

PUSH

PUSH  
THE BOAT  
OUT

THE  
*words*

*in*  
BOAT

Edinburgh's International  
Poetry Festival

22–24 November 2024

Dance Base, Dovecot Studios,  
Pleasance and  
Scottish Storytelling Centre.

*motion*

OUT

[pushtheboatout.org](http://pushtheboatout.org)

We simply could not deliver our festival without the generous support of our funders and programme partners.

### Principal Funders



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# BOOK

Discussion Workshop Performance

# Introduction

Welcome to Push the Boat Out 2024! We're excited to share an ambitious line-up that blends poetry, performance and art in a vibrant celebration of words and creativity. With more than 120 artists, we'll showcase diverse voices, performances and experiences that reflect, reveal and revel in the complexity of today's world.

Some of the brightest stars in poetry, music and spoken word join us on some of Edinburgh's most iconic stages including **Alexander McCall Smith, Salena Godden, Raymond Antrobus, Caroline Bird, Ella Frears, Kathleen Jamie, Imtiaz Dharker, Len Pennie** and **Michael Pedersen**. Award-winning folk singer **Iona Fyfe** headlines an unforgettable night of poetry-fused song in our Saturday night gig, and on Sunday we'll celebrate the life, art, and activism of Benjamin Zephaniah in a special event created in collaboration with **Qian Zephaniah** and **Kadija Sesay**.

Created with support from the Edinburgh 900 programme, our *Disrupting the Narrative* series includes performance, discussion and exhibitions from **Hannah Lavery, SCOREScotland, Tinderbox Collective, Niroshini Thambar, Jeda Pearl, Shasta Ali, Niall Moorjani, Alycia Pirmohamed, Lisa Williams** and **Kat Gollock**. Together they offer fresh creative perspectives on how Edinburgh's colonial history has shaped the city, its institutions and people.

*Living Water – New Poetic Performances* in association with the National Theatre of Scotland sees the world premiere of three new commissions from **David McNeish** and **Ruxy Cantir, Tim Tim Cheng** and **Alexandra Shrinivas**, and **Raymond Wilson** and **Ross Somerville**, while in *Bearing Witness* **Alycia Pirmohamed, Marjorie Lotfi** and **Nat Raha** ask the question: how do poets and artists continue to create art while witnessing devastation?

Join our eclectic workshops to explore everything from mixology to tarot, and meet some of the most exciting poets from across the globe - including **Michael Hofmann, Slim Shaka** and **Naomi Shihab Nye** - in our international online programme. And if you're looking to develop your own practice, don't miss our ever-popular free artists Development Day - details on p.21.

**Get in the boat, compañeros!**



# Access

We are committed to making Push the Boat Out accessible. Full access information for all of our venues can be found on our website, with links to each of the venues' own access pages where available.

Companion tickets are available for all events, please contact us at [boxoffice@pushtheboatout.org](mailto:boxoffice@pushtheboatout.org) to book.

To remove barriers to attendance we aim to keep tickets as affordable as possible. The programme includes 4 free events, a range of free exhibitions and 10 Pay What You Can (PWYC) events with the lowest price point set at £0. We also have an excellent value Festival Pass offering free access to the majority of the programme.

For people who can't come to the festival in person, we offer an online programme, a programme of events free to listen to at home via our partners EHFM, online community radio station (full schedule on website), and a live stream of the *Disrupting the Narrative* performance. Full details will be added to our website.

This year we are presenting a number of BSL interpreted and Live Captioned events and these are indicated within the listings by these symbols   and listed below.

## Friday 22 November

*Disrupting the Narrative*  
p.6 (BSL)

## Saturday 23 November

*A Life of Poetry:*  
Alexander McCall Smith  
p.8 (BSL)

On Fatherhood, with  
Raymond Antrobus and  
Niall Campbell p.9 (BSL  
and live captioned)

## Sunday 24 November

*Titans of Poetry:* Caroline  
Bird and Ella Frears p.16  
(BSL)

*And All Great Art Is  
True:* A Celebration of  
Benjamin Zephaniah p.17  
(BSL and live captioned)

*Living Water - New  
Poetic Performances*  
p.17 (BSL)



# Friday Friday 22 November

## SCOREScotland Disrupts the Narrative - with Tinderbox Collective and Bee Asha

5.30pm (30mins)

- Scottish Storytelling Centre
- PWYC

*Disrupting the Narrative* explores Edinburgh's heritage from the perspective of its colonial past. In partnership with the **Tinderbox Collective** and **Bee Asha**, SCOREScotland's young people have created a vibrant spoken word and music performance that considers what it's like to grow up as a young person of colour in Edinburgh today.

