

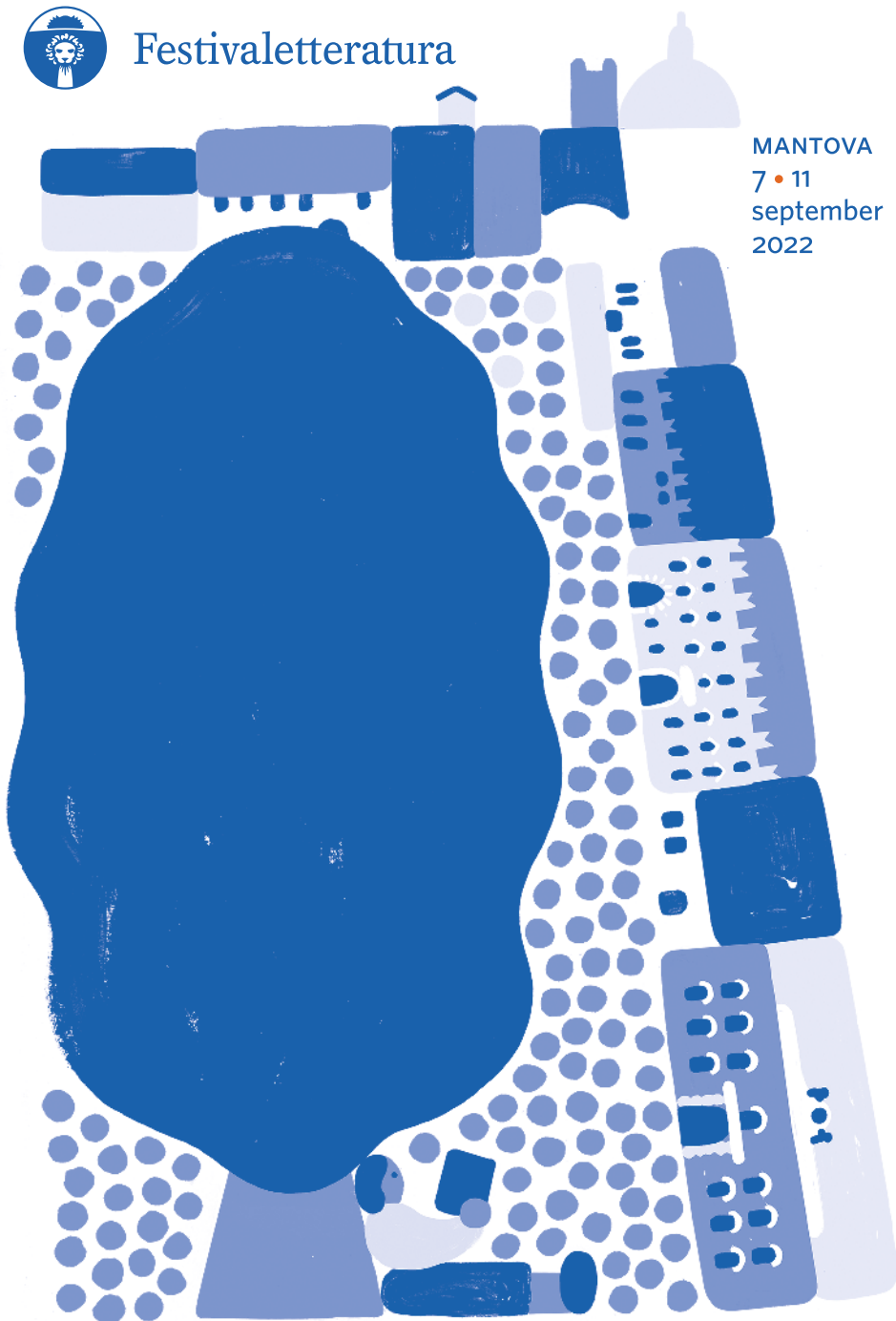


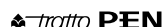
Festivaletteratura

MANTOVA  
7 • 11  
september  
2022

ABRIDGED ENGLISH PROGRAMME

MANTOVA 7 • 11 september 2022





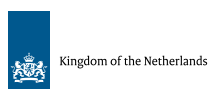
Each year Festivaletteratura attracts international writers and artists and an ever more cosmopolitan audience. Available for the third time this year, the abridged English version of the programme is our token of welcome to those coming to Mantova from far away. This essential guide covers all the events accessible to those who do not speak Italian – conversations, readings, films, shows and itineraries. It includes an indication of the language in which the event is conducted, together with all the information useful for getting the most out of your time during the five days of the Festival. You will find over a hundred events, and even more big international literary names to choose from. We realise it's not going to be easy to decide, so all we can say is enjoy!

Festivaletteratura kicks off its twenty-sixth edition without ever having called a halt in the last two years. In the long period of restrictions and distancing, we tiptoed cautiously around the city trying many things out, becoming more familiar with virtual spaces and their opportunities. But we also experimented with things that were completely new to us and that continue to stimulate, even now that we hope to return to the shared spaces we had been forced to give up.

This year we are trying to occupy more space in the city at a time when the need for literature is constantly on the rise. Literature can read the world, interpret its fears and hopes, see distinctly what does not yet have a name – it can remember and look beyond. The Festival is back in town with authors coming to Mantova from all over the world, engaging literature in an open, urgent and enquiring dialogue with other arts, languages and fields of knowledge. This will not be a low-key event: many of the initiatives involve physical participation, where readers will be invited to act, think and engage in the newly reclaimed piazzas. After all, we know how dreams conceived in Mantova tend to expand. A warm welcome to all of you coming to the Festival!

**THE FESTIVALETTERATURA FOUNDERS**

Thanks to:



## BOOKING AND BUYING TICKETS

How to get tickets for the 2022 edition of Festivaletteratura. We ask you to read the following information carefully.

### HOW TO PURCHASE

Festivaletteratura tickets can only be purchased **online** at → [www.festivaletteratura.it](http://www.festivaletteratura.it)

from **9:00** on **Wednesday 31 August** for **filofestival members**

from **9:00** on **Friday 2 September** for **everyone else**

At the end of the purchasing procedure, the user will receive the **PDF tickets by email**. These must be shown either printed or on your phone at the event venues. Your automatically assigned seat number will be printed on the ticket. **It will not be possible to purchase tickets at event venues.**

**Accepted payment methods:** **STRIPE** (debit and credit cards), **SATISPAY**, **AMAZON PAY**.

To facilitate the purchasing process, from Wednesday 24 August it will be possible to pre-register on the ticketing platform at the [bit.ly/fl-login](https://bit.ly/fl-login).

### HELP DESK

At the Loggia del Grano in via Spagnoli volunteers will be on hand to help with online purchasing:

from **Wednesday 31 August** to **Tuesday 6 September** from **9:00** to **13:00**. and **15:00** to **19:00** (Sunday 4 September closed)

from **Wednesday 7** to **Saturday 11 September** from **9:00** to **19:00**;

**Sunday 12 September** from **9:00** to **17:00**

For assistance in buying the tickets at the Loggia del Grano, you must have a valid debit or credit card and an e-mail address.

**NB:** for the purchase of tickets for people with disabilities, please send an e-mail to → [perilfestival@festivaletteratura.it](mailto:perilfestival@festivaletteratura.it), by 29 August, subject to availability.

### REFUNDS

**In the event of cancellation** of one or more events, **a refund will be made** automatically by re-crediting the net cost of the ticket. In addition, an insurance policy can be taken out during the purchasing process, which provides for reimbursement according to the terms of the contract.

# KEY TO THE PROGRAMME

## EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The events and workshops for children and young people are exclusively **designed for an audience of the age group indicated** in the programme. Accompanying adults will also be able to purchase tickets, except for events-workshops **2 9**, **4 4**, **7 8**, **1 1 1**, **1 3 8**, **1 4 1**, **1 4 4**, **1 6 2**, **1 6 8**, **1 9 8**, **2 2 3**.

## REGULATIONS FOR FILOFESTIVAL MEMBERS

The **deadline** for signing up **for the Filofestival membership card** is **7 August**.

**Members of the Filofestival Association** can purchase tickets from **9:00** on **Wednesday 31 August**.

When purchasing online you will need to enter the 6-character alphanumeric number (printed on the card or received by e-mail). **THE CARD IS STRICTLY PERSONAL**

Each individual member can book **1 ticket only per event** for events that are compatible in terms of time (distance of at least two hours).

As of this year, the service will allow two members **to purchase adjacent seats**. To do so, all that is required is that one member purchases the two tickets at the reduced rate and enters the two membership card numbers during the purchasing process.

It will also be possible to purchase events for children using the ordinary membership card. The membership discount is approximately 10% of the full ticket price.

## INFORMATION

**For information on events and Filofestival membership** call **0376 223989**.

**For technical problems** with the purchasing platform send an email to **→ [cs@clappit.com](mailto:cs@clappit.com)** or call **02 36522969**

## ANTI-COVID MEASURES

Information regarding the anti-Covid measures adopted at all event venues will be available on the Festivaletteratura website and social networks. We recommend registering for our **newsletter** at **[www.festivaletteratura.it](http://www.festivaletteratura.it)**, the **free SMS information service** **+39 353 3364700** or our **Telegram channel** **[t.me/festivaletteratura](https://t.me/festivaletteratura)**.

## ANIMALS

For organisational reasons, no animals (except guide dogs) will be allowed into the events with assigned seats.

### 1 FESTIVAL EVENT

#### 1 EVENT FOR CHILDREN

#### 1 EVENT FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

#### 1 EVENT FOR TEENAGERS

#### ACCENTS

#### ROAMING THE WOODS

#### THE SIX DEGREES OF READING

#### THE SACRED FIRE OF WRITING

#### RADIO FESTIVALETTERATURA

#### KEEP IT GREEN

#### SCIENCEGROUND

#### FESTIVALETTERATURA SPACE

#### EVENTS NOT IN ITALIAN AND WITHOUT INTERPRETATION

#### SHUTTLE BUS


**Festivaletteratura reserves the right to make changes to the programme after this publication goes online.**


→ **Any changes of venue and time, or cancellations**, will be announced immediately by the Festivaletteratura Secretariat: details will be given by the Box Office, our Information Points, the Festival bookshop, the SMS Informa service, the Telegram channel and the Festivaletteratura app, as well as on the Festival website.

→ **Events with authors** last about **1 - 1½ hours**; **workshops** about **2 - 2½ hours**. Workshop lengths are indicated in the programme.

→ **Latecomers** may be refused admission even if they have a ticket.

→ Spectators give their **consent and authorisation for all present or future use of any audio and video recordings or photographs**, in which they may feature as members of the public at the events and workshops they attend. In particular, purchasing tickets for children's and teenagers' events entails release of rights for present and future use of any audio/video/photographic material in which ticketholders under the age of 18 may feature as members of the public at the events or workshops they attend.

 **STREAMING** All events marked by the play button are also **streamed live** (and later available on demand) on the Festivaletteratura YouTube channel **[youtube.com/ Festivaletteratura](https://youtube.com/Festivaletteratura)**. Scan the QR code next to the description. For a complete list of events **SEE PAGE 8**

 **GUEST APPEARING BY VIDEO LINK** Events accompanied by a screen symbol indicate that one of the authors is appearing by video link, as indicated in the programme.

# streaming

Live streamed events can be watched on  
Festivaletteratura's YouTube channel  
[youtube.com/Festivaletteratura](https://youtube.com/Festivaletteratura)



For those who can't make it to Mantova at the beginning of September but want to feel part of the Festival and see the authors, live streaming is back this year. A host of events from two of Festivaletteratura's central piazzas will keep the large internet audience company: the events in Piazza Castello, with major figures of Italian and international literature, and the bubbly series of accents from Tenda Sordello, with its literary morsels, mini-lessons and other diversions in a half hour pocket-sized format. The streams will be available on demand on Festivaletteratura's YouTube channel even after the end of this edition.

