LITERATURE LIVE:
SPRING 2018

These unique literature events, organised by The University of Manchester’s Centre for New Writing, bring a host of international literary stars to Manchester to discuss and read from their work.

Anniversary Season
Throughout the 2017/2018 season we celebrate the Centre for New Writing’s tenth year anniversary.
Manchester named as a UNESCO City of Literature

The University of Manchester is proud to be part of the city-wide consortium that led the successful bid to join UNESCO’s worldwide Creative Cities network as a City of Literature.

“This is a cause for great celebration, which will help us to strengthen our university’s many partnerships with the city and its communities. Our staff and student writers know that Manchester is a City of Literature, a place whose graduates include Anthony Burgess and the war poet Alun Lewis, Jeanette Winterson, Booker winner Barry Unsworth and bestseller Sophie Hannah. We all benefit from the presence in the city of great publishers like Carcanet and Comma and from what this announcement recognises – the enormous array of literary events, festivals and opportunities for engagement with new writing and new audiences which Manchester offers.

Prof John McAuliffe, Centre for New Writing

The City already prides itself on a thriving live literature scene. This will be enhanced by the development of a programme of cultural events and community writing projects, to celebrate Manchester’s City of Literature status. The programme, which will encourage both local and international collaboration, will include a libraries festival, the establishment of a new writers’ hub and far-reaching initiatives to support new writing, promoting writing in translation, music and words, and the writing of Manchester residents.

International Mother Language Day

UNESCO supports mother language and multilingual education through International Mother Language Day (IMLD). The overall objective of the Day is to contribute to promoting not only linguistic diversity but cultural diversity as well.

The Centre for New Writing’s spring 2018 season includes events to mark UNESCO International Mother Language Day. As part of these celebrations, we welcome Ugandan novelist Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi, poet, novelist and photographer Mariko Nagai and also British author and award-winning foreign correspondent Richard Lloyd Parry.

Danez Smith: Don’t Call Us Dead

Part of Manchester Literature Festival

We are thrilled to welcome to Manchester acclaimed American poet Danez Smith. A founding member of the Dark Noise Collective, Danez is an electrifying performer who has twice been a finalist for the Individual World Poetry Slam. Their debut, [insert] boy, was widely praised and went on to win both the Lambda Literary Award and the Kate Tufts Discovery Award.

Danez’s new poetry collection, Don’t Call Us Dead, is an incredible and life-affirming collection of poems that explore race, gender, power, identity, desire, the body and mortality in the face of a HIV positive diagnosis. ‘Dear White America’ and ‘It Won’t Be A Bullet’ rage and burn at a country where every day is too often a funeral and not enough of a miracle whilst the astonishing opening sequence ‘Summer, Somewhere’ imagines an afterlife for black men shot by police; a place where suspicion, violence and grief are forgotten and replaced with the safety, love and longevity they deserved.

The New Yorker suggest ‘Danez Smith’s poems are enriched to the point of volatility, but they pay out, often, in sudden joy’, whilst Roxane Gay praises Don’t Call Us Dead as ‘Poetry as fierce fire... Every poem impressed me, and the level of craft here is impeccable.’

Supporting Danez is poet and performer Hafsah Aneela Bashir. Co-director of the arts collective Outside The Frame Arts, Hafsah is a member of Manchester Muslim Writers and recently wrote and performed a monologue as part of the ‘Memories of Partition’ project at the Royal Exchange. She has a keen interest in writing as a form of resistance and liberty.

This event is hosted by poet Andrew McMillan and is presented in partnership with Manchester Literature Festival

Book on 0843 208 0500 or manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk
UNESCO City of Literature

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International Mother Language Day (IMLD) event:
LITERATURE LIVE: Jennifer Makumbi in conversation with Ellah Wakatama Allfrey

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As part of the International Mother Language Day celebrations we are delighted to welcome Ugandan novelist and short story writer Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi. Her short story Let’s Tell This Story Properly won the 2014 Commonwealth Short Story Prize. Her first novel, Kintu, was first published in Kenya in 2014 and is a modern classic, multi-layered narrative that explores Uganda’s national identity through the cursed bloodline of the Kintu clan.

