



# Festivaletteratura

6 • 10 september 2023

MANTOVA

ABRIDGED ENGLISH PROGRAMME





Each year Festivaletteratura attracts international writers and artists and an ever more cosmopolitan audience. Available for the fourth 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!

Our task when putting together this 27th edition has been finding the words and trying to piece together their meaning, measuring their 'rightness' and fusing it all into a dialogue. It has to be said, this isn't a first-time commitment for us. When we started inviting authors from all over the world and introducing them to readers in Mantova, the intention was more or less this, albeit in the relaxed and lively forms that characterise Festivaletteratura. Perhaps the incentive this time was different because we were approached from many directions. We received numerous suggestions on how we should address changing conventions; the young people we are in contact with as part of the Read More project and the reading groups asked us to hold what they called word matches on what they perceive as sensitive and crucial topics; more than ever, art is claiming a role as an ally to literature in this search for words. We received equally strong stimuli from an almost year-long exchange with volunteers and young people attending the event to redefine and update our cultural agenda. We see this as a clear sign of how Festivaletteratura is perceived – both by individuals and artistic organisations, associations and research centres – as a fertile and hospitable ground for experimentation, and it gives us hope and courage to look forward to future editions.

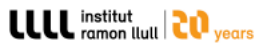
Meanwhile though, we are standing at the ready for the upcoming edition, wishing a **Happy Festival to all of you who venture to Mantova!**

**THE FESTIVAL FOUNDERS**

Thanks to:



Kingdom of the Netherlands



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# BUYING TICKETS

How to get tickets for the 2023 edition of Festivaletteratura.  
We ask you to read the following information carefully.

## HOW TO BUY

Festivaletteratura tickets can only be purchased online at [WWW.FESTIVALETTERATURA.IT](http://WWW.FESTIVALETTERATURA.IT)

from **9 a.m.** on **wednesday 30 august** → for **filofestival members**

from **9 a.m.** on **friday 1 september** → for **everyone else**

At the end of the purchasing procedure, you 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.

**Accepted payment methods: debit and credit cards, Satispay, Amazon Pay.**

**Costs and commission:** As of this year, the costs associated with ticket sales will be included in the pre-sale fee and will be clearly displayed in the purchasing process.

To compensate for the small increase in total costs, the standard ticket price has been reduced by 50 cents (from €7 to € 6.50).

To facilitate the purchasing process, from **wednesday 23 august** you will be able to pre-register on the ticketing platform at [bit.ly/fl-login](http://bit.ly/fl-login)

## HELP DESK

At the **Loggia del Grano (4 via Spagnoli)** volunteers will be on hand to help with online purchasing:

from **wednesday 30 august** to **tuesday 5 september** → from **9:00** to **13:00** and from **15:00** to **19:00** (sunday 3 september closed)

from **wednesday 6** to **saturday 9 september** → from **9:00** to **19:00**;

**sunday 10 september** → from **9:00** to **17:00**

From Wednesday 6 to Sunday 10 - with the same opening hours as the main help desk in the **Loggia del Grano** - two more help desks will be set up at **Palazzo di San Sebastiano** and the infopoint in **Piazza Sordello**, where volunteers will be on hand to help people with their online purchasing.

## 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.

For the purchase of tickets for **people with disabilities**, please send an e-mail to [perilfestival@festivaletteratura.it](mailto:perilfestival@festivaletteratura.it), by 28 August, subject to availability.

## 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 3, 27, 30, 41, 42, 51, 74, 94, 505, 116, 125, 127, 129, 134, 507, 190, 509, 191, 205, 212, 510, 219.

Some workshops, marked with numbers from 500 upwards, will be free of charge, but must be booked in advance through the ticketing system. To book simply add these events to your shopping trolley.

## REGULATIONS FOR FILOFESTIVAL MEMBERS

The deadline for signing up for the Filofestival (friends of the Festival) membership card is 15 August. Members of the Filofestival Association can purchase tickets **from 9:00 on wednesday 30 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 (with a space of at least 60 minutes).

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 10%** of the full ticket price.

## INFORMATION

For information on events and Filofestival membership, call +39 0376 223989.

For technical problems with the purchasing platform send an email to [cs@clappit.com](mailto:cs@clappit.com) or call +39 02 36522969.

We recommend registering for our **newsletter** at [www.festivaletteratura.it](http://www.festivaletteratura.it), on the free **SMS informa** service +39 353 3364700 or on 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.

## KEY TO THE PROGRAMME

### 1 FESTIVAL EVENT

### 1 EVENT FOR CHILDREN

### EVENT WITH FREE ADMISSION

### ♻️ KEEP IT GREEN

Super eco-friendly events marked with a leaf **SEE P. 13**

### ▶ STREAMING

All events marked by the play button are also streamed live. **SEE P. 9**

### 📺 GUESTS ON VIDEO LINK

Events accompanied by a screen symbol indicate that one of the authors is appearing by video link.

### 🗣️ 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 provided 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.

→ Literary events **last** about 1 -1½ hours; workshops about 2 - 2½ hours; walks 1.30/2 hours.

→ **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 and video recordings and photographs that may be taken of young people at the events or workshops they attend.

current events, snapshots from neighbouring worlds, and dialogues on the near future of the planet will alternate in the Tenda Sordello. The hosts will be Marta Bacigalupo and Luca Pare-schi. Admission is free for all accents and they are streamed live on Festivaletteratura's YouTube channel [youtube.com/Festivaletteratura](https://www.youtube.com/Festivaletteratura).



# streaming



Events you can also watch on the YouTube channel of Festivaletteratura [youtube.com/Festivaletteratura](https://www.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 again. This year over 60 events will be streamed from three of Festivaletteratura's central venues: **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 remain available on demand on Festivaletteratura's YouTube channel even after the end of this edition.

## → WEDNESDAY 6

19:00 David Sedaris with Marco Archetti  
**1 4** LIFE WITH A LAUGH

## → THURSDAY 7

21:30 **ACCENTS** David Sedaris  
**HE'S SMART, HE'S CAUSTIC, HE'S MORDANT, AND, SOMEHOW, HE'S... WELL, NICE**

## → FRIDAY 8

19:00 Anthony Horowitz with Marco Malvaldi  
**1 0 9** PART HOLMES, PART BOND

19:00 **ACCENTS** Naomi Oreskes with Sofia Pasotto  
**ANOTHER HIGH TIDE**

## → SATURDAY 9

10:30 Valerie Perrin with Elisabetta Bucciarelli  
**1 3 0** LOVE IN ITS THOUSAND FORMS

19:00 Jonathan Coe with Peter Florence  
**1 4 6** PRESS START FOR COE

## → SUNDAY 10

14:30 Ken Kalfus with Giancarlo De Cataldo  
**2 0 6** DYSTOPIAN AMERICA

17:00 **ACCENTS** James Bridle  
**WHAT DOES THE RIVER WANT?**

18:30 Olga Tokarczuk with Wlodek Goldkorn  
**2 2 6** THE TENDERNESS OF STORYTELLING

**ACCENTS** Another year on and these fast-paced and insightful appointments leap from one topic to another. Always ready to surprise, set the tone, add gravitas or levity to the authors' voices, this year a saraband of philosophical reflections, literary vertigo, sporting challenges, unexpected forays into pop culture,

# WEDNESDAY

# 6

SEPTEMBER  
2023

## 2 BOOKS, IN BETWEEN

**Julya Rabinowich** with **Bianca Pitzorno**

16:30 PALAZZO DELLA RAGIONE 6,50€

Of Russian origin but brought up in Vienna, Julya Rabinowich is a writer, playwright and painter and has worked as an interpreter for incoming refugees. Bringing two of her books to Italy, *Me, In between* and *Us, In between*, she describes what it is like to flee war in the hope of a better life, but also what it means to do so with a family afraid of losing what it has left behind. Rabinowich talks to seasoned reader Bianca Pitzorno about the complexities of learning to mediate between past and future, different cultures and languages, loved ones and dreams and how these can be narrated to readers.

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

**In collaboration with the Forum Austriaco di Cultura Milano**

## 10 A SECRET LETTER

**Enne Koens** with **Vera Salton**

**MAKING FRIENDS IN THE NETHERLANDS**

17:00 CASA DEL MANTEGNA 6,50€

Have you ever really thought about who you are? And what if everything you know about yourself gets turned upside down by an unaddressed, anonymous letter chanced upon one Saturday afternoon? We'll be opening the envelope, fingering the paper and trying to solve the mystery with Enne Koens, author of *You Can See the Whole World from Here* (*Vanaf hier kun je alles zien*).

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

**In collaboration with FuturoPresente: Youth culture in the Netherlands and Italy**

## 14 LIFE WITH A LAUGH

**David Sedaris** with **Marco Archetti**

19:00 PIAZZA CASTELLO 6,50€ ▶



"According to an expert my sister talked to, ghosts can get into your house by way of second-hand clothing or antique furniture..." The revelation is made by David Sedaris on Conan O'Brien's podcast, showing how "humour treads the path of paradox" - to quote Don Camillo author Giovannino Guareschi - and how if this is true, Sedaris's soles must be worn flat out. One of contemporary America's funniest authors, his books, like the recent *Happy Go Lucky*, capture the absurdities of daily life. Unashamedly exploiting family mis/adventures, he shifts effortlessly from the most minor unfortunate Christmas gift to the infinitely large life during lockdown, demonstrating how there's always a humorous story in there somewhere. He will be talking to the writer Marco Archetti (*La luce naturale*).