## → WEDNESDAY 7

18:00 from Tenda Sordello  
**ROMEO IN MANTUA,  
JULIET IN VERONA**  
Peter Florence *accents*

19:00 from Piazza Castello

**THE BROKEN HEART OF  
RURAL AMERICA**  
Sarah Smarsh with Francesco  
Costa

14:30 from Piazza Castello

**RETURNING HOME**  
Aleksandar Hemon with Federica  
Manzon

## → FRIDAY 9

19:15 from Piazza Castello  
**AGAINST THE NEW  
COLONIALISM**  
Vandana Shiva with Nicoletta  
Dentico

10:00 from Tenda Sordello

**CARSON ON CHRISTIE**  
Jan Carson *accents*

10:30 from Piazza Castello

**ANIMALS AS MENTORS**  
Helen Macdonald with Michela  
Murgia

## → THURSDAY 8

14:30 from Piazza Castello  
**SOUTH AFRICA  
PROMISED LAND**  
Damon Galgut with Valeria  
Parrella

## → SATURDAY 10

16:30 from Piazza Castello  
**MAPPING READING  
AND LIFE**  
Sally Bayley and Bianca Pitzorno  
with Beatrice Masini

10:30 from Piazza Castello

**TALES OF A  
TURBULENT CENTURY**  
Pierre Lemaitre with Carlo  
Lucarelli

## → SUNDAY 11

14:00 from Tenda Sordello

**A DIAMOND'S  
REFLECTIONS**  
William Dalrymple *accents*

14:15 from Piazza Castello

**THE ART OF PLAYING  
WITH LITERATURE**  
Andrés Neuman with Lella Costa

18:30 from Piazza Castello

**GREEN HILLS  
OF IRELAND?**  
Anne Enright with Wlodek  
Goldkorn

## THE 'SPECIAL FORMATS' OF FESTIVALETTERATURA 2022

Festivaletteratura's programme has always been designed more for exceptions than rules, so it seems a little strange to call some of its events 'special'. Yet it is undeniable that, alongside conversations between authors, readings, workshops and performances, there are some groups of events that stand out for the way in which writers and audience come together, for the way stories and thoughts spread and enter into circulation. You can spot the events associated with these 'special formats' – some long-standing, others much more recent – in the programme and on the Festival sites thanks to their icon or by the subheading.



## RADIO FESTIVALETTERATURA

In 2020 and 2021 Radio Festivaletteratura offered an almost uninterrupted stream of broadcasts during the days of the event, recreating the live Festival experience on the web. With a bolder return to in person events, the radio will be accentuating its nature as an 'editing' hub: five podcasts are planned for 2022, all of which will be broadcast in the following weeks. During the five days of the Festival we will see the podcasts launched live, where the hosts will present themes, ideas and contributions that will shape the episodes to air in the autumn and involve some of the guests present at the Festival.

# Wednesday

# 7

SEPTEMBER  
2022

## ROMEO IN MANTUA, JULIET IN VERONA

Peter Florence

18:00 TENDA SORDELLO *free admission*  

accents



Sex, Lies, and Comedy and Tragedy. Reflections on Shakespeare's local love story, plague lockdowns and communication fails. Peter Florence is a reader, writer and festival producer.

#nevertrustafriardealingdrugs #talktoher

The author will speak in English without interpretation.

## AGAINST THE NEW COLONIALISM

Vandana Shiva with Nicoletta Denticio

19:15 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7,00 



Philanthrocapitalism is the focus of the debate between environmentalist Vandana Shiva (*From Greed to Care, Oneness vs the 1%: Shattering Illusions, Seeding Freedom, Terra Viva*) and economist and global health expert Nicoletta Denticio (*Ricchi e buoni?*). The 'caring agenda' of wealthy global entrepreneurs – whether it covers health, agriculture or technology – hides an enormous concession of power by the states that are meant to regulate this same elite of financial giants, who are then free to "condition public policy around the world through their philanthropy". Pharmaceutical patents, seed banks, bioengineering and gene editing are just some of the aspects of this subtle colonisation of the Earth. The two authors will discuss the possibility of "ushering in a new phase of global democracy, one that prevents the greed of the few from turning abundance into scarcity, law into privilege, and the interconnectedness of the living into oppression and domination".

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

## WRITING IS A MATTER OF FAITH

Mircea Cărtărescu with Federica Manzon

21:15 PALATINE BASILICA OF SANTA BARBARA €7,00

"First, some people do research, make preliminary drafts and draw detailed plans, but I don't do any of this, because it is all already done, it exists in me, in my way of understanding the world and literature, indeed literature-world". On reading these words by Mircea Cărtărescu one can already guess why the Romanian author (*Solenoid*, the *Blinding* trilogy) is considered a figure who transcends writing alone, to penetrate, like roots spreading through the soil, metaphysics, natural sciences and symbolism, a visionary at ease with magic realism, influenced by the fantastic-mythological tradition of his own country. Reading Cărtărescu is a psychedelic journey into a dreamlike and decadent Bucharest; exploring his 'non-method' of artistry an enlightening experience for its complete contrast to the *modus operandi* of his colleagues. The author of *Melancolia* (coming out soon in Italian) will be talking to Federica Manzon (*Il bosco del confine*).

The author will speak in Romanian, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

# Thursday 8

SEPTEMBER  
2022

## 3 5 SOUTH AFRICA PROMISED LAND

Damon Galgut with Valeria Parrella

14:30 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7,00 ▶



The main characters of *The Promise*, which won Damon Galgut the prestigious Man Booker Prize in 2021, live and struggle in a country unlike any imagined by Steve Biko and Nelson Mandela. Following on from *The Good Doctor* and other lucidly introspective prose, he chronicles the upheavals that shake a Calvinist Afrikaner family and its former servants. The great South African novelist portrays the expectations, bewilderment and betrayals of a nation redeemed from the systemic violence of apartheid although still unable to make peace with the present. Galgut offers readers "a spectacular demonstration of how the novel can radically change the way we see and think afresh". He talks to author Valeria Parrella (*Almarina, Quel tipo di donna, La fortuna*).

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

## 4 5 MYSTERY TO THE RHYTHM OF RAP

Selim Özdoğan with Luigi Caracciolo

16:30 AUDITORIUM OF THE CAMPIANI CONSERVATORY €7,00

### Musical mystery scores

Often an imaginary soundtrack plays in the reader's mind, getting them even more wrapped up in a book. The Turkish-German author Selim Özdoğan takes things a step further, including a playlist in his chilling thriller *Der die Träume hört*, drawing liberally from great hip hop classics (Warren G, 2Pac and Dr Dre) in perfect sync with his stories of failed integration, characters straddling different worlds, and 'broken' kids. Born and brought up in Cologne, Özdoğan skilfully creates a thoroughly modern thriller, as vivid and rough as the neighbourhoods and dark web in which the events take place. The author talks to criminologist Luigi Caracciolo about the analogies between writer and rapper and the way each reflects on the world and social conflict.

The author will speak in German, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Milan.

## 4 6 MAPPING READING AND LIFE

Sally Bayley and Bianca Pitzorno with Beatrice Masini

16:30 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7,00 ▶



Sally Bayley grew up in a house full of children and women. The turning point in her childhood came in the shape of a library card, which unlocked the door to books and reading. It was to be an intense relationship, as we discover in her engaging memoir *Girl with Dove*. Bianca Pitzorno, with her *Donna con libro. Autoritratto delle mie letture*, was instead born into a family where books were in no short supply, and above all, there was no want of readers to envelop her in words from the very beginning. Beatrice Masini, writer, reader, translator and publishing manager, conducts the conversation between these champions of reading, the former a professor of literature at Oxford and author of the recent *No boys play here*, the second one of Italy's best-loved and award-winning authors. Beatrice Masini asks them: just what is it that makes us readers?

Sally Bayley will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

Unipol  
GRUPPO

eni

libreria.coop

## 5 1 CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE OLD EMPIRE

Erika Fatland with Eleonora Sacco and Angelo Zinna

17:00 DIOCESAN MUSEUM €7,00

In such dramatic times, when Russia seems inaccessible from the outside, the only way to approach this immense nation is to travel the borders of the numerous states that surround it, many of which gained independence from Moscow on Christmas Day 1991, after the collapse of the former Soviet Union. Tundra, steppes and huge mountain ranges form the backdrop for the adventurous geopolitical reportages of writer and anthropologist Erika Fatland (*The Border, Sovietistan, High: A Journey Across the Himalayas Through Pakistan, India, Bhutan, Nepal and China*) who, travelling the old Silk Road and on from Ashgabat –the 'Las Vegas of the desert'– to Pyongyang, has analysed the cultures and societies, steeped in history and contradictions, of Central Asia where the influence of the Kremlin is often slow to fade and former elites are pitted against younger generations in search of change. The Norwegian author will lead us along the borders of these regions of ancient charm together with Eleonora Sacco (*Piccolo alfabeto per viaggiatori selvatici*) and Angelo Zinna (*Un altro bicchiere di arak*), tireless travellers in the former Soviet territory and authors of the podcast Cemento.

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with NORLA Norwegian Literature Abroad.

## 5 4 THE WOODS AND THE SKY ABOVE

Helen Macdonald

18:00 PARCOBALENO €10,00

trails - walking in the woods

When we talk about urban mobility, we think about what we need to get between home, work, school, amenities and supermarkets. We never think about how a city works for species that fly, migrate periodically from one continent to another and need to nest, find food and raise their offspring. Helen Macdonald – naturalist and acclaimed author of *H is for Hawk* and *Vesper Flights* – takes us around Bosco Virgiliano on a journey of discovery of the birds of prey and other flying animals in the park, combining field observation, literary digressions and reflections on the importance of outlying green areas for the city's bird population.

In collaboration with Alkémica and the Centro Educazione Ambientale Parcobaleno.

The shuttle bus to Parcobaleno leaves from Piazza Sordello half an hour before the start of the event. The bus back into town (Piazza Sordello) leaves Parcobaleno at 20:00.

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

## THE SACRED FIRE OF WRITING

Zeruya Shalev with Elsa Riccadonna

18:00 BOOK TENT free admission

On the Sacred Fire of Writing SEE P. 35

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with the Cultural Office of the Israeli Embassy in Italy.



## 6 0 I EDIT A BOOK LIKE YOU EDIT A FILM

Frédéric Pajak with Giorgio Fontana

19:00 AULA MAGNA OF THE UNIVERSITY €7,00

The fast, dark and broken lines richly traced by illustrator and writer Frédéric Pajak recall the complex and sometimes expressionist light effects of etching. Nothing, in fact, in the work of the author of *Uncertain Manifesto* (winner of the Goncourt Prize for biography in 2019, whose third instalment of the multi-volume series has recently come out in Italian) leaves one indifferent: according to *Le Nouvel Observateur*, Pajak has brought the art of the graphic essay to perfection. In a veritable literary feat, the illustrator mixes memoir, biography, novel and fiction in images, his turbulent life running parallel to the experiences of some of the 20th century's great intellectuals, such as Walter Benjamin or André Breton. The result is a journey that spans eras and places – stretching a thread between France and Italy – and, by combining drawing and words, he explores the losers in the eyes of society, 'obeying only one master', the book. The writer and illustrator will be talking to Giorgio Fontana (*Il mago di Riga*).

The author will speak in French, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with the Institut Français Italia.

## 6 1 THE BROKEN HEART OF RURAL AMERICA

Sarah Smarsh with Francesco Costa

19:00 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7,00



Where the distance between the rural heartlands and the skyscrapers of San Francisco or New York is not measured simply in miles, often social inequalities find expression only in the haunting lyrics of country music. From the Mid-west state of Kansas is journalist Sarah Smarsh (*She Come by it Natural. Dolly Parton and the Women who lived her Songs, Heartland*), whose essays and memoirs analyse the lives shared by countless working-class rural communities and the women who belong to them through the lens of historical, political and economic data. The picture of an America abandoned by the institutions, where the very poor live light years away from the middle class, reflects a nation where the famous 'dream' often turns into a nightmare for those who "have access to nothing in the country where there is everything". The author will be talking to US expert and deputy editor of *Il Post* Francesco Costa (*Una storia americana*) about this eye-opening 'ballad' of the white and Catholic working class of America.

