

NEWSLETTER: VOLUME 27 ISSUE 1

SECOND TERM 2024

## FROM THE EDITORS DESK




It's been an inspiring and vibrant first quarter! The isiZulu Poetry Competition attracted aspiring isiZulu poets from all over South Africa. Schools began booking their festivals early in the year to secure their selected dates. SADASA facilitators were busy conducting five staff workshops in different areas of KwaZulu-Natal. Our emails have buzzed with queries from schools, and with new and old members booking SADASA festivals. SADASA is ready for a bumper year!

Rosanne



## INTRODUCING SADASA'S 2024 - 2026 ISIZULU SYLLABUS

 Schools have waited patiently for the new 'hot off the press' isiZulu SADASA syllabus to be printed. Thank you! In an effort to source new isiZulu poetry and promote isiZulu poets, SADASA ran an isiZulu Poetry Competition in the first term. Poets from all over South Africa submitted their work. The brief: *To write poems suitable to be spoken aloud by children from Grade R to Grade 7.*

The isiZulu Judging Panel, was led by editor, Mbali Nguse. Ms Nguse is a Master of Arts candidate at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She received Honours in Drama and Performance studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2009. She's an accomplished actress, dancer, writer and director. She runs her own Speech and Drama academy, focusing on pre-primary and primary school learners in under-privileged communities. She's passionate about writing for children, especially in Nguni languages.

On behalf of her panel, Mbali would like to congratulate the winners and special mentions of this competition. We know children will enjoy reciting your poems. 🎉



**Mbali Nguse, Editor**



## ISIZULU POETRY COMPETITION 2024

SADASA is grateful to the many aspiring and well-known isiZulu poets who heeded SADASA's call for poetry and submitted exciting new isiZulu poems.

Winning poems and poems given special mention will be published in the SADASA 2024 to 2026 isiZulu syllabus.

Thank you!

Read all about our winners below.

A black poster with white text and icons. At the top, there is a small icon of a person with a staff, followed by the text "isiZulu" and a small icon of a flask. Below this, the text "Poetry Competition" is written in a large, bold, white font. Underneath, the word "Win" is written in a large, bold, white font, followed by the text "1 of 4 book vouchers at R500 each from 4 categories". Below this, the text "Junior Primary Poet, Senior Primary Poet, High School Poet and Adult Poet" is written in a smaller white font. On the left side, there is a small white icon of a person playing a guitar. On the right side, there is a small white icon of a person in traditional attire. Below these icons, the text "Winning poems and poems given special mention will be published in SADASA's 2024-2026 isiZulu syllabus" is written in a smaller white font. At the bottom, the text "CLOSING DATE: 4 MARCH 2023" is written in a smaller white font. At the very bottom, the SADASA logo is displayed in white.



## WINNER

### PRIMARY SCHOOL CATEGORY

👏 Congratulations, Zasembo Khanyase, a Grade 7 learner from Glenmore Primary School, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal for her winning poem, *Ngikhumbula*.

Zasembo was so excited to win the prize saying, "I enjoy writing poems because I can share my thoughts and feelings. I love poems."

We know you will keep writing poetry, Zasembo. We look forward to reading more creative poems by the poet, Zasembo Khanyase.



Zasembo Khanyase



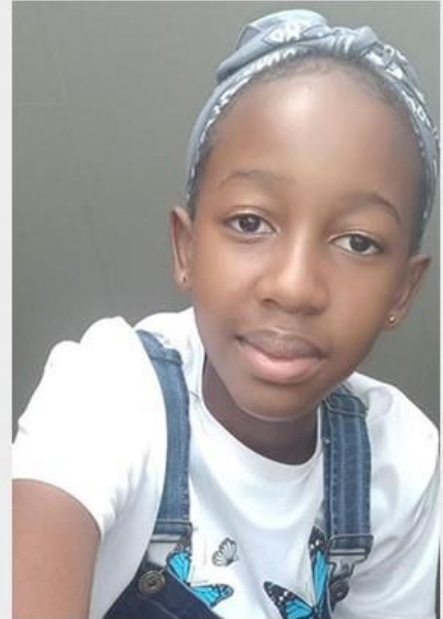
## RUNNER UP

### PRIMARY SCHOOL CATEGORY

👏 Congratulations, to Gabisile Zikhali, a Grade 7 learner from Midrand Primary School, Gauteng for your poem, *Omama nobaba*.

Gabisile was very surprised when her teacher, Thando Mavundla told her she had received the runner up prize saying: "I have always loved poems ever since my Grade 1 teacher gave us a poem to say, called *Fun in the Sun*. I started writing poems in Grade 4. Writing poems is a way of talking to anyone about how and what life is about and I can share the challenges we face. It is such a pleasure for my poem to be published."

Gabisile, the Judging Panel thoroughly enjoyed reading your poems. Continue writing poetry to develop your special talent.



Gabisile Zikhali



## SPECIAL MENTIONS

👉 Congratulations, to Thando Kheswa, a Grade 5 learner from Glenmore Primary School, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal for your poem, *Ngivuka Ekuseni*.

Young Thando was thrilled to receive a special mention for her poem, telling her teacher, Faith Nodada, that she is ready to write more poems because writing poems is such fun. She smiled: "I hope learners at schools all over South Africa like saying my poem."

