



We've moved:  
**Edinburgh Futures  
Institute**

**Edinburgh International  
Book Festival**  
10 - 25 August 2024

**Baillie Gifford  
Children's Programme**  
See pages 94 - 117

# Future Tense.



# Explore our Festival



We can't wait to welcome you into our shiny new home at the Edinburgh Futures Institute: a futures-focused space for learning, research, and innovation at the University of Edinburgh.

The Edinburgh Futures Institute brings people and disciplines together to spark the unexpected and make new futures possible, making it the ideal place for the Book Festival to call home.

If you're local, you might know the Edinburgh Futures Institute as the former Royal Infirmary. You might even have been born there! If you're not local, or too young to remember, it's the stunning turreted building on Lauriston Place, by Middle Meadow Walk.

Most of our events are inside the Edinburgh Futures Institute on levels 1 and 0, along with the café-restaurant.

Outside, you'll find The Courtyard – a big green space with more food, a bar, places to hang out, and... back by popular demand... the Spiegelent! There's also a dedicated Children's Tent in The Courtyard with lots of events and free activities to spark ideas and creativity. There's always something happening from first thing to last thing so please pop by – everyone is welcome and it's free to soak up the atmosphere; all event ticket prices are listed by event.

This year sees the return of our fantastic Festival Bookshop brought to you by Waterstones, and what's more you can get your favourite author to sign your book. See board on-site for details.

We've also got some events at McEwan Hall (just next door) and our food events hosted at Elliott's Studio, away from the main throng at 21 Sciennes Road, on the other side of the Meadows.

Our handy map on the back page will help you find us. And don't worry if you need a bit of help finding your way around once you reach us; look out for our friendly Front of House team (all looking radiant in green) and they'll get you where you want to go.

## Events for all ages on different stages

With more than 500 live events, including over 100 just for children and families and many available to watch online, all created to delight and inspire book lovers of all ages at this year's Festival. The venues are dotted about inside and out, **so please give yourself plenty of time to get to the venue and find your way.**

Why not take a punt and see an event you wouldn't normally go to? Explore the programme for inspiration. If you can't join us in-person, visit [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk) for our livestream and on-demand events, or read on and look out for our handy symbols in our listings.

## Labels in our listings and what they mean

### Livestreamed

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 119 for details of BSL on request.

### Captioned

Event will be live-captioned, see event listings for details.

### LD

Event is learning disability friendly.

## Welcome to the 2024 Edinburgh International Book Festival

I am delighted to present you with our Programme Future Tense.

August in Edinburgh isn't like anywhere else. The mix of high octane and venerable, raucous and transformative, thoughtful and spontaneous is what brings the city to life; creating a playground for anyone whose curiosity gets the better of them.

Our Festival is a vital contribution to that eclectic tapestry, by offering a place for truly ground-breaking conversations. We want ideas to take centre stage, and, cutting through the noise of social media, let discussions with much-needed nuance take root. In a moment of such division and opposition, democracy thrives on good information and genuine exchange - the art of really listening is top of the bill and your voice deserves to be heard in the conversation.

Reimagining the Book Festival in an entirely new venue is a gift and an opportunity. We embrace the new on so many fronts this year: our programme Future Tense dives headfirst into the challenges and illuminates the possibilities of our current turbulent moment. We've got new collaborations in the works, a new look and thematic structure to our programme and of course, new poetry, fiction, performance, politics, food writing and so much more, from both household names and up-and-coming superstars alike.

We are also taking a fresh approach to how the Festival matters to people and creating experiences that feel relevant, and fun. From our Front Listers at the McEwan Hall, to podcasters that will truly change your way of thinking, to delicious lunches and rowdy ceilidhs. Whether you come armed with an intellectual axe to grind or you haven't picked up a book for years, our Festival is for you. We matter too via our incredible year-round work in communities across Edinburgh, and by welcoming thousands of young people from all over Scotland, to experience those life-changing moments when young imaginations take flight. Your participation supports that work, for which we are very grateful.

What isn't new, is the glorious spirit of collaboration which has made this Festival possible throughout our 41 years; the writers and artists, publishers, partners, sponsors, supporters, sister organisations and Festivals, the champions who continue to play a role in bringing this wonderful beast into full colour is truly extraordinary. We are grateful to them all, and can't wait to see you all soon.



**Jenny Niven**  
Festival Director & CEO

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# With thanks to our Sponsors and Supporters

Edinburgh International Book Festival is fortunate to receive support from a wide range of individuals and organisations who play a pivotal role in enabling us to deliver our work. Without them, our Festival simply wouldn't be as vibrant, inspiring and accessible as it currently is.

We are enormously grateful to all those who so generously choose to contribute.

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Funding from Scottish Government Platforms for Creative Excellence Transition Fund.

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## International Partners

## With thanks

The Edinburgh International Book Festival is hosted at the Edinburgh Futures Institute 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 their support in making this year's Book Festival possible.

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## Major Sponsors



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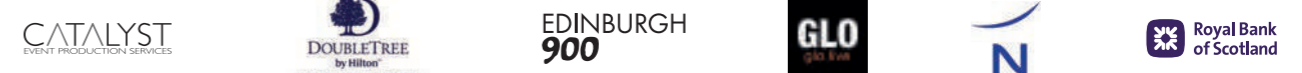
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# Themes

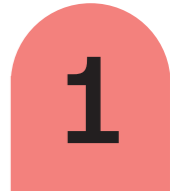
See something you like?  
You'll find our programme key  
running at the bottom of the pages.

#### Programme Key – 2024 Themes

- Future Tense
- Brilliant Fiction
- The Front List
- How to Live a Meaningful Life
- Table Talk
- Voterama
- Justified Sinner 200
- Poetry & Performance
- Back to Ours
- Extraordinary Events



# Future Tense



The world can feel as though it is in turmoil, from global conflict and environmental disasters to stalled politics and social unrest. From the domestic to the global, challenges can feel relentless and intractable. Short election cycles and a hyper focus on the next sound bite or Insta Reel, telescope and narrow our perspective.

But what happens if we zoom out, and think more expansively? How does our perspective change and our ideas become bolder and further reaching when we think on a much longer time scale altogether?

Future Tense is the foremost of our programme themes this year, bringing together a range of events and topics which offer the option of a truly different way of looking at things. As we relaunch our Festival at the Edinburgh Futures Institute (EFI), we're joined by some of the brightest minds currently exploring how looking to the future might save us from the present. Are there tensions in the future? Of course: but there's hope and opportunity too.

Across six elements, we explore how future-oriented thinking, learning across generations and disciplines, and approaching change with curiosity, compassion and imagination, could help us untangle the huge systematic challenges we currently face, both as individuals and as a society.

We'll be looking at some of the most game-changing ideas emerging from technology, economics, philosophy, literature and creativity, and the new thinking which brings these fields together in surprising and impactful ways. From AI to sustainability, new takes on capitalism, history and the green economy, together we'll have nuanced and progressive discussions that both illuminate the biggest challenges of our time, and suggest ways forward.

#### 1. A Toast to the Future

For the first time, we'll open with a special Gala event of readings, bringing you a kaleidoscope of perspectives and provocations, from the hopeful to the momentous, as we ask a diverse line-up of stellar writers to explore the idea of The Future (in 7 minutes each). Be inspired, challenged, and delighted by experimental author Martin MacInnes (*In Ascension*); EFI's Chair in the Ethics of Data and AI, Shannon Vallor; form-bending writer Irenosen Okojie; speculative novelist Naomi Alderman; national treasure Richard Holloway; and award-winning poet and performer Joelle Taylor. This event will ignite your curiosity and plant the seeds of enquiry which we hope will germinate for you across your time at the Festival as you explore our ideas and themes. *Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.*

#### 2. Future Library

The Future Library project is a meditation on time, and the imagination. A writer creates a work every year for 100 years from 2014, which is placed inside the Future Library in Oslo, remaining unread until 2114. Literary superstar Margaret Atwood contributed the first book to this visionary project, designed by Scottish artist Katie Paterson. Recently, Atwood has been developing the concept of the 'Practical Utopia', asking simple questions to push us to completely redesign how we live. She joins us by livestream to explore how we can engender a better future. There will also be hands-on workshops, and the announcement of the 2025 Future Library contributor, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the project.



# 1 Future Tense

## 3. Generations

We can only plan effectively for the future by understanding what came before, and examining the impact of current decision making beyond the visible horizon. *Generations* will offer perspectives on how we can become 'good ancestors', from Roman Krznaric and Ella Saltmarsh, and on how our political systems can be adapted to consider more deeply our impact on the generations after us (led by Wales' first Commissioner for Future Generations, Sophie Howe). We've crafted a fascinating series of intergenerational conversations between writers who share common ground too - don't miss, for instance, poets Roger McGough and Hollie McNish together.

## 4. AI, Data and Complex Systems

We're at the precipice of a huge change in our relationship with, and trust in, technology. There's no resisting the shifting tide, but there are vast differences in perceptions about its benefits and dangers. We'll bring together experts on data to consider how tech can help us build a better world, and where we need to be most wary. We have embarked on some groundbreaking research of our own into how writers and publishers might wrestle some agency back from AI, led by researcher and University of Edinburgh Chancellor's Fellow Pip Thornton; come and hear the fruits of our fascinating workshops, and try out our Writer vs AI installations.

## 5. Future Economics and Politics

How is capitalism changing? How are we going to finance the green tech revolution we need? With a more unequal world than ever before, how much wealth is too much? As capital changes hands between generations, and tech looks set to revolutionise the economy, a range of fascinating economic thinkers and journalists grapple with what comes next. Including Nobel Prize winner Joseph E Stiglitz, BBC's chief economics editor Dharshini David on the green economy, Ken Costa, Grace Blakeley, Ingrid Robeyns, and more.

## 6. The Imaginative Realm

If some of us have only just begun to think ahead creatively, sci-fi writers and authors of speculative fiction have been imagining the future - or rather, futures - for decades. What alternative universes have they been creating? What can great storytelling reveal to us about ourselves? First class writers from across these genres, including R F Kuang, Adrian Tchaikovsky, Irenosen Okojie and So Mayer discuss their imagined worlds, a group of writers and scientists get together to explore truly living within our means (like astronauts!).



# Brilliant Fiction

# 2

From international luminaries to local heroes, the programme is packed with stellar fiction. What makes something brilliant? You're bereft when you read the last line? Or is it a character whose voice you can hear long after you've closed the page? Here's a taste of some of the brilliant writers coming to our stages this year.

From Scotland we welcome back Andrew O'Hagan with his state of the nation novel *Caledonian Road*, shot through with his imitable wit and humour; and Lorraine Kelly (from the telly) is joining us with her debut novel *The Island Swimmer*. New novels from Graeme Macrae Burnet, Kate Atkinson, Louise Welsh, and a debut novel from comics legend Grant Morrison (and many more) show Scotland's letters to be in a very healthy state indeed.

The extraordinary Rachel Cusk brings us the highly anticipated *Parade*, and we feature new books from award winners and Festival favourites including Elif Shafak, Colm Tóibín, Sarah Perry, David Nicholls, Kevin Barry, and 2023 Booker Prize-winner, Paul Lynch with *Prophet Song*, a devastating vision of an alternate Ireland at war.

At the Book Festival we pride ourselves on presenting the finest international fiction that truly allows readers to travel imaginatively and understand the world around us. This year, Adania Shibli's *Minor Detail* and Chigozie Obioma's *The Road to the Country* tackle war and its devastating outcomes, and we're joined by Sámi-Swedish writer Linnea Axelsson, Indigenous Australian writers Tony Birch and Melissa Lucashenko, and writer and translator Anton Hur. We'll also enjoy a very special visit from Itamar Vieira Junior, timed with the staging of *After the Silence*, a production based on his bestselling novel *Torto Arado*, at Edinburgh International Festival. And a dazzling line-up from the US includes short story pioneer Lorrie Moore, and the unmatched Lauren Groff.

\*If you're interested in how your mind creates voices for characters, don't miss our amazing ReaderBank project. Page 15 for details.

## The Front List at McEwan Hall

**Alan Cumming & Forbes Masson in conversation with Jackie Kay**

Saturday 10 August, 19:20

**James O'Brien**

Monday 12 August, 13:30

**Alice Oseman in conversation with Lauren James**

Tuesday 13 August, 13:30

**Dolly Alderton in conversation with Yomi Adegoke**

Wednesday 14 August, 15:30

**Salman Rushdie in conversation with Mishal Husain**

Saturday 17 August, 17:30

**Philippa Gregory in conversation with Val McDermid**

Thursday 22 August, 13:30

**Richard Osman in conversation with Ian Rankin**

Saturday 24 August, 13:30

**Matt Haig in conversation with Chitra Ramaswamy**

Sunday 25 August, 13:30



# How to Live a Meaningful Life

Wars rage, the planet burns, politicians are up to high jinks, and apparently no-one can agree on anything. It's no wonder we all feel overwhelmed. So, what can we do when life starts to feel too much? How do we remind ourselves what it's all for anyway?

This strand of events - on philosophy, humour, relationships, and nourishment - is about remembering (and celebrating) the things that make life worth living. We've asked incredible writers to present their take on some of the cornerstones of what makes us human - and here's something of what you can expect:

We've got writers talking about resilience, and about how equipping ourselves with knowledge about how our struggles affect us can empower us to navigate through the worst of them.

We've got writers talking about paying attention, about the crucial importance of looking up and showing up and standing with each other, even when it's hard going, and especially when we don't fully know what to do.

We've got writers talking about how vital it is to pause and reflect.

We've got writers talking about how they've found meaning in the midst of apparently hopeless situations, talking about what *meaning* actually *means* - and faith, too. What does it feel like to have faith? What does it take to keep it?

And we've got writers talking about some of life's greatest joys: food and creativity and nature and laughter. Things that are innately meaningful for the happiness they bring to us... but more than that, they can be powerful tools of solidarity, of holding onto hope, and of standing up to those who would try to knock us down.

This strand is all about the stuff of life, really, and we hope these events will uplift and replenish you.

**On Faith: Sarah Perry**

Monday 12 August, 12:00, Spiegelent

**On Finding Meaning: Graham Caveney**

Tuesday 13 August, 16:00, Courtyard Theatre

**On Resilience: Vincent Deary**

Friday 16 August, 17:45, Courtyard Theatre

**On Reflection: Richard Holloway**

Saturday 17 August, 17:30, Venue T

**On Food and Community: Sami Tamimi**

Sunday 18 August, 11:45, Venue T

**On Creativity: Rachael Sermanni**

Monday 19 August, 21:00, Spiegelent

**On Humour: Andrew O'Hagan**

Wednesday 21 August, 13:45, Spiegelent

**On Paying Attention: Olesya Khromeychuk**

Thursday 22 August, 14:15, Courtyard Theatre

**On Making it Count: Oliver Burkeman**

Saturday 24 August, 17:00, Venue T



# Table Talk at Elliott's Studio

Of all the ways that we give and show love, food – the acts of cooking, eating, and sharing – might be our favourite. So we've teamed up with Edinburgh's Elliott's Studio to design our dream dinner (or lunch) parties, bringing some of our favourite chefs and food writers to Edinburgh.

Take a seat at the table and hear from Palestinian chef and co-author of *Falastin* Sami Tamimi; Pam Brunton, head chef of Michelin Green Starred restaurant, Inver; first generation farmer and internet sensation Julius Roberts; Rachel Roddy - who writes delicious dispatches from her kitchen in Rome; owner of London's Darjeeling Express restaurant (and one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People for 2024), Asma Khan; the person who transformed the mid-week meal with her one pan revolution, Rukmini Iyer; and eternally curious travel writer and critic Caroline Eden.

**Have Lunch with...**

Three chef-writers will be creating a special menu, designed to be enjoyed and shared after a demonstration and conversation around the large communal table at Elliott's Studio. The ticket price includes your meal, wine (or soft drink) and a bespoke recipe booklet to take home as a reminder of this special event.

**Have Lunch with Asma Khan**

Wednesday 14 August, 13:00, Elliott's Studio

**Have Lunch with Sami Tamimi**

Sunday 18 August, 15:00, Elliott's Studio

**Have Lunch with Rachel Roddy**

Saturday 24 August, 14:00, Elliott's Studio

**Table Talks**

Join us for a blend of in-conversation and cookery demonstration at Elliott's Studio with four fantastic chef-writers, and watch as they recreate a favourite dish at the kitchen island. The ticket price includes a drink, a taster and a recipe card to take home.

**One Pan Wonders: A Table Talk with Rukmini Iyer**

Thursday 22 August, 12:00, Elliott's Studio

**Couldn't Be Simpler: A Table Talk with Julius Roberts**

Thursday 22 August, 15:00, Elliott's Studio

**The Stories of Us: A Table Talk with Pam Brunton**

Sunday 25 August, 12:00, Elliott's Studio

**Out of the Ordinary: A Table Talk with Caroline Eden**

Sunday 25 August, 15:00, Elliott's Studio

All menus will be vegetarian. Please contact us with any dietary requirements [boxoffice@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@edbookfest.co.uk)





# 4 Voterama: Elections, Democracy and Geopolitics

2024 is not just an election year, it is *the* election year, as more people across the world (64 countries), representing almost half the global population, will vote than at any other point in recorded history.

From the US, to India, to Taiwan, and closer to home, this year will see the political dice roll in ways we have never seen. Some of the most populous, wealthiest, and most powerful countries will have a new leader, or not. To say this year is pivotal is an understatement.

But how democratic is democracy? Is populism once again on the rise internationally? And what do experts predict from the current conflicts? Politicians, journalists, and thinkers bring global knowledge, perspectives, and experience to these pressing questions.

In another landmark in 2024, the Scottish Parliament turns a mighty 25 this year. The Scottish Youth Parliament is also celebrating 25 years, and we're working with its members to envision the Scotland they'd like to live in (and may well help shape, as our potential future leaders) in **Scotland 2049**. See pages 84 and 90 on how to visit this incredible exhibition. In partnership with the Festival of Politics.

We explore the contemporary UK political landscape, and the impact of devolution, in this seismic year with new titles from leading politicians and commentators Andy Burnham and Steve Rotheram, Caroline Lucas, Jess Phillips, Simon Kuper, and Alastair Campbell.

How can you make sure your vote counts? We look to the future of democratic participation, and ask how deliberative processes and Citizen Assemblies are playing an increasingly important role in the democratic process, and evolving how we engage altogether.

Away from the headlines, how does conflict ever actually become resolved? In partnership with Beyond Borders Scotland, we are hosting three events themed around peacebuilding and conflict resolution, exploring everything from the Islamic principles of peace-making, to UN diplomacy, and the impact on climate. Featuring Mark Muller Stuart KC, Andrew Gilmour, and Ebrahim Rasool.



# Justified Sinner 200

5

**'...He knew no other pleasure but what consisted in opposition.'**  
*The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner,*  
James Hogg

2024 marks the 200th anniversary of the publication of James Hogg's seminal work, *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner*. The compelling, thrilling and at times horrifying story of the Calvinist Robert Wringhim, who believes that his place in Heaven is predestined - regardless of the havoc he wreaks during his time on Earth - has exerted an influence over Scottish culture more far-reaching than Hogg ever could have anticipated. Over the last two centuries a who's who of Scottish authors from Robert Louis Stevenson to Ian Rankin and Graeme Macrae Burnett, have credited its influence.

To celebrate this giant of Scottish literature, we present a very special series of six events, which re-examine and re-imagine this story, and its bold exploration of the darkest parts of the human soul.

Acclaimed experiential theatre company Grid Iron lead us through the streets and closes of the Old Town in **Perambulations of a Justified Sinner**, an immersive audio and video journey that brings to life pivotal moments from the novel, rescripted by award-winning author Louise Welsh, and produced by Ray Interactive.

In **New Myths**, storyteller Kirsty Logan, folksinger Kirsty Law and harpist Esther Swift go deep on 'the double', reimagining the novel in contemporary times through the story of Gillian Tod, who grows up in a cult, drawing on everything from Scottish folk history, feminism and Naomi Klein.

Pamela Carter and director Stewart Laing, directors of *Paul Bright's Confessions of a Justified Sinner*, reconstruct the text, and their 2013 production, in a **Performance Essay** in co-production with National Theatre of Scotland for a suitably meta-interpretation that is part-lecture, part-documentary, part-theatre.

Luminaries Ian Rankin and Ever Dundas join the **Justified Sinner Book Club** panel discussion, Ever Dundas also offers **Cut Up the Justified Sinner** poetry workshops, and a special **Close Read** event with James Robertson delves deeper into the many layers of this intriguing and unforgettable book.

*Justified Sinner 200* is supported by the Scottish Government's Festivals EXPO Fund, and by Sir Ewan and Lady Brown.



# 6 Poetry and Performance

Our line-up this year is a brilliant demonstration of everything exciting in UK poetry: diverse, eclectic in form and content, and ranging from ‘the best words, in the best order’ (to quote John Donne) to poems which demand to be spoken and lifted from the page completely.

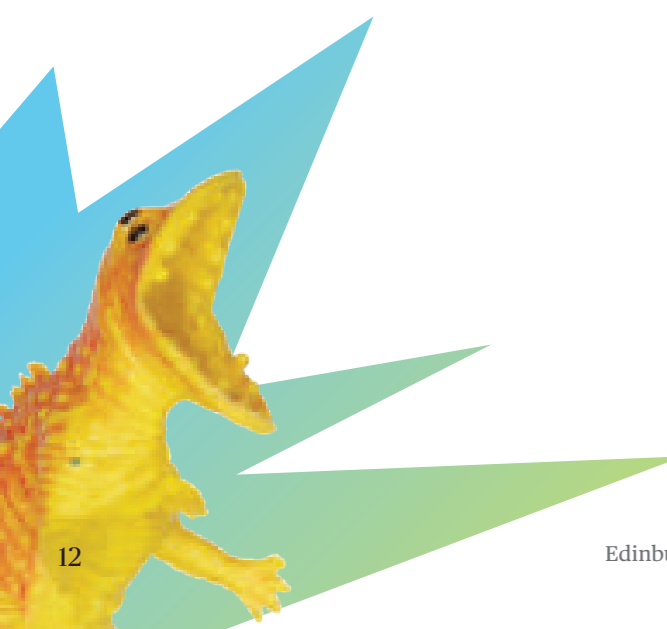
Poets at the top of their game who’ll appear include Michael Ondaatje, Paul Muldoon, Liz Lochhead, Gerald Murnane, Jenni Fagan, John Burnside, Roger McGough, Hollie McNish, Andrew McMillan, Jay Bernard, Salena Godden, and Lemn Sissay. First collections from Sanah Ahsan, Vanessa Kisuule, Iona Lee, and Momtaza Mehri are not to be missed, as well as a celebration of the 10th Edwin Morgan Poetry Award.

Scots poetry is in rude health, with the fabulous Len Pennie’s bestselling *Poyums* and Shane Strachan’s *DWAMS* blowing in strongly from the North East. And in a special event, the English language work of the late Aonghus Dubh (‘Black Angus’) will be reflected upon by Colin Bramwell and Gerda Stevenson.

Scotland’s Makar Kathleen Jamie publishes - astonishingly - her first full-length collection in Scots this year. In celebration of the culmination of her Makar term, we are thrilled to present **Lone Tree**, an entirely unique commission of her poems interpreted and set to music by award-winning experimental composer, David Paul Jones.

Poetry and music are in harmony elsewhere in the programme, as **Transcendent Sound** brings together virtuoso percussionist Evelyn Glennie and award-winning poet Raymond Antrobus in a unique, magical event. **In My Mind There Is a Room** sees Mull Historical Society’s Colin MacIntyre set a full album of Scottish writers’ work to music, with live readings, and the wonderful Rachel Sermanni joins us for an evening of songs and creativity.

And we’re extremely excited that Push the Boat Out festival will host a special edition of their Open Mic Night, **Rock the Boat**, in the Spiegel tent. Why not sign up and share your own poetry (take a look at our website to find out how) - go on, we’d love to hear it!



# Back to Ours



When the sun goes (almost) down, the party really starts!

You spoke, we listened – and our famous Spiegel tent returns. Home to a full hearted, open throated and all-round good-time programme of late night events to round off your Festival day – or even kick off your Festival night – we’re thrilled to bring you a host of excellent shindigs.

Michael Pedersen’s **Big Friendship Fandango** brings the poet and raconteur together with BAFTA Best Comedy Writer awardee Jack Rooke (of Channel 4’s uproarious series *Big Boys*), smash-hit podcaster Blindboy Boatclub, and Greg McHugh (creator of the inimitable *Gary: Tank Commander*); beloved podcasts **Weirdos Bookclub** with comedians Sara Pascoe and Cariad Lloyd, and Caroline O’Donoghue’s **Sentimental Garbage** will both record live episodes on-site; we’ll explore the worlds of AfroFuturism; the fabulous Fern Brady graces our Spiegel tent stage; you can titillate your senses with steamy and erotic literature with Lucy Debussy, Sareeta Domingo, So Mayer and Hollie McNish; and we’ll stage a vibrant celebration of Queer Lit.

Festival favourites, the Fun Lovin’ Crime Writers band, will bring their unique groove, celebrity Fringe and Book Festival teams will go head-to-head in the **Artists vs Clowns** pub quiz, and a rollicking ceilidh will round off the whole Festival shebang.

So gather your pals, grab a glass of something cold, and head Back to Ours for late night Spiegel tent fun.





# Extraordinary Events.

Looking for something different?

## First Edition

Begin each weekday with a leading journalist as they delve into the morning papers at 10am in the Spiegel tent. Hear their take on the day's headlines and explore where in the Festival programme you can find out more. Some sessions will include emerging journalists in collaboration with the John Schofield Trust. *Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.*

## Inside Out – Earth, Sky, and Water

Endurance cyclist and author Emily Chappell is back with our popular **Inside Out** series. Hear Emily chatting (Inside) to a host of authors, and join a small group (Outside) on a foray to some iconic local locations, including Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Tickets for Outside events are limited and booked separately to Inside events. See listings for more information.

## Think Tank

**Think Tank** invites you to take part in small group conversations where experts share their thoughts on topics at the forefront of the global agenda, with lots of space for questions and discussion. Over 90-minutes (and a glass of wine, if you like), these intimate events get you up close and personal. In this series dig into US foreign policy with presidential advisor: Harold Hongju Koh joins with years of experience in diplomacy; Ingrid Robeyns unpacks the ethics of extreme wealth; Ken Costa discusses intergenerational wealth transfer; and Suzy Glass and Georgina Voss tackle systems-thinking.

## (Lunch) Box Fresh

Come along at lunchtime to hear readings from new and vibrant talent and discover brilliant new work being created every day. Who knows, you could be the first to see the next Irvine Welsh or Jenni Fagan. These are 45-minute lunchtime sessions with Scottish Book Trust, Glasgow Women's Library, Scottish Poetry Library, and Jenny Brown Associates. Pay what you can and show your support for the next constellation of Scottish literary stars.

## Industry Days & Global Ink

Meet and connect with editors, publishers, festival organisers, translators, and other experts across three days of panels, showcases, and receptions specifically aimed at those working within the publishing industry (both Scottish and international). Expect discussions on AI, sustainability, audiobooks, pitching sessions, and accessibility.

A one-day Industry Pass is £40 [concessions £25]. Spaces are limited so check [edbookfest.co.uk/industry](http://edbookfest.co.uk/industry) for details on how to register. Some events will take place online too.

Wednesday 14 August: Global Ink: International Working

Monday 19 August: Industry Day 1

Wednesday 21 August: Industry Day 2

## Digital Events & Streaming

Digital events are the cornerstone of accessibility at the Festival. More than 100 events will be available to livestream, or watch on-demand during - and for a limited time after - the Festival. Ways to watch are listed in the events.

On rare, and very special occasions, writers are joining us remotely. Margaret Atwood, Gerald Murnane, Michael Ondaatje, and Salman Rushdie will participate digitally in events hosted by 'live' chairpeople who will be in the room with audiences.

## Workshops

This year's programme features a host of ways to explore and develop your own writing and reading. From Rita Bullwinkel on worldbuilding to Daniel Hahn on translation, don't miss the chance to receive first-hand advice from leading experts and specialists on a range of genres and topics.

Our highly popular **Close Reads** series - a book club-meets-*Cliff Notes*-style chance to do a deep dive into one particular book, or across the back catalogue of a particular writer - led by a leading Festival guest is also back for 2024, featuring delights such as Sinéad Gleeson on Maeve Brennan, Merve Emre on *Lolita*, and Irenosen Okojie on Octavia E Butler.

## Writing the Wrongs of AI

Saturday 10 August - 17:30

Venue NW

Writers vs AI? Pip Thornton, Sam Riviere, and Heather Parry discuss the findings from Writing the Wrongs of AI: a pioneering series of workshops led by Thornton (University of Edinburgh's Chancellor's Fellow in Linguistic Capitalism), in partnership with the Book Festival, with the aim to bring authors, publishers, and legal and technical experts together to playfully confront the challenges and possibilities of AI and restore agency to writers as we grapple with this rapidly evolving arena. In partnership with BRAID/University of Edinburgh's School of Geosciences.

## Durham ReaderBank

Sunday 18 August - 10:15

Venue B

Do you hear characters' voices in your head while you're reading? What does it feel like to dive into their fictional worlds? The Durham University team is back with ReaderBank: the world's most ambitious study of reading, imagination, and health. This year, they're delving deeper into reading and the mind, with groundbreaking VoiceMatch technology, and asking readers what famous characters sound like to them. Join them as they present their findings from 2023's Book Festival and share how you can get involved this year.

## Page Against the Machine

Monday 19 August - 18:00

Spiegel tent

Write against the clock in this fun, interactive challenge where we put AI to the test in front of a live audience. When your time runs out, your virtual co-creator will automatically generate a new piece based upon your words. Can AI help or hinder human creativity? Pop into the Spiegel tent to give it a go as Humans and Machines go head-to-head.

# Communities

Our vibrant year-round Communities Programme brings together local people and organisations from across Scotland with professional writers and artists to have big conversations, unearth new stories and provide a space for everyone's voice to be heard.

This summer, we're excited to be presenting a series of multi-artform events that showcase local talent and connect audiences to the often hidden stories of our city:

To celebrate our move to the Edinburgh Futures Institute and honour the history of this beautiful building (which was formerly the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary) **Words from the Wards** sees people share their stories and memories of the old hospital alongside eight professional authors. Happening over eight nights, these special events will take place in one of the former Nightingale Wards, where some of those memories were made.

2024 marks the 25th anniversaries of the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Youth Parliament, and to celebrate this milestone our schools Writer-in-Residence Ryan Van Winkle has been working with young people from across the country to envisage what Scotland will look like in another 25 years. The project culminates in **Scotland 2049**, an immersive exhibition taking place this August.

Our hugely popular **Stories and Scran** event returns for its fifth edition. Local social enterprise Scran Academy joins forces with our Communities Writer-in-Residence Eleanor Thom to present an evening of storytelling, poetry, film (and pudding!) created by young people and adults from across Edinburgh and the Lothians who have been taking part in our Citizen Collective programme.

And as we come to the end of our second year in residence at the Alternative School at Spartans Community Foundation, young people from the school alongside writer Chris Barkley will share their brand-new documentary film, **If the World Was Mine**, plus live performances and a DJ set - expect a fun and fast-paced event.



Our Communities Programme is made possible by players of People's Postcode Lottery.



## Support Us

You may not know that The Edinburgh International Book Festival is a registered charity, and every £ you spend supports our work, not only during August but throughout the year, bringing the joy of books and stories to everyone through our Communities projects.

**6 out of 10 events at this year's Festival can only happen because of voluntary income from people like you.**

There are many ways to support the Book Festival, apart from buying tickets: becoming a Friend or Champion, making a donation or buying a book.

### Memberships

From just £60 a year you could become a Friend of the Book Festival. Memberships have a host of benefits, including Advance Booking and exclusive events. Find out more [edbookfest.co.uk/support-us/memberships](https://edbookfest.co.uk/support-us/memberships)

### Watch Online

We have a Pay What You Can model for most digital events. If you are a UK taxpayer, make your donation worth 25% more at no extra cost to you by agreeing to Gift Aid during checkout.

### Make a Donation

Top up your ticket purchase, visit [edbookfest.co.uk/support-us/make-a-donation](https://edbookfest.co.uk/support-us/make-a-donation) - again, if you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid. Every donation helps us do more.

**No matter how you support us, a huge thank you from all the team for your generosity.**

## Programme Partners

Beyond Borders Scotland  
Black to the Future  
BRAID Fellowship  
Craigmillar Literacy Trust  
Dads Rock  
Edinburgh Art Festival  
Edinburgh Festival Fringe  
Edinburgh Libraries  
Edinburgh Under Fives  
Elliott's  
Festival of Politics  
GetMade Design

Glasgow Women's Library  
Glasgow Zine Library  
Grid Iron  
Gutter Magazine  
Jenny Brown Associates  
John Schofield Trust  
National Theatre of Scotland  
NSPCC  
Open Book  
Push the Boat Out  
Ray Interactive  
Scots Language Centre

Scottish Book Trust  
Scottish Poetry Library  
Scottish Youth Parliament  
Scran Academy  
Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators  
Spartans Community Foundation  
The Bookseller  
The John Schofield Trust  
Therapets  
University of Durham

### Overland: a sustainable travel pilot

Reducing the environmental impact of delivering an international festival like the Book Festival is no small feat. Inviting the greatest authors from around the world to participate in-person is central to what we do. Hearing first-hand from diverse, global voices, and how this builds empathy and understanding, is a big part of what makes coming to the Festival such a powerful and enjoyable experience.

But this also creates a troubling tension. We all know that international plane travel is a huge source of carbon emissions, and this conflicts with our commitment to addressing the climate emergency in all that we do.

For the 2024 Festival we are trialling a sustainable travel pilot where we've invited a selection of writers to help us deepen our understanding of travel alternatives by making their way to the Festival overland while measuring their carbon footprint and the barriers they face on their way. We're supported by Culture Ireland to do this work and will be sharing our findings within the sector as we continue to collaboratively learn and develop our travel plans now and into the future.

*The Edinburgh International Book Festival has its registered office at 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN and is a company limited by guarantee (no SC79939) with charitable status (SC010120).*





Kaliane Bradley, 12:30-13:30



Esmie Jikiemi-Pearson: 14:00-15:00

### Housewarming!

10:00-11:00  
Spiegelent  
Pay What You Can

It's our first year at EFI, so consider this an open invitation to our housewarming! Bring your friends (and your coffee) and join Festival Director **Jenny Niven** as she takes us through highlights of the Festival: from the themes underpinning the programme and the stories behind our fantastic commissions to this year's hidden gems. There is so much to take in, so let Niven be your helpful guide across the next two weeks and get the chance to ask about her favourite events (she loves them all equally). Join her in conversation with Festival Board member, writer **Yassmin Abdel-Magied**.

## Book tickets at edbookfest.co.uk

### Programme Key – 2024 Themes

● Future Tense ● Brilliant Fiction ● The Front List ● How to Live a Meaningful Life

### Inside Out: Earth

10:30-11:30  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Celebrating the earth beneath our feet, **Emily Chappell** interviews **JC Niala** whose latest book explores our relationship with the natural world. Niala's *A Loveliness of Ladybirds* weaves personal memoir with colonial history as she contemplates how the landscape we inhabit sculpts the people we become.

Look out for the twinned 'Inside Out: Earth' event where you can join Chappell and the authors on an exploration of Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh (limited tickets available. Full details at [edbookfest.co.uk/insideout](http://edbookfest.co.uk/insideout)).

### Kate Foster: Based on a True Story

10:45-11:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Witch mania has reached sixteenth-century Scotland. And so has a new royal bride. Princess Anne is betrothed to King James VI and arrives in a land of magic and danger. *The King's Witches* brings the past to life with vivid detail and tense thrills. Kate Foster - who is longlisted for this year's Women's Prize for her previous work, *The Maidens* (set in Corstorphine) - is in conversation with **Sally Magnusson** as they discuss the history of women, witches, and kings in Scotland.

### Sophie Howe & Ella Saltmarshe: Caring for Future Generations

11:45-12:45  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Tied together perfectly in this year's theme of Future Tense, pioneers in the subject come together to share bold ideas. Policy expert Sophie Howe was the first Future Generations Commissioner for Wales; while writer, podcaster, and anthropologist Ella Saltmarshe is co-founder of the Long Time Project, which seeks to teach society how to be good ancestors. They speak with **David Farrier**.

### Grace Blakeley: We Need a Different System

12:15-13:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Are we really free to choose what we buy and how we live? Not according to Grace Blakeley, acclaimed journalist and regular commentator on the *Today* programme and *Question Time*. In her new book, *Vulture Capitalism*, Blakeley challenges the notion that capitalism and freedom go hand in hand. She joins us today to discuss how we can change the system we've inherited with **Heather Parry**.

### Kaliane Bradley & Holly Gramazio: Brilliantly Weird, Weirdly Brilliant

12:30-13:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Kaliane Bradley and Holly Gramazio discuss their time-bending novels of romance, comedy, and life-altering portals with **Nyla Ahmad**. In Bradley's *The Ministry of Time*, the government is experimenting with bringing 'ex-pats' from the past into the 21st century. Meanwhile, in Gramazio's hilarious *The Husbands*, an attic starts creating an unlimited supply of husbands, leaving the protagonist wondering how to settle in a life of never-ending options.

### Esmie Jikiemi-Pearson: Sci-Fi's New Heroes

14:00-15:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Travelling through time, dismantling space empires, and saving the world: just a few of the things Esmie Jikiemi-Pearson's characters get up to in her epic space opera, *The Principle of Moments*. As the inaugural winner of the Future Worlds Prize for Fantasy & Science Fiction Writers of Colour, her explosive writing takes the genre in a whole new direction. Today, she speaks about her debut novel.

Please note: Margaret Atwood is appearing remotely.



### David Levithan: First Date Jitters

15:45-16:45  
Venue C  
£10.50 [concession £6.00]

Alice Oseman has described David Levithan (bestselling author of *Every Day*) as an 'icon of queer young adult fiction' and his latest book *Ryan and Avery* proves why. From initial shyness through to falling in love, the novel is a love story following a couple's first ten dates. David chats to **Bea Fitzgerald** about his first solo YA novel in five years.

### Balsam Karam & Adania Shibli: Lost and Found

16:00-17:00  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In *The Singularity* and *Minor Detail*, Balsam Karam and Adania Shibli have written two challenging yet deeply powerful novels of loss. Or losses, really, because they are numerous, complex, and recurring: children disappear, homelands are left behind, identities are erased, and characters' sense of what's normal becomes hazy. The authors meditate on the shapes of loss with **Roxani Krystalli** - how does fiction help them reclaim what's missing?

### John Burnside: Ruin, Blossom

17:00-18:00  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Last year, John Burnside won the prestigious David Cohen Prize in recognition of a lifetime's achievement in literature. His remarkable new collection *Ruin, Blossom* reflects upon the fragility of our world, and the new life left in the wake of destruction. Join us as poet **Marjorie Lotfi** explores his collection, and a life in letters.

### Michael Ondaatje: Roots and Restlessness

17:00-18:00  
Venue A  
Pay What You Can

If you know Michael Ondaatje's beautiful, lyrical fiction, you won't be surprised to learn that over 50 years ago the Booker Prize-winner of *The English Patient* began his career as a poet. Today, in a special digital event, Ondaatje shares his first poetry collection in years, *A Year of Last Things*: an elegiac collection that meditates on memory, history, and the act of looking back.

Appearing remotely

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
EDINBURGH EVENT

### Margaret Atwood: Practical Utopias – An Exploration of the Possible

15:15-16:15  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

As part of our Future Tense series, and in partnership with The Future Library, we are thrilled to present Margaret Atwood, illuminating the concept that has gripped her extraordinary imagination of late, and offering a way forward from the most intractable challenges of our time - the Practical Utopia. Can we reset the relationship between people and planet by bringing a new way of thinking to some of our most fundamental and pressing questions: what kind of homes should we live in? What should we eat? How can we share space on this planet together? *Supported by Edinburgh Futures Institute.*

BSL  
Captioned  
Appearing remotely

### Holly Gramazio: Writing as Gameplay

17:00-18:30  
Venue B  
£30.00 [concessions £26.00/£20.00]

Holly Gramazio is the founder of experimental games festival Now Play This and author of the brilliantly inventive romcom novel *The Husbands*. In this workshop, Gramazio will introduce you to examples from the history of rule-based writing - from volvelles through Oulipo and erasure poetry onwards - to get you thinking (and acting) creatively. You'll come away equipped with playful tools to spark ideas and generate short pieces of writing.



