

PUSH

**PUSH
THE BOAT
OUT**

THE
words

in
BOAT

Edinburgh's International
Poetry Festival
22-24 November 2024
Summerhall, Edinburgh

motion

OUT

pushtheboatout.org

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

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● Discussion ● Workshop ● Performance

BOAT
OUT

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 130 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 Summerhall's 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 George**.

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**, **Nastassia Layla Isawi**, **Nat Raha** and **Azad Ashim Sharma** ask the question: how do poets and artists continue to create art while witnessing devastation?

Join our eclectic workshops to explore everything from mushrooms, to music 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. Summerhall is our main venue and their access statement can be read on their website. Full access information is also provided on our website.

Companion tickets are available for all events, please contact the Box Office at Summerhall to book. See back page for contact details

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 11 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 to follow), 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  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.10 (BSL
and live captioned)

**Sunday 24
November**

Titans of Poetry: **Caroline Bird** and **Ella Frears** p.15 (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 (45mins)

- Old Lab
- 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.

EDINBURGH 900



Cocktail Hour with RJ Hunter

6pm (1hr)

- Anatomy Theatre
- £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.

RUMA

Disrupting the Narrative

8.30pm (1hr)



BSL

- Dissection Room
- £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.

EDINBURGH 900

THE SKINNY

Friday at a Glance

● Discussion ● Workshop ● Performance ● Development Day

| | Main Hall | Anatomy Theatre | Old Lab | Dissection Room |
|----------|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 11-11.30 | | | | |
| 11.30-12 | Development Day: Resting as Artists | | | |
| 12-12.30 | | | | |
| 12.30-13 | | | | |
| 13-13.30 | | | | |
| 13.30-14 | Development Day: How to Run a Creative Workshop | | | |
| 14-14.30 | | | | |
| 14.30-15 | | | | |
| 15-15.30 | Development Day: Taking the Next Step | | | |
| 15.30-16 | | | | |
| 16-16.30 | | | | |
| 16.30-17 | | | | |
| 17-17.30 | | | | |
| 17.30-18 | | | SCOREScotland Disrupts the Narrative | |
| 18-18.30 | | Cocktail Hour with RJ Hunter | | |
| 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

Waxing Lyrical: Setting Your Poetry to Music

11am (2hrs)

- Tech Cube 0
- £25/£20 £10 Festival Pass

If you've ever wanted to set your poetry to music, this workshop with multi-talented poet and music-maker Iona Lee and her *Waxing Lyrical* collaborator DJ Nikki Kent is for you. Covering the interplay of music and poetry, collaboration between artists across forms, the voice, tempo, lyricism and tone, we invite you to come and have a go at turning your own poetry into song. Iona and Nikki will also be performing at our Saturday night gig.

There is a Tide: Writing the Ocean Wild, with Paperboats

11am (1hr)

- Anatomy Theatre
- 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 Gällagher.



Behind Disrupting the Narrative

11am (1hr)

- Old Lab
- £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.

EDINBURGH 900

A Life of Poetry: Alexander McCall Smith

12pm (1hr)

- Dissection Room
- £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.



Open Book: No Such Thing As Lost

1pm (1hr)

- Anatomy Theatre
- 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)

- Old Lab
- 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.



Black History and Poetry Walk

1pm (1hr)

- (also Sunday 24 November)
- Summerhall Courtyard
- £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 Summerhall. 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 Meadows?

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

EDINBURGH 900

Kathleen Jamie's The Keelie Hawk

2pm (1hr)

- Dissection Room
- £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 Ally Heather.

Free Form Fungi

2pm (2hrs)

- Dean's Office
- £25/£20 £10 Festival Pass

Mushrooms - what can we say about this foragable fungi with a long history of inspiring poets? In collaboration with Makar's Mushroom Emporium and poet Rachel Plummer, you will take a tour of Summerhall's own mushroom farm before taking part in Rachel's poetry writing workshop. As a poet who has often written on mushrooms, Rachel frequently draws inspiration from these (not) magical mycelium. And you now can too.



Between Two Forms**2pm (1hr)**

- Tech Cube 0
- £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.

