

SOUTHBANK CENTRE 75

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Images: [here](#) plus wider festival images [here](#)

Festival listings: [here](#)

Dua Lipa reveals lineup for her curation of London Literature Festival, in the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary year

Dua Lipa's London Literature Festival will feature in-conversation events with **Mustafa**, **Patti Smith** and **Zadie Smith** alongside a host of events curated by the **Service95 Book Club**



Dua Lipa © Madison Phipps; Mustafa photo by Jack Mckain, Patti Smith photo by Steven Sebring; Zadie Smith photo by Ben Bailey-Smith
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The Southbank Centre today announces **Dua Lipa's London Literature Festival** programme, taking place from Wednesday 21 October to Sunday 1 November, as part of the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary year.

As part of her curation of London Literature Festival, Dua will be in conversation in the opening weekend with **Zadie Smith** (Saturday 24 October, 3pm), **Mustafa** (Saturday 24 October, 8pm), and **Patti Smith** (Sunday 25 October, 7.30pm) as well as curating a number of other events across the festival with her *Service95 Book Club*.

Commenting on her curation of the festival lineup, Dua Lipa said: *"Curating the line up for the London Literature Festival with my Service95 Book Club has been a true joy and I'm so proud of the programme we have created. We'll be joined by icons as well as emerging voices from across the arts the world needs to know. You will recognize some as friends of the book club, and others may be your first introduction, but ultimately, I wanted to create a*

space that brings together some of the most exciting writers, poets, and thinkers from around the globe. I'm looking forward to being both in-conversation and taking my seat in the audience at this iconic venue."

For a breakdown of the programme highlights, see below.

DUA LIPA & SERVICE95 EVENTS

Dua Lipa's events feature a mix of literary icons and dynamic emerging voices. On Saturday 24 October at 3pm, Dua will be in conversation with **Zadie Smith** as they discuss Zadie's extraordinary 2000 debut novel; *White Teeth*, a work of ambitious scope that was published when she was just 24 years old. The two will talk about learning to live with an artistic legacy earned at such a young age and speculate on what life in London might look like for the Joneses and the Iqbals in today's political climate.

On Saturday 24 October at 8pm, Dua will sit down with her friend **Mustafa**, the Sudanese-Canadian poet, singer, songwriter, and filmmaker, for a conversation about the poems that move them and Mustafa's poetry publication *NOUR*. Mustafa will talk about his lifelong relationship with poetry and together, they will discuss their poetry idols, in an evening featuring readings by very special guests.

On Sunday 25 October at 7:30pm, **Patti Smith**, one of the most captivating artists at work today, will discuss her intimate and unguarded memoir *Bread of Angels* with Dua, which traces her life from a post-war childhood through to her artistic coming-of-age, her marriage to Fred "Sonic" Smith, and her return to performing after Fred's death. Together, they will explore the healing potential of art and the power of artistic freedom.

Dua's curation also involves a number of events curated by the Service95 Book Club in partnership with the Southbank Centre. Highlights include **A Conversation with Nadia Murad** (Thursday 22 October), **Translated Fiction Showcase** (Wednesday 28 October), **Fierce Sounds** featuring Kae Tempest alongside a stellar line up of boundary-pushing novelists (Friday 30 October) and **Rewriting Male Tenderness** (Saturday 31 October).

Presented in association with *Service95*, the London Literature Festival will also feature events with best-selling authors **Hernan Diaz** (Wednesday 21 October) and **Malorie Blackman** (Wednesday 28 October).

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WRITERS

The Southbank Centre's commitment to supporting the next generation of artists continues, with a special edition of **Indie Night** in association with *Service95* (Friday 23 October) – celebrating independent presses and the authors they publish while **Debut London Literature** returns to celebrate a new line-up of debut writers from the capital (Sunday 25 October). Another staple of the festival, **Creative Future Writers' Day** returns to celebrate underrepresented writers, with a live-streamed Awards Ceremony. In association with *Service95*, **Out-Spoken** returns for an evening of poetry and live music, celebrating diversity in voice and performance with a line-up of the hottest UK poets and world-class musicians including Alice Oswald, Max Porter and Kwame Dawes (Friday 23 October). A special multi-artform event **Tice Cin: Safe Spaces** (Thursday 29 October) sees a star-studded cast

perform excerpts and monologues from her book *Safe Spaces* including BODUR with beats by KMNC, Tice Cin and Ikonika.

AN OPEN SPACE FOR PUBLIC DEBATE AND DISCUSSION

Providing a democratic, trusted space for open discussion, debate and new ideas, the festival will explore the stories and issues shaping our world today. Human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate **Nadia Murad** tells her powerful story of survival and reclamation as she presents her memoir *I Choose My Beginning* (Thursday 22 October). Prize-winning novelist, memoirist and filmmaker Xiaolu Guo delivers the 2026 New Statesman Goldsmiths Prize Lecture, on the **creation of fiction in the age of AI** (Sunday 1 November). Ta-Nehisi Coates & Tareq Baconi take a first look at Baconi's new political treatise, *What Now: On Palestine, Freedom, and Our Global Future* in association with Service95 and PalFest. They'll discuss the struggle for justice in Palestine, its global ramifications and strategies for decolonisation in the 21st century in their event, **On Freedom** (Wednesday 21 October). Service95 and English PEN join forces for an evening of readings, discussion and performance hosted by award-winning journalist and author Oliver Bullough, exploring the rising threats to free expression faced by writers, journalists and the UK public – and how we can respond, in **Censorship Live! With English PEN** (Saturday 31 October).

Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, said: *"For 75 years, the Southbank Centre has been a place where emerging talent shares a space with global icons — a home for the writers, artists and musicians who define their moment and the audiences who discover them here first. As we mark this anniversary, Dua's dedication to sharing her love for books, and her deep curiosity about the world, is exactly the spirit this building was built on. It's a milestone year, and she's the perfect curator to help us celebrate it."*

Ted Hodgkinson, Head of Literature & Spoken Word at the Southbank Centre, said: *"London Literature Festival has always been a celebration of the joys and pleasures of reading, and in Dua Lipa we have a curator who embodies that completely. Her programme reflects the full depth and breadth of her passion for books: from fierce new sensibilities pushing the boundaries of the form, to some of the most iconic writers at work today. This range and diversity reflects everything the Southbank Centre stands for, as we honour our roots and look ahead to the future."*

FAMILY PROGRAMME

Since its doors opened 75 years ago, the Southbank Centre has made world-class arts accessible to everyone with 50% of events each year free to access. Outside of Dua Lipa and Service95 Book Club's curation, highlights of the family programme include **Giant Storytelling Bed** in the Clore Ballroom, complete with a community stitched quilt (Thursday 29 October - Sunday 1 November, free) and a free **Poetry Day**, curated by the National Poetry Library (Saturday 24 October). Ticketed events include **The Smeds and the Smoos** (Wednesday 28 October - Sunday 1 November), **Joseph Coelho and Friends** (Friday 23 October) and **The Children's Bookshow Presents: Katherine Rundell** (Wednesday 21 October).

London Literature Festival is a highlight of the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary programme which includes **Goalhanger: The Rest Is Fest** (Friday 4- Sunday 6 September) **Playing with Fire: Yuja Wang** (Wednesday 9 September - Friday 1 January) and **Anish**

Kapoor returning to the Hayward Gallery (until Sunday 18 October). The onsite activity is joined by a national programme of art, literature and music – aiming to reach 1 million people in over 40 towns and cities across all four nations of the UK. London Literature Festival is made possible through the generous support of Bukhman Philanthropies.

#ENDS#

NOTES TO EDITORS

Further programming to be announced.

London Literature Festival programme listings are [here](#).

Tickets go on sale to Southbank Centre members on Monday 3 August at 10am, to *Service95* members on Tuesday 4 August at 10am and to the general public on Wednesday 5 August at 10am.

For more information about the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary celebrations, visit the 75th Anniversary page [here](#).

For further information contact press@southbankcentre.co.uk (Louise Gilbert, Press Manager, Southbank Centre)

For further information on Dua Lipa, contact richard.dawes@dawbell.com (Richard Dawes, Dawbell)

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest multi-arts centre and engages the most diverse audiences of any performing arts organisation in the UK. Our biggest venue, the Royal Festival Hall (2,700 seats) is the lasting legacy of the 1951 Festival of Britain and the ambition and values of that project – that arts, ideas, innovation and culture can heal communities and should be available and accessible to everyone – are still our guiding principles today. The Southbank Centre is uniquely able to offer a wide-ranging, inclusive and world-class artistic programme spanning contemporary visual arts, music, dance, performance, literature, comedy and spoken word across the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, the Hayward Gallery and our free spaces. We are also home to the National Poetry Library, the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP), two resident organisations (Kinetika Bloco and Tomorrow's Warriors) and six resident orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra).

www.southbankcentre.co.uk

About the Southbank Centre's London Literature Festival

London Literature Festival is the longest-running literature festival in the city that celebrates prestigious authors alongside rising literary stars and cultural icons. The festival was previously curated by Self-Esteem in 2025, and headliners in prior years include Ai Weiwei, Greta Thunberg, Malala Yousafzai, Margaret Atwood, Philip Pullman, Tom Hanks and Yulia

Navalnaya. The festival – which is now in its 19th year and takes place across the Southbank Centre’s iconic 11 acre site. It is made possible through the generous support of Bukhman Philanthropies.

About Service95 Book Club

Founded by Dua Lipa, the Service95 Book Club is the cultural and intellectual heart of Service95: a global cultural platform and community built around the belief that books, ideas, and the conversations they spark help make us more informed, more empathetic, and more alive to the world.

The Service95 Book Club is where Dua brings her personal reading life into public view: Monthly Reads chosen straight from her bookshelf, paired with reviews, contextual essays, and author interviews that go far beyond the surface of the page. Her conversations — with writers from around the world including Margaret Atwood, Olga Tokarczuk, and Ocean Vuong — have earned her recognition from The Telegraph as “one of Britain’s foremost literary tastemakers”. The Service95 Book Club podcast launched to critical acclaim, named among The Guardian’s Best Podcasts of the Week and ranked as one of Spotify’s Best Video Podcasts of 2025.

It is, at its core, a place where reading is treated as a community act — and where the right book, at the right moment, can change how you see everything.

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