

**Edinburgh International
Book Festival**

12–28 August 2023

The Joy of Words



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With Thanks

The Edinburgh International Book Festival is hosted at the Edinburgh College of Art as part of a long-term partnership between the Festival and the University of Edinburgh. We would like to thank the University of Edinburgh for its support in making this year's Book Festival possible.

Welcome to the 2023 Edinburgh International Book Festival

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It's an incredible forty years since we opened in 1983. Since then, we're proud to have become widely recognised as one of the greatest annual literary celebrations anywhere in the world.

We've invited some of the defining writers and thinkers of our times to speak in Edinburgh over the years. And those writers have chosen to come to our city because of the extraordinary welcome they've received from you: our impassioned, inquisitive audience. Edinburgh has always been about more than books: it's about thinking aloud, speculating together, enjoying delightful discussion, and being inspired by the power of imagination. Edinburgh is about the joy of thinking about the world, in words.

Since 2020, we've had to change to cope with the challenges of the pandemic, bringing cameras and streaming into a new hybrid approach. And we've had to adapt to a new site, too, with our old home very sadly no longer available.

But what has never changed is our commitment to creating a festival of the highest quality: a festival that believes in celebrating Nobel laureates alongside debut novelists, welcoming young readers who are only just picking up their first picture book alongside older readers who have read so much that they're now starting to realise how little they really know. Ours is a festival that's committed to environmental responsibility; a festival that's courageous in its programme; a festival that's dedicated to open discussion for everyone.

I hope this year's programme is an invitation to joy. It's overflowing with uplifting, optimistic thinking and, in this brochure, you'll find an innovative selection that focuses on solutions rather than problems, on big ideas rather than tired divisions. This is a programme that aims to set out a positive future for ourselves and for the generations that come after ours. As we emerge from the dreadful pandemic years, I urge you to look beyond the well-known names in these pages and to choose some events featuring the stars of the future: writers whose work you don't yet know. Every ticket and every book you buy will help us build the Festival back to full strength and allow it to continue for years to come. Your support is simply vital.

Lastly, on a personal note, this is my fourteenth and final programme for the Book Festival. It's been an honour and a joy to serve you. I hope I'll see you to say thank you for your wonderful support. Enjoy the 2023 Festival.

Nick Barley

Welcome to our 40th Year

We're back in residence at the Edinburgh College of Art and are so excited to welcome you in our 40th year. The Book Festival is a joyful, creative, interactive celebration of the written (and spoken) word. And with authors joining us from all corners of the world, there's something for everyone.

In the leafy Book Festival Village, you'll find space to read, relax, eat, and drink. There's even space to dance, with the return of our Festival Late Nights.

This year, our Festival remains hybrid, following the success of the last three summers, so you can enjoy the programme your preferred way. Entry to the Book Festival Village is free, but if you can't join in person, don't worry. Read on to see which events will be available to watch online.

Events for everyone

This year our programme has more than 400 live events, including 100+ created for children and families, and more than 100 events available to watch online. We have events inside and out, events that are free, and some that are late night. The events are dotted throughout Edinburgh College of Art, and you'll find maps and signposting on site.

'Climate Positive' is a core theme in our programme this year and Greta Thunberg will be joining us at The Edinburgh Playhouse for a special event. Please see our Themes page to whet your appetite.

We hope you enjoy exploring our programme line-up on the following pages. You can also visit edbookfest.co.uk where you can search for events by subject, theme, author, and/or children's age.

Meet your favourite authors, and discover new ones

Join us in the Festival Village, or online, to hear some of the most creative thinkers of our time in conversation: discussing not just their books, but also the big issues facing society today.

There will be lots of opportunities to get involved. Ask questions during the events or speak face-to-face with authors and other audience members in the queue when you get your book signed. You can buy each book from our Festival Bookshop, brought to you by Waterstones, located in the old Fire Station.

The Book Festival is a space for everyone, and we hope the events this year will inspire you to think and wonder and find your voice. We hope they'll move you and make you laugh, even cry. Most of all, we hope they'll help you connect with the joy of words.

Family fun

The Book Festival Village features plenty of spaces for kids and grown-ups to have fun together, including a family play area and our Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt, where we've got free events and hands-on activities throughout the Festival. Who knows, you might even catch a glimpse of one of your favourite characters wandering off the page and into the real world...

The Festival Bookshop brought to you by Waterstones

Step away from the bustle of the Festival Village to explore the bookshop. Tucked inside the characterful old Fire Station on Lauriston Place, there are titles here for everyone: children, teenagers, and adults alike. This year, our Festival Bookshop is brought to you by Waterstones and we've filled our shelves with an array of titles from visiting authors, related literature, and local publishers. You'll also find exclusive copies you won't get anywhere else.

Book signings

Most authors sign copies of their books immediately after their event in the Book Signing Tent in the Courtyard. Copies of their books will be available to buy. There's no need to reserve a place for signings, simply turn up and join the queue. Check the board outside the tent for timings.

Make a day (or a night) of it

A day out at the Book Festival wouldn't be complete without a tasty treat. There's a range of places to pick up a snack, drink, or something more substantial. If you'd rather bring your own picnic, there's plenty of space to spread out on the grass. We're hoping the sun will be shining, but if not, you can relax in the indoor café and enjoy views over the Courtyard. The Festival Bar is open late, and it's a great place to meet up, serving a range of wines, spirits, and beers.

Enjoy activities and events for all ages including daily free activities, hands-on crafts, and conversations for teens.

To find events for children and young adults, see pages 72–99 in the Baillie Gifford Children's Programme



Actual Investors

Ways to enjoy the Festival

A visit to the Book Festival Village at Edinburgh College of Art gives you the chance to be part of something quite unique. From sitting in the same space as your favourite author or meeting them at a signing, to taking part in one-off events that can only be experienced in-person.

We understand that not everyone can make it along in-person, which is why we are offering events that can be enjoyed online so you don't miss out. All the events in our Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court venue will be livestreamed and available to watch both in-person and online.

Fixed and roving cameras will capture and broadcast live footage of the stage and the audiences watching. For a full list of livestreamed and on-demand events read on, or visit edbookfest.co.uk.

Remote event participants

Some authors are taking part remotely from wherever they are in the world and you'll watch them on a screen in the venue. Anyone appearing remotely will be highlighted in the programme, so please check the event tags under event listings.

Watch livestreamed events

We are a truly global Festival, so no matter where you are in the world, you can experience the world, in words. Our livestreamed events happen in real time, and thanks to our incredible broadcast team you can truly be part of the event from home. Ask questions and discuss with other attendees via our online chatroom and author Q&As, and. And why not invite friends to have a viewing party?

On-demand events

Many of the events will be available to watch on-demand after the livestream has finished. Check our website to see how long each event will be available.

Pay What You Can

We want everyone to have the opportunity to enjoy the Festival, so we offer our livestreamed events (and some in-person ones too) on a Pay What You Can basis. As a charity, we rely on ticket sales and donations to carry out the incredible work we do throughout the year, not just in August, so we do encourage you to truly pay what you can to allow the Festival to continue.

Tickets to these events are available on our website: edbookfest.co.uk. Please note your payment to livestreamed events will be treated as a donation to the Edinburgh International Book Festival charity, and you will be asked if you'd like to Gift Aid it (UK taxpayers only).

Event tags in our listings and what they mean:

- Livestream Available**
You can watch this event online as it happens and on-demand for a period afterwards.
- Appearing Remotely**
Some participants speaking at the event will join via a screen on stage.
- BSL**
Event will be British Sign Language interpreted, see page 101 for details of BSL on request.
- Captioned**
Event will be live-captioned, see page 101 for details.
- LD**
This event is learning disability friendly.
- Young Adult**
Some events appear in both our Adult and Children's programmes.



Visit edbookfest.co.uk for more information and to book tickets, or to watch events online.

Be part of the conversation
[@edbookfest](https://twitter.com/edbookfest)
[#EdBookFest23](https://www.instagram.com/EdBookFest23)



Programme themes

Climate Positive

Despite the alarming evidence of global heating, many refuse to despair. Greta Thunberg is among them, and her activism has inspired people worldwide. She joins us at the Edinburgh Playhouse for a special event on 13 August. This year's programme also features other amazing writers who offer an energetic call to action and ideas about how humanity can, and must, step back from the brink. *Sponsored by The Skinny.*

Feats of Imagination

What's the relationship between reading, imagination, and health? This question fuels The Edinburgh Readerbank: an ambitious new study from Durham University with whom the Book Festival have forged a major new long-term partnership. Hear from experts as they share perspectives on belief, perception, and the imagination. And then join us in participating in a potentially game-changing study. Find out more at edbookfest.co.uk/readerbank.

Grounding

Perhaps it's an effect of the lockdown, but we're seeing so many writers inspired by human rewilding: getting close to the earth and playing their part in restoring its ecosystems. Whether it's Raynor Winn's stories of her hikes with partner Moth or Merryn Glover walking the Cairngorms in the footsteps of Nan Shepherd, authors are doing more than getting out into nature: they're exploring the sustainability of humanity.

Eyewitness Ukraine

The mood in Ukraine remains defiant; 'after the victory' is a widely repeated phrase there. With ordinary Ukrainians travelling to fight on the frontlines, and countless others losing their homes and loved ones in attacks on civilians, this series of discussions features eyewitness accounts from Kharkiv and the Eastern frontline, underlining Ukraine's continuing need for support.

Foundations of Democracy

Citizens of democracies exercise their right to choose the political colour of their politicians. But can they retain full confidence in the frameworks that underpin democracy? Can they trust in the systems that make a successful state? In a series of thought-provoking sessions, leading figures join us to ask how we can shore up the very foundations of democratic life.

Family Dynamics

This strand draws together perspectives on family and relationships, inspired by Simon Sebag Montefiore's *The World: A History of Humanity* told through the connecting thread of family. From moving depictions of lost siblings to a stunning new work by Octavia Bright which weaves the tale of recovery from alcohol addiction with the story of her father's developing Alzheimer's, this strand examines the relationships that make us: functional or otherwise.

Ireland: Real and Remembered

A complex portrait of life in Ireland from a kaleidoscope of perspectives, featuring award-winning novelists and non-fiction writers. This year Ireland marks a significant anniversary: 25 years since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. If that political treaty brought about a fragile peace after years of the Troubles, how can Ireland come to terms with the enduring memories of conflict?

The People History Forgot

This series looks at some of the fascinating figures who came close to power during their lifetimes, yet in their deaths have been relegated to the margins – until now. In this diverse range of events, explore the unexamined lives of individuals who are worthy of their own chapter in the book of history.

Another Scotland

When a nation's stories crystallise into myth, it's not always easy to retell them in new ways. Yet, that's exactly what a generation of Scottish writers are doing: examining, unpacking, and redrafting foundational Scottish tales through a modern lens. In this year's Festival, leading authors revisit familiar histories and tease out new ways to understand them.

Outside the Box

Meet the innovators whose ideas genuinely offer new approaches to resolving humanity's challenges. Whether they're renegotiating our relationship to time, imagining what we can learn from the future fossils that our consumerist society will make, or rethinking our relationship to familiar things including cities, the NHS, and even cooking, these thinkers fly in the face of convention with fascinating results. *Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.*

Transatlantic Encounters

Transatlantic Encounters at the Edinburgh International Book Festival will feature a stellar line up of American and US-based authors – highlighting the diversity of thought and creativity of the United States. Reflecting on a range of literary work, each author will offer a unique and free-thinking perspective on what it means to be a citizen in the United States, how their work reflects their lived experience of America, and their relationship to the rest of the world. *Supported by U.S. Embassy London.*

The Business of Books

The Business of Books series is dedicated to all those interested in the business of the book world, whether an established publishing professional, a budding writer, or an avid reader with a curiosity about the book trade. Sharing best practice and expertise, this strand includes everything from showcases and workshops to discussions of key issues facing the industry.

Inside Out with Emily Chappell

Inside Out features some of the most impressive endurance runners, hikers, and cyclists of our time. Join us in the Festival Village to hear them in conversation with cyclist Emily Chappell. You're invited to take part in activity-based events: exercising and talking with Emily and her guests outdoors. These guided walking, jogging, and cycling adventures will be available for a limited number of participants and at 'talking pace', designed to be comfortable and conversational for everyone involved (please note, participants will need to be reasonably fit to take part). For full information, go to: edbookfest.com/insideout. *Supported by James and Morag Anderson.*

Festival Late Nights

This series of dynamic after-hours events in The Wee Red Bar venue brings music, lively discussion, and performances to the Festival. The series features Damian Barr hosting a special Edinburgh edition of his Literary Salon, Gemma Cairney celebrating inspiring individuals who are pushing for change, and music and stories from The Hungry Beat Group who will perform a live set along with guest vocalists. Grab a drink and settle in. *Supported by Sir Ewan and Lady Brown.*

What Makes a Writer

To mark the Book Festival's 40th year, we have invited five leading writers to join us in a series that explores that most creative and consuming of vocations: the writing life. In this series, Jackie Kay, Val McDermid, Elif Shafak, Bernardine Evaristo, and Ali Smith cast their minds back over their careers and reflect on some of the key moments and influences that have defined them as writers. What compels them to keep going despite the inherent difficulties of the task?

Thanks to our Programme Partners:

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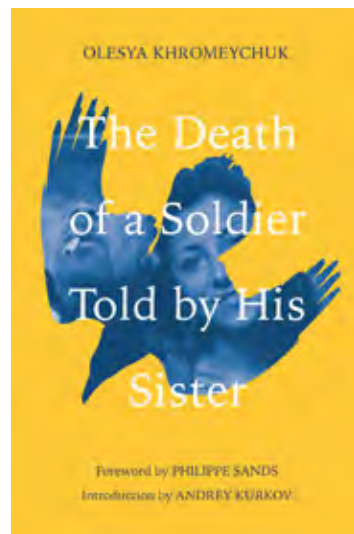
Scottish Government Festivals Expo Fund: New Writers, New Worlds

As the Book Festival celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2023, we proudly present 40 writers whose careers should set the literary world alight over the next four decades. Debut writers from Scotland who deserve an international audience, and writers from elsewhere who deserve a Scottish audience: this selection of authors underlines the Book Festival's commitment to supporting new generations, ensuring that the Festival and the literary scene is nurtured and supported for years to come. Seek out these excellent authors even if their names aren't familiar, because in future you'll be able to say that you saw them in Edinburgh before their literary careers hit their peak.

Aileen Crossley – *Henny is Stuck*
Anahit Behrooz – *BFFs*
André Dao – *Anam*
Arusa Qureshi
Camilla Grudova – *Children of Paradise*
Camila Sosa Villada – *The Queens of Sarmiento Park*
Carrie Marshall – *Carrie Kills A Man: A Memoir*
Constance Debré – *Love Me Tender*
David Diop – *Beyond the Door of No Return*
David Greig – *Columba's Bones*
Eleanor Thom – *Connective Tissue*
Em Strang – *Quinn*
Emily Joof – *I Will Swim Next Time*
Eris Young – *Ace Voices: What it Means to Be Asexual, Aromantic, Demi or Grey-Ace*
Gemma Cairney
Graeme Armstrong – *The Young Team*
Heather Parry – *Orpheus Builds a Girl* and *This Is My Body, Given For You*
Irene Vallejo – *Papyrus*
Isabelle Schuler – *Lady MacBethad*
Jenny Erpenbeck – *Kairos*
Johanne Lykke Holm – *Strega*
Josie Long – *Because I Don't Know What You Mean and What You Don't*
K Patrick – *Mrs S*
Kate Foster – *The Maiden*
Kübra Gümüsay – *Speaking and Being: How Language Binds and Frees Us*
Leïla Slimani – *Sex and Lies*
Marjorie Lotfi – *The Wrong Person to Ask*
Martin MacInnes – *In Ascension*
Michael Magee – *Close to Home*
Mikaela Loach – *It's Not That Radical*
Nadine Aisha Jassat – *The Stories Grandma Forgot (and How I Found Them)*
Nicole Flattery – *Nothing Special*
Olga Ravn – *My Work*
Rachel Connolly – *Lazy City*
Samanta Schweblin – *Seven Empty Houses*
Shushan Avagyan – *A Book, Untitled*
Victoria Belim – *The Rooster House: A Ukrainian Family Memoir*
Victoria MacKenzie – *For Thy Great Pain Have Mercy On My Little Pain*
Wiz Wharton – *Ghost Girl, Banana*
Yara Rodrigues Fowler – *There Are More Things*

Caleb Azumah Nelson
Aug 12 12:15
& Aug 13 15:30

Olesya Khromeychuk
Aug 12 11:45



Jackie Kay
Aug 12 12:30

“I find it heartening how many people love both literature and wilderness, the interior, book-lined shelter of libraries and the wide-open landscapes of the hills.”

The Hidden Fires: A Cairngorms Journey with Nan Shepherd, Merryn Glover, Aug 12 10:45

Close Read: Open Book on Citizen by Claudia Rankine

10:15-11:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Marjorie Lotfi and **Claire Urquhart** are the founders of Open Book, a charity which organises shared reading and creative writing groups across Scotland. Here, they take a deep dive into Claudia Rankine’s 2014 collection of poetry and essays, *Citizen*. This session is the perfect introduction to Rankine’s work ahead of her appearance at this year’s Book Festival with her new book, *Plot*. Expect an open discussion from the start – no preparation required.

Martin MacInnes: Deep Oceans and Deep Space

10:15-11:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Sometimes a book lands on earth perfectly formed, as if from another planet. Edinburgh-based Martin MacInnes’ third novel, *In Ascension*, takes readers on a journey to the outer reaches of the imagination, with searching questions about the surprisingly blurred boundaries between humans and the rest of the universe. Moving, mind-expanding, and beautifully written, this novel announces MacInnes as a star of Scottish literature. In conversation with **Stuart Kelly**.

INSIDE OUT WITH EMILY CHAPPELL

Merryn Glover & Rachel Hewitt: Women in the Wild

10:45-11:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Recent years have seen a seismic shift in nature writing. Join two authors who entwine historical narratives of courageous women with their own experiences of the great outdoors. Merryn Glover’s *The Hidden Fires* presents new understandings of the Cairngorms, while Rachel Hewitt’s *In Her Nature* explores how running through landscape recovered a sense of belonging after grief. In this innovative event, hear them in conversation with endurance cyclist **Emily Chappell**, then join them for a special hike the following day. For place limits and more details see edbookfest.co.uk/insideout. *Supported by James and Morag Anderson*.

EYEWITNESS UKRAINE

Olesya Khromeychuk & Christopher Miller: Ukraine – The People’s View

11:45-12:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Against the tragedy of war, there is power in bearing witness. Olesya Khromeychuk’s brother Volodymyr was killed in eastern Ukraine and *The Death of a Soldier Told By His Sister* is her vivid account of sibling love and the grief of loss. Meanwhile, Financial Times reporter Christopher Miller has been embedded inside Ukraine for 13 years. *The War Came To Us* is his unmissable eyewitness account of change in a defiant, devastated country. Miller and Khromeychuk discuss their experiences.

Livestream Available Captioned

Close Read with Caleb Azumah Nelson

12:15-13:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Caleb Azumah Nelson is a photographer and the writer of *Small Worlds* and the award-winning **Open Water**. In the latter, the unnamed narrator notes, ‘Like Baldwin said, you begin to think you are alone in this, until you read’. Nelson often pays tribute to a range of his artistic influences, including Baldwin, Barry Jenkins, Kendrick Lamar, and Zadie Smith, and today he will lead a Close Read workshop on a literary work that matters to him as an artist, and as a person.

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH EVENT

Jackie Kay: A Life in Protest

12:30-13:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

At the centre of her forthcoming poetry collection, *A Life in Protest*, Jackie Kay has produced a landmark poem of the same name which charts a powerful and moving poetic journey back through key moments of political activism in her life. As the Book Festival celebrates its 40th anniversary, Kay shares this new poem and some of the others in her collection, and looks back over key events in her life as a writer. In conversation with **Hannah Lavery**. *Supported by the University of Edinburgh’s GENDER.ED Hub*.

Captioned

Dionne Brand: No Language is Neutral

13:45-14:45
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

One of Canada’s most honoured poets visits Edinburgh to discuss *Nomenclature: New and Collected Poems*, newly issued as a Penguin Modern Classic. Combining the titular new long poem with work from her lauded 40 year career, Brand’s poetry is an incisive exploration of race, sexuality, moral hypocrisies, migration, and exile, executed with spectacular imagination and formal mastery. In conversation with **Alycia Pirmohamed**.

Thomas Morris: The Short of It

14:30-15:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Thomas Morris is the editor-at-large of the *Stinging Fly* – the small publication with an enormous cultural output. He is also an accomplished, strikingly original writer, with an award-winning debut collection of short stories, *We Don’t Know What We’re Doing*, and the dazzling follow up, **Open Up**. Join Morris for a conversation about his original collection and the specific craft of the short story.



Martin MacInnes
Aug 12 10:15

Ned Boulting: Cyclists on Celluloid

15:15-16:15
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Ned Boulting is one of the UK’s best-known voices of cycling. In 2020, Boulting bought a two-minute length of ageing Pathé news film, featuring a stage of the 1923 Tour de France race. He undertook an investigation of every frame: a journey of discovery about France and the mysterious men who raced a century ago. *1923* is the captivating result which he discusses today with long-distance cyclist **Emily Chappell**.

Livestream Available

Magic Has No Borders for Shreya Ila Anasuya, Nikita Gill and Sangu Mandanna

16:00-17:00
Baillie Gifford West Court
£5.00

Magic Has No Borders is a stunning anthology of stories from 14 bestselling, award-winning writers from the South Asian diaspora that will surprise, delight, and move you. In this event we are delighted to welcome three of the contributing writers, Shreya Ila Anasuya, Nikita Gill, and Sangu Mandanna to share their stories as well as how this special collection came together. Chaired by **Hannah Lavery**.

Young Adult

Anahit Behrooz & Eris Young: ‘Just’ Friends

16:30-17:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

How can we resist the popular notion that romance alone is the only road to intimacy? Anahit Behrooz and Eris Young have some empowering ideas. *Behrooz’s BFF’s* is a celebration of the complexities and pleasures of female friendship as seen in popular culture, and Young’s *Ace Voices* represents a multitude of true stories and empowering life lessons from people across the asexual and aromantic spectrum.

Bonnie Garmus: Good Chemistry

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

If you have been on a train, a plane, or a bus ride in the last year, you have, undoubtedly looked up to see someone reading *Lessons in Chemistry*: the incredibly popular debut novel from Bonnie Garmus. Garmus joins **Sam Baker** to discuss the novel, its worldwide success and, of course, her unforgettable heroine, the prodigious chemist turned TV cooking star, Elizabeth Zott.

Livestream Available Captioned



Anahit Behrooz
Aug 12 16:30

Shreya Ila Anasuya
Aug 12 16:00

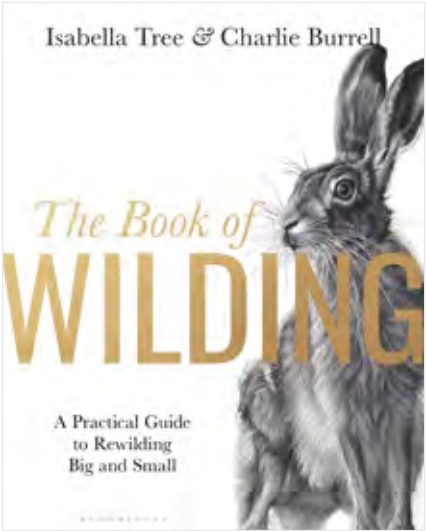
Saturday 12 continued...



Irvine Welsh
Aug 12 19:30



Kirsty Logan
Aug 12 17:15
& Aug 28 12:00



Isabella Tree
Aug 12 17:45

Kirsty Logan & Johanne Lykke Holm: Witches, Power and the Patriarchy

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In her latest novel, *Now She is Witch*, Scottish writer, poet, and performer Kirsty Logan grapples with what power and freedom can mean in a patriarchal world. In *Strega*, Swedish author Johanne Lykke Holm explores the potency and violence of age-long myths. Together, these two writers join forces to explore why the figure of the witch continues to speak to the plight of marginalised people today.

GROUNDING

THE CIRRUS LOGIC EVENT

Isabella Tree: How to Rewild the World

17:45-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In *The Book of Wilding*, co-written with her husband, conservationist Charlie Burrell, Isabella Tree continues where the bestselling *Wilding* left off by sharing more practical insights from the landmark rewilding project at Knepp Estate. The enormity of climate change and biodiversity loss can feel overwhelming, but Tree is uniquely placed to provide us with tangible answers and practical solutions. In conversation with **Sophie Cunningham**.

BSL



Michael Winkler
Aug 12 18:30

Treading Water: Exploring a Post-Apocalyptic Edinburgh with Jaime Huxtable & David Lumsden

18:00-19:00
Baillie Gifford Creation Station
£5.00

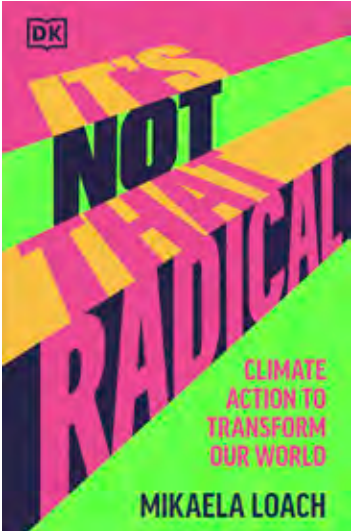
What would your base instinct be for survival in a post-apocalyptic world? As the doomsday clock gets closer to midnight, our ideas of fiction get closer to reality. The creators of the *Boat* graphic novel series, artist Jaime Huxtable and author David Lumsden, address the dangers of a post-apocalyptic underwater Edinburgh with **Sha Nazir**.

Young Adult

Our City, Our Stories

18:15-19:15
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt
Free, book in advance

We believe everyone has a story to tell and that stories help us make sense of our world. Join us as we bring together local writers and poets from across Edinburgh to create a collective love letter to the city they call home. Every day at 18:15 different storytellers perform their latest work. Check out our website for today's guests. Find out more about our Communities Programme: ontheroad.edbookfest.co.uk. *Made possible by players of People's Postcode Lottery.*



Mikaela Loach
Aug 12 19:00



Kathryn Scanlan & Michael Winkler: On Form

18:30-19:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Pain and transformation are at the centre of the two exhilarating novels discussed in today's event. Kathryn Scanlan's *Kick the Latch* follows the hard daily rhythms of horse trainer Sonia, while Michael Winkler's *Grimmish* focuses on legendarily tough boxer Joe Grim. How fiction can represent truth is taken to rigorous task in these novels which play with and test conventional form, with mesmerising results.

Eleanor Catton: Green is The Colour of Money

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

If Eleanor Catton's new novel, *Birnam Wood*, is an echo of Shakespeare's 'Scottish Play', who represents Macbeth? Just one of the enjoyable puzzles of this compulsive and wildly entertaining thriller. Her previous outing, *The Luminaries*, scooped up the Booker Prize, making Catton the youngest winner in its history. Now she's back with a story asking searching questions about New Zealand and its attitudes to money and technology. Chaired by **Nicola Sturgeon**.

Livestream Available

Book Tickets at edbookfest.co.uk

CLIMATE POSITIVE

Mikaela Loach: Changing the Climate Narrative

19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Edinburgh-based Mikaela Loach is a climate justice activist, podcaster, and writer who campaigns for a climate movement which is both inclusive and intersectional. Her new book, *It's Not That Radical*, is one of candour and hope, bringing a fresh and far-reaching perspective which advocates for real climate action. **Gemma Cairney** speaks to Loach in an inspiring discussion of how it's not too late to enact change.

Captioned

John King, Alan Warner & Irvine Welsh: Comedies of No Manners

19:30-20:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

This trio share something in common: their debuts—*The Football Factory*, *Morvern Callar* and *Trainspotting*—were all iconic. During lockdown they joined forces for *The Seal Club*, a book of three stories featuring characters from their debut novels. It was so riotously enjoyable, they're back with three more doses of comedy in *The Seal Club 2: The View From Poacher's Hill*, bringing us fiction that doesn't give a fig. Chaired by **Michael Pedersen**.

TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS

HAWTHORNDEN FOUNDATION EVENT

Claudia Rankine: 'Words Are Out of Order'

20:30-21:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

We are delighted to welcome Claudia Rankine, author of the ground-breaking *American Lyric* trilogy, to discuss the Penguin Modern Classics reissue of her daring 2001 masterpiece, *Plot*. A standout work in Rankine's stellar career, *Plot* is an engrossing meditation on pregnancy and its effects: the potential bodily cost, the loss of self, and the sense of impending stasis. In conversation with **Marjorie Lotfi**.

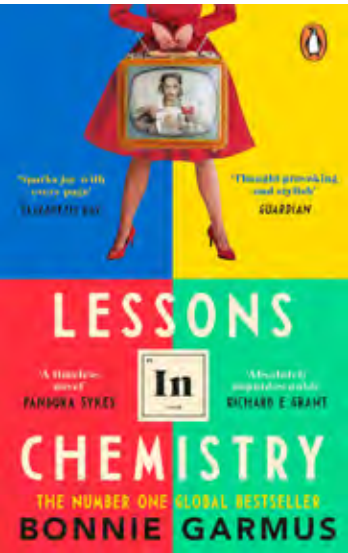
Livestream Available BSL Captioned

FESTIVAL LATE NIGHTS

Joe Dunthorne, Ella Frears, Aidan Moffat, John Osborne & Martha Sprackland: Stress Test

20:30-22:00
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In *Stress Test*, poets and musicians produce new work under timed conditions to perform in front of the audience. It's wordy mayhem, and an anxiety dream made real. Join *Stress Test* regular players, Joe Dunthorne, Ella Frears, John Osborne, and Martha Sprackland, and very special guest Aidan Moffat from Arab Strap in the judgement and fun. *Supported by Sir Ewan and Lady Brown*.



Bonnie Garmus
Aug 13 17:00



Eleanor Catton
Aug 12 18:45

Enjoy all our events in-person, or watch livestreamed events online, see events listing.

INSIDE OUT WITH EMILY CHAPPELL

Inside-Out: Hiking

10:00-12:00
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

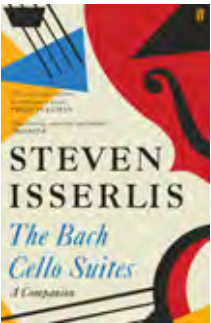
Following on from our event **Merryn Glover & Rachel Hewitt: Women in the Wild** on 12 Aug, join the authors, along with endurance cyclist Emily Chappell for a hike through Edinburgh. 16 places available. Please check edbookfest.co.uk/insideout for meeting point details. The hike is at a sociable pace and should be suitable for anyone who does this regularly. There are qualified leaders present, but participants must take responsibility for their own safety, dress appropriately, and carry whatever equipment they might expect to need. *Supported by James and Morag Anderson.*

FEATS OF IMAGINATION

The Edinburgh Readerbank: An Experiment in Imagination

10:15-11:15
Castle View Studio
Free, book in advance

What happens – in our minds and brains, hearts and relationships – when we read? In 2023 the Festival has partnered with Durham University to design the world’s most ambitious study of reading, imagination and health – and we want your input. Join the team behind the project for a lively introduction to the ideas animating existing research and information on how to be involved.



Steven Isserlis
Aug 13 & 14 20:30

TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS

Christopher Miller:
Ukraine – Fighting for Its Life

10:45-11:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The Financial Times’ Ukraine correspondent, Christopher Miller, has been embedded in the country for 13 years: he was reporting from the front line in Crimea, and reported from a bombed-out Mariupol. Miller is a leading voice on the conflict, and *The War Came To Us* is his captivating, unforgettable portrait of Ukraine in the past and present, as well its outlook for the future. In conversation with **Allan Little**.

Captioned

CLIMATE POSITIVE

HAWTHORNDEN FOUNDATION EVENT

Ben Okri: From Beyond the End

11:45-12:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The poet, playwright, essayist, and Booker Prize winner, Ben Okri has been described by Ali Smith as a ‘literary and social visionary’. He returns to the Festival to discuss *Tiger Work*, a typically ambitious blend of poetry and prose, fiction and non-fiction. Taking his inspiration from environmental activism, Okri imagines messages sent to us from an unlivable future, from the people who saw it coming.

Livestream Available Captioned

TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH EVENT

Dionne Brand & Claudia Rankine:
Poetry and Power

13:30-14:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

A rare opportunity to witness two of the most lauded and celebrated North American poets of recent years in conversation. With careers spanning several decades, Dionne Brand and Claudia Rankine discuss their writing to date, and how they have used the form to explore and dissect issues of institutional racism, feminism, migration, capitalism, language, and memory to tell the story of who we are. Chaired by **Jess Brough**. *In association with the RACE.ED network for race and decolonial studies.*

Livestream Available Captioned



Christopher Miller
Aug 13 10:45 & Aug 12 11:45



Ben Okri
Aug 13 11:45



Jenny Colgan
Aug 13 17:00

Camilla Grudova & Olga Ravn:
I Do Not Dream of Labour

13:45-14:45
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

From quiet quitting to strike action, work has occupied recent news headlines. Exploring the anxiety, intimacy, and strangeness of the workplace; Camilla Grudova’s *Children of Paradise*, is set at an independent cinema which rebels against being acquired by a chain corporation. Olga Ravn’s follow-up to her International Booker Prize-shortlisted *The Employees, is My Work*, which blends prose and poetry to examine the labour of rearing children and creating art. In conversation with **Kirsty Logan**.

Wes Streeting: From Working Class to Political Class

14:15-15:15
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

One Boy, Two Bills and a Fry Up, Wes Streeting’s new memoir, pays tribute to the loving support from family members which helped him find his way in life despite an array of challenges. From growing up in poverty in Stepney to a Cambridge University education and now life as a Labour front-bencher, Streeting talks to **Ruth Davidson** about how his upbringing has informed his politics.

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH EVENT

Gina Martin: No Offence, But... — How to Have Difficult Conversations for Meaningful Change

15:15-16:15
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Tackling 20 of the most enduring conversation stoppers, the new collection by Gina Martin, *No Offence, But...* equips readers with the knowledge, tools, and context to respond with confidence. Today two of the book’s contributors join acclaimed gender equality campaigner, speaker, and writer Gina in an event that helps us unpick frustrating phrases, understand why they are harmful, and feel empowered to change the conversation. *Supported by Edinburgh Futures Institute.*

Livestream Available Young Adult
Captioned



Lessons in Love with Liv Little & Caleb Azumah Nelson

15:30-16:30
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

With exhilarating honesty, these two novelists write about the concerns of their generation: love, friendship, identity, and minimum wage jobs. Liv Little, founder of gal-dem, makes her fiction debut with *Rosewater*, about Elsie who writes poetry between shifts at her local gay bar; and Caleb Azumah Nelson, the Costa Book Award winner for *Open Water*, returns to the Festival with *Small Worlds*, following Stephen, searching for himself in London and Ghana.



Liv Little
Aug 13 15:30

Oliver Mol: Train Lord

16:00-17:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

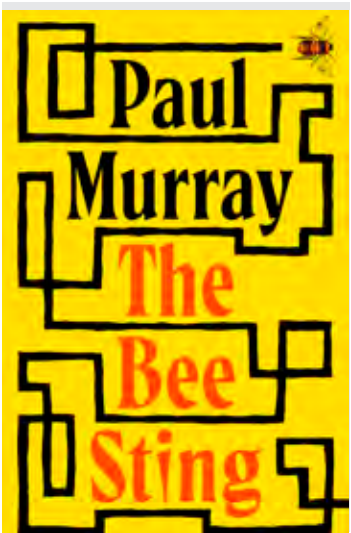
When he was 25, critically acclaimed writer Oliver Mol’s life was derailed by a 10-month migraine. Unable to write and barely able to look at screens, Mol took a job as a train guard in Sydney. This inspired *Train Lord*: a sensitive and tentative rebuilding of his sense of self. He has since turned his story into an award-winning performance. Join Mol as he brings his fragmentary and powerful memoir to life. In conversation with **Dan Richards**.

IRELAND – REAL AND REMEMBERED

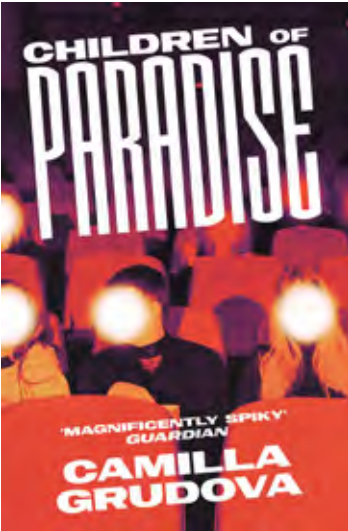
Sunday Salon: Maria Fusco & Margaret Salmon

16:00-17:30
Castle View Studio
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Northern Irish writer Maria Fusco, British-American artist filmmaker Margaret Salmon and composer Annea Lockwood have collaborated on *History of the Present*, a hybrid opera that will be performed live at Edinburgh Art Festival. In the first of our Sunday Salon series, join Fusco and Salmon as they speak to **Kim McAleese**, Director of Edinburgh Art Festival, about their work that foregrounds working class women’s voices. *This salon is presented in partnership with the Edinburgh Art Festival and the Edinburgh International Film Festival.*



Paul Murray
Aug 13 19:30



Camilla Grudova
Aug 13 13:45



Greta Thunberg
Aug 13 17:30

Jenny Colgan: Flights Of Fancy

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Having sold more than 9 million copies of her books around the world, Jenny Colgan's writing is characteristically funny, romantic, and irresistibly warm. For her legions of fans, there's the special recognition that her books are set in the Scottish isles. Colgan talks with **Sally Magnusson** about her new book *The Summer Skies*, featuring the capers of Morag, a pilot who ferries locals across the islands of a Scottish archipelago.

