

## Press Release

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## LONDON LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2017 EXPLORES A 'WORLD ON THE BRINK' AND CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF *POETRY INTERNATIONAL* 13 October - 1 November

Southbank Centre today announces an expanded 2017 *London Literature Festival* for its eleventh year this October, featuring twenty days of live readings, performance, talks, debates, visual displays, workshops and music across Southbank Centre's site.

Featuring: Kim Fupz Aakeson, Caroline Bergvall, Anne Carson, Tracy Chevalier, Kayo Chingonyi, BR Collins, Juno Dawson, Inua Ellams, Athena Farrokhzad, Goldie, Choman Hardi, Kati Hiekkapelto, Jonas Hassen Khemiri, Karl Ove Knausgård, Niviaq Korneliussen, Mandla Langa, Yang Lian, Annie Leibovitz, Kim Leine, Ulla-Lena Lundberg, David Mitchell, Dorthe Nors, Sofi Oksanen, Hanne Ørstavik, Per Petterson, Philip Pullman, Claudia Rankine, Meg Rosoff, Thomas Rydahl, Kamila Shamsie, Nikesh Shukla, Sjón, Jon Snow, Morten Søndergaard, Rebecca Solnit, Pajtim Statovci, Liv Strömquist, Arundhati Subramaniam, Jussi Valtonen and more.

For the first time, the festival opens with *Poetry International* on its 50th birthday, the biennial festival founded in 1967 by former poet laureate Ted Hughes.



Philip Pullman (credit Michael Leckie), Annie Leibovitz (credit Annie Leibovitz), Claudia Rankine (no credit)

*London Literature Festival* authors and poets will bring their unique reflections on a **'World on the Brink'** and explore how literature can help us make sense of a world increasingly caught between extremes.

In exclusive London appearances, **Philip Pullman** (20 October), **Annie Leibovitz** (22 October) and **Karl Ove Knausgård** (23 October) launch major new books *La Belle Sauvage*, *Annie Leibovitz: Portraits 2015-2016* and *Autumn* respectively, and discuss, through their varied experiences and careers, how the world is changing and what the future looks like.

Spearheading the 'World on the Brink' theme is a **celebration of Nordic literature**, to tie in with Southbank Centre's year-long programme exploring Nordic culture, *Nordic Matters*. From political upheavals to the reality of a changing climate and how to retain an intimate relationship with the natural world, Nordic literature offers deep insights into pressing issues of our times. Southbank Centre will devote an entire weekend to looking in-depth at Nordic literature and culture, exploring what we can learn from it about our shared future, and discussing what role words and language can play in a world increasingly on the brink. Featured writers include both established and rising stars from the region, **Sofi Oksanen, Kim Leine, Kati Hiekkapelto, Thomas Rydhal, Jonas Hassen Khemiri, Ulla-Lena Lundberg** and more (21 - 22 October).

Southbank Centre's longest running festival, ***Poetry International***, opens this year's *London Literature Festival* for the first time, with a weekend solely devoted to poetry and spoken word from around the world. Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the biennial festival, founded in 1967 by former poet laureate Ted Hughes, has featured some of the world's most established British and international poets from Derek Walcott and Jean Binta Breeze to Mourid Barghouti and Alice Oswald. With over half of the world's languages in danger of extinction and one language becoming extinct every two weeks, this year's *Poetry International* focuses on cultural sustainability, how to rescue endangered languages and the role poetic language can play in shaping and responding to a changing world. As part of this focus, Southbank Centre's National Poetry Library launches the **Endangered Poetry Project**, a major campaign to collect poems in endangered languages. Leading poets featured across the festival weekend include **Caroline Bergvall, Anne Carson, Athena Farrokhzad, Choman Hardi, Yang Lian, Claudia Rankine, Sjón, Arundhati Subramaniam** and more (13 - 15 October).

