



INVITATION VIRTUAL BOOK LAUNCH

of world celebrated writer
Zakes Mda's novel

AROLA

A JOURNEY INTO TEN ANCIENT AFRICAN CIVILISATIONS

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Writing Centre in partnership with St Francis Productions, DUT International Education & Partnerships and DUT Library will be hosting the launch of Zakes Mda's novel, *AROLA – A Journey into Ten Ancient African Civilisations*, online, on the 27th of October 2021.

Mda is an esteemed African author, painter and filmmaker and has an exciting new offering that promises to take readers on an entertaining adventure with artwork and words.

The book focuses on African history, African civilization and Africa's contribution to humanity. The literary icon is also the recipient of DUT's honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Visual and Performing Arts that was conferred at DUT's 2021 graduation.



Zakes Mda is a South African writer, painter, filmmaker, and music composer. He holds an MFA (Theatre) and an MA (Telecommunications) from Ohio University, and a PhD from the University of Cape Town. He has been awarded honorary doctorates in literature by the University of Cape Town, Wits University, and the University of the Free State; in technology by the Central University of Technology; and in art by Dartmouth College and Durban University of Technology.

He has published 25 books, eleven of which are novels and the rest collections of plays, poetry and a monograph on the theory and practice of theatre-for-development. His paintings have been exhibited in South Africa, Lesotho and the USA and are in collections in those countries and in Spain and Sweden.

His writings have been translated into 22 languages, including Estonian, Catalan, Korean, Serbian, German, Swedish, Dutch, Turkish, Norwegian, and Italian. They have won many awards in South Africa, the USA and Italy, including the Amstel Playwright of the Year Award, the Commonwealth Writers Prize for Africa, the M-Net Prize, Sanlam Prizes (twice), The Pringle Award, the Sunday Times Literary Prize (twice), the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Legacy Award, Premio Narrativa Sud del Mondo, the University of Johannesburg Literary Prize, and the American Library Association Notable Book.

He is a recipient of Ikhamanga Order in Silver, a national award of the South African government. He commutes between the USA, where he teaches creative writing at John Hopkins University and is Professor Emeritus at Ohio University, and South Africa, where he is a beekeeper in the Eastern Cape (running a project he established in 2000 with rural women), and a director of NeoZane, an animation film production company.



WEDNESDAY

27

OCTOBER

2021

10:00 - 12:00

MS TEAMS

CLICK TO REGISTER

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Enquiries: shahiedak@dut.ac.za

The book launch will be facilitated by Prof Michael Chapman, a leading South African literature scholar.

Professor Michael Chapman

Michael Chapman is a researcher-in-residence at the Durban University of Technology. He is also an emeritus professor and fellow of the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

His numerous publications in South African literature include *Southern African Literatures*, *Art Talk*, *Politics Talk*, and *Green in Black-And-White Times: Conversations with Douglas Livingstone*. He is the editor and compiler of the anthology, *The New Century of South African Poetry* (3rd edn. 2018).

His study, *On Literary Attachment in South Africa: Tough Love*, will be published by Routledge in 2022.



PROGRAMME

10:00	WELCOME	Programme Directors: Dr Maboreng Maharaswa & Mr Zwakele Ngubane
10:10	OFFICIAL OPENING	Professor Nokuthula Sibiyi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning
10:20	INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF THE LAUNCH	Dr Lavern Samuels, Director: International Education and Partnerships
10:30	BOOK LAUNCH	Facilitator: Professor Michael Chapman
11:30	QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION	
11:55	VOTE OF THANKS & CLOSURE	Professor Gift Mheta, DUT Writing Centre