## Festival Gala: A Toast to the Future

17:00-18:30  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Our Future Tense theme asks us all to consider the kind of future we want to share. In tonight's gala event, we bring you a kaleidoscope of perspectives and provocations, from the hopeful to the portentous. Be inspired, challenged, and delighted by experimental author **Martin MacInnes** (*In Ascension*); EFI's Chair in the Ethics of Data and AI, **Shannon Vallor**; form-bending writer **Irenosen Okojie**; speculative novelist **Naomi Alderman**; national treasure **Richard Holloway**; and award-winning poet and performer **Joelle Taylor**. Hosted by Festival Director **Jenny Niven**. Supported by *Claire and Mark Urquhart*.  
Captioned



## Writing the Wrongs of AI

17:30-18:30  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Writers vs AI? **Heather Parry**, **Sam Riviere**, and **Pip Thornton** discuss the findings from *Writing the Wrongs of AI*: a pioneering series of workshops led by Thornton (University of Edinburgh Chancellor's Fellow in GeoSciences), in partnership with the Book Festival. Bringing authors, publishers, and legal and technical experts together to playfully confront the challenges and possibilities of AI, and restore agency to writers as we grapple with this rapidly evolving arena. In partnership with BRAID/School of GeoSciences.

## Lesley McDowell & Sara Sheridan: Secrets and Scandal in the 1800s

17:45-18:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

What do women sacrifice when 'respectability' is placed as a virtue above all else? Join two historical novelists in conversation with **Polly Clark**. Lesley McDowell's *Clairmont* tells the hidden story of Claire Clairmont, the 18-year-old stepsister of Mary Shelley who became pregnant with Byron's child. Meanwhile, Sara Sheridan's *The Secrets of Blythswood Square* follows two women in Glasgow whose lives become entangled over a collection of erotic art.

## Words from the Wards: Kirstin Innes

18:15-19:15  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance

In Spring 2024, we called for people from Edinburgh to submit stories about the former Royal Infirmary, to capture and honour the experiences and memories that people connect with the building's previous life. Join us as we bring together local people from across Edinburgh alongside special guest **Kirstin Innes** to perform their work and commemorate the building's rich history. Supported by *Edinburgh Futures Institute*.

**"The jet vanished into a blur as the stars around them stretched, and they were flung into the brightest dark she had ever seen."**

Esmie Jikiemi-Pearson, *The Principle of Moments*

## Programme Key – 2024 Themes

● Future Tense ● Brilliant Fiction ● The Front List ● How to Live a Meaningful Life



## HAWTHORNDEN FOUNDATION EVENT

### Poetry for the People

18:45-19:45  
Spiegeltent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

An all-star line-up representing some of the most exciting writers of the form. Join us for a night of celebration with **Caleb Femi**, **Salena Godden**, **Vanessa Kisuule**, **Iona Lee**, **Holly Pester**, **Michael Mullen** and **Sam Riviere**. From Lee's hypnotic new collection and Riviere's surrealist adventures to Godden's showstopping delivery: this is poetry at its most exciting. Chaired by **Ray Shipley**.

### Karl Geary & Tom Newlands: Growing Up

19:15-20:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The awkwardness, angst, joy, and resilience of teenagers is captured in two heartbreaking coming-of-age novels. Karl Geary's *Juno Loves Legs* follows two best friends who find safety in each other on a Dublin housing estate while Tom Newlands's debut novel, *Only Here*, follows Cora as she tries to escape from her small-town life in Fife. In conversation with **Catherine Wilson Garry**.

### Elif Shafak: Rivers and Roads

19:30-20:30  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Elif Shafak's latest novel explores profound connections across borders and sees her immersed deep in the mysteries of water. Today the Booker Prize nominated author of *The Island of Missing Trees* launches *There are Rivers in the Sky*, a luminous story of memory, erasure, hurt, and healing, about characters whose lives are curiously linked to rivers and the mythical *Epic of Gilgamesh*. Chaired by **Nick Barley**.

Captioned  
Livestream available

### Jane Flett & Grant Morrison: Demimonde

19:30-20:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Jane Flett's *Freakslaw*, 'a queer punk masterpiece', sees a dazzling funfair pull up in a rundown Scottish town, leaving mayhem and desire in its wake. *Luda*, the long-awaited first novel from comics legend Grant Morrison, imagines an alternate, hallucinatory Glasgow of drag queens, murder, and the occult. Here, we explore two new and truly surreal visions of Scotland from extraordinary storytellers. Chaired by **Heather Parry**.

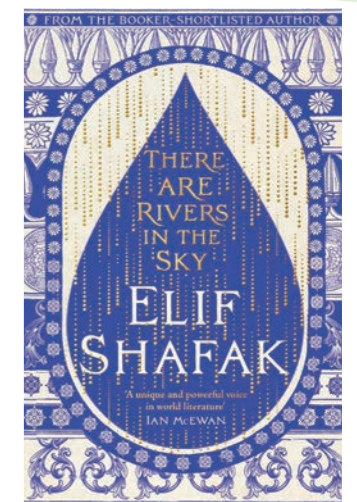
## THE KIMPTON CHARLOTTE SQUARE EVENT

### The Front List: Alan Cumming & Forbes Masson in Conversation with Jackie Kay

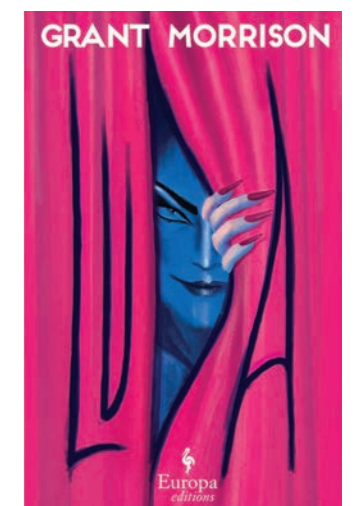
19:20-20:35  
McEwan Hall  
£20.00 [concessions £17.50/£14.00]

One of Scotland's most beloved comedy double acts, Alan Cumming and Forbes Masson, are delving into their comedy past. *Victor and Barry's Kelvinside Compendium* is a riotous romp through their formative years treading the boards in 1980s Glasgow. Jackie Kay leads us down memory lane and up the garden path as the pair reunite and reveal how they went from cult double act to kings of culture.

Captioned  
Livestream available



Elif Shafak, 19:30-20:30



Grant Morrison, 19:30-20:30

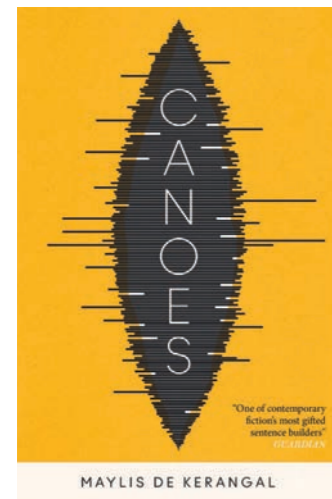
● Voterama ● Justified Sinner 200 ● Poetry & Performance ● Back to Ours ● Extraordinary Events



**Lemn Sissay: Morning Song**

10:30-11:30  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

'An experiment in hope' is how poet Lemn Sissay has described his decade-long practice of composing a short poem each morning as dawn breaks. Just four lines, nothing more: and yet somehow the compact poems gathered in *Let the Light Pour In* contain multitudes. In an uplifting event on defiant joy in the face of darkness, Sissay talks to fellow poet, activist, and broadcaster, **Salena Godden**.



Maylis de Kerangal, 10:15-11:15



Olivia Laing, 15:45-16:45

**Maylis de Kerangal & Balsam Karam: Women Talking**

10:15-11:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Women's voices reverberate in *Canoes*. Across seven stories and a novella, Booker International longlisted author Maylis de Kerangal gives voice to joy, fear, and intimacy. In Balsam Karam's novel *The Singularity*, a migrant mother searches for her child by the sea. Motherhood and displacement are explored by one of Sweden's most exciting new novelists. Join them as they discuss their lyrical fiction. *Supported by Institut français du Royaume-Uni.*

Captioned

**Close Read: Irenosen Okojie on Octavia E Butler**

10:15-11:15  
Venue B  
£16.00 [concession £14.00]

In our Close Reads series, join an enlivening discussion as an author leads you through their insightful analysis of a classic text or genre that's inspired them. Here, Irenosen Okojie (author of *Curandera*) talks about Octavia E Butler's *Parable of the Sower*: a far-sighted post-apocalyptic novel, first published in 1993, imagining supernatural levels of empathy as the antidote to climate change, wealth inequality, and corporate greed.

**Ella Frears & Holly Pester: What Property Ladder?**

12:00-13:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The current renting crisis is skewered in two bold novels. *Goodlord: An Email* by Ella Frears is a fictional memoir addressed to an estate agent, while *The Lodgers* by Holly Pester follows a woman returning to her childhood town to rent a soulless new build. Join Frears and Pester in conversation as they discuss precarious renting, domestic spaces, and the politics of property.

**Jess Phillips: A Breath of Fresh Air**

12:15-13:15  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

'Your leader was beaten by a woman who was beaten by a lettuce' - so begins a recent online retort from Labour's Jess Phillips in typically direct style. One of the nation's most outspoken MPs, Phillips stands out for her integrity. She talks to **Liz Lloyd** about *Let's Be Honest*, a hilarious, sometimes depressing, ultimately uplifting tour through 14 years of British politics.

BSL

Captioned

Livestream available

**Think Tank: Ken Costa**

12:30-14:00  
Venue B  
£25.00 [concessions £22.00]

Ken Costa's *The 100 Trillion Dollar Wealth Transfer* asks: how are Gen Z going to revolutionise capitalism as we know it? A leading global investment banker, author, philanthropist, and thought leader, Costa examines how an unprecedented transfer of wealth from Baby Boomers to the young will shape the future. Join this Think Tank event with Costa, part of a special series encouraging deep discussion between audience members (while having a drink). *Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.*

**Juno Dawson, David Levithan & Cynthia So: Show Your Pride**

13:30-14:30  
Spiegelent  
£10.50 [concession £6.00]

For Big Kids and Young Adults

Celebrate the fifth anniversary of the dazzling LGBTQ+ anthology, *Proud*, which features a brand-new story! Join award-winning authors and contributors, Juno Dawson, Cynthia So, and David Levithan, for a moving and thought-provoking panel event about their stories in response to the celebratory theme of pride and why it's important to celebrate and showcase LGBTQ+ voices.

**Ruth Allen & Wendy Pratt: Reimagining Our Nature**

13:45-14:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

We bring together two writers who are reimagining our understanding of the natural world. In *Weathering*, Ruth Allen draws on her knowledge of geology and psychotherapy to explain how our constantly evolving planet can help us to endure life's storms. Poet and author Wendy Pratt explores grief, nature, and ancestry in her lyrical memoir, *The Ghost Lake*. They are joined in conversation by **Linda France**.

HAWTHORNDEN FOUNDATION  
EVENT

**Adania Shibli: Against Forgetting**

14:15-15:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Longlisted for the 2021 International Booker Prize, *Minor Detail* is a graceful yet haunting political novel about the Palestinian experience of dispossession and erasure. With intertwining narratives, it revolves around a brutal crime covered up during the War of 1948 and a nameless young woman obsessed with trying to unearth the truth. Author Adania Shibli talks to **Esa Aldegheri**.

Captioned

**Joelle Taylor: Literary Fireworks**

15:15-16:15  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Joelle Taylor's *C+nto & Othered Poems* won the T S Eliot Prize for Poetry along with the Polari Prize. Her gift for expressing the unsayable in arresting, lyrical language shines in her first novel, *The Night Alphabet*. It's a spellbinding tale that roves between space and time, exploring resilience, violence, and women's stories. Taylor talks about shifting between literary forms with **Nyla Ahmad**.

**Molly X Chang & Bea Fitzgerald: Gods, Romance, and War**

15:30-16:30  
Venue NW  
£10.50 [concession £6.00]

For Big Kids and Young Adults

Rising stars of BookTok, Molly X Chang and Bea Fitzgerald, bring a fresh take to the romantasy world in this epic YA event. Tear up the rulebook on everything you know about mythology and let Molly and Bea take you on a thrilling exploration with their debut novels, *To Gaze Upon Wicked Gods*, and the best-selling, *The End Crowns All*.

**Olivia Laing: In Search of Eden**

15:45-16:45  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

When Olivia Laing began to restore a walled garden in Suffolk, she also embarked upon an imaginative discovery of the pleasures and possibilities of gardens through the ages. *The Garden Against Time* explores their significance in Western culture, from Milton's *Paradise Lost* to Derek Jarman's *Prospect Cottage*. Hear leading critic and writer Laing (author of *The Lonely City* and *Funny Weather*) talking with **J C Niala**.

Captioned

Livestream available

**Ken Costa & Yuan Yang: Capital Ideas**

16:00-17:00  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50 / £10.50]

We continue our Future Tense series exploring two very different perspectives on how the future might play out. In *The 100 Trillion Dollar Wealth Transfer*, banker and philanthropist Ken Costa imagines how generational transfer of economic control might create a more transformative, inclusive form of capitalism. He speaks with Yuan Yang, the *Financial Times*' Europe-China correspondent who co-founded Rethink Economics: a campaign to call for a relevant curriculum. *Supported by the Turtleton Charitable Trust.*

**Programme Key – 2024 Themes**

- Future Tense
- Brilliant Fiction
- The Front List
- How to Live a Meaningful Life
- Voterama
- Justified Sinner 200
- Poetry & Performance
- Back to Ours
- Extraordinary Events





Aniefiok Ekpoudom, 17:15-18:15

Think Tank: Suzy Glass & Georgina Voss

16:00-17:30
Venue B
£25.00 [concession £22.00]

Systems and networks govern our lives in all-encompassing - and increasingly confounding - ways. Georgina Voss, author of Systems Ultra, and strategist Suzy Glass are the ultimate tour guides in this complex age, here to show us that we don't have to passively accept the idea that some things are too complicated to understand. Get involved in this Think Tank series encouraging deep discussion between audience members (over a drink).

Practical Utopias: Workshop

17:00-18:30
Venue A
£30.00 [concessions £26.00/£20.00]

By asking us to reconsider the most basic questions of our existence, Margaret Atwood's 'Practical Utopias' concept provides a blueprint for rethinking how we live sustainably and optimistically. What should we eat in utopia? What are the optimal ways for groups to live together? Today, Jennifer Williams, Utopia Lab programme director at the Edinburgh Futures Institute, delivers a workshop using Atwood's framework. Based on principles of collaboration, future-thinking, and innovation, the workshop will get you thinking about how the future can inspire and influence our present.

Salena Godden & Hannah Lavery: Poetry for the Future

17:00-18:00
Spiegelent
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Edinburgh Makar Hannah Lavery opened our 2022 Festival with the poem 'Edinburgh is a Story'. It features in Lavery's new collection, Unwritten Woman, alongside other poems inspired by the city. Beloved author Salena Godden also returns with a new collection of powerful poetry, With Love, Grief and Fury. Join the poets in conversation with Chitra Ramaswamy as they discuss looking to the past to imagine better futures.

Aniefiok Ekpoudom & Vanessa Kisuule: In Harmony

17:15-18:15
Venue NW
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Music is our shared home. In Where We Come From, journalist Aniefiok Ekpoudom journeys across Britain to celebrate the UK's rap and grime communities. In Neverland, poet Vanessa Kisuule explores the joys and perils of musical fandom in her non-fiction debut. Join Ekpoudom and Kisuule in conversation with Arusa Qureshi, as they discuss music cultures, hero worship, and how we shape ourselves around our favourite sounds.

Naomi Alderman & Ireosen Okojie: What Happens Next

17:30-18:30
Venue T
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In Naomi Alderman's satirical sci-fi novel The Future, three tech billionaires attempt to save themselves from the collapse of civilisation. In Curandera, Ireosen Okojie's time-slipping novel, we switch between 17th century Cape Verde and multicultural contemporary London. Join these visionary writers as they conjure the hectic possibilities and terrors of the very near future, as part of our Future Tense series.

Zeinab Badawi: Our Story - Reclaiming Africa's History

17:45-18:45
Courtyard Theatre
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

For too long, Africa's history was told through Western narratives. Zeinab Badawi presents An African History of Africa: From the Dawn of Humanity to Independence - her seven-year and 30-country project to set the record straight. Badawi, a Sudanese-born, award-winning broadcaster, journalist, and President of SOAS reflects on the stories of this fascinating continent with Fiammetta Rocco.

Words from the Wards: Sara Sheridan

18:15-19:15
Venue C
Free, book in advance

In spring 2024, we called for people from Edinburgh to submit stories about the former Royal Infirmary, to capture and honour the experiences and memories that people connect with the building's previous life. Join us as we bring together local people from across Edinburgh alongside special author guest, Sara Sheridan, to perform their work and commemorate the building's rich history. Supported by Edinburgh Futures Institute.

Captioned



Caleb Femi

Susan Tomes: Major Minor History

18:45-19:45
Spiegelent
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Throughout history, women have been excluded from learning and performing the piano. Even the modern instrument's keys are still designed to fit men's hands. In Women and the Piano, concert pianist and author Susan Tomes tells a new history of the instrument by celebrating the lives of fifty different women who played piano. Join Tomes for performance and conversation with Kate Molleson as they discuss these remarkable pianists.

HAWTHORNDEN FOUNDATION EVENT

Kevin Barry: Love on the Road

19:15-20:15
Venue T
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Booker-longlisted author of Night Boat to Tangier Kevin Barry returns to the Festival with The Heart in Winter: a savagely funny, tragi-romantic tale set in the Wild West about young lovers on the run. The Irish writer talks about the novel that was 25 years in the making: a work where his lyricism, humour, and knack for tapping into his characters' psyches are all powerfully on display.

Livestream available

Vanessa Kisuule: The Fragility of Fandom

19:30-20:30
Courtyard Theatre
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Vanessa Kisuule is only too familiar with the challenges of being a fan when the individual you revere becomes reviled. In Neverland: The Pleasures and Perils of Fandom, she explores how we can preserve the joy that comes from art, when its creators reveal themselves to be potentially problematic. Join her as she unpicks the pitfalls of cultural comforts, and assess the cost of hero worship.

Black to the Future

21:00-22:30
Spiegelent
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

What future can be created when the visions are infused with history and heritage? Ireosen Okojie's Black to the Future festival is an Afro-Futurist celebration of Black artistry, a space for visionary imaginings to thrive. In a special Book Festival edition, part of our Future Tense strand, Okojie is joined by writers including Colin Grant and Zoë Wicomb in celebration of Afro-Futurism across the arts, discussing outstanding Black voices, and how ancestry and tradition feeds into the imagination to deliver a better future.

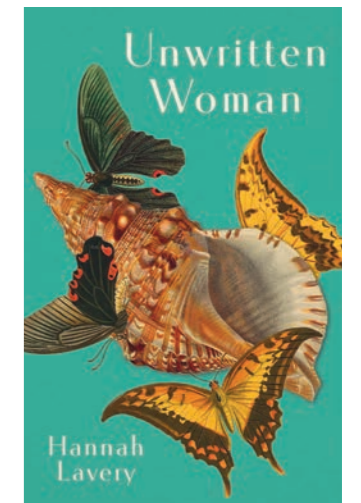
James Baldwin Centenary

19:00-20:00
Venue NW
£15.50
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Join us to celebrate of the life and legacy of American writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin: one of the 20th century's most important voices on race, class, and sexuality. Chitra Ramaswamy, Caleb Femi and Colin Grant read from the late author's work and discuss the ways Baldwin's writing still speaks so powerfully to our current times.



Vanessa Kisuule, 19:30-20:30



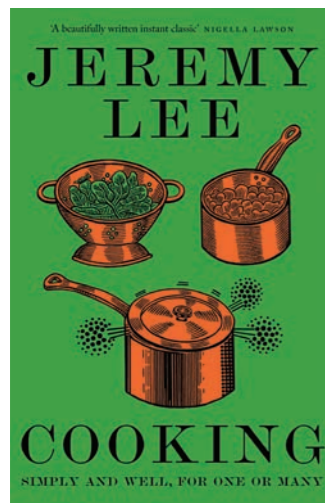
Hannah Lavery, 17:00-18:00

Are you a day tripper or in it for the long haul?

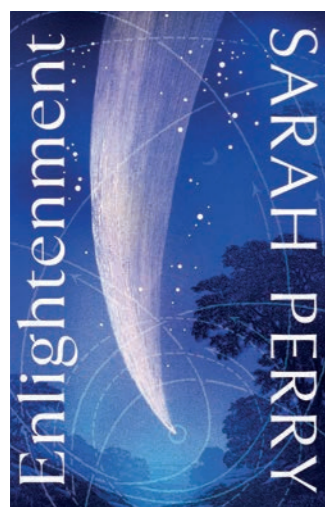
Programme Key - 2024 Themes

- Future Tense Brilliant Fiction The Front List How to Live a Meaningful Life Voterama Justified Sinner 200 Poetry & Performance Back to Ours Extraordinary Events





Jeremy Lee, 10:30-11:30



Sarah Perry, 12:00-13:00

**First Edition**

10:00-11:00  
Spiegel tent  
Pay What You Can

Quality journalism is indispensable. The model of 'breaking the news' has changed enormously in recent years, but we're here to sing the praises of essential stories, well told. In an age of diminishing local resources, global conglomerates, and misinformation, raise a morning coffee (and a croissant) with leading journalists from across the media as they discuss today's news. *Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.*

## Book tickets at edbookfest.co.uk

**Programme Key – 2024 Themes**

● Future Tense ● Brilliant Fiction ● The Front List ● How to Live a Meaningful Life

**THE VALVONA & CROLLA EVENT****Jeremy Lee: Simply Delicious**

10:30-11:30  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

*Cooking*, by renowned chef Jeremy Lee, is more than just a recipe book. It's a love song to simple ingredients, peppered with stories from the dinners of his Dundonian childhood to the busy kitchen of his iconic Soho restaurant, Quo Vadis. Hear him in a delicious conversation with **Marjorie Lotfi** that will leave you inspired by his passion, and probably very hungry.

**Livestream available**

**Shared Reading with Open Book**

10:30-11:30  
EFI North Entrance  
Free, book in advance

Join Open Book Lead Readers for an informal and relaxed shared reading session. Each session will explore a chapter from a debut book from this year's Festival programme. No experience necessary, all reading materials will be provided on the day. Meet the Lead Reader under the clock tower on Lauriston Place.

**Yan Ge & Andrzej Tichý: The In-Between Places**

11:00-12:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Andrzej Tichý's story collection, *Purity*, tells tales of misfits, outsiders, and migrants who don't quite fall into the narrative of contemporary Europe. Yan Ge's English-language debut, *Elsewhere*, is filled with equally eclectic characters, with stories hopping from China to Ireland to Sweden. Hear from the award-winning authors of these beguiling short stories as they talk about their fascination with characters at odds with their surroundings.

**On Faith: Sarah Perry**

12:00-13:00  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

It's an age-old question: can faith and reason co-exist? It's one novelist Sarah Perry - author of *The Essex Serpent* and, more recently, *Enlightenment* - has long ruminated on, and has woven into her fiction, letting her characters wrestle it out among themselves. What does faith mean to Perry beyond a religious context? How can it inform and enrich our lives? She discusses this and more with **Richard Holloway**.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH EVENT****Madhumita Murgia & Georgina Voss: The Systems Which Govern Us**

12:15-13:15  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Two fascinating technology writers reveal the disorientating extent to which we are already governed by AI and complex systems. Hear *Financial Times* AI editor Madhumita Murgia (author of *Code Dependent*) and artist and academic Georgina Voss (author of *Systems Ultra*) as they question what ethical, moral, and practical questions are being left in the wake of technological advance? What happens next? *Supported by Edinburgh Futures Institute.*

**Livestream available**

**Yuan Yang: How China is Changing**

12:30-13:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Yuan Yang's revelatory book, *Private Revolutions*, tells the stories of four ordinary women grappling with, and influencing, China's new social order. How are new generations navigating censorship, expectations, and ambition when caught between an authoritarian capitalist present and their hopes for the future? Hear the *Financial Times* journalist discussing her vital account of contemporary China at a time when the country is ever-more influential yet poorly understood by so many.

**The Front List: James O'Brien**

13:30-14:30  
McEwan Hall  
£20.00  
[concessions £17.50/£14.00]

James O'Brien is one of the fiercest critics of Britain's management by our current crop of political leaders. Every week, reaching 1.4 million people through his LBC show, he urges us to demand better from those in power. *How They Broke Britain* is O'Brien's forensic takedown of the key figures responsible for the UK's current mess. Today, with the general election looming, we welcome him to the Festival: expect sparks to fly.

**Captioned**

**Livestream available**

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY EVENT****Camilla Pang: Instructions on How to Human**

12:45-13:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In 2020, Dr Camilla Pang won the Royal Society Science Book Prize for *Explaining Humans* - a remarkable and entertaining 'manual for humans', informed by science and Pang's lived experience of autism spectrum disorder. Today, Pang discusses her latest work, *Breakthrough*, about finding stability in science and writing. Come along and also discover which six books, from more than 200 entries, made 2024's prize shortlist.

**Live Like an Astronaut**

13:45-14:45  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

What future for our fragile planet? In this creative collision of science fiction and science fact, we explore the idea of 'Spaceship Earth' and envision our planet bound by the finite resources it sails through space with. Hear new shared ideas from Scottish writers, including **Martin MacInnes** and **L R Lam**, and technologists on how we can truly live within our means, developed through workshops in this exciting collaboration between Edinburgh Science Festival and our Book Festival. *Supported by the Scottish Government's Festivals EXPO Fund.*

**Patricia Evangelista: The Terrible Becomes Ordinary**

14:15-15:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Language matters, and when we talk about atrocities as if they are commonplace, we start normalising their happening. Award-winning investigative journalist Patricia Evangelista talks to **Jen Stout** about *Some People Need Killing*, discussing six years of reporting on the Philippines' state-sanctioned killings, carried out in the name of Duterte's war on drugs. What can this profound project of witness reveal about the human impulses to dominate and resist?

**Captioned**

**Orlando Whitfield: Grifter Season**

14:30-15:30  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

An intoxicating cautionary tale of ambition and deceit, *All That Glitters* has been tipped as one of the best books of 2024. This unputdownable memoir lifts the curtain on the world of fine-art-dealership and the scandal that shook it to its core. Orlando Whitfield joins **Francisco Garcia** for a conversation that both spills the tea and reflects on lost friendships and what happens in their wake.



**Andy Burnham & Steve Rotheram: Another Way – Politics Post-Westminster**

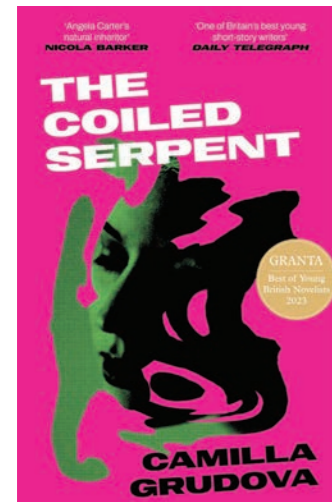
17:00-18:00  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

25 years since the Devolution Act, two English city Mayors come together to offer rare insight into politics from outside the Westminster bubble. In *Head North*, the Mayors of Greater Manchester and the Liverpool City Region, Andy Burnham and Steve Rotheram, propose an ambitious ten-point plan to rewire and reimagine the UK beyond Westminster, putting equality at the fore. *Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.*

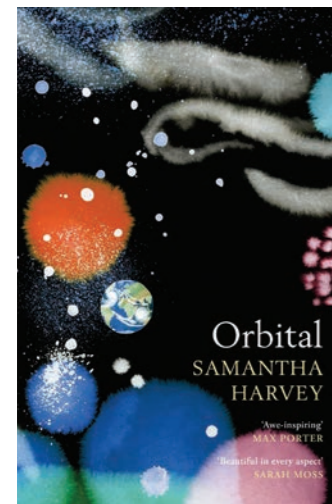
Livestream available



Monday 12



Camilla Grudova, 16:00-17:00



Samantha Harvey, 15:30-16:30

**Mishal Husain: Family, Unravelled**

15:00-16:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Journalist, newsreader, and presenter on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, Mishal Husain delves into her family's past in her memoir, *Broken Threads*. Connecting fragments from her family history through letters and diaries, Husain discovers how her grandparents' lives and identities were changed forever with the birth of India and Pakistan in 1947. Hear her discussing her fascinating journey of ancestral rediscovery.

Captioned

Livestream available

**Lavinia Greenlaw & Samantha Harvey: Life in the Stars**

15:30-16:30  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In Samantha Harvey's *Orbital*, six astronauts rotate the Earth, becoming untethered from the lives they've left behind. Meanwhile, Lavinia Greenlaw explodes the essay form in *The Vast Extent* - a collection drawing on art, science, and philosophy to create a constellation for the different ways we can see life. They come together in a conversation that will encourage you to look more closely at the world.

**Camilla Grudova & Ireosen Okojie: Dark, Daring Fiction**

16:00-17:00  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Join two award-winning writers who are unafraid to dabble in darkness. Camilla Grudova's *The Coiled Serpent* is an arresting collection of short stories where the absurdities of contemporary life are exposed in her unforgettable, surreal style. Ireosen Okojie's thrilling new novel, *Curandera*, moves across time and dimensions to explore desire, betrayal, and friendship. Hear the authors discuss the art of experimental fiction.

**Daniel Hahn: The Work of Translation**

16:00-18:00  
Venue A  
£35.00 [concessions £30.00/£24.00]

Award-winning literary translator, editor and critic Daniel Hahn returns to the Festival with his popular translation workshop, where he will take you through the process of translating a piece of fiction, and the painstaking and exhilarating work it takes to find the right words. This two-hour session is for enthusiastic novices who want to improve their practice - and anyone who is fascinated by the nuances of language.

“...it was reassuring to see the evidence of time proceeding as it was meant to, seeds unfurling, buds breaking, daffodils pushing through the soil; a covenant of how the world should be and might again.”

Olivia Laing, *The Garden Against Time*

**Perambulations of a Justified Sinner**

17:00-18:00  
Venue NW  
£20.00 [concessions £17.50/£13.50]

Acclaimed experiential theatre company, Grid Iron, lead us through the streets and closes of Edinburgh's Old Town in **Perambulations of a Justified Sinner**: an immersive audio-visual journey bringing to life pivotal moments from James Hogg's novel, rescripted by award-winning author, Louise Welsh. Tonight, we stage a pivotal scene from the piece (on a custom-built tennis court, of course) for live audiences, to raise a glass to Hogg and to the Justified Sinner 200 strand. Don't miss it. *Supported by Sir Ewan and Lady Brown.*

**Ingrid Robeyns: The Case Against Extreme Wealth**

17:45-18:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

'No-one deserves to be a millionaire', says philosopher and economist Ingrid Robeyns in her essential new book, *Limitarianism*. In a world where billionaires accumulate vast sums, placing them beyond the reach of society, Robeyns talks about how poverty is a visible harm, but our invisible wealth problem is also a widespread cause of social, environmental, and psychological damage - including to the rich themselves.

**Joe Dunthorne & Ella Frears: Stress Test**

18:00-19:30  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £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 and Ella Frears, along with special guests in the judgement and fun.

**Future Library at 10 & Writer Announcement**

18:30-19:30  
Venue NW  
Pay What You Can

Norway's Future Library is a powerful gesture of hope for a world beyond our lifetime. Every year, for 100 years, an author writes a new book to be placed inside the library. Every book remains unread until 2114. Created by Scottish artist Katie Paterson in 2014, the project already contains works by writers including Margaret Atwood and Ocean Vuong. Celebrate Future Library's 10th anniversary as we announce the writer for 2025.



Naomi Alderman, 18:45-19:45

**Naomi Alderman: The Future is Here**

18:45-19:45  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Naomi Alderman's bestselling speculative novel, *The Power*, won her the Women's Prize for Fiction and was one of Barack Obama's favourite books of 2017. Her new novel, *The Future*, is as hilarious as it is unnerving: a wild heist featuring tech giants whose greed threatens life as we know it. Hear Alderman in what promises to be an electrifying conversation with **Nicola Sturgeon**.

Captioned

**Programme Key – 2024 Themes**

- Future Tense
- Brilliant Fiction
- The Front List
- How to Live a Meaningful Life
- Voterama
- Justified Sinner 200
- Poetry & Performance
- Back to Ours
- Extraordinary Events



### Sara & Cariad's Weirdos Book Club – Live

20:30-22:00  
Spiegelent  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Join comedians, authors, and fabulously weird friends, **Sara Pascoe** and **Cariad Lloyd**, for a live recording of *Sara and Cariad's Weirdos Book Club*. Describing their vibe as 'a space for the lonely outsider to feel accepted and appreciated', each episode makes space for a guest to share a book that's brilliant, stimulating, and (of course) a bit weird. Check our website to reveal the special guest.



### Caleb Femi: Dancing Words

19:30-20:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Winner of the 2021 Forward Prize for Poetry, Caleb Femi returns, talking about his new collection, *The Wickedest*. At times thrilling, joyous, and life-affirming, this is the minute-by-minute tale of a legendary monthly house party. Populated by a memorable cast of characters, all rejoicing in community, Femi uses his playful and sharp observations to unfold the meaning and beauty of night-time revelry.

### Stories and Scran

20:00-21:15  
Venue NW  
Pay What You Can

Enjoy tasty food and brilliant performances from local people. Returning for its fifth year, Stories and Scran celebrates dynamic, thought-provoking work created by our Citizen participants. Expect diverse and creative talent from Project Esperanza's Women's Group, WHALE Arts, the Book Festival's own Adults Writing Group, and Citizen Collective. And Scran Academy are back to serve up delicious, sweet treats you can enjoy during the event.

**Captioned**

### Mark Billingham & Abir Mukherjee: Open Case

20:30-21:30  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Two thrilling new cases arrive at the Festival. Detective Declan Miller returns in *The Wrong Hands*, the latest from Mark Billingham - declared 'the very best in the business' by Richard Osman. In Abir Mukherjee's *Hunted*, two parents are thrown together when their children become entangled in a plot to topple America in what Lee Child calls a 'pretty much flawless thriller'. Chaired by **Luca Veste**.

**Captioned**

### First Edition

10:00-11:00  
Spiegelent  
Pay What You Can

Quality journalism is indispensable. The model of 'breaking the news' has changed enormously in recent years, but we're here to sing the praises of essential stories, well told. In an age of diminishing local resources, global conglomerates, and misinformation, raise a morning coffee (and a croissant) with leading journalists from across the media as they discuss today's news. Today's special guest is **Ingrid Robeys**. Supported by **Claire and Mark Urquhart**.

### Shane Strachan: Writing Art in Edinburgh Workshop

10:15-11:45  
Venue B  
£30.00 [concessions £26.00/£20.00]

Edinburgh has been a literary and artistic muse for generations - and it can be yours too. Join poet Shane Strachan as he leads a workshop using art as inspiration for your own poems and prose set in the city. Shane will take you through the process of how to 'read' an artwork based on his latest book *DWAMS*, before you'll have the opportunity to respond creatively to an Edinburgh-themed artwork. Writers of all levels are welcome.

### Rosemary Goring: Mary Stuart's Homecoming

10:30-11:30  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Despite spending just 12 years in Scotland, Mary Queen of Scots irrevocably shaped the nation; she inhabits our imagination like no other monarch. In *Homecoming*, literary editor Rosemary Goring 'breathes life into this legendary queen' (*Southern Reporter*), exploring the tumultuous Scottish years of her reign with fresh eyes. Hear Goring talk about the iconic places that were the backdrop for Mary's singular life.

**Livestream available**

### Agnes Arnold-Forster & Caroline Crampton: Body and Mind

10:45-11:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In *Nostalgia*, historian Agnes Arnold-Forster blends neuroscience and psychology with the history of emotions and medicine to chronicle the changing social attitudes to this slippery and 'dangerous' emotion. In *A Body Made of Glass*, Caroline Crampton reflects on the cultural history of hypochondria from Hippocrates to the wellness industry, and her own experience with medical anxiety. Both authors speak with **Gavin Francis** about invisible, illusive conditions.

### Spirit Case Tours

11:00-11:30  
EFI North Entrance  
Free, book in advance

Join the **Recycling a Hospital** Project Team from the University of Edinburgh for a mini tour of The Spirit Case. A project of remembering, the object has been created by artisans from slates and floorboards from the original Royal Infirmary building and inscribed with poetry written by community members and nurses who trained in the building. Meet your tour guide under the clock tower on Lauriston Place.

### Ferdia Lennon: Ancient Escapades

11:00-12:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Ferdia Lennon's been setting the heather on fire with his satirical debut, *Glorious Exploits*. It features two young Sicilian chancers who save a group of captured Athenian invaders from the quarries then put them to work staging a version of *Medea* instead. Join Lennon as he chats humour, friendship, and what happens when you fuse contemporary Irish dialect with ancient Syracuse. Supported by **Culture Ireland**.



Agnes Arnold-Forster, 10:45-11:45



Ferdia Lennon, 11:00-12:00

### (Lunch) Box Fresh

12:00-12:45  
Spiegelent  
Pay What You Can

What better way to spend your lunchbreak than discovering your next favourite writer? Sit back in the Spiegelent and discover brilliant new work from stellar emerging talent with this series of readings. This edition is presented in partnership with Scottish Book Trust and the Jenny Brown Associates Debut Writers Over 50 Award - with readings from **Gilleain McDougall**, **Glennis Virgo**, and other writers to be announced.

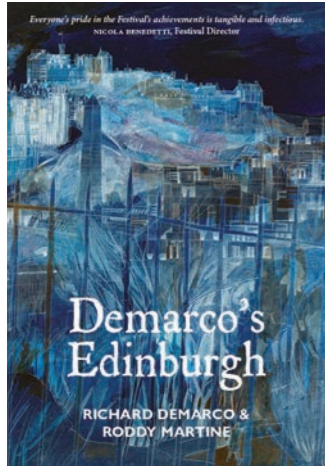
Book tickets at  
[edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)

Programme Key – 2024 Themes

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Richard Demarco & Roddy Martine, 12:30-13:30

**Hannah Ritchie: Hope in a Warm Climate**

12:15-13:15  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

When our newsfeeds are flooded with disaster, despair can seem like the only logical response to climate change. Yet in a bold, radically hopeful book, *Not the End of the World*, data scientist Hannah Ritchie argues that zooming out reveals a very different picture. In this solutions-focused event, Ritchie unpacks the data to suggest true sustainability might in fact be within reach. *Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.*

Livestream available

THE CENTRE FOR OPEN LEARNING EVENT

**Writing Future Edinburgh Workshop**

12:30-14:00  
Venue B  
Pay What You Can

Join us for a Writing Future Edinburgh creative writing workshop where we'll share stories and experiences to get you rethinking Scotland's capital. Get inspired by your surroundings, with support from experienced teaching staff from the Centre for Open Learning's popular Creative Writing Short Courses. Explore your creativity in an accessible and supportive environment. No experience necessary, just an open mind and a healthy dose of imagination.

**Richard Demarco & Roddy Martine: Demarco's Edinburgh**

12:30-13:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Legendary artist Richard Demarco has attended every Edinburgh Festival since its inception in 1947. Author and broadcaster Roddy Martine was born the same year as the Festival and began covering it aged 16. In their book, *Demarco's Edinburgh*, they look back on its 77-year history from a very special vantage point. Sharing their insights, this is a deep dive into Edinburgh's cultural history.

**Jan Carson & Kirsty Gunn: Slice of Life**

12:45-13:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

To quote Ali Smith, 'With the short story, you are up against mortality'. We bring you two masters of the form in Jan Carson, winner of the EU Prize for Literature, who chronicles life in glittering stories in *Quickly, While They Still Have Horses* and award-winning Kirsty Gunn with *Pretty Ugly*, which relishes the contradictions that comprise a life. *Supported by Culture Ireland.*

**The Front List: Alice Oseman in Conversation with Lauren James**

13:30-14:30  
McEwan Hall  
£20.00  
[concessions £17.50/£14.00/£7.50]

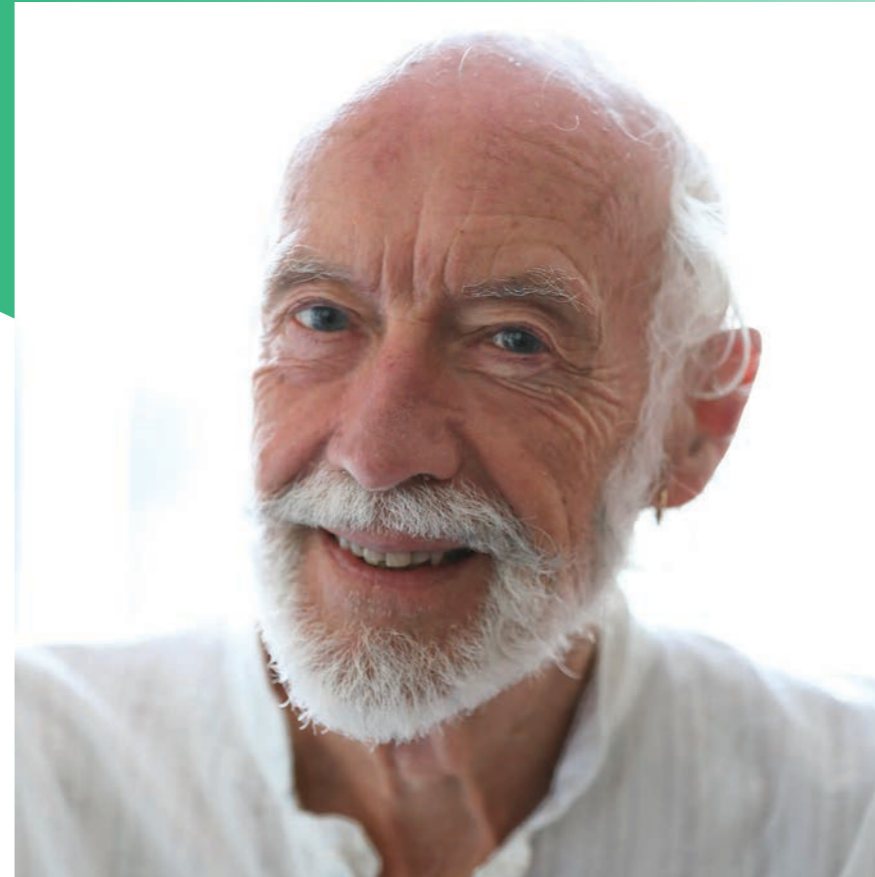
For Big Kids and Young Adults

The latest in Alice Oseman's YA smash-hit, *Heartstopper 5*, instantly became the UK's fastest selling graphic novel ever. It's not hard to see why. The charming series (an acclaimed Netflix show too) follows teenagers, Nick and Charlie, as they navigate the ups and downs of first love, friendships, coming out, and mental health, beautifully framed by a warm supporting cast. In today's very special conversation, hear Alice chatting to Lauren James.

