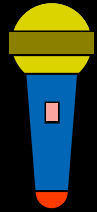
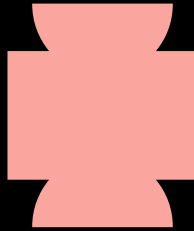
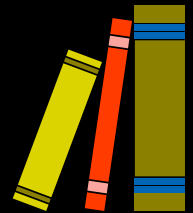
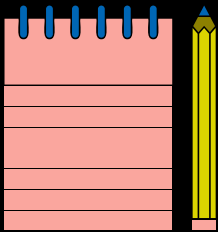
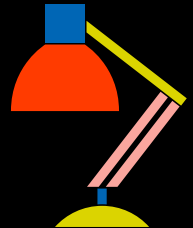
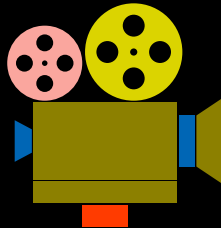
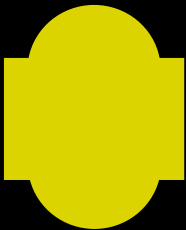
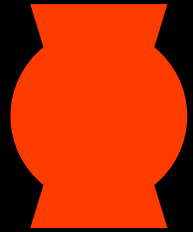




4–20 October 2024



# Manchester Literature Festival



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

**GMCA** GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY



**MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL**

# Festival Welcome

Reimagining is at the heart of this year's Manchester Literature Festival. Caroline Lucas asks us to reimagine a greener, more inclusive England. George Monbiot encourages us to reimagine the end of neoliberalism. Thomas Heatherwick invites us to reimagine our cities without soulless, boring buildings. David Peace reimagines the grief, heartbreak and resurrection of Manchester United after the 1958 Munich air disaster. Curator Ekow Eshun revisits and reimagines the lives of five extraordinary Black men in *The Strangers* and actor Harriet Walter reimagines what Shakespeare's leading women were really thinking in *She Speaks!*

Elsewhere in the programme, Jackie Kay celebrates a life in poetry and protest; Neneh Cherry shares her incredible memoir and adventures in creativity; Meera Sodha champions the power of food and delicious East and South Asian cuisine; Lindsey Hilsum shares her experiences as a war reporter and poetry reader; Carol Ann Duffy and Gillian Clarke pay homage to mother earth and master storytellers Elif Shafak and Richard Powers explore how water connects us.

We're proud to be a leading partner in Manchester UNESCO City of Literature and to welcome a multitude of brilliant novelists, poets and artists to the city. The Northern Publishers' Fair showcases some of the region's dynamic independent publishers and Four Brilliant Manchester Women offers the chance to participate in an inspiring writing and walking tour. Finally, you can see some of the city's most exciting writers at *The Book of Manchester* and Cabaret for Freedom.

As ever, we are very grateful to our main funders Arts Council England, Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Manchester City Council, our Higher Education partner The University of Manchester, and all our hotel and corporate partners for their continued support.

**Cathy Bolton and Sarah-Jane Roberts**  
Manchester Literature Festival Co-Directors



## Thanks to our partners, sponsors & funders



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**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

**GMCA** GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY



**MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**

**MANCHESTER 1824**  
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Centre for **New Writing**

**creativemcr**

**MANCHESTER**  
City of Literature

**WATERSTONES**

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**B** Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce



Manchester Poetry Library

**JAPAN FOUNDATION** 国際交流基金

**SPEAKING VOLUMES**  
THE LITERATURE FOUNDATION



**Four Brilliant Manchester Women:  
A Writing & Walking Tour**  
Friday 4 October 2024, 1 – 4pm  
Sunday 20 October 2024, 1 – 4pm  
Manchester Museum (Starting point)

Painters Annie Swynnerton and Isabel Dacre, theatre impresario Annie Horniman and seaweed scientist Kathleen Drew-Baker lived in Manchester in the first half of the 20th century. Join tour guide Emma Fox and writer Tania Hershman on a gentle writing walk through the town centre, taking inspiration from these brilliant women's lives and works to write your own stories and poems.

**Tickets £25/£20**



**An Evening with Neneh Cherry**  
Hosted by Bernardine Evaristo  
Friday 4 October 2024, 7.30pm  
HOME

Swedish singer-songwriter, rapper and producer, Neneh Cherry ('Buffalo Stance', *Raw Like Sushi*) joins us to discuss her beautiful and deeply personal memoir *A Thousand Threads*, her life in music, from jazz to punk to hip hop; her creativity and collaborations; her family and friendships and how she's navigated fame, in conversation with Bernardine Evaristo (*Girl, Woman, Other*). Sponsored by Weightmans.

**Tickets £25/£20**

Book on 0161 200 1500 or [homemcr.org](http://homemcr.org)



**Northern Publishers' Fair**  
Saturday 5 October 2024, 10.30am – 3.30pm  
Central Library

Come and celebrate the vibrant literary landscape of the North at this special event organised by Fly on the Wall Press. Discover dynamic new voices, meet authors and buy books directly from 10 regional independent presses including Bluemoose, Carcanet, Comma, Commonword, Flapjack, Saraband and others. Enjoy pop-up performances from Kevin Boniface, Laura Fish, Tawseef Khan, Nicholas Royle and more authors throughout the day. A can't-miss for passionate bibliophiles!

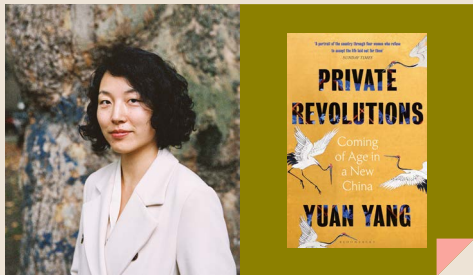
**Tickets Free – advance booking recommended.**



**Caroline Lucas**  
Saturday 5 October 2024, 2.30pm  
Martin Harris Centre for Music & Drama

Caroline Lucas, former leader of the Green Party, looks at the elements that make us English – our beautiful countryside, our literature, our sense of solidarity and fairness. In her fascinating book *Another England: How to Reclaim Our National Story*, she asks whether it's possible for the UK to tell a new, more nuanced story of who we are. Presented in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester.

