

The logo for the PRIMA DONNA festival is rendered in large, bold, 3D block letters. Each letter is filled with a different vibrant pattern: 'P' is yellow with black diagonal stripes; 'R' is red with white zebra stripes; 'I' is solid green; 'M' is solid magenta; 'A' is black with orange and yellow concentric circles; 'D' is a rainbow-colored square; the first 'O' is a yellow circle with a white star; 'N' is blue with pink and white wavy stripes; 'N' is white with black stars and a green outline; and the final 'A' is black with a pink and black diamond grid. The letters cast black shadows on the yellow background.

# PRIMA DONNA

**EXPERIENCE THE WORLD**

**AS IT SHOULD BE**

★ **Festival Programme 2021** ★

**30 July – 1 August**

the Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket, Suffolk

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# INTRODUCING PRIMADONNA & THE PRIMADONNAS

### The Festival

Welcome to Primadonna, the UK's most empowering new festival, set up to spotlight the artistry of women and non-binary people, as well as creatives of all genders, ethnicities and economic status whose voices are not often enough heard.

We focus on writing and reading but we also showcase the best of the arts, from music to film, theatre to comedy.

**We call it 'the world as it should be, for one weekend'.**

But you know all that: you're here. And we hope you'll agree we've put on a programme of amazing speakers, brilliant events and unique experiences.

You've all earned a weekend of wonders, and happiness, and inspiration: here it is.

### The Founders

Primadonna was founded and is run by 17 women from across the worlds of publishing, entertainment and the arts. Us 'Primadonnas' wanted to create a festival of brilliant writing, borne out of a desire to give prominence to work by women and spotlight authors from the margins.

We also want you to have a lot of fun: the festival has always been designed to be a thoroughly joyous as well as inclusive and accessible experience.

We programme a mix of big names and emerging talent, as one of the things we're trying to do is open up the publishing industry and arts/culture more generally to new voices, and new ideas.

All ideas, and all kinds of people, are welcome here: most especially those that might not think a literary festival is 'for them'.

We hope you'll think this one is for you. Enjoy your weekend. Let us know what you like. And come back next year as we continue to create 'the world as it should be, for one weekend'.



# A WORD ON WRITING



## Hopeless Romantics?

Friday 4pm • Marquee

Romantic fiction reaches parts of the population other books simply don't. From being swept off your feet with Mills and Boon to the restorative power of a historical romance, there's nothing quite like lying back with a good book and taking yourself somewhere... private. Why do we fall so hard for the romantic novel? Get straight to the heart of the matter in this discussion on all things swoony. With author and 'hopeful-but-realistic romantic' Sareeta Domingo, journalist and Author of *The Wish List* Sophia Money-Coutts, and actor and author Andi Osho, whose debut novel, *Asking For A Friend*, was published earlier this year and is soon to be followed by her second piece of romantic fiction, *Tough Crowd*. Chairing this love-in is Lisa Milton, Executive Publisher of HQ Stories and Mills and Boon.

## Killing It!

Friday 5pm • Marquee

Join some of the UK's leading crime thriller authors for a deadly(!) discussion on writing crime, creating suspense and keeping your audience hooked. If you're a fan of a noir novel or are looking for some top tips on creating a killer character, join Saima Mir, whose first crime novel *The Khan*



Saima Mir

was published at the start of this year, Karline Smith, author of *Moss Side Massive* and one of the UK's first female crime writers to deal with the subject of drug gangs in inner-city Britain, and Kia Abdullah, whose thriller *Take It Back* was selected for an industry-first audio serialisation by HarperCollins. In the chair is bestselling author Erin Kelly, whose latest novel *Watch Her Fall* was published in April. She is currently working on her ninth psychological thriller about bones, buried treasure and family secrets.

## The Politics of Narration

Friday 6pm • Marquee

Join us for this cross-media discussion of genre-bending books, defying categories and changing the narrative as we consider the politics of narration – who gets to tell stories and how, and what it means to challenge existing forms. Featuring our Icelandic-in-resident writer Thora Hjörleifsdóttir whose debut novel



*Magma* examines the concept of a reliable narrator in the context of a love story, Pragya Agarwal, author of *(M)otherhood: On the choices of being a woman*, a hybrid memoir and scientific analysis of women's fertility and author and publisher Lennie Goodings, Chair of Virago Press and author of *A Bite Of the Apple: A Life with Writers, Books and Virago*.



Lennie Goodings

## Storytelling Workshop

Friday 7pm • Farm Barn

A gentle introduction to the ever-evolving tradition of oral storytelling with professional storyteller Justine de Mierre. Everyone is a storyteller, even if they don't yet know it, and in this workshop Justine will start you on the journey to discovering what a great tale spinner you already are! There'll be games, exercises and practice opportunities – and, if you're feeling brave, a chance to tell a short tale at Justine's Family Campfire Storytelling on Saturday night. (Workshop suitable for adults and accompanied children age 11+).

## Yoga for Writers with Stella Duffy

Saturday 8am • TWAISB Stage

Yoga is not about getting the poses right, writing is not about getting the words right, they're both about giving it a go. We will connect yoga poses to writing exercises, exploring the physical nature of writing and how opening up body and breath can support our creativity. This short workshop is suitable for all levels of yoga and writing practice, no reading aloud, no judging the yoga. You'll need a yoga mat, pen and paper to write, and your willingness to play. Stella Duffy is an award-winning writer of 17 novels, 70+ short stories and 14 plays. Yoga has supported her writing practice for decades and she completed her 200-hour yoga teacher training in spring 2020, with the aim of offering writing and yoga for others.



Stella Duffy



## Better Together

Saturday 11am–12pm • Main Stage

In a world where we are often encouraged to progress as individuals and compete against each other, we discuss how a shared experience and collaboration can create a more open society, and help to break down structural inequality and the challenges faced as an individual. Join our panel featuring author and activist Sophie Williams, whose most recent publication *Millennial Black* includes advice on building your own lady gang, along with two members of the performance and poetry collective 4 BROWN GIRLS WHO WRITE – Sunnah Khan, Sheena Patel and Sharan Hunjan – as they share their stories and discuss the benefits of collaboration and community for everyone. Chaired by publicist and Primadonna co-founder Shona Abhyankar. Stick around after the discussion for a performance by 4 BROWN GIRLS WHO WRITE.



4 Brown Girls Who Write

## Sealing the Deal

Saturday 12pm • TWAISB Stage

From alternative entry points into publishing to getting a foot in the front door, our group of debut authors of all ages and backgrounds share what it takes to become a published author. Chaired by writer Louise Mumford who was 'discovered' at the inaugural Primadonna festival and whose debut was published by HQ last year, this must-see session also features another Costa First Novel nominee Sairish Hussain; Kirsty Capes, who won a scholarship to develop her writing under Curtis Brown Creative and whose debut *Careless* has been published this year; Jyoti Patel who won the second #Merky Books New Writers Prize earlier this year; and Hafsa Zayyan, co-winner of the inaugural #Merky Books New Writers' Prize, who wrote her debut novel in six months whilst working full time as a lawyer

## Introduction to Improv

Saturday 1pm • The Chapel

Co-founder of improv company 'The Unqualified Yes' Justine de Mierre will introduce you to the basics of improv. You'll learn the joy and creativity in responding to offers with an unqualified yes – in life and in improv! Don't worry there's no pressure to be funny, just games and exercises to release your imagination and have fun with others. Come play with us! (Suitable for adults and accompanied teens age 13+).

## Poetry Open Mic Drop-In

Saturday 2:30–4pm • The Chapel

Come along to our open-to-all session in the chapel where Justine de Mierre (aka 'Lady J') will host this very special hour for all-comers, featuring East Coast Poets, a loose collective of Norfolk and Suffolk poets that grew from a series of World Story Telling workshops during lockdowns. Justine has been hosting super-friendly open mics across

Suffolk for the last eight years and will be bringing that community vibe to Primadonna. Try out your ideas or work on new material in this inclusive space for poets of all kinds – Justine will even read your work for you if you'd prefer. You can also put yourself forward to perform on the main stage as part of Sunday's Rhyme and Shine event.

## Big Ambition

Saturday 6pm • Main Stage

Here in a no-holds-barred confessional conversation covering the highs and lows of their careers, Helen Lederer – a familiar face through roles in *Naked Video* and *Absolutely Fabulous*, and Lisa Milton, Executive Publisher for HQ and Mills & Boon, and co-founder of the Primadonna festival – look back at where their ambition has taken them, what has held them back, and the opportunities they've been able to give others in their respective industries. These two indomitable women have overseen the establishment of writing prizes – the Comedy Women in Print prize (CWIP) and the Primadonna Prize respectively – so we'll also hear from two of the writers whose lives they've changed: Abigail Mann, whose debut novel *The Lonely Fajita* was shortlisted for the 2019 CWIP and went on to be published by HarperCollins in 2021; and Sairish Hussain, whom Lisa met at the Bradford Literature Festival and subsequently signed up for HQ, and whose debut novel *The Family Tree* has been Costa shortlisted. Expect some delicious anecdotes, and a warm fuzzy feeling that they're batting in your corner.

## Screen Test

Saturday 6pm • TWAISB Stage

How to write sit-com for radio and TV, with the Female Pilot Club. Writer, producer and script coach Kay Stonham outlines what Female Pilot Club look for when they choose work to promote, and discusses how to go about developing a good comedy premise into a great comedy script.

## The Literary Lottery

Saturday 7pm • The Chapel

More than just a glitzy night out on the literary events calendar, prizes like the Booker, Costa and Women's Prize guarantee huge uplifts in sales for longlisted and shortlisted writers. And if you win, you hit the jackpot. But how useful are literary prizes as a method for judging great writing – and who gets to judge anyway? In this





free-ranging discussion we explore the good and the bad of the literary prize machinery, and find out who the big winners have been in this ongoing literary lottery. With the #Merky Books New Writers prizewinner Jyoti Patel; Naoise Dolan, longlisted for this year's Women's Prize for fiction; Hafsa Zayyan, co-winner of the inaugural #Merky Books New Writers' Prize; and Catherine Riley, author of two non-fiction titles focused on the mechanics of the publishing industry.

### The World As It Should Be (Live Podcast Recording)

**Saturday 8pm • The Chapel**

A special edition of the Primadonna podcast, recorded live with two of the amazing authors whose lives have been changed by the festival: here, they reflect on changing other people's lives by designing the world, as it should be, according to them. With very special guests Eva Verdes and Louise Mumford.



### Call My Agents

**Sunday 11am • TWAISB Stage**

Ever wondered what it's like to be an agent? Or how to find the right one for you? Join us as we hear from some of the UK's leading literary agents as they discuss tips and tricks of the trade, revealing stories of the best (and worst) pitches they've ever received. In this lively roundtable discussion, hear advice on what the aspiring writers out there can do to get noticed from agents such as Suffolk-based Emma Shercliff, who established a publishing house outside of London to encourage wider representation and accessibility for writers; Abi Fellows, agent at the Good Literary Agency whose work is focused on supporting underrepresented writers; and Cathryn Summerhayes, Primadonna co-founder and literary agent at Curtis Brown.

### Before the Book

**Sunday 1pm • TWAISB Stage**

From post-it note pandemonium to meticulous note-taking and burning the midnight oil, our roundtable of seasoned writers share how they plan and piece together their work and share tips to get you started on your writing journey. With Stella Duffy, an award-winning writer, actor, director and playwright, who has published over seventy short stories, fourteen plays and seventeen novels; author Jini Reddy whose most recent book *Wanderland* was shortlisted for both the Stanford Dolman Award for Travel Book of the Year and for the Wainwright Prize, and whose journeys become her creative stimulus for writing; and Adam Sharp, obsessive list-maker and author of *The Correct Order of Biscuits*. In the chair is Kit de Waal, multi-award-winning author, Primadonna co-founder and post-it fan.

### Creative Writing Masters

**The University of Primadonna • The Chapel**

If you've always fancied sharpening your skills with a creative writing masters, but couldn't afford the time or the money — this is the course for you! Over the course of the weekend, we bring the lecturers to you as world renowned authors and teachers share the fundamentals in this condensed creative writing masters programme. Enroll at the University of Primadonna, and sign up for eight modules of teaching from the best in the business, plus a graduation certificate (mortarboard is optional).

#### On Screenwriting

Friday 7pm • Sam Hoyle, Netflix

#### How to Plot a Novel

Friday 8pm • Christy Lefteri

#### The Power of Practice

Saturday 9am • Diane Samuels

#### Creative Writing Masterclass

Saturday 10am • Kit de Waal  
*This session will take place at The World As It Should Be Stage*

#### Literary Journalism

Saturday 1pm • Julie Wheelwright

#### On Poetry & Getting Over Writer's Block

Saturday 4pm • Sunnah Khan, 4 BROWN GIRLS WHO WRITE

#### What Are You Waiting For / Get On With It

Sunday 12pm • Shelley Silas

#### Writing Historical Fiction

Sunday 2pm • Amanda Hodgkinson, University of Suffolk

### Primadonna Surgeries

**Friday 5pm, Saturday 12pm and 5pm, Sunday 9am • The Chapel**

#### Group 1: Arts/Culture Advice

Amie, Athena, Jane, Sioned

#### Group 2: Publishing Advice

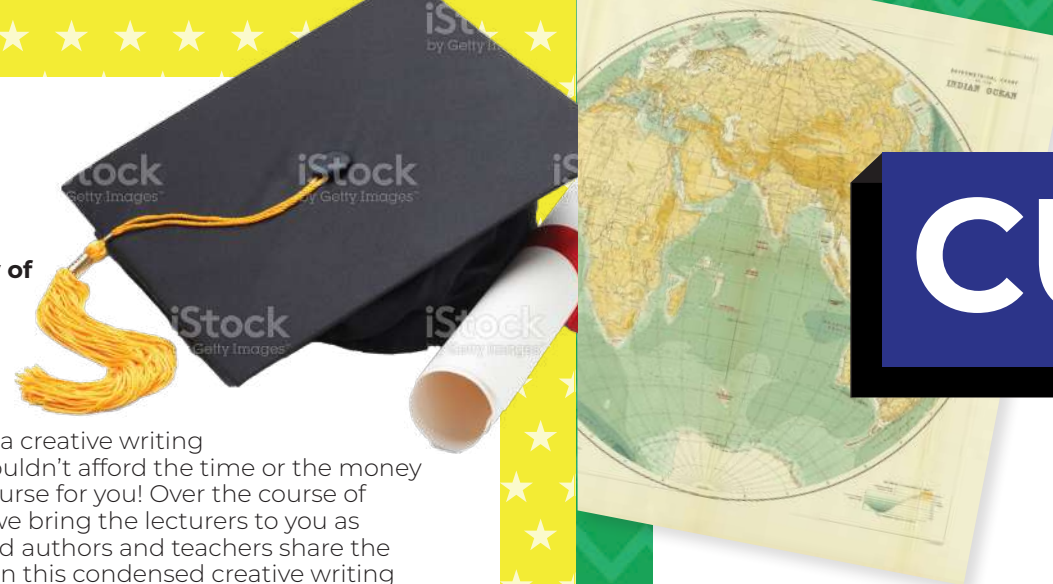
Cathryn S, Lisa Milton, Shona

#### Group 3: Writing Advice

Kit, Catherine M, Sabeena

#### Group 4: Festivals Advice

Joanna, Jude, CR



# CURIOSITIES

## AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

### Otherhood

**Friday 4pm • TWAISB stage**

We all know what a 'good mother' is supposed to look like, juggling kids and work and wellness with lipstick intact. And we've all seen images of the perfect dad, child lifted onto muscular shoulders and hands firmly wrapped around his partner. But what happens if you don't fit the profile, and what does that say about your ability to parent? What about families that don't fit the 2.4 mould? In this session we call out the parenthood ideal, and shout out instead for new models of bringing up baby. With award-winning author and illustrator Laura Dockrill whose first book for adults is titled *What Have I Done?*; Sabeena Akhtar, co-founder of



Laura Dockrill, author of *What Have I Done?*

Bare Lit Kids, the UK's first children's festival showcasing the work of writers of colour; Pragya Agarwal, a behavioural and data scientist and author of *(M)otherhood: On the choices of being a woman*; award-winning journalist Saima Mir whose work appeared in *The Best Most Awful Job: 20 essays on Motherhood*; and Nikesh Shukla whose most recent work is the memoir *Brown Baby: A Memoir Of Race, Family and Home* which is dedicated to his two young daughters.

