

Thursday 5 November

SOUTHBANK CENTRE ANNOUNCES WINTER LITERATURE PROGRAMME

2015 Man Booker Prize winner **Marlon James** * Leading politicians and campaigners **Amelia Womack**, **Amy Lamé** and **Sophie Walker** * Philosopher **Slavoj Žižek** * Former Greek finance minister **Yanis Varoufakis** * **Sue Perkins** * Award-winning poet **Inua Ellams** * Leading actors **Jason Isaacs**, **Lesley Sharp**, **Aidan Kelly** and **Hugh Quarshie** * Writers **Rosamund Lupton**, **Sarah Moss**, **Bryan Lintott** and **Sarah Ardizzone** *

Highlights include:

Debate & Discussion

- 2015 Man Booker Prize winner **Marlon James** discusses the image of black men in hip-hop as part of Being A Man festival (28 Nov)
- Philosopher **Slavoj Žižek** and former Greek finance minister **Yanis Varoufakis** discuss the contradictions of late capitalism and the solutions that could save the Europe (16 Nov)
- A panel discussion on women in politics by prominent campaigners and politicians including Women's Equality Party leader **Sophie Walker**, Deputy Leader of the Green Party **Amelia Womack** and **Amy Lamé** of the Labour Women's Network (9 Nov)
- Great British Bake Off host **Sue Perkins** discusses her hilarious and moving autobiography, *Spectacles*, alongside **Dawn French** (22 Nov)

Poetry & Spoken Word

- Distinguished figures who contributed to *Poems That Make Grown Men Cry* read from the anthology and speak about the reasons behind their chosen poems as part of Being A Man festival (29 Nov)
- Award-winning poet **Inua Ellams** reads new verses and explores his immigrant childhood through British poetry published between the year of his birth and his eighteenth birthday (26 Nov)
- Readings by the poets shortlisted for the **TS Eliot Prize** on the eve of the announcement (10 Jan)

Dramatised Readings

- **Theatre of War** explores masculinity and the impact of war in dramatic readings from **Sophocles'** military tragedy *Ajax* by leading actors **Jason Isaacs**, **Lesley Sharp** and **Aidan Kelly** as part of Being A Man festival (28 Nov)
- **Hugh Quarshie** and **Matthew Parker** read a selection of letters written to 007, and by his creator Ian Fleming, to explore the many interpretations of **James Bond** as part of Being A Man festival (29 Nov)
- Leading writers **Rosamund Lupton**, **Sarah Moss**, **Bryan Lintott** and **Sarah Ardizzone** join together for a candlelit reading of snowy adventures in *Winter Tales* as part of Winter at Southbank Center with NatWest (16 Dec)

Tickets can be booked via www.southbankcentre.co.uk or via the box office on 0844 875 0073

For further information or images please contact

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FULL LISTINGS BELOW

NOVEMBER

RUG RHYMES

Fri 6, 13, 20, 27 Nov, 10.30am, The Poetry Library at Royal Festival Hall, FREE

What rhymes with rug? Under-fives and their carers are invited to join the Poetry Library puppets, Federico and Firebird, on their poem rug to find out. This short session of nursery rhymes, poems and rhyming stories is followed by the opportunity to view and borrow books from the Poetry Library's ever-growing children's collection.

For ages 0–5

SEX & POWER – WHERE NEXT FOR WOMEN IN POLITICS?

Mon 9 Nov, 7.30pm, Level 5 Function Room at Royal Festival Hall, £10, Concessions Half Price

Today there are 459 men in the House of Commons, but since 1918 only 450 women have ever been elected. This event explores how to make sure that 2020 is the year in which women finally achieve equal power, to learn the lessons of 2015, and think about how to make the next election fair. The event will feature a panel of prominent campaigners and politicians including Frances Scott (50:50 Campaign), Sam Smethers (Chief Executive, Fawcett Society), Amelia Womack (Deputy Leader, Green Party), Katie Ghose (Chief Executive, Electoral Reform Society), Nan Sloane (Director, Centre for Women & Democracy), Amy Lamé (Labour Women's Network) and Sophie Walker, (Leader, Women's Equality Party).

Sex & Power is a WOW – Women of the World festival and Centre for Women in Democracy event.

SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK & YANIS VAROUFAKIS – “EUROPE IS KAPUT. LONG LIVE EUROPE!”

