

PRIMADONNA

Festival Programme 2024



primadonnafestival.com

Primadonna Festival

Food museum, Stowmarket, Suffolk

26 - 28 July 2024

Join us for a weekend of books, big ideas & festival fun

www.primadonnafestival.com

PRIMADONNA



A big welcome

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Let the Festival Begin!

Whether your perfect weekend at Primadonna is soaking up big ideas and dreaming in a book, or whether it's getting stuck into some festival fun - or maybe a bit of both - this programme contains everything you need to map out your weekend.

Get lost in whole worlds with our stellar lineup of authors, thinkers and mischief-makers - hag stones, modern love, eco-hope, microaggressions, AI... and many more unmissable conversations.

Mind, Body & Soul

Food, stalls, yoga, wellness, beauty therapies, creativity, happiness: get your R&R here.

For Writers

121 industry advice, building your writing community, writers' space and workshops: everything you need to help you on your writing journey.

Music & Performance

An eclectic mix of live music, comedy, dance, DJs and cabaret, all hand-picked for Primadonna.

For Kids & Families

All-weekend entertainment plus a Sunday Fun Palace.



Getting around

- ★ *There's a timetable and a map in this programme to help you find your way around – but don't worry, our amazing team of stewards and volunteers are on hand at all times to help. If you need anything, just ask: look out for someone wearing a Primadonna t-shirt or a tabard.*

BSL

- ★ *A BSL interpreting service will be provided by fully qualified interpreters, with a selection of interpreted sessions throughout the weekend.*

Help and support during the festival

- ★ *Smoke machines, strobe lights, lasers, fireworks and other effects may be in use at this event. Anyone affected by these should bear this in mind.*
- ★ *Security and stewards are on hand across the festival site. They have been briefed to offer information, help and support. If you are unwell or require assistance, please approach a member of the Security and Stewarding Team who are clearly identifiable by their tabards/t-shirts.*
- ★ *The Info Point and the Lost Child Point is at the Settling House, in the centre of the site.*

Feedback

- ★ *We've listened to your feedback about the need to buy a coffee, go to the loo, or just have some breathing space to finish chats, enjoy the site and shopping on offer, and get ready for the next panel. So we've added some space between panels. As always, let us know what you think as we want to make it the most enjoyable experience for you!*

Kinder to the planet

- ★ *We're also trying to be a bit more environmentally aware, and have decided not to print programmes this year. We will have a few print outs of the schedule available for you to look at, but we figured you'll all have phone access to look up events while you're here. If you really want a printed programme, it might be a good idea to print and bring your own.*





Festival Times

Friday 26 July

4:00pm – 5:00pm	Primadonna 2024 Opening Mixer		<i>World As It Should Be Stage</i>
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Who Has the Right to Write?		<i>Marquee Stage</i>
4:00pm – 4:30pm	Animal feeding		<i>Cherry Tree Walk</i>
4:00pm – 7:30pm	Sarah Woodhouse Therapies		<i>The Bee Garden</i>
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Family Happiness Workshop: Creating Your Toolkit		<i>The Chapel</i>
5:00pm – 6:00pm	Watermill Tour		<i>Alton Water Mill</i>
5:00pm – 6:00pm	Drag Queen Story Hour UK		<i>Medieval Barn</i>
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm	Modern Love with the Feminist Book Society		<i>World As It Should Be Stage</i>
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm	Writing for Change		<i>Marquee Stage</i>
5:45 pm – 6:45 pm	Re-work a T-shirt Workshop		<i>Julia Peculiar Stall</i>
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Hedgehog Breadmaking		<i>The Bread Oven</i>
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Between the Sheets		<i>World As It Should Be Stage</i>
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Jane Savidge on Pulp, Britpop and How Fame Can Let You Down!		<i>Marquee Stage</i>
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Get Spooked		<i>Meet at the Farm Barn</i>



Festival Times

Friday 26 July

Music & Performance – Drag Acts

7:45pm – 8:15pm	Hugh Mann	Marquee Stage
8:15pm – 8:45pm	Queer Planet with Bi-Curious George	Marquee Stage
8:45pm – 9:30pm	Aida H Dee	Marquee Stage




Music & Performance – Music Events

8:00pm – 8:20pm	Isamya	Medieval Barn
8:30pm – 9:00pm	Lia Rye	Medieval Barn
9:15pm - 9:50pm	Ladybyrd	Medieval Barn
10:00pm - Midnight	Club Classics DJ	Medieval Barn

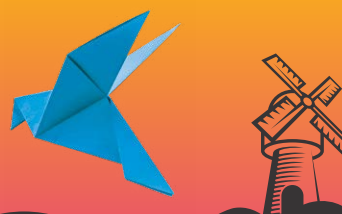
Festival Times







Saturday 27 July

All Day	Sarah Woodhouse Therapies	<i>The Bee Garden</i>
8:00am – 10:00am	Time to Write	<i>Marquee Stage</i>
9:00am – 9:45am	Wakeup Yoga and Meditation	<i>Medieval Barn</i>
10:00am – 11:00am	How to Get Published 	<i>World As It Should Be Stage</i>
10:00am – 11:00am	Rays of Hope: Writing the Climate Emergency	<i>Marquee Stage</i>
10:30am – 11:00am	Meet the Suffolk Punch Horses	<i>Horses' Stable</i>
10:30am – 3:00pm	1-2-1 Advice Surgeries	<i>The Chapel</i>
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Hedgehog Breadmaking	<i>The Bread Oven</i>
11:30am – 12:15pm	Kids Cone Challenge	<i>Field behind Abbots Hall</i>
11:30am – 12:30pm	Sinéad Gleeson on Hagstone 	<i>World As It Should Be Stage</i>
11:30am – 12:30pm	Building Your Writing Community	<i>Marquee Stage</i>
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Workshop: Modern Folk Dance	<i>Medieval Barn</i>
12:45pm – 1:30pm	Suffolk Community Voices: Recovery's Got Talent	<i>Medieval Barn</i>
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Kate Mosse CBE & The Feminist Book Society 	<i>World As It Should Be Stage</i>
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Home Grown Talent	<i>Marquee Stage</i>
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Delta and the Lost City with Anna Fargher	<i>Farm Barn</i>
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Workshop: Natural Voices	<i>Medieval Barn</i>
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Hedgehog Breadmaking	<i>The Bread Oven</i>
2:30pm - 3.30pm	Irenosen Okojie on Curandera	<i>World As It Should Be Stage</i>

Festival Times



Saturday 27 July

2:30pm – 3:30pm	The Art of Essay Writing	Marquee Stage
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Animal feeding	Cherry Tree Walk
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Workshop: Modern Folk Dance	Medieval Barn
4:00pm – 4:45pm	Kids Cone Challenge	Field behind Abbots Hall
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Conversations from a Long Marriage	World As It Should Be Stage
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Behind Closed Doors 	Marquee Stage
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Poetry Open Mic with Justine de Mierre 	The Chapel
4:45pm – 5:45pm	Family treasure hunt	Starting at the Farm Barn
5:30pm – 6:30pm	Writing the Times with Julia Hobsbawm	Marquee Stage
5:30pm – 6:30pm	Not That I'm Bitter with Helen Lederer 	World As It Should Be Stage
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Bedtime stories with Justine de Mierre	Farm Barn
6:30pm – 7:00pm	Yoga Powernap	Medieval Barn
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Gaslit 	World As It Should Be Stage
9:00pm – 10:15pm	Make Primadonna Laugh	Marquee Stage
<i>Music & Performance – Music Events</i>		
8:00pm – 8:20pm	Arthur Black	Medieval Barn
8:30pm – 9:00pm	Chrissy Day	Medieval Barn
9:15pm - 9.50pm	GIRLBAND!	Medieval Barn
9:30pm – 10.30pm	The Story Séance	The Storytelling Circle
10:00pm – Late	There Will Be Bubbles (DJ Set)	Medieval Barn





