



Manchester Literature Festival

Media release: embargo until 10.30am Wednesday 4 February 2026

From Tokyo bookshops to the Isle of Harris and 1950s America: Manchester Literature Festival announces Spring Summer season of international fiction with Satoshi Yagisawa, Emi Yagi, Douglas Stuart and Tayari Jones

A rare opportunity to hear from Satoshi Yagisawa and Emi Yagi, two of Japan's most exciting writers in translation, as they discuss storytelling, love and loneliness. Yagisawa's international bestseller *Days at the Morisaki Bookshop* is a tender, life-affirming novel set among the second-hand bookshops of Tokyo's Jimbocho district. Yagi's *When the Museum is Closed* offers a strikingly different yet deeply resonant exploration of similar themes.

Co-presented with The Japan Foundation, the Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture and the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

Booker Prize-winning novelist **Douglas Stuart** will introduce his profoundly moving new novel *John of John* set on the Isle of Harris. This tender, immersive and unflinching book explores the weight of family expectation, the compromises demanded by love and the devastating cost of lives constrained by silence.

Presented in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester.

Tayari Jones, one of the warmest, wisest and most irresistible voices in contemporary fiction, discusses her highly anticipated new novel *Kin*. An international bestselling author of four novels, including *An American Marriage* (winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction 2019) and *Silver Sparrow*. She will be in Manchester to discuss mothers and daughters, lifelong friendship and the truths that shape us.

Presented in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester.

Last year's festival attracted more visitors than ever and 2026 already looks set to be another exciting year, with this first line-up of writers booked for Spring and more events to be announced in March.

Manchester Literature Festival 2026 will run from 9 – 25 October. The full programme will be announced in August.

For press enquiries and review tickets please contact:

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<https://www.manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/allevents>

Join the conversation: #MLF2026 @McrLitFest

To book

Tickets are on sale for MLF Members from Wednesday 4 February and on general sale on Friday 6 February.

To buy an MLF Get Closer Membership and book advance tickets visit :

<https://www.quaytickets.com/mlf/screenloader.aspx?page=usercontent/html/manchesterliteraturefestival/memberships.html&type=include>

Listings information

Satoshi Yagisawa & Emi Yagi

Saturday 14 March 2026, 7pm

Central Library

Tickets £12/10

Event page: <https://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/events/satoshi-yagisawa-emi-yagi>

Douglas Stuart

Tuesday 26 May 2026, 7pm

Contact

Tickets £15 / £13

Event page: <https://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/events/douglas-stuart>

Tayari Jones

Tuesday 2 June 2026, 7pm

Central Library

Tickets £12/£10

Event page: <https://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/events/tayari-jones>

Notes to editors

In 2025 Manchester Literature Festival celebrated its 20th birthday and as well as attracting writers of the highest calibre, looked back over the past two decades with a photographic exhibition, *From Page to Stage* at Manchester Central Library. Over the years, MLF has featured many of the biggest names in literary fiction and spoken word as well as prominent cultural figures from across the globe, including Monica Ali, Martin Amis, Tori Amos, Raymond Antrobus, Simon Armitage, Kate Atkinson, Margaret Atwood, Malorie Blackman, Malika Booker, Joe Boyd, Jung Chang, Neneh Cherry, Gillian Clark, Susanna Clarke, Kit de Waal, Kwame Dawes, Jeremy Deller, Roddy Doyle, Margaret Drabble, Jennifer Egan, Anne Enright, Bernardine

Evaristo, Percival Everett, Guy Garvey, Matt Haig, Paula Hawkins, Natalie Haynes, Seamus Heaney, Mick Heron, Lindsay Hilsum, A.M. Homes, Alan Hollinghurst, Jackie Kay, Rebecca F Kuang, Kazuo Ishiguro, Howard Jacobson, Alan Johnson, Daisy Johnson, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Barbara Kingsolver, Karl Ove Knausgaard, Hanif Kureishi, Deborah Levy, Olivia Laing, Valeria Luiselli, Johnny Marr, Paul Mason, Armistead Maupin, Val McDermid, David Mitchell, Paul Morley, Michael Morpurgo, Walter Mosley, Kate Mosse, Andrew Motion, Sayaka Murata, Jo Nesbo, Maggie O'Farrell, Andrew O'Hagan, Ben Okri, David Olusoga, David Peace, Max Porter, Richard Powers, Ian Rankin, Kamila Shamsie, Will Self, Elif Shafak, Lemn Sissay, Zadie Smith, Meera Sodha, Elizabeth Strout, Douglas Stuart, Kae Tempest, Neil Tennant, Colm Toibin, Rose Tremain, Dame Harriet Walter, Sarah Waters, Colson Whitehead, Jeanette Winterson, Xinran and Asako Yuzuki.

The festival has also welcomed prominent activists, campaigners and disruptors including Led By Donkeys, Mary Portas, Patrisse Cullors (co-founder of Black Lives Matter), Angela Davis, Reni Eddo-Lodge, Edward Enninful, Afua Hirsch, Caroline Criado Perez, Caroline Lucas, George Monbiot, Arundhati Roy, Rebecca Solnit, Gloria Steinem, Senator Bernie Sanders, Yanis Varoufakis and Vivienne Westwood.

Manchester Literature Festival gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our main funders **Arts Council England, Manchester City Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority**, our Higher Education Partner, **The University of Manchester**, and our principal hotel partner **The Edwardian Manchester**.