



**LYRA**  
**BRISTOL**  
**POETRY** | **‘20**  
**FESTIVAL**

CLIMATE, NATURE & ROMANTIC BRISTOL

FRIDAY 13th MARCH -  
SUNDAY 22nd MARCH  
2020



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

 @LYRAFEST  @LYRAFEST  
TICKETS LYRAFEST.COM



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

This festival has been supported using funding from Arts Council England. We are incredibly grateful to have their support for a second year running.



# LYRA BRISTOL POETRY FESTIVAL '20

CLIMATE, NATURE & ROMANTIC BRISTOL

FRIDAY 13th MARCH -  
 SUNDAY 22nd MARCH  
 2020

## ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

March 2020 is the second edition of Lyra, Bristol Poetry Festival, and we are delighted to present a radical, diverse programme focusing on climate, nature and Bristol's legacy of Romantic Poetry. Lyra aims to present and promote poetry in as many formats as possible and this year we are hosting live readings, slam poetry, open mics, family activities, workshops, panel discussion, walking tours and a film screening.

We were thrilled with the feedback on Lyra 2019 but we haven't rested on our laurels. We asked what you would like to see more of in 2020 and we have used these responses in order to put together an even more exciting programme, including an increased number of workshops and some world-class headliners with an opening weekend that includes Simon Armitage and Danez Smith.

Thank you to all our collaborators and supporters, including our ethical ticketing provider HeadFirst Bristol. Lyra 2020 has been organised largely on a voluntary basis and we are incredibly grateful to the wonderful partners who have helped to bring this radical programme to fruition.

Lyra Festival is co-directed by Lucy English and Danny Pandolfi. This year's official Festival Poet is Bristol-based writer, performer, producer and facilitator Rebecca Tantony. Rebecca is leading outreach work across the city in the build-up to Lyra 2020 in order to connect the festival to a variety of communities in Bristol and she will be engaged in a number of activities during the Core Festival Programme, including running a workshop and performing new works at Bristol Central Library, judging the Grand Slam Finals, and much more.

This festival is also a proud partner of the wider city project #BristolPoeticCity, marking the 250th anniversary of Thomas Chatterton's death.

Please pre-book tickets (for both paid and free events) at [lyrafest.com](http://lyrafest.com), as some events will sell out in advance and entry on the door may not be guaranteed. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

