

Press Release

The Hague, 5 October 2005

Prince Claus Fund for
Culture and Development

2005 Prince Claus Award for the South African Cartoonist Zapiro alias Jonathan Shapiro

On Wednesday, 7 December 2005, the South African cartoonist Zapiro alias Jonathan Shapiro, (1958, South Africa) will be presented with this year's Principal Prince Claus Award of € 100,000 at the *Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ* in Amsterdam.

Zapiro has been granted this award in recognition of his role in stimulating social and cultural development. The satire of his striking cartoons scrutinises the current social and political realities of South Africa, the African continent and the global arena. The award also reflects the Fund's new focus on humour and satire. The ten other laureates will be presented with their awards of € 25,000 in their own countries.

Since 1997 the Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development has presented its annual Prince Claus Awards to artists, thinkers and cultural organisations that are mainly located in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Through these awards, the Fund pays homage to the laureates for their oeuvre and their dedication to culture and social engagement. The 2005 laureates are being honoured for their contributions to cartoons and journalism, theatre, cultural heritage, and dance and fine art. For the first time, awards have been granted to laureates in Congo and Armenia.

Over the years the Prince Claus Fund has chosen a number of themes that shape its contribution to the relation between culture and development. This year the Fund has opted for the theme of 'Humour and Satire'. In many parts of the world, writers, musicians, artists, comedians and cartoonists use humour and satire to critique and express their views on the conditions in which they live.

Laureates whose work reflects humour and satire

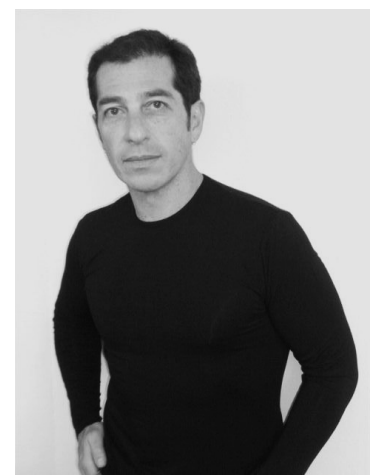
The Principal Award of € 100,000

Zapiro alias Jonathan Shapiro (1958, South Africa) is a cartoonist whose work appears on a daily basis in leading South African newspapers, community and activist publications and the international media. He began working with anti-apartheid groups and publishing cartoons during the 1980's. His cartoons are known for their striking graphic detail and perfectly pitched text. Zapiro's satire exposes absurdities and paradoxes, highlights social issues and challenges dogma. Amidst the racial and social tensions of both Southern Africa and the current global situation, Zapiro provides razor-sharp insight into local and international issues. His drawings can be seen as an effective vehicle for social and cultural development. He teaches young cartoonists in South Africa, thus creating a new generation who are motivated to continue the satirist tradition. The Prince Claus Award has been granted to Zapiro for the quality of his oeuvre and for his timely and astute commentary on the region's social and political conditions at a point when critical analysis is so desperately needed.

The Prince Claus Fund is a platform for intercultural exchange. Working with individuals and organisations that are mainly located in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Fund organises activities and publications on contemporary themes in the field of culture and development. The Prince Claus Awards form part of this policy.

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The 2005 Prince Claus Awards of € 25,000

Lenin El-Ramly (1945, Egypt) is a comic dramatist who audaciously questions the social conventions, hypocrisies and bigotries of both Egyptian society and the Arab world. His work encompasses popular television dramas, experimental theatre, and an oeuvre of approximately 40 plays and 12 films. His dramatic techniques vary from farce and parody to satire and the absurd. El-Ramly has been granted the Prince Claus Award for his emphasis on political satire and comedy, and for maintaining a balance between popular entertainment and serious social, political and ideological satire.

Slamet Gundono (1966, Indonesia) is a contemporary puppet-master and multi-disciplinary artist. He has been granted a Prince Claus Award for his commitment to tradition while simultaneously modernising his practice by adapting its idiom and style to present day demands. He demonstrates that the traditional can provide a powerful vehicle for contemporary expression. Slamet Gundono asserts the vitality of the marginal, the rural and the demotic.