The author will be connected live by video link and will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.



## 6 3 NIGERIA BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY

Ben Okri with Peter Florence

19:15 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO €7,00

If you have never heard of the 'stoku', now is the time to read Ben Okri's most recent book published in Italian (*Prayer for the Living*). Inventor of this genre that fuses short story and haiku and winner of the 1991 Booker Prize (*The Famished Road*), the Afro-European writer skilfully combines metaphysical and mythological elements with real-life experiences in his home country, be it the tragic Nigerian civil war or the damage wrought by the greedy oil industry on places of natural beauty. Always devoting body and soul to writing without allowing himself the distractions of social media or marketing, he declares: "I would rather write a masterpiece and have a handful of readers in my time, and millions more in the future, than have millions of readers now and no one in the future. Literature is an endurance activity. Nothing has changed in that regard except marketing and publicity. But all the marketing and publicity cannot make a book better than it really is. Time is limited, and it passes faster than we realize. I would rather invest what time I have left on the perfection of the work". The author will be conversing with Peter Florence.

The event will be held in English. Those wishing to listen to simultaneous interpretation in Italian will need earphones and to use their phone to connect to the website [converso.app/festivaletteratura/events](https://converso.app/festivaletteratura/events).

## 6 9 I LEAP ON MOVING TRAINS AND GO WHERE THEY TAKE ME

William T. Vollmann with Claudia Durastanti

21:30 PALATINE BASILICA OF SANTA BARBARA €7,00

The prose of American William Tanner Vollmann shuns labels or genre boundaries. Paradoxical, provocative – and always one step ahead of provocation itself –, Vollmann plumbs the turbulent depths of our age and a past where others dare not venture, delivering a profusion of pages that come very close to a world-opus. The voices of the journalist, the historian, the outcast and the novelist are often hard to distinguish in his vast production: in the desperate tales of prostitution at the heart of *Butterfly Stories*, or the dramatic authoritarian saga *Europe Central*, which in 2005 earned him the National Book Award; and not forgetting the ambitious *Seven Dreams Series*, on the settlement of North America and the conflict between natives and pioneers. Claudia Durastanti (*Strangers I know*), a long-standing fan, hops aboard the train to meet one of contemporary fiction's most elusive authors.

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

Associazione  
FILOFESTIVAL

SIMETEC  
SISTEMI E IMPIANTI ELETTRICI TECNOLOGICI



# KEEP IT GREEN

More and more leaves are sprouting on the *Keep It Green* tree! The greenery of the Festival programme is expanding at a rapid pace, bringing new oxygen to the discussion around climate change, and more generally to the themes of environmental awareness, the protection of ecosystems and the depletion of natural resources. The biodiversity of *Keep It Green* this year is vast, equally balancing moments of listening and discussion, experiences out in the open air, how to learn to understand and analyse the environment, and plenty of hands-on action and field study. Many of the initiatives will see girls and boys in the role of mediators: it is up to them to use the events of the Festival as a way to generate a more conscious and widespread awareness of the risks connected to global warming. The *Keep It Green 2022* calendar is action-packed with meetings, lessons and performances, not to mention the *Roaming the Woods* experiences.



## SCIENCEGROUND WORKSHOPS, OPEN READINGS AND INSTALLATIONS

Metamorphosis as a way of seeking solutions and future perspectives for a more habitable world is the theme linking the many activities planned for **Scienceground**. These will include collective readings of a bibliography of transformation; workshops on measuring the environment, food metamorphosis and climate anthropology; installations on microplastics and much more.



## ROAMING THE WOODS TRAILS

Daring expeditions through public parks, nature reserves, urban greenery and unclassified wild areas, the **Roaming the woods** trails (SEE P. 27) offer experiences of new forms of coexistence with the nature that is with (and not around) us in and just outside the city.

### WEDNESDAY 7

19:15 Piazza Castello

### 1 8 AGAINST THE NEW COLONIALISM

Vandana Shiva with Nicoletta Denticio

### SATURDAY 10

18:30 Aula magna of the university

### 1 8 0 A BLACKBIRD WOKE ME UP ONE MORNING

Vinciane Despret with Paolo Pecere

Keep it green is supported by

FONDAZIONE  
Cariverona

Friday

9

SEPTEMBER

2022



## CARSON ON CHRISTIE

*A Half Hour Guide to Appreciating Agatha Christie*

Jan Carson

10:00 TENDA SORDELLO *free admission*  

accents



Join the Northern Irish novelist Jan Carson for a whistlestop tour through the life and writings of the great Agatha Christie. Find out how Christie has influenced Carson's work, learn a little about her incredibly interesting life and the 66 crime fiction novels she penned and gain a few tips on where to begin reading Agatha Christie. Half an hour that could change your reading life.

**The author will speak in English without interpretation.**

*In collaboration with Literature Ireland.*

## 8 0 THREE PLACES I CALL HOME

Yewande Omotoso with Nadeesha Uyangoda

10:30 AUDITORIUM OF THE CAMPIANI CONSERVATORY €7,00

Barbados, Nigeria and South Africa: in the heart of writer and architect Yewande Omotoso, the three countries where she grew up coexist in equal measure, giving her that 'migrant form' that has largely influenced her work. The author of *An Unusual Grief* and *The Woman Next Door* takes Cape Town as the point of departure and return for her novels, analysing in depth human relationships of friendship, love and motherhood, in which the wounds to heal recall those of a country long plagued by apartheid. And she does so by combining drama and humour with the experience of someone who has lived steeped in storytelling: "I remember the evenings when my father would gather us all together and start telling stories in English but also in Yoruba. I don't know if in listening to those stories I perceived a desire to become a writer. I do remember though that I loved those moments and it seems as if writing was already a possibility in my life". Yewande Omotoso will be talking to writer and journalist Nadeesha Uyangoda.

**The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.**

## 8 2 ANIMALS AS MENTORS

Helen Macdonald with Michela Murgia

10:30 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7,00 



Looking back in a 2017 interview, British naturalist and ornithologist Helen Macdonald explained: "As a child, I was in close contact with nature. I would spend my days outdoors, observing wild animals. I used to catch lizards and snakes and butterflies to observe them up close. I was rather introverted, and I didn't understand social conventions, so animals were like an extended family because they were always there: reliable, interesting and beautiful". One of the leading nature writers of recent years, she has described in essays, articles and auto-fiction the relationship between humans and other living beings, ranging from the ancient art of falconry (in her highly successful *H is for Hawk*) to broader reflections on the dualism between captivity and freedom (as in the more recent *Vesper Flights*). Too often we take the presence of the animal world for granted. The Surrey-based author will instead remind us how necessary it is to rediscover the wonder of observing it and thus learn different nuances of our own nature. She will be talking to writer Michela Murgia.

**The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.**

## 8 5 TOWARDS A READING LAW

Daniele Aristarco and John Freeman with Simonetta Bitasi

11:00 DIOCESAN MUSEUM €7,00

Could the Italian Republic be founded not only on work but also on... reading? According to young readers, it could, but there is much to be done. So girls and boys who have come to know each other through books – adolescent reading groups in libraries and bookshops, class groups, Festival volunteers or simply independent readers – have in recent months overwhelmingly expressed the urge to start the process of presenting a law by popular demand for reading. Festaletteratura has jumped at the chance to support the initiative of this informal support committee, where young readers from all over Italy are busy drafting a bill to be proposed to their peers during the festival and then submitted to the new Parliament, once it has taken office. The topics will include libraries, schools, free access to books, reading groups and much more and all this will be under the guidance of two experts: Daniele Aristarco, author of numerous books on civil commitment for young people, and John Freeman, writer, one of the world's leading editors and director of the publication *Freeman's*.

John Freeman will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.



## 8 6 THE GREAT ESCAPE

John Banville with Peter Florence

11:00 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO €7,00

Ireland: an island of voices

The prolific and celebrated literary career of John Banville (*Snow*, *April in Spain*, *Even the Dead*, *Vengeance*) runs along two tracks. While on holiday in Sardinia in 2001, the Irish author and winner of the 2005 Man Booker Prize with *The Sea* decided to branch off into the detective genre, hardly imagining that the initial experiment would lead to the birth of his enigmatically named alter ego Benjamin Black, a master of crime fiction and a lover of the classic detective stories of Georges Simenon and Raymond Chandler. If with the 'high' novels Banville delights in using words that "leave the reader reaching for a dictionary" – so obsessive and perfectly constructed is his quest for lexical precision – his crime novels give him the chance for a more leisurely pace with Inspector Strafford and the pathologist Quirke, in the knowledge that, as Kafka quipped "The artist is the one who has nothing to say. That is, one can only show, display, present the evidence". We will be following the trail of clues together with Peter Florence.

The event will be held in English. Those wishing to listen to simultaneous interpretation in Italian will need earphones and to use their phone to connect to the website [converso.app/festaletteratura/events](https://converso.app/festaletteratura/events)



## 8 8 PERFECT IMPERFECTIONS

Erik Kessels with Stefano Salis

11:00 BIBIENA THEATRE €7,00

Have you ever stopped to admire the old photos on sale at flea markets? Dutch designer and art director Erik Kessels is a huge fan: "For the past 20 years, I have become increasingly interested in photographs that describe everyday life, particularly the mistakes made by amateur photographers". Perhaps as a reaction to standardised advertising that is generally studied down to the smallest detail, Kessels has set out to examine error and amateurism, seeing them as a way to developing experimentation and personality sometimes denied to professionals. Forget the rules and let your creativity roll! Journalist Stefano Salis will be focusing his metaphorical lens on the author of *Complete Amateur*.

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with the Embassy and Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



## THE SACRED FIRE OF WRITING

Damon Galgut with Elsa Riccadonna

12:00 BOOK TENT free admission

On the Sacred Fire of Writing SEE p. 35

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.



## 9 1 MY HOMELAND IS LANGUAGE

Usama Al Shahmani with Nadeesha Uyangoda

14:30 PALATINE BASILICA OF SANTA BARBARA €7,00

Sometimes, when the headlines shift the spotlight onto new and different events, literature can focus on fragments of history that should not be forgotten. This is the case with the works of Usama Al Shahmani (*In Foreign Lands the Trees Speak Arabic*, *Falling*, *the Feather Learns to Fly*), an Iraqi transplanted in Switzerland whose writing mixes a subtle reflection on the concept of identity and integration with a precise historical narrative, portraying an Iraq that for many Westerners had almost disappeared after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime: "The thing the world forgets about Iraq are the young people in their twenties and thirties, who are full of hope and ambition, who write and demonstrate, who want to live like any other young people, in Milan or Zurich. Europe does not know that 60 per cent of Iraqis are under thirty, which is a greater force than oil or trade because it represents the power of thought". He talks to writer and journalist Nadeesha Uyangoda (*The Only Black Person in the Room*).

The author will speak in German, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.



Festaletteratura

25  
years together

Tea  
gruppo  
il futuro è sostenibile

accenti

Accents give rhythm to writing. These fast paced, tightly packed appointments at the Tenda Sordello (lasting only half an hour) will raise the tone, venture the odd high note, or plummet vertiginously into the depths of the most disparate subjects. This year's programme features fictional digressions, glimpses of current affairs, mini-interviews, wild stories and a few sensational turns. The hosts at the Tenda Sordello will be Marta Bacigalupo and Luca Pareschi. Admission is free for all accents and they are streamed live on Festaletteratura's YouTube channel [youtube.com/Festaletteratura](https://youtube.com/Festaletteratura).