### TICKETS [LYRAFEST.COM](http://LYRAFEST.COM)

Entire Festival Pass: £50

Festival Pass (including workshops): £65

@LYRAFEST

@LYRAFEST



## VENUES

### 1. WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING

Queens Rd,  
Bristol BS8 1RJ

### 2. ARNOLFINI

16 Narrow Quay,  
Bristol BS1 4QA

### 3. SS GREAT BRITAIN

Gas Ferry Rd,  
Bristol BS1 6TY

### 4. STORYSMITH BOOKSHOP

49 North St,  
Bristol BS3 1EN

### 5. FRY BUILDING BRISTOL UNIVERSITY

Woodland Rd,  
Bristol BS8 1TH

### 6. THE SQUARE CLUB

15 Berkeley Square,  
Bristol BS8 1HB

### 7. WATERSTONES

The Galleries,  
Bristol BS1 3XD

### 8. UNITARIAN HALL

Brunswick Square,  
Bristol BS2 8PE

### 9. BRISTOL MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

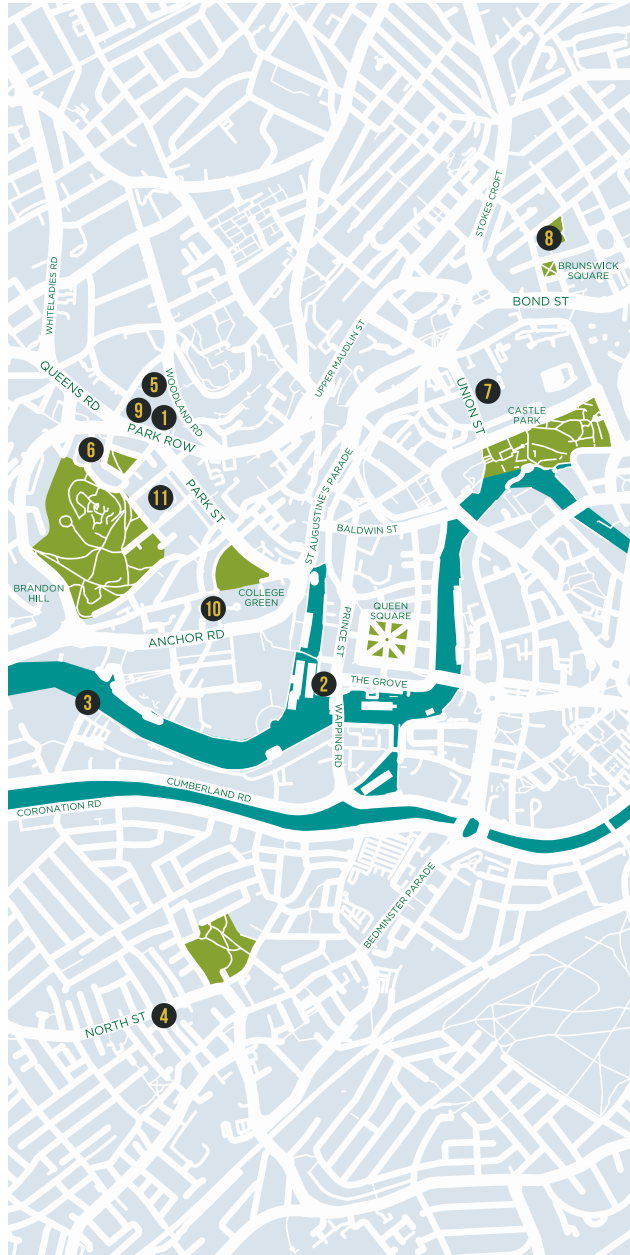
Queens Rd,  
Bristol BS8 1RL

### 10. BRISTOL CENTRAL LIBRARY

College Green,  
Bristol BS1 5TL

### 11. ST. GEORGE'S BRISTOL

Great George St,  
Bristol BS1 5RR



## CORE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

# FRIDAY 13TH MARCH '20

### SIMON ARMITAGE UK POET LAUREATE

*A poetry reading from the UK's newly appointed Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, in conversation with Bristol City Poet, Vanessa Kisuule.*

### WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING GREAT HALL

Time: 6:00 - 7:00pm Price: £5

The second ever Lyra Festival will launch at the iconic Great Hall at Wills Memorial Building. Simon Armitage will deliver a reading of his poetry, followed by a live conversation hosted by Bristol's City Poet, Vanessa Kisuule.

Simon Armitage will discuss his newly launched Laurel Prize for climate writing, the urgency of the arts movement in response to the climate crisis, and the role of both the Poet Laureate and live poetry in 2020.

The event will include a short audience Q&A and be immediately followed by a book signing.

*Presented in association with Bristol Poetry Institute and University of Bristol Department of English.*



CREDIT: PETER JAMES MILLSON

# SATURDAY 14TH MARCH '20

## ROMANTIC BRISTOL WALKING TOUR



Discover Bristol's poetic legacy in this engaging guided walk, led by Professor Ralph Pite.

### MEETING POINT: OUTSIDE WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING

Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm Price: £5

A guided tour of some key landmarks for the history and legacy of Romantic poets in Bristol. The walk will use smart technology to explore the city, its layered histories, its cultural complexity and the voices of its poets, past and present. You can download the free smartphone app 'ROMANTIC BRISTOL: Writing the City' in advance of the tour and find your way to Bristol, old and new. Part of #BristolPoeticCity.

## POETRY AND CLIMATE FILM SCREENING

### ARNOLFINI THEATRE

Time: 1:00 - 2:00pm Price: Free

Curated by Liberated Words, these short poetry films will reflect on the current climate emergency, as well as celebrate the natural world. Plus short discussion on the rising genre of poetry film and how artists and poets are responding to our changing environment.

With Lucy English and Sarah Tremlett.



## LYRA SLAM QUALIFYING ROUNDS

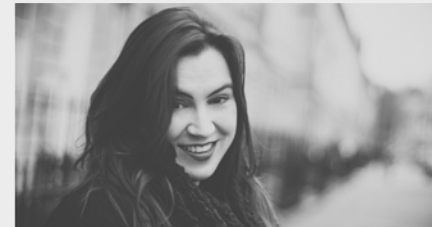
Three afternoon qualifying heats, as 24 poets compete for a place in the evening Grand Final.

### ARNOLFINI LIGHT STUDIO

Time: 1:30 - 2:00, 2:30 - 3:00, 3:30 - 4:00pm

Price: Free

The Bristol Poetry Festival Slam is back and these afternoon events co-presented with Hammer and Tongue will see some of the region's finest poets and performers compete for a place in the evening's grand slam final. Come along to cheer on the poets, and see which performers qualify for the Grand Final.



## PROSE POETRY PERFORMANCE/OPEN MIC

A fascinating exploration into one of the most experimental sub-genres of poetry, with exquisite performances from leading prose poets.

### WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING THE OLD COUNCIL CHAMBER

Time: 5:00 - 7:00pm Price: £5/£4 Concs.

Lyra welcomes performances from Carrie Etter, Luke Kennard and Vik Shirley, in an exploration of the prose poetry genre. The event will also feature a short panel discussion about the role and definition of prose poetry, and an open mic element for any poets wishing to share their own prose poem. Open mic tickets must be purchased online in advance for this event.



## LYRA SLAM GRAND FINAL

The epic slam final for Lyra 2020, with performances from Danez Smith and Kat Lyons.

### ARNOLFINI THEATRE

Time: 7:30 - 10:00pm Price: £10

After a raucous sell-out event last year, Lyra is back with another huge slam final, as winners from the afternoon show compete for the coveted crown of 2020's Bristol Poetry Festival Slam Champion. The event will feature an extended performance from the incomparable Forward Prize-winning Poet and world-class performer Danez Smith, plus a support set from last year's epic slam winner Kat Lyons. Hosted by Josie Alford and Callum Wensley.

## DANEZ SMITH WRITING MASTERCLASS

Join one of the world's leading poets for an eye-opening insight into expert writing techniques.

### BRISTOL MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY ACTIVITY ROOM, FIRST FLOOR

Time: 1:00 - 3:00pm

Price: £10

An exclusive poetry writing masterclass with Forward Prize-winning writer and Button Poetry star Danez Smith.

Learn some expert exercises, techniques and methods of expression with an internationally acclaimed writer.





# SUNDAY 15TH MARCH '20

## ROMANTIC BRISTOL WALKING TOUR COLERIDGE & WORDSWORTH



An engaging guided walk, discovering the legacy of two legendary poets of the Romantic era. Led by Professor Ralph Pite.

