

## PROGRAM OF THE EVENTS IN RUSE, SOFIA AND VELIKO TARNOVO

**October 11 – 15, 2019**

**CANETTI HOUSE, SLAVYANSKA 12 STREET**

The International Literature Festival in Ruse is an event that has established itself as one of the most famous events for the Bulgarian and the international audiences. The festival presents the most up-to-date aspects of international and local culture, literature, and art. This year, the festival is held under the motto "The Wall", and is dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. From 11 to 15 October the audience in the city of Ruse will have the opportunity, through speech and art, to get in touch with the past, refracted through the prism of artists' memories coming from a couple of European countries, and united in a ray of light in the present.

Anyone who collects stamps from 5 events within the festival will receive a gift book on the last day, October 15, during closing time at Canetti House.

### **OCTOBER 11, FRIDAY, CANETTI HOUSE, SLAVYANSKA 12 STREET**

**4:00 pm**

**Opening of the “Unsettled graphics” exhibition from the European “Solidarity” Center in Gdańsk, jointly with the Polish Institute in Sofia**

An exhibition of drawings, posters, and graphics by Zygmunt Januszewsky, who in the 80s painted and worked for independent Publishing Houses in Poland, and later for Polish, and foreign newspapers and magazines. They are featured in the exhibition graphics, drawings, and posters created by the author from 1983 to 2012. In the same period, Z. Januszewsky created more than 100 posters, including theatrical performances and books.

**Zygmunt Januszewsky** (1956 - 2013) is a distinguished prominent Polish graphic designer and illustrator, many awards winner. He was a lecturer at the International Summer Academy of Fine Arts in Salzburg and at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. During the Polish People's Republic, he worked with independent Publishing Houses and managed to ridicule the system and the apparatus of power. His illustrations are published in leading Polish, German, French and British editions. He deals with graphics, posters, photography, and poetry. In his surreal works, he produces his own, full of symbols language.

**The exhibition will be presented by the director of the Polish Institute Sofia,  
Mr. Jaroslaw Godun.**

4:30 pm

"The Seventh Angel Poetry in Prose" by Zbigniew Herbert, translated from Polish to Bulgarian by Zdravko Kisyov, (Poetry Publishing House "Da", Sofia, 2019) (jointly with the Polish Institute in Sofia)

The book will be presented by Roman Kisyov

Moderator: Prof. Penka Angelova

Two years after the death of the poet and translator **Zdravko Kisyov** (1937 - 2015) his son, **Roman Kisyov**, a poet, translator and artist, found out in his father's archive a folder titled "The Seventh Angel" and later a small notebook also. They contain translations of poetry by Zbigniew Herbert from his second book, *Hermes, the Dog and the Star* (1957). This is how the richly illustrated collection of 50 short poetic texts of Publishing House for Poetry "Da", entitled "The Seventh Angel", was translated in Bulgarian. For the first time in Bulgaria, Herbert was presented with his prose poetry. The book also features an article by Professor Kalina Bahneva about Zbigniew Herbert.

**Zbigniew Herbert** (1924-1998) is a Polish poet and essayist, author of dramatic works and radio works, a writer with rich creativity, an exceptional artistic and moral authority, one of the most frequently translated Polish writers. He debuted as a poet in 1950, but his first Poetry Book "String of Light" was published only in 1956. In his work, he examines moral-philosophical problems by giving references to the humanist traditions of Europe. His poetry draws its life from universal values, history, mythology, and art.

It combines classicism with avant-garde, passion with humor and irony, and intellectual discourse with linguistic simplicity. He has published more than 15 books, including the poems: *Hermes, Dog and Star* (1957), *Study of the Subject* (1961), *Inscription* (1969) and the most famous *Pan Cogito* (1974). He is the author of essays in which his vast knowledge in the field of Humanities become apparent - *Barbarian in the Garden* (1962), *Still Life with a Bridle* (1993), his works have been translated into more than 35 languages, including in Bulgarian by Blaga Dimitrova, Nikolay Kanchev, Parvan Stefanov, Dimitrina Lau-Bukovska, Boris Dankov, Vera Deyanova, and others. He has been awarded many of the most prestigious Polish and internationally renowned literary awards.

5:30 pm.

Władysław Szpilman - "The Pianist", translated by Prof. Margreta Grigorova

Elias Canetti Publishing House, Ruse, 2019, jointly with The Polish Book Institute in Cracow and the Polish Institute in Sofia)

The book will be presented by Prof. Margreta Grigorova

Moderator: Prof. Penka Angelova

**Władysław Szpilman** was born on December 5<sup>th</sup> 1911 in Sosnowiec, the Polish Kingdom, the Russian Empire. He is the fourth child in a Jewish family. He has a brother and two sisters. In the early 1930s, he graduated from the Frederic Chopin Music University in Warsaw under the supervision of Alexander Mikhalkovski. In 1931 he earned a scholarship at the Berlin Academy of Music in Berlin, where Leonid Kreuzer and Artur Schnabel were his teachers. After the Nazi came to power in 1933, he returned to Poland and from April 1, 1935, he worked as a pianist in the Polish radio. Until 1939 he composed symphonic and film music.

