

**KAMPALA
WRITES**
LITFEST

KAMPALA WRITES LITERATURE FESTIVAL GUIDE 2024



7 – 8 DECEMBER 2024

WRITING OUR TRUTHS:
Commemorating Ugandan Literature

A Word from the Curator

Welcome to the inaugural Kampala Writes LitFest, a literary festival dedicated to celebrating the diverse voices of Ugandan writers and the vibrant tapestry of Ugandan storytelling culture. The festival will offer a platform for writers and book professionals to engage in thought-provoking conversations, showcase their works, gain knowledge to refine their craft, and form meaningful connections with peers in the industry.

Kampala Writes LitFest is conceived as an annual event to fill the existing vacuum for a consistent, versatile literary festival that supports the growth and development of Uganda's literary landscape.

This year's theme is Writing our Truths: Commemorating Ugandan Literature. We have put together an eclectic mix of activities including dynamic panel discussions, interactive writing workshops and masterclasses, storytelling sessions, open mic performances and music! Some of the topics for discussion will include: Contemporary Writing Trends in Uganda, to spotlight Uganda's emerging talent; The Conventions of Writing a Good Short Story, a highly



popular genre in Ugandan literature; Book Publishing and Distribution, to address the challenges many Ugandan writers and publishers face in this area; Memoir Writing, which has seen a marked increase in the recent past; Enforcing and Protecting Writers' Copyright, especially in the current digital era; and Read Aloud, a devoted session for children, which is meant to ignite the love for books from a young age.

As Ugandan writers, the festival offers us a space to honour our truths, celebrate the written word, and to underscore the significance of authenticity in our writing.

We invite you to join us for a memorable experience as we explore the transformative power of words and commemorate our rich heritage through literature.

Goretti Kyomuhendo
Festival Curator

A Note from the Organizers

Welcome to the inaugural Kampala Writes LitFest, a celebration of Ugandan literature and the vibrant diversity of our storytelling traditions. This festival is an opportunity to bring together writers, readers, publishers, and literary professionals to engage, learn, and share ideas that inspire growth in Uganda's literary landscape.

Under the theme Writing Our Truths: Commemorating Ugandan Literature, we seek to honor the richness of our literary heritage while addressing the challenges and opportunities that shape today's writing world. From thought-provoking discussions to hands-on workshops, the festival offers a platform to explore and celebrate the transformative power of words.

We are thrilled to have you join us for this memorable experience and invite you to connect, learn, and reflect on the stories that define us as Ugandans. Together, let's continue to shape a literary future that is authentic, inclusive, and full of possibility.

Goethe Zentrum Culture Department





OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



Saturday, 7th December 2024



Time: 10:00am-11:00am

Masterclass: Enforcing and Protecting Writers' Copyright by Charles Batambuze

11:30am -1:00pm

Panel Discussion: Contemporary Writing Trends in Uganda.

Panellists: Jerry Ssesanga, Davina Kawuma, Llyod Lutara, Margaret Maria Kemigisha

Moderator: Precious Colette Kemigisha

Lunch break: 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Dramatization of an excerpt from Song of Lawino by Okot p'Bitek.

2:30pm - 4:00pm

Panel Discussion: Discovering Identity and Authenticity Through Memoir Writing

Panellists: Robert Katende, Martha Kyoshaba Twinamasiko, Isaac Kalembe Akiiki, Irene Birungi Mugisha

Moderator: Carol Kagezi

4:30 pm- 5:30 pm

Panel Discussion: Book Publishing, Marketing and Distribution in Uganda

Panellists: Charity Karungi Kwatampora, Dora Kemirimo Okuja, David Kibuuka, Evelyn Kyomuhendo Magara

Moderator: Crystal Rutangye-Bazirake

6:00pm

Film Screening: Mawe! By Malcom Guy

6:45pm

DJ Set by DJ Nach

Sunday, 8th December 2024



Time: 11:30 am- 1:00pm

Workshop: Conventions of Crafting a Good Short Story by Dilman Dila

Read Aloud Masterclass for Children (5-12 years) by Rosey Sembatya

Time: 11:30 am- 1:00pm

Lunch break: 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Can We Talk Session

