

# MALTA BOOK FESTIVAL

20  
23



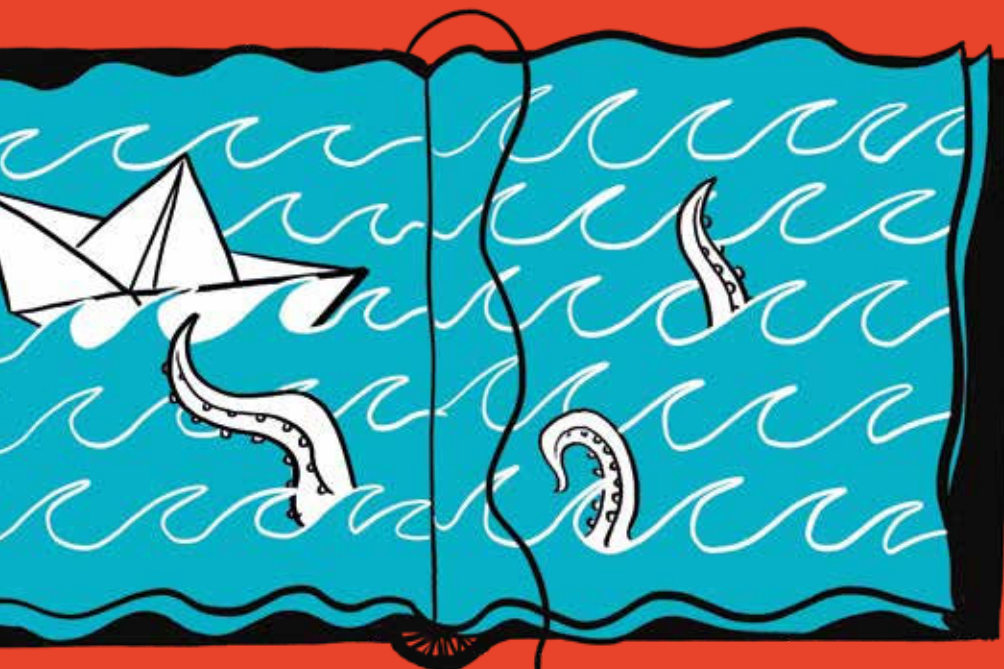
## Programme of Events

18-22 OCTOBER 2023

Malta Fairs & Conventions Centre (MFCC), Ta' Oali



With its long list of participants from all sectors of the book industry and a cultural programme that features over one hundred major events in book launches, book presentations, dramatic performances, workshops and conferences, the Malta Book Festival is the **largest celebration of the book culture in Malta.**



**The multi-sensory spirit of this year's edition of the beloved national celebration of the written word will take you #BEYONDBOOKS!**

People from all walks of life, young and old, eagerly await the Festival, which this year is being held between 18-22 October at the Malta Fairs and Conventions Centre (MFCC), Ta' Qali. For five days, publishers, booksellers, illustrators, translators and authors gather under one roof to make the most of this unique opportunity to promote and sell their books to the public.

In addition to local talent, the Festival features contributions by foreign guests, including big names in the international literary scene.

This edition carries the theme #BEYONDBOOKS, highlighting literature's potential to transcend the written word and manifest itself in various media - from illustration to audio, from theatre to film adaptation.

The MBF 23 mascots include Ray il-Qarrej, an imaginative fisherman whose nose is always stuck in a book; the enigmatic writer Filip il-Kittieb, whose passion lies in the performed word; Ċiċi l-Ispettatrici, the curious cat who purrs at the sight of a literary show; and Mia s-Semmiegħa, the music enthusiast who jams to aural stories.

# Ray il-Qarrej

#BEYONDBOOKS



## Wednesday 18 October

All day

### **Il-Kamra Sensorja**

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. The Kamra Sensorja is managed by Inspire Foundation. Access is allowed to children accompanied by their parents/educators.

All day

### **Exhibition: *Il-Malti: Il-Mixja sal-Għarfien Uffiċjali* Heritage Malta & l-Akkademja tal-Malti**

Organised by Heritage Malta and l-Akkademja tal-Malti and spread across ten themes, the exhibition *Il-Malti: Il-Mixja sal-Għarfien Uffiċjali* follows the history of the Maltese language from its Semitic roots until it was declared as the national language of Malta in 1964 and as one of the official languages of the European Union in 2004.

All day

### **Exhibition: *From Illustration To Book* NBC & Arts Council Malta (ACM)**

The second 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.

10:00 - 10:30

### **A theatre show for primary school students**

#### **NBC *IT-TEATRU***

Join in on the fun and adventure of this inspiring show for primary school students adapted and directed by award-winning playwright Simone Spiteri. This spectacular performance is adapted from a selection of Terramaxxa Prize-winning works and performed by actors Robyn Vella, Miguel Formosa, Lara Agius and Matteo Caruana Bond. After the show, there will be a surprise appearance by a popular author!

5

MALTA BOOK FESTIVAL

Programme of Events  
Wednesday 18 October

10:00 - 10:30

**Reading Session: *Il-Kavallier Ghatxan***

**Energy and Water Agency (EWA) IS-SALA TAL-QARREJJA** 

This story takes us back to the time of the Knights of St John, where we meet knight Jean de Villers, the greatest friend of Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt. Jean was assigned a very important role: to take care of the water supply of the Maltese Islands. We see Jean investigating the wells, cisterns, spiers and tunnels due to the lack of water. With Jean's help, the Grand Master followed the report of the engineer Padre Tomasucci, who recommended the building of the aqueducts, a project where high quality water would come down from Rabat and Had-Dingli and reach the fountain outside Valletta. Jean's work increased since he would often check the progress of the project that was so important for the Maltese Islands.

10:00 - 10:30

**Let's get lost in Knowledge (5-8 year olds)**

**Inspire Foundation IL-KAMRA SENSORJA** 

A reading session for 5-8 year olds by Sameera Perera and Linda Akanihu. Organised by Inspire Foundation in an autism-friendly environment for children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in full respect of their challenges.

11:30 - 12:30

**Jack & the Beanstalk (8-12 year olds)**

**Inspire Foundation IL-KAMRA SENSORJA** 

An interactive reading session for 8-12 year olds by Claire Borg and Ruby Anne Caruana. Organised by Inspire Foundation in an autism-friendly environment for children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in full respect of their challenges.

12:00 - 12:30

**A theatre show for primary school students**

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12:00 - 12:30

**Reading Session: *Osbert and Friends***

**Energy and Water Agency (EWA) IS-SALA TAL-QARREJJA** 

Osbert, a painted frog who lives at Chadwick Lakes in Malta, teaches us about his habitat, surroundings and the biodiversity of Chadwick Lakes.

Ongoing

**Quiz & Word match**

**German Maltese Circle / Dept. of German, UM**

**GMC / DEPT. OF GERMAN, UM STAND 8** 

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 quiz to be completed at the stand.

Ongoing

**Interactive Mural**

**Malta Community of Illustrators ACM STAND 28**

Several members from Malta Community of Illustrators will be working together to create a live drawing on a mural. Members of the audience are invited to join in and participate on a large-scale interactive illustration. Led by Matthew Demarco, co-founder and creative director of Bloom Creative/Maltatype, the interactive mural will be an ongoing artistic project that aims to use the visual medium of illustration as a tool for positive change.

17:00 - 18:00

**A reading by author Sandra Hili Vassallo**

**Gemma GEMMA STAND 25** 

Meet author Sandra Hili Vassallo for a reading session from the books *Kejkijiet tal-Karrotti*, *Fwejjah ta' Ward* and *Kollox Barra Bebbux*. The sessions will be followed by a discussion on the themes and content of the books on financial literacy, such as credit card theft and other scams; saving money by cooking your own food and shopping carefully; needs and wants; and other topics.

17:00 - 18:00

**Animal Bounty! Live animal session (6-10 year olds)**

**Inspire Foundation IL-KAMRA SENSORJA** 

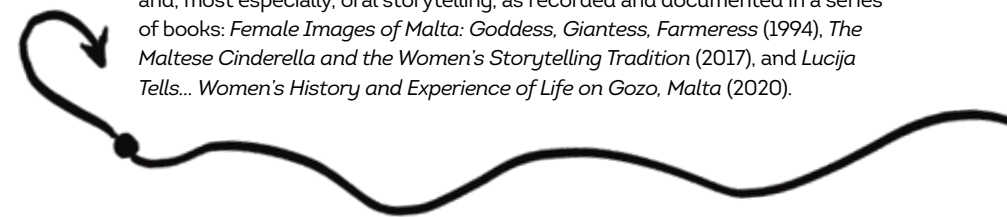
A live animal session for 6-10 year olds by Jelena Petrovic and Linda Akanihu. Organised by Inspire Foundation in an autism-friendly environment for children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in full respect of their challenges.

18:00 - 18:30

**A talk by Veronica Veen**

**Inanna Publishers INANNA STAND 12** 

A 30-minute talk by Veronica Veen about her thirty-five 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).



18:00 - 19:00

### How does Wikipedia actually work?

**Wikimedia Community Malta (WCM) WCM STAND 18**  

Everyone is aware of Wikipedia, but did you know that you can become an editor of this fantastic online encyclopedia along with thousands of other people just like you? Discover how Wikipedia actually works and get acquainted with other Wikimedia projects. With the participation of Dr Marc Tanti.

18:00 - 19:00

### L-Isfida Msella

**San Anton School & NBC IT-TEATRU** 

For the third consecutive year, San Anton School is celebrating 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 worked on related tasks, such as posters, creative writing projects and book trailers. During this event, each participant will be presented with an award.