After Germany occupied Poland in 1939, in 1940 Vladislav Szpilman ended up with his entire family in the Warsaw Ghetto. On August 16, 1942, his family was deported and sent to the Treblinka concentration camp, where they were killed. **Władysław** was saved miraculously, being separated from the convoy at the last minute by the Jewish policeman **Jerzy Lewinski** (Yitzhak Heller). He rescued

himself a few more times until finally, in February 1943, he managed to escape from the ghetto and hide in various quarters of his friends. Together with the Jewish and Polish rebels and with the help of the German officer Wilhelm Hosenfeld, he survived the last days of the war. On July 6, 2000, he died at the age 88 in Warsaw.

**6.30 pm**

### **Emil Basat – “The Translation. Faces and Masks” Book Three**

Moderator: Prof. Penka Angelova

Emil Avramov Basat is the author of seven books with portraits-surveys of Bulgarian translators and foreign specialists in Bulgarian Studies: "Czech Triptych", jointly with Velichko Todorov, (*St. Kliment Ohridski University Publishing House*, 1995), "The Translation. Faces and Masks", Book First, (*Ranndal Publishing House*, 2007), "The Translation. Faces and Masks" - Book Two, (2010), "A Bulgarian-Hungarian Biphony" (Gutenberg Publishing House, 2017), "Slovak Faces of Bulgarian Literature", (*Bohemia Club Publishing House*, 2017) - electronic version, "To Poland with Love," (*Paradigma*, 2018), "Translation - Faces and Masks" Book Three, (*Paradigma Publishing House*, 2019), winner of the Bulgarian Translators Union award and the *Panagirik* Foundation's Award in Panagurishte for his overall contribution to the translation in Bulgaria, 2009. He is the head of the section "Translation Theory, History, and Critics" in the Union of Bulgarian Writers.

In the third volume of "The Translation. Faces and Masks", the author goes on with his attempts to cover the most valuable names in the history of the translation in Bulgaria, thus outlining the ways of mutual understanding of different cultures. It includes interviews with Aglika Markova, Iglia Vassileva, Gancho Savov, Ekaterina Klein and Joseph Klein, Ivan Totomanov, Zdravka Petrova, Prof. Romyana Stancheva, Prof. Nadezhda Andreeva and Dragomir Petrov - in memoriam, Prof. Vladimir Trendafilov and Kristin Dimitrova, Maya Tsenova and Azis Tash. Reviewers of the book, published again by *Paradigma Publishing House*, with the support of the Ministry of Culture "The Book Aid" Program, are Sabina Pavlova PhD, and Mitko Novkov PhD.

**OCTOBER 12, SATURDAY, CANETTI HOUSE, SLAVYANSKA 12 STREET**

**4:00pm**

### **Opening of the exhibition of Irena Parashkevova and Rumen Mihailov – BEYOND THE WALL & BEYOND THE COLOUR**

Moderator: Elena Velikova

**Irena Parashkevova** was born in 1960 in Ruse. In 1983 she graduated with a degree in Painting from "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" University in Veliko Tarnovo. Since 1983 she has participated in over 250 international, national and group exhibitions, competitions and Plein airs. She presented One-man exhibitions in Bulgaria, Romania, and Germany. Works in the field of oil painting, aquarelle, drawing, drypoint, xylography, collage and creating of tridimensional objects. Since 1991 she is a member of the Association of Bulgarian Artists, and since 2000 of the International Association of Art ASROPA. Her paintings are owned by the National Art Gallery, Sofia City Art Gallery, regional galleries, municipal galleries and private collections in Belgium, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Canada, Check Republic, Croatia, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Poland, Japan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, South Korea, Spain, the USA, etc.

**Rumen Mihailov** was born in 1969 in Toutrakan. In 1988, he graduated from "DechkoUzunov" high school in Kazanluk.

**Exhibitions and participation:** since 1994 he has participated in more than 200 international, national, regional and group exhibitions, competitions, and symposiums. He works mainly in graphic techniques, dry needle and etching, letterpress, and also drawing and collage. He also has several solo exhibitions. Rumen Mihailov has won eight international and regional prizes and diplomas for graphic art. In 1999

he participated in International UNESCO Project Art of Synergy - Smolyan, Bulgaria. A number of his works are owned by regional galleries, public and private collections and museums in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Check Republic, Croatia, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, South Korea, Spain, Turkey, USA etc.

