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**MALTA MEDITERRANEAN LITERATURE FESTIVAL**

*Press Release*

Sunday 18 August – Saturday 24 August

Rasha Abbas (Siria/Germany) | Astrid Alben (United Kingdom) | Rena Balzan (Malta) | Antoine Cassar (Malta) | Yolanda Castaño (Galicia) | Sampurna Chattarji (India) | Elizabeth Grech (Malta) | Eric Ngalle Charles (Cameroon/Wales) | Yolanda Pantin (Venezuela) | Davide

Rondoni (Italy) | Habib Tengour (Algeria/France)| Loranne Vella (Malta)

The XIVth edition of the Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival organized by Inizjamed will be a week long, starting from Sunday, 18 August and concluding with three nights at Fort St Elmo between Thursday, 22 and Saturday, 24 August. Entrance to all events is free, and all start at 8pm.

Twelve writers from nine countries are reading at the festival, which also features Maltese and foreign poetry films, Maltese musicians, a book stall, a book binding stand by Kotba Calleja, drinks and a selection of food provided by CORE GREEN Organic & Fair Trade.

The authors participating in this XIVth edition are Rasha Abbas (Siria/Germany), Astrid Alben (United Kingdom), Rena Balzan (Malta), Antoine Cassar (Malta), Yolanda Castaño (Galicia), Sampurna Chattarji (India), Elizabeth Grech (Malta), Eric Ngalle Charles (Cameroon/Wales), Yolanda Pantin (Venezuela), Davide Rondoni (Italy), Habib Tengour (Algeria/France) and Loranne Vella (Malta). Readings will be mostly in Maltese and English, but some short works will also be read in their original language.

The writers will be in Malta throughout the week of the festival to take part in these translation workshop led by Nadia Mifsud. They will be translating each other’s works, and reading some of these translations during the festival.

Two discussions will be held on Sunday, 18 August and Tuesday 20 August at The Undercroft and Valletta Contemporary, both in Valletta. The first discussion will tackle the theme *Is Universality a Myth? The Case for Literature*, while the second will follow with the theme is *(Not) Maintaining the Status Quo*. For both discussions, different invited authors will be on the panel. There will also be time for questions for the audience.

On Wednesday an Open Mic at Valletta Contemporary will be held at Valletta Contemporary, Valletta. The public is invited to participate and share its own work with the audience and the invited authors. It will also be an opportunity to meet the authors.

The Festival will be then concluded through three nights at Fort St Elmo. Four authors will read their work every night together with their translated work concluded during the workshops. An interview with one of the authors will also be held every night.

On Friday, 23 August, *More or Less Theatre* will be holding a session of storytelling with kids at the same space of the Festival.

During one night at the Nights at the Fort, a poetry film will be premiered. Following a call for proposals, the group ‘Cine Laurea’ are working on a poetry film which will present Joe Friggieri’s poem “Natura Morta”. The poetry film will be premiered during one of the nights at the Fort.

A musical component will also be present every night. The band Tact will be playing on Thursday and Friday nights while the band Djun will be playing on Saturday.

An event with Maria Grech Ganado at the San Vinċenz de Paul Residence will be held on Friday, 2nd August and Eric Ngalle Charles will give a poetry activity aided by illustrations by Matt Stroud in various summer schools.

Inizjamed is organising this Festival with the support of the Malta Council of Arts and the Cultural Partnership Agreement. The Festival is also collaborating with Literature Across Frontiers, Creative Europe and l-Għaqda tal-Malti – Università. This Festival has been given an international accreditation through the EFFE Europe for Festival, Festival for Europe trademark. The Festival is also part of the Phoenicians’ Route recognised by the Council of Europe and the EU COSME project for cultural tourism TRAMES.

The Festival logo and other promotional material were designed by artist Pierre Portelli.

More information is available on the Inizjamed Facebook page (www.facebook.com/inizjamed), the “Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival 2019” event on Facebook, and at inizjamed.org.