



# LABAF 24.0

## November 14-20, 2022

@ Live + Virtual

Theme :

# PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

*Dedicated to*

**BRUCE O. ONOBRAKPEYA @**



**Feast of  
LIFE & IDEAS...**

EDUCATION. ENLIGHTENMENT. EMPOWERMENT.

Book Readings | Reviews | Discussions  
Conversations | Dialogues | Seminars  
Art Exhibitions | Workshops | Music  
Drama | Dance | Movies | Crafts... etc.

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# **CORA** *Salutes* **OBOMEYOMA @90**

The Trustee and Governance Boards  
of the

**CORA ART & CULTURAL FOUNDATION**

*felicitate*

**DR BRUCE OBOYEMA ONOBRAKEPEYA**

on his 90th Birthday anniversary.

We celebrate your illustrious **LIFE** and  
distinguished **CAREER**.

We salute you, the GrandMaster  
**Artist, Philosopher, Teacher & Mentor.**

We appreciate your Patronly support to the  
CORA and its programmes all these decades,  
and wish you more glorious years of  
fruitful and impactful Life on our  
generation and those  
coming in the future.

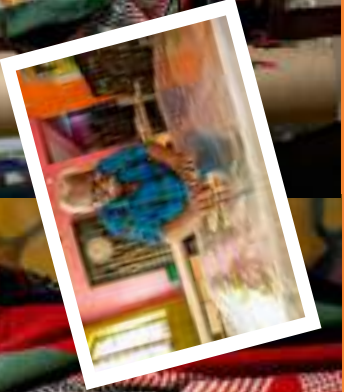


Photo by  
Kenni Ekundayo  
&  
Damilola Onafuwa



## ABOUT CORA

**MISSION:** *To Create Enabling Environment for the Flourishing of the Contemporary Arts of Nigeria & the Continent.*

**VISION:** *To Make Art & Culture the Prime Destination for Investment in Nigeria and Africa.*

**DEFINITION:** *We Are 'Cultural Landscapists.'*

**CORA is Winner of the Prince Claus Award, 2006.**

**History:** The **Committee for Relevant Art (CORA)** came to life on June 2, 1991. It's a culture activist organisation with the agenda to facilitate creation of an enabling environment for the flourishing of the contemporary arts of Nigeria, in the forms of Literature, Theatre, Fine Art, Music, Movie as well as TV Programme Design and Production.

In the past three decades, CORA has been at the forefront of championing the major issues that have shaped – directly or otherwise – the cultural landscape of Nigeria. Some of the most forward-looking initiatives in the Nigerian culture environment have come out of CORA-organised forums.

CORA has carried out its intermediation role through the vehicle of its various programmes, projects and activities, including the following:

- **ARTS STAMPEDE** (quarterly since 1991)
- **LABAF** (annually since 1999)
- **ARTHOUSE FORUM** (periodic since 2005)
- **LAGOS CINEMA CARNIVAL** (on rest)
- **LAGOS THE CITYARTS GUIDE** (on rest)

CORA also convenes regular sessions of *Lagos Circle of Critics; Culture Working Committee; Lagos Peppersoup Elites; Coalition of Nigerian Artists, CONA* etc - These are special purpose vehicles (SPV) through which it accomplishes its broader objectives.

CORA is in relationship with Artists organisations/Associations and agencies within the culture bureaucracies; and periodically stages collaborative projects with these institutions.





## ABOUT LABAF

**L**AUNCHED in September 1999, LABAF is a 24-year-old comprehensive week-long culture picnic. It features reading sessions, conversations around 'content and context of books', art and craft displays, children/students art workshops, Publishers-Booksellers-Writers-Readers' Forum, Writers' workshops, Book Trek, Book exhibitions, Drama skits, Live music, Poetry and Dance performances, among other items. Anything and everything happen at LABAF-the feast of LIFE and IDEAS.

Essentially, however, it is an ART festival with high BOOK content.

**L**ABAF has over the years transformed from a Literary Festival to being a campaign for **LITERACY** – stressing on **EDUCATION** (knowledge acquisition which leads to mental capacitation), that guarantees **ENLIGHTENMENT** and ultimately leads to **EMPOWERMENT** that ensures active participation of the citizenry in discourses around the social, political, economic and cultural affairs of the nation, and the world by extension.

All of this is premised on tapping into the instrumentality of **ARTS** and **CULTURE** production and expression to deepen **CIVIC** engagement.

To this effect, the programming content at LABAF goes beyond creative writings and arts/craft materials to embrace non-fiction and other such cultural projects relevant to the theme of each edition.

**L**ABAF in past decade and half has also gradually rebranded from being a project solely organised by CORA, to becoming a platform for other content producers to stage their events, or accomplish their projects. These are branded Partners, or Collaborators. Hence most of the events listed in the programme outline are by other producers who use the LABAF platform.

**I**n fulfilment of CORA's desire, many other festivals – literary and cultural – have also grown out of the LABAF platform and flowering in their own distinct form and character, but essentially using the LABAF's template of committed and resilient operations to stay the course. This is thus fulfilling the CORA oft-expressed dream of ultimately having a culture festival in every city of the country and Africa, by extension.



# LABAF 2022 PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

Thematic explain:

**D**iscourse around Pathways to the FUTURE, is meant to figure a way out of the State of Flux which led us to a Fork in the Road. If we're not attempting to imagine the society we are going to build at the end of this messy journey then we shouldn't even be around here. Are there reading materials out there which project a positive future of Africa?

Are African writers re-imagining the continent's possibilities in their texts?

What's there on the bookshelf to lift one out of this dystopia?

We know that this argument has been in the discussion halls forever, but we still ask: How will Nigeria and Nigerians Own the Future?

At the LABAF every year, we discuss books that tend to have the theme of the feast as part of the core context.

Which is why the following books are the Books of the Festival this year:

1. *The United States of Africa*; by Abdourahman Waberi:
2. *The Tomorrow's People: The Future of Humanity in Ten Number*; by Paul Morland:
3. *Scary Smart: The Future of Artificial Intelligence & How You Can Save Our World*; by Mo Gawdat
4. *Machines Like Me and People Like You*; by Ian McEwan:
5. *The United States of Africa*; by Abdourahman Waberi:
6. *Lagos 206*, by Ayodele Arigbabu
7. *New York 214*, Kim Stanley Robinson:
8. *All Will Be Wel*; Itse Sagay:
9. *The Road Never Forget*; Yemi Ogunbiyi:
10. *Powered by Povert*; Lawson Omokhodion:
11. *Brand Natio*; Muiyiwa Kayode:
12. *SoroSoke* by Sunday Akande
13. *'Vothuno'* by Babatunde Olaide-Mesewaku
14. *Elon Musk- Tesla, SpaceX, and the Quest for a Fantastic Future*, by Ashlee Vance:
15. *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*, by Daron Acemoglu & James A. Robinson:
16. *Okeho Exodu*, by Olutayo Irantiola
17. *Of Power and Freedom Vol. I & II*, by Wole Soyinka
18. *Selected Poems (1962-2022)*(A Retrospective of wole Soyinka )
19. *The Bible Destiny of Africa* – Archbishop Doye Agama
20. *Do Not Burn My Bones* – Professor Akachi Ezeigbo
21. *Ala Nnam* (Igbo & English) – Janine Udogu
22. *Dead Bones Do Not Rise Again* – Ifenna Okeke
23. *Broken Bodies, Damaged Souls* and Bose Afolayan's *Conversations*
24. *Women & Leadership In Igboland* by Stella Damasus
25. *Do Not Burn My Bones* by Su'eddie Vershima Agama
26. *Broken Bodies, Damaged Souls* by Samuel Osaze
27. *The Writer In the Mirror* by Adachukwu Onwudiwe
28. *Sika of Iroko Clan* by Oluebube Okonkwo
29. *Dead Bones Do Not Rise Again*
30. *We will sing water*, by Oko Owoicho
31. *Mad Woman*, by Munukayumbwa Mwiya
32. *Where the Light Enters You*, by Servio Gbadamosi

