



FEB 25TH - MARCH 5TH 2023

LEEDSLITFEST.CO.UK

A citywide celebration of words and thought!

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We would like to welcome you to the programme of the 5th Leeds Lit Fest which will be taking place from Saturday 25th Feb to Sunday 5th March across our amazing city as part of Leeds 2023.

The city's award-winning festival of words and thought will take place at a diverse range of the city's venues and aims to bring together, and help develop, the city's literary scene, with writers, poets and performers from the UK and beyond.

Highlights will include the festival hosting poet Lemn Sissay OBE as he brings his memoir *My Name is Why* to Carriageworks Theatre (Fri 3rd March).

There will be a day of events at the Howard Assembly Room and Carriageworks Theatre exploring the Contemporary Gothic (Sat 25th Feb). Leeds Central Library will have a number of children events and political broadcaster Iain Dale will appear twice at the festival, both in a solo event at the Leeds Library (Fri 3rd March) and then as part of a live recording of the *For The Many* podcast Live at the Carriageworks Theatre (Sat 4th March).

Whether a regular festival attendee or someone who has never been to the festival before, we promise that there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Tickets and full list of events at: www.leedslitfest.co.uk



SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY



Workshop: The Uncanny in Short Fiction with Lucie McKnight Hardy

*Part of our one-day series exploring
the Contemporary Gothic*

The short story is the perfect form to explore and exploit the uncanny in order to disturb the reader. We'll consider some of the techniques writers use to unsettle and perturb, and put these methods in practical exercises. Come armed with a pen and paper, and nerves of steel.

**Howard Assembly Room, 12pm to 2pm,
£15 +bf**

Poverty and the Pandemic: Stu Hennigan in conversation with Annie Warren

When lockdown came in 2020, Leeds librarian Stu Hennigan volunteered as a food-parcel delivery driver. His trips through the eerily-deserted streets took him to some of the poorest communities in the city. Literally a lifeline for people who had been living on an economic knife-edge for years, *Ghost Signs* is his first-hand account of the poverty he encountered. Having already received national coverage from *Prospect* magazine and *3AM*, *Ghost Signs* is essential reading.

The Leeds Library, 1pm to 2.30pm, £5 +bf

Workshop: Weirding Your Fiction with Dan Coxon

*Part of our one-day series exploring
the Contemporary Gothic*

With most editors facing huge piles of submissions, it can often feel like attracting their attention is an insurmountable obstacle. During this workshop we'll take a look at what the slush pile is actually like, how to stand out and how to use elements of the strange and uncanny to break out of clichéd literary tropes and truly shine.

**Howard Assembly Room, 2.30pm to 4.30pm,
£15 +bf**

Congregation of Words

The University of Leeds is delighted to invite you to the first Congregation of Words, a creative writing showcase by student writers. This will be a diverse show comprising 12 performances by students from the Lifelong Learning Centre and the School of English's BA English Literature with Creative Writing, hosted by Becky Cherriman and Caitlin Stobie. With contributions of poetry, fiction and more, the show promises to be an immersive experience and celebration of local talent.

The Leeds Library, 2.30pm to 3.30pm, PAYF

SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY



Panel event: The Language of Fear

Part of our one-day series exploring the *Contemporary Gothic*

From Bram Stoker to Stephen King, we have always been attracted to scary stories. Discussing everything from the gothic tradition to the resurgence in horror fiction, and the lasting appeal of ghost stories, the panel will attempt to answer the question: why do we love being scared? Featuring Mark Morris, Alison Littlewood, Lucie McKnight Hardy and Dan Coxon.

The Studio, Carriageworks Theatre, 5.30pm to 6.30pm, £5 +bf

In Conversation with Catriona Ward

Part of our one-day series exploring the *Contemporary Gothic*

The only woman to have won the August Derleth Award for Best Horror Novel three times, Catriona Ward has become one of the leading lights in modern horror. Talking with Dan Coxon, she will discuss her experiences with her bestseller *The Last House on Needless Street*, her latest novel *Sundial* and her life prior to the publication of her award-winning debut, *Rawblood*.