Edgar Langeveldt (1969, Zimbabwe) is a daring stand-up comic, singer and actor, who works in a society that is undergoing rapid change and where he pokes fun at everybody including his own 'coloured' community. The Prince Claus Award honours Edgar Langeveldt for his use of analytical satire and for his performances that reveal contradiction, inequality and social injustice so as to create spaces of freedom.

Michael Poghosian (1954, Armenia) is a popular actor, singer and comedian. He portrays a broad variety of theatrical characters, whose sayings have become catchphrases in Armenia. By ridiculing and questioning, he vividly exposes the problems of a society in transition. He has been granted the Prince Claus Award for using comedy and satire to stimulate the creation of an open society and democracy in Armenia.

Joaquin Salvador Lavado, alias Quino, (1932, Argentina) is a cartoonist, whose wit and irony highlights social inequality and power relationships. His humour is absurd and surreal, and his imagination knows no bounds. Quino's best-known character is *Mafalda*, an inquisitive and outspoken young girl, who is the counterpart of daily life, routine, bureaucracy and standardisation. His oeuvre includes several illustrated books, animated films and work that has been widely published both in Latin America and throughout the world.

Ibrahim Nabavi (1958, Iran) is a satirist who believes that his job is to unmask those who propagate fallacies. He deploys his incisive wit to parody official speeches and statements, and to undermine allegations and rationalisations. Through his work in the Iranian press, Nabavi has single-handedly reinstated a long tradition of political satire despite the risk of imprisonment. In 2002 he was sentenced to 18 months in jail.

Chéri Samba (1956, Congo) is one of the most talented exponents of the unique genre of popular Congolese painting, which is known for its humour, social commentary and political satire. His work has also encouraged many other painters to portray their country's problems and pleasures despite economic disaster and political turmoil. Samba's unique paintings have achieved international popularity. Moreover, he is not afraid to confront the world with the impact that international events have had on African societies.

Laureates who are involved with the areas of cultural heritage and dance:

Niède Guidon (1933, Brazil) is a professor of archaeology who combines scientific research with environmental and socio-economic development actions and community work. Her writing, which is recognised throughout the world, focuses on prehistoric rock art and the earliest settlements on the Atlantic coast of South America. She has identified many prehistoric sites and ancient paintings that demonstrate the presence of human habitation in *Parque Nacional Serra da Capivara* in North-East Brazil.

Abdul Sheriff (1939, Zanzibar, Tanzania) is a leading authority on the history and cultures of the Indian Ocean, and plays a crucial role in conserving and reinvigorating Zanzibar's heritage. Professor of history at the University of Dar es Salaam, following his retirement he became advisor on national heritage and principal curator of Zanzibar's museums. Over the past ten years he was involved in setting up new exhibitions in the museum on Zanzibar's heritage using local resources as much as possible in a spirit of self-reliance. He has published several books on the island's history and cultural heritage, and has concentrated on the built environment of *Stone Town*, which is an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Opiyo Okach (1962, Kenya) is a dancer and innovative choreographer, who has inspired and encouraged the development of an open, modern and professional dance circuit in Africa. As artistic director of *Gaara Projects* he is involved both with training young dancers and developing contemporary dance creation. Okach cultivates his audience by introducing new directions in performance in eastern Africa while maintaining his reputation on the international circuit.

A performance by the *Jant-Bi* dance company of Senegal on 7 December in Amsterdam

The presentation on 7 December at the *Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ* will include a performance by the Senegalese dance company *Jant-Bi* with choreography by Germaine Acogny. *Jant-Bi* is a partner in the Prince Claus Fund's network partnership program.

For information about the Prince Claus Awards (interviews/visual materials):
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For detailed information about the 2005 Prince Claus laureates and a summary of the laureates since 1997:
www.princeclausfund.org