

## EDITORIAL

This year's Jozi Book Fair Festival will focus on mobilising audiences to read and attend the fair. In South Africa book fairs are attended largely by the middle classes. Besides entrance and session fees, this country's history, the legacy of apartheid, poor education, few libraries and expensive books, have shaped readers and writers. This explains why most working class people do not just walk into book fairs, even if it is free like in the case of the JBF.

Over the past 10 years the JBF has contributed to demystify book fairs amongst the children and school youth whom we work with throughout the year, in daily programmes to create readers and writers. This year we are making a special effort to ensure that besides our middle class audiences, youth and working class adults also attend and enjoy the fair. South Africa can only obtain its full potential and become a tolerant society when everyone reads and writes, and enjoys literature and the arts. Join us at this year's Festival and bring along friends and family.

Reading the word and the world!

Best wishes

Maria van Driel

## LAST CHANCE TO HOST & EXHIBIT @ JBF

Jozi Book Fair invites publishers, authors, artists, students and NGOs to apply to host events and exhibit at the 11th JBF Festival taking place from 29 August – 1 September 2019. The theme of the JBF is Literature and Newspapers, public can host sessions on the theme or topic of their choice. Last year 2000 people visited the Annual Festival besides schools and children. We had 30 exhibitors, 120 events, 40% of the events were hosted by the public. The JBF is curated by the public and make space for small publishers, readers, artists and NGOs to showcase their work. JBF is committed to this approach in order to build a movement of readers and shape it from below. While the Fair is open to the public, no misogyny, racism or xenophobia will be accepted.

Please visit the Jozi Book Fair website on [www.jozibookfair.org.za](http://www.jozibookfair.org.za) to register to exhibit or host. Deadline is 25 July 2019. No late applications will be considered.

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Call to Public! Host and Exhibit at the Jozi Book Fair. Deadline: 25 July 2019
- To register to Host and Exhibit, visit the JBF website: [www.jozibookfair.org.za](http://www.jozibookfair.org.za)
- Deadline to register your school to be part of the Schools Programme. Deadline: 20 July 2019
- JBF Schools Slam Poetry at various schools
- JBF Spelling BEE, 16 August 2019. ONLY open to JBF schools, register by 20 July 2019.
- 11th Jozi Book Fair, 29 August – 1 September 2019, Museum Africa and Workers Museum.

## THE ROLE OF NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers play a role of informing the public about things happening in the world. Journalists continue to serve us with the latest happenings in different parts of the world through a network of correspondents and news agencies. Even with the rise of social media, newspapers still carry weight and people continue to favour newspapers as they are affordable and are reliable source of information.



Newspapers strive to inform comprehensively about different viewpoint from politicians, celebrities or sports people, buyers then digest the content and produce our own opinions because, the newspaper (if it is a good one)

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has a larger role in being a central place for the discussion of issues, topics and problems that the community face. It should offer opinions, provide responses and serve as a forum for discourse like reporting on what is the government is doing whether its positive or negative and that through the use of freedom of expression helps us to shape our own opinions on the matter.

As much as social media has become an alternative, there are many reports about “Fake News” and people who post on social media cannot be held accountable unlike journalists who will always do whatever it takes to produce news based on factual information, inside sources and then thoroughly checked so that they do not get into trouble or end up embarrassing the news agencies where they could be sued for defamation. Newspapers remain a more reliable source of news and information, although they can be biased to some extent but they continue to play an important role.

*By Mkhulu Mthimunye*

## **THE HISTORY OF NEWSPAPERS**

The earliest South African newspapers dates back to the white settlements, in the mid 1600s around Cape of Good Hope. The newspapers were written and edited by whites for white readers only and they only included stories coming from England, Netherlands, France and Germany. During this time there was no newspaper which included indigenous people (Black South African). All the newspapers were written in English and Afrikaans so it was difficult for black people to read because most were unable to read the two languages, let alone to write. In the 1800s, the governor of the cape colony established a publishing house for the government which was controlled by Cape Town Gazette and African Advertiser. The first privately owned newspaper was edited by Thomas Pringle and John Fairbairns, it was called the South African Commercial Advertiser. The SA Commercial Advertiser was published in 1824 followed by the De Zuid- Afrikaans published in 1830 which was the first Dutch language newspaper. The first African language newspaper was published in 1837, known as Umshumayeli Wendaba and the first Afrikaans language newspaper published in 1876 and was called Die Afrikaanse Patriot. According to a South African Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) survey in 1996, “there were 36 daily and weekly urban newspapers in the country 29 in English, four in Afrikaans, two in IsiZulu and one in IsiXhosa”. Historically, there are lots of newspapers written in indigenous language by local and community newspapers. However, now newspapers and media houses have been monopolised and are owned by a few. The large three publishing groups are Avusa, Naspers, Independent news and media which are owned by Sekunjalo Investments and lastly is Caxton.

