

# Discover New Voices



**Manchester Literature Festival**  
**6–21 October 2018**  
[manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)

# In our first year as a UNESCO City of Literature, we are delighted to welcome inspirational writers, poets, broadcasters, biographers and performers to share their stories, passions and ideas with us.

Alongside a feast of New Voices, World Literature and special Commissions, the 13th edition of the Manchester Literature Festival features Kate Atkinson, **Pat Barker**, Jo Brand, **Susan Calman**, Carol Ann Duffy, **Patrick Gale**, Linda Grant, **Afua Hirsch**, Alan Johnson, **Jackie Kay**, Barbara Kingsolver, **Kei Miller**, Michael Morpurgo, **Jenni Murray**, Graham Norton, **Sarah Perry**, Nikeshe Shukla, **Tony Walsh** and many more.

Visit the [Festival website](#) for the full programme, or email [office@manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](mailto:office@manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk) to request a 2018 brochure.

 @mcrlitfest  Manchester Literature Festival

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## Guy Gunaratne, Nikeshe Shukla & Sharlene Teo

The impact of formative experiences, told through a range of cross-generational voices, unites the new novel from Nikeshe Shukla (editor of **The Good Immigrant**) with the exciting debuts from Sharlene Teo and Guy Gunaratne. In Nikeshe's **The One Who Wrote Destiny**, Mukesh arrives in Dewsbury in 1966, stands up to a racist mob, and falls in love. The story then follows the twins who result from Mukesh's subsequent marriage. Sharlene's **Ponti** looks at the relationship between a mother, her daughter, and a friend, connecting past and present through the legacy of the mother's short-lived film career. Longlisted for the 2018 Man Booker Prize, Guy's debut, **In Our Mad and Furious City**, focuses on the residents of a London estate in the aftermath of a soldier's murder in the street. See these dynamic writers read and discuss their work with host Anita Sethi.



**Tuesday 16th October, 7pm**  
**Waterstones Deansgate**  
**Tickets £7/£5**  
**Book on 0843 208 0500 or [manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)**

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## Esi Edugyan Washington Black

Acclaimed Canadian author Esi Edugyan (**Half Blood Blues**) discusses her new Booker-nominated novel **Washington Black** which tells the story of an eleven-year-old field slave on a Barbados sugar plantation, whose talents for drawing and science take her across the world to the icy wastes of the Canadian Arctic and the mud-drowned streets of London, to the eerie deserts of Morocco. Esi discusses this remarkable journey with host Anita Sethi.



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## New Crime: Will Dean & Joseph Knox

Things happen under cover of darkness, whether you're in the busy city of Manchester or the isolated Swedish town of Gavrik. In Joseph Knox's **The Smiling Man**, disgraced Detective Aidan Watts pounds the city's dingy bars and backstreets attempting to discover the identity of the mysterious smiling man discovered in the Palace Hotel. Meanwhile in Will Dean's **Dark Pines**, deaf journalist Tuva Moodyson meets a cast of strange characters – including a pair of troll making sisters, a ghost-writer, a taxi driver, and a hoarder – whilst trying to solve a multiple-murder case deep in the Scandinavian forest. Join us to hear how bestselling noir novelists Joseph Knox (**Sirens**) and Will Dean (**Dark Pines**, soon to be a TV series) create atmospheric settings, authentic characters and gripping plots. Hosted by MLF's Naomi Frisby.



**Saturday 6th October, 4pm**

**International Anthony Burgess Foundation**

**Tickets £7/£5**

**Book on 0843 208 0500 or [manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)**

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## Hafsah Aneela Bashir The Celox And The Clot

Following her bold performance supporting Danez Smith earlier this year, Hafsah Aneela Bashir returns to MLF to share a special theatrical performance of poems from her debut collection **The Celox And The Clot**. Between the uncertainty and doubt of relationships under strain, to the tragedy of war and its fundamental injustices, Hafsah's debut collection unapologetically examines the human condition, and the conflicts that arise within us. What does it take to be who we are? What are we prepared to ignore or accept? Never complacent, always conscious of the many journeys each of us must make; this is a collection that travels with us. Directed by theatre-maker Nikki Mailer, Hafsah will be accompanied by Sufi singer and musician Sarah Yaseen. Join us for what's sure to be an electrifying and provocative performance.



**Sunday 7th October, 4pm**

**International Anthony Burgess Foundation**

**Tickets £8/£6**

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## The Yoniverse

### Featuring Afshan D'souza-Lodhi, Shagufta K Iqbal & Amani Saeed



The Yoniverse has a mission to celebrate the diversity of the South Asian diaspora. They have a mission to bring female poets to a wider audience, and allow them free expression, space, loudness and hope. They have a mission to encourage women and girls to be unapologetically outspoken. Join three Yoniverse poets for a night of stimulating spoken word. Afshan D'souza-Lodhi is a Manchester-based writer whose work sits on the intersections of flash fiction, poetry and script. Her forthcoming collection, **on desire**, explores the yearning to love, be loved and belong. Shagufta K Iqbal is a poet, artist and creator. Her debut collection, **Jam is for Girls**, **Girls get Jam**, was praised by Nikesh Shukla as 'a social political masterclass in its exploration of cities, cultures, race, food and family.' Amani Saeed is a spoken word artist who has worked with The Roundhouse and the BBC. Her collection, **Split**, tackles a range of issues including having a multifaceted identity, and being a 'bad Muslim'.