18:30 - 20:30

### Award-Giving Ceremony of the Plaza Prizes

**The Plaza Prizes IS-SALA TAL-KITTIEBA** 

A series of live readings by the winners of the international literary competition, The Plaza Prizes. The competition's mission is to discover the most talented writers in English from all around the globe. The winners will be presented with their awards by No 1 Bestseller and Board Member of the Society of Authors Sam Blake. If you are interested in fabulous new writing, you are most welcome to pull up a chair and listen to tomorrow's literary stars.

19:30 - 20:30

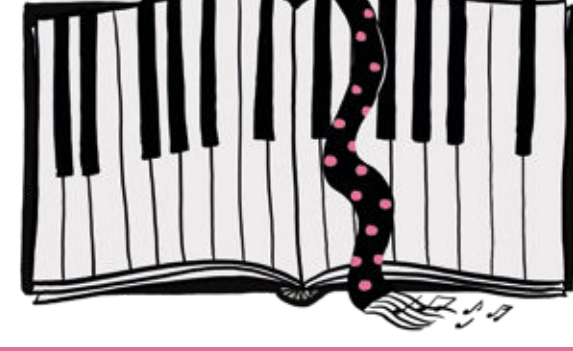
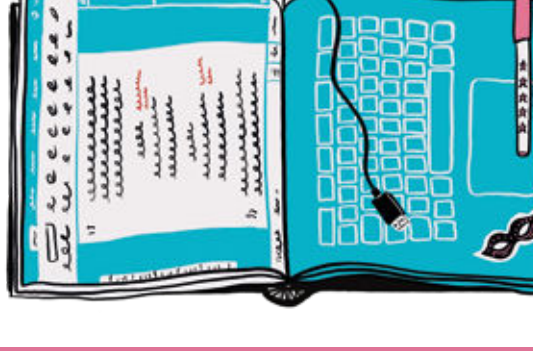
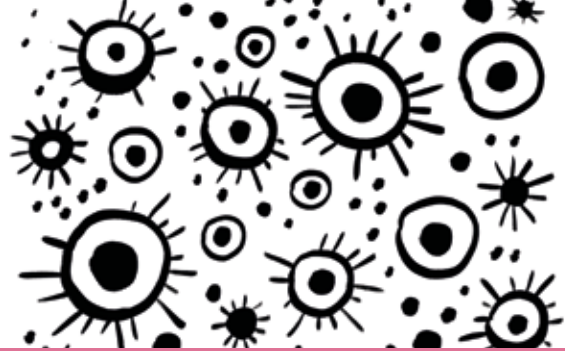
### Adapting for the Screen -

#### Support Schemes by the Malta Film Commission

**Malta Film Commission IS-SALA TAL-QARREJJA** 

Since 2008, the Malta Film Commission has been backing local filmmakers through various schemes to boost local productions. Given the abundance of untapped ideas in the Maltese literary scene, there is a great opportunity for filmmakers to seriously consider adaptations for both film and TV. By exploring the impact of book-to-screen adaptations, the MFC aims to foster cultural enrichment, engage the audience and encourage creative exploration, while supporting the growth of both the literary and entertainment industries. The presentation by Susan Ronald and Jean Pierre Borg from the Malta Film Commission will focus on the schemes available and serve to bridge the gap between authors, publishers and filmmakers.





Malta Community of Illustrators and Arts Council Malta present:

# Interactive Mural

Several members and artists from the Malta Community of Illustrators will be live-drawing an interactive mural during the Malta Book Festival. The mural will be emphasising the importance of illustration as a tool for positive change and social commentary, where illustrators will be invited to use their own individual style to create large-scale artwork, while keeping the literary setting of the mural in mind. The mural will be directed by Matthew Demarco, co-founder and creative director of local design studio Bloom Creative/Maltatype. Audience members will be free to contribute to the mural as it is being created.

Moira Scicluna Zahra, the founder of the Malta Community of Illustrators, has been working on a research paper through MCAST on the subject of contemporary Maltese illustrations. After carrying out various interviews with local illustrators, there has been an overwhelming appeal to use the medium of illustration as a device for social commentary and activism. Illustration is an art industry that has been described as 'at the service of the people' due to its universality, and it is therefore adequately placed to reach the public - in this case through a large-scale collaborative illustration. The aim of this project is to invite the audience to reflect and discuss.

**Ongoing everyday at the Arts Council Malta stand 28**

# FROM ILLUSTRATION TO BOOK

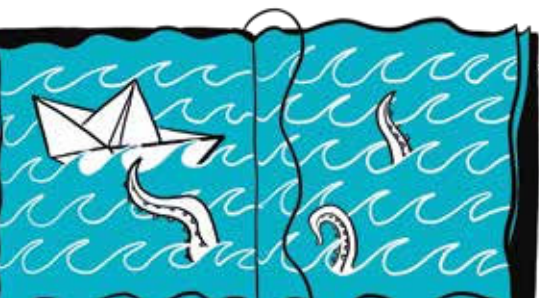
## EXHIBITION

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

The second edition of the exhibition is split into four 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 2023 Exhibit' highlight some of the finest work by illustrators and book designers active today. Finally, the 'Artist Spotlight' areas devote special attention to two prolific illustrators: Ġorġ Mallia and Marisa Attard.



MCAST



# Thursday 19 October

All day

## Il-Kamra Sensorja

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All day

## Exhibition: *Il-Malti: Il-Mixja sal-Gharfien Ufficjali* Heritage Malta & l-Akkademja tal-Malti

Organised by Heritage Malta and l-Akkademja tal-Malti and spread across ten themes, the exhibition *Il-Malti: Il-Mixja sal-Gharfien Ufficjali* follows the history of the Maltese language from its Semitic roots until it was declared as the national language of Malta in 1964 and as one of the official languages of the European Union in 2004.

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10:00 - 10:30

## A theatre show for middle and secondary school students NBC IT-TEATRU

Join in on the fun and adventure of this inspiring show for middle and secondary school students adapted and directed by award-winning playwright Simone Spiteri. This spectacular performance is adapted from a selection of Terramaxka Prize-winning works and performed by actors Robyn Vella, Miguel Formosa, Lara Agius and Matteo Caruana Bond. After the show, there will be a surprise appearance by a popular author!

10:00 - 10:30

## Reading Session: *A Journey with the Energetic Four: The Renewables*

### Energy and Water Agency (EWA) IS-SALA TAL-QARREJJA

A story that revolves around a ten-year-old boy named Ben, who embarks on a journey with the Renewables to better understand present and future energy choices.

10:00 - 11:00

## Who is Hiding under the Sea? (9-12 year olds)

### Inspire Foundation IL-KAMRA SENSORJA

A reading session for 9-12 year olds by Stebin Kallingal. Organised by Inspire Foundation in an autism-friendly environment, for children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in full respect of their challenges.

10:30 - 12:00

## Storytelling for kids about *Shadow the dog*

### Kite Group KITE GROUP STAND 42

*Shadow Finds a Home* is a book that portrays the story of Shadow and that of hundreds of other dogs which fill our shelters, waiting for adoption. It is a story intended to raise awareness among our future generations of the plight of the countless dogs that are abandoned every day on our streets. Throughout the reading sessions the author, Amanda Zahra, will be accompanied by Shadow at Kite Group's stand.

11:30 - 12:30

## Inspiration, Technique, Success - a creative writing masterclass by Sam Blake for post-sec students

### NBC IS-SALA TAL-KITTIEBA

Character, location and plot are the vital components of a great story, but where do you find them and how do you bring them together? Sam Blake will take you through her own process with tips from her colleagues in the industry, from Jeffery Deaver to Joanne Harris. This event is aimed at students at post-secondary level who are interested in fiction writing in any language.

**THIS EVENT REQUIRES PARTICIPANTS TO REGISTER ONLINE IN ADVANCE.**

REGISTER HERE



11:30 - 12:30

## Animal Bounty! Live animal session (9-12 year olds)

### Inspire Foundation IL-KAMRA SENSORJA

A live animal session for 9-12 year olds by Jelena Petrovic and Wilson Akanihu. Organised by Inspire Foundation in an autism-friendly environment for children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in full respect of their challenges.

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12:00 - 12:30

**Reading Session: Luna u l-Enerġetika: Il-Vapur Sostenibbli Energy and Water Agency (EWA) IS-SALA TAL-QARREJJA**

From a message in a bottle to a hidden treasure and unexpected friendships, *Luna u l-Enerġetika - Il-Vapur Sostenibbli* is a rollercoaster of adventures, packed with emotions, discovery and thrills!

Ongoing

**Quiz & Word match German Maltese Circle / Dept. of German, UM GMC / DEPT. OF GERMAN, UM STAND 8**

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 quiz to be completed at the stand.

17:00 - 18:00

**A reading by author Sandra Hili Vassallo Gemma GEMMA STAND 25**

Meet author Sandra Hili Vassallo for a reading session from the books *Kejkijiet tal-Karrotti*, *Fwejjah ta' Ward* and *Kollox Barra Bebbux*. The sessions will be followed by a discussion on the themes and content of the books on financial literacy, such as credit card theft and other scams; saving money by cooking your own food and shopping carefully; needs and wants; and other topics.

17:00 - 18:00

**When do Hippos Play? (5-8 years) Inspire Foundation IL-KAMRA SENSORJA**

A reading session for 5-8 year olds by Wilson Akanihu and Linda Akanihu. Organised by Inspire Foundation in an autism-friendly environment for children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in full respect of their challenges.

