



2025  
THEMES

Love and Lust  
Drama

The  
Mermaid  
Award

Chimamanda  
Ngozi Adichie

2025  
25-28  
SEPT

# GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

THE SWEDISH EXHIBITION  
& CONGRESS CENTRE  
GOTHENBURG



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**Seminar Cards** — full access to the fair  
and seminar programme (one day pass)

**Golden Seminar Cards** — treat yourself  
to the full four-day experience

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the fair and its stages

**New!** Read more about the programme  
and get your tickets at:

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**BOKMÄSSAN**  
Gothenburg Book Fair

# Are we incurable optimists?

We live in troubled times, marked by crises and war. The world order is being redrawn, and we read about restrictions on freedom of expression and a decline in the number of democracies. At the same time, algorithms feed us ominous portrayals of reality and misinformation.

At the Gothenburg Book Fair, we have always believed that culture and literature are essential to democracy — that education is the foundation of society. We may be incurable optimists, but we continue to repeat the mantra: book fairs make a difference. Many of us thirst for knowledge, seek long-term perspectives, and strive to create a sustainable world for the next generation.

This year's seminar programme centres more questions about our present day and culture than ever before. What's happened to the working classes? Who should we talk to when the whole world has gone mad? Is peace in the Middle East a utopian fantasy? Is Norway a role model in the fight against climate change, or a fossil fuel giant? Has Sweden as a nation of knowledge reached the end of the road? How should we behave towards one another? Many of the brightest minds of our time will be discussing Trump's USA, women and war, the oppression of queer people, migration and the loss of cultural heritage, and Russia's merciless war in Ukraine. We are also delighted to welcome to Gothenburg the author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, this year's recipient of Sjöjungfrun, the Mermaid Award.

As part of our Love and Lust theme, some of our most thought-provoking authors will be exploring the romance genre, the history of love, and sex in literature versus real life.

For the first time, drama — one of the fundamental forms of literature — will also feature in our seminar programme. The Drama theme will give you a chance to meet dramatists and performing artists, while a selection of performances will be hosted in our new Theatre Room. We're particularly gratified to welcome globally renowned playwrights Tony Kushner and Roland Schimmelpfennig.

We believe that literature, drama, love and conversation all help us to process and understand the reality in which we live. In times when cultural activities are being challenged and questioned, we are proud to once again fill the many spaces in our venue with authors, researchers, philosophers, dramatists, politicians, songwriters and readers.

**Frida Edman**

Departing Book Fair Director

**Oskar Ekström**

Book Fair Director



PHOTO: NATALIE GREPPI

## CONTENTS

Focal Theme: Drama	5
Participate as Guest of Honour	6
Focal Theme: Love and Lust	7
The Mermaid Award	8
International Rights Centre	9
Seminars	10–21
Participants	22

### General information:

For tickets, opening hours and further information, visit [www.goteborg-bookfair.com](http://www.goteborg-bookfair.com)

### Upcoming fairs

2026: 24–27 September  
2027: 23–26 September  
2028: 28 September–1 October  
2029: 27–30 September

Gothenburg Book Fair would like to thank all exhibitors, publishing houses, institutes, and organisations for their contribution to this year's seminar programme.

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A Literary Melting Pot:

# DISCOVER THE FAIR

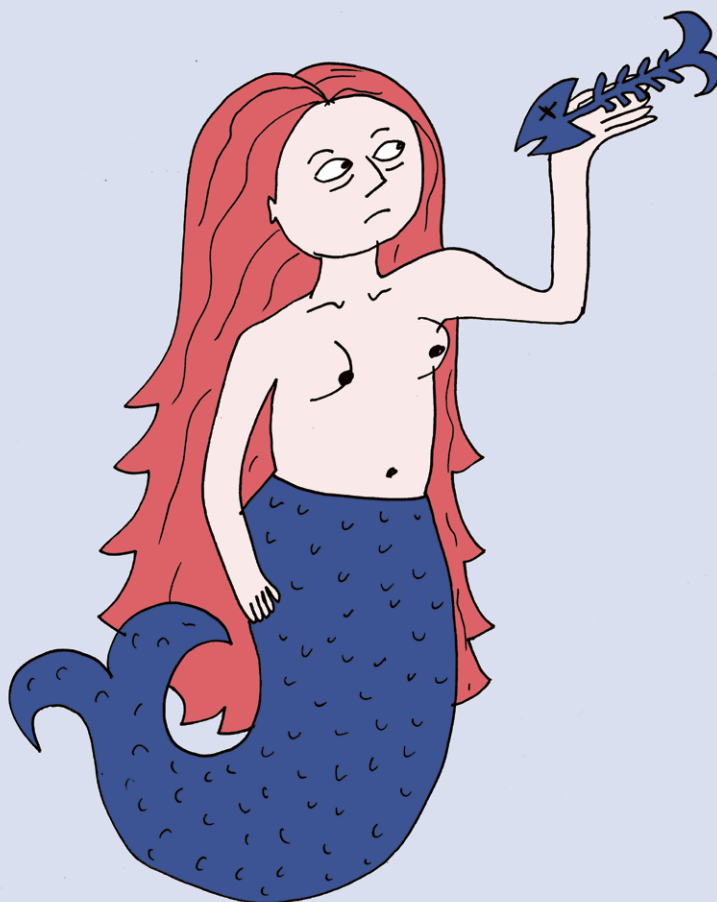
If the seminar programme is our literary cathedral, the fair on the first floor is our carnival: buzzing with life and a passion for reading and readers, with fiction and non-fiction, children's literature, educational materials, comics, and periodicals all jostling for space side-by-side with public agencies, charitable organisations and the media.

**Discover our 25 stages on the fair floor, among them:**  
The Love and Lust Stage, the Drama Stage, Behold Man,  
The Library Stage, the Teacher's Stage, Pre-school at the  
Book Fair, the Freedom of Speech Stage.

Entrance ticket or Seminar pass.



**BOKMÄSSAN**  
Gothenburg Book Fair



2025  
—  
THEMES

# Drama

With the theme of Drama, we bring the performing arts to Gothenburg Book Fair and explore how playwrights, through their writing, portray the major issues of our time. We highlight drama as a distinct literary genre, showcase its unique ability to bring words to life on stage, and make it accessible to a wider audience.

The theme is organised by Colombine Teaterförlag (Sweden), Dramatikkens hus (Norway), Estonian Theatre Agency, Theatre Info Finland (TINFO) and Gothenburg Book Fair, in collaboration with Latvian Theatre Workers Union and Lithuanian Theatre Information Centre with additional support from Danske Dramatikere (Denmark) and Performing Arts Iceland.



PHOTO: NATALIE GREPPI

Guests of Honour 2024  
— Tjällegeoahte, the Bágo  
Writers Association and Sámi  
Girječálliid Searvi.

# Guest of Honour

The Guest of Honour sets the tone and the theme for Gothenburg Book Fair, offering visitors a unique opportunity to explore the literature, culture, and ideas of a specific region. While there is no Guest of Honour in 2025, we are delighted to announce that Québec will take centre stage in 2026.

**THE GUEST OF** Honour benefits from a large-scale, eye-catching and centrally-located stand at the event which is guaranteed to receive many visitors. Our food outlets tailor their range to the Guest's culinary highlights, readings and artists from their country are showcased at VIP receptions, and the opening of the Book Fair as a whole takes place at the Guest's stand under the gaze of cultural stakeholders, authors, journalists, politicians and readers.

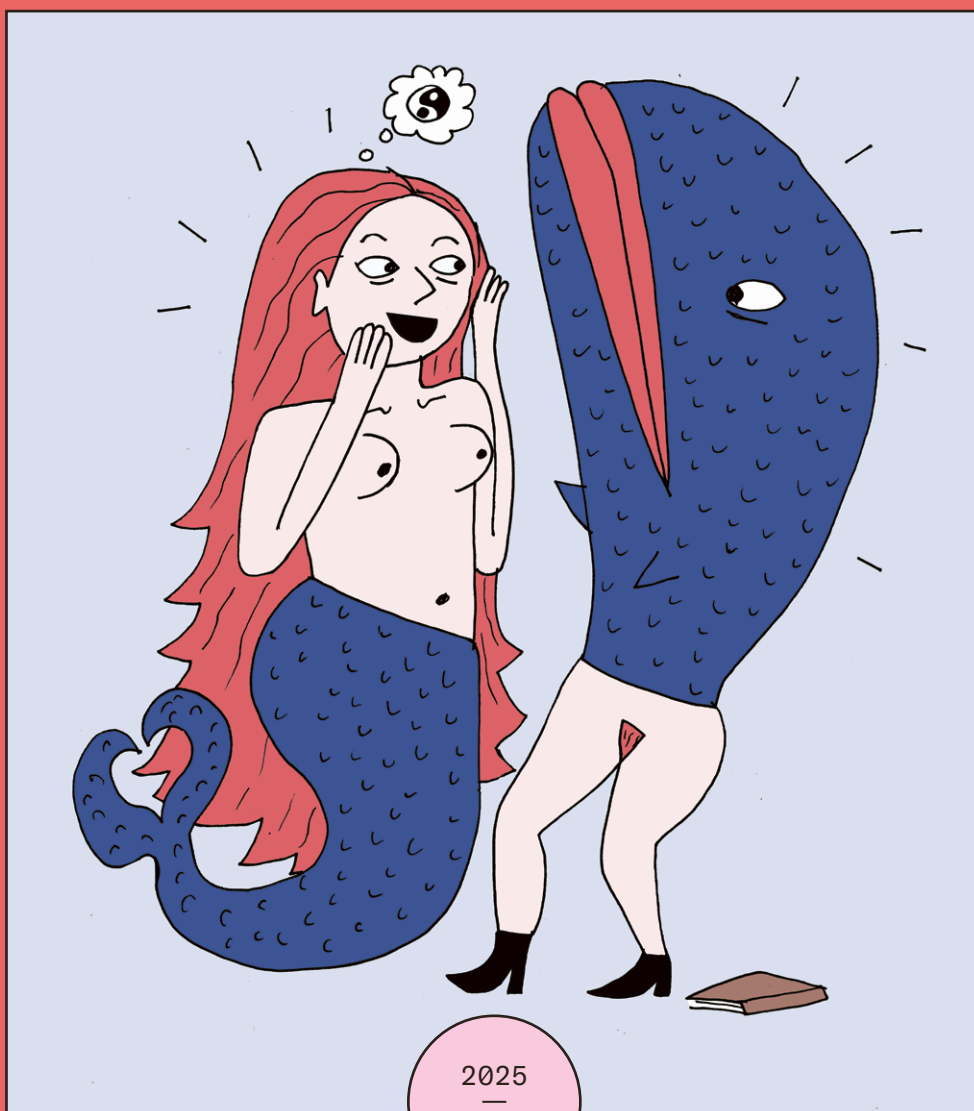
**AS OUR PROMINENT** Guest of Honour and the centre of attention, the Guest will be afforded a unique opportunity to market its country, culture, literature and authors to more than 80,000 visitors and in excess of 700 journalists. The book fair generates over 7,000 articles in the media, and highlighting our Guest of Honour is always at the top of our agenda.

**PAST GUESTS OF** Honour include Brazil, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, the Nordic countries, Poland, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Spain and the United Kingdom.

## VOICES FROM

— another way to participate

The Guest of Honour programme is our flagship: it is the defining way to shape and influence the Book Fair in-depth. Other avenues include our Voices from-programme, aimed at raising interest in a country's contemporary literature and writers. It is a smaller scale programme, featuring a curated selection of seminars highlighting authors and experts from a guest country or institution, hosting a stand and a cultural programme on the fair floor as well as a reception in honour of participating authors. In recent years, we've presented voices from Iceland, Catalonia, Ireland, Italy, Bangladesh and Ukraine.