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## Elaine Castillo, Michael Donkor & Olumide Popoola

Where do you find home? In Elaine Castillo's **America Is Not the Heart**, it's in food, community, friendship and love, as Hero rebuilds her life in a new country. In Michael Donkor's cross-continental **Hold**, it's in an unexpected city and a surprising kinship, as Ghanaian Belinda moves to London to impose order on sullen and wayward Amma. While for Karl and Abu, in Olumide Popoola's **When We Speak of Nothing**, it's in learning who you are and finding acceptance – whether that's in the streets of London or Port Harcourt. Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay area, Elaine Castillo is a Filipina American, who has been longlisted for the 2018 Center for Fiction First Novel Award. Born in London to Ghanaian parents, Michael Donkor is one of the Observer's New Faces of Fiction 2018. A Nigerian German writer based in London, Olumide Popoola has published a novella, play and poetry, alongside her debut novel.



**Monday 8th October, 7pm**  
**Waterstones Deansgate**  
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## Slay in Your Lane: The Black Girl Bible Yomi Adegoke & Elizabeth Uviebinené with Gemma Cairney



You have to see it to be it, so the saying goes. But Yomi Adegoke and Elizabeth Uviebinené were struggling to find awe-inspiring, amazing and relatable black British female role models, because society rarely permits these women to be seen and heard. To remedy this, they wrote **Slay in Your Lane: The Black Girl Bible**, bringing together the voices and experiences of Black British women in a range of fields, including broadcasting, vlogging, athletics, music, acting, publishing, public relations, fashion, beauty and law. A Book of the Week on BBC Radio 4, Slay in Your Lane has received excellent reviews everywhere from The Observer to Stylist and has been called 'The Must-Read Book empowering young black women' by Vogue. Yomi and Elizabeth are here to empower and inspire you with some Black Girl Magic. Hosted by Gemma Cairney, award-winning Radio and Television presenter, broadcaster, activist and author of **OPEN: A Toolkit For How Magic and Messed Up Life Can Be**.

**Friday 12th October, 7pm**

**Central Library**

**Tickets £8/£6**

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## Faber New Poets Sophie Collins, Zaffar Kunial, Richard Scott & Hannah Sullivan



Four poets. Four different takes on the world. Four exciting debut collections. In **Who Is Mary Sue?**, Sophie Collins considers the politics behind the way writing by women is received – the presumption that everything is autobiographical. Zaffar Kunial's **Us** looks at his upbringing by an English mother and a Kashmiri father, and the distances his own life has had to travel. Richard Scott takes us on a tour of love, shame and **Soho**, examining how trauma becomes part of the language we use. While Hannah Sullivan's **Three Poems** are studies of innocence lost, birth, and grief on both sides of the Atlantic. Join us to hear these major new voices perform their work. Introduced by John McAuliffe, poet and Co-director at the Centre for New Writing.

**Saturday 13th October, 3pm**

**International Anthony Burgess Foundation**

**Tickets £7/£5**

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## Victoria Adukwei Bulley, Rachel Long & Momtaza Mehri Filigree: Contemporary Black British Poetry



Inscribe/Peepal Tree, publisher of Caribbean and Black British Literature, invited poets to contemplate the 'unspoken essential' and 'intangible tangible' for their **Filigree** collection. We're delighted to have three of the contributors perform at this special MLF event. Victoria Adukwei Bulley is a British-born Ghanaian poet and writer, who recently published the pamphlet, **Girl B**. A former Barbican Young Poet, her work is bold, ambitious and curious. Rachel Long is a poet, facilitator, and the leader of Octavia, a poetry collective for women of colour at the Southbank Centre. Her playful and moving poems have been published in numerous anthologies, and she is currently working on her first collection. Momtaza Mehri is a Somali-British poet, essayist and editor. She was co-winner of the 2018 Brunel International African Poetry Prize, and her urgent and dynamic poems landed her the role of Young People's Poet Laureate for London. Join us for an evening celebrating contemporary Black British poetry.

**Friday 19th October, 6.30pm**

**Central Library**

**Tickets £8/£6**

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## Terrance Hayes American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin



MLF is delighted to welcome one of America's most exciting and innovative poets, Terrance Hayes – winner of the 2010 National Book Award, and a recipient of a MacArthur 'Genius Grant'. Terrance will be performing work from his new collection, **American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin**. Written during the first 200 days of the Trump administration, it is a 70-poem roller-coaster ride through politics, music, life and love; shot through with the vernacular energy of popular culture. Compassionate, witty, melancholy, and rhythmically compelling, *American Sonnets* shines a blistering spotlight on the dividing lines of race, gender, and political oppression, which define the early 21st century. 'Something happens everywhere in this country,' Terrance writes. 'Every day. Someone is praying, someone is prey.' Join us for what promises to be an extraordinary evening of poetry and conversation. Hosted by Kayo Chingonyi, winner of the 2018 Dylan Thomas Prize.

**Friday 19th October, 8pm**

**Central Library**

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