Livestream Available

Kathryn Scanlan:
Behind the Stable Door

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

An extraordinary achievement of memoir and form, *Kick the Latch* was written by Kathryn Scanlan after hours of interviews with Sonia, a horse trainer working at a Midwest horse track. The brutality and beauty of Sonia's life on the track is told in minimalist, artful, and occasionally shocking vignettes. Join Scanlan as she discusses turning real life into a thrilling narrative ride with **Rebecca Tamás**.

CLIMATE POSITIVE

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY IN SCOTLAND EVENT
Greta Thunberg: It's Not Too Late to Change the World

17:30-19:00
Edinburgh Playhouse
£21.00 [£18.50/£10.50] + £1.75 restoration fee

Greta Thunberg has shown how ordinary people can take on the establishment whatever their age or background. To create *The Climate Book*, she called on the wisdom of over 100 experts, including scientists, artists, Indigenous leaders, and those living on the front line of climate change, to tell the truth about our changing world. Thunberg joins us for a special event at the Edinburgh Playhouse to outline how collective action – and hope – will serve us in the urgent fight for our planet's welfare. Chaired by **Gemma Cairney**. In association with *Edinburgh International Festival*.

Livestream Available BSL Captioned

FAMILY DYNAMICS

Tessa Hadley: Everyday Turmoil

17:45-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The lauded novelist of *Free Love* and *Late in the Day* returns to the Festival to discuss her latest collection, *After the Funeral*. These dazzling stories demonstrate Hadley's skill at depicting and excoriating the travails of everyday life, where seemingly insignificant moments result in major consequences, while fleetingly laying bare the underlying conflicts that govern our lives and relationships. In conversation with **Lennie Goodings**.

Our City, Our Stories

18:15-19:15
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt
Free, book in advance

We believe everyone has a story to tell and that stories help us make sense of our world. Join us as we bring together local writers and poets from across Edinburgh to create a collective love letter to the city they call home. Every day at 18:15 different storytellers perform their latest work. Check out our website for today's guests. Find out more about our Communities Programme: ontheroad.edbookfest.co.uk. *Made possible by players of People's Postcode Lottery*.

THE BAILLIE GIFFORD EVENT

Laura Cumming: Seeing the Light; Remembering a Life

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Thunderclap: A memoir of art and life and sudden death is something of a companion piece to Laura Cumming's previous book, *On Chapel Sands* and equally luminous. It weaves together art critic Cummings' love for Dutch art of the Golden Age, and her relationship with her Scottish father – an artist who lectured in the very room that Cumming will speak in. Infused with love, it's an intimate yet epic look at identity, memory, and mortality. With **Allan Little**.

Livestream Available

Book Tickets at
edbookfest.co.uk

“Friendship means everything to me. I can’t do it lightly anymore. It’s like entrusting someone with your heart.” He paused. “If I ripped out my heart and gave it to you to look after, could you?”

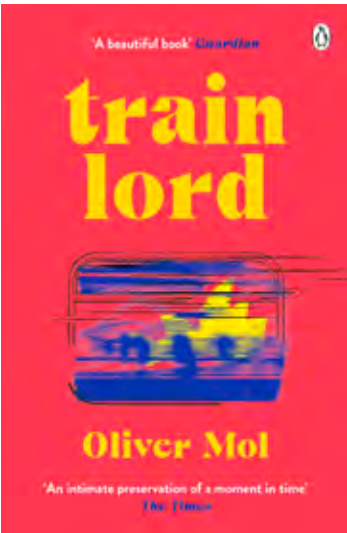
Tiger Work, Ben Okri, Aug 13 11:45

THE PEOPLE HISTORY FORGOT

Shushan Avagyan & Sophie Cunningham: Imagined Encounters

19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

What does it mean to translate history? Where do the boundaries between the past and the present lie? And what happens when a writer slips through these supposedly rigid lines? These questions and more are explored in Shushan Avagyan's poetic work of translated autofiction *A Book, Untitled* and Sophie Cunningham's *This Devastating Fever*, a novel which brings Leonard Woolf and Y2K together in dazzling ways.



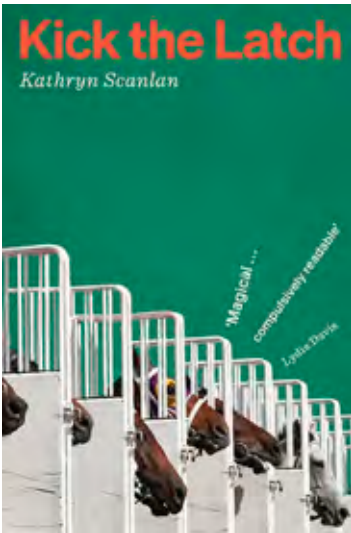
Oliver Mol
Aug 13 16:00

IRELAND – REAL AND REMEMBERED

Paul Murray: Painfully Funny Fiction

19:30-20:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The word ‘tragicomic’ could have been invented for Irish author Paul Murray, who hit the bullseye a decade ago with his simultaneously hilarious and devastating novel, *Skippy Dies*. Now he may even have surpassed that success with his fourth novel, *The Bee Sting*, in which one unlucky moment is the trigger for a sequence of unfortunate events. Join Murray for an hour of savage humour and poetic insights. In conversation with **Peggy Hughes**.



Kathryn Scanlan
Aug 12 18:30 & Aug 13 17:15

IRELAND – REAL AND REMEMBERED

Sebastian Barry & Steven Isserlis: Things We Don't Remember and Things We Can't Forget

20:30-21:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

What is *Old God's Time*? It's ancient history and it's an almost impossibly moving, unforgettable story from one of Ireland's greatest living authors. This novel – surely Sebastian Barry's masterpiece – is set by the seaside near Dublin, where old Tom Kettle is musing over a lifetime of vivid memories. Join Barry in lively discussion with **Nick Barley**, where he will also give a reading with musical accompaniment by renowned cellist Steven Isserlis. *Supported by Binks Trust*.

Livestream Available



Olga Ravn Aug 13 13:45 & Aug 15 12:00
Sebastian Barry Aug 13 & Aug 14 20:30

Enjoy all our events in-person, or watch livestreamed events online, see events listing.

“I learnt to look forward to the calm days – days atween wadders – that punctuate a run of violent weather, when the air is so still that it can be hard to believe there is such a thing as wind.”

Sea Bean, Sally Huband, Aug 14 13:45

David Austen & Hisham Matar: The Boys – An Adventure

10:00-11:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

What began during lockdown 2020 with the exchange of a drawing and then a chapter via WhatsApp developed into an unusual correspondence between artist David Austen and writer Hisham Matar. In 2023, Edinburgh's Ingleby Gallery exhibited the resulting distinct yet connected bodies of work: words from Matar's novella alongside a suite of drawings from Austen. Join us today to hear about this exciting creative partnership.

Livestream Available

Shared Reading with Open Book

10:00-11:00
ECA Café
Free, drop-in

Join Open Book Lead Readers for an informal and relaxed shared reading session over a hot drink in the Edinburgh College of Art Café. Each session includes different books from this year's Festival programme. No experience necessary, all reading materials are provided on the day.

Close Read: Marion Turner on Refugee Tales

10:15-11:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Take a deep dive into the first volume of *Refugee Tales*, the product of a collaboration between authors and refugee charity the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group, which sends volunteers to speak to the hundreds of people held at the airport's detention centres. Marion Turner, Chaucer biographer and author of *The Wife of Bath*, guides readers through this modern-day *Canterbury Tales*. This workshop is suitable for those with existing knowledge of *Refugee Tales* and for those new to this work.

OUTSIDE THE BOX

David Farrier & Karine Polwart: Different Futures are Possible

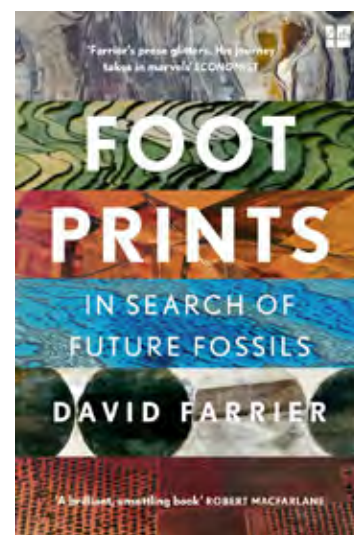
11:45-12:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Through literature, art, and science, David Farrier's *Footprints: In Search of Future Fossils* asked what generations would find of today's ecological crisis in the far-distant future. Musician Karine Polwart is also deeply interested in place as a site for hidden histories, scientific curiosity, and folklore. Join us today as they discuss how to transform planning for the future. Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.

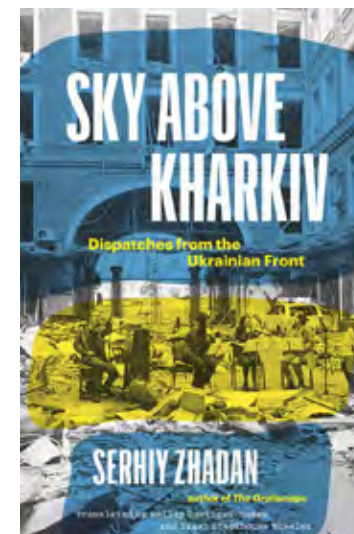
Livestream Available



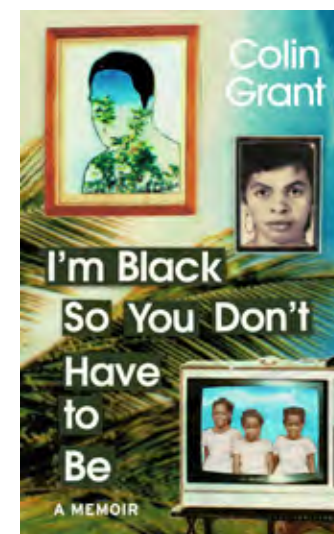
Shushan Avagyan
Aug 14 19:00



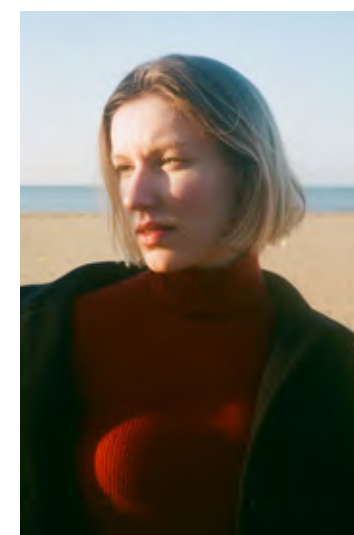
David Farrier
Aug 14 11:45



Serhiy Zhadan
Aug 14 19:00



Colin Grant
Aug 16 13:30



Sophie Mackintosh
Aug 14 12:00

Sarah Bernstein & Sophie Mackintosh: Curious Incidents

12:00-13:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In any community, a series of unfortunate events can quickly escalate into a moral panic. The narrator of Sarah Bernstein's *Study for Obedience* moves to a remote country and, according to suspicious locals, brings with her illness and blight. Based on a true story, Sophie Mackintosh's *Cursed Bread* is about a baker's wife who is bewitched by a charismatic new arrival while strange happenings plague their town. Chaired by Peggy Hughes.

Close Read: Sarah Krasnostein on Narrative Non-Fiction

12:15-13:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Writers of narrative non-fiction need as much information as possible to tell true stories both accurately and creatively. Having too little access – or too much information – can feel daunting. In this workshop, join *The Trauma Cleaner* writer and critic Sarah Krasnostein to discuss how to clear those hurdles in texts by John Berger, Emmanuel Carrère, Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah, Janet Malcom, and Gay Talese. Enjoyable for those with existing knowledge of these writers and for those new to their work.

Colin Grant & Chitra Ramaswamy: Lives of Others

13:30-14:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

What can telling someone else's story tell you about yourself? Chitra Ramaswamy's *Homelands* and Colin Grant's *I'm Black So You Don't Have To Be* explore exactly that. These writers have created delicate portraits which hover between biography and memoir, intermixing their own narratives with those of friends and family. Together they discuss belonging, family histories, and the need to tell their stories with Esa Aldegheri.

Livestream Available

GROUNDING

Sally Huband & Malachy Tallack: The Shape of Water

13:45-14:45
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Join the writers of two moving nature memoirs which explore the ongoing allure of the water. Malachy Tallack's *Illuminated by Water* uses his decades long passion for fly fishing to explore 'wildness', and how we use that concept to engage with nature; while Sally Huband's *Sea Bean* is a moving story of beachcombing for the titular bean, a seed with mystical significance.



Sophie Cunningham
Aug 13 19:00 & Aug 15 10:15



Chitra Ramaswamy
Aug 14 13:30

Monday 14 continued...



Courtney Stoddart
Aug 14 17:15

Close Read: Jess Brough on Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments

14:15-15:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Take a deep dive into Saidiya Hartman’s *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments* with writer and Fringe of Colour founder Jess Brough. Join for an illuminating discussion of Hartman’s expert scholarship around life for Black women in the wake of emancipation from slavery and their courageous experiments with real freedom, to shape family life and love outside of straight and conventional norms. Enjoyable for those with existing knowledge of *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments* and for those new to Hartman’s work.

Kim Sherwood: Women in Writing

14:15-15:15
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Kim Sherwood was described by Hilary Mantel as ‘a writer of capacity, potency and sophistication.’ *A Wild & True Relation*, is a remake of the 18th century heroic novel. Molly, an orphan on board a ship who’s disguised as a boy, grows up to outshine the men around her and create her own legacy. Join Sherwood for this celebration of women in writing and women’s roles throughout history. In conversation with **Jenny Brown**.



Richard Sennett
Aug 14 17:00



Kim Sherwood
Aug 14 14:15

THE SCOTTISH MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST EVENT

Richard Sennett: Making Meaning

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

How did humans learn to live together as a collective, co-operative entity? Three books published between 2008 and 2018 by acclaimed sociologist Richard Sennett explored the notion that collaboration came through working together. Today Sennett reflects on the impact of his hugely influential trilogy, *The Craftsman*, *Together*, and *Building and Dwelling* – and their unifying concept of homo faber: the human whose core competence is making things.

Livestream Available

Scottish BPOC Writers Network: Ghosts, Nanas and the Apocalypse

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
Pay What You Can

How do our favourite authors connect with the stories of ancestors? In this special event, presented with Scottish BPOC Writers Network, join **Rachelle Atalla**, **Lorraine Wilson**, **Nadine Aisha Jassat**, and **Tendai Huchu** as they share what reaching out to ancestors and descendants looks like and let us in on some of the secrets of calling upon the past to inspire future stories. Chaired by **Courtney Stoddart**.

Captioned



Get connected: find us on social media @edbookfest or tag us #EdBookFest23



A N Wilson
Aug 14 18:45

THE KIMPTON CHARLOTTE SQUARE EVENT

Ambrose Parry: The Thrill of the Unexplained

17:45-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Since **Chris Brookmyre** and **Marisa Haetzman** embarked on their journey as crime-writing duo, Ambrose Parry, they’ve produced a series of tales in Victorian Edinburgh’s underworld. In *Voices of the Dead*, Dr Will Raven and Sarah Fisher’s latest adventure, it’s 1853 and body parts have been found at Surgeon’s Hall – but they are not anatomy specimens. Immerse yourself in the mesmerising atmosphere of Auld Reekie in this unmissable session, chaired by **Mary Paulson-Ellis**.

Is This a Good Time to Be Writing for Children?

18:30-19:30
Baillie Gifford Creation Station
£5.00

What are Scottish publishers looking for in a children’s book today? And what can authors and illustrators do to stand out against the myriad of manuscripts sent to literary agents every day? Join **Sally Polson** of Floris Books, **Alan Windram** of Little Door Books, and **Lindsey Fraser** of Fraser Ross Associates Literary Agents, for an illuminating panel discussion. Chaired by network organiser for SCBWI Scotland, **Caroline Deacon**.

A N Wilson: Coming to Terms

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

A N Wilson was at the first Edinburgh International Book Festival 40 years ago. Since then, he has produced millions of words of journalism, 20 novels, and a barrage of biographies. Yet somehow he looks back and sees ‘a life of failed promises’. *Confessions* is a memoir of Wilson’s early life: an exercise in humility. Is he right to frame his unusually successful life in words of self-doubt? Join him in this lively conversation with **Stuart Kelly**.

Livestream Available

EYEWITNESS UKRAINE

Serhiy Zhadan: ‘Injured Yet Unbreakable’ In Ukraine

19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In February 2022, Russian planes turned the peaceful skies over Ukraine into a theatre of fear and death. The Ukrainian poet-activist and band member Serhiy Zhadan immediately took to social media, coordinating a network of resistance workers and sending messages of courage to his fellow citizens. *Sky Above Kharkiv* collects together those messages into a stunning eyewitness testimony. He joins us via an online link from Ukraine to share the latest news from the resistance.

Captioned Appearing Remotely

THE CENTRE FOR OPEN LEARNING EVENT

Stories and Scran

19:30-20:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
Pay What You Can

Returning for its fourth year, Stories and Scran celebrates the dynamic and thought-provoking work created by our Citizen participants. This year’s event showcases the diverse voices and creative talent from local groups across the city including the Tollcross Writing Group, North Edinburgh Drama Group and WHALE Writers plus the Book Festival’s own Adult Writing Group and Citizen Collective. Find out more about our Communities Programme: **ontheroad.edbookfest.co.uk**

Captioned

Steven Isserlis & Sebastian Barry: Dancing with Bach

20:30-21:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

If Johann Sebastian Bach was one of the 18th century’s greatest composers, then world-renowned cellist Steven Isserlis is the perfect interpreter today. In *The Bach Cello Suites*, Isserlis looks for the underlying narratives in these compositions, explaining why they are ripe for interpretation and reinterpretation now. Isserlis is joined by novelist Sebastian Barry, who will read excerpts while Isserlis plays from the suites. *Supported by Binks Trust*.

Livestream Available



Nadine Aisha Jassat
Aug 14 17:15

Enjoy all our events in-person, or watch livestreamed events online, see events listing.

Soak up the
atmosphere: did you
know entry to our
amazing Festival
Village is free?

Mat Osman:
The Fickle Friend of Fortune

10:00-11:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

A founding member of Suede and the brother of chart-topping crime fiction sensation Richard Osman, Mat Osman visits Edinburgh to discuss his hugely exciting second book *The Ghost Theatre*. A dazzling punk re-imagining of Elizabethan London, this historical novel tells its gripping story through the eyes of a clairvoyant, bird-worshipping protagonist, and her unlikely theatre troupe. In conversation with **Rodge Glass**.

Livestream Available

Close Read: Sophie Cunningham
on M John Harrison

10:15-11:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Take a deep dive into the spectacular world of M John Harrison and his 2020 Goldsmith Prize winning novel, *The Sunken Land Begins to Rise Again*, with Sophie Cunningham, author of the playfully haunted *This Devastating Fever*. Hear how fragmented reality, a love story, and political takeovers combine in this 'realist fantasy'. This 90-minute workshop will be enjoyable for those with existing knowledge of *The Sunken Land Begins to Rise Again* and for those new to Harrison's work.

ANOTHER SCOTLAND

Lisa Croft, Willy Maley,
Jennie Renton & Tam Watters:
¡No Pasaran!

11:45-12:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

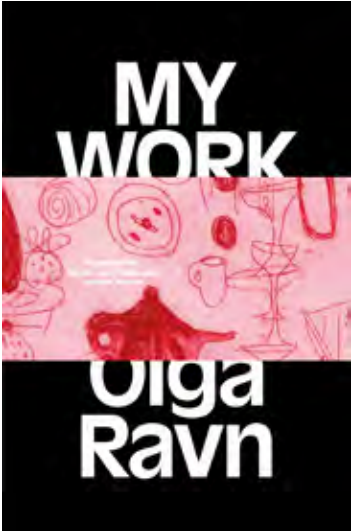
Our Fathers Fought Franco is the remarkable collective biography of four men – three from Scotland, and one from England – who enlisted in the XV International Brigade and fought in the Spanish Civil War. In 1937, they were in the battle of Jarama, ending up in the same prison cell. The authors have sifted through news reports, interviews, and prison diaries to explore why their ancestors set out to stand up against fascism.

Livestream Available Captioned

Olga Ravn: A Writer at Work

12:00-13:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

With the irresistible International Booker Prize-shortlisted *The Employees*, Danish novelist Olga Ravn proved she can take an everyday experience – working – and reframe it as something quietly revolutionary. Now she returns with *My Work*, a funny and mercilessly honest novel about motherhood. Weaving together prose, poetry, journal entries, and letters, Ravn creates a compulsive examination of the emotions around motherhood – and of the love and pain it brings. In conversation with **Chitra Ramaswamy**.



Olga Ravn
Aug 13 & 15 12:00



Dina Nayeri
Aug 15 17:15

Alford Dalrymple Gardner,
Howard Gardner & Colin Grant:
Beyond Windrush

12:30-13:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Alford Dalrymple Gardner is one of the few living passengers to have travelled on the Empire Windrush, which sailed from Jamaica to Tilbury Docks. *Finding Home: A Windrush Story* is his extraordinary memoir, shared alongside his son Howard Gardner. Colin Grant's memoir, *I'm Black So You Don't Have to Be*, explores the black British experience, told through the lives of eight family members. He joins them in conversation on the 75th Windrush anniversary. Chaired by **Lisa Williams**.

Captioned

EYEWITNESS UKRAINE

Victoria Belim & Emmanuel
Iduma: Lost Legacies, Hidden
Histories

13:30-14:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Authors Victoria Belim and Emmanuel Iduma share their personal, moving experiences, discussing the interplay between global forces and personal histories. They have a dogged shared commitment to unearthing the past – Belim in *The Rooster House*, tying family secrets to Ukraine's hidden history; and Iduma in *I Am Still With You*, part-memoir, part-political reckoning tracing his roots amongst those displaced by the Nigerian Civil War. Chaired by **Marjorie Lotfi**.

Livestream Available

Victoria MacKenzie & Marion
Turner: Positively Medieval

13:45-14:45
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Victoria MacKenzie's debut novel, *For Thy Great Pain Have Mercy On My Little Pain*, circles Margery Kempe and Julian of Norwich, two extraordinary medieval women who experienced religious visions and were determined to preserve their own stories. Their fictional contemporary is Chaucer's bawdy pilgrim, *The Wife of Bath*, now the fascinating subject of Chaucer expert Marion Turner's lifelong study. Hear how these stories have endured for over 600 years. Chaired by **Kirsty Logan**.

OUTSIDE THE BOX

Katie Holten & Katie Paterson:
Rewilding Stories

14:15-15:15
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Irish artist and environmental activist Katie Holten creates unconventional works that intersect ecology, language, and history, including *The Language of Trees*. Scottish artist Katie Paterson's work emphasises nature, geology, and cosmology – she has created a library for the future, recorded melting glaciers, and compiled an archive of darkness from the depths of the Universe. Join these two artists as they talk about creativity and wonder. *Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart*.

THE BUSINESS OF BOOKS

Harry Baker & Courtney Stoddart:
A Beginner's Guide to Performance
Poetry

14:15-15:45
Castle View Studio
Pay What You Can

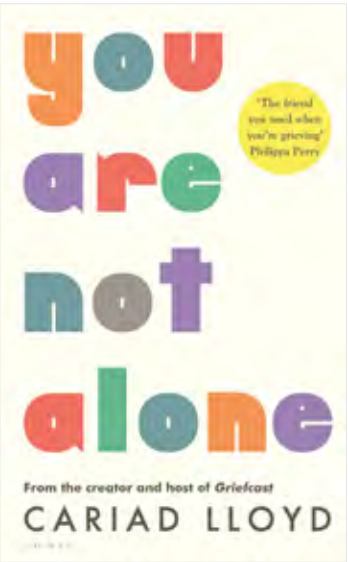
One of literature's hottest art forms, spoken word depends on great poetry and excellent performance skills. Join acclaimed poet and performer, Courtney Stoddart, and World Poetry Slam Champion, Harry Baker, in this workshop chaired by **Nasim Rebecca Asl**. The session will offer tips for developing your craft, advice on your rights as a performer and author, as well as exercises for honing your performance skills. This is a practical workshop open to any aspiring poetry performer and will involve exercises in a group setting. *In partnership with The Society of Authors*.

Cariad Lloyd: Lessons from Loss

15:15-16:15
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Aged 15, Cariad Lloyd became someone she never wanted to be: a person-whose-dad-had-died. Years later, she began a podcast, *Griefcast*, to examine her grief and provide comfort and candour to others. Death is something that connects us all, despite our different cultural ways of processing it. In *You Are Not Alone*, Lloyd reflects on grief in all its sad, surprising, awkward, tender, and sometimes funny forms.

Livestream Available



Cariad Lloyd
Aug 15 15:15



Victoria Belim
Aug 15 13:30



Alford Dalrymple Gardner
Aug 15 12:30



Sarah Krasnostein
Aug 15 17:15



Victoria MacKenzie
Aug 15 13:45

“But enchantment cannot be destroyed. We just have to remember that we need it. And now when I start to look for it, there it is: pale, intermittent, waiting patiently for my return. The sudden catch of sunlight behind stained glass. The glint of gold in the silt of a stream. The words that whisper through the leaves.”

Enchantment: Reawakening Wonder in an Exhausted Age, Katherine May, 15 Aug 17:00



Katherine May
Aug 15 19:00 & Aug 16 11:45

GROUNDING

Katherine May: A Natural Harbour

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Many of us find ourselves in the shadow of the events of the last few years, feeling a little unmoored and wondering: does anybody else feel like this? Overwhelmed and burnt out, Katherine May opens her door and journeys into the natural world in search of restoration and rest. Taking the reader from ancient woods to sacred wells, *Enchantment* is an invitation to heal and hope during trying times.

Livestream Available

THE BAILLIE GIFFORD EVENT

Sarah Krasnostein & Dina Nayeri: Beyond Belief

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Following the success of *The Trauma Cleaner*, Sarah Krasnostein's new book, *The Believer*, speaks to ordinary people who believe extraordinary things and examines how these stories impact our lives. Academic and award-winning author of *The Ungrateful Refugee*, Dina Nayeri combines deep reportage with her own life experience in the profound book *Who Gets Believed?* Both books ask: who and what do we believe – and why? Chaired by Roxani Krystalli.



Colson Whitehead
Aug 15 20:30

Growing Up Lost In Song with Catriona Child & Emma Grae

17:30-18:30
Baillie Gifford Creation Station
£5.00

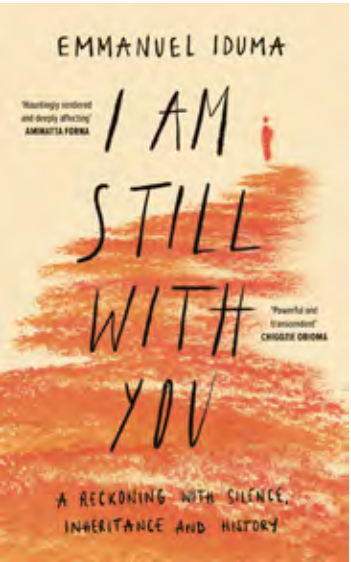
Join Scottish-born authors of *The Tongue She Speaks* and *Fade Into You* as we get sentimental about growing up in Scotland, alternative music of the 90s and early 2000s, and how the culture moulded both them and their novels. Growing up, growing apart, and growing into yourself, all translated through the personalised soundtrack of our lives: this event guarantees nostalgia and plenty of harmonious laughter. This event will be chaired by Nyla Ahmad.

Young Adult

Mark Billingham & Doug Johnstone: Dancing with Death

17:45-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

If you like fiction that's fast, fresh, and adrenaline fuelled, Mark Billingham and Doug Johnstone are two of the finest fun-loving crime writers today. Billingham's *The Last Dance* introduces a new series set on the mean streets of Blackpool, where DI Declan Miller investigates a double murder in a seaside hotel. Meanwhile Johnstone's *The Opposite of Lonely* is the fifth in the bestselling series featuring delightfully oddball Edinburgh funeral directors.



Emmanuel Iduma
Aug 15 13:30

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND EVENT
Ruby Wax: This Time It's Personal

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Actress, comedian, writer, and performer Ruby Wax has long been a campaigner for mental health, for which she was awarded an OBE in 2015. Her new book, *I'm Not as Well as I Thought I Was*, is an honest and heartbreakingly funny memoir. In this event, Wax shares insights about her mental health journey with her unique combination of compassion, wit, and verve. In conversation with Sam Baker.

Livestream Available BSL Captioned

Jen Calleja & William Letford: Poetic Dystopian Futures

19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Jen Calleja's striking new verse novel, *Vehicle*, constructs a dystopian world where fugitive researchers try to piece together their collective story of a disaster that occurred fifty years earlier. Scottish poet William Letford transports us to a not-too-distant future in his long-anticipated *From Our Own Fire*, in which artificial intelligence rules the world. Two fresh poetic voices come together to share their insights into past, present, and future. Chaired by Andrés N Ordorica.



Jen Calleja
Aug 15 19:00

THE SCOTTISH MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST EVENT

Andy Clark: Experience is Hallucination

19:30-20:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The acclaimed philosopher and cognitive scientist Andy Clark discusses the implications of his latest book, *The Experience Machine: How Our Minds Predict and Shape Reality*, a mind-expanding exploration of a relatively new idea that is revolutionising the fields of neuroscience and psychology: what if our brain was not a passive receptor of information from our senses... but an ever-active predictor, shaping our entire reality?

TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS

HAWTHORNDEN FOUNDATION EVENT

Colson Whitehead: Harlem Through a Kaleidoscope

20:30-21:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Double Pulitzer prize-winning author of *The Underground Railroad* and *Nickel Boys*, Colson Whitehead is one of the most admired US writers of this century. He's back in Edinburgh with the second in a series of crime novels set in New York in the 1960s and 70s. *Crook Manifesto* is a fabulously entertaining story evoking Harlem in all its seedy glory. In conversation with Jess Brough.

BSL Captioned



Kerri ní Dochartaigh
Aug 16 11:45



Katherine May
Aug 16 11:45 & Aug 15 17:00

Gerard Carruthers, Alan Riach & Sara Sheridan: Do We Need A New Canon?

10:00-11:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

From Robert Louis Stevenson to Jackie Kay, Scotland has long been a beacon for great writing. Gerard Carruthers and Alan Riach, two of the country's best-respected literature scholars, are joined today by writer and activist Sara Sheridan, bestselling author of *The Fair Botanists*, to discuss some of the nation's greatest figures and their most influential texts – and who is missing from what we consider to be 'canon'. Carruthers will be drawing on *Scottish Stories*, a new collection he's edited, while Riach focuses especially on the influence of Hugh MacDiarmid as well as his new book *Scottish Literature: An Introduction*. Supported by the Dr David Summers Charitable Trust.

Livestream Available

Shared Reading with Open Book

10:00-11:00
ECA Café
Free, drop-in

Join Open Book Lead Readers for an informal and relaxed shared reading session over a hot drink in the Edinburgh College of Art Café. Each session includes different books from this year's Festival programme. No experience necessary, all reading materials are provided on the day.

Iman Mersal: A Portrait from the Archives

10:15-11:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Celebrated poet, writer, academic, and translator, Iman Mersal was born in the northern Egyptian Delta before emigrating to Canada. Mersal shares a wide-ranging exploration of the life of revered Egyptian writer, Enayat Al Zayyat, who died by suicide at the age of 27. *Traces of Enayat*, published in Arabic in 2019, translated by Robin Moger, is not only a biography: it's a memoir, a detective story, and a compelling portrait of life for women in Egypt.

THE SKINNY EVENT

Isabella Hammad & Raja Shehadeh: Political Theatre

10:45-11:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In a land under occupation, authors can bear witness and actors can enter the heart and mind of a territory; but do they foster a spirit of shared resistance? *Enter Ghost*, Isabella Hammad's latest novel, explores the ties that bind people to their homeland as her characters prepare to stage a production of Hamlet in the West Bank. Raja Shehadeh has written several acclaimed books on life and ideas in occupied Palestine. They share their views with **Daniel Hahn**.

Captioned

GROUNDING

Kerri ní Dochartaigh & Katherine May: Wildest Dreams

11:45-12:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

From the depths of winter sprout the seeds of new growth and the promise of wonders. In *Enchantment*, Katherine May unravels the threads of a tightly-wound life and finds a more meaningful and grounded way to be. In *Cacophony of Bone*, Kerri ní Dochartaigh takes a year of pandemic lockdown and tenderly observes the changes and circles of the natural world. Change the pace and join them in conversation today.

Livestream Available

Devorah Baum & Amy Key: Love's Illusions

12:30-13:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

What's the purpose of romantic love? Why do we marry? Devorah Baum and Amy Key wrestle with these questions in their latest books. Baum's *On Marriage* is a candid critique and celebration of the many contradictions of matrimony. Key is a poet and essayist whose profound and intimate memoir *Arrangements in Blue* explores the realities of a full life lived in the absence of romantic love. Chaired by **Chitra Ramaswamy**.



Gavin Francis
Aug 16 14:25
& Aug 28 11:45



Iman Mersal
Aug 16 10:15



Devorah Baum
Aug 16 12:30

ANOTHER SCOTLAND

David Greig & Alan Warner: Scottish Legends Retold

13:30-14:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Brace yourself for exhilarating versions of two classic Scottish stories. *Columba's Bones* is the debut novel from playwright David Greig, which reimagines 9th century Iona as the setting for a 'heist gone wrong'. Alan Warner's *Nothing Left to Fear From Hell* reimagines the aftermath of Culloden, when Bonnie Prince Charlie flees into the Highlands. Join **Sally Magnusson** as she speaks with Greig and Warner in this unmissable event about our history.

Livestream Available Captioned

Mairi Kidd & Allyson Shaw: Who Are the Real Witches?

13:45-14:45
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Scotland was the epicentre of Britain's witch hunts. In 2022, Nicola Sturgeon apologised in parliament to 'all those who were accused, convicted, vilified, or executed under the Witchcraft Act of 1563'. Mairi Kidd's *We Are All Witches* introduces 16 women who lived and died during Scotland's witch persecutions. In *Ashes and Stones*, Allyson Shaw takes a personal journey in search of the traces of those accused.

Black History Walking Tour with Lisa Williams

14:15-15:45
Courtyard
£16.00 [£14.00]

Join the founder of the Edinburgh Caribbean Association, Lisa Williams, on a Black history walking tour of Edinburgh. With stops throughout the city to examine its architectural heritage, Williams illuminates the role of Scots in slavery and colonialism from a Caribbean perspective. She shares stories of Black people with heritage across the globe who visited and lived in Edinburgh, their ongoing influence on the city, and remarkable legacies.

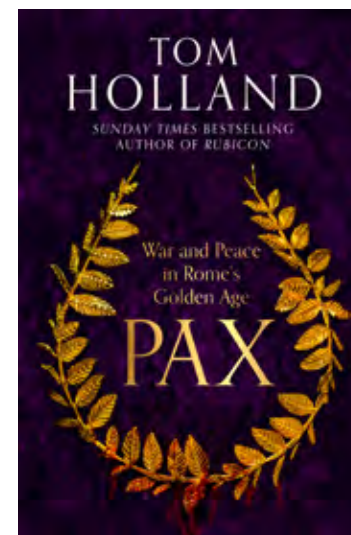
Gavin Francis: The Remarkable Thomas Browne

14:15-15:15
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

What do the words electricity, literary, and veterinarian have in common? They're just a few of the hundreds of words coined by English wordsmith and physician Sir Thomas Browne in the 17th century. Sharing a similar curiosity about language, medicine, and humanity, author and doctor Gavin Francis explores Browne's fascinating life in his new non-fiction book *Sir Thomas Browne: The Opium of Time*. Supported by Binks Trust.



Amy Key
Aug 16 12:30



Tom Holland
Aug 16 18:45

Wednesday 16 continued...

Don Paterson: A Poet's Life

15:15-16:15
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Famous for his poetry, Don Paterson's new book barely mentions it. *Toy Fights* is a raw, brutally honest, and painfully funny memoir about his first 20 years, shot through with a passion for music. Paterson explains, this is 'a book about schizophrenia, hell, money, narcissists, debt and the working class, anger, swearing, drugs, books, football, love'... and bags of Dundonian self-deprecation. He talks with the director of V&A Dundee, **Leonie Bell**.

Livestream Available Captioned

Daniel Hahn: The Work of Translation

15:30-17:30
Castle View Studio
£35.00 [£30.00]

Daniel Hahn translates literary fiction from Portuguese, Spanish and French into English. As well as being a writer, editor, and critic, he is a translation advocate: he is currently working on a project to bring more South Asian literary works to English-speaking countries. Today, Daniel will take you through the process of translating a piece of fiction, and the painstaking and exhilarating work behind finding the right words. This two hour workshop is for enthusiastic novices who want to improve their work.



Marjorie Lotfi
Aug 16 17:45

Denise Mina: 15th Century Culture Wars

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

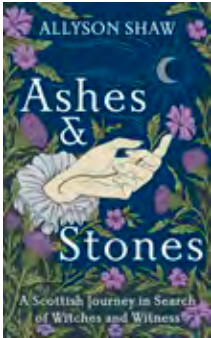
Glaswegian author and presenter Denise Mina joins us to discuss her new novel *Three Fires* and its protagonist Girolamo Savonarola, a friar in 15th century Florence whose bombastic sermons led to the infamous 'Bonfire of the Vanities'. Mina's fresh take on the story draws uncomfortable and unavoidable parallels between the febrile atmosphere of medieval Italy and modern-day culture wars.