Festival Times




Sunday 28 July

All day	Sarah Woodhouse Therapies	<i>The Bee Garden</i>
All day	Circus Play	<i>Field behind Abbots Hall</i>
8:00am – 10:00am	Time to Write	<i>Marquee Stage</i>
9:00am – 9:45am	Wakeup Yoga and Meditation	<i>Medieval Barn</i>
9:15am – 10:00am	Make your own dreamcatcher	<i>By Bridge</i>
10:00am – 11:00am	The Art of the Short Story	<i>Marquee Stage</i>
10:00am – 11:00am	Rhyme and Shine with Justine de Mierre	<i>World As It Should Be Stage</i>
10:00am – 11:00am	Primadonna Story Shapers	<i>Farm Barn</i>
10:30am – 11:00am	Meet the Suffolk Punch Horses	<i>Horses' Stable</i>
10:30am – 1:30pm	1-2-1 Advice Surgeries	<i>The Chapel</i>
11:00am – 12:00pm	Family treasure hunt	<i>Starting at the Farm Barn</i>
11:15am – 12:00pm	Kids Cone Challenge	<i>Field behind Abbots Hall</i>
11.15am – 12.15pm	Happiness Workshop: Creating Your Toolkit	<i>Medieval Barn</i>
11:15am – 12:15pm	Black in Business	<i>World As It Should Be Stage</i>
11:15am – 12:15pm	Suffolk Pride: We are the One in Five!	<i>Marquee Stage</i>



Festival Times

Sunday 28 July

12:30pm – 1:30pm	Olumide Popoola and Musih Tedji Xaviere in conversation		World As It Should Be Stage
12:30pm – 1:30pm	No One Talks About This Stuff		Marquee Stage
12:30pm – 2:00pm	Face Painting		By Bridge
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Wild East with Ashley Hickson-Lovence		Farm Barn
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Wandering Tales with Justine de Mierre		Site-Wide
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Woodbridge Ambient Music Festival takeover		Medieval Barn
1:45pm – 2:45pm	My Little Black Book with Jane Oremosu		World As It Should Be Stage
1:45pm – 2:45pm	Norse Mythology – Create Your Own Monster		Farm Barn
1:45pm – 2:45pm	Firsts Prize Showcase		Marquee Stage
2:00pm – 2:35pm	Baby Said		Medieval Barn
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Animal feeding		Cherry Tree Walk
3:00pm – 3:45pm	Monster Clay Art		By Bridge
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Mama Afrika with Anna Mudeka		World As It Should Be Stage

A weekend of books, big ideas & festival fun

PRIMADONNA



Books & Big Ideas

Hear from trailblazing authors as they discuss their captivating new books. Among the many literary highlights are an exploration of folklore and the feminine with **Sinéad Gleeson** in her haunting debut novel, *Hagstone*; **Irenosen Okojie** on her mythic, vivid new novel, *Curandera* and we travel from the tender embrace of queer romance to the boundless expanses of polyamorous connection with **Michael Donkor's** *Grow Where They Fall* and **Cassie Werber's** debut novel, *Open Season*, in conversation with **The Feminist Book Society**. For new writers or aspiring publishing industry professionals, there's a dedicated 'For Writers' programme of writing workshops and conversations including *Who has the Right to Write?*, *How to Get Published* and *Tips on Finding your Support Community* - plus one-to-one advice surgeries with agents and experienced publishing professionals.

Friday Events

For Writers

Who Has the Right to Write?

Friday @ 4:00pm – 5:00pm, Marquee Stage

The richest and most interesting fiction contains a broad range of nuanced characters living in your literary universe, but how do we write other experiences well? How do Sensitivity Readers come into the process and how can we ensure our characters are well researched and don't fall into stereotypes? Join us in this session and shed the fear of writing outside of your own lived experience! Chaired by P Burton-Morgan, a writer and director based who founded Metta Theatre in 2005, for which they have written/directed over 40 productions, this discussion brings in thoughts from Amita Murray, a novelist based in London whose Unladylike series of Regency novels have been described by Publishers Weekly as having "complex, well-shaded protagonists shine as they work through past trauma and champion progressive causes" and author and activist Winnie M Li whose latest novel, *Complicit*, was a New York Times Editor's Choice and shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature's Encore Award.



Michael Donkor

Modern Love with the Feminist Book Society

Friday @ 5.15pm – 6.15pm, World As It Should Be Stage

From the tender embrace of queer romance to the boundless expanses of polyamorous connection, this session delves into characters and connections that explore love in an unrestricted world. From the acclaimed author of *Hold*, Michael Donkor's *Grow Where They Fall* is a beautiful, funny and deeply moving novel about a young Black, queer, working-class man finding the courage to expand the limits of who he might become. Cassie Werber joins to discuss her exciting new novel, *Open Season*, where sexual betrayal marks the beginning of a new relationship - not the end of it. Hosted by the Feminist Book Society, who aim to bring together exceptional authors who wouldn't usually share a stage, they discuss how the love bonds that tie us can also set us free.





Friday Events

For Writers

Writing for Change

Friday @ 5.15pm – 6.15pm, Marquee Stage

Get ready for a lively discussion on writing for change! Join us as we explore the fascinating intersection of art, politics, and power. Can art and politics ever truly be separated? Should they be? From wielding art as a tool for propaganda to using it as a means of resistance, we'll uncover how art has been both a weapon and a force for change throughout history. Hear from a diverse panel of authors and activists as they share their insights on how their work intersects with politics and why this conversation is now, more relevant than ever.

Author and journalist, Monisha Rajesh is joined by writer, novelist, public intellectual, and a champion for decolonisation and inclusion across all aspects of society, Sunny Singh; and Bradford-based author Sairish Hussain, whose second novel, *Hidden Fires*, is out now. Chaired by Bee Rowlatt, author of a number of award-winning books and coming to Primadonna this year with *One Woman Crime Wave*. Bee led the campaign for the Mary Wollstonecraft memorial – the most trolled artwork in living memory – and came out fighting across national and international media.



Sairish Hussain



Bee Rowlatt

For Writers

Between the Sheets

Friday @ 6.30pm – 7.30pm, World As It Should Be Stage

From Mills and Boon to Bridgerton, join us as we celebrate the power of pleasure in storytelling. If you aspire to create stories where female characters not only experience pleasure but also hold agency over their desires, join us as we dive into the world of sex-positive fiction and explore the allure of reading and writing good sex. Amita Murray's *Unladylike* series of Regency novels take us on a wild ride with the Marleigh sisters, daughters of an English earl and his Indian mistress. Cosmopolitan calls her novels 'scintillating and scandalous' and Amita loves writing about the importance of diverse stories in fiction and sex positivity for women in magazines like *Diva*, *The Big Issue*, *Red*, *The New Scientist* and others. Chaired by book publicist and Primadonna co-founder, Shona Abhyankar.



Amita Murray



Friday Events

Jane Savidge on Pulp, Britpop & How Fame Can Let You Down!

Friday @ 6.30pm – 7.30pm, Marquee Stage

Get ready to rock and roll with Jane Savidge as she spills the beans on fame, aging (but never maturing!), mortality (who needs it anyway?), drugs, and even a sprinkle of pornography— all wrapped up in Pulp's iconic 1998 masterpiece, *This is Hardcore*! As the co-founder of the legendary PR powerhouse Savage & Best, Jane knows a thing or two about stirring up a storm.

In conversation with Suzanne Bull, music industry legend and Founder CEO of Attitude is Everything, Jane takes us on a rollercoaster ride through the highs and the lows – from the wild days of Britpop to the unforgettable 'Michael Jackson Incident' at the '96 Brit Awards (yes, we're talking about that bum-wagging moment!) – whilst expertly dissecting the cultural and historical context of *This is Hardcore*, making a bold case for its status as one of the most vital albums of the '90s.



"Jane takes us on a rollercoaster ride through the highs and the lows – from the wild days of Britpop..."

Jane Savidge



Aki Schilz



Alice Jolly



Niki Igbaroola



Ella Duffy

Saturday Events



For Writers

Time to Write

Saturday @ 8:00am – 10:00am, Marquee Stage

Enjoy the peace: the space is all yours for some quiet writing time.