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

AGES 6 TO 8



## 16 THE CORRELATION BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL

Hakan Günday with Francesca Caferri

19:00 BASILICA PALATINA DI SANTA BARBARA 6,50€

"I write novels because I try to keep my eyes open in a world that wants to put me to sleep". One of the finest voices in modern Turkish literature and author of the recent *Zamir*, and *The Few and More*, Hakan Günday wrote his first novel aged twenty-three. Adept at finding an even balance between hope and disillusionment and good and evil, he addresses the tragedies of today's times: child brides, human trafficking, refugee camps and corrupt organisations are situations that reflect the decadence the world is up against and at the same time serve to exorcise it and regain possession of one's humanity. There again, by Günday's own admission, books are medicine for the soul and writing makes "it possible to understand oneself and the world". He will be talking to journalist Francesca Caferri.

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

## 19 INTUITION IS NOT ARTIFICIAL

Gerd Gigerenzer with Marco Malvaldi

19:30 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO 6,50€

In an increasingly automated world, where certain currently highly controversial AI apps can at times produce texts or works of art just as good as those created by man, is it legitimate to think - ethics apart - that machine calculations have outsmarted the human brain? According to German neuroscientist Gerd Gigerenzer the answer is no: "The fact that computers have beaten the best humans at chess and computing power doubles every couple of years does not lead to the conclusion that machines will soon do everything better than humans. If the environment is stable, then AI can surpass human performance. However, if surprises happen, Big Data may mislead us about the future". The author of *How to Stay Smart in a Smart World* underlines the importance of intuition, a 'sacred gift' quite distinct from the 'faithful servant' that is the rational mind, to quote Albert Einstein. He meets writer and chemist Marco Malvaldi (*La direzione del pensiero*).

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

In collaboration with Goethe-Institut Milan.

## 23 WRITING IS A MATTER OF FAITH

Mircea Cărtărescu with Elvira Mujčić

21:15 BASILICA PALATINA DI SANTA BARBARA 6,50€

"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*, *Blinding*, *Melancholy*) is considered a figure who transcends writing alone to penetrate 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. The author will be talking to author and translator Elvira Mujčić (*La buona condotta*).

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

In collaboration with the Romanian Institute of Culture and Humanistic Research in Venice.

BPR  
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LIBRAI  
MANTOVANI

# LIFTING THE SHADOW FROM THE GROUND

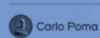
SUNDAY 10 15:00

aula magna of the university

210 LIVING HEARTS DON'T FORGET  
DEAD HEARTS Cristina Rivera Garza with  
Giulia Muscatelli

In collaboration with

il cinema del carbone  
circolo cinematografico



Sistema Socio Sanitario  
Regione  
Lombardia  
ASST Mantova



With the support of

otto  
per  
8mille  
CHIESA VALDESE  
UNIONE DELLE CHIESE METODISTE VALDESSE

*Lifting the shadow from the ground* is an open space for reflection, listening and narration of mourning and the end of life. The project aims to restore presence and speech in public discourse to the relationship between life and death and to the experience of loss, and to offer - through literature, cinema and an exchange of ideas - tools to express and give shape to the experiences of those who have been through or are going through it. After the reading and writing course and the film festival held between February and March 2023, *Lifting the shadow from the ground* continues at Festaletteratura with a series of three events involving women and men of literature, thought and faith.

## KEEP IT GREEN

A myriad of leaves is sprouting on the Festaletteratura programme! This year **Keep it green** is electrifying and full of biodiversity: we'll be talking about energy transition and decarbonisation, but also about climate justice and food culture, forests and landscape, biodiversity and climate migration. There's even a cruise to the tropics in the pipeline!

### friday 8

19:00 TENDA SORDELLO  
ANOTHER HIGH TIDE  
Naomi Oreskes with  
Sofia Pasotto ACCENTS

21:30 BASILICA P. DI SANTA BARBARA  
118 OTHER INTELLIGENCES  
James Bridle with Stella Succì

### saturday 9

16:45 BASILICA P. DI SANTA BARBARA  
155 CLIMATE MIGRATIONS  
Gaia Vince with Ferdinando Cotugno

18:30 LA ZANZARA  
165 CRUISE TO THE  
TROPICS Elvia Wilk with Eugenia  
Morpurgo and Federico Floriani

### sunday 10

10:15 BASILICA P. DI SANTA BARBARA  
193 MIGRATION AS THE  
COMMON DENOMINATOR  
Ruth Padel with Telmo Pievani  
and Paola Splendore

17:30 BASILICA P. DI SANTA BARBARA  
222 THAT BLURRED LINE  
BETWEEN WORD AND WORLD  
Elvia Wilk with Fabio Deotto



# THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER  
2023

## THE SACRED FIRE OF WRITING

Jean-Baptiste Del Amo with Elsa Riccadonna

12:00 BOOK TENT FREE ADMISSION

On the sacred fire of writing see p. 109

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

*In collaboration with the Institut Francais Italy.*

## 3 5 HOW TO SURVIVE GROWNUPS

Enne Koens with Anselmo Roveda

MAKING FRIENDS IN THE NETHERLANDS

14:30 CASA DEL MANTEGNA 6,50€

There are plenty of ways to survive the world around us, as Enne Koens's characters know well. We will discover family secrets, mysterious letters, survival manuals, camping plans, super talents, entertaining adventures of children and young people searching for their place in the world. Children's book expert Anselmo Roveda will be chatting with the author of *I am Vincent and I am not afraid (Ik ben Vincent en ik ben niet bang)* and *Hotel Bonbien*.

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

*In collaboration with FuturoPresente: Youth culture in the Netherlands and Italy.*

## 4 4 HOW YOU CREATE A STORY

Edward van de Vendel with Vera Salton

MAKING FRIENDS IN THE NETHERLANDS

16:30 CASA DEL MANTEGNA 6,50€

Waiting for you will be a great Dutch writer, a stack of papers, and all you need to do some drawing. Edward van de Vendel will be leading us on a journey of discovery into how stories are made - the ones that can come from our own drawings or those that already inhabit the author's books. In an event cum workshop lasting a full hour Edward van de Vendel (*The Bamboo Girl, Thirteen Running Deer*) will let children in on the secrets of a writer.

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

*In collaboration with FuturoPresente: Youth culture in the Netherlands and Italy.*

## 4 8 PEOPLE OF THE SEA

Patrik Svensson with Leonardo Piccione

16:45 BASILICA PALATINA DI SANTA BARBARA 6,50€

The sea has always wielded an atavistic and irresistible fascination over humankind, with its multiform creatures and a vastness that bewilders the eye. The stories of marine exploration and the events that touch on underwater life fascinate and enchant readers, especially if told by one of our greatest contemporary nature writers. Swedish author and journalist Patrik Svensson (*The Book of Eels*, winner of the August Prize in 2019) turns his hand to describing men and women who have experienced the sea as scholars, extollers or simple enthusiasts. Moving from the Strait of Magellan to the Mariana Trench, from Rachel Carson to the Scottish baker Robert Dick, the author of *The Blue Marble* discusses the different perspectives on the wonders of the underwater world together with Leonardo Piccione (*Libro dei vulcani d'Islanda, Tutta colpa di Venere*).

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

*In collaboration with Kulturradet / Swedish Arts Council*

Unical

AGES 8 TO 10

Bertoni Sport  
2 RUOTE DAL 1900

AGES 9 TO 12





## 5 0 FRENCH IN THE HEAD SPANISH IN THE HEART

Miguel Bonnefoy with Gaia Manzini

17:00 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO 6,50€

A bunch of thieves, a mysterious treasure, a vine that crosses the ocean from France to Chile and the inventor of the first solar-powered engines, unjustly forgotten by history. Sounds like all the ingredients are there for an out-of-the-ordinary tale... Young writer Miguel Bonnefoy (*Octavio's Journey, Black Sugar, Heritage*) is heir to the best tradition of magic realism and not beyond giving a nod to the noble fathers of South American literature. Son of a Chilean political refugee and a Venezuelan diplomat, Bonnefoy skilfully mixes adventure, fairytale and historical truth with the simplicity of one whose past is worthy of a picaresque novel. The author of *The Inventor* will discuss with author Gaia Manzini (*La via delle sorelle*) the confluence of French (he grew up in France) and Caribbean influences and the boundaries between reality and fantasy.

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

*In collaboration with the Institut Francais Italia.*

## 6 2 BEING THOMAS MANN

Colm Tóibín with Peter Florence

19:30 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO 6,50€

Between novels, essays and critical reviews translated across the globe, Colm Tóibín has never abandoned the quintessential metaliterary quest of authoring compelling fictional biographies in which he has rewritten the lives of some of the most ground-breaking inventors of what we call 'literature'. After *The Master*, on Henry James, in the recent *The Magician* – the starting point of his conversation with Peter Florence –, the Irish author takes us on a sentimental journey from Lübeck to Los Angeles, by way of Munich, Venice, Lugano and Stockholm, through the various phases of Thomas Mann's tormented life. In reconstructing the complex sensibility of the 20th century genius, his bourgeois upbringing, his amorous obsessions, and his great escapes and sorrows, Tóibín's work – as Richard Ford writes – 'reads like a novel by Thomas Mann based on the life of Thomas Mann'.

