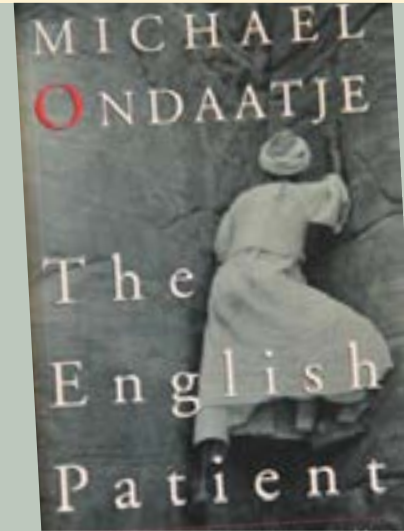
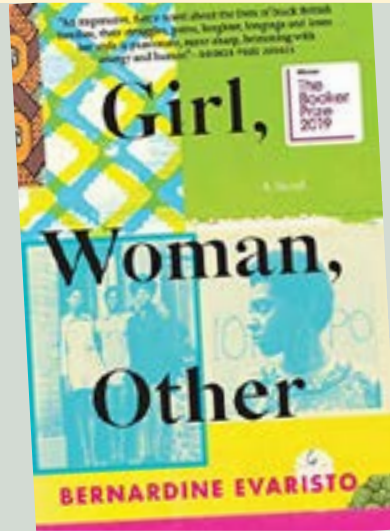


# Some of the outstanding press the Calabash International Literary Festival has received over the years and scenes from past festivals.



“It is an extraordinary event. The audience is big, extremely appreciative, very focused. And the setting is spectacular.”

## Salman Rushdie

Booker Prize, Booker of Bookers (25th anniversary), Best of the Booker (40th anniversary), the Golden Pen Award, PEN Pinter Prize, Whitbread Novel (twice)

“Calabash is simply the best!”

## Bernardine Evaristo

2019 Booker Prize winner

“Calabash is one of the great festivals. A perfect blend of literature, music and audience. A brotherhood of cultures. You will never forget it or get over it.”

## Michael Ondaatje

Booker Prize, The Golden Man Booker Prize (50th anniversary), The Giller Prize, Governor General's Award, Author of The English Patient

“I owe my literary career to Calabash. I was discovered here.”

## Marlon James

Man Booker Prize, A Brief History of Seven Killings, National Book Award, American Book Award



# **2023**

“Sun, sea and books make this festival an enticing destination. At Calabash, the combination of sun, sea and literature proves a heady, intoxicating mix – part literary party and part revival meeting.”

**New York Times**

June 8, 2023

“The heavenly literary festival, 22 years ago a gathering of 300 people in a small Jamaican fishing village, now attracts some 3,000 people from across the globe—and this year hit new levels of high profile: Angelina Jolie turned up.”

**Forbes**

June 20, 2023

“Is This the World’s Most Glamorous Book Club? The Calabash International Literary Festival is a spectacular, colorful three-day celebration of words, life, and endurance through literature, music, and conversation.”

**Town & Country**

June 16, 2023

“Jamaica’s Treasure Beach is home to cove-filled black sand beaches – and the ‘Best Likkle’ literary festival in the world. Calabash is not a festival of pomp and who knows who. It’s an experience where you’ll sit next to a Pulitzer Prize-winning author or Oscar-nominated actress, share a rum punch and move into a midnight concert replete with dancehall and Afrobeat tunes. Here it’s art, not titles, that takes center stage.”

**Essence**

June 9, 2023

“The picturesque coastal town of Treasure Beach in St Elizabeth played host to the much-loved literary extravaganza, Calabash. The biennial event transformed Jakes Hotel into a hub of creativity, attracting renowned poets and authors for a series of literary sessions for its 15th iteration. With the added allure of signed copies of books, cosy accommodations, delectable local fare, and retail therapy, the festival became a weekend getaway for the books!”

