

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

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Images [HERE](#)

Listings [HERE](#)

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SOUTHBANK CENTRE ANNOUNCES ITS SPRING 2019 LITERATURE SEASON PROGRAMME

Ten days ahead of its twelfth *London Literature Festival* (18-28 October 2018), Southbank Centre today announces its Spring 2019 literature season featuring a packed programme of events taking place during January - March 2019 across its 17-acre site.

The spring season marks the start of Southbank Centre's 2019 literature programme and encompasses exclusive in-conversation discussions with award-winning authors, specially-commissioned live readings and performance, an expanded series of new writing courses, exhibitions, prizes, and the launch of a new poetry initiative, *National Poetry Library Lates*.



Max Porter © Lucy Dickens



Angie Thomas © Valerie Schmidt



Marlon James © Jeffrey Skemp

Highlights include:

- **A world exclusive** event with **Max Porter** featuring a specially-commissioned dramatic live reading of scenes from his new novel, *Lanny* (28 Feb)
- **A UK exclusive** appearance from **Leïla Slimani**, author of the bestselling *Lullaby*, discussing her new novel, *Adèle* (4 Feb)
- Man Booker Prize winning author **Marlon James** launching the first in his new Dark Star trilogy *Black Leopard, Red Wolf*, in a **London exclusive** event (25 Feb)
- Award-winning author of *The Hate U Give* **Angie Thomas** presenting her second novel, *On the Come Up* in a **London exclusive** event (12 Mar)

- **A London exclusive** appearance from Mexican award-winning author **Valeria Luiselli** who discusses her new novel *Lost Children Archive* (19 Mar)
- **Launch of *National Poetry Library Lates***, a new regular late night poetry salon in the recently refurbished Hayward Gallery Cafe the first of which features poets Hannah Lowe and MacGillivray (27 Feb)
- **Robert Macfarlane** making an exclusive appearance to introduce *Spell Songs*, a series of new musical commissions performed by leading folk artists based on his book *The Lost Words* (12 Feb)
- The annual **T.S. Eliot Prize readings**, showcasing the poets shortlisted for the 2018 prize (13 Jan)
- The return of **Polari**, London's leading LGBTQ+ literary salon featuring **Julie Cohen** and **VG Lee** (28 Jan & 15 Feb)
- New 6 week spring courses in poetry and short story writing
- ***Imagine Children's Festival*** returning for its 18th year (13-24 Feb)

Ted Hodgkinson, Head of Literature and Spoken Word at Southbank Centre said: "We start the year as we mean to go on, by pushing the boundaries of literature with an innovative Spring 2019 Literature Season featuring new initiatives, world exclusive events, cross-artform performances and a stellar line-up of award-winning international writers and poets. From first glimpses of highly anticipated new books by pioneers of the novel, including Marlon James, Leïla Slimani, Valeria Luiselli and Angie Thomas, to our brand new National Poetry Library Lates series in partnership with our Hayward Gallery, and an exclusive dramatic live reading of scenes from Max Porter's new novel, this is a season packed with one-off, revelatory experiences. Alongside this we see the return of annual and seasonal favourites including Polari, the TS Eliot Prize Readings and Imagine Children's Festival providing something for all literature lovers."

Tickets go on sale to Southbank Centre Members on Tuesday 9 October and to the General Public on Wednesday 10 October, with the exception of *Imagine Children's Festival* which will go on sale at a later date. Further programme detail below.

The 2019 Spring Season follows a successful year of literature at Southbank Centre in 2018 featuring popular events with Matt Haig, Khaled Hosseini, Caitlin Moran, Margo Jefferson, Gordon Brown and more as well as upcoming appearances from Barbara Kingsolver, Lee Child, Ian Rankin, Roxane Gay and the twelfth *London Literature Festival*.

