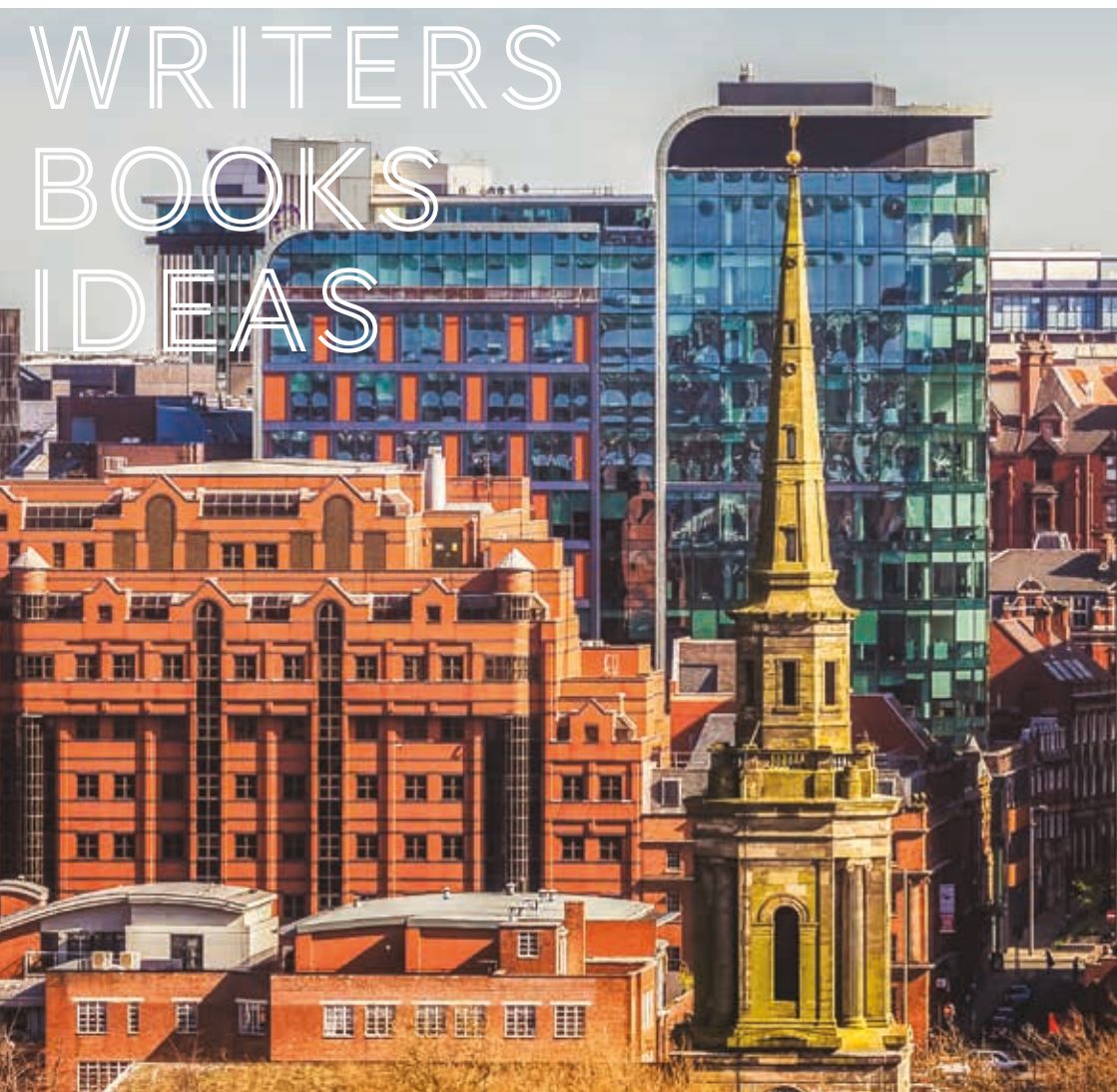


# BIRMINGHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL

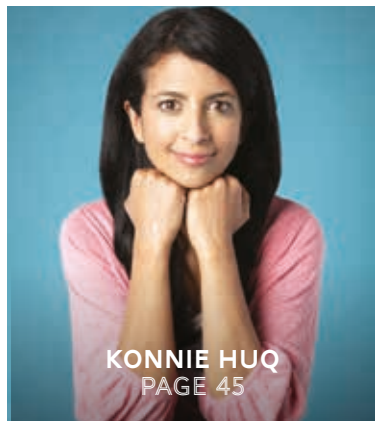
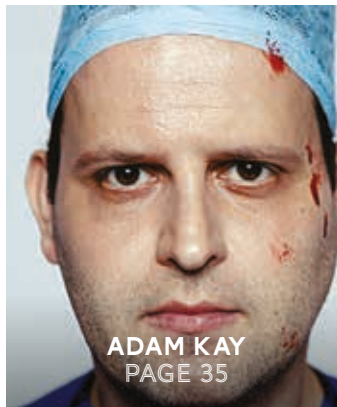
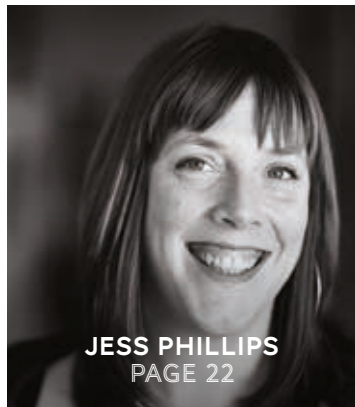
**3–13 OCTOBER 2019**

[birminghamliteraturefestival.org](http://birminghamliteraturefestival.org)

WRITERS  
BOOKS  
IDEAS



# FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



# WELCOME TO THE 2019 FESTIVAL



We are living in a time of change and uncertainty, and it puts into question the purpose of events such as the Birmingham Literature Festival. When conversations about Brexit, LGBTQ+ rights, refugees, the NHS and climate change are front and centre, we can't help but reflect on how creative writing and reading can give us strength and a voice in challenging times. Literature and the arts are important in all our lives, and we work hard to create a festival that is relevant and reflective of the conversations people are having today.

As always, the programme is packed with highlights from many different writers and creatives. With events about sex, politics, the supernatural, grief, real-life parenting, the Windrush scandal, activism, mental health, LGBTQ+ culture, dystopian stories, exile and disconnection, murder and true crime, democracy, feminism, masculinity, money and psychology (to name a few!) you're sure to find something which intrigues and excites you.

This year we are thrilled that long-time friend of the festival Stuart Maconie is our Guest Curator, and I want to thank Stuart for his work and on-going support and enthusiasm. As a leading writer and broadcaster, Stuart is all too familiar with the importance of the spoken and written word and is a perfect match for our festival this year. The events he's keen to present to you are overleaf.

A festival – bringing writers, artists, commentators, readers and thinkers together - reminds us of the importance and power of writing, reading and communicating, and how these things can help us connect with the world and spark positive change. This also feels particularly significant here in Birmingham, and as we continue to explore the role of a literature festival in this great city, we hope you'll join us once again in October to share, learn, connect, and enjoy 10 days of great creative writing.

Join the discussion and let us know what you think. We're on social media @bhamlitfest

See you in October.

**ANTONIA**  
DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL

## OPPORTUNITY: READ ON YOUNG PRESENTERS

Are you aged between 15 and 19? Learn skills essential for hosting and presenting events as part of Birmingham Literature Festival and gain experience of what happens behind the scenes. Under the tuition of Rachel New, experienced radio presenter and writer, and Jonathan Davidson, Chief Executive of Writing West Midlands, you can discover what makes a festival tick.

**Full details: [writingwestmidlands.org/ReadOnShowcase/](https://writingwestmidlands.org/ReadOnShowcase/)**



# WELCOME FROM STUART MACONIE

## OUR 2019 GUEST CURATOR

Though a Northerner by origin, Brum and the Black Country has been my adopted home for decades now, and I'm proud to have been associated with Writing West Midlands and the Birmingham Literature Festival for many of those years.

I love the region's mix of people and culture, its unique world view and energy. I wanted to bring together a mix of writers and styles that reflect the nature of the city, the country and literature now in all its moods.

Writing is a mirror, a hammer, a balm and a tool and I wanted to celebrate all those different functions and aspects; the lyrical and the polemical, the political and the reflective. But most of all, the joyous element of creation and how that reflects and shapes our world.

I hope that the writers I've chosen for my events at this year's festival will reflect Birmingham and the West Midlands character as a great and dynamic working city.

Let me know what you think!

**STUART**

@stuartmaconie



Simon Armitage

## SIMON ARMITAGE: IN CONVERSATION PAGE 31

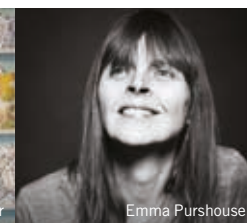
"I first met Simon Armitage doing radio shows together in the mid 90s. I think I suspected then that the letter from the palace and the case of sherry would arrive one day. No-one has done more to inspire readers and writers, and to promote literature, especially poetry (a passion of mine) than him. I'm delighted that he is our new Poet Laureate and I'm delighted he'll be joining me in conversation at the festival."

## COMMON PEOPLE PAGE 34

"When I was approached by novelist Kit De Waal about being part of the *Common People* anthology, I was delighted. Not enough time and space is given to these stories, and the result is a brilliant, moving, funny, richly nuanced and empowering anthology of work by working class writers new and emerging."



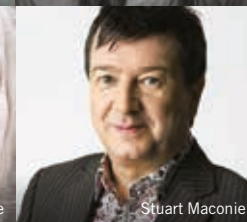
Lisa Blower



Emma Purshouse



Lynne Joyce



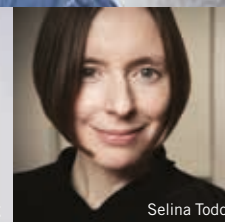
Stuart Maconie



Paul Mason



Billy Bragg



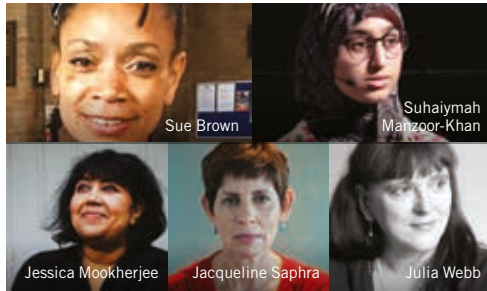
Selina Todd

## UNDERSTANDING THE PAST, BUILDING OUR FUTURE PAGE 49

"As a writer whose work is often political, whether intended or not, I wanted to explore the craft and current popularity of political/social historical non-fiction. Bringing together Paul Mason, Billy Bragg and Selina Todd, all of whom write about being British, or even human, in this political climate. It should make for a lively and thought-provoking discussion."

THURSDAY  
3 OCTOBER

NATIONAL POETRY DAY



MUSES AND  
FURIES

WITH SUE BROWN,  
SUHAIYMAH  
MANZOOR-KHAN,  
JESSICA MOOKHERJEE,  
JACQUELINE SAPHRA,  
AND JULIA WEBB

Thursday 3 October, 6pm - 7pm  
Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)

On National Poetry Day, we gather some of the most exciting female poets working in the UK today, for a special performance of their latest collections. Five poets, each with a different story to share about place, relationships, activism, feminism, faith, love and womanhood.