### Environmental Health

**Friday 5pm • TWAISB stage**

After a year in which we've all got back to nature, we explore the connections and disconnects in our relationship with the natural world, contrasting it with our situation within urban spaces. With architecture and urban planning dominated by men, how do women exist freely in spaces that were never designed with them in mind? Why are rural spaces still inhospitable for people of colour looking to connect with the great outdoors? And how are disabled people supposed to navigate environments that were never designed with them in mind? Sick of being told to tread the well lit path, our panel join forces for a frank conversation on how we can better shape our cities, towns, villages and open spaces – and how we can put



Anita Sethi, author of *I Belong Here*

ourselves safely back on the streets (and paths, rivers and fields). With author and committed environmentalist Yara Rodrigues Fowler; Josephine Hall from Black Girls Hike whose mission is to 'diversify the outdoors'; explorer and entrepreneur Belinda Kirk who captained the first all-female rowing team to circumnavigate Britain non-stop, completing the journey in 51 days in 2010; and Anita Sethi, who set off on foot to reclaim the outdoor spaces near where she grew up, capturing the experience in *I Belong Here*. Chairing the conversation is Primadonna Athena Stevens, a writer, actor, activist and veteran campaigner for better design and access for disabled people.

*If you like this... take a nature walk around the site with Stow Stories*

### Why Women Are Poorer than Men: A Money Workshop

**Friday 6pm • The Chapel**

Take a candid look at money and learn how to manage yours more mindfully. With Annabel Williams, author of *Why Women Are Poorer Than Men and What We Can Do About It*; businesswoman Jo Fairley who set out on her entrepreneurial journey in 1991 when she co-founded Green & Black's Chocolate, now approaching a £100 million a year brand; Tracey Bleakley who led the successful campaign to embed financial education in the national curriculum in 2013; and Jude Kelly, director of the WOW festivals and co-founder of SmartPurse, a financial platform for women's financial education and wellbeing.

### Never Mind The Bollocks

**Friday 7pm • John Peel Centre (off-site; show your wristbands for free entry)**

It's now 30 years since Kathleen Hanna, Tobi Vail and Kathi Wilcox formed the band Bikini Kill, and published their first eponymous zines.

The Riot Grrrl movement of the 1990s promised women a new place in music, but how many women did it bring along with them... and how long did it last? We speak to some stars of the alternative





music scene to find out, including Big Joanie's Chardine Taylor-Stone, author of *Sold Out: How Black Feminism Lost its Soul*; Debbie Smith, guitarist and bass player with Curve, Echobelly, Snowpony and Ye Nuns; Debbie Googe, bass player with My Bloody Valentine and the Thurston Moore Group, and former member of Snowpony. Chaired by Primadonna Jane Dyball, one of the first CEO-level women executives in the music industry who was recognised for her contribution to the songwriting community at the Ivors Academy Gold Badge Awards in 2019.

If you like this, make your own zine with our special guest Amy Wragg.

## Master Minds: Andi Osho in Conversation with Catherine Mayer

Friday 7pm • Main Stage

Actor and writer Andi Osho's screen credits include *Holby City*, *EastEnders*, *Death In Paradise*, *I May Destroy You* and *Line of Duty*. Her formidable writing career includes credits for print, radio, film and TV for broadcasters such as Fox, BBC and Sky. Her debut novel, *Asking For A Friend*, was published earlier this year and is soon to be followed by her second piece of romantic fiction, *Tough Crowd*. She would also beat you hands down in a quiz. Here, she talks about her varied and inspiring career with fellow master mind Catherine Mayer, a bestselling author, journalist and activist. Catherine last year moved from writing books to producing records when she took on the role of executive producer on the album *The Problem of Leisure* following the sudden death of her husband, guitarist Andy Gill who co-founded the band Gang of Four. Here, these two multi-talented women talk about their writing, their lives, and their chosen specialist subjects for quizzes.

## Mother Tongue

Friday 7pm • TWAISB Stage



Kit de Waal



Nikesh Shukla

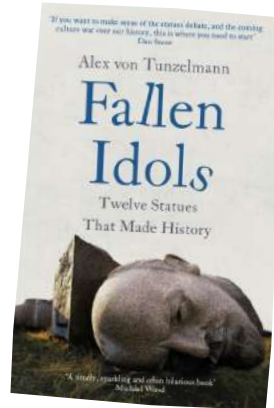
Do you have fond memories of your parents' 'posh voice' when someone you didn't know came to the house? Have you put on an accent to 'talk tough' in order to be taken seriously at work... or at the DIY store? Or did you spend your childhood filling out forms or on the phone to the council, changing language, accents and voice to make yourself understood? From northern accents abandoned on the M25 to 'character-building' telephone tasks, we examine how our relationship with language and the way we communicate with the different people in our lives manifests – and what it says about us as individuals and communities. Our expert code-switchers tell us their stories: with author Nikesh Shukla,

who gathered BIPOC voices from across Britain in his edited collection *The Good Immigrant*; writer Kit de Waal who was born in Birmingham to an Irish mother and a Caribbean father; author Eva Verde who is of dual heritage and writes about identity, class and otherness; and Hafsa Zayyan whose debut novel explores the experience of South Asian migrants expelled from Uganda. In the chair is journalist and broadcaster Kieran Yates.

## Resistance and Change: The Politics of Protest

Friday 8pm • Main Stage

Our panel of extraordinary women examine some of the protest movements and moments of the past 12 months to ask how effective our resistance can be in creating change. Who are our allies, how can we influence others and what does it mean to see ourselves represented on screen, online and on the streets? Tackling everything from the politics of the protest march to the tyranny of tweeting, the principle of putting statues up – or tearing them down – to simple pen power, these brilliant writers bring their own expert insights to this timely discussion of resistance online and in real life. With writer Bee Rowlett who led the campaign to have a statue of feminist icon Mary Wollstonecraft erected in London; author and historian Alex von Tunzelmann whose most recent book *Fallen Idols* looks at the politics of toppling monuments; and author Karline Smith who contributed to the collection *Resist: Stories of Uprising*; and professor of history, author and broadcaster Kate Williams.



## Oui, J'adore: Michele Roberts in Conversation with Viv Groskop

Friday 9pm • Main Stage

Writers' writer Michèle Roberts now has more than 20 novels, short stories and poetry collections to her name, the most recent of which, *Cut Out*, is published next month. Set in Nice in the 1950s, Michèle returns to the subject of female friendship, while also placing motherhood, immigration, family secrets and self-discovery at the centre of her story. She is joined by writer, comedian, presenter and host of the hit podcast *How To Own The Room* Viv Groskop, a committed Francophile whose love of French literature in particular is the subject of her most recent work *Au Revoir Tristesse*. Together they discuss the allure of our friends across the Channel and the way we imagine ourselves as romantic heroines in the books that we read.

## Adults Only Campfire Storytelling

Friday 10pm • TWAISB Stage

Professional storyteller Justine de Mierre brings a taste of her Darklove storytelling show to the Primadonna campfire. Expect tales of sex, dismemberment, ghosts and shewolves in a selection of late-night bedtime stories that are strictly for the grown-ups!

## Cut from The Same Cloth

Saturday 11am • TWAISB Stage

Primadonna co-founder and programmer Sabeena Akhtar crowdfunded, edited and contributed to this remarkable anthology of writing by visibly Muslim women. From modern pop culture to anti-Blackness, faith and family, politics, education, creativity and working life, *Cut From The Same Cloth* creates a space for hijab-wearing women to look beyond the tired tropes and explore the breadth of their experience and spirituality. Here, Sabeena and sister contributor Sofia Rehman talk about the book, its reception and the ongoing issue of hijab-splaining with Primadonna Amie Corry.



## Allied forces: Emma Dabiri in conversation with Nikesh Shukla

Saturday 12 noon • Main Stage

Join Emma and Nikesh for this unmissable conversation on solidarity, sharing experience and staying hopeful — and how we can all help make the change we want to see. Irish-Nigerian author Emma Dabiri drew on her experience of racism growing up to write her 2019 bestseller *Don't Touch My Hair*. Her latest book, *What White People Can Do Next: From Allyship to Coalition* covers colonialism, capitalism and power, and has become another bestseller. Here she talks with novelist and screenwriter Nikesh Shukla, author of *Coconut Unlimited* (shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award), *Meatspace*, *The One Who Wrote Destiny* and *Brown Baby: A Memoir of Race, Family And Home*, as well as editor of the bestselling essay collection *The Good Immigrant*. We're thrilled to welcome them to Primadonna to discuss their work, and explore how we can all step up to make change.



## No Place Like Home?

Saturday 1pm • TWAISB Stage

We ask a selection of writers to share their thoughts on the place(s) they call home, reflecting on the borders that define them and the sense of belonging they evoke. We ask how the invisible lines on maps shape our imaginations and sense of place, looking at the impact of boundaries and multicultural experiences on what makes a place a home. With Melody Razak, whose debut *Moth* examines a family's experience of Partition; Florence Olajidé, who spent her early childhood in a white foster family before moving with her birth family to Nigeria aged 6 — as described in her memoir *Coconut*; Neema Shah, who centred her

debut novel *Kololo Hill* on one family's escape from Idi Amin, and the home they left behind; Rosanna Amaka, whose debut *The Book of Echoes* follows the lives of two young people in both London and Nigeria and Christy Lefteri, author of the bestselling *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* and herself the child of Cypriot refugees who settled in the UK following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. In the chair is award-winning publicist and Primadonna co-founder Shona Abhyankar.



## Q&A: I Am A Cliché

Saturday 2pm • TWAISB Stage

As the frontwoman of X-Ray Spex, Poly Styrene was a key inspiration for the riot grrrl and Afropunk movements. Poly's daughter Celeste became the guardian of her mother's legacy after her early death and, with her friend Zoe Howe, an internationally published author, broadcaster, musician and visual artist, wrote the acclaimed *Dayglo: The Poly Styrene Story*, which was then made into the film *I Am A Cliche* with Director Paul Sng. Celeste and Zoe talk here to Primadonna Amie Corr about the process of making both the book and the film, and the lasting legacy of Celeste's mother, in all her glory.

*Poly Styrene: I Am A Cliche is screening at the Regal cinema at various times throughout the festival. Watch it for free – just show your festival wristband.*



## Perfectly Tasteful: Grace Dent and Sandi Toksvig in Conversation

3pm on Saturday • Main Stage

Two queens of the TV top table talk food, glorious food and plenty more besides in this intimate conversation that will satisfy your appetite for a good story or two, as well as some insider insights into the British TV foodie scene. Grace Dent became a regular judge on *Masterchef* before returning to the *Guardian* as a regular columnist for its *Feast* magazine. She has written 11 YA novels and the non-fiction title *How to Leave Twitter*. Her recent memoir *Hungry* traces her story from growing up in the northeast eating beige food to becoming one of our most-loved foodies. Sandi Toksvig was co-host of *The Great British Bake-Off* for three years, and is a fan of all kinds of food... except



Grace Dent



Sandi Toksvig



cheesecake.

## This Is How We Come Back Stronger

**Saturday 3pm • TWAISB Stage**

Gender inequalities were laid bare — and compounded — by the COVID-19 pandemic, whose impact on women was seen in job and salary cuts, greater responsibility in the home and in schooling, and greater threat from male violence. In spite of the complex challenges women from all walks of life faced, there were some bright sparks of joy last year: personal, professional, communal. Our panel discuss their reasons to be cheerful and reflect on what matters to them the most, featuring authors Stella Duffy, Rosanna Amaka, Sophie Williams and Jenny Sealey. Things are looking up!

*Women writers have reflected on what matters to them most, and what they will do to make change, in an intersectional anthology published by the Feminist Society: This Is How We Come Back Stronger, which features essays by two of the panellists in this session. You can buy your copy of This Is How We Come Back Stronger in the festival bookshop: 20% of the cover price goes to Women's Aid and Imkaan.*

## Nature Rights

**Saturday 4pm • Farm Barn**

Seldom do we have time to consider our personal relationship to nature. Nature Rights is an invitation to explore the history of humans' relationship to nature and your personal thoughts on the question, 'Should Nature Have Rights?' Join artists Natalie Koffman and Flora Gregory for this interactive participatory performance workshop, which maps the history of the human/nature relationship. Imagine what the future might look like and how might our lives change if nature had rights?

## Is It Me or Is It Hot in Here? A Roundtable on Menopause

**Saturday 5pm • Marquee**

It will affect every woman who lives long enough, but in the media and in literature, there is a cultural absence of conversations about the menopause. From the anecdotal to the medical, this roundtable discussion will offer a frank conversation about the sobering, funny, empowering and sometimes outright awful 'change'. We'll also look for — but don't expect to find! — literary representations of the menopause as we discuss the disappearance of older women from public life, and from the pages of the books we read. With broadcaster, writer and national treasure Sandi Toksvig, who was determined when co-founding the Women's Equality Party that it should be the first political party to publish a manifesto that mentioned the menopause (it did!); Sangeeta Pillai who founded Soul Sutras to tackle taboos within the South Asian community; and in the chair Eleanor Mills who recently set up Noon, a new platform for women in mid-life.

*This panel is sponsored by Northumbria University, and is part of their pilot study (funded by the Northern Medical Humanities Research Network) into representations of the menopause in contemporary culture, including literature.*

## Consent: Laying Down The Law

**Saturday 7pm • Main Stage**

The passing of the new police, crime and sentencing bill has brought the conversation of the curtailing of freedoms to the fore. From the BLM movement to Reclaim the Streets, marginalised communities are increasingly impacted and frustrated by inequality, but where does consent begin and end, and what does accountability look like when we can't publicly gather to protest? How can we set out clear lines of personal and communal consent, and what lessons can we learn from the past to fight injustices now? Featuring Katherine Angel, author of *Tomorrow Sex Will Be Good Again*; psychologist, author, speaker and activist Nina Burrowes who is the founder of The Consent Collective; Mandu Reid, leader of the Women's Equality Party, throwing a spotlight onto the issue of sexual harassment and assault in schools; and Jude Kelly, Primadonna co-founder and also founder of the Women of the World: WOW festivals.

## Literary Lesbians: Queers in the Canon

**Sunday 10am • The Chapel**

Invisibilised, reviled and persecuted throughout history, the lesbian figure has nonetheless prevailed in a huge variety of literary forms: from the 'invert' of Radclyffe Hall's scandalous *The Well of Loneliness* to the romping Victorian music hall 'toms' of Sarah Waters' novels; from the genius of Jeanette Winterson's magical creations to the anguish of a gay 're-education' in Emily Danforth's *The Miseducation of Cameron Post...* it seems you can't keep a good lesbian down for long! Join us for this discussion of the historical contributions of lesbian authors and characters to modern literature, with Diana Souhami, author of *No Modernism Without Lesbians*, Kate Davies, winner of the 2020 Polari award for LGBTQI writing, and Catherine Riley, Primadonna's Director and author of *Feminism and Women's Writing*.

## Because You Watched This

**Sunday 12pm • TWAISB Stage**

NowTV not only knows you enjoyed Bridgerton, but which scenes you re-watched. Spotify 'curates' what you hear. Amazon anticipates which books you might want to read and directs you to them. News is reported and consumed according not only to human judgments of what matters, but the whims of algorithms which favour clickbait over substance and drive fake news with as much enthusiasm as real stories. Tech pioneers believed the proliferation of digital platforms and services would open up the world for content creators and consumers and it has, but the same technologies also risk creating feedback loops, shaping and narrowing global tastes. How should the creative industries respond and what does this mean for writers and artists, performers and filmmakers? Featuring Hannah Griffiths, whose job is to decide which books might make great TV; Sam Hoyle, who has worked on Doctor Who,

Broadchurch, and is now an Exec Producer at Netflix; Waterstones Children's Book Prize winner Elle McNicoll whose second children's novel *Show Us Who You Are* is set in a dystopian future where AI is being used to filter out neuro-divergences; and chair Catherine Mayer, writer, Primadonna and former director of Datum Future, a think tank examining the impacts of data-driven technology.

