Torchbearer of the past and future

Dr Gcina Mhlophe

Pro-rector at Nelson Mandela University, and a storyteller, poet, playwright, actor, director, author and activist, Dr Gcina Mhlophe stands out as a torchbearer of South Africa's oral tradition and story telling.

Dr Mhlophe received a doctorate award at the Nelson Mandela University’s first graduation ceremony, held in 2006, becoming the first black woman to be awarded an honorary doctorate of literature.

In 1997, she published her first book, entitled ‘The World is Black’, and has since gone on to publish several books, including ‘Extinguished Memory: Living with AIDS in South Africa’.


Dr Mhlophe has been a key figure in the promotion of South Africa's oral tradition, and has been involved in numerous initiatives to preserve and promote the country's cultural heritage.

She has received several awards for her contributions to South African culture, including the Olive Schreiner Award, the KNB Award for Literature, and the Isimangaliso National Book Award.

Dr Mhlophe is known for her ability to connect with people of all ages and backgrounds, and her work continues to inspire and educate people about the importance of South Africa's cultural heritage.

She continues to be an active member of the South African literary community, and is a respected leader in the promotion of the country's cultural heritage.

Dr Mhlophe’s work has been widely praised for its ability to connect with people of all ages and backgrounds, and her contributions to the promotion of South Africa's cultural heritage have been widely recognized.

Dr Mhlophe is a key figure in the promotion of South Africa's oral tradition and story telling, and her contributions continue to inspire and educate people about the importance of the country's cultural heritage.

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