The Studio, Carriageworks Theatre, 7.30pm to 8.30pm, £8 +bf



All-Night Readathon

Saturday evening to Sunday morning

Come and read a book aloud with other volunteer readers in Chapel FM's beautiful radio theatre. Stay for some or all of the night, see the dawn rise in our stained glass windows then dig into a hearty book-lover's breakfast. The book will be a secret till the week before and copies provided on the night. No experience required for this informal celebration of the joys of reading aloud and listening to a good story. Live broadcast on East Leeds FM.

Chapel FM, 8pm to 8am, free

The World is Going to Love This: Gordon Raphael in Conversation with Dom Richmond

Join us for a book launch and Q&A with Gordon Raphael, author of *The World is Going To Love This*. This legendary music producer, best known for his work on the first two albums by The Strokes and Regina Spektor's ingenious Soviet Kitsch, will be in conversation with Dom Richmond. Stories in his book include meeting Wendy Carlos and Dr. Robert Moog, detailed conversations from the recording sessions for *Is This It* and tales of working with Ian Brown, Skin, The Libertines and Ian Astbury.

Hyde Park Book Club, 8pm to 9pm, £5 +bf



SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY



Hagitude: In conversation with Sharon Blackie

Rich with the combination of myth, landscape and eco-feminism, Hagitude reclaims the mid-years as a liberating, alchemical moment - from which to shift into your chosen, authentic and fulfilling future. Drawing inspiration from mythic figures and archetypes ranging from the wise woman and the creatrix to the henwife and the trickster, as well as modern mentors, Sharon Blackie plots a liberating new path into elderhood.

The Leeds Library, 12pm to 1pm, £5 +bf

Night Terrors: In conversation with Alice Vernon

Ever since Alice Vernon was a child, her nights have been haunted by nightmares of a figure from her adolescence, sinister hallucinations, and episodes of sleepwalking. These are known as 'parasomnias' - and they're surprisingly common. *Night Terrors* examines the history of our relationship with bad dreams: from how we've tried to make sense of and treat them to research on how video games might help people rewrite their dreams. *Night Terrors* aims to shine a light on the darkest parts of our sleeping lives.

The Leeds Library, 2pm to 3pm, £5 +bf



The Big Leeds LitFest Quiz hosted by Gary Wigglesworth

Whether you are a book-lover, quiz geek or a literary-fact-lover, there is something for everyone in this witty and interesting, clever and challenging fun-packed evening. Our quizmaster is Gary Wigglesworth, author of *The Book Lover's Quiz Book: Novel Conundrums*. Gary has been running quizzes for many years at the Betsey Trotwood in the heart of Clerkenwell in central London. He is, however, a born and bred Yorkshireman so he knows what he's letting himself in for!

Lamb and Flag pub, 7.30pm to 9.30pm, £5



MONDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

Myths, Mummies and Magic

Join celebrated children's author, playwright and storyteller Saviour Pirotta who will explore the exciting aspects of Ancient Egypt based on his superb series of books for young readers, *The Nile Adventures*.

Moor Allerton Community Hub and Library, 4pm to 5pm, free

Vilnius Libraries: the soul of the city

Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, is a UNESCO City of Literature, best known for its multilingual writing tradition and printing culture. By recounting the history of libraries and life stories of librarians during the Nazi German and Soviet Russian occupations of Lithuania, Laimonas Briedis shines the light on this Orphic spirit of a city. Since its early days, the city has been a notable centre of Lithuanian, Jewish, Polish and Ruthenian (Belorussian and Ukrainian) book life, with both public and private libraries being key sites of national resistance and cultural self-determination. Laimonas Briedis is a writer and scholar of history, literature and the geographical imagination of Lithuania.