# BOOKS of the FESTIVAL

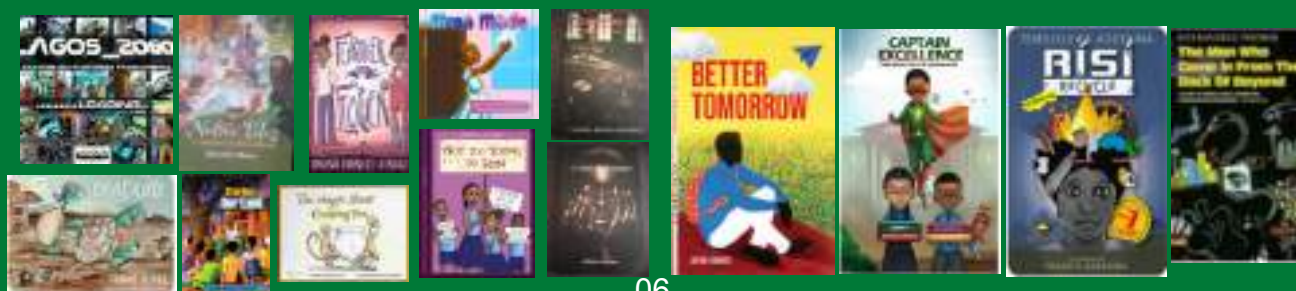
**LABAF 24.0**  
November 14-20, 2022

Theme :  
**PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE**

Dedicated to  
**BRUCE ONOBRAKPEYA @90**

Partners  
COMMITTEE FOR RELEVANT ART  
FREEDOM PARK

## Green Festival Books







## VISUAL ARTS @ LABAF 24.0



**Date: Tuesday November 15th, 2022**  
**Venue: Kongi's Harvest Gallery, Freedom Park, Lagos**  
**Opening Ceremony: Tuesday November 15th, 2022 | 3:pm**





## Green Festival 17 at LABAF 2022 (Tentative)

FRI. NOVEMBER, 18

Cultural Appreciation Day (Dress Code: Traditional)

### 9:00 am - 9:35 am: GREEN PERFORMANCES

(Produced by Events by Nature  
/TopJoy/iRead/CATE)

**9:45am - 10:45am: GREEN LEADERS  
LEADERSHIP SERIES**  
(with Readland/CATE)

### 11:00am -12:30pm: THE BOOK IN MY LIFE

Special Green Guest mentors children on the  
Importance of Reading and Education --  
(Produced by CORA/Events by  
Nature/CATE)

SAT. NOVEMBER, 19

Green Day (Dress Code: Touch of Green)

### 9:45am - 10:45am: GREEN PERFORMANCES

(Produced by Events by Nature/CATE)

### 11am - 12 noon: MENTORSHIP

Special Green Guest mentors the children on *the Importance  
of Reading and Education*  
(Produced by CORA/Events by Nature/CATE)

### 12:30-2.00 pm: TALKING BOOKS WITH CATE

Readings & Discussions around selected Children's Books --  
(Produced by IRead/CATE)

### 12:30-2.00 pm: GREEN COOKING CONTEST

Aspiring Chefs cook healthy meals in a contest using clean  
cooking stove and biofuel gel.  
(Produced by TopJoy Concepts/CATE)



--- BREAK ---

### 2:30 - 4:30pm: RECYCLING AND UPCYCLING WASTE

(Produced by House of Phoebe/TopJoy  
Concepts/IRead/Beach Samaritans)

### 2:30 - 4:30pm: GREEN TALKSHOP

Gen Z discuss "*Soro Sókè: Yes, We Can Stop This  
Abuse!*"

(Produced by JABEZ Place/ CATE/Teensed  
Foundation)

### 2:30 - 4:30pm: GREEN TALKSHOP

Gen Z and Millenials discuss "*Soro Sókè: The  
Creative's Mental Health - The Way Forward.*"

(Produced by JABEZ Place/CATE/TDR  
Designs/Events by Nature)

Launch of...



Venue:  
FoodCourt,  
Freedom Park  
Broad Street,  
Lagos.

**Eng. Mufutau Alarape and Christie Oseni**

Poetry Prize for Junior Secondary School Students.

(Powered by: Rufai Oseni)

@ruffyfire







## DAY 1: MONDAY NOV. 14

### THE LIBATION

#### 2pm: YOUTHS SUMMIT @ Virtual + Kongi's Harvest

Event: A summit of young political activists on Future of the Country

Theme: *Emerging Political Leaders: Breaking the Jinx of the Status Quo.*

Synopsis: Emerging Political Leaders Fellowship, EPLF, is a non-partisan programme that nurtures and prepares young Nigerians for political leadership at the local, regional, and national levels with a view to improving the quality of Nigeria's leadership pool and the impact of its developmental interventions. The goal of the LABAF 2022 summit is to allow the fellows share with other youths some crucial lessons learned from the fellowship. It is also to create a communion of young politicians who are working to change the game.

Panelists: **Tukura John Daniel**, President, EPLF |

**Nafisa Atiku**, Vice President, EPLF | **Ngozi Nwafor**, EPLF Fellow | **Didam Laah**, EPLF Fellow

Moderator: **Rosemond Archibong**

(Organised by **Praxis Hangout** and **ARTnadu Limited**, a corporate and political PR firm)



#### 5pm: BOOK TREK @The Garden

Featuring: Readings and conversations around the *Newest Books on the Nigerian Shelf*.

Special feature I: **Purple Shelves:** authors

- *The Bible Destiny of Africa* – Archbishop Doye Agama
- *Do Not Burn My Bones* – Professor Akachi Ezeigbo
- *Ala Nnam* (Igbo & English) – Janine Udogu
- *Dead Bones Do Not Rise Again* – Ifenna Okeke

Special feature II: *The Story of Eric Vocal Slender – the Rapper/Actor/Scavenger*

(A protagonist of *The Scrappyard Bard*, **ERIC OBUH** in reading session of an excerpt from *Lagos The Supernatural City*, by **Tim Cocks**.)

