

THE BIG BOOK WEEKEND PROGRAMME

FRIDAY MAY 8th

10am	Maggie O'Farrell and Damian Barr IN CONVERSATION	Award-winning British-Irish author Maggie O'Farrell kicks off the Big Book Weekend by discussing the joy and importance of book festivals with journalist and debut novelist Damian Barr. Brought to you by Big Book Weekend .	BOOKS 60 mins
11am	Alexander McCall Smith PERFORMANCE	Master story-teller Alexander McCall Smith, author of <i>The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency</i> , will provide a gentle escape into a world of hope and humour. He will read a special message to readers and festival organisers written for the Big Book Weekend, perform two poems to inspire and uplift, and read from his latest book in the Detective Ulf Varg series, <i>The Talented Mr Varg</i> . Brought to you by Shoreham Wordfest .	FICTION 20 mins
12pm	Sue Stuart-Smith with Marian Boswall INTERVIEW	In a world where the average child spends less time outside each week than a maximum-security prisoner, gardening can reinvigorate and heal. With new research collected from different cultures around the world, psychiatrist and psychotherapist Sue Stuart-Smith talks to leading landscape architect and Garden Media Guild Columnist of the Year 2019, Marian Boswall, about why it's more important than ever to rediscover a closer relationship with the earth. Brought to you by Chiddingstone Castle Literary Festival .	NATURE 30 mins
1pm	Laura Lam and Temi Oh with Nicole Brandon PANEL	What if the only way to save humanity is to leave the collapsing Earth behind? In her debut <i>novel Do You Dream of Terra-Two</i> , Temi Oh sends six teenagers on an intergalactic mission to save the population of a dying Earth, while in her new novel <i>Goldilocks</i> , Laura Lam entrusts humanity's last chance for survival to the first all-female space crew. Join two rising stars of contemporary science-fiction to discuss their books, while new voice Charlotte Platt caps it off with short reading from her urban fantasy novel <i>A Stranger's Guide</i> . Sponsored by Cymera: Scotland's Festival of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Writing. Brought to you by Cymera: Scotland's Festival of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Writing .	SCI-FI & FANTASY 60 mins
2pm	Jill Calder INTERACTIVE	Celebrating her award-winning children's book with author James Robertson, <i>Robert the Bruce, King of Scots</i> , illustrator Jill Calder will inspire you to dive into history and draw the kings, queens, castles and creatures from medieval Scotland... then teach you to illustrate and make your very own folded picture book! Suitable for all ages - just make sure you have A4 or A3 paper, scissors, and colouring pencils to hand. Brought to you by Baillie Gifford Borders Book Festival	KIDS 40 mins

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3pm	Michael Morpurgo with Clare Mulley INTERVIEW	Join Michael Morpurgo, award-winning author of <i>War Horse</i> , as he talks to Clare Mulley about his bestselling World War II books for children. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day he will reveal what inspired stories such as <i>Flamingo Boy</i> , <i>In the Mouth of the Wolf</i> , <i>An Eagle in the Snow</i> and <i>Waiting for Anya</i> , which is released as a film this spring. Clare is the author of <i>The Spy Who Loved</i> , about the woman who saved Michael's uncle's life during WWII. Suitable for ages 7+. Brought to you by Big Book Weekend .	VE DAY 45 mins
4pm	Robert Webb and Alex Clark INTERVIEW	Robert Webb, best known for his roles in <i>Mitchell & Webb</i> and <i>Peep Show</i> , is more than just a comedian. His bestselling part-memoir, part-manifesto, <i>How Not To Be a Boy</i> , takes a sharp-eyed look at the state of modern masculinity, while his debut novel <i>Come Again</i> , is a time-travelling story of love and redemption. Join Webb in conversation with acclaimed literary journalist Alex Clark as they discuss his ideas and inspirations. Brought to you by Cambridge Literary Festival .	FICTION 40 mins
5pm	Kate Williams with Jenni Calder INTERVIEW	Two queens on a single island: threatened by voices who believed no woman could govern, surrounded by sycophants and spies, besieged by secret plots and a terrible final act. Who will survive to rule all? The renowned author, historian and television presenter Kate Williams discusses her latest book <i>Rival Queens: The Betrayal of Mary Queen of Scots</i> - a "great rivalry reimagined for the #MeToo generation" - with biographer, poet and fiction writer Jenni Calder. Brought to you by Birnam Book Festival .	HISTORY 45 mins
6pm	Terry Waite CBE with Tony Gallienne INTERVIEW	In the 1980s, while operating as the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, Terry Waite was taken and held hostage in Lebanon for nearly five years. Since then, Terry has been drawn to finding out more about the power of isolation. In this interview with Tony Gallienne from Guernsey Literary Festival, he will recall encounters with people who have experienced different ways of being solitary, sought and unsought, show how solitude shapes the human soul, and explore how it can be a force for good. Brought to you by Guernsey Literary Festival .	ISOLATION 40 mins
7pm	Rick Stroud PERFORMANCE	To commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day, biographer Rick Stroud will tell the astonishing story of Victor Gregg, aged 100, one of the last great survivors of WW2 who saw action at Alamein and Arnhem, and experienced Dresden as a POW, concluding with a special message from Vic himself. Brought to you by Boswell Book Festival .	VE DAY 15 mins

