

A Celebration of Wales and Welsh Culture in Mumbai with a 3-day micro-festival showcasing literature, music, dance and film from the region

For Immediate Release

With one of the longest continuous literary traditions in Europe, Wales is a distinctive and rich part of the United Kingdom that is yet to be fully discovered by many, especially in India. The Welsh, being extremely proud of their heritage, have conscientiously revived and reinvented their traditional customs, especially those relating to language, poetry, literature and music. Now, they bring some of their best literary and artistic minds to showcase the country's fascinating heritage and cross-pollinate ideas with the finest local minds from our city!

NGMA Mumbai, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in association with **Literature Across Frontiers, Wales Literature Exchange** and **Avid Learning** present **Cymru in the City! Micro Festival of Welsh Literature and Culture**, a celebration of Wales (*Cymru* in Welsh) and its literary milieu for the first time in Mumbai!

Please see details of the programme as below:

This micro festival builds on a decade of Literature Across Frontiers' cultural interaction with India and offers Mumbai audiences a delightful taste of the contemporary legacy of one of Europe's oldest cultural traditions. The Festival will commence with an evening of readings by a select group of the finest Welsh and Indian authors at Kitab Khana, where they will be joined by two poets from Europe. This will be followed by two days of enlivened literary debates and multidisciplinary performances at the NGMA.

Featuring leading Welsh authors, this festival will also showcase the innovative Invertigo Theatre Company with their show *My Body Welsh*, and *Kathak-Cynghanedd* – a dance and poetry performance exploring connections between two classical art forms. Attendees can also look forward to screenings of literature-related films from Wales at the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).

At Avid, we believe in the power of cultural diplomacy to widen horizons and broaden minds. In this spirit, we have leveraged our diplomatic ties to bring the best of International Art, Culture and Design to Mumbai to treat our city's audiences to the best of global culture and talent.

We invite you to come explore the rich and distinctive culture of Wales right here in our city!

Literature Across Frontiers gratefully acknowledges past and present support of Arts Council Wales, Wales Arts International, British Council and Creative Europe Programme of the European Union, and thanks the Film Heritage Foundation for facilitating the film screenings in Mumbai and the national broadcaster S4C and film companies Boom, Captain Cat, Tinopolis, Ffilmiau Ffowlyn and Media Luna for permissions to screen the films. Invertigo Theatre Company acknowledge the support of Arts Council Wales, National Lottery, Welsh Government, Pontio Development Fund and London Welsh Centre towards the creation of their show *My Body Welsh*.

The Schedule of Events is as below:

Monday, 14 January 2019

Film Screenings @BNHS

1:00 PM onwards

Films dedicated to Welsh poetry

@Kitab Khana

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM, refreshments served

Literary Readings | Europe–India Literary Panorama

Readings by award-winning author, film and TV writer **Caryl Lewis**, novelist, poet, script-writer and translator **Harkaitz Cano**, author, translator and editor **Sampurna Chattarji**, poet, translator and cultural organiser **Nadja Mifsud**, traveller, memoirist and children's author **Horatio Clare**, poet and publisher **Hemant Divate**, non-fiction and short-story writer **Llŷr Gwyn Lewis**, poet, curator and cultural theorist **Ranjit Hoskote** and award-winning author, poet and environmentalist **Robert Minhinnick**. Moderated by cultural enabler and literary translator **Alexandra Büchler**.

Tuesday, 15 January 2019

Film Screenings @BNHS

1:00 PM onwards

Films based on novels by contemporary women authors

@National Gallery of Modern Art

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Literary Debate | Tales of Independence and Belonging

What is distinctive about contemporary writing coming out of Wales and how does Welsh-language literature continue its 2000-year tradition on the edges of the vast and powerful English Literature territory?

Literary debate with award-winning author, film and TV writer **Caryl Lewis**, academic, researcher and linguist **Elin Haf Gruffyd Jones** and non-fiction and short-story writer **Llŷr Gwyn Lewis**, moderated by editor and journalist **Vinutha Mallya**.

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Performance | My Body Welsh

This powerful bilingual piece of contemporary theatre by **Invertigo Theatre Company** investigates the role of storytelling in constructing national identity. Written by *actor, writer and director* **Steffan Donnelly** and *actor, writer and director* **Tara Robinson** with soundscapes created by *composer, sound-sculptor and actor* **Jordan Mallory-Skinner**. Performed by **Steffan Donnelly**.

