



The University of Manchester

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LITERATURE LIVE: SPRING 2020

These unique literature events, organised by The University of Manchester's Centre for New Writing, bring a host of international literary stars to Manchester to discuss and read from their work.

Centre for **New Writing**



Centre for **New Writing**

“ *The Centre for New Writing brings together writers who excel in a range of different kinds of fiction, playwriting, poetry and screenwriting, bringing their individual talents to bear on the work of all our students.* ”

Jeanette Winterson CBE
Professor of New Writing,
Centre for New Writing



Jeanette Winterson CBE

Higher Education Partner for **Manchester Literature Festival**



Manchester
Literature
Festival

We are proud to be the official Higher Education Partner for Manchester Literature Festival. This partnership for over a decade has included many co-programmed events featuring some of the brightest literary stars from across the globe.



**City of
Literature**

Centre for
New Writing
is proud to be
a key partner
in Manchester
UNESCO City
of Literature



**Aminatta
Forna**
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**Eimear
McBride**
page 7



**Hilary
Mantel**
page 11



Maryam Hessavi



Usma Malik

Venue
Blackwell's
Bookshop,
University Green

Time & Date 
6.30pm, Monday
13 January 2020

Price
FREE

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A literary evening with Maryam Hessavi and Usma Malik (part of MACFEST 2020)

Join us for an exciting literary evening of readings from new work by two Muslim writers, Maryam Hessavi and Usma Malik.

Hosted by Professor John McAuliffe

Maryam Hessavi is a British, Manchester-based poet and critic, with poems and reviews appearing in various magazines. An alumna of The University of Manchester, she holds an MA in English Literature, with specialisms in Modernism, Creative Writing, and Linguistics. Maryam is a Ledbury Critic, working as a freelance writer whilst occasionally helping to run and organise the Manchester based poetry reading series Poets and Players.

Usma Malik is an academic specialising in narrative structures in contemporary writing. Born in Birmingham, she worked in Education before moving to Manchester to study. She was awarded a Distinction in the Creative Writing MA at The University of Manchester and went on to study the PhD in Creative Writing, awarded 2018. In 2019 Usma was the inaugural Artist in Residence at the John Rylands Research Institute.

Presented in partnership with Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester at The University of Manchester.

Price Free, register on Eventbrite.

The Complete Works: Aminatta Forna

Part of: The Complete Works: Year 1 – Hope & Resistance

Editor, critic & broadcaster Ellah Wakatama Allfrey OBE curates and presents this brand-new series of in-depth interviews at HOME, in partnership with Creative Manchester and the Centre for New Writing, with a line-up of some of our most exciting contemporary writers whose work embodies and has strong resonance with the powerful theme of Hope & Resistance.

Born in Scotland, raised in Sierra Leone and Great Britain with periods of her childhood spent in Iran, Thailand and Zambia, Aminatta Forna is the award-winning author of the novels *Happiness*, *The Hired Man*, *The Memory of Love* and *Ancestor Stones*, and a memoir, *The Devil that Danced on the Water*.



Aminatta Forna

Aminatta's books have been translated into twenty two languages. Her essays have appeared in *Freeman's*, *Granta*, *The Guardian*, *LitHub*, *The Nation*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Observer* and *Vogue*. She has written stories for BBC radio and written and presented television documentaries including *The Lost Libraries of Timbuktu* (BBC Television, 2009) and *Girl Rising* (CNN, 2013).

In 2003 Aminatta established the Rogbonko Project to build a school in a village in Sierra Leone. The charity has also run a number of projects in the spheres of adult education, sanitation and maternal health.

Venue
Home Mcr

Time & Date
7pm, Monday
20 January 2020

Price
£15 / £12

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HOME

PNR 250 launch

Join us to celebrate the 250th issue of acclaimed literary journal, PN Review.

With readings from contributors Jane Yeh, Parwana Fayyaz, John McAuliffe, Stella Halkyard, Eric Langley, Helen Tookey, Jason Allen-Paisant and Vona Groarke.

