

PROGRAMME BOOK



UBUD
WRITERS
& READERS
FESTIVAL

29th - 2nd NOV 2025

BRAHMANI

I AM THE UNIVERSE



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WELCOME

I am thrilled to welcome you to the 22nd Ubud Writers & Readers Festival, where this year's theme, *Aham Brahmasmi*, a Sanskrit concept translated as *I am the Universe*, invites us to reflect on our interconnectedness and the boundless possibilities of the human experience.

At the core of our Festival is a commitment to fostering cross-cultural dialogue and intellectual exchange, creating a vibrant platform for writers to share their insights and aspirations. Every voice adds to the poetry of humanity, reminding us that we are all part of something larger than ourselves.

The impact of this Festival ripples beyond literature. It breathes life into the Ubud community, inspiring creativity, enriching tourism, and supporting local businesses. Ubud stands as a beacon of literary excellence—a microcosm of the universe, where diverse ideas and cultures converge. We proudly cultivate a global literary community, connecting hearts and minds and celebrating the myriad experiences that shape our world.

Heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone who makes this magic possible—from our dedicated staff and sponsors to volunteers and the vibrant people of Ubud. Together, we form a constellation of creativity. And to my family, your unwavering support fuels my journey.

So, sit back, embrace the inspiration, and join us in celebrating the extraordinary legacy of our Festival, where every story echoes the universe within us all.

Janet DeNeefe

Festival Founder and Director



OM SWASTYASTU

Selamat datang Suasti Prapta di Ubud Writers & Readers Festival.

Merupakan kebahagiaan mendalam bagi saya menyambut penulis, pembaca, seniman, budayawan, jurnalis, dan pemikir dari berbagai penjuru dunia di Ubud, desa yang sejak ratusan tahun lalu menjadi sumber inspirasi karya sastra, seni, dan kebudayaan.

Festival ke-22 ini hadir dengan tema Aham Brahmasmi, konsep agung dari filsafat Hindu dalam Brihadaranyaka Upanishad. Secara harfiah berarti “Aku adalah Brahman”, tema ini mengajarkan kesatuan manusia dengan jagat raya dan kekuatan kosmik tertinggi, membuka kesadaran bahwa setiap individu memiliki potensi kreatif dan kebijaksanaan seluas semesta.

Di era yang semakin didefinisikan oleh teknologi, manusia membayangkan dirinya berevolusi menjadi “dewa” melalui ciptaan canggih. Teknologi membuka jalan keluar atas tantangan besar, tetapi juga membawa konsekuensi yang tak dapat diabaikan.

Filsafat Ilmu Sankhya mengajarkan pengetahuan dunia material (Apara Widya) dan kesadaran tertinggi (Para Widya), mengingatkan agar kita tidak sekadar mengagumi kecerdasan buatan dan pencapaian material, melainkan memastikan daya cipta berpijak pada kesadaran spiritual, selaras dengan alam, dan keterhubungan dengan yang ilahi. Dengan kesadaran ini, kita dapat memanfaatkan kekuatan secara arif dan bertanggung jawab.

Semoga melalui perjumpaan di festival ini, kita menilik kembali hakikat kemanusiaan: mampukah kita mengelola kekuatan dan kecerdasan untuk menciptakan kehidupan lebih baik, atau terjebak dalam ilusi menyesatkan? Semoga diskusi dan karya di UWRF tahun ini menjadi sumber inspirasi, pengetahuan, dan refleksi mendalam bagi keberlanjutan umat manusia.

Selamat berfestival.

Om Santhi, Santhi, Santhi Om

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

Chairman of Mudra Swari Saraswati Foundation



WELCOME

Magic, music, dance and play encircled me as soon as I stepped off the plane in Bali for the first time, in 1984. Only hours after leaving my 25th floor in Midtown Manhattan, I was in a world that spoke of worship, community and invisible connections. “You in the West communicate by telephone,” I would hear a Balinese dancer say in California three years later. “We prefer to use telepathy.”

Yet I could never have guessed, as I kept returning to the island through the last century, that soon it would be home to a thriving and celebrated festival for writers and readers from across the planet. Throughout the new millennium, the wonder that Janet DeNeefe created has been opening hearts, deepening spirits and expanding consciousness as new writers and old, readers from East and from West, gather to forge a fresh sense of possibility. At a time when our world seems ever more divided and unsettled, nothing could be more urgent or uplifting.

I haven't been back to Bali since 2007, when Janet kindly organised a micro-festival just for me. How happy I am to welcome you all to this year's feast of words and music, whose theme *I am the Universe* promises a poetic and transformative turn on the song everyone was listening to during my early visits, *We are the World*. I can't wait to be back in the realm of magic and art.

Pico Iyer

British-born Essayist and Novelist



OM SWASTYASTU

Dengan penuh hormat, saya menyampaikan salam hangat kepada seluruh penyelenggara, peserta, dan tamu undangan Ubud Writers & Readers Festival 2025. Festival ini telah menjadi agenda penting yang dinantikan oleh para penulis dan pembaca dari berbagai kalangan, baik dari dalam maupun luar negeri.

Saya memberikan apresiasi yang tinggi kepada tim penyelenggara atas komitmen luar biasa dalam menjaga kualitas dan kontinuitas festival ini. Upaya tersebut mencerminkan dedikasi dalam menjadikan sastra sebagai bagian penting dari kehidupan masyarakat. Lebih dari sekadar perayaan tahunan, UWRF telah menjadi ruang pertemuan para pegiat sastra dunia, wadah apresiasi dan diseminasi karya, serta tempat mempercakapkan pikiran yang membentuk jejaring intelektual dan kultural lintas negara.

Tema UWRF tahun ini, *Aham Brahmasmi* atau *I am the Universe*, sangat relevan dengan tantangan kemanusiaan dan ekologis masa kini. Tema ini mengajak kita merenungkan keterhubungan manusia dengan alam semesta dan sesamanya, serta menumbuhkan kesadaran kolektif untuk merawat bumi yang kita huni bersama.

Kementerian Kebudayaan berkomitmen mendukung keberlangsungan UWRF melalui berbagai inisiatif, seperti programme Manajemen Talenta Nasional Bidang Sastra yang memberi peluang bagi *Emerging Writers* untuk tampil di panggung internasional, programme *Satellite Event* yang memperkuat jejaring antar festival sastra di Indonesia, serta kolaborasi menghadirkan laboratorium penerjemah dan kanal promosi sastra Indonesia di tingkat global.

Selamat menikmati rangkaian kegiatan Ubud Writers & Readers Festival 2025. Semoga setiap sesi membawa inspirasi, memperluas percakapan, dan memperkuat posisi Indonesia dalam peta sastra dan kebudayaan dunia.

Fadli Zon, S.S., M.Sc.

Menteri Kebudayaan Republik Indonesia

THE FESTIVAL

From humble beginnings in 2004, the Ubud Writers & Readers Festival has evolved into one of the world's top literary and arts events—an annual pilgrimage for lovers of literature, conversation, and big ideas. Bringing together some of the world's most powerful voices in a melting pot of artists, authors, thinkers, and performers, the Festival is a platform for meaningful exchange and cross-cultural dialogue. A place where artists and audiences alike can discuss shared inspirations, ideas, and concerns, the Festival transcends cultural and geographical boundaries to create a global community. Across five days, the Festival delivers an extensive range of events, from fiery conversations to intimate literary lunches, gripping live performances, hands-on workshops, and so much more.

2025 Theme

This year, the Festival explores *Aham Brahmasmi*, a Sanskrit concept from ancient Hindu wisdom that originates from the *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad*. Translated as *I am the Universe*, it signifies the unity of the human self with the universe or the highest cosmic power, and it acknowledges that each individual holds the same creative potential as the universe itself. The concept of *Homo Deus – Human Gods* – envisions humans evolving into 'gods' through advanced technology, making this theme even more significant. The tools we create can transform our lives and help solve major challenges, but they also carry the potential for control and destruction. The awareness of *Aham Brahmasmi* reminds us that our intelligence, no matter how advanced, must be grounded in consciousness and interconnectedness.

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 gift or donation. Your contribution makes a meaningful impact by helping us connect communities through literacy, keeping ticket prices accessible, programming more free events, and delivering our schools programme for young readers and future storytellers.

Join Fundraiser Dinner

Join us for a night to support a festival that gives voice to local storytellers, protects cultural traditions, and turns dreamers into readers across Indonesia. Pull up a chair next to William Dalrymple, Banu Mush-taq, Jenny Erpenbeck, David Van Reybrouk, Craig Leeson, Pico Iyer, Okky Madasari, Agustinus Wibowo, and Omar El Akkad, among others, at Rumah Melati Estate, and enjoy a feast where the food is as bold as the conversations.

Price: IDR 15,000,000 per Person

Thursday 30 October 2025 | 19:00-21:00 | Rumah Melati Estate

Places Strictly Limited

RSVP via WhatsApp to +62 815 58809212

Thank you for supporting our work connecting communities through great books, stories, and ideas.

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FESTIVAL FRIENDS



Become a Partner

Join the stage as a Festival Partner with acclaimed authors and poets from Indonesia and around the world for a literary long weekend.



- Join the premier literary Festival in the region**
We take pride in being Southeast Asia's largest, longest-running, and most diverse literary and cultural event, attracting an average annual attendance of over 10,000 enthusiastic attendees.
- Connect with renowned authors and speakers**
Share the stage with world-renowned and award-winning authors and poets from Indonesia and around the globe across 200 events in a giant literary long weekend of storytelling and the power of words.
- Help promote Indonesian culture and literature**
You can play a role in shining a spotlight on this enormous yet little-known pool of Indonesian writers, artists, thinkers, and performers, in the hope that the world will one day appreciate their talent just as we do.
- Help us to programme more free events**
We believe everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy the wonders of storytelling and inspiring conversation. With a partnership, we can programme even more free events for a wider audience.

Festival TEAM

Festival Team

Janet DeNeefe Founder & Festival Director
Dwi Ermayanthi Festival General Manager
Namal Siddiqui International Programme Manager
Hannah Curtis International Programme Manager (former)
Gustra Adnyana Head of Indonesian Programming
Dharmayeni Putri Programme Coordinator
Eni Puji Utami Programme Coordinator
Ditta Agastya Programme Coordinator
Jasmine Ansori Shelf Therapy Project Manager
Laksmi Mutiara Shelf Therapy Social Media Manager
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
Dwinanda Sidhi Stall Holder Partnership
Anik Kristina Dewi Partnership Coordinator
Arum Handayani Retreat Liaison
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
Inten Ponari Administrative Officer
Giska Sibannang Ticketing Officer
Ruth Onduko Volunteer Coordinator
Pande Wayan Sumadana Security
I Nyoman Budiarsana Security

Festival Ambassador

Laksmi DeNeefe Suardana Founder Shelf Therapy

Interns

Alex Eagles International Programme Team
Lauren Humphryson Marketing & Communications Team
Lucy Tomov International Programme Team
Riziq Muhaimin Marketing & Communications Team

Yayasan Mudra Swari Saraswati

Dr. Drs I Ketut Suardana, M.Fil. H Founder
I Wayan Arnaya SH Founder
Nyoman Suwitera Supervisor
A A Bagus Ari Brahmanta Supervisor
Dwi Ermayanthi Foundation Chairwoman
Gustra Adnyana Secretary
Made Suka Merta Secretary
Ni Wayan Widiatmini Treasurer
Eka Septiarti Treasurer

Thank You!

Emerging Writers' Programme Curators

Ni Made Purnama Sari
Ratih Kumala
Shinta Febriany

Emerging Writers' Patrons

Colin Singer
Felice DuBois
Rhoda Grauer

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Glenda MacNaughton in memory of Patrick Hughes
Mary Jane and Mark Edleson
Lynette Russell

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Thankful for the Support

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All of our volunteers
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and tap into the healing energy
that flows from Bali's spiritual
and cultural heart.

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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.

Buy Online



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, 30 October to Sunday, 2 November 2025.	International	IDR 6,350,000
		Indonesian	IDR 1,350,000
02	Access the main programme lineup, including panel discussions and in-conversations, across all four days.	KITAS/KITAP and ASEAN(*)	IDR 3,175,000
		International Students	IDR 2,125,000
03	Access after-dark programme, including film screenings and live music.	Indonesian Students	IDR 530,000

1-Day Festival Pass

Get unlimited access to the main programme on any day of the 2025 Festival.

		CATEGORY	PRICE
01	Entry to the Taman Baca venue on your chosen day.	International	IDR 1,900,000
		Indonesian	IDR 550,000
02	Access the main programme lineup, including panel discussions and in-conversations, on your chosen day.	KITAS/KITAP and ASEAN(*)	IDR 1,050,000
		International Students	IDR 850,000
03	Access after-dark programme, including film screenings and live music.	Indonesian Students	IDR 170,000

(*)The discount price also applies to ASEAN citizens from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Special 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.

Join Free Events

There is no shortage of free events. Enhance your Festival experience at no cost with thought-provoking Festival Club sessions, heart-racing spoken word programmes, over thirty exciting book launches, and film screenings.

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MAIN PROGRAMME

Thursday, 30 October

09:00 – 09:10

Festival Welcome

at Indus Restaurant
Janet DeNeefe

Join us as the 2025 Festival opens with a traditional Balinese welcome dance and a warm greeting from our Founder and Director, Janet DeNeefe. Under the guiding theme *Aham Brahmasmi – I am the Universe*, a cosmic combination of literary stars will explore the deep connection between the self and the universe through wide-ranging conversations, debates, and stories over the following four days.

09:15 – 09:30

Keynote: David Van Reybrouck

at Indus Restaurant
David Van Reybrouck

Award-winning Belgian cultural historian, archaeologist, and author of *Revolusi: Indonesia and the Birth of the Modern World* opens the 2025 Festival with a powerful keynote, *I am the Universe*. He explores human potential to transform lives and help solve major challenges, as opposed to its potential for control and destruction.

10:00 – 11:00

Alang-Alang Stage

William Dalrymple: The Anarchy

William Dalrymple,
Gill Westaway*

Join historian William Dalrymple as he delves into the rise of the East India Company in *The Anarchy*. He examines how a modest enterprise transformed into an empire-shaping power with unregulated private interests, and corrupted politics. Don't miss this thought-provoking discussion on the history behind the world's most infamous empire.

11:15 – 12:15

Aham Brahmasmi – I am the Universe

I Ketut Suardana, Julia Baird,
Srijan Pal Singh,
Sarah Macdonald*

We discuss the 2025 Festival theme *Aham Brahmasmi – I am the Universe*. This panel explores the wisdom that recognises unity within all existence, transcending individual boundaries to embrace the interconnectedness of life. We delve into its support by both science and creative processes that illustrate the interdependent fabric of reality.

12:30 – 13:30

The First Book

Juhea Kim, S. Shakthidharan,
Thammika Songkaeo,
Janak Rogers*

How does a writer arrive at a story they'd like to share with the world? What are the challenges a writer must face to present their story to publishers? What is the journey like after that, because it is certainly not the end? A debut non-fiction writer, two debut novelists, and a seasoned one will discuss their perspectives on their very first books.

13:45 – 14:45

Sam Dalrymple: Shattered Lands

Sam Dalrymple, Husnara Khanom*

Sam Dalrymple goes back in time to when, as recently as 1928, a vast swathe of Asia—India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, Bhutan, Yemen, Oman, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait—was bound together under the single imperial banner known as the Indian Empire, or simply as the Raj. Join us as he explores five partitions and Asia's legacy of war, exile, and division.

15:00 – 16:00

People, Governance and AI

Okky Madasari, Petra Molnar,
Lydia Khalil*

The internet has created opportunities for boundless connection and progress, continually advancing over the years, but does the recent progress made with AI serve the same purpose for humanity? So far, the ruling elite seems to decide what direction AI will take us in—not the public. In this panel, we explore AI with experts.

16:15 – 17:15

Gail Jones: The Name of the Sister

Gail Jones, Bri Lee*

Gail Jones, the award winning author, discusses her new book *The Name of the Sister*, set in Broken Hill. When a woman is found with no identity, she creates a media firestorm. Join us in conversation with one of Australia's most important authors who explores how identities are formed in the absence of facts.

17:30 – 18:30

The Cinema of Garin Nugroho

Garin Nugroho,
Krishna Sen*

Celebrated Indonesian filmmaker Garin Nugroho has redefined cinema with works that transcend social, cultural, and aesthetic boundaries. Join us to explore his creative journey, vision, and lasting influence, from *Cinta dalam Sepotong Roti* and *Surat untuk Bidadari* to *Opera Jawa* and *Samsara*.

Indus Restaurant

Writers Behind Bars

Ege Dündar, Ma Thida, Peter Greste, Krishna Sen*

When ideas are powerful, they are often silenced. Today, commentators face unprecedented levels of persecution, according to PEN International's 2025 Case List—a trend that urgently underscores the growing threat to free speech inflicted by authoritarianism. Join this compelling discussion as our panellists advocate for the protection of global literary freedoms.

Antoinette Lattouf: How to Lose Friends and Influence White People

Antoinette Lattouf,
Devi Asmarani*

Antoinette Lattouf is a Lebanese-Australian journalist, diversity advocate, and Founder of Media Diversity Australia (MDA). Lattouf's novel published in 2022, provides advice drawn from her own experiences within media corporations to those facing daily racism in their workplaces. Hear Lattouf's authentic take on workplace diversity and advocacy.

Setting the Scene: How to Write About Place

Ida Fitri, Ayşegül Savaş
Erin Woodward*

Environment and narrative are profoundly intertwined. No matter the setting, writers strive to embody the spirit of a place through compelling descriptions of its sights, sounds, textures, and smells. In this illuminating panel, learn how writers craft vivid imagery and elevate the commonplace to the extraordinary by setting the scene.

Fajar Merah: Remembering Widji Thukul

Fajar Merah, Awi Chin*

Musician and second son of poet and activist Widji Thukul, Fajar Merah carries forward the spirit of resistance through music. His album *Dia Ingin Menjadi Peluru* features songs adapted from his father's poems. Through his music, Fajar keeps Widji Thukul's critical, uncompromising voice alive, inspiring freedom and remembrance.

Melati Wijsen: Change Starts Now

Melati Wijsen,
Laksmi DeNeefe Suardana*

Melati Wijsen, Indonesian-Dutch environmental activist and Co-founder of Bye Bye Plastic Bags, shares 100 lessons from her journey as a young changemaker, offering honest insights, hard-earned wisdom, and practical tools to confront today's biggest challenges. Wijsen's stories inspire anyone to lead meaningful change with courage and conviction.

The Gravity of Grief

Andreas Kurniawan, Rob Waters, Jewel Topsfield*

Even when we know it's nearby, grief comes unannounced, taking us by surprise. In times of deep sorrow, can we remain stoic through our pain? It's only natural for us as humans to lose direction, yet emerge resilient in the face of grief. When grief is at its strongest, how do we persevere?

Valley Stage

Reflections on Writing a Family Memoir

Dee Lestari, Lech Blaine,
Ingrid Rojas Contreras,
Kirsti Melville*

In this intimate exploration of crafting family memoirs, authors share insights into the challenges of personal storytelling. Learn what may be relinquished in exchange for capturing family legacy or truth, and the intricacies of researching our innermost histories. Come and celebrate the art of memory and reminiscence with our panellists.

Deconstructing Colonialism

Alex Chula, Annisa R. Beta,
Thomas Mayo,
Eva Fernandes*

Colonialism still exists in modern society, not only in obvious areas of war and exploitation, but also in academic institutions. Universities, museums, and libraries perpetuate the Western colonial ideologies embedded in the Western world. Join our speakers as they discuss the deeply ingrained structures of colonialism that continue to exist today.

The New Hero's Journey

Brigid Delaney, Malcom Seah,
Courtney Collins*

The Hero's Journey is a classic formula, but too narrow to fit the diversity of protagonist we see in writing today. Authors have transformed this idea to encompass non-linear progression, as well female and queer protagonist's journeys. This panel reflects on how the concept needs to represent a modern context.

Leila S. Chudori: Writing in the Wake of History

Leila S Chudori,
Krishna Sen*

A renowned author and journalist, Chudori is a long-standing literary titan of ineffable questions surrounding cultural and personal identity. While her award-winning historical novel *Laut Bercerita* celebrates its 100th print, her legacy remains a throughline in this intimate conversation. Join us to unravel the interwoven threads of her life and work.

