



AFRICA WRITES

The Royal African Society's annual literature and book festival **2016**

in partnership with The British Library

1st July – 3rd July
BRITISH LIBRARY

96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

On Being a Woman Writer: Nawal El Saadawi in conversation

Saturday 2 July, 18:30 – 20:00

£10 /£8/ £5 **BOOK NOW**

Join the internationally renowned Egyptian writer, novelist, psychiatrist and fighter for women's rights in conversation, drawing on her epic life story and prolific writing.

Photo: Nawal El Saadawi - credit: Felix Clay



Royal African Society

In partnership with



About Africa Writes: An exciting summer weekend of literature

Africa Writes is the Royal African Society's annual literature and book festival in association with the British Library. Whether you are a savvy enthusiast or curious to explore new writing and learn more about Africa and literature, Africa Writes will be a rich, entertaining and exciting experience for you.

www.africawrites.org

About the RAS

The Royal African Society is a membership organisation promoting Africa in the UK and globally

www.royalafriansociety.org

About the British Library

The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom and one of the world's greatest research libraries

www.bl.uk

Partners

The festival has been made possible through the financial support and partnership of the following institutions and organisations: Africa All Party Parliamentary Group, Africa in Words, African Reading Group (ARG!), Afrikult., Arts Council England, Bahati Books, Barbican Young Poets, Black Reading Group, Cassava Republic Press, Centre of African Studies, University of London, Commonwealth Writers, Counterpoint Arts, English PEN, Kwani? Trust, Miles Moreland Foundation, Morton Hotel, Royal Society of Literature, SIDENSI, The Caine Prize, The Literary Consultancy, Writivism. We would like to thank the above and the many other individuals and organisations who have contributed to the festival

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Sex, Love & Poetry

Friday 1 July, 18:30 – 20:00

£10 /£8/ £5 **BOOK NOW**

Join us for an evening of readings and uncensored conversation on sex, love and desire spanning the sexuality spectrum and the African Diaspora experience. With Caleb Femi, Rachel Long, Adam Lowe and SA Smythe. Hosted by Bisi Alimi.

Photo: Caleb Femi - credit: Jolande Olusanya

www.africawrites.org
www.facebook.com/AfricaWrites
www.goodreads.com/AfricaWrites

www.twitter.com/AfricaWritesUK
#AfricaWrites

Africa Writes 2016 Festival Programme

Visit www.africawrites.org for the full schedule of events and information. All events will take place in the British Library Conference Centre. Sessions are free and require no booking, except where specified below.

FRIDAY 1 JULY 2016

Africa in Translation: Memory and Re-membering 10:00 - 13:45 FREE

This year, our annual symposium aims to explore the place of translation in the contested spaces of memory and re-membering, and its impact on society. Featuring Véronique Tadjo, Kama Sywor Kamanda, Abdilatif Abdalla, Roland Glasser, Ida Hadjivayanis SA Smythe, Toni Stuart and others to be announced. Curated by Wangui wa Goro and Bekisizwe Goro of SIDENSI with support from Afrikult, Birkbeck College, the Igbo Conference and AFFORD.

Fresh Perspectives on African Literature 14:00 - 15:30 FREE

Presenting exciting new scholarship from PhD students, early career scholars and independent researchers that opens up ideas of, and approaches to, 'African literatures'. Chair: Rebecca Jones

Meet the Publishers 16:00 - 17:30 FREE

Would you like the opportunity to present your work to editors and literary agents for professional feedback? Join our panel of experts as they discuss what they look for when considering new work, share the do's and don'ts of pitching and give other insider tips.

Sex, Love & Poetry 18:30 - 20:30, £10 / £8/ £5

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SATURDAY 2 JULY 2016

Writing Africa's Development: Narratives, Agency, Accountability 12:00 - 13:15 FREE

Who writes the narrative on Africa's 'development' trajectory? From investigative journalism to literary memoirs and travel narratives, how do trends in non-fiction writing affect accountability and a sense of African agency?

With Fatimah Kelleher, Emma Dabiri and Bwesigye Bwa Mwesigire. Chair: Eliza Anyangwe.

The Woman Next Door by Yewande Omotoso 13:30 - 14:00 FREE

Launch of the latest novel by Yewande Omotoso brings us a wickedly funny story of neighbors and sworn enemies, sharing a garden hedge and plenty of hostility. Across boundaries of race, history and experience, can these two women find a point of connection?

"There's no such thing as a Black Princess": Diversity in Children's Publishing 14:15 - 15:30 FREE

How can children see themselves represented in books, as well as having a window into different imagined worlds? Tackling the debate on diversity in characters, stories, and the publishing industry, are writers and publishers Véronique Tadjo, Kama Sywor Kamanda, Bibi Bakare Yusuf and Bhavit Mehta.