**Jen Hadfield, Amy Liptrot & Roseanne Watt: Personal Geologies**

13:45-14:45  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

A rare and lovely occasion to celebrate the writing of Orkney and Shetland. Recent Windham-Campbell Prize-winner Jen Hadfield's work sings of the flotsam and jetsam of the Shetland archipelago; Orkney plays a pivotal role in Amy Liptrot's beautiful memoir, *The Outrun*; and the Shetlandic dialect weaves throughout Roseanne Watt's poetry and film, conjuring land and sea. They reflect on how the islands have shaped them as writers - and as people.



**Roger McGough: 65 Years of Poetry**

17:45-18:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Beatles collaborator, number one pop artist, and awardee of the Freedom of the City of Liverpool and a CBE for services to literature, Roger McGough is one of the greatest living masters of his craft in Britain. He's no stranger to Edinburgh either, having started out in the Traverse Theatre's radical 1960s Fringe line-ups. Join him to celebrate the publication of *The Collected Poems 1959-2024*.

**Generations: Allan Little & Jen Stout**

14:00-15:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Veteran BBC correspondent Allan Little has reported from Moscow, Johannesburg, Baghdad during the first Gulf War, and Yugoslavia as the country disintegrated in the early 1990s. He is joined by Jen Stout, a journalist, radio producer, and author of the forthcoming *Night Train to Odesa: Covering the Human Cost of Russia's War*. Together they compare notes of their experience of journalism across the generations. *Supported by the AEB Charitable Trust.*

**Voices of Experience – Remnants East: How to Re-assemble a City**

14:15-15:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

From creating or reinstating design aesthetics in post-colonial countries to thinking about how built environments impact how we live, we're exploring how we might imagine future spaces that put people first and encourage equality of access. From political hubs to green spaces, how can we create cities that are more responsive to the people that inhabit them? Presented in partnership with Edinburgh Art Festival.

**Stuart Neville & Luca Veste: Thrillseekers**

14:30-15:30  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Send shivers up your spine with two noir thrillers. In Stuart Neville's *Blood Like Mine*, a game of cat and mouse begins when a mother and daughter are pursued in the foothills of Colorado. The past comes calling for a therapist whose patient confesses to a crime that hits too close to home in Luca Veste's *Trust in Me*. Today they come together to discuss their nerve-shredding fiction.

Get your book signed by your favourite author.

Programme Key – 2024 Themes

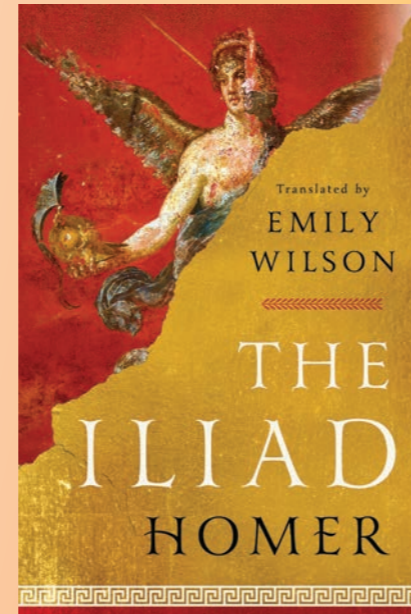
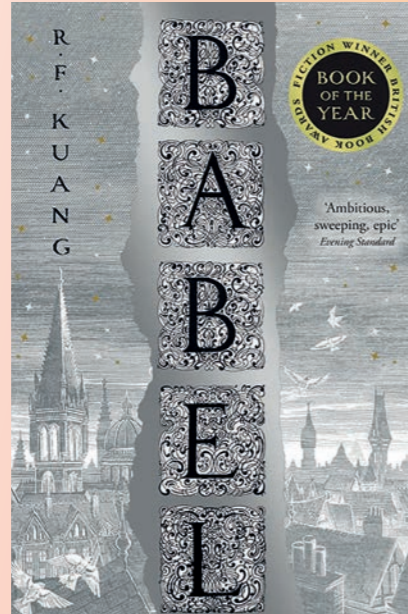
- Future Tense
- Brilliant Fiction
- The Front List
- How to Live a Meaningful Life
- Voterama
- Justified Sinner 200
- Poetry & Performance
- Back to Ours
- Extraordinary Events



**Anton Hur, R F Kuang & Emily Wilson: Language Matters**

19:45-20:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Translation and language itself are under the microscope in this panel discussion led by writer, editor, and translator **Daniel Hahn**. Hear as Anton Hur discusses the complexities of translating contemporary Korean literature; R F Kuang talks about translation as an act of violence at the heart of her speculative novel *Babel*; and renowned translator and academic Emily Wilson speaks about her groundbreaking translations of Homer's *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*.



**Samantha Harvey & Sarah Perry: To Earth with Love**

15:30-16:30  
Spiegeltent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In Samantha Harvey's *Orbital*, six astronauts gaze down on Earth, meditating on home as they keep circling it. Meanwhile, Sarah Perry's *Enlightenment* traces 20 years between friends; heartsore, one of them finds solace gazing up at the night sky. Both meticulously researched, both deeply tender novels - the authors talk with **Dan Richards** about science, awe, and our place on this planet we call home.

**Think Tank: Ingrid Robeyns**

15:30-17:00  
Venue B  
£25.00 [concessions £22.00]

How much is too much wealth? Leading Dutch political philosopher and economist Ingrid Robeyns asked this over 10 years, leading to the concept of 'limitarianism': an alternative to our current system where there's a hard limit to how much individuals can, and should, have. Unpack this provocative, society-changing idea with Robeyns during today's Think Tank, part of a special series encouraging deep discussion between audience members (while having a drink).

**On Finding Meaning: Graham Caveney**

16:00-17:00  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Does confronting death bring us closer to finding purpose and meaning in life? In his memoir *The Body in the Library*, Graham Caveney chronicles the year following his terminal cancer diagnosis with uplifting tenderness and frank humour. Joining us today, Caveney reflects on what it means to face your fears head on, and a lifetime defined - and made richer - by books, music, and love.

**Yvonne Reddick & Shane Strachan: Groundbreaking New Poetry**

16:15-17:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Yvonne Reddick's *Burning Season* (winner of 2023's Scottish Poetry Book of the Year) is a vivid, piercing collection documenting personal grief against a backdrop of ecological loss and heartbreak. Shane Strachan's collection, *DWAMS*, is at times humorous and brutal, exploring climate emergency, xenophobia, and Queer romance in North East Scotland. The writers discuss with **Beth Cochrane** how poetry can speak to the issues of our times.

**Susie Alegre & Shami Chakrabarti: What Makes Us Human**

17:00-18:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In a vital conversation two authors examine threats to human rights in the 21st century from different angles. Baroness Shami Chakrabarti's *Human Rights* reasserts the case for dignity and universal freedoms in the face of increasing authoritarianism, inequality, and conflict. While Susie Alegre's *Human Rights, Robot Wrongs* explores the impact of AI on our right to life, liberty, privacy, and free expression.

Livestream available

**Paul Caruana Galizia & Patricia Evangelista: Speaking Truth to Power**

18:00-19:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In this event, two journalists who have rigorously investigated the corrupt and murderous tactics of those in power join forces. In *A Death in Malta*, Paul Caruana Galizia works tirelessly to uncover the motive behind his journalist mother's assassination. Patricia Evangelista's *Some People Need Killing* exposes the state-sponsored assassination of thousands of citizens in the Philippines. These fearless writers talk about truth and democracy.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND EVENT

**Robin Niblett & Yuan Yang: Shaping Our Century**

18:45-19:45  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Former director of Chatham House, Robin Niblett, who in *The New Cold War* describes the ongoing geopolitical contest between the US and China. *The Financial Times*' Beijing bureau chief Yuan Yang, whose *Private Revolutions* traces the lives of four Chinese women born in the last four decades, painting a personal portrait of the country today. Joined today in conversation with **James Brodie**.

Livestream available

**Future Poets: Celebrating a Decade of the Edwin Morgan Poetry Award**

19:30-21:00  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The impact of the Edwin Morgan Trust on Scotland's vibrant poetry scene would certainly make its luminary namesake proud. Hosted by **Michael Pedersen**, tonight we celebrate 10 years of supporting young and emerging Scottish poets, with readings from an exciting line-up of past winners and nominees, before announcing who will be awarded this year's prize. Featuring performances from **Nasim Rebecca Asl, Colin Bramwell, Titilayo Farukuoye, and Roseanne Watt**. *Delivered in partnership with the Edwin Morgan Trust.*

**Adrian Tchaikovsky: Future Tense (with Aliens)**

20:30-21:30  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Arthur C Clarke Award-winning Adrian Tchaikovsky is a sci-fi legend, celebrated for his epic world-building. His latest book *Alien Clay* conjures a hostile planet called Kiln scattered with ruins of an alien civilisation and labour camps for exiled prisoners. He talks to **Ann Landmann**, exploring what imagining distant futures can teach us about our earthly world. Have sci-fi writers been ahead of the curve all along?

Livestream available

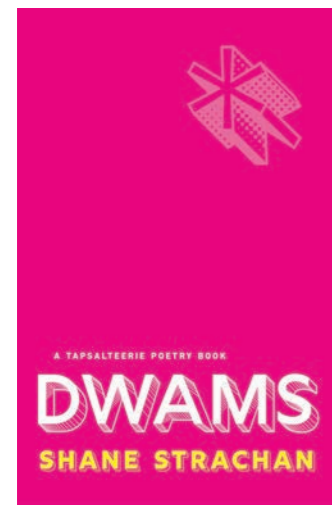
**Fun Lovin' Crime Writers**

21:00-22:30  
Spiegeltent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

'Murdering songs for fun in front of anyone who will listen' is how this crime-writing super-group describe themselves and tonight they return to the Spiegeltent, where they performed their first gig, for an unmissable, riotous evening of rock and roll. Join **Mark Billingham, Chris Brookmyre, Doug Johnstone, Stuart Neville, Val McDermid, and Luca Veste** as they swap their keyboards for guitars and bring the house down.



Yuan Yang, 18:45-19:45



Shane Strachan, 16:15-17:15

Book tickets at [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)

Programme Key – 2024 Themes

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**Liz Lochhead: A Literary Trailblazer**

10:30-11:30  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The Scots word 'handsel' means a welcome present or a token for good luck: the perfect description of a new collection of poems from Liz Lochhead. *A Handsel* collects beloved classics from Lochhead's 50-year writing career, including her time as Scotland's first female Makar, as well as never-before-published poems. A morning with one of Scotland's greatest poets is not to be missed.



Olga Wojtas, 11:00-12:00

**First Edition**

10:00-11:00  
Spiegelent  
Pay What You Can

Quality journalism is indispensable. The model of 'breaking the news' has changed enormously in recent years, but we're here to sing the praises of essential stories, well told. In an age of diminishing local resources, global conglomerates, and misinformation, raise a morning coffee (and a croissant) with leading journalists from across the media as they discuss today's news. Today's session will be led by **Paul Caruana Galizia**. Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.

**Shared Reading with Open Book**

10:30-12:30  
EFI North Entrance  
Free, book in advance

Join Open Book Lead Readers for an informal and relaxed shared reading session. Each session will explore a chapter from a debut book from this year's Festival programme. No experience necessary, all reading materials will be provided on the day. Meet the Lead Reader under the clock tower on Lauriston Place.

**Michel Faber: New Ways of Hearing**

10:45-11:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In Michel Faber's first longform non-fiction work, *Listen: On Music, Sound and Us*, the acclaimed author of *Under the Skin* and lifelong music lover imagines a whole new kind of music biography. Here, the stories of those who make the music are secondary to the physical, psychological, and emotional effects it has on the listener. Join him in conversation with **Dan Richards** for a singular journey into sound.

**Anton Hur & Shannon Vallor: The Unexpected Consequences of Progress**

11:00-12:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In *The AI Mirror*, EFI's Chair in the Ethics of Data and Artificial Intelligence, Shannon Vallor's research explores how new technologies reshape human moral character, habits, and practices. Novelist Anton Hur's debut, *Toward Eternity*, imagines a world where technology is catching up to biology. They discuss AI's real and imagined effects, and what will 'being human' mean in the future?

Captioned

**Jay Bernard, Will Harris & Karen McCarthy Woolf: Mapping the Future**

12:00-13:00  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

*Mapping the Future* is a standout poetry anthology, bringing together the work of all 30 writers from The Complete Works Poetry collective. Today, join editor Karen McCarthy Woolf alongside contributors and members of the collective including Jay Bernard and Will Harris. Today's event celebrates the incredible that has been work created and the writers who are defining the contemporary British poetry landscape.

“Mistrust of strangers is not just a social issue but also an aesthetic one. Over the years I've found that a listener's openness to different conceptions of music is part of a more general relationship with deviance and diversity. The mind is a border.”

Michel Faber, *Listen: On Music, Sound and Us*

**Peter Pomerantsev & Marianna Spring: Trial by Misinformation**

12:15-13:15  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Two titanic voices in the analysis of booming misinformation and conspiracy theories - Peter Pomerantsev, author of *How to Win an Information War: The Propagandist Who Outwitted Hitler*, and Marianna Spring, *Among the Trolls: My Journey Through Conspiracyland*, come together for an essential summit on one of the great dangers of our time.

Captioned  
Livestream available

**Tommy Orange: Finding Home, Finding Hope**

12:30-13:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

*New York Times* bestseller Tommy Orange writes fiction both tender and devastating. As an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, his debut, *There There*, explored the breadth of modern Native American lives. He talks about grappling with the past in *Wandering Stars*: a book where intergenerational trauma unfolds through centuries in a mosaic of stories you'll not forget.

Captioned

**Olga Wojtas: Miss Blaine's Prefect is Back**

12:45-13:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Olga Wojtas talks about how you should never underestimate a librarian. The author has delighted readers with her *Miss Blaine's Prefect* series which sees Shona, a 50-something librarian, embroiled in a series of adventures, each one more hilarious than the last. She's conjured up another treat in *Miss Blaine's Prefect and the Gondola of Doom*. Will time-travelling Shona unravel the Venetian mystery in time?



Marianna Spring, 12:15-13:15

**Have Lunch with Asma Khan**

13:00-16:00  
Elliott's Studio  
£90.00 [concessions £78.00]

Asma Khan's pioneering and iconic restaurant, Darjeeling Express, began life as a supper club, with Khan hosting dinners in her home for just 12 guests at a time. Today, we invite you to join her as she returns to those roots. Hear tales from Khan's culinary journey - from the busy streets of Calcutta to the all-female kitchen of her London restaurant - as she cooks up a feast for you from recipes stretching back generations. Hosted by **Chitra Ramaswamy**.



Asma Khan, 13:00-16:00

**Programme Key – 2024 Themes**

- Future Tense
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## THE EGG EVENT

### The Front List: Dolly Alderton

15:30-16:30  
McEwan Hall  
£20.00  
[concessions £17.50/£14.00]

Dolly Alderton is a self-confessed over-sharer - it's sort of become her trademark. She followed her wildly popular memoir, *Everything I Know About Love*, with a novel, *Ghosts*, cementing her reputation as one of the sharpest chroniclers of modern times. Hear Alderton chatting to **Yomi Adegoke** about *Good Material*: a novel of class, comedy, heartbreak, male friendship, and why you should always seek the other side of the story.

Captioned



### Phoebe McIntosh & Caroline O'Donoghue: Love and Chaos

13:45-14:45  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Actor and playwright Phoebe McIntosh has wowed Edinburgh Fringe Festival audiences and she's back in town with her debut novel, *Dominoes*: a thought-provoking love story where the political and personal become irrevocably tangled. In *The Rachel Incident*, Caroline O'Donoghue's hilarious characters concoct schemes of seduction in the looming chaos of the financial crash. Both authors discuss the messy worlds of love and friendship.

### Emily Wilson: A Translation Odyssey

14:00-15:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Six years after her groundbreaking translation of Homer's *The Odyssey*, Emily Wilson, Professor of Classical Studies at Pennsylvania University presents *The Iliad*: an epic poem that roars, clamours, and sings. This elegant translation draws out the physicality of the Trojan War, its propulsive emotional arc, and the complexities of each character. With **Charlotte Higgins**, Wilson reflects on why this ancient tale continues to speak across centuries.

Livestream available

### Roman Krznaric: There's Hope in History

14:15-15:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Roman Krznaric is one of Britain's leading popular philosophers - his TED Talk 'How to Be a Good Ancestor' has over 1.5 million views. In *History for Tomorrow*, he explains how 1,000 years of global history could help us meet the challenges of the 21st century. Join us to hear Krznaric discussing with **Yassmin Abdel-Magied** how lessons from the past can kindle hope for us all.

### Sunny Singh: Trouble in Paradise

14:30-15:30  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In *Hotel Arcadia*, terrorists raid a luxury hotel and its manager and a war photographer must work together to save a 5-year-old child. Writer and founder of the Jhalak Prize, Sunny Singh spent two decades researching terrorism and photography as an academic, and her fictional thriller is a nuanced page-turner, 'reminiscent of Graham Greene' (*Financial Times*). Join Singh and **Abir Mukherjee** as they discuss cultural depictions of terrorism, courage, and survival.

### Generations: Roger McGough & Hollie McNish

15:30-16:30  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Two greats of British poetry come together for an unmissable event discussing poetry across generations. Roger McGough first took the Book Festival by storm in the 1960s with his comedy-folk trio, the Scaffold. He returns this year with *The Collected Poems: 1959-2024*, joined in conversation by Ted Hughes Award-winner and author of celebrated collection *Slug* and its recent companion piece, *Lobster*, Hollie McNish.

### Mark Cousins: Life Behind the Camera

16:00-17:00  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In *Dear Orson Welles and Other Essays*, Mark Cousins begins a series of 'conversations' with the artists, poets, directors, and filmmakers who have most influenced and inspired him, from Orson Welles to Tilda Swinton. The end result is a captivating read for anyone interested in contemporary film and the history of cinema. In this event, he discusses his prolific career in filmmaking with **Hannah McGill**.

### Evie Wyld: Hauntings

16:15-17:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

'Stranger, darker, and more brilliant than anything she's written before' is how the *Guardian* described *The Echoes*, Evie Wyld's fifth novel in a critically acclaimed career to date. Narrated in part by a ghost, the novel spans generations, weaving between London and Australia. It's the story of a relationship and an exploration of the hold the past has over us. Join Wyld in conversation with **Sin ad Gleeson**.

## ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND EVENT

### Jeremy Bowen: Making the Middle East

17:00-18:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Jeremy Bowen, International Editor BBC News, has been covering the Middle East since 1989. His deep understanding of the political, cultural, and religious differences between countries as diverse as Turkey, Syria, Israel, and Palestine shine from *The Making of the Modern Middle East*. Join Bowen as he shares his learning, and his extraordinary personal history of the region.

BSL

Captioned

Livestream available

### Nikesh Shukla: What I've Learned from Superheroes

17:45-18:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Nikesh Shukla's earliest reading memory is when - aged six, on a family trip to India - his masa placed a *Spider-Man* comic in his hands. Now an award-winning novelist and screenwriter, Shukla has realised his childhood dream as the author of the *Spider-Man: India* miniseries for Marvel. He talks about this new graphic novel spin off and a lifetime of Spidey-love.

### Will Harris & Nisha Ramayya: Call and Response

18:00-19:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Poetry can 'make strange' the familiar, prompting us to reconsider things we think we already know inside out. In today's event, two innovative poets discuss their latest collections which unravel aspects of communication itself. In *Brother Poem*, Will Harris addresses a fictional sibling in poems that meditate on dialogue and voices and, in *Fantasia*, Nisha Ramayya focus in on the experience of listening.



Hollie McNish, 15:30-16:30



Evie Wyld, 16:15-17:15

## Book tickets at edbookfest.co.uk

### Programme Key - 2024 Themes

● Future Tense ● Brilliant Fiction ● The Front List ● How to Live a Meaningful Life

● Voterama ● Justified Sinner 200 ● Poetry & Performance ● Back to Ours ● Extraordinary Events



## R F Kuang & Samantha Shannon: The Future of Fantasy

20:30-21:30  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Two of fantasy fiction's finest young talents converge in Edinburgh, talking about the ways they both love and hope to expand the limits of the genre. R F Kuang author of *Yellowface* and *The Poppy War* trilogy talks about *Babel*, and Samantha Shannon, author of *The Bone Season*, discusses *A Day of Fallen Night*, the latest in her *Roots of Chaos* series.

Livestream available



## Push the Boat Out: Open Mic

18:00-19:30  
Spiegelent  
Pay What You Can

Celebrate dynamic contemporary poetry and performance with this special open mic hosted by our friends at Push the Boat Out, renowned in Edinburgh for their joyful Rock the Boat nights. Sit back and enjoy fresh poetry at the Festival, connect with poetry pals, or take to the stage to showcase new works and old favourites. Visit [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk) to find out how you can get involved.

## Jim Reid & William Reid: Jesus and Mary Chain

18:45-19:45  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

When brothers Jim and William Reid teamed up to create the band of their dreams, could they possibly have known they'd go on to influence a generation as Scottish rock music icons The Jesus and Mary Chain? Looking back at 40 years of brotherly strife, riots, and ear-splitting feedback, the eternally shy outsiders join **Nicola Meighan** in conversation about their new memoir, *Never Understood*.

## Ben Ansell & Robin Niblett: New World Order

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

Two leading experts assess the current state of global politics. In *Why Politics Fails*, Oxford Professor Ben Ansell guides voters through our current system's pitfalls, so that we can achieve true democracy. Meanwhile, Chatham House distinguished fellow Sir Robin Niblett urges that we take the potentially disastrous global fallout of the US and China seriously in *The New Cold War*.

## Peter Bradshaw: From Films to Fiction

19:45-20:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Peter Bradshaw knows a thing or two about storytelling. He's delighted audiences with astute observations for 25 years as the *Guardian's* chief film critic. In his latest short-story collection, *The Body in the Mobile Library*, Bradshaw turns his critical gaze to the fictional, infusing a dose of the macabre across 21 devilish tales. Join Bradshaw as he crosses the boundary into his uncanny world, in conversation with **Hannah McGill**.

## Book Fest vs The Fringe: A Book Quiz of Epic Proportions

21:00-22:30  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The Book Festival isn't the only show in town during August - stars galore will also be massing in Edinburgh for the Festival Fringe (...allegedly). But who knows their Atwood from their elbow? Whose TBR pile is scraping the ceiling? Showing it's possible to be funny AND know your way around a contents page, six stars of page and stage battle it out in the ultimate Festival vs Festival quiz. Check our website for news of contestants.

## First Edition

10:00-11:00  
Spiegelent  
Pay What You Can

Quality journalism is indispensable. The model of 'breaking the news' has changed enormously in recent years, but we're here to sing the praises of essential stories, well told. In an age of diminishing local resources, global conglomerates, and misinformation, raise a morning coffee (and a croissant) with leading journalists from across the media as they discuss today's news. Today's guest is **Peter Pomerantsev**. Supported by **Claire and Mark Urquhart**.

## THE NOBLE CALEDONIA EVENT

### Alistair Moffat: Walking Scotland's History

10:30-11:30  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

One of Scotland's most beloved historians, Alistair Moffat arrives at the Festival with two new books: *Between Britain: Walking the History of England and Scotland*, and *The Highlands and Islands of Scotland*. Today, he joins us to talk about what he unearthed about these regions: from the rich history of battle lines to the changing story of Scotland's dramatic landscapes, from the prehistoric to modern.

Livestream available

### Colin Bramwell & Gerda Stevenson: Celebrating Aonghas Dubh

10:45-11:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Aonghas MacNeacail (1942-2022) was a giant of Scottish letters, best known for his Gaelic poetry and passionate championing of that language. Lesser known are his English-language poems. Poets Colin Bramwell and Gerda Stevenson - leading writer, musician, and Aonghas's widow - join us to talk about editing the posthumous collection, *Beyond*, and the luminous life of Aonghas Dubh (which translates as 'Black Angus').

## Karen McCarthy Woolf: Blending Truth and Fiction

11:00-12:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Karen McCarthy Woolf is a prize-winning poet who's now turned her talents to fiction with an extraordinary tale that blurs the lines between truth and reality. *Top Doll* is the semi-fictional story of the real-life reclusive New York heiress Huguette Clark, but there's one complication... it's narrated by her collection of dolls. In this event, McCarthy Woolf discusses her witty, moving, and deliciously unreliable miniature epic with **Adele Patrick**.

## Spirit Case Tours

11:00-11:30  
EFI North Entrance  
Free, book in advance

Join the **Recycling a Hospital** Project Team from the University of Edinburgh for a mini tour of The Spirit Case. A project of remembering, the object has been created by artisans from slates and floorboards from the original Royal Infirmary building and inscribed with poetry written by community members and nurses who trained in the building. Meet your tour guide under the clock tower on Lauriston Place.

## Hannah Lavery & Donald Smith: Edinburgh 900

12:00-13:00  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

'This is an old place, growing older by the day,' writes poet and Edinburgh Makar Hannah Lavery in 'Edinburgh is a Story'. In the city's 900th anniversary year, Lavery joins storyteller Donald Smith (author of *Edinburgh: Our Storied City*) to honour and reflect upon the capital's layered legacy. How did we get here? What do we wish for Edinburgh's future? Chaired by **Amina Shah**.

## Marianna Spring: Adventures in Conspiracyland

12:30-13:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The BBC's first disinformation and social media correspondent, Marianna Spring talks to Festival Director **Jenny Niven**, about her observations from the frontline of the battle for control of the online information landscape. Whether reporting on conspiracy theorists, trolls, or state actors, Spring's journalism is urgent and contemporary, and with her new book, *Among the Trolls*, she gives a first-hand account of the humans who inhabit Conspiracyland.

## Vincent Deary & Clare Mackintosh: In the Aftermath of Loss

12:45-13:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

After the death of her five-week-old son, author Clare Mackintosh searches for guidance in her memoir *I Promise It Won't Always Hurt Like This*. Psychologist Vincent Deary draws on clinical research and personal experiences in *How We Break*, exploring the different causes of human suffering. These are weighty topics, but so important to talk about. Join the authors discussing grief, compassion, and hope with **Claire Urquhart**.

Eat, sleep,  
read,  
repeat.

## Programme Key – 2024 Themes

● Future Tense ● Brilliant Fiction ● The Front List ● How to Live a Meaningful Life

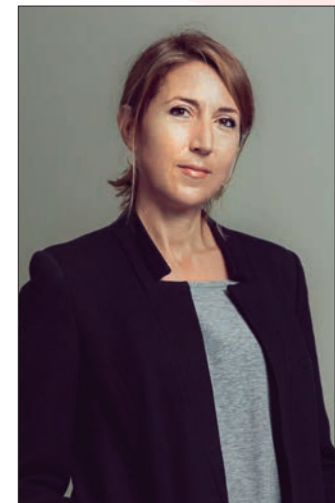
● Voterama ● Justified Sinner 200 ● Poetry & Performance ● Back to Ours ● Extraordinary Events



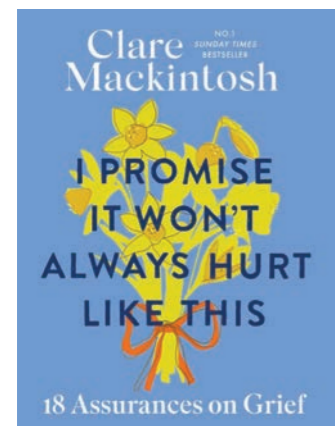
**Yassmin Abdel-Magied, Roman Krznaric & Tommy Orange: Good Ancestor**

12:15-13:15  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

How do you become a good ancestor to future generations? Tommy Orange, whose novel *Wandering Stars* traces its Native American characters across centuries, and Roman Krznaric, who follows up his book *The Good Ancestor* with *History for Tomorrow*, come together with writer and award-winning social advocate Yassmin Abdel-Magied to explore how our own period in history might be reimagined. Together they ask: what is our legacy?



Lisa Jewell, 14:00-15:00



Clare Mackintosh, 12:45-13:45

**Asma Khan in Conversation**

13:45-14:45  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Pioneering chef Asma Khan's life reflects her belief that food and love are inextricably linked. One of TIME magazine's Most Influential People in the World in 2024, her internationally famous restaurant, Darjeeling Express, has supported countless women, employing home cooks with life experience rather than formal training. In an inspiring conversation with **Chitra Ramaswamy**, Khan talks about her advocacy work for the UN World Food Programme and how food brings us home.

**Lisa Jewell: Broadcasting Secrets**

14:00-15:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

*None of This is True* is the addictive new psychological thriller by internationally bestselling author Lisa Jewell. It follows a podcaster whose life begins to unravel when a seemingly chance encounter leads to the discovery of dark secrets. Hear Jewell in conversation with a real-life podcaster, **Sam Baker** (author and host of *The Shift*), in a conversation that gets under the skin of the killer twist genre.

Captioned  
Livestream available

**Ben Ansell & David Runciman: The Past and Future Democracy**

14:15-15:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The full breadth of political thought is potentially on display here, as Cambridge University Professor of Politics David Runciman discusses his boldly named new book *The History of Ideas*, based on the similarly named spin-off of his *Talking Politics* podcast, which delves into the origins of major political concepts. He'll be in conversation with fellow professor Ben Ansell, author of the equally inquisitive *Why Politics Fails*.

**Literary Brazil: World Book Capital 2025**

14:30-15:30  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Step into the world of Brazilian literature with renowned authors **Jeferson Tenório** and **Itamar Vieira Junior**. This year, Rio joins Edinburgh in the City of Literature network and prepares for its role as the upcoming World Book Capital in 2025. Join us for a vibrant celebration of literature as we bring Scottish writers and literary figures together with their Brazilian counterparts and explore the cultural significance of story in both cultures, and the exciting prospects these new connections hold for global literature. *A British Council Global Conversation event, to build connections, understanding and trust. With thanks also to Instituto Guimarães Rosa, Consulate General of Brazil in Edinburgh.*

Captioned

**Think Tank: Harold Hongju Koh**

15:30-17:00  
Venue B  
£25.00 [concessions £22.00]

Advisor to four US presidents, Harold Hongju Koh is Sterling Professor and former Dean at Yale Law School. His new book explains why the structural evolution from America's founding of a 'National Security Constitution' has promoted foreign policy unilateralism by presidents of both parties. As the US heads to the polls this November, how will this evolution shape and threaten global stability? Join this Think Tank event with Koh, part of a special series encouraging deep discussion between audience members (while having a drink).

**Raja Shehadeh: What Does Israel Fear From Palestine?**

16:00-17:00  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

One of Palestine's leading writers, Raja Shehadeh returns to the Festival with his new work, *What Does Israel Fear From Palestine?* Today, the lawyer and human rights activist offers his fresh perspective on the history of Palestine and Israel up to our current moment. What went wrong, what continues to go wrong, and where do Palestine and Israel go from here are all addressed with empathic clarity.

**Polly Atkin: Interior Lives, Exterior Worlds**

16:00-17:00  
Venue A  
Pay What You Can

In this digital event, Polly Atkin speaks with **Caroline Clarke** about the glorious strengths and limitations of the body, mind, and our natural world. In her latest book *Some of Us Just Fall*, a lyrical blend of memoir, nature writing and pathography, Atkin looks through the lens of nature to reflect on her body and illness, after being diagnosed with two chronic conditions in her thirties.

Appearing remotely

**Sinéad Gleeson & Charlotte Wood: Seeking Solace**

16:15-17:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

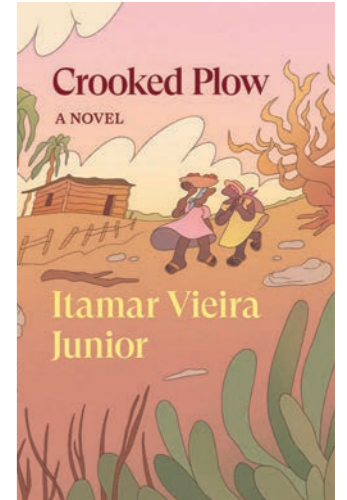
In their writing, Sinéad Gleeson and Charlotte Wood grapple with truth, transformation, and the human condition. *Hagstone* is Gleeson's fiction debut, an eerie story of an isolated artist living on a windswept, nameless island. In Wood's *Stone Yard Devotional*, a woman seeks solace in a small religious community on the stark plains of the Australian outback. They discuss their powerful, haunting fiction with **Kirsty Logan**. *Supported by Culture Ireland.*

**Marian Keyes: Disaster Averted**

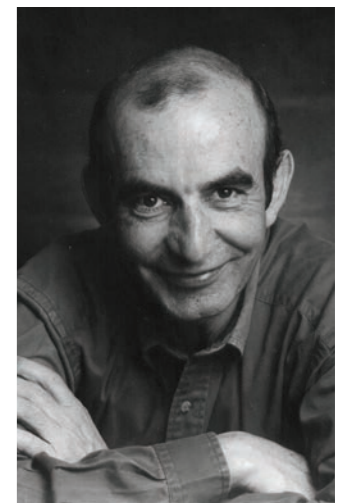
17:00-18:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The bestselling author arrives at the Festival with a hilarious, heart-warming new novel. In *My Favourite Mistake*, Anna trades in her high-flying life in New York to help her friends open a wellness retreat in a tiny Irish town. When the locals protest its opening, Anna must make amends with the help of an old flame. Keyes chats to **Sam Baker** about her latest gem. *Supported by Culture Ireland.*

Livestream available



Itamar Vieira Junior: 14:30-15:30



Raja Shehadeh, 16:00-17:00



Marian Keyes, 17:00-18:00

**Book tickets at edbookfest.co.uk**

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**Hollie McNish: Disgust, Love and Lobsters**

18:45-19:45  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

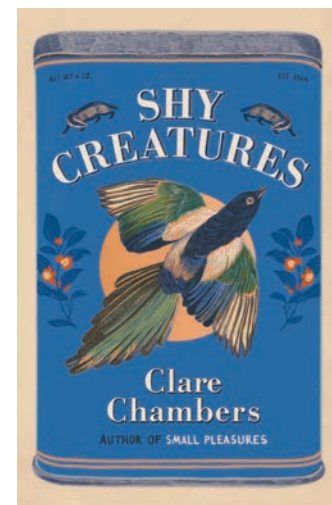
‘This book is written out of both hate and love for the world.’ So says Hollie McNish of her new poetry and essay collection, *Lobster*, the companion piece to *Slug*, her 2022 *Sunday Times* bestseller. McNish is beloved by both readers and critics alike: an essential, rebellious voice who challenges everything we have been taught to think about ourselves and others. Join her tonight as she talks about the new collection (and performs a few poems too!).

Livestream available



“It is morning, and I feel like talking. As the sun with its light does, and the birds for the sun, then its animals and people beginning to move...”

Tommy Orange, *Wandering Stars*



Clare Chambers: 18:00-19:00

**Jay Bernard, Mary Jean Chan, Will Harris & Nisha Ramayya: Siblings**

17:00-18:00  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

*Siblings* captures an illuminating discussion between four poets about writing communities, the possibilities of poetry, and what it means to be a sibling (both real and imaginary). Today, Jay Bernard, Mary Jean Chan, Will Harris, and Nisha Ramayya share their insights from that conversation in a fascinating event about collaboration, artistic practice, and found families.

**Peter Pomerantsev: Voices of Dissent**

17:45-18:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In 1941, a German broadcaster, Der Chef, spoke out against Hitler from inside the Nazi regime. However, Der Chef and his infamous voice of dissent was, in fact, the creation of British propagandist, Sefton Delmer. Talking about *How to Win an Information War*, Peter Pomerantsev (2020's Gordon Burn Prize winner) reveals what we can learn from Delmer's wartime effort in our age of misinformation. Supported by the *Turtleton Charitable Trust*.

**Clare Chambers: The Art Of Kindness**

18:00-19:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The year is 1964, but for Helen Hansford, an art therapist from Croydon, the sixties are far from swinging. Her world is turned upside down when she encounters William Tapping, the local ‘Hidden Man’, who has been a recluse for decades. Award-winning author Clare Chambers is joined by **Lennie Goodings** to explore *Shy Creatures*, her new life-affirming tale about the transformative power of kindness.

**Colin MacIntyre: In My Mind There Is a Room**

19:00-20:30  
Spiegelent  
£20.00 [concessions £17.50/£13.50]

Bringing his worlds of words and music together, Colin MacIntyre's (aka Mull Historical Society) brand new album *In My Mind There's a Room* features an all-star cast of literary giants who have penned words about a special room that plays, or has played, a significant part in their lives. Hear it performed live with special guest appearances from the writers themselves in an unforgettable evening conjuring the spaces which have launched a thousand stories.

**R F Kuang: Wicked Ambition**

19:30-20:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

R F Kuang's *Yellowface* was a runaway hit in 2023, a *New York Times* bestseller and named both Foyle's and Amazon's ‘Fiction Book of the Year’. The viral thriller charts the story of June, a literary nobody who steals her frenemy's manuscript to pass off as her own after a freak accident. Join Kuang as she discusses this searing satire of the publishing industry.

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**Richard Fisher: Taking Back Time**

19:45-20:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The key to the future is our understanding of time, argues Richard Fisher in *The Long View*. The supercharged pace of modern life that keeps us hyper-fixated on the ‘now’ isn't sustainable. Talking to **Jo Sharp** about medieval cathedrals that took lifetimes to build and philosophers who imagined futures thousands of years off, Fisher asks how, for the sake of future generations, we recapture the far-sightedness of our ancestors.

**Raymond Antrobus & Evelyn Glennie: Transcendent Sound**

20:45-21:45  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In a unique, magical event, virtuoso percussionist Evelyn Glennie appears with award-winning poet Raymond Antrobus to share extraordinary new work they've been creating together. Conversation blends with musical performance as Glennie improvises to Antrobus' readings. His work has resonated with audiences worldwide, touching on themes of identity and d/Deafness, while Glennie has won over 80 international awards. An evening to remember from two spellbinding artists of rare talent.

BSL

Captioned

Livestream available

**Sentimental Garbage – Live**

21:00-22:30  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Join bestselling author **Caroline O'Donoghue** for a live recording of her hit podcast *Sentimental Garbage*. She chats with special guest **Marian Keyes** about the popular culture we love that society judges us for. Previous episodes feature deep dives into *Sex and the City*, Taylor Swift albums, generation-defining romcoms, and viral pop culture moments.



Evelyn Glennie: 20:45-21:45



Caroline O'Donoghue, 21:00-22:30

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Caroline Eden, 13:45-14:45

### First Edition

10:00-11:00  
Spiegel tent  
Pay What You Can

Quality journalism is indispensable. The model of 'breaking the news' has changed enormously in recent years, but we're here to sing the praises of essential stories, well told. In an age of diminishing local resources, global conglomerates, and misinformation, raise a morning coffee (and a croissant) with leading journalists from across the media as they discuss today's news. Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.

### Close Read: Sinéad Gleeson on Maeve Brennan

10:15-11:15  
Venue B  
£16.00 [concessions £14.00]

In our Close Reads series, an author takes readers through a fun analysis and discussion of a classic text or genre which has inspired them. Here Sinéad Gleeson, author of the dark tale of island life, *Hagstone*, presents her fellow Irish writer Maeve Brennan's collection of delightfully sardonic observational *New Yorker* columns about life in 1960s New York, *The Long-Winded Lady*.

### Leslie Hills: A Love Letter To Edinburgh

10:30-11:30  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The history of 'Auld Reekie' is brought to life in new ways by film producer Leslie Hills in *10 Scotland Street*, her first book. It's a kaleidoscopic portrait of one house, where we meet booksellers, silk merchants, sailors, preachers, politicians, and explore its far-reaching connections stretching across the globe over two centuries. Hills is joined by **Val McDermid** to discuss this love letter to Edinburgh.

Livestream available

### Shared Reading with Open Book

10:30-12:30  
EFI North Entrance  
Free, book in advance

Join Open Book Lead Readers for an informal and relaxed shared reading session. Each session will explore a chapter from a debut book from this year's Festival programme. No experience necessary, all reading materials will be provided on the day. Meet the Lead Reader under the clock tower on Lauriston Place.