**4.30 pm**

### **Tsvetanka Elenkova – “The Seventh Gesture II”**

**Moderator: PhD Mira Dushkova**

**Tsvetanka Elenkova** is a poet, essayist, and translator. She is the author of six poetry collections, two essay books and numerous translations from English, Greek, and Macedonian to Bulgarian. Her book “The Seventh Gesture” has editions, published in England, Serbia and France, and “Crookedness” - in the United States and France. Her last poetry book “The Seventh Gesture II” (Versus, 2019) received the "Pencho's Oak" award for poetry. Elenkova is the editor of the anthology „At the End of the World: Contemporary Poetry from Bulgaria“, (Shearsman Books Publishing House), and her interests, besides poetry, are related to Orthodoxy.

She has graduated with a master degree in theology. In 2013 she published the book *Bulgarian frescoes: a celebration of the root* (Omofor) with essays on the iconography of Bulgarian monasteries from 16-17 c., and currently she is working on a doctoral dissertation on mystical theology in the works of St. Gregory of Nazian. She has been an editor of literary and cultural publications in Bulgaria and abroad: *Ah, Maria, Europe 2001, Helios*. She has been invited as a guest at many international festivals, including *Struga Evening Poetry in Macedonia, Voice of the Mediterranean - Lodev, Vilenica-Slovenia, Poetka-Albania, Kraud Omnobus-Berlin*. Hers are the translations of the poetry books by Raymond Carver, Rosalia de Castro, Lois Pereiro, Manuel Rivas, Bogomil Gusel, Fiona Sampson and others. Her own poetry has been translated into fifteen languages. She is a co-manager of the Small Stations Press Publishing House ([www. SmallStations.com](http://www.SmallStations.com)).

The book "Seventh Gesture II" received one of the important awards for poetry "Pencho's Oak", 2019, awarded by the literary critic Prof. Svetlozar Igov. This is the sequel of the emblematic "Seventh Gesture", which was published in 2005 and recieved many positive reviews in Bulgaria and abroad. Here are some of them: "The wonderful purity of the author's thoughts is combined with the warmth of their presentation in the creation of an unusual, sublime poem. (Sara Crown, mag. Poetry Review, London)". "The short stories of Tsvetanka Elenkova are close to both poetry and philosophy. Her language is perfectly clear; sometimes her poetry resembles a travelogue in verse." (Mica Vujicic, Yellowcab, Belgrade); "This is a poetry of heavenly visions, which finds the divine in the banal and death is set at the very heart of existence"(Tersiom Edision, France).

**5:00 pm.**

### **Dorothea Dieckmann – Harzreise, (The Harz Journey)**

**Moderator: Prof. Penka Angelova**

Born in 1957, Dorothea Dieckmann studied German philology and philosophy and worked as a freelance writer since 1992. She spent some time in Cologne, Hamburg, Rome, Engadine, Tubingen and Stuttgart. Now she lives in Freiburg, Breisgau. In addition to literature, she works as a critic, essayist, teacher and translator of Italian and French. Her literary publications include: "The hard and the easy love", (1996), "Belice in a land of men", (1998), "Ladies & Gentlemen", (2002), "The Harz Journey", (2008), "Termini", (2009), "Summer in Dresden", (2017). Her novel "*Guantánamo*", (2004) has been translated into several languages. Further information at [www.dorothea-dieckmann.de](http://www.dorothea-dieckmann.de)

Dorothea Dieckmann's novel "Journey through Harz" presents a search for the past in the wake of her father's footsteps. The new comes into the life of the heroine from two sides and with indisputable power: with Yuri, the new love, and with the death of the father. Someone comes, then someone leaves, almost simultaneously. And with the new protagonist, the narrator-storyteller goes in search of her father after his death. She wants to learn what his background is, what his past is. She finds a red notebook with her father's notes and a pastel drawing from the time "before 1933". Dorothea Dieckmann's novel indicates how far the past defines the present, and the present reflects on the background of the past.

**6:30 pm.**

**Ivan Stankov - "Names under the Snow".**

**Moderator: Prof. Penka Angelova**

**Prof. Ivan Stankov** was born in 1956 in the village of Gomotartsi, Vidin district. He completed his primary and secondary education in Ruse, then graduated with the specialty *Bulgarian Philology* from the University of Veliko Turnovo. He teaches Twentieth-Century Bulgarian literature at "St. Cyril and Methodius University", Veliko Turnovo. He is the author of nine literary monographs on the works of Asen Raztsvetnikov, Jordan Yovkov, Dimitar Talev, Vasil Popov, Boris Hristov, and others. He has translated books by Mircea Kartarescu, Dan Lungu, Ioana Nicolae from Romanian to Bulgarian. His fiction books "Memories of Water. Dm" (2014) and "Streets and Ships. Gm" (2017) were published by *Faber* Publishing House. "Names under the Snow. A7" is coming up, which, together with the first two, forms the narrative trilogy "Memories of Water".

