

## Literature and Spoken Word Season Spring 2024 at the Southbank Centre - Event Listings

### | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | POETRY LONDON SPRING READINGS

Wed 13 Mar, Level 5 Function Room, Royal Festival Hall, 7.15pm. Tickets £10. For ages 16+.

Acclaimed magazine *Poetry London* launches the spring issue in an event featuring a wide range of incredible poetry readings. Full line-up to be announced. Poetry London is supported by Arts Council England, Cockayne Foundation and London Community Foundation.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/poetry-london-spring-readings?eventId=972018>

### | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | TOO MUCH TOO YOUNG: THE STORY OF 2 TONE RECORDS

Thu 21 Mar, 7.45pm (music from 7.15pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £12.

Author Daniel Rachel and singer Pauline Black discuss *Too Much Too Young: The 2 Tone Records Story* with broadcaster Samira Ahmed. A *Times/Sunday Times* Book of the Year, the book is the definitive account of *2 Tone*, a record label and one of the most influential and innovative musical movements in British history: a multi-racial force of British and Caribbean island musicians singing about social issues, racism, class and gender struggles. The talk is preceded by a *2 Tone* DJ set from Daniel Rachel.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/too-much-too-young-story-2-tone-records?eventId=973319>

### | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | GRACE BLAKELEY: VULTURE CAPITALISM

Sun 24 Mar, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £15. For ages 14+. *Speech-to-Text Transcribed (STT)*.

Join the acclaimed political commentator and economic thinker for a searing and timely discussion pinpointing where capitalism has gone wrong. Blakely is one of the fiercest anti-capitalist advocates of her generation, has written for the *Guardian*, *New Statesman* and the *Spectator*, and now presents her new book *Vulture Capitalism*.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/grace-blakeley-vulture-capitalism?eventId=972021>

### | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | OUT-SPOKEN: MARCH

Thu 28 Mar, 7.45pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £12. For ages 16+.

Out-Spoken is the Southbank Centre's resident poetry and live music night, bringing the hottest UK poets to perform spoken word sets alongside world-class musicians. These vibrant monthly events are hosted by TS Eliot and Polari Prize winning poet Joelle Taylor, with Sam 'Junior' Bromfield spinning the best in reggae, soul and R&B throughout the evening. This month's edition features poets Nikki Giovanni, Mary Jean Chan and Hannah Lavery, with music from Anjelo Disons and Kadija Kamara. Presented in association with Out-Spoken.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/out-spoken-march?eventId=972024>

### | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | AN EVENING WITH KAZUO ISHIGURO AND STACEY KENT

Sat 30 Mar, 7pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £20 - £30. For ages 16+. *British Sign Language interpreted (BSL)*.

A UK exclusive event with Nobel Laureate Kazuo Ishiguro and world-renowned jazz musician Stacey Kent in a unique event to celebrate the publication of *The Summer We Crossed Europe in the Rain: Lyrics for Stacey Kent* by Kazuo Ishiguro. The evening will include a wide-ranging interview with Ishiguro about the songs and how his lifelong interest in music has influenced the writing of his novels. Stacey Kent will perform a selection of Tomlinson-Ishiguro songs, with Jim Tomlinson on saxophone and Art Hirahara on piano.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/evening-kazuo-ishiguro-and-stacey-kent?eventId=972810>

### | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | ANDREW O'HAGAN: CALEDONIAN ROAD

Wed 3 Apr, 7.45pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £15. For ages 16+

The author of *Mayflies*, introduces his brand new state-of-the-nation novel. Charting an intellectual's scandalous fall from grace — Campbell Flynn, art historian and celebrity intellectual, entering middle age — revealing a web of crimes, secrets and scandals and the shattering exposure of all that his privilege involves.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/andrew-ohagan-caledonian-road?eventId=973217>

### | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | PETER FRANKOPAN: THE EARTH TRANSFORMED

Thu 4 Apr, 7.45pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £15. For ages 16+

One of the world's leading historians and best-selling author of *Silk Roads* presents *The Earth Transformed*, a major history of how a changing climate has shaped the development – and demise – of civilisations across time. From the Big Bang, through human history and development of religion, language and the bureaucratic state, this groundbreaking book shows how the natural environment is a crucial, if not the defining, factor in global history.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/peter-frankopan-earth-transformed?eventId=975324>

### | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | RUPAUL: THE HOUSE OF HIDDEN MEANINGS

Sun 7 Apr, 8pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £40 – £210. For ages 16+. *Speech-to-Text transcribed (STT) and British Sign Language interpreted (BSL).*

Pop culture icon and international drag superstar RuPaul celebrates the release of his highly-anticipated memoir, *The House of Hidden Meanings*. During this special event, RuPaul offers fans a manual for living – a personal philosophy that testifies to the value of chosen family, the importance of harnessing what makes you different, and the transformational power of facing yourself fearlessly. Presented in Association with CAA.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/rupaul-house-hidden-meanings?eventId=975251>

### | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | MANNI & REUBEN COE: BROTHER.DO.YOU.LOVE.ME

Sun 14 Apr, 7.45pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £15. For ages 14+.

Brothers Manni and Reuben explore the trials and strength of brotherly love in this tender, true story of Reuben's experience in a home for adults with learning disabilities, struggling to accept that he had Down's Syndrome. Shortlisted for the Book of the Year at the British Book Awards 2023, *brother. do. you. love. me.* is the story of two brothers and their journey of learning to ask for and give support.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/manni-reuben-coe-brotherdoyouloveme?eventId=972444>

### | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | FREE LIVE STREAM | SALMAN RUSHDIE: KNIFE

Sun 21 Apr, 2.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £15 & £30. For ages 16+. *Speech-to-Text transcribed (STT). This event is also live streamed for free around the world.*

In a UK exclusive event, the Southbank Centre in partnership with English PEN presents the launch of Salman Rushdie's memoir, *Knife*, recounting his survival of an attempted murder in conversation with Erica Wagner. In an evening combining live readings from actors and candid reflections from Salman Rushdie, this unique event offers the chance to hear a deeply personal account directly from the internationally renowned and Booker Prize-winning author. This event is also available as a free live stream.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/salman-rushdie-knife?eventId=975229>  
<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/salman-rushdie-knife-live-stream?eventId=975711>

### | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | DAVID NICHOLLS: YOU ARE HERE

Sun 21 Apr, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £15 & £24. For ages 16+.

An evening with beloved author David Nicholls in conversation with writer and broadcaster Dolly Alderton about his award-winning career and latest novel, *You Are Here*. A BAFTA-winning screenwriter and author, Nicholls is also known for his cult bestseller debut novel *Starter for Ten*, Man Booker Prize long-listed work *Us* and iconic love story *One Day*.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/david-nicholls-you-are-here?eventId=972437>

### | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | OUT-SPOKEN: APRIL

Thu 25 Apr, 7.45pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £12. For ages 16+.

Out-Spoken is the Southbank Centre's resident poetry and live music night, bringing the hottest UK poets to perform spoken word sets alongside world-class musicians. These vibrant monthly events are hosted by TS Eliot and Polari Prize winning poet Joelle Taylor, with Sam 'Junior' Bromfield spinning the best in reggae, soul and R&B throughout the evening. Presented in association with Out-Spoken.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/out-spoken-april?eventId=973874>

### **| LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | AN EVENING WITH ROUGH TRADE BOOKS**

Sat 27 Apr, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £15 & £25. For ages 16+.

The counter-cultural publishing house presents an evening of eclectic authors, artists and musicians in a multi-format event celebrating independent writing and music. Jarvis Cocker discusses the music that fed into *Good Pop, Bad Pop*; Sheena Patel reads from *I'm A Fan*; Sharan Hunjan, one of the 4 BROWN GIRLS WHO WRITE collective, shares work from *Open Mouths*, and Musa Okwonga reads from his Rough Trade published works. Craig Oldham's *In Loving Memory of Work* is also presented with a miners' strike film narrated by Maxine Peake, while Marcel Dzama shares brand new animation work, accompanied by live music and dance from dancer Francesca Thakorlal. Expect surprises and entertainment throughout this evening to remember.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/evening-rough-trade-books?eventId=975342>

### **| LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | OUT-SPOKEN MASTERCLASS: APRIL**

Sun 28 Apr, 1pm, Sunley Pavilion, Level 3, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £20. For ages 18+.