**Other festival Highlights include:**

- The exclusive London launch of the long-awaited sequel to **Nelson Mandela's** *Long Walk to Freedom - Dare Not Linger: The Presidential Years* - featuring live readings of the text from a cast of actors and a panel discussion, with Mandela's co-author **Mandla Langa** and Chief Executive of the Nelson Mandela Foundation **Sello Hatang** chaired by Channel 4 presenter **Jon Snow** (22 October)

- The shortlisted authors of the **2017 Man Booker Prize** read from, and discuss, their work on the eve of the prize (16 October)
- Musician, DJ and pioneer of the UK Rave scene, **Goldie** presents his hard-hitting and intimate new memoir, *All Things Remembered* (22 October)
- **Wall of Dreams**, a new large-scale projection of dreams, from refugee communities across London, onto Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall exterior, in collaboration with award-winning Danish artist **Morten Søndergaard** (14 - 29 October)
- The return of **Young Adult Literature Weekender** (YALW) featuring **Tanya Byrne, Tracy Chevalier, Juno Dawson, Inua Ellams, Niviaq Korneliussen, Phoebe Roy, Nikesh Shukla** and more (28 - 29 October)
- An increased number of family and children's events coinciding with half-term week including family-friendly show **Tröll** and a Nordic showcase featuring **Kim Fupz Aakeson, BR Collins, Meg Rosoff** and more.

**Ted Hodgkinson, Senior Programmer, Literature and Spoken Word**, said: *"In a world increasingly caught between extremes - from political upheavals to the reality of a changing climate - Southbank Centre is thrilled to present a programme of incredible writers and events to reflect upon the role literature can play in reimagining our relationship to the planet, ourselves and each other."*

*From Poetry International, where we look back at 50 years of some of the world's greatest poetry and forward to rescuing our world's most endangered languages, to a celebration of Nordic writers who are deeply attuned to the challenges of the present, London Literature Festival 2017 promises to share insights into what it means to be alive today and who we might become tomorrow."*

# ENDS #

## **FURTHER PROGRAMME INFORMATION AND EVENT LISTINGS BELOW**

Tickets are on sale to Southbank Centre Members on 4 July and to General Public on 5 July unless stated otherwise in the listings below.

For more information or to buy tickets please visit the Southbank Centre website [HERE](#) or call 020 7960 4200

## **FURTHER PROGRAMME INFORMATION**

### **Poetry International (13 - 15 October)**

The festival opens with a specially curated event *Letters to the Next Century* which brings together live reading and music with authors including **David Mitchell** and **Sjón** reading poems and letters to a future generation (13 October). Leading poets **Anne Carson, Choman Hardi, Claudia Rankine, Arundhati Subramaniam, Yang Lian**, and more,

present readings from the greatest international writing today in a special Royal Festival Hall event marking the 50th anniversary of *Poetry International* (15 October). French-Norwegian poet **Caroline Bergvall** presents a new collaborative work in progress, specially assembled for *Poetry International* 'Oh My Oh My: Poetic Variations' (14, 15 October), which explores linguistic displacement through a mix of spoken poetic performance, musical composition, field recordings and lightwork. Addressing our changing world and the role poetry can play, panel discussions throughout the weekend explore diaspora poetry, the challenges of translation, poetry in endangered languages, poetry of refuge and migration, poetry and climate change, and the future of poetry. Speakers will include **Athena Farrokhzad** alongside a series of workshops and masterclasses led by poets appearing across the weekend.

The festival also sees the launch of two major creative projects, for all ages. **Wall of Dreams** is a large-scale projection of dreams from refugee communities across London onto the Royal Festival Hall, in collaboration with award-winning Danish artist **Morten Søndergaard** throughout the festival. The launch features performances from **Jasmine Cooray, Kayo Chingonyi** and **Women for Refugee Women** (14 October). In addition, with over half of the world's languages in danger of extinction, Southbank Centre's **National Poetry Library** launches a major new project to collect poems in endangered languages. Through working with current translator-in-residence, **Stephen Watts**, the library showcases audio-visual displays of these poems and hosts live readings including a performance from five poets living in the UK who have been commissioned to write a new poem in an endangered language for the festival (14 October).

