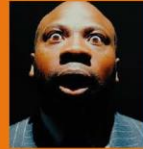




Image: Africa Writes 2017 in London by Juan Gonzalez

Celebrating contemporary literature and thought from Africa and the diaspora



AFRICA WRITES

B R I S T O L

FRIDAY 6 & SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER 2017

HAMILTON HOUSE, 80 STOKES CROFT, BS1 3QY
THE CUBE CINEMA, DOVE ST SOUTH, BS2 8JD

Book Launches • Film Screenings • Discussions • Family activities • Workshops • Poetry Night
WITH CHINELO OKPARANTA, JOWHOR ILE, ELMI ALI, EDSON BURTON, EDWIGE DRO & MORE

Find the full programme on: www.africawrites.org

[@AfricaWritesUK](#) [#AfricaWrites17](#) [facebook.com/AfricaWrites](#)

Brought to you by



In partnership with



Supported by





Africa Writes, the UK's biggest annual African literature and book festival brought to you by the Royal African Society, comes to Bristol for the first time, from Friday 6th October to Saturday 7th October 2017, presenting a vibrant programme of events at The Cube Cinema and Hamilton House. Curated with Bristol-based partners, this literary weekend brings together writers from Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire, Somalia, Uganda, Ghana and across the diaspora for workshops, film screenings, panel discussions, performances and book launches. For African literature enthusiasts and newcomers alike, the festival presents an engaging programme looking at literary activism, adaptation, the cities we live in, forbidden love, hidden histories, and more.

Friday 6th October, The Cube Cinema, Dove St S, Avon, Bristol BS2 8JD

Time	Event
18:00 - 22:30	<p><i>Africa Through the Lens of Fiction and Film</i> <i>An evening of film and discussion. £7 / £6 concs. Nigerian Food at 19:30, £5 a plate</i> Panel Discussion with Biyi Bandele, Kivu Ruhorahoza, Yaba Badoe, and Ingrid Sinclair. Chaired by Kirk Sides. Ahead of a screening of Biyi Bandele's recent adaptation of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's acclaimed novel <i>Half of a Yellow Sun</i> and Ingrid Sinclair's short <i>Riches</i>, a panel of writers and filmmakers discuss the intersection of film and literature about and in Africa. How do creative processes compare and move across screen and text? How does financing work and differ for these media? What are the political implications of putting Africa on-screen in an era of 'spectacle culture' and 'poverty porn'? What are the challenges of putting literary fiction onscreen, and what different roles have poets and novelists had in shaping filmic representations of Africa?</p> <p>Screenings: <i>Riches</i> (26 min) A short film inspired by the influential writer Bessie Head, following the story of Molly McBride and her son Peter's journey from apartheid South Africa to an isolated school in Zimbabwe. She finds life tough and the villagers hostile and conservative. Molly's clash with the hypocritical headmaster leaves her jobless and in despair, but a simple gesture of friendship from one of the poorest members of the community inspires her to fight back and claim her place within her new society.</p> <p><i>Half of a Yellow Sun</i> (111 min) <i>With video introduction by director Biyi Bandele.</i> An epic adaptation of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's landmark novel starring Thandie Newton and Chiwetel Ejiofor. In the late 1960s twin sisters Olanna (Newton) and Kainene (Anika Noni Rose) arrive back home in Nigeria, having finished their studies in England. While Olanna moves in with her boyfriend, professor Odenigbo (Ejiofor), and his young houseboy, Ugwu (John Boyega), Kainene becomes a businesswoman and gets involved with British writer Richard (Joseph Mawle). When the Nigerian Civil War breaks out the sisters' lives are changed forever. Bandele's brilliantly realised film explores moral responsibility, the end of colonialism, ethnic allegiances, race and class — and how love can complicate them all.</p> <p><i>In partnership with Afrika Eye</i> Tickets £7/£6 concs: http://bit.ly/AW2017Lens</p>