3:00pm - 4:30pm

Panel discussion: Literature and Technology: The Shifting Patterns of Censorship in Uganda

Panellists: Kagayi Ngobi, Gloria Kiconco, Eron Kiiza, Margret Kenjagu

Moderator: Joachim Buwembo

5:00pm- 8:00pm

Dramatization: The Burdens by John Ruganda

Dramatization: Manchester Happened by Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi

Performance: Kabera Angel Amahoro

8:00pm

DJ Set by DJ Nach

**SATURDAY,
7TH DECEMBER 2024**

10:00AM-11:00AM

ONOMO HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM

**MASTERCLASS: ENFORCING
AND PROTECTING WRITERS'
COPYRIGHT BY CHARLES
BATAMBUZE**



Charles Batambuze is a seasoned professional in book publishing, copyright management, and cultural policy advocacy, with over 20 years of impactful experience in promoting literacy, creative industries, and access to information. His work has been pivotal in shaping Uganda's cultural and book sectors.

11:30AM -1:00PM

ONOMO HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM

**PANEL DISCUSSION:
CONTEMPORARY WRITING
TRENDS IN UGANDA.**

MODERATOR:

Precious Colette Kemigisha



Precious Colette Kemigisha is a Kampala-based writer, editor, and filmmaker. She holds a BA in English Literature from Manchester Metropolitan University and a postgraduate degree in Writing & Literary Criticism from Edinburgh University. A recipient of a Literarisches Colloquium Berlin residency in 2020, she also attended the University of East Anglia Writing Masterclasses. Her stories have appeared in *Lolwe* and *Omenana*, among others. Precious is currently working on her debut novel, while sharing reflections on her Substack and rereading her favorite books.

PANELLIST:
Lloyd Lutara



Lloyd Lutara is a storyteller whose work spans prose, television, film, and theater. His writings have been featured in *The Daily Monitor*, *The East African*, and *Kalahari Review*. Lloyd's TV credits include *The Hostel* (2015) and *Kyaddala* (2019), and his short films *Suubi's Prayer* and *Day 256* are available on YouTube. His plays *A Ghost Story* (2018) and *Rope* (2022) have earned acclaim, while his Sci-fi novella *The Nagoye Tree* emerged from the Vivid Synergies! Residency. Known for exploring existentialism, cultural preservation, and supernatural elements, Lloyd's latest play *The Green Line* at the Horizon premieres in late 2024.

PANELLIST:
Margaret Maria Kemigisha



Margaret Maria Kemigisha is a Ugandan children's author, songwriter, and founder of Igaza Creations, a company producing children's literary materials aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. Her works include stories, puzzles, and music that inspire environmental conservation, cultural heritage, and life lessons. Through her engaging content, Margaret aims to educate and empower young readers.

PANELLIST:

Jerry Sesanga



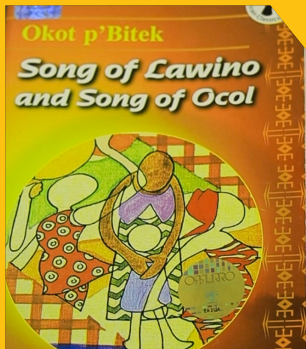
Jerry Sesanga is an award-winning journalist, author, and filmmaker celebrated for his meaningful storytelling. He has directed eight feature films and written 12 novels, including *The African Girl* and *The Wasted Beauty*, both widely acclaimed. With a career that spans 20 countries, Jerry's work emphasizes empowerment and cultural heritage. He has spoken at major events like the Oslo Freedom Forum and the Toronto International Film Festival.

PANELLIST:

Davina Kawuma



Davina Kawuma is a writer whose work has appeared in *African Woman Magazine*, *Brittle Paper*, *Decolonial Passage*, and *Lolwe*. In 2023, she partnered with Kuonyesha Art Fund and authored Katana Kainempisa's *Rispekt a Fool to Avoid Noyze*, a collection of stories inspired by Kampala taxi travels. An advocate of experimental writing and a fan of Lughish, Davina began writing to explore life from the other side of the page.



