



**FESTIVAL  
OF AUTUMN 2008  
SEASON  
IDEAS**

[www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk)

# FESTIVAL OF IDEAS AUTUMN 2008 SEASON



Our autumn season sees a number of special events taking place in Bristol with leading artists, scientists, writers, commentators and journalists coming to the city for discussion and debate. We're also collaborating with the University of Bristol on their annual Art Lectures, which this year have an arts and sciences theme, Bristol Grammar School on a special event with Kate Adie, St George's Bristol, Watershed Media Centre, Spike Island and the West of England Design Forum. Many of the events are free but some require advance booking. Details are given in each entry. I hope to see you at these events. Please visit our website, [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk), for updates and to hear interviews with festival speakers.

**Andrew Kelly**  
Director

**3 SEPTEMBER - 15 OCTOBER**

## ALAA AL ASWANY

TALK, FOLLOWED BY A SCREENING OF  
THE YACOUBIAN BUILDING

**3 September 2008 18.00-21.30**

Watershed Media Centre, Bristol  
£6.00/£4.50

This is a rare chance to see award-winning author and political commentator, Alaa Al Aswany. A great writer offering a unique Egyptian voice, his phenomenally successful novel *The Yacoubian Building* enjoyed the status of number one bestseller for over two years across the Middle East and inspired the highest budget Arabic-language film ever. He talks about Egyptian and Middle Eastern politics and his new book *Chicago* before a screening of *The Yacoubian Building*. The interview will last for one hour, followed by a 30 minute break before the film begins.

To book, contact Watershed on:  
0117 927 5100 or visit in person

## TARIQ ALI

THE DUEL: PAKISTAN ON THE FLIGHT PATH  
OF AMERICAN POWER

In association with St George's  
**13 October 2008 18.00-19.00**

St George's Bristol  
£6.00/£4.00

Tariq Ali, novelist, historian, political campaigner and a prolific commentator on world politics, is known widely for his passionate speaking and writing. His recent books have covered subjects as diverse as Chavez and Venezuela, 7/7, India and the Middle East. He has long been acknowledged as a leading commentator on Pakistan. His new book, *The Duel – Pakistan on the Flight Path of American Power*, combines deep understanding of the country's history with extensive first hand research and political judgement to weigh the prospects of those contending for power in the aftermath of Benazir Bhutto's assassination, and demonstrates Pakistan's

unique influence on the emergence of a secure world or global conflagration. An essential session for those concerned with the state of the world and its future.

To book, contact St George's on:  
0845 40 24 001 or visit in person

## DEYAN SUDJIC

THE LANGUAGE OF THINGS

The First Spike Design Annual Lecture  
In partnership with West of England Design  
Forum and Bristol Media

**15 October 2008 18.30-20.00**

Spike Island, Bristol  
£5.00/£2.00

In a world drowning in objects, is the designer part of the problem, tapping into our acquisitive gene to seduce us into buying more things that we don't need, or can design still be a reflection of cultural values? Deyan Sudjic OBE, is the Director of the Design Museum in London. Trained as an architect, he chose not to practice, and has worked as a critic, a curator and an editor.

To book, contact Spike Island on:  
0117 929 2266 or email:  
[admin@spikeisland.org.uk](mailto:admin@spikeisland.org.uk)

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Deyan Sudjic



Richard Evans

## 17-21 OCTOBER

### RICHARD EVANS

**THE UNIQUENESS OF THE HOLOCAUST AND WHAT ORDINARY GERMANS THOUGHT ABOUT IT**  
In association with University of Bristol and UWE

**17 October 2008 18.00-19.00**

Wills Memorial Building,  
Queen's Road, Bristol

This event is free of charge, but places must be booked in advance

To mark the publication of the final part of his stunning masterwork on the most terrible years of the twentieth century, Richard Evans, Professor of Modern History at Cambridge University, comes to Bristol to talk about the uniqueness of the Nazi Holocaust and what ordinary Germans thought about it. Evans' new book, *The Third Reich at War*, joins *The Coming of the Third Reich* and *The Third Reich in Power*, which have been praised for being the definitive accounts of the Nazi period. His lecture will be followed by questions and discussion.

