



KAMPALA
WRITES
LITFEST

15th to 17th
August
2025

Theme: Belonging

FESTIVAL GUIDE

GOETHE-ZENTRUM
KOOPERATIONSPARTNER



Word from the Curator

Welcome to the second edition of Kampala Writes LitFest, which will take place from August 15th to 17th, 2025, at Yusuf Lule Auditorium, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. Designed as an annual event that fosters the growth and development of Uganda's literary sector, the festival will bring together writers from Africa its diaspora, as well as publishers, academics, booksellers, artists, cultural practitioners and other book enthusiasts.

The theme for this year's edition is Belonging, and conversations will explore what it means to find 'home' in new places through words, examine the unique power of stories to connect people to places, and delve into what it means and takes to belong to a culture, a community, an idea, in today's rapidly changing world. We aim to deliver a well-rounded, immersive festival with an array of exciting activities tailored to cater for diverse audiences and interests. Headlined by celebrated Ugandan/British writer, Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi, the festival will feature engaging, in-depth panel discussions on the various influences shaping the production and consumption of literature; intimate Writers-in-Conversation sessions followed by interactive engagements with the audience; hands-on and genre-specific masterclasses and workshops aimed at professional development of emerging and established writers and book professionals; book launches and signings by local and international writers. The festival will also feature a mini-book fair for publishers, booksellers and independent authors to showcase and sell their books. Get ready for a festival pulsing with vibrancy! Featuring captivating film screenings, spoken word performances and a dedicated tribute to honour Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's profound contribution to African literature.

We invite you to join us as we explore literature that has emerged from Uganda and its diaspora in the recent past, reflecting on the diverse experiences, cultures, and perspectives that make up our collective identity and perception of belonging.



**Goretti
Kyomuhendo**
Festival Curator

Word from the Organisers

The Goethe-Zentrum Kampala / Uganda German Cultural Society is delighted to welcome you to the second edition of the Kampala Writes Literature Festival! Since our inaugural launch in November 2024, this distinguished event has championed Uganda's vibrant literary landscape by creating platforms for authors, poets, thespians and spoken word artists to celebrate and showcase their work and forge meaningful connections within local and international literary communities.

This year's festival promises an enriching experience through interactive panel discussions and open conversations for exchange of knowledge and ideas. We endeavour to address sector challenges through workshops that expose writers and publishers to cutting-edge developments in contemporary literature as well as build personal capacities.

In partnership with the British Council, we are honoured to have Jennifer Makubi as our keynote speaker—an award-winning Ugandan/ British author celebrated for her exceptional wit and literary excellence. Other distinguished authors and publishers from Uganda and beyond are also invited to participate in the programme, share key learnings from their experiences as well as engage with the general public in open conversation. Our gratitude extends to Makerere University for graciously hosting the festival and contributing invaluable support to ensure seamless programming.

With this year's theme of "Belonging," we invite you to be an active participant as we explore, complicate and problematize what it means to belong, to self, family, community and in the world today.



Sheila Akwany
Director



Namugula Joan
Festival Manager



Denzel Maniple Everd
Cultural Programmes Assistant



Barbra Emolot
Cultural Programmes Coordinator

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Friday 15th August, 2025

9:30 am–
11 am

Workshop

Getting Started with Writing for Screen

Led by: Aganza Kisaka (Yenze Theatre Conservatoire)

11:30 am–
1 pm

Panel Discussion

Interrogations of Belonging: Perspectives from Makerere.

Panellists: Prof. Dominic Dipio, Dr. Susan Kiguli, Prof. Patrick Mangeni, Dr. Charles Mulekwa

Moderator: Dr Cindy Evelyn Magara

2 pm :

Arrival of Guests

2:15 pm :

Anthems:

Uganda National Anthem, East Africa Anthem, Makerere University Anthem

2:30 pm :

Opening speeches:

Festival Curator: Goretti Kyomuhendo

2:40 pm :

Festival Organisers: Goethe Zentrum Kampala/ Uganda German Cultural Society Director, Sheila Akwany

2:50 pm :

Festival Partners: British Council Director, Millicent Mugabi

3 pm :

Entertainment:

Poetry Performance: Carolyne Acen

3:15 pm :

Welcome Remarks by Makerere University:

Dr Eve Nabulya, Head of Literature Department, Dr Aisha Nakiwala AG Dean, School of Languages, Literature and Communication, Prof. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala, Principal College of Humanities, and Social Sciences, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice Chancellor Makerere University

3:45 pm :

Entertainment:

Poetry Performance by Nii Ayikwei Parkes

4 pm–
5 pm

Keynote Speech

Delivered by: Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi

6.30pm

Writers in Conversation

Iryn Tushabe, author of Everything is Fine Here speaks to Yvonne Zaabu

Moderator: Yvonne Zaabu



Goethe Zentrum Kampala

Saturday 16th August, 2025

9.30am–
11 am

Poetry Masterclass

Finding Your Voice

Led by: Nick Makoha

11.30 am–
1 pm

Panel Discussion

Funding for the Arts in Times of Shifting Priorities: Who Gets Left Out?

