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# ilb internationales literaturfestival berlin



## 11.09. Worldwide Reading for Freedom of Expression

The international literature festival berlin [ilb] calls upon individuals, schools, universities, media organizations, and cultural institutions to participate in a Worldwide Reading for Freedom of Expression on 11. September 2019. These readings are especially intended to draw attention to the fate of imprisoned or disappeared authors and human rights activists who are denied these rights due to their respective political circumstances. The call has been supported by more than 100 authors from 40 countries so far. Participating authors include Margaret Atwood, and the Nobel Prize winners Elfriede Jelinek, Wole Soyinka und Orhan Pamuk.

More authors to be welcomed at the 19. ilb in  
Literatures of the World

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**Luiz Ruffato [Brazil]: The Book of Impossibilities**

The novel deals with the end of military dictatorship and the dream of a better world. M: Michael Kegler, S: Friedhelm Ptok [more](#)

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12.09. | 6:00 PM | silent green Kulturquartier | Ticket: 8 € / reduced 6 €

[Tickets](#)

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## Pettina Gappah [Zimbabwe]: Out of Darkness, Shining Light\_Premiere

An unknown piece of African colonial history: the story of David Livingstone, a Scottish explorer of Africa. Following his death in 1873, Livingstone's entourage attempted to return his body to his homeland on a 1,500-mile adventurous journey. »A deep probing of the contradictions and wounds of colonization.« [Library Journal] [more](#)

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**12.09. | 5:30 PM | silent green Kulturquartier | Ticket: 12 € / reduced 8 €**

[Tickets](#)

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## Madame Nielsen [DK]: The Endless Summer

The author, singer, and artist Madame Nielsen tells a story about the game of love, friendship, and art during the era of youth, when the summer seems endless and life is both simple and confusing at the same time. [more](#)

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**14.09. | 6:00 PM | CHB | Ticket: 8 € / reduced 6 €**

[Tickets](#)



### **David Diop [F]: Frère d'âme\_PREMIERE**

This novel is based on a nearly forgotten fact: during World War I, recruits from the colonies also fought in the French army. In his anti-war novel, Diop depicts the devastation of the soldiers' bodies and souls through the fate of Alfa Ndiaye from Senegal. »Like a tornado, this powerful, hypnotic text takes us with it. Breathtaking!« [L'Humanité] [more](#)

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**15.09. | 6 PM | James-Simon-Galerie | Ticket: 12 € / reduced 8 €**

[Tickets](#)

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## Benyamin [INDIA]: Jasmine Days\_PREMIERE

Awarded the Indian »JCB Prize for Literature«, this novel is set during the Arab Spring. A young Pakistani woman who works as a radio presenter in an unspecified country in the Middle East is confronted with religious violence daily. »Benyamin's craft of conversation-driven storytelling succeeds in revealing the tensions in a society starting to unravel.« [The Financial Express] [more](#)

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**16.09. | 7:30 PM | CHB | Ticket: 12 € /reduced 8 €**

[Tickets](#)

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## Sherko Fatah [D]: Schwarzer September\_PREMIERE

Fatah traces the historical origins of the conflicts in the Middle East and shows their effects, including on Western Europe today. »A book on the terrorism of the 1970s [...] At the time it was about a kind of revolutionary élan, today we have arrived in an age of extremely politicized religiosity. I describe all of this as a process that takes place between the 70s and 80s.« [more](#)

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**16.09. | 9:00 PM | James - Simon - Galerie | Ticket: 8 € / reduced 6 €**

[Tickets](#)

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## Karin Tidbeck [S]: Amatka

Vanja is meant to collect information for the government in the wintry colony of Amatka. She immediately feels the strange atmosphere, but prolongs her visit when she falls in love with her roommate Nina. Then she encounters evidence of a threat to the colony and its cover-up, and initiates a risky investigation. [more](#)

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**17.09. | 8:00 PM | Brotfabrik | Ticket: 8 € / reduced 6 €**

[Tickets](#)

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## Manuel Vilas [E]: Ordesa\_PREMIERE