### MEETING POINT: OUTSIDE WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING

Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm Price: £5

A guided tour using smart technology to explore the city, its layered histories, its cultural complexity and the voices of its poets, with a particular focus on Samuel Coleridge and William Wordsworth. The pair had been living in Bristol and the South West when their revolutionary book, *Lyrical Ballads*, was published. This walk connects a key work on English literature to the city and region which produced it. You can download the free smartphone app 'ROMANTIC BRISTOL: Writing the City' in advance of the tour and find your way to Bristol, old and new. Part of #BristolPoeticCity.



## REIMAGINED FUTURES POETRY AND STORIES

An afternoon of interactive, drop-in family activities at the Brunel Institute, aimed at children and young people aged 4-12 and their families.

### BRUNEL'S SS GREAT BRITAIN

Time: 1:00 - 3:00pm Price: Free

What will your imagination bring to life? Brunel built his SS Great Britain out of big ideas and today, technology and art continue to spark new ideas. These drop-in activities in the Brunel Institute will offer interactive storytelling and poetic experiences, including Poetry Machine, Isabella Necessity and Spikey Tim. Suitable for young people aged 4-12 and enjoyable for the whole family. Please note this event does not include entry to the ship.

Co-produced with Apples and Snakes, the UK's leading spoken word and performance poetry organisation.

APPLES AND SNAKES

## POETS 4 THE PLANET

A collaborative performance, as six poets perform dynamic new work responding to the climate crisis in the intimate setting of *Storysmith bookshop*.

### STORYSMITH BOOKSHOP

Time: 5:00 - 6:00pm Price: £5

Poets4ThePlanet is a national forum of writers responding to the climate crisis. Human and nonhuman voices combine in this ensemble piece from 6 UK poets. Featuring Miranda Lynn Barnes, Rachael Clyne, Dominic Fisher, Deborah Harvey, Simon Williams and Susan Taylor.

Tickets include a glass of wine and 10% off featured books purchased on the night.



# MONDAY 16TH MARCH '20

## MATHS AND POETRY WORKSHOP

Join poets Rebecca Kosick and Harry Baker for an engaging and interactive workshop connecting maths and poetry. Accessible and open to all.

### FRY BUILDING (ROOM G13) UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

Time: 5:30 - 7:00pm Price: £5

Is it possible to write a maths poem? Undoubtedly, mathematics has the capacity to express complex and abstract ideas, but is it possible to convey the kinds of complex and abstract thought more often found in poetry than in mathematical notation? Is one able to express the small joy of a cup of tea, the closeness of an intimate relationship, the nuanced humour of a shared joke through mathematical formulations?

Open to writers of all levels/backgrounds.



## POETRY AND MUSIC FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Leading South-West poetry providers *Raise the Bar* and *Hip Yak Poetry* present an evening of breathtaking performances live at *St. George's Bristol*.

### ST. GEORGE'S BRISTOL

Time: 7:30 - 10:00pm Price: £8

A high-energy, high-quality and eclectic evening of outstanding and powerful performances from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists Zena Edwards and Harry Baker, including thrilling performers and hosts Jonny Fluffypunk, Liv Torc and Chris Redmond. This show will offer live poetry as an engaging and raucous celebration of the wonders of our planet and our urgent need to protect it.



## TUESDAY 17TH MARCH '20



### THE FUTURE OF POETRY DISCUSSION PANEL

*A crucial discussion focusing on how poetry is being used in 2020 and how the art form might progress over the next decade.*

#### THE SQUARE CLUB

Time: 6:30- 7:30pm

Price: Free

Poetry is garnering millions of views on YouTube, viral attention on Twitter and Instagram, live events are attracting hundreds of people and sales of poetry books are skyrocketing. In times of civil unrest and societal crisis, poets and writers are often at the forefront of resistance. Lyra invite poets and practitioners to assess the current climate of UK live literature and performance poetry, and where the future of the art form may be going.

Includes audience Q&A.

## FRIDAY 20TH MARCH '20



### AN EVENING WITH STEPHEN SEXTON AND BAD BETTY PRESS

*An evening of poetry readings from radical voices in UK published poetry, including 2019 Forward Prize-winning Penguin poet Stephen Sexton.*

#### WATERSTONES THE GALLERIES ENTRY VIA UNION ST ENTRANCE

Time: 7:30- 8:30pm Price: £7

We are delighted to welcome published poets from Penguin Books and Bad Betty Press to an enthralling poetry reading at Waterstones Bristol. 2019 Forward Prize winner Stephen Sexton will be joined by outstanding emerging voices from independent publisher Bad Betty Press, including Gboyega Odubanjo and Charlotte Geater.

*Hosted by Bad Betty's co-founder, Jake Wild Hall.*



### LYRA FESTIVAL OPEN MIC

*The official open mic event of 2020's Bristol Poetry Festival and YOUR chance to bring your poetry to the stage.*

#### UNITARIAN HALL

Time: 8:30 - 10:00pm

Price: Free

Beloved Bristol poetry organisers Satellite of Love present a warm and welcoming open mic event in Easton, inviting poets and performers of all styles and backgrounds to perform at Bristol Poetry Festival 2020.

The event also includes short feature performances from Deborah Harvey and Saili Katebe.

Sign up for the open mic on the door from 8:00pm.





## SATURDAY 21ST MARCH '20

### ROMANTIC BRISTOL WALKING TOUR WOMEN WRITERS



An engaging guided walk, focusing on the female writers of Bristol's Romantic poetry legacy. Led by Dr Rebecca Hutcheon.

