

Winners of the Sheikh Zayed Book Award Share Literary Excerpts with Audience at Abu Dhabi International Book Fair

The Fair Hosted a Special Panel Discussion for the Award Winners.

A select group of literary, intellectual, and publishing figures in the Arabic language were welcomed at the Thebes Stage at the 33rd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF 2024), where they shared excerpts from their intellectual works that qualified them to win the Sheikh Zayed Book Award (SZBA) in its various categories this year.

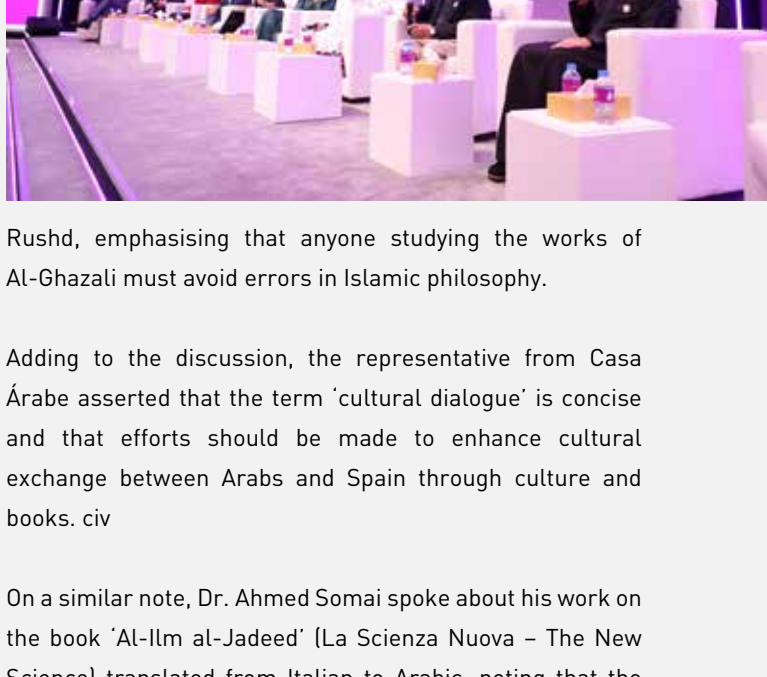
The Fair hosted an exceptional panel discussion, chaired by His Excellency Dr. Ali bin Tamim, Secretary-General of the Award and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre (ALC), bringing together Dr. Khalifa Alromaiti, winner of the Award's Contribution to the Development of Nations category; Dr. Mustafa Said, winner in the Editing of Arabic Manuscripts category; Dr. Reem Bassiouney, Literature category winner; and Dr. Housseem Eddine Chachia, winner in the Young Author category.

Also in attendance was Dr. Ahmed Somai, winner in the Translation category, and Frank Griffel from the Arab Culture in Other Languages category, along with representatives from Bayt Elhekma for Creative Industries in China, winner of the Publishing and Technology category, and Casa Árabe in Spain, which was honoured as Cultural Personality of the Year. The session was moderated by Dr. Nadia El Cheikh, member of the SZBA's Scientific Committee.

Dr. Mustafa Said, a researcher in the field of music and Arabic melody, said that his work in music motivated him to investigate and complete his study titled 'The Ship of Possession and the Precious Ship (Shehab al-Din) - Muwashah and Arabic-speaking Maqam Music between Theory and Practice', for which he won the Award.

For his part, Dr. Khalifa Alromaiti addressed the issue of nomenclature, including geographical names and other names attributed to any natural or artificial landmark.

Meanwhile, Frank Griffel touched on the significant works of Muslim researchers and scholars during the period of Ibn



Rushd, emphasising that anyone studying the works of Al-Ghazali must avoid errors in Islamic philosophy.

Adding to the discussion, the representative from Casa Árabe asserted that the term 'cultural dialogue' is concise and that efforts should be made to enhance cultural exchange between Arabs and Spain through culture and books. civ

On a similar note, Dr. Ahmed Somai spoke about his work on the book 'Al-Ilm al-Jadeed' (La Scienza Nuova - The New Science) translated from Italian to Arabic, noting that the book enriches the Arabic library due to the accuracy and high level of the translation from Italian to Arabic.

Meanwhile, Dr. Housseem Eddine Chachia discussed his book 'Al Mashhad al-Moriski: Sardiyyat al-Tard fi al-Fikr al-Espani' (The Morisco Landscape: Narratives of Expulsion in Modern Spanish Thought).

Last but not least, Egyptian author Dr. Reem Bassiouney shed light on her project, which explored the historical and societal development of Egypt in the medieval era.