Trials of Translation

Deepa Bhasthi, Salha Obeid,
Gill Westaway*

The nuances of one language can be difficult to translate into others, and expressions from one culture might convey different ideas once translated into another language. The fate of a book often lies in the translator's hands. In this panel, we discuss the trials of translation in fiction with a translator and an author.

Indonesia's Revolution and Decolonisation

Anak Agung Bagus Wirawan,
David Van Reybrouck, Inaya Rakhmani, Michael Vatikiotis*

Indonesia was the first country to declare independence after World War II, setting a precedent for rapid, comprehensive decolonisation across Asia, Africa, and the Arab world. This bold move fundamentally shaped the post-war global order and inspired independence movements worldwide. Our panelists unpack the Indonesian revolution and its impact across the archipelago and the globe.

Get lost at Los Buku patjarmerah

The Festival book market Los Buku, presented by patjarmerah, features a beautifully curated selection of Indonesian books from independent publishers. From searing rhetoric to masterful poetry, and from profoundly personal stories to breathtaking narratives, there is something for every lover of words. What more could a lover of words want?

The free market is open from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, from 29 October to 2 November.

*Moderator

MAIN PROGRAMME

Friday, 31 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
Alang-Alang Stage	Rewriting Women’s History Sasti Gotama, Ratih Kumala, Mirandi Riwoe, Sally Breen* History is written by the victor, and often the victor doesn’t tell the full story. Women’s histories have gone under-appreciated in writing, thrown to the sidelines in literature dominated by men’s conquests, but women are more than supporting characters in men’s stories. In this panel, we explore how women’s history is being brought to the forefront.	Ladies of the Booker Prize Banu Mushtaq, Deepa Bhas-thi, Jenny Erpenbeck, Gill Westaway* Virginia Woolf, the author who mused over the idea of having one’s own room to write, looks on proudly at her successors. More women are publishing books, women who insisted on writing, recognition, and winning. What are they writing about? What rooms must women sit in to write and be read? What does it take today for a woman to write? And once they do, what does it take to write a prize-winning book?	Artificial Intelligence and Indonesia Akhyari Hananto, Annisa R. Beta, Marissa Saraswati, Steve Stine* From poetry to politics, Artificial Intelligence is sparking debates across Indonesia. Writers and artists explore its creative potential, while young people and activists reflect on identity, freedom, and democracy. This session brings together leading voices to examine the risks, promises, and surprises of a technology reshaping stories and social movements.	Capturing South East Asia’s Collective Memory Juli Sastrawan, Omar Musa, Robin Hemley, Janet Steele* Memories are passed through silence, stories, and gestures, shaped by what is said and what remains unspoken. Our panelists explore how Southeast Asia’s collective memory endures to shape our identities, religion, and culture. What colonial legacies do we carry that pulse beneath the surface of our present?	Love in a Time of Conflict Ayşegül Savaş, Faisal Tehrani, Jenny Erpenbeck, Jewel Topsfield* Love has proven to be a powerful antidote in times of fear. From war and political strife to distance and life’s mundanity, love stories are impacted by conflict in many forms. In this panel, speakers explore the love that exists within times of conflict, delving into the realities of love and terror’s coexistence in fiction.	The Power of Women Devi Asmarani, Theresa Devasahayam, Virginia Haussegger, Clare Wright* The 50th International Women’s Day was celebrated this year. Since 1975, progress in women’s rights has been widespread, but hurdles, the devaluation of caregiving and domestic labour, pay discrepancies, and gender-based violence, remain. Listen as our panel of extraordinary women interpret these challenges to inspire continued action and commitment to gender equality.	In Conversation with Klaas Stutje Klaas Stutje, Joss Wibisono* An accomplished post-doctoral researcher from the Netherlands, Klaas Stutje presents Campaigning in Europe for a <i>Free Indonesia: Indonesian Nationalists and the Worldwide Anticolonial Movement</i> to the Festival. Klaas illuminates the political awakening of Indonesian elites and university students between 1917 and 1931 prior to independence, and their important connections to the upper layers of Dutch society.
Indus Restaurant	The Critical Role of Independent Media Adisti Sukma Sawitri, Antoinette Lattouf, Ian Yee, Drew Ambrose* As technological advancements influence how global information is shared, protecting media outlets and freedom of speech from external pressures and censorship has never been more important. Join this panel of exceptional journalists and communicators as they discuss the importance of protecting Indonesia’s independent media and, therefore, democracy’s core principles as well.	Israel and Palestine: Pathways to Peace Ghayath Almadhoun, Omar el Akkad, Annelien De Greef* Global scrutiny has been placed on Israel for genocidal violence against Palestinians in Gaza. Panelists discuss the measures that can be taken to halt this violence, and attempt to answer the question: Is there hope for peace?	The Making of an Anthology: Stories from the Islands Annisa Ivana, Ni Made Purnama Sari, Nora Nazerene Abu Bakar, Debra H. Yatim* After assessing 647 submissions from across Indonesia, the 2025 Emerging Writers Programme selected 10 authors to be published in the annual bilingual anthology for the Festival, titled <i>Stories from the Islands</i>. Join one such writer, the programme curator, and the publisher as they discuss the invaluable opportunities afforded by translatory projects for young writers.	Independent Publishing Bella Li, Ronny Agustinus, Windy Ariestanty, Kelly Falconer* The world of modern independent publishing is ever-evolving. The industry requires publishers to adapt to challenges at every turn: market saturation, financial limitations, and the demands of the digital revolution. Hear from those best qualified how fresh, distinctive, and independent voices are delivered to readers.	The Critical Voice of Okky Madasari Okky Madasari, Gill Westaway* Okky Madasari stands for knowledge production and against censorship in Indonesia. Her work has garnered wide critical attention for boldly addressing injustice, gender discrimination, and social prejudice, weaving sharp and reflective narratives. Hear from the trailblazer who continues to champion Indonesian literature and culture.	Haidar Bagir: Religion and Imagination Haidar Bagir, Kadek Krishna Adidharma* Religion and imagination are often seen as opposites—one bound by sacred truths, the other dismissed as mere play. Some insist they must remain apart. Yet Haidar Bagir invites us to reconsider: what if imagination is not the enemy of faith but its companion? Through imagination, he argues, spirituality can expand its horizons and deepen its meaning.	Publishing in a Problematic World Chaitanya Srivastava, Windy Ariestanty, Kate Sawyer* In a war-struck world, publishing trends can reveal more than we expect. What are people reading, and why? What does this tell us about the literary world? Are there too many books, too many writers, or too many readers? How do we distinguish between good and bad writing? Is regulation even necessary? Explore with us.
Valley Stage	David Van Reybrouck: Revolusi David Van Reybrouck, Bonnie Triyana* Belgian-born author and political historian David Van Reybrouck’s latest non-fiction venture, <i>Revolusi</i>, centers on Indonesia’s fight for independence against Dutch imperial rule, from pre-history to the modern era. Historical knowledge shapes humankind—listen to what can be learned from it in this fascinating conversation.	Warriors of Writing: Resistance through Poetry Jazz Money, Stebby Julionatan, Zech Soakai, Eva Fernandes* In writing, resistance takes many forms. Besides its introspective functions, poetry can be a powerful tool for advocates fighting for equality: the form sparks empathy and understanding through original language and lyric. Join our poets for an insightful discussion, wherein poetry emerges as a weapon for change and a vehicle for solidarity.	Writing in the Coloniser’s Tongue Dana Dajani, Ray Shabir, S. Shakthidharan, Janak Rogers* Speaking in the mother tongue has become an act of resilience in a world where the coloniser’s tongue is often favoured. Even when the unique poetry of the mother tongue cannot be accurately translated, we play with language to create similar meanings. But can writing in the coloniser’s tongue itself be an act of resilience?	Poetry: A Tapestry of Words Ghayath Almadhoun, Jazz Money, Ni Made Purnama Sari, Rob Waters, Shinta Febriany, Titan Sadewo, Miles Merril* Poetry weaves together threads of the sublime and the ordinary to contextualise human experience. Our showcase of renowned poets will share their newest work and distinctive voices, captivating you with vivid images, sincerity, and stunning language. Hear poems that dazzle, delight, and remind you of memories long since forgotten.	Seeking Discomfort Agustinus Wibowo, Gina Chick, Pico Iyer, Krishna Sen* As wanderers and nomads, our bodies withstood and worked alongside nature. Today, we are infinitely gratified by modernity, with our every comfort provided for. Join this fascinating panel of thinkers as they ask: if we were to listen, would Mother Nature and her old-age ways of life guide us to seek discomfort?	Demystifying Indonesia’s Everyday Supernatural Asief Abdi, Ni Nyoman Ayu Suciartini, Titah AW, Udiarti, Tito Ambyo* This panel challenges Western ideas of the ‘exotic’ supernatural by showing how Indonesian spirits and myths serve as frameworks for understanding identity, community, and nature today. Listen to our panellists from across the islands as they share how ancient beliefs assist modern endeavours—as essential cultural forces, not ‘exotic’ decoration.	Women and Creativity Agnes Christina, Courtney Collins, Olivia Fraser, Sinéad Gleeson, Jenny Valentish* Creativity is a gift passed from mother to daughter, from the creation of life to the creation of art, community, and more. What drives these women? And in a world where women are often responsible for more roles than they are recognised for, how can creativity be nurtured?
	*Moderator						

MAIN PROGRAMME Saturday, 1 November

	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
Alang-Alang Stage	Banu Mushtaq: Heart Lamp Banu Mushtaq, Gill Westaway* Banu Mushtaq is a renowned writer, activist and lawyer. <i>Heart Lamp</i> exquisitely captures the daily lives of women and girls in Muslim communities in India through vivid characters, and won the International Booker Prize in 2025. Her thoughts on her groundbreaking work are not to be missed.	Writing Through Chaos Neal Hall, Omar el Akkad, Shiori Itō, Petra Molnar* Many writers will insist they don't need a special office overlooking a tranquil valley to write. But in times of war or anguish, some forgo any comfort, instead choosing to confront unthinkable atrocity with their pens. Listen as we ask these literary stars how they channel such brutality into their exquisite writing.	Rewriting Indonesian History Bonnie Triyana, Uni Lubis, Janet Steele* In Indonesia, <i>sejarah</i> is more than just the past—it's how the past is told. This panel explores how writers, journalists, and cultural workers reclaim forgotten voices. They challenge official narratives, and determine that history is not fixed, but shaped by memory, feeling and identity.	The Tension Between Artistic Freedom and Censorship Erwin Arnada, Okky Madasari, Brigid Delaney* Throughout history, artists have faced efforts to suppress, alter, or restrict their work due to social, political, or cultural pressures. This panel discusses the dynamic between artistic independence and censorship, highlighting the on-going challenge of protecting free expression in the face of various pressures and restrictions.	Indigenous Voices: Challenges and Resilience Arimbi Heroeputri, Rossy You, Thomas Mayo, Rachel Levin* Both Indonesian and Australian Indigenous Peoples are facing ongoing conflicts over land entitlements and cultural heritage. This panel discusses the shared goal of achieving true justice requires sustained efforts, comprehensive legal reforms, and honoring Indigenous Peoples as vital custodians of their lands and cultures.	Ratih Kumala: Koloni Ratih Kumala, Ni Made Purnama Sari* Ratih Kumala will bring her new novel <i>Koloni</i> to the festival stage. Best known for her work <i>Gadis Kretek (Cigarette Girl)</i> , Ratih presents a powerful narrative exploring memory, power, and identity through vivid, compelling characters. One of Indonesia's most popular fiction writers today shares the inspiration behind this deeply personal book and offers insights into her writing process. The session is conducted in Indonesian.	The Diasporic Journey: Writing To Find 'Home' Andrew Lam, Saraïd de Silva, Janak Rogers* The term 'diaspora' means 'to scatter about,' illustrating how individuals disperse across the world, carrying their culture with them. This panel examines how writers convey the essence of their cultural heritage and the experiences of displacement through their work, exploring themes of identity, nostalgia, and the search for belonging.
Indus Restaurant	Patrick Winn: Narcotopia Patrick Winn, Omar Musa* As a trail-blazing journalist, Patrick Winn has spent over a decade reporting from the criminal underworld. His recent non-fiction, <i>Narcotopia</i> , exposes Southeast Asia's CIA-shadowed narcotic syndicate. He is a three-time recipient of Amnesty International's Human Rights Press Awards. Join Winn in conversation as he unpacks <i>Narcotopia</i> and the ramifications of those realities it illuminates.	Crafting Political Memoirs and Biographies Alex Chula, Edward Wong, Ma Thida, Virginia Haussegger* How are political memoirs and biographies written? Our panellists share how they illuminate the corridors of political controversy, overlay their unique perspectives, and breathe life into the complex world of power and change. Join these authors as they examine how these formats capture history, one another, and the hierarchies that surround us.	World Building in a World Breaking Bri Lee, Dee Lestari, Juhea Kim, Kate Sawyer* On a collapsing planet, how do writers develop their fictional worlds? Modern apocalyptic literature comes with a feeling of fantastical realism, so what are the inspirations and goals of world-building in fiction today? In this panel, authors explore world-building and the world that inspires it.	Indonesian Poets: New Forms, New Voices Hamzah Muhammad, Ni Made Purnama Sari, Ray Shabir, Kadek Sonia Piscayanti* Poetry in Indonesia is evolving, with a new wave of voices leading the way. This panel explores how form, language, and media are transforming their practice. Listen as these poets share what it means to be a poet today and the creation stories of the realms inside their minds.	Peter Greste: The Correspondent Peter Greste, Drew Ambrose* As an acclaimed Australian author and press freedom advocate, Peter Greste's reporting has landed him in headlines and, famously, in an Egyptian prison. Recently, his memoir was adapted into the 2024 biopic <i>The Correspondent</i> , directed by Kriv Stenders. Join us for an insightful conversation weaving through Greste's life and its retelling on screen.	Chinese Indonesian Women and the Forgotten History Angelina Enny, Agnes Christina, Marissa Saraswati* The persecution of the Chinese community has shaped Indonesia since the colonial era, yet these stories remain absent from history books. Literature opens the door to remembering what has been silenced, inviting us to reflect, question, and resist forgetting. A dialogue on one of Indonesia's overlooked histories through literature.	100 Years of Pramoedya Aditya Ananta Toer, Hilmar Farid, John H. McGlynn* More than an Indonesian literary legend, Pramoedya Ananta Toer was a complex figure, resolute, courageous, and full of contradictions. In this session, we are invited to delve into rarely seen sides of Pramoedya, as told by those who knew him best. Some of Pram's closest companions join the conversation to share memories and stories about his enduring intellectual and humanitarian legacy.
Valley Stage	The Forever of Fiction Angelina Enny, Salha Obeid, Sinéad Gleeson, Josephine Ferguson* To glimpse the future, we must survey our past. Writers of historical fiction know this best: when the imagined past is brought to life, we can easily springboard into the lives of those before us. Join this enchanting conversation with three authors of the genre as they discuss their insights and work.	Revolutions Across Borders David Van Reybrouck, Joss Wibisono, Klaas Stutje, Hilmar Farid* Borders are not simply determined overnight. In the case of Indonesia, national autonomy was brutally fought for. Join our speakers as they share their valuable research and observations on Indonesia's struggle for their independence of life, and how each event was a catalyst to bring about lasting change.	Independent Media in Today's Indonesia Adisti Sukma Sawitri, Devi Asmarani, Dewa Kresnanta, Iyas Lawrence* In an era of shifting politics and conflicting narratives, independent media play a crucial role in shaping how Indonesians see their nation today. In the current media landscape, how can we sustain independent voices and bring overlooked stories to the forefront? In this panel, we explore the role of independent media in strengthening democratic life in Indonesia.	Language Today: Let's Suss it Out Thammika Songkaeo, Wawan Kurniawan, Zech Soakai, Awi Chin* Language is an ever-evolving art form. Tumble down the rabbit hole of etymology and you'll find constant evolution and cultural exchanges throughout time. When 'pookie' is officially recognised by the Oxford Dictionary, where do we stand with the evolution of language in the modern day? Should we be worried, or are we just being 'delulu'?	Omar el Akkad: One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This Omar el Akkad, Annelien De Greef* Omar El Akkad, Giller Prize-winning author and journalist, confronts the empty empathy of Western activism. His essay collection, <i>One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This</i> , responds to the genocide ongoing in Palestine. Join us for an unforgettable conversation, where we are asked to consider our alliances—to power or to justice.	The Reconciliation of Spirituality and Capitalism Agustinus Wibowo, Craig Leeson, Steve Stine, Inaya Rakhmani* Up against polarisation, can we balance spiritual practice and profit without harming humankind or our Earth? Where faith lights a path of universal understanding, capitalism drives us to chase individual triumph. Can we reconcile lessons from both concepts to create a better world?	Julia Baird: Bright Shining Julia Baird, Sarah Macdonald* Julia Baird, a singular author and journalist, converses with us about her inspirations for works including <i>Bright Shining and Phosphorescence</i> . Baird masterfully inspires us to find awe in our daily lives, and emphasizes the vital importance of grace and humility. Refreshing, hopeful, and honest, Baird's insights will leave any audience spellbound.
	*Moderator						

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 2026 Festival!

