

When you think poetry, perhaps you think Shakespeare's sonnets. Or Rumi. But the Poetry International Festival Rotterdam is more than old-fashioned love poems. The Festival is going on until June 11, 2016.

The festival highlights poets from all over the world and includes readings, films, tours and other activities. "The focus of the festival is really on the poetry readings," said Poetry International communication and publicity manager Jan Coerwinkel. The opening evening went so well that they ran out of beer.

This is the 47th edition of the festival which is organised by the Poetry International Foundation, based in Rotterdam. The foundation aims to provide a platform for quality poetry in the Netherlands, written in Dutch as well as other languages. The organization has been recruiting poets from all over the world to attend during the year and has already started working on their line up for 2017.

Poet Sinéad Morrissey, the former poet laureate of Belfast, is reading from her latest collection of works, which won the T. S. Elliot prize. Luis Chaves, a leading figure in contemporary poetry from Costa Rica, is reading from his latest collection of works. Locally, Maarten van der Graaff, Kila van der Starre and Maartje Smits are a few of the Dutch poets reading during the festival.

The opening evening took place in the Rotterdamse Schouwburg, where the festival has taken place for the last few years. The remainder of the programme, however, takes place at the Ro Theater in Rotterdam. This is the first time the festival has been at that location.

Their [full programme is available](#) on their website. The event is free during the day and [tickets are available](#) for the evening activities. Can't make it out to Rotterdam in the next few days? Some of the festival's activities are being livestreamed with English-language subtitles. You can find [the livestream](#) on their website.