2025  
—  
THEMES

# Love and Lust

In 2025, Gothenburg Book Fair explores Love and Lust — universal themes reflecting intimacy, relationships, and humanity's quest for closeness and meaning.



The Mermaid Award was established in 2024 as part of the Book Fair's 40th anniversary and is given annually to a fiction writer who has moved Swedish readers. The first recipient was Joyce Carol Oates. The 2025 Award goes to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.



The Mermaid Award is presented in collaboration with Arctic Paper.

PHOTO: MARTINA LUNDBORG



# International Rights Centre

Where books grow wings and find new readers.

**GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR** is the most important marketplace for Nordic literature. In Sweden, almost one in five of all published books are translated from another language. Foreign authors account for 58% of fiction sales. Our International Rights Centre (IRC) brings together a plethora of agents and publishers from around the world as they buy and sell rights. This represents an excellent business and networking opportunity. The Gothenburg IRC is renowned in the book industry as an intense professional forum which also manages to be quality driven, composed, professional and personal. Located in the much-appreciated K-hall, it brings agents and publishers together and supports their needs, while also affording them direct access to the rest of the exhibition centre. With our friendly, professional colleagues on hand, the IRC is sure to live up to comments such as "this is the nicest IRC in Europe."



PHOTO: NATALIE GREPPI

**Do you want to participate at Gothenburg Book Fair? Please contact me for more information.**

Frida Wengholm  
Sales Manager

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You can also find information on [goteborg-bookfair.com](http://goteborg-bookfair.com)

## FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

**TO INCREASE THE** knowledge of Sweden's literature and book market the Swedish Arts Council and Gothenburg Book Fair provide a fellowship programme for translators from Swedish into other languages, as well as non-Nordic publishers and sub-agents interested in attending Gothenburg Book Fair. Travel costs, accommodation for three nights, and seminar cards are included in the offer.

The programme is partly pre-planned, with round table meetings, lectures on the Swedish book market and new Swedish literature as well as evening activities, and partly open with time set aside for individual meetings with agents in the Rights Centre. There will be both separate activities for translators and publishers as well as joint activities.

The fellowship is a great opportunity to get an overview of the Swedish and Nordic literature scene in just a couple of days.

# Seminars

The seminar programme is the heart of the Fair. Writers, illustrators, translators, scholars, scientists, politicians, philosophers and journalists from around the world appear in readings, talks and high-profile debates on almost every conceivable topic. The following seminars are held in English or other non-Nordic languages. A complete list of this year's seminars can be found at our Swedish website.

THURSDAY 10:00–10:40

HALL G4

## IT WILL PASS

**DRAMA** Ever wondered how actors manage to learn so many lines? How they not only 'step into' a role — but also back out of it? And what it feels like to perform in a truly 'good' play? In this solo performance, Lithuanian actor, playwright and director **JUSTAS TERTELIS** takes us backstage — a treat for anyone who loves the theatre.

ORG: LITHUANIAN THEATRE INFORMATION CENTRE

THURSDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL F3

## THE NEW MIDDLE EAST

What impact does living in a constant state of conflict have on people? The Palestinian-American writer **SUSAN ABULHAWA** was born as her family fled Israel following the Six-Day War. She now lives in the USA and is a human rights activist. In 2000, Abulhawa founded the Playground for Palestine organisation, which promotes children's right to play on occupied land. In her new book *Allt har en smak av aska* [Everything Tastes of Ash], **CECILIA UDDÉN** of Sveriges Radio writes about the new Middle East, where she believes that Israel's retribution following Hamas' attack will echo through the generations and lead to a hatred of Israel the like of which has rarely been seen before. Moderator: **KHOLOD SAGHIR**, writer.

ORG: ALBERT BONNIERS FÖRLAG AND RE:ORIENT

THURSDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL R22+23

## RUN FOR YOUR LIFE —THE PORTRAYAL OF FLEEING CHILDREN

At the end of 2023, some 47 million children were displaced globally — that is 47 million children forced to flee their homes to seek out safety and a life in a completely unfamiliar country. Dutch author **EDWARD VAN DE VENDEL** (*Mishka*), Norwegian **INGVILD BJERKELAND** (*Beasts*), Ukrainian **TANIA GORYUSHINA** and Swede **JOSEFIN MICHAÑEK** (*Zlatas värld* [Zlata's World]) have all portrayed what it is like to be a child and refugee in different ways. They will be in conversation with lawyer and lecturer **DONA HARIRI** about the different ways in which this important — and all too topical — issue can be depicted.

ORG: LILLA PIRATFÖRLAGET, BONNIER CARLSEN AND DUTCH FOUNDATION

THURSDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL J2

## ON MELTING ICE

In *After the North Pole: A Story of Survival, Mythmaking, and Melting Ice*, Norwegian author and explorer **ERLING KAGGE** writes about the North Pole's astonishing, inaccessible and dangerous landscapes. It is both an account of us as human beings and also of an incredible wilderness, extraordinary myths and melting ice. In her book *Arktis* [Arctic], **ALEXANDRA MIDDLETON**, an Assistant Professor at Oulu Business School in Finland, writes about an area of the world that has become increasingly significant due to a combination of geopolitical interests and climate change. They will be in conversation with science journalist **HELENA BORNHOLM** about the world's dwindling natural resources and specifically its melting ice.

ORG: HISTORISKA MEDIA AND SVENSKA LITTERATURSÄLLSKAPET I FINLAND



THURSDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL F3

## LIZZIE DORON

### Israeli Author and Peace Activist

**LIZZIE DORON** is one of Israel's most acclaimed authors. She was raised by her mother, a Holocaust survivor, and when her own daughter wanted to know more about her story, Doron wrote her first autobiographical novel *Why Didn't You Come Before the War?* (first published in 1998 and published in Swedish in 2011). The book is now mandatory reading in Israeli schools and has been recognised by prizes in both Israel and abroad. She has since written several books on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She was previously a journalist but is now a full-time author. Lizzie Doron lives in Tel Aviv with her family and is an active member of the Israeli peace movement. In conversation with: **GÖRAN ROSENBERG**, journalist and author.

ORG: RE:ORIENT

THURSDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL R2

## THE LAST PLACE IN EUROPE WHERE THEATRE IS STILL ALIVE

Estonian theatre in European context

**DRAMA** The starting point of the seminar is the hypothesis that while in Western Europe, there is increasing talk of the decline of art into the mire of political correctness and fears, in Estonia, the performing arts are still the opposite. There is boldness, poignancy, and poetic imagination. The aim is to talk about the burning issues of the European cultural space from the unique perspective of Estonians (without forgetting a bit of self-irony), asking "Quo vadis, European theatre"? The speakers are going to wonder if we are going ahead of any trends, point out the possible double standards, and focus on the problematic issues that plague the European theatre and cultural space in general. Speakers: **TIIT OJASOO**, **NETTI NÜGANEN**, **PAAVO PIIK**  
ORG: EESTI TEATRI AGENTUUR

THURSDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL F5

## WHO IS SPYING ON WHOM—AND WHY?

In *The Illegals*, **SHAUN WALKER** examines Russia's most secret spy programme spanning from the early days of the Soviet Union to Putin's invasion of Ukraine, in the process revealing how it has shaped both Russia and the West. In their new book *Främmande makt* [Foreign Power], **MATHIAS STÄHLE** and **JANI SALLINEN** describe what life is like for the people engaged in covert intelligence operations in Sweden today. In her book *Sanningen skall göra er fria* [The Truth Shall Set You Free], **ALEXANDRA FRANZÉN** unravels some of the most spectacular spy scandals in history. What role do spies play in the current global situation? Which powers have eyes on us and why? Can a democracy control its intelligence services? Who is deceiving whom? Moderator: **AXEL GORDH HUMLESJÖ**, journalist.

ORG: ALBERT BONNIERS FÖRLAG, ORDFRONT FÖRLAG, AND BOKFÖRLAGET ATLAS

THURSDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL R2

## YANG LIAN

Chinese Cult Writer

Beat poet Allen Ginsberg wrote that 'YANG LIAN distinguishes himself in representing the pain of life caught in between historic eras.' Yang Lian is tipped as a potential Nobel Prize winner and has a cult following. This marks the Chinese poet's first ever visit to the Gothenburg Book Fair. Yang Lian began writing during the Cultural Revolution and was a contributor to the underground literary journal *Jintian*. During a visit to New Zealand, he organised a memorial service for the victims of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre and has since been forced to live in exile. Yang Lian's collection of poetry *A Tower Built Downwards* has recently been published in Swedish translation. In conversation with: **JENNY TUNEDAL**, poet and publisher.

ORG: WANZHI

THURSDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL G3

## NEVER YOUR FAULT

**Opening poet: Lina Rydén Reynolds.** 'It's not for us to have shame—it's for them'. Gisèle Pelicot's words were heard all over the world as they were delivered at the trial in France of 47 men who were convicted of raping her, one of them her husband of 50 years. Her daughter **CAROLINE DARIAN** (*I'll Never Call Him Dad Again*), Swedish author **JENNY ASCHENBRENNER** (*Den enda vägen är upp, baby* [The Only Way is Up, Baby]) and Norwegian author **VIÐDIS HJORTH** (*Repetition*) will be discussing where the shame of sexual crimes actually belongs—with the perpetrator. Moderator: **DONA HARIRI**, lawyer and lecturer.

ORG: NORSTEDTS, NATUR & KULTUR AND BOKFÖRLAGET FORUM

THURSDAY 13:30–14:30

HALL G4

## "FRESHEST OF THE FRESH: FEMALE GAZE FROM THE BALTICS"

**DRAMA** The women are taking over—whether it comes to redefining history or shaping the current thought patterns. The Baltic countries are glad to present their freshest female voices on our respective theatre fields at the Gothenburg Book Fair to prove that there are more topics female playwrights can bring onto the scene than just the problems of being a woman. The three playwrights—**ANDRA TEEDE** (EE), **ANCE MUIŹNIECE** (LV) and **BIRUTĖ KAPUSTIN-SKAITĖ** (LT)—fiercely tackle the current world from different perspectives, while having a clear view for the future and a great ability to deeply understand the past. There will be a reading of excerpts of three plays, followed by a moderated discussion between the authors.

ORG: EESTI TEATRI AGENTUUR, LATVIAN THEATRE WORKERS UNION AND LITHUANIAN THEATRE INFORMATION CENTRE

THURSDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL F3

## BEYOND THE ROMAN EMPIRE—ATTRACTING BOYS TO FICTION

When do boys first become consumed with the Roman Empire? Is it when they opt for non-fiction books rather than fiction in their childhood and youth? Do we need to do more to entice them to read fiction? Discussing this will be Finnish author **JUKKA BEHM**, who wrote the football novel *Wonderkid*, history geek and illustrator **FABIAN GÖRANSON**, who has just released the final instalment in his *Sveriges fantastiska historia* series [The Incredible History of Sweden], journalist and author **JOACHIM VOGEL**, who is making his debut with the book *Vilda Vic och världens djupaste havsdjup* [Wild Vic and the World's Deepest Ocean Deep], co-authored with Jonas Burman, and British book influencer and author **BEN MERCER**. Moderator: **PEKKA HEINO**, journalist.

