

17 OCTOBER - 13 NOVEMBER 2020



# ROMANIA ROCKS

ROMANIAN - BRITISH  
LITERATURE FESTIVAL

*The first ever Romanian-British Literature Festival.  
Four weeks of interviews, films, workshops & performances with the brightest & best  
literary minds from both countries.*

*Why "Romania Rocks"?*

*Romania definitely does rock & we want to show you how.  
It's also home to a stunning phenomenon of living, growing rock formations called  
"trovants" – a powerful metaphor for our unique festival.*

*Brought to you by the Romanian Cultural Institute, London  
& the European Literature Network*

19 October - 12 November | RCI London & online

Our headline Interview series of outstanding “rock star” authors. The best and brightest Romanian and British literary brains meet to discuss their work, their countries and those issues close to their hearts.

19 Oct, 6:30pm, [online](#)

**DAVID MITCHELL** meets **ANDREI CODRESCU**



The acclaimed British author of novels such as *Cloud Atlas* and *Utopia Avenue* meets the great Romanian poet, novelist and essayist. Hosted by Rosie Goldsmith.



29 Oct, 6:30, [online](#) – TBC

**IAN RANKIN** meets **EO CHIROVICI**



Two immensely popular and prolific authors compare crime-writing, detectives and crime in their home countries, Scotland and Romania. Hosted by Rosie Goldsmith.



22 Oct, 6:30pm, [online](#)

**PAUL BAILEY** meets **MARIUS CHIVU**



The distinguished British novelist, biographer and long-time lover of Romania, meets fellow literary critic, broadcaster and author, Bucharest’s Marius Chivu. Hosted by Rosie Goldsmith.

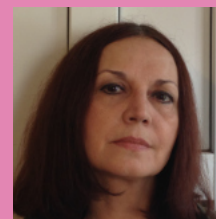


2 Nov, 6:30pm, [online](#)

**DEBORAH LEVY** meets **MAGDA CÂRNECI**



Both much admired for their broad cultural passions and intense, exquisite writing on the human condition. Hosted by Rosie Goldsmith.



23 Oct, 6:30pm, [online](#)

**FIONA SAMPSON** meets **ANA BLANDIANA**



The outstanding British poet, academic and author meets Romania’s world-renowned female poet. With translator Viorica Patea. Hosted by Gabriela Mocan.



5 Nov, 6:30pm, [online](#) – TBC

**BEN OKRI** meets **NORMAN MANEA**



Celebrated poet, novelist and essayist, Ben Okri, meets the Grand Old Man of Romanian Letters Norman Manea. Hosted by Rosie Goldsmith.



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6 Nov, 6:30, [online](#)**AL KENNEDY meets IOANA PÂRVULESCU**

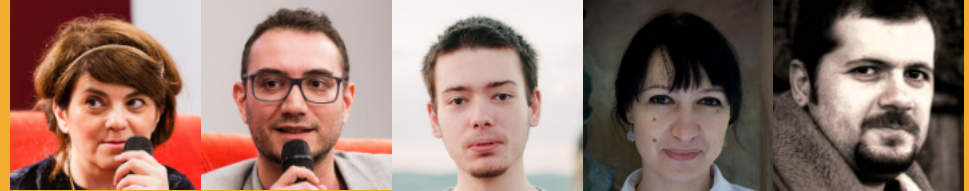
Two wonderful women, both novelists and poets, both with a great sense of humour, meet and talk for the first time. Hosted by Rosie Goldsmith.

9 Nov, 6:30pm, RCI London & [online](#)**ELIF SHAFAK meets MATEI VIȘNIEC**

Find out what happens when two successful writers and public figures meet for the first time: Turkish-British novelist, academic and activist meets the French-Romanian novelist, playwright and poet. With translator Jozefina Komporalj. Hosted by Rosie Goldsmith.

