

Ziro Literary Festival



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड
(भारत में पेट्रोल का निर्यात)

Oil India Limited

(A Government of India Enterprise)

Celebrating Creativity For All

27th - 28th September 2023

Saint Claret College, Ziro

zirofestival.com/zlf | zlf@sccz.edu

ORGANISED BY



SUPPORTED BY



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION
LOWER SUBANSIRI

The Ziro Literary Festival, a celebration of reading, critical thinking, creative expression, and communal sharing, is gearing up for its fourth edition on the 27th and 28th of September 2023. As tradition dictates, this intellectual fiesta will once again unfold at the hallowed grounds of Saint Claret College, the premier educational institution in the heart of Arunachal Pradesh's Ziro.

This festival, open and welcoming to all, serves as a conduit for intercultural exchange, meaningful dialogues, the exchange of knowledge, and the cultivation of new skills. It assembles an array of award-winning writers, journalists, thinkers, and accomplished artists for a captivating series of discussions, readings, and hands-on workshops. The festival's vibrant audience predominantly consists of college students and the local community.

Since its inaugural edition in 2018, the festival has diligently pursued its mission to educate and empower participants through intensive outcome-based workshops. The result? A remarkable collection of original creative works that eloquently amplify local voices through the mediums of short stories, poetry, films, graphic novels, and more. These artistic endeavours are a testament to the festival's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering the spirit of creative exploration.



SCHEDULE

27 September 2023

10:00	Welcome address	Shri Bamin Nime, Deputy Commissioner, Lower Subansiri District, Arunachal Pradesh
10:15	Keynote address	Fr Dr Allwyn Mendoz, Principal, Saint Claret College
10:30	Discussion	<i>Tribal customary laws and the modern world</i> Gaby Miyum Damin, Jarjum Ete, NN Hina with Ranju Dodum. Includes Q&A
11:20	Conversation	<i>A brighter future for tribal literature</i> Banwang Losu with Makepeace Sitlhou
11:50	Break	
12:20	Discussion	<i>India's Northeast and its neighbours</i> Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, Sadiq Naqvi with Karma Paljor. Includes Q&A
13:15	Discussion	<i>So you wrote a book. Now what?</i> Rita Chowdhury, Tanuj Solanki with Makepeace Sitlhou. Includes Q&A

28 September 2023

10:00	Welcome address	Smti Amina Nabam, Circle Officer, Lower Subansiri District, Arunachal Pradesh
10:10	Discussion	<i>Writing in vernacular versus mainstream languages</i> Dr Joram Aniya, Rita Chowdhury with Ranju Dodum. Includes Q&A
11:00	Talk	<i>Bracing for impact: Navigating the creative seas with Generative AI</i> Lovekesh Vig. Includes Q&A
11:50	Break	
12:20	Discussion	<i>Future of content creation</i> Asalie Peseyie, Avantika Haflongbar, Merenla Imsong with Karma Paljor. Includes Q&A
13:20	Performance poetry	'Persistence of Memory' Samudra Kajal Saikia
13:40	Closing address	Fr Dr Allwyn Mendoz, Principal, Saint Claret College

Outcome-based workshops

Graphic Novel and Animation Workshop

with Samudra Kajal Saikia & Pankaj Saikia

24th - 26th September

It aims at developing a comprehensive understanding of visual narratives and the art of bookmaking while instigating a multidisciplinary aesthetic experience. This four-day workshop begins with an introduction of image-making, storytelling alongside the art and technology of mediumistic shift. Through a series of group discussions the participants will be trained how the pre-production, production and post-production are done. Within three days the participants will come up with not only their own ideas but also a complete outcome.

Kaleidoscope: A Visual Storytelling Workshop

with Lavanya Ramaiah

18th - 26th September

This workshop is designed to enable each student to recognize and express their unique connection to their surroundings and bring them to life through the art of filmmaking. It introduces them to audio-visual techniques that will assist them in creating 3–5-minute short films by the workshop's conclusion. The emphasis is on fostering experimental and playful storytelling, whether in the realm of fiction or nonfiction.

The Craft of Poetry

with Aditi Rao

24th - 26th September

Over this three-day poetry workshop, participants will learn and practise key elements of poetic craft, such as musicality, line and stanza breaks, image and metaphor. The facilitator will work with the participants to use these tools to deepen and strengthen their writing, turning raw feelings into poems that communicate and move. Each participant will write and edit 2-3 new poems over the course of the workshop.