Age guidance: 14+

Sponsored by Birmingham City University.



Carol Ann Duffy

AN EVENING WITH  
CAROL ANN DUFFY  
AND FRIENDS

WITH ELLA DUFFY,  
KEITH HUTSON  
AND MARK PAJAK

Thursday 3 October, 8pm - 9.30pm  
Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
Tickets: £15 / £12 (concs)

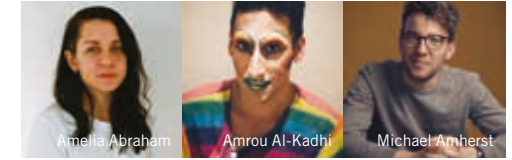
Our outgoing Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, presents an evening of performance and poetry, with readings of old and new work from herself and selected poets. Joining Carol Ann will be Keith Hutson, Mark Pajak and Carol Ann's daughter, Ella Duffy.

One of the UK's best-loved writers, Carol Ann Duffy used her time as Poet Laureate to encourage and support other poets more than any of her predecessors. Increasingly, Carol Ann also chose to showcase other poets alongside her at events, and tonight is certainly no exception. After 10 years in the role, she handed it over to Simon Armitage earlier in 2019, and we are delighted she is joining us this year for our National Poetry Day celebration.

Sponsored by  
Birmingham City University.



FRIDAY 4  
OCTOBER



QUEER  
INTENTIONS

WITH AMELIA ABRAHAM,  
AMROU AL-KADHI AND  
MICHAEL AMHERST

Friday 4 October, 6pm - 7pm  
Hexagon, Midlands Arts Centre  
Tickets: £8 / £6.40 (concs)

Today, the options and freedoms on offer to LGBTQ+ people living in the West are greater than ever before. But is improved media visibility, increased representation in mainstream entertainment and same-sex marriage all it's cracked up to be? LGBTQ+ culture has shifted and is still shifting, but at what cost does this acceptance come and who is getting left behind, particularly in parts of the world where LGBTQ+ rights aren't so advanced?

As the constructs of sexuality and identity continue to be explored and challenged, is identifying somewhere beneath the LGBTQ+ umbrella prescribing to a certain set of ideals, or is it more fluid than that? In 2019, what does it mean to be queer?

Join writer and journalist Amelia Abraham, drag performer, writer and filmmaker Amrou Al-Kadhi and critic and author Michael Amherst as they discuss sexuality, desire, intersectional identity and their individual journeys through LGBTQ+ culture.

Chaired by Dr Charlotte Ross.

FRIDAY 4  
OCTOBER



Seth Kriebel

## BEOWULF

ADAPTED AND  
PERFORMED BY  
SETH KRIEBEL

Friday 4 October, 8pm - 9pm  
Hexagon, Midlands Arts Centre  
Tickets: £12 / £10 (concs)

★★★★  
"Delivers both laughter and poetry"  
The Stage

Commissioned by and developed at  
Battersea Arts Centre, and supported  
using public funding by the National Lottery  
through Arts Council England.

*Before we begin, I should warn you:  
This probably isn't going to end well...*

Birmingham Literature Festival is delighted to  
present a retelling of one of the most important  
works of Old English Literature in an exciting,  
highly interactive new show.

Writer and performer Seth Kriebel invites you  
to take part in this unique retelling of *Beowulf*  
- an immersive performance-game, where you  
will explore the world of a legendary story from  
our ancient past... without leaving your seat.

Each show is unique, guided by your choices  
as you journey through strange lands...  
illuminating the original epic and asking why,  
after all these years, we still need stories to  
help us face our fears.

*But we still need stories about heroes.  
Because there are still monsters that lurk  
in the dark.*

SATURDAY  
5 OCTOBER

## WORKSHOP: LGBTQ+ CREATIVE WRITING

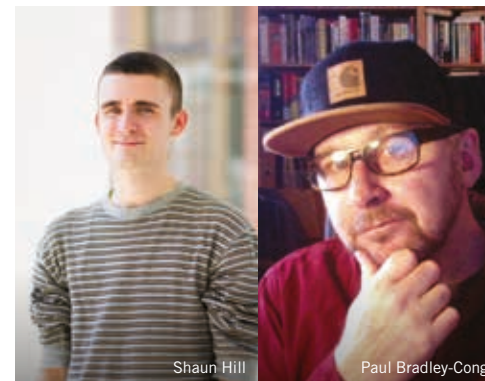
WITH PAUL BRADLEY-CONG  
AND SHAUN HILL

Saturday 5 October, 10am - 12pm  
Pinsent Mason Room, Midlands Arts Centre  
Tickets: £23 / £20 (concs)

Join poet Shaun Hill and Paul Bradley-Cong,  
writer and founder of Out on the Page (the UK  
network of emerging LGBTQ+ writers), for a  
workshop aimed at LGBTQ+ writers at all  
levels. The session will show how you can find  
writing inspiration from your queer take on the  
world, and why such voices are so important  
We'll also spend time exploring queer imagery  
and metaphor through fun, collaborative and  
easy to do writing exercises. Each attendee will  
receive a Resource Pack which will include  
organisations of interest to LGBTQ+ writers  
wanting to develop their writing.



[outonthe page.co.uk](http://outonthe page.co.uk)



Shaun Hill



Paul Bradley-Cong



## IT'S NOT ABOUT THE BURQA

WITH SUFIYA AHMED,  
AFIA AHMED,  
JAMILLA HEKMOUN  
AND MARIAM KHAN

Saturday 5 October, 11am - 12pm  
Hexagon, Midlands Arts Centre  
Tickets: £8 / £6.40 (concs)

Editor Mariam Khan is joined by three  
contributors; Jamilla Hekmoun, Sufiya Ahmed  
and Afia Ahmed from the anthology *It's Not  
About the Burqa: Muslim Women on Faith,  
Feminism, Sexuality and Race*. The panel will  
be discussing the stigmas of mental health for  
Muslim women, whether all representation is  
good representation in progressing and  
influencing the Muslim female narrative, as  
well as questioning who our role models should  
be as Muslim women.

SATURDAY  
5 OCTOBER

## HOME COMING: VOICES OF THE WINDRUSH GENERATION

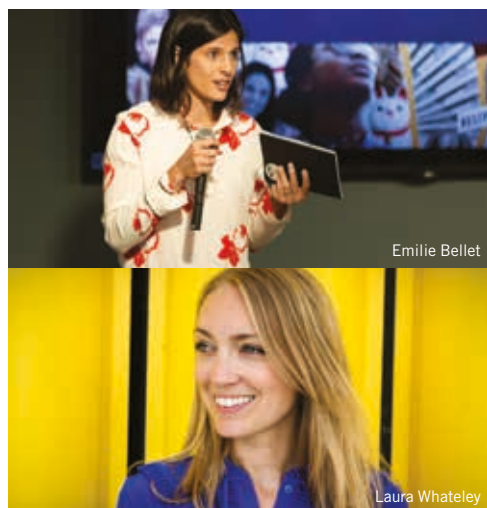
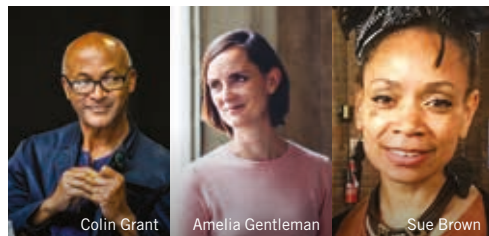
WITH COLIN GRANT,  
AMELIA GENTLEMAN  
AND SUE BROWN

Saturday 5 October, 1pm - 2pm  
Theatre, Midlands Arts Centre  
Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)

The arrival of the SS Empire Windrush and her passengers from the Caribbean on 22nd June 1948 marked a seminal moment in Britain's history. After a call-out for help after the Second World War, over 400 men and women came to the UK to help rebuild the country, and their settlement has continued to enrich our social, cultural, economic and political landscape and shape our identity ever since.

Then in 2018, the Windrush scandal burst to the surface, exposing a deeply disturbing truth about modern Britain.

Hosted by poet and presenter Sue Brown, writer Colin Grant and award-winning journalist Amelia Gentleman will discuss the real-life stories from this generation of pioneers and Amelia's tenacious, investigative and campaigning journalism which uncovered a scandal that shook the nation.



## MONEY MATTERS

WITH EMILIE BELLET AND  
LAURA WHATELEY

Saturday 5 October, 1.30pm - 2.30pm  
Hexagon, Midlands Arts Centre  
Tickets: £8 / £6.40 (concs)

Are you someone who tends to spend more than you earn? Always living in fear of looking at your bank balance and surviving on baked beans come payday? From relationships, to ambitions and mental health, money plays a huge role in our lives and yet it often feels taboo to talk about it.

Not any more. It's time to take back control of our bank balances and start talking about money.

Join writers Emilie Bellet and Laura Whateley as they discuss their latest books about our relationships with money, and share practical tips to help us feel more in control of our finances. From savings and pensions to discussing the gender pay gap and fighting for a pay rise, Laura and Emilie are on a mission to debunk the financial jargon and break the taboos around money. Come and be part of this important conversation and discover how talking about money can actually change your life.

## WORKSHOP: MEDITATION AND CREATIVE WRITING

WITH ROZ GODDARD AND  
RICHARD O'BRIEN

Saturday 5 October, 2pm - 4pm  
Pinsent Mason Room, Midlands Arts Centre  
Tickets: £23 / £20 (concs)



Anxiety and a cluttered mind can be useful sources of creative inspiration, but they can also make it difficult to write. Increasing numbers of people are turning to mindfulness and meditation as ways to process the pace and stress of modern life. But anecdotally, many of these people (including one of the leaders of this workshop) keep forgetting to use the apps they've paid for or start hyperventilating as soon as they're told to "bring the breath into focus".

Roz is an advocate of a regular mindfulness practice, and how it can enhance the quality of writing through 'divergent thinking' - the mysterious state of mind when ideas seem to spring from nowhere. Roz will lead exercises showing you how.

Also expect honest responses from an easily distracted teacher (Richard) who's just as confused about the whole thing as you are.

## ON THERAPY WITH SUSIE ORBACH

Saturday 5 October, 3pm - 4pm  
Theatre, Midlands Arts Centre  
Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)

Susie Orbach is one of this country's foremost psychotherapists as well as being a ground-breaking feminist thinker and activist. Co-founder of the Women's Therapy Centre in the 1970s, she has for many decades explored how our inner worlds are shaped by our social and political contexts – and vice versa.

In this event, Susie will talk about the fractured state of our society. How do current social divisions and anxieties affect our psyches? And how might psychoanalytic thinking help us not only understand the times we live in but also act to change them?

Susie will also be discussing her latest book *In Therapy: The Unfolding Story*, following the Radio 4 series of the same name.