18:00 - 19:00

**Networking event for librarians together with Fondazione per Leggere - Biblioteche di Milano and Malta Libraries Istituto Italiano di Cultura IS-SALA TAL-QARREJJA**

This networking event aimed at librarians and publishing sector professionals brings together the experiences of Fondazione per Leggere - Biblioteche di Milano and Malta Libraries in promoting reading, maintaining and developing public libraries, and constantly improving the services provided to the reading public.

18:00 - 19:00

**Wikipedian-in-Residence at TimesofMalta.com Wikimedia Community Malta (WCM) IS-SALA FIL-PJAZZA**

*Times of Malta* has a strong online presence, thereby offering great opportunities for collaboration with Wikimedia Projects. During this event, a programme of activities for 2024 will be launched, wherein TimesofMalta.com will be working closely with Wikimedia Commons and Wikipedia. With the participation of Bertrand Borg, Online Editor at *Times of Malta*.

18:00 - 20:00

**Reading Champions National Literacy Agency 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.

18:30 - 19:30

**Masterclass with Sam Blake: What's Your Story: 5 Steps to Writing a Bestseller**

**NBC IS-SALA TAL-KITTIEBA**

Finding an idea that's original and fresh is one of the keys to success in a busy marketplace, but how you tell that story is just as important. Understanding creativity, fiction writing techniques and the scaffolding you need to create a strong story house is essential. Sam Blake explains how to adapt the process to give your own work the best chance of success.

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19:00 - 20:00

**Book Launch: The First Maltese: How it all Began in Gozo by Veronica Veen**

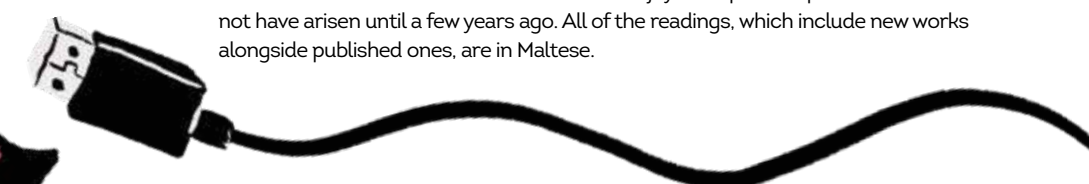
**Inanna Publishers IS-SALA FIL-PJAZZA**

The book launch of *The First Maltese: How it all Began in Gozo*, presented by Dr Veronica Veen. More than 30 years after the game-changing early Neolithic Ghar Dalam finds made at Tač-Cawla, Gozo, this comprehensive new book highlights the leading role of Gozo during the first immigrations in about 5800 BC, a date which was already established by the author in 1993.

19:30 - 20:30

**FRAKASS: contemporary poets Kotba Calleja IS-SALA TAL-QARREJJA**

Poetry readings from various established and emerging contemporary poets. In 2023, the poet and humanity at large are endowed with the tools and discourses which allow them to articulate their emotions, joys and preoccupations that could not have arisen until a few years ago. All of the readings, which include new works alongside published ones, are in Maltese.





# Friday 20 October

All day

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All day

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## **Reading Session: Osbert and Friends**

**Energy and Water Agency (EWA) IS-SALA TAL-QARREJJA** 

Osbert, a painted frog who lives at Chadwick Lakes in Malta, teaches us about his habitat, surroundings and the biodiversity of Chadwick Lakes.

10:00 - 11:00

## **Included - interactive session (9-12 year olds)**

**Inspire Foundation IL-KAMRA SENSORJA** 

An interactive reading session for 9-12 year olds by Jennifer Taccone and Michael Galea. Organised by Inspire Foundation in an autism-friendly environment for children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in full respect of their challenges.

10:30 - 12:00

## **Storytelling for kids about Shadow the dog**

**Kite Group KITE GROUP STAND 42** 

*Shadow Finds a Home* is a book that portrays the story of Shadow and that of hundreds of other dogs which fill our shelters, waiting for adoption. It is a story intended to raise awareness amongst our future generations of the plight of the countless dogs that are abandoned every day on our streets. Throughout the reading sessions the author, Amanda Zahra, will be accompanied by Shadow at Kite Group's stand.

11:30 - 12:30

## **My Way to Kindness (7-10 year olds)**

**Inspire Foundation IL-KAMRA SENSORJA** 

A reading session for 7-10 year olds by Jennifer Taccone and John Papsin. Organised by Inspire Foundation in an autism-friendly environment for children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in full respect of their challenges.

12:00 - 12:30

## **A theatre show for primary school students**

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12:00 - 12:30

## **Reading Session: L-Eroj tal-Ilma**

**Energy and Water Agency (EWA) IS-SALA TAL-QARREJJA** 

In this story we meet Wallace, a young man who was born on the Green Planet. This planet started hosting Wallace's parents among others after their escape from the Pink Planet, which was called Earth before its water was contaminated and the planet turned pink. One day, Wallace was struck by lightning and found himself on Earth, which had become so uninhabitable that he had to use his supernatural powers to survive. On Earth, he met Daniel and Wendy, children who had to wear protective clothing and a mask due to the unbearable heat and polluted air and water. The three begin their mission to teach about sustainability so that Earth starts to heal.

Ongoing

**Quiz & Word match**

**German Maltese Circle / Dept. of German, UM**

**GMC / DEPT. OF GERMAN, UM STAND 8** 

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17:00 - 18:00

**All My Stripes (8-12 year olds)**

**Inspire Foundation IL-KAMRA SENSORJA** 

A reading session for 8-12 year olds by Kristina Briffa and Alicia Escribano. Organised by Inspire Foundation in an autism-friendly environment for children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in full respect of their challenges.

18:00 - 19:00

**Finding the Words - an exchange between Sam Blake and**

**Leanne Ellul on fiction writing**

**NBC IS-SALA TAL-KITTIEBA** 

Two writers, local children's author and poet Leanne Ellul, and bestselling Irish crime writer Sam Blake discuss their shared love of storytelling and their inspiration. Finding the best way to tell a story is a challenge faced by every writer. Literary agent Simon Trewin will be moderating the discussion and delving into the nature and origin of story ideas, and how these two writers bring them to the page. Some ideas suit a short story, some a poem, others a novel; this exchange sheds light on how writers decide on the best approach.

18:00 - 19:00

**140 languages for Pinocchio**

**Istituto Italiano di Cultura IS-SALA FIL-PJAZZA** 

Prof. Stefano Jossa (University of Palermo and RHUL) will lead the public through the variety of linguistic remakes of the most famous puppet in the world, who turns 140 this year! Event in Italian.

18:00 - 19:00

**You're so dramatic! - A workshop on Maltese theatre**

**Għaqda tal-Malti - Università IS-SALA TAL-OARREJJA** 

L-Għaqda tal-Malti incorporates il-Grupp Teatrali, a project which is open to all those who have Maltese theatre at heart. During this workshop, theatre professionals will be leading a series of exercises through which participants can sharpen their talents while fostering a greater appreciation for theatre in our mother tongue.

18:00 - 19:00

**What is Wikidata?**

**Wikimedia Community Malta (WCM) WCM STAND 18**  

Discover Wikidata, another Wikimedia project, which provides essential data to Google, Siri and Alexa, along with Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects. With the participation of Enrique Tabone.

19:00 - 20:00

**Book Presentation: Requiem per un fascista maltese by**

**Francis Ebejer**

**Bonferraro Editore IS-SALA TAL-OARREJJA** 

This autobiographical novel describes the political atmosphere and recounts the bombings on the Maltese Islands during the Second World War. The work has a Stendhalian breadth in its depiction of reality with broad brushstrokes and outlines, and its precise and intense portrayal of the soul of its subjects, overwhelmed by war and the ruthless power games of the time. Beyond this, the novel delves into themes of political commitment: Fascism, Nazism, anti-Semitism, British colonialism and the dream of independence. However, politics and war remain in the background as the reader experiences them through the eyes of Lorenz, the novel's protagonist. This panel is presented by the publisher, Salvo Bonferraro, with the participation of Dr Marco Galea and Damian Ebejer.

19:00 - 20:00

**Meet the Author: Barbi Marković reads from her latest novel**

**Minihorror German Maltese Circle / Dept. of German, UM**

**IS-SALA FIL-PJAZZA** 

Vienna-based contemporary writer Barbi Marković, special guest of the German-language book stand, will read from her latest novel *Minihorror* (2023). 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.

19:00 - 20:00

**Masculinity in Small Worlds: A reading circle with LukeReads**

**Mallia & D'Amato Booksellers**

**MALLIA & D'AMATO BOOKSELLERS STAND 15** 

An exploration of masculinity through extracts from *Small Worlds* by Caleb Azumah Nelson with the participation of Luke Galea, and Maya Aarohi and Noah Fabri from Geġwīgija Library. The novel is a moving coming-of-age story which explores the intersections of masculinity, race and migration.



19:30 - 20:30

**Reading from *Jiena u Beppe, Beppe u Jiena* (Merlin Publishers)**

**MIVC [IL-KAMRA SENSORJA](#)**

Olivia Galea Seychell reads from *Jiena u Beppe, Beppe u Jiena* (Merlin Publishers). This book emerged from the great passion that Beppe, an eleven-year-old autistic boy, has for writing in Maltese. Above all else, Beppe wanted to write a story with author Clare Azzopardi. Together, they decided to start sending emails to each other about the things they like and those they fear or annoy them. This book celebrates similarities and differences, inclusion and, above all, friendship. This project was financed by the Ministry for Inclusion, Voluntary Organisations and Consumer Rights.