Out-Spoken brings their monthly three-hour workshop, led by an established poet. Open to writers of all abilities, these masterclasses are a chance to hone your poetry skills, work with the country's most revered writers and learn some of their methods for crafting beautiful and original material.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/out-spoken-masterclass-april?eventId=973877>

### **| LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | MARIANNA SPRING: AMONG THE TROLLS**

Sun 28 Apr, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £15. For ages 16+. *Speech-to-Text transcribed (STT)*.

The presenter, award-winning journalist and BBC's disinformation and social media correspondent takes us on a deep dive into algorithms and online polarisation. *Among the Trolls* is an eye-opening and unforgettable book based on first-hand interviews and original reporting, revealing the very real consequences of disinformation, hate and online polarisation.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/marianna-spring-among-trolls?eventId=972440>

### **| LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | SARA PASCOE'S WEIRDO: LITERATURE AND LAUGHS**

Thu 9 May, 8pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £25 & £15. *Speech-to-Text transcribed (STT)*.

Bringing together stand-up comedy and readings from the book, Sara Pascoe celebrates the paperback launch of her hilarious and touching debut novel, *Weirdo*. The book follows Sophie, an existential Essex girl battling low-level paranoia in her search for happiness and truth.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/sara-pascoes-weirdo-literature-and-laughs?eventId=975705>

### **| LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | DAVID MITCHELL: 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOUD ATLAS**

Sun 12 May, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £15 & £25.

In this London-exclusive event, the author marks the twentieth anniversary of his best-selling, multi-award-winning novel. When it was first published in 2004, *The Guardian* commented 'there won't be a bigger, bolder novel this year.' Combining six interlocking lives into one epic adventure, the book erases the boundaries of time, genre and language to offer a vision of humanity's will to power. In this event, Mitchell is joined by friends and collaborators to reflect on the life *Cloud Atlas* has led, including its reception, film-adaptation and enduring appeal.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/david-mitchell-20th-anniversary-cloud-atlas?eventId=975079>

### **| LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | OUT-SPOKEN: MAY**

Thu 16 May, 7.45pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £12. For ages 16+.

The May edition of Out-Spoken, the Southbank Centre's resident poetry and live music night. Out-Spoken brings the hottest UK poets to perform spoken word sets alongside world-class musicians. These vibrant monthly events are hosted by TS Eliot and Polari Prize winning poet Joelle Taylor, with Sam 'Junior' Bromfield spinning the best in reggae, soul and R&B throughout the evening. Presented in association with Out-Spoken.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/out-spoken-may?eventId=973880>

## | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE SHORTLIST READINGS

Fri 17 May, 7.45pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £15. For ages 16+.

This event is also live streamed, available Fri 17 - Fri 24 May. Tickets £15. For ages 16+.

The six authors and their translators shortlisted for the *International Booker Prize* 2024 come together to read from and discuss their books. The *International Booker Prize* celebrates the world's best fiction, in translation. Each year it introduces readers to the finest novels and short story collections from around the globe that have been translated into English and published in the UK and/or Ireland. This year's judging panel includes award-winning poet Natalie Diaz; Booker Prize-shortlisted novelist Romesh Gunsekera; visual artist William Kentridge; and writer, editor and translator Aaron Robertson, chaired by esteemed writer and broadcaster Eleanor Wachtel.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/international-booker-prize-readings?eventId=975740>

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/international-booker-prize-shortlist-readings-live-stream?eventId=975795>

## | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | STORIES OF LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Sun 19 May, 3pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Ticketed at £12. For ages 16+.

In honour of Mental Health Awareness Week, Joanna Cannon chairs a conversation between contributing authors to *Will You Read This, Please?*. This impactful collection paired award-winning authors with mental health service users across the UK who wanted to tell their story, made in collaboration with the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Cannon is joined by contributing authors Rhik Samadder, Kathryn Mannix, Jenn Ashworth and storyteller Nicola Knight to share their experiences of working on this book, and shine a light on the illnesses that aren't often discussed or written about.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/stories-living-mental-illness?eventId=975640>

## | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | SHEILA HETI: ALPHABETICAL DIARIES

Sun 19 May, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £15. For ages 16+. *Speech-to-Text transcribed (STT)*.

