:30

31

ROCK FOR READING

(HEY JOE BREWING COMPANY)

Join us for a fun musical evening at Hey Joe Brewery to help raise funds for our Franschoek Reading programme in disadvantaged schools in the valley. Franschoek's very own Uncorked will play immortal hits from ABBA to Coldplay. Food and drinks will be charged extra. Tickets at R250

Saturday, 20 May

10:00-11:00

32

BEELITISM (NG CHURCH)

Carol Paton traces the rise of South Africa's empowerment oligarchy with **Pieter du Toit** (*The ANC Billionaires: Big Capital's Gambit and the Rise of the Few*) and **Chris Bishop** (*BEE Billionaires: Redressing the Imbalances of the Past, or Creating New Ones?*) via Zoom.

– Sponsored by Ninety One SA

33

JA WELL, NOT FINE (Virtual) (NEW SCHOOL HALL)

Sarah Bullen talks to celebrated comedian **Ruby Wax** (via Zoom) about her latest and most revelatory book yet on mental health, *I'm Not as Well as I Thought I Was* – an irreverent, reassuring account of getting through a crisis in 2022.

34

READ IT AND WEEP (OLD SCHOOL HALL)

What are the rules of emotional engagement between writer and reader? **Michele Magwood** consults an expert, **Rachel Joyce**, whose delicately moving new novella *Maureen Fry and the Angel of the North* completes a trilogy that began with *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*.

35

HAMMER BLOW (CHURCH HALL)

John Maytham gets the full story from **Rael Levitt**, who was a powerful celebrity auctioneer until he was scandalously accused of placing ghost bids in 2011. In his book *It Takes A Tsunami*, Levitt reflects on that crisis – and on how he rebuilt his business career.

10:00-11:00

36

VERSES & REVERSES (CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)

Dominique Botha is in conversation with **Antjie Krog** about *Pillage*, her first collection of poetry in eight years – a powerful reflection on family, land and the act of plunder – whether imposed by time, nature or human agency.

37

HOT MONEY (COUNCIL CHAMBERS)

Joy Watson gets the lowdown from two writers with a frank take on sex and wealth: **Lebohang Masango's** *The Soft Life: Love, Choice and Modern Dating* is an unjudgmental account of South Africa's dating mores, while **Eva Mazza's** new novel *Sex, Lies & Alibis* puts the Stellenbosch jet set under a steamy microscope.

37

HOME TRUTHS (HOSPICE)

Pamela Power talks to **Gail Schimmel** as they launch her new and seventh novel *Little Secrets*, about an apparently happy marriage on thin ice, and how the emotional intricacies of family life remain an unbeatable fictional territory.

– Sponsored by Pam Golding Properties

10:00-12:00

39

THE STORY OF YOU – Memoir writing workshop (LIBRARY)

Join bestselling publisher and author **Melinda Ferguson** for a 2-hour live-writing memoir workshop. Get tips on how to improve your personal writing as well as invaluable insights into the publishing scene in South Africa. Bring a notebook and pen. Space is limited. Tickets at R250

11:30-12:30

40

THE TILLS ARE ALIVE (NG CHURCH)

Bruce Whitfield hears the incredible story of **Whitey Basson** – from the man himself. How did he rise from a Porterville farm to become Africa's biggest shopkeeper? Basson will present **Niel Joubert's** authorised biography, *Whitey: The Rise and Rule of the Shoprite King*.

– Sponsored by Ninety One SA

41

THE UNDERWORLD CUP (OLD SCHOOL HALL)

Adriaan Basson takes a tour through South Africa's maze of organised crime, guided by **Caryn Dolley** (*Clash of the Cartels*) and **Mandy Wiener** (*The Whistleblowers*).

42

THE ASCENT (OLD SCHOOL HALL)

Bongani Kona speaks with lawyer and activist **Louisa Zondo** about her powerful book *Dearest MaRiky: Journeying Through Grief and Healing*. While mourning the passing of her son Rikhado Makhado (rap star Riky Rick), she climbed Mount Everest, felt her son's presence, and resolved to tell her full story to him.

43

HIDDEN HERO (Virtual) (CHURCH HALL)

Tony Leon interviews **Jonathan Freedland** (via Zoom) about his gripping new book *The Escape Artist: The Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to Warn the World*. How does the incredible story of Rudolf Vrba deepen our comprehension of the Holocaust?

11:30-12:30

44

LOVE-SHEDDING (CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)

S J Naudé speaks to **Michiël Heyns** about his new and tenth novel, *Each Mortal Thing*, set in London, seen through South African eyes, which explores the emotional costs of friendship and compassion.

