

## FESTIVAL PROGRAMME AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY

An exciting weekend of contemporary African literature and thought exploring imagination, pleasure and activism. All sessions below are included in the day tickets available to buy through our website. Members of Royal African Society receive £2 discount on all tickets and if RAS Arts & Culture Members receive 50% off. Learn more [HERE](#).

Programme details are correct at time of printing. Please check [www.africawrites.org](http://www.africawrites.org) for updates. In case you missed it, you can see more of the festival opening in-person and virtual events from 4 October [HERE](#).

# AFRICA WRITES

Brought to you by The Royal African Society

# 2021

## SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER

### Sex Lives of African Women

IN PERSON & LIVE STREAM

14:30 - 16:00 (BST)

**Venue:** Knowledge Centre Theatre and British Library Player

**Tickets:** Included in Saturday Day Pass

With Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah, Desta Haile, Hibaq Osman and Lyds.

Searingly honest, courageous and vulnerable stories of sex, sexuality and freedom told by African women in Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah's *The Sex Lives of African Women*.

### Inherited: All Our Names

IN PERSON & LIVE STREAM

17:30 - 18:30 (BST) // **Venue:** Knowledge Centre Theatre and British Library Player

**Tickets:** Included in Saturday Day Pass or £10 / £8 / £5

*A rhythmic evening of poetry, dance and sound exploring names we inherit.*

What does it mean to inherit the names given to us? Join us for an evening of exploration, movement and thought into how we embody the names we desire, defy the names that limit us and reclaim the names once lost to us.

Featured is **Sethembile Msezane's** short film ISIMO, where an ancestral matriarchal figure feels and holds the pain of the living, and **Raymond Antrobus** performing from his latest collection *All The Names Given* translated into visual vernacular by **Catrina Nisbett**. Finally, **David Ellington** brings to life his poignant and political BSL poem, LIBERTY, in a new highly-visual, poetic and physically realised short film commissioned by Ad Infinitum and HOME. The evening will be narrated by award-winning storyteller **Mara Menzies**.

### HEADLINE EVENT

## About our Partners

Africa Writes is organised by the Royal African Society in partnership with a host of like-minded organisations and individuals. This year's festival is organised in partnership with the British Library, with support from Arts Council England, the British Council, Garfield Weston Foundation, Miles Morland Foundation, Amazon Literary Partnership Grant and Facebook.

Thank you to our festival partners Afro Queer Studios, Arvon, Brittle Paper, Cassava Republic, Deaffest, Dialogue Books, Harper Collins, Kaduna Books and Arts Festival, KINfolk, Knights Of\_, London Writers' Salon, Nataal, October Gallery, Pa Gya! A Literary Festival in Accra and Saqi Books.

## SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER

### Of This Our Country

IN PERSON & LIVE STREAM

12:00 - 13:30 (BST)

**Venue:** Knowledge Centre Theatre and British Library Player

**Tickets:** Included in Sunday Day Pass

With Chikodili Emelumadu, Inua Ellams and *Abi Daré*, and readings from J K Chukwu, Chigozie Obioma, Ayobami Adebayo and Umar Turaki. Chaired by BBC Africa's Bola Mosuro.

Nigerian writers on the home, identity and culture they know. Powerful, lyrical and entirely unforgettable, OF THIS OUR COUNTRY weaves together a living portrait of Nigeria, one that is as beautiful as it is complex.

### Wild Imperfections

IN PERSON & LIVE STREAM

14:30 - 16:00 (BST)

**Venue:** Knowledge Centre Theatre and British Library Player

**Tickets:** £10 / £8 / £5

With Natalia Molebatsi, *Anni Domingo*, Kadija Sesay, *Olumide Popoola* and *TJ Dema*.

Exclusive pre-launch event of the multi-generational anthology *WILD IMPERFECTIONS* featuring the work of Black women and womxn poets from Botswana to Brazil.

### HEADLINE EVENT

### Dismantling the Patriarchy: Mona Eltahawy in conversation

IN PERSON & LIVE STREAM

17:00 - 18:30 (BST)

**Venue:** Knowledge Centre Theatre and British Library Player

**Tickets:** Included in Sunday Day Pass or £10 / £8 / £5

*A bold, uncompromising feminist manifesto on how to defy, disrupt and destroy the patriarchy.*

"What would the world look like if girls were taught they were volcanoes, whose eruptions were a thing of beauty, a power to behold?"

Award-winning American-Egyptian journalist, activist and author Mona Eltahawy concludes Africa Writes festival with this special headline event to discuss her latest book *The Seven Necessary Sins for Women and Girls* with Dr Leyla Hussein, ushering an urgent rallying call to destroy the oppressive systems and attitudes enabled by patriarchy today.

## Our Venues

### The British Library

The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom and one of the world's greatest research libraries. It provides world class information services to the academic, business, research and scientific communities and offers unparalleled access to the world's largest and most comprehensive research collection.

### 180 The Strand

180 The Strand is the heart of London's creative community, an iconic Brutalist building that has been transformed into a cultural centre. At its core is 180 Studios, a network of production and exhibition spaces that supports emerging talent and provides a platform for creative growth.

Visit us online to check for the latest updates:

[www.africawrites.org](http://www.africawrites.org)