THE BIG BOOK WEEKEND PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 9TH MAY

10am	Adam Kucharski with Tim Hubbard INTERVIEW	Why and how do ideas, false news and diseases spread? And how, in an increasingly small world, can we control them? Adam Kucharski is an associate professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, a TED fellow, a Wellcome Trust prize-winner, and has worked on global outbreaks including Ebola and Covid-19. Delving into his new book <i>The Rules of Contagion</i> , he will talk to Tim Hubbard about what the world is experiencing now, and how new mathematical approaches are transforming what we know about contagion in all its forms. Brought to you by Stratford Literary Festival .	SCIENCE 40 mins
11am	Paul Muldoon, Lucy Caldwell and Glenn Patterson with Marie-Louise Muir PANEL	Three talented writers from Northern Ireland - Lucy Caldwell, Paul Muldoon and Glenn Patterson – are hosted by BBC presenter and broadcaster Marie-Louise Muir in a conversation about their work and their best books of the year. Brought to you by Belfast Book Festival .	FICTION 50 mins
12pm	Neil Gaiman with Sam Weller IN CONVERSATION	To celebrate 100 years since the birth of legendary fantasy and sci-fi guru Ray Bradbury (<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> , <i>The Martian Chronicles</i>), join the award-winning Bradbury biographer and writer Sam Weller in a spirited discussion with the one and only global bestseller Neil Gaiman. They muse on Bradbury's inestimable influence and enduring popularity, and how it has inspired their own work. Brought to you by The Bath Festival .	SCI-FI & FANTASY 50 mins
1pm	Hafsah Aneela Bashir PERFORMANCE	Hafsah Aneela Bashir is a poet, playwright and performer originally from the east end of London. Passionate about amplifying unheard voices, she works in the heart of the community to make that happen. Here she performs from her poetry collection <i>The Celox and The Clot</i> , exploring themes of love, loss and the post-colonial immigrant experience. Brought to you by Kendal Poetry Festival .	POETRY 35 mins
2pm	Samantha Miles and Rachel Falber INTERACTIVE	Join the founders of Uh-Oh! Books for an interactive storytelling of their picture book, <i>"Uh-Oh!" Said Flo</i> . With activities to do throughout, listen to this eco-friendly educational story following Flo's journey against plastic pollution and climate change, plus discover how you can make a difference in a fun and engaging way. Brought to you by Storytale Festival .	KIDS 45 mins

