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FIRST ROUND OF STORYTELLERS REVEALED FOR 16th UBUD WRITERS & READERS FESTIVAL

Ubud, Bali, INDONESIA—

Ubud Writers & Readers Festival (UWRF) has announced the first round of storytellers who will join this year's five-day program of compelling conversations, intimate special events, and powerful performances from 23–27 October in the spectacular surrounds of Bali's cultural heart. Early Bird tickets are now on sale until 2 August, before the full program is announced on 13 August.

In 2019 UWRF celebrates its 16th year as one of the world's leading literary events, with *The Telegraph UK* naming it one of the five best literary festivals for 2019. It will bring together more than 170 authors, artists, and activists from over 30 countries, to share extraordinary stories and bold ideas through the lens of this year's theme, Karma.

A Hindu philosophy that has evolved into a universal belief, the theme will delve into the impacts of our personal and collective actions on our social and physical environments. At a time when climate change is confronted daily, the ancient spiritual principle will encourage us to ask whether we truly understand the consequences of our actions, and how we can best respond to the actions of others.

Among the headliners of UWRF19 is Kurdish-Iranian journalist, scholar, cultural advocate, writer and filmmaker, **Behrouz Boochani**. Currently incarcerated by the Australian Government in the Manus Island Regional Processing Centre in Papua New Guinea, he'll appear at the Festival via WhatsApp.

Reframing immigrants as insiders, not outsiders, **Jenny Zhang** is the Chinese-American author of award-winning *Sour Heart*. She'll be joined by leading global strategy advisor and bestselling author **Parag Khanna**, who believes the future is Asian.

Also appearing is **Tara June Winch**, a Wiradjuri novelist who writes on reclaiming Indigenous language, storytelling and identity, and Zimbabwean-American **Novuyo Rosa Tshuma**, a debut writer radically retelling colonization and decolonization.



One of Australia's most-loved voices and host of the Australian Broadcasting Commission's most popular podcast, **Richard Fidler** will be joined by **Susan Orlean**, author of the bestsellers *The Library Book* and *The Orchid Thief*, which was made into the Academy Award-winning film *Adaptation*.

Proving that food can always be a gateway to bigger conversations is one of Britain's most beloved food writers, **Yotam Ottolenghi**. He'll be in fine company with Indonesia's **Laksmi Pamuntjak**, an award-winning novelist who believes food is vital for self-discovery.

Shining a light on the archipelago's minorities and marginalized communities will be Human Rights Watch's **Andreas Harsono**, alongside **Lala Bohang**, a visual artist and writer experimenting with matters deemed invisible, forbidden and imaginary in Indonesian society.

The Festival's Indonesian Film Program offers international audiences a rare opportunity to enjoy local productions and hear from its industry members. Headlining this year's cinematic offerings is **Rayya Makarim**, the screenwriter and producer behind some of Indonesia's most breathtaking films.

"Cultural and artistic diversity has always been at the core of UWRF, and this first round of international and Indonesian speakers is testament to this," commented UWRF Founder & Director Janet DeNeefe. "From Aceh to Zimbabwe, this year's Festival will unite brave voices, creative minds and bold thinkers from across the country and the world," she continued.

"After our milestone 15th year in 2018, we cannot wait to welcome both seasoned and new audiences to another year of one of the world's best literary and artistic events. See you in October!"



More Information

Ubud Writers & Readers Festival 2019

The 16th Ubud Writers & Readers Festival will be held from 23-27 October, 2019, in Ubud, Bali, Indonesia. Early Bird Tickets are now on sale, and will be available until 2 August. The full lineup will be announced on 13 August.

About the Festival

The Ubud Writers & Readers Festival's mission is to create a world class festival that celebrates extraordinary stories and amplifies brave voices, tackles global issues and bold ideas. The Festival brings together a diverse mix of Indonesian and international writers, speakers, thinkers, artists, advocates, commentators and activists, to create a space for cross-cultural dialogue and connection.

The Ubud Writers & Readers Festival is one of the major annual projects of not-for-profit foundation, the Yayasan Mudra Swari Saraswati. It was first conceived of in 2004 by Janet DeNeefe, Co-founder of the Foundation, as a healing project in response to the first Bali bombing.

Testimonials

"One of the five best literary festivals for 2019" – [The Telegraph UK](#)

"The festival – surely the best in the world – ensures that you're never at a loss for intellectual nourishment." – [Harper's Bazaar](#)

2019 Artwork

The 2019 artwork was created by Yogyakarta community artist Samuel Indratma.

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Media Accreditation

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