### Gavin Francis & Nathan Thrall: Divide and Unite

10:45-11:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Gavin Francis celebrates bridges he's encountered across decades of travel in *The Bridge Between Worlds*: the ones that connect places, people, and ideas. Nathan Thrall's *A Day in the Life of Abed Salama* examines the impact of walls: the literal, political, and cultural structures that divide us. Join the authors as they discuss how the stories we share can strengthen connection at a time we need it most.

### Kim Sherwood: Double O

11:00-12:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

An award-winning novelist whose last book, *A Wild and True Relation*, was praised by Hilary Mantel. Kim Sherwood is also the granddaughter of James Bond actor George Baker and a lifelong James Bond aficionado. She talks today about *A Spy Like Me*, the second instalment in her *Double O* trilogy, which creates brand new stories set within the Bond canon. For superfans and superspies alike.

### (Lunch) Box Fresh

12:00-12:45  
Spiegel tent  
Pay What You Can

What better way to spend your lunch break than discovering your next favourite writer? Sit back in the Spiegel tent and discover brilliant new work from stellar emerging talent with this series of readings. In today's edition, brought to you in partnership with **Scottish Book Trust** and **Glasgow Women's Library Bold Types**, writers respond to our Festival theme, 'How to Live a Meaningful Life'.

### Rose Boyt: Portrait Of A Father

12:15-13:15  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

When looking at Lucian Freud's piercing portraits, it's impossible to imagine what it must have been like to sit for him. The artist's daughter, Rose Boyt, explores that and much more in *Naked Portrait*. Drawing upon the rediscovery of her own childhood diary, Boyt probes the depths of their complicated relationship. Join her today as she discusses her remarkable memoir of the artist.

Livestream available



### Kathleen Jamie: New Landmarks

12:30-13:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Scotland's Makar and leading nature writer Kathleen Jamie returns to the Festival with a new book, *Cairn*. Micro-essays, prose poems, and fieldnotes are the stones with which Jamie builds her book: a cairn of her own making. This new way of writing offers a different viewpoint as Jamie continues to observe the natural world. Join Jamie in conversation with **Esa Aldegheri** as they discuss her latest work.

### Carys Davies & Charlotte Wood: God's Own Country

12:45-13:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Two stunning novels explore the relationship between religion and landscape on opposite sides of the world. *Clear* by Carys Davies transports us to the Highland Clearances and the turbulent origins of the Free Church of Scotland, while Charlotte Wood's *Stone Yard Devotional* sees a woman seek refuge in an Australian monastery which is under siege by climate catastrophe. Join Davies and Wood for a fascinating conversation.

### Caroline Eden: Culinary Journeys

13:45-14:45  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Author and literary critic Caroline Eden's new book *Cold Kitchen* is an honest, heart-breaking memoir, drawing upon memories and gathered recipes that bring her travels in Central Asia, Ukraine, Russia, and Eastern Europe to life. In what is sure to be a fascinating event, she'll discuss food and belonging, and the journeys of discovery they can take us on.

### Polly Toynbee & David Walker: The State of Us

14:00-15:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Years of political mayhem, scarring austerity, and apparent incompetence all round: what will Britain's next government inherit when they step into office? Polly Toynbee and David Walker explore this in *The Only Way is Up*: an essential guide to the state of the nation, 14 years after Tory rule. Talking to **Kezia Dugdale**, the acclaimed journalists and co-authors ask, where do we go from here?

### Benjamin Dean & Kat McKenna: What Does It Mean to Be a Fan?

14:15-15:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£10.50 [concession £6.00]

Calling all fans! Discover the history of the first fandoms, the many Eras of Taylor Swift, the politics of celebrity and cancel culture, and above all: why being a fan is so special. Join raging Swiftie, freelance marketer, and author of *Look What You Made Me Do*, Kat McKenna and former celebrity journalist turned full-time writer, Benjamin Dean. Chaired by **Holly Bourne**.

For Big Kids and Young Adults

### Sarah Rankin: Something To Be Savoured

14:30-15:30  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

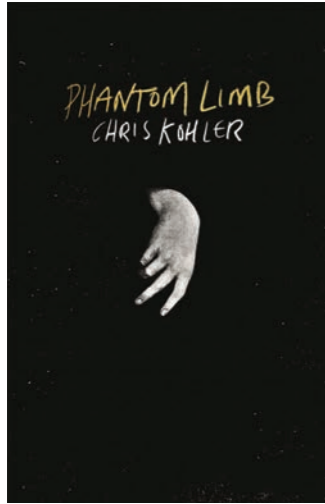
Food is love, according to MasterChef finalist Sarah Rankin, and her much-anticipated cookery book, *Kith: Scottish Seasonal Food for Family and Friends*, is an expression of this belief. Essays are sprinkled between recipes and Rankin writes movingly about her passion for ingredients, the seasons that nurture them, and those who tend, harvest, and prepare them too. Hear her in conversation with **Claire Urquhart**.

Book tickets at [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)

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Chris Kohler, 16:15-17:15

**Close Read: Emma Dabiri on The Undercommons**

15:30-16:30  
Venue B  
£16.00 [concessions £14.00]

Sometimes the scariest thing about a book club is the homework - not so for our Close Read series! Come together with other passionate readers to explore a text for the first time. Today, **Emma Dabiri** (author of *Disobedient Bodies*) will unpack *The Undercommons*, a powerful series of essays by Stefano Harney and Fred Moten about the Black radical tradition. A friendly discussion for Harney and Moten fans and newbies alike.

**An Afternoon with Jenny Colgan**

15.30-16.30  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Beloved Scottish author Jenny Colgan is an international superstar: she has sold 10 million copies of her books in more than 30 territories. Join Colgan for a special afternoon celebrating her latest book, *Close Knit*, a new tale of friendship, family, and opportunity as a young woman leaves the comfort of her community knitting circle on a remote Scottish island to embrace a high-flying lifestyle.

**2024 International Booker Prize: Meet the Winners**

16:00-17:00  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Join the winners of 2024's International Booker Prize in conversation with judge, **Natalie Diaz**. The International Booker is the annual award for the best novel translated into English. With an equal prize to both author and translator, it's the most significant award for translated fiction. This year's longlist represents 10 languages, featuring stories of courage, tyranny, kindness, and community. Check our website for updates on this year's winners.

Captioned

**Glen James Brown & Chris Kohler: Soothsayers for Modern Times**

16:15-17:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Glen James Brown's *Mother Naked* is set in 1434, against the shadow of the Black Death as an ageing minstrel arrives in Durham to entertain the city's powerful men. Chris Kohler plays with Scotland's creation myths in his debut novel, *Phantom Limb*. Weaving both sacred and profane, he probes at the very meaning of modern society. Both authors discuss myths, magic, and humour with **Calum Barnes**.

**Nathan Thrall: Anatomy of a Tragedy**

17:00-18:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In 2012, a horrific bus crash on the outskirts of Jerusalem killed many Palestinian schoolchildren. One of them was five-year-old Milad Salama and, in tracing his father Abed's efforts to find his son, journalist Nathan Thrall tells the story of lives under Occupation in the West Bank. Hear Thrall talking about his 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction-winning work, *A Day in the Life of Abed Salama*: an urgent, essential portrait of life and death in Israel and Palestine. Chaired by **Esa Aldegheri**.

Captioned

Livestream available

**On Resilience: Vincent Deary**

17:45-18:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

'Often the first casualty of stress is joy' says health psychologist Vincent Deary. An expert in fatigue, Deary has spent his career helping people pushed past their limits. His latest book, *How We Break*, thoughtfully unpacks how overwhelm happens and how it's affecting our bodies and minds. Hear him talk about how better understanding our struggle can help us navigate through difficulty and reclaim our lives. *Supported by the Jasmine Foundation*.

Captioned



**Lorraine Kelly: Escape to Orkney**

18:45-19:45  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Beloved broadcaster Lorraine Kelly first visited Orkney in 1985 and has returned every year since then. Orkney is also the setting for her debut novel, *The Island Swimmer*. An instant *Sunday Times* best-seller, it's a tale of facing the past, self-discovery, and the healing power of the sea. Today, Kelly joins us to discuss her first foray into fiction with **Ian Rankin**.

BSL

Captioned

Livestream available



Nathan Thrall, 17:00-18:00

**Mateo García Elizondo: Ghost Towns**

18:00-19:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The past refuses to die in Mateo García Elizondo's debut novel. A drug addict goes to El Zapotal to finally fade away from society, yet his memories, tinged with regret, continue to haunt him in this ghost town. A winner of The City of Barcelona Award, *Last Date in El Zapotal* brings an extraordinary new voice writing in Spanish to the English-reading world.

**Lone Tree**

18:00-19:00  
Spiegelent  
£20.00 [concessions £17.50/£13.50]

In an exclusive commission for the Book Festival, award-winning composer **David Paul Jones** has taken Makar Kathleen Jamie's incredible back catalogue of poems and set them to music in an utterly original, haunting performance of new work for voice and small ensemble. He presents this truly mesmerising work in a pair of one-off performances. Not to be missed.

**Words from the Wards: Hannah Lavery**

18:15-19:15  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance

In Spring 2024 we called for people from Edinburgh to submit stories about the former Royal Infirmary, to capture and honour the experiences and memories that people connect with the building's previous life. Join us as we bring together local people from across Edinburgh alongside special guest Hannah Lavery to perform their work and commemorate the building's rich history. *Supported by Edinburgh Futures Institute*.

Captioned



Mateo García Elizondo, 18:00-19:00

**Need help?  
Look out for  
our friendly  
Festival team.**

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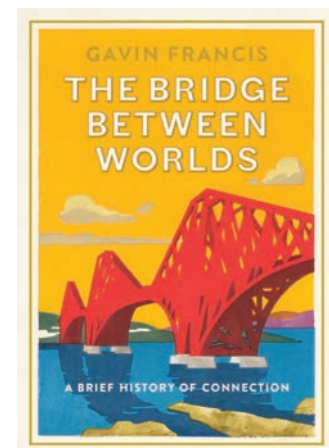
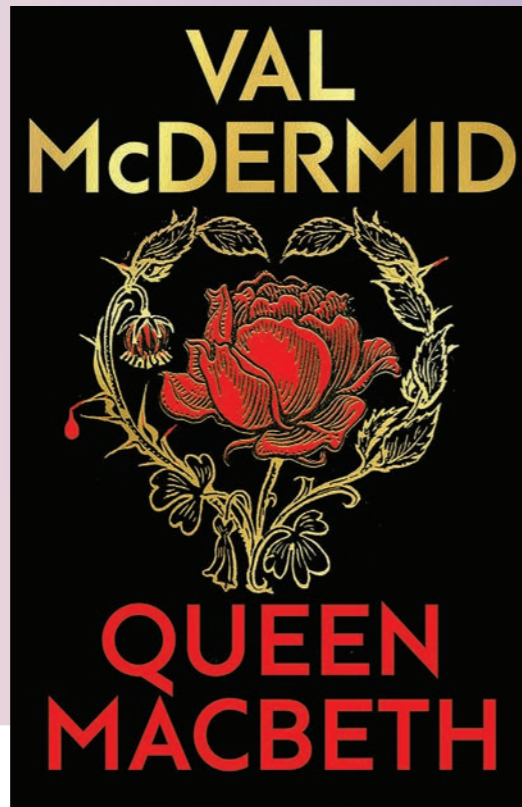


**Val McDermid: Meet Queen Macbeth**

20:30-21:30  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Bestselling author Val McDermid is widely recognised as Scotland's 'Queen of Crime'. In her latest book, she meets another queen: the real Lady Macbeth. Plunging into the dark world of medieval Scotland, *Queen Macbeth* is a tale of treachery, massacre, and ruthless ambition. McDermid will be joined by **Steph McGovern** to discuss the real character behind one of Shakespeare's most memorable and charismatic villains.

Livestream available



Gavin Francis, 19:30-20:30

THE FREDERICK HOOD MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Gavin Francis: Building Bridges**

19:30-20:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In a world obsessed with borders, bridges link lands, communities, and ideas. In a new non-fiction book, *Sunday Times* bestselling author and doctor Gavin Francis explores the history of bridges and how they connect us - both metaphorically and literally. From Singapore to Brooklyn and London to Siberia, *The Bridge Between Worlds* spans continents and time periods to ask how these engineering marvels impact our lives. Supported by *Walter Scott & Partners Limited*.

**Jente Posthuma & Rebecca Watson: To Absent Brothers**

19:45-20:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In the International Booker Prize-shortlisted *What I'd Rather Not Think About*, Jente Posthuma introduces a twin whose brother has taken his own life, while in *I Will Crash*, Goldsmiths Prize-nominated Rebecca Watson writes about a sister whose brother re-enters her life many years after their relationship broke down. Join these two talented novelists as they discuss grief, forgiveness, and the complexity of love with **Barry Pierce**. Part of *New Dutch Writing*, presented by *the Dutch Foundation for Literature*.



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH EVENT

**Jill Burke, Emma Dabiri & Moshtari Hilal: Beautiful Rebellion**

13:30-14:30  
Spiegeltent  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Who gets to decide what is considered beautiful? As beauty and conformity morph into one, it can be tempting to try to force our bodies into shapes they were never designed to fit. Today, authors Jill Burke (*How to Be a Renaissance Woman*), Emma Dabiri (*Disobedient Bodies*), and Moshtari Hilal (*Ugliness*) deconstruct harmful beauty standards and explore how we can reclaim and celebrate our gloriously rebellious forms. Supported by *GENDER.ED*.

**Close Read: Mateo García Elizondo on The Blind Owl**

10:15-11:15  
Venue B  
£16.00 [concessions £14.00]

In our Close Reads series, join an animated discussion as an author introduces you to an iconic text that has shaped them. In today's workshop, Mateo García Elizondo, author of *Last Date in El Zapotal* and grandson of Gabriel Garcia Márquez, unpacks Persian writer Sadegh Hedayat's magnum opus, *The Blind Owl*, which follows a young grief-stricken painter who begins having frenzied nightmares injected with the images he paints.

**Inside Out: Sky**

11:00-12:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

When did you last gaze at the night sky? In this inspiring double-bill, **Emily Chappell** interviews authors who've learned to embrace the wonder of night. Drawing on science and stories from women throughout history, **Annabel Abbs'** *Sleepless* tells how a period of bereavement led the writer to discover her 'Night Self'. **Jaqueline Yallop's** *Into the Dark* examines our shifting relationship with darkness, looking to art, science, philosophy, and her own life. Look for the twinned 'Inside Out: Sky' event later today where you can embrace your own Night Self and take a night walk with the authors (Limited tickets available. Full details on our website).

HAWTHORNDEN FOUNDATION EVENT

**Chigozie Obioma: Brothers in Arms**

12:15-13:15  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Twice Booker-shortlisted author Chigozie Obioma's new novel, *The Road to the Country*, is the story of two brothers divided during the devastating Nigerian Civil War. As they seek to reunite, their journeys become odysseys in a war-torn land. Obioma - called 'truly the heir to Chinua Achebe' by the *New York Times* - discusses his new powerful work in conversation with **Allan Little**. **Captioned**

Saturday 17

Friday 16

Book tickets at [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)

Programme Key - 2024 Themes

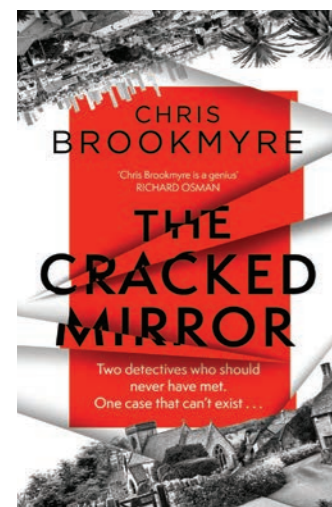
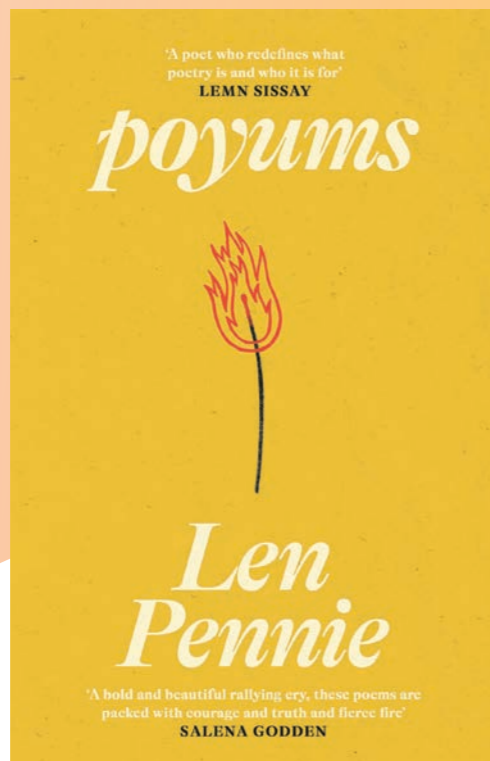
- Future Tense
- Brilliant Fiction
- The Front List
- How to Live a Meaningful Life
- Voterama
- Justified Sinner 200
- Poetry & Performance
- Back to Ours
- Extraordinary Events



## Len Pennie: Poyums for All

17:00-18:00  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In the depths of lockdown, Len Pennie's 'Scots word of the day' spread the joy of the Scots language to thousands. That was just the beginning for the poet who, according to Lemn Sissay, 'redefines what poetry is and who it is for'. Her debut collection, *Poyums*, was an instant bestseller, and combines her wit and distinctive voice with her fierce feminism. She speaks to **Beth Cochrane**.



Chris Brookmyre, 14:15-15:15

## Dan Richards: Writing for Audio

12:30-14:30  
Venue B  
£35.00 [concessions £30.00/£24.00]

What does it take to write a compelling script for audio? Writer, broadcaster, and presenter of the acclaimed BBC Radio 4 series *Only After Dark*, Dan Richards returns to the festival with a practical workshop that introduces the dynamic skillset you need to write for the airwaves. Learn how to introduce scenes that succinctly capture place, time, atmosphere, and energy, and master editing down dialogue in ways that both communicate and capture important topics and messages.

## Anne Boyer & Marianne Brooker: The Body Intervenes

12:30-13:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Marianne Brooker's *Intervals* - winner of the 2022 Fitzcarraldo Essay Prize - is both a moving record of a bereaved daughter and a deeply political examination of what makes a good death. Anne Boyer's Pulitzer-winning *The Undying* blends memoir with critique, exploring the cancer industry and gendered politics of illness. The two writers talk to **Gavin Francis** about the radical act of looking what we most fear in the face.

## Chris Brookmyre: Crime Worlds Collide

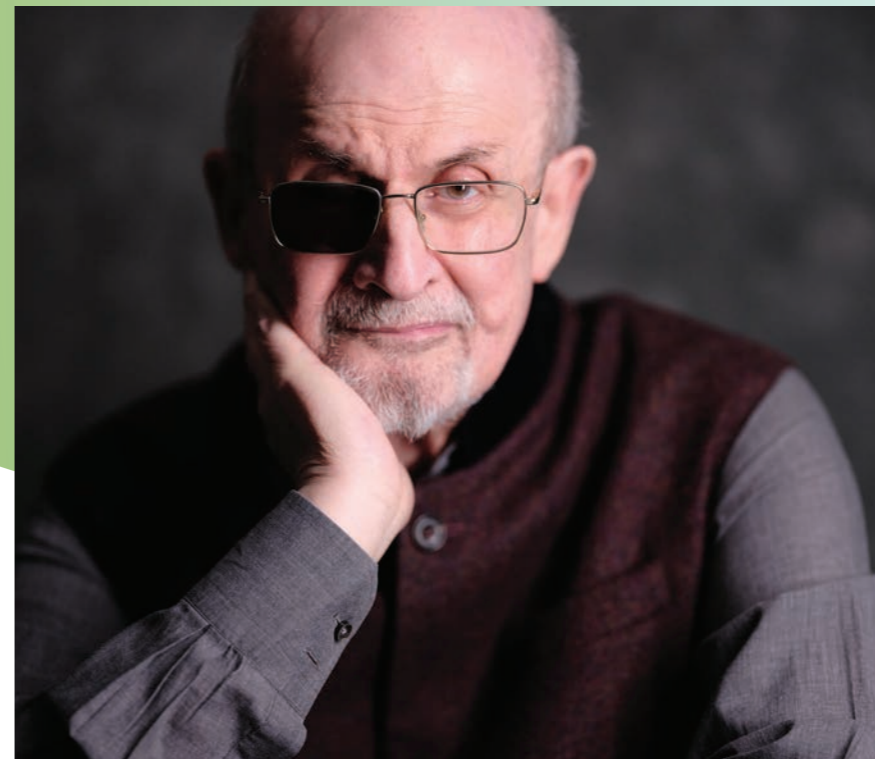
14:15-15:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Award-winning Scottish crime writer Chris Brookmyre is taking the genre to new heights with *The Cracked Mirror*. Two worlds collide when village-dwelling, murder-solving Penny Coyne meets Johnny Hawke, a hardened, troublesome LAPD homicide detective. Brookmyre always delivers thrilling narratives, and this genre-defying 'whodunnit' tale is perhaps his most entertaining, ambitious and imaginative novel yet.

## Raja Shehadeh & Avi Shlaim: From Then to Now

15:45-16:45  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In *Three Worlds: Memoirs of an Arab-Jew*, New Historian Avi Shlaim critically reflects on the history of Zionism, Israel, and his own childhood after being forced to flee Baghdad, aged five. Also blending the personal and political, esteemed writer Raja Shehadeh's *What Does Israel Fear from Palestine?* asks what stops both nations from co-existing. They discuss one of the most complex crises of our time through the lens of personal historical contexts.



## Jenni Fagan & Iona Lee: Calling to Mind

16:00-17:00  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

*Anamnesis* is Greek for 'recollection of the past'. It's also the title of Iona Lee's latest poetry collection which prompted Darren McGarvey to write, 'Lee performs open-heart surgery on the English language'. Similar could be said for Jenni Fagan's *A Swan's Neck on a Butcher Block* - poems of startling honesty that return to and reimagine night-time to magical effect. The poets discuss dipping into the realm of memory with **Samuel Tongue**.

## Elaine Feeney: The Possibilities of Art

16:15-17:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Irish poet, novelist and playwright Elaine Feeney returns to the Book Festival to discuss her new poetry collection, *All the Good Things You Deserve*. Her powerful poetry juxtaposes the tyranny of violence and shame with beauty and the transformative possibilities of art. Ultimately, Feeney asks: how can we love, trust, and create in the aftermath of trauma? *Supported by Culture Ireland*.

## On Reflection: Richard Holloway

17:30-18:30  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Elif Shafak once noted that, after reading Richard Holloway - broadcaster, writer, professor, and former head of the Scottish Episcopal Church - 'you understand the world better, you feel less lonely'. Come and hear Holloway talk with **Allan Little** about his profound new essay collection, *On Reflection*, and meditate on questions around faith, forgiveness, art, and home that have long occupied his work.

Captioned  
Livestream available

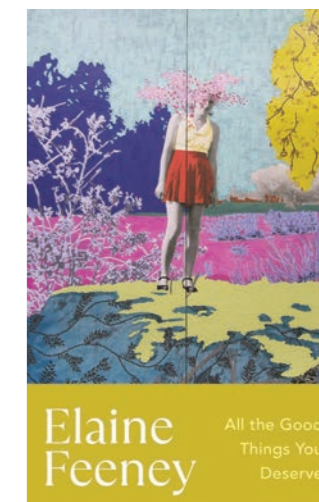
## HAWTHORNDEN FOUNDATION EVENT

## The Front List: Salman Rushdie in Conversation with Mishal Husain

17:30-18:30  
McEwan Hall  
£20.00  
[concessions £17.50/£14.00]

In August 2022, literary luminary Salman Rushdie was stabbed on stage while talking about artistic freedom - more than 30 years after a Fatwa was issued on his life. In a rare interview with Mishal Husain (live at McEwan Hall), we're honoured to present *Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder* - his intimate, arresting account of that day, an answer to violence with art. Talking about his extraordinary career, Rushdie will appear remotely while Husain and **Adjoa Andoh** will appear on stage, reading from *Knife*.

BSL  
Captioned  
Livestream available  
Appearing remotely



Elaine Feeney, 16:15-17:15

## Programme Key - 2024 Themes

● Future Tense ● Brilliant Fiction ● The Front List ● How to Live a Meaningful Life

● Voterama ● Justified Sinner 200 ● Poetry & Performance ● Back to Ours ● Extraordinary Events





Natalie Diaz, 18:45-19:45

### Catherine Lacey: Alternate States

17:45-18:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

'A Russian doll of a book' is how the *Financial Times* described Catherine Lacey's *Biography of X*, a novel disguised in biographical form, riven with complexity and intrigue. When 'X', an iconoclastic artist dies suddenly, her grief-stricken widow begins to realise how little she knew about the woman she loved. Lacey joins us to discuss this thrilling, counterfactual and dystopian adventure with **Heather Parry**.

**Captioned**

### Anne Boyer: The Politics of Illness

18:00-19:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The critically acclaimed poet and essayist Anne Boyer had just celebrated her 41st birthday when she received the news that she had highly aggressive triple-negative breast cancer. Winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction, *The Undying* documents Boyer's life post-diagnosis alongside ruminations on illness, metaphor and politics. Working in the tradition of Susan Sontag and Audre Lorde, Boyer speaks with **Marjorie Lotfi** about care under capitalism.

### Words from the Wards: Gavin Francis

18:15-19:15  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance

In Spring 2024 we called for people from Edinburgh to submit stories about the former Royal Infirmary, to capture and honour the experiences and memories that people connect with the building's previous life. Join us as we bring together local people from across Edinburgh alongside special guest Gavin Francis to perform their work and commemorate the building's rich history. *Supported by Edinburgh Futures Institute.*

**Captioned**

### Natalie Diaz: Any Wound Can Bloom

18:45-19:45  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

'Writing is kind of a way for me to explore why I want things and why I'm afraid of things and why I worry about things.' Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Natalie Diaz is the author of *Post Colonial Love Poem* and *When My Brother Was an Aztec*, and this year was a judge on the International Booker Prize. Diaz is Mojave and an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community; she's directed a language revitalisation program with the last speakers of Mojave. She speaks with **Iona Lee** today about how sharing words helps us remember and imagine.

### Chris van der Kuyl: Infinite Worlds

19:15-20:15  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Chris van der Kuyl is one of Scotland's leading entrepreneurs and co-founder of 4J Studios, the video game studio responsible for global phenomenon *Minecraft*. Weaving together insider knowledge from the true coalface of new tech development, insights into the practical and ethical implications of the current tech revolution, and the imagination which brought some of the world's biggest video games to life, today's session (including potential big reveals for the next frontier for *Minecraft*) shouldn't be missed.

### Hettie Judah: Rewriting Art History

19:30-20:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

As an art critic, curator, and writer, Hettie Judah has spent years researching and campaigning on art and motherhood. *Acts of Creation* is her new book, released alongside her 5-star exhibition which is touring UK galleries this summer. Judah brings a fresh perspective to art history by examining maternity in art from prehistory to the present day.

### Julia Armfield: Family Apocalypse

19:45-20:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The 2022 novel, *Our Wives Under the Sea* was a bestseller and won the Polari Book Prize. Now, Julia Armfield is back with *Private Rites*, a novel set at the end of the world, as three sisters gather to administer their late father's estate. Haunting and unsettling, yet combined with Armfield's deadpan wit, this isn't one to miss. **Barry Pierce** joins Armfield in conversation.

### An Evening with Gutter Magazine

21:00-22:30  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Get yourself down to the Spiegelent for a vibrant evening of performance as *Gutter*, Scotland's leading literary magazine, launches their latest issue. Showcasing the best and brightest in Scottish and international writing, hear fiction, poetry, and prose from leading and up-and-coming talent.



### Durham ReaderBank

10:15-11:15  
Venue B  
Free, drop-in

Do you hear characters' voices in your head while you're reading? What does it feel like to dive into their fictional worlds? The Durham University team is back with ReaderBank: the world's most ambitious study of reading, imagination, and health. This year, they're delving deeper into reading and the mind, with groundbreaking VoiceMatch technology, and asking readers what famous characters sound like to them. Join them as they present their findings from 2023's Book Festival and share how you can get involved this year.

### Jennifer Saint: Mythical Women

10:30-11:30  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

With four novels published in as many years, former English teacher Jennifer Saint has carved out a niche as a writer who vibrantly brings the women of Greek myth to life in fictional form. Following *Ariadne*, *Elektra*, and *Atalanta*, this year's *Hera* reclaims the complex story of the queen of the gods, reassessing her usual portrayal as a wicked and vengeful character. Saint talks to **Alice Tarbuck**.

### On Food and Community: Sami Tamimi

11:45-12:45  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

No one understands the multi-layered nature of food more than Palestinian chef and restaurateur, Sami Tamimi (co-author of award-winning cookbook *Falastin* and professional partner of Yotam Ottolenghi). From the personal to the political: what and how we eat says so much about who we are. Tamimi talks with **Chitra Ramaswamy** about food as a symbol of resistance, celebration and community.

**Livestream available**

### Justified Sinner 200: Cut Up with Ever Dundas

12:30-14:00  
Venue B  
£30.00 [concessions £26.00/£20.00]

In 'Cut Up', a written text is cut up and rearranged to create something new. It's no surprise the technique, allowing the creation of weird juxtapositions and surprising new meanings, was enjoyed by the Dadists, William S Burroughs, and more recently, the fabulous Ever Dundas who leads a Cut Up workshop on *Confessions of a Justified Sinner*.

### Justified Sinner 200: Extraordinary Trash: A Theatre Essay

12:15-13:15  
Venue NW  
£20.00  
[concessions £17.50/£13.50]

An archivist is tasked with cataloguing what remains of the National Theatre of Scotland's "dazzlingly faithful adaptation" (*The Guardian*, 2013) of Hogg's *Confessions of Justified Sinner*. Sorting through artefacts and video, they consider what stays and what gets thrown away. Part lecture, part theatre, this is a meditation on cultural value, the future of past glories, and the importance of gossip in any history of theatre. Presented by **Stewart Laing** and **Pamela Carter**.



Jennifer Saint, 10:30-11:30

Book tickets at  
[edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)

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**Have Lunch with Sami Tamimi**

15:00-18:00  
Elliott's Studio  
£90.00 [concession £78.00]

'Through the act of cooking, we are not just nourishing bodies,' wrote Sami Tamimi (award-winning chef, restaurateur, and co-author of *Falastin*) 'but also nourishing spirits and preserving the essence of Palestinian identity.' In this intimate event, Tamimi prepares a delicious meal for you, inspired by his Palestinian roots. Telling the story of each dish, each ingredient, he'll share how food can be a symbol of connection - and community. In conversation with **Chitra Ramaswamy**. Ticket includes: Welcome snack and drink, two-course lunch, drinks on the table, plus an exclusive recipe booklet.



Caoilinn Hughes, 14:15-15:15

**Avi Shlaim: Life in Three Worlds**

12:30-13:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Early in his childhood, Avi Shlaim and his family were forced to flee from their home in Iraq, to reconstruct their lives in the new state of Israel. Now, the award-winning historian's memoir, *Three Worlds: Memoirs of an Arab-Jew*, examines how his personal history has played its part in much wider narratives of global political history, Zionism, and nationalism. He discusses his story and its implications in today's event.

**Tony Birch & Fred D'Aguiar: The Secrets We Tell**

14:00-15:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Silence breaks. Truths materialise. And those coaxed into invisibility emerge from the shadows. **Deirdre Osborne** leads award-winning Aboriginal Australian author Tony Birch and British-Guyanese poet and novelist Fred D'Aguiar in a conversation about their latest novels. In *Women and Children*, Birch ignites family strength against generational trauma, whilst in *For the Unnamed*, D'Aguiar gives voice to a victorious Black jockey whose name has been hidden from history.

**Julia Armfield & Caoilinn Hughes: Never Were There Such Devoted Sisters**

14:15-15:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Both *The Alternatives* by Caoilinn Hughes and *Private Rites* by Julia Armfield centre around the relationships between sisters meeting after their parents' death. But more than that, they are novels of ideas: about climate change, about the choices we make, and about how to go on when everything seems blatantly futile. Talking to **Heather Parry**, the authors ask why we bother with faith when reason tells us otherwise. Supported by *Culture Ireland*.

**Rachelle Atalla & Ali Millar: Longing in a Blazing World**

15:15-16:15  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In Rachelle Atalla's *The Salt Flats*, six strangers journey to a retreat in the salt flats of Bolivia, desperate to find a cure for their various ills. Ali Millar's debut novel *Ava Anna Ada* is set during a scorching summer when the past comes calling for Anna. The authors discuss their atmospheric novels this afternoon.

**Howard Jacobson: Like a Bolt Out the Blue**

15:15-16:15  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

What happens when love surprises you later in life? How long can it last? Howard Jacobson, Booker-prize-winning author of *The Finkler Question* and author of more than twenty books besides, explores this, and more, in *What Will Survive of Us*: a tender new novel about the complexities that arise when new love and desire are met with the realities of aging bodies. Join him in conversation with **Lennie Goodings**.

Captioned  
Livestream available

**Doug Johnstone: From Crime to Sci-Fi**

15:45-16:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Scottish author Doug Johnstone is well known for his thrilling crime novels, but he's been garnering just as much acclaim for his exciting new departure into sci-fi with *The Collapsing Wave*. An epic first contact novel full of questions and a juicy sequel to *The Space Between Us*, it sees a Scottish family confront either utopia, or the end of the human race... He talks today about his remarkable new direction.

**Álvaro Enrigue & Chigozie Obioma: History and Myth**

16:00-17:00  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The year is 1519 and Conquistador Hernán Cortés and his troops ride into Tenoxtitlan, today's Mexico City. This is *You Dreamed of Empires*, Álvaro Enrigue's hallucinatory, revelatory, colonial revenge story. Chigozie Obioma's *The Road to the Country* is an odyssey of brotherhood, love and unimaginable courage set during the Biafran War. Two award-winning writers come together to discuss reimagining history and myth with **Chris Power**.



Julia Armfield, 14:15-15:15



Howard Jacobson, 15:15-16:15

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- Future Tense
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HAWTHORNDEN FOUNDATION  
EVENT

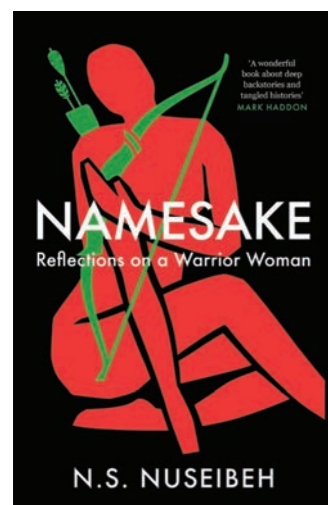
**Paul Lynch: Let Awake  
People Be Awake**

19:00-20:00  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Paul Lynch describes his 2023 Booker Prize-winning *Prophet Song* as an 'attempt at radical empathy'. A deeply human portrait of one woman's fight to hold her family together, the novel imagines a chilling totalitarian-state future for Ireland which echoes the present situation of so many across the world. **Nicola Sturgeon** discusses Lynch's unsettling novel, the dangers of complacency, and the power of fiction to illuminate the possible with this writer at the top of his game.

Captioned

Livestream available



NS Nuseibeh, 17:30-18:30

**Anna Bogutskaya: The Horror!**

17:00-18:00  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In recent years, horror films and television have only increased in popularity, becoming critical and commercial successes - think *Hereditary*, *Yellowjackets*, and *The Haunting of Hill House*. In *Feeding the Monster*, film critic Anna Bogutskaya explores why so many of us are still hungry for tales of horror. Today she speaks to **Kirsty Logan** about what our love for the genre says about our own fears, anxieties and desires.

**Close Read: Open Book on  
Delicate Edible Birds**

17:00-18:30  
Venue A  
£16.00 [concessions £14.00]

**Marjorie Lotfi** and **Claire Urquhart** from Open Book, a charity which organises shared reading and creative writing groups, explore *Delicate Edible Birds*: the debut story collection from acclaimed novelist Lauren Groff, who is at the Festival with her latest work, *The Vaster Wilds*. Discover the early work of 'one of the most original voices in literature today' in these nine globe-spanning tales, by turns ordinary and wondrous. Expect an open discussion from the start. No preparation required.

HAWTHORNDEN FOUNDATION  
EVENT

**Rachel Cusk:  
A Carousel of Lives**

17:00-18:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Rachel Cusk is arguably one of the most distinctive voices in contemporary British literature, widely celebrated for her ability to fold the momentous into the seemingly mundane. The celebrated author of the *Outline* trilogy returns to the Festival, talking with the *Guardian's* literary critic **Chris Power** about *Parade*: a remarkable, unsettling novel about art, womanhood, and violence, playing with the liminal space between reality and fiction.

Livestream available

**N S Nuseibeh: A Woman Found**

17:30-18:30  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In her collection of essays *Namesake: Reflections on a Warrior Woman*, British-Palestinian writer N S Nuseibeh considers her own identity by asking what being a Muslim and Arab feminist means, and explores her own relationship with her background as an educated woman who moves between cultures. Throughout, she takes as her inspiration her namesake Nusayba, the warrior woman who fought alongside the Prophet Muhammad.

**Lynsey May & Margaret  
McDonald: Stunning  
Scottish Debuts**

17:45-18:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Two powerful new voices in Scotland's literary scene come together to discuss their debuts with **Catherine Wilson Garry**. In Lynsey May's *Weak Teeth*, Ellis's life is spiralling out of control as she attempts to navigate grief, difficult relationships, and persistent toothache. Margaret McDonald's *Glasgow Boys* is an exploration of modern working-class identities, centring around two care-experienced teenagers trying to find their way in the world.

**Words from the Wards:  
Lisa Williams**

18:15-19:15  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance

In Spring 2024 we called for people from Edinburgh to submit stories about the former Royal Infirmary, to capture and honour the experiences and memories that people connect with the building's previous life. Join us as we bring together local people from across Edinburgh alongside special guest Lisa Williams to perform their work and commemorate the building's rich history. *Supported by Edinburgh Futures Institute.*

Captioned

**Suzie Miller: From Page  
to Stage**

18:45-19:45  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Award-winning playwright and screenwriter Suzie Miller has transformed her smash-hit West End (now Broadway) play, *Prima Facie*, into a debut novel. The story follows a criminal defence barrister whose experience of the legal system changes when she becomes a complainant. Miller talks today with **Jackie Wylie** about the creative challenges of adapting the one-woman script into a novel, and continues the conversation raised by this important story.

**Xiaolu Guo:  
Personal Geographies**

19:15-20:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In 2021, innovative, experimental writer Xiaolu Guo bought a tiny flat in Hastings where she could write without the disturbance of children or city life. Leaving her desk to explore Hastings' seafront, Guo immersed herself in England's past conflicts, including the famous battle of 1066. Hear Guo today, talking about *My Battle of Hastings* which completes her trilogy of memoirs on living a creative life.

**Amy Liptrot & Stef Smith:  
The Outrun**

19:30-20:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Amy Liptrot's memoir of recovery, resilience and hope has moved readers the world over. This year sees two major adaptations of *The Outrun* being released: a film, directed by Nora Fingscheidt and starring Saoirse Ronan, and a play - originally workshopped as part of the Book Festival's Playing with Books series - written by Olivier Award-winning Stef Smith. Join Smith and Liptrot in conversation with **Caitlin Skinner**.



Xiaolu Guo, 19:15-20:15



Amy Liptrot, 19:30-20:30



Stef Smith, 19:30-20:30

Book tickets at  
[edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)

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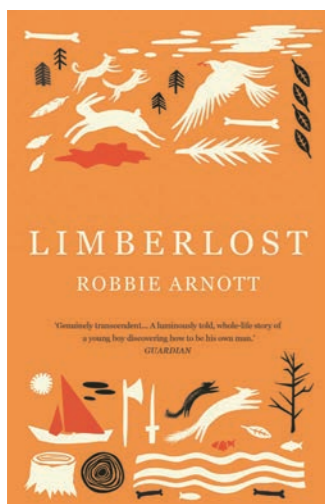




Harriet Constable, 10:30-11:30



Rachel Clarke, 10:45-11:45



Robbie Arnott, 11:00-12:00

**First Edition**

10:00-11:00  
Spiegel tent  
Pay What You Can

Quality journalism is indispensable. The model of 'breaking the news' has changed enormously in recent years, but we're here to sing the praises of essential stories, well told. In an age of diminishing local resources, global conglomerates, and misinformation, raise a morning coffee (and a croissant) with leading journalists from across the media as they discuss today's news. Today's guest is **Edward Wong**. Supported by *Claire and Mark Urquhart*.

**Shared Reading with Open Book**

10:30-11:30  
EFI North Entrance  
Free, book in advance

Join Open Book Lead Readers for an informal and relaxed shared reading session. Each session will explore a chapter from a debut book from this year's Festival programme. No experience necessary, all reading materials will be provided on the day. Meet the Lead Reader under the clock tower on Lauriston Place.