#### MEETING POINT: OUTSIDE WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING

Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm Price: £5

A guided tour using smart technology to explore the city, its layered histories, its cultural complexity and the voices of its poets, with a particular focus on Bristol's Romantic era women writers. The walk will explore some of the key sites around these female poets, writers, feminists and reformers, whose revolutionary work has continued to influence the city to the present day. You can download the free smartphone app 'ROMANTIC BRISTOL: Writing the City' in advance of the tour and find your way to Bristol, old and new. Part of #BristolPoeticCity.

### STAGE TO PAGE WRITING WORKSHOP



#### BRISTOL CENTRAL LIBRARY PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

Time: 1:00 - 3:00pm  
Price: £5

Amy Acre, award-winning writer and editor of Bad Betty Press, leads a dynamic workshop aimed at spoken word artists and performance poets looking to move their work from the stage into publishable work on the page.

This workshop will look at the crucial techniques and forms when writing for the page, as well as considerations when applying to publishers and submitting to journals and competitions.

### OVERCOMING CHALLENGES FESTIVAL POET WORKSHOP

Lyra 2020's Festival Poet Rebecca Antony leads a workshop helping us to overcome challenges as writers. Open to writers of all experiences and stages.

#### BRISTOL CENTRAL LIBRARY PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

Time: 3:00 - 5:00pm Price: £5

What might hold us back as writers in achieving our dreams? How do we move through fear in our work? Lyra 2020's Festival Poet Rebecca Antony leads this workshop centred around working through challenges as writers, offering practical ways to overcome emotional limits and produce the work you have dreamed of creating.



### REBECCA TANTONY FESTIVAL POET PERFORMANCE

Leading South West poet Rebecca Antony performs works, new and old, accompanied by musician Brook Tate.

#### BRISTOL CENTRAL LIBRARY FOYER

Time: 5:15 - 6:00pm Price: Free

Lyra's 2020 Festival Poet Rebecca Antony will be performing her new work, 'How Easy The Trees Learn To Let Go', in the warm, intimate setting of Bristol Central Library. Come and see one of the South West's leading poets offer her beautiful blend of poetry and storytelling, poignantly moving through personal stories on themes such as loss and gain. Accompanied by musician Brook Tate.

## SUNDAY 22ND MARCH '20

### ROMANTIC BRISTOL WALKING TOUR

Discover Bristol's poetic legacy in this engaging guided walk. Led by Dr Rebecca Hutcheon.



#### MEETING POINT: OUTSIDE WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING

Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm Price: £5

A guided tour of some key landmarks for the history and legacy of Romantic poets in Bristol. The walk will use smart technology to explore the city, its layered histories, its cultural complexity and the voices of its poets, past and present. You can download the free smartphone app 'ROMANTIC BRISTOL: Writing the City' in advance of the tour and find your way to Bristol, old and new. Part of #BristolPoeticCity.



### HABITAT AN ECO-POETRY WORKSHOP

TJ Dema, recent winner of the Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poetry, leads an engaging eco-poetry masterclass, open to all writers.

#### BRISTOL MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY ACTIVITY ROOM, FIRST FLOOR

Time: 1:00 - 3:00pm

Price: £5

Environmental writing has often ignored and excluded BAME voices. This high quality and engaging workshop led by TJ Dema will include practical writing exercises around nature and eco-poetry, drawing on material from multiple sources, engaging gender and race. Open to all. BAME writers are particularly encouraged to sign up.



### ROMANTIC POETRY AND RACE/CLASS/GENDER

Edson Burton, Anna Saunders and Charles Thompson explore the attitudes, issues and prejudices within the works of acclaimed Romantic Poets.

#### BRISTOL MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY ENLIGHTENMENT GALLERY

Time: 3:30 - 4:30pm

Price: Free

To what extent did the Romantic Poets (including Keats, Shelley, Byron and Blake) represent freedom, rebellion and change? To what extent did they conform to existing prejudices, especially in their attitudes to race, class and gender? Acclaimed poets Edson Burton, Anna Saunders and Charles Thompson explore these issues, reading classic poems from the canon alongside their own work.

# WIDER LYRA PROGRAMME

The wider festival programme shines a light on all of the regular and one-off poetry activities taking place outside of the core festival programme. Festival passes include entry to the core events only (13th - 22nd March) and not those listed below. To book tickets to the below events, please go through the relevant organisations and book online in advance where necessary.

## FRIDAY 28th FEBRUARY '20

### MAKING CHANGE

Time: 7:30pm

Price: £10/£8 concs. on the door.

### THE OLD PICTURE HOUSE

7 Winton Street, Totterdown BS4 2BW

A multi-media evening of film, poetry and music. *Standing Strong for Women, the Environment and Social Justice*, the evening is coordinated by Gill Hague, poet and activist on violence against women. Short films on the big screen and poems by the late Maya Angelou. Blues and jazz by Dave Merrick and Natalie Davis of Small Days.

## SUNDAY 1st MARCH '20

### SPEL ALT POETRY AND ACOUSTIC MUSIC OPEN MIC

Time: 8:30pm

Price: Free

### BRISTOL FRINGE CAFE BAR

32 Princess Victoria Street, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4BZ

Book a slot on arrival with host poet/musician Tim Burroughs.