<http://www.pressreference.com/Sa-Sw/South-Africa.html>

## **WHO OWNS NEWSPAPERS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Newspapers in South Africa are owned by fewer people and is controlled by a minority of people, for example a lot of newspapers and other media platforms like DSTV is owned by Naspers. It is also difficult to look at this without looking at class and race. Newspapers are mostly owned by the capitalists which in South Africa are mostly whites. This is unhealthy because it means the information and the dominant ideas in society are from the top down.

According to Mail and Guardian, “An analysis of ownership structures, demographics and funding models shows that the board of media houses comprise of 41% white, 24% African, 17% colored, 16% Indian”. South African media houses have in the past come under critic for lack of transformation and for protecting the interest of the elite at the expense of the majority of citizens in the country.

White people are a majority in top management and they make the decision on the content and the the functioning of the company. In a capitalist society, newspapers are then used as a platform to promote capitalist ideologies. In this case, even the work of journalists is compromised as they are forced to carry out stories that promotes the objective of that particular media house.

News reports and newspapers are becoming more and more mediocre and out of touch with the majority of consumers. Media is largely owned by while males and while women can be editors, they do not really have a voice to make decisions. There is no media diversity in South Africa which has resulted in newspapers producing the worse kind of news and newspapers which are pro-business.

*By Nosipho Mdletshe*

## **POSITION OF WOMEN IN NEWSPAPERS**

After twenty-five years of democracy women are still do not hold senior positions of decision-making and the media industry is still not a friendly environment despite all the conversation about gender diversity. Women need to take up strong positions in media in order for it to be gender sensitive and representative. Media is a critical tool for communication, raising awareness and influencing how women are viewed and their position in society.



According to Gender Links, “Only 36% of the top managers, 46% of senior managers and 19% of those on boards of directors in media houses in South Africa are women, although the research shows gender parity is a lived reality in the overall composition of South African media houses all these underlying factors continue to show the persistent gender inequalities”.

There is a need for an alternative gendered media and feminists need to read and write to produce their own media. Khanya’s Feminist Network is a start to building women’s capacities to write and produce SSM Newsletter. The Network runs a training in computers, internet, reading and writing skills to enable women to exercise their voice and share their stories.

*By Dorothy Mabelebele*

## **A NEED FOR ALTERNATIVE NEWSPAPERS**

Due to media concentration in South Africa and the control of content, one can see that the newspaper no longer speaks to the needs of working class people. There is a need for ‘Alternative’ forms of media that is not monopolised by a few. There is a growing frustration around the way newspapers are controlled and produced which is more commercialised and pro-business. According to Mpofu, the term ‘Alternative’ implies that these papers did not provide standard or normal journalism. Historically there were alternatives forms of media which challenged the status-quo. It all started where working class people felt the need to create an affordable paper which speaks to ordinary citizens. Alternative media was created to address the issues faced by people who are oppressed and address the fact that mainstream media blatantly ignored this issues as if they were non-existent.



One may wonder how these newspapers survived in the absence of funding and considering that the newspapers were very affordable and not profit driven. Newspapers like Weekly Mail for example had no alignment to any specific political movements which enabled it to stay neutral. Newspapers today have become more pro-political parties and it is evident in the biasness in their reporting. Alternative Press achieved its objective by working with intellectuals who were interested in bringing fourth counter capitalist ideologies.

Since the collapse of NGOs and Social Movements, the alternative media houses and newspapers have also collapsed. These days the newspapers that people can afford have little positive impact in their lives, we see more of a pro-business trend in all the newspapers. The voice in which stories are also reported on is problematic, for example people could be having a peaceful protest and media changes the stories, there is more propaganda than truth in the newspapers. Few people are given chance to express themselves in newspapers, only through letters to the editors. Newspapers also get to decide what news they should report on, by doing so they keep public in the dark.

Alternative newspapers can tackle issues that are faced by working class people, black communities, and provide a space for dialogue where information is not from the top. People have resorted to using social media as an alternative space to communicate and voice out issues. However social media, as vast and wide spread as it is, does not carry the same weight as newspapers.

*by Avhasei Budeli*

## **YOUTH NETWORK**

As much as we say that we “care” about the youth, we need to be honest about the current crisis that is facing them like the rise in unemployment, the social conditions that are preventing them from getting opportunities, the illegal substances like Nyaope sold on every township corner, crime, poverty, and even worse the burden of hopelessness that they carry around their shoulders. The high rate in unemployment has caused a widening inequality gap and the youth have suffered the most.