**Tickets £12/£10**

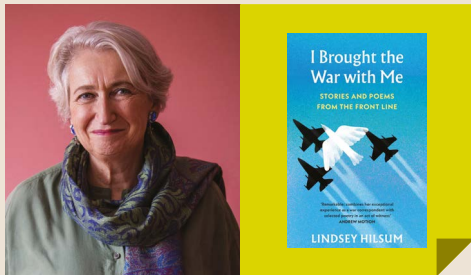


## Yuan Yang

Sunday 6 October 2024, 2pm  
Central Library

In *Private Revolutions: Coming of Age in a New China*, British-Chinese journalist Yuan Yang tells the fascinating story of modern China through the lives of four ordinary women. Leiya bluffs her way onto the factory floor; June sets herself a goal to attend university rather than raise pigs; Siyue rebels against her teachers and then remakes the education system for others, and Sam becomes an activist.

Tickets £10/£8

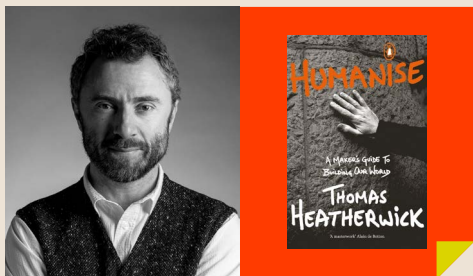


## Lindsey Hilsum

Sunday 6 October 2024, 4.30pm  
Central Library

In the four decades she's spent as a foreign correspondent, Lindsey Hilsum has always carried a book of poetry with her 'as a vaccination against despair'. She will share some of her favourite poems and reflect on her career, during which she has interviewed the warlords of Bosnia and Sudan, met child soldiers in Uganda and covered major conflicts around the globe. Presented in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester.

Tickets £12/£10



## Humanise with Thomas Heatherwick

Tuesday 8 October 2024, 7pm  
Contact

One of the world's most prolific designers, Thomas Heatherwick is on a mission to end soulless, boring buildings and put human emotion back at the heart of building design. Drawing on neuroscience and cognitive psychology, he shows us how we could transform our cities into places that are interesting and reflect the diversity, fluidity, history and eccentricity of humans. Presented in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester.

Tickets £14/£12  
Book on [contactmcr.com](http://contactmcr.com)

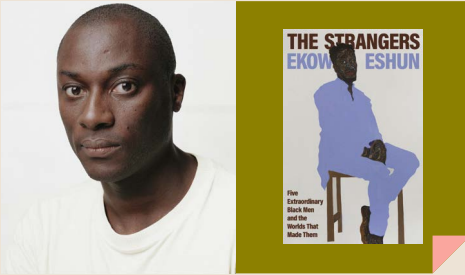


## An Evening with Meera Sodha

Wednesday 9 October 2024, 7.30pm  
Martin Harris Centre for Music & Drama

Bestselling cook Meera Sodha (*East, Fresh India*) joins us to share her most personal recipes to date. *Dinner* contains the food she makes for pleasure. The dishes she creates when she wants to cook for herself and her family and friends with minimum fuss and maximum enjoyment. Meera Sodha writes the 'New Vegan' column for *The Guardian* and will inspire you to get in the kitchen. Presented in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester. Sponsored by Weightmans.

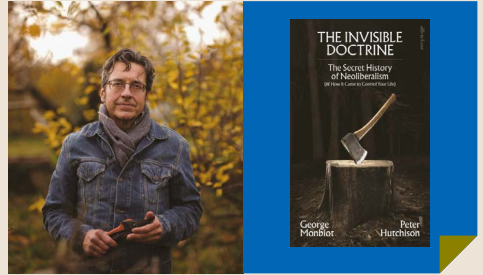
Tickets £14/£12



**Ekow Eshun**  
 Sunday 13 October, 3pm  
 International Anthony Burgess Foundation

Ekow Eshun (*Black Fantastic*, *The Time is Always Now*) conjures the voices of five remarkable Black men: Ira Aldridge, Matthew Henson, Frantz Fanon, Malcolm X and Justin Fashanu. In *The Strangers*, he considers these pioneering men at pivotal points in their lives, locating them within the richly detailed landscape of Black art, culture, history and politics, tracing the development of Blackness and masculinity. Ekow is a British-Ghanaian writer, broadcaster and curator.

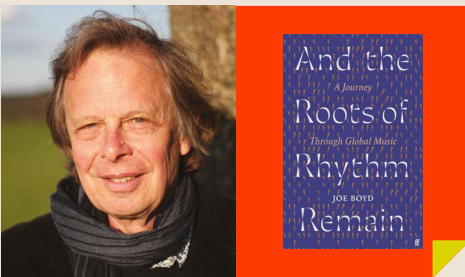
**Tickets £10/£8**



**George Monbiot on The Invisible Doctrine**  
 Monday 14 October 2024, 7pm  
 HOME

In his passionately argued new book, *The Invisible Doctrine: The Secret History of Neoliberalism*, George Monbiot (*Feral*) explains how neoliberalism has become so pervasive we see it as an immutable law rather than the ideology at the root of our current crises. An inspiring speaker, George will discuss how neoliberalism became central to our societies and how we can push for changes that will lead to a happy, healthier and more hopeful population.

**Tickets £18/£16**  
 Book on 0161 200 1500 or [homemcr.org](http://homemcr.org)



**Joe Boyd**  
 Monday 14 October 2024, 7pm  
 Central Library

Legendary music producer Joe Boyd (*White Bicycle*) invites you to open your 'minds and ears to a wider, richer musical world' via his engrossing book *And the Roots of Rhythm Remain*. Discover how Afrobeat began with a subscription to an American jazz magazine and why Frank Sinatra owed his career to a French tango singer from Buenos Aires. Presented in partnership with Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester.

**Tickets £12/£10**



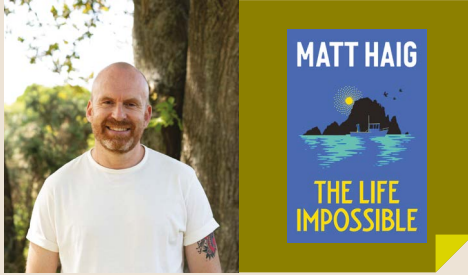
**Harriet Walter**  
 Saturday 19 October 2024, 7.30pm  
 HOME

Dame Harriet Walter, one of Britain's most esteemed Shakespearean actors, imagines what Shakespeare's women were really thinking in her fascinating new book *She Speaks!* Here's what Gertrude longed to say; why Lady Macbeth felt she should be King, and what Cleopatra's handmaidens really thought of her. Harriet is renowned for her work on *Succession* and *Killing Eve* and is the recipient of a Laurence Olivier Award.

**Tickets £25/£20**  
 Book on 0161 200 1500 or [homemcr.org](http://homemcr.org)

# Fiction

Book on 0161 876 2015 or [manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)



**An Evening with Matt Haig**  
Saturday 5 October 2024, 7.30pm  
Contact

International bestseller Matt Haig (*The Midnight Library*) returns with his spectacular new novel *The Life Impossible*. Retired maths teacher Grace Winters is stuck in a rut and grieving. When a long-lost friend leaves her a house in Ibiza, she also leaves a mystery as to how she lived and died. Discovering the answers will change Grace's life and give her a whole new beginning. Hosted by radio broadcaster **Nihal Arthanayake**.

**Tickets £14/£12**  
**Book on [contactmcr.com](http://contactmcr.com)**



**David Peace**  
Sunday 6 October 2024, 7pm  
HOME

In February 1958, BEA Flight 609 crashed on take-off at Munich Airport. On board were the Busby Babes, the young, gifted Manchester United team, along with journalists and supporters. In his utterly gripping new novel *Munichs*, David Peace (*The Damned United*) explores the grief, the heartbreak and the resurrection of a club, a city and a country. Presented in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester. Sponsored by Weightmans.

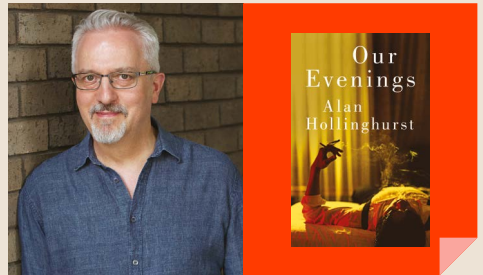
**Tickets £18/£16**  
**Book on 0161 200 1500 or [homemcr.org](http://homemcr.org)**



**Asako Yuzuki**  
Monday 7 October 2024, 7pm  
Waterstones Deansgate

A Japanese bestseller, *Butter* is the story of gourmet cook and serial killer Manako Kajii. Convicted of seducing lonely businessmen with her cooking and killing them for their money, Manako is incarcerated in prison, refusing visitors until journalist Rika Machida writes to her asking for her beef stew recipe. Funny, feminist and absolutely mouthwatering, *Butter* is inspired by the real-life case of 'The Konkatsu Killer'. Presented in partnership with The Japan Foundation.

**Tickets £10/£8**



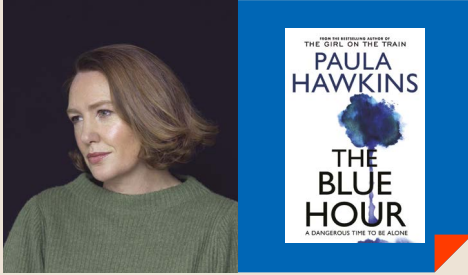
**An Evening with Alan Hollinghurst & Andrew McMillan**  
Monday 7 October 2024, 7pm  
Central Library

Alan Hollinghurst (*The Line of Beauty*) launches his first novel in seven years. *Our Evenings* is a compelling, moving and darkly humorous portrait of modern England seen through the lens of one man's acutely observed and often unnerving experience. It is a story of race and class, theatre and sexuality, love and the cruel shock of violence, from one of the finest writers of our age. Hosted by Andrew McMillan. Sponsored by The Midland Manchester.

**Tickets £12/£10**

# Fiction

Book on 0161 876 2015 or [manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)



**Paula Hawkins**  
Tuesday 8 October 2024, 7pm  
Central Library

In Paula Hawkins' (*The Girl on the Train*) thrilling new novel *The Blue Hour* a bone at the centre of a famous sculpture is identified as human, putting the life that recently deceased artist Vanessa Chapman led with her companion Grace on the remote tidal island of Eris under scrutiny. What happened to Vanessa's husband who vanished without trace twenty years ago?

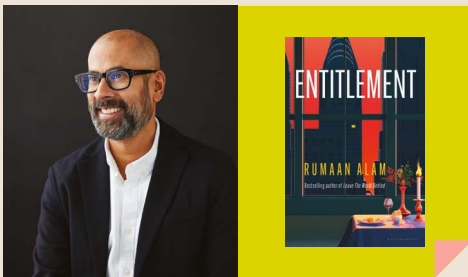
**Tickets £12/£10**



**Abi Daré & Nikki May**  
Wednesday 9 October 2024, 7pm  
Waterstones Deansgate

Two critically acclaimed British-Nigerian authors discuss their captivating second novels about the power of women, friendship, love and escaping from your past. Abi Daré (*The Girl with the Louding Voice*) continues the story of former housemaid Adunni in *And So I Roar*. While Nikki May's (*Wahala*) *This Motherless Land* tells the tale of two cousins, Nigerian Funke and English Liv, who have to negotiate the legacy of their mothers.