*Chaired by Rachel Dunkley Jones.*



*Supported by the West Midlands Institute of Psychotherapy*



SATURDAY  
5 OCTOBER

BOOK LAUNCH  
**SPAKE:**  
DIALECT AND VOICES FROM  
THE WEST MIDLANDS  
WITH PAUL MCDONALD,  
AND RUPINDER KAUR

Saturday 5 October, 3.30pm - 4.30pm  
Hexagon, Midlands Arts Centre  
Tickets: £8 / £6.40 (concs)

*Spake* is a love letter to West Midlands voices, and a challenge to preconceptions and prejudices about dialect and non-standard English. Much maligned, frequently overlooked or simply left out altogether, the English West Midlands has for decades been diminished in the national conversation. With it, the rich dialects and voices of the region are often misunderstood, ignored or worse – ridiculed and mocked. But who's to say that the way we 'spake' isn't every bit as vital and as precious as other accents and dialects?

Join us to launch this brand-new anthology which includes contributions from some of the West Midlands' most exciting writers, including Steven Knight (*Peaky Blinders*), Benjamin Zephaniah and Liz Berry.

Chaired by Ursula Clark.  
Sponsored by Aston University.



HOW TO FAIL WITH  
ELIZABETH DAY  
IN CONVERSATION WITH  
SATHNAM SANGHERA

Saturday 5 October, 6pm-7pm  
The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
Tickets: £12 / £10 (concs)

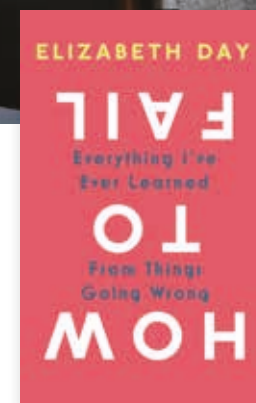
Failure, as much as it hurts, is an important part of life. In fact, failure is necessary. It's how we learn some of the greatest lessons that life can teach us.

Based on her hugely successful podcast of the same name, journalist and writer Elizabeth Day presents her new book *How to Fail*, a brilliantly funny, painfully honest and insightful celebration of the things that haven't gone right. It's a book about learning from our mistakes and about not being afraid.

Elizabeth says: *'If I have learned one thing from this shockingly beautiful venture called life, it is this: failure has taught me lessons I would never otherwise have understood. I have evolved more as a result of things going wrong than when everything seemed to be going right. Out of crisis has come clarity, and sometimes even catharsis.'*

Part memoir, part manifesto, and including chapters on dating, work, sport, babies, families, anger and friendship, *How to Fail* is based on the simple premise that understanding why we fail ultimately makes us stronger.

Elizabeth will be in conversation with writer, journalist and Birmingham Literature Festival 2018 Guest Curator Sathnam Sanghera, who was one of Elizabeth's first guests on the *How to Fail* podcast.



## NEW, INNOVATIVE ENGLISH LITERATURE DEGREE

At Aston, the study of English Language and Literature is integrated: we focus on literacy as a social practice - how and why do people read and write at all levels of society - and consider all its manifestations from graffiti and electronic writing practices on the one side of the spectrum to poetry, novels and theatre on the other.

### THREE SIMPLE REASONS TO STUDY ENGLISH AT ASTON



#### Our students are happy

English achieved 90%  
Overall Satisfaction  
(National Student Survey,  
2017)



#### We'll make sure you're career-ready

Employed Aston English  
Studies graduates earn  
£3,300 (21%) more than  
expected one year after  
graduating, according  
to the government's  
Longitudinal Education  
Outcomes survey (LEO).



#### Placement year

Integrated placement  
year enhances your  
employability after  
graduation.

## School of Humanities

The School of Humanities at the University of Wolverhampton offers a broad range of challenging undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in a range of disciplines.

The literatures, cultures and dialects of the Black Country and West Midlands are studied on our English Literature, English Language, and English Language and Linguistics programmes, and at MA and PhD level.

Our Religious Studies and Philosophy teams offer students the opportunity to develop an understanding of the deeper issues informing life in the West Midlands.



Apply at: [wlv.ac.uk/humanities](http://wlv.ac.uk/humanities)  
Queries: [arts@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:arts@wlv.ac.uk)



SATURDAY  
5 OCTOBER

## BOYS WILL BE BOYS: CONFRONTING POWER, PATRIARCHY AND TOXIC MASCULINITY

WITH CLEMENTINE FORD,  
DARREN CHETTY,  
IESHA SMALL AND  
JAMIE THRASIVOULOU

Saturday 5 October, 8pm - 9pm

The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Tickets: £12 / £10 (concs)

The topic of masculinity is being discussed more than ever before, and across a wide range of contexts. From the #MeToo movement to the new Gillette razor ad released in January 2019 'We Believe: The Best Men Can Be' - our understanding of masculinity is changing. The concept of 'manliness' and 'traditional masculine ideology' is now under a very public microscope, and long-held beliefs about what it means to be a man are being challenged. Masculinity is changing and being redefined, and people talking about 'toxic masculinity' claim that there is a crisis in masculinity or argue that we need to 'reclaim masculinity'.

Join best-selling author and fearless feminist Clementine Ford (*Boys Will Be Boys*), writer, poet and lyricist Jamie Thrasivoulou, and Darren Chetty and Iesha Small - two writers and educators who have developed and contributed to a new book called *What is Masculinity? Why Does It Matter? And Other Big Questions*. Our panel will discuss gender equality, and the big questions surrounding definitions of masculinity, including where ideas of masculinity have come from and the effects of gender stereotyping.

Chaired by Dr Fen Coles.



Clementine Ford



Darren Chetty



Iesha Small



Jamie Thrasivoulou

SUNDAY  
6 OCTOBER



## READ ON DAY

ALL DAY, YOUNG WRITERS AND READERS AGED 12 TO 19 WILL BE PERFORMING, PRESENTING, HOSTING AND PRODUCING EVENTS AS PART OF THE BIRMINGHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2019.

THE DAY IS PRESENTED AS PART OF READ ON EU, A EUROPE-WIDE PROJECT GETTING YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS THE CONTINENT READING AND WRITING.

YOU CAN JOIN IN FROM HOME, TOO: UPLOAD BOOK REVIEWS AND YOUR OWN STORIES; GET ADVICE ON BOOKS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO READ; AND CHAT TO AUTHORS YOU ADMIRE. [WWW.READON.EU](http://WWW.READON.EU)



Co-funded by the  
Creative Europe Programme  
of the European Union



## READ ON: SPARK YOUNG WRITERS SHOWCASE

Sunday 6 October, 1pm - 1.30pm

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Tickets: Free, no booking required

We start the day with an exciting showcase of new writing, where young writers from across the West Midlands will share their stories and poems. Come and hear writing by some of our Spark Young Writers – who meet once a month with a professional writer – but also apply for a chance to perform your work! Are you aged between 12 and 19 or know someone who is? Apply: [writingwestmidlands.org/ReadOnShowcase/](http://writingwestmidlands.org/ReadOnShowcase/)



## READ ON: AFTER SUMMER AND OTHER STORIES: AN ANTHOLOGY OF NEW WRITING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Sunday 6 October, 2pm - 3pm

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Tickets: £3 for adults, Under 18s free (includes free book)

We asked teenagers to commission an anthology of short stories. The result is an incredible selection of stories from UK and European writers that are set to thrill, inspire and entertain. Our commissioned UK writers – Liam Brown, Ken Preston and Emma Purshouse, will talk about their approach to writing to an unusual brief, and read short excerpts from their stories.

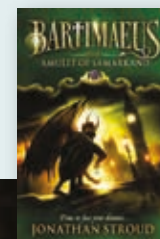
## READ ON: THE AMULET OF SAMARKAND: FAN FICTION EVENT

Sunday 6 October, 3.30pm - 4pm

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Tickets: free, no booking required

Fan Fiction is a hugely popular form of writing and offers keen fans the opportunity to write a new version of an original story featuring particular characters or settings. We asked local young people to read Jonathan Stroud's *The Amulet of Samarkand*, a fantasy from the Bartimaeus series of books, and then create their own fan fiction inspired by the story. As part of this event, young people will read their stories based on the elements of this mysterious world featuring magicians and mystical djinnis.



## READ ON: JONATHAN STROUD

Sunday 6 October, 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Tickets: £5 for adults, Under 18s free

Join fantasy writer Jonathan Stroud, who will talk to our young presenters about how he became a writer for Young Adults, his inspirations and approaches to writing and the journey he has been on with his books. He'll also be sharing some very funny pictures from his youth!

**SUNDAY  
6 OCTOBER**

## HOW SHOULD BRITAIN BE RUN?

A TALK SHOP EVENT

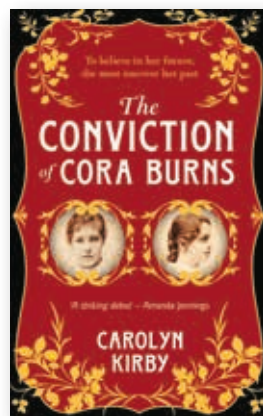
**Sunday 6 October, 10am - 12pm**  
**Royal Birmingham Conservatoire**  
**Tickets: Free, booking required**

Is our country going in the right direction? Do we make the best decisions? Is democracy broken?

The way we allow politicians to make important decisions is being questioned from all sides. The aim of this event, run by Talk Shop with the support of the Royal Society for the Arts (RSA), is to see whether together we can reach some measure of agreement about how well the country is run, and what can be done to improve things. Instead of the traditional for and against debate, that often leaves everyone angry and frustrated, Talk Shop puts the emphasis on understanding each other's opinions and finding common ground: a tall order in two hours, but we promise you won't be bored.

This event will be run by Perry Walker, founder of Talk Shop, formerly of the New Economics Foundation, Fellow of the RSA and Involve, where he was a trustee.

*Supported by and presented  
in association with the RSA.*



## THE CONVICTION OF CORA BURNS

A HISTORIC CANAL WALK  
WITH CAROLYN KIRBY

**Sunday 6 October, 10.30am - 12pm**  
**Soho Loop, Winson Green**  
**Tickets: £12 / £10 (concs)**

Join historical novelist Carolyn Kirby on a canal walk to reveal some of the Victorian settings featured in her debut novel *The Conviction of Cora Burns* – the only Victorian novel to be set in Birmingham

Explore Birmingham with a canal walk along the Soho Loop, taking in the sites of three great Victorian institutions: the workhouse, the prison and the lunatic asylum. Carolyn will share fascinating insights into the history of these buildings and how they inspired her debut novel.

The start and end of the walk is the entrance to City Hospital car park on Western Road. The walk is circular and will be less than a mile. We will follow the paved canal towpath and a short track on which there may be some uneven ground. Please wear sensible shoes and dress appropriately for the weather conditions.

## MAKING WRITING WORK

WITH NICK MAKOHA,  
MARTIN SKETCHLEY AND  
CRYSTAL MAHEY-MORGAN

**Sunday 6 October, 12pm - 1pm**  
**Royal Birmingham Conservatoire**  
**Tickets: £8 / £6.40**

We are in the midst of a literary revolution. Gone are the days when writers followed just one career path, as now we welcome the rise of the literary entrepreneur. As the boundaries of literature and literary culture become even more blurred, writers are disrupting their once traditional career paths and extending and intertwining their writing to include other artforms, environments, platforms and formats. By harnessing creative thinking to generate more value and opportunities, is literary entrepreneurship the key to living a more fulfilled and successful life as a writer?