Complete survey: ubudwritersfestival.com/survey

MAIN PROGRAMME

Sunday, 2 November

	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
Alang-Alang Stage	Jenny Erpenbeck: Kairos Jenny Erpenbeck, Andini Effendi* Jenny Erpenbeck's 2021 translated novel <i>Kairos</i> won the 2024 International Booker Prize. Set against the backdrop of collapsing 1980s East Germany, the story traces the ruins of a tumultuous relationship between two lovers three decades apart in age. This discussion explores her practice and journey to literary acclaim.	Taufiq Ismail: Reading the Signs Hamzah Muhammad, Jennifer Mackenzie, John H. McGlynn, Debra H. Yatim* Winner of the 2025 Festival Lifetime Achievement Award, Taufiq Ismail blends sensitive depictions of the natural world with incisive critiques of social and political realities. With his works spread across the nation, Ismail has been both a poet and a witness to history. Reading the Signs gathers 100 of his works, a testament to Ismail's enduring legacy.	Modern Identities Brigid Delaney, Ege Dündar, Thammika Songkaeo, Kirsten Han* As the world grows increasingly digital, identity is further reduced to a series of labels and titles. Accomplishments are reduced to qualifications and university names. When people feel the constant need to prove themselves, how do we internalise that identity is greater than what we see on the surface? Join our panellists as they discuss modern identities.	The Politics of Research Ma Thida, Patrick Winn, Peter Greste, Lydia Khalil* Writing about political and governmental institutions leaves writers open to a wide range of moral hazards. What are the risks associated with political research, and how much of the truth can be revealed? In this panel, a trio of journalists report on the dangers and implications of following the truths within powerful institutions.	Navigating the Dynamics of China–U.S. Politics Edward Wong, Zhou Bo, Michael Vatikiotis* Explore the complexities of China–United States relations and how contemporary politics influence these powers. We will untangle their geopolitical landscape and the interactions between competing world powers. Don't miss the chance to deepen your understanding of the truth behind the headlines that define the transformative events shaping our world today.	The War Women Must Wage Ingrid Rojas Contreras, Shiori Itō, Virginia Haussegger, Kirsten Han* We hear it all the time: it's a man's world. It's hard not to believe it in a world where women have resorted to taking on masculine pen names to have their work taken seriously. Meet the three female firebrands as they discuss writing their stories as women and making their place in a man's world unapologetically.	Where the Land Knows My Name: Stories from Papua Enda Kaban, Rossy You, Topilus B. Tebai, Luna Vidya* For many Papuans, land is more than territory—it is memory, kin, teacher, and home. Through experience, writing, and teaching, they explore walking with the land, listening closely, and what it means to be transformed by it. This panel shares deeply personal stories of how their land shapes their lives.
Indus Restaurant	Voices of the Global South on the New Order Inaya Rakhmani, Uni Lubis, Zhou Bo, Michael Vatikiotis* Historically accepted international law and political systems are being tested to never before seen lengths. This discussion aims to provide insights into how democracy can stay resilient and relevant amid technological, social, and geopolitical upheavals and how we can all stay hopeful amidst this rapid change.	The Short Of It Andrew Lam, Ning Ken, Theresa Devasahayam, Sarah Macdonald* In a world of novels, why do we write in short form? Short stories can have their own set of challenges compared to long-form work, but can they also have their benefits? Can they serve as an entry point for both new readers and new writers? In this panel, masters of short form delve into the world of short stories.	Alternative Knowledge Formation in Indonesia Inaya Rakhmani, Juli Sas-trawan, Marissa Saraswati, Annisa R. Beta* Who decides what counts as knowledge and whose experiences are recognized as truth? Our diverse panel of community organizers, researchers, and scholar-activists share a commitment to alternative knowledge that challenges dominant perspectives. They explore how diverse viewpoints can help dismantle power structures and address inequality and injustice in Indonesia.	Timeless Bali Edward Speirs, Marlowe Bandem, Rio Helmi, Gatari Surya Kusuma* Bali is more than a destination, it is a living memory, ever-changing with time. Through cameras, videos, and archives, visual storytellers capture fleeting moments, retelling landscapes, faces, and traditions. This programme explores what they hope to preserve and the visions they carry for Bali's future, as visitors or as Balinese.	Translating Poetical Ambiguity with Clarity Ghayath Almadhoun,Shinta Febriany,Gratiagusti Channanya Rompas, Debra H. Yatim* If Rumi read his translated Farsi poems in English today, he would undoubtedly turn in his grave. Yet without them, millions of readers never would have reveled in his work. In this session, our panellists discuss what quality translations have in common and how translators have become literature's most skilled archaeologists of meaning.	The Technicolour World of Art Books Bella Li, Emte, Gilang Propagila, Gatari Surya Kusumar* Storytelling isn't just words on a page; art books showcase the beauty of visual storytelling through handcrafted, immersive experiences. In this panel, we explore the conceptual medium of art books, from craftsmanship to storytelling. Whether you're an artist, collector, or reader, art books capture a raw beauty that we can all appreciate.	Young and Bright: Queerness in Adolescent Fiction Awi Chin, Malcom Seah, Sara-id de Silva, Steph Harmon* These panellists understand that adolescence is transformative. In coming-of-age novels, protagonists brave challenges as they forge paths into adulthood. Stories featuring LGBTQIA+ characters offer unique insights into the reality of self-understanding, especially when honest expression disrupts societal norms and defies expectations. Join our authors as they share their perspectives on queer adolescence in fiction.
Valley Stage	Myanmar: Echoes of Resistance Ian Yee, Ma Thida, Patrick Winn, Drew Ambrose* Since 2021, Myanmar has shifted toward authoritarian governance, reversing years of democratic progress. This panel explores military dominance, its impact on civil society and human rights, and the resilience of resistance movements within the country. Centering the challenges faced by Myanmar's people, panelists discuss the way forward for all.	Pico Iyer: Aflame Pico Iyer, Krishna Sen* Pico Iyer joins us for an enlightening conversation with his latest memoir, <i>Aflame: Learning from Silence</i>. He will delve into his experiences in a silent monastery, and reflect on finding stillness and community through the tumultuousness of life. Hear Pico's lessons on the radiant work, and how it influenced his life.	The Landscapes of Childhood Gail Jones, Mirandi Riwoe, Rizal Iwan, Erin Woodward* Youth is often the topic of fiction, but how else can our childhood influence the canvas of our novels? Our formative years are shaped by countless factors—birth, geography, and upbringing—so how do they shape our imaginations? In this panel, writers discuss the wonders and terrors of youth.	Gina Chick: We Are the Stars Gina Chick, Kirsti Melville* A bestselling author from the Australian coast, Gina Chick brings her recent memoir <i>We Are the Stars</i> to the Festival. Gina won the 2023 season of Alone Australia and survived 67 days without contact in the Australian wilderness. This enigmatic conversation traverses Gina's philosophy, life, and how she wrote about both.	The Living Universe: Ritual, Nature, and Art in Balinese Cosmology Jero Penyarikan Duuran Batur, Purwita Sukahet, Wayan Karja, Marlowe Bandem* How are body, nature, and cosmos interconnected in Balinese thought, and how can contemporary exhibitions bring this relationship to life? The discussion traces ritual, landscape, and embodiment as part of a living system in which art becomes cosmology made visible. Beyond mere preservation, it reflects on how Balinese culture continues to shape new ways of seeing, experiencing, and becoming in today's world.	Clare Wright: Nāku Dhāruk: The Bark Petitions Clare Wright, Annelien De Greef* Clare Wright, who was adopted into the Datiwuy clan of the Yolŋu people in Yirrkala and plays a key role in locating a missing petition, will talk to us about her book <i>Nāku Dhāruk: The Bark Petitions</i>, the result of ten years of cross-cultural research. Listen to how the most innate human connections are formed through listening, connecting, and finding common ground.	
	*Moderator						
	#UWRF2025						

SPECIAL EVENTS

From intimate literary lunches to long-table dinners with the Festival’s most charismatic speakers, our Special Events take place at Ubud’s top-rated restaurants and resorts. With limited seats available, we advise you to book your seats in advance.



Birdwatching Tour with Darryl Jones

Thursday 30 October • 06:00-08:00
at Tjampuhan Ridge Walk • IDR 490,000

with Darryl Jones

Join Darryl Jones for an early morning bird-walking tour along Ubud’s breathtaking Tjampuhan Ridge. Beginning at the confluence of the Wos Rivers beside the ancient Pura Gunung Lebah, encounter over thirty bird species, from the Java Kingfisher and Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker to the Java Sparrow, Black-winged Starling and other wildlife. The tour ends in Bangkiang Sidem with a delightful breakfast at Tamian Cafe and enriching conversation.



Stories That Matter

Thursday 30 October • 10:30-13:00
at Begawan Biji Restaurant • IDR 890,000

with Craig Leeson, Jewel Topsfield

Meet Craig Leeson, an award-winning filmmaker, environmental activist, and journalist with a mission. He is the director of *A Plastic Ocean* and *The Last Glaciers: Journey to the Extreme*, in which he tackles the devastation of marine ecosystems and climate change. Leeson advocates for awareness and action, and with a keen focus on archival research, he questions whether it holds the key to driving change.



Discover the Magic of Fireflies Village

Thursday 30 Oct • 16:00-20:00
at Rumah Konservasi Kunang-Kunang • IDR 850,000

with Agustinus Wibowo, Wayan Wardika

Step into a realm of enchantment with Wayan Wardika as your guide on a Fireflies Tour through Taro Village in Ubud, where twilight unveils rice paddies aglow with dancing fireflies. Wayan shares Balinese stories while Agustinus Wibowo’s poetry adds mystique, blending nature, culture, and art into an unforgettable evening.

This session is conducted in Indonesian.



Promosi Sastra Launch

Thursday 30 October • 18:00-19:30
at Casa Luna • By Invitation Only

with Tim Promosi Sastra, Kementerian Kebudayaan Republik Indonesia.

The Indonesian Ministry of Culture will host an exclusive, invitation-only lunch to unveil a new platform promoting Indonesian literature abroad. The website will showcase the richness and diversity of Indonesian writing while supporting authors, translators, and publishers in connecting with international readers and strengthening Indonesia’s cultural presence worldwide.

Supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Indonesia.

Music and the Spoken Word

Thursday 30 October • 18:30-20:00
at Soulshine Bali • IDR 690,000

with Annabel Laura, Bottlesmoker, Dana Dajani

Spoken word performer Dana Dajani’s powerful voice and Annabel’s songs and music combine to serenade us with a syncretic message of hope for humanity, followed by Bottlesmoker’s fusion of innovative soundscapes with the profound essence of nature, science, and cultural heritage. Join us for a night of music and poetry immersed in wonder and bewilderment.



Pitch to Penguin

Thursday 30 October • 10:00-12:00
at DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons • IDR 1,000,000

with Nora Nazerene Abu Bakar

Do you have a manuscript or book idea you’re itching to get out there? Join leading publisher *Penguin Random House* and share your ten-minute pitch for instant feedback on your idea, and the opportunity to secure your dream book deal. This event is a must-join for aspiring authors.



Porter 02: Living Dangerously

Thursday 30 October • 16:00-17:30
at Honeymoon Garden • Free Event

with Fajar Merah, Leila S. Chudori, Rain Chudori

Porter is a magazine by Peron House that gathers off-the-beaten-path narratives for discerning travellers, creatives, and makers. No. 01 — Coming of Age collects stories of personal journeys and growth across all ages, featuring Leila Chudori, Joko Anwar, Dee Lestari, Dian Sasrowardoyo, Kiki Nasution, Rassi Narika, and more. Participants are welcome to share by writing or drawing memories tied to a particular moment in time. The mini-exhibition will run throughout the Festival until 2 November 2025. *The event is conducted in Indonesian.*



The Recurrent Mystical

Thursday 30 October • 17:30-19:00
at Plataran Ubud Hotel & Spa • IDR 790,000

*with I Made Bandem, Ingrid Rojas Contreras, Titah Aw, William Dalrymple, Tito Ambyo**

Join us under the stars and Plataran’s ancient banyan tree for an evening of mystical storytelling. With voices that conjure the supernatural in the everyday, this magical gathering pairs tales, tonics, and tastes to awaken your senses and spirit alike.



Short Stories, Long Nights

Thursday 30 October • 18:00-19:30
at COMO Uma Ubud • IDR 590,000

with Ege Dündar, Eva Fernandes, Gratiagusti Chananya Rompas, Neal Hall, Omar Musa, Ray Shabir, Shinta Febriany, Miles Merrill

Miles Merrill presents a luxurious night of wine-pairing, artisan cheese, and poetry at Kemiri, COMO Uma Ubud’s frangipani-fringed restaurant. Savour boutique Australian wines courtesy of Short Stories, crafted by Barossa-born winemaker James Kalleske, alongside Mazaraat cheese from Central Java. Perfect pairings and poetic words promise an evening that dazzles the senses.



Birdwatching Tour with Darryl Jones

Friday 31 October • 06:00-08:00
at Tjampuhan Ridge Walk • IDR 490,000

with Darryl Jones

Join Darryl Jones for an early morning bird-walking tour along Ubud’s breathtaking Tjampuhan Ridge. Beginning at the confluence of the Wos Rivers beside the ancient Pura Gunung Lebah, encounter over thirty bird species, from the Java Kingfisher and Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker to the Java Sparrow, Black-winged Starling and other wildlife. The tour ends in Bangkiang Sidem with a delightful breakfast at Tamian Cafe and enriching conversation.



Heirlooms: Literary Long Table Lunch

Friday 31 October • 12:30-14:30
at Herb Library • IDR 690,000

with Gail Jones, Lech Blaine, Luna Vidya, Natalie Kyriacou, Rio Helmi, Sinéad Gleeson, Steph Harmon

A unique long-table lunch at the Herb Library that marries inventive, health-conscious cuisine with a deep dive into Heirlooms – What We Inherit. Do heirlooms need a price tag, or is familial significance enough to grant them meaning? This isn’t just a lunch; it’s an up-close and personal shared experience, a chance to reflect on legacies that transcend time and connect us all.



Discover the Magic of Fireflies Village

Friday 31 October • 16:00-20:00
at Rumah Konservasi Kunang-Kunang • IDR 850,000

with Bella Li, Wayan Wardika

Step into a realm of enchantment with Wayan Wardika as your guide on a Fireflies Tour through Taro Village in Ubud, where twilight unveils rice paddies aglow with dancing fireflies. Wayan shares Balinese stories while Bella Li’s poetry adds mystique, blending nature, culture, and art into an unforgettable evening.



Masks of Bali: Between Heaven and Hell

Friday 31 October • 18:00-19:00
at Indus Restaurant • Free Event

with Bruce W. Carpenter, I Made Bandem, Kadek Krishna Adidharma

Join a journey into Balinese mask dance, an ancient art spanning over a thousand years. *Masks of Bali*, by Prof. I Made Bandem and Bruce W. Carpenter, showcases over 600 rare masks with stunning historical and contemporary images. Beautifully designed and meticulously researched, it is a major contribution to Balinese art and culture.



The 100th Printing of Laut Bercerita

Friday 31 October • 18:15-20:15
at Alang-Alang Stage • Free Event

with Leila S. Chudori, Debra H. Yatim

Join us to commemorate Leila S. Chudori’s influential novel *Laut Bercerita*, recounting the 1998 activist abductions and families’ search for their bodies. Published in 2017, translated into English as *The Sea Speaks His Name* in 2020 and adapted into a short film. This year we celebrate this timely novel’s 100th reprint. The session will feature a free screening of the short film.

The event will be conducted in Indonesian, with the film screening presented with English subtitles.



Birdwatching Tour with Darryl Jones

Saturday 1 November • 06:00-08:00
at Tjampuhan Ridge Walk • IDR 490,000

with Darryl Jones

Join Darryl Jones for an early morning bird-walking tour along Ubud’s breathtaking Tjampuhan Ridge. Beginning at the confluence of the Wos Rivers beside the ancient Pura Gunung Lebah, encounter over thirty bird species, from the Java Kingfisher and Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker to the Java Sparrow, Black-winged Starling and other wildlife. The tour ends in Bangkiang Sidem with a delightful breakfast at Tamian Cafe and enriching conversation.



The Art of Tea

Friday 31 October • 15:30-17:00
at Dragon Tea Temple • IDR 450,000

with Antoinette Lattouf, Nago Tejena, Rain Chudori, Rob Waters, Saraïd de Silva, Srijan Pal Singh, Laksmi DeNeefe Suardana

Step into the Dragon Tea Temple for a morning steeped in tradition, sipping organic tea and savouring small bites. This isn’t just about refreshment; it’s a cherished ritual. A celebration of beauty, peace, and artists daring to challenge norms, all while rekindling your connection to the art of tea.



History Duet: Cosmos and Kingdom

Friday 31 October • 16:30-19:30
at Honeymoon Garden • IDR 590,000

*with Bonnie Triyana, David Van Reybrouck, Herald van der Linde, I Ketut Suardana, William Dalrymple, Wayan Juniarta**

Step into a history lesson like no other at Honeymoon Garden. Under the watchful gaze of Shiva and Ganesha, you will gather for an afternoon that promises to inspire. Over the course of three hours, led by some of the world’s finest historians and speakers, enjoy an immersive journey into the past in the verdant grounds of this charming hotel.



Navigating the World

Friday 31 October • 18:00-19:30
at COMO Uma Ubud • IDR 590,000

with Agustinus Wibowo, Ayşegül Savaş, Maja Klarić, Nina Karnikowski, Sam Dalrymple, Wilda Yanti Salam, Gatari Surya Kusuma

At the crossroads of culture and exploration, where off-the-beaten-path adventures meet the ideals of sustainable travel, our writers dive deep into the depths of identity, belonging, memory and nostalgia. As twilight descends over the picturesque grounds of COMO Uma Ubud, they share their diverse perspectives and life-changing experiences.



What Do We Do Now

Friday 31 October • 19:00-21:30
at Uma Cucina • IDR 950,000

*with Banu Mushtaq, Dana Dajani, Deepa Bhashthi, Faisal Tehrani, Iyas Lawrence, Juli Sastrawan, Steph Harmon**

Enter the elegant environs of Uma Cucina, into a gathering of some of the Festivals most impressive writers. Over three lavish courses in one of Ubud’s favourite restaurants they will grapple with the hard question: What Do We Do Now? Get ready to lose yourself in their words and reclaim the transformative power of imagination—your lifeline to a brighter future.



5Rhythms Dance Meditation with Gina Chick

Saturday 1 November • 10:00-11:30
at Soulshine Bali • IDR 350,000

with Gina Chick, Kirsti Melville

Fall away from the noise and come to Soulshine Bali Retreat, where 5Rhythms dance accredited teacher Gina Chick invites attendees to experience the 5Rhythms meditation practice. The 5Rhythms practice gives us simple, powerful tools to move what is true, dancing to the beat of our own perfect hearts. Gina can’t wait to meet you on the dance floor.



Brunch with Pico Iyer

Saturday 1 November • 11:00-13:00
at DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons • IDR 690,000

with Pico Iyer, Rio Helmi

Join Pico Iyer for an exclusive, intimate dinner in the Di Sini Di Sana dining room. A space designed to capture the experiences and accumulated skills and talents of Jonathan Rachman's family through three generations, with the theme *Here and There, East and West*. This is not just brunch; it's a chance to give voice to silence with the man who's spent hours observing it between the East and West.



Dim Sum Diaries

Saturday 1 November • 12:00-14:00
at Casa Luna • IDR 650,000

with Agnes Christina, Angelina Enny, Edward Wong, Ning Ken, Zhou Bo, Kirsten Han

Join us downstairs in Casa Luna's jungle-view dining room for a one-of-a-kind Dim Sum feast from Bali's own, Panda Kitchen. Amid the charm of trolleys, steaming bamboo baskets, dumplings, noodles and bao, Ning Ken and Zhou Bo will serve up narratives that dig deep into themes of identity and society. Edward Wong offers incisive commentary challenging the status quo, Agnes Christina sparks conversations on social issues, and Angelina Emmy's vibrant characters invite you to this table of stories.



MTN Market: Banu Mushtaq and Jenny Erpenbeck in Conversation

Saturday 1 November • 18:00-20:00
at Casa Luna • By Invitation Only

with Banu Mushtaq, Jenny Erpenbeck, Leila S. Chudori



Banu Mushtaq, 2025 International Booker Prize winner for *Heart Lamp*, joins Jenny Erpenbeck, 2024 International Booker Prize winner for *Kairos*, in an intimate conversation on storytelling, inspiration, and the writing process. Prominent Indonesian author and journalist Leila S. Chudori will moderate, guiding a discussion on how personal and social experiences shape a manuscript.

Supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Indonesia.



The Maestro: Antonio Blanco

Sunday 2 November • 10:00-11:30
at The Blanco Renaissance Museum • IDR 350,000

with Mario Blanco, Jewel Topsfield

More than just a painter, Antonio Blanco was an eccentric force who embraced the enchanting chaos of Ubud. From his legendary romance with Made Ronji to a studio that drew stars and Soekarno himself, his legacy lives on as his son Mario shares stories with Jewel Topsfield at the Blanco Estate.



Forest Therapy

Sunday 2 November • 15:00-17:00
at Jingga Restaurant at Bumi Kinar • IDR 490,000

with Bottlesmoker, Brigid Delaney, Julia Baird, Nina Karnikowski, Philip Jacobson

In the tranquil sanctuary of Bumi Kinar's lush forest, three writers exchange stories that reveal the transformative power of a deep breath and nature's solace. The session blends a wellness-focused conversation, a forest walk through verdant spaces, and an innovative fusion of electronic soundscapes—a joyful celebration of the wild's healing magic.

Search – Bookmark – Enjoy!

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.

Visit: ubudwritersfestival.com/daily-schedule



GANESHA BOOKSHOP UBUD BALI (EST. 1986)

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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.

FREE WITH REGISTRATIONS

The Power of Storytelling in Personal Branding

Friday 31 October • 10:00-12:00
at SenS Hotel & Spa + Conference Ubud Town Centre
with Harry Surjadi

Led by Indonesian science journalist Harry Surjadi, this masterclass will show you how storytelling can express who you are, build trust and create meaningful connections. By shaping and sharing your story, you will gain the confidence and skills to build a resonant brand.

Practising Ethnography in Indonesia

Saturday 1 November • 15:00-16:30
at SereS Springs Resort & Spa Singakerta, Ubud
with Jajang Ramadhan R. Warsito, Oktaria Asmarani, Wilda Yanti Salam, Tito Ambyo*

Join this interactive masterclass to explore how traditional ethnographic training in Indonesia often excludes those without cultural or financial privilege. Jaringan Etnografi Terbuka (JET) rethinks ethnography from the ground up, showing practical ways to turn everyday, domestic, and digital spaces into valid research sites while fostering community-based skills, rigour, and inclusivity.

PRICING • International IDR 605,000 • KITAS/KITAP IDR 440,000 • Indonesian IDR 275,000

Rediscovering the Joy of Conscious Reading through Lectio Divina

Thursday 30 October • 10:00-12:00
at Plataran Ubud Hotel & Spa
with Swaady Martin

Across the globe, reading for pleasure is in decline. This workshop invites you to rediscover its joy through Lectio Divina, an ancient practice of conscious reading. Guided by Swaady Martin, you will explore presence, attentiveness, and renewal—while celebrating the launch of her new book *How to Read Scriptures*.

