

World Literature on the Isle of Møn.
The annual event started in 2000 in collaboration with the Theatre Folk High School Rødkilde with Marianne Hiort-Lorenzen of the Møn Library as organizer. Since 2007, events have taken place at Fanefjord Skovpavillon within the organisational framework of the World Literature Society of the Isle of Møn.

Event profile:

- The guest is a gifted story-teller and a world renowned author.
- Readings are concentrated and intense, lasting several hours.
- The author stays at Møn for up to a week accompanied by her/his family.

Günter Grass was the first guest in 2000. The renowned German author contributed markedly to setting a clear event profile from the very beginning. Until his death in 2015 Grass was the nestor of World Literature on the Isle of Møn in which he frequently participated.

The festival was awarded the 2016 Cultural Prize from Lollands Bank and The municipality of Vordingborg for "creating an ambitious event focusing on a sublime and unique meeting between author and audience."

www.verdenslitteratur.dk
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GRAPHIC DESIGN: DESIGNMARK.DK

Ben Okri
Nigeria

09



FOTO: LENE K

In 2009 the audience could meet one of the most famous authors of the African continent.

Ben Okri was born in Nigeria, lived in London during his early childhood and travelled back to Nigeria with his family in 1968. Much of what he wrote in his early life explores the political violence he witnessed as a child during the civil war in Nigeria - known as the Biafran war.

Later he went back to London with financial support from the Nigerian government to study literature and to write.

He published his first novel in 1980 and has later become internationally known, often described as one of Africa's major authors.

His novels contain a rich world of spirituality and mysterious layers which greatly enhance the readers understanding.



"The key aspects of the event are experience, concentration and high quality."

Haruki Murakami
Japan

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FOTO: FER FOLKVER

Haruki Murakami was born in Kyoto in 1949. During a sports event in 1974 he was inspired to write his first novel. The same year he opened the Peter Cat jazz bar in Tokyo.

The novel "Hear the Wind Sing" was published in 1979. In 1982 he was awarded his first literary prize for "A Wild Sheep Chase".

His breakthrough which included Europe came in 1987 with the publication of "Norwegian Wood". It was filmed in 2011.

In his three volume masterpiece "1Q84" Murakami draws on all the themes in his electrifying authorship. It has become a world success.

"This is a novel about dark and hidden memories, about relations between art and mathematics, about sex, death and softball, and not the least about relations between the Japanese and authority." Kim Skotte of the Danish newspaper Politiken, 2011.

Furthermore, Murakami translates from American, he has lectured at Princeton University and he is a notable debater in the media in Japan.

Karl Ove Knausgård
Norway

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FOTO: BERRIT ROALD

Born in Oslo in 1968. Knausgård was the first debutant ever to win the Norwegian Critics Prize for Literature for his novel "Out of the World". His second novel "A Time for Everything" was nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature prize in 2004. The first volume of his great work "My Struggle" was published in 2009 to be followed by five further volumes whereby he fulfilled his ambition of writing a full six volume work within a two year period. The work is an immensely detailed description of the author's life intermingled with exciting essays and personal considerations. The story ends in volume six when contemporary time falls in with the story, which is August 2011 in Denmark.

This extremely well-written work consisting of almost 4,000 pages has been discussed vehemently and translated to several languages. A large public has been attracted to the frankness and crucial sincerity of Knausgård's writing.

Kim Leine
Denmark/Norway

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FOTO: ANNE-SOPHIE FISCHER KALCKAR

Kim Leine was born in Norway in 1961 and moved to Denmark at the age of 17. He worked as a professional nurse in Greenland for 15 years. In 2004 he returned to Denmark where he had his author's debut with the passionate autobiographical novel "Kalak" (which actually means "that fucking Greenlander").

The like-wise well-written novel "Tunu" is also based on life in Greenland. It was acclaimed by the press.

In 2012 Leine published his great novel "The Prophets of Eternal Fjord", a well-composed story of life and religious fanaticism in Greenland in the 1700s. This is the author's masterpiece, at least up to now, a milestone in Danish literature and so emphatic that "you want to shield yourself from fire and ice, scratch your wig for teeming lice and shudder at the stench of rancid blubber and reeking flour"

as Klaus Rothstein of the newspaper "Weekendavisen" expresses himself. It is the author's extensive knowledge of Greenland and his deep-felt emotions for life and history of that great land that made it possible for him to delve into its colonial history of the 1780s. He tells a powerful and sensuous story based on incarnate and awful reality.

