

BIRMINGHAM BOOK FESTIVAL

5-21 October 2010

www.birminghambookfestival.org

The Birmingham Book Festival is managed by
Midland Creative Projects Ltd

Unit 116, The Custard Factory, Gibb Street,
Birmingham, B9 4AA

Telephone - 0121 246 2770
or email - sara@birminghambookfestival.org

How To Book Tickets

Book events through the box office -

Phone 0121 303 2323

Online www.birminghambookfestival.org

www.birminghamboxoffice.com

In person In advance at the Ticket Office at Birmingham Central Library
9am to 5.30pm Mon - Fri, 10am to 4.30pm Sat.

In person On the door - From 30 minutes before the event
Please note payment by credit card will not be possible.
Workshops, surgeries and seminars have limited availability so book in advance.

Tickets available in advance for most free events, please book to guarantee a seat.

All main venues have disabled access.

Wheelchair access to Library Theatre is via the Central Library. Some workshop venues may have limited access. Call the Festival Office 0121 246 2770 for further access information.

The Festival reserves the right to refuse admission to events or request ticket holders to leave.
Unless specifically stated Festival events are generally not suitable for children.

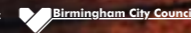
The Festival reserves the right to alter or cancel the programme in the event of unavoidable cause, without prior notification.
The use of Mobile phones, cameras, video and audio equipment at Festival events is prohibited.

BIRMINGHAM BOOK FESTIVAL

read, write, think...

5-21 October 2010

www.birminghambookfestival.org



Join The Conversation

Welcome to the eleventh annual Birmingham Book Festival.

Fiction highlights include Lionel Shriver, Jackie Kay, John O'Farrell, David Nicholls, Catherine O'Flynn and Jonathan Coe, plus a panel of new voices.

Other events include a lecture exploring the meaning of a city's culture, a workshop in Ikon Eastside's Hitchcock's Hallway, tea and cake with Jenny Eclair, and exploring human rights with Gareth Peirce.

We believe all writing is international. We are proud to feature writers from Pakistan (Fatima Bhutto) and from Germany (Jörg Albrecht). British diplomat Philip Barclay brings us an account of Zimbabwe's violent 2008 elections, and David Shukman, the BBC's Environment and Science correspondent joins us with tales from his new book, *Reporting Live from the End of the World*.

Poetry, too, is well represented, with Flarestack Poets and Pascale Petit. In other non-fiction events, we unpick the credit crunch and discover what it means to be a refugee in Birmingham.

Join us for another celebration of reading, writing and thinking.

Sara Beadle
Festival Director

Jonathan Davidson
Associate Director



BIRMINGHAM
BOOK
FESTIVAL

Diary

Page	Date	Time	Title	Venue
6	5 Oct	7.45pm	Festival Lecture: What Is A City's Culture?	Conservatoire
7	5 Oct	7.15pm	Gavin Pretor-Pinny: The Wave Watcher's Companion	Conservatoire
8	6 Oct	6.30pm	Emerging Talent: NAW Showcase	Conservatoire
11	6 Oct	7.45pm	New Voices In Women's Fiction	Conservatoire
12	7 Oct	6.45pm	Birmingham Poet Laureate Inauguration Guest: Pascale Petit	Library Theatre
13	7 Oct	7.30pm	John Lanchester: Whoops!	Conservatoire
14	7 Oct	7.15pm	Jonathan Coe and David Nicholls	Conservatoire
15	8 Oct	7.30pm	Gareth Peirce: Dispatches from the Dark Side	Conservatoire
42-44	9 Oct	10am	Workshop Saturday	South Birmingham College
16	12 Oct	7.30pm	Catherine O'Flynn: The News Where You Are	Conservatoire
19	12 Oct	7pm	BBF Short Story Competition Awards	Conservatoire
20	12 Oct	7pm	David Roberts & Robert Lister: Thomas Betterton	Library Theatre
21	13 Oct	7.30pm	John O'Farrell: An Utterly Exasperated History	Conservatoire
22	13 Oct	6pm	Being A Refugee in Birmingham	Library Theatre
23	13 Oct	7.15pm	Philip Barclay: Zimbabwe: Years of Hope and Despair	Conservatoire

Page	Date	Time	Title	Venue
24	14 Oct	7pm	Flarestack Poetry Showcase	Conservatoire
25	14 Oct	6.45pm	Jenny Eclair: Chin Up Britain!	Library Theatre
26	14 Oct	8pm	Fatima Bhutto: Songs of Blood and Sword	Conservatoire
45	14 Oct	2.30pm	Workshop: Hitchcock's Hallway: Flash Noir Fiction	Ikon Eastside
27	15 Oct	6.45pm	Pogus Caesar: Muzik Kinda Sweet	MAC
28	15 Oct	7.15pm	David Shukman: Reporting Live From The End Of The World	Conservatoire
29	16 Oct	12pm	Youth Poetry Slam	South Birmingham College
30	19 Oct	7.15pm	Lionel Shriver: So Much For That	Conservatoire
33	19 Oct	7.30pm	Writers Without Borders: Ten Years	Library Theatre
34	19 Oct	7.45pm	Jörg Albrecht: Contemporary German Literature	Conservatoire
35	20 Oct	7.30pm	Jackie Kay: Red Dust Road	Library Theatre
36	20 Oct	7.15pm	Dominic Sandbrook: State Of Emergency	Conservatoire
37	20 Oct	7pm	Footnotes: A nearly-closing party	The Victoria
38	21 Oct	7.30pm	Bugged! Launch	Ikon Gallery
41	21 Oct	7.15pm	Anthony Browne	Library Theatre



Venue: Foyer, Birmingham Central Library
Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HG

The Birmingham Book Festival Fringe

Meet the...