At the LitFest 2019 he will present his third book with the eponymous story "Names under the Snow". The hero of the story is a musician who is working on cruise ships. Traveling from Regensburg to Ruse with fans of Wagner's music for the March Music Days festival, after crossing the Timok River, he has found his native Bulgaria white and dead, turned into a glacier.

**OCTOBER 13, SUNDAY, CANETTY HOUSE, SLAVYANSKA 12 STREET**

**3.00 pm.**

**Manja Ristic - presentation of 11.9 "All these Europes" - an anthology of cities separated by walls, edited by Tzveta Sofronieva, literary reading accompanied by a musical performance and a discussion**

**Moderator: Tzveta Sofronieva**

**Manja Ristic** graduated from the Belgrade Academy of Music in 2001, then in 2004 she was awarded at the Royal College of Music, London, with *PGDip* Solo-Ensemble Recitalist. As a classical solo and chamber musician, as well as a composer and an improvisational musician, Manja has performed all across Europe and in the US, collaborating with renowned conductors and performers, multimedia artists, visual artists, poets, theater and film directors. While studying for a bachelor's degree, Manja works with cellist Ivana Grahovac to create an experimental electro-acoustic duo Eruption, which brings innovative approaches to instrumental string performance throughout Southeastern Europe. After completing her master's degree, Manja Ristic focuses on contemporary performances in the field of instrumental electro-acoustics, sound art, field recordings, interdisciplinary sound studies and research (mnemotopy, mnemopoetics and specific on-site intervention), experimental radio arts.

Manja Ristic is the founder of the Association of Multimedia Artists „Auropolis“ (since 2004), which under her leadership developed distinctive number of cultural events, international projects, cultural conferences and educational modules in the fields of performing arts and multimedia arts.

Manja Ristic lives and works in Belgrade, Serbia and Korčula Island, Croatia.

**4:00 pm.**

**Darina Schneider – Presentation of “The Secret Drawer”, “Elias Canetti” Publishing House, 2019**

**Moderator: PhD Mira Dushkova**

Born in 1980 in Bonn, Germany, Darina Schneider comes from a family of a Bulgarian mother and a German father. She graduated from Bonn High School, studies pharmacy, and after 6 years of practice in the field she took a new path. She retrained as a Sound Director and Media Producer, traveling across Central America and Asia. She starts writing poems in German at the age of 32 and her only, up to now, poetry collection SEHSUCHT / Thirst for Look / is published in 2017 by *Andiamo* Publishing House, Mannheim. She took part in compiling the *Anthology of Bulgarian authors around the world*, publications in the newspaper *Slovo Dnes*, *Bulgaria Chicago* and others.

Her publisher, Klaus Servene, who is known to Bulgarian readers from *Savremennik magazine*, writes in his afterword: “Darina Schneider has clearly skipped all stages of poetic development and presents us with mature and accomplished poems as her first works”. Three years of literary silence ensued. The poetess became a mother of two children - now they are four and two years old. After three-month stay in Bulgaria in the summer of 2017, Darina Schneider also writes in Bulgarian.

“In the three cycles of her lyric waterfall, Darina Schneider creates intuitively minimalistic poetry with a volume of only a few words, but precisely arranged; graphic touches, but in fact colorful states of conflict and attraction, of love and disgust, of finding and spliting - as real in the extremes of life as any modern woman's universe can be. Her passion has the cipher "my boneless soul", and the long journey of "broken hearts" ends "at the edge of the precipice." (Angela Dimcheva)

**5:00 pm.**

**Anja Kampmann – “High as the waters rise” – novel, and reading of selected poetry**

**Moderator: Prof. Penka Angelova**

**Anja Kampmann** is a German poet and author of fiction. She was awarded the *MDR- Literaturpreis* as well as the *Wolfgang-Weyrauch-Förderpreis*. For her first novel "High as the waters rise" (2018) she was awarded the *Mara-Cassens* prize for the best debut novel, as well as the *Lessing-Förderpreis*. She received the "Stadtschreiber of Bergen-Enkheim"- prize for both books. The jury stating that "High as the waters rise" is not only a novel but can be read as a long poem.

Her works has appeared in *Akzente*, modern poetry in translation (mpT), *Poesia*, words without borders, et al. Her first collection of poetry was published by *Carl Hanser Verlag*, 2016. Her novel "High as the waters rise" is highly poetical exploration of grief in the globalized world of oil rig workers, and was also nominated for the German book prize. Her new works include a performance together with a double bass player. She lives in Leipzig.

At the Literature festival in Ruse, Anja Kampmann will present her novel “High as the waters rise” and she will also read selected poems for the public in Ruse.

6.00 pm.