Saturday 7th October, Hamilton House, 80 Stokes Croft, BS1 3QY

Time	Event
<p>11:00 – 17:00 Conference Space at Hamilton House</p>	<p>Dare to Write Library Exhibition</p> <p>See the work created by Bristol school students in the Numbi Arts creative writing and zine-making workshops on the theme of ‘cities’.</p> <p><i>In partnership with Paper Nations, Book Kernel & Numbi Arts</i></p> <p>Funded by Arts Council England’s strategic fund for Creative Writing in Schools, Paper Nations is the country’s first and only creative writing hub for young people. By fostering creative writing in communities and schools for the benefit of children and young people everywhere, Paper Nations aims to change the landscape of creative writing education for good.</p>
<p>11:00 - 12:00 Conference Space at Hamilton House</p>	<p>Storytelling Workshop: <i>The Secret of the Purple Lake</i> <i>With author Yaba Badoe and Anna Mace.</i></p> <p>Create your own stories and discover a world of interweaving tales: from Ghana to Orkney, and from Spain to Norway and Thailand. Meet the Walrus Prince, the Wild Princesses of Rousay, Imoro the magic elephant and the Fisherman’s Daughter, and journey with us to the bottom of the sea, through the desert and across the mysterious purple lake.</p> <p>Participants: This workshop is open to all the family, and is primarily aimed at young people aged 8 - 12 years.</p> <p>Registration: Drop-in</p>
<p>11:30 - 14:00 Freedom Room at Hamilton House</p>	<p>Literary Activism and Arts Management Workshop</p> <p>Have you set up or are you thinking of setting up an online magazine or producing an arts event? Would you like to exchange ideas and practical advice on how to successfully position and sustain a new cultural or creative initiative? This workshop is designed for aspiring, early career and established creatives, literary activists and arts managers interested in sharing experiences and building best practice.</p> <p>The workshop will focus in particular on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting up and running an online literary magazine - Producing literary events <p>It includes presentations from successful practitioners including Edwige-Renée Dro (Abidjan Lit), Henry Brefo (Writivism), Emmanuel Iduma (Saraba Magazine) and Zahrah Nesbitt-Ahmed (Bookshy), as well as the opportunity for Q&A sessions with these established literary activists, and time to discuss and develop your own ideas and plans.</p> <p>Registration: Register by sending a short bio (100 words) to ras_events@soas.ac.uk.</p> <p><i>In partnership with the Centre for African Cultural Excellence & the Centre for Black Humanities at the University of Bristol.</i></p>



<p>11:00 - 14:00 Mild West Room at Hamilton House</p>	<p>Creative Writing Workshop with Numbi Arts Facilitated by Elmi Ali and Mahamed-Haykal Muhumed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you have a story to tell about your local neighbourhood? - Are you interested in developing your creative writing skills? - Would you like the chance to hear from experienced writers and poets on how to transform an idea into a piece of writing? <p>Then join us for this interactive writing workshop, where we explore ideas about the local and the global. By looking at local neighbourhoods, we discover ways to create stories from the connections that arise between our local and global networks. You will be presented with a series of writing exercises and will have a chance to receive guidance and direct feedback.</p> <p>This workshop is open to all ages and writing experiences, and will be delivered in both English and Somali. We will produce a Numbi Cities Zine from the workshop.</p> <p>Registration: Sign up by email to ras_events@soas.ac.uk</p>
<p>14:30 - 15:30 Conference Space at Hamilton House</p>	<p>Book Launch: <i>And After Many Days</i> by Jowhor Ile <i>Jowhor Ile in conversation with Emma Shercliff</i></p> <p>During the rainy season of 1995, in the bustling town of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, one family's life is disrupted by the sudden disappearance of seventeen-year-old Paul Utu, beloved brother and son. As they grapple with the sudden loss of their darling boy, they embark on a painful and moving journey of immense power which changes their lives forever and shatters the fragile ecosystem of their once ordered family. Jowhor Ile discusses his critically acclaimed and award-winning debut novel with Emma Shercliff.</p> <p><i>In partnership with Spike Island's Novel Writers Series</i></p>
<p>16:00 - 17:30 Conference Space at Hamilton House</p>	<p>Producing New Books and Readers: Literary Activism in 21st Century Africa Speakers: Bibi Bakare-Yusuf, Edwige Renee- Dro, Emmanuel Iduma & Henry Brefo Chair: Madhu Krishnan</p> <p>The 21st century has seen the rise of a myriad of new literary initiatives on the African continent, from literary festivals to new writing prizes, publishing and translation initiatives to innovative book distribution outlets, podcasting to small magazines. This panel brings together literary producers involved in founding and directing influential new initiatives to discuss the agendas, structures and networks that enable the production and circulation of literature in Africa. What innovative modes of literary activism and engagement has the 21st century enabled and how do self-defined literary activists conceive of their role in contemporary Africa?</p> <p><i>In partnership with the Centre for African Cultural Excellence & University of Bristol's Centre for Black Humanities</i></p>