### **Nordic Literature**

Tying in with *Nordic Matters*, Southbank Centre's year-long programme exploring Nordic culture, 2017 London Literature Festival celebrates Nordic writers and features leading authors from the region. In an in-conversation event, pioneering Norwegian author **Karl Ove Knausgård** presents his new book, *Autumn*, addressed to his unborn daughter, which offers a profound meditation on the details of daily life and the world she will inherit (23 October). In separate events, Danish author **Dorthe Nors**, shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize, and **Per Petterson**, one of the most celebrated authors from the Nordic region, read from and discuss their acclaimed fiction (29 October). Danish author **Christina Hesselholdt** and award-winning Norwegian writer **Tore Renberg** discuss new Nordic fiction and how writers from the north are grappling with a changing world (18 October).

Southbank Centre will also collaborate with Pushkin Press to launch *The Dark Blue Winter Overcoat And Other Stories From The North*, an anthology of writing from the Nordic countries. The first of its kind, this new anthology is edited by Icelandic poet and novelist **Sjón** and Southbank Centre's Senior Programmer Literature and Spoken Word, **Ted Hodgkinson**. Further details to be announced.

### **Nordic Weekend ‘World on the Brink’ (21 - 22 October)**

A weekend devoted to Nordic literature and culture opens with three award-winning and internationally acclaimed authors, **Sofi Oksanen** (Estonia-Finland), **Jonas Hassen Khemiri** (Sweden) and **Kamila Shamsie** (UK), discussing the power of language to address the challenges of the present and a ‘World on the Brink’. Further panel discussions across the weekend explore migrants, refugees and the concept of home, featuring **Pajtim Statovci** (Finland); women writers of the north, featuring **Hanne Ørstavik** (Norway) and **Liv Strömquist** (Sweden); an examination of the dark world of Nordic noir featuring **Kati Hiekkapelto** (Finland) and **Thomas Rydahl** (Denmark); the hidden histories of the Nordic region featuring **Kim Leine** (Denmark-Norway) and **Ulla-Lena Lundberg** (Finland-Sweden); Nordic contemporary life featuring **Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir** (Iceland), and an exploration of dystopian Nordic fiction featuring **Jussi Valtonen** (Finland).

The weekend also features performances of ***Fire in the North Sky***, a poetic and musical exploration of *The Kalevala*, Finland’s most famous work of epic poetry (21 - 22 October)

### **Royal Festival Hall Events**

The 2017 London Literature Festival also features a series of exclusive London events and book launches in Southbank Centre’s Royal Festival Hall. Best-selling author **Philip Pullman** presents his new book, the highly-anticipated *La Belle Sauvage*, volume one of *The Book of Dust*, and reveals why he has returned to the world of his much-loved character, Lyra Belacqua, 22 years after the first book of *His Dark Materials* was published (20 October).

Acclaimed American portrait photographer **Annie Leibovitz** presents a selection of defining works from her new book, *Annie Leibovitz: Portraits 2005-2016* (Phaidon). It features a wide-range of subjects, including artists, writers, actors, politicians, athletes, royals and others who have shaped the times we live, from Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie and Leonard Cohen to Barack Obama and Joan Didion (22 October).

In the exclusive London launch of the long-awaited sequel to **Nelson Mandela’s** *Long Walk to Freedom*, a cast of actors bring to life his reflections on his time in power. *Dare Not Linger: The Presidential Years* draws heavily on the second volume of memoirs that Mandela began writing in the last days of his presidency (but was unable to finish) and tells the story of the transition from decades of apartheid rule. Following the reading, a panel featuring Mandela’s co-author, South African novelist **Mandla Langa**, Chief Executive of the Nelson Mandela Foundation **Sello Hatang** and chaired by Channel 4 journalist **Jon Snow** will discuss Mandela’s legacy in a troubled world (22 October).

