



LYRA

BRISTOL
POETRY
FESTIVAL

21

RECONNECTION

WEDNESDAY 14TH APRIL -
SUNDAY 25TH APRIL 2021



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

 @LYRAFEST  @LYRAFEST

TICKETS [LYRAFEST.COM](https://lyrafest.com)



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**ARTS COUNCIL
 ENGLAND**

This Festival has been supported by funding from Arts Council England. We are incredibly grateful to have benefited from their support since our inaugural Lyra Festival in March 2019.



In loving memory of writer, poet and educator, Glenn Carmichael (1955-2020), who set up the Bristol Poetry Slam in 1994 and ignited Bristol's poetry scene.

PHOTO: SAM CAVENDER



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ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

April 2021 marks the third annual Lyra - Bristol Poetry Festival. Just one year ago, 600 people packed out Wills Memorial Building's Main Hall to see the UK Poet Laureate Simon Armitage at Lyra 2020. It seems like a lifetime ago. Many of you will be missing that feeling of sharing in the enjoyment of live art, but at the same time the influx of digital events has, in many ways, connected us more so than ever before. It has also made live poetry accessible to those who once faced barriers to this experience, and accessibility, inclusivity and representation are at the heart of what we believe poetry should be about. For this reason, we are delighted to be able to present a digital Lyra Festival 2021, and we invite audiences from far and wide to attend our events and take part in the writing workshops, meeting people from around the country and world in the process. A number of our events will be BSL interpreted, others will include captions, and Zoom's auto transcript technology will be available for all workshops.

This year's festival theme is Reconnection, exploring ideas of community, collaboration and inclusion, as we find ways to reconnect to each other, to our shared histories, our local communities and our environment. Lyra aims to present and promote poetry in as many formats as possible, and this year's programme of 16 events includes live readings, spoken word, poetry slams, writing workshops, panel discussions and a film screening. The popular Romantic Bristol walking tours will be back this spring/summer, in line with government guidelines.

Thank you to all of the collaborators and partners who have made this festival possible, with a special thanks to Bristol University's Poetry Institute, Bath Spa University, Apples and Snakes, and our ethical ticketing provider, HeadFirst Bristol. Thank you to Festival of Ideas, our Digital Producer for all live events on Crowdcast, and St. George's Bristol who are hosting a number of streamed events from their auditorium.

Lyra Festival is Co-Directed by Dr Lucy English and Danny Pandolfi, and this year's Festival Poet is Bristol-born Beth Calverley, a poet, creative coach, and founder of *The Poetry Machine*. Beth has a long track record of using her poetry to address vulnerability and loneliness and, over the past year, in particular, has been able to bring help and comfort to others. She will engage in further outreach work throughout April with Bristol's local community groups, writing in response to their local parks and green spaces. There will also be a public call-out for poems about local parks and green spaces, so be sure to follow our social media platforms to stay updated.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the NHS staff and key workers who have worked tirelessly to keep us safe during this pandemic. We hope to be able to return to live events in the near future, but to continue building digital connections with those far beyond our home of Bristol. We hope you enjoy April's programme of poetry at Lyra Festival, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

CORE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

ALL events will take place digitally on Crowdcast and Zoom.
Visit www.lyrafest.com for all tickets.

Tickets for all activities must be booked in advance, including for free events.
An event link will be sent to ticket holders on the day of the event.

Festival Pass (All Events): £20

Festival Pass (All Events and Workshops): £50

WEDNESDAY 14TH APRIL

TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY CHATTERTON

LECTURE

A lecture by Dr Nick Groom. Presented in association with Bristol Poetry Institute and Bristol Cultural Development Partnership.

Time: 6:00 - 7:00pm

Price: FREE

This talk will introduce the poetry of Thomas Chatterton to a contemporary audience. Chatterton's multi-faceted work runs from scathing satire to some of the earliest anti-slavery poetry ever written, and among his extraordinarily diverse writing are moments of insight that can help us think through the challenges and dilemmas of the twenty-first century.

While Chatterton's obsessive invention of mediaeval Bristol certainly makes his writing unique, it also risks alienating readers. Why should we bother reading him today, unless we have a particular interest in eighteenth-century literature that describes the past? In fact, not only does Chatterton's phenomenally imaginative recreation of the Middle Ages have striking significance today, it is in any case only one aspect of his writing.

