*20 March 2025, Prague*

**The 30th edition of Book World Prague will welcome Gospodinov, Kurkov, Saisio and Sam Holland. Portugal as the Guest of Honour will be represented by the esteemed Jorge or the ironic Zink**

**The 30th International Book Fair and Literary Festival Book World Prague will once again welcome a number of important authors. Notable names in world literature include the first Bulgarian winner of the International Booker Prize, Georgi Gospodinov, esteemed Ukrainian writer and intellectual Andrey Kurkov, eclectic Finnish author Pirkko Saisio, and the American thriller master Sam Holland. Gospodinov and Saisio also show the strong link between Book World Prague and this year’s nominations for the Magnesia Litera Awards. Stories full of emotion and a unique view of the world by the ocean will be presented by the representatives of Portugal, the Guest of Honour of this jubilee edition. The festival will feature eight prominent authors across genres, including the renowned Lídia Jorge, masterfully reflecting social change, the ironic storyteller Rui Zink, poet João Luís Barreto Guimarães, and the sought-after children’s author Ana Madalena Matoso. The presentation of foreign writers will be complemented by thirteen literary talents shortlisted for the European Union Prize for Literature, the award ceremony of which will be one of the highlights of this year’s programme. And last but definitely not least there will be a plethora of Czech authors. Book World Prague 2025 with its motto by a Portuguese writer Ricardo Reis: “30! Energy of the Youth - Wisdom of Books” will take place from 15 to 18 May at the Prague Exhibition Grounds in Holešovice.**

The Guest of Honour of the 30th Book World Prague is Portugal, a country at the very end of Europe, surrounded by land on one side and washed by the ocean on the other. This unique geographical location has also influenced literature which reflects openness, desire for discovering and the echoes of the many voices brought by the Atlantic. As Vergílio Ferreira once wrote: “From my language we can see the sea.”

Thanks to Book World Prague, the voices of eight outstanding Portuguese writers will reach the heart of Europe. One of the most acclaimed Portuguese authors **Lídia Jorge** masterfully reflects the transformations of society and colonial past in her novels; two of her novels *Os Memoráveis* and *Misericórdia* have been recently published in Czech. **Rui Zink**, a master of irony and unexpected fusion of reality and fiction, is known to Czech readers for his novel *A Instalação do Medo*.Poet **João Luís Barreto Guimarães** captures the depths of seemingly ordinary moments, as evidenced by the bilingual editions of his collections *Nómada* and *Mediterrâneo*. **Ana Madalena Matoso** and **Isabel Minhós Martins** will present Portuguese children’s literature. The invitation was also accepted by experimental author **Gonçalo M. Tavares**, creator of graphic novels **Filipe Melo** and poet of Angolan origin **Ana Paula Tavares**.

*“It is a great honour for Portugal to be the Guest of Honour at Book World Prague 2025,”* says Inês Maria Lopes Silva, Director of the Portuguese Centre of the Camões Institute in Prague. *“This unique opportunity introduces the wealth of Portuguese literature to Czech readers and strengthens the cultural links between our countries. That is why we have prepared a rich literary programme that not only presents various genres of Portuguese literature, but also connects Portuguese and Czech authors.”* An interesting insight into the common themes between the two countries will be offered by a meeting between Lídia Jorge and Kateřina Tučková, a discussion between Gonçalo M. Tavares and Bianca Bellová, or a debate on poetry led by Petr Borkovec and João Luís Barreto Guimarães. In addition to book signing and the latest translations, visitors can also discover Portugal thanks to tips on exceptional places, basic Portuguese lessons and tastings of wine and the traditional pastel de nata.

Book World Prague 2025 will also introduce well-known authors of other literatures to Czech readers. The first Bulgarian winner of the International Booker Prize **Georgi Gospodinov**, known as the “Proust of the East”, influences contemporary European literature with his innovative stories and deep insights. Writer and intellectual **Andrey Kurkov** also transcends the borders of his native Ukraine with his work, characterized by black humour, as evidenced by, among other things, the prestigious French Prix Médicis literary prize he won for his novel *Grey Bees* which is also available in Czech. Kurkov stays in Ukraine and, as a keen political observer, comments on the local situation for foreign media. Finnish novelist and author of the autobiographical *Helsinki Trilogy* **Pirkko Saisio** shows a wide range of her creative talent also as a playwright, director, actress and screenwriter. American **Sam Holland**, aka Louisa Scarr, has been shocking and engaging readers since her debut crime thriller and is visiting Czech fans shortly after the publication of her crime novel, *The Puppet Master*.

*“Gospodinov and Kurkov provide their unique view of the history and identity of Eastern Europe. Finnish literary icon Pirkko Saisio adds depth by her bold narration and Sam Holland promises to attract thriller lovers with her gripping stories,”* summarizes Guillaume Basset, Dramaturg of the festival programme. Moreover, two of these authors have a **connection to the prestigious Czech Magnesia Litera Awards**. This year’s nominations for the best translation include erudite prose *Time Shelter (Časokryt)* by Gospodinov and historical fresco *Passio (Trýzeň)* by Saisio. *“We are pleased with the nominations for this year’s Magnesia Litera Awards because they include several authors who will come to the festival this year or attended in the past,”* added Radovan Auer, Director of Book World Prague. One of the nominated titles is a book by Fatma Aydemir who visited Prague in 2024.

A highlight of this year’s programme will be the award ceremony of the **European Union Prize for Literature** (EUPL) which Book World Prague 2025 is honoured to host. The prestigious award will be presented on Friday 16 May in the presence of the EU Commissioner for Culture. On this occasion, the fair will feature thirteen shortlisted literary talents – authors from Belgium, Bosnia, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Austria, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine. The rising European stars were highlighted by a consortium of associations made up of the Federation of European Publishers (FEP) and the European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF) with the support of the European Union’s Creative Europe programme.

The programme of the festival will also feature **well-known local authors**. Visitors will be able to learn about the works and the view of literature of Bianca Bellová, Alena Mornštajnová, Tereza Boučková, Halina Pawlowská, Nina Špitálníková or Kateřina Tučková, and also Vlastimil Vondruška, Jiří Padevět, Jaromír 99 or Tomáš Sedláček. The visitors can also look forward to other representatives of Czech culture.

The 30th edition of Book World Prague will welcome the authors, publishers as well as the public interested in literature at the Exhibition Grounds in Holešovice **from 15 to 18 May**. Tickets are available at [Book World Prague website](https://eshop.svetknihy.cz/). The [website](https://www.svetknihy.cz/) also provides more detailed information on the exhibitors which will be added gradually, including a map of the grounds, and on the programme, which will be published in more detail in the first half of April. To stay up-to-date, follow social media of Book World Prague. Interesting articles on literature are available on the [blog](https://www.blog-svetknihy.cz/) of this international fair and literary festival.

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