

# GIPCA Great Texts adds Anton Harber

The final Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts (GIPCA) Great Texts/Big Questions public lecture series will feature author and editor, Anton Harber, who will reveal why he chooses journalism, on Thursday 18 October 2012.



Anton Harber

Harber will examine the changing work and role of journalists in the perfect storm, created by new technology and state and commercial pressures. Using his own work in his recently published book *Diepsloot*, as the basis of his discussion, he will examine the challenge of journalism in this country, posing pertinent questions: What kind of journalism do we want and need in the age of social media? What do we expect from our journalists in a struggling democracy? Do we want professionalism, or activism, from our reporters?

His attempt to answer these questions draws on three very different texts: Tiyo Soga's writing on the role of newspapers in *Indaba*, one of the first newspapers for black readers; George Orwell's *Why I write*; and Eduardo Galeano's *In Defence of the Word*.

Harber was one of the founders of the *Mail & Guardian* in 1985 and went on to edit it for 12 years. Having also been an executive director of Kagiso Media, he is now the Caxton Professor of Journalism at Wits University and chair of the Freedom of Expression Institute. He co-edited the first two editions of *The A-Z of South African Politics* (Penguin, 1994/5), *What is Left Unsaid: Reporting the South African HIV Epidemic* (Jacana, 2010) and *Troublemakers: The best of SA's investigative journalism* (Jacana, 2010). His book, *Diepsloot*, was published by Jonathan Ball in May 2011, and won the Recht Malan Prize for Non-Fiction Writing. He writes a regular column in *Business Day* and blogs at [www.theharbinger.co.za](http://www.theharbinger.co.za). His latest venture is in non-fiction e- publishing, [www.mampoer.co.za](http://www.mampoer.co.za).

This free event takes place at Hiddingh Hall, UCT Hiddingh Campus, Orange Street, Cape Town from 5pm. and is free. For more on the Great Texts/Big Questions series, call tel +27(0) 21 480 7156 or email [fin-gipca@uct.ac.za](mailto:fin-gipca@uct.ac.za).