## On Being Other: Monique Roffey in Conversation with Natalie Morris

**Sunday 1pm • Main Stage**

Join this year's Costa winner Monique Roffey as she talks about her remarkable novel *The Mermaid of Black Conch* with author of incredible debut *Mixed/Other* Natalie Morris. They will explore shared themes of otherness, outsider syndrome and how to write different kinds of stories, as well as their experiences of finding a place between two cultures. Chaired by writer and programmer of writer'y things, Bee Rowlatt. Chaired by writer and programmer of writer'y things, Bee Rowlatt.

## You Had To Be There

**Sunday 2pm • Main Stage**

Historical drama sells, but are we buying into it for more than the corsetry and wigs? We speak to creators, stars and fans of work about long-gone women about what drives their interest in characters from the past, and who's missing from the stories when we talk about historical fiction or drama. We also ask: how important is it that we reimagine women's histories in particular, in order to imagine more positive futures? Join Adjoa Andoh, TV, radio, film and theatre star and stand-out performer in recent Netflix smash-hit *Bridgerton*; Sandi Toksvig, whose most recent book *Toksvig's Almanack* recovered the stories of countless women from the past; author of historical fiction novel *In the Palace of Flowers* Victoria Princewill; and poet, playwright and author Kiran Millwood Hargrave.

## Looking After Number One

**Sunday 3pm • TWAISB Stage**

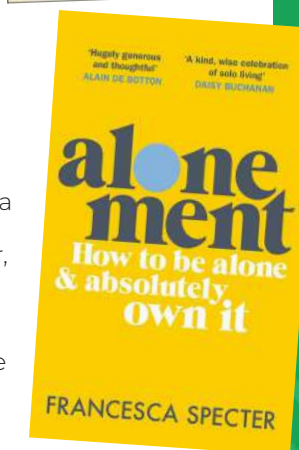
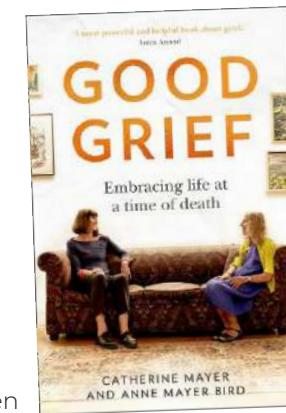
After a year that many of us spent alone, we slow things down to consider how we can look after ourselves and others better — whether we're happy on our own or not. We might think we have a handle on the language and application of self-care — but are we doing it right? And how do we build better emotional resilience as well as connect to ourselves — mentally, emotionally



Natalie Morris



Monique Roffey





# DON'T FORGET FUN



## Resting Bitch Place

Take some time out from being positive and put your feet up in our specially designated discussion tent. There's no need for niceties here, it's a safe space to vent whatever you feel like getting off your chest, or just chill out for a while in the company of others. Feel free to carry on the conversation from whichever panel has inspired or energised you, or start your own discussions on whatever's getting your goat. Whether you're travelling alone and would like to meet others, or want some time away from the hustle and bustle of the wider festival to strike up a conversation, this tent has got you covered!

## Welcome to the World As It Should Be!

**Friday 2:30pm • TWAISB Stage**

Live music from Rosie Trentham and Sophie & the Ready Mades will help get you into the Primadonna vibe.

## Real Life (or Death) Cluedo

**Friday 4pm • Meet in the Conservatory**

Meet us the drawing room, with a candlestick... if you dare. Making the most of the beautiful Abbots Hall, we're getting stuck into the classic board game but not as you know it!

## Scratch Choir with RedHouse

**Friday 6pm • TWAISB Stage**

Give us an hour, and we'll turn you into a choir! An all-ages session for all standards of singers, this heart-and-throat-warming session will be led by tenor and conductor Ben Vonberg-Clark who has run 'come and sing' events for many years at Britten-Pears. Get your evening underway in the best possible way.

## Mindful Movement with Dr Stacie CC Graham

**Friday 6pm • Bee Garden**

Join writer and founder of OYA: Body-Mind-Spirit Retreats for a special session of intentional movement and mindfulness. Even with the best of intentions, we often



Dr Stacie CC Graham

find that we don't move enough, and we override our body's needs in order to "get more done". In this session you will be guided through practices that you can integrate into your daily routine with ease. To be mindful doesn't mean you have to sit still. To move doesn't require a lot of space. Please bring a mat and/or blanket. Yoga pants not required! Just comfortable clothes that allow you space to feel free.

## Never Mind the Bollocks... Live at the JPC

**Friday 8pm • John Peel Centre**

Following our session on women in the alternative music scene, we're showcasing a range of female-fronted bands in this live session at our partner venue, the John Peel Centre. Admission free, just show your wristband.

## GENN — LIVE!

**Friday 10pm • Main Stage**

Brighton based, trans-national, genre blenders GENN (pronounced Jenn) are a musical riot ready to command your attention and mess with your brain. They're serving playful, alternative tunes with a punk attitude born from their humble, DIY beginnings. The Great Escape, NME, BBC Introducing The South, BBC 6 Music, and Glastonbury Festival have all championed the band over the last year, who were chosen as one of 30 European acts to represent Malta at the Music Europe Day online festival, and reached the semi-finals of the Grammy endorsed e-festival, Listen to Womxn, 2020. GENN's EP, Liminal, contains unshakeable tunes with a nod to 90s grunge and a no BS approach to the zeitgeist in their lyrics.

## DD Disco

**Friday 11pm • Engine Room Bar**

Late night shenanigans from two of the best Debbie's we know: stoking fires in the Engine Room until the wee small hours.



## Ambient Sounds

**Saturday 10am onwards • Edgars Farmhouse**

Drop in to discover new music throughout Saturday afternoon. Aural bliss.

## Together In Riverland: Stow Stories

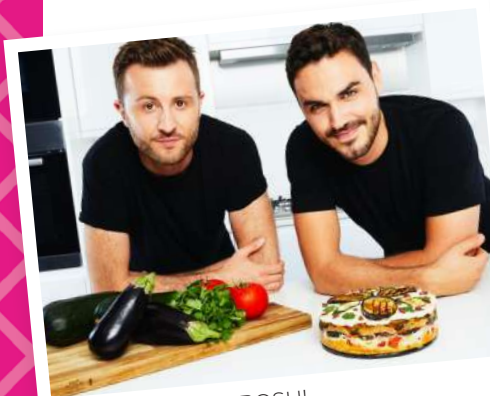
**Saturday 11am, 1pm, 6pm, Sunday 11am • Meet at the Conservatory**

Join Stow Stories as they guide you through the grounds of the Museum, exploring the biodiversity and heritage of the river walk and sharing their passion for town heritage, culture, landscape and the natural environment. Stow Stories is a Suffolk Archive partnership and they will be bringing their shepherds hut and vintage Massey Ferguson 135 tractor on site so you can step inside and uncover how Stowmarket heritage, biodiversity and landscape influenced the development and prosperity of the town.

## BOSH! Live

**Saturday 1:30pm • Main Stage**

Join us for a live cook-a-long with Henry and Ian, authors of BOSH!, the bestselling debut cookbook of 2018 and the biggest selling vegan cookbook of



Henry and Ian of BOSH!

all time. With 26 million views a month and now double National Book Award winners, Henry and Ian have taken vegan mainstream. They've now had over 2 billion views online and are the authors of three Sunday Times best-selling cookbooks.

## Beyonce vs Madonna: The Dance-Off

**Saturday 4pm • TWAISB Stage**

A bold, fearless dance off, celebrating two music icons — Beyonce and Madonna. No dance experience needed, just enthusiasm and energy. Our experts from Dance East will teach you the rest.

## Cocktail Hour in the Conservatory

**Saturday 7pm • Conservatory**

Join us for some civilised supping in the beautiful conservatory of Abbots Hall, as you slip gently into the mood for our Saturday night lineup of top musical talent.

## Make Sioned Laugh (Again)

**Saturday 7pm • TWAISB Stage**

Primadonna's very own game show is back! Sign up to spend a maximum of three minutes trying to make Sioned Wiliam — Radio 4's commissioning editor for comedy — and Kate Stone of Funny Women laugh. Win the Curly Wurly of comedy if you come top of the chuckles in this Primadonna perennial.

## Sixty Minute Stand-Up

**Saturday 8pm • TWAISB Stage**

Join us for an hour of top-notch standup comedy featuring Ada Campe, a variety artiste who delights audiences across the UK with her unique blend of cabaret, comedy, variety and magic; stand-up Izzy Asquith who won the 2020 Funny Women award; Mary O'Connell, a comedian, writer and North London socialite whose stage presence is dangerously aloof; comedian and writer Ania Magliano, founder of Stockings Comedy collective for female and non-binary comedy performers; and Jen Ives, known for her often sideways look at what it means to be a trans woman today, as well as mischievous takes on her family, gay rights, self-image and whatever else is on her mind; and Rosie Wilby, a Funny Women finalist and regular on the standup circuit as well as comedy podcaster.

## Eliza Shaddad, Mega and Amahla — LIVE!

**Saturday from 8pm • main stage**

Equally at home perusing murder ballads and decoding Arabic scales, Eliza's singular artistry is the product of an incredibly diverse and borderless upbringing. Eliza released her debut album Future in 2018, receiving praise from the likes of Rolling Stone, MOJO, Refinery29 and The Sunday Times. Named a Rising Star of 2019 by the BBC, her reputation for powerful live shows has seen her touring extensively. She has also collaborated with award-winning poet Anthony Anaxagorou and contemporary jazz group Hansu-Tori and is a founding member of seven-year-strong female arts collective Girls Girls Girls.

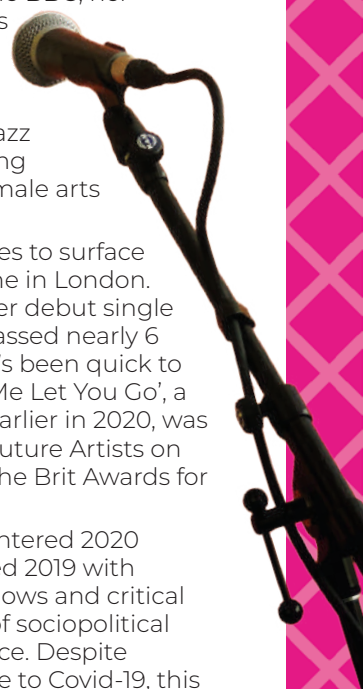
Mega is one of the strongest voices to surface from the contemporary soul scene in London. Making an instant impact with her debut single 'Chariot' — which has already amassed nearly 6 million combined streams — she's been quick to cement her status as a star. 'Let Me Let You Go', a deeply personal single released earlier in 2020, was picked by Jack Saunders for his Future Artists on BBC Radio 1 and was chosen by the Brit Awards for their Sunday Spotlight.

Soul singer-songwriter Amahla entered 2020 with high ambitions having ended 2019 with over 1 million streams, sold out shows and critical acclaim for her bold addressing of sociopolitical issues and for her exceptional voice. Despite festival and tour cancellations due to Covid-19, this year has seen Amahla granted funding from PRS Foundation, mentorship from Kobalt, mentorship from Apple and international recognition from Midem as part of their talent exporter programme.

## The Yoga Dissident

**Sunday 8am • TWAISB Stage**

Nadia Gilani has extensive experience of working with people with different bodies and from all walks of life: from complete beginners to more experienced, teenagers to the over 70s, refugees and asylum seekers, women who have experienced domestic violence and people living with mental illness and those in recovery from





substance misuse. She is deeply committed to making yoga inclusive and her teaching approach is contemporary, non-dogmatic and explorative, while maintaining a deep respect for the ancient Indian practice. In her view, anyone can practice yoga if they want to — it's down to the teacher to take a flexible, compassionate and intelligent approach to help students find what best suits them. All are welcome for this special session.

## Going to the Chapel and We're Going to Get... Self-Partnered

### Sunday 11am • The Chapel

Following Emma Watson's lead, we're providing the wedding chapel, confetti, congregation and cake for anyone who wants to 'self-partner' at this year's festival. Being in a relationship does not define a person as successful or approved of or socially accepted, so we're celebrating the single life in our special Sunday morning ceremony. Whether you're currently single, married, sworn off relationships for life... you're welcome here. The point is to show a commitment to being kind and good to the most important person in your life: you. Join the wedding parade to the chapel on Sunday morning — wearing white is entirely optional — and we'll add you to the registrar's list.

## Rhyme and Shine

### Sunday 10am • Main Stage

Welcome back to Primadonna's Sunday special: our poetry slam where you get to showcase your own writing alongside some of the best poets, rappers, emcees and other spoken word artists at work right now. Poets from yesterday's open mic session get the chance to perform alongside our headliners Zoë McWhinney, 4 BROWN GIRLS WHO WRITE's Sunnah Khan and Joelle Taylor.

## Sally Army — LIVE!

### Sunday 12pm • Main Stage

What do you need after a self-wedding? A nice cuppa tea and a biscuit — which is actually the title of a rip-roaring song by Essex's female version of Chas and Dave. Sally always performs in a wedding dress — how convenient for our little shindig! Expect ska, expect audience participation, expect chaos, expect to wet your pants laughing.

## The Breakup Monologues with Rosie Wilby (Live Podcast Recording)

### Sunday 2pm • The Chapel

Award-winning comedian Rosie Wilby shares funny, bizarre and poignant tales of heartbreak and recovery with special guests Helen Lederer and Samantha Baines — in a live recording of her acclaimed podcast. Rosie has been

obsessively researching the psychology of love for a decade and has even been dubbed the 'the queen of breakups' by BBC Radio 4. *The Breakup Monologues* is now also available as a book combining humour, heartache and science and investigating how on earth to actually stay in a relationship in the modern age of ghosting, breadcrumbing and conscious uncoupling. It has been described by Red Magazine as a 'gem of a book' and by Viv Groskop as 'funny, sweet, entertaining, insightful and life-affirming.'

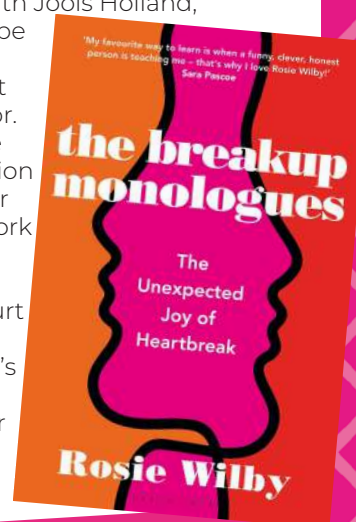
## Self Esteem — LIVE!

### Sunday 3pm • Main Stage

As we saw recently on Later with Jools Holland, "I Do This All The Time" has to be THE song of 2021. Self Esteem is an experimental-pop project created by Rebecca Lucy Taylor. The inspiration for the nom de plume comes from the evolution of Taylor's confidence from her early 20s. "All my upcoming work is exploring how complicated it is to just be a human. I'm wonderful and i'm terrible. i hurt people and people hurt me. I feel everything and nothing. It's a shit laugh but then it can be quite jolly can't it." What better way to close Primadonna than with Self Esteem's Sunday afternoon headline slot. As the title of her forthcoming album directs: Prioritise Pleasure.



Zoë McWhinney



## FILMS @ THE REGAL

Join us at our partner venue — the newly refurbished, beautiful art deco cinema The Regal, just five minutes from the festival site — for our film programme, with features running throughout the weekend.

## Dying to Divorce

### 2pm every day • 1h 20m

Filmed over 5 years, *Dying to Divorce* takes viewers into the heart of Turkey's gender-based violence crisis and the recent political events that have eroded democratic freedoms. Through intimately shot stories, the film gives a unique perspective on the struggle to be an independent woman in modern Turkey.



## Imogen Holst: A Musical Life

### 4pm every day • 15 min

Composer, conductor, educator and dancer: Imogen Holst lived a completely musical life. She is mainly associated with the achievements of male composers — her father Gustav, and near-contemporary Benjamin Britten with whom she worked for over ten years. But throughout her life she made sure to have space for her own projects as a freelancer — writing books, forming choirs, conducting bands and orchestras at a time it was rare to see a woman in the podium, and composing music that is increasingly being discovered and performed. This short film, specially commissioned for Primadonna, was shot in her former home in Aldeburgh and is presented by Dr Lucy Walker (Head of Public Engagement at Britten Pears Arts). It celebrates her life in music, and features movements from one of her most beautiful works, *Fall of the Leaf* for solo cello, performed by Wallis Power.