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

*In collaboration with Literature Ireland.*

## 6 4 RETURNING

Gazmend Kapllani and Elvira Mujčić with Simonetta Bitasi

21:15 BASILICA PALATINA DI SANTA BARBARA 6,50€

"Those who stay are waiting for their friend to return, those who return never find what they remembered". The Balkans seems to be the place par excellence of the literature of escapism, nostalgia and returning. Two exceptional recently published novels, *Wrongland* by the Albanian author Kapllani, currently living in the United States, and *La buona condotta* by the Italo-Bosnian author seem to dialogue conceptually with one another, telling of those who fled the Balkans and those who remained, those who chose to stay, those who have returned, and those who still hope that a civilised coexistence can be found. The recent news from Kosovo however seems to imitate fiction and show how perhaps it is a utopian dream that such different visions of life can be reconciled.

**Gazmend Kapllani will speak in Italian.**

**mantovadiesel**  
il tuo camion lo trovi da noi



## HE'S SMART, HE'S CAUSTIC, HE'S MORDANT, AND, SOMEHOW, HE'S... WELL, NICE

David Sedaris

ACCENTS

21:30 TENDA SORDELLO FREE ADMISSION 📱 📺



David Sedaris is perhaps the funniest writer of his generation, so don't miss the opportunity to learn some of his tricks about writing humour.

**The event will be in English, without interpretation.**

# 10 years of Better than fiction

**F**ar from the clamour of press agency releases, breaking news and the jungle of information that fuels the web, Better than Fiction is a project to promote new young talent in narrative journalism, launched by Festivaletteratura in 2013. Coordinated from the very start by journalist **Christian Elia**, the project is aimed at young authors between **the ages of 18 and 30** aiming to present at the Festival an unpublished piece of narrative journalism: traditional reportage, a podcast or a video story. As of 2017, one of the participating projects is then selected for serialisation on the website and the social media of Festivaletteratura and *Q Code Magazine*.

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of *Better than Fiction*, a **podcast** edited by Christian Elia and **Radio Festivaletteratura** will be available online immediately after the Festival, and featuring the ten reportages produced over the past years, and the authors, today at the height of their professional careers.

At the Festival *Better than Fiction* will start with a discussion on the most recent of the works realised as part of the project.

The event with *Il grande Re* (The Great King) by **Cecilia Fasciani** will be held on Wednesday 6 September at 19:00 in Piazza Alberti, where the author will be talking to **Christian Elia** and **Marco Belpoliti**.

**sunday 10** at 10:00,  
tenth anniversary celebrations for Better than Fiction will be featuring two champions of international reportage – Cynthia Rimsky and Witold Szabłowski –  
Interviewed by Christian Elia

*In collaboration with*

INTESA  SANPAOLO

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER  
2023

8

**7 6 ON THE FAULT OF FATHERS AND LOST INNOCENCE**

**Jean-Baptiste Del Amo** with **Marco Archetti**

10:30 BASILICA PALATINA DI SANTA BARBARA 6,50€

"As a reader I am sensitive to books that mistreat me, that require an effort to read. When I write I try to step out of my comfort-zone and confront my obsessions and fears. I feel a need for truth and directness, even in language", stated Jean-Baptiste Del Amo in a recent interview. He is the author of the novel *Une éducation libertine* which won him the Goncourt Prize for his debut novel at the precocious age of twenty-six. His refined, somewhat austere style has drawn comparisons with famous colleagues of the past including Zola, Dumas and especially Flaubert. His works reflect on the traumatic passage from childhood to adulthood. What is handed down from generation to generation? According to the author of *Le Sel* and the recent *Le fils de l'homme* it is almost a Greek tragedy-like violence that is above all passed from father to son. In conversation with one of the most significant voices in French fiction, a guest at the Festival for the first time, will be the author Marco Archetti.

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

*In collaboration with the Institut Français Italy.*

**8 2 ATTITUDES TO THE TERM DECOLONISE**

**Camillo Boano** and **Samia Henni** with **Camillo Magni**

11:30 AULA MAGNA OF UNIMN UNIVERSITY 6,50€

Decolonising town planning means taking a relational approach to removing places from the univocal narrative of those who conceived and designed them and exposing them to the life and multiple presences that come to inhabit and re-signify them. Decolonising is all the more urgent in parts of the world where another vision of space and territory has been forcibly imposed. The matter under discussion is how this concept can help us rethink our cities and launch a new design culture. Samia Henni, Algerian historian and author of numerous books (*Architecture of Counterrevolution, Deserts Are Not Empty*) in which she examines the territorial transformations in Algeria during the colonial period and contests the representations of those territories by the French rulers; and Camillo Boano, lecturer at the Polytechnic of Turin and editor, together with Antonio di Campli, of *Decoloniare l'urbanistica*. Moderator at the event will be Camillo Magni, lecturer at the Polytechnic of Milan and expert on the Global South.

**Samia Henni will speak in Italian.**

**8 6 THE YUGOSLAV HERITAGE**

**Ivana Bodrožić** with **Lella Costa**

14:30 TEATRO BIBIENA 6,50€

As we write, the winds of war are blowing in Kosovo, bitterly reminding us that both the national and personal conflicts that ravaged the Balkans following the dissolution of Yugoslavia in the 1990s have not abated. Ivana Bodrožić, born in Vukovar, a large Croatian port city on the Danube, experienced the tragedy of the war that tore her homeland apart as a child. With simplicity and avoiding the rhetoric, she skilfully recounts the perverse mechanisms of a culture that still sees those considered 'different' as enemies; a way of thinking that has always produced 'attempts to correct those who do not conform to the majority; a story of wooden gallows, torture machines, concentration camps, gas chambers and marginalisation. A rich and varied history, but always and everywhere the same'. Actress and writer Lella Costa will be talking to the author of *The Hotel Tito* (Prix Ulysse for best first novel) and *Sons, daughters*.

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

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L'arte grafica del presente e del futuro

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L'arte stampata con senso e fantasia

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L'arte della grafica

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## 8 7 THE STORY MAKERS

Edward van de Vendel with Davide Morosinotto

MAKING FRIENDS IN THE NETHERLANDS

14:30 CASA DEL MANTEGNA 6,50€

One is Dutch, the other Italian. As a child one dreamed of becoming a footballer or a singer, the other decided from an early age to be a storyteller. One became a teacher, the other a journalist. Both write books for children (and for everyone!) and in the process they've also become friends. An open dialogue between Edward van de Vendel (*The Bamboo Girl*) and Davide Morosinotto (*Il figlio del mare*) will shed light on how, in their experience, stories are made and where they come from, and allow us to peek behind the scenes... and in between the lines.

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

*In collaboration with FuturoPresente: Youth culture in the Netherlands and Italy.*

## 8 8 CITIZENSHIP

Gazmend Kapllani and Anna Maria Gehnyei

with Simonetta Bitasi and Alice Torreggiani

WORDS MATCH - OVER TO THEM

14:30 PALAZZO DELLA RAGIONE 6,50€

As seen at the event and the publication of *Real fiction*, the latest anthology of the European Read On project, adolescents seek literary and artistic representations of the world they live in. They are interested in how literature but also music, cinema, TV series and non-fiction seek to tell their stories. Through three macro-themes, girls and boys from the age of thirteen are invited to a public debate at the Festival to which they can contribute with the words and ideas they have found in novels, graphic novels, manga or music to create together a collection of stories for discussion. The words found can also be put forward before the start of the Festival. The aim is to cultivate an ever open and increasing bibliography in the months following the Festival. Guest authors will discuss the stories, considerations and questions of the young readers. The first word in the **Words Match** is *citizenship* and its many interpretations. The audience will be joined by Gazmend Kapllani, who in *A Short Border Handbook* also talks about the importance of the passport we own, and Anna Maria Gehnyei, who in *Il corpo nero* talks among other things about her direct experience as an Italian teenager without Italian citizenship.

**Gazmend Kapllani will speak in Italian.**

## 1 0 0 THE EVER-CHANGING IDENTITY OF CHILE

Cynthia Rimsky with Federico Buffa

17:00 - PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO 6,50€

In 2019, a law increasing the price of the Santiago metro ticket was the spark that ignited violent anti-government demonstrations in Chile, creating a wave of tensions that, dragging on until last autumn, led to street clashes after the rejection of the new Constitution. From the Pinochet dictatorship to the present, the South American nation has been at the centre of troubling events, which literature has vividly portrayed in numerous novels. Between historical accounts and fiction, Chilean writer Cynthia Rimsky experiments with "ways of telling stories - occurring in the past or inspired by the present - outside realism", using "documents, conversations, notes, real experiences (...) processed, blurred, distorted, fragmented, and aimed at raising more doubts than certainties". Accompanied on stage by the legendary voice of Federico Buffa, the author of *Yomuri*, *El futuro es un lugar extraño* and *La revolución a dedo* will set about tracing the identity of a country in constant transformation.

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

AGES 10 TO 14

AGE UP TO 13



## ANOTHER HIGH TIDE

Naomi Oreskes with Sofia Pasotto

ACCENTS

19:00 TENDA SORDELLO FREE ADMISSION



As global temperatures ascend, so too does the level of the seas, but there is another tide on the rise: that of individuals striving to counter the climate crisis through words, thoughts, and actions. In this inaugural rendezvous, Sofia Pasotto, a climate activist and popular science communicator, converses remotely with science historian Naomi Oreskes (*Merchants of Doubt*, *Why Trust Science?*).

**The event will be in English, without interpretation.**

## 1 0 9 PART HOLMES, PART BOND

Anthony Horowitz with Marco Malvaldi

19:00 PIAZZA CASTELLO 6,50€



If you're a fan of TV series, whodunnits or spy stories you're in the right place: Anthony Horowitz, British novelist and screenwriter has over a long career worked for the cinema and as a prose writer creating characters such as Alex Rider and editor-detective Susan Ryeland (*Magpie Murders*, *Moonflower Murders*). Besides adapting Chief Inspector Barnaby for television, he received the honour of breathing new life into James Bond, using Ian Fleming's own unpublished material. Horowitz skilfully renders the mystery novel tradition in a contemporary key- sometimes taking things even a step further, as in his recent *The Word is Murder*. Shifting effortlessly between the gold of the Golden Age of mystery and noir, he is convinced of the redeeming power of detective stories, which "need clarity, loyalty and a final ending". In the company of Marco Malvaldi (*Oscuro e celeste*), the British author will talk about his love of writing.

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

## 1 1 8 OTHER INTELLIGENCES

James Bridle with Stella Succi

21:30 BASILICA PALATINA DI SANTA BARBARA 6,50€

James Bridle is an unusual combination of visual artist and writer who deals with cognitive science. For many years his artwork and research have focused on the relationship between technology and everyday life. In recent months there has been much debate about the ethics and benefits of artificial intelligence, with the massive diffusion of Midjourney and ChatGPT, yet often overlooking the fact that these are man-made. Where does our idea of intelligence come from? Why do we think it looks like what is being programmed and spread online? The author of *Ways of Being* challenges these questions, noting how we focus solely on the 'human' side of the coin. Ours is not the only worthy intelligence in nature and by way of demonstration we need only look around us: bees, monkeys, trees, micro-organisms and indeed the entire ecosystem of the planet... He will be discussing the vital significance of every manifestation of cognitive abilities with Stella Succi, an expert on the relationship between art, culture and new technologies.

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





Another year on and these fast-paced and insightful appointments leap from one topic to another. Always ready to surprise, set the tone, add gravitas or levity to the authors' voices, this year a saraband of philosophical reflections, literary vertigo, sporting challenges, unexpected forays into pop culture, current events, snapshots from neighbouring worlds, and dialogues on the near future of the planet will alternate in the Tenda Sordello. The hosts will be Marta Bacigalupo and Luca Pareschi. Admission is free for all accents and they are **streamed live** on Festivaletteratura's YouTube channel [youtube.com/Festivaletteratura](https://www.youtube.com/Festivaletteratura).

- THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER**  
21:30 **DAVID SEDARIS**  
He's smart, he's caustic, he's mordant, and, somehow, he's... well, nice
- FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER**  
19:00 **NAOMI ORESKES WITH SOFIA PASOTTO**  
Another high tide
- SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER**  
17:00 **JAMES BRIDLE**  
What does the river want?

## WANDERING AROUND FESTIVALETTERATURA

For anyone arriving in Mantova without advance booking or who simply wishes to wander around, Festivaletteratura has plenty to offer. Here's a quick list of what you can find this year: drop-in events free of charge, refreshment and relaxation areas, and installations to suit a wide range of tastes:

### PIAZZA ALBERTI

The iconic piazza, symbol of the Festival, this year becomes a **SPACE OFF** where people can meet, recover from their literary excursions and maybe get a bite to eat. At the end of the evening, the piazza will be a soundbox where the literary DJ sets **VOLUME!** will provide the footnotes to the Festival evenings. During the daytime, various free events will enliven the tent space: the **BETTER THAN FICTION** pitches ([SEE BOX P. 17](#)) and the **AREA 6** appointments; it will also be the meeting point for teenage readers and the site of a multi-activity centre and temporary library ([SEE BOX P. 29](#)). From Friday 8 to Sunday 10, from 15:00. to 18:00., the tent will host live broadcasts by **RADIOTRE FAHRENHEIT**, including live interviews with Festival guests.

### 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 Book tent. At the Tenda Sordello the highly concentrated **ACCENTS** half hours will be here again ([SEE P. 8](#)), while the Tenda dei Libri (book tent) 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 P. 23](#)). Also returning under the vaults of the Palazzo del Capitano will be **FUORICATALOGO**, the exhibition/market of out-of-print publications, conceived and organised by six antiquarian bookshops and open from Wednesday 6 to Sunday 10 from morning until late evening.

The piazza will also host a refreshment area with gazebos by Levoni, Consorzio Garda Doc and Consorzio Melone Mantovano, as well as foodtrucks by Hortus, Risottero, La Polpetteria and Dalila Street Bakery.

## THE SACRED FIRE OF WRITING

Some call it genius, some magic, some more prosaically inspiration, but what ignites the imagination, what warms the passions of a writer so much that they 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? After last year's success, Festivaletteratura is once again asking ten Italian and international authors in as many events hosted by Christian Mascheroni and Elsa Riccadonna 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.



### EVENTS:

wednesday 6

18:00

colm tóibín

thursday 7

12:00

jean-baptiste del amo

saturday 9

18:00

miguel bonnefoy

sunday 10

18:00

guadalupe nettel

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# SATURDAY

# 9

SEPTEMBER 2023

## 1 2 7 A WONDROUS DISPLAY

**Aina Bestard**

archaeological observation workshop in drawings

10:00 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO 6,50€

Have you ever wandered round a museum just for the thrill of it all? At Palazzo San Sebastiano's Museo Maca you can't help being enthralled by the small statues of the animals and ancient divinities of Mesopotamia or the grave goods of Egyptian tombs. As happens in illustrator and writer Aina Bestard's books (*What's Hidden in the Body, What's Hidden in the Sea?*), behind each object lies the life story of those who handled it, the hands that created it and the eyes of the observer. Aina will take us on a journey to meet objects that speak of ancient times, encouraging us to see the world around us through new eyes.

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

AGES 6 TO 8



## 1 3 0 LOVE IN ITS THOUSAND FORMS

**Valérie Perrin** with **Elisabetta Bucciarelli**

10:30 PIAZZA CASTELLO 6,50€ ▶



"Writing the kind of books I want to read" is French author Valérie Perrin's motto. Her novels invariably become bestsellers, loved by the public and honoured by the critics. A former stage photographer and screenwriter, Perrin adroitly approaches the depiction of love in all its forms, using her experience in the world of cinema to create works that flow on the page like a film.

Whether moving between the rooms of an old people's home (*Forgotten on Sunday*, Booksellers Choice Award in 2018), among the plants in a small cemetery (*Fresh Water for Flowers*, the most read novel in Italy in 2020) or the mysterious backdrop of a lake (*Three*), the writer from Remiremont successfully combines drama, mystery and romance to create a perfect blend of humour and melancholy. She will be talking to Elisabetta Bucciarelli (*Chi ha bisogno di te*).

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

*In collaboration with the Institut Francais Italy.*

MANTOVA VILLAGE  
LAND OF FASHION

## 1 4 0 EXPLORING AND BRINGING STORIES TO LIFE

**Annet Schaap** with **Simonetta Bitasi**

**MAKING FRIENDS IN THE NETHERLANDS**

11:00 PALAZZO DELLA RAGIONE 6,50€

A huge success among readers of all ages and with critics *Lampie and the Children of the Sea*, her writing debut, is now considered something of a classic. Annet Schaap, one of Holland's foremost illustrators, confirms her narrative talent with *Girls*, where she draws on seven famous fairytales to tell the story of young women pursuing their dreams. Between poetry and reality, the great storyteller and story explorer welcomes us into her narrative workshop, in dialogue with Italian readers and under the guidance of Simonetta Bitasi.

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

*In collaboration with FuturoPresente: Youth culture in the Netherlands and Italy*

AGE 12 AND UP

DERMAGIB  
Cosmetics

## 1 4 2 THE GRAND TRADITION OF TRAVEL REPORTAGE

Witold Szablowski with **Federica Manzon**

14:30 BASILICA PALATINA DI SANTA BARBARA 6,50€

Have you ever wondered what Saddam Hussein's favourite dish was or what happened to the dancing bears trained by the Roma people of Bulgaria? The questions may seem bizarre, but they are a key to understanding the present. Heir to the great tradition of Polish journalistic reportage, of which Ryszard Kapuściński was one of the leading exponents, Witold Szablowski (awarded the European Parliament prize in 2010 for his reportage *Two bodies will wash ashore*) has long travelled the world to report on the reality of today's world in places where authoritarian or former communist systems have given way to liberal and capitalist ones. Ultimately giving voice to the local populations and even to individuals with an incredible past such as chef of a dictator, the author of *Dancing Bears*, *The Assassin from Apricot City* and *How to feed a Dictator* explains why "there will always be old fossils; people who haven't found a better alternative in democracy and who miss the olden days". He will be talking to Federica Manzon (*Il bosco del confine*).

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

*In collaboration with the Polish Institute in Rome.*

## 1 4 5 CHILLING CHILLS AND MYSTERIOUS MYSTERIES

Anthony Horowitz with **Manlio Castagna**

14:30 CASA DEL MANTEGNA 6,50€

**MYSTERY!**

Anthony Horowitz "wanted to be a writer at the age of eight", and this is perhaps why he has never lost the knack of putting the emotions of younger readers into words.

Able to glide effortlessly across genres, Horowitz, author of the *Alex Rider* series and the fantasy saga *The Power of Five*, has with equal ease taken on mystery, with *Groosham Grange* and *Granny*, and the detective series *The Diamond Brothers*. Here at Festivaletteratura he will be accompanying the audience on a tour of his vast output, accompanied by writer Manlio Castagna.

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

## 1 4 7 OUR DEFECTS ARE WHAT MAKE US ALIVE

Guadalupe Nettel with **Elisabetta Bucciarelli**

14:45 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO 6,50€

If Nobel prize winner Annie Ernaux says that the books of Guadalupe Nettel have brought Mexico to life in her mind, it is easy to imagine how the words of the Latin American author (*Still Born*, *The Body Where I Was Born*) have the power to hypnotise readers. Always dedicated to investigating, and attempting to rattle, the social impositions that affect the family, and particularly the female sphere, the writer of *Los divagantes* discusses motherhood, gender violence, 'troublesome' bodies and sisterhood, challenging their one-sided narrative. With an ever-watchful eye on what the natural world can teach us and ever poised between the real and the fantastic, after her appearance on Radio Festivaletteratura, Nettel will finally be in Mantova to tell her story to the public and her host Elisabetta Bucciarelli.

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

 **D-Systems**  
accanto il tuo tempo

AGES 8 TO 12

 **eni**

 **MARCEGAGLIA**

## 1 5 5 CLIMATE MIGRATION

Gaia Vince with **Ferdinando Cotugno**

16:45 BASILICA PALATINA DI SANTA BARBARA 6,50€

We now know for certain that in the coming decades climate change will force billions of people to migrate. But the ability to move in search of better, more habitable and welcoming places has been the strategy that has allowed homo sapiens to thrive: if we want to continue to do so, we will necessarily have to find ways to plan and manage the great migrations triggered by the climate crisis. This is why Gaia Vince (*Nomad Century*), anthropocene expert and 2015 winner of the Royal Society Science Book Prize, will explain to her audience why migration should not just be considered a problem, but a solution. She is interviewed by Ferdinando Cotugno (*Primavera ambientale*).

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

## 1 5 8 THE DELHI MOB

Deepti Kapoor with **Carlo Lucarelli**

17:00 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO 6,50€

India is a nation of immense contradictions, a state where extreme poverty is counterbalanced by unimaginable fortunes concentrated in the hands of a few powerful families. And it is precisely of the sprawling power of the Indian mafia (the Mafia Raj) and one such family that the author of *The Age of Vice* Deepti Kapoor writes. After working for many years as a journalist in New Delhi, she embarked on a career as a writer and before long was being sought after by the world's major publishing houses. Her latest work - the first part of a trilogy - has already been made into a television series produced by the FX network. "I had to figure out how to integrate my life into this wider political/social/economic life of the country" Kapoor said in an interview last year, explaining the genesis of a work described by *The Guardian* as 'India's answer to the Godfather'. The author will be talking to crime writer Carlo Lucarelli (*Nero come l'anima*) about this already much-awaited crime saga and the darker and more bizarre excesses of Delhi's upper middle classes.

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

## THE SACRED FIRE OF WRITING

Miguel Bonnefoy with **Christian Mascheroni**

18:00 TENDA DEI LIBRI **FREE ADMISSION**

On the sacred fire of writing see p. 23

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

*In collaboration with the Institut Francais Italy.*

## 1 6 5 A CRUISE TO THE TROPICS

Elvia Wilk with **Eugenia Morpurgo e Federico Floriani**

18:30 LA ZANZARA 6,50€

Together with author Elvia Wilk (*Death by Landscape*), Eugenia Morpurgo and Federico Floriani will deliberate on how the narrative of unseen anthropogenic forces shaping our landscape can transform our relationship with it.

*In case of bad weather, the cruise will be replaced by a conversation on the mainland at P. Pomponazzo primary school.*

**The event will be in English, without interpretation.**

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## 1 6 8 PRESS START FOR COE

Jonathan Coe with Peter Florence

19:00 PIAZZA CASTELLO 6,50€ ▶



Jonathan Coe (*The Rotter's Club, Middle England*), one of the finest narrators of the paradoxes of his homeland – that England of which he expertly paints a desecrating, funny and bittersweet fresco – is back at the Festival. "I persist in writing novels to explain Britain but actually I don't understand it either", jokes the author of *Bournville*, a novel in which he looks back at 75 years of the country's history, depicting through fiction the problems and crises that still trouble his fellow countrymen today. Starting from the Second World War, through Brexit, the affairs of the royal family, and up to the Covid-19 pandemic, Coe will take the audience on a journey across the UK in the excellent company of Peter Florence.

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

## 1 7 0 ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOONS

Shehan Karunatilaka with Marco Del Corona

19:15 BASILICA PALATINA DI SANTA BARBARA 6,50€

Shehan Karunatilaka's literary work defies the barriers of postcolonial literatures like few others and is an enlightening example of the game of borrowing and cross-referencing that marks every great work. After having proved his talent in the picaresque *Chinaman*, as yet unpublished in Italy, the Sri Lankan author won the Man Booker Prize in 2022 with *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*. In a baroque and exuberant fictional intersection between the realm of the living and the dead, along with the spectres of the civil war that has left Sri Lanka suffering after decades of sectarian violence, we find the horror elements of Barker and Lovecraft, the poetics of Farmer and Bolaño, and the mordant tones of Rushdie and Gogol cohabiting in what appears to be a celestial visa office. He will be conversing with journalist Marco Del Corona (*Le vie dell'Asia*).

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

## 1 7 2 MEMORIES SWAYING FROM WEST TO EAST

Antje Rávik Strubel with Federica Manzoni

19:15 SANTA MARIA DELLA VITTORIA CHURCH 6,50€

Way back in 2005, Antje Rávik Strubel sat on the Festivalletteratura stage at the Scrittura Giovani event for first-time authors. Now she is one of Germany's most popular authors. Winner with *Blaue Frau* in 2021 of the Deutscher Buchpreis, Strubel has never shied away from addressing crucial issues such as gender violence and the role of women, but above all from diving deep into her thought process on the relationship between Eastern and Western Europe, from the fall of the Wall to the tragic events of recent years. In her novels (*Unter Schnee, Tupolev 134*), the characters always move along these lines. A flight from or towards something triggers a shared memory of conflicts that have never been completely resolved, even if they are technically closed in the official accounts of history. She will be discussing the question with the audience and Federica Manzoni.

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

In collaboration with Goethe-Institut Milan. Event promoted as part of the translation subsidy programme Litrix.de sponsored by the Goethe-Institut.



## 1 7 8 EVERY SOUL IS AN ISLAND

Audrey Magee with Marcello Fois

21:15 BASILICA PALATINA DI SANTA BARBARA 6,50€

Many disguised forms of colonialism run parallel to the overt ones that history habitually shows us. More insidious and harder to eradicate, they require a deep mapping of linguistic and anthropological stereotypes through which we classify 'the other', whoever that may be. As Audrey Magee suggests in her novel *The Colony* and in her interview with Marcello Fois – fiction can serve as an incomparable spotlight to lay them bare, especially when we pursue the mirage of vernacular purity to which the two main characters aspire. In a Northern Ireland grappling with the Troubles, the two steal the language and beauty of a tiny community on a remote island without giving anything in return, and without asking themselves what bitterness and desires the souls of their fellow human beings feed on.

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

In collaboration with Literature Ireland.

## 1 8 1 INDIA: THE LOSS OF INNOCENCE

Pankaj Mishra with Matteo Miavaldi

21:30 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO 6,50€

One of the sharpest and most disenchanted observers of contemporary world crises, journalist and writer Pankaj Mishra has long condemned the ravages of capitalism's 'false promises'. He accompanies his readers on a conceptual journey through the history of the present, amid populism, nationalism and political distortions. Despite its economic growth, his homeland, India, is not exempt from these issues. The nation remains far removed from its rural communities in which Mishra sees a positivity now impossible to find amid the urban turmoil. Returning to the novel form after 20 years of essay-writing, the author of *Run and Hide* paints a vivid picture of the nation's past 50 years, closer than we imagine to Western issues.

On stage with him will be sinologist and expert on South Asia, Matteo Miavaldi.

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



**area 6** is a launch pad where readers under 18 can set off on an exploration of Festivalletteratura 2023. Positioned at the heart of the Festival, Area 6 will be once again located at **16 Piazza Alberti** to welcome, inform, bring together, and offer refreshment to the youngest of the event's attendees. **area 6** is somewhere people can meet freely to talk about books and read in peace and quiet between one event and another: once again this year, **a temporary reading library** will be set up in collaboration with the **Mantova Library Network**, with books recommended by classes that in the past school year took part in the read more project, and the titles selected by the reading groups on three topics – citizenship, gender, schools. **area 6** will also host an information point for teachers interested in joining read more, the project for reading whatever you like at school for twenty minutes a day, which in the school year 2022-23 involved 187 institutions, 1141 classes and over 24,000 students all over Italy.

# area 6

### EVENTS

The Festival programme offers a series of must-see events geared towards adolescent readers, all at **Palazzo della Ragione**.