**Tracy Chevalier & Harriet Constable: The Floating City**

10:30-11:30  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

What makes Venice such a rich subject for historical fiction? What untold stories does the city hold? Join Harriet Constable (with her debut *The Instrumentalist*) and Tracy Chevalier (with *The Glassmaker*, her 11th novel in a career including *Girl with a Pearl Earring*) as they talk to **Lennie Goodings** about each of their fascinating Venice novels: stories of defiant creative women, glass, and music.

Livestream available

**Rachel Clarke: I Carry Your Heart With Me**

10:45-11:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

More than a muscle, the heart is a symbol of all that makes us human. *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *Dear Life* and *Breathtaking* (recently adapted for TV), Dr Rachel Clarke speaks to **Gavin Francis** about the transplant that became the subject of *The Story of a Heart*: her tender account of a medical team, the tenacity of love, and two children whose lives became inextricably linked.

**Robbie Arnott & Leo Vardiashvili: In Search of Great Stories**

11:00-12:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In Robbie Arnott's new book *Lamberlost*, the Tasmania-based writer explores our ideas of masculinity, and our destructive, extractive relationship with the natural world. Leo Vardiashvili's *Hard By a Great Forest* is a searching tale of home, memory, and sacrifice. Both writers explore life's big questions through tales that are at turns raw, tender and profound.

**Scott Hames, Joyce McMillan & James Robertson: Scottish Writing After Devolution**

12:00-13:00  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

As part of our series exploring the impact of 25 years of devolution, Scott Hames, James Robertson and Joyce McMillan examine this as a turning point for Scottish culture. How have politics, literature and theatre intertwined? Has politics made an indelible mark on our letters?

**Karl Ove Knausgård: Written in the Stars**

12:15-13:15  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Long-lost siblings reunite in Karl Ove Knausgård's latest novel. Moving from 1980s Norway to present-day Russia, *The Wolves of Eternity* builds like a Victorian novel, moving between characters whose lives intersect beneath a bright new star in the sky. Called a 'master of fiction as an inquiry into the self' by the *Guardian*, don't miss one of world literature's most compelling voices in conversation with **Chris Power**.

Livestream available

**Suzie Miller & Lucia Osborne-Crowley: Who Gets Believed?**

12:30-13:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Though one's a journalist and the other a playwright and novelist, Lucia Osborne-Crowley and Suzie Miller share much in common: both are trained lawyers, both have powerful books about women's courage in the face of disbelief, and both are profoundly angry about how our justice systems repeatedly fail sexual abuse survivors. Discussing *The Lasting Harm* and *Prima Facie*, they talk today about broken systems and bearing witness.

**Lauren Elkin: Building a Life**

12:45-13:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Does the past ever leave a place? Lauren Elkin, author of *Art Monsters* and *Flâneuse*, makes her first foray into fiction with *Scaffolding*, a novel about two couples living in the same Parisian apartment: one in 2019 and one in 1972. Despite being nearly 40 years apart, the characters face similar challenges in politically tumultuous times. Elkin discusses her novel's themes of marriage, pregnancy, and desire.

**Justified Sinner 200: Confessions Book Club**

13:45-14:45  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Dig into the heart of this extraordinary book with writers including **Ian Rankin**, and **Ever Dundas**. Utterly ahead of its time, with multiple possible readings both supernatural and psychological, *Confessions* is considered one of the first European gothic novels and paints a portrait of Edinburgh like no other. Come and hear why writers today are still enthralled, 200 years on. Supported by the Dr David Summers Charitable Trust.

**Annabelle Hirsch: Pieces of a Woman**

14:00-15:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

What are the objects that make up a woman's life? A cave painting? A metal corset? Radium-laced chocolate? In *A History of Women in 101 Objects*, Annabelle Hirsch tours the often overlooked history of women, uncovering new stories from the objects women have interacted with throughout time. In conversation with **Amina Shah**, Hirsch takes us through a cabinet of curiosities, from the prehistoric to the modern.

Livestream available



Lauren Elkin, 12:45-13:45

**Programme Key – 2024 Themes**

● Future Tense ● Brilliant Fiction ● The Front List ● How to Live a Meaningful Life

● Voterama ● Justified Sinner 200 ● Poetry & Performance ● Back to Ours ● Extraordinary Events



THE BLACKFORD EVENT

**Alexander McCall Smith: A Passion for Fiction**

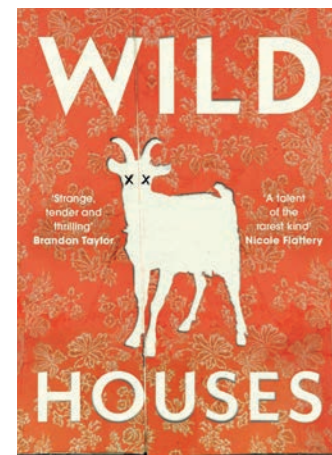
17:00-18:00  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Alexander McCall Smith returns to unveil a new series and offer a welcome update on our favourite agency in Botswana. Meet Katie Donald, who finds herself running a dating company for Edinburgh's lonely hearts. Told with wit and warmth, *The Perfect Passion Company* promises to delight while our reunion with Precious Ramotswa in *The Great Hippopotamus Hotel* is a much-anticipated treat.

Captioned  
Livestream available



Monday 19



**COLIN BARRETT**

Colin Barrett, 14:15-15:15

**Colin Barrett: Chaos in County Mayo**

14:15-15:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Masterfully evoking the claustrophobia of small-town life, Colin Barrett chats today about *Wild Houses*, his drugs-feud thriller narrated by an unwitting accomplice to a kidnapping. Barrett's debut novel is slick, funny, and his inventive dialogue leaps off the page. As in his acclaimed short stories, the novel returns to County Mayo - the home Barrett left more than two decades ago. Find out what keeps his pen wending westward. *Supported by Culture Ireland.*

**Francisco Garcia & Mark O'Connell: Making a Murderer**

14:30-15:30  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Can true crime ever be written ethically, without exploitation? Two leading non-fiction authors explore this question with sensitivity and empathy. Mark O'Connell takes on the murder of Dublin socialite Malcolm Macarthur in *A Thread of Violence*, while Francisco Garcia delves into the killer Bible John's grip on Glasgow in *We All Go into the Dark*. They discuss the nuances of writing about crime with **Dani Garavelli**. *Supported by Culture Ireland.*

**Eva Baltasar: A Mammoth Achievement**

16:00-17:00  
Venue A  
Pay What You Can

In this digital event, Catalan poet and writer Eva Baltasar joins us to celebrate her latest work, *Mammoth*, the final in her internationally acclaimed trilogy that begun with *Permafrost*, followed by *Boulder*. Baltasar takes the world by its horns in *Mammoth*, exploring sex, work, Queer identity, and relationships to uncover life's meaning - if there is one. Hear Baltasar discussing what it means to be young and human today.

Appearing remotely

**Neel Mukherjee: The Choices We Make**

16:00-17:00  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Booker-shortlisted author Neel Mukherjee returns to the Festival with his first novel in seven years. *Choice* tells three interconnected stories: a publisher experiments with his lifestyle; an academic meets a stranger; and a family in rural India encounters a gift that wreaks havoc. Today, Mukherjee reflects on how even the smallest decision forms a chain of cause and effect.

**Jennifer Croft & Catherine Lacey: Politics of Biography**

17:45-18:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In Jennifer Croft's hilarious *The Extinction of Irena Rey*, and Catherine Lacey's inventive *Biography of X*, an artist is lost. Those closest to them seek to understand them, sometimes reaching into murky and disturbing truths. Together they explore whether an artist's own story can ever truly be known, and how our own stories impact our experience of their art.

**Billy Kay: An Ayrshire Legend**

16:15-17:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Scots language champion, celebrated scribe, and raucous storyteller Billy Kay turns his gaze on the parish of Kyle, using his community and family story to tell a wider story of Scotland, politics, class, and language. Don't miss him today in conversation with leading light of the new Scots revival, **Alistair Heather**.

**THE CREATIVE INFORMATICS EVENT**

**Page Against the Machine**

18:00-19:00  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Write against the clock in this fun, interactive challenge where we put AI to the test in front of a live audience. When your time runs out, your virtual co-creator will automatically generate a new piece based upon your words. Can AI help or hinder human creativity? Pop into the Spiegelent to give it a go as humans and machines go head-to-head.

**ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND EVENT**

**Torsten Bell & Dharshini David: Towards a Better Economy**

18:00-19:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

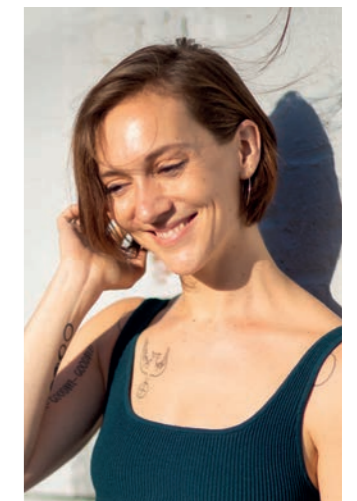
Hopeful visions of the economic future are presented here by Torsten Bell, Chief Executive of the Resolution Foundation and former Director of Policy for the Labour Party, whose book *Great Britain?* examines how the country can be transformed for the better. He's joined by BBC's Chief Economics Correspondent, Dharshini David, who, in *Environomics*, explores the changes already happening in our world and everyday lives thanks to the green economy.



Neel Mukherjee, 16:00-17:00



Jennifer Croft, 17:45-18:45



Catherine Lacey, 17:45-18:45

Monday 19

Book tickets at [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)

Programme Key – 2024 Themes

- Future Tense
- Brilliant Fiction
- The Front List
- How to Live a Meaningful Life
- Voterama
- Justified Sinner 200
- Poetry & Performance
- Back to Ours
- Extraordinary Events





Tim Spector, 18:45-19:45



Dharshini David, 20:30-21:30

THE CIRRUS LOGIC EVENT

**Tim Spector: Go With Your Gut**

18:45-19:45  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Food gives us life, yet diet misinformation abounds. Bestselling author and epidemiologist Tim Spector is here to separate fact from fiction – and to reassure us that we can love our bodies and food equally. Drawing on new research, *Food for Life* is an award-winning guide through gut health, food myths and processed diets. Trust your gut and come along to a discussion with Spector and **Jo Sharp**.

BSL

Livestream available

**Nick Bryant, Olesya Khromeychuk & Edward Wong: Democracy on the Brink**

19:30-20:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

With democracy more precarious than ever, three internationally focussed authors discuss how we got here. Former BBC journalist Nick Bryant examines America's internal political conflict in *The Forever War*; Olesya Khromeychuk's *The Death of a Soldier Told by His Sister* analyses the war and Ukrainian history through personal loss; and *New York Times* correspondent Edward Wong braids the story of modern China with family history in *At the Edge of Empire*.

**Álvaro Enrigue: You Dreamed of Empires**

19:45-20:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Featuring a cast of princesses, priests, mercenaries, and warriors, *You Dreamed of Empires* is the vibrant new novel from Álvaro Enrigue, award-winning author of *Sudden Death*. Hallucinatory, gruesome, farcical: it's a colonial revenge story where the action unfolds over one day in 1500's Mexico. Hear the visionary author talk to **Chris Power** about his playful approach to history and the role humour plays in critiquing power.

THE WATER WITNESS EVENT

**Ed Conway & Dharshini David: Living In a Material World**

20:30-21:30  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The past, present, and future of humanity's treatment of the natural environment collide in this discussion between Ed Conway, who, in *Material World: A Substantial Story of Our Past and Future*, explores the role sand, salt, oil, copper, water, and lithium have played in human development, with BBC Chief Economics Correspondent Dharshini David, whose *Environomics* reveals the changes the green economy is already making to the planet.

Livestream available

**Rachel Sermanni: On Creativity**

21:00-22:30  
Spiegel tent  
£20:00 [concessions £17.50/£13.50]

A mesmerising presence on Scotland's indie-folk scene, Rachel Sermanni's candid lyrics invite her listeners in as she explores nature, separation, and healing. Since her fourth album *Dreamer Awake*, Sermanni has been leading Cultivating Creative Circles – a monthly space 'where humans can come together to share in creative play, exploration and expression'. Rachel and friends open the circle for audiences this evening, sharing music, hopes, and ideas.



**Louise Welsh: When the Past Comes Knocking**

12:15-13:15  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Corruption, crime, and compromise: Book Festival favourite Louise Welsh returns with *To the Dogs*, her 10th novel since her 2002 debut, *The Cutting Room* (Most Inspiring Saltire First Book Award winner by public vote in 2018). Welsh talks to **Peggy Hughes** about her darkly comic new thriller featuring a University of Glasgow professor whose career, family, and reputation are threatened when details of his past come to light.

Livestream available

**First Edition**

10:00-11:00  
Spiegel tent  
Pay What You Can

Quality journalism is indispensable. The model of 'breaking the news' has changed enormously in recent years, but we're here to sing the praises of essential stories, well told. In an age of diminishing local resources, global conglomerates, and misinformation, raise a morning coffee (and a croissant) with leading journalists from across the media as they discuss today's news. Today's session is with **Julian Baggini**. Supported by *Claire and Mark Urquhart*.

**Close Read: Tony Birch**

10:15-11:45  
Venue B  
£16.00 [concessions £14.00]

Tony Birch is the Chair in Australian Literature at the University of Melbourne, and author of award-winning works including *Ghost River* and *The White Girl*. In today's Close Read, the beloved author, academic, and activist will explore a text that has inspired his own work. Bring your curiosity and passion for great literature, and throw yourself into this enlightening discussion.

**Kate Atkinson: Last Good Man Standing**

10:30-11:30  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Twenty years after it began, this year Kate Atkinson's *Case Histories* series of murder mysteries celebrates its sixth instalment with *Death at the Sign of the Rook*, involving policeman turned private investigator Jackson Brodie in a country house whodunit which pays homage to the finest traditions of Agatha Christie. Come and hear how another master of the form does it.

**Sarah Marsh: Crossed Wires**

11:00-12:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

How can a deaf woman speak out in a hearing world? Sarah Marsh explores in a fascinating conversation this morning. Her debut novel, *A Sign of Her Own*, is an evocative story of connection, concealment, and betrayal about a deaf student of Alexander Graham Bell. Drawing on diaries from Bell's students and her own experience of deafness, Marsh shares what compelled her to tell this hidden history of the invention of the telephone.

BSL

Captioned

**Spirit Case Tours**

11:00-11:30  
EFI North Entrance  
Free, book in advance

Join the **Recycling a Hospital** Project Team from the University of Edinburgh for a mini tour of The Spirit Case. A project of remembering, the object has been created by artisans from slates and floorboards from the original Royal Infirmary building and inscribed with poetry written by community members and nurses who trained in the building. Meet your tour guide at under the clock on Lauriston Place.

**Caoilinn Hughes & Neel Mukherjee: Where Do We Go From Here?**

12:30-13:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

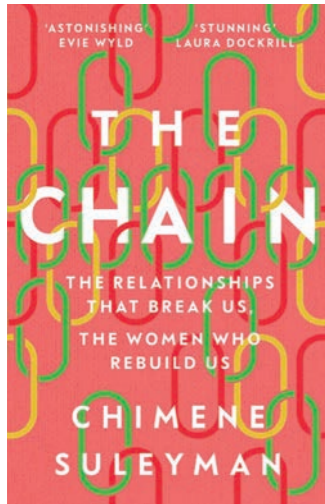
Two authors discuss their profound novels of interconnectedness. *The Alternatives* by Caoilinn Hughes and *Choice* by Neel Mukherjee tackle their subjects from different positions: Hughes' novel, though largely about climate change, is ultimately hopeful, while Mukherjee's paints a bleaker picture. Both, though, are deeply compassionate novels that will leave you asking what we've done with the world, and at what cost. Hear them in conversation with **Adam Biles**. Supported by *Culture Ireland*.

Become a 'Friend of the Festival' and get yourself some mates rates.

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- Poetry & Performance
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Chimene Suleyman, 14:30-15:30



Nina Stibbe, 15:30-16:30

**Paul Muldoon: How to Read a Poem**

12:30-14:00  
Venue B  
£30.00 [concessions £26.00/£20.00]

What are we to make of the latest poem we happen upon in the pages of a newspaper or magazine? We have no trouble reading a novel or a short story, but we may not know where to begin with verse. Join Paul Muldoon to try to make sense of a half-dozen poems published over the course of the last week. The only thing you should bring is an open mind.

**Robbie Arnott & Jean-Baptiste Del Amo: A Long Shadow**

12:45-13:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Can we choose who we become, or are our lives already mapped out for us by dint of who we're related to? *Limberlost* (by twice Miles Franklin Award-listed author, Robbie Arnott) and *The Son of Man* (by *Animalia* author, Jean-Baptiste Del Amo) are brilliant and fierce novels of nature and troubled fathers. Hear the authors in discussion with **Malachy Tallack** as they unpack the idea of inheritance. *Supported by Institut français du Royaume-Uni.*

**Shasta Ali, Leah Black & Vicky Nyanga-Ndiaye: Regenerative Futures**

13:45-14:45  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

What needs to be in place to allow for transformational, long-term change in our communities? And who gets to imagine and act out this change? Join Leah Black from Edinburgh's Regenerative Futures Fund alongside writer, poet and antiracism campaigner, Shasta Ali and Vicky Nyanga-Ndiaye (writer, poet and founder of Project Esperanza, the migrant support charity), to discuss the importance of collective imagination and why we need to shift away from short-term thinking. They speak with **Mary Robson**.

**Harriet Constable & Elle Machray: Feminist Revisionist History**

14:15-15:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Venice, 1707. An orphaned girl is determined to become the city's greatest violinist against the odds in Harriet Constable's *The Instrumentalist*. London, 1770. A once enslaved woman is determined to take down the transatlantic slave trade in Elle Machray's *Remember, Remember*. Join the authors - both named *Observer* Debut Novelists of 2024 - as they discuss their 18th century revisionist histories.

**Thomas Heatherwick: Design for Living**

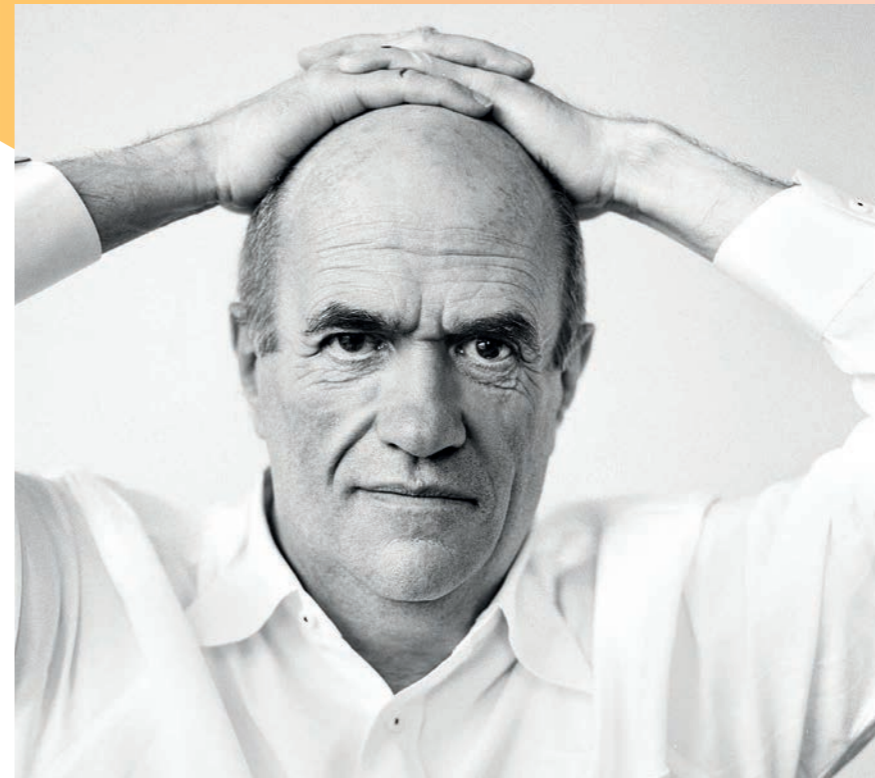
14:00-15:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Thomas Heatherwick is the founder and design director of Heatherwick Studios - the award-winning design studio responsible for work from the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa in Cape Town to Coal Drops Yard in central London. *Humanise* is Heatherwick's manifesto, which advocates for creating buildings and spaces that are for living - not just for business. Design is something we can take for granted, but has wide-ranging effects on our health, happiness and our planet. Join Heatherwick on his mission to remodel our world.

**Lucia Osborne-Crowley & Chimene Suleyman: Behind Bluebeard's Door**

14:30-15:30  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Two writers talk about women and girls betrayed by those meant to protect them. In *The Lasting Harm*, journalist Lucia Osborne-Crowley recounts Ghislaine Maxwell's 2021 trial through the lens of women whose lives have been permanently altered. Meanwhile, Chimene Suleyman's enraging memoir of betrayal, *The Chain*, explores how she and other women came to be manipulated by a man they thought loved them.



**Colm Tóibín: The Call Of Home**

17:00-18:00  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

One of our finest contemporary writers, Colm Tóibín returns with *Long Island*: sequel to prize-winning masterpiece, *Brooklyn*. Penned with characteristic wit, compassion, and quietude, the novel reunites with Eilis Fiorello who is compelled to return to Ireland 20 years after leaving, questioning all she thought she'd left behind. Tóibín reflects with novelist **Caolinn Hughes** on an oeuvre spanning three decades and whether it's possible to ever truly 'return'. *Supported by Culture Ireland.*

Captioned  
Livestream available

**Recycling a Hospital Writing Workshop: Poetry, Memory and Futures Dreaming**

15:30-16:30  
Venue B  
£16.00 [concessions £14.00]

Can stories from the past inspire dreams of the future? Recycling a Hospital encourages us to think about the Edinburgh Futures Institute's history as a place of care, and how we can carry stories from the hospital's past meaningfully into the future. Join us as we use simple techniques to explore how poetry can be a portal for our memories of the old Royal Infirmary and ideas of how care will take shape at EFI for years to come.

**Nina Stibbe: Back In Town**

15:30-16:30  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Twenty years after she left London, the award-winning diarist Nina Stibbe returns with her cockapoo, Peggy. As Stibbe observes the capital, she takes in the changes - online dating and Instagram posers - as well as the same old faces. *Went to London, Took the Dog* is charming, witty, and full of gossipy insights. An afternoon with Stibbe and **Sam Baker** is sure to be the same.

**Tony Birch & Zoë Strachan: Here and There**

16:00-17:00  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Set on opposite sides of the world, Tony Birch and Zoë Strachan have both written subtle, insightful novels exploring class, womanhood, and families in the 1960s. *Women & Children* is Australian writer Tony Birch's novel of loss, sisters, and courage. Meanwhile Scottish writer Zoë Strachan's *Catch the Moments as They Fly* tells of a family trying to escape a shameful past. Join the authors for what's sure to be a lively conversation.

**Philosophy Café with Julian Baggini**

16:00-17:30  
Venue A  
£30.00 [concessions £26/£20]

Join philosopher Julian Baggini for a deep dive into the values, principles and assumptions behind some of the big news stories of the day. Led by the questions of participants, we'll unpick the issues together, with Julian providing input from the ideas of philosophers past and present. Come with an open mind and a determination to think for yourself, but not by yourself.

Book tickets at [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)

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Tuesday 20

Tuesday 20



## Beyond Borders: The Soft Power of Islam

19:30-20:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Former cellmate of Nelson Mandela and PM of the Western Cape, **Ebrahim Rassol** talks with his co-authors, **Dr Houda Abadi** and **Mark Muller Stuart KC** about their new book, *A Guide to Islamic Principles of Peace-Making*, and why they are needed more than ever as we confront ever greater cycles of conflict. Swedish diplomat, **Eldridge Adolfo**, asks the questions.



“The trick time plays is to lull us into the belief that everything lasts forever, and, although nothing does, we continue inside that dream.”

Hisham Matar, *My Friends*

## Jennifer Croft & Lauren Elkin: Up to Interpretation

16:15-17:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

How do we fit into a world full of history? From the depths of a Polish forest in Jennifer Croft's *The Extinction of Irena Ray* to the open plan Parisian apartment in Lauren Elkin's *Scaffolding*, join these award-winning translators as they discuss their debut novels, the connections we make in our lifetimes, and how language ties us together.

## Daniel Tammet: Life On The Spectrum

17:45-18:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Tired of stereotypes of autistic people, author Daniel Tammet set out to meet nine other neurodivergent people from across the globe. *Nine Minds: Inner Lives on the Spectrum* is a kaleidoscopic view of living on the spectrum, and the rich diversity of being neurodivergent. Tammet reflects on the nine extraordinary people his book follows, which includes a bestselling author, a detective, and an award-winning mathematician.

Captioned

## Paul Muldoon: Bric-a-Brac of a Life

18:00-19:00  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

*The Irish Post* once said that measuring Paul Muldoon's impact on modern poetry was like 'trying to assess the influence of The Beatles on post-war music'. We're delighted to welcome the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet to the Festival. In conversation with **Peggy Hughes**, Muldoon will discuss his fifteenth poetry collection *Joy in Service on Rue Tagore*, which explores ancient empires, modern disasters, and the last wolf in Ulster. *Supported by Culture Ireland.*

## Lauren Groff & Melissa Lucashenko: New Worlds

18:00-19:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Colonial pasts are brought to life in two bold historical novels. In *Edenglassie* - British colonists' name for Brisbane - Melissa Lucashenko tells two tales of First Nations people and how modern Australia was created. In *The Vaster Wilds*, a girl flees her 17th century Jamestown settlement as Lauren Groff explores the mythology that made America. They join us to discuss the origins of the New World. *Supported by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body.*

## THE FORVIS MAZARS EVENT

### Joseph E Stiglitz: The Road To Freedom

18:45-19:45  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences and chief economist of the World Bank, Joseph E Stiglitz this year publishes *The Road to Freedom*, which takes on the concepts of neoliberalism and free market economics by questioning their effect upon our economic opportunities and legal and social freedoms. His groundbreaking and very necessary book reimagines the link between democracy, economics, and what constitutes a good society.

Livestream available

### Sarah Crossan & Heather Parry: Is This Just Fantasy?

19:45-20:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Why's everyone so obsessed with sex robots? And what will happen if they ever make it out of the lab? Join these two authors as they tackle these questions. Sarah Crossan's *Hey Zoey* imagines one woman's dilemma on discovering her husband's animatronic sex doll in their garage. Meanwhile in *Electric Dreams: On Sex Robots and the Failed Promises of Capitalism*, Heather Parry asks what our obsession with sextech says about us.

## Confessions of a Justified Sinner: New Myths

21:00-22:30  
Spiegelent  
£20.00 [concessions £17.50/£13.50]

Storyteller **Kirsty Logan**, folksinger **Kirsty Law** and harpist **Esther Swift** go deep on 'the double' for their feminist reimagining of Hogg's *Confessions* in contemporary times. In their story, Gill Todd is a young woman growing up in a cult, who is then thrust into the disorienting, never-private social landscape of 21st century Scotland. Drawing on Scottish folk history, feminism and Naomi Klein, and featuring **Edinburgh Community Choir**, this innovative, eclectic work shows the Sinner in an entirely new light.



Daniel Tammet, 17:45-18:45



Lauren Groff, 18:00-19:00



Joseph E Stiglitz, 18:45-19:45

## Programme Key – 2024 Themes

● Future Tense ● Brilliant Fiction ● The Front List ● How to Live a Meaningful Life

● Voterama ● Justified Sinner 200 ● Poetry & Performance ● Back to Ours ● Extraordinary Events



## On Humour: Andrew O'Hagan

13:45-14:45  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Those familiar with Andrew O'Hagan will know his work is shot through with humour. Take *Mayflies* for instance - undoubtedly a heartbreaking novel, it's also hilarious, full of wit and mischief. His new novel *Caledonian Road* walks a similar high wire, not to mention his uproariously funny and often highly arch columns. Continuing our series on the cornerstones of what makes us human, O'Hagan talks about the multifaceted role laughter plays in our lives.



## First Edition

10:00-11:00  
Spiegel tent  
Pay What You Can

Quality journalism is indispensable. The model of 'breaking the news' has changed enormously in recent years, but we're here to sing the praises of essential stories, well told. In an age of diminishing local resources, global conglomerates, and misinformation, raise a morning coffee (and a croissant) with leading journalists from across the media as they discuss today's news. *Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.*

## Anne Serre: The Unknowability of Others

11:00-12:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Celebrated French author Anne Serre brings her new novel *A Leopard-Skin Hat* to the Festival. Already hailed 'a masterpiece of simplicity, emotion and elegance' by *Le Point*, *A Leopard-Skin Hat* is the story of the narrator's relationship with his close childhood friend as she slips away from him, suffering from a psychological disorder. Serre discusses the novel's depiction of care, friendship, and loss. *Supported by Institut français du Royaume-Uni.*

**Captioned**

## Julian Baggini & A C Grayling: Food for Thought

12:00-13:00  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The question of how humanity fuels itself has never been more critical. From the food on our tables to the batteries in our phones, everything we consume carries an unexpected cost. In this event, philosophers A C Grayling (*How the World Eats*) and Julian Baggini (*Who Owns the Moon?*) attempt to unpick how we protect nourishment and progress without destroying our planet - and whatever lies beyond.

## Kapka Kassabova: New Pastures

12:45-13:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Pastoral life is explored in Kapka Kassabova's new non-fiction book *Anima*. In the shadow of the Pirin Mountains, the 'pastiri' people still maintain the ancient practice of shepherding their animals in search of pasture. Kassabova lived with one of these communities to learn how they coexist with their animals and land. Join Kassabova in conversation with **Roxani Krystalli** as they discuss shepherds' lives in the Balkan region.

## Edward Wong: China Under the Lens

14:00-15:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Diplomatic correspondent for the *New York Times*, Edward Wong covers foreign policy from Washington. In more than 24 years at *The Times*, he has reported from New York, Baghdad, Beijing, and Washington. Wong's new account of the last century of change and *The Edge of Empire* gives profound insight into a new authoritarian age transforming the world, from one of the most knowledgeable guides to China.

**Livestream available**

## Hisham Matar: Walking with Friends

14:15-15:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The genesis for Hisham Matar's latest novel began almost ten years ago when he scribbled two lines on the back of an envelope. The Booker-nominated, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Return* shares what happened in the in-between years to result in *My Friends*: an exquisite, intensely moving book, set across London and Libya, about political exile and the emotional homeland to be found in deep friendships.

## Sasha Dugdale & Rebecca Sharp: New Myths

14:30-15:30  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

How do myths - both ancient and modern - shape our lives? Two new poetry collections reckon with this question. In *Long Field Loop*, Rebecca Sharp explores the last decade, a turbulent time for Scottish politics and identity as well as Sharp's personal life. Meanwhile, Sasha Dugdale's sixth collection, *The Strongbox*, traces the lineage of Greek mythology and epic female figures in our modern times. Chaired by **Marjorie Lotfi**.

## Shakespeare and Company Interview Podcast - Live

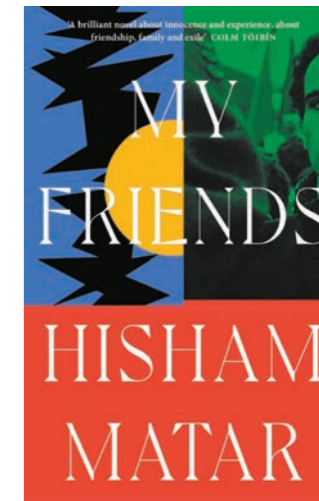
15:30-16:30  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Bookshops have always been sites for reading, togetherness, and organising. Shakespeare and Company provides this space for readers in Paris and beyond, and this sense of community is what novelist **Lauren Groff** is building at her new bookstore in Florida, where she plans to stock banned books. Today, Groff joins **Neel Mukherjee** - whose novel *Choice* explores freedom and consequence - and **Adam Biles** for a live recording of The Shakespeare and Company Interview podcast, asking what difference a book (and a community of readers) can really make.

## Justified Sinner 200: Cut Up with Ever Dundas (Digital)

16:00-17:30  
Venue A  
£25.00 [concessions £22.00]

In 'Cut Up', a written text is cut up and rearranged to create something new. It's no surprise the technique, allowing the creation of weird juxtapositions and surprising new meanings, was enjoyed by the Dadists, William S Burroughs, and more recently, the fabulous Ever Dundas who leads a Cut Up workshop on *Confessions of a Justified Sinner*. *This event is hosted online.*



Hisham Matar, 14:15-15:15

Book tickets at  
[edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)

Programme Key - 2024 Themes

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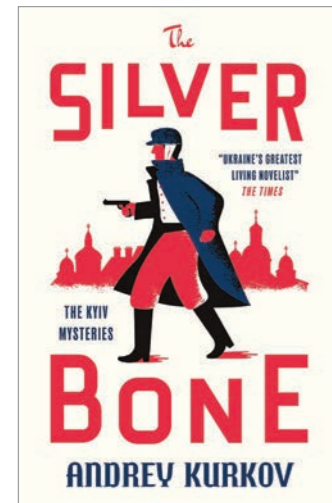
● Voterama ● Justified Sinner 200 ● Poetry & Performance ● Back to Ours ● Extraordinary Events



**Olesya Khromeychuk & Andrey Kurkov: We Need to Talk About Ukraine**

16:00-17:00  
 Courtyard Theatre  
 £15.50  
 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Until recently, Andrey Kurkov (one of Ukraine's finest novelists) was struggling to write fiction. Non-fiction felt more urgent and he wrote article upon article, trying to keep the war alive in people's minds. Olesya Khromeychuk's has been doing the same and her February *Guardian* Long Read was a plea against 'Ukraine fatigue'. Today, over two years after Russia's full-scale invasion, they talk about the stories from Ukraine.



Andrey Kurkov, 16:00-17:00

**Lucy Caldwell: Moments That Change a Life**

16:15-17:15  
 Venue NW  
 £15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

A short story specialist and winner of the 2022 EM Forster Award and the 2023 Walter Scott Prize, Lucy Caldwell talks to **Peggy Hughes** about her third collection, *Openings*, in which the Northern Irish writer continues to write about the contemporary female experience. From London during the Blitz to Marrakech to her native Belfast, these stories explore themes of motherhood and marriage.

**Nick Bryant: America's Self-Evident Truths**

17:00-18:00  
 Venue T  
 £15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

During almost 30 years of journalism, Nick Bryant became widely acknowledged as one of the BBC's finest foreign correspondents. His new book, *The Forever War*, reveals how today's America has become captive to its troubled and unresolved past with both insight and narrative flair. Bryant is joined by **Allan Little** to discuss how the American experiment is failing, and what it means for us all. *Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.*

**Lauren Groff: A New New World Survival Story**

17:30-18:30  
 Courtyard Theatre  
 £15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Lauren Groff talks to Festival Director **Jenny Niven** about her mesmerising and ferocious new novel, *The Vaster Wilds*: the story of a spirited servant girl on the run in 17th century colonial America, who must survive the wilderness alone. Three-time National Book Award finalist and bestselling author of *Matrix*, Groff's writing bristles with electricity. Hear her talk about survival, faith, and the joint terror and wonder of nature.

Captioned

**Ajay Close & Saima Mir: Northern Thrills**

18:00-19:00  
 Venue NW  
 £15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

There's a killer on the streets of 1970s Leeds. Based on the notorious Yorkshire Ripper case, Ajay Close's *What Doesn't Kill Us* gives voice to young women living in terrifying times. Joining Close is Saima Mir with the sequel to her bestseller, *The Khan*. Jia Khan returns in *Vengeance* to solve the mystery of her family's past in the north of England. Chaired by **Sam Baker**.

**Okechukwu Nzelu, Helen Palmer & Nathan Walker: North Faces**

18:00-19:00  
 Spiegel tent  
 £15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Join Barnsley-born poet and *Pity* author **Andrew McMillan** as he hosts a showcase of literary talent from the North of England. Tonight McMillan presents a prismatic range of writers - novelists Okechukwu Nzelu and Helen Palmer, poet and performance artist Nathan Walker - as well as the inaugural winner of the Tempest Prize for unpublished LGBTQ+ writers (run in collaboration with New Writing North). Come and hear the groundbreaking work from some of the most exciting literary talent working today.

**Keep the Heid and Read: A Career-Long Professional Learning Event with James Robertson**

18:15-19:15  
 Venue C  
 £10.50

The Scots language has been growing in popularity in schools and it's easy to see why: it's a playful approach to language that encourages a love of words, reading, and writing. Get inspired with James Robertson - poet, novelist and translator - as he offers top tips for incorporating Scots into the classroom. There will be the chance to hear from other learning professionals, and Robertson will share the ethos behind Itchy Co Publishing: an imprint he co-founded which translates bestselling children's books into Scots. Titles include *The Gruffalo's Wean*, *A Series of Scunnorsome Events*, and *Roald Dahl's Reekin Rhymes*.

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH EVENT

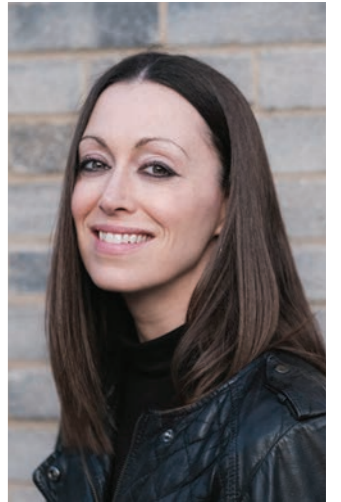
**Lorrie Moore: Danse Macabre**

18:45-19:45  
 Venue T  
 £15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

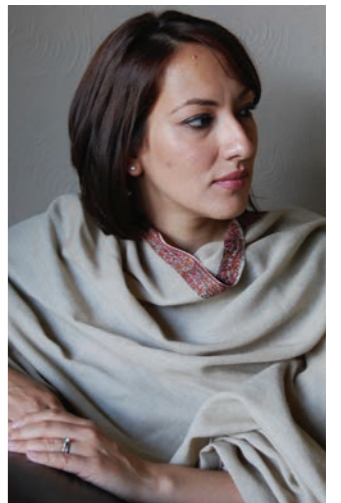
Featuring an undead lover, a dying brother, and a ghost: Lorrie Moore's *I Am Homeless If This is Not My Home* is a novel that bristles with life while waltzing with death. Celebrated widely for her dazzling short stories, no one writes quite like Moore; she has a knack of folding you in laughter one moment, then cutting straight to the heart the next. What a delight to welcome the acclaimed American author in conversation with **Chris Power**. *Supported by the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities.*

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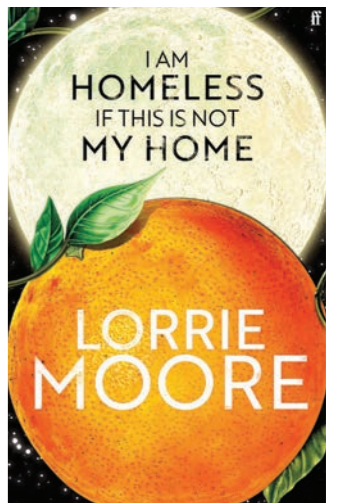
Livestream available



Lucy Caldwell, 16:15-17:15



Saima Mir, 18:00-19:00



Lorrie Moore, 18:45-19:45

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Fern Brady, 21:00-22:30

**Beyond Borders: An International Life**

19:30-20:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

To live together peacefully and constructively, it is vital that we gain better understanding between nations and cultures. That's what Beyond Borders Scotland, founded by **Mark Muller Stuart KC**, aims to create space for. Today Muller Stuart talks with veteran peacemaker **Staffan de Mistura** about his remarkable half-century of service with United Nations. What has he learned from his time at the forefront of international politics and diplomacy? What does he wish more people knew?

**If the World Was Mine**

19:45-20:45  
Venue NW  
Pay What You Can

Can you imagine a different future? What would you change if the world was yours? Our Writer in Residence **Chris Barkley**, filmmaker **Sophie Van Bree** and illustrator **Katie Quinn** have been working with young people from the Spartans Alternative School to answer some big questions. With a live DJ set and performances, celebrate with them as they premiere their short film *If the World Was Mine*, and launch brand-new zine *Imagination*.

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY IN SCOTLAND EVENT

**Andrew O'Hagan: How the Mighty Have Fallen**

20:30-21:30  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

A celebrated London professor falls from grace in Andrew O'Hagan's new novel, *Caledonian Road*. Immersive and Dickensian in ambition, it's a brilliant state-of-the-nation novel about privilege and what's really going on behind high society's façade. As we've come to expect from the three-time Booker-nominated *Mayflies* author, O'Hagan tackles his material head on, writing with honesty, empathy, and breathtaking insight. Hear him in conversation with **Andrew Marr**.

Captioned  
Livestream available

THE LIST EVENT

**Fern Brady: Strong Female Character**

21:00-22:30  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Comedian Fern Brady gained legions of fans through starring on Channel 4's *Taskmaster*, and she joins us at the Book Festival during her global stand-up tour. *Strong Female Character* explores the autism diagnosis she received in her 30s, 20 years after she suggested it to her doctors. Join her tonight as she talks about her unflinching memoir served with her signature sharp wit and honesty.



THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND EVENT

**The Front List: Philippa Gregory in Conversation with Val McDermid**

13:30-14:30  
McEwan Hall  
£20.00  
[concessions £17.50/£14.00]

While researching her bestselling novels on Tudor history, Philippa Gregory learned that it was only when women did something properly outrageous that they made it into the history books. *Normal Women* is an epic new work of non-fiction, redefining what's 'normal' for women to include heroism, money-making, sainthood, and a considerable amount of rioting. Gregory talks to Val McDermid about rewriting 900 years of history and ushering in the regular women time forgot.

Captioned  
Livestream available

**Close Read: Open Book on the Poetry of Motion**

10:15-11:45  
Venue B  
£16.00 [concessions £14.00]

**Marjorie Lotfi** and **Claire Urquhart** from Open Book, a charity which organises shared reading and creative writing groups, introduce us to some of the brilliant poets appearing at this year's Festival, including Seán Hewitt, Jackie Kay, and K Patrick. Reflecting on the theme of 'motion', we'll look at poems that take us on journeys across physical and emotional landscapes. Expect an open discussion from the start. No preparation required.

**Spirit Case Tour**

11:00-11:30  
EFI North Entrance  
Free, book in advance

Members of the **Recycling a Hospital** Project Team from the University of Edinburgh will take you on a mini-tour to see The Spirit Case, an object created by artisans out of slates and floorboards from the original Royal Infirmary building, and inscribed with poetry written by community members and nurses who trained in the building. Meet your tour guide at the North Entrance, Lauriston Place, under the clock tower.

**One Pan Wonders: A Table Talk with Rukmini Iyer**

12:00-13:00  
Elliott's Studio  
£25.00 [concession £22.00]

Rukmini Iyer's *Roasting Tin* series revolutionised the way many of us approach midweek meals. Her fuss-free, minimal-washing-up style recipes show that healthy cooking doesn't need to be boring, or time-consuming either. Gather around to hear Rukmini talking about the *Green Cookbook* and the *Roasting Tin* series and enjoy a live demonstration as she shares her tips for cooking vegetarian meals with minimal effort and maximum flavour. *Ticket includes: Welcome drink, food taster, and exclusive recipe card.*

**Rita Bullwinkel: Building Radical Worlds**

12:30-14:00  
Venue B  
£30.00 [concessions £26.00/£20.00]

How is our reality reflected in the worlds we cultivate in fiction? In this practical workshop, *Headshot* writer Rita Bullwinkel will lead you through a series of radical world-building techniques from a range of creative masters. Look through the lens and explore the relationship between alternative worlds and our lived experience, with a particular focus on invented and foreign languages as tools to create new worlds.

**Melissa Lucashenko: From Meanjin to Edenglassie**

13:30-14:30  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Meanjin, the traditional place name of modern day Brisbane, was briefly known as Edenglassie, a portmanteau of Edinburgh and Glasgow. Melissa Lucashenko's novel of the same name oscillates between 1800s Edenglassie and modern-day Brisbane, to examine the lives of the land's Indigenous people then and now. This is a rare opportunity to hear from one of Australia's great contemporary authors. In conversation with **Tam Zimet**. *Supported by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body.*

**Pack a picnic and do lunch your way.**

**Book tickets at edbookfest.co.uk**

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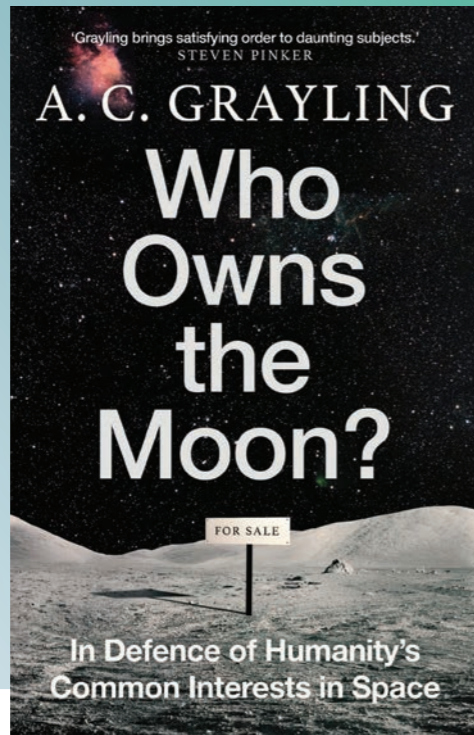


**A C Grayling: Who, If Anyone, Owns the Moon?**

14:45-15:45  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Humanity doesn't have the best track record when it comes to sharing. So it's reasonable to feel uneasy knowing the world's superpowers have set their sights on the moon as the answer to our dwindling resources. In a fascinating, urgently needed conversation, philosopher A C Grayling talks about *Who Owns the Moon?*, and how the future is much closer than we think.

Livestream available



**On Paying Attention: Olesya Khromeychuk**

14:15-15:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Perhaps the greatest gift writers offer the world is the reminder to stay engaged with life, even when the urge can be to switch off. Today, we're joined by Olesya Khromeychuk - writer, historian and director of the Ukraine Institute London - who has written passionately on this topic, especially in relation to the world's waning attention towards the war in Ukraine. She joins us at the Festival, talking about the vital importance of living with eyes wide open.

**Couldn't Be Simpler: A Table Talk with Julius Roberts**

15:00-16:00  
Elliott's Studio  
£25.00 [concession £22.00]

You might recognise Julius Roberts' smiling face from your Instagram feed. His recipe videos are an utter delight, his enthusiasm for fresh ingredients (often picked straight from his garden) the perfect antidote to doom-scrolling. Come along to see the restaurant-trained chef, now first-generation farmer, live in action as he whips up something delicious and talks to **Lilidh Kendrick** about his much-awaited debut cookbook, *The Farm Table*. Ticket includes: Welcome drink, food taster, and exclusive recipe card.

**"August sun is everywhere. Laid on the pine tabletop. Glimmering about the place. Passing through window-panes, hung ajar to let the air inside."**

Jon Ransom, *The Gallopers*

**HAWTHORNDEN FOUNDATION EVENT**

**Andrey Kurkov: Too Close to Home**

15:15-16:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Longlisted for 2024's International Booker Prize, Andrey Kurkov's *The Silver Bone* opens with Kyiv at war - though not as we currently know it. Set in 1919, the novel, written before Russia's full-scale invasion, is first in a series of historical mysteries set amid the Russian Revolution. Hear Kurkov, one of Ukraine's finest novelists, in conversation with **Adam Biles** about uneasy parallels, the complexities of language, and the challenge of writing fiction in wartime.

**Andrew McMillan & Jon Ransom: Men in Love**

16:00-17:00  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Explore Queer love as it flourishes in a post-industrial South Yorkshire mining town in poet and first-time novelist Andrew McMillan's *Pity*, a family saga which stretches across three generations, and the 1950s fairground milieu of author Jon Ransom's *The Gallopers*, by the winner of the Polari First Book Prize for his novel *The Whale Tattoo*. Chaired by **Euan Tait**.

**James Crawford: Traces of the Past**

17:00-18:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The search for hidden landscapes drives the work of Shetland-born author James Crawford, whose books have explored borders, lost buildings, and - in conjunction with his BBC series *Scotland from the Sky* - the views revealed by photography from the air. Today he talks about his latest work, *Wild History: Journeys into Lost Scotland*, in a conversation about searching for the nation's abandoned buildings and landmarks.

Livestream available

**YA Book Prize 2024: Award Ceremony**

17:00-18:30  
Spiegelent  
£10.50 [concession £6.00]

For Big Kids and Young Adults

Immerse yourself in the best YA fiction right now. For the 10th anniversary of the YA Book Prize, we're thrilled to collaborate with *The Bookseller* to host the 2024 prize-giving ceremony. Previous winners include Danielle Jawando's *When Our Worlds Collided*, Alice Oseman's *Loveless*, and Sarah Crossan's *One*. Hear this year's shortlisted authors read from their books before the winner of the YA Book Prize 2024 is crowned. In partnership with *The Bookseller*.

**Monique Roffey: Dare to Imagine a New World**

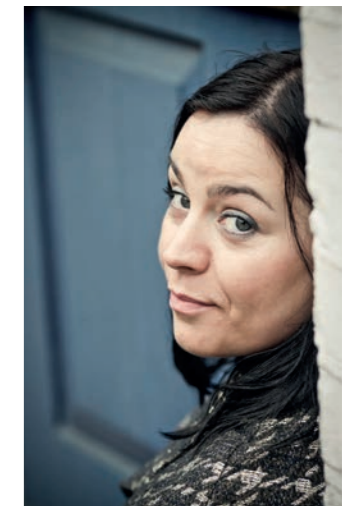
17:15-18:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Monique Roffey is the trailblazing writer, lecturer, environmental activist, and winner of the Costa Book of the Year for *The Mermaid of Black Conch*. Today she speaks with **Fiammetta Rocco** about *Passiontide*, the story of four women on the fictional Caribbean island of St Colibri as they ignite a revolution, and the impossibilities and triumphs of being a woman in a rigged system.

**Andrew J Scott & Jonathan White: Long Term Futures**

17:45-18:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

What happens to society when today's problems blind us from irreversible future issues? Two LSE Professors, Andrew J. Scott (Professor of Economics) and Jonathan White (Professor of Politics), join us with their new books *In the Long Run* and *The Longevity Imperative*, to look at how we must tackle current political and economic concerns with a commitment to the long-term to keep our future hopeful.



Jenni Fagan, 18:45-19:45

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY IN SCOTLAND EVENT**

**Jenni Fagan: Writing as a Way of Being**

18:45-19:45  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

When you think of Jenni Fagan, so much comes to mind: bestselling novelist, acclaimed poet, fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. She is also a survivor of the care system. Her unforgettable memoir *Ootlin* tells of the young person who - by age 16 - had more than 27 placements within 'the system'. Today Fagan joins **Caroline Sanderson** to talk about how she "found her way to books and found in a world of words the only place I ever actually belonged".

Livestream available

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## Blindboy Boatclub: Look at My Art Instead

20:30-21:30  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

One half of Irish comedy hip-hop duo the Rubberbandits, founder of the acclaimed and socially conscious *Blindboy Podcast*, and television presenter who speaks candidly about mental health, neurodiversity, and positive masculinity, Blindboy Boatclub can add 'author of strange and unsettling short stories' to his CV. Take a trip out of the ordinary with one of the standout voices of 21st century Ireland as he chats about his latest book, *Topographia Hibernica*. Supported by Culture Ireland.



Simon Kuper, 19:30-20:30

## Rita Bullwinkel & Elisa Shua Dusapin: In the Ring

19:00-20:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Two new novels drop us into extraordinary worlds. In Rita Bullwinkel's *Headshot*, the eight best teenage girl boxers in the United States step into the ring to fight for their futures. A costume designer arrives in Russia to dress acrobats in Elisa Shua Dusapin's *Vladivostok Circus*. Join Bullwinkel and Dusapin as they discuss the beauty, competitive spirit, and brutality of their novels' settings. Supported by Institut français du Royaume-Uni.

## How to Write a Love Story

19:15-20:15  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Three writers who have written (and edited) some of the most memorable romances of recent years - **David Nicholls**, **Lotte Jeffs**, and **Sareeta Domingo** - talk about their love for the genre, reveal secrets to creating chemistry and suspense, share their favourite meet-cutes from fiction, and ask whether happy endings are important anymore.

## Simon Kuper: Corrupt Politicians and What to Do About Them

19:30-20:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

'Exquisite and depressing in equal measure' is how Matthew Syed described *Chums* by Simon Kuper: a withering takedown of the Oxford clique who've come to define the Tory party. With a general election looming and a news cycle rife with political corruption, the *Financial Times* journalist's follow up, *Good Chaps*, couldn't be more needed. Kuper talks about how the 'chumocracy' isn't over, asking: what we have learned? Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.

## Beneath the Sheets: A Celebration of Erotica

21:00-22:30  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Erotica! No longer is it something talked about in hushed tones or read secretly as a guilty pleasure - we're ridding ourselves of the taboo. Tonight, we celebrate writing about romance and sex, bringing together poets, authors, and actors to explore our deepest desires, and the liberating experience of saying them aloud. **Leyla Josephine** is joined on stage by **Lucy Debussy**, **Sareeta Domingo**, **So Mayer**, and **Hollie McNish**.

Captioned

## Gerald Murnane: Landscapes of the Mind

10:00-11:15  
Venue A  
Pay What You Can

Gerald Murnane is one of Australia's great writers. His novels, short stories, poetry, and essays, uncompromisingly blur the boundaries of memory, imagination, fiction, and autobiography. In this online event, he is joined by **Merve Emre** to discuss *Inland*: a story of love, memory, and the landscapes of a solitary mind. Initially published in 1988, it has been reissued this year, to global acclaim and appreciation.

Appearing remotely

## Shared Reading with Open Book

10:30-12:30  
EFI North Entrance  
Free, book in advance

Join Open Book Lead Readers for an informal and relaxed shared reading session. Each session will explore a chapter from a debut book from this year's Festival programme. No experience necessary, all reading materials will be provided on the day. Meet the Lead Reader under the clock tower on Lauriston Place.

## First Edition

10:00-11:00  
Spiegelent  
Pay What You Can

Quality journalism is indispensable. The model of 'breaking the news' has changed enormously in recent years, but we're here to sing the praises of essential stories, well told. In an age of diminishing local resources, global conglomerates, and misinformation, raise a morning coffee (and a croissant) with leading journalists from across the media as they discuss today's news. Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.

## Rebecca Achieng Ajulu-Bushell: Against the Tide

10:15-11:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Rebecca Achieng Ajulu-Bushell was the first Black woman to swim for Great Britain; a former number one and double British Champion, she was forced to walk away just before 2012's Olympic Games. Talking to **Emily Chappell** about her beautiful memoir, *These Heavy Black Bones*, the ex-elite athlete explores the euphoria that comes from peak physical performance alongside abuses of power and racist mythologies that dominate the sport today.

## Patrick Barkham & Jonathan Watts: Writing the Lives of Others

11:30-12:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

How do you capture the essence of a person through biography? Patrick Barkham revives the voice of Roger Deakin, founder of the wild swimming movement, in *The Swimmer*. He's joined by Jonathan Watts, who recounts the intimate conversations he had with James Lovelock, late scientist, environmentalist and creator of the Gaia Theory, with his definitive biography *The Many Lives of James Lovelock*. They discuss the politics of writing about other people's lives.

## (Lunch) Box Fresh

12:00-12:45  
Spiegelent  
Pay What You Can

What better way to spend your lunchbreak than discovering your next favourite writer? Sit back in the Spiegelent and discover brilliant new work from stellar emerging talent with this series of readings. Today's edition is a spectacular poetry showcase presented in partnership with Scottish Book Trust and Scotland's Next Generation Young Makars. Featuring readings from **Ben Mann**, **Nazaret Ranea**, and more to be announced.

## David Van Reybrouck: Bringing Down an Empire

12:00-13:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In December 1949, following four years of intensely violent conflict and revolutionary struggle, Indonesia gained its independence after 350 years of Dutch colonial rule. *Revolusi* is award-winning Belgian historian David Van Reybrouck's account of this epic revolution, a struggle that defined the 20th century and rewired the modern world. Join him today as he discusses this fascinating world. *Part of Flip Through Flanders*, presented by Flanders Literature.

## Daniel Susskind: A Reckoning with Growth

12:15-13:15  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Expect a discussion which questions the very basis of our current financial reality, in the company of Professor in Economics, Daniel Susskind, whose book *Growth: A Reckoning* interrogates society's obsession with economic growth. Acknowledging that growth has lifted billions out of poverty and driven major advances, he will nevertheless ask hard questions about its impact on inequality, technological destabilisation and the environment. Supported by Claire and Mark Urquhart.

Livestream available

## Close Read: James Robertson on Confessions of a Justified Sinner

12:30-13:30  
Venue B  
£16.00 [concessions £14.00]

In our Close Reads series, an author guides readers through a lively discussion of a classic text that has inspired them. Here, Scottish novelist James Robertson (*The Testament of Gideon Mack*, *News of the Dead*) delves into the pages of *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner*, James Hogg's bold exploration of the darkest parts of the human soul, as part of our celebrations of its 200th anniversary.



Rita Bullwinkel, 19:00-20:00

## Programme Key – 2024 Themes

● Future Tense ● Brilliant Fiction ● The Front List ● How to Live a Meaningful Life

● Voterama ● Justified Sinner 200 ● Poetry & Performance ● Back to Ours ● Extraordinary Events



**Linnea Axelsson & Melissa Lucashenko: Then and Now**

13:15-14:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Two Indigenous writers explore their novelistic worlds together. In *Edenglassie*, Melissa Lucashenko chronicles colonial unrest in 19th century Queensland, Australia, and the lives of young Indigenous people in the area now, while in Linnea Axelsson's verse novel, *Aednan*, two Sámi families are followed from the arrival of the Swedish in the 1910s until the present. Both are stories of separation, adaptation, and activism over generations. Chaired by **Adele Patrick**. Supported by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body.



**Beyond Borders: Peace for the Planet**

13:45-14:45  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In the face of our despair over conflicts, what can we learn from those involved first hand in trying to resolve them? And how do conflict and climate interact? Today, **Andrew Gilmour** (UN Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights and author of *The Burning Question*) joins **Ameya Kilara** (peace mediation expert and founder of the South Asian Leadership Initiative) to discuss working towards a peaceful planet.

**Rukmini Iyer, Julius Roberts & Pen Vogler: How We Eat Now**

14:00-15:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

From batch cooking, one-pan meals, and recipe boxes to slow food, seasonal eating, and simple ingredients: the way we eat, just as much as what we're eating, reveals so much about who we are (both individually and as a society). Hear Rukmini Iyer of *The Green Cookbook*, Julius Roberts of *The Farm Table*, and Pen Vogler of *Stuffed* gathered in fascinating conversation about all things food.

**Livestream available**

**Adam Biles & Sunjeev Sahota: State of the Nation**

15:00-16:00  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Two very different novels take the political and cultural temperature of the nation. Adam Biles reworks an Orwell classic to give us *Beasts of England*, featuring a premier petting zoo where something is amiss; Rebecca Solnit describes it as 'as much of our time as *Animal Farm* was of its'. Booker Prize-nominee Sunjeev Sahota chronicles a union man's rise and fall in *The Spoiled Heart*, a novel of Shakespearean highs and lows. Chaired by **Mary Robson**.

**Cycle here and recycle there – don't just throw it away!**



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH EVENT

**Mona Chalabi: Humanizing Data**

17:00-18:00  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Numbers tell stories, and Pulitzer-Prize winning data journalist Mona Chalabi's skill lies in telling them in ways that get people talking. Through illustration, words, and sound, Chalabi makes the intangible tangible - like in March 2024's *Guardian* piece, 'The Story of Gaza's Destruction in 100 Lives'. With **Heather Parry**, she talks about how, lately, she's turned her grief for Palestine into work that aims to spread awareness, and the tensions that comes with responsibility. Supported by the Centre for Data, Culture & Society.

**Captioned**

THE BRITISH ACADEMY EVENT

**Marina Warner: Looking at Art, the Art of Looking**

15:30-16:30  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

What is art? What is it for? And how can we meaningfully write about the experience, and pleasures, of looking at it? Award-winning cultural historian, critic, and novelist Dame Marina Warner explores this (and more) in her compelling work, *Forms of Enchantment: Writings on Art & Artists*. She talks to **Octavia Bright** in a conversation about the role of imagination in understanding the world.

**essa may ranapiri & Jenni Fagan: Island to Island**

15:30-16:30  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Scottish writer Jenni Fagan and Aotearoa/New Zealand writer essa may ranapiri come together for the first time for a conversation that celebrates writing across oceans, islands, and cultures. Fagan and ranapiri are the inaugural recipients of the Island to Island writers residency exchange with Moniack Mhor and Verb Wellington, supported by British Council New Zealand and the Pacific. They speak with **Esa Aldegheri**.

THE SKINNY EVENT

**Brigitte Baptiste: A Powerhouse in Ecology**

16:45-17:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Brigitte Baptiste is a leading biologist and environmentalist from Colombia, where she's the President of the Universidad EAN in Bogotá. Nothing's more Queer than nature, she says. From trees that switch gender, to female albatrosses who raise their young in same-sex partnerships, the natural world is more diverse than we've been led to believe. Celebrated internationally for her innovative research, Baptiste talks today about how looking through a Queer lens has prompted her to ask different questions noticing important patterns that have long been overlooked as anomalies. In partnership with Edinburgh Art Festival.

**Flora Carr: A Queen Confined**

17:15-18:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

In her debut title, *The Tower*, Flora Carr takes an almost unbearably intimate look at the iconic Mary, Queen of Scots during her confinement in Lochleven Castle, exploring the power of female friendship and resilience of spirit against all odds. In conversation with **Sasha de Buyl**, Carr discusses this feminist, heartrending portrait of a royal who's fallen from grace and the twisting relationships that surround her.

**Lone Tree**

18:00-19:00  
Spiegel tent  
£20.00 [concessions £17.50/£13.50]

In an exclusive commission for the Book Festival, award-winning composer **David Paul Jones** has taken Makar Kathleen Jamie's incredible back catalogue of poems and set them to music in an utterly original, haunting performance of new work for voice and small ensemble. He presents this truly mesmerising work in a pair of one-off performances. Not to be missed.

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- Voterama
- Justified Sinner 200
- Poetry & Performance
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- Extraordinary Events

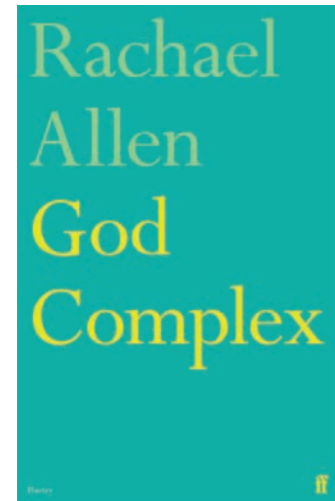


**Irvine Welsh: Seeking Resolution**

18:45-19:45  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

When former Edinburgh Police Detective Ray Lennox seeks a new, fresh start in Brighton, it isn't long before he's dragged back to the murky world he's desperate to forget. *Resolution* is the latest in Irvine Welsh's *Crime* series and is as gripping - and gritty - as ever. The bestselling author brings his characteristic wit and unfiltered honesty home again.

Captioned  
Livestream available



Rachael Allen, 18:30-19:30

**Words from the Wards: Jennifer Williams**

18:15-19:15  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance

In spring 2024 we called for people from Edinburgh to submit stories about the former Royal Infirmary, to capture and honour the experiences and memories that people connect with the building's previous life. Join us as we bring together local people from across Edinburgh alongside special guest Jennifer Williams to perform their work and commemorate the building's rich history. *In collaboration with Edinburgh Futures Institute.*

Captioned

**Rachael Allen & K Patrick: The Prism of Connection**

18:30-19:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Love - a fluid, overwhelming, and merciless beast - is wrangled and inspected, but never tamed in Rachael Allen's *God Complex* and K Patrick's *Three Births*. These poets break down barriers as they explore love and its meaning in contemporary relationships the body, place, and ecology. In this event, Patrick and Allen discuss ruptures and connection, and the place of poetry in it all.

**Lotte Jeffs & Kate Young: Falling in Love Again**

19:00-20:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

*Experienced* is Kate Young's friends-to-lovers romcom about a woman's quest to experience all she missed before coming out. Lotte Jeff's *This Love* is about ten years of friendship and love outside the lines. These two novelists, each writing beautiful stories of love and found families, talk together today.

**Camilla Grudova & So Mayer: The New Weird**

20:15-21:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Cursed hotels, Cornish mermaids, and the devil in a gay bar appear in the pages of two new surreal short story collections. *Truth and Dare* by So Mayer is a romping, genre-spanning journey through bodies, Queerness, and folklore. *The Coiled Serpent* by Camilla Grudova takes on the absurdity of tradition, labour, and Britishness with humour and horror. Join these truly original authors in conversation this evening.



THE CENTRE FOR OPEN LEARNING EVENT

**David Nicholls: The Journey is the Destination**

20:30-21:30  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The bestselling author of *One Day* and *Starter for Ten* returns with a new love story, *You Are Here*. Two lonely strangers, Marnie and Michael, are thrown together by chance, and the pair embark on an epic walk through Cumbria to find their way home in this feel-good, laugh-out-loud novel. We're delighted to welcome David Nicholls back to the Festival.

Captioned  
Livestream available

**Sanah Ahsan, Seán Hewitt & Momtaza Mehri: Poetry in Motion**

20:45-21:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Three versatile poets discuss the distances their new collections. Blending lyric, prose, and text messages, Momtaza Mehri's *Bad Diaspora Poems* grapples with movement and leaving, and *Rapture's Road* by Seán Hewitt traces a journey across love and loss. Finally, Sanah Ahsan's *I Cannot Be Good Until You Say It* takes us across emotional and physical landscapes while meditating on Queerness and Islam.

**The Big Friendship Fandango**

21:00-23:00  
Spiegel tent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Convinced that friendships might just be the greatest love affairs of our lives, one of Scotland's best-loved poets, **Michael Pedersen**, hosts a riotous, glorious conversation all about them with special guests. **Bee Asha & The Band Tees**, **Blindboy Boatclub**, **Greg McHugh**, and **Jack Rooke** work across theatre, comedy, TV, and music and tonight they open up about vulnerability, mental health, and the friends that have shaped them.



Sanah Ahsan, 20:45-21:45

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Adjoa Andoh, 11:45-12:45



Emily Chappell, 10:00-11:00

### Inside Out: Water

10.00-11.00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Water holds our memories. It retains our history as it moves in, out, and around us. Today, endurance cyclist **Emily Chappell** interviews authors who have investigated water and its impact on our past and future. **Fiona Stafford's** *Time and Tide* uncovers the history of our Isles and the chronicled clues hidden within. Meanwhile, **Max Leonard's** *A Cold Spell: A Human History of Ice*, investigates the impact of this frozen miracle on our modern world.

Look for the twinned 'Inside Out: Water' event where you can enjoy a splash with the authors (Limited tickets available. Full details on our website).

### Rachel Roddy: Cooking the Roman Way

10:00-11:00  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Rachel Roddy never intended to stay in Rome, but two weeks after visiting the market at Testaccio, she signed a year-long lease on flat nearby. *Five Quarters: Recipes and Notes from a Kitchen in Rome* tells the story of that year and of the city she grew to love. Almost ten years since the first edition, Roddy reflects on her life today and the simplicity of Roman cooking.

### Close Read: Merve Emre on Lolita

10:15-11:15  
Venue B  
£16.00 [concession £14.00]

In our Close Reads series, an author guides readers through a rich exploration of a classic text. In today's session, Merve Emre, author and literary critic, delves into what is perceived to be one of the most controversial novels of the 20th century: *Lolita* by Russian American writer Vladimir Nabokov. This workshop will be enjoyable for those with existing knowledge of *Lolita* and for those new to Nabokov's work.

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
EDINBURGH EVENT

### Sathnam Sanghera & Alpa Shah: Contemporary India in the Shadow of Empire

11:45-12:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Professor of Anthropology at LSE and Orwell Prize finalist, Alpa Shah's *The Incarcerations* is a bold attempt to explore contemporary democracy in India through the story of BK-16 - a group of 16 human rights activists who remain imprisoned as terrorists. She will discuss the book with Sathnam Sanghera, author of *Empireworld* as they examine the continuing effects of British imperialism upon the world. *Supported by the Centre for South Asian Studies.*

### Caroline Lucas: Reimagining England

11:45-12:45  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Twice leader of the Green Party in England and Wales, and the Member of Parliament for Brighton Pavilion from 2010 until she steps down at the next general election, Caroline Lucas this year launches her second book *Another England*, which fights back against the hijacking of Englishness by the political right in its exploration of all that's great in the country's radical and cultural history. In conversation with **Allan Little**.

BSL

Captioned

Livestream available

### Adjoa Andoh & Jackie Kay: Shared Stories

11:45-12:45  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

How long does it take to truly know someone? There's something undeniably special about long-term friendship. Actor Adjoa Andoh and writer Jackie Kay became friends at 19, while collaborating on a theatre production. Over four decades, they've blazed trails across stage, screen, writing, and activism. Now, as Andoh writes her debut and Kay reflects on her new collection, *May Day*, they come together to talk about shared history, curiosity, activism, and creativity.

### Scotland 2049

12:00-12:15 / 12:30-12:45 / 13:00-13:15 / 13:30-13:45 / 14:00-14:15 / 14:30-14:45 / 15:00-15:15 / 15:30-15:45  
Courtyard Meeting Point  
Free, book in advance

If you imagine the future, what does it look like? To celebrate the 25th anniversaries of the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Youth Parliament, poet **Ryan Van Winkle** asked young people across the country what Scotland will look like in 25 years. Through a series of creative provocations they considered, debated and imagined the country of their futures. Join us for a free guided tour of Scotland 2049 brought to life in a multimedia installation.



### Pam Brunton: Dùthchas Defined

12:30-13:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Nestled on the shores of Loch Fyne you'll find Inver, an award-winning restaurant run by Pam Brunton. Hear her talking about captivating book *Between Two Waters*: part memoir, part manifesto. As the restaurant's head chef, she tells the story of how the landscape surrounding Inver inspires the kitchen, but also examines the politics of food, sustainability, and community.

### Merve Emre: The Critic and Her Publics - Live

13:30-14:30  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Merve Emre is a scholar, editor, critic, and professor. She also hosts *The Critic and Her Publics*, a podcast which brings critics together and asks them to perform criticism there and then, on an object they've never seen before. Join us today for a live edition with a special guest, for a glimpse into brilliant minds at work as they discuss art and culture.

THE WOODLAND TRUST  
SCOTLAND EVENT

### The Front List: Richard Osman In Conversation with Ian Rankin

13:30-14:30  
McEwan Hall  
£20.00 [concessions £17.50/£14.00]

The news of Richard Osman's brand-new series sent millions of readers wild. And in a worldwide exclusive, he's launching it here, today! Bestselling Osman will chat to the legendary Ian Rankin about Amy and Steve Wheeler - the first father and daughter in law detective combo in crime writing history (we think) - as well as killers, cats, and how, just when you think you know where you're headed, life has other plans.

BSL

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### Have Lunch with Rachel Roddy

14:30-17:30  
Elliott's Studio  
£90.00 [concession £78.00]

Experience the delights of authentic Roman cooking with Rachel Roddy, food columnist for the *Guardian* and award-winning author of *Five Quarters*. Using the best seasonal ingredients, Roddy will create a mouth-watering Italian feast before your eyes, inspiring you with secrets of cooking as the Romans do and sharing what she's learned about resourcefulness, simplicity, and joy from two decades of being immersed in Italian culinary culture. *Ticket includes: Welcome snack and drink, two-course lunch, drinks on the table, plus an exclusive recipe booklet.*



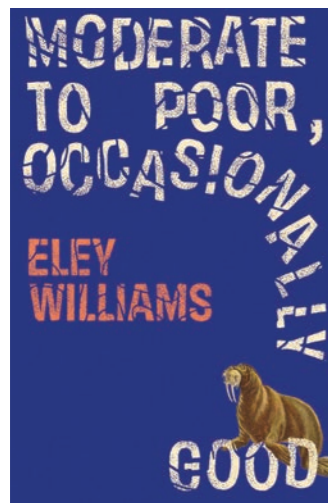
Richard Osman, 13:30-14:30

### Programme Key - 2024 Themes

● Future Tense ● Brilliant Fiction ● The Front List ● How to Live a Meaningful Life

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Eley Williams, 17:00-18:00

### Tom de Freston & Heather McCalden: A Time to Heal

14:15-15:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

How do you make sense of a loss? For Heather McCalden, who lost her parents to AIDS in the '90s, it's by chronicling the history of the virus in tandem with the internet and 'going viral'. For Tom de Freston, who experienced several miscarriages with his wife, the author Kiran Millwood Hargrave, art becomes the thread out of the labyrinth of grief.

### Linnea Axelsson: A Chorus of Voices

15:15-16:15  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Winner of Sweden's most prestigious literary award, *Ædnan* is a mesmerising verse-novel about displacement, loss, and resistance. Following two Indigenous Sámi families across generations, Swedish publication *Norrtelje Tidning* describes the novel as 'a statement that we are bigger and freer than the borders that shut us out from each other.' Linnea Axelsson talks to **Marjorie Lotfi** about giving voice to those under threat of erasure.

### THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH EVENT

#### Eley Williams: Fiction – The Long and Short of It

17:00-18:00  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Uncertainties and misunderstandings abound in Eley Williams's *Moderate to Poor, Occasionally Good*. Playfully original, each story centres around off-beat characters – people like canned laughter editors and courtroom sketch artists. Talking today to **Benjamin Bateman** (fiction judge of the James Tait Black Prize – a prize Williams won back in 2017 for *Attrib. and Other Stories*), hear the author chat about her enduring love for the short story form.

#### Mona Chalabi & Jonathan Watts: The View From Somewhere

17:00-18:00  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Amid escalating global conflict, climate change, and a precarious year for democracy, we need journalists to deliver news with truth and accuracy, independence and impartiality. But does this championing of detachment and objectivity come at the expense of compassion? Join Pulitzer Prize-winning data journalist **Mona Chalabi**, and the *Guardian*'s global environment editor **Jonathan Watts** as they talk about whether there is a need for a new model of journalism, and if it's possible to present the news from a place of moral clarity.

#### On Making it Count: Oliver Burkeman

17:00-18:00  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Oliver Burkeman is the international bestselling author of *Four Thousand Weeks*, which explored how we might step back from Being Busy as a core personality trait and make the most of our ridiculously short time on Earth. Discussing his latest work, *Meditations for Mortals*, with Festival Director **Jenny Niven**, Burkeman takes inspiration from a multitude of disciplines to encourage us to think about how we can make our lives meaningful.



#### Alice Roberts: What Lies Beneath

17:45-18:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The past is unearthed in the final instalment of Professor Alice Roberts' best-selling trilogy which began with *Ancestors*. Drawing on cutting-edge technology, *Crypt* sheds new light on seven gory stories from the Middle Ages and beyond, which include England's first hospital, the Justinianic Plague and Henry VIII's favourite ship. Today Roberts shows us what we can learn from dwelling in history's crypts.

BSL  
Captioned

#### Words from the Wards

18:15-19:15  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance

In Spring 2024 we called for people from Edinburgh to submit stories about the former Royal Infirmary, to capture and honour the experiences and memories that people connect with the building's previous life. Join us as we bring together local people from across Edinburgh to perform their work and commemorate the building's rich history. *Supported by Edinburgh Futures Institute.*

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#### Dean Atta & Jordan Stephens: A New Masculinity

18:45-19:45  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The stories and infinite nuances of male bodies have often been kept secret, or silent, in the service of a type of masculinity now thankfully becoming increasingly outmoded. Jordan Stephens (*Avoidance, Drugs, Heartbreak and Dogs*) and Dean Atta (*Person Unlimited*), open heartedly examine their own experiences and relationships to explore new ways of being a man, and to love, and be loved.

#### William Dalrymple: When India Led the World

18:45-19:45  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

A huge success as co-host with Anita Anand of the *Empire* podcast, looking at how empires rose and fell in history, best-selling Scottish-born, India-based historian William Dalrymple is about to publish *The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World*, which reveals the nation's position as the preeminent Eurasia intellectual and philosophical superpower for a millennium and a half until 1200 AD.

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### Queerly Beloved

18:45-20:00  
Spiegelent  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Join us for a lively conversation celebrating Queer literature. Chaired by **Kirsty Logan**, the panel share books (from overtly Queer, to between-the-lines) that have defined them as writers, the stories they wish they could have read sooner, and their thoughts on representation and inclusivity in the current literary landscape. What does it mean to each of them being a Queer writer working today?



Jordan Stephens, 18:45-19:45

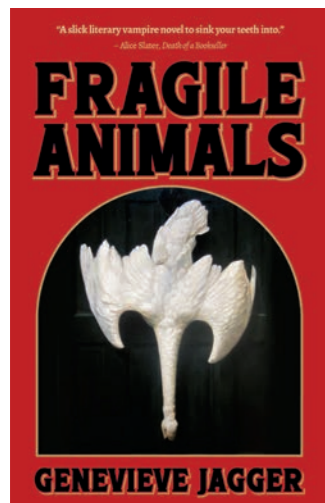
Book tickets at  
[edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)

#### Programme Key – 2024 Themes

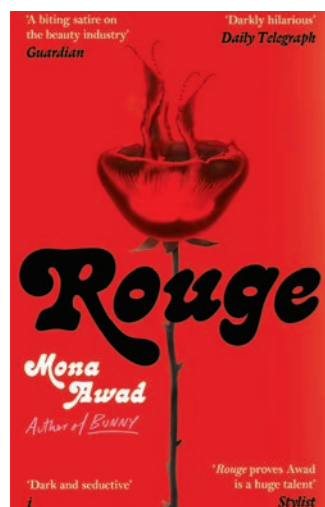
● Future Tense ● Brilliant Fiction ● The Front List ● How to Live a Meaningful Life

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Genevieve Jagger, 20:30-21:30



Mona Awad, 20:30-21:30

THE PETER & PAUL EVENT

**Es Devlin: Mapping an Artist's Life**

19:30-20:30  
 Courtyard Theatre  
 £15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Es Devlin uses light and music to create vast public artworks and stunning kinetic stage sets for stars including Beyoncé, U2, and Adele. *An Atlas of Es Devlin* is a beautiful new book which maps her practice. Part monograph, part memoir, it weaves together previously unseen small-scale works with Devlin's personal reflections and 'notes in the margins.' Tonight she discusses how her genre-defying work has captivated artists and audiences alike.

**Mona Awad & Genevieve Jagger: Something Wicked This Way Comes**

20:30-21:30  
 Venue NW  
 £15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Women descend to surreal depths in two new eerie novels. Mona Awad's *Rouge* tells the story of skin-care-obsessed Belle who, grieving for her mother, enters a cult-like spa to disappear from the world. In Genevieve Jagger's *Fragile Animals*, Noelle escapes her intense Catholic upbringing by meeting a vampire on a Scottish island. Awad and Jagger discuss updating fairy tales and horror classics.

**Nicci French: Partners in Crime**

20:30-21:30  
 Venue T  
 £15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

How can someone just vanish without a trace? *Has Anyone Seen Charlotte Salter* is the breathless new thriller from Nicci French: 'compelling, moving, and beautifully written' according to the *Guardian*, the story spans 30 years, from a woman's disappearance to secrets coming to light decades later. Bestselling husband-and-wife writing team, Nicci Gerrard and Sean French, talk about suspense, storytelling, and over 25 years of writing together.

Livestream available

**The Book Festival Ceilidh**

21:00-22:30  
 Spiegeltent  
 Pay What You Can

Nothing closes out a festival like a good bir! On our final Festival weekend, join us for our barnstorming ceilidh, complete with a live band. Never ceilidh-ed before? Have no fear, Strip the Willow newbies and Dashing White Sergeant experts are all welcome as a live caller takes us through the steps of traditional Scottish dances. Maybe you'll even do-si-do with your favourite author.



**The Front List: Matt Haig in Conversation with Chitra Ramaswamy**

13:30-14:30  
 McEwan Hall  
 £20.00  
 [concessions £17.50/£14.00]

One of the most empathetic writers and popular novelists of our time, Matt Haig has sold millions of copies of his memoirs and novels, bringing readers with him on both his own deeply personal journeys, and into magical, uplifting, heartfelt stories. Today Matt reveals his new novel, *The Life Impossible*, in a very special pre-release event. He speaks to award-winning writer Chitra Ramaswamy about this exhilarating tale of resilience and renewal.

BSL  
 Captioned  
 Livestream available

THE BAILLIE GIFFORD PRIZE EVENT

**John Vaillant: Violent Delights and Violent Ends**

10:30-11:30  
 Courtyard Theatre  
 £15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

'The wildfire equivalent of Hurricane Katrina' is how John Vaillant describes the 2016 blaze that ripped through Canada's Fort McMurray: a fire so hot, concrete vaporised and over 80,000 people fled their homes in one day. Winner of 2023's Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction, *Fire Weather* masterfully interweaves disaster narrative with history and climate science. Hear Vaillant talk to **Cal Flyn** in an event crackling with urgency.

**Generations: Liz Lochhead and Henry Bell**

11:45-12:45  
 Spiegeltent  
 £15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Poet, playwright, and (dare we say it) national treasure, Liz Lochhead recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of her landmark collection *Memo for Spring*, and released a new collection, *A Handsel*. 15 years ago, teenage poet Henry Bell walked into her office, and the two began a literary friendship that has seen them scribbling on each other's poems into the night and setting the world to rights. Join them today as they discuss friendship and poetry across the generations.

**Graeme Macrae Burnet: Case Closed**

11:45-12:45  
 Venue T  
 £15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

When Graeme Macrae Burnet's *The Accident on the A35* came out in 2017, it left fans longing for more Inspector Gorski novels: gripping, witty, literary thrillers set in sleepy small-town France. Seven years later - with a second Booker nomination under his belt (this one for *Case Study*) - Macrae Burnet is back, talking to **Samuel Tongue** about *A Case of Matricide*: the fitting conclusion to the trilogy. For fans and newcomers alike.