Author:

Christine Coleman (*Dangerous Sports* *Euthanasia Society*, *Paper Lanterns*). Drop in, get a book signed, chat about writing and publishing.

Friday 15th October, 5-6pm

Academy:

Birmingham City University & National Academy of Writing students and tutors. Drop in, find out about courses, see their work.

Wednesday 6 October, 5-6pm

These events are all free and unticketed!



Other Fringe Events

Wednesday 6 October

Sampad celebrate the launch of *Journeys*, an anthology of entries to an international writing competition.
www.sampad.org.uk



Thursday 7 October

Word Up Poetry Night @ The Drum.
The first of a series of monthly events, this one featuring Jamaican poet Kei Miller.
www.thedrum.org.uk

Tuesday 5 October 7.45 - 9pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire
Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

Lecture Raphael Selbourne What is a city's culture?

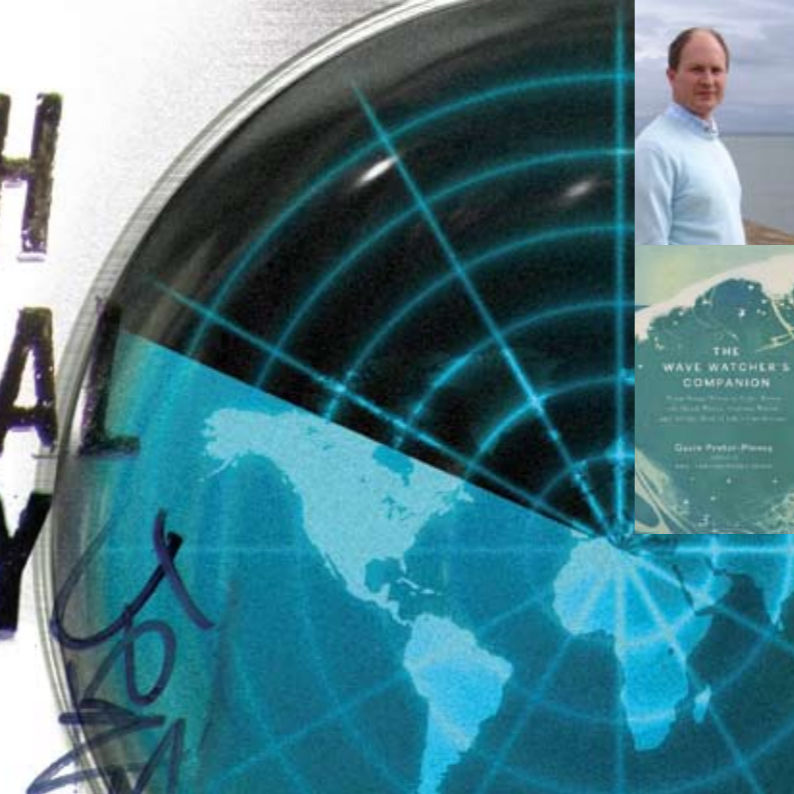
What is 'the city', what is its function and what do we mean by its 'culture'? Has Birmingham become a mere 'collection of houses', of disaggregated 'communities' or does it still have a strong sense of common purpose and belonging, of identity and place? What is the modern city's relationship with the arts, and what is the writer's role in the city? Do the common duties of both need reaffirming? Are there still high human tasks for both to perform in the city of culture? And how can the citizens of Birmingham play their part?

Raphael Selbourne is the author of *Beauty*, the winner of the 2009 Costa First Novel Award.

Tickets: £6 (£4.50)
Box Office: 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org



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Tuesday 5 October 7.15 - 8.30pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire
Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

The Wave Watcher's Companion Gavin Pretor-Pinney

From the rippling beats of our hearts, to the movement of food through our digestive tracts, waves are the transport systems of our bodies. Everything we see and hear reaches us via light and sound waves, and our information age is reliant on microwaves and infrared waves. From shockwaves unleashed by explosions to torsional waves that cause suspension bridges to collapse, from the sonar waves that allow submarines to 'see' with sound to Mexican waves that sweep through stadium crowds, Gavin's book explores waves of every kind.

Gavin Pretor-Pinney is the founder of The Cloud Appreciation Society and author of two Sunday Times bestsellers, *The Cloudspotter's Guide* and *The Cloud Collector's Handbook*.

In association with the RSA

Tickets: £6 (£4.50)
Box Office: 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org



RSA

Tuesday 6 October 6.30 - 7.30pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire

Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

Emerging Talent

National Academy of Writing Showcase

The National Academy of Writing was set up in 2000 to create a school for aspiring writers with demonstrable talent based on the 'conservatoire' approach adopted in the performing arts.

This event will showcase some of the best work by writers on the MA/Diploma programme at Birmingham City University, run in association with the National Academy of Writing.