-ENDS-

Further Programme Detail

TALKS / IN CONVERSATION EVENTS

In an exclusive UK event, **Leïla Slimani**, internationally acclaimed author of the bestselling *Lullaby*, makes her Southbank Centre debut to discuss her highly anticipated new novel,

Adèle. One of the most exciting international literary talents to emerge in recent years, Slimani reflects on writing about sex, addiction, the dark side of domestic life and what her gripping narratives tell us about contemporary France, Europe and our shared humanity (4 Feb, PUR).

In a London exclusive event, Man Booker Prize winning author of *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, **Marlon James** launches the first in his new Dark Star trilogy *Black Leopard, Red Wolf*. Drawn from vivid African history and mythology, James's new novel weaves a saga of adventure and intrigue (25 Feb, QEH).

The bestselling and award-winning author of *The Hate U Give*, **Angie Thomas** travels to the UK from her native Mississippi to present her second novel, *On the Come Up* in her debut appearance at Southbank Centre. Paying homage to hip-hop, *On the Come Up* explores the art that sparked Thomas's passion for storytelling. The new novel takes a look at the many realities of poor and working-class black families in America (12 Mar, QEH).

In a special London exclusive event award-winning author, **Valeria Luiselli** discusses her new novel *Lost Children Archive*. Through the story of two journeys, *Lost Children Archive* lays bare the realities of migration and powerfully reflects upon what it is to be human in an inhuman world (19 Mar, PUR).

LIVE READING / PERFORMANCE

In a world exclusive pre-publication event, **Max Porter** the award-winning author of *Grief Is the Thing With Feathers*, presents a dramatic reading of scenes from his second novel, *Lanny*, in a unique live performance about art, myth and the extraordinary strangeness of everyday life. This one-off specially-commissioned live reading features a cast of actors alongside Porter who will conjure the voices of English village life past and present (28 Feb, PUR)

In a special event, award-winning British writer **Robert Macfarlane** makes an exclusive appearance to introduce *Spell Songs*, a series of new musical commissions based on his book *The Lost Words*, with artist **Jackie Morris**. Eight leading folk musicians will perform the works inspired by the book which explores the removal of everyday nature words from a children's dictionary and celebrates nature's wonders. Projections of Morris' artwork will accompany the music as she paints live on stage during the performance (12 Feb, QEH).

NATIONAL POETRY LIBRARY EVENTS

Southbank Centre's National Poetry Library, home to the largest collection of modern poetry in the world, is proud to launch **National Poetry Library Lates**, a new series of regular late night poetry salons which will take place in Southbank Centre's recently refurbished Hayward Gallery Cafe. Providing a platform for both emerging and established poets and spoken word artists, the first of this series will feature British poets **Hannah Lowe** and **MacGillivray** who will perform their own work and who will be joined by a third poet, to be announced nearer the time. Audiences will be able to enjoy the event in the intimate and

relaxed space of the cafe, featuring a bar which will offer refreshments (27 Feb, Hayward Gallery Cafe, #NPLLates)

Some of the most celebrated Indonesian poets writing today join together for '**Indonesian Poets in London**', a live reading as part of the National Poetry Library's *World Poet Series*. Poets from the region will read, discuss their work and take part in a Q&A session (14 Mar, NPL)

To mark the centenary of the birth of W. S. Graham, Southbank Centre's National Poetry Library presents **Constructing Spaces**, a new free, immersive exhibition exploring the impact of this major Twentieth Century poet and the idea of space on the creative mind. In a reconstruction of Graham's writing space, the exhibition will include Graham's original writing desk which he named his 'Untidy Dreadful Table', books from his library and manuscript copies of his poems, accompanied by an ambient soundscape which includes audio recordings of Graham's poems, conjuring up the setting of his home on the Cornish coast. Visitors to the exhibition are encouraged to interact creatively with the materials on display, produce their own contributions and participate in constructing this space (19 Oct 2018 - 31 Mar 2019).

NEW SPRING COURSES

Award-winning author **Irenosen Okojie** leads a '**Short Story Tool Box**', a new course for Spring 2019. Over the course of 6 sessions, Okojie will offer tips to spark the imagination and facilitate experimenting with the art and elements of short story writing, through practical exercises, interactive challenges and the study of fiction by short story masters (21 Jan - 1 Apr, Sunley Pavilion).