**Tickets £10/£8**



**Rumaan Alam in Conversation**  
Thursday 10 October 2024, 7pm  
Central Library

When Brooke Orr starts a new job, helping an 80-year-old billionaire to give away his vast fortune, she has good intentions. But a glimpse of the lifestyles of the 1% leads to Brooke wanting more for herself. Rumaan Alam joins us to discuss his brilliant, insightful new novel *Entitlement*, as well as the Netflix adaptation of his gripping international bestseller *Leave the World Behind* starring Mahershala Ali and Julia Roberts.

**Tickets £12/£10**



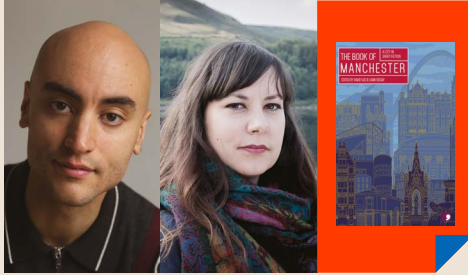
**Juno Dawson**  
Friday 11 October 2024, 7pm  
Waterstones Deansgate

It's 1536 and Anne Boleyn has just been beheaded, but not for the reasons you might expect. The former queen is part of a witches' coven, betrayed by one of her own. In *Queen B*, the latest instalment in her bestselling fantasy series *Her Majesty's Royal Coven*, novelist and screenwriter Juno Dawson (*Clean*) shows us the strength and sacrifice it takes to make a sisterhood. Hosted by **Andrew McMillan**.

**Tickets £10/£8**

# Fiction

Book on 0161 876 2015 or manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk



**The Book of Manchester**  
Saturday 12 October 2024, 7pm  
Contact

Join MLF and Comma Press for a special event to launch *The Book of Manchester*. Edited by poet Lemn Sissay and Comma editor David Sue, the collection explores the transformation of the city from post-war, post-industrial decline to the aspirational 'Manctopia'. Homegrown writers **Tom Benn** (*Oxblood*), **Sophie Parkes-Nield** (*Out of Human Sight*) and **Okechukwu Nzelu** (*Here Again Now*) read from their stories 'The Cat's Mother', 'Shock City' & 'The Headteacher' – alongside special guests.

Tickets £12/£10 Book on [contactmcr.com](http://contactmcr.com)



**Lord of the Flies with Aimee de Jongh**  
Saturday 12 October 2024, 5pm  
Central Library

70 years after the publication of William Golding's classic tale, Aimee de Jongh (*Days of Sand*) has created a stunning, first ever graphic novel version of *Lord of the Flies*. Aimee joins us to discuss adapting the book, her work as an illustrator and how Golding's tale has inspired other writers. Hosted by Kate Feld and presented in partnership with Manchester UNESCO City of Literature, LICAF and New Dutch Writing.

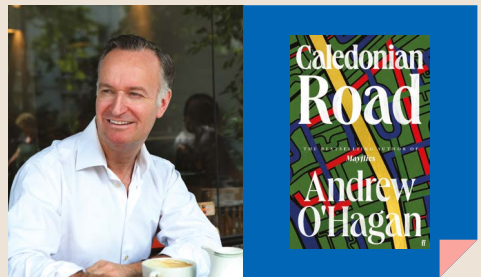
Tickets £10/£8



**Susanna Clarke: My Life in Books**  
Tuesday 15 October 2024, 7pm  
Central Library

Award-winning novelist Susanna Clarke (*Piranesi*) joins us to discuss how writing and reading have shaped her life. From her worldwide bestseller *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell*, which celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year, to her enchanting new story *The Wood at Midwinter*. Discover the writers who've inspired Susannah to become such a magical storyteller including Ursula Le Guin, Jorge Luis Borges, Charles Dickens and Kate Bush.

Tickets £12/£10



**Andrew O'Hagan & Dave Haslam**  
Wednesday 16 October 2024, 7pm  
Central Library

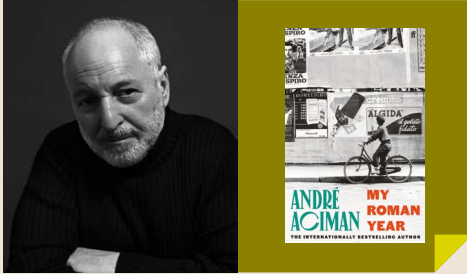
Scottish author Andrew O'Hagan joins us to discuss his new state-of-the-nation novel *Caledonian Road* with host Dave Haslam. Art historian Campbell Flynn is beguiled by his provocative student Milo Mangasha who leads him to question everything he thinks about the world. Andrew's previous novel *Mayflies* was made into an award-winning BBC drama starring Martin Compston. Presented in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester. Sponsored by The Edwardian Manchester.

Tickets £12/£10



# Fiction

Book on 0161 876 2015 or [manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)



**André Aciman**  
Wednesday 16 October 2024, 7pm  
Waterstones Deansgate

When André Aciman (*Call Me By Your Name*) was 13, he, his younger brother and his D/deaf mother travelled from Alexandria to Rome with 32 suitcases to begin a new life. His elegant, hilarious and insightful memoir *My Roman Year* chronicles that time, including the social and political forces that shaped him. André will also discuss his atmospheric new novel *The Gentleman from Peru*.

**Tickets £10/£8**



**An Audience with Rebecca F. Kuang**  
Thursday 17 October 2024, 7.30pm  
RNCM

Bestselling global sensation, Rebecca F. Kuang joins us to discuss her 'Hard to put down, harder to forget' (Stephen King) satirical phenomenon *Yellowface* alongside her inventive fantastical novel *Babel*. Both novels were awarded Fiction Book of the Year at the British Book Awards, were Sunday Times bestsellers and received critical acclaim. Presented in partnership with the Centre for New Writing & Creative Manchester. Sponsored by The Edwardian Manchester.