Tickets: FREE *Please reserve your place with the box office.*

Box Office 0121 303 2323

or www.birminghambookfestival.org



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Wednesday 6 October 7.45 - 9pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire, Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

New Voices in Women's Fiction

Priya Basil, Jane Borodale & Anjali Joseph

There is nothing quite like discovering a writer whose work moves you. A few voices stand out each year - here's our pick of ones to watch.

Priya Basil: *The Obscure Logic of the Heart* is a profound love story between a Kenyan Sikh and a British Muslim who meet at University and hide their relationship from their families until a suitcase of letters falls into the wrong hands.

Jane Borodale: *The Book Of Fires* is set in 1752. A teenage runaway becomes apprentice to a darkly eccentric firework maker, aiding his groundbreaking study of pyrotechny while trying to conceal her unwanted pregnancy.

Anjali Joseph: *In Bombay's Saraswati Park*, letter writer Mohan has to discover his own voice to reconcile with his absent wife and reach out to his diffident nephew who has begun a stormy affair with an older man.

Tickets: £5 (£4)

Box Office: 0121 303 2323 or www.birminghambookfestival.org



Thursday 7 October 6.45 - 8.45pm

Venue: The Library Theatre, Birmingham Central Library,
Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ.

Celebrating National Poetry Day with: Birmingham's New Poet Laureate

Guest Poet Pascale Petit

Join us for the first reading of the brand new Poet Laureate for the city. It is a longstanding tradition for the new Laureate to be announced on National Poetry Day and then to perform at the Festival in their first official capacity.

Guest Poet Pascale Petit's latest collections are *What the Water Gave Me – Poems after Frida Kahlo* (Seren, 2010) and *The Treekeeper's Tale* (Seren, 2008). She has published five collections, two of which, *The Huntress* and *The Zoo Father*, were shortlisted for the T S Eliot Prize and were books of the year in the Times Literary Supplement and The Independent.

Sponsored by Newman University College Birmingham.

Tickets: FREE

Please reserve your place with the box office.

Box Office 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org



Thursday 7 October 7.30 - 8.45pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire
Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

John Lanchester

*Whoops! Why Everyone Owes Everyone
and No One Can Pay*

Introduced by Patrick Burns, Political Editor, BBC Midlands

In 2000, the total GDP of Earth was \$36 trillion. At the start of 2007 it was \$70 trillion. Today that growth has gone suddenly and sharply into decline, with an effect roughly resembling that of putting a car into reverse while doing seventy down a motorway.

John Lanchester unpicks the credit crunch to understand deeply and genuinely what is happening to the world's finances and why we feel the way we do about it.

John is a novelist, journalist and former editor of the London Review of Books, and a winner of the Betty Trask/Whitbread awards.

In association with the RSA.

Tickets: £6 (£4.50)

Box Office: 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org

RSA

Tuesday 7 October 7.15 - 8:30pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire

Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

Jonathan Coe & David Nicholls

Jonathan Coe was born in Birmingham. His novels include *The Rotters' Club*, *The Accidental Woman*, and *What a Carve Up!*, which won the 1995 John Llewellyn Rhys Prize and the French Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger, and *The Rain Before it Falls*. *The Terrible Privacy of Maxwell Sim* is his latest book.

David Nicholls writes novels and for television. His adaptation credits include *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and *Much Ado About Nothing* for the BBC and *Cold Feet* for ITV. His debut novel *Starter For Ten* is now a film starring James McAvoy. The film of his third novel, *One Day*, is due to be released in 2011.

Sponsored by Pinsent Masons.

Tickets: £6 (£4.50)

Box Office: 0121 303 2323

or www.birminghambookfestival.org



Friday 8 October 7.30 - 8.45pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire

Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

Gareth Peirce Dispatches from the Dark Side: on Torture and the Death of Justice

Gareth Peirce is a human rights lawyer who has faced down some incredible opponents - battling for the wrongly convicted and campaigning for law reform. She represented the Birmingham Six, the family of Jean Charles de Menezes, Guantanamo Bay detainee Moazzam Begg and the families of the victims of the Lockerbie air disaster amongst a plethora of high profile cases. Gaining her inspiration from the rallies of Luther King in 1960's America, she is considered radical by some, passionate by others. In a career spanning more than 30 years, she is said to have "transformed the criminal justice scene in this country almost single-handedly." *Dispatches from the Dark Side* is her first book.

Sponsored by the RSA.

Tickets: £6 (£4.50)

Box Office: 0121 303 2323

or www.birminghambookfestival.org



Tuesday 12 October 7.30 - 8:45pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire
Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

Catherine O'Flynn

The News Where You Are

Catherine O'Flynn was born and raised in Birmingham, where her parents ran a sweet shop. She worked briefly in journalism, at a series of shopping centres, as a postwoman and a mystery shopper. Her first novel, *What Was Lost*, won the 2008 Costa First Novel Award, was longlisted for the Orange Prize and the Man Booker Prize and was shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award.

The News Where You Are is her second novel, about a Birmingham TV news presenter haunted by disappearances: the mysterious hit and run that killed his predecessor; the demolition of his father's post-war brutalist architecture; and the unmarked passing of those who die alone in the city.

Tickets: £6 (£4.50)
Box Office: 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org



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Creative Writing for children and young people

- Writing groups
- Online Creative Writing Communities
- Writers in Schools

www.writingwestmidlands.org
jonathan@writingwestmidlands.org

Tuesday 12 October 7 - 8pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire, Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

The Birmingham Book Festival's Short Story Competition Prizegiving

Join the winners and runners up along with members of the Birmingham Book Festival team to celebrate the writing produced for the Festival's first ever short story competition.

The theme was 'Loss', and readings from the successful entrants will show a wide range of interpretations.

Tickets: FREE

Please reserve your place with the box office.

Box Office 0121 303 2323

or www.birminghambookfestival.org





Tuesday 12 October 7 - 9pm

Venue: The Library Theatre, Birmingham Central Library,
Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ.

David Roberts & Robert Lister The Life of Thomas Betterton

Restoration London's leading actor and theatre manager Thomas Betterton worked with all the best-known playwrights of his age and with the first generation of English actresses. He was also intimately involved in the theatre's responses to politics. His innovations in scenery and company management, and his association with the dramatic inheritance of Shakespeare, changed the culture of English theatre.

Join Professor David Roberts (author of *Thomas Betterton*) and Robert Lister (*Lewis*, *The Archers*) for a one man play and lively lecture on the life of one of England's greatest performing artists.

Tickets: £5 (£4)
Box Office: 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org



Wednesday 13 October 7.30 - 8.45pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire
Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG



John O'Farrell

An Utterly Exasperated History of Modern Britain:
or Sixty Years of Making the Same Stupid Mistakes as Always

An Utterly Exasperated History of Modern Britain is a hilarious 'how did we end up here?' which informs, elucidates and laughs at all the bizarre events, ridiculous characters and stupid decisions that have shaped Britain since 1945; leaving the Twenty-First Century reader feeling fantastically smug for having the benefit of hindsight.

John O'Farrell has published three novels, a memoir and three collections of his popular Guardian column. A former scriptwriter for such shows as *Spitting Image* and *Smith and Jones*, and founder of the satirical website NewsBiscuit, he can occasionally be spotted on such TV shows as *Grumpy Old Men*, *Newsnight Review* and *Have I Got News For You*.

Introduced by John Dolan.

Tickets: £6 (£4.50)
Box Office: 0121 303 2323 or www.birminghambookfestival.org



Wednesday 13 October 6 - 7pm

Venue: The Library Theatre, Birmingham Central Library,
Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ.

Being a Refugee in Birmingham

Birmingham has a long history of offering asylum - from Jewish refugees seeking protection from the persecution of eighteenth century Russia to those escaping conflict in Vietnam, the Gulf and the Sudan - or new independent rule in East African nations - in the twentieth century. In the last few years arrivals have increased from Africa, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan. Seeking asylum is a long and often terrifying process.

Join writers, community workers and refugees for a frank discussion of the refugee community in our city, and the contributions it makes to the artistic and cultural heritage of Birmingham.

In Association with Celebrating Sanctuary & Birmingham Libraries.

Tickets: FREE

Please reserve your place with the box office.

Box Office 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org



Wednesday 13 October 7.15 - 8.30pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire
Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG



Philip Barclay

Zimbabwe: Years of Hope & Despair

Arriving to work at the British Embassy in Zimbabwe, Philip Barclay found a temperate paradise and a sophisticated population. Then, during three years in what used to be Africa's finest country, he saw it ruined by violence and grotesque economic mismanagement.

Zimbabwe's people voted against Robert Mugabe, but their desire for change was denied by vicious squads loyal to the ageing dictator. In the wake of such terror, the country's economy collapsed, leading to widespread poverty and disease epidemics that Zimbabwe had not seen in living memory.

Join Philip for a sensitive and perceptive account of Zimbabwe's turbulent political history.

Tickets: £6 (£4.50)

Box Office: 0121 303 2323 or www.birminghambookfestival.org

Thursday 14 October 7 - 8.45pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire

Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

Flarestack Poetry Showcase

Launched in 2009, Birmingham poetry press Flarestack Poets saw one of its first titles named pamphlet of the year in the prestigious Michael Marks Awards. As well as discussing Flarestack Poets and their plans for the future, co-editors Meredith Andrea and Jacqui Rowe will be introducing readings by the authors of their latest pamphlets. *Herb Robert* is the stunning debut collection from Laura Seymour, a former Foyle Young Poet of the Year.

Nights • Sifnos • Hands, by internationally acclaimed, award-winning poet Mario Petrucci represents three divertissements from his monumental sequence *i tulips*, reflecting his devotion and commitment to both science and language.

Tickets: £5 (£4)
Box Office: 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org



Thursday 14 October 6.45 - 8pm

Venue: The Library Theatre, Birmingham Central Library,

Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ.

Jenny Eclair Chin Up Britain!

Introduced by Sue Beardsmore, writer and journalist

Now is the time to embrace a new austerity. Can't afford a holiday? With coconut sun tan lotion, at least you'll smell like you're on holiday. Don't know what to do with a left-over half a banana? Discard it on the floor of a government-owned building, 'accidentally' slip on it and claim compensation. Or why not sell your children on Ebay?

Chin Up Britain! brings you helpful and hilarious tips for austere living, including identifying your swappable skills (burying dead animals, tuning a freeview box) and improving manners on public transport.