In a previously-announced exclusive London event, award-winning author **Rebecca Solnit** will join the London Literature Festival line-up, presenting her new collection of essays, *The Mother of All Questions*, which aims to open up a feminism for everyone (30 October).

Following on from the success of her national bestseller *Men Explain Things to Me*, Solnit, who coined the term ‘mansplaining’, offers indispensable commentary on women who refuse to be silenced, misogynistic violence, the fragile masculinity of the literary canon, the gender binary, the recent history of rape jokes, and much more.

And on the eve of the **2017 Man Booker Prize**, the shortlisted authors read from and discuss their work (16 October). The shortlist is announced on Wednesday 13 September.

### **Additional Events**

Musician, DJ and pioneer of the UK Rave scene, **Goldie**, presents his hard-hitting and intimate new memoir, *All Things Remembered*, which charts the full span of his life and career, from West Midlands care-home system, to the heights of international fame and stardom (22 October).

Exploring themes of womanhood, nature and migration, a group of British-Somali women poets read from and discuss their work, including **Asha Lul Mohamud Yusuf, Clare Pollard, Farah Gabdon, Aisha Afrah** and **Amaal Said** (24 October).

**Polari**, London’s award-winning LGBT literary salon hosted at Southbank Centre, returns to *London Literature Festival* for a ninth year and reveals the winner of the Polari First Book Prize (13 October).

### **Family, Children and Young Adult Events**

*London Literature Festival* features an increased number of family and children’s events coinciding with half-term week including a Nordic showcase featuring **Kim Fupz Aakeson, BR Collins, Meg Rosoff** and more who discuss the issues facing young people today across Europe and present the very best writing for children and young adults (23 October). Performances during the week include **Tröll**, a family-friendly show which reimagines Iceland’s folk tales and settlement stories through the eyes of a young girl and her unusual friend from the mountains (25 - 27 October).

The festival culminates in **Young Adult Literature Weekender** which returns to London Literature Festival for a fourth year, featuring a weekend of the most exciting YA novelists, bloggers, vloggers, poets and spoken word artists from rising stars to legends of the genre (28 - 29 October). **Yomi Sode** and **LionHeart** each host a day of discussions, talks, workshops and live readings with featured writers including bestselling author of *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, **Tracy Chevalier** who discusses her new YA novel, *New Boy*, a retelling of *Othello* set over the course of a single day in a school playground in Washington DC. Two events explore *A Change is Gonna Come*, a new anthology of short stories and poetry for young adults, written by authors from BAME backgrounds featuring writers **Aisha Bushby, Mary Bello, Yasmin Rahman, Phoebe Roy, Nikesh Shukla, Tanya Byrne, Inua Ellams**

and **Mariam Khan**. Further authors appearing at the weekend include **Juno Dawson** and **Niviaq Korneliussen**.

## FULL EVENT LISTINGS BELOW

**For further press information and interview requests please contact:**

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Please find a link to press images [here](#)

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### **POETRY INTERNATIONAL / Wall of Dreams**

*Friday 13 October - 1 November (evenings) Royal Festival Hall exterior, Free*

A large-scale projection of dreams from refugees onto the Royal Festival Hall, in collaboration with award-winning Danish artist Morten Søndergaard, Jasmine Cooray and Kayo Chingonyi

### **POETRY INTERNATIONAL / Letters to the Next Century**

*Friday 13 October, 7.30 - 9pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall, Tickets on sale 1/2 August*

On the eve of Poetry International, this specially curated event brings together live reading and music, with authors including David Mitchell and Sjórn reading letters and poems to the next century.

### **Polari**

*Friday 13 October, 7.30pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, Tickets on sale 3 August*

London's award-winning LGBT literary salon hosted at Southbank Centre, returns to London Literature Festival for a ninth year and reveals the winner of the Polari First Book Prize.

