

News of ex-*English Alivers* 2019 and 2020

- **Peter Anderson** (Bishops Diocesan College, 1985) as Senior Lecturer in the English Department at the University of Cape Town presented a series of seminars entitled 'Reading Poetry' as a continuation of his course 'Poetry as Memorable Speech' (given at the UCT Summer School); and ran a course on 'Poems of Devotion' for the 2020 Summer School
- **Daliso Chavanda** (Waterford Kamhlaba United World College eSwatini, 1997) concluded his 36-gig 'Blah Blah Blacklist' comedy tour of Britain in March 2020
- **Ameera Conrad** (Wynberg Girls' High School, 2010) won the Filipa Bragança Award for best solo show by an emerging female artist at the Edinburgh International Festival Fringe 2019 for her *Tales from the Garden*; she directed *The Royale* by Marco Ramirez at the Barbican Theatre Centre in London.
- **Nadia Davids** (St Cyprian's School, 1993–4, 1996): her new play *Hold Still* was due to be staged at the Fugard Theatre, as part of the Fugard's New Writing Initiative, but this did not happen because of the Lockdown.
- **Oliver February** (Cedar House School, 2009-11) did his MA in Creative Writing (a collection of short stories) at Wits and is now signed up to do his PhD in English Literature.
- **Karen Jennings** (Wynberg Girls' High School, 2001) published her new novel *Upturned Earth*, described as 'part of an emergent genre of post-Marikana fiction that showcases South African literary historical fiction'; with **Helen Moffett** (Hottentots Holland High School, 1978) she co-edited a collection *Hotel Africa: new short fiction from Africa*.
- **Shaun Johnson** (Hyde Park High School, 1976) died in March at the age of 60. Shaun wrote the novel *The Native Commissioner*, which won just about every prize going, starting with the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book in Africa. He was the founding Editor of the *Sunday Independent*; and then the founding Chief Executive of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation, from which he retired in 2019.
- **Amy Jephtha** (Muizenberg High School, 2006) her play *All Who Pass* was staged at the 2020 University of Stellenbosch Toyota Woordfees; she was to have directed Mike van Graan's new play *What We Wish For* at the Fugard Theatre, but this did not happen because of the Lockdown.
- **Duane Jethro** (Plumstead High School, 2001, 2002) has been awarded a Georg Forster Research Fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Through prestigious fellowships like this, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation fosters collaboration and cooperation between excellent scientists from Germany and abroad. Dr Jethro will be working with Professor Sharon Macdonald at the Centre for Anthropological Research on Museums and Heritage (CARMaH) at the Humboldt University of Berlin. saw the publication by Bloomsbury of his book *Heritage Formation and the Senses in Post-Apartheid South Africa*. Duane's UCT career spanned work in the Department of Religious Studies, the Department of Psychology, the Archive and Public Culture Research Unit affiliated to the Department of Historical Studies. His Doctorate was achieved at the University of Utrecht. He served a two-year Fellowship at Humboldt University, Berlin, and is now a post-doctoral researcher at the Centre for Anthropological Research on Museums and Heritage, in the Institute for European Ethnology at the Humboldt University.
- **Siphokazi Jonas** (Queenstown Girls' High School, 2002) was the Business & Arts South Africa (BASA) DAC Debut Programme Winner for 2019, for founding the

writing and performing arts company, Wrestling Dawn Arts; she presented a poetry and music production #wearedyinghere at the Joburg Theatre.

- **David Lan** (Westerford High School, 1967–9) saw Faber & Faber publish his memoir *As if by Chance: journeys, theatres, lives*, spanning his whole career from school plays in Cape Town to spirit mediums in Zimbabwe to the Royal Court in London straight from drama school, to becoming the Artistic Director of The Young Vic Theatre, ending up with three Laurence Olivier Awards; a Special Laurence Olivier Award on his retirement; a Special Award from the Critics' Circle for his contribution to theatre; an Honorary Doctorate of Literature from the South Bank University, and a CBE from the Queen; the book was due to be launched to a full house at the National Theatre's Lyttleton Theatre, but this did not happen because of the Lockdown. Critic Lyn Gardner said of David: 'It would be hard to think of anyone who has done more to shape British theatre in recent times than David Lan.'
- **Robin Malan** (assistant founding editor 1967–70, editor 1995–2004, 2007–2012, 2014–17, co-editor 2018) published a collection of pieces under the title *along the way to where* to coincide with his 80th birthday.
- **Kopano Maroga** (Michaelhouse, 2011), *had his first book published by uHlanga Press, with the title Jesus Thesis and other critical fabulations.*
- **Andisiwe Mgibantaka** (Intlanganiso Secondary School, 2003-4) and **Robin Malan** (see above) as Junkets Publisher were the recipients of the 2020 Fleur du Cap Innovation in Theatre Award.
- **Lesego Moeketsane** (Springs Girls' High School, 2015) studied Strategic Communication and Brand Contact Management, and is now a copywriter. She said of *English Alive*: 'Thank you so much for creating such a platform for us creatives. ... [A] seed was definitely planted.'
- **Helen Moffett** (Hottentots Holland High School, 1978): her novel *Charlotte* made the Culturefly online arts magazine's List of 25 Books You Should Read in 2020; with **Karen Jennings** (Wynberg Girls' High School, 2001) she co-edited a new collection *Hotel Africa: new short fiction from Africa.*
- **Dr Siona O'Connell** (Waterford Kamhlaba United World College eSwatini, 1986 as Sheena O'Connell) has published a new book, with the title *Impossible Return: Cape Town's forced removals.*
- **Kate Philip** (Herschel Girls School, 1977) is a Senior Economic Development Advisor in the Government Technical Advisory Centre (GTAC), an agency of South Africa's National Treasury, and, through the International Labour Organisation, she has also been supporting the government of Greece in the roll-out of a public employment programme; in 2019 she published her book *Markets on the margins: mineworkers, job creation and enterprise development.*
- **Henrietta Rose-Innes** (Westerford High School, 1985-9, i.e. every year of her high school career) saw the publication in both the UK and South Africa of her fifth novel *Stone Plant.*
- **Kelwyn Sole** (King Edward VII School, 1969): his poem 'The empty space we call Mandela' was published in the Johannesburg Review of Books.
- **Stuart Stromin** (Northcliff High School, 1975, 1976) had a new novel *Wild Cards* published, initially in a Kindle edition, available on Amazon.
- **Archie Swanson (Bishops Diocesan College, 1973)** launched his second collection of poems *the shores of years* at the 2019 McGregor Poetry Festival.