ORG: BOKFÖRLAGET OPAL, RABÉN & SJÖGREN AND THE GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

THURSDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL F4

## SEX IN A CONNECTED AGE

**LOVE AND LUST** In his books, sexologist and licensed psychotherapist **KALLE NORWALD** explores human thoughts, emotions and behaviours in relation to societal developments. In his new book *Före under efter – din guide till sexdebuten* [Before During After—Your Guide to Making Your Sex Debut], he draws upon 20 years of experience tracking trends and behaviours related to sexuality. He will be in conversation with British researcher and author **KATE DEVLIN**, whose book *Turned On: Science, Sex and Robots* (recently published in Swedish translation) examines how technology shapes our views on closeness, desire and intimacy. Together they will discuss how our most private selves are influenced in an increasingly connected world. Moderator: **ERIK GALLI**, journalist.

ORG: BAZAR FÖRLAG AND NOPOLAR PUBLISHING

THURSDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL F1

## ASH SARKAR

The Death of Identity Politics

'We know, deep down, that something is wrong.' These are the opening words of British journalist **ASH SARKAR**'s debut book *Minority Rule: Adventures in the Culture War*. Sarkar demonstrates with razor-sharp precision the way in which identity politics has transformed the left into whiny individualists while providing the right with ammunition in the so-called culture war. By exploiting the language of identity politics, conservative British media outlets have succeeded in pitting 'immigrants' against 'the white working class' even though these groups share far more in common than they do with the minority group that actually runs the UK—the economic elite. In conversation with: **EDGAR MANNHEIMER**, culture writer and podcaster.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

THURSDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL R24+25

## TRANS EXPERIENCES IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

**LOVE AND LUST** In her book *Margrit*, Swiss picturebook creator **SOPHIE HOFMANN** tells the story of a child who visits her two maternal grandmothers. One of the grandmothers was raised as a boy and became a man, but is now Grandma Margrit sharing her life story. **NOAH VAN DORPEL**'s autobiography *Pappa sjöhäst* [Seahorse Dad] offers the reader insight into the author's path to finding himself and becoming a parent—by carrying and giving birth to his child as a trans man. **ELINA DRUKER**, a professor of literature at Stockholm University, will be moderating a discussion about how to portray and talk about trans people and gender identity with children and why it matters.

ORG: LILLA PIRATFÖRLAGET AND IDUS FÖRLAG

THURSDAY 16:00–16:45 HALL R24+25

**THE DICTATORSHIP OF LOVE**

**LOVE AND LUST** 'There is no sex in the USSR, but we have love,' was a catchphrase used to describe life in the Communist Soviet Union. What expressions of sexuality existed during the Soviet era? What were the norms? What sex education was provided in schools? Lithuanian historian **TOMAS VAISETA'S** and Valdemaras Klumby's *The Little O: The Culture of Sexuality in Soviet Lithuania* takes a deep dive into Lithuanian newspapers, diaries, memoirs, archives and interviews from the Soviet period of occupation 1944–1990. Vaiseta will be in conversation with journalist **MINNA HÖGGREN** as they discuss sex and sexuality in the USSR.

ORG: LITHUANIAN CULTURE INSTITUTE

THURSDAY 16:00–16:45 HALL R2

**PAUL ROBERT MAGOCSI****Jews and Ukrainians: A Millennium of Co-Existence**

In his book *Jews and Ukrainians: A Millennium of Co-Existence*, **PAUL ROBERT MAGOCSI**, professor of history and political science at the University of Toronto, explores Ukrainian-Jewish relations through the ages. He argues that the historical experience in Ukraine not only divided ethnic Ukrainians and Jews but also brought them together. Magocsi's research has focused on nationalism and ethnic groups, and he has taught at universities including Harvard and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In conversation with: **SHARON JĀMA**, journalist.

ORG: THE UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE IN SWEDEN AND UKRAINIAN JEWISH ENCOUNTER

FRIDAY 10:00–10:45 HALL G4

**SONG FESTIVAL**

**DRAMA** The Song and Dance Celebration, attracting over 40,000 participants, stands as one of Latvia's largest and most cherished cultural events. **RASA BUGAVIČUTE-PĒCE** employs this grand tradition of choral singing as a powerful metaphor to explore societal diversity and the significance of listening to each individual voice. She poses a profound question: Do we truly hear each other, and at what point does the voice of the individual merge into the collective voice of the nation?

ORG: LATVIAN THEATRE WORKERS' UNION

FRIDAY 10:00–10:45 HALL F1

**THE RETURN OF THE TEACHER—THE SEQUEL**

**Opening poet: Elin Johansson.** Do new syllabi and new teacher training programmes entail a new role for teachers and a new approach to teaching? Or is this really just a return to the old ways? Teacher and author **ZACH GROSHELL** is one of America's new leading lights in the field of 'explicit teaching'. What do Swedish researchers and educators make of the motto 'Just tell them' that he shares with teachers? Zach Groshell will introduce this conversation between Professor **JONAS LINDEROTH**, teacher **SARA BRUUN**, and **ROBIN SMITH**, vice chairman of the Swedish Teachers' Union. Moderator: **MATTIAS NYKVIST**, Sanoma.

ORG: SANOMA UTBILDNING

FRIDAY 10:00–10:45 HALL F3

**A COLOUR-BLIND FUTURE**

**COLEMAN HUGHES** is one of America's most influential young social commentators, known for his perceptive analyses of race, identity and public policy. His book, *The End of Race Politics*, recently published in a Swedish translation, has attracted significant attention and sparked discussion in contemporary American social discourse. With a background as a contributor to publications such as *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, Hughes advocates for a renewed approach to politics and culture to transcend racial divisions. This is a conversation certain to provoke both reflection and debate. In conversation with: **BJÖRN AF KLEEN**, journalist.

ORG: NOPOLAR PUBLISHING

FRIDAY 10:00–10:45 HALL R22+23

**SPORTS + LITERATURE = TRUE**

There are jocks and there are bookworms and never the twain shall meet, right? But why not use sport as a means to stimulate a passion for reading? Finnish author **JUKKA BEHM** (*Wonderkid*) and Swedish authors **NORA KHALIL** (*FC Alby stars*) and **FRIDA EJDERTEDT** (*Ny i laget* [New to the Team]) all write about boys and girls who play football. Why are sport and reading such an ideal match? And what role does sport have to play in enticing more children and young people to journal literature? Moderator: **DAVID FJÄLL**, journalist.

ORG: BOKFÖRLAGET OPAL, NATUR &amp; KULTUR AND BONNIER CARLSEN



FRIDAY 11:00–11:45 HALL H1

**ROLAND SCHIMMELPFENNIG****The Crack Between Worlds**

**DRAMA** Drama as an art form began with the Greek tragedies. Now that the world is being radically divided into humanity versus inhumanity, **ROLAND SCHIMMELPFENNIG'S** Greek myths project *Anthropolis I-V* at the Deutsches Schauspielhaus in Hamburg (2023–25) stands out as one of the most vital and impressive tragic works of our time. Schimmelpfennig is currently the most staged playwright in Europe; his free interpretation and sensitive language transcend varied environments and exhibit a unique empathy for the human condition. He and author and translator **ULF PETER HALLBERG** will be discussing life, plays and cities. Quotations from the plays will be read in Swedish.

ORG: GOETHE-INSTITUT SCHWEDEN, SPLEEN NORDIC AND COLOMBINE TEATERFÖRLAG

FRIDAY 11:00–11:45 HALL R22+23

**FINNISH FEMINISMS AND QUEER SPACES**

**DRAMA** How are today's playwrights reflecting—and reshaping—Finnish feminisms and queer perspectives on stage? Moderated by professor emerita and queer activist **TIINA ROSENBERG**, this seminar features a conversation on the work of four bold voices in Finnish theatre: **LEE KLEMOLA**, whose shameless characters defy norms; **E. L. KARHU**, who explores care and allyship; **SAARA TURUNEN**, who interrogates women's roles in society; and **ARNI RAJAMÄKI**, whose latest play cries out, 'THEATRE SUCKS.' This will be a thought-provoking dialogue on performance, politics, and identity.

ORG: THEATRE INFO FINLAND TINFO

FRIDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL F1

## WOMEN AND WAR

One searches for her husband in a mass grave. Another returns home to find a crater. A third is in a bombshelter with her two children. *My Women* by YULIYA ILIUKHA, consists of forty micro-stories about women in war-torn Ukraine, based on the author's own experiences and accounts shared with her. In SOFIA ANDRUKHOVYCH'S *Amadoka*, a wounded soldier lies in a hospital bed in Kyiv, stripped of both memory and identity. One day, a woman appears, claiming to be his wife — and begins the painful work of restoring his past. Moderator: JÖRGEN HUITFELDT, journalist.

ORG: ROMANUS & SELLING AND THE UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE IN SWEDEN



FRIDAY 11:15–12:00

HALL G4

## A NIGHT IN COPENHAGEN — THE NOVEL THAT BECAME AN AUDIO DRAMA

**DRAMA** Author JUDE DIBIA was forced to flee his native Nigeria in 2014 when homosexuality was criminalised. He has lived and worked in Malmö since 2015. Join this event for an opportunity to listen to Dibia's PRIX EUROPA-nominated audio drama *A Night in Copenhagen*, about Chuck who flees to Europe and meets Anders in Copenhagen. Afterwards, the author will be in conversation with SR Drama's artistic director LOLA ZACKOW. Discover what happened when Chuck and Anders' hot scenes were genre-shifted from a novel project to an audio drama.

ORG: SVERIGES RADIO DRAMA

FRIDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL R24+25

## NEW DIMENSIONS IN CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN THEATRE

**DRAMA** Four acclaimed European theatre directors and playwrights — CLÁUDIA LUCAS CHÉU (Portugal), STIJN DEVILLÉ (Belgium), RAMÓN GÁZQUEZ (Spain), and JACOPO FO (Italy) — push boundaries and blur the lines between theatre and other performing arts through innovative techniques. In this conversation with LINDA ZACHRISON, Artistic Director of Gothenburg City Theatre, they discuss the provocative power of theatre and its influence on politics and society.

ORG: EUNIC

FRIDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL R2

## THE OPPRESSION OF QUEER PEOPLE

**Opening poet: Håkan Bravinger.** Lebanese author HODA BARAKAT made her debut in 1990 with her novel *The Stone of Laughter*, said to be the first Arabic-language novel to feature a gay protagonist. Irish author NAOISE DOLAN'S novels *Exciting Times* and *The Happy Couple* both focus on queer Irish characters. Both authors have written and continue to write about LGBTQI+ people living under different forms of oppression — be they religious, political, social or patriarchal. Moderator: EDGAR MANNHEIMER, culture writer and podcaster.

ORG: RE:ORIENT AND THE GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

FRIDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL R22+23

## THE OTHER WOMAN

**LOVE AND LUST** In Brazilian author ANDREA DEL FUEGO'S novel *A pediatra*, Cecilia — a pediatrician who despises children — lives alone in an apartment in São Paulo. When the man she's having an affair with is about to have his first child, she is called in to assist at the birth — and something stirs within her. In *Vuxna förbrytelser* [Adult Crimes], Jenny Nordberg portrays a woman who tries to have an affair with a married man and questions whether this is a free and independent act, or a shameful betrayal of his wife and children. CLARA LEE LUNDBERG, culture journalist at Dagens ETC, leads a conversation about infidelity, societal expectations, and why it's called 'the other woman'. Language: Swedish and Portuguese, with interpretation into Swedish

ORG: NATUR & KULTUR, THE EMBASSY OF BRAZIL, AND TRANAN

FRIDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL F1

## UR-SCENES OF EUROPEAN MADNESS

Ukrainian author TAMARA DUDA and Swedish author STEVE SEM-SANDBERG both depict ur-scenes of European madness in their work. Duda's is set against the backdrop of Russia's brutal war in Ukraine, while Sem-Sandberg's uses the setting of the religious wars in 16th century Germany. In Tamara Duda's novel *Daughter*, a young woman sees her hometown fall into the hands of Russian 'separatists' and decides to resist. In Sem-Sandberg's recently published *De heligas stad* [The City of the Holy Ones], radical anabaptists seize power and proclaim a new era and world order in one of the bloodiest and most protracted conflicts of the Reformation. Moderator: SVANTE WEYLER, author and former publisher.