Hosting ten corners inspired by the ancient structure with antique details El-Azbakeya Wall Showcases Over 100-Year-Old Books at the 33rd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair

Imagine yourself in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, visiting the historic El-Azbakeya Wall, and exploring a vast collection of ancient books by renowned personalities in culture, literature, art, and thought leadership. You will encounter thousands of titles that will take you on a journey through time to uncover the creativity of ancient times and experience the exceptional nature of publishing in that era. Find some unique titles from Egypt, the Guest of Honour, at the 33rd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair. Visitors will also be able to experience a series of events celebrating Egypt's culture, architecture, and history.

The El-Azbakeya Wall pavilion at the bookfair displays unique aesthetics and offers ten sections, which recreate the ancient market located in the Al-Ataba area in central Cairo. Attracting book enthusiasts from different backgrounds and age-groups, this pavilion conveys the message of enlightenment and free thought as one of the hallmarks of modern and contemporary Egyptian culture.

Speaking about the importance of the El-Azbakeya Wall at the bookfair, Mohammed Sadek, Head of the Arab Archive Corner for Heritage, said: "Creating a pavilion resembling the El-Azbakeya Wall introduces the public to the inherent value that this wall holds in Egyptian culture. It offers a chance to showcase samples from the exhibits, including rare books and magazines, creating a unique experience that sheds light on this very important aspect of Egyptian cultural history. Our participation in the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair conveys the messages of thought



and enlightenment from Egypt to the world, especially to the people of the UAE, who have strong ties with the Egyptian people".

The organisers of the venue emphasised that the wall, established in 1907 in Cairo, is an integral part of Egypt's culture and history, and a valuable place to study for any researcher or student. At the bookfair, the replica of the wall displays a large number of valuable and rare books from various genres, alongside priceless original editions of several books. It also offers unique cultural and historical content that is being presented for the first time to the audience of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair.

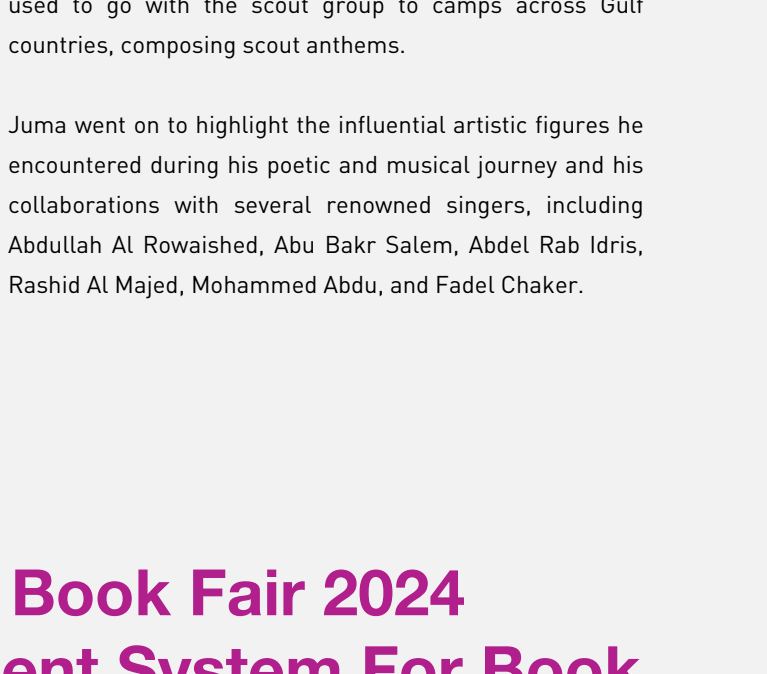
Abu Dhabi International Book Fair 2024 Hosts Poet and Composer Ebrahim Juma in a Session Spotlighting The ALC's Book Documenting His Journey

The 33rd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF 2024) organised an event under its Poetry Evenings series, part of its Cultural Programme, hosting poet and composer Ebrahim Juma, renowned for his extensive experience in art, poetry, and Emirati local heritage.

Juma shared valuable insights with the audience about the heritage of the UAE, sea voyages, and the art of 'Al Nahmah', a form of singing performed by sailors at sea, highlighting his journey in the field of art, including writing and composing poems.

The session was held under the title 'Lahan Albahar Alatheer', the name of a new book released by the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre (ALC), organiser of the event. The book is authored by heritage researcher Ibrahim Alhashmi, who moderated the dialogue with Ebrahim Juma, accompanied by the Youth Folklore Group, which presented several maritime heritage songs that Emiratis used to sing during sea fishing trips.

Juma initiated the session by shedding light on 'Al Nahmah', a singing art exclusive to the sea and sailors, who sang specific songs when sailing along the coasts of the Arabian Gulf. Juma emphasised that the sea has greatly influenced his life and artistic experience, as sea culture is extensive, with most of the local terms used being derived from the sea.