Learning from Emerging Voices

Thursday 30 October • 10:00-12:00
at Leona Suweta by Nakula
with Alief El-Ichwan, Annisa Ivana, Awi Chin, Charlotte Diana, Kuku Yudha Karnanta, Ridwan Malik, Robbyan Abel Ramdhon, Rie Arshaka, Rosul Jaya Raya, Udiarti, Wawan Kurniawan

Join an intimate session with Awi Chin, the Festival's 2022 Emerging Writer, AIR Literature Västra Götaland resident, and Chevening Scholar at the University of Edinburgh, together with ten writers from the Festival's 2025 cohort. Explore creative writing, short story techniques, and the fundamentals of storytelling through shared experiences and diverse voices.

Nature and Travel Writing

Thursday 30 October • 10:00-12:00
at Metland Venya Ubud
with Nina Karnikowski

Writing the natural divine is sought after by many authors, yet often remains elusive. In this masterclass, you will be guided to connect more deeply with yourself and your natural surroundings. Stimulating prompts will get your travel writing ideas flowing, as we come to see how social and environmental problems may be remedied through responsible travel.

The Poetics of Border Ethnography

Friday 31 October • 10:00-12:00
at Adiwana Suweta
with Petra Molnar

Travelling across borders and documenting the stories of migrants and refugees, don't miss this chance to explore both the humanity and logistics behind such writing. Discover the politics behind the selection of each story, its impact on the migrant and refugee experience, and the importance of trauma-centres training for writers and story-tellers.

Master Your Podcast with Makna Talks

Friday 31 October • 14:00-15:00
at Alila Ubud
with Ilyas Lawrence

Master your hosting and podcasting skills in this practical session, led by Ilyas Lawrence, Founder and host of Makna Talks. Learn to ask sharper questions, engage your guests, and tell compelling stories while connecting authentically, navigating topics smoothly, and maintaining a natural flow. You will also craft a clear programme plan to keep interviews organised and focused.

Print, Protest, Punk: A Masterclass with Gilang Propagila

Friday 31 October • 14:00-16:00
at The Westin Resort & Spa Ubud
with Gilang Propagila

Join environmental campaigner and Founder of DIS-PRINT KULTUR, Gilang Propagila, for a masterclass exploring the intersection of art, activism, and hardcore punk. Drawing on his grassroots work and DIY printing collective, Gilang shows how visual art can drive resistance, foster connection, and inspire communities to reimagine their future.

An Introduction to Screenwriting with Ratih Kumala

Saturday 1 November • 10:00-12:00
at DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons
with Ratih Kumala

In this special masterclass, Indonesian literary superstar Ratih Kumala offers an essential introduction to screenwriting for writers. Drawing on her success with the novel *Gadis Kretek*, adapted for Netflix, and her extensive experience in television and film, she will also share a preview of her latest book, *Di Sini Drama Mulai*.

Reclaiming Our Stories: A Writing Workshop on Desire

Saturday 1 November • 10:00-12:00
at The Westin Resort & Spa Ubud
with Eva Fernandes

This intimate workshop creates a safe space for women to explore the complex landscape of sexuality, sensuality, and desire through creative expression. At whatever stage of life or relationship, we encourage any woman to give a voice to parts of herself otherwise voiceless. Accept gentle guidance to unlock your authentic voice.

The Bestseller Blueprint: Author Marketing Essentials

Saturday 1 November • 14:00-16:00
at Samsara Ubud
with Chaitanya Srivastava

What does it really take to turn a book into a bestseller? In this practical and insightful masterclass, pull back the curtain on the secrets of publishing in Southeast Asia. Don't miss this chance to learn how to market and promote your work, build your author brand, and create long-term reader engagement.

Sound Bath with Bottlesmoker and Manuela Sauter

Saturday 1 November • 15:30-16:30
at Soulshine Bali
with Bottlesmoker, Manuela Sauter

Step into a one-of-a-kind BioSonic Soundbath where plant vibrations harmonise with traditional sound healing instruments, singing bowls, and more. Presented by Bottlesmoker and Manuela Sauter, this immersive session offers a restorative, grounding, and transformative journey of connection between plants, sound, and humans. Let yourself be held by the resonance.

Scent and The Written Word

Sunday 2 November • 14:00-16:30
at Powder Room by R4D
with Ray Shabir, Zech Soakai, Christopher Kerrigan*

Scents are a powerful sensory and memory trigger, and a perfect inspiration for writing. They're able to transport you back to an immersive experience of a location, food, or person. Be ignited by various scents presented by Oaken Labs during the workshop to prompt and produce a poem, guided by expert poets.



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In the heart of Ubud's sacred energy, two sanctuaries invite you to return to wholeness.

At Blue Karma Dijiwa Ubud, every stay becomes a soulful retreat. Curated wellness sessions, serene suites, and lush surroundings nurture deep rest and reconnection — a place to pause, breathe, and feel renewed.

Nearby, Arkamara Dijiwa Ubud blends tranquility and Balinese warmth within Ubud's lush jungle. At its peak, Juggan Sky rises as a rooftop haven, offering breathtaking sunsets, vibrant performances, and signature cocktails in an eclectic vibe.

Together, they offer the essence of Ubud — where you find all you seek, and feel whole within.

Jl. Kelabang Moding, Banjar Bentuyung, Ubud, Bali
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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 30 October • 6:00-9:00 at Casa Luna • IDR 550,000 <i>Price includes includes Balinese coffee, snacks, and breakfast at Casa Luna.</i>	This walking tour celebrates Ubud’s early morning rhythms, featuring thick Kopi Bali with fried bananas, legendary Babi Guling, and slow-cooked Betutu dishes. It concludes at Casa Luna, where breakfast is a ritual enjoyed with new friends and stunning jungle views, honouring Bali’s rich culinary heritage.
Bahasa Indonesia Breakfast	Friday 31 October • 8:00-9:00 at Dharma Kula Ubud • IDR 250,000 <i>Enjoy the session with breakfast and a language booklet.</i>	Start your Festival morning with an enriching Breakfast & Learn session led by Cinta Bahasa. Discover essential greetings, local etiquette, and useful Indonesian phrases to deepen your Ubud experience. More than just a meal, it’s a cultural dive into the language of Indonesia.
Hands-On Tempe Culinary Experience	Friday 31 October • 11:00-13:00 at Tempego Experience Ubud • IDR 495,000 <i>Price includes lunch, tempe snacks, and dessert tasting.</i>	Discover Indonesia’s culinary heritage with TempeMan, where tradition meets creativity. Begin with nasi sambel tumpang and unique tempe creations, followed by a guided tour of the Tempe Museum. Participants will enjoy a hands-on tempe packing activity, inventive tastings including tempe e-bars and desserts, and take home exclusive souvenirs and tempe-inspired products.
Exploring Indigo Tie Dye with Threads of Life	Friday 31 October • 14:30-16:00 at Threads of Life Natural Dye Studio • IDR 700,000 <i>The workshop includes snacks, coffee, tea, and all necessary materials.</i>	Join a hands-on natural indigo dyeing workshop with Threads of Life. Explore the dye plant garden, learn about Indonesia’s traditional dyes, and receive step-by-step guidance to create your own resist tie-and-dye pieces, from a small prayer flag to a scarf and T-shirt, each unique and full of character.
Bahasa Bali Breakfast	Saturday 1 November • 08:00-09:00 at Dharma Kula Ubud • IDR 250,000 <i>Enjoy the session with breakfast and a language booklet.</i>	Start your day with a relaxed Breakfast & Learn session led by Cinta Bahasa’s top teacher. Enjoy a delicious meal while picking up essential Balinese phrases and cultural insights. Perfect for beginners or anyone curious about the local language and culture.
Culinary Jalan~Jalan to Sukawati’s Hidden Gem	Saturday 1 November • 09:30-12:00 at Sukawati • IDR 550,000 <i>Price includes transportation, walking tour, Lunch at Nasi Tahu Men Sarti and fresh coconut refreshment at the end of the tour.</i>	Discover the heart of Bali through Sukawati, a village where food is woven into daily life rather than performance. Explore the bustling market, taste kerupuk tahu, learn tofu-making, sample Lawar and jaja gambir, and enjoy Nasi Tahu Men Sarti with fresh coconut juice. An immersive journey into Sukawati’s culinary soul.
Introduction to Balinese Dance with Kerta Art	Saturday 1 November • 14:30-16:00 at Kerta Art Performance Club • IDR 200,000	Led by master Ubudian dancer Kerta Art, this introductory workshop explores the foundations of Balinese dance. Participants will focus on posture, gesture, and rhythm, discovering how body awareness, balance, coordination, and storytelling unite in this traditional art form. Suitable for beginners, no prior experience is required.
Brush with Myth: Exploring the Barong through Painting	Saturday 1 November • 15:00-18:00 at Bumi Kinar Ubud • IDR 500,000	Explore the rich symbolism of the Barong, a guardian figure in Balinese mythology, in a hands-on painting workshop with Bagus Ari Maruta. A third-generation Balinese artist, Bagus blends tradition with contemporary expression, guiding participants to discover both the techniques and cultural meaning behind this iconic Balinese art form.
Ubud Royal Legacy Walking Tour	Sunday 2 November • 08:00-09:30 at Plaza Tjok Gde Agung Sukawati • IDR 485,000 <i>Price includes coffee break and snacks. Meeting point at Plaza Tjok Gde Agung Sukawati, Ubud Art Market.</i>	In the shadow of colonial expansion, Tjokorda Gde Agung and Tjokorda Gde Raka Sukawati opened Ubud’s palaces to Western artists and intellectuals. On this walking tour of Puri Saren and Puri Kantor, explore their royal legacy, how they balanced colonial influence and local traditions, and shaped modern Ubud.

Shadow Theatre: Journey to the Mother Tree	Sunday 2 November • 10:00-11:30 at Yellow Coco Nest • IDR 250,000 <i>Proceeds from this workshop will support Pura Beji in Nyuh Kuning, helping to protect the land, the Mother Tree, and the sacred beji.</i>	Susan Allen shares the story of a Mother Tree in Nyuh Kuning, drawn to a glorious pule tree at Pura Beji temple. Through daily observations, interviews, and reflections, she reveals its life and legacy. Participants will create their own Mother Tree puppet using shadow play, deepening their connection with local trees.
Brushes of Tradition: Tantri Sketch-Painting	Sunday 2 November • 10:00-12:00 at Puri Kantor Legacy • IDR 400,000 <i>Price includes materials and refreshment drinks.</i>	Discover Tantri Sketch-Painting, a traditional style from Keliki in Ubud. In this two-hour session, explore the intricate art form at Puri Kantor, a historic royal palace in the heart of Ubud. Blending Balinese elegance with subtle Dutch influences, it stands as a testament to Bali’s cultural heritage and traditions.
Roots, Leaves, Fire: A Feast from the Forest	Sunday 2 November • 10:00-15:00 at Warung D’Teba • IDR 550,000 <i>Price includes guided foraging and a riverside cooking and lunch experience with Chef Krisna.</i>	Join Chef Krisna of Warung DiTeba for a journey into the wild abundance of Sayan, where food, fire, and story meet by the river’s edge. Learn how Balinese generations have foraged leaves, roots, and flowers before cooking together over open flames in a communal riverside feast.
The Language of Balinese Offerings	Sunday 2 November • 11:00-13:00 at Nirvana Pension • IDR 350,000 <i>Balinese treats and refreshments are included.</i>	With intricately woven leaves and vibrant petals, Balinese Hindu offerings are a daily sight across the island. Learn their meanings and the beliefs behind them while exploring ancient rituals and ceremonies unique to Bali. Balinese treats and refreshments are included for a truly immersive cultural experience.

29 — 31
May 2026



Food Stalls, Cooking Demos,
Food Talks, Special Events,
Masterclasses, Music, Film, and more.

Taman Kuliner | Jalan Raya Sanggingan | Ubud

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AFTER DARK PERFORMANCES

When the sun sets, our 2025 Festival only gets warmer. In the evenings, we bring together fiery writers and blazing artists for a series of free programmes.

All performance events are free unless otherwise stated.



Festival Opening

Wednesday 29 October • 19:00-20:30
at Plaza Tjok Gde Agung Sukawati
with with Sanggar Kerta Art Performance Club & Perempuan Pengkaji Seni

Join our magical beginning to the region's most fearless Festival. On the grounds of the Plaza Tjok Gde Agung Sukawati, our Festival Opening Gala pulses with life — a night of spectacle showcasing everything the Festival does best: bold ideas and powerful performances. Expect literal standouts from across the programme: fiery writers, blazing talent, artists, and Festival supporters and officials — all handpicked for a night of glory.



Women Poetry Slam

Thursday 30 October • 20:00-22:00
at Indus Restaurant
with Illya Sumanto, Olin Monteiro, Tigra Rose

Our Women's Poetry Slam returns with the theme *Where Are Women in the Universe?* Responding to this year's Festival theme, *I Am the Universe*, it invites poets to explore women's rights, freedom of expression, and patriarchy's influence. Open to women, girls, trans women, and feminist voices, with original performances only.



Festival Poetry Slam

Saturday 1 November • 19:30-22:30 at Valley Stage
with Jazz Money, Miles Merrill, Ray Shabir, Shinta Febriany

The annual Poetry Slam is one of the festival's most sizzling events. From global poets to local sensations, who will captivate the crowd? In this event, we unite writers from around the world to slam, spin, and interweave their original words in a fiery battle. With one poet to be crowned the Festival's 2025 Poetry Slam Champion, this celebration of the spoken word is not to be missed, judged by a glittering array of international poets.



Festival Closing Night Party

Sunday 2 November • 18:30-22:00
at The Blanco Renaissance Museum
with Bottlesmoker, Tan Lioe Ie, Victoria Yam, Komunitas Seni Lemah Tulis and many more.

Celebrate the 2025 Festival's closing night with music, spoken word, and dance under the Ubud stars. Featuring performances from Bali and beyond, this final celebration highlights the Festival's diversity.



Empire: Rooting for the Antihero

Thursday 30 October • 18:30-21:00
at Honeymoon Garden
with Anna Anderluh, Franz von Strolchen, Marten Schmidt, Xin Wei Thow

Join a haunting reimagining of a 1934 Austrian football team's journey through the Dutch East Indies. Empire blends theatre, live music, and multilingual storytelling to explore colonial power and identity. Led by Marten Schmidt, this poetic performance unveils Europe's imperial past through a fictionalised family diary and eerie soundscapes.

There will be an additional performance on Friday at 20:30, after the Special Event History Duet: Cosmos and Kingdom.



The Wayang Women: Wewe Gombel

Saturday 1 November • 19:00-20:30
at Honeymoon Garden • IDR 200,000
with Annabel Laura, Illya Sumanto, Lynn Nandar Htoo, Olamide, Tigra Rose, Victoria Yam

The Wayang Women is a multinational all-female troupe reimagining the traditional Kelantanese art of Wayang Kulit. Through shadow play, live music blending traditional and electronic sounds, and spoken word poetry, the performance brings female ghost figures to life, exploring silenced emotions and highlighting contemporary environmental and cultural concerns while celebrating women's strength across cultures.



Brides Should Not Sew Their Own Wedding Dresses

Sunday 2 November • 17:30-18:00
at Festival Hub at Taman Baca
with Agnes Christina

Join a visual-performative work by Indonesian artist Agnes Christina across seven sheets of translucent drafting paper painted with poster colour, paired with poetic text. Dressmaking steps such as measuring, cutting, embroidering and stitching become metaphors for intimacy, love, compromise and trust. The audience is drawn into a delicate, intense journey and left with the question who can measure our back.



PUISI ON THE SPOT

at Festival Hub at Taman Baca
with Hamzah Muhammad

Every story has a truth that poetry can reveal. At Puisi on the Spot, we listen and turn your words into a poem you can take home. Created in the moment, it's personal, immediate, and open to everyone, a reminder that poetry lives in daily life.

Join this session throughout the Festival from 30 October to 2 November 2025. It is free, with voluntary contributions welcome.

FILM PROGRAMME

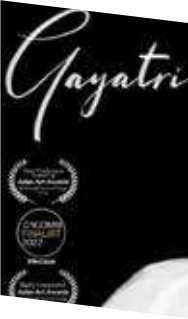
Pull up a seat and settle in for our free Film Programme. This is your chance to experience the nation's most celebrated recent films and documentaries. Many screenings are followed by Q&As, giving you the opportunity to meet some of the region's most exciting directors and actors.



Samsara

Thursday 30 Oct • 19:00-21:00 at Alang-Alang Stage
with Garin Nugroho

Join us for the film screening of *Samsara*, set in 1932 Bali, where Darta, a poor man, makes a fateful pact with the Monkey King. Directed by Garin Nugroho, this visionary film blends electronic soundscapes with gamelan, dance, mask, and wayang to explore desire, fate, and the quest to transcend one's destiny.



Gayatri: The Majapahit Trilogy (Episode 1)

Friday 31 Oct • 16:00-18:00 at Paradiso Ubud
with mhyajo

Step into the grandeur of Majapahit with *Gayatri*, the first in a three-part historical opera by Indonesian artist mhyajo, inspired by Mpu Prapanca's Nagarakretagama, recognised by UNESCO as a Memory of the World. The film follows Princess Gayatri's youthful dreams, her resolve to honour her father's legacy, and her role in safeguarding Majapahit's survival.



Return of the Fireflies

Saturday 1 Nov • 17:00-18:00 at Paradiso Ubud
with Daan Roosegaarde

In bustling Bali, Dutch artist Daan Roosegaarde and local Balinese created a Firefly Garden, restoring light to the night. This intimate story of nature and culture captures flickers as courtship, longing, and reunion. Rooted in heritage, it calls for harmony as we may be the last to see fireflies.



Wiku Tapini

Saturday 1 Nov • 20:00-21:00 at Alang-Alang Stage
with Anak Agung Gede Rai Putra Bawantara

This documentary explores the world of the *Wiku Tapini*, Balinese women devoted to preparing banten offerings for grand ceremonies such as Panca Bali Krama and Eka Dasa Rudra. Guided by spiritual discipline and ancient texts, they embody resilience, devotion, and cultural continuity, safeguarding Bali's enduring ritual traditions.



Ngambe' Teladan (Mengadopsi Motif Leluhur)

Saturday 1 Nov • 16:00-17:00 at Paradiso Ubud
with Eko Krisna

Join us for a documentary exploring the ancestral heritage of the Iban Indigenous community in Kalimantan, Indonesia. Expressed through weaving, mats, and tattoos, their traditions reflect connections to nature, identity, and cultural continuity. Presented by Mata Nusantara, the film documents and shares the knowledge of Indigenous peoples and local communities.



Koesno: Jati Diri Soekarno

Thursday 30 Oct • 21:15-22:30 at Alang-Alang Stage
with Yayan Indrayana, Kuncarsono Prasetyo, Ahmad Zaki Yamani

Nominated for Best Short Documentary at the 2022 Indonesian Film Festival, *Koesno: Jati Diri Soekarno* explores the youth of Indonesia's first President in Surabaya. Through reenactments and facts, it reveals his true birthplace and how Surabaya shaped his nationalist spirit and identity as an Arek Suroboyo.



The Last Accord: War, Apocalypse, and Peace in Aceh

Friday 31 Oct • 20:30-22:30 at Alang-Alang Stage
with Arfan Sabran, Ida Fitri

This documentary film traces the decades-long conflict between the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and the extraordinary peace achieved through the 2005 Helsinki Accord. Through untold stories and behind-the-scenes struggles, it captures conflict, resilience, and reconciliation, showing how diplomacy turned an 'impossible' war into lasting peace.

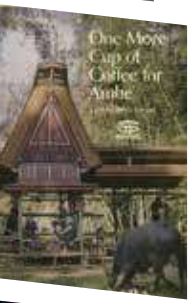


The Last Glaciers

Saturday 1 Nov • 18:15-19:45 at Alang-Alang Stage
with Craig Leeson, Suzy Hutomo

After witnessing 2017's tragic Mont Blanc avalanche, award-winning filmmaker Craig Leeson investigates one of climate change's most critical impacts. *The Last Glaciers'* stunning visuals render the warming of mountain landscapes and vanishing of glaciers a clear and urgent threat, to nature and humanity, learn how we must respond to protect both.