ORG: THE UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE IN SWEDEN, ALBERT BONNIERS FÖRLAG AND ERSATZ

FRIDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL R2

## THE ROLE OF DRAMA IN WAR

**DRAMA** Theatre has assumed a renewed role in Ukraine during the ongoing war. Drama is a sensitive genre that allows for the exploration of what war does both to the individual and society as a whole. In addition, theatre is a collective and social art form, which establishes physical meeting places where an ensemble and audience can engage together with the traumas brought about by war. Meet two of Ukraine's leading playwrights as they discuss drama in the shadow of war, and the dramatist as a war crimes investigator and custodian of historical memory. Featuring NATALYA VOROZHBYT and OKSANA HRYTSENKO. Moderator: MIKAEL NYDAHL, translator.

ORG: THE RIKSTOLVAN RESIDENCY AND TRANSLATION PROGRAMME AND THE UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE IN SWEDEN

FRIDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL G3

## FORBIDDEN TEMPTATIONS

**LOVE AND LUST** According to PEN America, romance is one of the genres being removed most frequently from school libraries in the USA at present. Why has romance in particular become the object of prohibitionists' attention? What consequences might such bans have on the reading habits of American teenagers? American romance authors JULIA QUINN and SARA MACLEAN are both global stars in the genre who are engaged in anti-censorship activities, having seen their own works banned. Moderator: AYMAN CHAUDHARY, book influencer and romance fan.

ORG: LOVEREADS AND THE GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

FRIDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL H1

## 7 OCTOBER 2023 — A DEVASTATING DAY

On 7 October 2023, the terrorist group Hamas carried out the worst attack in history against Israel. In her book *10/7: One Hundred Human Stories*, award-winning Israeli journalist **LEE YARON** details what happened through the stories of the victims and those communities that were affected. In *Det var där vi mötte mörkret* [That Was Where We Encountered the Dark], Sveriges Radio correspondent **JOHAN-MATHIAS SOMMARSTRÖM** writes about the response meted out with terrifying force by Israel and its devastating consequences on Gaza. This session explores how civilians are affected by war and what they are forced to live through. Moderator: **BJÖRN WIMAN**, Culture Editor at *Dagens Nyheter*.

ORG: JEWISH CULTURE IN SWEDEN AND BOKFÖRLAGET FORUM

FRIDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL F4

## MARION BRUNET

This Year's ALMA Laureate

**MARION BRUNET** is a French author whose young adult novels take place in a fiercely pulsating present with climate crisis and social vulnerability as recurring themes. In shimmering and crystal-clear prose, young people are portrayed in revolt against a corrupt society. The dark and violent parts of our world are explored in Brunet's timely narratives, which are made timeless by their links to myth and folklore. Hear Marion Brunet in a conversation about the darkness of existence, the status of young adult literature, and what it feels like to receive the world's largest award for children's and young adult literature. **INGRID ELAM**, literary critic. Language: French with interpretation into Swedish

ORG: ASTRID LINDGREN MEMORIAL AWARD

FRIDAY 14:30–15:30

HALL G4

## STINA EKBLAD READS FINNISH PLAYS

**DRAMA** Do Finns really only write stories about saunas? Actor **STINA EKBLAD** delves into and reads excerpts from five new plays from Finland: In **PIPSA LONKA**'s latest work, researchers try to teach dolphins to speak English, while **CHRISTOFFER MELLGREN** plays with food in his children's play. **LAURA RUOHONEN** writes poetically about sea monsters with her characteristic playfulness. **MILJA SARKOLA** examines a high-ranking EU official who doesn't want to be remembered after retirement. And the cowboys? **OTTO SANDQVIST** has written about them in his play.

ORG: THE FINNISH THEATRE INFORMATION CENTRE

FRIDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL F3

## THE NEW IRISH WAVE

Wilde, Joyce, Stoker, and Yeats are just a selection of classic Irish writers who are still considered to be among the absolute greats of literary history. The Emerald Isle has a long and proud storytelling tradition, which continues to turn out world class authors. Just what is it that makes the Irish so damn good at telling stories? **NAOISE DOLAN**, whose two novels have both become international bestsellers, will be in conversation with **FIONA SCARLETT**, author of *May All Your Skies Be Blue*, about their relationship with their home country's writing tradition. Book influencer **JACK EDWARDS** will be in the chair.

ORG: THE GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR AND KARAT

FRIDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL R2

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN SWEDEN AND CANADA — THEN AND NOW

**Opening poet: Alexandra Sundqvist.** In *Shame*, the final part of **ANN-HELEN LAESTADIUS'** Sámi trilogy, Marina struggles with shame about her Sámi heritage, influenced by strict Christian relatives. In *Kukum*, Innu author **MICHEL JEAN** depicts the loss of the traditional Innu way of life through the eyes of his great-grandmother, Almanda Simeón. Translator **JOHAN SANDBERG MCGUINNE** leads a conversation on how Indigenous peoples have been treated in Sweden and Canada, and the pain that remains. This seminar offers a preview of the Québec focus at the 2026 Gothenburg Book Fair, and is supported by le Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec and the Embassy of Canada.

ORG: ROMANUS & SELLING, QUÉBEC ÉDITION, ELISABETH GRATE BOKFÖRLAG, AND THE EMBASSY OF CANADA

FRIDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL F1

## HOW JEWS ARE PORTRAYED AND BETRAYED IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

In 2025 are Jews really 'different from everybody else' and what does that really mean? When we read a novel about Jews or see Jews on the screen do we feel that such images are adequate or merely caricatures? And how does our identity as Jews or non-Jews determine the way we respond to such representation in our quotidian world? Has that tension shifted from earlier representations in postwar American and European culture after October 7, 2023?

ORG: JEWISH CULTURE IN SWEDEN

FRIDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL G3

## TONY KUSHNER

An American Storyteller

**DRAMA** Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **TONY KUSHNER** is one of America's most influential storytellers and playwrights. Through *Angels in America*, he made the AIDS crisis and queer lives and spirituality part of theatrical history. He has also collaborated with Steven Spielberg on major blockbusters such as *Munich*, *Lincoln* and *The Fabelmans*. He will be visiting the Gothenburg Book Fair for an exclusive conversation about politics, history and the power of storytelling in an ever-changing world. He will be in conversation with dramatist and author **JONAS GARDELL**.

ORG: GOTHENBURG CITY THEATRE AND COLOMBINE TEATERFÖRLAG



FRIDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL F1

## ANDRÉ ACIMAN

A Life in Eternal Exile

**LOVE AND LUST** **Opening poet: Daniel Mårs.** **ANDRÉ ACIMAN** became widely known through his novel *Call Me By Your Name* and its Oscar-nominated film adaptation — a story of sexual awakening and the search for identity. Now, the Italian-American author returns with *Roman Year*, a memoir about being forced, at the age of 15, to flee persecution in his native Egypt with his Jewish family and begin a new life in Europe and the United States. Today, Aciman is a professor at the City University of New York, where he teaches, among other subjects, the work of Marcel Proust. Moderator: **MATS ALMEGÅRD**, journalist.

ORG: JEWISH CULTURE IN SWEDEN

FRIDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL G3



## IN MEMORY OF VICTORIA AMELINA

Victoria Amelina was known for her award-winning novels. After embarking upon a career as an IT specialist, she took up writing and established herself as one of the most important voices in Ukrainian literature. Following the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022, she began to document war crimes. Her book *Looking at Women Looking at War* was published posthumously. In addition to her own experiences, it includes the testimonies of eleven other women who are also documenting the war. The preface was written by Margaret Atwood. Human rights activist **OLEKSANDRA MATVIUCHUK**, who heads up the Ukrainian Center for Civil Liberties (which was awarded the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize), and journalist **TETYANA TEREH** will be in conversation with **STEFAN INGVARSSON**, an analyst at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs; they will discuss their dearly missed friend Victoria Amelina, who died in a Russian missile attack on a pizzeria in the town of Kramatorsk in July 2023.

ORG: THE UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE IN SWEDEN, ERSATZ AND THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

FRIDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL R22+23

## THE SLIDING ETHICS OF DOCUMENTARY THEATRE

**DRAMA** Where is the boundary between documentary material and fiction? How should playwrights and directors work with true events and authentic statements in a work that professes to be documentary-based? And what do any shifts entail for their contract with the audience? The panel will feature **IRENA KRAUS**, the playwright responsible for *Kärlek på svenska* [Love in Swedish], **PIA-MARIA ROLL**, a Norwegian director and the writer of *Ways of Seeing*, **RASA RASA BUGAVIČUTE-PĒCE**, a Latvian dramatist, **STAFFAN JULÉN**, documentary filmmaker and the author of *Jakten på det autentiska* [The Pursuit of Authenticity]. Moderator: **JENNY ASCHENBRENNER**, author and theatre critic.

ORG: SAKLI(G)T/RIKSTOLVAN AND THE INSTITUTE FOR FUTURES STUDIES

FRIDAY 17:00–17:45

HALL R24+25

## LOVE WITHOUT A SCRIPT —FROM PASSION TO DESTRUCTIVENESS

**LOVE AND LUST** Four European authors who have delved into the mysteries and deviations of love explore the winding paths of human relationships. While **VALERIE FRITSCH** (Austria) and **CARLA NYMAN** (Spain) depict love at its most perilous edges, **CHRISTOS KYTHREOTIS** (Cyprus) and **LAVINIA BRANIȘTE** (Romania) uncover the hidden depths of more conventional relationships. Moderator: **HENRIK C. ENBOHM**, literary critic.

ORG: EUNIC

FRIDAY 17:00–17:45

HALL F2

## JUDITH HERMANN

Where does a story begin, and when does it end?

**JUDITH HERMANN** is one of the most prominent and widely read German-language authors of her generation. *Wir hätten uns alles gesagt* is a blend of autobiography and essay, written with her distinctive sensitivity. It recalls a childhood in a divided Berlin and long, happy summers by the sea. She revisits her life as a writer and tries to understand who she was and who she became. What is literature, and what does she actually remember? Here she is interviewed by literary critic and translator **JENS CHRISTIAN BRANDT**. Interpreter: **FRIEDERIKE GERLACH**. Language: Swedish and German, with interpretation into Swedish

ORG: GOETHE-INSTITUT SCHWEDEN AND WEYLER FÖRLAG

FRIDAY 17:00–17:45

HALL G3

## CAROLINE DARIAN

A Family Trauma Before the Eyes of the World

In November 2020, **CAROLINE DARIAN** received a call from the police to inform her that her father had been arrested and that they had seized his computer and phone. They had uncovered that for years he had been drugging his wife, Gisèle, unconscious and offering her to many men. The whole world watched the trial of French rapist Dominique Pelicot and another 50 men—a trial that was held in public at Gisèle Pelicot's request. *I'll Never Call Him Dad Again* is a memoir by Pelicot's daughter, Caroline Darian. In conversation with: **ANNA LINDMAN**, journalist.

