



**FESTIVAL**  
**OF** 3-29 MAY  
**2008**  
**IDEAS**

# FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

## 3-29 MAY 2008



The Festival of Ideas returns to stimulate the minds and passions of the people of Bristol. Our fourth May festival addresses many issues including schisms in the Christian Church, the impact of globalisation, science today – a new partnership with Science City Bristol – fair trade (celebrating the Bristol Ethical Expo that takes place in Castle Park in May) and transition to a greener society, changing America, the media and truth, and what the world would be like without human beings. We also look back at the sixties and the legacy of idealism, assess the impact of the Iraqi surge and look at matters of the mind and alternative medicine.

There's two film seasons with Watershed Media Centre: **May '68: When Culture was Radicalised** (on cinema and the 1960s – with each screening accompanied by archive news footage) and **Social Issues: Documentaries and Debates**, which touches on the big issues affecting public life, from globalisation to climate change.

There's also Gerry Anderson's life and work, Jon Ronson on the foibles of contemporary craziness, the philosophy of Monty Python and the politics of James Bond. So, whether it's war and peace, climate change, politics and poetry, changing America, Thunderbirds or God, there's something for you.

Thanks to all staff, partners, publishers and sponsors for helping to make this happen. Watch the website, [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk), for updates and additions. Please note that free events need pre-booking. Booking details for all events are on the back cover.

**Andrew Kelly**  
Director

3-6 MAY

GINSBERG AND 60S  
COUNTERCULTURE 1 15

3 May 14.00-15.45  
£6.00/£4.50

Watershed Media Centre

Poet, performer, social critic and cultural phenomenon Allen Ginsberg is undoubtedly the quintessential figure of the Beat Generation and the countercultural revolution of the 1960s, and this selection of films features footage of him and his contemporaries in action. *Wholly Communion* captures the first meeting of American and English Beat poets at the Royal Albert Hall in 1965, while *Anatomy of Violence* records the spectrum of leftwing politics and personalities at the 1967 Dialectics of Liberation conference in London. Adapted from a Kerouac play, *Pull My Daisy* is considered the first truly Beat film.

SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVIL 15

Directed by: Jean-Luc Godard France 1968  
Subtitled 1hr 42mins

4 May 14.00-17.00  
£6.00/£4.50

Watershed Media Centre

Made at a time when students were taking to the streets of France and featuring the biggest and baddest band of the day – the Rolling Stones – *Sympathy For The Devil* blends rock 'n' roll, counterculture and politics to examine the role of the revolutionary within western culture. Rather than creating swinging sixties rock 'n' roll mythology, Godard attempted to demystify it, to show it as cultural production, incorporating episodes featuring black power activists and an interview with anti-corporate graffiti artist Eve Democracy (Wiazemsky). Four decades on, this is a fascinating historical artefact twice over – a musical one and a political one. Introduced by Mark Cosgrove, Head of Programme Watershed.

SYLVIA HARVEY

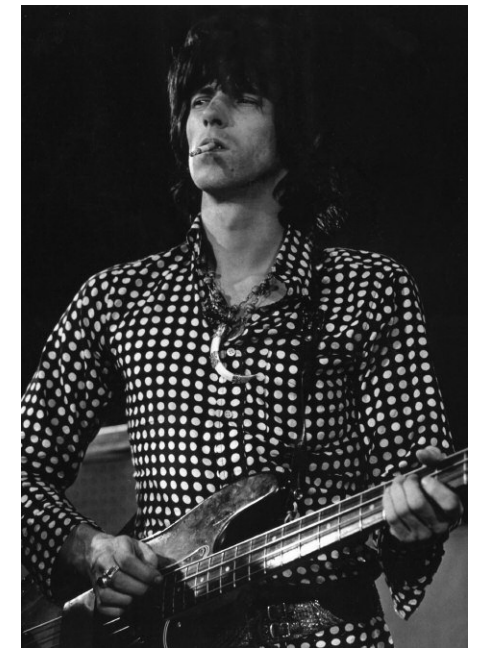
*May '68 and Film Culture* revisited

6 May 18.30-20.00

£6.00/£4.50

Watershed Media Centre

Sylvia Harvey's seminal book *May '68 and Film Culture* articulated the evolution of radical cultural and film theory and the impact of the events of May 68. In this talk she will reflect on her original thesis and ask is culture and film now living out the radical aspirations of 40 years ago. Sylvia Harvey is Professor of Broadcasting Policy at the University of Lincoln where she is Co-Director of the Centre for Media Policy, Regulation and Ethics. She has published widely on the subject of film and broadcasting policy.



