

Dynamic authors showcase their passion at Writer's Forum

Beryl Govender

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Francis Bacon once said, "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested." That is the Chatsworth Education Centre.

The Centre in association with The Centre for Creative Arts (UKZN), Chatsworth Circuit Youth Centre and Chatsworth Writer's Circle held The Community Writer's Forum which was an outreach project which is part of the Time of the Writer Festival. The programme encourages members of the community to engage in reading and writing.

An invitation to the event was extended to teachers and pupils and other members of the community.

Those who were present were afforded the opportunity to participate in the activities which allowed for interaction to take place. They also gained insight into the creative process and perspectives which contribute to the author's style of writing.



Ananda Devi captivates the minds of those who were present.



Mr Sam Pillay, Ananda Devi, Dayo Forster, Jo-Anne Richards, Asha Singh and Mr AJ Mottlian.

Ananda Devi, Dayo Forster and Jo-Anne Richards were the three dynamic authors who were hosted. Devi, born in Mauritius in 1957, made her mark in Mauritian literature, after winning a prize in a short story competition. Her story was broadcasted on French radio and was published in an anthology. This was when her career began and now she is seen as one of the major Francophone writers from Mauritius and the Indian Ocean. She is also the author of nine novels.

Forster was born in Banjul which is the capital of Gambia. However she left home at the age of 18 to study. After the completion of her doctorate she moved to Kenya. Her background in research and science influences the way she writes. Her first novel was entitled "Reading the Ceiling, Simon and Schuster, 2007", which examines the role of chance in a young woman's life.

Richards is currently an academic co-ordinator in Journalism and Media Studies at Wits University. She is the author of the book entitled, "The Innocence of Roast Chicken," which topped the South African best seller list for 15 weeks.

"Each time I sit down to write, I fear that I may not be able to do it. I fear that, whatever ability I may have had, has dissipated during the night. Then, anything seems preferable to facing that fear, even tidying the linen closet, but once the words begin to flow, when they fly, I experience a sense of euphoria that would be hard to beat. Perhaps, that's why I do it. All I know is that, when I'm not writing, I lose all sense of serenity. I lose my centre," said Richards.

"A well composed book is a magic carpet on which we are waffled to a world that we cannot enter in any other way," - Caroline Gordon. Engage in the culture of reading and allow your mind to be captivated.

