

PROGRAMME BOOK



UBUD
WRITERS
& READERS
FESTIVAL

21-25 ⁸ 20²⁶

SAMAKASA

Awareness. Empathy. Action.

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ubudwritersfestival.com

AVARA

BORN IN BALI, DRIVEN BY DISCOVERY.

The flagship expression of Hatten Wines, shaped by decades of pioneering, innovation and discovery in Bali.



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Welcome

At the heart of our Festival is a commitment to bringing writers and readers together across cultures, languages and generations. This year we welcome voices including Kiran Desai, Tash Aw, Prabal Gurung and Adania Shibli, alongside a new generation of Indonesian writers stepping onto the world stage through our Emerging Writers Programme.

The Festival's reach goes far beyond the page. It sustains local businesses, supports our staff and community, and keeps Ubud a place where ideas travel freely. Twenty years after we first gathered as an act of hope following the Bali bombings, that purpose still holds: stories connect us when little else can.

My thanks go to our sponsors, partners, staff and volunteers, and to the people of Ubud who open their homes and hearts to this Festival each year. And to my family, thank you for your steady support.

Come with an open mind. Sit with a stranger. Let a story change how you see something. That is what *Samarasā* asks of us, and I hope you will find it here.

Janet DeNeefe

Festival Founder and Director

Om Swastiyastu

Dengan penuh sukacita, kami menyambut para penulis, pembaca, pemikir, seniman, penerjemah, penerbit, jurnalis, akademisi, dan pecinta sastra dari Indonesia dan berbagai penjuru dunia dalam Ubud Writers & Readers Festival 2026.

Tahun ini, kami mengusung tema *Samarasā: Awareness. Empathy. Action.*

Kita hidup dalam dunia yang semakin terhubung, namun juga menghadapi perpecahan, perang, ketidakadilan, krisis lingkungan, pertentangan identitas, dan perubahan akibat teknologi. Di tengah keadaan ini, sastra mengingatkan bahwa di balik perbedaan bangsa, bahasa, dan budaya, manusia memiliki kerinduan yang sama: untuk dipahami, dihargai, dicintai, dan hidup dalam kedamaian.

Samarasā bermakna keselarasan rasa tanpa menghapus perbedaan, sebuah keharmonisan yang lahir dari keterbukaan untuk mendengarkan beragam pengalaman dan sudut pandang. Seperti lautan yang menerima aliran banyak sungai, setiap cerita, bahasa, dan pengalaman bertemu untuk membentuk samudra kemanusiaan yang lebih luas.

Dalam semangat *Samarasā*, kesadaran, rasa, dan tindakan perlu berjalan bersama. Sastra mempertemukan ketiganya dengan membangunkan pikiran, memperhalus rasa, dan menggerakkan kehendak untuk menciptakan kehidupan yang lebih manusiawi.

Terima kasih kepada seluruh penulis, pembicara, pembaca, seniman, mitra, sponsor, media, pemerintah, masyarakat Ubud, serta seluruh relawan, panitia, kurator, penerjemah, tim produksi, dan pekerja di balik layar atas dedikasi mereka.

Selamat datang di Ubud. Mari berbeda tanpa saling meniadakan, dan menjadikan sastra sebagai jembatan menuju persaudaraan.

Selamat memasuki *Samarasā*, samudra tempat segala perbedaan menemukan keharmonisannya.

Om Santhi, Santhi, Santhi Om

Dr. Drs I Ketut Suardana, M.Fil.H

Founder of Yayasan
Mudra Swari Saraswati



Welcome

It is exactly thirteen years since I have been to Bali, an island I only got to know in my adulthood despite spending my childhood and teenage years in Indonesia. The global popularity of Bali has not dimmed the island's magic, its welcoming people and its traditions. Throughout Indonesia, tradition acts as a glue in maintaining the strong bond between generations, communities and social differences.

To be back in Bali, in Ubud, for this fabulous Festival is a joy. To be here to connect and have conversations with writers and readers is inspiring, and I intend to use every minute of my stay to learn, listen and exchange stories.

This year's theme, *Samarasā: Awareness. Empathy. Action.*, not only provides a platform for our conversations, but these are crucial cornerstones for our world, which is increasingly bereft of awareness and empathy, yet enthralled by the primacy of action. The balance among those three should help shape healthy, sustainable, and nurturing communities. This balance helps us appreciate the importance of responsibility in technological advancement, of seeking solutions to the plethora of world problems, of bridging political differences, of giving voice to every citizen.

The Festival programme allows us to reflect, a privilege and luxury which many of us may have little opportunity to enjoy.

Tari Lang

Indonesian writer and author of
My Neighbour, the Dictator

Om Swastiyastu

Selama bertahun-tahun, saya mengenal Bali sebagai sebuah cerita. Sebagai orang Aceh, saya menyimak beragam bayangan tentang pulau ini: tempat seni dan pariwisata, ruang yang berkali-kali muncul dalam buku, film, dan percakapan, tetapi juga pulau yang pernah dipenuhi duka setelah Bom Bali pada 2002. Jauh sebelum akhirnya benar-benar datang, saya telah mewarisi berbagai bahasa untuk membayangkan Bali.

Pengalaman itu mengingatkan saya bahwa kita seringkali mengenal sebuah tempat melalui cerita yang mendahuluinya. Sebagian diwariskan oleh keluarga, sebagian oleh sekolah, media, sejarah, atau sastra. Namun suatu tempat selalu lebih luas daripada kisah-kisah yang telah kita dengar tentangnya. Barangkali di situlah sastra menemukan perannya: bukan untuk menggantikan satu cerita dengan cerita lain, melainkan membuka kemungkinan untuk melihat lebih banyak, mendengar lebih saksama, dan memahami dengan lebih utuh.

Karena itu, tema Ubud Writers & Readers Festival tahun ini, *Samarasā: Awareness. Empathy. Action.*, terasa begitu dekat dengan perjalanan saya sebagai penulis. Kesadaran berawal ketika kita menyadari bahwa cara kita melihat dunia selalu dibentuk oleh cerita-cerita yang kita warisi. Empati tumbuh ketika kita bersedia mendengar pengalaman yang berbeda dari pengalaman kita sendiri. Dan tindakan mungkin dimulai dari sesuatu yang sederhana: membaca, menulis, berjumpa, dan membiarkan diri berubah oleh percakapan.

Selama beberapa tahun terakhir, saya banyak berpikir tentang bahasa, rumah, dan bagaimana pemaknaan atas itu semua perlahan menubuh dalam diri seseorang. Mungkin karena itu saya percaya bahwa sastra bukan sekadar tempat mencari jawaban, melainkan ruang untuk terus memperluas cara kita memahami manusia, tempat, dan diri kita sendiri.

Saya berharap perjumpaan pertama saya dengan Bali, melalui festival ini, menjadi awal dari percakapan-percakapan baru yang akan terus bergema jauh setelah halaman terakhir sebuah buku ditutup.

Raisa Kamila

Indonesian Writer
and Historical
Researcher





The Festival

Held annually in Ubud and praised for its diverse and intimate programme, the Ubud Writers & Readers Festival gathers over 200 of the world's most exciting writers, thinkers and performers for five days of electrifying conversation, thoughtful debate and joyful celebration of literary culture, enjoying acclaim as one of the world's most celebrated literary events and highlighting the power of story to unite people and inspire change.

Run by Yayasan Mudra Swari Saraswati, a leading cultural foundation in Indonesia recognised internationally for creating a vital platform for writers, artists, chefs, storytellers and thinkers, the Festival brings Balinese culture to the world, and the world to Bali, through initiatives that are respectful, inclusive and community-led.

The Theme

This year's Festival takes a fresh look at the world with award-winning authors and journalists, artists, changemakers and innovators through an array of conversations and events, from author talks and panel discussions to workshops, literary lunches, live performances, late-night comedy and spoken word galas, as well as book launches that celebrate literature and creative expression across disciplines.

The four-day programme will be guided by the theme **Samarasā: Awareness. Empathy. Action.**, which originates in Sanskrit philosophy and emphasises the harmony between *Citta* (mind), *Rasa* (heart) and *Karsa* (action). It invites reflection on how thought, feeling and action can exist in harmony, with awareness bringing clarity, empathy building connection, and action turning insight into purpose.



Support the Festival You Love

As a small Indonesian non-profit organisation with a big mission, your support helps us remain your trusted curator of thoughtful conversations, bringing world-class authors to Ubud this October and for years to come.

SUPPORT EMERGING WRITERS

Contribute to the future of Indonesian storytelling by becoming a Writers' Patron. You will be helping the ten Indonesian finalists of this year's Emerging Writers Programme share their stories with the world and paving the way for exciting new career opportunities.

MAKE A DONATION

You can also support us with a donation. Whatever the amount, your contribution helps connect communities through literacy, keeps ticket prices accessible, funds more free events, and delivers our vital schools programme for young readers and future storytellers across Indonesia.

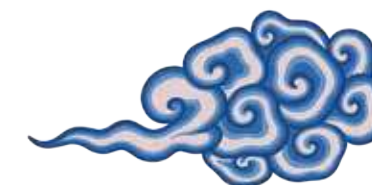
JOIN FUNDRAISER DINNER

For one unforgettable evening, the Festival invites you to take your place at a table unlike any other. Beneath the stars at Rumah Melati Estate, twenty patrons will gather with writers, artists and thinkers, including Kiran Desai, Katie Kitamura, Dandhy Laksono, Prabal Gurung, Ali Sethi and Tari Lang. Enjoy a feast by Kieran Morland of Sangsaka and an evening that will linger after the last glass is raised.

Friday, 23 October | 19:00-22:30
Rumah Melati Estate
Price IDR 17,000,000

Places Strictly Limited

Book your spot through the QR code below.



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Becoming an Official Partner gives you the chance to be part of one of the most ambitious literary and arts events happening anywhere in the world, and to benefit from co-branding opportunities and increased PR visibility.

Let's talk. Visit ubudwritersfestival.com/partnerships

Festival Team

Festival Team

Janet DeNeefe Founder & Festival Director
Dwi Ermayanthi Festival General Manager
Namal Siddiqui Head of International Programming
Juli Sastrawan Indonesian Programme Curator
Dharmayeni Putri Programme Coordinator
Inten Ponari Programme Coordinator
Nicola Walpen Head of Marketing & Communications
Zunifah (Uniph) Media Relations Coordinator
Patricia Emanuelle Social Media & Digital Marketing
Putu Tasya Pratiwi Utami Graphic Designer
Missy Natalia Saputra Partnership Coordinator
Anik Kristina Dewi Partnership Coordinator
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Jasmine Ansori Shelf Therapy Project Manager
I Made Suka Merta Head of Operational and Production
Ida Bagus Ari Sunu Narendra Production Officer
Eka Septiarti General Admin Supervisor
Ni Wayan Widiatmini Senior Accounting
Fatmaha Lindawati Volunteer Coordinator
Pepita Maiden Special Event Coordinator
Pande Wayan Sumadana Security
I Nyoman Budiarsana Security

Festival Ambassador

Laksmi DeNeefe Suardana Founder Shelf Therapy

Interns

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Gandes Lituhayu Sadubudi Special Event Coordinator
I Gede Galang Apadang Book Launch Coordinator
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Thank You!

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Polres Gianyar
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Thankful for the Support

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All of our volunteers
Anom Darsana
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Staff of Casa Luna & Indus Restaurant
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Tony Wheeler
Troy Hendrix
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Wiwied Muljana Subowoa

Rooted, like the bamboo

In Tampaksiring, half an hour from Ubud, a bamboo resort of twenty-eight rooms sits inside working rice fields. Here the day is measured by the light, not the clock.

Morning

Morning reaches the bamboo before the rooms wake. Water moves through channels the farmers opened generations ago. Bird song first, then the first quiet sounds from the kitchen.

Built from the land

The buildings are bamboo, treated with organic oils so they hold their strength and colour over the years, shaped to catch airflow and shade. Rooms turn toward the view: pool villas, sky villas and suites that open straight onto the terraces. This is Tri Hita Karana: people, nature and the divine kept in balance, built into wood and water rather than written on a wall.

The Nini, Maniq, and the slower hours

Breakfast at The Nini lasts longer than you plan for, much of it picked that morning from the garden a few steps away. Dinner comes after sunset at Maniq. Between them: yoga in the early light, breathwork as the day cools, and Balinese rituals at Embung Spa. Little is scheduled tightly. The valley sets the rhythm.

A village that stayed

Bambootel Sawah View began in a village, from a simple question. Whether the young could build a future without leaving the land that raised them. Guests arrive for the rice fields and the quiet, and leave having spent a few days inside the life of a place, rather than beside it.



Bambootel Sawah View — Tampaksiring, Ubud, Bali. 28 bamboo rooms in working rice fields, 30 minutes from Ubud. Dining, spa, and daily yoga on site.

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BAMBOOTEL
SAWAH VIEW TAMPAKSIRING



Ticket Information

Be part of one of the world’s most acclaimed literary festivals.
Choose between the 4-Day Festival Pass or the 1-Day Festival Pass for your preferred day.



4-DAY FESTIVAL PASS

Get unlimited access to the main programme across four days of the Festival, with over 100 sessions to enjoy.

		Category	Price
01	Entry to the Taman Baca venue for the entire Festival, from Thursday, 22 October to Sunday, 25 October	International	IDR 7,800,000
		Indonesian	IDR 1,700,000
02	Access the main programme lineup, including panel discussions and in-conversations, across all four days.	KITAS/KITAP and ASEAN(*)	IDR 3,900,000
		International Students	IDR 2,700,000
03	Access after-dark programme, including film screenings and live music.	Indonesian University Students(**)	IDR 700,000

1-DAY FESTIVAL PASS

Get unlimited access to the main programme on any day of the Festival.

		Category	Price
01	Entry to the Taman Baca venue on your chosen day.	International	IDR 2,400,000
		Indonesian	IDR 600,000
02	Access the main programme lineup, including panel discussions and in-conversations, on your chosen day.	KITAS/KITAP and ASEAN(*)	IDR 1,400,000
		International Students	IDR 1,100,000
03	Access after-dark programme, including film screenings and live music.	Indonesian University Students(**)	IDR 180,000

(*) The discount price also applies to ASEAN citizens from Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and the Philippines.
(**) Students from Indonesian public schools, whether Sekolah Dasar (Elementary School), Sekolah Menengah Pertama (Junior High School) or Sekolah Menengah Atas (Senior High School), enter free.

SEPARATE TICKETED EVENTS

Special Events, Masterclasses and Cultural Workshops require separate tickets. We recommend purchasing tickets in advance. Any remaining tickets can be bought at the Box Office up until the day before the events.

WHERE TO BUY TICKETS

Tickets can be purchased online at ubudwritersfestival.com/tickets, and during Festival week, from Monday, 19 October to Sunday, 25 October 2026, also at the Festival Box Office, located on Jalan Raya Sanggingan in Ubud.

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Main Programme

THURSDAY, 22 OCTOBER

09:00 – 09:15

Festival Welcome
at Indus Restaurant
Janet DeNeefe

Join us as the 2026 Festival opens with a Balinese welcome dance and a warm greeting from Founder and Director Janet DeNeefe. Guided by the theme *Samarasā: Awareness*. *Empathy. Action.*, this year’s literary stars explore storytelling as a force to understand and change the world, one story at a time.

09:15 – 09:30

Festival Keynote
at Indus Restaurant
Tari Lang

Tari Lang, author of *My Neighbour, the Dictator: A Rare First-Hand Memoir of Indonesia’s Pivotal Year, 1965*, opens the 2026 Festival with a moving keynote, *Samarasā: Awareness*. *Empathy. Action.* She reflects on how thought, feeling, and action can exist in harmony for a hopeful future.

10:00 – 11:00

Agung Stage

Kiran Desai:
The Loneliness of
Sonia and Sunny

Kiran Desai, Gill Westaway*

A fascinating conversation with Booker Prize-winning author Kiran Desai, a master of capturing lives caught between countries, cultures, and generations. Join her for a rich discussion of love, migration, family, and identity, tracing the fatefully intertwined lives of two young people and the 20-year journey behind her ambitious new novel.

11:15 – 12:15

Imagining Future
Fiction

Rebecca Higgie, Rio Johan, Tiffany Tsao, Jewel Topsfield*

Speculative fiction imagines worlds shaped by humanity’s choices, from climate change to social upheaval and the legacies of war. What can stories of the future teach us about who we are, our histories, and how we might survive change? Join our speakers as they explore the power of speculative storytelling.

12:30 – 13:30

Demystifying
Literary Magazines

Kirsten Han, Sana Goyal, Mai Al Nakib’s, Vamika Sinha*

What does it take to get published in literary magazines, particularly for writers on the apparent periphery of the publishing industry? Join editors, publishers, and writers for a practical conversation about how underrepresented voices can navigate the path to publication, from pitching and submissions to building a sustainable writing practice.

13:45 – 14:45

Writing Without
Burnout

Andreas Kurniawan, Kadek Sonia Piscayanti, Sophie Navita, Sekar Pradnyadari*

Creativity thrives on passion, but constant pressure can turn writing into a source of exhaustion. When burnout takes over, it can be hard to remember the joy of your craft. Join an honest conversation about creative fatigue and how to build a sustainable writing practice.

Indonesian Session

15:00 – 16:00

Literature: A Mirror
to the World

Adania Shibli, Kiran Desai, Raisa Kamila, Gill Westaway*

What risks do writers take when challenging the systems that shape society? Literature has long held up a mirror to society, questioning the forces that decide our place in it. Hear from our acclaimed authors in a critical conversation about social critique, violent erasures, and the power of fiction to reflect our world.

16:15 – 17:15

The Language of
Belonging

Cyntha Hariadi, Grace Tioso, Valiant Budi, Radinka Qiera*

Belonging is rarely simple; it is negotiated through memory, heritage, and the stories we choose to tell. Join a conversation with authors and cultural thinkers about how writers navigate the intersections of identity, womanhood, and cultural expression in contemporary Indonesia, reflecting on hybrid and marginalised identities and the histories that shape who we are.

17:30 – 18:30

Poetic Journalism

Anthony Tao, Arantza García Ferrand, Baskara Putra, Eva Fernandes*

What does it mean for a poet to bear witness to the state of the world? Poets have long written through circumstances of war, displacement, grief, and political discontent. Hear from our poets in a timely conversation about how they balance research and fact with feeling, and the power of poetry as a truth-telling tool.

Indus Restaurant

The Various Roles
of a Writer

Louie Buana, Mohammed Massoud Morsi, Santilla Chingaipe, Georgina Godwin*

Behind every story is a lifetime of experiences and encounters gathered beyond the page, from photography and journalism to teaching and filmmaking. Join our speakers for a discussion about the many roles and influences that shape a writer’s voice and creative path, and the value of curiosity in the craft of writing.

Why We Say the
Things We Say

Ivan Lanin, Sumanto Chatto-padhyay, Cassie Lawrence*

Every word has a story, some stranger than fiction, some that make you laugh, others that leave you shaking your head in disbelief. Join us as we discuss the age-old question of why we say the things we say, in a lively exploration of the people, places, and ideas that have shaped the languages of English and Bahasa.

Our History, Our
Hands

Maria Guriti Amote, Raisa Kamila, Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes, Olive Hateem*

How do we put history back into our own hands? Writers, historians, and activists discuss the power of writing to reclaim erased legacies, challenge inherited narratives, and tell our own stories.

Tradition Reimagined

Ayu Anantha, De Krisna, Marlowe Bandem, Bandem Kamandalu*

Balinese performing arts are living, breathing ecosystems that evolve alongside society. This discussion delves into Balinese dance and music, exploring how choreographers, dancers, and cultural custodians honour sacred roots while pushing creative boundaries, reinterpreting ancient movement, ritual philosophy, and mythical narratives for modern life, global stages, and new artistic frontiers.