Mikhail Shishkin
Russia

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FOTO: YVONNE BÖHLER

Mikhail Shishkin was born in Moscow in 1961 and is the author of a number of major novels. In 2000 he won the Russian Booker Prize for "The Taking of Izmail". In 2005 he was awarded the National Bestseller Prize for "Maidenhair" and in 2006 the prestigious "Bolshaya Kniga" (Big Book) prize for it as well. "Maidenhair" has been published in more than 40 languages.

Next to come out was "The Light and the Dark" in 2011, which has been sold to more than 20 countries. "Maidenhair" is a convincing novel, which switches with effortless ease for the author but not for the reader between various stories, times and styles: a personally experienced story of love and suffering, a famous female singer's fictitious diary and much more. Though philosophical, mythological and poetical "Maidenhair" is a richly faceted narrative with great inner intensity and many changes of pace.

Shishkin's own opinion of the novel: "This is a book about the simplest things, without them life is unthinkable. Maidenhair is a species of grass, a turf, which is a weed in the superficial city of Rome whilst in Russia it is an indoor plant which cannot survive without a human's warmth. I wrote this novel in Switzerland, France and Rome. It is typically Russian, but at the same time it exceeds the borders of the Russian world as there is not sufficient room within them. Russia is just a fraction of almighty God's world."

Tomas Espedal
Norway

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FOTO: HELGE SKODVIN

With his personal and poetic books Tomas Espedal has undertaken a revision of the technique of novel writing. With a starting point in his own life he writes novels which lean on genres like autobiographies, poetry, short stories, essays, travelogues and diaries.

"Tramp – Or the Art of Living a Wild and Poetic Life" from 2006 is an autobiographical novel about going – going away from home, going to the dogs, going mad, going to the end of the world; he does all that.

With his supreme style of writing and his feeling for language Espedal is able to hold the attention of the reader whether he is writing about going, related authors in literary history or watching rose petals decay.

Just like the novel "Tramp" the novel "Against Art" shows Espedal as a gifted writer, who with himself at stake writes inspiring and compelling books about being a human, a wanderer and an author.

Tomas Espedal has published both novels and anthologies of short stories. He promoted the Bergen International Festival of Poetry. His novels "Tramp - Or the Art of Living a Wild and Poetic Life" (2006) and "Against Art" (2009) and "Bergeners" (2014), have all been nominated for the Nordic Council's Literary Prize.

Eugen Ruge
Germany

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FOTO: LENE K

With his writing Eugen Ruge takes his place as part of a rich tradition as an independent, critical profile: He is the melancholic; the historian of a dying culture. He creates complex human portraits filled with inner conflict.

Eugen Ruge was born in the Ural Mountains in Western Russia and studied mathematics in Berlin. Before leaving the GDR in 1988 he made documentaries for the state owned DEFA Studio. Since 1989 he has been writing for the theatre and several television companies and he regularly teaches at the Berlin University of the Arts.

"Eugen Ruge portrays East German history in a family saga. He manages to articulate the experiences of four generations over fifty years into a dramatically refined composition. In "In Times of Fading Light" he tells the story of the socialist utopia, the price it demands of the individual, and its gradual extinction. At the same time it is a deeply humorous novel. Eugen Ruge was awarded the Deutscher Buchpreis in 2011.

In "In Times of Fading Light" the warmth of Ruge's approach to his characters shines through as he allows the reader access to their innermost thoughts and feelings. The result is a deeply human story of precious memories, of disappointments and frustrations, and of lives in various stages of decline." (The Dublin Review)

David Grossman
Israel

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FOTO: KLAUS HOLSTING / LOUISIANA LITERATURE

David Grossman (born 1954) is one of Israel's most prominent writers. His books have been translated into more than 30 languages.

He was awarded The Man Booker International Prize in 2017 for his latest novel "A Horse Walks Into a Bar", which was called "magnificently comic and sucker-punch-tragic" by NY Times. Nick Barley, director of The Man Booker International Prize called it "an ambitious high-wire act of a novel", which "shines a spotlight on the effects of grief, without any hint of sentimentality."

Grossman is an outspoken left-wing peace activist and a harsh critic of Israeli politics toward the Palestinians.

The novel "To the End of the Land" is a chronicle of the modern Israeli family. It tells the story of a mother who leaves her home in order to avoid the army "notifiers" who might arrive to inform her of the death of her son.

While he was writing it, Grossman's son was killed in the 2006 war in Lebanon. The Guardian praised the novel as one of the best ever written in Hebrew.

Grossman studied philosophy and theatre in Jerusalem, where he still lives. He has served in the army and has been working for Israel's national radio.

