MALTA BOOK ~024 FESTIVAL

6 - 10 November MFCC - Ta' Qali

#bindingworlds











Building on a rich tradition stretching back decades while also dynamically evolving with the times,

The Malta Book Festival is

the largest celebration of book culture in Malta



People from all walks of life eagerly await the Festival, which will be held between 6–10 November at the Malta Fairs and Conventions Centre (MFCC). Over five days, publishers, booksellers, authors and translators gather under one roof to make the most of this unique opportunity to promote and sell books to the public.

The spirit of this year's edition is encapsulated in its theme:

#bindingworlds

reflecting the multifaceted nature of the publishing process, from the inception of an idea to the final product. Through this play on words, the Festival underscores the richness of each of these 'worlds', giving full due to the professions involved: from writing and illustration to printing and book-binding.

The thousands of visitors will be able to avail themselves of a deep insight into each of these 'worlds' thanks to a varied selection of workshops and masterclasses aimed at bolstering the skills of all those interested in artistic pursuits – from writing to illustration and book-binding. The Festival will also be facilitating encounters with international literary superstars, complementing the participation of local authors and creatives.

The Malta Book Festival 2024 is also distinguished by the largest take-up of space at the MFCC, with a large number of exhibitors opting for custom stands, lending a sense of uniqueness and individuality both to their own offering, and to the look and feel of the Festival space.

FROM ILLUSTRATION TO BOOK

From Illustration to Book is a collaborative exhibition organised by the National Book Council and **Arts Council Malta that explores** the evolution of contemporary illustration in Malta.

The third edition of the exhibition is split into five sections. 'Maltese Illustrated Characters' focuses on classic and contemporary characters that have left an indelible mark on our literary imagination. 'Illustration Today' and the 'MCOI Illustration Annual 2024' highlight some of the finest work by illustrators and book designers active today in both Malta and on the international scene. The 'Artist Spotlight' area devotes special attention to two prolific illustrators: Frank Schembri and Moira Zahra. Finally, 'From Idea to Illustration' showcases the journey from concept to drawing, which eventually leads to the final illustration.













TOMORROW

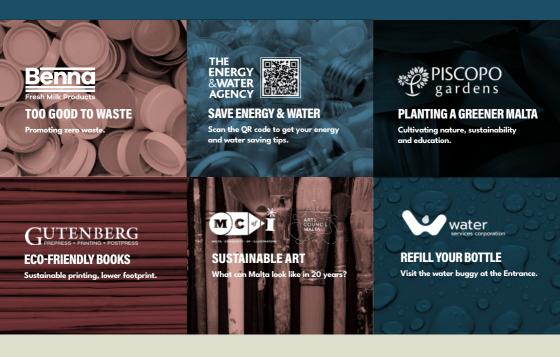
SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AT THE MALTA BOOK FESTIVAL 2024

WITH A VISION

STARTS

OUR GREEN VISION

Reusing. Reducing, Recycling. Minimising Printing. Transitioning to a Plastic-Free Festival.



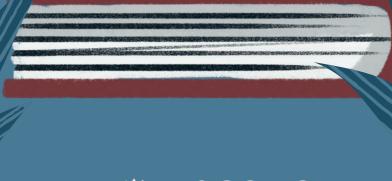


TOGETHER FOR A GREENER FESTIVAL!

Creating an eco-conscious event for a sustainable future!



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All day II-Kamra Sensorja

Inspire Malta

This autism-friendly space (with low stimulation, some basic sensory items and autism-friendly resources) allows children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in a safe and inclusive environment. Il-Kamra Sensorja is managed by Inspire Malta and supported by APS Bank. Access is allowed to children accompanied by their parents/educators.

All day Exhibition: From Illustration To Book

NBC & Arts Council Malta (ACM) II-Pjazza

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All day Tree of Values

Malta Libraries Malta Libraries Stand 28

Children will be able to read books available to borrow at the Malta Libraries stand. They will select words related to the values in the book they've just read, which will be available in the form of flashcards. Children will then stick these values on a cardboard tree that will be set up at the stand.

All day Once Upon a Time...

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A whiteboard will be set up at the stand, and children will be invited to write a sentence on it. The goal is to ultimately create a story using the sentences written by the children during this activity.

WEDNESDAY

The Supercharged Story Slam: A Theatre Show for 10:00 - 10:30 **Primary School Students**

NBC It-Teatru

A theatrical show for primary school students based on Terramaxka Prize winning books, curated by comedian Steve Hili and his troupe. We meet Četta, an ordinary girl who gains special powers with every book she reads. Cetta and her sidekick, the mischievous Bookworm, love reading more than anything else in the world! However, when the evil Wiper comes to her hometown and starts 'wiping' all the books in the village, Cetta needs to come up with a plan. With the help of a famous author (and the audience!), she manages to defeat the evil Wiper and become the Amazing Book Girl.

10:00 - 10:30 Storytelling Session (Ages 6–12)

Energy and Water Agency (EWA) Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja

Join EWA for a captivating reading session on water conservation and biodiversity! Children can choose to read together one of the following books: Osbert and Friends (8-12 years); Il-Kavallier Ghatxan (8-10 years); L-Istejjer ta' Zoe u d-Dragun Wagt Żmien il-Pandemija tal-Covid (6-8 years).

Inclusive Storytelling Session

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Ongoing +

The Pleasure of Reading: Reading Sessions

National Literacy Agency (NLA) NLA Stand 9

Join us at the National Literacy Agency's stand for 'The Pleasure of Reading'! Enjoy hourly reading sessions for children of different age groups, from 0-3, 4-7, to 8-12, led by our guest readers. Designed to foster a love for reading, these sessions offer age-appropriate stories that captivate and inspire young minds. Don't miss this enchanting experience, perfect for introducing children to the joy of books and storytelling!

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17:30 - 18:00

A Talk by Veronica Veen

Inanna Publishers Inanna Publishers Stand 32

A 30-minute talk by Veronica Veen about her more than 35 years of cultural anthropological fieldwork in Gozo on women's history, their life experiences and, most especially, oral storytelling, as recorded and documented in a series of books: Female Images of Malta: Goddess, Giantess, Farmeress (1994), The Maltese Cinderella and the Women's Storytelling Tradition (2017), and Lucija Tells... Women's History and experience of Life on Gozo, Malta (2020). Register beforehand at the stand at about 17:00.

