

Program 2016

International Literature Festival – **polip**

6th Edition 13–15 May 2016

<https://polipfestival.wordpress.com>

<http://www.qendra.org>

Friday, 13. 05. 2016

19:00-19:30 Intro: **Martin Bieri** and **Fitzgerald & Rimini**

19:30 – 20:00 Official opening of the polip festival

20:00–22:00 Readings

Xhevahir Spahiu (ALB), **Viveka Sjögren** (SE), **Rosa Pock** (AT), **Flutura Aça** (ALB),
Bojan Babić (SRB), **Donika Dabishevi** (RKS)

Moderators: **Qerim Ondozi** (RKS) & **Saša Ilić** (SRB)

Live music: **Ah Ahilej** (SRB)

Saturday, 14. 05. 2016

Panel discussion

16:00–17:30 How can we speak about the contemporary moment?

Panelists: **Mehmet Yashin** (CYP), **Peter Ahorner** (AT), **Katrin Thomaneck** (DE), **Annette Rosengren** (SE), **Jan Böttcher** (DE)

Moderator: **Alida Bremer** (DE/HR)

Translation into English will be provided.

Panel discussion

18:00–19:30 What kind of literature do we need?

Panelists: **Luljeta Lleshanaku** (ALB), **Rumena Bužarovska** (MK), **Bojan Babić** (SRB), **Xhëvdet Bajraj** (RKS/MEX), **Rosa Pock** (AT), **Viveka Sjögren** (SE)

Moderator: **Saša Ilić** (SRB)

Translation into English will be provided.

20:00– 22:00 Readings

Xhevdet Bajraj (RKS/ MEX), **Rumena Bužarovska** (MK), **Luljeta Lleshanaku** (ALB), **Peter Ahorner** (AT), **Annette Rosengren** (SE), **Jan Böttcher** (DE), **Mehmet Yashin** (CYP)

Moderators: **Ardiana S. Prishtina** (RKS) & **Svetlana Rakočević** (SRB/UK)

Music and readings: **Martin Bieri** and **Fitzgerald & Rimini** (CH)

Sunday, 15. 05. 2016

Panel discussion

16:00–17:30 Theatre of the newcomers

Panelist: **Sabine Kock** (AT) **Martin Bieri** (CH), **Stefan Schletter** (DE), **Senem Cevher** (TR), **Viveka Sjögren** (SE), **Ralph Hamerthaler** (DE)

Moderator: **Jeton Neziraj** (RKS)

Translation into English will be provided.

Readings&discussions

18:00–19:30 Writing by the “politically inappropriate” of 1980’s

Readings & discussions by: **Shukrije Gashi** (RKS), **Dije Neziri Lohaj** (RKS), **Shemsije Elshani** (RKS), **Myrvete Dreshaj Baliu** (RKS)

Moderator: **Eli Krasniqi** (RKS)

Translation into English will be provided.

20:00 – 00:00 Readings

Sabina Viktor Veizaj (ALB), **Vladimir Tabašević** (SRB), **Svetlana Rakočević** (SRB/UK), **Katrin Thomaneck** (DE) **Gëzim Aliu** (RKS), **Gjergj Anton Filipaj** (RKS)

In Memoriam: Home and World: Ales Debeljak as a child of Atlantis

Moderators: **Alida Bremer** (DE/HR) & **Jeton Neziraj** (RKS)

Live music: **Bajram Kafu Kinolli & Faruk Banjska** (RKS)

Panels & Debates

Saturday, 14.05.2016

PANEL 1

16:00–17:30 Literature and crisis: How can we speak about the contemporary moment?

Panelists: **Mehmet Yashin** (CYP), **Peter Ahorner** (AT), **Katrin Thomaneck** (DE), **Annette Rosengren** (SE), **Jan Böttcher** (DE)

Moderator: **Alida Bremer**(DE/HR)

The refugee crisis and the crisis of the European Union create a painful impression that we are at the moment dealing with a very serious crisis. We feel that the world is getting closer, and on the other hand we feel that the conflict borders cut through our societies. How can we speak and write about this?

Can literature act beyond the other public discourses? Can literature change something? How does the literature respond to the contemporary problems? Is a reaction to immediate reality the task of literature at all? The range of topics that move contemporary writers is very large: freedom of speech, boundaries of politically correct speech, exploring of values, researching conflicts and transferring them into literary imagination, searching for the causes of the conflicts, discovering unknown aspects of the past.

Which aesthetical, ethical and political values do refugees bring into the polyphony of European voices? And are we capable of understanding them?

Some of the questions are more theoretical, others are more practical: In contemporary Arabic world writers are often persecuted, even sentenced to death; European authors have made such experiences in various totalitarian regimes in the past – is it possible to learn from experiences of each other and how we can show solidarity with persecuted writers?

