



COAT by Yomi Sode

Friday 29 June, 20:00 – 21:00, British Library

£12, £9.60 for RAS Members [BOOK NOW](#)

Poet Yomi Sode opens Africa Writes 2018 with a special performance of his previously sold-out show exploring migration, family, and growing up in London.

Picture this: Nigeria. A grandmother passes. London, a son cooks a pot of stew for his mother hoping to uncover hidden stories and unanswered questions.

Photo: Yomi Sode by Abu Yillah



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Octavia Poetry Collective presents: Africa Writes Party 2018. The Year of the Womxn

Saturday 30 June, 20:00 – 00:30, Rich Mix

£10, £8 for RAS Members [BOOK NOW](#)

Join us for a Wakanda-themed evening of poetry, music and dancing into the night / future where we'll showcase and celebrate the words, the art, the song of womxn from Africa and the diaspora. Featuring Theresa Lola, Momtaza Mehri, Sarah Lasoye, Victoria Adukwai Bulley, Hibaq Osman, Rachel Long, Belinda Zhawi, Amina Jama, and a speech by special guest Bernardine Evaristo. Plus music from DJ Tone (gal-dem) & DJ Ca\$h Era.

Image: Illustration by Olivia Twist

About Africa Writes

An exciting summer weekend of literature. Now in its seventh 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/AW2018Tickets or call BL box office: 01937 546546 / Rich Mix box office: 020 7613 7498

Venues

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 at the Library.

Rich Mix is East London's independent arts centre and community arts hub which presents a vibrant programme of music, dance and spoken word performance, art shows and film screenings.

Partners

The festival has been made possible through the financial support of Arts Council England and the Miles Morland Foundation, and the partnership of these institutions and organisations: British Library, Rich Mix, AFREDA, Africa in Words, Afrikult., Bakwa Magazine, bookshy, Brittle Paper, Department of English, University of Bristol, FUNCTION, Hargeysa International Book Fair, Mostly Lit, Numbi Arts, Octavia Poetry Collective, SIDENSI, The Caine Prize for African Writing, The Literary Consultancy, Writivism, Africa Book Centre, Atlantic Books, Cassava Republic, Faber & Faber, Hurst, Market FiftyFour, New Beacon Books, Saqi Books, Team Angelica, The Indigo Press, October Gallery, Alt. Africa, gal-dem, Granta, Bare Lit Festival, Centre of African Studies, University of London.

FESTIVAL HEADLINE EVENT:

Warsan Shire in Conversation

Sunday 1 July, 17:30 – 18:45. British Library

£15, £12, £10 [BOOK NOW](#)

Warsan Shire photographed by Amaal Said

Africa Writes 2018

Festival Programme

An exciting summer weekend of contemporary African literature and thought. The festival opens on Friday 29 June with a performance of *COAT* by Yomi Sode – booking info for this and other headline events are overleaf. Unless otherwise stated, the sessions below are included in the day tickets and weekend passes, available to buy through our website. All sessions take place at the British Library, except the Octavia x Africa Writes party which takes place at Rich Mix.

Programme details are correct at time of printing. Please check www.africawrites.org for updates.

SATURDAY 30 JUNE

Africa Writes Young Voices Showcase

09:45 - 11:30 FREE

Breaking new ground: our education programme poets and their school groups present exciting work from this year's workshops.

Why African Literature Matters

12:00 - 13:30 FREE

Where is Africa in the UK literature curriculum? We discuss with educators championing diverse reading lists - Farrah Serroukh, Deirdre Osborne, JC Niala and Joanna Brown.

Mostly Lit Live in Conversation with Afua Hirsch

12:00 - 13:15

The award-winning books and pop-culture podcast in conversation with journalist and broadcaster Afua Hirsch, the author of *Brit(ish)*.

The Hundred Wells of Salaga by Ayesha Harruna Attah

13:30 - 14:00

UK launch of Attah's third novel. Immerse yourself in the rhythms, relationships, desires and struggles in women's lives in 19th century Ghana.

Meet the Publishers

13:45 - 15:15

Come and pitch your work, and hear industry insider tips with Candice Carty-Williams, Layla Mohamed, Sharmaine Lovegrove and Aki Schilz.

Family Storytelling Workshop

14:00 - 14:45 & 15:30 - 16:15

FREE for children

An interactive reading of *Kobi Goes to Ghana* and *Onion, Tomato and Chilli* with Dzifa Appeah. Aimed at ages 0 - 8.