Judith Hermann
Germany

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FOTO: ANDREAS LABES, BERLIN

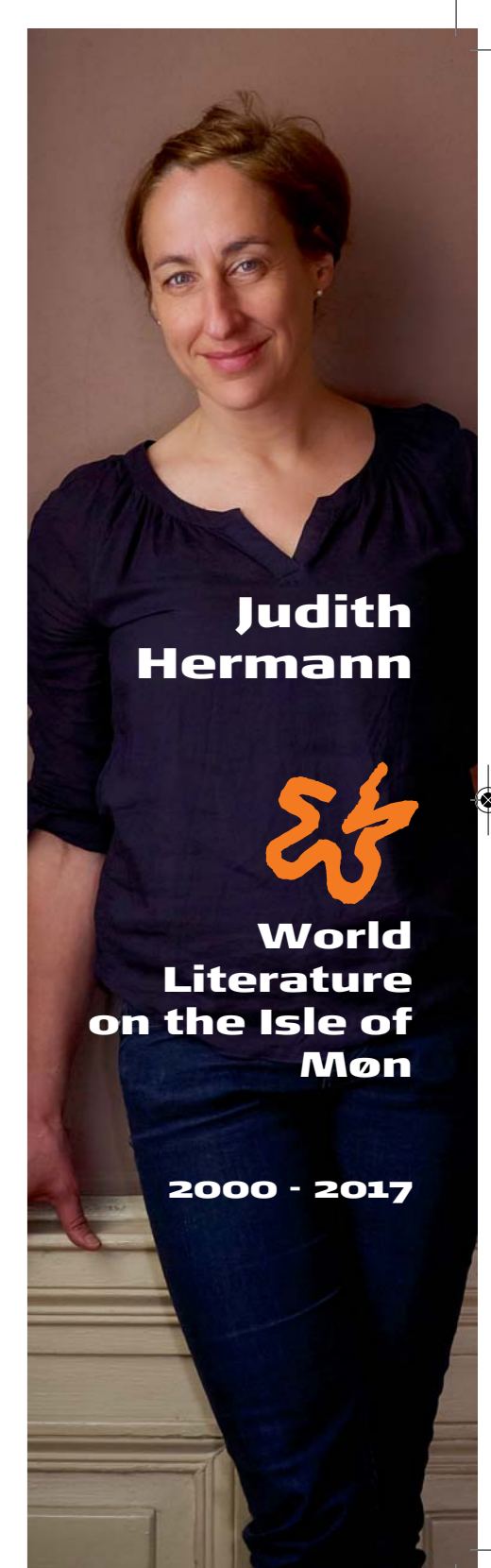
Judith Hermann (born 1970) studied German language and philosophy in Berlin.

With her debut "Summerhouse, Later" in 1998 she reintroduced the short story in German literature, inspired by a stay in New York, while studying journalism.

In 2016 her latest book of short stories "Lettipark" was published.

She has been awarded numerous literary prizes, including the Kleist Prize and the Friedrich Hölderlin Prize. The short story "Coal" is important to the reading of Lettipark, since its ending contains a Christian motive, something new to the writing of Hermann. "Coal" takes place in the countryside. A group of people are shifting seven tons of coal for the winter into a shed. Vincent, an orphan boy, aged 4, shows up and the action is switching from the coal shed to memories of the boy's dead mother. Vincent helps the group loading the coal. "We took the coal from his little dirty hands as if they were hosts". Love is steady in Lettipark.

The first and only novel by Judith Hermann "Where Love Begins" is outstanding and mysterious. The title may make you think: Finally a serious love story! This is not a recipe on how a love affair might begin, rather than how it always begins..



Judith Hermann



World Literature on the Isle of Møn

2000 - 2017

Info:

www.verdenslitteratur.dk

Time:

The 23rd and 24th of September 2017

Venue: Fanefford Skovpavillon

Address: Fanefford Skovvej 6,
DK-4792 Askeby, Denmark.
(By the Baltic Sea coast on the Isle
of Møn, south-east Denmark)

Seats are numbered.

Saturday programme:

12 noon - 1 pm: Lunch can be
purchased prior to the event.

Orders to Fanefford Skovpavillon
Phone 0045 5581 7367

This meal cannot be purchased
through the ticketoffice.

2 - 5 pm: Judith Hermann discusses
her works with the journalist
Steen Bille and reads passages from
her books.

5.30 - 7 pm: Buffet

Sunday programme:

12 noon - 1.45 pm: Lunch
booked through the ticketoffice.

2 - 5 pm: Judith Hermann talks
about her works with author
Kristina Stoltz as moderator.
Translation by Steen Bille.

Both days the author will sign her
books from 5 - 5.30 pm.

The language both days will be
German, which will be translated
continuously to Danish. Questions
may be raised in Danish or English
and will be answered in Danish or
English.

Günter Grass
Germany

00

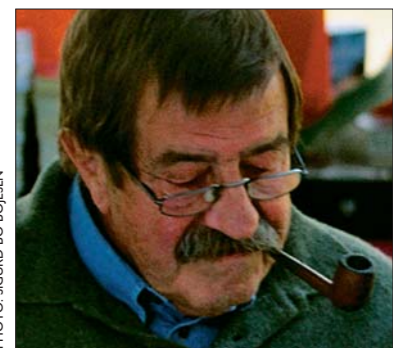


PHOTO: SIGURD BO BOJSEN

Günter Grass was the nestor of
World Literature on the Isle of Møn
from 2000 to 2015.

Tickets and prices:

www.billetlugen.dk

Tickets can be purchased incl. or
excl. tickets for the meals. Lunch on
Saturday: see above.

NB: Packed lunches not permitted.
Beverages to be purchased on the
spot.

Organizer:

The World Literature Society
of the Isle of Møn.

Info, newsletter and application
for membership:
www.verdenslitteratur.dk.

Curator:

Marianne Hiort-Lorenzen
Project coordinator:
Thomas Gunnar Bagge

In 2000 Günter Grass wrote:
Dear Marianne Hiort-Lorenzen

I still very clearly remember the great
honour that was bestowed on me when I
was given the opportunity to be the first
to open the literary gathering "World
Literature on the Isle of Møn".

In spite of the inclement weather it
was still feasible to conduct rewarding
talks with members of the audience in
the park of the old Folk High School.
But, as soon as I ask myself what
I actually talked about or gave readings
from, my memory fails me. However,
I probably read some stories out of my
book "My Century", which at that time
had just been published.

In my mind I keep on remembering
the wonderful Roma-musicians. I have
met them at literary gatherings in
distant countries, even in Portugal.

I attended the later gatherings as
often as my time-schedule permitted
me and had the pleasure of meeting
some colleagues such as Erik Fosnes
Hansen, Henning Mankell and Amos
Oz. In the days after the gatherings all
three of them visited me in our country
cottage in Ulvshale on Møn.

The gatherings on the Isle of Møn are
unforgettable memories. It is my hope
for you, dear Marianne Hiort-Lorenzen,
and for us writers that the tradition of
literary gatherings on Møn will
continue to take place.

In the long run, books enable us to
break through our limitations and open
the world to our readers.

Yours sincerely
Günter Grass

Erik Fosnes Hansen
Norway

01



PHOTO: ØRSTEIN NORLUM MONSEN

The Norwegian author had already
as a young man written several remark-
able novels. First came "The Falcon
Tower", an adventure novel about
man's secret intrigues. Following this
came the important novel "Psalm to a
Journey's End" about the Titanic, but
told from the perspective of the musi-
cians who played right until they disap-
peared under the waves. Just as power-
ful, the latest book, "Tales of
Protection", has been translated into
numerous languages, including Danish.
With "Tales of Protection" Fosnes has
become one of Europe's newest and
most important writers.

Einar Már Guðmundsson
Iceland

02



PHOTO: OLE KRAGH-SØRENSEN

World Literature on the Isle of Møn
searches every year for the great,
powerful and poetic author somewhere
in the world. In 2002 the choice fell
upon the Icelandic writer, Einar Már
Guðmundsson. Throughout his writing
career he lets us, as readers or
listeners, experience the poetic, the
wild, the harsh and the graceful. As
one of the enthusiastic critics wrote:
"Einar Már Guðmundsson can really do
it. With his pen he captures the space
between the world and everything else.
The gravity extends and shifts, which
can send streams of poetry and lightness
through even the heaviest and most
painful experiences."

Henning Mankell
Sweden

03

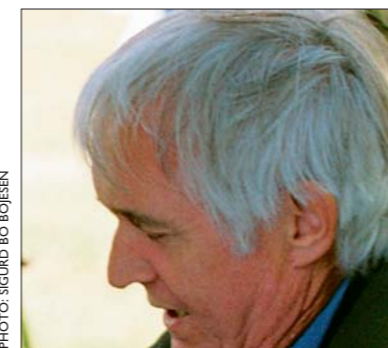


PHOTO: SIGURD BO BOJSEN

Henning Mankell has pursued two
significant themes in his writing career:
his crime novels and his African
inspired writings.

The whole world awaits with great
anticipation each thrilling crime novel.
As a tourist, in Ystad, you can actually
follow in the footsteps of his character
inspector Wallander! The well construc-
ted crime novels about Kurt Wallander
are inspired by Mankell's interpretation
of violence, power, importance, good
and evil. These novels soon made
Henning Mankell a familiar name
throughout the world.