Above: *Sympathy for the Devil*

Opposite: *Manufactured Landscapes*, *Leonardo DiCaprio*, *A Crude Awakening*, *Treasure Island*, *Our Daily Bread*, *Raymond Tallis*

**7-8 MAY**

**CHARLES FREEMAN ON HERETICS,  
PAGANS AND THE CHRISTIAN STATE**

**7 May 18.00-19.00**

£6.00/£4.00

Watershed Media Centre

Charles Freeman follows his stunning *The Closing of the Western Mind* with his study of one of the most important moments in Church history in AD 381, which defined Christian orthodoxy and condemned all other theories of the Godhead heretical and suppressed freedom of thought for the first time in a thousand years of Greco-Roman civilization.

**ATHEISM, AGNOSTICISM AND GOD**

**John Cornwell, Mark Vernon  
and Julian Baggini**

**7 May 19.30-20.45**

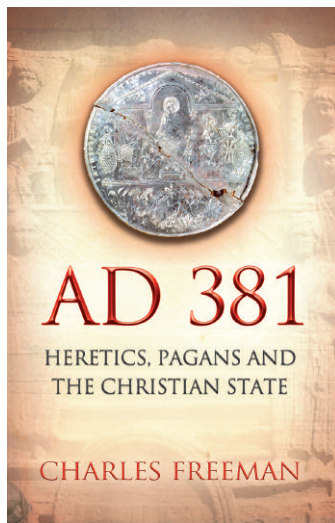
£6.00/£4.00

Watershed Media Centre

Richard Dawkins' *The God Delusion* has sparked massive debate. One to respond is historian and journalist John Cornwell with *Darwin's Angel*, in which he argues that Dawkins is dogmatic and extremist. He discusses his book with the atheist philosopher Julian Baggini, author of *Atheism: a short introduction* and Mark Vernon, agnostic, who in *After Atheism*, argues that a committed, even passionate, agnosticism is vital for the future of our planet and our souls.



A Crude Awakening



**A CRUDE AWAKENING:  
THE OIL CRASH** PG

Directed by: Basil Gelpke/Ray McCormack 2006

**8 May 18.00-20.30**

£6.00/£4.50

Watershed Media Centre in association  
with Science City Bristol

Balancing superb archival footage with the dire warnings of contemporary scientists and political experts, this is a compelling, intelligent and highly entertaining look at what will happen when our supply of cheap oil runs out. Amidst a dark and disturbing vision of our future, the film hints at a humbler way of life built around sustainability and alternative energy, providing a visually stunning, boldly prophetic testament which provokes not just thought but action. Following the film a panel will discuss issues of peak oil, energy, fear and our response. Speakers include James Woudhuysen, Professor of Forecasting and Innovation at De Montfort University, journalist and author of *Energise: why the future of energy is too important to leave to politicians and rock stars* and Peter Lipman, Director, Liveable Neighbourhoods & Low Carbon Travel, Sustrans.

SCIENCE = BRISTOL  
CITY REGION

**8-10 MAY**

**ALAN SOKAL ON PSEUDO-SCIENCE,  
RELIGION, AND MISINFORMATION  
IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**8 May 18.30-19.30**

£6.00/£4.00

Watershed Media Centre

Alan Sokal's 1996 paper in the cultural-studies journal *Social Text* 'Transgressing the Boundaries: towards a transformative hermeneutics of quantum gravity' was a hoax designed to expose and parody extreme postmodernist criticism of science. It became front-page news, triggering a fierce and wide-ranging controversy. Sokal remains a powerful voice in the debate about the status of evidence-based knowledge. In *Beyond the Hoax* he targets pseudo-science, religion, and misinformation in public life arguing that clear thinking, combined with a respect for evidence, are of the utmost importance to the survival of the human race in the twenty-first century.