This event is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

(The 2020 anthology *A Poetic City* can be read [HERE](#)).



IMAGE: WILLEM HAMPSON

THURSDAY 15TH APRIL

POETRY & RECONNECTION

DISCUSSION AND Q&A

A live discussion on Lyra's 2021 theme of Reconnection, presented in association with Bristol Poetry Institute.

Time: 7:00 - 8:00pm **Price:** Free

Join Bristol City poet Caleb Parkin in conversation with Madhu Krishnan, discussing the themes of reconnection, nature and poetry. What do we talk about when we talk about nature? Does nature really connect us, or does it also divide? Does "nature" even exist? In this conversation, we consider the ways in which poetry and nature intersect, and how the human and non-human environment is produced and reproduced, (be)laboured, (de)constructed and performed through language.

Bring a quote or poem of up to fifty words related to these themes and there'll be chances to feed these into the conversation, keeping things live and lively.

This event will be BSL interpreted.



FRIDAY 16TH APRIL

AN EVENING WITH FORWARD PRIZE WINNERS

POETRY READING AND DISCUSSION



Live readings from the three 2020 Forward Prize winners Malika Booker, Caroline Bird and Will Harris, followed by a short discussion and Q&A.

Time: 7:00 - 8:00pm **Price:** £7.50/£10

Lyra are delighted to host live readings from all three recipients of the coveted 2020 Forward Prizes for Poetry: Caroline Bird for *Best Collection*, Will Harris for *Best First Collection*, and Malika Booker for *Best Single Poem*. Enjoy back-to-back readings of some of the finest works in UK poetry today, followed by a short discussion and Q&A with the writers.

This event will be BSL interpreted.



SATURDAY 17TH APRIL

RECONNECTIONS

FILM SCREENING

Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm **Price:** Free

A screening of poetry films on the theme of Reconnection, curated by Liberated Words. Reconnection to landscape, the body, our history, family and heritage, during and before the pandemic. Artists featured include Kat Lyons, Rebecca Tantony, Helmi Stil, Helen Johnson, Edson Burton, and Francesco Garbo. Followed by a discussion and Q&A with Sarah Tremlett and Lucy English of Liberated Words.



PHIL KAYE: FADED PORTRAITS

WRITING WORKSHOP

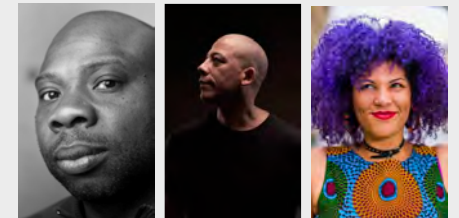
Internationally acclaimed writer/performer Phil Kaye leads an exclusive workshop on reconnecting to our past selves.

Time: 4:30 - 7:00pm **Price:** £7.50/£10

Faded Portraits: Writing the Complicated Younger Self explores how we excavate and narrate our complex and often contradictory young selves. What does it mean to genuinely love our past selves, and also leave room for honest critique? How do we write the joys, sorrows, and discoveries of childhood in ways that feel fresh? How do we safely uncover small unexpected moments from our past to write about?

The workshop will include the sharing of some of Phil's favorite poems about childhood and adolescence, workshop-wide discussion, guided prompts, writing time, and an optional opportunity to share work in a safe and relaxed setting.

Zoom's auto transcript technology will be available.



ART AND DISSENT: BRISTOL'S RADICAL HISTORY

DISCUSSION PANEL

Dr Edson Burton, Lawrence Hoo and Ngaio Anyia discuss how Bristol can reconnect to its past through its history of radical BAME art and activism.

Time: 3:00 - 4:00pm **Price:** Free

How do we reconnect to our city's history in a post-Colston statue, post-pandemic society? This panel event will bring together writer and historian Edson Burton, poet and activist Lawrence Hoo, and DJ, singer and presenter Ngaio Anyia for a discussion on the power of poetry and art in radical change and connecting people. Join the trio as they delve into the history of radical BAME arts in Bristol, protest and dissent, and how these movements have contributed to the lifeblood of the city today.