In an open conversation we will approach the most important issues that today move writers and the world of literature.

PANEL 2

16:00 – 17:30 What kind of literature we need?

Panelists: **Luljeta Lleshanaku** (ALB), **Rumena Bužarovska** (MK), **Bojan Babić** (SRB), **Xhevdet Bajraj** (RKS/ MEX), **Rosa Pock** (AT)

Moderator: **Saša Ilić** (SRB)

Translation into English will be provided.

There are no easy answers to complex issues. Therefore maybe art, in all its forms, is the most equipped to respond to the contemporary moment using the power of its expression. That is also

why we need literature – to explore the reality in the complicated world of our days. One of the important questions is the question on the relationship between politics and literature. There is an infinite subject and it has not lost its relevance in our time. Even if the literature completely ignores political issues, it can be very political. That seems to be a paradox, but the literature is never created in a vacuum.

In this discussion we will also talk about the priorities of the literary work in our countries. In different countries there are different priorities of the current problems. Therefore literary works include this local component. These differences make the translated literature so interesting for us – we can learn from translations a lot about other societies.

But on another hand literature offers us a way to consider the essential human dilemmas, the ones that never change. It's why some books are so important for us — not because what they describe is so different from our experience, but because it is essentially the same.

Sunday, 15. 05. 2016

PANEL 3

16:00–17:30 Theatre of the newcomers

Panelist: **Sabine Kock** (AT) **Martin Bieri** (CH), **Stefan Schletter** (DE), **Senem Cevher** (TR), **Viveka Sjögren** (SE), **Ralph Hammerthaler** (DE)

Moderator: **Jeton Neziraj** (RKS)

Among the hundreds of thousands of refugees that have come from the Middle East, a few dozen or perhaps hundreds are theater artists. Some of them are already located in various states in Europe; others are on the way, coming...!

What are the challenges and opportunities for refugees who are theater professionals? How many of them can be integrated into theaters in Germany, Switzerland, Austria or Turkey and how can this be done? Are these refugees, the new “exotics”, people with whom everyone wants to collaborate? What kind of potential might they bring to our theaters today?

And another thing: what are the real problems of refugees that European theater can and should be addressing today?

While the public is being bombarded with news stories and information by the media, from politicians, from pro and anti-refugee groups, is it (or could it become) the theater that provides space for a third voice, which has so far been missing?

Dealing with the fate of refugees and their problems, articulating their experience of suffering, their needs and demands, can we presume that in this manner, the theater could indirectly represent those (refugees) to the receiving society?

Alternatively, can we agree that as the majority of theaters in Europe (especially independent theaters), are in a continual financial crisis, topics regarding refugees and emigrants are “attractive” precisely because they might also raise money more easily?

PANEL 4

18:00–19:30 Writing by the “politically inappropriate” of 1980’s

Readings & discussions by: **Shukrije Gashi** (RKS), **Dije Neziri Lohaj** (RKS),

Shemsije Elshani (RKS), **Myrvete Dreshaj Baliu** (RKS)

Moderator: **Eli Krasniqi** (RKS)

Translation into English will be provided.

In 1980’s, Albanian political prisoners made around 80% of the total number of the imprisoned in Yugoslavia (Dragovic-Soso, 2002, quoted from Cocozelli, 2009:41). Some of the Albanian prisoners (perhaps majority) were part of the underground movement, known as the *Ilegalja* [Illegality]. This movement comprised various groups of young women and men, who since the end of the Second World War had adopted different programs in response to the political circumstances of the times in question. Right after the war, some of these groups aimed unification with Albania and by years of 1980’s – the creation of an Albanian Republic within Yugoslavia. Throughout all these period, the common denominator of all these groups was fighting against Yugoslav discrimination toward Albanians. Once imprisoned, the *Ilegalja* activists were systematically tortured, in contravention of all norms and rights guaranteed by international conventions. In the movement in general, especially in 1980’s, the activism of women was particularly important, not just on national, but also on gender grounds – concretely, by raising awareness among women about their rights. Literature was one of the ways which activism expressed ideals about freedom, diversity, life and equality. For some of the political prisoners, (some of whom were poets before they were imprisoned), writing was a survival mechanism inside prison, as well during the difficult times after prison. Literature written by women activists in the movement and those who were political prisoners communicate between time and reality, often still entirely unaccepted and sometimes even distorted. As part of the international poetry festival, “polip”, Alter Habitus has invited some poets, activists and former political prisoners from the 1980’s, to read their texts and then to discuss this literature, as a form of expression from brutal political times. Besides the importance of this creativity as a literary genre or as art of resistance, the panel will also be discussing or pose questions such as – how does this literature resists partial collective political amnesia in a patriarchal and transitional society like Kosovo.

All activities will happen at:

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Lagja Dardania
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