**GINSBERG AND 60S  
COUNTERCULTURE 2** 15

**10 May 14.00-16.00**

£6.00/£4.50

Watershed Media Centre

This selection features glimpses into the changing scene in 1960s London alongside more contemporary reflections on Ginsberg's legacy. 1967 Granada programme *Underground* documents the underground newspaper *International Times* and its launch at Camden's Roundhouse featuring appearances by Paul McCartney, Ginsberg and Ferlinghetti as well as an early performance by Pink Floyd. Ginsberg also appears in conversation with Jeremy Isaacs in 1995 in *Face to Face*, and is the focus of 1998's *The Windows of the Skull* from Channel 4's *Modern American Poets* series.

**HARRIET LAMB ON FAIRTRADE  
VS AIRMILES**

**10 May 14.00-15.00**

**FREE** but must be booked  
(see booking details)

Castle Park Ethical Expo

Harriet Lamb, director of the Fairtrade Foundation and author of *Fighting the Banana Wars and Other Fairtrade Battles*, looks at the dilemma of promoting fair trade at the same time as use of aircraft to bring food to the UK. Is fair trade food a form of offsetting? Are we buying our way ethically to further climate disaster or is ethical trading and sustainability compatible?

**LIVING THE GOOD LIFE**

**Harriet Lamb and Andrew Simms**

**10 May 15.30-16.30**

**FREE** but must be booked  
(see booking details)

Castle Park Ethical Expo

Harriet Lamb talks about one of the greatest – and most successful – global campaigns of all time, one that has ranged from bananas and coffee beans to cotton and chocolate, with Andrew Simms, New Economics Foundation's Policy Director and head of the Climate Change programme at nef's Centre for Global Interdependence. His books include *Tescopology* and *Do Good Lives Have to Cost the Earth?* which examines how to live a good life.



Harriet Lamb

11-12 MAY

## THE PHILOSOPHY OF MONTY PYTHON WITH JULIAN BAGGINI

11 May 14.00-15.30

£6.00/£4.00

Watershed Media Centre

If life is as absurd as it often seems to be, then might not the best comedy have the greatest insights into its meaning? Baggini argues that the Pythons provide an ironic Anglo-Saxon alternative to gloomy European existentialism, one which is both wiser and funnier.

Ridiculous? Possibly. True? Quite probably. Always looking on the bright side of philosophy, Baggini – who looked at the philosophy of the Simpsons in a sell-out show last year – nonetheless promises to stop if it all gets too silly. Illustrated with clips from the films.

## THE SIXTIES AND VIOLENCE

Astrid Proll and Iain Sinclair

12 May 18.00-19.00

£6.00/£4.00

Arnolfini

Astrid Proll was a member of the early Baader-Meinhof group (Red Army Faction) and spent time in prison. She wrote about her time in *Baader-Meinhof – pictures on the run 1967-1977*. In discussion with writer and commentator Iain Sinclair she talks about Germany in 1968, why she came to England in 1970 and what happened afterwards. Sinclair's next book, a 'documentary fiction' *Hackney: that rose-red empire*, includes coverage of Proll's life in England.



Dominic Sandbrook



Andrew Anthony

## THE SIXTIES AND THE LEGACY OF IDEALISM

Andrew Anthony, Sheila Rowbotham, Dominic Sandbrook, Peter Tatchell and Helen Taylor

12 May 19.30-21.00

£6.00/£4.00

Arnolfini

Forty years on the sixties look like the last great outpouring of optimism and idealism, as signalled in that incredible year of 1968. How do we look back at the sixties now? What do activists then think of society and politics now? Does idealism exist anymore in the face of criticism of multiculturalism and looming environmental disaster? Is liberalism now doing more damage than good? Sheila Rowbotham, socialist feminist theorist and writer with a long history of activism, is the author of the memoir *Promise of a Dream: remembering the sixties*. Peter Tatchell is a human rights campaigner and a member of the queer rights group OutRage! and the left wing of the Green party. Andrew Anthony is an *Observer* and *Guardian* journalist, and member of the liberal left. His latest book, *The Fallout* is about broken dreams, darkened illusions and big questions that no longer match their received answers. Dominic Sandbrook's two books *Never Had It So Good: a history of Britain from Suez to the Beatles* and *White Heat: a history of Britain in the Swinging Sixties: 1964-1970* have been widely praised. Chaired by Helen Taylor, University of Exeter, who was active in the United States in the late sixties as a graduate student.

