

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Date: Tuesday 9 September 2025, 9am

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Images [HERE](#)

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Southbank Centre new initiative *Indie Night* brings independent presses and their writers to the fore



(L-R: Okechukwu Nzelu © Ajamu X; Eliza Clark © Robin Silas Christian)

The Southbank Centre today launches **Indie Night** - a brand-new quarterly series celebrating the bold and vital work of independent presses and the authors they publish. Each event will showcase a hand-picked, eclectic mix of four authors - a mix of fiction and non-fiction, established names and emerging voices - united by the same independent spirit as their publishers. This series aims to spotlight the vital power of these presses and the necessary work they do in bringing works that would otherwise struggle to find space in the mainstream arena. The inaugural event takes place on **Wednesday 25 February 2026**, hosted by **Okechukwu Nzelu**, writer of *The Private Joys of Nnenna Maloney* and **Eliza Clark**, author of *Boy Parts*.

Eliza Clark, author and host of Indie Night, says, "I'm so excited to be hosting Indie Night alongside Okechukwu. Indie publishers have proved to be an incredible launch pad for so many careers - including my own - and I'm thrilled to be a part of this wonderful new platform for indie authors and publishers."

Max Porter, Southbank Centre Resident Artist, says: *“Independent publishing is the nutrient base from which everything positive and progressive grows in UK literature. Without our indie presses we have no counter culture. If we fail to invest in and support our indies we fail the radical potential of the written word. The Southbank Centre have always understood this, in their programming, curatorial approach and outreach work. This exciting new series is a cause for celebration and confirms that the Southbank Centre is always at the beating heart of things, amplifying the voices that need hearing, supporting new and bold approaches to the printed and spoken word”*

Ted Hodgkinson, Head of Literature and Spoken Word at the Southbank Centre, says: *“Indie Night is an exciting addition to our season and sitting alongside this array of new voices, we’re proud to present some of the most anticipated moments of the year, from Sheku and Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason to Salman Rushdie. From emerging to established authors, as well as exceptional poetry and spoken word, it is a season filled with unmissable cultural experiences.”*

The inaugural **Indie Night** event held in the Southbank Centre’s Purcell Room is part of the Winter season, which will also feature the **Booker Prize 2025 Shortlist readings**, offering a chance to hear from the six authors up for this year’s prize (9 Nov) and an evening with **Kadiatu and Sheku Kanneh-Mason** (25 Nov) in celebration of the publication of two powerful books by members of Britain’s most musical family. The award-winning author **Salman Rushdie** will be joined by Mishal Husain to discuss his short story collection, *The Eleventh Hour* (25 Nov). **Bob Geldof & Paul Valley: The real Live Aid story** will mark forty years since the historic concerts with a live discussion at the Royal Festival Hall (4 Nov). Looking ahead to the future, the **TS Eliot Prize Shortlist Readings** (18 Jan) celebrates the best new poetry from the UK and Ireland, while **Letters to the Future** (7 Feb) weaves together music and ideas to invite audiences to reflect on the legacy and the transformative role of art.

The Southbank Centre's literature and spoken word programme is generously supported by Bukhman Philanthropies.

Tickets go on sale to Southbank Centre Members on **Wednesday 10 September** and to the general public on **Thursday 11 September**.

NOTES TO EDITORS

For more information and for press tickets please contact press@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



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