



## NGUGI WA THIONG'O TO HEADLINE

### AKE FESTIVAL IN 2016

Abeokuta, Ogun State will stand still once again as it hosts an outstanding roster of writers, thinkers, artists, filmmakers, musicians, book lovers and art enthusiasts at the fourth edition of the **Ake Arts and Book Festival 2016**.

We are pleased to announce that our dates for this year are **15-19 November** and the festival will take place at **Arts and Culture Centre, Kuto, Abeokuta**.

This year's edition is themed "**Beneath this Skin**" and we are delighted to have Distinguished Professor, renowned writer, and literary icon **Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o** as our headliner at the 2016 edition of Ake Arts and Book Festival. He will sit in conversation with **Okey Ndibe** about his life and works. He will also be talking about his latest book **Birth of a Dream Weaver**.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FESTIVAL

The festival will also host **9 book chats** which will feature 18 authors like **Helon Habila, Laila Lalami, Teju Cole, Panashe Chigumadzi, Tendai Huchu, Chinelo Okparanta, Noviolet Bulawayo, Jowhor Ile, Sarah Ladipo Manyika, Ofafe Atogun, Tade Thompson, Toni Kan**, and many more.

In our **12 stimulating panel discussions** where we will engage both new voices and established ones, we will focus on **identities, race, gender, mental health in fiction, the rise and fall of African economies**. We will also explore exciting genres such as **erotica, horror fiction**, and **prison stories**. At the **2 art exhibitions**, we will see the works of **Laolu Senbanjo** whose "Sacred Art of the Ori" featured on Beyonce's latest album Lemonade; and **Fatima Abubakar** who captures the lives of the people of Borno State in a stunning series of photographs. An acoustic music concert with **Brymo, Falana, Adunni and Nefertiti** will also entertain the audience at the Festival.

Our **Festival Film** is the documentary **Hissene Habre: A Chadian Tragedy**, an account of the horror inflicted on the Chadian people during Hissen Habre's rule. We will also premier our **Festival of Short Films** to celebrate this form of visual storytelling and the people who are fuelling its rapid growth in Nigeria. The short films to be screened are: **A Mother's Journey** by **Sade Adeniran**, **No Good Turn** by **Udoka Oyeka** and **Salt** by **Umar Turaki**.

## **WORKSHOPS**

**Fiction Writing** by **Noviolet Bulawayo, Helon Habila and Sarah Ladipo Manyika,**

**Script-Writing** by **Inya Lawal and Victoria Thomas** of the **Story Republic**

**Graphic Short Stories** by **Sebastian Loerscher**

## **POETRY**

At the much-anticipated **Palm Wine and Poetry Evening**, attendees will enjoy outstanding performances by, poets like **Titilope Sonuga, Lebo Mashile, Ogaga Ifowodo, Micheal Kelleher and Dike Chukwumerije** while sipping on a calabash of deliciously fresh palm wine.

## **DRAMA AT AKE FESTIVAL**

Baba Segi is back! In collaboration with **Gbagyi Child Entertainment** is bringing **The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives**. The unmissable play, directed by **Femi Elufowoju Jr**, will be the Drama at Ake Festival this year. Tickets for this event can be purchased here.

Ake Festival, one of the most thriving arts and book festival on the continent, is organised by the **Book Buzz foundation with support from its valued partners, The EU, Government of Ogun State, Annoying Logo, Etisalat Nigeria and Park Inn, Abeokuta.**

You can register here and get the Entertainment Bundle at a special discount price **OR** in person at the Ake Festival Registration Point from 15 November, 2016.

Full details of the Ake Arts and Book Festival programme will be available for download on **October 1, 2016** from [www.akefestival.org](http://www.akefestival.org) .

We look forward to sharing more exciting news about the festival with you.