45

GENERATION BOOKTOK (COUNCIL CHAMBERS)

Jennifer Platt talks shop with **Sharon Naidoo** (sales & marketing director at Jonathan Ball) and **Danielle Weakley**, about the sensational video reviewing network that is BookTok – and other tech trends inspiring young audiences to read.

46

THE SENIOR MOMENT (HOSPICE HALL)

Nancy Richards shoots the breeze with **Anne Schlebusch**, whose riotous novel *Bloomer* gives contemporary old age an irreverent and inspiring new treatment.

– Sponsored by Pam Golding Properties

13:00-14:00

47

UNCHARTED (NG CHURCH)

Ferial Haffajee explores the future of South Africa beyond the 2024 elections with **Songozo Zibi** (*Manifesto*), **Prince Mashele** (*The Outsider*) and **Pieter du Toit** (*The ANC Billionaires*).

– Sponsored by Ninety One SA

13:00-14:00

48

OVER THE ROPE (Virtual) (NEW SCHOOL HALL)

Robert Marawa pads up with **Faf du Plessis** (via Zoom), whose bestselling, brutally honest autobiography *Faf: Through Fire* reveals his tempestuous journey to maturity.

49

NEW WILD ORDER (OLD SCHOOL HALL)

James Hendry discusses the strategies and ethics of progressive zookeeping and rewilding with author-conservationists **Willie Labuschagne** (*The Soul of A Lion*) and **Grant Fowlds** (*Rewilding Africa*).

50

PENS OF POWER (CHURCH HALL)

Joanne Joseph discusses fictional visions of Zimbabwean history with **Siphiwe Gloria Ndlovu** (*The Quality of Mercy*) and Sue Nyathi (*An Angel's Demise*). Can storytelling serve as a weapon of hope and change?

51

SEEN & HEARD (CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)

Lester Kiewit meets two chroniclers of outsider life. **Chase Rhys's** *Misfit: Stories vannie anner kant* is a collection of his acclaimed pieces in Kaaps for *Rapport*. **Welcome Mandla Lishivha's** memoir of growing up queer in a township, *Boy On The Run*, has been hailed by Mark Gevisser as 'utterly compelling'.

Saturday, 20 May



13:00-14:00

52

UNHEARD OF (Virtual) (COUNCIL CHAMBER)

Are today's literary novelists too safe and genre-bound? **Margie Orford** talks creative rule-breaking with the risk-tolerant **Maddie Mortimer** (via Zoom), whose 2022 Booker-longlisted novel, *Maps of Our Spectacular Bodies*, features a cancer as one of its narrators.

53

SHEILA CUSSONS 100 (Afrikaans) (HOSPICE HALL)

Sheila Cussons word as een van die belangrikste Afrikaans digters beskou wat ooit geleef het. Ter viering van haar 100 gedenkjaar praat **Amanda Botha** met **Adriaan Potgieter** oor sy boek, *In die Klipknoets van Haar Vuis*, wat 'n Jungiaanse perspektief bied op haar werk.

– Sponsored by Pam Golding Properties

14:00-15:30

54

Screening: *Blind Ambition* documentary (THEATRE)

A feelgood documentary about four refugees who conquered the odds to become South Africa's top sommeliers after escaping starvation and tyranny in their homeland of Zimbabwe.

14:00-16:00

55

GETTING IT DOWN – Journaling Workshop (LIBRARY)

Join award-winning author **Dianne Stewart** in a journaling workshop. Explore the uses of a journal as a document for one's life, a therapeutic tool or seedbed for future writing projects. Tickets at R250

14:30-15:30

56

A MIGHTY PEN (NG CHURCH)

Adriaan Basson and world-renowned cartoonist **Zapiro** analyse the most incisive cartoons from his new annual *It's Not How It Looks* – and the rapidly shifting political realities that inspired them.

– Sponsored by Ninety One SA

57

HERD IMPUNITY (NEW SCHOOL HALL)

Why do South Africa's most flagrant political and corporate looters seem untouchable? Former NPA investigations head **Hermione Cronje** dives into the murk with **Ferial Haffajee** (*Days of Zondo*) and **Michael Marchant** (*The Unaccountables*).

58

SEEDS OF CHANGE (OLD SCHOOL HALL)

T J Strydom discovers the secrets of triumph over adversity from two trailblazers: **Lincoln Mali** (*Blazing A Trail: Lessons for African Leadership*) and **Jeff van Rooyen** (*Unshackled: My Journey from the Township to the Boardroom*).

59

THE DEPTH OF DISTANCE (CHURCH HALL)

Wamuwi Mbao in conversation with **C.A. Davids** (*How To Be A Revolutionary*) and **Lethokuhle Msimang** (*The Frightened*). Both novels are set partly in China and South Africa, and powerfully explore the inner revolutions and revelations that can be sparked by being in a strange place.