Panellists: Elizabeth Mbabazi, Faisal Kiwewa, Charles Batambuze, Peter Primus

Moderator: Dr Anna Adima

2.30pm –
4.30pm

Book Launch

Promises by Goretti Kyomuhendo (Catalyst Press, 2025)

The New Carthaginians by Nick Makoha (Penguin, 2025)

Moderator: Nii Ayikwei Parkes

6 – 7pm

Contemporary Dance

by Nabaggala Lilian Maximillian

8pm

After Party - Festival Dinner & Entertainment



The Lawns

“Entry fee applies”

Sunday 17th August, 2025

10 am–
12:30 pm

Roundtable Discussion (Parallel Session one)

Innovative Publishing Strategies and New Models in Africa

Speakers: Mercy Kirui, Anwuli Ojogwu, Cynthia Kinyera, Kenneth Muhangi

Moderator: Rasheeda Nalumosu (British Council)

10am –
12:30 pm

Workshop (Parallel Session Two)

Creative Writing tips for Secondary School Students.

Tutor: Julius Ocwinyo (author of *Footprints of the Outsider*)

1 – 2 pm

Open Conversation

The Role of Book Clubs in Building a Thriving Literary Community .

Panellists: Daphine Kakooza Nampijja, Jonathan Kimara, Sheila Lubangakene

Moderator: Wendy Njoroge – Soma Nami Books, Nairobi, Kenya.

2:30 pm–
4:30 pm

Panel Discussion

Seeking Home Elsewhere: Navigating Literary and Personal Spaces Abroad.

Panellists: Iryn Tushabe, Nick Makoha, Loic Ekinga, Dr Mohammed Kibirige

Moderator: Jackie Asimwe, author of *Facing Mountains*

6 pm

Remembering Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

Performance by Yenze Theatre Conservatoire

Friday 15th August, 2025

WORKSHOP

GETTING STARTED WITH WRITING FOR SCREEN



9:30 am– 11 am



Yusuf Lule Auditorium,
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

Yenze Theatre Conservatoire is a leading drama school and production company based in Kampala.

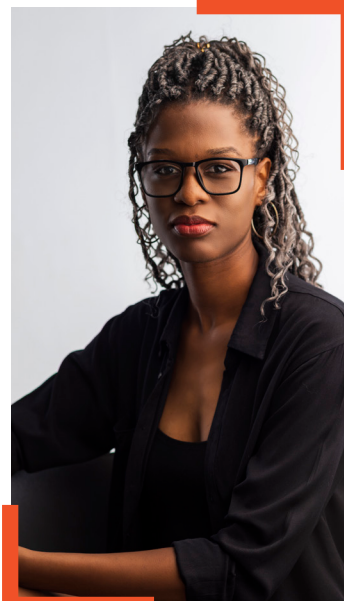
Facilitated by Aganza Kisaka, team leader and visionary founder of YTC, the workshop will focus on pacing, rhythm, and creating memorable characters.

The training is intended for emerging writers, who are keen to build a career in scriptwriting.

Aganza Kisaka

Team leader
and visionary founder of YTC

RSVP



Aganza Kisaka, is the president of the International Theatre Institute Uganda Centre (ITI) and the visionary founder of Yenze Theatre Conservatoire (YTC). Kisaka is an award-winning actress, poet, and published author. Aganza has written, produced, and directed works for film and theatre, such as *Black*, a 10-minute play on race, blackness, and identity that was showcased at Kampala International Theatre Festival 2016 and served as her debut as a playwright.

In 2021, she produced the short film *Vanilla*, on the stigma that parents of children with mental disabilities experience, and then in 2023, her co-written feature film, *When You Become Me*, was nominated for best screenplay at the Uganda Film Festival and many other international festivals.

PANEL DISCUSSION

INTERROGATIONS OF BELONGING: PERSPECTIVES FROM MAKERERE.



11:30 am – 1pm



Yusuf Lule Auditorium,
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

This panel will discuss Makerere's creative luminaries to recover significant representational perspectives on issues of identity and belonging. The discussion will foreground significant voices across generations of Ugandan writers on questions of the nuanced and fluid concept of authenticity.

PANELLISTS



Dr. Susan Kiguli

Academic and poet

Susan Nalugwa Kiguli is a renowned Ugandan poet and academic, currently an Associate Professor and former Head of the Department of Literature at Makerere University. She holds a PhD in English from the University of Leeds and other advanced degrees from the UK and Uganda. Her research focuses on African poetry, performance theory, and popular song, and she has received prestigious fellowships, including the African Studies Association Presidential Fellowship and the African Humanities Fellowship. Kiguli has served in leadership roles within FEMRITE, the African Writers Trust, and other literary bodies, and has actively participated in international festivals and conferences. Her poetry collections—*The African Saga*, *Home Floats in a Distance*, and *Weeping Lands*—have received critical acclaim and international awards, including the National Book Trust of Uganda Poetry Award and the Ali Sul Mediterraneo Libri & Cultura Award in Italy.

She has performed globally, including at the Library of Congress and the International Literature Festival Berlin, and appeared in former German President Horst Köhler's book *Schickal Afrika*. She has judged major literary prizes such as the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and the Nigeria Prize for Literature and led events celebrating African literary giants like Okot p'Bitek, Arthur Gakwandi, and Austin Bukenya. In 2023, she received the Lifetime Achievement International Award from the International Civil Poetry Festival in Italy and continues to link poetry to broader themes of science and social transformation, most recently as a guest speaker at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden.