## Poly Styrene: I Am A Cliché

### 5pm every day • 1h 36m

Poly Styrene was the first woman of colour in the UK to front a successful rock band as the frontwoman of X-Ray Spex. She introduced the world to a new sound of rebellion, using her unconventional voice to sing about identity, consumerism, postmodernism, and everything she saw unfolding in late 1970s Britain, with a rare prescience. Her daughter Celeste and her friend Zoe Howe wrote the acclaimed *Dayglo: The Poly*



*Styrene Story*, which was then made into the film *I Am A Cliché* with director Paul Sng. Featuring unseen archive material and rare diary entries narrated by Oscar-nominee Ruth Negga, this documentary follows Celeste as she examines her mother's unopened artistic archive and traverses three continents to better understand Poly the icon and Poly the mother.



## Lady Boss: Jackie Collins

### 7pm every day • 1h 36m

Literary phenomenon. Revolutionary storyteller. Feminist icon. Novelist Jackie Collins's trailblazing and glamorous life is remembered and reconsidered in Laura Fairrie's admiring documentary portrait.



## It Felt Like A Kiss

### 9pm every day • 54m

Adam Curtis' mysterious musical film that has never been shown on TV. Now for the first time in a cinema.

## Afternoon Showreel in the Bone Building

Take some time out and tune in to our showreel of exceptional shorts, featuring *The Stars Are Brighter Here* which tells the stories of some of Suffolk's rural LGBTQ+ communities; *Day of the 20,000 Gammon*, a female-first creative venture which depicts the horrifying consequences of a woman's decision to care for a talking gammon head; and three films from Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds Digital performance scheme: *The Moral Steam Engine* which explores the life of Thomas Clarkson — in partnership with Ivy Scott / Aspire Black Suffolk; *Special Delivery* which draws on letters sent from the front in Dunkirk — in partnership with Suffolk Archive, Suffolk Regiment and Suffolk Artlink; and *Big Skies*, a collaboration

between Albany PRU, St Benedicts School Bury St Edmunds, The Meet-Up Cafe Benjamin Foundation Thetford and The Mix Stowmarket.







# FOR KIDS

## AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

### Feed the animals

**Daily 3pm • Meet at Farm Barn**

Join staff from MEAL as they feed the animals on site.

### Morning Movie Magic in the Bone Building

**Every morning, all morning**

Take some time out from the grown-ups in our dedicated kids' film shed, where we'll be screening a range of classic and contemporary films to keep you entertained. Bring your own popcorn, we'll provide the beanbags, some steam engines and a lot of lawnmowers to look at (no, really!).

### Farm Barn fun with Museum Experts

Drop in to the Farm Barn throughout the day for a range of crafty, creative and clever activities, including charcoal making/drawing; lino cutting workshops; beeswax wrap making; mini beast walks; and the chance to make your own macrame plant hangers.

### Holly Webb — *Earth Friends* Reading

**Friday 8pm • Farm Barn**

Holly Webb started out as a children's book editor and wrote her first series for the publisher she worked for. She has been writing ever since – although her pet cats are always nosing around when she is trying to type on her laptop – with over 150 books to her name. Holly will read from her *Earth Friends* series about four girls trying to make a difference to the world by caring for the environment: there will be craft activities and a Q&A too!



Holly Webb

### Bake Your Own Bread Animals

**Saturday 9am & 11am, Sunday 11am • Bread Oven in Home Close**

Join writer and artisanal baker Sonya Hundal for this special baking session for kids. Shape and bake your own animal bread rolls and make your own pizza.

### Craft activities with Suffolk Artlink

**Saturday 12pm • Farm Barn**

Crafty goings on with Suffolk Artlink who will be on hand for pebble painting, drawing and sketching and lots of other artistic endeavours. Drop by and devote a little time to making your own masterpiece.



### Make a Movie on your Smartphone

**Saturday 12pm • Waterstones, Home Close**

Join us for this documentary-making masterclass where you'll be guided through the process of making your very own Primadonna movie. You just need to bring your imaginations, and your smartphones, as you create a short film about 'the world as it should be', led by filmmaker Remi Morrison. There are prizes for Best Movie, and we'll screen our favourites on our YouTube channel too.

### Magic Floor Productions: *Alice In Wonderland*

**Saturday 2pm • Farm Barn**

Meet the characters from Magic Floors Production of *Alice in Wonderland*. Say hello to Alice and the Mad Hatter and look out for the White Rabbit and the Queen of Hearts as you join them for their tea party and across the site.

### Workshop with Zoe Antoniades

**Saturday 5pm • Farm Barn**

Join Author of Callie and Jimmy children's books, Zoe Antoniades, for a creative writing workshop for kids aged 6-10 years.

### Moxie: Make Your Own Zine

**Saturday 6pm • Farm Barn**

Join Amy Wragg for this Moxie-inspired zine workshop: just like in Amy Poehler's hit movie, you'll be given everything you need to create your own zine, and start your own kick-ass



Zoe Antoniades

movement. Scissors at the ready!

### Show Us Who You Are

**Saturday 7pm • Farm Barn**

Author of the 2020 Children's Debut of the Year Elle McNicoll reads from her new book *Show Us Who You Are*. 12-year-old Cora is dragged to a party by her brother Gregor, who is keen for her to meet his boss — the intimidating CEO of the Pomegranate Institute, Magnus Hawkins. Once there, she unexpectedly strikes up a friendship with his son, Adrien. They soon discover that their difference is what draws them together — Cora is autistic and Adrien has ADHD. Cora is intrigued by Pomegranate, who are using AI to create life-like holograms of people to provide comfort to grieving



Elle McNicoll

families. Magnus and the charming head scientist Dr Gold are keen to get Cora more involved, but her Dad is suspicious of their motives. It becomes clear that Pomegranate have a much darker aim. Can Cora be the one to stop them?

### Campfire storytelling for Families

**Saturday 8pm • Farm Barn**

Professional storyteller Justine de Mierre will be telling tales from around the world, suitable for all ages, as well as getting interactive with some Extreme Storytelling — where Justine will make up a story on the spot from audience suggestions thrown in as the tale is told. Plus a chance for graduates of the Introduction to Storytelling workshop on Friday evening to tell their first tales.

### Parents Get Lost: Writing New Heroes for Young Readers

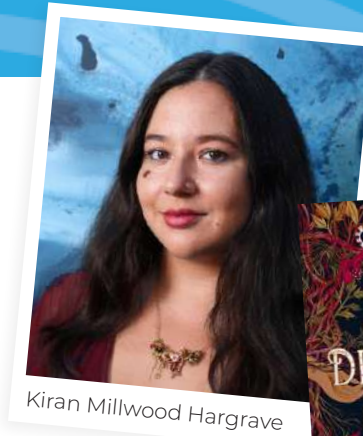
**Sunday 10am • TWAISB Stage**

This special session for under-18s features some of the best YA and middle grade writers around. Ditch your adults and come join the conversation as these wildly successful writers cut to the chase about how they come up with stories that work for young people, what inspires them, and how many swear words they're allowed in each novel. With bestselling novelist Juno Dawson, who won the 2020 YA Book Prize for her YA novel *Meat Market*; Elle McNicoll's first superhero story *Show Us Who You Are* won the 2020 Children's Debut of the Year; Kiran Millwood Hargrave moved from children's fiction to YA with her book *The*

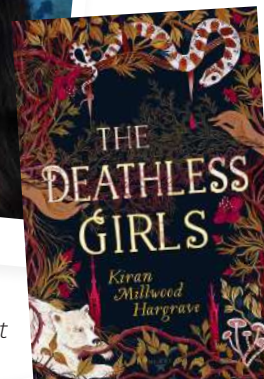


Juno Dawson

*Deathless Girls* which was longlisted for the Diverse Book Awards 2020, and



Kiran Millwood Hargrave



shortlisted for the YA Book Prize and the Foyles Children's Book of the Year; and Samantha Baines' *Harriet Versus the Galaxy* has won a slew of prizes including at the Coventry Inspiration Book Awards 2021.

### Hula with Abby

**Sunday 11am • Farm Barn**

Get ready to bring your core to the floor for a seriously good fun fitness class for the whole family! This is a class for the total beginner as well as the fitness fanatic. We combine tried and tested fitness techniques with hip shakin' Hula for a great full body cardio workout. You'll be spinning like a pro in no time! Hula hooping is a great low-impact exercise so it can be good for those who can't do regular exercises like running, but don't be fooled... we aim to hoop you hard, so spin steady, spin fast and you will get a mega calorie blast! With qualified HulaFit instructor Abby Close.



Samantha Baines with her book *Harriet Versus the Galaxy*

### Craft activities with Suffolk Artlink

**Sunday 12pm • Medieval Barn, Home Close**

Crafty goings on with Suffolk Artlink who will be on hand for pebble painting, drawing and sketching and lots of other artistic endeavours. Drop by and devote a little time to making your own masterpiece.





# FRIDAY 30 JULY

## Key



Writing



Fun



Curiosities



Other

	Main Stage	Marquee Stage	TWAISB Stage (Stretch Tent)	Chapel	Home Close	John Peel Centre	Regal Cinema	Wellness Area (Bee Garden)	Farm Barn (Upper Field)	Engine Room Bar	Film Area (Upper Field)
2pm			Rosie Trentham				Dying to Divorce		Mini beast Adventure Walk		
3pm			Sophie Mahon and the Ready Made (3:10–3:40pm)								
4pm		Hopeless Romantics	Otherhood		Real Life Cluedo (meet in the conservatory)		Imogen Hoist: A Musical Life		Lino Cutting		
5pm		Killing It: Crime Writers Panel	Environmental Health	Primadonna Surgery			Poly Syrene: I Am a Cliche	Nature Walk (Mandy Rawlings)	Festival Craft Activities		Afternoon Film Reel: The Stars Are Brighter Here + Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds Digital Performance: Moral Steam Engine
6pm		The Politics of Narration	Scratch Choir	Why Women Are Poorer Than Men: A Money Workshop				Mindful Movement with Stacie Graham	Charcoal Making		
7pm	Master Minds: Catherine Meyer and Andi Osho		Mother Tongue	Creative Writing Masters 1: On Screenwriting with Sam Hoyle from Netflix		Never Mind the Bollocks	Jackie Collins: Lady Boss		Justine de Mierre: Introduction to Storytelling Workshop		
8pm	Resistance and Change: The Politics of Protest			Creative Writing Masters 2: How to Plot a Novel with Christy Lefteri		Best of Suffolk musical talent			Holly Webb's <i>Earth Friends</i>		
9pm	J'adore: Michele Roberts in Conversation with Viv Groskop						Adam Curtis: It Felt Like A Kiss				
10pm	GENN Live		Justine de Mierre Campfire Storytelling								
11pm										DD Disco — Pop/ Northern Soul	



# SATURDAY 1 JULY

## Key



Writing



Curiosities



Fun



Other

	Main Stage	Marquee Stage	TWAISB Stage (Stretch Tent)	Chapel	Home Close	Regal Cinema	Farm Barn (Upper Field)	Engine Room Bar	Film Area (Upper Field)	Edgar's Farmhouse
8am			Yoga for Writers						Saturday Morning Cartoons (DVDs played throughout)	
9am					Creative Writing Masters 3: What's in a Word with Diane Samuels					
10am			Creative Writing Masters 4: Creative Writing Masterclass with Kit de Waal							Found Music: ambient music — and surprise Morris dancing display!
11am	Better Together		Cut From the Same Cloth		Bake Your Own Bread Animals					
12pm	Allyship: Emma Dabiri in Conversation with Nikesh Shukla		Sealing the Deal	Primadonna Surgery	Make A Movie On Your Smartphone		Suffolk Artlink Craft Activities			
1pm			No Place Like Home?	Creative Writing Masters 5: Literary Journalism (Julie Wheelwright)			Justine de Mierre — drama improv workshop			
	BOSH! Live Cooking Demo									
2pm			Poly Styrene: I Am A Cliche + Q&A					Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds Digital Performance: Moral Steam Engine		
3pm	Perfectly Tasteful: Grace Dent and Sandi Toksvig in Conversation		This Is How We Come Back Stronger	Poetry Open Mic Drop-In (2:15pm start)			Feed the Animals (meal)			
4pm			Dance East Flash Dance/ Workshop	Creative Writing Masters 6: On Poetry and Getting Over Writer's Block (4 BROWN GIRLS WHO WRITE)			Nature Rights Workshop			
5pm										
6pm	Big Ambition		Screen Test (Female Pilot Club)				Moxie (Make Your Own Zines)			
7pm	Consent: Laying Down the Law		Make Sioned Laugh	The Literary Lottery					Show Us Who You Are — Elle McNicoll Reading (kids' reading)	
8pm	Music  Eliza Shaddad 8:20pm Mega 9:15pm Amahla 10:15pm		Sixty Minute Standup	Primadonna Podcast: Live Recording			Justine de Mierre Campfire Storytelling			
9pm										
10pm								Late Night DJs		
11pm										



# SUNDAY 1 AUGUST

## Key



Writing



Fun



Curiosities



Other

	Main Stage	Marquee Stage	Stretch Tent	Chapel	Home Close	Regal Cinema	Farm Barn Craft Area	Film Area
8am			Yoga with The Yoga Dissident		Girls Rock London	Programme running in repetition throughout festival:		Saturday Morning Cartoons (DVDs played throughout)
9am			Self-Wedding Prep	Going to the chapel and we're going to get ... self-partnered				
10am	Rhyme and Shine Poetry Slam		Literary Lesbians/Queers in the Canon		Parents Get Lost: Taking on YA			
11am		The Breakup Monologues Podcast	Before the Book		Bake Your Own Bread Animals Part 3 (meet at Waterstones)			
12pm	Allyship: Emma Dabiri in Conversation with Nikesh Shukla		Consent: Laying Down the Law	Creative Writing Masters 7: What Are You Waiting For / Get on With It with Shelley Silas			Suffolk Artlink Craft Activities	
1pm	Monique Riley in Conversation with Natalie Morris		Call My Agents					Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds Digital Performance: Moral Steam Engine
2pm	You Had to Be There: Historical Fiction Panel			Creative Writing Masters 8: Uni of Suffolk			Feed the Animals (meal)	
3pm		Looking After Number One						
4pm								



# WHO'S WHO



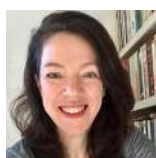
## 4 BROWN GIRLS WHO WRITE

Roshni Goyate, Sharan Hunjan, Sheena Patel and Sunnah Khan are four writers that make up the talented collective 4 BROWN GIRLS WHO WRITE. They have recently brought their radical, polyphonic performance style to bear on a series of individual pamphlets with Rough Trade Books (2020) which resonate with their collaborative force.



## Abby Close

Abby has been hooked on hula hooping for over 10 years. She hooped her way through university and corporate jobs and it did wonders for her mental health and well-being over the years. Having struggled to find any hula hooping classes in Suffolk she trained with HulaFit during the pandemic to start up her own, and to share the hoopy love when we all needed it the most. She ran several classes initially all to raise money in aid of Suffolk Mind and has continued teaching ever since to encourage people of all ages, sizes and backgrounds to get involved. She now runs hula hooping classes in Stowmarket every Monday and online for those further afield.



## Abi Fellows

Abi joined The Good Literary Agency in March 2019 and works across both fiction and non-fiction, for children and adults. Before joining TGLA, Abi worked as a literary scout at Rosalind Ramsay Ltd for seven years. She has incredibly broad experience in the industry having been a literary agent at Georgina Capel Associates prior to becoming a scout and having also worked as a bookseller at Blackwell's and on the sales team at Faber and Faber. Abi has a BA in English Literature from Bristol University and an MA in English Literature: Issues in Modern Culture from University College London. Abi's clients include Saima Mir, Musa Okwonga, Hafsa Zayyan and Lizzie Huxley-Jones.



## Abigail Mann

Abigail is a comedy writer living in London and surviving on a diet of three-shot coffee, bourbons, and vegetarian sausage rolls. She was born and brought up in Norfolk, which she says is to blame for the sardonic humour that runs through her novels. Abigail was the runner up in 2019's Comedy Women in Print award for *The Lonely Fajita*: her first novel. Abigail takes inspiration from unconventional cross-sections of modern society and the impact this has on identity and the relationships we create. She wrote her first novel after teaching at secondary school for a number of years and whilst working in

the fast-paced co-working spaces of East London. During the pandemic, Abigail taught a number of creative writing workshops online and regularly shares her writing journey on social media.



