



LYRA²²

BREAKING BOUNDARIES: NEW WORLDS

BRISTOL POETRY FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 31ST MARCH
- SUNDAY 10TH APRIL
2022

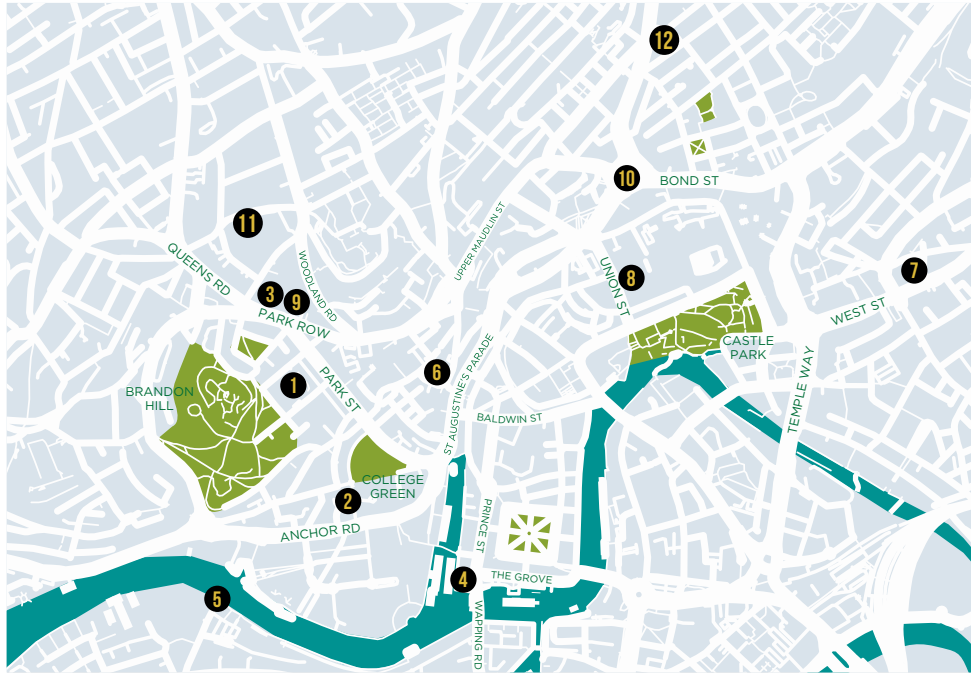
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

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TICKETS **LYRAFEST.COM**

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VENUES



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 ST. GEORGE'S BRISTOL
Great George St
Bristol BS1 5RR | 5 SS GREAT BRITAIN
Gas Ferry Rd
Bristol BS1 6TY | 9 WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING
Queens Rd
Bristol BS8 1RQ |
| 2 BRISTOL CENTRAL LIBRARY
College Green
Bristol BS1 5TL | 6 BRISTOL BEACON
Trenchard St
Bristol BS1 5AR | 10 THE BEARPIT
St James' Roundabout
Bristol BS1 3LY |
| 3 BRISTOL MUSEUM & ART GALLERY
Queens Rd
Bristol BS8 1RL | 7 OLD MARKET ASSEMBLY/
WARDROBE THEATRE
25 West St
Bristol BS2 0DF | 11 1532 BRISTOL
Elton Rd
Bristol BS8 1SJ |
| 4 ARNOLFINI
16 Narrow Quay
Bristol BS1 4QA | 8 WATERSTONES
The Galleries
Bristol BS1 3XD | 12 HAMILTON HOUSE
80 Stokes Croft
Bristol BS1 3QY |



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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This festival has been supported with funding from Arts Council England for a fourth successive year. We are incredibly grateful for this ongoing support of Bristol poetry.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

LYRA²²
BREAKING BOUNDARIES:
NEW WORLDS

We are thrilled to be back for our fourth successive Lyra - Bristol Poetry Festival, a hybrid programme of both live and digital experiences. Our 2022 theme is Breaking Boundaries: New Worlds, which celebrates interdisciplinary poetry across art forms and cultures, translated and multilingual poetry, and poetry as a bridge between groups and communities. 2022 also marks 100 years since the publication of T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, and we'll have both a lecture and a workshop responding to the poem and exploring its relevance in the present day. Lyra's 2022 Festival Poet is writer, poet, performer and historian Edson Burton. Edson will engage in community outreach work, a public performance and workshop, hosting events, and other activities centred on the festival theme.

This year's programme features some of the biggest names in UK and international poetry today, including Roger McGough, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Zena Edwards, Anthony Joseph, Inua Ellams, TJ Dema, Raymond Antrobus, the most recent T.S. Eliot Prize winner, Joelle Taylor, and many more. We are also thrilled to host international guests, including US poets Terrance Hayes and Buddy Wakefield and Argentinian poet Diana Bellessi, as well as performances for young people by two of the nation's favourite poets, Michael Rosen and Daljit Nagra.

The programme includes readings, performances, workshops, family activities, a walking tour, a lecture, a film screening, spoken word cabaret, panel discussions, and poetry advice sessions provided by Literature Works. In the week leading up to the festival, we have two pre-party events. The first is a Weston vs. Bristol poetry slam in Weston-super-Mare's Love's Cafe, bridging a connection between two poetry communities, and the second is a fabulous music and poetry show with Tongue Fu. There is also a wide selection of poetry happenings across Bristol in April listed in our 'Other Events' section.

Accessibility, inclusion and representation are at the heart of Lyra Festival, and this year's programme includes many free and low-cost events, BSL interpreted and captioned events, multilingual readings and a number of participatory activities.

Last year, we were delighted to host a fully digital festival during a national lockdown, and we learned so much about new ways of connecting poetry in Bristol to the rest of the country and the world. We understand how online experiences create new means of access by removing barriers to participation, and we will now continue to offer digital readings, workshops, and pre-recorded videos as part of our festival each year. As always, 100% of the venues are wheelchair accessible, and specific access information can be found on our website, where you'll also find a form for specific access needs. For our live events, we'll be back at some of Bristol's most stunning venues, including St. George's Bristol, SS Great Britain and Bristol Old Vic.

Lyra Festival is co-directed by Dr Lucy English and Danny Pandolfi. A special thanks to all our key partners, who enrich the festival in so many ways, including Bristol University's Poetry Institute, Bath Spa University, Apples and Snakes, Poetry By Heart, Culture Weston, Bristol Ideas, Rebecca Swift Foundation, Destination Bristol and many more. We hope you enjoy April's programme of poetry at Lyra Festival, and we look forward to seeing everybody, both online and in person.

TICKETS LYRAFEST.COM
@LYRAFEST @LYRAFEST



LYRA²²

BRISTOL POETRY FESTIVAL

BREAKING BOUNDARIES: NEW WORLDS

THURSDAY 31ST MARCH - SUNDAY 10TH APRIL 2022

CORE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Visit www.lyrafest.com for all tickets.

Tickets for all activities must be booked in advance, including online and free events.
 Festival Passes are also available from £25-75.

FRIDAY 25TH MARCH '22

WESTON VS. BRISTOL

POETRY SLAM

The long-awaited poetic battle between Weston-super-Mare and Bristol.

LOVES CAFÉ WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Time: 19:30 - 21:30 (19:00 doors)

Price: £5

The seaside town and bustling city go head-to-head in an epic slam contest for the first time ever. Two teams of three poets will perform their poems and battle it out in this fun, energetic and powerful evening of delicious wordsmithery, hosted by team captains Sophie Shepherd and Josie Alford. Not only that, but vegan venue Loves will also be serving a tasty curry and, of course, the bar will be open.

Don't miss out on this South West Showdown!

Presented in partnership with Culture Weston

This event will be BSL interpreted.



THURSDAY 31ST MARCH '22



TONGUE FU: HOT POETS

MUSIC-ACCOMPANIED POETRY

Featuring performances from Zena Edwards, Yomi Sode, Matt Harvey, Chris Redmond and Liv Torc.

ST. GEORGE'S BRISTOL

Time: 19:30 - 22:00 (19:00 doors)

Price: £10/£8

A brand-new show from Tongue Fu: Hot Poets partners brilliant spoken word artists with scientists, NGOs and change-makers in the fight against climate change, to make brand-new work, telling hopeful stories. Fusing spoken word, genre-hopping improvised music, film, science and bags of hopeful FACTS, Hot Poets aims to help change the 'doom narrative' around climate change and shine light on the amazing work being done around the world.

Presented by Raise the Bar.

This event will be BSL interpreted.



