

ISTROS BOOKS PRESS ALERT: Don't miss this rare opportunity to meet

Gabriela Babnik

the Slovenian writer and winner of the 2013 European Union Prize for Literature

in LONDON on 9 NOVEMBER 2015

to mark the publication of the English-language edition of her award-winning novel, *DRY SEASON*



6:45pm, Monday 9th November 2015 at the Free Word Lecture Theatre

The Free Word Centre, 60 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3GA; tel: 020 7324 2570

Big World, Small Languages:

Author, Gabriela Babnik in conversation Ranka Primorac (author & translator)

As part of the **Wanderlust: Great Literature from Around the World** series of events, Babnik discusses the controversial themes in her latest book and the challenges faced by translators. For reservations and further information please visit:

www.freewordcentre.com/events/detail/big-world-small-languages-spanning-the-continents-in-small-languages

About the author: Gabriela Babnik was born in 1979 in Göppingen, Germany but has lived in Slovenia for many years. After finishing her studies at Ljubljana University, she spent some time in Nigeria before working for her MA on the modern Nigerian novel. Since 2002, she has regularly contributed articles to all major daily and weekly publications in Slovenia. In 2005, Babnik graduated in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory at the University of Ljubljana. Her first novel *Koža iz bombaža* (*Cotton Skin*) was published in 2007 and was awarded the prize for the Best Debut Novel by the Union of Slovenian Publishers at the Slovenian Book Fair. In 2009, her second novel *V visoki travi* (*In the Tall Grass*) was published and was shortlisted for the Kresnik Award in 2010. Babnik lives with her family in Ljubljana.

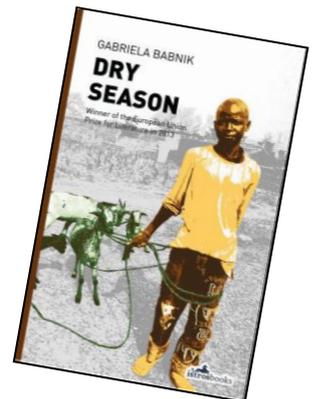
About *DRY SEASON*

the book that won Gabriela Babnik the European Union Prize for Literature 2013:

Now available in English, *DRY SEASON* is an extraordinary and unforgettable novel about a passionate love affair between a 62-year-old European woman and a 27-year-old African man

Dry Season is a challenging novel and one that we might not have anticipated from a writer from a small, Central European nation. With a global perspective, Babnik takes on the themes of racism, the role of women in modern society and the loneliness of the human condition.

Dry Season is the story of an unusual love affair. Anna is a 62-year-old designer from Slovenia and Ismael is a 27-year-old from Burkino Faso who was brought up on the streets, where he was often the victim of abuse. What unites them is the loneliness of their bodies, a tragic childhood and the dry *hamartan* season, during which neither nature nor love is able to flourish. She soon realizes that the emptiness between them is not really caused by their skin colour and age difference, but predominantly by her belonging to the Western culture in which she has lost or abandoned all the preordained roles of daughter, wife and mother. Sex does not outstrip the loneliness and repressed secrets from the past surface into a world she sees as more cruel and yet, at the same time, more innocent than her own. Cleverly written as an alternating narrative of both sides in the relationship, the novel is interlaced with magic realism.



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Media opportunities: Extracts/serialisation. The author is available for interviews in the UK



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