18:00 WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

PETER FLORENCE

Romeo in Mantova,  
Juliet in Verona

10:00 FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

JAN CARSON

Carson on Christie

14:00 SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

WILLIAM DALRYMPLE

A diamond's reflections

## 95 ISRAEL'S LITERARY THERAPIST

Zeruya Shalev with Gaia Manzini

14:45 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO €7,00

This is how the Israeli writer Zeruya Shalev (*Husband and Wife, Pain*) has been defined. Survivor of a terrorist attack in 2004, her trauma reverberates in an artistic production capable of mixing the everyday life of the characters with the often-tragic events of a recent past, without turning them into memoirs or autofiction. The political situation of her country is mirrored in the lives of her characters, however, and interpreted through the major themes that Shalev has always touched upon. First and foremost is her exploration of family and love relationships, most often complicated and painful. "Trying to understand the human soul seems to me the most interesting question in the world. I always try to focus on my own emotions, and those of others, no-holds-barred", says the author of the recent *Goral*, who will be talking with writer Gaia Manzini at the Festival.

**The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.**

*In collaboration with the Cultural Office of the Embassy of Israel in Italy.*

## 106 BUILDING ARCHITECTURE THROUGH PLAY

Giancarlo Mazzanti with Camillo Magni

17:00 AULA MAGNA OF THE UNIVERSITY €7,00

A lecturer at numerous higher education institutions and universities in Colombia, the United States, Europe and Italy, Giancarlo Mazzanti is a major contemporary architect. His studio, El Equipo Mazzanti, a point of reference for the entire South American continent and beyond, realises projects all over the world for schools, hospitals and public buildings, but also places for play and entertainment: "Our projects," says Mazzanti, "always seek to explore forms of spatial and material organisation through a rethinking of concepts such as repetition, indeterminacy, incompleteness, anomaly, instability, contradiction". In conversation with architect Camillo Magni, Mazzanti addresses the importance of play as a fundamental form of learning and a design stimulus.

**Giancarlo Mazzanti will speak in Italian.**

## 120 A VIRGIL IN A GAELIC LAND

Peter Fallon with Piero Boitani

19:00 AUDITORIUM OF THE CAMPIONI CONSERVATORY €7,00

**Ireland: an island of voices**

The everyday life of a place and its people, the community values of work, the land and mutual care are just some of the recurring themes of the enlightening poetry of Peter Fallon, whose seminal collections such as *News of the World* (1993 and '98) and *Strong, My Love* (2014) are yet to be published in Italy. Alongside a production in verse praised by poets and friends including his fellow Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney, Fallon has translated timeless classics such as *The Georgics of Virgil and Deeds and Their Days* (after *Hesiod*), while simultaneously pursuing an indefatigable campaign to promote modern-day Irish literature – as much at the helm of the Gallery Press, which he founded at the tender age of eighteen and transformed into a flagship of European publishing houses – and in the editing, together with Derek Mahon, of the epoch-making anthology *The Penguin Book of Contemporary Irish Poetry*. He will be talking to Anglicist and literary critic Piero Boitani (*Verso l'Incanto, Vedere le cose*).

**The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.**

*In collaboration with Literature Ireland.*

libreria coop NAUTILUS

CESARE  
ROVERSI

Irlanda.com

## 122 THEY SAID THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND MY GESTURES

Claire Gibault with Giovanni Bietti

19:15 PALATINE BASILICA OF SANTA BARBARA €7,00

In July 1969 two photos appeared on the front page of the newspaper *France Soir*: one was that of Neil Armstrong – who had recently made headlines for the moon landing – the other was of Claire Gibault, then 24 and the first female conductor in France. Always campaigning against gender discrimination in a world she often describes as ruthless and laden with sexual bias, Gibault recently described her inspiring career in her autobiography *La musique à mains nues: Itinéraire passionné d'une femme chef d'orchestre*. Writing in the frank and direct manner that distinguishes her, she starts with her beginnings at the conservatoire in Le Mans and progresses through her long collaboration with Claudio Abbado to her foundation of the ethical Paris Mozart Orchestra and the establishment in 2020 of the competition La Maestra, the only one in the world open solely to female conductors. She will be talking to composer and musicologist Giovanni Bietti (*La musica della luce, Lo spartito del mondo*).

**The author will speak in Italian.**

*In collaboration with the Institut Français Italia.*

## 127 AN EXACT AND NECESSARY WORD

Diamela Eltit with Lella Costa

21:15 PALATINE BASILICA OF SANTA BARBARA €7,00

Marcela Serrano, Pedro Lemebel, Antonio Skármeta, Luis Sepúlveda, Nona Fernández... Chilean literature has always been well represented at the Mantova festival.

This year's Festival features one of the most influential voices of contemporary South American writing: Diamela Eltit (*Mano de obra, Jamás el fuego nunca, Errante, errática*) is an intellectual whose work is characterised by a combination of political commitment, experimentation and an avant-garde never an end in itself. Since the days of the Pinochet dictatorship, replaced by today's no less dangerous neo-liberal and capitalist economy, Eltit uses the novel and performance art as a way of analysing reality and resistance and of denouncing all forms of oppression, always in "search of a freedom zone for experience, play, work, and desire and of more opaque and unexpected marginal spaces". Together with Lella Costa, she will be discussing her visionary works and the current complex Chilean cultural and political life.

**The author will speak in Spanish, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.**

*In collaboration with the Embassy of Chile in Italy.*

CESARI  
FINE WINES OF VERONA

REVOLUTION  
SOLUZIONE PER L'IMPRESA

## BLURANDEVÙ

Project supported by

coop  
Alimento 3.0

The most unexpected and exhilarating interviews of the entire Festival await you from Thursday to Sunday on the stage of the Museo Diocesano. The girls and boys of Blurandevù will be ready to give a warm welcome to some of the stars of the 2022 edition.

SATURDAY 10TH 21:30 Andrés Neuman

**Blurandevù** is part of Spazio *Festivaletteratura*, a project supported by Fondazione Cariplo. All blurandevù events are free

# 10

## Saturday

SEPTEMBER  
2022

### 1 4 3 ARCHITECTURE AS A FIELD OF OBSERVATION

Manuel Herz with Camillo Magni

10:30 AULA MAGNA OF THE UNIVERSITY €7,00

"I am not fond of the term 'sustainable design' (...). I want to practice architecture that explores the potential of a specific place, that reacts intelligently, but also surprisingly, to the specific location, the given resources and the assigned task". Manuel Herz is an architect and scholar based in Basel, Switzerland, and Cologne, Germany. Currently a lecturer at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, he has received numerous prizes and awards and is the author of many publications on Jewish architecture in Germany. Among his most recent realisations is the Tambacounda Hospital in Senegal, a project developed in constant dialogue with local stakeholders – doctors, nurses, builders and workers – and by studying the specific environmental and climatic context. He meets Camillo Magni, who lectures at the Milan Polytechnic.

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

COPRAT

### 1 4 5 TALES OF A TURBULENT CENTURY

Pierre Lemaitre with Carlo Lucarelli

10:30 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7,00 ▶



"Be wary of writing, that is, don't start writing a book if you don't know the plot well". Reading this quote one can immediately see why every detail fits perfectly in Pierre Lemaitre's work. The French author and scriptwriter is a giant of contemporary European fiction and although he admits to being inspired by such eminent colleagues as Hugo and Dumas, the vividness of his writing draws natural parallels with the cinema. Goncourt Prize winner in 2013, Lemaitre has the gift of transporting the reader elsewhere, using words as a time machine even when the events draw on historical periods far removed from our everyday life (as in the trilogy *Miroir de nos peines*, *Couleurs de l'incendie*, *Au revoir là-haut*). Moving with ease between the two world wars and post-World War II Lebanon, the author of the recent *Le Grand Monde* talks to Carlo Lucarelli (*Peccato Mortale*, *Intrigo italiano*), an expert on an era about which so much has been written.

The author will speak in French, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with the Institut Français Italia.

 Smurfit  
Kappa

### 1 4 7 TRAVELLING IS AN INTIMATE MOVEMENT

Christoph Ransmayr with Melania G. Mazzucco

11:00 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO €7,00

Brazil, the North Pole, the Black Sea, Java, the Himalayas... a love of travel, exploration and discovery shines through in the literary cartography present in the works of Austrian writer Christoph Ransmayr (*Atlas of an Anxious Man*, *The Last World*, *The Terrors of Ice and Darkness*), whose ethnographic and geographical observations began between 1978 and 1982 when he was cultural editor of the periodical *Extrablatt*. Constantly characterised by meticulous linguistic research, "Ransmayr is attracted to extreme marginality in many ways (...) he questions the limits of human endurance against natural forces, the minimal conditions of the anthropisation of places" and has been referred to by critics as one of the leading exponents of post-modernism. He will share the stage with Melania G. Mazzucco (*L'archittrice*), also a narrator with a sharp anthropological eye. The author of *Der Fallmeister* will take the Festivalletteratura audience on a journey around the world, if only for just an hour.

The author will speak in German, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with the Forum Austriaco di Cultura Milan.

 FASTENFIN  
leasing

## THE SACRED FIRE OF WRITING

Anne Enright with Christian Mascheroni

12:00 BOOK TENT free admission

On the Sacred Fire of Writing SEE P. 35

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with Literature Ireland.

## 154 RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

Gavin Mueller with Riccardo Staglianò

14:30 AULA MAGNA OF THE UNIVERSITY €7,00

Among miners there is an expression as old as the mechanisation of the mines: "A man has no business on a machine who can't break it down any time he wants to". The words were spoken by Charles Denby in 1960. Denby was a journalist, trade unionist and metalworker in the Detroit automobile factories in the days when the lives of millions of workers in the car industry were being devastated by the advent of mass automation. Because while it is undeniable that over the past 250 years technology has brought about increased productivity in every sector of the economy, it is also true that it has often done so by worsening the living conditions of workers, making their job harder and more alienating, and denying them autonomy and creativity. In *Breaking Things at Work*, Gavin Mueller explores the reasons for the longstanding resistance to technological domination that goes back to the Luddites and the looms set on fire in early 19th century England and arrives at the 'hi-tech Luddism' inherent in the hacker culture of the digital age. He will be talking to the author of *Gigacapitalisti*, Riccardo Staglianò.

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

## 155 RETURNING HOME

Aleksandar Hemon with Federica Manzoni

14:30 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7,00 ▶



"In my head there is always the same image, the same flashback/an old house, a small garden and the Yugo 45". So goes one of the most famous Bosnian anti-war songs, emphasising how memories even of seemingly simple things are a powerful medicine for those fleeing the horrors of conflict. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the siege of Sarajevo, a still-open wound in the heart of Europe, and it was in that distant 1992 that the writer Aleksandar Hemon (*Nowhere man*, *The Making of Zombie Wars*) discovered himself an emigrant by chance, while in Chicago on a journalist exchange programme. Since then, convinced that "storytelling is a fundamental evolutionary tool for survival", Hemon has always used memory, even when tragic, as a weapon to fuel an immense literary creativity filled with dry humour with a bitter aftertaste, as is also the case in his forthcoming work *My Parents: An Introduction/This Does Not Belong to You*. The author will be speaking to writer and lecturer Federica Manzoni about exile, statelessness and Balkan humour.

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

**Unical**  
BE ON FIRE

**Sapiens**  
AGENZIA PER IL LAVORO

CORNELIANI

## 156 I HAVE BECOME WRITING

Kader Abdolah with Stefano Salis

14:45 PALATINE BASILICA OF SANTA BARBARA €7,00

"I was someone who fought against the Shah's regime, then against the dictatorship of the Islamic republic, and suddenly, after leaving my homeland, I was no one anymore. I needed a dictatorship to regain balance. And the Dutch language became that dictatorship". This is how, in 2018, Kader Abdolah (*Salam Europa*, *The House of the Mosque*) would explain his decision to write in such a challenging language, after fleeing as a political refugee to Holland in 1988. Having since become one of Europe's leading writers, Abdolah has successfully created the perfect blend of Persian and Old-World literary traditions, bridging different cultures and eras and, at the same time, "creating with his novels a mirror in which to reflect oneself and find one's own identity". The Iranian-born author of *Faraò van de Vliet* will be conversing with journalist Stefano Salis about his roots, the educational value of his writings and his aspirations.