For Writers

How to Get Published

Saturday @ 10:00 – 11:00am, World As It Should Be Stage

Join a panel of experts as they demystify the publishing process. Find out about the journey a book takes, from idea to execution, and where you can turn to for support and advice. Chair and founding Primadonna Lisa Milton, Executive Publisher at HQ Stories, is joined by Aki Schilz, judge for various literary prizes and Director of The Literary Consultancy, the UK's longest-running consultancy for writers, plus Niki Igbaroola, Campaigns Manager at Jacaranda Books. They also speak to the author of multiple books and winner of the Pen Ackerley Prize and the V.S.Pritchett Memorial Prize, Alice Jolly.

Rays of Hope: Writing the Climate Emergency

Saturday @ 10:00 – 11:00am, Marquee Stage

Get ready to turn those climate blues into rays of hope with our morning session: Rays of Hope: Writing the Climate Emergency. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the dire news about our planet, but fear not! We're here to show you how to find solace in the beauty of nature writing and channel your eco-anxiety into positive action. We chat with the fabulous Sara Hudston from Hazel Press, longstanding Guardian Country Diarist, where every book is a beacon of sustainability printed right here in the UK using cutting-edge, eco-friendly processes and materials. Discover what the future of green printing looks like and get ready to be inspired by the power of environmentally-conscious publishing. She'll be joined by poet Ella Duffy who is also editor of Seeds & Roots, a botanical poetry anthology published by Hazel Press. So grab your reusable coffee cup, kick back, and let's kickstart this day with a burst of positivity and purpose. Chaired by broadcaster, writer and radio doc maker Georgy Jamieson.





Emma Shercliff



Abi Fellows



Ellie Pilcher

Saturday Events

For Writers

1-2-1 Advice Surgeries

Saturday @ 10.30am – 3:00pm, The Chapel

Get one-to-one advice from the best in the business, here at Primadonna! Sign up slots are released at 10am on the Chapel noticeboard so head down to secure your opportunity to meet with and get advice from literary agents, publishers and book industry influencers including Emma Shercliff (Agent, founder of Laxfield Literary Associates here in Suffolk and this year shortlisted for Literary Agent of the Year at the 2024 British Book Awards), Abi Fellows (Agent at DHH Literary Agency, last year shortlisted for Literary Agent of the Year at the 2023 British Book Awards) and Ellie Pilcher (Fiction marketer and content creator).



Sinéad Gleeson

Sinéad Gleeson on Hagstone

Saturday @ 11.30am – 12.30pm, World As It Should Be Stage

Bestselling author of *Constellations: Reflections from Life*, Sinéad Gleeson joins us to explore the folklore and the feminine of a wild and rugged island in her eerily haunting debut novel, *Hagstone*, as she draws into a world where the line between reality and myth blurs, and where the darker shadows of human nature mingle with the mysteries of faith and the natural world. For artist Nell, the island is her home and the source of inspiration for her art - it is also the home of the mysterious Inions, a commune of women who have travelled there from all over the world and consider it a place of refuge and safety, of solace in nature. Chaired by writer, activist and speaker Catherine Mayer, the co-founder and President of the Women's Equality Party and co-founder of Primadonna Festival.



Saturday Events

For Writers

Building Your Writing Community

Saturday @ 11.30am – 12.30pm, Marquee Stage

Do you ever feel lost with your writing projects and wish you had a group of kindred writing spirits to chat to? Have you just moved to a new area and are wondering about how to find a local writing group? The panel brings together speakers from the UK's writing community for a supportive conversation about how to build connections with writing groups and writers both online and in real life. Aki Schilz is the Director of The Literary Consultancy, the UK's longest-running consultancy for writers and the current Vice Chair of English PEN; writer, novelist, public intellectual, and a champion for decolonisation and inclusion across all aspects of society, Sunny Singh; and Katie Ward who is an award-winning author and a creative writing lecturer at University of Suffolk whose new novel, *Pathways*, has just been published. Chaired by author and Primadonna, Sabeena Akhtar.



Sunny Singh



Kate Mosse

Kate Mosse CBE & The Feminist Book Society



Saturday @ 1:00pm – 2:00pm, World As It Should Be Stage

Join multimillion-selling author Kate Mosse as she talks to the fantastic Feminist Book Society about her gripping queer pirate story, *The Ghost Ship*, AND gives us an exclusive sneak peek of her next novel, *The Map of Bones*!

Set sail with us across the seas of the seventeenth century as two seafarers are forced to fight for their lives in *The Ghost Ship*, the third in the Joubert Family Chronicles. This sweeping and epic love story is a tale of adventure and buccaneering, of love and revenge, of stolen fortunes, piracy and hidden secrets on the high seas. Kate Mosse is an award-winning novelist, playwright, essayist and non-fiction writer, the author of eleven novels and short story collections, and four works of non-fiction including the feminist retelling of history *Warrior Queens* & *Quiet Revolutionaries*. Her books have been translated into thirty-seven languages and published in more than forty countries. The Founder Director of the Women's Prize for Fiction and Women's Prize for Non-Fiction, she is also the Founder of the global #WomanInHistory campaign and a Trustee of the British Library.



Katie Ward



Emma Shercliff

Saturday Events

For Writers

Home Grown Talent

Saturday @ 1:00pm – 2:00pm , Marquee Stage

"You can struggle with a manuscript for years, and eventually it's finished because you've found the answers you were looking for. Then your novel goes out into the world and it becomes a mystery again".

Award-winning local author Katie Ward discusses the journey to writing her second novel, *Pathways*, and supporting emerging writers here in Suffolk. *Pathways* is a novel about Cara, a dedicated neuroscientist with a research post at Cambridge; and Heather, her almost-stepdaughter, who goes to Las Vegas without a plan and doesn't commit to anything; a book exploring neuroscience, philosophy, connections, and unexpectedly, love. A creative writing teacher at the University of Suffolk, Katie also leads the Wolsey Writers: providing local peer support, inspiration and tips to writers writing in all genres with all levels of experience. Chaired by Emma Shercliff who founded Loxfield Literary Associates in Suffolk in 2020 and was shortlisted for Literary Agent of the Year at the British.

For Writers

The Art of Essay Writing

Saturday @ 2.30 – 3.30pm , Marquee Stage

There are now countless prizes for essay writing and numerous authors who demonstrate their diligence in being able to create a well rounded essay. From the iconic *The Good Immigrant* anthology of twenty-one essays edited by Nikeshe Shukla to *No One Talks About This Stuff: Twenty-Two Stories of Almost Parenthood*, edited by Kat Brown, who joins us on Sunday, there is a real art to the craft.

Structure your thoughts and learn how to craft compelling essays with award winning authors and essayists including Sinéad Gleeson, whose essay collection *Constellations: Reflections from Life* won Non-Fiction Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards and the Dalkey Literary Award for Emerging Writers and author and Primadonna, Sabeena Akhtar who edited *Cut from the Same Cloth, Muslim Women on Life in Britain*, a groundbreaking collection of essays written by British hijabis. The panel will be chaired by award winning writer and academic, Naomi Booth.



Saturday Events



Irenosen Okojie



Jan Etherington



Winnie Li

Irenosen Okojie on Curandera

Saturday @ 2:30pm – 3.30pm, World As It Should Be Stage

Join us in conversation with award-winning author and literary curator Irenosen Okojie as she unveils her captivating new novel, *Curandera*. Set against the backdrop of a mystical town in 17th-century Cape Verde, *Curandera* weaves a mesmerising tale of rebirth and redemption, where the lines between past and present blur into mythic proportions. Mysterious arrivals, strange phenomena, and life-altering events grip the mountainous town of Gethsemame, leaving its inhabitants forever changed. Fast forward to present-day London, where a diverse quartet is drawn together by their shared fascination with ritual and the extraordinary. Join us for a journey of discovery as we explore themes of miracles, destiny, and the transcendence of the mundane in Irenosen's spellbinding narrative. Irenosen is Vice Chair of the Royal Society of Literature, has served as a judge for the Women's Prize for Fiction, and founded the Black to the Future multidisciplinary Afrofuturist festival. She will be in conversation with author, activist and Primadonna, Winnie M Li, whose latest novel *Complicit* was a New York Times Editors' Choice and shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature's Encore Prize.

