

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

Date: Tuesday 1 April 2025, 9am

Contact: millie.oconnor@southbankcentre.co.uk; louise.gilbert@southbankcentre.co.uk

Images available [HERE](#)

Event information [HERE](#)

Southbank Centre announces Summer Literature Season 2025

Featuring **Ahmed Alnaouq, Carlo Rovelli, Chris Bryant, Damian Barr, Edward St Aubyn, Elodie Harper, Fredrik Backman, Geoff Dyer, Hanya Yanagihara, Irvine Welsh, Ita O'Brien, Jeanette Winterson, Justice Jackson, Kiran Desai, Nicola Sturgeon, Ocean Vuong, Philippe Sands, Raymond Antrobus and Suzi Ruffell**

Plus the **European Poetry Festival, OWN IT!, Out-Spoken, Special Edition, The Booker Prize 2025, Three Bean Salad Podcast, Unholy Podcast and Writers Mosaic**



(L-R: Jeanette Winterson © Sam Churchull; Justice Jackson © Kennedi Carter; Raymond Antrobus © Lily Bertrand-Webb)

A destination for landmark cultural moments, the Southbank Centre is proud to announce its **Summer Literature & Spoken Word 2025** season from **May to October 2025**, offering unbeatable experiences to audiences across London and the UK.

Ted Hodgkinson, Head of Literature & Spoken Word at the Southbank Centre, says: *“From poetry to podcasts, the Southbank Centre’s Summer Literature and Spoken Word 2025 season offers a programme packed with writers whose words enliven and enrich our cultural lives. From **Raymond Antrobus**, attuning us to the diverse experiences of D/deaf communities, to **Jeanette Winterson, Ocean Vuong and Carlo Rovelli**, the season covers a breadth of perspectives with enduring resonance and relevance. This season takes our partnerships with **PalFest** and **The Booker Prize** to new levels, alongside new partnerships*

with **OWN IT!** who celebrate a decade of their boundary-pushing work publishing and platforming diverse voices.”

HIGHLIGHTS

From the enduring relevance of works in the modern canon to writing at the cutting edge of contemporary fiction, this season features London-exclusive events with **Jeanette Winterson** as her internationally-renowned work *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* turns 40 and an evening of readings in celebration of **Hanya Yanagihara**'s acclaimed novel, *A Little Life* to mark its 10th anniversary.

With something for everyone, this season platforms a range of new works from the award-winning **Raymond Antrobus** whose memoir explores deafness, language and identity to **Ocean Vuong** who presents his latest book, *Emperor of Gladness*, to **Edward St Aubyn** who celebrates the launch of his new novel, *Parallel Lines*. As well as exclusive events from women on the world stage including **Nicola Sturgeon** who reflects on her career at the helm of Scottish politics to **Ketanji Brown Jackson** who discusses her life and career as the first Black woman to ever serve on the Supreme Court of the United States.

A place for forging new ideas, the Southbank Centre presents a new partnership with the boundary-breaking independent publisher **OWN IT!** who celebrate their 10th anniversary with a night of unforgettable interdisciplinary performances. And building upon our partnership with the Booker Prize, we will host a live public event to announce the shortlist for the first time. The 2025 judging panel, featuring **Roddy Doyle** as chair, **Ayòbámi Adébáyò**, **Sarah Jessica Parker**, **Chris Power** and **Kiley Reid**, will reveal the six books in contention for this year's prize live on stage.

Full event information for the season can be found [here](#).

Tickets go on sale to Southbank Centre Members on 1 April at 10am and to the general public on 2 April at 10am.

This release is available in a range of formats. Please contact press@southbankcentre.co.uk
Join the conversation: @southbankcentre @nationalpoetrylibrary

NOTES TO EDITORS

For further information and press tickets please contact millie.oconnor@southbankcentre.co.uk;
louise.gilbert@southbankcentre.co.uk

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying 11 acres along the river and its 4 venues anchor 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. 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/

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



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