The Leeds Library, 6pm to 7pm, £5

Leeds Lit Crit

How will you grow as a writer? And why does your inner critic keep stifling you? Leeds Lit Crit gives you a chance to cultivate an outward-facing practice and a kind inner critic: borrowing workshop methods from the visual arts and building upon the professional backgrounds of co-founders Rachel Cracknell and Penny Newell, Leeds Lit Crit will help you to become a writer who approaches risk and feedback with intrigue and excitement. Participants should share one work of maximum two sides of A4. There are no set forms and writers can be unpublished or published, emerging, established, or total beginners.

Hyde Park Book Club, 7pm to 9pm, PAYF

Leeds Poetry Festival Presents Verse After Dark

Leeds Poetry Festival is taking over Book Club's basement and turning it into our very own speakeasy. Grab a drink, bring your poems and perform by candlelight during Leeds Lit Fest.

Hyde Park Book Club, 7.30pm to 11pm, PAYF

Return to My Trees: In conversation with Matthew Yeomans

Matthew Yeomans walked through more than 300 miles of ancient forests in Wales and tells the stories of the places he passes through, while pondering the question: how do humans reconnect with nature?

The Leeds Library, 7.45pm to 8.45pm, £5

TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

Ross Raisin in Conversation

Ross Raisin has been shortlisted for over ten literary awards; he won the *Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year* award in 2009, and in 2013 was named on Granta's once-a-decade *Best of Young British Novelists* list. In 2018 he was awarded a Fellowship by the RSL. Ross will be in conversation discussing his new book, *A Hunger* which the Guardian described as "A superb portrait of care and sacrifice". From the prizewinning author of *God's Own Country* and *A Natural* comes a moving and intimate exploration of marriage, devotion and sacrifice, and a woman's enduring search for freedom.

The Leeds Library, 12.30pm to 1.30pm, £8 +bf

Write like a Grrrl workshop

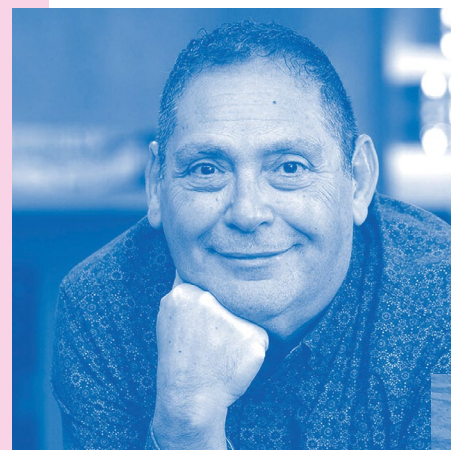
This two-hour workshop will share tips, tools and strategies on how to shrink the inner critic, get those words on the page and celebrate delight and joy, no matter what's going on in our lives and the wider world. The workshop is the space to explore and better understand your relationship with writing, and is suitable for those who are new to writing as well as more experienced writers. Write Like a Grrrl aims to be a really safe, supportive space for women/non-binary people/marginalised genders (please see Write Like A Grrrl's FAQs & gender inclusion policy). This course is for adults only. Sara Sherwood has an MA in Creative Writing from the Manchester Writing School and facilitates creative writing courses and workshops around Leeds, including Write Like A Grrrl.

Hyde Park Book Club, 5pm to 7pm, £15 +bf, concession £7.50 +bf

Even LAUder

Eclectic and engaging spoken word evening with Creative Writing students from Leeds Arts University.

Hyde Park Book Club, 7.30pm to 10.30pm, free



TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY



**Nymphs and Thugs
Presents Livewire**

Join spoken word record label Nymphs & Thugs for an evening of electric spoken word poetry, showcasing the finest alternative voices that are currently shaking up the UK's poetic landscape. Featuring sets from Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan, Ty'rone Haughton and Jay Mitra.