Venue
Christie's Bistro,
The University
of Manchester

Time & Date
6.30pm, Monday
3 February 2020

Price
FREE

The event is free and refreshments will be served.

LITERATURE LIVE: Luke Brown and Emma Jane Unsworth

Join us for a reading by two of the finest English-language poets at work in the world today.

Luke Brown grew up in Fleetwood, Lancashire, and now lives in London, although he is frequently in Manchester to teach at the Centre for New Writing at The University of Manchester. His debut *My Biggest Lie* was published in 2014 and his second publication *Theft*, will be launched at this event. Luke reviews books for the *Financial Times*, *London Review of Books*, *Times Literary Supplement* and *New Statesman*.



Luke Brown

Venue
International
Anthony Burgess
Foundation

Time & Date 
6.30pm, Monday
10 February 2020

Price
£7 / £5

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Emma Jane Unsworth

Emma Jane Unsworth is an award-winning novelist and screenwriter. Her novel *Animals* (Canongate) won a Jerwood Fiction Uncovered Prize 2015 and has been adapted into a film, for which Unsworth wrote the screenplay. The film premiered at Sundance Film Festival 2019. She also writes for television and various magazines including *The Big Issue*. A Burgess Fellow at the Centre for New Writing in 2016, this event launches her new novel, *Adults*, published in January 2020 (Borough Press).

Presented in partnership with Creative Manchester.



Isabel Allende

LITERATURE LIVE: Isabel Allende in Conversation with Jeanette Winterson

Manchester Literature Festival and the Centre for New Writing are thrilled to welcome one of Latin America's greatest authors to the UK for her first visit in 12 years. Born in Peru and raised in Chile, Isabel is the author of 24 best-selling books including *The House of Spirits*, *Daughter of Fortune* and *City of the Beasts*. Her work has been translated into 42 languages and she is the recipient of over 60 awards including the 2018 National Book Award for Lifetime Achievement. To celebrate the publication of her new novel, *A Long Petal of the Sea*, Isabel will read and discuss her work with Professor of New Writing at The University of Manchester, Jeanette Winterson.

Informed by the lives of friends and relatives, *A Long Petal of the Sea* is a masterful work of historical fiction about home and belonging, hope and sorrow. It starts in 1939 at the end of the Spanish Civil War, when half a million refugees escaped Franco by walking from Spain to France, and follows a young doctor and his sister-in-law as they navigate the turmoil and displacement of the twentieth century. Their journey takes them from Europe to Chile and Venezuela and includes a rich web of characters who come together in love and tragedy over the course of four generations.

Join us for this special event with one of literature's most enchanting storytellers.

Presented by Manchester Literature Festival in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester.

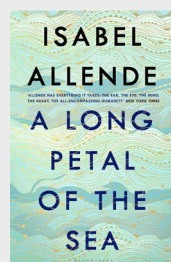
Doors open 6.30pm.

Book on www.manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/events or call Quaytickets box office on 0843 208 0500

Venue
Dancehouse

Time & Date 
7pm, Tuesday
11 February 2020

Price
£25
(including a signed copy of *A Long Petal of the Sea*. For advanced bookings only)
£12 ticket only



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Eimear McBride

LITERATURE LIVE: Eimear McBride

Manchester Literature Festival and the Centre for New Writing are delighted to present an evening with Eimear McBride. One of our most arresting writers, Eimear has written two acclaimed and uncompromising novels, *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing* (Baileys Women's Fiction Prize) and *The Lesser Bohemians* (James Tait Black Memorial Prize). At this intimate Manchester event, Eimear will read and discuss her remarkable third novel, *Strange Hotel*, with host Vona Groarke.

A nameless woman enters a nondescript hotel room. She's been here once before, many years ago. The room hasn't changed, but she has. From Auckland to Avignon, Oslo to Austin, over the coming years she will occupy a series of other hotel rooms. Each is as featureless and impersonal as the last. But these rooms have rules of their own: how loss is negotiated within them, and what boundaries to impose on the men she sometimes meets there.

Urgent and immersive, *Strange Hotel* is an indelible portrait of a woman's mind as she wrestles with her desires and memories. Intricately constructed, it is a novel of enduring emotional force.

Presented by Manchester Literature Festival in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester.

Book on www.manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/events or call Quaytickets box office on 0843 208 0500

Venue
John Thaw
Studio Theatre

Time & Date 
7.30pm, Monday
17 February 2020

Price
Price £19/£17
(including copy
of *Strange Hotel*.
Advanced bookings
only)
£8/£6 ticket only



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The Complete Works: Lindsey Hilsum

Part of: The Complete Works: Year 1 – Hope & Resistance, The Complete Works: Year 1 – Hope & Resistance

Editor, critic & broadcaster Ellah Wakatama Allfrey OBE curates and presents this brand-new series of in-depth interviews at HOME, in partnership with Creative Manchester and the Centre for New Writing, with a line-up of some of our most exciting contemporary writers whose work embodies and has strong resonance with the powerful theme of Hope & Resistance.



Rachael Allen

A trusted and familiar face as Channel 4 News International Editor, Lindsey Hilsum has reported on conflicts from around the world through her career – from Syria to Rwanda to Iraq. The author of two works of non-fiction, one on Libya and one the biography of fellow correspondent Marie Colvin, her work is carried out in times of crisis when the human condition is most laid bare. Bearing witness and bringing us news of our world and the lives lived within it.

LITERATURE LIVE: Jean McNeil and Rachael Allen

Jean McNeil is a Canadian writer who has undertaken official residencies in Antarctica, the Falkland Islands, Svalbard, Greenland, and has made three trips in the Atlantic and Southern Oceans aboard ship-based scientific expeditions. Her book about being writer-in-residence with the British Antarctic Survey, *Ice Diaries: An Antarctic Memoir* (ECW Press) won the Grand Prize at the Banff Mountain Film Festival Book Competition in 2016, and was selected by *The Guardian* as one of the best nature books of 2018. Her most recent novel is *Fire on the Mountain* (Legend Press, UK, 2018) and a new novel, *Day for Night*, is forthcoming in 2021. She is Reader in Creative Writing and Director of the International Programme at the University of East Anglia.



Jean McNeil



Rachael Allen

Rachael Allen's first collection of poems, *Kingdomland*, is published by Faber & Faber. She is the co-author of a number of collaborative artists' books, including *Nights of Poor Sleep* with Marie Jacotey, and *Almost One. Say Again!* with JocJonJosch. She writes for *ArtReview*, *TANK* magazine and *Music & Literature*, hosts the Faber Poetry Podcast and is the poetry editor for *Granta* magazine and Granta Books. She is the 2020 Burgess Fellow at the Centre for New Writing.

Presented in partnership with Creative Manchester.

Venue
Home Mcr

Time & Date
7.30pm,
Wednesday
6.45 February 2020

Price
£15 / £12

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HOME

Venue
John Thaw
Studio Theatre

Time & Date
7.30pm, Monday
24 February 2020

Price
£7 / £5

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LITERATURE LIVE: Vahni Capildeo, Peter Gizzi and Anthony Caleshu

Vahni Capildeo is a Trinidadian Scottish writer inspired by other voices, ranging from live Caribbean Connexions and an Indian diaspora background to the landscapes where Capildeo travels and lives. Their poetry (seven books and four pamphlets) includes *Measures of Expatriation*, awarded the Forward Prize for Best Collection in 2016, and in 2019, *Skin Can Hold*. Following a DPhil in Old Norse literature, Capildeo has worked in academia; in culture for development, with Commonwealth Writers; and as an Oxford English Dictionary lexicographer. Capildeo held the Judith E. Wilson Poetry Fellowship and Harper-Wood Studentship at Cambridge, and more recently a Douglas Caster Cultural Fellowship at the University of Leeds.