This event will be BSL interpreted and include captions.



SUNDAY 18TH APRIL

BETH CALVERLEY: GIVING VOICE TO YOUR FAVOURITE LOCAL PLACE

WRITING WORKSHOP

Join Festival Poet Beth Calverley in a gentle adventure into place-based gratitude-writing.

Time: 12:00 - 2:00pm **Price:** £5

Do you feel passionate about a local outdoor space, street, neighbourhood, meeting place or community group and want to give voice to its legacy? If so, join us for this creative exploration! Over the past 12 months, many of us have reconnected with our local outdoor spaces and gained a renewed love for familiar places.

During this session, Beth will guide us through some thought-provoking activities to write poetry about our homes-from-home. We will also create a poem together as a group to think about how a sense of community can emerge through the words we use to describe places that mean the world to us.

Zoom's auto transcript technology will be available.



SPOKEN WORD IN THE UK

DISCUSSION PANEL

Dr Lucy English, Sundra Lawrence, Peter Bearder and Dr Jack McGowan discuss different aspects of the UK's rich history and tradition of spoken word poetry.

Time: 4:00 - 5:00pm **Price:** Free

From dub poets to punk poets to slam poets, the UK has for decades maintained a thriving culture of spoken word poetry. With the groundbreaking release of Routledge's book *Spoken Word in the UK* this year, co-editors Dr Lucy English and Dr Jack McGowan and two of the contributing writers, Pete Bearder and Sundra Lawrence, join Lyra for a live discussion panel.

Each speaker will deliver a short talk about their chapter, before joining in a wider discussion about the history and significance of Spoken Word in the UK.

This event will be BSL interpreted.



LYRA: BRISTOL POETRY SLAM GRAND SLAM FINALS

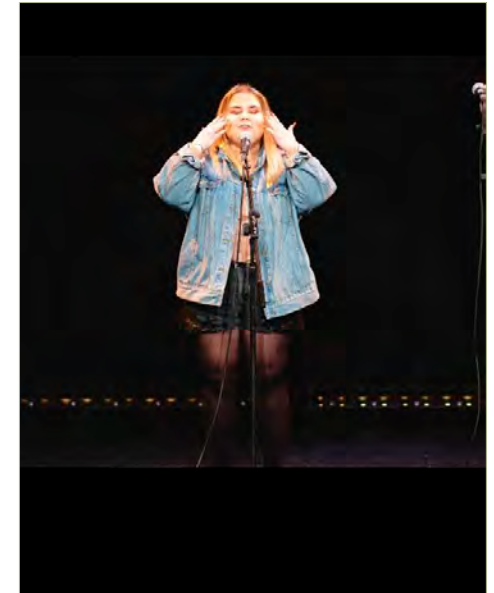
The epic Lyra Bristol Poetry Slam final, headlined by Dizraeli.

Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm **Price:** £5/7.50

An event that has fast become an audience favourite at Lyra Festival, as winners of the qualifying rounds compete to be crowned as 2021's Lyra Bristol Poetry Slam Champion. The event will be headlined by Bristol-born poet, singer, MC and multi-instrumentalist Dizraeli, with a support set from Lyra 2020's Grand Slam winner Tierney Elliott.

Click [HERE](#) to enter the 2021 Lyra Bristol Poetry Slam Qualifiers. Submissions close on midnight April 1st.

This event will be captioned.



FRIDAY 23RD APRIL



WILL HARRIS: FINDING A LANGUAGE WRITING WORKSHOP

An open, relaxed writing workshop for our wonderful NHS workers.

Time: 7:00 - 8:30pm **Price:** Free

In this poetry workshop exclusively for NHS workers, we'll explore the different languages we use – at work, at home, with friends – and make poems out of the everyday experiences we face. This workshop is free, but participants will need to sign up in advance on the ticket link.

Zoom's auto transcript technology will be available.

SATURDAY 24TH APRIL

MALIKA BOOKER: WRITING IN CONVERSATION WITH CONTEMPORARY POETS

WRITING WORKSHOP

A read, discuss and write session with Malika Booker, using poems by others to facilitate your own writing.

Time: 1:30 - 3:30pm **Price:** £5/£7.50

How do we write in connection with, and in response to, our wide community of international writers? In this workshop we will use poems by contemporary poets to explore the following: disrupted narratives, personification as a strategy to handle difficult subjects, the lyric as political resistance, and historical counterpoint as an approach to the contemporary. You will be sent the poems prior to the workshop and asked to read them in advance.

Zoom's auto transcript technology will be available.



KAT LYONS: RECONNECTING WITH THE BODY WRITING WORKSHOP

An exploration in reconnecting our poetry brains to our bodies, with Kat Lyons.

Time: 4:00 - 6:00pm **Price:** £5

Our bodies can be politicised, sexualised and medicalised, and are often a site of conflict and discontent. This workshop will focus on nurturing positivity and reconnection. Participants will look at poetry that focuses on the body and bodily experiences, examine which techniques are used to bring those experiences to life on the page, and use writing exercises and discussion to explore their own experiences and relationship to their body. This workshop is open to anyone over 16 of any gender.

Zoom's auto transcript technology will be available.

SUNDAY 25TH APRIL



CAROLINE BIRD: DANGER AND EMOTIONAL RISK

WRITING WORKSHOP

A masterclass with Caroline Bird exploring what it means to write a dangerous poem.

Time: 11:00am - 12:30pm **Price:** £5/£7.50

How do we venture out onto the thin ice of our own minds without falling through? How do we write poems about our secrets without exposing them; hide behind images in order to reveal? The nature of risk in poetry is entirely relative – a radically gentle poem can be just as dangerous as a disturbingly violent one; it depends on which path is the least taken. This masterclass is all about untaken paths, emotional and linguistic risk, and how we can write ourselves into uncomfortable places, whilst, somehow, miraculously, enjoying it.

Zoom's auto transcript technology will be available.

BETH CALVERLEY: FESTIVAL POET PERFORMANCE

New and old works from Beth Calverley, Lyra's 2021 Festival Poet. Featuring Bethany M. Roberts.

Time: 1:00 - 1:30pm **Price:** Free

Festival Poet Beth Calverley is spending her Lyra residency engaging with communities in Bristol and using poetry to research the value of local parks and green spaces. In this short performance, she will be sharing work from her new poetry collection Brave Faces and Other Smiles. Beth will be joined by Bethany M. Roberts for part of her performance. Together, they make the mesmerising music and poetry duo: House of Figs.

This event will be BSL interpreted and captioned.

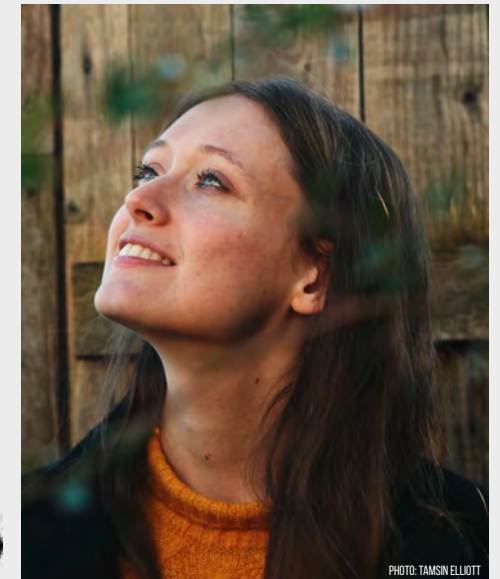


PHOTO: TAMGIN ELLIOTT

SUNDAY 25TH APRIL

APPLES AND SNAKES

KAT FRANÇOIS: HOW TO SHAKE THE SH*T OUT OF YOUR LIFE

WRITING WORKSHOP

A workshop with Kat François for writers and artists, presented in association with Apples & Snakes.

Time: 4:00 - 6:00pm

Price: £5

A motivational workshop on how to reconnect with your practice and get your career back on track during, and after, a global pandemic. How to turn your side hustle into your main hustle. How to keep sane and put money in your pocket. This workshop will give creative solutions and practical ideas on how to navigate your way through this most challenging time.

Zoom's auto transcript technology will be available.



STILL I RISE: POETRY AND RESISTANCE PERFORMANCE



A stunning line-up of sensational spoken word performances, presented by Raise the Bar.

