

PRESS RELEASE

September 1, 2010:

Teenage poets, playwrights, non-fiction and fiction writers have a new opportunity to win prizes, training and the chance to have their work published through The Allen Prize for Young Writers. The Allen Prize is a new not-for-profit organisation dedicated to giving encouragement, training and rewards to Trinidad & Tobago's writers aged 12-19 years.

The Allen Prize will hold a competition from September 1-November 30, 2010, and a series of writing seminars, the first scheduled for early October and two others to follow in the coming terms. Winners of the competition will be invited to a two-day writing workshop where they will have the chance to be critiqued and mentored by experienced writers.

The head judge of the Allen Prize competition is Judy Raymond, a senior journalist and the author of *Meiling: Fashion Designer* and *Barbara Jardine: Goldsmith*. "They say it takes 10,000 hours of practice to be really good at something—so the younger you start, the better," said Raymond. "That applies to writing just as much as it does to any other skill: it's not just a matter of natural talent. It takes a lot of work.

"But the good news is that as with any other skill, there are some aspects of writing that can be taught. That's what this prize is offering: more than a prize, and more than encouragement. Aspiring writers will also receive training and support from experienced practitioners of the craft. It's a wonderful opportunity—and the judges can't wait to read the results."

The competition is open to residents of Trinidad & Tobago and there is no entry fee. Winners will take home cash awards and their work will be published by The Allen Prize for Young Writers.

"We are tremendously humbled by the early response to the announcement of the competition on our Facebook page and Web site," said writer Lisa Allen-Agostini, the founder of The Allen Prize, which is named for her father. "A lot of young people seem anxious for it to begin. We look forward to working with schools to bring this wonderful opportunity to this country's young writers."

Submissions guidelines and entry forms for The Allen Prize competition are online at the Web site <http://allenprize.org>. For more information, e-mail: info@allenprize.org

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