**LUNCH BREAK:
1:30PM - 2:30PM
DRAMATIZATION OF AN
EXCERPT FROM SONG OF
LAWINO BY OKOT P'BITEK.**

Written by Ugandan author Okot p'Bitek and first published in 1966, this pair of narrative poems captures a poignant dialogue between Lawino, a traditional Acoli wife, and Ocol, her Western-educated husband. Lawino passionately defends African traditions, while Ocol scorns them, embracing European customs and dismissing the old ways as primitive. Through their contrasting perspectives, p'Bitek examines the tensions of colonialism, cultural identity, and the complexities of modernization in post-colonial Africa.

This excerpt will be brought to life by Daisy Phiona Owomugisha as Lawino.

2:30PM - 4:00PM

ONOMO HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM

**PANEL DISCUSSION:
DISCOVERING IDENTITY AND
AUTHENTICITY THROUGH
MEMOIR WRITING**

MODERATOR:

Carol Kagezi



Carol Kagezi is a writer and broadcaster passionate about exploring the evolution of cultural norms and their impact on identity within communal spaces. Her work examines how arts and culture shape ideologies and sustain economies, offering insights into collective identity and shared narratives.

PANELLIST:

Dr. Martha Kyoshaba Twinamasiko



Dr. Martha Kyoshaba Twinamasiko is an academic leader, author, and advocate for widows. She holds a PhD and MA in Educational Management from Makerere University and serves as Academic Registrar at Mbarara University of Science and Technology. Her memoir, *Widows Wear Lipstick*, offers inspiration drawn from personal loss. As founder of Friends of Widows, an online support group, she empowers others to navigate grief with hope. Dr. Martha's dedication to lifelong learning is reflected in her writing, public speaking, and participation in initiatives like the Savvy Writer MasterClass and African Writers Trust programs.

PANELLIST:

Isaac Kalembe Akiiki



Isaac Kalembe Akiiki is a communicator, writer, and editor with expertise in public relations, social media, financial literacy, and cultural history. A Munyoro from Hoima District, he authored *Omukama Cwa II Kabaleega: A Life and Legacy, 1853-1923*. Formerly with the Uganda Communications Commission for 20 years, he is also the outgoing Speaker of the Rukurato of Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom. Kalembe continues to contribute through entrepreneurship and storytelling.

PANELLIST:**Irene Birungi Mugisha Atenyi**

Irene Birungi Mugisha Atenyi is the CEO of the Presidential CEO Forum and co-founder of a 14-year-old PR and Communications Firm. A seasoned journalist and former Principal Private Secretary to Uganda's President, Irene bridges the private and public sectors through strategic initiatives. Her book, *The CEO in You: A Change Maker*, chronicles her journey and passion for driving productivity through faith, resilience, and visionary leadership.

4:30PM - 5:30PM**ONOMO HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM****PANEL DISCUSSION: BOOK
PUBLISHING, MARKETING AND
DISTRIBUTION IN UGANDA****MODERATOR:****Crystal Rutangye-Bazirake**

Crystal is an editor, writer, and publishing consultant who founded Scribe House, a Ugandan-based agency supporting independent authors with book production. A Commonwealth Scholar, she holds a Master's in Publishing Studies from the University of Stirling. Crystal has 15 years' experience editing over 50 publications, including works by Bishop Henry Orombi and Justice Mike Chibita. Her short story, *Legal Alien*, has been adapted into film and featured internationally. Crystal chairs the Christian Writers Association and holds leadership roles in publishing and alumni organizations. She is also developing research on trade book distribution in Uganda, advancing her expertise in literary production.

PANELLIST:**David Kasozi Kibuuka**

David Kasozi Kibuuka is the Managing Director of Roots Publishers Uganda Limited. With a Master's degree in Management Studies from Uganda Management Institute and a Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing) from Makerere University, he brings over 20 years of experience in book marketing and sales across Uganda, Rwanda, and Kenya. He has held roles with leading publishing companies, including Uganda Country Manager for Longhorn Publishers and Sales and Marketing Manager at Pearson Uganda. David is the current chairman of Uganda Reproduction Rights Organisation (URRO) and has previously served as chairman of Uganda Publishers' Association and a board member of APNET.