18:00 - 20:00 Reading Champions



National Literacy Agency (NLA) It-Teatru

The National Literacy Agency awards Year 7 students nominated by the school administration and teacher-librarians for their love of reading, promotion of books and improvement in literacy skills.

WEDNESDAY

18:00 - 19:00 Book Launch & Readings: Antoloģija Poežija Kontemporanja 2023/2024

Kotba Calleja Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja

Book launch of an anthology of poetry by a number of contemporary poets. During this event, the public will be able to meet the featured poets.

18:00 - 19:00 Wikipedian-in-Residence @ TimesofMalta.com Wikimedia Community Malta WCM Stand 37

The *Times of Malta* has a strong online presence, which offers great opportunities for collaboration with Wikimedia Projects. During this event, they will discuss 2024 activities, wherein TimesofMalta.com has been working closely with Wikimedia Commons and Wikipedia.

18:30 - 20:00 Discovering the UM Library's Unique Collections: From Rare Books to the Kollezzjoni Programmi tal-Festa UM Library Is-Sala tal-Kittieba

The UM Library presents two talks on its unique collections: 'The UM Library Archives and Rare Books collection' by Matthew Cuschieri and 'Cover to Cover: The Programm Tal-Festa as a Rich Resource of Melitensia' by Katja Zahra Camilleri.

19:00 - 21:00 Guess who?

Merlin Publishers Merlin Publishers Stand 16

Would you like to play a game with us? And perhaps win yourself a book in the process? You'll hear a number of excerpts read out live on our stand, and all you need to do is match the excerpt to its correct author. What could be simpler? Hehe... Perhaps... or perhaps not so simple! (And of course, help yourself to a glass or two of wine during the readings.)





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The Great Imagination Heist!: A Theatre Show for 10:00 - 10:30 **Secondary School Students**

NBC It-Teatru

A theatrical show for secondary school students based on Terramaxka Prize winning books and curated by comedian Steve Hili and his troupe. A group of students decide to steal the imagination of a famous author in order to write a story for school and pass their final exam. The thing is, once they have succeeded, they have no idea what to do with it! Worse still, everyone is going to realise that this story came from the famous author's brain and not from theirs! The author they chose was too famous... As panic settles in, they finally realise that their own adventure that night is as wild a story as they come! Their imagination was inside them all along.

10:00 - 10:30 Storytelling Session (Ages 6–12)

Energy and Water Agency (EWA) Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja +

> Join EWA for a captivating reading session on water conservation and biodiversity! Children can choose to read together one of the following books: Osbert and Friends (8-12 years); Il-Kavallier Ghatxan (8-10 years); L-Istejjer ta' Zoe u d-Dragun Waqt Żmien il-Pandemija tal-Covid (6–8 years).

Inclusive Storytelling Session 10:30 - 11:15

Inspire Malta II-Kamra Sensorja

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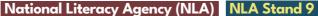


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Ongoing *

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Quiz & Word Match

German-Maltese Circle / Dept. of German, UM GMC / Dept. of German, UM Stand 23

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17:30 - 19:00

THINK Soapbox

THINK Magazine Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja

THINK is the official research magazine of the University of Malta, offering a window into the stories of academics, students, alumni and researchers. Our Soapbox is a unique opportunity wherein current research featured in the latest edition is presented. The event is open to the public, allowing the audience to share ideas, ask questions and network.

17:30 - 18:00

A Talk by Veronica Veen

Inanna Publishers Inanna Publishers Stand 32

A 30-minute talk by Veronica Veen about her more than 35 years of cultural anthropological fieldwork in Gozo on women's history, their life experiences and, most especially, oral storytelling, as recorded and documented in a series of books: Female Images of Malta: Goddess, Giantess, Farmeress (1994), The Maltese Cinderella and the Women's Storytelling Tradition (2017), and Lucija Tells... Women's History and experience of Life on Gozo, Malta (2020). Register beforehand at the stand at about 17:00.

18:00 - 19:00

Edit-a-thon: The National Book Prize Winners on

Wikipedia

NBC & Wikimedia Community Malta (WCM)

Is-Sala tal-Kittieba

Everybody reads Wikipedia, but did you know that you can become an editor of this amazing online encyclopedia along with thousands of other people just like you? Discover how Wikipedia actually works during this edit-a-thon on the National Book Prize.

18:00 - 19:00

L-Isfida Msella

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NBC & San Anton School It-Teatru

For the fourth consecutive year, San Anton School celebrates the achievement of a group of students who successfully completed L-Isfida Msella. In this exciting reading challenge, students read three books in Maltese in three months and work on related tasks, such as posters, creative writing projects and book trailers. During this event, each participant is presented with an award.

19:30 - 20:30 Talk: The Correspondence Exchanged between Ġużè Cardona and Karmen Mikallef Buhaġar +

L-Akkademja tal-Malti Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja

Karmen Mikallef Buhagar strove to ensure that the memory of Dun Karm is respected. She maintained correspondence with local authors including Ġużè Cardona, who completed his MA on Dun Karm and wrote both poetry and prose. Sergio Grech gives a talk on the correspondence exchanged between them.

19:30 - 20:30 The World of Writing: A Creative Writing Masterclass by Anthony Horowitz

NBC Is-Sala tal-Kittieba

Join acclaimed author Anthony Horowitz for a masterclass on storytelling at the Malta Book Festival! Dive deep into the writing process, gain practical techniques, and draw inspiration from the bestselling writer of the Alex Rider series and the Sherlock Holmes detective novels The House of Silk and Moriarty. The masterclass will cover plot ideas, character development, dialogue, and the differences between writing books and writing for TV. An interactive Q&A session will follow, allowing participants to explore any aspect of writing. This masterclass requires pre-registration. Don't miss this enriching experience! Register early to avoid disappointment.









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10:00 - 10:30

Reaching for the Stars with Anthony Horowitz: A Fun Talk and Q&A Session for Students Aged 8–10

NBC It-Teatru

The brains behind the bestselling spy series Alex Rider, Anthony Horowitz, is eager to tell school children all about what it means to be a famous writer! What inspired him to start writing? What fuels his imagination? Comedian Steve Hili will join Horowitz on the stage and pull out all the stops to convince the author to reveal his best advice as well as his well-kept secrets!

10:00 - 10:30 Storytelling Session (Ages 6-12)



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Discovering Wikipedia: An Info Session for Post-Secondary Students

NBC & Wikimedia Community Malta (WCM)

Is-Sala tal-Kittieba

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FRIDAY 17

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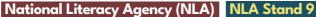


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17:00 - 19:00

Meet the Author: Paul George Pisani



Delicon Books Delicon Books Stand 26

A reading session with Paul George Pisani, guest author of Delicon Books. The reading will be followed by a book signing session, during which the audience will have the opportunity to meet the author and ask him questions.

17:30 - 18:30

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"Half bil-Malti u Half bl-Ingliz": A Discussion on English in Maltese

L-Ghaqda tal-Malti – Università Is-Sala tal-Kittieba

Guest speakers will expand on the "Tkellem bil-Malti!" talk held during Kampus Kotba 2024, delving into a panel discussion on English loanwords in Maltese, prompting further reflection on the question: "What's Maltese, and what isn't?".

18:00 - 19:30

The 2024 Doreen Micallef National Poetry Contest:

Prize-Giving Ceremony

NBC It-Teatru

Join us for the announcement of the winners and readings by the winning poets of the sixth edition of the Doreen Micallef National Poetry Contest, launched by the National Book Council with the aim of further raising the profile of poetry in Malta and honouring the best poetry written in Maltese. Among the guests of this year's ceremony will be Murad Shubert, winner of the 2023 National Book Prize for Poetry, and Emirati poet Ali al Shaali, who will be reading each other's work in translation and participating in a literary exchange moderated by Antonella Axisa.

18:00 - 19:00

Intangible Cultural Heritage on Wikidata

Wikimedia Community Malta (WCM)

WCM Stand 37

Discover Wikipedia, another Wikimedia project, which provides essential data to Google, Siri and Alexa, along with Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects. The session includes information about the new WikiProject KAŻINI.

19:00 - 20:00 Book launch: Disa' Opri by Albert Marshall

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Horizons Is-Sala tal-Kittieba

Horizons presents Albert Marshall's latest book Disa' Opri, a Maltese rendition of the most famous operatic librettos. The presentation includes excerpts from La Bohème, Carmen, Rigoletto, Tosca, La Traviata, Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci, Norma and Il Barbiere di Siviglia.

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19:00 - 20:00 Book launch: The Maltese Translation of *The Three* **Body Problem**

Faraxa Publishing Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja

Celebrate the launch of Faraxa Publishing's latest translation by John A. Bonello: II-Problema tat-Tliet Korpi. This Maltese translation of bestselling Chinese science-fiction novel The Three Body Problem by Liu Cixin will take you through space and time as you uncover the mysteries within.

FRIDAY 19

19:00 - 20:00 Book Launch: The Field by Ricky Caruana

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Agenda Bookshop Stand 41

Agenda Bookshop presents Ricky Caruana's latest book, *The Field.* The book launch will be followed by a signing session.

20:00 - 21:00 *Prophet Song*: Booker Prize-Winning Author Paul Lynch in Conversation

NBC It-Teatru

The NBC is proud to host one of the most notable literary luminaries of the moment: award-winning Irish author Paul Lynch. In conversation with journalist Emma Mattei, Lynch will delve into the key themes and preoccupations threaded through his five novels – among them Booker Prize-winning *Prophet Song* (2023). Don't miss this opportunity to engage with one of literature's most compelling voices! Paul Lynch's participation was made possible with the support of the Embassy of Ireland in Malta.



FRIDAY 20



SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER

All day

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09:30 - 15:00

Developing Your Fiction: A Faber Academy Workshop by Richard Skinner

NBC Is-Sala tal-Kittieba



Hone your fiction writing skills with Richard Skinner, Director of Fiction at Faber Academy. This workshop will focus on character development and the role of the narrator in fiction. This session incorporates a Q&A session focusing on editing skills and literary agents. Pre-registration required, €20 fee includes lunch. Limited spaces available.

09:30 - 11:00 \geq

Bookbinding Workshop (Ages 8-12): A Hands-On Introduction by Glen Calleja

NBC It-Teatru



Join Glen Calleja, bookbinder, publisher and author, for a hands-on workshop for children aged 8 to 12 on how to make a book by hand. Participants will learn about traditional bookbinding methods and have the opportunity to create a small book of their own. This workshop is free but requires participants to register in advance.

09:30 - 10:45 Draw a Café Scene: An Illustration Workshop for Adults The French Embassy Ir-Rokna tal-Ktieb



French painter and illustrator Sophie Guinzbourg will give a creative workshop on how to draw a typical French café scene. Register for free by scanning the QR code or through the Embassy's website.

11:00 - 12:00



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Create a Drawing and a Poem: A Workshop for Children

The French Embassy Ir-Rokna tal-Ktieb

French painter and illustrator Sophie Guinzbourg will give a creative workshop on how to draw a rabbit. French author Chloe Gallien will invite the children to write a verse in French or in English to accompany their drawing. Register for free by scanning the QR code or through the Embassy's website.

10:00 - 11:00

Zinn Zinn Zinn 2: More Music and Literature for Young Ones and Their Elders

L-Ghagda tal-Malti – Università Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja

Stories, rhymes and music leave an impression on all of us, but due to their innocence and imaginative capacities, children seem to appreciate them even more. This event is an opportunity for children to get lost in a fairytale-like world, where they can also bring along their parents and guardians!

10:30 - 11:30

Inclusive Storytelling Session

Inspire Malta II-Kamra Sensorja

Join us for a magical and inclusive Interactive Storytelling Session designed specifically for children with disabilities. This special event aims to create a joyful and engaging storytelling experience which every child can participate in and enjoy!

11:30 - 13:00

Bookbinding Workshop (Ages 14+): A Hands-On Introduction by Glen Calleja

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NBC It-Teatru



Join Glen Calleja, bookbinder, publisher and author, for a hands-on workshop on the craft of bookbinding. Participants will learn about traditional bookbinding methods, materials and contemporary handmade book designs, with the opportunity of making a small book of their own. This workshop is free but requires participants to register in advance.

11:30 - 12:30

Ed Dingli

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NBC & Arts Council Malta (ACM) Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja

From Theme to Illustration (Ages 14+): A Workshop by



Join Ed Dingli, illustrator of the 2024 Malta Book Festival, for a hands-on workshop on transforming concepts into illustrations. Participants aged 14+ will sketch alongside Ed, exploring ideas, mind maps and keywords to create their own designs. This workshop is being done in collaboration with Arts Council Malta. Free registration required.

