



JLF Valladolid 2025 Announces Exciting Lineup at Two Previews in Spain

The third edition of JLF Valladolid Spain will be held from **June 5-8, 2025** bringing the spirit, energy, and vibrancy of the iconic Jaipur Literature Festival to Spain. Each year, JLF Valladolid Spain draws inspiration from the grandeur of its flagship event, the Jaipur Literature Festival, while seamlessly integrating South Asia's unique literary flavours into the vibrant Spanish cultural landscape.

Teamwork Arts, producer of the Jaipur Literature Festival and the international editions of **JLF**, in association with **Casa De La India**, hosted two preview events in Madrid and Valladolid respectively, with the support of key institutional patrons – **the Junta de Castilla y León** and the **City of Valladolid**.

The first of these special previews was held at **IE University in Madrid on April 1, 2025**. This exclusive evening provided a peek into the festival's themes and cultural highlights to be held this summer. The preview featured an inspiring session titled, "**Stephen Hawking: Genius at Work**," showcasing the life, work, and legacy of one of the greatest scientific minds of our time.

In this thought-provoking conversation, **Roger Highfield**, Science Director of the Science Museum Group, and visiting professor at Oxford and UCL, was in discussion with **Shana Cooperstein**, esteemed academic at IE University, known for her expertise in the art of the long 19th century and the history of scientific imaging. Cooperstein, whose interdisciplinary scholarship has been published in *Leonardo*, *Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide*, and *Grey Room*, brought a unique lens to the conversation, offering a perspective on the intersection of science, art, and visual representation.

Following the lead of the first preview, a second one was held in collaboration with **IE University** and **the University of Valladolid**, and was followed by a panel discussion and a reception at **the University of Valladolid**. The event also offered an exclusive peek into the festival's themes, speakers, and highlights, celebrating the power of literature and dialogue. Like the Madrid preview, this event too had an intriguing session around the incredible scientific legacy of Stephen Hawking, featuring **Roger Highfield, Science Director of the Science Museum Group (UK)**, in conversation with **Sanjoy K. Roy, Managing Director of Teamwork Arts**, and **Fernando Buitrago**, distinguished senior researcher and lecturer at the University of Valladolid.

In 2021, the Science Museum Group made a landmark acquisition of the contents of Stephen Hawking's office. In his latest book, *Stephen Hawking: Genius at Work*, Highfield explores the seminal papers, artifacts, and curiosities from Hawking's office, offering insights into the extraordinary life and groundbreaking theories of one of the greatest scientists of modern times.

JLF Valladolid Spain unites writers, poets, and thinkers from two flourishing cultures in a dynamic literary, artistic, and linguistic dialogue, in both English and Spanish. The festival is held in Valladolid, a city just an hour from Madrid by train, known for its cultural,



heritage, and gastronomic richness. The city is also home to **Casa de la India**, one of the world's leading Indian cultural centres, making it an ideal backdrop for this confluence of cultures.

Renowned for being the only JLF in a non-English-speaking country, JLF Valladolid offers **simultaneous translation services** for all sessions and festival experiences. This unique, experiential festival celebrates literature alongside music, interactive workshops (dance, music, yoga, and meditation), heritage, history, winery walks, and the culinary delights of Spanish tapas and fine wines. Morning Music features sublime performances by Indian and Spanish artists, setting the tone for an inspiring day, while evening concerts present a fusion of global musical traditions, offering a lively and immersive cultural experience.

The 2025 edition of JLF Valladolid Spain will span a range of thought-provoking themes, including music, poetry, fiction, food, history, geopolitics, climate change, artificial intelligence, art, and architecture. The festival will open on June 5 with a morning event at IE University in Madrid, followed by a welcome session at Casa de la India in Valladolid in the evening. The official inauguration will take place on June 6 at Campo Grande Park in Valladolid, while the gala closing will be held on June 8 at the prestigious **Abadía Retuerta LeDomaine Hotel** and Winery in the famous Ribera del Duero wine region, which dates back to the 12th century.

Announced speakers included:

- **Marcus du Sautoy**, Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science at the University of Oxford, acclaimed author, and presenter of several BBC radio and TV series.
- **Shobhaa De**, a celebrated Indian author and columnist known for her bold social commentary and her latest memoir, *Insatiable*.
- **Kirmen Uribe**, award-winning Basque writer and Creative Writing professor at NYU, recognized for his work *Bilbao–New York–Bilbao*.
- **Francesc Miralles**, bestselling author of *Ikigai*, who explored the Japanese philosophy of longevity.
- **Josephine Quinn**, an acclaimed historian & is a Professor of Ancient History at Oxford University, She published *In Search of the Phoenicians* in 2018; *How the World Made the West* appeared in 2024.
- **Romy Gill** MBE, distinguished chef and author, who was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 2016. She received the ICAP Culinary Award for her book *On The Himalayan Trail* in 2023.

For the 2025 edition, JLF Valladolid Spain will offer an exclusive Friend of the Festival package, inviting the global community to experience the eclectic elements of the festival. This special package will provide a curated experience, offering access to exclusive events, cultural excursions, and gourmet delights.



Sanjoy K. Roy, Managing Director, Teamwork Arts, said: *"At JLF Valladolid, we bridge cultures through the transformative power of literature and the arts, sparking meaningful conversations that connect us. This festival is a vibrant celebration of the shared heritage that unites India and Spain. By exploring our interconnected stories, we highlight the common threads that bind us, creating a space for diverse voices to resonate and fostering a deeper appreciation for our differences and the strength of our shared humanity. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the City of Valladolid and Casa De La India for their unwavering support, which inspires us to return each year with the finest programming."*

William Dalrymple, writer, historian and Festival Director, said: *"Spain is one of my favourite places in the world, and hosting JLF in Valladolid offers the perfect confluence of South Asian and Spanish cultures. This festival brings the best of literature, music, and heritage to a stunning setting, creating an unforgettable experience for all."*

Namita Gokhale, author and Festival Director said, *"JLF's Spanish iteration - JLF Valladolid Spain, to be held from 5th - 8th June, 2025, in Madrid and Valladolid, is a vibrant affirmation of multicultural and multilingual literary connectivities. We platform books, ideas and dialogue, showcase music, dance, and poetry, as we seek to understand and celebrate our world through our shared stories."*

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For media enquiries, please contact:

**Hina Mobar-** PR Consultant Teamwork Arts  
**Apeksha Bajaj-** Senior PR Manager

Mansarovar Building, Plot No 366 Min, Sultanpur, New Delhi 110030  
M: +91 7385679825, | E: [hina@teamworkarts.com](mailto:hina@teamworkarts.com)

#### **About Teamwork Arts:**

Teamwork Arts is a highly versatile production company with roots in the performing arts, social action and the corporate world. For over 30 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India, presenting the finest of Indian performers, writers, change makers, and visual artistes in the knowledge and arts space in India and abroad. Every year, we produce over 33 festivals in 72 cities and 26 countries in the fields of performing & visual arts and literature. We produce the world's largest literary gathering: the annual Jaipur Literature Festival; JLF international now travels to the US, UK, and Europe.

Even amidst the upheaval and unsettling times of 2020 and through 2021, Teamwork Arts



successfully launched the digital series, JLF Brave New World and Words Are Bridges, which were viewed by over 4.8 million people in their first season. Through its digital avatar, the Jaipur Literature Festival reached over 27 million viewers in January 2021. Art Matters empowers artistes across India to collaborate by commissioning them to create new works. The digital series Be Inspired was launched in 2021 – a series that crystal gazes into the future with conversations on science, technology, innovation, environment and more. Three on-ground editions of ‘Be Inspired - Fast-Tracking the Future’ have been in India already. In 2024, Teamwork Arts collaborated with the erstwhile Royal Family of Jaipur to produce the first edition of the Jaigarh Heritage Festival, presented by Vedanta.

Website: [www.teamworkarts.com](http://www.teamworkarts.com)