**Hyde Park Book Club, 7.30pm to 10.30pm,
£6 +bf, concessions £4 +bf**

**Speaking Truth to Power:
The Life and Times of
Arthur France MBE**

Speaking Truth to Power is the authorised biography of Arthur France by his friend of forty years, Max Farrar. The book is a tribute to Arthur's enormous contribution to Leeds and the wider world, but it also gives an insight into the uncomfortable relationship between Britain's White and Black citizens. And it places Arthur in the wider context of Caribbean people's drive for full emancipation that has changed Leeds, and Britain, since the 1950s.

The Leeds Library, 7.30pm to 8.30pm, PAYF

WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH



The Naked Rabbi

Laugh, frown, be amazed and argue with Jonathan Romain as he explores why being a rabbi is a wonderful job for a nice Jewish boy or girl, along with a look at the major changes in the rituals for Jewish births, weddings and funerals happening today.

The Leeds Library, 2pm to 3pm, £5 +bf

How to Catch a Monster

Award-winning author and illustrator Bethan Woollvin, best known for her feisty feminist fairytale series, will read from her empowering picture book, *I Can Catch a Monster*, share her creative processes and sketchbooks, and set an exciting craft activity.

**Compton Centre Community Hub and Library,
4pm to 5pm, free**

Fantastically Great Women

Join the bestselling author and illustrator of the *Fantastically Great Women* book series, Kate Pankhurst, who will take you on an interesting and thrilling adventure through history, where you will learn all about the phenomenal females who changed the world.

Holt Park Community Hub and Library, 4pm to 5pm, free

**Dickens and Travel:
The Start of Modern Travel Writing**

Celebrated author, broadcaster and award-winning travel writer Lucinda Hawksley explores the travel writing of her great, great, great Grandfather Charles Dickens, discovering his many fascinating journeys overseas.

The Leeds Library, 7pm to 8.30pm, £8 +bf

Spring Rhythm

Join us for a reading of poems to celebrate the arrival of spring. Poets associated with the University of Leeds Poetry Centre will read from their latest work which focuses on nature and environment, including TS Eliot Prize shortlisted nominee Zaffar Kunial, Matt Howard and Charlotte Eichler.

**School of English, The University of Leeds,
7pm to 9pm, free**



THURSDAY 2ND MARCH

Fantastically Great Women

Join Kate Pankhurst the bestselling author of the Fantastically Great Women series.

Morley Community Hub and Library, 4pm to 5pm, free

The Spell Tailors

Expect storytelling and spells from James Nicol, author of The Spell Tailors.

St Georges Centre (Middleton) Community Hub and Library, 4pm to 5pm, free

The Ambrosia Project with Abi Silver

Leeds born Abi Silver will be talking about the sixth Burton and Lamb courtroom drama, *The Ambrosia Project*. Was it a tragic accident or is there a poisoner on the loose?

The Leeds Library, 7pm to 8pm, £5 +bf

Football Cliches

After a sold-out tour of the UK and Ireland, the Football Clichés podcast is on the road again bringing its unique angle on the modern game to Leeds Lit Fest.

Carriageworks Theatre, 7.30pm to 9.30pm, £22 +bf



Poets, Prattlers & Pandemonialists

After two years, three poets meet up in a pub. There's been a pandemic. How have they fared? Can they remember how to behave in company? And is this a work event or a party?

Carriageworks Theatre, 8pm to 10pm, £11 standard / £8.80 student/unwaged/Leeds Card

The Discount Comedy Checkout

100% raw improvised sketch from Chris Lumb, Eddie French, and Phil Allan-Smith. If you've never seen improvised comedy before, you are in for a right treat. All the games, scenarios, and situations are formed and created from ... that's right YOU, the audience. It's very much in the style of 'Whose Line is it Anyway' but with a modern twistand normally a little riskier and ruder too. Winner of 'Best National Show' at the 2020 Morecambe Fringe, The Discount Comedy Checkout perform all over the UK and boast rave reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe and more.