Indonesian Session

The Political
Convergence of
Javanese Cosmology

Adam Bobbette, Andrea Acri, Oka Agastya, Pamela Allen*

Spirituality and science may be closer than we think. Humans have always looked up at the stars for guidance and spoken to the land they belong to. Learn how spirituality and politics intersect with Javanese geology in this panel discussion, exploring the symbiotic relationship between society and the earth.

Tales from the
Heartland

Arianto Adipurwanto, Irwan Syamsir, Maria Pankratia, Hamran Sunu*

Beyond the bustle of cities lies the true heartbeat of Indonesia. Writers, folklorists, and local storytellers shine a light on the rich, diverse narratives emerging across the archipelago, celebrating how regional myths and local wisdom continue to inspire literature that is deeply rooted, yet universally resonant.

Indonesian Session

The Truth in Fiction

Afri Meldam, Dhianita Kusuma Pertiwi, Stefan Kutzenberger, Olin Monteiro*

Where does fact end and fiction begin? What responsibilities do writers have when drawing from real events? Join a conversation about the delicate craft of writing fiction rooted in research, exploring the creative possibilities and complexities of transforming historical records, real-world data, and lived experience into compelling fictional worlds.

Valley Stage

Baskara Putra:
Soundtrack of a
Generation

Baskara Putra, Jasmine Ansori*

What makes a song feel as though it were written from the pages of your own journal? From his early days fronting *.Feast* to his solo project *Hindia*, Baskara Putra’s honest lyrics, cultural references and sharp observations of contemporary life have made him a defining voice for a generation navigating uncertainty, identity and change.

Defying Silence
Together

Amanda Echanis, Dandhy Laksono, Randa Abdel-Fattah, Krishna Sen*, Francisco Alejandro Leyva Aguilar**

Join our speakers as they reflect on the lived experience of persecution, the profound difference that international solidarity can make, and learn what we can do to support the voices that the world cannot afford to lose, at a time when civic and cultural space is shrinking in many parts of the world.

Emilio Pucci in War
and in Peace:
Florence to Bali

Idanna Pucci, Terence Ward, Karuna Ezara Parikh*

Behind Emilio Pucci’s fashion legacy of eye-popping colours, sleek fabrics, and swirling patterns lies a remarkable story of war, betrayal, and resilience, from Gestapo torture to a high-stakes drama of alliance in the dying months of World War II. Join us as we explore the designer’s journey from darkness to light and colour.

Comic Relief in
Memoir Writing

Candice Chung, Patrick Freyne, Valiant Budi, Jewel Topsfield*

Just because something is serious does not mean you cannot rely on comic relief to tell the story. Join our panel of writers as they discuss the use of comic relief in their memoirs, exploring how humour can lighten dark moments and when it creates an uplifting atmosphere rather than a jarring emotional change.

Forbidden Stories:
Banned Media and
Magazines

Emily Broadmore, Farrin Foster, Todung Mulya Lubis and Ali Zaenal Abidin*

It is the artist’s duty to transform human experiences into something tangible that can be understood by others. In increasingly authoritarian environments, how do humanity and its legislators respond when expression is censored and must layer the message manifold?

Who Gets to Tell the
Story of Paradise?

I Nyoman Darma Putra, Jean Couteau, Pamela Ng, Ken Kwek*

The pen is mighty, and travel writing bears great responsibility. Bali and Cempedak are homes to people, history, and ecology, not just beautiful photos. Writers must honour that heart, educating others on what makes these places stunning and what endangers them. Join speakers as they discuss writing with community, not just about it.

John H. McGlynn:
2026 Festival Life-
time Achievement
Award

John H. McGlynn

Join us in honouring John H. McGlynn, one of the most impactful publishers of Indonesian literature in translation. Through the Lontar Foundation, he has published close to 250 books, with translations of more than 650 Indonesian authors, and has translated several dozen works himself.

*Moderator
**Writer absent due to persecution.

Main Programme

FRIDAY, 23 OCTOBER

	09:00 – 10:00	10:15 – 11:15	11:30 – 12:30	12:45 – 13:45	14:00 – 15:00	15:15 – 16:15	16:30 – 17:30	17:45 – 18:45
Agung Stage	Adania Shibli: Minor Detail <i>Adania Shibli, Sana Goyal*</i> Palestinian author Adania Shibli's work continues to defy convention. Join her for a rare conversation about her writing, the relationship between fiction and the possibilities of language in the face of the annihilation process Palestinians have been subjected to for more than a century.	The World Today: A Geopolitical Cacophony <i>Nasir Tamara, Terence Ward, Francesca Albanese, Michael Vatikiotis*</i> How do we make sense of a world in crisis? A conversation about the forces shaping our uncertain present and how we might chart a way forward. Political commentators and authors examine war, polarisation, and economic instability through the lenses of politics, culture, and journalism to find clarity amid the chaos.	Tari Lang: My Neighbour, The Dictator <i>Tari Lang, Mary Strang*</i> Join Tari Lang in conversation with themes of life, love, survival, and politics as she discusses her latest memoir, <i>My Neighbour, The Dictator</i>, about her experience as a teenager during Indonesia's 1965 coup, when her parents were imprisoned without trial and her world was turned upside down.	Matthew Campbell: The Man Who Stole the Gods <i>Matthew Campbell, Janet Steele*</i> Join Matthew Campbell, award-winning journalist and author, as he delves into an intriguing historical conversation about stolen art from sacred places, with exclusive insights from temple looters to archaeologists. Drawing on his latest work, he examines why art matters so deeply to a nation, and what it means when it is taken.	Translating Women is Translating Change <i>Amanda Echanis, Tiffany Tsao, Zulfah Nur Alimah, Sana Goyal*</i> Translating women is a march for change. For too long have women's voices been hidden and silenced. Don't miss this talk, where women who write and translate the voices of women come together, encompassing a broad lens of socio-cultural matters from violence to displacement, abuse to loss, growing pains to motherhood. Indonesian Session	Human Rights and Collective Memories <i>Hardingga, Jane Rosalina Rumpia, Raisa Kamila, Putri Emelli*</i> In a nation where official narratives obscure acts of state violence, how do we honour the truth of our history? Join a conversation with a researcher, a victim's family member, and a human rights advocate about collective memory, resistance, and justice. Indonesian Session	Art, Apprenticeship and Ambition <i>Ali Sethi, Mondo Gascaro, Prabal Gurung, Bandana Tewari*</i> How are great artists born? Is talent inherent, or shaped through devotion and discipline? Rooted in the ancient <i>Guru-Shishya Parampara</i>, this session explores the long, sacred history of teacher and student, examining where artists today turn for mentorship, and how tradition intersects with their own ambition and experimentation.	The Practice of Resistance and Grace <i>Francesca Albanese, Randa Abdel-Fattah, Georgina Godwin*, Pham Doan Trang**</i> We are at a turning point, and justice is on the line. Peace treaties and warmongering share headlines, while speaking up and empathy can feel futile. Join Georgina Godwin with three women whose work insists on truth, resilience and shared humanity, asking how we act with justice.
Indus Restaurant	Rachel Clarke: The Story of a Heart <i>Rachel Clarke, Michelle Neeling*</i> Join Dr Rachel Clarke, an NHS palliative care doctor who co-founded Hospice Ukraine, a charity supporting Ukrainian palliative care teams with education and training, in conversation about her latest book, a true story of two families linked by one heart, exploring the relationship between science, language, love, and grief.	Radical Acceptance of a Troubled Past <i>Je Radite, W. Mustika, Waitatiri, Ratu Nida Farihah*</i> How do we reclaim our lives after experiencing bullying, betrayal, or trauma? Join us for an honest, empowering conversation about facing and processing difficult pasts. Drawing on lived experience and trauma-informed research, we explore how radical self-compassion becomes a catalyst for healing, reclaimed agency, and deep resilience.	Women Who Write Women <i>Jennifer Lindsay, Oka Rusmini, Sisonke Msimang, Kirsti Melville*</i> Women writing about women is an act of reclaiming power. Join the discussion where our all-female panellists explore women's narratives that have been lost, why these stories have gone untold for so long, and why women should choose to write women's stories, reclaiming whose voices count and who gets to tell them.	Translating to the Mother Tongue <i>Dhianita Kusuma Pertiwi, Kristian Sendon Cordero, Shun Araki and John H. McGlynn*</i> How many stories have you read that would not exist in your language if they had not been translated? Translation creates connections across countries, cultures, and religions, giving stories wings to fly and find new readers. This session invites us to explore the significance literature and literary translation hold.	The Domestic is Political <i>Dur e Aziz Amna, Uttama Kirit Patel, Viji Krishnamoorthy, Zarmina Rafi*</i> What is the power of fiction shaped by women's stories? From multigenerational sagas to intimate portraits of women carving out lives of their own, these narratives explore motherhood, legacy, ambition, class, and family. Join a conversation about the radical potential of bringing the everyday lives of complex, nuanced women to the page.	Debbie Argue: Little Species, Big Mystery <i>Debbie Argue, Ketut Yuliarsa*</i> Join Debbie Argue, a researcher in paleoanthropology at the Australian National University, for a fascinating conversation drawing on her research and writing, exploring the evolution of our genus, Homo, and the archaeological discovery of another human species, Homo floresiensis, on the island of Flores, Indonesia, and a journey through findings, facts, and human life.	Ageing: A Social Movement <i>Brigid Delaney, David Carlin, Peta Murray, Husnara Khanom*</i> Join our panellists as they discuss ageing as a social movement in an age of individualism, where our lives can often be very lonely, from thinking, working, and living independently, and explore how to traverse the line between society's modern technological evolutions and expectations with longevity in the 21st century.	
Valley Stage	Writing Short, Writing Sweet <i>Ali AlShaali, Inga Simpson, Mai Al-Nakib, Sumanto Chattopadhyay*</i> Writing short fiction requires precision. With limited space, every word, image, and detail must earn its place. How do writers create emotional depth, meaning, and lasting impact within a few pages? Join a conversation about the art, challenges, and possibilities the short story form offers both writer and reader.	Fahruddin Faiz: Finding Meaning in the Everyday <i>Fahruddin Faiz, Raisa Kamila*</i> How can we put philosophy into practice in everyday life? Join author and philosophy lecturer Fahruddin Faiz for a thoughtful conversation about how philosophical ideas can help us navigate the world with greater awareness, empathy, and purpose, uncovering clarity and meaning in the ordinary moments of daily life. Indonesian Session	Honest Histories <i>Afua Hirsch, Tash Aw, Ziggy Ramo, Mallence Bart-Williams*</i> Histories are a powerful tool for the future. They show the past to further the future, and who writes them and how they are written is important, whether through fiction or non-fiction. Join us in discussing honest histories, exploring colonial powers, migration, and roots through prose and poetry.	Writing with Longing <i>Bhuchung D. Sonam, Candice Chung, Hamran Sunu, Janak Rogers*</i> What happens when a writer cannot return home? Writers often find themselves at the intersection of experiencing and witnessing, a place between the present moment and the world of memory. Join our writers and poets, exiled by geography and ideology, as they discuss the role of longing in their work.	A Feast of Stories <i>Yosepina Sreklefat, Yusi Avianto Pareanom, Afri Meldam*</i> Food feeds the body, but stories feed the soul. This session explores how culinary culture and epic narratives intersect in literature and life, examining how taste, memory and shared rituals bind communities together across generations. Indonesian Session	Environment Vulnerability and Activism in Indonesia <i>Agung Wardana, Gary Bencheghib, Sekar Banjaran Aji, Andy Moeller*</i> Indonesia stands on the frontlines of the global climate crisis, facing rising sea levels, extreme weather, and severe biodiversity loss. This long overdue national discussion explores the vital exchange between academic environmental research and the grassroots climate action movements fighting for our future. Climate Session	Human Stories Behind the Death Sentence <i>Amry Al Mursalaat, Azlia Amira Putri, Dian Purnomo, Dhias Nauvaly*</i> When a life is sentenced to end, what happens to the human story behind the trial? Explore a powerful short story anthology that moves beyond the legal debate to give voice to the authors' fears, hopes, and search for forgiveness at the end of the line. Indonesian Session	

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iter absent due to persecution.

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*Moderator
**Writer absent due to persecution.

Main Programme

SATURDAY, 24 OCTOBER

	09:00 – 10:00	10:15 – 11:15	11:30 – 12:30	12:45 – 13:45	14:00 – 15:00	15:15 – 16:15	16:30 – 17:30
Agung Stage	Francesca Albanese: When the World Sleeps <i>Francesca Albanese, Todung Mulya Lubis*</i> Join international lawyer, scholar, and UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese for a powerful conversation about Palestine, international law, and the resilience and humanity woven through the ten stories in her latest book, exploring justice, human rights, and what it truly means to live with dignity under occupation, and lasting peace.	Our Modern Lives <i>Vincenzo Latronico, Hari Kunzru, Anna Carey, Janak Rogers*</i> From the isolation of the digital age to economic precarity, contemporary novels are grappling with the anxieties of our time. Is modern life shaping a new generation of literature? Join authors for a conversation on writing fiction that reflects the modern world, the inspirations behind their work, and the state of contemporary literature.	Prabal Gurung: Walk Like a Girl <i>Prabal Gurung, Bandana Tewari*</i> From a childhood in Kathmandu to the heights of the international fashion world, join acclaimed designer Prabal Gurung for an intimate conversation drawn from his memoir, exploring his creative evolution, the politics and possibilities of fashion, and the courage, vulnerability, and transformation behind his remarkable career.	Third-Culturism in the Literary World <i>Anitha Devi Pillai, Uttama Kirit Patel, Xu Xi, Santilla Chingaipe*</i> What does it mean to write between cultures, languages, and places? For third-culture writers, ideas of home and belonging are often fluid, fragmented, and constantly evolving. Join a conversation exploring how migration, diaspora, and displacement shape the characters and narratives we create.	The Forest’s Fury <i>Agung Wardana, David Lindenmayer, Inga Simpson, Suzy Hutomo*</i> Our lives depend on forests, among the oldest living systems on Earth, sustaining biodiversity, water systems, and ancestral knowledge. What is lost when forests disappear, and what can be done to protect them? Join Australian and Indonesian writers and researchers for a cross-cultural conversation about the beauty, wisdom, and preservation of forests. Climate Session	Bali, Then and Now <i>Adrian Vickers, Anne-Lot Hoek, I Nyoman Darma Putra, Marlowe Bandem*</i> Bali has long been imagined and written about, by both travellers and those who call it home. From colonial rule to its current status as an island paradise, Bali has undergone profound change. How have these transformations shaped Bali’s identity, and where does it stand now? Join historians, writers, and cultural researchers for this conversation.	A Compelling Protagonist <i>Dur e Aziz Amna, Katie Kitamura, Mahita Vas, Kirsten Han*</i> Why do certain protagonists stay with us long after the last page? A good story often hinges on moral complexity, ruthless ambition, delusion, and obsession, traits that drive writers to experiment with the hero, the antihero, and the unreliable narrator. Join a conversation about the art of creating complex, unforgettable characters who capture our imaginations.
Indus Restaurant	Tash Aw: The South <i>Tash Aw, Janet Steele*</i> Join Tash Aw, an award-winning Malaysian writer and the author of five novels, whose stories encompass themes of family, migration, identity, and culture, as he discusses his most recent novel, longlisted for the 2025 Booker Prize, a story of love, loss, culture, and environment through two protagonists navigating personal freedom and self-realisation.	Excursions of the Non-fiction Narrator <i>Agustinus Wibowo, Idanna Pucci, Sandip Roy, Farrin Foster*</i> Why do we want to tell a story? What causes us to investigate a life? As writers, we carry our own resolve towards the craft of writing. Join us to discuss the excursions of the non-fiction narrator.	Redefining Home <i>Carisya Nuramadea, Royyan Julian, Satyaning Pradnya Paramita, Amanda Katili Niode*</i> What does it mean to call Indonesia <i>home</i> in a world of rapid globalisation, shifting social landscapes, and evolving traditions? Explore how contemporary writers and cultural thinkers are redefining Indonesian identity, examining memory, belonging, and how history, technology, and culture shape the stories we tell about home. Indonesian Session	The Global Lens: Why Local Stories Matter <i>Jein Oktaviany, Ni Nyoman Ayu Suciartini, Ketut Yuliarsa*</i> What is the power of local storytelling? Join an inspiring panel exploring how writers draw on local landscapes, identities, and experiences to create narratives rich in character and authenticity, and what we can see through the local lens that we would otherwise miss. Indonesian Session	In Her Own Words <i>Oka Rusmini, Ratri Ninditya, Olphi Disya Arinda, Olin Monteiro*</i> What happens when women tell their own stories on their own terms? Join a conversation as our speakers sit down together to discuss writing women’s lives in all their complexity, exploring the novels, memoirs, and poetry that challenge expectations, reclaim narratives, and illuminate the complexity of womanhood.	How to Speak Planet Earth <i>Kynan Tegar, Rebecca Higgie, Sekar Bestari, Dian Purnomo*</i> How do we translate the silent crisis of our living world into stories that move hearts, inform minds, and inspire action? Join a vital discussion about how writers and artists are responding to climate change through storytelling, from investigative journalism to climate fiction, giving voice to ecosystems and exposing ecological injustice. Climate Session	Poetry Beyond the Canon <i>IRZI, Siska Yuanita, Tan Lioe Ie, Maria Pankratia*</i> Internet slang, code, text speak, multilingual vernaculars, spoken word rhythms: today’s poets are breaking open traditional forms by embracing the languages of the moment. Join a vivid conversation with our panellists about challenging traditional gatekeepers in a hyperconnected, hyperonline world. Indonesian Session

Valley Stage	Dandhy Laksono: Reset Indonesia <i>Dandhy Laksono, Pamela Allen*</i> Join the outspoken Indonesian filmmaker and journalist, who has dedicated his career to exposing systemic power, environmental destruction, and struggles for civic justice, for a conversation about guerrilla journalism, visual activism, and the power of storytelling to confront Indonesia’s challenges and reset its trajectory.	The Violence of Culture <i>Matthew Campbell, Michael Shaikh, Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes, Petra Molnar*</i> How do colonial systems shape the ways people learn, remember, eat, worship, and understand the world around them? Join writers, historians, and cultural researchers as they explore legacies that continue to reverberate across generations, in a conversation about cultural erasure, resistance, and reclaiming lost histories and traditions.	Burning Books, Accepting Artifice: Man or Machine? <i>Brian Lang, Richard King, Marlowe Bandem, Emily Broadmore*</i> Is AI ushering in an intellectual purge? As intelligence grows increasingly centralised and commercialised, this conversation explores what we lose and what we gain through technological progress, and what it means for the future of human scholarship, critical thinking, and our capacity to interpret the world for ourselves.	Big Worlds for Little Readers <i>Ken Kwek, Reda Gaudiamo, Tsugaeda, Bea Bustamante*</i> Writing for young readers requires a special kind of magic, the ability to handle big themes with clarity, heart and imagination. Join a conversation about creating immersive worlds and unforgettable stories for young minds, exploring how early reading shapes who we become, and why it matters now more than ever.	Randa Abdel-Fattah: Discipline <i>Randa Abdel-Fattah, Gill Westaway*</i> Who pays the price when people with privilege choose to remain silent? A conversation with Randa Abdel-Fattah about her bold and incisive new novel, exploring censorship, institutional complicity, and the failings of liberal institutions, and her own experience of having grants and festival invitations rescinded over ‘cultural sensitivity.’	Honouring Aprila Wayar’s Voice from Papua <i>Gispa Ferdinanda Warijo, Maria Guriti Amote, Olin Monteiro, Rebecca Young*</i> Join the panel celebrating Aprila Wayar, Papua’s first woman novelist, a fearless writer and journalist committed to truth-telling. Honouring her contributions to Indonesian literature, co-founding the online media platform The Papua Journal, and her unwavering dedication to illuminating the lived realities and resilience of Papua.	The Storytelling of Clothes <i>Bandana Tewari, Karuna Ezara Parikh, Prinka Saraswati, Novieta Tourisia*</i> What we wear is a language too. Through culture, age, and religion, the wardrobe tells a story of the person wearing it. Join us as our speakers discuss the narratives behind handmade craft and the future of authentic storytelling in a changing digital world.
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In case you need help navigating the Programme, you can search and bookmark events online so you don’t have to memorise your literary schedule. You can add events to your calendar and share them with your literary-minded friends.