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with the Embassy and Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

**Unicollege**  
KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

# roaming the woods

The woods have been a scary place for at least seven hundred years. We have always felt lost or at the mercy of wild beasts; and perhaps this is partly why we have proceeded with increasing speed to deforest the entire planet, to the point of endangering our own future and that of other living species. To reverse the trend, **the woodland needs to reclaim wasteland and make room for itself in cities**; but above all, we need to learn to live with the woods and experience them on a daily basis. In April this year, Festivalletteratura planted around 1,300 trees on an alluvial plain not far from Mantova, creating a small forest just a few metres from the river Po. In this 26th edition, it is launching roaming the woods, **a series of scientific-liter-**

**ary-fun exploratory trails to prepare us for forest life**. Guiding these daytime and evening excursions will be writers and botanists, zoologists and artists, ornithologists and walkers, actors and musicians, who will help us to direct our gaze, regulate our breathing, expand our minds, and show us each time a different way of being in the midst of nature. Roaming the woods includes eight events in nature reserves, public parks, private gardens and 'street greenery', designed to raise a new environmental awareness and to practice (and defend) biodiversity in everyday life.

Thanks to Alkémica Coop. Soc. charity for their collaboration

THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

18:00 - Parco baleno

54 THE WOODS AND THE SKY ABOVE

Helen Macdonald

Project supported by

 **PANGUANETA**  
Plywood For Life

### 157 A KAFKAESQUE TALKFEST

Andi Watson with Giacomo Bevilacqua and Zerocalcare

14:45 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO €7,00

If you've ever happened to follow the good-natured online squabbling between Zerocalcare (*Scheletri, Macerie prime*) and Giacomo Bevilacqua (*Troppo facile amarti in vacanza*), you'll know how zany the lively discussions between the two cartoonists can become. What could happen then when put to the test of solving the outcome of Andi Watson's mysterious graphic novel *The Book Tour*? Which of the two will guess the ending? Already a scriptwriter for major publishing houses such as Dark Horse, Marvel and DC Comics, the British illustrator, on stage together with the creators of Secco and Panda, will lead the way through the meanderings of his humorous yet somewhat unsettling graphic novel. He will be looking at the origins of the tale, in which insiders might recognise some of the typical and tragicomic situations of literary events.

Andi Watson will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

### ARE ORGANISM MACHINES?

Miguel Benasayag with eXtemporeana

15:00 CIRCOLO ARCI VIRGILIO free admission

To build a computer or a car, elementary components are assembled into a composite structure. In the living world, on the other hand, the integration of parts goes beyond the simple sum of the components, such as cells or tissues: not only because these are already complex in themselves, but also because they do not merely 'function'. This, argues Miguel Benasayag, is the singularity of the living being: a process defined by its multiple relationships with ecosystems, and which therefore escapes reductionist models. Living is the name of a process, a constant metamorphosis that cannot be modelled completely but can be described in the situations in which it finds itself. The author of *La singularité du vivant* and *Les nouvelles figures de l'agir. Penser et s'engager depuis le vivant* talks to the eXtemporeana collective.

The author will speak in Italian.

In collaboration with the Institut Français Italia.

### 165 ODD THINGS HAPPEN IN BELFAST

Jan Carson with Chiara Valerio

16:30 AULA MAGNA OF THE UNIVERSITY €7,00

Ireland: an island of voices

Running through the veins of the Irish people is an undeniable passion for legends and fantastic stories, from the ancient sagas of the Celtic hero Cúchulainn to modern day folk ballads in which the Emerald Isle that is extolled becomes almost a rediscovered and idyllic Arcadia. This love of the fantastic emanates from the novels of Jan Carson (*The Fire Starters, The Raptures*), a Northern Irish author and community arts facilitator who has made magic realism one of the strong points of her style. Through mysterious circumstances, the Ballymena-based writer recounts the life of communities – be they rural or in bustling Belfast – where the scars of the Troubles, the conflict between Unionists and Nationalists that inflamed Northern Ireland in the late 1960s and 1990s, have never completely healed. Talking to her will be the writer Chiara Valerio.

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with Literature Ireland.



ecology  
SYSTEM

Irlanda.com

### 180 A BLACKBIRD WOKE ME UP ONE MORNING

Vinciane Despret with Paolo Pecere

18:30 AULA MAGNA OF THE UNIVERSITY €7,00

Who hasn't been amazed by the stillness of nature? Yet even the most isolated meadow is literally teeming with sounds and noises: "When we find an unspoiled place silent, it is because we are not, or are no longer, able to listen to the animal tales that surround us". Vinciane Despret (*What Would Animals Say if We Asked the Right Questions?*, *Quand le loup habitera avec l'agneau*) is a philosopher of science who deals with animal issues, attempting through her writings to challenge our preconceptions about living beings that we often consider inferior and that, many times, are instead capable of behaviour that we think belongs only to homo sapiens. Knowing how to relate to the animal world is of vital importance, as it "tells us in real time what is happening to the planet". The Belgian author (*Autobiographie d'un poulpe*) will give us a hand while discussing the issue with the historian of philosophy Paolo Pecere (*Il dio che danza*).

The author will speak in French, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

### 182 THE CONQUEST OF THE WEST

Sebastian Barry with Marcello Fois

19:00 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO €7,00

Ireland: an island of voices

"Things that give you heart are rare enough, better note them in your head," says one of the main characters in *Days without End*. Sebastian Barry's writing is certainly one of them. Admired by Kazuo Ishiguro, Ali Smith and a host of other novelists, with *Days without End* and *A Thousand Moons* Barry has created a gripping diptych about the genesis of the United States and 19th-century Irish migration, portraying the dawn of a nation through the life and times of unforgettable characters. The love that unites the gentle Thomas McNulty, handsome drifter John Cole and the tenacious Indian orphan Wynona is familiar and at the same time alien, to a country bloodied by the extermination of the natives and the War of Secession, by racism and violence that is 'almost surreal'; because moments of aching tenderness can find a place even in a narrative of brutality, as the best picaresque novels teach us. Marcello Fois (*L'invenzione degli Italiani*) talks to one of Ireland's great writers.

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with Literature Ireland.

### 184 WEAPONS OF MASS SEDUCTION

Simon May with Lucrezia Ercoli

19:00 BASILICA PALATINA OF SANTA BARBARA €7,00

"Oh, so cute", but what does this vacuous word actually mean, and imply? In a hyper-connected world where the ultimate expression of cute, kawaii, to say it in Japanese, are pictures of kittens on the web, the assertive force of a 'beautiful' or an 'ugly' makes way for the ephemeral frivolity of a word that "stands out for its complete lack of contrast, for its desire to erase connotations and demolish all certainties: cuteness eludes dichotomies, despises oppositions, does not engage in contentions". The philosopher Simon May (*The Power of Cute*) has developed a theory about its current ubiquity. Analysing its more devious side, he sees the word as a symbol of the currently prevailing indeterminacy and of "an aesthetics with no claim to authenticity". He will be joined by writer and philosopher Lucrezia Ercoli.

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

Smurfit  
Kappa

Irlanda.com

Pasotti  
SINCE 1956

## 190 NOT ONLY A PRIVATE MATTER

Miguel Benasayag with Adrián Bravi

21:30 PALATINE BASILICA OF SANTA BARBARA €7,00

The armed struggle in the resistance against the Argentinean dictatorship in the 1970s, imprisonment, torture and finally his release and exile in France: experiences that have had a profound effect not only on his life but also on the ideas of Miguel Benasayag (*A pesar de todo, Le retour de l'exil*). The way in which the Franco-Argentine philosopher has cultivated a certain idea of freedom; the search, even in the everyday, for concrete ways of releasing the power of action; the need to nurture the dialogue between generations and to understand the challenges of this era have been some of the great constants in his literary career.

In dialogue with the writer Adrián Bravi, Benasayag will reflect on his life and intellectual journey, to identify what is universal in it, because "the more life is 'only' personal, the less it is life".

The authors will speak in Italian.

In collaboration with the Institut Français Italia.

## BLURANDEVÙ

Andrés Neuman

21:30 DIOCESAN MUSEUM admission free

Acclaimed author on the Spanish/Argentinian and international scene, Andrés Neuman tackles the past with disarming insight. His writing highlights the creativity and comic fickleness of family drama (*Una vez Argentina*) and provides a modern-day take on a love story set in the romantic 19th century (*El viajero del siglo*). When everything is treated with subjectivity, the one memory that proves reliable is that of the body and the scars that remain of a life lived. Highlighting this commonplace, non-conventional beauty is the task of literature (*Anatomía sensible*). At Festivaletteratura Andrés Neuman will be answering the questions of the young Blurandevù audience.

The author will speak in Spanish, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

## L'ALTRO ANIMALE (THE OTHER ANIMAL)

Paolo Pecere with Helen Macdonald

21:30 PIAZZA LEON BATTISTA ALBERTI admission free

radio festivaletteratura live

Two opposing attitudes prevail in our civilisation: on one hand, animals are reduced to things, means or goods and on the other, they are completely anthropomorphised, with human characteristics being projected onto them in a Disney-like process. Between these two extremes lies the research of those who today question the animal mind, in a discipline midway between philosophy and ethology. In dialogue with the experts, *L'Altro Animale* will be discussing the virtues and limitations of anthropomorphism, the origin of the mind, the different forms of consciousness, and how these reflections can condition our relationship with animals such as octopuses, pigs, hawks, and gorillas, in which we find a familiar other that is sometimes consoling, sometimes disturbing but that however astonishes and engages us. Helen Macdonald, naturalist and author of *Vesper Flights*, introduces us to the topic of the podcast together with its editor Paolo Pecere.

For Radio Festivaletteratura live SEE PAGE 9

Helen Macdonald will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

MARCEGAGLIA

coop  
Alleanza 3.0

## WANDERING AROUND FESTIVALETTERATURA

If, as we hope, we are able to get about more easily this September, this page will be more useful than ever. For the 2022 edition Festivaletteratura is preparing to welcome all those who decide at the last minute to come to Mantova, preparing a packed schedule of events and attractions for which there is no need to buy a ticket in advance. Here are all the opportunities, place by place, for those arriving without tickets.

### PIAZZA SORDELLO

Always a gravitational centre for the Festival's last-minute audience, Piazza Sordello will offer an entertaining and tightly-packed programme of events open to everyone from morning to evening at both the Tenda Sordello and the Tenda dei Libri. At the Tenda Sordello the highly concentrated **ACCENTS** half hours will be back (SEE PAGE 21), while the Tenda dei Libri will be smouldering with the **SACRED FIRE OF WRITING**, the series of events on the creative genius (or whatever it is) that animates poets and novelists (SEE PAGE 35).

For those in need of refreshment after their literary labours, the piazza will offer a relaxed food gazebo and food truck area, organised in association with Festival sponsors.

### PIAZZA ALBERTI

Great excitement this year in the piazza where the Festival began. The debut of the live events of **RADIO FESTIVALETTERATURA** will be taking place in a tent pitched beneath the windows of the former Benedictine convent, the headquarters of the press office and the web and social media editors of Festivaletteratura.

## A LAW for reading

Goodwill is not enough to promote the right to read: we need legislation. This is the opinion of the informal 'promoting committee' of the law by popular demand on reading, which involves young readers from all over Italy. Festivaletteratura has decided to support their action. After the preliminary work of recent months when questionnaires were handed out in libraries, bookshops and reading groups, and legal experts were brought in, the Festival will see the first public appearance of the 'promoting committee', which will have the opportunity to circulate its proposals and discuss, correct and integrate the draft law. In particular:

➔ at Area 6 in Piazza Alberti – for the entire duration of the Festival – people will be able to bring ideas, observations and amendments by writing their proposals on the wall dedicated to the law.