The Prince Muntu, Amana - The Child Who Was a God & Tales of Kamanda by Kama Sywor Kamanda 15:45 - 16:15 FREE

The prize-winning Congolese storyteller discusses these three books of enchanting tales, recently translated from French.

The 2016 Caine Prize Conversation 16:30 - 18:00 FREE

The Caine Prize maps new directions in contemporary African writing. Join the 2016 shortlisted writers Abdul Adan, Lesley Nneka Arimah, Tope Folarin, Bongani Kona and Lidudumalingani.

On Being A Woman Writer: Nawal El Saadawi in conversation 18:30 - 20:00, £10 / £8/ £5

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SUNDAY 3 JULY 2016

African Books to Inspire 12:00-13:30 FREE

A conversation about books and inspiration with festival guest writers Abdilatif Abdalla, Yewande Omotoso and Sarah Ladipo Manyika sharing their favourite African literature titles - from classics to new work. Followed by a book swapping session where you bring a copy of one of your favourite works of African literature to share and swap for another!

How To Spell Naija in 100 Short Stories, vol. 2 by Chuma Nwokolo 13:45 - 14:15 FREE

We welcome back Chuma Nwokolo to launch the second volume of his successful short story collection. These tales boldly range over 'Nigeriana', with kidnappers, houseboys, bishops and suicide bombers wrecking domestic and hilarious havoc.

Boiling a Great Plot: Contemporary Genre Fiction 14:30 - 15:45 FREE

Writers Leye Adenle, Nikhil Singh and Frances Mensah Williams discuss their latest works, which span the genres of crime writing, international women's fiction, sci-fi and fantasy.

Taty Went West by Nikhil Singh 16:00 - 16:30 FREE

Described as a 'hallucinogenic post-apocalyptic carnival ride', this debut novel published by Kwani? Trust is no ordinary adventure story.

The Immigrant by Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor 17:30 - 19:30 £8 / £6/ £5

BOOK NOW
In 2116, a British man seeking asylum in the African Union engages in a battle of words and stories with a border official. A provocative role reversal of the current status quo.

Workshops

Writers Behaving Badly Friday 1 July 13:30 - 15:30 FREE

BOOK NOW
A creative writing workshop (focusing primarily on poetry) that will encourage you to challenge perceived norms and engage with themes and experiences that people often have difficulty writing about. With Jacob Sam La-Rose. Aimed at writers 18-25, all abilities
Booking: ras_events@soas.ac.uk

The Digital Debate: A New Era of Reading & Publishing? Saturday 2 July 10:30 - 12:00 FREE

A roundtable discussion hosted by Barbara Njau and Kudakwashe Kamupira (Bahati Books). Open to all, registration required: email info@bahatibooks.com

2016 Caine Prize Reading Group Event Saturday 2 July 10:30 - 12:00 FREE

A closed event for reading group members to meet the short-listed writers and discuss their stories. If you have a reading group that would like to get involved, email ras_events@soas.ac.uk. In collaboration with the Black Reading Group and African Reading Group (ARG!).

Writing a Novel Saturday 2 July 14:00-17:00 £60

BOOK NOW
RSL Booker Prize Foundation Masterclass with Bernardine Evaristo
A workshop exploring all the elements of fiction that go into writing a novel. Aimed at writers who want to explore Africa and the African diaspora. £60 (£30 RSL members) Booking via RSL: ally@rsliterature.org / 0207 845 4677

Storytelling; finding your voice Saturday 2 July, 14.15 - 15.00 & 15.30 - 16.15 FREE

Drop in family sessions with Lánre Njoku, aimed at 5+

African Books to Inspire Book Swap Sunday 3 July 13:30-14:00 FREE

Choose a passage to read from your favourite title, bring it along & swap it in our speed-dating style event in collaboration with the Black Book Swap.

Writing Africa: 50 years Sunday 3 July 14:00 - 16:30 FREE

BOOK NOW
Marking the 50th anniversary of Okot p'Bitek's *Song of Lawino*, Grace Ogot's *Promised Land* and Flora Nwapa's *Efuru*, we explore the representation of Africa in literature in rural, urban and cosmopolitan settings. Booking: afrikultinfo@gmail.com

Endings & Beginnings Sunday 3 July 14:30 - 16:30 £20

BOOK NOW
Professional creative writing workshop on the artform of first and last impressions with guest author Yewande Omotoso. Aimed at budding and experienced writers. Some funded places available. Book online.

Storytime! Sunday 3 July 14:30 - 15:00 & 15:30 - 16:00 FREE

Drop in sessions with Louisa Bello.

For further details about free and interactive sessions for school groups, please check the website www.africawrites.org

Pre-Festival Event

Stories of Migration & Displacement Monday 27 June

CR 9, Houses of Parliament, 18:00 - 20:00 FREE

Zodwa Nyoni, Inua Ellams & Kayo Chingonyi discuss how narratives of the self are shaped by the experiences of migration & displacement. With the Africa APPG & Counterpoint Arts. Book online.