### Georgi Tenev – “Balkan Ritual”

**Moderator: Tzveta Sofronieva**

**Georgi Tenev** was born in Sofia in 1969. He graduated from the National High School of Ancient Languages and Cultures, also studied at Sofia University. In 1991 he continues his education in the National Academy of Theater and Film Art. He was selected by the Bulgarian winner of the *Herder Prize*, Konstantin Iliev, to receive the *Herder Scholarship*, and then he continued his studies at the University of Vienna. He is the author of the novels *Partyheadquarters* (Award for Bulgarian Novel of the Year by the Vick Foundation, 2007), *Christo and Free Love, Mr. M.*, *Bulgarian Roses* and the short stories collections "The Writer's Wife" and "Holy Light"(awarded with the PEN American Center translation grant).

"Reading the “Balkan Ritual” novel is a special experience, going from puzzle to puzzle. On certain layers one thinks he has found some answers and on the next layer he sees that it is not. It goes from one catch to another catch. What gives one cheerfulness is the spirit of truth. There is an attempt to clean up. The trip is going further down revealing the different layers not only of the last thirty years, but also back in time. There is an eternal reproduction of the stories we find in these lands. And that’s why the ritual is Balkan ...” (Tony Nikolov)

"This is a polyphonic novel that does not only have a vast variety of personages and plots, but also introduces different social, professional backgrounds and presents people with different mentalities. By doing so, it presents them in a very diverse way. *The Balkan Ritual* novel is postmodern because it attempts to close the gap between mass and elitist art. Through the thriller spiciness of the work, both in terms of characters and individual events, Georgi Tenev aims to attract a wider circle of readers. Despite the explanation that this is a historical thriller, *Balkan Ritual* is an acutely problematic novel about modernity" (Prof. Svetlozar Igov)

7: pm

### Nicolas Pannetier – “The Return of Frontiers” –film translated by Dimiter Angelov

**Moderator: Prof. Penka Angelova**

"**The Return of Frontiers**" tells the story of an incredible historical U-turn. The old iron curtain separating East from West, believed to have disappeared for good with the expansion of the Schengen area, rises across the continent to protect the North from the South. From the fall of the Wall to the present day, embracing the successive enlargements of the European Union, the film explores the life events of six border residents who rediscover their lives in a barrier-free space to be re-immersed in the world of barricades in the summer of 2015. In a production combining original archives, footage filmed in 2017 and an innovative use of cartography, the film provides a striking description of the resurgence of borders from the perspective of six border residents facing barbed wire fences by the vagaries of geopolitics.

**A film by Simon BRUNEL and Nicolas PANNETIER**

Cartography: Philippe REKACEWICZ

A coproduction of LADYBIRDS FILMS (FR) and ARTE FRANCE, produced by H  l  ne BADINTER in collaboration with Labo-M

With the participation of the CNC (France) and the support of the PROCIREP, the ANGOA (France), the Robert Bosch Foundation, the Literarisches Colloquium Berlin within the program Grenzgänger (Germany) and the Austrian channel ORF - Österreichischer Rundfunk.

LE RETOUR DES FRONTIÈRES - DIE RÜCKKEHR DER GRENZEN

© LADYBIRDS FILMS - ARTE FRANCE – 2018

**Nicolas PANNETIER** was born in Bordeaux (France), studied architecture at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture et de Paysage in Lille. Subsequently, he was part of a DAAD scholarship at the Europa University in Frankfurt (Oder), where in 2007 his first film project "La frontière intérieure" was created in collaboration with **Simon BRUNEL**. PANNETIER works as a freelance filmmaker, artistic director and music producer at Atelier Limo, which he founded in 2008 with Simon BRUNEL in Berlin.

The duo has authored several documentaries, including *The Detour* (2011), *Return of the Borders* (co-produced by LADYBIRDS FILMS and ARTE FRANCE, 2018) and *J'aime ma lagune* (2019) in collaboration with The Goethe - Côte d'Ivoire Institute. The two filmmakers also produce communication videos for research institutions and European projects, as well as web documentaries and other border-related formats, such as the photo exhibition "BY MY SIDE", which was shown at the Literary Colloquium in Berlin in July 2019. as part of the REWRITING THE MAP festival.

#### **OCTOBER 14, MONDAY, CANETTI HOUSE, SLAVYANSKA 12 STREET**

**4:00 pm.**

##### **Svetlozar Igov - "The genre of Elias Canetti"**

**Moderator: Prof. Penka Angelova**

**Prof. Ph.D. Svetlozar Igov** is a Bulgarian scholar, literary critic and historian, essayist, poet, fiction writer and translator. He is the author of books with monograph literary studies, articles, essays. He was born on January 30, 1945 in Raduil village, Sofia district. Graduated in Slavic philology from Sofia State University in 1966. He specialized in Slavic literature in Belgrade and Zagreb (1967-1968).

He has taught at Sofia University (1967-1969) and at the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv (since 1978). Editor of the newspaper "Literaturen Front" (1969-1970), "Savremennik" magazine (1972-1977), editor-in-chief of Language and Literature (1994-2005). He worked at the Institute of Art Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (1976-1978). Research and Senior associate (1978, 1988) at the Institute of Literature at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In 1978, he defended his doctoral thesis on "Ivo Andric - creative development and artistic structure".

