

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE

## Creative Future Writer's Day

**Sunday 26 October, 10.30am – 4pm**  
**Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall**

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**10.30am – 10.35am**

**Introduction & welcome from Creative Future**  
**Rose Kigwana, Director**

Founded in 2007, Creative Future is an arts organisation and charity supporting under-represented artists and communities facing barriers and inequality to opportunity. Its mission is to make the arts more diverse and representative of the world we live in.

**10.35am – 10.40am**

**About the Creative Future Writers' Award**  
**Matt Freidson, Deputy Director**

A short overview of the Award, the UK's only free writing competition and development programme for all under-represented writers.

**10.45am – 11.45am**

**Meet the Writing Agencies**

**Host: Rose Kigwana, CEO, Creative Future**

Hear from some of the leading organisations on how they can support your creative development.

**Sara Sherwood, Head of Faber Academy**

**Faber Academy** provides writing courses (in London, Newcastle and online), manuscript assessments and mentoring programmes across a wide range of disciplines including fiction, poetry and memoir.

**Bobby Nayyar, Programme Manager**

**Spread The Word** is London's literature development agency, a charity and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. Its mission is to help London's under-represented writers get their work into the world and connect communities to words and stories.

**Jack Hadley, Senior Courses Manager**

**Curtis Brown Creative** runs writing courses in London and online, and they frequently run free courses, scholarships and mentoring for under-represented writers through their Breakthrough Writers' Programme.

**James Rennoldson, Senior Digital Product Manager**

**The Writers' & Artists' Yearbook**, part of Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, has remained the authoritative resource for putting creatives in touch with the publishing industry for over 100 years. The website is a free resource for writers and illustrators, providing guidance on all aspects of the writing and publishing process.

**Jacqui Lofthouse, Founder**

**The Writing Coach** is an international mentoring and development organisation for writers. It was the first UK organisation to focus on a coaching-based approach for writers and now offers coaching, mentoring and manuscript assessment to writers at all stages of their careers.

**Break: 11.45am – 12 noon**

**12 noon – 1pm**

**From Page to Publication**

**Host: Matt Freidson, Deputy Director, Creative Future**

Four past Creative Future Writers' Award winners on their journeys as under-represented writers to becoming published writers.

**Karen Downs-Barton** is a working-class Anglo-Romani writer specialising in poetry, travel and memoir. Her first book, *Didicoy*, based on her experiences of single parenthood and state childcare won the International Book and Pamphlet Competition in 2022 and was a Poetry Book Society recommendation.

**Iqbal Hussain's** debut novel, *Northern Boy*, was published in 2024 by Unbound Firsts. His short stories have won first prize in *Writing* magazine's Grand Flash competition 2023 and the 2023 Fowey Festival of Art

and Literature. He won gold for prose in the Creative Future Writers' Awards 2019 and was a recipient of the inaugural London Writers' Awards 2018.

**Jess Murrain** is a theatre-maker, actor, film-maker and co-founder of 'Theatre with Legs', a queer, experimental theatre company. She is an alumnus of Southbank Centre New Poets Collective (2021/22), winner of a 2021 Creative Future Writers' Award, 2021 Ledbury Poetry Prize and 2023 Out-Spoken Prize for Poetry & Poetry in Film.

**Seun Olayiwola** is a poet, critic, choreographer and performer based in London. His creative and critical work has been published in *The Guardian*, *The Poetry Review*, *PN Review*, *Oxford Poetry*, *The Telegraph*, the *TLS* and elsewhere. His choreographic work has been presented at the V&A, The Place, The Central School of Ballet and Studio Voltaire.

**Break: 1pm – 1.30pm**

**1.30pm – 2.30pm**

**Getting Your Poetry Published**

**Host: Rose Kigwana, CEO, Creative Future**

**Amy Acre, Bad Betty Press**

Bad Betty Press is an award-winning independent publisher of new poetry, established in 2017 with the aim of showcasing exciting and risk-taking poetry, supporting poets' artistic development and celebrating stories less often told. They publish award-winning books and produce live poetry events taking place across the UK.

**Anthony Anaxagorou, Out-Spoken**

Out-Spoken Press is a London-based independent publisher of poetry and critical writing. Founded in 2015 by poet and editor Anthony Anaxagorou, it was shortlisted for the British Book Awards' Small Publisher of the Year in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2024.

**Stuart Bartholomew, Verve Press**

Stuart Bartholomew is Publisher at and Co-Founder of VERVE Poetry Press – an independent press that focuses on publishing poets from Birmingham and the wider UK, and also Director and Programmer of VERVE: a Birmingham Festival of Poetry and Spoken Word, which returns for its ninth year in May 2026.

**Jane Commane, Nine Arches Press**

Nine Arches Press is an independent publisher founded in 2008, based in the West Midlands and supported by Arts Council England. As well as publishing poetry books and the magazine, *Under the Radar*, they produce events and workshops, and run two mentoring programmes, Dynamo and Primers, which support new and emerging writers.

**Break: 2.30pm – 2.45pm**

**2.45pm – 3.45pm**

**Meet the Agents**

**Host: Salma Begum, Greyhound Literary**

Salma Begum is an agent at Greyhound Literary. She spent four years as an editor in mainstream publishing. Prior to that, she helped set up The Good Literary Agency, a social enterprise focused on launching the careers of under-represented writers. She is a Trustee for Creative Future and Literature Works.

**Silé Edwards, Andrew Nurnberg Associates**

Silé Edwards began her career at the Publishers Association, supporting their campaigns and communication functions. She joined Andrew Nurnberg Associates in 2022, and was shortlisted Agent of the Year at The British Book Awards in 2025. She is a trustee for award-winning mentoring charity Arts Emergency.

**Clara Foster, Aevitas Creative Management**

Clara Foster is a literary agent at Aevitas Creative Management, with previous experience in a Big 5 editorial department as well as other literary agencies.

**Liv Maidment, Madeleine Milburn**

Liv Maidment is Head of Books and a Literary Agent at Madeleine Milburn Literary, TV, & Film Agency where she represents a prizewinning list of literary and upmarket fiction.

**Amadeep Singh, Graham Maw Christie**

Amandeep Singh joined Graham Maw Christie in 2025. Prior to this she spent ten years working as an editor, bookseller and agent, most recently at Penguin Random House and The Good Literary Agency. She has judged the Future Worlds Prize for SFF Writers of Colour 2025 and Little, Brown New Voices award.

**Exhibitors**

Taking over the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer throughout the day are these literary organisations, publishers and societies. Drop in and visit them at their stalls.

**Creative Future, Bad Betty Press, Curtis Brown Creative, Faber Academy, Out-Spoken, Poetry School, Spread The Word, The Poetry Society, Verve Press, Writers & Artists and The Writing Coach**