Livestream Available Captioned

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH EVENT Jokha Alharthi: The James Tait Black Event

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Jokha Alharthi became the first Omani woman writer to be translated into English for her 2019 International Booker Prize-winning work *Celestial Bodies*. Her exquisite follow-up, *Bitter Orange Tree*, is among the eight exceptional books shortlisted for this year's James Tait Black Prizes, the only major prize to be judged by scholars and students. Join Alharthi and her translator **Marilyn Booth** in conversation with lead fiction judge, **Benjamin Bateman**, to find out what set this book apart.



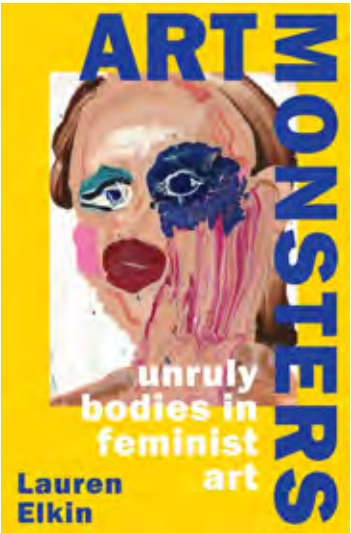
Allyson Shaw
Aug 16 13:45



Ben Alderson-Day
Aug 16 19:00



Hannah Lavery
Aug 16 17:45



Lauren Elkin
Aug 16 19:30

THE EDWIN MORGAN TRUST EVENT Hannah Lavery & Marjorie Lotfi: Being and Otherness

17:45-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Friends and creative collaborators, the poet and playwright Hannah Lavery and poet Marjorie Lotfi were awarded a Second Life grant from the Edwin Morgan Trust to respond to the poetry of Edwin Morgan while exploring their experience as 'mixed-race' women in Scotland in poem-letters sent to one another across the spring of 2023. Join the supremely talented Lavery and Lotfi as they continue this excavation in this special performance and launch of their accompanying pamphlet.

Tom Holland: Rome In a Time of Peace

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Tom Holland is the co-host of the phenomenally popular *The Rest is History* podcast. An accomplished writer and historian, he returns to the time when Christianity began with *Pax*—the last volume in a trilogy narrating the story of the Roman Empire. Holland focuses on the Pax Romana—a 200-year period of relative peace and prosperity, and shares some pearls from this deep dive into history.

Livestream Available

“Many years later, I did some kind of ‘My Favourite Teacher’ radio programme with Helen, and had the opportunity to thank her personally for destroying any chance of a normal existence by encouraging the life of the mind.”

Toy Fights: A Boyhood, Don Paterson, Aug 16 15:15

FEATS OF IMAGINATION

THE SCOTTISH MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST EVENT
Ben Alderson-Day & Sarah Krasnostein: Questions Of Belief
19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Do you believe—really believe—in ghosts, or UFOs, angels or the devil? Where do our belief systems come from, and what happens when other people's experiences or beliefs crash into our own? Join associate professor of psychology Ben Alderson-Day as he talks about his book, *Presence*, alongside author of *The Believer*, Sarah Krasnostein, exploring how one person's beliefs can leave another person full of questions. Chaired by **Daniel Hahn**.

Lauren Elkin: The Body as a Canvas

19:30-20:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Reclaiming the representation of the female body; giving a new definition to the aesthetic aims of art which represents all bodies: these are the radical heritage of feminist art, and the terrain of *Art Monsters*, a landmark book by Lauren Elkin. Described by Deborah Levy as 'the Susan Sontag of her generation', Elkin accompanies us into a world of 'unruly bodies'. In conversation with **Katrina Brown**.

Future Library Announcement: Future Writer, Future Readers

20:30-21:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Since 2014, authors have contributed to Future Library, a collection of writing that will not be published for 100 years. The venerable group includes Margaret Atwood, David Mitchell, Han Kang, and **Judith Schalansky**. This project was conceived by artist **Katie Paterson**, and supported by the City of Oslo. Join Paterson, Schalansky, and Future Library Trust chairwoman **Anne Beate Hovind** as they discuss the project, and announce the next writer. Chaired by **Cal Flynn**.

Livestream Available

Experience more:
enjoy livestreamed
and on demand events
on our website

Enjoy all our events in-person, or watch livestreamed events online, see events listing.

Thursday 17

GROUNDING

Raynor Winn: A Walk On The Wild Side

10:00-11:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In *The Salt Path*, Raynor Winn told the story of a healing walk on the South West Coast Path with her unwell husband, Moth. Winn's third book, *Landlines*, recounts Raynor and Moth's most ambitious walk yet – an epic 1,000-mile journey starting with the Cape Wrath trail and ending in Cornwall. Crystalline nature writing shot through with compassion and humour, this is literature for those who wander.

Livestream Available Captioned

ANOTHER SCOTLAND

Richard T Kelly: Scotland's Black Gold Rush

10:15-11:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

North Sea oil exploration has been a subject of impassioned debate in Scottish life, and literature. Writer Richard T Kelly makes it the subject of his evocative novel *The Black Eden*. Charting the promise of 'black gold', he spins a fascinating story about five characters from different walks of life affected by the oil boom. Today, Kelly discusses his work with Mary Paulson-Ellis.



V E Schwab
Aug 17 17:00



Yiyun Li
Aug 17 14:15

Debora Kayembe, David McCrone & David Pollock: Talk of the Town

10:45-11:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

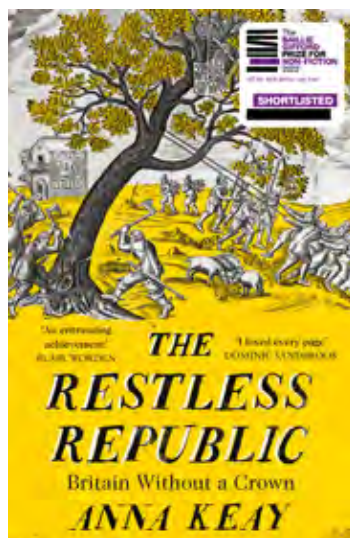
Every year, we celebrate the excitement and joy of Edinburgh's festival season, yet the 'Festival City' has not been without its critics. Join arts writer David Pollock, author of *The Edinburgh Festival: A Biography*, leading sociologist David McCrone, author of *Who Runs Edinburgh?*, and Debora Kayembe, rector at The University of Edinburgh, for a fascinating discussion on the forces shaping the city's cultural power and status.

Claire Askew & Kate Foster: Tales of Two Edinburghs

11:45-12:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

What is it about the Scottish capital that makes it such fertile ground for fictionalised mystery? Claire Askew's *The Dead Don't Speak* sees DI Helen Birch drawn back into action when an anonymous vigilante starts stalking the streets of Edinburgh. Kate Foster's thriller, *The Maiden*, is inspired by the real-life trial of a 17th century Edinburgh woman charged with murder. Join two writers securing Scotland's reputation for world-class crime fiction.

Livestream Available



Anna Keay
Aug 17 12:30

Devorah Baum, Alva Gotby & Sophie K Rosa: Close Encounters

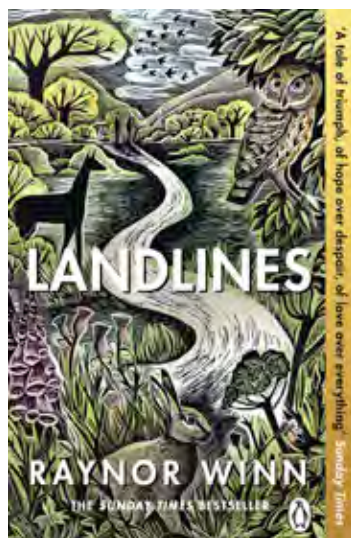
12:00-13:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Our most intimate moments – falling in love, marriage, raising children – are also some of our most political. Join these three powerful non-fiction writers as they interrogate the radical potential of intimacy. Devorah Baum's *On Marriage* explores the contradictions of matrimony; Alva Gotby's *They Call It Love* confronts emotional labour as a feminist issue; and Sophie K Rosa's *Radical Intimacy* offers new frameworks for connection beyond capitalism. Chaired by Kevin Guyan.

Anna Keay: Long Live The Republic

12:30-13:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Between Charles I's execution and Charles II's restoration, 17th century Britain saw the possibilities of a republic and the challenges of a conservative people trying to create one. Moving the spotlight from Oliver Cromwell to a cast of nine figures who made names for themselves during The Interregnum, Anna Keay's brilliant account, *The Restless Republic*, illuminates the most revolutionary and experimental period in Britain's political history.



Raynor Winn
Aug 17 10:00



Rebecca May Johnson
Aug 17 19:00

Close Read: Open Book on Victoria Adukwei Bulley and Nina Mingya Powles

12:30-14:00
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Marjorie Lotfi and **Claire Urquhart** from Open Book, a charity which organises shared reading and creative writing groups, explore brand new poetry collections: *Quiet* by Victoria Adukwei Bulley and *Magnolia* by Nina Mingya Powles. Join them for a close read of these exciting debuts. Expect an open discussion from the start – there is no preparation required.

Kezia Dugdale & Lesley Riddoch: Once Upon a Time in Holyrood

13:30-14:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

When Humza Yousef became the sixth First Minister of Scotland, he promised, "new leadership, a fresh start for Scotland" – but amid the enquiries and intrigue, what does that really mean? Join our panel including former Leader of Scottish Labour, Kezia Dugdale and broadcaster and journalist Lesley Riddoch as they take us through the turbulences and triumphs of modern Scottish politics, and ultimately ask: what next for Scotland?

Livestream Available

“On the last evening, a sunset.
My turn in the kitchen.
Ruby offers to take my shift,
so that I can walk with the
others. It is the first time she’s
volunteered to speak to me,
& when she calls me, I hear
it like a song, & begin to love
my name.”

From 'Retreat' in *Quiet*, Victoria Adukwei Bulley, Aug 17 17:15

FEATS OF IMAGINATION

Judith Schalansky: Maps of the Imagination

13:45-14:45
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In 2022, Judith Schalansky was named as the ninth author to write secret work for Future Library which will remain unpublished until 2114. With two genre-defying books, *An Inventory of Losses* and *Atlas of Remote Islands*, Schalansky has forged a special place as a poetic conjuror of things that can only exist in our imaginations. Whether they're unreachable islands or Greta Garbo's fading beauty, Schalansky's creations are fearsomely evocative. In conversation with Cal Flynn.

Liner Notes: Amy Key on Joni Mitchell

14:30-16:00
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Today, join poet, writer, and author of *Arrangements in Blue: Notes on Love and Making a Life*, Amy Key, for a close listen of the woman whose work underpins Key's memoir: legendary musician, producer and songwriter Joni Mitchell. Celebrate one of the world's best known and most loved lyricists in this workshop: an enjoyable audible adventure for those with deep knowledge of Mitchell's work, and for newcomers.

All are welcome:
there's something
for everyone at the
Festival, no matter
your age

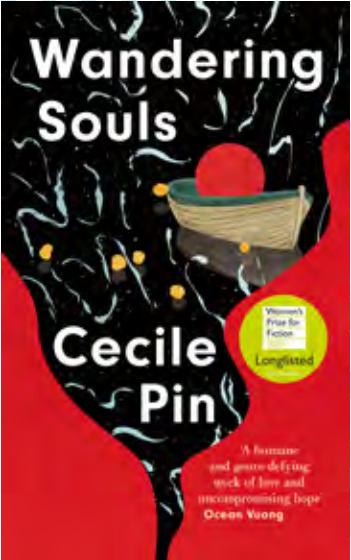
Thursday 17 continued...



Marjorie Lotfi
Aug 16 17:45



Anna Funder
Aug 17 19:30



Cecile Pin
Aug 17 16:30

Yiyun Li:
Beware the Golden Goose

14:15-15:15
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

From the acclaimed author of *Where Reasons End* and *Dear Friend, From My Life I Write to You in Your Life* comes *The Book of Goose*. Set between rural France, an English boarding school, and Pennsylvania, this is a subversive and darkly powerful story of intimacy, obsession, friendship and rivalry. Join **Daniel Hahn** for a riveting conversation with a writer at the height of her powers.

THE PEOPLE HISTORY FORGOT

Caroline Moorehead:
Mussolini’s Dangerous Daughter

15:15-16:15
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Where did power really lie in Fascist Italy? Not just with Benito Mussolini, according to Caroline Moorehead, but also with his favourite daughter. In the engrossing *Edda Mussolini* Moorehead examines the rise and fall of a woman whose husband, Galeazzo Ciano, was Foreign Minister before he plotted to bring Mussolini down. The celebrated biographer joins **Jamie Jauncey** to discuss this fascinating figure. *Supported by the AEB Charitable Trust.*

Livestream Available Captioned

Isabella Hammad & Cecile Pin:
Love and Displacement

16:30-17:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Hear two novelists grapple with love, ancestry, and fragmented lives in their latest works. *Enter Ghost* by Isabella Hammad is a moving tale set in Palestine, exploring family connections, art, and shared resistance. Cecile Pin’s debut, *Wandering Souls*, tells the story of three Vietnamese siblings who seek refuge in the UK. In what is sure to be a fascinating conversation, hear from two powerful voices in contemporary fiction. Chaired by **Katie Goh**.

V E Schwab: New Shades of Magic

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Join the international sensation and highly prolific V E Schwab as she discusses the death-defying fantasy *The Invisible Life of Addie Larue* and launches a new trilogy in the Shades of Magic universe with *The Fragile Threads of Power*, which involves a desperate hunt to find an artefact that may prevent devastating conflict. This event will delight Schwab fans, and provide a tantalising beginning for the uninitiated. In conversation with **Harry Josephine Giles**.

Livestream Available

Victoria Adukwei Bulley
& Simone Seales: Sounds and Silence

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Victoria Adukwei Bulley’s debut poetry collection *Quiet* won 2023’s Rathbones Folio Prize and was praised by the judges as ‘a quiet revolution of a book – subtle, supple and serious’. Exploring ideas of interiority, *Quiet* is a sonic experience. Joining Adukwei Bulley in conversation is poet and cellist Simone Seales, who finds and creates radical spaces within the classical music world with improvised performances of music and poetry.

Carol Ann Duffy:
Politics Politics Politics

17:45-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

One of our best loved poets returns with musician **John Sampson** to discuss *Politics*, a curated collection of Duffy’s favourite political poems including the titular ‘Politics’, her debut work as Waterstones Poet Laureate that lambasted the MPs’ expenses scandal. This proved to be an early demonstration of her fearlessness. Join Duffy for a fresh perspective on poetry in today’s political landscape.

Our City, Our Stories

18:15-19:15
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt
Free, book in advance

We believe everyone has a story to tell and that stories help us make sense of our world. Join us as we bring together local writers and poets from across Edinburgh to create a collective love letter to the city they call home. Every day at 18:15 different storytellers perform their latest work. Check out our website for today’s guests. Find out more about our Communities Programme: ontheroad.edbookfest.co.uk. *Made possible by players of People’s Postcode Lottery.*

ANOTHER SCOTLAND

Marcas Mac an Tuairneir & Sam Ó Fearraigh: Languages of Poetry

18:30-19:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Gaelic and English language poet Marcas Mac an Tuairneir returns to the Festival with his poetry collection, *Polaris* – the word for ‘languages’ in the gay cryptolect Polari – alongside award-winning poet and dramaturg Sam Ó Fearraigh who writes in English and Irish. Join these two astounding voices for a conversation about prioritising minoritised languages, and a celebration of identity across these islands.

THE FREDERICK HOOD MEMORIAL LECTURE

Fergal Keane with Allan Little: The Scars of War Reporting

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

‘The suffering of others was my daily bread.’ This brutally honest, heartfelt assessment of the job of a war reporter is central to Fergal Keane’s memoir, *The Madness*: a riveting account of how he survived war, fear, and PTSD, against a backdrop of alcoholism and a troubled Irish history. Keane talks with fellow BBC reporter, Allan Little, about the importance of bearing witness and what drives foreign correspondents to risk their lives on the frontline. *Supported by Walter Scott & Partners Limited.*

Livestream Available BSL Captioned

FEATS OF IMAGINATION

Rebecca May Johnson:
Kitchen Confessional

19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Food isn’t simply fuel: it’s a vehicle for life. Editor, writer, and essayist Rebecca May Johnson has shaken the culinary writing world up with *Small Fires*, mixing memoir with social criticism. Described by Nigella Lawson as ‘an intense, thought-provoking enquiry into the very nature of cooking’, this work of meditation and memory speaks to all. Join her in exploring how deeply food shapes our lives. In conversation with **Nyla Ahmad**.

THE PEOPLE HISTORY FORGOT

Anna Funder: A Woman in Full

19:30-20:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Anna Funder has specialised in writing unconventional accounts of European history in her previous works *Stasiland* and *All That I Am*. Now, in *Wifedom*, she explores the unsung life of George Orwell’s brilliant wife, Eileen O’Shaughnessy. In this event, discover how Funder used newly-discovered letters to recreate the Orwells’ life during two major wars in Europe, and examine together what is the true price of women’s work. In conversation with **Jenny Niven**.

Katrín Jakobsdóttir & Ragnar Jónasson: Partners in Crime

20:30-21:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

At the end of a long day, Iceland’s prime minister takes her mind off the pressures of leading a nation by writing Nordic noir. Already a scholar of crime fiction, Katrín Jakobsdóttir joined forces with bestselling crime writer Ragnar Jónasson to co-author *Reykjavik*, exploring the mystery of a teenage girl’s disappearance in the 1950s. Join them in conversation for this not-to-be-missed event.

Livestream Available Captioned



Allan Little
Aug 17 18:45



David McCrone
Aug 17 10:45



Marcas Mac an Tuairneir
Aug 17 18:30



Claire Askew
Aug 17 11:45



Deborah Kayembe
Aug 17 10:45

Book Tickets at
edbookfest.co.uk

Enjoy all our events in-person, or watch livestreamed events online, see events listing.

Shared Reading with Open Book

10:00-11:00
ECA Café
Free, drop-in

Join Open Book Lead Readers for an informal and relaxed shared reading session over a hot drink in the Edinburgh College of Art Café. Each session includes different books from this year's Festival programme. No experience necessary, all reading materials are provided on the day.

IRELAND – REAL AND REMEMBERED

Jan Carson, Fergal Keane & Aoife Moore: After Good Friday

10:00-11:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

How fragile is peace, even 25 years after the Good Friday Agreement? Three Irish writers discuss their perspectives. Jan Carson is a community arts worker and writer of *The Raptures* and east Belfast-set *The Fire Starters*. Fergal Keane was the BBC's Northern Ireland correspondent during the Troubles and writes about the Irish war of independence. And Irish Journalist of the Year 2021, Aoife Moore, explores the rise of Sinn Féin in her upcoming *The Long Game*.

[Livestream Available](#) [Captioned](#)

THE CENTRE FOR OPEN LEARNING EVENT

Centre for Open Learning: Creative Writing Workshop

10:15-11:45
Castle View Studio
Pay What You Can

The Book Festival is delighted to be partnering with the Centre for Open Learning (COL) at the University of Edinburgh. Today, experienced teaching staff from COL's popular Creative Writing Short Courses will present a special Book Festival workshop, guiding participants to explore their creativity in an accessible and supportive environment. Check edbookfest.co.uk for further details.

Gerda Stevenson & J L Williams: To Care is Human

10:15-11:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Two poets reflect on the need for compassion in selfish times. Can words bring light to our 'forlorn planet'? *Tomorrow's Feast* by Gerda Stevenson draws on Scots, Gaelic, and English to create insightful, tender poems. Meanwhile, in *Origin*, J L Williams explores the complexities of creating a new life in poems appealing to 'all people who have entered through that small crack into the light of this life'.

THE SCOTTISH MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST EVENT

Jay Owens & Christopher Somerville: Geology and Hope

10:45-11:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Joining us in conversation are the authors of two new books on how geology can help us to understand and potentially mitigate the effects of climate change. Jay Owens' *Dust* argues that dust is both the legacy of modern progress and a profound threat to future life, whereas Christopher Somerville's *Walking the Bones of Britain* demystifies the unique geology of the British Isles.



Josie Long
Aug 18 19:30



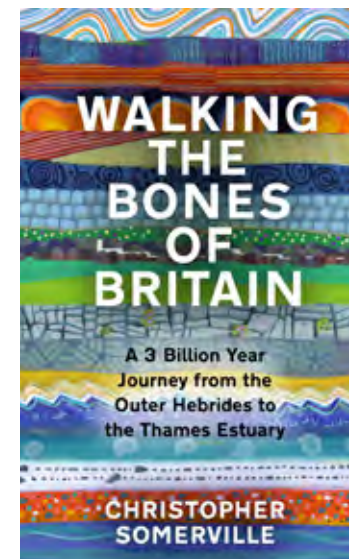
J L Williams
Aug 18 10:15



William MacAskill
Aug 18 17:45



Amy Liptrot
Aug 18 17:00



Christopher Somerville
Aug 18 10:45

Nicole Flattery & Yiyun Li: Stories Within Stories

11:45-12:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Join two bold novelists for an exploration into art, memory, and the specific nature of adolescent friendship. 'There's just something about two people who are so close to each other their contours press into each other...' says the novelist Yiyun Li. Her latest *The Book of Goose* follows two teenage peasant girls in post-war France, while Nicole Flattery's *Nothing Special* captures the lives of two girls against the surreal backdrop of Andy Warhol's Factory.

[Livestream Available](#)

Happy High Status: Masterclass with Viv Groskop

12:15-13:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Is there a way to move effortlessly through life? Perhaps not completely, but you can certainly get a lot closer to it today. Part talk, part workshop, this is a cringe-free masterclass on confidence and presence with comedian and bestselling author Viv Groskop, based on her new book *Happy High Status*. Groskop is also the host of the chart-topping podcast *How to Own the Room*, and her work is 'recommended' to anyone wanting more self-confidence' by psychotherapist Philippa Perry.

Stella Chan & Alison Harper: Understanding Mental Health

12:30-13:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

There has been an alarming increase in mental health issues amongst young people. Mental health – especially youth depression – remains a difficult topic, clouded by misconceptions. In this informative event, experts Professor Stella Chan and Dr Alison Harper, clinical psychologists specialising in adolescent health, consider how to best support young people's well-being, drawing on the words and writing of a teenager who lost her life to suicide. *Supported by the Jasmine Foundation.*

Damian Barr & Catherine Taylor: Strange Country of the North

12:00-13:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Damian Barr's *Maggie & Me* is a bestselling memoir of growing up in Thatcher's Britain. A decade since its publication, he returns to discuss that memorable period with Catherine Taylor whose own memoir, *The Stirrings*, offers her account of growing up in 1970s and 80s Sheffield. Join us for a fascinating conversation between two writers exploring the hopes and fears of adolescence during that time.

Spark your curiosity: explore our Festival themes to discover new writers and ideas

James Naughtie: When Knowledge Could Be Deadly

13:30-14:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

James Naughtie has witnessed much political skulduggery as a special correspondent for BBC News, and he's put this knowledge to use in his gripping spy thriller series. Today, Naughtie introduces *The Spy Across the Water*: the third outing for the Flemmyng brothers, bound together through espionage and embroiled in the Cold War. Hear Naughtie discuss this fascinating brainteaser which spans the streets of Washington DC and the Scottish Highlands. *Supported by the Turtleton Charitable Trust.*

[Livestream Available](#) [Captioned](#)

Jan Carson: Why Your Writing is Broken and How to Fix It

14:15-16:45
Castle View Studio
£35.00 [£30.00]

Join writer Jan Carson for this interactive workshop focusing on the mistakes almost every writer makes and how to avoid making them in your own writing. Take this opportunity to identify areas where you could significantly improve your creative process, and to explore where your writing's going wrong on a sentence by sentence basis. All participants should come with a working draft they're keen to edit. The workshop is particularly aimed at novelists and short story writers though it will contain useful advice for everyone.

“This feeling that I could sense you wherever you were, and that it was because you wanted me to. It was deafening and it was wonderful and it was totally unbearable. When I saw you out the corner of my eye talking to other girls I felt sorry for them.”

Because I Don't Know What You Mean and What You Don't, Josie Long, Aug 18 19:30

Nicole Flattery:
Factory or Fiction

16:30-17:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Hear Nicole Flattery discuss her funny and wildly inventive debut novel, *Nothing Special*, the follow-up to acclaimed short story collection, *Show Them a Good Time*. Attending high school by day and partying with the Velvet Underground by night, the novel centres on a teenager in 1960s New York who finds herself suddenly welcomed into the heart of Andy Warhol's Factory.



Jay Owens
Aug 18 10:45

Amy Liptrot & Karine Polwart:
Creating (with) a Sense of Place

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

What is the relationship between place, a story, and a song? Which places have shaped our identities, and how do our geographical biographies emerge in art? To explore these questions, this event weaves together stories and songs, with musician **Dave Milligan**. Amy Liptrot and Karine Polwart will speak to **Roxani Krystalli**, as part of her Scotland's Future Series project, sponsored by the University of St Andrews.

Livestream Available Captioned



William MacAskill
Aug 18 17:45

L R Lam:
World Building and Dividing

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

From epic fantasy romance to space opera, near-future cyberpunk to a magical circus: L R Lam is not afraid to explore new worlds. In today's event hear about Lam's new epic fantasy trilogy which launches with *Dragonfall* where, long ago, humans betrayed dragons, stealing their magic and banishing them to a dying world. Centuries later, their descendants worship dragons as gods. But the gods remember, and they do not forgive.

THE SCOTTISH MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST EVENT
William MacAskill:
The Million Year View

17:45-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

William MacAskill is an associate professor in philosophy at Oxford. In *What We Owe the Future*, he explores an idea currently fuelling the longtermist thinkers of the billionaire class: that we are remarkably early in the story of human civilization. Join us to find out why Elon Musk is attempting to colonise Mars, and why Jeff Bezos just spent \$42m on a clock that will last 10,000 years. In conversation with **David Farrier**.



Gerda Stevenson
Aug 18 10:15

Our City, Our Stories

18:15-19:15
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt
Free, book in advance

We believe everyone has a story to tell and that stories help us make sense of our world. Join us as we bring together local writers and poets from across Edinburgh to create a collective love letter to the city they call home. Every day at 18:15 different storytellers perform their latest work. Check out our website for today's guests. Find out more about our Communities Programme: ontheroad.edbookfest.co.uk. *Made possible by players of People's Postcode Lottery.*

Leyla Josephine & Michael Mullen:
Poetry, Formed and Performed

18:30-19:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Leyla Josephine is a performance poet, theatremaker, screenwriter, and former Edinburgh International Book Festival's Citizen Writer in Residence. Her debut poetry collection *In Public/In Private* dances between intimacy and performance, humour and reverence. Joined by Michael Mullen, co-winner of the 2022 Edwin Morgan Poetry Award, both speak about their experience as rising stars in the Scottish poetry scene, and the shifting tectonics of modern performance.

Book Tickets at
edbookfest.co.uk

THE WOODLAND TRUST SCOTLAND EVENT
Alexander McCall Smith:
The Milkman of Human Kindness

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

An hour with Alexander McCall Smith, Scotland's most charming writer, is always a freewheeling antidote to the stresses of life. Today, he unveils a beautiful new meditation in the form of a collection of uplifting poetry, *I Think of You*. He also looks forward to the 25th anniversary of *The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency*, and turns his mind to his characters' love of food. Anna Marshall has created a cookbook to sit alongside *44 Scotland Street* and it is a joy, featuring Big Lou's 'Off the Record' bacon rolls, and much more.

Captioned

Josie Long: Love Language

19:30-20:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
Pay What You Can

Stand-up comedian and writer Josie Long has been charming Edinburgh audiences since she won Best Newcomer at the Fringe in 2006. Now, she turns her talents to fiction, with short story collection, *Because I Don't Know What You Mean and What You Don't*. Join us for an uplifting discussion on how storytelling and comedy can be an escape from the mayhem of modern life. In conversation with **Viv Groskop**.



Nicole Flattery
Aug 18 11:45 & 16:30

TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS
Eileen Myles: 'They' Contain Multitudes

20:30-21:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Prolific poet and activist Eileen Myles is back with a *"Working Life"*, a new collection which captures the many dualities of human life: loneliness and companionship, travel and stasis, fear and wonder. Join us to hear Myles discuss the immense anxieties about the future world, as well as the beauty to be found in landscapes, animals, and the act of caring for each other.

Livestream Available Captioned

FESTIVAL LATE NIGHTS

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY IN SCOTLAND EVENT
Damian Barr Literary Salon

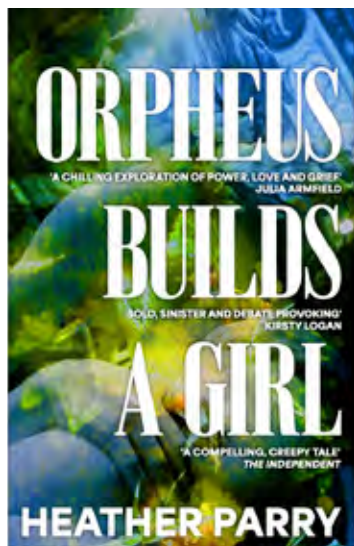
20:30-22:00
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Celebrated author, broadcaster, and host of The Big Scottish Book Club, Damian Barr is all about books – whether that's through his own writing or by celebrating other people's. We're delighted to welcome him back to Edinburgh for an evening of lively discussion, readings, and performance as we bring together some very special guests for this Edinburgh edition of his wildly popular Salon.



Karine Polwart
Aug 14 11:45 & Aug 18 17:00

Enjoy all our events in-person, or watch livestreamed events online, see events listing.



Heather Parry
Aug 21 17:45 & Aug 24 16:30



Daisy Lafarge
Aug 19 16:30

Lizzy Stewart: Illustrated Reading Lists

10:15-12:15
Castle View Studio
£35.00 [£30.00]

Many people keep a list of the books they've read – but why not make it an illustrated list? Choose your four favourite books of the year and bring pictures of their covers to this practical session with illustrator and graphic novelist Lizzy Stewart. She helps you turn them into a gorgeous illustration – and leave you with the tools to keep an illustrated record of your books of the year. Stewart is the author of several books including her most recent graphic novel *Alison*.

Tom Crewe & Alice Winn: Dare to Speak Its Name

10:15-11:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Join two novelists exploring queer British history in intimate and epic ways. Alice Winn's novel, *In Memoriam*, takes us to 1914, as a schoolboy love affair spills out of the classroom and into the trenches of the First World War. Forbidden love is also found in Tom Crewe's historical fiction, *The New Life*, the story of a closeted gay man on trial for writing about homosexuality in Victorian England.

Sara Pascoe: Why Be Normal When You Can Be Funny?

11:45-12:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Much loved comedian, actor, TV personality, and writer Sara Pascoe has enlightened readers – and made them howl with laughter – with her reflections on femininity and sexuality in non-fiction books *Animal* and *Sex Power Money*. Now, she turns her talents to fiction with *Weirdo*, the tale of a woman desperate to seem like a 'normal', well-adjusted grown up. If only she could stop the voices in her head. In conversation with **Michael Pedersen**.

Livestream Available **BSL** **Captioned**

FEATS OF IMAGINATION

The ReaderBank research project: Drop-in session

12:00-18:00
Albertinas
Free, drop-in

This is an opportunity to participate in a major new study of reading and the imagination – and their relationship to mental health. Over the coming years, the Book Festival will become a research hub in partnership with a team from Durham University, gathering data from readers to create the world's biggest open-source databank – the ReaderBank. Drop-in at any time to meet the research team, find out more about the project and sign up to add your own reading data to the ReaderBank. **Daily from 19-26 August.**

TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS

Close Read with Eileen Myles

12:45-14:15
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Eileen Myles is a poet, performer, and activist whose work spans poetry, short stories, creative non-fiction, performance pieces, and even a run for president. Their writing often crosses from the universe at large to more intimate concerns, interested in the power of community and allowing for differences within it: 'Art has to finally be the place where something gives and the form is forever different.' Today Myles will lead a Close Read on a text that has been significant in their literary life.

THE BAILLIE GIFFORD EVENT

Malachi McIntosh & Mark Steven: Pen and the Sword

13:45-14:45
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Modern struggles have a long literary history. Malachi McIntosh is a professor of World Literature at Oxford, and his forthcoming book focuses on the community of Caribbean artists who revolutionised Black human rights in Britain. McIntosh is joined by Mark Steven, author of *Class War: A Literary History*, which traces the development of class in Britain, from Haiti's plantations to Black Lives Matter through poetry and novels.



Seán Hewitt
Aug 19 19:00

INSIDE OUT WITH EMILY CHAPPELL

Jenny Graham & Kate Rawles: A Better World on Two Wheels

14:15-15:15
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Jenny Graham and Kate Rawles are passionate about endurance cycling, but they're just as interested in people, landscape, and the world around them. In *Coffee First, Then the World*, Graham tells the story of her record-breaking solo ride around the world, while in *The Life Cycle*, Rawles recounts her 8,000 mile trek across South America on a bike made of bamboo. In this innovative event, you can hear them in conversation with fellow endurance cyclist **Emily Chappell**, and then (for a maximum of 32 people, for an additional charge) take part in a special bike ride with all three in the local area the following morning. For more details see **edbookfest.co.uk/insideout**. *Supported by James and Morag Anderson.*

Jan Carson: The Short Story Writer's Starter Kit

14:45-17:15
Castle View Studio
£35.00 [£30.00]

Interested in writing short stories? Struggling to know where to start? This interactive course facilitated by writer Jan Carson will guide you through the basics of writing imaginative and engaging short stories. The two and a half hour session will focus upon key themes such as developing ideas, writing believable characters and convincing dialogue, plot, and structure. This workshop is suitable for beginning writers. All you need is a notebook, a pen and a fully functioning imagination.

Alice Oseman: Stopping Hearts

15:15-16:15
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£5.00

Join Alice Oseman, creator of global smash-hit *Heartstopper*, for a very special in-conversation event. *Heartstopper* follows Nick and Charlie as they navigate the ups and downs of first loves, school, friendships, coming out, and mental health. Alice discusses her charming love story's incredible journey: from webcomic, to bestselling graphic novel, to critically acclaimed Netflix Series. She'll maybe even give readers a sneak peek of *Heartstopper* Volume 5. Chaired by author **Benjamin Dean**.

Young Adult **Captioned**

Jenny Erpenbeck & Katja Hoyer: East Germany – Beyond the Myths

16:00-17:00
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall and reunification, East Germany was regarded in western democracies as a ruthless surveillance machine under the auspices of the dreaded Stasi. But, as historian Katya Hoyer shows in her counterintuitive study, *Beyond the Wall*, citizens enjoyed full employment and a reasonable standard of living. Join Hoyer in conversation with leading German novelist Jenny Erpenbeck, who also grew up in the East and whose writing has been deeply informed by the experience.

Amber Husain & Daisy Lafarge: Eat Or Be Eaten

16:30-17:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Have you ever been lovesick? Poet and novelist Daisy Lafarge's ecologically informed essay *Lovebug* asks what it means to be parasitised by someone or something. Writer Amber Husain's *Meat* is an 'exquisitely-crafted little hand grenade', with the politics of carnivorous desire firmly in her sights. Join these inventive essayists as they explore the uncomfortable intimacies with the animals that we consume, and those who feed on us.

Monica Heisey, Josie Long & Will McPhail: Funny Peculiar

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

If you don't laugh, you'll cry – sometimes it's better to do both. *Schitt's Creek* writer Monica Heisey's novel *Really Good, Actually* is one woman's search for joy after divorce, while comedian Josie Long's *Because I Don't Know What You Mean and What You Don't* explores love in the age of anxiety. They are joined by Will McPhail, whose *Love & Vermin* collects his distinctive and wise New Yorker cartoons. Chaired by **Michael Williams**.

Livestream Available

Simone Seales: Sound Escapes

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Cellist, performer, and writer Simone Seales creates spaces of radical joy in classical music through their practice of improvisation and intersectional feminism. Today they join us for a special event – part musical performance, part spoken word – exploring the power of music and language to reflect and alter our emotional states of being.

M John Harrison: This Is Not a Memoir

17:45-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

It would take some doing to rival M John Harrison's genre-defying literary output. Each work – including 2020 Goldsmith Prize-winner *The Sunken Land Begins to Rise Again* – has a rebelliousness of spirit that continues with *Wish I Was Here: An Anti-Memoir*. Dedicated to 'everyone who couldn't think what to say', this is a work about craft and the self from one of literature's most thrilling voices.



Monica Heisey
Aug 19 & 20 17:00

Saturday 19 continued...

Our City, Our Stories

18:15-19:15
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt
Free, book in advance

We believe everyone has a story to tell and that stories help us make sense of our world. Join us as we bring together local writers and poets from across Edinburgh to create a collective love letter to the city they call home. Every day at 18:15 different storytellers perform their latest work. Check out our website for today's guests. Find out more about our Communities Programme: [ontheroad.edbookfest.co.uk](#). *Made possible by players of People's Postcode Lottery.*

Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Ross Montgomery & Katherine Rundell: Writing for Children – How Dark Can You Go?

18:30-19:30
Baillie Gifford Creation Station
£5.00

If you're writing for children, you want to make your plot exciting and dramatic – but are there topics which should be avoided? Have the boundaries of what's acceptable changed over the years? Are there any rules you should never break? Join the discussion with Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Ross Montgomery, and Katherine Rundell, chaired by **Tibo Torelli** and **Caroline Deacon** from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Young Adult



Matt Rowland Hill
Aug 19 19:00



Rachelle Atalla
Aug 19 18:30

Rachelle Atalla & Ever Dundas: Tomorrow's Worlds

18:30-19:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Two thrillers take us to dystopian, and unnervingly feasible, futures. The world has run out of water in Rachelle Atalla's novel *Thirsty Animals* in which a woman returns to her family home in the Scottish Borders and waits for the rain to come. In Ever Dundas' novel, *HellSans*, a ubiquitous government-mandated typeface controls the UK population, while those allergic to the technology face persecution from society. Chaired by **Eilidh Akilade**.

