

The Zimbabwean Book Festival, March 3rd/4th, 2023

The Britain Zimbabwe Society presents:

The 2023 Zimbabwean Book Festival: The Story is YOU

The Britain Zimbabwe Society is launching its first Zimbabwean Book Festival on March 3rd and 4th, 2023. The Festival will be a meeting place for the general public to interact with fiction and non-fiction writers, including novelists, short story writers, poets, dramatists, publishers, academics and creatives. The 2-day Festival will be held in face to face and virtual formats. It will be a space for discussion, ideas, workshops, storytelling, celebration and sharing of in- country and wider Zimbabwean diasporan and African writing. We are intending that the Festival will be a forum for the cross fertilisation of new voices alongside established writers.

The event will be a platform for knowledge - sharing and updates on writers and writing today. It will explore the challenges and opportunities facing writers, publishers, the industry, and creatives in general and will be an exciting opportunity for everyone to be part of this creative indaba. From realism to magic realism, oral and written story- telling, detective stories, sci-fi and beyond; the resonance of language and languages, and the real- world craft and business of writing and publishing - all this and more will be explored. Held in the same week as World Book Day 2023, the Festival is also a reminder that books, reading and writing still matter.

Join us and help shape contemporary and future Zimbabwean wordscapes. Books and writing are for all, and everyone has a story. At the 2023 Zimbabwean Book Festival, the story is *YOU*

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The Zimbabwean Book Festival: Day 1, Friday 3, March [face to face]

Venue: 11 Bedford Square, London

Time: 2.00pm - 6.30pm GMT

Day 1 will be held in partnership with Royal Holloway University.

Format: face to face. The event is free. Please contact KChitiyo@chathamhouse.org

Day 1 Programme

2.00-2.15pm: Welcome and Introductions: Dr Knox Chitiyo, President, Britain Zimbabwe Society; Senior Associate Fellow, Chatham House; writer ;and Professor Tim Unwin CMG, Royal Holloway University; UNESCO Chair ICT4D; writer

2.15-3.30pm: Panel 1: Introducing New and Established Diasporan Writers and Publishers

Speaker 1: Dr Rhoda Molife, writer and book Editor; Team Leader, MSD pharmaceuticals .

Speaker 2: Prof Onyeka Nwelu, Director, James Currey International Literature Festival; writer and creative

Speaker 3;Farai Ian Muvuti, CEO, Southern African Times; media entrepreneur and writer

Chair: Prof Tim Unwin

3.30pm-4.30 pm: Keynote Session:

Speaker: Dumi Senda, Diversity Lead, BBC England; poet and childrens' stories author

Chair: Dr Knox Chitiyo

4.30pm- 5.30 pm Panel 2: New Frontiers in Zimbabwean Writing

Speaker 1: Dr Kathy Mansfield Higgins, writer and Britain Zimbabwe Society Executive member

Speaker 2; Masimba Musodza, CEO Fairfield Media; novelist

Speaker 3: Portia Mushambi, writer, creative and finance professional

Chair: Dr Christopher Roy Zembe, De Montfort University; Lecturer, Editor and writer

5.30 pm- 6.30 pm: Networking /Close

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Zimbabwean Book Festival Day 2 Saturday 4 March [Virtual]

Time: 9.50 am - 5.00pm GMT/11.50 am - 7.00pm CAT

Format: Virtual. Free event

Registration via Eventbrite link provided; or contact Day 2

Eventbrite registrar Margaret Ling [BZS]

on margaret.ling@geo2.poptel.org.uk

Day 2 Programme

9.50 - 10.00 am: Welcome and Introduction: Dr Knox Chitiyo, President, BZS; Dr Kathy Mansfield Higgins, writer and BZS Executive member; Dorcas Gwata, writer and Head of Global Programmes, Florence Nightingale Foundation

10.00- 11.00 am Panel 1: *On Writing*

Speaker 1 Goddess Bvukutwa, Mambakwedza Women's Centre; Editor, Zimrights

Speaker 2: Dr Nozipo Maraire, Zimbabwe Creative and Cultural Arts [ZICCA]; Founder, Ecosurgica; writer and patron of the Arts

Speaker 3: Dr Tinashe Mushakavanu, African Studies Centre, Oxford; writer and archivist

Chair: tba

11.00- 11.15 am: break

11.15 - 12.15 Panel 2: *Fiction Writers and Their Work*

Speaker 1: Lady Tshawe, author, musician and TV host

Speaker 2: Leonard Matsa, Zimbabwe Theatre Academy ;playwright and actor

Speaker: 3: Batsirai Chigama and Tariro Ndoro, Editors, and poets ,Ipikai Poetry Journal

Chair: Rutendo Mutsamwira, writer, spoken word artiste and broadcaster

12.15 - 14.00; break in the Panel Sessions

13.15 -13.45 : *Interactive Creative Writing Workshop sessions hosted by Dr Kathy Mansfield Higgins, BZS*

- 1 Writing Short stories- Dr Kathy Mansfield Higgins
- 2 Playwriting- Teddy Mangawa , Zimbabwe Theatre Academy

14.00- 15.00:Panel 3: *Oral Traditions and the Vernacular: In Conversation with...*

Sue Nyathi, novelist and entrepreneur; and Dr Ignatius Mabasa,writer, storyteller and musician

Co-hosted by Pelagia Nyamayaro, Britain Zimbabwe Society; and Dumisani Senda, Diversity Lead, BBC England

15.00-16.00:Panel 4: *The Book Trade*

Speaker 1: Stephanie Kitchen, Director, African Book Collective

Speaker 2: Tau Tawengwa, Editor, Harare Streets Publishing

Speaker 3: Dr Shamiso Madzivire, Midlands State University. Researcher and Writer.

Speaker 4 : Pat Brickhill, Britain Zimbabwe Society and co-Founder, Grassroots Books; and Tomas Brickhill, Director, The Book Cafe

Chair: Murray McCartney and Irene Staunton, Directors/Editors, Weaver Press

16.00-17.00: Spoken Word Open Mic

17.00: Closing: Dr Knox Chitiyo

On Eventbrite

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The BZS is hosting its inaugural Zimbabwean Book Festival on 3 March (face to face in Bedford Square, London), and 4 March (virtual).

You will find the Festival page on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/the-bzs-2023-zimbabwean-book-festival-3-4-march-1573639>

Register for each day of the two day programme at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-bzs-2023-zimbabwean-book-festival-the-story-is-you-day-1-facetoface-tickets-514684012737>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-bzs-2023-zimbabwean-book-festival-the-story-is-you-day-2-online-tickets-514683049857>

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