19:30 - 20:30

**Award-Giving Ceremony: The 2023 Doreen Micallef National Poetry Contest**

**NBC [IS-SALA TAL-KITTIEBA](#)**

Join us for the announcement of the winners of the fifth edition of the prestigious Doreen Micallef National Poetry Contest with readings from the winning poets. Following the National Book Council's collaboration with international magazine *Modern Poetry in Translation* (MPT), the summer 2023 issue, with a focus section on Maltese poetry translated into English, will be presented for the first time in Malta.

20:30 - 21:30

**these poems are fan-like...**

**vrusha/vrusna [IS-SALA TAL-KITTIEBA](#)**

Eight female writers, eight voices. One point of departure – another voice, strong at its most fragile, the voice of Maria Grech Ganado, Malta's first Poet Laureate. The aim – how words reshape words, and how the experiences of these nine writers, diverse as they may be, combine as a single chain, like beads on a string, or like a fan... Through these new texts especially written for this occasion, Clare Azzopardi, Miriam Calleja, Leanne Ellul, Claudia Gauci, Elizabeth Grech, Simone Inguanez, Klara Vassallo and Nadia Mifsud will be giving the audience a taste of what it means to be a woman today.

20:30 - 21:30

**VII / Fidwa**

**Teatru Malta and NBC [IT-TEATRU](#)**

An hour-long concert packed with the music and distinctive sounds of The New Victorians, taken from *VII* and *Il-Fidwa tal-Bdiewa*: two shows with original music by The New Victorians. For this novel production at the 2023 Malta Book Festival, Teatru Malta is once again drawing up a set of auditory delights for our audiences in order to deliver the best excerpts from these two productions in a concert enriched by vibrant music and writing.

**TICKETS ON SALE ON [SHOWSHAPPENING.COM](#)**

SCAN FOR TICKET



**Ċiċi l-Ispettatrici**

#BEYONDBOOKS

# Saturday 21 October

All day

## Il-Kamra Sensorja

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. The Kamra Sensorja is managed by Inspire Foundation. Access is allowed to children accompanied by their parents/educators.

All day

## Exhibition: *Il-Malti: Il-Mixja sal-Gharfien Ufficjali* Heritage Malta & l-Akkademja tal-Malti

Organised by Heritage Malta and l-Akkademja tal-Malti and spread across ten themes, the exhibition *Il-Malti: Il-Mixja sal-Gharfien Ufficjali* follows the history of the Maltese language from its Semitic roots until it was declared as the national language of Malta in 1964 and as one of the official languages of the European Union in 2004.

All day

## Exhibition: *From Illustration To Book* NBC & Arts Council Malta (ACM)

The second 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.

Ongoing

## Quiz & Word match German Maltese Circle / Dept. of German, UM GMC / DEPT. OF GERMAN, UM STAND 8

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 quiz to be completed at the stand.

10:00 - 11:00

## Zinn Zinn Zinn: Music and literature for young ones and their elders Għaqda tal-Malti - Università IS-SALA TAL-QARREJJA

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

10:00 - 11:00

## Inside Publishing - Routes to Market: A masterclass by Simon Trewin

NBC IS-SALA TAL-KITTIEBA

REGISTER HERE



Literary agent and publishing consultant Simon Trewin talks candidly about the international rights market and how agents, authors and publishers can maximise its potential. In this lively interactive one-hour session, Simon will use some key examples of success (and failure) from his thirty years in the industry to show the step-by-step process from the beginning of the creative process to a book being read as widely as possible. With plenty of opportunities for questions and answers, this session will hopefully help demystify an increasingly complex process.

**THIS EVENT REQUIRES PARTICIPANTS TO REGISTER ONLINE IN ADVANCE.**

10:30 - 11:00

## A Q&A session with the Gemma team

Gemma GEMMA STAND 25

Gemma team members will be holding question and answer sessions about financial literacy aimed at children and parents.

10:30 - 11:30

## Friendfish in the Ocean (5-7 year olds)

Inspire Foundation IL-KAMRA SENSORJA

A reading session for 5-7 year olds by Stefany Munoz and Linda Akanihu. Organised by Inspire Foundation in an autism-friendly environment for children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in full respect of their challenges.

11:00 - 11:45

## A reading session with Lucienne Cassar

Pandora Bargain Books IS-SALA FIL-PJAZZA

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

11:30 - 12:30

## Writing for children and young adults - a masterclass by Macmillan editor Charlie Castelletti

NBC IS-SALA TAL-KITTIEBA

REGISTER HERE



Have you ever wondered what's the difference between a chapter book, middle grade, or YA book for children? Have you ever thought about story hooks, popular genres and tropes and how books become bestsellers? This masterclass offers an inside look at what it means to be a children's writer on a global stage through the lens of Charlie Castelletti, children's writer and books editor at Macmillan.

**THIS EVENT REQUIRES PARTICIPANTS TO REGISTER ONLINE IN ADVANCE.**

12:00 - 13:00

**Book signing with Lucienne Cassar**

**Pandora Bargain Books**

**PANDORA BARGAIN BOOKS STAND 40**  

Writer Lucienne Cassar will sign her books published by Pandora Publications.

12:00 - 13:00

**When Do Hippos Play? (5-8 year olds)**

**Inspire Foundation** **IL-KAMRA SENSORJA** 

A reading session for 5-8 year olds by Wilson Akanihu and Linda Akanihu.

Organised by Inspire Foundation in an autism-friendly environment for children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in full respect of their challenges.

13:00 - 14:00

**Editing workshop by Jen Calleja and Kat Storace**

**Praspar Press & NBC** **IS-SALA TAL-KITTIEBA** 

**REGISTER HERE**



During this editing workshop with Praspar Press editors Kat Storace and Jen Calleja, you will explore practical tips for editing your own writing and writing by others, including how to edit translated literature. At Praspar Press, Storace and Calleja have published works by Lorraine Vella and Clare Azzopardi in English translation, and yearly edit and publish the anthology *Scintillas: New Maltese Writing*. Collectively, they have twenty years of experience in UK publishing as editors, authors and translators. The workshop is for those writing in English or translating into English.

**THIS EVENT REQUIRES PARTICIPANTS TO REGISTER ONLINE IN ADVANCE.**

13:00 - 14:00

**Mini-art workshops by Veronica Veen**

**Inanna Publishers** **INANNA STAND 12** 

Make your own bookmark inspired by the First Maltese! Mini-art workshops of 15 minutes each by author Veronica Veen will be held at the Inanna Publishers Stand.

**REGISTER AT THE STAND FROM NOON ONWARDS.**

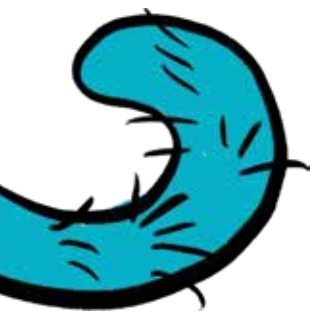
14:00 - 15:00

**Animal Bounty! Live animal session (5-12 year olds)**

**Inspire Foundation** **IL-KAMRA SENSORJA** 

A live animal session for 5-12 year olds by Jelena Petrovic and Wilson Akanihu.

Organised by Inspire Foundation in an autism-friendly environment for children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in full respect of their challenges.



15:00 - 16:00

**Book Launch: *The Manor House Governess* (Black and White, Bonnier Books) by C.A. Castle**

**NBC** **IS-SALA TAL-KITTIEBA** 

Author Charlie Castelletti will be presenting his debut novel in an interview with Charlie Cauchi. Castelletti is also the editor of the upcoming anthologies *A Book Lover's Guide to the Zodiac* and *My Gothic Heart*, published by Macmillan. With a genderfluid protagonist and a 21st-century twist, this spirited debut pays homage to the British classics while joyfully centering an LGBTQ+ point of view, perfect for fans of Emily M. Danforth. Drawing energy and inspiration from Charlotte Brontë, Jane Austen, E.M. Forster and more, *The Manor House Governess* is destined to become a modern classic.

16:00 - 17:00

**Book Launch: *Scintillas: New Maltese Writing 3***

**Praspar Press** **IS-SALA TAL-KITTIEBA** 

Editors and co-founders of London-based Praspar Press Kat Storace and Jen Calleja will be presenting the third edition of their anthology *Scintillas: New Maltese Writing 3*, featuring contemporary short fiction, poetry and essays in English and English translation. *Scintillas* has been funded by the National Book Council.

17:00 - 18:00

**A reading by author Sandra Hili Vassallo**

**Gemma** **GEMMA STAND 25** 

Meet author Sandra Hili Vassallo for a reading session from the books *Kejkijiet tal-Karrotti*, *Fwejjah ta' Ward* and *Kollox Barra Bebbux*. The sessions will be followed by a discussion on the themes and content of the books on financial literacy, such as credit card theft and other scams; saving money by cooking your own food and shopping carefully; needs and wants; and other topics.

17:00 - 18:30

**2023 Wiki Loves Photo Contests Awards Ceremony**

**Wikimedia Community Malta (WCM)**

**IS-SALA TAL-QARREJJA**  

An awards ceremony for Wiki Loves Folklore and Wiki Loves Earth 2023. The finalists of Wiki Loves Monuments 2023 will also be announced at this event.