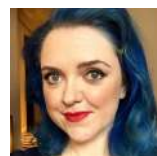
## Ada Campe

Ada Campe is a variety artiste who delights audiences across the UK with her unique blend of cabaret, comedy, variety and magic. In 2018 she came Top of the Bill at the Hackney Empire New Act of the Year Show (NATYS) and won the Leicester Square Theatre Old Comedian of the Year competition. In 2019 she won the Stand's Good Egg Award, and was nominated for Best Variety Act in the Chortle Awards.



## Adam Sharp

Adam Sharp is an English writer, originally from Manchester but currently living in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He's also lived in London, Melbourne, Sydney, Queensland, the Channel Islands, the Canary Islands, Mexico, and Nashville (he's not very good at staying still). Adam has had over 30 jobs (he's not a very loyal employee either). Some of the things he's been paid to do are as follows: catching footballs, teaching sport in kindergartens, changing nappies, washing dishes, reviewing music, serving sandwiches in casinos, juggling bottles, and walking on stilts. Adam's most recent book is *The Correct Order of Biscuits: And Other Meticulously Assembled Lists of Extremely Valuable Nonsense*.



## Alex von Tunzelmann

Alex von Tunzelmann lives in London. She read history at University College, Oxford, and afterwards worked as a researcher on books for authors including Jeremy Paxman, Felicity Lawrence, John Kay and Alison Wolf. Her books include the international bestselling *Indian Summer*.



## Amahla

Soul singer-songwriter Amahla arrives at Primadonna fresh from a headline sold-out show at the Jazz Cafe. Receiving critical acclaim as much for her bold addressing of sociopolitical issues as for her exceptional voice. Her latest single "Do Something You Can't Take Back" has been playlisted across all music platforms and, having been selected by PRS Foundation as one of their Despite festival and tour cancellations due to Covid-19, this year has seen Amahla's momentum accelerate, Amahla has been granted funding from PRS Foundation, mentorship from Kobalt, mentorship from Apple and international recognition from Midem as part of their talent exporter programme.



## Amethysts

Electronic duo Amethysts are renowned for expertly crafting their brand of Indie Electro, using soothing synths and biting guitars to create an intense, atmospheric experience.

With support from Radio 1, Radio 6, they have racked up over a million plays on Spotify. Tom Robinson calls this Suffolk duo "Genius"



## Andi Osho

Andi Osho's 18 year career spans film, television and theatre including TV shows such as *Line of Duty*, *I May Destroy You*, *Death In Paradise*, *Curfew*, *Kiri* and *Eastenders* and feature films like DC Comic's *Shazam* and *Lights Out*. As a comedian she appeared regularly on *Mock The Week*, *Room 101*, *Live at The Apollo* and *The Late, Late Show* and toured three sell-out Edinburgh shows. She has written for the BBC, Fox US and Sky including her comedy horror short, *Twin Thing*, E4 Pilot *The Andi O Show* and her award winning short films, *Amber*, *The Grid* and *Brit.I.am*. Andi's debut novel *Asking For A Friend* was published in Feb 2021 and her latest book, *Tough Crowd* will be released in the summer of 2022. Andi is also hosts the *Creative Sauce* podcast – a show dedicated to the creative process.



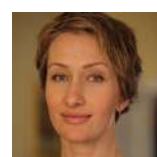
## Anita Sethi

Anita Sethi was born in Manchester, UK. Her new book, *I Belong Here: a Journey Along the Backbone of Britain* is the first in her nature writing trilogy, published by Bloomsbury. *I Belong Here* has been described as "a thing of beauty" by the Sunday Times, "a memoir of rare power" by the Guardian, and as "a magnificent and redemptive achievement" by The Bookseller. Her writing has also appeared in anthologies including *Common People*, *The Wild Isles* and *Women on Nature*. She has written for the Guardian, Observer, i, Sunday Times, Telegraph, Vogue, BBC Wildlife and appeared on various BBC radio programmes. Twitter: @anitasethi @ibelong\_here.



## Annabelle Williams

Annabelle is a financial journalist turned investigative author. She left The Times to write her first book, an exploration of economic inequality between men and women. The book is called *Why Women Are Poorer Than Men And What We Can Do About It*, and it investigates why women are the majority of the poor but also why there are so few women among the rich. The book was published by Penguin earlier this year and is available as an audiobook and e-book as well as a physical book.



## Bee Rowlatt

Bee is a writer and producer. Her award-winning travelogue *In Search of Mary* was a 'biography of the year' (The Independent.) She co-wrote the best-selling *Talking About Jane Austen in Baghdad*, dramatised by the BBC, and was one of Virago's *Fifty Shades of Feminism*. Bee was a journalist at BBC World Service, the Telegraph, and other curious places. She has lived

and worked in India and Colombia but still talks about Yorkshire way too much. Her play about Mary Wollstonecraft debuted in London's West End and she led the campaign for a memorial sculpture for Wollstonecraft (AKA the most trolled artwork in living memory). Bee is chair of the new human rights education charity, the Wollstonecraft Society. She judged the Poetry Society Young Poets' award and the Stanford Dolman Travel Book of the Year. She used to be a showgirl, has four kids, loves books, and mostly lives at the British Library.



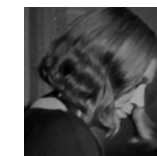
## Belinda Kirk

Belinda is an explorer and entrepreneur, and the leading voice promoting the benefits of adventure on wellbeing. An Explorer in her own right, Belinda has walked across Nicaragua, searched for camels in China's Desert of Death, discovered ancient rock paintings in Lesotho, pioneered inclusive expeditions for people with disabilities, led dozens of youth development expeditions around the world and gained a Guinness World Record for rowing unsupported around Britain. She is the founder of Explorers Connect, a social enterprise that connects people to opportunities for adventures and expeditions. Over 10 years she has encouraged over 30,000 ordinary people to discover a world of outdoor challenges and established Britain's National Night of Adventure #wildnightout2020.



## BOSH!

The bestselling debut cookbook of 2018, the biggest selling vegan cookbook of all time, 26 million views a month and double National book award winners — Henry and Ian have taken vegan mainstream. They've now had over 2 billion views online and are the authors of three Sunday Times best-selling cookbooks.



## Cara Tivey

Cara has worked with an incredibly diverse group of musicians from The Au Pairs to Blur, the Fine Young Cannibals, Billy Bragg and Everything But the Girl. Cara will be performing some of her spiritual jazz at Primadonna — perfect for a summer's day.

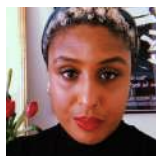


## Celeste Bell

Celeste Bell spent her earliest years living on a Hare Krishna commune in the Hertfordshire countryside with her mother, Poly Styrene. After completing her degree from Queen Mary University of London, Celeste settled in Madrid where she worked as a teacher and formed the ska-punk band, Debutant Disco. After finishing a Master's degree in Barcelona, Celeste returned to London to work alongside Zoë Howe on *Day Glo! The Poly Styrene Story*, published by Omnibus Press in 2019. They then joined forces with Paul Sng to make Poly Styrene: I Am a Cliché, a film to accompany the book, released earlier this year with Modern Films and Sky Arts. Celeste currently manages her mother's artistic estate, curating an exhibition at the 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning Centre in Brixton in 2019. She



plans to tour the exhibition internationally after the pandemic and is currently developing a new film project, with the working title of Mr. Gorbachev and the Krishna Kids.



### Chardine Taylor Stone

Chardine Taylor Stone is an award winning Black feminist activist, writer and public speaker. She was featured in The Voice newspaper as one of the Women Who Rocked the World in 2015, Diva Magazine's LGBT Power List 2016 and Buzzfeed's 'The Most Inspiring British LGBT People Of 2016'. A regular on the Pride Power List, in May 2017 Chardine won the British LGBT Award for 'Outstanding Contribution to LGBT+ life'. In 2018 she was nominated by Diva Awards for LGBT Activist/Campaigner of the Year and has again been nominated by Diva Awards in 2020 for Unsung Hero. Chardine previously founded Black Girl's Picnic, a movement in collective self care for Black women and girls, and Stop Rainbow Racism which worked to stop racist performances in LGBTQI venues. As a writer, educator and anti-racist activist Chardine often uses music, art and fashion history to instigate socio-political analysis. She lectures and facilitates workshops on topics such as Black feminist histories, Black Queer identities, Afrofuturism, music subculture histories and Black involvement in the esoteric, weird and downright bizarre! She is regularly asked to speak and consult on these topics for media such as Channel 4 news, BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour, London Live and TedXTottenham as well as film/culture festivals, conferences, museums and art institutions such as the BFI, Tate Modern, ICA and British Library. Chardine has also been an invited speaker at universities in the UK including Cambridge, Oxford, Manchester and many more. Chardine is currently working on her first book *Sold Out: How Black Feminism Lost its Soul*, a critical analysis of the neoliberalisation of Black Feminism, to be published by Cassava Republic press in 2022.



### Deb Googe

Deb Googe is an English musician, best known as bassist for the band My Bloody Valentine, and cited as the fourth most famous person to come from Yeovil. Deb currently plays with the Thurston Moore Band as well as MBV, and has also played with Snowpony, Primal Scream and Joybabe.



### Debbie Smith

Guitarist in a multitude of bands over the years, playing Shoegaze to Britpop, Electro-Filth to Music Hall. Six string banjo player in Ye Nuns, the world's premier all-female Monks tribute group. Co-promoter and cunning manipulator of vintage vinyl at The Nitty Gritty, London. Subject of a Wikipedia page that she didn't create herself, honest.



### Diana Souhami

Diana Souhami is the author of *Gluck: Her Biography*, *Gertrude and Alice*, *Greta and Cecil*, *The Trials of Radclyffe Hall* (shortlisted for the James Tait Black Prize for

Biography and winner of the Lambda Literary Award), *Wild Girls*, the bestselling *Mrs Keppel and Her Daughter* (also winner of the Lambda Literary Award and a New York Times 'Notable Book of the Year'), *Selkirk's Island* (winner of the Whitbread Biography Award), *Coconut Chaos*, *Edith Cavell* (winner of the EDP Jarrold East Anglian Book of the Year Award), *Murder at Wrotham Hill* (shortlisted for the Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger for Non-Fiction) and the novel *Gwendolen*. She is a Rainbow List National Treasure and she lives in London and Cornwall.



### Diane Samuels

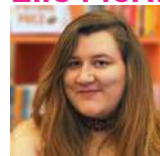
Diane grew up in Liverpool in the 1960s and 70s and now lives in London. Her play *Kindertransport* won the Verity Bargate and Meyer-Whitworth Awards, and has been performed all over the world. Recent work includes *The A-Z of Mrs P*, with composer Gwyneth Herbert, Southwark Playhouse, 2014; *Poppy and George*, Palace Theatre, Watford, 2016; *This is Me*, snapshots of girlhood, interactive memoir as monologue, Chickenshed, 2018. Plays for BBC radio, include *Hen Party*, *Psyche*, and *Woman's Hour* serial, *Tiger Wings*. In 2019 she mounted 3 concerts of new opera *Song of Dina*, with composer Maurice Chernick, giving voice to Dina, silenced sister of the Bible's Joseph of multi-coloured coat fame. Her plays and book, *Diane Samuels: Kindertransport* are published by Nick Hern Books. For thirty years, she has been facilitating writing workshops for all ages, encouraging regular creative practice for a vibrant, productive life. She invites child-like playfulness in all her workshops and a spirit of "stop making sense, let go of thinking and give it a go". Her daily writing prompts on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter are widely enjoyed @WritingBright. <https://www.writingbright.org>

### Eliza Shaddad



Eliza's singular artistry is the product of an incredibly diverse and borderless upbringing. Raised across seven countries, she is the daughter of a Sudanese astrophysicist and a Scottish diplomat. She has been championed by the Sunday Times, Rolling Stone, Zane Lowe, Huw Stephens, the BBC, i-D magazine and multiple other tastemakers. Her reputation for powerful live shows has seen her touring extensively, taking in the UK, Europe, and the USA. She has also collaborated with award-winning poet Anthony Anaxagorou and contemporary jazz group Hansu-Tori and is a founding member of seven-year-strong female arts collective Girls Girls Girls. Her new album "The Woman You Want" is already receiving great reviews. "It is a record of me figuring myself out," she explains.

### Elle McNicoll



Elle McNicoll is an award-winning children's author whose debut *A Kind of Spark* won the Blue Peter Book Award for Best Story, Blackwell's Overall Book of the Year and was nominated for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. Her books are published by inclusive indie press, Knights Of, and she is passionate about neurodivergent representation in fiction.



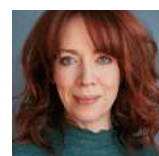
### Emma Dabiri

Emma Dabiri is an Irish-Nigerian academic, activist, broadcaster and teaching fellow in the Africa department at SOAS and a Visual Sociology PhD researcher at Goldsmiths. She is the Sunday Times and Irish Times bestselling author of *What White People Can Do Next* and 2019 debut *Don't Touch My Hair*, (both Penguin). A regular broadcaster on the BBC, Emma presented 'Back in Time Brixton' (BBC2), 'Britain's Lost Masterpieces' (BBC4), as well as the sociological experiment 'Is Love Racist?' (Ch4). Most recently, she hosted Radio 4's critically-acclaimed documentary 'Journeys into Afro-futurism'. Emma Dabiri lives in London.



### Emma Shercliff

Emma Shercliff is a literary agent with over 20 years of experience in the publishing industry. In 2020, she founded Laxfield Literary Associates as a response to the lack of literary agents outside London. She provides representation for authors in Suffolk and Norfolk, and writers from under-represented backgrounds. Her clients include Kalaf Epalanga, Tom Shakespeare, Olumide Popoola and Victoria Panton Bacon. Emma has worked for publishing companies in Paris, Melbourne, Abuja and London, and as a consultant for the British Council in Nigeria, Iran and Ukraine. She was formerly Managing Director of Macmillan English Campus, a global digital publishing division of Macmillan Publishers, and Sales & Rights Director of Cassava Republic Press UK, an award-winning independent African publishing company. Emma holds an MA in Modern Languages from Cambridge University and an MA in International Development & Education from the UCL Institute of Education. She is a doctoral candidate at the UCL Institute of Education; her PhD research focuses on the role and contribution of women within the African publishing industry. She lives in Suffolk.



### Erin Kelly

Erin Kelly is one of the most well respected and critically acclaimed voices in the crime writing community. She is the Sunday Times bestselling author of *The Poison Tree*, *The Sick Rose*, *The Burning Air*, *The Ties That Bind*, *He Said/She Said*, *Stone Mothers* and *Broadchurch: The Novel*, inspired by the mega-hit TV series. In 2013 *The Poison Tree* became a major ITV drama and was a Richard & Judy Summer Read in 2011. *He Said/She Said* spent six weeks in the top ten in both hardback and paperback, was longlisted for the Theakston's Old Peculier crime novel of the year award, and selected for both the Simon Mayo Radio 2 and Richard & Judy Book Clubs. She has worked as a freelance journalist since 1998 and written for publications including the Guardian, The Sunday Times, Daily Mail, New Statesman, Red, Elle and Cosmopolitan. She teaches creative writing for Curtis Brown Creative and Guardian Masterclasses. Born in London in 1976, she lives in north London with her husband and daughters.



### Eva Verde

Eva Verde is a writer from Forest Gate, East London. She is of dual heritage. Identity and class are recurring themes throughout her work as she studies towards an MA in Prose Fiction. Her love song to libraries, *I Am Not Your Tituba* forms part of Kit De Waal's *Common People: An Anthology of Working-Class Writers* with Unbound. Eva's debut novel *Lives Like Mine*, is published by Simon and Schuster. Eva lives in Essex with her husband, three daughters and Labrador dogs.



### Florence Olájidé

Florence is an educator and writer. Born in London, she spent her early childhood in a white foster family. At the age of six, she moved with her birth family to Lagos, Nigeria where she grew up surrounded by a large extended family. Florence graduated from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, with a honours degree in Education. She returned to the UK where she worked as a teacher, before gaining an MA in Further and Higher Education from the Institute of Education, University of London. Florence became the headteacher of a large London Primary school and was later appointed as one of Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools in England. Florence now runs her own consultancy providing school improvement guidance and support to a range of educational establishments. She lives in Kent and is married with three adult children and two grandchildren. Her memoir, *Coconut*, detailing her early childhood in England, growing up in Africa and her subsequent return to the UK will be published in July 2021 by Thread Books.