»Ordesa«, Manuel Vilas' most personal novel, is an award-winning bestseller in Spain that is currently being translated into several languages. The highly emotional work on the mystery of life itself is also an intimate chronicle of Spain's recent decades. »One of the most humane, deepest, and most comforting stories I have read in a long time.« [Lorenzo Silva] [more](#)

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**17.09. | 9:00 PM | silent green Kulturquartier | Ticket: 8 € /  
reduced 6 €**

[Tickets](#)

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## Claudio Magris [I]: Snapshots\_PREMIERE

With his literary snapshots, published in honor of his 80th birthday, the winner of the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade captures both poetic and absurd moments of everyday life. [more](#)

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**18.09. | 6:00 PM | James-Simon-Galerie | Ticket: 8 € / reduced 6 €**

[Tickets](#)

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**Makena Onjerika [KENYA]: Fanta  
Blackcurrant\_PREMIERE**

The 2018 Caine Prize winner Onjerika writes about life on the streets of Nairobi and a girl named Meri who, in a world of poverty, prostitution, crime, drug abuse, and violence, has only one simple dream: to quench her thirst with »Fanta Blackcurrant« every day for the rest of her life. »As fierce as they come [...] a narrative that is haunting in its humor, sorrow and intimacy« [Jury of the Caine Prize for African Writing]. [more](#)

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**18.09. | 7:30 PM | CHB | Ticket: 8 € / reduced 6 €**

[Tickets](#)

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## Nicoleta Esinencu [MOLDOVA]: Gospel of Mary/ Apocalypse of Lilith

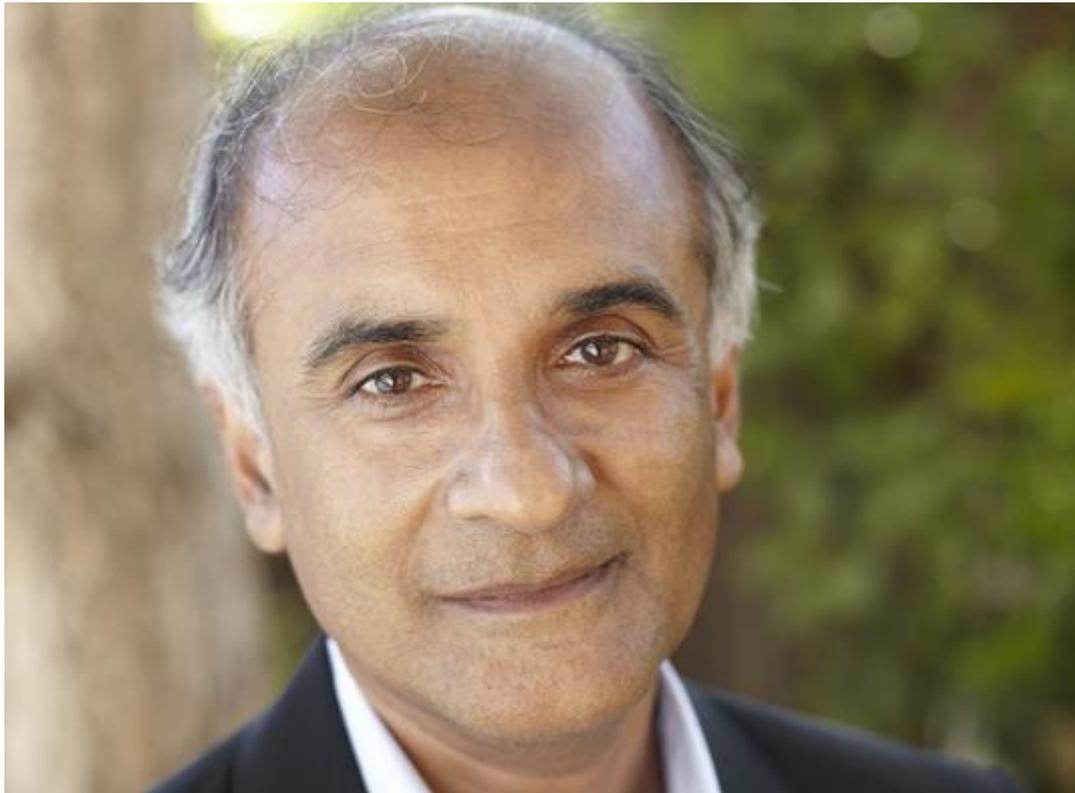
In her plays, the Moldovan author and director reflects on the position of women in Eastern and Western Europe. Starting with female biblical figures, she offers a new perspective on social and cultural heritage and its impact on the present, as well as a glimpse into an apocalyptic future. [more](#)