Conversations from a Long Marriage

Saturday @ 4:00pm – 5:00pm, World As It Should Be Stage

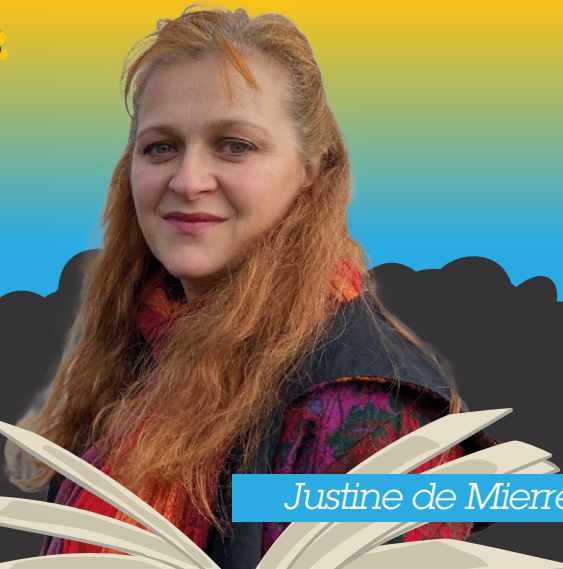
Join multi-award winning comedy writer, broadcaster and journalist Jan Etherington as she talks to former BBC Radio 4 Comedy Commissioner and former Head of Comedy at ITV (and dedicated Primadonna), Sioned William. The two discuss the success of Jan's recent Radio 4's comedy *Conversations from a Long Marriage*, starring Joanna Lumley and Roger Allam. Jan is a Suffolk resident and is a founder – and regular – contributor to Suffolk's Ink Festival where this year, she presented her new radio drama *THE S.H.I.T. Club* (Supporting Husbands in Trauma), in which a group of women, with terminally ill husbands, meet to talk, laugh and support each other.

Behind Closed Doors

Saturday @ 4:00pm – 5:00pm, Marquee Stage

Have you ever wondered about the hidden lives behind the pristine facades of middle-class neighborhoods? In Bee Rowlett's *One Woman Crime Wave* and Kitty Johnson's *Prickly Company*, seemingly perfect worlds often conceal a web of secrets, scandals, and unexpected twists! Join us for a fun and captivating session on writing the undercurrents of suburban life, where no secret stays buried for long and the ordinary can quickly become extraordinary. Chaired by author, activist and Primadonna, Winnie M Li.





Justine de Mierre

Saturday Events

For Writers

Poetry Open Mic with Justine de Mierre

Saturday @ 4:00pm – 5:00pm, The Chapel

Come along to our open-to-all session where Justine de Mierre (aka 'Lady J') will host a very special hour for all-comers. Justine has been hosting super-friendly open mics across Suffolk for a decade 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 be considered to perform on the main stage as part of Sunday's Rhyme and Shine event.

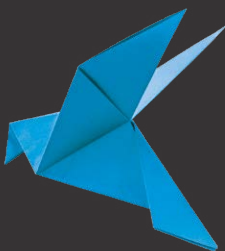


Julia Hobsbawm

Writing the Times with Julia Hobsbawm

Saturday @ 5.30pm – 6.30pm, Marquee Stage

Julia Hobsbawm, author of seven books with the latest being, *Working Assumptions: What We thought We Knew Before Covid and Generative AI – And What We Know Now* talks about how to capture the times in which we're living in your writing. In conversation with Leading Entrepreneur and Co-Founder of Green and Black's, Jo Fairley, Julia Hobsbawm explores the speed and scale of the impact of Covid-19, and the eruption of Chat GPT on the workplace, working attitudes and norms, to take a clear-eyed view of what Julia identifies as "The Amazing Age" - a new era replete with challenge and opportunity for working people at a pace not seen in over a century.



Saturday Events



Helen Lederer

Not That I'm Bitter with Helen Lederer



Saturday @ 5.30pm – 6.30pm, World As It Should Be Stage

Get ready to laugh until your sides ache with the one and only Helen Lederer! Her latest memoir, *Not That I'm Bitter*, is an uproarious journey through the wild world of comedy. In a time when breaking into the boys' club was no easy feat, Helen pulls back the curtain to reveal the highs, lows, and hilarious moments along the way. From navigating the choppy waters of the anti-Thatcher era, to dodging predators in the comedy scene, Helen's story is as sweet as it is sour, and guaranteed to take you on a rollercoaster of emotions. Helen will be talking with former BBC Radio 4 Comedy Commissioner and former Head of Comedy at ITV (and dedicated Primadonna!), Sioned William.

Gaslit



Saturday @ 7:00pm – 8:00pm, World As It Should Be Stage

Join the brilliant minds behind two of the summer's hottest new releases in this powerful discussion on gaslighting and more. Brace yourself for an eye-opening session as Ela Lee takes us on a journey with Jade in *Jaded*, unraveling the complexities of her seemingly perfect life while confronting sexism and betrayal head-on. Meanwhile, Chimene Suleyman shares her raw and honest memoir, *The Chain*, recalling her encounter with a male comedian that sheds light on the racism and misogyny that our silences often allow to flourish in society. These talented authors delve into the unsettling reality of how we can all fall victim to gaslighting, deceitful partners, and systemic injustices - and what taking back control looks like. Chaired by Monisha Rajesh, author and journalist whose second book, *Around the World in 80 Trains*, won the National Geographic Travel Book of the year and was shortlisted for the Stanford Dolman Award.



Ela Lee



Chimene Suleyman



Monisha Rajesh



Franstine Jones



Elisha Soanes

Sunday Events



Tonia Wilson

For Writers

Time to Write

Sunday @ 8:00am – 10:00am, Marquee Stage

Enjoy the peace: the space is all yours for some quiet writing time.

For Writers

The Art of the Short Story

Sunday @ 10:00am – 11:00am, Marquee Stage

Join two fantastic short story writers and learn how to captivate your reader in a glimpse - plus, get the chance to take part in your own flash fiction challenge! Irenosen Okojie is a Nigerian British author whose work pushes the boundaries of form, language and ideas. Her short story collections, *Speak Gigantular* and *Nudibranch*, and novel, *Butterfly Fish*, have won and been nominated for multiple awards. Naomi Booth's *Animals at Night* was shortlisted for the Edge Hill Short Story Prize and explores stories that illuminate the strange nocturnal meetings between humans and other animals. Her first novel, *Sealed*, is a work of eco-horror and her second novel, *Exit Management* was a Guardian Fiction Book of the year in 2020. Chaired by Primadonna Tracey Bleakley

For Writers

1-2-1 Advice Surgeries

Sunday @ 10:30am – 1:30pm, The Chapel

Get one-to-one advice from the best in the business, here at Primadonna! Sign up slots are released at 10am on the Chapel noticeboard so head down to secure your opportunity to meet with and get advice from literary agents, publishers and book industry influencers including Abi Fellows (Agent at DHH Literary Agency, last year shortlisted for Literary Agent of the Year at the 2023 British Book Awards) and Ellie Pilcher (Fiction marketer and content creator).

Black in Business

Sunday @ 11:15am – 12:15pm, World As It Should Be Stage

Join Tonia Wilson, Franstine Jones and Elisha Soanes, directors of award-winning organisation, Aspire Black Suffolk, as these trailblazing women explore navigating arts and literacy, embedding Black history into the curriculum, the power of positive stories and what it means to be a game changer - plus anti-racism practices in the arts and beyond. As well as bring co-directors of Aspire Black Suffolk, Franstine Jones is a Public Speaker and has worked as an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant for 20 years; Elisha Soanes is an award winning Equality and Diversity Consultant and Primadonna co-founder and Tonia Wilson is a Director, Trainer and Project Manager.

Sunday Events



In Conversation Olumide Popoola and Musih Tedji Xaviere

Sunday @ 12:30pm – 1:30pm, World As It Should Be Stage

Travel with us on a journey of self-discovery, resilience and sexuality, exploring how love, despite all odds, can persevere and how sometimes we must fall apart to become truly whole. Nigerian-German writer Olumide Popoola's *Like Water Like Sea* is her second full-length novel which opens at the ten-year anniversary of her sister's death: Nia grapples with her grief, and balancing complicated relationships including her mother whose battle with bipolar disorder continues to cast a profound shadow over Nia. Olumide is joined by Musih Tedji Xaviere, a Cameroonian fiction writer based in the UK whose debut novel, *These Letters End in Tears* (Jacaranda), won the 2021 Pontas and JJ Bola Emerging Writers Prize. The novel follows Fatima and Bessem's life-changing romance which blossoms, despite an atmosphere of threat due to the criminalisation of same-sex relationships in their home country of Cameroon. All seems to be going well, until one day tragedy strikes, and Fatima disappears... Chaired by poet and Campaigns Manager at Jacaranda Books, Niki Igbaroola.

