



JLF North Carolina Announces Speakers for Inaugural Edition

Teamwork Arts, producer of the iconic Jaipur Literature Festival, and the annual JLF USA, that brings the infectious energy of the mother festival and South Asia's literary treasure trove to the U.S. while imbuing it with the cultural flavors of the host regions, has announced a list of eminent speakers for its exciting debut edition at North Carolina. JLF North Carolina is set to take place on September 27th - 28th, 2024, at the vibrant Research Triangle.

The festival will be hosted at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, promising an unparalleled celebration of literature, the arts, and culture.

The Research Triangle, encompassing Chapel Hill, Raleigh, and Durham, is renowned for its world-class universities, thriving tech industries, and award-winning arts, culture, and food scene. JLF North Carolina aims to reflect and contribute to the region's booming innovation and creativity. The event is supported by Carolina Performing Arts, UNC Modern Indian Studies Initiative, Carolina Asia Center, UNC Global, UNC Institute of Arts and Humanities, and additional public and private partners across the state.

A diverse and distinguished group of speakers is set to inspire and engage audiences with their profound insights. The list of speakers for JLF North Carolina include **Jhumpa Lahiri**, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author known for her poignant explorations of identity; **Shashi Tharoor**, a third-term Member of Parliament for Thiruvananthapuram, bestselling author of twenty-five books, and a former Under Secretary-General of the United Nations; **Navtej Sarna**, an author and diplomat whose literary works span fiction and non-fiction, capturing the rich tapestry of Indian history and culture; **Robert D. Newman**, President and Director of the National Humanities Center and Dean Emeritus at the University of Utah, acclaimed author of six books; **Suketu Mehta**, Associate Professor of Journalism at New York University, author of *Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found*, and Pulitzer Prize finalist; **Cheetie Kumar**, chef at Ajja in Raleigh, James Beard Foundation Award semi-finalist, and member of World Central Kitchen's Chef Corps; **Kanan Gill**, renowned comedian and writer of *Acts of God*, celebrated for his sharp wit and insightful social commentary; **Rishi Jaitly**, co-founder and CEO of Times Bridge, significant contributor to global media partnerships and digital innovation; **Sayantani Dasgupta**, Kolkata-born author of *Brown Women Have Everything: Essays on (Dis)comfort and Delight* and an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at UNC Wilmington ; and **Thomas Hofweber**, distinguished philosopher and



professor with deep expertise in metaphysics and the philosophy of language as well as Director of the AI Project at UNC.

JLF North Carolina recognizes the invaluable support of its partners. Carolina Performing Arts, the leading multi-arts presenter and producer in the American Southeast, sparks curiosity and inspires community members through world-class performances and campus partnerships. The Modern Indian Studies Initiative at UNC-Chapel Hill enhances the understanding of contemporary India through diverse research initiatives and educational resources, deepening awareness of India's dynamic present and future. The Carolina Asia Center, founded in 2002, advances the university's global initiatives by deepening understanding and fostering relationships with Asia. The Institute for the Arts and Humanities supports interdisciplinary collaboration and the development of top-tier faculty, affirming the essential role of the arts and humanities in academic and global life. UNC Global shapes and implements the university's global strategy, supporting global activity across campus. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the nation's first public university, is a worldwide higher education leader addressing the greatest challenges of our time through innovative teaching, research, and public service.

JLF North Carolina promises to be a landmark occasion, highlighting the vibrant cultural fabric of North Carolina through two days of stimulating conversations, thought-provoking discussions, and a celebration of the literary arts.

For more information, visit JLF North Carolina: <https://jflitfest.org/north-carolina>

Carolina Performing Arts:

Carolina Performing Arts is the leading multi-arts presenter and producer in the American Southeast, housed at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Our mission is to spark curiosity and inspire community members. Since its founding in 2005, CPA has presented thousands of performances and master classes by more than 500 artists from nearly 60 countries and territories, and hosted 50 world and U.S. premieres. Our performances, engagement efforts and campus partnerships have reached hundreds of thousands of patrons, students and faculty, some of which have gone on to win awards such as the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Music.

Website: www.carolinaperformingarts.org

Modern Indian Studies Initiative:

The Modern Indian Studies initiative at UNC-Chapel Hill aims to enhance the understanding of contemporary India through diverse research initiatives, events, and educational



resources. With India's prominence as the world's largest democracy and a burgeoning global economy, our goal is to deepen awareness among students and the community about its dynamic present and future. Leveraging partnerships with North Carolina's Indian American leaders and the Carolina Asia Centre, UNC is pioneering the development of a premier program in modern Indian studies. This initiative underscores our commitment to advancing knowledge of India across North Carolina, the U.S., and globally.

Website: <https://mis.unc.edu>

Carolina Asia Centre:

Founded in 2002, the Carolina Asia Center (CAC) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is a cornerstone for Asia-related activities in the south-eastern U.S. It plays a pivotal role in advancing the university's global initiatives by deepening understanding and fostering relationships with Asia. Collaborating extensively across departments, centres, and student organizations, CAC partners with institutions like Duke University and North Carolina State University to implement educational and cultural programs. Supported by prestigious foundations and governmental bodies, CAC enhances resources for Asian studies through seminars, language programs, study abroad opportunities, and scholarly exchanges, promoting intercultural dialogue between the U.S. and Asia.

Website: <https://carolinaasiacenter.unc.edu/>

Institute for the Arts and Humanities:

The Institute for the Arts and Humanities at UNC-Chapel Hill serves as a hub for interdisciplinary collaboration, supporting the university's efforts to recruit, develop, and retain top-tier faculty. Central to its mission is the affirmation of the arts and humanities as essential components of academic and global life. The IAH advances scholarship through initiatives like the Faculty Fellows Program and supports leadership development through the Academic Leadership and Chairs Leadership Programs. Emphasizing fellowship, the IAH cultivates a supportive community through programs that foster mentorship networks and professional collaboration, ensuring robust engagement across all stages of faculty careers.

Website: <https://iah.unc.edu/>

UNC Global:

The Office of the Vice Provost for Global Affairs (OVPGA), also known as UNC Global, has primary responsibility for shaping and implementing the University's global strategy while supporting global activity across campus. Units that report to the vice provost for global



affairs include Global Research Institute, International Student and Scholar Services and Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center.

Website: <https://global.unc.edu/>

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill:

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the nation's first public university, is a global higher education leader. Addressing the greatest challenges of our time through innovative teaching, research and public service, Carolina is an engine of opportunity for the next generation of students, the economy and innovation in North Carolina and beyond. A member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, Carolina regularly ranks as the best value for academic quality in U.S. public higher education. More than 361,000 alumni of Carolina's 15 schools including the College of Arts and Sciences live in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories and 149 countries. Nearly 190,000 live in North Carolina.

Website: <https://unc.edu/>

For Further Information, please contact:

Manash Pratim Deka

Associate Vice President – Public Relations & Corporate Communications

Teamwork Arts

M: +91 9953970829

E: manash@teamworkarts.com