



PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

Norwich Hosts UK's Premier Gathering of International Writers 16 - 19 June 2015

Writers from eighteen countries, including Brazil, China and Mexico will soon arrive in Norwich for Worlds 2015 - the UK's premier gathering of international writers. This is the 11th annual Worlds Festival to be held in Norwich, the UK's only UNESCO City of Literature. Across the world, Norwich is fast gaining a reputation as a major centre for literary innovation.

Organisers Writers' Centre Norwich (WCN) are keen for as many people as possible to get involved. A programme of public events has been scheduled - many of which are free - to enable everyone interested in writing, new ideas and debate to take part. Nobel Prize winner and acclaimed author JM Coetzee described Worlds last year as 'stimulating from beginning to end'.

Chris Gribble, CEO of Writers' Centre Norwich says:

"It's wonderful to welcome so many talented writers to Norwich and to showcase the city as a world centre for literature - including the UK's most prestigious Creative Writing course at the University of East Anglia and of course our new home Dragon Hall - where we plan to develop a National Centre for Writing".

Award-winning novelist and Turkey's most-read woman writer Elif Shafak will give a public reading, joining novelist, critic and musician Amit Chaudhuri ("like Proust, [he has] perfected the art of the moment" - Hilary Mantel), and biographer, critic and cultural historian - Lucy Hughes-Hallett (winner of the 2014 Samuel Johnson Prize, and the Costa Biography Award for *The Pike*). Also reading is Korean writer Han Kang whose latest book was reviewed by *The Guardian* as 'sentence by sentence, an extraordinary experience'. She says: "I look forward to coming to Norwich and opening my mind to shared conversations about literature".

The four-day programme will be filmed and live tweeted enabling everyone who can't attend in person to follow proceedings online. #Worlds15

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Editor's Notes

1. For comment and photos please contact: Alice Kent, Director of Communications, Writer's Centre Norwich at alice.kent@writerscentrenorwich.org.uk or 01603 877177 or 07779029055
2. Worlds is programmed by Writers' Centre Norwich and made possible with support from the University of East Anglia and Arts Council England. It takes place in Norwich from 16-19 June in Norwich Cathedral Hostry, Dragon Hall, UEA, The Forum and The Book Hive.
3. **Writers' Centre Norwich** is a literature development organisation based in England's first UNESCO City of Literature, Norwich. We are interested in both the artistic and social impact of creative writing, and work with writers, readers and diverse communities on a wide range of ongoing and one-off projects and events. Writers' Centre Norwich recently announced plans to move into Dragon Hall, a medieval merchant's hall, in April 2015. The building will open as a specialist venue for literature – the National Centre for Writing - in 2017. www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk

WORLDS 2015 PUBLIC PROGRAMME

For all free events, people are asked to book their seat by emailing info@writerscentrenorwich.org.uk stating the event they wish to attend, number of seats required, and name and telephone number.

TUESDAY 16 JUNE

11.30am Mamta Sagar and Jack Wang

Norwich Cathedral Hostry. Free, reservation essential (as above).

Join the poet and playwright Mamta Sagar, who writes in the Kannada language of the Southern Indian state of Karnataka, and is the BCLT Charles Wallace India Trust Fellow. She will be joined by Jack Wang, UEA's 2014-15 David T.K. Wong Creative Writing Fellow, who was shortlisted for the 2014 Commonwealth Prize.

4.30pm Cathy Cole, C J Driver

Norwich Cathedral Hostry. Free, reservation essential (as above).

Australian writer, poet and Creative Writing Professor Cathy Cole, joins South African poet, novelist and essayist C J Driver as they read from their work.

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE

11am Krys Lee, Marion Molteno and Kyoko Yoshida

Norwich Cathedral Hostry. Free, reservation essential (as above).

Krys Lee, author of short story collection Drifting House ("Stunning [...] There is a stark beauty to Lee's writing" The Telegraph), novelist and humanitarian Marion Molteno, and short story writer and Japanese to English translator Kyoko Yoshida share their writing.

4.30pm Liz Berry and D W Wilson

Norwich Cathedral Hostry. Free, reservation essential (as above).

Poet and current Brave New Reads writer Liz Berry, and UEA Creative Writing graduate, author and essayist D W Wilson read from their work.

6pm Amit Chaudhuri, Lucy Hughes-Hallett and Anna Funder Join Novelist, critic and musician - Amit Chaudhuri ("like Proust, [he has] perfected the art of the moment" - Hilary Mantel) biographer, critic and cultural historian - Lucy Hughes-Hallett (winner of the 2014 Samuel Johnson Prize, and the Costa Biography Award for *The Pike: Gabriele d'Annunzio - Poet, Seducer and Preacher of War*) and best-selling Australian author Anna Funder for readings of their work. Norwich Cathedral Hostry, £5 BOOK AT: www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk

THURSDAY 18 JUNE

4.30pm Elif Shafak and Vesna Goldsworthy

Join award-winning novelist and Turkey's most-read woman writer - Elif Shafak and Serbian writer, poet and incoming Professor of Creative Writing at UEA, Vesna Goldsworthy ("the most enjoyable fiction I've come across this year" - Financial Times). Dragon Hall, £5 BOOK AT: www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk

7pm UEA Live! featuring Dennison Smith and UEA Creative Writing Students

Café Bar Marzano, The Forum. Free to attend, no booking necessary.

UEA's Creative Writing students are joined by novelist, poet and playwright Dennison Smith as they all read from their work. A great opportunity to hear new voices and the next generation of writers from one of the UK's most prestigious creative writing courses.

FRIDAY 19 JUNE :

11.30am Ana Clavel and Alípio Correia de Franca Neto

Dragon Hall. Free, reservation essential (as above).

Both hailing from Latin America, multimedia artist and novelist Ana Clavel ('A remarkable contemporary Mexican writer whose literary and multimedia oeuvre is marked by its transgressive thrust' - Legenda Books) and translator, essayist and poet Alípio Correia de Franca Neto share their work.

4.30pm Kirsty Gunn, Susan Barker and Dan Richards

Scottish poet and writer Kirsty Gunn ('A masterpiece... I cannot think of a more entirely original, enchanting and enchanted book.' Independent on The Big Music), London-based writer Susan Barker ('An utterly remarkable novel' - Independent on The Incarnations), and Welsh-born writer Dan Richards ('unique and special [...] visually arresting prose.' Independent on Holloway) read from their work.

Dragon Hall, £5 BOOK AT: www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk