



09

risk

16.-20.09.2009

Kapittel

Stavanger International Festival
for Literature and Freedom of Speech

Risk09



Exactly what is risk in literature, and what relevance does it have as the theme of a literature festival?

As we have a number of prominent guests from Iceland this year, it is tempting to draw lines back to our earliest literature and the skaldic poetry. As a skald for the king or other nobles, it did not take a lot of stumbling in the metre before you became a head shorter. Tough literary authorities could deport you from the country for insulting mockery - an obvious case of freedom of speech, we might call it now.

Luckily this is not the case for most writers here in Norway, but modern parallels are unfortunately numerous. As a festival of freedom of expression, Kapittel will

focus on these fates, through the collaboration with The International Cities of Refuge Network, ICORN.

It is also interesting to look at other types of risk than the one that influences writers' life and work politically. It may involve personal risk by using their own biography or exposing others. Furthermore, literature has an innate risk meter where experimenting with language, form and genre may result in failure, slating and exclusion from "the good taste"; at the same time, this may be the right path to real literary heights. Isn't it also true that in literature, riskiness is what brings out new masterpieces? Can risk be a criterion of quality?

We will be illustrating this theme in many ways, both within literature and without. Also related to the theme is a concept of risk capital and financial crisis, which will take us from Alexander Kielland's *Fortuna*, via a an Iceland threatened by bankruptcy, to the global Rogue Economics.

And of course, Kapittel will simply be a venue for good literature and good experiences for a curious audience.

Welcome to Kapittel 09!

Eirik Bø
Festival Manager

Kapittel 09:

International participant profiles

Manal Al-Sheikh, Iraq, writer

Manal Al-Sheikh is an Iraqi poet and writer. She has participated very actively in the Arab Union of Writers, and has released collections of her own poetry and well as editing an anthology of modern Iraqi poetry. As a consequence of her work as a freelance journalist she received death threats in Iraq, and is currently Stavanger's guest writer.

Andri Snær Magnason, Iceland, writer

Andri is an Icelandic writer whose publications include novels, poems, plays, short stories and essays. His work has been published or performed in more than 16 countries. His latest book, Dreamland: A Self-Help Manual for a Frightened Nation, criticises the rapid destruction of Icelandic nature. The book has also been made into a film by the writer himself and features in our film programme.

Otba Fatallah, Iraq, poet, journalist

Otba Fatallah is an Iraqi poet and journalist and a former ICORN guest writer in Stavanger. Fatallah came with his family to Stavanger after receiving death threats in his home country because of his work.

Dana Gioia, USA, poet and critic

Gioia is an internationally renowned poet and critic. As board director of NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) he was one of the initiators of "The Big Read", a common reading campaign across the USA. With "The Big Read" NEA wanted to make reading an even more central part of American culture. By the end of 2009 approximately 400 communities in USA will have participated in the reading campaign since the start of 2007.

Hallgrímur Helgason, Iceland, writer

Hallgrímur is one of the most famous Icelandic writers, and many of his books have been translated to Norwegian. In 1999 he was nominated for The Nordic Council's Literature Prize for his book 101 Reykjavík, which was made into a film the following year, and was a hit also in Norwegian cinemas. In 2006 he released

the Laxness-influenced The Author of Iceland, and in 2007 he was again nominated for The Nordic Council's Literature Prize for his novel Rokland, which is now available in Norwegian.

Chenjerai Hove, Zimbabwe, poet and writer

Chenjerai Hove is a poet and writer from Zimbabwe, and a former ICORN guest writer in Stavanger. He has written award-winning poems and novels in English as well as his mother tongue Shona, and was also a freelance journalist in his home country. Hove currently lives in exile in Stavanger due to his criticism of president Robert Mugabe's regime.

Malalai Joya, Afghanistan, politician and writer

Joya became world famous overnight at the age of 25 when she condemned the Afghan parliament from its own speaker's platform for being full of warlords. Since her historic address, Joya has survived five attempted murders. She is currently living in hiding in Kabul, changing homes frequently and wears a burka whenever she leaves the house. Joya is often referred to as the bravest woman in Afghanistan, and is here presenting her book A Woman Among Warlords.

Mansour Koushan, Iran, writer

Mansour Koushan is an Iranian theatre producer and director, playwright and novelist, and a former ICORN guest writer in Stavanger.

Petr Lom, Czech Republic, director

Lom is an independent and autodidactic documentary creator who directs, films and edits his own films. He has left his academic career as a doctor of political philosophy at Harvard and has the current film Letters to the President, which is about Iran's disputed president Ahmadinejad. The film was shown earlier this year at the Berlin film festival, where it received critical acclaim.

Shady Manasrah, Palestine, journalist

Palestinian journalist Shady Manasrah was forced to leave Palestine and his home in Hebron on the West Bank

Kapittel 09:

International participant profiles

after writing about the Israeli occupants' violations of human rights and about corruption in both camps during the elections in the Palestinian areas in 2006. Manasrah currently resides in Stavanger.

Basim Mardan, Iraq, writer

Basim Mardan is an Iraqi writer and translator. He came to Skien as the town's first guest writer in 2006, and has participated at several literary events nationally and internationally.

Sami Michael, Israel, writer

Michael was born in Baghdad where he grew up in a mixed neighbourhood with Jews, Muslims and Christians. He started early writing for Communist underground newspapers. In 1949 Michael immigrated to Israel, and is today one of Israel's most renowned and award-winning writers and president of The Association for Civil Rights in Israel. The documentary Forget Baghdad features Michael as one of the interviewees, and is shown at this year's festival.

Denise Mina, Scotland, writer

Mina was born in Glasgow, where several of her crime novels are set. So far Mina has introduced two heroines to the world, both of whom live in Glasgow: Maureen O'Donnel in the Garnethill trilogy and the journalist Paddy Meehan in her latest series. She has received several prestigious awards for her authorship, and her current book, *The Last Breath*, is the third in the Paddy Meehan series.

Rutu Modan, Israel, comic book artist

Modan is one of Israel's most famous comic book artists. Through her comics she gives an interesting and well-drawn portrait of today's Israel. Just after her studies, Modan became editor for the Israeli version of MAD, together with Yirmi Pinkus. In collaboration they founded the Actus Tragicus Comics Collective, which has acquired a reputation with publications like *Exit Wounds*, *Jetlag*, *Happy End* and *The Actus Box*. Her first graphical novel, *Exit Wounds*, was released in 2007, earning her critical acclaim and a series of awards.

Gabe Mythen, England, researcher of risk

Dr. Gabe Mythen is Senior Lecturer at the University of Liverpool. For years he has done research in the field of risk, including in connection with crime, politics, welfare, environment and food safety. His current publications are *Ulrich Beck: A Critical Introduction to the Risk Society* and *Beyond the Risk Society: Critical Reflections on Risk and Human Society*.

Loretta Napoleoni, Italy, writer and economist

Napoleoni is a journalist and writer currently residing in London. She is also an economist and has worked for international banks and financial organisations. Napoleoni is one of the world's leading experts on money laundering and financing of terrorism, and has assisted various governments in their fight against terrorism. In the early 1990s she was one of few journalists who were permitted to interview The Red Brigade. Her previous publications include *Terror Incorporated* and *Insurgent Iraq*, and her current book is *Rogue Economics*.

Mansur Rajih, Yemen, writer

Mansur Rajih spent 15 years in prison in his home country Yemen as a result of his poetry, which contained criticism of the country's regime. Since coming to Stavanger as a guest writer in 1998 he has written and published three collections of poems, all of which have been re-created in Norwegian.

Sjón, Iceland, writer

Sjón made his debut in 1978 with the collection of poems *Sýnir*, and he is one of Iceland's most prominent writers and poets. He was awarded The Nordic Council's Literature Prize in 2005 for the novel *Skugga-Baldur*; he has written lyrics for Björk and has been guest vocalist for the pop group Sugarcubes. *Skugga-Baldur* has now been translated into English and was nominated for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize for 2009. Sjón is the president of Icelandic PEN.

Kapittel 09: Extended information on events in English

Wednesday, 16 September

11.00-12.00 | Church Asylum

Manal Al-Sheikh

The Crypt, Stavanger Cathedral, free entry

The church has a special responsibility for the world's persecuted people, and throughout history, church asylum has provided refuge for them. In these events, literature and the topic of risk are brought into church by the invitation of four persecuted writers, all of whom have found refuge in Stavanger, to read their own texts in the crypt in Stavanger Cathedral. Manal Al-Sheikh is an Iraqi poet and writer. She has been active in the Arab Union of Writers and has released her own collection of poetry and has edited an anthology of modern Iraqi poetry. As a consequence of her work as a freelance journalist she received death threats in Iraq, and is currently Stavanger's ICORN guest writer.

16.00-18.00 | **Kapittel Film:**

Burma VJ: Reporting From a Closed Country (2008)

Director: Anders Østergaard, duration: 84 mins.

SF Cinema, Sølvsberget, theatre 7, NOK 50,-

Prize-winning Danish documentary on video reporters in Burma. Using small handheld cameras, the young video journalists risk a life in jail and torture to spread news to the world from the closed Burma. Introduction by Beate Ekeløve-Slydal.

18.00-21.00 | **Kapittel Film:**

Letters to the President (2008)

Director: Petr Lom, duration: 72 mins.

SF Cinema, Sølvsberget, theatre 7, NOK 50,-

A documentary about president Ahmadinejad's regime in Iran. Filmmaker Petr Lom follows the president travelling in Iran, and gives an insight into the Iranian society that is rarely mediated to the West. The theme throughout the film are some letters praying for help, written to Ahmadinejad by the poor people of the country. Introduction: Petr Lom.

Thursday 17 September

11.00-12.00 | Church Asylum

Otba Fataallah and Mansur Rajih

The Crypt, Stavanger Cathedral, free entry

The church has a special responsibility for the world's persecuted people, and throughout history, church asylum has provided refuge for them. In these, literature and the topic of risk are brought into church by the invitation of four persecuted writers, all of whom have found refuge in Stavanger, to read their own texts in the crypt in Stavanger Cathedral. Otba Fataallah is an Iraqi poet, journalist and former ICORN guest writer in Stavanger. He came here with his family after receiving death threats in his home country because of his work. Mansur Rajih spent 15 years in prison in his home country Yemen as a consequence of his poetry, which contained criticism of the country's regime. Since coming to Stavanger as a guest writer in 1998 he has written and published three collections of poetry that have been translated to Norwegian.

16.00-18.00 | **Kapittel Film:**

Lady Kul el Arab (2008)

Director: Ibtisam Mara'ana, duration: 56 mins.

SF Cinema, Sølvsberget, theatre 7, NOK 50,-

Duah Fares wins a beauty pageant for Arab women and qualifies for Miss Israel, but receives death threats from her family and her surroundings because of the pageant's swimsuit show. She is caught between her dreams and pressure from her surroundings. Introduction: Manal Al-Sheikh.

18.00-19.00 | **The Aftenblad Lecture**

Rogue Economics

Kult.Kafeen, Sølvsberget, NOK 75,-

2008 became an annus horribilis for Wall Street and the finance market, and the world witnessed the devastating powers of rogue economics. In her book *Rogue Economics*, economist and writer Loretta Napoleoni shows how the world for a long time has been shaped by hidden economic powers, and how millions of people have become victims to consumerism's fantasy world. In collaboration with the newspaper Stavanger Aftenblad.

20.00-21.30 | Kapittel Film:**Heavy Metal in Baghdad (2007)**

Directors: S. Alvi and E. Moretti, duration: 84 mins.

SF Cinema, Sølvsberget, theatre 7, NOK 50,-

We follow the Iraqi metal band Acrassicauda during the period from Saddam's fall in 2003 until 2007. Playing metal during Saddam's regime was risky, put mildly. After Saddam Hussein many Iraqis experienced a brief feeling of freedom before the country fell apart, while Acrassicauda continued the fight for freedom of expression and survival. Introduction by Basim Mardan.

20.00-21.00 | The Saucepan Revolution

Kult.kafeen, Sølvsberget, NOK 50,-

Icelandic writers Hallgrímur Helgason and Andri Snær Magnason were both on the barricades when the Icelandic economy hit rock bottom last autumn, forcing the government to resign. Meet them in conversation about the writer's role in the crisis and the fall of the saga island. Hosted by Karin Haugen.

Friday 18 September

10.00-11.00 | Reflections Beyond the Risk Society

University of Stavanger, room: TBA, free entry

In cooperation with the University of Stavanger, SEROS - Centre for Risk Management and Social Safety, we welcome to an open lecture by Gabe Mythen from the University of Liverpool. You will be enlightened on the usage of the concept of risk within social sciences by an international expert on the area. The lecture will be based on debates and reviews developed in dialogue with Ulrich Beck's famous theory on the "Risk Society".

11.00-12.00 | Church Asylum**Chenjerai Hove**

The Crypt, Stavanger Cathedral, free entry

The church has a special responsibility for the world's persecuted people, and throughout history, church asylum has provided refuge for them. In these events, literature and the topic of risk are brought into church by the invitation of four persecuted writers, all of whom have found refuge in Stavanger, to read their own texts in the crypt in Stavanger Cathedral. Chenjerai Hove is a poet and writer from Zimbabwe and former ICORN guest writer in Stavanger. He has written award-winning poems and novels in English as well as his mother tongue Shona. Hove now lives in exile in Stavanger because of his criticism of president Robert Mugabe's regime.