The Leeds Library, 8.30pm to 10pm, £8 +bf



FRIDAY 3RD MARCH

Nowt But Verse with Ian Duhig

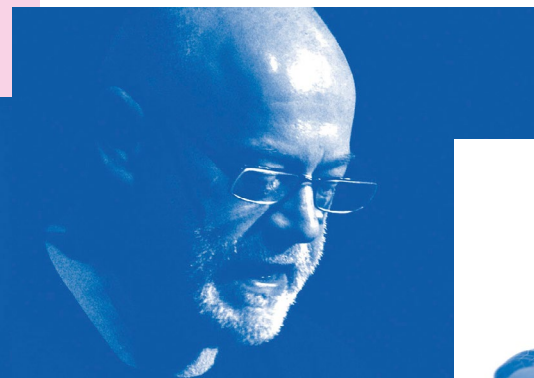
Poet, editor, and curator of literary events Hannah Stone is thrilled to host prize-winning poet and all-round creative Ian Duhig in a special edition of Nowt But Verse, where they will chat about poetry, being a poet, social activism in Leeds, and celebrate the awarding of the Hawthornden Prize for Literature with a long-awaited reading from Ian's *New and Selected Poems*, published by Picador in 2021.

The Leeds Library, 1pm to 2pm, PAYF

Meet the Oceans

Join award-winning author Caryl Hart as she dons her jellyfish costume and strums her ukulele for an hour of aquatic chat, song, and crafts, based on her playful picture book about the sea and its animals, *Meet the Oceans*.

Headingley Community Hub and Library, 4pm to 5pm, free



Chemistry at The Chemic

Popular poetry and spoken word night Chemistry presents this special event for Leeds Lit Fest. Host Joe Williams welcomes Dominic Berry and Kayleigh Campbell as headliners, alongside the "Box of Mystery" open mic.

The Chemic Tavern, 7.30pm to 10.30pm, PAYF

Iain Dale: On This Day in Politics

Who became Britain's first Prime Minister on 3 April 1721? When did Big Ben first bong? When did the first British woman cast her vote? (Clue: It wasn't 1918.) Find the answers to these questions and many more in this landmark political history. From the first meeting of an elected English parliament on 20 January 1265 to Britain voting to leave the EU on 23 June 2016, there is a growing thirst for knowledge about the history of our constitutional settlement, our party system and how our parliamentary democracy has developed.

The Leeds Library, 7.30pm to 9pm, £12 +bf



FRIDAY 3RD MARCH

**Lemn Sissay:
My Name is Why**

Lemn Sissay OBE is a poet playwright, memoirist performer and broadcaster. *My Name is Why*, his life story is infused with all the lyricism and power you would expect from one of the nation's best-loved poets. This moving, frank and timely performance is the result of a life spent asking questions, and the redemptive power of creativity.

Carriageworks Theatre, 8pm to 10pm, £22



SATURDAY 4TH MARCH

**Tiny Crab's Tidy-Up Storytime
with Paula Bowles**

Tiny Crab is a tidy crab, and a crab who LOVES his beach. So, when he invites a few friends to come and join his favourite place, he knows they will look after it, too... won't they? What if LOTS of friends arrive then leave rubbish EVERYWHERE, which *Tiny Crab* is forced to tidy up... Young children will enjoy listening to this story being read by author and illustrator Paula Bowles who will encourage them to understand that even the smallest voices need to make themselves heard when it comes to criticising litter-bugs.

Children's Library, Central Library, 10.30am to 11.30am, free

Harley Hitch's Inventive Adventures

Harley Hitch and her robot dog Sprocket are back with another inventive adventure! This term begins with a school trip to the coast, where Harley stumbles upon a mysterious fossil. Could it be that Harley has discovered an entirely new dinosaur species? Meanwhile, eager to best her class nemesis Fenelda in the contest for best invention, Harley dreams big with her attempt to invent a time travel machine. It doesn't seem to work, but soon strange happenings all over Inventia make her question whether the time travel machine might work after all!