➔ at the important assembly meeting on Friday 9 at 11:00 at the Diocesan Museum, with the extraordinary participation of John Freeman and Daniele Aristarco in their role as consultants.

After the Festival, the text of the legislation will be officially drafted with a view to its presentation to the appropriate legal bodies.

# Sunday

# 11

## SEPTEMBER 2022

### 199 READING THE COMPLEXITY OF THE WORLD TOGETHER

John Freeman with Marco Peano

10:00 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO €7,00

In the vast sea of literary production, it sometimes doesn't hurt to have someone help us navigate our way through uncharted waters. "Anyone seeking to understand what's happening on Earth and what it means to be alive, which is the reason why we read, needs some guidance": no one better than John Freeman (*Tales of Two Americas*, *How to Read a Novelist*) – founder of the biannual *Freeman's* and former editor of *Granta* – knows how to decipher the reality, needs and urgencies of today's world, bringing together the most disparate authorial voices, without distinction of origin or age. Accompanied by editor Marco Peano (*Morsi*), the American critic, author and scouting expert will take us on a treasure hunt among contemporary literary talents and in an excursus on his work and his relationship with the public.

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

### THE SACRED FIRE OF WRITING

Kader Abdolah with Christian Mascheroni

12:00 BOOK TENT free admission

On the Sacred Fire of Writing SEE P. 35

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with the Embassy and Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

### 208 SPIRITS OF IRELAND

Anne Griffin with Bianca Pitzorno

12:15 BASILICA PALATINA OF SANTA BARBARA €7,00

Ireland: an island of voices

Ethereal presences, whether they be in the mind or actual supernatural beings, are a constant feature of Anne Griffin's (*Listening Still*) literary output: the Dublin-based author brings to her works a deep knowledge of life in small rural communities and has been acclaimed by critics and audiences alike since her debut, even though she admittedly wrote her first story when she was forty-five. To such a late starter, pursuing a writing career "seemed as mad to me back then as if I'd decided to become an astronaut". Yet sometimes, however clichéd it may sound, a chance encounter in a remote pub in the rolling countryside can light the spark of imagination and success (as it did for *When All Is Said*). Joined on stage by Bianca Pitzorno, Anne Griffin will share her own unique experience in the literary world, and, meanwhile, confirm the old adage that 'it is never too late'.

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with Literature Ireland.

### A DIAMOND'S REFLECTIONS

William Dalrymple

14:00 TENDA SORDELLO free admission

accents



With its 105 carats, the Koh-i-Noor is the jewel in the crown of British royalty. Before ending up in Queen Victoria's hands the "mountain of light" was coveted by thieves and emperors, becoming the stuff of legends and horrifying deaths. This and more is told by William Dalrymple and journalist Anita Anand (*Koh-i-Noor*) as part of a journey across centuries and continents.

The authors will speak in English without interpretation

PALAZZO CASTIGLIONI  
Luxury Suite in Mantova  
www.palazzocastiglioni.mantova.com

Unical  
BE ON FIRE

Irlanda.com

gruppo  
Tea  
il futuro è sostenibile

## 214 THE ART OF PLAYING WITH LITERATURE

Andrés Neuman with Lella Costa

14:15 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7,00



Andrés Neuman is like an orchestra conductor, capable of directing a widely diverse band of characters in his novels. The music that emerges is anything but classical. It is hypnotic and the result of literary and linguistic experimentation more akin to jazz or fusion (as in *Anatomia sensibile*). Originally from Buenos Aires and moving to Spain when he was still young, the author of *Una vez Argentina* and *Fractura* has always tended to foray into genres in which, by his own admission he "doesn't believe too much": used to juggling the surreal, the historical, the dramatic or the metaliterary, Neuman finds himself metaphorically blurring the boundaries, erasing any kind of supposed textbook purity of writing and transforming concrete stylistic features into clay to be modelled with words. At the Festival he meets up again with Lella Costa, to continue the conversation started in 2013.

The author will speak in Spanish, with consecutive interpretation into Italian

## 215 THE MIND OF THE CZAR

Michel Eltchaninoff

15:00 PALATINE BASILICA OF SANTA BARBARA €7,00

In the last few months of this turbulent 2022, a former KGB officer has appeared on the front pages of every newspaper in the world and, certainly, in the thoughts of many of us lurks a question that remains unanswered: "What is going through his mind?" The philosopher and essayist Michel Eltchaninoff, editor-in-chief of *Philosophie Magazine*, has undertaken an in-depth analysis of the ideological and cultural underpinnings of Putin's thinking, from nationalism and imperialism, "right up to the idea of the moral superiority of the Russian people in the face of Western decadence". Together with the author of *Inside the Mind of Vladimir Putin*, we will retrace the actions and words spoken by the Soviet leader up to the moments immediately preceding the invasion of Ukraine, to try to dig deeper into motivations that may seem only political and economic, but that perhaps conceal a great deal more.

The author will speak in French, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

## 227 FROM A SMALL OFFICE IN LONDON

William Dalrymple with Donald Sassoon

17:15 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO €7,00

In the heart of the City, between 1599 and 1600, what today we would call a start-up was born which soon became the most influential commercial enterprise of its time: the British East India Company. Greatly anticipating the emergence of global markets, in which wealthy multinationals affect political and economic arrangements of state, this powerful association of merchants branched out to almost every continent, eventually finding itself involved in the creation of Hong Kong and Singapore and the outbreak of the American War of Independence. The British historian and Asian expert William Dalrymple (*Return of a King, From the Holy Mountain*) has dug meticulously through historical sources - British and especially Indian - to recount with extreme precision the unregulated parable of the Company, from the conquest of Bengal until its dissolution in 1874. Of this undertaking of colonisation, similar to today's corporate capitalism, the author of *The Anarchy* will speak together with Donald Sassoon (*The Anxious Triumph*).

The event will be held in English. Those wishing to listen to simultaneous interpretation in Italian will need earphones and to use their phone to connect to the website [converso.app/festivaletteratura/events](https://converso.app/festivaletteratura/events)

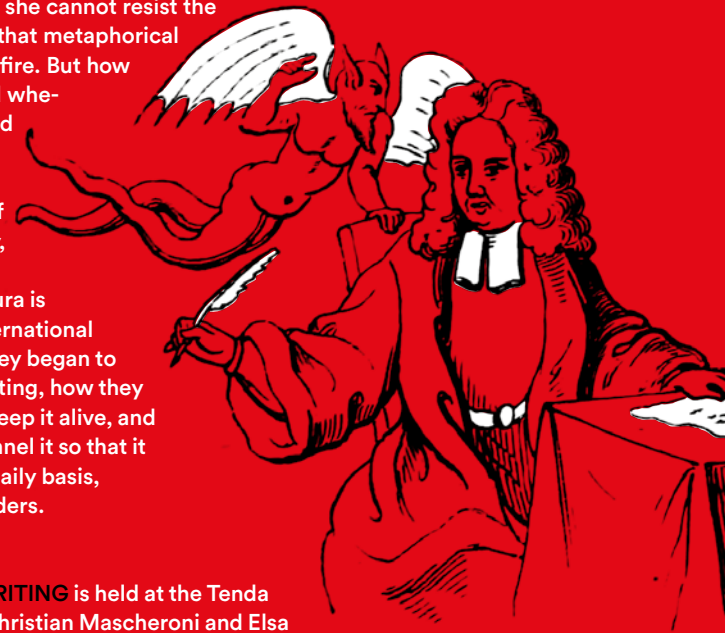
FEDRIGONI



# THE SACRED FIRE OF WRITING

Some call it genius, some devilry, some more prosaically inspiration, but what ignites the imagination, what warms the passions of a writer so much that he or she cannot resist the physical need to pick up that metaphorical old pen is undoubtedly a fire. But how does this flame arise, and where does it come from? And what fuels it to the point of producing a steady, glowing blaze, capable of taking the form of a story, a novel or a poem?

This year, Festivaletteratura is asking ten Italian and international authors to tell us when they began to feel this sacred fire of writing, how they recognised it, how they keep it alive, and how they manage to channel it so that it becomes literature on a daily basis, to the delight of their readers. A half hour blaze.



THE SACRED FIRE OF WRITING is held at the Tenda Sordello and hosted by Christian Mascheroni and Elsa Riccadonna.

Thursday 8 September

18:00  
Zeruya Shalev

Saturday 10 September

12:00  
Anne Enright

Friday 9 September

12:00  
Damon Galgut

Sunday 11 September

12:00  
Kader Abdolah

Project supported by



## 229 STORIES STRUNG TOGETHER LIKE PEARLS ON A BRACELET

Sharon Dodua Otoo with Francesca Massarenti

17:15 DIOCESAN MUSEUM €7,00

One thing Sharon Dodua Otoo certainly does not lack is a taste for challenges: in her debut novel, *Ada's Room*, she takes on a story that unfolds over five hundred years of history, spanning different eras, nations and perspectives, giving voice to four intersecting narratives, making inanimate objects speak and above all writing in German, her second language after English. Mixing magical realism and autobiography, the Anglo-German author and activist tackles the themes of diversity, women's emancipation and racism in her works, convinced that "every writer has a role to play in shaping the society in which he or she is published, being influenced by it in turn, and playing the role of guardian of the imagination". She will be talking to Francesca Massarenti, Anglicist and co-author of the newsletter *Ghinea*.

The author will speak in German, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Milan.



## 238 GREEN HILLS OF IRELAND?

Anne Enright with Wlodek Goldkorn

18:30 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7,00

Ireland: an island of voices



This year Festaletteratura is tinged with the bright green of the Irish meadows: if you close your eyes for a moment, it might seem as if the castle of San Giorgio has been transformed into its elegant Dublin counterpart, the legendary medieval fortress of Malahide. Anne Enright, herself a Dubliner, one of the Emerald Isle's most celebrated writers (*The Green Road*, *Actress*, *The Gathering*, which won her the Man Booker Prize in 2007), portrays charismatically engaging maternal figures, without ever neglecting the darker side of her homeland, aware that Ireland is 'a great resource' from which to draw to talk about family and national identity. Prompted by questions from journalist Wlodek Goldkorn, the author will try to explain the repercussions of the myth of 'Irishness', not only on a socio-political level but above all on the expectations of an international public, too often still tied to stereotypes and literary canons that Enright has always broken down with her characteristic humour and intelligence.

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with Literature Ireland.



Literature Ireland brings the best of Irish literature to the world.



John Banville / Sebastian Barry / Jan Carson / Anne Enright / Peter Fallon / Anne Griffin

Wishing authors and organisers all a good Festival!

Get in touch to find out how our translation grant programme connects international publishers, writers and translators.

literatureireland.com / info@literatureireland.com / @literatureireland / @Lit\_Ireland

# IRELAND: AN ISLAND OF VOICES

Equipped with memorable verse and prose alone, this year Festaletteratura will head out into the blustery Atlantic waters to find an archipelago of evergreen stories, 'an ocean of clouds and light' that from the early 1900s to the present day continues to fascinate thousands of readers. **Ireland: an Island of Voices** is the colourful polyphony of events that in 2022, in collaboration with Literature Ireland and thanks to the support of Tourism Ireland, will feature some of the island's greatest writers, but also milestones of 20th century fiction such as James Joyce's *Ulysses*, which appeared in bookshops for the first time a hundred years ago and changed the destiny

of world literature. In September, the task of resetting the coordinates of this extraordinary literary archipelago, between family novels, poetry, cultured digressions into the detective genre and the crossroads of history, will fall to doyens such as **Anne Enright** and **John Banville**, past winners of the Man Booker Prize for fiction, and to writers at the Festival for the first time such as **Sebastian Barry**, **Anne Griffin** and **Jan Carson**. Also unmissable will be the explorations of modern-day Irish poetry in the company of **Peter Fallon**, author of many poetry collections and soul of the Gallery Press publishing house.