Southbank Centre also presents '**A Manual for Dreaming Women**', a six-part poetry course, which will explore the topic of dreams, their technical aspects, their metaphoric capabilities, and their inspiration for writing poetry. The course, led by poet **Rachel Long** over 6 sessions, explores the writings of Claudia Rankine, Anne Carson, Audre Lorde, Lydia Davis and more and is open to women, inclusive of trans women, femme/feminine-identifying genderqueer and non-binary people (14 Jan - 25 Mar, Sunley Pavilion).

PRIZES

The **T.S. Eliot Prize Readings** will be the first major highlight of the 2019 literary calendar, showcasing the poets shortlisted for the 2018 prize. Hosted by **Ian McMillan**, the evening of poetry will offer the opportunity to hear some of the best contemporary poets in the English-speaking world reading from their own work, on the evening before the award ceremony and the announcement of the winner (13 Jan, RFH).

Ahead of this, the **T.S Eliot Prize Book Club**, now in its eighth year, will run over two consecutive weeks at Southbank Centre's National Poetry Library. There will be discussion around the ten books shortlisted for this year's prize (3 & 10 Dec, NPL).

POLARI

Southbank Centre welcomes back London's leading LGBTQ+ literary salon, **Polari**, for its twelfth year, curated and hosted by writer **Paul Burston**, and featuring leading authors from the LGBTQ+ community. In the first of two events, the award-winning writer **Julie Cohen** presents her new novel *Louis and Louise* (28 Jan, RFH L5FR). The following month, in recognition of LGBTQ + History Month, Polari favourite **VG Lee** headlines and discusses her new short story collection *Oh You Pretty Thing!* (15 Feb, RFH L5FR).

IMAGINE CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Southbank Centre's annual ***Imagine Children's Festival***, run by kids for kids, returns for its 18th year in February 2019. Coinciding with half-term week, it includes twelve days of the best children's theatre, activities, storytelling and events, for ages 0 - 12 featuring some of the UK's leading children's authors. Previous speakers have included Jacqueline Wilson, Harry Hill, James Campbell and Sir Chris Hoy. Full programme to be announced in December (13-24 Feb, RFH).

Please find a link to the full Literature Spring 2019 Season Event Listings [HERE](#)

Tickets go on sale to Southbank Centre Members on Tuesday 9 October and to the General Public on Wednesday 10 October with the exception of *Imagine Children's Festival* which will go on sale at a later date. For more information or to buy tickets please visit the Southbank Centre website [HERE](#) or call 020 7960 4200.

Please find a link to images [HERE](#).

For further press information and interview requests please contact:

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Join the Conversation:

@southbankcentre @litsouthbank
#NPLlates

NOTES TO EDITORS

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

About Southbank Centre's National Poetry Library

Southbank Centre's National Poetry Library is the largest public collection of modern poetry in the world and is housed at 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, the library is free to use www.nationalpoetrylibrary.org.uk

Literature at Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre has a lively and diverse literature programme which takes place throughout the year and includes its annual London Literature Festival and biennial Poetry International festival. Featuring talks, debates, workshops, performance, live reading and more, Southbank Centre's literature programme has played host to some of the world's greatest writers and thinkers including Margaret Atwood, Philip Pullman, John le Carré, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Professor Stephen Hawking, Richard Dawkins, Neil Gaiman, Naomi Klein, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Tom Hanks and Zadie Smith. Southbank Centre's prestigious London Literature Festival, now in its twelfth year, takes place 18-28 October 2018 and includes appearances from Salman Rushdie, Marilynne Robinson and Roger Daltrey as well as a live dramatic reading of Homer's *The Odyssey*. Further literature events taking place in 2018 include appearances from Barbara Kingsolver, Lee Child and Ian Rankin as well as the UK debut appearance from Roxane Gay.