<p>18:00 - 19:30 Event Space at Hamilton House</p>	<p>Hidden Histories and Forbidden Love: Chinelo Okparanta in conversation with Zahrah Nesbitt-Ahmed</p> <p>Chinelo Okparanta's deeply searching and powerful debut novel is about the dangers of living and loving openly. Ijeoma comes of age as her nation does; born before independence, she is eleven when civil war breaks out in the young republic of Nigeria. Sent away to safety, she meets another displaced child and they, star-crossed, fall in love. Inspired by Nigeria's folktales and the set in the midst of the Biafran War, <i>Under the Udala Trees</i> (2015) uses the lifetime of one woman to explore love and truth of personal relationships, in the context of taboo, prejudice, conflict and division. The writer discusses identity, the testing of faith, and uncovering histories through the personal journeys of her characters.</p>
<p>20:00 - 23:30 Event Space at Hamilton House</p>	<p>Cities and Watering Holes: An Evening of Spoken Word & Music</p> <p><i>Hosted by Numbi Arts & Ujima Radio, Part of NumbiFest Cross-Currents 2017</i></p> <p>With Elmi Ali, Edson Burton, Mahamed-Haykal Muhumed, Hari Ramakrishnan, Safiya 'Birdspeed' Kinshasa, Ros Martin and poems from 'My Song for Burundi' anthology (published by Huza Press). Ujima Radio DJs spinning afrobeats, funk, house and afro-influenced sounds from across the world.</p> <p>Tickets £5: bit.ly/AW2017Cities</p>

Africa Writes 2017 Pop-Up: Bristol is brought to you by the Royal African Society in partnership with Numbi Arts, The University of Bristol's Centre for Black Humanities, Afrika Eye, Ujima Radio, Spike Island, Centre of African Cultural Excellence, Coexist at Hamilton House, The Cube Cinema, Book Kernel and Paper Nations, and is supported by Arts Council England and Sigrid Rausing Trust. The producers are Kate Wallis and Caitlin Pearson.

Speaker Bios

Kinsi Abdulleh is a visual artist, editor and educator. She is the founder of NUMBI Arts, a London based cross-arts and cross cultural non-profit – rooted in contemporary Somali Film Arts & Literature -an open archive and ongoing forum for shared diasporic experience - and the editor/publisher of literary arts magazine SCARF. Her work as an artist educator focuses on social justice, histories and the female voice. www.numbi.org.

Mohamed M. Abdi, better known as “Haykal” is a gifted poet, novelist, short story writer, and social activist who lives in Bristol, United Kingdom. His poetry expresses and motivates the different sides of life, entertainment and building a successful society. He wrote the famous book *Masiibada Cagaaran* which explains the problems associated with Khat use within the Somali community. Haykal loves to add to his skills on writing both critical and creative level in Somali literature. This year June, he published his second book *Hanqadh* which is about a cycle of life based on the Somali traditional everyday life, the ups and the downs.

Elmi Ali is a writer, performer/facilitator based in the North West of England. He writes poetry, short -fiction and drama. Ali has performed across the country including Westminster, The Southbank Centre & Contact Manchester. His work has been published in publications such as the Poetry Review and Scarf Magazine of which he is an Associate Editor. He facilitates Performance Poetry and Creative Writing workshops: both individually and in partnership with organisations such as Numbi Arts, Arvon Foundation, Young Identity and Wordsmith.



Yaba Badoe is an award-winning Ghanaian-British documentary film-maker and writer. In 2014 Yaba was nominated for the Distinguished Woman of African Cinema Award.

Bibi Bakare Yusuf is founder and publishing director of one of Africa's leading publishing houses, Cassava Republic Press www.cassavarepublic.biz. She is also an independent scholar with a PhD in Women and Gender Studies from the University of Warwick and is a board member of The Initiative of Equal Rights, the leading sexual minority rights organisation in Nigeria. Cassava Republic tweets @CassavaRepublic.

Biyi Bandele is a filmmaker, playwright, and novelist. He wrote and directed the films *Half of a Yellow Sun* (2013) starring Thandie Newton, Chiwetel Ejiofor, John Boyega, and Anika Noni Rose, and *Fifty* (2015). His TV work includes *Not Even God is Wise Enough*, directed by Danny Boyle (1994) and the MTV series *Shuga* (2013 & 2015). His plays include *Rain*, *Death Catches the Hunter*, *Marching for Fausa*, and *Resurrections*. Amongst his theatre adaptations are Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* (1997), Aphra Behn's *Oroonoko* (1999) and Federico Garcia Lorca's *Senora Carrar's Rifles* (2007). Bandele has written several books, from his first novel *The Man Who Came in from The Back of Beyond* (Heinemann, 1991), to *Burma Boy* (Jonathan Cape, 2007), which has been translated into French, Italian, Portuguese (Brazil), Dutch, Hebrew, Polish and Swedish. He is currently working on an original screenplay set in Lagos and adapting Wole Soyinka's prison memoirs *The Man Died* for the British Film Institute.