Mon 16 Nov, 7.30pm, Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, £20, £15, £10, Concessions Half Price

For the first time on a public stage, philosopher Slavoj Žižek and former Greek finance minister, Yanis Varoufakis, discuss Europe's future and the urgent task of building a different and more democratic Europe. The conversation explores the contradictions of late capitalism and some of the solutions that might just save the European project. With the recent economic crisis in Greece, unprecedented challenges to centralised European policy, and the lack of consensus on the ongoing refugee crisis, many would agree that Europe faces its greatest ever predicament.

This event is moderated by Croatian philosopher Srećko Horvat and followed by a Q&A session.

For ages 12+

SUE PERKINS LIVE! IN CONVERSATION WITH DAWN FRENCH

Sun 22 Nov, 7.30pm, Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, £30 (inc. book), Concessions Half Price

For one night only, Sue Perkins discusses her hilarious, moving autobiography, *Spectacles*, with Dawn French. One half of double act Mel and Sue, she is a comedian, broadcaster and host of BBC One's *The Great British Bake Off*. Sue will answer questions including is Mary Berry real, is it true she wears a surgical truss and whether orchestral conducting simply involve waving your arms around.

Please note, each ticket includes a hardback copy of Sue's new book *Spectacles* (RRP £20), to be collected from the venue on the night of the performance only, and Sue will be signing copies after the show for as long as possible.

For ages 14+

AFTERHOURS – AN EVENING WITH INUA ELLAMS

Thu 26 Nov, 8pm, The Poetry Library at Royal Festival Hall, FREE (Booking Essential)

Inua Ellams reads new verses after exploring the collection of The Poetry Library over the past year as part of his *Afterhours* project in which he explores his childhood through British poetry. Writing poems 'after' British poets, published between his birth in 1984 and eighteenth birthday in 2002, he sets them in his immigrant childhood and discusses the historical and cultural differences he discovered as he wrote. At this event, accompanied by Ghanaian-born multi-instrumentalist, composer and teacher TJ Owusu, he brings the project to a close and

celebrates the end of childhood by reading the new works alongside their originals. The evening features poems by Tom Leonard, Carol Ann Duffy, Jo Shapcott, Michael Hofmann and Seamus Heaney.

BEING A MAN LIBRARY

PART OF BAM - BEING A MAN FESTIVAL

Fri 27 – Sun 29 Nov, 10am-11pm, Level 2 Foyer Green Side at Royal Festival Hall, FREE

Explore the complex and varied manifestations of masculinity in literature in Being A Man's special reading space. The *Being A Man Library* brings together 30 books of art, fiction, memoir and poetry. From teenagers in Pakistan to football fans in Germany, via fatherhood, marriage and depression, these books illuminate the different lives men lead in modern society. All are freely available for browsing in the new Southbank Centre archive space.

THEATRE OF WAR

PART OF BAM - BEING A MAN FESTIVAL

Sat 28 Nov, 2pm, Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, £10, Concessions Half Price

Theatre of War is a project presenting dramatic readings of ancient Greek tragedies for military and civilian audiences, to spark powerful conversations about the visible and invisible wounds of war. As part of a special event for Being A Man Festival, the project will present readings from Sophocles' military tragedy *Ajax* by leading actors Jason Isaacs (*Harry Potter*, *Blackhawk Down*, *The Green Zone*), Lesley Sharp (*The Full Monty*, *Naked*, *Clocking Off*, *Scott & Bailey*) and Aidan Kelly (*Treasure Island – National Theatre*, *MacBeth – RSC*, and *Once – West End*). Theatre of War founder Bryan Doerries joins these acclaimed actors on stage, before the audience takes part in a discussion about masculinity, now and in the ancient world, and the impact of war on individuals, families and communities. At this interactive performance, Sophocles *Ajax* is the focus of a debate aiming to generate compassion, empathy, and understanding.

Over the past five years, the organisation has communicated with 60,000 military service members, veterans and their families all over the world, using plays by Sophocles to show that suffering and healing are part of a timeless process.

HIP HOP – KANYE WEST AND THE PARADOX OF BLACK MALE IDENTITY IN HIP-HOP

PART OF BAM - BEING A MAN FESTIVAL

Sat 28 Nov, 3.30pm, Festival Village under Queen Elizabeth Hall, Part of the Bing A Man Saturday Day Pass

Taking in everything from the self-conscious narcissism of Kanye West to the ultra-masculinity of 50 Cent, hip-hop is a powerful platform to confirm and confound stereotypical representations of black masculinity. Writer and broadcaster Ekow Eshun and a panel of guests, including the 2015 Man Booker Prize winner Marlon James, look at the image of black men in hip-hop and examine the conflicting models of maleness offered by different rappers.