Sr. Dominic Dipio (MSMMC) is a full professor of literature and film at Makerere University. She is a researcher and scholar with over eighty publications in the interlocking areas of cinema, literature, folklore, popular culture and gender studies. She is, as well, an award-winning filmmaker with a wide juror experience at international, regional and national festivals. Sr. Dipio serves on the boards of reputable journals like the Journal of African Cinema (JAC), Journal of African Cultural Studies (JACS), and the Mashariki: Journal of Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies Conference.

At community level, she has served on Boards such as Wizarts Foundation; Cross Culture Foundation Uganda (CCFU); Uganda Radio Network (URN); the Social Communications Commission of the Uganda Episcopal Conference; The Content Development Support Programme – UCC; and as consultant to the Pontifical Council for Social Communications; and currently, a consultant to the Dicastery for Culture and Education at the Holy See.



Prof. Dominic Dipio
Professor of literature and film
at Makerere University.



Patrick Mangeni is an Associate Professor of Applied Theatre at Makerere University and former Dean of the School of Liberal and Performing Arts, with a PhD from Griffith University (Australia), an MA in Theatre Studies from the University of Leeds (UK), and a BA in Education from Makerere University. He has taught and published extensively on Applied Theatre in the contexts of culture, education, and development, both locally and internationally. Mangeni has chaired the Uganda Writers' Association, served on the board of the Uganda Performing Rights Society, and been an honorary member of FEMRITE and a member of PEN Uganda.

His creative works include award-winning plays like Operation Mulungusi and The Prince, prose collections such as A Leopard in My Bed and The Great Temptation, and poetry featured in various anthologies. He has participated in major literary and cultural events including JAMAFEST, the Queensland Poetry Festival, and served as Poet in Residence at Akademie Schloss Solitude. Mangeni also convened the Tunaweza Arts Festival, hosted the Writers Dawn program on UTV, judged national theatre festivals since 1988, and currently co-edits an anthology of children's plays. His recent scholarly contributions explore the legacy of Rose Mbowe and feature conversations with Timothy Wangusa in the Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies journal.

Prof. Patrick Mangeni

MODERATOR

Cindy Evelyn Magara, Ph.D is a Lecturer in film and literature at the Department of Literature, Makerere University, Uganda. She is also a filmmaker with Nyati Motion Pictures. Her critical oeuvre include but not limited to works such as "The Concept of Heroism among the Banyoro" (2013) , "Symbolism in Ugandan Film" (2014) and "Contemporary East African Cinema: Emergent Themes and Aesthetics"(2020); while her film oeuvre includes three feature titles "Windows of Hope" (2011), "Fair Play" (2009) and " Fate" (2006); two documentary films (A "Book for Every Child" (2013) and "Tuko Pamoja" (2024), docuseries.

She has worked as a juror at various festivals and competitions, with the notable ones being: chief juror for Pearl International Film Festivals, Uganda, from 2008 to 2017 & 2024; member of the Oscars' Selection committee for Best Foreign Language/International Film Category for Uganda since 2019 to date; juror member for the Uganda Film Festival, 2022 and 2023. Although her studies are majorly in African Cinema and Literature, her research interests expand to children's cinema and literature, adaptation of literature into film, global/national cinemas and cultural studies.



Dr Cindy Evelyn Magara

Lecturer in film and literature
at the Department of Literature,
Makerere University, Uganda

POETRY PERFORMANCE



3:45 pm



Yusuf Lule Auditorium,
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

Nii Ayikwei Parkes is a British-Ghanian performance poet who has performed on major stages across the world. He is the winner of multiple international awards, and has won acclaim as a novelist, broadcaster and children's author. He is the founder of flipped eye publishing.

Nii Ayikwei Parkes is a performance poet, writer, publisher and sociocultural commentator. He is one of 39 writers aged under 40 from sub-Saharan Africa who in April 2014 were named as part of the Hay Festival's prestigious Africa39 project.[4] He writes for children under the name K.P. Kojo

Nii Ayikwei Parkes

Performance poet

KEYNOTE SPEECH

KEYNOTE SPEECH



4pm – 5pm



Yusuf Lule Auditorium,
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi is an acclaimed Ugandan fiction writer of two novels: *The First Woman* (2020) and *Kintu* 2014.

Her short story collection, *Manchester Happened* was published in 2019. She is a recipient of the prestigious Windham-Campbell Prize 2018, and won the Global Commonwealth Short story prize 2014. She has a PhD from Lancaster University and has taught in several universities in Britain.

Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi is a fiction writer of *The First Woman* 2020, (*A Girl is a Body of Water* for US/Canada) which won the Jhalak Prize 2021, was shortlisted for The Diverse Book Award 2021, the Encore Prize 2021, the James Tait Black Prize 2021 and longlisted for The Aspen Words Literary Prize 2021. Her first novel, *Kintu*, won the Kwani? Manuscript Project 2013, the Prix Transfuge Du Meilluer Premier Roman Francais (2019) shortlisted for Edward Stanford Awards (2019) Longlisted for The Prix Du Medicis (2019).

