

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

February 9, 2011, Port-of-Spain: Top writers from Trinidad and Tobago will judge The Allen Prize for Young Writers 2011 competition. The judges' panel is headed by journalist and author Judy Raymond, and includes poet Justice James Aboud, journalist and novelist Kevin Baldeosingh, children's author Debbie Jacob, novelist Roslyn Carrington, and writer Sharon Millar.

The contest ran from September-December 2010. It was open to writers aged 12-15 in the junior category, and 16-19 in the senior category. Entrants submitted fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction and drama. The awards ceremony will take place in April; winning writers will receive cash awards as well as the chance to take part in an intensive writing workshop to be held in July.

Raymond is the editor of *Caribbean Beat* magazine, a *Trinidad Express* columnist and author of *Meiling: Fashion Designer* and *Barbara Jardine: Goldsmith*. She was a regional judge for the 2002 Commonwealth Writers' Prize.

Aboud, a High Court judge, is the author of two books of poetry, *The Stone Rose* and *Lagahoo Poems*, which won the James Rodway Poetry Prize.

Baldeosingh is a *Trinidad Express* columnist and the author of three novels (*The Autobiography of Paras P*, *Virgin's Triangle* and *The Ten Incarnations of Adam Avatar*) and a prize-winning play, *The Comedian*. He was regional chairman and judge for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 2000 and 2001, and a member of the Book Prize Consultation Committee from 2002-2004.

Jacob is a librarian and English teacher. She has written five study companions for Caribbean literature and a children's novel, *Legend of the St Ann's Flood*. Her collection of short stories, *Speaking of Promises*, will be released later this year.

Carrington is the author of three literary novels and nine books of romantic fiction, including *A Thirst for Rain*, *Every Bitter Thing Sweet*, *Meet Me in Paris* and *May Summer Never End*.

Millar is completing her MFA in Creative Writing at Lesley University, Massachusetts, and is working on her first short-story collection.

This is the inaugural competition of The Allen Prize, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to rewarding, training and encouraging young writers. Last October The Allen Prize hosted the first of its once-a-term seminars, with Carrington, poet Roger Bonair-Agard and playwright Paloma Mohamed as presenters.

Another seminar is planned for March 26, with novelist Monique Roffey, journalist and editor Nicholas Laughlin and poet Muhammad Muwakil scheduled to speak.

For inquiries, please contact Lisa Allen-Agostini at 868-753-6220, or email the Allen Prize at info@allenprize.org

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