

XII FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE LITERATURA Y ARTE CON HUMOR

12th INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE AND ART WITH HUMOUR



FERNANDO ARAMBURU ! HERVÉ LE TELLIER ! OSCAR TUSQUETS ! PHILIPPE LANÇON ! JOAQUÍN REYES !
MARUJA TORRES ! EDU GALÁN ! BOB POP ! FLAVITA BANANA ! PACO PLAZA ! RODRIGO CORTÉS !
ARTURO GONZÁLEZ-CAMPOS ! PABLO MARTÍN SÁNCHEZ ! DANIEL GASCÓN ! MATHIAS ENARD !
ANE GEBARA ! JOSUNE VELEZ DE MENDIZABAL ! GAIZKA CHAMIZO ! MIKEL MARTINEZ ! PATXO TELLERIA !
CÉSAR COCA ! ELENA SIERRA ! AZUL TEJERINA ! JUAN BAS ! CAROLINA ONTIVERO !
JAVIER DEL PINO ! LUZ SÁNCHEZ-MELLADO ! JUAN SOTO IVARS ! ANA IRIS SIMÓN !
ANTONIO OREJUDO ! ISABEL BURDIEL ! PEDRO UGARTE ! CRISTINA FERNÁNDEZ CUBAS !

Sala FILARMÓNICA • EUSKAL Museoa • METRO Bilbao • Sala BBK • LA RIBERA Merkatua



october 1-10 BILBAO 2021



EL CORREO



ERCILLA DE BILBAO

Follow us live streaming - www.jabilbao.com

Welcome, honourable audience, vaccinated folks, to this new edition of this new edition of the **Ja! Festival** Although we are now twelve years old, we have not yet reached puberty and we continue, when it comes to selecting the programme, having pure thoughts and the unbroken enthusiasm of a child who requests the Three Wise Men to bring them toys. We bring you fourteen events, as varied as Kinder Eggs surprises, which will take place between 1 and 10 October in the Philharmonic and BBK Halls.

We have three prestigious French writers this year: Hervé Le Tellier (last winner of the Goncourt Prize), Philippe Lançon (author of the must-read essay 'El colgajo') and Mathias Enard, whose work is widely recognised and is visiting us for the second time. Lançon and Enard are fluent in Spanish and no interpreter will be needed.

Guest authors will share their recent books, some of which are fresh from the oven: 'Los vencejos', by Fernando Aramburu; 'Subidón', Joaquín Reyes' first novel; 'Mansos', by Bob Pop; 'Feria', by Ana Iris Simón; 'Los años extraordinarios' by Rodrigo Cortés; 'Vivir no es tan divertido, y envejecer, un coñazo', by Oscar Tusquets; 'La casa del ahorcado', by Juan Soto Ivars, and 'La muerte del hipster', by Daniel Gascón.

We are also excited about the ten panels in Metro Bilbao with cartoons illustrated by Flavita Banana. The very good news that complements this welcome seems to have been made especially for the spirit of our festival. Flavita's graphic humour is corrosive and poignant, which is why she often gets the noose tightened around her neck on social media; it's the usual surfeit of cheesy sentimentality that degenerates into dangerous censorious zeal. At Ja! we are critical towards these regressive approaches that attack the essential freedom of humour. For this reason, we begin this year's programme with a dialogue between Juan Soto Ivars and Ana Iris Simón under the title 'The fair of the hanged'.



The poster for this 12th edition speaks for itself (as it should): the vaccination syringe, which replaces the Ja! exclamation mark, as an image of remedy, of overcoming calamity and the necessary sense of humour. We hope and trust that you will have a great time and laugh with us even more heartily than last year.

Immune humour in Ja!

Juan Bas and Carolina Ontivero
Festival Directors

October 1 • Philharmonic Hall • 19:00h

ANA IRIS SIMÓN - JUAN SOTO IVARS

The fair of the hanged

Book signing after the event.

'Feria', by **Ana Iris Simón**, is a story of the love for one's family and roots that a few, very noisy, have labelled as a sometimes nostalgic and sometimes neo-fascist discourse. Nothing could be further from the truth, but such judgements flourish when social networks are ablaze. **Juan Soto Ivars** explains the phenomenon as a form of new puritanism, an idea he returns to in 'La casa del ahorcado', which, in his opinion, is reflected in the proliferation of demonstrations of tribal regression: the taboo, the scapegoat, ritual punishment. "La casa del ahorcado has neither walls nor door through which to escape; it encompasses the whole world without allowing a loophole for freedom". Nor for the fair.



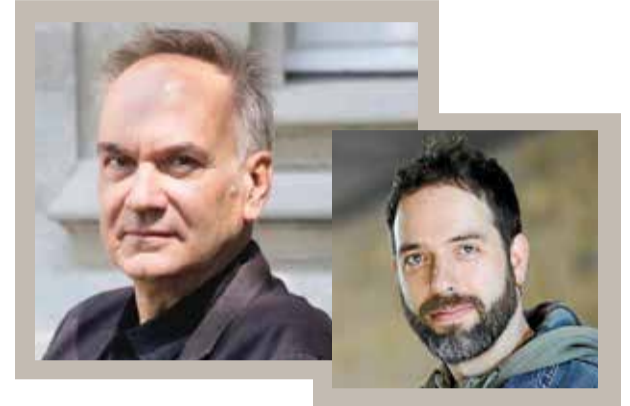
October 1 • Philharmonic Hall • 20:30h

INTERVIEW

HERVÉ LE TELLIER in conversation with
PABLO MARTÍN SÁNCHEZ*French including simultaneous translation*

Book signing after the event.

Hervé Le Tellier is a writer, editor and literary critic. He is also a mathematician with a penchant for surrealist humour, which reminds one of Lewis Carroll and explains his membership in the Oulipo, the avant-garde narrative experimentation group created in the 1960s by Raimond Queneau. Pablo Martín Sánchez, the only Spanish member of this mischievous and unpredictable group, will be in charge of chatting with Hervé Le Tellier about planes full of passengers that replicate themselves and other literary experiments.



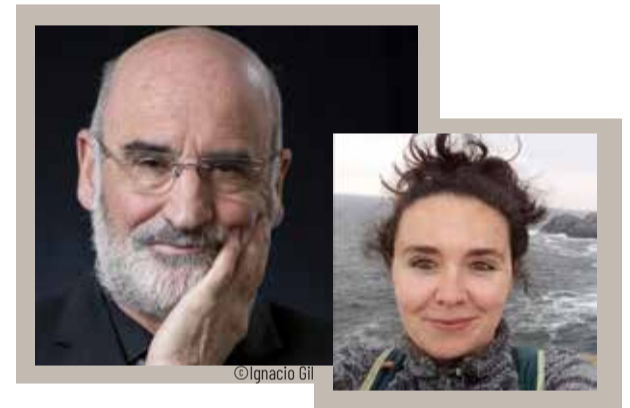
October 2 • Philharmonic Hall • 19:00h

INTERVIEW

FERNANDO ARAMBURU in conversation with
ELENA SIERRA

Book signing after the event.

Fernando Aramburu believes that only "humour saves us from solemnity and fanaticism". All his literature is based on this Cervantine premise. Occasionally in a direct manner, in books such as 'Ávidas pretensiones' or 'Fuegos con limón', and other times, as in 'Patria', in a more subtle and indirect way. Aramburu has just published his much-awaited new novel, 'Los vancejos', and this time, tragedy and comedy blend together in a natural manner, as they do in real life.



October 2 • Philharmonic Hall • 20:30h

CONVERSATION

RODRIGO CORTÉS - ARTURO GONZÁLEZ-CAMPOS*Private jokes*

Book signing after the event.

One is a filmmaker and writer; the other a comedian and radio host. Together they are the half of 'Todopoderosos'. Rodrigo Cortés and Arturo González-Campos do in fact agree on many things, most notably the kind of humouristic approach to reality that generates camaraderie and private codes. We have summoned them to a conversation to which Jaime Fanjul, the 'extraordinary' leading character in Rodrigo Cortés' second novel, of whom Arturo González-Campos is an enthusiastic supporter for many reasons, has also been invited. Speculative ones too. This is another private joke.



Follow us live streaming - www.jabilbao.com

October 3 • Philharmonic Hall • 9:00-12:00h

A VIVIR

live with Javier del Pino

SEZ Radio Bilbao



Cadena SER's programme 'A vivir', hosted by **Javier del Pino**, returns to Ja! with its talk show of graphic humorists, its comedians and the complicity that he shares with the audience of Bilbao and our festival.

