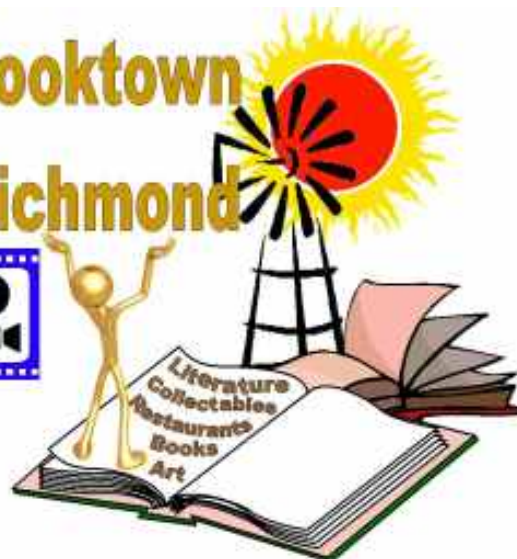


Boekbedonnerd III Booktown October 21, 22, & 23. 2010 Richmond

Richmond Filums
October 20, 21, 22, & 23. 2010



BoekBedonnerd III

April Newsletter

Good Morning Karoosters!

'If there's magic out there, we'll find it', was M- Nets slogan. Booktown Richmond has now decided to appropriate this slogan because we believe we've really got a magical line - up for you this year. Since our last newsletter, so much has happened.

The big news is that struggle icon Ahmed Kathrada is coming to Booktown Richmond and will be one of our keynote speakers (health permitting); all in the name of our '*Coolie Odyssey*' theme, celebrating 150 years of Indian settlement in SA. We chose Mr Kathrada not only because of his struggle credentials, but because he is quite the wordsmith. Mr Kathrada last year published a memoir *A Simple Freedom* co-authored by respected academic/writer Tim Couzens. Moreover, the book comes with a DVD directed by Anant Singh. Mr Kathrada boasts 4 books and 2 honorary doctorates to his name. *A Simple Freedom* was last year shortlisted for the Sunday Times Alan Paton Literary Award.

Coffee table books have always made my pulse race. Acclaimed photographers Pat and Roger de la Harpe have confirmed that they are coming to Richmond to talk about their critically acclaimed book *In Search of the African Wild Dog*. Roger and Pat are also the authors of amongst others *Tuli-Land of Giants*, *Scenic Southern Africa*, and *Big Cats of Mala Mala*.

Booktown Richmond is also chuffed that one of South Africa's greatest photographers Gerald Hoberman is coming to town to talk on his latest book *Lighthouses of Southern Africa*. Now I don't know about you, but I think this is going to be one of the great books of our time, and high on my wish list for Christmas (will get the wife to proof read this newsletter!!!). I truly believe that this book will become known as the *magnum opus* of Gerald Hoberman.

In a similar vein, Rosemary Rudd has compiled a beautiful book on *Wooden Houses of South Africa*. My, what a lovely book! What you have to marvel at is the sheer breadth of such an endeavour. In many cases such books take an entire lifetime to compile, and I for one will put this one down on my 'not to miss' list.

And then we are also pleased to announce that Angela Read Lloyd will be coming to Richmond to talk on her book *The Artist in the Garden-the Quest for Moses Tladi*, once again a lifetime of research on the life of Moses Tladi, a talented artist who worked in Angela's grandfather's garden, and who, were it not for apartheid, would have counted as one of South Africa's talents.

Booktown Richmond is also excited that 'Karoosters' and old friends Chris Marais and Julie du Toit will once again be in Richmond to talk on their Karoo classic *Karoo Keepsakes* and on the highs and lows of self publishing. Chris and Julie, regular writers for Country Life magazine, were the first journalists to put Booktown Richmond on the map with articles in The Weekender and Country Life.

Sabata-mpho Mokae, author of the soon-to-be released autobiography *The Story of Sol Plaatje* will be one of our topical speakers and we are really looking forward to hearing him. Sabata is a journalist, working for the Independent Newspaper Group in Kimberley as sub-editor for the DFA Newspaper. He is also a research associate at the Sol Plaatje Museum, and a published poet and resident book reviewer on SABC's Setswana-medium radio station, Motswedding.