### **POETRY INTERNATIONAL / Birthday Letters: Poetry from 1967 to 2017**

*Saturday 14 October, 12 - 1pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, Tickets on sale 1/2 August*

From Ted Hughes to Derek Walcott, Anne Carson to Jean Binta Breeze, the greatest poets of the last half century have performed at *Poetry International*. As the festival celebrates its 50th anniversary, this is an opportunity to reflect on how poetry has changed, and hear from the voices shaping its future.

**POETRY INTERNATIONAL / Wall of Dreams Launch**

*Saturday 14 October, 3 - 4pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall, Free, Unticketed*

The launch of large-scale projection of dreams from refugees onto the Royal Festival Hall, in collaboration with award-winning Danish artist Morten Søndergaard and featuring performances from Kayo Chingonyi, Jasmine Cooray and Women for Refugee Women.

**POETRY INTERNATIONAL / Home is the Mouth of a Shark: Poetry of Refuge and Migration**

*Saturday 14 October, 4.30 - 5.30pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, Tickets on sale 1/2 August*

From Homer to Warsan Shire, poetry has long explored the experiences of refugees and those forced to leave their homes. How can the powers of poetry deepen the understanding of the experience of those forced to leave, and restore a sense of shared humanity? Featuring Athena Farrokhzad.

**POETRY INTERNATIONAL / Seven Thousand Words for Human: Endangered Poetry**

*Saturday 14 October, 5.30 - 7pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall, Free, Unticketed*

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Poetry International Festival, five UK-based poets perform new poetry commissions in languages that are endangered, under threat or that the poets themselves have lost due to displacement or circumstance. These poems will be performed in their original language as well as translated into English by poet and translator Stephen Watts.

**POETRY INTERNATIONAL / Caroline Bergvall - Oh My Oh My: Poetic Variations**

*Saturday 14 October - Sunday 15 October, 7.30pm, Blue Room Foyer, Level 1, Royal Festival Hall, Tickets on sale 1/2 August*

Bergvall presents a new collaborative work in progress, specially assembled for *Poetry International* which explores linguistic displacement through a mix of spoken poetic performance, musical composition, field recordings and lightwork.

**POETRY INTERNATIONAL / A Universal Language: The National Poetry Library Open Day**

*Sunday 15 October, 11 - 7pm, St Paul's Roof Pavilion, Level 6, Royal Festival Hall, Free*

Ted Hughes said at the launch of the *Poetry International* in 1967: 'poetry is a universal language in which we can all hope to meet'. The National Poetry Library Open Day explores this idea through themed displays drawing upon archival material, including an audio recording of Allen Ginsberg and Basil Bunting reading as part of the 1973 festival at Southbank Centre. The display also features poetry in endangered languages.

**POETRY INTERNATIONAL / Eco-Poetry: Poetry and Climate Change**

*Sunday 15 October, 12 - 1pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, Tickets on sale 1/2 August*

Poetry has long been concerned with our relationship with the natural world, but how is it responding to the challenge of climate change? Speakers include Sján.

**POETRY INTERNATIONAL / How Can Poetry Respond to the Present?**

*Sunday 15 October, 1.30 - 2.30pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, Tickets on sale 1/2 August*

From war to terrorism, how can poetry respond to a world on the brink? In the wake of a disaster or death, poetry is often shared and today through social media can reach a global audience in a matter of minutes. Is the language of poetry ever more necessary in our hyper-connected yet troubled times? What can words do in the face of personal or public loss? And what does this new shareability mean for the art of poetry itself? Speakers include Yang Lian and Kayo Chingoni.

**POETRY INTERNATIONAL / Poetry International**

*Sunday 15 October, 3 - 4.30pm, Auditorium, Royal Festival Hall, Tickets on sale 1/2 August*

Readings from the greatest writing today from around the world, featuring poets Anne Carson, Choman Hardi, Claudia Rankine, Arundhati Subramaniam, Yang Lian, and more.

