

BRITISH
LIBRARY

**European Literature
Night VII**
Celebrating Literature
from Across the
Continent

13 May – 9 June 2015

The British Library
Free Word Centre
The Phoenix
Waterstones Piccadilly

#eln2015

www.europeanliteraturenight.co.uk

Welcome to the UK's seventh European Literature Night! Held simultaneously in 24 cities around the continent, London's events are a highlight of the capital's literary calendar. This year we're delighted to see European Literature Night move beyond just one night as we offer a host of events, from the main night's plethora of inspiring interviews to a spoken word wonder fest, from learning the tricks of the translators' trade to hearing stories of exile which connect Europe to the rest of the world. There's something for everyone and literature by writers whose names you may not know yet, but will remember for a long time afterwards.

ELN VII: Trade Secrets

The Emerging Translators' Network Translation Clinic

Wednesday 13 May, 11.00 – 13.00
Entrance Hall, British Library
Free

Are you interested in the world of literary translation? Do you have burning questions about how to get involved, how to approach publishers, how much to charge and just how long it takes to translate a novel? Come to the Clinic to ask the experts everything you always wanted to know but were afraid to ask. You'll also be able to contribute to a mass translation of a new piece of experimental writing. All languages welcome!

The Lunchtime Launch

Wednesday 13 May, 13.00 – 14.00
Entrance Hall, British Library
Free

A slice of European literature and translation. Buy yourself some lunch and get a taste of Europe. Spain's **Jesús Carrasco** will treat audiences to a bite-sized reading of his new book *Out in the Open*, (Harvill) launched at ELN VII, followed by a conversation with his award-winning translator **Margaret Jull Costa**. Hosted by European Literature Night judge and prize-winning translator **Daniel Hahn**.

Read – and Write – All About It!

The ever-surprising, ever-imaginative Ladies of the Press (Ana Cavic and Renee O'Drobinak) will be at ELN for the first time. Their pop-up press will be stationed at the British Library throughout the day, collating and documenting material from ELN's speakers and audiences, whether conversations, drawings or impromptu performances. Copies of the resulting publication will be available for free.

ELN VII: The Workshops

Bridging the Gap – Stories and histories in translation

Wednesday 13 May, 14.30 – 15.30
British Library Conference Centre
Free

If writing attempts to create links between past and present, the foreign and the familiar, dreams and reality, then arguably translation is another kind of bridge between worlds. This panel of writers, translators and publishers will explore how literature in translation can give anglophone readers the opportunity to experience the stories and histories of other literary voices.

WITH The Open University's **Fiona Doloughan** (Chair), Istros Books publisher **Susan Curtis-Kojakovic**, writer **Evald Flisar** (Slovenia), poet **Wioletta Greg** (Poland) and translator **Marek Kazmierski**.

The event is free but seating is limited, advance booking is required via the British Library Box Office.

The Choreography of Translation

Wednesday 13 May, 16.00 – 17.30
British Library Conference Centre
Free

How does literature from smaller European nations, written in less well-known languages or from less familiar traditions, reach wider European audiences? Explore the roles played by translators, agents, publishers and others in selecting what is translated and published. How are translations 'choreographed' between various intermediaries? And why do some books 'dance' whilst others stumble or fall?

WITH Geopoetika's **Vladislav Bajac** (Serbia), Istros Books publisher **Susan Curtis-Kojakovic** (UK), translator from Portuguese and Spanish **Margaret Jull Costa** (UK), literary agent **Nicole Witt** (Germany) and researchers from the AHRC-funded research project **Translating the Literatures of Small European Nations**

The event is free but seating is limited, advance booking is required via the British Library Box Office.

ELN VII: The Writers

Wednesday 13 May, 18.30
British Library Conference Centre
Admission: £10 (£8 over 60s,
£7 concessions)

European Literature Night's seventh appearance in the UK takes us on an engaging literary tour of the continent, travelling from the northerly reaches of Denmark, east to Poland and Slovenia, to the southern shores of Italy and then west through France to Spain. Prepare for a literary feast of compelling European poetry, fiction and short stories which explore the nature of relationships, childhood trauma, questions of morality and much more.

WITH Naja Marie Aidt (Denmark),
Andrea Bajani (Italy), Jesús Carrasco
(Spain), Evald Flisar (Slovenia), Wioletta
Greg (Poland) and Yasmina Khadra
(France).

ELN VII: In Spoken Word

Wednesday 13 May, 19.00
Entrance Hall, British Library
Admission: £10 (£8 over 60s,
£7 concessions)

Telling the stories of the continent through the universal rhythm of poetry, a host of Europe's most vibrant poets and spoken word artists gather together for one night only to share their work. Wide-ranging in theme and style, criss-crossing the local and the global, the personal and the public, there is something for everyone to enjoy, as well as the underlying music of the words which connects us all.