ORG: BOKFÖRLAGET FORUM

FRIDAY 17:00–17:45

HALL F3

## WOMEN'S HISTORY IN SWEDEN AND THE WORLD

With her book *Kvinnoriket: Historien om kvinnor i Sverige under 1 000 år* [The Women's Realm: The History of Women in Sweden for the Last 1,000 Years], researcher **SARA BACKMAN PRYTZ** has written the standard work on Swedish women's history. British historian **DAISY DUNN** has just published *Den osynliga tråden: Historien om antikens kvinnor* [The Missing Thread: A New History of the Ancient World Through the Women Who Shaped It]. They will discuss the women who shaped history, who were not included when history was written. What impact does new research have on our view of society? Moderator: **CECILIA DÜRRINGER**, author.

ORG: NATUR & KULTUR AND BOKFÖRLAGET STOLPE

FRIDAY 17:00–17:45

HALL F5

## BAN RUSSIAN CULTURE?

Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, factions of the cultural world have called for a boycott of all that is Russian—cancel culture on the global political stage. But what happens when you cut away part of our global, cultural heritage? And what happens to the next generation of Russians, who will have grown up with a world that has turned against them? At the same time, the Russian state deploys its culture to legitimise its imperialist narrative. Join **SOFIA ANDRUKHOVYCH**, **NATALYA PASICHNYK**, **HORACE ENGDahl** and **ANNA-LENA LAURÉN** for a discussion about the role of culture in times of war, responsibility, representation and silence. Moderator: **SVANTE WEYLER**, author and former publisher.

ORG: NORSTEDTS, THE UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE IN SWEDEN AND THE GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

FRIDAY 17:00–17:45

HALL J2

## LOVE IN HOPELESS CONDITIONS

**LOVE AND LUST** High in the snow-capped Korean mountains, a young Japanese officer is saved from a tiger attack by a starving hunter. This marks the beginning of an epic saga of love, war and revenge in 20th century Korea. **JUHEA KIM'S** novel *Beasts of a Little Land* has been compared to the work of Tolstoy. In Nigerian author **CHIGOZIE OBIOMA'S** *The Road to the Country*, a shy university student is recruited by the Biafran separatist army to fight in Nigeria's civil war. He is forced into battle—and falls in love. A conversation about how love can thrive even in the most hopeless of conditions. Moderator: **ISATOU AYSHA JONES**, entrepreneur.

ORG: ORDFRONT FÖRLAG AND THE KOREAN CULTURAL CENTER

FRIDAY 17:00–17:45

HALL R2

## PORTRAYING VULNERABILITY

**Opening poet: Burcu Sahin.** In her book *The Rightful Finder*, Belgian author **LIZE SPIT** writes about eleven-year-old Jimmy, who is a gifted but lonely boy whose life is changed when a family of refugees from Kosovo move into the village. Jimmy quickly befriends them, but when the family are suddenly issued with a deportation order, he begins to hatch a plan to help them stay. In **BALSAM KARAM'S** *Mörk materia* [Dark Matter], the third part of her loosely connected 'space' trilogy, four migrant workers find a badly injured girl in a fruit orchard in southern California. They will be in conversation with **PETER FRÖBERG IDLING** as they discuss the portrayal of refugees' vulnerability.

ORG: IT-LIT, NORSTEDTS AND FLANDERS LITERATURE

FRIDAY 18:00–18:45

HALL G3

## FREDRIK BACKMAN

People, Memories and Meaning

Thanks to his funny and very human stories, **FREDRIK BACKMAN** has become an international literary phenomenon. In his new book *My Friends*, we make the acquaintance of a group of lost teenagers who spend almost all their time together over the course of a dramatic summer in a port city past its prime. The novel is a portrait of life-changing friendship during the final days of youth; a testimony of sorrow and love reflecting that happy endings don't always look the way we expect them to. Fredrik Backman will be talking to book influencer **JACK EDWARDS** about his writing and how he balances big and difficult subjects with humour and warmth.

ORG: NORSTEDTS AND THE GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SATURDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL R24+25

## WHERE NEXT FOR SYRIA?

How is Syria supposed to heal following 14 years of civil war, and what will happen in Sweden, which has been an important refuge for Syrian Christians? What can the churches learn from Islam, and what can Muslims learn from Christians? Is there a pathway to a shared Christian-Muslim culture? The panel will feature **JIHAD YOUSEF**, the abbot of the Mar Musa monastery in Syria, **CECILIA UDDÉN**, Middle East correspondent at Sveriges Radios, **SAMUEL RUBENSON**, senior professor of Eastern Christian Studies, and **ABDULLAH ALMASRI**, an expert in Syrian issues and interfaith cooperation. Moderator: **DAN-ERIK ANDERSSON**, Associate Professor of Human Rights Studies at Lund University.

ORG: THE CHURCH OF SWEDEN'S BEHOLD MAN STAGE, LUND MISSION SOCIETY AND ALBERT BONNIERS FÖRLAG

SATURDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL F2

## CHANGE, IDENTITY AND LOSS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

With her new novel *Speak to Me of Home*, **JEANINE CUMMINS** has written a powerful narrative about three women's choices in life, their losses and cultural heritage. In her novel *The American Granddaughter*, Iraqi author, journalist and filmmaker **INAAM KACHACHI** depicts the USA's failure in and humiliation of Iraq. **ANN-HELEN LAESTADIUS'** most recent novel is *Skam* [Shame], which is the final part in her acclaimed Sápmi trilogy, in which protagonist Marina bears the shameful burden of her Sámi roots. They will be in conversation with the author **DONIA SALEH** about issues of change, identity and loss of cultural heritage.

ORG: ROMANUS &amp; SELLING, RE:ORIENT AND BAZAR FÖRLAG

SATURDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL G3

## FORBIDDEN LOVE IN LITERATURE

How do societal norms, cultural expectations, religion, gender, social status, or other external pressures affect romantic relationships? How is forbidden love portrayed in literature? **PAJTIM STATOVCI** is one of Finland's most successful and award-winning authors. Statovci was born in 1990 in Kosovo to Albanian parents. His family fled the war and moved to Finland when he was two years old. In his books, the gay author often depicts desire, devastation and intimacy. He will be appearing alongside Swedish author **JONAS GARDELL**, whose works have often described love outside the norm. Moderator: **WIVAN NYGÅRD-FAGERUDD**, Director of the Finnish Institute in Stockholm.

ORG: THE EMBASSY OF FINLAND IN STOCKHOLM

SATURDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL R22+23

## LILIANA COLANZI

Acclaimed Bolivian Sci-fi Author

Liliana Colanzi is regarded as one of the most promising writers in contemporary Latin American literature. Her short story collections blend realism with magical realism, horror, science-fiction and absurdism, and have often been read as being part of the 'Andean Gothic' wave that has made itself known in recent years, especially through a younger generation of female writers. The multi-award-winning collection *You Glow in the Dark* allows us to see our present day anew in all its deadly glare. She will be in conversation with author **LINA WOLFF**.

ORG: WAHLSTRÖM &amp; WIDSTRAND AND THE EMBASSY OF BOLIVIA IN STOCKHOLM

SATURDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL H1

## OLEKSANDRA MATVICHUK

Freedom in the Future: A World Which Is Approaching

Half of the population in the world last year went to elections. But more than 80 % of people live in non-free or partially free societies. The problem is not only that the space of freedom in authoritarian countries has narrowed to the size of a prison cell. Even in democracies, people question the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The coming generations inherited democracy from their parents. They began to take human rights for granted. They understand freedom as a choice between different cheeses in the supermarket. But freedom is very fragile. In this keynote speech, Ukrainian lawyer and human rights activist **OLEKSANDRA MATVICHUK**, head of the organisation Center for Civil Liberties which won the Nobel peace prize in 2022, speaks about the global regression of freedom.

ORG: THE UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE IN SWEDEN

SATURDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL F1

## THE LONELY VICTIMS OF THE GROWING GENDER GAP

Men and women are slipping further and further apart — politically, socially, romantically and sexually. They vote differently, they hold different views and they meet less and less often. Young people today are also having less sex than previous generations. This results in many people living lives of involuntary celibacy and solitude. What should be done about these people? The Danish comedian **SOFIE HAGEN**, whose most recent book is *Will I Ever Have Sex Again?*, and the American author **TONY TULATHI-MUTTE**, who has written about lonely people in his short story collection *Rejection*, will be in conversation. Moderator: **PARISA AMIRI**, cultural journalist.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SATURDAY 10:00–11:30

HALL G4

## ANTIGONE'S LEGACY

**DRAMA** A staged reading of **ATHENA FAR-ROKHZAD'S** play *Antigone's Legacy* directed by **SAGA GÄRDE**, followed by discussion. Athena Farrokhzad's latest book, *Tragedierna* [The Tragedies], contains her three plays set within the dramas of antiquity, including *Antigone's Legacy*. In *Terroristens kropp* [The Terrorist's Body] and *Spår av Antigone* [Traces of Antigone], **CHRISTINA OUZOUNIDIS** uses Antigone as a backdrop for new plays where language is the stage. Finnish playwright **E. L. KARHU** draws upon the perspectives of children in her drama about Medea. They will be in conversation with moderator **LINA RYDÉN REYNOLDS**, publisher and poet. Also featuring actors **RUTH VEGA FERNANDEZ**, **BERI GERWISE**, **KJELL WILHELMSEN**, **ELEFTHERIA GEROFOKA** and **CARINA M JOHANSSON** and **MARIE DELLESKOG** Language: Swedish and English

ORG: AMFI, THEATRE INFO FINLAND TINFO, MODERNISTA, ALBERT BONNIERS FÖRLAG, BACKA THEATRE AND GOTHENBURG CITY THEATRE

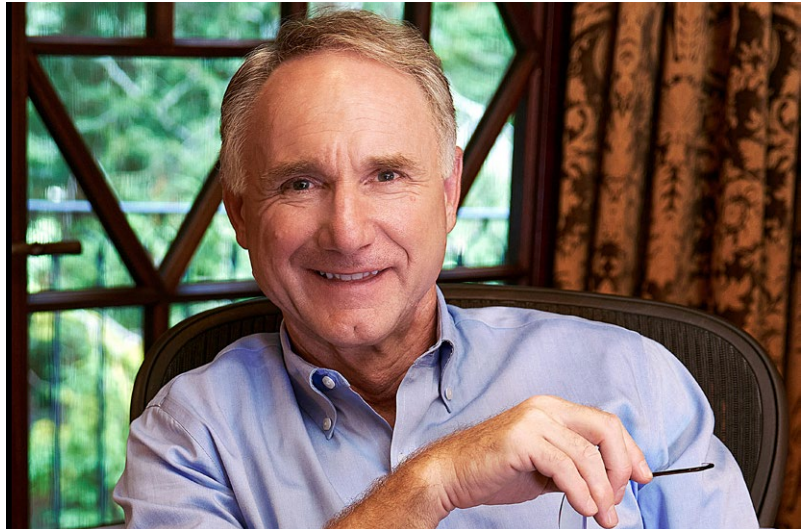
SATURDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL K

**DAN BROWN****Secrets, Symbols and 250 Million Books**

Published in 2003, the American author **DAN BROWN**'s breakthrough novel *The Da Vinci Code* was a huge hit. More than 250 million copies of his books have been sold globally. This year marks the release of the sixth book featuring as its protagonist professor of symbology Robert Langdon. In *The Secret of Secrets*, Langdon has embarked upon a romantic relationship with a prominent noetic scientist who is about to publish a book that might overturn centuries of established knowledge. Suddenly, both his girlfriend and her manuscript disappear. Langdon realises he's become the target of a powerful organisation working in the shadows. Dan Brown will be talking about his new book with journalist **BJÖRN AF KLEEN**.