TONGUE FU

FRIDAY 1ST APRIL '22



PHOTO: GRANVILLE DAVIES

APRIL IS THE CRUELLEST MONTH: THE WASTE LAND

LECTURE

BRISTOL CENTRAL LIBRARY

Time: 17:30 - 18:30 Price: Free

To mark this year's 100th anniversary of *The Waste Land*, Jim McCue will consider why we are still reading T. S. Eliot's poem, how our understanding of it has changed, and what was meant by 'editing' it as part of a 2,000-page scholarly edition of the poetry.

Presented in partnership with Bristol Poetry Institute and Bristol Ideas.

This event will be BSL interpreted.



LYRA POETRY SLAM

QUALIFYING ROUNDS

ONLINE - ZOOM

Time: 19:00 - 20:00 Price: Free

Join us for this Zoom screening of the 2022 Lyra Slam qualifying rounds, as poets compete for a place in the Grand Slam Finals, headlined by Joelle Taylor and Buddy Wakefield.

The screening of the poems will be judged live by our three judges, with one wildcard finalist voted for by the Zoom audience.

To enter the poetry slam, you must fill out the online entry form by March 15th 2022.

Zoom's auto-transcription technology will be available for this event.



SATURDAY 2ND APRIL '22



MAKE IT MAKE SENSE: DIZRAELI

WRITING WORKSHOP

BRISTOL MUSEUM & ART GALLERY SCHOOLS ROOM

Time: 11:00 - 13:00

Price: £5

This workshop will approach how to write yourself well in a world of confusion. An exploration of creative practice, mental hygiene, necessary mess and whatever else pops up, led by award-winning lyricist and musician Dizraeli.

JOY AGAINST THE MACHINE: T. S. IDIOT

WRITING WORKSHOP

Writing from a place of queer joy, resilience and otherness.

BRISTOL MUSEUM & ART GALLERY SCHOOLS ROOM

Time: 13:30 - 15:00

Price: £5

Join artist, poet and community activist T.S. IDIOT to share your thoughts on using queer joy as a form of resistance and what that means to us, our writing, and centuries of outsiders (from Virginia Woolf to Ocean Vuong). Learn to write from a place of joy and resilience, rooted in our collective queerness and the experience of anyone who has felt othered or outside the mainstream.

All welcome.



SATURDAY 2ND APRIL '22

21st CENTURY SONNETS: TERRANCE HAYES + GUESTS

POETRY READING AND DISCUSSION

Featuring Terrance Hayes, Jacqueline Saphra and Luke Kennard.

ONLINE - ZOOM

Time: 15:30 - 17:00 Price: £5

The sonnet is one of the most famous and beloved forms of poetry worldwide and continues to find new ways to adapt and respond to modern day themes and issues. This event will bring together three poets and sonnet collections: Terrance Hayes (*American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin*), Luke Kennard (*Notes on the Sonnets*) and Jacqueline Saphra (*One Hundred Lockdown Sonnets*).

Each poet will read from their work, followed by a discussion and Q&A exploring their relationship to the sonnet form as a tool for 21st century poetic expression.

Zoom's auto-transcription technology will be available for this event.



PHOTO: TYRONE LEWIS

POETRY AND TRANSLATION: BOHDAN PIASECKI WRITING WORKSHOP ONLINE - ZOOM

Time: 17:30 - 19:30

Price: £5

This workshop will look at the creative act of rendering an existing text in a new language and the multiplicity of possible texts it produces. We will consider ways to identify the core of a poem, how it can be moved into another language - and how that can inform our own writing.

Open to anyone, regardless of linguistic ability.

Zoom's auto-transcription technology will be available for this event.



WORKING-CLASS WRITERS: NEW COMMISSIONS



POETRY READING ONLINE - ZOOM

Time: 20:00 - 21:00

Price: £5

This year, Lyra have teamed up with Bristol Ideas and the Working-Class Writers Festival to commission 12 poets from working-class backgrounds to write new work. This hour-long showcase will feature Casey Bailey, Helen Sheppard, Malizah, 1990's Chris, Wendy Pratt, Bertel Martin, Tierney Elliot, Louisa Adjoa Parker and Laurie Bolger. We will hear poems from these writers and what the experience has meant to them. The poems will be printed onto postcards and be given out free at Lyra Festival 2022 live events.

Presented in partnership with Bristol Ideas and Working-Class Writers Festival.



Zoom's auto-transcription technology will be available, and the event





MUSIC AND POETRY: TONGUE FU

WRITING & PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP

1532 BRISTOL

Time: 11:00 - 13:00

Price: £7.50/£5

A workshop for writers interested in performing with musicians. We will explore tone, pace, performance styles, collaboration, shared language and improvisation. Come along to take part in playful and provocative performance activities. Please bring a piece of writing that is finished and that you know well. Come with an open mind and a willingness to take a risk or two. This is for poets with some experience of performance.

Led by Chris Redmond and Riaan Vosloo.

TONGUE FU



BREAKING BOUNDARIES: NEW WORLDS

FILM SCREENING

BRUNEL'S SS GREAT BRITAIN

Time: 14:30 - 15:30 Price: Free

A screening of poetry films on the theme of 'Breaking Boundaries: New Worlds', connecting audiences across cultures, art forms, languages and other boundaries. This curation has been selected by Helen Dewbery of Poetry Film Live and Sarah Tremlett of Liberated Words. Helen Dewbery's curation crosses bridges and borders, real and imagined. Sarah Tremlett's curation is *Frame to Frames: Your Eyes Follow*, the first screening of an annual ekphrastic poetry film prize. The live screening will be followed by a discussion and Q&A.

Presented in partnership with Liberated Words and Poetry Film Live.

This film screening will be captioned.



TIME TRAVELLING WITH THE SONNET: JACQUELINE SAPHRA

WRITING WORKSHOP ONLINE - ZOOM

Time: 13:30 - 15:30 Price: £5

We'll begin our journey by exploring the landscape, naming the qualities and constraints of the English language sonnet as it was introduced hundreds of years ago. Then we'll time-travel along the expressway of years until we arrive in the wild, subversive sonnet territory of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We'll read and practise this form's divine properties as a unique template for combining thought and feeling in one little black square of text. All levels welcome.

Zoom's auto-transcription technology will be available for this workshop.

POETRY AND ACCESSIBILITY

PANEL DISCUSSION

With Nikki Harris (BSL Interpreter), DL Williams (poet/performer) and Ben Glover (creative captioner).

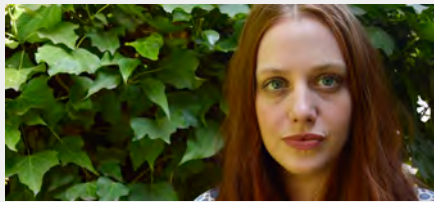
ONLINE - ZOOM

Time: 16:00 - 17:00 Price: Free

Is poetry accessible? When we think of this question, we often think of the type of language used in poetry and who it is being written for. During the pandemic, audiences and participants were able to access poetry in new ways through increased and improved digital content, BSL interpreted readings and creatively captioned events. We will discuss the process of creatively translating the written word, the importance of accuracy, how this progresses the art form, and how events and organisations can become more accessible through creative translation.

This event will be BSL interpreted and live captioned.





WOMEN POETS NETWORK

POETRY READING

ONLINE - ZOOM

Time: 17:30 - 18:30 Price: Free

The Rebecca Swift Foundation, home of the biennial #WomenPoetsPrize and the #WomenPoetsNetwork, hosts an online reading from their three 2020 prize winners, Alisha Dietzman, Natalie Linh Bolderston and Warda Yassin. The readings and discussions will be followed by a brand new music/poem collaboration from each poet, composed by Bristol based music duo, Charlie + Jake, hosts of Open Collab.

Zoom's auto transcript technology will be available.

Presented in partnership with Rebecca Swift



LINTON KWESI JOHNSON AND ANTHONY JOSEPH

POETRY AND MUSIC

An epic event with two legendary poets of the modern age, on the anniversary of the St. Paul's Uprising.

BRISTOL OLD VIC COURTYARD

Time: 19:30 - 22:00 (19:00 doors)

Price: £5

An evening of poetry and music to mark the 42nd anniversary of the St. Paul's Uprising, headlined by Linton Kwesi Johnson and Anthony Joseph (performing with his live band).

Hosted by Lyra's 2022 Festival Poet, Edson Burton.

Presented in partnership with Bristol Old Vic and Speaking Volumes.



THE MUM POET CLUB

WORKSHOP AND READINGS

A writing workshop for mums, including live readings, where babies are welcome, too.