Supported by Eco Tourism Bali



One More Cup of Coffee for Ambe'

Saturday 1 Nov • 21:00-22:00 at Alang-Alang Stage
with Shinta Oktania Retnani

This ethnographic film explores Torajan funerary traditions in South Sulawesi, where death is seen as an extension of life. It contrasts two families' ceremonies, an upper-class household sacrificing 170 buffaloes, and a middle-class family struggling to gather enough, revealing how faith, culture, and social status shape ways of honouring the dead.



ROOTS

Sunday 2 Nov • 15:00-17:30 at Paradiso Ubud
with Gus Dark, Made Bayak, Michael Schindhelm

Ninety-eight years after painter and musician Walter Spies first visited Bali, his spirit returns. With him came tourism and modernity. Michael Schindhelm's poetic docu-fiction uncovers Bali's rise as the Eldorado of global tourism and the islanders' desperate efforts to preserve their cultural identity amid the pressures of globalisation.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

The Festival isn't just for established voices; it's also a place to nurture emerging talent. Designed for aspiring Affandis and Eka Kurniawans, our free Children & Youth workshops include writing, drawing, poetry, and performance.

SI KECIL BOOKSHOP

When Ramen Bowls Meet Sweet Surprises!	Wednesday 29 October 16:30-17:30 <i>with Patricia Tanumihardja</i>	A Snapper's Deep-Sea Adventure	Saturday 1 November 10:00-11:30 <i>with Elle Wibisono</i>
Papua Adventure with Meru and Noel	Saturday 1 November 15:00-16:30 <i>with Enda Kaban</i>		

PELANGI SCHOOL

Karntoon Klub for Kids	Saturday 1 November 09:30-10:30 <i>with Khan Wilson</i>	Kids Protect (for families)	Saturday 1 November 09:30-10:30 <i>with Georges Bossous Jnr and team members of Yayasan Word & Action Bali</i>
Pelangi Authors	Saturday 1 November 11:00-12:00 <i>with Pelangi School Student Writers and Staff Authors</i>	Act Out the Ghost!	Saturday 1 November 13:00-14:30 <i>with Rizal Iwan</i>
Rhythm & Rhyme with Meredith Costain	Sunday 2 November 10:30-12:00 <i>with Meredith Costain</i>	Telling Story from Another Side	Sunday 2 November 13:00-14:30 <i>with Ridwan Malik</i>

VILLA KITTY FOUNDATION

Stories, Coloring, and Cats!	Saturday 1 November 10:00-11:00 <i>with Patricia Edlyn</i>	Poetry Playtime and Cats	Sunday 2 November 10:00-11:15 <i>with Maja Klarić</i>
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SEKOLAH DASAR (SD) NEGERI 1 UBUD

Tales from Papua: Amoye and Other Stories	Friday 31 October 10:00-11:00 <i>with Topilus B. Tebai</i>	Story Time & Book Talk: Tidur Panjang Bedawang Nala	Thursday 30 October 10:00-11:30 <i>with Ni Nyoman Ayu Suciartini</i>
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SEKOLAH MENENGAH PERTAMA (SMP) NEGERI 2 UBUD

Writing from Everyday Life	Thursday 30 October 10:00-11:30 <i>with Alief El-Ichwan, Rosul Jaya Raya</i>
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SEKOLAH MENENGAH PERTAMA (SMP) NEGERI 3 UBUD

From Sketch to Story: Comics with Andara Fembriarto	Friday 31 October 10:00-11:30 <i>with Andara Fembriarto</i>
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Apéritif

An Art Deco sanctuary overlooking Ubud's valley, Apéritif transforms fine dining into a poetic dialogue with nature. The Lunar Cycle Menu, inspired by Bali's Sasih calendar, blends European finesse and Indonesian soul under Chef Nic Vanderbeeken, celebrating balance, transformation and timeless elegance.

aperitif.com | [@aperitifbali](https://www.instagram.com/aperitifbali) | +62 813-5326-6678



PINSTRIPE
BAR

The charm of the 1930s awaits at Pinstripe Bar, a refined speakeasy-style destination for crafted cocktails, fine wines and elevated bar bites. Inspired by Bali's artistic past, its vintage ambience and rich flavours invite conversation, connection and indulgence, an intimate escape where every sip and plate tells a story.

pinstripebar.com | [@pinstripebar](https://www.instagram.com/pinstripebar) | +62 859-6310-5757

BOOK LAUNCHES

With a selection of emerging and established authors, our free Book Launches offer a wide array of genres, making sure there's something for every reader.



Kota Ini Kembang Api

Thursday 30 Oct • 10:00-11:00 at Rumah Kayu

with Gratiagusti Chananya Rompas, Shinta Febriany*

Gratiagusti Chananya Rompas' poetry collection is described as a palette of experiences and emotions, weaving natural and urban elements to portray love, anger, desire, loss, and hope, while exploring the intimate bond between a citizen and her city.



Moono: The Adventure & Shadow War

Thursday 30 Oct • 11:30-12:30 at The Elephant

with Andrea Hilaria Li, Ochie Chandra*

Set in a future ruled by global surveillance and digital control, the story follows Gamma, a 17-year-old orphan from Timor-Leste chosen for a government-run simulation on the Moon. What seems like a mission unravels into mind control, genetic experiments, and weaponized memories, as Gamma becomes a double agent in a high-stakes fight for freedom.



Until Even The Angels

Thursday 30 Oct • 15:00-16:00 at Powder Room by R4D

with Suzanne Scott Tomita, Erin Woodward*

Suzanne Scott Tomita's debut literary crime novel follows Detective Ayesha Nur as she investigates the attempted assassination of successful London real estate agent Isabelle Goh. The case forces Ayesha to confront her own demons and uncover long-hidden secrets tied to post-colonial Singapore—a story of class, memory, and enduring bonds.



Archipelagos 3: The Power of Imang in Nusantara

Thursday 30 Oct • 15:00-16:00 at The Elephant

with Andi Muhammad Akbar, Udiarti*

The third book in the Archipelagos series by Andi Muhammad Akbar follows seven children from diverse Indonesian tribes. It weaves culture, traditions, and magic into their journey mastering extraordinary powers to face a new enemy. Inspired by Indonesia's rich mysticism, the series will span five books.



Simulasi Sakaratul Maut

Friday 31 Oct • 10:00-11:00

at Kopi Nako Daur Baur Ubud x Slo Bar

with Titan Sadewo, Ridwan Malik*

This collection of poems invites readers to explore imperfect, fractured, and even broken relationships between humans and their social environment. The poems use unusual metaphors and symbols, such as leeches, blenders, and pus, to confront the frightening, showing how such elements can allow even death to be perceived as a form of beauty.



Candid Enigma

Thursday 30 Oct • 11:30-12:30 at Rumah Kayu

with Maurice O'Riordan, Julia Winterflood*

Maurice O'Riordan reveals a long-awaited monograph on the late visual artist, curator, activist, and publicist Andrew (Andy) Hau Ewing. Emerging in 1990s Sydney, Andy challenged racist stereotypes of gay Asian identity through magazine illustrations and provocative public art like Reinscribing Skin, banned by South Sydney Council. His bold practice spans cultures and cities, with his legacy continuing through the Andy Ewing Fellowship and this vital, deeply researched tribute.



Menemukan Harta Karun di Pesisir Selatan Papua

Thursday 30 Oct • 13:30-14:30 at Rumah Kayu

with Enda Kaban, Laksmi Mutiara Prameswari*

This children's book follows Meru, Noel, and friends on an adventure along Papua's Southern Coast. They search for treasure, discover traditional crafts, and explore Papua's rich culture and nature. With simple text and bright illustrations, it's a fun, educational journey for young readers.

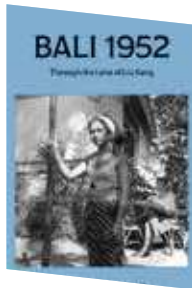


Galeo Anak Segara

Thursday 30 Oct • 15:00-16:00 at Rumah Kayu

with Andara Fembriarto, Wilda Yanti Salam*

In the vast oceanic realm of the Allsea, Seawalkers are fishermen gifted with the power to walk on water using talos sandals. Galeo, a young Seawalker, must face the Ikiri Trials—a dangerous rite of passage to earn his place as a Mighty Seawalker. After failing, he embarks on a quest to redeem himself, battling sea monsters and pirates to lift a family curse.



Bali 1952 Through the Lens of Liu Kang

Friday 31 Oct • 10:00-11:00 at IBAH

with Gretchen Liu, Rio Helmi*

In 1953, four China-born artists in Singapore held an exhibition titled Bali, inspired by a sketching trip to Java and Bali the previous year. Recently discovered photographs, diaries, and letters by Liu Kang reveal their seven-week journey. With over 250 striking images, the collection captures landscapes, daily life, and portraits, an inspiring milestone in Singapore's art history.

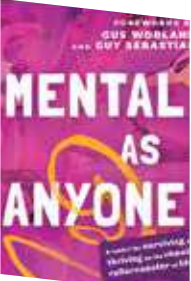


Tanda-Tanda di Langit Kahayan

Friday 31 Oct • 10:00-11:00 at Rumah Kayu

with Angelina Enny, Antonia Maria Oy, Ni Putu Rastiti, Olin Monteiro*

This short story anthology shares women's experiences across Kalimantan, Java, East Nusa Tenggara, Maluku, and Papua—navigating adversity, cultural change, and the climate crisis. Set in coastal, island, and mountain communities, the stories explore loss, resilience, migration, and hope in a rapidly changing world.

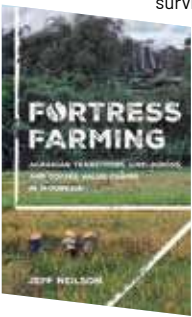


Mental as Anyone

Friday 31 Oct • 11:30-12:30 at Dharma Kula Ubud

with Jonathon Moran, Luna Vidya*

This raw and relatable self-help guide by journalist and podcast host Jonathon 'J.Mo' Moran, co-written with clinical psychologist Dr. Jodie Lowinger, blends candid personal stories with expert-backed strategies. Moran shares how he built his mental health "toolkit" after facing trauma, addiction, low self-worth, and grief. Filled with honest and empowering insights, the book offers actionable tools to help readers navigate life's emotional chaos and find strength to survive and thrive.



Fortress Farming

Friday 31 Oct • 13:30-14:30 at Powder Room by R4D

with Jeffrey Neilson, Satria Muda*

Jeff Neilson explores an emerging livelihood strategy in Indonesia's rural coffee regions, where smallholders resist full integration into capitalist agriculture. Rather than focusing on productivity, these households preserve land access as a buffer against economic uncertainty while depending on off-farm income. Challenging the view that development always moves farming toward urban industry, Neilson offers fresh insights into agrarian transition and how communities adapt, resist, and reshape global economic pressures for rural resilience today.



The Loom and the Offering

Friday 31 Oct • 14:00-15:00 at Threads of Life

with Alison Hadley, Hyalea Beryl Gono, Kirk Johnson, Kylee Quitugua, Noah Somera, Shannon Ada, Ochie Chandra*

This work reflects 25 years of experiential learning through the Bali Field School, showcasing eight University of Guam students' deep engagement with Balinese culture and traditional weaving communities. In partnership with Threads of Life, the experience fostered personal transformation and explored education as a relational practice rooted in humility, connection, and purpose.



Hana: Jangan Biarkan Mereka Lihat Lukamu

Saturday 01 Nov • 10:00-11:00 at Rumah Kayu

with Yudiati Kuniko, Ndari*

Yudiati Kuniko tells a heart-wrenching story of Hana, a Japanese woman shaped by war, loss, and complicated love. Born from a geisha, Hana's life takes her from Yokohama to Tokyo and then to Indonesia with Rumaga, a businessman. Haunted by betrayal, loss, and family conflicts, she returns to Aokigahara Forest intending to end her life. A supernatural encounter forces her to choose between living or surrendering.



Ajengan Anjing

Saturday 01 Nov • 11:30-12:30 at Rumah Kayu

with Ridwan Malik, Dewi Setiawan*

In this new book, Ridwan Malik shares the story of Harak, a humble farm dog who, in his final moments, sees his life unfold. From memories at Bahrul Ulum Islamic boarding school with Mama Aleh and the students, to working in Haji Adung's gardens with Madsahdi, and resting by rice fields after hard days, Harak's journey reveals that a blessed life is one filled with compassion.



The Director: Penguasa dan Penata Bumi

Friday 31 Oct • 11:30-12:30 at Rumah Kayu

with Ana Filomena Amaral, Kadek Sonia Piscayanti*

Ana Filomena Amaral's fiction novel explores what happens when humans, meant to protect the Earth, become its main destroyers. Deep in a protected forest, a secret laboratory threatens the ecosystem. Two unlikely figures, Gil, a power-hungry director, and Henry, a nature-loving genius, must confront elite forest destroyers. Can opposing lives save a dying Earth, or dig its grave?



Tuter Tantri

Friday 31 Oct • 13:30-14:30 at Rumah Kayu

with Ni Nyoman Ayu Suciartini, Wulan Dewi Saraswati*

Inspired by the legendary Balinese manuscript Ni Diah Tantri, this tale unfolds in the kingdom of Patali Nagatun, where King Eswaryadala weds a new princess every Wednesday until only one remains—Diah Tantri, the daughter of a loyal patih. On their wedding night, Tantri delays the king with her magical stories of animal battles that mirror human struggles, and in the space between words, love begins to grow. Yet Tantri's heart remains divided, torn between surrendering to this love and holding fast to her fight against patriarchy.



Trust No One – The Psychology Behind Crime Fiction

Friday 31 Oct • 15:00-16:00 at Rumah Kayu

with Ivy Ngeow, Kam Raslan, Rueben Dass, Kantarin Leelahuta*

Three gripping new novels—In Safe Hands, Skin, and Malayan Spy—explore power, fear, and survival through dark family secrets, brutal murders, and a young man's search for identity in colonial Malaya. From psychological tension to mystery and historical intrigue, these stories reveal the hidden violence within familiar spaces and the fragile line between truth and perception.



Inner Landscaping

Saturday 01 Nov • 11:30-12:30 at Dharma Kula Ubud

with Kinchem Hegedus, Ochie Chandra*

Inner Landscaping activates creativity by reimagining yourself as a thriving, adaptive ecosystem. Inspired by The Artist's Way and rooted in permaculture, it invites readers to live more fully and consciously, in harmony with nature. Emerging from transformative workshops developed for the Green School community, it offers a joyful, collective approach to creativity, connection, and resilience.



Chirping Town

Saturday 01 Nov • 13:30-14:30 at Rumah Kayu

with Aranindy, Robbyan Abel Ramdhon*

This story reveals a world where every moment is staged and emotions carefully crafted. Childhood friends Tharen Walugi and Ameira Tilada face old tensions while working in ChirTo, a secret division shaping public perception. It's an emotional tale exploring class, identity, and the cost of perfection.



Ritual

Saturday 01 Nov • 13:30-14:30 at Shelter Island

with Paul v. Walters, Erin Woodward*

A sadistic serial killer forces DCI Moore out of retirement to catch a deranged psychopath. At each crime scene, a chess piece is left behind, reflecting the victim's profession. DS Anderson discovers the killer targets victims based on specific chess moves while following a dark sacrificial ritual. As the body count rises, Moore races against time, shocked to find the killer has chosen one of their own.



Love, Labels & Going Viral: Gen Z Stories for a Messy, Modern World

Saturday 01 Nov • 14:00-15:00 at DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons

with Andrea Dee, Danton Remoto, Sarah Kushairi, Claire Betita de Guzman*

Three powerful coming-of-age stories explore identity, ambition, and connection. In Boys' Love, a young man navigates being gay in shifting societies. How We Came To Be follows two students building an unexpected friendship. In Jannah is NOT Average, a determined teen challenges expectations to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor against all odds.



Ombak par Kapur

Sunday 02 Nov • 11:30-12:30 at Rumah Kayu

with Faiza Nuralifah Khairunnisa, I Made Julio Saputra*

This poetic mosaic novel follows Aranye as she arrives in a remote village on Indonesia's eastern coast, hoping to build a classroom. Instead, she discovers lessons woven into everyday life, quietly shared by women through meals, laughter, labor, and love. In gardens, kitchens, and under nutmeg trees, Aranye learns that education isn't always formal—it lives in gestures, resilience, and care. A story about listening closely and the true meaning of teaching.



Life as I Know It

Sunday 02 Nov • 11:30-12:30 at Shelter Island

with Emte, Ndari*

Life as I Know It by Mohammad Taufiq, better known as Emte, captures the unique joy of exploring a new city alone. The book celebrates the freedom to follow your own rhythm, from savoring a meal without hesitation to laughing or crying freely at the movies. Emte shows how solitude opens us to unexpected moments and interactions, reminding readers that being alone is not lonely or sad but a liberating and enriching experience.

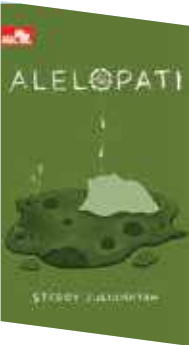


Finding Kapiten Boodieman

Saturday 01 Nov • 15:00-16:00 at Rumah Kayu

with Priyambudi Sulistiyanto, I Made Julio Saputra*

This book explores the long history of Indonesia–Australia relations, beginning in the 16th century when South Sulawesi seafarers sailed for trepang and forged ties with Aboriginal communities in Arnhem Land and the Kimberley. Their presence, remembered in stories, tamarind trees, and maritime heritage, with Captain Boodieman evoking the golden age of trade, is brought to life through the author's travels and engagement with local communities.



Alelopati

Saturday 01 Nov • 16:00-17:00 at DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons

with Stebby Julionatan, Wulan Dewi Saraswati*

This book is a poetic reflection on human relationships, using allelopathy, a plant's ability to inhibit others' growth, as a metaphor for unseen influences and harm between people. Combining narrative essay, prose poetry, and philosophy, it explores social dynamics, inherited wounds, and identity through a fresh, symbolic lens rooted in Indonesian culture.



Bia dan Kapak Batu

Sunday 02 Nov • 13:30-14:30 at Rumah Kayu

with Intan Andaru, Udiarti*

The story of Bia dan Kapak Batu follows Paskalina, Kosmas, and Urbanus, born amid a cultural shift where traditional foods like sago and fish give way to rice bags and instant noodles, sacred statues become commodities, and malnutrition threatens village children. As new influences arrive, Paskalina and Kosmas feel the urge to move forward, while Urbanus stays to protect tradition and silently loves Paskalina. Torn between change and preservation, their lives reflect the tensions of a community caught between past and future.



Tubuh yang Tak Patuh Seluruh

Sunday 02 Nov • 13:30-14:30 at The Elephant

with Tan Lioe le, Ketut Yuliarsa*

This collection of short stories stands apart from conventional forms. Rather than following a linear narrative, the stories unfold like poetry, with rhythmic enjambment, suggestive repetition, and typography that sparks the imagination. Scattered symbols create a sci-fi atmosphere, leading readers into an unexpected universe rich with multiple layers of meaning.



Selaras

Saturday 01 Nov • 16:00-18:00 at Jingga Restaurant at Bumi Kinar

with Dee Lestari, Windy Ariestanty*

Her first collaborative book with Reza Gunawan, her late husband invites readers to embrace stillness and unravel restlessness through reflections, practical guidance, and intimate stories rooted in peace. It encourages pausing, breathing, and accepting life as it is—with clarity and meaning. Exploring health, relationships, work, career, and parenting, it guides readers toward harmony with themselves, the world, and their inner divinity.

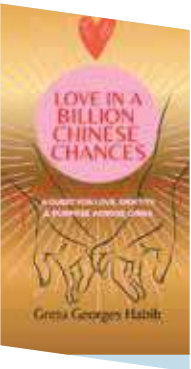


Heritage Threads

Saturday 01 Nov • 18:00-19:00 at Indus Restaurant

with Aparna Bhatnagar Saxena, Bhimanto Suwastoyo, Dinny Jusuf*

This book explores the historical and cultural links between Indian and Indonesian textiles, focusing on the double-ikat Patola from Gujarat and its influence across Sumatra, Bali, Java, and Flores. Richly illustrated, it shows how motifs, techniques, and symbolism migrated and adapted, highlighting the enduring legacy and shared inspiration of these vibrant traditions.



