New Daughters of Africa
Saturday 6 July, 19:00 – 20:30
£15 / £12 / £10 / £9 for RAS Members
Twenty-five years after Margaret Busby’s landmark anthology, Daughters of Africa, this new companion volume brings together the work of over 200 writers from across the globe. Bernardine Evaristo, Nadifa Mohamed, Ayòbámi Adébáyò and Namwali Serpell join Margaret Busby in conversation to celebrate the global sweep, diversity and extraordinary literary achievements of Black women writers at Africa Writes 2019.

Our Bodies Speak Poetry
Friday 5 July, 19:00 – 21:00 (Doors: 18:30)
£12 / £8 / £7.20 for RAS Members
An evening of intergenerational poetry, storytelling and movement exploring the body as a site of power, possibilities and resistance. With Raymond Antrobus, Adesola Akinyele, Caleb Femi, Jessica Horn, Miss Jacqui, Fatimah Kelleher, Nick Makoha, Sitawa Namwali, Koleka Putuma and Belinda Zhawi. Music curated by BORN::FREE. The event will be BSL interpreted.

Chigozie Obioma in conversation and The Fishermen
Sunday 7 July, 15:30 – 18:30
£20 / £18 / £15 / £12 for RAS Members
Photo: Chigozie Obioma photographed by Jason Keith

About Africa Writes
An exciting summer weekend of literature. Now in its eighth year, Africa Writes is the Royal African Society’s annual literature 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! Please purchase your tickets online via bit.ly/AW2019Tickets or call the British Library box office: 01937 546546

Venue
The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom and one of the world’s greatest research libraries. Africa Writes events take place in the Knowledge Centre and the Learning Centre at the Library.

Partners
Africa Writes 2019

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

An exciting summer weekend of contemporary African literature and thought. Unless otherwise stated, the sessions below are included in the day tickets and weekend passes, available to buy through our website. Members of Royal African Society receive a 40% discount on all tickets. Join today at www.royalafricansociety.org

SATURDAY 6 JULY

Our Daughters’ Fathers
11:15 - 12:30
Theresa Lola, Keisha Thompson, Sitawa Namwali & Fatimah Kelleher discuss writing daughters’ relationships with their fathers & grandfathers.

Africa in London
11:30 - 12:15
Exploring the thoughts and experiences of Africans living in London today through sounds and conversation in partnership with Mayor of London and the British Council.

Africa Writes Young Voices Education Surgery
11:15 - 12:45
Joanna Brown shares Africa Writes: Young Voices booklists and creative teaching ideas for primary and secondary school classrooms.

SAFE: Black British Men
12:30 - 13:45
Taking up space with their own words. Discussion with Derek Owusu, Yomi Sode, Okechukwu Nzelu and Alex Wheatle. Open to all. Aimed at young people 16+.

The Old Drift by Namwali Serpell
12:45 - 13:15

Poetry & Mathematics: Workshop for Young Adults
14:15 - 15:45
Create poetry out of mathematical data: find inspiration from unlikely places with Keisha Thompson. Ages 16+.

Family Storytelling Workshops
13:00 - 14:00 (ages 2-5)
15:00 - 16:00 (ages 6-11)

Angolan Literature 101
16:15 - 17:30
Curious about African Lusophone literature? Join Kalaf Epalanga and Yovanka Paquete Perdigao to uncover a wealth of stories from Angolan writers.

Reimagining the Gods
15:30 - 16:45
Interactive discussion on ancient African deities in contemporary spoken, written and illustrative literature with Inua Ellams, Sitawa Namwali, Louisa Egbeunike and Marion Wallace.

Sunday 7 July

Love & Sickle Cell in Stay With Me
11:00 - 11:45
Ayòbámi Adébáyò discusses love, desire and the devastating consequences of sickle cell in her critically acclaimed debut, with Chibundu Onuzo.

Literary Innovation in East Africa
11:15 - 12:15
Showcasing some of the most exciting literary initiatives and collaborations in East Africa today, featuring Sitawa Namwali, Huza Press, Viritwsm & others.

German Calendar, No December by Sylvia Oflili
12:00 - 12:30
UK launch of Oflili’s graphic novel set between Nigeria and Germany. Exploring mixed identity and migration with humanity and humour. With Olumide Popoola.

Not My Time To Die by Yolande Mukagasa
13:00 - 13:30
Launch of Mukagasa’s moving memoir, one of the first civilian testimonies of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, now translated into English for Kwibuka25.

Translating Comic Strips from North Africa
13:00 - 14:30
A beginner’s introduction to the art of translation; learn the process of transforming comic strips into English with Nariman Youssef and Sawad Hussein.

The Reading Salon
13:15 - 14:15
Discover an imaginative space of writers reading from their work. Come, sit and listen to the wonderful depth and breadth of African literature today. With Michael Donkor, Sandra Jackson-Opoku & others.

African Books to Inspire: Makings of Masculinity
13:30 - 14:45
Ayòbámi Adébáyò, Zahrah Nesseb-Ahmed, Sulaiman Addonia and Peter Kimani on books that have inspired and critiqued notions of masculinity.

Chigozie Obioma in conversation
15:30 - 18:30 | £20 - £12
Man Booker shortlisted novelist discusses Igbo cosmology and ordinary lives with Irenosen Okojie. Opens with staged reading of The Fishermen presented by New Perspectives.

FRIDAY 5 JULY

Africa Writes Young Voices Showcase
14:00 - 16:30
FREE
Breaking new ground: our education programme poets and their school groups present exciting work from this year’s workshops.

Our Bodies Speak Poetry
19:00 - 21:00 | £12 - £7.20
BOOK NOW
Exploring the body as a site of power, possibilities and resistance through poetry, storytelling, movement and music. Info overleaf.

BOOK YOUR TICKETS

Weekend Pass - £20
Saturday Day Ticket: £15
Sunday Day Ticket: £12

BOOK online at: bit.ly/AW2019Tickets
or call BL box office: 01937 546546
Advance booking is strongly recommended!

New Daughters of Africa
19:00 - 20:30 | £15 - £9
BOOK NOW
Bernardine Evaristo, Nadifa Mohamed, Ayòbámi Adébáyò and Namwali Serpell join Margaret Busby in conversation to celebrate landmark anthology. Info overleaf.

Interrogating the Text: Workshop for Book Reviewers and Critics
11:00 - 12:30
What constitutes a ‘good’ and ‘objective’ review? Hone your inner critic with Sarah Ozo-Irabor (Books & Rhymes).

Everything You Have Told Me Is True by Mary Harper
12:45 - 13:15
The BBC Africa Editor’s intimate account of everyday life under, within and alongside notorious terrorist group Al Shabaab in Somalia, with Idril Osman.

Our Bodies Speak Poetry
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Programme details are correct at time of printing.

Visit us online to check for the latest updates: www.africawrites.org.