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## Disrupting the Narrative

8.30pm (1hr)

- Scottish Storytelling Centre
- £15/£12 £0 Festival Pass

A theatrical performance with **Hannah Lavery, Jeda Pearl, Shasta Ali, Niall Moorjani** and **Alycia Pirmohamed**. Freshly set to music by **Niroshini Thambar**, the poets' work decolonises Edinburgh's historic collections and key heritage sites. Together, they illuminate how colonial history has shaped the city, its institutions and its people. **This performance will be live-streamed from our website.**  
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THE SKINNY



BSL

# Friday at a Glance

● Discussion ● Workshop ● Performance ● Development Day

	Dance Base	Scottish Storytelling Centre
11-11.30		
11.30-12	Development Day: Resting as Artists (p.21)	
12-12.30		
12.30-13		
13-13.30		
13.30-14	Development Day: How to Run a Creative Workshop (p.21)	
14-14.30		
14.30-15		
15-15.30	Development Day: Taking the Next Step (p.21)	
15.30-16		
16-16.30		
16.30-17		
17-17.30		
17.30-18		SCOREScotland Disrupts the Narrative
18-18.30		
18.30-19		
19-19.30		
19.30-20		
20-20.30		
20.30-21		Disrupting the Narrative
21-21.30		
21.30-22		



Saturday

## Saturday 23 November

**There is a Tide: Writing the Ocean Wild, with Paperboats****11am (1hr)**

- Pleasance
- PWYC

This immersive writing experience from **Paperboats** is part performance, part writing opportunity. Join us and learn how literature can be used as an inspirational force for change by engaging with success stories of sea rewilding, as well as sights and sounds of the ocean. With readings by **Roshni Gallagher**.

**Behind Disrupting the Narrative****11am (1hr)**

- Scottish Storytelling Centre
- £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

Curator of Discomfort at the Hunterian Museum **Zandra Yeaman**, founder of the Edinburgh Caribbean Association **Lisa Williams**, and poet and anti-racist campaigner **Shasta Ali** join the former Edinburgh Makar **Hannah Lavery** to discuss *Disrupting the Narrative* and the decolonisation of Edinburgh's past.

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**A Life of Poetry: Alexander McCall Smith****12pm (1hr)**

- Pleasance

→ £15/£12 £0 Festival Pass  
**Alexander McCall Smith** is perhaps best known for novels such as *The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency*. But did you know that he's also a poet? In this unmissable event Smith will share his fascination with the sounds of language, poetry, and music before showcasing his work set to music in beautiful short films.

**Double Bill: Len Pennie and Lorde Fuhl****12pm (1hr)**

- Dovecot Studios
- £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

Join poets **Len Pennie** and **Lorde Fuhl** as they perform some of their most recent and exciting works. Not only will you enjoy some of the freshest poetry coming from Scotland and Ireland, but Len and Lorde will also be in conversation, discussing how social media has impacted their careers.

**Open Book: No Such Thing As Lost****1pm (1hr)**

- Pleasance
- PWYC

Sit back, relax and enjoy as members of Open Book's community of writers share their latest pamphlet, *No Such Thing as Lost*. These collaborative poems will take you on a tour of Scotland - from Shetland to Stranraer, Portree to Perth and many other places in between - touching on protest, postcards, heritage and hope.



Open Book

**Takeover: Glasgow Women's Library****1pm (1hr)**

- Scottish Storytelling Centre
- PWYC

Glasgow Women's Library hosts this performance event with some of the writers shortlisted from *Bold Types*, their nurturing, encouraging and warm creative writing competition. Four writers will take to the stage based on shortlisting by this year's incredible judges **Maisie Chan**, **Kirsten MacQuarrie** and **Wendy Kirk**.

GLASGOW  
WOMEN'S  
LIBRARY**Black History and Poetry Walk****1pm (1hr)**

(also Sunday 24 November)

- Meet at Scottish Storytelling Centre
- £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

**Lisa Williams**, poet, author, and founder of the Edinburgh Caribbean Association, will lead this Black History Walk and share some specially written poetry as we explore the histories of the areas surrounding The Royal Mile. These little-known stories of Edinburgh's many visitors and residents of African, African American and Caribbean heritage may surprise some; what tales lie beneath the sunny Mile?

For this walking tour, please wear comfortable shoes and layers, and be ready for Scottish weather!

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**On Fatherhood, with Raymond Antrobus and Niall Campbell****2.30pm (1hr)**

- Dovecot Studios
- £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass



Becoming a father is no easy process: the sleepless nights and burden of new responsibilities can weigh heavily. But amidst the challenges, there's an untold joy that comes with meeting your child and discovering a new kind of love that can reshape your world. Join poets **Raymond Antrobus** and **Niall Campbell** as they reflect on their own fatherhood journeys. Chaired by **Samuel Tongue**.