ORG: ALBERT BONNIERS FÖRLAG



SATURDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL R2

**FLORENCE BERGEAUD-BLACKLER****Brotherism — The Muslim Brotherhood's Path to Influence in Europe**

Since its founding in 1928, the Muslim Brotherhood has grown to become a global network. Anthropologist and author **FLORENCE BERGEAUD-BLACKLER** introduces the term 'brotherism' to describe how the movement holds sway in Europe. Her book confronts the way in which religious freedom can be exploited to influence institutions and oppress nonconformists — not least other Muslims. She will be in conversation with journalist **PER SVENSSON**.

ORG: FRI TANKE

SATURDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL J2

**CHIGOZIE OBIOMA****A World-famous Storyteller Returns**

**CHIGOZIE OBIOMA** was born in 1986 in the city of Akure in Nigeria. He has lived in Cyprus and Turkey and now lives in the USA where he is the Helen S. Lanier Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Georgia. His debut novel *The Fishermen* was praised by critics around the world and was shortlisted for the 2015 Booker Prize. In 2019, his novel *An Orchestra of Minorities* was also shortlisted for the Booker, while its Swedish translation was shortlisted for the Kulturhuset Stadsteatern International Literature Prize. His latest novel, *The Road to the Country*, was published earlier this year and its Swedish translation will be released in the autumn of 2025. In conversation with: **GÖRREL ESPELUND**, journalist.

ORG: ORDFRONT FÖRLAG

SATURDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL F2

**SPECULATIVE DEPICTERS OF SOCIETY**

With her absurd sense of humour and razor-sharp gaze, Korean author **BORA CHUNG** skewers the patriarchy, capitalism and the power of big tech in her original, sci-fi-influenced short story collection *Cursed Bunny*. In **JOHN AJVIDE LINDQVIST**'s conclusion to his Bloodstorm trilogy, *The Spirit in the Machine*, a suicide bomber causes national trauma when she kills more than forty people during a performance of *Hamlet* at Stockholm's Royal Dramatic Theatre. Yet another attack, this time against a mosque, transforms Sweden into a divided country. The authors will be in conversation about their use of speculative fiction to highlight pressing social issues. Moderator: **NINA HEMMINGSSON**, cartoonist and author.

ORG: ORDFRONT FÖRLAG, KOREAN CULTURAL CENTER AND TRANAN

SATURDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL R24+25

**NEW VOICES FROM ITALY**

**FRANCESCA GIANNONE**'s debut *The Letter Carrier* is a novel about the first postwoman in a small village in southern Italy in the 1930s. The book was inspired by the author's own great-grandmother's story and has to date been translated into 39 languages. Giannone will be in conversation with her compatriot **FEDERICA MANZONI**, whose most recent novel *Alma* is about the cosmopolitan soul of the Italian city of Trieste. The book won the prestigious Premio Campiello in 2024. Moderator: **KRISTINA KAPPELIN**, journalist and Director and CEO of the Villa San Michele cultural centre on the island of Capri.

ORG: THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE AND BROMBERGS

SATURDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL R2

**CHRISTIAN KRACHT****A Swiss Master**

**CHRISTIAN KRACHT**'s new novel *Air* is set both in our present day and in a parallel realm that bears a resemblance to a Scandinavian saga — or is it perhaps another dimension that the protagonist has stumbled into after entering a large data centre in Norway? Following his acclaimed novel *Eurotrash*, Kracht once again demonstrates that literature can be new and surprising, transporting us out of our time and into a dazzling, mirror-smooth literary landscape. Our life is but a dream. In conversation with: **JENNY HÖGSTRÖM**, author and cultural journalist.

ORG: ERSATZ AND THE EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN STOCKHOLM

SATURDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL J2

**MARIE NDIAYE**

**Opening poet: Athena Farrokhzad.** **MARIE NDIAYE** is a prominent figure in French literature, with works translated into over 30 languages. Published at the age of 17, she has since then received numerous awards for her novels, short stories, plays, and screenplays (e.g. Goncourt Prize for *Three Strong Women*, 2009) and remains the first female writer to be performed in her lifetime at the Comédie-Française (*Papa doit manger*, 2003). Her writing blends realism and fantasy, exploring the dark corners of human psychology, identity, family, and society's margins. Moderator: **ANNA IVEMARK**, journalist. Language: French interpreted into Swedish.

ORG: INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DE SUÈDE



SATURDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL J1

## AI IN OUR LIVES

What does AI mean to us in everyday life and human relationships? In *Älskling, vi fick en AI!* [Darling, We Got an AI!], author **GUSTAV JUNTTI** explores the impact of this new technology on our lives. In *Schyssta hackers* [Super Hackers], **LINUS NYMAN** introduces us to the pioneering hackers that created our digital world. **MOLLY WRIGHT STEENSON** is an AI researcher and CEO of the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. Join us for a conversation about the future with journalist **ANDREAS EKSTRÖM** in the chair.

ORG: SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS, TIMBRO AND THE GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SATURDAY 12:30–13:30

HALL G4

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

**DRAMA** In her darkly humorous play *Business as Usual*, Estonian playwright **MEHIS PIHLA** delves into a money laundering scandal at the Estonian branch of a major Scandinavian bank. Making use of documentary materials and interviews with bank employees, he examines the rationale and motives of those involved. A showing of *Business as Usual* will be followed by a discussion about money laundering and banking morals featuring Mehis Pihla, **KARIN SVEDBERG HELGESSON**, Associate Professor at the Stockholm School of Economics, and journalist **AXEL GORDH HUMLESJÖ**, who is the author of *Honningsfällan — Historien om Swedbank, Ryssland och världens största penningtvättskandal* [The Honey Trap: Swedbank, Russia and the World's Biggest Money Laundering Scheme]. Moderator: **MARCUS BORNILD LESSEUR**, journalist, and Swedish

ORG: ESTONIAN DRAMA THEATRE AND EESTI TEATRI AGENTUUR

SATURDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL F1

## I'M LYING ABOUT MYSELF

Behind the straightforward façade of autofiction many choices lie concealed. What is the truth about oneself? *Lowest Common Denominator* is the first part in **PIRKKO SAISIO**'s celebrated Helsinki trilogy, and has just been published in an English translation as part of the Penguin Classics series. **CARL FRODE TILLER**'s true-to-life *Encircling* trilogy is one of the most significant literary works to be published in 2000s Norway and has sold more than 100,000 copies in the author's home country. **NINA WÅHÅ**'s latest book *Major Virvelvind* [Major Whirlwind] is a memoir about her father who turned out to be a bank robber. The authors will be discussing autobiographical writing with the author **DANIEL SJÖLIN**, Norwegian and Swedish

ORG: FLO FÖRLAG, NORSTEDTS AND FÖRLAGET

SATURDAY 13:00–14:30

HALL K

## CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

The Mermaid 2025

*Sjöjungfrun* — the Gothenburg Book Fair's literary award — will this year be awarded to an author who has created new perspectives on identity, feminism and belonging in contemporary literature. **CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE**, whose most recent novel is *Dream Count*, blends the personal with the political in order to portray issues of power, gender, migration and post-colonialism. She has been praised by major figures such as Beyoncé and Barack Obama, and her words have been printed on t-shirts by Dior. Adichie's works echo the ancient traditions of storytelling and highlight those who are often overlooked. After the Book Fair's **OSKAR EKSTRÖM** has presented her with the mermaid statuette hand-carved by Panos Mamakos, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie will be interviewed by author **AGRI ISMAÏL**. The *Sjöjungfrun* award is presented in partnership with Arctic Paper.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR



PHOTO: MANNY JEFFERSON

SATURDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL F5

## BRITISH CRIME AND NORDIC NOIR — FROM ICELAND TO BRIGHTON

Two crime writing masters will discuss writing series and standalone novels, their writing processes, and the two styles that have come to dominate the crime genre in recent decades. **YRSA SIGURÐARDÓTTIR** is one of Iceland's foremost crime writers. Her books have been translated into more than 30 languages and have sold several million copies. Her novel *Forget me not* is the second in her Black Ice series and will be published in Swedish translation in the autumn of 2025. **PETER JAMES** is a celebrated British crime fiction writer. He has been voted best crime writer of all time, and his accolades include the Diamond Dagger. *Stop Them Dead* is the nineteenth instalment in his Roy Grace series. Moderator: **TITTI SCHULTZ**, journalist.

ORG: HARPERCOLLINS NORDIC

SATURDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL J2

## REPRESENTATIVE ROMANCE?

**LOVE AND LUST** Almost everyone will at some point in their life experience love, lust and heartbreak — regardless of the colour of their skin, sexual orientation, abilities or disabilities, or faith. So surely the romance genre ought to reflect this broad reality? Romance authors **TIA WILLIAMS** (*Seven Days in June*, *The Perfect Find*) and **HANNAH BONAM-YOUNG** (*Out on a Limb*, *Next to You*) both write sexy stories while taking into consideration issues of diversity. Book influencer and romance fanatic **AYMAN CHAUDHARY** will be in the chair for this conversation about the importance of representation and diversity in romance.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SATURDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL J1

## ANDREW O'HAGAN

Portraying Society Dickens Style

In his most recent novel *Caledonian Road*, the award-winning Scottish author **ANDREW O'HAGAN** depicts the politics, class and economics of Britain through five interconnected families. It is a satirical novel written in the Dickensian tradition, with a large ensemble of (mostly lovable) characters who expose the harsh realities of our time. Together with book influencer **JACK EDWARDS**, O'Hagan will be discussing cancel culture, the questioning of institutions and the role of empathy in writing. He will also share insights into what it's like to write such a large ensemble encompassing some flawed characters.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SATURDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL F3

## WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF EUROPE'S MIGRATION POLICY?

Under an assumed identity, Italian journalist **FABRIZIO GATTI** has travelled the refugee and migrant routes leading to Europe. In his book *Bilal*, he followed refugees risking everything for a new life in Europe. In his new novel, *Born on the Border*, Gatti depicts flight and migration in a Europe where leading politicians now talk about repatriation rather than humanitarian obligations. He will be in conversation with **MÄRTA STENEVI**, spokesperson for the Swedish Green Party 2021–2024, as they discuss the consequences of Swedish and European migrant policy, which has fundamentally changed in Sweden in recent years. Moderator: **MARTIN SCHIBBYE**, journalist.

ORG: CELANDERS FÖRLAG, BOKFÖRLAGET FORUM AND THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE

SATURDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL R24+25

## INHERITED EMOTIONS AND TRANSFERENCE

**LOVE AND LUST** **PER MAGNUS JOHANS-SON**, author and psychoanalyst, **LYDIA SANDGREN**, author and psychologist, and **GALIT ATLAS**, author and psychoanalyst, will hold a conversation about transference of trauma from one generation to the next. According to Sigmund Freud, there is a biological coded process of transference. Is it linguistic or is it found in both the spoken and the unspoken? Is it conscious? To what extent is the past still present in everyday life; here and now? And how can we process traumatic experiences of the past?

ORG: JEWISH CULTURE IN SWEDEN AND ARCHE

SATURDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL R24+25

## THE STAGE AND THE PRESENT — A CRITICAL QUESTION

**DRAMA** Theatres want to address the major issues of the day through contemporary drama that brings world politics to the stage. How successful are they? This conversation with theatre critics will explore how critical questions of our time are portrayed on stage. Speakers: **JENNY ASCHENBRENNER**, contributor to Swedish newspapers *Svenska Dagbladet* and *Dagens ETC*, **KARIN ALLIK**, contributor to Estonian newspapers *Postimees*, *Sirp* and *Eesti Päevaleht*, **MARIA SÄKÖ**, contributor to Finnish newspaper *Helsingin Sanomat*, and **MARIKEN LAUVSTAD**, contributor to Norwegian newspaper *Morgenbladet*. Moderator: **SANDRA GREHN**, *Göteborgs-Posten*.