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SATURDAY 9TH MAY

3pm	Louise Hare and Beth Morrey with Sue Wall PANEL	Debut novelists Louise Hare and Beth Morrey take very different subjects for their books, but share central characters who are outsiders looking for their place in the world. In Hare's <i>This Lovely City</i> , her central character arrives on the Empire Windrush to post-war London, but soon learns that new arrivals are treated with suspicion; while in <i>Saving Missy</i> , Morrey examines the loneliness of a difficult and prickly woman who finds that there are still second chances - even at 79. They will be in conversation with Sue Wall. Brought to you by Derby Book Festival .	FICTION 45 mins
4pm	Phil Cartwright with Fran Richards INTERVIEW	In <i>Red Mist: Football's Most Shocking Moments (Red Cards, Dirty Tackles, Headbutts, Pitch Invaders and More)</i> , Sports journalist Phil Cartwright, explores the uglier side of the 'beautiful game'. In an interview with Freelance Creative Practitioner Fran Richards discussing everything from Zinedine Zidane's infamous headbutt to Eric Cantona's king-fu kick, hear about the mavericks, pioneers, anti-heroes and iconic legends that have defined football history and changed the game forever. Brought to you by Lichfield Literary Festival .	SPORT 30 mins
5pm	Luke Jennings with Sarah Hilary INTERVIEW	<i>Killing Eve</i> started life as a series of self-published novellas with an avid audience of devoted fans, before becoming one of the biggest TV hits of the last two years. Crime novelist Sarah Hilary quizzes author Luke Jennings on what drove him to create a female-centred thriller that shook up the genre. Brought to you by Lyme Crime .	THRILLER 60 mins
6pm	Marian Keyes and Catherine Mayer INTERVIEW	For more than 20 years, Marian Keyes has been writing internationally-bestselling fiction that centres on and values the stories of women. Her latest novel, <i>Grown Ups</i> , is delighting critics and fans alike with its take on the complexities of families, friendships and female identity. In this frank, free-ranging interview, she swaps tips with bestselling author and co-founder of the Women's Equality Party, Catherine Mayer, on writing, finding and using your voice, and growing into your own skin. Brought to you by Primadonna Festival .	FICTION 50 mins

THE BIG BOOK WEEKEND PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 10TH MAY

10am	Sir Tim Rice and Daniel Hahn INTERVIEW	Sir Tim Rice, President of the London Library, is the lyricist behind some of the biggest stage and screen musicals including <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> , <i>Evita</i> , <i>The Lion King</i> and <i>Aladdin</i> . His collaborators have included Andrew Lloyd Webber, Alan Menken and Elton John, and he has written lyrics for acts as diverse as Elvis Presley, Placido Domingo and 10cc. In this interview with author Daniel Hahn, he will discuss the inspiration for his award-winning musicals, the partnerships which have underpinned his work, and what it takes to pen some of the best-known lyrics ever written. Brought to you by London Library Lit Fest .	MUSIC 60 mins
11am	Bidisha, Luan Goldie and Zoe Lambert with Joelle Taylor PANEL	The anthology <i>Resist: Stories of Uprising</i> charts two thousand years of British resistance, from Boudica to Blair Peach, from the Battle of Cable Street to the protests after the Grenfell Tower Fire. This panel will examine the history of women's rebellion in Britain, by focusing on three works from the collection covering Boudica, the Ford Dagenham Women's Strike, and Seeds of Hope. The discussion will be moderated by Joelle Taylor, who hitched a ride to the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp from her home in Lancashire as a teenager. Brought to you by Bradford Literature Festival .	POLITICS 40 mins
12pm	AL Kennedy with Ailsa Cox INTERVIEW	<i>We Are Attempting To Survive Our Time</i> is Costa Book Award-winning author A.L. Kennedy's new collection of wry, caustic and unsparing fiction. Join her and the UK's first Professor of Short Fiction, Ailsa Cox, to dive into the world of short story telling with these two masters of the art, and explore why it is rising in popularity today. Brought to you by WOWFest .	SHORT STORIES 45 mins
1pm	Kia Abdullah and Abir Mukherjee IN CONVERSATION	Social divisions are the stuff of great fiction - but they're also a very real challenge for many people today. So how can novelists tackle class, race and politics without being reductive or biased? How can they write sympathetic characters they don't necessarily agree with? And how do they deal with readers who take offence? Kia Abdullah, whose legal thriller <i>Take It Back</i> was published in March, talks to Abir Mukherjee, author of the Sam Wyndham series of crime novels set in Raj-era India. Brought to you by Asian Booklist .	CRIME 50 mins
2pm	Will Millard INTERACTIVE	This session for kids of all ages is book-ended by readings from Will Millard's book, <i>The Old Man and the Sand-Eel</i> , which explores the wonderful world hidden just beneath the surface of Britain's ponds and rivers. Using live specimens gathered from the ponds in Will's Cardiff backyard, and drawing inspiration from his 'lockdown lessons' on Facebook, Will introduces us to dramas played out in miniature: the tiny invertebrates that hold the food chain together, the minnows and his very own water tiger: the three-spined stickleback. Brought to you by Pontypridd Children's Book Festival .	KIDS 30 mins

