



London Book Fair 2013 April 15-17

Welcome to the Croatian Stand at the London Book Fair 2013



The market focus country of this years London Book Fair is Turkey; Earls Court venue

Welcome to this year's London Book Fair (Earls Court, April 15-17), where, for the first time ever, Croatia will have a National stand. The national stand is hosted by the Croatian Ministry of Culture and Croatian Writers Society with the **Welcome Croatia** Festival and Istros Books, and forms part of the celebrations for the country's entry to the EU on July 1st this year.

Joining us for this great occasion, are a number of writers, editors and translators from the contemporary Croatian and international literary scene.

This year's guests include **Josip Novakovich**, Croatian-Canadian writer shortlisted for the *Man Booker International Prize* for lifetime literary achievement, and **Daša Drndić**, long listed for the *Independent Foreign Fiction Prize* 2013, for her novel *Trieste*.

Also joining us are Croatia's foremost contemporary writers, publishers and literary facilitators: **Roman Simić- Bodrožić** (Author, Editor at *Fraktura Publishing* and Director of the *Festival of the European Short Story*); best-selling author **Robert Perišić** (*Our Man Iraq*, Istros Books, 2012; Black Balloon Publishing

US, 2013); Author and Creative Writing teacher **Marinko Koščec** (*A Handful of Sand*, Istros Books 2013); Theologian and author **Boris Gunjević** (*God in Pain: Inversions of the Apocalypse*, with **Slavoj Žižek**, Seven Stories Press 2012) Theatre Director and author **Matko Sršen** (*Odohohol & Cally Rascal*, Istros Books 2013), poet and author **Olja Savičević** (*Farewell Cowboy*, Istros Books 2015), and **Ivan Sršen** (Author and Editor at *Sandorf Publishing*). Joining them for discussions are renowned translators, **Will Firth** and **Celia Hawkesworth**.



Daša Drndić

Daša Drndić, distinguished Croatian novelist, playwright and literary critic will be joining the Croatian stand. Drndić is longlisted for this years Independent Foreign Fiction Prize for her novel 'Trieste' published by MacLehose press. The book was described as '...a masterpiece' by A.N. Wilson (Financial Times).

We hope you will enjoy this extraordinary line-up of creative voices and learn more about the contribution that Croatian writers are making to our literary heritage.

LONDON BOOK FAIR



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Events at the London Book Fair



Monday, April 15th

14:00 - Promotion of 'Relations' Literary Magazine:

'Contemporary Croatian Literature in English Translation', with Roman Simić-Bodrožić, Will Firth, Susan Curtis-Kojakovic.

Tuesday, April 16th

11:00 - Author Olja Savičević in conversation with Editor Roman Simić-Bodrožić, discussing her career as a poet and the upcoming English publication of her best-selling novel, 'Farewell, Cowboy'.

12:00 - Author Josip Novakovich discusses his best-selling books on Creative Writing with Croatian Lecturer, Author and Creative Writing Teacher, Marinko Koščec.

14:00 - 'Our Man in Iraq' – English Translator of the novel, Will Firth in conversation with author, Robert Perišić and Literary Agent, Ivan Sršen.

16:30 - Author Matko Sršen in conversation with renowned Croatian translator of his upcoming novel, Celia Hawkesworth.

Wednesday, April 17th

11:00 - Author Daša Drndić talks to Roy Cross, former head of British Council in Croatia, about her writing, and being short-listed for the Independent Prize for Foreign Fiction 2013.

12:00 - 'A Handful of Sand' – English translator of the novel, Will Firth in conversation with author, Marinko Koščec.

14:00 - Ivan Sršen talks to Boris Gunjević about his book 'God in Pain', co-authored with Slavoj Žižek.

These events will be supplemented by readings from well-known Croatian actors, visiting as part of the SHORTSHRIFT week of modern Croatian Drama at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Where to find us?

The Croatian stand number is X355 which is located diagonally opposite the Literary Translation Centre, and is on the same aisle as the PEN Literary Cafe.

A word from the Editor at Istros Books



Susan Curtis Kojaković

This year Croatia will be joining the European Union, and we think that's a cause for celebration. The EU is expanding and yet many people still keep the old borders in their minds: East and West, Old Europe and New. Whatever you want to call it, such categorizations come with certain prejudices and reserves.

Sometimes this is to do with outdated images or experiences, sometimes it just comes out of lack of knowledge about the region and a vagueness about lesser-known cultures. I hope that initiatives such as this one will help discerning English-speaking readers to see beyond the nationality of the author or the fact that it is a book in translation and recognise a talented author for the unique message s/he has to tell.

I am proud to be working with the Croatian Ministry of Culture and the Croatian Writers' Association in organising Croatia's first ever presence at the London Book Fair. It's an important year for the country and the region, and a unique occasion to showcase the world-class writers Croatia has to offer.

Meet the writers joining us at our LBF stand



Josip Novakovich

Josip Novakovich, is a Croatian-born writer who has lived for many years in North America.

He has been the recipient of the Whiting Writer's Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship and two fellowships from the US National Endowment of the Arts. His writing includes short story collections, one novel (*'April Fool's Day'*) and two best-selling textbooks on Creative Writing. Earlier this year, he was short-listed for the *Man Booker International Prize*, a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to literature.