Love in a Billion Chinese Chances

Sunday 02 Nov • 14:00-15:00 at DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons

with Greta Georges Habib, Kadek Sonia Piscayanti*

In her luminous memoir of healing, courage, and learning to listen when the universe whispers, Greta Georges Habib tells the story of escaping an abusive relationship in Singapore at thirty. On a whim, she sends a video audition to China's state television. Chosen as a travel presenter, she embarks on a one-way journey to Beijing—and into her own rebirth. From Taoist mountains to hidden villages, Greta's encounters with spiritual teachers, lepers, and mystics awaken her true self.

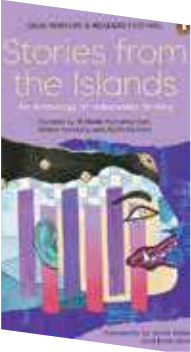


Leiden (2020-1920)

Sunday 02 Nov • 15:00-16:00 at Rumah Kayu

with Hasbunallah Haris, Dewi Setiawan*

Hasbunallah Haris tells the story of Syamil, a history student whose encounter with Maryati and Kasman in Padang Panjang magically takes him far from home. Through fragments of a century-old manuscript recorded by a former Dutch soldier, Alex van der Meer, Syamil journeys from Sawahlunto in 1920 to Leiden in 2020, retracing his nation's history while uncovering clues to a hidden treasure.



UWRF Anthology: Stories from the Islands

Saturday 01 Nov • 18:00-19:00 at Valley Stage

with Alief El-Ichwan, Annisa Ivana, Charlotte Diana, Kuku Yudha Karnanta, Ni Made Purnama Sari, Nora Nazerene Abu Bakar, Ratih Kumala, Rie Arshaka, Ridwan Malik, Robbyan Abel Ramdhon, Rosul Jaya Raya, Shinta Febriany, Udiarti, Wawan Kurniawan, Janet DeNeefe

This bilingual Festival anthology features ten emerging Indonesian writers selected for the Ubud Writers and Readers Festival 2025. Showcasing voices from across Indonesia's 17,000 islands, it reflects the nation's diverse ethnicities, languages, and cultures. The stories explore contemporary social issues and local traditions, offering a vivid, multifaceted portrait of modern Indonesia through the eyes of its young writers.

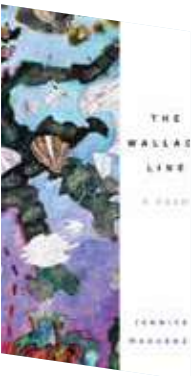


Pisangku Belum Matang

Sunday 02 Nov • 10:00-11:00 at Rumah Kayu

with Patricia Edlyn, Laksmi Mutiara Prameswari*

A holiday story about Agni's return during Galungan preparations, where unripe bananas spark curiosity. Filled with local wisdom and small challenges, this light-hearted tale with vivid illustrations captures the warmth of homecoming. Perfect for adults nostalgic for home and parents teaching cultural traditions to children.

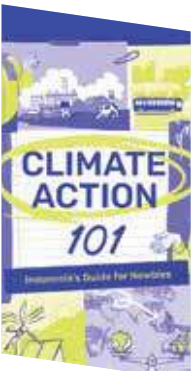


The Wallace Line: A Poem

Sunday 02 Nov • 16:00-17:00 at DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons

with Jennifer Mackenzie, Ochie Chandra*

This poetry collection explores Indonesia's Spice Islands, focusing on the Banda Archipelago and the impact of colonialism through the lens of the historic spice trade. It weaves in themes from explorers and writers like Alfred Russell Wallace and Joseph Conrad, while connecting global trade routes such as the Silk Road and Venice. The work celebrates cultural exchange, beauty, and coexistence, offering a poetic reflection on history, colonialism, and the merging of diverse worlds.



Climate Action 101 by Wisma Habibie

Sunday 02 Nov • 17:45-18:45 at Indus Restaurant

with Afuar Satria, Nadia Habibie, Amanda Katili*

This guide empowers youth to understand and act on climate change by explaining key concepts, debunking myths, and highlighting urgent solutions like renewable energy and sustainable living. It provides practical tools for daily actions, community projects, and activism, inspiring a generation ready to make a meaningful difference.

CLIMATE DAY

Join our free Climate Day on Sunday, 2 November, on the grounds of Bumi Kinar, focusing on sustainability, activism, and climate change.

📍 BUMI KINAR UBUD

FREE

Climate Day Keynote: Craig Leeson

10:15-10:45
*with Craig Leeson, Melati Wijsen**

Join us for a fascinating conversation with Australian award-winning filmmaker, television presenter, explorer, public speaker, and entrepreneur. Commence Climate Day with an expert's take on the themes of the day: Biodiversity, Sustainable Waste Management, Water Conservation, Indigenous Wisdom, Youth Awareness, and how literature can sow the seeds for a better world.

Water Rituals

11:00-12:00
*with Claudia Koch, Craig Leeson, Jero Penyarikan Duuran Batur, Amanda Katili**

Water is a resource and a remedy, for centuries guarded by human beings. We have prayed to the sacred lake of Batur and used science to preserve it against overuse and depletion. In this conversation, we will take valuable lessons from both tradition and technology and learn how they can cohabit in preserving our precious water.

Land of Plenty: Holidays, Industries and Floods

12:15-13:15
*with Margareth Meutia, Rossy You, Suzy Hutomo, Phillip Jacobson**

As we radically shift from land uses in agricultural industries to urban areas, there have been a multitude of negative impacts on the natural world, and we need a multifaceted strategy to address it. Learn how ecotourism, regenerative agriculture and Indigenous wisdom can work together to make this shift sustainable for both people and nature.

Regenerative Action from the Ground Up

13:30-14:30
*with Febiola Rumangkang, Natalie Kyriacou, Wayan Wardika, Harry Surjadi**

Community-based management is a concept aiming to encourage community agency, support local economies, alleviate poverty, and grow sustainably. Our expert speakers are leaders in the fields of land regeneration, circular fashion, and various environmental initiatives. Join this conversation to discuss how to re-centre management to be community-focused and community-led.

Nothing is Waste

14:45-15:45
*with Dian Elvira Rosa, Sean Nino Lotze, Suya Patni, Melati Wijsen**

The waste management crisis in Bali is affecting every avenue of progress. But hope is not lost. This panel prioritises management strategies such as rerouting waste, the use of renewable energy, and other alternatives. Join our speakers as we investigate how all age demographics, but specifically the youth, can aid in this cause.

Reclaiming Architecture as Sacred Code

16:00-17:00
*with Budiman Ong, Conchita Blanco, Gacanti Swastika, Gede Maha Putra, Kadek Krishna Adidharma**

Join us in this revival of cosmology in architectural practice, where sacred land knowledge is often diluted in modern projects. This panel explores how space, structure, and spirit are meant to co-exist, and how modern architects can reconnect with cosmological codes. We will discover that these principles can, in fact, evolve without being commodified or erased.

Echoes for the Earth: Voices of Changemakers

17:15-18:15
with Dian Sonnerstedt, Melati Wijsen, Tommy Sastra Wijaya

This event spotlights a powerful collection of short talks by community change-makers. From community healers to climate innovators, we hear their stories, their voices echoing the urgency and hope of their mission. They will call to us, the audience, to be challenged to ask: how do we create a more just, sustainable, and regenerative future?

Full Day of Activities

Our Climate Day features important conversations with renowned speakers and industry experts. Join us for a day filled with activities that show how we can live thoughtfully and sustainably—whether it's managing textile and food waste, thrifting clothes, practising live food composting, or engaging children and young adults in fun climate-awareness activities. It's a great opportunity to connect with climate activists, advocates and change-makers from Bali and beyond.

Visit our website for the full programme.

*Moderator



The Yoga Barn

Yoga, Healing & Community in the Heart of Ubud

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

FESTIVAL CLUB

Join free Festival Club sessions with young speakers and inspiring figures as they discuss diverse topics, including literature, social issues, and the environment.

TAMAN DEDARI

Mengenalkan Ekologi dan Kekayaan Lokal pada Anak-Anak lewat seri Mata

Thursday 30 October
10:00–11:30

with Made Rusmartini, Okky Madasari, Gema Laksmi Mawardi*

Okky Madasari’s Mata series takes readers on thrilling journeys across Indonesia through the eyes of Matara, a curious and brave young girl. These adventure stories spark imagination and open windows into the country’s diverse landscapes and cultures, while nurturing curiosity, courage, and a love of learning. In this special book club, participants will step into the world of Mata with Okky herself, exploring her creative process, research, and vision, and reflecting together on the enduring power of adventure tales for young readers. *This session will be conducted in Indonesian. Supported by Center for Book Affairs; Education Standard, Curriculum, and Assessment Agency; Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education**

BAR LUNA AT CASA LUNA

Food as Story, Food as Home

Thursday 30 October
17:15–18:15

with Patricia Tanumihardja, Wilda Yanti Salam

Food is never just about taste. It carries memory, identity, and belonging. In Indonesia, culinary traditions tell stories of families, migrations, and communities, linking past and present. This session looks at how food sustains memory, reflects change, and opens conversations about heritage, community, and the shared act of eating together.

To Love The Pen: Our Literary Journeys

Friday 31 October
16:00–17:00

with Julia Prendergast, Maja Klarić, Shinie Antony, Kismet Krystle*

Writers walk different paths to become writers. Nonetheless, there is a deep-running universality in our love of language—in this unending need to assemble words on the page. How can authors’ stories be so unique, yet so universal? Join us to explore our speakers’ separate literary journeys and discuss their latest works.

Mark Heyward: The Quality of Light

Friday 31 October
17:15–18:15

with Mark Heyward, Rutvik Bhandari*

Mark Heyward calls both Indonesia and Tasmania, Australia, home. His newest novel, The Quality of Light, follows father of two, Matthew, back to the site of his brother’s disappearance, where forgotten terror will force a spellbinding reckoning amidst the lush Tasmanian mountainscape. Listen as Hayward traverses the novel and its place in his body of work.

Kate Sawyer: Family Literature

Saturday 1 November
16:00–17:00

with Kate Sawyer, Rutvik Bhandari*

If the heartache and humour that family fiction promises comes from authors’ own lives, how do they manage? Award-winning author Kate Sawyer knows: her latest venture, Getting Away, is a gripping multigenerational epic set against a family’s holiday destinations. Listen as she shares her knowledge of writing family fiction—you will be enthralled.

Understanding Jokowi

Saturday 1 November
17:15–18:15

with Jean Couteau

Cultural critic Jean Couteau reflects on Joko Widodo’s decade in power—marked by industrialisation, infrastructure, and digital growth, rooted in Javanese values of co-operation and balance. As Indonesia enters the Prabowo–Gibran era, Couteau invites us to consider the evolving legacy of leadership, culture, and democracy in modern Indonesia.

Writing for Children

Saturday 1 November
18:30–19:30

with Elle Wibisono, Meredith Costain

From picture books to poetry and fiction, children’s literature sparks imagination and curiosity while opening awareness of the world around us. How can writers and illustrators harness storytelling to inspire young readers, nurture empathy, and foster care for our planet? This session explores literature’s role in shaping compassionate, imaginative generations.

Omar Musa: Fierceland

Sunday 2 November
17:30–18:30

with Omar Musa, Chaitanya Srivastava*

Bornean–Australian artist and author Musa was longlisted for the 2015 Miles Franklin Award. In his newest fiction, Fierceland, secrecy, colonial legacy, and the brutality of Malaysian Borneo’s deforestation collide as two siblings reckon with their history – and their father’s treacherous wealth. Join him to discuss the novel’s acclamation and his creative practices.

INDUS RESTAURANT

If Objects Could Speak: Storytelling with SAKA Museum

Thursday 30 October
18:45–19:45

with Judith E. Bosnak

At SAKA Museum, artefacts and artworks become catalysts for reflection and storytelling. This session invites participants to see objects as creative prompts, linking heritage with imagination and history with new narratives. Through interactive interpretation and SAKA’s Top 10 Facts, participants experience the museum’s unique approach as an active cultural voice.

Yang Memberi Kita Nama

Friday 31 October
19:15–20:15

Singaporean poet Alvin Pang’s work, translated by Aan Mansyur, explores identity and the power of names in shaping selfhood. Through lyrical poetry, it reveals memory, heritage, and human connections across time and culture. Join us to discuss how poetry reflects our existence in a changing world. Surprise speaker soon!

Paya Nie: Women’s Lives in the Midst of Conflict

Saturday 1 November
19:15–20:15

with Ida Fitri, Ronny Agustinus*

What becomes of women when armed conflict erupts? Paya Nie, winner of 3rd Prize at the 2023 Jakarta Arts Council Novel Competition, tells of four Acehese women: Ubiet, Mawa Aisyah, Cuda Aminah and Kak Limah. They search for binyeut, the natural fibres used for mat weaving, in the Paya Nie wetlands as the Gerakan Aceh Merdeka conflict unfolds. While most war stories focus on soldiers, leaders or ruined infrastructures, this novel gives voice to women as they confront loss, fear and violence. With lyrical prose infused with legend, myth and mysticism, Paya Nie builds tension toward the first gunshot that changes everything.

RUMAH KAYU

Inside the Kusala Sastra Khatulistiwa Award

Thursday 30 October
16:30–17:30

with Ida Fitri, Sasti Gotama, Gema Laksmi Mawardi*

For over two decades, Kusala Sastra Khatulistiwa has spotlighted contemporary voices and shaped Indonesia’s literary landscape. This session brings together the award’s programme director and two writers to reflect on regeneration in literature, how new voices emerge, how tradition meets innovation, and how Indonesian writing evolves across generations.

The President of the State of East Indonesia

Thursday 30 October
17:45–18:45

with Tjok Gede Asmara Putra

This session features a reading and discussion of two books on Tjokorda Gde Rake Sukawati, the Ubud nobleman and former President of the State of East Indonesia (NIT), celebrated as a cultural diplomat of Bali. Participants will explore his political and cultural contributions and consider his lasting relevance in Indonesia today.

Remembering Cok Sawitri

Thursday 30 October
19:00–20:00

with Cokorda Ngurah Rupini, Ita Siregar, Kadek Sonia Piscayanti, Ni Wayan Jero Jemiwi, Olin Monteiro

Join us as we celebrate Cokorda Sawitri, an Balinese artist who channelled her activism through writing and performance. The session begins with a short film about Cok Sawitri, followed by readings of her works and the launch of a collective book COK 1 September 1968 – 4 April 2024.

Illustrating Urban Realities

Friday 31 October
16:30–17:30

with Emte, Gilang Propagila, Gus Dark, Sidhi Vhisatya*

Cities and everyday life inspire both creativity and critique. This session explores how urban experiences shape artistic practice, from zines to comics to illustration. Art emerges as a lens through which to capture humour, tension and change, while also prompting us to reflect critically on the environments we inhabit.

The Overthinking Chronicles

Friday 31 October
17:45–18:45

with Nago Tejena, Sophie Navita Gema Laksmi Mawardi*

Overthinking often traps us in worry and self-doubt. This session shows how to recognise and reshape unhelpful thought patterns, with practical tools to reflect, nurture self-compassion, and transform anxious loops into mindful, empowering stories. Discover how to turn overthinking into insight and embrace a calmer, more balanced approach to life.

Bringing Indonesia’s Stories to the World

Friday 31 October
19:00–20:00

with Ratih Kumala, Nora Nazerene Abu Bakar

How can Indonesian literature reach a wider global audience? The answer lies not only in sending books overseas, but in building an ecosystem – festivals, digital platforms, curators, critics, and networks that give national storytellers a stage. This session explores practical ways to help Indonesian stories travel further and connect with readers worldwide. *Supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Indonesia.*

Voices from the East: Remembering Ajoeba Wartabone

Saturday 1 November
16:30–17:30

with Anak Agung Bagus Wirawan, Basri Amin, Isabella Roberts, Amanda Katili*

How do regional voices shape national identity, and why are some remembered while others forgotten? This session revisits Ajoeba Wartabone, a nationalist leader from Gorontalo, whose 1947 declaration Sekali ke Djokja, Tetap ke Djokja affirmed solidarity with the Republic. Drawing on his new biography, the discussion explores Eastern Indonesia’s overlooked contributions and Bali’s role in unity.

Campuhan Ubud: Where East Meets West

Saturday 1 November
17:45–18:45

with Wayan Karja, Sidhi Vhisatya*

For generations, the Campuhan area in Ubud has been a symbolic meeting point where Balinese and international artists exchange ideas and help reshape the trajectory of Indonesian art. In this session, acclaimed Balinese painter and educator Wayan Karja reflects on that legacy through his own journey. Known for his exploration of intuitive and spiritual art rooted in Balinese cosmology, particularly pangider bhuwana and the color mandala, Wayan has carried Ubud’s creative spirit to global stages as an artist, researcher, and teacher. His perspective offers a unique lens on how Ubud continues to nurture dialogue between tradition, innovation, and cross-cultural collaboration.

Beyond Backlash: Imagining an Equal Future

Saturday 1 November
19:00–20:00

with Devi Asmarani, Okky Madasari, Shiori Itō, Jasmine Floretta Vasthia Devi*

This session looks at how the global fight for gender equality, despite progress, faces new challenges in the social media era. From trends around the conventional housewife to the Red Pill phenomenon, patriarchy is reasserting itself. Magdalene, an Indonesian bilingual online magazine, invites audiences to explore how these forces shape gender, power, and resistance.

The Grammar of Bali’s 1930s Movements

Sunday 2 November
16:30–18:00

with Bandem Kamandalu, Juli Sastrawan, Putu Sridiniari, Si Luh Ayu Pawitri, Oktaria Asmarani*

This session revisits Menoedjoe Masjarakat Baroe (In the Making of a New Society), first published in Djatajoe in 1939. The text imagined Bali at a crossroads of colonial legacies, adat, and emerging nationhood. By exploring solidarity, organisation, and women’s voices, it sparked debates that still echo in Bali today.