Khanya has started organising out of school youth through the Youth Network. The first meeting was facilitated by the director of the Jozi Book Fair, Dr. Maria Van Driel and attended by the various members of different organisations like Gauteng Civic Association (GCA), Orange Farm Advice Office (OFAO), Forum of Activist Journalists (FAJs). The network aims to connect youth and create social cohesion through interaction and discussing various problems facing youth and to come up with solutions that can manifest this network into a progressive movement.

The movement will encourage youth to read in order to better understand the world in which they live and to spread ideas. This can be done through building generic capacities for youth. The Network will address social issues imposed on youth by neo-liberalism through discussion and debate.

*Mkhulu Mthimunye*



## ZABALAZA THEATRE

Inner City Youth has been participating in different theatre workshops and showcases. The TB Youth were taken through different themed workshop series which explored different aspects of theatre, they started off with 'Devising Monologues' and 'Physical Theatre'. The workshops were facilitated by Lawrence Simelane and Chantel Thomas, at the end of the workshop there was a showcase at the end of the workshops. The theatre is being done by youth from different schools and by children of different age groups. The purpose of theatre in Khanya College is to educate the Tsohang Batjha youth of different angles of theatre and drama and as a way to use drama and theatre as a way of communication and engaging in social issues.



Theatre plays a vital role in the growth and development of children and youth. In a space of a month they were able to learn new theatre techniques and produce a theatre piece. The drama done in the theatre session is incorporated to the theme of the Jozi Book Fair because it also concentrates more on literature and the role of media. The first play on the first session revolved around teaching children about theatre, drama and promoted writing and drawing as a way of communication as well as how a stage is structure. The second session of theatre is focusing more on the role of media, how propaganda is used by media in our everyday lives to mislead people and how most stories that are covered by media tends to not be true but the spread of lies just to deceive people into reading their newspapers and for them to make money.

*By Innocentia Mathebula*

## BOOK REVIEW: SPANNER IN THE WORKS BY PAT FAHRENFORT

Pat Fahrenfort's *Spanner in the Works* captures the struggles of survival in the unforgiving harsh realities of pre-democratic South Africa. *Spanner in the Works* is a Memoir which narrates a life a young girl forced to leave school at 15 to seek work in the factories and the harsh realities of being a woman of color in a male dominated work environment. Pat moves from the corridors of factories to those of power, she experiences and plays a role in the country's transition from apartheid to democracy to find that the same kind of exploitation she faced as a factory worker continues as she enters the new corrupt system after democracy.

The book is a harsh reality of working class people who are exploited and hop from one job to another to make

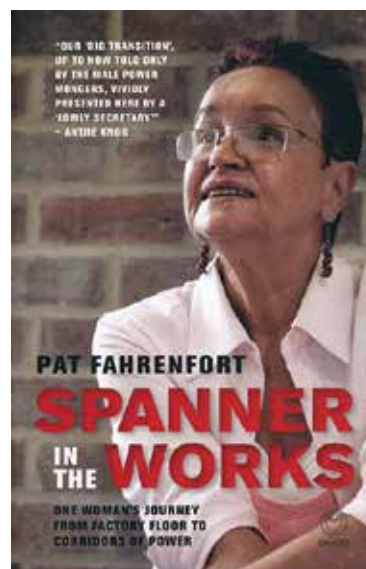
ends meet. It is particular a reality for women who suffer from sexual abuse and sexism in the work places. Pat spent a lot of time job hunting and standing in queues, as she works her way up, from factories to University of Western Cape and then government. *Spanner in the Works* provides a unique view of challenges leading up to democratization.

The book is an honest account of a black women navigating her way in the racist and patriarchal society. The book is an account of history which is worth reading.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pat Fahrenfort's background meant factory floors from age fifteen in a country where jobs were still advertised for "Fair-Skinned Coloureds". Pat had other plans, whether she was in overalls gluing spines to books in an assembly line or in high heels dancing as a cabaret artist, she was determined to set her own course, and put herself through university. Involving herself in the struggle for democracy, Pat moved from faculty officer at the University of the Western Cape to being part of the country's first post-apartheid administration. The Constitutional Assembly set up to deliberate and write South Africa's new Constitution. Later she is appointed to a deputy director of the Ministry of Labour.

Pat Fahrenfort will be at the 11th Jozi Book Fair and will be in conversation with the Schools Programme. Chapters of *Spanner of the Worker* can be made available for book clubs on request.



*JBF creates readers & writers in all languages & promotes affordable publishing and books*

### IMPRINT

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