



CHRIS ABANI – acclaimed poet, novelist, and screenwriter
 “Chris Abani might be the most courageous writer working right now. There is no subject matter he finds daunting, no challenge he fears. Aside from that, he’s stunningly prolific and writes like an angel. If you want to get at the molten heart of contemporary fiction, Abani is the starting point.”
 – Dave Eggers, author of *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*



CHRISTOPHER MERRILL has published six collections of poetry, including *Watch Fire*, for which he received the Lavan Younger Poets Award from the Academy of American Poets; many edited volumes and translations; and six books of nonfiction, including *Self-Portrait with Dogwood*. His writings have been translated into nearly 40 languages and his honours include a Chevalier from the French government in the Order of Arts and Letters.



CATHERINE CHIDGEY’s honours include the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize for Best First Book (Asia-Pacific), a Betty Trask Award and the Katherine Mansfield Short Story Award. Her fourth novel, *The Wish Child*, set in Nazi Germany, won the fiction prize at the 2017 New Zealand book awards – the country’s richest writing prize. Her most recent honour is this year’s Janet Frame Fiction Prize.



WINNIE M LI is an author and activist around the issue of sexual assault. Her debut novel, *Dark Chapter*, was published in June in the UK. Partly inspired by her own assault, it explores a rape from the perspective of both victim and perpetrator. The book is currently shortlisted for The Guardian’s Not The Booker Prize, and will be published in more than nine languages worldwide. Li is also the co-founder of the Clear Lines Festival, which addresses sexual assault and consent through the arts and discussion.



South African crime author **DEON MEYER** is a former journalist and brand strategist. He has published 13 novels and two short story collections in 28 languages worldwide, and has written, produced or directed several feature films. Accolades include Le Grand Prix de Littérature Policière (France), the Deutsche Krimi Preis, the Swedish Martin Beck Award, and a Barry Award in the USA. Meyer lives in Stellenbosch and is passionate about South Africa, Mozart, mountain bikes, cooking and rugby.



SIFISO MZOBE is a writer based in Umlazi. His novel, *Young Blood*, won the Herman Charles Bosman Award, The Sunday Times Literary Awards’ Fiction Prize, the South African Literary Award for a First-Time Published Author, and the continental Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature in Africa. Mzobe, who also writes short stories, is working on his next novel, titled *Durban*, due out this December.



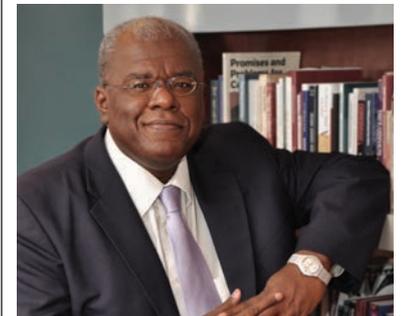
MOHALE MASHIGO was born in Mapetla, Soweto. She is a multi-disciplinary storyteller whose debut novel, *The Yearning*, won the University of Johannesburg Debut Prize. Her interests span the life of legendary story women such as Brenda Fassie, and the rich worlds created by authors such as Toni Morrison. In June, Mashigo was included in Mail & Guardian’s 2017 list of 200 Young South Africans.



FRED KHUMALO is an award-winning novelist, short story writer, and the author of *Dancing The Death Drill*, *#ZuptasMustFall* and *Other Rants, Bitches Brew* and *Seven Steps To Heaven*, among other titles. A seasoned journalist and a 2012 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, Khumalo also holds an MA in Creative Writing from the University of the Witwatersrand.



MASANDE NTSHANGA is the Caine Prize-nominated winner of the 2013 PEN International New Voices Award. He was born in East London in 1986 and graduated with a Honours degree in English Studies from UCT, where he became a creative writing fellow, completing his Master’s under the Mellon Mays Foundation. His many honours include a Fulbright Award and a Civitella Ranieri fellowship. His novel, *The Reactive*, was shortlisted for the 2015 Barry Ronge Fiction Prize and the UJ Debut Prize.



JONATHAN JANSEN is Senior Professor at the University of the Free State and he is currently President of the South African Institute of Race Relations and President of the South African Academy of Science. In 2013, he was the Spendlove Award from the University of California for his contributions to tolerance, democracy and human rights, and a major book award for *Knowledge in the Blood*. His 2018 books include *Inequality in South African Schools* (with Nic Spaull) and *Know that I know*, a book on South African families who were separated by the racial laws of the 1950s.