14:30-15:30

60

MASCULINITY REBIRTHED (CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)

Pumla Dineo Gqola talks with psychologist **Kopano Ratele** about his book *Why Men Hurt Women and Other Reflections on Love, Violence and Masculinity*. How can a loving and non-violent masculinity be retrieved from the distorting grip of socio-economic injustice and emotional trauma?

61

TRAP OF THE PAST (Virtual) (COUNCIL CHAMBER)

Joy Watson meets Nigerian writer **Aiwanose Odafen** (via Zoom), whose debut novel *Tomorrow I Become a Woman* – a gripping exploration of patriarchal violence, forbidden love and cultural conflict – has been acclaimed as 'searing and beautifully rendered'.

62

JUST DO IT (LIKE THIS) HOSPICE

Recent self-publisher **Tanya Meeson** (*The Fulcrum*) plots a path through the self-publishing jungle with fellow renegade **Daisy Jones** (co-author of *Love You Madly*) and **Dave Henderson**, owner of MYeBook.

– Sponsored by Pam Golding Properties

16:00-17:00

63

POWER CORRUPTS (NG CHURCH)

Investigative journalist, **Kyle Cowan's** book *Sabotage: Eskom under Siege* details a vast network of organised crime and graft behind South Africa's power crisis. Cowan goes behind the scenes and joins the dots with former Eskom CEO **André de Ruyter**.

– Sponsored by Ninety One SA

16:00-17:00

64

BELOW THE SURFACE (NEW SCHOOL HALL)

Bruce Whitfield mines the ambiguous legacy of South Africa's biggest tycoon yet with **Michael Cardo**, author of *Harry Oppenheimer: Diamonds, Gold and Dynasty*.

65

NOT JUST A GAME (OLD SCHOOL HALL)

Mandy Wiener and **Robert Marawa** relive the showdowns and triumphs of his brilliant sports broadcasting career, as told in his no-holds-barred memoir *Gimm Shelele: The Robert Marawa Story*.

66

CONTINENTAL DRAUGHT (Virtual) (CHURCH HALL)

Jonny Steinberg goes myth-busting with **Dipo Faloyin** (via Zoom), author of *Africa is Not a Country*, an irreverent celebration of the African continent and its dizzying diversity.

67

DIY NOT? (CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)

Carol Paton asks labour lawyer **Frans Rautenbach** about his vision for citizen power under a failing state. His book *Help Yourself South Africa: How Ordinary Citizens Can Reform Our Broken Economy*, charts a community-led route to self-reliance, progress and prosperity.

68

OFF THE CHARTS (COUNCIL CHAMBER)

Melinda Ferguson talks Joburg, chaos and narrative freedom with **Tshidiso Moletsane**, whose explosive gonzo-fiction debut *Junx* bagged the Sunday Times Fiction Award in 2022.

16:00-17:00

69

Screening: *I am Here* documentary (THEATRE)

A life-affirming and truly inspiring documentary about the remarkable life of Holocaust survivor, **Ella Blumenthal**. Her recollections, depicted through dynamic 2D animation, include tales of three concentration camps, and of narrowly escaping death in a gas chamber. The animation is juxtaposed with present day footage of Ella's life in Sea Point.

17:30-18:30

70

I CAME FROM THE WILDERNESS (CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)

Everyone's talking about rewilding: might it be possible to use poetry to rewild yourself so that you can sing the song of the Loch Ness monster, sound your barbaric yawp, nod briefly and become a cabbage? Performed by **John Maytham** and compiled by Finuala Dowling, this is an exhilarating hour-long exploration of poems that celebrate both the wild in you and the increasingly threatened wilderness we all depend upon.

18:30-20:00

71

WORDS FLY UNDER NIGHT SKIES (CHURCH HALL)

Introducing a fresh dimension to FLF 2023, curator and poet **Malika Ndlovu** brings together six Cape Town-based word weavers, offering a feast of word and sound under the canopy of an autumn night sky. Spend a wonderful evening with poets **Khadija Tracey Heeger**, **Antjie Krog**, **Nondwe Mpuma**, musician **Lodi Paul Ingha** with **Balisa Nathi** storytellers and hosts of *The Story Club Town* – **Philippa Kabali-Kagwa** and **Nolubabalo Rani**.

Sunday, 21 May

10:00-11:00

72

PRISONERS OF LOVE

(NEW SCHOOL HALL)

Joanne Joseph speaks to **Jonny Steinberg** about *Winnie & Nelson: Portrait of a Marriage* – a shattering, revelatory new account of a relationship that shaped South Africa's journey to freedom, drawing on explosive new material.

