

Discover World Literature



Manchester Literature Festival
6—21 October 2018
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

In our first year as a UNESCO City of Literature, we are delighted to welcome inspirational writers from across the globe to share their stories, passions and ideas with us. Expand your reading horizons with some of our acclaimed novelists, poets and short story writers in translation.

Hear stories from other cultures and countries including Latin America, China, Iran, Pakistan, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Spain.

Alongside a feast of World Literature, the 13th edition of the Manchester Literature Festival offers rare opportunities to encounter brilliant and burgeoning authors, broadcasters, biographers and performers, experience specially commissioned work and discover new voices.

Featuring Kate Atkinson, **Pat Barker**, Jo Brand, **Susan Calman**, Gemma Cairney, **Michael Donkor**, Carol Ann Duffy, **Esi Edugyan**, Faber New Poets, **Patrick Gale**, Linda Grant, **Guy Gunaratne**, Terrance Hayes, **Afua Hirsch**, Alan Johnson, **Jackie Kay**, Barbara Kingsolver, **Joseph Knox**, Zaffar Kunial, **Alexander McCall Smith**, Momtaza Mehri, **Kei Miller**, Michael Morpurgo, **Jenni Murray**, Graham Norton, **Sarah Perry**, Olumide Popoola, **Nikesh Shukla**, Sharlene Teo, **Tony Walsh**, Yomi Adegoke & Elizabeth Uviebinené, **The Yoniverse**, and many more.

Visit the Festival website for the full programme, or email office@manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk to request a 2018 brochure.

 @mcrlitfest  Manchester Literature Festival

Arno Camenisch & Nicolai Houm

Ever fancied running away from it all? Vanishing somewhere remote? In *The Last Snow* by Arno Camenisch, Paul and Georg operate and maintain an unspectacular tow lift somewhere in Grisons. But few customers come because there's so little snow. In Nicolai Houm's *The Gradual Disappearance of Jane Ashland*, writer Jane Ashland camps in the Norwegian mountains. Her reasons for being there are slowly revealed as the plot comes to a dark and terrifying conclusion. Join us to hear how Arno and Nicolai craft work about change, isolation and place. Arno Camenisch lives in Biel and writes in German and Romansh (Sursilvan). One of Switzerland's master storytellers, his novels include *The Alp*, *Behind The Station* and *Last Last Orders*. Nicolai Houm has published three critically acclaimed novels and a collection of short stories in Norway, and has been described by critics as 'a Norwegian Don DeLillo.'



Saturday 6th October, 2pm

International Anthony Burgess Foundation

Tickets £7/£5

Book on 0843 208 0500 or manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Azita Ghahreman & Maura Dooley

One of Iran's leading poets, Azita Ghahreman's work is lyrical and intimate, addressing themes of loss, exile and female desire, as well as the changing face of her country. Her latest collection, *Negative of a Group Photograph*, brings together three decades of poems brought to life in English by the poet Maura Dooley, working in collaboration with translator Elhum Shakerifar. The poems run the gamut of Azita's experience: from her childhood in the Khorasan region of south-eastern Iran, to her exile to Sweden; from Iran's book-burning years and the war in Iraq, to her unexpected encounters with love. At this bilingual event, Azita will read alongside Maura, who will share her English translations of Azita's poems. This event is presented in partnership with the Poetry Translation Centre.



Monday 8th October, 1pm

Central Library

Tickets are free but booking is advised

Donations welcome on the door)

Book on 0843 208 0500 or manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Mohammed Hanif in Conversation

Q: What do an American pilot who's crashed in the desert, a teenager full of money-making schemes, and a dog suffering through a very bad day have in common? A: They all narrate the new, hilariously funny novel, *Red Birds*, by acclaimed author Mohammed Hanif (*A Case of Exploding Mangoes*). Through the inhabitants of the refugee camp that Major Ellie was supposed to bomb, Mohammed looks at the absurdity of war, specifically considering the tensions between America and the Muslim world. As fifteen-year-old Momo says about the Families Rehabilitation Programme, 'First they bomb us from the skies, then they work hard to cure our stress'. A journalist, author and playwright, Mohammed was recently awarded the third-highest civilian award of Pakistan, the Sitara-e-Imtiaz. Presented in partnership with the Centre for New Writing.



Wednesday 10th October, 7pm

Central Library

Tickets £7/£5

Book on 0843 208 0500 or manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Mary Jean Chan, Xi Chuan & Jennifer Lee Tsai

MLF and the Confucius Institute are delighted to present an inspiring afternoon of poetry from three exciting voices of Chinese heritage. Xi Chuan is a multi-award-winning poet, essayist, translator, and is currently a professor at Beijing Normal University. He has published nine collections of poetry, including *Depth and Shallowness*, and *A Dream's Worth*, and has translated the likes of Ezra Pound, Jorge Luis Borges, Czeslaw Milosz and Gary Snyder. Mary Jean Chan's poems feature in many literary journals and *Carcenet's New Poetries V11*. Her debut collection is due from Faber in 2019. Jennifer Lee Tsai is a fellow of the acclaimed national poetry mentoring scheme, *The Complete Works III*, and her poems appear in the *Bloodaxe* anthology, *Ten: Poets of the New Generation*. The event will be introduced by John McAuliffe.