My Little Black Book with Jane Oremosu

Sunday @ 1:45pm – 2:45pm, World As It Should Be Stage

My Little Black Book: A Blacktionary, aims to help people as they discuss difference, race and inclusion. From explaining what microaggressions are and their impact, to helping you understand what cultural appreciation is and how it's different to cultural appropriation, this book breaks down barriers to engaging in conversations on race. Join Jane Oremosu, experienced business consultant, executive coach, thought leader and deliberate change agent and one half of the duo behind *My Little Black Book*, for an interactive session that aims to bring together the questions and thoughts of the people in the room.



Jane Oremosu



Musih Tedji Xaviere



Olumide Popoola

Sunday Events



Suffolk Queer Voices



Kat Brown



Rageshri Dhairyawan

Suffolk Pride: We are the One in Five!

Sunday @ 11:15am – 12:15pm, Marquee Stage

Join us as we queer up the countryside and take a dive deep into the heart of Suffolk's queer spirit with Charlie Brodie, with Charlie Brodie, the trailblazing Co-Founder of Suffolk Queer Voices with Laura Ayers, to discuss their new book, *Suffolk Pride: We are the One in Five!* In celebration of the 45th anniversary of Gilbert Baker's iconic eight-colored Pride flag, this ground breaking book is not just a commemoration but a jubilant proclamation of queer identity in rural landscapes. Inspired by Baker's symbolic colors, current students and alumni of the University of Suffolk have spun a tapestry of prose, poetry, and non-fiction, each piece a vibrant reflection of the diverse hues of queer experience and the human desire to be heard, seen and celebrated. Charlie is joined by author and poet Ellen Freeman, novelist; university lecturer and former school teacher Ashley Hickson-Lovence; and Layla McCay, whose book *Breaking the Rainbow Ceiling: How LGBTQ+ people can thrive and succeed at work* has just been published.

No One Talks About This Stuff

Sunday @ 12:30pm – 1:30pm, Marquee Stage

No One Talks About This Stuff is a support group for almost-parents: it is a place to share journeys of loss and limbo, to confront social pressure and to find courage in the darkness of tragedies which happen every day yet are brushed under the carpet. This captivatingly beautiful, profound and honest anthology opens a much-needed conversation about society and family. Journalist Kat Brown, editor of the anthology and author of *It's Not a Bloody Trend: Understanding Life as an ADHD Adult*, speaks to two contributors to the book: multi-award winning author, Alice Jolly and Dr Rageshri Dhairyawan whose book *Unheard: The Medical Practice of Silencing* has just been published, about honouring the missing children they will never forget.

For Writers

Firsts Prize showcase

Sunday @ 1:45pm – 2:45pm, Marquee Stage

Under the theme 'new beginnings', Primadonna and the University of Suffolk teamed up for a second year for 'Firsts': a writing competition for budding writers in East Anglia, in school years 7-13. Meet some of our prizewinners and entrants as they take to the stage with judges Ashley Hickson-Lovence from the University's Faculty of English to celebrate and talk about the inspirations behind their work. Primadonna's brilliant Choir, Tracey Bleakey, will lead the festivities!



A weekend to express yourself

PRIMADONNA



Festival Fun

Join our stellar lineup of thinkers and dreamers, mischief makers and party lovers. Beyond books there's every kind of entertainment: expect great food, workshops, mood-boosting yoga, a marketplace marquee with lots of independent makers and sellers, eclectic cabaret, dance, DJs and live music from tomorrow's biggest names, all hand-picked for Primadonna. Our packed all-weekend family programme full of writing, crafting, stories and playing ends on a high as Primadonna opens its doors up as a Fun Palace on Sunday - with even more get-stuck-in activities and creative experiences for families, kids and grown-ups that love to play.

Friday Events



Primadonna 2024 Opening Mixer

Friday @ 4:00pm – 5:00pm, World As It Should Be Stage

Join us as we kick off 2024 with our welcome party! Catch up with old friends, find new ones, meet some of the Primadonnas, open your first can of cider - and listen to some great music. We begin with 18 year old singer/songwriter from Suffolk, Grace Wells, who has already won the Bury Fringe Festival songwriting competition and garnered support from BBC Introducing. Her music takes inspiration from Phoebe Bridgers, Elliott Smith and Bon Iver, her soft voice complimented by a warm and deep guitar. And we're also joined by prolific Norfolk songwriter Kitty Perrin who writes uplifting, intimate indie-pop melodies with narrative lyrics which don't shy away from difficult subjects. Her songwriting journey started at age 11 under the unlikely guidance of Dr Feelgood guitarist Gordon Russell, and she's seen support from BBC Radio 1, Radio 6 Music and Glastonbury Emerging Talent.

Mind, Body & Soul Kids & Families

Animal Feeding

Friday @ 4:00pm, Cherry Tree Walk

Join the museum team down in the farm area for the afternoon animal feeding.

Mind, Body & Soul

Sarah Woodhouse Therapies

Friday @ 4:00pm – 7:30pm, The Bee Garden

The wellness team are back this year offering their wonderful selection of relaxing treatments including massage, Reflexology and facials in our dedicated Wellness Area in the little paradise of the Bee Garden. We recommend pre-booking as appointments get taken very quickly! (Additional charge applies). To pre-book, please head on over to the booking page at: wellnessinthewild.as.me

Mind, Body & Soul Kids & Families

Family Happiness Workshop: Creating Your Toolkit

Friday @ 4:00pm – 5:00pm, The Chapel

It's easy to find your happy place at Primadonna, but how do you find it wherever you are? In this family workshop, create your toolkit for happiness with Sara Veal, a Happiness Facilitator trained by the Museum of Happiness, and Workplace Experience Manager at Uplift Games. This relaxed session includes a spot of mindful origami, a gentle exploration of the science behind happiness, and time to craft your happiness toolkit. All you need is to bring yourself. For families with children aged 5+ (but babes in arms welcome).



Friday Events

Kids & Families

Watermill Tour

Friday @ 5:00pm – 6:00pm, Alton Water Mill

Drop in for an informal tour of the Museum's 18th century watermill, now restored back to working condition. Learn where milling fits into the story of seed-to-sandwich as a member of the Museum team takes you around this fantastic historical building.



Aida H Dee

Kids & Families

Drag Queen Story Hour UK

Friday @ 5:00pm – 6:00pm, Medieval Barn

Join Aida H Dee, The Storytime Drag Queen, as she takes you on a journey through a world of magical inclusive stories full of colourful characters that will make smiles wrap around faces, hilarious antics that will leave everyone in stitches, and a drag queen that just cannot remember where she placed her spare wig! Drag Queen Story Hour is an award-winning show from The Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2023: winner of The Official Fringe Award "Somewhere For Us". Aida is a published children's author, the first drag artist in the UK to read stories in a library, and is the founder of Drag Queen Story Hour UK. She's also an established drag cabaret artist working up and down the country. In 2022 she was awarded Leader Of The Year by PinkNews.

Kids & Families

Re-work a T-shirt Workshop

Friday @ 5:45pm – 6:45pm, Julia Peculiar's Stall

Support eco-conscious fashion and get crafty with Julia Peculiar. Turn an old t-shirt into catwalk-worthy haute couture (well, you never know...) T-shirts are supplied and all ages welcome.

Mind, Body & Soul Kids & Families

Hedgehog Breadmaking

Friday @ 6:00pm – 7:00pm, The Bread Oven

For kids as well as adults, come and make delicious hedgehog-shaped bread in this workshop and then watch it cooking in our wood-burning bread oven - children must be accompanied by an adult.