October 3 • Philharmonic Hall • 19:00h

CONVERSATION / SCREENING

TOP TEN HUMOUR SEQUENCES by

PACO PLAZA in conversation with
JUAN BAS



A new edition of this fixed segment of the festival where a guest chooses his/her ten favourite humour sequences and comments on them with **Juan Bas** while they are being projected on screen. A renewed Sunday afternoon film session, with its mix of laughter that must be experienced live, as in all aspects it will not be possible to enjoy it via streaming. The star of this edition will be **Paco Plaza**, director of 'REC', 'Verónica', 'Quien a hierro mata' or 'La abuela', his latest film.

October 6 • Sala BBK • 19:30h

CONVERSATION

CRISTINA FERNÁNDEZ CUBAS - PEDRO UGARTE

Humour of two storytellers

Book signing after the event.



The stories narrated by **Cristina Fernández Cubas** and **Pedro Ugarte** hardly need a few pages to reflect the ridiculously sharp contrast between childhood and maturity, between companionship and solitude, between private and public life. They also demonstrate that, under the appearance of normality, there is always room for surprise, extravagance and that varied collection of terrifying and laughable monsters that we all carry inside us. Life, in short, with its doses of absurdity, cruelty, humour, fragility and misery, all of which good literature knows how to compress into small doses.

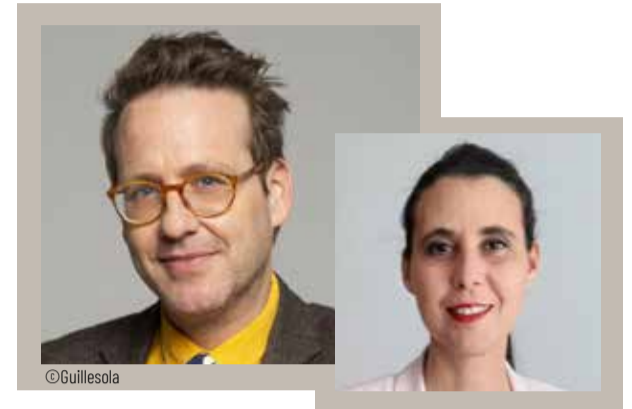
October 7 • Sala BBK • 19:30h

INTERVIEW

'Subidón': JOAQUÍN REYES in conversation with
AZUL TEJERINAfundación **sgae** fundazioa

Book signing after the event.

Joaquín Reyes has multiple personalities. Because of the 'Celebrities' thing, of course, but also because he himself is an actor, TV host, scriptwriter, stand-up comedian and cartoonist. He is also a writer. Blackie Books is now publishing his first novel, 'Subidón', which, as in all his previous works, is wrapped in his trademark humour. After Enjuto Mojamuto, Onofre or El Payaso, Joaquín Reyes has created a new character for our delight. His name is Emilio Escribano, he is from Cuenca and a comedian by profession. And he wants all of us to get our "asses twisted".



©Guillesola

October 8 • Philharmonic Hall • 19:00h

CONVERSATION

The humour of Emilia Pardo Bazán
ISABEL BURDIEL - ANTONIO OREJUDO
in conversation with **CAROLINA ONTIVERO**

Book signing after the event.

The centenary of Emilia Pardo Bazán's death has made it clear that her work is still alive and contemporary like few others; however, not much emphasis has been placed on something essential for this festival: the humour that Doña Emilia used both in her work and in her frequent and heated public disputes. The historian Isabel Burdiel, biographer of our honoured writer, has recently addressed this less prominent aspect of the personality of Emilia Pardo Bazán. She will talk about it all with the writer and literature professor Antonio Orejudo.



October 8 • Philharmonic Hall • 20:30h

INTERVIEW

OSCAR TUSQUETS in conversation with
LUZ SÁNCHEZ-MELLADO

Book signing after the event.

Oscar Tusquets has been described as "an architect through education, a designer due to his adaptation and a painter thanks to his vocation". He adds that he is "a writer out of a desire to win friends". Tusquets exudes passion, wit and joy in all these facets. He also does so in 'Vivir no es tan divertido, y envejecer, un coñazo': a memoir that is, despite its title, a celebration of life. Oscar Tusquets will engage in a conversation with Luz Sánchez-Mellado that is sure to be dazzling, worthy of the journalist's section in El País: 'Gente con Luz' (People with Light).