Main Programme

SUNDAY, 25 OCTOBER

	09:00 – 10:00	10:15 – 11:15	11:30 – 12:30	12:45 – 13:45	14:00 – 15:00	15:15 – 16:15	16:30 – 17:30
Agung Stage	Tiffany Tsao: But Won't I Miss Me and Budi Darma Tiffany Tsao, Kirsti Melville* Join author and translator Tiffany Tsao for a conversation about her latest book, set in an alternative universe where science fiction, dystopia, and feminism blend to reveal the morbid ideas lurking beneath the mundane along with her latest work of translation.	Ali Sethi: Ghazal, Music and the Pathways of Longing Ali Sethi, Namal Siddiqui* From Sufi poetry to global beats, Ali Sethi is a writer and composer shaped by many influences. Join us as we unravel the pathways of tradition, critique, and longing in his work.	Indonesian Children's Literature Nowadays Djokolelono, Reda Gaudiamo, Cynthia Hariadi* With each new generation comes new challenges and new ways of imagining the world. Join us for a fascinating cross-generational conversation about how children's literature has evolved over time in Indonesia, from classic adventures and speculative worlds to today's genre-defying stories. Indonesian Session	Transmedia Storytelling Andreas Kurniawan, Dee Lestari, Henry Manampiring, Laksmi Mutiara* Great stories no longer have to stay trapped on the page. A novel can become a song, a film can inspire a podcast, a fictional world can continue to evolve across social media. Join multidisciplinary creators for a conversation about storytelling across mediums and building engaging worlds that extend beyond the page. Indonesian Session	Life and Death at Intersections Rachel Clarke, W. Mustika, Georgina Godwin* How can we understand life and death through the lenses of science, culture, and spirituality? Across cultures, birth and death have been understood not only as biological processes but as moments of transformation. Join an intimate and expansive conversation about our evolving understanding of mortality across traditional knowledge and modern medicine.	Anthologies for Archives A. Nabil Wibisana, Saoirse Connolly, Cassie Lawrence* Anthologies play a vital role in the literary ecosystem, not only introducing new talent to readers but also capturing and archiving a literary moment in time. Join editors, writers, and publishers for a conversation about the important role anthologies play in platforming emerging and diverse voices while also shaping and documenting literary culture.	How Do We Write the Unbearable? Cyntha Hariadi, Dian Purnomo, Olphi Disya Arinda, Putri Emelli* Grief, trauma, war, profound loss: how do we write about what seems beyond words? How do authors give shape to the unbearable? Join us for a deeply moving conversation about the craft of transforming experiences of immense suffering into literature, and finding language capable of holding the heaviest parts of human existence.
Indus Restaurant	The Architecture of Grief Brian Khrisna, Peter Godwin, Waitatiri, Jewel Topsfield* Grief is rarely a straight line. It reshapes our inner and outer worlds. How do we endure the transformation of loss? Join for an intimate conversation about writing in the midst of loss, making meaning from absence, and living in a world transformed by grief.	Real Stories, Magical Becomings Geia Laconi, Raoul de Jong, John H. McGlynn* Our history leaves traces that surface in unexpected ways, and even when we move far away, our histories still call to us. Join our speakers for a fascinating conversation about writing through ancestry, finding magic in the mundane, and the mysterious ways the past reaches into the present.	Is Feminism a Good Word? Kadek Sonia Piscayanti, Sisonke Msimang, Zainah Anwar, Michelle Neeling* Why is feminism a dirty word to some? From women's suffrage to the movements of today, feminism has continually evolved in response to the inequalities that shape women's lives. Join feminist writers, activists, and cultural leaders for a conversation about the misunderstandings, challenges, and promises of feminism, and its place in modern society.	Solidarity as Cross-Cultural Exchange Irena Karpa, Stefan Kutzenberger, Yeng Chheangly, Ege Dündar*, Ahmed Mansoor** From international protests to political pressure and grassroots movements, people find ways to challenge powerful states and systems of oppression. Join a critical conversation with writers, advocates, and journalists about what fuels global movements of protest and collective action, and what causes solidarity to fade.	Plotting the Unplottable Dominic Amerena, Katie Kitamura, Kyoko Yoshida, David Sly* A literary fraudster, a spiralling actress, an estranged partner, a dangerous obsession, a lonely mammal, a movie dog. Thrillers do not always need a body. Join our authors as they create the fault lines beneath everyday life, crafting narratives driven by metaphysical and psychological uncertainty, tension, and the unravelling of identity and trust.	Stories that Spark Change Belgis Habiba, David Lindenmayer, Ria Christiawan, Amanda Katili Niode* Words do more than simply describe the world, they have the power to transform it. Learn how leading environmental writers, researchers, and activists use storytelling as a tool of advocacy to challenge injustice, mobilise communities, and inspire real world action, exploring how art and activism intersect to spark change. Climate Session	Old Stories for the New Generation Bea Bustamante, Dahlia Malaeulu, Nityasa Wijaya, Janak Rogers* New literature is now produced at a rapid pace, in order to stay in fashion and follow trends of consumption, leaving little room for stories of tradition and folklore. Join our writers as they discuss the importance of rebuilding ancestral and mythological narratives for future generations, and where indigenous wisdom fits into modern life.
Valley Stage	Is Indonesia Eating Its Own? Indah G, Tari Lang, Todung Mulya Lubis, Krishna Sen*, Dong Yuyu** What does it take to speak truth to power in Indonesia today? Between sweeping regulations and shrinking civic spaces, this is a conversation about the role of writers in bearing witness and challenging authority, and how they navigate increasing pressures and restrictions in an increasingly precarious landscape.	Border: Regime, Refuge and Ritual Adrianne Kalfopoulou, Michael Shaikh, Petra Molnar, Michael Vatikiotis* Borders create a society of their own, fragmented by war, technology, and a warming planet. Where do the ones caught in the crosshairs go, in a world where the distinction can mean life or death? A human rights activist, an anthropologist, and a poet come together to discuss.	A Defence of Poetry Andrea Cote Botero, Robin Block, Srijato, Krishna Sen* Today, the influence of technology and Instagram poetry has us talking in circles, flattening language, and blurring meaning. More than ever, we need poetry, its power to reveal complexity and connect us with meaning and humanity. Join our speakers as they explore how it endures, despite everything.	Travelling Women Karuna Ezara Parikh, Pallavi Aiyar, Trinity, Prinka Saraswati* What does it mean to travel through the world as a woman? Travel can offer freedom and exciting new possibilities, but it is also shaped by questions of safety, autonomy, and gender roles. Join an inspiring conversation about the challenges, joys, and transformative possibilities of a life shaped by travel.	Richard King: Brave New Wild Richard King, Petra Molnar* Can technology really save the planet? From geoengineering to AI, science fiction is becoming reality, but what do we stand to lose? Author Richard King questions the technologies proposed to solve the climate crisis. Join him for an urgent conversation on rethinking our relationship with nature for a humane future.	Speaking of Wellness Brigid Delaney, Jordan Stephens, Valerie Patkar, Chaitanya Srivastava* From mindfulness apps and self-care routines to yoga retreats, what does it really mean to live well? Wellness is now a trillion-dollar industry, yet genuine wellbeing is rarely achieved through quick fixes or trendy products. Join our authors for a conversation about mental health, philosophy, and finding meaning in the age of wellness.	The Need for Literary and Cultural Institutions Today Janet DeNeefe, Sanjoy K. Roy, Gill Westaway* In an age of fractured discourse and contested truths, literary and cultural spaces matter more than ever. But as austerity bites and funding for festivals and cultural exchange dries up, how can they stay afloat? Leading cultural voices explore how these institutions can keep knowledge, dialogue and critical thought alive.

*Moderator
**Writer absent due to persecution.

Satyanara Opening Weekend

Our partner Satyanara throws open its doors with three enchanting days of art, talks, exhibitions, performances and hands-on workshops, from Friday, 23 to Sunday, 25 October at Batu Kurung Estate, Ubud.

Festival Day Pass holders enjoy free entry to talks, exhibitions and performances. Workshops need a separate ticket. Scan the QR code below to discover more:



Special Events

Join us for intimate literary events featuring Festival headliners or enchanting evenings of spoken word and poetry by captivating voices.



Stories from the Land

Thursday, 22 October • 12:00-14:00
at Plataran Ubud Hotel & Spa • IDR 890,000

with Helianti Hilman, Made Masak, Michael Shaikh, Tina Chang, Hana Irena*

Above the jungle, overlooking rice fields, gather for a three-course feast celebrating Indonesia's heirloom ingredients. Between courses, writers, a Balinese cook and a poet explore food as inheritance, memory and belonging, and how recipes carry home through generations. Not a panel: a conversation with dirt still on its hands. Limited seats.



Malam Temu Sastra

Thursday, 22 October • 18:30-20:00
at Honeymoon Garden • Free with Registration

One night, offering countless opportunities for collaboration. Badan Bahasa brings together writers, translators, publishers and the wider literary community for a warm evening of networking, paired with a first-hand introduction to the Writer Residency Programme and Translation Funding Support. Come discover opportunities for funding and taking your work international.



The Bandung Conference of Writers

Thursday, 22 October • 18:00-20:00
at Plataran Ubud Hotel & Spa • IDR 590,000

with Mai Al-Nakib, Mohammed Massoud Morsi, R. Abdul Azis, Randa Abdel-Fattah, Santilla Chingaibe, Sisonke Msimang, Srijato, Tari Lang, Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes, Raza Garaya*

Join Global South writers as they revisit Bandung's 1955 dream, a new world order built on Asian-African unity and justice. Seventy years on, with neo-colonialism and far-right nationalism still rising, they ask the urgent question: where do we stand now, and what does moving forward truly look like?



Bali's Herbs and Remedies

Friday, 23 October • 06:30-08:30
at Casa Luna • IDR 590,000

with David Lindenmayer, I Made Westi

Before there were pharmacies, there was the forest. Walk with us through Ubud, discovering the living history of Balinese herbal traditions with herbal medicine expert Made Westi and biologist David Lindenmayer. Trace ancient paths through rice fields and villages, learning ancestral knowledge of healing plants, herbal medicine, and Bali's sacred subak irrigation system.



Becoming Ourselves: Poetry and Prose Reading

Thursday, 22 October • 18:30-20:30
at Taman Dedari • IDR 590,000

with A. Nabil Wibisana, Jennifer Lindsay, Pallavi Aiyar, Peta Murray, Ruby Singh, Tina Chang, Vincenzo Latronico, Viji Krishnamoorthy, Yeng Cheeangly, Zainah Anwar, Miles Merrill*

Taman Dedari, high above the mist-veiled Ayung River valley, is a sacred site where angels once bathed, witnessed by the sage Rsi Markandeya. Gather here in their shadow for an evening of becoming, as poetry and prose ask who we are and what we're still uncovering. Join us for a literary reading spanning genres.



Contemporary Bali with Jean Couteau

Friday, 23 October • 11:00-13:00
at Cucu Betutu • IDR 590,000

with Jean Couteau, Edward Speirs*

Balinese culture is rooted in religion and respect for others. As Bali's economy has shifted from agrarian to tourist-driven, its people now encounter different cultures and religions. How does this affect Balinese identity and tolerance, and how do young Balinese and migrants respond? Jean Couteau, multilingual writer and observer of Bali for over 40 years, gives this talk.



Dining with the Ancestors

Thursday, 22 October • 18:30-21:00
at Ruang Asmat at Roemah Hanoman • IDR 3,900,000

with Leksmoano Santoso, Matthew Campbell*

One private world, opened for one unforgettable evening. Tour Roemah Hanoman, home to explorer Leksmoano Santoso's remarkable indigenous art collection, gathered over four decades from Indonesia's remotest communities. As Asmat ancestor carvings stand watch, gather for an Indonesian feast and hear Leksmoano in conversation with author Matthew Campbell.



A Lunch Between Here and There

Friday, 23 October • 12:00-14:00
at Di Sini Di Sana by Rachman & Sons • IDR 2,900,000

with Bandana Tewari, Prabal Gurung, Laksmi DeNeefe Suardana*

For one special afternoon, world-renowned interior designer Jonathan Rachman hosts at his stunning restaurant, DI SINI DI SANA. Indulge in four courses as you join acclaimed fashion designer Prabal Gurung and Indian culture journalist and sustainability advocate Bandana Tewari for a candid conversation exploring identity, craftsmanship, culture and belonging.



Candlelight on Clay

Thursday, 22 October • 18:30-21:00
at Gaya Ceramic and Design • IDR 3,900,000

with Dominic Amerena, Geia Laconi, Idanna Pucci, Louie Buana, Raoul de Jong, Terence Ward, Eva Fernandes*

Dinner is served among Gaya's hand-thrown ceramics, Bali's celebrated studio, founded by Marcello Massoni and Michela Fabbri over two decades ago. An aperitivo. A private workshop tour. A four-course feast by Indus, paired with wine, each course served on Gaya's own handcrafted pieces.



Writers in Cafes

Friday, 23 October • 15:00-17:00
at Powder Room by R4D • IDR 350,000

with Ali AlShaali, I Wayan Arca Bertayasa, Irena Karpa, Rodney Glick, Stefan Kutzenberger, Julia Winterflood*

Why do writers love cafés? Maybe it's the hum of conversation, the ritual of a cup of coffee, or the comfort of not writing alone. Writers in Cafes brings together voices from around the world for readings and candid conversation on coffee, culture, and the everyday worlds that shape our stories.



Fire and Islands

Friday, 23 October • 19:00-21:00
at Nari Restaurant • IDR 890,000

with Afua Hirsch, Agustinus Wibowo, Anna Carey, Ivan Lanin, Patrick Freyne, Tash Aw, Ziggy Ramo, Thammika Songkaeo*

At Nari, fire meets storytelling for one unforgettable evening. Enjoy a crafted three-course feast where smoke and flame transform Bali's finest ingredients into bold, generous dishes, paired with wines and cocktails. As darkness settles, readings on migration, memory and belonging unfold beside the flames, an evening of fire and stories.



Festival Fundraising Dinner

Friday, 23 October • 19:00-22:30
at Rumah Melati Estate • IDR 17,000,000

with Ali Sethi, Dandhy Laksono, Francesca Albanese, Georgina Godwin, Katie Kitamura, Ketut Yuliarso, Kiran Desai, Peter Godwin, Prabal Gurung, Tari Lang, Janet DeNeefe*, I Ketut Suardana*

An intimate evening beneath the stars at Rumah Melati Estate: just twenty patrons at one beautifully laid table with celebrated writers and cultural thinkers, sharing an exceptional feast and unforgettable company. No speeches, no stage, just remarkable conversation to support Indonesian literary culture. Only 20 Patron seats will ever be offered.



Pitch to Penguin

Saturday, 24 October • 10:00-12:30
at Honeymoon Garden • IDR 1,000,000

with Nora Nazerene Abu Bakar

Got a manuscript or book idea itching to get out? Pitch it to leading publisher Penguin Random House SEA in ten minutes flat, and get instant feedback plus a shot at your dream book deal. Whether you have a finished manuscript or just an idea bouncing around, this is a must for aspiring authors.



Men Spill the Tea

Saturday, 24 October • 15:00-17:00
at Dragon Tea Temple • IDR 450,000

with Andreas Kurniawan, Jordan Stephens, Mani Malaeulu, Natthanai Prasannam, Raoul de Jong, Sandip Roy, Chaitanya Srivastava*

Safe spaces for emotional healing and self-awareness are often linked to women's wellness, yet neglected for men. Male mental well-being deserves the same care, where vulnerability and sharing are seen as brave, not weak. Writers have long understood this, using their craft to find deeper meaning in life. Men, value yourself, you deserve it.



Gods, Myths and Storytellers

Saturday, 24 October • 16:30-19:30
at Honeymoon Garden • IDR 390,000

with Adam Bobbette, Andrea Acri, Arthur R Flowers, Bea Bustamante, Sanjoy K. Roy, Titah AW, Ketut Yuliarso*

Mythology, deities and religion are woven into the human experience, shaping habits, practices, fables and scripture. Divinity and mysticism aren't separate from us, but the essence of existence. This session brings together writers and researchers exploring the science and story behind the supernatural, from spiritual traditions to creative expressions of the mystical.



On the Record: Tari Lang

Saturday, 24 October • 17:00-18:00
at Oaken Lab Ubud • IDR 290,000

with Tari Lang, Georgina Godwin*

Georgina Godwin, presenter of Meet the Writers on Monocle Radio, joins Tari Lang for a live-recorded conversation about the experiences that led her to write her courageous memoir, *My Neighbour, the Dictator*, recounting Indonesia's 1965 coup through her fourteen-year-old eyes, as her parents were imprisoned and she navigated adolescence amid soldiers, informers and whispered betrayals.



Poetry of the World

Saturday, 24 October • 17:00-18:30
at Uma Cucina • IDR 590,000

with Adrianne Kalfopoulou, Afri Meldam, Ali AlShaali, Andrea Cote Botero, Bhuchung D. Sonam, Ege Dündar, Karuna Ezara Parikh, Kristian Sendon Cordero, Srijato, Prakriti Sharma*

Poetry is a shared language across the people of the world. Listen to the sound of words and be moved, for feeling is the transport of the soul. A communal invitation to know that our experiences, unique as they are, are also shared, that we are not alone. Listen in English, Bahasa, Arabic, Bikol and more.



On the Record: Katie Kitamura

Saturday, 24 October • 18:30-19:30
at Oaken Lab Ubud • IDR 290,000

with Katie Kitamura, Georgina Godwin*

What happens when identity itself becomes a performance? Georgina Godwin joins acclaimed novelist Katie Kitamura for a live-recorded conversation about her life, influences, and the craft behind her taut, psychologically intense fiction, including her latest, *Audition*, shortlisted for the 2025 Booker Prize and a 2026 Pulitzer Prize finalist.



Buddha in Our Lives at Usada

Sunday, 25 October • 11:00-13:00
at Usada Bali Ubud • IDR 590,000

with Andrea Acri, Bhuchung D. Sonam, Rio Helmi, Prakriti Sharma*

How do you stay whole when the world feels like it's coming undone? A poet in exile, a scholar of religion, and a teacher of Buddhism converge at Usada, tracing Buddhism's maritime journey from India to Southeast Asia, and how it keeps transforming through diaspora and lived experience, three paths, one quiet question.



Who Are We In This Complicated World?

Sunday, 25 October • 12:00-14:00
at Casa Luna • IDR 650,000

with Candice Chung, David Carlin, Debbie Argue, Hari Kunzru, Indah G, Mahita Vas, Pamela Ng, Sanjoy K. Roy, Husnara Khanom*

Overlooking a bamboo jungle, Casa Luna's beloved long table lunch returns, this time asking Rumi's own question: are we mortal or divine, flesh or flame? Sanjoy Roy cooks an Indian feast while eight writers gather, each carrying something to confess, argue or defy, moderated by Husnara Khanom. Come with an appetite for both.



Wings, Light, and Stories from the Fireflies Village

Sunday, 25 October • 16:00-20:00
at Rumah Konservasi Kunang-Kunang • IDR 850,000

with Titah AW, Wayan Wardika

From the flutter of butterflies to the glow of fireflies, step into a magical evening as twilight fades into night. Wander through nature to witness fireflies dancing in their habitat, then settle in for an intimate dinner filled with good food, rich conversation, and the quiet wonders of the natural world.

*Moderator

#UWRF26

Masterclasses

Join our Masterclasses led by international headliners and beloved local talent in the worlds of literature, poetry, and music. Book your spots before they sell out.