You can also join all three poets for writing workshops, networking and dinner at Yang Sing restaurant, 3pm – 6.30pm, at an event organised by 彼岸 Bi'an, the UK Chinese Writers' Network. Tickets cost £17.50/£13.50 including dinner. For more information and to book, visit bi-an.org/events.

Saturday 13th October, 1 – 2pm

International Anthony Burgess Foundation

Tickets £7/£5

Book on 0843 208 0500 or manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

The Book of Riga Sven Kuzmins & Dace Rukšane

An 800-year-old city with a century's status as capital of an independent Latvia provides an interesting cultural history for its writers. The stories gathered in *The Book of Riga*, published by Manchester's Comma Press, chronicle Riga's growth and on-going transformation, and offer glimpses into the dark humour, rich history, contrasting perspectives, and love of the mythic, that sets the city's artistic community apart. Dace Rukšane is a Latvian writer who became well known in 2002 for her novel, *The Little Affair*. She has also written plays, poetry and the novels *Bedtime Stories of Beatrice*, and *Why were you Crying?* Sven Kuzmins hosts a weekly literary show on Latvian Radio 1, and is one of the creators of the NERTEN sketch theatre project. His first collection of stories, *Urban Shamans*, was accompanied by his own graphic drawings. Join us to find out more about this imaginative city. Hosted by Comma editor Ra Page.



Monday 15th October, 7pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation
Tickets are free but booking is advised
(Donations welcome on the door)
Book on 0843 208 0500 or manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Sjón

Is there a Nordic identity exemplified in the literature produced by writers from the eight lands? While co-editing the short story anthology, *The Dark Blue Winter Overcoat & Other Stories from the North*, Icelandic writer Sjón realised that the regions have deep common routes that are consistently – and collectively – nurtured and fed. Come and hear Sjón and his co-editor Ted Hodgkinson discuss the commonalities used by writers creating both naturalist and magical tales. The author of four previous novels including *Moonstone* and *The Whispering Muse*, Sjón will also read and discuss his latest work translated into English. A three-part novel – a love story, a crime story, a science-fiction story – *CoDex 1962* is arguably Sjón's masterpiece.



Tuesday 6th November, 7pm
Central Library
Tickets £7/£5
Book on 0843 208 0500 or manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Ariana Harwicz

Motherhood, the eternal hot topic. When? How? What's acceptable? What's not? The unnamed narrator of Ariana Harwicz's *Die, My Love* is the mother of a six-month-old son. A foreigner trapped in the French countryside, she's angry, erratic and quite possibly murderous. Does she want to be part of her husband's family or does she want to run? In fierce, brutal prose reminiscent of Eimear McBride, Clarice Lispector and Virginia Woolf, Ariana crafts an unforgettable narrator and a ferocious cry to any mother who's ever wanted to break free of the bounds of society's expectations. Longlisted for the 2018 Man Booker International Prize, *Die, My Love* has been adapted for the stage in Israel, Argentina and Spain. Ariana has published two other novels, *Precoz* (2015) and *La débil mental* (2014), and is at the forefront of the new Argentinian fiction. This event is in partnership with Instituto Cervantes and will be hosted by Dr Mariana Casale.



Saturday 20th October, 4pm

Instituto Cervantes

Tickets are free but booking is advised

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Book on 0843 208 0500 or manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Bogotá 39: New Voices from Latin America With Carlos Fonseca, Mauro Libertella & Mariana Torres

Ten years on from the first Bogotá 39 selection, which brought writers such as Juan Gabriel Vásquez, Junot Díaz and Alejandro Zambra to the attention of UK audiences, this new selection of short stories in translation introduces us to an exciting new generation of Latin American authors; highly imaginative and unconfined by literary traditions. Mauro Libertella's witty urban horror, *Work in Progress*, tells of a couple trapped in a never ending condo renovation project. In *The Southward March* by Carlos Fonseca, a family go in search of an apostle in the jungle. While Mariana Torres explores the story of a girl who grows shoots in empathy with her apple tree. Hear these extraordinary writers from Argentina, Brazil and Costa Rica read and discuss their work with host Dr Mariana Casale. This event is in partnership with Instituto Cervantes.



Saturday 20th October, 7pm

Instituto Cervantes

Tickets are free but booking is advised

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