

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

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Images: [HERE](#)

Listings: [HERE](#)

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Southbank Centre announces new partnership with Intelligence Squared alongside stellar Spring Literature Season



Bret Easton Ellis © Casey Nelson / Leïla Slimani © Francesca Mantovani / Andi Oliver © Tom Matthey

- New debates programme partnership with Intelligence Squared, opening with **The War In Ukraine: How Does It End?**
- Acclaimed international fiction authors **Han Kang**, **Leïla Slimani** and the return of the **International Booker Prize Shortlist Readings**
- Memoir launches from **Munroe Bergdorf**, **Fern Brady**, **Elizabeth Day**, **Jeremy Deller**, **Sadiq Khan**, **Andi Oliver** and **Michael Rosen**
- Stellar literary names including **Eleanor Catton**, **Bret Easton Ellis**, a world exclusive reading by **Max Porter** and a new event with **Granta Best of Young British Novelists**
- UK's poetry and spoken word is showcased with **Out-Spoken's** return to the Queen Elizabeth Hall, and a new free **Poets in Vogue** exhibition at the National Poetry Library

The Southbank Centre announces its Spring 2023 Literature Season taking place from the new year until the end of May. The season welcomes a brand new partnership with Intelligence Squared which brings together leading experts to tackle today's most topical debates, as well as a powerful line-up of authors, activists, poets and politicians in conversation.

Ted Hodgkinson, Head of Literature & Spoken Word at the Southbank Centre says: “*We start the year as we mean to go on, with a stellar spring season that brings together iconic authors and poets from around the world with the brightest talents of the next generation. From life-enhancing encounters with beloved figures from across the arts, to unmissable performances including Max Porter reading scenes from his new novel alongside Ruth Wilson, to a wealth of poetry and spoken word, this is a season with something for everyone. 2023 also sees us embark on an exciting new collaboration with Intelligence Squared, jointly curating timely debates on the burning issues of the moment.*”

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

PARTNERSHIP WITH INTELLIGENCE SQUARED

The Southbank Centre’s new debates programme with Intelligence Squared runs throughout the year, and offers a performance or reading element alongside leading experts in discussion. As we approach a year since the beginning of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the programme opens with a debate on the possible paths to peace in Ukraine and how to end the war, in **The War In Ukraine: How Does It End?** (23 Mar).

The second event in the series deliberates how important economic growth is in reaching a prosperous society. **Can We Have Prosperity without Growth?** takes place on 12 May.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL FICTION

Leïla Slimani grapples with the self as she discusses *The Scent of Flowers at Night*, her new book which confronts her past and her present, through her life as a Moroccan woman, as a writer, and as a daughter (23 Apr). On the same day in the Purcell Room, South Korean International Booker winning author **Han Kang** celebrates the launch of *Greek Lessons*, a powerful new novel of the saving grace of language and human connection (23 Apr). Opening up the world’s fiction and celebrating the art of translation, the **International Booker Prize Shortlist Readings** return to the Queen Elizabeth Hall following the shortlist announcement in April (18 May).

NEW MEMOIRS

Internationally renowned activist and model **Munroe Bergdorf** launches her life-affirming, heartfelt and intimate memoir *Transitional* (12 Feb). Comedian **Fern Brady** discusses her memoir on sexism and neurodiversity, *Strong Female Character* (15 Feb). Author, broadcaster and host of the hit podcast *How To Fail*, **Elizabeth Day** introduces her new book *Friendaholic* in a special event chaired by **Phoebe Waller-Bridge** in the Royal Festival Hall (26 Mar). Artist **Jeremy Deller** celebrates the launch of his book *Art Is Magic* - drawing together his key works with the art, pop music, film, politics and history that have inspired them (31 May). Mayor of London **Sadiq Khan** discusses politics, life, and the future of our city and planet as he celebrates the publication of *Breathe*, his uplifting new playbook that offers actions for tackling the climate crisis (24 May). Chef and broadcaster **Andi Oliver** introduces her long-awaited first cookbook *The Pepperpot Diaries: Stories From My Caribbean Table* in conversation with her daughter **Miquita Oliver** (27 Apr). **Michael Rosen** returns to the Southbank Centre to discuss *Getting Better*, his new memoir exploring the roles that trauma and grief have played in his own life (9 Feb).

WORLD CLASS & EMERGING LITERARY NAMES

Eleanor Catton, the best-selling and Booker Prize winning author of *The Luminaries*, takes to the Queen Elizabeth Hall stage for a London exclusive event discussing her new gripping psychological thriller *Birnam Wood* (16 Mar). The celebrated and outspoken author of *American Psycho* **Bret Easton Ellis** discusses his first novel since 2010, *The Shards*, in a rare London appearance (2 Feb). The Southbank Centre presents a world exclusive dramatic reading led by **Max Porter** of scenes from his much anticipated second novel, *Shy*, followed by a discussion about his writing life with actor **Ruth Wilson** (2 Apr). For the first time the Southbank Centre hosts **Granta Best of Young British Novelists**, a celebration of Granta's selection of the next twenty exceptional young writers in April 2023. This special event explores what is shaping the next generation of outstanding British voices with the brightest stars in the literary scene (11 May).

POETRY

The Southbank Centre's resident music and poetry night **Out-Spoken** returns with its premier evening of poetry and live music in the Purcell Room and regular masterclasses. In May, Out-Spoken again takes to the Queen Elizabeth Hall stage following last year's hugely successful event, with a special line-up yet to be announced.

Based in the Royal Festival Hall, the National Poetry Library's brand new free exhibition **Poets in Vogue** (16 Feb - 25 Jun) presents the fashion worlds and poetic work of seven women poets through a series of displays. Sylvia Plath's skirt, a reconstruction of Anne Sexton's red 'reading dress' and creative interpretations of Audre Lorde's, Edith Sitwell's and Stevie Smith's signature looks are among the items on display in this unique exhibition exploring the relationship between the language of poets and the clothes they wear. The free opening night event features live readings of newly commissioned poetry (16 Feb). **The European Poetry Festival** returns for its sixth year, this time celebrating contemporary Swiss poetry (26 Apr) and Latvian poetry (10 May) with special guests and readings. **Special Edition: Non-human Poetry** asks if poetry is only for humans and celebrates the nonhuman potential of verse (22 Feb). **Special Edition: Grief Time** explores the potential of poetry to give voice to the disconnected and non-linear nature of grieving (5 Apr). *Poetry London* launches its Spring 2023 issue with live readings from Imtiaz Dharker, John Challis, Karen Solie and Qudisia Akhtar in **Poetry London Spring Readings** (26 Mar).

Tickets go on sale to the Southbank Centre Members on Tuesday 6 December and to the general public on Wednesday 7 December www.southbankcentre.co.uk / 0203 879 9555

ENDS

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Join the conversation:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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/



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