He has won the following literary awards: *Ivan Dinkov* (2006), *Jordan Yovkov* (2010), *Ivan Vazov* (2012). At the Literary Festival in Ruse, the author will present his report "Elias Canetti's genre" - reflection on the genre system of his work in view of his notes / fragments.

**5:00 pm.**

##### **Jose F. A. Oliver – poems and essays translated by Dimitar Angelov**

**Moderator: Prof. Penka Angelova**

Jose F.A. Oliver was born in 1961 in a family of Andalusian parents in Hausach, a small town in the German Black Forest where he lives and works today. His works have been awarded with numerous

honors, including awards: Adalbert von Chamisso Prize (1997), Kulturpreis des Landes Baden-Württemberg (2007), and Basler Lyrikpreis (2015).

He has been writer-in-residence from Dresden to Cairo and guest professor at diverse institutions including M.I.T. In collaboration with the Literaturhaus Stuttgart, he designed students and teachers creative writing workshops for developing language skills and facilitating reception of literature in the classroom for both children and young adults. This work led to the publication of *Lyrisches Schreiben im Unterricht – Vom Wort in die Verdichtung* (Klett / Kallmeyer-Friedrich-Verlag, 2013). José is curator and co-founder of the literary festival Hausacher Leselenz.

([www.leselenz.com](http://www.leselenz.com))

**6:00 pm.**

### **Altzek Kuber – “Peripetia”**

**Moderator: prof. Penka Angelova**

**Penyo Hristov Penev**, also known by his artistic nickname Altzek Kuber, is a Bulgarian poet, born in 1946 in the Sadina village, Popovo district, Bulgaria. In 1950, his family moved to Ruse, where he completed his secondary education. In 1973 he completed his higher education at the Faculty of Philosophy and History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", where he graduated from with a degree in pedagogy specializing in speech therapy and psychology.

He began his working career at the Sava Ognianov Drama Theater in Ruse as a stage worker. He has consistently been an editor at *Narodna Prosveta* scientific journal, *Otvoreno obrazovanie* scientific journal at the Ministry of Education and Science, The main editorial board of Pedagogical Editions, as well as at *School* scientific journal (Bulvest 2000 Publishing House). He works on his specialty in different schools and educational institutes at home and abroad. He was awarded the Ministry of Education badge *Otlitchnik*. His publications can be found in the *Narodna Prosveta* scientific journal, *ABV*, *Uchitelsko Delo*, *Tishina* newspaper.

At the Literature Festival, the author will present his unpublished collection of poems entitled "Peripetia". In it he deals with colorful personages of ancient Greek and Roman mythology - gods, kings and queens, philosophers and creative artists, as well as familiar with Bulgarian images of everyday life, arranged with traditional humor and philosophical thought.

**7:00 pm**

### **Tzveta Sofronieva/ Juliana Saiska/ Elena Dimitrova - "Reflections in a well. Multiverse 2"**

**Moderator: Prof. Penka Angelova**

**"Reflections in a well. Multiverse 2"** is an interactive stage version of poetry by Tzveta Sofronieva with the actors Juliana Saiska and Elena Dimitrova, music by Elitsa Aleksieva and design by Sophia Alexandra Röttschke and Elena Stumbova based on installations by the poet.

This is the second meeting of poet and performers with the audience after "Three voices, embraced by the fog" (Credobonum, Sofia, May 2019) and before "Anthroposcene" (Lettretage, Berlin, Oct 2019) and "Bait, Passion and Power in Terra Incognita" in 2020.

Images shifts reality, life-saving conditions erode, indifference increases in parallel with the thirst for mediation of everything, to the point of neutralizing meaning. Sofronieva's "Multiverse" looks for aesthetics of our hyper-reformative epoch in the intersection of poetry and knowledge, loneliness

and belonging, curiosity about the world and narrative about the man. It draws on the ability of this poetry to deal with the current state of the world between the chaos of utopias and dystopias, the remnants of the past, the chaotic present and many unclear possibilities for the future.

The audience will be placed in a circle to confront the possibilities of the circle for self and mutual assistance. The performance shifts layers into the language and matter accumulated in the circle, restructures the circles into new ones, and explores the intersections of the multiple circles.

**Tzveta Sofronieva** was born in Sofia, has lived in many places around the world, now is settled in Berlin. She graduated in Physics from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ochridski", holds a doctorate in the History and Philosophy of Science and studied with Joseph Brodsky. Along with more than 20 books of poetry, prose and essays, her works include theater texts, literary installations and poetry translations. She is the recipient of the Adelbert von Chamisso, PEN American and Cliff Becker Poetry Awards. Her poetry has been translated into German, English, Hungarian, French, Japanese, Finnish, Uzbek, Russian, Serbian, Dutch and other languages. Her poetry book "Reflections in a well" together with Rumyana Ebert, released this year in London, and her poetry collection "Multifunction" to be published in Buffalo in the spring of 2020 are the last of her series of poetry books which started with Chicago Blues in 1992.