Her collection of short stories, *Manchester Happened*, (*Let's Tell This Story Properly* for US/Canada) was shortlisted for The Big Book prize: Harper's Bazaar 2019 and longlisted for Edge Hill Prize. To work on her current project, Makumbi has been Writer-in-Residence at NIAS-KNAW in 2021, Artist-in-Berlin DAAD in 2022, Artist in Residence at STIAS Stellenbosch 2023 and now a Franke Fellow (Yale University) 2024-2025. She is a recipient of the prestigious Windham-Campbell Prize 2018, won the Global Commonwealth Short story prize 2014 and has a PhD from Lancaster University. She has taught in several universities in Britain.



**Jennifer Nansubuga
Makumbi**

Writer

WRITERS IN CONVERSATION

EVERYTHING IS FINE HERE



6:30pm



Goethe Zentrum Kampala

About Everything Is Fine Here

Eighteen-year-old Aine Kamara has been anticipating a reunion with her older sister, Mbabazi, for months. But when Mbabazi shows up with an unexpected guest, Aine must confront an old fear: her beloved sister is gay in a country with tight anti-homosexuality laws.

Everything Is Fine Here is a dazzling debut novel.



Iryn Tushabe is a Ugandan-Canadian writer and journalist. Most recently her nonfiction has appeared in *The Walrus* and in the trace press anthology *river in an ocean: essays on translation*. Her short fiction has twice been included in *The Journey Prize Stories: The best of Canada's New Writers*.

She was a finalist for the Caine Prize for African Writing in 2021, and a 2023 winner of the Writers' Trust McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize.

Tushabe's work won the City of Regina writing Award in 2020 and 2024. *Everything is Fine Here* (House of Anansi April 22, 2025) is her debut novel.

Iryn Tushabe

Zabu Wamara is a Ugandan writer based in Kampala. She holds an MA in Creative Writing (Prose Fiction) from the University of East Anglia, where she graduated with distinction as a Global Voices Scholar.

Her work has appeared in the Ugandan cohort's anthology under the International Chair of Creative Writing project and *The Weganda Review*. In 2024 she attended the Miles Morland African Writers' residency. Zabu's short story *Pineapple*, was longlisted for the 2025 Afritondo Short Story Prize. She was also selected for the Pfumo Collective's *CITIZEN: A Manifesto* project, a nonfiction anthology exploring ideas of citizenship and nationhood on the African continent.

Her debut novel manuscript, *Night Dancer*, was recently named a joint winner of the 2025 Island Prize for a Debut Novel from Africa.



Zabu Wamara

Moderator

Saturday 16th August, 2025

POETRY MASTERCLASS

FINDING YOUR VOICE



9:30 am– 11 am



Yusuf Lule Auditorium,
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

Led by experienced Ugandan poet Dr Nick Makoha, this transformative poetry workshop is designed to help writers discover their authentic voices through personal experiences and language choices. Participants will be empowered to write with a distinct voice, and to deepen their understanding of the poetry craft.

Nick Makoha

Poet

RSVP



Dr Nick Makoha is a Ugandan poet. His new collection is *The New Carthaginians*, published by Penguin UK. Winner of the 2021 Ivan Juritz Prize and the Poetry London Prize. In 2017, Nick's debut collection, *Kingdom of Gravity*, was shortlisted for the Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection and was one of the Guardian's best books of the year. He was the ICA 2023 Writer-in-Residence. He was the 2019 Writer-in-Residence for The Wordsworth Trust and Wasafiri.

PANEL DISCUSSION

FUNDING FOR THE ARTS IN TIMES OF SHIFTING PRIORITIES: WHO GETS LEFT OUT?



11:30am – 1pm



Yusuf Lule Auditorium,
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

Art has the power to create meaningful change, foster a more inclusive society, and influence perspectives. But for this to happen, artists need to be supported through funding, so as to sustain their creative processes. Panellists will discuss Arts potential to create a sense of belonging among different categories of people, examine the impact of shifting patterns in funding for the Arts, and explore alternative funding models available to artists in the global south.

PANELISTS



Elizabeth Mbabazi

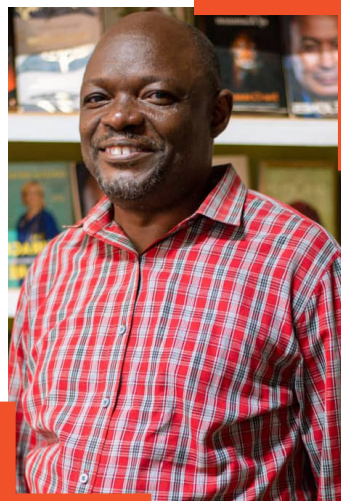
Kuonyesha Art Fund

Elizabeth is a Program Associate at CivFund, an African-led feminist fund based in Uganda, where she manages the Kuonyesha Art Fund and the Resilience Fund—initiatives supporting arts and civil society resilience across East Africa. With over 20 years of experience in the arts sector, grants, and project management, she holds an MA in Fine Arts from Makerere University, an MBA from Uganda Management Institute, and completed cultural entrepreneurship training at the African Arts Institute in Cape Town.