Polly Toynbee: Behind the Byline

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

How does Polly Toynbee square a family history which includes a stately home spotted in several period dramas with her place in a long line of committed left-wing rabble rousers? Hear the much-loved Guardian writer discuss her memoir *An Uneasy Inheritance: My Family and Other Radicals*, exploring the guilt of privilege, the myth of mobility and the complexities of class in Britain now. In conversation with **Sally Magnusson**.

Livestream Available Captioned

Seán Hewitt & Matt Rowland Hill: Heart Wants, Care Haunts

19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Two heartrending memoirs find light in the darkness. Poet Seán Hewitt is haunted by his past in *All Down Darkness Wide*, a gothic meditation on Hewitt's love affair with a man wrestling with his own demons. In *Original Sins*, Matt Rowland Hill searches for salvation, first in addiction and then in recovery, after leaving his Evangelical Christian childhood home.

Can Writers and Creators Help Communities Find Joy?

19:30-21:00
Baillie Gifford West Court
£5.00

In this poetry and panel event, we'll explore the non-fiction books inspiring joy in their readers and contributors. Following a poetry reading from **Courtney Stoddart**, we'll dive into an exciting panel discussion, and end the evening with a collaborative exercise led by **Mikaela Loach**, encouraging our audience to find joy in their own communities and personal lives. Hosted by **Suzie Mwanza** and **Shirley Mcpherson**, the stellar line up also includes **Charlie Brinkhurst-Cuff**, **Timi Sotire**, **Zaki El-Salahi**, and **Anahit Behrooz**.

Young Adult

Linton Kwesi Johnson: Perspectives in Prose

20:30-21:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

One of the great poets of our times, Linton Kwesi Johnson has been highly influential in reflecting and understanding modern Britain. The publication of *Time Come*, a prose collection, demonstrates that his non-fiction voice is equally powerful and persuasive. Drawing on Johnson's Jamaican roots and on wider Caribbean history, these writings offer an essential perspective on culture, politics, and ideas over the past half century.

Livestream Available Captioned

FESTIVAL LATE NIGHTS

Douglas MacIntyre, Grant McPhee, Hilary Morrison & Paul Research: We Oppose All Rock 'n' Roll

20:30-22:00
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Hungry Beat is a new, oral history of two maverick independent music labels, Edinburgh's Fast Product and Glasgow's Postcard Records, and the Scottish post-punk era; 1977-1984. Join broadcaster **Nicola Meighan** for a conversation with author and musician Douglas MacIntyre, director Grant McPhee, Hilary Morrison from The Flowers, and Paul Research from Scars, followed by a live set with The Hungry Beat Group and guest vocalists. *Supported by Sir Ewan and Lady Brown.*

Sunday 20

INSIDE OUT WITH EMILY CHAPPELL

Inside-Out: Cycling
10:00-12:00
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Following on from our event **Jenny Graham & Kate Rawles: A Better World On Two Wheels on 19 Aug**, join the authors, along with endurance cyclist **Emily Chappell**, for a cycle in Edinburgh. 32 places are available. Please check [edbookfest.co.uk/insideout](#) for meeting point details. The cycle is at a sociable pace, and should be suitable for anyone who does this regularly. There are qualified leaders present, but participants must take responsibility for their own safety, dress appropriately, and carry whatever equipment they might expect to need. *Supported by James and Morag Anderson.*

Jan Carson & Ana Paula Maia: Stranger Things

10:15-11:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In an isolated corner of Brazil, and in a small Irish village, strange things are happening. In Jan Carson's *The Raptures*, a young girl is untouched by an outbreak killing her classmates, while in Ana Paula Maia's *Of Cattle and Men*, a slaughterhouse stun operator cannot see what is making the cows go mad. The Festival brings these two voices together in a conversation about the unsettling and the inexplicable.

Something to remember: get your book signed by your favourite author

Lizzy Stewart: Introduction to Graphic Storytelling

10:15-12:45
Castle View Studio
£35.00 [£30.00]

Join graphic novelist and artist Lizzy Stewart – author of *Alison* and *Walking Distance* – as she guides you through a series of creative techniques for graphic novels. Sharing her insights into her own illustrative process, Stewart will demonstrate how to get started or continue with your visual storytelling.

THE PEOPLE HISTORY FORGOT

James Jauncey: The Gentleman Socialist
10:45-11:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Writer, prospector for gold, socialist: Robert Bontine Cunninghame Graham was one of a kind. Elected to Parliament in 1886 as a Liberal MP, he pursued a radical agenda, condemning child labour and capital punishment – and later co-founded the Scottish Labour Party with Keir Hardie. Upon failing to get elected in 1892, he went unsuccessfully in search of gold in Spain. Now, R B Cunninghame Graham's great-great-nephew James Jauncey tells the story of the remarkable *Don Roberto*.

Michel Faber & Rodge Glass: Being Michel Faber

12:30-13:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

His unorthodox, uncategorisable novels include *Under The Skin* and *The Book of Strange New Things*. Michel Faber is an author so influential and his life so unusual, that Rodge Glass has taken the smart step of writing a biography. Today, alongside Faber, Glass presents *Michel Faber: The Writer & His Work* – a rare opportunity to hear a biographer in conversation with the subject of his book. Chaired by **Michael Williams**.



Jenny Erpenbeck
Aug 19 16:00 & Aug 21 17:15



Wiz Wharton
Aug 20 16:00



Eleanor Thom
Aug 20 16:00

Enjoy all our events in-person, or watch livestreamed events online, see events listing.

ANOTHER SCOTLAND

Sally Magnusson: What the Clearances Couldn't Remove

13:30-14:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Although she's best known as a BBC newsreader and her father was a famous Icelander, Sally Magnusson is descended on her mother's side from victims of the Highland Clearances. That terrible period of Scottish history is at the heart of Magnusson's new novel, *Music in the Dark*. Shot through with spirited resilience, it's a tender, clear-eyed reckoning with Scotland's past.

Livestream Available Captioned

TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS

Brandon Taylor: American Intimacy

15:30-16:30
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In the eagerly awaited follow-up to the Booker Prize-shortlisted *Real Life*, Brandon Taylor's new novel *The Late Americans* follows a social circle of friends and students in Iowa City, as they grapple with their ambitions and desires while running afoul of various volatile figures in the town. Intense, sexy and heart-breaking, Taylor's literary star continues to ascend with this new work.

Captioned



Brian Dillon Aug 20 19:00 & Aug 21 11:45

Eleanor Thom & Wiz Wharton: Family Secrets

16:00-17:00
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Family secrets are uprooted in two remarkable novels. A Scottish air-traffic controller searches for her distant Jewish family in Eleanor Thom's *Connective Tissue*. A mysterious inheritance takes the protagonist of Wiz Wharton's *Ghost Girl*, Banana back to her mother's homeland of Hong Kong. Join Thom and Wharton as they discuss travelling back in time to explore family secrets and inherited histories. Chaired by Eilidh Akilade.

Let's Talk About Consent with Alan Bissett, Holly Bourne, Emma Dennis-Edwards & Leyla Josephine

16:00-17:00
Baillie Gifford West Court
£5.00

Explore the thorny and pertinent issues faced by young people around consent. Hear from Scottish novelist and playwright Alan Bissett about his new book, *Lads: A Guide to Respect and Consent*; Screenwriter Emma Dennis-Edwards, who has written episodes of *Casualty*, *EastEnders* and most recently factual drama *Consent*, based on hundreds of testimonies of young people; and bestselling author Holly Bourne, who shares exclusive details from her new novel, *You Could Be So Pretty*. Chaired by poet and performer **Leyla Josephine**.

Young Adult Captioned

Sunday Salon

16:00-17:30
Castle View Studio
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

We're better together, so join the Edinburgh International Book Festival, the Edinburgh Art Festival and the Edinburgh International Film Festival for our new Sunday Salon series. Each Sunday afternoon, a lineup of artists working across literature, film and art will discuss the finer details of their work and practice in an intimate setting. The Sunday Salon series is designed for a closer look at the work of some of the most exciting guests across the festivals to finish your week. See edbookfest.co.uk for more details.

Monica Heisey: Beyond Schitt's Creek

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Newlywed PhD student Maggie is in her late 20s with her whole life ahead of her – and then her husband asks for a divorce, moves out, and takes the cat with him. *Really Good, Actually* is as hilarious and heartfelt as you'd expect from Monica Heisey, a screenwriter on the beloved television show *Schitt's Creek*. Join her for an astute perspective on modern love.

Livestream Available

K Patrick: Summer of Desire

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In an English boarding school, girls kiss a marble statue of the famous dead author who walked the halls. K Patrick's revelatory debut, *Mrs S*, unfolds during a heatwave when the arrival of a young, Australian 'matron' pierces the claustrophobic world of academia and privilege. As she embarks on a relationship with the headmaster's wife, boundaries are tested and the constrained world of order is pushed to breaking point. In conversation with **Harry Josephine Giles**.

OUTSIDE THE BOX

Ian Goldin & Tom Lee-Devlin: Why Cities Will Define Our Future

17:45-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The city is the supreme symbol of human endeavour and, according to the authors of *Age of the City*, the place where the key threats to human sustainability must be faced. Ian Goldin is a world-leading voice on globalisation and development. Tom Lee-Devlin is global business correspondent for the Economist. Here, they explain why cities are where the battles of inequality, social division, and climate change will be fought. *Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart*.

Book Tickets at edbookfest.co.uk



Monica Heisey
Aug 19 & 20 17:00



James Kelman
Aug 20 18:45



Sara Pascoe
Aug 19 11:45

Crash and Burn... Killtopia with Dave Cook & Craig Paton

18:00-19:00
Baillie Gifford Creation Station
£5.00

Join *Killtopia* creators Dave Cook and Craig Paton as they discuss the journey of the book from concept to completing the series and its new life on screen. *Killtopia* Volume 5 is the final part of this exhilarating, cyberpunk graphic novel series.

Young Adult

Our City, Our Stories

18:15-19:15
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt
Free, book in advance

We believe everyone has a story to tell and that stories help us make sense of our world. Join us as we bring together local writers and poets from across Edinburgh to create a collective love letter to the city they call home. Every day at 18:15 different storytellers perform their latest work. Check out our website for today's guests. Find out more about our Communities Programme: ontheroad.edbookfest.co.uk. *Made possible by players of People's Postcode Lottery*.

James Kelman: Class Act

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

It's impossible to overstate the importance of James Kelman and his landmark 1994 Booker Prize win for Scottish literature. Nearly 30 years on, we welcome Kelman back to the Festival to speak with writer **Graeme Armstrong** on *God's Teeth and Other Phenomena*, a classic example of his observant and eviscerating style.

Livestream Available Captioned



Ever Dundas
Aug 19 18:30

Brian Dillon: Exploring Our Affinities

19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

We are bombarded by thousands of images every day, but why are we drawn to particular photographs, objects, and artists? Award-winning author, curator and academic Brian Dillon grapples with this idea in *Affinities*, a fascinating series of personal and critical essays. Here, he reflects on what feelings of affinity can tell us about our individual and collective experience of art, and of the world today.

Zaffar Kunial & Nick Laird: Full Colour

19:30-20:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

What makes you the person you are? Join two poets whose resonant poetry collections offer plenty of possible answers. The title of Zaffar Kunial's *England's Green* may be a nod to William Blake, but it's also a reflection on the green of the Pakistani flag and the influence of Kunial's Kashmiri father on his English upbringing. Nick Laird's *Up Late* features a devastatingly moving poem about the death of his father: a stellar highlight around which the collection orbits.

Alan Moore: What We Can Know About Alan

20:30-21:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Creator of *Watchmen* and *V for Vendetta*, Alan Moore is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the history of graphic novels. He joins us in this exclusive digital event to discuss his first short story collection, *Illuminations*. Spanning 40 years of short form work, the collection includes the novella 'What We Can Know About Thunderman', a brilliant and brutal account of the 20th century comics industry that is as hilarious and fascinating as the man himself. In conversation with **Heather Parry**.

Livestream Available Appearing Remotely

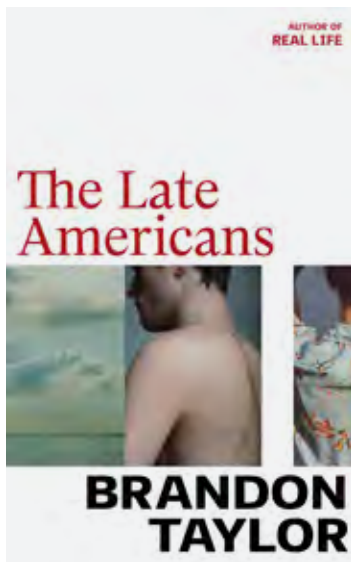
Enjoy all our events in-person, or watch livestreamed events online, see events listing.



Camila Sosa Villada
Aug 21 13:45 & 17:45



Szilvia Molnar
Aug 27 12:00 & Aug 28 12:00



Brandon Taylor
Aug 20 15:30 & Aug 21 11:45

Christie Watson: Wild At Heart

10:00-11:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Are we finally getting better at talking about middle age? A shining light leading us along is Christie Watson, writer of *Quilt on Fire*. Today she talks with broadcaster **Sam Baker** about the joys (plenty) and agonies (there are a few) of our middle years and everything that comes with being a woman with a wild heart, a changing body and a new set of challenges.

Livestream Available

Shared Reading with Open Book

10:00-11:00
ECA Café
Free, drop-in

Join Open Book Lead Readers for an informal and relaxed shared reading session over a hot drink in the Edinburgh College of Art Café. Each session includes different books from this year's Festival programme. No experience necessary, all reading materials are provided on the day.

Close Read with Guy Gunaratne

10:15-11:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Guy Gunaratne is a journalist, documentary film-maker and novelist whose debut work, *In Our Mad and Furious City*, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. They return to the Festival this year with their second novel, *Mister, Mister*, which focuses on what Gunaratne calls an 'unravelling' of character. Join us today for a close reading of a literary work that holds an important place in their literary landscape.

TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS

Brian Dillon & Brandon Taylor: Essay Means 'To Try'

11:45-12:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Difficult to define and diverse by its nature, the essay is a slippery form. It requires – according to Brian Dillon – some 'combination of exactitude and evasion'. Join Dillon, author of a new collection of interlinked essays, *Affinities*, alongside Booker Prize-shortlisted author, critic, and essayist, Brandon Taylor as they discuss the form, function, and very point of the genre with **Michael Williams**.

Livestream Available

Mary Jean Chan & Nina Mingya Powles: New Poems

12:00-13:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

These two poets dwell in the ever-shifting textures of language. Mary Jean Chan follows up their award-winning debut *Flèche* with *Bright Fear*, a radiant collection that reckons with queerphobia and anti-Asian racism and finds refuge in the radical power of poetry. Joining Chan is poet and essayist Nina Mingya Powles, whose first collection, *Magnolia*, finds joy in multiplicities: of identities, sensations, and inheritances. Please note, Mary Jean Chan will appear remotely. Chaired by **Alycia Pirmohamed**.

Appearing Remotely



Gary Younge
Aug 21 19:30 & Aug 22 18:45

Liner Notes: Michel Faber on Krautrock

12:15-13:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Today, join novelist and author of soon-to-be-published *Listen: On Music, Sound And Us* Michel Faber for a musical journey far beyond the borders of Anglo rock. This 90-minute workshop, suitable for any curious listener, will explore the sounds, origins and echoes of Krautrock, Germany's influential but misunderstood post-war musical miracle. The autobahn will take us deep into the forest and to outer space.

Peter Apps, Hashi Mohamed & Vicky Spratt: Solving Britain's Housing Crisis

12:30-13:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
Pay What You Can

Controversy and injustice have engulfed the UK's housing crisis across private and social sectors. Hashi Mohamed's *A Place of One's Own* is a deeply personal examination of housing insecurity while Peter Apps' *Show Me the Bodies* documents the preventable tragedy of Grenfell. They are joined by journalist Vicky Spratt, whose book *Tenants* deals with a vast, barely regulated private rental sector. Can things be different?

“To follow the obscure trail of an exquisite idea that could lead to a lucky narrowing, to a fiery point, a sudden focus of pure light to illuminate a first line that would hold the secret key to the lines that must follow”

Lessons, Ian McEwan, Aug 21 18:45

THE SCOTTISH MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST EVENT

Kate Crawford: Who Wins in the AI Revolution?

13:30-14:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Artificial intelligence and the advent of programmes like ChatGPT are dominating the news. Join us to hear academic and senior Microsoft researcher Kate Crawford, one of the world's leading scholars of the social and political implications of AI, discuss *Atlas of AI* where she argues that the global networks underpinning AI technology are damaging the environment, entrenching inequality, and fueling a shift toward undemocratic governance.

Livestream Available

Camila Sosa Villada: Another Argentina

13:45-14:45
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The Queens Of Sarmiento Park is a sensational new novel from Argentinian writer Camila Sosa Villada that tells the story of a queer boarding house: a refuge for a group of 'travesti' sex workers. Villada combines realism with surrealism to follow larger-than-life characters who discover an abandoned baby and adopt him into their found family. Join us for a discussion about gender, politics, and society in modern Argentina.



Hashi Mohamed
Aug 21 12:30 & 20:30



Heather Parry
Aug 21 17:45 & Aug 24 16:30

Close Read: Rodge Glass on Some Rain Must Fall

14:15-15:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Take a deep dive into Michel Faber’s dazzling and versatile short story collection *Some Rain Must Fall and Other Stories*, and celebrate its 25th anniversary with **Rodge Glass**, writer, Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at University of Strathclyde and author of newly released *Michel Faber: The Writer and His Work*. This 90-minute workshop will be enjoyable for those with existing knowledge of *Some Rain Must Fall* and for those new to Faber’s work.

THE SCOTTISH MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST EVENT

Tania Branigan: History – Adjust as Necessary

14:15-15:15
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

China’s Cultural Revolution ended 50 years ago, but its scar runs through the heart of Chinese society. As the Guardian’s foreign leader writer, Tania Branigan spent seven years there, and *Red Memory* is the result: a courageous analysis of the past that haunts China today. At a time of fear mongering and top-down manipulation of public sentiment in the West, Branigan’s account may also have resonances closer to home. In conversation with **Jenny Niven**.

CLIMATE POSITIVE

David Farrier & Katherine Rundell: Creature Future

15:15-16:15
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

David Farrier, author of *Footprints: In Search of Future Fossils*, captures what nature can teach us about life on a human planet in his forthcoming book *Curious Earth*. Writer Katherine Rundell has catalogued nature’s brilliant and endangered creatures in *The Golden Mole*, a litany of what makes this world worth fighting for. Join Farrier and Rundell as they reckon with what we risk losing to rapid change.

Livestream Available

WHAT MAKES A WRITER

THE SCOTCH MALT WHISKY SOCIETY EVENT

Val McDermid: A Life in Writing

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

As the Book Festival celebrates its 40th anniversary, Val McDermid talks to **Peggy Hughes** about her work, and looks back over key events in her life as a writer, exploring the ways in which they have sparked her fiction. Alongside McDermid’s bestselling series featuring DCI Karen Pirie, there’s *1979* and *1989* – the first novels of a new series charting the adventures of her latest fictional icon, Allie Burns.

Livestream Available BSL Captioned



Val McDermid
Aug 21 17:00



Tania Branigan
Aug 21 14:15



Peter Apps
Aug 21 12:30

Focus in: filter events on our website by author, theme, and topic

Jenny Erpenbeck: Old World Evaporates

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

‘You can’t forget what it felt like to be on the other side of history,’ said Jenny Erpenbeck about one ‘experiential advantage’ of growing up in former East Germany. Hear Erpenbeck, one of Europe’s greatest living writers, talking about her novel *Kairos*: the story of a manipulative relationship between a young woman and an older man which functions as a fascinating metaphor for life under a decaying, controlling regime. In conversation with **Jenny Niven**.

Heather Parry, K Patrick & Camila Sosa Villada: Unruly Bodies

17:45-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Join three striking debut novelists in conversation about identity, sexuality, and the terrain of the body. Heather Parry’s *Orpheus Builds a Girl* is a novel of gruesome obsession which interrogates ownership of women’s bodies; K Patrick’s *Mrs S* deftly describes the experience of life that does not conform, and Camila Sosa Villada’s *The Queens Of Sarmiento Park* follows a group of sex workers in Argentina. Chaired by **Harry Josephine Giles**.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND EVENT

Ian McEwan: The Measure of a Life

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

It’s been described as ‘a tour de force’ and ‘one of the finest humanist novels of its age’. Without doubt, Ian McEwan’s *Lessons* is a towering achievement by one of Britain’s greatest living writers. In today’s session, he discusses how much of himself he has woven into his novel, and about the tsunami of 20th century history that carries along his thoughtful protagonist Roland Baines.

Livestream Available Captioned

Letters of Hope

19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
Pay What You Can

What would you tell an outsider about where you live? What hopeful things would you write to your future self? These were two of the creative questions our writer in residence, Chris Barkley, has been exploring with young people from the Spartans Alternative School. With short film, music, and readings, this live event will celebrate the diverse voices and creative talent of local young people.

Captioned Young Adult

Gary Younge: Imagine a World

19:30-20:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Gary Younge’s work as a Guardian journalist has seen him report from New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and from a St Louis suburb as the Black Lives Matter movement took off. He’s interviewed Maya Angelou, Desmond Tutu, and unsung heroes who might have gone unheard. Younge shares his *Dispatches from the Diaspora* in a joyful conversation about bearing witness and ‘singing yourself up’.

Hashi Mohamed: Right to Home

20:30-21:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Hashi Mohamed has wowed readers with his insightful writing about social mobility in the UK. His latest book, *A Home of One’s Own*, has been proclaimed ‘a marvel’ by Philippe Sands. As a top planning barrister who came to Britain as a child refugee, today Mohamed shares his acute personal awareness and professional knowledge about the housing crisis and his perspective on how to fix it. In conversation with **Humza Yousaf**.

Livestream Available Captioned



Katherine Rundell
Aug 19 18:30, Aug 21 15:15 & Aug 22 17:00



Ian McEwan
Aug 21 18:45



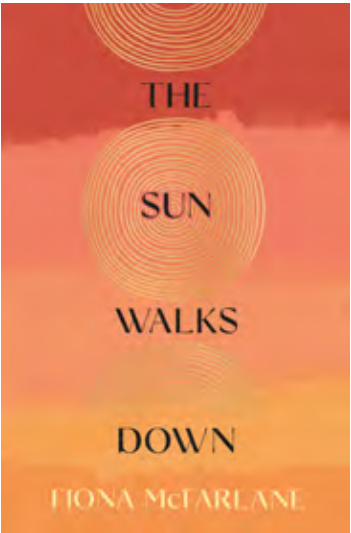
Nina Mingya Powles
Aug 17 12:30 & Aug 21 12:00



Malorie Blackman
Aug 22 12:00



Alex Wheatle
Aug 22 17:00



Fiona McFarlane
Aug 22 10:15

“My love of reading had started to develop by the time I was four or five. The characters I read in good books – their lives seemed so vivid to me. The characters I met in great books – they were real long past the point I’d finished reading about them.”

Just Sayin': My Life in Words, Malorie Blackman, Aug 22 12:00

Kevin Jared Hosein & Fiona McFarlane: Missing Persons

10:15-11:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Two missing people spark profound change in colonial lands: 1940s Trinidad and 1800s Australia. In Kevin Jared Hosein's mesmerising *Hungry Ghosts*, an overseer's disappearance forever changes a small community. In Fiona McFarlane's haunting and atmospheric *The Sun Walks Down*, a six year old boy could be found, or lost forever. Hear these award winning authors discuss their work.

Appearing Remotely

Nikesh Shukla: Writing With Intent

10:15-12:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Nikesh Shukla, author, writing mentor and bestselling editor of *The Good Immigrant*, knows better than most the power that every unique voice has to create change. Whether it's a novel, personal essay, non-fiction work or short story – or even just the formless desire to write something – this workshop will help you to set your intentions for your writing, help you to balance storytelling instinct with structure, and build your characters.

Linda Cracknell & Noreen Masud: Landscape and Bodies

10:45-11:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Muddy boots, the chill of a snowy forest and the slap of saltwater: in *Writing Landscape*, Linda Cracknell's essay collection, she channels the natural world through the physical body. Noreen Masud's debut memoir, *A Flat Place*, encourages us to see bare expanses of flatlands not as haunted places, but as alive with significance and healing in the wake of trauma. Join two authors bringing us closer to the natural world. Chaired by Jessica Gaitán Johannesson.

Malorie Blackman: Writing My Story

12:00-13:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Malorie Blackman's memoir *Just Sayin'* is the inspirational account of her lifelong ambition to be a writer, and how that dream was realised despite the significant challenges posed by societal racism, and a pessimistic diagnosis of sickle cell anaemia in her thirties. In a digital event, join us to learn how a bookish young girl from south London became one of the country's most beloved authors. In conversation with Alex Wheatle.

Appearing Remotely

Close Read: Open Book on Girl, Woman, Other

12:15-13:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Marjorie Lotfi and Claire Urquhart from Open Book, a charity which organises shared reading and creative writing groups, explore *Girl, Woman, Other*, Bernardine Evaristo's delightfully inventive, and Booker Prize winning, 2019 work. Overlapping stories paint a picture of a joyful and complicated Black British experience, told in a poetic style. Expect an open discussion from the start – there is no preparation required.

ANOTHER SCOTLAND

Leonie Bell & Jonathan Faiers: Tartan – Textile of Royalty and Ruffians

12:30-13:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

National icon; fashion statement; tool of colonialist power: tartan's origins are steeped in symbolism, and fraught with contradictions. As Scotland enjoys a major exhibition about tartan at V&A Dundee, the museum's director Leonie Bell is joined by fashion academic Jonathan Faiers to discuss the textile's relationship to clanship, identity, and creativity, as well as tartan as a global phenomenon past and present. Chaired by Sally Magnusson.

Get 20% off admission to Tartan at the V&A Dundee with tickets to this event. Full Ts+Cs online.

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY IN SCOTLAND EVENT
Judy Murray: The Wild Card

13:30-14:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
Pay What You Can

Judy Murray retired from tennis coaching to fulfil her lifelong dream of becoming a writer. Today, she talks about her debut, *The Wild Card*. Set at a tennis tournament, it centres on a 38 year old woman successfully rekindling her playing career, years after putting it on hold. But the threat of her secret looms... Murray discusses her tale of triumph over adversity.

Livestream Available BSL Captioned

Leila Aboulela & David Diop: In Living Memory

13:45-14:45
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

David Diop returns with *Beyond the Door of No Return*, a historical epic set off the coast of Senegal. Drawing on the lyricism of Senegalese oral traditions, Diop recounts an escape from enslavement. Leila Aboulela's *River Spirit* takes place a century later in 1890s Sudan where a family is caught up in revolutionary struggle. Hear these two writers discuss their own fascinating approaches to historical fiction.

Captioned

Amina Cain: Words to Live By

14:15-16:45
Castle View Studio
£35.00 [£30.00]

When it comes to fiction, we often think first and foremost about plot and narrative; in other words, the larger picture. But what happens when we turn our attention more fully to detail, as a painter might, across which narrative might also unfold? Working from the idea that one or two striking details are worth more than an entire paragraph of general description, join writer Amina Cain to look at how we might engage with this element of fiction in a rich and expressive way.

THE BUSINESS OF BOOKS

THE EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY EVENT
From Page to Screen: Mayflies

14:15-15:15
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Andrew O'Hagan's *Mayflies* is an achingly moving account of friendship and loss – and now a celebrated screen adaptation. O'Hagan is joined by two members of the production team: screenwriter Andrea Gibb and executive producer of Synchronicity Films, Claire Mundell, to talk about the creative journey of adapting the novel. Chaired by Hannah Griffiths, head of literary acquisitions at All3Media. In partnership with Edinburgh TV Festival and Publishing Scotland. Supported by The School of Arts and Creative Industries at Edinburgh Napier.



Leila Aboulela
Aug 22 13:45



Andrew O'Hagan
Aug 22 14:15



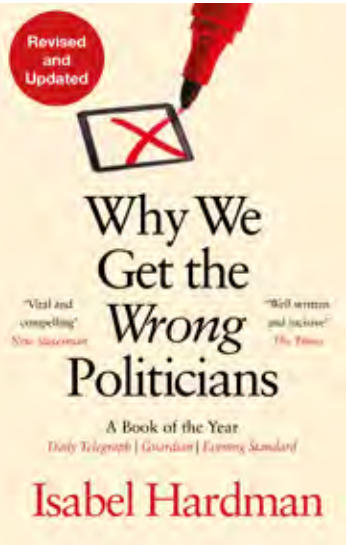
David Diop
Aug 22 13:45



Amina Cain
Aug 22 14:15
& Aug 23 13:45



Guy Gunaratne
Aug 21 10:15
& Aug 22 17:15



Isabel Hardman
Aug 22 20:30



Kevin Jared Hosein
Aug 22 10:15



Leila Aboulela
Aug 22 13:45

GROUNDING

Merryn Glover & Hamish Napier: In a New Light

15:15-16:15
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The Cairngorms have inspired authors, poets, and songwriters for centuries. ‘The New Light’ is a performance by writer Merryn Glover and multi-instrumental musician Hamish Napier, a transporting experience of imagery and music. In *The Hidden Fires*, Glover chronicles a journey across the mountain range, following the footsteps of Nan Shephard. Join Glover and Napier as they take a journey of their own with music.

THE BAILLIE GIFFORD PRIZE EVENT

Katherine Rundell: John Donne, Undone

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Super-Infinite, Katherine Rundell’s wondrous biography of John Donne, won the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction last year. This deeply thoughtful work enables the reader to scale the cosmic heights of the poet’s original mind and to understand the times in which he lived. Today she discusses a new essay for the Book Festival introducing Donne’s main themes and close reading one of his poems.

Livestream Available Captioned

Guy Gunaratne: Who Is Yahya Bas?

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Described by the Financial Times as one of the 30 most exciting young people on the planet, Guy Gunaratne follows up their lauded debut novel *In Our Mad and Furious City* with *Mister, Mister*, the story of a young poet who, while imprisoned in a British detention centre after fleeing the war in Syria, unwittingly finds himself becoming the voice of a generation. In conversation with **Nikesh Shukla**.

THE TANGENT EVENT

Jeremy Deller: Joy In Art, Joy In People

17:45-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Whether it’s a filmed re-enactment of the Battle of Orgreave, when miners and police came into conflict during the 1984 strike, or a free bouncy castle in the shape of Stonehenge sited on Glasgow Green, Jeremy Deller’s art projects open their arms and welcome the public in. Join him in a wide-ranging discussion, on his new book *Art Is Magic* and more, with Guardian chief culture writer **Charlotte Higgins**.

Thrilling And Killing: Building Suspense with Naomi Gibson & Ravena Guron

18:00-19:00
Baillie Gifford Creation Station
£5.00

Join two of the hottest YA thriller authors Naomi Gibson and Ravena Guron as they pull the danger off the page and into the real world. Find out how their schoolyard slashers, *Game Over Girl*, and *This Book Kills*, bring the mystery novel structure to a modern audience, and how even narrators are not all that they seem...

Young Adult

Think Tank: Kate Crawford: How Can We Take Back Control of AI?

18:30-20:00
Castle View Studio
£45.00

There are plenty of caustic predictions about the threats to humanity posed by Artificial Intelligence. Leading scholar Kate Crawford has written a powerful new book, *Atlas of AI*, described by Science as “a timely and urgent contribution,” demonstrating that the new infrastructures of AI serve the interests of the few at the expense of the many. How can we change that? Join this Think Tank event with Kate Crawford as part of a special series encouraging deep discussion accompanied by food and drink. *Supported by James and Morag Anderson*.

Angela Saini & Gary Younge: Power and Protest

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Gary Younge’s *Dispatches From The Diaspora* vividly documents race, racism, Black life and death, and the changes he has witnessed throughout his journalistic career. In *The Patriarchs*, Angela Saini examines the origins of patriarchy, and exposes its fragility. Join us as two of Britain’s foremost journalists discuss global power dynamics, and share their thoughts on who has it, who doesn’t, and how it can be wrested back.

Livestream Available Captioned

Alex Wheatle: Catch a Fire

19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Alex Wheatle’s biopic was featured as part of Steve McQueen’s seminal 2020 series, *Small Axe*. This evening, the author and playwright joins us to discuss *Sufferah*, his new coming-of-age memoir that demonstrates how Wheatle found strength, hope, and salvation within the rise of reggae music while attempting to navigate a 1980s British care and judicial system plagued by systemic racism.

Zaffar Kunial & Alice Oswald: Side by Side

19:30-20:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Two of Britain’s leading poets take to the stage to read new work that is being developed in parallel. Zaffar Kunial’s influential work includes the recent collection *England’s Green*. Alice Oswald’s work includes *Memorial*, the much-admired reshaping of Homer’s *Iliad*. We are thrilled that in today’s session Kunial and Oswald are presenting yet-to-be-published work and poems in progress. Chaired by **Marjorie Lotfi**.

FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND EVENT

Chris Bryant & Isabel Hardman: The Government We Deserve?

20:30-21:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Why are politicians despised? Accusations of cronyism, misconduct, and lying are often pointed to. In response, Labour MP Chris Bryant, chair of the Committee on Standards, presents *Code of Conduct* – his manifesto for getting the House in order. Meanwhile, Spectator assistant editor Isabel Hardman offers a scorching analysis of Westminster in *Why We Get the Wrong Politicians*. Join them to discuss their blueprints for how the system can be improved. Chaired by **Jenny Niven**.

Livestream Available



Gary Younge
Aug 21 19:30 & Aug 22 18:45



Gordon Brown
Aug 23 17:00



Alex Wheatle
Aug 22 17:00



Raynor Winn
Aug 17 10:00

Shared Reading with Open Book

10:00-11:00
ECA Café
Free, drop-in

Join Open Book Lead Readers for an informal and relaxed shared reading session over a hot drink in the Edinburgh College of Art Café. Each session includes different books from this year's Festival programme. No experience necessary, all reading materials are provided on the day.

Ayòbámi Adébáyò: The Price of Power

10:15-11:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Hear Ayòbámi Adébáyò discussing *A Spell of Good Things*, a stunning novel where two families in 2000s Nigeria become tangled in a net of power, money, and political corruption. Èniqlá, a dreamer living in poverty, is a boy as tall as a man who falls in with a local politician. Wúràqlá, the golden girl of a wealthy family, is a young doctor with a bright future. Hear how their story shines a light on modern Nigerian society.

THE BUSINESS OF BOOKS

Building a Writing Career

10:15-11:30
Castle View Studio
Pay What You Can

For many budding writers the idea of simply being published is enough but what happens next? How do you establish and develop a writing career that makes you a living? In this panel chaired by **Heather Parry**, four authors share the highs and lows of their careers and explore how they developed the resilience and skills needed to sustain them financially and creatively. Featuring **Helen Sedgwick**, **Jenny Colgan**, **Nadine Aisha Jassat**, and **Nikesh Shukla**. In partnership with *The Society of Authors*.

OUTSIDE THE BOX

Polly Morland, Dr Annabel Sowemimo & Phil Whitaker: Prescriptions for Health

11:45-12:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

2023: the 75th anniversary of the NHS, a vital part of our lives under constant threat. Three authors join us to discuss the challenges facing the system. Polly Morland's profile of a country doctor, *A Fortunate Woman*, emphasises the importance of medicine in regional communities; Dr Annabel Sowemimo's *Divided* argues for the decolonisation of healthcare; and Dr Phil Whitaker's *What Is a Doctor?* offers a roadmap for the future of the NHS. Chaired by **Sarah Brown**. Supported by *Claire and Mark Urquhart*.

Peter Ross: Places of Worship

12:00-13:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Across the UK, no building is quite as ubiquitous as the church. From Welsh holy wells to Britain's smallest parish church, Peter Ross journeys across the country to discover the history, art, and architecture contained under spires. Ross won 2021's Scotland's National Book Award for *A Tomb With A View*, and his new book, *Steeple Chasing*, is another idiosyncratic and delightful travelogue of British history.

**Don't hesitate:
events can sell out
fast, so book tickets
online to secure
your spot**



Peter Ross
Aug 23 12:00



Blake Morrison
Aug 23 13:30

Susannah Dickey: Dialogue in Fiction

12:15-14:45
Castle View Studio
£35.00 [£30.00]

Join novelist and poet Susannah Dickey for a fascinating two and a half hour session on the power of dialogue in fiction. With samples taken from a broad span of global contemporary fiction, in this workshop you will study ways of providing exposition through dialogue in nuanced and subtle ways; learn how to make your characters distinctive through their speaking styles; and study how humour in dialogue can supplement and strengthen tragic or serious topics.

FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY

Chris Bryant: Can We Fix Westminster?

12:30-13:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Chris Bryant, Labour MP and chair of the Committee on Standards, joins us to discuss his new book, *Code of Conduct*: an examination of parliamentary conduct – from Boris Johnson's lies, to Owen Paterson's paid lobbying, to accusations of bullying – that attempts to explain how things got so bad, while suggesting ways in which the problem may be fixed.

FAMILY DYNAMICS

Blake Morrison & John Niven: Brothers and Sisters

13:30-14:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Two bestselling authors join us to talk through powerful new memoirs about siblings, secrets, addiction, and grief: Blake Morrison discusses *Two Sisters*, the story of Morrison's sister and half-sister, and their struggles with addiction. He's in conversation with John Niven, whose *O Brother* is a blackly comic and heart-breaking examination of the impact of suicide on a family.