16.00-17.30 | Kapittel Film:**Afghan Star (2009)**

Director: Havana Marking, duration: 87 mins.

SF Cinema, Sølvsberget, theatre 7, NOK 50,-

In Afghanistan singing means you are risking your life. In this film we meet four contestants on Afghanistan's version of Pop Idol, where hopefuls come from all over the country to compete for money and a record deal. The contest takes a drastic turn as a young woman dances on stage, putting herself as well as the show at risk.

18.00-19.00 | The Culture Behind the War

Obstfelder, Sølvsberget, free entry.

Stavanger's latest guest writer, Manal Al-Sheikh, presents the culture nation Iraq, giving us a unique peek behind the news image of war and chaos that influences our perception of the country. Presented in collaboration with ICORN's EU project Sharahzad - Stories For Life.

18.00-20.00 | Kapittel Film:**Andri Snær Magnason presents****the book and the film Dreamland**

SF Cinema, Sølvsberget, theatre 7, NOK 50,-

Ahead of the biggest financial crisis in the history of Iceland, the government started a gigantic project: to build Europe's largest dam to bring electricity to an aluminium plant. There will be clips from the film, and Andri will talk about Iceland, exploitation of natural resources and multinational companies' entry into a small, independent state.

19.00-20.00 | Malalai Joya, A Woman Among Warlords

Sølvsberget Gallery, NOK 50,-

Joya became world famous overnight when she at the age of 25 condemned the Afghan parliament from its own speaker's platform, for being full of warlords. She has been called the bravest woman in Afghanistan, and released her book A Woman Among Warlords in 2008. Meet her in conversation with journalist Marte Michelet.

21.00-22.00 | Denise Mina

Kult.Kafeen, Sølvsberget, NOK 75,-

Meet a hard-hitting Scottish queen of crime fiction. Mina's audience is increasing in Norway and globally, and she has found her way in with the big names in crime with the Garnethill trilogy and her books about the Glaswegian woman Paddy Meehan. Meet Denise Mina in conversation with Fredrik Wandrup.

Saturday 19 September

14.00-16.00 | Do we risk enough for peace in the Middle East?

Cultural library, Sølvberget, free entry

15 years after the Oslo Accord, peace, cooperation and reconciliation are not dominant factors when the Middle East is covered in the global news. In spite of numerous diplomatic initiatives, high level dialogue meetings and grass root actions, the last year has brought us gruesome images of brutal violence and human suffering from Gaza, Iraq and Afghanistan. Why is not peace coming to the Middle East? What can bring real progress to the negotiations? Why and how should the international society intervene, and have the writers and the intellectuals a special responsibility to get the development on new and more imaginative and constructive tracks? The awarded writer Sami Michael was born as a Jew in Iraq, and has all through his adult life struggled for cooperation and understanding between all ethnicities and religious denominations in his home town Haifa, Israel. Michael holds the opening speech of the seminar, and will meet a panel consisting of among others Basim Mardan (Iraq), Mats Gilbert (Norway) and Rutu Modan (Israel) for dialogue and debate. Chair: Helge Lunde (ICORN, Norway).

16.00-17.00 | Denise Mina - Crime on the Edge

Tungenes Lighthouse, Randaberg, NOK 50,-

Scottish queen of crime fiction, Denise Mina, known for her books about the young Glaswegian journalist Paddy Meehan, is getting an increasing and dedicated reading audience all across the world. At Tungenes Lighthouse she will read one of her latest crime short stories.

16.00-18.00 | Kapittel Film:

Forget Baghdad (2002)

Director: Samir, duration: 110 mins.

SF Cinema, Sølvberget, theatre 7, NOK 50,-

A film that reflects on the clichés about the "Jew" and the "Arab" in the past century of films, combined with the stories of Iraqi-Jewish communists, including this year's Kapittel guest Sami Michael. Introduction by Sami Michael.

18.00-19.00 | Rutu Modan - Exit Wounds

Obstfelder, Sølvberget, NOK 50,-

The female Israeli comic artist Rutu Modan's first graphical novel Exit Wounds, has received a series of awards for the description of Israel and Tel Aviv. Joe Sacco, the man behind the comics classic Palestine,

described the book as "a profound, richly textured, humane and unsentimental look at societal malaise and human relationships and that uneasy place where they sometimes intersect". Meet Modan in conversation with Terje Thorsen, and hear samples from the book.