REGULAR PRICE • International IDR 650,000 • KITAS/KITAP and ASEAN IDR 450,000 • Indonesian IDR 275,000

The Art of Chairing a Literary Conversation

Monday, 19 October
10:00-13:00
at Gdas Bali Health and Wellness Resort
with Georgina Godwin

Join Georgina Godwin, Monocle Radio's Books Editor and host of *Meet the Writers*, for a three-hour intensive on interview and audio storytelling. Learn to ask questions that draw honest answers, structure a conversation and master the basics of recording and editing, with practical techniques for aspiring podcasters, journalists and storytellers.

Seni dan Teknik Penerjemahan Sastra

Thursday, 22 October
08:00-10:00
at SenS Hotel & Spa + Conference Ubud Town Centre
• By invitation only
with Rio Johan

Translating fiction's greatest challenge is capturing the author's "soul" without sounding stiff or mechanical. Rio Johan guides participants through the technical and aesthetic sides of literary translation, interpreting sentence tone, maintaining narrative rhythm, and experimenting with form. Ideal for those wishing to hone their instinct for finding each character's right tone.

Mastering English and the Art of Public Speaking

Thursday, 22 October
09:30-12:00
at Black Garlic • By invitation only
with Ajen Angelina, Arianto Adipurwanto, Carisya Nuramadea, Dhias Nauvaly, Galuh Ginanti, Hamran Sunu, IRZI, Jein Oktaviany, Nityasa Wijaya, R. Abdul Azis

Step into the spotlight and amplify your story. This hands-on workshop helps you bridge the gap between the page and the stage, building the confidence to speak with impact. Through practical exercises and expert guidance, you will learn to hold an audience, find your voice, and captivate listeners anywhere in the world.

Charcoal Drawing with Anne Spudvilas

Thursday, 22 October
12:00-14:00
at SereS Springs Resort & Spa Singakerta
with Anne Spudvilas

Join multi-award-winning Australian children's illustrator Anne Spudvilas for a guided charcoal drawing exercise. Explore her creative process across seventeen picture books, including *Swan Lake* and her upcoming *Romeo and Juliet*. Anne will guide participants through storyboarding, gathering reference material and creating finished art, followed by a Q&A.

The Author in the Age of the Algorithm

Thursday, 22 October
14:00-17:00
at Samsara Ubud
with Chaitanya Srivastava

Writing the book is only the beginning. In this masterclass, award-winning publishing and marketing professional Chaitanya Srivastava shows authors how to build a meaningful online presence: finding the right platforms, developing a distinctive voice and creating content without compromising creative identity, to foster communities rather than chase followers and virality.

Seni, Politis, dan Konteks Penerjemahan

Friday, 23 October
09:00-11:00
at SenS Hotel & Spa + Conference Ubud Town Centre
• By invitation only
with Dhianita Kusuma Pertiwi

Translation grapples with what's lost and gained when a text crosses languages. Join Dhianita Kusuma Pertiwi to explore what happens behind the scenes: handling tricky idioms, local conventions, and the political choices behind word equivalents. It's not just grammatical correctness, but preserving context and the weight of ideas, so meaning doesn't fall flat.

Coming Home to My Inner Child

Friday, 23 October
10:00-12:00
at Bumi Kinar
with Puneeta Roy

Each one of us carries some kind of wound or trauma, an inner child that can feel separate, unloved and alone. Ignoring it only prolongs the suffering. This session explores ways to connect with and embrace your inner child, offering conscious, loving attention to its emotional needs and setting you on a path towards healing.

Writing about the Environment

Friday, 23 October
10:00-12:00
at MetlandVenya Ubud
with Adam Bobbette

During times of uncertainty, we turn to creativity and communication to understand the issues at hand. Join this session with Canadian geographer and author Adam Bobbette to develop non-fiction writing and research skills around environmental issues, environmental damage, and the hope surrounding environmental justice. Participants should bring a piece of their own writing.

What It Takes to Get Your Writing Published

Friday, 23 October
12:00-14:00
at MĀUA Olea Ubud
with Cassie Lawrence, Vamika Sinha

Join editors from the UK-based print quarterly *Wasafiri* for practical advice on reaching an international audience. Deputy Editor Vamika Sinha and Digital and Communications Manager Cassie Lawrence guide you through preparing and submitting your work, how a literary magazine is produced, upcoming opportunities, and what editors are really looking for.

22-25 APRIL 2027

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Masterclasses

Join our Masterclasses led by international headliners and beloved local talent in the worlds of literature, poetry, and music. Book your spots before they sell out.

REGULAR PRICE • International IDR 650,000 • KITAS/KITAP and ASEAN IDR 450,000 • Indonesian IDR 275,000

Crafting Your Travel Story	Friday, 23 October 14:00–15:30 at Alila Ubud • IDR 450,000 <i>with Agustinus Wibowo</i>	Same destination, entirely different story. A journey often leaves us with field notes, interviews and memories, but no idea where to start. Led by Agustinus Wibowo, we'll deconstruct the craft: asking the right questions, observing with empathy, and weaving fragments into narrative. Bring your notes or drafts and we will shape your journey into its finest form.
Through Each Other's Eyes	Friday, 23 October 16:00–18:00 at Casa Luna • IDR 200,000 <i>with Carole Favre</i>	Author and performer Carole Favre leads a workshop on writing through gender conflict, from manosphere influencers to weaponised feminism, in a world where algorithms turn conflict into content. Through playful, provocative prompts, participants confront assumptions and shared experiences, moving through perception, compassion, liberation and action to see the person behind the label.
Poetry Wine Workshop by Anthony Tao	Friday, 23 October 17:00–19:00 at Pinstripe Bar at Viceroy Bali <i>with Anthony Tao</i>	A quirky poetry workshop for wine lovers. Robert Louis Stevenson once wrote, "Wine is bottled poetry." Now poet and wine connoisseur Anthony Tao, owner of a Beijing wine bar, invites you to taste, sip and scribble, applying poetry techniques to craft playful wine reviews in this fun masterclass blending wine education with poeticising.
Photojournalism, Conflict, and the Future of Truth	Saturday, 24 October 08:30–11:30 at MĀUA Olea Ubud <i>with Mohammed Massoud Morsi</i>	Join this masterclass as Mohammed Massoud Morsi examines photojournalism as a practice, a profession, and an act of witness to societal and technological disruption. Drawing on his own experience, he traces its evolution and the risks faced by local journalists today, before opening the floor for a debate on the future of truth-telling.
Find the Poem in Your Body	Saturday, 24 October 10:00–12:00 at Herb Library Bali <i>with Eva Fernandes</i>	Stage fright? Not sure which poem to perform? Join Ubud's minty minstrel, Eva Fernandes, for a spoken word masterclass where poetry leaps off the page. Experiment with tone, voice, gesture, movement and rhythm, transforming self-expression into fervour, empathy and panache that reaches the audience. All you need to do is show up and be present.
Seeking Stoic Change	Saturday, 24 October 10:00–12:00 at Adiwana Svarga Loka <i>with Brigid Delaney</i>	Join Stoicism expert Brigid Delaney, author of <i>The Seeker and the Sage</i> , for a practical workshop on meeting change with courage and clarity. Drawing on ancient texts, contemporary psychology and writing prompts, learn to reframe uncertainty, build inner steadiness and leave with a clear action plan and a Stoic toolkit.
Menerjemahkan Fiksi dan Bacaan Anak	Saturday, 24 October 15:30–17:30 at SenS Hotel & Spa + Conference Ubud Town Centre • By invitation only <i>with Reda Gaudiamo</i>	A good translation shouldn't feel like one. Through a personal, intuitive approach, Reda Gaudiamo hones sensitivity to language, focusing on narrative texts, children's literature, and popular fiction. Participants train their ear and instinct, editing sentences to flow naturally when read aloud, stay true to the story's emotion, and feel close to the reader.
Responding to Samarasā: Witness to Action	Saturday, 24 October 17:00–19:00 at Honeymoon Kitchen • IDR 200,000 <i>with Carole Favre, Esther Milanzi, Sania Rasyid, Teodora Miscov</i>	This workshop turns your encounters with unfamiliar histories, voices and ideas into something lasting after the Festival. Guided by four leading Modern Women Bali writers, participants move through awareness, perspective and personal meaning, transforming one festival encounter into a piece of writing and a shared, collective reflection.
Cultivating Creative Processes	Sunday, 25 October 10:00–12:00 at The Westin Resort & Spa Ubud <i>with Mai Al-Nakib</i>	Where do ideas for writing come from? Is there magic to it, or do we simply wait for inspiration? If that were true, very little writing would ever be finished. Mai Al-Nakib, editor of <i>The Markaz Review</i> , offers practical tools writers can use to cultivate creativity and produce effective writing.
Short Story Writing with Yusi Avianto Pareanom	Sunday, 25 October 10:00–12:00 at Samsara Ubud <i>with Ajen Angelina, Arianto Adipurwanto, Carisya Nuramadea, Dhias Nauvaly, Galuh Ginanti, Hamran Sunu, IRZI, Jein Oktaviany, Nityasa Wijaya, R. Abdul Azis, Yusi Avianto Pareanom</i>	Master the short story in this focused workshop for early-career writers, led by novelist Yusi Avianto Pareanom. Working alongside 2026 Festival Emerging Writers Programme finalists, participants will refine narrative structure, develop authorial voice, exchange feedback on drafts, examine the mechanics of short fiction, and learn steps for preparing a manuscript for publication.



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Yoga, Healing & Community in the Heart of Ubud

Daily Classes • Workshops & Events
Teacher Trainings • Wellness Center • Garden Kafe
A Sanctuary of Connection

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Cultural Workshops

Led by Ubud's most revered guides and local artists, this programme showcases the richness of Balinese heritage and the town's flourishing creative scene.

Culinary Jalan-Jalan	Thursday, 22 October 06:00-08:30 at Casa Luna • IDR 550,000	Start the day by following Ubud's flavours through its bustling streets and beloved local eateries. This culinary walking tour takes you from the legendary babi guling at Ibu Oka to the rich, aromatic ayam betutu at Pak Sanur, discovering stories and traditions along the way. It ends at Casa Luna with a Balinese-style breakfast overlooking the lush jungle.
The Art of Watercolour	Thursday, 22 October 14:00-15:30 at Bumi Kinar • IDR 350,000 with Andini Judianto	This watercolour session invites you to explore colour dynamics and fundamental techniques in a relaxed, supportive setting, guided by Andini Judianto, a Bali-based entrepreneur and watercolour enthusiast who moved to Ubud to devote herself fully to her craft. Having grown from beginner sketches to confident watercolour work, she now shares her passion for colour with others. <i>No prior drawing skills needed. Participants must be 25 years of age or older.</i>
The Practice of Ritual Preparation	Thursday, 22 October 15:00-17:00 at Puri Kantor • IDR 585,000	Discover <i>metaki-taki</i> , the Balinese practice of preparing oneself with mindfulness before a sacred ritual. This workshop invites you to slow down: learning to wear Balinese attire, making canang sari offerings, and presenting them during a traditional <i>melukat</i> purification ritual at Puri Kantor Ubud, closing with an intimate afternoon tea within the <i>puri</i> grounds. <i>Bring a full change of clothes, as you will get wet during the melukat ritual.</i>
Discover Sebatu Village	Friday, 23 October 08:00-10:00 at Sebatu Village • IDR 750,000	Step beyond Ubud into Sebatu, home to master woodcarvers, sacred springs and ancient temples. Wander through rice fields and village lanes on a guided walk, meet a local woodcarver at work, and hear stories passed down through generations. Finish with coffee and tea at Puri Gangga, overlooking the royal bath of Pura Gunung Kawi.
Bahasa Bali Breakfast	Friday, 23 October 08:30-09:30 at Dharma Kula • IDR 275,000	Start your Festival day with a light breakfast and a fun, interactive Balinese language lesson guided by an expert teacher from Cinta Bahasa. Learn essential phrases and discover authentic cultural insights in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. Whether you are a beginner or simply curious, this session will deepen your connection to the people and place around you.
Hands-On Tie-Dye with Threads of Life	Friday, 23 October 14:30-16:00 at Threads of Life Dye Studio at Umajati Retreat • IDR 750,000	Discover the expressive art of tie-dye with Threads of Life. Start with a tour of their natural dye studio and plant garden, then create your own pieces using techniques like clamping, folding and stitching. Practise on a prayer flag, progress to a scarf, and finish with a T-shirt. The final reveal is always a surprise! <i>For ages 10 and above.</i>
Sukawati Market Food Stories	Saturday, 24 October 08:00-12:00 at Indus Restaurant • IDR 550,000	Beyond Sukawati's famous art market lies a humble world of everyday Balinese life, where local markets and time-honoured recipes tell stories of generations past. Join us to taste crispy kerupuk tahu, learn the craft of tofu-making, savour lawar and jaja gambir, then enjoy iconic nasi tahu at Men Sarti before fresh coconut water at Artisan Village.
Bahasa Indonesia Breakfast	Saturday, 24 October 08:30-10:30 at Dharma Kula • IDR 275,000 with Ivan Lanin	Kick off your morning with an Indonesian language masterclass over breakfast, led by expert Ivan Lanin and the Cinta Bahasa Indonesian Language School. Explore everyday phrases and cultural insights before delving into modern syntax, vocabulary and register. Language is the foundation of clarity, connection and influence, whether navigating daily life or refining your storytelling.
The Magical World of Batik	Saturday, 24 October 10:00-11:30 at Yellow Coco Nest • Free with Registration with Sanggar Cahaya Nusantara	Step into a magical world of batik, storytelling and puppet-making at Yellow Coco Creative Nest, as participants co-create The Freedom of the Wasubi Bird, following a small bird shifting between worlds hidden within batik cloth. Craft your own batik-inspired creature and bring it to life in this interactive journey. <i>This session is suitable for adults, teens and children aged 6+ with a parent or caregiver.</i>
Walking the Sacred Cycle	Sunday, 25 October 06:30-08:30 at Casa Luna • IDR 450,000 with W. Mustika	Enter Bali's living tradition on a guided walk through two of Ubud's most sacred temples. Discover Kanda Pat, the four spiritual siblings that accompany every Balinese through life, then journey to Pura Dalem and Pura Prajapati, where the line between living and dead grows thin. A culture that keeps death close ends up more, not less, alive. <i>A Balinese sarong will be provided.</i>
Writing Bali's Ancient Script on Lontar	Sunday, 25 October 10:00-11:00 at Puri Kantor • IDR 475,000	Step into the ancient tradition of Balinese manuscript writing in this hands-on workshop at Puri Kantor Ubud. Learn the basics of Balinese script, Aksara Bali, and write your own name or a short phrase onto lontar palm leaves, using techniques once used to preserve Bali's sacred manuscripts. Take home your own handwritten lontar as a keepsake.

21 - 25 OCT

Writer's Bar at Indus

HAPPY HOUR

5PM - 7PM



clink, sip,
rub shoulders with
our writers

UBUD
WRITERS
& READERS
FESTIVAL



INDUS

After Dark Performances

All performance events are free unless otherwise stated. When the sun sets, our Festival only gets warmer. In the evenings, we bring together fiery writers and blazing artists for a series of free programmes.

Film Programme

Pull up a seat and settle in for our free Film Programme. This is your chance to experience the nation’s most celebrated recent films and documentaries. Many screenings are followed by Q&As, giving you the opportunity to meet some of the region’s most exciting directors and actors.



The Ubud Square Performance, presented by Kimpton Suntaya

Wednesday, 21 October • 20:00-21:00 at Plaza Patung Tjok Gde Agung Sukawati

The centre of Ubud gathers under the stars, beneath the watchful gaze of Tjokorda Gde Agung Sukawati, as we open the 2026 Festival with an extravaganza of dance, music and spoken word. Our guest speaker reflects on the power of reading to change lives, followed by a performance by Ubud’s own Kerta Art Studio. Indonesian and international artists then share one stage. Free, open to all and a celebration of everything a story can do.



Mata Badai: Pentas Tutur, Puisi dan Lagu

Saturday, 24 October • 19:00-20:00 at Titik Dua

with Dee Lestari
Celebrated Indonesian writer and musician Dee Lestari brings Mata Badai to the stage, a live performance that unites storytelling, poetry, music and visuals in one theatrical journey. Moving from curiosity and ideas through personal stories and poetry, it builds to a stirring musical finale where literature and music meet as one. Performance only is IDR 250,000, and performance and dinner is IDR 475,000.



Tutaha Subang: A Tale for My Daughter

Thursday, 22 October • 19:30-20:30 at Indus Restaurant

with Sekar Banjaran Aji, Yosepina Sreklefat
This short documentary follows Rikarda Maa as she writes a letter to her daughter while palm oil expansion threatens Awyu ancestral land. Intertwined with footage of the Sasi Procession, a ritual of resistance, it is an intimate portrait of love, grief and defiance in a rapidly changing Papua.



Anak Macan – My Plastic Mother

Friday, 23 October • 19:45-20:45 at Indus Restaurant

with Amar Haikal
In this short drama, Eki, who lives by a landfill, searches for a memento to honour his late mother. Battling relentless rain, landslides and the looming threat of scavengers and machinery, he fears her memory could be lost beneath the waste forever.



Women’s Poetry Slam

Wednesday, 21 October • 20:00-22:00 at Indus Restaurant

with Arantza Garcia Ferrand, Cynthia Hariadi, Eva Fernandes, Pamela Allen and Pranita Dewi, Putri Minangsari*
Our Women’s Poetry Slam returns with *Light and Samarasā*, where poetry sparks awareness, empathy and action on gender equality, spirituality and everyday injustice. This year, the stage warmly welcomes queer, transgender and trans women who identify as *puan*, offering a safe, celebratory space for LGBTQIA+ voices to shine.



In the Shadow of Shiva: Music and Poetry

Saturday, 24 October • 20:00-22:00 at Honeymoon Garden • IDR 100,000

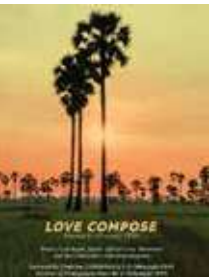
with Anthony Tao, Arthur R Flowers, Irena Karpa, Robin Block, Ruby Singh, Wayan Yudane, Wilis Permadi, Ziggy Ramo
Under the stars and Shiva’s watchful gaze, poets and musicians from around the globe gather for an evening of verse and melody, from song to spoken word to hip-hop. Meanwhile, Chef Aman Lakhiani’s Lamuri fires up the garden kitchen, pairing the deep spice of South India with Sumatran heat.



Films from Gaza: Abu Jabal & Free Fish

Thursday, 22 October • 19:30-20:30 at Agung Stage

with Bisani Owda, Saoirse Connolly
Join us for a screening of two documentaries by Palestinian journalist and filmmaker Bisani Owda. *Free Fish* follows two brothers separated by siege yet bound by the sea, while *Abu Jabal* follows a mother and daughter returning to their devastated home. Together, they offer intimate portraits of life in Gaza.



Love Composes by Yeng Chheangly

Friday, 23 October • 19:45-20:45 at Agung Stage

with Yeng Chheangly, Ege Dündar*
This video-poetry work brings together poetry and moving images to reflect on the aftermath: what remains in the lives, memories and landscapes of people after war, political violence and social upheaval. Through poets from across Asia and the Cambodian-American community, it asks how love and solidarity can help us rebuild.



Late Night On Deck at Oaken Lab

Friday, 23 October • 17:00-22:00 at Oaken Lab Ubud

with TOPHER
Join us for Vynl at Oaken, two feature nights of music, cocktails and good company. Open to the public, the evenings put Batik Boy Radio on the decks, with cocktails available to buy. On the second night, Oaken plays the same sound as the Vynl podcast. The event takes place on Friday, 23 and Saturday, 24 October.



Festival Closing Night

Sunday, 25 October • 19:00-22:00 at Taman Baca

Celebrate the closing night party of the 2026 Festival at Taman Baca, the Main Festival Hub, with an evening of readings, performances and dance, bringing writers, artists and audiences together.