To enquire about reserving a place, email: [ideas@gwebusinesswest.co.uk](mailto:ideas@gwebusinesswest.co.uk)

### PETER SCOTT DEBATE

#### ANIMALS VS PEOPLE

In association with Wildscreen Festival

**21 October 2008 19.00-21.00**

Wills Memorial Building,  
Queen's Road, Bristol

This event is free of charge, but places must be booked in advance

The Peter Scott Debate is the Wildscreen Festival's prestigious keynote event, open to the public as well as festival delegates. 'Animals vs People' looks at the complex issues surrounding the twin objectives of protecting both human and biological diversity. It will consider the importance of finding ways of establishing partnerships between conservationists and local people, the problems that arise when such partnerships fail, and ask whether or not there are inherent conflicts of interest between the goals of biodiversity and cultural diversity. Valmik Thapar (India), outspoken tiger conservationist and Will Travers (UK), CEO of the Born Free Foundation, argue for the animals; Professor Bill Adams (UK), Cambridge University, and Mary Mavanza (Tanzania) of the Jane Goodall Institute argue for the people. The debate will be chaired by Dr Cristian Samper, Director of the Smithsonian Institution.

To book, email: [info@wildscreen.org.uk](mailto:info@wildscreen.org.uk)



Kate Adie

## 22 OCTOBER - 26 NOVEMBER

### KATE ADIE

**INTO DANGER: RISKING YOUR LIFE FOR YOUR WORK**

**22 October 2008 19.00-20.00**

Great Hall, Bristol Grammar School  
£7.00/£5.00

Ever since her days as a reporter on the front line in Iraq, Kate Adie has earned her reputation as one of the most intrepid women of her day. Throughout her career she has regularly reported from the world's most dangerous war zones – often placing her own life at serious risk. It has given her a curiosity about the people who are attracted to danger. She reflects on this in her new book *Into Danger: Risking your Life for Your Work* and comes to Bristol to talk about this.

There will be refreshments and entertainment before and after the talk.

To book, email Lucy Shepherd at: [lshepherd@bgs.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:lshepherd@bgs.bristol.sch.uk)

### NIALL FERGUSON

#### MONEY AND HUMAN PROGRESS

In association with the Centre for Governance & International Affairs, University of Bristol

**7 November 2008 18.00-19.00**

Wills Memorial Building, Queen's Road, Bristol

This event is free of charge but places must be booked in advance

Harvard historian and broadcaster Niall Ferguson follows his best-selling books on the First World War, the American empire and the violent twentieth century with *The Ascent of Money*, a new book and Channel 4 series on money and its role in the economy, politics, the arts, war and peace. From the impact of the bond market on the American civil war to the way financial failure led to Argentina becoming a basket case to the financial

revolution now propelling China from poverty to power in a single generation, Ferguson, in his usual passionate style and with great clarity, talks about the ascent of money as the cornerstone of human progress and decline. As Britain and the world reels under the impact of the credit crunch it's an essential session for our time. Whether you are just paying the bills or want to be a master of the universe, Ferguson shows that knowing about the history of money with its bubbles and crashes, will stop you getting your fingers burnt.

To enquire about reserving a place, email: [ideas@gwebusinesswest.co.uk](mailto:ideas@gwebusinesswest.co.uk)

### CHRIS PATTEN

#### WHAT NEXT: SURVIVING THE 21ST CENTURY

In association with St George's and the Centre for Governance & International Affairs, University of Bristol

**26 November 2008 18.00-19.00**

St George's Bristol

£6.00/£4.00

The world's problems and possibilities, and their future, are analysed with unique authority and a superbly engaging style by Chris Patten, one of the biggest and best-selling political thinkers of our time. Drawing on his experience at the highest levels of national and international politics, he investigates the proliferating list of challenges facing our world and argues how each in turn may be faced. Chris Patten was until recently European Commissioner for External Relations. A former MP, he is best known for being the last Governor of Hong Kong and, at one time, Chairman of the Conservative Party.

To book, contact St George's on: **0845 40 24 001** or visit in person



Niall Ferguson



Chris Patten

## THE CREATIVE BRAIN: CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN ART AND SCIENCE

### UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL AUTUMN ART LECTURE SERIES

This autumn Bristol is host to world renowned scientists, artists, musicians and filmmakers in a stunning series of sci-art conversations. **The Creative Brain: Conversations Between Art and Science** is co-ordinated by Stafford Lightman, a neuroscientist and Professor of Medicine, and Kathy Sykes, Professor of Sciences and Society, both at the University of Bristol. In a series of eight chaired public conversations between eminent and innovative scientists and artists, the series will seek to explore the parallel and creative landscapes that both science and art inhabit, to identify the insights that can enrich each other's work and share the value of such cross-disciplinary dialogue live, in print, and online – with the world. What have an embryologist and saxophonist got in common? Why is a Nobel Prizewinner for research into cell cycles discussing the power of art to understand the world? A Booker Prize-winning novelist exploring how brain sciences might explain love? Why has a scientist turned to the power of art to illuminate science, and what stimulates all these speakers to seek dialogue across disciplines? **The Creative Brain** conversations will explore the intersect between art and science where hard graft, creative approaches and the role of the human imagination are key. For further details and updates, visit the lectures website at: [www.bristol.ac.uk/autumnartlectures](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/autumnartlectures).