Graeme Macrae Burnet, 11:45-12:45

Quench your word thirst (then your thirst thirst at our Festival bars).

Programme Key – 2024 Themes

- Future Tense
- Brilliant Fiction
- The Front List
- How to Live a Meaningful Life
- Voterama
- Justified Sinner 200
- Poetry & Performance
- Back to Ours
- Extraordinary Events





Jo Hamya, 12:15-13:15

Scotland 2049

12:00-12:15 / 12:30-12:45 / 13:00-13:15
13:30-13:45 / 14:00-14:15 / 14:30-14:45
15:00-15:15 / 15:30-15:45
Courtyard Meeting Point
Free, book in advance

If you imagine the future, what does it look like? To celebrate the 25th anniversaries of the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Youth Parliament, poet Ryan Van Winkle asked young people across the country what Scotland will look like in 25 years.

The Stories of Us: A Table Talk with Pam Brunton

12:00-13:00
Elliott's Studio
£25.00 [concession £22.00]

People travel from far and wide to eat at Inver on the banks of Loch Fyne: Scotland's only restaurant to be awarded a Green Michelin Star.

Jo Hamya & Jyoti Patel: In a New Light

12:15-13:15
Venue NW
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

What happens when the adults we grew up idolising reveal themselves to be flawed? Can we reconcile ourselves with the harm they unthinkingly caused?

Parliaments of Future

13:30-15:00
Venue B
Pay What You Can

How can we shape a more vibrant democracy, where everyone has a voice in the decisions that affect their lives? Come and explore fresh new thinking and models which consult people more directly.

HAWTHORNDEN FOUNDATION EVENT Sarah Moss: New Moon

14:15-15:15
Courtyard Theatre
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Sarah Moss returns to the Festival with a memoir, My Good Bright Wolf. The bestselling and Women's Prize award longlisted author confronts the female body in this bold new work.

Out of the Ordinary: A Table Talk with Caroline Eden

15:00-16:00
Elliott's Studio
£25.00 [concession £22.00]

Caroline Eden describes the kitchen as 'a portal to the past and other places' and today she takes us with her as she shares recipes and recollections with Marjorie Lotfi.

Alastair Campbell Talks Politics

15:00-16:00
Venue A
£10.50 [concession £6.00]

In an interactive workshop for young people, Alastair Campbell Talks Politics, Alastair will unpack the world of government and share with you his insights to develop your skills and confidence.

Merve Emre: Turned Tables

15:15-16:15
Spiegeltent
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The interviewer turns interviewee, as literary critic, Professor of Creative Writing at Wesleyan University, host of The Critic and Her Publics podcast and author of books including The Personality Brokers and The Ferrante Letters.

Cal Flynn: Nature Writing Workshop

15:30-17:30
Venue B
£35.00 [concessions £30.00 / £24.00]

Sharpen your descriptive skills with Cal Flynn, bestselling author of Islands of Abandonment. In this two-hour workshop, she leads the group in a series of close reading and timed exercises.

Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé, Maureen Johnson & Rosie Talbot: Mysterious Murders

16:00-17:00
Courtyard Theatre
£10.50 [concession £6.00]

Sinister schools, supernatural students, isolated islands... Oh, and did anyone mention the deaths? Murder will out in three spine-tingling thrillers: Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé's Where Sleeping Girls Lie, Maureen Johnson's Death at Morning House and Rosie Talbot's Phantom Hearts.

Alastair Campbell: But What Can I Do?

17:00-18:00
Venue T
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The Rest is Politics podcast has established Labour's former Downing Street Director of Communications and Strategy, Alastair Campbell, as one of the most important political commentators of the moment.

BSL Captioned

900 Voices: Conversations on Belonging

17:00-18:00
Spiegeltent
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Zoë Irvine, Lindsay Perth and Jules Rawlinson showcase the groundbreaking 900 Voices project, a participative sound installation celebrating 900 years of Edinburgh landmark, St Giles Cathedral.



Merve Emre, 15:15-16:15



Sarah Moss, 14:15-15:15

Book tickets at edbookfest.co.uk

Programme Key - 2024 Themes

- Future Tense Brilliant Fiction The Front List How to Live a Meaningful Life Voterama Justified Sinner 200 Poetry & Performance Back to Ours Extraordinary Events



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY IN SCOTLAND EVENT

**Jackie Kay: The People's Poet**

20:30-21:30  
Venue T  
£15.50  
[concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Beloved poet, novelist, playwright, and former Makar Jackie Kay joins us with her latest poetry collection, *May Day*. These profound and urgent poems draw on Kay's decades of political activism, bringing influential figures from history to life, whilst interweaving her own personal experience of grief and loss, love and celebration. Join Kay for what is sure to be an enlightening and inspiring conversation.

Captioned

Livestream available



Sunday 25

Sunday 25

“Philosophers believe that ultimately a person’s freedom is threaded inextricably with the quality of their agency – their ability to perceive their actions and desires as their own, and to feel able to create change.”

Madhumita Murgia, *Code Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI*

**Words from the Wards: Michael Pedersen**

18:15-19:15  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance

In Spring 2024 we called for people from Edinburgh to submit stories about the former Royal Infirmary, to capture and honour the experiences and memories that people connect with the building's previous life. Join us as we bring together local people from across Edinburgh alongside special guest Michael Pedersen to perform their work and commemorate the building's rich history. *Supported by Edinburgh Futures Institute.*

Captioned

**Tim Key: Next Chapter**

18:45-19:45  
Spiegelent  
£15.50 [concessions £10.50]

Ultimate multi-hyphenate Tim Key is a poet-comedian-actor-screenwriter - and *Taskmaster's* resident task consultant. Author of six books, he joins the Festival to chat about *Chapters*, a poetry anthology he describes as his 'least ambitious' project yet (...we respectfully disagree!). Men stuck in webs, Fat Face, the ancient city of Canterbury: the poems' subjects are eclectic and electric, shining a wry and unexpected light on the vagaries of modern life.

**Pub Quiz/With a Bang**

21.00-22.30  
Spiegelent  
Pay What You Can

Hell hath no fury like the team who come second in a pub quiz. Come and test your literary chops against the best in the business at our very special Book Fest pub quiz. Featuring guest appearances by pro quizzers. Check our website for more details.



Tim Key, 18:45-19:45

**Melissa Lucashenko & Sathnam Sanghera: Narratives of Empire**

17:30-18:30  
Venue NW  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

The legacy and myths of British imperialism will be explored and interrogated by non-fiction writer Sathnam Sanghera, whose latest book *Empireworld* explores the British empire's impact upon the globe after *Empireland* looked at this country alone, joined by Australian writer Melissa Lucashenko. Her new novel *Edenglassie* intertwines two stories of colonialism from an Indigenous perspective, set five generations apart in Queensland. *Supported by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body.*

**Erica Benner: What's Wrong with Democracy?**

17:45-18:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Political philosopher Erica Benner has this year added to her previous books on Machiavelli's ideas and the history of nationalist thinking with a new title on a subject she's been grappling with all of her life. In *Adventures in Democracy*, she explores the 2,500-year history of the concept, looks at the system's flaws as well as its benefits, and asks how it can be done better.

Captioned

**Robert Harris: Scandalous Notes**

18:45-19:45  
Venue T  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

A prime minister writes obsessively to the young woman he's infatuated with, sharing the most sensitive matters of state. *Precipice* by multi award-winning author of multiple bestsellers, Robert Harris, is set in 1914 and tells the thrilling story of an affair with history-altering implications. Talking with **David Stenhouse**, the extraordinarily prolific, million-selling author of *Fatherland* and *Pompeii* talks about drawing from history and a country on the brink.

**Generations: Bernardine Evaristo & Ayesha Harruna Attah**

19:30-20:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£15.50 [concessions £13.50/£10.50]

Bestselling writer and Booker Prize-winner Bernardine Evaristo is known for championing new and emerging writers and voices. As part of our Generations series, join Evaristo as she speaks with author Ayesha Harruna Attah (author of books including *Zainab Takes New York*, and Evaristo's partner in the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative 2023-24) about the importance of creating a supportive community and 'finding your people' as an artist.

Programme Key – 2024 Themes

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# Baillie Gifford Children's Programme

**A magical place for young minds.**

Words and characters leap off pages. With over 100 events during the Festival, there are treats in store for tots, teens, and in-betweens. This year's programme is not to be missed, with the 10th anniversary of the YA Book Prize taking place on 22 August. Meet your favourite author or illustrator. Sing, dance, or get messy. Be amazed and learn something new. Why not make a day of it? Most events are £6 or free.

#### **Silly old thing, didn't you know?**

##### **It's the 25th birthday of the Gruffalo!**

To celebrate 25 years of this classic book we have a special trail around the Book Festival to find the five best known characters from the story. Get your activity sheet from the Festival Bookshop. Once you've found all the characters you can get £2 off the anniversary edition of *The Gruffalo*.

#### **Free activities every day**

There are free activities every day of the Festival, including some fun outdoor events. Whether enjoying a storytelling session, getting messy, or dropping into a mural-making session, there's lots to see and do at the Festival.

#### **Books, books and even more books**

Where better to spend pocket money than our Bookshop? The shelves are weighed down with all the books in the programme and you might even be able to get your new one signed.

#### **Fantasy to Romantasy to Dystopia: Events for Adults and Young Adults**

There's fun for all ages at the Book Festival. Dive into magical worlds of fantasy, adventure and heartstopping romance with wonderful YA events.

#### **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. Please keep babies on an accompanying adult's lap throughout the event.

#### **Are You Sitting Comfortably?**

Every day at 10am, catch a story time event with a fantastic author or illustrator. See listings each day.

#### **Say hello to your favourite characters**

It's true - the Gruffalo visits us in August! He sometimes invites other friends to come along too. If you time it right, you could meet Pikachu or Supertato, and they love having their picture taken. See the event listings for when you can meet them, join in with their antics, and snap a selfie.

#### **So come on in!**

Dive into our Baillie Gifford Children's Programme on the following pages for inspiration and prime character spotting times.

Browse events at [edbookfest.co.uk/families](http://edbookfest.co.uk/families) or search events by age, author, keyword, and more at [edbookfest.co.uk/the-festival/events](http://edbookfest.co.uk/the-festival/events)



With thanks to our Lead Sponsor **Baillie Gifford™**



## Saturday 10

### Rewriting Roald Dahl with Greg James & Chris Smith

10:00-11:00  
Venue T  
£6.00  
Age 6-10

Join bestselling authors Greg James and Chris Smith for a mischievous event based around their new book *The Twits Next Door*, a fun and prank-filled adventure starring two of Roald Dahl's most hilarious and popular creations. Come and discover what happens when a new family called the Lovelies move in next door and their 10-year-old twins, Ruff and Tumble, go into battle with the Twits!



### Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance  
Age 3-6

Appearing today: actor, writer, and presenter **Lana Pheutan**.

### Colouring In Scotland with Eilidh Muldoon

10:00-11:00  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 3-5

Grab your pencils and get ready for a fun drawing workshop with Edinburgh's very own artist and illustrator Eilidh Muldoon as she recreates the illustrations from *My First Colouring Book: Scotland*. Use your favourite colours to bring castles, unicorns, tartan, and even the Loch Ness Monster to life. Which colour will you pick up first?

### Meet the Gruffalo!

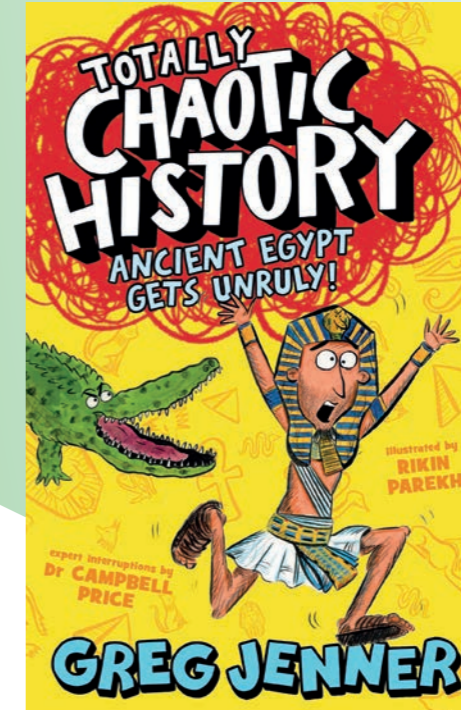
11:30-12:30  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
All ages

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 snap a selfie.

Outdoor Event

Book tickets at  
[edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)

## Saturday 10



### Chaotic History - Ancient Egypt! with Greg Jenner, Rikin Parekh & Dr Campbell Price

13:30-14:30  
Venue T  
£6.00  
Age 8-12

Join historian and chart-topping podcaster Greg Jenner, expert Egyptologist Dr Campbell Price, and incredible illustrator Rikin Parekh, as they go back in time to explore the extraordinary era of Ancient Egypt. You can expect myth-busting, quick-fire quizzes, and mind-boggling truths about everything from Pharaohs and Egyptian gods, to mummies, medicine, and the pyramids. Hold on tight because this isn't your average history lesson.

### Hip Hop Story Stop!

10:00-11:00 / 13:00-14:00  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
All ages

Prepare for a whirlwind of rhythm and fun at Hip Hop Story Stop! Claire and Fergus kick off the party with high-energy dances, sing-alongs, games, and rhymes that'll have everyone on their feet. Then, dive into interactive stories, keeping the excitement alive with a slightly more laid-back vibe. It's a dynamic blend of hip hop beats and imaginative tales, guaranteed to keep the party going and the smiles shining! Participative story-dance fun for all ages with storyteller **Claire McNicol** and kids dance instructor **Fergus McNicol**.

### From Tiger Warrior to Dragon Master with Maisie Chan

11:15-12:15  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 5-7

It's time for the ultimate battle! *Clash of the Dragon Masters* is the last book in the thrilling action and adventure series, *Tiger Warrior* and Jack is facing his nemesis. Join award-winning author Maisie Chan to hear all about it.

### Welcome Wall Workshop with Mark Arrigo & Steven Chatterton

11:45-12:45  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 4+

Join co-creators and writer-directors, Mark Arrigo and Steven Chatterton, for an interactive workshop with their new picture book, *Adnan*. After a reading of the heart-warming refugee story about a little boy's courage and the power of creativity and imagination, children can create their very own collaborative 'Welcome Wall' with words of encouragement.

### THE BLACKFORD EVENT

### The Happy Prince Performance with Julian Clary & Harry Woodgate

11:45-12:45  
Spiegelent  
£6.00  
Age 6+ & Families

Prepare to be spellbound as you watch Harry Woodgate (winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and Children's Illustrated Book of the Year at the Book Awards) illustrate scenes from their astonishing adaptation of Oscar Wilde's classic children's story, *The Happy Prince*. Accompanied by a live, performed reading from award-winning actor and comedian, Julian Clary, this spectacular storytelling event is perfect for new and old fans of Wilde's timeless tale of kindness and community.

### Fly Away with David Lindo Sara Boccaccini Meadows

13:00-14:00  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 7-10

What does it mean to be an 'Urban Birder?' And why should we be interested in birding? Find out in an in-conversation event with author David Lindo and illustrator Sara Boccaccini Meadows, chatting about their new children's book *Fly*. Sara will share her experience illustrating birds and where she took inspiration from when making the book in an accessible and engaging way for children.

### Adnan Screening with Mark Arrigo & Steven Chatterton

13:15-14:15  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 9+ & Families

Join co-creators and writer-directors Mark Arrigo and Steven Chatterton for an exclusive screening of their award-winning short film *Adnan*, the heart-warming story of an imaginative Syrian refugee boy who uses creativity to help his mother come to terms with their new life in England. The screening is followed by a reading of the new picture book and an insightful discussion on the important themes with the creators.

### The Super Sunny Murder Club with Maisie Chan, Elle McNicoll, Serena Patel & Harry Woodgate

14:15-15:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£6.00  
Age 9-12

Discover how to write a mystery from bestselling authors Maisie Chan, Elle McNicoll, and Serena Patel - just three of the 13 writers to contribute to *The Super Sunny Murder Club*: an anthology of sizzling summer suspense stories. Then join in with an interactive 'Make Your Own Mystery Story' session as illustrator Harry Woodgate brings the audience's ideas to life by drawing live on stage.

### Finding Fairies with Vivian French

14:45-15:45  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 6+

Unlock some fairy magic! Join master storyteller and Book Festival favourite, Vivian French, as she shares her latest book, *Bibi and the Box of Fairy Tales*. It's an enchanting collection of seven original fairy tales to bewitch and enthrall. With Vivian's help, get thinking about ideas for your own entrancing story as she tells you all about her process of creating her character, Bibi.

### David Levithan: First Date Jitters

16:30-17:30  
Venue C  
£10.50 [concession £6.00]  
Age 14+

Alice Oseman described David Levithan (bestselling author of *Every Day*) as an 'icon of queer young adult fiction' and his latest book *Ryan and Avery* proves why. From initial shyness through to falling in love, the novel is a love story following a couple's first ten dates. David chats to **Bea Fitzgerald** about his first solo YA novel in five years.



Mark Arrigo & Steven Chatterton, 13:15-14:15



# Sunday 11

## Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance  
Age 3-6

Appearing today: children's writer and puzzle maker **Alastair Chisholm**.

## Make a Pride Flag with Harry Woodgate

10:00-11:00  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 5+

What do you take pride in? Join Harry Woodgate for a reading of *Grandad's Pride* as well as a celebration of LGBTQ+ history and the power of community. Display what you are proud of and create your own colourful Pride flags that you can take home!

## Sprog Rock!

10:00-10:30  
Spiegelent  
Free, drop-in  
Age 0-5

Returning to rock the Book Festival for the fourth year, it's Sprog Rock! Dust off your dancing shoes and get ready for a rocking and (nursery) rhyming extravaganza, as the group bring their unique, catchy songs back to our Spiegelent. Fun for under-fives, their grown-ups, friends, and families!

## Meet Pikachu

10:30-11:00 / 11:30-12:00 / 12:30-13:00  
13:30-14:00 / 14:30-15:00 / 15:30-16:00  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
All ages

Pikachu, I choose YOU! Come along and meet everyone's favourite electric type Pokémon for a special appearance at the Book Festival. Don't miss the opportunity to give Pikachu a high five or pose like a Pokémon trainer for a photo.

Outdoor Event

## The Bolds with Julian Clary & David Roberts

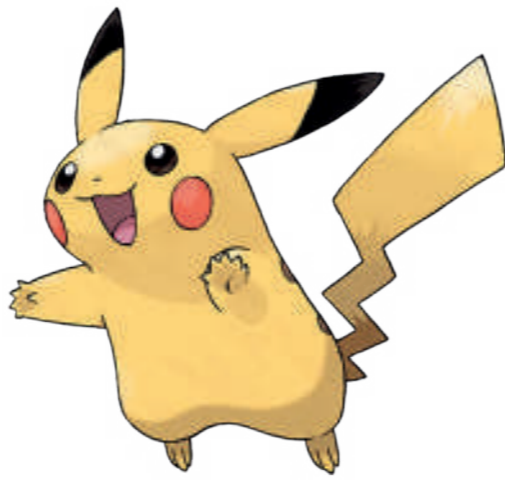
10:30-11:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£6.00  
Age 7-9

Have you ever had neighbours with some wacky quirks? What about fur and a tail? Back with the extremely popular *The Bolds* series, Julian Clary and David Roberts return to the Book Festival with a hilarious event following the lives of a family of hyenas trying to hide their true identity. Join in the wildly funny animal madness with a fun draw-along!

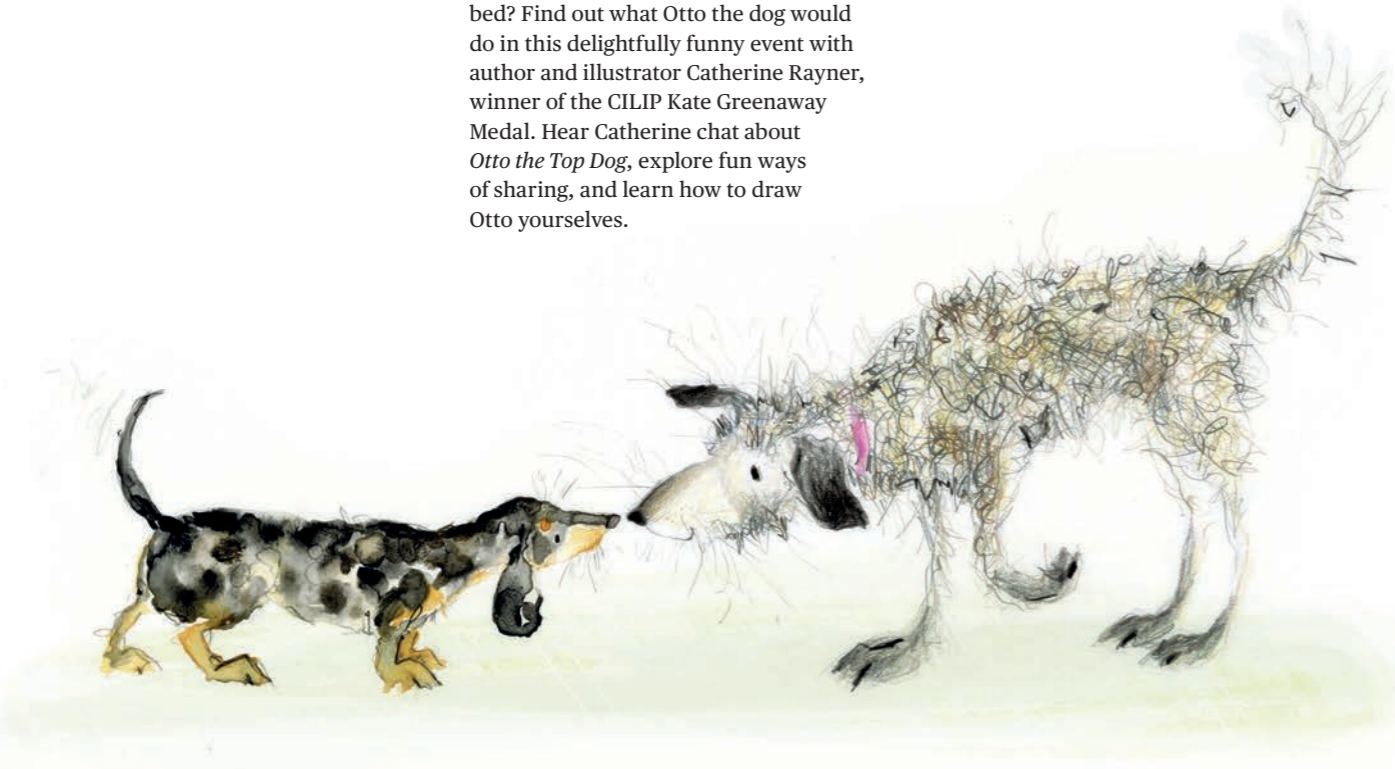
## Otto the Top Dog with Catherine Rayner

11:15-12:15  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 3+

How would you feel if all the dogs in your area wanted to share your cosy bed? Find out what Otto the dog would do in this delightfully funny event with author and illustrator Catherine Rayner, winner of the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal. Hear Catherine chat about *Otto the Top Dog*, explore fun ways of sharing, and learn how to draw Otto yourselves.



Julian Clary & David Roberts, 10:30-11:30



# Sunday 11



## Individuality Rules! with Nadine Aisha Jassat & Elle McNicoll

12:30-13:30  
Courtyard Theatre  
£6.00  
Age 9-12

Join award-winning writers Elle McNicoll and Nadine Aisha Jassat as they explore family, friendship, and identity in this inspiring event. Hear them talk to **Dr Melanie Ramdarshan Bold** about *Keedie* (Elle's highly anticipated prequel to *A Kind of Spark*), and Nadine's gorgeous book, *The Hidden Story of Estie Noor*. The authors chat about discovering your individuality and how to stay bold, even when others try to keep you quiet.

## Reveal Your Inner Artist with Ruth Millington

11:45-12:45  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 5-7

Anybody can be an artist - discover YOUR inner creativity in this hands-on workshop where you'll learn to collage like Henri Matisse. Taking inspiration from *This Book Will Make You An Artist*, Ruth Millington will lead you through a brilliant session that combines fascinating art facts with crafting. Pick up your pencils and get creative - see you there!

## Up, Up, and Away with Sara Boccaccini Meadows

13:00-14:00  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 7-12

In this workshop, explore all of the unique and intricate patterns of the world's birds which feature in Sara Boccaccini Meadows' beautiful new book, *Fly*. Hear about this stunning introduction to the incredible diversity of birdlife and use bird feathers, eggshells, and illustrations from the book to inspire a playful collection of detailed drawings.

## Plant to Plate Power with Darryl Gadzekpo & Ella Phillips

13:15-14:15  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 7-9

Join green-fingered duo, Darryl Gadzekpo and Ella Phillips, whose passion for gardening and cooking with their children has spurred them to write a hands-on new book, *From Plant to Plate*, a visual feast ideal for inspiring kids to get growing, get cooking, and try plant-powered eating. Learn all about the growing process whilst planting some seeds too!



Darryl Gadzekpo and Ella Phillips, 13:15-14:15



## Go on a hunt to find the Gruffalo.

Find all five characters for £2 off the anniversary edition of *The Gruffalo* at Waterstones.

Book tickets at [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)



## Sunday 11

### Juno Dawson, David Levithan & Cynthia So: Show Your Pride

13:30-14:30  
Spiegel tent  
£10.50 [concession £6.00]  
Age 14+

Celebrate the fifth anniversary of the dazzling LGBTQ+ anthology, *Proud*, which features a brand-new story! Join award-winning authors and contributors, Juno Dawson, Cynthia So, and David Levithan, for a moving and thought-provoking panel event about their stories in response to the celebratory theme of pride and why it's important to celebrate and showcase LGBTQ+ voices.



### Make a Supersonic Beano Comic

14:00-15:00  
Venue T  
£6.00  
Age 6+ & Families

Make a supersonic Beano comic\*! Beano's Directors of Mischief and Mayhem, **Mike Stirling** and **Craig Graham** reveal their top tips for creating laugh-out-loud stories and pictures, share jokes from their latest Beano Boomic, *Minnie and the Camp of Chaos*, AND attempt the impossible - to write AND draw a hilarious Beano comic as fast as possible! They'll definitely need help, but that's where you come in! \*In less than an hour...

### Sensational Sci-fi with Alastair Chisholm

14:45-15:45  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 9-12

Hear award-winning author, Alastair Chisholm, talking about his new book, *Reek*, an action adventure set in a poisoned future where you must buy the air you need to breathe. Test your knowledge of weird and wonderful science, and imagine future inventions. But can you earn enough oxygen to survive? Will you be breathing free, or gasping for air?

### Molly X Chang & Bea Fitzgerald: Gods, Romance, and War

15:30-16:30  
Venue NW  
£10.50 [concession £6.00]  
Age 13+

Rising stars of BookTok, Molly X Chang and Bea Fitzgerald, bring a fresh take to the romantasy world in this epic YA event. Tear up the rulebook on everything you know about mythology and let Molly and Bea take you on a thrilling exploration with their debut novels, *To Gaze Upon Wicked Gods*, and the best-selling, *Girl, Goddess, Queen*.

### Scotland and Children's Storytelling with SCBWI

16:30-17:30  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 16+

How has Scotland influenced children's storytelling in the world and across the globe? Dive into Scottish myths, legends, folklore and culture and their impact upon today's stories for children and young people in a discussion with **Skye McKenna**, hosted by **Tibo Torelli** from the Society of Children's Books and Illustrators.



## Monday 12

### Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance  
Age 3-6

Appearing today: sensory storyteller, **Ailie Finlay**.  
LD Friendly

### That's Not My... with George Hoyle

10:00-10:30 / 11:00-11:30 /  
12:00-12:30 / 13:30-14:00  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 0-3

Join Dog, T-Rex, Mermaid, Penguin and lots of *That's Not My...* friends for this sensory storytelling adventure for little ones. Led by Usborne's incredible professional storyteller, George Hoyle, with great songs, bubbles, and more - it will be SO MUCH fun!

LD Friendly

### Alice Melvin: Paper & Nature Workshop

10:30-13:30  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
Age 4+

Join award-winning illustrator Alice Melvin to create your very own pop-up scene around the theme of nature. Get inspired by flicking through Alice's new book, *Mouse on the River* and then learn some of the paper folding and pop-up techniques Alice has mastered to create a special piece of art to take home.



### History Stinks: Poo Through the Ages! with Dr Suzie Edge

10:45-11:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£6.00  
Age 8-10

What's that smell? It's HISTORY - and it STINKS! Get ready to discover everything from Henry VIII's dodgy diet and Aztec poop canoes to giant, fossilized Viking plops. Join medical historian, author and TikTok creator, Dr Suzie Edge as she takes you on a stinky journey through the ages. Packed with fascinating facts, get ready to dive into the smelliest corners of history!

### Silly Smells with Breanna J McDaniel

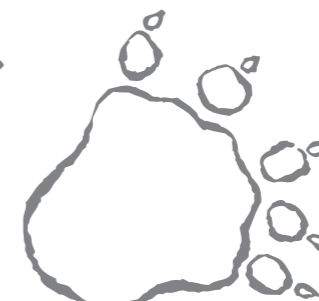
11:15-12:15  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 3-6

Is there anything funnier than a fart? Join Breanna J McDaniel for this hilariously interactive workshop experience where you and your family can take part in the sounds (and smells!) of the story. Hear how Breanna's experiences in Glasgow inspired her book, *Cute Toot*, and how a game of hide and seek gone wrong can bring a family together.

### Zooming the Zoo with John Dougherty & Tom Morgan-Jones

13:00-14:00  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 7-9

Come along to an entertaining event all about slugs, dogs, bats, ghosts, grandads, and everything in between, with the legendary John Dougherty and Tom Morgan-Jones on *Zooming the Zoo* - a unique performance combining poetry, music, and stand-up that will remind us of the first rule of poetry - to have FUN!



Dr Suzie Edge, 10:45-11:45

### Burds are Meant tae Fly with Emma Grae

14.45-15.45  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 7-11

Emma Grae is a storyteller who wants to empower the next generation of bairns to enjoy the Scots leid from the get-go. A passionate advocate against linguistic discrimination, she is hoping her tales increase their confidence to create stories of their own. Join Emma for her event on *The Hoolet Thit Couldnae Fly* and celebrate the idea that it is okay to be different!

### Picture Hooks with Vivian French & Lucy Jukes

18:00-19:00  
Venue C  
£10.50 [concession £6.00]  
Age 16+

It can be a pressured and lonely life being an illustrator. Vivian French, who is co-founder of Picture Hooks and a tutor, mentor, and friend to many illustrators, will lead an hour of illustration games that aim to relax you, offer new ideas... and, most of all, encourage you to play, settle down, and have fun. Suitable for anyone interested in illustration as well as professional illustrators... all materials will be provided.



## Tuesday 13

### The Front List: Alice Oseman In Conversation with Lauren James

13:30-14:30  
McEwan Hall  
£20.00  
[concessions £17.50/£14.00/£7.50]  
Age 14+

The latest in Alice Oseman's YA smash-hit series, *Heartstopper*, instantly became the UK's fastest selling graphic novel ever. It's not hard to see why. The charming series (an acclaimed Netflix show too) follows teenagers, Nick and Charlie, as they navigate the ups and downs of first love, friendships, coming out, and mental health, beautifully framed by a warm supporting cast. In today's very special conversation, hear Alice chatting to **Lauren James**.

Captioned



### Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance  
Age 3-6

Appearing today: award-winning author and illustrator, **Tom Morgan-Jones**.

### Make a Zine with Glasgow Zine Library

12:00-14:00 / 14:30-16:30  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
Age 12-16

Follow in the footsteps of the sensational Alice Oseman by trying your hand at creating your very own zine! Join Glasgow Zine Library for a drop-in zine-making session who will take you through how to get started, where to find inspiration and how a zine can channel your voice on issues important to you.

Outdoor Event

### Heartstopper

Alice Oseman fans: keep your eyes peeled for a special announcement about a bunch of things happening on site at EIF before and after Alice's event!

### 3,2,1 - Blast Off into Space with Craigmillar Literacy Trust

10:00-11:00  
Venue A  
Free, book in advance  
Age 5-8

Get your imaginations ready for this epic mission! Join **Katie Swann** from Craigmillar Literacy Trust to explore the universe with some (inter)stellar stories that are out of this world. We'll share some of our favourite picture books featuring astronauts, aliens and asteroids, then make an outer space mobile with lots of colourful collage. This fun, hands-on event is for children and their grown-ups to explore, learn, and be creative together.

## Wednesday 14

### Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance  
Age 3-6

Appearing today: **Dads Rock**, the Edinburgh-based charity championing parents.

### Gaelic Bookbug with Scottish Book Trust

10:00-10:30 / 11:00-11:30  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
Age 0-5

Halò a h-uile duine! Join Lindsay from Scottish Book Trust for Gaelic songs, rhymes and stories in this special Gaelic Bookbug Session. This session will feature the books included in the Gaelic Bookbug Bags. All welcome, no prior knowledge of Gaelic language necessary!

### Pop in and Play!

12:00-16:00  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
All ages

In the Children's Tent today you'll find **Dads Rock** with activities to keep your wee ones busy, just drop in between 12 and 4 to see what's going on!

## Thursday 15

### Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance  
Age 3-6

Appearing today: world-famous percussionist, **Evelyn Glennie**.

### Baby and Toddler Rhymetime with Craigmillar Books for Babies

10:00-10:30 / 11:00-11:30  
Venue A  
Free, book in advance  
Age 0-3

Join Craigmillar Books for Babies for a special Baby and Toddler Rhymetime. Enjoy bouncy songs, tickly rhymes, and lots of cuddles and fun to help build attachment and bonding with your little ones.

### Pop in and Play!

12:00-16:00  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
All ages

In the Children's Tent today you'll find **Edinburgh Under 5s** with activities to keep your wee ones busy, just drop in between 12 and 4 to see what's going on!

### Illustrator Surgery with the Bright Agency

12:00-16:00  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance  
Age 16+

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 will give you handy pointers and advice as you make the next step in your career.

15 minute slots available to book in advance. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. To book your slot, please call or email the Box Office.

## Friday 16

### Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance  
Age 3-6

Appearing today: award-winning poet and author, **Raymond Antrobus**.

### Bookbug with Edinburgh Libraries

10:00-10:30 / 11:00-11:30  
Children's Tent  
Free, book in advance  
Age 0-5

Join Edinburgh Libraries for songs, stories, and rhymes in this fun, interactive Bookbug event, part of Scottish Book Trust's Early Years Programme. Then meet Bookbug for cuddles, high-fives, and photos.

Outdoor Event

### Kat McKenna, Benjamin Dean and Holly Bourne: Swifties, Superfans & Fame

14:15-15:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£10.50 [concession £6.00]  
Age 14+

Calling all FANS! Discover the history of the first fandoms, the many Eras of Taylor Swift, the politics of celebrity and cancel culture, and above all: why being a fan is so special, with pop-culture expert Kat McKenna (author of *Look What You Made Me Do*) and former celebrity journalist-turned-fulltime writer, Benjamin Dean. Completing this stellar line up is chairperson and award-winning author, **Holly Bourne**.



Benjamin Dean, 14:15-15:15



Kat McKenna, 14:15-15:15

Book tickets at  
[edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)



The fun goes on  
until **Sunday 25th**,  
keep browsing!



# Saturday 17

## Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance  
Age 3-6

Appearing today: author, illustrator, and picture book maker, **Lillias Kinsman-Chauvet**.

## Yum! with Susi Briggs

10:00-11:00  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 3-6

Jenny wis just about tae drink her juice when up popped a hungry moose! This wonderful Scots language event from Susi Briggs (the 2024 Scots Scriever with the National Library of Scotland) is sure to delight every child. Join Susi for a reading of *Yum!* - a book that celebrates the great outdoors and making friends - and learn some fun new Scots words to try at hame.

## Draw Out Your Creativity with Rob Biddulph

10:00-11:00  
Venue T  
£6.00  
Age 5-12

The notorious villain Mr White will stop at nothing to wipe out colour and creativity everywhere... but this time he's gone too far. Join superstar author and illustrator Rob Biddulph for an action-packed event. He'll share *Peanut Jones and the End of the Rainbow*, introduce Gigantic (the small whale with a big heart), and host one of his famous #DrawWithRob draw-alongs. Pencils at the ready!

## Find Your Colours with Laura Dockrill

10:45-11:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£6.00  
Age 3+

We all have days when we're feeling more grey than sunshine yellow - like all our colours have disappeared. Sometimes all it takes is a reassuring hand and words of kindness to bring the colour back. Join author Laura Dockrill for a beautiful event about emotions and understanding as she shares *Grey* - a story that will bring comfort and hope to readers, young and old.

## Terrible Horses with Raymond Antrobus & Ken Wilson-Max

11:15-12:15  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 3-7

Have you ever felt emotions so big, it's kind of hard to talk about them? Come along to hear award-winning writer Raymond Antrobus and illustrator Ken Wilson-Max as they chat about siblings, empathy, and their new picture book, *Terrible Horses*. They'll do some live painting, poetry performance, and invite you to join in too as they pour their emotions into shared creativity.

BSL  
Captioned

## Meet Supertato

11:30-12:00  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
All ages

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. See you there!

Outdoor Event



Laura Dockrill, 10:45-11:45



Rob Biddulph, 10:00-11:00

# Saturday 17

## How Families Begin with Dr Amir Khan

11:45-12:45  
Spiegelent  
£6.00  
Age 6+

Everyone begins life as a baby - even grandparents were tiny once. Dr Amir Khan's interactive event about *How Families Are Made* is perfect for inquisitive minds. Bringing incredible knowledge, and a passion for sharing it, the beloved presenter and GP (known for *Good Morning Britain*, and *You Are What You Eat*) is the absolute expert on where families come from and how we all begin.

## Comedy Comics with Neill Cameron

11:45-12:45  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 7-11

What could be better than reading ridiculous comics? Absolutely nothing. Well... maybe one thing: drawing your own! Join *Mega Robo Bros* and *Donut Squad* creator, Neill Cameron, for this fun interactive session as he shows you how to create your own fantastically funny comics - from farting robots to ninja donuts, and everything in between! Warning: may contain EXTREMELY HIGH LEVELS OF SILLINESS.

## Bionic Brilliance with Patrick Kane

12:45-13:45  
Venue NW  
£6.00  
Age 9-12

Join campaigner, ambassador, and motivational speaker, Patrick Kane, for this inspiring event as he delves into the eye-opening history of bionics and the changes they've made to human lives. Patrick shares his experience of being fitted with a bionic arm and his phenomenal book, *Human 2.0* - a celebration of the technological breakthroughs that have been made. Just imagine what might be possible in the future.

## Wheely Wonderful with Tom Schamp

13:00-16:30  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
Age 8+ and Families

Join Belgian illustrator Tom Schamp to create a HUGE piece of interactive art around the theme of transport. First, get inspired by flicking through Tom's books: *Show & Tell Me the World*, *It's a Great Big Colourful World*, and *Wheels* - his most recent book that takes you on a journey through the history of transport. Then, pick up a paintbrush or a pen and get creative! Tom will be on hand to help you make your mark on a mural that will be enjoyed for years to come. Tom will be signing books on Sunday 18 August and throughout. *Part of Flip Through Flanders, presented by Flanders Literature.*

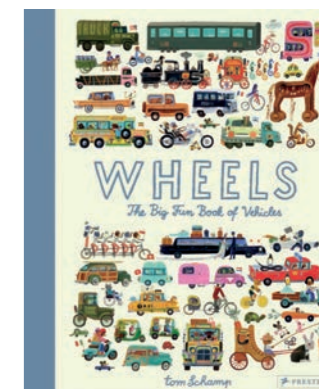
Outdoor Event



Dr Amir Khan, 11:45-12:45



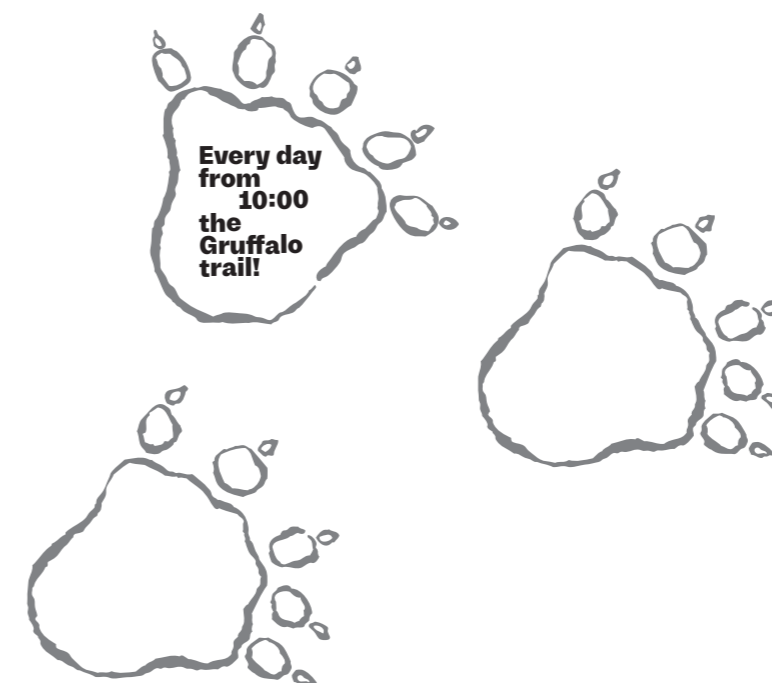
Patrick Kane, 12:45-13:45



Tom Schamp, 13:00-16:30



Book tickets at [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)





## Saturday 17

### New-Found Family with Elena Arévalo Melville

13:00-14:00  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 6+ & Families

When stray dog Elki walks into the lives of a group of children, they welcome her, learning to interpret what she can't directly tell them. Join award-winning author-illustrator Elena Arévalo Melville as she reads from *Elki is Not My Dog* and encourages us all to explore the meaning of family and belonging. Then add to a growing installation that welcomes all into the Book Festival's new home.