Our panel - poet Nick Makoha, publicist Crystal Mahey-Morgan and writer Martin Sketchley - will share their own experiences of writing and approaches to publishing, and discuss what it means to be a literary entrepreneur.

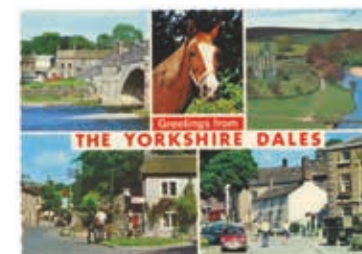
*Chaired by Malachi MacIntosh.*



Nick Makoha



Crystal Mahey-Morgan



## POSTCARD FROM THE PAST

WITH TOM JACKSON

**Sunday 6 October, 2pm - 3pm**  
**Royal Birmingham Conservatoire**  
**Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)**

Are the days of sending picture postcards really over?

In this illustrated talk featuring suspiciously blue skies, enormous Good Luck cats and a squadron of one-eared donkeys, *Postcard from the Past* curator Tom Jackson, draws on his alarmingly large collection of everyday postcards to present the oddest, funniest, most touching postcard messages. Beyond the problem with Auntie Beryl's legs, where Dad left his sunhat or that time Kevin fell in the swimming pool, we'll discover hidden messages, cries for help, threats and mysteries and consider whether or not it's too late to revive the art of postcard writing.

Tom has collected postcards for many years and in 2016 started posting their messages online. He curates the Twitter feed *Postcard From The Past* - @pastpostcard, and is the author of the book of the same name. He also hosts *Podcast From The Past*, where guests tell their postcard stories.

Don't miss our special Birmingham Literature Festival edition of *Podcast From The Past* with guests Stuart Maconie and Liz Berry on Sunday evening, 8pm - 9pm. See page 23 for details.

**SUNDAY  
6 OCTOBER**

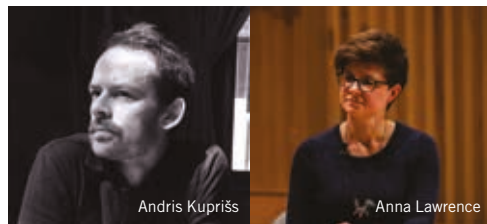
## **ANSWERS ON A POSTCARD BIRMINGHAM EDITION WALK WITH ANNA LAWRENCE**

**Sunday 6 October, 2.30pm - 3.30pm**  
**Birmingham City Centre, check website for meeting point**  
**Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)**

Tracing the streets and landmarks of Riga, join writer Anna Lawrence as she takes you on a unique walking tour of Latvia's capital city... right here in Birmingham.

A series of postcards have been left around the city, each an answer to a different, unstated question. Part memoir, part fiction, *Answers on a Postcard* is a fragmented narrative in prose and poetry, investigating how history (personal, national and international) frames and filters one visitor's experience of a city. What mark will 'Riga' make on your experience of other cities and your own?

To experience this event, you will need to download the free Overhear app. Find out more on our website.



## **A TALE OF TWO CITIES A CELEBRATION OF RIGA AND BIRMINGHAM WITH ANDRIS KUPRIŠS AND ANNA LAWRENCE**

**Sunday 6 October, 4.30pm - 5.30pm**  
**Royal Birmingham Conservatoire**  
**Tickets: £8 / £6.40 (concs)**

In 2018, the Birmingham Literature Festival was invited to take part in a creative exchange project with Latvian online magazine and literature festival Punctum. The aim of the project was to commission two writers (one from Riga and one from Birmingham) to spend time in each partner city and create a creative and cultural response and connection to each place.

Birmingham writer Anna Lawrence and Rigan writer Andris Kuprišs took up the challenge, and we are delighted to present their responses to the commission as part of our 2019 festival.

Join us for this celebratory event showcasing two exciting writers and their experience of two exciting cities. Find out what each writer really thought of their partner city and how they explored and navigated the similarities and differences - geographical, cultural, social and political.

*With thanks to the British Council for supporting this project.*

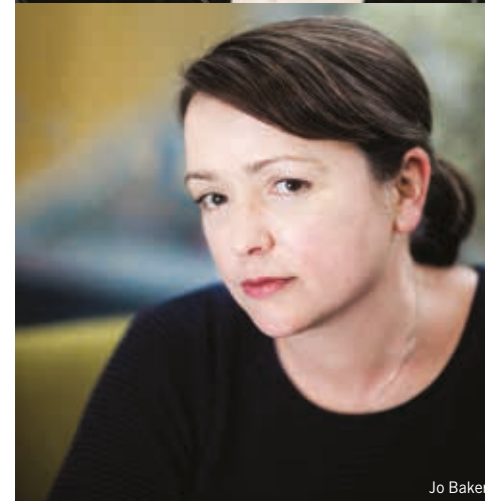


## **MURDER SHE WROTE WITH HALLIE RUBENHOLD AND JO BAKER**

**Sunday 6 October, 4pm - 5pm**  
**Royal Birmingham Conservatoire**  
**Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)**



Hallie Rubenhold



Jo Baker

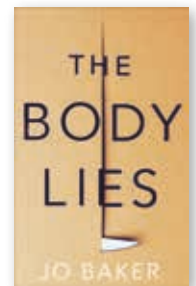
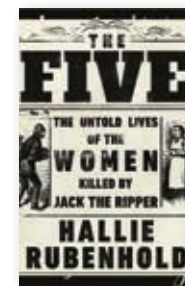
Join writers Hallie Rubenhold and Jo Baker for an in-depth discussion about our obsession with true crime, sexual politics, dead women's bodies as entertainment, and the ways in which our portrayal of women has evolved (or not) from the Victorian era to the present day.

Jo Baker's latest novel *The Body Lies* is a dark, thrilling new novel from the best-selling author of *Longbourn*. A work of riveting psychological suspense that grapples with how to live as a woman in the world—or in the pages of a book—when the stakes are dangerously high.

Hallie Rubenhold's latest book *The Five* is the first full-length biography to explore and contextualize the lives of the five victims of Jack the Ripper. Offering new insights and drawing on previously unseen or unpublished material, its focus is entirely on the women and not on their murderer.

*The Five* shares the stories of Polly, Annie, Elizabeth, Catherine and Mary-Jane – all famous for the same thing, though they never met. They came from Fleet Street, Knightsbridge, Wolverhampton, Sweden and Wales. They wrote ballads, ran coffee houses, lived on country estates, they breathed ink-dust from printing presses and escaped people-traffickers. What they had in common was the year of their murders: 1888. That person responsible was never identified, but the character – Jack the Ripper – created by the press to fill that gap has become far more famous than any of these five women.

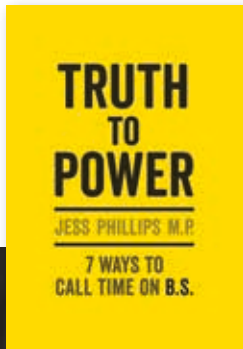
*Chaired by writer and academic Laura Joyce.*



**SUNDAY  
6 OCTOBER**

**TRUTH TO  
POWER:  
7 WAYS TO CALL  
TIME ON B.S.**  
WITH JESS PHILLIPS

Sunday 6 October, 6pm - 7pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
Tickets: £12 / £10 (concs)  
Ticket & book deal: £22 / £20 (concs)



Join fearless Labour MP Jess Phillips as she inspires us to speak out against injustices.

Speaking truth to power takes courage, and Jess Phillips shows us how to identify the problem, form a plan, and to speak out. Entertaining, empowering and uncompromising, Jess's latest book offers inspiration, hope and practical help to people who want to speak out at a time when many of us feel the world isn't listening. It will help you dig deep, speak up and overcome the awkwardness that can come from telling your boss, your family, your neighbour that something is bullsh\*t.

As well as drawing on her own experiences, Jess talks to a range of high-profile people who have been brave enough to risk everything, become whistle-blowers and successfully fight back.

*Truth to Power* will help you change things. It will help call out bullies in all walks of life. It will help you rally support and fight the fight against injustice – even though the odds seem stacked against you.

*Chaired by Kathryn Stanczysyn.*



Jess Phillips



**PODCAST  
FROM THE PAST  
LIVE PODCAST  
RECORDING  
WITH STUART MACONIE  
AND LIZ BERRY  
HOSTED BY TOM JACKSON**

Sunday 6 October, 8pm - 9pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)

*"Fascinating, funny, poignant."*  
BBC Radio 4 Extra

Don't miss this live recording of *Podcast From The Past* with writer and broadcaster Stuart Maconie and poet Liz Berry - hosted by Tom Jackson.

Tom Jackson quickly gained a cult following with his popular Twitter feed and book *Postcard From The Past*, which curates the funniest, weirdest and most moving real messages from the backs of old postcards. Now he digs deeper, into the personal stories behind old postcards.

As part of every episode of *Podcast From The Past*, Tom welcomes to the studio two guests, each armed with old postcards they couldn't bear to throw away. In funny, human, revealing and often moving conversations, they share the memories, mysteries and stories held by those postcards. Stories that are at the heart of *Podcast From The Past*.

MONDAY  
7 OCTOBER

**WORKSHOP:**  
**WRITING  
HISTORICAL  
FICTION**  
WITH CAROLYN KIRBY

Monday 7 October, 10am - 3pm  
Birmingham Back to Backs, National Trust  
Tickets: £40 / £35 (concs)



Join novelist Carolyn Kirby (*The Conviction of Cora Burns*) for a historical fiction workshop in Birmingham's unique Back to Backs.

This one-day workshop will help you draw inspiration for your writing from the past. Using the unique backdrop of the historic working-class homes at this National Trust property in Birmingham city centre, Carolyn will focus on how writers can form an emotional connection to a historical setting.

Through lively discussion and practical writing exercises, we will explore the meaning of authenticity for historical fiction writers. In particular, the discussion will focus on the evocation of place, as well as the ethics of using real people in your stories.

This workshop is suitable for those new to writing fiction as well as writers with a work in progress. You should bring your own writing materials and, if possible, also bring along something from your past (perhaps an image, or a letter or a newspaper article) which has helped inspire you.

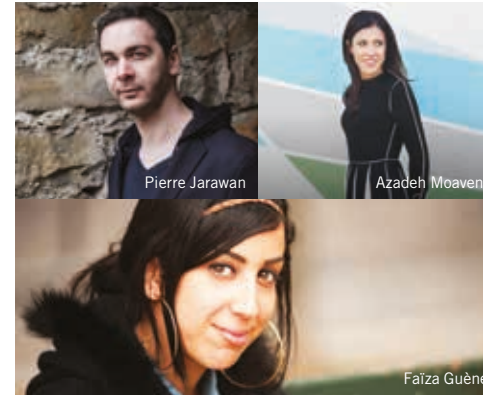
The National Trust's Back to Backs are a carefully restored, atmospheric 19th Century courtyard of working people's houses. With over two hundred years of history, they are filled with the stories of real people and give an insight into what life was like in Birmingham.

