

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**

**Short list announced for Allen Prize for Young Writers**

***PORT-OF-SPAIN, April 13, 2011:***

The Allen Prize for Young Writers has announced the short list of writers selected for its inaugural writing competition. Twenty-two writers aged 12-19 have been chosen. Writers were asked to submit a body of work for the competition. Their works, submitted between September-December, 2010, were judged in the junior category (ages 12-15) and the senior category (ages 16-19), in four genres: poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction and drama. Judging is blind and done by a panel led by journalist and author Judy Raymond. The members of the judging panel are Kevin Baldeosingh, Debbie Jacob, Roslyn Carrington, Sharon Millar and Justice James About.

The short listed writers are:

**Poetry:**

Mariella Rivas  
Shanice Hercules  
Warren DeMills  
Aleah Joseph  
Harold Raghunandan  
Giselle Permell

**Drama:**

Amrita Annamunthodo  
Kevonn Morgan

**Creative non-fiction:**

Precious St Clair  
Reon Elder  
Veronika Kratz  
Amrita Annamunthodo

**Fiction:**

Kalifa Lovelace  
Joshua Sammy  
Michael Phillip  
Maria Reverand  
Michelle Chan Wah

**Board of Directors:**

Lisa Allen-Agostini (*Chair*), Peter Gomez (*Secretary/Treasurer*), Rhoda Bharath, Charlotte Elias, Nicholas Laughlin, Georgia Popplewell, Anthony Smart  
*Ex-officio:* Gina Ottley (legal counsel)



c/o The Cropper Foundation, Bldg 7, Fernandes Industrial Centre  
Eastern Main Road, Laventille, Trinidad & Tobago  
868.753.6220 | info@allenprize.org

Aamy Roopnarine  
Anastasia Toppin  
Veronika Kratz  
Krystoff Kissoon  
Cavan Byrne  
Anabelle Castagne  
Simone Delzin

The winners will be announced at a ceremony in May. 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

Some short listed writers will also be invited to participate in a two-day intensive writing workshop in July.

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

*Media inquiries: Lisa Allen-Agostini  
Phone: 868 753 6220  
Email: info@allenprize.org*

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