Livestream Available

Amina Cain: The Act of Reading

13:45-14:45
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Amina Cain's *A Horse at Night* has been called 'stunning; unbelievably subtle, precise, and intelligent' by Rebecca Tamás. In her first foray into non-fiction, she moves elegantly through a personal canon of authors including Marguerite Duras, Elena Ferrante, and Annie Ernaux to cover topics from coyotes to landscape painting, from female friendships to the politics of excess, while reimagining the diary form. Join Cain today for a captivating conversation with **Michael Williams**.

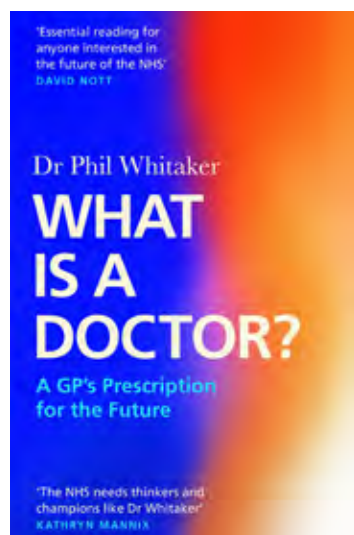
Polly Morland & Rebecca Smith: Landscape and Community

14:15-15:15
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Polly Morland's *A Fortunate Woman* explores 50 years of seismic change in our society through one woman's remarkable life. Rebecca Smith's *Rural: The Lives of the Working-Class Countryside* expands out from her own family history to show how those who labour in nature often have the least control over what happens there. This is for anybody who aches for what has been lost.



Helen Sedgwick
Aug 23 10:15

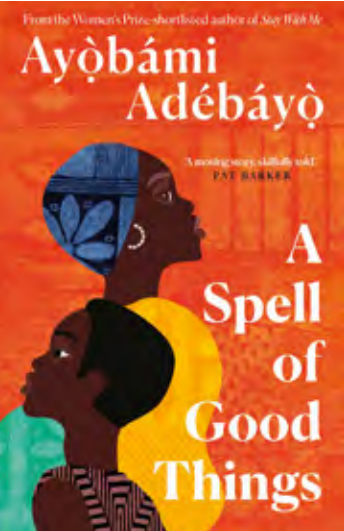


Phil Whitaker
Aug 23 11:45

**Book Tickets at
edbookfest.co.uk**



Munroe Bergdorf
Aug 23 19:30



Ayòbámi Adébáyò
Aug 23 10:15

Dan Richards:
Non-Fiction Masterclass

15:15-17:15
Castle View Studio
£35.00 [£30.00]

Sunday Times Bestselling author Dan Richards returns to the Book Festival for a masterclass exploring different approaches to writing adventurous non-fiction. This class covers narrative, voice, the importance of engaging directly and poetically with source material, forms of research, the need to embracing accidents, and the power of asking simple child-like questions.

THE INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE EVENT
2023 International Booker Prize
Winners: Meet the Author and
Translator

15:15-16:15
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The International Booker is the annual award for the best novel translated into English from another language. With an equal prize to both author and translator, this is the most important prize for translated fiction. The shortlist comprised books from four continents, and two languages – Bulgarian and Catalan – were represented for the first time. Today we welcome this year’s winning author and translator, chosen from 134 submitted works, in conversation with **Leïla Slimani**.

Livestream Available

THE BAILLIE GIFFORD EVENT
Gordon Brown: In Conversation

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Throughout his life, Gordon Brown has been a passionate campaigner for greater fairness and equality. In a powerful recent article, he wrote that ‘poverty is becoming so entrenched that ... too many parents today are facing the impossible daily decision of whether their children go without food, heating, or being clean.’ Today, the former UK prime minister joins us to discuss his latest proposals for improving lives.

BSL Captioned

David Fenne:
Bursting With Emotion

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Creation Station
£5.00

Join actor-turned-author David Fenne discuss his debut queer magical adventure, *Overemotional*. Whenever Steven experiences a strong emotion, be that joy or sadness, weird things happen – potentially dangerous things. Recently, when he kissed a boy for the first time, the boy’s head literally exploded! Let your imagination run wild as you learn about using roleplaying and improv to explore LGBTQ+ characters and themes in YA fantasy. Chaired by **William Hussey**.

Young Adult

Isabel Waidner: Prize Writer

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Isabel Waidner won the Goldsmiths Prize for *Sterling Karat Gold*, a radical satire of the British justice system. We welcome Waidner back to the Festival with their latest novel, *Corey Fah Does Social Mobility*, a radiant and revolutionary tale about the pitfalls of social mobility and literary prizes. Join Waidner for an exploration of wormholes, time loops, and reality TV. In conversation with **Harry Josephine Giles**.

FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY

Chris Bryant & Representative
for Belarusian Political Prisoners:
Europe – The Precarity of
Democracy

17:45-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Labour MP Chris Bryant, as chair of the Committee of Standards, is tasked with cleaning up Westminster’s act. Today he speaks with a representative from one of the main political prisoner support NGOs in Poland who has worked beside Maxim Znak, the imprisoned Belarusian lawyer. What can champions of democracy learn from other political systems? Join today’s open-minded discussion, chaired by **Allan Little**.

Angela Saini:
How Men Came to Rule

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

How did we end up with a system that prioritises one gender over any other? In her bold and optimistic study of *The Patriarchs*, Angela Saini uncovers a complex history of male domination. Just as gender roles and assumptions have changed, ‘the fight for a fairer and more equal society is constantly repositioning itself too.’ Join Saini for an illuminating discussion with **Roxani Krystalli** about how we can live differently.

Livestream Available

Celebrating the Life and Work
of Joan Lingard

19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
£8.00 [£6.00]

Joan Lingard wrote over 60 books for adults and children, including her beloved YA *Kevin and Sadie* series set in Belfast during the Troubles. Her death in 2022 was met with great sadness here in Scotland and internationally. Beyond writing, Lingard was also an engaged cultural contributor: a member of the Scottish Arts Council, Scottish PEN, and a founding member of both Scottish Writers Against the Bomb, and the original founding group of the Edinburgh International Book Festival. In this event, Joan’s literary agent **Lindsey Fraser** and colleague **Jenny Brown** are joined by other contemporaries and admirers, including **Teresa Breslin, Alan Taylor, and Bridget England**, one of Joan’s daughters, to celebrate Joan’s amazing life and legacy.



Annabel Sowemimo
Aug 23 11:45

Munroe Bergdorf:
Transformations

19:30-20:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Activist, model, author, broadcaster and British Vogue contributing editor, Munroe Bergdorf is used to breaking new ground. For her work campaigning for transgender rights, she was appointed a National Advocate, UN Women Changemaker f or UN Women UK in 2019. In her first book, *Transitional*, Bergdorf shares personal reflections and proposes that we are constantly in transition as we move through the world. Join **Gemma Cairney** as she speaks to Bergdorf about how our differences can be used to strengthen our community.

BSL

FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH EVENT
Jennifer Robinson
& Keina Yoshida:
Beyond Reasonable Doubt

20:30-21:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

How Many More Women? exposes a rising threat to survivors of gender-based violence who want to speak out against abuse: the legal teams of powerful men who suppress allegations and prevent newspapers from running stories. Join renowned human rights lawyers and co-authors, Jennifer Robinson and Keina Yoshida, for an intense discussion about the vital changes which can protect and advance the progress made so far. Chaired by **Lucia Osborne-Crowley**. *Supported by the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities.*

Livestream Available Captioned



Isabelle Schuler
Aug 24 12:00



Nikesh Shukla
Aug 24 13:30

“The river was her language. Eleven-year-old Akuany stood in the shallow, humming Nile, listening to what the water was saying, believing.”

River Spirit, Leila Aboulela, Aug 24 12:00



Ciarán Hodgers
Aug 24 13:45

Outriders Europe: Rawdna Carita Eira & Mara Menzies, Helene Bukowski & Cal Flynn

10:15-11:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Fresh from their transcontinental journeys together, four writers offer deep insights into traditional cultures, indigenous lives, ‘wilderness’ and more. Storyteller Mara Menzies travelled with playwright Rawdna Carita Eira over Sápmi, the cultural region across Scandinavia traditionally inhabited by the Sámi people. Meanwhile Orkney-based writer Cal Flynn hiked into the mountains of Transylvania, braving the extremes with novelist Helene Bukowski. Chaired by Outriders project manager **Jess Orr**.

Tan Twan Eng: Maugham in Dire Straits

10:45-11:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

William Somerset Maugham loved to travel, especially to South-East Asia. In Tan Twan Eng’s third novel, *The House of Doors*, the celebrated Malaysian author takes readers to colonial 1920s Penang for a thoughtful fictional examination of Maugham’s world, in which all is not well. Previously shortlisted for the Booker Prize and a 2023 judge of the International Booker Prize, join Tan for a rich conversation on historical fiction with **Stuart Kelly**.

Sophie Duncan & Isabelle Schuler: Rethinking Shakespeare

12:00-13:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

400 years after the publication of his first Folio, two writers discuss how the legacy of Shakespearean characters endures. In *Searching for Juliet*, Sophie Duncan reveals the surprising story behind Shakespeare’s tragic heroine: from enslaved people in the Caribbean and Italian fascists in Verona to real-life lovers in Afghanistan. Isabelle Schuler’s *Lady MacBethad* gives Shakespeare’s Macbeth a new origin story. There’s no question that this event is the place to be.



Kostya Tsolakis
Aug 24 13:45



Sophie Duncan
Aug 24 12:00



Eliza Clark
Aug 24 18:30



Dean Atta
Aug 24 13:45



Mara Menzies
Aug 24 10:15



Rawdna Carita Eira
Aug 24 10:15

THE BUSINESS OF BOOKS

The Accessibility of Books

13:30-14:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
Pay What You Can

What steps are being taken for those who face barriers in accessing books, or whose stories are underrepresented in mainstream publishing? Chaired by author and co-founder of the Good Literary Agency, **Nikesh Shukla**, this event showcases examples of how books are being adapted for a range of audiences and explores pioneering initiatives that are encouraging inclusivity. Featuring *My Kind of Book*, *Calibre Audio*, *Barrington Stoke* and *Pathways* illustrator, **Nadia Dalphinis**.

Livestream Available BSL Captioned

Outriders Europe: Dean Atta & Kostya Tsolakis, Ciarán Hodgers & Victoria McNulty

13:45-14:45
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Fresh from their transcontinental travels, four writers offer insights into their journeys – and the effects of migration. Dean Atta, a British poet of Greek Cypriot and Caribbean descent, travelled with poet and journalist Kostya Tsolakis to Athens and Nicosia, while spoken word poet Ciarán Hodgers joined performance poet Victoria McNulty from Glasgow to Gdansk and Krakow, and then from Belfast to Drogheda and Achill Island. Chaired by Outriders project manager **Jess Orr**.

Granta: Best of Young British Novelists – Graeme Armstrong, Natasha Brown, Derek Owusu & Olivia Sudjic

14:15-15:15
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Every decade, Granta selects 20 authors as the Best of Young British Novelists – names you know, and names you will know. Join us to hear four of these incredible authors: Graeme Armstrong, chronicler of Glasgow gang culture; Natasha Brown whose slim, stunning novel *Assembly* dissects corporate culture; Desmond Elliott prize winner Derek Owusu; and Olivia Sudjic who records current anxieties around social media, and memory.

Heather Parry & Em Strang: Back To Life

16:30-17:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In Heather Parry’s chilling debut *Orpheus Builds a Girl*, a woman presents her side of the story against the scientist who – with nobody’s permission – has brought her sister back from the dead. In renowned poet Em Strang’s *Quinn* a mother opens her home to her daughter’s killer, recently released from prison. Join them for a conversation about autonomy and ownership with **Harry Josephine Giles**.

Leah Broad: Singing Women’s Praises

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Classical music has long been a male-dominated affair. Historical musicologist Leah Broad is determined to redress the balance and in *Quartet: How Four Women Changed the Musical World*, she chronicles the lives and work of 20th century composers, Ethel Smyth, Rebecca Clarke, Dorothy Howell, and Doreen Carwithen. Join today as Broad shares her project and her illuminating book.

Livestream Available

Justin Cronin: ‘The World Is Not the World’

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The Passage trilogy was a phenomenon – now bestselling American writer Justin Cronin is back with a much-anticipated new stand-alone novel, *The Ferryman*. A mysterious genius, a hidden archipelago, a sinister retirement: the group of survivors on this strange island utopia will soon discover that the truth isn’t what it seems. Join us as Cronin talks about the book that Stephen King called ‘exciting, mysterious, and totally satisfying.’



Em Strang
Aug 24 16:30



Leah Broad
Aug 24 17:00 & Aug 25 10:15

YA Book Prize 2023

17:15-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£5.00

We're thrilled to collaborate with The Bookseller to host this year's prize-giving ceremony, thanks to our partnership with the YA Book Prize. Previous winners have included Alice Oseman's *Loveless*, Patrice Lawrence's *Orangeboy* and Adiba Jaigirdar's *Hani and Ishu's Guide to Fake Dating*. Hear the shortlisted authors read from their books before one successful author is crowned Winner of the YA Book Prize 2023. Come and meet some of the brilliantly imaginative authors writing for young adults today. Chaired by award-winning author and Book Trust's Writer in Residence, **S F Said**. *In partnership with The Bookseller.*

Young Adult

Our City, Our Stories

18:15-19:15
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt
Free, book in advance

We believe everyone has a story to tell and that stories help us make sense of our world. Join us as we bring together local writers and poets from across Edinburgh to create a collective love letter to the city they call home. Every day at 18:15 different storytellers perform their latest work. Check out our website for today's guests. Find out more about our Communities Programme: ontheroad.edbookfest.co.uk. *Made possible by players of People's Postcode Lottery.*

Eliza Clark & Susannah Dickey:
Untrue Crime

18:30-19:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

True crime has saturated culture, from podcasts to prestige television. Eliza Clark skewers many of the genre's exploitative tropes to explore femininity and violence in *Penance*, her second novel after *Boy Parts*. Joining Clark is novelist and poet Susannah Dickey with *Isdal*, her thrilling debut poetry collection that explores the ethics of true crime. Join these writers as they discuss their much-anticipated new releases with **Anahit Behrooz**.

Deborah Levy:
Reflections On Identity

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Following the completion of her trilogy of formally inventive 'living autobiographies', Deborah Levy is widely regarded as one of the great writers of her generation. She returns to Edinburgh to discuss *August Blue*, an exceptional novel of fractured identity, written in her typically alluring style. Today Levy enters into dialogue about this mesmerising portrait of a piano virtuoso with Guardian chief culture writer **Charlotte Higgins**.

Livestream Available

Book Tickets at
edbookfest.co.uk

Samanta Schweblin:
Home Bittersweet Home

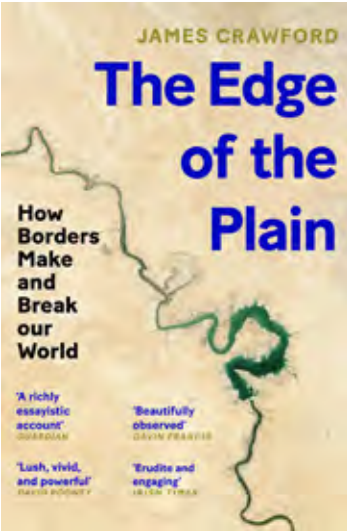
19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

She may be at the forefront of a talented generation of Latin American writers, but Samanta Schweblin is one of a kind and her short story collection, *Seven Empty Houses*, has won a National Book Award in the USA to prove it. Her stories show exactly why Schweblin gained international fame: set in a series of domestic spaces, each vignette is shot through with delicious unease. In conversation with **Kirsty Logan**.

THE BRITISH ACADEMY EVENT
James Crawford, Ben Judah
& Kapka Kassabova: Crossing
Borders

19:30-20:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Alongside the powerful human urge to create borders, there seems to be an equally strong urge to make connections and transcend them. James Crawford's *The Edge of the Plain*, Ben Judah's *This Is Europe*, and Kapka Kassabova's *Border: A Journey to the Edge of Europe* each address the psychological boundaries that divide us, and the human links we forge. Today they discuss boundaries in prose and outlook. *Kapka Kassabova was awarded the British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding in 2018.*



James Crawford
Aug 24 19:30

Leïla Slimani: Sense of Self

20:30-21:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

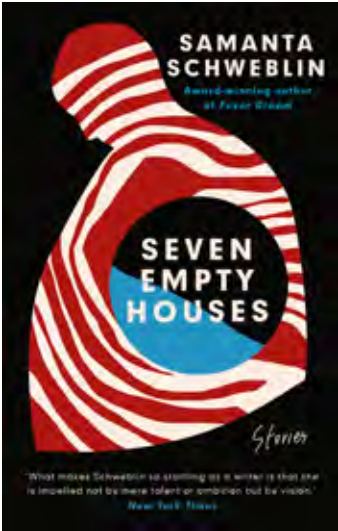
A museum in Venice inspired *The Scent of Flowers at Night*, a meditation on writing and solitude, whereas a garden where you can, in fact, smell the roses appears in *Watch Us Dance*, Leïla Slimani's new novel set in 1960s Morocco, on the brink of revolution. These latest works explore art, beauty and life as a Moroccan woman today and in times past.

Livestream Available

FESTIVAL LATE NIGHTS
Hannah Lavery & Caitlin Skinner:
The Quines are Back

20:30-22:00
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

At last year's Book Festival, audiences were wowed by Quines Cast, a brand new podcast combining feminist thought with music, theatre and literature. Now artistic director of Stellar Quines Theatre Company and poet Caitlin Skinner, and playwright and performer Hannah Lavery are back and hosting an inspiring and inclusive evening, where artists and writers tackle the big questions that matter to women and non-binary people. *Supported by Sir Ewan and Lady Brown.*



Samanta Schweblin
Aug 24 & 25 19:00



Leïla Slimani
Aug 24 20:30 & Aug 25 10:45



Flora Fraser
Aug 25 13:30

Pockets of calm:
if you need away
from the bustle,
there's a comfortable
quiet space on site

Enjoy all our events in-person, or watch livestreamed events online, see events listing.

Shared Reading with Open Book

10:00-11:00
ECA Café
Free, drop-in

Join Open Book Lead Readers for an informal and relaxed shared reading session over a hot drink in the Edinburgh College of Art Café. Each session includes different books from this year's Festival programme. No experience necessary, all reading materials are provided on the day.

Liner Notes: Leah Broad on Contemporary Classical Music

10:15-11:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Today, join University of Oxford music historian, and author of *Quartet: How Four Women Changed the Musical World*, Leah Broad for a close listen of contemporary classical music. This exciting range of work includes concertos, sonatas and symphonies by Rebecca Clarke, Jean Sibelius, Dobrinka Tabakova and Shelley Washington. An enjoyable audible adventure for those with a deep knowledge of these composers, and complete newcomers.



Sara Baume
Aug 25 10:15

HAWTHORNDEN FOUNDATION EVENT
Sara Baume & Kapka Kassabova: Nature's Alchemy

10:15-11:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

When we listen more closely to the natural world, what do we learn about ourselves? Sara Baume's novel *Seven Steeples* is the tender story of two people living a life dictated by the seasons and nature. Meanwhile Kapka Kassabova travelled down the Mesta River valley in Bulgaria for her sublime non-fiction book *Elixir*, learning from foragers, healers and mystics who enjoy a symbiotic relationship with nature. Chaired by Jessica Gaitán Johannesson.

Hirondina Joshua, Lucía Asué Mbomío Rubio & Leïla Slimani: Celebrating African Heritage and Empowering Women

10:45-11:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

How best to give voice to the experiences of people in different countries across the African continent? Today we welcome three authors: Lucía Asué Mbomío Rubio, a novelist and journalist of Equatorial Guinean descent; Mozambican poet, writer and jurist Hirondina Joshua; and French-Moroccan writer and journalist Leïla Slimani. These writers work in Spanish, Portuguese, and French respectively. Chaired by human rights lawyer and Edinburgh University rector Debora Kayembe.



Xiaolu Guo
Aug 25 12:00



Jenni Fagan
Aug 25 20:30

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND EVENT
Liz Lochhead: New and Collected Poems

11:45-12:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Motherwell-born writer Liz Lochhead presents works spanning a lifetime from her recently published *New and Collected Poems*. It's just over 50 years since the publication of her first collection, *Memo for Spring*, and since then Lochhead has published several plays and poetry collections. In today's session Lochhead will give an hour-long talk interspersed with poems.

Livestream Available Captioned

TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS
Xiaolu Guo & Valzhyna Mort: I Have a New Language Now

12:00-13:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Xiaolu Guo's memoir *Radical* is an account of her efforts to carve out a life in Britain having moved from China. Meanwhile Valzhyna Mort moved to the US from Belarus and wrote her poetry collection *Music for the Dead and Resurrected* in Belarusian and English versions. Join these acclaimed writers as they talk about translating the self, and the joys and frustrations of an adopted language.

Captioned

THE INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE EVENT
Close Read: Daniel Hahn on International Booker Prize winner

12:15-13:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

As a shortlisted translator himself as well as a former judge, Daniel Hahn has seen both sides of the world of the International Booker Prize. With so much experience both as a reader and as a writer, he certainly knows how to spot the qualities that make a literary prize-winner. Join him today for a constructively-critical dive into the novel that's won this year's International Booker. Check the Book Festival website to find out the name of the winner.

THE BOOKER PRIZES EVENT
The Booker Prizes: Book of the Month

12:30-13:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

'How wonderful to be an artist and a woman in the twentieth century,' says Fleur Talbot, Muriel Spark's heroine in *Loitering with Intent*. In this Festival edition of the Booker Prizes' Book of the Month series, Sparkophiles explore this beloved melodrama, and how Spark's experiences as a writer in post-war London propelled her to write a novel that takes place 'on the grubby edge of the literary world.' This event may be recorded for the Booker Prize podcast series.

THE PEOPLE HISTORY FORGOT
The Noble Caledonia Event
Flora Fraser: On Flora Macdonald

13:30-14:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

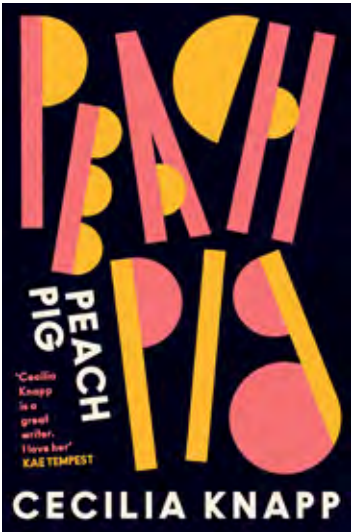
Historical biographer Flora Fraser has illuminated the hidden lives of queens and mistresses through revolutions and scandals. Now with *Pretty Young Rebel*, Fraser turns her sights to Flora Macdonald, who disguised Bonnie Prince Charlie as a maid and smuggled him to the Isle of Skye, before later becoming embroiled in the American Revolutionary War. Join Fraser as she discusses her namesake in a story of adventure, courage, and survival with Jenny Brown.

Livestream Available

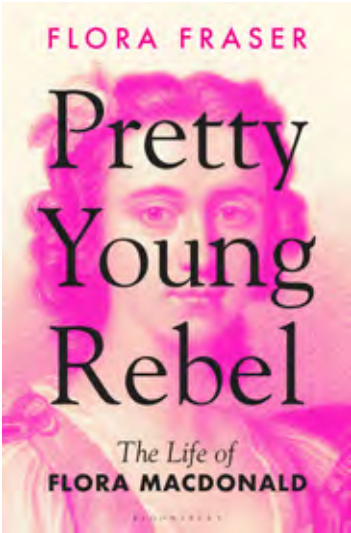
Cal Flynn: Long Form Journalism

14:15-16:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£13.50/£14.00]

Join the Scottish journalist and award-winning author of *Islands of Abandonment* Cal Flynn for a workshop in the art of long-form journalism, from pitch to publication. Discuss research methods, reporting, and the faithful reconstruction of events, before studying the narrative skills that allow us to tell nonfiction stories with novelistic flair—taking inspiration from star writers of publications including the New Yorker, the Guardian, and Granta.



Cecilia Knapp
Aug 25 16:30



Flora Fraser
Aug 25 13:30



Bernardine Evaristo
Aug 25 17:00



Michael Pedersen
Aug 25 19:30

Cecilia Knapp & Imogen West-Knights: Generation Games

16:30-17:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Two debuts unravel complex family dynamics and loss with wry humour. In Cecilia Knapp’s collection *Peach Pig*, the former Young People’s Laureate for London explores the experience of motherlessness and grapples with grief passed between generations. Imogen West-Knights’ novel *Deep Down* follows two estranged siblings who are thrown back together after the death of their father and must navigate their relationship while funeral planning in Paris.

WHAT MAKES A WRITER

Bernardine Evaristo: On Never Giving Up

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In her memoir, *Manifesto: On Never Giving Up*, Bernardine Evaristo brilliantly explains the courage, integrity, optimism, resourcefulness, and tenacity that were a necessary part of her success. Those qualities earned their reward when she won the Booker Prize in 2019 for *Girl, Woman, Other*. As the Book Festival celebrates its 40th anniversary, Evaristo discusses her latest book and looks back over key events in her life as a writer.

Captioned

Joanna Biggs: Life on the Line

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

One day, Joanna Biggs took off her wedding ring for the last time. In *A Life of One’s Own*, she blends memoir and literary criticism to question domesticity, intellectual freedom, and traditional markers of womanhood. Through the lives of nine women writers, including George Eliot, Toni Morrison, and Sylvia Plath, this is a radical exploration of creativity, gender, and selfhood. Join Biggs as she speaks with writer Octavia Bright.

OUTSIDE THE BOX

Sunder Katwala & Sabir Zazai: The Fear of Flags

17:45-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

British Future director Sunder Katwala’s book, *How to Be a Patriot*, covers topics ranging from extremism and integration to the divides of Brexit. Sabir Zazai is a former refugee from Afghanistan who is now the CEO of the Scottish Refugee Council. Today Katwala and Zazai speak with Esa Aldegheri about how we can create a more welcoming society in the face of hostility. Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.

Our City, Our Stories

18:15-19:15
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt
Free, book in advance

We believe everyone has a story to tell and that stories help us make sense of our world. Join us as we bring together local writers and poets from across Edinburgh to create a collective love letter to the city they call home. Every day at 18:15 different storytellers perform their latest work. Check out our website for today’s guests. Find out more about our Communities Programme: ontheroad.edbookfest.co.uk. Made possible by players of People’s Postcode Lottery.

André Dao: Inheriting the Past

18:30-19:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

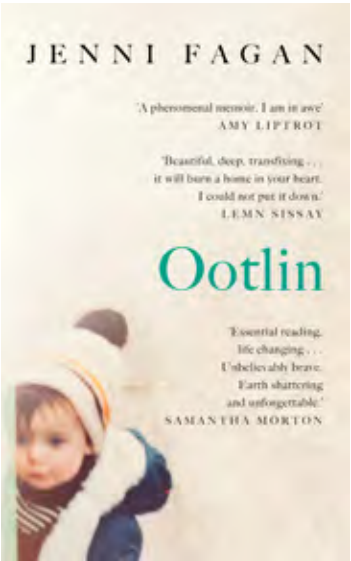
Melbourne-based writer, artist, and activist, André Dao discusses his anticipated debut novel *Anam* featuring a narrator haunted by his grandfather’s ten-year imprisonment by the Communist government in Vietnam’s notorious Chi Hoa prison. In a globe-spanning story following an endless series of wars and displacements, *Anam* blends fiction, essay, and theory to imagine history which has been repressed and forgotten by archives and by families.

HAWTHORNDEN FOUNDATION EVENT
Anne Enright: Flying the Nest

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Anne Enright, one of Ireland’s most celebrated authors, returns to discuss her new novel, *The Wren, The Wren*. The possibility of freedom and the pain of separation affect mother and daughter differently when Carmel watches Nell go out into the world. Join Enright for a brilliant meditation on love, inherited trauma, and the types of resilience women must develop to ensure more promising futures.

Livestream Available Captioned



Jenni Fagan
Aug 25 20:30

Samanta Schweblin & Fernanda Trias: Strangely Familiar

19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

First published in Argentina in 2015 and now finally available in English, Fernanda Trias’s *Pink Slime* traces the complications of re-imagining family in the wake of ecological disaster while Samanta Schweblin’s short stories, *Seven Empty Houses*, sets the comforts of home off-kilter. Trias and Schweblin join us to discuss the complexity of finding where home lies in a turbulent world and the islands of respite that make life worth living. Chaired by Heather Parry.

Michael Pedersen & David Shrigley: Living in Colour

19:30-20:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

One of Scotland’s best-loved poets Michael Pedersen returns to the festival to celebrate *The Cat Prince*, a collection of love, loss, cats, and careless joy alongside his friend, the beloved British artist David Shrigley. *Get Your Shit Together* is a collection of Shrigley’s wry prose, poetry, and artwork, here in colour for the first time. Join two artists who scrutinise relentlessly without forgetting to laugh.

THE PEOPLE HISTORY FORGOT

THE BAILLIE GIFFORD EVENT

Gemma Cairney: Making a Scene

20:30-22:00
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

When the polymath, writer and radio DJ broadcaster Gemma Cairney encounters challenging moments in life, she draws courage from research and conversation with those around her who are making moves and changes in their own lives. Join Cairney for a celebration of some of the people who have inspired us and made us look at the world differently. Who are our cultural cohorts and how do support them?

Jenni Fagan: I Was Not Meant To Be Here

20:30-21:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

According to fellow poet Lemn Sissay, ‘Jenni Fagan is made of fire and spirit’. That burning passion shines through every word of her unforgettable and necessary memoir. Launched today in this special event, *Ootlin* is Fagan’s account of the displacement and exclusion of a childhood in the care system, and how storytelling helped her survive it to become who she is today.

Captioned



Gemma Cairney
Aug 25 20:30

“We settled for a long, narrow life instead of a short one with depth. We forgot how to heal. We gave our power away and debased elixir to an anti-aging cream. We settled for less than the whole. Your task is to remember how to make whole again.”

In the Valley at the End of Time, Kapka Kassabova, Aug 25 10:15

Enjoy all our events in-person, or watch livestreamed events online, see events listing.

INSIDE OUT WITH EMILY CHAPPELL

Inside Out: Running

10:00-12:00
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In advance of our event **Richard Askwith & Jenny Tough: Running For Their Lives** later today, join the authors, along with endurance cyclist **Emily Chappell** for a run in Edinburgh. 24 places are available. Please check edbookfest.co.uk/insideout for meeting point details. The run is at a sociable pace, and should be suitable for anyone who does this regularly. There are qualified leaders present, but participants must take responsibility for their own safety, dress appropriately, and carry whatever equipment they might expect to need. *Supported by James and Morag Anderson.*

Close Read: Yara Rodrigues Fowler on Mansfield Park

10:15-11:45
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Take a deep dive into the conventions of Regency society, helped along by a writer who knew how to shoot a sly critique at the ridiculousness of its workings – it could only be Jane Austen. Novelist and activist Yara Rodrigues Fowler will guide you through Austen’s–marginally–lesser-known novel, *Mansfield Park* and the complicated relations surrounding her quiet heroine, Fanny Brice. This workshop will be enjoyable for those with existing knowledge of *Mansfield Park* and for those new to Austen’s work.

Xiaolu Guo & Claudia Piñeiro: The Persistence of the Past

10:15-11:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Xiaolu Guo’s new memoir, *Radical*, explores what it’s like to exist as an outsider, separated from family and encountering a new culture, while Claudia Piñeiro’s *A Little Luck* explores the tragedies, big and small, that can ripple out from a single decisive event. Join us to hear these two inspiring writers discuss the power of narrative, memory and navigating the past.

WHAT MAKES A WRITER

Ali Smith: The Writer’s Art

11:45-12:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

With the completion of her *Seasonal* quartet of novels and the accompanying *Companion Piece*, Ali Smith underlined her striking ability to portray personal encounters and relationships alongside the limpid portrayal of a fast-changing British society. The novels are simultaneously rooted in contemporary life and flights of pure imagination. As the Book Festival celebrates its 40th anniversary, Smith looks back over key events in her life as a writer, exploring the ways they sparked her fiction.

Livestream Available Captioned

TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH EVENT
Return to Planet Citizen

12:00-15:50
Northside Theatre
Free, drop-in

Explore the weird, wonderful world of Planet Citizen in this multi-media installation. You’ll find artifacts, writing, and impressions of a planet as far as away as imagination can take you. Return to Planet Citizen was created by pupils from St. Thomas of Aquin’s RC High School and Tynecastle High School in collaboration with professional artists. Join free 20-minute tours of Planet Citizen every 30 minutes (last tour 15:30). Find out more about our Communities Programme: ontheroad.edbookfest.co.uk. *Supported by Edinburgh Futures Institute.*

Jon Gray & Rafaela Romaya: Bookshelf Envy

12:15-14:45
Castle View Studio
£35.00 [£30.00]

Between a writer and their reader is the book cover and its designer. They must imagine what will shine on the shelf, and convey a book’s spirit. In today’s workshop, join Jon Gray–alias gray318–the cover designer for Zadie Smith, Sally Rooney, and many others, and Canongate Art Director Rafaela Romaya, who has produced covers for the likes of Matt Haig and Michel Faber, as they reveal the work behind the designs, and give you the tools to create your own.



Irene Vallejo
Aug 26 13:00 & Aug 28 20:30

Irene Vallejo: The Joy of Books

13:00-14:00
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

What happens inside our heads when we open a book and read? Spanish journalist and philologist Irene Vallejo has turned her passion for books into an evocative and rich history. Beginning in libraries in the ancient world and with references ranging from Plato to Orwell, *Papyrus*, translated into English by Charlotte Whittle, was a major bestseller in Spain. Today Vallejo talks about her extraordinary work with **Daniel Hahn**.



Ali Smith
Aug 26 11:45

“Does everyone have these relationships they sort of live in the wreckage of? It’s hard to know, and hard to ask anyone. Hard to describe, for a start. But also hard to ask because the idea of asking, of describing it, is so exposing.”

Lazy City, Rachel Connolly, Aug 26 17:15

INSIDE OUT WITH EMILY CHAPPELL

Richard Askwith & Jenny Tough: Running For Their Lives

14:45-15:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Richard Askwith and Jenny Tough use running to aid their physical and mental health. In *The Race Against Time*, Askwith writes about the power of running discovered late in life during a difficult time. Meanwhile, Tough embarked on a personal challenge to run solo across a mountain range on every continent: *Solo: What Running Across Mountains Taught Me About Life* covers that journey. In this innovative event, you can hear them in conversation with fellow endurance athlete **Emily Chappell**. There is also an opportunity (for a maximum of 24 people, for an additional charge) to take part in a special social run with all three in the local area at 10:00. For more details see edbookfest.co.uk/insideout. *Supported by James and Morag Anderson.*

FAMILY DYNAMICS

Octavia Bright: A Place of Care

15:30-16:30
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Spanning seven years, Octavia Bright’s debut memoir intertwines the author’s recovery from alcohol addiction with her father’s descent into Alzheimer’s. The parallel journeys of *This Ragged Grace* offer illuminating and generous reckonings with recovery and grief. Join Bright, co-host of the Literary Friction podcast, for a wide-ranging discussion on art, family and loss with **Lucia Osborne-Crowley**.



Octavia Bright
Aug 26 15:30



Sheena Patel
Aug 26 19:00 & Aug 27 16:00



Yara Rodrigues Fowler
Aug 26 10:15 & 18:30

Lex Croucher & Cynthia So: Queer in Love

16:30-17:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£5.00

Join leading YA authors Lex Croucher and Cynthia So in discussing the versatile ways of writing about queer love. In *Gwen and Art Are Not in Love*, Lex plunges into a medieval period drama that will have you cry-laughing. In *If You Still Recognise Me*, Cynthia explores the emotional ups and downs of a long distance relationship. In both, the rewards will be worth the heartache and lives will be changed forever. Chaired by **Alice Tarbuck**.

Young Adult

Clemens Meyer & Claudia Piñeiro: From Leipzig to Buenos Aires

16:30-17:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Two giants of the international literary scene join us to discuss new English translations of their work. Clemens Meyer is the author of *While We Were Dreaming*, a passionate coming-of-age novel centering on a group of friends amidst the fall of the Berlin Wall, while *A Little Luck* is Claudia Piñeiro’s generation-spanning story of a Buenos Aires neighbourhood. Chaired by **Daniel Hahn**.

THE LIST EVENT
Annie Macmanus: A Soundtrack for Orla

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Broadcaster, DJ and Sunday Times bestselling author Annie Macmanus returns with *The Mess We’re In*. A love letter to the turn of the millennium, Macmanus’s second novel is a sharply realised coming-of-age tale as aspiring musician and Irish girl Orla arrives in London with her CD collection and little else. Join her today for a discussion about the power of music in forming identity and community.

Livestream Available

IRELAND – REAL AND REMEMBERED
Rachel Connolly & Michael Magee: Near and Far

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In their electrifying debut novels, Rachel Connolly and Michael Magee grapple with friendship and uncertain futures that come with being young and being home against the backdrop of Belfast. Magee’s *Close To Home* draws on his own experiences to question the forces shaping modern masculinity, while Connolly’s *Lazy City* is about love, grief, and finding yourself where you are.

Captioned

Our City, Our Stories

18:15-19:15
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt
Free, book in advance

We believe everyone has a story to tell and that stories help us make sense of our world. Join us as we bring together local writers and poets from across Edinburgh to create a collective love letter to the city they call home. Every day at 18:15, different storytellers perform their latest work. Check out our website for today’s guests. Find out more about our Communities Programme: ontheroad.edbookfest.co.uk. *Made possible by players of People’s Postcode Lottery*.

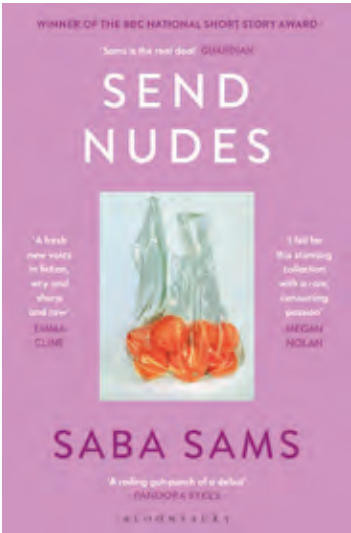
Jacqueline Rose: The Empathy Epidemic

18:15-19:15
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Amid the harrowing losses of the Covid-19 pandemic, there was also the potential for radical empathy wrought by shared experience. Jacqueline Rose’s *The Plague* takes the pandemic as a starting point to unravel recent history via the lives and works of three extraordinary thinkers, Albert Camus, Sigmund Freud, and Simone Weil. Join Rose and **Charlotte Higgins** for an emotive and enlightening discussion.



Jacqueline Crooks
Aug 26 18:30



Saba Sams
Aug 26 19:00



Elif Shafak
Aug 26 20:00 & Aug 27 17:15

Jacqueline Crooks & Yara Rodrigues Fowler: Current Affairs

18:30-19:30
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In Jacqueline Crooks’ debut novel *Fire Rush*, a young woman enters an intoxicating world of dancehall and gangsters in 1970s west London. Yara Rodrigues Fowler’s *There are More Things* chronicles the political turbulence of 2016 in Brazil and the UK through the eyes of two women. Join a conversation about intertwining real politics and history with fictional characters who find strength despite their circumstances.

Max Porter: Boyhood

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

‘I loved *Shy*. I finished it elated and tearful[...] changed by the journey.’ So said P J Harvey of Max Porter’s latest novel, widely considered a masterpiece. Fans of *Lanny* will be entranced by this deeply tender and humane portrait of a troubled teenager. This special event includes a unique performance of *Shy* with Porter alongside the Citizens Theatre’s WAC Ensemble – Scotland’s first theatre company for theatremakers with care experience.

Livestream Available Captioned

Sheena Patel & Saba Sams: Generation Online

19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Two electric debuts, both shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas prize, explore sex, intimacy, and the internet. Sheena Patel’s *I’m a Fan* hurtles through the mind of its narrator, a woman infatuated with an older, unavailable artist and his partner. Saba Sams’ short story collection *Send Nudes* chronicles growing up too fast and too online, its narrators reckoning with friendship, mothers, and sexuality.

WHAT MAKES A WRITER

Elif Shafak: A Life in the Imagination

20:00-21:00
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

When her twelfth novel, *The Island of Missing Trees*, was published recently, Elif Shafak turned her luminous imagination to life in Cyprus – both for its people and for a fig tree living there. That novel reflects Shafak’s enduring interest in roots, belonging, and identity even in troubled environments. As the Book Festival celebrates its 40th anniversary, Shafak discusses her latest book and looks back over key events in her life as a writer.

FESTIVAL LATE NIGHTS

Arusa Qureshi: Joyful Defiance

20:30-22:00
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The creativity and vibrancy of Scotland’s contemporary arts scene owes much to the women leading the charge – those fostering change, making noise and refusing to bow down or give in to archaic structures. Join writer and Fest editor Arusa Qureshi for an evening of bold words, inspiring music and joyful defiance, featuring some of Scotland’s finest and freshest voices. *Supported by Sir Ewan and Lady Brown*.

THE BUSINESS OF BOOKS

Loud Poets Grand Slam Final

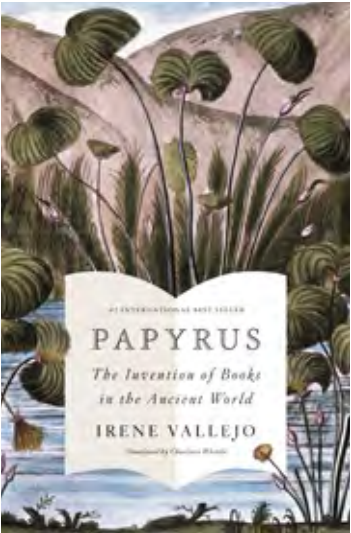
20:30-22:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
Pay What You Can

The highly anticipated Loud Poets Grand Slam Final promises to be a festival highlight, combining music with fist-thumping, side-tickling poetry. Having qualified through a series of Scotland-wide Slams, 12 poets compete for a £3,000 prize and the coveted title of Slam Champion. Hosted by **Kevin Mclean** with musical accompaniment from **Jack Hinks**, plus special performances from winner of over 10 slam titles, **Vanessa Kisuule**. *Includes 15 minute interval. *In partnership with I Am Loud Productions*.

Livestream Available



Max Porter
Aug 26 18:45



Irene Vallejo
Aug 26 13:00

“I genuinely believe, whether it’s true or not, that if people felt a fraction of what my family felt and still feels, they would know what this life and this world are really about.”

A Heart That Works, Rob Delaney, Aug 27 20:30

FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY

THE SCOTTISH MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST EVENT

Paul Johnson:
How Much Does a Country Cost?

10:00-11:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The director of the IFS since 2011, Paul Johnson has been one of the most influential figures in British economic policy for decades. He joins us to discuss *Follow The Money*, which examines how the state raises and spends £1 trillion of our money every year, before explaining where the money comes from, where it goes to, and why it needs to change. Chaired by Columbia University Professor of History, **Adam Tooze**.

Livestream Available



Paul Johnson
Aug 27 10:00

Close Read: Elaine Feeney on A Manual for Cleaning Women

10:00-11:30
Castle View Studio
£16.00 [£14.00]

Today, join Irish poet, novelist and playwright Elaine Feeney for an in-depth consideration of *A Manual for Cleaning Women* by Lucia Berlin. Many readers were unaware of Berlin when this collection of short stories appeared nearly a decade after the writer’s death, but now her unsentimental, clear-eyed stories enjoy a popular position in the literary landscape. This 90-minute workshop will be enjoyable for those with existing knowledge of *A Manual for Cleaning Women* and for those new to Berlin’s work.

Michael Rosen: How We Recover

10:45-11:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The beloved former Children’s Laureate joins us to discuss his memoir *Getting Better*. Michael Rosen has encountered much tragedy and trauma in his life: the death of a child, debilitating chronic illness, and a near death experience from Covid-19. This book, examining roads to recovery, is a typically generous exploration of how to live well again after, or during, our darkest moments. In conversation with **Richard Holloway**. Supported by Patrons of Edinburgh International Book Festival.

BSL

Think Tank: Jolyon Maugham – How Politics Went to War with the Law

11.45-13.15
Castle View Studio
£45.00

To what extent does – or should – politics intersect with the law? While the separation of the court from government is a tentpole principle of democracy, are there situations where they should mix, and to what end? Join us for this Think Tank event with Jolyon Maugham KC, the executive director of the Good Law Project, a special series that encourages discussion between the audience accompanied by food and drink. Supported by James and Morag Anderson.

Lucy Jones & Szilvia Molnar: Maternity and Metamorphosis

12:00-13:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Early parenthood is a time of bliss and bewilderment, terror, and wonder. Szilvia Molnar’s debut novel *The Nursery* is a visceral and revelatory portrait of a woman struggling with maternal fear and its looming madness. In *Matrescence*, journalist Lucy Jones shows how the changes in the maternal mind, brain, and body are far more profound and enduring than we have been led to believe. Chaired by **Kirsty Logan**.



Samantha Shannon
Aug 27 14:15



Simon Sebag Montefiore
Aug 27 13:30

TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH EVENT

Return to Planet Citizen

12:00-15:50
Northside Theatre
Free, drop-in

Explore the weird, wonderful world of Planet Citizen in this multi-media installation. You’ll find artifacts, writing, and impressions of a planet as far as away as imagination can take you. Return to Planet Citizen was created by pupils from St. Thomas of Aquin’s RC High School and Tynecastle High School in collaboration with professional artists. Join free 20-minute tours of Planet Citizen every 30 minutes (last tour 15:30). Find out more about our Communities Programme: ontheroad.edbookfest.co.uk. Supported by Edinburgh Futures Institute.

FAMILY DYNAMICS

Simon Sebag Montefiore: Family Matters

13:30-14:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Human beings have at least one thing in common: family. In his ambitious, scintillating, and epic work *The World: A Family History*, historian Simon Sebag Montefiore tells the story of humanity through the lens of dynasties; spanning centuries, continents, and cultures. From the Medicis to the Mughals, and from the Assads to the Zulus, Montefiore presents a small selection of the families that have shaped our world. In conversation with **Bidisha Mamata**.

Livestream Available

The Bone Season: 10th Anniversary with Samantha Shannon

14:15-15:15
Baillie Gifford West Court
£5.00

Samantha Shannon was still a student when she published the first of her 7-book cycle *The Bone Season* set in a gothic vision of future London where humans with a capacity to contact the undead are persecuted for their abilities. This August sees the release of a new 10th anniversary edition of the international bestseller, boasting rewritten sections and bonus content. Samantha is in conversation with fellow author **V E Schwab** to discuss what made it into this this ‘director’s cut’ of *The Bone Season*, her ground-breaking debut fantasy.

Young Adult

Constance Debré: Defiance and Freedom

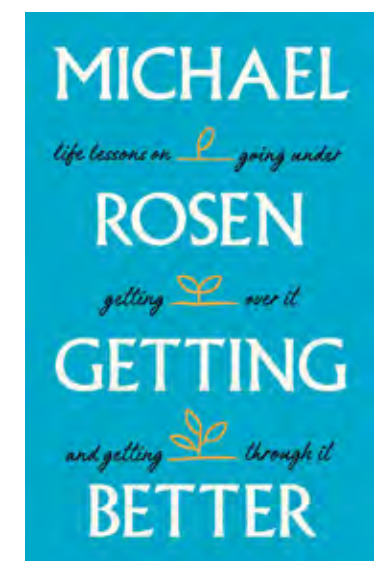
15:30-16:30
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Judgements over what a mother is and isn’t allowed to do never seem to end. When Constance Debré is separated from her young child after telling her ex-husband that she is dating women, she fears a monastic and loveless existence. Instead, she lives for herself. Stark, beautiful and humane, *Love Me Tender* is a bold account of the impossible sacrifices asked of mothers, and shows us that there are many ways to live well. In conversation with **Kirsty Logan**.

Elaine Feeney: Boy on a Mission

16:00-17:00
Wee Red Bar
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Award-winning Irish novelist, performer, and playwright Elaine Feeney joins us to discuss her latest novel, *How To Build A Boat*. It’s the story of a 13 year old with big dreams and an even bigger imagination. Described by Douglas Stuart as ‘a gorgeous gift of a novel, hopeful and full of humanity’, it is being hailed as the most uplifting book of the year. Come along to find out why.



Michael Rosen
Aug 27 10:45



Yomi Adegoke
Aug 27 16:00



Kübra Gümüşay
Aug 27 17:15

Your voice matters:
be part of the
conversation and
ask questions
during our Q&As

Yomi Adegoke & Sheena Patel:
Exploring Fiction's Frontiers

16:00-17:00
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Today, we bring together Yomi Adegoke and Sheena Patel, two debut novelists who are forging new paths in contemporary fiction. In *The List*, Adegoke explores secrets, lies, and our online lives. Patel's *I'm A Fan* grapples with toxic relationships, social media, and patriarchal systems. Join us as they share their insights into what it's like to write about contemporary life in all its complexity.

Sunday Salon

16:00-17:30
Castle View Studio
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

We're better together, so join the Edinburgh International Book Festival, the Edinburgh Art Festival, and the Edinburgh International Film Festival for our new Sunday Salon series. Each Sunday afternoon, a lineup of artists working across literature, film, and art will discuss the finer details of their work and practice in an intimate setting. The Sunday Salon series is designed for a closer look at the work of some of the most exciting guests across the festivals to finish your week. See edbookfest.co.uk for more details.

THE SCOTTISH MORTGAGE INVESTMENT
TRUST EVENT

Simon Schama:
The Health of Nations

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

With over 50 BBC documentaries to his name, Simon Schama is one of Britain's best-known historians. Now he's looking at how we respond to plagues and pandemics. In *Foreign Bodies*, Schama recounts gripping stories of smallpox in London, cholera in Paris, and plague in India threaded together by the story of the man who developed the first mass-produced vaccine. This is a history of how humans have – so far – avoided extinction. In conversation with **Allan Little**.

Livestream Available Captioned

Kübra Gümüşay & Elif Shafak:
How Does the Language We Speak
Shape Our Lives?

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Kübra Gümüşay's *Speaking and Being: How Language Binds and Frees Us* explores how language creates our entire world, and how we can expand it. Gümüşay will be joined by novelist and political scientist Elif Shafak – whose work is often concerned with matters of oppression and suppression – for this nuanced discussion of free speech, chaired by **Bidisha Mamata**.

TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS

R F Kuang: Someone Else's Story

17:45-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

After the stratospheric success of her dark academic fantasy novel *Babel*, R F Kuang has elegantly pivoted genre to literary thriller. June, an aspiring author, steals her dead friend's manuscript and publishes it to rave acclaim. When threatened with exposure, June will go to any length to keep her secret. Join the New York Times bestselling author as she discusses *Yellowface*, a rollicking satire that skewers the publishing industry, Twitter discourse, and co opted identity politics. In conversation with **Nyla Ahmad**.

Captioned

Authenticity and Diversity in
Children's Books with Nadine
Kaadan & Harry Woodgate

18:00-19:00
Baillie Gifford Creation Station
£5.00

With an increasing awareness in the books industry on the importance of diversity and inclusivity, publishers are realising the need to broaden representation. Though with this comes issues around authenticity. From cultural appropriation to tokenism, this talk will dig into some of the pitfalls as well as the positives, and explore what we can do to have empowered and authentic representation in children's books.

Young Adult

Our City, Our Stories

18:15-19:15
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt
Free, book in advance

We believe everyone has a story to tell and that stories help us make sense of our world. Join us as we bring together local writers and poets from across Edinburgh to create a collective love letter to the city they call home. Every day at 18:15 different storytellers perform their latest work. Check out our website for today's guests. Find out more about our Communities Programme: ontheroad.edbookfest.co.uk. *Made possible by players of People's Postcode Lottery.*

Think Tank: Paul Johnson
with Anton Muscatelli – Are We
Getting Tax Policy Wrong?

18:30-20:00
Castle View Studio
£45.00

The British state raises – and spends – a whopping £1 trillion of taxpayers money each year. How that money is spent can determine the welfare of the poor and the elderly, the state of the health service, the effectiveness of our children's education. How can we hold governments to account, improve the effectiveness of the tax system and get a better outcome from that £1 trillion of spending? Join this Think Tank event with Paul Johnson, director of the highly influential Institute for Fiscal Studies, in conversation with Anton Muscatelli, principal & vice-chancellor of the University of Glasgow and leading economist, as part of a special series encouraging deep discussion over food and drink. *Supported by James and Morag Anderson.*

TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS

Aleksandar Hemon:
Man's Inhumanity to Man

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

He's already celebrated as a leading international author, with books including *The Lazarus Project* under his belt, but Aleksandar Hemon's new novel *The World and All That It Holds* is surely his most powerful yet. Set in Sarajevo in 1914, it's an epic journey, an intimate love story, and a portrait of one of humanity's most cataclysmic periods. Join Hemon today in conversation with **Daniel Hahn**.

Livestream Available Captioned

Sarah Polley: What I Run Towards
Will Strengthen Me

19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The 2023 Oscar-winning film adaptation of Miriam Toews's novel *Women Talking* has brought its director Sarah Polley international attention. Alongside it the Toronto-based writer-director has written *Run Towards the Danger*, a collection of essays about her life. From making peace with her early life to the challenging process of recovering from an intense concussion, Polley joins us to discuss her work and ideas.

Appearing Remotely

EYEWITNESS UKRAINE

Ghaith Abdul-Ahad & Gordon
Corera: The Long Shadow of War

19:30-20:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Twenty years ago, the US-led 'coalition of the willing' invaded Iraq, leading to the downfall of Saddam Hussain's government. In the UK, an estimated one million people joined the anti-war protest, questioning the legality and intentions of the invasion. In *A Stranger in Your Own City*, Ghaith Abdul-Ahad tells the story of Baghdad civilians – a moving account of a place that, even after so long, remains dangerous for those demanding democracy. He's joined by the BBC security correspondent Gordon Corera, whose Radio 4 series *Shock and War* looks at the legacies of the invasion. Chaired by **Allan Little**.



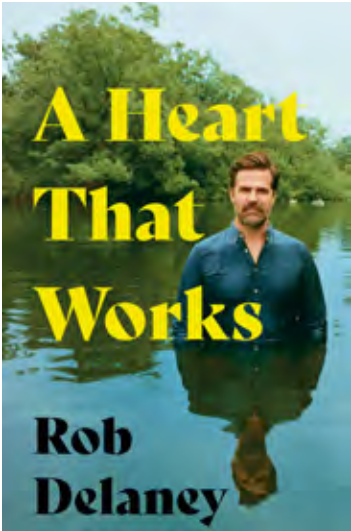
R F Kuang
Aug 27 17:45

Rob Delaney: An Open Heart

20:30-21:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Grief is something that we learn to live with in our own ways. Rob Delaney is a comedian and star of *Catastrophe*. He is also the father of Henry, who died after being diagnosed with a brain tumour when he was two. Somehow amidst the furious pain, Delaney has written a memoir that is infused with humour and honesty. *A Heart That Works* is a testament to his craft as a writer, and his capacity as a person to share his story. He talks with **Max Porter** about writing and purpose.

Livestream Available Captioned



Rob Delaney
Aug 27 20:30

Sin Blaché & Helen Macdonald:
Double Agents

10:15-11:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

What if your happiest memories were turned against you? In the thrilling science fiction novel, *Prophet*, memories materialise as weapons and an unlikely pair of investigators must join forces to battle a strange new reality. Join writer and musician Sin Blaché and their co-author, *H is For Hawk* writer Helen Macdonald to discuss their inventive new novel, dynamic duos, and the weaponisation of nostalgia. Chaired by **Mary Paulson-Ellis**.

FEATS OF IMAGINATION

Gavin Francis & Devi Sridhar:
The Cost of Health

11:45-12:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The result of a pandemic and an ageing UK population: record waiting times for treatment. Conversely, medical advances are saving and prolonging lives – albeit ever more expensively. If the NHS is broken, how can we afford the cure? Writer and GP Gavin Francis, author of *Free For All: Why The NHS Is Worth Saving*, presents a passionate defence of NHS principles, while global public health expert Devi Sridhar offers an international perspective. Chaired by **Peter Mathieson**, vice chancellor of the University of Edinburgh.

Livestream Available Captioned

FAMILY DYNAMICS

Kirsty Logan, Carrie Marshall
& Szilvia Molnar: Tearing It Up

12:00-13:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Join three writers grappling with power, freedom, and purpose in the minefield of parenting. *The Unfamiliar* is Kirsty Logan’s raw and moving account of finding her way in queer motherhood, while *Carrie Kills a Man* documents Carrie Marshall’s transition from depressed suburban dad to tattooed transgender rockstar. Finally, Szilvia Molnar’s *The Nursery* exposes the often contradictory truths of early motherhood; its scraping bodily vulnerability alongside its joyous moments.

GROUNDING

Jasmine Donahaye & Frieda
Hughes: The Language of Birds

12:30-13:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Two incredible writers help us explore new ways of seeing the natural world. Jasmine Donahaye’s *Birdsplaining: A Natural History* explains how a wren in the house foretells a death, while crows’ misbehaviour suggests how the ‘natural’ order may be challenged. Poet and painter Frieda Hughes writes a story of love, obsession, and nature as she rescues a chick in *George: A Magpie Memoir*.

Kate Mosse: Romance and
Revenge On The Barbary Coast

13:30-14:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

There can’t be many people who have had a more positive impact on women writers than Kate Mosse. As well as being the founder of the Women’s Prize for Fiction, she’s the bestselling author of historical novels in which women are resolutely on top. Today she discusses *The Ghost Ship*: a tale of love, vengeance, and breathtaking peril on the high seas, with **Val McDermid**.

Livestream Available Captioned

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH EVENT

Shehan Karunatilaka:
Where Your Imagination Can Go

13:45-14:45
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

In October 2022, Shehan Karunatilaka’s life changed forever when his novel was announced as the newest winner of the Booker Prize. Praised by one reviewer as ‘relentlessly, shockingly funny’, *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* is a hugely enjoyable story set in 1980s Colombo – and in a parallel afterlife where Maali finds himself. Today Karunatilaka explains the background to his novel, discussing life, death, and the echoes of civil war in Sri Lanka with **Bidisha Mamata**. Supported by the Centre for South Asian Studies.

Victory to Words:
A Celebration of Salman Rushdie

14:15-15:15
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The publication of *Victory City*, Salman Rushdie’s 15th novel, is a beautiful reminder of the author’s scintillating imagination. An exuberant story brimming with humour, this is Rushdie’s finest novel in years. Written before the attack on the author last year, this novel turns out not only to be a rollicking read but also an act of defiance. Today, authors who admire his work, including **Chitra Ramaswamy** and **Simon Schama**, discuss the novels that have changed and shaped their lives.

ANOTHER SCOTLAND

Alistair Moffat: In the Footsteps
of the Highland Clans

15:15-16:15
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Scotland’s beloved ‘walking historian’ strides out into the Highlands in *War Paths*. In 13 fascinating journeys, Alistair Moffat explores the tumultuous military history of Scotland’s clans. Join us as Moffat walks in the footsteps of men who fought in spirited resistance at Culloden; of Lewis islanders who tried to resist colonisation in the 16th century; and recalls great 18th century battles including Killikrankie and Dunkeld.



Kamila Shamsie
Aug 28 18:45



Carrie Marshall
Aug 28 12:30

THE SCOTTISH MORTGAGE INVESTMENT
TRUST EVENT

Peter Frankopan: Humanity and
Climate Intertwined

17:00-18:00
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

The Earth Transformed puts climate at the centre of world history. From the formation of Earth through the rise of human beings, Oxford historian Peter Frankopan demonstrates how climate shaped humanity and how it dominates politics, economics, and society today. No stranger to intellectual adventures, Frankopan previously wrote *The Silk Roads* and *The New Silk Roads*: today he talks to Jo Sharp about his most ambitious project to date.

Livestream Available

TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS

Marjorie Lotfi & Dina Nayeri:
The Idea of Home

17:15-18:15
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Follow two journeys of searching, belonging, and finally coming to rest in this thoughtful conversation. Marjorie Lotfi’s debut collection, *The Wrong Person to Ask*, traces an Iranian childhood through to coming of age in America and a new life in Scotland. Dina Nayeri questions issues around believability and belonging in the supremely personal and profound *Who Gets Believed?*

Captioned



Stephen Buoro
Aug 28 19:00



Kate Mosse
Aug 28 13:30



Jasmine Donahaye
Aug 28 12:30



Alistair Moffat
Aug 28 15:15

“They smiled at each other,
confident of the futures ahead
of them in which they’d
never face such petty dilemmas.”

Best of Friends, Kamila Shamsie, Aug 28 18:45

Enjoy all our events in-person, or watch livestreamed events online, see events listing.

Monday 28 continued...

Sebastian Faulks: Before You Were Born

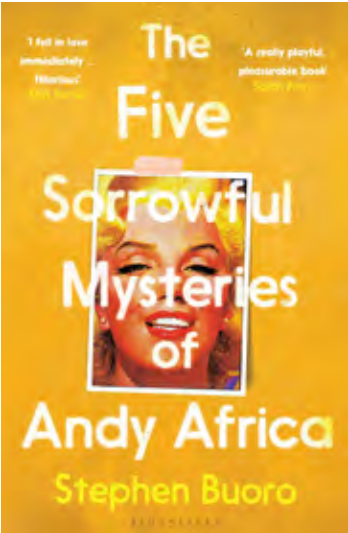
17:45-18:45
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Thirty years after the publication of Sebastian Faulks’s breakthrough bestseller *Birdsong*, we welcome him back to Edinburgh to launch his much-anticipated new novel *The Seventh Son*. Sweeping between New York, London, and the Scottish Highlands, this is an ethical riddle of love, science and power. Join Faulks in conversation with **Stuart Kelly** about this landmark work and a stellar literary career.

What’s on Your Picture Book Shelf?

18:00-19:00
Baillie Gifford Creation Station
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

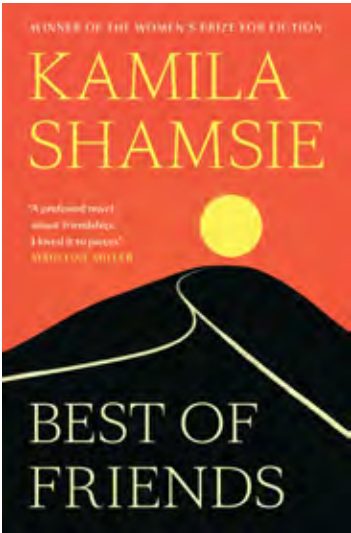
Want to choose a picture book, but not sure what? Creating a library for a brand new baby? Refreshing your children’s bookshelves? Or even your own... (you’re never too old for an illustrated book). Join **Vivian French** and **Lucy Jukes**, the founders of Picture Hooks, to discuss recently published picture books and classic favourites. They will be joined by expert colleagues to showcase the very best picture books for everyone from 0 to 99 years old.



Stephen Buoro
Aug 28 19:00



Kate Mosse
Aug 28 13:30



Kamila Shamsie
Aug 28 18:45

Kamila Shamsie: With Friends Like These

18:45-19:45
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Winner of the Women’s Prize in 2018, Kamila Shamsie has become one of the best loved voices in British fiction, while retaining a strong connection with her hometown of Karachi. Her new novel, *Best of Friends*, charts a lifelong friendship between two girls from their early years in 1980s Karachi to professional life in contemporary London. Engaging and thought-provoking, Shamsie’s book explores the consequences of acquiring power. In conversation with **Chitra Ramaswamy**.

Livestream Available Captioned

HAWTHORNDEN FOUNDATION EVENT
Stephen Buoro & Chika Unigwe: Growing Pains

19:00-20:00
Spark Theatre
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Two fascinating coming-of-age novelists focus on love, agency, and resilience within Nigerian families. Stephen Buoro was the subject of an eight-way auction for his dazzling debut novel *The Five Sorrowful Mysteries of Andy Africa*. He’s joined on stage by US-based Chika Unigwe, whose unforgettable latest, *The Middle Daughter*, examines the challenges facing a 17 year old woman in a patriarchal society.

FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY

Jolyon Maugham KC: Fight the Power. Keep the Receipts

19:30-20:30
Baillie Gifford West Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

As founder of the Good Law Project, Jolyon Maugham KC is known for holding public bodies and government to account. Challenging the prorogation of parliament during the Brexit negotiations, investigating alleged cronyism in the awarding of PPE contracts; Maugham joins us with his book *Bringing Down Goliath*, a convincing case for how the law can be a force for social change.

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH EVENT
Kübra Gümüſy, R F Kuang & Irene Vallejo: A Short History of Language

20:30-21:30
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court
£15.50 [£13.50/£10.50]

Three lauded authors discuss how the past, present, and future of language is explored in their respective books. Irene Vallejo’s *Papyrus*, is a bestselling history of books and libraries in the ancient world; R F Kuang’s historical novel *Babel* is set in the Oxford Royal Institute of Translation; and Kübra Gümüſy’s *Speaking and Being* is an exploration of how language can shape our thinking and determine our politics. Chaired by **Daniel Hahn**. Supported by *Edinburgh Futures Institute*.

Livestream Available Captioned

Book Tickets at
edbookfest.co.uk



Four for 40

As we look forward to the next 40 years, your continued support makes a difference in these four areas:

1

Our new long-term home at the Edinburgh Futures Institute from 2024

2

Our programming ensuring the best authors and thinkers come to Edinburgh

3

Our work with children nurturing young minds and keeping it accessible for families & schools

4

Our vital community work we undertake throughout the year

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As the previous tier and receive an exclusive Book Festival themed gift

Give £400 or more

As the previous tier and receive an invitation to a Book Festival party in 2023

To find out more and to donate online: edbookfest.co.uk/fourfor40

Your gift will be doubled

What’s more, for every pound you give towards our 40th anniversary appeal we’ve been pledged match-funding up to the value of £100,000. Please support us and see your incredible generosity doubled.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival Ltd is a Scottish charity (SC010120) and a limited company (registered in Scotland no 79939) and has its registered office at 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN.



Baillie Gifford Children's Programme

With thanks to our Lead Sponsor



Actual Investors



Free entry to the Book Festival Village!

Go wild in the play area, meet characters from your favourite books, and get hands-on with daily creative activities.

Most events are £5 or free

Create a little magic...

The Book Festival Village is a place where knights gallop off the page, creatures creep around every corner, and bears say 'BOO!' from behind the bookshelves. Join us for interactive events, tasty treats, endless play time, and more books than you can imagine.

Events just for you

There are more than 100 events for children and young adults this year, and you'll have the chance to meet your favourite authors in lively readings, hands-on activities, and special book signings. Come and join us!

Free activities every day

There are free activities every day of the Festival, including half an hour of storytelling every morning in the Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt with Are You Sitting Comfortably?, Scottish Book Trust's Bookbug in English, Gaelic, and Scots, plus Rhymetime with Craigmillar Books for Babies.



Book Tickets at
edbookfest.co.uk

Books glorious books

In the bookshop on Lauriston Place you'll find a treasure trove of children's books from the Festival programme and beyond. Make sure to have a browse and you might even be able to get your new book signed at one of our author signings.

It's always playtime

In the courtyard you'll find a welcoming play area to enjoy. It's under cover, so little people, their families, and carers can play and relax, whatever the weather. Take a break with your packed lunch or an ice cream under a tree.

Family friendly facilities

The Book Festival Village includes toilets, a buggy park, highchairs, baby changing facilities, an accessible Changing Places toilet, drinking water taps, and plenty of space to keep you comfy during your visit.

Not just for the teeny ones

The Baillie Gifford Children's Programme is for children of all ages, and there are plenty of events for teenagers and young adults this year too, including exciting YA authors from around the world and the prestigious YA Book Prize Award Ceremony. Look for events marked 12+.

Meet your favourite book characters

Characters from books drop into the Festival – see the event listings for when you can meet them and join in with their antics.

For more information about what's on for families go to
edbookfest.co.uk/families



Enjoy all our events in-person, or watch livestreamed events online, see events listing.



Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | Free, book in advance

Start your day with a magical half hour of stories for children and families. Appearing today: **Emily Joof**.

Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet: Supertato – The Origin

10:00-11:00
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

Ever wondered how Supertato got his superpowers? *Supertato: Mean Green Time Machine* is the latest ‘peel good’ story from dynamic duo, Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet. Charge your flux capacitors and travel back in time to discover your beloved supermarket superhero’s origin story! Packed with stories, songs and silliness, this event will definitely count as one of your five a day!

Through the Forest of Memories with Yijing Li

10:00-11:00
Age 6-10
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Join author-illustrator Yijing Li as she unravels memories from her childhood, including her voyage to the UK. In her beautiful debut book, *Through the Forest*, Yijing shows the importance of memories in the winding journey of life. Then, you can share your own experiences as Yijing leads a creative drawing exercise.

Families of Different Shapes and Sizes with Patrice Lawrence

11:15-12:15
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Every family is different. Every family is special. Come and join this moving celebration of what it means to be family with celebrated author Patrice Lawrence. Patrice introduces her beautiful new picturebook, *Is That Your Mama?* which recognises that families don’t always look the same but every family is truly special.

Meet Supertato

11:30-12:00
All Ages
Courtyard Stage | Free, drop-in

Nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah SUPERTATO! Meet everyone’s favourite veggie superhero and join in with some fruit and veg-themed songs, rhymes and games. Supertato will also be hap-pea to share high-fives and cuddles and pose for photos!

What Do You See When You Look at a Tree? With Emma Carlisle

11:45-12:45
Age 5-8
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

What do you see when you look at a tree? Leaves and twigs and branches? Or do you see a real, living thing that moves and breathes and dances? Immerse yourself in nature with author-illustrator Emma Carlisle’s beautiful picture book that encourages us to explore our connection with nature. Then learn how to draw trees yourself before creating your own concertina forest, filled with all different types of trees!

Goddesses and Heroines with Jean Menzies

12:00-13:00
Age 9-12
Spark Theatre | £5.00

Discover stories of mythical women from across the world with ancient historian and award-winning author Jean Menzies. Find out how Japanese goddess of the dawn Ame-no-Uzume saved the day by dancing; how the Ancient Greek witch Medea defeated a dragon; and how an ordinary woman outsmarted the tricky Scottish fairy Whuppity Stoorie, as Jean shares her new collection *Goddesses and Heroines*.

Dig, Dig, Digging with Morag Hood

13:00-14:00
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Get mucky with author-illustrator Morag Hood as you venture onto a building site in her fun new picture book *Dig Dig Digger*. After hearing the story you’ll get to draw and collage your own digger character and use your imagination to ‘construct’ their background. Can you dig it?

Two Beano Editors Make Mega Mischief

13:30-14:30
Age 6+ & Families
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

Come and join the mischief in this interactive session with two *Beano* comic Editors, Craig Graham and Mike Stirling. Together they’re in charge of making sure that everything in *Beano* is as funny and naughty as it can possibly be! Mike and Craig will reveal their top tips for creating laugh out loud stories, share jokes from their latest Boomic, *Little Menace’s Great Escape* and take you on a behind-the-scenes tour of Beanotown’s greatest secrets, as the comic celebrates its 85th birthday this year.

Livestream Available

Sophy Henn’s Got Pizazz

13:30-14:30
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Meet author-illustrator-superhero Sophy Henn and venture into the world of her hilarious graphic novel-like series *Pizazz*. In the fabulous 6th adventure, *Pizazz vs The Future*, the reluctant superhero finds herself battling the baddies in Team Toxic who want to destroy the planet forever. Find out how Sophy creates Pizazz’s amazing world then create your own superhero or baddie, and learn how to draw Pizazz step-by-step.

Families, Memories and Stories with Katya Balen & Nadine Aisha Jassat

14:15-15:15
Age 8-12
Baillie Gifford West Court | Pay What You Can

Katya Balen and Nadine Aisha Jassat are two award-winning authors who will be sharing their storytelling process and introducing their extraordinary new books, *The Light in Everything* and *The Stories Grandma Forgot (and How I Found Them)*. Both absolutely gripping, they tell two beautiful tales rooted in the importance of family, memories, and diving into the unknown with hope in your heart.

Holey Moley! with Bethan Clarke

14:45-15:45
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Gus the Goat loves guessing. And he loves rhyming. So, when he meets Mavis Mole, he can’t help trying to guess where she lives. Is it in a hole? In a bowl? In a sausage roll? Join *Holey Moley* author Bethan Clarke for a super silly and totally hole-arious event, with interactive storytelling, a fun guessing game, mole-related crafting, and lots and lots of rhyming.

Sathnam Sanghera: Shining a Spotlight on Empire

15:30-16:30
Age 9+
Spark Theatre | £5.00

You’ve probably heard the word ‘Empire’ before. The Roman Empire, or maybe from the *Star Wars* films... But what about the British Empire? Join award-winning journalist and bestselling author of *Empireland*, Sathnam Sanghera in this accessible and engaging introduction to the British Empire and its impact on our lives today, from the words we use to what we eat. Then learn how you can make your voice heard by questioning the world around you.



Emma Carlisle
Aug 12 11:45

Nadine Aisha Jassat
Aug 12 14:15

Comic Creation Chaos with BHP Comics

16:00-17:00
Age 8-12
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Create your own super-duper superheroes in this interactive workshop that looks at the characters created by Sha Nazir and Gary Chudleigh. The graphic novelist pair will take you on a fun, super-powered trip that will leave you well on the way to the start of your own Marvel Universe.

Magic Has No Borders for Shreya Ila Anasuya, Nikita Gill and Sangu Mandanna

16:00-17:00
Age 12+
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

Magic Has No Borders is a stunning anthology of stories from 14 bestselling, award-winning writers from the South Asian diaspora that will surprise, delight, and move you. In this event we are delighted to welcome three of the contributing writers, Nikita Gill, Shreya Ila Anasuya and Sangu Mandanna to share with you their stories as well as how this special collection came together. Chaired by **Hannah Lavery**.

Young Adult

Discover the Magic of the Ballet with Vivian French

16:30-17:30
Age 5-8
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Step on stage in front of the bright theatre lights and discover the magic of the ballet with Storyteller Extraordinaire Vivian French. From Swan Lake to the Nutcracker, Vivian breathes new life into stories that have captivated audiences for over a hundred years. Join her to experience *The Magic of the Ballet: Seven Classic Stories*, an event certain to leave you spellbound.

Treading Water: Exploring a Post-Apocalyptic Edinburgh with Jaime Huxtable & David Lumsden

18:00-19:00
Age 14+
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

What would your base instinct be for survival in a post-apocalyptic world? As the doomsday clock gets closer to midnight, our ideas of fiction get closer to reality. The creators of the *Boat* graphic novel series, artist Jaime Huxtable and author David Lumsden, address the dangers of a post-apocalyptic underwater Edinburgh with **Sha Nazir**.

Young Adult

Book Tickets at
edbookfest.co.uk

Enjoy all our events in-person, or watch livestreamed events online, see events listing.

Sprog Rock are in the House!

10:00-10:30
All Ages
Courtyard Stage | Free, drop-in

Back to rock the Book Festival for the third year it’s Sprog Rock! This year the group are joined by Glasgow-based beatboxer **Bigg Taj** so expect beats and (nursery) rhymes as Sprog Rock bring their unique, catchy songs back to our Courtyard Stage. Fun for under-fives, their grown-ups, friends, and families!