17:00 - 18:00

**Launch of the Commonwealth Short Story Prize in Malta with Cypriot writer Constantia Soteriou**

**NBC & Commonwealth Foundation** IS-SALA TAL-KITTIEBA 

The National Book Council will be announcing a new collaboration with the Commonwealth Foundation through which Maltese writers will have the opportunity to participate in the Commonwealth Short Story Prize competition with short stories written in both Maltese and English. To inaugurate this collaboration, we will be welcoming Constantia Soteriou, the Cypriot writer whose short story 'Death Customs' won the 2019 edition of the Prize. On this occasion, Soteriou will be interviewed by Elena Cardona.

18:00 - 19:00

**Info sessions about Wikimedia photography contests**

**Wikimedia Community Malta (WCM)** WCM STAND 18  

Discover how to take part in the annual photo contests Wiki Loves Monuments, Wiki Loves Folklore and Wiki Loves Earth.

18:00 - 19:00

**How you say it to yourself: Between writing and translation on *Aphroconfuso***

**Mallia & D'Amato Booksellers** IS-SALA FIL-PJAZZA 

If all writing is a form of translation, writing in Maltese is often translating in an even more direct sense. When we try to articulate in Maltese a line of thought on a subject that we have always read in another language (most probably English), we find ourselves struggling between the idea and its precise and elegant expression. A conversation with editors Lorraine Vella and Joe Gatt, as well as contributors of *Aphroconfuso* on how this struggle forms an important part of the journal's writing and editorial process.

18:00 - 19:30

**[gæp] WHAT IS A GAP? A playful talk on *Liberation***

**Ateliersi & Istituto Italiano di Cultura** IT-TEATRU 

The Bolognese collective Ateliersi is known for scenic writing that transfigures the object of reality through their poetic and musical recomposition. In *[gæp] What is a GAP?*, a modern-day child relates to the visions, thoughts and actions of Pin, the naughty protagonist of *The Path to the Spiders' Nests*, Italo Calvino's debut novel set during the Italian Resistance. Ahmed offers the public a group game: a literary bingo made up of sentences taken from Calvino's book. Whoever guesses missing lines and hidden meanings actually wins books. The sentences now become a sort of code like the one the insurgents used to communicate; they can also generate the semantic misunderstanding between gap understood as a 'rift' and as an acronym for the Patriotic Action Groups (Gruppi di Azione Patriottica). The young protagonist plays himself, starting from a playful dimension, to provide answers to the first questions borne out of one's being in the world that arise in adolescence.

18:30 - 19:15

**How a book is made**

**Gutenberg Press** IS-SALA TAL-KITTIEBA 

Join us for a 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.

19:00 - 20:00

**The Italian language works of Frans Sammut**

**Bonferraro Editore** IS-SALA TAL-QARREJJA 

A presentation of the only two works written in Italian by Maltese writer Frans Sammut, with the participation of the publisher, Salvo Bonferraro, lecturer Patrick Sammut and the writers, Mark Sammut and Aleks Farrugia.

19:30 - 20:30

**Gibraltar comes to Malta: a window into Gibraltar literature, history, language and culture**

**Gibraltar National Book Council** IS-SALA TAL-KITTIEBA 

In this conversation, two members from the National Book Council of Gibraltar, novelist M.G. Sanchez and Head of Cultural Development Davina Barbara, will talk with the NBC Executive Chairperson Mark Camilleri about Gibraltarian literature, history, language and culture, uncovering interesting parallels between the two 'Rocks' in the process. The session will also feature a presentation about The Rock Retreat 2024, a creative residency for writers and artists specialising in Children's and Young Adult fiction held in Gibraltar, of special interest to Maltese authors and illustrators.

20:30 - 22:00

**Writers' roundtable with Jon Mallia**

**NBC** IT-TEATRU 

Jon Mallia will lead a round-table discussion with prominent literary figures Trevor Żahra, Lon Kirkop, Alex Farrugia, Nadia Mifsud and Lorraine Vella. The discussion will delve into the personalities and careers of these writers as well as how they perceive their role in the ever-evolving landscape of Maltese literature. Jon will pose thought-provoking questions to gain deeper insights into what these award-winning writers believe the future of books in Malta will be like and how this development can be influenced.



# Sunday 22 October



All day

## Il-Kamra Sensorja

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. The Kamra Sensorja is managed by Inspire Foundation. Access is allowed to children accompanied by their parents/educators.

All day

## Exhibition: *Il-Malti: Il-Mixja sal-Gharfien Ufficjali* Heritage Malta & l-Akkademja tal-Malti

Organised by Heritage Malta and l-Akkademja tal-Malti and spread across ten themes, the exhibition *Il-Malti: Il-Mixja sal-Gharfien Ufficjali* follows the history of the Maltese language from its Semitic roots until it was declared as the national language of Malta in 1964 and as one of the official languages of the European Union in 2004.

All day

## Exhibition: *From Illustration To Book* NBC & Arts Council Malta (ACM)

The second 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.

Ongoing

## Quiz & Word match

### German Maltese Circle / Dept. of German, UM

#### GMC / DEPT. OF GERMAN, UM STAND 8

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 quiz to be completed at the stand.

10:30 - 11:00

## A Q&A session with the Gemma team

### Gemma GEMMA STAND 25

Gemma team members will be holding question and answer sessions about financial literacy aimed at children and parents.

10:30 - 12:00

## Storytelling for kids about *Shadow the dog*

### Kite Group KITE GROUP STAND 42

*Shadow Finds a Home* is a book that portrays the story of Shadow and that of hundreds of other dogs which fill our shelters, waiting for adoption. It is a story intended to raise awareness amongst our future generations of the plight of the countless dogs that are abandoned every day on our streets. Throughout the reading sessions the author, Amanda Zahra, will be accompanied by Shadow at Kite Group's stand.

10:30 - 11:30

## Let's get lost in Knowledge (5-8 year olds)

### Inspire Foundation IL-KAMRA SENSORJA

A reading session for 5-8 year olds by Stefany Munoz and Linda Akanihu. Organised by Inspire Foundation in an autism-friendly environment for children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in full respect of their challenges.

12:00 - 13:00

## Friendfish in the Ocean (5-7 year olds)

### Inspire Foundation IL-KAMRA SENSORJA

A reading session for 5-7 year olds by Stefany Munoz and Linda Akanihu. Organised by Inspire Foundation in an autism-friendly environment for children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in full respect of their challenges.

14:00 - 15:00

## Animal Bounty! Live animal session (5-12 year olds)

### Inspire Foundation IL-KAMRA SENSORJA

A live animal session for 5-12 year olds by Jelena Petrovic and Wilson Akanihu. Organised by Inspire Foundation in an autism-friendly environment for children on the spectrum to have access to storytelling activities in full respect of their challenges.

16:00 - 17:00

## Saxophone performance and book presentation of *Gato Barbieri - An Italian biography between jazz, pop and cinema* (ArtDigiland) by Andrea Polinelli

### Istituto Italiano di Cultura IS-SALA TAL-KITTEBA

The book pieces together the story of Argentinian musician Gato Barbieri, shedding light on who Gato really was; why he decided to move to Italy; how and to what extent he influenced the development of Italian jazz; what traces he left in pop music and what kind of contribution he gave to the works of some of the most innovative Italian film directors: among others, Bernardo Bertolucci, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Marco Ferreri, Giuliano Montaldo, Gianni Amico and Alfredo Leonardi. The book has already been launched with success at the Umbria Jazz Festival 2023.



16:00 - 17:00

**Launch of *Lehen il-Malti - Ghadd 42***

**Ghaqda tal-Malti - Università IS-SALA FIL-PJAZZA** 🇲🇹

As per annual tradition, l-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*.

16:00 - 17:00

**Film screening & panel discussion: Prof. Henry Frendo, Recipient of the 2022 National Book Prize Lifetime Achievement Award**

**NBC IT-TEATRU** 🇲🇹

The National Book Council honours the academic and literary life of researcher and historian Henry Frendo, winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022. A documentary was commissioned by the NBC and produced by Blank Canvas Creatives. Its airing will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by Mario Xuereb with the participation of Henry Frendo, Anthony Mizzi and Vicki Ann Cremona.

17:00 - 18:00

**A reading by author Sandra Hili Vassallo**

**Gemma GEMMA STAND 25** 🇲🇹

Meet author Sandra Hili Vassallo for a reading session from the books *Kejkijiet tal-Karrotti*, *Fwejjah ta' Ward* and *Kollox Barra Bebbux*. The sessions will be followed by a discussion on the themes and content of the books on financial literacy, such as credit card theft and other scams; saving money by cooking your own food and shopping carefully; needs and wants; and other topics.

17:30 - 18:30

**From page to stage and screen: two takes on *Castillo* (Merlin Publishers)**

**NBC IS-SALA TAL-KITTIEBA** 🇲🇹

Coinciding with the release of the trailer for *Castillo*, a TakeTwo feature-length production based on Clare Azzopardi's 2018 novel of the same name, this panel brings together the author, director Abigail Mallia, screenwriter and producer Carlos Debattista, and the actress in a starring role, Simone Spiteri, to discuss this new project as well as their earlier theatrical adaptation of *Castillo*, staged at Spazju Kreattiv in 2022.

18:00 - 19:00

**Book presentation of *Raccogliere il mare con un cucchiaino* (Edizioni Città Nuova) by Regina Catrambone**

**Istituto Italiano di Cultura IS-SALA FIL-PJAZZA** 🇮🇹

The book recounts the story of the author's family and the creation of MOAS, as well as how since then, together with supporters, donors and staff, they have taken care of thousands of vulnerable children, women and men around the world. Event in Italian.



**Mia s-Semmiiegħa**

#BEYONDBOOKS



# Exhibitors



## 4Sight Publications

What sets 4sight Publications apart is its dedication to fostering a strong relationship with its authors. The company believes in empowering writers to have control over their creative works while providing professional guidance to help them achieve success. By prioritising the needs and aspirations of its authors, 4sight Publications has helped writers fulfil their dreams of becoming published authors. With an eye for quality and a commitment to excellence, 4sight Publications continues to expand its catalogue with captivating and diverse titles. Whether it's discovering a thrilling crime novel, delving into thought-provoking non-fiction, or immersing oneself in powerful poetry, readers can trust 4sight Publications to deliver literature that excites, inspires and challenges.

**11, Triq Polveresta, Bormla**  
**E: 4sightprint@gmail.com**



## The National Literacy Agency

The National Literacy Agency was established within the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation in order to promote and ensure the delivery of the different aspects of the National Literacy Strategy for All in Malta and Gozo. It serves as the main advocate in the field of literacy. The Agency seeks to promote and sustain lifelong, high-quality literacy practices. It strives to improve literacy outcomes, resulting in inclusive practices, higher educational qualifications, and better job prospects.

**National Curriculum Centre, Triq Joseph Abela Scolaro, Hamrun**  
**T: +356 25983302 | E: nla@ilearn.edu.mt**

## Agenda Bookshop [www.agendabookshop.com](http://www.agendabookshop.com)

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 best sellers 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.

**Miller House, Triq L-Esportaturi, Zone 2, Central Business District Birkirkara, CBD 2040**  
**T: +356 23 66 72 69 | E: laurence.xuereb@millermalta.com**



## Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat [www.ahmadiyya.org.mt](http://www.ahmadiyya.org.mt)

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Malta is a religious organisation. It encourages dialogue, peace and respect between followers of different beliefs. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community promotes education, knowledge and book reading. For this purpose the community publishes books and a monthly magazine in the local Maltese language, also to serve the national language. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is also known for its active role in charitable and philanthropic work. Its motto is: "Love for All, Hatred For None".

**P.O. Box 78, Pieta, PTA1000, Malta**  
**T: +356 21655255 | M: 79655255 | E: amjmalta@gmail.com**  
**FB: @Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Malta | Twitter: @AhmadiyyaMalta**

## Arts Council Malta [www.artscouncilmalta.org](http://www.artscouncilmalta.org)

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. Our 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**

## BDL Books [www.bdlbooks.com](http://www.bdlbooks.com)

For over 25 years, BDL Distribution has been the leading publications distributor to all bookshops and retail outlets in Malta and Gozo. BDL Publishing, the second most holding the company's sails, specialises in quality books ranging from children's fiction to prestigious Melitensia literature. The third most of the company 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, SĠN3511**  
**T: +356 2138 0351 | E: info@bdlbooks.com | Facebook: BDL Books, Malta**

## 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.

**T: +356 2180 2272 | E: bookendsf@millermalta.com**



## Bonferraro Editore [www.bonferraroeditore.it](http://www.bonferraroeditore.it)

Proudly independent since 1986, the Bonferraro 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...", Bonferraro likes to look far, to observe the elsewhere, 'beyond the borders', to give himself and win challenges that seem only seemingly impossible.

Viale Signore Ritrovato, 5 - 94012 Barrafranca En - Italia  
T: +39 0934464646 / 3355285510 | E: [info@bonferraroeditore.it](mailto:info@bonferraroeditore.it)

## Deer Publications

Deer Publications is a small publishing house which has established itself in the particular yet popular niche of books related to lives of saints and their socio-cultural celebrations held locally with great pomp and enthusiasm. Its flagship publication is the festa encyclopaedia *Iluwien il-Festi Maltin* (each of the ten volumes include over 650 photographs taken by professional photographer and festa enthusiast Mark Micallef Perconte). The series editor is Andrew Borg, who also re-introduced in the local book market lives of saints adapted for young readers. Deer Publications' latest project is a major publication of a collection of academic studies about St Joseph, for whom Pope Francis has declared 2021 as his special year.

Cervus, 72A, Triq Doni, ir-Rabat, Malta  
T: +356 9938 5496 / +356 7905 8691 | E: [deerandrew@gmail.com](mailto:deerandrew@gmail.com)

## EDE Books / Kixott [edebooks.eu](http://edebooks.eu) / [kixott.com](http://kixott.com)

Kixott is a co-operative bookshop and event space put together by a variety of artists and creatives in collaboration with Ede Books. Ede Books is a small publishing venture which produces short runs of books and periodical publications of predominantly visually-rich content that touches upon art, poetry, photography and urban culture.

169, Triq il-Kbira, Mosta, MST 1010  
T: +356 27201358 / 79827522 | E: [info@edebooks.eu](mailto:info@edebooks.eu)



## Faraxa Publishing [www.faraxabooks.com](http://www.faraxabooks.com)

Faraxa Publishing was established in 2011 with the aim of publishing literary and non-literary translations into Maltese of world renowned authors and also lesser-known authors. The Faraxa Translation Series now boasts over 25 European classical works in Maltese translation and will be expanding further. Faraxa has published books of many genres, including academia, classical music, poetry, philosophy, young adult, fantasy and children's literature.

T: +356 99820157 | E: [info@faraxapublishing.com](mailto:info@faraxapublishing.com)

## Fondazzjoni Sagħtar [www.saghtar.org.mt](http://www.saghtar.org.mt)

Fondazzjoni Sagħtar is the professional arm of the Malta Union of Teachers (MUT), which strives to improve the professional qualities of Maltese and Gozitan educators, and assists the educational system through its publications, courses, lectures and other educational resources. Prominent among the Foundation's publications is the popular magazine *Sagħtar*, which is issued every month throughout the scholastic year and is 50 years old.

T: +356 21224909 / 77098518 | E: [info@saghtar.org.mt](mailto:info@saghtar.org.mt)



## The French Corner with the French Embassy, The Alliance Française and Lireka [mt.ambafrance.org](http://mt.ambafrance.org)

The embassy will present its cultural programme. Information will also be provided on French universities and the range of courses they offer in English. The Alliance Française Malte-Méditerranée, celebrating its 65th anniversary, will showcase a wide range of French books (both new and second hand) covering a large variety of topics and suitable for all age groups at very reasonable prices. Numerous Easy Reader books for school visitors will also be available at even more discounted prices! Lireka is a French-based online bookstore that offers readers around the world more than a million books in French with free delivery worldwide. Lireka will present a sample of its vast catalogue of books: novels, children's books, essays, comics, manga, travel guides etc.

130 Melita Street, Valletta VLT 1121  
T: +33 689429169 | E: [contact.la-valette-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:contact.la-valette-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

## Gemma [gemma.gov.mt](http://gemma.gov.mt)

GEMMA is the independent and credible financial capability platform within the Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights. GEMMA's aim is to educate and equip citizens with financial capability skills according to their age and needs.

Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights, Palazzo Ferreria 310, Republic Street, Valletta  
E: [gemma@gov.mt](mailto:gemma@gov.mt)





## German-Maltese Circle / Dept. of German, UM [www.germanmaltesecircle.org](http://www.germanmaltesecircle.org)

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).

**141, Palazz Messina, Valletta, Malta**

**T: +356 21246967 | E: [gmc@germanmaltesecircle.org](mailto:gmc@germanmaltesecircle.org)**



## Għaqda tal-Malti - Università [www.ghaqdataalmalti.org](http://www.ghaqdataalmalti.org)

The Għaqda tal-Malti - Università is a student organisation which strives to represent students of Maltese at post-secondary and tertiary levels, whilst offering a space for all individuals with a passion for Maltese to promote and safeguard the language in different ways. Every year, the organisation launches its annual publication, *Lehen il- Malti*, at the Malta Book Festival.

**Dar l-Istudent, L-Università ta' Malta, Tal-Qroqq**

**T: +356 7922 1197 | E: [ghaqdataalmalti@gmail.com](mailto:ghaqdataalmalti@gmail.com)**



## Heritage Malta Publishing [www.heritagemalta.org](http://www.heritagemalta.org)

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, reading books and monographs. In autumn 2015, Heritage Malta also launched a bi-annual journal.

**L-Isptar ta' Bighi, Triq il-Marina, Bighi, Kalkara, KKR 1524**

**E: [publications.heritagemalta@gov.mt](mailto:publications.heritagemalta@gov.mt)**



## Horizons [www.horizons.com.mt](http://www.horizons.com.mt)

Horizons is one of the leading book publishers on the island, winning numerous literary prizes in the different book categories. It has published well-known and established authors such as Mario Azzopardi, Charles Briffa, Lina Brockdorff, Victor Fenech, Charles Flores, Albert Marshall, Gorġ Peresso, Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci and Vincent Vella, as well as introduced upcoming authors such as Eman Bonnici, Edgar Formosa, Jacqueline Mizzi, Sergio Grech, Tyrone Grima, Stephen Lughermo, Justin Schembri and André Mangion.

**Triq l-Iskultur, Qormi, QRM 3580**

**T: +356 21441604 | E: [info@horizons.com.mt](mailto:info@horizons.com.mt)**



## Inanna Publishers

Inanna is an idealistic publisher of scientifically-based books and articles on Malta's prehistory, especially Gozitan, women's history, and the storytelling tradition, with an accent on symbolism.