POLARI – EIGHTH BIRTHDAY

PART OF BAM - BEING A MAN FESTIVAL

Sat 28 Nov, 7.30pm, Level 5 Function Room at Royal Festival Hall, £5, Concessions Half Price

London's award-winning LGBT literary salon explores queer masculinity with readings from Bernardine Evaristo ('Mr Loverman'), Keith Jarrett, Neil Spring and trans man Len Lukowski. Award-winning author Diana Souhami completes the lineup. *Polari* continues to showcase the best in emerging and established narratives of queer life in literature and spoken word. This evening's event celebrates the salon's eighth birthday with a special appearance in Southbank Centre's *Being a Man* festival. Expect host Paul Burston to be in celebratory mood.

Age 18 years+

Please note that *Polari* contains adult themes.

POEMS THAT MAKE GROWN MEN CRY

PART OF BAM - BEING A MAN FESTIVAL

Sun 29 Nov, 2pm, Level 5 Function Room at Royal Festival Hall, Part of the Bing A Man Sunday Day Pass

Anthony and Ben Holden introduce readings from their anthology *Poems That Make Grown Men Cry*, a collection which brings together one hundred men – distinguished in literature and film, science and architecture, theatre and human rights – and the poems that move them to tears. The event is chaired by William Sieghart, author, broadcaster and founder of the Forward Poetry Prizes, Britain's largest prizes for poetry, and National Poetry Day, and will hear from those who are featured in the book, who will speak about the reasons behind their chosen poems.

LETTERS TO 007

PART OF BAM - BEING A MAN FESTIVAL

Sun 29 Nov, 5pm, The Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall, FREE

Ever since his first appearance in Ian Fleming's classic novels over half a century ago, James Bond has been the image of the ultimate man and has witnessed a constant presence in cinema, literature and culture across the world. From the reimaginings of authors Anthony Horowitz and William Boyd, to the interpretations of actors including Sean Connery and Daniel Craig, each interpretation has brought a new version of 007 to the fore. The world has seen profound changes since Bond's creation, and as David Oyelowo is announced as one of the first black actors to voice a Bond audio-book and questions are raised about whether Bond could ever be gay on screen, *Letters to 007* explores whether there are sides to Bond's character yet to be discovered. A cast of actors including Matthew Parker and the first black 007 Hugh Quarshie - the Ghanaian-born British actor who read the audiobook version of Dr. No in 2012 - will read a selection of letters, some addressed to 007, others written by his creator Ian Fleming, whose collected letters are being published for the first time.

DECEMBER

RUG RHYMES

Fri 4, 11, & 18 Dec. 10.30am, The Poetry Library at Royal Festival Hall, FREE

See Rug Rhymes in November for further information.

POLARI – A VERY POLARI XMAS

Mon 7 Dec. 7.30pm, Level 5 Function Room at Royal Festival Hall, £5, Concessions Half Price

The award-winning Paul Bailey, author of *The Prince's Boy*, *Chapman's Odyssey* and the biographies of *Quentin Crisp* and *Arthur Marshall*, heads the bill at a seasonal edition of Southbank Centre's LGBT literary salon. The evening features readings from Andrea Stuart, Paula Varjack and VG Lee, and live music from Marcus Reeves. Expect festive sparkle for the final *Polari* outing of 2015. The event also marks the end of the *Polari* National Tour, funded by Arts Council England.

For ages 18+

Please note that *Polari* contains adult themes.

WINTER TALES

PART OF WINTER AT SOUTHBANK CENTRE WITH NATWEST

Wed 16 Dec. 6pm, Level 5 Function Room at Royal Festival Hall, £8, Concessions Half Price

Grab some mulled wine and mince pies from the Winter Market before being transported out of London and towards frozen forests, frosted peaks and the winter wildernesses for a candlelit reading of Arctic tales and adventures. Snowy stories will be read by a lineup of leading writers including *New York Times* bestselling novelist, Rosamund Lupton, travel writer and author of *Cold Earth* and *Frozen Ship*, Sarah Moss, and Captain Scott's biographer, Bryan Lintott. Chairing the event is the award-winning translator of Dumas' *Story of a Nutcracker*, Sarah Ardizzone.