Friday 9 September, 11:00

Palazzo San Sebastiano

**86 THE GREAT ESCAPE**

John Banville with Peter Florence

Saturday 10 September, 19:00

Palazzo San Sebastiano

**182 THE CONQUEST OF THE WEST**

Sebastian Barry with Marcello Fois

Friday 9 September, 19:00

Auditorium of the "Campiani" Conservatory

**120 A VIRGIL IN A GAELIC LAND**

Peter Fallon with Piero Boitani

Sunday 11 September, 12:15

palatine basilica of santa barbara

**208 SPIRITS OF IRELAND**

Anne Griffin with Bianca Pitzorno

Saturday 10 September, 16:30

University Auditorium

**165 ODD THINGS HAPPEN IN BELFAST**

Jan Carson with Chiara Valerio

Sunday 11 September, 18:30

Piazza Castello

**238 THE GREEN HILLS OF IRELAND?**

Anne Enright with Wlodek Goldkorn

Project supported by  
www.irlanda.com



# CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

## SEGRETERIA FESTIVALETTERATURA

Via Castiglioni, 4 - 46100 Mantova  
**tel.** 0376.223989 **fax** 0376.367047  
[segreteria@festivaletteratura.it](mailto:segreteria@festivaletteratura.it)

## ARCHIVIO FESTIVALETTERATURA

Via Accademia, 47 - 46100 Mantova  
**tel.** 0376.223989  
[archivio@festivaletteratura.it](mailto:archivio@festivaletteratura.it)

## INFORMATION

**For up-to-date information,**  
[www.festivaletteratura.it](http://www.festivaletteratura.it) gives details of any late changes to the programme (like changes of venue for reasons such as bad weather) and of any events postponed, sold out or cancelled. You can also check in real time by enquiring at our **Information Point**, **calling 0376 223989**, registering for **sms updates on sms informa**, **Telegram**, **the Festivaletteratura app**, or by **sending an email to [info@festivaletteratura.it](mailto:info@festivaletteratura.it)**

**The Information Point** in **Piazza Sordello** will be open during the whole of the Festival. General tourist information can be obtained from **Infopoint in Mantova** - piazza Mantegna, 6 (**tel.** 0376.432432, **info@turismo.mantova.it**; [www.turismo.mantova.it](http://www.turismo.mantova.it)), open every day 9.00 → 19.00.

## PRESS OFFICE

Lara Facco P&C  
(with Lisa Oldani)  
Viale Papiniano, 42 - 20123 Milan  
**tel.** 02 36565133 [stampa@larafacco.com](mailto:stampa@larafacco.com)  
[www.larafacco.com](http://www.larafacco.com)

## 7-11 September:

Press room Festivaletteratura  
Piazza Leon Battista Alberti Mantova  
**tel.** 351.6564754

## SMS INFORMA

Festivaletteratura has an **sms info service** on scheduled events.

Receive Festivaletteratura sms updates (in Italian) on your phone. Just **text the message 'Festival On' to +39 353 3364700**. The service, which is already active, is free of charge and ends on the evening of 11 September 2022. To disable the service before that, just text 'Festival Off' to the same number. Check your mobile phone plan to see if your provider applies a charge for the sms you send to activate or deactivate the service. For details of Festivaletteratura's data protection policy, see [www.festivaletteratura.it](http://www.festivaletteratura.it)

## FESTIVALETTERATURA APP

The Festivaletteratura app is available for iOS™ and Android devices and can be downloaded free of charge from the stores. Developed by Global Informatica, the app gives you real time updates, with all changes, comprehensive information on all the authors at this edition; a chance to set up your own itinerary, with all the events you don't want to miss; all the Festival venues, but also where to find Festival-friendly places to eat, sleep and shop.



APPLE  
STORE



GOOGLE  
PLAY

## FESTIVAL BOOKSHOP 2022 WITH LIBRERIE.COOP

*In collaboration with Cooperativa Librai  
Mantovani and thanks to the contribution of  
UNIPOL*

The Festival bookshop is in **Piazza  
Sordello**.

Open **from Friday 2 September**, opening  
hours 9.30 → 13.00, 15.30 → 22.00.

**On Festival days** opening hours  
9.30 → 24.00.

**Sunday 11 September** 9.30 → 20.00.

Books by the authors attending the Festival  
will be available at the bookshop and event  
venues.

For information: 0376.360414 (from 9.00 -  
19.00).

librerie.coop

Unipol  
GRUPPO



## FESTIVALETTERATURA NEWSLETTER

Sign up to our newsletter and  
stay up to date on all the news  
about the Festival.

Subscribe at [bit.ly/newsletter-festlet](https://bit.ly/newsletter-festlet)



## THE TELEGRAM CHANNEL

Get updates, practical news  
and information about the  
Festival on Festivaletteratura's

Telegram channel. To subscribe, find the  
'Festivaletteratura' channel in the app or,  
on your phone, click on

[t.me/Festivaletteratura](https://t.me/Festivaletteratura)

## FESTIVALETTERATURA SOCIAL MEDIA

Keep up with the latest news and share your  
experiences on Twitter and Instagram  
with the official hashtag: **#FESTLET**

- Festivaletteratura**
- @Festivaletteratura**
- @festivaletteratura**
- @festletteratura**
- Festivaletteratura**
- Festivaletteratura**

# LIST OF FESTIVALE LETTERATURA 2022 SITES

- 1 Biblioteca Teresiana
- 2 Teatro Bibiena
- 3 Piazza Mantegna
- 4 Piazza Alberti
- 5 Cinema Oberdan
- 6 Palazzo Ducale
- 7 Atrio degli Arcieri
- 8 Basilica Palatina di Santa Barbara
- 9 Piazza Castello
- 10 Tenda Sordello
- 11 Tenda dei Libri
- 12 Chiostro del Museo Diocesano
- 13 Aula Magna dell'Università
- 14 Palazzo del Mago - Cappella
- 15 Arci Virgilio
- 16 Giardini Valentini
- 17 Auditorium del Conservatorio "Campiani"
- 18 Spazio Santa Lucia
- 19 Casa del Mantegna
- 20 Tempio di San Sebastiano
- 21 Palazzo San Sebastiano
- 22 Palazzo Te
- 23 Biblioteca Baratta
- 24 Bosco Fontana
- 25 Ex Ortaglia Leporati
- 26 Parcobaleno
- 27 Oasi Urbana di Valletta Valsecchi
- 28 Teatro all'Antica di Sabbioneta

- A Author reception
- B Ticket purchase assistance, secretariat
- C Press room, web editing
- D radio editing
- i info-point
- Festival Bookshop
- Shuttle bus stop - piazza Sordello
- Festival restaurant
- FS Railway Station



## ROUTE 1

Piazza Virgiliana  
Piazza Canossa  
Via Nievo/Via Oberdan  
Piazza 80° Fanteria



## ROUTE 2

Piazza Concordia  
Piazza Gasometro  
Piazza Anconetta  
Piazza Fiera Catena

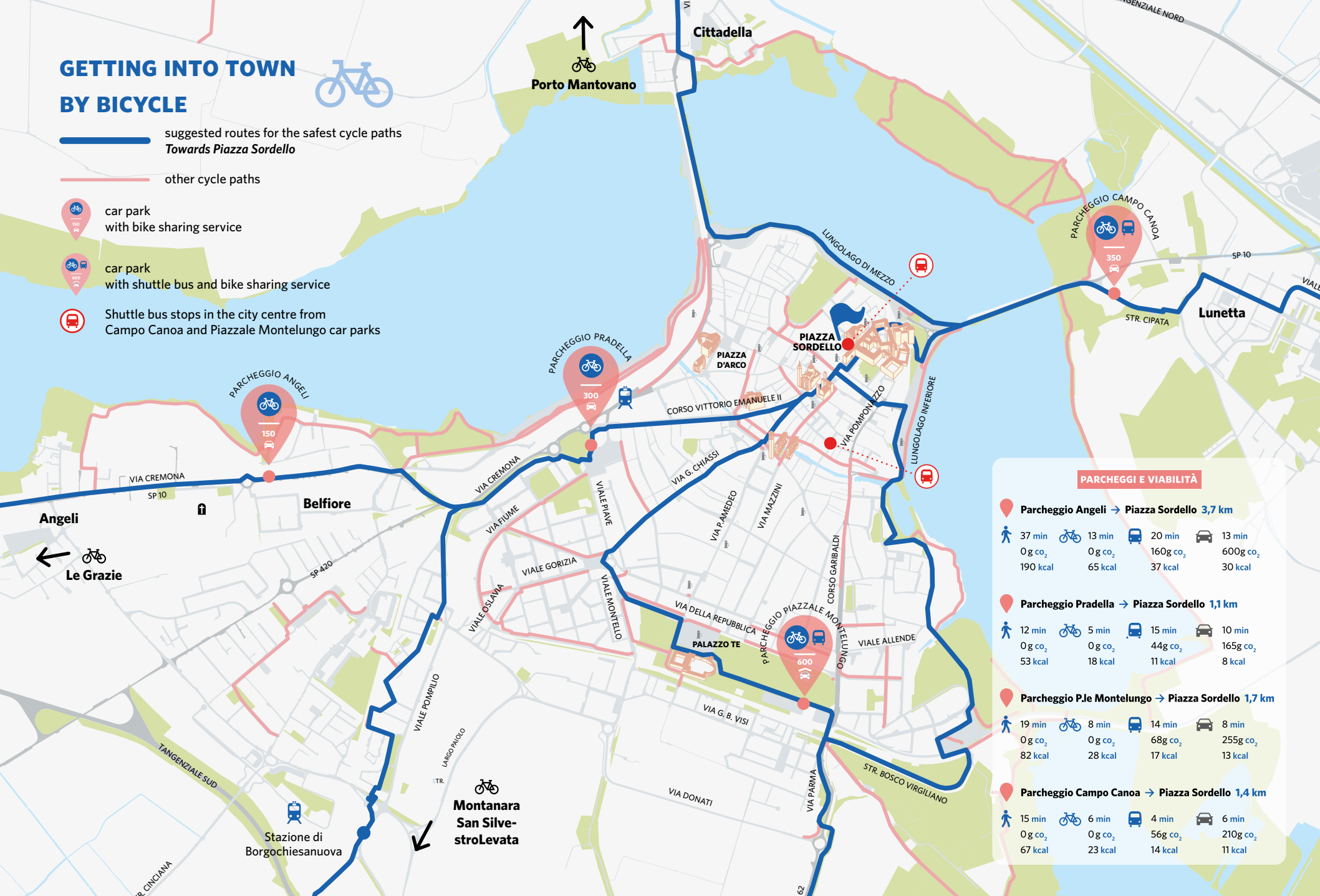


# GETTING INTO TOWN BY BICYCLE



- suggested routes for the safest cycle paths  
Towards *Piazza Sordello*
- other cycle paths

- car park with bike sharing service
- car park with shuttle bus and bike sharing service
- Shuttle bus stops in the city centre from Campo Canoa and Piazzale Montelungo car parks



## PARCHEGGI E VIABILITÀ



**Parcheggio Angeli → Piazza Sordello 3,7 km**

	37 min		13 min		20 min		13 min
	0 g co <sub>2</sub>		0 g co <sub>2</sub>		160g co <sub>2</sub>		600g co <sub>2</sub>
	190 kcal		65 kcal		37 kcal		30 kcal

**Parcheggio Pradella → Piazza Sordello 1,1 km**

	12 min		5 min		15 min		10 min
	0 g co <sub>2</sub>		0 g co <sub>2</sub>		44g co <sub>2</sub>		165g co <sub>2</sub>
	53 kcal		18 kcal		11 kcal		8 kcal

**Parcheggio P.le Montelungo → Piazza Sordello 1,7 km**

	19 min		8 min		14 min		8 min
	0 g co <sub>2</sub>		0 g co <sub>2</sub>		68g co <sub>2</sub>		255g co <sub>2</sub>
	82 kcal		28 kcal		17 kcal		13 kcal

**Parcheggio Campo Canoa → Piazza Sordello 1,4 km**

	15 min		6 min		4 min		6 min
	0 g co <sub>2</sub>		0 g co <sub>2</sub>		56g co <sub>2</sub>		210g co <sub>2</sub>
	67 kcal		23 kcal		14 kcal		11 kcal

## GETTING ABOUT

### Getting to Mantova and about town (in the most eco-friendly way possible)

Since 2021 we've done our best to reduce the festival's ecological footprint. Here is some essential information to help you organise your trip with carbon emissions and the environment in mind.