Stomp! Stomp! Stomp! With Alastair Chisholm & Alex Willmore

10:15-11:15
Age 5-8
Spark Theatre | £5.00

Join dynamic duo Alastair Chisholm and Alex Willmore for an interactive storytelling adventure with *One Hungry Dragon’s*, Bernardo. A laugh-out-loud picture book event with a counting theme, a creative draw along, and one very big BURP that’s guaranteed to get children giggling.

Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:30-11:00
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | Free, book in advance

Start your day with a magical half hour of stories for children and families. Appearing today: **Sophy Henn**.

Peter Rabbit™: Head Over Tail

10:30-11:30
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Join Peter Rabbit and friends for a mischievous event led by author **Rachel Bright** and illustrator **Nicola Kinnear** with their book *Head Over Tail* inspired by *The World of Peter Rabbit*. Listen to Peter Rabbit’s antics with storytelling from Rachel, live drawing from Nicola, fun games and more!

Scribble, Scrawl and Crawl Walking Tour with Jill Calder and Justin Davies

11:00-12:30
Age 7+ & Families
Courtyard | £5.00

Be inspired by the sights and sounds in and around the Book Festival and flex your creative muscles on a drawing and writing workshop with amazing award-winning duo, illustrator Jill Calder and children’s author Justin Davies, and hosted by SCBWI Scotland network organisers Lynwen Pirie and Caroline Deacon. This fun and informal walking tour is perfect for budding young illustrators and writers. Please dress appropriately for outdoor weather conditions. **Meet at the Box Office to start the tour.**

Make a Big Splash with Emily Joof

11:30-12:30
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

New things can feel scary, especially when you’re only little and especially when it’s something as massive as the sea. Join author Emily Joof to hear how her anxious narrator gradually conquers fears and learns to love the water. Spoiler alert: the parent needs patience! Discover the real-life story which inspired author Emily to create her beautiful picture book, *I Will Swim Next Time*, and then through crafting or words create your own favourite place to swim.

Meet the Gruffalo

11:30-12:00
All Ages
Courtyard Stage | Free, drop-in

Oh help! Oh no! It’s a Gruffalo! Meet Julia Donaldson’s most famous creation and join in with songs, dancing, and games. Don’t miss the opportunity to give the Gruffalo a cuddle or a high five or even pose for a souvenir photo.

Alasdair Beckett-King: Dial M for Montgomery

12:00-13:00
Age 8-12
Spark Theatre | £5.00

Calling all super-sleuths; there’s been a murder! But don’t worry, famous detective Montgomery Bonbon is on the case. Just so long as no one notices that Montgomery looks suspiciously like a 10 year old girl wearing a hat and fake moustache. Dust off your deer stalkers and polish your magnifying glasses as you join author Alasdair Beckett-King to solve the case of the *Murder at the Museum!*

The Missing Piece with Jordan Stephens & Beth Suzanna

12:15-13:15
Age 3+ & Families
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Small but determined, Sunny sets off on a whirlwind adventure of new places and friends, and discovers that looking for something is every bit as fun as finding it! Join writer and performer Jordan Stephens and illustrator Beth Suzanna for a heart-warming and exciting picture book event, celebrating the power of family bonds, the joy of making new friends and the importance of finding what makes you feel whole.



Anabelle Sami
Aug 13 13:00

Jordan Stephens
Aug 13 12:15

Go on a Lifesize Animal Adventure with Sophy Henn

12:30-13:30
Age 5+ & Families
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

Sophy Henn’s exciting new book, *Lifesize Deadly Animals* is the perfect introduction to animals for children, and this exciting event is packed full of animal facts as well as some deadly drawing fun! Watch out for the LIFESIZE black caiman jaws, Burmese python, slow loris and much more!

Annabelle Sami: Beyond Your Wildest Dreams

13:00-14:00
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

When mysterious Neena introduces Tito to the world of Dreamweaving they spend their nights exploring dreams. But when their classmates start acting strangely, they suspect that someone else is using Dreamweaving to cause chaos. *Dreamweavers: Night of the Scary Fairies* is the first of a new series by author Annabelle Sami. Share your funniest dreams, create a wacky fantasy story, and design your very own ‘dream base’.

Superheroes Assemble! With Paula Bowles & Alex Falase-Koya

14:00-15:00
Age 5-8
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Suit up! Step up! It’s time to become a hero with author Alex Falase-Koya and superstar illustrator Paula Bowles. Join them for a fun-filled session suitable for all budding superheroes. The duo perform an interactive quiz as well as a Pixel draw-along. There is also an opportunity to design your very own super-suit, enabling you to explore what makes you unique and what your special superpowers are.

Elemental Detectives with Patrice Lawrence

14:45-15:45
Age 8-12
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Step into a fantastical version of London flooded with Elemental spirits: the fiery Dragons, the airy Fumis, the watery Chads, and the earthbound Magogs, and the Elemental Detectives trying to save it! Meet award-winning author Patrice Lawrence and hear about crafting the second installment in her series, *The Case of the Chaos Monster*, and the landmarks that characterise the cities we live in.

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH EVENT

Gina Martin: No Offence, But... How to Have Difficult Conversations for Meaningful Change

15:15-16:15
Age 14+
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

Tackling 20 of the most enduring conversation stoppers, the new collection by Gina Martin, *No Offence, But...* equips readers with the knowledge, tools, and context to respond with confidence. Today two of the book’s contributors join acclaimed gender equality campaigner, speaker, and writer Gina in an event that helps us unpick frustrating phrases, understand why they are harmful, and feel empowered to change the conversation. *Supported by Edinburgh Futures Institute.*

Livestream Available Young Adult Captioned

Katya Balen: Submerged Secrets

15:45-16:45
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Old things, new things, and a whole heap of rubbish. Clem and her friends have found it all while mudlarking on the banks of the river in *The Thames and Tide Club: The Secret City*, the gripping new book from Carnegie award-winner Katya Balen. In this fantastic interactive event Katya will teach you how to go story-mudlarking and create your own fantastic tales from things hidden around you.

Saving Neverland with Abi Elphinstone

16:00-17:00
Age 8-12
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

From Arctic dog-sledding to living with the Mongolian Kazakh eagle hunters, bestselling children’s author Abi Elphinstone shares the real-life adventures behind her epic stories. Hear Abi speaking about her latest book, *Saving Neverland* – a modern, magical sequel to Peter Pan – complete with moonpaper maps, frostbears, and a woolly mammoth. She’ll also be showing you just how easy it is to leap into stories of your own.

Alex Willmore: I tawt I thaw a Mammoth!

16:30-17:30
Age 5-10
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Join author-illustrator Alex Willmore introducing his latest hilarious picture book, *I Did See a Mammoth!* Hear a noisy rendition of the story and help Alex draw some outfits fit for a mammoth. Then make your own well-dressed prehistoric pal. Get ready for a mammoth amount of fun!



Monday 14

Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | Free, book in advance

Start your day with a magical half hour of stories for children and families. Appearing today: **Alastair Chisholm**.

Vanessa Woolf: That's Not My T-Rex

10:00-10:30 *and* 11:00-11:30
Age 0-3
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Join T-Rex and friends for a *That's Not My...* sensory storytelling adventure for little ones. Led by incredible storyteller, Vanessa Woolf, with fun songs, bubbles and more – expect roar-some fun!

Kimberlie Hamilton: Cool Cats

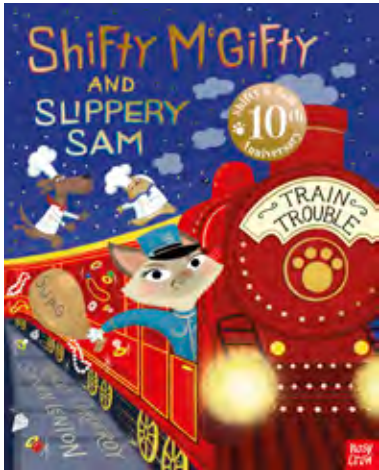
10:15-11:15
Age 7-10
Spark Theatre | £5.00

Did you know that ancient Egyptians loved cats so much they had special laws to protect them? Or that Isaac Newton's cat helped him develop the theory of gravity? Join author and activist Kimberlie Hamilton as she introduces her latest book, *A History of the World (According to Cats!)* and hear the fascinating 'tails' of the world's feistiest felines in this fur-raising event.

Happy Birthday Shifty and Sam! With Tracey Corderoy and Steven Lenton

10:45-11:45
Age 4-7
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

Everyone's favourite burglar-dogs-turned-bakers Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam turn ten this year! Join author Tracey Corderoy and illustrator Steven Lenton in this action-packed, interactive event to wish the boys a happy birthday, then learn all about their brand-new adventure, *Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam: Train Trouble*. But beware, you might just get caught up in some gondola-racing through the streets of Venice!



Tracey Corderoy & Steven Lenton
Aug 14 10:45



Discover the Secrets of the Chinese Zodiac with Maisie Chan

11:15-12:15
Age 5-8
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Learn about Chinese myths and the power of creativity in this interactive event with author Maisie Chan. Maisie's series *Tiger Warrior* sees schoolboy Jack caught up in an ancient battle between good and evil with the magical power of the Chinese Zodiac to help him. Use your own imagination and artistic skills to bring mythical beasts to life, before getting a sneak peak of Maisie's next *Tiger Warrior* book!

Hannah Gold: Animal Friendships

12:30-13:30
Age 9+
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

Join bestselling author, Hannah Gold, and take a deep dive into *The Lost Whale*, a beautiful story about hope, healing, and the incredible bond between children and animals. Hannah will also share an exclusive reading of *Finding Bear*, the much-anticipated sequel to *The Last Bear* – winner of last year's Waterstones and Blue Peter Book Awards. PLUS be in with a chance of winning an early draft copy before it hits the shelves!

Vanessa Woolf: Discover Mr Men and Little Miss

12:30-13:00 *and* 13:30-14:00
Age 0-5
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Step into the world of *Mr. Men and Little Miss*, and their new *Discover You* series with a gentle, interactive storytime about discovering yourself. Led by professional storyteller Vanessa Woolf, there is lots to keep little ones enchanted, including live music, sensory elements, singing, and movement.

Steven Lenton: Magical Mayhem

13:00-14:00
Age 5-8
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Your wish has been granted! Award-winning author-illustrator, Steven Lenton, is back with the fourth instalment of his beloved Genie and Teeny series – *Wish Upon A Star*. Expect giggles galore and draw-along fun with Steven as he takes you on an adventure of magical mishaps with Grant the genie and puppy Teeny. You couldn't wish for a better event!

Sharon Gosling: Extraordinary Adventures

14:45-15:45
Age 8-12
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Katy's father says young girls should stay at home, not travel the world. Can an expedition to Brazil to find a fallen star prove him wrong? Join bestselling author Sharon Gosling for a workshop based on her fantastic new book, *The Extraordinary Voyage of Katy Willacott*. Learn about plant collection in the Victorian era, and how to collect, press and preserve a 'specimen' of your own to take home using the same process as Katy.

Anna Woltz & David Colmer: Woltzing Around the World with Tess

14:45-15:45
Age 8-12
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Anna Woltz's *My Especially Weird Week with Tess* was adapted into a film which was shortlisted for 2019's Oscar for Best International Feature Film. In conversation with translator David Colmer, hear about how the story's message of embracing the present moment in the face of an uncertain future still rings truer than ever. Discover adventure, friendship, and finding family in the places you least expect.

Self-Portrait Masterclass with Pilar García de Leániz

16:30-17:30
Age 9+
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

From Van Gogh to Picasso, artists have long been fascinated with self-portraits. In this special masterclass with illustrator and Edinburgh College of Art lecturer Pilar García de Leániz, learn the basic skills to create a self-portrait, then hone your craft by creating an image of yourself to take home. Everyone is welcome from beginners to expert artists. Just remember – if Picasso drew his nose on his chin so can you!

Is This a Good Time to Be Writing for Children?

18:30-19:30
Age 16+
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

What are Scottish publishers looking for in a children's book today? And what can authors and illustrators do to stand out against the myriad of manuscripts sent to literary agents every day? Join **Sally Polson** of Floris Books, **Alan Windram** of Little Door Books, and **Lindsey Fraser** of Fraser Ross Associates Literary Agents, for an illuminating panel discussion. Chaired by network organiser for SCBWI Scotland, **Caroline Deacon**

Young Adult



Hannah Gold
Aug 14 12:30



Maisie Chan
Aug 14 11:15

Tuesday

15

Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | Free, book in advance

Start your day with a magical half hour of stories for children and families. Appearing today: **Tracey Corderoy**.

Journey into Your Imagination with Craigmillar Literacy Trust

10:00-11:00
Age 4+ & Families
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | Free, book in advance

Do you love getting lost in stories? Then join us on this journey where your imagination is the destination. Katie Swann from Craigmillar Literacy Trust hosts a hands-on event for children and their grown-ups to explore, learn, and get creative together. Get inspired by a selection of gorgeous picture books then make maps of your very own wonderful places using mark-making and collage.

Spectacular Scottish Women with Louise Baillie, Eilidh Muldoon & Rose Reilly

10:15-11:15
Age 7-10
Spark Theatre | £5.00

Discover the women who have shaped and shaken up Scotland in this fascinating, celebratory event with author Louise Baillie and illustrator Eilidh Muldoon, creators of *Spectatular Scottish Women*. From Paralympians to queens, activists to engineers, Louise and Eilidh highlight the amazing lives of Scottish women. Hear their stories, discover how Eilidh brought them to life in her signature beautiful and bold illustration style, and meet international footballer Rose Reilly, who inspired the book!

Speak Up! With Dapo Adeola & Nathan Bryon

10:45-11:45
Age 4-7
Baillie Gifford West Court | Pay What You Can

Illustrator Dapo Adeola and author Nathan Bryon’s loveable character Rocket has already shared an asteroid shower with her community and helped save the turtles in her grandparents’ Caribbean home. Now, in *Speak Up!* she’s back to save her local library so that others can read about her heroes such as inspirational Rosa Parks. Hear how Dapo and Nathan created Rocket and what inspired her adventures in this action-packed event about speaking up for what you believe in.

Lots of Dots with Anna Doherty

11:00-12:00
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Poor Jaguar is feeling lonely until little Ladybird says that they should play together. ‘Let’s make a dotsy club!’ says Ladybird. But what happens when Zebra wants to join... and Monkey? Join illustrator Anna Doherty, creator of *Lots of Dots*, to celebrate difference with an ‘Everybody Club’ party! There’ll be stories, party games, fun drawing and crafting!

Meet Wee Unicorn with Meg McLaren

12:30-13:30
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Wee Unicorn is very small, and very loud . . . but she’s not even magic! Wee Unicorn would love to find friends to play with, but how can she fit in when she feels so different? Join author and illustrator Meg McLaren to discover the story of how Wee Unicorn finds her friends then help to create a fantastic artwork of all of the characters!

Robot Boogies with Alan Windram

12:45-13:45
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Alan Windram’s amazing Robot is back for his third adventure, *One Button Benny and the Dinosaur Dilemma*. It’s party time in robot town so Benny and his friends are robot dancing. They bounce and boogie but disaster strikes when they take a tumble and come face to face with a large dinosaur! Join author Alan Windram and discover what happens to Benny and his pals in this interactive, musical, dance-tastic event.

Tell Me About... Science! With Emily Dodd

14:30-15:30
Age 4-7
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Explore the world around you and the world inside you in this interactive event based on the exciting new science series for young learners, *Tell Me About...*, by author (and science geek!) Emily Dodd. Discover how bees help plants and how plants help us. Hear more about some of the weird and wonderful plants we have. And even find out how feelings are different for everyone and what makes your heart beat.

Growing Up Lost In Song with Catriona Child & Emma Grace

17:30-18:30
Age 14+
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Join Scottish-born authors of *The Tongue She Speaks* and *Fade Into You* as we get sentimental about growing up in Scotland, alternative music of the 90s and early 2000s, and how the culture moulded both them and their novels. Growing up, growing apart, and growing into yourself, all translated through the personalised soundtrack of our lives: this event guarantees nostalgia and plenty of harmonious laughter. This event will be chaired by **Nyla Ahmad**.

Young Adult



Nathan Bryon
Aug 15 10:45

Dapo Adeola
Aug 15 10:45



Louise Baillie & Eilidh Muldoon Aug 15 10:15



Meg McLaren Aug 15 12:30



Kate McLelland Aug 16 11:15

Wednesday

16

Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | Free, book in advance

Start your day with a magical half hour of stories for children and families. Appearing today: **Amy B Moreno**.

Gaelic Bookbug / Bookbug Gàidhlig

10:00-10:30 *and* 11:00-11:30
Age 0-3
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | Free, book in advance

Join Edinburgh Libraries for songs, stories and rhymes in this fun, interactive Bookbug event, part of Scottish Book Trust’s Early Years programme. / Thig còmhla ri leabharlannan Dhùn Èideann airson òrain, sgeulachdan agus rannan anns an t-seisean Bookbug spòrsail, eadar-ghnìomhach seo; pàirt de phrògram Tràth-bhliadhnaichean Urras Leabhraichean na h-Alba.

Hello Scottish Birds with Kate McLelland

11:15-12:15
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Say hello to Scotland’s most famous feathered friends in this interactive event with author and illustrator Kate McLelland. From the rare swooping osprey to the burrow-digging puffin, budding ornithologists will love learning all about Scotland’s different birds in this fun and friendly event. Then, you’ll get a chance to draw alongside Kate as you collaboratively create your own Scottish scene featuring all the birds you’ve learned about.





Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30
Age 0-5
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | Free, book in advance

Start your day with a magical half hour of stories for children and families. Appearing today: **Edinburgh for Under Fives.**

Baby and Toddler Rhymetime
with Craigmillar Books for Babies

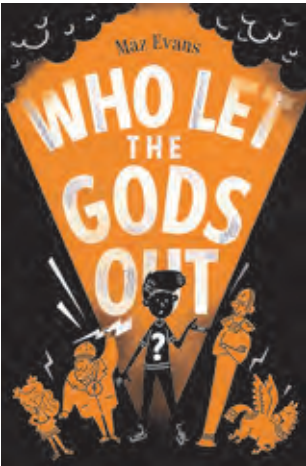
10:00-10:30 and 11:00-11:30
Age 0-3
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | Free, book in advance

Join Craigmillar Books for Babies as they celebrate their 25th anniversary with a special Baby and Toddler Rhymetime. Enjoy bouncy songs, tickly rhymes, lots of cuddles, and fun to help build attachment and bonding with your little ones.

We Love Reading with Laura Baker

11:30-12:15
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Join author Laura Baker for a wonderful celebration of reading in all its forms with her fantastic book *All the Wonderful Ways to Read*. From curling up in a snug nook to dipping into a book on the toilet (!), share a favourite place to read, then join in with some book yoga poses before designing your own reading den and making your own special bookmark to take home!



Maz Evans
Aug 18 14:15



Dr Sai Pathmanathan
Aug 18 14:30 & Aug 19 12:15

Illustrator Surgery with the Bright Agency

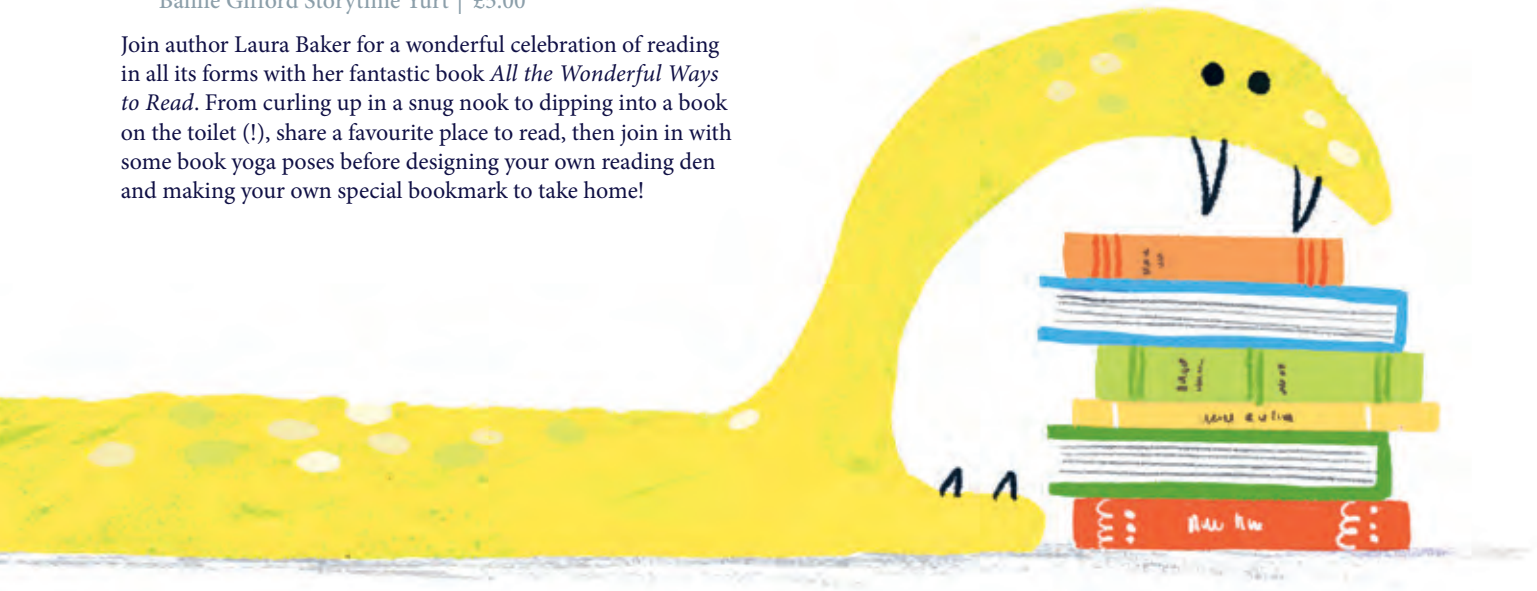
12:00-16:00
Age 16+
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | Free, book in advance

Calling all children’s book illustrators! Now is your opportunity to have your work seen by a professional illustration agent. Join The Bright Agency’s **Susan Penny** for a unique portfolio review where she gives you handy pointers and advice as you make the next step in your career. Book your free 10 minute slot today.

Who Let the Words Out? Joshua Seigal, That’s Who!

17:00-18:00
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

In this new collection from award-winning children’s poet Joshua Seigal, words take on a whole new meaning as we dive into a world full of zany and hilarious poems, packed full of fun and creative word play. Hear Joshua read his poetry out loud then join in to write your own pun-perfect poems in this interactive, alliterative, and hyperbol-ific event.



Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | Free, book in advance

Start your day with a magical half hour of stories for children and families. Appearing today: **Catherine Rayner.**

Scots Bookbug

10:00-10:30 and 11:00-11:30
Age 0-3
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | Free, book in advance

Bring yer wee yins along fir a Scots Bookbug wi sangs, rhymes an stories. Abody’s welcome, whither ye’re a gallus Scots speaker or a wee feartie!

Get To Know Trixie Pickle with Olaf Falafel

13:45-14:45
Age 7-12
Spark Theatre | £5.00

Join comedian, art columnist, author, and illustrator Olaf Falafel as he introduces children to his *Trixie Pickle* series: a laugh-out-loud illustrated adventure featuring Trixie Pickle, the Banksy of her school. Watch Olaf live-draw and join in with an arty activity yourself, while learning about some famous artists from throughout history.

Secrets, Seaweed, and Scoundrels with Justin Davies

14:00-15:00
Age 8-12
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Welcome to *Haarville* – if you’ve arrived, you’ve survived. It’s a place shrouded in fog and steeped in pungent pong. Journey with author Justin Davies into the mysterious world of Manx Fearty: a 12 year old orphan about to lose his family’s perpetual device shop to some sinister newcomers. Learn how to use all your senses to create exciting story settings. There’ll be a chance to devise your very own fishy, sea-weedy menu. Hope you’re feeling hungry!

Book Tickets at
edbookfest.co.uk

Maz Evans: Myths and Mayhem

14:15-15:15
Age 9+
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

Get ready for an Ancient Greek adventure that’s out of this Underworld! Maz Evans is the multi award-winning author of the international bestselling series, *Who Let the Gods Out?* Be prepared to laugh your sandals off as Maz leads an anarchic hour of fun and games as she introduces you to a gang of misfit immortals. It’s Greek mythology, but not as you know it.

Mix It Up! With Dr Sai Pathmanathan

14:30-15:30
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Take a dollop of science, half a pint of creativity, and a heaped tablespoon of fun – mix them together and you have a very tasty event! Author and scientist Dr Sai Pathmanathan’s latest book, *Chews Your Own Tasty Adventure*, is ideal for beginner cooks, encouraging them to experiment with recipes from around the world. This interactive workshop lead by Dr Sai will leave you hungry for more!

Frances Hardinge: Unravelling Stories

15:15-16:15
Age 12+
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

No one twists a tale like Frances Hardinge. Her latest book, *Unraveller*, is a deliciously dark fairytale about trauma and recovery, and rage and redemption. In a world where anyone can create a life-destroying curse, only one person has the power to unravel them. This event lets you peek inside Frances’ imagination and discover how she creates the dark, quirky and fantastical worlds of her stories. This event will be chaired by **Nadine Aisha Jassat.**

Livestream Available

Twisted Tales with John Chalmers & Sandra Marrs

16:30-17:30
Age 9+
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Graphic novel duo John Chalmers & Sandra Marrs (the artists formerly known as Metaphrog!) are on top form with their newest, Scottish-set, graphic novel releases: *Harris and Grace*, a twisted take on Hansel and Gretel, and *Freya*, the story of a female Scottish clan chief accused of being a witch. Join the talented twosome to hear all about their latest books and try your hand at thinking up plots and characters yourself.

Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | Free, book in advance

Start your day with a magical half hour of stories for children and families. Appearing today: **Ross Montgomery**.

Julia Donaldson and Friends:
The Amazing World of Julia Donaldson

10:00-11:00
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

Join the UK's bestselling author, Julia Donaldson, for a fun-packed hour of rip-roaring songs, storytelling, and much more. Julia Donaldson will perform stories including *The Gruffalo* and her latest hit *The Bowerbird*. There will also be a special appearance from Lydia Monks, illustrator of the bestselling *What the Ladybird Heard* series and *Sugarlump and the Unicorn*.

Peekaboos and Tootsie Tickles: The Science behind Babies' Laughter with Dr Caspar Addyman

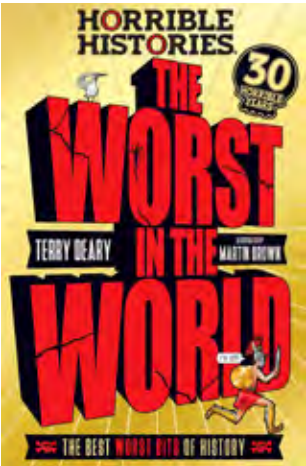
10:00-10:30 and 11:00-11:30
Age 0-2
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

There's nothing quite like a baby's laugh. But is there a sure-fire way to make your little one giggle? Join infantologist Dr Caspar Addyman in this interactive event for under-2s and their adults. Learn about the science behind getting babies giggling and hear extracts from Dr Addyman's books *Babies Laugh at Peekaboo* and *Babies Laugh at Everything* before getting involved to try out some of his methods yourself.

Macastory's Mighty Meadows March

10:00-11:00, 11:30-12:30 and 14:00-15:00
Age 6+ & Families
Courtyard | £5.00

Prepare to march into history! Victorian storytellers, Wellpecket & Smythe, will promenade you through the bizarre hidden tales of the Meadows. Disappearing lochs, guerrilla gardeners, furious footballers, Victorian fitness fanatics ... the Meadows has seen it all. Watch out for the flying arrows... DUCK! Stride out with us for a fascinating fun-filled story tour of Edinburgh's favourite and oldest park. Meet at the Box Office to start the tour.



Martin Brown
Aug 19 13:30



Julia Donaldson
Aug 19 & 20th 10:00



Dr Ronx
Aug 19 10:45



Kiran Millwood Hargrave
Aug 19 15:30 & 18:30



Amazing Bodies with Dr Ronx

10:45-11:45
Age 6-9
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

Join award-winning emergency doctor and TV presenter Dr Ronx as they take you on an interactive tour around the human body through their brilliant new book *Amazing Bodies*. From spongy brains to gooey guts and everything in between, *Amazing Bodies* is a fun introduction to human anatomy for budding experts and is packed with fascinating facts to wow all your friends. This event will be chaired by **Nick Sheridan**.

Sufiya Ahmed: Cairo Capers

11:15-12:15
Age 8-12
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Secret agent Rosie Raja is back for a new adventure. This time she's undercover in the dazzling city of Cairo. Officially she is there to protect Egypt's precious artefacts from the Nazis. Unofficially, she's on the hunt for a traitor in the British ranks. Join author Sufiya Ahmed to learn about the real-life female spies who inspired the determined heroine in *Rosie Raja: Mission to Cairo*.

Meet Bookbug

11:30-12:00
Age 0-3
Courtyard Stage | Free, drop-in

Don't miss the Festival's biggest Bookbug Session! Bookbug's here to share all their favourite songs, stories and rhymes, so bring along your grown-up and get ready to join in. Then meet Bookbug for cuddles, high-fives and photos!

Lizzie Huxley-Jones, Ross Montgomery & E L Norry:
Magical Destinies

12:00-13:00
Age 8-12
Spark Theatre | £5.00

Have you ever felt certain that you're destined for greatness? Arthurian legend is brought into the modern world in three new edge-of-your-seat fantasy adventures: Lizzie Huxley-Jones's *Vivi Conway and the Sword of Legend*, E L Norry's *Fablehouse*, and Ross Montgomery's *Spellstone*. Discover the inspiration for their books in an event packed with magic and monsters, swords and sorcerers, and friends and fiends. Your destiny awaits...

Mix It Up! with Dr Sai Pathmanathan

12:15-13:15
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Take a dollop of science, half a pint of creativity, and a heaped tablespoon of fun – mix them together and you have a very tasty event! Author and scientist Dr Sai Pathmanathan's latest book, *Chews Your Own Tasty Adventure*, is ideal for beginner cooks, encouraging them to experiment with recipes from around the world. This interactive workshop lead by Dr Sai will leave you hungry for more!

Tyrolean Tales with Jon Klassen

12:30-13:30
Age 6+ & Families
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

Jon Klassen's striking illustrations and minimalist text have made his work modern classics and won him a legion of fans, both young and old, not to mention many awards. This characteristic style follows him in his gloriously gothic new book, *The Skull*: his first for middle-grade readers. Meet Jon and discover how he created his captivating, monochrome illustrations in this eerie, enchanting event.

Catherine Rayner: Victor, the Wolf with Worries

13:00-14:00
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Sometimes we all feel a bit worried and *Victor, the Wolf with Worries*, is no exception. Victor worries that he isn't brave enough, isn't big enough and isn't fierce enough. But when he shares his worries with his best friend Pablo, Victor starts to feel a little bit better about everything. Join CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal-winner (and Festival favourite!) Catherine Rayner in this reassuring event where you'll find out all about what helped Victor, and talk about what you might be worried about and what you could do to feel better. Then watch Catherine draw Victor and best pal Pablo.

Horrible Histories 30th Anniversary
with Martin Brown

13:30-14:30
Age 8+
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

Join illustrator Martin Brown to celebrate 30 Horrible Years of the world's bestselling children's history series! Expect savage stories, gruesome games, foul facts and deadly drawing. Find out the best worst bits of history from brand new book *Horrible Histories: The Worst in the World* and pick up some wicked drawing tips. Fun for all the family!

Livestream Available

From Tiny Acorns with Lydia Monks

14:00-15:00
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Join Lydia Monks, illustrator of classics including *What the Ladybird Heard* and *Princess Mirror-Belle*, to discover her gorgeous new story, *Adoette*, which tells the tale of the life of a tree, from a young sapling to a mighty oak. In this powerful event, you'll learn what inspired the story of *Adoette* and see how Lydia creates her beautiful illustrations. Join in yourself to create your own tree-mendous picture.

Book Tickets at
edbookfest.co.uk

Saturday 19 continued...

Aisha Bushby: Bewitched and Bewildered

14:45-15:45
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Have you ever wondered what a witch takes on holiday? Zahara finds out when she accidentally switches suitcases with one. Enchanted boots and charmed cloaks almost spell disaster. But once she befriends a talking cat and learns that magic can be fun, will Zahara want her own bag back? Hear Aisha Bushby talk all about *Suitcase S(witch)* in this magical event.

Alice Oseman: Stopping Hearts

15:15-16:15
Age 12+
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

Join Alice Oseman, creator of global smash-hit *Heartstopper*, for a very special in-conversation event. *Heartstopper* follows Nick and Charlie as they navigate the ups and downs of first loves, school, friendships, coming out, and mental health. Alice discusses her charming love story’s incredible journey: from webcomic, to bestselling graphic novel, to critically acclaimed Netflix Series. She’ll maybe even give readers a sneak peek of *Heartstopper Volume 5*. Chaired by author **Benjamin Dean**.

Young Adult Captioned



Alice Oseman
Aug 19 15:15



Katherine Rundell
Aug 19 15:30 & 18:30

Kiran Millwood Hargrave & Katherine Rundell: Power, Knowledge and Love

15:30-16:30
Age 9-12
Spark Theatre | £5.00

There’s a place where all the wildest stories began. From these award-winning queens of fiction comes two new stories of power, knowledge, and love. *In the Shadow of the Wolf Queen* and *Impossible Creatures* mark the start of two epic new fantasy trilogies. Join Kiran Millwood Hargrave and Katherine Rundell for a discussion on building their magical worlds and creating the characters and creatures that inhabit them. Chaired by **Hannah Lavery**.

Janelle McCurdy: Casting Light on Stories

15:45-16:45
Age 8-12
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

In *Umbra Tales: Book 2*, the epic sequel to the acclaimed *Mia and the Lightcasters*, Mia grapples with the responsibility of her new powers and uncovers even more secrets. Mia must learn to control her magic before the agents of darkness rise again. Discover how Janelle McCurdy created this magical world and learn how to harness your own superpowers by writing stories inspired by video games, films, and more.

Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Ross Montgomery & Katherine Rundell: Writing for Children – How Dark Can You Go?

18:30-19:30
Age 14+
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

If you’re writing for children, you want to make your plot exciting and dramatic – but are there topics which should be avoided? Have the boundaries of what’s acceptable changed over the years? Are there any rules you should never break? Join the discussion with Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Ross Montgomery, and Katherine Rundell, chaired by **Tibo Torelli** and **Caroline Deacon** from the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators.

Young Adult

Can Writers and Creators Help Communities Find Joy?

19:30-21:00
Age 16+
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

In this poetry and panel event, we’ll explore the non-fiction books inspiring joy in their readers and contributors. Following a poetry reading from **Courtney Stoddart**, we’ll dive into an exciting panel discussion, and end the evening with a collaborative exercise led by **Mikaela Loach**, encouraging our audience to find joy in their own communities and personal lives. Hosted by **Suzie Mwanza** and **Shirley Mcpherson**, the stellar line up also includes **Charlie Brinkhurst-Cuff**, **Timi Sotire**, **Zaki El-Salahi** and **Anahit Behrooz**.

Young Adult

Sunday 20



Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | Free, book in advance

Start your day with a magical half hour of stories for children and families. Appearing today: **Lydia Monks**.

Julia Donaldson and Friends: The Amazing World of Julia Donaldson

10:00-11:00
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

Join the UK’s bestselling author, Julia Donaldson, for a fun-packed hour of rip-roaring songs, storytelling and much much more. Julia presents stories from old favourites like *The Gruffalo* to newer hits and is joined by some special friends, including the fabulously talented **Catherine Rayner**, illustrator of the *The Bowerbird* and *The Go-Away Bird*.

Interesting Insects with Elizabeth Laird

10:00-11:00
Age 5-8
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Two little ants are excited to explore their surroundings. When they end up in a little girl’s house, they are fascinated by everything she does: the movement of her pencil and the colours drawn on her paper. Come and discover award-winning author and folk-tale aficionado Elizabeth Laird’s *Two Ants Puzzled*, a charming interpretation of Rumi’s classic tale. Then invent and colour in your own insect character.

Aisha Bushby: An Awfully Tiny Adventure

11:15-12:15
Age 5-8
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

You don’t have to be big to be brave! Meet a small creature with a big heart in *Tiny, the Secret Adventurer*. Tiny’s animal neighbours don’t like her because she looks like a human. But, when Frog is in danger, it’s Tiny who comes to the rescue. Join author Aisha Bushby as she introduces her new heart-warming series about bravery, friendship, and inclusivity.

Meet Supertato

11:30-12:00
All Ages
Courtyard Stage | Free, drop-in

Nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah SUPERTATO! Meet everyone’s favourite veggie superhero and join in with some fruit and veg-themed songs, rhymes, and games. Supertato will also be hap-pea to share high-fives and cuddles and pose for photos!

Take an Inspiring Slow Walk with Carl Honoré

11:30-12:30
Age 7-10
Courtyard | £5.00

In a world addicted to speed, slowness is a superpower. On this walking tour, take time to connect with the world on a slow adventure around the surrounds of Edinburgh College of Art with Carl Honoré, the voice of the global Slow Movement. In his book, *It’s the Journey Not the Destination*, Carl shows how young people can slow down, notice, and enjoy the things around them to thrive in an impatient world. **Meet at the Box Office**.



Robin Stevens
Aug 20 15:15



David Wolstencraft
Aug 20 13:45



Sunday 20 continued...

THE BLACKFORD EVENT

Charlie Mackesy: A Global Phenomenon

11:45-12:45
Age 5+ Families
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse has galloped into hearts around the world. Its creator Charlie Mackesy joins us to share his story of friendship, courage, and hope – speaking about the wonderous journey of his four beloved characters. Charlie’s also joined on stage by the voice of ‘The Boy’, **Jude Coward Nicoll**, to speak about the Oscar award-winning short film adaption. The book is now available in Gaelic (translated by Johan Nic a’ Ghobhainn) and Scots (by Matthew Fitt).