In an ambitious tale of a clan and a nation, Makumbi weaves together the stories of Kintu’s descendants as they seek to break from the burden of their shared past and reconcile the inheritance of tradition and the modern world that is their future.

Kintu won the Kwani? Manuscript Project in 2013 and was longlisted for the Etisalat Prize in 2014. Jennifer Makumbi lives in Manchester with her husband, Damian, and her son, Jordan.

Ellah Wakatama Allfrey is a London-based editor and critic and is the founding Publishing Director of The Indigo Press. A former Deputy Editor of Granta and former Senior Editor at Jonathan Cape, Random House, she has been a judge for the Dublin International Literary Award, and the Man Booker and Caine Prizes. She was Visiting Professor & Global Intercultural Scholar at Goshen College, Indiana and was Guest Master for the 2016 Gabriel Garcia Marquez Foundation international journalism fellowship in Cartagena, Colombia. Her journalism has appeared in The Telegraph, The Guardian and The Observer and she is a regular contributor to the book pages of NPR and BBC Radio 4’s Saturday Review.

This event will be introduced by Geoff Ryman, author and Honorary Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at The University of Manchester and is presented in partnership with Manchester Literature Festival.
LITERATURE LIVE: Joe Dunthorne and Luke Kennard

Joe Dunthorne was born and brought up in Swansea, South Wales. His first novel, *Submarine*, was translated into sixteen languages and adapted for film by Richard Ayoade. His second, *Wild Abandon*, won the 2012 Encore Award. A pamphlet of his poems was published by Faber and Faber. He teaches on the MA in Prose Fiction at the University of East Anglia.

LITERATURE LIVE:
Susie Orbach in conversation with Jeanette Winterson “In Therapy”

Susie Orbach is a psychotherapist, psychoanalyst, writer and social critic. She is the founder of the Women’s Therapy Centre of London, a former Guardian columnist and visiting professor at the London School of Economics and the author of a number of books including What Do Women Want, On Eating, Hunger Strike, The Impossibility of Sex, Bodies – which won the Women in Psychology Prize – and the international bestseller Fat is a Feminist Issue, which has sold well over a million copies. The New York Times said, ‘She is probably the most famous psychotherapist to have set up couch in Britain since Sigmund Freud’.

She lives in London and lectures extensively worldwide.

Orbach will be in conversation with Jeanette Winterson, prolific author and Professor of New Writing at The University of Manchester.

This event is presented in partnership with Manchester Literature Festival.

Venue
Martin Harris Centre

Time & Date
7.30pm, Monday 16 April 2018

Price
£10 / £8
Literature Live: Jesmyn Ward in conversation

Part of Manchester Literature Festival

Jesmyn Ward

‘Jesmyn Ward digs deep into the not-buried heart of the American nightmare. A must read.’ Margaret Atwood

We are thrilled to present a rare UK event with acclaimed American author Jesmyn Ward. Based in Mississippi, Jesmyn is the author of the memoir Men We Reaped and the novels Salvage the Bones, Where the Line Bleeds and Sing, Unburied, Sing. She is also the editor of The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race, which brings together 18 influential writers to ‘wrestle with the past, present and future of American race relations and the black experience.’

Championed by Marlon James, Jon McGregor and Ann Patchett, Jesmyn’s new novel Sing, Unburied, Sing recently won the prestigious 2017 National Book Award for Fiction. An urgent and atmospheric novel set in the deep South, it’s an epic tale of hope, struggle, race, poverty and loss. It’s also an intimate story of family and the legacies of love, violence and belonging that we pass on to our children. To quote Celeste Ng: ‘Read Sing, Unburied, Sing and you’ll feel the immense weight of history – and the immense strength it takes to persevere in the face of it… It’s hard to imagine a more necessary book for this political time.’

‘Join us to see why Jesmyn Ward is regarded as one of the most important writers in America today, regularly drawing comparisons to William Faulkner and Toni Morrison.

This event is presented in partnership with Manchester Literature Festival.

Book on 0843 208 0500 or manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk