

ABRIDGED ENGLISH PROGRAMME

MANTOVA 8-12 september 2021



Festivaletteratura





Each year Festivaletteratura attracts international writers and artists and an ever more cosmopolitan audience. 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 lots of 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!

While people all over the world are wondering what it will be like to 'produce culture' over the coming months, Festivaletteratura has now reached its twenty-fifth edition. Once this season of re-openings is over, it is still unclear what will happen next, where, and with whom. In 2020, Festivaletteratura managed to go ahead. It took determination and a dose of good fortune, but in the end the authors arrived in person, through streaming and radio and our Almanac. And the public came, content that the Festival was happening, despite everything. What we set up last year was not second best. Finding alternative ways to deal with the emergency was an opportunity to think afresh about how to organise the Festival, what sense to give to the exchange between authors and readers, and how to inhabit the city. These thoughts have accompanied and encouraged us ever since we started out: every year Festivaletteratura has looked at what was going on around us, has changed course, invented things that have lasted and others that have lived intensely before fading away after a single season. Even this twenty-fifth edition is not definitive. It brings with it the experience of all these years, the wisdom (which we hope will never leave us) of our late president Luca Nicolini, some of last year's experiments and, as always, something new. There is a need for culture once again, and we are looking for answers along the way. A warm welcome to all of you who will join us at the Festival.

THE FESTIVALETTERATURA FOUNDERS

Thanks to:



BOOKING AND BUYING TICKETS

For guidance on how to purchase tickets for the 2021 edition of Festivaletteratura, please read the following information carefully.

HOW

Festivaletteratura tickets can be purchased **online** through our website

→ www.festivaletteratura.it.

On completing your purchase, you will receive a confirmation email, which should be shown – printed or digital – at the event venues.

The system will automatically **assign a seat number**, which will be shown on the **confirmation email**.

WHERE AND WHEN

Tickets can only be purchased:

ON THE WEBSITE WWW.FESTIVALLETTERATURA.IT

from **9 a.m.** on **Wednesday 1 September** → for **filofestival members**

from **9 a.m.** on **Friday 3 September** → for **everyone else**

AT THE LOGGIA DEL GRANO OF THE CAMERA DI COMMERCIO DI VIA SPAGNOLI , MANTOVA

the ticket office will be open:

from **Wednesday 1** to **Tuesday 7 September** → from **9 a.m.** to **1 p.m.** and from **3 p.m.** to **19 p.m.** (Sunday 5 September closed)

from **Wednesday 8** to **Saturday 11 September** → from **9 a.m.** to **7 p.m.**

Sunday 12 September → from **9 a.m.** to **1 p.m.**

If possible, please pay by credit or debit card.

NB: for the purchase of tickets by people with disabilities, please send an e-mail to perilfestival@festivaletteratura.it, by 30 August, subject to availability.

Events **48** and **91** can be booked by calling 0376.355566 or sending an e-mail to info@mantovamusica.com.

REFUNDS

Refunds of purchased tickets can be requested only and exclusively in case of **cancellation of the event**.

Refunds of tickets for cancelled events purchased online will be made **automatically** by re-crediting the net cost of the ticket.

For tickets purchased at the Loggia del Grano in via Spagnoli the refund will be given at the Loggia itself. **The ticket must be shown to receive the refund.**

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.

FREE EVENTS

The events at the **Tenda Sordello**, in front of the **Rotonda di San Lorenzo**, at the **Cinema Oberdan** and at the **Museo Diocesano** indicated as free of charge **are subject to limited numbers and restrictions**; therefore, places must be reserved in the same way as for paid events either on the website www.festivaletteratura.it or at the Loggia del Grano.

On completing your purchase, you will receive a confirmation email, which should be shown – printed or digital – at the event venues.

RULES FOR FILOFESTIVAL MEMBERS

Members of the Filofestival Association can buy tickets from **9 a.m. on Wednesday 1 September**. When purchasing online or at the Loggia del Grano remember to have your membership number at hand. The card is strictly personal.

Each member can book:

1 ticket only per event for events that are compatible in terms of time (with a minimum two-hour space in between).

Members receive a **10% discount** on the full ticket price.

For information call **0376.223989**

ANTI-COVID MEASURES

Information regarding the anti-Covid measures adopted at all event venues will be available **on the Festivaletteratura website and social networks**.

KEY TO THE PROGRAMME

1 FESTIVAL EVENT

1 EVENT FOR CHILDREN †

1 EVENT FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

1 EVENT FOR TEENAGERS

RADIO EVENT

ACCENTS

ODONYMY

A CITY IN BOOKS

KEEP IT GREEN

READ ON

SCIENCEGROUND

EVENTS NOT IN ITALIAN AND WITHOUT INTERPRETATION

SHUTTLE BUS


Festivaletteratura reserves the right to modify the published programme.


→ **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 online.

→ Events with authors **last** on average about 1 -1½ hours; workshops about 2 - 2½ hours. Itinerary 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) and can be viewed on the website 2021.festivaletteratura.it by scanning the QR code next to the description. For a complete list of events see p. 19.

 **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.



Tune into Radio Festivaletteratura on 2021.festivaletteratura.it or download the Radio Festivaletteratura app, available for iOS and Android devices. Scan the QR code to visit the page and download the app. The international authors appearing on Radio Festivaletteratura will be interviewed **IN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMMES** (the original language podcast of the interviews will be available by the end of September).

DUE PUNTI

hosted by **Silvia Righi**

Due punti is a virtual space designed to bring people together in the flesh to discuss anything that can be defined as poetry. This means welcoming authors who despite their different styles, origins and generations are willing to reflect on what it means to be a writer of verse today. Over four episodes, the sound of words will be given equal space to their value. We will be rediscovering the classics while looking into the mirror of contemporary literature and listening to forgotten voices. For all those keen to listen in, *Due punti* will offer a little time off to explore the world of poetry, from well-known names to promising young talents, from experimentalism to tradition, and an invitation to stay for as long as possible.

WEDNESDAY 8, THURSDAY 9, FRIDAY 10 AND SATURDAY 11 – 6:30 PM.

PANORAMA INTERNAZIONALE

hosted by **Simonetta Bitasi** and **Elsa Riccadonna**

Panorama internazionale is a window on the literary world— one with no boundaries, just like that of its readers, one that accepts the challenge of giving space to world literature. Each episode will host a major representative of international fiction. This year a fine thread will run through the conversation, focusing on the relationship between writing and reading. As part of the Festivaletteratura tradition to seek out new literary horizons, Simonetta Bitasi and Elsa Riccadonna will take us on a tour of the talent and insight of writers who live at different latitudes (and time zones) but who never lose their bearings.

WEDNESDAY 8, THURSDAY 9, FRIDAY 10 AND SATURDAY 11 – 10:05 AM.

THE LANGUAGE OF FOOD

hosted by **Amalia Sacchi**

"Look what's on your own plate!", we retort to those who comment on our food. And *The language of food* does just that. Looking at what's on its own plate (which is also ours), it tries to understand where the food we eat comes from, what it means in terms of sustainability, what this requires, what stories it tells us. Amalia Sacchi will seek out the answers by talking to agronomists, nutritionists, chefs and other figures whose work concerns food.

WEDNESDAY 8, THURSDAY 9, FRIDAY 10 AND SUNDAY 12 – 2:10 PM.

RADIO HELSINKI

hosted by **Luca Scarlini**

Never before have the Radio Festivaletteratura repeaters been installed so far north. With the choice of Helsinki as the city in books 2021, the programme hosted by Luca Scarlini moves to the far north of Europe to take us through the streets – real and imaginary – of the Finnish capital. Whipped by the icy Baltic winds, Radio Helsinki sets out to portray the literary polyphony of a city suspended between East and West, alongside numerous writers and artists who represent the two different linguistic communities (Finnish and Swedish), as well as Italian scholars and writers who in their various ways have travelled the distant Scandinavian routes.

WEDNESDAY 8, THURSDAY 9, FRIDAY 10 AND SATURDAY 11 – 11 AM.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE

From the **OttoQuinti** wavelengths

by **eXtemporanea**

"Despite the first broadcasts on the UnoPuntoSeiPeriodico frequency we are still castaways of a flood that although long-awaited caught us unprepared. Our raft, meanwhile, is accumulating all kinds of trinkets and paraphernalia, made from the rubbish that, like us, floats in the *Great Pacific Garbage Patch*. 'Could Vakaru be somewhere over there?' asks our faithful ally, as they spy the mirage of an island through a makeshift telescope (one concave bottle bottom and one biconvex). But is it Nature's voice speaking or our own nature deceiving us? After landing, we improvise a campsite amidst the rubble of the academy to regain some lucidity. Finally, our trusty crystal radio set enables us to launch a signal on the new OttoQuinti frequency, hoping that someone (human or otherwise) from a land that has remained above ground (perhaps hidden in an underground tunnel to avoid radioactive winds or epidemics) will tune in and share their story" (from the eXtemporanea logbook).

WEDNESDAY 8, THURSDAY 9, SATURDAY 11 AND SUNDAY 12 – 1 PM.

FRONTIERS

hosted by **Christian Elia**

Where does one journey begin and end? What represents a limit to some becomes a map to others. Some border existences are only told from one viewpoint or never told at all. A multi-voice dialogue will bring to life the stories of those who inhabit the borders, those who cross them and those who are subjected to them.

THURSDAY 9 – 4 PM, FRIDAY 10 – 5:15 PM, SATURDAY 11 – 4 PM, SUNDAY 12 – 5:15 PM.

WEDNESDAY

8

SEPTEMBER

2021

PANORAMA INTERNAZIONALE (SEE P. 6-7)

episode 1

guest **Doina Ruști**; hosted by **Simonetta Bitasi**

10:05 RADIO

One of Romania's most representative writers reflects with dry humour on the publishing world in *The Little Red Man*, in which Laura Iosa, an intelligent and highly cultured woman, is regularly passed over by less qualified people. Treated with contempt by the publishing companies who refuse to print her dictionary, she starts a blog with the option for readers' comments, and in doing so brings about a radical change in her life. Appreciated by critics and readers alike for the epic strength and originality of her narrative, Doina Ruști is a scriptwriter and lecturer at the University of Bucharest and the author of the Phanariot trilogy, comprising *The Phanariot Manuscript* (2015), *The Book of Perilous Dishes* (2017) and *Homeric* (2019), as well as many other successful novels with a strong social dimension, such as *Zogru* and *Lisoanca*.

The author will speak in Romanian, with voice over interpretation in Italian. A podcast of the interview in the original language will be available by the end of September.

 MARCEGAGLIA

RADIO HELSINKI (SEE P. 6-7)

episode 1 - *Portrait of a city on the sea*

hosted by **Luca Scarlini**

11:00 RADIO

In this radio event, Luca Scarlini joins some of Finland's most renowned authors on an exploration of Helsinki, a capital on the sea. From the bilingual Finnish-Swedish city, the literary quest will extend to the rest of the peninsula through short stories, novels and poetry, amidst the silence of the islands and the chaos of the traffic.

5 POETRY BEFORE PROSE

Jón Kalman Stefánsson with **Silvia Cosimini** and **Silvia Righi**

16:30 PALAZZO DELLA RAGIONE €7

"In a certain way I compose symphonies or write blues. I look for music in words, but I also try to create music with my whole style, a kind of rhythm buried beneath the words," explained Jón Kalman Stefánsson (*Ditches in rain, Heaven and Hell*) some time back. Those who have already had the pleasure of discovering the Icelandic writer in person in Mantova, or through his books, will perhaps not be surprised to learn that before becoming an established novelist the author dedicated himself for many years to poetry (which - he admits - he still tries to 'smuggle' into his works): Between 1988 and 1994, three collections of verse were published, now brought together in the volume *The First Time Pain Saved My Life*. In it we glimpse the beginnings of his "sense of the finiteness of the human being in defiance of a merciless nature" that would make his future output so evocative. Together with his Italian translator Silvia Cosimini and Silvia Righi, Stefánsson will discuss his early work and his first steps in the publishing world.

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

With the contribution of *Miðstöðvar íslenskra bókmennta / Icelandic Literatur Center*

7 CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Gaël Giraud and Emanuele Felice with Carlo Marco Belfanti

17:00 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO €7

This is the appeal Pope Francis made in his 2015 encyclical *Laudato si'*, as he emphasised today's crucial issues of sustainable development and the climate crisis. But how compatible is this awareness with our development model, and to what extent is economics able to develop a different perspective from the one currently dominant? These are the questions that Gaël Giraud, Jesuit and economist (*Transition écologique*), author with Felwine Sarr of *L'Economie à venir*, sets out to answer. Talking to economist and historian Emanuele Felice (*Dubai, l'ultima utopia*), Giraud will reflect on the possibility of 'reforming' the current capitalist system, which needs to be rethought in order to build a different economic order, based on a project that "unites, rather than divides, as the post-liberal utopia of privatising the world does: once you think of the Earth as private property, it becomes legitimate to be able to destroy it". Carlo Marco Belfanti (*Storia culturale del Made in Italy*), professor of Economic History at the University of Brescia, will converse with the two authors.

Gaël Giraud will speak in French, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.
In collaboration with the Institut Français Italia.

10 AUTO-FICTION AND CONTEMPORARY MEMOIR

Claudia Durastanti and Alicia Kopf with Elisabetta Bucciarelli

18:30 PALAZZO DELLA RAGIONE €7

Visual artist Imma Ávalos Marqués (aka Alicia Kopf) and Claudia Durastanti are two young writers who have recently ventured into literary hybridity, both experimenting with the combination of novel, autobiography and essay in their writing. Reflections on disability and the constant evolution of feminism are two of the themes that link the authors, but what perhaps most unites their latest works is the parallel between geographical exploration and stories of ordinary family and artistic survival. In *Brother in Ice* Kopf tells the story of her relationship with her autistic brother, comparing it to the history of polar exploration in the 20th century, while Durastanti - with *Strangers I know* (nominated for the 2019 Strega Prize) - takes a journey through her childhood spent between Brooklyn and Basilicata and talks about her relationship with her deaf parents. "How do you tell the story of a life if not by reconstructing a map of yourself and the world you have lived in?". Elisabetta Bucciarelli will conduct the event.

Alicia Kopf will speak in Spanish, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

12 CHANGE COMES THROUGH REMEMBERING

Maaza Mengiste with Carlo Lucarelli

19:15 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7



The Ethiopian War sometimes seems to belong to a past we prefer not to mention, as if the memories of Italian colonialism in Africa, with its massacres, gas bombings, torture and repression of the population were too painful to mention. The official narrative of conflicts is almost always a story of men, yet New Yorker contributor Maaza Mengiste, originally from Addis Ababa, has conducted extensive research in Italy, sifting through archive documents, flea markets and the memories of people whose fathers or grandfathers fought under the regime, to produce a work (*The Shadow King*, shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize) that tells the story of women engaged in strenuous resistance to the rise of Mussolini until 1941, when Haile Selassie returned to the throne. "A great book must be true. I have to find myself in it, in what I like, but also in what I dislike," says Carlo Lucarelli, who will be talking to her at the Festival.

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



DIOCESI DI MANTOVA
PASTORALE DELLA
CULTURA

age 14 up

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15 WHEN PHOTOGRAPHY CHANGES THINGS

Donna Ferrato with Barbara Guarnerio and Ruggero Ughetti

21:00 TEATRO BIBIENA €10

In 1982, while working on a photographic project, Donna Ferrato (*Holy, Living with the enemy*) witnessed a case of domestic violence, an event that would change her personal and artistic vision of reality forever. Since then, she has dedicated her documentary career to social commitment, bringing women's struggles against patriarchal impositions and domestic abuse to the attention of the masses, campaigning not only with images but also through the association Domestic Abuse Awareness and the initiative *I am unbeatable*. "Over the last fifty years I have been driven to photograph the wisdom and courage of women: their mentality, their sexuality, their emotionality, their spirituality", says the American artist who, on the Festival's stage, will talk to Barbara Guarnerio and Ruggero Ughetti of Frammenti di fotografia about her manifesto of strength and hope.

The author will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.
Thanks to Alessandro Vitiello Home Gallery.

 Helsinki

The city in books of Festivaletteratura 2021, capital of the Republic of Finland since 1918, is a port city built in modern times under the reign of Gustav I of Sweden. For years the scene of bitter disputes, trade and arms wars, drives for independence and the fall of empires, Helsinki achieved great cultural vitality between the 19th and 20th centuries, mixing Nordic and modernist architecture, two splendid languages (Swedish and Finnish) that share the podium of its rich literary production, poetry and music that dialogue both with European trends, and popular tradition and folklore. Its streets were

and still are alive with artists and Nobel Prize winners, bohemians, and country folk in the throes of political fervour and high-intensity urban life. All of this brings us right up to the present day: at 2021.festivaletteratura.it, a bibliography of over 150 books sways through the breezes of a city 'embraced by the open sea and the pale sky', along with enchanting vintage photos, boisterous polkas and other invigorating music to protect against the harsh temperatures, Italian guests old and new, and snow-proof reading trails. With short interludes by readers from the Compagnia della Lettura, Luca Scarlini will interview Finnish writers, scholars, filmmakers and translators. **Lieven Aemeel, Massimo Ciaravolo, Monika Fagerholm, Kari Hotakainen, Mika Kaurismäki, Rosa Liksom, Laura Lindstedt, Sanna Martin, Harri Nykänen, Nicola Rainò, Harri Salmenniemi, Pajtim Statovci and Kjell Westö** will talk about 'their' Helsinki from the most diverse angles, in four radio broadcasts from Thursday 10 to Sunday 12 September.



 HELSINKI
KAUPUNGINMUSEO

THURSDAY

9

2021

SEPTEMBER

 **PANORAMA INTERNAZIONALE** (SEE P. 6-7)

 MARCEGAGLIA

episode 2

guest **Sally Bayley**; hosted by **Elsa Riccadonna**

10:05 RADIO

"Reading is a form of escape, and an avid reader is an escape artist. I started to escape the moment I started to read". This is how the reading career of Sally Bayley, author of *Girl with Dove*, a profound and touching memoir in which Bayley retraces her childhood and the history of her 'dysfunctional' family, began. Thanks to the great figures in literature and the Littlehampton Town Library, Bayley found her way "beyond the curtains", teaching writing at Oxford and becoming the author of numerous books, including *The Private Life of the Diary*, *No Boys Play Here*, as well as works on Sylvia Plath and Emily Dickinson.

The author will speak in English, with voice over interpretation in Italian. A podcast of the interview in the original language will be available by the end of September.

  **RADIO HELSINKI** (SEE P. 6-7)

episode 2 - The Dance of History

hosted by **Luca Scarlini**

11:00 RADIO

Built by the Kingdom of Sweden, a sea fortress defends Helsinki and Finland from the Russian threat from the East. But it was when Tsar Alexander I conquered Finland that Helsinki became the capital. From then on it became, in the local idiom, 'stadi', i.e. 'the city' par excellence. Finnish writers have dealt with the complex events of the civil war that plagued the country since 1918 and that still echo in their novels today.

 **THE LANGUAGE OF FOOD** (SEE P. 6-7)

 **LEVONI**
SOCIETÀ ITALIANA

episode 2

guest **Jeremy Cherfas**; hosted by **Amalia Sacchi**

14:10 RADIO

Can you combine science, cooking, history and fun facts in a single podcast? Most definitely, and to prove it, Eat this podcast is an innovative show by Jeremy Cherfas that deals with everything revolving around the world of food. We'll discover how the project came about and get a behind-the-scenes look at the programme.

The author will speak in English, with voice over interpretation in Italian. A podcast of the interview in the original language will be available by the end of September.

3 0 **DULCINEA AND THE MAGIC PEN**

Ole Könnecke with **Chiara Belliti**

15:00 CASA DEL MANTEGNA €7

drawing and daring workshop

When a dad is in peril, there can be no scrimping on audacity or brainpower. The hugely popular German writer Ole Könnecke, author of *Dulcinea in the Forbidden Forest*, introduces us to a little girl who is not scared of anything, least of all a witch! Together with Chiara Belliti he will relive all her remarkable adventures on sketching paper. Who's going to give him a hand?

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

 ages **5** to **7**

Bettoi Sport
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THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

5 0 9 ROMEO IN MANTUA, JULIET IN VERONA



Peter Florence

16:00 TENDA SORDELLO free admission with prior booking ▶ accents

Reflections on Shakespeare's tragic love story, plague lockdowns and communications failures. Peter Florence is a reader, writer and festival producer.

The author will speak in English, without interpretation.

3 3 TOO GORGEOUS?

Canizales

16:00 CASA DEL MANTEGNA €7

workshop on witch allure

A witch is going on a date with an ogre, and suddenly, she's in a flap: should her hair be left grimy, what should she do about her missing teeth and the bump on her nose? Of course, all she needs is the wave of a magic wand to turn herself into a model, but is that really what she wants? Canizales - Colombian illustrator and author of *Bella* - lets the children decide how the witch might like to see herself, with the help of crayons, colours and sequins.

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

3 5 POLYPHONY

Bernardine Evaristo with Michela Murgia

16:45 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7 ▶



Bernardine Evaristo has always loved to experiment. Mixing prose, theatre and poetry, the British writer is a pivotal figure in the UK art and publishing world. Since the founding of the seminal Theatre of Black Women in 1982, the author of *Mr Loverman* and *Girl, Woman, Other* (which won the Man Booker Prize in 2019, alongside Margaret Atwood's *The Testaments*) has sought to draw attention to fundamental issues often overlooked by mainstream culture, particularly in Britain. Black identities in European society, intersectional feminism and gender issues form the backdrop to her works, which aim to expand the representation of the many facets of reality, without foregoing social criticism, or wit. This is how Evaristo successfully interprets otherness, giving a voice to those who feel discriminated against in some way, in the cultural and editorial world as well as in everyday life. Her characters - black, women, queer, working class, immigrants - thus find a space for authentic communication, where they can express first and foremost who they are. Bernardine Evaristo will talk to Michela Murgia by video link.

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

4 1 MERITOCRACY: UTOPIA OR DYSTOPIA?

Carlo Cottarelli and Michael Sandel with Davide Maria De Luca

18:15 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO €7 ▶

There are those who, like the economist Carlo Cottarelli (*All'inferno e ritorno*), consider meritocracy a powerful driver of social mobility, an excellent way of guaranteeing equal opportunity and a necessary condition for economic growth. On the other hand, others, like the political philosopher Michael Sandel (*The Tyranny of Merit*), believe that meritocracy erodes the very foundations of coexistence and democracy, as it widens the gap between winners and losers, fuelling the hubris of the former - convinced that their success depends solely on their merits and not, for example, on acquired privileges or mere chance - and casting all responsibility for their failure on the latter - thus triggering a perilous spiral of shame and resentment. Interviewed by journalist Davide Maria De Luca (*Bergamo e la marea*), Cottarelli, and Sandel who will be connected by video link, will discuss these two seemingly opposing views, in an attempt to understand to what extent meritocracy can be considered a utopia towards which to strive or, rather, a dystopia to be avoided.

Michael Sandel will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.



ages 4 to 6



MARCEGAGLIA



DUE PUNTI (SEE P. 6-7)

episode 2 - Appear, disappear

guests Han Dong and Laura Liberale; hosted by Silvia Righi

18:30 RADIO

Han Dong is one of the foremost voices of the so-called Post-Obscure or Third Generation Chinese poetry: with words reduced to the bone, sparse and sincere to the point of hyperrealism, Han Dong records atmospheric events, figures that appear and disappear, scenes from everyday life, and reminds us that the background noise of these pensive, incidental human events is the passing of time. The poetry of Laura Liberale, an author who holds a PhD in Indological Studies and a master's degree in Death Studies & the End of Life, also engages in a dialogue with disappearance, highlighting the link between writing and the forms that death can take - because death does not have its own uniqueness if only considered from the point of view of the 'other' - and to which poetry can bear witness.

The author will speak in Chinese, with voice over interpretation in Italian. A podcast of the interview in the original language will be available by the end of September.

4 4 WRITING THAT FREES US

Alice Walker with Alessandro Portelli

19:00 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7 ▶



Looking at the many interviews with Alice Walker on the web (*The Third Life of Grange Copeland*, *The Color Purple*), one cannot help but be captivated by the way the author talks about her life and poetics. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1983 (*The Color Purple* was later adapted by Stephen Spielberg to become an award-winning film starring Whoopi Goldberg), the American writer and activist imagines her work as a form of medicine, capable of bringing the reader - even the most culturally remote - closer to the characters in her novels, inspired by people who "still exist all over the world, barely getting by and being very upset with life". In her many essays, poems and novels, Walker tackles a range of issues (feminism, racial discrimination, the suffering of the oppressed) that have the power to connect generations over time, without being put off by those who try to delegitimise her civil rights battles: "no matter what you do or say they're gonna talk about you... I can't say I'm not wounded, but I get the arrow out and I keep going". For the first time as a guest at Festivalletteratura, Alice Walker will talk live by video link to Alessandro Portelli, an expert on African American culture.

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

4 7 I WANT TO WRITE WITH THE SAME JOY

Bernhard Schlink with Marilia Piccone

21:00 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO €7 ▶

Narrating history, in the complexity of its infinite nuances, is almost a game that the writer plays with the reader, challenging them "to lay themselves bare and understand how they might behave in different historical conditions". Such is the vision of Bernhard Schlink (*Olga*, *Summer Lies*, *Colours of Farewell*), one of Germany's greatest contemporary writers, known for his acclaimed novel *The Reader*, on which the feature film of the same name, starring Kate Winslet and Ralph Fiennes, was based. From the era of colonialism to the dark days of Nazism and the post-war period, Schlink's works paint a fresco of the events of twentieth-century Germany, analysing the themes of evil, guilt, and the complexity of human relationships. The author of *The Woman on the Stairs* talks to journalist and literary translator Marilia Piccone about how literature can and should be a profound reflection on a past that is still fresh in our minds.

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

In collaboration with Goethe-Institut Mailand (Milan)

Associazione
FILOFESTIVAL

libreria.coop

5 1 THE DECISIVE DECADE

Christiana Figueres with Giorgio Vacchiano

21:15 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7



Rising sea levels, greenhouse gas emissions, global warming: since the beginning of the 1990s, following the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the words have been appearing more and more frequently in the scientific and political debate, right up to today's wave of environmentalist movements clamouring for greater awareness from governments. "Today, at the global level, we face a rapidly accelerating climate emergency, daunting because

we have procrastinated way too long. We now have one last chance to truly change our course. This is the decisive decade in the history of humankind". These are the words of Costa Rican diplomat Christiana Figueres (*Choose the Future*), one of the world's leading authorities on climate issues, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC for over six years and one of the authors of the 2015 Paris Agreement. For years she has been working 'with stubborn optimism' and - connected by video link - she will tell researcher Giorgio Vacchiano (*La resilienza del bosco*) what virtuous solutions we can adopt to deliver a better world to future generations.

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



gruppo
Tea
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Nothing changes your day like an accent. Encyclopaedic divertissements, previews of books to come, strolls through some of the exact and less exact sciences, unconfessed literary passions, minor and major revelations, accents are mostly for a single voice - although there are plenty of duets and quartets - and last half an hour (with a few exceptions). Among the unique variety of themes, the resilient lands series stands out this year, with its accent - pun intended - on environmental issues. Accents events are free of charge with compulsory booking (see p. 6) and are streamed live on 2021.festivaletteratura.it



Events also
streamed



streaming

su 2021.festivaletteratura.it/streaming



This time round we wanted all the events to take place in the presence of the Festival audience, even when one of the authors will be taking part remotely. We felt it was important to try to restore human contact and the relationship with the places in the city, essential elements since the start of the Festivaletteratura experience. At the same time, however, we also decided to broadcast a larger number of live streamed events with in mind those who will not be able to get to Mantova, or those who wish to watch events they couldn't go to, thanks to the video recordings available on-demand.

→ WEDNESDAY 8

19:15 from Piazza Castello
032 CHANGE COMES THROUGH REMEMBERING
Maaza Mengiste with Carlo Lucarelli

21:15 from Piazza Castello
051 THE DECISIVE DECADE Christiana Figueres with Giorgio Vacchiano

19:00 from Piazza Castello
122 CREATING ANTIBODIES IN SOCIETY Rebecca Solnit with Marina Terragni

→ FRIDAY 10

16:45 from Piazza Castello
074 THE WORKING CLASS DOESN'T GO TO HEAVEN
Anne Case and Angus Deaton with Alberto Magnani

21:15 from Piazza Castello
133 THE MAD DREAMS OF REASON Benjamin Labatut with Chiara Valerio

→ THURSDAY 9

16:00 from Tenda Sordello
509 ROMEO IN MANTOVA, JULIET IN VERONA
Peter Florence *accents*

16:45 from Piazza Castello
035 POLYPHONY Bernardine Evaristo with Michela Murgia

19:00 from Piazza Castello
044 WRITING THAT FREES US Alice Walker with Alessandro Portelli

→ SATURDAY 11

11:00 from Piazza Castello
104 THESIS, PROTHESIS, SYNTHESIS
Slavoj Žižek with Mauro Carbone

16:00 from Tenda Sordello
533 WHY YOU SHOULD READ CHILDREN'S BOOKS, EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE SO OLD AND WISE
Katherine Rundell *accents*

→ SUNDAY 12

14:00 from Tenda Sordello
346 MY (DREAM) LIFE AS A MIDFIELDER
Colum McCann *accents*

16:45 from Piazza Castello
156 NATURE IN WORDS
Andri Snær Magnason e Luca Mercalli with Tullio Avoledo

18:30 from Piazza Castello
163 THE REVOLUTION IS UNDERSTANDING THE OTHER Colum McCann with Gabriele Romagnoli

FRIDAY

10
SEPTEMBER

2021

5 5 A BUNCH OF FEARLESS FRIENDS

Ole Könnecke with **Chiara Belliti**

10:00 CASA DEL MANTEGNA €7

drawing and daring workshop

Roy's not afraid to stand up to the evil Blackbeard to free his beloved teacher, Heidi. Lester and Bob are always ready to help each other out and set off on new adventures. And then there's Dulcinea, who enters a scary magic forest to rescue her father so they can get back to eating blueberry pancakes together. These are just some of the characters thought up by Ole Könnecke, one of Europe's best-loved children's writers. Inspired by these little heroes, the children will draw together while learning how to overcome their fears and roam free in the world, helped along by the author of *The Big Book of Words and Pictures* and *You can do it, Bert!* and many other books.

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

ages 5 to 7

Bertoi Sport
2 RUOTE DAL 1900

EUROPEAN PANORAMA INTERNAZIONALE (SEE P. 6-7)

MARCEGAGLIA

episode 3

guest **Lily King**; hosted by **Elsa Riccadonna**

10:05 RADIO

Today Panorama Internazionale takes us to the other side of the world to meet US writer Lily King. With a degree in English literature and a specialisation in creative writing, she began her career as a teacher of creative writing and literature before turning to novels. The title of her latest book, *Writers and Lovers*, is emblematic and particularly suited to the theme that runs through all the episodes in 2021: books, reading and readers... and of course writers. Casey, the protagonist of King's novel, will give us the opportunity to talk about writing but also reading and how books can help people find their place in the world.

The author will speak in English, with voice over interpretation in Italian. A podcast of the interview in the original language will be available by the end of September.

5 8 A QUIET IDYLL OF FEAR

Aleksej Ivanov with **Gian Piero Piretto**

10:30 AULA MAGNA OF THE UNIVERSITY €7

When sophisticated times and touch screens intersect with the crude superstitions of a remote rural community, it creates an explosive mixture that can fray the readers' nerves. In the post-Soviet Russia of the great novelist Aleksej Ivanov (*The Dog-headed*), bloodthirsty myths and ancient heresies shatter the urban certainties of the young protagonists, revealing the abyss between the city and the vast countryside that had already troubled the minds of Turgenev, Chekhov, and other literary geniuses. Can the fresco of a dog-headed Saint Christopher - which survived the Tsars and the rusty skeletons of communism - drive us to madness and force us to succumb to the power of dark legends? Gian Piero Piretto (*Quando c'era l'URSS, Vagabondare a Berlino*) meets a champion of new Russian fiction, rediscovering ancestral forces (and imagery) that irrupt into a present marked by unbridled consumerism and the monstrous inequalities between the world's centre and its periphery.

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

5 9 TOO GORGEOUS? (SEE N. 33)

Canizales

10:30 CASA DEL MANTEGNA €7

ages 4 to 6

FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

6 1 ANTHOLOGY DAY 2021

Benedetta Bonfiglioli and **Marie-Aude Murail** with **Simonetta Bitasi**

11:00 **DIOCESAN MUSEUM** €7

READ ON - ANTHOLOGY

Hot off the press, the long-awaited anthology 2021 has at last landed on the Festival desk. The third collection, comprising twenty-one pieces of writing chosen by teenagers for teenagers as part of the Read On project, is dedicated to "real fiction", i.e. fiction that tells us stories that are particularly relevant today. Those responsible for the selection process will be talking to some of the published authors and to the public of young readers in an event that promises sparks that will ignite the passion for literature.

Marie-Aude Murail will speak in French, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

RADIO HELSINKI (SEE P. 6-7)

episode 3 - A dark portrait

hosted by **Luca Scarlini**

11:00 **RADIO**

Nordic noir is an ongoing success, attracting readers from all over the world with tales that often have a strong social critique. The city provides the setting for dark, mysterious events, where the apparent perfection of a social system reveals its flaws, duplicities and unfathomable ambiguities.

6 5 GOOD TO MEET YOU, LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

Ruth Padel with **Paola Splendore**

14:30 **PALAZZO DELLA RAGIONE** €7

"You spend your mornings composing, / throwing away old drafts in crumpled balls, / then plunge into veins of forest". In *Beethoven Variations*, poet, classicist and environmentalist Ruth Padel traces some of the major and minor events in the musician's life, through letters, diaries and biographies. Drawing on the repertoire of both the better and lesser-known circumstances of his life, Padel describes details, encounters, failures in love, moments of crisis and exaltation, offering us an intimate and tragic portrait of the musician with the essentiality that only poetry can aspire to. The thread running through the collection is the author's pilgrimage to the artist's places in Bonn, Vienna, Berlin, Prague and the banks of the Rhine. Ruth Padel will be talking to the editor Paola Splendore.

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

6 7 FANFICTION OF REALITY

Louise O'Neill with **Alice Torreggiani**

14:45 **DIOCESAN MUSEUM** €7

READ ON - FANFICTION LAB

Once again Read On is challenging teenagers to grab a pen and become fanfiction writers themselves. With an invitation to produce original stories inspired by already existing works, the remit is to imagine new characters, settings and adventures for them. This time, Irish writer and journalist Louise O'Neill has generously made her stories available to the Read On Fanfiction Lab so that her writings can provide the raw material for countless others. From the horrifying dystopia of *Only Ever Yours*, to the all too realistic story of *Asking For It*, to the re-writing of a well-known Andersen fairy tale in *The Surface Breaks*: O'Neill's voice is powerful and unmistakable, and her attention to important contemporary issues, feminism included, ever present. She will be talking about her novels, writing and fanfiction with Alice Torreggiani. Will the young fanwriters also find their voice?

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

ages 14 to 19



6 8 A MACABRE PORTEGNA DANCE

Mariana Enriquez with **Luca Scarlini**

14:45 **PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO** €7

Roberto Arlt's streets of madness, Julio Cortázar's surreal bestiaries, Alejandra Pizarnik's bloodthirsty legends: all the dark moods of the best Argentinean literature, every restless pulsation on the edge of the supernatural inveigles its way into Mariana Enriquez's prose, with its chronicles of misery and drug addiction, its grim tales of burnt girls, obsessions of death, past and present spectres that torment the sleep of the people of Buenos Aires. From the disturbing stories in *Things We Lost in the Fire* to the terrors of the novel *Our Part of the Night*, winner of the 2019 Herralde Prize, the South American author's literary work is a macabre dance performed with her magnetic author and Luca Scarlini, one of the best *tangueros* of the Gothic barrio. Mariana Enriquez will be appearing by video link.

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

7 1 WHERE IS OLGA GOING?

Anete Melece

16:00 **CASA DEL MANTEGNA** €7

travel fantasy workshop

Olga is a gentle soul who lives in a newspaper kiosk where she sells cigarettes, lollipops and crisps. Stuck in her kiosk in the evening after work, she dreams of faraway worlds while leafing through travel magazines. Can you guess where her imagination takes her? Anete Melece, the award-winning author of *The Kiosk* (book and animated film), will be encouraging children to draw the woodlands, beaches and planets Olga dreams of flying to in search of a more exciting life.

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

7 4 THE WORKING CLASS DOESN'T GO TO HEAVEN

Anne Case and **Angus Deaton** with **Alberto Magnani**

16:45 **PIAZZA CASTELLO** €7



At the end of the 19th century, Emile Durkheim, one of the founding fathers of sociology, demonstrated through his famous study on suicide that sometimes the way we die can tell us a lot about the society we lived in. In the same spirit, two leading economists, Anne Case and Nobel Memorial Prize winner, Sir Angus Deaton, set out to investigate what lies behind the rise in suicides and drug and alcohol-related deaths (so-called 'deaths of despair') among the white American working class. What they discovered reveals the inexorable deterioration of the living conditions of that section of society long considered 'the backbone of America'. While some of the causes are specifically American, others concern the entire Western world: the disappearance of millions of industrial jobs due to globalisation and automation, the widening gap between the poor and the rich, between graduates and non-graduates, between the centre and the suburbs and, ultimately, the crumbling of an entire economic and value system on which the social pact was based for decades. In dialogue with the authors of *Deaths of Despair* - connected by video link - will be the journalist Alberto Magnani (*Le due Italie*).

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

ages 6 to 9



7 5 CONSCIENCES, EMOTIONS, INTELLIGENCES

Joseph LeDoux and Giorgio Vallortigara with Matteo De Giuli

16:45 AULA MAGNA OF THE UNIVERSITY €7

Fear is at the basis of the survival instinct and is probably one of the responses of our brain that has connected us to other animals since ancient times. But what evolutionary similarities and divergences underlie the development of our minds? What led us to define ourselves as sentient and emotional, thus distinguishing us from other creatures? For some, the answer lies in the complexity of the nervous system; according to neuroscientist Giorgio Vallortigara (*Thoughts of the fly with the crooked head*), however, "the neurological surplus in humans serves memory stores and not the processes of thought and consciousness". His colleague and expert on emotional states Joseph LeDoux (*The Deep History of Ourselves: The Four-Billion-Year Story of How We Got Conscious Brains*) – who will be connected by live video link – also believes that emotions are not unconscious defence mechanisms, but "an advanced state in the development of the human species". The two scientists will take us on a journey spanning billions of years, from the simplest organisms to the most recent theories, in an attempt to shed light on one of the mysteries of life. Matteo De Giuli, who writes for several on-line scientific publications, will host the event.

Joseph LeDoux will speak in English, with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

9 2 WRITING ABOUT THE WAR IN SYRIA

Olga Grjasnowa and Hala Kodmani with Francesca Caferri

21:15 AULA MAGNA OF THE UNIVERSITY €7

Ten years have passed since the start of the Syrian crisis and the ensuing civil war, but the situation in Syria has certainly not calmed down, with tragic humanitarian consequences and hundreds of thousands of refugees still stranded in Turkey. Damascus reporter Hala Kodmani has been documenting these dramatic events for some time for the French daily *Libération* and has recently published a book (*La Syrie Promise*) (The Promised Syria) that serves as a reflection on the past century of socio-political history in her home country. On the Festival stage she will meet the German-Azeri writer Olga Grjasnowa, who has described Syria's current vicissitudes in her novel *Gott ist nicht schüchtern* (God is not shy), in a literary exchange that will provide an opportunity to retrace the path that led from the end of colonialism to the season of Bashar al-Assad's regime and the Arab Spring, "an hour of fresh air in a land that is and will long remain a prison". Journalist Francesca Caferri will be conversing with the two authors.

Olga Grjasnowa will speak in German, Hala Kodmani in French, both with consecutive interpretation into Italian.

In collaboration with the Institut français Italia and the Goethe-Institut Mailand (Milan).

9 4 A STONE THROWN INTO THE POND OF LOGIC

Daniel Kahneman and Olivier Sibony with Elisabetta Tola

21:30 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO €7

We often hear the old expression 'to err is human' and numerous studies have been carried out on cognitive bias. However, if we move from analysing the individual to analysing complex systems, we discover that decision-making processes escape the principles of logic and rationality more often than we might expect. Noise is to blame, acting like a sort of fog that is not only an obstacle to scientific research, but has tangible consequences in the fields of justice, finance, medicine and work. Israeli psychologist Daniel Kahneman (*Thinking Slow and Fast*), winner of the 2002 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics, will be discussing the question by video link, with Olivier Sibony, co-author with him (and Cass R. Sunstein) of the book *Noise: A Flaw in Human Judgment. A defect in human reasoning, giving examples of the ways in which this problem manifests itself in everyday life*. The authors will be joined by journalist Elisabetta Tola.

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

In collaboration with the Institut français Italia and with the contribution of the Cultural Office of the Israeli Embassy in Italy.

Mynet

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 to the general public 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 (archivio.festivaletteratura.it) and enjoyed one by one. And you can expect a treasure trove of further surprises – videos, photos, graphic art and related material, all providing a vivid record of an adventure that's still in full swing after almost twenty-five years.

ARCHIVE STATISTICS: 24 editions / almost 6.000 events / more than 4.000

national and international guests / more than 200 locations in the city / more than

3.700 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 240.000 analogue and digital photos / more than

3.000 analogue and digital videos.

Festivaletteratura Archives / Via Accademia 47, Mantova / 0376223989. To make an appointment or consult material contact: archivio@festivaletteratura.it / archivio.festivaletteratura.it

archiui

The Festivaletteratura digital archive and the Odonymy (street name) project have 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**.

SATURDAY

11

2021

SEPTEMBER

9 8 WHERE IS OLGA GOING? (SEE N. 71)

Anete Melece

10:00 CASA DEL MANTEGNA €7

ages 6 to 9



📺 PANORAMA INTERNAZIONALE (SEE P. 6-7)

MARCEGAGLIA

episode 4

guest **Sara Mesa**; hosts **Elsa Riccadonna**

10:05 RADIO

In this episode, *Panorama Internazionale* features writer and poet Sara Mesa, one of the most interesting voices in contemporary Spanish fiction. In her latest novel *Un amor*, she reflects on how language can become an element of exclusion rather than communication and cohesion. Nat, a translator who has recently arrived in a small town in a rugged part of Spain, knows this well. After a good start, she discovers how the strained relationships with those around her create stark and alienating distances. How much can what we communicate change the course of an entire life? This is just one of the philosophical questions addressed in this episode.

The author will speak in Spanish, with voice over interpretation in Italian. A podcast of the interview in the original language will be available by the end of September.

1 0 1 DO FAIR-MINDED MEN EXIST?

Ivan Jablonka with **Stefano Ciccone** and **Rosella Prezzo**

10:30 AULA MAGNA OF THE UNIVERSITY €7

This is the question the writer and essayist Ivan Jablonka poses to his peers in *Des hommes justes*. From patriarchy to new masculinities, men have fought all kinds of battles, except the one for equality of the sexes. They have dreamt of all kinds of emancipation, except that of women. With few exceptions, they have adapted to the patriarchal functioning of society. They have always benefited from it. But now some of them are calling on the male part of humanity to take responsibility for what has happened and Jablonka, one of them, tries to point out the ways forward for the 'new men'. Discussing the issue with the author are philosopher Rosella Prezzo and Stefano Ciccone (*Maschi in crisi? Oltre la frustrazione e il rancore*).

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

In collaboration with the Institut français Italia.

1 0 2 I WANT TO BE A WRITER

Susie Morgenstern with **Bianca Pitzorno**

10:30 CASA DEL MANTEGNA €7

An American born in New Jersey, Susie Morgenstern lives in Nice and loves travelling. Her books have won an incredible number of awards and children, teenagers and adults love them because they always manage to entertain and surprise, tackling themes that concern us all such as school, family, love and friendship. Gifted with a keen imagination and humour, the author of *Love Letters from 0 to 10* reviews her career and adventurous life with her fellow-writer and friend Bianca Pitzorno who, like her, has readers of all ages. And we thought we'd heard it all!

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



LAVORAZIONE POLIETILENE

ADULTS AND CHILDREN age 7 up

SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

RADIO HELSINKI (SEE P. 6-7)

episode 4 - *Stories of a crossroads*

hosted by **Luca Scarlini**

11:00 RADIO

In northern Finland there is a third soul, that of the Sami people. The country also has three main languages, although recent migration to Helsinki, especially from the countries of the old Soviet bloc, has brought its own stories.

1 0 3 EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES

Katherine Rundell with **Marco Magnone**

11:00 DIOCESAN MUSEUM €7

After participating last year in a fascinating event by video link on the relationship between adults and children's books, Katherine Rundell is finally coming to Mantova to meet her many young Italian readers. The award-winning British author, who has lived in Africa and Europe, will talk about how she creates the hugely original characters who successfully organise a cunning heist to right a wrong in New York (*The Good Thieves*), return wolves to their habitat (*The Wolf Wilder*) and leap across roofs (*Rooftoppers*). She talks about the imagery of her stories with Marco Magnone, who is also a great adventure storyteller (*Berlin, I segreti di acqua morta*).

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

1 0 4 THESIS, PROsthESIS, SYNTHESIS

Slavoj Žižek with **Mauro Carbone**

11:00 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7 



The age of hyperconnection and transhuman dreams would seem to be no place for old Hegel, unless a philosopher takes his revolutionary insights and restores them to the centre of the debate, proving their resilience in the face of eager market utopias and futures subject to the rule of machines and algorithms. Slavoj Žižek is no stranger to speculative ventures of this kind: after having penned a far-sighted philosophical diary on the pandemic era (*Virus*), in

Hegel in a Wired Brain – the basis of his dialogue with Mauro Carbone (*I poteri degli schermi*) –, the Slovenian thinker has resorted to the light of dialectics to illuminate an era in which the relationship between mental processes and digital devices is becoming increasingly close. The far from sci-fi hypothesis of a wired brain is perhaps heralding the most Hegelian century ever and raising new, pressing questions about our freedom.

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

RADIOACTIVE WASTE (SEE P. 6-7)

episode 3 - *Fish jaws and salami slicing*

hosted by **eXtemporanea**

guests **Matthieu Barbier** and **Marcello Dalmonte**

13:00 RADIO

Nothing gets thrown away in research! A few centuries ago, natural philosophers used to communicate their discoveries through short, encrypted anagrams. Today, on the other hand, we are witnessing an uncontrolled growth in the production of scientific articles, to the point of slicing up an article that is perhaps not particularly substantial into several small articles to multiply publications. How can we rethink the criteria and methods for sharing and spreading research? We'll be taking a look at some new publishing experiences taking shape within the scientific community.

The author will speak in English, with voice over interpretation in Italian. A podcast of the interview in the original language will be available by the end of September.

age  up

 MARCEGAGLIA

 Unipol GRUPPO

 ecology SYSTEM

1 1 1 A SEA OF INTELLIGENCE

Peter Godfrey-Smith with **Ferdinando Boero**

14:45 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO €7 

Many people will have been amazed by the numerous videos on the web documenting the fascinating behaviour of octopuses and cuttlefish. They seem to display a highly developed intelligence that we usually attribute only to mammals. The Australian philosopher of science and writer Peter Godfrey-Smith (*Other Minds, Metazoa*) has been described as 'a diver immersed in science' and has long taken his readers on virtual voyages to the depths of the sea to discover the neural, biological and social systems of life forms far removed from modern humans. The issue of consciousness is a tricky one; we find it hard to attribute it to species that are phylogenetically close to us, and the field of investigation becomes even more mysterious if we examine the more distant evolutionary branches. Together with zoologist Ferdinando Boero (*The Ecology of Beauty*), Godfrey-Smith – via video streaming – will illustrate his undersea journey in search of the process of 'conscious experience' in the animal mind.

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

1 1 2 ADVENTURING INTO FAIRY TALES

Marie-Aude Murail with **Alessia Napolitano**

15:00 CASA DEL MANTEGNA €7

The great French writer meets her youngest readers to venture into the enchantment of fairy tales, which are always timeless and speak to children all over the world. There is no shortage of adventure, bravery, the sea, kings and queens and, as always, it is the youngest who unpick the tightest knots.

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

5 3 3 WHY YOU SHOULD READ CHILDREN'S BOOKS, EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE SO OLD AND WISE

Katherine Rundell

16:00 TENDA SORDELLO *free admission with reservation*  

accents



The best children's books – like *Pinocchio* – are a compacting and compressing of huge ideas into a small space. They are an act of distillation: literary vodka. Katherine Rundell will tell us why children's books should be read by everyone, of every age, up until the day we die, and of the importance of imagination and play in the adult world for political and social change. She will talk about how children's books are a way to turn the key in the ignition of the adult heart.

The author will speak in English without interpretation.

FRONTIERS (SEE P. 6-7)

episode 3 - *Agadez*

guests **Ibrahim Manzo Diallo** and **Giacomo Zandonini**; hosted by **Christian Elia**

16:00 RADIO

Can an entire city be a border? In the case of Agadez, in Niger, the answer is yes. Agadez has become a sort of transit station for an entire section of humanity on its way to the shores of the Mediterranean. A changed city that has become a land of passage, where thousands of lives remain entangled. We will be discussing the question with Giacomo Zandonini, a freelance journalist, and Ibrahim Manzo Diallo, head of Radio Sahara FM and the Air Info website.

The author will speak in French, with voice over interpretation in Italian. A podcast of the interview in the original language will be available by the end of September.

TECNOLOGIE
IT FOR YOUR BUSINESS

ages  7 to  9

 **Tea** gruppo
il futuro è sostenibile

SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

1 2 6 MOROCCO IS A LITERARY OBJECT

Fouad Laroui with Bruno Gambarotta

18:30 PALAZZO DELLA RAGIONE €7

"When I was studying mathematics, my professors used to talk about the elegance of the demonstration. The shorter and more effective the demonstration, the more elegant it was considered. For me, this is a definition that also applies to storytelling", explained Fouad Laroui (*La Vieille Dame du Riad, Les Tribulations Du Dernier Sijlmassi, The Curious Case of Dassoukine's Trousers*) in an interview in 2013. It is not surprising, then, that the novels of this Moroccan writer, university lecturer and economist often revolve around the question of attention to language and language as an engine of misunderstandings, encounters and amusing semantic games. Born in Morocco, in Oujda, but living in Amsterdam, Laroui uses the distance from his North African literary reality as a source of inspiration to strengthen the union between different cultures, whose stereotypes and preconceived categories he applies his powerful sense of humour to deconstruct, "questioning the roots of today's division between East and West". He will be sharing his thoughts with Bruno Gambarotta.

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

DUE PUNTI (SEE P. 6-7)

episode 4 - In the Name of the Mother

guests Mónica Ojeda and Antiniska Pozzi, hosted by Silvia Righi

18:30 RADIO

Mónica Ojeda's latest novel, *Mandibula* (Jawbone), focuses on the "white horror" of adolescence and the morbid relationship between mothers and daughters, faces of woman that dialogue according to a code of desire and violence. The author's two collections of poetry, *El ciclo de las piedras* and *Historia de la leche*, also deal with the same themes. The shadow of an all-encompassing and violent motherhood is also present in the verses of Antiniska Pozzi, a translator and novelist herself (*Per essere chiari*), who in her latest collection of poems, *Un nome di strega*, uses the devices of Greek tragedy to recount the legacy of an evil that is transmitted from mother to daughter, through three generations of women.

The author will speak in English, with voice over interpretation in Italian. A podcast of the interview in the original language will be available by the end of September.

1 2 9 CREATING ANTIBODIES IN SOCIETY

Rebecca Solnit with Marina Terragni

19:00 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7 



Since the 1980s, the American writer and activist Rebecca Solnit has used words as a tool to give space to the oppressed, minorities and the invisible in society. Described by the New York Times as "the voice of resistance", the Connecticut-born author has dealt with a wide range of topics in her work, from the all-too-common and tiresome phenomenon of mansplaining (*Men Explain Things to Me*) to the behaviour of communities during disasters (*A Paradise Built in Hell*) or the misleading use of communication in centres of power (*Call Them by their True Names*). In a conversation by video link with journalist and writer Marina Terragni, Solnit will look back at her battles for a fairer world and against gender-based violence - as she has done in her recent memoir *Recollections of my non-existence* -, in the knowledge that although she does not claim to be an optimist she will never lack hope, the driving force that "pushes her to write to remind people that by acting, things can be changed".

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

Unicollege



Alleanza 3.0

1 3 0 JOURNEYS TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH

Robert Macfarlane with Davide Longo

19:15 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO €7 

When an author such as Robert Macfarlane (*The Ancient Ways, Mountains of the Mind, the recent Underland*) takes us to a place on the planet, geography, narrative and adventure converge in an invaluable sense of surprise and in maps of unprecedented beauty, especially in relation to times and spaces that we take for granted, or with which we are perhaps unfamiliar. In each of his explorations, Macfarlane crosses high peaks, cities, forests, moors and remote islands, deciphering the layers of past and present inscribed in these places and using every field of art and knowledge to interpret them. He will be talking by video link with colleague and mountain enthusiast Davide Longo about his latest work: an exploration of burial mounds, underground rivers, invisible cities, sea caves and other wonderful presences hidden in the belly of the earth, "a connection that brings, more than anything else, joy".

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

5 3 8 READ ON - BLURANDEVÙ

Marie-Aude Murail

21:00 DIOCESAN MUSEUM free admission with reservation

"Young readers don't want to be protected, they need the honesty not to hide things and the will to leave a little hope". And Marie-Aude Murail has never hidden anything from children. Her novels - *Oh Boy, Miss Charity, Cécile, Simple* to name but a few of the most universally loved - speak of death, sexuality and personal traumas, without rhetoric or pretence, but with an extraordinary grace and humour that make even the most painful themes tolerable without losing intensity. Born into a family in which writing was second nature (her father was a poet, her mother a journalist), she has always preferred to write for the young. And her interviewers on this occasion will be very young indeed, educated at the 'strict' blurandevù academy.

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

1 3 2 IMAGES THAT EMERGE FROM THE PAGES

Peter Mendelsund with Riccardo Falcinelli

21:15 AULA MAGNA OF THE UNIVERSITY €7 

When we read a book, images form in our minds that represent the way our thoughts depict what is flowing before our eyes. Yet it is almost impossible for the same images to reach the different readers; each of us personalises the scene through an act of visual substitution, more or less developed according to whether what we are reading deals with real or imaginary things. But how are these 'mental sketches' constructed? By analysing famous texts and the thoughts of philologists, semiologists and writers, the designer and critic Peter Mendelsund (*What We See When We Read*) has reflected on the act of reading and how imagination and memory influence us. Together with graphic designer Riccardo Falcinelli (*Cromorama, Figure*) the author - connected by video link - will question why "we colonise books with what is familiar to us".

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



dal 1969
L'aiuto di casa



Alleanza 3.0



TEXTILE EXPERIENCE

1 3 3 THE MAD DREAMS OF REASON

Benjamin Labatut with Chiara Valerio

21:15 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7  




We are used to thinking of the sciences – whether we are talking about mathematics, physics or chemistry – as a field of study dominated by logic and belonging to the sphere of rationality, when, very often, delving into the unknown requires a leap into uncharted territories and therefore almost as disturbing as a Lovecraftian horror. Benjamin Labatut (*When We Cease to Understand the World*) recounts in his works the life on the fringe of revolutionary scientists, whose research has walked the line between the occult and reason, linking psychedelic experiences to scientific progress. As Robert Anton Wilson wrote: "If you go into that realm without the sword of reason, you will lose your mind, but at the same time, if you take only the sword of reason without the cup of sympathy, you will lose your heart. Even more remarkably, if you approach without the wand of intuition, you can stand at the door for decades". Connected by video link, the young Chilean author will talk about the price the human mind has to pay when important epiphanies emerge, together with the writer and mathematician Chiara Valerio.

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



ANTHOLOGY

After the first two volumes on short stories and love comes *Anthology!2021 – real fiction*. A collection of novels, short stories and graphic novels that teenage readers have chosen from among those they felt were most relevant to their lives. This new volume will be launched at an event hosted by **Simonetta Bitasi** and will be an occasion for the "anthologised" authors present at the Festival, including **Benedetta Bonfiglioli** and **Marie-Aude Murail**, to meet the editorial staff who compiled the anthology. (ev. **6 1**).


With the generous support of  HERA

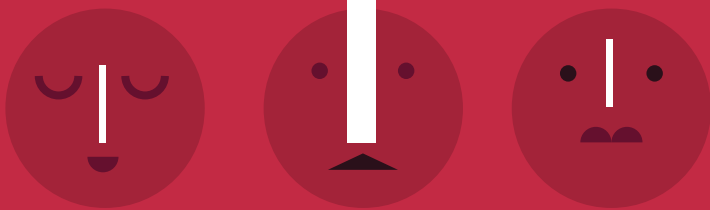
MY LIFE IN STRIPS

An open-air exhibition of the winning cartoons from the last two editions of the competition – 2020 (which could not take place due to restrictions) and 2021 – will be on show in the picturesque passageway between Piazza Leon Battista Alberti and Piazza Mantegna. To add extra flair, **Alice Torreggiani** will be hosting three well-known cartoonists, **Assia Petricelli**, **Sergio Riccardi** and **Emanuele Rosso**, as they discuss the works of the young artists who have reached the final round of the competition, sharing tips with them on how to write and draw comics, in a collective lesson open to all (ev. **5 1 0**). Finally, **Assia Petricelli** and **Sergio Riccardi** will host **Ultime strisce dal Festival** (Last Strips from the Festival), a five-day graphic journalism workshop, in which aspiring young cartoonists will set up a comic press agency with the task of reporting daily on the Festival (ev. **2**).

READ MORE

Twenty minutes reading what you like at school every day – these are the golden rules of Read More, an activity designed to start and foster the habit of reading that since 2017 has involved hundreds of girls and boys from all over Italy. The enthusiasm the initiative has garnered over the years from pupils, teachers and parents has convinced us to not to stop. This is the moment then to announce that Read More will continue for at least another two years thanks to the project, supported by Fondazione Cariplo, "The 6 stages of reading – I read, I know, I compare, I grow, I question, I need it [repeat]" in which Festival-etteratura is a partner of the Municipality of Mantova and Cooperativa Charta.

With the generous support of  FONDAZIONE CARIPLO



READ N

Started in 2017, the European READ ON project has been a hotbed of activities aimed at sparking and nurturing a passion for reading in youngsters aged 12 to 19 by getting them directly involved. In the Festival's final READ ON project (which will officially close at the end of 2021), there will once again be numerous events for young readers.



Co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union

readon@festaletteratura.it
readon.eu - festaletteratura.it

SUNDAY

12

2021

SEPTEMBER

1 4 1  STREET NAMES

Deirdre Mask with Andrea Staid

10:00 PALAZZO DELLA REGIONE €7

Where do street names come from? Who decides which ones are worthy of being remembered? "Addressing the world is not a neutral act" argues American lawyer and writer Deirdre Mask in her book *The Address Book: What Street Addresses Reveal about Identity, Race, Wealth, and Power* in which she analyses the social, political and anthropological causes and effects of street names and how they influence the daily lives - and, perhaps, even the destiny - of the local inhabitants. Assigning or changing a street name carries a very different transformative and social weight if it is done in the slums of Calcutta rather than in central London; it can favour access to public health or give rise to heated protests if it is linked to figures with questionable ethics. The author says: "I say that words have consequences, just think of a phrase by the philosopher Henri Lefebvre: 'A revolution that does not produce a new space has not reached its full potential'. If you change a name, everyone will reflect on the reasons why". She will be joined by anthropologist Andrea Staid (*La casa vivente*).

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

1 4 7  DEMOCRACY SAVED BY CARE

Pascale Molinier with Annarosa Buttarelli and Sandra Morano

12:15 AULA MAGNA OF THE UNIVERSITY €7

Pascale Molinier is a social psychologist who has contributed to the creation in France of the psychodynamics of work, an inspiring school for those interested in understanding the consequences of changes in labour relations. In particular, the author, in her book *Le travail du Care* shows how care relationships, considered to be among the humblest, are complex and require great intelligence - indeed inversely proportional to their remuneration. She proposes to transform social forms through the paradigm of care giving, as part of the democratic revolution initiated by women. She will be discussing the topic with the philosopher Annarosa Buttarelli and gynaecologist Sandra Morano.

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

In collaboration with the Institut français Italia.

5 4 6  MY (DREAM) LIFE AS A MIDFIELDER

Colum McCann

14:00 TENDA SORDELLO *free admission with reservation*  

accents



Colum McCann's father was a professional goalkeeper for Charlton Athletic in England in the early 1950s, but it turned out that his father was a better writer than he was a footballer. Sean McCann became a journalist back in his hometown of Dublin. Still, he took his young son Colum from Dublin to England to watch matches... and a love of this beautiful game was born. Colum never supported any of the big teams but instead fell in love with Stoke City. All his life he has remained a Stoke City fan. Today he will answer the question that everybody asks him: "Stoke City - why, why, why?"

The author will speak in English, without interpretation.

With the contribution of Literature Ireland.

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IN SAFE HANDS


il futuro è sostenibile

SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

1 4 9 MAPS ON A HUMAN SCALE

Kapka Kassabova with Christian Elia

15:00 AULA MAGNA OF THE UNIVERSITY €7 

"The leitmotif of Border's journey," Christian Elia remarked of one of Kapka Kassabova's most inspiring books, 'is the layering. Languages, identities, passports, barriers overlap, and change. Just as the names of the people on the border change, even three times in a lifetime'. Understanding anthropic spaces that are only known for the disasters that scar them requires an effort of complexity and empathy, accompanied by the challenging of points that are taken for granted but which are highly volatile. Kapka Kassabova has often chosen narrative reportage, not without frequent forays into memoir, to capture the essence of places such as the border between Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria, or two ancient lakes close to that fluctuating crossroads of peoples. Her childhood memories, growing up east of the Iron Curtain, always end up intersecting the lives of border guards, refugees and other human beings who inhabit those same spaces and cross them today, negotiating borders that are still militarised, and which the author - by video link - will be discussing with the co-director of Q Code Magazine.

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

1 5 1 A PERUVIAN FRESCO

Santiago Roncagliolo with Maurizio Matrone

15:00 DIOCESAN MUSEUM €7

"I have used my personal experience to give my books a real setting taken from the place where I grew up: a fragmented country, in conflict, a country that is the perfect setting to tell the story of the loss of innocence [...] The fall of utopias in the 1990s produced a vacuum of hope in the world, the feeling that nothing could change." This is how Santiago Roncagliolo, a Peruvian writer living in Barcelona, described the inspiration that a Peru long marked by civil war helped to bring into his work. While we have all heard of Sendero Luminoso, *desplazados* or Alberto Fujimori through the writings of the Lima-born author (*Creecer es un oficio triste*, *Red April* - which won him the prestigious Premio Alfaguara de Novela - or *La noche de los alfileres*) we can immerse ourselves in the lesser-known, everyday events of a country that Roncagliolo describes with realism and humour. The author will be discussing the noir, popular culture and literary tradition together with the writer Maurizio Matrone.

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

1 5 2 THE ARCHAEOLOGIST'S JOB

Eric H. Cline with Christian Greco

15:30 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO €7 

The most famous archaeologist in popular culture, Harrison Ford's Indiana Jones, used to say in a peremptory tone: "That belongs in a museum!". Not all his real-life colleagues have had the same media attention, although the names of some - Champollion, Carter, Schliemann - are reverently remembered as the real rock stars of 'antiquity studies'. Now that the era of the grand expeditions is perhaps over and the names of Herculaneum, Pompeii or Crete are often confined to the history books, what are the prospects for future archaeologists? How does the job relate to the present day, when the technologies of remote sensing, radiocarbon dating and DNA analysis provide extremely precise information for scholars? The director of the Egyptian Museum of Turin, Christian Greco, will discuss these issues with the world-renowned historian and archaeologist Eric H. Cline (*Three Stones Make a Wall. The Story of archaeology* and the recent *Digging deeper*), who - via streaming - will speculate on the paths that archaeological science might take in the coming years. Where will the most unexpected surprises be found?

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





1 5 3 A FACTORY OF ... JOKERS

Susie Morgenstern with Vera Salton

16:00 CASA DEL MANTEGNA €7

A joker for being late for school, a joker for not doing your homework, a joker for sleeping in class, a joker for copying from your desk mate, a joker for... Come and make your own deck of jokers - indispensable for school and elsewhere - with Susie Morgenstern, one of the world's best-loved authors (*Joker*, *The Pink Suitcase*, *Princesses are People too*, *Secret Letters from O to 10*), and an expert on how to get through life at school. Together with Vera Salton, she will make us laugh and think and of course come up with a long list of jokers!

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

1 5 6 NATURE IN WORDS

Andri Snær Magnason and Luca Mercalli with Tullio Avoledo

16:45 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7 



Writing about nature in the present tense is usually tantamount to declaring a disaster, but it has not always been so. For millennia, nature has inspired our best words and been at the centre of our finest songs. The transformation that is affecting entire ecosystems and threatening the survival of thousands of species thus seems to reaffirm a semantic crisis, even before the climatic one.

In the works of writers and activists such as Andri Snær Magnason (*On Time and Water*) and climatologists such as Luca Mercalli (*Salire in montagna*), the scientific evidence overwhelmingly highlights man's damage to the environment, but also the enormous cultural loss brought about by the disappearance of the glaciers and sanctuaries of biodiversity. The meeting between the two authors and Tullio Avoledo - who has written more than one novel in which a nature wronged plays a central role -, moves along the bumpy path of reappropriation of meaning, in which science, narration and myth stipulate new alliances for a language of the future adapted to suit the environment.

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

With the contribution of Miðstöðvar íslenskra bókmennta /Icelandic Literature Center.

1 5 8 RESURRECTION FROM OBLIVION

Marija Stepanova with Wlodek Goldkorn

17:15 AULA MAGNA OF THE UNIVERSITY €7

If Nobel Prize winner Joseph Brodsky said that the only things politics and poetry have in common are the letters P and O, the poet, essayist and journalist Marija Stepanova (*The Women's Locker Room*) points out that there is also a third word to add: post-memory. Always critical of her country's institutions, the Moscow-born writer sees poetry as an instrument of inner resistance, capable of giving not only balance but also immortality. It is precisely to the idea of the perpetuation of remembering that Stepanova dedicates the reflection underlying her meta-novel *Memory of Memory*, almost a documentary in which the author "makes the dead her co-authors", giving voice to her family's past through a vast archive of material. As in her previous works, personal and collective history mingle across the pages, in which even the smallest details can transport the reader into Russia's common past. She will be joined by journalist Wlodek Goldkorn (*L'asino del Messia*).

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

ages  8 to  10



1 6 3 THE REVOLUTION IS UNDERSTANDING THE OTHER

Colum McCann with Gabriele Romagnoli

18:30 PIAZZA CASTELLO €7 ▶



So says Colum McCann (*TransAtlantic, Let the Great World Spin, This Side of Brightness*) when interviewed about his latest work (*Apeirogon*), a novel in which the real-life accounts of two fathers who have lost their daughters causes him to shift the axis of the story from the streets of New York to those of the violence-torn Middle East. Whether there is a need to reconstruct the fragile relations between Israelis and Palestinians or to depict real events linked to his native Ireland or to New York City, where he lives today, the Dublin writer has always been able to masterfully blend his own imagination with carefully documented research into historical facts. Fiction/non-fiction is one of McCann's hallmarks, as his voice blends with those of his characters, capturing multiple points of view to achieve what he considers to be his main objective: the search for sincerity in writing. After over ten years, the author returns to Mantova, joined on stage by journalist and writer Gabriele Romagnoli (*Solo bagaglio a mano, Cosa faresti se*).

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

With the contribution of Literature Ireland.

MARCEGAGLIA

ASSOCIAZIONE **Filofestival**

Mantova-based Associazione Filofestival (Friends of Festivaletteratura) 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 over 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 up-to-date news about Festivaletteratura by e-mail. Other **benefits are special discounts** on Festival tickets and **early bird booking**. Annual membership costs only € 25, € 15 for 13-to-25-year-olds, € 10 for under-12s, 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 2021 online (www.festivaletteratura.it), by credit card, **until 20 August**. If you are in Mantova, you can enrol in person until 19 August at the Festival offices (Via Castiglioni, 4) or the Libreria Coop Nautilus bookshop (Piazza 80° Fanteria, 19). Payments by postal order end 30 June.



SUPPORT FESTIVALETTERATURA

Since the very first edition, Festivaletteratura has received the support of **private companies, cultural institutes and businesses** that have recognised the spirit of the event and wanted to work alongside the organisers to offer a festival of literature to an increasingly large audience. Local and national companies find in Festivaletteratura an opportunity to link their brand to a lively initiative that has continued to fascinate for twenty-five years. To find out how to become a supporter, send an email to sponsor@festivaletteratura.it.

CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

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INFORMATION

For up-to-date information, the Festival website 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 the **secretariat** (tel. 0376 223989), registering for sms updates on **sms informa**, using the Festivaletteratura **app**, or by sending an **email** to info@festivaletteratura.it

The **Information Point** in **Piazza Sordello** will be open during the whole of the Festival. **Tourist information** can be obtained from Infopoint in Mantova - piazza Mantegna, 6 (tel. 0376.432432, info@turismo.mantova.it; www.turismo.mantova.it): from Monday to Thursday, 9.00 → 19.00; Friday and Saturday, 9.00 → 20.00; Sunday, 9.00 → 19.00

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8 - 12 September:

Festivaletteratura press room
Piazza Leon Battista Alberti Mantova
tel. 351.6564754

SMS INFORMA

Receive Festivaletteratura sms updates (in Italian) on your mobile phone. Festivaletteratura activates a free sms update service for all events on the programme.

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 12 September 2021. 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

THE 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.



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FESTIVAL BOOKSHOP 2021 WITH LIBRERIE.COOP

In collaboration with Cooperativa Librai Mantovani and with grateful acknowledgment of financial support from UNIPOL, the bookshop, in **Piazza Sordello** is open from **Friday 3 September**.

Opening times: 9.30 → 13.00,
15.30 → 23.00. During the Festival, **open non-stop** 9.30 → 24.00.

Books by authors appearing at the Festival will be available at the bookshop and at the authors' events. Info: 0376.360414 (from 9.00 to 19.00)

librerie.coop



RADIO FESTIVALETTERATURA APP

Besides the app with all the programme info, this year **listeners can tune in to Radio Festivaletteratura on their smartphone**. Download free of charge from Apple and Android stores.



FESTIVALETTERATURA ON TELEGRAM

Join Telegram on "Festivaletteratura" on the app, for updates, news and info.

To follow online: t.me/Festivaletteratura

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Keep up with the latest news and share your experiences of Festivaletteratura on Twitter and Instagram with the official hashtag:

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LIST OF FESTIVALE LETTERATURA 2021 SITES:

- 1 Biblioteca Teresiana
- 2 Teatro Bibiena
- 3 Palazzo della Ragione
- 4 Sagrato della Rotonda di San Lorenzo
- 5 Via Goito
- 6 Cinema Oberdan
- 7 Piazza Martiri di Belfiore
- 8 Porto Catena
- 9 Piazza Castello
- 10 Tenda Sordello
- 11 Tenda dei Libri
- 11a Piazza Lega Lombarda
- 12 Museo Diocesano
- 13 la Zanzara
- 14 Aula Magna dell'Università
- 15 Casa del Mantegna
- 16 Palazzo San Sebastiano
- 17 Palazzo Te
- 18 Biblioteca Baratta
- 19 Sponda del lago presso Porta Giulia
- 20 Piazza Unione Europea - Lunetta
- 21 Via Rosselli - Valletta Paiolo
- 22 Via Facciotto - Te Brunetti
- 23 Via Diga Masetti - Valletta Valsecchi
- A Author reception
- B Ticket office, secretariat
- C Press room, web editorial staff
- i info-point
- FB Festival Bookshop
- SB Shuttle bus stop - piazza Sordello
- FS Railway Station



ROUTE 1

piazza Virgiliana,
piazza San Leonardo,
piazza Canossa,
via Nievo/via Oberdan



ROUTE 2

piazza Bazzani,
piazza Martiri di Belfiore,
piazza 80° Fanteria,
Giardini Valentini



GETTING TO MANTOVA AND ABOUT TOWN

(in the most eco-friendly way possible)

In 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 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) or by scanning this QR Code.



→ E-VAI ELECTRIC CAR SHARING

E-Vai offers an electric car sharing service in Lombardy. Download the E-Vai app, register, then just pick up the car from one of the recharging stations and you're good to go. For info: 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 am to midnight 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** (free), **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. Departures from **Campo Canoa** and **PIAZZA VIRGILIANA** car parks. There is no charge for this service, but reservations must be made by Tuesday 7 September. For information and bookings: **0376.360515 - 338.6617278 (Graziella)** from Monday to Friday 9.00-13.00 and 16.00-19.00.

MANTOVA FESTIVAL INTERNAZIONALI

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Read on activities: Alice Torreggiani

Accents presented by Marta Bacigalupo and Lorenzo Pirovano

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

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▲ MANTOVA

8 • 12 september ▲

2021