### Adventure Comics with Neill Cameron

13:15-14:15  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 11+

Noble heroes, dastardly villains, heroic sacrifice, and SHOCKING SECRETS! Join Neill Cameron, creator of the award-winning graphic novel series *Mega Robo Bros*, as he shows you how to write and draw your own sense-shattering adventure comics. Learn how to create characters people will care about, and then send them on action-packed and visually thrilling adventures.

### Snack Attack! With Pamela Butchart

14:00-15:00  
Venue T  
£6.00  
Age 7-12

In Pamela Butchart's *The Great Crisp Robbery*, Izzy and her pals are back - and this time they're on an overnight train during a school trip. Only... nothing is as it seems. Join Pamela, winner of the Blue Peter Best Story Award for *The Spy Who Loved School Dinners* as she shares hilarious stories from primary school. (And don't worry - no snacks will be harmed!)

### Make Art with Nature with Pippa Pixley

14:45-15:45  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 7-12

Did you know you can make amazing art using things found in nature? Learn how as experienced artist and educator, Pippa Pixley, shows you how to draw woodland creatures with burnt wood, coloured rocks, and stones. Her new book, *Make Art with Nature*, is a trove of inspiration that will unleash your artistic potential. You'll never look at a leaf the same again!

### Science is Lit! with Big Manny

15:15-16:15  
Spiegelent  
£6.00  
Age 8-14

Bring your science classes to life with TikTok sensation, Big Manny. Discover how to become a real-life scientist and create awesome experiments at home using ordinary ingredients. Explore the wild world of acids and alkaline, and have you ever heard of Elephant's Toothpaste? Big Manny chats about *Science is Lit* and you can see him in action as he performs an experiment live. BOOM!

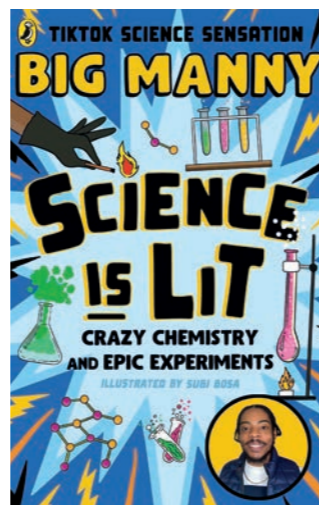
### Drawing Workshop with Ken Wilson-Max

16:30-17:30  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 7-12

Join award-winning illustrator Ken Wilson-Max for a special drawing workshop inspired by his new book, *Terrible Horses*. While horses are notoriously tricky to draw, there's no need to worry as Ken will take you through the steps to create your very own with different colours, styles, and his clever techniques. Why the long face? It's going to be amazing!



Pamela Butchart, 14:00-15:00



Big Manny, 15:15-16:15



## Sunday 18

### Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance  
Age 3-6

Appearing today: author, musician, and dancer extraordinaire, **Alan Windram**.

### Journey Through UK History with Lisa Williams

10:00-11:00  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 6-9

Join author and poet Lisa Williams on a journey of discovery through her new illustrated book *The Big Book of UK History*. From the Jacobites and Hadrian's Wall to the history of bagpipes, this whistlestop tour will explore iconic figures, incredible inventions, key events and shine a light on the UK's hidden history.

### Supertato goes BAD! with Paul Linnet

10:00-11:00  
Venue T  
£6.00  
Age 3-6

Get ready for the shock of your life... Supertato's gone BAD! But what does this mean for The Evil Pea? Paul Linnet, co-creator of the bestselling *Supertato* series, returns to the Book Festival to celebrate the 10th birthday of everyone's favourite supermarket superhero. In a session that guarantees stories, silliness, songs, and giggles galore, don't miss this veggie adventure for all the family.

Livestream available

Meet Supertato! @ 11:30

### Ain't No Party Like a Grimwood Party! with Nadia Shireen

10:45-11:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£6.00  
Age 7-10

Laugh your head off with award-winning author and illustrator, Nadia Shireen, for a journey into the weird and wonderful world of *Grimwood*. You'll discover where Nadia finds her inspiration, hear about her latest book in the series, and learn what it takes to create your own story. Pencils at the ready as Nadia shows you, step-by-step, how to draw some of her fantastic characters.

### A Tooth-tastic Adventure with Lydia Monks

11:15-12:15  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 3-5

The perfect drawing event for anyone with wobbly teeth. Join bestselling picture book artist, Lydia Monks, as she shares the story and illustrations from the wonderful book she created with Julia Donaldson, *The Tooth Fairy and the Crocodile*. It tells the story of Ruth Mary, the tooth fairy, who gets more than she bargained for when she collects the teeth of some jungle animals!

### The Dictionary Story with Oliver Jeffers & Sam Winston

11:45-12:45  
Spiegelent  
£6.00  
Age 5+

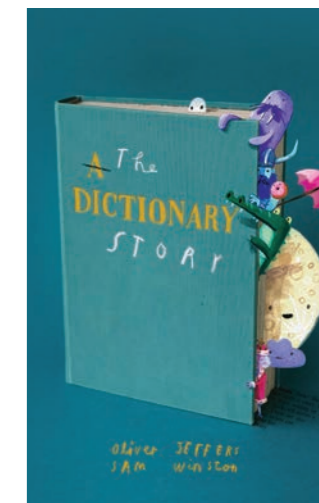
Dictionary wishes she could tell a story like the other books. So one day she decides to bring her words to life. What she doesn't realise is her adventure will have cataclysmic effects - and can only be fixed by her friend, Alphabet. Join bestselling, award-winning dream-team, Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston, as they celebrate the written word with their much-anticipated new book, *The Dictionary Story*.



Paul Linnet, 10:00-11:00



Nadia Shireen, 10:45-11:45



Oliver Jeffers & Sam Winston, 11:45-12:45

Fun for all the family.



# Sunday 18

## Fruity Frolics with Alan Windram

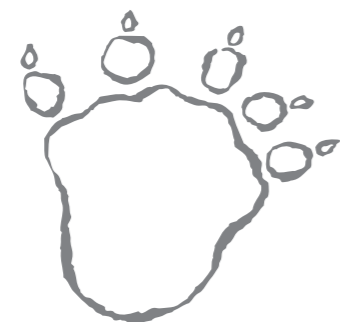
11:45-12:45  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 3-7

Kevin the Orange is tired of being orange. So, with the help of his friend, Brian the Pear, he goes on a journey of self-discovery, trying out lots of different colours! Join Alan Windram for a fun event about being happy in your own skin. Expect sing-along songs, dressing up, and get ready to boogie like a broccoli and shimmy like a strawberry.

## Wheely Wonderful with Tom Schamp

13:00-16:30  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
Age 8+ and Families

Join Belgian illustrator Tom Schamp to create a HUGE piece of interactive art around the theme of transport. First, get inspired by flicking through Tom's books: *Show & Tell Me the World*, *It's a Great Big Colourful World*, and *Wheels* - his most recent book that takes you on a journey through the history of transport. Then, pick up a paintbrush or a pen and get creative! Tom will be on hand to help you make your mark on a mural that will be enjoyed for years to come. Tom will be signing books on Sunday 18 August and throughout. *Part of Flip Through Flanders, presented by Flanders Literature.*



## Celebrating Nature with Yuval Zommer

13:00-14:00  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 4+

Join best selling author, illustrator, and environmentalist Yuval Zommer for a creative art workshop based on *The Big Book of Nature Art*. Perfect for young environmentalists, this event celebrates our connection with planet Earth and reveals the often-surprising similarities between humans, animals, and plants. Come along and create artworks that celebrate our connection with nature.



Yuval Zommer, 13:00-14:00

## Storytelling Yoga with Gilly Balfour

13:30-14:00 / 14:30-15:00  
Venue A  
Pay What You Can  
Age 5+ and Families

Join Gilly Balfour in a playful storytelling movement session that will get you stretching, breathing, using your imagination, and being silly! This session invites children (and their grown-ups) to connect to their bodies, release tension, be active and have some fun. This is all about moving creatively on our yoga mats, being imaginative with our movements, and allowing time and space to express ourselves.



Louie Stowell, 13:30-14:30

## The Big Draw Off! with Louie Stowell & RAMZEE

13:30-14:30  
Spiegel tent  
£6.00  
Age 8-11

On your marks, get set, draw! Brace yourself for a big Draw-Off event with brilliant author-illustrators, Louie Stowell and RAMZEE, as they go head-to-head in this interactive event. Join your host, **Pamela Butchart**, and hear about RAMZEE's comic storytelling and Louie's next instalment in the super popular Loki series before the battle that will go down in drawing history!



RAMZEE, 13:30-14:30

# Sunday 18

## Out of This World with Michael Rosen

13:30-14:30  
Venue T  
£6.00  
Age 6+

Michael Rosen is one of the nation's best loved voices in children's literature. The former Children's Laureate has written more than 150 books for all ages including the classic *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. Come along for a fun-filled event of stories, poetry, and laughs as Michael performs poems from his new collection, *Out of This World*, alongside many old favourites. [Livestream available](#)



## Create Nature Art with Yuval Zommer

14:45-15:45  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 4+

There's creative potential in the everyday treasures around us - from twigs, seed pods, petals, and leaves to loo rolls, pencil shavings, takeaway cutlery, and kitchen string. Join best selling author, illustrator, and environmentalist, Yuval Zommer, as he takes you through a fun art workshop using natural, recycled, and found materials to give them a new lease of life by making your own nature-inspired creations.

## From Page to Stage

16:30-17:30  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 12+

Join Scissor Kick as they discuss the process of adapting books for the stage. Looking at past productions and forward toward their brand-new show based on **Hannah Moffatt's** *Small*, hear from the author herself alongside award winning theatre maker **Ross Mackay**, and acclaimed producers **Stephanie Katie Hunter** and **Nicola Lawton** about what it takes to lift words off the page.





## Monday 19

### Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance  
Age 3-6

Appearing today: author-illustrator and Loki comic-creator, **Louie Stowell**.

### Scots Bookbug with Scots Language Centre

10:00-10:30 / 11:00-11:30  
Venue A  
Free, book in advance  
Age 0-5

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!

### Pop in and Play!

12:00-16:00  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
All ages

In the Children's Tent today you'll find **Edinburgh Under 5s** with activities to keep your wee ones busy, just drop in between 12 and 4 to see what's going on!

### Capturing Imaginations in the Age of Social Media

17:30-18:30  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 16+

In a Tik-Tok world where attention spans are brief, how can a story encapsulate a child's imagination beyond the first page? Join author and illustrator, **Sophy Henn** in an insightful discussion on the power words can have in capturing children's minds and attention, hosted by **Tibo Torelli** from the Society of Children's Books and Illustrators.

Book tickets at  
[edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)

## Tuesday 20

### Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30  
Venue A  
Free, book in advance  
Age 3-6

Appearing today: **Edinburgh Under 5s**, a family-focused group for local parents and carers.

### Pantosaurus Storytime

10:00-10:30 / 11:00-11:30  
Children's Tent  
Free, book in advance  
Age 3-6

Learn how to talk PANTS with the help of NSPCC and the friendly dinosaur, Pantosaurus! Join a special story time and have a dance with Pantosaurus before getting a photo and hearing about the PANTS campaign.



## Wednesday 21

### Scots Rhymetime with Craigmillar Books for Babies

10:00-10:30  
11:00-11:30  
Venue A  
Free, book in advance  
Age 0-3

Join Craigmillar Books for Babies with a special Scots Rhymetime! Enjoy Scots rhymes, songs, lots of cuddles, and fun to support attachment and bonding with your wee ones.

## Thursday 22

### YA Book Prize 2024: Award Ceremony

17:00-18:30  
Spiegelent  
£10.50 [concessions £6.00]  
Age 14+

Immerse yourself in the best YA fiction right now. For the 10th anniversary of the YA Book Prize, we're thrilled to collaborate with *The Bookseller* to host the 2024 prize-giving ceremony. Previous winners include Danielle Jawando's *When Our Worlds Collided*, Alice Oseman's *Loveless*, and Sarah Crossan's *One*. Hear this year's shortlisted authors read from their books before the winner of the YA Book Prize 2024 is crowned. In partnership with *The Bookseller*.

Captioned



## Friday 23

### Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance  
Age 3-6

Appearing today: author and illustrator **Morag Hood**.

### Bookbug with Edinburgh Libraries

10:00-10:30 / 11:00-11:30  
Children's Tent  
Free, book in advance  
Age 0-5

Join Edinburgh Libraries for songs, stories, and rhymes in this fun, interactive Bookbug event, part of Scottish Book Trust's Early Years Programme. Then meet Bookbug for cuddles, high-fives, and photos.

Outdoor Event

### Pop in and Play!

12:00-16:00  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
All ages

In the Children's Tent today you'll find the Edinburgh Libraries team with arts and crafts activities to keep your kids busy, just drop in between 12 and 4 to see what's going on!

### Find your Inner Poet with Nikita Gill

13:30-14:30  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 10+

Nikita Gill is the UK's most followed poet. Whether she is speaking about hot topics or championing women's rights, she is a modern poet who has captivated readers with her candid and powerful writing. Join Nikita for a poetry writing workshop where she'll take you through her top tips for how to make an impact with just a few words and find your voice!

### Get the Inside Story with Jane Marlow & Charlene White

13:45-14:45  
Venue NW  
£6.00  
Age 9-11

News is everywhere! But do we understand how it really works? Join real-life journalists, Jane Marlow and Charlene White, in this fascinating event looking at the inside story of all things news, from its history to who's who in the process and how it works around the world. Get all the tricks of the trade and prepare to find your own news stories!



Jane Marlow & Charlene White,  
13:45-14:45





# Saturday 24

## Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance  
Age 3-6

Appearing today: poet and storyteller, **Rachel Plummer.**

## Genie Hunting with Joseph Coelho

10:00-11:00  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 9-12

Genies grant wishes! That's all anyone ever cares about. They forget that genies were imprisoned in those lamps for a reason... Join Relic Hamilton, the unlikely hero of exciting new series *Relic Hamilton*, *Genie Hunter*, and his creator, Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho, for an action-packed hour as they try to capture rogue genies before they can wreak havoc on the whole world.

## The Amazing World of Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler

10:00-11:00  
Venue T  
£6.00  
Age 3+ and Families

Join Julia Donaldson, Axel Scheffler and friends for a show filled with songs, stories and drawing. Look out for new and old favourites such as *The Baddies*, *The Bowerbird* and *The Gruffalo*. Get ready for the first ever look at *Jonty Gentoo: The Adventures of a Penguin!* The event will be followed by a book signing.

This will be the same show as on Sunday 25th.

## Dance n' Tales with Fergus McNicol and Moyra Banks

10:00-11:00 / 13:00-14:00  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
Age 6+ and Families

Immerse yourself in Dance'n'Tales, where dancer Moyra Banks and storyteller Fergus McNicol blend storytelling and dance to transport you through time and myth... From Ancient Egypt's mysteries to cosmic adventures among stars, and the raw power of nature's elements, every twist and turn invites you to join the adventure. Perfect for families, ages 6 and up, it's an interactive journey where shakes, shimmies, and spins bring tales to life!

## Elemental Magic with Kiran Millwood Hargrave

10:45-11:45  
Courtyard Theatre  
£6.00  
Age 9-12

Award-winning author Kiran Millwood Hargrave returns to the Book Festival for the Scottish launch of the thrilling second instalment of her bestselling *Geomancer* trilogy: *The Storm and the Sea Hawk*. Join Kiran in this special event to delve back into Ysolda's enchanted world and discover the next perilous quest she and her loyal sea hawk Nara must complete.

## A Colourful Celebration with Dean Atta

11:15-12:15  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 3-6

When Ari discovers a piece of pink confetti under her sofa, it opens up a world of celebration! Join acclaimed poet Dean Atta for a vibrant, interactive event on his debut picture book, *Confetti*, that's perfect for families. Celebrate the colour and joy that can be found through the changing seasons and find the confetti in your life.

## Meet the Gruffalo!

11:30-12:30  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
All ages

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 snap a selfie.

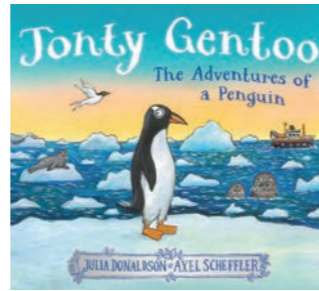
Outdoor Event

## The Boy Who Loves to Lick The Wind with Fiona Carswell & Yu Rong

11:45-12:45  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 3-5

Have you made friends in an unlikely way? Join this event all about celebrating your uniqueness (and a shared love of the seaside). Hear Fiona talk about the real-life inspiration for *The Boy Who Loves to Lick The Wind* and the process of bringing the story to life with Yu Rong's beautiful illustrations. Join in with a fun exercise where you decorate your own pebble to take home!

LD Friendly



Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler 10:00-11:00



Kiran Millwood Hargrave, 10:45-11:45



Dean Atta, 11:15-12:15



# Saturday 24

## Lost and Found with David Colmer & Leo Timmers

13:00-14:00  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 2-7

Have you seen Bear's glasses? Maybe his friend Giraffe will know where they are. Come with Bear on a super fun adventure filled with hilarious mishaps. Join award-winning picture book author and illustrator Leo Timmers and translator David Colmer for a special reading of the story, followed by a draw along to create your very own bear.

## Roving and Reporting with Gabrielle Shewhorak

13:15-14:15  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 7-12

Read all about it! Join Gabrielle Shewhorak for a hot off the press news-writing workshop with *Rani Reports*. Test your fact-finding skills and spot the fake news, get some top tips on how to write a great article, then head out to the Festival site with your new-found skills, ready to sniff out more stories!

## Poets for Peace with Joseph Coelho, Nikita Gill, Jackie Kay & Simon Lamb

13:30-14:30  
Venue T  
£6.00  
Age 7+

Superstars of the spoken word, Joseph Coelho, Nikita Gill, Jackie Kay and Simon Lamb join host and acclaimed poet, **Nadine Aisha Jassat**, for this unmissable event celebrating the power of poetry to unite, and the importance of peace. Hear readings from these sensational wordsmiths plus a special recording from Naomi Shihab Nye and feel empowered to write your own poems of peace in a time when they've never been needed more.

Livestream available

From storytime to playtime and everything in between.

## Journey into the Ice Age with Alice Roberts

13:30-14:30  
Venue NW  
£6.00  
Age 8-11

Join anthropologist, author, and broadcaster Alice Roberts on a journey into the Ice Age! Hear about the inspiration behind her novel, *Wolf Road*, and the real archaeological discoveries that informed it, from stone tools and animal bones to painted caves. Discover how cutting-edge science is challenging and changing our ideas about the deep past, helping us learn more about our ancient ancestors than ever before.

## Kite-making workshop with Yu Rong

14:45-15:45  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 6-12

Fly high at the Book Festival with multi award-winning illustrator Yu Rong who will introduce children to traditional Chinese paper-cutting and the importance of kites in Chinese culture. Children will be able to get crafty creating their own pop-up kites in this fun family workshop tied to Yu Rong's new picture book for older readers, *Flying High*.



Alice Roberts, 13:30-14:30





## Saturday 24

### Step into the Fairy Tale Kingdom with Richard Ayoade & David Roberts

15:15-16:15  
Venue T  
£6.00  
Age 8-12

Ever wondered if it was really Happily Ever After? Or if the Big Bad Wolf is actually that bad? Join dynamic duo Richard Ayoade and David Roberts for an entertaining event on their new book *The Fairy Tale Fan Club*, where you'll discover the real stories behind your favourite fairy-tale characters. Get ready to uncover these truths and more in this event that will be fantastically fun for all the family!

Livestream available

### Stories and Drawing with Axel Scheffler

15:15-16:15  
Spiegel tent  
£6.00  
Age 3-6

Get ready for drawing and storytelling with Axel Scheffler. Meet the characters in brand-new book *Jonty Gentoo: The Adventures of a Penguin*, old favourites such as *Zog* and *The Gruffalo*, and celebrate all the different ways to be kind in picture book *Kind*. The event will be followed by a book signing.



### Leap Off the Page with Leo Timmers

16:30-17:30  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 12+

Come along and join award-winning picture book illustrator and author Leo Timmers in this illustration workshop and make your story come to life in pictures with Leo's guidance. Using his beautiful books *Bear's Lost Glasses* and *Elephant Island* as examples, Leo will walk you through the creative process, with his invaluable input and advice. *Part of Flip Through Flanders, presented by Flanders Literature.*



Richard Ayoade, 15:15-16:15



## Sunday 25

### Are You Sitting Comfortably?

10:00-10:30  
Venue C  
Free, book in advance  
Age 3-6

Appearing today: actor and storyteller, **Ross MacKay**.

### Forgotten Jellybeans and Beautiful Daydreams with Alex Wharton

10:00-11:00  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 7-12

Join poet and Children's Laureate for Wales, Alex Wharton, as he performs poetry, songs, and rap from his three lively collections for children and families. Expect funny and thoughtful poems about forgotten (and hairy!) jellybeans, beautiful daydreams, and the magic of nature. Plus find out Alex's tips for creating your own poems to try at home.

### The Amazing World of Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler

10:00-11:00  
Venue T  
£6.00  
Age 3+ and Families

Join Julia Donaldson, Axel Scheffler and friends for a show filled with songs, stories and drawing. Look out for new and old favourites such as *The Baddies*, *The Bowerbird* and *The Gruffalo*. Get ready for the first ever look at *Jonty Gentoo: The Adventures of a Penguin*. The event will be followed by a book signing.

This is the same show as on Saturday 24 August.

### Little Experts: Why Politics Matters with Alastair Campbell

10:30-11:30  
Venue NW  
£6.00  
Age 9-12

Curious about the hot topics facing the world? Hear from bestselling author and podcaster, Alastair Campbell, as he talks government, the King, voting, and how the big decisions are made in his new book, *Little Experts: Why Politics Matters*. Alastair will share his top tips for how to be a pro-debater and how you can make a difference (while you're waiting to hit the polling station!).

### Runaway Roadworks with Morag Hood

11:15-12:15  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 3-5

There's a ruckus at the roadworks. Gary the cone is missing! Can you help Digger on her search? Get mucky with author-illustrator Morag Hood in this fun event with her hilarious new picture book, *Runaway Cone*. After hearing the story, you'll get to draw and create your own traffic cone character to take home for their own adventure.



### Rainbow Parade with Elmer the Elephant

11:30-12:30  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
All Ages

Celebrate being yourself and loving who you are with 'everyone's favourite pantomime dame,' (*Metro*) and everyone's favourite patchwork elephant. Mama G and Elmer will bring David McKee's stories to life in a gorgeously inclusive story time full of songs, beautiful illustrations, and empowering silliness. Dress the whole family in rainbow colours and get ready to join the parade!

Outdoor Event



### Counting and Chasing with Kate Abernethy & Laura Darling

11:45-12:45  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 3-6

Uh-oh! There's a great Highland Games chase afoot when a cheeky Scottie dog runs off with a delicious looking hat! Join Kate Abernethy and Laura Darling for this laugh-out-loud event with plenty of rhyming, counting, and chaos as they bring lots of naughty dog energy to the Book Festival. Take part in a fun drawing activity and see if you can catch Wee Rascal!



Alastair Campbell, 10:30-11:30

Book tickets at [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)



# Sunday 25

## Delving into Discworld with Rhianna Pratchett & Gabrielle Kent

12:15-13:15  
Courtyard Theatre  
£6.00  
Age 11+

*Tiffany Aching's Guide to Being a Witch* is a joyful celebration of the witches of *Discworld*, written to mark the 20th anniversary of Terry Pratchett's *The Wee Free Men*. Join Rhianna Pratchett and Gabrielle Kent in conversation as they share their love of the Disc's witches and give a behind-the-scenes look at the writing process, what it was like working with acclaimed *Discworld* artist, Paul Kidby, and share their perspectives on the magic of *Discworld*.

## A Life in Colour with Kate Temple

12:30 - 15:30  
Children's Tent  
Free, drop-in  
Age 5+

Wilhelmina Barns-Graham was a trailblazer who was determined to make her mark, and she is now recognised as one of Britain's most significant artists. Come along to a colourful and fun workshop based on the brand-new *Art Activity Book* celebrating her life and work, led by artist Kate Temple. Taking inspiration from Willie's paintings, you'll create artworks that are destined for a gallery!

## Thank You! with Jarvis

13:00-14:00  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 3-6

Thank you, merci, gracias! What's your favourite way to say 'thank you'? Author and illustrator Jarvis knows there is so much to be grateful for in life and he wants to share his favourites with you. Hear him read his new picture book *Thank You* and help him to create a collective poem about all the things you like to say thank you for.



## Dreaming of Dragons with Polly Ho-Yen

13:15-14:15  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 7-10

Entrusted with the care of the last dragon egg on Earth, Yara finds herself protecting the future of the species while navigating school, her family - and those who want to steal the egg for themselves. Join award-winning writer Polly Ho-Yen with her latest novel *The Last Dragon*, a beautifully written and moving story about bravery, self-belief, and hope for the natural world.

## Walk on the Wild Side with Patrick Ness

13:30-14:30  
Venue T  
£6.00  
Age 9+

Zeke, Daniel, and Alicia are monitor lizards. And they've just been made hall monitors by Principal Wombat. Take a walk on the wild side (of the school corridor) with master storyteller Patrick Ness in his new book, *Chronicles of a Lizard Nobody*, as a mismatched group of animals attend school together in this laugh-out-loud event!

Livestream available

## Mama G and The Magic Bookmark

13:30-14:30  
Spiegel tent  
£6.00  
Age 4+ and Families

Direct from a successful run in New York, help *Britain's Got Talent* semi-finalist Mama G prove to the evil Book Worm how inclusive stories can help make the world a better place for everyone. Come along to this award-winning panto adventure for the whole family, which features original songs by comedian Katie Pritchard and three of the best picture books on the market. Oh yes it does!



Rhianna Pratchett & Gabrielle Kent, 12:15-13:15



Polly Ho-Yen, 13:15-14:15

# Sunday 25

## The Adventures of a Dog Called Jack-Jack with Ben Garrod

14:00-15:00  
Venue NW  
£6.00  
Age 7+

Hear the amazing story of Jack-Jack, the world's coolest dog. Author and broadcaster Ben Garrod met Jack-Jack while looking after orphaned chimpanzees in Africa and together they embarked on their biggest adventure ever! Join Ben as he introduces us to his playful pooch and tells us about their friendship in *Jack-Jack: A Dog in Africa*.

## Drawing with Jarvis

14:45-15:45  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 5-9

Author and illustrator Jarvis is back with the latest instalment of his hilarious and charming *Bear and Bird* series. In this creative session, you'll hear about where Jarvis gets his ideas from, and you can grab your pencils and paper to draw along with him as he shows you how to create the loveable Bear and cheeky Bird. Plus, Jarvis will share a sneak peek of his new book *Oh, Are You Awake?*

## Alastair Campbell Talks Politics

15:00-16:00  
Venue A  
£6.00  
Age 12+

In an interactive workshop for young people, Alastair Campbell Talks Politics, Alastair will unpack the world of government and share with you his insights to develop your skills and confidence. Get ready to take on the big issues facing society today - and to leave prepared to get involved in politics!



Book tickets at [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)

## Friend of Dragons with Cressida Cowell

15:30-16:30  
Venue T  
£6.00  
Age 7-9

Join multi-million-selling author-illustrator Cressida Cowell as she talks about a *How to Train Your Dragon* short story collection coming in September, gives a Festival-exclusive sneak peek of the next book in the *Which Way to Anywhere* series, and live draws, giving tips to budding creators. Bring along your own sketchbook to show her in the signing queue!

## Faridah Ābiké-Īyimidé, Maureen Johnson and Rosie Talbot: Mysterious Murders

16:00-17:00  
Courtyard Theatre  
£10.50 [concession £6.00]  
Age 14+

Sinister schools, supernatural students, isolated islands... Oh, and did anyone mention the deaths? Murder will out in three spine-tingling thrillers: Faridah Ābiké-Īyimidé's *Where Sleeping Girls Lie*, Maureen Johnson's *Death at Morning House* and Rosie Talbot's *Phantom Hearts*. Discover how these bestselling YA authors plotted their perfect murder mysteries. With the chance to ask your own questions, their writing secrets won't stay buried for long...

## Crafting Characters with Marije Tolman

16:30-17:30  
Venue C  
£6.00  
Age 10+

Craft your very own animal characters in a fun illustration workshop with Marije Tolman. Meet characters from *Little Fox* and her new book *Quill the Forest Keeper* (translated by David Colmer) about a thoughtful hedgehog who likes to slow down and tidy up after his friends. Marije will guide you, step-by-step, through her illustration techniques and then invite you to make special view-boxes to bring your stories alive. Part of *New Dutch Writing*, presented by the Dutch Foundation for Literature.



Faridah Ābiké-Īyimidé, 16:00-17:00

Long-Eared Caretaker Dragon





# Visiting the Book Festival at Edinburgh Futures Institute

## What happens behind the doors?

This is a big question - no two events are the same. Our usual event format features an author with a chairperson sitting on comfy chairs. There's chat, sometimes divided opinions, but there's always appreciation of each other. The conversation flows and before you know it, it could be your turn to join in with a question or two.

Usually, the author signs their book after the event, so you could meet them, or even see them wandering around the Book Festival.

Our less than usual events could feature a walk around the Old Town, hunting for the Gruffalo, enjoying food and drink, or anything in between and beyond.

Children's events are a mixture in levels of activity: some are all singing and dancing, others sitting and listening; there are even some yoga events this year.

## Bringing the Festival to you

We wish that everyone who wanted to join us in-person could, but we know it's not that simple, which is why, where possible, we bring events to you wherever you are. **Most of the events in our largest venues, T and McEwan Hall, will be livestreamed and available to watch both in-person and online.**

Fixed and roving cameras capture and broadcast live footage of the stage and the audience. For a full list of livestreamed and on-demand events, visit [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk).

All livestreamed events have an online chatroom and author Q&A, with the chair choosing the questions from the in-person and online audience.

## Remote event participants

Some authors take part remotely from wherever they are in the world. They will appear on a screen in the venue. Anyone appearing remotely will be highlighted in the programme.

## What's on site

### Make a day or night of it with us this summer.

### Spaces to eat, drink, and chill

No Festival is complete without food, drink, and space to kick back. There's an indoor café on Lauriston Place, just off Middle Meadow Walk, with a choice of tasty treats. You'll also find independent pop-ups in The Courtyard. With green space all around, you're also welcome to bring a picnic if you'd rather.

There are lots of nooks inside if the weather is typically Scottish, so you can explore, chill, chat, or discover your next unmissable event in the dry and warm.

### Bookshop and signing

The bookshop is brought to you by Waterstones. The shelves are full of books from the authors in the programme, plus lots of other titles.

### For Families – everything you need away from home (well, almost)

You'll find places dotted throughout the site to leave a buggy\*. There are toilets and baby changing, throughout the building across the levels, as well as drinking water taps, and plenty of space to keep you comfy when you visit.

\*Buggies cannot be taken into the theatres, so please leave your buggy outside in some of our dedicated spaces, before entering the event. Please note: these are not staffed, and items are left at your own risk.

### Picnics and packed lunches

You're welcome to bring your own food and soft drinks. There's plenty of space to find a spot to enjoy. But can we have a crisp?

### Drinking water taps

Drinking water taps are plentiful inside the Edinburgh Futures Institute, so you can fill up as you go.

## Festival access

### 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](mailto:access@edbookfest.co.uk)

### Braille, audio, and large print

Contact us at [mailinglist@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:mailinglist@edbookfest.co.uk) or on 0131 718 5666 and we will do our best to get you the brochure in the format you need.

### Toilets

We have toilets for everyone, including gender neutral toilets, wheelchair accessible toilets, 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 Box Office.

### Sound enhancement in theatres

Infrared and audio induction loop systems are available in our theatres at Edinburgh Futures Institute and McEwan Hall. Please ask at the Box Office to collect your headset.

### 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](mailto:boxoffice@edbookfest.co.uk) when you book your tickets if you require assistance (keep reading for seating requests).

### Seating requests

If you have a wheelchair or need to sit in a specific area (aisle, for example) 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

See How to Book on page 120.

### 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 can request a BSL interpreter for any event in the programme. Given demands on their time, please do let us know as soon as you have booked tickets. How it works:

- Buy tickets to the event you want to see in the usual way.
- Email [bsl@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto: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 26 July.

If we are unable to fulfil a request, we will refund or exchange your tickets.

### Accessible parking

There are no parking spaces at Edinburgh Futures Institute, however there is a Q-Park close by with 10 disabled spaces.

### Quiet Space

There's a lot to see and do at the Festival, and sometimes you might want to take a moment to yourself if it all feels a bit much. For those who would like to step away from the hubbub of the main areas, we will have a dedicated Quiet Space where you can take the time and space you need - ask a staff member for directions.

### Watching online

Where possible we offer captioned and BSL streams of our online events. To search for accessible online events, visit [edbookfest.co.uk/the-festival/events](http://edbookfest.co.uk/the-festival/events)



Accessibility at the Book Festival is supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.



# How to book

Please book tickets on our website: [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)  
Bookings open at 10:00 on Thursday 20 June.

We recommend creating an account on our website before opening day on Thursday 20 June to avoid disappointment, and signing up to our e-bulletins for handy reminders of on sale dates and more. Visit [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk) to sign up.

## Some tips to make it easy to book:

1. Log in to your account at [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk)
2. There will be a queuing system on the website on opening day - this is usually our busiest day.
3. You don't have to wait in front of your screen - you will get a notification to let you know you have joined the queue.
4. Watch our 'How to Book' video on our YouTube channel ([youtube.com/edbookfest](https://youtube.com/edbookfest)) for full details.

## Box Office telephone

If you are unable to book tickets on the website, our Box Office phonenumber is 0345 373 5888. Please note: we have a small friendly team dealing with phone bookings and enquiries; please only use the phonenumber 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, from 20 June: **10:00-17:00**  
**Monday to Friday**  
During the Festival, from 10 August: **09:30-20:45 daily**

## Your tickets

All tickets are e-tickets, so please bring along the email to show your ticket to our Front of House team. If you anticipate this being difficult for you to do, please email us at [boxoffice@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@edbookfest.co.uk). If you have bought multiple tickets, they are all stored in the same place.

*Please read your ticket information carefully, to ensure that you are the correct venue.*

## Booking tickets in person

Our Box Office counter is located in The Courtyard and open daily from **Saturday 10 August: 09:30-20:45**. Tickets cannot be bought in person before this date.

## Concession ticket prices

We believe everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy the wonders of storytelling, creativity, and inspiring conversation at the Book Festival. That's why we offer reduced ticket prices for anyone over 60, students, anyone under 26, registered unemployed, and disabled visitors (companions go free - see below for details). Concession prices for each event are listed in brackets. Tickets for those over 60 are £13.50 unless otherwise stated. The £6 child ticket is for under 18s (£7.50 for Alice Oseman).

## Pay What You Can tickets

We offer a Pay What You Can (PWYC) pricing option for some of our in-person events and all our livestreamed events. PWYC makes the Festival more accessible to all book lovers, and you can select how much you can pay at point of booking.

By purchasing at our standard ticket price, you help us continue offering reduced ticket prices to those who need it most, as well as supporting the Book Festival. As a charity, we rely on ticket sales and donations to carry out our work throughout the year.

## Companion tickets

If you need a support person or aide to attend events, they are entitled to a free Companion Ticket. Contact the Box Office on 0345 373 5888 or email [boxoffice@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@edbookfest.co.uk) as soon as possible after booking your ticket. Free Companion 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.



## 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. Please keep babies on an accompanying adult's lap throughout the event.

## Payment and fees

We accept Visa / Maestro / Mastercard. We do not charge any booking fees.

If you've chosen to Pay What You Can to watch an event, your payment will be treated as a donation to the 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.

## Venue seating

All venues have unreserved seating. See our website for more detailed information about venues: [edbookfest.co.uk/visiting-the-festival/venues](http://edbookfest.co.uk/visiting-the-festival/venues)

## Latecomers

Please allow yourself plenty of time to get to the event venue. We don't admit latecomers after the start of events in most of our venues due to layout and nature of the events (some of which are filmed). 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](http://edbookfest.co.uk/visiting-the-festival/venues)

## In-person and livestreamed events

Our largest capacity venue at Edinburgh Futures Institute, Venue T and McEwan Hall are set up to serve both in-person and online audiences. The theatre will have 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.

## On-demand

Lots of our online events are available to watch on-demand on the website's video player pages immediately after the live broadcast. Please visit the individual event page to see how long a specific event may be available on demand as this can vary. Not all livestreamed events are available on-demand.



# How to find us



## Edinburgh Futures Institute

Our new home is in the heart of the Old Town, in the former Royal Infirmary Hospital building. Look up and you'll see the magnificent clock tower.

If using **What 3 Words** // [exchanges.hung.blog](https://exchanges.hung.blog)

Address: 1 Lauriston Place, Edinburgh, EH3 9EF

The main Book Festival entrance can be found on 1 Porters Walk, EH3 9GJ, by Quatermile, Middle Meadow Walk (just opposite the yoga studio).

We'd love it if you could get to us in the most sustainable way possible. There's ample bike racks in The Courtyard.

### By bus (Lothian Bus)

Numbers 12, 23, 27, 35, 45, 47 and 47B stop on Lauriston Place in both directions, and many other bus routes have stops 5 minutes walk away or less.

### By train

Waverley Station is within walking distance, but please bear in mind that Edinburgh is especially busy during August, and you will have to navigate visitors and performers lining the streets. Give yourself plenty of time to get to the Book Festival and find your event venue.

### By car

The closest car park is Q-Park Quatermile, Simpson Loan, EH3 9AU with 374 parking spaces and 10 disabled spaces.

### By bicycle

There are racks in The Courtyard, which are unsupervised, and bikes are left at your own risk.

### McEwan Hall

An 8-minute walk from the Edinburgh Futures Institute you'll find McEwan Hall on Teviot Place, EH8 9AG, by Bristo Square. This iconic circular building is hard to miss - keep your eye out for the purple signs.

### Elliott's Studio

Elliott's Studio is in the neighbouring area of Sciennes, on the other side of the Meadows from the Book Festival, at 21 Sciennes Road, EH9 1NX - about an 18-minute walk from our main site at EFI. Look out for a green-fronted tenement. For more information on Elliott's Studio please visit [elliottsedinburgh.com](http://elliottsedinburgh.com).

## Opening hours

The Book Festival is free to enter, so please come along and see our new home. Check event listings for ticket prices.

The Festival is open daily from 10-25 August from 09:30-23:00.

### Cafés and bars

Open from 09:30 to late.

### Festival site map

Check our Festival site map - available on-site during August.

### 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. If you'd prefer not to be in any photos, please let the photographer or a member of our team know.

*Please note: all information in this brochure is correct at the time of print. Check [edbookfest.co.uk](http://edbookfest.co.uk) for the most up-to-date information.*

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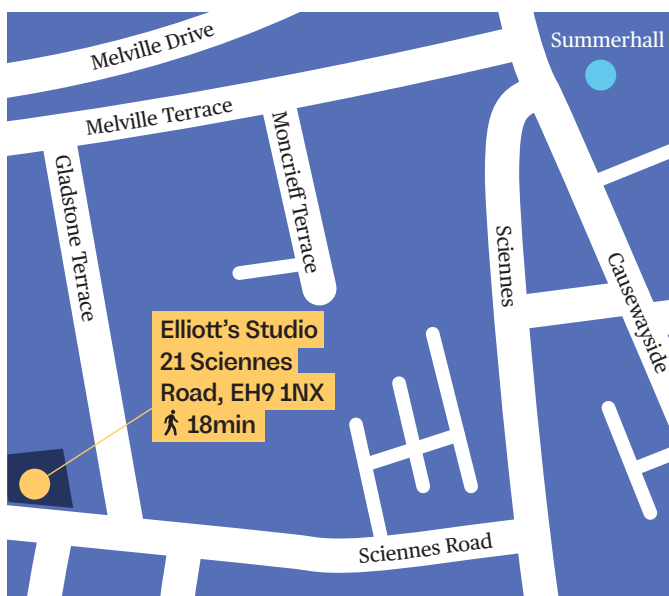
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- Bus stops
- Landmarks
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