

**MEDIA RELEASE
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Short list announced for 2014 Allen Prize for Young Writers

PORT-OF-SPAIN, April 3, 2014

The Allen Prize for Young Writers has announced the short list of writers selected for its annual writing competition. Thirteen writers aged 12-19 have been chosen. Their works, submitted between September 2012-January 2013 (there was no competition in 2013 due to unavoidable circumstances), were judged in the Junior category (ages 12-15) and the Senior category (ages 16-19).

Works were submitted in four genres: poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction and drama. Judging is blind and done by a panel led by poet and UTT Professor Sylvia Rose-Ann Walker. The members of the judging panel for the 2014 prize were Carol Redhead, Michelene Adams, Sharon Millar and Martin Jones.

Acting Chair of the Allen Prize, Ishara Agostini, said, "We are thrilled to resume the competition after our hiatus in 2013. In three short years our young writers have gone on to success in other competitions and we look forward to resuming our seminars and workshops in the near future. We are also excited to continue our partnership with the NGC Bocas Lit Fest and the Burt Award for Caribbean Literature, and are grateful for their support in presenting this year's ceremony."

The 2014 short listed writers are:

- **Poetry:** Rebecca Brooker, Soraya Duncan, Renelle Wilson, Gerard Sealy Jr, Thalia Khan, Claire-Marie Roche
- **Drama:** Josh Ragbir, Precious St. Clair
- **Creative non-fiction:** Bethany Milne, Abigail Vegier, Warren De Mills, Donross Antoine
- **Fiction:** Renelle Wilson, Joshua Sammy, Thalia Khan

The winners will be announced at a ceremony on **April 25** at the Old Fire Station, Port of Spain, as part of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest. The cash prizes are as follows:

Overall prize, Senior Category (ages 16-19): \$2,500
Overall prize, Junior Category (ages 12-15): \$1,500
Best fiction entry (senior): \$1,000
Best poetry entry (senior): \$1,000
Best creative non-fiction entry (senior): \$1,000
Best drama entry (senior): \$1,000
Best fiction entry (junior): \$500
Best poetry entry (junior): \$500
Best creative non-fiction entry (junior): \$500
Best drama entry (junior): \$500

For more information on the Allen Prize for Young Writers, visit <http://allenprize.org>.

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