### Francesca Specter

Francesca Specter is a London-based journalist, podcaster and the founder of Alonement – a platform dedicated to the time we spend alone, and why it matters. Formerly deputy lifestyle editor at Yahoo, Francesca has worked for the Daily Express, Healthy magazine and British Vogue, while she has written on a freelance basis for The Telegraph, The Guardian and Grazia. She has a Master of Arts degree in Magazine Journalism from City University. She started the Alonement blog in 2019, and launched her podcast of the same name in early 2020 – interviewing guests including Alain de Botton, Poorna Bell and Daisy Buchanan. Her first book *Alonement* (Quercus, 2021) empowers you to value your own company and dedicate quality time to yourself, whoever you are and whatever your relationship status.



### GENN

Brighton based, trans-national, genre blenders GENN (pronounced Jenn) are a musical riot ready to command your attention and mess with your brain, applying their DIY approach to funk and punk. Championed by The Great Escape, Radio X, BBC 6 Music, and Glastonbury Festival over the past year, GENN's EP, *Liminal*, contains unshakeable tunes with a no BS approach to the zeitgeist in their lyrics – and bags of attitude.





## George Frampton / Dance East

George is a London-based dance artist who loves to get people dancing! Throughout her career she has worked with a range of choreographers in a variety of dance styles and enjoys the excitement of jumping between contemporary, hip-hop theatre and commercial projects. She is currently working with James Cousins Company and will be performing at Latitude as well as working on a new immersive show running later this year. George loves to tour and perform but also really enjoys working on community-based projects. This also fuels her love to teach as she has taught extensively since graduating at schools, youth companies, CAT schemes as well as at full time vocational training establishments. She still has a close connection with DanceEast since graduating their Centre for Advanced training in 2013 and is thrilled to be working with them again to be bringing a Madonna vs Beyonce dance off!



## Girls Rock London

Girls Rock London is an award-winning charity based in Hackney. We provide high-quality music programming for young and adult women, trans, and non-binary people, with a specific focus on increasing access for people who face barriers to participation.



## Hafsa Zayyan

Hafsa Zayyan is a writer and dispute resolution lawyer based in London. She won the inaugural #Merky Books New Writers' Prize in 2019. *We Are All Birds of Uganda* is her debut novel, inspired by the mixed background from which she hails. She studied Law at the University of Cambridge and holds a masters' degree from the University of Oxford.



## Hannah Griffiths

Hannah worked publishing for over twenty years – as an agent at Curtis Brown and most recently as an editor at Faber & Faber. Her authors included Eimear McBride, Miriam Toews, Rachel Cusk & Max Porter. Her job now is in TV. I/She work/s as a book scout for super-indie All3Media, finding books and writers for the many producers in the group. All3Media produces a huge range of TV shows including *Call the Midwife*, *Gogglebox*, *Fleabag*, *Race Across the World*, *Hollyoaks* and many more.



## Helen Lederer

Helen Lederer started her writing and acting career as part of the alternative comedy scene of the early 1980s. She became a familiar face through TV roles in the sketch series *Naked Video* and sitcom *Absolutely Fabulous* French/ Saunders, *Bottom* Miss Marple etc. She wrote and starred in her own BBC Radio series 'Life with Lederer' and 'All Change'. Other books include 'Coping', 'Single Minding' and 'Finger Food'. She published a comedy novel 'Losing It' (Pan Mac) in 2015 which was nominated for the PG Wodehouse Comedy

literary award, before setting up her own literary prize: the Comedy Women in Print prize. This offers a publishing deal to the unpublished winner from Harper Collins and a cash prize to the published winner.



## Holly Webb

Holly Webb lives in Reading with her husband, three children, and three demanding cats. She started writing eighteen years ago while working as a children's books editor. She now writes full-time, and has written over a hundred books, which have been translated into thirty languages. Her most recent titles are *Nadia and the Forever Kitten*, *Earth Friends* and the Museum Kittens books.



## Jan Pulsford

Jan Pulsford is a long time electronic Composer, Virtual Performance Artist, SongWriter/Producer. She has spent a lifetime as a professional creative, from songwriting with Cyndi Lauper to touring with Thompson Twins, writing for film & TV, studio sessions to producing, recording and remixing. Now also Festival Director of Spirit of Place festival in Woodbridge.



## Jen Ives

Jen is known for her often sideways look at what it means to be a trans woman today, as well as mischievous takes on her family, gay rights, self image and whatever else is on her mind. She has recently written for BBC Radio 4 Extra, Dave, Pulped, as well as writing & performing in the multi-award nominated SeanceCast for HatTrick Productions. She has also written and starred in a sketch for Channel 4.



## Jenny Sealey

Jenny Sealey has been Graeae's Artistic Director since 1997. She has pioneered a new theatrical language and coined the 'aesthetics access' as an artistic expression, experimenting with bilingual BSL and English, pre-recorded BSL, creative captioning, in ear/ live audio description methods. Credits for Graeae include: *Blood Wedding* (co-produced with Dundee Rep, Derby Theatre), *The Threepenny Opera* (co-directed with Peter Rowe, co-produced with New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich, Nottingham and Leeds Playhouses, Birmingham Rep); *Reasons To Be Cheerful* (2010 co-produced with The New Wolsey, and Theatre Royal Stratford East) *The House of Bernarda Alba* with Manchester Royal Exchange. Radio: *Little Dorrit*, *Midwich Cuckoos*, *Bartholomew Abominations*, writing and directing *Three Sisters Rewired* for BBC Radio 4. Outdoor productions: *Against the Tide*; *The Iron Man*; *The Garden*, *The Limb-less Knight – A Tale of Rights Reignited* – and contemporary opera for 14-18Now WW1 Centenary *This Is Not For You* with disabled veterans. She is currently rehearsing a Tokyo production of *The Tempest* with artists from Japan, Bangladesh and UK. Jenny co-directed the London 2012 Paralympic Opening Ceremony alongside Bradley Hemmings (GDIF). She also won the Liberty Human Rights Arts Award. Jenny

is also the founder member of 'Where's My Vagina?' women's collective [www.wmv.org.uk](http://www.wmv.org.uk).



## Jini Reddy

Jini Reddy is the author of *Wanderland*, shortlisted for the Stanford Dolman Award for Travel Book of the Year '21 and for the Wainwright Prize '20. She has contributed to anthologies and, penned a guidebook, and her texts and poems have been displayed in exhibitions at London's Royal Festival Hall and at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. As a journalist and travel writer, she has written widely for national press and in 2019 was named a National Geographic Woman of Impact. Jini holds an MA in English Literature from Avignon University, France and a BA in Geography from McGill University, Montreal. In her work, she occupies a cross-cultural, cross-genre space where place, spirituality and culture meet. Jini was born in Britain to Indian parents from South Africa, and was raised in Quebec, Canada. She now lives in south west London.



## Joelle Taylor

Joelle Taylor is an award-winning poet, playwright, author and editor who toured the world with her latest collection *Songs My Enemy Taught Me*. She is widely anthologised, the author of 4 full poetry collections and 3 plays and is currently completing her debut book of short stories *The Night Alphabet*, with support from the Arts Council. Her new poetry collection *C+NTO & Othered Poems* was published in June 2021 by Westbourne Press. She founded SLAMBassadors, the UK's national youth slam championships, for the Poetry Society in 2001 and was its Artistic Director and National Coach until 2018. She has recently been commissioned to develop her spoken word theatre show based in C+NTO to tour throughout 2021/2022. Joelle is the host and co-curator of Out-Spoken, the UK's Centre's premier poetry and music club, currently resident at the Southbank Centre Purcell Room. A Radio 4 documentary featuring poems from C+NTO and presented by Joelle, Butch, was broadcast in May 2020.



## Josephine Hall

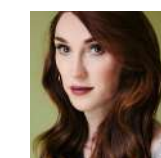
Josephine Hall is a writer and creator who enjoys experimenting and adventuring. Born in West Cornwall to Jamaican and English parents, Josephine feels a connection to coastal landscapes and is now based in Brighton. She endeavours to make work that is honest, accessible and amplifies marginalised voices, particularly those from the global majority. Her creative work tends to explore themes such as identity, nature, adventure and healing. She has had a few homes, and her identity and sense of what it means to belong is constantly shifting and redefining. Supported by Arts Council England, Josephine is currently working on multidisciplinary collaborative projects and planning her first novel. She recently created new work as part of a soundscape installation for Brighton Festival. Josephine is a member of Black Girls Hike UK - an organisation that provides a safe space for Black women to explore the outdoors. BGH host nationwide group hikes, activity days and training

events and encourage Black women to reconnect with nature. In 2020, Josephine was one of the winners of a writing competition run by Black Girls Hike and The Great Outdoors magazine, with a piece titled 'A Place To Belong'.



## Julie Wheelwright

Julie Wheelwright is an author, historian and journalist, who has been teaching creative writing for many years. Her books of historical non-fiction include *The Fatal Lover: Mata Hari and the Myth of Women in Espionage* (1992), and *Esther: The Remarkable True Story of Esther Wheelwright* (2008) and most recently, *Sisters in Arms: Female Warriors from Antiquity to the New Millennium* (Osprey 2020) which featured on BBC Radio 3's Free Thinking, and on podcasts for Dan Snow's HistoryHits, Prospect Magazine, Monocle Radio, BBC History Magazine, History Today, among others. *Sisters* has recently been published in Italian and is short-listed as the British Army's Military History Book of the Year. She holds a PhD in journalism and is currently senior course tutor on the MSt Creative Writing at the University of Oxford. She founded the MA creative writing non-fiction at City, University of London where she taught for 13 years.



## Juno Dawson

The bestselling author of *Clean* and *This Book Is Gay*, Juno is also screenwriter, journalist and occasion actress; most recently seen in the BBC's *Holby City* and *I May Destroy You*.



## Justine de Mierre

Justine is a passionate, energetic and inventive performer who delights in connecting playfully with audiences, whether through her storytelling, her improvisation or her music. A professional performer for over 25 years, Justine came from a background in community and street theatre and began storytelling in 2008. Her multifaceted storytelling practice 'So... what's the story?' ranges from story play sessions for under 5s, to adults only pub nights to story projects with prisoners. Her love of live, spontaneous, responsive performance runs through her other performance practices, from co-founding improv company The Unqualified Yes, to hosting open mic events to support new performers, to gigging as her musical persona Lady J who encourages audience percussion and hands out cherry bakewell awards!



## Jyoti Patel

Jyoti Patel is the 2020/21 #Merky Books New Writers' Prize Winner. She is a graduate of the Creative Writing Prose Fiction MA from the University of East Anglia (2019-20) and is working on her first novel, which will be published by #Merky Books.



## Karline Smith

Born to Jamaican parents who came to Manchester in the sixties, Karline was raised in Longsight, Manchester. She is the author of the dark and compelling crime novels, *Moss Side Massive* and *Full Crew*. Both books received excellent reviews from, the Times Literary



Supplement, and City Life Magazine. Her third novel, *Goosebumps and Butterflies Are Fairy Tales* a quirky, contemporary romance novel was published recently. She currently works as a full time Training Coordinator while writing a fourth novel, and a collection of commissioned short stories. She is also the author of four published short stories. Karline loves all things literature related and loves to share this passion with everyone.



### Kate Davies

Kate Davies is a novelist, screenwriter and author of children's books. Her debut novel *In at the Deep End* won the 2020 Polari Prize and was shortlisted for the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse prize for comic fiction. The Guardian described it as 'without doubt, the afterparty book for anyone looking to continue their Fleabag fun'. She lives in London with her wife.



### Kate Williams

Kate Williams is a professor of history, author and broadcaster. She writes historical biographies and historical fiction and her ninth book was on Mary Queen of Scots. She has presented various programmes on television, including *The Stuarts* and *Inside Versailles*.



### Katherine Angel

Katherine Angel is the author of *Tomorrow Sex Will Be Good Again* (Verso), *Daddy Issues* (Peninsula), and *Unmastered* (Penguin). She directs the MA in Creative and Critical Writing at Birkbeck College, University of London. Her writing has appeared in *The Guardian*, *Granta*, *The White Review*, *Aeon*, and *Los Angeles Review of Books* amongst others.



### Kay Stonham

Kay Stonham is a comedy writer/performer with many credits on Radio and TV. She has taught scriptwriting at Bournemouth University and works as a freelance screenwriting tutor and script coach. In 2019, with Abigail Burdess, she founded Female Pilot Club to address, in a positive way, the low numbers of female written sit-coms on British TV by producing readings of comedy pilot scripts. The sell-out readings have been an enormous success with top comedy talent like Sarah Hadland, Amelia Bulmore, Amanda Wilkin, Jordan Stephens, Greg McHugh and Sindhu Vee taking part. Grounded by the pandemic the pilots ran the Test Flight Mentorship Scheme Plus, supported by ScreenSkills and Comedy50:50. You can find out more about FPC on [femalepilotclub.co.uk](http://femalepilotclub.co.uk).



### Kia Abdullah

Kia Abdullah is an author and travel writer from London. Her novel *Take It Back* was named a thriller of the year by *The Guardian* and *Telegraph* and was selected for an industry-first audio serialisation by HarperCollins and *The Pigeonhole*. Kia has written for *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, the

BBC and *The Times*, and is the founder of Asian Booklist, a non-profit that advocates for diversity in publishing. Her new novel, *Truth Be Told*, is out now.



### Kieran Yates

Kieran Yates is a journalist and author who writes about culture, politics and the immigrant imagination. She writes regularly for *The Guardian*, BBC and contributed to the award-winning book of essays *The Good Immigrant* in 2015.



### Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Kiran Millwood Hargrave is an award-winning poet, playwright, and novelist. Her bestselling works for children include *The Girl of Ink & Stars*, and have won numerous awards including the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, the British Book Awards Children's Book of the Year, and the Blackwell's Children's Book of the Year, and been shortlisted for prizes such as the Costa Children's Book Award and the Blue Peter Best Story Award. *The Mercies* is her first novel for adults. Kiran lives by the river in Oxford, with her husband, artist Tom de Freston, and their rescue cat, Luna.



### Kirsty Capes

Kirsty Capes works in publishing and, as a care leaver, is an advocate for better representation for care-experienced people in the media. She recently completed her PhD which investigates female-centric care narratives in contemporary fiction, under the supervision of 2019 Booker prize-winner, Bernardine Evaristo. *Careless* is her first novel.



### Laura Dockrill

Laura Dockrill is an award winning author and illustrator. *What Have I Done?* is Laura's first book for adults. She has written thirteen books for children and young adults. She has been shortlisted for the Waterstones Book of The Year Prize, long listed for the Carnegie Medal and shortlisted for the YA Book Prize 2018. She has earned plaudits like 'Top 10 literary Talent' from *The Times*. Laura has appeared on a host of TV programmes; CBeebies, Blue Peter, Newsnight and BBC Breakfast to name a few. Her radio prowess spans across the entire BBC network, having performed works on Radio 1 through 6 including Woman's Hour and Open Book. She has written for the BFI, BBC Radio, Channel 4, The British Council, The Young Vic and the National Theatre. Laura is on the advisory panel at The Ministry Of Stories, and has judged many literary prizes including the John Betjeman Poetry Prize, BBC National Short Story Prize and the BAFTA Children's Prize.



### Lennie Goodings

Lennie Goodings is Chair of Virago Press. Her authors include, amongst many others, Sarah Waters, Maya Angelou, Eileen Atkins, Natasha Walter, Linda Gran, Susie Boyt and Marilynne Robinson. Her book, *A Bite of the*

*Apple: A Life with Books, Writers and Virago* was published in 2020 by OUP. She won A Lifetime's Achievement at WOW, London's Southbank Women of the World festival in 2018.



