

Every year, the African Book Festival gathers some of the most influential authors and artists from the African continent and its diaspora for readings, discussions, interviews, concerts as well as theatre and spoken word performances. The festival goes beyond presenting new books and authors by actively engaging with the current political and social issues in its programme.

**This summer, the renowned Angolan author and musician Kalaf Epalanga curates the event and will explore the 2021 festival theme “Telling the Origin Stories” by focusing on questions of origin, affiliation and identity. Lusophone literature and the connection between music and literature will also be at the heart of the event.** In addition to live literature, guests will be able to explore market stalls offering African food, books, jewellery and more.

In order to portray the continent in all its diversity as accurately as possible, the artistic direction and main focus theme of the African Book Festival change every year. This year’s edition is curated by Kalaf Epalanga. Born in Angola and based in Berlin and Lisbon, Epalanga wrote regular literary columns for the prestigious Portuguese newspaper O Público and has received critical acclaim for his first novel *Também os Brancos Sabem* (engl.: *The Whites Also Can Dance*, Editorial Caminho, 2017) which was recently acquired for translation by Faber & Faber.

This year’s headliner is **José Eduardo Agualusa**, whose work has been translated into more than 30 languages. We are also happy to have Yara Monteiro, Ondjaki, Natasha Omokhodion-Kalulu Banda, Marita Van Der Vyver, Fiston Mwanza Mujila, Sulaiman Addonia, Chimeka Garricks, Bisi Adjapon, Jumoke Adeyanju, Martha Fessehazion and Toty Sa’Med among our guests.

The African Book Festival is presented by **InterKontinental e.V.**, a non-profit association whose goal is to promote literature from Africa as well as writers from African countries in Germany. We facilitate literary events and design innovative concepts. Our work is based on an equal collaboration and exchange between Germany and the countries of the African continent and its diaspora. All our projects are curated by African partners.

Kalaf Epalanga about this year’s festival:

*“What’s the first thing you want to do when this is all over?”*

*“That's the question we've heard most often while we were trying to find a new date for this year's African Book Festival. All of the wishes and desires shared by the community of writers we gathered together for this year's program are centred around one thing — the need to be close to each other again. To sit together again, listen to each other's stories, enjoy music and eat delicious food.*

*Now that we've finally set our new date, this is exactly what I intend to provide for all of our guests. I'm proud to announce that the 2021 edition of the African Book Festival will be a literary family cookout event. Let's experience the beauty of Berlin in July at our new venue Kino Rehberge, an open-air cinema in the middle of a lush forest at Volkspark Rehberge.*

*Let's get together again!”*

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**Date:** July 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> 2021 (Friday and Saturday)

**Venue:** Outdoor Cinema [Freiluftkino Rehberge](#) (accessible for wheelchairs and for people with visual impairments)

**Tickets:** 16,50 € and 12,50 € (reduced) on [africanbookfestival.de](#)

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*Partners: The festival is mainly financed by the Hauptstadtkulturfonds and the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is also supported by the donors of our crowdfunding campaign, the Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation, Flux FM and the Student Hotel.*

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#abf2021



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Auswärtiges Amt



Freiluftkino  
Rehberge