PANELLIST:**Karungi Charity Kwatampora**

Karungi Charity Kwatampora is a publishing professional with a passion for creative writing, indigenous publishing, and digital innovation. With two decades of experience in administration, entrepreneurship, and publishing, she is dedicated to empowering African writers and promoting literacy. Charity bridges access gaps in Africa's publishing industry by leveraging digital technologies to create sustainable literary initiatives. She has worked on traditional and digital publications, striving to bring African stories to global audiences while fostering a vibrant literary culture.

PANELLIST:

Dora Kemirimo Okuja



Dora Kemirimo Okuja is a teacher of Black history, author, writing coach, editor, and pastor. As team lead at Rewritten Uganda, a book marketing and distribution company, she is dedicated to empowering storytellers and amplifying diverse narratives. A wife and mother, Dora combines her literary expertise with her passion for education to inspire others to share their unique stories.

6:00PM

ONOMO HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM

FILM SCREENING: MAWE!
BY MALCOM GUY



Mawe (2020, Uganda) is a gripping drama that unpacks the fragile line between truth and ignorance. When Felicity visits Milly for a casual hair appointment, their conversation takes unexpected turns, revealing secrets and testing their friendship. Felicity shares a shocking tale about a mutual acquaintance unknowingly eating dog meat, only to later admit she was the one deceived. As the women debate whether ignorance is bliss, Milly reveals her own turmoil: suspicions of her husband's infidelity. Over one afternoon, *Mawe* explores trust, vulnerability, and the cost of uncovering uncomfortable truths.



Malcolm Bigyemano is a multi-talented Ugandan storyteller: writer, director, graphic designer, and musician. Based in Kampala, he has created short films and web series since 2015 and has released music under the alias That Malcolm Guy since 2020. Combining his artistic talents, Malcolm crafts innovative narratives that reimagine Uganda's cultural landscape across diverse media.

**SUNDAY,
8TH DECEMBER 2024**

11:30AM- 1:00PM

ONOMO HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM

**WORKSHOP: CONVENTIONS OF
CRAFTING A GOOD SHORT STORY
BY DILMAN DILA**



Dilman Dila is an award-winning writer known for *Where Rivers Go To Die* (PKD Awards 2024) and *The Future God of Love*. His short fiction features in *The Best of World SF V.2* and other anthologies. He was a Commonwealth Short Story Prize finalist in 2013.

TIME: 11:30 AM- 1:00PM

ONOMO HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM

**READ ALOUD MASTERCLASS
FOR CHILDREN (5-12 YEARS) BY
ROSEY SEMBATYA**



Facilitated by Rosey Sembatya, this session explores the power of voice, guiding participants to bring stories to life through practical activities. Hosted by the Malaika Children's Mobile Library, it promotes storytelling and reading aloud, inspiring creativity and inclusion through audio narration.

1:30PM - 2:30PM

ONOMO HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM

CAN WE TALK SESSION



Can We Talk is a social enterprise dedicated to curating innovative connection & wellness products & spaces for meaningful conversations fostering thriving communities & improving mental health & the quality of social relationships.

3:30PM - 4:30PM

ONOMO HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM

**PANEL DISCUSSION: LITERATURE
AND TECHNOLOGY: THE SHIFTING
PATTERNS OF CENSORSHIP IN
UGANDA**

MODERATOR:

Joachim Buwembo



Joachim Buwembo is a veteran journalist and media consultant with 30+ years of experience. Since 1989, he has reported across East Africa, edited major newspapers in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania, and mentored journalists globally. His work has shaped media practices for public and private institutions, earning him a reputation as a leading voice in East African journalism.

PANELLIST:

Kagayi Ngobi



Kagayi Ngobi is a Ugandan playwright, poet, performer, and publisher dedicated to transforming Ugandan storytelling. A former lawyer, he left legal practice in 2011 to fill gaps in local narratives and empower young artists through Kitara Nation, his poetry organization and publishing house. He has published four poetry collections, including *The Headline That Morning* and *Other Poems* (2016), and over 25 books by Ugandan writers. Kagayi's plays, such as *Arrest the Poem* and *The Audience Must Say Amen*, have been performed in Uganda, Kenya, Sweden, and Germany. His work challenges stereotypes of African lived experiences.