**Frans Halsstraat 22 R, 2021 EK Haarlem, the Netherlands**

**T: +356 79447766 | E: [maltabooksvv@gmail.com](mailto:maltabooksvv@gmail.com)**



## Istituto Italiano di Cultura [icvalletta.esteri.it/iic\\_laValletta/it/](http://icvalletta.esteri.it/iic_laValletta/it/)

The Istituto Italiano di Cultura is a symbol of the Italian heritage in Malta and is part of the Italian Embassy in Malta. Its main goal is the promotion of the Italian language and culture through events – such as exhibitions, concerts and conferences – and an extensive library open to the public.

**St. George's Square, Valletta, VLT 1190**

**T: +356 21221462 | E: [segr.iiclavalletta@esteri.it](mailto:segr.iiclavalletta@esteri.it)**

**FB: Istituto Italiano di Cultura La Valletta**



## Jens C. Büdinger [www.jensbud.com](http://www.jensbud.com)

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.

**285, St Paul's Street, Valletta, VLT 1213**

**T: +356 99834443 | E: [authorjensbud@gmail.com](mailto:authorjensbud@gmail.com)**



## Joseph P. Smith Photographer [www.smithjp.com](http://www.smithjp.com)

Joseph, or as he is more commonly known, Joe, comes from a fine arts background that encompasses photography, painting and graphic media. He has been practising fine-art photography since 1979 and is a Fellow of the Malta Institute of Professional Photographers as well as a Fellow of various UK professional photographic organisations. He studied graphic design in Florence and in 2015 he successfully read for a Masters Degree in Fine Art, Digital Arts at the University of Malta. Joe works mainly in social documentary, the performing arts, portraiture, architectural and fine-art photography. He has exhibited extensively locally as well as overseas and has been the recipient of numerous national and international awards including being shortlisted for exhibition in the prestigious Taylor Wessing Portrait Prize at the National Portrait Gallery in London in 2014, 2015 and 2021.

**E:** [smithfoto59@gmail.com](mailto:smithfoto59@gmail.com) | **T:** +356 99860986

## Kite Group [www.kitegroup.com.mt](http://www.kitegroup.com.mt)

Creativity, innovation, high quality and interest for readers are among the most important considerations for Kite Group. Through each book, Kite Group aims to create an experience that delights readers. Among the books published by this house of publications, winners of various awards, are those on art, culture, biographies, short stories, humour books, photography, architecture, law and the history of our country. Kite Group offers a service to readers and anyone who wants to publish a book. You can buy books published by Kite Group from [www.kitegroup.com.mt](http://www.kitegroup.com.mt) and get a 25% discount by entering the coupon code BOOKS25.

**13, Triq il-Frangiskani, Hamrun**  
**T:** +356 99932592 | **E:** [info@sgroup.com.mt](mailto:info@sgroup.com.mt)

## Kotba Calleja [www.kotbacalleja.net](http://www.kotbacalleja.net)

Publisher and producer of handmade books and paper products.

The story of Kotba Calleja starts with a love for paper as a humble, unique and versatile material. It is a passion that translates into quality products made entirely in Malta. Every part of the process - every fold, every cut, each and every stitch, every gluing - is rigorously made by hand with a lot of patience. That's why they're unique. Kotba Calleja's publications are biased towards experimentation and fresh imagery and nuance that give today's Maltese prose and poetry its contemporary identity. This publishing house represents both established and emerging writers.

**T:** +356 99236238 / 27010243 | **E:** [info@kotbacalleja.net](mailto:info@kotbacalleja.net)  
**FB:** [www.facebook.com/kotbacalleja/](https://www.facebook.com/kotbacalleja/) | **IG:** [www.instagram.com/kotba\\_calleja/](https://www.instagram.com/kotba_calleja/)



## Librerija Preca

In 1975, the Society of Christian Doctrine known as M.U.S.E.U.M. developed a well-established bookshop named after its Founder, Preca Library. It specialises in the sale of religious literature and other multimedia resources from several of the main publishing houses in Europe, Asia and North America. In November 1997 the bookshop was moved to a more spacious and specifically designed area, which is incorporated within the Society Central House at Blata l-Bajda, affording easier access to the general public. Apart from the large variety of spiritual books, Preca Library offers a large variety of Christian souvenirs for all occasions: Christmas, Holy Week, Weddings, Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Birthdays, etc.

**205, Triq San Ġorġ Preca, Marsa. MRS9090**  
**T:** +356 21222626 / 79222625 | **E:** [precabookshop@gmail.com](mailto:precabookshop@gmail.com)  
**FB:** Librerija Preca

## The Little Island That Was - Children's Book Series

*The Little Island That Was* (Infinity Books) is a children's book series by Lara Bezzina aimed at raising awareness on contemporary affairs at a young age through fictional stories.

**146 Shalom, Flat 2, Triq Guzeppi Callus, Mosta, MST 4101**  
**T:** +356 79888331 | **E:** [bezzinalara@gmail.com](mailto:bezzinalara@gmail.com)  
**FB:** The Little Island that was - Children's Book Series

## Mallia & D'Amato Bookshelf Curators [www.maliadamatobooks.com](http://www.maliadamatobooks.com)

Mallia & D'Amato Booksellers is run by husband and wife duo, Roderick & RitiAnne. At its core, it is an online bookshop curating a selection of books for the discerning reader. Our bookshelves represent books and authors that we love to read or plan to read. This means that among our meticulously curated selection of titles you will find classics of world literature to cutting-edge contemporary fiction and poetry. We feature a good selection of non-fiction titles and essays as well as books about art, science and philosophy, in English, Italian and Maltese. Set up in 2018 by Roderick Mallia and Kristian D'Amato, the focus was always on providing the local book enthusiasts with the latest and most prominent voices in contemporary literature.

**130, L-Għabex, Triq Wied il-Knejjes, Luqa, LOA 1381**  
**T:** +356 77548187 / 99922810 | **E:** [info@maliadamatobooks.com](mailto:info@maliadamatobooks.com)





## Malta Libraries [www.maltalibraries.gov.mt](http://www.maltalibraries.gov.mt)

Malta Libraries is the entity responsible for the National Library of Malta, the National Library (Gozo), the Central Public Library, the Gozo Public Library, all Regional and Branch Public Libraries in the Maltese Islands as well as the National Bibliographic Office. As an entity, Malta Libraries was established by the Malta Libraries Act (Act VII of 2011), replacing the former Libraries Department.

**T: +356 25983500 | E: [customer-care.cpl@gov.mt](mailto:customer-care.cpl@gov.mt)**  
**FB / IG / Youtube: @malta\_libraries**



## Martin Baron

Martin Baron is a self-publishing author specialising in fiction built upon the New Testament. The novel *Yeshuah Meshiah* is the sequel to his first novel *Yosef and Maryam*, published ten years ago in 2013, thereby covering the four Gospels.

**Dar Sagan, Triq iz-Zarzarell, St. Peters, Żabbar**  
**T: +356 99495982 | E: [domedenizen@protonmail.com](mailto:domedenizen@protonmail.com)**



## Meli Bookshop

Meli Bookshop has two shops which are both located in the capital city, Valletta. The first shop was opened in 1965 and after some time, the second was opened. One of the shops can be found at 52, Santa Luċija Street where one can find the latest assortment of Melitensia books, Maltese and English novels. The shop also provides books for children and cookbooks. The other shop can be found in Old Bakery Street, numbered 185. In this shop, one may browse through a large variety of classical literature of both prose and poetry at bargain prices. There are also many novels in English, Sci-Fi books, fantasy books, horror books, murder books and much more! One can find cookbooks and other general books here as well. Travel books are also found in this bookshop. For this year's Malta Book Festival, Meli Bookshop will be having a new sample of books in English which you can find in their shops!

**52, Triq Santa Luċija, Valletta / 185, Triq I-Ifran, Valletta**  
**T: +356 21237266 / 99803601 | E: [transit@onvol.net](mailto:transit@onvol.net)**  
**FB: [www.facebook.com/Meli-Book-Shop-1502284266653728](https://www.facebook.com/Meli-Book-Shop-1502284266653728)**

## Mellieħa Local Council [www.mellieħa.gov.mt](http://www.mellieħa.gov.mt)

The Mellieħa Local Council will be selling mainly books from the *Hannieqa Kulturali* published by the Mellieħa Local Council and written by various authors, mainly related to the heritage, lifestyle and story of the village of Mellieħa.

**126, New Mill Street, Mellieħa, MLH 1107**  
**T: +356 21521333 | E: [customer-care.mellieħa.lc@gov.mt](mailto:customer-care.mellieħa.lc@gov.mt)**



## Merlin Library [www.merlinlibrary.com](http://www.merlinlibrary.com)

Merlin Library has supplied Primary and Secondary textbooks as well as Sixth Form textbooks to customers since 1978. Our bookshop in Blata L-Bajda is the only bookshop in Malta to stock text books all year round. A good selection of revision and self-study material for most subjects can also be found in stock. We are a specialist children's bookshop and consequently stock thousands of titles suitable for children from 3 months to young adults. We stock a good selection of fiction, nonfiction, and general interest books for adults too. We often have special offers running at the bookshop and special discounts for children that are members of the Wizzies Club. Merlin Library was the first to introduce in Malta meet-ups between children's authors and children in schools, hence supporting schools in their quest to instil the importance of reading among students. In 2003, Lynne Reid Banks was the first guest author and many have since followed.