A professional fashion designer and artist, she has led major projects such as Uganda Fashion Week, Kampala Art Biennale, and the ABSA L'Atelier Art competition in Uganda, alongside 15+ years in art gallery management. Elizabeth serves on the Advisory Board of Culture Development East Africa (CDEA) and is deeply committed to leveraging arts, indigenous knowledge, and local philanthropy for sustainable community development. A Christian and mother of four, she enjoys adventure, having hiked Mt. Rwenzori, rafted the Nile, and trekked gorillas in Bwindi Forest.

Charles Batambuze is a prominent figure in Uganda's creative economy and a leading advocate for cultural policy reform. As Vice Chairman of the National Culture Forum (NCF), he has been central to efforts promoting public investment in the arts and elevating the creative sector as a pillar of national development. He has spearheaded critical policy engagements with Parliament, ministries, and development partners to reform copyright laws, secure post-COVID-19 artist funding, and advocate for a dedicated Ministry for Arts and Culture.

His leadership was pivotal in NCF's campaign against restrictive regulations on artists, fostering inclusive dialogue and better protections for creatives. Charles also serves as Executive Director of the Uganda Reproduction Rights Organisation (URRO), defending the rights and fair compensation of authors and publishers, and as Executive Secretary of the National Book Trust of Uganda (NABOTU), where he has led major literary festivals, reading campaigns, and key discussions on publishing, copyright, and literacy. With a strong background in policy, culture, and advocacy, he remains a driving force in shaping Uganda's creative industry landscape.



Charles Batambuze



Faisal Kiwewa

Bayimba Foundation

Faisal Kiwewa is the founder and Artistic Director of the Bayimba Foundation, where he has been instrumental in transforming Uganda's arts scene into a dynamic and vibrant space. Under his leadership, Bayimba has grown into a major platform for nurturing talent, providing training, and celebrating the arts across Uganda, East Africa, and beyond. He has organized numerous influential festivals, including the Bayimba International Festival of the Arts, DOADOA | East African Performing Arts Market, the Kampala International Theatre Festival, and the revitalized Amakula International Film Festival.

A respected curator, programmer, and judge, Faisal frequently serves on festival juries, committees, and as a speaker across the continent. He sits on the boards of international organizations like Jeunesses Musicales International, the International Independent Cultural Council, and the CultureCOP Steering Committee, and is involved in networks such as Arterial Network, Arts Connect Africa, and Visa for Music. His expertise in cultural management is backed by advanced training from renowned institutions including the DeVos Institute at the Kennedy Center, the UK's Management School of Fundraising, and the CREARE Erasmus Centre in the Netherlands.

Peter Primus, the new Deputy Head of Mission/German Embassy Kampala, began his diplomatic career in 1992 in Bonn/Germany. His first foreign posting was Bucharest (Romania) where he served as a Cultural Attaché in the mid-1990s.

Later he was posted in Ghana, the US (Chicago), Zimbabwe, Slovakia and most recently in Rwanda. In the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs he worked on EU enlargement, international academic exchange and Deutsche Welle (DW) projects. He graduated from Marburg University with a degree in Economics in 1989.

Peter Primus

Deputy Head of Mission/
German Embassy Kampala



MODERATOR



Anna Adima is a German-Ugandan culture writer, journalist and consultant based in Kampala, Uganda, with a doctorate in East African history and literature from the University of York.

Her work on the arts, history, and cultural infrastructure in the region has appeared in various publications and peer-reviewed journals. She has consulted for diverse companies and institutions in the sectors of film, fashion, publishing and visual arts.

Dr Anna Adima

German-Ugandan culture writer,
journalist and consultant

BOOK LAUNCH

PROMISES BY GORETTI KYOMUHENDO (CATALYST PRESS, 2025)



2:30pm – 4:30pm



Yusuf Lule Auditorium,
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

A beautifully, imagined love story about Ajuna and her fiancé, Kagaba caught up in financial hardship in their native Uganda, and what happens in-between when Kagaba decides to leave for the UK as an economic immigrant. Promises humanises the migrant experience, and arrives at a time when immigration remains a contentious, universal dilemma.

Goretti Kyomuhendo's novel exposes the murky world of illegal immigrants, and the creativity with which people in the legal margins rise to fight an inhumane system. Populated with an expansive array of vibrant characters, the story examines the promises we keep and those we break when relationships are profoundly tested by circumstances and twists of fate. It is a vivid tapestry of Ugandan family life, and catches the universal emotions of love, death, and betrayal.



Goretti Kyomuhendo is a celebrated Ugandan novelist and the founding director of the African Writers Trust and TUBAZE African Books. She is the author of four novels, including *Secrets No More*, which won the Uganda National Literary Award, and *Waiting*, published internationally and translated into Spanish. She has also authored children's books, short stories, and a handbook for African writers. Holding a master's degree in creative writing from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, where she also taught, Goretti was the first Ugandan woman to receive a writing fellowship from the University of Iowa.