©Patricia Garcinuño

October 9 • Mercado La Ribera Merkatua • 12:00h

SCHOOL GRAPHIC HUMOUR COMPETITION

7th School Graphic Humour Competition Judging and award ceremony.



COMPETITION

October 9 • Philharmonic Hall • 19:00h

DANIEL GASCÓN - MATHIAS ENARD

Agro glamour

Book signing after the event.

Literature on the rural phenomenon - the empty Spain, the vindication of life in the countryside, the call of nature - has become an ever-growing trend in recent years. It has its own ramifications and sub-genres, such as the encounter between homo urbanitas and homo agro, a clash that often leads to laughter. **Mathias Enard's** 'La cofradía anual del banquete de sepultureros' and **Daniel Gascón's** 'hipster' series are excellent examples of this.



CONVERSATION

October 9 • Philharmonic Hall • 20:30h

PHILIPPE LANÇON in conversation with CÉSAR COCA

Book signing after the event.

«The attack on 7 January 2015 spared me the crisis of the 1950s». So begins the 'Crónicas del hombre de antes' (Chronicles of the man of yesteryear), a selection of **Philippe Lançon's** articles published in Libération and Charlie Hebdo over the past twenty years. The author wonders as to what the man he is today has to do with the man who wrote those texts before suffering an attack that would kill twelve of his colleagues and eventually disfigure him. "I wonder if I have changed, if I am two; the real reason I keep writing is because I don't know". One thing is clear from the opening sentence: his sense of humour is still intact.



INTERVIEW

October 10 • Philharmonic Hall • 18:00h

KAR KAR FESTA

LOR<LDIA
EUSKAL KULTURA GAUR

fundación **sgae** fundazioa



SHOW

Basque humour gala with the comedy duo **Mikel Martínez** and **Patxo Telleria** as masters of ceremonies. Amidst jokes and verbal duels, they will give way to two shows with absurd humour as the central theme.

TXILIN HOTSAK is a co-production of the theatre groups Tranpola and Metrokoadroka starring **Ane Gebara**, **Josune Vélez de Mendizabal** and a couple of colourful, smelly and tasty empty pots.

SALAKETA (Tartean) is a text written by **Goiatz Labandibar** and performed by **Mikel Martinez** and **Gaizka Chamizo**. It is a critical piece about the judicial system and our beliefs that ends up becoming a great self-parody with Kafkaesque overtones.

October 10 • Philharmonic Hall • 20:00h

BOB POP - MARUJA TORRES - EDU GALÁN

Life is a cabaret

fundación  fundazioa

Firma de libros tras el acto / Ekitaldiaren ostean, liburuak sinatzea

“Time flies from the cradle to the crate. Life is a cabaret, old chum, I love this cabaret”. The main theme of the musical turned into a film by Bob Fosse in 1972 is the leitmotiv - or late motiv - of a conversation involving three good friends and three great cabaret performers: **Bob Pop, Maruja Torres** and **Edu Galán**. A trio specialising in celebrating the pleasures of our existence: wine, music and humour. Because, no matter what, life is a cabaret. And the show must go on. We can't think of a better finale for the tenth edition of the festival.



CONVERSATION

EXHIBITION

FLAVITA BANANA

Metro Bilbao • 15/09-15/10

Moyua / Abando / Zazpikaleak



© Estrella Jover

As in previous editions, humorous cartoons return to Metro Bilbao. This year, the work of **Flavita Banana** will travel to the stations of Abando, Moyúa and Casco Viejo. The author's sharp and corrosive humour means that her cartoons are often the subject of scandal and censorship, especially on social media, which is why we think it's a good idea to include them in a festival that begins, not coincidentally, with a dialogue that we have entitled la feria de los ahorcados (the fair of the hanged).



VII GRAPHIC HUMOUR SCHOOL COMPETITION

La Ribera Merkatua • 27/09-10/10



On the occasion of the seventh edition of the School Graphic Humor Contest, a selection of the best works submitted to the contest will be seen at the Mercado de la Ribera.



BOOKSHOP of JA!



For a few days the Cámara and Joker bookshops will once again become the bookshop at Ja! Bilbao. It will have all the festival's guest authors and lots more.

Institutional Partners



Main Partners



Global Partners

Gastronomic Partners



Colaborators



metro bilbao