**Tickets £17/£15**



**Daisy Johnson & Andrew Michael Hurley**  
Friday 18 October 2024, 6.30pm  
Central Library

Two masters of folk horror join us to discuss their chilling, atmospheric new books, both set in a single location over a significant period of time. *The Hotel* by Daisy Johnson (*Sisters, Everything Under*) takes place in a hotel built on a possessed plot of land, while *Barrowbeck* by Andrew Michael Hurley (*The Loney*) is focused on a remote, hostile valley which resents human intrusion.

**Tickets £10/£8**



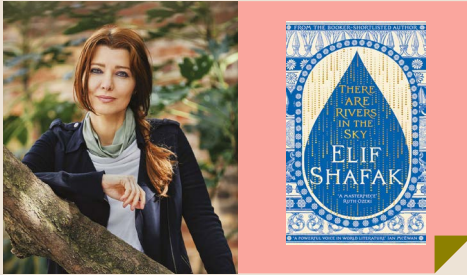
**Your Local Arena presents A Day in The Afterlife**  
Saturday 19 October 2024, 2 – 4pm  
Central Library

Join us for a rare screening of the 1994 Arena documentary *A Day in The Afterlife* about cult author Philip K Dick. Afterwards, see writers **Francesca Beard**, **Kate Feld**, **David Hartley** and **Irenosen Okojie** discuss his speculative /science fiction and imagination. Francesca will also perform a new poem inspired by his work. Your Local Arena is a Lucy Hannah & Speaking Volumes co-production featuring BBC Arena's film archive.

**Tickets Free – advance booking recommended.**

# Fiction

Book on 0161 876 2015 or [manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)



**An Audience with Elif Shafak**  
Sunday 20 October 2024, 7pm  
HOME

One lost poem, two rivers and three people connected by a single drop of water are the heart and soul of MLF audience favourite Elif Shafak's superb new novel *There Are Rivers in the Sky*. Elif is a bestselling Turkish-British writer and broadcaster. Her 20 books include *The Island of Missing Trees* and *Forty Rules of Love*. She will close the Festival with this special event.

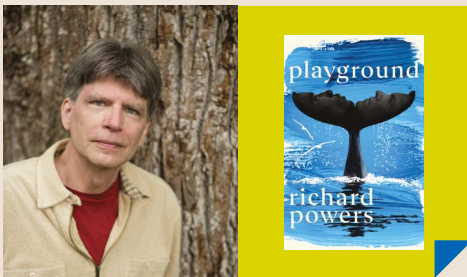
**Tickets £18/£16**  
Book on 0161 200 1500 or [homemcr.org](http://homemcr.org)



**Taffy Brodesser-Akner**  
Tuesday 29 October 2024, 7pm  
Waterstones Deansgate

MLF is delighted to present Taffy Brodesser-Akner, author of the hilarious, feminist bestseller *Fleishman Is in Trouble*, to discuss her new novel, the even funnier and smarter family saga *Long Island Compromise*. 40 years after their father was returned from a kidnapping which the family never discuss, wealthy Jewish siblings Nathan, Beemer and Jenny are living in fear, addiction and rebellion.

**Tickets £10/£8**



**Richard Powers**  
Friday 8 November 2024, 7pm  
Central Library

Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Powers (*The Overstory*) makes a rare visit to the UK in support of his compelling new, Booker Prize-longlisted novel *Playground*. The tiny island of Makatea in French Polynesia unites four people: Evie, a diver; Ina, an artist; Todd, a programmer; and Rafi, a poet. The decision they must make about whether to allow floating cities in the Pacific will change their lives and impact the planet forever. Presented in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester.

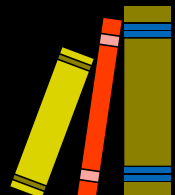
**Tickets £12/£10**

## Support Manchester Literature Festival

Manchester Literature Festival is a registered charity. Your support will encourage more people to discover the joy of reading, writing, imagination and creativity. Here's a few ways you can help us to survive and thrive.

- Become a Get Closer Member
- Sponsor an event
- Make a regular or one-off donation of £10, £25 or £50

Find out more  
[manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/support-us](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/support-us)

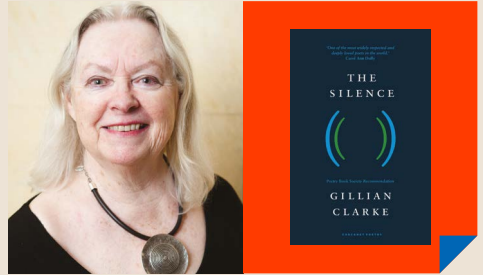




**Jackie Kay: A Life in Poetry and Protest**  
 Saturday 5 October 2024, 7pm  
 Martin Harris Centre for Music & Drama

Festival favourite Jackie Kay celebrates her new collection *May Day*. From Reclaim the Streets to Pride to Greenham Common to Black Lives Matter, Jackie traces a line in protest and reminds us to stand in solidarity and take action rather than despair. Jackie is a heartwarming and engaging performer. Prepare to feel uplifted and defiant! Presented in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester. Hosted by actor **Julie Hesmondhalgh**.

**Tickets £14/£12**



**Gillian Clarke**  
 Thursday 10 October 2024, 7pm  
 John Rylands Research Institute and Library

Join us for the annual Rylands Poetry Reading, this year delivered by the former National Poet of Wales, Gillian Clarke. Gillian's sublime new collection *The Silence* was started during the coronavirus lockdowns and explores a deep connection with the Welsh landscape and childhood experience. Gillian has published nine previous collections with Carcanet including *Zoology* and *Roots Home: Essays and a Journal*. Presented in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester.

