



## PRESS RELEASE

### University of Johannesburg's prizes for creative writing: 2010

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Some exciting names in South African literature are on the shortlist for the UJ Prizes for Creative Writing in English. The shortlist has been compiled from approximately 60 submitted works.

The panel of seven adjudicators has agreed on a shortlist of possible winners:

#### Main prize

Altbeker, Antony. <i>Fruit of a Poisoned Tree</i>
Beukes, Lauren. <i>Zoo City</i>
Medalie, David. <i>The Mistress's Dog</i>
Van Onselen, Chris. <i>Masked Raiders</i>
Vladislavic, Ivan. <i>Double Negative</i>
Watson, Stephen. <i>Music in the Ice</i>

#### Debut prize

Ali, Shaida Kazie. <i>Not a Fairy Tale</i>
Clelland, James. <i>Deeper than Colour</i>
Irving, David Dinwoodie. <i>African Cookboy</i>

The prize winners will be announced in May 2011 and the prizes will be presented at a gala ceremony later in the year.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **University of Johannesburg's prizes for creative writing in English**

**In 2006, the University of Johannesburg instituted two prizes for Creative Writing in English:**

The UJ Prize for the best creative work in English; and  
The UJ Prize for the best creative *debut* work in English.

### **The value of the prizes is:**

The UJ Prize: R60 000  
The UJ Debut Prize: R20 000

### **Requirements:**

The UJ Prize is awarded to the writer of the best original creative work in English published in the previous calendar year. The UJ Debut Prize is awarded to the writer of the best original creative *debut* work in English published in the previous calendar year.

The prize-winners will be announced in May and the prizes awarded later in the year.

### **The selection panel**

The selection panel comprised the following seven members:

Four members of the Department of English, UJ  
Two academics from other universities  
One member from the media industry or publishing

For the adjudication of the 2010 prizes the panel was as follows:

### **Four members from the Department of English at the University of Johannesburg**

Karen Scherzinger  
Craig MacKenzie  
Ronit Frenkel  
Thabo Tsehloane

### **One member of media industry or writer**

Michiel Heyns - writer and critic

### **Two academics from other institutions:**

Imraan Coovadia (UCT, English Dept)  
Christopher Thurman (Wits, English Dept)

### **Genre**

We decided not to link the prizes to a specific genre. This may make the evaluation more difficult in the sense that, for example, a volume of poetry, a novel and a biographical work must be measured against one another, but the idea was to open the prize to as many forms of creative writing as possible.