

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

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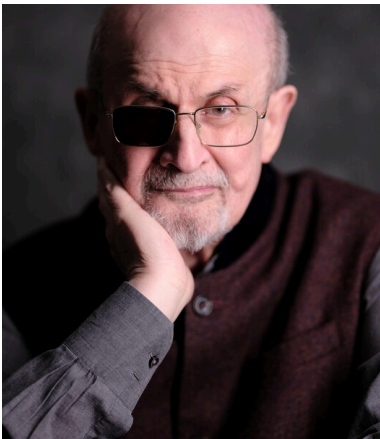
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Images: [HERE](#)

Listings: [HERE](#)

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Southbank Centre announces Spring Literature Season with Salman Rushdie, Maggie Nelson and RuPaul



L-R: Salman Rushdie © Rachel Eliza Griffiths / Maggie Nelson © Sarah St Clair Renard / RuPaul © image courtesy of the artist.

- **Salman Rushdie** discusses his new memoir *Knife* in a UK-exclusive hybrid event which will be live-streamed globally for free
- In a UK exclusive event, Nobel Prize-winning novelist **Kazuo Ishiguro** and world-renowned jazz singer **Stacey Kent** celebrate their long-running collaboration, with a wide-ranging interview and live music performances
- In-conversation events with international drag superstar **RuPaul**, as well as the twice Booker-shortlisted and one of Nigeria's major novelists **Chigozie Obioma**, the **International Booker Prize** shortlist, writer and filmmaker **Miranda July** and writer **Sheila Heti**, about their anticipated new book releases
- Experts explore key cultural moments and topical debates with non-fiction releases, from the BBC's disinformation correspondent **Marianna Spring**, historian **Peter Frankopan** and political commentator **Grace Blakeley**
- Brothers **Manni and Reuben Coe** discuss their acclaimed story of Reuben's lived experience with Down's syndrome and familial love in *brother.do.you.love.me*

The Southbank Centre today announces a wide-ranging Spring 2024 Season of Literature and Spoken Word, from March to June 2024. As a major multi-artform centre in the heart of the UK's cultural scene, the Southbank Centre offers visitors eclectic events. With an exceptional line-up of internationally-acclaimed authors, artists, historians, politicians and journalists, this season taps into

today's topical issues, ranging from disinformation to capitalism. Brand new fiction and non-fiction is presented with unique events, including comedy acts, live music and DJ sets, so audiences can discover what is current in contemporary literature through celebratory and creative experiences.

Ted Hodgkinson, Head of Literature and Spoken Word, says "From Salman Rushdie to RuPaul, Kazuo Ishiguro to Maggie Nelson, this is a season brimming with must-see moments, shedding new light on iconic cultural figures and, in turn, the world around us. This programme offers unique events interweaving spoken word and music, alongside talks illuminating the historical underpinnings of the present and uplifting storytelling about experiences which are often underrepresented in literature."

UK AND LONDON EXCLUSIVES

UK exclusives see international cultural icons sharing deeply personal accounts of their lives and work — with events presenting new releases in unique multi-artform events. Booker Prize-winning author **Salman Rushdie** discusses his new memoir *Knife* in which, for the first time, he candidly shares an account of the attack on 12 August 2022 — and its aftermath. This event, in partnership with English PEN, will see Rushdie speaking virtually, combined with live readings from actors and chaired by author and critic Erica Wagner live on stage. Audiences can join the hybrid event in the Queen Elizabeth Hall or for free through a global live stream.

In a unique event, *An Evening With Kazuo Ishiguro and Stacey Kent*, the Nobel Prize-winning novelist **Kazuo Ishiguro** will discuss his 17-year long collaboration with world-renowned jazz singer **Stacey Kent**, revealing how integral music and songwriting have been to his fiction writing. The event celebrates the publication of *The Summer We Crossed Europe in the Rain: Lyrics for Stacey Kent* with a wide-ranging interview with the author and Kent performing a selection of Tomlinson-Ishiguro songs, with **Jim Tomlinson** on woodwinds and **Art Hirahara** on piano.

London-exclusive events are also lined up to mark hotly anticipated new releases. International drag superstar **RuPaul** brings his most revealing and personal work to date. *The House of Hidden Meanings* is a poignant and intimate memoir of growing up Black, poor and queer and his journey discovering the power of performance, found family and self-acceptance. One of Nigeria's major novelists, the twice Booker-shortlisted author **Chigozie Obioma**, also presents his new novel, *The Road to the Country*. Additionally, best-selling author **David Mitchell** marks the twentieth anniversary of his best-selling, multi-award-winning novel *Cloud Atlas*.