**Mountbatten Street, Blata I-Bajda / Bisazza Street, Sliema**  
**T: +356 2123438 | E: [mail@merlinlibrary.com](mailto:mail@merlinlibrary.com)**  
**FB: [merlinlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/merlinlibrary)**

## Midsea Books / Klabb Kotba Maltin [www.midseabooks.com](http://www.midseabooks.com)



Midsea Books Ltd and Klabb Kotba Maltin are considered to be Malta's leading publisher. The publishing house was set up in 1969 by Pawlu Mizzi. In 2021 KKM celebrated its 50th anniversary from the publishing of its first book *Il-Gaġġa* in 1971. Midsea Books with its subsidiaries Klabb Kotba Maltin, and Heritage Books, have become a household name in producing children's titles, novels and fiction, reference and fine art books about Malta. A number of books published are award winners or have been shortlisted for awards both in Malta and overseas.

**68 Carmelites Street, Sta Venera / 6 Strait Street, Valletta**  
**T: +356 214 7046 / 21496911 | E: [admin@midseabooks.com](mailto:admin@midseabooks.com)**  
**FB: [Klabb Kotba Maltin](https://www.facebook.com/KlabbKotbaMaltin)**

## Ministry for Inclusion, Voluntary Organisations and Consumer Rights (MIVC) [inclusion.gov.mt](http://inclusion.gov.mt)



The Ministry for Inclusion, Voluntary Organisations and Consumer Rights strives to promote the interests of voluntary organisations, persons with disabilities, and consumer rights in Malta.

**Zone 3, Central Business District, Triq in-Negożju, Birkirkara, CBD 3010**  
**T: +356 25903527 | E: [ddi@gov.mt](mailto:ddi@gov.mt)**



## The National Archives of Malta

The National Archives of Malta is a public entity set up at law to preserve the collective memory of the Maltese nation through the protection and accessibility of all public archives regulated by the National Archives Act and holds one of the largest archival collections in Malta, spanning from the 1530s up to the current day. Its main functions include the selection, preservation and access to the archives, the acquisition of private records of national significance, and the professional training of archivists and records managers. Besides publishing its own publications, the National Archives supports writers during their research.

Hospital Street, Rabat, RBT1043

T: +356 21459863 / 79050710 | E: [rmu.archives@gov.mt](mailto:rmu.archives@gov.mt)



## Pandora Books [www.maltabooks.com](http://www.maltabooks.com)

Pandora Bargain Books offers a large range of English and Maltese books at reduced prices both for adults and children. Furthermore, Pandora Publications publishes books in Maltese at affordable prices for every family in Malta.

Pandora, Roger Debattista Street, Hamrun

T: +356 99667522 | E: [info@maltabooks.com](mailto:info@maltabooks.com)

FB: @pandorabargainbooks



## Ricky Caruana

Ricky Caruana is a novice to the world of writing but an old hand in the world of thinking, and it is with *Resonance: A Glimpse of Infinity* and *Strings of Fate* that he is trying to put his thoughts into words.

E: [ricky.caruana@gmail.com](mailto:ricky.caruana@gmail.com)



## Service Dogs Malta Foundation [www.servicedogsmlta.org](http://www.servicedogsmlta.org)

Our mission is to ensure that no person who could potentially benefit from a service dog is left without one.

14 'St Nicholas', Triq Belt il-Ġmiel, Mtarfa

T: + 356 79617814 | E: [servicedogsmlta1@gmail.com](mailto:servicedogsmlta1@gmail.com)



## SKS Publishers [www.skspublishers.com](http://www.skspublishers.com)

SKS is a publishing house based in Malta specialising mainly in the genres of history, literature, political theory, culture and biography. SKS strives to inform and educate the general public by publishing high-quality books based on a liberal understanding of life, history and literature, to provide writers and



researchers of a similar persuasion the opportunity to publish their works, and to contribute towards the social, cultural, intellectual and national enrichment.

Ċentru Nazzjonali Laburista, Triq Mile End, Il-Hamrun

E: [skspublishersmalta@gmail.com](mailto:skspublishersmalta@gmail.com)

FB: SKS Publishers

## UXBT Ltd [www.usemlab.com](http://www.usemlab.com) / [www.gemellituttle.it](http://www.gemellituttle.it)

Books on Economics and Political Philosophy, also for children.

1, Floor 2, Falzun Street c/w Naxxar Road, c/o Mediterra

T: +356 77717110 | E: [uxbt.ltd@gmail.com](mailto:uxbt.ltd@gmail.com)

## Wirt iż-Żejtun [www.wirtizejtun.com](http://www.wirtizejtun.com)

Wirt iż-Żejtun is a local non-government 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 that in the shortest possible time, we 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.

Wirt iż-Żejtun, Kaxxa Postali 25, Iż-Żejtun ZTN1000

E: [wirtizejtun@gmail.com](mailto:wirtizejtun@gmail.com)



## Wikimedia Community Malta [www.wikimalta.org](http://www.wikimalta.org)

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.

T: +356 79050677 | E: [mail@wikimalta.org](mailto:mail@wikimalta.org)

## Wise Owl Publications

Wise Owl has many acclaimed publications with a repertoire of over 400 titles in print on a variety of subjects. These include a prolific collection of colourful books for children of all ages renowned for their faultless Maltese and captivating pictures; books on Maltese history, culture and folklore, natural history, novels, health, recipe books and workbooks.

Wise Owl Bookshop, 146, High Road, Hamrun

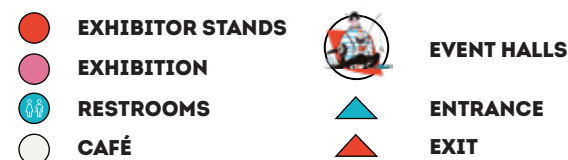
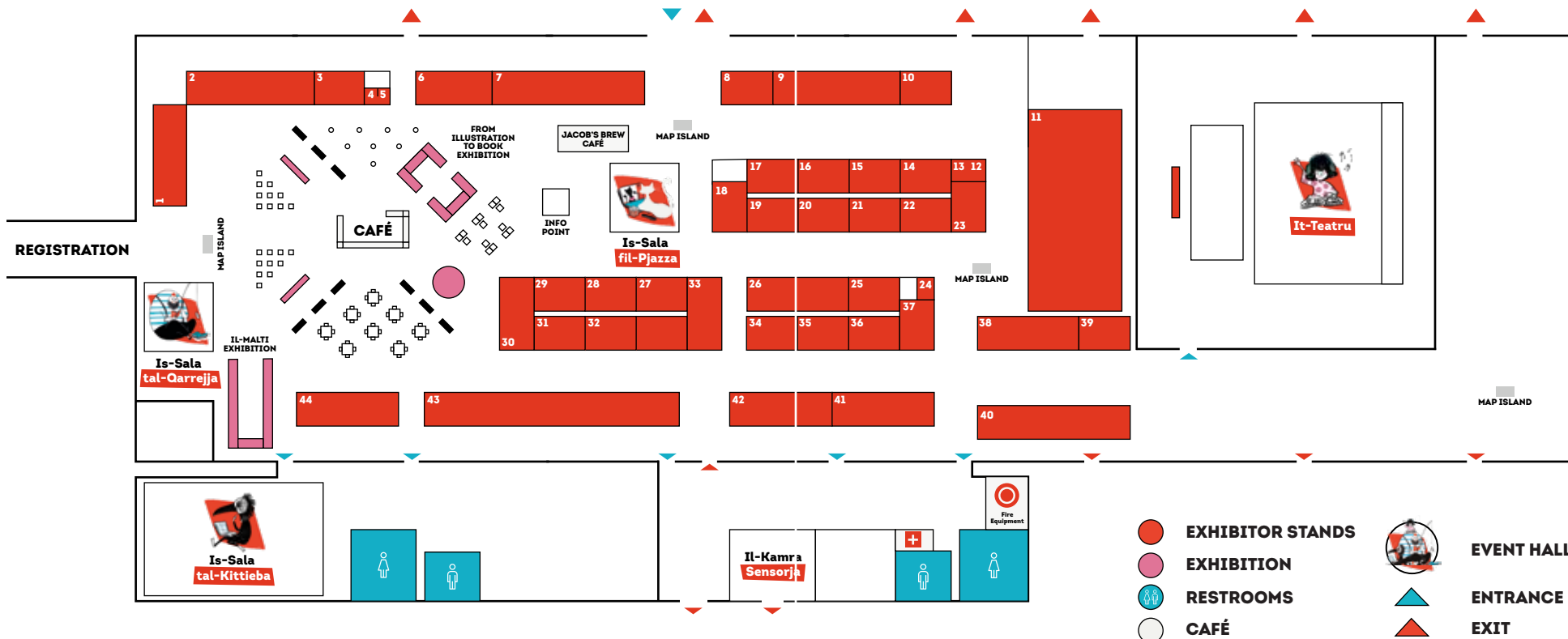
T: +356 77062500 | E: [wiseowlmalta@yahoo.com](mailto:wiseowlmalta@yahoo.com)

FB: @Bargain Box



NORTH ENTRANCE

SOUTH ENTRANCE



# MALTA BOOK FESTIVAL 2023

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## The **MBF Team** would like to **thank**

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Special thanks to all the MBF 2023 exhibitors and to all the book lovers who chose the Malta Book Festival

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Programme Design by Sarah Cachia Falzon

## In **partnership** with





# Opening hours

**Wednesday 18 October**

09:00 - 13:00 & 17:00 - 21:00

**Thursday 19 October**

09:00 - 13:00 & 17:00 - 21:00

**Friday 20 October**

09:00 - 13:00 & 17:00 - 22:00

**Saturday 21 October**

09:30 - 22:00

**Sunday 22 October**

09:30 - 20:00