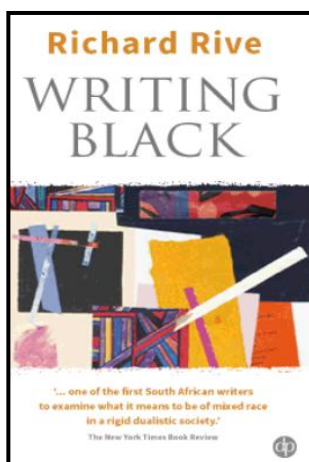


## *BOOK INFORMATION*



### **WRITING BLACK**

**By RICHARD RIVE**

The book describes the author's childhood in Cape Town's notorious slum, District Six, and then traces his academic and literary careers. The former gathered momentum after he won a competitive scholarship to high school at the age of thirteen and continued until he had earned degrees from the universities of Cape Town and Columbia, and a doctorate from Oxford for his thesis on the South African writer Olive Schreiner. He has the rare distinction of having gained Fulbright Scholarship at both the post-graduate and the post-doctoral levels, and was for three years Junior Research Fellow at Magdalen College, Oxford.

#### **Reviews and quotes:**

*'... one of the first South African writers to examine what it means to be of mixed race in a rigid dualistic society.'*  
**The New York Times**

*'a valuable document and a monument to local writing.'* **Natal Mercury**

*'I cannot be what the propounders of negritude or the African Personality cult would have me be. I am Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. I am Langa, Chatsworth and Bonteheuwel. I am discussion and debate....I am urban South Africa.'* **Richard Rive**

*'This is both a shocking and amusing piece of work. It is not a wild rave about all whites against all blacks, but a brilliant account of what this society has done to its writers and thinkers.'* **Eastern Province Herald**

*'I look forward to the day when it will not be necessary for writing in my country to be tied to ethnic labels, when the only criteria will be writing well and writing South African.'* **Richard Rive**

#### **About the author:**

RICHARD RIVE was born in 1930 in Cape Town's slum area of District Six. His distinction as a scholar took him out of the ghetto. He also participated in the campaign of defiance against apartheid. Rive's first novel, *Emergency*, dealing with his experiences in this period, was published abroad in 1964 to wide critical acclaim. In 1965, Richard Rive went to take his Master's Degree at Columbia University. He later studied for his Doctorate at Oxford University before returning to settle as an English professor at his alma mater, Hewat College. Rive's writings include poems, short stories, and the autobiographical novel *'Buckingham Palace', District Six*, about his boyhood in the slums.

Richard Rive was murdered in Cape Town in 1989.

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