**Jamaica Observer**

June 4, 2023

“The 2023 staging of the Calabash International Literary Festival held in Treasure Beach, St Elizabeth, over the weekend was a shining display of the vibrancy and vigour within the literary and creative space. Following a five-year hiatus, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the return of the event brought together some of the region’s best writers, poets, musicians, and artists to celebrate the power of words and their impact on society.”

**Jamaica Gleaner**

June 9, 2023



# **2018**

“Travel with us as we find out what it’s like to live abroad, and to sample life in Botswana and Jamaica, where Treasure Beach gave me my own Wakanda dreams.”

**USA Today**

February 2019: Black History Month Special

“Part of Calabash’s magic is also its audience: a seamless mix of every race, class, and gender, all convening for one singular purpose: a love of literature and community.”

**Vogue Magazine**

June 11, 2018

“..after three glorious days of readings, reggae music afterparties, joyful comeraderie, blissful tropical energy and a vibe that can only be described as utopic—I felt unceremoniously exiled from the Garden of Eden.”

**Forbes**

June 22, 2018

“In recent years Calabash has played a significant role in reimagining and challenging the perception of the island as a wild and dangerous place teetering out of control. The festival has also proved transformative for a number of fledgling authors. “I owe my literary career to Calabash”, says Marlon James, the Booker Prize-winning author of A Brief History of Seven Killings. “I was discovered here.”

**Times Literary Supplement**

August 6, 2018

“Travel can take so many shapes, and coming at things from a different angle is part of what seeing the world is all about. And Jamaica’s Calabash International Literary Festival could just change the way you see travel, the way you see Jamaica and the way you see literature, all at once.”

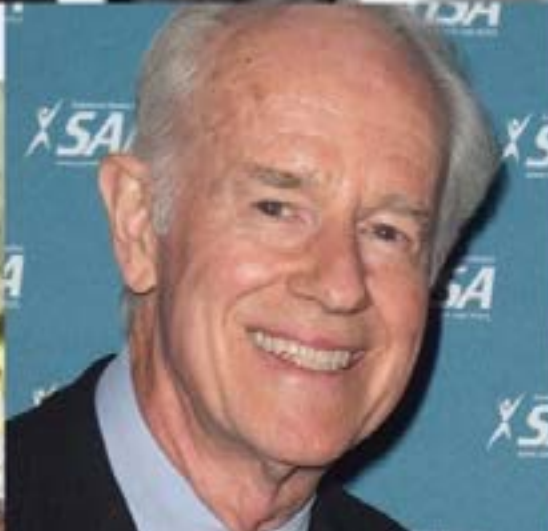
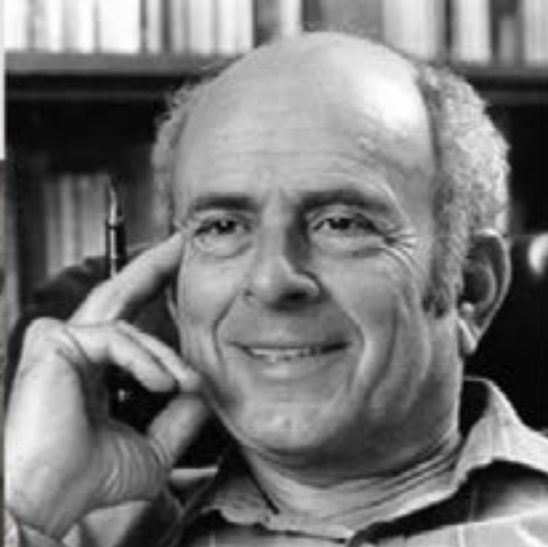
**Travel Bug Blog**

June 5, 2018

“The relationship between stage and audience is fluid, like an animated two-way conversation. Respectful silence for the work is punctuated with murmurings of agreement, howls of laughter, spontaneous applause. There’s an understanding here that you don’t see in many other festival settings; an instinctive connection between the reader and her listener.”

