

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

New date for free seminar for young writers in October

Port-of-Spain, October 1, 2010: The Allen Prize for Young Writers seminar for teenage writers planned for October 8, 2010, has been pushed back to October 11, 2010. The date change was made to accommodate TTUTA Day on October 8, as teachers will be engaged in developmental exercises on that day and there will be no school.

The seminar, which will be free to participants, will feature three internationally published authors. The Allen Prize for Young Writers, a new non-profit organisation, will host the seminar from noon-3 pm on October 11, 2010, at the Rudranath Capildeo Learning Resource Centre, McBean, Couva. Participants have until October 6 to register via e-mail at info@allenprize.org.

Poet Roger Bonair-Agard, novelist Roslyn Carrington and playwright Dr Paloma Mohamed have signed on to speak at the seminar, which will be specially targeted at schools in North and East Trinidad. This is the first of three seminars The Allen Prize intends to hold in this school year; others are planned for the following terms for South/Central and Tobago schools. There will be no charge to participants but registration will be done on a first come, first served basis, as spaces are limited.

The Allen Prize was founded in 2009 to give prizes, training and publication to writers aged 12-19 years. On September 1, 2010, it opened its inaugural prize competition in the genres of poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction and drama. Part of the organisation's mandate is to provide free training to youths who are interested in writing, with a view to increasing the appeal of writing as a profession. The organisation and its programmes have been endorsed by the Ministry of Education.

"We opted to change the date to allow the widest possible participation," said Allen Prize founder and chairman Lisa Allen-Agostini. "The Allen Prize for Young Writers is working hand in hand with the Ministry of Education and we hope schools will support their students to attend." She thanked Caribbean Airlines, part sponsor of this seminar. "Caribbean Airlines has demonstrated its commitment to the goal of youth and literary development and we look forward to a continued good relationship with them."

Information about The Allen Prize for Young Writers, as well as competition submissions guidelines and entry forms, is available on the web site <http://allenprize.org>.

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