

**Writing Retreat @ The Playwright's House**  
**Athol Fugard's Home in Nieu-Bethesda**  
**Hosted by Sally Cranswick & Charles King**

**ITINERARY: MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> – FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

- 10am Welcome to Athol Fugard's House
- Meet your creative colleagues
- 11am-1pm Writing Workshop
- Collaborative light finger lunch at the house (we each bring food to make & share)
- Return to your accommodation to relax
- 3pm: 7km drive into the Karoo to see The Stone Folk
- 6pm meet at *Die Waenhuis Restaurant* (Dinner for your own account)
- Enjoy dinner together

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

- 10am Meet @ The Playwright's House
- 1030-1230 Writing Workshop
- 1-2pm light lunch together at the house (we each bring food to make & share)
- Afternoon visit to The Owl House (For your own account: Cost: R100 pp prior to a group discount). Please bring notebooks and cameras
- Dinner – Please make your own plans (we will provide a list of eating places in the village)
- Dinner can be followed by a quiet self-led reading session at your own accommodation. Recommended Karoo Writers books will be available at the house to borrow

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

- 10am-12pm Writing Workshop 'On Location' in the village
- 1pm Lunch at Graham Taute's *Kliphuis* (for your own account)
- Afternoon Free time for relaxing, journaling, reading
- 6pm *Bruno's Cellar* for a rare viewing of the Athol Fugard's film, *The Road to Mecca*
- Bottomless pizza, wine, drinks whilst watching (for your own account)
- After the movie, we will have a discussion about the film, the themes – the story (Idil Sheard will be watching with us and will participate in our discussion)
- This will be followed by a 'midnight walk' along Grave Road, to the village graveyard – led by Charles King

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

- 10am Writing Workshop @ The Playwright's House
- Light takeaway lunch from the village (for your own account)
- 2.30pm Tea & Talk with Idil Sheard @ The Playwright's House: The creative synergies of the Karoo, Village life @ Nieu Bethesda, Athol Fugard, The Owl's House, Helen Martins, plus other writers and poets
- Discussion to follow with the chance to ask Idil questions
- 6.30pm Dinner at *Bini's Restaurant, Pienaarsig* (This is an authentic township experience, for your own account)

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

- 10-12 Morning Writing Session @ The Playwright's House
- Farewell (for now)
- 1300 For those who wish to stay on a little longer, Willie Olivier will host a guided tour of the beautiful and historical Nieu-Bethesda church at the village centre for those interested

## **Investment for the five-day writing retreat**

### **Further Details & Investment**

This is the first Writers' Retreat that we are hosting at The Playwright's House in Nieu Bethesda. It's very exciting!

Thank you for joining us – we hope this will be the first of many more – and that you will continue join us on this annual adventure in the heart of the Karoo – where we will write many wonderful stories together and share a lot of fun and creativity.

To keep the prices as reasonable as possible – we are providing writing at the house and the creative activities for \*one set price, and then all accommodation, food and travel will be for your own account. This is all detailed in the itinerary above.

#### **\*Included**

R3900 per person will include all writing workshops and creative activities

#### **For your own account**

All food, drinks and accommodation, plus travel to and from Nieu Bethesda and any extra purchases you wish to make

#### **Accommodation suggestion**

Please organise your own accommodation in the village – we will provide suggestions for you (flyers attached)

#### **Places are limited**

If you would like to join this Inaugural Writing Adventure, then please send Sally a confirmation email... write away!

#### **Carpooling from Cape Town (and other places)**

If you would like to 'carpool' please let us know and we can connect you with other travellers

## **Contact**

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