73

EXTREME CONDITIONS

(OLD SCHOOL HALL)

Pippa Hudson explores inner and outer wilds with pioneering explorer **Saray Khumalo** (*My Journey to the Top of the World*) and **Louisa Zondo** (*Dearest MaRiky*), who climbed Mount Everest in the aftermath of the suicide of her son, rap star Riky Rick.

74

UDDERLY HILARIOUS

(CHURCH HALL)

Lester Kiewit hits the road with **Sihle Khumalo** (*Dark Continent My Black Arse*) whose new book, *Milk the Beloved Country*, gives readers an uproarious guided tour of the "cowntry"'s place names and what they reveal about our past and present.

75

THE SECRET MASSACRE

(CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)

Dennis Davis interviews **Mignonne Breier** about her explosive book *Bloody Sunday*, an account of the 1952 Duncan Village mass shooting. How and why was it erased from struggle history?

10:00-12:00

75b

NOVEL IDEAS – Novel Writing Workshop

(COUNCIL CHAMBER)

Learn the basics on how to plot a novel, develop strong characters and drive story, with writing coach and agent **Sarah Bullen**. We will unpack the key genre conventions of thrillers, crime, New Adult, Young Adult and romance fiction that writers need to construct a strong story. Tickets at R250

11:30-12:30

76

ELON X KOOS

(NG CHURCH)

Bruce Whitfield peers into the whirring brains of two of South Africa's savviest sons, with the help of two unembedded biographers:

Michael Vlismas (*Elon Musk: Risking it All*) and **T J Strydom** (*Koos Bekker's Billions*).

– Sponsored by *Ninety One SA*

77

CASE BY CASE

(NEW SCHOOL HALL)

Andrew Brown discovers how to catch a killer with former SAPS head profiler **Gerard Labuschagne** (*Profile Diaries 2: From Crime Scene to Courtroom*) and investigative writer **Julian Jansen** (*Stellenbosch: Murder Town*).

11:30-12:30

78

LETTING IT GO

(OLD SCHOOL HALL)

Kopano Ratele meets **Marina Cantacuzino**, who started The Forgiveness Project. Her book *Forgiveness: An Exploration* draws on stories of forgiveness from across the globe, including four from South Africa. What does it mean to forgive – and can one do it in the absence of apology?

79

OVER THE HORIZON

(CHURCH HALL)

Melinda Ferguson meets **Frans Meyer** (*Impossible Skies: Life with my brother, the artist, Walter Meyer*) and Amanda Botha, close friend and confidant of Walter for 30 years. They honour the life and work of this brilliant and tormented landscape painter, often described as South Africa's Van Gogh.

80

THE PRACTICE OF FLIGHT

(CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)

Pumla Dineo Gqola chats with **Siphiwe Gloria Ndlovu** (*The Theory of Flight*, Sunday Times Fiction Prize winner 2019) about Ndlovu's acclaimed third novel *The Quality of Mercy* – and how her books interrogate Zimbabwean history.

13:00-14:00

81

STEPPING UP

(NG CHURCH)

John Maytham hunts for hope with writer and political activist **Songezo Zibi**, whose book *Manifesto: A New Vision* for South Africa proposes a grassroots foundation for ethical and accountable new politics.

– Sponsored by *Ninety One SA*

13:00-14:00

82

UNSTOPPABLE

(NEW SCHOOL HALL)

Sihle Khumalo meets **Pie-Pacifique Kabilira-Uwase**, whose book *Witnessing*, tells his astonishing story of fleeing tragedy in Rwanda to South Africa, where he became a car guard – and went on to receive a Mandela Rhodes Scholarship and start a thriving company.

83

TIME TRAVEL 101

(OLD SCHOOL HALL)

Danielle Weakley gleans the secrets of ace historical fiction from **Rachel Joyce** (New York Times bestseller *Miss Benson's Beetle*) and South Africa's **Penny Haw**, whose historical fiction debut *The Invincible Miss Cust* brings to life the defiant journey of a pioneering female vet in Victorian Britain.

84

INNER NATIONS

(CHURCH HALL)

Wamuwi Mbao in conversation with **Eve Fairbanks**, whose book *The Inheritors* (winner of the PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award for non-fiction 2023) traces three individual experiences of the South African transition. It's a sweeping work of narrative reportage, spanning three decades of struggle, liberation and crisis.

13:00-14:00

85

THE RECALL OF THE WILD

(CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)

Nancy Richards heads for the bush with **Françoise Malby-Anthony** (*The Elephants of Thula Thula*) and **Grant Fowlds** (*Rewilding Africa*), who worked for many years with Malby-Anthony's late husband, Lawrence Anthony, aka 'The Elephant Whisperer'.

BOOKINGS

web tickets

Please note that this programme is subject to change without prior notice. www.ff.co.za