**WEDNESDAY 6** 16:30

### 2 BOOKS, IN BETWEEN

Julia Rabinowich with Bianca Pitzorno

**SATURDAY 9** 11:00

### 3 4 5 EXPLORING AND BRINGING STORIES TO LIFE

Annet Schaap with Simonetta Bitasi

**SUNDAY 10** 17:30

### 2 3 3 ON CHALLENGES AND READING

Kevin Brooks with Alice Torreggiani



# MAKING FRIENDS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Festivaletteratura takes on an orange tinge, hosting this year some of younger readers' most popular authors from the Netherlands thanks to the support of the **FuturoPresente** project.

Tales with the wind in their sails animate this journey through a literature that both looks to traditional fairy-tale imagery and keeps a foot firmly in the world of today, enchanting small and young adult readers and addressing topics of friendships, dreams, secrets and fears.

The star guests at the Festival are Enne Koens and her daring, offbeat characters, Annet Schaap's fabulous young girls, and Edward van de Vendel and his stories with their poetry and enchantment.

In addition to the events with the three stars of the firmament of Dutch children's literature is **Be Opera**, an enthralling musical tale conceived and performed by actor and opera lover Ton Meijer, who sets out to win over the young and the very young.

## EVENTS

wednesday 6, 17:00, casa del mantegna

### 10 A SECRET LETTER

Enne Koens with Vera Salton

friday 8, 14:30, casa del mantegna

### 87 THE STORY MAKERS

Edward van de Vendel with Davide Morosinotto

thursday 7, 14:30, casa del mantegna

### 35 HOW TO SURVIVE GROWNUPS

Enne Koens with Anselmo Roveda

saturday 9, 11:00, palazzo della ragione

### 140 EXPLORING AND BRINGING STORIES TO LIFE

Annet Schaap with Simonetta Bitasi

thursday 7, 16:30, casa del mantegna

### 44 HOW YOU CREATE A STORY

Edward van de Vendel with Vera Salton

sunday 10, 12:00, teatro bibiena

### 199 BE OPERA

Ton Meijer narrator, Lochlan Brown piano, Marijke van Stralen soprano, Eric Reddet tenor

**FuturoPresente** is a special initiative of the Embassy and Consulate General of the Netherlands in Italy and four major Dutch cultural institutions (Performing Arts Fund NL, Dutch Foundation for Literature, Dutch Cultural Participation Fund, SeeNL), which aims to introduce the Italian public to the best of Dutch artistic production for children and adolescents, connecting via the web operators and experiences in the two countries and contributing to a more inclusive idea of culture.



# 10

## SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER  
2023

### BETTER THAN FICTION

tenth anniversary celebrations

**Cynthia Rimsky** and **Witold Szablowski** with **Christian Elia**

10:00 PIAZZA LEON BATTISTA ALBERTI FREE ADMISSION

To Festivaletteratura *Better than fiction* (*Meglio di un romanzo*) represents both a leap of faith and a show of loyalty. It is a leap of faith in its promotion of the vision and talent of the younger generations, supported each year by an annual call for papers for new reporting projects; it represents loyalty in its support of a form of journalistic writing that more than any other consolidates the power of storytelling as a way to probe the present, and go beyond superficial observation or routine news coverage. To celebrate the project's tenth anniversary, Christian Elia - its editor since the very first edition - engages in a discussion on the current role of narrative journalism within the information system with two exponents of the genre's most authoritative schools: Latin America, with Cynthia Rimsky (*Yomurí*), and Eastern Europe, with Witold Szablowski (*Dancing Bears*).

On *Better than Fiction* see box on p. 17

**Cynthia Rimsky will speak in Spanish, Witold Szablowski in English, both with consecutive interpretation into Italian.**

*In collaboration with the Polish Institute in Rome.*

### 193 MIGRATION: THE COMMON DENOMINATOR

**Ruth Padel Telmo Pievani** and **Paola Splendore**

10:45 BASILICA PALATINA DI SANTA BARBARA 6,50€

Whether we talk about birds, fish, humans or even plants (via their seeds), migration has always united living beings of the most diverse nature. By necessity or choice, humans and other animals have been on the move since the dawn of time, driven by factors - such as climate change or wars - that still today are at the centre of debate.

"Life began with migration", argues the English poet and academic Ruth Padel, who through her writings has crafted a reflection on survival as the universal motor behind every movement on planet Earth and its role as a driving force for evolution. In an event between prose and poetry, science and philosophy, the author of *We are All from Somewhere Else* will be reflecting together with evolutionary biologist Telmo Pievani (*Libertà di migrare*, written with Valerio Calzolaio) and Paola Splendore (Italian translator and editor of Padel's work).

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

### 199 BE OPERA

**Ton Meijer** narrator, **Lochlan Brown** piano, **Marijje van Stralen** soprano,  
**Eric Reddet** tenor

**MAKING FRIENDS IN THE NETHERLANDS**

12:00 TEATRO BIBIENA 12,00€

Ton is 12 years old and lives in the attic over his parents' bakery. Here he builds huts, writes the most beautiful poems and... keeps his biggest secret: Ton is mad about opera. But what if his classmates find out? Amid humour and dramatic tension, a pianist and two singers will perform the music while Ton lets us in on his love of opera and the history of this extraordinarily sonorous genre. Fancy singing along? *Be Opera* is a musical experience for the whole family: music by various composers surreptitiously creeps into the ears of the audience, where it will stay forever.

**Ton Meijer will speak in Italian.**

*In collaboration with FuturoPresente: Youth culture in the Netherlands and Italy*

## 207 DYSTOPIAN AMERICA

Ken Kalfus with Giancarlo De Cataldo

14:30 PIAZZA CASTELLO 6,50€ ▶



The 60th United States presidential elections will take place on 5 November 2024 and the world will as usual be holding its breath: analysts and the press will pen reams and reams about the divided and polarised new face of contemporary America. Yet certain visionary writers are already imagining possible near futures that plunge fellow Americans into a range of utopias and dystopias. Ken Kalfus, (*Pu 239 and other Russian fantasies, A Disorder Peculiar to the Country*) is a sharp-sighted New Yorker who admires Borges and Calvino and is endowed with a unique way of blending comic irony, science fiction and creepiness. He has recently been reflecting on the loss of privilege and the tribalisation of politics with *2 A.M. in Little America*, a prescient novel warning of the dangers of a new civil war. He talks about his bitingly desecrating style at the Festival together with Giancarlo De Cataldo (*La svedese*).

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

## 210 LIVING HEARTS DON'T FORGET DEAD HEARTS

Cristina Rivera Garza with Giulia Muscatelli

15:00 AULA MAGNA OF UNIMN UNIVERSITY 6,50€

The conversation between Mexican author Cristina Rivera Garza and her sister Liliana, victim of femicide in the distant summer of 1990, starts from diary clippings, notes and emotions scribbled swiftly with the blazing rage of youth. In between, pass the disconsolate memories of relatives and friends, in an excruciating collective processing of grief. But above all, pass the past and present words that describe with ruthless precision the social contours (and the never convicted culprit) of the toxic relationship that shattered the future of an architecture student, and many other women like her. It is this certainty that converts the pain of loss into an unstoppable thirst for justice; restores wholeness to the desecrated body of our loved ones; makes overcoming all forms of machismo and oppression an inalienable civil fight. The author of the memoir *Liliana's Invincible Summer: A Sister's Search for Justice* will be talking to Giulia Muscatelli.

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

The event is part of the project *Lifting the shadow from the ground*, realised with funds raised by the Waldensian Church. SEE BOX P. 13

## 212 SHELLS, FOSSILS AND MAGNIFICENT STARS

Aina Bestard

archaeological observation workshop in drawings

15:00 PALAZZO D'ARCO 6,50€

Geology, malacology, palaeontology, ornithology and entomology were just some of the scientific interests of Count Luigi d'Arco. His extraordinary collections, including minerals, shells, stuffed birds, giant elk antlers and no less than a crocodile, are to be found in his house/museum in Mantova. The objects in the collection look like something out of a book by Aina Bestard, a Catalan illustrator with an ability like few others to fuse art and science in her drawings. The author of *Lost Landscapes of Earth* and *Landscapes of the Solar System* will accompany children through the naturalistic collections of Palazzo d'Arco on a discovery tour of fossils, stars and other mysteries of nature at a workshop entirely dedicated to the beauty of looking (and drawing).

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

*In collaboration with the Institut Ramon Llull.*



AGES 9 TO 12



## 214 LOVE MEETINGS IN THE TIME OF YOUNG PORN

Polly Barton with Chiara Valerio

15:30 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO 6,50€

In 1965 Pier Paolo Pasolini made a film in which he asked Italians their opinion about sex, sexuality, love and morality. In *Love meetings (Comizi d'amore)*, Pasolini combed the beaches from north to south of the country, talking to workers, intellectuals and housewives of all ages and social classes. In the same spirit, British author Polly Barton in *Porn: An Oral History* asked people from a range of different ages, genders and sexualities to talk about their relationship with porn. The result is a collective reflection on a topic that despite its increasing pervasiveness, still remains largely taboo.

Polly Barton will be talking to Chiara Valerio (*La tecnologia è religione*) about what it is about porn that attracts and repels us, how it ends up influencing our collective imagination and relationships, about the liberating instincts it indulges and the dynamics of domination it reproduces.