## MONDAY 2nd MARCH '20

### MILK POETRY FEATURING IONA LEE & CALLUM WENSLEY

Time: 7:30pm

Price: £8

### THE WARDROBE THEATRE

Old Market Assembly, BS2 0DF

Iona Lee is a poet, writer and visual artist from Scotland. She was crowned Scottish Slam Champion in 2016. Callum Wensley is the poet and host of Craftwords open mic in Horfield. His candid, emotive poetry won him the Milk Slam in 2019.

<http://thewardrobetheatre.com/livetheatre/milk-poetry-featuring-iona-lee-and-callum-wensley>

## THURSDAY 5th MARCH '20

### TONIC 017

Time: 7:00 - 9:30pm

Price: £5 on the door

### HORTS 49 Broad St, Bristol BS1 2EP

A warm-lit, cosy night of spoken and sung word promoting the power of the pen and the people who wield it. Open mic, Scratch showcase, Q&A. Headlined by Muneera Pilgrim.

## FRIDAY 6th MARCH '20

### SILVER STREET POETRY

Time: Noon

Price: £4 on the door

### HOURS GALLERY

10 Colston Yard, Bristol BS1 5BD

Chrissie Gittins, reading from her third collection, *Sharp Hills*, published by Indigo Dreams. Bring your own refreshments and a poem to share in our friendly open mic.

## SUNDAY 8th MARCH '20

### TONIC WRITING JAM

### NATURE & THE WRITTEN WORD

Time: 2:30 - 4:00pm

Price: Free

### BRISTOL CENTRAL LIBRARY

College Green, Bristol BS1 5TL

Join us for another friendly afternoon celebrating the joy of writing, planned to be inclusive for everyone - regardless of experience. Topic of this month's workshop: how the environment can inspire writing.

## ISAMBARDS AT ARNOS VALE POETRY WALK

Time: 1:30 - 3:00pm

Price: £5 in advance

### ARNOS VALE CEMETERY

Bath Rd, Bristol BS4 3EW

<https://arnosvale.org.uk/events/isambards-poetry-walk/>

Bristol poets, the Isambards; Deborah Harvey, Pameli Benham, Dominic Fisher & David C Johnson will take you on a poetic journey around some of the historic, poignant, beautiful and unforgettable places within Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol.

## TUESDAY 10th MARCH '20

### CECILIA KNAPP: LOSING THE NIGHT

Time: 7:30pm

Price: £10 advance

### THE WARDROBE THEATRE

Old Market Assembly, BS2 0DF

<http://thewardrobetheatre.com/livetheatre/cecilia-knapp-losing-the-night/>

Cecilia Knapp is a poet, playwright and performer. She has performed all over the UK and internationally.

Liam and Mitch haven't seen each other since they lost Dylan. Trapped in a pub during a dead shift with nothing to do but wash glasses and eat Bombay mix, they start to dig deep into the past and try to get to the truth.

## WEDNESDAY 11th MARCH

### SATELLITE OF LOVE

Time: 8:30pm

Price: Free. Donations to refugee charity welcome.

### GREENBANK PUB

7 Belle Vue Rd, Easton BS5 6DP

Easton's favourite poetry night with features Myriam San Marco and Anita Karla Kelly. Plus Open Mic hosted by Helen Sheppard. Further details on Facebook and Twitter @SOLPoetry.

## THURSDAY 19th MARCH

### WILL HARRIS AT STORYSMITH BOOKS

Time: 6:30pm

Price: £5, includes glass of wine and 10% off featured books purchased on the night.

### STORYSMITH

49 North Street, Bristol BS3 1EN

<https://storysmithbooks.com/events/>

Anglo-Indonesian poet Will Harris will read and discuss his brand-new debut collection *RENDANG*. His poem 'SAY' was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem 2018, and he won a Poetry Fellowship from the Arts Foundation in 2019. *RENDANG* is published by Granta.

## BRISTOL STANZA GROUP POETRY MASTERCLASS WITH PHILIP GROSS

Time: 7:00-9:00pm Price: £5

126 Hampton Road Bristol BS6 6JE

Tickets on application to Martin Rieser, Stanza convener: [martin.rieser@gmail.com](mailto:martin.rieser@gmail.com)

## SUNDAY 22nd MARCH

### KIOTA

Time: 2:00pm Price: £8

### THE WARDROBE THEATRE

Old Market Assembly, BS2 0DF

<http://thewardrobetheatre.com/livetheatre/kiota/>

A Collective for POC Creatives in Bristol, showcasing people of colour (POC) or BAME creatives from various artistic disciplines in a fantastic evening of performance followed by networking opportunities. Kiota are committed to creating original collaborations between POC artists of different disciplines who wouldn't ordinarily have the chance to work together to see how their artistic practise evolves.

## TUESDAY 24th MARCH

### POETRY TRANSLATION WORKSHOP

Time: 5:30pm Price: Free, open to all.

### HELEN WODEHOUSE BUILDING

Room 3.13, 35 Berkeley Square, Bristol BS8 1JA

Bristol Poetry Institute and Poetry Translation Centre invite you to join us translating Argentinian philosopher and writer Silvina Giaganti with Argentinian/British poet Leo Boix. Giaganti's work explores love and the loss of love, family dysfunction and questions of belonging/queerness. The workshops are collaborative sessions that focus on the process of translation. There is no need to know the language being translated. Just drop in!