**Juliana Saiska** is an actor, director, choreographer and psycho-drama therapist. She graduated in acting at the National Academy of Theater and Film Arts "Krastyo Sarafov" and continued for her master's degree at the New Bulgarian University in Sofia, where she teaches at the Master's Program in "Artistic Psychosocial Practices and Psychodrama". Her performances include "An hour before midnight (... it sounds like love, but smells like fear)", which received the Special Jury Award for Overall Performance at the "Youth in Theater" Festival, Lovech. In "Interviews with the Soul" from the interactive stage cycle "Dramatizing Intimacy" Saiska gathers her experiences as actor and as psychodrama therapist and examines the emotions on the inner stage of a person.

**Elena Dimitrova** is a freelance actress. She graduated from Krastyo Sarafov National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts in 2007, majoring in Acting for Drama. Studying for a master's degree at Sofia University "Kliment Ochridski", "Art and Modernity". In the period 2007-2019 she participated in the performances from the repertoire of "Sfumato" theater and in a number of independent stage productions. For several years her interests have been related to author's theater, devised theater, physical performance, and documentary theater forms.

**Elitsa Aleksieva** graduated from the Dobri Hristov State Music School in Varna and continued her studies at the Music Academy "Pancho Vladigerov" in Sofia, graduating with major in violin. She works experimenting in the field of composition in documentaries and in animated films, in independent music and theater projects, among which is "An Interviews with the Soul" by Y. Saiska. A debut album featuring original music is forthcoming.

**Sophia Alexandra Röttschke** graduated German High school and the American CRLS in 2012. She studied Psychology and had been working on student theatre productions in various positions before setting on the path of working in film. She interned for the art department of the German production 'The Witch and The Ottoman', was assistant indoor prop master the X-Filme production "Alfons Zitterbacke" and at the German TV series "Tatort", set decorator and prop master on the production "DYE" at the University Konrad Wolf, Babelsberg as well as an indoor prop master in advertising (Wernesgrüner Beer) and for the crime TV series "Polizeiruf 110". 2018 and 2019 she built two stages for a theatre production at the University for music and theatre in Hamburg and a theatre production by "Das Durchgedrehte" Drama in Berlin.

**Elena Stumbova** works in set design and costumes for theater, cinema, television, music videos and commercials and brings the experience as scenographer and costume designer from more than ten

plays in different theatres in Sofia. She graduated at the Iliya Petrov National School of Fine Arts in Sofia, majoring in painting in 2008, and the National Academy of Theater and Film Arts in 2014, majoring in Stage and Screen Design.

“Best Graduate Scenographer” Award at the Krastyo Sarafov National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts in 2012.

## OCTOBER 15, TUESDAY, CANETTI HOUSE, SLAVYANSKA 12 STREET

4:00pm

Viktor Horvath - "My Tank", translated by Svetla Kyoseva

**Moderator: Prof. Penka Angelova**

**Viktor Horváth** (1962, Pécs) is a Hungarian writer, translator of fiction. He graduated from the Janus Pannonius University of Pécs with a degree in literature and linguistics. He works as a journalist, teacher and organizer of cultural events. Since 2002 he has been teaching Literary Theory and History of Forms at the University of Pécs, and since 2015 writing and translating poetry and prose at *Péter Pázmány* Catholic University and the Reformed University of Gáspár Károli. He publishes stories, translations of medieval poetry, novels and research. He translates from English, German and Spanish. His first novel, “Through”, was published in 2004. His greatest literary success was the novel *Turkish Mirror*, published in 2009, for which he received the *European Union Literature Award* (2012), published in Bulgarian in 2017 in translation by Svetla Kyoseva. Other books include *The Nutcracker* (novel, 2011), *The Little Collapse* (novel, 2012), *The Counter-Revolution of Verse* (methodology, 2014), *Myobion* (novel, 2015), *My Tank* (novel, 2017) and more.

*My Tank* is a historical novel which tells the story of the Warsaw Pact attack on Czechoslovakia in 1968. The protagonist takes part in as Janos Kadar's translator, and unwillingly witnesses key moments: from the entry of the "fraternal armies" in Czechoslovakia to meetings of communist leaders. With his inherent irony, Horvath did not disappoint his readers this time, either. The Children's game of tanks turns to reality, while the characters cannot let go of their infantile nature and the played live crucial moments of European history become a farce. **My Tank** is a well-written and important book that tries to take a peek into the mechanisms of the communist rule. The answer the book gives is very humorous and at the same time very serious.'