WITH Baloji (Belgium), Xavier Baumaxa
(Czech Republic), Christodoulos Makris
(Cyprus), Joelle Taylor (UK) and Kārlis
Vērdiņš (Latvia). Hosted by comedian
Ava Vidal (UK).



ELN VII: The Reception

The evening events at the British Library will be followed by a reception in the Entrance Hall of the British Library, open to everyone who has attended *The Writers* or *In Spoken Word* events. It will include music, a glass of wine and the chance to buy books by the participating authors and have them signed.

ELN VII: When Home Is Far Away

Wednesday 3 June, 19.00
Waterstones Piccadilly
Free

Living away from home, being away from family nowhere near the touchstones of childhood memories is something many of us choose to do. But what if you haven't chosen such a life and it has simply been thrust upon you? How does it feel to know you can't go back? Three writers who live in exile across Europe share the stories that come to them and reveal how their creativity breathes new life into new places when home is far away.

WITH Hassan Blasim (Iraq/Finland) winner of the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize in 2014, **Hamid Ismailov** (Uzbekistan/UK) the BBC World Service's first Writer in Residence and renowned poet **Ribka Sibhatu** (Eritrea/Italy). Hosted by journalist **Rosie Goldsmith**.



ELN VII: The Translation Pitch

New Literary Voices

Thursday 4 June, 19.00
Free Word Centre
Admission: £5 (£3 concessions)

Eight enthralling books by contemporary European writers which have not yet been translated into English will be pitched live to an audience and expert jury consisting of **Max Porter** (Granta Books), **Kerry Glencorse** (Susanna Lee Associates) and **Stefan Tobler** (And Other Stories Publishing). With just three minutes per pitch, and complemented by extracts read by actors, this whirlwind journey of discovery will uncover brilliant new European literary gems.

Featuring **Pierre Autin-Grenier's** *That's Just How* (France), **Jan van Loy's** *Scraps* (Flanders), **Vonne van der Meer's** *Take 7* (Netherlands), **Jan Němec's** *A History of Light* (Czech Republic), **Verena Rossbacher's** *Small Talk and Slaughter* (Germany), **Krisztina Tóth's** *Pixel* (Hungary), **Jesper Wung-Sung's** *Proper Fractions* (Denmark) and **Vladimir Zarev's** *Ruin* (Bulgaria). Hosted by **Chris Gribble** (UK).

ELN VII: Liars' League

Near & Far: New European Writing

Tuesday 9 June, 19.30
The Phoenix
Admission: £5 (on the door)

Writers write, actors read, audience listens, everybody wins. That's the motto of Liars' League, the award-winning, globe-straddling short story night which has been running in London since 2007. This showcase of European literature in translation celebrates fresh talent from Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Slovenia and the Czech Republic. Actors will read stories from some of the most exciting European authors, featuring extraordinary characters like **Sigitas Parulskis's** World War II photographer and **Jan Krasnowolski's** drug-smuggler turned refugee-babysitter. From **Kateřina Tučková's** Czech witches via **Nora Bossong's** bereaved businesswoman to **Tadej Golob's** struggling comic-book writer, these fictions will take you far from home, bringing the foreign into focus and turning the familiar strange.

Organisers



Funders



Partners



Supporters



ELN Calendar and How to Book

European Literature Night
Wednesday 13 May 2015
at the British Library

Translation Clinic

11.00
Entrance Hall

The Lunchtime Launch

13.00
Entrance Hall

Bridging the Gap

14.30
Conference Centre

The Choreography of Translation

16.00
Conference Centre

The Writers

18.30
Conference Centre

Europe in Spoken Word

19.00
Entrance Hall

British Library

96 Euston Rd
London
NW1 2DB
T +44 (0)1937 546546

Booking
www.bl.uk/whats-on

When Home is Far Away

Wednesday 3 June
19.00 at Waterstones Piccadilly

Waterstones Piccadilly
203–206 Piccadilly
London W1J 9HD
T +44 (0)20 7851 2400

Booking piccadilly@waterstones.com

Translation Pitch – New Literary Voices

Thursday 4 June
19.00 at the Free Word Centre

Free Word Centre
60 Farringdon Road
London EC1R 3GA
T +44 (0)20 7324 2570

Booking www.freewordcentre.com

Liars' League: Near & Far

Tuesday 9 June
19.30 at The Phoenix

The Phoenix
37 Cavendish Square
London W1G 0PP

Booking
www.liarsleague.com
T +44 (0)7808 939 535