**Kathleen Jamie's The Keelie Hawk****3pm (1hr)**

- Pleasance
- £15/£12 £0 Festival Pass

*The Keelie Hawk* is the new landmark collection from celebrated poet and non-fiction writer **Kathleen Jamie**. A resonant collection written in Scots, with accompanying English translation, it promises to be a significant moment for both Scottish literature and language. She is joined on stage by **Alistair Heather**.



### AI and the (Un)translatability of Poetry

3pm (1hr)

- Pleasance
- PWYC

**Pip Thornton** and **Evan Morgan**, the minds behind the *Machine Whispers* installation, join poet and translator **Rachel Rankin** to discuss and debate AI's role in translation, particularly when applied to creative writing. Are machines even capable of translating human communication, let alone poetry? How has this new technology challenged and changed the field of translation?

### Breaking Ground Ireland

3pm (1hr)

- Scottish Storytelling Centre
- £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

*Breaking Ground Ireland* is a landmark project showcasing over 90 writers and illustrators from ethnic minority backgrounds, including Irish Traveller writers, from the island of Ireland. Featured poets **Christie Kandiwa**, **Neo Gilson**, and **Lorde Fuhl** will be chaired by Speaking Volumes' **Sharmilla Beezmohun** in this fascinating event showcasing some of Ireland's best contemporary talents.

### Hannah Lavery and Michael Pedersen: Makar-athon

4.30pm (1hr)

- Dovecot Studios
- £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

Join renowned poet and playwright, **Hannah Lavery**, as she hands over the baton of Edinburgh Makar to the ever-effervescent **Michael Pedersen**. Hannah and Michael will discuss their own work including Hannah's recently published *Unwritten Woman*, as well as what holding the position of Makar means to them and how the city influences their work. Chaired by **Jenny Niven**.

### Between Two Forms

5pm (1hr)

- Scottish Storytelling Centre
- £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

From Sylvia Plath to Ocean Vuong, there is a long tradition of poets writing not just poetry, but novels and short stories too. But what does poetry offer that's different from fiction, and vice versa? Writers **Salena Godden**, **Andrés N. Ordorica** and **Alan Spence** explore the blurring, or otherwise, of the boundaries between prose and poetry.

### Loud Poets Slam Series: Edinburgh Heat

5pm (2hrs)

- Pleasance
- £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

The prestigious Loud Poets Slam Series returns for its third year! Watch Edinburgh's top poets compete in the first of 10 heats across the UK, for the biggest prize in UK slam poetry. Featuring current Edinburgh Champion **Heather Rose** as sacrificial poet, this is a thumping celebration of some of the best spoken word from Scotland today.

LOUD POETS

### Poetry Jam with Leyla Josephine

6.30pm (1hr, 15mins)

- Scottish Storytelling Centre
- PWYC

Long time collaborators and friends, fiddler **Laura Wilkie**, harpist **Gillian Fleetwood**, and poet **Leyla Josephine**, join forces for the Push the Boat Out Poetry Jam. Come hear them improvise together and, if you're feeling courageous, there will be chances to read your writing alongside two of Scotland's leading musicians.

### Cocktail Hour with RJ Hunter

6.30pm (1hr)

- Dovecot Studios
- £15/£12 £5 Festival Pass

Tonight, poetry and cocktails combine to create the greatest mix of all! Mixologist **Jamie Shields** from **Ruma** will take you through a dizzying array of luscious cocktails, sharing each drink's story and history. Our host for the evening, **RJ Hunter**, will be your poetic aperitif, with a poem to accompany each drink.

### Push the Boat Out Presents: Iona Fyfe and Friends

Doors at 7.30pm  
8pm (2hrs, 15 mins)

- Dovecot Studios
- £15/£12 £5 Festival Pass

Push the Boat Out's Saturday gig is back! Fresh from a triumphant US tour, **Iona Fyfe**, the award-winning folk singer and Scots Language activist, headlines an unforgettable night of poetry-fused song and sounds. Iona will be joined by **Emma Capponi & Fionnbar Byrne**, who bring a captivating blend of folk and ethereal sounds, and **Iona Lee & DJ Nikki Kent** layering poetic vocals over electrifying beats.

