

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

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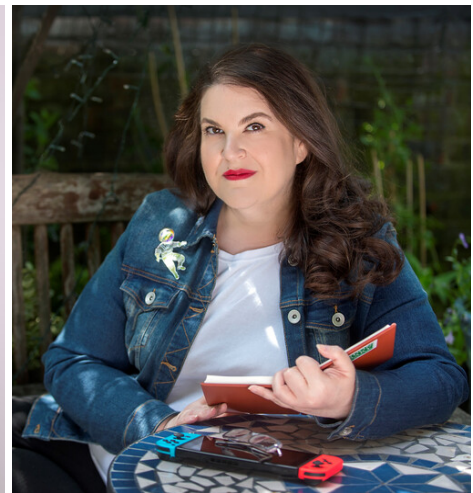
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Images: [HERE](#)

Listings: [HERE](#)

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Southbank Centre announces Winter Literature Season featuring Naomi Alderman, Boy George and Thurston Moore



Boy George © Dean Stockings / Aniefiok Ekpoudom © Blaow / Naomi Alderman © Annabel Moeller

- New book launches from acclaimed authors **Naomi Alderman** and **Andrew McMillan**
- Music artists **Boy George** and **Thurston Moore** talk about their memoirs and **Aniefiok Ekpoudom** chronicles the social history of British rap and grime
- Best new work from the UK and across the globe is showcased in the **T.S. Eliot Prize Readings** and **The Booker Prize Shortlist Readings**
- The National Poetry Library hosts events series **Special Edition** and **The Poetry Showcase** providing space for people across the UK to present new takes on poetry

The Southbank Centre announces its Winter 2023 Literature and Spoken Word Season, taking place from November 2023 to February 2024. From memoirs by iconic musicians to the first ever anthology of bi+ poetry, plus new novels from award-winning authors, celebrated poets and new writers, this season offers audiences unbeatable cultural experiences.

Ted Hodgkinson, Head of Literature & Spoken Word at the Southbank Centre, says: “*This season features the very best of contemporary literature, from The Booker and T.S. Eliot Prizes spotlighting the finest new fiction and poetry, to new work from award-winning authors, including*

Naomi Alderman and Andrew McMillan. Alongside, we present a range of cultural figures who chronicle how music has shaped modern Britain, and hear directly from the iconic artists who have shaped the soundtracks of our lives. The National Poetry Library's series of live events submitted by the public continues, bringing poetry lovers together from across the UK. This is a season that celebrates the power of literature and spoken word and its ability to tell the stories of our cultural life."

Full event listings are available [HERE](#).

BEST-SELLING WRITERS

The season features some of the most celebrated writers of our time. Women's Prize-winning author **Naomi Alderman** presents her highly anticipated new novel, *The Future*. The acclaimed author of *The Power*, Alderman's new work is a white-knuckle tour de force and dazzling exploration of the world we have made and where we are going. Poet **Andrew McMillan** introduces his debut novel *Pity*, a lament for a lost way of life set across three generations of a South Yorkshire mining family. **The Booker Prize Shortlist Readings** introduces the finest fiction from across the globe, while authors of the best new poetry collections in the UK and Ireland in 2023 will take to the stage in the **T.S. Eliot Prize Readings**. The world's most prestigious prize for poetry, the T.S. Eliot Prize celebrates its 30th year in 2023.

MUSIC

Non-fiction events across the season offer a rich chronicle of the music and musicians that have shaped the UK's vibrant culture and history. One of the nation's foremost cultural chroniclers, journalist **Aniefiok Ekpoudom**, discusses his landmark social history of British rap and grime, *Where We Come From: Rap, Home & Hope in Britain*. Ekpoudom travels the country to examine how the sounds of UK rap and grime have become vessels for marginalised communities, voicing Black and working-class stories. Music icon **Boy George** will celebrate the publication of his definitive autobiography *Karma*, to tell his story in full for the very first time. **Thurston Moore**, one of the founding members of Sonic Youth, will be in conversation with comedian Stewart Lee about his passionate memoir, *Sonic Life*. The memoir traces the author's life and art, from his teen years to the formation of his legendary rock group and an era of explosive creativity which birthed alternative rock.

POETRY

The Southbank Centre's resident music and poetry collective **Out-Spoken** continues with its premier night of live music and spoken word performances in the Purcell Room, hosted by T.S. Eliot Prize and Polari Prize winning poet **Joelle Taylor**. As well as an edition in November and January, *Out-Spoken* continue their monthly *Out-Spoken: Masterclass*, a three hour weekend workshop by leading UK and US poets.

The National Poetry Library is hosting events series proposed by a broad range of organisers that help people across the UK participate in poetry; the monthly **Special Edition**, as well as the online series **The Poetry Showcase**. *Special Edition: Bi+ Lines* launches the first ever anthology of bi+ poetry, while *Special Edition: Spoken Word London - Anti-Hate* presents the *Anti-Hate Anthology*. Kicking off *The Poetry Showcase*, five African continent poets share brand new work created during a poetry writing retreat with The Obsidian Foundation. Later in the series are readings from underrepresented writers in mainstream publishing, including work that celebrates South Asian queer experiences and queer Latinxs poetry. The final in *The Poetry Showcase* online series is brought by

cultural organisers from the South Asian diaspora, sharing poetry that moves beyond the tropes of South Asian literature.

The largest public collection of modern poetry in the world, the National Poetry Library is a free space and national service. Beside its world-leading collection, the library's events transform the space into a backdrop for debates and performances that showcase the breadth of contemporary poetry. In 2023, the National Poetry Library marks its 70th birthday with a range of events and exhibitions, including events across the Southbank Centre's annual London Literature Festival (18 - 29 October). The press release for London Literature Festival 2023 is linked [HERE](#).

Tickets go on sale to Southbank Centre Members on Tuesday 26 September and to the general public on Wednesday 27 September. www.southbankcentre.co.uk / 0203 879 9555

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Join the conversation:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Southbank Centre's National Poetry Library

The Southbank Centre's National Poetry Library is the largest public collection of modern poetry in the world and is housed at the Southbank Centre in London. Founded by the Arts Council in 1953 and opened by poets T.S. Eliot and Herbert Read, the library contains over 200,000 items spanning from 1912 to the present day, extensive resources for poets, academics, schools and families. Hosting exhibitions and events, as well as offering an extensive catalogue and ebook service accessible online, the library is free to use www.nationalpoetrylibrary.org.uk

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre occupying a prominent riverside location that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to 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/



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