Time: 7:00 - 8:00pm

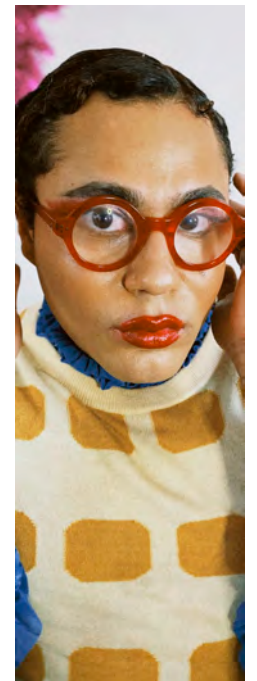
Price: £5/£7.50

A special evening of performances to celebrate the power and role of poetry in shaping resistance movements. Featuring an all-star lineup of Vanessa Kisuule, Safiya Kamaria Kinshasa and Suhaimah Manzoor-Khan, and hosted by Bristol-born sensation Travis Alabanza.

This event will be captioned.

"Just like the moons and like suns, With the certainty of tides, Just like hopes springing high, Still I'll rise."

Maya Angelou, Still I Rise.



OTHER EVENTS IN (& AROUND) BRISTOL

As well as the Festival itself, there are plenty of other online poetry activities happening in and around Bristol during the month of April.

THURSDAY 1ST APRIL - MONDAY 31ST MAY

ASHTON COURT ESTATE: POETRY COMPETITION

Price: Free

[Click here for submissions information](#)

At Ashton Court Estate we will be unveiling our newly renovated Coach House on Saturday 1 May 2021. To celebrate the opening of the Coach House we are running a competition and inviting the poets of the city to submit a poem about Ashton Court Estate. We will be running two separate categories, one for poets aged 17 and under and one for poets aged 18 and over. The winners of both categories will have their poems printed on our new estate maps and activity leaflets, as well as receive a £25 gift card for our cafes each.

THURSDAY 1ST APRIL

TONIC 029: TOM DENBIGH

Time: 7:30 - 9:30pm

Price: Free (Optional Donation)

[Click here to register](#)

Scratch (new writing), Q & A and more.

Ages: 15 and up.

Tom Denbigh brings his comedy chops to Tonic's digital stage for another night of word wizardry! Tom is published with Burning Eye Books, was Bristol Pride's inaugural Poet Laureate and is a winner of BBC1 Xtra Emerging Artist Talent Search. Tom is a producer for Milk Poetry and is one of the South West's finest writers who dual-wields stage presence and page-poetry power.

THURSDAY 1ST APRIL

SPITFIRE

Time: 8:00 - 9:30pm

Price: £3/£6/£9

[Click here for tickets](#)

Host Kat Lyons presents a night of incredible spoken word poetry, featuring a headline set from former World Poetry Slam champion Kat François, with support from Brenda Read-Brown, Lucy English and Shagufta K Iqbal.

Join us online from the comfort of your own home for another intergenerational poetry evening, as we turn a spotlight on the talent, voices and diverse experiences of older women.

SUNDAY 4TH APRIL
AND SUNDAY 11TH APRIL

SAFIYA KAMARIA KINSHASHA: MASTERCLASSES

Time: 1:00 - 4:00pm

Price: £15 each/£25 for both

[Click here for tickets](#)

A Grand Slam Masterclass with lessons on: performance, form, integrity, score creep, cultural appropriation, community and winning. A Flight Masterclass on writing about distressing subjects, featuring lessons on: hip hop, martial arts, body awareness, wellbeing & emotional intelligence.

Safiya Kamaria Kinshasha is a British-born, Barbadian-raised poet. Her forthcoming first poetry collection will be published by Out-Spoken Press in 2021. Safiya is a recipient of the inaugural Jerwood Arts | Apples & Snakes Poetry in Performance Programme. She was awarded the 2020 New Voice in Poetry Prize by Culture Recordings.

MONDAY 5TH - FRIDAY 9TH APRIL

HOURS WRITERS GROUP: POETRY SHOT

Time: Every morning

Price: Free

[SoundCloud link](#)

The Bristol-born **HOURS Writers group** will be releasing a daily **Poetry Shot** - a 30-minute showcase of work from three HOURS poets, including Caleb Parkin, Chaucer Cameron, Stephen Lightbown, Miranda Lynn Barnes and many more. Each Shot will be hosted by another HOURS poet.

Shots will be released on SoundCloud on the morning of each day, for a convenient and flavoursome poetry hit whenever the desire arises! Poems for your tea break, your lunch break, your 6pm unwind, or your evening bath.

Follow us on Twitter @HoursWriters for updates and more information.

TUESDAY 13TH APRIL

IZOOMBARDING

Time: 7:00 - 8:00pm

Price: £4

[Click here for tickets](#)

IzoomBarding favourites from the IsamBards' Poetry Tours and recent verses. Dominic Fisher, Deborah Harvey, Pamela Benham and David C Johnson will read their favourite selection from the IsamBards' canon plus share some new verses written over the past twelve months. Please join us for an hour of poetry and the opportunity to quiz the poets.

The IsamBards are on [Facebook](#).

All proceeds raised will go to support brilliant local Bristol Charity [Legs4Africa](#).

WEDNESDAY 21ST APRIL

IN CONVERSATION WITH SARAH TREMLETT: THE POETICS OF POETRY FILM

Time: 18:00 - 19:00pm

Price: Free

[Click here to register](#)

Rebecca Kosick in conversation with Sarah Tremlett about Sarah's forthcoming book *The Poetics of Poetry Film: Film Poetry, Videopoetry, Lyric Voice, Reflection*.

Commissioned by Intellect Books and The University of Chicago Press, *The Poetics of Poetry Film* is the first book of its kind. With encyclopaedic content, it explores the history, different types of poetry film, and sheds light on the fast-growing genre. A ground-breaking industry bible for students, academics, poetry film-makers and anyone interested in poetry, digital media, filmmaking, art and creative writing.

THURSDAY 22ND APRIL

STANZA POETRY

Time: 7:00 - 9:30pm

Price: £2

[Click here for tickets](#)

The Weather Indoors is the new pandemic poetry collection put together by members of Bristol's Stanza Poetry group, and published by Tangent Press. Some of Bristol's best-loved poets will be performing, including Liz Cashdan, Richard Devereux, Richard Doyle, Kate Firth, Emily Fox, Marie Knight, Lisa Lopresti, Agata Palmer, David Punter, Martin Rieser, Pauline Sowards, Dave Wynne Jones, and Pete Weinstock.

SATURDAY 24TH APRIL

#SATELLITESPLASH: SOCIAL MEDIA EVENT FROM SATELLITE OF LOVE

Time: All Day

Price: Free

[Click here to register](#)

Individuals, families, friends and communities create poems to share. Write/record/recite and showcase a poem on the theme of 'reconnection' and share on social media. This could be a photograph or drawing of a poem or a recorded reading. Share on YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, or Twitter or send to the [Satellite of Love Facebook page](#) for sharing.

[#satellitesplash](#)

SATURDAY 24TH APRIL

OPEN COLLAB

Time: 7:00pm

Price: Free

[Click here for ticket donations](#)

[Event Link](#)

Charlie + Jake are a multi-instrumental live-looping duo with a jazz and neo soul inspired sound. Collab started in 2020 in an effort to fill the gap in collaboration and creativity that lockdown caused. This April will be their first birthday!

Join Open Collab for an immersive evening of poetry and music. Broadcasting live from their music studio in Bedminster, Charlie + Jake will be creating musical universes around poetry sent in from all over the world.

Want to be a part of the birthday party on 24th April 7pm? Find out more and submit your poetry performance [here](#). Poetry submissions open 1st April.

ARTISTS & SPEAKERS

BETH CALVERLEY is a poet, creative coach and founder of The Poetry Machine, helping people to express their thoughts and feelings. Beth is Poet in Residence at University Hospitals Bristol & Weston NHS FT and was published in *These Are The Hands*, the NHS anthology. Beth has worked with BBC, ITV and Sky, and her collection, *Brave Faces & Other Smiles*, launched in December with Verve Poetry Press.