### THE SKINNY



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THE LIST



# Saturday at a Glance

● Discussion 
 ● Workshop 
 ● Performance 
 ● Online

	Dovecot Studios	Pleasance Theatre	Pleasance Lomond Room	Scottish Storytelling Centre	Other	Online
11-11.30			There is a Tide, with Paperboats	Behind Disrupting the Narrative		20 Ways to Be a Better Poet with Roger Robinson
11.30-12						
12-12.30	Double Bill: Len Pennie and Lorde Fuhl	Alexander McCall Smith				
12.30-13						
13-13.30			Open Book: No Such Thing As Lost	Takeover: Glasgow Women's Library	Black History and Poetry Walk Storytelling Centre Reception	
13.30-14						
14-14.30						Drag Poetry with Digital Diasporic Souls
14.30-15	On Fatherhood: Raymond Antrobus and Niall Campbell					
15-15.30		Kathleen Jamie's The Keelie Hawk	AI and the (Un)translatability of Poetry	Breaking Ground Ireland		
15.30-16						
16-16.30	Makarathon					
16.30-17						
17-17.30		Loud Poets Slam Series: Edinburgh Heat		Between Two Forms		
17.30-18						
18-18.30						
18.30-19	Cocktail Hour with RJ Hunter			Poetry Jam with Leyla Josephine		
19-19.30						
19.30-20						
20-20.30	Push the Boat Out Presents: Iona Fyfe and Friends Doors at 7.30pm					
20.30-21						
21-21.30						
21.30-22						

# Sunday Sunday 2 November

## Waves, Wildlife, and the Art of Watching

11am (1hr30)

→ Meet at The Portobello Bookshop, 46 Portobello High Street, Edinburgh, EH15 1DA  
→ £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

Join **Elsbeth Wilson** for a poetry walk around Portobello Beach where we will use our senses to take inspiration from the sand and the sea. We will practise listening and noticing, and think about how the environment we are in can be a collaborator in our writing.

This is a walking event. Please wear comfortable shoes and layers, and be ready for Scottish weather in November.

The Portobello Bookshop

## The Craft: with Caroline Bird

11am (2hrs)

→ Scottish Storytelling Centre  
→ £25/£20 £10 Festival Pass

**Caroline Bird** is one of the UK's most celebrated contemporary poets. At this workshop, her knowledge and love of poetry will help participants gain a deeper understanding of the craft. Whether you've just started writing poetry or have written for a long time, this workshop will give you new tools and insights.

## Double Bill: Sasha Dugdale and Oksana Maksymchuk

11am (1hr)

→ Dovecot Studios  
→ £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

In **Sasha Dugdale's** *The Strongbox*, recent history and Greek mythology meet to uncover stories found in conflict and warzones. **Oksana Maksymchuk's** *Still City* begins as a poetic journal kept from her hometown in Ukraine. Together, Oksana and Sasha explore how poetry can bear witness to unimaginable experiences.

## Double Bill: Activism, Poetry and James Baldwin

12pm (1hr)

→ Dovecot Studios  
→ £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

**Kadija Sesay** and **Neo Gilson** come together to share their poetry and discuss how they have used the art form as a tool of activism. Neo's work has appeared as part of *Window to my World: Poetry, Resistance and Justice*, while Kadija has just edited the new literary anthology, *Encounters* with James Baldwin.

## Takeover: St Mungo's Mirrorball

12pm (1hr)

→ Scottish Storytelling Centre  
→ PWYC

St Mungo's Mirrorball is Scotland's leading community of poetry writers, listeners, and readers. At this takeover event, their lightning dance of poetry reaches new heights with performers **Christie Williamson, Vicki Husband, Eloise Birthwhistle, Gillian Dawson** and **Lynnda Wardle**, hosted by Scottish poetry legend, **Jim Carruth**.



## A Lighthouse Poetry Zine Workshop

1pm (1 hr)

→ Scottish Storytelling Centre  
→ PWYC

You have a single poem you're ready to put into the world, or maybe just a poetic idea - words ready for the page, but not yet a collection or even a pamphlet. You need a zine! Join writer/poet/facilitator **JJ Fadaka** for some gentle, cathartic creativity, where we'll show you how to cut and prep a tiny booklet and unleash your poetry within!



## Birds / Humans / Machines / Dolphins

1pm (1hr)

→ Dance Base  
→ £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

A performance which fuses poetry, music, and the acoustic recordings of dolphins and birds, *Birds / Humans / Machines / Dolphins* gives voice to the non-human in surprising and original ways. Poet **Genevieve Carter**, in collaboration with composer **Lucie Treacher**, will perform works from her pamphlet, *Birds / Humans / Machines / Dolphins*, and the EP, *Hydrophonica*.

