

Nat Nakasa – 2008 Awards

Held at Gold Reef City on the 5th of July 2008, the Nat Nakasa winner was presented his award on the tonight witnessed by his peers and other industry giants. Nat Nakasa Award is awarded on an annual basis by the Print Media SA, the SA National Editors' Forum and the Nieman Society. This year's winner has most of the qualities that are sought out from the candidates, which include integrity, courage and commitment to the job and the country as a whole.

Winner

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Max du Preez

To most media people Max is a household name. He is well known as a writer of books, columnist, producer of television features and the man who defied the Apartheid regime with his exposés in Vrye Weekblad which he founded and ran from 1988 to 1994, at great personal and financial risk.

Max cannot be bought, he has proven to be a courageous journalist, outspoken, brave and prepared to put a great deal at risk in the pursuit of the truth.

Jacques Pauw worked for Max at the Vrye Weekblad and in his book describes the risks that the two of them took in exposing the atrocities committed at Vlakplaats and John Vorster square. This makes for spine chilling reading and is a testament to journalists at the time who despite many obstacles, persevered in the pursuit of great journalism.

Max has written four books. Mostly contentious and very well researched. His unauthorised biography of Louis Luyt is a good example of his work. His other books such as Unusual Stories of SA's past and Memories of a Renegade Reporter should be required reading for those wanting to enter the investigative journalism field.

In the area of broadcasting he was Executive Producer at Special Assignment and on the Special Report on the Truth Commission for the SABC, plus he has produced a feature film entitled Morena.

He has been recognised across the globe for his bravery as a journalist, receiving an Outstanding Journalism Award from the SA Foreign Correspondents Assoc in 1997, a Nieman Award for Conscience and Integrity in Journalism (1993), Pringle Award for contributing to press freedom and as far back as 1990 was hailed as an Outstanding Young South African by the Chambers of Commerce.

Max has written newspaper columns for the Independent Group and News 24.

In his early years he worked as political correspondent on the FM, Sunday Times and Business Day.