FICTION

The season introduces the finest new fiction with unique, multi-artform events with some of the most exciting talent in literature, music, comedy and art. The Southbank Centre hosts and live-streams **The International Booker Prize Shortlist Readings**, showcasing the world's best fiction in translation. A line-up of eclectic authors, artists and musicians, including **Jarvis Cocker**, **Sheena Patel** and **Musa Okwonga**, celebrate *An Evening with Rough Trade Books* with a night of music, dance, poetry, animation and readings by counter-cultural linchpins Rough Trade Books. Acclaimed comedian **Sara Pascoe** also celebrates her debut novel *Weirdo* with an evening of stand-up comedy and readings.

Award-winning novelists are paired with influential voices to discuss new work. Author **David Nicholls** will be in conversation with writer and broadcaster **Dolly Alderton** about his latest novel, *You Are Here*. Writer and filmmaker **Miranda July** discusses *All Fours* with writer **Eley Williams**.

NON-FICTION

Leading cultural commentators and critics discuss the most momentous artistic scenes and movements that have impacted today's social landscape. VICE's Editor-in-Chief **Zing Tsjeng** chairs a panel discussion about the revolution revitalising urban nightlife, inspired by Amin Ghaziani's *Long Live Queer Nightlife*. Award-winning journalist **Samira Ahmed** also chairs a talk with **Mark Bedford** from pop band *Madness*, author **Daniel Rachel** and singer **Pauline Black** to discuss *2 Tone*, a record label and type of music that shaped British culture, as a multi-racial force of British and Caribbean island musicians sang about social issues. The talk also features a *2 Tone* DJ set from Daniel Rachel.

In the Royal Festival Hall, the genre-defying author **Maggie Nelson** presents *Like Love* in conversation with writer and journalist **Shon Faye**. A raucous new collection of profiles, conversations with friends, critical essays and reviews, *Like Love* draws on twenty years of Nelson's work and offers a window into her thinking while writing some of her most iconic work.

In the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the BBC's disinformation and social media correspondent **Marianna Spring** presents a tour of algorithms, trolls and online polarisation in *Among the Trolls*. Based on first-hand interviews and original reporting, this eye-opening book reveals the very real consequences of disinformation. Political commentator and economic thinker **Grace Blakeley** brings a searing and timely discussion, pinpointing exactly where capitalism has gone wrong with *Vulture Capitalism*. Turning to the past, international bestselling author and historian **Peter Frankopan** presents *The Earth Transformed*, which shows how the natural environment and changing climate is a crucial factor in global history and the fate of civilisations across time. Author **Sheila Heti** and critic **Lauren Oyler** also discuss Heti's experimental, autobiographical book about change, *Alphabetical Diaries*.

Mental Health Awareness Week is marked with a celebration of *Will You Read This, Please?*, a book which pairs award-winning authors with mental health service users in the UK to tell their story, made in collaboration with the Royal College of Psychiatrists. In a London-exclusive event, editor **Joanna Cannon** chairs a conversation between contributing authors **Rhik Samadder**, **Kathryn Mannix**, **Jenn Ashworth** and storyteller **Nicola Knight** to shine a light on illnesses less often discussed. Brothers **Manni and Reuben Coe** present *brother.do.you.love.me*, a tender story of lived experience with Down's syndrome. Shortlisted for the Book of the Year, this book explores the trials and strength of familial ties, hope, resilience and the power of brotherly love.

SPOKEN WORD

The National Poetry Library in the Royal Festival Hall continues its series of free events. Magazine **Poetry London** celebrates the launch of its spring issue with an event of live readings. **Out-Spoken**, the Southbank Centre's resident poetry and live music night, continues with monthly events, hosted by T.S Eliot-winning poet **Joelle Taylor**. These vibrant evenings showcase the hottest new poets, performing spoken word sets between live music gigs. Out-Spoken's monthly *Masterclass* also continues, offering writers of all abilities the chance to learn methods and tricks from some of the UK and US's most revered writers.

Tickets go on sale to Southbank Centre's Members on Thursday 25 January, 10am and to the general public on Friday 26 January, 10am / www.southbankcentre.co.uk / 0203 879 9555.

Full event listings [HERE](#).

NOTES TO EDITORS

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Join the conversation:

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About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest multi-arts centre and engages the most diverse audiences of any performing arts organisation in the UK. Our biggest venue, the Royal Festival Hall (2,700 seats) is the lasting legacy of the 1951 Festival of Britain and the ambition and values of that project – that arts, ideas, innovation and culture can heal communities and should be available and accessible to everyone – are still our guiding principles today.

The Southbank Centre is uniquely able to offer a wide-ranging, inclusive and world-class artistic programme spanning contemporary visual arts, music, dance, performance, literature, comedy and spoken word across the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, the Hayward Gallery and our free spaces. We are also home to the National Poetry Library, the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) and 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



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