Kids & Families

Get Spooked

Friday @ 6:30pm – 7:30pm, Meet at the Farm Barn

Join registered tour guide Lynn Whitehead for a walk around the museum grounds featuring some spine-chilling and macabre tales. Don't worry, you will be returned unharmed at the end of the session (probably). **For ages 10+.**



Friday Events



Hugh Mann



Bi-Curious George



Aida H Dee

Drag Night at Primadonna

*Welcome to Primadonna 2024's first ever Drag night!
Start Friday evening at Primadonna 2024 with a bang
as Aida H Dee hosts our Drag cabaret!*

Music & Performance

Hugh Mann

Friday @ 7:45pm – 8:15pm, Marquee Stage

Hugh is a Completely Ordinary Human Man, and definitely NOT an alien from outer space who eventually intends to get round to conquering Earth. Hugh Mann explores what it means to be a human man through original comedy songs. Drag King or Drag Alien? You decide!

Music & Performance

Queer Planet with Bi-Curious George

Friday @ 8:15pm – 8:45pm, Marquee Stage

Dolphin Orgies, Intersex snails, Gay giraffes, Transgender fish... London drag King Bi-Curious George presents Queer Planet: a raucous drag celebration of queerness and the animal kingdom. Bi-Curious George's work centres around queer ecology and queerness in the natural world. He is a rising star of the London drag scene and the 2022 winner of the prestigious Not Another Drag Competition at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern.

Music & Performance

Aida H Dee

Friday @ 8:45pm – 9:00pm, Marquee Stage

Primadonna's first ever Drag night ends with its brilliant host – multi-award winning author, storyteller and comedian – Aida H Dee.



Friday Live Music

Music & Performance

Isamya

Friday @ 8:00pm – 8:20pm, Medieval Barn

Isamya is an RnB singer/songwriter from Norwich, who has not only featured heavily on BBC Introducing, but has also represented Norfolk in BBC 1extra's cypher December 2023. Her brand of laid back, tuneful RnB is perfect for a summer festival evening.

Music & Performance

Lia Rye

Friday @ 8:30pm – 9:00pm, Medieval Barn

We're very excited to introduce alt rock act Lia Rye to Primadonna. At the age of 20 she's already 5 years into a career which has seen her become a regular on the Leeds live circuit with her melodic vocals, insightful storytelling and blasting riffs, picking up interest from BBC Introducing and some of the tastemaker mags along the way. Inspired by Royal Blood and Bloc Party her voice, songwriting prowess and ability to rock out make her one to watch.

Music & Performance

Ladybyrd

Friday @ 9:15pm – 9:50pm, Medieval Barn

Spotted by the Sunday Times as one to watch along with BBC Introducing, Ladybyrd is a 20-year-old singer who evokes the tones of Lana del Ray, the tunes of Taylor Swift and the themes of self-empowerment that we love to bring to Primadonna.

Music & Performance

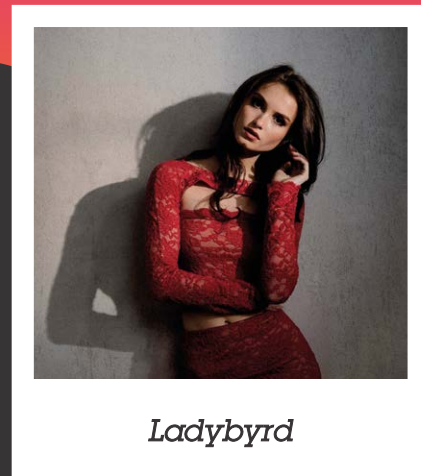
Club Classics

Friday @ 10:00pm – Midnight, Medieval Barn

LilyAnn is making a splash in the male dominated DJ world. With a regular club night in Norwich and an increasing presence on the international scene her smiles from behind the turntable are infectious. She'll be bringing a touch of Ibiza to Stowmarket via a Club Classics set full of bangers.



Lia Rye



Ladybyrd



Saturday Events

Mind, Body & Soul

Sarah Woodhouse Therapies

Saturday – All day, The Bee Garden

The wellness team are back this year offering their wonderful selection of relaxing treatments including massage, Reflexology and facials in our dedicated Wellness Area in the little paradise of the Bee Garden. We recommend pre-booking as appointments get taken very quickly! (Additional charge applies).

To pre-book, please head on over to the booking page at: www.wellnessinthewild.as.me

Mind, Body & Soul

Wakeup Yoga & Meditation

Saturday @ 9:00am – 9:45am, Medieval Barn

Start your day the happiness way! For campers and day-guests alike, drop in at any time over this uplifting, mood-boosting Kundalini yoga class for all abilities (9am-9.30am) followed by a beautiful relaxing 15-minute meditation session (9.30-9.45am) with the Nourish Co.

For Kids & Families

Meet the Suffolk Punch Horses

Saturday @ 10:30am – 11:00am, Horses' stable

Meet the Museum's horses, Zippo and Faith - and find out why they are so important to stories of food and farming.

Mind, Body & Soul Kids & Families

Hedgehog Breadmaking

Saturday @ 11:30am – 12:30pm & 2:00pm – 3:00pm, The Bread Oven

For kids as well as adults, come and make delicious hedgehog-shaped bread in this workshop and then watch it cooking in our wood-burning bread oven. **Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

For Kids & Families

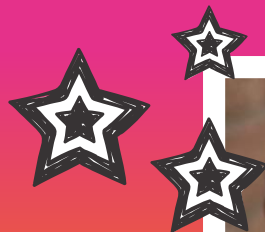
Kids Cone Challenge

Saturday @ 11:30am – 12:15pm & 4:00pm – 4:45pm, Field behind Abbots Hall

Make some friends and burn off some energy - a kids' play camp perfect for kids aged **5-11 years old.**



Sarah Woodhouse



Lynn Whitehead



Anna Fargher



Saturday Events

Music & Performance *Mind, Body & Soul*

Workshop: Modern Folk Dance

Saturday @ 11:30am – 12:30pm & 3:00pm – 4:00pm, Medieval Barn

In association with Dance East, Primadonna are so lucky to have secured an early-bird taster of phenomenal artist duo Glass House Dance's newest project in development! Experience pure joy and learn how to folk dance for modern times in this hilarious and brilliant workshop.

Recommended age: 10+

**DANCE
EAST**

Music & Performance

Suffolk Community Voices: Recovery's Got Talent

Saturday @ 12:45 – 1:30pm, Medieval Barn

Come along for a performance led by Recovery's Got Talent, who showcase hidden talent from the recovery communities. Their performers have experienced a wide variety of life challenges including substance misuse, addiction, mental health issues and trauma. What unites them is their recovery journeys and passion for music, poetry and the arts. Join in and make some noise in this celebration of what recovery gives us back in life.

Kids & Families

Delta and the Lost City with Anna Fargher

Saturday @ 1:00pm – 2:00pm, Farm Barn

The author of former Children's Book the Month *The Umbrella Mouse* delivers a spellbinding adventure about Delta the wolfdog in the ancient city of Pompeii in the days leading up to the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Anna Fargher was raised in a creative hub on the Suffolk coast by an artist and a ballet teacher and wrote her first book, *The Umbrella Mouse*, on her iPhone notepad during her daily commute on the London Underground!

Recommended ages: 7-12.

Mind, Body & Soul

Workshop: Natural Voices

Saturday @ 2:00pm – 3:00pm, Medieval Barn

Join Lynn Whitehead, member of the Natural Voice Network, back by popular demand for a second year for this no-pressure, good-for-the-soul unaccompanied singing session. You'll learn by the sing-back method, taking on simple, folky harmonies and rounds. No previous experience necessary. **Recommended age: 10+**



Saturday Events



Mind, Body & Soul Kids & Families

Animal Feeding

Saturday @ 3:00pm – 3.30pm, Cherry Tree Walk

Join the museum team down in the farm area for the afternoon animal feeding.

Kids & Families

Family Treasure Hunt

Saturday @ 4:45pm – 5:45pm, Starting at the Farm Barn

Kids & Families

Bedtime Stories with Justine de Mierre

Saturday @ 6:00pm – 7:00pm, Farm Barn / Waterstones Bookshop

Bring your little ones along for some bedtime tales with professional storyteller Justine de Mierre. Let her stories soothe away your aching festival feet and send you all off for a lovely snooze.

