

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

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Images: [HERE](#)

Listings: [HERE](#)

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Greta Thunberg headlines the Southbank Centre's London Literature Festival in world exclusive launch of *The Climate Book*

- **Greta Thunberg's** *The Climate Book* features crucial climate voices including Kate Raworth, Naomi Klein and Margaret Atwood. The event, in collaboration with Penguin Live at the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, will be live streamed for free around the world
- Festival lineup features UK & international literary names such as **Malorie Blackman**, **Abdulrazak Gurnah**, **Karl Ove Knausgård** and **George Saunders**. Well-known names include YouTuber **Adam B**, **Minnie Driver**, **Graham Norton** and **Jon Snow**.
- The Southbank Centre is supporting new writing talent with events featuring debut London writers and the next generation of writers including **Writers' Day** in partnership with Creative Future
- New commissions include **Jay Bernard's** performance piece *Joint*, about joint enterprise, a contested law that is often used in racist and classist ways
- A **free family programme** celebrating the natural world and the environment, with talks and readings highlighting upcoming children's authors
- A feast of poetry events including a showcase performed by the 2021 **New Poets Collective** and a **National Poetry Library** Open Day at the world's biggest public collection of modern poetry



L-R: Greta Thunberg © Kim Jakobsen / Karl Ove Knausgård © Sølve Sundsbø / Malorie Blackman © Paul Akinrinlola.

The Southbank Centre's London Literature Festival - the longest running celebration of the written and spoken word of its kind in the capital - today announces its 2022 programme taking place from 20 - 30 October. Now in its 15th year, the festival features prestigious authors alongside rising literary stars.

Ted Hodgkinson, Head of Literature & Spoken Word at the Southbank Centre says: "I am truly thrilled that Greta Thunberg is headlining this year's festival in a world exclusive launch of *The Climate Book*. With inclusivity and accessibility at the Southbank Centre's heart, we're also live streaming this event for free around the world. We welcome everyone to join us to celebrate the power of language and explore the most timely story of today - how and why our planet is changing."

"This year's London Literature Festival promises to inspire, entertain and empower audiences of all ages. We're combining the very best of our year round programme with a wider range of aspiring writers and events, featuring emerging homegrown London talent alongside internationally acclaimed authors, artists and thinkers, plus an exciting and engaging free programme for all the family."

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

NEW COMMISSIONS AND EVENTS FOR EMERGING WRITERS

London Literature Festival 2022 opens with *We Move: Debut London Literature*, celebrating debut titles from some of the city's most exciting writers including **James Cahill**, **Gurnaik Johal**, **Arji Manuelpillai** and **Sheena Patel**. Premiering in the Purcell Room is newly commissioned performance piece, **Jay Bernard's** *Joint*, which builds on their work about joint enterprise, a contested law that is often used in racist and classist ways. The Southbank Centre's inaugural **New Poets Collective** perform readings for the first time showcasing the culmination of their year with lead mentors **Vanessa Kisuule** and **Will Harris**. These 15 exciting poets will also publish an anthology to celebrate their achievements. London Literature Festival partners with Creative Future for **Writers' Day** - a day packed full of talks for writers, publishers and literary professionals to share hints, tips and initiatives. New and emerging voices are recognised by the prize for under-represented writers in the **Creative Future Writers' Awards Showcase 2022**, hosted this year by novelist **Dorothy Koomson** and poet **Joelle Taylor**. The **2022 Booker Prize Winner** joins the Festival for their very first public event on 20 October.

CLIMATE CRISIS

To coincide with the world exclusive launch of Greta Thunberg's *The Climate Book*, the London Literature Festival explores the climate crisis. Science journalist, author and broadcaster **Gaia Vince** reframes the crisis and demonstrates how migration could be the answer in an event around her new book *Nomad Century*. In a special live recording, **BBC Radio 4's Open Book** explores how the urgency of our natural environment has shaped our fictional landscapes. Writers **Jessie Greengrass** and **Daisy Hildyard** discuss the imminent emergencies of everyday life as they launch their respective new books. The Southbank Centre's **National Poetry Library** - situated in the Royal Festival Hall - hosts Earthbound Press for a stellar evening of contemporary poetry featuring twelve critically-acclaimed poets, including **Iain Sinclair**, **Nisha Ramayya** and **Eley Williams**.