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

## WHAT DOES THE RIVER WANT?

James Bridle

ACCENTS

17:00 TENDA SORDELLO FREE ADMISSION ▶



James Bridle discusses all the intelligences that surround us, and the urgency of building a more-than-human politics together.

**The event will be in English, without interpretation.**

## 222 THAT BLURRED LINE BETWEEN WORD AND WORLD

Elvia Wilk with Fabio Deotto

17:30 BASILICA PALATINA DI SANTA BARBARA 6,50€ ◀

"I've been saying 'age of extinction' a lot lately. Climate change is kind of vague and dull and lacks urgency, although it is pretty all-encompassing. I think we should probably be using the word extinction more. It's imminent, and it's happening. Saying extinction focuses us on not only the death of other species but also on the end of the human". There is a seemingly insurmountable boundary between the real and the imagined, between the personal and the political, and Elvia Wilk (*Oval*) moves masterfully along this invisible line, investigating how fiction can relate to the catastrophes that affect our contemporary world. In a collection of essays with room for idiosyncrasies (*Death by Landscape*), mysticism, women who become plants or who fall in love with black holes, Wilk reflects on the role of storytelling in the age of extinction. She will be talking to Fabio Deotto (*L'altro mondo*).

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

## 2 2 3 ON CHALLENGES AND READING

Kevin Brooks with Alice Torreggiani

17:30 PALAZZO DELLA RAGIONE 6,50€

If there is an author whose books young readers can't wait (but are a bit scared) to get their hands on, it's Kevin Brooks. And no wonder! He has an unsettling ability to confound. Experimenting with different genres and styles, he challenges the reader to wrestle with ethical questions and dilemmas, and to become one of the characters, decide what to do, who to be. He got us started with *The Bunker Diary* and has us carrying on with the more recent *Born Scared* and *Bad Castro*.

He will share his thoughts about challenges and reading with the audience under the expert guidance of Alice Torreggiani.

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

## THE SACRED FIRE OF WRITING

Guadalupe Nettel with Elsa Riccadonna

18:00 BOOK TENT FREE ADMISSION

On the sacred fire of writing see p. 23

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

## 2 2 9 THE TENDERNESS OF STORYTELLING

Olga Tokarczuk with Wlodek Goldkorn

18:30 PIAZZA CASTELLO 6,50€



"For me to be speechless ...well, you can just imagine!", joked Lella Costa in 2012. She was talking about her reaction to the works of Olga Tokarczuk, that year a guest with the popular Italian comedian and author at the Diocesan Museum. Over 10 years later, the Polish author (*Flights, Drive Your Plow over the Bones of the Dead*), winner of the 2018 Nobel Prize for Literature is back at Festivaletteratura to share with the public in Mantova how the past ten years have influenced her style and thinking. And if it is true that the award has given her the freedom "to write what and how I want", it is equally true that still a constant presence are the obsessions and themes of borders (physical or ideological), the environment and gender, fanned by the flame of the ultra-conservative and sovereigntist politics of her country of origin.

The author of *The Books of Jacob* will be conversing with journalist Wlodek Goldkorn (*L'asino del Messia*).

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

AGE 14 AND UP



Unical

MARCEGAGLIA

# archive Festivaletteratura

Now declared of notable cultural interest by Lombardy Region's Superintending Body for Archives, the Festivaletteratura Archive was created in 2010, to preserve the material collected by the Comitato Organizzatore di Festivaletteratura (now Associazione Mantova Festival Internazionali) and by the Associazione Filofestival (Friends of Festivaletteratura).

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 2,500 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.

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**ARCHIVE STATS:** 25 editions / almost 6.600 events / more than 4.200 national and international guests/ more than 200 locations in town/ more than 4.200 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 260.000 analogue and digital photos/ more than 3.200 analogue and digital videos.

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Archivio di Festivaletteratura / Via Accademia 47, Mantova / 0376223989. To make an appointment or consult material: [archivio@festivaletteratura.it](mailto:archivio@festivaletteratura.it) / [archivio.festivaletteratura.it](http://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**.

# CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

## 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, including any schedule changes, comprehensive biographical information on 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 APP STORE



GOOGLE PLAY

## FESTIVAL BOOKSHOP 2023 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 1 september**

Opening hours 9.30 → 13.00,  
15.30 → 22.00. On Festival days opening hours 9.30 → 24.00.

**Sunday 10 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).



## FESTIVALETTERATURA NEWSLETTER

Sign up to our newsletter and stay up to date on all

the Festival news.

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



## TELEGRAM

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

To subscribe, go to the 'Festivaletteratura' channel in the app or, on your phone click on [t.me/Festivaletteratura](https://t.me/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](#)

## SEGRETARIAT FESTIVALETTERATURA

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tel. 0376.223989  
[archivio@festivaletteratura.it](mailto:archivio@festivaletteratura.it)

## INFORMATION

For information about any late changes to the programme (changes of venue for reasons such as bad weather) and of any events postponed, sold out or cancelled, [the website is kept constantly updated](#).

You can also check in real time by enquiring at our Information Point, via sms informa, Telegram, the Festivaletteratura app, calling 0376.223989 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](mailto: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  
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tel. 02 36565133  
[stampa@larafacco.com](mailto:stampa@larafacco.com)  
[www.larafacco.com](http://www.larafacco.com)  
**6 to 10 september:**  
Press room Festivaletteratura  
Piazza Leon Battista Alberti Mantova  
tel. 351.6564754

## SMS INFORMA

Festivaletteratura has an sms info service for scheduled events.

Receive Festivaletteratura sms updates (in Italian) on your phone. Just [text](#) the message ['Festival On'](#) to [+39 353 3364700](tel:+393533364700). The service, which is already active, is free of charge and ends on the evening of 10 September 2023. 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)

# LIST OF FESTIVALETTERATURA SITES

2023

- |    |   |    |  |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1  | Biblioteca Teresiana                      | 22 | Casa del Mantegna                                    |
| 2  | Teatro Bibiena                            | 23 | Tempio di San Sebastiano                             |
| 3  | Liceo "Virgilio"                          | 24 | Palazzo San Sebastiano                               |
| 4  | Piazza Mantegna                           | 25 | Palazzo Te   |
| 5  | Piazza Leon Battista Alberti              | 26 | Biblioteca Baratta                                   |
| 6  | Cinema Oberdan                            | 27 | Quartiere Lunetta                                    |
| 7  | Palazzo della Ragione                     | 28 | Ossario di Solferino                                 |
| 8  | Palazzo Ducale                            | 29 | Osservatorio Astronomico di Gorgo (San Benedetto Po) |
| 9  | Basilica Palatina di Santa Barbara        | A  | Author reception                                     |
| 10 | Piazza Castello                           | B  | Ticket purchase assistance, secretariat              |
| 11 | Piazza Lega Lombarda                      | C  | Press room, web editorial staff                      |
| 12 | Tenda Sordello                            | D  | Area 6   |
| 13 | Tenda dei Libri                           | E  | Co-working space                                     |
| 14 | Cantine di Palazzo del Mago               | 📍  | Space Off Festivaletteratura                         |
| 15 | La Zanzara                                | 📄  | Info-point   |
| 16 | Scuola Primaria "P. Pomponazzo"           | 📖  | Festival bookshop                                    |
| 17 | Palazzo d'Arco                            | 🚌  | Shuttle bus stop                                     |
| 18 | Aula Magna dell'Università                | 🍽️ | Festival restaurant                                  |
| 19 | Chiesa di Santa Maria della Vittoria      | 🚂  | Railway Station                                      |
| 20 | Spazio Studio Sant'Orsola                 |    |  |
| 21 | Politecnico di Milano - Campus di Mantova |    |  |

## \* SPAZIO OFF / PIAZZA LEON BATTISTA ALBERTI \*

The iconic piazza, symbol of the Festival, this year becomes a **Space OFF** where people can meet, have a chat, recover from their literary excursions and get a bite to eat. By day it will be a place to attend events free of charge and at the end of the evening to listen to the literary DJ Set **VOLUME!**, organised in collaboration with Radio Raheem.

