



vrystaat

KUNSTEFEEES • ARTS FESTIVAL • TSA-BOTJHABA

LITERATUURFEEES • LITERATURE FESTIVAL • DINGODILWENG

VRYSTAAT LITERATURE FESTIVAL UNDERTAKES GROUND-BREAKING WORK

This year, the Vrystaat Literature Festival, in collaboration with the University of the Free State and the Vrystaat Arts Festival, will host South Africa's first online book festival. This initiative, an extension of the literary program presented annually in July, is known as **VrySpraak-digitaal**.

The month of September is literature festival month. Throughout the month, local, national, and even international writers and poets will participate in book launches and book discussions, panel discussions, and a variety of poetry events.

The program comprises more than 40 online presentations that will be released systematically through September and mainly involves pre-recorded conversations and discussions. Access to the offers will be available at R15 and after a ticket has been purchased, an offer will be available for 48 hours.

Every Monday to Friday, at 11:00 and 15:00, as well as Fridays at 17:00, we will also present live events, through Zoom and streamed onto the Vrystaat Arts Festival's Facebook page. The live events will correspond to the conversations released on that particular day and will provide opportunities for audience participation and interaction.

VrySpraak-digitaal continues the Vrystaat Literature Festival's highly successful children's story hours. Antoinette Louw reads from *Die storie van Racheltjie de Beer*; award-winning children's book author, Fanie Viljoen, teaches the little ones to fold paper boats as in his book, *Pieksel*; and, well-known actresses including Anna-Mart van der Merwe and Kanya Viljoen, read aloud from the children's book *Poenankies*.

Award-winning journalist, Ruda Landman, also continues her very popular *Ruda-om-11*-series. Landman interviews Susan Cilliers about her book, *Huis van gruwels: my 16 jaar in die Springs-hel*; and Jan-Jan Joubert and Oscar van Heerden on ANC politics and all our futures; she finds out more about Being a farmer in 2020, in conversation with Wandile Sihlobo, Ivor Price and Kobus Louwrens; and lastly, Landman chats with Natasha Freeman about her book *#ImStaying: Good Thoughts. Good Words. Good Deeds. The Unspoken Impact of the #ImStaying Movement*.

VrySpraak-digitaal's poetry café is diverse and exciting, and includes a conversation with South Africa's current poet laureate, Mongane Serote, about his latest anthology *S'khahlel 'u-OR: a praise poem for OR Tambo* and the role of poetry in South Africa. Daniel Hugo leads a conversation between the Polish academic, Jerzy Koch about his Afrikaans poetry collection, *Pleks van plaas*, and De Waal Venter about his careful translations of the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, in the collection *Vandag is boordensvol*. Old favourites, the book program's annual #VSLitfees Poetry Slam Competition and the Poetic Justice League 2 poetry performance are also on the menu.

An assortment of captivating book launches and conversations also form part of VrySpraak-digitaal. Some highlights include conversations with Anton Goosen and Hanlie Retief (*Anton Goosen Liedjieboer*); Jana Marx (*Afspraak met moord*); Annerle Barnard and Fanie Viljoen (*Sindikaat* and *Donker Web*, respectively); Gaongalelwe Tiro and Andrew Harding (*Parcel of Death: the biography of Onkgopotse Abram Tiro* and *These are not gentle people: a true story*, respectively); Willem Krog



vrystaat

KUNSTEFEEES • ARTS FESTIVAL • TSA-BOTJHABA

LITERATUURFEEES • LITERATURE FESTIVAL • DINGODILWENG

(*Alleen onder die maan*); Albert Blake (*Robey Leibrandt: 'n lewe van fanatisme*); Daniel Hugo (*Die verdriet van België*); and Francois Smith (*Die kleinste ramp denkbaar*).

Some final exciting participants in VrySpraak-digitaal include two former Miss. SA's, Rolene Strauss and Basetsana Kumalo; Madré Marais and Jolyn Phillips (*Luistervink and Tjieng Tjang Tjerries and other stories*); Anchien Troskie and Christine Barkhuizen-le Roux (*Somtotaal and My naam is Prins, ek slaap met die lig aan*); Anel Heydenrych and Irna van Zyl (*Die afloerder and Bloedsteen*); Heinz Mödler (*En daar was dagga*); Kobus Geldenhuys (Afrikaans translations of J.R.R Tolkien, *Die twee torings and Die koning keer terug*); Chris van der Merwe and Hans Ester (*Twyfelaars wat glo: 'n Afrikaans-Nederlandse tweegesprek*); Sue Nyathi (*Black tax: burden or Ubuntu*); and, Kim Windvogel and Kelly-Eve Koopman (*They called me queer*).

Online presentations can be found from on the Vrystaat Arts Festival website, www.vrystaatkunstefees.co.za as well as at Webtickets.

For more information, contact:

Corneli van den Berg

Corneli.vdberg@media24.com

0728020220

Literature Festival coordinator



vrystaat

KUNSTEFEEES • ARTS FESTIVAL • TSA-BOTJHABA

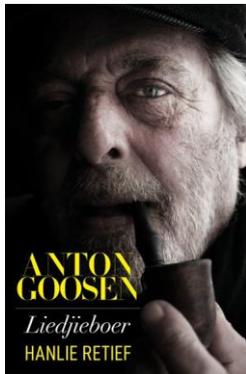
LITERATUURFEEES • LITERATURE FESTIVAL • DINGODILWENG



Die storie van Racheltjie de Beer



Die verdriet van België



Anton Goosen Liedjieboer



Huis van Gruwels: my 16 jaar in die Springs-hel



Jolyn Phillips deur_by Alet Pretorius 2019



Kelly-Eve Koopman



Basetsana Kumalo



Madré Marais deur Mlungisi Louw 2020



vrystaat

KUNSTEFEEES • ARTS FESTIVAL • TSA-BOTJHABA

LITERATUURFEEES • LITERATURE FESTIVAL • DINGODILWENG



Stigersborg |
Founding Sponsor

Hoofborge & Donateurs |
Principal Sponsors & Donors



Projekborge |
Project Sponsors

Mediaborg |
Media Sponsor

Jacana-uitgewers • Jonathan Ball Publishers • LAPA-uitgewers • Nasionale Afrikaanse Letterkundige Museum en Navorsingsentrum (NALN) • Naledi-uitgewers • NB-uitgewers • Pan Macmillan • Penguin Random House South Africa • Protea Boekhuis • SunMedia • The Radioactive Blog • UV Departement Afrikaans, Nederlands, Duits, en Frans • Exclusive Books

Vennote |
Partners