Special Guests: Members of the *Scavengers Association of Nigeria*, **SAN**, & beneficiary students from *Brighter Future Initiative*)

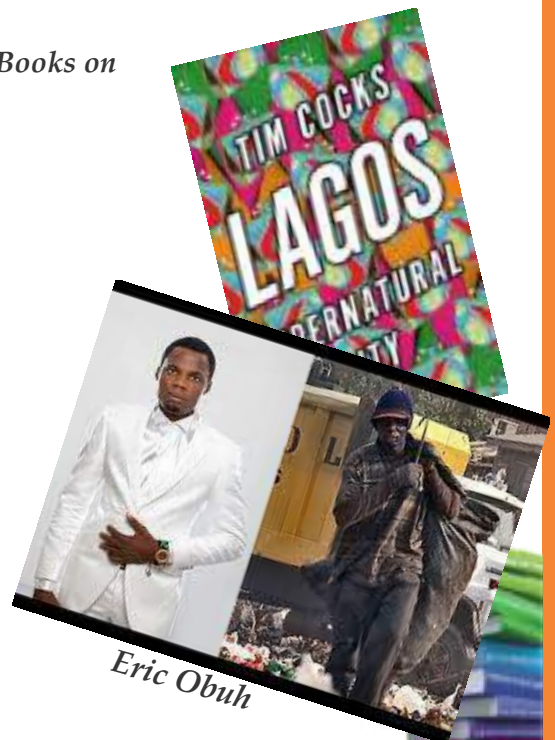
#### 7pm: FILM SCREENING @Food Court

Theme: *Back to the Classics: Film as Lessons of History*

Feature film: **HOSTAGES** (116 mins; 1997)

Directed by: **Tade Ogidan** ([OGD Pictures Ltd.](http://OGDPicturesLtd.com))

(Produced by **iREP Documentary Film Forum & CAC**)



Eric Obuh





## **DAY 2: TUESDAY, NOV. 15**

### **VISUAL ARTS DAY**

#### **9am: CORA YOUNG CREATIVE CLUB @FP Lawn**

Opening of workshop and performances by Students and youths from Secondary schools in, and around Lagos  
(Produced by **Events by Nature & CORA**)

#### **11am: EXHIBITION @ Museum Gallery**

**Theme:** *Songs for the Weaverbird: Writing and Art in celebration of Christopher Okigbo*

**Synopsis:** Although he had a tragically short life, within that short period the poet **Christopher Okigbo**, ensured, unwittingly, that he achieve creative immortality. As a writer, he was well aware of the powers of the printed word. But somehow, he also believed that the printed word had its limitations; he believed, like Nkrumah, that revolution and change could be brought about by those who thought like men of action and acted like men of thought. The project, while saluting Okigbo's creative industry and life, is also a reminder of the transience of life, the contradictions of the Nigerian project and the futility of all the vanity that now defines it. It is, perhaps, a cleansing metaphor and a challenge for the morass in which we are now mired.

(Curated by **Chuu Krydz Ikwuemesi**)

(Produced by **Sankofa Centre for Art and Creative Education, Enugu**)

#### **12noon: THE ONOBRAKPEYA @90 FIESTA @ FP**

**Event 1: Opening of Onobrakpeya showcase**

**Synopsis:** An exhibition of Onobrakpeya's found objects around the park  
(Produced by

#### **1pm: SYMPOSIUM @Kongi's Harvest**

**Event 2: Intergenerational conversation**

**Theme:** *Our Inheritance-What I took from Bruce*

- **Barret Akpokabayen | Kunle Adeyemi**
- Juliet Ezenwa | Ogochukwu Ejiofor**
- Nse Abasi Inyang**

**Event 3: Conversation of the 'GrandPas'**

**Theme:** *When we were young.... Dreams & Destinations*

**Synopsis:** Conversation between

**Pa Timothy Fasuyi & Bruce Onobrakpeya**

**Moderator:** **Mufu Onifade**, artist, arts writer

**Chair:** **Chinwe Uwatse**, CORA Trustee

(Co-curated with

#### **3pm: EXHIBITION @Virtual +Esther's Revenge**

**Event:** Opening of online exhibition

**Theme:** *Erections are coming*

**Synopsis:** A creative art space for artists to comment, introspect, or engage in satirical fun as catharsis on the concept of elections, especially in view of the ego-driven antics that typically add spectacle to the campaign trail.

(Curated by **Ayo Arigbabu & Aderemi Adegbite**)



#### **4pm: PERFORMANCE ART@F/Park Arena**

**Event:** **Yusuf Durodola** in performance

**Theme:** *EJA NI*

**Synopsis:** A testimonial prediction of what is to be experienced in the next four years of Nigerian political administration. What we need is not what we are chasing! We embrace the mundane where our collective evolution is being discerned by some set of us. Is it not worrisome how our poor livelihood is being rebranded to assume a new look? How did we get to this dehumanizing situation, and for how long will it last? The answer is for us all to figure out

(Produced by:



#### **5pm: EXHIBITION @Kongi's Harvest**

**Event:** Opening of Timeless Memories

**Theme:** *Timeless Memories: Elastic Effects. Connecting the lines between Soyinka and Fagunwa. Celebrating Wole Soyinka @88*

**Synopsis:** This 5th episode of the series, *Timeless Memories: Elastic Effects*, presents a traditional



**Yoruba-themed installation exhibition and literary discourse based on the book, 'Forest of a Thousand Daemons: A Hunter's Saga'- the English-translation of D.O Fagunwa's famous novel, *Ogboju Ode ninu Igbo Irumole* (1938), by Prof. Wole Soyinka.** The installation examines the content and context of the novel: a fantastic story about a hunter who was caught in a mystical forest filled with a thousand demons. The installation entails re-creating an enchanted forest with recyclable materials. A variety of indigenous masks representing a thousand demons will be deployed to symbolise the essence of Yoruba spiritualism and the mythical depths of Fagunwa's literary brilliance. The installation will be complete with a 6 FT figurine of the embattled hunter in the middle. Ambience will be provided by audio readings of different excerpts from the book; the voice-over excerpts will be taken from both the original Yoruba text and the English Translation by Wole Soyinka.

(Produced by

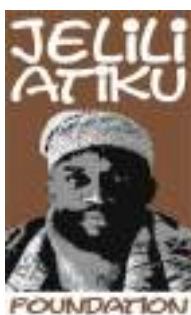


### **5.30: PERFORMANCE ART @FP Arena**

**Event:** Jelili Atiku in performance

**Theme:** *Don't Eat Garlic Near The Queen*

**Synopsis:** Did you Know? Choosing the right synonym for power is not limited to AUTHORITY, JURISDICTION, CONTROL; it also stretches to COMMAND and implying "the power to make arbitrary decisions and compel obedience. Did you Know? The death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth



has brought up critical reflections and realistic stories about the queen's legacy and British imperialism, colonialism and its horrors, its lies of white supremacy and more complicated acceptance of democracy and ejections of indigenous political systems and values. Did you Know? Queen Elizabeth duties were largely

portrayed as ceremonial, but the flamboyant ceremonies of her burial has highlighted the British deep attachment their indigenous values and rituals.

