

Thursday 3 May 2007

## The Suitcase Stories

Refugee children  
reclaim their identities

Glynis Clacherty  
with the Suitcase Storytellers  
and Diane Welvering



# REFUGEE CHILDREN

ON THE SHORTLIST

Juta's Trade imprint, Double Storey Books, is very proud to announce that *The Suitcase Stories: Refugee children reclaim their identities* by Glynis Clacherty was last night shortlisted for the prestigious Sunday Times Alan Paton Award.

Published in 2006, *The Suitcase Stories* is a remarkable collection of stories told by refugee children, in their own words and through their art. They are extraordinary stories of hardship and longing, tempered by strength and resilience. Together with art teacher Diane Welvering, Glynis Clacherty has, through extensive interviews, captured the hearts and minds of these vulnerable and fragile yet powerful and courageous children.

Glynis is a social worker who uses art therapy as a means of treating children. In 2001 she initiated the Suitcase Project, a psychosocial support programme for refugee children in Hillbrow.

The Award judges noted that against the background of child abuse and xenophobia gripping South Africa, this is an important, eloquent, timely book. "It is beautiful in its simplicity and honesty - every South African should read it."

Awarded annually, the Alan Paton Award is South Africa's most lucrative non-fiction award, bestowing on the winner prize money to the value of R50 000. Entries are judged on the following criteria:

- The illumination of truthfulness, especially those forms of it which are new, delicate, unfashionable and fly in the face of power;
- Compassion;
- Elegance of writing; and
- Intellectual and moral integrity.

Fifteen books have previously won the award, including Nelson Mandela's Long *Walk to Freedom*.

The award ceremony will take place at the Cape Town Book Fair which runs from 16 - 19 June.

Says Juta's Trade Division Publisher Colleen Hendriksz, "We are immensely proud to be associated with Glynis and The Suitcase Project. The shortlisting of *The Suitcase Stories* confirms the intrinsic value and importance of Glynis' work, and gives her deserving recognition."

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