

## MEDIA RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

#### Free seminar for young writers on April 9

**PORT-OF-SPAIN, March 31, 2011:** Young writers in Trinidad and Tobago are again invited to attend a free seminar hosted by The Allen Prize for Young Writers. This seminar, the second in a series of once-a-term educational events, will take place at the Rudranath Capildeo Learning Resource Centre, McBean, Couva, on April 9, 2011, from 9am-1pm. Featured speakers include spoken word artist Muhammad Muwakil and editor and writer Nicholas Laughlin. Admission is free to all but places are limited; to register, call 753 6220 or email [info@allenprize.org](mailto:info@allenprize.org). Lunch will be provided.

The Allen Prize for Young Writers is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to training, encouraging and rewarding writers aged 12-19 years and living in Trinidad and Tobago. Its inaugural prize competition, which closed in December, 2010, offered prizes in the genres of fiction, creative non-fiction, drama and poetry. Close to 200 entries were received and winners will be announced at a ceremony at Easter.

The Term II Seminar is part of The Allen Prize's ongoing education programme, designed to improve young people's access to information on and training in creative writing.

Nicholas Laughlin is the editor of *The Caribbean Review of Books*, and a writer with a particular interest in Caribbean literature and art. An organizer of the upcoming Bocas Lit Fest, he is also one of the administrators of Alice Yard, an art and performance space in Port-of-Spain, and co-editor of the broadside literary magazine *Town*. He has also edited *Letters from London* (2003), a book of essays by CLR James, and a revised and expanded edition of V.S. Naipaul's *Letters Between a Father and Son* (2009). He was born and has always lived in Trinidad.

Muhammad Muwakil is a performance poet from Trinidad and Tobago. Muwakil has been performing spoken word poetry in Trinidad for the past five years, and is heavily involved in the spoken word poetry movement in Trinidad and, by extension, the Caribbean region. In 2007 he performed at the Calabash Literary Festival in Jamaica and in 2009 his work was published in the Casa de Las Americas annual review. This year he was a featured presenter at The Nature Island Literary festival in Dominica. Muhammad is also an actor and has been involved in several major productions. In 2008 he won the Cacique Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role in the play *Bitter Cassava*. He is currently in the process of publishing his first collection of poems as well as an album and a performance DVD.

For more information go to <http://allenprize.org>.

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