PANELLIST:
Gloria Kiconco

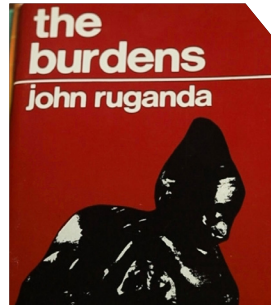


Gloria Kiconco is a poet, non-fiction writer, and zine-maker based in Kampala, Uganda. She shares her work through spoken word performances, readings, and collaborations with music producers. Her poetry appears in 20.35 Africa: An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry and Dear Nev, while her non-fiction has featured in The Forager, Commonwealth Writers, and Adda. Her arts journalism is published in Contemporary &, Dazed, and The Wire. She has created zines like SOLD OUT (2016) and RETURN TO SENDER (2018), and exhibited her work internationally, including during a 2023 residency at Manchester Metropolitan University

5:30PM- 8:00PM

ONOMO HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM

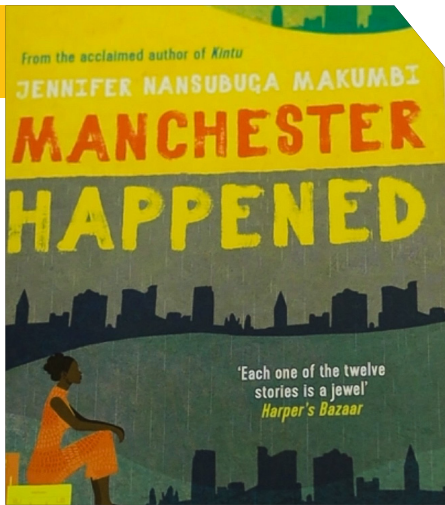
**DRAMATIZATION: THE
BURDENS BY JOHN RUGANDA,
MANCHESTER HAPPENED BY
JENNIFER NANSUBUGA MAKUMBI**



THE BURDENS

Written by Ugandan playwright John Ruganda, *The Burdens* is a landmark East African play that delves into post-colonial struggles through the lens of a family drama. It portrays Wamala, a disillusioned ex-civil servant, and his family, grappling with the consequences of failed independence. The play addresses corruption, social inequality, and governance failures, using a domestic setting to mirror the broader socio-political challenges and "burdens" of personal and national responsibility.

This production will feature Patience Nakamanya as Tinka, Michael Tamale as Wamala, and Camilla Alina as the Narrator.



MANCHESTER HAPPENED

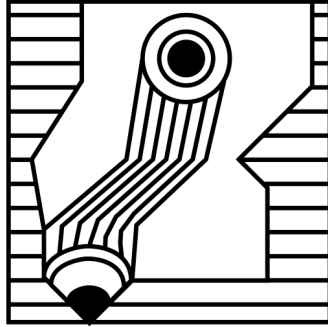
This collection of 12 short stories delves into the lives of Ugandan immigrants in Manchester, exploring themes of identity, belonging, and aspiration. Divided into Departing and Returning, each story weaves a unique emotional journey while reflecting a shared cultural thread. Together, they offer a poignant and insightful perspective on the immigrant experience.

The collection will be dramatized by Gloria Namboozo as Poonah.



PERFORMANCE BY KABERA ANGEL AMAHORO

Kabera is a vibrant Song-Poet (SOET) and the creator of "Soetry," a unique fusion of music and poetry that captivates audiences. She is a journalist by profession, a passionate performer rooted in her African heritage, and a storyteller who delves into the depths of human emotions. Kabera is also a skilled narrative shaper, helping individuals and organizations craft compelling stories that resonate. Through her artistry, she bridges hearts with heartfelt verses and melodies, creating experiences that inspire and connect.



KAMPALA WRITES LITFEST

GOETHE-ZENTRUM
KOOPERATIONSPARTNER