Henry Brefo is a cultural producer with considerable experience in working across the African continent and the UK. Henry has worked on several exciting projects, formerly as the Co- founder of Afrikult and currently as Co- editor of Flight Journal. He is also Strategic Adviser to one of Uganda's major literary festivals: Writivism. Besides his literary interest, Henry is also undertaking PhD research at University of Birmingham on Chieftaincy and Development in Ghana. He is passionate about how culture and the arts can positively contribute towards Africa's development.

Dr Edson Burton is a writer, historian, programme-curator and performer based in Bristol. He has been a consultant and coordinator for a range of history projects in Bristol including most recently a study of Bristol's Old Market ward *Vice & Virtue* (2014) and Black South West Network's *Race Through the Generations* (2016). Edson has maintained a parallel career as a poet, and a writer for theatre, radio and screen, for which his credentials include *Armour of Immanuel* (2007), the *Chosen One* (2009), *Deacon* (2017). A long standing associate of Bristol's Watershed Cinema Edson has curated the highly regarded Afrofuturist season (2014) which formed part of the BFI'S Fear and Wonder Sci-Fi season.

Edwige-Renée Dro is a writer, a translator and a literary activist. She was the laureate of the Africa39 project and the judge of PEN International New Voices award 2015 and Etisalat Prize for Literature 2016. She is the co- founder of Abidjan Lit, a literary initiative seeking to restore to Cote d'ivoire its literary glory. She currently works as a project coordinator for cultural and digital entrepreneurship in West Africa. She tweets @DroEdwige

Emmanuel Iduma is the author of *The Sound of Things to Come* (first published as *Farad* in Nigeria). He co-edited *Gambit: Newer African Writing*. His essays on art and photography have been published widely. He is editor of *Saraba Magazine*, and a faculty member of the MFA Art Writing program at the School of Visual Arts, New York. *A Stranger's Pose*, his book of travel stories, is forthcoming in 2018.

Jowhor Ile is the author of *And After Many Days* which was awarded the Etisalat Prize for Literature. His writing has appeared in McSweeney's Quarterly, Lit Hub, Litro Magazine. He earned his MFA at Boston University where he was recipient of the Leslie Epstein Global Fellowship. Jowhor was born in Obagi and reared in Port Harcourt, both in Rivers State, Nigeria.



Safiya Kinshasa, better known as "Birdspeed" is a cultural theorist, storyteller, dancer, spoken word artist and activist. Born in South East London, raised in Barbados Birdspeed is dedicated to uniting academia and artistry to promote black cultural integrity. Though she is new to the spoken word scene she has already been making her mark in Bristol with her powerful poetic style using social commentary and a unique stylish delivery. She has recently published a series of essays on social political issues in the black community from a black feminist standpoint which can be found on her website www.safiyabirdspeed.com.

Madhu Krishnan, Senior Lecturer of 20th/21st Century Postcolonial Writing, University of Bristol, is the author of *Contemporary African Literature in English: Global Locations, Postcolonial Identifications* (2014). Her work centres on African and African diaspora writing, publishing and culture, with a particular focus on 'making' of African literary institutions. She has published widely in the field of African literatures and her forthcoming monograph, *Writing Spatiality in West Africa: Colonial Legacies and the Anglophone /Francophone Novel*, will be released by James Currey Press's African Articulations series in 2018. She convenes the AHRC Research Network, 'Small Magazines, Literary Networks and Self-Fashioning in Sub-Saharan Africa' and organises regular literary events in Bristol and the surrounding areas.

Zahrah Nesbitt-Ahmed is a researcher, writer and blogger with extensive experience in gender, urbanisation and international development. She is currently a Technical Specialist on Women's Economic Empowerment at Social Development Direct. Zahrah is also the founder and editor of bookshy – a labour of love dedicated to African literature – and the curator of ABC, a visual showcase of African Book Covers. She holds a BSc in Human and Physical Geography from University of Reading, an MSc in Urbanisation and Development and a PhD in Human Geography and Urban Studies, both from London School of Economics (LSE). She tweets @zahrahnesbitt.

Chinelo Okparanta was born in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. A University of Iowa Provost's Postgraduate Visiting Writer in Fiction as well as a Colgate University Olive B. O'Connor Fellow in Fiction, Okparanta received her BS from Pennsylvania State University, her MA from Rutgers University, and her MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. She was one of Granta's six New Voices for 2012 and is a Lambda Award winner for Lesbian Fiction, an O. Henry Short Story Prize winner, a finalist for the Rolex Mentors and Proteges Arts Initiative, a finalist for the Etisalat Prize for Literature, and a finalist for the Caine Prize, among others. Her stories have appeared in the New Yorker, Granta, Tin House, The Kenyon Review, and elsewhere.

