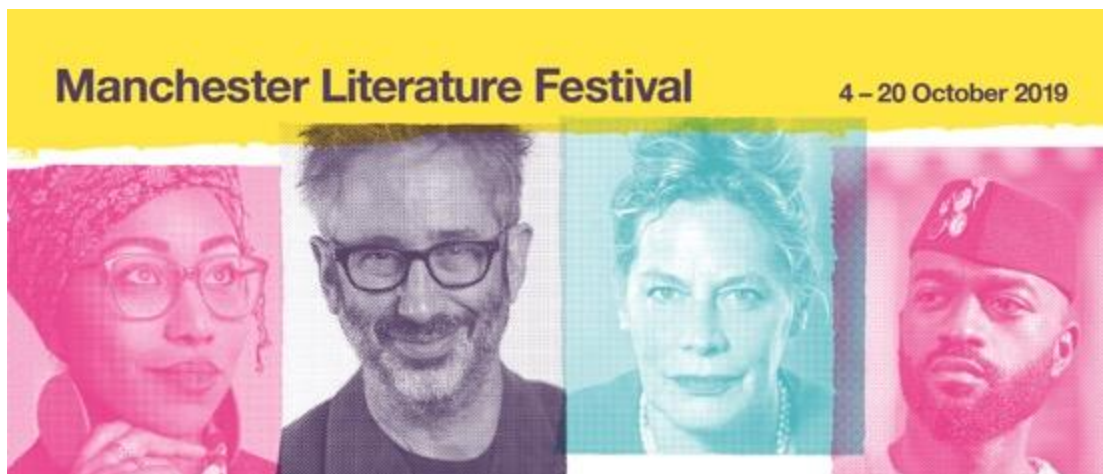


Manchester  
Literature  
Festival

Media Release: 12noon, 9 August 2019

## Poetry, Politics, Pop & Rock

**Manchester Literature Festival 2019 announces a programme of acclaimed authors, cultural icons and original writing**



**Friday 4 – Sunday 20 October 2019**

## Manchester venues, citywide

This year's Manchester Literature Festival line-up is packed with award-winning writers, rock musicians, the new Poet Laureate and, for the first time in the city, the Booker Prize 2019 shortlist showcase where some of this year's shortlisted authors will read and discuss their novels at this special event.

Amongst those appearing are **Jeanette Winterson, Jonathan Safran Foer, Celeste Ng, David Nicholls, Mona Eltahawy, Deborah Levy, Howard Jacobson, Jackie Kay, John Lanchester, David Nott, Simon Armitage, Guy Garvey, Deborah Moggach, Jon Savage, Elif Shafak, Dave Haslam, Sarah Hall, Hanif Kureishi, Brett Anderson, Jung Chang, Caroline Criado Perez, Clementine Ford, Lemn Sissay, Henry Normal, Cathy Newman** and more.

Manchester Literature Festival's events offer more than the usual questions and answer sessions, with the Festival's unique in-conversation pairings giving new insights and respite from a world that can often seem turbulent and bewildering. The programme considers the greatest issues of our day – climate crisis, gender equality, toxic masculinity, Islamophobia, political activism and class division – as well as exploring the diverse worlds of music, 1980s art and clubbing, and even trauma surgery in conflict zones.

Featuring over 100 established and emerging writers speaking in a broad range of events across 17 days, the Festival also includes the popular **Weightmans Literary Walking Tours** and plenty for younger readers in a programme that features immersive theatre show *Ready Steady Lift Off!* and an afternoon with **David Baddiel**.

Manchester Literature Festival maintains its support of original writing with its series of New Commissions, including the annual Castlefield Manchester Sermon delivered this year by **Gillian Slovo**, and new co-commissions in partnership with Manchester Museum and Manchester Libraries. Poet and playwright **Inua Ellams** (*Barbershop Chronicles*) responds to an artefact from Benin in Manchester Museum's collection, and aspiring Manchester poets **Hafsah Aneela Bashir** and **Isaiah Hull** perform new work as part of the Festival's *Rewriting Longsight* project with Longsight Library and #McrCreativeSpaces.

The Festival continues to spread its wings with a series of events outside the main Festival dates, with Pulitzer Prize winner **Colson Whitehead** and Scottish crime queens **Val McDermid** and **Denise Mina**.

Councillor Luthfur Rahman, Manchester City Council's executive member for skills, culture and leisure, said: "Once again Manchester Literature Festival has lined up a fantastic programme of events that has something for literature lovers of all ages and all tastes. From music, art, and clubbing, to the big issues that top the current global agenda, the festival fortnight promises to be both thought-provoking and entertaining. Don't miss it!"

John McAuliffe, co- director of the Centre for New Writing at The University of Manchester added: "The 2019 Manchester Literature Festival delivers a programme of events which is original, thought-provoking and bold, with established voices and emerging talent alike sharing centre stage. As teachers, writers and students of contemporary literature, the festival's work is extremely important

to us: it sets the cultural agenda of this most literary of cities and we are proud to continue our partnership.”

**The full line up is available on request from Manchester Literature Festival 2019 press office:**

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**Notes to editors**

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Now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, **Manchester Literature Festival** has been building on its previous success expanding audiences and creating new partnerships across the national and international literary world. Patrons of Manchester Literature Festival are former Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, award-winning journalist and Observer critic Rachel Cooke, poet and Scottish Makar Jackie Kay, broadcaster and anchor of BBC Radio 4’s Woman’s Hour Dame Jenni Murray, broadcaster and journalist Miranda Sawyer, poet and publisher Michael Schmidt, acclaimed novelist Kamila Shamsie and author and broadcaster Erica Wagner.

The Festival has tripled in size from 2006 when it featured 30 events attracting an audience of 3,000 to the 2018 Festival which featured 85 events and attracted an audience of 13,000. Over the past 13 years, the Festival has featured many of the biggest names in literary fiction and spoken word from across the globe, including Martin Amis, Simon Armitage, Margaret Atwood, Kate Atkinson, Malorie Blackman, William Boyd, Tracy Chevalier, Roddy Doyle, Margaret Drabble, Carol Ann Duffy, Helen Dunmore, Jennifer Egan, Anne Enright, Helen Fielding, Neil Gaiman, Seamus Heaney, Alan Hollinghurst, Howard Jacobson, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Armistead Maupin, Eimear McBride, Val McDermid, David Mitchell, Walter Mosley, Andrew Motion, Jo Nesbo, Patrick Ness, Audrey Niffenegger, Ben Okri, Arundhati Roy, Will Self, Kamila Shamsie, Anita Shreve, Lionel Shriver, Kate Tempest, Colm Toibín, Rose Tremain, Joanna Trollope, Sarah Waters, Fay Weldon, Jeanette Winterson, and Xinran.

**Manchester Literature Festival is supported by Arts Council England and Manchester City Council**



**MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL**



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ENGLAND**

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