### **6pm: FILM SCREENING @ Esthers' Revenge**

**Theme:** *A tribute to the Philosopher*

**Synopsis:** This short documentary introduces the work of philosopher Sophie Bôsèdé Olúwolé (1935-

2018) who uncovered an ancient Yorùbá philosopher, incorrectly translated into ethnologist literature as a pagan god. Growing up she had been told there is no such thing as African philosophy. Undeterred, she went on to prove them wrong. All the while showing how the knowledge and wisdom is still accessible through an ancient system in binary code. Premiere of **Sophie Bosedé Oluwolé: The Yoruba Philosopher**, by Jull van der Laan

(Q&A with filmmaker by: Jelili Olorunfunmi Atiku

(Supported by



### **6pm: BOOK PRESENTATION @Kongi's Harvest**

**Event:** Presenting *CONCRETE THINKING*, by Pa Demas Nwoko (Pub. by New Culture Publications)

**Synopsis:** Demas Nwoko's artistic practice, philosophy and architecture have remained a critical influence in Nigeria's

creative and cultural space for all of seven decades. His new book, *Concrete Thinking* (released in October 2022), documents his thoughts and philosophical leanings in the spheres of art and culture, as contained in various



essays, both previously published and unpublished, written over the duration of his eventful multi-disciplinary career as a fine artist, lecturer in theatre arts, stage designer, architect, sculptor and builder. *Concrete Thinking* will be presented alongside his also newly published autobiography - *The Happy Little African Prince*.

**Special Guest of Honour: Demas Nwoko**

Produced by:



### **8pm: POETRY IN MOTION @FoodCourt**

**Event:** Word Slam... Feast of Artistic Flights

**Theme:** *Dance for OBOMEYOMA*

**Synopsis:** A session of spoken words, drama skits, dance and music in celebration of the Artistic Bard of Agbarah Otor

(Produced by







Scenes from the past

# EDUCATION. LITERACY. EMPOWERMENT Saving our Humanity

## The LABAF Programme Manifesto

SINCE its inspired birth in September 1999 to herald the birth of democratic governance in Nigeria, the preoccupation of the **Committee for Relevant Art, CORA**, and its prime Literary project, the **LAGOS BOOK & ART FESTIVAL, LABAF**, has been the desire to create the space for every member of the human family to be a dignified member of the community in which s/he finds him/herself.

The core of our very VISION and MISSION at the CORA, therefore, is the protection, and implicitly, the sustenance and survival of our/the human race. We insist that *No Human is greater than the Other*. All are created equal, except where extraneous circumstances dictate that some are better-privileged than the others; and so, such could exploit the advantage (often pecuniary) to oppress the non-so-privileged.

Essentially, the first instrument of oppression of the 'lowly' by the so-called High and Mighty is the hording of such essential civilising tools as:

- EDUCATION - which ensures that important information circulates to all;
- ENLIGHTENMENT - which makes everyone to be aware of situations/circumstances in their environment

- EMPOWERMENT (mental and economical) - which ensures that everyone is capacitated to be able to fully explore his/her potentials, and exploit same for self/benefit and mutual benefit of his/her family and the community.

The CORA insists that what the community of Humans needs is the flourishing and flowering of LITERACY to/and among every member of the Human family; so, they are well-resourced to participate effectively in the conversations that affect their common interest; and the general wellbeing of the society.

**Education** is thus the way to deepen democratic values and guarantee that all will be effective participants in decision making processes that lead to collective good, and better nationhood.

This is why we insist on an open-air *feast* of IDEAS and LIFE, where every member of the community is a partaker; and an active actor in the socialisation process.

This is the creed of our engagement at the programming directorate of the LABAF, which is running into its quarter of a century anniversary on a blaze of glory.

### EDUCATION. ENLIGHTENMENT. EMPOWERMENT

THIS combo cocktail is what the *Lagos Book & Art Festival* is all about. These are the virtues that the grand "festival of ideas and life" has pursued since 1999, when its birth was instigated by the desire to help prepare the Nigeria citizenry for then impending era of political freedom... a relief from decades of wastefulness by the vagabonds in warrior attire.

The LABAF was born out of a desire to help facilitate the rise of the 'intellect' over 'emotion' in the affairs of peoples of our nation.

The LABAF signposts its mission with the dream to help deepen human capital development in the continent through a systematic and schematic spread of enlightenment through the written, painted, sculpted, crafted or spoken texts... that educate, enlighten, empower and develop the mind... all about erasing ignorance from the mind of men... eroding their powerlessness... wearing off their hopelessness in the capability of goodness to always *trump* the evil.

### BOOK...

The TEXT (written or visual)  
MIND/MENTAL DEVELOPMENT...

The Book (knowledge and mental empowerment) must, going forward, be installed as the *weapon* of our engagement with the *e* malfeasance that abound in global political arena.

Education must be our shield against the acidic rain that hover over our collective consciousness due to the irresponsibility and irascibility of political and economic actors locally, and globally.

Mental and mind development must be our wall against the reign of leprous beings that often/have appropriate(d) our common wealth and being.

-- **Jahman Anikulapo**,  
Festival Curator  
Programme Chair, CORA





## **DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16**

### **READERS' DAY**

**9am: CORA YOUTH CREATIVE CLUB @ FP Lawn**

**Event:** Creative workshops and expressions continue  
(Produced by **Events by Nature & CORA**)

**1pm: CORA-PAWA DIALOGUE @ Virtual**

**Event:** Writers and publishers examine the imperative of Translation to contemporary Literature production & consumption

**Theme:** '*African Literature Should be in Indigenous Language*' – Ngugi Wa Thiong'o:

**Synopsis:** 60 years after he first made the proposition that African Literature should be appropriately defined and practised as 'writing by African writers in indigenous Literature', Professor Ngugi Wa Thiong'o is yet to relent in his position. Given that many of his contemporaries and even younger writers have not fully accepted his position, PAWA and CORA seek to mediate by proposing a more appropriate role that Translation can play. Writers in at least six indigenous African languages present their individual positions on the debate, by first outlining their challenges in the practice, and then proffer ways forward.

(Produced with **Pan African Writers' Association, PAWA**)



**1pm: CULTURE SEMINAR @ Esther's Revenge**

**Event:** **Yorùbá Lákòtun Colloquium**

**Theme:** "*Àwọn Ojú ọ̀nà sí ojọ́ ọ̀lá*"

(Pathways to the Future)

**Synopsis:** Yorùbá Lákòtun, a cultural renaissance show started in 2015. In partnership with the **Committee for Relevant Art, CORA** and **Alàgbà Gbémisóyè Àyàńó**, we continually encourage the use of Yorùbá language, the reading of Yorùbá Literature. In alignment with the theme for the year,

we are engaging the theme "*Àwọn Ojú ọ̀nà sí ojọ́ ọ̀lá*" (*Pathways to the Future*) -- in search of the pathway for the sustenance of Yorùbá language and creatives. There is a Lead Speaker, and Panelists to explore other strategies in advancing our cause.