13-14 MAY

## SEBASTIAN PEAKE ON MERVYN PEAKE

13 May 18.00-19.00

FREE but must be booked  
(see booking details)

City Museum and Art Gallery

Mervyn Peake was one of the greatest artists and writers of the twentieth century, author of *Gormenghast*, his illustrations for *Treasure Island*, a novel forever associated with Bristol, are considered among the best ever produced for R L Stevenson's masterpiece. 2008 being the 40th anniversary of his death, his son Sebastian Peake, co-compiler of *Mervyn Peake: the man & his art*, will be speaking about his father's life and work, display several recently-discovered drawings, paintings, and the designs for a stage adaptation of *Gormenghast* for which it was intended Benjamin Britten would write the music, and also read some of Peake's poems.

## RAYMOND TALLIS

13 May 19.30-20.30

FREE but must be booked  
(see booking details)

City Museum and Art Gallery in association with Science City Bristol

Raymond Tallis is a leading British gerontologist, philosopher, poet, novelist and cultural critic. His new book, *The Kingdom of Infinite Space* is a journey around our heads bringing together biological science and philosophical interrogation in search of the place where our souls, and consciousness, reside. From the act of blushing and the amount of manganese in our tears to the curiousness of a kiss, *The Kingdom of Infinite Space* explores the astonishing range of activities that go on inside our heads, most of which are entirely beyond our control.

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CITY REGION

## CHARLES LEADBEATER ON MASS CREATIVITY

14 May 18.00-19.00

£7.50

Watershed Media Centre in association with Science City Bristol

Charles Leadbeater's work has led the development of the creative economy and the new knowledge industries. His new book, *We-Think* – the result of a new way of writing, where readers contributed material via the author's website – is the story of modern innovative participation, from Wikipedia, YouTube and Craigslist to new forms of scientific research and political campaigning. Leadbeater analyses not only these changes, which are reshaping the way we work, play and communicate, but also how they will affect us and how we can make the most of them.

SCIENCE = BRISTOL  
CITY REGION

## GEORGE FERGUSON ON REGENERATION BY DESIGN

14 May 19.30-21.00

£6.00

Watershed Media Centre in association with West of England Design Forum

Successful regeneration is not a quotient of the size of a development, but of quality, mix, and atmosphere. This requires well informed 'design' not about style but about observation and an intelligent and creative response to the needs and opportunities that a place offers. Regeneration is best measured by the level of activity that it generates and is only to do with buildings in so far as those buildings enable the activity. Ferguson, active in many Bristol developments, and a recent President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, illustrates his argument with examples of what he calls real regeneration as opposed to the bland monocultures so loved by the corporate development world.

## 14-15 MAY

### JON RONSON – TALES OF EVERYDAY CRAZINESS

14 May 19.30-20.30

£6.00/£4.00

Arnolfini

Award-winning journalist, writer and documentary film maker, Jon Ronson has long explored the craziness of everyday life. Our everyday lives are determined by the craziest thoughts and we inevitably spend too much time getting worked up by complete nonsense. There are clever people worldwide who are employed to spot, nurture and exploit the irrationalities of those among us who can barely cope as it is. Nobody more than Jon Ronson is aware and capable of making us laugh about our obsessions and neuroses. His books *Them: adventures with extremists* and *The Men Who Stare At Goats* are currently being turned into movies. He has recently published *What I Do: more true tales of everyday craziness*.

### JEAN MOORCROFT WILSON ON ISAAC ROSENBERG

15 May 18.00-19.00

FREE but must be booked

(see booking details)

City Museum and Art Gallery

Painter and poet Isaac Rosenberg died on the Western Front in 1918 aged 27. T S Eliot called him the 'most extraordinary' of the Great War poets, but he differed from others in race, class, education, upbringing, experience and technique, and he made eloquent the voice of the "poor bloody Tommy". Moorcroft Wilson, author of the first biography of Rosenberg for 30 years, focuses on the relationship between his life and work – Bristol childhood, his time at the Slade School of Art and his harrowing life as a private in the British Army. Illustrated with Rosenberg's work and readings from his poetry.