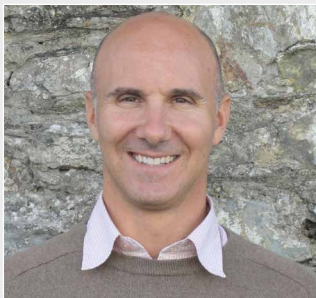
Anthony Caleshu is the author of four poetry books, most recently *A Dynamic Exchange Between Us* (Shearsman, 2019). His poems have appeared widely in journals on both sides of the Atlantic including *Granta*, *TLS*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, *Narrative*, and *Boston Review* (as winner of the Boston Review Poetry Prize). In addition to new poetry, he is working on a novel and a collection of stories (see 'Miranda July' online in *The Manchester Review*). Born in the US, he moved to Ireland in the mid-90s and has been living in South West England for almost 20 years, where he is Professor of Poetry and Programme Manager of the MA Creative Writing at The University of Plymouth. He is publisher and editor of the small poetry press, Periplum.

Peter Gizzi is the author of eight collections of poetry, most recently, *Archeophonics* (Finalist for 2016 The National Book Award), *In Defense of Nothing: Selected Poems 1987-2011*, and *Threshold Songs*. Two books are forthcoming in 2020, a new collection, *Now It's Dark*, in the US, and an overview volume in the UK, *Sky Burial: New & Selected Poems* (Carcanet). His honours include the Lavan Younger Poet Award from the Academy of American Poets, and fellowships in poetry from The Rex Foundation, The Howard Foundation, The Foundation for Contemporary Arts, The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He has twice been the recipient of The Judith E. Wilson Visiting Fellowship in Poetry at the University of Cambridge. He works at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Presented in partnership with Creative Manchester.



Vahni Capildeo



Anthony Caleshu



Peter Gizzi

Venue
John Thaw
Studio Theatre

Time & Date 
7.30pm, Monday
9 March 2020

Price
£7 / £5

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LITERATURE LIVE: Frances Leviston and Kirsty Logan

Frances Leviston is the author of two collections of poetry: *Public Dream*, shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize, the Forward Prize for Best First Collection and the Jerwood-Aldeburgh First Collection Prize; and *Disinformation*, shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize. In 2015 she was shortlisted for the BBC Short Story Award. She lives in Durham and is a lecturer in creative writing at The University of Manchester. This event launches her first collection of stories, *The Voice in My Ear* (Cape).



Frances Leviston

Venue
John Thaw
Studio Theatre

Time & Date 
7.30pm, Monday
23 March 2020

Price
£7 / £5

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Kirsty Logan

Kirsty Logan is the author of the novels *The Gracekeepers* and *The Gloaming*, the short story collections *A Portable Shelter* and *The Rental Heart & Other Fairytales*, the flash fiction chapbook *The Psychology of Animals Swallowed Alive*, and the short memoir *The Old Asylum in the Woods at the Edge of the Town Where I Grew Up*. Her books have won the LAMBDA Literary Award, the Polari First Book Prize, the Saboteur Award, the Scott Prize and the Gavin Wallace Fellowship, and have been selected for the BBC Radio 2 Book Club and the Waterstones Book Club. Her short fiction and poetry have been recorded for radio and podcasts, exhibited in galleries and distributed from a vintage Wurlitzer cigarette machine. She lives in Glasgow with her wife and their rescue dog.

Presented in partnership with Creative Manchester.



Hilary Mantel

LITERATURE LIVE: An Evening with Hilary Mantel hosted by Kamila Shamsie

Manchester Literature Festival and the Centre for New Writing are delighted to present An Evening with Hilary Mantel.

One of our most remarkable writers, Hilary has written a feast of novels, memoirs and short stories including *A Place of Greater Safety*, *Beyond Black*, *Fludd* and *The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher*. It is with the epic and extraordinary *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies* however, that she became the first British author to win two Booker Prizes and the only writer to have won with two consecutive novels. For this special event hosted by author Kamila Shamsie, Hilary will join us to launch *The Mirror & The Light*, the final book in her thrilling and internationally acclaimed Tudor trilogy.

