



Alain Mabanckou in Conversation

Sunday 2 July, 17:00 – 18:30

£10/£8/£7 [BOOK NOW](#)

Wordplay, philosophical questions and humour: the prolific Francophone Congolese poet and novelist discusses language, style and politics.

Photo: Alain Mabanckou. Credit: Hermance Triay

Dreams and Deceptions: A Night of Storytelling

Saturday 1 July, 18:30 – 20:30

£12/£10/£8 for both shows [BOOK NOW](#)

From an enchanting Yoruba tale of the Orishas to the scandalous story of secrets and rivalry in contemporary Nigerian fiction, Africa Writes presents an enchanting night of storytelling. *The Illusion of Truth* by Mara Menzies, followed by Maimouna Jallow's adaptation of Lola Shoneyin's acclaimed novel *The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives*.

Photo: Maimouna Jallow performs. Credit: Hathor Rao



AFRICA WRITES

FRIDAY 30 JUNE – SUNDAY 2 JULY 2017

THE BRITISH LIBRARY 96 EUSTON RD, LONDON NW1 2DB

The Royal African Society's annual literature and book festival in partnership with The British Library



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In partnership with



Africa Writes: R.A.P Party

Friday 30 June, 19:30 – 23:00

£12 [BOOK NOW](#)

Africa Writes opens with a Rhythm and Poetry Party – a nostalgic, no-clutter, no-fuss, straight-up evening of hip-hop inspired poems and songs. Featuring Malika Booker, Kei Miller, Kayo Chingonyi, Fatimah Kelleher, Jolade Olusanya, Rachel Long, Roger Robinson, Amaal Said, Yomi Sode, Theresa Lola, Inua Ellams and DJ Sid Mercutio. Expect your head to nod and your heart to move.

In partnership with the British Council. Photo: Ivan Gonzalez



Africa Writes 2017

Festival Programme

An exciting summer weekend of contemporary African literature and thought. We kick off on Friday 30 June with the Opening R.A.P. Party! Booking info for the party and the other headline events is overleaf. The sessions below are included in the day tickets and weekend passes unless otherwise stated.

BOOK YOUR TICKETS

Weekend Pass - £15

Saturday Day Ticket: £10 Sunday Day Ticket: £8

Book online at bit.ly/AW17Tickets or call the BL box office: 01937 546546
Advance booking is strongly recommended!

SATURDAY 1 JULY

Africa Writes Young Voices Showcase

09:45 - 11:30

Our education programme poets and their groups present exciting and fresh new work. Hosted by Caleb Femi.

Meet the Publishers

11:00 - 12:30

Come and pitch your work to the industry experts! With Will Francis, Lynette Lisk, Sharmaine Lovegrove, Crystal Mahey-Morgan and Aki Schilz.

Kumukanda by Kayo Chingonyi & Kingdom of Gravity by Nick Makoha.

11:45 - 13:00

The poets present their debut collections in conversation with Terrance Hayes.

Jalada Africa: Crossing Borders

13:30 - 15:00

Creating living connections between writers and readers in East Africa. Plus, the launch of *My Song for Burundi* anthology.

2017 Caine Prize Conversation

15:15 - 16:45

Lesley Nneka Arimah, Chikodili Emelumadu, Bushra al-Fadil, Arinze Ifeakandu and Magogodi oaMphela Makhene in conversation with Niq Mhlongo.

The Issue of Fear

16:45 - 18:00

Launch of the Jalada 05/ Transition 123 collaborative issue, with Sara Bruya, Nicole Terez Dutton Tayu Neogy and Wanjeri Gakuru.

The Chibok Girls by Helon Habila

17:00 - 17:45

Habila investigates the ascent of Boko Haram in Nigeria, and uncovers the stories of survivors and bereaved in northern Nigeria.

Dreams and Deceptions: A Night of Storytelling

BOOK NOW

18:30 - 20:10 | £12, 10, £8
Enchanting tales and exciting adaptations: a double bill with Mara Menzies and Maimouna Jallow.

SUNDAY 2 JULY

Remembering Buchi Emecheta

11:30 - 12:30

Paying tribute to the pioneering British Nigerian writer with Sylvester Onwordi, Margaret Busby, Louisa Egbunike, Ade Solanke and others.

No Place To Call Home by JJ Bola & When We Speak of Nothing by Olumide Popoola

12:45 - 13:30

From Kinshasa to Brussels, Port Harcourt to London. The writers join SA Smythe in conversation.

Translation Roundtable

13:00 - 14:15

Uncovering the processes and politics of translating into and between African languages. With Jalada Africa and others.

How to Reach the Readers: Publishing in Africa

14:00 - 15:15

with Huza Press, Kwani? African Writers Trust and Worldreader. Chaired by Emma Shercliff.

Africa Writes, Africa Reads: Literary and Cultural Festivals

15:15 - 16:30

A roundtable with scholars and cultural activists looking at the vibrant communities of readers across the continent.

The Ultimate Tragedy by Abdulai Silá

15:30 - 16:15

Launch of the first novel from Guinea Bissau translated into English.

Writing Blackness: Mostly Lit LIVE at Africa Writes

15:45 - 16:45

Exploring the intersection of literature and black culture with Alex Reads, Reckless Rai and Derek W.

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17:00 - 18:30 | £10, £8, £7
Wordplay, philosophical questions, and humour: the Francophone Congolese writer on his life and work.

Workshops, Exhibitions, Family and Community Events

SATURDAY 1 JULY

The Magic of Stories Family Workshop

10:30 - 12:00 & 13:00 - 14:30

FREE

Hear unusual sounds, play exciting games and unleash your imagination with Mara Menzies.

The Missing Chapter: Black Chronicles Exhibition

10:00 - 16:00

Discover hidden histories and writing inspiration with the 'Exhibition in a Box' by Autograph APB.

'My Pencils Outlast Their Erasers': An Editing Masterclass for writers

13:00 - 16:00 | £45 / £30

with Ellah Allfrey. 12 places available. Please email ras_events@soas.ac.uk for booking info.

Kanga Exhibition and Sharing

15:30 - 17:00, FREE

Learn about the history of the textile and bring your own kanga for this interactive session on proverbs in Swahili and English.

SUNDAY 2 JULY

African Books to Inspire: Buchi Emecheta Bookclub

12:45 - 13:45

Discussing your favourite Buchi Emecheta books, hosted by bookshy, Afrikult. and Afreada.

Archives for Writers

14:00 - 15:15

Come explore and be inspired! A panel and workshop with Marion Wallace, Renée Mussai, Munira Mohamad and Joanna Brown.

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! Please purchase your tickets on the British Library website bit.ly/AW17Tickets or call the BL box office: 01937 546546. Programme details are correct at time of printing. Please check www.africawrites.org for updates.

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

The festival has been made possible through the financial support and partnership of these institutions and organisations: Arts Council England, British Library, British Council, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Miles Morland Foundation, Centre of African Studies, University of London, Afreada, Africa in Words, Afrikult., Autograph APB, Cassava Republic, D237, English PEN, Huza Press, Jalada Africa, Matugga Rum, Octavia Poetry Collective, Poetry Translation Centre, Inua Ellams R.A.P. Party, Royal Society of Literature, Caine Prize for African Writing, The Literary Consultancy, Transition Journal. We would like to thank the above and the many other individuals and organisations who have contributed to the festival.