ORG: COLOMBINE TEATERFÖRLAG AND THE SWEDISH THEATRE CRITICS ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL R2

## DREAMS OF A BETTER LIFE

In Nigerian-Flemish author **CHIKA UNIGWE'S** novel *On Black Sisters' Street*, we meet four women who have travelled from West Africa and ended up in Antwerp's red light district — far from the riches promised to them in Europe. In Swedish author **BALSAM KARAM'S** *Mörk materia* [Dark Matter], migrant workers find an injured young girl at a California orchard. Who is she? The novel is the final instalment in a loosely connected trilogy which began with her debut *Event Horizon*. Chika Unigwe and Balsam Karam will meet in conversation about migration and dreams of a better life. Moderator: **JOHANNA LUNDIN**, journalist.

ORG: FLO FÖRLAG, NORSTEDTS AND FLANDERS LITERATURE

SATURDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL F1

## A DISTORTED LOVE LETTER TO MY PARENTS

On the surface of it, British comedian and writer **DAVID BADDIEL'S** upbringing in a middle class family in northwest London was quite ordinary. But he came to realise that his mother was anything other than ordinary. As a refugee from Nazi Germany, she was determined to live a life that meant something, which was expressed through a decades-long affair with a golf memorabilia salesman. Baddiel's *My Family: The Memoir* is a distorted love letter to his parents, in which he examines his own childhood, family and memories. In conversation with: **RICKI NEUMAN**, journalist.

ORG: JEWISH CULTURE IN SWEDEN

SATURDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL F5

## RUSSIA'S RELENTLESS WAR IN UKRAINE

In her book *My Women*, Ukrainian author **YULIA ILIUKHA** presents forty snapshot portraits of women as victims of war's brutality. In *Medan kriget pågår finns ingen försoning* [While the War Rages, There Is No Reconciliation], Dagens Nyheter journalist **ANNA-LENA LAURÉN** offers insight into life during wartime — from the frontlines to ballet lessons in Kyiv. In *Ukraina Återkomsten* [Ukraine: The Return], journalist **PAUL FRIGYES** travels back to the country to meet old and new friends — now living through war. Together, the authors discuss how the Ukrainian population is affected by the ongoing conflict. Moderator: **AXEL GORDH HUMLESJÖ**, journalist.

ORG: THE UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE IN SWEDEN, ROMANUS &amp; SELLING, NORSTEDTS, AND SILC PUBLISHING.



SATURDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL F3

## SUB-GENRES, TROPES AND NUANCES OF ROMANCE

**LOVE AND LUST** Romance has never been as popular among readers of the world as it is today. However, the genre contains a number of sub-genres and tropes that have become as important in the choice of the next book to read as the story itself. Do you want to read a romance or a dark romance? Do you fancy friends-to-lovers or an only-one-bed-trope? And what impact has this had on romance literature and its authors? The session will see a discussion between British book influencer and author **EDEN VICTORIA** (*Close Protection*), and Swedish writers **CHRISTINA SCHILLER** (*Be mig stanna* [Ask Me to Stay]) and **LOVISA WISTRAND** (*Midnattstörst* [Midnight Thirst], *I hjärtat av Amazonas* [In the Heart of the Amazon], *Windermere*). Moderator: **AYMAN CHAUDHARY**, book influencer.

ORG: SAGA EGMONT AND THE GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SATURDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL F2

## TONY TULATHIMUTTE

On Rejections

**LOVE AND LUST** When the American author **TONY TULATHIMUTTE**'s short story collection *Rejection* was published in the autumn of 2024, it immediately became an international talking point. The book tells stories about lonely people who in different ways are rejected — by partners, friends, family or the world. In response, someone commits an incomprehensible act of violence, someone else sends an ill-fated and embarrassing group email, while another refuses to let go of their ex. Book influencer **JACK EDWARDS** will be in conversation with Tony Tulathimutte about the book, people who are radicalised online, writing satire, and — of course — being rejected.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SATURDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL F1

## JONATHAN AMES

Bored to Death and Beyond

Following the release of his acclaimed debut novel *I Pass Like Night*, **JONATHAN AMES** (whose most recent book is *Karma Doll*) became a name on the 1990s New York underground literary scene with his confessional newspaper columns, stage shows and Letterman appearances. In addition to novels, essay collections and the comic book *The Alcoholic*, he's the creator of the HBO series *Bored to Death* and movies such as *You Were Never Really Here* starring Joaquin Phoenix. His stories are just as stylistically driven and melancholy as they are funny, and they explore themes of Jewishness, misplaced tenderness, classical ideals of masculinity and the general humiliations of life. In conversation with: cultural journalist **IKA JOHANNESSON**.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SATURDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL J2

## THE (UN)HOLY TEXT

**DRAMA** Folkteatern's Artistic Director Frida Röhl invites you to a conversation with some of the most exciting directors from our region: Farnaz Arbabi (SE), Johan Elm (EST), Leea Klemola (FI), and Nina Wester (NO). Together, they'll discuss how they work with text as directors. How do you approach a script you didn't write yourself? Or when does directing begin if you're staging your own text? How do you bring the written word to the stage — can you, should you, do whatever you want with it in a new medium, or is the text sacred? A conversation about the meeting between different artistic roles, about varying perspectives on text, and about diverse traditions. and Swedish

ORG: COLOMBINE TEATERFÖRLAG AND FOLKTEATERN I GÖTEBORG

SATURDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL R24+25

## IDENTITY – A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

**RENE KARABASH** is one of Bulgaria's most internationally acclaimed writers and has been translated into more than ten languages. Her novel *She Who Remains* is set in the remote mountain villages of Albania where traditions weigh heavy and daily life is governed by ancient codes of honour. Bekia is to be married to a man in the village but escapes her fate when she swears a vow of chastity and thus becomes a man in the eyes of the law. The wedding cancellation precipitates a blood feud. Rene Karabash will be in conversation with the Swedish author **KRISTOFFER LEANDOER**, who lived in Albania for several years. Moderator: **ELISABETH HJORT**, author.

ORG: ERSATZ

SATURDAY 17:00–17:45

HALL R24+25

## BELoved TWIN

What if one out of a pair of twins no longer wants to go on? What if one of them can't live without the other? This is the question at the heart of Dutch author **JENTE POSTHUMA**'s award-winning novel *What I'd Rather Not Think About*. In **LYRA EKSTRÖM LINDBÄCK**'s novel *Genom delning* [Through Sharing], a woman is overcome by a crisis when her twin sister falls pregnant. That crisis soon deepens into all-out betrayal. Lyra Ekström Lindbäck and Jente Posthuma will be discussing the love and connection shared by twins. Moderator: **JESSICA SCHIEFAUER**, author.

ORG: RAMUS, MODERNISTA AND DUTCH FOUNDATION

SATURDAY 17:00–17:45

HALL H1

## LIVE: NEW YORK TIMES MODERN LOVE PODCAST

**LOVE AND LUST** The New York Times Modern Love podcast will be visiting Sweden for the first time for an exclusive live show. The podcast, launched in 2016, follows a classic script: every week, host **ANNA MARTIN** invites an actor or author to read out a reader's letter or essay on the theme of love that has been sent to the newspaper's column of the same name. After the reading, she talks to the guest about the text. Andrew Garfield, Kate Winslet, Uma Thurman, Jake Gyllenhaal and Angela Bassett are just some of those who have appeared on the show. Anna Martin will be welcoming actress **BIANCA KRONLÖF** to the podcast during its Gothenburg Book Fair appearance.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SUNDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL F1

## DUSTIN THAO

Portraying Grief

The Vietnamese-American author **DUSTIN THAO** has become a firm favourite among young readers around the world with his novels *You've Reached Sam* and *When Haru Was Here*. The books are about love, friendship and mourning someone after their death. Thao will be in conversation with book influencer **JACK EDWARDS** about the art of writing flawed-yet-human characters, depicting grief, adding Vietnamese influences and writing for a young audience.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SUNDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL J1

## ONE CHILLI OR FIVE? HOW SPICY IS ROMANCE ALLOWED TO BE?

**LOVE AND LUST** Fiery romance books are big favourites with readers of many ages, and the question of how 'spicy' a book is has come to be asked more and more often. Where is the boundary between romance and erotica? The panel will feature Swedish romance author **LOVISA WISTRAND**, American romance author **TIA WILLIAMS**, and **EBBA VULT VON STEYERN** who is a Commissioning Editor at Lovebooks by Saga Egmont. Book influencer and romance fanatic **AYMAN CHAUDHARY** will be in the chair.

ORG: SAGA EGMONT AND THE GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SUNDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL F4

## MASTERS OF ROMANCE

**LOVE AND LUST** SARAH MACLEAN is an international superstar: her acclaimed historical romance novels have been translated into more than 25 languages. This year marks the publication of the first volumes in her 'Love By Numbers' series in Swedish translation. **SIMONA AHRNSTEDT** became a Swedish pioneer when she made her debut in the historical romance genre in 2010. Her books have been published in 23 countries. How do they define what romance is? Which elements are indispensable? And how important is explicit sex? Moderator: **JOSEFINE SUNDSTRÖM**, journalist and author.

ORG: LOVEREADS AND BOKFÖRLAGET FORUM

SUNDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL F1

## ERIN HUNTER

In Conversation with Author  
Cherith Baldry

**ERIN HUNTER** is a British collective author pseudonym credited with popular series such as *Warriors*, *Survivors*, *Bamboo Kingdom* and *Bravelands*. For the first time, one of the collective's members, **CHERITH BALDRY**, will be visiting Sweden and the Gothenburg Book Fair. She has worked as a teacher and lecturer, is one of seven members of the collective and has mainly contributed to the *Warriors* series. *The Forgotten Warrior*, the fifth instalment in the fourth phase of the *Warrior* series, will be released in Swedish translation just in time for the Book Fair, and it features all the excitement, adventure and dramatic battles of the legendary warrior cat clans. In conversation with: **MATTIAS ÖSTERLUND**, journalist.

ORG: BOKFABRIKEN

SUNDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL F3

## THE DARKNESS OF CHILDHOOD

**EDUARDO HALFON** from Guatemala and **UNA WOLFF** will be discussing the darker side of childhood. *Liken vi begravde* [The Bodies We Buried] is Wolff's account of sisters Jolly and Peggy as they grow up in a foster home in a village in darkest rural Skåne in southern Sweden. It is a place that brings out both the best and worst in people. Halfon's *Tarántula* is about a young boy who is sent to a Jewish summer camp where the camp leaders stage a Nazi concentration camp for the children. Moderator: **AMERICA VERA-ZAVALA**, dramatist.

ORG: ALBERT BONNIERS FÖRLAG, TRANAN AND THE EMBASSY OF SPAIN IN STOCKHOLM

SUNDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL G3

## JULIA QUINN

The Romance Queen of the World

**LOVE AND LUST** Just like the Netflix series based on them, **JULIA QUINN'S** series of books about the Bridgerton family have become a global phenomenon. In Sweden alone, the eight instalments about the noble English family that have been translated have sold more than half a million copies. Quinn will be talking about Daphne, Anthony, Eloise and the rest of the Bridgerton clan, as well as discussing writing historical romance and how views on the genre have changed since she wrote the first book in the series 25 years ago. In conversation with:

**EBBA KLEBERG VON SYDOW**, journalist and author.

ORG: LOVEREADS



PHOTO: CHANDRA WICKE PHOTOGRAPHY

SUNDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL F2

## GOthic AND FILTH, HORROR AND MISOGYNY

**LAYLA MARTÍNEZ'S** novel *Woodworm* is a horror story that has broken new ground in Spanish literature. In it, the occupants of a house that has only known patriarchal and violent oppression, combine forces with the spirits that haunt them in pursuit of something that resembles justice. The Swedish master of horror **JOHN AJVIDE LINDQVIST'S** latest novel *Svinen* [The Swine] is about the last journey of the Tropic dance orchestra — it's an orgy of extreme violence, grotesquerie and human deformities. The authors will be talking about using the Gothic and horror genres to portray filth, misogyny and historical injustices. Moderator: **JESSICA SCHIEFAUER**, author.