Her contributions to literature and advocacy have earned her global recognition, including a spot among the 100 Most Influential Africans by *New African* in 2019. A founding member and first director of FEMRITE, she has served on high-profile literary juries such as the Caine Prize and the Commonwealth Book Prize, cementing her role as both a prolific writer and influential literary activist.

THE NEW CARTHAGINIANS BY NICK MAKOHA (PENGUIN, 2025)



2:30pm – 4:30pm



Yusuf Lule Auditorium,
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

A hijacked plane lands at Entebbe Airport in 1976, triggering the crisis that will lead to Idi Amin's Uganda becoming a pariah state and, within a few years, to the young Nick Makoha's flight from the country. *The New Carthaginians* is a poetry collection of staggering originality.

Nick Makoha is a Ugandan poet and playwright based in London. His debut collection, *Kingdom of Gravity*, was shortlisted for the Felix Dennis Prize and was one of the Guardian's Best Books of the Year. His poems have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Poetry Review*, *Poetry Wales*, *Wasafiri*, *Boston Review*, and *Callaloo*. He is the founder of Obsidian Foundation, winner of the 2021 Ivan Juritz Prize and the Poetry London Prize.



Nii Ayikwei Parkes

Moderator

CONTEMPORARY DANCE



6 – 7pm



Yusuf Lule Auditorium,
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

Nabaggala Lilian Maximillian is a dynamic dance practitioner based in Kampala, Uganda, skillfully navigating the intersection of tradition and urban dance, infusing her performances, choreography, and teaching with a distinctive fusion. Proficient in styles such as Waacking, Hip-hop, House, Latin, and Ugandan traditional dances, Lilian seamlessly extends her reach into film, photography, and visual arts, embracing artistic experimentation.

Earlier this year, she was commissioned to choreograph and artistically direct a dance theater piece “Bond-edge” at the National Arts Festival with the French embassy of South Africa . Additionally, she collaborated with the Australian High Commission of Kenya to recreate her dance theater piece “FADED” with an East African female ensemble in Kigali, Rwanda, during the Ubumuntu Arts Festival.

In recognition of her artistry, Lilian was named a 2022 Pina Bausch Fellow and embarked on a collaborative journey with cooperation partner Wanjiru Kamuyu, spanning France and Mali, culminating in a choreographic laboratory.

Nabaggala Lilian

Dance practitioner



Sunday 17th August, 2025

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

INNOVATIVE PUBLISHING STRATEGIES AND NEW MODELS IN AFRICA

- Digital and Audio Publishing
- Social Media, AI, Digital Marketing as Emerging Frontiers in African Publishing
- Addressing the Skills Gaps in Publishing



10 am– 12: 30 pm



Yusuf Lule Auditorium,
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

In the past decade, the African writing and publishing landscape has undergone a vibrant transformation, driven by creative and innovative models, which aim to address traditional barriers that affect book publishing and distribution in Africa. The roundtable will bring together key players in the book sector to discuss what these innovative models mean for the future of African publishing.

SPEAKERS



Mercy Kirui is a dynamic publishing professional and rights expert committed to amplifying African writers on both local and global stages, particularly through foreign and translation rights opportunities. She has earned recognition for her leadership in the international book industry, becoming the first African selected for the prestigious Frankfurt Fellowship Programme in 2024 and being shortlisted for the PublishHer Excellence Award in 2025.

Mercy has participated in major global initiatives such as the Sharjah Booksellers Conference, Istanbul Publishers Fellowship, and Bologna Book Plus, and has led insightful panel discussions at the London and Frankfurt Book Fairs. As a thought leader, she spearheaded a landmark publishing fellowship in Nairobi in 2023 that convened professionals from 12 countries. A passionate children's book author, Mercy has written over 20 books used in Kenya and Malawi's school systems and also serves as a curriculum advisor, championing visibility, professional growth, and innovation across Africa's publishing ecosystem.

Mercy Kirui

Independent publisher, Kenya

Anwuli Ojogwu is a publisher, editor and co-founder of Narrative Landscape Press, an independent publishing company based in Lagos, Nigeria, that has published acclaimed African writers such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Oyinkan Braithwaite, Caleb Azumah Nelson, Veronique Tadjó, Mamle Wolo, Marlon James, among others.

In 2024, Narrative Landscape Press expanded its reach by opening a new branch in East Africa, Narrative Landscape EA. She is also the Executive Director/co-founder of Society for Book & Magazine Editors of Nigeria, a non-profit that supports publishing and editorial professional development. She currently sits on the board of trustees of the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers (Lagos Hub) and advisory board of Open Country Mag, a leading media company.



Anwuli Ojogwu

Publisher, editor and co-founder
of Narrative Landscape Press



Kenneth Muhangi

Leading expert in sustainability,
carbon markets, and
Article 6 compliance

Kenneth Muhangi is a leading expert in sustainability, carbon markets, and Article 6 compliance. He is the Chair of the Carbon Markets Association of Uganda and represents several multinational entities engaged in carbon trading. Kenneth advises on the design and implementation of carbon market frameworks and has been instrumental in supporting regulatory compliance and private sector participation in carbon finance initiatives across Africa. His work intersects climate policy, international carbon trading mechanisms, and sustainable development, positioning him at the forefront of Africa's climate action and carbon market evolution.

