

**PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES**  
**INTERNATIONAL YOUTH LITERARY FESTIVAL**  
**“TIRANA GATE” 2024**

**Wednesday, 9 October 2024**

**Venue:** Artistic Lyceum “Jordan Misja”, “Tonin Harapi” hall

**Time 10:00**

Opening ceremony, with the participation of the organizers, authors, translators and art and culture personalities.

With the participation of the students of the “Jordan Misja” Artistic Lyceum.

**Time: 10:30-11:30**

**Panel 1**

Does it still make sense to bet on freedom? Writing in a catastrophic world.

**Participants:** Florian Gantner (Austria); Blerina Rogova Gaxha (Kosovo); Stefan Çapaliku (Albania)

**Host:** Anna Kove

**Language:** Albanian, German

The past as both an alibi and a source. Today, we are witnessing a battle for control over the past, for its reinterpretation and redistribution. Contemporary narratives cut through the heart of individual experience—our fears, loneliness, confusion, and hopes. While words may not stop tanks or take down drones, they can potentially—can’t they?—cause those behind the weapons to hesitate, even if just for a moment. Join Florian Gantner, an author who dismantles stereotypical thinking with his “antidotes,” Blerina Rogova Gaxha, whose poignant words remind us that “War has no memory, but the poetic mind remembers” and Stefan Çapalik, an author and witness, offering a voice of change and a testament to the events of the past for future generations.

**Time 11:30-12:00**

**Authors read**

Blerina Rogova Gaxha (Kosovë); Ledia Dushi (Albania); Stefan Çapaliku (Albania)

**Time 12:00-12:30**

Projections in LED

Materials from “TOENA” archive

Youth festival

Various activities

Interviews

**Time 14:00-16:00****Break****Time 16:00- 16:30****Authors read**

Erina Çoku (Albania); Maklena Nika (Albania); Amanda Michalopoulou (Greece)

**Time 16:30-17:30****Panel 2**

Translation in two times. / The homeland in poetry: Agolli vs Hatibi; Kadare vs Lleshanaku.

**Participants:** Rigels Halili (Polond); Eleana Zhako (Belgium); Loreta Schillok (Germany);  
Manjola Nasi (Albania)

**Host:** Mimoza Hysa

**Language:** Albanian

What does it mean to translate the concept of homeland in the poetry of Dritëro Agolli and Ervin Hatib? Or the homeland in Kadare’s poem “Përse mendohen këto male?” compared to that in Lleshanaku’s “Ujë e karbon”? Does poetry exist within time? And what of translation? Do words “move”? Is today’s translator different from those of our tradition? Both the translator and the text shift and evolve, striving to preserve aesthetic integrity while softening

the rigidity that can accompany the profound act of translation. This dialogue unfolds through the experiences of translators working from Albanian into foreign languages during their residency at the “Fan Noli” program, opened for the first time by the Diaspora Publishing Center.

**Time 17:30-18:00**

**Authors read**

Florian Gantner (Austria); Anna Kove (Albania); Manjola Nasi (Albania)

**Time 18:00-19:00**

**Panel 3**

The Stolen City. On ambitious provincialism and suburbs invading the city. Politics as emotional space.

**Participants:** Dejan Atanacković (Serbi); Eris Rusi (Albania); Ledia Dushi (Albania); Alban Tufa (Albania)

**Host:** Ben Andoni

**Language:** Albanian, Serbian, Italian

Little by little, our city was stolen. An ambitious provincialism with sharp teeth—suburban sprawl consuming the urban core—until the city itself becomes a vast suburb, a landscape of unchecked abuse and rulelessness. Politics shapes intentions. Politics governs communities. Politics is meant to be a space for debate. Emotions drive how people vote and engage. But can today’s increasingly polarized public debates still produce reasoned arguments and foster a sense of community? Can they address the influence of emotions on political culture? Do democratic structures strengthen or erode in the face of populism and intolerance?

**Time 19:00-19:30**

**Authors read**

Antonio Caiazza (Itali); Eris Rusi (Albania); Liridon Mulaj (Albania)

**Thursday, 10 October 2024**

**Time 10:00-11:15**

**Panel 1**

The Berlin Wall (didn't) fall and we saw each other. / East and West, efforts, challenges. How long?

**Participants:** Clemens Meyer (Germany); Rita Petro (Albania); Rigels Halili (Poland)

**Host:** Anna Kove

**Language:** Albanian, German

What was life like in Eastern societies before the '90s? And what about after? What happened to the countries of the East when the Berlin Wall fell? How did people make their way to the West? And did those who came from the East truly make it? Can borders truly be crossed? Many young people lost their way, as their parents and societies, overwhelmed by their own struggles, could no longer care for them. Jobs were lost, systems collapsed. The fall of the Berlin Wall opened a deep chasm—and some fell through it. Join Clemens Meyer, an exceptional author who has bridged the generational gap between East and West, along with his Albanian publisher, Rita Petro, and Rigels Halili, an anthropologist of a generation caught between two systems.

**Time 11:00-11:30**

**Authors read**

Clemens Meyer (Germany); Ivana Trajanoska (North Macedonia); Brajan Sukaj (Albania)

**Time 11:30-12:30**

**Panel 2**

Embracing chaos as a path to liberation. / What cannot be spoken must be told.

**Participants:** Petar Denchev (Bulgaria); Brajan Sukaj (Albania); Erina Çoku (Albania)

**Host:** Milena Selimi

**Language:** Albanian, Bulgarian

**Time 12:30-13:00**

Community, quality of life, and participation are often central factors in choosing where to live. So why does the urban-rural divide persist? Authors Denchev, poet Çoku, and Brajan Sukaj delve into the complexities of modern individuals, exploring the social dynamics of urban and rural environments. They tell stories of people whose relationships are fraught from the outset. Do we change when we cross borders? Are we fundamentally similar? This exploration raises questions about today's person in the context of technology and artificial intelligence.

**Authors read**

Liridon Mulaj (Albania); Diana Çuli (Albania)

**Time 13:00-13:30**

Projections in LED

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**Time 14:00-16:00**

**Break**

**Time 16:00-16:30**

**Authors read**

Majlinda Rama (Albania); Petar Denchev (Bulgaria)

**Time: 16:30-17:30**

**Panel 3**

They are simply dismantling life. The space of the female voice of freedom.

**Participants:** Amanda Michalopoulou (Greece); Eleana Zhako (Belgium); Maklena Nika (Albania); Ivana Trajanoska (North Macedonia)

**Host:** Luella Myftari

**Language:** Albanian, Greek

A panel of female authors and translators who embrace it all—the confusion, the fear, and the tenderness. They seek neither justice nor moral lessons; instead, they dismantle the complexities of life. How do we become who we are, shaped by and in spite of our genetics? These authors explore identity, whether through fiction or true stories, believing that harmony arises from the interplay of light and dark, much like in photography. Life becomes more intimate and tangible when we understand its rhythms, including its discouragements and joys. This discussion delves into the concept of international literature and identity politics through the lens of female voices.

**Time 17:30-18:00**

**Authors read**

Eleana Zhako (Belgium); Alban Tufa (Albania)

**Time 18:00-19:00**

**Panel 4**

In the presence of absence... A new literary testament, towards an author who remembers and confesses.

**Participants:** Namik Dokle (Albania); Antonio Caiazza (Italy); Liridon Mulaj (Albania); Diana Çuli (Albania)

**Host:** Arta Marku

**Language:** Albanian, Italian

The authors depict the tragic fate of the trapped man, reconstructing the claustrophobic atmosphere of a regime rife with suspicion and denunciation, hypocrisy in its rhetoric and rituals, and inhumane rules enforced by a tense power structure—all in a desperate bid for self-preservation. They strive to prevent the past from becoming the present and future. In what ways do these literary voices resonate with their generation while also transcending the spirit of their time, embodying an unselfish ideal that is nostalgically tied to a specific time and place

yet rich in truths for future generations? What about the narratives that remain confined to their era—what significance do they hold beyond it?

**Time 19:00 -19:30**

**Authors read**

Odise Kote (Albania); Namik Dokle (Albania)

**Friday, 11 October 2024**

**Time 10:00-11:00**

**Panel 1**

Collective memory and the power of literature to keep it alive.

**Participants:** Majlinda Rama (Albania); Odise Kote (Albania); Ivana Trajanoska (North Macedonia)

**Host:** Milena Selimi

**Language:** Albanian, Macedonian

Memory is not merely the sum of past experiences; it is a misty, phantasmagorical realm embedded deep within the soul, creating an atmosphere that serves as the natural habitat for the author's imagination. It represents the interplay between imagination and the events we label as the real world or objective reality, or phenomenological experience. In this misty world of the soul and imagination, how does literature navigate the past and present?

**Time 11:00-11:30**

**Authors read**

Readings by the authors of “Kamez” book club.