**POETRY INTERNATIONAL / The Next Generation: The Complete Works**

*Sunday 15 October, 5 - 6pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, Tickets on sale 1/2 August*

This event will be the launch of the third Bloodaxe anthology with readings from poets Yomi Sode, Raymond Antrobus, Momtaza Mehri, Ian Humphreys, Natacha Bryan, Will Harris, Degna Stone, Victoria Bulley and Jennifer Tsai Lee.

### **POETRY INTERNATIONAL / A Universal Language Event**

*Sunday 15 October, 8pm, The National Poetry Library, Royal Festival Hall, Free*

Three contemporary poets read new poems in response to the day's displays, highlighting how new work of the future is shaped and inspired by past luminaries.

### **POETRY INTERNATIONAL / 50 Years of Poetry International**

*Monday 16 October, 6.30pm, The National Poetry Library, Royal Festival Hall, Free*

Drawing on The National Poetry Library's unique collection of recordings from the 50-year-old festival, this event explores one poem from each decade and celebrates five poets from across the world who have taken to the *Poetry International* stage.

### **Man Booker Prize Shortlist Readings**

*Monday 16 October, 7.30pm, Auditorium, Royal Festival Hall, £14, £25, £35*

The Man Booker Prize is a byword for the finest literary fiction, with its canon containing some of the greatest writers since 1969. On the eve of the 2017 prize, visitors are invited to join this year's shortlisted authors for an evening of readings, conversation and the chance to find out more about their novels.

### **New Nordic Fiction: Unflinching Reality**

*Wednesday 18 October, 7.30 - 8.30pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, £15*

Visitors are invited to meet the Nordic writers who are redefining the real, including Christina Hesselholdt, a Danish author whose fiction has appeared in Dalkey Archive's Best European Fiction 2013, and Tore Renberg, award-winning, bestselling Norwegian writer and author of *See You Tomorrow*.

### **Friday Tonic: Suunta**

*Friday 20 October, 5.30pm, Central Bar Foyer, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall, Free*

Participants are invited to experience the absolute pinnacle of Finnish contemporary folk music with a rare UK performance from Suunta, a captivating trio known for their unparalleled explorations of folk and world music.

### **Philip Pullman: La Belle Sauvage**

*Friday 20 October, 7.30 - 9pm, Auditorium, Royal Festival Hall, £20, £30, £45*

In a unique event, Pullman reflects on his writing process, what drew him back to Lyra's world 22 years after *Northern Lights* was first published, and why the struggle for freedom of expression against despotic rulers that has been at the heart of his books, is more pressing now than ever.

### **NORDIC WEEKEND / World on the Brink: What Can Words Do?**

*Saturday 21 October, 12 - 1pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, Saturday pass (£20) or Weekend pass (£35)*

Leading authors from the Nordic region and Britain talk about what words can do to change the world, including Sofi Oksanen, Jonas Hassen Khemiri and Kamila Shamsie.

### **NORDIC WEEKEND / New Myths of the North**

*Saturday 21 October, 2pm, Level 3 Function Room, Royal Festival Hall, Saturday pass (£20) or Weekend pass (£35)*

Are Nordic countries really modern day utopias? The speakers of this panel discuss the realities of daily Nordic life in this talk.

### **NORDIC WEEKEND / Home is Elsewhere**

*Saturday 21 October, 2 - 3pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, Saturday pass (£20) or Weekend pass (£35)*

Three of the brightest talents of their generation from across the Nordic region discuss the concept of "home". Featuring Jonas Hassen Khemiri (Sweden), Pajtim Statovci (Finland) and Kamila Shamsie (Karachi).

**NORDIC WEEKEND / Fire in the North Sky**

*Saturday 21 October - Sunday 22 October, 2.30pm & 7.30pm, Blue Room Foyer, Level 1, Royal Festival Hall, £7.50 / £15*

A poetic and musical exploration of The Kalevala, Finland's national epic and cultural treasure. Leading UK storyteller Nick Hennessey and three virtuoso Finnish musicians make these 2000 year old traditional stories come alive. Presented by Adverse Camber.