A much-loved stand-up comedian, Perrier Award winner Jenny Eclair is also a successful novelist, and co-creator of the Grumpy Old Women brand.

Tickets: £7 (£5) *Includes tea and cake!*
Box Office: 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org





Thursday 14 October 8 - 9.15pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire

Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

Fatima Bhutto

Songs of Blood and Sword

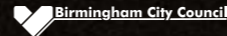
Granddaughter to a murdered Prime Minister, daughter to a murdered father, niece to a murdered aunt - and witness to the collapse of a nation. Award winning journalist Fatima Bhutto makes her only Midlands appearance to speak about *Songs of Blood and Sword*, her memoir of growing up in Pakistan's ruling dynasty.

Against a backdrop of corruption, murder and Pakistan's political history, the book traces the life and career of Fatima's father, along the way implicating her dead aunt, Benazir Bhutto, in his murder.

In conversation with Rajwinder Pal. (South Asian Alliance)

In association with The Drum.
Supported by Birmingham Libraries

Tickets: £7 (£5)
Box Office: 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org



Friday 15 October 6.45 - 8.45pm

Venue: MAC

Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH

Pogus Caesar

Launching Muzik Kinda Sweet

Muzik Kinda Sweet is an evocative and nostalgic look at iconic Black performers from the last 25 years. Candid snapshots on city streets contrast with the vibrant energy at stageside, revealing the personalities behind an influential generation of music heroes.

Birmingham based photographer Pogus Caesar worked up close to his subjects with an early model autofocus camera, developing by hand. The results are very human portraits which counterpoint today's digital photography.

This highly collectable book includes stunning photographs of Stevie Wonder, Grace Jones, Jay-Z, Cameo, Jimmy Cliff, Dennis Brown, Lynden David Hall, MC Hammer, Augustus Pablo and many more.

Published by Punch and OOM Gallery.

In association with Punch Records.

Tickets: FREE Please reserve your place with the box office.
Box Office 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org



Friday 15 October 7.15 - 8.30pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire

Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

David Shukman Reporting Live From The End Of The World

When frontline BBC news reporter David Shukman switched from world affairs to environment in 2003, he feared he might be in for a dull life.

He couldn't have been more wrong. His new job has taken him to every corner of the earth: journeying up the fabled North West Passage in the Arctic, chasing loggers in the Amazon and battling through plastic waste in the Pacific Ocean, getting trapped in Siberian blizzards along the way.

Reporting Live from the End of the World charts Shukman's extraordinary adventures, providing a fascinating eye-witness account of the state of the planet.

In association with the RSA.

Tickets: £6 (£4.50)
Box Office: 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org



RSA



Saturday 16 October U12'S 12-1pm U15'S 2-3pm

Venue: South Birmingham College

High Street Deritend, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 5SU

West Midlands Youth Poetry Slam Finals!

Hosted by Birmingham Poet Laureate 2006/7 - SPOZ

Like gladiators to the coliseum they come to wage a war of words. Some word warriors will fall and some will triumph... and some will go home with a jolly nice trophy, a pat on the back from teacher and no detentions for at least a week.

This live final is the culmination of an on line campaign, which has seen loads of young people uploading their poetic performances to www.youthlamwm.com to see "who has the X Factor" ...but in a poetic kind of way.

Tickets: FREE

Please reserve your place with the box office.

Box Office 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org





Tuesday 19 October 7.15 - 8.30pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire
Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

Lionel Shriver So Much For That



She has saved all his life to retire to a tropical paradise. He issues an ultimatum to his reluctant wife, who calmly informs him that she has cancer. Suddenly their ailing marriage and life savings are about to be tested to their limits in a fight to save her. *So Much For That* is a scathing look at the American health insurance system and the way we are increasingly forced to equate our right to life with our fiscal worth.

Novelist and journalist Lionel Shriver's repertoire also includes *The Post Birthday World*, *Double Fault* and the Orange Prize winning *We Need To Talk About Kevin*, the film of which is due for release in 2011.

In Conversation with Matthew Day, Head of English at
Newman University College Birmingham.

Tickets: £7 (£5)
Box Office: 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org

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To find out more about the RSA and how you can get involved, visit:
www.theRSA.org

Tuesday 19 October 7.30 - 9.30pm

Venue: The Library Theatre, Birmingham Central Library, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ.

10 Years of Writers Without Borders

Writers Without Borders would like to invite you to our 10th Anniversary celebrations. The evening is all about poetry, storytelling and music from a choir of poets and writers from around the world based in The Midlands rich in culture and diversity, languages and beats.

This event promises to be an unforgettable evening of performance and entertainment.

Tickets: FREE

Please reserve your place with the box office.

Box Office 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org





Jörg Albrecht

Tuesday 19 October 7.45 - 9pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire
Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

Contemporary German Literature Jörg Albrecht & Uwe Schütte

Jörg Albrecht lives in Berlin and is one of the most exciting young writers to emerge from Germany. He writes novels and for the stage. His roots are in slam poetry, and he has produced radio plays, given multi-media performances with his band phonofix and has also written a libretto for Hanover State Opera. His latest novel *Sternstaub, Goldfunk, Silberstreif* was a considerable success. It tells a fictitious history of space travel, mixing numerous allusions to popular culture with authentic details of the history of German aeronautics.