**Speaker:** **Dr. Kólá Òní**, *Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, Oyo State*

**Panelists:** Tbc

**Moderator:** **Olútáyọ̀ Írántíọ́lá**, *Atọ̀kùn, Yorùbá Lákòtun*

**Special:** Presentation of *Okeho Exodus*- a historical play by **Olútáyọ̀ Írántíọ́lá**



**2pm: CONVERSATION @ Live + Virtual**

**Event:** Cross-generational authors examine prospects of African writing on the world stage

**Theme:** *Taking African Voices to the Global Stage: Focus on Abibiman Publishing & African Writers Series*

**Synopsis:** The *African Writers Series* has been resuscitated by **Abibiman Publishing** in the UK. The founder of Abibiman Publishing, Dr. Onyeka Nwelue is grand nephew of Flora Nwapa, whose *Efuru* was the first book by a woman to be published under the series. Now, Professor Akachi Ezeigbo's *A Million Bullets and a Rose* is the first to be published under the series, edited by Stephen Embleton, the inaugural James Currey Fellow at the African Studies Centre, University of Oxford.

**Features:** Authors, Poet **Gabriel Ògúńgbadé** and Novelist **Sylva Nze Ifedigbo** discuss signing and publishing with Abibiman Publishing.

### **3pm: READERS' FORUM@Kongi's Harvest**

#### **Event 1: LEADERS ARE READERS: WHY I READ WHAT I READ**

Synopsis: A notable Business Leader in Nigeria's economic space, discussing

Theme: *Why I Read What I Read*

Guests of Honour: Toki Mabogunje,

CEO, Toki Mabogunje & Co

Moderator: Reuben Abati (PhD),

Writer, Lead Anchor, ARISATv



### **4.30m SEMINAR @ Kongi's Harvest**

Theme: *Keys To The Knowledge Economy*

Readings and discussions around:

i. Lawson Omokhodion: *Powered by Poverty: a story of adversity, ambition, diligence and triumph*

ii Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede: *Buying A Bank In Africa*, by, ex-MD/CEO Access Bank Plc; Chairman Coronation Gallery

Moderator: Molar Wood, writer, arts journalist

### **5.30 pm: THEATRE FEAST@Kongi's Harvest**

Event 1: Lecture:

Synopsis: Segun Adefila@50: *Reflection on the Theatre of a distinguished Thespian*

Featuring:

- Lecture by Prof Tunji Azeez, Dept of Theatre & Music, LASU
- Performances by Footprints of David | Kings & Queens | Kininso Concepts

Event 2: Screening of *The Chief Masquerade* (59mins; 2021); dir/prod. by Seun Adeleye

Synopsis: Documentary explores the life of a theatre performer who bears a masquerade from childhood. It features journeys into the culture of masquerades exploring Segun Adefila as the lead masquerade of Crown Troupe's over 25 years of performing at town squares and events of all sizes. It draws a parallel between what ought to be and what is, while mirroring the mythical masquerade with the Nigerian performer. It is a story of tenacity, perseverance, and relentlessness.

Chair: Bolanle Austen-Peters,

CORA Board Member

### **6.30pm: THEATRE @ Pergola Cells**

Event: Launch of HEADPHONE THEATRE, by Sam Uquah

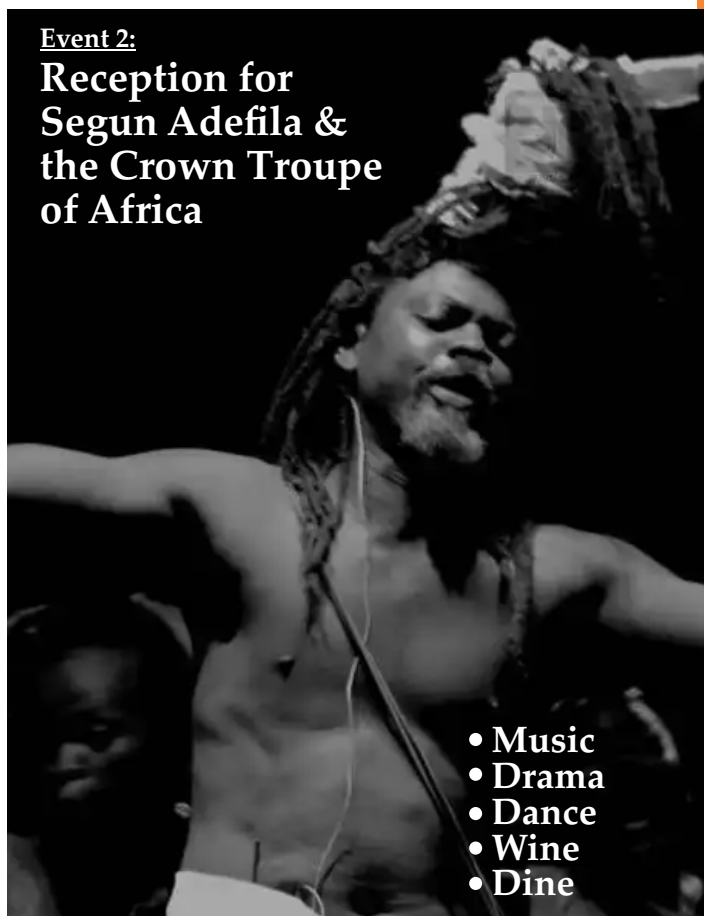
Synopsis: Sound master, and musician, Sam Uquah introduces *Headphones Theatre* to the Festival guests. It is in honour of his fellow experimental Theatre-ist, Segun Adefila.

Produced by: Theatreholics

### **7pm: ARTHOUSE Forum @FoodCourt**

Event 2:

#### **Reception for Segun Adefila & the Crown Troupe of Africa**



- Music
- Drama
- Dance
- Wine
- Dine

### **8pm: FILM SCREENING @FoodCourt**

Event: *Back to the Classics: Film as Lessons of History*

Theme: *The Other Side of ORIADE*

Feature film: *CAMPUS QUEEN* (89mins; 2003)

(Directed by: Tunde Kelani)

(Produced by iREP Documentary Film Forum & CORA)







## DAY 4: THURSDAY, NOV. 17 LITERACY DAY

**9am: CORA YOUTH CREATIVE CLUB @ FP Green Space**

**Event:** Creative workshops and expressions continue  
(Produced by Events by Nature & CORA)

**10am-4pm: PUBLISHERS-BOOKSELLERS-**

**WRITERS-READERS' FORUM @Kongi's Harvest**

**Event:** 9<sup>th</sup> Publishers' Forum: The View from the Readers

**Theme:** Seamlessly Getting books to libraries and users

**Subthemes:**

- i. Fresh options for easing bottlenecks in the book distribution and value chain
- ii. Triggering more effective and functional stakeholders' collaboration
- iii. Boosting public appreciation of books, maximising the use of existing reading facilities, getting more facilities
- iv. Interrogating the readers good, terms of patronage, value for money and CSR today

2 **Special session:** What Lagos Book Stakeholders want

(To form part of resolutions to be presented to the Charter of demands that Book Sector stakeholders would be presenting to the Lagos State Government during the scheduled NBRP walk on April 25, 2023 to flag off Lagos as Nigerian National Book Clubs City 2023).