All of these events will take place at the Wills Memorial Building, Queen's Road, Bristol. They are free of charge and no advance booking is necessary.



Daria Martin

### COLIN BLAKEMORE AND DARIA MARTIN

#### ART AND PERCEPTION: MOVEMENT AND STASIS

14 October 2008 18.00-19.30

Colin Blakemore, a neurobiologist specialising in vision, currently Waynflete Professor of Physiology, University of Oxford and Director of the Oxford Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience, discusses 'Art and perception: movement and stasis' with Daria Martin, artist and filmmaker.

### JONATHAN MILLER AND RICHARD GREGORY

#### WHAT IS LOOKING. EXACTLY?

4 November 2008 18.00-19.30

Jonathan Miller, doctor, theatre and opera director, author, television director and presenter and sculptor discusses 'What is looking, exactly?' with Richard Gregory, Emeritus Professor of Neuropsychology at the University of Bristol, and co-founder of the Exploratory in Bristol.

### LORD ROBERT WINSTON AND JOHN HARLE THE SAXOPHONIST AND THE SCIENTIST

10 November 2008 18.00-19.30

Lord Robert Winston, Professor of Science and Society, Emeritus Professor of Fertility Studies, Imperial College, London discusses 'The saxophonist and the scientist' with John Harle, world renowned saxophonist, composer, conductor, musical director and producer.

### A S BYATT AND SEMIR ZEKI NEUROESTHETICS, LOVE AND LITERATURE

25 November 2008 18.00-19.30

Semir Zeki, Professor of Neurobiology at University College and Founder of the Institute of Neuroesthetics at UCL and Berkeley, California, discusses 'Neuroesthetics, love and literature' with Booker Prize-winning novelist, critic and short-story writer A S Byatt.

### LIZZIE BURNS AND KAREN INGHAM ART INSPIRED BY SCIENCE

2 December 2008 18.00-19.30

Scientist-turned-artist, Lizzie Burns, discusses 'Art inspired by science' with Karen Ingham, an inter-disciplinary lens-based artist, working across the mediums of photography, film, video and digital imaging.



Lizzie Burns

### MARK LYTHGOE AND RICHARD WENTWORTH IN TWO MINDS: NEUROSCIENCE OF PERCEPTION AND CREATIVITY

9 December 2008 18.00-19.30

Mark Lythgoe, Director of the Centre for Advanced Biomedical Imaging at University College London, and a Director of the Cheltenham Science Festival discusses 'In two minds: neuroscience of perception and creativity' with Richard Wentworth, artist, curator and teacher at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art in Oxford.

### PAUL NURSE AND JASON BROOKS THE POWER OF ART AND SCIENCE TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD

15 December 2008 18.00-19.30

Nobel Prize-winning biologist Paul Nurse, discusses 'The power of art and science to understand the world' with Jason Brooks, a contemporary artist who explores the boundaries of portraiture and whose recently commissioned portrait of Sir Paul Nurse is exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery.



Richard Wentworth

The Bristol Festival of Ideas aims to stimulate the minds and passions of the people of Bristol with an inspiring programme of events throughout the year. In addition to our annual May festival, we also host a short autumn season with special events running throughout the year. The festival, established in 2005, seeks to promote debate and discussion on a diverse range of topics. It welcomes, among others, scientists, artists, politicians, journalists, historians, musicians, novelists and commentators on all subjects. The 2009 May festival will focus on three key themes: 30 years of Thatcherism; Darwin and Darwinism; and Arts and Sciences 50 years after C P Snow's *Two Cultures* lecture. If you would like to suggest speakers or subjects for future sessions, please email us at: [ideas@gwebusinesswest.co.uk](mailto:ideas@gwebusinesswest.co.uk). You can also join the debate by posting comments on any of our current events pages at: [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk).

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INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL 2008

BCDP culture | ideas | arts and sciences



Bristol Festival of Ideas is an initiative of Bristol Cultural Development Partnership