We also have a few 'old timers' returning to Richmond. In fact, most people who come to Richmond end up being 'old timers'. Rian Malan and Denis Becket have once again confirmed that they will be back, as will Len Raymond of the Drakenstein Heritage Foundation, who will give a walk-about talk on the Architecture of the Karoo. This was one of the most popular events from last year.

Then we had a surprise visit from renowned author David Robbins. Strange how life works out. For weeks, I've been marvelling at a book called *The 29th Parallel*. Almost every lecturer who came into

my office remarked: "Isn't that a wonderful book?" Clearly, many thought so because it was awarded the CNA Literary Prize many moons ago. I said that I must track down this David Robbins for 2011. And then early in March, Peter Baker told me he had a meeting with one David Robbins!! My jaw dropped. What a coup for Richmond. Google Porcupine Press / David Robbins and you will see we have one of the truly great writers in our midst. The cherry on top of all of this is that David and his wife Gail are bringing what will certainly be an ongoing and invaluable feature of the BookBedonnerd Book Fair, "**Richmond Filums**", a four day filum (sic) extravaganza geared for all people of all ages. . When things like this happen, you know that the Gods are with you, and that Booktown Richmond will become one of the success stories of the 'noughties'

On the entertainment front, we are pleased to announce that Justine Josias, undoubtedly the greatest singing talent from Supersterre on SABC2 last year, will be coming to Booktown Richmond. We are looking forward to hearing Justine's beautiful voice reverberating through the streets of Richmond every evening.

But the biggest news is undoubtedly the new headquarters of Booktown Richmond. Most of you may be unaware that Richmond is getting a new, multi-million rand library that would be the envy of any major metropolitan area anywhere on the planet. It is a beautiful space age building constructed right in the middle of the community it will serve. Booktown Richmond salutes the Northern Cape government for building a library that is breath of fresh air and hopefully an inspiration to Richmonders. We plan to be working very closely with the library in bringing literacy and knowledge to all communities.

The long and the short of this was that the old library in the main street would be vacant. Thanks to the foresight of Peter Baker, who realized this as soon as last year's festival was over, and with his Jack Russell-like tenacity and doggedness, he pestered the Ubuntu Municipality until we got our new headquarters. Booktown Richmond is indeed very grateful to the Ubuntu Town Council for its generosity. This year's festival will take place at this new venue. For the rest of the year, Booktown Richmond HQ will function as another library, mini conferencing and training centre, and reading room. Moreover we, with the support of the Robbins, plan to use it as venue where children can develop their visual literacy. As a parent with a young child, and as someone who teaches a course on children's literature, I cannot overemphasize the crucial role that the lowly fairy tale, in the form of Walt Disney type movies, plays in the cultural capital that children bring to school. Without this knowledge, which is very often dismissed as being trivial, young children are unable to see the inter-textual references in literature as they progress through the

schooling system. In this regard, we hope to work very closely with David and Gail Robbins in our endeavours to promote literacy among the young children in Richmond through the medium of film.

Literacy is the underlying lynch-pin to all the Booktown endeavours we are undertaking on an ongoing basis. If we can realize only a dozen motivated and enlightened local school children, from our humble efforts in the wonderful world of "the word" in all its beautiful forms, then we shall be very pleased.

To summarise then, the speakers for this year's festival are:

1. Ronnie Govender
2. Aziz Hassim
3. Rian Malan
4. Tymon Smith
5. Imraan Coovadia
6. Ahmed Kathrada
7. Denis Beckett
8. Johnathan Jansen
9. Loftus Marais
10. Ingrid Winterbach
11. Kirby van de Merwe
12. Steward van Wyk
13. Joan Hambidge
14. Len Raymond
15. Diana Ferrus
16. Stephan Welz
17. Geoff Klass
18. Sabata Mokae
19. Roger and Pat de la Harpe
20. Marianne Palmer
21. David & Gail Robbins
22. Rosemary Rudd
23. Gerald Hoberman
24. Angela Read Lloyd
25. Chris Marais & Julie du Toit

We look forward to seeing you all in Richmond!

Cheers ,

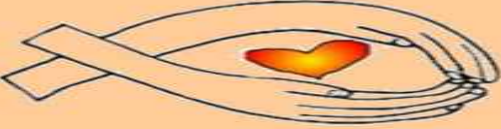
Darryl & Peter

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