

Press release 16 May 2016: Franschhoek Literary Festival (FLF) 2016

The tenth annual Franschhoek Literary Festival was another resounding success – a culmination of perfect weather; enthusiastic bookaholics; outspoken authors and informative, entertaining and challenging events.

This year's balance of literature, current affairs and innovation introduced an audience of upwards of 14 000 (final figures to be confirmed) to literary insights, personal introspection and contemporary forms of narrative.

With 'storytelling' as the overall theme of the festival, literary legend and author, Sindiwe Magona enthralled audiences in events including **The magic of story** and **This is how it was... Pictures worth a thousand words** explored the sharing of narrative via computer gaming, graphic novels and animation, while performance poets brought local poetry to life.

The FLF is known for not shying away from contentious and challenging subjects and a number of sold-out events at this year's festival tackled important issues in South Africa today. These were masterfully handled by the panels involved: **What would a transformed university look like?, South Africans entangled, Conversations at the white dinner table, A matter of identity, Can we claim to be intersectional?** and **The road ahead, together**. Some of these events were linked to books and authors who have written about these subjects, while others shared ideas and insights that added substance to the broader debates swirling through media and social media.

But the festival is equally known for the quality of the events focusing on literary works — fiction and non-fiction – and didn't disappoint. We received positive feedback on the events in general, with many of these comments mentioning events such as **The reader within, From first lines to last, Writing, hearing playing jazz, Writing relationships**, and **Language and character in literature**.

The economy and state-of-the-nation events also generated positive responses from festival goers for events such as **How to save South Africa, What is China doing in Africa?, Dearth day**, and **Do you understand the SA economy?**.

The organisers thank our sponsors Porcupine Ridge and Sunday Times for their invaluable support, our panel of advisors who ensure that diversity and depth are maintained, Franschhoek Tourism, publishers, authors and other participants — and the team of tireless volunteers who assist in handling the vast logistics of turning ideas into reality.

[quotes]

"This is one of my very favourite weekends of the year. If you even vaguely enjoy reading, make a plan to swing through Franschhoek around this time next year. You won't regret it." Paige Nick.

"...feedback has been so positive and there seemed to be a really joyous spirit as book fanatics walked from one event to another, discussing books, the speakers and the panels from which they were coming." Sam Page.

"Thank you for an enlighteningly superb event #FLF2016. Let's do this again!!!" @BagosMutendi