Jon Ronson

### THE SECOND MUSEUM OF BRISTOL LECTURE: THE HISTORIAN AND THE CITY

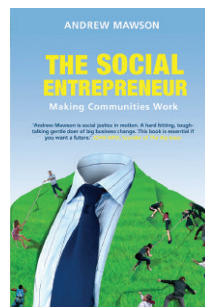
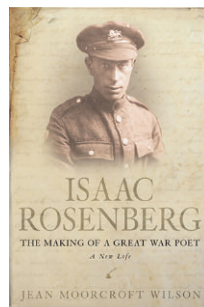
Adrian Tinniswood

15 May 19.30-21.00

FREE but must be booked  
(see booking details)

City Museum and Art Gallery

Historian Adrian Tinniswood's most recent book is *The Verneys*, which has received widespread critical acclaim. As regional chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund he has been involved in many Bristol heritage projects, and now, in the lead-up to the opening of the Museum of Bristol in 2010, Adrian reflects on his own work as a historian, looks at ways in which historians have defined the city in the past, and outlines the vital role that history has in shaping Bristol's future.



## 16-20 MAY

### COMMUNITIES LEADING CHANGE

Andrew Mawson and Paul Kingsnorth

16 May 18.00-19.00

£6.00/£4.00

Watershed Media Centre

When Andrew Mawson arrived in Bromley-by-Bow in the east end of London, in the 1980s, it was in a state of social, economic and material disrepair. Living there, he soon realized that by unlocking its untapped potential, the community could begin to turn itself around and established the Bromley-by-Bow Centre, which has encouraged literacy, housing, business, health, welfare and enterprise in the area to flourish. Mawson talks about his book, *The Social Entrepreneur*, with Paul Kingsnorth, author of *Real England*. Kingsnorth's book explores the impact of breakneck globalisation on the cultures and landscapes of England, exploring the homogenising of the landscape, the death of the small, the local and the individual, and the people fighting for a different kind of future.

### THE POLITICS OF JAMES BOND WITH BEN MACINTYRE

18 May 14.00-17.00

£6.00/£4.50

Watershed Media Centre

Ben Macintyre, author of the bestselling *ZigZag*, explores the politics of James Bond and his creator, Ian Fleming. Fleming's 007 emerged against the background of the Second World War and the Cold War, and Bond's world was based on the realities (and fantasies) of Fleming's life as a wartime spy-master and peacetime bon viveur. Macintyre talks about the real people behind the fictional creations and explains the astonishing legacy of the Bond books and the enduring appeal of a fictional secret agent who not only lived twice, but proved to be immortal. The talk will be accompanied by a showing of *Goldfinger* (PG).

### GERRY ANDERSON

In association with West of England Design Forum

20 May 18.00-19.30

£10.00

Watershed Media Centre

The great television and film producer, director and writer, Gerry Anderson famous for his futuristic television programmes, comes to Bristol to talk about his long and distinguished career – from *The Adventures of Twizzle* in the 1950s to the hugely popular sixties series, to the present day work in film and television. There'll be clips from *Thunderbirds*, *Fireball XL5*, *Captain Scarlet*, *Joe 90*, *Space 1999*, among many others.

### BARONESS SUSAN GREENFIELD ON ID: THE QUEST FOR MEANING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

20 May 18.00-19.00

£6.00/£4.00

Arnolfini in association with Science City Bristol

Our individuality is under attack as never before. Two huge new forces – new technology and the rise in fundamentalism – are combining to threaten the control of our own minds and the way our society functions. Baroness Greenfield, Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, draws on the latest findings in neuroscience to show how far we are and can be in control of the development of our brains and minds – and the actions we need to take now both to safeguard our individuality and to find the fulfilment which our current unfettered materialism cannot provide.



## 20-21 MAY

### NICK DAVIES AND GORDON BURN ON TRUTH AND THE MEDIA

20 May 19.45-21.00

£6.00/£4.00

Arnolfini

Can we trust modern media? Award-winning journalist Nick Davies investigated his own profession and found an industry in crisis. In *Flat Earth News* journalism is undermined by commercialism: most reporters are no longer able to go out and find stories, make contacts or even check the facts which they recycle. Gordon Burn, novelist, artist and true crime author, wrote his most recent book as the news unfolded. *Born Yesterday: the news as a novel*, looks at Summer 2007: floods, foot and mouth, the disappearances of Tony Blair and Madeleine McCann, the arrival of Gordon Brown, and terror attacks in Glasgow and turned them into an utterly unique novel about the way news is made, and how the media creates and manipulates the stories we see before us.