**MIR Online Literary Journal**

June 12, 2018



# **2016**

“Inside Jamaica’s Calabash International Literary Festival”

by Kadi Hughes

**Condé Nast Traveler**

June 2016

“Inside Jamaica’s Best Kept Secret: Welcome to Calabash”

by Kristin Braswell

**Forbes**

June 2016

“Is Rural Jamaica Home to the World’s Greatest Literary Festival?”

by Tara Donaldson

**Huffington Post**

June 2016

“Calabash International Literary Festival: Readings, music and storytelling on Jamaica’s glorious Treasure Beach”

by Stefanie Seddon

**Independent**

June 2016

“Calabash, a Basket Full of Literary Treats”

by Janet Silvera

**Jamaica Gleaner**

June 2016

“Selling TnT”

by Marina Salandy-Brown

**Trinidad and Tobago Newsday**

June 2016

“Calabash 2016, Day 2: Marlon James draw a big crowd”

by Al Edwards

**Loop News Jamaica**

June 2016

“Protoje For Calabash 2016”

by Tanya Batson-Savage

**Susumba**

May2016





## 2014

“Jamaica Literary Festival  
Draws Top-Flight Authors”

by David McFadden

**Associated Press**

June 2014

“Celebrating Literature,  
Jamaican Style”

by Emma Love

**Condé Nast Traveller**

October 2014

“6 Caribbean Writers to  
Discover this Summer”

by Kristin Braswell

**Ebony**

June 2014

“A Literary Festival  
in Paradise”

by Alison Hess

**T Magazine**

May 2014

## 2012

“Jamaica: The Land of Devoted  
Offshore Authors”

by Donna Bailey Nurse

**The Globe and Mail**

June 2012

“Two Big Small Islands Make Time  
for Jubilation: Different Sides  
of a Shared Story”

by Boyd Tonkin

**Independent**

June 2012

“Kasrils and Son Imprecise  
at Calabash International  
Literary Festival”

by Kwame Dawes

**South African Broadcasting  
Corporation**

June 2012

“Jamaica Does Literary Fest with a  
Caribbean Twist”

**NPR**

July 2012

“All Hands on the Decks”  
by Kwanele Sosibo

**Mail & Guardian**

June 2012

## 2010

“Wordsmiths Mingle Work and Play  
at a World Away: If you go...”

by Patricia Borns

**The Boston Globe**

December 2010

“Jamaicas’s Big Book Party”  
by Olivia Cole

**The Daily Beast**

June 2010

“As Kingston Seethes, Some  
Jamaicans Read”

by Baz Dreisinger

**The Wall Street Journal**

June 2010



## 2008

“More than Words: The Calabash Festival is a Slice of Literary Paradise”

by Donna Bailey Nurse

CBC News

June 2008

“The Distraction of Walcott vs Naipaul”  
by Nicholas Laughlin

The Guardian

June 2008

## 2007

“The Harder They Write: Does ‘Caribbean’ Literature Exist?”

by Carlin Romano

The Chronicle of Higher Education

June 2007

“A Natural Mystic Blowing through the Air: Report from 2007 Calabash Literary Festival”

by Marion Wink

World Literature Today

September 2007

## 2006

“Calabash — What a Thrash”

by Alex Clark

The Guardian

June 2006

“Jamaican Writers Find It’s Time to Bust Out”

by Dinitia Smith

The New York Times

October 2006

## 2005

“Of Reggae and Writers”  
by Donna Bailey Nurse

The Globe and Mail

June 2005

“Calling All Poets of the Caribbean”

by Kevin Le Genre

Independent

May 2005

## 2003

“Poetry, Reggae and Rain; On a Jamaican Beach, a Literary Festival Defies Nature”

by Sarah Boxer

The New York Times

June 2003

## **Social Media**

In 2018, #CalabashLitUp trended every day of the festival on Twitter (over 35 million impressions, 8.3 million reach). Also, 7.3K blog postings and photos posted on the internet by attendees and followers of the festival on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