**Tickets Free – advance booking recommended.**



**Mapping the Future: The Complete Works Poets**  
 Friday 11 October, 7pm  
 Contact

Join us for a night of electric poetry celebrating the anthology *Mapping the Future*. Founded by Bernardine Evaristo, Complete Works was a revolutionary initiative that transformed the UK poetry scene. Poets performing at this Manchester celebration include **Malika Booker** (*Pepper Seed*), **Inua Ellams** (*The Barber Shop Chronicles*), **Ian Humphreys** (*Tormentil*), **Adam Lowe** (*Patterflash*) and **Eileen Pun**. Presented in partnership with Speaking Volumes and Manchester Poetry Library. **This event will be BSL interpreted.**

**Tickets £14/£10** Book on [contactmcr.com](http://contactmcr.com)



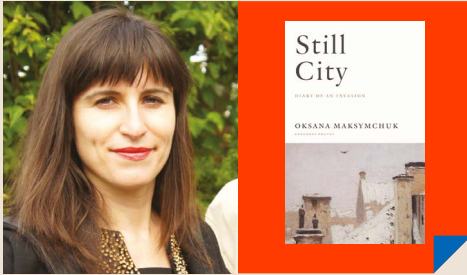
**Intiaz Dharker & Romalyn Ante**  
 Tuesday 15 October 2024, 8pm  
 Manchester Poetry Library

Intiaz Dharker performs poems from her fascinating new collection *Shadow Reader*. The poems acknowledge wilful erasures, exclusions and places of sanctuary while forming an irreverent, playful celebration of life. Romalyn Ante's stunning second collection *AGIMAT* moves between the Philippines and England, the mythical goddess Mebuyan and the reality of the present-day NHS – and asks how do we keep safe what we hold most dear? Presented in partnership with Manchester Poetry Library.

**Tickets £10/£8**

# Poetry

Book on 0161 876 2015 or [manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)



**Oksana Maksymchuk**  
Thursday 17 October 2024, 7pm  
Manchester Poetry Library

Ukrainian poet Oksana Maksymchuk reads from and discusses *Still City*, her stunning new collection charting the invasion of her homeland. Oksana draws on personal experience as well as witness accounts, social media and news reports to create an immersive chronicle of war, shining a light on survival, mourning and moments of hope amidst the terror. Hosted by poet **Charlotte Shevchenko Knight** and presented in partnership with Manchester Poetry Library.

**Tickets Free – advance booking recommended.**



**Raymond Antrobus, Caleb Femi & Theresa Lola**  
Friday 18 October 2024, 7pm  
Manchester Poetry Library

Three of poetry's most exhilarating, contemporary voices. Raymond Antrobus (*The Perseverance*) introduces his beautiful new collection *Signs, Music*. A meditation on fatherhood and masculinity. Caleb Femi (*Poor*) brings his immersive collection *The Wickedest*, set over one night at a house party. Theresa Lola (*In Search of Equilibrium*) explores naming and its power in her exquisite collection *Ceremony for the Nameless*. Presented in partnership with Manchester Poetry Library. **This event will be BSL Interpreted.**

**Tickets £10/£8**



**Earth Prayers with Carol Ann Duffy**  
Saturday 19 October 2024, 3pm  
HOME

From John Clare to Lucille Clifton, from Gerard Manley Hopkins to Jorie Graham, the poets collected in Carol Ann Duffy's *Earth Prayers* discuss the eco-crisis, remind us of our place in the eco-system and ask us to cherish the planet we live on. Carol Ann (*Rapture*) will perform poems from the collection, alongside some of her own sublime nature poems. She will be accompanied by the musician John Sampson.

**Tickets £18/£16**  
**Book on 0161 200 1500 or [homemcr.org](http://homemcr.org)**



**Cabaret for Freedom with The Untold Orchestra & Sukina Noor**  
Saturday 19 October 2024, 7.30pm  
St John's Church, Old Trafford

Join us for an evening celebrating legendary poet and musician Gil Scott-Heron. Enjoy the sublime vocals of Yemi Bolatiwa supported by a string quartet from the Untold Orchestra, soul nourishing poetry from spoken word artist Sukina Noor, and the premiere of new work created especially for the occasion by members of Young Identity.

**Tickets £12/£8**

# Workshops

Book on 0161 876 2015 or [manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)



**Gillian Clarke Poetry Masterclass**  
Thursday 10 October, 4 – 5.15pm  
John Rylands Research Institute and Library

Poet, playwright and educator Gillian Clarke is one of the most acclaimed and widely read poets of recent decades. In this workshop, she will share insights into the craft of poetry, and how to bend language into original and musical verse. The former National Poet of Wales, Gillian's poetry collections include *The Silence and Zoology*. Presented in partnership with Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester.

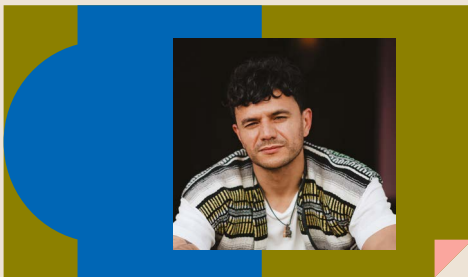
**Tickets Free – check website for details of how to apply for a place.**



**Inua Ellams: Soft Curses and Weakness Workshop**  
Saturday 12 October 2024, 1 – 3pm  
Manchester Poetry Library

In this intimate workshop, Nigerian poet and playwright Inua Ellams will look at ways we can accept ourselves and transform what scares us into art. Drawing from musicians and poets Chance The Rapper and Jamila Woods, we will find ways to articulate and reinvent our soft curses and weakness into sharp and lyrical weapons. Presented in partnership with Speaking Volumes and Manchester Poetry Library.

**Tickets £15**



**Raymond Antrobus:  
The Real and The Imagined Workshop**  
Saturday 19 October 2024, 1 – 3pm  
Manchester Poetry Library

How can poetry play with the line between the real and the imagined? What is poetic truth and how does it relate to the emotional truth of experience? Through a series of practical writing exercises and close readings of poems, you'll explore these big questions in a supportive environment with award-winning poet Raymond Antrobus (*The Perseverance*). Presented in partnership with Manchester Poetry Library.