### SIMON SINGH AND EDZARD ERNST

*Trick or Treatment?: alternative medicine on trial*

21 May 18.00-19.00

£6.00/£4.00

Arnolfini in association with Science City Bristol

Prince Charles is a staunch defender and millions of people swear by it; most UK doctors consider it to be little more than superstition and a waste of money. What treatments really heal and which are potentially harmful? Edzard Ernst, the world's first professor of complementary medicine, has spent over a decade analysing the evidence for and against alternative therapies. He is supported in his findings by Simon Singh, the highly respected science writer of several international bestsellers. Honest, impartial but hard-hitting, they provide a thorough examination and



Simon Singh

judgement of more than 30 of the most popular treatments: acupuncture, homeopathy, aromatherapy, reflexology, chiropractic and herbal medicine, among others, with clarity, scientific rigour and authority.



### PATRICK COCKBURN AND JONATHAN STEELE ON IRAQ

21 May 19.30-20.30

£6.00/£4.00

Arnolfini

Patrick Cockburn is the Middle East correspondent for *The Independent*. His new book, on Muqtada Al-Sadr, whose men are killing more British troops than any other group in the world today, charts his rise to power, his links with Hezbollah and the Iranians and his confrontation with the American and British military, combining first hand accounts with vivid and dismaying reportage of the civil war now raging in a fractured country. Cockburn discusses this with *Guardian* correspondent, Jonathan Steele, whose new book, based on his work in the region, *Defeat: why they lost Iraq* looks at the failure of the Allied invasion. John Simpson called it 'a superb book – the best account so far of what went wrong in Iraq, and why'.

## 22 MAY

### THE OSBORNE CLARKE IDEAS LAW LECTURE

Philippe Sands on torture  
and the law

22 May 18.00-19.00

£6.00/£4.00

Watershed Media Centre

What happens when lawyers do politicians' bidding? International lawyer Philippe Sands, author of the acclaimed *Lawless World: making and breaking global rules*, uncovers the story behind the human-rights abuses that the US government sanctioned and the terrible consequences of their actions. Who were the lawyers, military personnel and politicians who constructed the policy and provided the rationale for the one-page memorandum signed by Donald Rumsfeld on 2 December 2002 authorizing interrogation techniques forbidden under the Geneva Convention? *Torture Team* traces the origins of the memorandum through interviews with the key figures speaking out for the first time. This is a chilling and compelling story of men and women corrupted by power and the few who bravely stood out against them.

Osborne  
Clarke 



Philippe Sands



Matt Frei

### MATT FREI ON AMERICA

22 May 19.30-20.30

£6.00/£4.00

Watershed Media Centre

What does the state of Washington today tell us about the United States? For Matt Frei, BBC Washington correspondent, it is the new Rome: all powerful, yet it cannot prevent a 17-year-old boy from shooting half a dozen people in a month; so rich, and yet so poor that its streets are frequently as potholed as those of any forgotten backwater in the developing world; more armed officers per square mile but has earned the title of being its country's murder capital; where the mayor for 12 years was a convicted crack addict who believed that every law in his own country was racist, 'including the law of gravity'. In discussion with Cynthia Enloe Government Department, Clark University, USA.

23 MAY

**MANUFACTURED LANDSCAPES** U

Directed by: Jennifer Baichwal, Canada 2006

23-27 May 18.20-20.00

and 20.20-22.00

28-29 May 18.20-20.00

£6.00/£4.50

Watershed Media Centre

This award-winning documentary centres on renowned artist Edward Burtynsky whose large-scale photographs portray the devastating impact of industrial expansion on the environment. Baichwal observes the artist at work amid some of the most surreal landscapes of the twenty-first century: China's mountains of computer waste, the Yangtze River where whole towns are disappearing in the flooding caused by the Three Gorges Dam and the shipbreaking yards of Bangladesh. A sobering meditation on human endeavour and its impact on the planet.