Author Sheila Heti speaks to Lauren Oyler about her new book *Alphabetical Diaries*, an experimental, autobiographical book about how difficult it is to change, why we don't want to, and what is going on in our brain when we resist change. Sheila Heti is the author of eleven books including the novels *Pure Colour*, *Motherhood* and *How Should a Person Be?*

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/sheila-heti-alphabetical-diaries?eventId=972447>

## | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | AMIN GHAZIANI: LONG LIVE QUEER NIGHTLIFE

Sun 19 May, 7.45pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £12. For ages 16+.

Editor-in-Chief at VICE Zing Tsjeng chairs a panel discussion inspired by Amin Ghaziani's new book *Long Live Queer Nightlife*, an exploration of the revolution revitalising urban nightlife. Far from the gay bar with its largely white, gay male clientele, *Long Live Queer Nightlife* presents a queer world shimmering with self-empowerment, inventiveness, and joy. The panel features the author Amin Ghaziani, also professor of sociology and Canada Research Chair in Urban Sexualities at the University of British Columbia, and Tom Rasmussen, musician, author, journalist and drag queen.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/amin-ghaziani-long-live-queer-nightlife?eventId=973240>

## | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | MAGGIE NELSON: LIKE LOVE

Fri 24 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £15, £25 & £35. For ages 16+. *Speech-to-Text transcribed (STT) and British Sign Language (BSL) interpreted.*

Maggie Nelson discusses her new collection *Like Love* in conversation with Shon Faye. Drawn from twenty years of Maggie Nelson's genre-defying work, *Like Love* is a raucous collection of essays, profiles, reviews, remembrances, tributes and critical essays, as well as several conversations with friends and idols.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/maggie-nelson-love?eventId=973356>

## | LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | OUT-SPOKEN MASTERCLASS: MAY

Sun 26 May, 1pm, Sunley Pavilion, Level 3, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £20. For ages 18+.

Out-Spoken brings their monthly three-hour workshop, led by an established poet. Open to writers of all abilities, these masterclasses are a chance to hone your poetry skills, work with the country's most revered writers and learn some of their methods for crafting beautiful and original material.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/out-spoken-masterclass-may?eventId=973883>

### **| LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | CHIGOZIE OBIOMA: THE ROAD TO THE COUNTRY**

Sun 2 Jun, 7.45pm, Purcell Room. Tickets £15. For ages 16+.

A London-exclusive event with the twice Booker-shortlisted author and one of Nigeria's major novelists. Obioma presents *The Road to the Country*, an epic story set in Nigeria in the late 1960s, intertwining myth and realism into an emotionally-powerful novel. The author's first novel *The Fishermen* was a finalist for the Booker prize and his second novel *An Orchestra of Minorities* was also Booker-shortlisted. *The Road to the Country* is destined to stand alongside *Half of a Yellow Sun* as the defining novel of one of the most devastating civil wars of the 20th century.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/chigozie-obioma-road-country?eventId=974074>

### **| LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | MIRANDA JULY: ALL FOURS**

Wed 12 Jun, 7.45pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £20. For ages 16+.

Author, director, screenwriter, artist and actress Miranda July introduces her subversive second novel in conversation with Eley Williams. Part absurd entertainment, part tender reinvention of the sexual, romantic, and domestic life of a forty-five-year-old female artist, *All Fours* transcends expectation while excavating our beliefs about life lived as a woman.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/miranda-july-all-fours?eventId=975093>

### **| LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | OUT-SPOKEN: JUNE**

Thu 13 Jun, 7.45pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £12. For ages 16+.

The June edition of Out-Spoken, the Southbank Centre's resident poetry and live music night. Out-Spoken brings the hottest UK poets to perform spoken word sets alongside world-class musicians. These vibrant monthly events are hosted by TS Eliot and Polari Prize winning poet Joelle Taylor, with Sam 'Junior' Bromfield spinning the best in reggae, soul and R&B throughout the evening. Presented in association with Out-Spoken.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/out-spoken-june?eventId=973887>

### **| LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD | OUT-SPOKEN MASTERCLASS: JUNE**

Sun 30 Jun, 1pm, Sunley Pavilion, Level 3, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £20. For ages 18+.

Out-Spoken brings their monthly three-hour workshop, led by an established poet. Open to writers of all abilities, these masterclasses are a chance to hone your poetry skills, work with the country's most revered writers and learn some of their methods for crafting beautiful and original material.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/literature-poetry/out-spoken-masterclass-june?eventId=973>