Double Bill: Len Pennie and Lorde Fuhl**3pm (1hr)**

- Old Lab
- £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.

**AI and the (Un)translatability of Poetry****3pm (1hr)**

- Anatomy Theatre
- 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?



design informatics

On Fatherhood, with Raymond Antrobus and Niall Campbell**4pm (1hr)**

- Dissection Room
- £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**.



BSL

**Hannah Lavery and Michael Pedersen: Makar-athon****5pm (1hr)**

- Tech Cube 0
- £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**.

EDINBURGH 900

THE LIST

Breaking Ground Ireland**5.30pm (1hr)**

- Anatomy Theatre
- £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.

**Loud Poets Slam Series: Edinburgh Heat****6pm (2hrs)**

- Dissection Room
- £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)**

- Library Gallery
- PWYC

Long time collaborators and friends, fiddler **Laura Wilkie**, harpist **Gillian Dawson**, 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.

Push the Boat Out Presents: Iona Fyfe and Friends**Doors at 7.30pm
8pm (2hrs, 15 mins)**

- Old Lab
- £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 & Fionnbarr 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

Saturday at a Glance

● Discussion
 ● Workshop
 ● Performance
 ● Online

| | Tech Cube 0 | Anatomy Theatre | Old Lab | Dissection Room | Other (Summerhall) | Online |
|----------|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| 11-11.30 | Waxing Lyrical: Setting Your Poetry to Music | 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 | | | | 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 (Courtyard) | |
| 13.30-14 | | | | | | |
| 14-14.30 | Between Two Forms | | | Kathleen Jamie's The Keelle Hawk | Free Form Fungi (Dean's Office) | Drag Poetry with Digital Diasporic Souls |
| 14.30-15 | | | | | | |
| 15-15.30 | | AI and the (Un)translatability of Poetry | Double Bill: Len Pennie and Lorde Fuhl | | | |
| 15.30-16 | | | | | | |
| 16-16.30 | | | | On Fatherhood: Raymond Antrobus and Niall Campbell | | |
| 16.30-17 | | | | | | |
| 17-17.30 | Makarathon | | | | | |
| 17.30-18 | | Breaking Ground Ireland | | | | |
| 18-18.30 | | | | Loud Poets Slam Series: Edinburgh Heat | Poetry Jam with Leyla Josephine (Library Gallery) | |
| 18.30-19 | | | | | | |
| 19-19.30 | | | | | | |
| 19.30-20 | | | | | | |
| 20-20.30 | | | | | | |
| 20.30-21 | | | Push the Boat Out Presents: Iona Fyfe and Friends Doors at 7:30pm | | | |
| 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 £5 Festival Pass

Join **Elspeth 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)

→ Dean's Office
→ £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.

A Lighthouse Poetry Zine Workshop

11am (1 hr)

→ Library Gallery
→ 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!



Double Bill: Sasha Dugdale and Oksana Maksymchuk

12pm (1hr)

→ Dissection Room
→ £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.

Takeover: St Mungo's Mirrorball

12pm (1hr)

→ Old Lab
→ 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**.



Double Bill: Activism, Poetry and James Baldwin

1pm (1hr)

→ Anatomy Theatre
→ £12/£10 £0 Festival Pass

Kadija George 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.

Birds / Humans / Machines / Dolphins

1pm (1hr)

→ Tech Cube 0
→ £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 (1hr)

(also Saturday 23 November)

→ Meet at Courtyard
→ £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 Summerhall. 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 Meadows?

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

2pm (1hr)

→ Dissection Room
→ £12/£10 £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.

Takeover: GUBSMACKED

2pm (1hr)

→ Old Lab
→ PWYC

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.

Creativity in the Cards: Inspired by Tarot

2pm (2hrs)

→ Dean's Office
→ £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

3pm (1hr)

→ Anatomy Theatre
→ £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

3pm (1hr)

→ Tech Cube 0
→ £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 Nastassia Layla Isawi, Nat Raha and Azad Ashim Sharma. Chaired and curated by Alycia Pirmohamed.