Beyond his work in sustainability, Kenneth is a distinguished practitioner in Technology, Media and Telecommunications (TMT) and Intellectual Property (IP) law. He chairs the Technology, Media and Telecommunications Committee of the East Africa Law Society and the ICT Cluster of the Uganda Law Society, and serves on the board of FITSPA—the umbrella body for fintechs in Uganda. He is a sought-after advisor on digital trade, fintech regulation, cybersecurity, data protection, and emerging technologies such as AI and blockchain. Kenneth also lectures intellectual property law at Uganda Christian University, contributing to the next generation of legal innovators navigating Africa's digital transformation.

Cynthia Kinyera is a Ugandan digital content writer, communications specialist and the founder of Uganda Digital Writers Association (UDWA). UDWA is the first network of professional digital writers in Uganda focused on mutual career development and community support.

Cynthia's broad experience includes a six-year freelance writing career and a background in corporate communications for both the international development and marketing sectors.

Cynthia Kinyera

Digital content writer, communications specialist and the founder of Uganda Digital Writers Association (UDWA)



MODERATOR



An ideas led Creative Producer managing large, complex international cultural programmes- building cross sector collaborations with partners to research, build networks and develop ambitious, innovative commissions.

Rasheeda's work includes designing international artist exchange programmes, digital and enterprise platforms, international festival programming, exhibitions and conferences.

Currently Regional Lead Creative Economy with the British Council Africa Arts team Rasheeda works across Africa and the UK as a Cultural Producer and Consultant (Live Traces Producing) including as a co-founder of Creators Connect fostering cross sector collaboration to amplify visibility and unlock global opportunities with and for artists across Africa, the wider diaspora and the global creative economy.

Rasheeda Nalumoso

British Council

PANEL DISCUSSION

CREATIVE WRITING TIPS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.



10am – 12:30pm

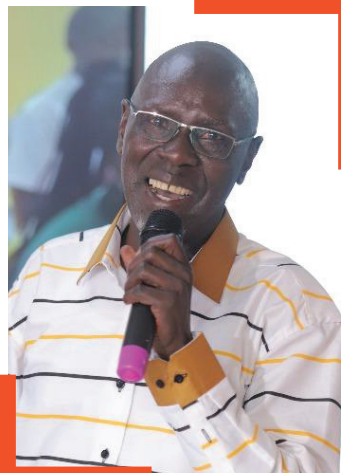


Yusuf Lule Auditorium,
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

Participants will be drawn from three secondary schools in and around Kampala. Each school will be asked to select ten literature students. The workshop will be taught by a tutor, whose books are taught as literature set books in secondary schools. Each participant will receive a copy of *The First Woman* by Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi, and will be required to read it ahead of the training.

Julius Ocwinyo is a renowned Ugandan writer and editor with extensive experience in both creative and non-creative writing. He is the author of acclaimed literary works such as *Fate of the Banished* and *Footprints of the Outsider*, both of which are included in Uganda's A-level Literature syllabus.

His portfolio spans poetry, youth and adult fiction, short stories, biographies, and educational materials, including an English language course and dictionary tailored for East African students.



Julius Ocwinyo

Writer and editor

OPEN CONVERSATION

THE ROLE OF BOOK CLUBS IN BUILDING A THRIVING LITERARY COMMUNITY.



1pm – 2pm



Yusuf Lule Auditorium,
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

PANELLISTS



Daphine Kakooza Nampijja

Teacher of English and literature

She is a teacher of English and literature and a graduate of Makerere University. Her literary journey began when she joined the African Writers Trust as an intern—an experience that deepened her appreciation for books and the value of literary communities. She currently works with Tubaze African Books as the Bookshop Operations Coordinator and also serves as the coordinator of the Tubaze Book Club.

She coordinates the Tubaze Book Club out of a passion for literature and a desire to create a space where readers can come together to share stories, ideas, and perspectives. She believes reading becomes even more meaningful when experienced in community. Her work is rooted in promoting African literature, encouraging conversations around books, and nurturing a culture of reading that is vibrant, inclusive, and ongoing.

With over 19 years of diverse experience in public relations across Uganda's telecom, public health, human rights, equal opportunities, and aviation sectors, Sheila is a seasoned communications professional passionate about impactful storytelling and strategic engagement.

She has facilitated numerous trainings on creative writing and storytelling for impact, engaging diverse audiences at higher institutions of learning, organizations and regional conferences.

Notably, she presented on Transcultural Storytelling in Public Relations: Crafting Narratives That Resonate Across Africa at the 2024 APRA Conference in Côte d'Ivoire and led a masterclass on Creative Writing for Public Relations at the Public Relations Society of Kenya in 2023.

Beyond her professional roles, she serves as a Board Member at Vessel Is Me, a civil society organization in Uganda, and is the Chairperson of Growth Lane Book Club in Entebbe. She is also the award-winning author of *Still A Mum*, which was adapted into a stage play and performed at Uganda's National Theatre in 2022. That same year, she received the African Christian Author's Award in Kenya for her literary contribution.



