



Manchester  
Literature  
Festival

PRESS RELEASE 27 July 2022

**MANCHESTER LITERATURE FESTIVAL 7 – 23 October 2022**

**HEADLINE EVENTS ANNOUNCED AS FESTIVAL RETURNS TO AN ALL LIVE LINEUP**

*“By people getting together and celebrating this idea of togetherness, great things can happen.”* Edward Enniful

**Manchester Literature Festival is delighted to announce its headline events for this year’s Festival featuring an array of the very best writing today including Maggie O’Farrell, Ruth Jones, Sheila Hancock, Kamila Shamsie, Ian Rankin hosted by Jackie Kay, and Vogue Editor Edward Enniful in conversation with Bernardine Evaristo.**

King of Scottish crime fiction **Ian Rankin** has written over 30 novels and is widely considered one of the undisputed masters of Tartan noir. Ian will be talking about *A Heart Full of Headstones*, his new, meticulously crafted thriller starring Scottish DI John Rebus, creating characters and writing place in a special conversation with poet and former Makar of Scotland, **Jackie Kay**. Presented in partnership with Waterstones.

**(12 Oct, 7.30pm, Royal Northern College of Music)**

**Ruth Jones**, the BAFTA award-winning Welsh screenwriter (*Gavin & Stacey*, *Stella*), actor, comedian and novelist is in conversation with host Julia Wheeler about her career, her writing, creating and playing strong characters, friendship and female solidarity and her forthcoming novel, *Love Untold*. Presented in partnership with Waterstones and sponsored by Weightmans.

**(7 Oct, 7.30pm, HOME)**

The much-loved British actor and writer **Sheila Hancock** will be in conversation with Alex Clark discussing her extraordinary career, her time spent in the North West, her new memoir *Old Rage*, and her commitment to activism and championing working class creatives.  
**(9 Oct, 3pm, Royal Northern College of Music)**

Manchester Literature Festival Patron and former Women's Prize for Fiction winner (*Home Fire*) **Kamila Shamsie** launches her extraordinary new novel, *Best of Friends*. An epic story set in Karachi in the late 1980s and London three decades later. Presented in partnership with the Centre for New Writing, Creative Manchester and Waterstones and hosted by BBC News Reporter and broadcaster Razia Iqbal.  
**(8 Oct, 7.30pm, Martin Harris Centre)**

In her stunning new novel, *The Marriage Portrait*, **Maggie O'Farrell** breathes life into Lucrezia de' Medici, Duchess of Ferrara, immortalised in Robert Browning's celebrated poem 'My Last Duchess'. She will be in conversation with award winning writer Kamila Shamsie. Maggie is the much-loved author of nine novels, including *Hamnet*, which won the Women's Prize for Fiction 2020, Waterstones Book of the Year, and was shortlisted for the 2021 Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction. Sponsored by Weightmans.  
**(24 Nov, 7.30pm HOME)**

**Edward Enniful**, the first Black editor-in-chief at British Vogue, is in town to talk about fashion, beauty, identity, leadership, visibility, race, culture and the transformative effect he has had on the fashion world. He will share his remarkable life, experiences and some of the stories in his excellent memoir, *A Visible Man*, with award-winning author and fellow game-changer **Bernardine Evaristo** (*Girl, Woman, Other*). Presented in partnership with Waterstones and sponsored by The Edwardian Manchester.  
**(23 Oct, 7pm, RNCM Theatre)**

- **Tickets for the headline events go on sale for MLF Get Closer Members on Wednesday 27 July and on general sale on Friday 29 July. Membership starts at £20 per annum and includes Priority Booking.**
- **Book on [manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)**
- **Some events offer both standard Tickets & Ticket & Book, please check the website for details**
- **The full programme of 40 – 45 events will be announced on Wednesday 24 August. Priority Tickets will go on sale for MLF Get Closer Members on Wednesday 24 August and on general sale on Friday 26 August**

Join the conversation: #MLF22 @McrLitFest

ENDS

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### Notes to editors

Now in its 17<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 include former Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, award-winning journalist and Observer critic Rachel Cooke, poet

and Scottish Makar Jackie Kay, broadcaster and former anchor of BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour Dame Jenni Murray, poet and publisher Michael Schmidt, acclaimed novelist Kamila Shamsie and author and broadcaster Erica Wagner.

Over the past 16 years, the Festival has featured many of the biggest names in literary fiction and spoken word as well as prominent cultural figures from across the globe, including Tori Amos, Simon Armitage, Margaret Atwood, Kate Atkinson, Malorie Blackman, William Boyd, Jung Chang, Roddy Doyle, Margaret Drabble, Carol Ann Duffy, Jennifer Egan, Inua Ellams, Anne Enright, Bernardine Evaristo, Neil Gaiman, Guy Garvey, Bobby Gillespie, Seamus Heaney, Alan Hollinghurst, Nick Hornby, Kazuo Ishiguro, Howard Jacobson, Alan Johnson, Barbara Kingsolver, Hanif Kureishi, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Deborah Levy, Johnny Marr, Paul Mason, Armistead Maupin, Val McDermid, David Mitchell, Paul Morley, Walter Mosley, Andrew Motion, Jo Nesbo, Patrick Ness, Audrey Niffenegger, Ben Okri, Arundhati Roy, Will Self, Elif Shafak, Lemn Sissay, Kamila Shamsie, Zadie Smith, Elizabeth Strout, Kae Tempest, Neil Tennant, Colm Toibín, Rose Tremain, Sarah Waters, Vivienne Westwood, Colson Whitehead, Jeanette Winterson and Xinran.

The Festival has also welcomed prominent activists, campaigners and disruptors including Patrisse Cullors (co-founder of Black Lives Matter), Angela Davis, Reni Eddo-Lodge, Caroline Criado Perez, George Monbiot, Rebecca Solnit and Gloria Steinem.

*Manchester Literature Festival gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our main funders Arts Council England, Manchester City Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, our Higher Education Partner, The University of Manchester, our hotel partners The Edwardian, Manchester and The Midland, our Media Partner Big Issue North, law firm Weightmans and Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.*