Wednesday, 16 January 2019

Film Screenings @BNHS

1:00 PM onwards

Films based on Welsh 20th century classics

@National Gallery of Modern Art

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Literary Debate | Home and Away

Two writers who are deeply invested in the local discuss how writing about distant lands and other cultures sharpens perspectives on home.

Literary debate with *traveller, memoirist and children's author* **Horatio Clare** and *award-winning author, poet and environmentalist* **Robert Minhinnick** moderated by *author, translator and editor* **Sampurna Chattarji**.

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Multidisciplinary Performance | Kathak-Cynghanedd

A dance and poetry performance by *dancer, choreographer* **Vikram Iyengar** and *author, translator and editor* **Sampurna Chattarji** based on a collaboration between them and poet Eurig Salisbury. This performance will explore connections between two ancient art forms.

Where and When:

Kitab Khana, 45, Flora Fountain Somaiya Bhavan, 47, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Fort, Mumbai, 400001 | Monday, 14th January 2019 | 5:00 PM -7:00 PM

The National Gallery of Modern Art, Sir Cowasji Jahangir Public Hall, M. G. Road, Fort, Mumbai, 400032 | Tuesday, 15th January 2019 and Wednesday, 16th January 2019 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Bombay Natural History Society, Hornbill House, Opp.Lion Gate, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road, Mumbai 400 001| Monday, 14th - Wednesday, 16th January 2019 | 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

RSVP: www.avidlearning.in

Press Email / Call: Ayesah Dadachanji on ayeshah.avid@gmail.com / +91 9820155297

NGMA Mumbai, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in association with **Literature Across Frontiers, Wales Literature Exchange** and **Avid Learning** present a celebration of Wales - Cymru in the Welsh language - and its literary milieu for the first time in Mumbai! Building on a decade of Literature Across Frontiers' cultural interaction with India, this micro festival offers Mumbai audiences a delightful taste of the contemporary legacy of one of Europe's oldest cultural traditions. We invite you to explore the rich and distinctive culture of Wales right here in our city!

<p>LITERARY READINGS 14TH JAN 2019 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Kitab Khana, 45, Flora Fountain Somaiya Bhavan, 47, MG Road, Fort</p>	<p>DEBATES & PERFORMANCES 15TH & 16TH JAN 2019 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM The National Gallery of Modern Art, Sir Cowasji Jahangir Public Hall, Fort</p>	<p>FILM SCREENINGS 14TH TO 16TH JAN 2019 1:00 PM onwards BNHS, Hornbill House, Opp. Lion Gate, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road</p>
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About the Speakers

Consummate traveller, memoirist and children's author **Horatio Clare** has worked as a BBC radio producer of cultural programmes and is also a freelance essayist and reviewer. His first book, *Running for the Hills* (2006), a memoir of a childhood on a Welsh sheep farm, won him immediate acclaim. Among his numerous travel books, *A Single Swallow* traces the migration of swallows from South Africa to South Wales, while *Icebreaker: A Voyage Far North* is set on a Finnish icebreaker. His latest book is *Something of His Art: Walking to Lubeck with J S Bach*.

Award-winning author of eleven Welsh-language books for adults, three novels for young adults and thirteen children's books, **Caryl Lewis** is three-times winner of the Wales Book of the Year. Her latest, a collection of short stories dealing with nature, relationships, love and loss, *Y Gwreiddyn* (The Root), won the award in Welsh fiction category in 2017. Caryl Lewis has also written extensively for cinema and television, notably adapting for film her own novel *Martha, Jac and Sianco*. Her TV credits include the Welsh scripts of the successful crime series *Y Gwyll / Hinterland* and *Craith / Hidden*.

Poet and prose writer **Llyr Gwyn Lewis** is one of the most distinctive voices among the new generation of Welsh-language writers. His debut *Rhyw Flodau Rhyfel* (*Some Flowers of War*,

2014), won the Creative Non-Fiction category in the 2015 Wales Book of the Year award, and his first short story collection, *Fabula*, was shortlisted for the Wales Book of the Year award 2018. He is one of the Ten New Voices from Europe for 2017, a selection of emerging writers from around Europe made by Literature Across Frontiers and the Literary Europe Live network of European festivals.