ORG: RÁMUS, ORDFRONT FÖRLAG AND THE EMBASSY OF SPAIN IN STOCKHOLM

SUNDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL G3

## THE MANY SIDES OF #BOOKTOK

How do you find your niche as a booktok creator? Is there room for every type of reader in the world's biggest online book club? And can it really be true that only romance stands a chance? **AYMAN CHAUDHARY**, who runs the biggest booktok handle in the world, will be in conversation with British book influencers **JACK EDWARDS**, **DAKOTA WARREN**, **BEN MERCER** and **EDEN VICTORIA** about their careers, their reading and their own writing.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

# PARTICIPANTS

- A**  
Abulhawa, Susan p. 10  
Aciman, André p. 14  
Ahrnstedt, Simona p. 21  
Ajvide Lindqvist, John pp. 17, 21  
Allik, Karin p. 19  
Almasri, Abdullah p. 16  
Almegård, Mats p. 14  
Ames, Jonathan p. 20  
Amiri, Parisa p. 16  
Andersson, Dan-Erik p. 16  
Andruchovytj, Sofia pp. 13, 15  
Arbabi, Farnaz p. 20  
Aschenbrenner, Jenny  
pp. 11, 15, 19  
Atlas, Galit p. 19
- B**  
Backman Prytz, Sara p. 15  
Backman, Fredrik p. 16  
Baddiel, David p. 19  
Barakat, Hoda p. 13  
Behm, Jukka pp. 11, 12  
Bergeaud-Blackler, Florence  
p. 17  
Bjerkeland, Ingvald p. 10  
Bonam-Young, Hannah p. 19  
Bornholm, Helena p. 10  
Bornlid Lesseur, Marcus p. 18  
Brandt, Jens Christian p. 15  
Braniste, Lavinia p. 15  
Bravinger, Håkan p. 13  
Brown, Dan p. 17  
Brunet, Marion p. 14  
Bruun, Sara p. 12  
Bugavičute-Péce, Rasa pp. 12, 15
- C**  
Chaudhary, Ayman  
pp. 13, 19, 20, 21  
Chung, Bora p. 17  
Cohen, Joshua p. 14  
Colanzi, Liliana p. 16  
Cummins, Jeanine p. 16
- D**  
Darian, Caroline pp. 11, 15  
Delleskog, Marie p. 16  
Devillé, Stijn p. 13  
Devlin, Kate p. 11  
Dibia, Jude p. 13  
Djurberg, Cecilia p. 11  
Dolan, Naoise pp. 13, 14  
Doron, Lizzie p. 10  
Druker, Elina p. 11  
Duda, Tamara p. 13  
Dunn, Daisy p. 15  
Düringer, Cecilia p. 15
- E**  
Edwards, Jack pp. 14, 16, 19, 20, 21  
Ejderstedt, Frida p. 12  
Ekblad, Stina p. 14  
Ekström Lindbäck, Lyra p. 20  
Ekström, Andreas p. 18  
Ekström, Oskar p. 18  
Elam, Ingrid p. 14  
Elm, Johan p. 20  
Enbohm, Henrik C. p. 15  
Engdahl, Horace p. 15  
Espelund, Görrrel p. 17
- F**  
Farrokhzad, Athena pp. 16, 17  
Fjäll, David p. 12  
Fo, Jacopo p. 13
- Franzén, Alexandra** p. 11  
Frigy, Paul p. 19  
Fritsch, Valerie p. 15  
Frode Tiller, Carl p. 18  
Fröberg Idling, Peter p. 16  
Fuego, Andrea del p. 13
- G**  
Galli, Erik p. 11  
Gardell, Jonas pp. 14, 16  
Gatti, Fabrizio p. 19  
Gázquez, Ramón p. 13  
Gerlach, Friederike p. 15  
Gerofoka, Eleftheria p. 16  
Gerwise, Beri p. 16  
Giannone, Francesca p. 17  
Gilman, Sander p. 14  
Gordh Humlesjö, Axel  
pp. 11, 18, 19  
Goryushina, Tania p. 10  
Grehn, Sandra p. 19  
Groshell, Zach p. 12  
Gärde, Saga p. 16  
Göranson, Fabian p. 11
- H**  
Hagen, Sofie p. 16  
Halfon, Eduardo p. 21  
Hallberg, Ulf Peter p. 12  
Hariri, Dona pp. 10, 11  
Heino, Pekka p. 11  
Hemmingsson, Nina p. 17  
Hermann, Judith p. 15  
Hjorth, Elisabeth p. 20  
Hjorth, Vigdis p. 11  
Hofmann, Sophie p. 11  
Hrytsenko, Oksana p. 13  
Hughes, Coleman p. 12  
Huitfeldt, Jörgen p. 13  
Hunter, Erin p. 21  
Höggren, Minna p. 12  
Höggström, Jenny p. 17
- I**  
Iljucha, Julia pp. 13, 19  
Ingvarsson, Stefan p. 15  
Ismail, Agri p. 18  
Ivemark, Anna p. 17
- J**  
James, Peter p. 19  
Jean, Michel p. 14  
Johannesson, Ika p. 20  
Johansson, Carina M p. 16  
Johansson, Elin p. 12  
Johansson, Per Magnus p. 19  
Jones, Isatou Aysha p. 15  
Julén, Staffan p. 15  
Juntti, Gustav p. 18  
Jåma, Sharon p. 12
- K**  
Kachachi, Inaam p. 16  
Kagge, Erling p. 10  
Kappelin, Kristina p. 17  
Kapustinskaitė, Birutė p. 11  
Karabash, Rene p. 20  
Karam, Balsam pp. 16, 19  
Karhu, E. L. pp. 12, 16  
Khalil, Nora p. 12  
Kim, Juhea p. 15  
Kleberg von Sydow, Ebba p. 21  
Kleen, Björn af pp. 12, 17  
Klemola, Leea pp. 12, 20  
Kracht, Christian p. 17  
Kraus, Irena p. 15
- Krausz Sjögren, Hedda** p. 11  
Kronlöf, Bianca p. 20  
Kushner, Tony p. 14  
Kythreotis, Christos p. 15
- L**  
Laestadius, Ann-Helén pp. 14, 16  
Laurén, Anna-Lena pp. 15, 19  
Lauvstad, Mariken p. 19  
Leandoer, Kristoffer p. 20  
Lee Lundberg, Clara p. 13  
Lian, Yang p. 11  
Linderoth, Jonas p. 12  
Lindman, Anna p. 15  
Lonka, Pipsa p. 14  
Lucas Chéu, Cláudia p. 13  
Lundin, Johanna p. 19
- M**  
MacLean, Sarah pp. 13, 21  
Magocsi, Paul Robert p. 12  
Mannheimer, Edgar pp. 11, 13  
Manzon, Federica p. 17  
Martin, Anna p. 20  
Martínez, Layla p. 21  
Matvijtjuk, Oleksandra pp. 15, 16  
Mellgren, Christoffer p. 14  
Mercer, Ben pp. 11, 21  
Michanek, Josefin p. 10  
Middleton, Alexandra p. 10  
Mužniece, Ance p. 11  
Mårs, Daniel p. 14
- N**  
NDiaye, Marie p. 17  
Neuman, Ricki p. 19  
Ngozi Adichie, Chimamanda  
p. 18  
Nordberg, Jenny p. 13  
Norwald, Kalle p. 11  
Nydahl, Mikael p. 13  
Nūganen, Netti p. 11  
Nygård-Fagerudd, Wivan p. 16  
Nykqvist, Mattias p. 12  
Nyman, Carla p. 15  
Nyman, Linus p. 18
- O**  
O'Hagan, Andrew p. 19  
Obioma, Chigozie pp. 15, 17  
Ojasoo, Tiit p. 11  
Ouzounidis, Christina p. 16
- P**  
Pasichnyk, Natalya p. 15  
Pihla, Mehis p. 18  
Piik, Paavo p. 11  
Posthuma, Jente p. 20
- Q**  
Quinn, Julia pp. 13, 21
- R**  
Rajamäki, Arni p. 12  
Roll, Pia-Maria p. 15  
Rosenberg, Göran p. 10  
Rosenberg, Tiina p. 12  
Rubenson, Samuel p. 16  
Ruohonen, Laura p. 14  
Rydén Reynolds, Lina pp. 11, 16  
Röhl, Frida p. 20
- S**  
Saghir, Kholod p. 10  
Sahin, Burcu p. 16  
Saisio, Pirkko p. 18
- Saleh, Donia** p. 16  
Sallinen, Jani p. 11  
Sandberg McGuinne, Johan p. 14  
Sandgren, Lydia p. 19  
Sandqvist, Otto p. 14  
Sarkar, Ash p. 11  
Sarkola, Milja p. 14  
Scarlett, Fiona p. 14  
Schibbye, Martin p. 19  
Schiefauer, Jessica pp. 20, 21  
Schiller, Christina p. 20  
Schimmelpfennig, Roland p. 12  
Schultz, Titti p. 19  
Sem-Sandberg, Steve p. 13  
Sigurðardóttir, Yrsa p. 19  
Sjölin, Daniel p. 18  
Smith, Robin p. 12  
Sommarström, Johan-Mathias  
p. 14  
Spit, Lize p. 16  
Statovci, Pajtim p. 16  
Stenevi, Märta p. 19  
Ståhle, Mathias p. 11  
Sundqvist, Alexandra p. 14  
Sundström, Josefine p. 21  
Svedberg Helgesson, Karin p. 18  
Svensson, Per p. 17  
Säkö, Maria p. 19
- T**  
Teede, Andra p. 11  
Teren, Tetyana p. 15  
Tertelis, Justas p. 10  
Thao, Dustin p. 20  
Tulathimutte, Tony pp. 16, 20  
Tunedal, Jenny p. 11  
Turunen, Saara p. 12
- U**  
Uddén, Cecilia pp. 10, 16  
Unigwe, Chika p. 19
- V**  
Vaiseta, Tomas p. 12  
van de Vendel, Edward p. 10  
van Dorpel, Noah p. 11  
Vega Fernandez, Ruth p. 16  
Vera-Zavala, America p. 21  
Victoria, Eden pp. 20, 21  
Vogel, Joachim p. 11  
Vorobjy, Natakka p. 13  
Vult von Steyern, Ebba p. 20
- W**  
Walker, Shaun p. 11  
Warren, Dakota p. 21  
Wester, Nina p. 20  
Weyler, Svante pp. 13, 15  
Wilhelmsen, Kjell p. 16  
Williams, Tia pp. 19, 20  
Wiman, Björn p. 14  
Wistrand, Lovisa p. 20  
Wolff, Lina pp. 16, 21  
Wright Steenson, Molly p. 18  
Wähä, Nina p. 18
- Y**  
Yaron, Lee p. 14  
Yousef, Jihad p. 16
- Z**  
Zachrisson, Linda p. 13  
Zackow, Lola p. 13
- Ö**  
Österlund, Mattias p. 21

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