**Tickets £15**



**Francesca Beard Workshop:  
A Day in The Afterlife**  
Saturday 19 October 2024, 11am – 1pm  
Central Library

A playful, hands-on workshop, inspired by cult writer Philip K Dick (*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*). Acclaimed poet and creative facilitator Francesca Beard will guide you through poetic storytelling techniques to create text that explores big philosophical questions such as what does it mean to be human? And how can we know what is real? Presented in partnership with Your Local Arena.

**Tickets Free – advance booking required.**

# WATERSTONES

PROUD TO SUPPORT



## Manchester Literature Festival

JOIN US AFTER THE EVENTS FOR  
BOOK SIGNINGS WITH THE GUEST AUTHORS.

Visit us instore on Deansgate  
Waterstones, 91 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 2BW



Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University

### Coming up at Manchester Poetry Library

- Multilingual Open Mic on International Mother Language Day
- Poetry reading series curated by Helen Mort
- Manchester Translation Series 2025
- Summer exhibition curated by Malika Booker
- International Poet in Residence 2025
- 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence curated by Dr Kim Moore
- School visits, workshops, reading groups, poetry drop ins and more

Come and Explore!

**Open to all  
Free to join**

Come and Explore!



Grosvenor East Building  
Cavendish Street, off Oxford Road  
Manchester M15 6BG

[mmu.ac.uk/poetry-library](http://mmu.ac.uk/poetry-library)

Manchester  
Poetry  
Library

## Centre for **New Writing**



**The Centre for New Writing at The University of Manchester is proud to be the Higher Education Partner of the Manchester Literature Festival.**

Our team of award-winning novelists, poets, playwrights, screenwriters and non-fiction writers can help you develop your craft and confidence as a writer through intensive workshops and seminars, with access to expert industry guidance and contacts.

Find out more about our programmes, including:

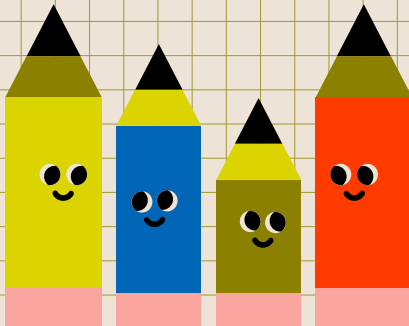
- MA in Creative Writing
- MA in Playwriting
- MA in Screenwriting



**Discover more at:** [www.manchester.ac.uk/cnw](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/cnw)

 @newwritingMCR  CentreforNewWriting

## Events for Children and Families



Our special programme of events and participatory activities for children and families includes fun-packed events with Waterstones Children's Laureate and award-winning performance poet **Joseph Coelho**, best-selling picture book author and illustrator **Rob Biddulph**, and ex-Horrible Histories historian and chart-topping You're Dead to Me podcaster **Greg Jenner**; **Musical Storyland LIVE!** with international storyteller Jan Blake, djembe player Yahael Onono and musicians from the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and a **Skateboard Drawing Club** with Ed Syder.

For full details please check [manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)

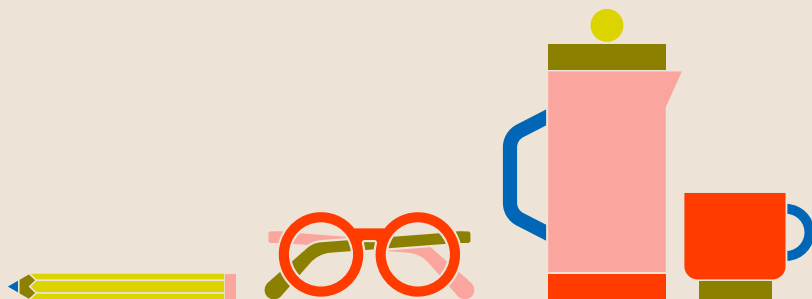
Friday 4 October	1–4pm	Four Brilliant Manchester Women: A Writing & Walking Tour / Manchester Museum (Starting point)	page 3
	7.30pm	An Evening with Neneh Cherry & Bernardine Evaristo / HOME	page 3
Saturday 5 October	10.30am – 3.30pm	Northern Publishers' Fair / Central Library	page 3
	2.30pm	Caroline Lucas / Martin Harris Centre for Music & Drama	page 3
	7pm	Jackie Kay: A Life in Poetry and Protest / Martin Harris Centre for Music & Drama	page 11
	7.30pm	An Evening with Matt Haig & Nihal Arthanayake / Contact	page 6
Sunday 6 October	2pm	Yuan Yang / Central Library	page 4
	4.30pm	Lindsey Hilsum / Central Library	page 4
	7pm	David Peace / HOME	page 6
Monday 7 October	7pm	Asako Yuzuki / Waterstones Deansgate	page 6
	7pm	An Evening with Alan Hollinghurst & Andrew McMillan / Central Library	page 6
Tuesday 8 October	7pm	Paula Hawkins / Central Library	page 7
	7pm	Humanise with Thomas Heatherwick / Contact	page 4
Wednesday 9 October	7pm	Abi Daré & Nikki May / Waterstones Deansgate	page 7
	7.30pm	An Evening with Meera Sodha / Martin Harris Centre for Music & Drama	page 4
Thursday 10 October	4 – 5.15pm	Gillian Clarke Poetry Masterclass / John Rylands Research Institute and Library	page 13
	7pm	Gillian Clark: Rylands Poetry Reading / John Rylands Research Institute and Library	page 11
	7pm	Rumaan Alam in Conversation / Central Library	page 7
Friday 11 October	7pm	Mapping the Future: The Complete Works Poets / Contact	page 11
	7pm	Juno Dawson & Andrew McMillan / Waterstones Deansgate	page 7
Saturday 12 October	1–3pm	Inua Ellams: Soft Curses and Weakness Workshop / Manchester Poetry Library	page 13
	5pm	Lord of the Flies with Aimee de Jongh / Central Library	page 8
	7pm	The Book of Manchester / Contact	page 8
Sunday 13 October	3pm	Ekow Eshun / International Anthony Burgess Foundation	page 5