The string of African-inspired novels
is the other theme to Mankell's writing
output. The very fascinating and
enthraling novels emerge from
Mankell's personal experience living
in Africa. The novel, "Daniel", is a
fantastic example - a tale of a Kalahari
boy's bizarre and difficult destiny
.....in Sweden!

André Brink
South Africa

04



PHOTO: VM

Dear Marianne:
Møn remains a wonderfully textured
image in my mind. The beautiful
gardens in which the gathering took
place (in perfect weather!), the
enthusiasm and active interest of the
crowd and the interaction with them,
the stimulation and friendliness of the
people, the sense of celebration that
made the occasion memorable. And the
few days my companion and I spent in
idyllic circumstances in our small
castle at the edge of the sea - the drives
across the island to visit villages and
numerous picturesque historical
churches, the sumptuous food, the long
lingering dark-green evenings, the
lively quality of the library, the sounds
of birds, the feeling of a long history
gently infusing every day with fuller
meaning... all of this ensures that as a
literary occasion and as an encounter
with people inspired by books and
reading and a deep appreciation of life,
that visit will remain one of my most
precious memories. I've been to
Denmark many times over the years,
but this special island meant that for
me the country will never be the same
again.
Warmest greetings,
André

Ib Michael
Denmark

05



PHOTO: SIGURD BO BOJSEN

"What I brought with me from that day,
was the experience of many people,
sharing something we all had in
common which was the love of all the
fantastic books that exist in the world.
The beautiful room, the unique
atmosphere, the light from the lovely
surroundings and attentive faces, like
pearls on a string.

As a writer, you feel comfortable
talking to the audience in the moment
when you get understood as a reader
who also writes books. First of all it is
the joy you share, the joy of a joint
identification. A special surge of energy
was created in the room, which made
time stand still and words flow. In that
sense we are all standing on each
other's shoulders, attempting to get a
glimpse of the land of milk and honey."

Amos Oz
Israel

06

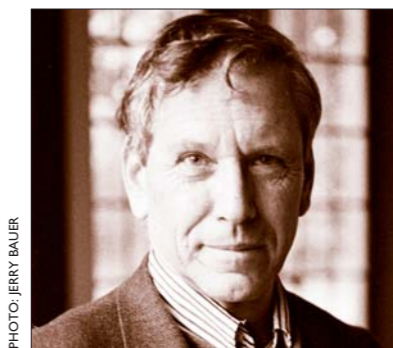


PHOTO: JERRY BAUER

In 2005, Amos Oz wrote the book
"Tales of Love and Darkness", a grand
novel based on rich and unusual auto-
biographical experiences. As soon as it
was published, it was recognized as one
of the world's major pieces of literature;
a warm and wise novel about life in the
new Israel.

The novel made a great impression
on critics all over the world. The Italian
newspaper, Republica wrote: "If you
only have two days left to live, one of
the things you must do, if you want to
die happy, is to read this book".
It is a grand novel about Oz's own
family, the history of the Jewish people
and about the emerging state of Israel.

Kerstin Ekman
Sweden

07



PHOTO: CATO LEINE

"I already knew from the book fairs,
that the Danish readers were interested,
but I never imagined listeners to be as
patient as during that long afternoon at
The Theatre Folk High School at
Rødkilde. As a writer, it was a great
experience for me to meet the readers
during this long and uninterrupted
time, readers who didn't let their
interest in the books flag.
The programme with music and speech
was so well chosen and well assembled.
I remember this day with great joy, but
also the days that followed at the sea
and at the forest at Møns Klint. From
Møn, we brought home the light and the
vast sky. They live on in our memory."

Fay Weldon
England

08



PHOTO: W. J. A. BAKER

"I've been to many festivals in my
writing life: all have a different identity.
Møn's is one of the best, and most
memorable. The island is beautiful and
numinous: the ancients surely lived
here. The festival attracts a dedicated
and knowledgeable audience from all
over the world, whom neither rain nor
storm deters. Then when the sun shines
and the festival-goers eventually and
reluctantly depart, you find yourself in
a working landscape by-passed by the
modern world. The island feels remote,
yet the glittering reality of Copenhagen
is only a couple of hours drive away.
For the guest, there is privacy and
company, the opportunity for work and
leisure, and in the host a real
awareness of the needs both of culture
at large and the artist in particular.
It feels a privilege to be invited - and if
only temporarily, that you actually
deserve to be there. Could a writer ask
for more?"

Some festivals you grudge, as
valuable time lost to a writing life, but
not the one at Møn's."



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2000 - 2017