MAAKOMELE RETHABILE MANAKA

Creative Education Specialist | Cultural Practitioner | Poet

Johannesburg, South Africa | maakomelemanaka@gmail.com

Languages: English, Setswana, isiZulu

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Master of Arts in Creative Writing with two decades of experience in academic instruction, pedagogical development, and literary arts practice. Designs and delivers interdisciplinary curricula integrating African oral traditions, facilitates master classes, and mentors emerging writers into publication. Poet and international performer bridging scholarly theory with public engagement across four continents.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

Master of Arts in Creative Writing — Rhodes University, Makhanda, 2016. Specialisation: contemporary poetry and literary arts; creative and professional writing; South African poetic traditions and innovation.

Bachelor of Arts (undergraduate studies) — University of South Africa, 2002–2003. Completed modules: Communications, Psychology, English (Years 1 and 2).

National Senior Certificate — King Edward VII High School for Boys, Johannesburg, 2001.

PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Online Creative Writing Facilitator | Various platforms | 2023–present

Designs and delivers online creative writing courses; adapts teaching for digital learning; facilitates workshops for local and international cohorts.

Visiting Lecturer | Market Theatre Laboratory | 2016–2017

Developed curriculum integrating African oral traditions with contemporary literary forms. Delivered creative writing and performance poetry workshops; mentored students through performance and publication.

Master Class Facilitator | WITS Writing Centre | 2019

Conducted creative writing master classes, manuscript consultations and editorial guidance for university students.

Guest Lecturer | Higher Education

Humboldt University, Berlin (2012): South African contemporary poetry and academic exchange. Rhodes University, Drama Department (2015): performance poetry and student creative projects.

Guest Instructor | St. Andrews & Ntsikana Secondary Schools, Makhanda | 2015–2016

Introduced creative writing programmes and mentored students for literary competitions.

PUBLICATIONS & MAJOR PROJECTS

Poetry collections: If Only (2003); In Time (2009); Flowers of a Broken Smile (2016); Oncoming Traffic (2018).

Translating the Protea (2022–present): project leadership and translation into Afrikaans, isiXhosa and Sesotho sa Leboa, supporting linguistic diversity and accessibility.

Selected publications: New Coin Poetry Journal; Peu Tsa Runa Anthology (Italian translation); Elf Anthology (German translation).

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Teaching: curriculum development; workshop design and delivery; student mentorship and assessment; online teaching and learning technologies.

Creative and editorial: poetry composition and performance; creative writing instruction; structural, line and copy editing; proofreading; book design and layout.

Communication and management: public speaking; event curation; project coordination; media relations; cross-cultural communication; stakeholder and budget coordination.

Technical: Microsoft Office; Google Workspace; digital learning platforms; basic design software.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Television acting roles: Skeem Saam, 90 Plein Street and Soul Buddyz.

REFERENCES

Professional references available on request.