Writing Stories: What It Takes, What it Gives

with Tanuj Solanki

24th - 26th September

A workshop designed to help participants appreciate the art of the short story and develop an understanding of the form's components. Over the three days, there will be individual exercises and group discussion, and time devoted to sharing stories so that constructive feedback is gathered. As a way of practising the concepts learnt, each participant will write a short story.

Nail your Narrative: Storytelling Workshop

with Shubha Das

26th - 27th September

A capsule workshop will equip the participants with knowledge and skills from crafting a compelling story arc to delivering it impressively. This interactive and immersive workshop is a blend of hands-on activities, individualised exercises, and collaborative group sessions. The two-day workshop will culminate with performances by the participants, followed by a constructive feedback session, offering insights and guidance to help participants bolster their storytelling abilities and enhance their confidence.

Bios



Aditi Rao

Aditi Rao is the author of two full length books of poetry, *The Fingers Remember* (Yoda Press, 2014) and *A Kind of Freedom Song* (Yoda Press, 2019). Her work has received national and international recognition through publications, awards, and fellowships, including the Akademie Schloss Solitude Fellowship, the Hedgebrook Residency, the Sangam House International Writers' Residency, the Srinivas Rayaprol Prize for Poetry, the TFA Creative Writing in English award, the Muse India – Satish Verma Young Writer Award, and others. Aditi has a Masters' of Fine Arts in Writing from Sarah Lawrence College, and she has been teaching creative writing since 2005.



Asalie Peseyie

Asalie Peseyie is a multifaceted entrepreneur. He is the Founder of Shout Out Media, a digital media company, and the CEO of Infinity Inc, an independent record label that manages top Naga artists. He is also the Secretary of Nagaland Archery Association and an active stakeholder in the Nagaland Sports and Music industry.



Avantika Haflongbar

Avantika Haflongbar also popularly known as ROOHI is a self-taught chef, home-maker and entrepreneur. As a content creator she shares her love for food, lifestyle, and fashion with her 200,000+ followers. Avantika's pioneering work with her social enterprise ROOHI has transformed the lives of Dimasa weavers and inspired other Dimasa women into entrepreneurship. Her journey blends tradition, innovation, and a deep connection to her roots, making her stand out in both culinary and social impact spheres.



Banwang Losu

Banwang is an author of *Wancho Script* and founder of Wancho Literary Mission. He has completed his education in M.A. Linguistic from Deccan College, Pune. He currently serves as a teacher in government secondary school, Niauxa, Longding District, Arunachal Pradesh and holds the post of Executive Director, Wancho Literary Mission (NGO).



Gaby Miyum Damin

Gaby is currently pursuing a PhD from North Eastern Hill University, Shillong. Her thesis is on the women opium cultivators of Anjaw. She is also currently serving as a guest faculty for sociology at Jawaharlal Nehru College, Pasighat. In the past, she has worked with Adi Baane Kebang's, the highest customary body of the Adi tribe.



Gautam Mukhopadhyaya

Ambassador Gautam Mukhopadhyaya completed his BA Hons in History from St. Stephens College, and Masters in Sociology from the Delhi School of Economics, Delhi, before joining the Indian Foreign Service in 1980. He has served in Latin America, Europe, the United Nations in New York, re-opened the Indian Embassy in Kabul after the fall of the Taliban in 2001, and was the Ambassador of India in Syria, Afghanistan and Myanmar. Presently, he and his wife, also a former Ambassador, are engaged in a personal community farming, agroforestry, afforestation and environmental project in Manipur.



Jarjum Ete

Jarjum has been associated with APWWS and led this indigenous women's organisation in Arunachal Pradesh, since the mid 1980s in various capacities to seek, lead, speak up for and empower the womenfolk in the patriarchal Arunachal Pradesh, and continues to be in the various struggles of her parent organisation and others that fight for the forests, rivers and environment. She was the first Chairperson of the Arunachal Pradesh State Commission for Women (2005-2008).



Dr Joram Aniya

Dr Joram is an Associate Professor and Head of Department (Hindi) at Dera Natung Government College, Itanagar. She is an academician and a writer with more than 15 years of teaching experience in Arunachal Pradesh. Apart from that, she has also been an acclaimed researcher and folklorist for various national and regional magazines of Historical, Cultural and Sociological significance. She was the first woman from the Nyishi Community to get a Ph.D. and first in the state to get one in Hindi Language.