**TRAINS** Rail connections to Mantova from: MILAN, VERONA, MODENA, BOLOGNA, CREMONA. The station is just a few minutes' walk from the old town.



**BUSES** Several lines connect the old town with other places in the province, outside the province and with the different neighbourhoods of the city. The LINEA CC is a circular bus route that takes you right round the old town, with departures every 15 minutes. Full details of all APAM city and intercity bus services are available online ([www.apam.it](http://www.apam.it)).



**E-VAI ELECTRIC CAR SHARING** E-Vai offers an electric car sharing service with charging stations in 80 municipalities in Lombardy and at Malpensa, Linate and Orio al Serio airports. To use it, simply register, book your car on the **E-Vai app** or the website and pick it up from one of the charging stations and you're off. All information on [e-vai.com](http://e-vai.com).



**PARK AND RIDE** There are 4 park-and-ride car parks located at various entry points to the city: **Campo Canoa**, **Piazzale Montelungo** and **Cimitero degli Angeli** (free of charge) and the **Porta Pradella** underground car park (pay and display). Apam operates a free shuttle service into town departing every 12 minutes from 7:00 to 24:00 on Festival days, from Campo Canoa and Piazzale Montelungo. RideMovi bikes (see section on cycling) will be available at all 4 car parks.

Other car parks in town: **Anconetta**, **Porta Mulina**, **Piazza D'Arco**, **Piazza San Giovanni**, **Piazza Virgiliana**, **Piazzale Gramsci**, **viale Risorgimento**, **viale Isonzo**, **viale Mincio** (pay and display).

### → VISITORS WITH LIMITED MOBILITY

**ANFFAS** offers a dedicated service with purpose-trained staff and in full compliance with anti-covid measures. Departures from **Campo Canoa** and **Piazza Virgiliana** car parks. There is no charge

for this service, but reservations must be made by Tuesday 6 September. For information and booking: 0376.360515 - 338.6617278 (Graziella) from Monday to Friday 9.00-13.00 and 16.00-19.00.



**CYCLING** Mantova is a mostly flat, **bike-friendly** town with a historic centre largely closed to traffic and good cycling infrastructure. Cycling is undoubtedly the most convenient and fastest way of getting around the city. To encourage its use even over longer distances (in urban routes between 5 and 10 km, the bicycle is faster than the car in terms of overall travel time and parking), we've created a map with safe cycle routes to the centre both from the neighbouring municipalities (Curtatone, Borgo Virgilio, San Giorgio Bigarello and Porto Mantovano) and from the four park-and-ride car parks, where those arriving by car can rent a bike – with assisted or non-assisted pedalling – from the RideMovi free-flow bike-sharing service app (for rates see the RideMovi app). The recommended routes follow cycle paths and pedestrian areas or low-traffic roads.

During the Festival, from 7 to 11 September, **RideMovi** is offering the **first 10 minutes of e-bike use for free** with the code **FESTIVAL22**

Got any questions about cycling? Want to know the fastest and safest route to the Festival? Write to us at [sportellociclabile@festivaletteratura.it](mailto:sportellociclabile@festivaletteratura.it) and we will do our best to help you.



**CAMPERS** Stopover points equipped with drainage, toilets and showers: **SPARAFUCILE AREA** - via Legnano, 1/a - Mantova **PARCO PAGANINI** - via Fiera, 11 - Grazie di Curtatone (MN)



**TAXI** Monday to Thursday, non-stop from 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.; Fridays, Saturdays and public holidays 24 hours a day | Tel. 0376 368844 - Mobile 335 5959285 | [www.radiotaximantova.it](http://www.radiotaximantova.it) Pick up points in Piazza Cavallotti Mantova (near Teatro Sociale), Piazza Sordello (near entrance to Palazzo Ducale), Piazza Don Leoni Mantova (Train Station).

## archivio Festivaletteratura

The Festivaletteratura Archive was created in 2010, so that the material collected over the years by the Comitato Organizzatore di Festivaletteratura (now Associazione Mantova Festival Internazionali) and by Associazione Filofestival (Friends of Festivaletteratura) could be made more widely available. The Lombardy Region's Superintending Body for Archives has recognised the major cultural value of this vast collection. As reorganisation and cataloguing continue, the Archive remains open by appointment: visitors might simply want to re-experience a vividly remembered event, or to use the wealth of available material as the basis for new projects.

In 2019 we celebrated our first ten years of activity with a new portal, born as a joint venture between the Festivaletteratura Archive and Promemoria Group. Promemoria made this possible thanks to a bespoke update of its Archiui.com platform, with innovative graphics and enhanced functional features. Its faster, more intuitive search function lets you start exploring as soon as you're on the home page, where you can look up past editions, guests, venues and all events from 1997 to date. We also added a special area for our press reviews and featured topics, as well as a news and information section.

The sound section of the Archive now contains over 2,000 audio recordings, spanning the various editions of the Festival, and a vast array of topics can be accessed online and enjoyed one by one. And you can expect a treasure trove of further surprises as the cataloguing continues – videos, photos, graphic art and related material, all providing a vivid record of an adventure that's still in full swing after over twenty-five years.

---

**ARCHIVE STATS:** 25 editions / almost 6,400 events / more than 4,200 national and international guests / more than 200 locations in the city / more than 4,000 sound recordings, of which 2,500 are already online and available to users / more than 500 units preserved (administrative documentation, graphic design section, press reviews, etc.) / approximately 250,000 analogue and digital photos / more than 3,000 analogue and digital videos.

---

**Archivio di Festivaletteratura** / Via Accademia 47, Mantua / 0376223989. For information on appointments and consultation of material: [archivio@festivaletteratura.it](mailto:archivio@festivaletteratura.it) /

## archiui

The Festivaletteratura digital archive has been created in association with **Archiui**, a platform for organising and giving access to historic, artistic and corporate collections, developed by Turin-based IT company **Promemoria**.



# SUPPORT!

## FESTIVALETTERATURA

Since the very first edition, Festivaletteratura has received the support of **private companies, cultural institutes and retailers** that have recognised the spirit of the event and pledged to work alongside the organisers to offer a literary festival to an increasingly large audience. Local and national companies continue to find in Festivaletteratura an opportunity to link their brand to a lively initiative that still fascinates twenty-six years on. To find out how to become a supporter, send an email to [sponsor@festivaletteratura.it](mailto:sponsor@festivaletteratura.it)

## Filofestival

### friends of Festivaletteratura

It began as a grassroots initiative during the run-up to the very first Festival in 1997, to help make a dream come true: the aim was to **bring authors** and their readers together **in a truly festive and wonderfully different setting**, where everyone could enjoy getting to know each other. Friends of Festivaletteratura currently has **nearly 3,000 members**, not only nationwide but internationally.

Annual enrolments open at the start of the calendar year and, as a new or returning member,

you can play your part in making those five days in early September even more special. **Once you join, you can take part in the various activities the group organises** throughout the year and receive email updates about Festivaletteratura. Other benefits are **special discounts** on Festival tickets and **early bird booking**.

**Annual membership** costs only **€ 25**, or **€ 15 for under 25- year-olds** and **€ 20 for those aged 65 and over**. If you want, you can top up the membership fee with a sum of your choice and become a supporting member.

You can **take out or renew membership for 2022 until 7 August**, online at [www.filofestival.it](http://www.filofestival.it) or if you are in Mantova, you can enrol in person at the filofestival office at 4 Via Castiglioni, or at the Libreria Coop Nautilus bookshop at 2 via Roma.

### MANTOVA FESTIVAL INTERNAZIONALI

*approved association*

**Founders:** Laura Baccaglioni (president), Carla Bernini, Annarosa Buttarelli, Francesco Caprini, Marzia Malerba, Paolo Poletti, Gianni Tonelli

### FESTIVALETTERATURA SECRETARIAT

Stefania Bertuccio, Benedetta Cantoni, Alessandro Della Casa, Sara Fravezzi, Donatella Gilioli, Mirella Paramatti, Gioia Poletti, Salvatore Satta, Arianna Tonelli, Ton Vilalta

### ASSOCIAZIONE FILOFESTIVAL

**Directors:** Silvia Cosimini, Nadia Gaeti, Stefano Mazzocchi (president), Massimo Parma, Gianni Sgarbi

### TECHNICAL AND VOLUNTEER ORGANISATION

**Additional staff at Secretariat:** Camilla Ariotti, Francesco Carli, Jacopo Costa, Cecilia Fante, Aline Reinelt, Andrea Rigattieri, Giovanni Vernizzi, Valentina Mattiello, Francesco Satta, Silvia Scalari, Francesca Siliprandi, Andrea Rigattieri, Giovanni Vernizzi

**Driver service coordinator:** Valeria Tranquillità

**Logistics:** Gianmarco Araldi, Alessio Arancio, Lorenzo Arcari, Stefano Buttarelli, Bianca Caprini, Giacomo Caprini, Alice Carnevali, Edoardo Coppola, Riccardo Ferrari, Laura Mattioli, Riccardo Mondin, Lorenzo Moretti, Francesco Pedrazzoli, Riccardo Visentini

**Volunteer coordinator:** Valentina Mura

**Box office Biglietteria:** Giorgia Lucchini, Anna Poletti, Elena Sabbioni, Matilde Spinelli, Chiara Tranquillità

**IT consultant:** Alessio Cantarelli

**Technical support:** Roberto Biondani, Maurizio Lionetti

**Programme consultants:** Simonetta Bitasi, Peter Florence

**Interpreting/translation coordinator:** Laura Cangemi

**Blurandevù coordinators:** Nicola Baroni, Alessandra Cussini, Gaia Manzini, Alice Pesci

**Passports coordinators:** Leila Belhadj Mohamed and Grace Fainelli

**Scienceground coordinators:** eXtemporanea

**Attività Area6:** Alice Torreggiani

**Accents** are hosted by Marta Bacigalupo and Luca Pareschi

**Festival editing coordinators:** Anna Corraini; area coordinators: Matilde Silla Sgarbi, Luca Ughetti (texts), Maxim Klimashin, Sofia Bonino, Ilaria Masè Dari, Daniel Pochtar, Gaia Scarpari (photos), Lorenzo Aprà, Matilde Rima, Giovanni Sacchi (videos), Lucy Chatburn (international), Silvia Lanfranchi (social media)

**Radio Festivaletteratura:** Chiara Araldi, Verdiana Benatti, Matteo Blasio, Giancarlo Cinini, Elsa Riccadonna, Stefano Santini (editorial staff), Gabriele Beretta (production support)

### ARCHIVIO FESTIVALETTERATURA

**Scientific advice:** Danilo Craveia, Manuela Soldi

**Archivists:** Giorgia Nanni, Michele Triboli

**Volunteers:** Linda Dondi

**Translation:** Isobel Butters

**Editing:** Laura Cangemi

**Catalogue graphics and design** by Pietro Corraini with Maria Chiara Zacchi, Cecilia Tommasi and Camilla Marani



MANTOVA  
7 • 11 september  
2022