Caitlin Pearson is the RAS Events Programme Manager. She works on the general public events programme as well the annual Africa Writes festival. Her background is in higher education and scholarship – she previously worked in communications and events at the Centre of African Studies, SOAS and at the Canon Collins Educational and Legal Assistance Trust. Caitlin holds a BA from the University of Birmingham and an MA from SOAS, both in African Studies. Her research interests include film and TV, representation, class and disability. She is working towards expanding the reach of Africa Writes to other parts of England, as well as Wales and Scotland.

Kivu Ruhorahoza is a London based award-winning filmmaker whose visionary work has been officially screened at top international A-List festivals including Sundance, TriBeCa, Sydney, Rotterdam, Warsaw, Melbourne, Rio, Venice and renowned museums and venues such as the Tate Modern, the MoMA, the BFI Southbank and many others. Kivu has also directed music videos including the two lead singles of Saul Williams' album Martyr Loser King (Fader Label). Kivu Ruhorahoza's work has been featured in the New Yorker, the New York Times, the Guardian, CNN, Le Monde, the Hollywood Reporter, Variety, Screen Anarchy Magazine. He has also collaborated with Chimurenga Magazine and an excerpt of his debut novel, Free Fall, is to be published by Kwani? Magazine. His films include *Things of the Aimless Wanderer* (official Sundance 2015 selection) & *Matière Grise* (2011).



Kirk B. Sides recently joined the English Faculty at the University of Bristol as a Lecturer in World Literatures in English. Before this he was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of the Witwatersrand's Institute for Social and Economic Research in Johannesburg, South Africa. Kirk holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Los Angeles. His research argues for new approaches to thinking about race in relation to both climate change and to the environment in African literature and film. Currently he is working on a book manuscript entitled *Writing the Land: Race and the Ecological Imaginary in African Literature*. Forthcoming is a co-edited volume Achille Mbembe about the online publication *The Johannesburg Salon*.

Emma Shercliff is a director of Cassava Republic Press (UK) and Publishing Director for romance imprint Ankara Press. Emma has worked for publishing houses in the UK, US, France and Australia, and was formerly Managing Director of Macmillan English Campus, a global digital publishing division of Macmillan Publishers. She is a PhD candidate at the UCL Institute of Education, University of London; her doctoral research explores and documents the role of female publishers in shaping the literary landscape in Africa. Emma has worked as a consultant for the British Council in Iran and Nigeria. She holds an MA in Modern Languages from Cambridge University.

Ingrid Sinclair is a director and screenwriter who moved from England to Zimbabwe and become involved in the liberation struggle. Her pivotal first feature *Flame*, received prizes and standing ovations world-wide. *Flame* was selected for Director's Fortnight at Cannes. In *Flame* and her previous prize winning documentary *Bird From Another World*, she deals with the day-to-day drama of politics, history, geography, culture and the way they affect people, turning them into both villains and heroes.

Kate Wallis is Lecturer in Global Literatures in the Department of English at the University of Exeter. Her research interests include African literature (emphasis on Kenya and Nigeria), material cultures of the book, global literary networks and African literature's relationship to memory and place. Her work has been published in *Wasafiri* and is forthcoming in *Research in African Literatures*. She is an Editor for Huza Press and africainwords.com. She was Producer of the Africa Writes festival in London in 2015 and is Associate Producer of the 2017 Africa Writes Bristol Pop-Up.

About

The Royal African Society (RAS) is an inclusive pan-African membership charity based in London that aims to facilitate equitable relations and mutual understanding between the UK and Africa. Founded more than 100 years ago, it works in the fields of academia, business, policy and politics, culture and education. Through our events, publications and digital channels we share insight and instigate debate, reaching a network of more than one million people globally. Year membership is £70/ £25 Students. Join today!
www.royalafricansociety.org/join-us

Africa Writes festival is an annual celebration of contemporary literature from Africa and the diaspora brought to you by [The Royal African Society](http://TheRoyalAfricanSociety). Every year we showcase established and emerging talent from the African continent and its diaspora in what is now the UK's biggest celebration of contemporary African writing taking place over an exciting summer weekend in London, and pop-up events throughout the UK during the year. The festival programmes feature book launches, readings, author appearances, panel discussions, youth and children's workshops, and other activities. Our previous headline speakers have been Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Ngugi wa Thiong'o with son Mukoma wa Ngugi, Wole Soyinka, Ama Ata Aidoo, Ben Okri, Nawal El Saadawi and Alain Mabanckou. www.africawrites.org