Mela Chiraghan: A Few Rhymes

Thursday, 22 October • 20:45-21:45 at Indus Restaurant

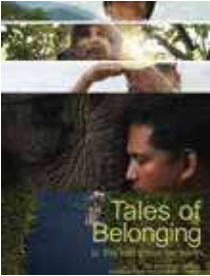
by Danyal Rasheed (screening film only)
This poetic, observational documentary draws viewers into the sights and sounds of Lahore’s Festival of Lamps, an annual celebration where thousands gather in dance and devotion to honour the Sufi poet Shah Hussain. Told without narration, it captures an open, syncretic tradition that endures against conservative pressure.



Earth Defender • Indai Apai Darah • Portrait of an Island on Fire

Saturday, 24 October • 18:30-19:30 at Agung Stage

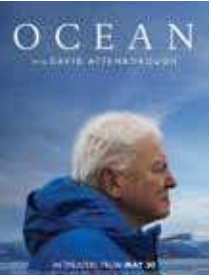
with Kynan Tegar, Prinka Saraswati*
Every 48 hours, an earth defender is killed or disappears protecting the world’s vanishing wilderness. Centred on the Indigenous communities of Borneo, this programme of short films honours those on the frontlines of conservation, from the fight against illegal logging to grief and care for a burning landscape.



Tales of Belonging: To the Last Place on Earth

Thursday, 22 October • 20:45-21:45 at Agung Stage

with Agus Kusnadi, Farwiza Farhan, Rivani
This documentary miniseries follows six people bound to Sumatra’s Leuser Ecosystem, the last place on Earth where tigers, orangutans, elephants and rhinos still roam side by side. Each is drawn to the forest in their own way, yet all stand united in the fight to protect it.



Ocean with David Attenborough

Saturday, 24 October • 19:45-20:45 at Agung Stage

With pre-recorded remarks from the British Ambassador to Indonesia, Dominic Jermy.
The British Embassy Jakarta and the Festival invite you to a special screening of OCEAN, narrated by Sir David Attenborough, marking the International Day of Climate Action and the Road to COP31. Discover how healthy oceans sustain life and livelihoods, then be inspired to act for a more sustainable future.



Festival Poetry Slam

Friday, 23 October • 19:30-22:30 at Valley Stage

with Robin Block, Kismet Krystle*
One of the Festival’s most sizzling events returns! Global poets and local sensations slam, spin and weave their original words in a fiery battle for the crowd, judged by a glittering line-up of international poets. When the last word lands, only one will be crowned the 2026 Poetry Slam Champion.



Performing the Goddess

Friday, 23 October • 14:30-15:30 at Paradiso Ubud

with Sandip Roy
At one time the star of Bengal’s stage, Chapal Bhaduri spent his life playing women in the village theatre. More recently, he has been performing the goddess of disease, Sitala Mata, who cures souls from both spiritual hauntings and ailments such as poxes and pustules. Directed by Naveen Kishore.

Children & Youth

Join daily sessions with young speakers and inspiring figures discussing diverse topics, including literature, social issues and the environment.

- 📍 SEKOLAH MENENGAH PERTAMA (SMP) NEGERI 1 UBUD
- 📍 SEKOLAH MENENGAH ATAS (SMA) NEGERI 2 DENPASAR

Hunting for Secret Stories
Thursday, 22 October
09:00-11:00
with M. Sutandi, Rizal Iwan, Tsugaeda

From Critical Reading to Action
Friday, 23 October
10:00-12:00

- 📍 SEKOLAH DASAR (SD) NEGERI 1 UBUD

A Storytelling Adventure with Rio Christiawan
Friday, 23 October
09:00-10:30
with Rio Christiawan

- 📍 SEKOLAH DASAR NEGERI (SDN) 1 MELINGGIH KELOD

Learning to Write Children's Stories
Friday, 23 October
10:00-11:30
with Anwar Sanjar, Hidayatullah, Humairah, Irwan Syamsir, Nabila Mulkiya, Nurul Afifah, Rina Marlina

- 📍 SEKOLAH MENENGAH ATAS (SMA) NEGERI 1 GIANJAR

Belajar Marketing Belajar Hidup
Saturday, 24 October
10:00 - 11:30
with Henry Manampiring

- 📍 VILLA KITTY

Exploring the World of Fairy Tales
Saturday, 24 October
10:00-11:30
with Anwar Sanjar, Hidayatullah, Humairah, Nabila Mulkiya, Nurul Afifah, Rina Marlina

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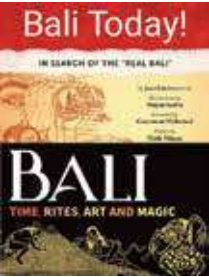
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Reserve here

Book Launches

Join us for intimate literary events featuring Festival headliners or enchanting evenings of spoken word and poetry by captivating voices.



Bali Today! and Bali Times, Rites, Art & Magic

Thursday, 22 October • 10:45-11:45
at Rumah Kayu

with Jean Couteau, Santi Rahayu*

Over 100 essays and stories offer an unfiltered, wry look at everyday life on the Island of the Gods, village rituals, courtship, family, and tradition colliding with modernity. Alongside, discover Bali's intricate calendar and the elaborate cycle of celebrations it governs: purification rites, offerings, trance dances, and festivals bridging the human world with gods, demons, and ancestors.



Tales of Two Continents

Thursday, 22 October • 14:30-15:30
at Rumah Kayu

with Arianto Adipurwanto, Barbara Brouwer Purba, John H. McGlynn, Robin Block, Warih Wisatsana, Dorothea Rosa*

This tribute honours the poetry of Sitor Situmorang, one of Indonesia's great poets, in a bilingual selection translated and annotated by Prof. Harry Aveling. Warih Wisatsana and John McGlynn introduce the man and his work, and the launch presents the first Sitor Situmorang Award to promising young writer Arianto Adipurwanto.

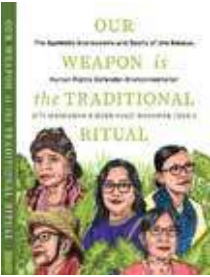


Menjahit Retakan Sejarah

Thursday, 22 October • 17:00-18:00
at Rumah Kayu

with Oka Rusmini, Dr.I Made Sujaya, Nityasa Wijaya*

Where Oka Rusmini once wrote through explosive protest, here she writes through quiet remembering. This collection carries the trauma of 1965 survivors into intimate, personal narrative, reimagining the female body not as a wound but as a living archive: where memory, language, and resistance meet, subtle yet unmistakably political.



Our Weapon Is the Traditional Ritual

Friday, 23 October • 13:00-14:00
at Threads of Life Gallery Lungsiaakan

with Siti Maimunah, Aleta Baun, Olin Monteiro*

Five marginalised women stand on the front lines against environmental destruction and the seizure of communities' living spaces, working to restore nature through prayer and symbols connecting body and land. Created through harvesting knowledge embedded in memory and living practices, their words become cultural weapons for nurturing life, protecting food biodiversity, and carrying resistance forward.

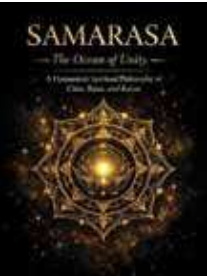


Balinese Dance in Transition: Kaja & Kelod

Thursday, 22 October • 11:00-12:00
at DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons

with Bruce W. Carpenter, I Made Bandem, Marlowe Bandem*

The first book on this subject written by a Balinese author, offering a broad, well-organised perspective and details for scholars and laymen alike. It celebrates the eightieth birthday of master dancer and scholar Prof. I Made Bandem, and salutes his co-author and close friend, Frederik DeBoer. This third luxury edition is more compelling still, with a redesign, updated research, and fresh information on evolving dance forms.



The Essence of Samarasā Philosophy

Thursday, 22 October • 15:00-16:00
at Casa Luna

with I Ketut Suardana, Ketut Yuliarsa*

What if unity and diversity were never opposites at all? This book offers a rare philosophy of wholeness, rooted in the Sanskrit union of *sama* (balanced, one) and *rasa* (essence, feeling), moving through *Citta* (mind), *Rasa* (heart) and *Karsa* (action), guided by Dharma, and asking how nations and Bali's own future might hold difference without fracturing.



What If God Overdosed Us With Love?

Thursday, 22 October • 18:15-19:15
at Rumah Kayu

with Boel Vadag, Priscilla Zamora*

Love here is never clean; it stains, alters, and consumes. This collection inhabits the thin border between affection and overdose, where intimacy turns chemical, spiritual, almost fatal in its beauty. Couples become mirrors carrying each other's fractures, addiction the desire to stay close to what keeps us alive. Beneath it all: the discipline of staying, tenderness as responsibility, love as maintenance, not just passion.

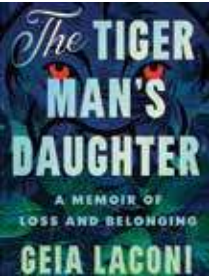


The Art of Doing Less and Living More

Friday, 23 October • 13:15-14:15
at Rumah Kayu

with Aditi Kumar, Ketut Yuliarsa*

This is the story of Aditi's journey from burnout towards inner alignment, an exploration of over-giving, overworking and living out of sync with herself. Through storytelling and grounded guidance, she invites readers into the space of slowing down and reconnecting with their own voice, offering a new paradigm: that doing less is not failure, but a radical act of choosing a life that feels aligned and true.



The Tiger Man's Daughter

Thursday, 22 October • 12:00-13:00
at Rumah Kayu

with Geia Laconi, Michelle Neeling*

Laura, a young dreamer from Florence, travels to the heart of Africa seeking an authentic life, and finds Laconi, a young Indonesian with eyes that belong to the wild. Years later, their daughter Geia journeys home to uncover her origins and an ancestral lineage said to descend from tigers. A true story of identity, memory, and a generation that dreamed of changing the world.



Player: Life X

Thursday, 22 October • 15:00-16:00
at DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons

with Christian Sugiono, Bella Pustika*

This book follows a warm-hearted robot playing a human avatar named Sugi inside "Life X," a life-simulation game resembling Earth, chasing wealth and influence by modelling himself on Silicon Valley visionaries. Fame and fortune come fast, until everything collapses through betrayal and discord. Only by unlocking a mysterious "Third Eye" mode, seeing his life from outside, does Sugi discover his true purpose: not conquest, but giving.



Setiap Hari, Hari Ini

Friday, 23 October • 09:30-10:30
at Rumah Kayu

with Valerie Patkar, Ajen Angelina*

Adrian Hardikara unexpectedly reunites with Inira Dilona, a famous actress and new brand ambassador for his beer brand. Unbeknown to him, Inira has returned with one purpose: to win back the heart she shattered eight years ago, because she knows she doesn't have much time left.



Homecoming: The Art and Practice of Trauma Recovery

Friday, 23 October • 14:00-15:00
at Alchemy Yoga Ubud

with Ratu Nida Fariyah, Ian Hugen*

This is Ratu Nida's trauma-informed guide, poetic yet practical, blending the clarity of her healthcare background with the courage of a survivor of domestic, family and sexual violence. Reframing trauma not as dysfunction but as the body's attempt to survive the unsurvivable, it guides readers to see their story without shame, rebuild safety and self-trust, and find their way back to themselves.

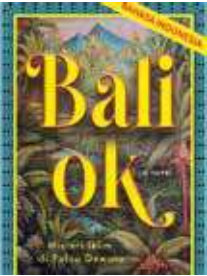


Thank You for Your Love

Thursday, 22 October • 12:45-13:45
at A&ME Ubud Bistro & Coffee

with Mireille Barnard, Ian Hugen*

A memoir of a young woman carrying an unnamed sadness long before she has the language to understand it. Her brother's death fractures the illusion of a happy family and forces a reckoning with hidden pain. Through medication, therapy, spirituality, and radical self-examination, she journeys from fragmentation toward healing, finally choosing to feel her pain rather than escape it.



Bali OK - Misteri Iklim di Pulau Dewata

Thursday, 22 October • 15:45-16:45
at Rumah Kayu

with Clare Wolfowitz, Ochie Chandra*

As the world heats up in 2037, an American butterfly expert discovers that Bali's butterflies have somehow escaped climate change, while a Balinese scientist finds the island's climate records show no change at all. Together, they chase the mystery, and fall for each other, uncovering an answer rooted in the centuries-old Balinese tradition of honouring the earth.



Whispers of the Shadow

Friday, 23 October • 10:45-11:45
at Rumah Kayu

with M. Sutandi, Diena Hayot*

This book invites readers, young and old, to rediscover childhood as a treasure trove of joyful memories, gems ready to light up our darkest days. Through meaningful stories and stunning illustrations, it uncovers the hidden gem within each of us, wrapping readers in a warm embrace of nostalgia and happiness.



Broken Horses

Friday, 23 October • 14:30-15:30
at Rumah Kayu

with Kate Beales, Jane Saunders*

An epic and personal story of female agency, set in the remote colonial world of 1920s Southern Patagonia. Georgie Carruthers crosses the ocean to become governess for a wealthy estancia family, torn between a horse breaker's warmth and her employer's expectations, an unexpected love triangle set against rising rebellion, as terrified landowners plan brutal reprisals against a Russian-style revolution.



Anak Bajang: Herds the Wind

Thursday, 22 October • 13:15-14:15
at Rumah Kayu

with Sindhunata, Joan Suyenaga, Dhianita Kusuma Pertiwi*

The sage Wisrawa's forbidden passion for Princess Sukesi unleashes a cosmic imbalance, the origin of all human suffering. At the heart of this Javanese retelling of the Ramayana stands Anak Bajang, a misshapen dwarf child who restores balance through innocence and sincerity, herding the wind in search of meaning. A visionary epic where gods test mortals and beauty turns to ruin.



Conscious Completion

Thursday, 22 October • 16:00-17:00
at Pedro Coffee

with Christo Barnard, Troy Hendrix*

Walking the ancient Camino de Santiago, attorney and mediator Christo Barnard reflects on death, divorce, love, and forgiveness, the quiet return to authenticity. Rather than framing endings as failure, this book explores what happens when life strips away identity and control, and how presence, awareness, and surrender become the path back to wholeness, a meditation on vulnerability, masculinity, and letting go consciously.



The Lost Bird

Friday, 23 October • 12:00-13:00
at Rumah Kayu

with Kadek Heny Sayukti, MJ Eliza, Kadek Sonia Piscayanti*

This is the story of Kiki, who is always getting lost. Whether amid crowded ceremonies or sprawling rice fields, she simply can't find her way home. When she decides to follow her friends to the big city for adventure, against her parents' wishes, will Kiki find the fun and freedom she craves, or become so lost she can't find her way back?



Small Stories, Big Worlds: Writing Across Forms

Friday, 23 October • 15:00-16:00
at The Elephant

with Anitha Devi Pillai, Jinny Koh, Nisha Mehraj, Mahita Vas, Nora Nazereene Abu Bakar*

Exploring the craft of fiction, writers discuss voice, character, structure, and why some stories demand the intimacy of a few pages while others require the breadth of a novel.

*Moderator

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Book Launches

Join us for intimate literary events featuring Festival headliners or enchanting evenings of spoken word and poetry by captivating voices.



Into Oblivion

Friday, 23 October • 15:45-16:45
at Rumah Kayu

with T.A. Toft, Tanaya Arywangsa*

A thousand-year peace between dragons and leviathans shatters as the leviathan queen challenges dynastic rule, and Black Corruption spreads once more across the land. A young dragon prince, burned by Corruption, sets out for the strength to conquer the evil within, his path crossing a lovestruck leviathan, a band of mercenaries, and a commoner tied to an ancient secret.



Our Home Is Not an Empty Wasteland

Saturday, 24 October • 09:30-10:30
at Rumah Kayu

with Titah AW, Sekar Bestari

Discover three children's books from Greenpeace Indonesia exploring environmental themes: a girl saving Raja Ampat's vanishing colours, a boy uncovering the plastic crisis through tiny monsters found in a fish, and a boy protecting sacred forest trees from bulldozers. Together, they inspire young readers to understand and act on real-world environmental challenges.



Stories and Images of a Changing Climate

Saturday, 24 October • 13:15-14:15
at Rumah Kayu

with Adam Bobbette, Difaniska Hadiza, Hanna Astaranti, Priyanangrahita, Amanda Katili Niode*

This book brings together more than 250 contributors from across Indonesia who respond to climate change through art, poetry, personal narratives, and photography. Contributors range from primary school students to adults, many non-professional, offering lived experiences across generations. Where climate change is often discussed through data and policy, these works explore its personal dimensions, memory, place, loss, hope, and connection.



Dasuatika

Friday, 23 October • 16:00-17:00
at Shelter Island

with Cipta Craft-Cusworth, Ayon Ferdinandus*

A bilingual graphic novel following a boy as he becomes a man, unmade by grief after losing his mother, his wife, and custody of his daughter. In the wreckage, he builds a toy store where broken things are fixed and children's laughter becomes a kind of medicine. Woven alongside is the myth of a world born from sorrow and sustained by hope.



The Songbird and the Rambutan Tree

Saturday, 24 October • 10:45-11:45
at Rumah Kayu

with Lucille Abendanon, Andika Devara Loeis*

Set in Batavia, Dutch East Indies, 1942, this is the story of Emmy, who hasn't sung a note since a family tragedy. As war looms, her father plans to send her to safety in England, though all she wants is to stay with her best friend, Bakti. When the Japanese invade, Emmy is captured and silenced by grief, and must find the strength to survive and reclaim her voice.



Flying for Our Freedom

Saturday, 24 October • 14:30-15:30
at Rumah Kayu

with Bani Maulana Mulia, Eko Muhatma Kartodirdjo, Isna Marifa, Michael Vatikiotis*

Petit Muharto Kartodirdjo grew up gazing at planes above his East Java home, never dreaming he would one day help fly one for his nation. Enter Bobby Freeberg, a daring U.S. Navy pilot whose battered Dakota C-47 became a "one-man air force," smuggling gold, arms and hope past a Dutch blockade, until it vanished without trace over Sumatra in 1948.



Blitar Magic Garage

Friday, 23 October • 17:00-18:00
at Rumah Kayu

with John Donnelly, Hana Irena*

Munin, a former political prisoner, runs a magic garage in a makeshift Jakarta settlement, fixing cars for the city's elite while spirit warnings hint at trouble ahead. When redevelopment threatens his fragile kampung, he and his neighbours face a dark web of corruption and political manoeuvring, forced to defend their home as Suharto's vision of progress collides with Soekarno's dreams for the little people.



Labirin Cromboloni

Saturday, 24 October • 11:00-12:00
at Cucu Betutu

with Rio Christiawan, Diena Hayat*

This book turns ordinary moments, a trip, a cup of coffee, an emoji, a heartbreak, into invitations to pause and reflect. The cromboloni is its guiding metaphor: layered, sweet, crisp, never quite as simple as it looks, just like life itself, built from experience, failure, and small surprises. It won't make you a philosopher, just asks you to slow down and notice. Savour every layer.



Depai si Detektif Tupai

Saturday, 24 October • 15:00-16:00
at The Elephant

with Tsugaeda, Sarah Aisha*

A whimsical detective adventure in which Depai the detective squirrel is back in action. When King Ongis falls mysteriously ill, Depai invites Mipung the cat to help investigate, and together they journey through the Purwa Forest, solving riddles along the way. Will Depai and Mipung manage to save King Ongis? Join them on another fun adventure.



Festival Anthology: Stories from the Islands

Friday, 23 October • 17:45-18:45
at Indus Restaurant

with R. Abdül Aziz, A. Nabil Wibisana, Hamran Sunu, Ajen Angelina, Carisya Nuramadea, Siska Yuanita, Nityasa Wijaya, IRZI, Galuh Ginanti, Jein Oktaviany, Arianto Adipurwanto, Dhias Nauvaly, Cynthia Hariadi, Janet DeNeefe, Nora Nazerene Abu Bakar, Lucia Aryani, Angela Juwita

The Festival Anthology brings together ten emerging Indonesian writers, selected through its 2026 Emerging Writers Programme, exploring lives suspended between inheritance and change across the archipelago's thousands of islands. A grandmother's folktales echo through generations, ancient myths haunt modern life, love bends beneath custom, and young people discover that distance cannot silence where they came from.



