NEW YORK, September 5, 2014 — Following the success of the inaugural edition of the World Writers’ Festival held at venues across Paris last September, Columbia University and Bibliothèque nationale de France are delighted to announce the 2014 program.

Event program and complete details: www.festivaldesecrivainsdumonde.fr/

The World Writers’ Festival: Writers of India begins on Wednesday, September 17, and celebrates literature and culture from India in a five-day program that includes readings, panel discussions, one-on-one conversations, film screenings, a music performance and an art exhibit. The Festival will explore issues of globalization and specific impacts on literature and art — both positive and negative.

In 2013, Columbia and the BnF convened the inaugural edition of the Festival, featuring 30 of the worlds leading writers. Author and Columbia professor Richard Ford, Salman Rushdie, John Banville, Ma Jian, and many others appeared at events across Paris — with additional events in Lyon — before audiences totaling more than 6,000 people.

The 2014 edition is dedicated to writers from India, and will unfold at Columbia Global Centers | Europe, la Bibliothèque nationale de France, la Maison de la Poésie and l’Ecole Normale Supérieure.

Attendees will hear from some of the great voices of Indian literature including Vikram Chandra, Man Booker Prize Laureate Kiran Desai, Jeet Thayil, Akhil Sharma, Amit Chaudhuri, and Tamil poet Salma, among others. Participants from Columbia include professors Akeel Bilgrami, Gayatri Spivak and Vishakha Desai, along with Carol Becker, dean of Columbia’s School of the Arts.

This year’s Festival will initiate an intercultural dialogue between five students from Columbia’s Master of Fine Arts program and five emerging writers from India who were selected from a competition of some 700 applicants that was conducted by the Festival’s media partner in India, The Caravan, a publication founded and edited by Columbia alumni.

This celebration of Indian literature features a visual arts component. Columbia Global Center Europe will host works by Indian and India-inspired artists at an exhibit titled Indian Aurora.
About Columbia University
Among the world’s leading research universities, Columbia University in the City of New York continuously seeks to advance the frontiers of scholarship and foster a campus community deeply engaged in the complex issues of our time through teaching, research, patient care and public service. The University is comprised of 16 undergraduate, graduate and professional schools, and four affiliated colleges and seminaries in Manhattan, and a wide array of research institutes and global centers around the world. More than 40,000 students, award-winning faculty and professional staff define the University’s underlying values and commitment to pursuing new knowledge and educating informed, engaged citizens. Founded in 1754 as King’s College, Columbia is the fifth oldest institution of higher learning in the United States.

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