11 Nov, 6:30pm, [online](#)**PHILIP BOEHM meets SEAN COTTER**

Two internationally renowned translators meet to discuss their lives and work, and how they approach translating some of Romania's most famous authors, such as Herta Müller and Mircea Cărtărescu. Hosted by Rosie Goldsmith.

27 Oct, 6:30pm, [online](#)**LET THERE BE POETRY!**

Live readings with PEN Romania.

Five of Romania's strongest poetic voices, Svetlana Cârsteian, Claudiu Komartin, Radu Nițescu, Andra Rotaru and Radu Vancu, take us to the cities of Bucharest and Sibiu, in southern and central Romania, for an evening of boundless verse and never-before-seen landscapes.

17 Oct, 2:30pm, 5pm, 7:30pm, RCI London

**THE DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND ME***Distanța dintre mine și mine*

directed by Mona Nicoară &amp; Dana Bunescu

1 Nov, 1pm, 4pm, 7pm, RCI London

**SOLDIERS, STORY FROM FERENTARI***Soldații. Poveste din Ferentari*

directed by Ivana Mladenovic

7 Nov, 1pm, 4pm, 7pm, RCI London

**MOROMETE FAMILY. ON THE EDGE OF TIME***Moromeții 2*

directed by Stere Gulea

8 Nov, 1pm, 4pm, 7pm, RCI London

**PARKING**

directed by Tudor Giurgiu

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23 Oct, 4pm, [online](#)

### **TRANSLATING ROMANIA**

This workshop celebrates the invaluable work of translators that gave Romanian literature an international voice. With the participation of: **Jozefina Komporaly**, **Diana Manole**, **Philip Ó Ceallaigh**, **Gabi Reigh**, **Andreea Scridon**, **Adam Sorkin** and **Lidia Vianu**. Hosted by **Gabriela Mocan**.

(Supported by the British Centre for Literary Translation, UEA).

26 Oct, 12-1pm, [online](#)

### **PUBLISHING ROMANIA SEMINAR**

Organised in collaboration with **Publishers Without Borders** and led by the festival's Artistic Director **Rosie Goldsmith** and publishing consultant **Emma House**, the event looks at the biggest challenges in publishing literature in translation today. With the participation of key publishers from Romania and Britain.

28 Oct, 3-5pm, [online](#)

### **THE LANGUAGE OF THE ROMANIAN BLOUSE**

Architect **Ioana Corduneanu**, founder of the 'Sown Signs' community, tells the story of Romania's most emblematic piece of clothing – 'IA' (traditional blouse) – translating its language and deciphering the rich symbolism behind the embroideries. British authors are invited to respond with a collective poem.



30 Oct, 4pm, [online](#)

### **BRITISH VOICES IN ROMANIA**

Romania-based British authors **Arabella McIntyre-Brown** (*A Stake in Transylvania, From Liverpool to Carpați*) and **Mike Ormsby** (*Never Mind the Vampires, Here's Transylvania, Never Mind the Balkans, Here's Romania*) speak about their muses and adoptive home. Hosted by writer and historian **Bronwen Riley**.

3 Nov, 6:30pm, [online](#)

### **WHEN DISTANCE BECOMES AIR**



Two of Romania's foremost literary figures, poets and authors **Ruxandra Cesereanu** (Cluj, Romania) and **Andrei Codrescu** (NY, USA), defy space and time through readings and conversations for lucid dreamers. Hosted by **Gabriela Mocan**.



10 Nov, 6:30pm, RCI London & [online](#)

### **ROMANIAN VOICES IN THE UK**

Romanian and Moldovan authors who have made the UK their home and inspiration for many years – **Ioana Baetica Morpurgo**, **Stela Brînzeanu**, **Vica Demici**, **Cristina Mureșan**, **Simona Nastac**, **Andreea Scridon** and **Anda Vahnovan** – meet to discuss and read from their most recent work. Hosted by **Paula Erizanu**.