Due to its historical nature, this venue is not accessible to wheelchair users or those with mobility issues. The tour at the start of the workshop will include eight sets of steep, narrow stairs within the property, as well as uneven surfaces and potential trip hazards. Please wear appropriate footwear.

*Ticket price includes light refreshments, a buffet lunch and a tour of the Back to Backs site.*



**WRITING IN EXILE**  
**A TRIANGULAR TALK  
WITH PIERRE JARAWAN,  
AZADEH MOAVENI AND  
FAÏZA GUÈNE**



Monday 7 October, 6pm - 7pm  
The Old Joint Stock  
Tickets: £8 / £6.40 (concs)

Presented in association with the Goethe-Institut London, Institut Français and Deutsch-Französische Kulturfonds, the Birmingham Literature Festival is delighted to bring together German writer Pierre Jarawan, British writer Azadeh Moaveni and French writer Faïza Guène to discuss their latest books.

Sharing very different stories and accounts of exile, politics, terrorism, war and disconnection, this latest event in the Triangular Talk series will explore the ways in which relationships, choices and free expression can transcend national borders, and what home looks like, irrespective of how far away you are.

*Chaired by Malachi MacIntosh*

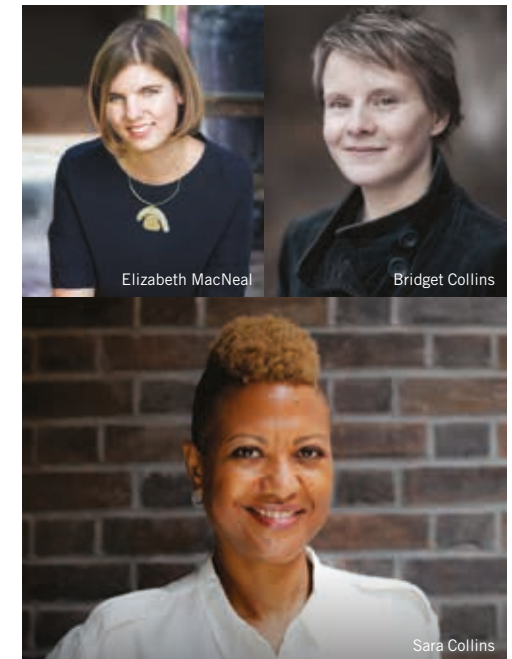
*Sponsored by Aston University.*



**DELVING INTO  
THE PAST:  
MURDER, OBSESSION  
AND THE SUPERNATURAL**  
WITH ELIZABETH MACNEAL,  
BRIDGET COLLINS AND  
SARA COLLINS

Monday 7 October, 8pm - 9pm  
The Old Joint Stock  
Tickets: £8 / £6.40 (concs)

Indulge in a stimulating discussion with three of the UK's most exciting debut authors as they discuss their work and the art of writing engaging historical fiction. Featuring stories of art, love, obsession, magic and unforgettable heroines, join writers Elizabeth MacNeal, Bridget Collins and Sara Collins as they take you on an unforgettable journey and delve deep into the past.



# FESTIVAL PLANNER

## THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER

National Poetry Day  
Muses and Furies  
Thursday 3 October, 6pm - 7pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
PAGE 6

An evening with Carol Ann Duffy  
Thursday 3 October, 8pm - 9.30pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
PAGE 6-7

## FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER

Queer Intentions  
Friday 4 October, 6pm - 7pm  
Hexagon, Midlands Arts Centre  
PAGE 7

Beowulf  
Friday 4 October, 8pm - 9pm  
Hexagon, Midlands Arts Centre  
PAGE 8

## SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER

LGBTQ+ Creative Writing  
Workshop  
Saturday 5 October, 10am - 12pm  
Pinsent Mason Room, Midlands Arts Centre  
PAGE 9

It's Not About the Burqa  
Saturday 5 October, 11am - 12pm  
Hexagon, Midlands Arts Centre  
PAGE 9

Homecoming: Voices of the  
Windrush Generation  
Saturday 5 October, 1pm - 2pm  
Theatre, Midlands Arts Centre  
PAGE 10

Money Matters  
Saturday 5 October, 1.30pm - 2.30pm  
Hexagon, Midlands Arts Centre  
PAGE 10

Workshop: Meditation and  
Creative Writing  
Saturday 5 October, 2pm - 4pm  
Pinsent Mason Room, Midlands Arts Centre  
PAGE 11

On Therapy with Susie Orbach  
Saturday 5 October, 3pm - 4pm  
Theatre, Midlands Arts Centre  
PAGE 11

Book launch: Spake  
Saturday 5 October, 3.30pm - 4.30pm  
Hexagon, Midlands Arts Centre  
PAGE 12

How to Fail with Elizabeth Day  
Saturday 5 October, 6pm-7pm,  
The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham  
Conservatoire  
PAGE 13

Boys will be Boys  
Saturday 5 October, 8pm-9pm  
The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham  
Conservatoire  
PAGE 15

## SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER

Read On: Spark Young Writers  
showcase  
Sunday 6 October, 1pm - 1.30pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
PAGE 17

Read On: After Summer  
Anthology  
Sunday 6 October, 2pm - 3pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
PAGE 17

Read On: Fan Fiction event  
Sunday 6 October, 3.30pm - 4pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
PAGE 17

Read On: Jonathan Stroud  
Sunday 6 October, 4.30pm - 5.30pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
PAGE 17

How Should Britain Be Run?  
Sunday 6 October, 10am - 12pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
PAGE 18

Canal walk: Cora Burns  
Sunday 6 October, 10.30am - 12pm  
Soho Loop, Winson Green  
PAGE 18

Making Writing Work  
Sunday 6 October, 12pm - 1pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
PAGE 19

Postcard from the Past  
Sunday 6 October, 2pm - 3pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
PAGE 19

Answers on a Postcard Walk  
Sunday 6 October, 2.30pm - 3.30pm  
Birmingham City Centre  
PAGE 20

A Tale of Two Cities  
Sunday 6 October, 4.30pm - 5.30pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
PAGE 20

Murder She Wrote  
Sunday 6 October, 4pm - 5pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
PAGE 21

Truth to Power with Jess Phillips  
Sunday 6 October, 6pm - 7pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
PAGE 22

Podcast From The Past with  
Stuart Maconie and Liz Berry  
Sunday 6 October, 8pm - 9pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
PAGE 23

## MONDAY 7 OCTOBER

Workshop:  
Writing Historical Fiction  
Monday 7 October, 10am - 3pm  
National Trust Birmingham Back to Backs  
PAGE 24

Writing in Exile: A Triangular Talk  
Monday 7 October, 6pm - 7pm  
The Old Joint Stock  
PAGE 25

Delving into the Past  
Monday 7 October, 8pm - 9pm  
The Old Joint Stock  
PAGE 25

Troy Story with Natalie Haynes  
Monday 7 October, 8pm - 9pm  
The STUDIO, Birmingham REP  
PAGE 29

## TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER

The Letters Page  
Tuesday 8 October, 6pm - 7pm  
The Old Joint Stock  
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pARTy Lines  
Tuesday 8 October, 8pm - 9.30pm  
The Old Joint Stock  
PAGE 30

Simon Armitage in conversation  
with Stuart Maconie  
Tuesday 8 October, 7.30pm-9pm  
Birmingham Town Hall  
PAGE 31

## WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER

The End Of The World As We  
Know It  
Wednesday 9 October, 6pm - 7pm  
The Foyle, Midlands Arts Centre  
PAGE 32

Luke Wright: Poet Laureate  
Wednesday 9 October, 8pm - 9pm  
The Foyle, Midlands Arts Centre  
PAGE 32

Story-Tea: Wild Woods Brew  
with Pyn Stockman and  
Arlene Burnett  
Wednesday 9 October, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
The Pavilion, Martineau Gardens  
PAGE 33

## THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER

Common People with Stuart  
Maconie, Lynne Voyce, Emma  
Purshouse and Lisa Blower  
Thursday 10 October, 6pm - 7pm  
Bramall Music Building, University of  
Birmingham  
PAGE 34

Adam Kay  
Thursday 10 October, 8pm - 9pm  
Bramall Music Building, University of  
Birmingham  
PAGE 35

## FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER

Workshop: Writing Short Stories  
Friday 11 October, 2pm - 4pm  
Birmingham & Midland Institute  
PAGE 37

Windows into Other Worlds  
Friday 11 October, 6pm - 7pm  
The STUDIO, Birmingham REP  
PAGE 37

Hit the Ode  
Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome  
Friday 11 October, 7.45pm - 10pm  
PAGE 38

Your Sexts Are Shit  
with Rachel Mars  
Friday 11 October, 8pm-9pm  
The STUDIO, Birmingham REP  
PAGE 38

## SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER

Workshop: Poetry Writing  
Saturday 12 October, 10am - 12pm  
Birmingham & Midland Institute  
PAGE 39

Unspeakable with Adélaïde Bon,  
Harriet Shawcross and Rhik  
Samadder  
Saturday 12 October, 11am - 12pm  
Birmingham & Midland Institute  
PAGE 40

Sarah Perry: Melmoth  
Saturday 12 October, 1pm - 2pm  
The STUDIO, Birmingham REP  
PAGE 41

Snidge Scrumpin'  
Saturday 12 October, 1pm - 2pm  
Birmingham and Midland Institute  
PAGE 42

Workshop: Therapeutic Writing  
Saturday 12 October, 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
Birmingham and Midland Institute  
PAGE 42

Real Life Parenting with  
Matt Coyne, Kathryn Wallace  
and Liz Berry  
Saturday 12 October, 2pm-3pm  
Birmingham Town Hall  
PAGE 43

A Half Baked Idea: Afternoon  
Tea with Olivia Potts  
Saturday 12 October, 2pm - 4pm  
Bar Opus  
PAGE 44

Redefining the Classics  
Saturday 12 October, 3pm - 4pm  
Birmingham and Midland Institute  
PAGE 44

Cookie and the Most Annoying  
Boy in the World by Konnie Huq  
Saturday 12 October, 3pm - 4pm  
The STUDIO, Birmingham REP  
PAGE 45

In At The Deep End  
Saturday 12 October, 5pm - 6pm  
The STUDIO, Birmingham REP  
PAGE 46

Litwitchure: A Literary Tarot  
Cabaret  
Saturday 12 October, 6.30pm - 7.30pm  
Birmingham & Midland Institute  
PAGE 46

Don't Forget the Driver: Toby Jones  
and Tim Crouch in conversation  
Saturday 12 October, 8pm - 9pm  
The STUDIO, Birmingham REP  
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## SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER

New Kings of the World with  
Fatima Bhutto  
Sunday 13 October, 5.30pm - 6.30pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
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Understanding the Past,  
Building our Future  
Sunday 13 October, 7.30pm - 8.30pm  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
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**MONDAY**  
**7 OCTOBER**

## TROY STORY

WITH NATALIE HAYNES

**Monday 7 October, 8pm - 9pm**  
**The STUDIO, Birmingham REP**  
**Tickets: £12 / £10 (concs)**



A modern re-telling of the Trojan War, the greatest conflict in ancient literature.