**NORDIC WEEKEND / More Than Equal: Women Writers of the North**

*Saturday 21 October, 4 - 5pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, Saturday pass (£20) or Weekend pass (£35)*

Three acclaimed Nordic women writers challenge taboos and shine a light on the lives of women in the region, both past and present. Featuring Hanne Ørstavik (Norway), Liv Strömquist (Sweden) and Sofi Oksanen (Finland).

**NORDIC WEEKEND / Cities of Ice and Glass: Nordic Utopias**

*Saturday 21 October, 4 - 5pm, Level 3 Function Room, Royal Festival Hall, Saturday pass (£20) or Weekend pass (£35)*

With cities which have led the way towards sustainability such as Copenhagen in the Nordic region, and pioneering architecture which combines natural materials with state of the art methods, what lessons can be drawn from the North when it comes to the future of our cities?

**NORDIC WEEKEND / Hidden Histories**

*Sunday 22 October, 3.30 - 4.30pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, Sunday pass (£20) or Weekend pass (£35)*

From colonial secrets, to spies who worked in the shadows of the Second World War, discover the untold stories which redefine the way society understands the people of the North. Panellists include Sofi Oksanen, Kim Leine and Ulla-Lena Lundberg.

**NORDIC WEEKEND / Design For Life**

*Sunday 22 October, 3.30 - 4.30pm, Level 3 Function Room, Royal Festival Hall, Sunday pass (£20) or Weekend pass (£35)*

A panel of architects, designers and authors discuss the Nordic approach to designing and living a good life, including Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir.

**Annie Leibovitz: Portraits 2005 - 2016**

*Sunday 22 October, 4.30pm, Auditorium, Royal Festival Hall, Tickets on sale 1/2 August*

Annie Leibovitz is one of the great observers of the contemporary world, capturing the personalities of the past half-century in images that are both iconic and intimate. In an exclusive London event, she will present a selection of defining works from her newly published *Annie Leibovitz: Portraits 2005–2016* (Phaidon).

**Goldie: All Things Remembered**

*Sunday 22 October, 5 - 6pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall, £20*

In a candid exploration of a tumultuous existence, Goldie presents his new memoir *All Things Remembered*, which charts the rise and fall of a musical genre, and touches on his own experiences of abuse, revenge, graffiti, gold teeth, sawn-off shotguns, car crashes, hot yoga, an absent fatherhood, and redemption through reality TV.

**NORDIC WEEKEND / Drawing Blood: Liv Strömquist and the rise of comics from Sweden**

*Sunday 22 October, 5.30 - 6.30pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, Sunday pass (£20) or Weekend pass (£35)*

Playful and provocative graphic artist and writer Liv Strömquist discusses the gender equality in her Swedish homeland.

### **NORDIC WEEKEND / Surrounded by Sea: Island Stories**

*Sunday 22 October, 5.30 - 6.30pm, Level 3 Function Room, Royal Festival Hall, Sunday pass (£20) or Weekend pass (£35)*

A panel of Nordic writers explores how a changing climate threatens to disturb the balance of island life, including Ulla-Lena Lundberg and Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir.

### **Nelson Mandela: The Presidential Years**

*Sunday 22 October, 7.30pm, Auditorium, Royal Festival Hall, £20, £30, £45*

In the exclusive London launch of the long-awaited sequel to Nelson Mandela's *Long Walk to Freedom*, actors bring Mandela's reflections on his time in power to life, and a select panel including his co-author the acclaimed South African novelist and poet Mandla Langa and the Chief Executive of the Nelson Mandela Foundation Sello Hatang, and chaired by Jon Snow, discuss his legacy in a troubled world.

### **NORDIC WEEKEND / Dystopian Fiction**

*Sunday 22 October, 7.30pm, Level 3 Function Room, Royal Festival Hall, Sunday pass (£20) or Weekend pass (£35)*

A panel of Nordic authors including Jussi Valtonen explore the writers who have captured the imaginations of their homelands with dystopian visions and startling literary inventions.