Scottish Book Trust

Book Week Scotland

## Black History and Poetry Walk

1pm (1 hr)

(also Saturday 23 November)

→ Meet at Scottish Storytelling Centre  
→ £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

**Lisa Williams**, poet, author, and founder of the Edinburgh Caribbean Association, will lead this Black History Walk and share some specially written poetry as we explore the histories of the areas surrounding The Royal Mile. These little-known stories of Edinburgh's many visitors and residents of African, African American and Caribbean heritage may surprise some; what tales lie beneath the sunny Mile?

This is a walking tour. Please wear comfortable shoes and layers, and be ready for Scottish weather in November.

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## Imtiaz Dharker: Shadow Reader

1.30pm (1hr)

→ Dovecot Studios  
→ £15/£12 £0 Festival Pass

**Imtiaz Dharker** has long been an internationally acclaimed poet. Her 2023 collection, *Shadow Reader*, is a radiant criss-cross of encounters, messages and Punjabi proverbs, shot through with the dark thread of unwelcome prophecy. In this special event hosted by **Harriet MacMillan**, Imtiaz will speak about the collection and show projections of the striking illustrations within.

## Translation as a Political Act

2pm (1hr)

→ Scottish Storytelling Centre  
→ £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

How can language both bridge and reinforce cultural divides, shaping our understanding of the world and our place within it? This panel, sponsored by the Edwin Morgan Trust, with **Oksana Maksymchuk**, **Martin MacIntyre** and **Hasib Hourani**, hosted by **Taylor Strickland**, will address the political implications of translation, including issues of representation, accessibility, and cultural identity.



## Creativity in the Cards: Inspired by Tarot

2pm (2hrs)

→ Scottish Storytelling Centre  
→ £25/£20 £10 Festival Pass

In this workshop, you'll learn to read tarot cards as a source of inspiration, delving into their rich symbolism and history. Through guided exercises, you'll craft poems that resonate with the deep insights revealed by the tarot, weaving together intuition and imagination. Hosted by poet and performer **Francesca Beard**.

## (Poetry) Page to Stage - Adapting for Theatre

2.30pm (1hr)

→ Dovecot Studios  
→ £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

Join leading poets and playwrights, **Imogen Stirling**, **Hannah Lavery** and **Harry Josephine Giles** in a lively discussion about what can be found - and lost - in the adaptation of poetry for theatre and hear about their own experiences of working across disciplines. Chaired by **Stephanie Katie Hunter** of Scissor Kick.





**Bearing Witness****3.30pm (1hr)**

- Dance Base
- £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

Bearing Witness asks the question: how do poets and artists continue to create art while witnessing devastation? This event brings together artists who have fostered community spaces in Scotland and beyond, and whose activism is deeply intertwined with their creative practices. With performances and discussions by **Marjorie Lotfi** and **Nat Raha**, and a final speaker to be confirmed. Chaired and curated by **Alycia Pirmohamed**.

**Titans of Poetry: Caroline Bird and Ella Frears****3.30pm (1hr)**

- Dovecot Studios
- £15/£12 £0 Festival Pass

**Caroline Bird's** *Ambush at Still Lake* shows us the ambush of real life that occurs in the stillness after the happy ending. **Ella Frears' Goodlord: An Email is a genre-defying book that takes the form of an email to an estate agent. Together, they discuss the themes of their books. Sponsored by the Forward Prizes for Poetry.**



Forward  
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**Takeover: GUBSMACKED****4pm (1hr)**

- Scottish Storytelling Centre
- £12/£10 £0

Hellraising poets **Leyla Josephine** and **Colin Bramwell** present GUBSMACKED, a brand-spanking new live event showcasing the best of writing in all its magical forms. Audiences will be treated to performances from both up-and-coming talent and luminaries from the worlds of page, stage and song.

**Songwriters Circle****4.30pm (1hr)**

- Dovecot Studios
- £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

Join this Songwriters Circle as a panel of musicians discuss the backstory to their songs. Multi-award winning hip-hop and improvised rap comedian **MC Hammersmith**, spoken word poet and rapper/ musician **ACE VISION**, and poet and singer-songwriter **Christie Kandiwa** will share their insights and inspirations. Chaired by **Arusa Qureshi**.

**Rock the Boat****5.30pm (1hr 30mins)**

- Dovecot Studios
- Free, ticketed

Prepare to be moved! Join us for Rock the Boat, Push the Boat Out's longstanding monthly poetry open mic. Register online to perform your work or come by to just listen. You especially won't want to miss the rapid-fire feature poets, **James Stedman**, **Natalie Elizabeth** and **Shondra Riley**, who will close out the evening!