Sheila Ajok Lubangakene

Principal Public Relations Officer,
Uganda Civil Aviation Authority



Jonathan Kimara is a multidisciplinary creative, a visual artist, designer, and writer. His work stands at the intersection of design, storytelling, and community exploring visual communication, user experiences, and socially engaging art often rooted in East African contexts.

He facilitates the Kampala Chapter of the Noname Book Club, a gathering of readers, dreamers, and thinkers committed to liberation through literature by writers black, indigenous, and of colour- from abolitionist through to diasporic fiction while building community across creative and intellectual spaces.

Kimara Jonathan

Visual artist, designer, and writer

MODERATOR

Wendy Njoroge is a Pan-African literature advocate based in Nairobi, Kenya. As the co-founder of Soma Nami Books, she has established a hub for book lovers, offering a selection of African and diasporic literature that highlights the continent's storytelling traditions. For over a decade, she has supported reading communities as a book club founder, administrator, and community builder across Kenya.

She is also the organiser of the African Book Fair, an annual event in Nairobi that brings together writers, publishers, and readers to engage with African literature and promote dialogue. As Managing Director at Narrative Landscape Press EA, she works to publish and share East African stories with a global audience.

Wendy Njoroge

Pan-African literature advocate



PANEL DISCUSSION

SEEKING HOME ELSEWHERE: NAVIGATING LITERARY AND PERSONAL SPACES ABROAD.



2:30pm – 4: 30pm



Yusuf Lule Auditorium,
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

Increasingly, many African writers live and work outside the continent. But what challenges do they encounter, among them, inhabiting unfamiliar spaces, finding acceptance, and building a new 'home' away from home? This panel will explore how writers in the diaspora grapple with notions of home, belonging, and identity, away from their countries of origin.

PANELLISTS



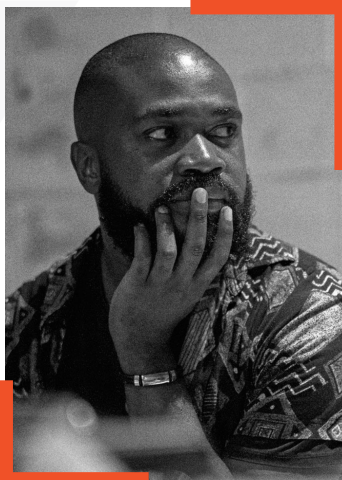
Poet

Nick Makoha



Iryn Tushabe

Writer and journalist



Loic Ekinga is a writer from the Democratic Republic of Congo. He is the author of the poetry collection *How To Wake A Butterfly* (Odyssey Books, 2021). His works of fiction and poetry have appeared in *Agbowò*, *Tint Journal*, *Type/Cast Magazine*, *Salamander Ink*, *Ja. Magazine*, *Poetry Potion*, *A Long House*, *New Contrast*, *Brittle Paper* and elsewhere. His experimental mini chapbook *Twelve Things You Failed at As A Man Today* was an honourable mention by JK Anowe for *Praxis Magazine Online*.

In addition, his short story 'Loop' has been adapted into a short film by Vivanation. He is a finalist of Poetry Africa's Slam Jam competition, a Kasala writer and teacher, and a Best Of The Net nominee.

Loic Ekinga

Writer

MODERATOR

Jacqueline Asiiimwe is a Ugandan lawyer, author, and social justice advocate with nearly 30 years of experience in philanthropy and civic leadership. She is the Founder and CEO of CivSource Africa, an organization championing African-led giving and community-rooted development.

She is the author of *Facing Mountains*, a moving collection of personal reflections on resilience, loss, identity, and healing. Her writing and public engagements reflect a deep commitment to voice, purpose, and belonging—key themes in many of today's most vital conversations.

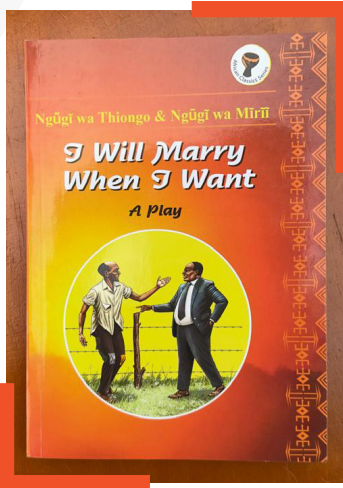
Jacqueline is also a certified professional coach and an internationally respected facilitator, known for her work in leadership development, mentorship, and movement building across Africa and beyond.



Jacqueline Asiiimwe

Lawyer, author, and social justice advocate

REMEMBERING NGŪGĪ WA THIONG'O



 6pm

 Yusuf Lule Auditorium,
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

I Will Marry When I Want

Written by Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Ngugi wa Mirii. The play centers on Kigũũnda, a farmer, and his family, who face pressure to marry their daughter, Gathoni, to the son of a wealthy landowner, Kĩoi, to improve their social standing.

The play delves into themes of betrayal, cultural imperialism, and the quest for dignity, particularly as the family's ambitions are exploited by Kĩoi. Ultimately, the play critiques the betrayal of the masses' aspirations by the post-independence leadership and exposes the hypocrisy and corruption within both religion and capitalism.

This production will be presented by Yenze Theatre Conservatoire

Organised by

GOETHE-ZENTRUM
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COLLEGE OF
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