## WEDNESDAY 25th MARCH

### TRIOKA: A CARRIAGE PULLED BY THREE HORSES

Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm Price: £5 on the door

### HOURS GALLERY

10 Colston Yard, Bristol BS1 5BD

Three acclaimed poets read from their work. With Mathew Caley (Forward Prize nominee), Tim Cumming (Pitt Street Poetry) and David Briggs (Salt Publishing). Mathew Caley's sixth collection *Trawlerman's Turquoise* was published by Bloodaxe in 2019. Tim Cumming writes about music and the arts for British and International Press. David Briggs received an Eric Gregory Award in 2002. His third publication, *Cracked Skull Cinema*, was a 2019 Poetry Wales Pick of the Year.

## THURSDAY 26th MARCH

### LOVE IN THE SMALL SPACES

Time: 7:00 - 10:00pm Price: £5 / £4 concs. on the door.

### HOURS GALLERY

10 Colston Yard, Bristol BS1 5BD

No longer is the sublime canvas of the Romantics vast and wild and threatening to us; we now threaten it. So what defence can poetry offer? Hosted by the HOURS writers, with open-mic available. Bring us your poems of little and curious loves to hold back the flood

## FRIDAY 27th MARCH

### LAUNCH PARTY FOR BRISTOL WOMEN'S LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm Price: £7 / £5 concs. advance

### SPIKE ISLAND CAFE

133 Cumberland Rd, Bristol BS1 6UX

<https://www.spikeisland.org.uk/programme/events/launch-bwlf-2020/>

Bristol Women's Literature Festival, Comma Press and a host of local poets celebrate at Spike Island. Comma Press's Eleanor Pender is joined by Janne Teller and Karolina Ramqvist to discuss their writing, Europe, and cross border solidarity. Later there are performances from leading Bristol-based poets Malaika Kegode, Shagufta K Iqbal, and Rebecca Kosick.

## SATURDAY 28th MARCH

### GLORY IN THE BONE: ECHOES AND EDGES ALBUM RELEASE PARTY

Time: 7:00pm

### ILLUSTRATE CAFE

79 Park Street, BS1 5PF

Echoes and Edges is a collective of Bristol-based poets and musicians, working together on ideas that merge spoken word with improvised and composed pieces of music. Through a combination of musical improvisation, soundscapes and looped vocal elements, we transform the poems into sonic pictures of memories and moments.

## TUESDAY 31st MARCH

### BERKELEY SQUARE POETRY REVUE

Time: 8:30pm Price: £3 on the door

### THE SQUARE CLUB

15 Berkeley Square, Bristol BS8 1HB

With poets Anna Saunders, Adam Horowitz and David Punter plus upbeat and soulful music from The Rosalind Moreno Parra Trio. Hosted by Charles Thompson and Tim Burroughs. Adam's most recent publication *The Soil Never Sleeps*, was the result of a year long project which saw him visit four farms in England and Wales, across all four seasons, keeping detailed written and photographic journals as poet in residence for the Pasture-fed Livestock Association.

## THURSDAY 2nd APRIL

### PHILIP GROSS BOOK LAUNCH AND READINGS

Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm

Price: £5 from Eventbrite, £6 on the door.

### BOSTON TEA PARTY

(upstairs), 75 Park St, Bristol, BS1 5PF

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/philip-gross-book-launch-and-poetry-readings-tickets-92349386501>

Philip Gross will read from his new collection *Between The Islands*, (Bloodaxe Books) together with poets from Bristol Stanza Group. Philip Gross is poet, playwright, librettist and educator. He is T.S Eliot Prize winner. His latest collection features a series of 'unfinished conversations between friends no longer living'.



## ARTISTS & SPEAKERS

**AMY ACRE** is a poet, performer and freelance writer from London, and the editor of Bad Betty Press. Her poem, 'every girl knows' won the 2019 Verve Poetry Prize. Her pamphlets *And They Are Covered in Gold Light* (Bad Betty, 2019) and *Where We're Going, We Don't Need Roads* (flipped eye, 2015) were each chosen as a Poetry Book Society Pamphlet Choice.

**JOSIE ALFORD** is a Bristol-based poet and event host. Enigmatic. Mysterious. Drenched in Shadow. Josie Alford is none of these things. Her stage presence is sequined, Spice Girl inspired, pop culture referencing, infectious and welcoming. Her work ranges from the subtle nuance of dealing with loss to meeting your partner whilst dressed up as Justin Bieber.

**SIMON ARMITAGE** is the National Poet Laureate. He is Professor of Poetry at University of Leeds and was elected to serve as Professor of Poetry at University of Oxford for 2015-2019. Armitage was awarded the Sunday Times Young Author of the Year, a Forward Prize, an Eric Gregory Award, a Keats-Shelley Prize for Poetry and the 2018 Queens Gold Medal for Poetry.

**HARRY BAKER** is a World Poetry Slam Champion. He published his debut anthology *The Sunshine Kid* with Burning Eye in December 2014, and the show of the same name was voted 'Best Spoken Word Show' of the Edinburgh Fringe 2015. His work has been shared on TED.com and viewed millions of times worldwide, as well as being translated into 21 different languages.

**DR EDSON BURTON** is a writer of theatre and radio drama and poetry. His credits include poetry collection *Seasoned* (2008), *Armour of Immanuel* (2007), *The Chosen One* (2009), *Deacon* (2017) and (2019) and promenade performance *An Abolitionist Returns*, produced by Bristol Old Vic (2018).

**BETH CALVERLEY** is a poet, creative coach and founder of The Poetry Machine. She helps people to express their thoughts and feelings through the playfulness of poetry. Beth is Poet in Residence at South Bristol Community Hospital and works with charities, companies, universities, schools, heritage sites and festivals nationally. Her debut collection will be launched in November 2020.