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24 Oct, 11am, online, register [here](#)

## **CRAFTING STORIES. MAKING YOUR OWN MUSEUM**

Online workshop with **Marlene Stanciu**

What stories do the objects that we value tell, and how can we tell these stories in a meaningful way? Artist Marlene Stanciu will guide us in creating small personal museums by unveiling some fascinating objects that she and her partner, Alex Herberth, saved and brought back to life in their traditional house in the village of Cincu, Transylvania.

24 Oct, 2pm, [online](#)

## **STORIES TO REMEMBER. CREATING UNIQUE CHARACTERS**

Illustration workshop with **Axel Scheffler** based on a short story by writer and translator **Florin Bican**

Axel Scheffler has illustrated some of the world's most-loved children's books and has created the one and only Gruffalo. Working on a text by Florin Bican, who craftily rewrites classical Romanian folktales, Axel will show us the process behind creating an exceptional character.

Florin Bican is well-known for his jolly translations of the famous children's books created by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, but also for his own brilliant, playful writing.

24 Oct, 4pm, RCI London, register [here](#)

## **THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF DUMITRU DAN, THE FIRST MAN TO WALK AROUND THE WORLD**

Introduction by **Roger Bunyan**, author of the book *Against All Odds: The Stories of 25 Remarkable Adventurers*

Screening of the multi-award-winning short animation *Opinci/My Father's Shoes*, followed by a Q&A session with directors **Anton & Damian Groves**, and illustrators **Maria & Ileana Surducan**.

25 Oct, 11am, online, register [here](#)

## **DRAWING STORIES. VACANȚA LUI NOR / NOR'S HOLIDAY**

Online storytelling workshop with **Maria & Ileana Surducan**  
Talented sisters Maria and Ileana Surducan are passionate about illustrated storytelling, and they have created, together and individually, an impressive number of comics and graphic novels (published in Romanian, French and English). Their multi-disciplinary work often refers to traditional Romanian folktales, but in a modern and lively way.

25 Oct, 2pm, online, register [here](#)

## **MEET THE AUTHOR**

Online storytelling with **Simona Antonescu**, presenting her series *History for Kids*

Acclaimed writer Simona Antonescu is passionate about transforming history into literature, for adults and children alike. She'll introduce us to Ilinca and Calin, the lucky twins who magically travel to forgotten places and meet remarkable characters from Romanian history. Through their eyes, we will (re)discover Decebal, Menumorut or Queen Maria and King Mihai, and we will choose our favourite hero from history.

25 Oct, 4pm, online, register [here](#)

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# CLOSING EVENT

13 Nov, 6:30pm, RCI London & [online](#)  
**ROCK CONCERT ON THE ROOF: PUBLIKA  
& GUESTS**

With a career spanning 12 years, Publika have earned general acclaim on the Romanian pop-rock scene. Having recently released *Fallen*, their catchiest single ever, the popular trio and their guests are ready to take the world by storm in the closing event of the festival.



The festival is supported by dedicated independent bookshops selling the books of all our authors:

**The European Bookshop:** Click [here](#) for books in English

**Cărți Românești:** Click [here](#) for books in Romanian

*The festival is the brainchild of the Romanian Cultural Institute in London, under Festival Director **Magda Stroe**. It is co-curated by the literary dream team of **Rosie Goldsmith**, the festival's Artistic Director, and **Gabriela Mocan**, the festival's Creative Producer. Literary Co-ordinator, Brochure & Website: **Anna Blasiak**. Publicity and Publishing Consultant **Emma House**, Translation & Editorial Assistant: **Andreea Scridon**, Logo: **Cristian Luchian**.*

All events are free, filmed by **London Video Stories** and will be available subsequently on Facebook, YouTube and the RCI London & European Literature Network websites.  
[www.icr-london.co.uk](http://www.icr-london.co.uk) & [www.eurolitnetwork.com](http://www.eurolitnetwork.com)