What Flavor Is Your Bliss?

Saturday, 24 October • 12:00-13:00
at Rumah Kayu

with Dave Fogarty, Troy Hendrix*

What if bliss has been waiting all along, and you have simply forgotten how to find it? This book follows one regular guy turned Balinese Hindu priest as he traces his journey from a single inexplicable moment on a Berkeley beach at age twenty to a life of deep, daily bliss, a refreshingly honest, sometimes out-there guide that dares to challenge what spirituality is supposed to look like.

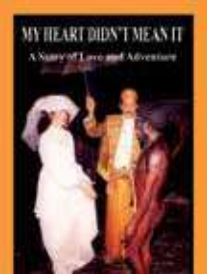


Jia the Storykeeper

Saturday, 24 October • 15:45-16:45
at Rumah Kayu

with Joan Gallares, Tanaya Arywangsa*

This is the story of eight-year-old Jia, who, on a rainy afternoon at her grandfather's home, discovers a weathered family journal filled with stories written by her elders. As she turns its pages, she meets a great-grandmother's needlecraft, a Vowa's thriving trade, and a great-grandfather's tender hopes. Inspired to ask her own questions, Jia begins a new chapter, a tender, magical tale about memory, family and belonging.



My Heart Didn't Mean It

Saturday, 24 October • 17:30-19:00
at Casa Luna

with Linda Hahn Santoso, Leksmono Santoso, Alex Florschutz*

How does a Midwestern woman from rural Nebraska meet and marry an Indonesian jungle explorer? A tale for anyone who believes in the goodness of the universe, God, Destiny, and Love, and perhaps even more for those who do not. Choosing why not over why, this is a love story that has crossed continents and cultures and endured for thirty years.



Kiamat Kumat

Saturday, 24 October • 17:00-18:00
at Rumah Kayu

with Valiant Budi, Galuh Ginanti*

This darkly comic horror novel follows heartbroken Dion Sobarna to Bali, where he is haunted by his ex's memory and a real ghost. Stranded at Pondok Ki Amat, a mysterious healing retreat only the desperate can find, he wonders: what if it doesn't mend broken hearts, but feeds on them?



Yang Mulia

Saturday, 24 October • 18:15-19:15
at Rumah Kayu

with Rio Johan, Tiffany Tsao, Dhianita Kusuma Pertiwi*

Two sisters from a wealthy Chinese-Indonesian family grapple with secrets and betrayal after one poisons their entire family. As the sole survivor lies in a coma, she desperately retraces her memories to uncover the truth: a mysterious death at sea, an unhappy marriage, or shifting loyalties buried within their opulent world. She must confront who she and her sister really are.

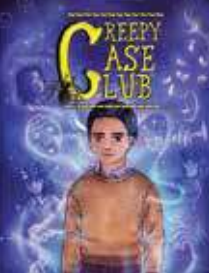


The Forgotten Words That Saved the World

Sunday, 25 October • 09:30-10:30
at Rumah Kayu

with Sue Lynn Goh, Jasmine Floretta*

A magical adventure following bickering siblings Thomas and Alexandra as they discover a hidden realm behind their garden hedge, where they are chosen to restore balance to a dying world. To succeed, they must master the "Forgotten Words" of Mandarin, decoding ancient characters to activate magical powers, solving environmental puzzles, and tracking down a missing dragon.



Creepy Case Club: Kasus Indra ke-7

Friday, 23 October • 18:15-19:15
at Rumah Kayu

with Rizal Iwan, Sarah Aisha*

A spooky mystery following Parva, an indigo child at ease with his sixth sense, until he suddenly stops seeing ghosts. One by one, his other senses falter, and a strange face follows him everywhere. Is it linked to Sabai, his mysterious new friend, or the key to a bigger secret?



Finnegan

Saturday, 24 October • 13:00-14:00
at Nari Restaurant

with Celtic Room, Suchi Rangaswami, Michelle Neeling*

This book follows Captain Bligh's second breadfruit mission, carrying a mysterious Tahitian stowaway whose obituary strangely appears in Jamaica's Royal Gazette. Set in 1792 Jamaica, it follows Quashie and his grandfather spreading word about breadfruit while unravelling a friend's story of vengeance. Michael Morrissey's tale spans Tahiti and Jamaica, exploring love, resistance, and colonial obsession.



Telanjang Kaki

Saturday, 24 October • 17:00-18:00
at Powder Room by R4D

with Je Radite, Dhias Nauvaly*

Exploring the paradox of 'poor privilege,' this book invites readers into a life marked by resilience, heartbreak, and the relentless pursuit of success. Through allegories mirroring the author's journey, the narrative moves from the freedom of a kite to the scripted existence of an NPC, and finally to an ode to authenticity and the bravery to choose solitude over compromise.



Rebel Ma

Sunday, 25 October • 10:45-11:45
at Rumah Kayu

with Saoirse Connolly, Frank Connolly, Robin Lim*

Soul-awakening stories of grace, grief, war, peace, love and loss, each voice summoning remembrance, resistance and renewal. Fierce, tender and rooted in regenerative, revolutionary love, these are a call to transmute pain into purpose and midwife a new world. A celebration of feminine wisdom and a global call to reclaim what was stolen, weaving matriarchal leadership back into the fabric of our existence.

*Moderator

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Book Launches

Join us for intimate literary events featuring Festival headliners or enchanting evenings of spoken word and poetry by captivating voices.



Setelah Melompat Aku Ingin Hidup

Sunday, 25 October • 11:30-12:30
at Kopi Nako

with Brian Khrisna, Jasmine Floretta*

This novel follows a Grim Reaper in the final year of a 999-year career, where every day has been the same. Until today. Watching someone leap from 215 metres, the Reaper notices something strange: a second after jumping, they want to live, and today isn't their day to die.



Laksana Manut Sasana: The Life and Duty of President Tjokorde Gede Rake Soekawati

Sunday, 25 October • 15:00-16:00
at Puri Kantor

with Arya Suharja, Diki Zumara*

This book tells the story of Tjokorda Gde Raka Soekawati, a Balinese prince born in Ubud in 1899, navigating tradition and Dutch colonial rule. It traces his role founding the Pita Maha artists' movement in 1936, bringing Balinese art to the 1931 Paris Colonial Exposition, and his election as President of the State of East Indonesia in 1946, showing how he helped shape Bali's identity.



Derita Sudah Naik Seleher

Sunday, 25 October • 12:00-13:00
at Rumah Kayu

with Rossi van der Borch, Hamzah Muhammad, Wahyu Susilo, Trisnadya*

This collection gathers poems scattered across books, zines, bulletins, and fugitive-period notes, now brought together as one. Grown from a handwritten 1987 testament granting permission to collect them, shaped over a decade of compiling and translating, it became a capsule of history, a call to look after one another, a sanctuary for healing trauma and reaching toward true freedom, for families waiting for certainty.



Pingkan Matindas

Sunday, 25 October • 15:00-16:00
at The Elephant

with Sania Rasyid, Ayon Ferdinandus*

Set against the brutal backdrop of 16th-century North Sulawesi, this is a legendary epic of devotion amidst tribal chaos. In an era defined by greed and relentless territorial conquest, Pingkan and Matindas chose poverty and peril over the whims of tyrants. Their tragic sacrifice became the soil from which the Minahasa people grew, a legacy that still stands tall in Manado today.



Patterns

Sunday, 25 October • 13:15-14:15
at Rumah Kayu

with Satyaning Pradnya Paramita, Yulia Windayani*

In an era of data and information overload, drawing on the author's decade of experience working with data, this book offers an insightful look at our world through the lens of data patterns, exploring critical issues from poverty, education and health systems to climate change, planetary resilience, corruption and governance. It invites readers to see how transforming data into wisdom, and wisdom into action, can lead to a better world.

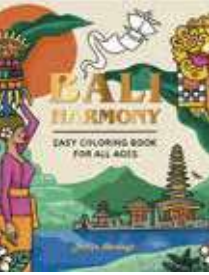


Night Before Nyepi

Sunday, 25 October • 15:45-16:45
at Rumah Kayu

with Emma Titley, Charlotte Cato*

This poem is inspired by the Balinese people and the pride they take in their traditions. It offers a window into the author's gratitude and admiration for their Balinese community, and reminds us that our experience of time is shaped by how present and aware we are. The author collaborated with young Balinese artist Agus Ramantha, who created the 17 accompanying images.



Bali Harmony

Sunday, 25 October • 13:30-14:30
at Dharma Kula Ubud

with Jovita Hardoyo, Susan Allen*

Inspired by Bali's philosophy of harmony, Tri Hita Karana, this is an invitation to pause, reflect and reconnect, with nature, with others, and with something greater than ourselves. Through 40 charming, hand-drawn illustrations, readers journey across the island, from rice fields at sunrise to the mystical Barong at night, each page paired with gentle reflections, a mindful keepsake and creative escape for the whole family.



Penasaran

Sunday, 25 October • 17:00-18:00
at Rumah Kayu

with Henry Manampiring, Tomi Wibisono*

Imagine a near future where careers are snatched by robots, romance is guided by algorithms, murders are committed by artificial humans, and revenge refuses to stay buried. In his debut short story collection, the author delivers twelve unsettling tales exploring love, loneliness, justice, death and God in an AI-driven world.



Soto Otak

Sunday, 25 October • 14:30-15:30
at Rumah Kayu

with IRZI, Tan Lioe Ie, Ketut Yuliarsa*

People with mental conditions, called ODGJ, are rarely treated as a major issue, their struggles unseen and cries for help ignored. Poverty and hostile environments leave many cast aside, confined, and physically restrained. Tan Lioe Ie gives voice to these experiences, drawing on tragedy, mythology, and a Bali often called "the last paradise," offering a rare way into this hidden world.

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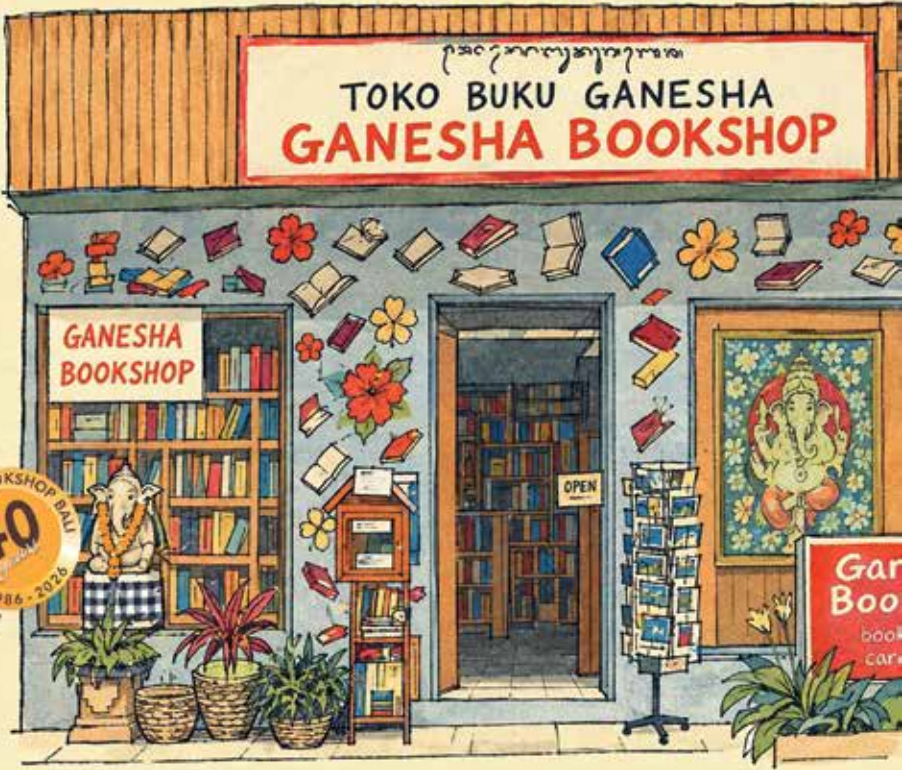
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Festival Activities

TAMAN BACA

Human Library: Living Books, Living Wisdom with Tania Callista

Thursday, 22 October
12:00-14:00

with Tania Callista, Jitesh Patel*

Human Library: What We Learn from Each Other

Friday, 23 October
12:00-14:00

with Ida Resi Alit, Kartika Alexandra

Human Library: Living Books, Living Wisdom with Menti and Arjun

Saturday, 24 October
13:00-14:00

with Arjun, Menti Antari

Sunday-Cards for Life: A Regenerative Play Session

Sunday, 25 October
09:30-12:00

with Tomo Hamawaka, Yulfitri 'Tya' Pramatatya

My World In Your World

Anytime, anywhere across
the Festival.

with Mohammed Massoud Morsi

Mallopi-Lopi Boardgame

Thursday, 22 October
13:00-17:00

What is Home: ZineCreation with Jahe Biru and Ege Dündar

Friday, 23 October
12:00-14:00

with Ege Dündar, Jahe Biru

Saturday-Cards for Life: A Regenerative Play Session

Saturday, 24 October
13:30-16:00

with Tomo Hamawaka, Yulfitri 'Tya' Pramatatya

Human Library: Living Books, Living Wisdom with Marion

Sunday, 25 October
12:00-14:00

with Marion Atieno Osieyo, Jitesh Patel*

*Moderator

#UWRF26

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Festival Club

Our free Festival Club, just bring yourself, your curiosity and a sense of humour as some of the Festival’s hottest performers take to the stage.

📍 BAR LUNA AT CASA LUNA

FREE

Michael Vatikiotis:
The Salamander’s Tail

Thursday, 22 October
16:00–17:00
*with Michael Vatikiotis,
Janet Steele**

Forty years covering conflict across Asia, and Michael Vatikiotis has channelled it all into *The Salamander’s Tail*, a gripping novel following Lance Friend, an English altruist in Chiang Mai, swept into a high-stakes contest between the US and China. Join Vatikiotis in the badlands of Southeast Asia, where idealism, adventure and profit collide.

Goenawan Mohamad: Faces
of Palestine

Thursday, 22 October
17:15–18:15
*with Goenawan Mohamad,
Putri Emelli**

Amid the roar of explosions in Gaza, Goenawan Mohamad’s latest book chronicles his journey through Palestine, capturing its people, poets, fighters, victims and traitors, through the eyes of a journalist and the heart of a poet. Join the acclaimed Indonesian writer for a conversation on testimony, memory, and a people’s struggle to return home.

Navigating Mental Health
and Inner Peace

Thursday, 22 October
18:30–19:30
*with Ali Zaenal Abidin,
M. Sutandi, Mani Malaeuulu,
Ratu Nida Farihah**

What if resilience isn’t about pushing through, but slowing down? This session turns inward, exploring how we navigate life’s overwhelming external forces and build a more grounded relationship with ourselves, drawing on psychology, science and spirituality to move beyond surface-level self-care, and reconnect with what truly sustains us.

Fast Forward Climate
Edition

Thursday, 22 October
19:45–21:30
*with Belgis Habiba, Daniel
Saputra, Dominic Jermey,
YOUTHTOPIA, Alimuddin Taufiq**

Fast Forward arrives for a climate edition: short talks, big ideas and conversations that linger. British Ambassador Dominic Jermey opens with his ambitions for climate action in Indonesia, followed by Youthtopia and four other advocates sharing their stories. The evening ends with connection, exchange and new partnerships for climate advocacy.

Holding Ground: Women and
Environmental Resistance

Friday, 23 October
14:45–15:45
*with Aleta Baun, Cynthia
Hariadi*

In communities facing displacement and environmental destruction, women lead the fight for land, livelihoods and home. Resistance is also storytelling: preserving memory and challenging dominant narratives of progress. This session brings together an activist and a writer to explore how women organise, resist and tell stories of people and place.
This session is in Indonesian.

Childhood Magic:
Tales with Djokolelono

Friday, 23 October
16:00–17:00
*with Djokolelono, Olive
Hateem**

What if the stories that shaped your childhood never really let go? This intimate conversation sits down with a legendary figure in Indonesian children’s literature, exploring the stories that shaped a generation, the art of creating wonder, and how the magical tales of our youth continue to inform the way we see the world today.
This session is in Indonesian.

Reading Between Feeds
and Reels

Friday, 23 October
17:15–18:15
*with Haris Bashori, Laksmi
Mutiarra, Olive Hateem, Bella
Pustika**

Have you ever bought a book just because BookTok told you to? Welcome to the era of digital bookish culture, where Instagram feeds and 15-second reels shape our reading habits. This session explores how digital spaces are transforming the way we read, discover and recommend books in an increasingly online literary world.

The Battle of Bali:
Colonialism and Resistance

Friday, 23 October
18:30–19:30
*with AA Nanik Suryani,
Anne-Lot Hoek, Gusti Agung
Mangu Putra, Ni Ketut
Sudiani, Andy Moeller**

Join us for the launch of a new book that brings a largely overlooked chapter of Bali’s struggle for independence to light. Drawing on extensive archival and field research, it reveals shocking stories of oppression, betrayal, hidden terror camps, and fierce resistance, and celebrates the enduring bonds of friendship forged in wartime.

📍 BAR LUNA AT CASA LUNA

FREE

The History of Everything
in Indonesian Art

Saturday, 24 October
14:45–15:45
*with Hermawan Tanzil, John
H. McGlynn**

History hides in plain sight: on product labels, letterheads and advertisements. Join graphic designer, artist and curator Hermawan Tanzil to unpack *Ditanggoeng Tida Loentoer*, tracing 502 artefacts found across Indonesia from the 1920s to the 1960s, and see what everyday objects reveal about how people shaped identities and found meaning.

Bali’s Storytelling Movement

Saturday, 24 October
16:00–17:00
*with Gus Bao, Ni Wayan Prima,
Ni Nyoman Ayu Suciartini**

What is the power of a story? Amid constant screens and social media, this session explores how oral storytelling helps children forge emotional bonds and learn life lessons, examining how a rich oral tradition is being revitalised for a new generation, fostering empathy and preserving heritage in today’s world.
This session is in Indonesian.

Juno Gemes: Until Justice
Comes

Saturday, 24 October
17:15–18:15
*with Juno Gemes, Rahima
Saikal**

Australian photographer and activist Juno Gemes has spent more than 50 years working with First Nations people, advocating for justice and cultural recognition. Her latest publication, *Until Justice Comes*, brings together over 220 photographs documenting the fight for sovereignty since the 1970s. Join us for a conversation about her celebrated career.

Identity, Memory, and
Human Connection

Saturday, 24 October
18:30–19:30
*with Agustinus Wibowo,
John Donnelly, Trinity, Kadek
Sonia Piscayanti**

What happens when we move past surface-level observation into the heart of human experience? This session explores identity, memory and connection, examining how borders, exile and collective memory shape our understanding of home, confronting personal stereotypes to foster empathy across diversity, and revealing how shared history and local lives intersect against shifting socio-political landscapes.

Painting Paradise:
Balinese Art

Sunday, 25 October
16:00–17:00
*with Adrian Vickers,
Aris Sarmanta, Marlowe
Bandem**

Is Balinese art a timeless, sacred tradition, or a dynamic practice of exchange and reinvention? This session unravels the story behind Bali’s artistic evolution, exploring how local masters, colonial influences and global fascination shaped its visual identity, and how today’s artists redefine paradise on their own terms.

The Dynamics of Modern
Translation

Sunday, 25 October
17:15–18:15
*with Shun Araki, Siska
Yuanita, Zulfah Nur Alimah,
Ochie Chandra**

Translation is an art of cultural exchange, requiring sensitivity, creativity and nuance. What happens when technology enters this traditionally human craft? This session explores the changing dynamics of modern translation, examining the challenges of translating across cultural contexts and evolving languages, as well as the possibilities and implications of new AI tools.

