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Prague

Book World Prague 2023 is Dedicated to Authors Without Borders

The 28th edition of the festival will welcome visitors from 11 to 14 May at the Prague Exhibition Grounds

Book World Prague returns to the Prague Exhibition Grounds in Holešovice from 11 to 14 May 2023. The 28th edition of the international book fair and literary festival will be thematically exceptional. The “Authors Without Borders” concept reflects the current time when borders, whether physical, cultural, social, sexual, genre or political, are becoming increasingly blurred. Thus in 2023, the guest of honour is not a specific country but authors transgressing notional borders. The fair will present a new campaign entitled “Support Your Bookseller” which aims to raise awareness of the difficulties faced by independent booksellers. It will also include a two-day Central and East European Book Market for professional audience for the first time. Visitors to Book World Prague 2023 will find hundreds of exhibitors in all the newly reconstructed Křižík pavilions while the programme part will take place at the Prague Exhibition Grounds in tents.

The main theme of the programme of Book World Prague 2023 is **Authors Without Borders**. Therefore, the guest of honour within the 28th edition of the festival is not a specific country but authors transgressing borders. The concept deals not only with national borders or language barriers, but also with social borders across social classes based on different levels of education or economic status or cultural borders reflecting multicultural differences. The Authors Without Borders theme of Book World Prague 2023 will also touch upon sexual identity borders. Last but not least, the authors push and cross the borders of different genres. And at political borders, facing injustice, they give their voice to the voiceless around the world.

Book World Prague has repeatedly provided a public forum to authors fighting for freedom within the section entitled **Literature as the Voice of Freedom**. This particular section provides asylum and support to those fighting for different freedoms, whether they are political dissidents, unorthodox thinkers or gender activists. During the 28th edition, the dramaturgy of this section also aims to respond to current events and social trends in Europe and around the world, thus contributing to promoting these important topics and attitudes.

“This year we also want to draw attention to the situation of small and independent booksellers by means of a campaign entitled Support Your Bookseller. They are the ones most affected by the changes in the market,” states Radovan Auer, Director of the fair, adding: *“And just like last year, we are planning*

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to sell books in Ukrainian and offer an attractive Ukrainian programme. It is important to us that our neighbours do not lose access to their language and culture.”

The highlight of this edition will be the two-day **Central and East European Book Market**. *“Our long-term strategy is to make Prague a venue for presenting Central and Eastern European literature and a meeting place for literary agents from all over the world during the World Book festival,”* adds Auer.

World Book Prague will also continue its long-term support of young readers. Young readers or their parents can find inspiration in the offer of the **Growing with a Book** pavilion, which was named after the campaign organized by Svět knihy. Book World Prague aims to inspire the youngest generation to keep reading even in the age of advanced technologies by providing interesting debates and workshops, meetings with popular authors and illustrators, theatre plays or educational and fun programmes. The **cultural content of the festival** for readers of all ages is enriched by musical, theatrical or international slam poetry performances and performances that keep visitors in the flow of events between individual programme days.

The Book World Prague international book fair and literary festival will be held at the Prague Exhibition Grounds in Holešovice. The 28th edition of the festival will welcome literature lovers from 11 to 14 May. The exhibition part of the festival will be held in the newly reconstructed Křížík pavilions this year and the programme part will take place in tents and surrounding areas just like last year. Tickets for World Book Prague 2023 are available at www.svetknihy.cz.

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