African Literary Figures in Georgian & Edwardian London

14:15 - 15:30

Discover the remarkable stories of Phillis Wheatley & A.B.C. Merriman-Labor with Ade Solanke, Danell Jones, S.I. Martin & Emma Dabiri.

Numbi Arts Presents: The Story of Us by Hanna Ali

15:30 - 17:00

How are young Somali people engaging with their literature? Join a conversation on inter-generational stories and readings with Hanna Ali.

Freshwater by Akwaeke Emezi

15:45 - 16:30

Exploring the metaphysics of identity and being, and the mysteries of self. Irenosen Okojie chairs this pre-launch of Emezi's highly-anticipated debut.

Cameroonian Literature 101

16:30 - 17:30

Come and explore a wealth of books from Cameroon. With Dzekashu MacViban of Bakwa Magazine in conversation with Zahrah Nesbitt-Ahmed.

Elsewhere, Home by Leila Aboulela

16:45 - 17:15

A new collection from the award-winning novelist. Intimate stories of longing and exile from Khartoum to London, the Gulf to Aberdeen.

Hargeysa International Book Fair Pop-Up

17:15 - 18:45

Launching the *Hargeysa Breeze* poetry collection from Somaliland with Mpalive Msiska, Martin Orwin, W. N. Herbert and Jama Musse Jama.

2018 Caine Prize Conversation

17:30 - 18:45

Meet the shortlisted writers Nonyelum Ekwempu, Stacy Hardy, Olufunke Ogundimu, Makena Onjerika, and Wole Talabi.

Octavia Poetry Collective presents: Africa Writes Party 2018

20:00 - 00:30 | £10, £8 BOOK NOW

Poetry, music, and dancing at Rich Mix London with a Wakanda theme and gal-dem DJs. Info overleaf. This event takes place at Rich Mix

BOOK YOUR TICKETS

Weekend Pass - £18

Saturday Day Ticket: £12

Sunday Day Ticket: £12

Book online at bit.ly/AW2018Tickets

or call BL box office: 01937 546546

Rich Mix box office: 020 7613 7498

Advance booking is strongly recommended!

SUNDAY 1 JULY

New Writing from Uganda

11:15 - 12:15

Presenting exciting new work from young writers in the *Odokonyero* short fiction anthology and celebrating 5 years of Writivism.

The Making and Re-making of Zimbabwe

11:30 - 12:45

Discussing history, memory and inventive new ways of telling the nation's story with writers Novuyo Rosa Tshuma and Panashe Chigumadzi.

Progressive Pasts: The Afrofuturist Ideologies of Black Panther in Literature, Art and Fashion

12:00 - 13:30

Interactive workshop with Ifeanyi Awachie and Moha Lami Audu (FUNCTION) & Ziki Nelson (Kugali).

Small Magazines, Literary Networks & Self-Fashioning in Africa and the Diaspora

12:30 - 13:45

Exploring magazines in contemporary African literary culture with AFREADA & Bakwa Magazine.

Loving Womxn: Deliberate and Afraid of Nothing

13:00 - 14:15

Queer womxn's narratives in Africa and the diaspora with Phyll Opoku-Gyimah, Bibi Bakare-Yusuf, Trifonia Melibea Obono and Liv Little.

Books In Your Ears: On Literary Podcasts

14:00 - 15:15

With contributors from Not Another Book Podcast, Bakwacast, No Bindings, 2 Girls & A Pod and Africa in Words.

Lives of Great Men by Chiké Frankie Edozien

14:30 - 15:00

Contemporary snapshots of those living and loving as gay African men, triumphing and finding joy in the face of adversity.

Africa in Translation Masterclass

14:30 - 16:30 | £15, £12 BOOK NOW

For budding and seasoned translators interested in African literary translation, with Wangui wa Goro, SIDENSI. To book, email ras_events@soas.ac.uk.

African Books to Inspire

15:15 - 16:30

Writers Akwaeke Emezi, Ayesha Harruna Attah, Novuyo Rosa Tshuma and Panashe Chigumadzi talk about the books that have inspired them.

Warsan Shire in Conversation

17:30 - 18:45 | £15, £12, £10

BOOK NOW

The first writer under 30 to headline Africa Writes, Warsan Shire joins us to discuss her work, process and inspiration.