**RACHAEL CLYNE** is widely published in journals and anthologies and is a frequent reader at poetry events. Her prizewinning collection, *Singing at the Bone Tree* (Indigo Dream, 2014), concerns our relationship with the wild and her pamphlet, *Girl Golem* (4Word Press, 2018) is about her migrant background and sense of otherness.

**TJAWANGWA DEMA** is the author of two books of poetry, most recently *The Careless Seamstress* which won the Sillerman First Book Prize. A former Fall Resident at the University of Iowa's International Writers Program as well as a 2016 Visiting Artist at Northwestern University's Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, she is an Honorary Senior Research Associate at the University of Bristol.

**ZENA EDWARDS** is a poet and performer who uses song, movement and global influences as a jump-off for her words. Zena has performed at WOMAD, The London Jazz Festival, Poetry International at the Royal Festival Hall, The URB Hip Hop Festival (Helsinki), Glastonbury as well as many others. She was recently Resident Poet at the Poetry Café in Covent Garden.

**CARRIE ETTER** has published four collections of poetry, most recently *The Weather in Normal* (UK: Seren; US: Station Hill, 2018), a Poetry Book Society Recommendation, as well as a chapbook of flash fictions, *Hometown* (V. Press, 2016). She is a Reader in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University.

**DOMINIC FISHER** is published in many UK magazines and in Europe. He performs in Bristol and beyond, often as an IsamBard, and was winner of the final Bristol Poetry Prize 2018. His collection is *The Ladies and Gentlemen of the Dead* (The Blue Nib, 2019). There are foxes and goldfinches on his allotment.

**JONNY FLUFFYPUNK** has been dragging his art around the poetry and alternative cabaret circuits for over 10 years. By turns surreal, daft and oddly moving, his work is both a celebration of the beauty in the mundane and an elaborate cry for help. "*Acute social observation, intricate humour, surreal fantasy, sharp irony and wit...and England's most pretentious moustache*" *The Independent*

**CHARLOTTE GEATER** lives in Walthamstow. She is a freelance editor and writer, and volunteers at a community library. Her poetry has appeared in Queen Mob's Tea House, The White Review, Clinic and The Best British Poetry 2013. She won The White Review Poet's Prize in 2018. She has published two pamphlets: *poems for my FBI agent* and *against my own feelings*.

**DEBORAH HARVEY**'s poems are published in journals and anthologies, broadcast on Radio 4's Poetry Please, and awarded several major prizes. Her poetry collections: *The Shadow Factory* (2019) *Breadcrumbs* (2016), *Map Reading for Beginners* (2014), and *Communion* (2011), are published by Indigo Dreams, while her historical novel, *Dart*, appeared under their Tamar Books imprint in 2013.

**DR REBECCA HUTCHEON** is a Research Associate at Lancaster University on the AHRC-funded project 'Chronotopic Cartographies' in a team that specialises in using digital tools to analyse, map, and visualise the spaces of literary texts. Her other work centres around walking and the Romantic South West, and how digital technologies can shape perception of place (real and literary).

**SAILI KATEBE** is a Zambian born writer based in the South West. As a writer and a performer he is always looking to connect with different disciplines and creative outlets, exploring his curiosity with creativity and recklessness. In 2019 he was resident Bristol Boat Poet and a writer in residence on Brunel's SS Great Britain.

**LUKE KENNARD** is a poet and novelist whose 5th collection, *Cain*, was shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize 2017. He lectures at the University of Birmingham.

**VANESSA KISUULE** is a writer and performer based in Bristol, and a former National Slam Champion. She has worked with Southbank Centre, RADA, Knee High Theatre and Warner Music, and been featured on BBC Radio 1, The Guardian, The Guilty Feminist Podcast, Gal Dem Magazine, Blue Peter, and Sky TV. She is the Bristol City Poet for 2018 - 2020.

**REBECCA KOSICK** is a poet, translator, and Lecturer in the School of Modern Languages at the University of Bristol. There, she co-directs the Bristol Poetry Institute and runs the Interdisciplinary Poetics Research Cluster. She is the author of the poetry collection, *Labor Day* (Golias Books) and *Material Poetics in Hemispheric America: Words and Objects, 1950-2010* (Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming 2020).

**MIRANDA LYNN BARNES** is a poet and writer from the US, who now lives in Bristol. Miranda taught Creative Writing at Bath Spa University, where she earned her Doctorate and now works there as Research Publications Librarian. Her work appears in several journals and her debut pamphlet, *Blue Dot Aubade* is forthcoming from V. Press.

**KAT LYONS** is a poet, storyteller and performer with a background in live art and troublemaking. She co-hosts with Bristol spoken word promoter Raise the Bar, won the 2019 Milk Poetry Superslam and the 2019 Lyra: Bristol Poetry Festival Slam and performs at gigs and events all around the UK. She's currently developing her first solo show.

**ISABELLA NECESSITY** is a pedal pushing storyteller who loves to share stories from her incredible journeys around the world with the people she meets along the way. She has outwitted trolls, talked with butterflies and ridden a pixy horse. With delightful storytelling, gorgeous illustrations, unexpected wonders and a handsome Story Bicycle, called Dilys, Isabella will whisk you away to another world.