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH  
Edinburgh Futures Institute

**Air An Aon Ràmh****6pm (1hr)**

- Scottish Storytelling Centre
- £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

Le bàrd is seinneadair cliùiteach **Marcas Mac an Tuairneir** na fhear-an- taighe, bidh sinn a' taisbeanadh taghadh den cheòl is bàrdachd as fheàrr sa Ghàidhlig, ùr nodha agus san t-seann nòs. Thig còmhla ri bhàrd **Babs NicGriogair** agus seinneadair-òranaiche **Raonaid Walker**, agus èist ri òrain ùra le bàrd **Robbie Anndra MacLeòid** is fuaim- cheàrd ioma-thàlantach **Kapil Seshasayee**. Le maoin-taic bho Chomhairle nan Leabhraichean.

*On the Same Oar/Of One Mind. Hosted by award-winning poet and singer, **Marcas Mac an Tuairneir** this event brings together some of the best contemporary and traditional Gaelic poetry and music. Join poet **Babs Nicgriogair**, singer-songwriter **Rachel Walker**, and enjoy new collaborative work from poet **Robbie Anndra MacLeòid** and polymath and soundsmith **Kapil Seshasayee**. Sponsored by Comhairle nan Leabhraichean (Gaelic Book Council).*



Comhairle nan  
Leabhraichean  
The Gaelic Books Council

**And All Great Art Is True: A Celebration of Benjamin Zephaniah****6pm (1hr)**

- Dance Base
- £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

Benjamin Zephaniah is one of the greatest poets, activists, and musicians in living memory, so in celebration of his life, art, and activism, and in collaboration with **Qian Zephaniah** and **Kadija George**, we welcome **Raymond Antrobus**, **Salena Godden** and **Dean Atta** to share what they most loved about Benjamin and how his life touched theirs.

**THE SKINNY****Living Water - New Poetic Performances****7.30pm (1hr 15 mins)**

- Scottish Storytelling Centre
- £15/£12 £0 Festival Pass

Join us for a special evening as we present the world premiere of three new poetry-led performance commissions in association with the National Theatre of Scotland. Join **David McNeish** and **Ruxy Cantir**, **Tim Cheng** and **Alexandra Shrinivas**, and **Raymond Wilson** and **Ross Somerville**, as they present inventive cross-disciplinary work from clowning to electronica, on the theme of Living Water.



NATIONAL  
THEATRE  
OF SCOTLAND



BSL



BSL



# Sunday at a Glance

○ Discussion ● Workshop ● Performance ● Online

	Dance Base	Dovecott Studio	Scottish Storytelling Centre Courtyard	Scottish Storytelling Centre Netherbow Theatre	Scottish Storytelling Centre George Mackay Brown Library	Other	Online
11-11.30		Sasha Dugdale & Oksana Maksymchuk				Waves, Wildlife, and the Art of Watching	Bringing the Self to Poetry Performance
11.30-12					The Craft: with Caroline Bird	Meet at: Portobello Bookshop	
12-12.30		Activism, Poetry and James Baldwin		Takeover: St Mungo's Mirrorball			
12.30-13							
13-13.30	Birds / Humans / Machines / Dolphins		A Lighthouse Poetry Zine Workshop			Black History & Poetry Walk Storytelling Centre Reception	
13.30-14		Imtiaz Dharker: Shadow Reader					
14-14.30				Translation as a Political Act			Naomi Shihab Nye
14.30-15		(Poetry) Page to Stage - Adapting for Theatre			Creativity in the Cards: Inspired by Tarot		
15-15.30							
15.30-16	Bearing Witness	Caroline Bird and Ella Frears					
16-16.30				Takeover: Gubsmacked			Fluid Words
16.30-17		Songwriters Circle					
17-17.30							
17.30-18		Rock the Boat					
18-18.30	Celebration of Benjamin Zephaniah		Air An Aon Ràmh				
18.30-19							
19-19.30							
19.30-20				Living Water			
20-20.30							
20.30-21							

# Exhibitions

## The Blue and Salt of the Lies We Believe

**22-24 November**

- Online & TBC
- Free

This photography exhibition responds to the words and poems of **Hannah Lavery, Shasta Hanif Ali, Jeda Pearl, Alycia Pirmohamed** and **Niall Moorjani**. Through conversations with the writers and explorations of the places and experiences held within their work, **Kat Gollock** aims to curate a visual response to the poetry and ideas that make up the *Disrupting the Narrative* project.

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## Machine Whispers

**22-24 November**

- Scottish Storytelling Centre
- Free

Can we trust machines with poetry? Will an 'artificially intelligent' translator mangle carefully crafted verse, or make it more beautiful? And will a human still recognise a poem when it's passed through multiple translational tools? *Machine Whispers*, created by **Pip Thornton** and **Evan Morgan**, is an interactive installation designed to provoke debate around translation and the role of the human translator in the age of AI.



design informatics

word



# Online events

Join in from home. Our online workshops feature international guests, so you can develop your practice with tips and insights from world-renowned writers. We're livestreaming *Disrupting the Narrative* (see p.6) and presenting a fantastic selection of live broadcasts with EHFM Radio. Full details on our website.