### Louise Mumford

Louise Mumford was born and lives in South Wales. From a young age she loved books and dancing, but hated having to go to sleep, convinced that she might miss out on something interesting happening in the world whilst she dozed – much to her mother's frustration! Insomnia has been a part of her life ever since. She studied English Literature at university and graduated with first class honours. As a teacher she tried to pass on her love of reading to her students (and discovered that the secret to successful teaching is... stickers! She is aware that that is, essentially, bribery.) In the summer of 2019 Louise experienced a once-in-a-lifetime moment: she was discovered as a new writer by her publisher at the Primadonna Festival. Everything has been a bit of a whirlwind since then. Louise lives in Cardiff with her husband and spends her time trying to get down on paper all the marvellous and frightening things that happen in her head. Her debut book, *Sleepless*, a "frighteningly inventive" speculative thriller inspired by her own experience of insomnia, was published by HQ Digital in December 2020. It has recently been optioned for television.



### Mandu Reid

In April 2019, Mandu became the first person of colour to lead a national political party in British history when she took the helm at the Women's Equality Party. Prior to that she spent 12 years working at City Hall for all three Mayors of London. In 2015 she founded The Cup Effect — a charitable social enterprise, advocacy, and campaigning organisation that tackles period poverty in the UK and globally. In 2019 she was recognised by *Apolitical* as one of the top 100 most influential people in global gender policy alongside Michelle Obama, Melinda Gates, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg amongst others. Following a successful general election campaign later that year which pushed ending violence against women up the political agenda, Mandu is currently leading the Party's campaigns in response to the Coronavirus crisis to make lasting change for women's equality.



### Mega

Mega is one of the strongest voices to surface from the contemporary soul scene in London. Making an instant impact with her debut single 'Chariot'— which has already amassed nearly 6 million combined streams— she's been quick to cement her status as a star. She's gained the early support of influential online platforms Mahogany, NME, Wonderland Magazine, The Clash Magazine and The Independent, as well as recognition from BBC Radio 1, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 5 Live and BBC London. Her phenomenal voice is not to be missed in her co-headline slot on Saturday night at Primadonna.



### Melody Razak

Melody Razak is a British Iranian fiction writer from London, with an MA in Creative Writing from Birkbeck. She has had short stories published in the *Mechanics Institute Review*, the *Bath Short Story Anthology* and the *Brick Lane Short Story Prize*. Before she started writing, she owned treacle&co, a cafe in Brighton and more recently worked in the kitchens of Honey and Co in London as a pastry chef. She is currently living in Brighton. *Moth* is her debut novel.



### Michele Roberts

Michele Roberts has published novels, short stories, poetry, essays, memoir and artist's books. Her novel *Daughters of the House* won the W.H.Smith Award and was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. Her memoir *Paper Houses* was a Radio 4 Book of the Week. She is Professor Emeritus of Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. She lives in London.



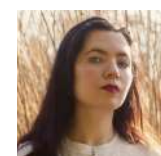
### Monique Roffey

Monique Roffey is an award winning Trinidadian born British writer of novels, essays, literary journalism and a memoir. Her most recent novel, *The Mermaid of Black Conch*, (Peepal Tree Press) won the Costa Book of the Year Award, 2020, and was nominated for seven major awards. The film rights were sold to Dorothy Street Pictures and will be developed by Film Four. Her other Caribbean novels, *The White Woman* on the Green Bicycle and *House of Ashes* have been nominated for major awards too (Costa, Orange, Encore etc). *Archipelago* won the OCM Bocas Award for Caribbean Literature in 2013. Her work has been translated into several languages. She is a co-founder of Writers Rebel within Extinction Rebellion. She is a Senior Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University and a tutor for the National Writers Centre.



### Nadia Gilani

Former news journalist, Nadia Gilani is a writer with a nose for a good story. Inequality and social justice which are issues close to her heart are themes that often find their way into her writing. After several years working in campaigns and communications jobs, Nadia left news desks to teach yoga and discovered quite quickly how the so-called wellness industry isn't all it's cracked up to be. She later started writing about what she sees as the darker side of wellness — from cultural appropriation and colonialism to class and capitalism — on Instagram as @theyogadissident, a moniker which forms the title of her first book of non-fiction due to be published in 2022.



### Naoise Dolan

Naoise Dolan is an Irish writer born in Dublin. She studied English Literature at Trinity College Dublin and Oxford University. *Exciting Times* is her first novel, an excerpt from which was published in *The Stinging Fly*. *Exciting*



Times has been longlisted for the Women's Prize and the Dylan Thomas Prize, and shortlisted for the An Post Irish Book Awards, Dalkey Literary Awards and Waterstones Book of the Year. Naoise was also shortlisted for the Sunday Times / University of Warwick Young Writer of the Year Award in 2020.



### Natalie Koffman

Natalie Koffman is an artist, social sculptor and photographer whose socially engaged work explores the human nature relationship. Recent works include 'Inventory of Stuff', '30 minutes to Pack a Bag', 'Seed', 'The Hope Map', 'The Inverted Ark' and 'Nature Rights'.



### Natalie Morris

Natalie is an author and journalist focusing on race, identity and belonging. She has worked in TV news and print journalism, covering stories from marginalised communities. Her debut book

*Mixed/Other* is an exploration of mixed identity in modern Britain.



### Neema Shah

Neema Shah's debut novel *Kololo Hill* was chosen as a 2021 Pick for *Foyles*, *The Daily Mail* and *The Irish Times*. It's also been featured in *The Independent*, *Stylist* and *Marie Claire*. Her grandparents left India for East Africa in the 1940s. *Kololo Hill* is inspired by their lives, as well as those who were expelled from Uganda by brutal ruler Idi Amin. Before publication, *Kololo Hill* won The Literary Consultancy Pen Factor Live, was shortlisted for the Bath Novel Award and First Novel Prize among others. After studying law at university, Neema built a career in marketing working for companies including the BBC. She lives in London and continues to work in marketing alongside her author work.



### NIA

NIA is an artist and songwriter from Suffolk UK. The 22 year old grew up listening to an eclectic mix of musical genres. She began songwriting at the age of 17 just before leaving school and went on to write and co-produce all her singles to date. Her songs range from rap and grime, pop and R&B. She was introduced to her producer Ray Shell in 2020, who founded Street Angels Media. With his extensive knowledge of multiple genres and NIA's songwriting, together they produced NIA's debut single, 2020 and continued to work together on her next four tracks.



### Nikesh Shukla

Nikesh Shukla is a novelist and screenwriter. He is the author of *Coconut Unlimited* (shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award), *Meatspace* and the critically acclaimed *The One Who Wrote Destiny*. Nikesh is a contributing editor to the Observer Magazine and was previously their columnist. Nikesh is the editor of the bestselling essay collection, *The Good Immigrant*, which won the reader's choice at

the Books Are My Bag Awards. He co-edited *The Good Immigrant USA* with Chimene Suleyman. He is the author of two YA novels, *Run, Riot* (shortlisted for a National Book Award) and *The Boxer* (longlisted for the Carnegie Medal). Nikesh was one of Time Magazine's cultural leaders, Foreign Policy magazine's 100 Global Thinkers and The Bookseller's 100 most influential people in publishing in 2016 and in 2017. He is the co-founder of the literary journal, The Good Journal and The Good Literary Agency. Nikesh is a fellow of the Royal Society Of Literature and a member of the Folio Academy. Nikesh's new book, *Brown Baby: A Memoir Of Race, Family And Home* was released on Bluebird in February 2021.



### Nina Burrowes

Dr Nina Burrowes is a psychologist, activist, author and founder of The Consent Collective an organisation that blends an expert lens with a creative vision in order to help communities respond to sexual violence and relationship abuse. Nina's work ranges from her illustrated book 'The courage to be me', to her many Cooking Shows on consent and The Consent Collective's podcast gameshow 'How to be good in bed'. Nina's latest work is a pre-recorded online learning retreat called 'How do people heal from trauma?'.



### Pragya Agarwal

Pragya Agarwal is a behavioural and data scientist. She is the author of *Sway: Unravelling Unconscious Bias* that was one of best science books of 2020 and Guardian Book of the Week, and *Wish We Knew What To Say: Talking with Children About Race*. Her latest book is *(M)otherhood: On the choices of being a woman* published on 3 June. Pragya is regularly invited to speak on bias, racism, belonging and gender equality for global corporate organisations, charities and academic institutions around the world. She is also the founder of a research think-tank called The 50 Percent Project.



### Radhika Sanghani

Radhika Sanghani is an award-winning journalist and author. She is the author of two novels – *Virgin* and *Not That Easy* – and her third novel *30 Things I Love About Myself* will be published in January 2022. She regularly writes features for The Daily Telegraph, Daily Mail, The Guardian, Grazia, Glamour and Elle magazine. She is also an influential body positive campaigner and founded #SideProfileSelfie, a movement to celebrate big noses, which has reached millions. She has given a TEDx talk on self-love, and regularly appears as a commentator on TV and radio news shows.



### Rosanna Amaka

Rosanna Amaka is the author of the debut novel *The Book of Echoes*, published Feb 2020. She began writing the novel over twenty years ago to give voice to the community in which she grew up in. Its depiction of unimaginable pain redeemed by love and hope was also inspired by a wish to understand

the impact of history on present-day lives. It has been short listed for the Author's Club First Novel Award, The RSL Christopher Bland Prize and the HWA Debut Crown. She is currently working on her second novel.



### Rosie Trentham

A 17 year old vocalist and keyboard player writing tunes influenced by Joni Mitchell and Stevie Wonder with a maturity beyond her years. Currently studying at the Brit school, alma mater of Adele, amongst others.



### Rosie Wilby

Rosie Wilby is an award-winning comedian, podcaster, speaker and journalist. She regularly appears on BBC Radio 4, who dubbed her the 'queen of breakups' following the success of her podcast The Breakup Monologues (British Podcast Award nominee 2020). She also writes on sexuality and dating for publications including *Stylist*, *Cosmo* and *New Statesman* and performs at major festivals. Her first book *Is Monogamy Dead?* was longlisted for the Polari First Book Prize, shortlisted for the Diva Literary Awards and followed a trilogy of internationally-acclaimed solo shows investigating the psychology of love and relationships. *The Breakup Monologues* is also the title of her brand new book, recently published by Bloomsbury. Viv Groskop describes it as 'funny, sweet, entertaining, insightful and life-affirming'.



### Sally Loader

Sally is at the helm of her rip roaring festival band Sally Army, bringing humorous songs and lots of audience interaction.



### Saima Mir

Saima Mir is an award-winning journalist. She started her career at the Telegraph & Argus and went on to work for the BBC. She is a recipient of the Commonwealth Broadcast Association's World View Award, and has written for numerous publications including The Times and The Independent. Saima's essay for the Picador book *It's Not About The Burqa* appeared in Guardian Weekend and received over 250,000 hits over two days. Her work also appeared in *The Best Most Awful Job: 20 essays on Motherhood*. Her debut novel, *The Khan* is out now.



### Samantha Baines

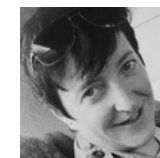
Samantha Baines is an award winning writer, performer and broadcaster. With acting credits in Netflix's *The Crown* to BBC's *Silent Witness*, sell out stand up comedy tours, presenting on BBC Radio and her own critically acclaimed British Podcast Award nominated podcast *The Divorce Club*, Samantha likes to stay busy. She is also a proud hearing aid wearer, RNID ambassador and author of award-winning children's books with awesome deaf protagonists. Her debut book *Harriet Versus the Galaxy* won the Coventry Inspiration Book Award 2021, was listed in The BookTrust's Great Book Guide 2020, the Independent's Children's Books of the Year and has been optioned for TV.



### Sairish Hussain

Sairish Hussain was born and brought up in Bradford, West Yorkshire. She studied English Language and Literature at the University of Huddersfield and

progressed onto an MA in Creative Writing. Sairish completed her PhD in 2019 after being awarded the university's Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship. Her debut novel, *The Family Tree*, was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award, and longlisted for the Authors' Club Best First Novel Award. She is now writing her second book.



### Sam Hoyle

Sam Hoyle is currently an Executive Producer for Netflix. She was recently Co-Executive Producer on *Doctor Who*, on the series that introduced Jodie Whittaker as The Doctor. Before

that, she was the Script Executive and Associate Producer all three series of the hit ITV, BAFTA winning show, *Broadchurch*. Other credits include: *A Robber's Tale* and *A Copper's Tale* for World Productions/BBC1, *The Life and Adventures of Nick Nickleby* for BBC1 and *Camelot*, a 10 part series for US cable network, Starz. She was also the Head of Development for Kindle Entertainment, making Drama and Comedy for kids and family audiences. She is also an experienced Audio Drama Producer and made numerous plays, series and comedies for the BBC, including the relaunch of the Agatha Christie brand for Radio 4.



### Sangeeta Pillai

Podcaster, activist & speaker Sangeeta Pillai is the founder of the South Asian feminist network Soul Sutras which is all about tackling taboos within the culture. She's

the creator of Masala Podcast, silver winner at the British Podcast awards & also a winner at Spotify SoundUp 2018. This podcast for South Asian womxn deals with sex, sexuality, periods, menopause & other taboos. Sangeeta is also the creator of the Masala Monologues series of writing workshops & theatre shows in the UK & the US. She has been featured on BBC Radio London, Evening Standard, Eastern Eye, Huffington Post, BBC Asian Radio, Brown Girl Magazine and has been a writer for over 20 years.



### Sareeta Domingo

Sareeta Domingo is the author of *If I Don't Have You*, *The Nearness of You* and creator, editor and contributing writer of romantic fiction anthology *Who's Loving You*. Her books for

young adults are published under S.A. Domingo, including *Love*, *Secret Santa*. She has contributed to publications including *gal-dem*, *Black Ballad*, *Stylist* and *Token Magazine*, and has taken part in events for Hachette Books, Winchester Writers' Festival, Black Girls Book Club and Bare Lit Festival among others.



### Self Esteem

Self Esteem grew up in Rotherham and has performed in bands since the age of 18. Formerly one half of Sheffield band Slow Club, Taylor released her first track under the



nom de plume Self Esteem in 2017, going on to release her debut album, 'Compliments Please' in 2019.



### Shelley Silas

Shelley's stage plays include Eating Ice Cream on Gaza Beach (NYT/Soho Theatre), Falling (The Bush). Plays for Radio 4 include The Trial of the Well of Loneliness, two series in Val McDermid's comedy crime DEAD series, Dead Weight and Dead Cert. The People Next Door, Mr Jones Goes Driving, I am Emma Humphreys (winner of the 2010 Clarion Award), The Sound of Silence (short-listed for the Imison Award). Adaptations of Ruth Praver Jhabvala's novel Heat and Dust and Paul Scott's The Raj Quartet (with John Harvey), Comfort Girl in the From Fact To Fiction series. Her VR short The Turning Forest was originally written as an experimental piece for BBC R&D. With visuals created by Oscar Raby, it has featured in many film festivals and was chosen to launch the original Google Pixel and Daydream headset. Google nominated this for best VR Experience in the 2017 Play Awards. Her monologue, Muvvm-Bai! was part of Kali Theatre's digital 2021 Winter Solos. She is writing a play for Rifco Theatre, and contributing to a series for BBC Radio 4 and Pier Productions. Shelley is a Fellow of the Royal Literary Fund. In September 2021 she starts an MA in Existential Coaching.



### Sofia Rehman

Dr Sofia Rehman is an academic specialising in Islam and Gender. When she is not reading books for research, she is reading them for pleasure. She is the founder and co-ordinator of Leeds Lit Book Club which is now in its 7th year. During the global pandemic she launched the Islam and Gender read alongs in which she facilitates readings of academic texts penned by Muslim female scholars in conversation with a global virtual audience and has recently been featured by both Vogue Arabia and Refinery29. She is also a contributor to Mapping Faith: Theologies of Migration edited by Lia Shimada and to the anthology Cut From The Same Cloth? edited by Sabeena Akhtar, as well as having a publication of her own due out with Kube Publications in 2022 and a chapter in an upcoming anthology on Decolonising Translation with Tilted Axis. You can connect with her on her Instagram @Sofia\_reading where she talks about all things related to books, faith and academia.



### Sophia Money-Coutts

Sophia Money-Coutts is an author and journalist who spends most of her time writing at her kitchen table and making 59 cups of tea a day. She's written four novels — *The Plus One*, *What Happens Now?*, *The Wish List* and the forthcoming *Did You Miss Me?* — and hopes to carry on writing books that make people laugh forever, because we could all do with a bit of that at the moment, couldn't we? Before books, Sophia worked for various newspapers and spent five years studying the British aristocracy as Features Director for Tatler. She now contributes to a variety of publications including The Times, Grazia and YOU magazine, and writes a weekly column for

The Sunday Telegraph called Modern Manners, in which she discusses important topics like hot tubs, Kate Middleton's hair and posh crisps. If she's not at home drinking lukewarm cups of tea in her leggings, she's often embarrassing herself on radio or television by talking about subjects such as her abysmal love life and the etiquette of the threesome.



