

EVENT TITLE:

Writer and Writer of Wrongs: 100 Years of Influence through Sol Plaatje's Mhudi

EVENT DESCRIPTION:

Writer and Activist Sol Plaatje was more than just the first black African to write a novel in English. His female-centric allegory, concerned with injustice and land dispossession, maintains relevancy in academic discussion, essay, and course curricula. Reading from his life and work, highlighting his political as well as his literary importance, panelists will examine how Plaatje explored issues of race, culture, gender, and language to make a lasting impact and remain influential today.

EVENT CATEGORY: Tributes**EVENT ORGANIZER & MODERATOR:**

MarLa Sink Druzgal: MarLa Sink Druzgal is the Director of WriteChange.org—a start-up non-profit organization in global coordination with The Writers Project of Ghana, and Sol Plaatje Univ. (SPU) of South Africa. Ms. Druzgal teaches in the U.S., and in South Africa, where she is working with SPU on an MA Travel Writing program.

EVENT PARTICIPANTS:

Sabata-mpho Mokaë: Author of Setswana (southern African language) novels, 'Ga ke Modisa' and 'Moletlo wa Manong'. He is the winner of the South African Literary Award, MNET Literary Award for Best Setswana Novel and MNET Film Award. He teaches creative writing at Sol Plaatje University in Kimberley, South Africa.

Lesego Malepe: Lesego Malepe taught at a college for many years before retiring and turning to writing full-time. She writes both fiction and non-fiction about South Africa and has contributed a chapter on land issues in a recently published collection of essays on Mhudi.

Brian Willan: Brian Willan is a historian and former publisher, currently Extraordinary Professor at Sol Plaatje University in Kimberley, South Africa. He has written a biography of Sol Plaatje and co-edited several books about him, including Sol Plaatje's Mhudi and Sol Plaatje - a life in letters.

OPENING REMARKS AND HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Welcome, AWP Reminders, Introduction of Panelists. (MarLa Sink Druzgal and Professor Malepe will present in person, while Professors Mokae and Willan will join us via Zoom from South Africa, and The United Kingdom, respectively.)

The moderator will provide some background and explanation for creating this panel.

INITIAL REMARKS and DISCUSSION:

The moderator will discuss her own interest in Sol Plaatje, and read the bios of each panelist. Professors Mokae, Malepe, and Willan will each tell the audience of their own background with the legacy of Sol Plaatje, and what they want the audience to see as critical takeaways from these works.

Sabata-mpho Mokae will introduce Sol Plaatje, Mhudi, and Sol Plaatje's Mhudi: History, Criticism, Celebration, leading into discussion...

DISCUSSION:

Each panelist will take approximately 15 minutes. Discussions will include Plaatje's choices in crafting Mhudi, their choices in writing and editing Mhudi, ...History, Criticism, and Celebration, and the lasting influence of Mhudi.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION:

There will be a 10-15 minute Q&A.

HANDOUTS, RESOURCES, AND REFERENCES:

Mhudi

This title can be purchased on Amazon in Kindle, paperback, or hardcover edition.

Sol Plaatje's Mhudi: History, Criticism, Celebration won the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (South Africa) award for Best Non-fiction Edited Volume, 2021.

This title is currently only available in the U.S. for \$60 via Amazon, or through Jacana Media in South Africa. International shipping can be cost prohibitive for a small order. Through WriteChange.org we are coordinating a bulk shipment this year of many African titles that are not available in the United States.

[Willan, Brian \(2015\). "What 'Other Devils'? The Texts of Sol T. Plaatje's Mhudi Revisited." *Journal of Southern African Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/03057070.2015.1116234](#) (Full article included in handouts, and uploaded as Supplemental File.)

[Willan, Brian \(2022\). "Revisiting Sol Plaatje's Mafeking Diary." *Journal of the African Literature Association*, DOI: 10.1080/21674736.2021.2016252](#) (Full article included in handouts, and uploaded as Supplemental File.)

Handout: Utilizing Sol Plaatje's Work into the Modern Classroom.

Other African titles: To order African-published books currently unavailable in the U. S., contact MarLa Sink Druzgal, or stop by the WriteChange.org booth.

Repatriation of Books: If you have older African titles you would like to return to its country of origin, please also contact WriteChange. We have need of out-of-print works by African authors which we are unable reprint due to copyright.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

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