DR EDSON BURTON is a writer, historian, programme-curator and performer based in Bristol. Between 1998-2003, Edson was the lead curator for Black History Month Bristol as part of his role as Kuumba Centre librarian. He has been consultant and coordinator for a range of history projects in Bristol, and his academic interests include: Bristol and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, Black History in the USA, Cultural continuities between Africa & the New World.



CALEB PARKIN, Bristol City Poet 2020 - 22, has published widely in journals and won or been shortlisted in major competitions. He tutors for Poetry Society, Poetry School and Cheltenham Festivals, and holds an MSc in Creative Writing for Therapeutic Purposes. His debut pamphlet, *Wasted Rainbow*, was published with tall-lighthouse in February 2021 and his debut collection, *This Fruiting Body*, with Nine Arches this October.



DR JACK MCGOWAN is a Course Leader for Creative and Professional Writing at University of Worcester, researcher on contemporary poetry and poetics and a performance poet with 10 years of experience in performance and publication. He is co-editor of upcoming Routledge publication *Spoken Word in the UK*, a comprehensive and in-depth introduction to spoken word performance in the UK.



CAROLINE BIRD's sixth and most recent collection, *The Air Year*, won the Forward Prize for Poetry 2020. Her previous collections include *In These Days of Prohibition* which was shortlisted for the Ted Hughes Award and the TS Eliot Prize for Poetry in 2017.



KAT FRANÇOIS is a performance artist, theatre director and producer, poet, actor, and playwright. A youth and adult educator, Kat is also a Personal Trainer who runs a fitness, health and wellbeing group, "Fit, Fabulous & Fierce." Kat was the first person to win a televised poetry slam in the UK, on BBC3 in 2004, and a year later went on to win the World Slam Poetry Championships in Rotterdam.



DIZRAELI is a poet, singer, MC, multi-instrumentalist producer, theatre-maker...a genre all of his own. His latest self-produced album *The Unmaster* is a journey through his own mental health issues and was nominated by Gilles Peterson for Album of the Year in the 2020 Worldwide Awards. Dizraeli has played to audiences of thousands around the world, as well as touring with Saul Williams, Mos Def and Blackalicious.



KAT LYONS is a Bristol-based writer and performer. They host with spoken word promoter Raise the Bar, won the 2019 Lyra Festival slam and perform at festivals and events around the UK. Kat is currently developing their first solo show and producing a series of spoken word events to platform older women's experiences. Their debut poetry collection is forthcoming in 2022 from Verve Poetry Press.



LAWRENCE HOO is a poet and educator based in Bristol. His work is known for throwing a powerful light onto the overlooked experiences of Bristol's under-supported communities. It also evokes the inspiring, under-celebrated histories which are the inheritance of Bristol's immigrant communities. After a youth spent in and out of the care system, Lawrence developed an uncompromising poetic voice, and a calling for working with people from disadvantaged backgrounds.



DR LUCY ENGLISH is a Reader in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University, spoken word poet and novelist. She has two collections published by Burning Eye. Her most recent work, *The Book of Hours*, is an online poetry film project made with 27 international film makers and was shortlisted for the New Media Writing Prize. Lucy organises the MIX conference in Digital Writing at Bath Spa University and is co-director of Liberated Words.



MADHU KRISHNAN is Professor of African, World and Comparative Literatures at the University of Bristol. In addition to her academic work, she is a literary events producer and editor and serves on the Board of Directors of the Bristol Cultural Development Partnership, as a Trustee of Literature Works and as a member of the Bristol Poetry Institute's Executive Board.



MALIKA BOOKER's poetry collection *Pepper Seed* (Peepal Tree Press, 2013) was shortlisted for the OCM Bocas prize and the Seamus Heaney Centre 2014 prize. She is published alongside poets Sharon Olds and Warsan Shire in *The Penguin Modern Poet Series 3: Your Family: Your Body* (2017). Malika won the Forward Poetry Prize for Best Single Poem (2020), and currently lectures at Manchester Metropolitan University.



NGAIO ANYIA is a DJ, singer, founder of Booty Bass (a platform for female and non-binary DJ's), inclusion consultant and presenter. In February 2020 she travelled to review the Lagos Theatre Festival for the British Arts Council, which also spawned a 15-minute spoken word audio piece for BBC Arts on the experience. During 2020 she also presented *Monumental: Black Bristol* after Colston for BBC World.