CELEBRATING FICTION

Author of the acclaimed *My Struggle* series **Karl Ove Knausgård** delivers the New Statesman Goldsmiths Prize lecture in *Why the Novel Matters*. Knausgård's talk draws on a body of work

ranging from visual art to religion to find new ways to express the autobiographical in fiction. Nobel laureate **Abdulrazak Gurnah** uses the 2022 Edward W Said London Lecture to address the significance of place. Gurnah refers to critical and fictional contemporary writing from Europe, Africa and the Caribbean, including that of Edward Said, Eric Auerbach and Joseph Conrad. In a special live stream celebrating The Goldsmiths Prize's tenth anniversary, **Natasha Brown, Guy Gunaratne** and **Ali Smith** debate their favourite books. Chaired by **Erica Wagner**, each author picks their fantasy Goldsmiths Prize winner – a favourite book published before the award was founded – to discuss.

FAMILY EVENTS

To entertain the family this October half term, there's an interactive storytelling adventure led by writer **Jordan Stephens** and illustrator **Beth Suzanna** based on their heartwarming new children's book *The Missing Piece*. **Tongue Fu for Kids** asks what happened to the Mermaid of Milton Keynes? in their wonky, wonderful family show. Author and illustrator of the Tom Gates series **Liz Pichon** joins the festival lineup to doodle along with the audience.

FREE PROGRAMME

The opening weekend features a free programme for all the family. Performances and readings celebrating the natural world and the environment, heroes and heroines that make a difference, alongside talks and readings by emerging and upcoming children's authors. The wider free programme takes a deep dive into the world of the short story, with events across music, theatre and comedy. BBC's **World Book Club** radio programme marks its 20th anniversary at a live show with multi-award winning writer **Tahmima Anam**. The **National Poetry Library** based in the Royal Festival Hall invites the public to explore the world's biggest public collection of modern poetry in the world, as it shows off its hidden gems at an Open Day on 29 October, featuring workshops and live readings with a particular focus on the environment. The library hosts a brand new interactive exhibition **Poetry Games**, looking at how poetry and play run hand in hand.

BOOK EVENTS

The programme features a plethora of book events in its three auditoriums: the Royal Festival Hall, the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Purcell Room. **Minnie Driver** delves into the stories from her 'tell-most' memoir *Managing Expectations*. In the UK for the first time in five years, the Booker Prize-winning author **George Saunders** celebrates the global publication of his short story collection *liberation day*. **Josh Widdicombe** and **Rob Beckett** share anecdotes from their new book *Parenting Hell*. Broadcaster **Jon Snow** reflects on the state of the nation in *The State of Us*. Mathematician **Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon** discusses *She's in CTRL*, as she calls for women everywhere to claim their seats in tech. **Malorie Blackman** is in conversation with **Candice Brathwaite** about her autobiography, *Just Sayin'*. Presenter and YouTube star **Adam B** presents his debut children's book *Adam Wins the Internet*. LGBTQ+ Arab writers from the anthology *This Arab is Queer*, including journalist **Elias Jahshan** and author **Saleem Haddad**, celebrate a collection of 18 short memoirs and essays, as Arabs share their realities of what it is like to love freely in a place called home. **Travis Alabanza** discusses their new memoir *None of the Above*, asking what it means to live outside the gender boundaries. **Graham Norton** introduces his new novel *Forever Home*.

Tickets go on sale to the Southbank Centre Members on Thursday 30 June and to the general public on Friday 1 July www.southbankcentre.co.uk / 0203 879 9555

ENDS

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Join the conversation:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Literature at the Southbank Centre

The 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 and live readings, the Southbank Centre's literature programme has played host to some of the world's greatest writers and thinkers including Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Margaret Atwood, Angela Davis, Kazuo Ishiguro, Michelle Obama, Philip Pullman, Arundhati Roy and Zadie Smith. The Southbank Centre's prestigious London Literature Festival takes place from 20 - 30 October 2022. Last year's festival included appearances from Anne Applebaum, Candice Carty-Williams, Ece Temelkuran and Ai Weiwei. Further literature events taking place in 2022 include appearances from Ian McEwan, Kamila Shamsie and Tsitsi Dangaremba.

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/

The Southbank Centre and sustainability

For information on the Southbank Centre's current commitment to environmental sustainability please visit our webpage <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/about/mission-values/environmental-sustainability>



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