**GBOYEGA ODUBANJO** is a British-Nigerian poet born and raised in East London. In 2018 he completed an MA in Poetry at University of East Anglia. Gboyega's pamphlet *While I Yet Live* was published by Bad Betty and included in Poetry School Books of 2018. He is a member of the Barbican Young Poets, the Roundhouse Poetry Collective, and (In)Space.

**PROFESSOR RALPH PITE**'s biography of Thomas Hardy, *The Guarded Life* was published by Picador and his biographical study of Robert Frost and Edward Thomas is soon to appear with Harvard University Press. He's working now on an ecocritical book about Romantic poetry, particularly in connection with water. Ralph led the team which produced the smartphone app of Bristol poetry: *Romantic Bristol: Writing the City*.

**CHRIS REDMOND** is an international spoken word poet, musician and theatre maker. A regular at UK music and literature festivals, he has performed on BBC Radio One, BBC Radio Four, Sky Arts and Scroobius Pip's XFM show *The Beatdown*, as well as throughout Europe, the US and recently South Africa. He is also the creator and host of *Tongue Fu*, one of the UK's leading spoken word shows.

**ANNA SAUNDERS** is the author of *Communion* (Wild Conversations Press), *Struck* (Pindrop Press) *Kissing the She Bear* (Wild Conversations Press) *Burne Jones and the Fox* (Indigo Dreams), *Ghosting for Beginners* (Indigo Dreams) and the forthcoming *Feverfew* (Indigo Dreams), described by Penny Shuttle as 'A beautiful and necessary collection'. Anna is the CEO and founder of Cheltenham Poetry Festival.

**STEPHEN SEXTON** lives in Belfast. His poems have appeared in *Granta*, *POETRY*, and *Best British Poetry 2015*. His pamphlet, *Oils*, was the Poetry Book Society's Winter Pamphlet Choice. He won the 2016 National Poetry Competition, and was awarded an Eric Gregory Award in 2018. In 2019, he won the Forward Prize for Best First Collection.

**VIK SHIRLEY** is a poet from Bristol currently studying for a PhD in 'Dark Humour and the Surreal in Poetry' at the University of Birmingham. Her first collection, *The Continued Closure of the Blue Door* (HVTN Press), her chapbook *Corpses* (Sublunary Editions) and her pamphlet *Disrupted Blue and Other Poems on Polaroid* (Hesterglock Press) will all be published in 2020.

**DANEZ SMITH** is a black, queer, poz writer and performer from St. Paul, Minnesota. Danez is the author of *Don't Call Us Dead*, winner of the Forward Prize for Best Collection and the Midwest Booksellers Choice Award, and a finalist for the National Book Award, and *[insert] boy*, winner of the Kate Tufts Discovery Award and the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry.

**REBECCA TANTONY** is the author of three collections and has read her work in a variety of locations, from the Royal Albert Hall, U.K to Wits University, Johannesburg. She has been commissioned by Radio 4, read her work on the BBC and her writing has been described as 'Mesmerising' in the *Guardian*.

**SUSAN TAYLOR** has notched up eight published poetry collections and pamphlets. She was a shepherd all through her youth, but has now turned her attention to the plight of the wolf in a newly devised solo show, 'La Loba Enchanting the Wolf', launching in May 2020.

**CHARLES THOMPSON** is a poet and playwright based in Bristol. Charles has written and directed several successful plays and co-runs the Lansdowne Poets group.

**SPIKEY TIM** is a quirky and energetic performance poet who is a part of the "Echoes & Edges" music/ poetry collective. He has been described as "anarchic and comedic" and covers diverse topics such as his incredible trampoline, being heckled by a dog, and his failed attempts to ski. He performs for all ages and runs poetry workshops for kids.

**LIV TORC** is a razor blade skating performance poet, who plunges the vast caverns and dormant volcanoes of the human condition. A Radio 4 Slam Winner, a former Bard of Exeter and current co-host of The Hip Yak Poetry Shack. Liv runs the spoken word stage at WOMAD and the Hip Yak Poetry School. Her first published book *Show Me Life* was released by Burning Eye in 2015.

**CALLUM WENSLEY** is the host of the Craftwords Open Mic, and is a former Hammer and Tongue Bristol team member. His poetry is funny and upsetting in a balance he still hasn't quite perfected but he's trying. His hosting, however, is always on point and he refuses to let anyone tell him otherwise.

**JAKE WILD HALL** is one half of Bad Betty Press, the host of Boomerang Club and winner of the PBH 2016 Spirit Of The Free Fringe Award. He has performed on BBC Radio and at festivals and literary events across the UK. He is the author of two pamphlets, *Blank* and *Solomon's World*—longlisted for Best Pamphlet in the 2018 Saboteur Awards.

**SIMON WILLIAMS** has eight published collections, his latest being a co-authored pamphlet with Susan Taylor, *The Weather House*, which has toured in performance. Simon was elected Bard of Exeter 2013 and founded the large-format magazine, *The Broadsheet*. He is currently developing a one-man poetry show, *Cosmic Latte*.





# SUPPORTERS & COLLABORATORS

We are incredibly grateful for all of the supporters and collaborators who have contributed to our second ever festival in various ways. A special thank you to Apples and Snakes, Bristol Cultural Development Partnership, Bristol Poetry Institute and Bad Betty Press, and all of those who donated to our GoFundMe campaign. We look forward to collaborating together in future years to continue growing this Festival.

APPLES  
AND  
SNAKES

ARNOLFINI




**B24/7**



Bristol Festival  
of Ideas

 Bristol Libraries



 HEADFIRST



visit  
**BRISTOL**

**W**  
Waterstones



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