3. Signing of CORA-NBRP MoU on the Nationwide Book Clubs in Public Libraries initiative.

(In association with Network of Book Clubs and Reading Promoters in Nigeria, NBRP)



**11am: LITERARY YOUTH ASSEMBLY @Est. Revenge**

**Event:** SDG Action Campaign through Storytelling

**: 17 STORIES FEST SESSION**

(Produced with Nigeria Volunteers Network)



**1pm: BOOK TREK @ Live + Virtual**

**Synopsis:** Readings/Discussions by writers and readers

**Event I:** Reading and conversations

**Theme:** The Convergence of Light, Water and Madness:  
Poetry in Conversation

**Featuring:**

- *We will sing water*, by Oko Owoicho
- *Mad Woman*, by Munukayumbwa Mwiya
- *Where the Light Enters You*, by Servio Gbadamosi

**Moderated by:** S. Su'eddie Vershima Agema

(author, *Memory and the Call of Waters*)

**Event II: Poetry Session**

**Theme:** We Need More Female Poets

**Synopsis:** A reading of:

- i. *Broken Bodies, Damaged Souls*, by Akachi Ezeigbo
- ii. *Conversations* by Bose Afolayan

**Moderator:** Samuel Osaze

**Event III: New Wine from Old Skin –**

**Event:** A celebration of the latest titles of Professor Akachi Ezeigbo (by various author)

Selected Readings (by various authors) of

- *Women & Leadership In Igboland* - (Stella Damasus)
- *Do Not Burn My Bones* - (Su'eddie Vershima Agema)
- *Broken Bodies, Damaged Souls* - (Samuel Osaze)
- *The Writer In the Mirror* - (Adachukwu Onwudiwe)
- *Sika of Iroko Clan* - (Oluebube Okonkwo)

**Special Guest:** Prof. Akachi Ezeigbo

**Event IV: Book Review Session:**

**Theme:** Africa, my Africa!

**Synopsis:** Conversations around *The Bible Destination of Africa* by Archbishop Doye Teido Agam

**Moderator:** Femi Ayodele



**Event V: Pastor vs Dibia: That Thin Line**

**Theme:** Between Devoutness And Common Sense  
Official

**Synopsis:** Conversations around *Dead Bones Do Not Rise Again* by Ifenn

**Moderator:** Su'eddie Vershima Agema



## **2pm: WORKSHOP @ Esther's Revenge**

**Event:** Book Editing Workshop

**Synopsis:** Society for Book and Magazine Editors of Nigeria's editing workshop for Editors and Writers - to teach the fundamental techniques of editing and improving stories.

**Register by sending your CV to [training@sbmen.org.ng](mailto:training@sbmen.org.ng)** with subject "Editing Workshop at LABAF".

Admission is Free. **Workshop** is limited to 15 people only. **Application deadline:** November 7

(Produced by:



## **5pm: SEMINAR @Hybrid (Live & Virtual)**

**Event:** A PEN-CORA dialogues on Writing & Freedom

**Theme:** Trauma and Freedom of Expression in era of Transition

**Synopsis:** A panel of writers, literary activists and journalists and public examine the fate of freedom of expression in a season of testy political transition

(Produced by **CORA&Poets Essayists Novelists International (Nigeria Centre)**)



## **7pm: ANCESTORS' NITE @ FoodCourt**

**Event:** Tribute to artists who have translated to ancestor-hood

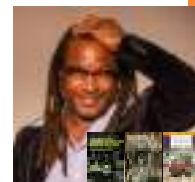
**Synopsis:** Tributes to OLAWALE OBADEYI | ABIODUN ALEJA | RACHEAL ONIGA | SOLA ONAYIGA | BIYI BANDELE | LEKAN FADINA...

Other departed Arts-kinsmen

**Special:**

i. **Readings** from novels by Biyi

**Bande's novels | Talks:** *The storyteller who Left Unannounced* – Tributes led by lawyer, literary activist, Olajide Bello



ii. Screening of *Sophie Bosede Oluwole: the Yoruba Philosopher*, by Jull van der Laan (Q&A with the filmmaker by Jelili Atiku)



## **8pm: FILM SCREENING @FoodCourt**

**Theme:** Nigerian Screen: Going back to the Classics

**Feature film:** *HERITAGE* (89 mins; 2003)

**Directed by:** Ladi Ladebo for Ladi Ladebo Productions

(Produced by: iREP Documentary Film Forum & CORA)



## **PUBLISHERS-BOOKSELLERS-WRITERS-READERS' FORUM**

**Theme:**

# **Seamlessly Getting books to libraries and users**

### **Subthemes:**

- Ø Fresh options for easing bottlenecks in the book distribution and value chain
- Ø Triggering more effective and functional stakeholders' collaboration
- Ø Boosting public appreciation of books, maximising the use of existing reading facilities, getting more facilities
- Ø Interrogating the readers good, terms of patronage, value for money and CSR today

2 **Special session:** What Lagos Book Stakeholders want (To form part of resolutions to be presented to the Charter of demands that Book Sector stakeholders would be presenting to the Lagos State Government during the scheduled NBRP walk on April 25, 2023 to flag off Lagos as Nigerian National Book Clubs City 2023).

3. Signing of CORA-NBRP MoU on the Nationwide Book Clubs in Public Libraries initiative. (In association with Network of Book Clubs and Reading Promoters in Nigeria, NBRP)

**RSVP: 08036554119 | 07063819929**

**Thursday, NOV. 17 2022 | 10am-4pm**  
**@ Kongi's Harvest, Freedom Park, Lagos**







## DAY 5: FRIDAY, NOV. 18 (BRUCE ONOBRAKPEYA DAY)

### 9am: Opening of **GREEN FESTIVAL** @FoodCourt

Creative workshops and expressions by the children/students segment of LABAF

### 11am: **MENTORSHIP** @ Food Court

**Theme:** THE BOOK IN MY LIFE

**Synopsis:** A well-known cerebral celebrity, mentors students on importance of reading and education. Session is also called

**MY ENCOUNTER WITH THE BOOK.**

**Guest of Honour:** **Steve Onuh**,  
actor, comedian, OAP of Wazobia FM

**Special Guest of Honour:**

**Dr. Bruce Onobrakpeya**, Festival Honouree



### 1pm: **COLLOQUIUM** @ Kongi's Harvest

**Festival Theme:** *Pathways to The Future: Imagining a Workable Nigeria*

**Event:** Keynote by **Professor Okey Ndibe**, writer, scholar

**Synopsis:** How does Nigeria work its way out of the State of Flux which led us to a Fork in the Road. How will Nigeria and Nigerians Own the Future? How will Nigeria and Nigerians Own the Future?

**Keynote:** Journalist, essayist, polemicist, Professor Okey Ndibe is the author of the novels: *Arrows of Rain*, *Foreign Gods, Inc.* and *Never look an American in the eye: A Memoir of flying turtles, colonial ghost, and the making of a Nigerian American*, and co-editor (with Zimbabwean writer Chenjerai Hove) of *Writers Writing on Conflicts and Wars in Africa*.