**Svetla Kyoseva** lives and works in Budapest. She graduated from the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” with a degree in History and Philosophy. Editor-in-chief of the bilingual magazine for culture and public life *Haemus*, published in Hungary since 1991. She is the editor of a radio program in Bulgarian on Hungarian radio. She translates contemporary Hungarian poetry and prose. More than 200 publications and more than 30 independent books have been translated by her and published in Bulgaria. The books present the most prominent figures in contemporary Hungarian prose - the Nobel laureate Imre Kertész (“Homelessness”, “Kaddish for an Unborn Child”), Péter Esterházy (“One Woman”), Peter Nadash (“The End of a Family Story”, “Make me an altar of earth”), László Krasznahorkai (“Satantango”), Ádám Bodor (“The Sinistra Zone”), Endre Kukorelly (“The Fairy Valley”), Zsuzsa Rakovszky (“The Snake's Shadow”). She turns to both the classics: Mihály Babics (The Stork Caliph), Milán Füst (“The story of my wife”), as well as more contemporary writers: Viktor Horváth, Edina Szvoren, Gábor Schein, Noémi Kiss.

Her translations are included in the Anthologies of Hungarian Poetry and Prose. She publishes poems in the Bulgarian and Hungarian press. Her poetry collection, *Horizontal and upright*, was published in 1996.

5:00 pm.

**Elias Hirschl - excerpt from "The Hundred Black Sewing Machines"**

**Moderator: Prof. Penka Angelova**

Elias Hirschl was born in 1994 in Vienna. Author, musician and slam poet. There are five published books up to now which titles are indicative of the creativity and richness of his fantasy: "The Only Rural Inhabitant with a Telephone Connection" (2015), "My Friends Killed Adolf Hitler and All They Brought to Me Was This Lousy T-shirt" (2016), Hundred Black Sewing Machines (2017), Happy Free Falling Pigs (2018), The Blank (2019). In an unimaginably elegant way, he manages to absorb and show through his own prism the rich tradition of Austrian literature - from Hofmannsthal through Kafka to Wittgenstein. His creative international tours take him to all continents.

In Ruse he will read a fragment from the Sewing Machines, translated by Prof. Penka Angelova.

6:00 pm

**Sophie Reyer – "Veza – Novel"**

**Moderator: Prof. Penka Angelova**

**Reader: Ralitsa Konstantinova**

Sophie Reyer holds a degree in German Studies and Composition, a Master of Arts in Composition and Theater, and has a PhD in Performance. She writes poems, short stories, novels, and creates theater and musical works: *Sleeping* (Novel), *Turtle Days* (Novel). She is an author of trans-genre works such as *Snow White's Psychosis*, *White Noise*, a three-speaker music theater and a quartet. Her works are characterized by a social and political commitment to manipulative strategies by the media and politicians and to the preservation of human dignity. Her language is magically impulsive and multifaceted, and her ability to keep the reader in suspense is irresistible.

She has won numerous literary and musical awards and scholarships, teaches at the Graz University.

In Ruse she will read an fragment from her unpublished novel about Veza Canetti, under the working title: Veza-Novel, translated by Prof. Penka Angelova.

7:00 pm.

**Vladimir Sabourin – "New Social Poetry"**

**Moderator: Prof. Penka Angelova**

**Prof. PhD Vladimir Sabourin** writes in Bulgarian, he is of French-Cuban origin: writer, poet, philologist, cultural historian, literary critic. He is the author of the *Manifesto of the New Social Poetry* and founder of the literary movement *New Social Poetry*.

**Vanya Valkova** (Sofia) is a graphic and multimedia designer and artist. She works in the fields of digital graphics, photography, new media art and contemporary sculpture. She writes poetry, art criticism, essays. Since 2017, she is a part of the editorial board of *New Social Poetry*. She is actively involved to build the visual image of the magazine online and offline.

"**New Social Poetry**" is the name of the break up with the status quo of the corporate fusion between academy, market, performance and literature. Without autonomy against these forces, there is no vanguard true to its name; as such the group defines itself. Four years ago, when it was

created, it seemed like *wishful thinking* or a fleeting nightmare on the well-guarded literary perimeter of the closed complex of “Peaceful Transition”. Something, that was supposed to fade in the face of the unshakable realities of the state, the market, the academy, the society of the spectacle and their literary concoctions. However, **new social poetry** refused to cease because of the natural death caused by associative entropy in these lands and demonstrated that there was a life for literature beyond the oligarchic networks of control over the literary field, there was life despite and against the literary “Peace Transition”.

**VELIKO TARNOVO:**

**OCTOBER 16, WEDNESDAY**

**Literature reading with Elias Hirschl and Sophie Reyer as a part of the commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Austrian library in Veliko Tarnovo.**

**SOFIA:**

**OCTOBER 16, WEDNESDAY**

**Literature reading with Jose A. F. Oliver at Goethe-Institute Sofia**