Star of the BBC Radio 4 series, *Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics*, Natalie brings her unique combination of ancient history and stand-up comedy to take you on a tour around the Trojan War, the setting for her latest novel *A Thousand Ships*.

From the causes of the war (divine displeasure) to its complex aftermath, this show encompasses some of the greatest poetry ever written: *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, *The Oresteia*, *The Trojan Women* and much more. The stories of the women affected by the war have largely been untold, but Natalie takes women like warrior Penthesilea and priestess Cassandra out of the shadows and places them where they belong: at the heart of the story.



Natalie Haynes

**TUESDAY  
8 OCTOBER**

## THE LETTERS PAGE, VOL. 4 PREVIEW EVENT

WITH JON MCGREGOR AND  
GUESTS

Tuesday 8 October, 6pm - 7pm  
The Old Joint Stock  
Tickets: £8 / £6.40 (concs)



Jon McGregor introduces the new volume of this 'literary journal in letters', reading extracts from Roddy Doyle, George Saunders, Naomi Alderman, Claire Wigfall and others. He will also explore the place of letters and letter writing throughout literary history, and ask what role correspondence plays in a digital age. Jon will be in conversation with Dr Jonathan Ellis (University of Sheffield), a leading scholar in the study of literary letters.

Copies of the new volume will be exclusively available at the event, in advance of the official launch.

*Presented in association with  
the University of Nottingham.*



## PARTY LINES: A LITERARY CABARET

Tuesday 8 October, 8pm - 9.30pm  
The Old Joint Stock  
Tickets: £5.00

Writing West Midlands's Room 204 network presents a unique literary cabaret for your delectation.

Don't miss this fun and entertaining evening of literary performances from some of the West Midlands' most exciting writers. Featuring sketches, stories, songs and poems, this lively and varied evening will explore and celebrate how words, music and performance sustain us through thick and thin.



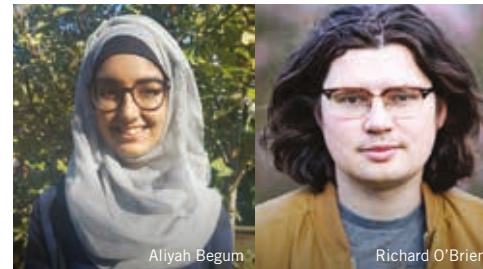
Simon Armitage

## SIMON ARMITAGE: IN CONVERSATION WITH STUART MACONIE WITH PERFORMANCES FROM ALIYAH BEGUM AND RICHARD O'BRIEN

Tuesday 8 October, 7.30pm - 9pm  
Birmingham Town Hall  
Tickets: £15 / £12 (concs)

Join Birmingham Literature Festival and Town Hall Symphony Hall for a special evening of poetry and conversation, with the new UK Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, one of our best-loved poets and a Birmingham Literature Festival favourite. Simon will be chatting to BBC broadcaster, writer and 2019 Birmingham Literature Festival Guest Curator Stuart Maconie.

Simon will be performing a small number of his poems as well as taking questions from Stuart and the audience, and our evening will commence with poetry readings from Richard O'Brien (Birmingham Poet Laureate 2018-20) and Aliyah Begum (Birmingham Young Poet Laureate 2018-20).



Aliyah Begum

Richard O'Brien

**WEDNESDAY  
9 OCTOBER**

## THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

WITH EWAN MORRISON,  
HANNA JAMESON AND  
SOPHIE MACKINTOSH

**Wednesday 9 October, 6pm - 7pm**  
**The Foyle, Midlands Arts Centre**  
**Tickets: £8 / £6.40 (concs)**

Dystopian stories conjure up nightmareish or surreal visions of how our futures might unfold. From oppressive regimes, to apocalyptic pandemics and environmental disasters, these dark reflections of society often blur the line between reality and imagination. And as dystopian fiction goes through more and more permutations, where are we now - informing fiction or reflecting reality?

Join writers Ewan Morrisons (*Nina X*), Hanna Jameson (*The Last*) and Sophie Mackintosh (*The Water Cure*) as they discuss their latest books, the current wave of dystopian fiction, where it's going, and what it says about literature and society in general. Step into dystopia... twisted fiction or part reality?

*Chaired by Liam Brown.*

*Sponsored by Newman University.* 



Ewan Morrison

Hanna Jameson

Sophie Mackintosh

## LUKE WRIGHT: POET LAUREATE

**Wednesday 9 October, 8pm - 9pm**  
**The Foyle, Midlands Arts Centre**  
**Tickets: £12 / £10 (concs)**

*"Fierce, wistful, romantic and witty by turns, this is a sensational hour of poetry."*

★★★★★

The Stage

*"One of the funniest and most brilliant poets of his generation."* The Independent

*"Cool poems."* Patti Smith



Luke Wright

Luke Wright is on a mission to write poems to unite a nation divided by austerity and Brexit. Can it be done? Can one poet ever really represent an entire nation?

There was a collective gnashing of teeth and beating of breasts across the land when Wrighty didn't get the royal nod to take up the position of Poet Laureate this year. Still, he's an irrepressible sort of chap, so he's bought his own sherry and hit the road with a one-man show the critics are calling his best yet.

Big-hearted and quick witted, Wright's poems have been lauded by everyone from Patti Smith to The Libertines. A Fringe First and Stage Award winner, Wright is truly a wordsmith and raconteur at the top of his game.



## STORY-TEA: WILD WOODS BREW

WITH PYN STOCKMAN  
AND ARLENE BURNETT

**Wednesday 9 October, 7.30pm - 9.30pm**  
**The Pavilion, Martineau Gardens**  
**Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)**

Journey through folklore traditions and old tales to explore the darker side of the year. When autumn leaves fall, the trees are almost bare, sleeping, watching, waiting for spring. What might you encounter there?

The stories will be interspersed with servings of warming tea blends inspired by the tales, whilst Queen of Camellias shares the magic of the recipes.

During the evening the audience will be invited to use a mix of natural materials and words to make a small autumn offering based on the evening's themes.

Story-Tea is a collaboration between performance storyteller Pyn Stockman and Arlene Burnett: Queen of Camellias (artist and folk herbalist).

THURSDAY  
10 OCTOBER



## COMMON PEOPLE: AN ANTHOLOGY OF WORKING CLASS WRITING

WITH STUART MACONIE,  
LYNNE VOYCE,  
EMMA PURSHOUSE  
AND LISA BLOWER

Thursday 10 October, 6pm - 7pm  
Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham  
Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)

*Common People* is a collection of essays, poems and memoir written by working-class writers. These are narratives rich in barbed humour, reflecting the depth and texture of working-class life. The anthology brings together 33 established and emerging writers who invite you to experience the world through their eyes.

Join anthology contributors Stuart Maconie, Lynne Joyce, Emma Purshouse and Lisa Blower for a discussion about their stories and what it means to be a working class writer.

Written in celebration, not apology, this anthology gives voice to perspectives that are increasingly absent from our books and newspapers. *Common People* ensures they are heard loud and clear.

Chaired by Jonathan Davidson.

## ADAM KAY: THIS IS GOING TO HURT

Thursday 10 October, 8pm - 9pm  
Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham  
Tickets: £15 / £12 (concs)

Sponsored by the University of Birmingham's  
Arts & Science Festival.



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



*Welcome to 97-hour weeks. Welcome to life and death decisions. Welcome to a constant tsunami of bodily fluids. Welcome to earning less than the hospital parking meter. Wave goodbye to your friends and relationships . . .*

*Welcome to the life of a junior doctor.*

Scribbled in secret after endless days, sleepless nights and missed weekends, comedian and former junior doctor Adam Kay's *This Is Going to Hurt* provides a no-holds-barred account of his time on the NHS front line.

Hilarious, horrifying and heartbreaking by turns, this is everything you wanted to know – and more than a few things you didn't – about life on and off the hospital ward. And yes, it may leave a scar.

Age guidance: 14+



Adam Kay

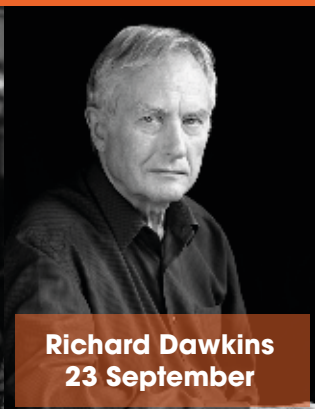


Live

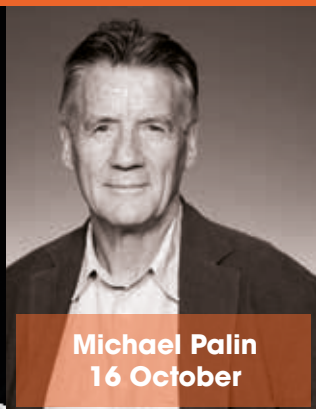
Birmingham Town Hall



Malorie Blackman  
7 September



Richard Dawkins  
23 September



Michael Palin  
16 October

BOOK NOW

[penguin.co.uk/events](http://penguin.co.uk/events)

FRIDAY  
11 OCTOBER

## WORKSHOP: WRITING SHORT STORIES

WITH LISA BLOWER

Friday 11 October, 2pm - 4pm  
Birmingham & Midland Institute  
£23 / £20 (concs)

Lisa's short story collection *It's Gone Dark over Bill's Mother's* pays homage to the lives, loves and fancy nets of the chattering of matriarchs she grew up with in Stoke-on-Trent. In this character-driven workshop, Lisa will show you how to capture voice, and create memorable characters in believable situations.

Lisa Blower is an award-winning writer of novels and short stories. Winner of The Guardian Short Story competition, shortlisted for the BBC Short Story Award and longlisted for The Sunday Times Short Story Award, her collection *It's Gone Dark over Bill's Mother's* (Myriad Editions) draws from her peachy but political childhood in Stoke-on-Trent.



## WINDOWS INTO OTHER WORLDS

WITH LISA BLOWER,  
JENNIFER NANSUBUGA  
MAKUMBI AND SAMANTA  
SCHWEBLIN

Friday 11 October, 6pm - 7pm  
The STUDIO, Birmingham REP  
Tickets: £8 / £6.40 (concs)

As the short story continues to go from strength to strength, don't miss this eclectic and exciting panel of contemporary UK and international short story writers as they discuss their latest collections and their different approaches to writing in this genre.

Join Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi (*Manchester Happened*), Argentinian writer Samanta Schweblin (*Mouthful of Birds*) and Lisa Blower (*It's All Gone Dark Over Bill's Mother's*) as they discuss their recent books and approaches to writing short stories, exploring why short stories really do matter now more than ever.

FRIDAY  
11 OCTOBER

## HIT THE ODE: HIPPODROME YOUNG POETS

Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome  
Friday 11 October, 7.45pm -10pm  
Tickets: £8 on the door/£5 in advance  
Book tickets via [birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)

Hit the Ode is a unique performance poetry night bringing remarkable spoken word artists to the heart of Birmingham.

October's edition is the Hippodrome Young Poets (HYP) Showcase, celebrating the work of some of Birmingham's finest spoken word artists and the launch of their first anthology, created with Verve Poetry Press.

Performing alongside HYP will be renowned poet Jacob Sam-La Rose and award-winning performer Jasmine Gardosi, who have mentored them in the practice and possibilities of poetry.

Open mic from 7pm.

APPLES  
AND  
SNAKES



## YOUR SEXTS ARE SHIT: OLDER BETTER LETTERS WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY RACHEL MARS

Friday 11 October, 8pm-9pm  
The STUDIO, Birmingham REP  
Tickets: £12 / £10 (concs)

Age guidance: 16+

*'Both hilarious, moving and a history lesson.'*

★★★★★  
LGBTQ ARTS

*'A hilarious dissection of social envy.'*

★★★★★  
The Guardian on  
Total Theatre Award Winning  
*OUR CARNAL HEARTS*

Award-winning theatre maker Rachel Mars comes to Birmingham to unearth the hot-as-hell letters from history that make sexts blush.

Before tech, there were hand-written letters. And loads of them were properly filthy.

This gloriously intimate, funny and surprisingly moving new show is an erotic archive shot through Rachel's personal ventures in contemporary Queer kink. How do we express our desires? And where do our words take us?

Featuring a library of letters including James Joyce, Frida Kahlo, Gertude Stein, Georgia O'Keeffe, Mozart, Charles Bukowski, Radclyffe Hall, Eleanor Roosevelt and more. It also includes sexts sent to Rachel by anonymous donation. Triangulating these sex and love letters of long dead artists with contemporary sexts and a meditation on the construction of the queer female body, the show is a tender and surprising hour that asks – how do we write ourselves and for whom?

Come! Take pleasure in James Joyce's passion for arse, find out who snuck her gay lover into the White House and bear witness to the best/worst sexts ever sent.

SATURDAY  
12 OCTOBER

## WORKSHOP: POETRY WRITING WITH JACOB SAM-LA ROSE

Saturday 12 October, 10am - 12pm  
Birmingham and Midland Institute  
Tickets: £23 / £20 (concs)

With a heavy emphasis on creative play, Jacob will offer a series of prompts and provocations to help spark new writing, with starting points ranging from your relationship with music, through thoughts on form, to an engagement with language itself. This will be a practical session with a generous spread of writing challenges, suitable for writers of all levels who are willing to move quickly and make things.

Jacob Sam-La Rose



**SATURDAY  
12 OCTOBER**

## UNSPEAKABLE

WITH ADÉLAÏDE BON,  
HARRIET SHAWCROSS  
AND RHIK SAMADDER

**Saturday 12 October, 11am - 12pm**

**Birmingham & Midland Institute**

**Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)**

Join writers Adélaïde Bon, Harriet Shawcross and Rhik Samadder as they share and discuss their personal and powerful stories of depression, childhood abuse, the on-going effect of trauma and the paralysing anxiety of silence when words fail us. Their inspiring and evocative new memoirs share tales of survival, recovery and courage, and the slow, tentative hope and steps towards healing.

Adélaïde Bon's *The Little Girl on the Ice Floe* tells the compelling story of the rape and unresolved trauma which had devastating consequences on her life over 20 years.

As a teenager, Harriet Shawcross stopped speaking at school for almost a year, retreating into herself and communicating only when absolutely necessary. As an adult, she became fascinated by the limits of language and in *Unspeakable* she asks what makes us silent.

In *I Never Said I Loved You*, Rhik Samadder tells his story of an unlikely backpacking trip, where Rhik and his mother find themselves speaking openly for the first time in years. Afterwards, the depression that has weighed down on Rhik begins to loosen its grip for a moment - so he seizes the opportunity: to own it, to understand it, and to find out where it came from.

*Chaired by Justina Hart.*



Harriet Shawcross



Adélaïde Bon



Rhik Samadder

## SARAH PERRY: MELMOTH

**Saturday 12 October, 1pm - 2pm**

**The STUDIO, Birmingham REP**

**Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)**

*Sponsored by the University of Wolverhampton.*



*Melmoth is watching and she's coming for the guilty.*

One winter night in Prague, Helen Franklin encounters her friend Karel, half-mad with fear. He has come into possession of a mysterious old manuscript, filled with testimonies that speak to Helen from 17th-century England, wartime Czechoslovakia, the sweat-soaked streets of Manila and 1920s Turkey. All of them tell of being followed by a tall, silent woman in black, bearing a terrible message. Helen reads its contents with intrigue, but everything in her life is about to change.

A chilling, compulsive read, Sarah Perry's third novel *Melmoth* is a haunting, Gothic tale of ordinary people making seemingly small decisions that lead to terrible consequences. *Melmoth* will make you think, make you gasp, and make you question what you think you know.

Sarah Perry is one of the UK's most celebrated novelists, and her second novel *The Essex Serpent* was a *Sunday Times* bestseller and Waterstones Book Of the Year 2016.

*Chaired by Dan Vyleta.*



Sarah Perry

**SATURDAY  
12 OCTOBER**

## **SNIDGE SCRUMPIN'**

WITH RM FRANCIS,  
KERRY HADLEY-PRYCE AND  
FRÉDÉRIQUE SANTUNE

**Saturday 12 October, 1pm - 2pm**  
**Birmingham and Midland Institute**  
**Tickets: £8 / £6.40 (concs)**

The Black Country is a region that is - as popular opinion has it - forgotten, neglected and rejected, a place wallowing in its post-industrial trauma. This event shows that the Black Country is the opposite of 'left behind'. We focus on the richness, diversity and vibrancy of Black Country culture by taking the audience on an imaginary walk across the region. Writers R. M. Francis (*Transitions*) and Kerry Hadley-Pryce (*The Black Country*) uncover untold stories whilst graphic designer Frédérique Santune demonstrates how Augmented Reality can bring the past back to life. The event reveals the Black Country for what it truly is: diverse, wonderful, adaptable and resilient.

*Chaired by Sebastian Groes.*



## **WORKSHOP: THERAPEUTIC WRITING**

WITH JUSTINA HART

**Saturday 12 October, 1.30pm - 3.30pm**  
**Birmingham and Midland Institute**  
**Tickets: £23 / £20 (concs)**

Led by award-winning poet and fiction writer, Justina Hart, this workshop will look at how therapeutic writing, such as journalling and 'morning pages', can help you cope with difficult or traumatic times in your life. You will learn what therapeutic writing is and explore different techniques. You will also begin to transform some of your raw personal material into more crafted pieces.

This workshop is open to all adults, including those who don't normally write or who consider themselves non-writers. Please bring a notebook and pen/pencil and come prepared to explore your feelings on good old-fashioned paper.

## **REAL LIFE PARENTING: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE FUNNY**

WITH MATT COYNE,  
KATHRYN WALLACE  
AND LIZ BERRY

**Saturday 12 October, 2pm - 3pm**  
**Birmingham Town Hall**  
**Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)**  
**Group ticket: 4 adults for £35**



You have a baby, maybe you have two. Why not, it'll all be ok. That's what social media tells us. It'll all be fine...

So who is this person who now has baby sick on their t-shirt even when it's clean on? Who always forgets something as they leave the house, or frequently turns up to work with their toddler's toys in their bag? And why is the phrase "put your shoes on" so hard to understand?!

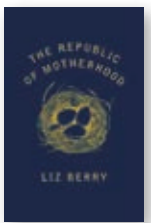
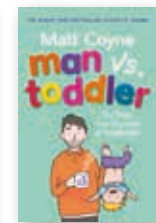
Birmingham Literature Festival and Town Hall Symphony Hall are delighted to bring together a panel of well-known writers and bloggers who between them are sharing true stories of life at the coalface of parenting – with not an Instagram filter or hashtag in sight.

Liz Berry is a poet from the Black Country, who now lives in Birmingham. Her latest poetry pamphlet *The Republic of Motherhood* (Chatto, 2018) was a Poetry Book Society Pamphlet choice and the title poem won the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem 2018.

Matt Coyne is the writer of the hugely popular *Man vs Baby* blog which has become a book of the same name. His new book *Man vs Toddler* was published this year.

Kathryn Wallace writes the *I Know, I Need to Stop Talking* blog which has led to her first book, *Absolutely Smashing It*, published this year.

Join our panel for an in-depth, funny and no doubt slightly surreal discussion about writing and what being a parent in 2019 is *really* like – and how we're all actually making a pretty good job of it.



**SATURDAY  
12 OCTOBER**



Olivia Potts

## A HALF BAKED IDEA

AFTERNOON TEA  
WITH OLIVIA POTTS

**Saturday 12 October, 2pm - 4pm**

**Bar Opus**

**Tickets: £35 / £30 (concs), limited availability**

Join chef and award-winning food writer Olivia Potts for a delicious afternoon tea at Bar Opus, where over sandwiches, scones and cakes she will discuss her moving and beautiful debut *A Half Baked Idea*.

At the moment her mother died, Olivia was baking a cake. She was trying to impress the man who would later become her husband. Meanwhile, 275 miles away, her mother was dying. In the grief-stricken months that followed, Olivia came home from her job as a criminal barrister miserable and tired, and baked soda bread, pizza, and chocolate banana cake. Even when it went badly (which was often), cooking brought her comfort. So she concocted a plan: she would begin a newer, happier life, filled with fewer magistrates and more macarons. She left the bar for Le Cordon Bleu, plunging headfirst into the eccentric world of patisserie.

The afternoon tea will include a selection of sandwiches, scones, cakes and tea. Please advise of any dietary requirements when booking.

## REDEFINING THE CLASSICS

**Saturday 12 October, 3pm - 4pm**

**Birmingham and Midland Institute**

**Tickets: Free, booking required**

We are living in a time when traditional ways of thinking are challenged. From debates about climate change to the rights of LGBTQ individuals, emancipatory struggles are pushing for a more diverse and inclusive worldview. What literature belongs to this brave new world? What established works of literature should no longer be taught? Should there be a canon at all? At this event we discuss ground-breaking research by Professor Van Dalen-Oskam (Huijgens Institute, Amsterdam), that shows there is a shocking unconscious gender bias in our literary value judgment. Our Guest Writer will also discuss a 'woke canon' from a writer's point of view, and you will also have the chance to take part in a pilot study testing a survey for the BBC programme 'The 100 Novels That Shaped Our World'.

With Professor Karina van Dalen-Oskam (Huijgens Institute, Amsterdam), Professor Sebastian Groes (English Literature, Wolverhampton) and a guest writer (to be announced).



Sylvia Wynter

## COOKIE AND THE MOST ANNOYING BOY IN THE WORLD

BY KONNIE HUQ

**Saturday 12 October, 3pm - 4pm**

**The STUDIO, Birmingham REP**

**Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)**

**Family ticket: £25 (2A+2C or 1A+3C)**



Konnie Huq

Get ready to meet Cookie – funny, clever, science-obsessed and ready to take on the world. But Cookie's life is about to change.

Her best friend in the whole world is moving to Solihull because one of her dads has a new job there. Solihull?! Where even is that?! Cookie begs her parents for a pet to fill the void but they have given her an absolute NO. It would be way too expensive and way, way too messy. But Cookie has never been a fan of the word 'no'...