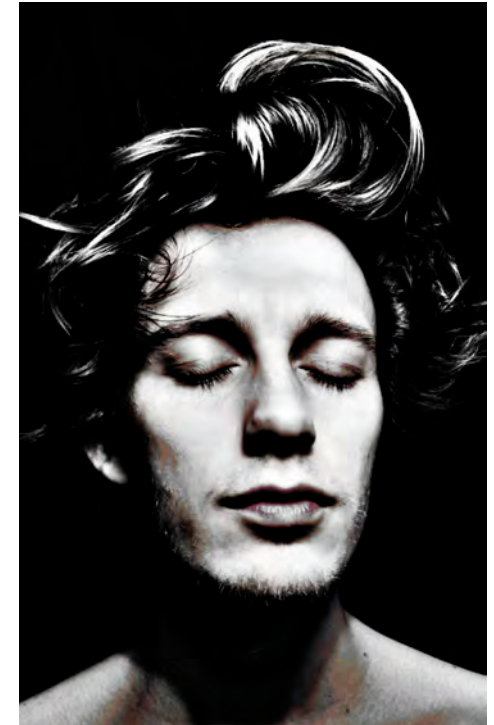
BRISTOL BEACON

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 Price: Free

The Mum Poet Club was born in lockdown as a way to connect, support and encourage poetry-writing parents. This workshop is open to any mums with a child under one. No writing experience is needed, everyone is welcome (including babies), and it is free to join.

'This organisation is amazing for any women who fancy giving poetry a go as a way to express all the ups and lows of motherhood - it is so welcoming'
Hollie McNish.

Presented in partnership with The Mum Poem Press.



MILK POETRY: FEATURING ANTOSH WOJCIK

POETRY SLAM

THE WARDROBE THEATRE

Time: 19:30 - 21:30

Price: £8

Milk Poetry selects the finest, freshest poets from the UK and beyond to produce the most nourishing and eclectic spoken word bonanza you could ever hope for. The event will feature Antosh Wojcik, plus support and the Milk Poetry Slam!

Presented in partnership with Milk Poetry.



TUESDAY 5TH APRIL '22

POETRY AND DISOBEDIENCE

PANEL DISCUSSION

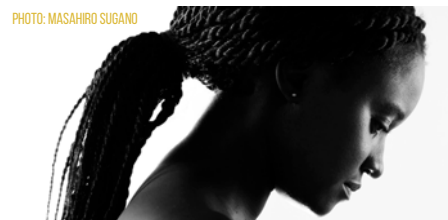
Join author of *The Perseverance and All The Names Given*, Raymond Antrobus, in conversation with Tjawangwa Dema, as they discuss poetry and disobedience.

ONLINE - ZOOM

Time: 18:30 - 19:30 Price: Free

In this conversation, we consider Antrobus's work broadly and some of the ways in which poetic disobedience can be performed through language, form and content. If poetry is a careful and intentional practice, what does it mean to disrupt the familiar, to centre Blackness, or to decentre the hearing world? We look forward to this sensorial, tender and investigative poet's reading of his multi-award winning poetry.

This event will be BSL interpreted and live captioned.



WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL '22

INUA ELLAMS + GUESTS

POETRY READING

Join *Penned in the Margins* poets Inua Ellams, John McCullough and Abi Palmer for this evening of poetry at Waterstones.

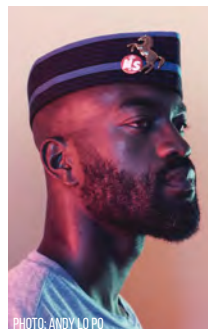
WATERSTONES GALLERIES

Time: 19:00 - 20:15 Price: £7/£5

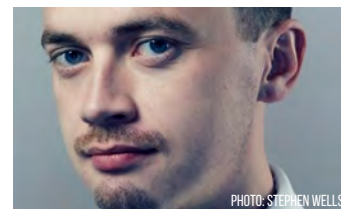
Lyra are delighted to host live readings from three poets recently published by *Penned in the Margins*, one of the UK's leading independent publishers. The event will include back-to-back readings of exciting contemporary poetry, featuring Inua Ellams (*The Actual*, 2020), John McCullough (*Reckless Paper Birds*, 2019) and Abi Palmer (*Sanatorium*, 2020). The readings will be followed by a book signing.

Presented in partnership with *Penned in the Margins*.

This event will be BSL interpreted.



Penned in the Margins



THURSDAY 7TH APRIL '22

BRISTOL TONIC

OPEN MIC

The official open mic evening of Lyra Festival 2022, hosted by Bristol's regular monthly open mic Tonic.

M SHED

Time: 19:00 - 21:00 Price: £5

Whether you're a poet looking to share your words with a live audience, or you'd like to sit back and enjoy some of the city's freshest local talent, this will be an evening for all to enjoy. The event will also include a feature set from poet Stanley Iyanu. Open mic spots are limited, and to sign up you must book an Open Mic Ticket at checkout.

Presented in partnership with Bristol Tonic



FRIDAY 8TH APRIL '22

ROGER MCGOUGH: SAFETY IN NUMBERS

POETRY READING + Q&A

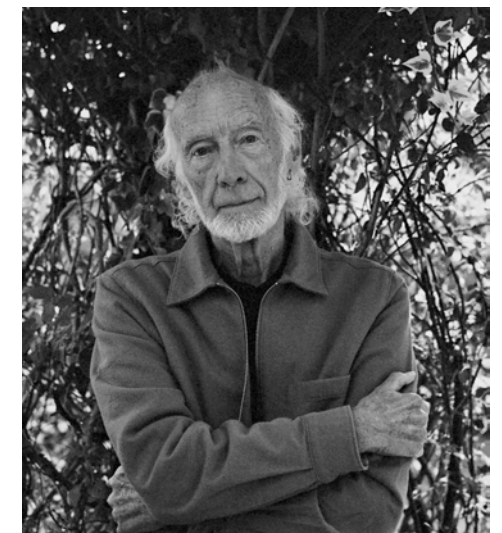
A reading from *President of the Poetry Society*, Roger McGough, with support from Lyra's 2022 Festival Poet, Edson Burton.

ST. GEORGE'S BRISTOL

Time: 19:30 - 21:30 Price: £17.50

Safety in Numbers is a new collection from the nation's favourite poet. What will we have learned from stillness and silence? From sharing, not taking? Waiting, not pushing? Whispering, not shouting? Dawdling, not rushing? Traversing rocky terrain with the assurance of a poetry Rover on Mars, McGough brings down to earth the strangeness of a time on hold. Staycations, adultery in lockdown, ghosts and gamblers, as well as playful advice to up and coming poets. (Don't do it!)

'The godfather of modern British poetry' Metro. 'The patron saint of poetry' Carol Ann Duffy. Roger's performance will be followed by an audience Q&A and book signing.





APPLES AND SNAKES: RETREAT

WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES

HAMILTON HOUSE

Time: 10:00 - 16:00

Price: Free

A one-day event for poets at all stages to refresh, reboot and connect. The retreat offers creative workshops, discussions, mentoring and practical advice to re-energise your practice, soothe your soul and leave you with a new spring in your step. You can book a place in advance for free and see a full list of activities on Lyra's website. Sessions led by Deanna Rodger, Rebecca Antony, Bohdan Piasecki and Dom Coyote.

**APPLES
AND
SNAKES**

POETRY AND FILM: HELEN DEWBERY

WORKSHOP

ONLINE - ZOOM

Time: 10:00 - 12:00 Price: £5

Poetry films merge words and images to create a new piece of art. In this workshop, Helen Dewbery will cover some of the different styles and genres of poetry film, basic techniques for creating them, explore which poems are most suitable for poetry film, and discuss how to identify the right platform to create your own. The course is designed particularly for those with limited knowledge of making films, and will give plenty of information and tips to get you started.

Zoom's auto-transcription technology will be available for this event.



THE WASTE LAND: JOELLE TAYLOR

WRITING WORKSHOP

ONLINE - ZOOM

Time: 12:30 - 14:00 Price: £7.50

On the 100th anniversary of T. S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, join the recent T. S. Eliot Prize winner Joelle Taylor for an exclusive workshop responding to the themes of this classic poem, including textual analysis and writing exercises. Participants will consider the relevance of the poem in today's world and how we, too, can find ways to write about chaos, desolation and apocalyptic themes whilst still retaining a sense of hope and wonder.

This workshop will be a Zoom webinar. Attendees will be able to follow along with the writing exercises and discussions, interacting with the facilitator via the chat box.

Zoom's auto-transcription technology will be available for this event.



BREAKING BOUNDARIES: EDSON BURTON

WRITING WORKSHOP

Join Lyra's Festival Poet Edson Burton for a writing workshop exploring the 2022 theme of 'Breaking Boundaries: New Worlds.'

ARNOLFINI LIGHT STUDIO

Time: 14:30 - 16:30 Price: £5

How does language help us connect to our intended audience and expand our communication to more people? Do we - poets, wannabe poets - suppress and select our language on the basis of what we think is, or is not, suitable for poetry? Using examples from Linton Kwesi Johnson, Jean Binta Breeze, Robert Burns and Langston Hughes, this workshop is an opportunity to experiment with using 'personal language', slang, regional dialect and mother tongue to create new connections and break boundaries.



SATURDAY 9TH APRIL '22



RADICAL TRANSLATION: WITH GIRASOL PRESS

POETRY READING

WILLS MEMORIAL
BUILDING G25

Time: 17:00 - 18:15

Price: Free

Radical Translation features poets and translators published by, or connected with, Bristol-based small publisher Girasol Press. The afternoon will feature the poet Alex Cocker's experimental translations of Michelangelo's sonnets, which tease out questions of androgyny, queer desire and the 'trans' in translation, fresh new work from Latinx poet and translator Juana Adcock and writer and translator Jessica Sequeira, and video contributions in Ch'ol and Tsotsil from three Mexican poets included in *Jukub: Poems from Chiapas for the Reverse Conquest*.

Presented in partnership with Girasol Press, Indisciplinary Poetics and Bristol Poetry Institute.



DIANA BELLESSI: TO LOVE A WOMAN/ AMAR A UNA MUJER

POETRY READING

Join Argentinian poet Diana Bellessi and translator Leo Boix to celebrate the publication of *To Love A Woman*.

WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING
G25

Time: 18:45 - 20:00

Price: Free

Diana Bellessi is a groundbreaking writer, who has been credited as the godmother of LGBTQI+ poetry in Latin America. Over the decades she has championed feminist and queer issues and themes, and has exerted a strong influence on prominent poets and writers, from the 1980s through to the present day. Bellessi and Boix will be reading from *To Love A Woman* in the original Spanish with English translations and discussing her life and work. With a support reading from Polish multilingual poet Bohdan Piasecki.

Presented in partnership with the Poetry Translation Centre.



SUNDAY 10TH APRIL '22



THE ISAMBARDS IN TOWN

WALKING TOUR

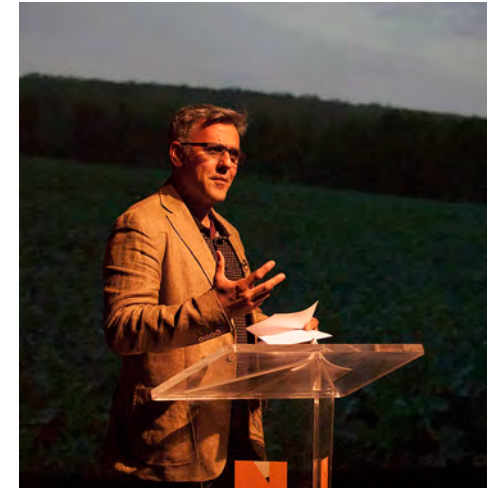
A poetry walk in downtown Bristol led by the IsamBards: Pamela Benham, Dominic Fisher, Deborah Harvey and David C Johnson.

MEETING POINT:
THE BEARPIT
ST JAMES BARTON
ROUNDAABOUT

Time: 11:00 - 12:00

Price: £5

The IsamBards will share their original poetry inspired by the places and people that will be visited on this promenade, from the Bearpit to Colston's empty plinth, via hidden corners, old and new. Come hear of giants, preachers, saints and sinners. Previous IsamBard Poetry Walks have included Arnos Vale Cemetery, Brunel's Bristol, Bristol Botanic Garden and the Clifton Suspension Bridge. This *In Town walk* will take just over an hour. (No steps, some inclines)



POETRY ALOUD: WITH DALJIT NAGRA & YOUNG POETS

POETRY READING

ST. GEORGE'S BRISTOL

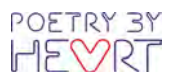
Time: 14:00 - 16:00

Price: Free

A free, fun and inspiring afternoon for children, young people and families, with top poets and musicians. Young poets from schools in Bristol and the surrounding areas will read and perform some of your favourite poems, old and new. The event will feature special performances from Daljit Nagra and clare potter, and a poetry and music collaboration by Bob Walton and JOW.

Children and young people, aged 7-18, can sign up to perform by contacting info@poetrybyheart.org.uk.

Presented in partnership with Poetry By Heart and Bristol Poetry Institute.



SUNDAY 10TH APRIL '22

LYRA GRAND SLAM FINALS: WITH JOELLE TAYLOR & BUDDY WAKEFIELD

POETRY SLAM

Come along to see Bristol's finest wordsmiths battle it out to be crowned the 2022 Lyra Bristol Slam Winner.

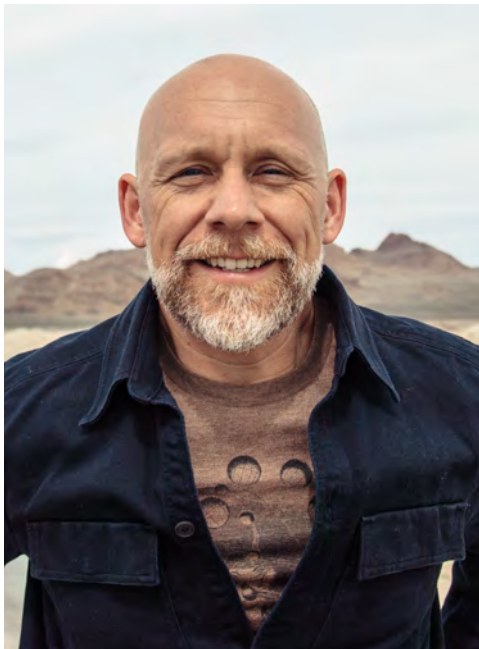
ST. GEORGE'S BRISTOL

Time: 19:30 - 22:00 (19:00 doors)

Price: £10/£7

An audience favourite at Bristol Poetry Festival, and a landmark event in Bristol's cultural calendar, the Lyra Slam Final is back! Headlined by two world-class poets: 3x World Poetry Slam Champion Buddy Wakefield, and 2021 T. S. Eliot Prize Winner Joelle Taylor. Raucous, energetic, passionate and audience-centred, this event always promises to bring poetry to life in an engaging and unexpected way that will make you laugh, smile, or cry, perhaps all at the same time! With a support set from the 2021 grand slam winner Holly Moberley.

The grand slam finals will be judged by Buddy Wakefield, Joelle Taylor and Lyra's 2022 Festival Poet Edson Burton.



THURSDAY 21ST APRIL '22



MICHAEL ROSEN

PERFORMANCE + Q&A

BRUNEL'S SS GREAT BRITAIN

Time: 14:30 - 15:30

Price: £5/£4

We are delighted to present a special performance from Michael Rosen, one of Britain's favourite writers and performers for children and adults. The former Children's Laureate will read and discuss a selection of his best-loved poems and stories, with his unique sense of humour and witty observations, followed by a short Q&A and book signing. The event will take place at Brunel's SS Great Britain's Viridor Theatre, with the stunning backdrop of the dockyard and ship.

Suitable for Upper KS1 and KS2 children.

Presented in partnership with Brunel's SS Great Britain.



LIT SYNCH

POETRY CABARET

An evening of poetry cabaret hosted by Tom Marshman and Caleb Parkin, as drag artists and poets take the stage to queer the canon through recorded poetry and performance.

OLD MARKET ASSEMBLY

Time: 20:00 - 21:00

Price: £5

LGBTQ+ performers select recorded poems from archives to lip-sync to, adding their own spin to the text and voice. Rudyard Kipling's 'If' gets the camping up it surely needs, while Shakespeare's codpiece goes rogue. Expect the teasing out of queer subtexts: those poems you were made to learn in school, but out on the town with a bit of slap on. The event will be hosted by Tom Marshman and Bristol City Poet Caleb Parkin, followed by a DJ set and tunes til late.

There'll also be an OPEN MIC: bring your own recording and outfits to get your lit-sync on!

OTHER EVENTS IN (& AROUND) BRISTOL

As well as the Lyra Festival core programme, there are plenty of other poetry activities happening in and around Bristol.

WEDNESDAYS IN 2022:

23RD MARCH CLOSED
27TH APRIL CLOSED
22ND JUNE OPEN

WORKSHOPS WITH BRISTOL STANZA AND BRISTOL REFUGEE ARTISTS COLLECTIVE

Time: 12:00 - 2:30pm

Price: £5

VICTORIA METHODIST CHURCH

1A Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 1NU

Two closed workshops on 23rd March and 27th April have been arranged, as part of a collaboration of Bristol Stanza, Bristol Refugee Artists' Collective (BRAC) and UWE, to include participation of artists from BRAC, UWE foundation students and Bristol Stanza members. The first workshop will focus on ekphrastic and art poetry and the second will develop poetry written in response to the artworks.

This will culminate in a third open workshop on June 22nd, using ekphrastic poetry as part of an extended programme of collaboration between Lyra Festival and the Bristol Refugee Festival. For booking details for June's workshop, see below:

[GET BRAC TICKETS](#)

WEDNESDAY 30TH MARCH 2022

KIOTA PRE RAMADAN SPECIAL

Time: 19:30

Price: Free

THE WARDROBE THEATRE

25 West Street, Bristol BS2 0DF

KIOTA: A Collective For POC Creatives in Bristol, showcasing People of Colour (POC) or BAME creatives from various artistic disciplines in a fantastic afternoon of performance, followed by networking opportunities.

[GET KIOTA TICKETS](#)

FRIDAY 1ST APRIL 2022

VOICES ON THE EDGE

Time: 18:30

Price: £5 (Includes a glass of wine and £2 off books from the authors)

BOOKHAUS BOOKSHOP

Unit 4 Rope Walk, Bristol BS1 6ZJ

A night of poetry and music exploring voices often unheard. Performances from Leilah King, Helen Sheppard and guests. Tickets from the bookshop here:

[GET VOICES ON THE EDGE TICKETS](#)

SATURDAY 2ND APRIL 2022

POETRY & MUSIC EVENING + OPEN MIC

Time: 20:00 - 22:00 (19:00 doors) Price: £5

REDCATCH COMMUNITY GARDEN

Broadwalk Redcatch Park, Knowle BS4 2RD

A refreshing range of locally harvested poetry from some award-winning as well as emerging poets, held at a unique setting of an airy canopy within a community garden, seasoned with some music and an open mic for dessert. Featuring some members of the Bristol Stanza group and more. This alfresco poetry event is not to be missed. Please sign up for the open mic on the door.

[GET REDCATCH POETRY & MUSIC TICKETS](#)

TUESDAY 12TH APRIL

ODEHEART WORKSHOP: ANYONE CAN POET

Time: 19:00 Price: £15

BRISTOL FRINGE

32 Princess Victoria Street, Bristol BS8 4BZ

Join Hayley Frances in this inspiring workshop. Pen a poem, make it pretty and frame it! Come and play on the page. Poetry is for everyone and anyone can poet.

Tickets £15 via the website:

[GET POET WITHIN TICKETS](#)

WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL

POEMS FROM THE APHASIA GROUP

Time: 13:00 - 14:00

Price: Free (book in advance)

ONLINE - ZOOM

Aphasia is a communication disability, common after stroke. We will be sharing poems about borders, including the borders between thoughts and communication. Admission free, but please book via Eventbrite. This will go live on 13th March.

[GET APHASIA TICKETS](#)

THURSDAY 14TH APRIL

TURKISH AND KURDISH POETRY

Time: 19:00

Price: Suggested donation £4.

Unwaged: Free.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF STOKES CROFT

14 Hillgrove Street, Bristol BS2 8JT

A night of Turkish and Kurdish poetry in translation, performed by Bristol poets. Poems from the 1960s movements to contemporary queer poets. Wide range of voices, from the 1960s 'Second New' movement, Sufi Bekta i poets, post-1980s gay and lesbian poets, and from imprisoned Kurdish poet Ilhan Sami Çomak. Followed by a DJ set of hip hop and Turkish Psychedelic music by Hidden Element. A bar is being run at this event. Profits to be split between PRSC and a Trans Women's Collective in Istanbul.

[GET TURKISH/KURDISH TICKETS](#)

THURSDAY 14TH APRIL

FABLES

Time: 18:30

Price: Free

AESOP'S

St Marks Road, Bristol BS5 6JD

Poetry, spoken word and storytelling open mic in Easton, hosted by Pagan Paul. Inclusive and friendly, beginners welcome. Sign up from 18:30.

WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL

UNDER THE RED GUITAR

Time: 19:00 Price: £4

EL RINCON

298 North Street, Bristol BS3 1JU

Poetry and Open Mic. Hosted by Bob Walton, with guest poet Tom Sastry. Tom will be reading from his upcoming second collection, *You Have No Country to Return To* (Nine Arches). Tickets £4 in advance via El Rincon website, together with full details of the events and how to book a place in the open mic. Tom Sastry was the first Lyra Festival poet in 2019 and is one of Bristol's most loved poets.

[GET UNDER THE RED GUITAR TICKETS](#)

THURSDAY 21ST APRIL 2022

PRESENCE OPEN MIC

Time: 18:30

Price: Free

AESOP'S St Marks Road, BS5 6JD

An evening of unplugged music and poetry. All abilities welcome. Sign up to perform on the night.

SATURDAY 23RD APRIL 2022

OPEN COLLAB LIVE

Time: 18:30 Price: Pay-what-you-can

THE CHICKEN SHED AT THE HEN AND CHICKEN

210 North Street, BS3 1JF

Join multi-instrumentalist live-looping duo Charlie + Jake for an immersive afternoon of poetry and music. Open Collab will be creating musical universes around poetry sent in from across Bristol, and from all over the world, and featuring special guest Kathryn O'Driscoll, current UK Slam Champion. On stage will be movement artist and dancer Simon Abel. Open Collab will be using every instrument and sound under the sun to transport you into the worlds of the poems. Want to get involved and have your words set to music? Find out more and submit your poetry performance here:

[COLLAB INFO/SUBMISSIONS](#)

[GET OPEN COLLAB TICKETS](#)

[LIVESTREAM OPEN COLLAB EVENT](#)

SUNDAY 24TH APRIL 2022

GECKO AND GAVIN

Time: 14:00 - 17:00 Price: £10

CUBE CINEMA Dove St South, BS2 8JD

Gecko and Gavin Osborne. Singer-storyteller Gecko tours the UK in support of his second album *Climbing Frame*. Pronounced 'Album of the year' in the *Morning Star* newspaper, Gecko's playful songs cover the big things in life, with wit and warmth. Gavin Osborn has spent fifteen years entertaining audiences across the UK, Europe and Australia with his deft lyricism, evocative, heartwarming storytelling and quick wit.

[GET GECKO AND GAVIN TICKETS](#)

ARTISTS & SPEAKERS

ABI PALMER is an artist, writer and filmmaker exploring the relationship between linguistic and physical communication. *Sanatorium* (Penned in the Margins, 2020) is a fragmented memoir that jumps between a luxury thermal pool and a blue inflatable bathtub. Personal essays and articles have been published by *The Guardian*, *Vice* and Wellcome Collection Stories. In 2020 she was awarded an Artangel Thinking Time award in order to address the pandemic. She was awarded a Paul Hamlyn Award For Artists in 2021.



ANTOSH WOJCIK is a poet, drummer and cross-disciplinary artist. He produces music as /weirdtoday and is a member of the collective FWRDMTN. His performance piece, *How To Keep Time: A Drum Solo for Dementia*, was produced by Penned in the Margins, touring the UK and internationally in 2019, with support from Arts Council England. His poetry has been nominated for The Pushcart Prize and published by Bad Betty Press, *Anthropocene* and *Colliding Lines*. His work explores memory, time and glitches.



ALEX COCKER recently completed a doctoral thesis on the representations of non-binary genders in modernist literature at the University of Sheffield, and they show absolutely no signs of moving anywhere else anytime soon. *Say, Spirit* (Girasol Press, 2021) is their first collection of poetry, but more is underway. When they are not writing, they might frequently be found cooking, climbing, or pretending to be other people.



BEN GLOVER is a deaf video designer and creative captioner. His recent work includes video designs for; NOISE (BBC Dance Passions), RED (Polka Theatre), Coventry City of Culture, Liverpool Arab Arts Festival and Burning Man Festival. He is currently a RSC Digital Fellow on a creative captioning project and has previously received the Mead Fellowship and an Epic Games MegaGrant.



ALISHA DIETZMAN received her MFA in Poetry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she held a Martha Meier Renk Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. She is a PhD candidate in Divinity, focusing on Aesthetics and Ethics, at the University of St Andrews, supported by a grant from the US-UK Fulbright Commission. Her poetry has appeared in, or is forthcoming from, *Ploughshares*, *Pain*, *Hotel*, and the *Chicago Review*, among others.



BOHDAN PIASECKI is a poet, translator, and creative producer from Poland, based in Birmingham, with an interest in multilingual writing. He founded the first poetry slam in Poland in 2003, before moving to the UK to pursue a doctorate in translation studies. He is Visiting Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Birmingham. Bohdan also works as Creative Producer and sits on the board of the Poetry Translation Centre.



ANTHONY JOSEPH is an award-winning, Trinidad-born poet, novelist, academic and musician. He is the author of four poetry collections and three novels. His 2018 novel *Kitch: A Fictional Biography of a Calypso Icon* was shortlisted for the Republic of Consciousness Prize, the Royal Society of Literature's Encore Award, and long listed for the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. In 2019, he was awarded a Jerwood Compton Poetry Fellowship. His most recent album, *The Rich Are Only Defeated When Running For Their Lives*, was released in May 2021.



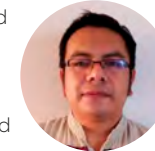
BUDDY WAKEFIELD is a three-time world champion spoken word artist, the inaugural author released by Write Bloody Publishing, and the most toured performance poet in history. He has featured on the BBC, HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*, ABC Radio National and has been signed to both Sage Francis's Strange Famous Records and Ani DiFranco's Righteous Babe Records.



CALEB PARKIN, Bristol City Poet 2020 - 22, has published widely and shortlisted in various competitions. He tutors for Poetry Society, Poetry School, Cheltenham Festivals, First Story, Arvon and holds an MSc in Creative Writing for Therapeutic Purposes. Debut pamphlet, *Wasted Rainbow* (tall-lighthouse). Debut collection *This Fruiting Body* (Nine Arches Press, October 2021). In 2022, he'll publish a new pamphlet with Broken Sleep and his collected City Poet work.



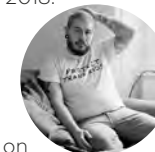
CANARIO DE LA CRUZ studied Hispanic-American Languages and Literatures and Education for the Indigenous Environment at the National Pedagogical University. He edited *Iwejle k'uk/Vuelo de quetzal*, an anthology of Ch'ol poetry (2020). He is author of the collection *Mayinaj* (Coneculta, 2021) and his poetry also appears in *Jukub: Poems from Chiapas for the Reverse Conquest* (Girasol Press, 2021).



CASEY BAILEY is a writer, performer and educator, and the Birmingham Poet Laureate 2020-2022. Casey's play 'GrimeBoy' has been commissioned by the Birmingham Rep. Casey's poetry has featured in a number of anthologies and he was commissioned by the BBC to write 'The Ballad of The Peaky Blinders' in 2019. Casey has performed his poetry nationally and internationally and was named as one of Birmingham's '30 under 30' in 2018.



1990s Chris is a queer, working-class writer from Hereford, based in Bristol. Chris writes primarily for film, audio, and performance. His latest radio play was featured on Radio 4's United Kingdoms series and was selected as Pick of the Week. Chris's short film *Factory Talk* won best artist film at Aesthetic festival and was aired on Channel 4, as part of Iris Prize's Best British Shorts. His work hopes to start conversations around queer identity, masculinity, class and accessibility.



CHRIS REDMOND is a poet, musician, producer and founder/artistic director of Tongue Fu. The show has toured from London's Roundhouse to Romania to Rio to Cape Town, collaborating with a range of artists, including Kae Tempest, Irvine Welsh and Akala. As an educator, Chris leads workshops in writing, performing and musicianship for organisations such as the British Council, BBC, BAC, First Story, the Roundhouse and St Mary's University, London.



DALJIT NAGRA's four poetry collections, all with Faber & Faber, have won the Forward Prize for Best Individual Poem and Best First Book, the South Bank Show Decibel Award and the Cholmondeley Award, and been shortlisted for the Costa Prize and twice for the TS Eliot Prize. Daljit is Professor of Creative Writing at Brunel University, Chair of the Royal Society of Literature, Council of Society of Authors, a PBS New Generation Poet, the inaugural Poet-in-Residence for Radio 4 & 4 Extra, and he presents the weekly *Poetry Extra*.



DAVID C JOHNSON is a witty performance poet. He was featured poet at the 2018 Austin International Poetry Festival and The Great Northern Slam in 2019. He is a multi-poetry slam champion. He has written radio plays for the BBC and a number of poems for BBC Radio Bristol. He has seven volumes of poetry published by Paralalia, including *Dayspring* (2021).



DEBORAH HARVEY's poems have been published in journals and anthologies, broadcast on Radio 4's *Poetry Please*, and awarded several prizes. Her most recent poetry collection, *Learning Finitly*, was published in March 2022 by Indigo Dreams, who also published her previous four collections and her historical novel, *Dart*. Deborah is a native Bristolian. She is co-director of The Leaping Word poetry consultancy, which provides editorial advice and counselling support for writers.



DIANA BELLESSI is considered to be the godmother of feminist / LGBTQI+ / Lesbian poetry in Argentina. Born in 1946, she has become one of the foremost voices in Latin America. Her work demonstrates a deep commitment to progressive politics, ecological conservation and the social condition of the working class in Argentina and Latin America. Her poetry is seen as groundbreaking for its depiction of Lesbian desire and has exerted a strong influence on prominent poets and writers, from the 80s and 90s through to the present day.



DIZRAELI is a genre all of his own. Poet, singer, MC, multi-instrumentalist. His unwavering devotion to pushing the boundaries of lyricism and musical form has earned him a bona fide cult status among those who know, and the raw honesty and humour he brings to his writings on his own mental health, sexuality and the liberation of the human spirit have drawn together people of all shades and ages around his work.



DL WILLIAMS is a deaf queer poet working with British Sign Language and English. Working with such different languages has inspired a deep interest in translation and how her work can be made accessible to signing and non-signing audiences. They have performed around the UK including at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, Wales Millennium Centre, the Barbican and the Albert Hall, as well as in America and Brazil.



DOMINIC FISHER grew up in Bath and has lived in Bristol for 40 years. He won the Bristol Poetry Prize in 2018, and was recruited to the Isambards that same year. He published his first collection in 2019, and has another, *A Customised Selection of Fireworks*, due from Shoestring Press soon. He is a co-editor of *Raceme* magazine, and spends a lot of time on his allotment in Horfield.



DR EDSON BURTON is a poet, drama writer, curator and historian. In performance and on the page, Edson combines storytelling with a deep love for the power of words. His work includes commissions for Situations and the Welsh National Opera. Edson has delivered workshops in schools, prisons, churches and community settings. He is the author of poetry collection *Seasoned* (2007). Edson is a member of Bristol's History Commission, the film programming collective Come the Revolution and queer people of colour collective, Kiki Bristol.



EDGAR DARINEL GARCÍA writes in Tsotsil and is a member of Writers in Indigenous Languages of Tabasco. His texts are included in *Jukub: Poems from Chiapas for the Reverse Conquest* (Girasol Press, 2021), the first *Anthology of Texts in the Indigenous Languages of Tabasco* (State Institute of the Culture of Tabasco, 2015) and the poetry collection *Slopes* (letras de pasto verde, 2018).



HELEN DEWBERY has taught poetry film extensively, in person and online. Her work has appeared internationally at poetry and film festivals, where she has also presented talks and curations. For seven years, she delivered a programme of poetry film events at Poetry Swindon Festival, including events in the community and an outdoor projection. She has worked on projects which have included the poetry film collection *Nothing in the Garden* and has edited various photography and poetry books. She founded the poetry film magazine *Poetry Film Live*.



HELEN SHEPPARD is a Bristol-based writer and worked as a midwife. Her poetry explores those whose voices are often unheard. She started to write in her forties. She has performed at Milk Poetry, RTB, Torriano Meeting House and Harvard Medical School. Published widely, including in *These are the Hands* and *Under the Radar*. Her debut collection *Fontanelle* was published in 2021 by Burning Eye Books. Helen interviews poets for her podcast *Health Beat Poets*.



HOLLY MOBERLEY is a poet & Creative Writing MA graduate living in Somerset, UK. She is Bristol's 2021 LYRA Slam Champion and has upcoming work in *Butcher's Dog*. She identifies her work as feminist diary entries from your weird cousin. Holly is currently co-writing a theatre show on pop culture, resuscitation and the 'drowning girls' motif.



INUA ELLAMS is a Nigerian-born poet, playwright & performer, graphic artist & designer and founder of: The Midnight Run (an arts-filled, night-time, urban walking experience.), The Rhythm and Poetry Party (The R.A.P Party) which celebrates poetry & hip hop, and Poetry + Film / Hack (P+F/H) which celebrates poetry and film. Identity, displacement & destiny are recurring themes in his work, where he tries to mix the old with the new: traditional African oral storytelling with contemporary poetics, paint with pixel, texture with vector.



JACQUELINE SAPHRA's *All My Mad Mothers* was shortlisted for the 2017 T.S. Eliot prize and was followed by *Dad, Remember You are Dead* in 2019, both from Nine Arches Press. *A Bargain with the Light: Poems after Lee Miller* (2017) and *Veritas: Poems after Artemisia* (2020) are both published by Hercules Editions. Her most recent collection is *One Hundred Lockdown Sonnets* (Nine Arches Press 2021). She teaches for The Poetry School.



JESSICA SEQUEIRA lives between Chile and the UK, where she is based at the Centre of Latin American Studies at the University of Cambridge. She has translated many books by Latin American authors and published the novel *A Furious Oyster*, the story collection *Rhombus and Oval*, the essay collection *Other Paradises: Poetic Approaches to Thinking in a Technological Age* and the hybrid work *A Luminous History of the Palm*.



JIM MCCUE was co-editor with Christopher Ricks of *The Poems of T. S. Eliot* (2015). He had previously worked for *The Times*, where he wrote the 'Bibliomane' column. His study *Edmund Burke and Our Present Discontents* appeared in 1997, and his imprint The Foundling Press has published writing by T. S. Eliot, William Empson, Henry James and Alexander Pope.



JOELLE TAYLOR is the author of 4 collections of poetry. Her newest collection *C+NTO & Othered Poems* (June 2021) won the T.S Eliot Prize and was the subject of a Radio 4 arts documentary, *Butch*. She is a co-curator and host of Out-Spoken Live, resident at the Southbank Centre, and the current editor of Out-Spoken Press. She has just completed a book tour of Australia including Sydney Opera House (March 2022). *C+NTO* is being adapted for theatre.



JOHN MCCULLOUGH lives in Hove. His third book of poems, *Reckless Paper Birds* (2019), won the Hawthornden Prize and was shortlisted for the Costa Poetry Award. His previous collections have been Books of the Year for *The Guardian* and *The Independent*. He teaches creative writing at the University of Brighton and for organisations including the Arvon Foundation. His new book, *Panic Response*, is published by Pinned in the Margins in 2022.



JOSIE ALFORD, youtuber and poetry nerd, is neither enigmatic, mysterious nor drenched in shadow. Her stage presence is sequined, Spice Girl-inspired, pop culture-referencing, infectious and welcoming. Once seen, never forgotten, her work ranges from the subtle nuance of dealing with loss to meeting your partner whilst dressed up as Justin Bieber. Josie and the Bristol team are raring to take on Weston and show them how it's done.



JUANA ADCOCK is a Latinx poet and translator working in English and Spanish. Her poems and translations have appeared in a range of publications and her first book, *Manca*, explores the anatomy of violence in Mexico. Her English-language debut poetry collection, *Split*, published in 2019 by Blue Diode Press, was a Poetry Book Society Choice and was included in *The Guardian's* Best Poetry of 2019.



LAURIE BOLGER is a London based writer & the founder of *The Creative Writing Breakfast Club*. Her first book *Box Rooms* featured at Glastonbury Festival, the Royal Albert Hall, TATE, Sky Arts & BBC platforms. Laurie's second collection, *Call Me Lady*, is a collection of poems celebrating resilience of women, autonomy, love & her working class Irish heritage.



LEO BOIX is a bilingual Latino British poet, translator and journalist. He has published two collections in Spanish, *Un lugar propio* and *Mar de noche*. Boix is a fellow of The Complete Works and co-director of 'Invisible Presence'. His English poems have appeared widely and his debut collection of English poetry, *Ballad of a Happy Immigrant*, was published by Chatto and Windus in 2021.



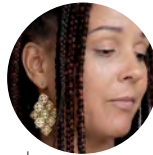
LINTON KWESI JOHNSON is a legendary reggae poet and social activist, born in Jamaica, before moving to London. His work has always been political, vital and necessary, drawing attention to topics like systemic racism, police abuse and National Front attacks, calling for government, institutions and society to be held to account. His performances are gripping and true to a quote he gave in a 2008 interview: 'Writing was a political act and poetry was a cultural weapon.'



LIV TORC is a poet, artist and ideas weaver who plunders the vast caverns and dormant volcanoes of the human and planetary condition. A Radio 4 Slam winner, a former Bard of Exeter, host of The Rainbow Fish Speakeasy and of The Hip Yak Poetry Shack. Liv runs the poetry stage at WOMAD, the Hip Yak Poetry School and the lockdown haiku and photography project, Haflu - as featured on the BBC's Radio 4 *Today* Programme.



LOUISA ADJOA PARKER is a writer and poet of English-Ghanaian heritage who lives in South West England. Her first poetry collections were published by Cinnamon Press, and her third, *How to wear a skin*, was published by Indigo Dreams. Her debut short story collection, *Stay with me*, was published in 2020 by Colenso Books. Her poetry pamphlet, *She can still sing*, was published by Flipped Eye in June 2021, and she has a coastal memoir forthcoming with Little Toller Books.



LUKE KENNARD is a poet and novelist who teaches at the University of Birmingham. His 6th collection of poetry, *Notes on the Sonnets* won the Forward Prize in 2021, and his 2nd novel *The Answer to Everything* has just been released in paperback by 4th Estate.



MALIZAH is a poet from Bristol who shares life experiences lived, and of those seen around her, through performance and poetry. Through her work she gives perspectives that shed light on matters and empower. Malizah loves hip hop, nature, community and seeing people shine.



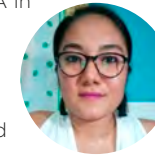
MATT HARVEY. Writer, poet, enemy of all that's difficult and upsetting, Matt's way with words has taken him from Totnes to the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, via *Saturday Live*, the Edinburgh Festival and the Work section of *The Guardian*. He is host of Radio 4's *Wondermentalist Cabaret* and creator of *Empath Man*. 'Very funny...' *The Independent* '...not only funny but tender and true' *The Guardian*



MICHAEL ROSEN is one of Britain's best-loved writers and performance poets for children and adults. He has published in the region of 200 books for children and adults, including *The Sad Book* with Quentin Blake (Walker Books) and *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* with Helen Oxenbury (Walker Books). His YouTube channel, *Kids' Poems and Stories with Michael Rosen*, has had over 55 million views. He is currently Professor of Children's Literature at Goldsmiths, University of London, where he co-devised and teaches an MA in Children's Literature.



MIRIAM ESPERANZA HERNÁNDEZ VÁZQUEZ is a speaker of the Ch'ol language and graduate in Language and Culture of the Intercultural University of the State of Tabasco. Her poetry appears in *Jukub: Poems from Chiapas for the Reverse Conquest* (Girasol Press, 2021) and she has worked with the National Institute of Indigenous Languages (INALI) translating Ch'ol to Spanish. She is also a digital activist for the lakty'añ language.



THE MUM POET CLUB is a collective of over 500 mums and parents from across the globe. It was created by one inspired mum, Katharine Perry, who started a peer support group for fellow mum poets. It then evolved into online open mic nights, press publications, live events, and then workshops. This event will be run by Emma Dakeyne and Emily Way, who help to run the Mum Poet Club, with readings from two of their established poets.



NATALIE LINH BOLDERSTON is a Vietnamese-Chinese-British poet. In 2020, she received an Eric Gregory Award and co-won the Rebecca Swift Women Poets' Prize. In 2021, she was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem. She is an alumna of the Roundhouse Poetry Collective and the London Library Emerging Writers Programme. Her pamphlet, *The Protection of Ghosts*, is published with V. Press. She is now working on her first full-length collection.



NIKKI CHAMPAGNIE HARRIS has been working as a BSL interpreter for 24 years, as well as working as a registered therapist. In 2005, she decided to leave mental health settings to work primarily within the arts. Nikki now specialises her BSL skills mainly within media and performance and is one of the founding members of Interpreters of Colour Network, IOCN. She also runs workshops around casting BSL interpreters appropriately for public events and theatre spaces.



PAMELI BENHAM is a Londoner, born within the sound of Bow Bells. She has been happily settled in Bristol for 25 years, after working in the Middle East and the Thames Valley. PAMELI is an actor, director and teacher who sings and writes. Her poems have been printed in anthologies and chapbooks, and her collection, *Plentiful As Blackberries*, has raised over £5,000 for WaterAid.



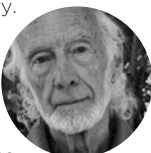
RAYMOND ANTROBUS MBE FRSL was born in Hackney, London, to an English mother and Jamaican father. In 2019, he became the first poet to be awarded the Rathbone Folio Prize for best work of literature in any genre. Other accolades include the Ted Hughes Award, PBS Winter Choice, a *Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year award, Somerset Maugham Award and *The Guardian* Poetry Book of The Year 2018, as well as shortlisting for the Griffin Prize and Forward Prize.