THE BIG BOOK WEEKEND PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 10TH MAY

3pm	Jane Casey, Liz Nugent, Gary Donnelly and Alan Judd with Paul Waters. PANEL	In this panel, broadcaster Paul Waters talks to Irish and British crime writers about their latest novels, what they tell us about society's preoccupations, and how the genre might reflect on today's global crises. Jane Casey's <i>The Cutting Place</i> is set in the dark world of London's elite gentlemen's clubs, a post-#MeToo crime novel. Former soldier and diplomat Alan Judd's latest thriller, <i>Accidental Agent</i> , features a spy at the heart of the Brexit negotiations. Gary Donnelly's debut <i>Blood Will Be Born</i> is set in contemporary Belfast and explores historic crimes and how they still haunt Northern Irish society. And Liz Nugent will be looking at the dark side of the cult of celebrity in her latest thriller, <i>Our Little Cruelties</i> . Brought to you by NOIRELAND International Crime Fiction Festival .	CRIME 45 mins
4pm	Juno Dawson and Patrick Ness with Katherine Webber IN CONVERSATION	Join author Katherine Webber as she meets with two leading lights of YA fiction for a discussion about writing, reading and finding your place in the world. Juno Dawson is a journalist, screenwriter and bestselling writer of young adult fiction and non-fiction, including <i>This Book is Gay</i> , <i>Meat Market</i> and her brand new novel <i>Wonderland</i> . Patrick Ness has written three novels for adults and six for young adults including <i>The Knife of Never Letting Go</i> , <i>A Monster Calls</i> and his latest smash, <i>Burn</i> . Among other awards he has won the Carnegie Medal twice, the Costa Children's Book Award and the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. Brought to you by The Coast is Queer .	YOUNG ADULT 50 mins
5pm	Jackie Kay, Adjoa Andoh and Isabel Greenberg with Cathy Newman PANEL	To mark the 200th anniversary of Anne Brontë's birth, this session offers conversation, graphic artworks and readings from <i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i> . Join novelist and poet Jackie Kay as she speaks to award-winning British graphic novelist Isabel Greenberg and acclaimed actor and director Adjoa Andoh about the work of this feminist pioneer. Their discussion is interspersed with readings by Adjoa Andoh, complimented by Isabel Greenberg's artworks inspired by the Brontës, and chaired by journalist and broadcaster Cathy Newman. Brought to you by Charleston Festival .	CLASSICS 50 mins
6pm	Bernardine Evaristo with Mairi Kidd IN CONVERSATION	Winner of the 2019 Booker Prize, Bernardine Evaristo, discusses <i>Girl, Woman, Other</i> with Creative Scotland's Mairi Kidd. From Newcastle to Cornwall, from the birth of the twentieth century to the teens of the twenty-first, her extraordinary novel follows a cast of twelve characters as they each search for what they're missing - a shared past, an unexpected future, a place to call home, somewhere to fit in, a lover, an absent mother, a lost father... even just a touch of hope. Brought to you by Aye Write .	FICTION 45 mins