Prize-winning author of more than a dozen volumes of poetry, three works of fiction, and four volumes of essays on the environment and today's globalised world, **Robert Minhinnick** has been influential in changing the shape of the contemporary poetry scene in Wales and in forging an international context for Welsh poetry both as former editor of the magazine *Poetry Wales* and as translator. His most recent collection *Diary of the Last Man* (2018) was nominated for the TS Eliot prize and won him his third Wales Book of the Year award. He is also an environmental activist and co-founder of Sustainable Wales.

Academic **Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones** has worked for over thirty years in higher education as researcher, lecturer and professor in the field of culture, media, language planning, sociolinguistics and creative translation. She is a member of the Council of Europe's Expert Group on Media for the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages; and is a Director of Mercator International where Literature Across Frontiers and Wales Literature Exchange are based. She serves on boards of several cultural organisations, including the National Eisteddfod festival. She speaks seven languages.

Director of Literature Across Frontiers, **Alexandra Büchler** is also a translator and editor with over twenty publications to her credit. She has worked as cultural manager for three decades, curating literary events and developing initiatives aimed at fostering literary exchange and translation within Europe, and between Europe and other global regions, notably India, where LAF has been working for a decade. Her most recent translation into English is the Czech modern classic *The House of a Thousand Floors* by Jan Weiss, published in 2016.

The prominent Basque author **Harkaitz Cano** (1975) has published over thirty books of poetry, short stories and novels, and his work has been translated into a dozen languages, including Spanish, German, Polish and Russian. His novels *A Blade of Light* and *Twist* were published in English translation in 2010 and 2018 respectively. His latest novel to date is *Fakirraren ahotsa* (*The Voice of the Fakir*, 2018). He is also a script writer and translator and has translated into Basque works by Sylvia Plath, Anne Sexton, Hanif Kureishi and Allen Ginsberg, among others.

Maltese writer **Nadia Mifsud** (1976) has been living in France since 1998. She writes in the Maltese language and is also a translator between her native tongue and French. Her second poetry collection, *kantuniera 'l bogħod* (*Round the Bend*, 2015), was awarded the 2016 National Book Prize. Her debut novel, *Ir-rota daret dawra (kwazi) sħiħa* (*Going (almost) full circle*, 2017) was shortlisted for the 2018 National Book Prize. A member of the cultural NGO Inizjamed, she co-organises its Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival.

Poet, editor, art theorist and independent curator, **Ranjit Hoskote** has published collections of poetry including *Vanishing Acts: New & Selected Poems 1985-2005* (Penguin, 2006), *Central Time* (Penguin/ Viking, 2014), and, most recently, *Jonahwhale* (Penguin/ Hamish

Hamilton, 2018). His translation of the 14th-century Kashmiri mystic Lal Ded has been published as *I, Lalla: The Poems of Lal Ded* (Penguin Classics, 2011). Hoskote is the editor of *Dom Moraes: Selected Poems* (Penguin Modern Classics, 2012), the first annotated critical edition of a major Anglophone Indian poet's work.

Marathi poet, editor, publisher and translator, **Hemant Divate** has published six poetry collections in Marathi. Divate's poems have been translated into French, Italian, Slovak, Japanese, Persian, Maltese, Serbian, Slovenian, Greek, Hindi and many Indian languages. His publishing house, Paperwall Media & Publishing, has published, under its imprint Poetrywala, more than 100 poetry collections. Hemant lives and works in Mumbai.

Poet, prose writer, authors of books for children and translator from Bengali, **Sampurna Chattarji** has published sixteen books to date, including a short-story collection about Bombay/Mumbai, *Dirty Love* (Penguin, 2013); a translation of Joy Goswami's *Selected Poems* (Harper Perennial, 2014, 2018); and seven poetry titles, the most recent being *Space Gulliver: Chronicles of an Alien* (HarperCollins, 2015); *Elsewhere Where Else / Lle Arall Ble Arall* (Poetrywala, 2018), co-authored with Eurig Salisbury; and – in collaboration with the poet, Karthika Nair, and the artist, Joëlle Jolivet – *Over and Under Ground in Mumbai & Paris* (Context, Westland Publications, 2018). She is currently Poetry Editor of *The Indian Quarterly*.

Editor, publishing consultant and journalist, **Vinutha Mallya** is currently Features Assistant Editor with *The Pune Mirror*.

Dancer, choreographer, theatre director, performing arts researcher, writer, arts manager and curator, based in Calcutta, **Vikram Iyengar** is co-founder of the kathak-based performance company Ranan and initiator of the Pickle Factory, a new venue for dance, movement practice and discourse. Vikram's range of work in India and abroad spans productions and workshops with dancers and actors, performance collaborations, research and curation projects for several arts bodies. He was awarded several high-profile fellowships by bodies such as ARThink South Asia, International Society for the Performing Arts and the Australia Council for the Arts.