RIAAAN VOSLOO is co-founder and bass player/music producer of Tongue Fu. As a bass player and arranger, he has worked with Nostalgia 77, Gregory Porter, Jamie Cullum and The Last Poets. As an educator, Riaan is Course Leader on the MA in Popular Music Practice at BIMM Bristol, having taught at Birmingham and Leeds Conservatoires. He teaches performance, composition, improvisation and cultural theory.



ROGER MCGOUGH is the author of over a hundred books of poetry for adults and children. President of the Poetry Society, he has been honoured with a CBE for services to literature and the Freedom of the City of Liverpool. After Lily The Pink, the Aintree Iron, Scaffold, GRIMMS, *The Mersey Sound* with Adrian Henri & Brian Patten and his Molière adaptations with English Touring Theatre, Roger presents the long-running *Poetry Please*. The beat goes on. 'The godfather of modern British poetry' - Metro. 'The patron saint of poetry' - Carol Ann Duffy.



SARAH TREMLETT is a prize-winning poetry film-maker, poet and theorist and a co-director and editor of *Liberated Words*. A curator and juror at festivals, she has given numerous talks on the subject and shown her work worldwide. Her publication *The Poetics of Poetry Film* (June 2021, Intellect Books UK, and The University of Chicago Press USA), has been described as 'A ground-breaking, encyclopaedic work, an industry Bible, and essential reading on the genre.'



SOPHIE SHEPHERD is not only a poet, but a Weston-super-Mega-fan who isn't afraid to show it! Her past works have included poems about Weston's brown sea, scooters and overwhelming instagram infographics that tell you how to feel. Sophie usually runs a bi-monthly poetry slam in Weston called *Rhyme against the Tide* and challenged Margate to a head-to-head slam last summer...which saw Weston reign victorious! Bristol better watch out!



STANLEY IYANU is a spoken word poet and writer. He is a member of the 2020/21 Dynamo Poetry Mentoring Scheme, run by Nine Arches Press and Writing West Midlands, and a semi-finalist in the BBC Words First Spoken Word competition 2020. He has performed for Apples & Snakes @ Home (online showcase) and for the Cheltenham Literature Festival - expect some weird and wonderful poetry.



TERRANCE HAYES is the author of six poetry collections: *American Sonnets for My Past And Future Assassin*, a finalist for the National Book Award, National Book Critics Circle Award and TS Eliot Prize; *How to Be Drawn*; *Lighthouse*, winner of the 2010 National Book Award for poetry; *Muscular Music*, recipient of the Kate Tufts Discovery Award; *Hip Logic*, winner of the 2001 National Poetry Series, and *Wind in a Box*.



TIERNEY ELLIOTT is a Bath-based spoken word poet and short story writer. She has performed at Shambala Festival, Unislam, Lyra Festival, Roundhouse Slam and more. She has won awards for her poetry about mental health and grief, and was placed fourth at the Roundhouse Slam, as well as becoming the first ever audience winner. Tierney's poetry explores social issues and injustices, but she also endeavours to explore the exciting 'everyday.'



TJAWANGWA DEMA is the author of *Mandible*, selected for the New-Generation African Poets box set, and *The Careless Seamstress*, winner of the Sillerman First Book Prize. A poet, educator and arts administrator, her honours include a Botswana Top 40 under-40 award, a *Mail* and *Guardian* editor's choice award and fellowships from the University of Iowa, Northwestern University and the Danish International Visiting Artists programme. A new collection, *an/other pastoral*, is due out April 22, 2022.



TOM MARSHMAN has been a practicing artist for over 20 years, and has produced over 60 projects across many mediums, including museum audio-tours, theatre and cabaret.



TOM STOCKLEY (T.S. Idiot) is a multidisciplinary artist working across the UK. Informed by a century of counter-culture and queer theory, their practice flirts with the humour, beauty and sadness of everyday life. Their practice includes digital design, photography, writing, short films and live performance, often created collaboratively with other artists and in community settings. They are proudly queer, gender non-conforming, neurodivergent and a descendant of working-class Jewish refugees.



WARDA YASSIN is an award-winning, British-born Somali poet and secondary school teacher, based in Sheffield. She was a winner of the 2018 New Poets Prize for her debut pamphlet *Tea with Cardamom* (Poetry Business, published 2019). Her poetry has been published in places including *The North*, *Magma* and *Oxford Poetry*, and anthologised in *Verse Matters* (Valley Press), *Anthology X* (Smith|Doorstop), *Halfway Smile* and *Surfing the Twilight* (Hive). In October 2020, she took on the role of Sheffield Poet Laureate.



WENDY PRATT is a writer from North Yorkshire. Her latest collection *When I Think of My Body as a Horse* won the 2020 Poetry Business Book and Pamphlet Competition. In 2021 her nonfiction WIP *The Ghost Lake* was long listed for the Nan Shepherd Prize. Wendy is the founder and editor of print magazine, *Spelt*. *Spelt* seeks to celebrate and validate the rural experience, through creative nonfiction and poetry.



YOMI SODE, writer and poet, has been performing for the past 10 years. He balances the fine line between both Nigerian and British cultures and can be, at times, humorous, loving, self-reflective and uncomfortable. Highlights include opening for Saul Williams and The Last Poets, with appearances at Yahoo! Wireless Festival, Latitude, Lovebox, Olympic Village, Sadler's Wells Theatre, as well as working with Channel 4 and BBC Radio 1xtra.

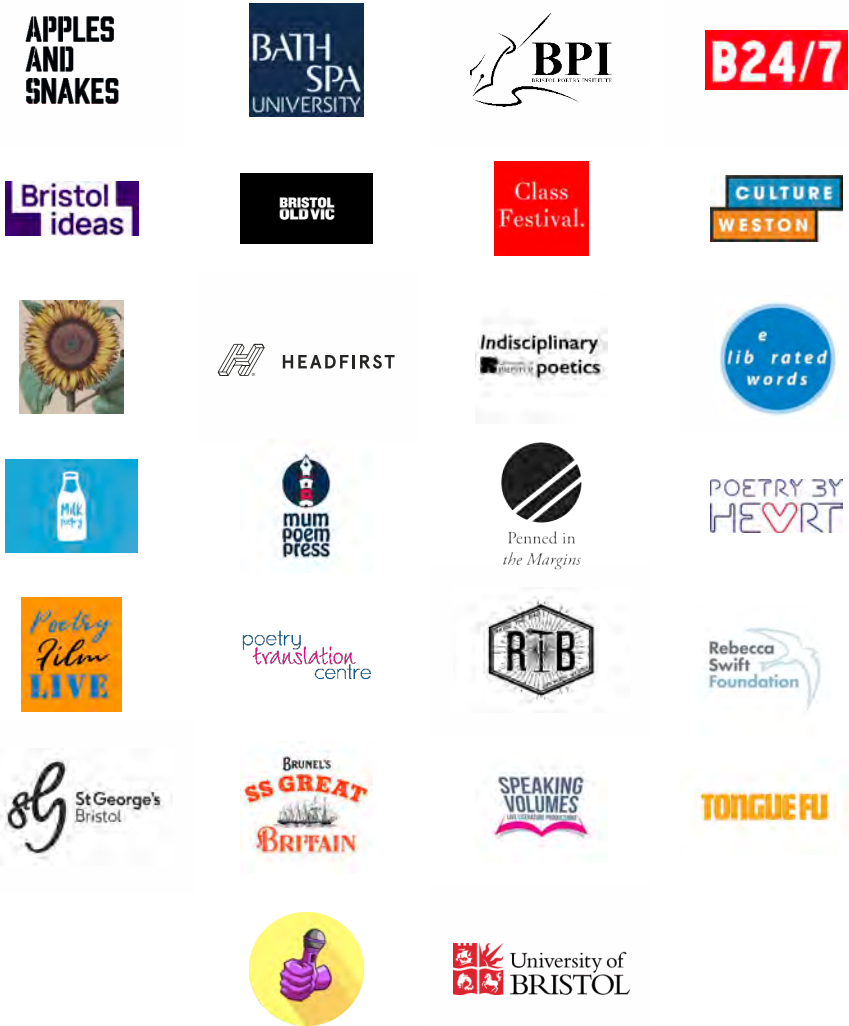


ZENA EDWARDS is a poet, performer and climate activist who uses song, movement and global influences as a jump-off for her words. Edwards fuses traditional African instrumentation (the Kalimba and Kora) and new technology to create soundtracks for her poems and stories, producing a body of work that reaches culturally and generationally diverse audiences on an international level.



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