FRINGE EVENTS

Hikayat Mitobotani	Thursday 30 October 11:00-12:00 <i>with Asief Abdi</i> Location: I Gusti Bagus Sugriwa State Hindu University	Blending myth, memory, and botany, Hikayat Mitobotani is a lyrical travelogue exploring how human experience and the natural world intertwine. In this session, Asief Abdi shares his creative process and ethnobotanical insights, reimagining plants as bridges between time, place, and memory in shifting ecological landscapes. <i>This session is for teachers and will be conducted in Indonesian.</i>
Buku Bacaan untuk Kelas yang Berkesadaran dan Menggembirakan	Thursday 30 October 9:00-12:00 <i>with Made Rusmartini, Sofie Dewayani</i> Location: Universitas Hindu Negeri I Gusti Bagus Sugriwa Denpasar	Enhance your skills in selecting, recommending, and using the right reading materials for students through this engaging programme. Sofie Dewayani, a literacy specialist and children's book author featured in the White Ravens catalogue, and Made Rusmartini, an educator with 21 years of experience in international schools and a novelist highlighting Balinese locality, will combine theory with practical insights to share strategies and best practices for choosing books that inspire, support, and strengthen student literacy. <i>This session is for teachers, and will be conducted in Indonesian.</i> <i>Supported by: Pusat Perbukuan, Badan Standar, Kurikulum, dan Asesmen Pendidikan, Kementerian Pendidikan Dasar dan Menengah</i>
Humour, Grief, and Mental Health with Dr Andreas Kurniawan	Friday, 31 October 11:00-12:00 <i>With Andreas Kurniawan</i> Location: Fakultas Ilmu Budaya Universitas Udayana	A psychiatrist and mega best-selling author, Dr. Andreas Kurniawan brings a fresh perspective to conversations on mental health. With a light, witty, and down-to-earth writing style, he transforms topics often seen as heavy into warm and engaging stories. In this session, Andreas shares his creative journey and reflections through his two books, Seorang Wanita yang Ingin Menjadi Pohon Semangka di Kehidupan Berikutnya and Seorang Pria yang Melalui Duka dengan Mencuci Piring, highlighting the importance of presenting mental well-being in a grounded and accessible way. <i>This session is for teachers and will be conducted in Indonesian.</i>

Satellite Programme: Ambon & Payakumbuh

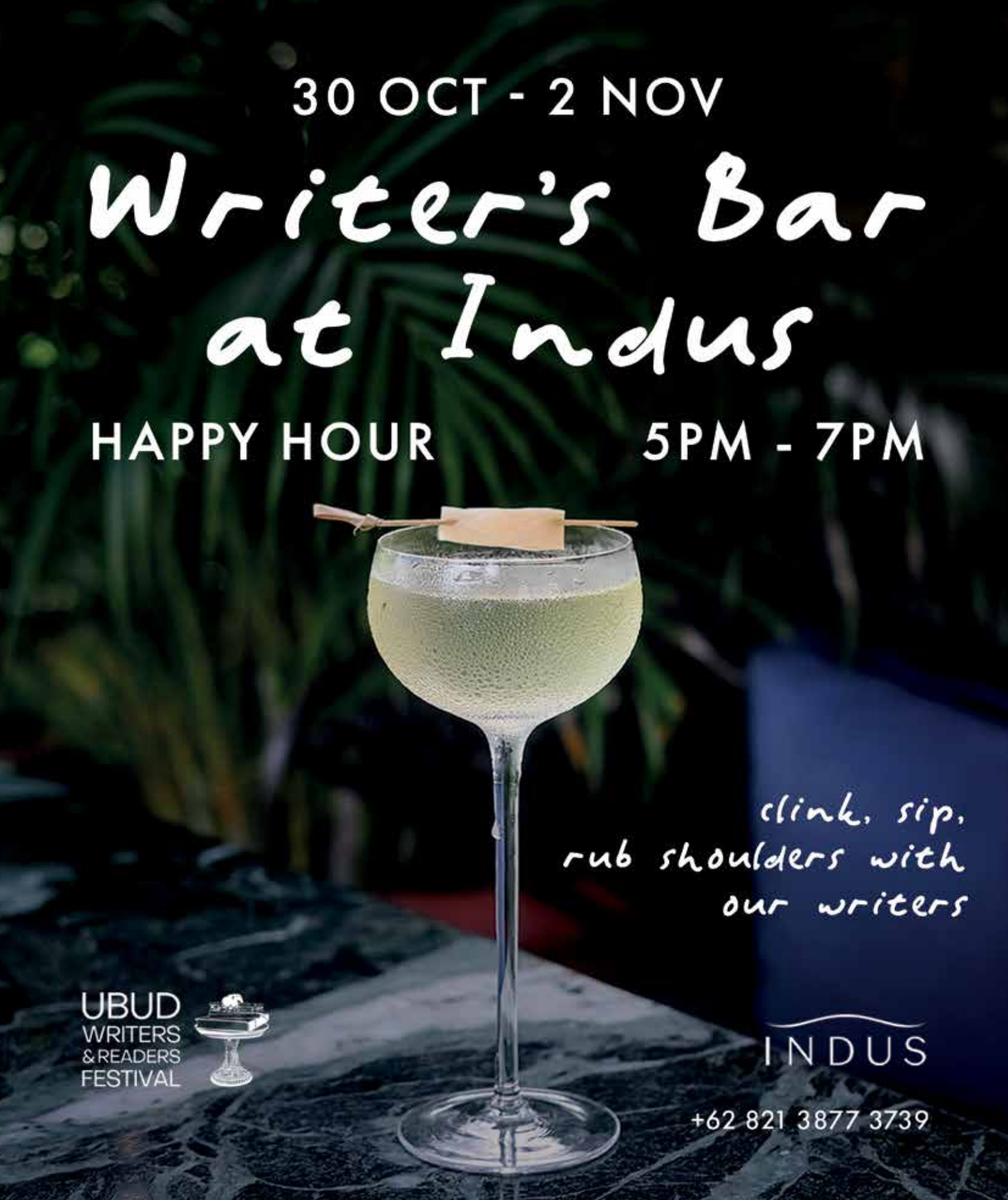
This year, through the Literary Festival Strengthening Programme, the Festival collaborates with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Indonesia to present poet Namal Siddiqui, a Pakistani writer born and raised in the United Arab Emirates who serves as Head of the Festival's International Programme, is preparing her debut poetry collection for publication, curates cultural events, and works as a creative consultant, and who at these satellite festivals will share her experiences in the literary world, her creative journey, and selected works from her poetry.

As part of the UWRF satellite programme, Namal will appear at:
Jazirah: Timur Labuhan Kata | 7-8 November 2025, Ambon, Maluku
Payakumbuh Poetry Festival | 27-29 November 2025, Payakumbuh, West Sumatra
This programme is supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Indonesia.

ART EXHIBITION

Free entry during opening hours

The Unseen Thread Bumi Kinar Ubud <i>Exhibition running time:</i> 24 August – 22 November.	Ubud-born artist Bagus Ari Maruta explores the invisible threads linking past and present, humanity and nature. Through colour, textiles, and installation, he creates landscapes where mountains, trees, and ancestral myths emerge as intimate presences. Balancing sekala (the seen) and niskala (the unseen), his work invites reflection on memory, myth, and the beauty of being human.	Kewajiban – The Obligation Bagia Art Space <i>Exhibition running time:</i> 10 October – 4 November. <i>Free entry during opening hours.</i>	"Obligation constitutes an inherent aspect of human existence, a responsibility arising from rules, norms, law, and morality. From this consciousness of obligation, artistic ideas take shape, opening a space for reflection on what must be enacted and accounted for. Through these works, the artist investigates how obligation may function as both a source of inspiration and a mode of reflection, not solely as a burden but as a pathway towards a deeper understanding of the self, society, and life.
Kamasan Visual Study Project #1: Gerak Garis Kamasan Purga Artspace <i>Exhibition running time:</i> 16 September – 3 November 2025.	The Racuns and Gurat Art Project present a space of exploration where the line in Kamasan painting becomes a source of inspiration for contemporary visual art. This exploration arises from the awareness that tradition is not stagnant, but alive, continuously rediscovered and reimagined within today's artistic practices.	Found in Bali Sika Gallery <i>Exhibition running time:</i> 25 October – 8 November.	Found in Bali by Jasper John Avice Demay reflects his perspective on life while working, exploring, and developing artworks during his time as an artist in residence at Ketemu Project. Inspired by everyday surroundings, the pieces are linked through a recurring character motif, capturing elements of landscape, society, culture, and collaboration.
Ikatan Jingga Restaurant at Bumi Kinar <i>Exhibition running time:</i> 4 October – 8 November.	IKATAN explores the connections between humans and fabric through the lens of professional fashion photographer and Menggah Agung creative director Hastosa. For him, fashion is more than aesthetics; it is storytelling expressed through models' gestures, woven threads, and flowing fabrics. Blending tradition and modernity, IKATAN celebrates humanity in all its complexity, capturing joy, sorrow, and the rhythms of life lived uniquely in Bali.	Journey to Self-realization Cafe Lotus <i>Exhibition running time:</i> 29 October – 2 November 2025.	This exhibition is a visual exploration of the sacred path toward inner truth, inspired by the Sanskrit concept and responding to this year's Festival theme <i>Aham Brahmasmi – I am the Universe</i> . Through abstraction, symbolism, and emotional nuance, each piece acts as a mirror, inviting the viewer to journey inward.



Daily Schedule

Wednesday, 29 October

Children & Youth Programme	16:30 - 17:30
When Ramen Bowls Meet Sweet Surprises!	Si Kecil Bookshop
Special Event	18:00 - 22:00
Festival Opening Gala & Dinner	Puri Agung Ubud
Special Event	19:00 - 20:30
Festival Opening	Plaza Tjok Gde Agung Sukawati

Thursday, 30 October

Cultural Workshop	06:00 - 09:00
Culinary Jalan-Jalan	Casa Luna
Special Event	06:00- 08:00
Birdwatching Tour with Darryl Jones	Tjampuhan Ridge Walk
Main Programme	09:00- 09:10
Festival Welcome	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	09:15 - 09:30
Keynote: David Van Reybrouck	Indus Restaurant
Book Launch	10:00 - 11:00
Kota Ini Kembang Api	Rumah Kayu
Festival Club	10:00 - 11:30
Mengenalkan Ekologi dan Kekayaan Lokal pada Anak-Anak lewat seri Mata	Taman Dedari
Main Programme	10:00 - 11:00
William Dalrymple: The Anarchy	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	10:00 - 11:00
Writers Behind Bars	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	10:00 - 11:00
Reflections on Writing a Family Memoir	Valley Stage
Children & Youth Programme	10:00 - 11:30
Writing from Everyday Life	Sekolah Menengah Pertama (SMP) Negeri 2 Ubud

Masterclass	10:00 - 12:00
Learning from Emerging Voices	Leona Suweta by Nakula
Masterclass	10:00 - 12:00
Nature and Travel Writing	Metland Venya Ubud
Masterclass	10:00 - 12:00
Rediscovering the Joy of Conscious Reading through Lectio Divina	Plataran Ubud Hotel & Spa
Special Event	10:00 - 12:00
Pitch to Penguin	DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons
Fringe Event	11:00 - 12:00
Hikayat Mitobotani	State Hindu University of I Gusti Bagus Sugriwa
Special Event	10:30 - 13:00
Stories That Matter	Begawan Biji Restaurant
Main Programme	11:15 - 12:15
Antoinette Lattouf: How to Lose Friends and Influence White People	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	11:15 - 12:15
Aham Brahmasmi - I am the Universe	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	11:15 - 12:15
Deconstructing Colonialism	Valley Stage
Book Launch	11:30 - 12:30
Candid Enigma	Rumah Kayu
Book Launch	11:30 - 12:30
Moono: The Adventure & Shadow War	The Elephant
Main Programme	12:30 - 13:30
The First Book	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	12:30 - 13:30
Setting the Scene: How to Write About Place	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	12:30 - 13:30
The New Hero's Journey	Valley Stage
Book Launch	13:30 - 14:30
Menemukan Harta Karun di Pesisir Selatan Papua	Rumah Kayu
Main Programme	13:45 - 14:45
Sam Dalrymple: Shattered Lands	Alang-Alang Stage

Main Programme	13:45 - 14:45
Leila S. Chudori: Writing in the Wake of History	Valley Stage
Main Programme	13:45 - 14:45
The Gravity of Grief	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	13:45 - 14:45
Fajar Merah: Remembering Widji Thukul	Indus Restaurant
Book Launch	15:00 - 16:00
Until Even The Angels	Powder Room by R4D
Book Launch	15:00 - 16:00
Galeo Anak Segara	Rumah Kayu
Book Launch	15:00 - 16:00
Archipelagos 3: The Power of Imang in Nusantara	The Elephant
Main Programme	15:00 - 16:00
Melati Wijsen: Change Starts Now	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	15:00 - 16:00
People, Governance and AI	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	15:00 - 16:00
Trials of Translation	Valley Stage
Special Event	16:00 - 17:30
Porter 02: Living Dangerously	Honeymoon Garden
Special Event	16:00 - 20:00
Discover the Magic of Fireflies Village with Agustinus Wibowo	Rumah Konservasi Kunang-Kunang
Main Programme	16:15 - 17:15
Gail Jones: The Name of the Sister	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	16:15 - 17:15
Indonesia's Revolution and Decolonisation	Valley Stage
Festival Club	16:30 - 17:30
Inside the Kusala Sastra Khatulistiwa Award	Rumah Kayu
Festival Club	17:15 - 18:15
Food as Story, Food as Home	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Main Programme	17:30 - 18:30
The Cinema of Garin Nugroho	Alang-Alang Stage
Special Event	17:30 - 19:00
The Recurrent Mystical	Plataran Ubud Hotel & Spa

Festival Club	17:45 - 18:45
The President of the State of East Indonesia	Rumah Kayu
Special Event	18:00 - 19:30
Short Stories, Long Nights	COMO Uma Ubud
Special Event	18:00 - 19:30
Promosi Sastra Launch	Casa Luna
Special Event	18:30 - 20:00
Music and the Spoken Word	Soulshine Bali
Festival Club	18:45 - 19:45
If Objects Could Speak: Storytelling with SAKA Museum	Indus Restaurant
Festival Club	19:00 - 20:00
Remembering Cok Sawitri	Rumah Kayu
Film Programme	19:00 - 21:00
Samsara	Alang-Alang Stage
	19:00 - 21:00
Fundraiser Dinner	Rumah Melati Estate
After Dark Performance	19:30 - 21:00
Empire: Rooting for the Antihero	Honeymoon Garden
After Dark Performance	20:00 - 22:00
Women Poetry Slam	Indus Restaurant
Film Programme	21:15 - 22:30
Koesno: Jati Diri Soekarno	Alang-Alang Stage

Search – Bookmark – Enjoy!

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.

Visit: ubudwritersfestival.com/daily-schedule

Friday, 31 October

Special Event	06:00 - 08:00
Birdwatching Tour with Darryl Jones	Tjampuhan Ridge Walk
Cultural Workshop	08:00 - 09:00
Bahasa Indonesia Breakfast	Dharma Kula Ubud
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
David Van Reybrouck: Revolusi	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
Rewriting Women's History	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
The Critical Role of Independent Media	Indus Restaurant
Book Launch	10:00 - 11:00
Bali 1952 Through the Lens of Liu Kang	IBAH
Book Launch	10:00 - 11:00
Simulasi Sakaratul Maut	Kopi Nako Daur Baur Ubud x Slo Bar
Book Launch	10:00 - 11:00
Tanda-Tanda di Langit Kahayan	Rumah Kayu
Children & Youth Programme	10:00 - 11:00
Tales from Papua: Amoye and Other Stories	Sekolah Dasar (SD) Negeri 1 Ubud
Children & Youth Programme	10:00 - 11:30
Story Time & Book Talk: Tidur Panjang Bedawang Nala	Sekolah Dasar (SD) Negeri 7 Mas
Children & Youth Programme	10:00 - 11:30
From Sketch to Story: Comics with Andara Fembrianto	Sekolah Menengah Pertama (SMP) Negeri 3 Ubud
Masterclass	10:00 - 12:00
The Poetics of Border Ethnography	Adiwana Suweta
Masterclass	10:00 - 12:00
The Power of Storytelling in Personal Branding	SenS Hotel & Spa + Conference Ubud Town Centre
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
Ladies of the Booker Prize	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
Israel and Palestine: Pathways to Peace	Indus Restaurant

Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
Warriors of Writing: Resistance through Poetry	Valley Stage
Cultural Workshop	11:00 - 13:00
Hands-On Tempe Culinary Experience	Tempego Experience Ubud
Fringe Event	11:00 - 12:00
Fringe Event Universitas Udayana	Universitas Udayana
Fringe Event	11:00 - 12:00
Humour, Grief, and Mental Health with Andreas Kurniawan	Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Udayana University
Book Launch	11:30 - 12:30
Mental as Anyone	Dharma Kula Ubud
Book Launch	11:30 - 12:30
The Director: Penguasa dan Penata Bumi	Rumah Kayu
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
Artificial Intelligence and Indonesia	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
The Making of an Anthology: Stories from the Islands	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
Writing in the Coloniser's Tongue	Valley Stage
Special Event	12:30 - 14:30
Heirlooms: Literary Long Table Lunch	Herb Library
Fringe Event	12:45 - 13:45
Buku Bacaan untuk Kelas yang Berkesadaran dan Menggembirakan	Bali Museum
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
Capturing South East Asia's Collective Memory	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
Independent Publishing	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
Poetry: A Tapestry of Words	Valley Stage
Book Launch	13:30 - 14:30
Fortress Farming	Powder Room by R4D
Book Launch	13:30 - 14:30
Tutur Tantri	Rumah Kayu

Book Launch	14:00 - 15:00
The Loom and the Offering	Threads of Life
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
The Critical Voice of Okky Madasari	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
Love in a Time of Conflict	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
Seeking Discomfort	Valley Stage
Masterclass	14:00 - 15:00
Master Your Podcast with Makna Talks	Alila Ubud
Masterclass	14:00 - 16:00
Print, Protest, Punk: A Masterclass with Gilang Propagila	The Westin Resort & Spa Ubud
Cultural Workshop	14:30 - 16:00
Exploring Indigo Tie Dye with Threads of Life	Threads of Life Natural Dye Studio
Book Launch	15:00 - 16:00
Trust No One – The Psychology Behind Crime Fiction	Rumah Kayu
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
Haidar Bagir: Religion and Imagination	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
The Power of Women	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
The Spirits Among Us: Demystifying Indonesia's Everyday Supernatural	Valley Stage
Special Event	15:30 - 17:00
The Art of Tea	Dragon Tea Temple
Festival Club	16:00 - 17:00
To Love The Pen: Our Literary Journeys	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Film Programme	16:00 - 18:00
Gayatri: The Majapahit Trilogy (Episode 1)	Paradiso Ubud
Special Event	16:00 - 20:00
Discover the Magic of Fireflies Village with Bella Li	Rumah Konservasi Kunang-Kunang
Festival Club	16:30 - 17:30
Illustrating Urban Realities	Rumah Kayu

Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
In Conversation with Klaas Stutje	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
Publishing in a Problematic World	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
Women and Creativity	Valley Stage
Special Event	16:30 - 19:30
History Duet: Cosmos and Kingdom	Honeymoon Garden
Festival Club	17:15 - 18:15
Mark Heyward: The Quality of Light	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Festival Club	17:45 - 18:45
The Overthinking Chronicles	Rumah Kayu
Special Event	18:00 - 19:00
Masks of Bali: Between Heaven and Hell	Indus Restaurant
Special Event	18:00 - 19:30
Navigating the World	COMO Uma Ubud
Special Event	18:15 - 20:15
The 100th Printing of Laut Bercerita	Alang-Alang Stage
Festival Club	19:00 - 20:00
Bringing Indonesia's Stories to the World	Rumah Kayu
Special Event	19:00 - 21:30
What Do We Do Now	Uma Cucina
Festival Club	19:15 - 20:15
Yang Memberi Kita Nama	Indus Restaurant
After Dark Performance	19:30 - 21:00
Empire: Rooting for the Antihero	Honeymoon Garden
Film Programme	20:30 - 22:30
The Last Accord: War, Apocalypse, and Peace in Aceh	Alang-Alang Stage

Saturday, 1 November

Special Event	06:00 - 08:00
Birdwatching Tour with Darryl Jones	Tjampuhan Ridge Walk
Cultural Workshop	08:00 - 09:00
Bahasa Bali Breakfast	Dharma Kula Ubud
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
Banu Mushtaq: Heart Lamp	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
Patrick Winn: Narcotopia	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
The Forever of Fiction	Valley Stage
Children & Youth Programme	09:30 - 10:30
Karntoon Klub for Kids	Pelangi School
Children & Youth Programme	09:30 - 10:30
Kids Protect (for families)	Pelangi School
Cultural Workshop	09:30 - 12:00
Culinary Jalan-Jalan to Sukawati's Hidden Gem	Sukawati
Book Launch	10:00 - 11:00
Hana: Jangan Biarkan Mereka Lihat Lukamu	Rumah Kayu
Children & Youth Programme	10:00 - 11:00
Stories, Coloring, and Cats!	Villa Kitty Foundation
Children & Youth Programme	10:00 - 11:30
A Snapper's Deep-Sea Adventure	Si Kecil Bookshop
Masterclass	10:00 - 12:00
An Introduction to Screenwriting with Ratih Kumala	DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons
Masterclass	10:00 - 12:00
Reclaiming Our Stories: A Writing Workshop on Desire	The Westin Resort & Spa Ubud
Special Event	10:00 - 11:30
5Rhythms Dance Meditation with Gina Chick	Soulshine Bali
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
Writing Through Chaos	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
Crafting Political Memoirs and Biographies	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
Revolutions Across Borders	Valley Stage

Special Event	11:00 - 13:00
Brunch with Pico Iyer	DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons
Children & Youth Programme	11:00 - 12:00
Pelangi Authors	Pelangi School
Book Launch	11:30 - 12:30
Inner Landscaping	Dharma Kula Ubud
Book Launch	11:30 - 12:30
Ajengan Anjing	Rumah Kayu
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
Rewriting Indonesian History	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
World Building in a World Breaking	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
Independent Media in Today's Indonesia	Valley Stage
Special Event	12:00 - 14:00
Dim Sum Diaries	Casa Luna
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
The Tension Between Artistic Freedom and Censorship	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
Indonesian Poets: New Forms, New Voices	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
Language Today: Let's Suss it Out	Valley Stage
Children & Youth Programme	13:00 - 14:30
Act Out the Ghost!	Pelangi School
Book Launch	13:30 - 14:30
Chirping Town	Rumah Kayu
Book Launch	13:30 - 14:30
Ritual	Shelter Island
Book Launch	14:00 - 15:00
Love, Labels & Going Viral: Gen Z Stories for a Messy, Modern World	DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
Peter Greste: The Correspondent	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
Omar el Akkad: One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This	Valley Stage
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
Indigenous Voices: Challenges and Resilience	Alang-Alang Stage