📍 HONEYMOON GARDEN

FREE

Why Empathy Matters for
Money Awareness

Saturday, 24 October
14:00–15:00
*with Ligwina Hananto, Michael
Gilmore**

Supported by Permata Bank,
MAIA Awards and QM Financial

It isn’t what we learn about money, it’s how, and who from. This special session explores money awareness from Indonesian and global perspectives, drawing on financial education and the only global financial literacy awards, examining how women are leading the way in reshaping how the world thinks about money.
Need to download Permata ME

Stone and Spirit: Restoring
Prambanan, Reviving a
Shared Heritage

Saturday, 24 October
15:15–16:15
*with Sandeep Chakravorty,
I Nengah Duija, I Ketut
Suardana, Ravinjay Kuckreja**

For centuries, Prambanan has carried the Ramayana in stone. Now India and Indonesia are restoring its 54 Perwara temples in a ten-year project. A diplomat, a heritage official and a Balinese Hindu scholar discuss what it means to rebuild a sacred monument, and a living faith, across centuries and borders.

*Moderator

Satellite Events

Stories from the 2026 Festival Emerging Writers

Thursday, 22 October
15:00-16:30
with Galuh Ginanti, Jein Oktaviany
at State Hindu University I Gusti Bagus Sugriwa Denpasar

From Indonesia's cultural and geographic edges, Emerging Writers 2026 explores regional identity, ancestral heritage, social change, and memory, revealing how local stories enter broader conversations.
This session is in Indonesian.

Ekosistem Berkesenian Indonesia dan Perempuan

Friday, 23 October
10:00-11:30
with Nityasa Wijaya, Ratri Ninditya
at Indonesian Institute of the Arts Denpasar

What is it like to navigate Indonesia's art world as a woman? Hear behind-the-scenes stories from women artists and arts workers as they explore the challenges, realities, and experiences of building careers in the arts.
This session is in Indonesian.

Kritik dan Media Sastra di Indonesia

Friday, 23 October
10:00-11:30
with Royyan Julian, Maria Pankratia
at Faculty of Humanities, Udayana University

From academic journals and media essays to BookTok and social reviews, literary discourse is evolving. This session explores criticism's role in sustaining a healthy, independent, relevant book ecosystem.
This session is in Indonesian.

Lensa Psikologi: Dampak dan Dinamika Bullying

Saturday, 24 October
10:00-11:30
with Ajen Angelina, Waitatiri
at Faculty Of Medicine Udayana University

A psychologist and writer explores bullying and trauma through mental health and storytelling, examining psychological wounds, recovery, and how expressive writing can support healing and emotional liberation.
This session is in Indonesian.

SATYANARA OPENING WEEKEND

In Conversation with Xu Xi: Horizon Hong Kong

Friday, 23 October
15:00-16:00
with Xu Xi, Thammika Songkaeo*
at Satyanara

Join leading Hong Kong writer Xu Xi for a conversation about capturing the complexities of Hong Kong in her new book, *Horizon: Hong Kong Selected Stories*. Spanning four decades, her stories trace the city's shifting landscape and the lives within it, exploring what it means to love, leave, and return to one's home city.

Satyanara: The Creative Process is Multidisciplinary

Saturday, 24 October
10:30-11:45
with Anne Spudvilas, Patrick Freyne, Tina Chang, Julia Winterflood*
at Satyanara

Does creativity thrive where disciplines collide? Kahlil Gibran painted, Lord Byron loved sport, and Maya Angelou sang. Join a group of multidisciplinary artists, from writers to musicians and visual artists, as they explore curiosity, working across mediums, and how engaging our senses opens new ways of seeing, making and thinking.

Art Exhibition

Free entry during opening hours.

📍 BUMI KINAR

Ngardi'a Manu: Setia Mencipta

Exhibition running time:
15 October - 6 November.

What if an entire village created an exhibition? Ngardi'a Manu, presented by Desa Adat Tengkulak Kaja in Gianyar, Bali, celebrates a community where art shapes identity, daily life and livelihoods. Discover how living traditions evolve, adapt and make room for new ideas, while staying true to their deep cultural roots.

📍 INDUS GALLERY

Exhibition Samarasā: Awareness. Empathy. Action.

Exhibition running time:
11 October - 26 October.

Every year, the Festival invites an emerging artist to create its official artwork. This year, Balinese painter Aris Sarmanta, rooted in the Batuan painting tradition, takes inspiration from the theme *Samarasā: Awareness. Empathy. Action*. This exhibition presents his vision, his creative process and his reflections on the theme and Ubud.

*Moderator

#UWRF26

📍 CASA LUNA

Solo Exhibition Wayan KunAdnyana: Panggung Punggung

Exhibition running time:
17 October - 17 November.

A solo exhibition of contemporary paintings by Balinese artist Wayan Kun Adnyana, exploring the *Rückenfigur*, the figure seen from behind, as a device for contemplating perception, identity and interconnected realities. Curated by Prof. Em. Adrian Vickers, Ph.D., with writing by Bruce Carpenter, bringing together Kun Adnyana's visual language and reflections on Samarasā.

📍 PURGA ARTSPACE

Collecting for Recovery: Flores & Kalimantan

Exhibition running time:
19 October - 5 December.

Collect art and support recovery at Collecting for Recovery, a fundraising exhibition organised by Ubud Art Collect, where artists, collectors and the public unite to help communities in Flores recovering from natural disasters, and those in Kalimantan affected by forest and land fires, with every sale supporting needs identified locally.

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Daily Schedule

Monday, 19 October

Masterclass	10:00 - 13:00
The Art of Chairing a Literary Conversation	Gdas Bali Health and Wellness Resort

Wednesday, 21 October

Special Event	19:00 - 22:30
Festival Opening Gala and Dinner	Puri Agung Ubud
After Dark Performance	20:00 - 21:00
The Ubud Square Performance, presented by Kimpton	Plaza Patung Tjok Gde Agung Sukawati
After Dark Performance	20:00 - 22:00
Women's Poetry Slam	Indus Restaurant

Thursday, 22 October

Cultural Workshop	06:00 - 08:30
Culinary Jalan-Jalan	Casa Luna

Masterclass	08:00 - 10:00
Seni dan Teknik Penerjemahan Sastra	SenS Hotel & Spa + Conference Ubud Town Centre
Children & Youth	08:00 - 09:30
Writing Stories about Forest Adventures	Sekolah Dyatmika

Children & Youth	08:45 - 10:35
Inga Simpson School Programme	Sekolah Dyatmika

Children & Youth	08:45 - 10:45
XuXi School Programme	Sekolah Dyatmika

Main Programme	09:00 - 09:15
Festival Welcome with Janet DeNeefe	Indus Restaurant

Children & Youth	09:00 - 11:00
Hunting for Secret Stories	Sekolah Menengah Pertama (SMP) Negeri 1 Ubud

Main Programme	09:15 - 09:30
Festival Keynote with Tari Lang	Indus Restaurant

Masterclass	09:30 - 12:00
Mastering English and the Art of Public Speaking	Black Garlic

Main Programme	10:00 - 11:00
Baskara Putra: Soundtrack of a Generation	Valley Stage

Main Programme	10:00 - 11:00
Kiran Desai: The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny	Agung Stage

Children & Youth	10:00 - 11:30
Stand Up Through Writing: Connecting the Youth Voice Network	

Main Programme	10:00 - 11:00
The Various Roles of a Writer	Indus Restaurant

Book Launch	10:45 - 11:45
Bali Today! and Bali Times, Rites, Art & Magic	Rumah Kayu

Book Launch	11:00 - 12:00
Balinese Dance in Transition: Kaja & Kelod	DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons

Main Programme	11:15 - 12:15
Defying Silence Together	Valley Stage

Main Programme	11:15 - 12:15
Imagining Future Fiction	Agung Stage

Main Programme	11:15 - 12:15
Why We Say the Things We Say	Indus Restaurant

Masterclass	12:00 - 14:00
Charcoal Drawing with Anne Spudvilas	SereS Springs Resort & Spa Singakerta
Festival Activities	12:00 - 14:00

Human Library: Living Books, Living Wisdom with Tania	Taman Baca
Special Event	12:00 - 14:00

Stories from the Land	Plataran Ubud Hotel & Spa
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Book Launch	12:00 - 13:00
The Tiger Man's Daughter	Rumah Kayu

Main Programme	12:30 - 13:30
Demystifying Literary Magazines	Agung Stage

Main Programme	12:30 - 13:30
Our History, Our Hands	Indus Restaurant

Main Programme	12:30 - 13:30
Emilio Pucci in War and In Peace: Florence to Bali	Valley Stage

Book Launch	12:45 - 13:45
Thank You for Your Love	ÂME Ubud Bistro & Coffee

Book Launch	13:15 - 14:15
Anak Bajang: Herds the Wind	Rumah Kayu

Main Programme	13:45 - 14:45
Comic Relief in Memoir Writing	Valley Stage

Main Programme	13:45 - 14:45
Tradition Reimagined	Indus Restaurant

Main Programme	13:45 - 14:45
Writing Without Burnout	Agung Stage

Cultural Workshop	14:00 - 15:30
The Art of Watercolour	Bumi Kinar

Masterclass	14:00 - 17:00
The Author in the Age of the Algorithm	Samsara Ubud

Book Launch	14:30 - 15:30
Tales of Two Continents	Rumah Kayu

Main Programme	15:00 - 16:00
Forbidden Stories: Banned Media and Magazines	Valley Stage

Main Programme	15:00 - 16:00
Literature: A Mirror to the World	Agung Stage

Book Launch	15:00 - 16:00
Player: Life X	DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons

School Programme	15:00 - 16:30
Stories from the 2026 Festival Emerging Writers	State Hindu University I Gusti Bagus Sugriwa Denpasar

Book Launch	15:00 - 16:00
The Essence of Samarasā Philosophy	Casa Luna

Main Programme	15:00 - 16:00
The Political Convergence of Javanese Cosmology	Indus Restaurant

Cultural Workshop	15:00 - 17:00
The Practice of Ritual Preparation	Puri Kantor

Book Launch	15:45 - 16:45
Bali OK - Misteri Iklim di Pulau Dewata	Rumah Kayu

Book Launch	16:00 - 17:00
Conscious Completion	Pedro Coffee

Festival Club	16:00 - 17:00
Michael Vatikiotis: The Salamander's Tail	Bar Luna at Casa Luna

Main Programme	16:15 - 17:15
Tales from the Heartland	Indus Restaurant

Main Programme	16:15 - 17:15
The Language of Belonging	Agung Stage

Main Programme	16:15 - 17:15
Who Gets to Tell the Story of Paradise?	Valley Stage

Book Launch	17:00 - 18:00
Menjahit Retakan Sejarah	Rumah Kayu

Festival Club	17:15 - 18:15
Goenawan Mohamad: Faces of Palestine	Bar Luna at Casa Luna

Main Programme	17:30 - 18:30
Poetic Journalism	Agung Stage

Main Programme	17:30 - 18:30
The Truth in Fiction	Indus Restaurant

Main Programme	17:30 - 18:30
John H. McGlynn: 2026 Festival Lifetime Achievement Award	Valley Stage

Special Events	18:00 - 20:00
The Bandung Conference of Writers	Plataran Ubud Hotel & Spa

Book Launch	18:15 - 19:15
What If God Overdosed Us With Love?	Rumah Kayu

Special Event	18:30 - 20:30
Becoming Ourselves: Poetry and Prose Reading	Taman Dedari

Special Event	18:30 - 21:00
Candlelight on Clay	Gaya Ceramic and Design

Special Event	18:30 - 21:00
Dining with the Ancestors	Roemah Hanoman

Special Event	18:30 - 20:00
Malam Temu Sastra	Honeymoon Garden

Festival Club	18:30 - 19:30
Navigating Mental Health and Inner Peace	Bar Luna at Casa Luna

Film Programme	19:30 - 20:30
Films from Gaza: Abu Jabal & Free Fish	Agung Stage

Film Programme	19:30 - 20:30
Tutaha Subang: A Tale for My Daughter	Indus Restaurant

Festival Club	19:45 - 21:30
Fast Forward Climate Edition	Bar Luna at Casa Luna

Film Programme	20:45 - 21:45
Tales of Belonging: To the Last Place on Earth	Agung Stage

Friday, 23 October

Special Event	06:30 - 08:30
Bali's Herbs and Remedies	Casa Luna
Children & Youth	08:00 - 09:30
Dahlia Malaeulu School Programme	Sekolah Dyatmika
Cultural Workshop	08:00 - 10:00
Discover Sebatu Village	Sebatu Village
Cultural Workshop	08:30 - 09:30
Bahasa Bali Breakfast	Dharma Kula
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
Adania Shibli: Minor Detail	Agung Stage
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
Rachel Clarke: The Story of a Heart	Indus Restaurant
Masterclass	09:00 - 11:00
Seni, Politis, dan Konteks Penerjemahan	SenS Hotel & Spa + Conference Ubud Town Centre
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
Writing Short, Writing Sweet	Valley Stage
Children & Youth	09:00 - 10:30
A Storytelling Adventure with Rio Christiawan	Sekolah Dasar (SD) Negeri 1 Ubud
Children & Youth	09:00 - 10:30
Leading with Heart: Wellbeing, Connection & Responsibility	
Book Launch	09:30 - 10:30
Setiap Hari, Hari Ini	Rumah Kayu
Masterclass	10:00 - 12:00
Coming Home to My Inner Child	Bumi Kinar
Children & Youth	10:00 - 12:00
Anne Spudvillas School Programme	Bali Island School
Main Programme	10:00 - 11:30
Ladies of the Booker Prize	Alang-Alang Stage
School Programme	10:00 - 11:30
Ekosistem Berkesenian Indonesia dan Perempuan	Indonesian Institute of Arts (ISI) Bali
Children & Youth	10:00 - 12:00
From Critical Reading to Action	Sekolah Menengah Atas (SMA) Negeri 2 Denpasar
School Programme	10:00 - 11:30
Kritik dan Media Sastra di Indonesia	Faculty of Humanities, Udayana University

Children & Youth	10:00 - 11:30
Learning to Write Children's Stories	Sekolah Dasar Negeri (SDN) 1 Melinggih Kelod
Masterclass	10:00 - 12:00
Writing about the Environment	MetlandVenya Ubud
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
The World Today: A Geopolitical Cacophony	Agung Stage
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
Fahruddin Faiz: Finding Meaning in the Everyday	Valley Stage
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
Radical Acceptance of a Troubled Past	Indus Restaurant
Book Launch	10:45 - 11:45
Whispers of the Shadow	Rumah Kayu
Special Event	11:00 - 13:00
Contemporary Bali with Jean Couteau	Cucu Betutu
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
Tari Lang: My Neighbour, The Dictator	Agung Stage
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
Women Who Write Women	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
Honest Histories	Valley Stage
Special Event	12:00 - 14:00
A Lunch Between Here and There	DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons
Festival Activities	12:00 - 14:00
Human Library: Living Books, Living Wisdom with Menti and Arjun	Taman Baca
Book Launch	12:00 - 13:00
The Lost Bird	Rumah Kayu
Masterclass	12:00 - 14:00
What It Takes to Get Your Writing Published	MĀUA Olea Ubud
Special Event	12:30 - 14:30
Storytelling Samarasā: Awareness. Empathy. Action.	Sudamala Ubud
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
Writing with Longing	Valley Stage
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
Matthew Campbell: The Man Who Stole the Gods	Agung Stage
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
Translating to the Mother Tongue	Indus Restaurant

Book Launch	13:00 - 14:00
Our Weapon Is the Traditional Ritual	Threads of Life Gallery Lungsiakan
Book Launch	13:15 - 14:15
The Art of Doing Less and Living More	Rumah Kayu
Masterclass	14:00 - 15:30
Crafting Your Travel Story	Alila Ubud
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
The Domestic is Political	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
A Feast of Stories	Valley Stage
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
Translating Women is Translating Change	Agung Stage
Book Launch	14:00 - 15:00
Homecoming: The Art and Practice of Trauma Recovery	Alchemy Yoga Ubud
Book Launch	14:30 - 15:30
Broken Horses	Rumah Kayu
Cultural Workshop	14:30 - 16:00
Hands-On Tie-Dye with Threads of Life	Threads of Life Natural Dye Studio
Film Programme	14:30 - 15:30
Performing the Goddess	Paradiso Ubud
Festival Club	14:45 - 15:45
Holding Ground: Women and Environmental Resistance	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Satellite Event	15:00 - 16:00
In Conversation with Xu Xi at Satyanara: Horizon Hong Kong	Satyanara
Book Launch	15:00 - 16:00
Small Stories, Big Worlds: Writing Across Forms	The Elephant
Special Event	15:00 - 17:00
Writers in Cafes	Powder Room by R4D
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
Debbie Argue: Little Species, Big Mystery	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
Environment Vulnerability and Activism in Indonesia	Valley Stage
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
Human Rights and Collective Memories	Agung Stage
Book Launch	15:45 - 16:45
Into Oblivion	Rumah Kayu

Festival Club	16:00 - 17:00
Childhood Magic: Tales with Djokolelono	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Book Launch	16:00 - 17:00
Dasuatika	Shelter Island
Masterclass	16:00 - 18:00
Through Each Other's Eyes	Casa Luna
Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
Human Stories Behind the Death Sentence	Valley Stage
Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
Art, Apprenticeship and Ambition	Agung Stage
Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
Ageing: A Social Movement	Indus Restaurant
Book Launch	17:00 - 18:00
Blitar Magic Garage	Rumah Kayu
After Dark Performance	17:00 - 22:00
Late Night On Deck at Oaken Lab	Oaken Lab
Masterclass	17:00 - 19:00
Poetry Wine Workshop by Anthony Tao	Pinstripe Bar
Film Programme	17:15 - 18:15
Amar Film	Paradiso
Festival Club	17:15 - 18:15
Reading Between Feeds and Reels	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Book Launch	17:45 - 18:45
Festival Anthology: Stories from the Islands 2026	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	17:45 - 18:45
The Practice of Resistance and Grace	Agung Stage
Book Launch	18:15 - 19:15
Creepy Case Club: Kasus Indra ke-7	Rumah Kayu
Festival Club	18:30 - 19:30
The Battle of Bali: Colonialism and Resistance	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Special Event	19:00 - 21:00
Festival Fundraising Dinner	Rumah Melati Estate
Special Event	19:00 - 21:00
Fire and Islands	Nari Restaurant
After Dark Performance	19:30 - 22:30
Festival Poetry Slam	Valley Stage
Film Programme	19:45 - 20:45
Love Composes by Yeng Chheangly	Agung Stage

Saturday, 24 October

Cultural Workshop	08:00 - 12:00
Sukawati Market Food Stories	Indus Restaurant
Cultural Workshop	08:30 - 10:30
Bahasa Bali Breakfast	Dharma Kula Ubud
Masterclass	08:30 - 11:30
Photojournalism, Conflict, and the Future of Truth	MĀUA Olea Ubud
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
Dandhy Laksono: Reset Indonesia	Valley Stage
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
Francesca Albanese: When the World Sleeps	Agung Stage
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
Tash Aw: The South	Indus Restaurant
Book Launch	09:30 - 10:30
Our Home Is Not an Empty Wasteland	Rumah Kayu
Children & Youth	10:00 - 11:30
Exploring the World of Fairy Tales	Villa Kitty
Masterclass	10:00 - 12:00
Find the Poem in Your Body	Herb Library
School Programme	10:00 - 11:30
Lensa Psikologi: Dampak dan Dinamika Bullying	Faculty of Medicine, Udayana University
Special Events	10:00 - 12:30
Pitch to Penguin	Honeymoon Garden
Masterclass	10:00 - 12:00
Seeking Stoic Change	Adiwana Svarga Loka
Cultural Workshop	10:00 - 11:30
The Magical World of Batik	Yellow Coco Nest
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
Excursions of the Non-fiction Narrator	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
Our Modern Lives	Agung Stage
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
The Violence of Culture	Valley Stage