## Saturday 23 November 20 Ways to Be a Better Poet, with Roger Robinson

11am (2hrs)

→£25/£20 £10 Festival Pass

A fast-paced online workshop with legendary writer, poet, and performer **Roger Robinson**, filled with tips, quotes and prompts to level up your poetry practice. For poets who want to refresh their poetry on the page and explore how we combine inspiration, commitment and productivity to balance earning a living and being an artist.

## Drag Poetry with Digital Diasporic Souls

2pm (1hr)

→PWYC

Accent Society presents four immigrant poets and artists from China, Columbia and Cuba in their speculative drag personas and digital projections of self. With river-dark eyes, daisy-woven wigs, and hearts of broken beads, they are coded with whispers of fear and anger. Join us for a ghostly nocturne and a

fictional panel where ancestors in displaced genders speak of their fantasia of being a good alien through chanting and performance lectures. Performers include **Vic Fu**, **Jiaoyang Li**, and **Metal**.



## Sunday 24 November

### Bringing the Self to Poetry Performance

11.30am (1hr 30 mins)

→£15/£10 £5 Festival Pass

**Slim Shaka**, Kenyan poet, storyteller, activist and Poetry Slam Africa Champion, will lead you in a workshop to give you the confidence to tell your own story through poetry performance. This journey from page poetry to the stage moves beyond translating words into action, and into harnessing the energy of human nature and storytelling to empower you to embody your story through bold performance.

## In Conversation: Naomi Shihab Nye

2pm (1hr)

→PWYC

At this special event, poet **Naomi Shihab Nye** speaks with **Marjorie Lotfi** about her poetry, inspirations, and how her work engages with her American-Palestinian identity and culture. With her versatility and decades-spanning career, Nye's work is impossible to summarise, so tune in to this online conversation to hear Nye herself say more.

## Fluid Words: The Poetry of Water

4pm (1hr 30mins)

→£15/£10 £5 Festival Pass

In this Zoom masterclass, poet and critic **Michael Hofmann** will dissect and explore the nuances of selected poems, inviting participants to engage in deep analysis and lively discussion. This interactive session will offer fresh perspectives on our theme "Living Water," enriching your appreciation of poetry through collaborative interpretation.



# Development Day

Whether you're just starting out or looking to make the next step into publishing and performance - our Development Day at Dance Base is here to offer practical advice and encouragement. Join us on **Friday 22 November** for a day of networking and workshops in a friendly and supportive environment.

The Development Day is free to attend, you can book events individually but we'd encourage you to join us for the full day.

Drinks and refreshments will be provided.

## Resting as Artists

11.15am (1hr 15mins)

→Dance Base  
→Free (ticketed)

As an artist it's easy to feel like you're always busy - making art, working other jobs, writing funding applications... It's hard to find space for something we all need - rest. Artists **Jeda Pearl**, **Alan Spence**, and **Elsbeth Wilson** will share their own methods for recognising when they need that much needed rest, how they carve out time for it, and how it's benefited their practice.

Chaired through the ConVERSE Emerging Chairs Programme with the University of Edinburgh.

## How to Run a Creative Workshop

1.15pm (1hr 15mins)

→Dance Base  
→Free (ticketed)

Have you ever wanted to expand your professional portfolio? Poet and Creative Projects Manager at the Edinburgh Futures Institute, **JL Williams**, has led poetry workshops in many different settings. Jennifer is here to share her experience and help you to think creatively, and practically, about designing your own successful sessions.

## Taking the Next Step

2.45pm (1hr 15mins)

→Dance Base  
→Free (ticketed)

Taking the step from aspiring to professional poet may seem daunting but this session will demystify the process. Join a panel of industry experts as they discuss routes to publishing, establishing your reputation, and the process of pitching for commissions and festival appearances. Guests include Director of Newcastle Poetry Festival **Theresa Muñoz**, poet **Len Pennie** and editor **Edward Crossan**.

Chaired through the ConVERSE Emerging Chairs Programme with the University of Edinburgh.



# About Push the Boat Out

Push the Boat Out was created to capture the vibrancy and dynamism of contemporary poetry and spoken word, to celebrate its ever-increasing influence and to bring it into conversation with other art forms.