Masterclass	14:00 - 16:00
The Bestseller Blueprint: Author Marketing Essentials	Samsara Ubud
Cultural Workshop	14:30 - 16:00
Introduction to Balinese Dance with Kerta Art	Kerta Art Performance Club
Book Launch	15:00 - 16:00
Finding Kapiten Boodieman	Rumah Kayu
Children & Youth Programme	15:00 - 16:30
Papua Adventure with Meru and Noel	Si Kecil Bookshop
Cultural Workshop	15:00 - 18:00
Brush with Myth: Exploring the Barong through Painting	Bumi Kinar Ubud
Masterclass	15:00 - 16:30
Practising Ethnography in Indonesia	SereS Springs Resort & Spa Singakerta, Ubud
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
Ratih Kumala: Koloni	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
Chinese Indonesian Women and the Forgotten History	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
The Reconciliation of Spirituality and Capitalism	Valley Stage
Masterclass	15:30 - 16:30
Sound Bath with Bottlesmoker and Manuela Sauter	Soulshine Bali
Book Launch	16:00 - 17:00
Alelopati	DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons
Book Launch	16:00 - 18:00
Selaras	Jingga Restaurant at Bumi Kinar
Festival Club	16:00 - 17:00
Kate Sawyer: Family Literature	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Film Programme	16:00 - 17:00
Jejak Leluhur Motif Iban	Paradiso Ubud
Festival Club	16:30 - 17:30
Voices from the East: Remembering Ajoeba Wartabone	Rumah Kayu
Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
Julia Baird: Bright Shining	Valley Stage

Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
The Diasporic Journey: Writing To Find 'Home'	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
100 Years of Pramoedya	Indus Restaurant
Film Programme	17:00 - 18:00
Return of the Fireflies	Paradiso Ubud
Festival Club	17:15 - 18:15
Understanding Jokowi	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Special Event	17:30 - 19:00
In the Eye of Oppression: Media, Taliban and Afghan Women	Amandari
Festival Club	17:45 - 18:45
Campuhan Ubud: Where East Meets West	Rumah Kayu
Book Launch	18:00 - 19:00
Heritage Threads	Indus Restaurant
Book Launch	18:00 - 19:00
UWRF Anthology: Stories from the Islands	Valley Stage
Special Event	18:00 - 20:00
MTN Market: Banu Mushtaq and Jenny Erpenbeck in Conversation	Casa Luna
Film Programme	18:15 - 19:45
The Last Glaciers	Alang-Alang Stage
Festival Club	18:30 - 19:30
Writing for Children	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
After Dark Performance	19:00 - 20:30
The Wayang Women: Wewe Gombel	Honeymoon Garden
Festival Club	19:00 - 20:00
Beyond Backlash: Imagining an Equal Future	Rumah Kayu
Festival Club	19:15 - 20:15
Paya Nie: Women's Lives in the Midst of Conflict	Indus Restaurant
After Dark Performance	19:30 - 22:30
2025 UWRF Poetry Slam	Valley Stage
Film Programme	20:00 - 21:00
Wiku Tapini	Alang-Alang Stage
Film Programme	21:00 - 22:00
One More Cup of Coffee for Ambe'	Alang-Alang Stage

Sunday, 2 November

Cultural Workshop	08:00 - 09:30
Ubud Royal Legacy Walking Tour	Plaza Tjok Gde Agung Sukawati
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
Jenny Erpenbeck: Kairos	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
Voices of the Global South on the New Order	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	09:00 - 10:00
Myanmar: Echoes of Resistance	Valley Stage
Book Launch	10:00 - 11:00
Pisangku Belum Matang	Rumah Kayu
Children & Youth Programme	10:00 - 11:15
Poetry Playtime and Cats	Villa Kitty Foundation
Climate Day	10:00 - 18:00
Textile Waste Management Corner	Bumi Kinar Ubud
Climate Day	10:00 - 18:00
Thrift by Kg with Rekynd	Bumi Kinar Ubud
Climate Day	10:00 - 11:00
Biodiversity Walking Tour at Bumi Kinar	Bumi Kinar Ubud
Climate Day	10:00 - 13:00
Floralova: Create Your Own Botanical Collage Postcard	Bumi Kinar Ubud
Climate Day	10:00 - 10:15
Opening Dance Performance of Climate Day	Bumi Kinar Ubud
Cultural Workshop	10:00 - 15:00
Roots, Leaves, Fire: A Feast from the Forest	Warung D'Teba
Cultural Workshop	10:00 - 11:30
Shadow Theatre: Journey to the Mother Tree	Yellow Coco Nest
Cultural Workshop	10:00 - 12:00
Brushes of Tradition: Tantri Sketch-Painting	Puri Kantor Legacy
Special Event	10:00 - 11:30
The Maestro: Antonio Blanco	The Blanco Renaissance Museum
Climate Day	10:15 - 10:45
Climate Day Keynote: Craig Leeson	Bumi Kinar Ubud

Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
Pico Iyer: Aflame	Valley Stage
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
Taufiq Ismail: Reading the Signs	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	10:15 - 11:15
The Short Of It	Indus Restaurant
Children & Youth Programme	10:30 - 12:00
Rhythm & Rhyme with Meredith Costain	Pelangi School
Climate Day	11:00 - 12:00
Water Rituals	Bumi Kinar Ubud
Cultural Workshop	11:00 - 13:00
The Language of Balinese Offerings	Nirvana Pension
Book Launch	11:30 - 12:30
Ombak par Kapur	Rumah Kayu
Book Launch	11:30 - 12:30
Life as I Know It	Shelter Island
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
Modern Identities	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
Alternative Knowledge Formation in Indonesia	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	11:30 - 12:30
The Landscapes of Childhood	Valley Stage
Climate Day	12:15 - 13:15
Land of Plenty: Holidays, Industries and Floods	Bumi Kinar Ubud
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
Gina Chick: We Are the Stars	Valley Stage
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
The Politics of Research	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	12:45 - 13:45
Timeless Bali	Indus Restaurant
Children & Youth Programme	13:00 - 14:30
Telling Story From Another Side	Pelangi School
Book Launch	13:30 - 14:30
Bia dan Kapak Batu	Rumah Kayu

Book Launch	13:30 - 14:30
Tubuh yang Tak Patuh Seluruh	The Elephant
Climate Day	13:30 - 14:30
Regenerative Action from the Ground Up	Bumi Kinar Ubud
Book Launch	14:00 - 15:00
Love in a Billion Chinese Chances	DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
Navigating the Dynamics of China-U.S. Politics	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
Translating Poetical Ambiguity with Clarity	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	14:00 - 15:00
The Living Universe: Ritual, Nature, and Art in Balinese Cosmology	Valley Stage
Climate Day	14:00 - 15:00
Food Waste Composting with Umah Pupa	Bumi Kinar Ubud
Masterclass	14:00 - 16:30
Scent and The Written Word	Powder Room by R4D
Climate Day	14:45 - 15:45
Nothing is Waste	Bumi Kinar Ubud
Book Launch	15:00 - 16:00
Leiden (2020-1920)	Rumah Kayu
Film Programme	15:00 - 17:30
ROOTS	Paradiso Ubud
Special Event	15:00 - 17:00
Forest Therapy	Jingga Restaurant at Bumi Kinar
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
The War Women Must Wage	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
The Technicolour World of Art Books	Indus Restaurant
Main Programme	15:15 - 16:15
Clare Wright: Nāku Dhāruk: The Bark Petitions	Valley Stage
Climate Day	15:30 - 17:00
Grounding and Book Gathering with Shelf Therapy	Bumi Kinar Ubud

Book Launch	16:00 - 17:00
The Wallace Line: A Poem	DI SINI DI SANA by Rachman & Sons
Climate Day	16:00 - 17:00
Reclaiming Architecture as Sacred Code	Bumi Kinar Ubud
Festival Club	16:30 - 18:00
The Grammar of Bali’s 1930s Movements	Rumah Kayu
Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
Where the Land Knows My Name: Stories from Papua	Alang-Alang Stage
Main Programme	16:30 - 17:30
Young and Bright: Queerness in Adolescent Fiction	Indus Restaurant
Climate Day	17:15 - 18:15
Echoes for the Earth: Voices of Changemakers	Bumi Kinar Ubud
After Dark Performance	17:30 - 18:00
Brides Should Not Sew Their Own Wedding Dresses	Festival Hub at Taman Baca
Festival Club	17:30 - 18:30
Omar Musa: Fierceland	Bar Luna at Casa Luna
Book Launch	17:45 - 18:45
Climate Action 101 by Wisma Habibie	Indus Restaurant
After Dark Performance	18:30 - 19:00
Aguru Waktra: Reimagining Lontar Budha Kecapi	The Blanco Renaissance Museum
After Dark Performance	19:00 - 22:00
2025 Festival Closing Night Party	The Blanco Renaissance Museum

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 2026 Festival!

Complete survey: ubudwritersfestival.com/survey

FESTIVAL

MERCH

From t-shirts and tumblers to tote bags and the Festival Anthology, these are the Festival essentials for boundless bookish joy. To stand out with our merchandise, visit our on-site shop at Taman Baca during the Festival.

T-Shirt

Price: IDR 250,000

This short-sleeved T-shirt features our Festival theme in small stylised text on the left chest, while the back shows the Festival artwork and logo. The T-shirts are available in both white and lavender, making you stand out in the crowd.



Bookmark

Price: IDR 25,000

Never lose your page again with the Festival's commemorative bookmark, featuring this year's striking artwork. They come in two distinct colour options: a rich purple and a calming blue.



Notebook

Price: IDR 150,000

This special notebook is designed for writers and artists alike. It features a durable hardcover with a unique art-paper finish, showcasing the Festival's distinctive artwork. Inside are 160 pages of FSC-certified, cream-coloured paper that is a pleasure to write on.



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 shows the Festival theme and artwork, while the back features the festival logo. The tote is available in size 50 x 38 cm.



Tumbler

Price: IDR 440,000

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.

Model Evie with 600 ml
Dimensions: 8 x 8 x 29 cm



Folding Hand Fan

Price: IDR 300,000

Beat the heat during Ubud's most humid times of the day with our folding hand fan. Designed with this year's Festival artwork and measuring 19 cm, it's a practical essential and an eye-catching accessory you won't want to miss.



Order Online



FESTIVAL

INFO

Read on for all you need to know to make the most of a five-day literary long weekend of your bookish dreams.

Plan Your Visit



Get to the Festival

We recommend joining us at our festival venue, Taman Baca, using our free shuttle buses, which run from 08:00 until 19:00 and depart 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 a day from many places in Ubud. As there isn't much parking available, please follow the signs directing you to the designated parking area.

Discover the Programme

To get the most out of your giant literary long weekend, check out our daily schedule on our website and use the filters to toggle through the dates you'd like to attend. To quickly see when your favourite authors and thinkers are appearing, head to their pages. And don't forget to keep your eyes on our social channels for the latest updates during the festival.

Bookmark Events

Our website makes it easy for you to bookmark the events that spark your interest, so you can see exactly what's on and where there might be timetable clashes. Your bookmarks are saved to your device, so if you're on your phone, they'll still be there the next time you visit our site. Any time you see the bookmark symbol, you can click it to save the event. You can also add a reminder to your calendar. By clicking Save to Calendar, a pop-up window appears, allowing you to save it to your personal calendar.

Eat and Drink

Whether you want to grab a coffee on the go or sit down for a meal and leisurely debrief after your sessions, our delightful hospitality partners offering local and international cuisine have you covered. Our Google Map has a handy key of all the restaurants, cafés, and bars where you can enjoy delicious food, excellent coffee, and refreshing cocktails, all conveniently close to the festival.

With food focused on snacking and sharing, our Bazaar at the main festival venue, Taman Baca, is the perfect place to pop in between events to nourish your body and satisfy your cravings.

Get Your Books

Visit the Festival's booksellers, Periplus and Gramedia, at the main Festival venue, Taman Baca. You can also find our friends from the Indonesian indie bookshop Lost Buku Patjarmerah at Indus, where you can purchase your soon-to-be favourite book and maybe even have it signed.

Order books from the official curated reading list online at Readings, Australia's favourite independent bookshop, and receive 15% off.

Reduce Your Waste

Help us commit to cleaning up Bali and Ubud by reducing your use of single-use plastics and recycling where possible. Around Taman Baca and all of our venues, there are bins provided, so please put all your waste in those. Learn more about our partner, Magi Farm, a pioneering Bali-based social enterprise that is responsibly managing and upcycling the Festival's food waste, on Instagram: @magifarm.id.

Join the Conversation

Sign up for our newsletter to receive updates and exclusive offers directly in your inbox. Our social media channels are where we share all the latest from our festival universe, including programme updates and festival highlights @ubudwritersfest. Join the conversation with #UWRF25.

Need First Aid

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

Festival Anthology

Available at Periplus at Taman Baca

This year's bilingual Festival Anthology *Stories from the Islands* brings together remarkable writing talents from Indonesia who have been selected for this year's Emerging Writers Programme. Read the work of the ten finalists, who weave narratives exploring everything from local tradition and folklore to social change, identity, and contemporary life.



Festival Bundle

Price: IDR 400,000

Our merchandise combo includes the regular Festival short-sleeved T-shirt, tote bag, notebook, and bookmark, each featuring captivating artwork from this year's anniversary Festival, along with the Festival Anthology.

Festival MAPS

Whether you are a Ubud native or visiting town for the first time in a while, our Festival Maps will help you navigate your way around our main venue at Taman Baca and our partner venues.



SPEAKER APPENDIX

A Adisti Sukma Sawitri Aditya Ananta Toer Agnes Christina Agustinus Wibowo Ahmad Zaki Yamani Akhyari Hananto Alex Chula Alief El-Ichwan Alison Hadley Amanda Katili Ana Filomena Amaral Anak Agung Bagus Wirawan Andara Fembriarto Andi Muhammad Akbar Andini Effendi Andrea Hilaria Li Andreas Kurniawan Andrew Lam Angelina Enny Anna Anderluh Annabel Laura Annelien De Greef Annisa Ivana Annisa R. Beta Antoinette Lattouf Antonia Maria Oy Aparna Bhatnagar Saxena Aranindy Arfan Sabran Arimbi Heroeputri Asief Abdi Aufar Satria Awi Chin Ayşegül Savaş	Devi Asmarani Dewa Kresnanta Dewi Setiawan Dian Elvira Rosa Dian Sonnerstedt Dinny Jusuf Drew Ambrose Dyan Anggraini	J Jajang Ramadhan R. Warsito Janak Rogers Janet DeNeefe Janet Steele Jasmine Floretta Vasthia Devi Jazz Money Jean Pascal Elbaz Jeffrey Neilson Jennifer Mackenzie Jenny Erpenbeck Jenny Valentish Jero Penyarikan Duuran Batur Jewel Topsfield John H. McGlynn Jonathon Moran Josephine Ferguson Joss Wibisono Judith E. Bosnak Juhea Kim Juli Sastrawan Julia Baird Julia Prendergast Julia Winterflood	Michael Schindhelm Michael Vatikiotis Miles Merrill Mirandi Riwoe
B Bagus Ari Maruta Bandem Kamandalu Banu Mushtaq Basri Amin Bella Li Bhimanto Suwastoyo Bonnie Triyana Bottlesmoker Bri Lee Brigid Delaney Bruce W. Carpenter Budiman Ong	E Edward Speirs Edward Wong Ege Dündar Eko Krisna Elle Wibisono Emte Enda Kaban Erin Woodward Erwin Arnada Eva Fernandes	K Kadek Krishna Adidharma Kadek Sonia Piscayanti Kam Rasilan Kantarin Leelahuta Kate Sawyer Kelly Falconer Ketut Yuliarsa Kinchem Hegedus Kirk Johnson Kirsten Han Kirsti Melville Kismet Krystle Klaas Stutje Komunitas Seni Lemah Tulis Krishna Sen Kukuh Yudha Karnanta Kuncarsono Prasetyo Kylee Quitugua	O Ochie Chandra Okky Madasari Oktaria Asmarani Olamide Olin Monteiro Olivia Fraser Omar el Akkad Omar Musa
C Chaitanya Srivastava Charlotte Diana Christopher Kerrigan Claire Betita de Guzman Clare Wright Claudia Koch Cokorda Ngurah Rupini Conchita Blanco Courtney Collins Craig Leeson	F Faisal Tehrani Faiza Nuralifah Khairunnisa Fajar Merah Febiola Rumangkang Franz von Strolchen	L Laksmi DeNeefe Suardana Laksmi Mutiara Prameswari Lech Blaine Leila S. Chudori Luna Vidya Lydia Khalil Lynn Nandar Htoo	P Patricia Edlyn Patricia Tanumihardja Patrick Winn Paul v. Walters Peter Greste Petra Molnar Petty Elliott Philip Jacobson Pico Iyer Priyambudi Sulistiyanto Purwita Sukahet Putu Sridiniari
D Daan Roosegaarde Dana Dajani Danton Remoto Darryl Jones David Van Reybrouck Debra H. Yatim Dee Lestari Deepa Bhasthi	G Gacanti Swastika Gail Jones Garin Nugroho Gatari Surya Kusuma Gede Maha Putra Gema Laksmi Mawardi Ghayath Almadhoun Gilang Propagila Gill Westaway Gina Chick Gratiagusti Chananya Rompas Greta Georges Habib Gretchen Liu Gus Dark	M Ma Thida Made Rusmartini Maja Klarić Malcom Seah Manuela Sauter Margareth Meutia Mario Blanco Marissa Saraswati Mark Heyward Marlowe Bandem Marten Schmidt Maurice O'Riordan Max Gerald Melati Wijsen Meredith Costain mhyajo	R Rain Chudori Rachel Levin Ratih Kumala Ray Shabir Reza Kurniawan Ridwan Malik Rie Arshaka Rio Helmi Rizal Iwan Rob Waters Robbyan Abel Ramdhon Robin Hemley Ronny Agustinus Rossy You Rosul Jaya Raya Rueben Dass Rutvik Bhandari
	H Haidar Bagir Hamzah Muhammad Harry Surjadi Hasbunallah Haris Herald van der Linde Hilmar Farid Husnara Khanom Hyalea Beryl Gono		S S. Shakthidharan Sally Breen Sam Dalrymple Sanggar Kerta Art Sarah Kushairi Sarah Macdonald
	I I Ketut Suardana I Komang Adiartha I Made Bandem I Made Julio Saputra Ian Yee Ida Fitri Illya Sumanto Inaya Rakhmani Ingrid Rojas Contreras Intan Andaru Isabella Roberts Ita Siregar Ivy Ngeow Iyas Lawrence		T Tan Lioe Ie Taufiq Ismail Thammika Songkaeo Theresa Devasahayam Thomas Mayo Tigra Rose Titah AW Titan Sadewo Tjok Gede Asmara Putra Tommy Sastra Wijaya Tito Ambyo Topilus B. Tebai
	S Saraid de Silva Salha Obeid Sasti Gotama Satria Muda Sean Nino Lotze Shannon Ada Shinie Antony Shinta Febriany Shinta Oktania Retnani Shiori Ito Si Luh Ayu Pawitri Sidhi Vhisatya Sinéad Gleeson Sophie Navita Srijan Pal Singh Stebby Julionatan Steph Harmon Steve Stine Susan Allen Suzy Hutomo Suya Patni Suzanne Scott Tomita Syafiudin Vifick Swaady Martin		U Udiarti Uni Lubis
			V Victoria Yam Virginia Haussegger
			W Wawan Kurniawan Wayan Juniарtha Wayan Karja Wayan Wardika Wilda Yanti Salam William Dalrymple Windy Ariestanty Wulan Dewi Saraswati
			X Xin Wei Thow
			Y Yayan Indrayana Yudiati Kuniko
			Z Zech Soakai Zhou Bo

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