Satellite Event	10:30 - 11:45
Satyanara: The Creative Process is Multidisciplinary	Satyanara
Book Launch	10:45 - 11:45
The Songbird and the Rambutan Tree	Rumah Kayu
Book Launch	11:00 - 12:00
Labirin Cromboloni	Cucu Betutu
Book Launch	11:30 - 12:30
Inner Landscaping	Dharma Kula Ubud
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
Burning Books, Accepting Artifice: Man or Machine?	Valley Stage
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
Prabal Gurung: Walk Like a Girl	Agung Stage
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
Redefining Home	Indus Restaurant
Festival Activities	12:00 - 14:00
Human Library: Living Books, Living Wisdom with Wellness	Taman Baca
Book Launch	12:00 - 13:00
What Flavor Is Your Bliss?	Rumah Kayu
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
Big Worlds for Little Readers	Valley Stage
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
The Global Lens: Why Local Stories Matter	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
Third-Culturism in the Literary World	Agung Stage
Book Launch	13:00 - 14:00
Finnegan	Nari Restaurant
Book Launch	13:15 - 14:15
Stories and Images of a Changing Climate	Rumah Kayu
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
In Her Own Words	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
Randa Abdel-Fattah: Discipline	Valley Stage
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
The Forest's Fury	Agung Stage

Festival Club	14:00 - 15:00
Why Empathy Matters for Money Awareness	Honeymoon Garden
Book Launch	14:30 - 15:30
Flying for Our Freedom	Rumah Kayu
Festival Club	14:45 - 15:45
The History of Everything in Indonesian Art	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Book Launch	15:00 - 16:00
Depai si Detektif Tupai	The Elephant
Special Event	15:00 - 17:00
Men Spill the Tea	Dragon Tea Temple
Honeymoon	15:15 - 16:15
Stone and Spirit: Restoring Prambanan, Reviving a Shared Heritage	Honeymoon Garden
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
Bali, Then and Now	Agung Stage
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
Honouring Aprila Wayar's Voice from Papua	Valley Stage
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
How to Speak Planet Earth	Indus Restaurant
Masterclass	15:30 - 17:30
Menerjemahkan Fiksi dan Bacaan Anak	SenS Hotel & Spa + Conference Ubud Town Centre
Book Launch	15:45 - 16:45
Jia the Storykeeper	Rumah Kayu
Festival Club	16:00 - 17:00
Bali's Storytelling Movement	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
A Compelling Protagonist	Agung Stage
Special Event	16:30 - 19:30
Gods, Myths and Storytellers	Honeymoon Garden
Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
Poetry Beyond the Canon	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
The Storytelling of Clothes	Valley Stage
Book Launch	17:00 - 18:00
Kiamat Kumat	Rumah Kayu

Book Launch	17:30 - 19:00
My Heart Didn't Mean It	Casa Luna
Special Event	17:00 - 18:00
On the Record: Tari Lang	Oaken Lab
After Dark Performance	17:00 - 22:00
Late Night On Deck at Oaken Lab	Oaken Lab
Special Event	17:00 - 18:30
Poetry of the World	Uma Cucina
Masterclass	17:00 - 19:00
Responding to Samarasā: Witness to Action	Honeymoon Kitchen
Book Launch	17:00 - 18:00
Telanjang Kaki	Powder Room by R4D
Festival Club	17:15 - 18:15
Juno Gemes: Until Justice Comes	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Book Launch	18:15 - 19:15
Yang Mulia	Rumah Kayu
Film Programme	18:30 - 19:30
Earth Defender • Indai Apai Darah • Portrait of an Island on Fire	Agung Stage
Festival Club	18:30 - 19:30
Identity, Memory, and Human Connection	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Special Event	18:30 - 19:30
On the Record: Katie Kitamura	Oaken Lab
After Dark Performance	19:00 - 20:00
Mata Badai: Pentas Tutar, Puisi dan Lagu	Titik Dua
Festival Club	19:45 - 20:45
AAWP Writers	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Film Programme	19:45 - 20:45
Ocean with David Attenborough	Agung Stage
After Dark Performance	20:00 - 22:00
In the Shadow of Shiva: Music and Poetry	Honeymoon Garden
Film Programme	20:45 - 21:45
Mela Chiraghan: A Few Rhymes	Indus Restaurant

Sunday, 25 October

Cultural Workshop	06:30 - 08:30
Walking the Sacred Cycle	Casa Luna
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
Is Indonesia Eating Its Own?	Valley Stage
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
The Architecture of Grief	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
Tiffany Tsao: But Won't I Miss Me and Budi Darma	Agung Stage
Book Launch	09:30 - 10:30
The Forgotten Words That Saved the World	Rumah Kayu
Masterclass	10:00 - 12:00
Cultivating Creative Processes	The Westin Resort & Spa Ubud
Masterclass	10:00 - 12:00
Short Story Writing with Yusi Avianto Pareanom	Samsara Ubud
Cultural Workshop	10:00 - 11:00
Writing Bali's Ancient Script on Lontar	Puri Kantor
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
Ali Sethi: Ghazal, Music and the Pathways of Longing	Agung Stage
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
Border: Regime, Refuge and Ritual	Valley Stage
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
Real Stories, Magical Becomings	Indus Restaurant
Book Launch	10:45 - 11:45
Rebel Ma	Rumah Kayu
Special Event	11:00 - 13:00
Buddha in Our Lives at Usada	Usada Bali Ubud
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
A Defence of Poetry	Valley Stage
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
Indonesian Children's Literature Nowadays	Agung Stage

Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
Is Feminism a Good Word?	Indus Restaurant
Book Launch	11:30 - 12:30
Setelah Melompat Aku Ingin Hidup	Kopi Nako
Book Launch	12:00 - 13:00
Derita Sudah Naik Seleher	Rumah Kayu
Festival Activities	12:00 - 14:00
Human Library: Living Books, Living Wisdom with Marion	Taman Baca
Special Event	12:00 - 14:00
Who Are We In This Complicated World?	Casa Luna
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
Solidarity as Cross-Cultural Exchange	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
Transmedia Storytelling	Agung Stage
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
Travelling Women	Valley Stage
Book Launch	13:15 - 14:15
Patterns	Rumah Kayu
Book Launch	13:30 - 14:30
Bali Harmony	Dharma Kula
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
Life and Death at Intersections	Agung Stage
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
Richard King: Brave New Wild	Valley Stage
Book Launch	14:30 - 15:30
Soto Otak	Rumah Kayu
Book Launch	15:00 - 16:00
Pingkan Matindas	The Elephant
Main Programme	15:00 - 16:00
Plotting the Unplottable	Indus Restaurant
Book Launch	15:00 - 16:00
Laksana Manut Sasana: The Life and Duty of President Tjokorde Gede Rake Soekawati	Puri Kantor

Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
Anthologies for Archives	Agung Stage
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
Speaking of Wellness	Valley Stage
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
Stories that Spark Change	Indus Restaurant
Book Launch	15:45 - 16:45
Night Before Nyepi	Rumah Kayu
Festival Club	16:00 - 17:00
Painting Paradise: Balinese Art	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Special Event	16:00 - 20:00
Wings, Light, and Stories from the Fireflies Village	Rumah Konservasi Kunang-Kunang
Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
How Do We Write the Unbearable?	Agung Stage
Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
Old Stories for the New Generation	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
The Need for Literary and Cultural Institutions Today	Valley Stage
Book Launch	17:00 - 18:00
Penasaran	Rumah Kayu
Festival Club	17:15 - 18:15
The Dynamics of Modern Translation	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
After Dark Performance	19:00 - 22:00
Festival Closing Night	Taman Baca

Your Feedback Matters!

While we hope you are enjoying our Festival, we would appreciate the opportunity to hear about your experience attending. Complete this 15-minute survey for a chance to win great prizes, including a 4-Day Festival Pass for our 2027 Festival!

Complete survey:
ubudwritersfestival.com/survey

Festival Merchandise

From T-shirts and tumblers to tote bags and the Festival Anthology, these are the Festival essentials for boundless bookish joy. Visit our on-site shop at Taman Baca during the Festival to get your hands on our merchandise.

T-Shirt

Price: IDR 250,000

This short-sleeved T-shirt features our Festival theme in small stylised text on the left chest, with the Festival artwork and logo printed across the back. Available in classic white, it's the perfect way to show your Festival spirit.



Bookmark

Price: IDR 25,000

Never lose your page again with the Festival's commemorative bookmark, a handy companion that keeps your place and your favourite reads close. Featuring this year's striking artwork, it's available in two distinct colourways inspired by this year's palette: a rich forest green and a warm antique gold.



Festival Bundle

Price: IDR 500,000

The merchandise bundle includes the Festival's signature short-sleeved **T-shirt**, **tote bag**, and **bookmark**, each featuring captivating artwork from this year's anniversary Festival, along with the bilingual Festival Anthology, making it the perfect set to take home.

Tote Bag

Price: IDR 185,000

This canvas cotton tote bag is perfect for carrying your belongings or daily essentials. The front of the bag showcases this year's *Samarasā* artwork and theme, while the back features the Festival's logo and dates.



Notebook

Price: IDR 150,000

Designed for writers and artists, this special notebook features a durable hardcover with a unique art-paper finish showcasing the Festival's artwork. Inside are 160 pages of FSC-certified paper, a pleasure to write on, along with an elastic closure, a ribbon bookmark, and a back pocket for notes or keepsakes.



Anthology

Price: IDR 298,000

This Festival's bilingual Anthology brings together ten emerging Indonesian writers, selected through this year's Emerging Writers Programme. Their work explores lives suspended between inheritance and change, from a grandmother's folktales echoing through generations to ancient myths haunting modern life, love bending beneath custom, and young people discovering that distance cannot silence where they came from.



Tumbler

Price: IDR 500,000

Support the fight against single-use plastic waste in Bali with our eco-friendly thermal stainless steel Festival tumblers, keeping the Festival with you in your daily life. Join forces with Bottles for Earth by purchasing our official tumblers, featuring an exclusive tiger artwork design of this year's theme.

Model: Samara

Volume: 600 ml

Dimensions: 8 x 8 x 29 cm

Colours: white and forest green



Festival Information

Read on for everything you need to know to make the most of five days of literary bliss, the bookish long weekend of your dreams.

GETTING TO THE FESTIVAL

The easiest way to reach our Festival venue, Taman Baca, is on our free shuttle buses, running from 08:00 to 19:00, departing every 30 minutes from Museum Puri Lukisan on Jalan Raya Ubud to DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons on Jalan Raya Lungsiakan. You can also order a taxi or ojek (scooter), and drivers can easily be hired for the day around Ubud. As parking is limited, please follow the signs to the designated parking area.

DISCOVER THE PROGRAMME

To get the most out of your literary long weekend, explore the daily schedule on our website and filter by the dates you'd like to attend. To see when your favourite authors and thinkers are appearing, head to their individual pages, and keep an eye on our social channels for updates throughout the Festival.

BOOKMARK EVENTS

Our website makes it easy to bookmark events that catch your eye, so you can see what's on and spot timetable clashes. Your bookmarks are saved to your device, so they will still be there next time you visit on your phone. Simply click the bookmark symbol to save an event, or add a reminder to your calendar by clicking Save to Calendar.

EAT AND DRINK

Whether you want a coffee on the go or a meal to debrief after your sessions, our hospitality partners have you covered with local and international cuisine. Check our Google Map for a handy guide to nearby restaurants, cafés and bars, and don't miss the Bazaar at Taman Baca, perfect for snacking and sharing between events.

GET YOUR BOOKS

Visit Periplus, the festival's official bookseller, together with our bookselling partners Gramedia and Mizan, at Taman Baca to pick up your soon-to-be favourite book, and perhaps even have it signed.

REDUCE YOUR WASTE

Help us keep Bali and Ubud clean by cutting down on single-use plastics. Bring your own water bottle and refill it at the AYR Water stations at Taman Baca and Indus. Bins are provided at all our venues, so please use them for all your waste.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Sign up for our newsletter to receive updates and exclusive offers straight to your inbox: ubudwritersfestival.com/subscribe. Follow us @ubudwritersfest for all the latest from our festival universe, including programme updates and highlights, and join the conversation with #UWRF26.

FIRST AID

For minor injuries, please visit the First Aid area at Taman Baca. For anything more serious, go directly to Ubud Clinic, Jalan Raya Campuhan No. 36, Ubud 80571, which is open 24 hours a day. Hotline: 0361-974-911.



Order via WhatsApp



Plan Your Visit



Speaker Appendix

A A. Nabil Wibisana AA Nanik Suryani Adam Bobbette Adania Shibli Aditi Kumar Adrian Vickers Adrianne Kalfopoulou Afri Meldam Afua Hirsch Agung Wardana Agus Kusnadi Agustinus Wibowo Ajen Angelina Aleta Baun Alex Florschutz Ali AlShaali Ali Sethi Ali Zaenal Abidin Alimuddin Taufiq Amanda Echanis Amanda Katili Niode Amar Haikal Amry Al Mursalaat Andika Devara Loeis Andini Judianto Andrea Acri Andrea Cote Botero Andreas Kurniawan Andy Moeller Angela Juwita Anna Carey Anne Spudvilas Anne-Lot Hoek Anitha Devi Pillai Anthony Tao Anwar Saniar Arantza Garcia Ferrand Arianto Adipurwanto Aris Sarmanta Arjun Arthur R Flowers Arya Suharja Ayon Ferdinandus Ayu Anantha Azlia Amira Putri	Daniel Saputra Danyal Rasheed David Carlin Dave Fogarty David Lindenmayer David Sly De Krisna Debbie Argue Dee Lestari Dhianita Kusuma Pertiwi Dhias Nauvaly Dian Purnomo Diena Hayat Difaniska Hadiza Diiki Zumara Djokolelono Dominic Jermey Dominic Amerena Dorothea Rosa Dr. I Made Sujaya Dur e Aziz Amna	IRZI Isna Marifa Ivan Lanin	Mohammed Massoud Morsi Mondo Gasparo
E Edward Kus Edward Speirs Ege Dündar Eko Muhatma Kartodirdjo Emily Broadmore Emma Titley Esther Milanzi Eva Fernandes	F Fahrudin Faiz Farrin Foster Farwiza Farhan Francesca Albanese Frank Connolly	K Kadek Heny Sayukti Kadek Sonia Piscayanti Kai Kai Karina Suryawinata Kartika Alexandra Karuna Ezara Parikh Kate Beales Katie Kitamura Ken Kwek Ketut Yuliarsa Kiran Desai Kirsten Han Kirsti Melville Kismet Krystle Krishna Sen Kristian Sendon Cordero Kynan Tegar Kyoko Yoshida	N Nabila Mulkiya Namal Siddiqui Nasir Tamara Natthanai Prasannam Ni Ketut Sudiani Ni Nyoman Ayu Suciartini Ni Wayan Prima Nisha Mehraj Nityasa Wijaya Nora Nazerene Abu Bakar Novieta Tourisia Nurul Afifah
G Galuh Ginanti Gary Bencheghib Geia Laconi Georgina Godwin Gill Westaway Gispa Ferdinanda Warijo Goenawan Mohamad Grace Tioso Gus Bao Gusti Agung Mangu Putra	H Hamran Sunu Hamzah Muhammad Hana Irena Hanna Astaranti Hardingga Hari Kunzru Haris Bashori Helianti Hilman Henry Manampiring Hermawan Tanzil Hidayatullah Humairah Husnara Khanom	L Laksmi DeNeefe Suardana Laksmi Mutiara Leksmono Santoso Ligwina Hananto Linda Hahn Santoso Louie Buana Lucia Aryani Lucille Abendanon	Santilla Chingaipe Saoirse Connolly Sarah Aisha Satyaning Pradnya Paramita Sekar Banjaran Aji Sekar Bestari Sekar Pradnyadari Shun Araki Sindhunata Siska Yuanita Sisonke Msimang Siti Maimunah Sophie Navita Srijato Stefan Kutzenberger Suchi Rangaswami Sue Lynn Goh Sumanto Chattopadhyay Susan Allen Suzy Hutomo
B Bandana Tewari Bandem Kamandalu Bani Maulana Mulia Barbara Brouwer Purba Baskara Putra Bea Bustamante Belgis Habiba Bella Pustika Bhuchung D. Sonam Bisan Owda Boel Vadag Brian Khrisna Brian Lang Brigid Delaney Bruce W. Carpenter	I I Ketut Suardana I Made Bandem I Made Westi I Nengah Duija I Nyoman Darma Putra I Wayan Arca Bertayasa Ian Hugen Ida Resi Alit Idanna Pucci Indah G Inga Simpson Irena Karpa Irwan Syamsir	J Jahe Biru Janak Rogers Jane Rosalina Rumpia Jane Saunders Janet DeNeefe Janet Steele Jasmine Ansori Jasmine Floretta Je Radite Jean Couteau Jein Oktaviany Jennifer Lindsay Jewel Topsfield Jinny Koh Jitesh Patel Joan Gallares Joan Suyenaga John Donnelly John H. McGlynn Jordan Stephens Jovita Hardoyo Julia Winterflood Juno Gemes	O Ochie Chandra Oka Agastya Oka Rusmini Olin Monteiro Olive Hateem Olphi Disya Arinda
C Candice Chung Carisya Nuramadea Carole Favre Cassie Lawrence Chaitanya Srivastava Charlotte Cato Christian Sugiono Christo Barnard Cipta Croft-Cusworth Clare Wolfowitz Cynthia Hariadi	M Marion Atieno Osieyo M. Sutandi Made Masak Mahita Vas Mai Al-Nakib Mallence Bart-Williams Mani Malaelulu Maria Guriti Amote Maria Pankratia Marlowe Bandem Mary Strang Matthew Campbell Menti Antari Michael Gilmore Michael Shaikh Michael Vatikiotis Michelle Neeling Miles Merrill Mireille Barnard MJ Eliza	P Pallavi Aiyar Pamela Allen Pamela Ng Patrick Freyne Penny Watson Peta Murray Peter Godwin Petit Muharto Kartodirdjo Petra Molnar Prabal Gurung Prakriti Sharma Prinka Saraswati Priscilla Zamora Priyanangrahita Puneeta Roy Putri Emelli	T T.A. Toft Tan Lioe le Tanaya Arywangsa Tania Callista Tari Lang Tash Aw Teodora Miscov Terence Ward Thammika Songkaeo Tiffany Tsao Tina Chang Titah AW Todung Mulya Lubis Tomi Wibisono Tomo Hamawaka TOPHER Trinity Trisnadya Troy Hendrix Tsugaeda
D Dahlia Malaelulu Dandhy Laksono		R R. Abdul Azis Rachel Clarke Radinka Qiera Rahima Saikal Raisa Kamila Randa Abdel-Fattah Raoul de Jong Ratri Ninditya Ratu Nida Farihah Ravinjay Kuckreja Raza Goraya Rebecca Higgie Rebecca Young Reda Gaudiamo Richard King Rina Marlina Rio Christiawan Rio Helmi Rio Johan Rivani Rizal Iwan Robin Block Robin Lim Rodney Glick Rossi von der Borch Royyan Julian Ruby Singh	U Uttama Kirit Patel
		S Sana Goyal Sandeep Chakravorty Sandip Roy Sanggar Cahaya Nusantara Sania Rasyid Sanjoy K. Roy Santi Rahayu	V Valerie Patkar Valiant Budi Vamika Sinha Viji Krishnamoorthy Vincenzo Latronico
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		Y Yeng Chheangly Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes Yosepina Sreklefat YOUTHTOPIA Yulfitri Yulia Windayani Yusi Avianto Pareanom	Z Zainah Anwar Zarina Rafi Ziggy Ramo Zulfah Nur Alimah

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