### **NORDIC WEEKEND / Foreign Bodies: Nordic Noir**

*Sunday 22 October, 7.30 - 8.30pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, Sunday pass (£20) or Weekend pass (£35)*

Nordic noir has thrilled millions around the world with its combination of compelling characters and social commentary. A panel of Nordic writers including Kati Hiekkapelto and Thomas Rydahl discuss this iconic genre.

### **Nordic Children's Fiction: Quest to the North**

*Monday 23 October, 6pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, £12*

Hear from leading writers from the Nordic countries and the UK about the issues facing young people today across Europe, and the importance of reading literature in translation. Three leading authors, Kim Fupz Askerson, BR Collins and Meg Rossof read from their acclaimed work, and discuss stories of contemporary odysseys and the real world they reflect.

### **Karl Ove Knausgård: Autumn**

*Monday 23 October, 7.30pm, Auditorium, Royal Festival Hall, £15, £25*

The Norwegian writer presents his new book, *Autumn*, in conversation with Ted Hodgkinson, Southbank Centre's Senior Programmer for Literature and Spoken Word.

### **Sea Migrations: British-Somali Women Poets**

*Tuesday 24 October, 7.30pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, £12*

Renowned British-Somali women poets explore themes of womanhood, nature and migration through live readings and discussion. Poets include Asha Lul Mohamud Yusuf; Clare Pollard; Farah Gabdon; Aisha Afrah; and Amaal Said.

### **TRÖLL**

*Wednesday 25 October - Friday 27 October, 11 & 2pm, Blue Room Foyer, Level 1, Royal Festival Hall, £7.50 / £15*

Tröll reimagines Iceland's folk tales and settlement stories through the eyes of a young girl and her unusual friend from the mountains. A little bit folk tale, a little bit ghost story, all magic: Tröll is an unmissable experience for the whole family.

### **Young Adult Literature Weekender**

*Saturday 28 October - Sunday 29 October, 11.45 - 5pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 1 Royal Festival Hall, Tickets on sale 1/2 August*

A weekend of the most exciting YA novelists, bloggers, vloggers, poets and spoken word artists from rising stars to legends of the genre including Tracy Chevalier, Juno Dawson, Hannah Witton, Samantha Shannon and Niviaq Korneliussen.

### **Dorthe Nors**

*Sunday 29 October, 2 - 3pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, £12*

Visitors are invited to hear one of the most original voices in contemporary Danish literature, Dorthe Nors, read from and discuss her acclaimed fiction.

Currently shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize for her most recent novel 'Mirror.

Shoulder. Signal', Danish author Dorthe Nors has received international praise for her fiction which brings together razor sharp wit and compelling insights about the absurdity of modern times.

### **Per Petterson**

*Sunday 29 October, 4 - 5pm, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, £12*

One of the most acclaimed authors from the Nordic region, Per Petterson, reads from his era-defining fiction and reflects candidly on the writing process.

The author of several internationally celebrated novels, including *Out Stealing Horses*, *I Curse the River of Time* and *I Refuse*, Petterson has received numerous awards including the *Nordic Council's Literature Prize*, the *Norwegian Critics Prize for Literature* and the *International Dublin Literary Award*. In an intimate and in-depth event, visitors will hear about the forces which have shaped Petterson's prose and the themes of daily life that fire his imagination.

### **Rebecca Solnit In Conversation**

*Monday 30 October, 7.30pm, Auditorium, Royal Festival Hall, £15, £25, £35, Tickets available [HERE](#)*

In an exclusive London event, award-winning author Rebecca Solnit reads from her new essay collection, *The Mother of All Questions*, and discusses how to re imagine feminism for the future.

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### **About Southbank Centre**

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 17 acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain.

Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as The National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. For further information please visit [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk). Southbank Centre is carrying out vital restoration work on the Hayward Gallery, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room to make the buildings fit for future generations to enjoy, more information can be found here: [letthelightin.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://letthelightin.southbankcentre.co.uk)