Manufactured Landscapes



Naomi Klein

**NAOMI KLEIN**

23 May 18.00-19.00

£6.00/£4.00

Arnolfini

Naomi Klein calls the story of how the 'free market' came to dominate the world from Chile to Russia, China to Iraq, South Africa to Britain the 'shock doctrine'. Based on breakthrough historical research and four years of on-the-ground reporting, Naomi Klein explodes the myth that 'free markets' lead to 'free people'. She argues that our world is increasingly in thrall to a little understood yet hugely influential ideology: the shock doctrine – a doctrine that sees moments of collective crisis as a 'window of opportunity'. From the 1970s dictatorships of South America, through the Falklands War, Tiananmen Square and the collapse of the Soviet Union, Naomi Klein reinterprets our past to trace the rise of disaster capitalism, a programme of social and economic engineering advanced through shock. Playing out today around the world in Israel, Iraq, New Orleans and South-East Asia, *The Shock Doctrine* reveals the true beliefs that lie behind global policy.

26-27 MAY

**OUR DAILY BREAD** 12A

Directed by: Nikolaus Geyrhalte

26 May 18.10-19.55

£6.00/£4.50

Watershed Media Centre

This visually stunning and evocative documentary is a wide-screen tableau of a feast which isn't always easy to digest, but in which we all take part. To the rhythm of conveyor belts and immense machines, the film looks into the places where food is produced in Europe – cool, industrial environments comprised of monumental spaces, surreal landscapes and bizarre sounds which wouldn't be out of place in science fiction. With no voiceover or music, the film unfolds in long, slow shots both beautiful and horrific in their indictment of the industry's ritual, mass destruction and contamination of both land and animals.



Our Daily Bread



Leonardo DiCaprio

**THE 11TH HOUR** PG

In association with Triodos Bank

Directed by: Nadia Conners/Leila Conners Petersen, USA 2007

27 May 18.00-20.30

£6.00/£4.50

Watershed Media Centre in association with Science City Bristol

This expose of the state of the natural environment confronts viewers about the indelible human footprint that humans have left on this planet, and the catastrophic effects of environmental neglect and abuse. Produced and narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, the film presents a flood of striking images of environmental turbulence interspersed with commentary from prominent figures including Stephen Hawking. Though the issues are stark, the film is ultimately hopeful, suggesting that by working together and developing more socially responsible attitudes we can shape a better future. An expert panel discusses what we need to do next: Peter Melchett (Soil Association and organic farmer), John Pontin, Bristol businessman and environmentalist, whose book, *The Converging World*, tells the story of making Chew Magna a 'zero waste' society, Susan Warren, Head of Sustainable Cities, Forum for the Future and James Vaccaro, Triodos Bank, an authority on renewable energy and sustainability.



28 MAY

ALAN WEISMAN – ON THE WORLD WITHOUT HUMAN BEINGS

28 May 18.00-19.00

£6.00/£4.00

At-Bristol in association with Science City Bristol

Would the world be better off without human beings? Alan Weisman looks to the future to discover what the world might be like, and how it would change if humans disappeared right now for good. Would the climate return to where it was before we fired up our engines? Could nature ever obliterate all traces of human civilization? How would it undo our largest buildings and public works, and could it reduce our myriad plastics and synthetics to benign, basic elements? And what about architecture and art? Weisman wrestles with some of the key concerns of our time and reveals a picture of the future that is both illuminating and terrifying. Weisman is in discussion with environmental writer and activist Mark Lynas, author of *Six Degrees: our future on a hotter planet*.

SCIENCE = BRISTOL CITY REGION



Kate Mosse

KATE MOSSE

Blackwell Book Talk

28 May 18.30-19.30

£6.00/£4.00

St George's Bristol in association with Blackwell

The bestselling author of *Labyrinth*, and Richard and Judy favourite, Kate Mosse, reveals all about her stunning new novel, *Sepulchre*. A haunting mystery of revenge and obsession, set against the rich backdrop of Southern France, the story centres around two women whose lives become entwined, despite living a hundred years apart. Expertly weaving the present with the past, Mosse creates another gripping tale of revenge, murder, treasure and forgotten secrets that is just as addictive as her last.