**Chairman:** **Chief Kayode Aderinokun**, Chair, CORA Trustees

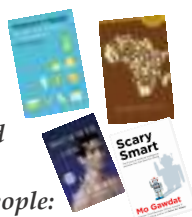
**Special Guest of Honour:** **Dr. Onobrakpeya**, Festival 2022 Honouree

### 3pm: **SYMPOSIUM** @Kongi's Harvest

**Theme:** *The Path Opens (Ona La)*

Reading and conversations around

- Abdourahman Waberi: *The United States of Africa*;
- Paul Morland: *The Tomorrow's People: The Future of Humanity in Ten Numbers*



**Moderator:** **Kunle Ajibade**, writer, Exec. Director, *TheNews*

**Chair:** **Dame Taiwo Ajai-Lycett**, OON, Matron, CORA Board

### 4pm: **COLLOQUIUM** @ Kongi's Harvest

**Theme:** *Machines, Now & Forever, or Robotics and the Nigerian Survival*

- Mo Gawdat: *Scary Smart: The Future of Artificial Intelligence & How You Can Save Our World*
- Ian McEwan: *Machines Like Me and People Like You*

**Moderator:** **Tade Ipadeola**, Poet, Lawyer

**Chair:** **Ben Tomoloju**, Board Member, Ombudsman



### 5pm: **JAZZn'WINE for The StageMaster** @FoodCourt

**Event:** Reflection on life & career of Olu Jacobs @80

**Topic:** *60 years of encounters with a quintessential artist*  
Lecture | Tributes | Film

**Speaker:** Dame Taiwo Ajai-Lycett, OON

**Tributes by:** Associates & Mentees

**Screening:** *DOYEN OF NOLLYWOOD:*

*Celebrating Olu Jacobs @80*

by Femi Odugbemi

### 7pm: **KEN SARO WIWA PRIZE FOR REVIEW....@Tbc**

**Event:** Celebrating the vocation of the Critic and Literature Consumer in honour of the late writer, and literary and environmental activist, Ken Saro-Wiwa.

Contestants (18-25 years old) review *NOMAD*, Winner 2022 *Nigeria Prize for Literature* Poetry Prize

**Guest of Honour:** **Romeo Oriogun**, Winner NPL 2022

**Honoured Guests:** **Saddiq Dzukogi & Su'eddie**

**Vershima Agema** - Runners-up NPL 2022

**Special Guests:** Chair & Members, NPL Advisor

**Special Guest of Honour:**

**Dr. Philip Mshelbila**, MD/CEO Nigeria LNG

Supported by the



### 8pm: **FILM SCREENING** @FoodCourt

**Film:** *THE KINGMAKER* (89mins; 2002)

**Theme:** *Back to the Classics: Film as Lessons of History*

**Dir by:** Fred Amata for Lufodo Productions)

(Produced by iREP Documentary Film Forum & CORA





## DAY 6: SATURDAY, NOV. 19

### CULTURE ICONS' DAY

#### 9am: GREEN FESTIVAL @ Food Court

Creative workshops and expressions by the children/students segment of LABAF continue

#### 11am: MENTORSHIP @ Food Court

Theme: **THE BOOK IN MY LIFE**

Synopsis: A well-known cerebral celebrity, mentors students on importance of reading and education. Session is also called **MY ENCOUNTER WITH THE BOOK**.

Guest Mentor:

**Tina Mba**, *Actress, Producer*

Special Guest of Honour:

**Dr. Bruce Onobrakpeya**,  
*Festival Honouree*



#### 1.30pm: COLLOQUIUM @Kongi's Harvest

Theme: **Writing the Future of Hope**

Reading and conversations around

- Jonathan E. Hillman: *The Digital Silk Road: China's Quest to Wire the World and Win the Future*
- James Dale Davidson & Lord William Rees-Mogg: *The Sovereign Individual: Mastering the Transition to the Information Age*

Moderator: **Chuma Nwokolo**, *writer, literary activist*

Chair: **Femi Odugbemi**, *CORA Board Member*

#### 2pm: AUTHORS' ASSEMBLY @ Esther's Revenge

Event: **Association of Nigerian Authors, ANA Forum**

Synopsis: ANA Lagos members reflect on the writer, the book and building a financially self-sustainable literary community. The session also features interlude of spoken word, poetry and musical performances.

(Produced with ANA Lagos Chapter)



#### 3.30pm: COLLOQUIUM @Kongi's Harvest

Theme: **Big Cities, Future Living**

Reading and Discussions around:

- Ayodele Arigbabu: *Lagos 2060*
- Kim Stanley Robinson: *New York 2140*



Special: Launch of **LAGOS 2070**

Synopsis: Through his **Cyber News Network**, **Ayodele Arigbabu** explores fake news as speculative fiction, by co-opting the emerging artificial intelligence driven art phenomenon, which is bound to exponentially increase the growth of fake news in coming years. **Cyber News Network** is a foretelling of that which is already here, and still is to come.

Chair: **Pascal Ott**, *CORA Board Member*

#### 5pm: ARTHOUSE CONVERSATION 1 @Kongi's Harvest

Event 1: The Biography Session

Theme: **Is the Future Bound to The Past?**

- Itse Sagay: *All Will Be Well*
- Yemi Ogundibi: *The Road Never Forgets*



Moderator: **Aduke Gomez**, *writer, culture activist*

#### 6pm: MENTORING @Kongi's Harvest

Event 2: **Why I Wrote My Memoir**

Synopsis: Reading and discussion around Biography/ Autobiography

Guest: **From STOREROOM to BOARDROOM**, by **Babs Omotowa**, ex-MD, NigeriaLNG (Special Guest of Honour)

Guests: Members **Transcultural Writers Network, UNILAG** | Students - **LASU** | Students - (**LASUSTECH**)





**8pm THE FESTIVAL PARTY @ Main stage**  
An ARthouse party celebrating landmark birthdays of distinguished contributors to the *Nigerian cultural Life*



  
Jimi Solanke

  
Tam Fiofori

  
Olu Jacobs

  
Ayo Bankole Jnr

  
Femi Akintunde Johnson

  
Bongos Ikwue

  
Idowu Philips @80

  
Bukar Usman

  
Femi Anikulapo-kuti

  
Joe Musa

  
Bayo Awala

  
Aduke Gomez

  
Sunnie Ododo

  
Adebayo Salami

  
Soni Irabor

  
Onyekia Onwenu

  
Duro Oni

  
Yemisi Shyllon

  
Deji Adesanya



**BRUCE OBOMEYOMA ONOBRACKPEYA @90 - Visual Artist, Teacher**

*Jimi Solanke @80 - Musician*  
*Tam Fiofori @80 - Photo Documentarist*  
*Bongos Ikwue (aka Dya Rainbow) @80 - Actor*  
*Bongos Ikwue @80 - composer*  
*Olu Jacobs @80 - Actor*  
*Bukar Usman @80 - Folklorist*  
*Bayo Awala @80 -*

*Deji Adesanya @70 - Filmmaker*  
*Adebayo Salami @70 - Actor*  
*Onyekia Onwenu @70 - Journalist, Singer*  
*Yemisi Shyllon @70 - Art Collector*  
*Soni Irabor @70 - Broadcaster*  
*Duro Oni @70 - Theatre Artist*

*Ayo Bankole Jnr @60 - Composer*  
*Femi Akintunde Johnson @60 - Journalist*  
*Femi Anikulapo-kuti @60 - Musician*  
*Joe Musa @60 - Visual Artist*  
*Sunnie Ododo @60 - Scholar*  
*Aduke Gomez @60 - Writer*

**Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022**  
**8pm @Foodcourt, Freedom Park**

**special celebration**



**Happy 75th Birthday to Anty Iyabo Aboaba @75**  
 (Saturday, October 8).  
*May you continue to enjoy God's Grace and Mercy. We appreciate your service and support to our dreams and programmes at all times. Enjoy your blessed season.*

www.lagosbookartfestival.org | twitter: @labaf1 | Instagram: labaf1 | email: coralabaf@gmail.com | Facebook.com/LagosBookArtFestival

**Host: Dame Taiwo Ajai-Lycett, Matron, CORA Boards**  
**Chair: Chief Kayode Aderinokun, Chair CORA Trustee**

**8pm: THEATRE @Amphitheatre**

**Event:** Crown Troupe of Africa presents *Ìyá Ojà (Market Mother)*.

**Synopsis:** A multimedia all-female dance piece, which juxtaposes the concept of feminism and climate change concerns, it seeks to stir up conversations around gender concerns. It conceptualises the world as a market, while exploring the vital roles played by women in maintaining social and environmental order. It is a cohesive blend of

still and mobile photography, poetry, music, sound, mime, and dance to articulate the myriads of challenges faced by post-colonial African women. The work also highlights the need for societies to re-evaluate their values and the vital roles played by women in the shaping of these values. (Directed by **Segun Adefila** for **Crown Troupe of Africa**)





## DAY 5: SUNDAY, NOV. 20

### CORA ADVOCACY DAY

#### 9am: GREEN FESTIVAL @ FP Green Space

Creative workshops and expressions by the children/students segment of LABAF continue

#### 11am: YOUTH ASSEMBLY @Kongi's Harvest

Event: Featuring readings and discussions by **CORA Volunteer Corps**

Featured book: *SoroSoke*, by **Sunday Akande**

Synopsis: *SOROSÓKÈ* chronicles the political and power transitions in Eetantagba. The novel addresses a particular problem of the African leaders – power-mongering. Traditionally narrated and anecdoted with satire, it portrays the gradual metamorphosis of the simple way of life of the 80s to the sophisticated life of the 21st century which has birthed the “Sòròsókè Generation”. It is a creative condensation of three decades in the life of a familiar country known for its great potential but underwhelming performance. Beyond the worrisome path of avoidable sorrow and bloodletting, mindless corruption and regrettable wickedness in public life, the author shines a hopeful light of youth renaissance in refusing to be pathetic onlookers in shaping their destiny.

(Curator: **Segun Aribisala**, writer, literary, activist)

Chair/Mentor: **Pascal Ott**, CORA Board Member

Inspirational Guest: **Dr. Bruce Onobrakpeya**; Festival 2022 Honouree

#### 1pm: FILM SCREENING @Kongi's Harvest

Theme: *Back to the Classics: Film as Lessons of History*

Synopsis: In July 1990 Maroko a bustling slum settlement in the heart of Lagos faces a mass eviction by the government. Over 300,000 people are rendered homeless at dawn by

roaring bulldozers. With nowhere to go a family must find desperate means for their survival.

Selected Film: *MAROKO* (111mins; 2006)

Dir. by: **Femi Odugbemi**

(Produced with *iREP*

*Documentary Film Forum & CAC*)



#### 3pm: SYMPOSIUM @Kongi's Harvest

Theme: *Where are we now?*

Event: Readings and conversations around:



Ashlee Vance: *Elon Musk- Tesla, SpaceX, and the Quest for a Fantastic Future*



Daron Acemoglu & James A. Robinson: *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*

Moderator: **Kunle Kasumu**, Book activist, Anchor, Channels Book Club

### THE CLOSING GLEE...



#### 8pm: 1000 POETS FOR CHANGE @ FoodCourt

Event: A coterie of poets and performers give the Festival a poetic send-forth till 2023

Theme: *Politically motivated towards 2023 elections* (Produced by **Unchained Vibes of Africa & CAC**)

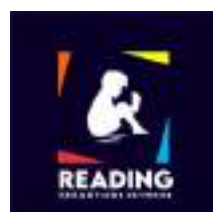
Anchor Poets: **Oyinkansola Adesewa & Victory Ashaka**

Produced by:





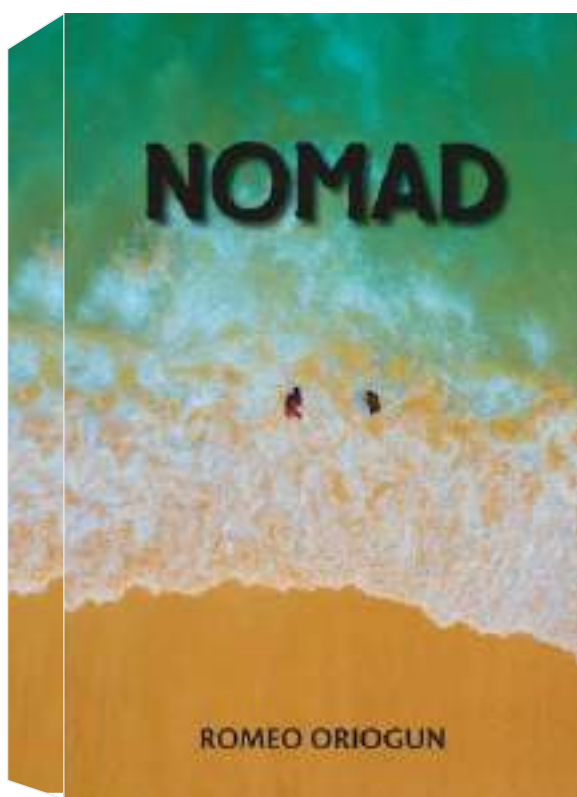
# Supporters & Partners







## KEN SARO-WIWA PRIZE FOR REVIEW....



### Synopsis

Celebrating the vocation of the Critic and Literature Consumer in honour of the late writer, literary and environmental activist, *Ken Saro-Wiwa*.

### Competition

Interested participants (age:18-25) to review *NOMAD* by Romeo Oriogun - Winner 2022 NPL Poetry Prize

### Rules:

Submit min. 800 words review of the collection to: [coralabaf@gmail.com](mailto:coralabaf@gmail.com)  
Deadline: 12 noon: November 10, 2022

### Guest of Honour:

**Romeo Oriogun**

Winner of the *Nigeria Prize for Literature*



### Prize Presentation

**FRIDAY, NOV. 18 2022 | 7pm**  
**@ Kongi's Harvest,**  
**Freedom Park, Lagos**

### Honoured Guests:

**Saddiq Dzukogi & Su'eddie Vershima Agema**

- Runners-up *NPL 2022*

### Special Guests

Members, *NPL Advisory Board*

### Special Guest of Honour:

**Dr. Philip Mshelbila, MD/COE *Nigeria LNG***



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