Sanderson Room, 3rd Floor, Central Library, 11.30am to 12.30pm, free

Step Up - It's Superhero Time!

Marvin's life is perfectly ordinary until one day he discovers a mysterious superhero suit hidden in his attic. It is powered by kindness and imagination, and since Marvin has tons of both, the powers of the suit are infinite. . . Armed with his super suit and robot sidekick, Pixel, Marvin steps into his power as the newest in a long line of superheroes and becomes the unstoppable, invincible, Marv. You'll hear about Alex Falase-Koya's own favourite superheroes and his favourite books growing up before designing a brand new super-suit for your own superhero.

Children's Library, Central Library, 12.30pm to 1.30pm, free

On a Mission with Agent Asha

Asha Joshi is a coding genius from a British Indian family who has the perfect excuse not to finish her homework. She's just been recruited to join the top-secret Children's Spy Agency. Her first mission: SAVE THE WORLD. Can she do it? Asha's a coder so she should be able to hack into the biggest tech company in the world, fight deadly sharks and figure out why the Internet has stopped working. All before bedtime. Easy, right?

Sanderson Room, 3rd Floor, Central Library, 1pm to 2pm, free

SATURDAY 4TH MARCH



Exploring Space with Stella the Squirrel

Calling all budding explorers! The Animal Explorers picture book series by author and illustrator Sharon Rentta will inspire young children to follow their dreams. Stella is determined to be the first-ever squirrel in space. However, her hopes are quickly dashed when she finds that she's too small to go to Space School. But Stella won't let that stop her. Surely, if she's determined enough, she can still make her dream come true? Soar to the Moon with Stella, then discover the inspiring stories of four real-life spacemen and women.

Children's Library, Central Library, 1.45pm to 2.45pm, free

Comic Book Creation with Jack Fallows

Join illustrator, cartoonist and model-maker Jack Fallows for 60 minutes of comic-book creation. Jack has been publishing comics and zines for over 20 years and has worked on lots of popular projects, including the *British Science Festival's Asteroid Belter* kids' comic, and the immersive Light Night exhibition, *The Lost Forest*, which drew thousands of visitors.

Leodis Room, 3rd Floor, Central Library, 2pm to 3pm, free

Video-Game Adventures with Jennifer Bell and Jamie Russell

SkyWake is a sci-fi adventure trilogy with a modern gaming twist and reading. *Legendarium* and *Wonderscape* are described like being in an immersive video game with cinematic entertainment. Join the creators of these exciting adventure stories at this special joint event and learn how their script-writing backgrounds inspire their adrenaline-fuelled books. Recommended for children aged 8 - 12. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sanderson Room, 3rd Floor, Central Library, 2pm to 3pm, free

Blow Down

A funny, poignant play which marks the recent demolition of the iconic cooling towers at Ferrybridge Power Station, in the words of those who lived and worked beneath them. Scripted by award-winning playwright Garry Lyons and based on stories collected from the local community in Ferrybridge and Knottingley, *Blow Down* is an hilarious, gritty and thought-provoking show with music about a typical post-industrial Yorkshire town. From the raucous seventies to recession and decline in the 2000s, it tells the tale of the area through the experiences of people who've lived there, offering surprising insights, authenticity and humour. 1 hour 40 mins with interval.

Chapel FM, 2pm to 4pm, £5

SATURDAY 4TH MARCH



Munroe Bergdorf

Transitional: In One Way or Another, We All Transition is the life-affirming, heartfelt and intimate new book newly-published by internationally renowned activist, model, writer and broadcaster Munroe Bergdorf. In this talk, Munroe shares reflections from her own life to illustrate how transitioning is an essential part of all of our lives. Through the story of one woman's extraordinary mission to live with authenticity, *Transitional* shows us how to heal, how to build a stronger community and how to evolve as a society out of shame and into pride.

The Leeds Library, 2pm to 3pm, £5 +bf



SATURDAY 4TH MARCH

A Day in the Life of an Astronaut

Join award-winning author and cartoonist Mike Barfield for a fun and fact-filled journey from the edges of the solar system, past all eight planets, and on towards our very own superstar, the sun. Along the way we'll meet some merry meteors, crash land on comets, get to know gravity, and even encounter Pluto, still not happy about having been made to feel so small. Brought alive with brilliant illustrations by Jess Bradley, *A Day in the Life of an Astronaut*, *Mars and the Distant Stars* will be packed with jokes, secret diaries, props, costumes, and oodles of audience participation, and promises to be an out-of-this-world experience!

Children's Library, Central Library, 3pm to 4pm, free

Glimpse: Peepal Tree Press

Celebrate Glimpse, the first Black British Speculative Fiction anthology with some of its contributing writers from across Britain. Join us in conversation with the writers about their process of writing material that is not of this world and the increasing popularity of the speculative fiction genre in the space of Black British Literature. Pete Kalu, Melissa Jackson-Wagner, Chantal Oakes and Ronnie McGrath will join chair Kadija Sesay, Publications Manager of the Inscribe series of anthologies.

The Leeds Library, 4pm to 5.30pm, £5 +bf

Weather Investigations with Princess Olivia and Lucy Hawking

Princess Olivia is a young girl who definitely doesn't want to be a princess. Instead she would rather form a society of investigators with her friends from school. Using the principles of scientific investigation, the three friends set out to crack the biggest mystery of all and the one which affects everyone – why has the weather gone wrong? Best-selling author Lucy Hawking introduces this brand new series of stories for children offering an engaging and fun to find out more about earth and climate science.

The Studio, Carriageworks Theatre, 4.15pm to 5.15pm, free

What People Say. Panel discussion with Garry Lyons, writer of Blow Down

Garry Lyons, writer of *Blow Down*, talks about the process, and the ethics, of using people's stories as material for drama. Does verbatim literally mean verbatim? Can a playwright 'change anything' and, if so, for what reasons? Garry is joined by other experts in the field of oral history and its applications in the arts, including Tony Macaluso, Director of Chapel FM and ex-archivist of Studs Terkel's work, and Mary Cooper, writer of many theatre and radio dramas from personal testimony. This is a chance to ask questions and dig deep into this fertile seam of artistic endeavour.

Chapel FM, 4.30pm to 5.30pm, free

SATURDAY 4TH MARCH

For The Many Live

Join LBC legend Iain Dale and his partner in crime, former Home Secretary Jacqui Smith for their smash hit political podcast *For The Many*. In the first half, expect the usual cocktail of political analysis and unfiltered opinion. Following a short interval, Jacqui and Iain will be joined by a very special political guest: the Rt Hon David Davis! You'll be able to meet and chat to Iain and Jacqui during the interval and after the show. Share *For The Many*: Live with friends.

Carriageworks Theatre, 7pm to 9pm, £22 / £16.50 students & concessions / £11 unwaged & under 16s

Blur the Lines

Blur the Lines returns to Leeds Lit Fest for a night of action packed performance featuring Poetry, Rap, Spoken Word and more! This event is organised by Rap and Spoken Word Artist - Lence, showcasing an array of creative talent from Leeds, blurring genre lines and connecting various scenes throughout the city! *Blur the Lines* has seen a sold out show at Leeds Playhouse, delivered an event in association with *Come Play With Me* and established itself as an exciting and innovative creative platform throughout the North. Expect an electric atmosphere in a prestigious venue celebrating creativity in Leeds!

The Leeds Library, 7.30pm to 10pm, PAYF



SUNDAY 5TH MARCH



Northern Fiction Alliance Showcase

The Northern Fiction Alliance is on the road again – this time to Hyde Park Book Club, Leeds! Join some of your favourite northern indies And Other Stories, Bluemoose Books, Comma Press and friends for a day of bookselling featuring readings from their newest authors.

Hyde Park Book Club, 11am to 4pm, free

Out of the Darkness: Greenham Voices with Rebecca Mordan

In this talk about her book and the process leading to it, Rebecca will bring along Greenham Women who contributed their stories, sing you some songs from the Greenham Song book and she and her guests will answer all your burning Greenham questions!

The Leeds Library, 12pm to 1pm, £5 +bf

Madly, Deeply: Neil Pearson on the Alan Rickman Diaries

Alan Rickman remains one of the most beloved actors of all time across almost every genre, from his breakout role as *Die Hard's* villainous Hans Gruber to his heart-wrenching run as Professor Severus Snape, and beyond. From 1993 until his death in 2016, he also kept diaries: anecdotal, indiscreet, witty, gossipy, utterly candid; over a million words in Rickman's calligraphic hand (adorned with beautiful illustrations) reflecting his previous career as a graphic designer. On Rickman's death, the diaries were passed to personal friend and fellow actor Neil Pearson by his widow, Rima; and acting on instruction, Neil secured a publishing deal with Cannongate, sight unseen, and the diaries were published in October last year. In this in-conversation event, Neil talks about the process of bringing the diaries to publication.

The Leeds Library, 2pm to 3pm, £8 +bf

SUNDAY 5TH MARCH



Stitched Up: Stories of Life and Death from a Prison Doctor

Dr Shahed Yousaf spends his time running between emergencies - from overdoses to assaults, from cell fires to suicides - with one hand perpetually hovering over the panic button. Being a prison doctor is not for the faint-hearted. Dr Y chooses not to ask what crimes his patients have committed – they are patients first and prisoners second. Shahid will be in conversation about his book *Stitched Up*. In the words of Kit de Waal: "Whatever you think you know about men in prison... Yousaf's memoir will open your eyes and your heart and make you wish things were different."

The Leeds Library, 4pm to 5pm, £5 +bf

The Full Bronte from Scary Little Girls

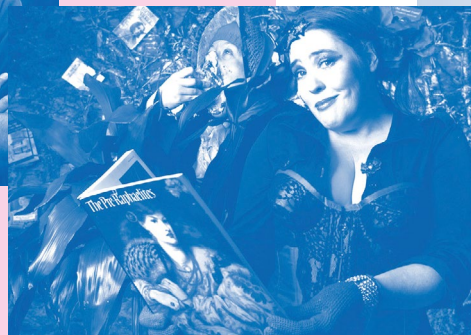
Come along to the anarchic lovechild of French and Saunders and Hinge and Bracket for a chaotic homage to the Bronte family! Join hosts Maria (glamour puss, academic, thespian) and her assistant Brannie (dog's body, ensemble cast, backstage crew) in their chaotic attempt to homage the Bronte family! Combining comedy, storytelling, music, and games, this show of wuthering delights was hailed by Three Weeks as 'the anarchic love child of French and Saunders and Hinge and Brackett!' A delight for literature aficionados and theatre fans alike – and of course every devoted Brontëophile!

The Leeds Library, 7pm to 10pm, £10 +bf

Evening Conversations with Sudha Bhuchar

Evening Conversations is a warm-hearted monologue inspired by Sudha's banter with her dual-heritage (Pakistani/East African Indian) millennial sons who have grown up in leafy Wimbledon while her life has spanned three continents. She invites her boys to 'crack open a cold one' and share views on life. Being cooped up together during the pandemic may have dampened their spirits, but it certainly sharpened their tongues. Shots are fired in the quick-fire exchanges between mother and sons, forcing Sudha to take stock. 'Full of truth and beauty.... really brave. My mum kept on poking me - you've given her a lot of ammo!' Riz Ahmed.

Carriageworks Theatre, 8pm to 10pm, £11





**CARRIAGEWORKS
THEATRE**



**LEEDS
YEAR OF
CULTURE 2023**



The Leeds Library



STRIX



TRUMAN | BOOKS