Invertigo Theatre Company

Steffan Donnelly is an actor, writer, and Artistic Director of Invertigo Theatre Company. His work has been seen internationally. Theatre includes seasons at Shakespeare's Globe, *Journeying Boys* (Barbican), *Pilgrims* (HighTide) for which he was nominated for an Off-West End Award for Best Male Performance. Screen includes *The Innocents* (Netflix), and the movies *Bohemian Rhapsody* and *Darkest Hour*.

Jordan Mallory-Skinner is an interdisciplinary artist, working as a composer, sound designer and actor. He also composes for short films and creates sound-based installations in cymatics and interactive sound sculpture for exhibition spaces, including a recent installation at the Southbank Centre.

Tara Robinson is a theatre-maker, director and writer. She is artistic lead of The Conker Group whose work is rooted in a collaborative process with artists and non-artists, is playful in tone and responds to complex contemporary social issues. She has worked at

Shakespeare's Globe, The Gate, The West End (Michael Grandage Company), The Young Vic, HOME Manchester.

About Partners

Literature Across Frontiers (LAF) - European Platform for Literary Exchange, Translation and Policy Debate - with its motto Making Literature Travel, aims to develop intercultural dialogue through literature and translation and highlight less translated literatures. Based in Wales, United Kingdom, LAF works in partnership with organisations and individuals across Europe and beyond fostering literary diversity and acting as a catalyst for new connections, collaborations and projects, conducting research, contributing to strategic policy debates and providing online resources and information on the international literary sector. In 2019 LAF celebrates its 10th anniversary of working to connect the literary scene of Wales, Europe and India. www.lit-across-frontiers.org Literature Across Frontiers @MakingLitTravel

Wales Literature Exchange is the national agency promoting the literature of Wales internationally and supporting its translation into other languages. Its motto, 'Translating Wales, Reading the World' captures its mission to facilitate international exchange with literary Wales.

www.walesliterature.org Wales Literature Exchange @walesliterature

Kitab Khana is a book lover's delight, run by an exclusive team of bibliophiles that strives to ensure that every book on its shelves is hand-picked and well-curated. For connoisseurs of regional literature, Kitab Khana's vast range of Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi books is an added delight.

Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), a pan-India wildlife research organization, has been promoting the cause of nature conservation since its inception in 1883 by eight amateur naturalists of Bombay. During its journey from an amateurs' organization to a professional organization, the guiding principle of BNHS has been that conservation should be based on scientific research – a tradition exemplified by its former president, Dr Salim Ali, world-renowned ornithologist. Today, BNHS has a vibrant presence at dozens of places across India, covering diverse habitats such as forests, grasslands, wetlands, mountains, deserts and marine areas.

The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) Mumbai, Ministry of Culture, Government of India is a repository of the cultural ethos of the country and showcases the changing art forms through the passage of the last 160 years starting from about 1857 in the field of Visual and Plastic arts. The first NGMA was opened in New Delhi at the historic Jaipur House, in the presence of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and artists and art lovers on March 29, 1954. The National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai was opened to the public in 1996. It hosts various exhibitions and also has its own art collections comprising paintings, sculptures and graphics with a focus on Indian and International artists. It is located in the precinct of the former auditorium the Sir Cowasji Jehangir Public Hall and the Institute of Science. This architecturally marvellous building was designed and built by the famous British architect George Wittet which has been completely redesigned keeping only the facade edifice that was

Public Hall. It has hosted eminent artists like, K.H. Ara, F. N. Souza, Gaitonde, S.H. Raza and M.F. Hussain and contemporary artists like, K.G. Subramanyam, Sudhir Patwardhan, Nalini Malini, Atul Dodiya and Sudarshan Shetty. The NGMA in Mumbai is run and administered as a subordinate office to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, which has two branches one at Mumbai and the other at Bengaluru.

Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 1000 programs and connected with more than 125,000 individuals since its inception in 2009. Driven by the belief that Learning Never Stops, AVID's multiple formats like Workshops, Panel Discussions, Gallery Walkthroughs, and Festival Platforms create a dynamic and interactive atmosphere that stimulates intellectual and creative growth across the fields of Culture & Heritage, Literature, Art and Innovation.

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