'If you cannot speak truth at a beheading, when can you speak it?'

England, May 1536. Anne Boleyn is dead, decapitated in the space of a heartbeat by a hired French executioner. As her remains are bundled into oblivion, Thomas Cromwell breakfasts with the victors. The blacksmith's son from Putney emerges from the spring's bloodbath to continue his climb to power and wealth, whilst his formidable master, Henry VIII, settles to short-lived happiness with his third queen, Jane Seymour.

With *The Mirror & The Light*, Hilary traces the final years of Thomas Cromwell, the boy from nowhere who climbs to the heights of power, offering a defining portrait of predator and prey, of a ferocious contest between present and past, between royal will and a common man's vision: of a modern nation making itself through conflict, passion and courage.

Presented by Manchester Literature Festival in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester.

Doors open 6.30pm, event starts 7pm.

**Book on www.manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/events
or call Quaytickets box office on 0843 208 0500**

Venue
RNCM Theatre

Time & Date 
7pm, Sunday
19 April 2020

Price
£35
(including a signed copy of *The Mirror & The Light* (RRP £25). For advanced bookings only).
£16 ticket only



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Jessica Moor



Juliet Bates

Venue
International
Anthony Burgess
Foundation

Time & Date 
6.30pm, Monday
20 April 2020

Price
£7 / £5

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LITERATURE LIVE: Jessica Moor and Juliet Bates

Join Jessica Moor and Juliet Bates this spring as they celebrate the launch of their new publications.

Jessica Moor studied English at Cambridge before completing a Creative Writing MA at The University of Manchester. Prior to this she spent a year working in the violence against women and girls sector and this experience inspired her first novel, *Keeper*.

She lives in Berlin, and is the Burgess Writing Fellow at the Centre for New Writing in spring 2020.

Juliet Bates was born in the north-east of England. After studying art and art history, she worked as lecturer in the UK and is currently teaching at the Ecole supérieure d'arts et médias de Caen/Cherbourg in France. In 2016 she completed a PhD in

creative writing at The University of Manchester. Her debut novel, *The Missing*, was published by Linen Press in 2009, and her short stories have appeared in British and Canadian journals and magazines. Her second novel, *The Colours*, will be published by Fleet in spring 2020.

This event is hosted by Professor of New Writing at The University of Manchester, Jeanette Winterson.

Presented in partnership with Creative Manchester.

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

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Centre for New Writing supports and develops writers through our programmes, our partnerships and our city-wide schools initiatives.

Our courses include playwriting, fiction, poetry, screenwriting and creative non-fiction.

Why Study Here?

- Take workshops with award-winning novelists and poets, Vona Groarke, Frances Leviston, John McAuliffe, Kamila Shamsie, Beth Underdown, Honor Gavin and Michael Schmidt, as well as Professor of New Writing, Jeanette Winterson.
- Undertake intensive one-to-one instruction from the Burgess writers in residence (Recent writer fellows include Zaffar Kunial, Kayo Chingonyi, Rachael Allen and Rebecca Perry).
- Work on publishing projects including The Manchester Review, the Manchester Literature Festival and The Manchester Anthology, as well as access to a large network of internships.
- Alumni include Sophie Hannah, Ian Pople, Rebecca Perry, Evan Jones, Joey Connolly, Katherine Horrex and Sarah Corbett.



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www.manchester.ac.uk/cnw

To Book:

Tickets can be purchased on **0843 208 0500** or via www.quaytickets.com

You can also purchase tickets through the Martin Harris Centre box office on **0161 275 8951** (opening times 12.30pm-2.30pm)

Quaytickets
EFFICIENT | EFFECTIVE

Join our mailing list by emailing info-cnw@manchester.ac.uk

For up to date event information, visit www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/cnw

The Manchester Review is the Centre for New Writing's online journal, showcasing new work by both world-leading and emerging writers and artists. The Review's agenda-setting reviews section is regularly updated with views on the latest books, films, exhibitions, theatre and music.

www.themanchesterreview.co.uk

The Manchester Review

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