We want not only to give poetry a new platform, but to create an environment where all variations of this vital art form are encouraged to grow, evolve and even collide. We explore fresh, inventive ways to bring poetry and audiences together by challenging perceptions of what poetry is, how and where it can be enjoyed and who it is for.

Our programme reflects and engages directly with the world around us in all its complexity and diversity; and aims to contribute to Scotland's long legacy – and future – as a place where poetry and the arts are thriving.

Year-round, we run regular online writing workshops with internationally acclaimed poets and special guests from around the world. While Rock the Boat, our hugely popular open-mic night, takes place on the first Thursday of every month.

Follow us online, get involved and get in touch to see how you can play a part in our story.

 @ptbopoetry  
→ info@pushtheboatout.org  
→ pushtheboatout.org

# ConVERSE



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
School of Literatures,  
Languages and Cultures

This year we've partnered with the University of Edinburgh's Creative Writing Programme to present ConVERSE: a project to support students as they develop their skills as event chairs.

A deft and impassioned chair is very much a co-pilot of any event – they can help ensure the event soars, sizzles and leaves a lasting impression on audiences and authors alike. At best, it will be remembered for years to come.

Students were invited to attend charring masterclasses led by the University's Writer in Residence, along with other experienced

voices. Selected students have been matched up with events to chair during the festival, and offered further support from the Creative Writing Programme at the University of Edinburgh.

This partnership offers us the chance to support and nurture future talent and we're pleased to add it to the portfolio of support that we offer developing artists.

# Support Us



scan to donate

Particularly in light of the unexpected change to our 2024 plans just before we were due to launch, donations from people like you are vital in supporting us to keep offering this unique, vibrant, eclectic festival, alongside our growing community and year round programmes. With your help we can continue to contribute to increasing the diversity of poetry – in form, cross-art form pollination, voices platformed and who feels welcome as audiences and participants. You can donate online at our website or by scanning this QR code. You can also add a donation to your ticket purchase.



## How to Book

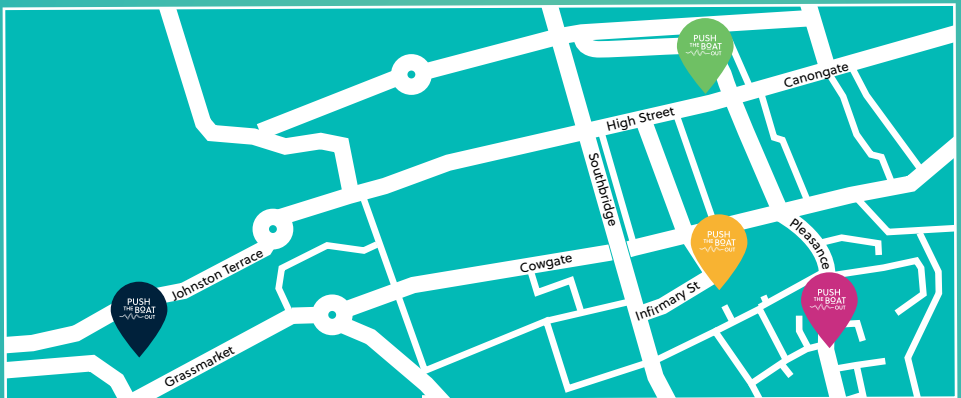
Tickets can be purchased via [pushtheboatout.org](http://pushtheboatout.org) or via our box office partners Citizen Ticket. Tickets can also be purchased in person during the festival from our box office staff who will be stationed at each venue during the time it is open for festival events, and on the door. We recommend advance booking as there is no specific in person allocation.

Individual event prices range from £0 to £25. Concessions are available along with free companion tickets. We have a number of events offered on a Pay What You Can basis with tiered pricing of £15, £10, £15, £0. These are tagged throughout the brochure as PWYC.

## Festival Pass

Join us for the whole weekend with a brilliant value Festival Pass. Priced at £50, there are a very limited number of passes which will give access to the majority of the programme free of charge, plus reduced price tickets for our higher priced and more intimate events. T&C's apply.

## How to Find Us



## Events take place at

**DANCE BASE**  
14-16 Grassmarket,  
Edinburgh,  
EH1 2JU

**DOVECOT STUDIOS**  
10 Infirmar St,  
Edinburgh,  
EH1 1L

**THE PLEASANCE**  
Pleasance  
Courtyard,  
60 Pleasance,  
Edinburgh,  
EH8 9TJ

**SCOTTISH  
STORYTELLING  
CENTRE**  
43-45 High St,  
Edinburgh,  
EH1 1SR

**PUSH  
THE BOAT  
OUT**



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 → [pushtheboatout.org](http://pushtheboatout.org)



Scan this QR code to browse the full programme online.