Mind, Body & Soul

Yoga Powernap

Saturday @ 6:30pm – 7:00pm, Medieval Barn

Take some time out for this gentle, relaxing Yoga Nidra with the Nourish Co, and leave feeling refreshed and ready for the evening's fun (all abilities welcome).

Make Primadonna Laugh

Saturday @ 9:00pm – 10:15pm, Marquee Stage

Some of you will remember the early Primadonnas when we invited you to "Make Sioned Laugh". Well, one of those entrants won a book deal, so we're bringing it back! Are you brave enough to step up to the mic and perform a 5 minute comedy set to see if you can get a laugh and win a curly wurly? Yorkshire-based poet turned comedian Zee Y will be our featured act, as they set the stage for the stand-up comedy hopefuls! But slots disappear fast so sign up now by emailing primadonnafestival.org@gmail.com to join our comedy line up as award-winning TV writer and comedian Meryl O'Rourke keeps the audience warm for you. Meryl is a regular writer for News Quiz, script editor who has delighted comedy audiences, written some of the best gags on telly and even hosted pop concerts to audiences of over 12,000.

Mind, Body & Soul

The Story Séance

Saturday @ 9:30pm – 10:30pm, The Storytelling Circle

Gather with the Fairytale Apothecary at the storytelling circle at dusk - when the boundary between real and unreal, seen and unseen blurs - to see what medicine tales are lurking nearby...





Saturday Live Music



GIRLBAND!



Chrissy Day

Music & Performance

Arthur Black

Saturday @ 8:00pm – 8:20pm, Medieval Barn

Arthur Black is not only an incredible performer with a beautiful voice, but they have amassed a whopping 240k subscribers on Youtube, having had no access to the internet as a child. And they are still only 18 years old. Something special going on here... and we're thrilled to be bringing them to Primadonna.

Music & Performance

Chrissy Day

Saturday @ 8:30pm – 9:00pm, Medieval Barn

Chrissy Day is a South London raised artist with Jamaican, Egyptian and Ethiopian heritage with "the sweetest voice in the UK". An alternative R&B artist who has made her way via open mic nights and the Great Escape to a record deal with south London emerging ultra-cool label Finesse Foreva. She's already secured her first songwriting credit on an Ampiano track featuring Kojoy Radical.

Music & Performance

GIRLBAND!

Saturday @ 9:15pm – 9:50pm, Medieval Barn

GIRLBAND! Are an alternative three-piece from Nottingham, who have pulled on influences from the 50s to the 90s to deliver a punk pop packed show full of crashing guitars with hooks you'll be singing long after the show and guaranteed to make you smile. Touring widely with acts such as Jake Bugg and Seasick Steve, and fresh from their Sting support slot, they'll be bringing their A-game to Primadonna's Saturday night with songs such as "21st Century Suffragette" and "Not Like the Rest".

Music & Performance

There Will Be Bubbles (DJ Set)

Saturday @ 10:00pm – Late, Medieval Barn

Dance your socks off at the Primadonna Happiness Disco, with our very own founder Primadonna Jane Dyball. We are taking our 13-hour "Bangers" playlist and running it through our manual AI machine to pull out only the happiest of happy tunes for gleeful dancing joy.





Sunday Events

Mind, Body & Soul

Sarah Woodhouse Therapies

Sunday – All day, The Bee Garden

Sarah and her team are back this year offering their wonderful selection of relaxing treatments including massage and facials in our dedicated Wellness Area in the little paradise of the Bee Garden. We recommend pre-booking as appointments get taken quickly! (Additional charge applies). To book, please contact sarah@sarahwoodhousetherapy.co.uk

Kids & Families

Circus Play

Sunday – All Day, Field behind Abbots Hall

Hula hoops, juggling balls and bean bags!



Mind, Body & Soul

Wakeup Yoga & Meditation

Sunday @ 9:00am – 9:45am, Medieval Barn

Start your day the happiness way! For campers and day-guests alike, drop in at any time over this uplifting, serotonin-boosting Kundalini yoga class for all abilities (9am-9.30am) followed by a beautiful relaxing 15-minute meditation session (9.30-9.45am) with the Nourish Co.

Kids & Families

Make your own Dreamcatcher

Sunday @ 9:15am – 10:00am, By Bridge

Get creative – for kids of all ages.

Primadonna Story Shapers

Sunday @ 10:00am – 11:00am, Farm Barn, Waterstones Bookshop

Are you 18-25 and want a greater voice in Primadonna? We want to establish a collective of young voices to help steer our brand, messaging, reach and programme. Help us to create next year's festival, and be a part of the Primadonna story - join us and feed back in this session, as we begin to look ahead to 2025.



Sunday Events



Music & Performance

Rhyme & Shine with Justine de Mierre



Sunday @ 10:00am – 11:00am, World as it should be stage

Headlining this Primadonna fixture is Ella Duffy who is the author of two pamphlets of poetry, *New Hunger* and *Rootstalk*, which was shortlisted for a Saboteur Award and was a 2020 Poetry School Book of the Year and the editor of *Seeds & Roots*, a botanical poetry anthology published by Hazel Press. Hosted by our in-house MC, Justine de Mierre, this year's Rhyme and Shine also features a reading from the winning entry of the Primadonna FLASH Prize 2024!"

Kids & Families

Meet the Suffolk Punch Horses

Sunday @ 10:30am – 11:00am, Horses' stable

Meet the Museum's horses, Zippo and Faith - and find out why they are so important to stories of food and farming.

Kids & Families

Family Treasure Hunt

Sunday @ 11:00am – 12:00pm, Starting at the Farm Barn

Kids & Families

Kids Cone Challenge

Sunday @ 11:15am – 12:00pm, Field behind Abbots Hall

Make some friends and burn off some energy - a kids' play camp perfect for kids aged 5-11 years old.

Mind, Body & Soul

Happiness Workshop: Creating Your Tool-kit

Sunday @ 11:15am – 12:15pm, Medieval Barn

It's easy to find your happy place at Primadonna, but how do you find it wherever you are? Create your personal tool-kit for happiness with Sara Veal, a Happiness Facilitator trained by the Museum of Happiness, and Workplace Experience Manager at Uplift Games. This relaxed session includes a spot of mindful origami, a gentle exploration of the science behind happiness, and time to craft your happiness tool-kit. All you need is to bring yourself.

For adults.



Sara Veal



Sunday Events



Justine de Mierre



Kids & Families

Face Painting

Sunday @ 12:00pm – 2:00pm, By Bridge

Kids & Families

Wild East with Ashley Hickson-Lovence

Sunday @ 12:30pm – 1:30pm, Farm Barn

Waterstones Bookshop

Ashley Hickson-Lovence who is a novelist, university lecturer and former school teacher invites us into fourteen-year-old music-lover Ronny's life. We follow Ronny as his mum decides they're moving out of London. In Norwich, as a Black teenager in a mostly white school, Ronny feels like a complete outsider. He tries his best to balance keeping his head down, and his goal of becoming a rapper alive. But when a local poet comes into class, he opens Ronny's world to something new. Rap is like spoken word, lyrics equal poetry - and maybe the combination of both could be the key to Ronny's dreams? **Recommended ages: 10+**

Kids & Families

Wandering Tales with Justine de Mierre

Sunday @ 12:30pm, Site-wide

Professional Storyteller Justine de Mierre will be wandering around the site for this hour, offering tales on demand for anyone who fancies hearing one! You'll be able to spot her from her trademark top hat and colourful storytelling outfit - just say hello, let her know what kind of story you feel like and she'll regale you with a tale from her extensive repertoire. Or if you fancy being creative why not ask for a bit of Extreme Storytelling - she'll create a brand new story on the spot from your suggestions! **All ages welcome.**

Music & Performance

Woodbridge Ambient Music Festival takeover

Sunday @ 1:00pm – 2:00pm, Medieval Barn

We're delighted to welcome the Woodbridge Ambient Music Festival to Primadonna for a takeover on Sunday lunchtime. Set up by Jan Pulsford, songwriter, DJ, keyboardist to the stars (Cyndi Lauper/Thompson Twins), WAMF has seen support from and featured the godfather of ambience himself, Brian Eno. Guaranteed to make your Sunday chill.