Karma Paljor

Karma Paljor is an award-winning Indian journalist and entrepreneur who co-founded Atvi Infotainment, a content creation company, in 2018. The business verticals include EastMojo.com, a digital news website. He was awarded 'Reporter of the Year by Indiantelevision.com in 2010. He won the prestigious Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism for investigative ground reports in 2011 and 2014. He is a fellow of the sixth class of the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.



Lavanya Ramaiah

Lavanya is an alumna of Film and Television Institute of India. She has worked as an editor in documentaries and independent features. Her areas of interest are women, labour, ecology, and politics of Self in Community cinema. A day dreamer, she understands how personal fantasies and hopes keep one going in face of unyielding realities. What is yet not available to us in our present, becomes possible in the stories we tell ourselves. To listen and assist others as they tell their stories through films, is how she deepens her own practice and learning in Cinema.



Lovekesh Vig

Lovekesh leads the Deep Learning and Artificial Intelligence research area at TCS Research, New Delhi where he is currently serving as a Distinguished Chief Scientist. He holds a PhD in Computer Science from Vanderbilt University, USA and has since worked at Bloomberg, R&D, New York and as a faculty at the School of Computational and Integrative Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University before migrating to TCS Research. His principal research interests are in Neuro-Symbolic integration, Document Understanding, NLP for real world conversational systems and program synthesis.



Makepeace Sittlou

Makepeace Sittlou is an award-winning journalist based in Guwahati and New Delhi. She primarily covers India's Northeast but has also reported from Taiwan, Australia and the United States. Until recently, she was a Fulbright fellow at the Walter Cronkite school of Journalism and Mass Communication, Arizona State University.



Merenla Imsong

Merenla Imsong is an actor, writer, content creator and former candy crush addict. After completing her Master's degree in Zoology from Delhi University, she disappointed her entire family by announcing the decision to move to Bombay to be an actor where she was cast in various productions in the very prestigious roles of blurry Japanese tourist, uncredited Chinese woman and Northeastern waiter standing in the background, to name a few.



Nabam Nakha Hina

Prof Nabam Nakha Hina works in the Department of Political Science at Rajiv Gandhi University in Doimukh. He has authored multiple books including Customary Laws of Nyishi Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh, Nyishi Socio-Political Movement in search of Identity, The Customary Laws of Thanyi Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh, The Customary Laws of Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, connecting tradition and modernity. He has also contributed immensely towards research articles and projects.



Pankaj Saikia

Pankaj Saikia is an author, illustrator and art director from Assam. He has both written and illustrated numerous picture books. His works are inspired by the socio-cultural landscape of his region. He delves primarily in the mediums of picture books, comics and animation. His picture book Theatre of Ghosts has featured in the Parag Honour List 2023. He lives and works from his studio in Guwahati.



Ranju Dodum

Ranju Dodum is a journalist based out of Arunachal Pradesh. He occasionally dabbles in short fiction and poetry. His work focuses on indigenous communities of the state, its environment, politics, and the cross sections where they meet. He is currently working with WWF India on formulating the state's biodiversity plan for the state government.



Dr Rita Chowdhury

A prominent Assamese novelist, poet and activist, Dr Chowdhury's oeuvre include *Makam*, a poignant portrayal of Assamese Indian community of Chinese origin; *Deo Lankhui*, a novel of epic proportion on the glorious Tiwa Kingdom of Assam; and *Ei Xomoy Xei Xomoy*, a fictionalised account of the societal and political changes brought in by historic Assam Agitation against illegal immigration from Bangladesh to Assam.



Sadiq Naqvi

Sadiq Naqvi is an award-winning journalist who reports extensively from northeast India. His work has appeared in several national and international publications. He loves to binge on spy thrillers when he's not working.



Samudra Kajal Saikia

Samudra Kajal Saikia is an internationally acclaimed animation film-maker, a practitioner of interdisciplinary art practices and a writer. He did BFA from Santiniketan and completed Masters in Visual Arts from MS University of Baroda, with specialisation in Art History and Aesthetics. He was the founder Creative Director of Kathputlee Arts and Films, New Delhi.



Shubha Das

A professional storyteller who found music amidst the giggles and guffaws of children 6 years ago and there has been no looking back since then. As a self-trained artist, she visualises every story of hers as a piece of art and believes in performing it in a manner that leaves an aural and visual imprint with linguistic hues in the minds of her audience.



Tanuj Solanki

Tanuj Solanki is the author of four books of fiction. In 2019, he was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar for his short-story collection *Diwali in Muzaffarnagar*. His novel *The Machine is Learning* was longlisted for the JCB Prize for Literature 2020. *Manjhi's Mayhem* is his latest novel.