GARY MARCUS AND SUSAN BLACKMORE ON THE MIND

28 May 19.30-20.30

£6.00/£4.00

At-Bristol in association with Science City Bristol

New York University psychologist Gary Marcus unveils a fundamentally new way of looking at the human mind. He argues that the mind is not an elegantly designed organ but a kluge (an engineering term for a makeshift solution, an inelegant construction that somehow works). Arguing against a whole tradition that praises our human minds as the most perfect result of evolution, Marcus shows how imperfect and ill-adapted our brains really are, having had to adapt from the environment of our early hominid origins to a complex world in which our penchant for short-term satisfactions is literally fatal. He examines why people often vote against their own interests, why money can't buy happiness, and why leaders often stick to bad decisions. He is in discussion with Dr Susan Blackmore, author of *Consciousness: an introduction*, and *A Very Short Introduction to Consciousness*.

SCIENCE = BRISTOL CITY REGION

29 MAY

GEORGE JOHNSON ON THE TEN GREATEST MOMENTS IN SCIENCE

29 May 18.00-19.00

£6.00/£4.00

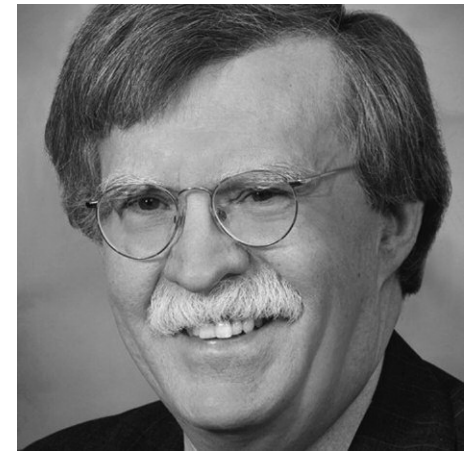
Watershed Media Centre in association with Science City Bristol

One of the world's finest science journalists tells the story of the ten greatest moments which profoundly changed our understanding of the universe; from Galileo, William Harvey and Isaac Newton to Michael Faraday, James Joule and Ivan Pavlov; from gravity and the circulation of the blood to the movement of light and the nature of electricity. Johnson looks at how the diligence of all these scientists was rewarded: in an instant, confusion was swept aside, and something new about nature leapt into view. With these ten entertaining histories, Johnson reminds us of a time when all research was hands-on and the most earthshaking science came from a single mind confronting the unknown.

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Gary Marcus



John Bolton

AMBASSADOR JOHN BOLTON

29 May 19.30-20.30

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Watershed Media Centre

The son of a Baltimore fireman and the first person in his family to go to university, with scholarships to Yale College and Yale Law School, John Bolton candidly recounts his 16 month tenure as US Ambassador to the United Nations, his Senate confirmation battle, and the highlights of his career in public service in two Republican administrations. He describes why practices such as the Oil for Food scandal, procurement fraud and sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeepers are explained away or ignored. He also details how he made sure that UN Secretary General Kofi Annan did not run for a third term and that another 'secular Pope' did not succeed him and why no country except the United States has done much about ending the genocide in Darfur. With a no-holds barred approach, John Bolton provides a unique insight into the workings of the United Nations and America's place within it.



## BOOKING DETAILS

### ARNOLFINI

[www.arnolfini.org.uk](http://www.arnolfini.org.uk) Contact Arnolfini directly on: 0117 917 2300 or visit in person. Box office opening hours are 10.00-21.30 daily.

### AT-BRISTOL

[www.at-bristol.org.uk](http://www.at-bristol.org.uk) At-Bristol box office, Explore-At-Bristol (10.00-17.00 weekdays; 10.00-18.00 weekends and bank holidays); booking line 0845 345 1235 (local rate calls), 09.00-17.00 Monday to Friday. Booking fee of 50p per telephone booking applies.

### ST GEORGE'S

[www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk](http://www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk) Contact St George's directly on: 0845 40 24 001 or visit in person. St George's box office is located on the right hand side of the building, accessible from Great George Street. Box office opening hours are Monday to Friday 10.00-18.00, Saturday 12.00-17.00.

### WATERSHED MEDIA CENTRE

[www.watershed.co.uk](http://www.watershed.co.uk) Contact Watershed Media Centre directly on: 0117 927 5100 or visit in person.

### FREE EVENTS

Places at free events must be booked in advance and are subject to availability. If you would like to enquire about reserving places for any of our free events, please email [ideas@businesswest.co.uk](mailto:ideas@businesswest.co.uk).

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