THE SNOW QUEEN CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

PART OF WINTER AT SOUTHBANK CENTRE WITH NATWEST

Sat 19 Dec. 11.30am & 1pm, The Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall, FREE

Make Christmas book crafts inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's *The Snow Queen* in workshops led by Wendy O'Mahony and Kate Bufton. Between sessions there will be readings from Anderson's magical tale of friendship and adventure, which inspired Disney's *Frozen*, and renowned storyteller Vanessa Woolf will make an appearance in the interval.

JANUARY

TS ELIOT PRIZE PREVIEW

Sun 10 Jan, 2pm, Level 5 Function Room at Royal Festival Hall, £8, Concessions Half Price

Debate the books shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize at this special Poetry School event. The TS Eliot Prize Readings is the event that kicks off the new year in the poetry world. Poets who have written the year's ten best books read for eight minutes to an audience of 2000 the night before the £15,000 prize-winner is announced. Poet John Greening invites bracing comment on the shortlisted books from the audience at this lively preview event, in advance of the Readings in the evening.

TS ELIOT PRIZE READINGS

Sun 10 Jan, 6.30pm, Foyer Spaces, £15, £12, Concessions Half Price

Hear readings from the poets shortlisted for the 2015 prize at this highlight of the literary calendar. Expect an electric atmosphere and the opportunity to hear some of the best contemporary poets in the English-speaking world reading from their own work on the eve of the TS Eliot Prize announcement. The TS Eliot Prize is awarded annually to the author of the best new poetry collection published in the UK or Ireland. It is judged by a panel of established poets and has been described by Sir Andrew Motion as 'the Prize most poets want to win'. Pascale Petit chairs this year's judging panel, alongside poets Kei Miller and Ahren Warner. This year's shortlist includes Mark Doty, Tracey Herd, Selima Hill, Sarah Howe, Tim Liardet, Les Murray, Sean O'Brien, Don Paterson, Rebecca Perry and Claudia Rankine.

Previous winners of the prize include Paul Muldoon, Don Paterson, Ted Hughes, Michael Longley, Anne Carson, Alice Oswald, George Szirtes, Carol Ann Duffy, Seamus Heaney, Derek Walcott, John Burnside, Sharon Olds, Sinéad Morrissey and David Harsent.

POLARI

Fri 29 Jan, 7.30pm, Level 5 Function Room at Royal Festival Hall, £5, Concessions Half Price

Author and critic Adam Mars-Jones headlines the first *Polari* of the year. His many books include *Pilcrow*, *Blind Bitter Happiness*, *The Waters of Thirst*, *Monopolies of Loss*, *The Darker Proof: Stories from a Crisis* and *Mae West is Dead*. His latest book is *Kid Gloves*, a memoir about his father. London's award-winning LGBT literary salon is now in its ninth year and is curated and hosted by author and journalist Paul Burston. Based at Southbank Centre, it showcases the best in emerging and established testimony to queer hearts and lives.

For ages 18+

Polari contains adult themes.

Notes to Editors

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, comprising three iconic buildings (Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Hayward Gallery) and occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Building on this rich heritage, Southbank Centre offers an extensive artistic and cultural programme including annual and one-off themed festivals and classical and contemporary music, performance, dance, visual art and literature and spoken word events throughout the year. www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Southbank Centre's BAM – Being a Man Festival, launched in 2014, returns Friday 27 November – Sunday 29 November 2015 to explore the challenges and pressures of masculine identity in the 21st century. Taking place a week after International Men's Day (19 November), the festival will feature a 3-day programme of talks & debates, concerts, performances, comedy and workshops with contributions from over 150 speakers and performers, including Akala, Frankie Boyle, David Baddiel and Kellie Maloney. See www.southbankcentre.co.uk/bam for further information

Winter at Southbank Centre with NatWest returns for another year focusing on the themes of family, charity and giving to others. The programme is once again packed with fun and entertainment for all ages, from award-winning theatrical performances including *La Soirée* and *Slava's Snowshow*, to festive concerts, social dances, choirs and a weekend specially dedicated to fundraising and charitable causes. The site will be transformed with canopies and pathways of twinkling lights, bustling markets lining the riverbank, and alternative winter activities including a roller disco and the return of Southbank Centre's Vintage New Year's Eve Party. With many elements opening on site from 20 November, activity will reach full swing on 4 December and run throughout the festive period.