NICK GROOM's books include *The Vampire*, *The Seasons*, *The Gothic*, and *The Forger's Shadow* - the last of which focuses on Thomas Chatterton. He has also published a selection of Chatterton's poetry as well as many essays and articles on the writer. Nick Groom is currently Professor in English at the University of Macau, having previously held positions at the universities of Bristol, Chicago, Stanford, and Exeter.



PETE 'THE TEMP' BEARDER is an author and spoken word poet whose work has featured on BBC Radio 4, The World Service and Newsnight. In 2018 he was awarded the Golden Hammer Award for Services to Spoken Word at the Royal Albert Hall. And in 2019, Out-Spoken Press published his book on the craft, science and history of live literature 'Stage Invasion'.



PHIL KAYE is a Japanese-American poet. His work has been featured in settings ranging from *The New Yorker* to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and viewed millions of times online. He has performed his original work in twenty countries and was invited to open for His Holiness The Dalai Lama for the celebration of his 80th birthday. Phil is a National Poetry Slam finalist, and his book, *Date & Time*, was published in 2018 by Button Poetry.



SAFIYA KAMARIA KINSHASA

is a British-born, Barbadian-raised poet and dancer. Her debut collection is forthcoming with Out-Spoken Press. Safiya is an Obsidian Foundation fellow and a recipient of the Jerwood Arts | Apples & Snakes Poetry Performance Programme. She was awarded the New Voice in Poetry Prize (2020).



SARAH TREMLETT (Poem

Film) MPhil, FRSA, SWIP is a poetry filmmaker, poet and theorist, particularly enquiring into the philosophy of poetry film. She is co-director of Liberated Words with Lucy English, editor of Liberated Words online, a curator and judge at festivals, and author of leading publication *The Poetics of Poetry Film* (Intellect Books and The University of Chicago Press, May 2021). She has presented her own poetry films worldwide.



SUHAIYMAH MANZOOR-KHAN

is an educator, award winning poet and published writer from Leeds. She is the author of poetry collection *Postcolonial Banter*. Her work disrupts common understandings of history, race, knowledge and power - interrogating the purpose of narratives about Muslims, gender and violence. She is published in *The Guardian*, *Independent*, *Al-Jazeera*, *gal-dem* and her poetry performances have millions of views online.



SUNDRALAWRENCE

is a UK-based poet and writer. She has performed her work across the UK and internationally. Her poetry and short stories have been broadcast on national television, radio and podcasts. Sundra's work has also appeared in art exhibitions, and is published in numerous anthologies, including the *Los Angeles Review*. She is the founder and director of Write Lines, and teaches creative writing.



TIERNEY ELLIOTT

is a Bristol-based poet and short story writer. In 2019 she won Unislam's individual award for her poetry about mental health, and became the first ever 'audience winner' of the Roundhouse Slam. In 2020, she won the Lyra Bristol Poetry Slam. Tierney's poetry explores a mix of the big topics - sex, love, social injustice, and all of the consequences that come with being alive.



TRAVIS ALABANZA

is an award-winning theatre maker, writer, and performer. A previous member of the Royal Court Young Writers group and Barbican Young Poets, their show *Burgerz*, which explored the intersections of transness and harassment, toured internationally including to Sao Paulo, Smock Alley Dublin, HAU Berlin and Edinburgh Festival Fringe, where it won the Total Theatre award. Travis has written for Metro, Vice, Gal-Dem, The Independent, Dazed, Gay Times and more.



VANESSA KISUULE

is a writer and performer based in Bristol. She has won over ten slam titles, been featured on BBC iPlayer, Radio 1, and Radio 4's Woman's Hour, Blue Peter, Don't Flop and TEDx in Vienna. She has performed all over the world, from Belgium to Brazil to Bangladesh. She has written for publications including The Guardian, NME and Lonely Planet and was the Bristol City Poet for 2018-2020.



WILL HARRIS

is a writer of Chinese Indonesian and British heritage, born and based in London. His debut poetry book *RENDANG* is published by Granta in the UK. It was a Poetry Book Society Choice, shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize and won the Forward Prize for Best First Collection 2020.



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