

THE PROGRAMME

The BZS 2024 Zimbabwean Book Festival:

I Write, Therefore I Am Thursday 14 (in-person) and Saturday 16 March (online) 2024

Siyalemukela! Mauya! Welcome! The Britain Zimbabwe Society is hosting its second Zimbabwean Book Festival on Thursday 14 March and Saturday 16 March 2024. Following the success of the first BZS Book Festival in March 2023, the 2024 Festival will again be a forum for interaction with novelists, short story writers, poets, dramatists, publishers, academics and creatives.

The two day Festival will be held face-to-face on Thursday 14 March, and online on Saturday 16 March. It will be a convivial space for discussion, ideas, storytelling, celebration and sharing of in-country and diasporan Zimbabwean and African writing, and an opportunity to see and hear new voices alongside established talent.

This free event is an opportunity for everyone to be part of a creative indaba and dare. From fiction to non-fiction; realism and magic realism; oral and written story-telling; detective stories, sci-fi and comic books; arts and crafts; the panoramas of language and languages; and the real-world craft and business of writing and publishing - all this and more will be explored. Held shortly after the 2024 World Book Day on 7 March, and dovetailing with the 2024 London Book Fair (12-14 March).

The Festival reminds us that books, reading and writing are an essential part of what it means to be human. We celebrate the extraordinary array of talent in Zimbabwean and African writing, publishing, and imagination. We are honoured to play our part in promoting and encouraging creativity. Join us and help shape contemporary and future Zimbabwean and African wordscapes. Come and get lifted. Write. Speak. Breathe. Books and writing are for all, and everyone has a story.

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We write, therefore we are. At the 2024 BZS Zimbabwean Book Festival, The Story is YOU. The BZS 2024 Zimbabwean Book Festival: I Write, Therefore I Am Thursday 14

(in-person)

and Saturday 16 March (online) 2024 Siyalemukela! Mauya!

Welcome!

PROGRAMME Thursday 14 March 2024,

12.00-18.30 GMT Venue: 11 Bedford Square, London WC1B

3RF Free in-person event in partnership with

Royal Holloway University of London Programme - Day One

12.00-14.00: Doors open - networking

14.00-14.15: Welcome and Introductions Dr Knox Chitiyo,

President, Britain Zimbabwe Society; Senior

Associate Fellow, Chatham House; writer Professor Tim Unwin

CMG, Royal Holloway University; author & editor

14.15-15.30:

Panel 1 Introducing New and Established Diasporan Writers and Publishers

Speaker

1: tba Speaker 2: Godess Bvukutwa, Mambakwedza Women's Centre, Editor, Zimrights, author Speaker 3:

Sheka Tarawalie, former Sierra Leone Deputy Communications Minister, journalist & novelist Chair:

Professor Tim Unwin 15.30-16.30: Keynote Session Speaker:

tba Chair: tba 16.30-17.30:

Panel 2 New Frontiers in Zimbabwean and African Writing

Speaker 1: Rudo Manyere, book reviewer, author &

booktuber Speaker 2: Masimba Musodza, CEO Fairfield Media, novelist Speaker 3: tba Chair: Dr Rhoda

Molife, pharmaceutical Physician and Medical Oncologist, writer, publisher, editor 17.30-18.30:

Networking/Close Saturday 16 March 2024, 09.50-17.00

GMT (11.50-19.00 CAT) Venue: Online Free

virtual event

Programme - Day Two 9.50 - 10.00: Welcome and

Introduction: Dr Knox Chitiyo,

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President, BZS Additional Speaker tba 10.00- 11.00:

Panel 1 Writing and the Creative Arts Speaker

1:

Morset Billie, poet, spoken word artiste, arts entrepreneur (tbc)

Speaker 2: Caroline Mutanhaurwa,

MD, CAZ Interiors, creative artiste Speaker 3: tba Chair: tba

11.00 - 11.15: Break 11.15 - 12.45:

Panel 2 Writers and Publishers and their Work Speaker 1: Tau

Tawengwa, Chief Editor, Harare-Streets

Publishing, author Speaker 2: Professor Brian Jones, co-

director, amaBooks Speaker: 3: tba Speaker

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(joint presentation): Wadzi Garwe, Economist FAO (UN), author & editor, with Farai Mpofu, Director,

Investor Education, Securities and Exchange Commission of Zimbabwe, writer & editor Chair: Dr

Tanaka

Chidora, Research Fellow, University of the Free State 12.45 -

14.00: Break 14.00- 15.00:

Panel 3 In Conversation with ... Panel & Host tba 15.00-16.00:

Panel 4 Zimbabwe and Beyond: Wider African

Voices Speaker 1: Jacaranda Books UK/Africa (tbc) Speaker 2:

tba Speaker 3: Tawona Sithole, Artist

in Resident, Glasgow University, writer, performer & musician

Chair: tba 16.00-17.00: Spoken Word

Open Mic 17.00: Close

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