

First Africa Book and Design Festival to launch in November

The first Africa Book and Design Festival (ABDF) is set to launch on 11 - 13 November 2021 in South Africa. The festival celebrates African excellence in literature and design and aims to encourage intra-African cultural exchange by connecting African authors and book designers under one roof whilst connecting their works to Africa's growing consumer market.



Source: www.unsplash.com

The goal of the festival is to demonstrate the value of reading and design thinking to Africa's younger generations with one of the key messages being that 'If you don't read, make sure your children do' because books open the mind in ways that no other medium can.

Due to Covid-19 regulations, the launch will be a hybrid event of physical (limited capacity) and virtual experiences. Content will be unpacked in small settings to allow attendees to stream discussions and presentations from various authors on the ABDF website, YouTube and other social platforms, with a virtual exhibition experience that will allow booksellers to showcase and sell African works that are a must-have in your personal library.



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21 Sep 2021



The festival is supported by South Africa's Department of Sports, Arts and Culture: Literacy Department with the intention to expanding the literary conversation to Africa's young audience.

“Covid-19 has forced the world to think local and for the most part, local means one’s country. But for Africans, it is important that we continue to engage at a continental and global level. Not only to enable our authors to continue to access a larger consumer base but for all of us to connect to our shared African history, our shared culture and our shared goal – to continue to create new narratives for and about our people,” said Lisa Combrink, head of literacy at the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture.

“Africa is abundant in creative talent and at the base of creativity is literature and design. Not only do books tell our authentic African stories, they are the documentation of our told and untold history, - the guides that inspire the future. Design is at the root of all creativity – the very first storytellers were designers, telling our stories through images. At Africa Book and Design Festival, we believe books and design are key resources to documenting and informing African culture. Connecting Africans to and through these resources, empowers us all with the tools to build the Africa we want,” said Nonhlanhla Matshazi, director of Africa Book and Design Festival.



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Trace Africa is the exclusive broadcast partner for the festival speaking to the organisers objective to expose more young people to African literature.

“Trace aims to empower people through storytelling, entertainment and creative content campaigns. This is why it’s so important for Trace to be a part of the first African Book and Design Festival. We recognise the need to celebrate the excellence of these authors and believe that it is our duty to encourage the intra-African cultural exchange to help build Africa’s growing youth market,” said Trace’s managing director, Valentine Gaudin-Muteba.

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