18.00-20.00 | Kapittel Film:

Slingshot Hip Hop (2008)

Director: Jackie Salloum, duration: 80 mins.

SF Cinema, Sølvberget, theatre 7, NOK 50,-

This is the story of young Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and in Israel who discover hip-hop and use the music form as a tool to overcome life's obstacles. As Chuck D from the legendary Public Enemy says: "The culture of hip-hop and rap is at its most powerful and yet its most tender in Slingshot Hip Hop". Introduction by Shady Manasrah.

Sunday 20 September

16.00-17.00 | Kapittel Film:

Japan: A Story of Love and Hate (2008)

Director: Sean McAllister, duration: 60 mins.

SF Cinema, Sølvberget, theatre 7, NOK 50,-

After two years in Tokyo BBC's McAllister is close to giving up his attempts at coming on the inside of Japanese society, and goes to a smaller city, where he meets Noiki. A successful businessman in the 1990s, he is now a part-time postman, and he and his 29 year old girlfriend are part of Japan's poor working class. The film deals with the reverse of the medal of Japan's growth.

16.00-17.00 | Sjón vs. Renberg

Kult.kafeen, Sølvberget, NOK 50,-

Friends and authors Sjón and Tore Renberg, two of the most read authors in their respective countries, suddenly find themselves in two separate worlds after the financial crisis and Iceland's bankruptcy. Hear the pair challenge each other on life, literature, the crisis, and whatever else should cross their minds.

18.00-20.00 | Kapittel Film:

USA vs. al-Arian (2007)

Director: Line Halvorsen, duration: 100 mins.

SF Cinema, Sølvberget, theatre 7, NOK 50,-

Line Halvorsen's documentary follows the Muslim Al-Arian family and their desperate fight to clear their

meets Noiki. A successful businessman in the 1990s, he is now a part-time postman, and he and his 29 year old girlfriend are part of Japan's poor working class. The film deals with the reverse of the medal of Japan's growth.

16.00-17.00 | Sjón vs. Renberg

Kult.kafeen, Sølvberget, NOK 50,-

Friends and authors Sjón and Tore Renberg, two of the most read authors in their respective countries, suddenly find themselves in two separate worlds after the financial crisis and Iceland's bankruptcy. Hear the pair challenge each other on life, literature, the crisis, and whatever else should cross their minds.

18.00-20.00 | Kapittel Film:

USA vs. al-Arian (2007)

Director: Line Halvorsen, duration: 100 mins.

SF Cinema, Sølvberget, theatre 7; NOK 50,-

Line Halvorsen's documentary follows the Muslim Al-Arian family and their desperate fight to clear their name of terror accusations initiated by American authorities. In February 2003 university professor and Palestine activist Sami Al-Arian was arrested in Tampa, Florida, accused of having supported a Palestinian terror organisation. For two and a half years he was isolated in prison awaiting a trial.

19.00-21.00 | Kapittel Film:

It's Hard Being Loved by Jerks (2008)

Director: Daniel Leconte, France, duration: 117 mins.

Folken, NOK 35,- (+ NOK 65,- for a membership)

When the French magazine "Charlie Hebdo" published the Danish Mohammed caricatures in 2006, they were prepared for trouble. It's Hard Being Loved By Jerks is a film about freedom of expression, humour and decency, which illustrates the trial that followed. Presented in collaboration with Stavanger Film Club.

Practical information

Tickets and prices:

Tickets and festival passes are on sale from Wednesday 19 August online at www.stavanger-kulturhus.no/billetter and at the information desk (festival office) in the foyer at Sølvberget.

Festival pass: NOK 650(400);
Kapittel Film pass: NOK 350;
Single events: NOK 50 / 75 / 100 (50)
(Student price in brackets)

Festival office:

14-20 September in the foyer at Sølvberget, Stavanger Cultural Centre, Sølvberggata 2, 4002 Stavanger. Tel.: +47 51 50 71 70.

The programme is subject to changes, which will be updated on www.kapittel.com.

Where to find the different venues at Sølvberget:

- Kult.kjelleren: Basement, entrance via Kult.kafeen.
- Kult.kafeen: Ground floor.
- SF Cinema: Basement and ground floor, entrance via the cinema lobby.
- Culture Library: First floor.
- Kiellandrommet: First floor, in the back of the culture library
- Sølvberget Gallery: First floor.
- Obstfelder: Third floor.

Other venues:

MS Sandnes, Cementen, Folken, Bøker & Børst, Tungenes Light, Hå Gamle Prestegard, Tou Scene, Rogaland Teater, University of Stavanger, Cathedral.