Titans of Poetry: Caroline Bird and Ella Frears

4pm (1hr)

→ Dissection Room
→ £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 Prizes for Poetry



Translation as a Political Act

4pm (1hr)

- Old Lab
- £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.



Songwriters Circle

5pm (1hr)

- Anatomy Theatre
- £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

5pm (2hrs)

- Tech Cube 0
- 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!



Air An Aon Ràmh

6pm (1hr)

- Library Gallery
- £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).*



And All Great Art Is True: A Celebration of Benjamin Zephaniah

6pm (1hr)

- Old Lab
- £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)

- Dissection Room
- £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 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.



Sunday at a Glance

○ Discussion ● Workshop ● Performance ● Online

| | Tech Cube 0 | Anatomy Theatre | Old Lab | Dissection Room | Dean's Office | Library Gallery and Courtyard | Other |
|----------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 11-11.30 | | | | | | A Lighthouse Poetry Zine Workshop | Waves, Wildlife, and the Art of Watching Meet at: Portobello Bookshop |
| 11.30-12 | | | | | The Craft: with Caroline Bird | | |
| 12-12.30 | | | Takeover: St Mungo's Mirrorball | Sasha Dugdale & Oksana Maksymchuk | | | |
| 12.30-13 | | | | | | | Online at 11:30: Bringing the Self to Poetry Performance |
| 13-13.30 | Birds / Humans / Machines / Dolphins | Activism, Poetry and James Baldwin | | | | Black History / Poetry Walk Meet at: Courtyard | |
| 13.30-14 | | | | | | | Online: Naomi Shihab Nye |
| 14-14.30 | | | Takeover: Gubsmacked | Imtiaz Dharker: Shadow Reader | | | |
| 14.30-15 | | | | | Creativity in the Cards: Inspired by Tarot | | |
| 15-15.30 | Bearing Witness | (Poetry) Page to Stage - Adapting for Theatre | | | | | |
| 15.30-16 | | | | | | | |
| 16-16.30 | | | Translation as a Political Act | Caroline Bird and Ella Frears | | | Online: Flud Words |
| 16.30-17 | | | | | | | |
| 17-17.30 | Rock the Boat | Songwriters Circle | | | | | |
| 17.30-18 | | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | | | |
| 21-21.30 | | | | | | | |
| 21.30-22 | | | | | | | |

Exhibitions

The Blue and Salt of the Lies We Believe

22-24 November
10am-5pm

- Library Gallery
- 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.

EDINBURGH **900**

Shadow Reader

22-24 November
10am-5pm

- Sciennes Gallery
- Free

Imtiaz Dharker is a poet and artist whose collection, *Shadow Reader*, is a radiant fusion of poetry and drawings, with 16 black and white illustrations that play with the light and shadow of our world. The *Shadow Reader* artworks will be exhibited throughout the weekend so pop along and explore this striking digital display.

Machine Whispers

22-24 November
10am-5pm

- Venue TBC
- 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

Verses in Motion

22-24 November
10am-5pm

- Sciennes Gallery
- Free

Two thought-provoking film poems will show throughout the festival: *Skin* by **Elspeth Wilson** and *Creature that Breathes* by **Tom Bird**. *Skin* explores selkie mythology to consider masking and the parts of ourselves society asks us to excise. *Creature that Breathes* is an emotive spoken word film about sexual assault and recovery.



words in

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)

→£12/£10 £0 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)

→£12/£10 £0 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 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)

→Main Hall

→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)

→Main Hall

→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)

→Main Hall

→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.



conversations

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 at Summerhall.

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

Push the Boat Out is now a registered charity.

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.

Push the Boat Out Arts SCIO is Registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC052742)



in motion

words

How to Book

Tickets can be purchased via pushtheboatout.org or from the Summerhall Box Office on 0131 560 1581 or email boxoffice@summerhall.co.uk.

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 £10, £5 or £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

All events take place at Summerhall unless otherwise stated

Summerhall, 1
Summerhall Place,
Edinburgh, EH9 1PL

pushtheboatout.org

   @ptbopoetry

Scan this QR code to browse the full programme online.



**PUSH
THE BOAT
OUT**

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