12:00 - 13:00

Inclusive Storytelling Session

Inspire Malta II-Kamra Sensorja

Join us for a magical and inclusive Interactive Storytelling Session designed specifically for children with disabilities. This special event aims to create a joyful and engaging storytelling experience which every child can participate in and enjoy!

13:00 - 15:00

Literary Speed Dating



NBC Ir-Rokna tal-Ktieb



Literary speed dating is back - a unique 15-minute opportunity to meet publishing professionals at the Malta Book Festival. You may simply want to chat about literature, writing skills or any other publishing topic about which you wanted to know, but were afraid to ask. This edition features Simon Trewin (literary agent), Joey Connolly (Director of Faber Academy), Loranne Vella and Joe Gatt (Aphroconfuso editors), Kat Storace (translator, publisher at Praspar Press), Glen Calleja (publisher at Kotba Calleja), the Literature Chairperson at MEIA, Moira Zahra (MCOI), Ed Dingli (illustrator), Nikki Petroni (Education and Development Executive at ACM), Matthew Borg (Senior Manager at the NBC, Malta Book Fund).

13:00 - 14:00

From Concept to Animation: Kyle Xuereb Cunningham's Malta Book Festival Promos



NBC & Arts Council Malta (ACM) Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja



Discover the creative journey behind the 2023 and 2024 promo ads with illustrator and animator Kyle Xuereb Cunningham. Learn about the animation process, from creating the storyboard to the final touches. This session is being done in collaboration with Arts Council Malta. Free registration required.

13:00 - 13:30

Mini Art Workshops by Veronica Veen

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Inanna Publishers Inanna Publishers Stand 32

Make your own bookmark inspired by the First Maltese and learn about their intricate symbolism! Mini art-workshops of 30 minutes by author Veronica Veen will be held at the Inanna Publishers stand. Register beforehand at the stand at about 12:00-12:30.

14:00 - 15:00

Meet Perlina TV's Vibrant Characters!: Programmes for Children Aged 0-9

Perlina TV It-Teatru

The new app Perlina TV previews its original educational programmes in Maltese for children aged between 0 and 9 years. Join us for a taste of this platform, which will be accessible to the public in the coming weeks both as a website and as an app on App Store and Google Play!

14:00 - 15:00

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French Children's Book Signing: Lapinoudoudou

The French Embassy The French Corner Stand 24

French illustrator Sophie Guinzbourg and author Chloé Gallien will sign their children's book in French Lapinoudoudou et les tissus magigues.

14:30 - 15:30

The Role of Contemporary Illustrators: Panel Discussion and Launch of the Illustration Annual 2024

Malta Community of Illustrators (MCOI)

Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja

In this panel moderated by Ruth Ancilleri, quest speakers Ed Dingli, Philip Sultana and Dr Censu Caruana (Centre for Environmental Education & Research) will discuss the 'polymath' illustrator and the multifaceted nature of contemporary illustration, examining how illustrators can use their skills to address pressing environmental concerns. This event will feature the launch of this year's edition of the MCOI Illustration Annual.

15:00 - 17:00

Meet the Author: Ursola Borg

Delicon Books Stand 26

A reading session with Ursola Borg, guest author of Delicon Books. The reading will be followed by a book signing session, during which the audience will have the opportunity to meet the author and ask her questions.

15:30 - 16:15

How a Book Is Made

Gutenberg Press Ir-Rokna tal-Ktieb

Join us for a hands-on seminar on book production. Learn more about how a book is made and the full process of book manufacturing – from the design aspect through to the production process and finally the finished bound book.

15:30 - 16:30

Manuscript to Market: A Q&A with Literary Agent Jonathan Llovd from Curtis Brown



NBC Is-Sala tal-Kittieba



Join Jonathan Lloyd, literary agent and president of Curtis Brown, for an enlightening Q&A session moderated by Kat Storace (Praspar Press). Gain invaluable insights into publishing, from finding the right agent to making a compelling first impression. This event is open to Maltese writers in English. Pre-register to ensure your spot and submit questions in advance for a personalised discussion.

17:00 - 18:00

Celebrating Italian Literature

Istituto Italiano di Cultura Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja

An event on Italian literature and publishing organised by the Italian Cultural Institute in Malta. For more information, visit iicvalletta.esteri.it/it and facebook.com/istitutoitalianodicultura.valletta

17:00 - 18:00 The Writing Community

Aphroconfuso Is-Sala tal-Kittieba

Often, when we write, we are in a room by ourselves, but the words we use are never ours alone. In the first year of Aphroconfuso, we wanted to create, together with our contributors, a community in which words are not spoken once and then lost to time, but find an echo and a response in other words inside the journal itself, in our own literary history and that of the world. During this event we will introduce Aphroconfuso's first book, Antologija 1.

18:00 - 19:00 **Celebrating Italian Literature**

An event on Italian literature and publishing organised by the Italian Cultural Institute in Malta. For more information, visit iicvalletta.esteri.it/it and facebook.com/istitutoitalianodicultura.valletta

18:30 - 20:00 Wiki Loves 2024 Awards Ceremony

Wikimedia Community Malta (WCM) WCM Stand 37

An awards ceremony for Wiki Loves Folklore and Wiki Loves Earth 2024. The finalists of Wiki Loves Monuments 2024 will also be announced at this event.

19:00 - 20:00 Book Signing: The Field by Ricky Caruana

Agenda Bookshop Agenda Bookshop Stand 41 +

Agenda Bookshop presents Ricky Caruana's latest book, The Field. The book launch will be followed by a signing session.

19:30 - 20:30 Meet the author: Anna-Elisabeth Mayer Reads from Her Latest Novel Kreidezeit (2023)

German-Maltese Circle / Dept. of German, UM Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja

Contemporary Austrian writer Anna-Elisabeth Mayer, special guest of the GMC/Dept. of German, UM stand, will read from her latest novel Kreidezeit (2023). In a bitingly ironic way, the novel tackles the question of humanmachine relations, critically reflecting on the digitalisation of school education and artificial intelligence. The reading will be followed by a book signing session and the opportunity for the audience to meet the author. This event is kindly sponsored by the Austrian Embassy for Malta.

20:00 - 21:00 Cracking the Case: An Evening with Anthony Horowitz NBC It-Teatru

Join us for an intriguing evening with Anthony Horowitz, one of the UK's most prolific and versatile writers, as he delves with a particular focus into his illustrious career in crime fiction. This event will be hosted by Prof. James Corby from the English Department at the University of Malta, offering a rare opportunity to explore the mind of a master storyteller.

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All day II-Kamra Sensorja Inspire Malta

This autism-friendly space (with low stimulation, some basic sensory items and autism-friendly resources) allows children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in a safe and inclusive environment. Il-Kamra Sensorja is managed by Inspire Malta and supported by APS Bank. Access is allowed to children accompanied by their parents/educators.

All day Exhibition: From Illustration To Book NBC & Arts Council Malta (ACM) II-Pjazza

The third edition of an exhibition dedicated to book design and illustration, showcasing the work of Malta's leading contemporary book illustrators and designers, as well as paying homage to the country's book illustration and design pioneers. This initiative forms part of a strategic collaboration between the National Book Council and Arts Council Malta.

All day The Pleasure of Reading: Reading Sessions National Literacy Agency (NLA) NLA Stand 9

Join us at the National Literacy Agency's stand for 'The Pleasure of Reading'! Enjoy hourly reading sessions for children of different age groups, from 0–3, 4–7, to 8–12, led by our guest readers. Designed to foster a love for reading, these sessions offer age-appropriate stories that captivate and inspire young minds. Don't miss this enchanting experience, perfect for introducing children to the joy of books and storytelling!

All day Tree of Values Malta Libraries Stand 28

Children will be able to read books available to borrow at the Malta Libraries stand. They will select words related to the values in the book they've just read, which will be available in the form of flashcards. Children will then stick these values on a cardboard tree that will be set up at the stand.

All day Once Upon a Time...

Malta Libraries Malta Libraries Stand 28 +

> A whiteboard will be set up at the stand, and children will be invited to write a sentence on it. The goal is to ultimately create a story using the sentences written by the children during this activity.

All day **Ouiz & Word Match**

German-Maltese Circle / Dept. of German, UM GMC / Dept. of German, UM Stand 23

Due to their mutual Germanic origin, English and German are surprisingly similar. German-English word pairs show that you already know more German than you might think. Try the word match! One question will also be chosen for a guiz to be completed at the stand.

09:30 - 10:30 Artivisti: Stories of Youths in Literature

Arts Council Malta (ACM) & Aģenzija Żgħażagħ Is-Sala tal-Kittieba

During this discussion, former and current participants of the Artivisti programme will speak about their individual literary journeys and on their ideas on the local publishing scene. Artivisti is a collaborative programme run by Arts Council Malta and Agenzija Żgħażagħ.

10:00 - 11:00 Reading with Lucienne: Interactive Session

Pandora Books Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja

Delicon Books Stand 26

Lucienne Cassar will read excerpts from some of her books in an interactive session with music, games and learning activities.

10:00 - 12:00 Meet the Author: Ursola Borg

A reading session with Ursola Borg, guest author of Delicon Books. The reading will be followed by a book signing session during which the audience will have the opportunity to meet the author and ask her any questions.

10:30 - 11:15 Inclusive Storytelling Session Inspire Malta II-Kamra Sensorja

Join us for a magical and inclusive Interactive Storytelling Session designed specifically for children with disabilities. This special event aims to create a joyful and engaging storytelling experience which every child can participate in and enjoy!

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SUNDAY

11:00 - 12:00

Meet Perlina TV's Vibrant Characters!: Programmes for Children Aged 0-9

Perlina TV It-Teatru

The new app Perlina TV previews its original educational programmes in Maltese for children aged between 0 and 9 years. Join us for a taste of this platform, which will be accessible to the public in the coming weeks both as a website and as an app on App Store and Google Play!

12:00 - 13:00

Inclusive Storytelling Session

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Inspire Malta II-Kamra Sensorja

Join us for a magical and inclusive Interactive Storytelling Session designed specifically for children with disabilities. This special event aims to create a joyful and engaging storytelling experience which every child can participate in and enjoy!

12:30 - 13:30

Beyond the Game: Sports Writing in Malta

NBC & DFG Lab Is-Sala tal-Kittieba

This discussion panel promises a deep dive into the little explored world of sports writing or sports literature in the Maltese literary landscape. Moderated by Mark Vella, with special guests Giovanni di Giorgi, editor at DFG Lab and organiser of the Premio Invictus sports literature prize; journalist Charles Camenzuli; and author Maria Borg Cremona, this engaging panel will reveal the unique intersections of sports and culture.

13:00 - 13:30

Mini Art Workshops by Veronica Veen

Inanna Publishers Inanna Publishers Stand 32

Make your own bookmark inspired by the First Maltese and learn about their intricate symbolism! Mini-art-workshops of 30 minutes by author Veronica Veen will be held at the Inanna Publishers stand. Register beforehand at the stand at about 12:00-12:30.

13:30 onwards

H.E. President Myriam Spiteri Debono signs Tisjir mill-Qalb



Agenda Bookshop Agenda Bookshop Stand 41

Book signing session with H.E. President Myriam Spiteri Debono for the publication of Tisjir mill-Qalb in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation.

14:00 - 15:00

Launch of Lehen il-Malti - Ghadd 43



L-Ghaqda tal-Malti – Università Is-Sala tal-Kittieba

As per annual tradition, I-Ghaqda tal-Malti will give a sneak peak into what readers can expect in its yearly journal. This will be carried out through various readings of some of the poems, short stories, translations and studies that have been selected for this edition of Lehen il-Malti.

SUNDAY 29

14:00 - 15:00

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From Passion to Profession: MEIA's Introduction to the Literature Sectoral Goals

Malta Entertainment Industry and Arts Association (MEIA) Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja

This workshop aims to specifically target publishers, writers and authors, acting as well as an introductory session as MEIA's new addition to its creative sectoral goals. The goal of this workshop is to foster an open dialogue about the professionalisation of the literary industry in Malta. Participants will explore critical aspects of navigating Malta's literary scene, addressing the necessity for implementing effective strategies and navigating challenges. The session will emphasise strategies for enhancing the professional development of individuals engaged in the literature sector, ultimately aiming to empower attendees to thrive in their literary careers.

15:30 - 16:30

Maltese Fiction: Where to Next?



NBC Is-Sala tal-Kittieba

Join the NBC for a roundtable discussion on the state of fiction writing in Malta, moderated by David Aloisio. Are Maltese writers conscious of the notion of literariness in fiction? Is literary tradition given its due importance? To what extent are Maltese writers eager to receive a heavily edited version of their manuscript, if need be? With the participation of National Book Prize judges Omar N'Shea and Maria Theuma, author and lecturer Immanuel Mifsud, and Daniel Cossai, literary columnist for ILLUM.

15:30 - 16:30

The Status of the Artist: Exploratory Workshop

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Arts Council Malta (ACM) Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja

This workshop, which forms part of Arts Council Malta's commitment to advancing the status of artists and creatives, will consist of an open discussion about the Charter for the Status of the Artist, exploring ideal scenarios and possible outcomes for the local context.

16:00 - 17:00

Meet the Author: Lorraine Galea

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Pandora Books Stand 39

Lorraine Galea is a Maltese author of various books for adults and kids. Be the first to get a copy of her new release, *L-Akbar Habib Tiegħi: Infittxu lil Jacques*, and get it signed by the author.

16:30 - 17:30

Interview with Daniel Massa

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Kotba Calleja Ir-Rokna tal-Ktieb

An interview with poet Daniel Massa about his literary work and artistic vision over the years. During the event, the general public will be able to meet the poet and ask him questions about his work and life.

SUNDAY 30

17:00 - 19:00

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Film screening & Networking Event featuring Prof.

Daniel Massa, Recipient of the 2023 National Book Prize

Lifetime Achievement Award

NBC It-Teatru

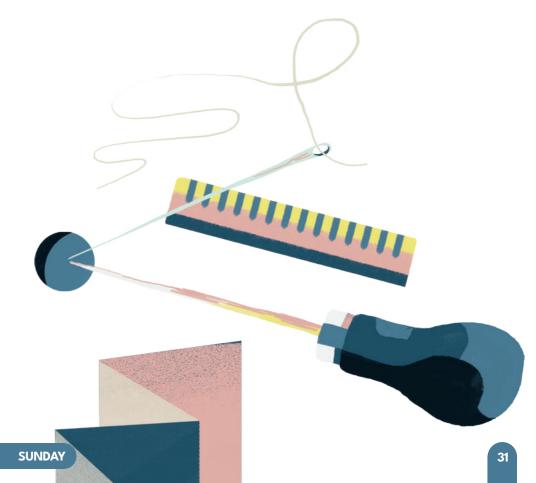
The National Book Council celebrates Daniel Massa, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award recipient in 2023, with a film screening of a documentary by Blank Canvas Creatives. This will be followed by a networking event featuring National Book Prize winners and shortlisted authors. Enjoy live music by singer Kym Pepe and musician Jimmy Bartolo, who have set Massa's poems to music.

17:00 - 18:00

Celebrating Italian Literature

Istituto Italiano di Cultura Is-Sala tal-Qarrejja

An event on Italian literature and publishing organised by the Italian Cultural Institute in Malta. For more information, visit iicvalletta.esteri.it/it and facebook.com/Istitutoitalianodicultura.valletta



Are you an author, illustrator, translator, editor, publisher? Are you interested in registering for a masterclass or a workshop?

Scan the QR Code to find out more and register!



The World of Writing

A Creative Writing Masterclass by Anthony Horowitz



From Theme to Illustration (Ages 14+)

A Workshop by Ed Dingli



Developing Your Fiction

A Faber Academy Workshop by Richard Skinner



From Concept to Animation

Kyle Xuereb Cunningham's
Malta Book Festival Promos



Bookbinding Workshop (Ages 8–12)

A Hands-on Introduction by Glen Calleja



Bookbinding Workshop (Ages 14+)

A Hands-On Introduction by Glen Calleja



Literary Speed Dating

15 minutes with professionals in the publishing industry



Manuscript to Market

A Q&A with Literary Agent Jonathan Lloyd from Curtis Brown







L-AĠENZIJA NAZZJONALI TAL-LITTERIŻMU

The National Literacy Agency within the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation is responsible for the promotion and improvement of literacy among children from preschool to the end of the official school age across the Maltese Islands.

National Literacy Agency, Triq Joseph Abela Scolaro, Hamrun T: +356 25982992 | E: nla@ilearn.edu.mt nla.gov.mt/



AGENDA BOOKSHOP

Agenda Bookshop operates as the leading books and magazines retailer and is a household name in Malta. Today, the Agenda Bookshop stores are located in high profile, heavy footfall areas such as the Airport, the capital city Valletta and the main shopping malls. Offering the very latest international bestsellers and a wide selection of new titles on a daily basis, our offer is as wide and deep as would be expected of leading bookshops in the UK.

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AHMADIYYA MUSLIM JAMAAT

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat is a religious and humanitarian organisation. It encourages dialogue among different religions and believes in freedom of religion. It encompasses the principles of peace, tolerance, love and respect among followers of different beliefs. Its motto is: "Love for All, Hatred for None". The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is also known for its active role in relief and helping those in need, through engagement in charitable and philanthropic work.

30, Turu Rizzo Street, Gżira M: +356 79655255 | E: amjmalta@gmail.com www.ahmadiyyamalta.org



ARTS COUNCIL MALTA

Arts Council Malta (ACM) is the national agency for development and investment in the cultural and creative sectors. Its central task is that of effectively funding, supporting and promoting the cultural and creative sectors in Malta. The Council manages a funding portfolio for the cultural and creative sectors through its national funding programmes. Its mission is driven by our commitment to cultural rights and to invest in the arts to strengthen Malta's creative and cultural ecology.

TG Complex Suite 1, Level 1, Triq Il-Birrerija, Zone 3, Central Business District, Birkirkara CBD 3040 T: +356 2334 7201/02 | E: info.acm@artscouncil.mt artscouncilmalta.gov.mt



BENNA

Benna products are synonymous with fresh, high-quality dairy sourced exclusively from local cow's milk. The milk is collected daily from around 95 farmers and processed at M.D.P.'s state-of-the-art facility in Hamrun. Benna ensures that fresh milk and dairy products reach consumers across Malta every morning with a workforce of around 120 full-time employees and a distribution network of 40 self-employed distributors.Benna's commitment to quality is further underscored by its reliance on the island's approximately 6,000 dairy cows and the 47% of arable land dedicated to growing animal forage. This local focus supports Maltese agriculture and guarantees that every Benna product is as fresh and wholesome as the day it was produced. From its humble beginnings in 1938 to its status as Malta's leading dairy brand, Benna continues to honour its heritage while embracing innovation, ensuring that the people of Malta enjoy the best dairy products every day.

Malta Dairy Products Ltd., Mile End Street, Hamrun HMR 1712 T: +356 21224472 | E: info@benna.com.mt benna.com.mt



IL-BEŻŻUL BIEŻEL

Il-Beżżul Bieżel is a Maltese comical and satirical newspaper. It contains satirical and parodical comics and articles on current local and foreign affairs, cultural issues, international relations, social injustices, social commentary, slight politics and much more. It is important to note that it is not a political newspaper and does not fall under any right-wing or left-wing political parties; however, it does include well-known Maltese figures in the political sphere through a neutral lens.

60, Old Mint Street, Valletta
M: +356 79257875 | E: bezzulbiezel@gmail.com
www.bezzulbiezel.com



BDL BOOKS

Since 1990, BDL Distribution has been the leading publications distributor to all bookshops and retail outlets in Malta and Gozo. BDL Publishing, the second mast holding the company's sails, specializes in quality books ranging from children's fiction to prestigious Melitensia literature. The third mast is BDL Retail. Its outlet in San Ġwann is a large depository of quality books where one can browse and shop directly from a selection of over 20,000 titles.

13 Giorgio Preca Street, San Ġwann SĠN 3511 T: +356 2138 0351 | E: info@bdlbooks.com www.bdlbooks.com



BONFIRRARO EDITORE

Proudly independent since 1986, the Bonfirraro publishing house has immediately distinguished itself for the production of quality fiction, to which is added a focus on historical truths that have never been revealed and a successful line of essays and investigations on issues of strong social impact. The orientation towards a type of "committed" literature determines courageous publications with the character of denunciation against any form of injustice, with the aim of contributing to the struggle for the affirmation of freedom, a value considered inalienable. With seriousness, a spirit of sacrifice and in line with the maxim "Our history is the future toward which we are heading...", Bonfirraro likes to look far, to observe the elsewhere, "beyond the border," to give himself and win challenges that are only seemingly impossible.

Viale Signore Ritrovato, 5 - 94012 Barrafranca En - Italia T: +39 0934464646 / 3355285510 | E: info@bonfirraroeditore.it www.bonfirraroeditore.it



BOOKENDS

Bookends is a book bargain retail brand offering great value books at prices well below their original prices. We stock a huge range of books on different subjects. In the local book market, Bookends has gained a strong reputation for genuine bargain books and prices.

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CHINA CULTURAL CENTRE IN MALTA

The China Cultural Centre in Malta was established on the basis of the MOU between the governments of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Malta, which was signed in 2001. CCC is a non-profit cultural organisation dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture and the arts by means of cultural, educational and people-to-people activities. Through its programmes, CCC wishes to enhance the cordial and cooperative relations between the two peoples. So as to fulfil these aspirations, the Centre wishes to offer quality service to the Maltese public, as well as build close partnerships with public and private sectors.

173 Melita Street, Valletta
T: +356 2122 5055 | E: yuanyuan@chinaculture.org
cccmalta.org/en/



DELICON BOOKS

Delicon Books is a boutique publishing house founded in 2021. It aims to promote Malta's heritage and traditions through its publications, and help new authors fulfil their dream of seeing their work go into print by offering advice and support.

M: +356 7945 4548 | E: normanchetc@gmail.com https://delicon.sumupstore.com/category/delicon-books



THE EMBASSY OF SPAIN

The Embassy of Spain will present its cultural programme and provide information on the DELE examinations for students of Spanish.

E: emb.valletta@maec.es

exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/lavaleta/es/Paginas/index.aspx



FARAXA PUBLISHING

Faraxa Publishing was established in 2011 with the aim of publishing literary and nonliterary translations into Maltese of world renowned authors and also lesser-known authors. The Faraxa Translation Series now boasts an extensive list of European classical works in Maltese translation. Faraxa has published books of many genres, including academia, classical music, poetry, philosophy, young adult, fantasy and children's literature.

T: +356 9982 0157 | E: info@faraxapublishing.com faraxapublishing.com



FONDAZZJONI SAGHTAR

Fondazzjoni Saghtar is an independent and autonomous voluntary organisation without any political affiliation, whose main purpose is to serve a social and educational function among educators and students in Malta and Gozo. The principal aims of the Foundation are: to contribute towards the enhancement of the professional role of educators and the advancement of students; to provide opportunities for the professional growth of educators; to undertake projects or organise activities for the purposes of providing professional training to educators and enhancing the advancement of students; to generate and publish educational material.

T: 21224909 | E: info@saghtar.org.mt saghtar.org.mt



THE FRENCH CORNER

The French Embassy, the Alliance Française and Lireka (online French bookstore) offer a wide range of new and second-hand French books at reduced prices.



130 Melita Street, Valletta VLT 1121
T: +33 689429169 | E: contact.la-valette-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr
mt.ambafrance.org/



GERMAN-MALTESE CIRCLE / DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN, UM

The German-Maltese Circle is a voluntary organisation founded on 18 October 1962 with the aim of "promoting closer understanding between Germany and Malta in all appropriate fields of activity and relationship, excluding political activities". To this end, the German-Maltese Circle has been organising various activities since then, along with German language courses for adults and schoolchildren.

The Department of German is part of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Malta. It offers the opportunity to study German through a range of courses: full-time undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses (BA Honours in German, BA General with German, MA and PhD in German), part-time language courses for all language levels (Certificate/Diploma in Language Proficiency), and part-time evening courses for the general public (Certificate/Diploma in German).

Messina Palace, 141 St Christopher Street, Valletta
T: +356 2124 6967 | E: frontoffice@germanmaltesecircle.org
www.germanmaltesecircle.org/



GĦAQDA TAL-MALTI - UNIVERSITÀ

Founded by Rużar Briffa and Ġużè Bonnici in 1931, I-Ghaqda tal-Malti – Università is a student organisation which strives to promote Maltese and aspects related to it as well as students and beyond. The aims of I-Ghaqda are: to work towards the use of the Maltese language across all aspects of life and Maltese culture; to instil interest and inspire studies in the Maltese language and literature among students hailing from University and other academic institutions, as well as the general public and authorities; to exercise and train competencies and media relevant to literary and linguistic aspects of Maltese; to celebrate Maltese authors, or writers who have written in Maltese or about the Maltese language; to help students hone their writing skills u publish their work in I-Ghaqda's publications.

Ufficju 3, Dar I-Istudent, L-Università ta' Malta, Tal-Qroqq, Msida T: +356 99071467 | E: info@ghmu.org.mt www.ghmu.org.mt



HERITAGE MALTA PUBLISHING

Heritage Malta is the national agency for museums, conservation and cultural heritage. It is appreciably active in the field of publishing as part of its education and outreach endeavours. The range of works produced includes exhibition catalogues, collected papers, conference proceedings, workbooks, project books, activity books and guides. In autumn 2015, Heritage Malta also launched the periodical Tesserae.

35 Dawret Fra Giovanni Bichi, Kalkara KKR 1280 T: +356 2295 4000 | E: info@heritagemalta.mt www.heritagemalta.org



HORIZONS

Horizons is one of the leading book publishers on the island, winning numerous literary prizes in different book categories of the National Book Prize. It has published well-known and established authors, as well as introduced upcoming authors. As a publication house, Horizons gives a lot of importance to its relationship with the authors and involves them in every step of the publication. For Horizons, every detail is important: from editing to proofreading, from the choice of font to cover design. It is all these factors together that have set Horizons apart today.

Triq I-Iskultur, Qormi, QRM 3580
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If art is a window, consider this magazine a direct line to a fellow human, a world away. The beauty of the International Human Rights Art Movement (IHRAM) is that we are not just another soldier in the fight for global human equality; we are a peaceful space for human connection and reflection. We envision a world where artist activism is honoured as a human right, and a source of social change. The IHRAM Press was created with a simple goal: to celebrate and uplift up-and-coming creatives from all over the world; each of our authors and artists contend with their identities in the context of their environments, providing their unique perspectives on issues of human rights. We bring together all members of society through our anthologies and literary magazine, from artists-in-exile and at risk; to activists on the front lines of the struggle for rights and justice in their own country; to creators working in all media; to national and international politicians, government agencies, social leaders and celebrities.

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The Italian Cultural Institute in Valletta, as the Cultural Office of the Italian Embassy in Malta, is an entity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The Institute's mission is to promote Italian culture abroad.





JENS C. BÜDINGER (AUTHOR)

Self-published author of *The Chronicles of Lilith* series, a metaphysical dark fantasy/Sci-Fi series that brings together *The Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones* and *Inception* in an epic action-packed narrative. *The Queen of Shards* and *The Darkness Within*, the first two books, were published in 2022 and 2023 respectively.

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UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

The University of Malta is making its debut at the Malta Book Festival, represented by THINK Magazine, UM Library and Malta University Press (MUP). United by the spirit of exploration, our collective mission is to showcase the knowledge and innovation of UM's academics and students. THINK, our official research magazine, spearheads this effort by disseminating current UM research in its publications. This year, UM Library commemorates a decade of open access research (OAR), supporting widespread access to knowledge. Additionally, MUP produces and distributes scholarly publications that embody the essence of exploration, creativity and cultural enrichment within the global literary community.

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WIRT IŻ-ŻEJTUN

Wirt iż-Żejtun is a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) working in the heritage sector. It was launched upon the initiative of a group of people, mostly hailing from Żejtun, through a resolution approved during a formal meeting held on 3 October 2010. Our vision is to, in the shortest time possible, motivate the people of Żejtun to understand the need of appreciating, respecting and taking care of the natural, cultural, environmental, historical, ethnographical and archaeological heritage of iż-Żejtun and its people.

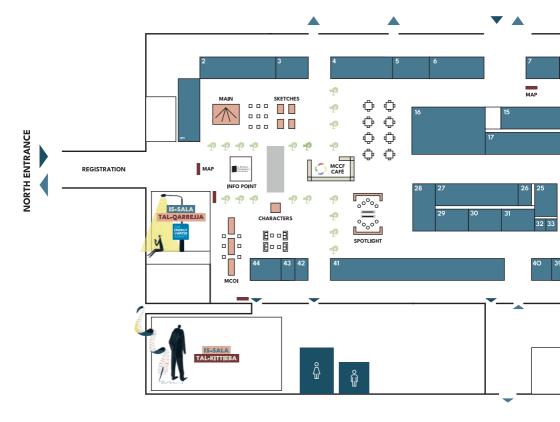
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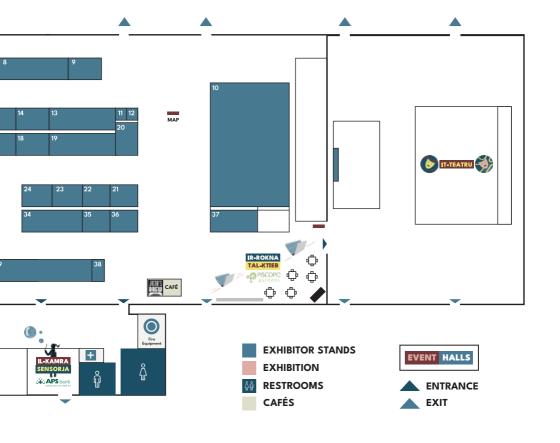
Wikimedia Community Malta (WCM) is a wiki user group based in Malta. This group aims to encourage the uptake of wiki activity among Maltese communities, through the implementation of various wiki activities, projects, and training & outreach events. Special attention is given to Wikipedia and Wikidata, especially in terms of Maltese-language use and information about anything associated with Malta. WCM is affiliated with the Wikimedia Foundation's Affiliations Committee.

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The MBF team would like to thank

Ali al-Shaali

Alberta

Alpha Medical

Annalisa Schembri Anthony Horowitz Antonella Axisa

APS Bank

Arts Council Malta

Benna

Blank Canvas Creatives

DFG Lab Ed Dingli

Embassy of Ireland

Emma Mattei

Energy and Water Agency

Faber Academy Glen Calleja Gutenberg Press Inspire Malta Jacob's Brew

James Corby Jimmy Bartolo

Joey Connolly

Jonathan Lloyd

Kat Storace

Kyle Xuereb Cunningham

Kym Pepe

Loranne Vella and Joe Gatt
Malta Community Chest Fund
Malta Community of Illustrators
Malta Entertainment Industry and

Arts Association

Malta Fairs & Conventions Centre

Mark Vella MCAST

National Literacy Agency

Paul Lynch
Piscopo Gardens
Richard Skinner
Simon Trewin
Steve Hili
Thunder Beat

Twilight

Water Services Corporation

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Wikimedia Community Malta

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Illustrations by Ed Dingli

Programme Design by Sarah Cachia Falzon

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