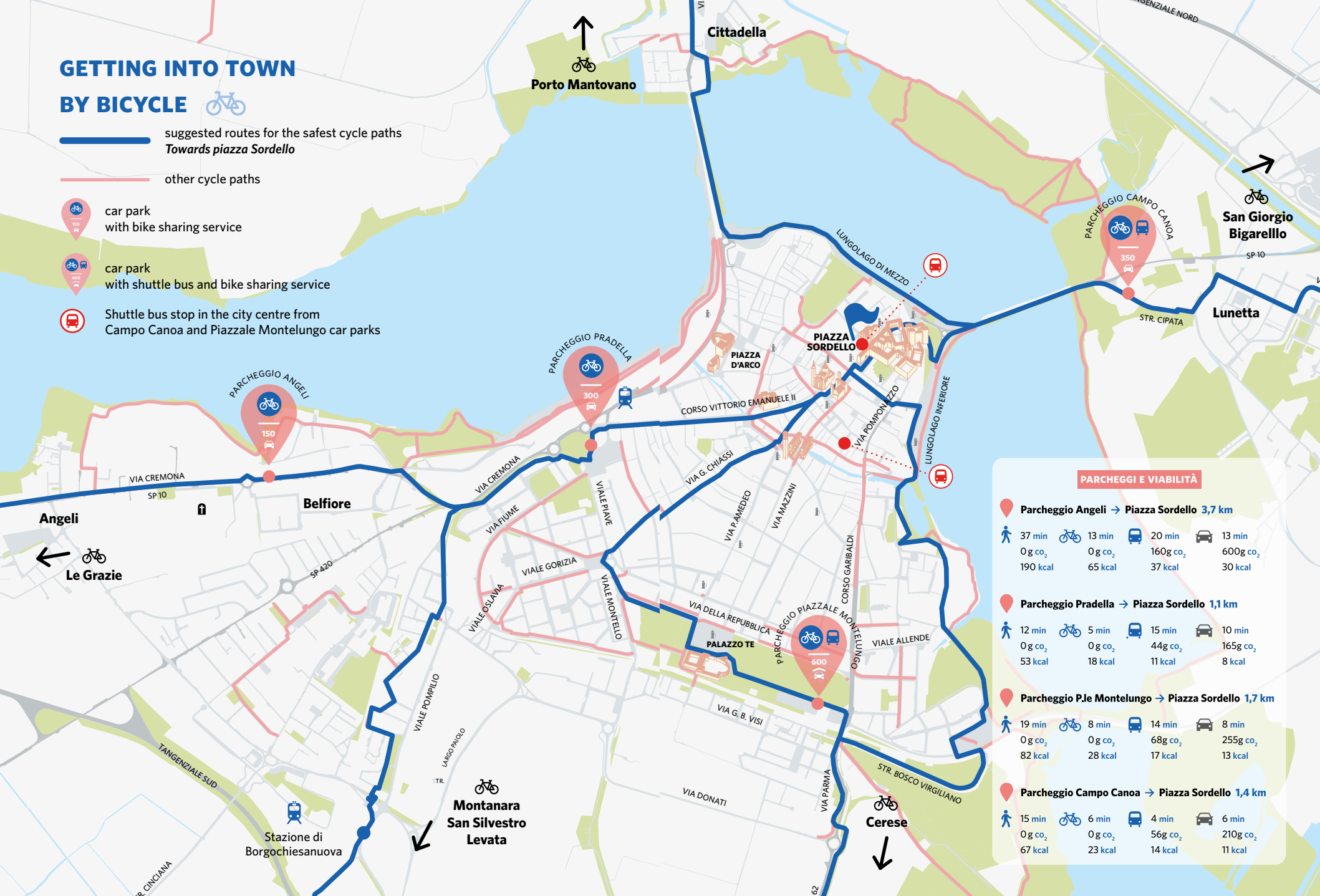


# GETTING INTO TOWN BY BICYCLE

**—** 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 stop in the city centre from Campo Canoa and Piazzale Montelungo car parks



## PARCHEGGI E VIABILITÀ

	<b>Parceggio Angeli → Piazza Sordello 3,7 km</b>						
	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
	<b>Parceggio Pradella → Piazza Sordello 1,1 km</b>						
	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
	<b>Parceggio P.le Montelungo → Piazza Sordello 1,7 km</b>						
	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
	<b>Parceggio Campo Canoa → Piazza Sordello 1,4 km</b>						
	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 AROUND

*Getting to Mantova and moving about in town (as ecologically as possible)*

In 2021 we made a pledge to limit the Festival's carbon footprint, reducing greenhouse gas emissions to a minimum for both our own and the public's transport. Here we provide you with all the information you need to plan your trip sustainably.

## → TRAINS

Direct rail connections to Mantova: 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)) or by scanning this QR Code.



## → CAR SHARING ELETTRICO E-VAI

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 website, pick it up from one of the charging stations and you're off. For visitors to the festival there is a special offer that entitles you to a discount of 1h of free hire on 2 rentals made by the same user. All information on [e-vai.com](http://e-vai.com).

## → PARK AND RIDE

There are 4 park-and-ride car parks located at 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 Virgiliana**, **Piazzale Gramsci**, **viale Risorgimento**, **viale Isonzo**, **viale Mincio** (pay and display zones).

## → VISITORS WITH LIMITED MOBILITY

**ANFFAS** offers a dedicated service with purpose-trained staff. Departures from Campo Canoa and Piazza Virgiliana car parks. There is no charge for this service, but reservations must be made by Tuesday 5 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 town. To encourage it 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 4 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.

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.



**DISCOVER THE MAP  
OF THE CYCLE  
ROUTES**

recommended for reaching  
the city centre



## → CAMPERS

Stopover points equipped with drainage, toilets and showers:

**SPARAFUCILE AREA** - via Legnano, 1/a - Mantova GPS 45° 9' 54" N / 10° 48' 43" E

**PARCO PAGANINI** - via Fiera, 11 - Grazie of Curtatone (MN) GPS 45° 9' 12.80" N / 10° 41' 28,10" E

For information [info@camperclubmantova.com](mailto:info@camperclubmantova.com)

## → TAXI

Every day, non-stop from 5:00 am. to 1:00 am.  
| Tel. 0376.368844 - cell. 335 595285 |  
[www.radiotaximantova.it](http://www.radiotaximantova.it)

Pick up points in Piazza Cavallotti (near Teatro Sociale), piazza Sordello (near entrance to Palazzo Ducale), piazza Don Leoni (train station).



# SUPPORT FESTIVALETTERATURA

Since its very first edition, Festivaletteratura has received the support of **private companies, cultural institutions 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-seven years on.

To find out how to become a supporter, email [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 organise a truly festive occasion** that would bring authors and their readers together and enable everyone to enjoy getting to know each other.

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. There are currently over 2000 **friends of the Festival** and they come from all over Italy, and even from abroad. As well as taking part in the activities the group organises

throughout the year and receiving an email with the latest information on Festivaletteratura, you are entitled to **discounts on Festival tickets** and **early bird booking**. You also receive a free copy of the **printed programme**.

Membership costs only € 25 per year, or € 15 for under 25s 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 2023 until 15 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 NPO

**Executive Board:** Laura Baccaglioni (president), Carla Bernini, Annarosa Buttarelli, Francesco Caprini, Alessandro Della Casa, Marzia Malerba, Marella Paramatti, Paolo Poletti, Gianni Tonelli

### FESTIVALETTERATURA SECRETARIAT

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

### FRIENDS OF FESTIVALETTERATURA

**Board of directors:** Silvia Cosimini, Nadia Gaeti, Stefano Mazzocchi (presidente), Massimo Parma, Gianni Sgarbi

### TECHNICAL AND VOLUNTEER ORGANISATION

**Additional staff at Secretariat:** Camilla Ariotti, Naima Boukal, Francesco Carli, Bianca Caprini, Jacopo Costa, Cecilia Fante, Jenny Favari, Graziella Gibertoni, Aline Reinelt, Andrea Rigattieri, Giovanni Miccio, Silvia Sculari, Nia Sorozanashvili, Martina Tranchida

**Driver service coordinator:** Antonio D'Amone

**Logistics:** Gianmarco Araldi, Alessio Arancio, Lorenzo Arcari, Giovanni Arvati, Stefano Buttarelli, Filippo Campagnola, Bianca Caprini, Giacomo Caprini, Carlo Carnevali, Edoardo Coppola, Riccardo Ferrari, Caterina Magri, Marta Adele Marini, Francesco Pecorari, Francesco Pedrazzoli

**Volunteer and school coordinator:**

Giacomo Caprini, Valentina Mura

**Box office:** Giovanni Maitan, Anna Poletti, Elena Sabbioni, Matilde Spinelli, Chiara Tranquillità

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

**Programme consultants:** Simonetta Bitasi, Sonia Folin, Silvia Mengali, Nicolò Porcelluzzi, Silvia Righi, Vera Salton, Alice Torreggiani

**Interpreting/translation coordinator:** Laura Cangemi

**Blurandevu coordinators:** Nicola Baroni, Alessandra Cussini, Espérance Hakuzwimana, Alice Pesci

**Passports coordinators:** Grace Fainelli e Manuela Manera

**Better than Fiction consultant:** Christian Elia

**Accents hosts:** Marta Bacigalupo e Luca Pareschi

**Festival editorial staff coordinator:**

Anna Corraini; referenti di settore: Matilde Silla Sgarbi, Luca Ughetti (testi), Maxim Klimashin, Sofia Bonino, Ilaria Masè Dari, Danyyl Pochtar, Gaia Scarpari (foto), Lorenzo Aprà, Niccolò Martini, Matilde Rima, Giovanni Sacchi, Sara Tebaldi (video), Lucy Chatburn (internazionale), Silvia Lanfranchi (social)

**Radio Festivaletteratura:** Verdiana Benatti, Matteo Blasio, Giancarlo Cinini, Stefano Santini (redazione), Gabriele Beretta (supporto produzione)

### FESTIVALETTERATURA ARCHIVE

**Scientific consultant:** Manuela Soldi

**Archivists:** Giorgia Nanni, Michele Triboli

**Volunteers:** Sofia Piva

**Programme graphics and design:** Pietro Corraini with Maria Chiara Zacchi, Camilla Marani and Giulia Semprini.

**Cover illustration:** Nicola Giorgio

**Graphics:** Maxistudio - Viadana

**Printing:** Arti Grafiche Castello - Viadana

**Translation:** Isobel Butters

**Editing:** Laura Cangemi





Festivaletteratura  
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