### Sophie Mahon and the Ready Mades

Suffolk singer/songwriter Sophie Mahon is not your usual girl-with-a guitar. She takes inspiration from her Eighties New Wave influences Roxy Music, Duran Duran and David Bowie "but far from being a mere pastiche of bigger-haired times, [Sophie's] music is fresh, urgent and oddly moving" - Seymour Quigley.



### Sophie Williams

Author of *Millennial Black* and *Anti-Racist Ally*, TED Speaker, Founder of @OfficialMillennialBlack, and Racial Equity Consultant and Activist by night, Manager, Production Planning at Netflix by day.



### Stacie Graham

Dr Stacie CC Graham, certified mindfulness teacher and E-RYT 500, is the founder of OYA: Body-Mind-Spirit Retreats, the first holistic wellness brand serving Black women and women of colour communities in the UK. She is also the co-founder of Radical Darshan, a Yoga Alliance accredited 300-hour advanced yoga teacher training school committed to racial and intersectional equity in yoga. She has an MS in economics and a doctorate in psychology, where she focused on neuro-affective cognitive science and leadership behaviour. In her first profession she works as the Global Racial Equity Programme Director at WPP.



### Stella Duffy

Stella Duffy is an award-winning writer with over seventy short stories, fourteen plays written and devised, and seventeen novels published in fifteen languages. She worked in theatre for over thirty-five years as an actor, director, playwright, and facilitator. She is the co-founder of the UK-wide Fun Palaces campaign supporting creative community connection. She was awarded the OBE for Services to the Arts in 2016. Stella is also a yoga teacher running workshops in yoga-for-writing and is training in Existential Psychotherapy towards eventually combining psychotherapy, embodied practice and creative work.



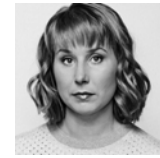
### Three Years Younger

Already talent spotted by BBC Introducing Suffolk, this duo of sisters has a natural genetic advantage when it comes to creating beautiful harmonies.



### Tracey Bleakley

Tracey Bleakley led the successful campaign to embed financial education in the national curriculum in 2013. As a former trustee of the Money Advice Trust and Director of the Insolvency Service, she is passionate about the role of financial literacy in tackling inequalities and poverty. Tracey is now CEO of Hospice UK and a Primadonna board member, and leads the Dying Matters campaign to normalise death, dying and grief.



### Thora Hjörleifsdóttir

Thora Hjörleifsdóttir is an Icelandic writer born in 1986, she has published three poetry collections with her poetry collective, *Imposter Poets*. Translation of Hjörleifsdóttir's debut novel, *Magma*, will be published by Picador in July 2021. *Magma* is a story about love, abuse, and sex in an era of pornification.



### Tracey Thorn

Tracey Thorn is a singer-songwriter and writer, best known for her seventeen years in bestselling duo Everything But The Girl. She has released four solo albums, one movie soundtrack, a large handful of singles, and three books, including the Sunday Times bestsellers *Another Planet* and *Bedsit Disco Queen*. She lives in London, with her husband Ben Watt and their three children. @tracey\_thorn | traceythorn.com



### Victoria Princewill

Victoria Princewill FRSA is a historical novelist, drawn to uncovering untold stories. Her first novel, *In The Palace of Flowers*, set in 19th century Iran, explores the inner lives of enslaved, prized Abyssinians serving in the Qajar royal court of Iran in 1895, as they pursue lives of meaning at the height of political turmoil. It was released globally in June 2021. Her next novel will be YA, the first of a two-book deal she signed, recently, with Scholastic. Born and raised in the UK, Victoria is of West African descent. Educated at Oxford and UCL, she holds an MA Oxon in Literature, a Masters in Philosophy and is working towards another graduate degree in Neuroscience at King's College London. A lifelong learner, stints at Accenture, the Financial Times, the WPP & Demos, taught her about a breadth of industries from finance to fashion to think tanks — and about what she did not enjoy. Writing for the Guardian, the LRB, n+1, BBC and more crystallised what she did. Which involved writing to interrogate the human condition, so we might grow to recognise and understand ourselves.



### Viv Groskop

Viv Groskop is a writer, critic, broadcaster and stand-up comedian. She is the author of *How to Own the Room: Women and the Art of Brilliant Speaking*, also a Top 10 iTunes podcast, now in its 9th series, featuring guests like Hillary Clinton, Margaret Atwood, Nigella Lawson, Julie Andrews, Sarah Hurwitz (Michelle Obama's speechwriter). Her latest books are *Lift As You Climb: Women, Ambition and*

*How to Change the Story* and *Au Revoir Tristesse: Lessons in Happiness from French Literature*. She has presented Front Row and Saturday Review on BBC Radio 4, is a regular on BBC1's This Week and has hosted book tours for Graham Norton, Jo Brand and Jennifer Saunders.



### Yara Rodrigues Fowler

Yara Rodrigues Fowler is a writer from South London. Her first novel, *Stubborn Archivist*, was longlisted for the Desmond Eliot and Dylan Thomas Prizes and shortlisted for the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year 2019. Her second novel, *there are more things*, will be published in April 2022. As a work in progress there are more things received the Society of Authors' John C Lawrence Award 2018 and was shortlisted for the Eccles Centre and Hay Festival Writers' Award 2019.



### Zoe Antoniadès

Zoe Antoniadès was born in West London of Greek Cypriot parents. She graduated from the University of Hull with a degree in English and Drama and trained as a teacher at the Institute of Education. She has taught English and the arts and worked on a wide range of creative projects in partnership with the Southbank Centre, the Royal Albert Hall, the Young Vic and the Polka Theatre. With Andersen Press, Zoe has recently launched a brand-new series of stories for children about twins, Cally & Jimmy. The first title, *Twins in Trouble* was published in September 2020 and the second, *Twintastic*, in April 2021. The third, *Twins Together* is out in January 2022. Zoe also writes collaboratively with young people and has published four anthologies of short stories: *Invincible Voices* – Long Shorts, Medium Shorts, Short Shorts and Winter Shorts. Her memoir, *Tea and Baklavas*, won the Winchester Writers' Festival Memoir Prize.



### Zoë Howe

Zoë Howe has written acclaimed biographies of artists including The Slits, Poly Styrene (a collaborative project with Styrene's daughter Celeste Bell), the Jesus & Mary Chain, Wilko Johnson, Stevie Nicks and Lee Brilleaux. Zoë was also part of the team behind hit documentary Poly Styrene: I Am A Cliché. A visual artist and sometime musician, she has worked with Viv Albertine, Helen McCookeryBook, Steve Beresford, Yumi Hara and others. Zoë currently presents the Rock 'n' Roll Witch show on Soho Radio.



### Zoë McWhinney

Zoë McWhinney is a Visual Vernacular performer and a poet in British Sign Language (BSL). As a Deaf person and native BSL signer, she works as a freelance theatre maker, consultant and workshop facilitator in BSL storytelling, poetry and Deaf culture. As an actress, she performed internationally both on stage and in films. Over the last 5 years, she participated in national and international Visual Vernacular shows and championships both on and offline; and graduated from University of Birmingham (BA International Relations and Political Science) and



École de Théâtre Universelle in Toulouse. The iconic and visual-based bilingual poetry and VV pieces she creates and performs are insights inspired by her own personal life as an ocularcentric human being with in-depth physical language knowledge from a lifetime as a signer.

## MARKETPLACE

### In the Big Barn

#### ■ Girls Rock London

*All day Friday, Saturday, Sunday*

Calling all young rock stars! Come and practice your singing, guitar, bass and drum skills with Girls Rock London (GRL), an award-winning charity providing high-quality music programming for young and adult women, trans, and non-binary people, with a specific focus on increasing access for people who face barriers to participation. Meet expert tutors who will help you have a go at making your own music, setting you up with ideas to take home and develop so that we'll see you next year on the main stage!

#### ■ Suffolk Artlink

Suffolk Artlink works to improve the quality of life of people of all abilities through taking part in engaging and inspirational creative activities.

#### ■ Bury St Edmunds for Black Lives Matter

The BSE for Black Lives was born from the Bury St Edmunds Black Lives Protest that took place on 7 June 2020. The protest was a show of solidarity for local black lives in light of the brutal murder of George Floyd and many others and to highlight the oppression and inequality that black people have endured for centuries. Join the organisers and learn more about their work and planned actions of solidarity in the coming months.

#### ■ How To Be An Activist: with the WEP Academy

The Women's Equality Party Academy will equip women from across the UK with the skills, knowledge and confidence to become active in politics and in their communities to deliver change and empower others. Join the team to learn more, and take your first steps on your own activist journey.

#### ■ Poetry Wall

With contributions from The Mix "Detached" outreach program in Stowmarket and Needham Market, Womens Aid Bury St Edmunds, Turning Point, Stowuplands High School and Stowmarket High.

#### ■ Book Clubs in Schools

Book Clubs in Schools is a registered charity which delivers book clubs to help young people develop a love of reading, build their communication and social skills, and gain transferable leadership skills through volunteering. The long-term goal is to create book clubs in every school across the country, starting with the most disadvantaged.

#### ■ Woodle Books

Woodle Books is an independent company selling bespoke, handmade notebooks. Their unique design incorporate centuries-old techniques as well as modern and traditional touches. Gender equality and female empowerment inspire this beautiful collection of notebooks with strong feminist messages.

#### ■ University of Suffolk

Learn more about what's on offer at Suffolk's university, including its creative writing offer, and hear from current students as they read some of their work aloud.

### On the Main Lawn

#### ■ Suffolk Libraries

Join Ipswich and Stowmarket libraries at their gazebo for some storytelling, song and rhyme, books giveaway and craft.

#### ■ Botany&Books

Beautiful mindful gifts and experiences for book lovers and creative souls: preloved books paired with soy candles inspired by the location of each story, designed to transport you into the author's world as you read.

#### ■ This Is Book Love

This is Book Love is an award winning collective of Educators, Artists, Musicians, Creatives, Aunties, Uncles, Parents and Grandparents working together to make multicultural matter. Offering storytelling sessions in the dell next to the marketplace, as well as a range of art, stationery, fashion, toys, puzzles and so much more, all with one focus: to positively portray the beautiful multicultural world around us.

#### ■ Art by Adonia

Adonia's textiles are made from repurposed fabrics. Each design is completely unique and a one of a kind, made out of recycled fabric, and certain to be un-put-downable for years to come!

#### ■ Nomad's Bazaar

Nomad's Bazaar is a family shop based in Suffolk. Selling treasures, toys and gifts – all made in Britain, all Fairtrade – there's something for all kids, large or small!

#### ■ Braidy bunch crew

Offering not only the original and best quality hair-braids around, but an extensive range of hand crafted jewellery bags and accessories.

### In the Bee Garden

#### ■ Sarah Woodhouse therapies

Need some time to relax, repair, restore? Sarah, Millie and Clare will be in the bee garden offering a wide range of holistic treatments including Reflexology, Full Body Massage, Reiki, Bowen and Head and Neck Massages. To pre-book your treatment or check availability call 07715213392 or DM Sarah via IG at @sarahwoodhousetherapy.

#### ■ Cherry Pie Makeovers

Treat yourself to new hair, makeup, nails or brows with Clare's team of experts, who will get you in the mood – and the look – for a sparkling festival weekend.

### In the Camping Field

#### ■ Stow Stories — Together in Riverland

Stow Stories is a Suffolk Archive partnership and they will be bringing their shepherds hut and vintage Massey Ferguson 135 tractor on site so you can step inside and uncover how Stowmarket heritage, biodiversity and landscape influenced the development and prosperity of the town.

#### ■ Recoveries Got Talent

Meet with the group at their gazebo and find out how you can get involved in creativity in Suffolk; writing workshops, music sessions and performance, to support or start your own recovery journey from addiction, trauma and mental health.

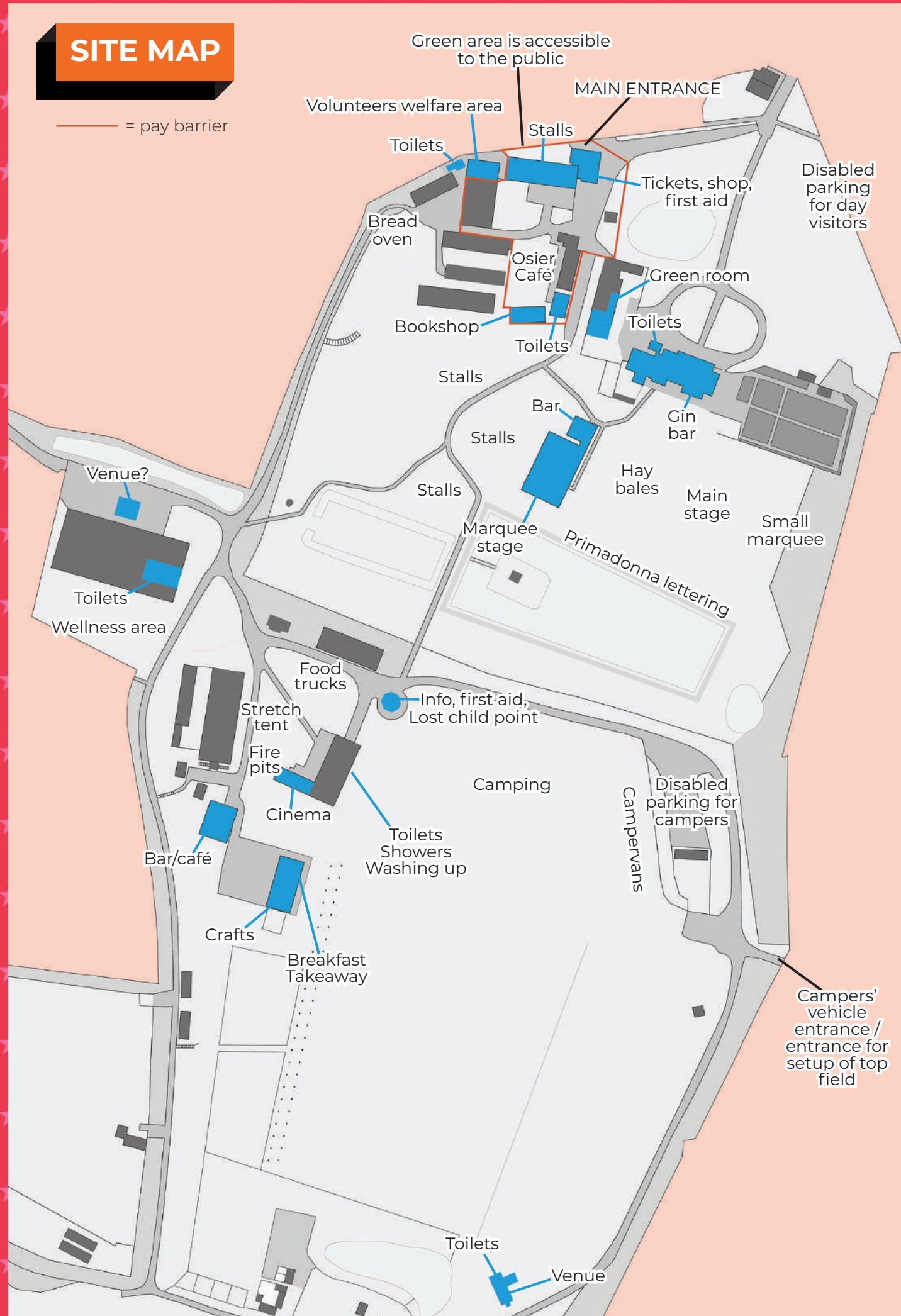
#### ■ Animal Cancer Trust

Meet with Animal Cancer Trust — fighting cancer in our pets. Supporting owners and dealing with cancer in their pets throughout the whole journey. Meet staff and their cats at their gazebo and learn how to health check your pet.



## SITE MAP

— = pay barrier



# THANK YOU

We're very grateful to all our amazing partners for helping us create the world as it should be, for this weekend. Thank you so much to all of you.



The Tudwick Foundation