Join author, broadcaster and much loved former Blue Peter presenter Konnie Huq as she introduces you to Cookie and her adventures in the first of a sparkling new series for 7-12-year olds. With rave reviews from David Walliams, Charlie Higson, Jacqueline Wilson, David Baddiel and Dawn French, this brand-new series written and illustrated by Konnie is sure to be a huge hit.

**SATURDAY  
12 OCTOBER**

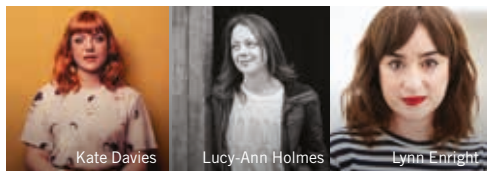
## IN AT THE DEEP END

WITH **LUCY-ANN HOLMES,  
KATE DAVIES  
AND LYNN ENRIGHT**

**Saturday 12 October, 5pm - 6pm**  
**The STUDIO, Birmingham REP**  
**Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)**

From earliest childhood girls are misled about their bodies, encouraged to describe their genitalia with cute and silly names rather than anatomically correct terms. In our schools and in our culture, we are coy about women's bodies while putting straight men's sexuality front and centre. Girls grow up feeling ashamed about their periods, about the appearance of their vulvas, about their own desires. They grow up without a full and honest sex education, and this lack of knowledge has serious consequences.

Join writers and activists Lucy-Ann Holmes, Kate Davies and Lynn Enright for an open and honest discussion about sex and the female body. Sharing personal and fictional stories of discovery and change and tackling vital social issues, these inspiring and trailblazing women are confronting and breaking down the taboos and empowering girls and women to embrace and understand their bodies and seek out the exciting sex life they deserve. Bringing much needed conversations about women's sexual and reproductive health into the public realm.



## LITWITCHURE: A LITERARY TAROT CABARET WITH STACEY HALLS AND REBECCA TAMÁS

**Saturday 12 October, 6.30pm - 7.30pm**  
**Birmingham & Midland Institute**  
**Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)**

Come over to the darker side of literature, as we explore the occult and witchcraft in this very special event with a supernatural twist...

Join debut author Stacey Halls and poet Rebecca Tamás in conversation with Litwitchure duo Fiona Lensvelt and Jennifer Cownie, as they use modern tarot readings to form the basis of this discussion. Stacey and Rebecca will discuss their books and approaches to writing, and answer questions as they arise from the cards which are drawn. With our growing interest in the supernatural, expect mystical conversations that explore just how much we believe.

## DON'T FORGET THE DRIVER: TOBY JONES AND TIM CROUCH IN CONVERSATION

**Saturday 12 October, 8pm - 9pm**  
**The STUDIO, Birmingham REP**  
**Tickets: £15 / £12 (concs)**



We are delighted to present this very special evening event with Toby Jones and Tim Crouch, two of the UK's leading writers and performers, as they discuss their approach to writing and making the hit BBC2 comedy *Don't Forget the Driver*.

*Don't Forget The Driver* is a new comedy drama for BBC Two, which first aired in April 2019. The first piece of writing for television from BAFTA winner Toby Jones and Obie Award winner Tim Crouch. Set in the seaside town of Bognor Regis, *Don't Forget The Driver* observes the beauty and ugliness of life in small-town Britain, following a group of people struggling with their sense of identity and place in the world.

Exploring themes of stagnation, immigration, refugees and family dynamics, Toby and Tim will discuss their approach to creating the show, their collaborative writing process, and the political climate that inspired them to write this brilliant new story.



**SUNDAY  
13 OCTOBER**

**NEW KINGS  
OF THE WORLD:  
DISPATCHES FROM  
BOLLYWOOD, DIZI, AND K-POP**  
WITH **FATIMA BHUTTO**

**Sunday 13 October, 5.30pm - 6.30pm**  
**Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire**  
**Tickets: £12 / £10 (concs)**

America's popular culture is also the world's popular culture, right? From Buenos Aires to Jakarta to Moscow, people are drinking Coke, watching Marvel movies, listening to Beyoncé, and wearing Nike sneakers. Aren't they?

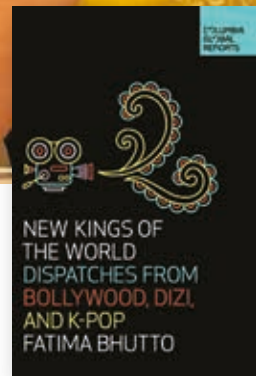
Not so. Around the world, more people watch Bollywood films, avidly follow Turkish soap operas, and listen to South Korean K-Pop. Truly global in its range and allure, the new non-American culture craze is the biggest challenge yet to Hollywood, McDonald's, and blue jeans.

Bollywood, Turkish soap opera *Dizi* and South Korean pop music are part of the new global pop culture that can also be easily consumed, especially in developing economies with booming technology thanks to smartphones.

Join acclaimed author Fatima Bhutto as she shares her experiences of meeting and 'uncovering' the new kings of the world, including Shah Rukh Khan, Bollywood superstar, going behind the scenes of *Magnificent Century* - Turkey's biggest TV show (watched by upwards of 200 million people) and travelling to South Korea to see how "Gangnam Style" became the first YouTube video with one billion views.



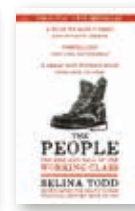
Fatima Bhutto



**UNDERSTANDING  
THE PAST,  
BUILDING OUR  
FUTURE**

WITH **BILLY BRAGG,**  
**PAUL MASON**  
AND **SELINA TODD**

**Sunday 13 October, 7.30pm - 8.30pm**  
**Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire**  
**Tickets: £15 / £12 (concs)**



To close the 2019 festival, we are delighted to present this very special event with a panel of lively, inspiring and thought-provoking writers, activists and speakers. Join songwriter, musician and activist Billy Bragg, writer and Professor of Modern History at Oxford University Selina Todd, award-winning writer, broadcaster and film-maker Paul Mason and writer and broadcaster Stuart Maconie as they come together for the first time for a stirring discussion about our political and social economies - past, present and future.

In a time when it's easy to feel beaten by world events and daily news, our panel will discuss how we have the capacity to change the narrative and why we need to embrace our universal rights, examine our freedoms and use our individual and collective powers to rebuild the world around us. Exploring themes of democracy, optimism, faith in humanity and activism, don't miss this impassioned discussion which is sure to encompass politics, social mobility, and possibly a bit of revolution.

*Chaired by Stuart Maconie.*



Billy Bragg



Paul Mason



Selina Todd

# BOOKING INFORMATION

Booking is via TicketSource, available on our website.

**BY PHONE:** 0333 666 3366

**ONLINE:** BIRMINGHAMLITERATUREFESTIVAL.ORG

**IN PERSON:** TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR AT EVENTS

1 HOUR BEFORE THE EVENT TIME. CASH ONLY OR BOOK ONLINE.

## VISIT OUR ON-SITE FESTIVAL BOOKSHOP

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FOR MAKING THIS FESTIVAL POSSIBLE.

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EMMA BONIWELL LEARNING & PARTICIPATION MANAGER

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Birmingham Repertory Theatre,  
Broad St, Birmingham B1 2EP

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire,  
Birmingham City University, 200  
Jennens Road, Birmingham B4 7XR

Birmingham and Midland Institute,  
9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS

The Old Joint Stock  
4 Temple Row, Birmingham B2 5NY

Martineau Gardens  
27 Priory Road, Edgbaston,  
Birmingham B5 7UG

Birmingham Town Hall  
Victoria Square, Birmingham B3 3DQ

Midlands Arts Centre  
Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham  
B12 9QH

Birmingham Back to Backs  
55-63 Hurst Street, Birmingham,  
B5 4TE

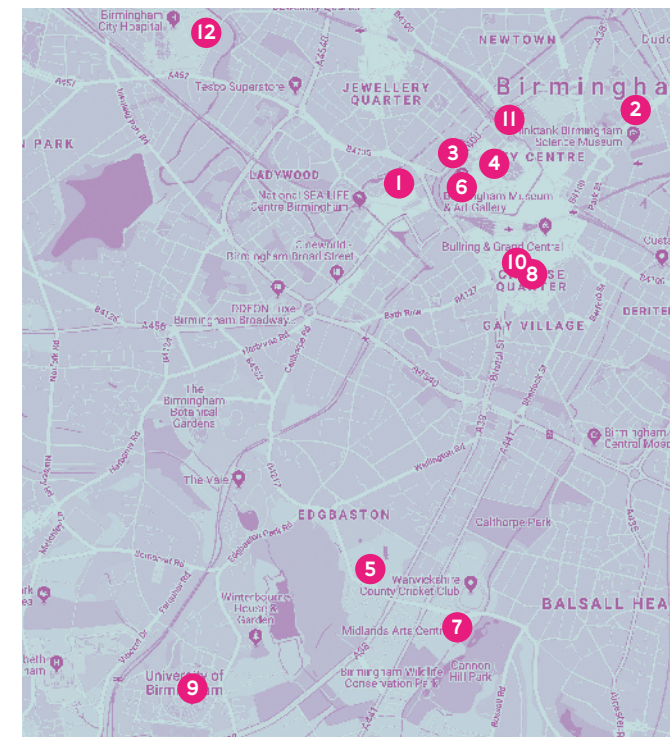
Bramall Music Building  
University of Birmingham, Edgbaston,  
Birmingham B15 2TT

Birmingham Hippodrome  
Hurst Street, Birmingham B5 4TB

Bar Opus at One Snowhill  
One Snow Hill, Birmingham, B4 6GH

Cora Burns historical walk  
meeting point  
Birmingham City Hospital  
Car Park (entrance), Western Road,  
Birmingham B18 7QD

- 1 Birmingham Repertory Theatre
- 2 Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- 3 Birmingham and Midland Institute
- 4 The Old Joint Stock
- 5 Martineau Gardens
- 6 Birmingham Town Hall
- 7 Midlands Arts Centre
- 8 Birmingham Back to Backs
- 9 Bramall Music Building
- 10 Birmingham Hippodrome
- 11 Bar Opus at One Snowhill
- 12 Cora Burns historical walk, starts at the entrance to City Hospital car park



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Lisa Blower @lisablownerwrite  
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Lucy-Anne Holmes @LucyAnneHolmes  
Luke Wright @lukewrightpoet  
Lynne Voyce @LynneVoyce

Lynn Enright @lynnenright  
Malachi McIntosh @malachimcintosh  
Mariam Khan @helloiammariam  
Martin Sketchley @MartinSketchley  
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Rhik Samadder @whatsamadder  
Richard O'Brien @notrockyhorror  
RM Francis @RMFrancis  
Roz Goddard @rozgoddard  
Rupinder Kaur @RupinderKW  
Sathnam Sanghera @Sathnam  
Season Butler @season\_butler  
Sebastian Groes @hasgroes  
Selina Todd @selina\_todd  
Seth Kriebel @sethkriebel  
Stacey Halls @stacey\_halls  
Stuart Maconie @StuartMaconie  
Sue Brown @SeshenSue  
Sufiya Ahmed @sufiyaahmed  
Suhaimah @thebrownhijabi  
Manzoor-Khan @psychoanalysis  
Susie Orbach

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[www.writingwestmidlands.org](http://www.writingwestmidlands.org).

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