Introduced by Dr Uwe Schütte, Reader in German in the School of Languages & Social Sciences at Aston University, Jörg will talk about his work and trends in the Germany's young literary scene, and particularly Berlin.

Jörg Albrecht is the 2010 Writer-in-Residence at Aston University, sponsored by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).

Supported by Aston University.

Tickets: £5 (£4)
Box Office: 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org



Wednesday 20 October 7.30 - 8.45pm

Venue: The Library Theatre, Birmingham Central Library,
Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ.

Jackie Kay Red Dust Road

Jackie Kay realised at a tender age that her skin was a different colour to that of her beloved mum and dad. Tracing and finding her birth parents, her Highland mother and Nigerian father, in later life led her on a journey both painful and enlightening.

Born and brought up in Scotland, Jackie has published five collections of poetry for adults - *The Adoption Papers* (winner of a Forward Prize, a Saltire Award and a Scottish Arts Council Book Award) *Other Lovers* (which won the Somerset Maugham Award), *Off Colour*, *Life Mask* and *Darling: New and Selected Poems*.

Red Dust Road is a memoir, taking the reader from Glasgow to Lagos and beyond. Revelatory, redemptive and courageous, it is a story of parents and siblings, friends and strangers, belonging and beliefs, biology and destiny.

In association with The Drum and SHOUT Festival.

Tickets: £7 (£5)
Box Office: 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org



Wednesday 20 October 7.15 - 8.30pm

Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire, Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

Dominic Sandbrook State Of Emergency: The Way We Were: Britain, 1970-1974



In the early 1970s, Britain seemed on the brink of the abyss. Under Edward Heath, the optimism of the Sixties had faded. Headlines were dominated by strikes, blackouts, unemployment and inflation. Britain seemed to be tearing itself apart. Yet amid the gloom glittered a creative and cultural dynamism.

In this brilliant new history, Dominic Sandbrook recreates that gaudy, schizophrenic atmosphere - where unions marched, the socialist revolution seemed at hand, but feminism, permissiveness, pornography and environmentalism were also transforming lives.

Whether you were a child, an adult or weren't yet born in the seventies, Dominic will take you there.

In Association with the RSA

Tickets: £6 (£4.50)
Box Office: 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org

RSA



Wednesday 20 October 7-11pm

Venue: The Victoria

48 John Bright St, Birmingham, B1 1BN

7 Inch Cinema present: Footnotes A nearly-closing party

It's a truism that great novels make for mediocre movies, but the rule doesn't always apply when it comes to poems and short stories. This informal evening of film and music will gather a few of the best examples, animated shorts which riff beautifully on the likes of Bukowski and Murakami, Albers and Schwitters.

We'll also be asking some Book Festival guests to nominate favourite shorts, and writers including Catherine O'Flynn will provide 'live accompaniment' (ie, talk over) a selection of footage from the Media Archive of Central England. Musical interludes come courtesy of the ladies from Sugarfoot Stomp.

Tickets: £4 (£3)

Please note this venue is only accessible by stairs.

For further questions about access, call us on 0121 246 2770

Box Office: 0121 303 2323 or www.birminghambookfestival.org



**7 INCH
CINEMA**
www.7inch.org.uk

Thursday 21 October 7.30 - 9pm

Venue: Ikon Gallery
1 Oozells Square, Birmingham, B1 2HS

Bugged! Anthology Launch

It was one of the freshest ideas for a writing competition ever. Mass eavesdropping took place on July 1st 2010, all across the nation. Writing was submitted in response to overhearings as weird and wonderful as 'Yes, we're rabbit-sitting. They're paying us in cushions and umbrellas' and 'four o'clock in the morning is the best time to do burglary.' Now the best of those have been immortalized online and in an anthology, and a selection will be shared tonight.

Expect laughter, sadness and a touch of madness.

Tickets: **FREE**

Please reserve your place with the box office.

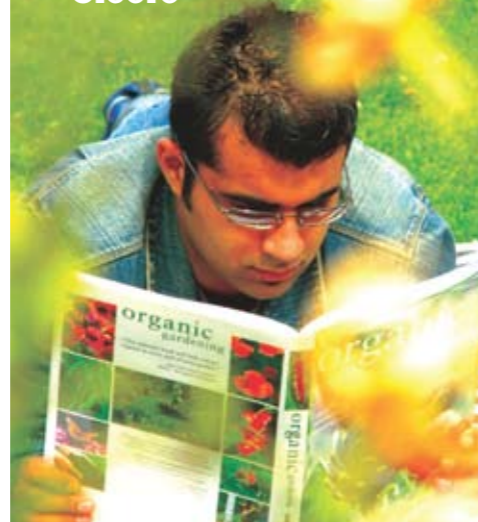
Box Office 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org

IKON



**anyone who has
a library and a
garden wants for
nothing**

Cicero



**borrow free from
over 1¼ million
books and
talking books**



Thursday 21 October 7.15 - 8.30pm

Venue: The Library Theatre, Birmingham Central Library,
Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ.

Anthony Browne Gorillas, re-telling Goldilocks and Playing The Shape Game



Anthony Browne, the current Children's Laureate, is an internationally acclaimed author and illustrator of children's books, with nearly forty titles to his name.

His watercolours blend realism with fantastical surreal touches and ingenious visual puns. His books include *Little Beauty*, *The Shape Game* and the 2010 title *Me and You*.

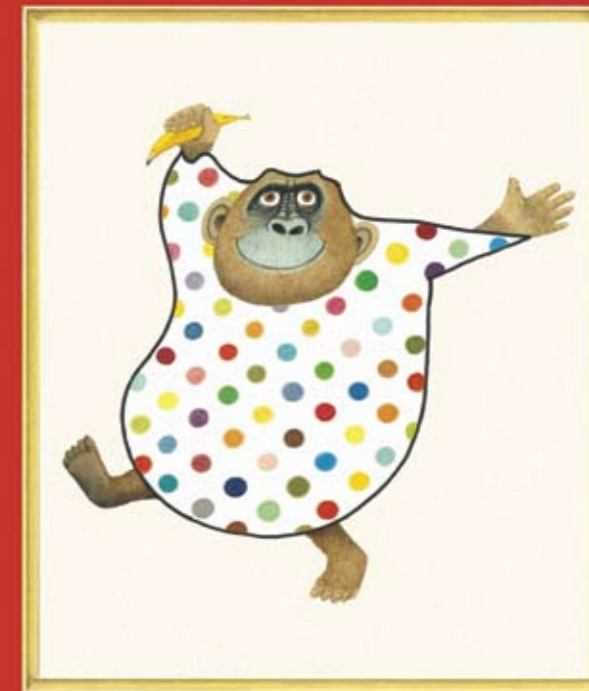
Join us for a conversation with Anthony and discover the creator behind dozens of imaginative and sensitive children's books.

N.B - this event is not specifically aimed at children, although they are welcome.

Tickets: £5 (£4)

Box Office: 0121 303 2323

or www.birminghambookfestival.org





Creative Writing Workshops

A chance to develop and share your own writing in a friendly and stimulating environment.

Workshop day: Saturday 9 October

Venue: South Birmingham College, High Street Deritend, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 5SU

10.30am – 3pm

Rebecca Hemmings:
Performing Your Writing

Designed for novice writer/performers as well as those needing a refresher on performance techniques, this workshop will be relaxed, informative, fun and challenging.

There will be opportunity to vocalise text and try various ways of delivering it, building confidence towards a performance of your own work at the end of the day.

Rebecca Hemmings is a freelance theatre practitioner and Director of Soliloquy Theatre Company.

Tickets: £32 (£28)

10am -12.30pm

Lynn Davies:
Writing for TV

Newcomers and old hands alike will find this a stimulating whistle-stop tour of the skills and industry techniques involved in crafting a script for TV or cinema. Lynn Davies won a Writers' Guild Award for his work on BBC's *Between the Lines*. He teaches screenwriting, and runs his own theatre and media production company, Kayelle Productions Ltd.

Tickets: £30 (£25)

Extra: one to one afternoon surgery on your own ideas.

5 slots for participants of this workshop only. Mention at time of booking. **Tickets £10 (£7)**

10am - 12.30pm

Will Buckingham:
Editing

Kerouac wrote *On the Road* in a creative frenzy on a single roll of paper. What they don't tell you is that he then edited it, word by word. It is not the stuff of legend, but legendary works are built upon careful editing. This workshop will explore how to hone and perfect your work.

Will Buckingham is a novelist, academic and philosopher. His most recent book is *Finding Our Sea-Legs: Ethics, Experience and the Ocean of Stories*.

Tickets: £23 (£17)

10am -12.30pm

Myra Connell:
Dreams and Poetry

Are our dreams a source for poems?

Can the poems we write enrich our understanding of our dreams?

We will explore the intriguing connections between dreams and poems. You are invited to bring a dream that you would like to write.

Myra Connell's second pamphlet of poems, *From the Boat*, is published by Nine Arches Press.

Tickets: £23 (£17)

Box Office: 0121 303 2323 or www.birminghambookfestival.org

10am - 12.30pm

Helen Cross:
Writing Short Stories

This workshop explores where to find stories, how to look at what you find, and how to carve these mysteries into story shape.

Helen's stories have appeared in various magazines, anthologies and have been broadcast on BBC Radio 4. Her latest novel is *Spilt Milk, Black Coffee* (Bloomsbury 2009).

Tickets: £23 (£17)

10am -12.30pm

Nicholas McInerny:
Writing Pictures in Sound

Radio drama offers unique opportunities to both the established and novice writer. It can go anywhere, at anytime, with anyone.

In this workshop, based on his experience of writing nearly 30 plays for BBC Radio 3 and 4, Nicholas will show you how.

Tickets: £23 (£17)

Box Office: 0121 303 2323 or www.birminghambookfestival.org

1.30pm – 4pm

Judith Allnatt:
The Power of Objects

Seashells, clocks, roses, rings: writers use objects as tools – as potent symbols or devices to reveal character or create intrigue.

Using exercises and a range of objects, we will explore and harness the power of objects in our writing, turning stones into axe-heads.

Judith Allnatt's second novel, *The Poet's Wife*, was published in 2010. Her first, *A Mile Of River*, was shortlisted for the Portico Prize for Literature.

Tickets: £23 (£17)

1.30pm – 4pm

Michael W. Thomas:
Setting Them All in Motion

How can we build character?
From the outside in, creating their looks, behaviour, place in life?
Or from the inside out, focussing on personality, attitude, philosophy?

In this workshop, we'll explore giving life to characters in poetry and prose.

Michael W. Thomas is a poet, novelist and dramatist. His latest poetry collection is *Port Winston Mulberry*, from Littlejohn and Bray.

Tickets: £23 (£17)


1.30pm – 4pm

Jo Ind:
Finding your blogging voice

You can write – but how do you write for the web?
A practical workshop on writing blog posts, including tips on drawing readers to your website and using photographs.

Jo is a journalist and a blogger (joind.co.uk). She is deputy site editor for NHS local (www.nhslocal.nhs.uk) and manages its blogs.

Tickets: £23 (£17)

Creative Writing Workshops are supported by  South Birmingham College

1.30pm – 4pm

Andrew Walsh: Interactive writing - A games tutorial

This practical, interactive workshop will outline the ins and outs of interactive writing. Industry terminology explained, writing styles demonstrated and a chance to try your hand at some games writing.

Andrew Walsh has worked as a writer, designer, director or script consultant on more than 40 videogames. He won the 2009 Writers' Guild Videogames Writing Award for *Prince Of Persia*.

Tickets: £23 (£17)



Workshop day: Saturday 9 October

Venue: Shakespeare Memorial Room
Birmingham Central Library, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ (*meeting point*)

10.30am - 12.30pm

Mandy Ross: Family Writing

Join Mandy Ross for a walking, writing tour of the city centre. Taking in the architecture, nature, history and people of Birmingham – you may find inspiration in the least likely places...

Mandy has written over 60 children's books. Her latest, *Hometown History Birmingham*, traces the city's history from Roman times to the present.

**Tickets sold in pairs:
£12 for one adult and
one 9-16 year old**

Note: This workshop involves walking. Waterproofs and comfortable footwear are advisable.

Workshop day: Thursday 14 October

Venue: Ikon Eastside
3 Fazeley Street, Birmingham B5 5SE

2.30 - 4.30pm

Nick Walker: Flash Noir Fiction in Hitchcock's Hallway

A suspense-filled, Hitchcock-drenched writing workshop where typing is against the clock and the only light is sliced through Venetian blinds. Your Jimmy Stewart for the afternoon is Perrier nominated writer, novelist, and playwright Nick Walker. You'll pay for the whole seat, but only use the edge of it.

Tickets: £23 (£17)

Note: This workshop will take place amidst Ikon Eastside's exhibit, Hitchcock's Hallway and will include a short talk on the installation. www.ikon-gallery.co.uk

Festival Extra Events

For more information about both of these events, check www.birminghambookfestival.org and www.getreadytoshout.org

Thursday 11 November 7 - 8.30pm

Venue: The Library Theatre, Birmingham Central Library
Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3HQ.

Sarah Kane A life

The plays of Sarah Kane have been performed all over the world and translated into countless languages, but it remains little known that her controversial career began here in Birmingham, studying for an MPhil in Playwriting. A life tortured by depression ended in suicide in 2000. Kane was 28. Her final play, *4.48 Psychosis*, was performed posthumously and was widely believed to be a suicide note.

Join our panel to explore the life and work of this remarkable writer.

Tickets: £5 (£4)
Box Office: 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org

Thursday 18 November 7 - 8.30pm

Venue: The Library Theatre, Birmingham Central Library
Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3HQ.

Stella Duffy The Room of Lost Things and Beyond

Stella Duffy has published ten novels (including the highly acclaimed *The Room Of Lost Things* and a series of crime novels featuring Private Detective Saz Martin), over twenty short stories, and also writes for radio and theatre. She is an actor, comedian and improviser, has performed in Improbable Theatre's highly acclaimed *Lifegame* throughout Britain, off-Broadway in New York, and in Australia, and has also recorded several plays and the sitcom *Losers* for BBC Radio 4.

Tickets: £5 (£4)
Box Office: 0121 303 2323
or www.birminghambookfestival.org

Extra Events in
Association with
SHOUT Festival



Saturday 20 November 10.30am - 4pm

Venue: South Birmingham College,
High Street Deritend, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 5SU

The Writers' Toolkit A Conference for the Writing Industry

Third annual gathering for emerging and established writers and others working in the writing industry.

Panel discussions will include Understanding Publishing, Writing and the Health Sector, Writing on Digital Platforms, Real Writing Lives, Writing and Science, Rights for Writers and Writing in the Environment.

An excellent opportunity to make contact with writers and the writing industry.

Tickets: £32 (£26) Includes a buffet lunch
Box Office: 0121 246 2770
jonathan@writingwestmidlands.org
or www.writingwestmidlands.org



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Do you have a passion for the written word?

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Starting this September we are proud to offer our new, part-time **BA (Hons) English Degree**. The course is taught two nights a week in the heart of the city centre allowing you to combine current commitments with a rewarding, stimulating and convenient study programme. See www.bcu.ac.uk/course/english-pt for more information.

In addition, the School's **MA in Writing in Association with the National Academy of Writing** is a unique and innovative course taught 'by writers for writers'; students receive extensive support and valuable professional insight designed to take your work from conception to publication. See www.bcu.ac.uk/ma-in-writing for details.



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is just the beginning...*

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W: www.bcu.ac.uk/english

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