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**18.09. | 9:00 PM | CHB | Ticket: 8 € / reduced 6 €**

[Tickets](#)

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## Pico Iyer [GB/ USA/ Japan]: Autumn Light\_Premiere

Confronted with the death of his father-in-law in Japan, Pico Iyer poses a fundamental question in »Autumn Light«: How can you hold on to beloved things when you know that both you and those things are mortal? [more](#)

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**21.09. | 9:00 PM | CHB | Ticket: 8 € / reduced 6 €**

[Tickets](#)

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## Michel Faber [NL/ GB]: The Book of Strange New Things

A young pastor takes on the mission of his life: to convert the inhabitants of a distant planet to his faith. As he devotes himself to caring for the spiritual welfare of his new »Jesus Lovers«, he learns of apocalyptic phenomena like natural disasters and civil war on Earth from his wife's weekly emails. [more](#)

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**15.09. | 7:30 PM | Literaturhaus Berlin | Ticket: 8 € /reduced 6 €**

[Tickets](#)

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## Usama Al Shahmani [IRAQ/ CH]: In a Foreign Land the Trees Speak Arabic

Shahmani tells of his escape from Iraq and his arrival in Switzerland. Trees serve as objects of identification, metaphors for uprootedness, surfaces for the projection of a strange world. [more](#)

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**20.09. | 6:00 PM | CHB | Ticket: 8 € / reduced 6 €**

[Tickets](#)

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### Chibundu Onuzo [Nigeria/ GB]: Welcome to Lagos

Five people travel by bus to Nigeria's metropolis: two army deserters, a rebel, a young girl, and a desperate wife. What they all have in common is the dream of a better future. [more](#)

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**20.09. | 21.00 Uhr | silent green Kulturquartier | Ticket: 8 € / reduced 6 €**

[Tickets](#)

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Tash Aw [Malaysia/ GB]: We, The Survivors\_Premiere

In the tradition of Camus and Houellebecq, the novel tells the story of an uneducated man from a Malaysian fishing village who is searching for wealth and security – and who ultimately murders a migrant worker from Bangladesh. [more](#)

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**21.09 | 8:00 PM | CHB | Ticket: 8 € / reduced 6 €**

[Tickets](#)

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### Georgi Gospodinov [Bulgaria]: 8 Minutes and 19 Seconds

In the world of Gospodinov's stories – which lean more towards fantasy than the laws of reality – we meet villagers in the southern Balkans, a child who successively adopts different fathers, and an author in search of an unknown beauty in Lisbon. [more](#)

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**21.09. | 8:00 PM | CHB | Ticket 8 € / reduced 6 €**

[Tickets](#)



## Germany Reads for Hongkong

The international literature festival berlin and the German PEN Center are calling for a Germany-wide reading on 21 September 2019 for Hong Kong. The reading is intended to express solidarity with the democracy movement in Hong Kong, which among other things is directed against the extradition of regime critics to mainland China, police and military force and for the release of political prisoners.

Please register for the reading at [info@literaturfestival.com](mailto:info@literaturfestival.com) . Further information will soon be available on [our website](#).

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**21.09. | Germany Reads for Hongkong**



## Long Night of Museums

On 31. August 2019, 75 museums will invite visitors to approximately 750 different events. The Long Night of Museums is a joint event between the museums and the state-owned Gesellschaft Kulturprojekte Berlin. The international literature festival has been cooperating with the Long Night of the Museums for several years now!

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**31.08.19**

[Information](#)

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#ilb2019

berlin liest | 8. September 2019  
worldwide reading |

19. internationales literaturfestival  
berlin | 11.-21. September 2019  
Graphic Novel Day | 15. September  
2019

5. internationales literaturfestival  
odessa | 25. -29. September 2019



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