Robert Perišić

has created his own audience and position in modern Croatian literature. His



Robert Perišić

books portray an authentic view of society in transition and the (anti) heroes who inhabit it. He is the author of two collections of short stories and one poetry collection; his first novel, *'Our Man in Iraq'*, was the bestselling Croatian novel of 2008 and also received the most important Croatian literary award from the daily newspaper *Jutarnji list*. His journalistic articles regularly appear in the respected Croatian weekly *Globus*. *'Our Man in Iraq'* was published by Istros Books in 2012, endorsed by Slavenka Drakulić and with a foreword by Tim Judah. The US edition will be out in April 2013, published by Black Balloon and endorsed by Jonathan Franzen.

Daša Drndić, a distinguished Croatian novelist, playwright and literary critic. She has written eleven



Daša Drndić

books of prose and over twenty radio plays. She also teaches English Literature at the University of Rijeka in Croatia and works as a translator. The publication of her novel *'Trieste'*, published by MacLehose Press in 2012, received great attention from the British press and has seen her novel long listed for the *Independent Foreign Fiction Prize 2013*.

Marinko

Košćec is considered to be one of the great stylists of Croatian literature and has been a



Marinko Koščec

recipient of the *Meša Selimović Prize* for best novel in the region. He is also an editor at the SysPrint Publishing House and teaches Creative Writing at the Sarasan creative writing centre. His novel *'A Handful of Sand'* was nominated for the prestigious *Jutarnji List* award and was published in English by Istros Books, 2013.



Boris Gunjević

He has taught in several schools and theological colleges on systematic theology, radical theology, and the history of philosophy, among other

Boris

Gunjević is a theologian, priest, and professor of history of philosophy and liturgy. He

subjects. His forthcoming books include *'A Handbook for Militant Research and The Carpentry of John Milbank'*. He is also the co-author, with Slavoj Žižek, of *'God in Pain: Inversions of Apocalypse'*, published in the US by Seven Stories Press, 2012.



Olja Savičević-Ivančević

Olja Savičević-Ivančević

is an awarded poet and novelist, who burst onto the authorial stage with her

short story collection *'Make the Dog Laugh'* in 2006. Last year, her collection of poems *'Mamasafari and Other Things'*, saw her short-listed for the Kiklop award for best collection of 2012, awarded annually by the Pula Book Fair. Her best-selling book *'Farewell, Cowboy'* will be translated by Celia Hawkesworth and published by Istros Books in 2015.

Matko Sršen

is a director, playwright and writer. He has received numerous awards,



Matko Sršen

prizes, and recognition for a lifetime devoted to the theatre, and was the director for the annual Dubrovnik Summer Festival for several years. As a playwright, Sršen has had more than twenty of his own works produced for theater and radio, while he has also published four books of his plays, essays, and poetry. *'Odohohol and Cally Rascal'*, a fantasy book for older children, will be published by Istros Books later in 2013, translated by Celia Hawkesworth.

Complementary Evening Events at London Venues

The voices of modern Croatian literature at the historic Keats House

A rare chance to hear and meet three top Croatian writers presenting their work to a UK audience. This event will be chaired by Nicholas Jarrold, former British Ambassador to Croatia. Daša Drndić, Josip Novakovich and Marinko Koščec will discuss their recent books and their reception in the UK and US. After a short presentation, the audience will have the chance to mingle and talk to each writer, in an informal 'mini book fair' setting, with refreshments served afterwards. The event will be held in Keats House, a beautiful historic site where the poet John Keats lived



Keats House, Hampstead, London. Former home of poet John Keats (1818-1820)

between 1818-1820. The event is hosted as part of the **Welcome Croatia** Festival, a celebration of Croatia's imminent accession to the European Union in July

2013. Where: *The Nightingale Room, Keats House (library), Keats Grove, Hampstead, London, NW3 2RR.* London Overground - Hampstead Heath station. Time: 18:30-20:30.



'Contemporary Croatian Literature: Inside and Out', Europe House, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU, Tube: Westminster, 18:30-20:30



The Croatian Embassy hosts 'Contemporary Croatian Literature: Inside and Out' at Europe House on Smith Square

The event is envisaged as a two-part discussion on today's Croatian literary scene, and the efforts to bring Croatian literature to a wider audience through translation. The event is hosted by the Croatian Embassy in London, as a part of the on-going celebration of Croatian culture and the country's inaugural presence at the LBF 2013. The first part of the conversation, chaired by Roman Simić-Bodrožić, will engage writers Olja Savičević, Daša



Drndić, Robert Perišić and Matko Sršen in a discussion about modern Croatian literature. The second part will look at Croatian literature in translation, with commentary from Croatian/English translator Will Firth, literary agent Ivan Sršen, writer Marinko Koščec, and UK publisher Susan Curtis-Kojaković. This discussion will be chaired by the Man Booker International nominee, Josip Novakovich. **RSVP to: Croatian Embassy.**

Contacts


Susan Curtis-Kojaković, Editor - *Istros Books*
T: 079 467 36 408, editor@istrosbooks.com

www.istrosbooks.com 
@Istros_books 

Tihana Borovcak, *Welcome Croatia Festival*
tihana.borovcak@gmail.com

www.welcomecroatia.net 
@WelcomeCroatia 

Ana Brnadić Oproiu, *Croatian Writers' Society*
hrvatsko.drustvo.pisaca@zg.t-com.hr

www.hdpisaca.org 

Ana-Marija Žuvan, *Croatian Embassy London*
ana-marija.zuvan@mvep.hr

www.uk.mfa.hr 