Cat Weldon

Sunday Events

Kids & Families

Norse Mythology Create Your Own Monster

Sunday @ 1:45pm – 2:45pm, Farm Barn / Waterstones Bookshop

Create your own mythical creature with Cat Weldon who is a children's author who writes funny middle grade fantasy stories. Cat will share stories of monsters from Norse mythology and then you can come up with your own monster and write them into existence - the more teeth, claws, tails and wings, the better! **Recommended ages: 5-12**

Kids & Families

Firsts Prize Showcase

Sunday @ 1:45pm – 2:45pm, Marquee Stage

Under the theme 'new beginnings', Primadonna and the University of Suffolk teamed up for a second year for 'Firsts': a writing competition for budding writers in East Anglia, in school years 7-13. Meet some of our prizewinners and entrants as they take to the stage with judges Ashley Hickson-Lovence from the University's Faculty of English to celebrate and talk about the inspirations behind their work. Primadonna's brilliant Chair, Tracey Bleakey, will lead the festivities!

Mind, Body & Soul Kids & Families

Animal Feeding

Sunday @ 3:00pm – 3:30pm, Cherry Tree Walk

Join the museum team down in the farm area for the afternoon animal feeding.

Kids & Families

Monster Clay Art

Sunday @ 3:00pm – 3:45pm, By Bridge

Once you've written your monster into being at our Norse Mythology workshop, head over to the wooded area by the Marquee stage to make a monster from clay through conversation and songs from Anna's one-woman show as Anna performs some of Miriam Makeba's most memorable songs, including Mbube, Pata Pata and Soweto Blues – guaranteed to have you singing your way home.



Baby Said

Sunday Events

Baby Said

Sunday @ 2:00pm – 2:35pm, Medieval Barn

Baby Said are Punjabi/Italian sisters Veronica and Jess Pal together with Holly Knowles and Maddie Hackett, and to say that there is an industry buzz about this pop/rock band is an understatement. Supported by Radio 1, Apple, Vevo and fresh from a barnstorming performance at the Great Escape “these are teenage women lapping up life and at the beginning, judging from these songs, of a rollercoaster career, just revving into what they’ll become.” You might want to secure future bragging rights by watching their Sunday lunchtime set at Primadonna.



Anna Mudeka

Music & Performance

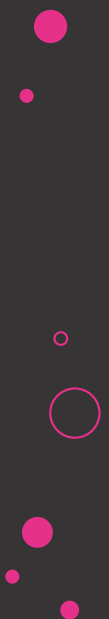
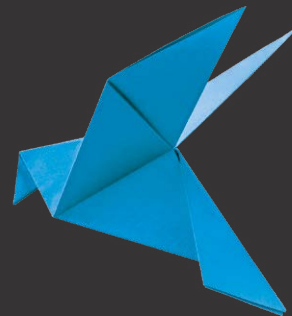
Mama Afrika with Anna Mudeka



Sunday @ 3:00pm – 4:00pm, World as it should be stage

Primadonna hits its crescendo with multi-instrumentalist, actress, singer, writer and educator, Anna Mudeka as she talks to Primadonna Jane Dyball about her currently solo performance, Mama Afrika. The show depicts the remarkable life story of an iconic South African singer, songwriter and civil rights activist, Miriam Makeba, charting her rise from the townships of Johannesburg to global star, forced into exile for her stand against apartheid and marginalised for Black rights.

Having performed to sell-out audiences, we hear about this iconic figure through conversation and songs from Anna’s one-woman show as Anna performs some of Miriam Makeba’s most memorable songs, including Mbube, Pata Pata and Soweto Blues – guaranteed to have you singing your way home.





Amy Bateman



All Weekend Activities

Happiness Installation

All Weekend, The Chapel

We want to make sure you leave Primadonna happier than when you arrived, but what does happiness mean to you, and how do you focus on improving your own mental wellbeing? Inspired by the "mother wall" created by Yoko Ono at her recent exhibition, we invite you to join in our weekend installation on Happiness – open all weekend in the Chapel.

Camarados Public Living Room

All Weekend

If you haven't heard of this brilliant nationwide project, it's all about:

- Mixing with people who are not like you
- Accepting that it's ok to be a bit rubbish sometimes
- Being silly, because this is being human

...so come to the field by Abbotts Hall and join fellow festival goers, at Primadonna's own Public Living Room!

Exhibition: Forty Farms

All Weekend, The Bone Building

This captivating and immersive touring exhibition comes to East Anglia from the South Lakes, presenting the photography of British Life Photographer of the Year, and Cumbrian farmer Amy Bateman. Forty Farms offers a unique insight into the everyday lives, fears and hopes of 40 extraordinary farmers through photography, products, film and words.

Lego & Games

All Weekend

Head over to the Games and Lego Play stall and challenge yourself!

Mini Writing Challenges and more

All Weekend

Whatever your age, head to the Foreword Festival stall to write your own one-sentence story. Or, write whenever the urge takes you with their ready supply of pens and paper. Plus if you missed a slot at our 1-2-1 writing advice surgeries, QuirkHouse Theatre's resident Editor is available at the Foreword Festival stall offering short advice sessions all weekend.



Eating, Shopping & Stalls

To Eat & Drink

Feast Café and Late Night Bar

Visit the Food Museum cafe, where the goal is to grow as many fresh ingredients on-site as possible, working in partnership with the Museum's gardener to develop the menu. Transforms into a late night bar from 8pm on Friday and Saturday nights.

Bone Building Bar

Full range of bar drinks and snacks open all day – right next to the World As It Should Be stage.

Ginfinity

Serving craft gin and tonic, Pimms, prosecco and English sparkling wine. Cheers!

Just a Burger

For life on the veg, head to this Suffolk-based and vegan burger factory, and grab some plant-based comfort food

Molly Moo's Ices

Vintage ice cream van serving delicious scoop ice cream in luxury waffle cones or cups, sorbet, retro ice lollies and classic soft drinks.

Samu Kitchen

Samu celebrates the beauty of plant food – fragrant, flavourful and vibrant dishes. Expect delicious seasonal vegan food including bhaji wraps, Pride nachos, shawarma wraps, mezze boxes, falafels, breakfast pittas and more.

Wok'n'roll

Bringing the vibrant and robust flavours of Hong Kong hawker stall street food to the UK, get a taste of the most authentic home-cooked noodles you will get outside of the Far East.

Coffee Café

Norfolk-roasted coffee, treats and more, served from a vintage horse trailer.

The Mobile Pizza Co

Lovely rustic pizzas, served fresh from a wood-fired oven.





Eating, Shopping & Stalls

Stalls & Shopping

Head over to our Marketplace Marquee and elsewhere on site for some retail therapy with a selection of beautiful handmade items, get involved with demos and at-stall activities, or find out more about inspiring organisations and groups doing amazing things for communities.

Animal Cancer Trust

Bury Literature Festival

Communities Together

Crafts By Kate

Daisy Spider Art

Dale's Acrylic Art

East Coast Poets

Eastern Fostering Services

Eva G Designs

Foreword Festival

Games and Lego Play

Guilt Free Soapery

Hazel Press

Incorknito Designs

Jos and D's vintage clothes

Julia Peculiar

Moody Cow Crafts

Recovery's Got Talent & Suffolk Sober Spaces

Saricchi Wellbeing CIC

Suffolk Hedgehog Hospital

Suffolk Poetry Society

Suffolk Queer Voices

Terrence Higgins Trust Suffolk

The Umbrella Hub

...and many more!

Bookshop & Author Signing

We're delighted to welcome back Waterstones to Primadonna, who will be open in the Farm Barn all weekend. Head there any time to browse. There will be author signings there after every session, so follow your favourites off stage to get signed copies of their books! They will stock latest releases of every author you see at the festival.



FOOD MUSEUM

Getting Around



ILLUSTRATION BY BRYONY COUSINS (C) FOOD MUSEUM, 2022



Big Thanks

Primadonna and all its magic is only made possible through generous support from our funders, donors, and friends that give their support in-kind.



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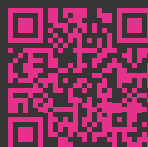
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