# Festival Diary

Book on 0161 876 2015 or [manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)

Monday 14 October	7pm	George Monbiot on The Invisible Doctrine / HOME	page 5
	7pm	Joe Boyd / Central Library	page 5
Tuesday 15 October	7pm	Susanna Clarke: My Life in Books / Central Library	page 8
	8pm	Imtiaz Dharker & Romalyn Ante / Manchester Poetry Library	page 11
Wednesday 16 October	7pm	Andrew O'Hagan & Dave Haslam / Central Library	page 8
	7pm	André Aciman / Waterstones Deansgate	page 9
Thursday 17 October	7pm	Oksana Maksymchuk / Manchester Poetry Library	page 12
	7.30pm	An Audience with Rebecca F. Kuang / RNCM	page 9
Friday 18 October	6.30pm	Daisy Johnson & Andrew Michael Hurley / Central Library	page 9
	7pm	Raymond Antrobus, Caleb Femi & Theresa Lola / Manchester Poetry Library	page 12
Saturday 19 October	11am – 1pm	A Day in The Afterlife: Francesca Beard Workshop / Central Library	page 13
	1 – 3pm	Raymond Antrobus: The Real and the Imagined Workshop / Manchester Poetry Library	page 13
	2 – 4pm	Your Local Arena presents A Day in The Afterlife / Central Library	page 9
	3pm	Earth Prayers with Carol Ann Duffy / HOME	page 12
	7.30pm	Harriet Walter / HOME	page 5
	7.30pm	Cabaret for Freedom with The Untold Orchestra & Sukina Noor / St John's Church, Old Trafford	page 12
Sunday 20 October	1 – 4pm	Four Brilliant Manchester Women: A Writing & Walking Tour / Manchester Museum (starting point)	page 3
	7pm	An Audience with Elif Shafak / HOME	page 10
Tuesday 29 October	7pm	Taffy Brodesser-Akner / Waterstones Deansgate	page 10
Friday 8 November	7pm	Richard Powers / Central Library	page 10



# Get Closer

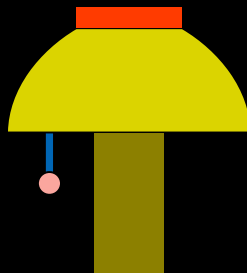
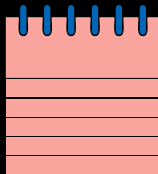
## Manchester Literature Festival Membership

If you share our passion for literature and spoken word, why not become a member? Your support helps us deliver exciting events; showcase emerging and diverse talent; commission writers to create new work; and upskill children and young people from some of our most disadvantaged communities through creativity.

Most of our events with high profile authors sell out in advance. With MLF Membership, you'll be the first to hear the latest news and guarantee seats with members' only priority booking.

Our Premium Members also receive invitations to special events and drinks receptions.

Membership starts at £20 per annum. For full details and to join visit [manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk) or call Quaytickets on 0161 876 2015



### The Festival team

#### Festival Co-Directors

Cathy Bolton and Sarah-Jane Roberts

#### Children and Young

People's Programme Producer

Miriam Wild

#### Festival Fundraiser

Charlotte Platt

#### Digital Engagement Coordinator

Angie Lee

#### Volunteer Coordinator

Liz Coupe

#### Admin Assistant

Melanie McMinn

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#### Press and PR

Lethal Communications (Catharine Braithwaite & Shelagh Bourke)

#### Design

Field

#### Manchester Literature Festival

The Department Store, 5 Oak Street,  
Manchester M45JD

[office@manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](mailto:office@manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)

Company Registration No. 4369668  
Charity Registration No. 1121276

# How To Book

**Please check event listings for booking details. Tickets for most Manchester Literature Festival events can be booked through our main Box Office agent Quaytickets.**

Tickets are sold subject to terms and conditions available at [quaytickets.com](http://quaytickets.com)

For all events booked through Quaytickets there is a one-off e-ticket transaction charge of £1.75 but no additional booking fees on tickets.

Tickets for MLF events at Contact, HOME and Z-arts are sold directly through the venue and additional booking fees may apply.

**Online 24 hours:**  
[manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)  
**Quaytickets:** [quaytickets.com/mlf](http://quaytickets.com/mlf)

**Telephone:**  
**Quaytickets on 0161 876 2015**  
**Box office is open Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm,**  
**Saturday: 10am – 6pm.**

If an event is not sold out, tickets will be available for walk-up customers at the venue just prior to an event starting. Check social media for updates on ticket availability.

Most Festival events have unreserved seating, except for events at Contact, HOME, RNCM and The Lowry.

Latecomers may be admitted at a suitable break in an event; however, this is at the discretion of the venue and Festival. Tickets cannot be refunded except on the cancellation or substantial alteration of an event.

## Access

The Festival aims to be as accessible as possible and welcomes disabled people. If you have any enquiries about Festival venues, you can contact the venue directly using the venue links on our webpage.

If you would like to request a BSL interpreter for an event or have any other special assistance requirements, please don't hesitate to email the Festival team at [office@manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](mailto:office@manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)

Festival staff and volunteers will be on hand to provide information and assist at events.

For a map and list of disabled parking bays in Manchester city centre, please visit the Manchester City Council website: [manchester.gov.uk](http://manchester.gov.uk)

For information about Changing Places toilet facilities, please visit: [changing-places.org](http://changing-places.org)

## Concessions and Discounts

Where a concessionary ticket is listed for an event, this is available to: recipients of Pension Credit, full-time students, jobseekers, and disabled people. A carer or assistant attending with a disabled person can attend for free but please advise when booking.

## Event Changes and Updates

To the best of the Festival's knowledge, all programming information is correct at the time of going to print. Please check the following for event updates:  
[@mclitfest](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)