👉 Congratulations, to Paballo Motaung, a Grade 7 learner from Midrand Primary, Gauteng, for your poem, *Isibhakabhaka*.

Paballo's eyes lit up with joy when she heard she had received special mention. She told her teacher that she wrote the poem to express her love for the sky. She continued: "I love seeing the fluffy clouds in the afternoon and stars at night. I am so grateful to be given an opportunity to have my poem published and share my poem with other children. My poem isn't just talking about the sky, it is also talking about how important the features of the sky affect us as human beings."



Thando Kheswa



Paballo Motaung



## WINNER ADULT CATEGORY

👏 Congratulations, Thallente Ndlovu for your winning poem, *Kuhle Konke*.

Thallente is a well-known actress, writer and director. She's contributed to recent publications, including: Dwelling Publication (A verb I missed, 2021), IMBIZA Journal (A Daring Salutation to Black Women, 2021), The Sol Plaatjie Union Poetry Anthology Voume 11 (Zipho Ezivela kuMdali, 2022) and Brown Sugar (You're My Sacred Place, 2023).

She says: "Poetry is to me a mirror which I use to see my heart and my soul. I enjoy writing it because it is where I get to listen to myself and get the opportunity to see myself. It is through poetry that I get to meet myself again and again in my different versions and forms. It is here that I am reminded of the things that set me on fire, and the things that silence me. It is a world where my voice, even when shaky, is audible."



Thallente Ndlovu



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held on 18 March 2024 at The Sharks Business Centre, Hollywood Bets Meeting Room. The minutes of the meeting, and the Chairman's Report, have been circulated to all members.

In his report, Dr McMurtry discussed the importance of Drama studies included in the school curriculum. Drama is an important life skill, and one of the few subjects which draws on the whole living being, holistically fusing the physical, the intellectual and the emotional. The full report can be read here.

The committee elected to serve from 2024 to 2026 are as follows:

**Dr Mervyn McMurtry (Chairman)**

**Mrs Margie Marnewick (Vice Chairman)**

**Mrs Les Coull**

**Mrs Mbali Nguse**

**Ms Philippa Savage**

**Mr David Spiteri**

**Mrs Jean van Elden**





## INTRODUCING SADASA'S NEW ADJUDICATING PANEL MEMBERS

SADASA is proud to introduce new members to the adjudication panel. These three ladies are highly skilled and talented and we are fortunate to benefit from their expertise.

Read all about them below: 



## MEET CARLA TATE

Carla was born and raised in Pretoria, and when her family briefly moved to Hilton in the Midlands in 2007 and 2008 she got a glimpse of country living. She was miserable when her family returned to Pretoria in 2009, but persuaded her parents not to sell their Hilton family home.

In 2020 her mother, fed up with tenants, threatened to sell the Hilton home. Carla and her husband quit their Gauteng jobs and relocated to Hilton in 2020. They have never looked back.

Carla has battled life-long chronic illness, and so she realised working full-time in the film industry wasn't a possibility. In her second year studying towards a Bachelor of Arts in Film, she started her own business, *The Fairytale Express*. When she moved to Hilton she brought the magic of Fairytale Express with her. The business specialises in children's entertainment and has



grown from strength to strength.

Carla joined the SADASA family recently and has enjoyed visiting Midlands schools. She says: "Adjudication has brought me more happiness than I could have imagined. I am able to enjoy performances, meet other professionals and guide children into mastering their craft. I strongly believe in the quote by George Bernard Shaw, 'We don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing.' What a wonderful platform SADASA has created to allow us to continue to play."



## MEET CARIEN WANDRAG

Carien Wandrage is best known for her part as Sonja Conradie in the 1980's and 1990's South African TV sitcom and movie, *Orkney Snork Nie*.

She has been on stage since she was 6 years old, but has not only focused on acting. She ran her own companies, including a small media company, a factory producing cinema seats for Ster Kinekor and NuMetro and currently runs public speaking courses for children, teens and adults.

She has also been involved with TV productions such as 50/50, South Africa's longest running environmental TV series and a scuba diving Travel Show called *Borrels*, which she presented and co-produced for KykNet.



Carien Wandrag at a recent reunion with the cast of *Orkney Snorkney*. 😊 The pink couch was featured on the original set.

In addition to acting, she is a TV presenter, producer and scriptwriter. She has travelled all over the world.

Carien grew up in Johannesburg, and moved to Durban with her family in 2020. She and her husband have two children.

She says: "I love developing others' potential and working with children. Being part of the SADASA adjudication panel, is an incredible privilege, and it is wonderful watching young people showcase their work with such enjoyment and courage."



## MEET TRACY DEEB

Tracy recently returned with her family from Mauritius. Tracy and her family enjoyed 14 wonderful years there where she taught and brought up two children.

After completing her studies in English and Drama in the 1980's at the University of Natal (as it was then called), Tracy taught at various high schools in Durban.

Tracy now lives in Umdloti Beach and loves being back home, although she still enjoys popping over to Mauritius when her husband has work commitments there.

Tracy has had fun visiting schools in the last few months and commented: "I have always loved teaching. I now thoroughly enjoy adjudicating and working with the bright, talented young of KwaZulu-Natal."



Tracy Deeb



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