Regarding his experience in the field of composing, Juma explained that it began when he was 13 years old, when he used to go with the scout group to camps across Gulf countries, composing scout anthems.

Juma went on to highlight the influential artistic figures he encountered during his poetic and musical journey and his collaborations with several renowned singers, including Abdullah Al Rowaished, Abu Bakr Salem, Abdel Rab Idris, Rashid Al Majed, Mohammed Abdu, and Fadel Chaker.

Abu Dhabi International Book Fair 2024 Introduces Digital Payment System For Book Sales, A First in The Arab World.

In line with the UAE's ambitious vision for digital transformation and its commitment to utilising the latest software, technologies, and artificial intelligence, organisers of the 33rd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF 2024) have introduced a digital payment system for visitors to use at the event.

The system is the first of its kind in the Arab world and positions the ADIBF, which will run until 5 May, as the first cashless book fair. It operates using a device designed and programmed specifically for the Fair and connected to various banks payment networks. The system allows users to pay with their cards, Apple Pay accounts, or other similar methods, through devices available in the exhibition halls.

Visitors carrying only cash can deposit the amount into the device and receive a card loaded with the deposited amount, allowing them to pay for books from any available device in the Fair. If the visitor does not spend all the balance loaded on the card, they can reclaim the remaining amount in cash from the same device used to issue the card.

The digital payment method serves to significantly reduce sales and cash-related errors during the Fair to potentially zero. It also enables exhibitors from other countries to utilise all their data for their more than 250,000 titles, using the device to keep track of books sold. Moreover, it deposits



the proceeds into their bank accounts at the end of the day, along with a detailed sales report.

As for publishers who do not have a bank account or are unable to access banking services for any reason, a financial centre has been set up that allows them, upon selling a set number of their publications, to receive the value of their sales in cash at the end of the day or after several days, if they prefer.

Furthermore, an artificial intelligence-powered system has been implemented for future use to generate reports on crowd congestion, as well as the sales process.

At the 'Arabic Pals Competition' during Abu Dhabi International Book Fair Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre Introduces Innovative Ways to Promote Arabic Language Among Youth



Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) 2024 is hosting a remarkable initiative in its current edition under the title 'Arabic Pals Competition'. Targeting school students visiting the fair, the competition aims at promoting Arabic language among youth of all nationalities.

Dr. Khaled Dalky, Head of the Arabic Language Proficiency Testing at the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre (ALC), said: "The 'Arabic Pals Competition' is an edutainment or extracurricular activity launched by ALC. The competition's first edition was introduced in 2021 with three winners. The goal of this competition is to improve Arabic content on social media and help students discover their passion outside of the classroom and traditional learning settings. This will be accomplished through creative and well-tested methods. Each winner receives AED 10,000 with three students winning in the inaugural edition, three more in the second edition, and four in the third edition. Currently, we are awaiting the winners of this year's competition. Typically, submissions open on September 2 and close at the end of October. The results are revealed following the

sorting and assessment process."

Speaking about the future, Dr. Dalky said: "The organisers are pleased with the participation from both inside and outside the UAE, which shows that the competition has a broad reach. We intend to expand that even further. Every year, we offer dozens of sessions in UAE schools that benefit huge numbers of students of all ages, and we also take advantage of public venues such as the Cultural Foundation to host special sessions of the competition, and hold workshops in various libraries such as the Khalifa Park Library. Our primary goal is raising students' interest in the Arabic language, which is why we work tirelessly to promote this competition."

Abdullah Al Rowaished, Abu Bakr Salem, Abdel Rab Idris, Rashid Al Majed, Mohammed Abdu, and Fadel Chaker.

Mythical Creatures Mesmerise Visitors with Enigmatic Displays at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair 2024



Mythical figures intricately formed from creative imagination surprised attendees at the 33rd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF 2024), taking place from 29 April to 5 May at the Abu Dhabi International Exhibition Centre (ADNEC).

Mythical creatures can take any form the human mind can imagine, the display at the entrance of ADIBF sparked audiences' imagination with representations of SEMI-human creatures. These figures accompany visitors and participants in many ways, including images printed on the cards of media personnel and participants at the exhibition, or as figures displayed on the screen where seminars and events are held, such as the Manaf platform, as well as on the signage that guides visitors to the pavilions.

Furthermore, a larger-than-life depiction of 'The Legend of the Wing Weaver' from 'The Hidden Oasis' welcomes visitors at one of the entrances. The information beneath the massive figure tells the story of a boy who found an oasis, and a wing weaver intriguingly asking the boy: "What is the treasure that grows when you share it?"

"A book," the boy responds with a sparkle in his eyes. The wing weaver then steps aside and invites the boy into the realm of stories, where characters come alive. This mythical element is important for the visitors as they, too, enter the realm of books and imagination at ADIBF.