Captioned Livestream Available

The World of Japanese Spirits with Chie Kutsuwada & Julian Sedgwick

12:00-13:00
Age 12+
Spark Theatre | £5.00

Dare you enter the haunted heart of Japan? Author and illustrator duo, Julian Sedgwick and Chie Kutsuwada – creators of *Tsunami Girl* – invite you into the fascinating world of Japanese ghosts and spirituality. Learn about mythical yōkai and tsukumogami, from their traditional roots to the modern day, and find out why, even now, incredible worlds exist just beyond the visible. Then watch Chie conjure a manga yōkai as Julian reads an exclusive preview from *100 Tales from the Tokyo Ghost Café*.

Reach for the Stars with Sara Boccaccini Meadows

12:00-13:00
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Discover the wonders of the night sky in this event on Sara Boccaccini Meadows’ beautifully illustrated non-fiction book, *Glow*, which covers everything from ancient mythology to modern space exploration. Find out how the book was created then learn how to draw planets in Sara’s bold style. You’ll never look out your bedroom window in the same way again.

An Egg-cellent Adventure with Aileen Crossley

13:00-14:00
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Henny is a baby chick: she is sweet and fluffy just like her friends. Unlike her friends, Henny has one tiny problem: she’s stuck in her shell! Meet author-illustrator Aileen Crossley to discover how Henny and her friends end up saving the day in *Henny is Stuck!* – a wonderful tale of friendship, determination, and bravery. Join Aileen to create and draw your own character then take them on a new adventure.

Playing With Time with Patience Agbabi & David Wolstencroft

13:45-14:45
Age 8-12
Spark Theatre | £5.00

Two snappy authors come together for a special event. David Wolstencroft, creator of TV’s *Spooks*, introduces *The Magic Hour*, a twisting tale combining science with unforgettable characters set in Edinburgh. Joining him, Patience Agbabi introduces *The Circle Breakers*, the third in the *Leap Cycle* series, where the heroes join forces with a criminal mastermind in their battle against The Vicious Cycle. Find out what inspires these time-hopping authors to create their unique stories. This event is chaired by **Gill Arbuthnott**.

Raksha Dave: Lessons from Our Ancestors

14:15-15:15
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

Rediscover the hidden past with leading UK archaeologist and *Time Team* presenter, Raksha Dave. *Lessons of Our Ancestors* spotlights the forgotten stories behind 50 historical objects, and reveals that equality, inclusivity and sustainability are not just modern concerns – they existed centuries ago! Learn from forgotten ancient societies and unearth a passion for the world buried beneath your feet. Chaired by **Steve Brusatte**.

Manga Yōkai and Ghosts Workshop with Chie Kutsuwada.

14:30-15:30 and 16:30-17:30
Age 10-14
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Join us for a short introduction to the ghosts and yōkai of Japan, followed by a drawing workshop where you can conjure up your own spirit with manga creator Chie Kutsuwada. Explore the intriguing and unpredictable world of the mystical yōkai and tsukumogami spirits, and bring your own manga creation to life.



Charlie Mackesy
Aug 220 11:45



Young Adult events appear in both our Adult & Children’s programmes

Carl Honoré: Slow Travel and Making the Most of Every Step

14:45-15:45
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Join Edinburgh-born international bestseller and TED speaker Carl Honoré in this event about appreciating the details of our journeys through the world. The godfather of the Slow Movement, his new book for children *It’s The Journey Not The Destination* is a travel guide from the comfort of your armchair, blending history and mindfulness in one beautiful package.

Robin Stevens: Ministry, Mystery, and Murder

15:15-16:15
Age 8-12
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

Have you ever wanted to write your own murder mystery? Then we have a hunch that this is the event for you! Join award-winning author, Robin Stevens, as she uncovers how to write the perfect murder, and introduces her new mystery series, *The Ministry of Unladylike Activity*. Just remember, everyone is a suspect, so make sure you have your interrogation questions ready.

Livestream Available

Let’s Talk About Consent with Alan Bissett, Holly Bourne, Emma Dennis-Edwards & Leyla Josephine

16:00-17:00
Age 14+
Baillie Gifford West Court | Pay What You Can

Explore the thorny and pertinent issues faced by young people around consent. Hear from Scottish novelist and playwright Alan Bissett about his new book, *Lads: A Guide to Respect and Consent*; Screenwriter Emma Dennis-Edwards, who has written episodes of *Casualty*, *EastEnders* and most recently factual drama *Consent*, based on hundreds of testimonies of young people; and bestselling author Holly Bourne, who shares exclusive details from her new novel, *You Could Be So Pretty*. Chaired by poet and performer **Leyla Josephine**.

Captioned Young Adult

Manage Your Eco-Anxiety with Anouchka Grose

16:30-17:30
Age 12+
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5:00

The effects of the climate crisis can be seen all around us, and it’s easy to feel overwhelmed and under pressure. In this practical event, psychiatrist Anouchka Grose leads you through 10 steps to help you manage your eco anxiety, while proactively protecting our planet. Her book for young adults, *How to Manage Your Eco-Anxiety*, deals with key issues involving the relationship between mental health and the climate crisis.

Crash and Burn... Killtopia with Dave Cook & Craig Paton

18:00-19:00
Age 12+
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Join *Killtopia* creators Dave Cook and Craig Paton as they discuss the journey of the book from concept to completing the series and its new life on screen. *Killtopia Volume 5* is the final part of this exhilarating, cyberpunk graphic novel series.

Young Adult



Carl Honoré,
Aug 20 11:30 & 14:45

Enjoy all our events in-person, or watch livestreamed events online, see events listing.

Thursday
24

Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30
Age 0-5
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | Free, book in advance

Start your day with a magical half hour of stories for children and families. Appearing today: **Edinburgh for Under Fives**.

Bookbug

10:00-10:30 and 11:00-11:30
Age 0-3
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | Free, book in advance

Join Edinburgh Libraries for songs, stories and rhymes in this fun, interactive Bookbug session, part of Scottish Book Trust’s Early Years programme.

Nick Sheridan: The Case of the Phantom Treasure

17:00-18:00
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Come behind the scenes of *The Case of the Phantom Treasure* with author Nick Sheridan – and help him solve the mystery of the ghoul who has infiltrated his PowerPoint presentation! Become festival Sherlocks and help catch the ghoul using your skills of deduction and investigative curiosity to solve the case before it sabotages the event.

YA Book Prize 2023

17:15-18:45
Age 14+
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

We’re thrilled to collaborate with The Bookseller to host this year’s prize-giving ceremony, thanks to our partnership with the YA Book Prize. Previous winners have included Alice Oseman’s *Loveless*, Patrice Lawrence’s *Orangeboy* and Adiba Jaigirdar’s *Hani and Ishu’s Guide to Fake Dating*. Hear the shortlisted authors read from their books before one successful author is crowned Winner of the YA Book Prize 2023. Come and meet some of the brilliantly imaginative authors writing for young adults today. Chaired by award-winning author and Book Trust’s Writer in Residence, **S F Said**. *In partnership with The Bookseller.*

Young Adult



Nick Sheridan
Aug 21 17:00



Yvonne Banham
Aug 25 14:00



Nazneen Ahmed Pathak
Aug 25 14:15

Friday
25

Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | Free, book in advance

Start your day with a magical half hour of stories for children and families. Appearing today: **Morag Hood**.

Scots Rhymetimes with Craigmillar Books for Babies

10:00-10:30 and 11:00-11:30
Age 0-3
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | Free, book in advance

Join Craigmillar Books for Babies as they celebrate their 25th anniversary with a special Scots Rhymetime! Enjoy Scots rhymes, songs, lots of cuddles and fun to support attachment and bonding with your wee ones.

Theresa Breslin: Ten Monarchs, Ten Legends

13:45-14:45
Age 7-10
Spark Theatre | £5.00

Discover the historic legends of Scotland’s most famous monarchs with Carnegie Medal for Writing–winner Theresa Breslin as she talks about her stunning new book, *Illustrated Legends of Scotland’s Kings and Queens*. Learn the battle tactics of Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn and see the games young Mary, Queen of Scots played with her friends. This event will bring to life fascinating, influential characters from Scotland’s past.

Yvonne Banham: Uncanny Encounters

14:00-15:00
Age 10-14
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

When Delores Mackenzie is chased home by a restless spirit, she is sent to the mysterious Uncles in Edinburgh’s Old Town to learn how to control her unusual ‘gifts’. Yvonne Banham’s debut novel, *The Dark and Dangerous Gifts of Delores Mackenzie* is a shapeshifting, ghost-filled, paranormal whydunit. Come and discover what inspires Yvonne’s love of fearsome fiction and creepy settings.

Book Tickets at
edbookfest.co.uk



Nazneen Ahmed Pathak & S F Said:
Into the Unknown Wonders of London

14:15-15:15
Age 10-14
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

In every city around the world, magic sleeps under streets, behind locked doors, and beneath piles of ordinary rubbish. Anything sleeping, however, must eventually awake. Join the authors of acclaimed new books *City of Stolen Magic* and *Tyger*, Nazneen Ahmed Pathak and S F Said, for a discussion about the power of children’s literature to stir the sorcery in your life. Joined in conversation by **Melanie Ramdarshan Bold**.

Creating Magical Worlds with Chris Riddell

15:15-16:15
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

Join Costa Book Award–winning creator of *Goth Girl* and former Children’s Laureate Chris Riddell in this magic–packed event. Today, Chris shares how he created the fabulous *Cloud Horse Chronicles* series, before live-drawing some of the mystical characters. Then, discover how Chris puts a new spin onto classic tales as he talks about his reimagining of the iconic *Little Prince Story*, as well as the wonderful range of poets in his brand new *The Big Amazing Poetry Book*.

Livestream Available



SF Said,
Aug 25 14:15



Chris Riddell,
Aug 25 15:15



George Webster Aug 26 11:15



Chae Strathie Aug 26 11:15



Dr Sheila Kanani Aug 26 13:45

Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | Free, book in advance

Start your day with a magical half hour of stories for children and families. Appearing today: **Tania and Olivier Czajka**, and French-speaking puppet Lapin!

Cressida Cowell's Dragon Hunt

10:00-18:00
Age 5+ & Families
Courtyard | Free

Celebrate 20 years of the blockbuster book and film series, *How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell, with a Book Festival Dragon Treasure Hunt. Spot hidden dragons around the Festival Village, and find out their strengths and weaknesses (downloadable activity sheets available). Then come along to meet Cressida herself at a signing on Sunday 27 August, 12:45pm. Badges and Viking hats on offer at the signing!

Pamela Butchart: A Treasure Trove of Trouble

10:00-11:00
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

Izzy and her friends are back for more classroom chaos in Blue Peter Book Award-winner Pamela Butchart's latest book, *There's a Beast in the Basement!* This time Izzy is on the hunt for treasure buried beneath Wigglesbottom Primary. But the teachers aren't the only beastly beings inhabiting the halls... Be prepared to laugh your gym pants off as Pamela shares her hilarious stories in this fun-filled interactive event.

Finding Beauty in the Everyday with Yuval Zommer

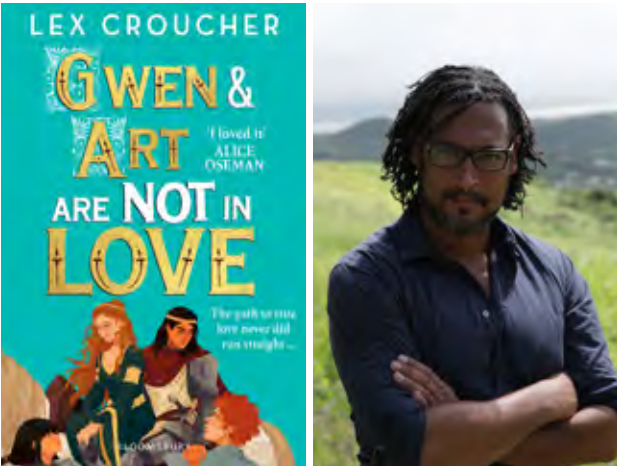
10:00-11:00 and 11:45-12:45
Age 5-8
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

From best-selling author and environmentalist Yuval Zommer, *The Big Book of Nature Art* is packed with easy art activities inspired by nature, using only natural and recycled everyday materials. In this creative workshop, create your own 'creatures' together with Yuval using nature's treasures such as twigs, leaves, pebbles and petals together with everyday recycled materials such as paper plates, packaging cardboard, and paper cups.

Meet the Gruffalo

10:30-11:00
All Ages
Courtyard Stage | Free, drop-in

Oh help! Oh no! It's a Gruffalo! Join Festival friends Dads Rock and meet Julia Donaldson's most famous creation and join in with songs, dancing, and games. Don't miss the opportunity to give the Gruffalo a cuddle or a high five. You can even pose for a souvenir photo.



Lex Croucher
Aug 26 16:30

David Olusoga
Aug 26 15:15

Celebrating Difference with George Webster

11:15-12:15
Age 4+ & Families
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

George Webster has presented on *CBeebies*, starred in *Strictly Come Dancing*, and become an ambassador for people with Down's Syndrome. Today he appears alongside his co-author, *CBeebies* and *Something Special* producer Claire Taylor, and illustrator, Tim Budgen, to share *This is Me!* – a picture book that aims to show every child just how perfect they are. In this LD-Friendly event, our friends from PAMIS join having been inspired by *This Is Me!* to share their own stories. Expect games, music, live drawing, and stories in this interactive, accessible event. Chaired by **Sian Bevan**.

LD Livestream Available

Chae Strathie: Spectacular Scotland

11:15-12:15
Age 8-12
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Bloody battles, magical myths, and gruesome ghosts – Scotland has it all! Chae Strathie's latest book, *Scotland: The People, The Places, The Stories*, is a celebration of our country's rich culture and history, featuring stunning illustrations from six Scottish illustrators. Join Chae as he takes you on a tour of Scotland and discover the secrets that make it so special.

Matty Long: Super Happy Drawing Time

12:00-13:00
Age 5+ & Families
Spark Theatre | £5.00

Come on an epic drawing adventure with Matty Long as he takes you through the magical world of his *Super Happy Magic Forest* series. Exploding with fun, the tales follow five unlikely heroes embarking on a quest to save their home. Join author-illustrator Matty to find out more about what his hilarious characters get up to, before getting a step-by-step guide on how to draw them yourself.

Rainbow Books: A Storytelling Adventure in Scots and Scottish Gaelic

13:00-14:00
Age 5-9
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Best-selling Scots translator **Matthew Mackie**, and award-winning Gaelic singer and poet **Marcas Mac an Tuairneir** have created a unique storytelling show in Scots and Scottish Gaelic based around their translations of Lawrence Schimel's acclaimed *Rainbow Books*. Two adventures await with Guid Morning/Madainn Mhath! and Guid Nicht/Oidhche Mhath! From rumbling tummies and a mischievous cat; to bedtime with a playful puppy. Hear how the stories end in this fun and interactive event. Plus a special appearance from the much-loved Wee Mowdie that wantit tae ken wha keeched on his heid.

Charms and Curses with Elle McNicoll

13:30-14:30
Age 8-12
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

In *Like A Curse*, the fantastic sequel, to *Like A Charm*, festival-favourite Elle McNicoll takes us to her hometown of Edinburgh, but not as we know it. This thrilling and heart-warming conclusion to her enthralling fantasy duology sees our witch heroine Ramya battle Sirens to save her family, friends, and the unsuspecting citizens of Edinburgh. Join Elle to discover how she combines the real and mystical in her fantastic series, and why she chose to have a neurodivergent young witch as her main character. Chaired by **Nazneen Ahmed Pathak**.

Captioned Livestream Available

Natalie Denny: Get Energised and Empowered

13:30-14:30
Age 5-8
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

When the world doesn't seem right, Keisha Jones will stop at nothing to fix it. Meet author Natalie Denny and her plucky new characters *Keisha* and *the Bee Squad* with a reading from *Keisha Jones is a Force of Nature*, followed by an exploration of activism and what this means. Then, join in to make placards featuring issues which are important to you.

Dr Sheila Kanani: 'Houston, we have a Rainbow!'

13:45-14:45
Age 7-10
Spark Theatre | £5.00

Why is blood red? Why are carrots orange? Is the sky really blue? Real life astronomer, Dr Sheila Kanani, answers these questions and many more in her latest book, *Can You Get Rainbows in Space?* Let your curiosity play amongst the stars as Dr Sheila leads this interactive event full of spectacular experiments and even shows you how to make a space rainbow!

BSL

Art Is Everywhere with Joe Haddow & Cecilia Knapp

14:45-15:45
Age 8-12
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

What does art mean to you? Is it painting? Drawing? Writing? Music? Dance? Yes, to all of this. Join Joe Haddow for an interactive whistle stop tour of all things creative. Discover what art really is, why all art matters, and how much joy can be found through being creative. Joe will be joined by poet and novelist Cecilia Knapp, who'll be teaching the audience some rhymes and performing poetry too!

David Olusoga: Black British History

15:15-16:15
Age 12+
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

Join historian, author, and broadcaster David Olusoga, for a fascinating introduction to Black British history, with Waterstones Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho. From the Roman Africans who guarded Hadrian's Wall to the present day, David highlights some key moments in Black British history from the past 1800 years, and presents a sneak-peek of his new book, *Black History for Every Day of the Year*, written with his sister Yinka, which features both well-known figures and unsung heroes.

Captioned Livestream Available



Cynthia So
Aug 26 16:30

Natalie Denny
Aug 26 13:30

Thiago de Moraes: Getting Tricky With It!

15:15-16:15
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

In *Old Gods, New Tricks*, masters of mischief, Loki, Maui, and the Monkey God join forces on a quest to bring light back to the world. In this interactive event with author-illustrator Thiago de Moraes discover how he draws (quite literally) on lost cultures and ancient legends for his work. And discover a few of Thiago's sketching secrets.

Eat Your Way Around The World with Laura Mucha & Ed Smith

16:15-17:15
Age 5-8
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

What do children in other countries eat for breakfast, lunch, and dinner? And just where does our food come from? Award-winning poet and author, Laura Mucha, and food critic and trained chef, Ed Smith, take you on a tasty tour around the world as they introduce their book, *Welcome to our Table: A Celebration of what Children Eat Everywhere*. Make a reservation for this five star event!

Lex Croucher & Cynthia So: Queer in Love

16:30-17:30
Age 12+
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

Join leading YA authors Lex Croucher and Cynthia So in discussing the versatile ways of writing about queer love. In *Gwen and Art Are Not in Love*, Lex plunges into a medieval period drama that will have you cry-laughing. In *If You Still Recognise Me*, Cynthia explores the emotional ups and downs of a long distance relationship. In both, the rewards will be worth the heartache and lives will be changed forever. Chaired by Alice Tarbuck.

Young Adult

Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | Free, book in advance

Start your day with a magical half hour of stories for children and families. Appearing today: **Petr Horáček**.

Cressida Cowell's Dragon Hunt

10:00-18:00
Age 5+ and Families
Courtyard | Free

Celebrate 20 years of the blockbuster book and film series, *How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell, with an Edinburgh Book Festival Dragon Treasure Hunt! Spot hidden dragons around the festival site, and find out their strengths and weaknesses. Downloadable activity sheets will also be available, and come along to meet Cressida herself at a signing on Sunday 27th August, 12.45pm. Badges and Viking hats will be on offer at the signing.

Captioned

Embrace your Inner Lion with Harry Woodgate

10:00-11:00
Age 4-7
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Timmy loves to perform... but there's something holding them back: a gigantic hairy lion! When it's time for the school play, can Timmy tame their inner lion and shine like the star they really are? Join author-illustrator of *Timid*, Harry Woodgate, in this fantastic event about overcoming shyness and embracing your inner self. There'll even be the chance to create your own imaginary animal and make a marvellous mask of your creation.

The Hidden Folk Walking Tour with Elle McNicoll

10:00-11:00, 12:30-13:30 and 15:00-16:00
Age 8-12
Courtyard | £5.00

Discover the mysteries and magic hidden in Edinburgh on this extra special walking tour with award-winning author and screenwriter, Elle McNicoll. In her bestselling books *Like A Charm* and *Like A Curse*, Elle reveals the *Hidden Folk of Edinburgh*, and all the magic that lies beneath the surface of our beautiful city. Don't miss this chance to hear from the author herself and see which parts of Edinburgh inspired her stories as you stroll around town. **Meet at the Box Office to start the tour.**

Joseph Coelho and Fiona Lumbers: Hooked on Books

10:15-11:15
Age 3-6
Spark Theatre | £5.00

Waterstones Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho and illustrator Fiona Lumbers present the latest instalment of their much-loved picture book series, *Luna Loves Books*. On the biggest, bookiest day of the year, Luna's class is celebrating books. Everyone is dressed up, but disaster strikes as her costume rips. Can Luna's dad come to the rescue with book magic? With interactive songs, live drawing, and readings, this is a family show not to be missed!

Rainbow Books: A Storytelling Adventure in Scots and Scottish Gaelic

11:15-12:15
Age 5-8
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Best-selling Scots translator **Matthew Mackie**, and award-winning Gaelic singer and poet **Marcas Mac an Tuairneir** have created a unique storytelling show in Scots and Scottish Gaelic based around their translations of Lawrence Schimel's acclaimed *Rainbow Books*. Two adventures await with Guid Morning/Madainn Mhath! and Guid Nicht/Oidhche Mhath! From rumbling tummies and a mischievous cat; to bedtime with a playful puppy. Hear how the stories end in this fun and interactive event. Plus a special appearance from the much-loved Wee Mowdie that wantit tae ken wha keeched on his heid.

Meet Supertato

11:30-12:00
All Ages
Courtyard Stage | Free, drop-in

Join our favourite veggie superhero for some fruit and veg-themed songs, rhymes and games. Supertato will also be hap-pea to share high-fives and cuddles and pose for photos!



Dr Mya-Rose Craig
Aug 27 13:45

Sunday 27 continued...

Cressida Cowell: Hic Hic Hooray!

11:45-12:45
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

Join Festival favourite Cressida Cowell to celebrate both 20 years of the worldwide hit *How to Train Your Dragon*, and an exclusive pre-publication peek at *Which Way Round the Galaxy*, the next book in her number one bestselling *Which Way* series. Find out about brand-new *Dragon* short story, *How to Train Your Hogfly*, and see her first ever drawing of Hiccup and Toothless. Expect creativity tips, Viking hats and a little bit of magic... Unmissable for new fans and old!

Livestream Available Captioned

Faces of Inspiration with Nadine Kaadan

11:45-12:45
Age 5-8
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

In Nadine Kaadan's *A Child Like You*, brave children call out the injustices in our world. From saving the planet to demanding equality, Nadine will show you how to make a positive change. Enjoy a reading from the book and have your voice heard in the Q&A. Then, join Nadia for a live-drawing where you will create your own character – based on someone in the audience!

Introducing The Star Whale with Nicola Davies & Petr Horáček

12:30-13:30
Age 5-8
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

Join internationally-acclaimed duo Nicola Davies and Petr Horáček for a unique celebration of our beautiful planet, in verse and live drawing. Discover a pangolin at dusk, fly on a bat's back, visit a lion, and hear about his plight! You might even spot a kingfisher, that 'small glint of wonder', and see how 'wild reclaims the world' in the urban night-time!

Allen Fatimaharan and Gavin Puckett: Hit the Streets with Blanksy!

13:00-14:00
Age 5-8
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Join comedy writer Gavin Puckett and World Book Day illustrator Allen Fatimaharan for a spectacular session of art-tastic fun celebrating their new book, *Blanksy the Street Cat*: a heart-warming story about a cat who uses his creative talents to help his friend Pete the Busker become rich. But will money really make Pete happy? Come along for hilarious readings and sing-alongs, interactive games, and create your very own Blanksy the Street Cat.

Weaving Stories from Your Own History with Jasmine Richards

13:30-14:30
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Join Jasmine Richards – Future Hero series creator and founder of inclusive fiction studio Storymix – for a creative writing workshop that's a blast from your past! Find out about the team of writers involved in creating the Future Hero books, how they used their backgrounds as writing material, and how in your own ancestry there lies stories that have yet to be told.

Taking Flight with Dr Mya-Rose Craig

13:45-14:45
Age 8+ & Families
Spark Theatre | £5.00

Join young activist and ornithologist Dr Mya-Rose Craig and follow the story of some amazing birds and their incredible journey around the globe. Along the way, you'll discover history and folklore that reveal the special relationship between humans and birds.

The Bone Season: 10th Anniversary with Samantha Shannon

14:15-15:15
Age 14+
Baillie Gifford West Court | £5.00

Samantha Shannon was still a student when she published the first of her seven-book cycle *The Bone Season* set in a gothic vision of future London where humans with a capacity to contact the undead are persecuted for their abilities. This August sees the release of a new 10th anniversary edition of the international bestseller, boasting rewritten sections and bonus content. Samantha is in conversation with fellow author **V. E Schwab** to discuss what made it into this this 'director's cut' of *The Bone Season*, her ground-breaking debut fantasy.

Young Adult

James Catchpole is So Amazing!

14:45-15:45
Age 5-8
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Joe has one leg and is often told he's 'Amazing Joe' or 'Poor Joe', but what if he'd rather just be... Joe? *You're So Amazing* asks readers to imagine how it would feel if strangers believed they had to compensate for a person's disability every time they spoke to them. Join author James Catchpole to find out how Joe was inspired by his own experience, and why he's so passionate about making sure all children are represented in books.



The Big Draw-Off with Rob Biddulph & Nadia Shireen

15:15-16:15
Age 7-10
Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court | £5.00

Roll up! Roll up! To the biggest Draw-Off event in the history of the Book Festival, where superstar author-illustrators Rob Biddulph and Nadia Shireen go pencil to pencil in this hilarious interactive event. Come along to hear about their new books *Gigantic and Grimwood: Monster Mayhem* and get the chance to choose what both authors draw in the live-drawing showdown. Chaired by **Pamela Butchart**.

Livestream Available

Make Your Own Merry Mystery with Harry Woodgate

15:15-16:15
Age 8-12
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

Join Harry Woodgate, one of the fabulous authors featured in *The Very Merry Murder Club* short story collection, in this interactive event where you will build your own mystery! Crafting the detective, villain, and sidekick, together with Harry you'll map out every aspect of the perfect mystery story. Candlesticks and lead pipes not provided.

Skye McKenna: Wild Magic

16:30-17:30
Age 8-12
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | £5.00

Have you ever been in a forest and wondered if a fairy or goblin could be hiding among the trees? Young witch Cassie Morgan is in training to guard the Hedge, the vast forest that marks the border between England and Faerie. *Woodwitch* is the anticipated sequel to *Hedgewitch*. Join author Skye McKenna and hear how she loves searching for stories in the wild woods of Scotland.

Authenticity and Diversity in Children's Books with Nadine Kaadan & Harry Woodgate

18:00-19:00
Age 16+
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | £5.00

With an increasing awareness in the books industry on the importance of diversity and inclusivity, publishers are realising the need to broaden representation. Though with this comes issues around authenticity. From cultural appropriation to tokenism, this talk digs into some of the pitfalls as well as the positives, and explores what we can do to have empowered and authentic representation in children's books.

Young Adult

Book Tickets at edbookfest.co.uk

Monday 28

Are You Sitting Comfortably?

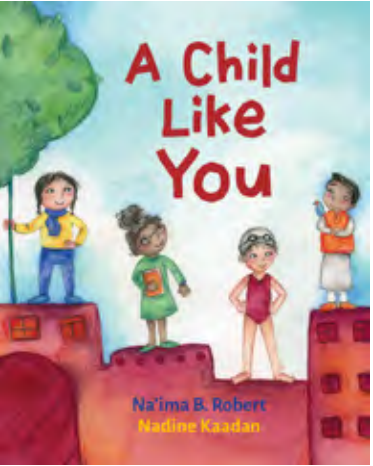
10:00-10:30
Age 3-6
Baillie Gifford Storytime Yurt | Free, book in advance

Start your day with a magical half hour of stories for children and families. Appearing today: **Petr Horáček**.

Bookbug

10:00-10:30 and 11:00-11:30
Age 0-3
Baillie Gifford Creation Station | Free, book in advance

Join Edinburgh Libraries for songs, stories and rhymes in this fun, interactive Bookbug session, part of Scottish Book Trust's Early Years programme.



Nadine Kaadan
Aug 27 11:45 & 18:00

Enjoy all our events in-person, or watch livestreamed events online, see events listing.

Visiting the Festival Village

How to find us

The Book Festival Village is located at **Edinburgh College of Art** at **74 Lauriston Place, Edinburgh, EH3 9DF**. Event venues are dotted around the Edinburgh College of Art. See our site map for more details.

Opening hours

The Book Festival Village is free to enter and open daily **12–28 August** from **09:30 until late**.

The Festival Bookshop

This year the Bookshop is brought to you by Waterstones. Find the shop in the old Fire Station on Lauriston Place, open daily **09:30-21:30** during the Festival.

The Book Signing Tent

After most events, authors will sign copies of their books in the Signing Tent. Please check the boards outside the tent for the signing schedule.

Cafés and bars

We have a range of places to buy food and drink: a large airy indoor café with views over the courtyard, a lively bar, and a variety of pop-up vans and carts. Between them, they offer a variety of hot and cold food, drinks, snacks, and treats. There are also outdoor and undercover seating areas. The Café is open until 22:00.

Picnics and packed lunches

You're welcome to bring your own food and soft drinks and relax on the grass for as long as you want – you don't have to see an event to enjoy the atmosphere of our Festival Village.

Drinking water taps

Drinking water taps are available to fill up water bottles.

Festival site map

Check our Festival site map – dotted around the Village and available online.

Festival photographers and film crews

Our friendly roving photographers and video creators will be present throughout the Festival, capturing images and interviews with visitors and authors. Cameras will be present in our Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court venue as events taking place here will be filmed.



Coming with Children?

Children's play area and baby change

The play area provides a creative space where children and their families and carers can relax and play. You can bring a packed lunch if you'd like. There is a baby change facility nearby.

Children's activities

Each day there are free events for children to join in and have fun; please see the programme for more information. And keep your eyes peeled: you never know when your little one's favourite character might leave their page behind and wander into our Village...

Buggies and pushchairs

Buggies cannot be taken into the theatres, so please leave yours in the Buggy Park located near the children's play area before entering the event. Please note: the Buggy Park is not staffed.

Baby tickets

If you are bringing a baby under two years to an event for older children, please request a free baby ticket from the Box Office on the day of the event. If the event is created for children under two, you will need to buy an event ticket as usual.

Access information

Help with access

Our dedicated Access Officer can help with any specific needs for your visit and they'll be happy to answer questions. Please contact **access@edbookfest.co.uk**

Braille, audio, and large print

Contact us on: **0131 718 5666** or **mailinglist@edbookfest.co.uk** and we will do our best to get you the brochure in the format you need.

Pay What You Can for events

Some events at the Festival, including all livestreams of events, are Pay What You Can. Pay any amount to watch, taking into consideration what you can afford to spend. This pricing helps make the Book Festival accessible to those with limited means. A standard priced ticket is £15.50 for adult events and £5 for children's events, but paying more for your ticket supports those who most need it.

Toilets

We have toilets for everyone, including gender neutral toilets, a wheelchair accessible toilet, and a fully accessible Changing Places toilet, complete with a hoist and changing table (please provide your own sling).

Assistance dogs

Assistance dogs are welcome. Please let the Box Office know at least a day before your event so we can make sure you are seated somewhere suitable.

Hidden Disabilities Sunflower

Wearing the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower discreetly indicates to our trained staff that you may need additional support or help as you navigate the Book Festival site and attend events. Lanyards are available at the Information Desk.

Sound enhancement in theatres

We have sound enhancement systems in the Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court, Baillie Gifford West Court, and Spark Theatre. Please collect earphones, a receiver, and instructions from the Information Desk.

Wheelchair access

The Book Festival's site and venues are fully wheelchair accessible. We have wheelchairs you can borrow. Please call our Box Office on **0345 373 5888** or email **boxoffice@edbookfest.co.uk** when you book your tickets if you require assistance (see below for seating requests).

Seating requests

If you have a wheelchair or need to sit in a specific area (aisle, etc) please let the Box Office know as soon as possible when you book or at least two days before your event. We want to ensure that the most accessible seats are available for those who need them, so due to space and demand we cannot also reserve seats for others in your group.

Companion tickets

If you need a support person or aide to attend events, you are entitled to a free Companion Ticket. Contact the Box Office on **0345 373 5888** or email **boxoffice@edbookfest.co.uk** as soon as possible after booking your ticket. Free tickets cannot be booked online. For popular events or on the first day of bookings, we recommend purchasing an extra ticket for your companion, then contacting the Box Office for reimbursement. See booking information on page 102.

Captioned / BSL events

A selection of events, both in-person and livestreamed, are scheduled with live-captioning or a BSL interpreter. Look for the tag under each event or filter events on the website to see the full list.

BSL on request

You may request a BSL interpreter for any event in the programme. Please let us know promptly. If we are unable to fulfil a request, we will refund or exchange your tickets. How it works:

- Buy tickets to the event you want to see in the usual way.
- Email **bsl@edbookfest.co.uk** or phone **0345 373 5888** to request an interpreter.
- We will process requests weekly in July and make arrangements with our BSL interpreters before confirming your request.
- We cannot accept requests after Friday 28 July.

Accessible parking

There are some accessible parking spaces in the forecourt of Edinburgh College of Art. We ask that these are prioritised for Blue Badge holders. This area can also be used as a drop-off point if extra room is required.

Quiet space

We have created a comfortable quiet space on the Festival site for anyone who wants to get away from the hustle and bustle for a while. Ask a member of staff for directions, or look out for the signs on the Festival site.

Accessibility at the Book Festival is supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.



Please note: all information in this brochure is correct at the time of print. Check edbookfest.co.uk for the most up-to-date information.

Booking information

Please book tickets on our website edbookfest.co.uk

Bookings open 10:00 on Thursday 29 June

The first day of booking is very busy. We recommend logging in to your account or creating an account in advance to make the process as smooth as possible. Our website will operate a booking queue and notify you when you get to the front, so you don't have to wait in front of a screen if you would prefer not to. See the 'How to Book' video on our YouTube channel for full details.

Box Office telephone

If you are unable to book tickets on the website, our Box Office phoneline is **0345 373 5888**. Please note: we have a small friendly team dealing with phone bookings and enquiries; please only use the phoneline if you cannot book on the website. It will help to reduce wait times for customers who cannot book in any other way or need assistance. We will do our best to deal with calls quickly, however you may not get through immediately.

Calls are charged at the same rate as a local call to a landline. Please check your mobile contract as network charges may differ.

Box Office opening hours

Before the Festival: **10:00–17:00 Monday to Friday**
During the Festival: **09:30–20:45 daily**

Booking tickets in person

Our Box Office counter is located in front of the Festival Bookshop at the Edinburgh College of Art and open daily from **Saturday 12 August, 09:30–20:45**.



Payment and fees

We accept Visa/Delta/Maestro/Mastercard. We do not charge any booking fees. All bookings should be made on our website and the tickets issued will be etickets. If you've chosen to Pay What You Can to watch an event, your payment will be treated as a donation to the Edinburgh International Book Festival charity, and you will be asked if you'd like to Gift Aid it (UK taxpayers only).

Refund policy

Tickets can only be exchanged or refunded when an event is cancelled or substantially changed. Where demand is high for sold-out events, we may accept returns at our discretion. If you've booked a ticket to watch an event in-person, you'll be able to watch the event online for free if you find you can't attend (if the event is being livestreamed). Refunds are not available to latecomers.

Concession ticket prices

£13.50 for over 60s; £10.50 for students, under 26, jobseekers, and disabled visitors (companions go free – see details on page 101). For events where only one concession price is listed in brackets, this is the price for all concessions, including Over 60s.

Pay What You Can tickets

Our Pay What You Can pricing option has been designed to help audiences who are struggling financially. If you can afford our standard ticket price, we do ask that you opt to pay it so we can continue to offer the benefit to those who need it most. As a charity, we rely on ticket sales and donations to carry out the incredible work we do throughout the year. Thank you for your understanding. *Supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.*

Baby tickets

If you are bringing a baby under two years to an event for older children, please request a free baby ticket from the Box Office on the day of the event. If the event is created for children under two, you will need to buy an event ticket as usual.



Event information

Venue seating

All venues have unreserved seating, except for the Edinburgh Playhouse event. See our website for more detailed information about venues: edbookfest.co.uk/visiting-the-festival/venues

Latecomers

Please allow yourself plenty of time to collect tickets and get to the event venue. We don't admit latecomers after the start of events in most of our venues due to the nature of the events. If you are late, we won't be able to seat you. Latecomers are not entitled to a refund. Please see our website for more information about seating and venues: edbookfest.co.uk/visiting-the-festival/venues

In-person and livestreamed events

Baillie Gifford Sculpture Court is set up to serve both in-person and online audiences. The theatre will facilitate a range of fixed and roving cameras to capture and broadcast live footage of the authors on stage and may also capture shots of the audiences watching or asking questions. Due to the hybrid nature of events in this venue, it is incredibly important you are seated at the start time of the event. Please arrive in good time – once the doors are closed, we won't be able to admit latecomers to preserve the quality of the live broadcast and prevent disruption to others in the venue. Other venues will have fixed cameras.

Authors appearing remotely

Nearly all our Festival authors and artists are appearing on stage, in-person. For the few who are taking part remotely, you'll watch them on a screen in the venue. Check the event tags (under each event listing) to see when someone is appearing remotely.

Watching events on-demand

Most livestreamed events are available to watch on-demand after the livestream has finished for a period of time. Check the event website pages to see how long an event is available.

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